



SOLAR WRITER

KINDRED SPIRITS REPORT

A SOLAR WRITER REPORT
for Kenny Chesney

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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.

Mercury is Conjunct The Moon

When Mercury aspects the Moon, the need for communicating your feelings is highlighted. In the ancient way of thinking both the Moon and Mercury ruled the mind. Mercury was like the Magician who was logical, rational and communicative; the Moon was like the High Priestess who was imaginative, intuitive and silent. In contemporary terms Mercury rules the more rational side while the Moon rules the more conceptual and imaginative side. Astrologically the planets are aligned implying a lifelong learning curve of how to balance your emotional responses and your rational judgement.

In terms of early attachment and bonding communication is vital. You learn to feel safe and be bonded in the family system through expressing your feelings and being open to learning. Communicating your needs is imperative and hopefully your parents encouraged your individualistic expression of feelings and asking for what you needed. This support would encourage you to be open to learning new things and expressing your thoughts and ideas. Without this active encouragement to express your feelings you feel your own needs are submerged in the system, lost in translation. This might mean you were able to express the needs of the system, but not your own, being the translator, go-between and deliverer of messages. Therefore your curiosity and urge to learn were compromised.

When Mercury and the Moon are in such a powerful aspect, the patterns of learning, communication, listening and how you express your feelings and perceptions are brought into focus. Memory is vividly linked to emotional sensitivity; you learn best when you feel safe but also are deeply impacted by emotional trauma. You have an innate sensitivity to the inner world of images, dreams feelings as well as an uncanny ability to read other's feelings and reactions, therefore need to know that this ability to know on other levels is validated in relationship. A child learns to feel safe and be bonded in the family system through expressing their feelings; therefore the ability to be open with one's feelings and inner experiences are grounded in the family system. In order that you could be open to learning new things and to expressing your thoughts and ideas you needed to feel protected and safe. Your perceptions and feelings needed special attention as you most probably developed in your own unique way, being more imaginative, perceptive, inner orientated and visual than most. Therefore an important question to ask is, 'did my family recognize my unique learning needs, my own way of expressing feelings and the difficulty I might have had with thinking linearly and logically'?

You may have instinctively voiced the unexpressed needs of the family system through being the translator, the go-between or the deliverer of messages. Your curiosity and urge to learn might have been compromised by a lack of support or being directed into a learning system that did not suit you. This aspect already suggests that expressing feelings in the family might be an issue and that you are probably the one who struggles to make sense of what is unexpressed. In later relationships it is necessary to recognise that your urge to interpret your partner's actions, feelings or responses may not be how they see it.

Other scenarios may be that the relationships between your mother and your siblings was confused; mother being more like a sister or you either mothered or were mothered by your sibs. This might also point to an important sibling issue in your mother's family that permeates the atmosphere of the home.

In later relationships it is important for you to recognise that it is not necessarily a difficulty you have in expressing feelings but rather a unique way of expressing them. Therefore it is important to pursue different ways of learning things. Through your different learning experiences and pursuits you will find the like-minded others who you can communicate with. Communication is a key to feeling you belong and you will find many a kindred spirit who shares your way of knowing things. And that way is a much more spherical, obtuse and imaginative way than most. Therefore in later relationship it is important to recognise that those you love do not always understand your feelings and perceptions.

Venus is Conjunct The Moon

Two powerful feminine forces are highlighted when the planet Venus combines with the Moon. While both are feminine by nature, they not necessarily feel or want similar things, having their own unique values, urges and desires. Astrologically the planets are aligned; however not necessarily psychologically, bringing stress into their relationship. This stress may be focused around family values, likes and dislikes as well as the comfort of having what you want. In later years it might surface through needing to live harmoniously with others even though they may not always share the same value system as you.

Attitudes towards wealth, the experience of money and having things in the family system underlie your sense of security. The likes and dislikes of your parents were strongly impressed upon you. Hopefully this meant your parents supported a healthy sense of self-esteem and showed attractive qualities that helped instill a sense of worth and value. Your choices between what you liked and disliked needed encouragement and support so that you learned how to make your own valid choices and decisions. In a family where self esteem and personal values are not supported it is more difficult to feel connected to your own inner sense of worth. Without this supportive value system you might feel you did not know how to make healthy choices, unsupported in the development of your personal tastes and values. As a young boy you may have felt valued when partnering your mother's needs, or as a girl you might have felt that your feminine values were denied in the family. Either way you may feel you have no choice.

It is important to reflect on the family attitudes towards both the feminine aspects of life and females in general. There may have been conflict in developing a safe and supportive relationship to the feminine in previous generations of women in your family. Therefore it is important to know how to value your needs as well as support your values so you feel appreciated and valued for yourself and not a role scripted by others. The family attitudes towards femininity and sexuality may not have supported you contributing to your adolescent angst. When younger the entangled feelings of self worth and relationship to others might have been focused on your weight, your attractiveness, and your sexuality; when older it might be directed towards money and security. Wherever the focus is, the inner urge is to accept your worth and value. For a man it is important to recognise that your relationship with women may be complex, as there are many competing and often conflicting needs. For instance boyish charm and seduction may be motivated by the need to be taken care of rather than the urge to be in relationship. Or the strong urge to relate might be intermingled with the feelings of having to responsible and care taking for others.

Receptivity, magnetism, grace and sensitivity all combine to make you attractive to others, something you might not actually know. So it is that sense of something familiar in the other, a feeling of being valued and appreciated and a warmth of connection that converge in your adult relationships. Your kindred spirits value you and you feel safe and receptive when in their presence. You feel nurtured in relationship when you are able to express your individual tastes and values without compromise.

Pluto is Opposite The Moon

This combination suggests intense and powerful feelings that may have been first experienced in the family. Issues of trust, honesty, integrity and reliability are forged with the need to feel safe. This suggests very potent, even forbidden or repressed, feelings may have leaked into your family atmosphere. Your fate suggests that there is a dark depth to your feeling life and this is where you will find soul. Like Persephone you need to descend into the feelings to find the authentic other side of self. This might leave you feeling out of control in any relationship, as you find it difficult to trust another.

Your family system may have been confronted with powerful issues of loss and grief as well as taboos and secrets. Power and influence are issues or they have been in the family past and these affect the integrity of your family. The family need for honesty, trust and cohesion are strong due to the ancestral denials and unexpressed grief that infiltrate the current family climate. You were privy to these denials and secrets, even though they were not spoken about. However, you knew them in the depths of yourself, and your destiny is to know that you know the truth even though everyone else may be denying or lying about it.

When safe, you felt protected from harm and part of a tribe that was bound by trust. Emotional honesty in the family would encourage you to be intimate and truthful about what you feel. Negative feelings were allowed to be expressed without fear of judgement or reprisal and were not allowed to pollute the atmosphere of the family. If grief and loss were acknowledged as part of the life cycle, then you were better equipped to let go and move forward with life. But this is not generally the case, as when Pluto and the Moon combine the darker feelings are often left to fester. If so you felt them and were influenced by their potency. However when authentic feelings are allowed to be expressed this engenders honesty, integrity and the powerful sense of being protected and sheltered by indelible strength.

However a darker side could exist especially if your family atmosphere was polluted with secrets, shame or unexpressed grief. This complicates your ability to be close or intimate with others for fear of exposing the secret and betraying the family. In this case separation from your family may be accomplished in a Persephone-like way through being snatched, abducted or seduced into another atmosphere of control and dominance. If power and control are mobilised to suppress a secret, a sense of shame is instilled leaving you unable to differentiate between what is private and what is secret. Power may also have been abusive in that it kept you from expressing your true self. Powerlessness induces rage therefore your family atmosphere might have been polluted with rage and brutal feelings. Feeling unprotected and vulnerable to attack, you learn to mistrust the world at large. When the family is bonded together by an inappropriate secret or shame the risk of difficulty with separation is heightened and anyone outside the family unit is cast in the role of enemy. Transferring loyalties to someone outside the family constitutes betrayal, leaving you in fear of being disinherited.

Therefore you could swing between being charismatic and compulsive. You are charismatic because you are able to confront others honestly and with integrity encouraging a sense of trust. Compulsive because when you hide your true needs or feelings you begin to ruminate and feel compelled to try to hide them. So as an adult issues of trust, power and control will be themes that help you confront your inner strength and conviction. Your kindred spirits trust you and are able to be intimate with the deepest and darkest part of your self without you feeling ashamed or defended. You know you can be completely honest about your feelings, even the darkest ones, and not be chastised or rejected. Your capacity to forge an intimate bond is great; however on the other side you also have the capacity to withhold due to mistrust. But your fate is to learn to trust yourself and know you will be safe. Your family experiences laid the groundwork for this great task.

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.

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 Libra

The Air Sign Libra on your 3rd House Cusp suggests that romance, fairness, harmony and partnership are primary qualities of relationship that are important to you and experienced in some way with your siblings and early friends.

Your quest for a partner is brought to awareness through establishing a bond with your early peers. You learn how to be a part of a pair early, drawn to others and keen to learn to relate and socialise. You are a team player and your partner possibly is your sister or brother. But partnering a sibling is never as easy as you might have idealised. When you are not able to get the breathing room you need, the freedom you crave or have your own needs and desires reciprocated, you easily lose interest in being in the relationship. However you also might work against your own interests by trying to share everything, even when that acts against your innate need to have your own space or be independent. What you find most difficult sharing is any contentious or upsetting feelings, especially if you feel their vocalisation will harm the relationship or cast you out of favour. Perhaps this is when your relationships get entangled; learning to speak your mind, even when that may be seen as unfair or selfish, is your key to feeling freer in relationships.

Libra and its planetary ruler Venus crave harmony and equality in any relationship and you strive for this in all your early associations. The fate of this placement is often to be a middle child or the child who is fated to be in the middle, negotiating solving disputes and trying to appease everyone. You are sensitive to the relationship nuances in the family and therefore often pick up on unconscious hostilities. If your parent's relationship is unhappy then you are often drawn into pairing the parent who seems less able to cope. With your siblings and later your friends you might always feel in the middle, not quite able to be identified what team you are on. This is a pattern that you may repeat in an adult relationship, either feeling in the middle or trying to appease someone who is not really in relationship with you anyway.

You have a social ease and skill at communicating and bringing people together. Hospitality and charm are qualities you aspire to develop and bring into relationships. But what you learn in your early years is the complexity of relationships and the need for independence. While your ideal is to patch up any misunderstanding or hurt feelings, you learn that relationship is a two-way street. If the other is not in the match, then the match will not happen even if you are willing to accept a 60-40 split, even a 99-01; it has to be 50-50. But the soul is capable of reaching beyond any differences of opinion or beliefs to create relationship. That is the hallmark of a true kindred spirit who engages you in relationship in celebration of your uniqueness and difference.

Neptune is in the 3rd House

An outer planet in the personal House of the sibling may stir deeper, mythic and archetypal experiences, which you can only begin to address in your adult years. Neptune's urge to sacrifice may be a pattern lived out with your brothers or sisters, when placed in the 3rd House. You might have been the one to take the blame for actions perpetrated by your siblings or have allowed them to set you up, even use you. With Neptune here you might feel it is your duty to save others, taking the blame for the actions of others in the group. Neptune's urge

to merge is so strong that you may disregard your sense of self in order to experience this sublime union with others. You may feel that you are not giving up that much to the other group members as your self is fragile anyway. However, an early pattern of sacrificing for others may be established which continues into your adult relationships. Ultimately, this sacrifice comes at a high price as it weakens your sense of independence. Quite literally, you may have had to sacrifice your education or your dreams for another.

There may be a lack of boundary between yourself and your siblings and early childhood friends, so you may be highly sensitive to their psychic life. One of the most difficult Neptunian patterns in family life is to intuitively know what is going on but to have this continually denied by the other members. You then begin to mistrust your own intuition and often feel that you are going mad. In this scenario, Neptune in the third becomes the classic 'identified patient' in the sibling system or group, manifesting the anxieties and the disease that is repressed by the other members within the system. In the third, the sibling could play out the role of the liar, the deceptive one, and even the mad one. Enmeshment with siblings is high and you are often unable to distinguish what the truth is. You may get caught up in the web of the sibling's deceit or addictions. Neptune in the third is a potent image of a primitive yearning to surrender oneself to another, disappearing through fusing oneself with that person. Since this is the 3rd House, it suggests this pattern may have been apparent early in our relationships with siblings, neighbourhood kids and classmates.

Sometimes this placement describes a missing sibling, one who has disappeared or become estranged, leaving a void that you try to replace with friends. Equally, the missing sibling may be idealised so that the feelings of loss are numbed and defended by the idealisation. Since the 3rd House is the first of the houses of relationship, it is quite likely that the image of the missing sibling surfaces in your later relationships where you once again address the issues of sacrifice and invisibility in relation to your partners and friends. You are vulnerable to recreating a fused relationship and losing yourself in it. As an idealist in relationship you are longing for a kindred spirit, one you can share your creativity, magic and spirituality with.

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'.

The Moon is Conjunct Mercury

When the Moon and Mercury combine, themes of caring and nurturing between siblings are important. Here is an image of either an older, protective sibling who comforted you or a younger sibling you took care of. There

may be a confusion or lack of boundary between the parenting and sibling roles in your family of origin. Your mother may have preferred to be a sibling, just one of the girls, vacating the role of mother to an elder sister or brother. Hence in adult relationship roles may get confused. On a positive note this suggests that roles were fluid and changeable. Either way it might be important to reflect on the two different ways of being in your relationships, either as a carer or as a companion.

Communicating the way you feel is important. This stems back to your early experience with siblings and schoolmates. A positive manifestation of this aspect suggests your siblings have been able to mutually communicate their love and concern for one other. Your patterns of communication, sharing your ideas and learning were strongly influenced by these early relationships. You may still remember the emotional impact of your siblings' lying, name-calling and gossiping. And when it quieted down, you would interpret the silence between you and your sibling to try and comprehend the feelings trapped beneath their lack of communication. You learned to read and interpret emotional subtitles. This could have crystallised into an adult pattern of articulating your friend's or partner's feelings. The ability to express feelings is an important aspect of relationship, perhaps first learned in association with your siblings. You might feel you struggle with memory. Usually this is not the case as your memory is acute when there is feeling. An inability to remember may be a way of forgetting the emotional pain that comes with the memory. Therefore it is even more important in adult relationship to reverse the pattern by expressing your feelings, even if they feel negative.

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 Cancer

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. In this House are kin, not bound by blood, but by a similar spirit of interest. 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 in which to live. With Cancer on the Cusp of the 11th House, your friends are like family. You are drawn to others who are sympathetic and caring and who you feel protective of. Your kindred spirits are your clan and you are most likely to meet them in groups that are family-based, children-focused or through like-minded colleagues and workers.

Wherever Cancer is placed on the wheel of the Horoscope represents the area where your caring concerns are expressed, as the Moon is the ruler of this domain. Therefore this suggests that you are prone to nurturing and protecting your friends, which is admirable, but this may leave you feeling your own needs are not met. You are instinctively in touch with your friends' needs and can immediately be there when they need a helping hand, a strong shoulder or a refuge. But sometimes this might not be helpful and you might be caught in an old pattern of providing for others at the expense of yourself. You will recognise this when you become hurt at the lack of reciprocation with friends when you are in need. Best to wait until they seek your help before you follow your instinct to be helpful.

Have you noticed that you instinctively make your groups into a family? You have a great need to belong to the group and therefore this means you often end up caring for others in the group. This statement does suggest the propensity to either become mother or baby of the group; however, your task is to belong to the group not taking on the sole parenting role!

You have a sense about others and you are usually right. It's a gut feeling and you need to honour that. However another gut feeling you might experience is 'butterflies in the stomach' as you are also shy and anxious about meeting new groups of people. Remember that you bring warmth and personal openness to your encounters. You don't need a large social circle, just a small intimate handful of friends is all you need to feel you belong; that special feeling you need. Your kindred spirits will support you and make you feel safe without demanding that you take care of them. It is this smattering of friends that touches your soul

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 Pisces

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 Virgo; therefore the Water Sign Pisces is on your 7th House Cusp is the sign Pisces.

The Water Element brings a depth of feeling and love to the area of relationships. Water flows towards the mysterious and mystical side of relationship, and you may be unable to articulate what pulls you towards another or the impulse that drives you away. You might idealise others who inhabit the sphere of relationships, whether they are siblings, friends or associates. But it is more likely you are emotionally idealistic about partners, drawn to the creative and spiritual sides of another. Aroused by empathy and compassion for another, you may find yourself drawn to unrealistic relationships.

Your inclination is to bring sympathy, empathy and concern to the sphere of relationship. Often these feelings may not be reciprocated leaving you feeling unsupported emotionally. You have an ability to feel your partner's feelings and are often able to serve their needs and to care for their insecurities. This is admirable; however, within the arena of equal relationship it tends to obliterate emotional separateness and can foster enmeshment, leaving you feeling dependant and unmet.

You enter any relationship with a sense of deep connection, moved by your need to be in love with the other. Astrologically this suggests a confusion of boundaries, so when it is important to separate or be alone, it may be difficult. When it is important to be there, the person may be unavailable. The flow of water fuses and merges with what it encounters and therefore is not always comfortable within this sphere of separateness. However the transformational power of water is discovered and celebrated through its multi-layered relationships with equal others.

What you are first attracted to in others is their sensitivity and poetry, the gentle way they approach life and their compassion and concern for other living creatures. While you may attract these qualities in your quest for equal relationship, you may also attract the shadow of these qualities. The dreamy, creative genius you admire may also be confused, lack direction and unable to cope with life's constant demands. What you first considered to be intuitive is now idealistic and what you told your friends was great imagination now seems to be escapism. But through light and shadow Pisces on the 7th draws you into a relationship that helps you to discover your own spirituality and magic. Your own quest for the sublime as well as your creativity will become better known to you through the seasons of your relationship and the influence of your partner.

Qualities you admire and are attracted to in your partner are their imaginative faculties that take you beyond the veil of an ordinary life. You love their intuitive function that picks up on how you are feeling, their sensitivity to your moods, their gentle touch when you are feeling blue and their great ability to let things happen, to go with

the flow. And it is these very qualities that a partner helps you find in yourself. So don't be surprised when your kindred spirits and soulmates have significant astrological placements in Pisces and have that creative and magical touch in what they do.

The Moon is in the 7th House

When you were born the Moon was preparing to set on the western horizon suggesting that you will be drawn to the sensitivity and empathy of others. Subtly those, who you are attracted to draw out your caring and nurturing qualities. However if you are not careful, you might end up in the midst of a mother-child dynamic, either you become the mother taking care of your partner or the dependant mothered by your partner. Both roles are interchangeable and unconscious, but often evident to others. While these poles might seem extreme, psychologically it might be close to the truth as the Moon in the 7th House suggests the issues of dependency, symbiosis and care taking subtly enter into the relationship.

Within a relationship you may unconsciously attract someone who will nurture and protect you and shelter you from the harshness of the outer world. Ultimately in an adult relationship this leaves you feeling dependent and childlike. While you project your lunar qualities onto another, you remain unconscious of your tremendous need to mother or be mothered, so you might attract partners who are often helpless, homeless or 'orphaned'. Unconscious of the emotional weight of your Moon, your partners may express the emotions you are not; leaving you feeling unsupported and unloved.

With your Moon in the 7th you need to reflect on the powerful image of the mother and how this may have influenced the way you relate. Your relationship with mother may be transferred onto your partner. Incomplete issues with mother may then dominate your current relationship. Unbeknownst to you, you might be unconsciously recreating mother's pattern of relating in your adult relationships. In being caught up in the roles of protector and nurturer, you have little time or inclination to pursue what is of importance for you. With the Moon in your 7th House perhaps a worthwhile reflective question might be: 'How can I mother and nurture my own needs rather than projecting these onto my partners?' By becoming more objective within your relationship, you are able to be more discriminating about the levels of empathy and understanding you immerse yourself in. Nurturing and caring for yourself and your partner equally is necessary. Learning to care for your self needs to be brought into perspective.

Your Moon in the 7th House suggests a high level of sensitivity to the other. So attuned are you that you are often able to know what someone else needs before they do, leaving you susceptible to becoming enmeshed in a co-dependent relationship where your life seems to depend on taking care of others. The shadow emerges when you feel either totally dependent on your partner or you have become the emotional provider. This is when you begin to demand more emotional support and interdependence. Often with the Moon in the 7th House you will have colluded with encouraging your partners to become emotionally dependant on you, leaving you feeling bereft of an emotionally equal relationship. To understand the pattern, consider what the trade off has been for you. While you may have been providing all the emotional support, you have given over power to your partner in other areas of your life. Your Moon in the 7th House wants an interdependent relationship where you feel supported and emotionally protected, but not to the extent of feeling smothered or helpless.

When you are able to feel confidence in supporting yourself emotionally and financially, then you are more capable of seeing the true partner. With the Moon in the 7th you partner an emotionally supportive companion, one whom you can share your home life and soul with. But to be in the right vicinity when the soulmate arrives, you need to disentangle yourself from emotional situations where you are not being supported or nurtured. When you meet your partner you will know as he or she feels so familiar as if you've known him or her all your life. Your kindred spirits care for you and are supportive in every way they can be. They are your family.

Mercury is in the 7th House

With the planet Mercury in your 7th House, you are attracted to others on a mental level. You want someone to communicate with; someone who has varied interests and is idea-orientated. You seek a meeting of the minds in your relationships. Therefore you may attract bright, verbal people, and at times they may appear much more intellectually superior and stimulating than you are. This is not necessarily a true reflection and it is necessary for you to become aware of your own communicative skills and intellect, expressing your ideas and opinions, rather than allowing your partner to do it for you.

You want variety and mental stimulation in your relationship. When you repress your need for these varied pursuits you may attract partners who at first seem versatile, but ultimately are superficial, off in every direction and the 'jack of all trades and master of none'. You are prone to attracting the eternal child, who cannot be pinned down. While you continue to project your own ideas, spirited imagination and light-heartedness, the shadowy sides of sarcasm and criticism may arise in the other. You may feel constantly criticised in your attempts to articulate how you feel.

When a Mercurial individual appears, they are clever, witty, gregarious, bright, spirited and a courier of exciting new ideas. When the attraction begins to wane then you may see someone who is scattered, illogical, verbose and nervous. Perhaps somewhere in the middle is the truth; however, you cannot find that truth until you begin to share your ideas, communicate equally, be heard by your partner and be cognisant of your need to express your thoughts and feelings in the relationship.

The planet Mercury is also a personification of the sibling and the sibling bond. In your case incomplete sibling issues may be drawn into adult relationships. Your partners may remind you of the early patterns established in your relationship with a brother or sister. You need to be alert to early communication complexes between your siblings, which could infiltrate your current relationship. Uncannily there could be duplication between your partner and your sibling, such as the similar mannerisms, the same name, similar astrological aspects or birth date etc.

Communication must be shared between you and your partner. Each one of you needs to express their own ideas, have opportunities to verbalise them and take turns being the critic. You need logic and rationale in your relationship and, depending on your chart, need to balance this with your sensual and emotional needs. Talking with your partner is therapeutic and helps dissolve tension and improve relating. Your kindred spirits share your love of learning, discussing current affairs and important issues. Your partners and soulmates are like your siblings; you want to share your everyday life with them, letting them witness your life stories unfold.

Venus is in the 7th House

The favourable planet Venus is at home in your 7th House as it is the planetary ruler of the sign Libra so a relationship or at least the idea of relationship comes naturally to you. There might be a few ideals, expectations and standards you have about relating, but ultimately what you appreciate is a reflection of your own self worth. You value beauty, harmony, peace, companionship, fairness and above all sharing and equality in your relationships. You have these qualities in your own personality make-up, however you may see them more clearly in your partner than in yourself. If this is the case then beauty and harmony may become all-important, attracting nice, sweet people who are always charming and gracious, yet never express an opinion for fear of disrupting the harmony. Physical beauty but no depth of character might become apparent in your partner. Being out of touch with your own inner beauty may fuel the desire to have others embodied around you to confirm your own physical attractiveness and self-value.

Eventually, if you do not claim your own sense of self worth and beauty then your relationship turns sour, as

there is not enough soul to nurture the interior ideals of love and beauty that are so important in a relationship for you. You may have high expectations of being loved by someone who can care for you in style and grace. If your expectations are not met then the physical beauty and charm that you were once attracted to is now experienced as self-absorption and laziness. Then you may find yourself locked in a clash of values and tastes.

The motif of the fairytale "*Beauty and the Beast*" may be prominent in your relationships, in that inner beauty is often discovered under the surface. Once the enchantment with external beauty wears off you are in a position to be able to see value and worth on deeper levels. And like the fairy tale, the redemption comes through the feeling life. When true love and beauty are awakened, you are able to feel your own inner value and esteem. Another parallel is the Greek myth of Aphrodite, who is married to the lame god, Hephaestus the smith-god who is able to craft the most exquisite creations. The Goddess of Love and Beauty is wed to the God of the Forge, a creatively inspired artisan who is physically deformed. The myth is the reminder of Beauty and its inner companion who carries your creativity and inner beauty.

Unresolved issues in our relationships with your sisters or girlfriends may permeate your adult relationships. Or perhaps your partner's sister becomes involved. You may be unwittingly caught up in relationship triangles, but this is often a defence against intimacy and when you excavate your own self worth; you will value your relationships enough to openly deal with your feelings.

You aspire to forging a relationship where co-operation and compromise are its cornerstones. Your ideal of a social and beautiful relationship where both partners are equally supportive in creating a harmonious and aesthetic environment is closer to reality when you embrace your own value and self worth. When you value your own creativity and beauty and express that through your environment you are able to be closer in proximity to your soulmate. Your kindred spirits recognise your inner worth and value and encourage you to become creative and artistic in your expression.

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 Pisces

Prince Charming looking for Orphan with one shoe

Would you respond to an advertisement like this in the personal column of your local paper? You might. You are romantic at heart and believe in fairy tales. Well you used to, before you realised what the odds were of truly finding your Prince or Princess. You found a few Frogs formerly known as Prince and one or two Bitches formerly known as Princess, but should this discolour your hopefulness. Perhaps you need to just have a more realistic idea about relationship. Or steer that energy towards your own creativity, sing your own songs or rescue your own inner child. You are prone to idealisation and projecting your enchantment out into the world; better onto a canvas than a person. You are blessed with an imaginative and inspired heart that is best expressed through creativity. In close relationship you are prone to idealising the other and then becoming enmeshed in their world.

As you say you can't help helping, or falling in love. But sometimes you are in love with the ideal and possibility of love, rather than the person. You are also prone to surrendering yourself to these possibilities before they have been tested or had a reality check. Sensitive to sacrificing aspects of yourself to help others leaves you feeling adrift, lost to yourself. Neptune is the modern ruler of your Venus sign and with this nebulous planet standing behind the stage of your relationships you are susceptible to fantasy and reading into situations influenced by your own desires. It is magic but also madness. You have a gift of great compassion and understanding but relationship teaches you how to contain and shape this in the best possible ways. When you are in touch with that energy you flow and magic does happen.

You value the spiritual and unseen. With soulmates you are often able to part the veil between the two worlds and be in a timeless space together. Therefore it is always wise that you literally create a time out of time or a space away from routine in your close relationships, so that you can enter into this enchantment together. When magic and relationship combine then you find your soul mate. Sometimes it might take longer than you would like, but when you are together, you feel as if you are together in eternity.

Mars is in Aries

How you assert yourself in your relationships and take the courage to be your own person is the domain of the Planet Mars. In the fiery Sign of Aries this suggests you are straightforward, up-front enthusiastic, positive and

fairly goal orientated. So when you want something you just go for it. Mars is in its ruling sign so you are well equipped to do combat and put your needs forward. You are a natural at being a warrior and a champion and going right into battle for what you want. But your learning curve is how you find a way to meet your partner halfway in your close relationships.

Being a self-starter and independent you may tend to take your own advice and create your own opportunities rather than depend on others. Being more comfortable in the leader's role, at the head of the pack, you are inclined to coaching or motivating others. Because you live spontaneously it's enormously frustrating to wait while others get ready or make up their mind. You're ready to go but are they? Impatience and autonomy get tempered in your relationships and you struggle to control the urge to run away when your independence is threatened or you feel you are not going anywhere with the relationship.

It's great that you are able to express yourself. But with intimate others you need to listen to their side of the story and deal with your anger when you don't get your way. You are also great at the chase and love the heat of the moment. But relationships have middles and ends as well, and those need a little more work. What you bring to your relationships is passion and excitement and what you want to find is a stimulating opponent who challenges you to be the best you can be.

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 8th House

Letting go sounds easy. In dreams, maybe, but in reality it's a big ask. Have you noticed when you do let go there's something else that opens up for you? You might be so invested in trying to reach your quota or make sure you have enough in the bank that you can't see those who want to be close to you. I doubt you will meet your soulmates in the bank or stock exchange; I imagine they cross your path in times of crisis, when you are challenged to master situations. Would you rather be affluent and alone or prosperous and partnered? Destiny has arranged your security but invites you to be more emotionally open and available. Chasing the dollar not necessarily will increase your wealth, but what it will do is impede relationship. Being vulnerable and ready for relating improves your net worth and attracts kindred spirits.

Your North Node is in the 8th House of your birth chart with your South Node opposite in the 2nd House. Astrologically this polarity stretches from what is yours 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 building your own resources, assets and stock portfolio leaves you at risk of not feeling partnered, bonded or close to others. You are at risk of being disadvantaged when your need for capital appreciation outweighs personal intimacy. Therefore the best assets that will appreciate the most for you are honesty, integrity and the willingness to participate and share on deeper layers of being.

This polarity accentuates the sharing of resources and personal assets. You may find it easy to be self-made and resourceful but don't know how to share your wealth and resources. This is also similar to the difficulty you may experience in sharing your emotional and private self. You can trust yourself with your feelings and bank account, but are not so sure if you can trust anyone else. Your challenge is to trust your own sense of self enough to be open, intimate and trusting of others. When you do you are surprised to find out that there are kindred spirits who you feel equal and connected to. Your task is to merge your emotional and financial resources with another in order to feel more complete. Trust, loyalty and integrity are challenges that await us in Scorpio and these are encountered through a deep emotional bond that confronts our vulnerability. The invitation of your NorthNode is to face this challenge and not get fixed in using your own assets and generosity as the defence against being vulnerable and. You might be asked to risk losing your security in order to take a chance at loving.

Call it luck or fortune, but Providence has blessed you with an innate sense of resourcefulness but She also calls you to share your treasure with your close companions and kindred spirits. Tyche, the goddess who spins the wheel of fortune, is your resourceful and kind-hearted spirit when you direct your energies towards others. Your ability to create wealth is a given; however, to find this fortune, you need to venture into intimate interactions with others.

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”*.

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