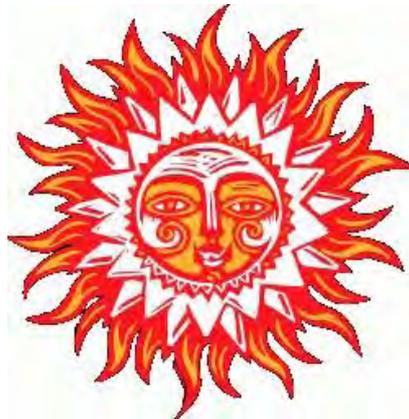


KINDRED SPIRITS

A Solar Writer Report for Winona Ryder



Written by Brian Clark

Compliments of:-

Cornerstone Astrology

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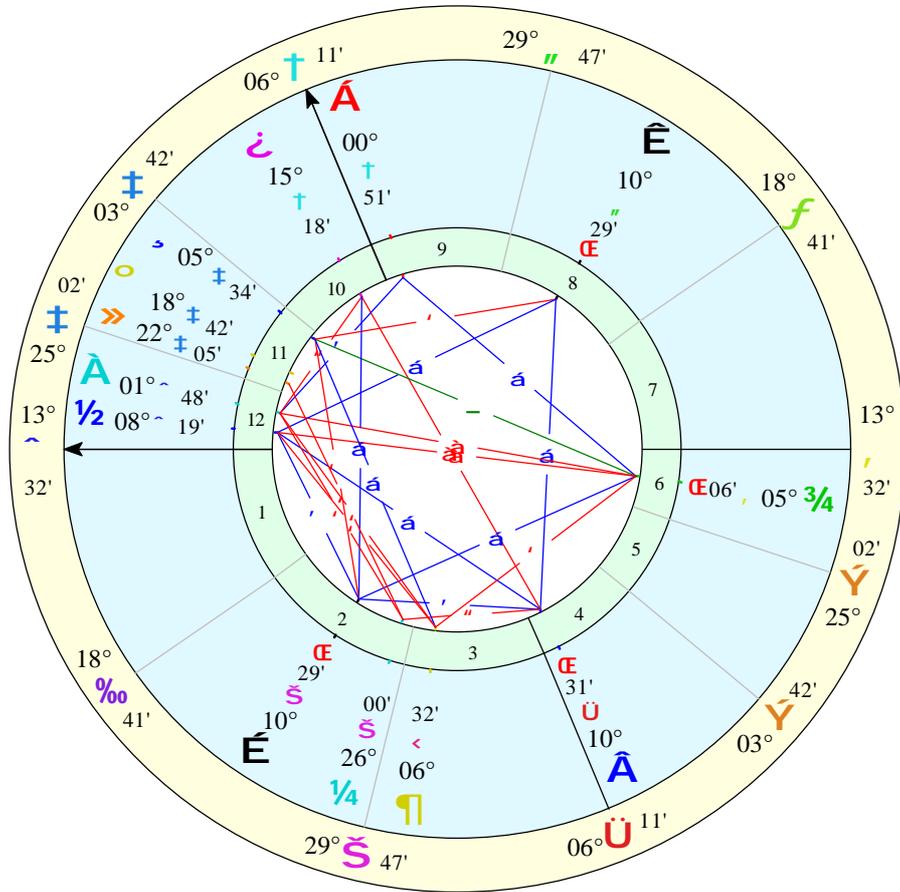
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Chart Wheel

Winona Ryder
Natal Chart
29 Oct 1971
11:00 am CDT +5:00
Winona
44°N03'
091°W38'21"
Tropical
Placidus



Astrological Summary

Chart Point Positions: Winona Ryder

Planet	Sign	Position	House	Comment
The Moon	Pisces	6°Pi32'	3rd	
The Sun	Scorpio	5°Sc34'	11th	
Mercury	Scorpio	18°Sc42'	11th	
Venus	Scorpio	22°Sc05'	11th	
Mars	Aquarius	26°Aq00'	2nd	
Jupiter	Sagittarius	8°Sg19'	12th	
Saturn	Gemini	5°Ge06'	6th	
Uranus	Libra	15°Li18'	10th	
Neptune	Sagittarius	1°Sg48'	12th	
Pluto	Libra	0°Li51'	9th	
Chiron	Aries	10°Ar31'	4th	
The North Node	Aquarius	10°Aq29'	2nd	
The South Node	Leo	10°Le29'	8th	
The Ascendant	Sagittarius	13°Sg32'	1st	
The Midheaven	Libra	6°Li11'	10th	

Chart Point Aspects

Planet	Aspect	Planet	Orb	App/Sep
The Moon	Trine	The Sun	0°58'	Separating
The Moon	Square	Jupiter	1°46'	Applying
The Moon	Square	Saturn	1°26'	Separating
The Moon	Square	Neptune	4°44'	Separating
The Moon	Square	The Ascendant	6°59'	Applying
The Moon	Quincunx	The Midheaven	0°21'	Separating
The Sun	Quincunx	Saturn	0°27'	Separating
The Sun	Square	The North Node	4°54'	Applying
The Sun	Square	The South Node	4°54'	Applying
Mercury	Conjunction	Venus	3°22'	Applying
Mercury	Semisquare	The Midheaven	2°29'	Applying
Venus	Square	Mars	3°55'	Applying
Venus	Semisquare	The Midheaven	0°53'	Separating
Mars	Square	Neptune	5°47'	Applying
Mars	Semisquare	Chiron	0°29'	Separating
Jupiter	Opposition	Saturn	3°13'	Separating
Jupiter	Conjunction	Neptune	6°31'	Separating
Jupiter	Trine	Chiron	2°11'	Applying
Jupiter	Sextile	The North Node	2°09'	Applying
Jupiter	Trine	The South Node	2°09'	Applying
Jupiter	Conjunction	The Ascendant	5°12'	Applying
Jupiter	Sextile	The Midheaven	2°08'	Separating
Saturn	Opposition	Neptune	3°18'	Applying
Saturn	Trine	Pluto	4°15'	Applying
Saturn	Trine	The North Node	5°22'	Separating
Saturn	Trine	The Midheaven	1°04'	Separating
Uranus	Semisquare	Neptune	1°30'	Applying
Uranus	Opposition	Chiron	4°47'	Separating
Uranus	Trine	The North Node	4°49'	Separating
Uranus	Sextile	The Ascendant	1°45'	Separating
Neptune	Sextile	Pluto	0°57'	Separating
Pluto	Conjunction	The Midheaven	5°20'	Applying
Chiron	Sextile	The North Node	0°02'	Separating
Chiron	Trine	The South Node	0°02'	Separating
Chiron	Trine	The Ascendant	3°01'	Separating
Chiron	Opposition	The Midheaven	4°19'	Applying
The North Node	Trine	The Midheaven	4°17'	Applying
The South Node	Trine	The Ascendant	3°03'	Separating

INTRODUCTION

"Kindred Spirits are not so scarce as I used to think. It's splendid to find out that there are so many of them in the world."

– L M Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

Kindred Spirits and Soulmates

Anne Shirley, the heroine of the delightful "*Anne of Green Gables*", innately knew when she had met her soulmate, whom she endearingly referred to as a kindred spirit. It was not the person's age, sex, race, what they were wearing, their social status, income, physical appearance, charm or any other visible clue that gave her this sense of profound knowing. Nothing purposeful or intentional drew her to her soulmates. Her heart inexplicably knew that a divine grace brought them both together.

Such is the nature of the mysterious force that brings two soulmates into contact. Relationship is a sacred rite that brings us into a close encounter with the truth of our own heart and the elusiveness of our soul. True relationship cannot be arranged, figured out or fixed up. Any attempt to control a relationship flows against the current of our soul. The best that we can do is to enter into its mystery, engage in its paradoxes and know our selves intimately enough to be in relationship, whatever that might bring.

The term 'soul' has a long history and been used in various ways philosophically and non-philosophically, contributing to its confusing and ambiguous nature. In contemporary terms it often refers to an 'X' factor that brings a piece of music alive, renders a poem inspiring, animates a theatrical performance or makes work meaningful. When applied to a relationship it describes the mystery that unites two individuals and enchants and animates the quality of each one's life. It does not suggest that the pain of daily living subsides or that life is transformed. But it does bring a depth and resonance, allowing meaning, imagination and fantasy to re-animate life. We meet our kindred spirits throughout the course of our lives, first in the family then later as friends, colleagues, lovers, partners at work and play. Soul is not generally found in the lofty heights of idealisation and illusion but in the valleys of pain and despair.

Soul is also what gives life its value and is the lynch pin of our individuality. Our soulmates honour our individuality and allow us to become more of who we are. Paradoxically by nature the soul moves towards attachment, belonging and fusion with another; yet, it also strives for separation, individuality and freedom. Our relationships become a vessel where we submerge ourselves yet from which we also attempt to flee.

This report encourages you to reflect on what it means for you to love, to be a brother, a sister, a friend, a colleague, a partner and a lover. What does your soul need in these relationships? What patterns weave themselves into the nature of

your intimate relationships? Astrology is a great ally of the soul, as the Horoscope has an abundance of rich images that help us reflect on and imagine our authentic self; imagination being the language of the soul. This report will strive to veer you towards reflection by illustrating images within your Horoscope, images that may reveal powerful patterns of relationship and bring you more closely aligned with your soul's intent. Astrology helps us focus on our personal view of the cosmos and soul. Therefore this report contains some standout astrological images that may help you reconsider your relationships in a different light.

IN THE BEGINNING IS FAMILY



*"It begins with your family
But soon it comes round to your soul"*
- Leonard Cohen, *"The Sisters of Mercy"*

Lunar Legacies

The very first relationship begins within family. No matter what your individual fate may be, your family is where you forged your earliest relationships, took your beginning steps and first experienced an attachment to someone else. Your earliest experiences of forming an emotional bond have a decisive influence on your capacity to feel safe enough to explore relationships beyond the foundation stones of your family. If you experienced a secure attachment then mastery over your environment as you grow up is a lot easier. This is because you were more aware of feeling safe and knowing you were loved. Human beings gain a greater sense of self, distinct from the family, in the shelter of a safe nest and with adequate protection. We learn to develop our individuality when we have developed a sense of belonging. In a perfect world the family matrix supports and secures our sense of self. Ironically, the deeper the sense of safety and belonging, the more capacity there is for individuality and forging intimate adult attachments.

Without an early sense of acceptance and attachment, feeling secure enough to forge bonds outside the family is more complex. In this case, later relationships can become a test of our sense of safety and acceptance. Also our family is a training ground for the ways that we view relationship patterns. Father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter are all relationships that are illustrated in your Horoscope not only as literal figures, but depicting the patterns of relationships. A helpful way of thinking about your mother or father is not who they are, what they did, how they behaved but how this impacted on you and hence created patterns of behaviour in your life.

In astrology this early bonding process is depicted by the Moon. The Moon symbolises what you need to feel accepted and loved. It indicates the nature of your home and your quest to belong. As the symbol of your deepest emotional patterns, it reflects how you nest and protect yourself. Therefore, through the Moon, you can see indications of your living space, eating patterns, and habitual routines. It also represents 'mother love', your ability to feel loved and your experience of being loved. It symbolises not only your earliest associations but also your adolescent and

then adult relationships.

If your earliest experiences have not been life-enhancing then you may need to change some of your innate relationship expectations and patterns. Modern psychologists would emphasise the need "to re-parent" this part of yourself in adult relationships. The Moon can help in this process by indicating the ways in which you can find solace and comfort in the depths of yourself. It is important to recognise your own needs, so you are not subconsciously expecting your friends and partners to fulfill them. Unmet needs can contribute to feeling dependent and hinder your ability to enjoy true intimacy. The idiosyncrasies, habits and routines you bring into relationships are a function of the Moon. Ironically destiny challenges you in your adult relationships to find healthy ways to nurture your personal needs. Therefore it is of prime importance to come to know your Moon as intimately and as respectfully as you can.

The Moon is in Pisces

Your Moon is in Pisces, which is a water sign. When you are born with your Moon in the Element of Water this suggests that you need to feel emotionally secure in relationships. Water is the Element associated with the feeling life; in a manner of thinking closest to the depths of the soul. The Water signs (Cancer, Pisces and Scorpio) are all associated with crustaceans. Hard shells, crusts or scales, symbolising the protective persona of the watery element, cover the crab, the scorpion and the fish. However this also suggests the depth and age of these signs: primitive in nature, closest to the depths of the self. Hence feelings are often perceived as archaic, primitive and bothersome, yet ironically they connect us to the past and the depth of human experience. But most importantly water unites and merges together two different ways of being allowing the possibility of closeness, symbiosis, attachment and union. With your Moon in a Water sign you might assume that others also want to forge close bonds, feeling bruised when this does happen or recoiling at the first hint of separateness. You might feel that if others do love you they should know how you feel and also try their best to make amends. Not everyone has your depth of feeling and connection.

Pisces is the Sign that reflects the transpersonal sphere bringing depth and intensity of feeling to all relationships. Hence from the earliest memory your Moon in Pisces instinctually sought the comfort of being enmeshed with others. You needed to feel one with your caretakers and environment in order to feel secure. With this deep sense of merger you were more likely to develop your ability to feel safe. Rather than retreating from the world or getting lost in fantasies, you could feel safe by being in the present, just where you were. You need to feel spiritually and emotionally connected and when you do you are safe enough to express your gentleness and your creativity. Being so vulnerable, you need to feel safe enough to express your feelings without fear of being marginalised or misunderstood. However if this deep sense of safety was compromised in your early experience so too is your ability to feel safe enough to be creative and compassionate. Pisces is a mutable implying that the feeling life is fluid, tidal, always in motion. Boundaries become an issue as you might instinctually forge an attachment or move towards someone in need. Unlike the other water signs who are more bound by the family circle or the

partner, you have a capacity to feel connected to the collective, feeling the divine in others. Your sensitivity is heightened, you feel others feelings and pain and you instinctually react to the plight of other souls. From an astrological point of view, forging personal relationships might be compromised by your tendency to be compassionate and forgiving.

Given your level of emotional sensitivity it was important as a child to have felt supported and guided in developing your creativity and compassion in healthy ways. Hopefully your tendency to sacrifice your feelings for others or to be invisible in the wake of others' needs was well parented. If not then your task is to re-parent the inner child to find the safest expression for your idealistic impulses. In adult relationships it is important to find the boundary line between where you end and the other begins, as you are sensitive to being drawn in to the other's un-lived feeling life. This would be experienced as a loss of your own creativity, emotional needs and safety for the other. A truly compassionate act, but one that does not bode well for a personal and intimate relationship. Your spiritual nature is instinctive and therefore you often can confuse compassion and personal love, needing to find the tools that allow you to discriminate your compassion and idealism from being loved for who you are. Co-dependency; well that's part of the landscape of relating, so it is imperative to know how that works in your relationships. Make a list of what you need in relationship – make sure you have two columns. One the left list the ideal, that romantic and the exotic; then on the right the real, the everyday and the plain. Somewhere in between are where you find your kindred spirits. You have expectations, not just of your loved ones but the world at large and you learn over time which ones you can help make real. You feel nurtured and loved when your creativity and spirituality are accepted and appreciated by others.

Feeling Secure in an Insecure World

Planets that affect the Moon need to be honoured and acknowledged in each individual's style of attachment, as they reveal an authentic way of being in relationship. When aspecting the Moon, planets influence your early development and your ability to be intimate in adult relationships. Hence planets aspecting the Moon influence our capacity for closeness, comfort and trust in relationships.

Jupiter is Square The Moon

When the planet Jupiter combines with the Moon you have a strong urge to explore beyond your family circle, possibly outside your culture as well. You need to feel safe on foreign soil.

Within your family of origin you explore and question family members' attitudes and beliefs. It is also possible than one or both of your parents were born overseas, are from a different culture or a multi-cultural, religious or bilingual family, or may have lived or been schooled abroad. Whether this is literally so in your case, psychologically this aspect's essence stresses your cross-cultural needs. Religious and cultural beliefs, academic and innovative education, human values, and hope and optimism in the future play a large role in your security and attachment. How this was accomplished in the family of origin influences the degree of safety you feel in the world. In an adult context this suggests that you might discover the mystery of

intimacy when in foreign territory.

If you felt secure in a family atmosphere that prized tolerance, open-mindedness, education and cross-cultural experiences, then you are likely to experience a sense of belonging as well as independence. Encouraged to think beyond the square and accept all cultures and religions, you could develop your natural capacity to explore appropriate ways to extend experience beyond the family circle. You mature confident in your own beliefs and have hope for the future. You are liberal, far-reaching and expansive. You need to be encouraged to find the foreign in the familiar, to spice up your meals and open the mind.

If prejudice, dogma, inflexible beliefs and rigid cultural attitudes polluted your family atmosphere, then the consent to form personal opinions and beliefs was compromised. This would leave you feeling uncertain about your own beliefs or opinions. If your ability to adventure outside the safety zone of the family is impaired, you might have developed a sense of entitlement which keeps you aloof from being involved in exploring differences. When confined by inflexible attitudes you feel unsupported in your vision and human values. This aspect suggests you may have been encouraged to mistrust what is foreign, be apprehensive of the outside world or fear the future. If your family encouraged you to hang onto its limited religious and cultural way of thinking, your hope for the future becomes compromised. With this combination the family values may have been short sighted. However in an adult context it is imperative that belonging or intimacy is forged in a wide-open space that encourages tolerance, exploration and differences.

Your kindred spirits will encourage your natural visions of faraway places, your excitement of foreign landscapes and help you dream the dream of adventure into higher realms. You intimately need to explore beyond the boundaries of your home and homeland, meaning your destiny might be to take root on foreign soil or explore other religions, beliefs and values. Your soulmates will help you to spread your wings and find your sense of where you belong.

Saturn is Square The Moon

When the serious planet Saturn combines with the Moon, rules and regulations are an important feature of family life.

If your parents' values and rules did not support your sense of self or your feelings of belonging, then it is likely that you felt imprisoned in a system not of your choice, but controlled by an external authority. As you mature it is important to consider whether your ability to perform, set goals and be self-sufficient was an integral part of the family atmosphere. Did the family ethos encourage you to be a contributing member of society, follow tradition and respect authority? Or did you feel burdened by the pressure to perform in order to be loved? Your feelings of acceptance may be gauged by your performance; the need to be good and be loved becomes interlaced. Therefore you might have withdrawn rather than reach out. Rather than feeling contained and safe in the family environs, you may have felt that boundaries and rules isolated you, severing you from feeling close and included. Becoming self-sufficient helped to mask your feelings of rejection and exclusion. You may have

felt that love was measured or controlled, only meted out with good behaviour or top marks. Performance and acceptance become entangled in feeling safe. Hence your ability to leave the family or other situations is often compromised by your feelings of responsibility for those left behind.

If your attachment was secure, regulations and the consequences when rules were broken helped you set appropriate limits and goals. Firm boundaries ensured you felt safe. Predictability in family life encouraged you to feel in control and helped you manage the gaps of aloneness. Regularity is a vital ally to secure development; however, if this engenders fear and anxiety then the rigidity of the family system suffocates individuality. Hierarchy is essential in early childhood but its grip must loosen if you are to develop a healthy sense of personal autonomy.

If the family atmosphere was cold and distant, your fear of rejection and anxiety at doing the wrong thing was increased. Lacking the appropriate boundaries you were unable to be in control, feeling limited and stuck. A lack of adequate fostering or authoritative guidance added to your isolation in the family. Therefore in later years insularity and isolation are confused with containment and self-control. In an adult context intimacy is impaired through fear of rejection and an exaggerated sense of responsibility for others' feelings.

Ask yourself if you have the feeling that to be loved you need to be perfect, or if not perfect then in the top percentile. Do you expect the same from your loved ones? It is more important for you to develop a strong sense of values than encompass love and compassion. Then it is your kindred spirits who can accept you unconditionally and provide a safe place for you to belong. Your soulmates are your good-enough folk who show you that what you do is not only better than perfect but so useful. They make you feel that you are a necessary contribution to their lives. But the learning curve is steep as you face the patterns in your adult relationships around earning love, the need to be taken seriously, fear of rejection and self-reliance. Your biggest test is letting someone love you.

Neptune is Square The Moon

The combination of the Planet Neptune and the Moon suggests you are highly sensitive and receptive to other's feelings and prone to picking up undercurrents and unexpressed feelings in the atmosphere. It also implies that you may have heightened expectations of what to expect in close relationships, confusing personal feelings with your urge for spirituality. This adds to the chaos of personal relationships, as you might be mystified with emotions or overwhelmed by feelings.

The ideal of the family is important. Creativity, spirituality and a heightened sensitivity to others are aspects of family life that you registered as important. Emotional understanding, compassion for others in your family and the community at large, as well as the urge to serve others, are all a part of your family ethos in some way. Unspoken rules, ideals and expectations were the language of your family that had a great impact on your sense of safety. This meant that you read subtitles early and tried to fit in to unspoken expectations or live up to unexpressed ideals. Your need to bond, be close and merge is highlighted. Therefore themes of

enmeshment, sacrifice, relinquishment and illness may dominate your family inheritance when these two entities combine.

If you felt your parental bond was secure, then you felt protected and looked after, encouraged to be creative and imaginative. Within a fluid and flexible family atmosphere you could feel secure without visible structures and limits. Was your family able to instill confidence in your improvisations and creativity? Are you able to feel secure with your own inner creative resourcefulness? With a positive bond your imagination and creativity was encouraged helping you develop a healthy relationship between your inner world of fantasy and your outer world of reality. Feeling understood and accepted allows you to locate your creative feelings in expression, not relegate them to a world of make believe.

However if family bonding was enmeshed you may feel looked over and invisible in the family unit. Your need to sacrifice your independence and will for the sake of the unity of the family, was an unspoken rule. This may have been due to an illness or tragedy in the family that demands you surrender your individuality to attend to the family. However it leaves you feeling caught up in a complex that you cannot unravel or leave. A lack of boundary might have discouraged your development of a private or inner self. A parent may have been ill, weak or victimised yet uses this to wield power confusing your ability to be accepted and understood in your own right. If your sense of self was sacrificed for the family you are left feeling misunderstood and not met. You are at risk of carrying this projection into adult relationships, expecting either to be rescued or the one who will rescue. Being entangled in the family web places you at risk when leaving home, feeling compelled to stay to care for others, attend to the parent's needs or remain for peacekeeping duties. With family difficulties, the danger at becoming psychologically stranded is increased and you could languish in a twilight zone to avoid the process of separation.

The astrological combination suggests that you might have sacrificed personal needs for idealistic and universal ones. Psychologically this might lead to a loss of identity or lack of boundary in adult relationships. However your kindred spirits will help you draw the line between fantasy and reality. Soulmates will also not expect you to give up any part of who you are to be in relationship with them. They accept you for who you are not, who you could be or an idealised version of your potential self. They encourage your innate creativity and lose themselves in the magic of relationship. You always know when you are with your soulmate as you feel more connected, more present and more energised. Hence it is good to be aware that when you are in relationships that feel draining, confusing and chaotic you have fallen into the web of losing self to be accepted. Your kindred spirits want you to be your self not surrender to their ideologies, addictions or narcissistic tendencies.

Home is Where We Start From

In astrology the 4th House signifies the environmental atmosphere of the family home. It is also the terrain of our innermost life where basic needs for emotional security and nurturing are first experienced. It is in this section of the Horoscope where we first experience feelings of belonging, being at home, and being connected. These experiences lay the foundation for security levels in adult

relationships. When considering relationships with others, the 4th House symbolises our most intimate ties with family and those who support and nurture us. As well-respected psychotherapist D.W. Winnicott said *"home is where we start from"*.

Planets in the 4th House describe the climate of your family home and the attitudes and influences of your family of origin. These attitudes shape your sense of inner security and the degree to which you feel safe enough to reach out to others. Because 4th House patterns are not always conscious, the planetary energies may not be fully known or understood until they surface in adult relationships as non-supportive habits and unclear behavioural patterns. A planet or planets located in the 4th House are bedrock and foundation for the security, inner strength and self acceptance that you later bring into your adult relationships.

Without planets in this sphere, the conditions of the House can be described in other ways such as the Sign on the Cusp and its Ruler. Planets, however, personify archetypal images and without a planet in the 4th, the astrologer's focus would be on the Moon to describe the attachment style moulded through the family. Take a moment to reflect on how you feel the level of emotional safety in your family influenced your relationship blueprint.

Chiron is in the 4th House

Chiron is a maverick in the planetary pantheon. Since its discovery in 1977, it has defied categorisation. Similarly with Chiron in your 4th House you might have first experienced this feeling of being a maverick in your family of origin. Your family may have been marginal to the mainstream culture that you grew up in. Themes of abandonment, estrangement or displacement may have permeated your family atmosphere. These may have been lingering feelings left over from an emigration, displacement or family schism that left your family on the outside. But the question that is important is what extent did these feelings of marginality contribute to your feeling unsafe and not belonging. No doubt this placement suggests that you are an individualist and a nonconformist but are you comfortable with this role? To be secure you need to accept that you are different from the rest of the herd. These differences provide the secure base upon which you will build your life.

If the family is the outsider in the society, then you may feel that safety can only be sustained in your family, leaving you at risk of venturing into the wider world. Your family myth may imply that the pain of living is great, wounding your will and the spirit that promotes adventure and exploration outside the family and culture. Has a family wound left you with a handicap? If so then it is important to reflect on how this essential aspect of your character may be used to your advantage. If not, then consider your responses to those who are disadvantaged or on the edge since you will cross paths. This also might literally suggest that one parent was wounded in some way; generally this is a loss of spirit due to feelings of excommunication that took place in their family. You are sensitive to this theme. Another way this might have manifested is that a trauma, injury or affliction may have affected a family member. And due to this, the family attention was directed towards pain rather than comfort. This contributed to making the wound the centrepiece in the family. However this may have also been the inspiration for you to find your spiritual self.

Deeply embedded in your inner self is a healing and compassionate side born not from inspiration, but often desperation. Freud wrote about the phenomena of Family Romance, the child's feeling of being alien to their family of origin and therefore romanticising their parents and siblings. While you might not have romanticised your origins you might have felt alien and adopted when growing up. This is your deep feeling that will spur you to find where you do belong.

In mythological tradition, the heroes are often cast out and abandoned, left to fend for themselves. In Greek mythology the orphaned were brought to Chiron to raise and in his home cave he taught them the heroic skills to become a warrior, a healer and a bard. This mythic motif underlies your family experience. It is the disenfranchised aspects of your self that teach you to be heroic. And ironically you are most daring when you are helping others accept their own personal limitations. Why you stand out is not because you do not fit in, but because you are one of a kind.

Being one of a kind, you are drawn to others who are marginal. Your kindred spirits understand what it is like to feel a misfit and support and encourage you to belong in your own way. You find a haven away from the normalcy of everyday life. In fact when you bring what is different about you into the heart of your life you find where you belong.

PRIMARY RELATIONSHIPS

Our Early Soulmates

Siblings, Cousins, Neighbours, Playmates and School Chums



*"One would be in less danger
From the wiles of a stranger
If one's own kin and kith
Were more fun to be with"
- Ogden Nash*

The Third House

The 3rd House significantly contributes to shaping relationship patterns, as this is where the first connection with peers is located. Initial experiences of these relationships make their impression on our attitudes towards companionship, partnership and friendship. Feelings, reactions, trauma, trust, freedom, love, fear, in effect the full spectrum of early relationships, lay the foundation for our adult attachments to friends and partners. This sector of the Horoscope is the storehouse where attitudes towards others that shared our early environment, mainly siblings, but also cousins, neighbourhood friends and primary schoolmates, are contained. Social interactions with partners, colleagues and acquaintances have their origins in these experiences, suggesting the 3rd House of the Horoscope reveals the template for relationship pattern.

The 3rd House is critical when analyzing relationships since it illustrates how we first experience peers and the impact they may have on future relationships. We first test the response from the world through the action or reaction of our siblings and early childhood playmates. The sibling relationship can extend to friends, classmates and others, particularly for only children. In many cases of an only child, fate arranges it so there is a replacement sibling: a cousin, a neighbour, a step-sibling or special friend.

When investigating the 3rd House it is important to recognise our position in the family. Our birth order, along with the number and gender of our siblings, has a considerable impact on personality. Birth order was often a theme in the myths, fairy tales, fables and biblical stories we grew up with. It is often enlightening to consider

your birth position and how that impacts on your relationships. Expectations, patterns we repeat with partners and even our choice of mate may be more influenced by our siblings than we realise.

Following are some illustrations of your 3rd House energies which may help you reflect on your earliest relationships, especially those with siblings, cousins, neighbourhood chums, schoolmates, sports buddies and friends.

3rd House Cusp is in Aquarius

The Air Sign Aquarius on your 3rd House Cusp suggests that friendship, independence, intellectual stimulation along with freedom and space to experiment were primary qualities of relationship that you may have sought with your siblings and early friends.

You wanted your siblings to be friends and companions. Your ideal would be to include them in your circle of friends and to be part of your communal life. Democracy and equality are important ideals; however this does not guarantee your siblings and circle of friends are that easily integrated, only that your good will would have been there. As a true ideal you carry this urge for fairness, companionship and exchange into your later relationships.

Separation or separateness might have been experienced early in your childhood. Disconnection from a sibling or an early mate may have been registered as a shock, leaving you feeling separate or not connected. On the other hand separation from your sibling may have been difficult because of your spirited connection and may only be realised through a physical separation, such as attending a different school, etc. With this image your experience may be that you find your separateness early through your participation with siblings and friends. The motif of individuality and partnership is woven early into relationship. In the laboratory of early relationships you learn about your need for space and freedom. This complex task of feeling the urge for connection but also your need for separateness might swing back and forth into and out of relationship until you discover how to find freedom within a relationship by taking your own space and freedom. Until you are able to discover individuality within a relationship you may feel ambivalent about your closest relationships feeling like fleeing out the back door of a close relationship, yet at the same time wanting to stay.

As you mature your early experiences of equality, democracy, group participation and friendship influence the level of comfort you feel in relationship. No doubt you need space, you need to air your opinions and feel the spirit of fairness and friendship in your relationships. Comradeship and communication are cornerstones to your relationship. Deep inside the soul you know your kindred spirits when you meet them because they enliven the atmosphere with ideas and repartee that draw you to them.

The Moon is in the 3rd House

Your Moon in the 3rd House of relationship is psychological paradoxical since it combines the urge to nurture and care with the experience of being an equal

partner. Yet, from an ancient astrological point of view the Moon 'rejoiced' in the 3rd House. Planetary joys were an ancient form of rulership. Since both the Moon and the 3rd House were associated with the mind, Hellenistic astrologers linked the fast-moving luminary with the 3rd House of learning, suggesting this was the Place of the Goddess. However, psychologically this task is difficult for the 3rd House Moon, as the desire to nurture and need to be needed is in a sphere more designed for separateness. The urge of the Moon to be dependent, symbiotic or nurturing is at odds with the spacious atmosphere of this House. The Moon in the 3rd House also locates the nurturing and mothering instinct in the sphere of the sibling, suggesting that your sibling may have provided a care-taking role or that you were placed in this role. When the roles of nurturer and companion, mother and sister, are intermingled the hierarchical boundaries within the system of the family are confused and enmeshed.

Early sibling relationships or the lack of them would have a direct impact on your sense of safety and security, and be important in forging a sense of emotional security. Because of this emotional impact, there may be a strong attachment to your sibling. Separation from your sibling might have been difficult. Early separations (going to school, being taken care of by another, etc.) may have been traumatic if you were not adequately prepared for them. The Moon in the third suggests vulnerability and reaction to emotional changes, especially moving from a state of emotional closeness and separation. Saying goodbye is never easy. While this pattern may not have literally played out in your experience, the difficult is separating is a theme you may recognise. This motif may have also been your mother's experience with her siblings. Whether you are conscious of this pattern or not, it would be useful to reflect on your sense of comfort in feeling separate, your reactions when a loved one takes leave, and how comfortable you are letting go of attachments. Throughout your adult relationships the early pattern of closeness and separateness might repeat.

The Moon in the third is an image of a sister, who may have shared in your upbringing, and to whom you still have a strong attachment. Whether there was a literal sister or not, you may have sought this sister-mother figure in your environment. Alternatively, mother may have been like a sister. This early pattern of confusion between sister or equality and mother or dependence may continue into your adult relationships, blurring the boundary between being a partner and a caretaker. The early pattern could arise in adult relationships in a number of ways: confusion between emotional intimacy and friendship; disparity between emotional and intellectual equality with partners; care taking versus feeling equal in relationship.

As a youth, a man with Moon in the third and a sister would have felt cared for by the women in his life. In adult relationships you may continue to need or expect 'women' to take care of you, habitually drawn to ones who will nurture and take care of you. If you are a woman, with Moon in the 3rd, you may unconsciously seek partners who you can nurture. An important relational tool is to learn not only how to communicate your needs, but know how to fulfil them independently. Without this experience in early life you may still try to make your adult relationships

symbiotic and care-based.

Your Moon in the third suggests a close companionship and bond with mother. However this placement does not tell us how you personally experience this. On a psychologically level it does suggest that patterns emerging in adult relationships may confuse nurturing and love, care and intimacy. It is important to discriminate between the urge to care for others and the need for separateness and companionship. When you feel comfortable caring for your own needs which are multi-faceted you recognise how much more space there is in your life for relating. In fact space is an important factor in all your relationships, a necessity that you must nurture. Instinctively you may lack enough emotional and physical space in your life because your urge to care for others is in the driver's seat. Ironically it is when you care for yourself that everyone else benefits. Your kindred spirits are there to nurture and comfort you and help you internalise a sense of safety and comfort in the world.

Being Kind to our Kin

Another lens we can use to focus on early peer relationships is to look at planetary aspects to Mercury. Mythologically Mercury was a younger son determined to be noticed by his older brother and father and take his rightful place in the family. While he is a mascot for the younger sibling he also personifies the themes in sibling relationships. Rivalry, reconciliation, envy, companionship, separation, communication, support, loyalty and the bond of friendship are all elements of our first peer relationship with our siblings and early childhood sibling substitutes.

Venus is Conjunct Mercury

When the planets Venus and Mercury aspect each it may point to feminine themes in your sibling system and depict how you were influenced by the feminine attitudes that the family displayed. These attitudes influenced the equality and roles of women in the family system. Your relationship as a sister or to your sister laid the groundwork for future relationships. Your interactions would have influenced your values, self-esteem, the ways you share what is important to you and your feelings of equality. In some way your partner and your friends are connected to your sibling. If you did not have a sister, the attitudes towards equal relating still underscored the family atmosphere. In adult relationships you might find a sister in your partner. Both friendship and love are components of your adult relationships and you are probably one who states 'my partner is my best friend'.

KINDRED SPIRITS

Friends, Acquaintances and Colleagues



"Friendship is a single soul dwelling in two bodies."
- Aristotle

The Eleventh House

The 11th House is where we hope and wish for a better future, not only for our loved ones and ourselves but also for our wider family. While the 11th House suggests participation with others outside our household we are still prone to recreating unresolved family and relational patterns in the groups, social circles and professional associations we join. Underlying the social relationships of the 11th House represented by friends, colleagues and associates are the primitive patterns and expectations from our earlier peer relationships. Friendship is one of the keynotes of this House and while we feel we have more choice in creating our friendships, we may also discover left over sibling rivalries. The ideal scenario is that we become greater than who we are on our own and in this way friendship helps to expand our boundaries and encourages growth and exploration. The relationships of the 11th House refer to those forged outside the family circle.

This House of relationship is where we meet the kindred spirits who we encounter in the world. Roles and positions have already been forged in our sibling and other relationships and we instinctively take these into our relationships in the broader community. Our impact on society and society's impact upon us is interconnected with our primary experiences of relationship. In the 11th House we become citizens of a larger community and meet our soul friends.

Relationships feel familiar, as they are kin, allies who are kindred spirits. Hopefully, the spirit that inspires and infuses us is the common link in our friends and colleagues. We can find the sense of belonging to a larger family, being individuals in a larger collective. However, the groups of friends, the group of colleagues, and the organisations we join reawaken incomplete relationship experiences and rivalry once again is experienced. Our friends, close colleagues and kindred spirits can also be the healing agents that help us reconcile and heal the pain of our earlier relationships.

In ancient Greece the polis was not only a representation of the city but also the spirit of the city-state. Here was where democracy flourished, the rights of citizens

were respected and the early experiments at sharing power and influence were attempted. The 11th House of the Zodiac is political in that it links the individual in a spirit of equal relationship to others in the collective. Your understanding of the 11th House will help you consider how you forge a democratic, equal and co-operative relationship with others. Impinging upon the success of this is your earlier experiences of relating, your trust in human relationships and your unconscious expectations that you still harbour in relationships. Here you meet your kindred spirits in the world, who share your passions, witness your successes and share your burdens. Both the Zodiac Sign on the Cusp of this House and the planets contained in this sphere will help you reflect on your friendships and group affiliations

11th House Cusp is in Scorpio

The 11th House represents your community, the groups you encounter and belong to outside the family: groups that you belong to because of your interests, your passions and your professional affiliations. Eleventh House experiences include your first class photo, your circle of friends, Girl Guides and Boy Scout experiences, the school council; groups where you were part of the community without other family members. But this House also describes your friends and kindred spirits who share your hopes and wishes and contribute to making your world the ideal place to live in.

With Scorpio on the Cusp of the 11th House, it is natural for you to take your time forging friendships as you bring your deeply passionate and soulful side to your friendships. You want to be involved on a deep level, not superficially, and therefore you need friends to engage with your emotionality and power. You prefer intimate gatherings to large crowds and therefore are more prone to finding your kindred spirits within groups that are more serious and substantial.

Still waters run deep and you bring this depth, intensity and privacy to your friendships. This suggests your friends know you will be there when they need you, that you are trustworthy and will tell the truth when they ask you to be honest with them. Friendship is sacred territory and you respect the mystery and intimacy of your close companions. However the other side of the coin suggests that you might get caught up in triangles or intrigues with your friends. The intensity of feeling may be experienced through secrets and lies, which while uncomfortable, feeds your need for intensity. An intimate friend and a dangerous enemy could be the same. Therefore it is prudent to be aware that you unconsciously invest friendships with a power and potency that often ignites feelings and emotions amongst your circle of friends. It is also wise to use your faculties of discrimination when you give your trust to friends. Not all may honour that.

This combination is not as easy as you might wish, as you bring the power of emotion to the arena of equal friendship. Therefore it might be difficult for you to draw the line between intimacy and friendship. However you know when you stepped across the line. That's often why it is hard to be friends after you've been intimates. A friend and a lover are not the same, but you may have been prone to trying to bring them together. Hence you've learnt that emotional boundaries between friends and lovers are a necessity.

A handful of close friends is more appealing than a clique of acquaintances. You have a great capacity for deep and personal friendships that are enduring and supporting. Sharing personal crisis and tragedy as well as the successes and accomplishments with others binds you even closer to them. You urge to share your innermost feelings with your companions; hence your friendships are ultimately a very private affair. In your heart you hold them dear and you expect the same. Your kindred spirits are your therapists, confidants and your emotional barometers. With friends you have the opportunity to experience the depth of love.

The Sun is in the 11th House

With your Sun in the 11th House you identify strongly with either your friends or colleagues and feel compelled to be part of a group. Underlying this urge is the realisation that in a group you are able to accomplish more than you can on your own. You realize that you need the group to help actualise your creativity and self expression. You need assurance and acknowledgement, yet paradoxically this is accomplished through focus on the needs of the group and not on the self. Your personal identity is developed through group participation, through organisations and community; therefore your fate is to be recognised for group successes or organisational achievements. You must learn to cope with being one of the team, not lost in the crowd, but a vital, integral and necessary link in the creative process of the organism. Satisfaction is found in contributing whole heartily to the success of the group not through personal achievements facilitated by the group. The more you identify with the goals and aims of the group, the greater your sense of self.

Friendships are important, as this is the arena where you can shine. Therefore it is important to acknowledge your need for friendship, the impact you have on your friends and the significant role you play in their lives. You need to feel recognised by your peers, acknowledged by your colleagues and favoured by your circle of friends, as it is in these areas where you will forge your identity and find your purpose. Innately this placement suggests your ability to father the group or be the leader, at least be the spokesperson for what needs to be accomplished. Therefore it is not surprising that prominent individuals within organisations have with this planetary placement.

Since friends become such a prime relationship it is important you to foster your intimate friendships. You experience your creativity and identity through friendship, therefore equality and reciprocity is necessary. As recognition by friends is revitalising it is important to recognise how you may unwittingly collude with eclipsing yourself or fostering others' creativity at the expense of your own in order to be acknowledged. You seek friendships where mutual support and admiration enhances your sense of self. You find your kindred spirits through mutual hobbies or similar goals, in group participation and community projects. Innately you have a great capacity for friendship and the more you love and cherish your friends, the more you feel loved and cherished.

Mercury is in the 11th House

Mercury is well placed in the 11th House as its natural urge for communication and interaction finds a natural outlet in the arena of like minded peers and colleagues.

Your mercurial nature jumps at the chance to find an expression through a diverse group, therefore fulfilling a role of spokesperson for the organisation, being a teacher, coach or facilitator is rewarding for you. Your intellectual and communicative faculties can be well used through associations and systems to help articulate and promote the needs of the group. Therefore Mercury in this House plays a political role in helping to identify the policies and goals of the system you find yourself in. From this communal and often forward-looking place you are able to speak out on humanitarian issues and voice human concerns.

As a friend you seek intellectual equality and rapport. With this placement you strive for a variety of friendships and are able to juggle many diverse relationships. As an unconventional thinker you may be drawn to friends who help to support your ways of knowing the world. As an original thinker you also court friends who are intellectually challenging and innovative. Like the messenger Mercury, you might play the role as the link in the chain of friends, the instigator of group reunions and the intermediary in the organisation. Therefore with this placement you naturally keep relationship alive through your need to communicate and be in touch. These needs may draw you into mercurial groups where communicating, learning, networking and intellectual inquiry is the focus of the group.

Mercury in the 11th reflects an individual who needs to express themselves in society and feel equal and accepted by the group. Therefore in adult years sibling politics or dynamics may emerge when unfairness or favouritism emerges in the system. In a group you need to feel equal to the other members and also need to be certain that the leader is not displaying favouritism. If that happens then your trickster may emerge to upset the system and disturb the equilibrium. You can stir the pot to get to the truth. On the other hand you are apt to find your brothers and sisters through friendships which help to readdress the earlier relationships with your siblings and schoolmates. In a group Mercury is able to find its voice. Therefore through association with friends and associates you are able to develop your ideas, opinions and intelligence. Drawn to intelligent, creative and interesting people, over time you will learn to withdraw your projections to appreciate your own unique and creative ideas and intellect. Through your participation in group learning and training, earlier patterns of schooling can be reshaped in a positive way. Your kindred spirits are friends and colleagues who draw out your intellect, communicate to the wee hours of the morning with you and share your ideas and spirit of learning.

Venus is in the 11th House

Venus symbolises what we value and in your 11th House it suggests you value and are rewarded in the social arenas of friendship, collegueship and community associations. You discover your self-esteem and worth through your friends and close associates; therefore fellowship and companionship play a pivotal role in feeling valuable and appreciated. It is important to value and be valued by your close associates; however, it is also important that your associates are also valued and recognised by the wider group. With Venus in your 11th you are inclined to forge strong relationships in the community, as this is where you find the resources that build your feelings of worth. Friendships and an active, supportive social circle are areas of great fulfilment bringing contentment and pleasure into your life. With

Venus in the 11th you have an innate appreciation of the value of friendship and group support.

Venus is more inclined to relate on a one-to-one basis whereas the 11th House is more a communal environment. Therefore it is imperative to become aware of the shift in the group dynamic when more than two people are involved. Unknowingly Venus often attracts triangular relationships where jealousy and envy may be ignited. In this House we learn to experience belonging to a system with others and exchanging equally with other members, being in a group, not a dyad. Therefore if a subset of a couple or pair develops within the wider group there may be conflict, division and jealousy. Jealousy results from love betrayed, when love is transferred to another or when you suspect that you might be displaced by a rival who steals the love you have known. It is ignited when another usurps your place in the group or when acknowledgement and companionship is withdrawn, placing you in a triangular relationship. Similarly it is important with Venus here not to confuse the experience of couple dynamics with group dynamics, or misjudging love and friendship, lover and friend. You may recognise the pattern of confusing friends and lovers or becoming ambivalent when your ex-partner wants to remain friends!

Social experiences are highly valuable with Venus in the 11th and you look forward to both formal and informal gatherings where exchanges with interesting and charismatic people can take place. Your social circle is a great resource of support and offers an outlet to express your talent and creativity and showcase your natural ability for social intercourse and involvement. Hospitality comes easily and you enjoy creating a space where human interchange takes place. However friendship and personal affection and love may become intertwined. While romance may follow from a friendship it is also important not to idealise friendship or place it under the romantic spotlight. Venus in the social sector also might suggest you become involved with a variety of interesting companionships with creative and artistic individuals. Venus here suggests you have an innate grace and are loved and admired in the community of others. Kindred spirits in the community value and appreciate you.

SOUL AND RELATIONSHIP

Intimate Friends and Committed Partners



"Love consists in this ... that two solitudes protect and touch and greet each other."
- Maria Rilke Rainer

The Seventh House

As the poet describes, loving and committed relationships are forged by the alchemy of two individuals. Soul is expressed through individuality and when its unpredictable and mysterious nature is brought into intimate contact with another, a genuinely soulful relationship is possible. The 7th House is the astrological site where individuality and relationship converge. Astrologically, it is the quintessential House of relationship and its process embraces the experience of being with an equal other in a committed and intimate way. From the soul's viewpoint this is the arena where mutuality, reciprocity and respect for individuality can work to fashion a soulful relationship that embraces the unique character of each partner. Seventh House partners are not just marriage or life partners, but also close business partners and others engaged with you in a committed relationship.

Traditionally this sphere was known as the House of 'open enemies'. Whereas traditional astrology might literally ascribe qualities to a partner, contemporary astrology sees these qualities as mirror images of what is innate in us. In remaining unconscious of your 7th House energies, you proclaim them as belonging to someone else, generally your partner. We enter a mystery where we are drawn to what appears as opposite and different, yet is only a partial reflection of what is not yet conscious in us. What we sense is kin, congeniality, familiarity, yet not from the system we have known. Destiny hovers on the threshold of the 7th House; therefore the Sign on the Cusp is very often prominent in your partner's Horoscope.

We can draw an analogy between the arrival of the partner and the birth of a sibling. Powerfully conflicted feelings of love and rivalry, fascination and anger, closeness and separateness are ignited in new relationships. But this is the nature of intimate relationships as strands of each soul are woven together. Astronomically the 7th House is where the sun prepares to set. It is twilight, when the light elongates the shadows and we prepare to meet the dark. Therefore it is the partner who awakens

an earlier stratum of psyche where unresolved or incomplete issues and patterns from other relationships may enter into our current relationship.

Our partners are companions, kindred spirits and intimate others. But human nature inclines towards moulding our partners with the clay of our own unresolved patterns and complexes. The material we use for this is often our own projections, fantasies and ideals. Following is a description of your 7th House energies which might help you recognise your own ideals or those you carry for your partners. In reflecting on these and becoming more conscious of underlying patterns, you can embrace these energies more fully in yourself allowing your relationships to be less focused on the past and more anchored in the present and, hopefully more soulful.

7th House Cusp is in Gemini

Astronomically your 7th House begins on the western point of the horizon. Astrologically this is the sector of the Zodiac that was setting when you were born. This Zodiacal location is exactly opposite your Ascendant or Rising Sign. Your Rising Sign depicts your personality and independent outreach into life. Your descending Sign or Descendant, as it is known, represents "others". Therefore the Ascendant-Descendant axis becomes vital in any relationship analysis. It describes the intimate dance between yourself and your partner.

Your Ascendant is Sagittarius; therefore the Air Sign Gemini is on your Descendant or 7th House Cusp.

The Air trinity includes Gemini, Libra and Aquarius. This triumvirate of signs is compatible, at least theoretically, with relationship. It is natural for Air Sign people to want to share ideas and experiences. The Element of Air is constantly seeking its other half through the process of relating. However, Air seeks a multiplicity of experiences and may share its ideas and experiences in many differing relationships, being indiscriminate about privacy and containment. Relationships may be an arena of curiosity, and often at the beginning of the getting-to-know-you phase Air's inquiring and interactive manner is mistaken for a deeper emotional or more intimate interest.

Although you love to relate, you also need 'air', space between and enough breath to feel invigorated. You are comfortable with the idea of equality, sharing and the theory of relatedness but you may have difficulty in the sphere of intimacy and emotional constancy. It is natural for you to experiment with a range of possibilities in any relationship, because you like to satisfy your curiosity and inquisitive urges. You need a great amount of space, emotionally, physically and psychologically before you are comfortable enough 'settling down'. Changeability is natural, and without enough space, you feel stifled and unable to breathe, who may lead to restlessness, even anxiety within any key relationship. If the bond feels stifling, you are keen to escape. You really need to experiment within any relationship before an authentic commitment can be given. Also with you relationship with your siblings could be an indication of how you might explore ideas, relate, learn and adventure with another. A sibling is often experienced as the first partner you learned to relate to and gossip and experiment emotionally with. Communication on all levels within relationship is

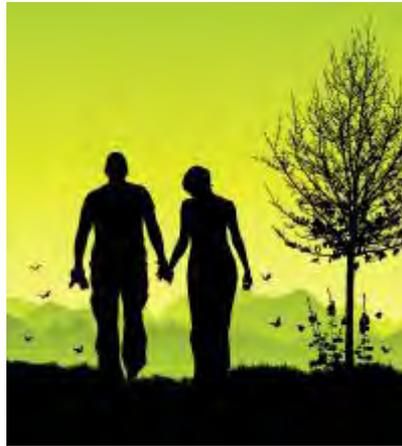
important, and if in the sibling system there was a lack of communication or sharing of ideas, this could adversely affect your outlook on adult relationships.

What you are first attracted to in others is their youthfulness, their versatility, the way they make you laugh when they mimic your friends or tell a joke and the way they make you think when they are telling you about their latest intellectual discovery. They're so adaptable and communicative and witty. However while you may attract these qualities in your quest for equal relationship, you will also attract the opposite of these qualities. The life of the party may now seem adolescent, the intellect doesn't have enough soul and you're not feeling as special as you want to be feeling. But any relationship can also help you to forge meaning and make sense of all your ideas. Your own intellectual and storytelling talents begin to emerge through the process of relating to someone significant. But most importantly you find the ability that ability to navigate duality and be both separate and together in your relationship.

Qualities you admire and are attracted to in others include versatility, intellect, communication, adaptability and the constant curiosity about life and the way it works. And it is these very qualities that a partner helps you find in yourself. So don't be surprised when your friends and constant companions are very Geminian or change their minds day to day.

PLEASURE, PASSION AND LOVE

The Joys of Venus and Mars



"There is only a single magic, a single power, a single salvation and a single happiness, and that is called loving."

- Herman Hesse

Venus and Mars

To the ancient mythmakers, Venus and Mars were consistently paired together as companions, either lovers or close sibling allies. In Roman mythology they are the deities who preside over the Empire. To the Greeks Aphrodite and Ares were deeply attached passionate lovers or siblings. In the story of *"The Odyssey"* they are caught in a golden web woven by Hephaestus who wove the fine filament in order to entrap Aphrodite in bed with Ares. Their relationship is an erotic one. In Homer's earlier epic *"The Iliad"* their relationship is depicted as less magnetic, yet just as close. Aphrodite refers to him in this epic as 'dear brother'. Their relationship is devoted and warm-hearted. When we imagine these gods we think of them as eternal lovers, sometimes married, other times not. They represent two layers of soulmates: erotic and emotional intimacy as well as companionship. In psychological terms they represent our inner orientation to pleasure and passion, while in astrological terms they help identify what qualities attract us to others, what we value and desire. Physiologically they are our scent and libido, the innate attractive and active forces that draw us towards companionship.

In term of compatibility and conflict in relationship, Venus and Mars play a leading role. The complete picture of their placement in your horoscope can be fully assessed by a professional astrologer. For this report we are only analysing the planetary sign which signifies qualities and essences important in your intimate relationships.

Venus is pleasure and beauty. Both in body and in spirit, Venus symbolises what you find attractive and the values you place upon your relationships, what you need to feel partnered and your own inner sense of worth and value that wants to be

appreciated, honoured and respected. Your Venus sign is a metaphor for those qualities you need in relationship to feel complete.

Mars is passion and desire. Whether spiritual, physical, intellectual or emotional Mars symbolises how you express your desires, frustrations and energy. In terms of relationship it suggests how you assert yourself, deal with conflict and make your desires transparent. Your Mars sign describes how you might express yourself, go after what you want and how you may deal with anger in relationship. In essence it is a symbol of how your life force naturally seeks expression.

Being opposite in nature, Venus and Mars are naturally attracted to one another and often a highlight of your soul mate's astrological constitution. Therefore take note of the sign placements of both Venus and Mars and how they are reflected in the horoscopes of intimate others. Use these descriptions to reflect on your values and desires. Venus themes in relationship focus on shared values, feeling loved and appreciated, money and pleasure, affection and sensuality while Mars brings themes of sex and desire, independence and individuality, dealing with conflict and the sharing of goals out into the open. By nature Venus is feminine and Mars is masculine; therefore gender wise Venus might be more integrated into the personality for women while Mars might be more accessible for men. That "*Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*" thing again. Hence a man's Venus might be a fair description of women he is attracted to while a woman's Mars often describes the men she attracts.

Venus is in Scorpio

Therapist seeking Therapist

Imagine this advertisement in the personal column of your local paper. Well you probably do have to imagine it, as I doubt you would announce publicly that you are seeking companionship. You are more inclined to conceal your feelings, but privately you long for the depth of connection that intimacy offers. You value the passion and intensity that closeness brings. However you may mistake emotional crisis and pain for connection or passion and emotion for love. You come alive in emergencies. In dangerous situations or at critical junctures you are fully present. Personally it is wise not to confuse love and crisis as you may end up being the therapist in an ongoing pattern of "therapy love".

While you may not necessarily be a strong feeling type, when you enter a close personal relationship you are confronted with in-depth feelings, either in yourself or in your partner. Because you have the tendency to connect at the most vulnerable level of your being, trust is always an issue. Or perhaps it is betrayal. Therefore emotional control, jealousy and possessiveness are aspects of relating. Whether you encounter these in yourself or others they are there. Why? Well you have the capacity to love deeply and this sensitivity needs armouring. Secrecy is another way to defend your vulnerability. Money and sex are also intimate pathways but can also be used as a defence against personal disclosure. So is power. Power and love are interwoven. You either open to the power of love or defend yourself with the love of power. Reflect on how you might unconsciously build defences against feeling vulnerable; probably you are still nursing a relationship wound or memories of

betrayal. It's hard for you to let go and open up again, but incredibly therapeutic when you do.

Hopefully it is evident that you have the capacity for deep and abiding relationships. However you also fear the possible loss of the beloved if you were to become intimate. Well the truth is you always lose the ones you love. It might not be tomorrow, even in 20 years, but it will happen. Therefore you are challenged to love in the emotional present which is filled with the paradox of feelings. You value your ability to be emotionally available, unafraid yet respectful of the dark and non-judgemental about other's feelings. Your integrity and sincerity in relationships does render you vulnerable, but your soulmates meet you, value and love you for your emotional honesty.

Mars is in Aquarius

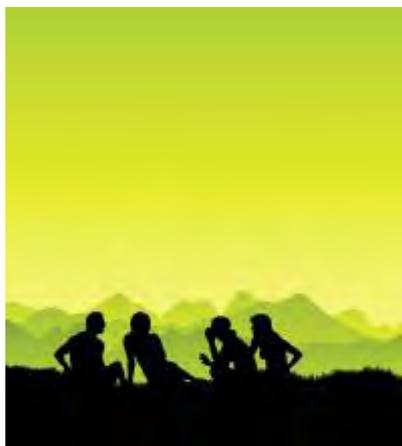
How you assert yourself in your relationship and take the courage to be your own person is the domain of the Planet Mars. In airy Sign of Aquarius you are motivated by high ideals, humanitarian concerns and altruistic outcomes. Even though you are drawn to explore the unusual or are fascinated by the cutting-edge, you can have fairly fixed opinions and ideas. Quite naturally you may be drawn to working alongside others on important projects, have an eclectic set of friends or be sought after because of your innovative approach. You have a lot of opportunity to meet others through your communal concerns and projects. But how do you translate an impersonal relationship into a personal one? How does an acquaintance become a soul mate? Well this could be problematic.

Personal love might be more of an ideal rather than an emotion for you. And if personal feelings or emotions do come up, then you may quickly start to rationalise or conceptualise them. Uranus is the modern ruler of your Mars sign. Personifying the heavens, Uranus prefers things to be separate, disconnected with a lot of space in between. What you may think is separateness or individuality might feel like a lack of feeling or emotional distance to someone else. Your emotional clarity may be more of a defence against closeness than a statement of what you desire. You definitely want independence and freedom; the trick is how you maintain these in a personal relationship.

This dilemma between wanting to be free but being passionate about someone you love can be quite frustrating for your intimate others. One thing I would say to your partner is to give you the permission to be free, to explore and do your own thing. It often is as simple as that. The idea of freedom is enough for you to stay. If there is a back door and it's always accessible, there is no reason to leave. However it also helps when you assert your own need for independence in a co-operative way. You might have a mild case of oppositional disorder so why push you into separation by pinning you down. You bring respect, friendship and equality into your relationships and you long to find kindred spirits who just let you be free enough to be different.

CROSSING PATHS

Close Encounters with Kindred Spirits



"Lovers don't finally meet somewhere. They're in each other all along."
- Rumi

The Nodes

You won't meet your kindred spirits accidentally. In the chronicles of the soul, there are no accidents, only meaningful coincidences; therefore your soulmates are already familiar to you. Whether you come across them in the sacred circle of your family, the playgrounds of your childhood, in your adult establishments or your elderly neighbourhoods, they are already part of you. Whether these relationships last a minute or a lifetime, are filled with happiness or conflict, they are destiny's design woven into your life's intricate tapestry. Therefore it is inevitable that at some time your path will intersect the paths of your soulmates.

But when? Well this is the riddle of relationship. Whatever arrangement or timing brings you into alignment with your kindred spirits is the inexplicable mystery of the soul. Astrology is a great aid in this regard as it can bypass layers of rational minds to explore timing in relationships. Astrology's timing techniques are invaluable in helping to focus on major and meaningful passages in relationship. Consulting a professional astrologer to explore these questions can be highly revealing and rewarding. Within the limits of this report we can draw on an aspect of your horoscope that will help you reflect on your encounters with kindred spirits. This is the House position of the North Node, a signpost that points to where soul may be encountered in relationship.

The House positions of the Nodes illustrate environmental factors that shape and influence your fate, including relationship. This is where the inner and outer worlds lead us to a rendezvous with soul. North Node experiences are out of the ordinary, since its nature is both subjective and participatory with the spiritual world. Therefore the House position of the North Node locates one of the settings where engagement with the spiritual self occurs. The South Node is in the opposite House

and describes a familiar place, an area of safety, and a comfort zone that supplies an anchor for our relationships. However it is also a place where we can become fixed, caught in the safety zone of our complacency and neglect the invitation of the North Node. That would be a shame as it is at this pole where you might cross paths with a kindred spirit.

Considering this one image in your Horoscope invites you to feel more masterful in participating with your soul's journey and more receptive to close encounters with kindred spirits.

The North Node is in the 2nd House

You need to trust yourself more, being confident enough to know that if a loved one broke your trust you could forgive them. But first you would need to acknowledge your deep feelings of loss, or fear of loss that underpin your relationships. Kindred spirits understand your depth of feeling and intensity and you meet them as soon as you begin to value and protect your own resources and assets. They appreciate what you have to offer but they don't demand that you reciprocate or manipulate you into giving.

Your North Node is in the 1st House of your birth chart with the South Node being placed in the opposing 7th House. Astrologically this polarity stretches from what is mine to what is ours. Personal assets and worth are in contrast to shared resources and mutual values. Therefore it is important to recognise that focusing exclusively on the bonding, merging and intimacy zones of relationship leaves you at risk of not building your own values, talents and self esteem. You are at risk of being disadvantaged when your need for an intense encounter obscures your self worth.

In relationships your tendency may be to become entangled with others' assets before clearly having defined your own. You may be adept at handling other people's money and investments as well as understanding their deeper emotional needs and urges, but destiny invites you to be more aware of building your own wealth, capital and comforts. On an emotional level you become deeply involved with others; however, being therapeutic and intensely aware of others' needs may deplete your own emotional reserves. Therefore it is worth knowing that the more you define your boundaries, discriminate, state what is yours and define your own needs in your relationships, the more you feel valued and respected. And the more you are valued and appreciated, the easier it is to reveal your deeper self. So yes your secret is well-hidden, but it is not really about something you need to hide. Your secret to healthy relationship is developing your resourcefulness, your self worth and your power.

Ask yourself *"What am I worth?"* and *"How do my partner's value, appreciate and respect me?"* Developing your self-esteem and self worth is the invitation offered by your nodal axis. Your task is to develop your own resources, skills and wherewithal, as your capacity for depth of contact, intimacy and closeness is already well developed. It is inbred in you. Your task is to consciously direct your emotional reserves and power into building your own resourcefulness. It may be tempting to rely on the emotional, financial and material resources of others but security is not

there; instead it lies in the possession and ownership of your self and the journey towards finding your own values. With a well-developed sense of self-esteem and value you are more able to find your kindred spirits. Without developing this sense of worth and confidence, you are prone to being emotionally manipulated. Power could become an issue. Rather than letting it infiltrate and eventually undermine your relationship, best to build your resources and concentrate on your own physical and emotional wellbeing. Until you have developed that sense of self worth you may be at risk of putting your faith in others who are less skilled emotionally. Therefore it is wise not to trust others until you know you can trust in yourself. Your kindred spirits are deeply trustworthy and have your emotional wellbeing at heart. Knowing this you are free to build your assets.

CONCLUSION

*"Love to some is like a cloud, to some as strong as steel
For some a way of living, for some a way to feel
And some say love is holding on and some say letting go
And some say love is everything, some say they don't know."*

-John Denver, Perhaps Love

Songwriter John Denver's lyrics capture the paradoxical nature of love for each individual. Every relationship whether it is familial or formal, professional or personal, intimate or casual is an invitation to self-discovery. We bring our hopes, secrets, expectations, resources and desires to our relationships and through the alchemy of interaction come to better know ourselves and others. Soul does not strive to work out or control relationship but inspires us to consider what is being asked of us; what is the fate of this relationship? In this way astrology is a unique tool in helping us reflect on the purpose and patterns of our relationships, not to fix or control them, but to understand their complexity and place in our lives.

Kindred spirits are relationships in which a deep bond is present, not inspired by the teachings of a self-help manual but through the soul's grace. And that is a mystery which astrology helps us to consider. I have written this report to promote a spirit of inquiry into the patterns and purposes of soul in your relationships. Like soul there may be contradiction and confusion, as it seeks understanding not clarity. Also the report is limited in its nature to explore the more detailed and intricate patterns of your horoscope. However it is the author's sincere hope that it provides an initial step to your reflection on relationships. Perhaps love in the end is what we are willing to bring to it, like the poet Ovid implied in *"The Art of Love"*: *"If you'd be loved, be worthy to be loved"*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Brian Clark is one of the main tutors of a four-year program in applied astrology, Astro*Synthesis which also offers a comprehensive course through distance learning. He has been teaching astrology for the past 30 years and lectured extensively to metaphysical, astrological and psychological groups in Australia, New Zealand, United States, Canada, Mexico and Europe. Previously in the Solar Writer series, Brian has written *Vocation* and co-authored *Goddess* available through Esoteric Technologies www.esotech.com.au. He is the author of *The Sibling Constellation* (Penguin Arkana: 1999), *Celestial Tarot* (US Games: 2007) and a contributing author to *Intimate Relationships* (Llewellyn, 1991), books that have also been translated into French and Japanese. As well Brian has written numerous articles for leading astrological publications which have been translated into Spanish, Italian, French and German, and is the author of numerous students booklets on astrology available through AstroSynthesis www.AstroSynthesis.com.au. Brian also lectures on mythology and conducts tours to sacred sites in Greece through Odyssey Tours to Ancient Greece. Brian has a BA from Sir George Williams University in Montreal as well as his Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Diploma and MA in Classics and Archaeology from Melbourne University.

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