

## Marriage or Celibacy

THE question of whether marriage will take place or not in any given case depends for its answer upon several factors, the balancing up of which is not always by any means an easy task. It is however, made slightly easier than it might otherwise be by the fact that in normal cases there is a bias in favor of marriage, so that stronger influences are needed to prevent it than to bring it about.

The problem is not quite the same in the case of women as it is in that of men, although astrological authors have never differentiated between them except in regard to the significators to be used.

### *Men's Marriages*

The chief significators to be studied in the case of men are the Moon, Venus, and the seventh house; and the problem consists in determining whether these factors are sufficiently weak or afflicted either to prevent marriage taking place, or to remove the desire for it. Before examining these significators, however, it is always advisable to get a general idea of the nature of the person with whom one is dealing, or in other words to study the character as indicated in the horoscope. It is beyond the scope of the present book to enter into any explanation of

the general judgment of a map, but a good deal of indirect information as to character will be found in other chapters, and especially in that dealing with the influence of the rising sign. If a preliminary idea is obtained of the native's outlook upon sex and marriage, subsequent judgment is rendered considerably easier.

For the study of marriage and fertility the division of the signs of the zodiac into barren and fruitful groups is of importance. According to the ancient astrologers the barren signs are Gemini, Leo, and Virgo, and the fruitful ones are Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces, but the beginner is often embarrassed by the absence of any information as to the nature of the six signs not included in these groups. On the whole they may be considered as without marked influence upon fertility, but for the sake of those who would appreciate some guidance, even of a tentative nature, the following classification is suggested.

<i>Barren</i>	<i>Semi-barren</i>	<i>Semi-fruitful</i>	<i>Fruitful</i>
Gemini	Aries	Taurus	Cancer
Leo	Sagittarius	Libra	Scorpio
Virgo	Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces

In order to judge whether marriage will take place it is necessary to study the sign and house positions of the marriage signifiers and the nature of the seventh and certain other houses. The whole matter turns upon the strength and amount of affliction received by these.

It is best to start by examining the Moon and Venus, and noting the signs and houses they oc-

cupy. They are most favorably disposed to marriage when in the fruitful signs, and least favorably in the barren ones. In regard to house position the angular houses are the strongest, and the succedent ones come next, but from the point of view of marriage the more elevated the position occupied by Venus and the Moon the better. Perhaps the best houses for them are the tenth, eleventh, and first. The fourth, fifth, and seventh are also good positions, but in the case of the last two much depends upon the fruitfulness of the sign and the nature of the aspects received. These houses being primarily concerned with love and marriage are particularly sensitive, and barren signs and afflictions are worse here than elsewhere.

The most unfavorable houses for the Moon and Venus are the twelfth, sixth, and eighth, all of which tend to hinder marriage.

The aspects to the Moon and Venus are the next factors to be considered. The worst possible afflictions are bad aspects from Saturn and Uranus, particularly if barren signs are involved. Afflictions from Mars are not by any means so serious. They may stir up the passionate side of the nature far too much, and create matrimonial quarrels, but they alone will not prevent marriage.

In a general way any influence that tends to increase isolation affords the greatest threat to marriage, while influences of a gregarious nature tend to bring it about most easily. Thus the twelfth, sixth, and eighth houses are all of an isolating nature. The twelfth acts as a prison to the planets oc-

cupying it, the sixth holds them in servitude, and the eighth kills them. On the other hand houses such as the tenth, eleventh, fifth, and seventh are intimately concerned with the affairs of other people, and encourage contact with others instead of preventing it.

Again from the point of view of the aspecting planets, Saturn is limiting and isolating in its effect while Uranus is even more so, though in a rather different way. Mars on the other hand, does not isolate. If afflicted it will at least go out and quarrel with someone and not shut itself up in the manner of Saturn.

For an early marriage it is rather an advantage than otherwise to have no aspects between the significators and Saturn and Uranus, though good aspects may be very useful in married life. An aspect from Mars to Venus, however, is always desirable, and tends to hasten marriage.

Having decided whether the significators tend to favor marriage or not, look over the rest of the map, and pay special attention to the ascendant and seventh house. Barren signs here act against marriage, while fruitful signs favor it, as do good aspects between the rulers of the first and seventh, and good aspects from Jupiter and Mars to these planets and the significators. There is no decisive factor in the matter, however, and the final conclusion as to whether marriage will take place or not must be arrived at by balancing up the pros and cons, not merely numerically but with an eye to the importance and strength of each indication.

*Women's Marriages*

I mentioned the fact that the problem varied slightly according to the sex of the native. In the case of a woman the aspects can more easily prevent, not only marriage, but all sexual experiences, and can more easily suppress the normal desire for marriage than in the case of a man. In a man's horoscope particular attention should be paid to any positions denoting a solitary life, such as strong twelfth house afflictions, an unaspected ruler, or seventh house ruler, a dominant Saturn or Uranus and a marked absence of fruitful signs. If such tendencies are not paramount the afflictions in the map will not deny sexual experiences and irregular unions, though they may prevent legal marriage. This is especially the case if Jupiter joins in the afflictions.

In a woman's horoscope on the other hand, the normal desire for marriage may be destroyed by strong influences tending to cause idealism, such as are given by Libra; intense love of freedom, as is given by Sagittarius or Aries; or an innate virginity, due usually to Virgo. In cases of this kind afflictions to the marriage signifiers will entirely prevent both marriage and sex experiences. If, however, the character is a more normal one, afflictions will prevent marriage if barrenness predominates, but should the afflictions involve fruitful signs they may, while preventing legal marriage, lead to an irregular union, or even to prostitution if sufficiently strong.

Apart from considerations of this kind, the meth-

ods to be adopted in examining the marriage prospects in a woman's horoscope are the same as in the case of a man's. The planetary significators differ, however, for the Sun and Mars must be consulted for a woman instead of the Moon and Venus.

It is therefore necessary to study the Sun and Mars in exactly the same way and by the same rules as the Moon and Venus are studied in a man's horoscope. If the Sun and Mars are strong and elevated in fruitful signs in aspect with, and not afflicted by, Saturn and Uranus marriage will take place. On the other hand marriage will be hindered or entirely prevented if the Sun and Mars are in no aspect to each other, and are situated in barren signs or weak houses, and afflicted by Saturn or Uranus from barren signs. The value of the houses is the same as in a man's horoscope.

These indications are respectively the best and worst that may be found, and most horoscopes will show a mixture of good and bad, so that an attempt must be made to balance the conflicting indications, and find out which set preponderates.

## Determining the Date of Marriage

HAVING decided that the horoscope indicates marriage, or at least does not deny it, the significators should be again examined with a view to determining the approximate period of life at which marriage is to be expected. This depends upon the general fruitfulness or barrenness of the signs containing the significators, and the amount of affliction they receive.

### *Men's Marriages*

The first consideration is the position of the Moon in relation to the Sun. If the Moon is passing from new to first quarter, or from full to last quarter it indicates that the native will marry at an early age. There is, however, an alternative to this, and that is that he will marry a young woman after he has reached or passed his prime. As a rule other positions in the horoscope will furnish a clue as to which alternative is to be expected.

Indications of delay afforded by the other significators, for example, will point to the second alternative as the more likely one, just as indications of a wife who is older than the native will point to an early marriage in accordance with the first and more usual alternative.

If the Moon should be passing from last quarter to new, or from first quarter to full the native will tend to marry late in life, or a woman older than himself. Here again the more probable alternative must be selected by a consideration of the other significators.

If the Moon is actually in conjunction with the Sun marriage will usually be greatly delayed, and may even be denied altogether if Saturn afflicts, and barren signs are involved.

#### *Women's Marriages*

The position of the Sun in the quadrants of the map is here to be taken as the guide. If the Sun is in houses four, five, six, ten, eleven, or twelve the native will tend to marry at an early age; or, alternatively, at a later age she will marry a man some years her junior. Should the Sun be in houses one, two, three, seven, eight, or nine, however, she will marry comparatively late in life, or will marry a middle-aged or elderly man while she is still quite young.

Just as in the case of men's marriages, it is necessary to examine the strength or weakness of the other significators in order to determine the alternative to be adopted in the particular horoscope under consideration. It is not possible to obtain any idea of the exact age at which marriage will take place merely from a general study of the birth positions alone. The terms early and late in these rules are generally considered to mean either less or more than 30 years of age.



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In addition to the above indications based upon the position of the luminaries, it is necessary to examine the strength and weakness of the other marriage signifiers common to both sexes. The methods to be adopted are the same as were used in estimating the likelihood of marriage, for in practice the process is a single rather than a double one. A late marriage may be judged when the barrenness or affliction of the signifiers does not seem severe enough to deny marriage altogether, and conversely an early marriage is indicated when the signifiers are well aspected in fruitful signs. The general principle is that the greater the affliction and barrenness of the horoscope, the later will be the age at which marriage takes place, if it does so at all.

Some special rules referring to this subject of inquiry will be found in Chapter XXV.

In order to discover the exact age at which marriage will occur it is necessary to work out the directional influences for the approximate period of life indicated by the general rules already outlined. According to the ancient astrologers marriage was to be expected when the cusp of the seventh house or its ruler came to the conjunction or aspect of the Moon, Venus, or the ruler of the ascendant. While these directions conduce to marriage, however, they are not the most common indicators of that event.

In the case of men, marriage is most frequently shown by directions of the midheaven, ascendant or Sun to the conjunction or favorable aspect of

Venus or the Moon, and, though less commonly, by aspects from the midheaven, ascendant, Sun or Moon to a planet in the seventh house or the ruler of that house. The lunar aspects meriting serious consideration are those formed by the Primary or Radix Systems, and not the monthly lunar aspects of the Secondary System. The latter may coincide with more important influences, and stimulate them into activity in a certain month, but by themselves they are far too weak to be considered as marriage indicators.

In the case of women the most important directions for marriage are those of the ascendant or midheaven to the Sun or Mars, and solar directions to Mars and sometimes Jupiter.

It should be remembered that marriage is not always indicated by favorable directions. A strong afflicting aspect between, say, the Moon and Mars in a man's horoscope, or the Sun and Uranus in a woman's, will not infrequently produce marriage, but needless to say a union entered into under such aspects cannot fail to be disastrous in some way. Nevertheless when the horoscope indicates an unhappy marriage, the likelihood of its taking place under bad directions must not be overlooked. It does not follow from this, however, that an unhappy marriage must necessarily take place under bad directions, and I have known several cases of separation and divorce in which marriage took place under sextiles and trines from the significators to Venus and the Moon. If these planets are seriously afflicted at birth a good direction will indicate no more than

temporary pleasure and happiness which will disappear as soon as the direction passes out of orbs, allowing the radical afflictions to come into play once more.

The interpretation of directions is a process that bristles with difficulties. It is usual to consider that bad directions hinder the matters they threaten, but this is sometimes quite a false assumption. If a certain action is shown by the birth horoscope to be an unwise one, a bad direction will most probably bring it about, while on the other hand a good direction may also have the same effect by presenting a picture of rosy prospects. The safest line of conduct is to avoid doing anything threatened by a bad direction, at least until the direction has passed off, and to scrutinize the birth indications very thoroughly before rushing into something favored by a good direction. A wider appreciation of this rule would save a great deal of trouble and sorrow, not only in marriage but in every other department of life as well.

The timing of events is another aspect of the directional problem that is apt to lead one into error. To the best of my knowledge no astrologer has ever drawn attention to the important fact that a direction measures to the *birth* of an event and not necessarily to the actual happening itself. In many cases, and perhaps in the majority, there is not sufficient difference in time between the two moments to affect the timing of a prediction, but there are occasions in which the difference is sufficiently considerable to make the timing appear quite incorrect.

My attention was first drawn to this matter many years ago by a particularly striking case. It was that of a native in whose horoscope a strongly adverse aspect between the Sun and Uranus, clearly threatening loss of employment, was due to operate in March of that particular year. March came and went without any apparent trouble, and by the late summer the native concluded that the danger was past and that the direction had unaccountably failed to work. In September, however, six months after the indicated danger period, he was told by his firm that his services would no longer be required. As the result of a number of discreet inquiries it transpired that the decision to dismiss the native in September had been taken at a director's meeting in March. This immediately suggested the idea that the timing of the direction was perfectly correct after all, but that it indicated what I have called the birth of the event, and not the date at which it actually took place or at which the native was aware of it. I have tested this conclusion many times since then and have never had occasion to modify it.

The fact that a direction indicates the time of the beginning and not the end of an event is sometimes of considerable importance in the prediction of the date of marriage, though it is less so now than it was in the days when a long engagement was fashionable. A study of the horoscopes of a number of cases in which a long engagement took place will show that the most important marriage directions measured to the date of engagement. Sometimes

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marriage is also indicated fairly strongly, but it is not at all uncommon to find horoscopes in which marriage takes place without any particularly appropriate directions at all. This is not surprising however, when one realizes that directions indicate the beginning of events, which in the case of marriage is the date of engagement. It is to this moment that the directions normally measure, and not to marriage itself, so that strong marriage indications should be looked upon as denoting either marriage or events resulting in marriage. The actual date of marriage itself is probably best determined from a horoscope for the moment of engagement, or the acceptance by the woman of the man's proposal.