

Figure 22: Are Judy and I suited?

Peter and Paula were married. They were both social workers. Judy was also a social worker. In fact she had been Paula's superior, but she had lately left social work to take up the study of law with the aim of becoming a solicitor. Peter and Judy began an affair unbeknown to Paula (Peter's wife) or Fred (Judy's husband). Peter's wife (Paula) found out, left the marital home and went to America.

At the time the question was asked, Peter was living alone, his affair with Judy was continuing, and Fred was still blissfully ignorant. The question was not asked of me directly but was passed to me for judgement by another astrologer.

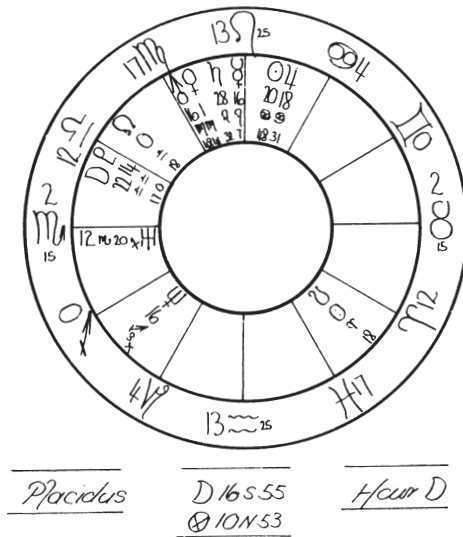


Figure 22. Are Judy and I suited? 13 July 1978 1PM40 GMT London

The first consideration is that the chart is not radical, less than 3 degrees of Scorpio rise, and the Ascendant is located within the *via combusta*. The message to the astrologer is that, at the time the question was posed, events had not moved far enough for judgement to be given; the question is premature. At this point the matter could have been concluded. I could have said, 'It is too early to say,' and left it at that. However, I had a chart, and I like to investigate any chart, radical or not, if only to see *why* judgement cannot be

given, but whatever conclusions I come to, I would not normally give judgement to the querent on a premature chart. In this case I was able to give judgement to the other astrologer purely for the pleasure of the exercise.

Peter is ruled by Mars. He is the querent and shown by the Ascendant. Judy is signified by Jupiter, ruler of Peter's fifth house, for she is his lover. Mercury represents Judy's husband, Fred, because he is shown by the seventh house from the fifth (the husband of Peter's lover) or the eleventh house of the chart. Paula, Peter's wife, is shown by Venus, lady of the seventh house.

Now Mars (Peter) is exactly square to Neptune (joint-ruler of the fifth), and this contact certainly describes Peter's situation. He is involved in an illicit love affair (square = illicit; Neptune = secret). Peter is also in a state of Neptune-inspired confusion, and his position in Virgo suggests feelings of guilt. It may well be that the affair began about six months before when the Moon was sextile Neptune (by the Generally Accepted Measure of Time). There is a favourable contact between confused-guilty-mutable Mars, and the extremely powerful Jupiter, so Judy is considerably more powerful than Peter in this matter.

Judy (Jupiter) is in the ninth house, strong by house and sign; the Moon has lately squared Jupiter from Libra (the natural marriage sign), thus provoking the negative side of Jupiter — recklessness and adventurism. It is most interesting to find that, given Judy's legal ambitions, her significator — legal Jupiter, is exalted in the ninth legal house. This suggests that her ambition for a legal career takes precedence over all other considerations as far as she is concerned. Peter appears to be the servant of Judy (Virgo), be he only responsible for sexual service (Mars).

Now Fred (Judy's husband) is shown by Mercury. He must be a major consideration because he is conjunct the Midheaven and exactly trine Neptune. Given his prominence in the chart, I thought it unlikely that he would remain in ignorance of the affair for long.

Peter's wife Paula (Venus), had lately moved from a conjunction with Saturn in Leo into Virgo. She has embarked upon a new course, and although she applies to Peter (Mars) by conjunction, the perfection of the aspect is denied by refraction, so it does not seem likely that they will get together again.

My judgement to the other astrologer was: The chart does not

permit us to give a judgement to the querent. He is in a most confused and guilty state and is not capable of making any reasonable decision about his situation at this time. Judy is going for her legal career come what may, and at the moment she is using Peter. Fred is about to figure in the matter and until he has added his weight no judgement can be made. The Moon is in the twelfth house; she applies to none of the significators; all her aspects are in the past. From Peter's point of view the matter cannot end well.

Shortly afterwards Fred found out about the affair by discovering a letter (Mercury) that had passed between the lovers. He was not a little put out, his Leo pride having been ruffled, so he gave his wife a beating. This brought matters to a head, and although Judy showed some interest in continuing the affair, Peter lost interest thinking it a waste of time.

Peter's wife Paula came back across the Atlantic planning to return to America permanently. She insisted that their jointly owned flat be sold. Not being able to afford to buy another place, Peter was obliged to find rented accommodation. He lost his wife and his flat. Things did not end well for the querent.

Figure 23: Will we get married?

This question was asked by another astrologer. Some time after it was posed I met him for the first time. He then asked me to look at the chart and perhaps give a judgement. At the time my judgement was a cautious yes. Three years later I discovered that my judgement had been wrong: the couple did not get married and the relationship came to an end. I include this example to show just how careful one must be in the allocation of significators, and to warn against the temptation of trying to wish or will a certain outcome against basic considerations. The astrologer is no magician; he is an interpreter. It is important that we analyse our failures, for that is how we learn.

First of all I will repeat here the detailed judgement I sent to the querent:

The chart has Leo rising so you, the querent, are signified by the Sun (and the Moon as co-ruler of every question). This is a question about marriage and is therefore a seventh house matter. Thus the significator of the quesited is Saturn. It may also be valid to consider your intended as a subject of the fifth house if this house is descriptive of your present relationship.

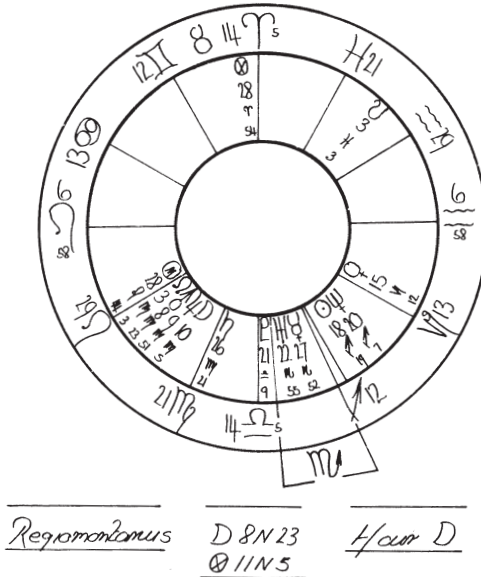


Figure 23. Will we get married? 10 December 1979 8PM01 GMT
Dublin

Consider the main significators — the Sun and Saturn. The Sun applies to Saturn by square aspect. This does not encourage optimism initially. However, the Sun is dignified in its own house, and because you and your girlfriend behold each other by square there is clearly some difficulty between you. With your significator being strong in its own house in the optimistic sign of Sagittarius, it is clear that you are stronger for the marriage than the other. She is symbolized by Saturn in Virgo, so her attitude will be cautious and much concerned with some kind of status matter.

I have found that where the Moon applies well to the Sun, and that application is not interrupted by an intervening malefic, a matter usually (nay, always in my experience) ends well. Now in this chart the Moon applies to the Sun but the aspect is a square. However, the Moon applies from the house of her exaltation to the Sun in his own house. Thus are both Lights dignified. So we have an intriguing situation and one which it is not easy to judge. The indicators are finely balanced.

So I have to make a judgement: yea or nay. My judgement must

be yea. The Moon is closely conjunct Jupiter, and although this is strictly a separating aspect it is so close to the Moon to allow a translation of light to Venus, and the first aspect the Moon makes is a trine with well-aspected Venus. Venus rules the End of the Matter as far as you are concerned, so this argues a happy ending for you.

The most important aspect of all is the Moon's applying conjunction with Saturn, for if we allow the Moon to act as your co-ruler, we see that you and your girlfriend will eventually conjoin. In a case like this where Saturn is a main significator, we do not read him as a malefic.

I am intrigued by Mars. We can see him as a significator of your girlfriend (fifth house); Mars is applying to a conjunction with Jupiter (the legal planet) and in this chart the ruler of the ninth legal house. We could say that your girlfriend is close to a legal ceremony. Mars is also ruler of the tenth house, which is the End of the Matter as far as your partner is concerned.

I am conscious that this is a difficult judgement and risky, but on balance I must say yes. By the Generally Accepted Measure of Time the exact conjunction between the Moon and Saturn occurs within sixteen months.

I think my first error in this judgement was to give the girlfriend partly to Saturn. The question is about marriage. Saturn is the significator of marriage in this chart, but Jupiter is the significator of the girlfriend as ruler of the fifth house of the chart. The promise of marriage as far as the querent is concerned would be shown by a favourable aspect between his significator — the Sun, and the significator of marriage — Saturn. The Sun does not apply to Saturn by favourable aspect, but by difficult square. If Jupiter is the significator of the girlfriend, the significator of marriage as far as she is concerned is Mercury, ruler of the seventh from the fifth. There is no contact between Jupiter and Mercury.

I made much of the applying aspect between Sun and Moon, the aspect is a Square, but I sought to mitigate that negative influence by saying that the Moon had dignity because she occupied the second house (the natural house of Taurus in which sign the Moon is exalted), and that the Sun had dignity because he occupied the fifth house (the natural house of Leo in which sign the Sun has dignity). I read this relationship as a kind of mutual reception. Such reasoning is

perhaps bold — it goes beyond tradition and there is no precedent for dignity by house alone. This does not mean that it is necessarily invalid, but it is not wise to allow a judgement to rest upon it.

The pattern of Jupiter-Moon-Venus is a perfect example of translation of light. Venus is separating from a trine of Jupiter, but the Moon is separating from Jupiter and applying to Venus. She is therefore bringing the light of Jupiter back to Venus: she is translating light. Considering that Venus is ruler of the fourth house (End of the Matter), and the natural ruler of relationships, it is not wrong to see this translation as indicative of marriage, and this pattern is really the only positive suggestion that marriage might occur. Yet I should have recognized that Venus going to a square of Pluto in Libra in the fourth house could well destroy the marriage prospects.

Finally I made the mistake of calling Mars significator of the girlfriend. This was just plain carelessness and indefensible. Also, the close conjunction between the Sun (querent) and Neptune in the fifth should have set my alarm-bells ringing. Neptune is the planet of delusion, infatuation, worry, etc., and by its close contact was obviously shedding its confusing ray over the querent. While I could defend the judgement upon the basis of translation of light, against it we have the Moon applying to a square of the Sun, the Sun applying to a square of Saturn, and the Sun conjunct Neptune. On balance the judgement should have been No!

When I originally judged this chart I did not include the Part of Marriage. I have entered it here and it is interesting that it is in the seventh house of the girlfriend, the eleventh of the chart, and that house is ruled by Mercury which squares the Part of Marriage. Whether this is important is open to debate, but it is just one more little indication against marriage.

By such disasters as this do we poor astrologers learn our trade through bitter experience.

Figure 24: Will I get divorced?

The lady querent in this case had visited a number of mediums, Tarot readers and the like, and all had told her that she would be widowed. Her marriage was under some strain; her husband had serious financial problems and was drinking heavily. She was considering divorce, but could not reconcile this with the messages she had received, so she posed the question.

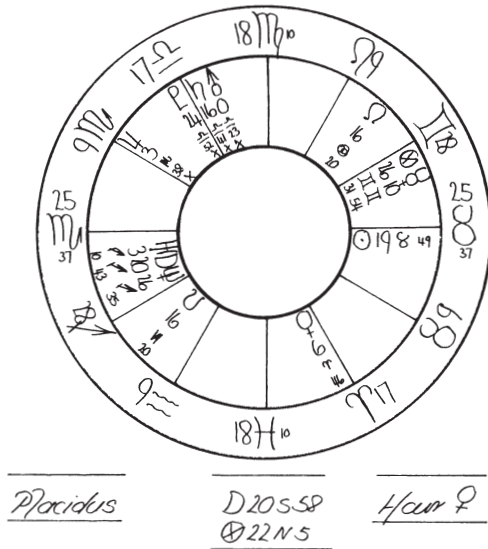


Figure 24. Will I get divorced? 10 May 1982 9PM03 GMT E. London

Mars is the primary significator of the querent. He is weak in Libra and retrograde. The poor state of Mars in the sign of Marriage testifies to the poor state of the marriage. The Moon, co-ruler of the querent, is not in good condition either; she is besieged on one side by Uranus and on the other by Neptune. The significator of her husband is Venus. She is also weak by sign and stands opposed to his wife. The degree upon the cusp of the seventh is 26 Taurus, or Caput Algol, which is not a helpful indication. It all looks most strenuous until one realizes that the principal significators, Mars and Venus, are in mutual reception.

When the lady asked the question her significator was retrograde, but three days later Mars turned direct. It is as if she had been seeking a way of escaping from her marriage (moving towards Virgo out of Libra), but she stops at the very edge and then begins to go back into the marriage again. This would tend to suggest that very soon after she posed the question, she changes her mind and moves into the marriage again. Although Venus and Mars are opposed, the aspect cannot be seen as strenuous to the relationship because of the reception between them. On the other hand, Mars (querent)

will by direct motion begin to close with the first house Uranus, that could indicate divorce, but in view of the condition of the Moon, the querent will not find it easy to move in the matter. She is certainly confused and uncertain (Neptune).

The key to the question is probably the reception between Venus and Mars, and it may be seen in several different ways:

- (1) By exchanging positions with Venus, the querent could move herself from an unsatisfactory marriage, but she would move to the first degree of Aries, and that would seem to symbolize a completely new life, so we could say that the reception symbolizes a divorce.
- (2) If she removes herself from her marriage, her husband's significator goes to the tenth house, where he becomes strong in Libra, and this raises the consideration of how much the querent herself is responsible for the weak state of her husband.
- (3) The reception can also symbolize the querent lending herself and her strength to her husband in a time of crisis.

The querent appears to have a choice. She can divorce if she likes, but I do not think she will.

Her husband is in the middle of a serious financial crisis, the ruler of his money is Mercury (lord of the eighth house of the chart). Mercury is strong in Gemini, but he has to pass through an aspect with Saturn, Pluto and Neptune. There is a difficult path to tread, but he will eventually close with Fortuna.

My judgement was that there would be no divorce, that the querent would begin to take a positive attitude towards her marriage which would be saved by the reception. Eighteen months later no divorce had occurred and the crisis which provoked the question seemed to have passed.

Figure 25: (1) Will my relationship with my wife continue to be a lasting and fulfilling one? (2) Will I make an ongoing success of my career in films, and when will I make my first feature film?

This is a very interesting chart for two reasons. Firstly it demonstrates how to handle a question asked by letter from a location in southern latitude; and secondly it shows how a heavy mundane conjunction symbolized a personal situation.