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GRAND CONFIGURATIONS

and

**How to find the Highest
PHILOSOPHICAL and SPIRITUAL**

Potential in a Chart

by MARION D. MARCH

(transcribed from two 1½ hour lectures)

According to Webster's dictionary, the word "configuration" means 'the relative arrangement of figures or patterns formed by such an arrangement', or under definition No. 2: 'Gestalt'.

Strangely enough both these definitions fit the astrological interpretation of the word "configuration" to a tee. In a horoscope it is simply 3 or more planets joined by aspect that in so doing form a definite pattern. But the second definition 'Gestalt' serves to explain the all pervading and nearly always powerful force exerted when a configuration is found in a chart.

There are as many configurations as there are aspects; and logically, "Major" configurations are formed by "Major" aspects. In this category we include the STELLIUM consisting of conjunctions; the GRAND SQUARE (or Grand Cross) consisting of squares and oppositions; the 'T' SQUARE, again made up of squares and oppositions; the GRAND TRINE formed by trines and personally I include the YOD, formed by inconjuncts and sextiles, under major configurations.

Since we are dealing with aspects, we need to establish allowable orbs. Unfortunately there are nearly as many opinions on this subject as there are astrologers. Therefore I can only give you my subjective opinion - the orbs that work for me. I allow 7° for conjunctions, oppositions, squares and trines. I might stretch this by 1 or 2 degrees if the luminaries are involved or if I am dealing with a Grand Configuration. I allow 5 degrees on sextiles, 4 degrees on inconjuncts (quincunxes) and 1 to 2 degrees on all other aspects. As before, I might give a degree or 2 if I am dealing with the luminaries or a Configuration. But regardless of what orb is used, just remember that the tighter the orb, the stronger the effect. As people mature or become more evolved, they respond to wider aspects, but since we do not know this until the client or friend sits with us, it is wise not to stretch the orbs too far.

In order to understand any configuration, be it "Major" or "Minor", we first have to understand the basic and underlying feeling of the aspect involved. Therefore to grasp the true meaning of the STELLIUM, we need to know the basic meaning of the CONJUNCTION:

In astrology everything always relates back to the Flat chart with Aries rising, Taurus on the 2nd house and so on. So when we think

of a CONJUNCTION we should visualize 2 planets closely linked in the first house of Aries ruled by the planet Mars. Aries, Mars and the 1st house represent drive, action, initiative, intensity and a certain amount of self-orientation. Now multiply this feeling by placing more than 1 planet in the first house, and you will well understand the keywords usually assigned to a conjunction, namely: Emphasis, new activity, intensification and concentration.

If you comprehend the basic feeling of the conjunction, you will find it easy to grasp the meaning of the STELLIUM. Instead of just 2 planets working in the 1st House of Aries and Mars, we are dealing with at least 3, sometimes 4 or 5 planets all working with great drive and intensity. Obviously this gives tremendous impact and emphasis to the native involved. Since the first house is always considered personal, a congregation of planets will heighten the focus on the personality and 'self', giving us such keywords as 'self-centered', 'self-absorbed' etc. With so many planets pulling the native in one direction, he is usually very one-sided and rarely has trouble deciding which direction to take. Of course this means that he finds any kind of compromise difficult. Since the Stellium always reflects that 1st house feeling, we need to remember that it will also reflect on the appearance, regardless where placed and however far removed from the Ascendant or Sun. The greatest difficulty of handling a Stellium arises when it is aspected by progression or transit. Within a relatively short time the progressed or transiting planet touches off the entire Stellium, one after the other, and even the strong individual will at times find it hard to stand up under the barrage.

To give you a brief illustration of how a stellium can work, let's take the horoscope of Louis Pasteur. He has a very tight stellium of 5 planets in Capricorn in the 3rd house, the house of expression. Keeping in mind the intensity, drive and initiative generated by any stellium, we now add to this the rather serious and practical feeling of Capricorn. Saturn, the ruler of Capricorn is at 3 Taurus in the 7th house of partners and the public, (his lab partners played an important part in his life of research). Since Saturn trines the Stellium, we know that he was able to use the energies in positive and constructive ways. In this Stellium we find the Sun, always considered the 'heart of the chart', Mercury represen-

ting the mind and reasoning ability; Venus, depicting our affections and social urges is also the ruler of the Ascendant, thus drawing his outer personality and body into the Stellium. Also included is Uranus, planet of awakening and inventiveness and Neptune, planet of creativity and inspiration. Therefore, as so often happens in a Stellium, nearly the entire personality, potential or "Gestalt" is formed by this configuration.

The second major aspect to consider is the SQUARE. Based on the qualities, we are now dealing with an Aries/Mars/1st house versus Cancer/Moon/4th house feeling. Even though Aries and Cancer are both cardinal qualities, one is a fire element and the other is a water element. Therefore Cancer (water) can put out or at least subdue the strength of Aries (fire). If we go in the other direction of the flat chart, we would have Aries/Mars/1st house versus Capricorn/Saturn/10th house. Again both are cardinal, but Capricorn is an earth element, and just like water, earth can crush or squelch the force of fire Aries. We also realize that Aries is an active (also called masculine or positive) sign, whereas Cancer and Capricorn are passive (feminine or negative) signs. Seeing the diversity of the signs involved, we can well understand that a combining of the two would produce frustrations, challenges, tensions, turning points, energy, dynamic action and accomplishments - all keywords usually used for the square.

The OPPOSITION is similar to the square only because we are still dealing with the qualities. But now we are combining Aries/Mars/1st house with Libra/Venus/7th house. The fire of Aries joined with airy Libra can produce a warm breeze, or a firestorm, depending on the rest of the horoscope. Also both Aries and Libra are considered active and therefore in greater harmony with each other. The test here is that "I" oriented Aries is reaching out to "we" oriented Libra and only when Aries learns that "No man is an island" can imbalance become balance. The awareness of the 'other person' brings a stop to the see-saw motion and makes the two polarities work as one. Thus the opposition still creates certain tensions but is much easier to handle than the square. Our basic keywords for the opposition are: Awareness, outreach, balance, cooperation and conflict.

Now let us transpose this basic feeling of the square and opposition into our next major Configuration - the GRAND SQUARE (Grand Cross). Here all 4 qualities have to be represented, be they cardinal, fixed or mutable. A Grand Square consists of 4 planets, 2 of which square each other and the other 2 oppose each other. Since squares produce challenges, tensions and action, they can be our 'stumbling blocks' until we learn to deal with them and convert them into 'building blocks' or 'stepping stones'. In order to achieve anything in life, we need a certain amount of challenge or tension that spurs us into action - therefore squares are very necessary and important in a chart. So are the oppositions that teach us to become more aware and relate to others. In the case of the Grand Square we are talking of 4 planets interrelated with each other, thus as we learn to deal with one we are forced to deal with all 4 of them. These 4 planets will be placed in 4 different houses, thus involving 4 areas in our life and they might rule other houses drawing in even more areas and therefore again showing us how a configuration can become an overpowering, all encompassing part of forming a human being.

Since a Grand Square involves 4 squares and 2 oppositions, we are obviously dealing with a person capable of tremendous effort and activity. How this effort or activity takes place depends greatly on which quality and which house is involved. Cardinal produces quick action, fixed is more deliberate and mutable depends much on the action and reaction of others. Of course nobody can be constantly active, therefore the Grand Square is often compared to a windmill; capable of tremendous output and action when the wind blows, but rather idle in between. The wind, in astrological terms, would be any progression or transit aspecting any one of the planets involved in the Grand Square.

Of the 3 qualities, the CARDINAL GRAND SQUARE is probably the easiest to handle. Cardinal stands for motion, finding and solving problems; here you have the 'doer', both effective and purposeful. But in order to function at its best, the Cardinal Grand Square, or any square for that matter, needs an outlet - a flow to or from one of the planets involved in the Grand Cross. Without this the Cardinal Grand Square with its constant need for motion can work itself into exhaustion or self-destruction.

The FIXED GRAND SQUARE is the most difficult of the three to handle. Fixed signs are purposeful, they like to plan everything and lay a good foundation on which to build. They need to be self-motivated, from the inside out, therefore if there is no flow to this Fixed Cross, the native can become rather repressed or emotionally frustrated. Artistic hobbies are most helpful to overcome some of these frustrations.

The MUTABLE GRAND SQUARE adds to the problems inherent in mutable signs. Namely indecision, scattering of energies or working at cross purposes. Whereas the fixed signs depend on themselves, the mutable signs depend on others in a way that their lives are often not in their own hands. Flexible, they bend to the wishes of others. Undecided, they ask for everybody's advice and end up more confused than ever. With flowing aspects this can lead to a very pleasant life, because the art of getting along really lies in the art of compromise. Without flow, they end up wasting most of their potential.

A good example of how a GRAND SQUARE can work would be Albert Schweitzer's chart. He has a FIXED Grand Square in which 3 of the planets are in exact orb, thus making the impact very strong. Mars in Scorpio in the 1st house gives him much personal drive in a rather deep and probing (Scorpio) way. Pluto, ruler of Mars in Scorpio, is in Taurus in the 8th house, accidentally dignified by house position which helps mediate the fact that it is in its detriment in Taurus. Pluto in Scorpio's house will add to the Scorpio feeling and therefore make it easier to balance the opposition and transform it into awareness. Both Pluto and Mars square Saturn and Uranus. Saturn square Mars is quite willful, Mars square Uranus is rebellious of the status quo, but also shows much leadership ability and capacity for hard work. Mars opposition Pluto is forceful and Saturn opposition Uranus shows the true individualist, but also gives inner insecurities. Saturn square Pluto adds to these insecurities but also give much organizational ability - and impatience. Uranus square Pluto is a signature of a fighter against injustice, but also a rather combative person who has trouble compromising. The Uranus/Saturn opposition repeats a similar pattern of the Mars/Pluto opposition, where the ruler of the planet opposes it. And just like Mars is in its old dignity in Scorpio, so is Saturn in Aquarius, therefore both these planets can express themselves rather

harmoniously. Ruler Uranus is in its detriment in Leo, just like Pluto is in Taurus, but whereas the 8th house position gave Pluto accidental dignity, the 10th house position adds little to Uranus, except the wish to enter some unusual career. By the same token we have to realize that Saturn works well in Aquarius, but in the 4th house of Cancer (it's fall) we presume that Schweitzer's early environment was quite disciplined, traditional and stern and that he probably felt a certain lack of tenderness from his mother or father. Now where is the flow that enables him to use the action and energy of the Grand Square. Pluto trines Mercury and and the Sun from the 8th to the 4th house, involving the inner individuality or heart (Sun) and reasoning ability or mind (Mercury) in the 4th house representing the basic person and home. Uranus trines Venus (sense of values, social urge) in expansive and idealistic Sagittarius in the 3rd house of expression from the 10th house of career. As you can see, the chart is very integrated and all he needed was the free will to exercise his potential. This he did!

The next configuration is the "T" SQUARE, still involving the qualities, this time two squares and one opposition. Thus the positive use would still be a challenge and drive toward awareness. Unfortunately this configuration often challenges you into action at inopportune times. Whereas the Grand Square is integrated at 4 corners, the T SQUARE has the ability to balance the 2 opposing planets, ^{but} the 3rd planet is left by itself, kind of dangling. It squares 2 planets but has no opposition. Thus it becomes the rather dynamic focal point of the configuration. It nearly always reflects as self-drive. Whereas the opposition is concerned with relationships or other people (the Aries "I" versus the Libra "we"), the square just seeks action - anywhere. Somewhere it needs to come out of itself. The house and sign of the focal planet or "arm" as it is often called, assumes great importance. As with the Grand Square, the T SQUARE works differently in the 3 qualities.

CARDINAL T SQUARE is dynamic, quick and immediate. The natives are little concerned with abstracts and often rush in where angels fear to tread. They also stick their noses in business that is not theirs. Positively used they are there when needed and strong in all emergencies.

FIXED T SQUARE works in a slow and deliberate way. Major problems are researched before any action is taken. The natives are rather rigid in their approach, dogmatic and unbending, unless some trine or sextile gives flow to the configuration.

MUTABLE T SQUARE usually makes the person idea and people oriented. He has the 'common' touch, and since he gets along with people, he has an easier time solving his problems. Indecision or wavering might be his greatest hang-up.

Since the Focal point or "arm" is so important, here are a few keywords describing the different basic feelings involved. If it is the MOON, the native is very susceptible to the mood of the moment. If MERCURY, he is able to rationalize the situation and handle it in a cool and collected manner. With VENUS he might seek some means of profiting by the situation or else if the effort is too great, just give up. If the SUN, he will throw himself into the situation heart and soul. With MARS he has plenty of energy to cope with whatever might face him, or he may blow up and accomplish nothing. With JUPITER he will enlarge or embroider on the situation, but basically treat it as an adventure. With SATURN he approaches all with great caution, but patience and innate shrewdness allow him to come out a winner. With URANUS he will handle it in his own unique way and others better not interfere. With NEPTUNE he has problems seeing the situation clearly and might come to an impasse, or his great imagination will help him to success. With PLUTO he may use the situation to become a crusader not only for himself, but to save mankind - or live with deep frustrations within himself.

The empty opposition to the focal planet also becomes a very sensitive point and can be used as an outlet. It should be carefully watched when 'filled' by a progression or transit. Because this point is usually 'empty', the native is not used to any activity in the area and thus finds it hard to handle.

I have included the chart of Marlon Brando as a good example of a well integrated T Square. Mars exalted in Capricorn intercepted in the 2nd house. The drive is in the area of money and values. Insecure in Capricorn it needs money for security. Intercepted, the feelings are more inward directed, deep and probing, confirmed by the fact that the ruler Saturn is in Scorpio. Again we are dealing with an 8th house Pluto in opposition, giving him the possibility of awareness in 8th house matters, but also confirming in Cancer the insecurity inherent in any intercepted Cancer/Capricorn axis.

Both Mars and Pluto are square the Sun/Moon conjunction in the 4th house in Aries. Thus we have two closely conjoined "focal" planets - with the Moon there we realize that he will be quite moody and the Sun there tells us that he'll do everything whole-heartedly. Of course these planets are not only important because they form the "arm" of the T Square, but the Sun (innermost self) and Moon (the emotional personality) are always the most important planets in any horoscope. In self-oriented, driving and active Aries, square its ruler Mars, the feeling of tension and challenge is doubly emphasized. This square gives much enthusiasm, but also a hot temper and quite a bit of aggressiveness. Add to this the square from the Sun and Moon in the Cancer house to Pluto in Cancer and you see more temper and willfulness, but also a deeply feeling individual, one who might be a loner, an individualist and always a rebel. And how can all this energy, tension and challenge be best expressed? Is there any flow to the T Square? You bet! The Sun/Moon conjunction is involved in a Grand Fire Trine. To expansive Jupiter in idealistic Sagittarius in the self-expressive first and to creative Neptune in dramatic Leo in the philosophical 9th. To boot, Mars, ruler of the Sun and Moon and part of the T Square, trines the Midheaven and directs a lot of the energies into the career. It also sextiles Uranus in the 3rd, enabling Brando to communicate or express himself in some unusual or different way. Thus Brando, despite all the inner turmoil produced by the rather difficult T Square, has the ability to use energies generated in a very positive way.

Our next major aspect would be the TRINE. The basic feeling of any trine is expressed by Aries/Mars/1st house versus Leo/Sun/5th house. Both fire, both active, personal Aries dealing with the creativity of the 5th house and the outreach and growth potential of the Sun. Or Aries/Mars/1st house flowing to Sagittarius/Jupiter/9th house - again both active fire, the person reaching for the idealism and expansion (or at times self-indulgence) of the Jupiter/Sagittarius 9th house. With this in mind you can easily relate to the commonly used keywords for a Trine like flow, ease, idealism, inspiration, harmony and indolence.

Now let us transpose this basic feeling to a GRAND TRINE. In a way we have the reverse situation of the Grand or T Square. The 3 planets harmoniously interconnected by 2 trines need the challenge and tension of a square or opposition to at least one of the planets involved in order to be spurred into action. Otherwise the native might just bask in the good feeling of "dolce far niente", enjoy being carried by the gentle waves of idleness and let it go at that. Of course there is a difference of feeling depending on the element involved.

GRAND FIRE TRINE gives much self-confidence, physical activity, enthusiasm and a certain dramatic flair. We are dealing with a very outgoing nature. Fire people are quite perceptive, they can inspire others and usually aim high.

GRAND EARTH TRINE people like material comforts, they are dependable, hard workers with much application and stick-to-it-ness. Strange as it may seem, these natives can be quite psychic. Maybe, since the earth element is related to practical matters, they are able to see 'reality' in a larger dimension.

GRAND AIR TRINE produces highly idealistic and individualistic people, but they are apt to drift without direction and be subject to frustrations quicker than the Grand Fire or Grand Earth Trine natives. When part of a strong chart, they have excellent mental facilities, great ease and ability of expression and communication. A very verbal element, they like to influence others through their ideas and ideals. They dislike routine and menial work.

GRAND WATER TRINE bears the most creative potential. These people have the subtle and intuitive understanding of mass consciousness. They are instinctive and sympathetic and it is most important that they find a productive outlet, else they suffer from the hidden uncertainties and anxieties inherent in the water element. Cautious, they only act when confident of the results. Water natives are very sensual. Since Water embraces all and knows no barriers, these people rarely know when to stop - regardless of what they are doing.

To briefly illustrate the workings of a Grand Trine we have chosen the chart of Angela Davis, the beautiful, black revolutionary of the turbulent 60s. Uranus in the 1st in Gemini makes her unconventional, intellectual and eccentric; conjunct Mars adds much drive and action.

Both planets are ruled by Mercury in Capricorn in the 9th, adding nuances of earthiness and seriousness of purpose (Capricorn) and idealism (9th). The Uranus/Mars conjunction trines Neptune in Libra in the 5th, therefore we add creativity (5th) imagination and idealism (Neptune) and innate refinement (Libra). Much of this is confirmed by the ruler Venus in Sagittarius in the 8th and of course also adds the depth of the 8th house. This 5th/8th house involvement also produces a hefty orientation to sexual matters. Uranus, Mars and Neptune trine the Sun in Aquarius in the 10th house. The Sun, or heart of the chart, in Aquarius again confirms the brilliant and intellectual mind, particularly since the ruler Uranus is in trine aspect. Again we see the rather eccentric personality and the ability to communicate. The 10th house position adds ambition - wherever we find the Sun, we want to shine, and Angela wanted to 'shine' in her career and standing in the community. The Sun high up in the 10th house also gave her a good ego. Now where does this Grand Trine get some drive and challenge to spur it into action? The Sun at 15 Aquarius opposes Pluto at 8 Leo. Both planets are in angular houses, adding power and strength. It emphasizes the rebelliousness in her character and makes her rather arrogant. But it also exerts great energy, particularly since Pluto in Leo is ruled by the Sun which opposes it. We also have a square from Neptune at 4 Libra to Mercury at 11 Capricorn, the same Mercury that rules Uranus and Mars, thus we see the rather natural integration of the chart.

Whenever you have a Grand Trine and one of the planets in that Trine has an opposition (in our case Sun opposition Pluto) we are led into another configuration - namely the KITE. The KITE not only consists of 3 trines and 1 opposition, but it also has 2 sextiles, in our example Pluto at 8 Leo sextiles Neptune and 4 Libra and the Uranus/Mars conjunction at 5 and 6 Gemini respectively. Therefore the KITE is a totally contained configuration, encompassing all aspects necessary to function well - the trines for flow, the sextiles for opportunity and the opposition for awareness and energy to use the potential shown in the configuration. The drawback to the Kite is its self-containment. If the 4 planets involved make no aspects to other planets in the chart, the native might have problems integrating his whole personality.

The last major aspect to discuss is the INCONJUNCT (also called quincunx). Our keywords are: adjustments, reorganization, lack of perspective, compromise and strain. When you think of the basic aspect involved, you will quickly understand why. We are now dealing with an Aries/Mars/1st house versus Virgo/Mercury/6th house or Scorpio/Pluto/8th house aspect. The "I" oriented, quick Aries has to deal with exact, studious, down-to-earth Virgo in matters related to duty, work, health or habits. Fire is mixed with earth, active with passive. Relating it to the 8th house, outgoing Aries copes with probing and very sensitive Scorpio in matters relating to other people's resources or deep fields like regeneration, death etc. Fire nearly gets extinguished by water, active mixes with passive. Of course some sort of adjustment is needed to draw these very diverse attitudes into some sort of alignment. A clear perspective and a reorganization of thought and approach are necessary, otherwise these signs cannot function together. You can see why the inconjunct is one of the most difficult aspects, producing a lot of stress and strain, or, as some astrologers choose to put it - "lots of smoke with little fire".

Relating this to the configuration called YOD (Yodh), we have one very interesting addition, namely the sextile of opportunity. The YOD consists of 2 planets sextiling each other, both inconjuncting a 3rd planet. (Maximum orb is 5°). The focal point of the YOD, also called "the finger of God", is the single planet receiving the 2 inconjuncts. The need to act will arise through this focal planet, whereas the opportunity to act lies in the 2 planets sextile each other. As always, additional flow, drive and challenge comes from any trines, squares or oppositions to any of the 3 planets involved, but especially if aspecting the focal planet. The curse of the YOD is that it often produces undisciplined thinking, yet in a way this can be considered a 'fated' configuration, since the focal planet points its finger and forces us to take some kind of action. This might be as lofty an action as our mission in life or as minor as some sort of personal compromise or adjustment, depending of course on the rest of the chart.

Since we are dealing with a 1st/6th/8th house involvement, we must, in order to fulfill our destiny, take personal action (1st house) by examining our mental and physical habit patterns (6th house) and

our emotional desire patterns (8th house). If changes, adjustments or compromises are not made, the person can have many mental, emotional or health problems. Through knowledge (Virgo/6th house) and psychological understanding (Scorpio/8th house) we can best solve this.

Our example for a YOD is the chart of Walt Disney. Mercury at 27 Scorpio in the 3rd house communicates in a rather probing, incisive way. Ruler Pluto in Gemini in the 9th house adds overtones of idealism and versatility. Mercury sextiles Venus at 29 Capricorn in the 5th house. Where we find Venus in a chart shows what we like to do. So Disney liked 5th house matters, such as creative endeavors, children and amusements, but all in a rather practical way. The sextile gives the opportunity to express the talent of the 5th house through the 3rd house of communications, and vice versa. The planet Neptune at 0 Cancer inconjuncts both Mercury and Venus. Neptune of course stands for imagination, dreams, illusion, idealism, creativity and the world of films. It also shows the glamour and mystery associated with films. In the 10th house it indicates the possible career. Therefore the focal planet, the one through which Disney had to work is Neptune in the 10th house. To find the most positive way to integrate the difficult inconjuncts, he had to adjust his mental habit patterns in a Scorpio/Mercury/3rd house way and his psychological understanding in a Capricorn/Venus/5th house manner. He made motion pictures for children, they were widely shown, carried many a meaningful and deep message, were money makers (practical) and gave him and others much enjoyment. A pretty ideal solution of the problem. He was helped into action by Neptune's wide square to the Moon, the Moon in close square to Mars, Mars in wide opposition to Neptune - thus involving the focal planet in a T Square.

The last important aspect to discuss is the SEXTILE. It falls somewhere between major and minor aspects. Here we deal with Aries/Mars/1st house versus Gemini/Mercury/3rd house or Aquarius/Uranus/11th house. Both are active, both involve the fairly compatible combination of Fire and Air. Outgoing Aries joins hands with communicative Gemini or friendship oriented and humane Aquarius. Both combinations that work in an affable and easy way. Our keywords for this aspect are: opportunity, self-expression, affability and attraction.

The only reason the GRAND SEXTILE might be considered a major configuration is the fact that it is rather rare to have 6 consecutive sextiles. 2 or 3 is rather common, 4 or five are occasionally found, but 6 is very rare. Logic will tell you that this configuration gives tremendous opportunities, especially since it seems to open a new door as an old one closes. It gives much versatility and the ability to communicate or express one-self well. But again, only if somewhere in the chart we have good squares or oppositions to spur us on.

A rather rare but interesting configuration is the MYSTIC RECTANGLE. It involves 4 planets - 2 trines connected by 2 sextiles and forming 2 oppositions. For example Saturn at 20 Libra sextile Neptune at 16 Leo and Mars at 14 Aries sextile the Sun at 19 Aquarius. Saturn opposes Mars and the Sun opposes Neptune; but the Sun also trine Saturn and Mars also trines Neptune. The resulting 'picture' shows the rectangle rather graphically. The MYSTIC RECTANGLE has the same advantages and disadvantages as the Kite. The 2 trines give flow, the sextiles opportunity and the oppositions create the energy needed to become aware and act. Thus the configuration is integrated and able to work in self-containment, but it can only relate to the rest of the chart if some contacts to other planets exist.

Many of the minor configurations (derived from minor aspects) are based on midpoints. A midpoint is an unaspected degree between and equal distance from 2 planets. The theory is that there results a 'transference of light' from the 2 planets involved, and thus the Midpoint becomes a sensitive 'point' or degree. If a third planet is found on this Midpoint or sensitive degree, the resulting configuration obviously assumes a certain importance. To illustrate: Mars at 14 Aries trine the Sun at 10 Sagittarius, both sextile the Moon at 12 Aquarius. The Moon would be on the natural Midpoint between the Sun and Mars. Since we are dealing with a trine and 2 sextiles, we would combine flow and opportunity and have the potential of expressing ourselves in a productive manner.

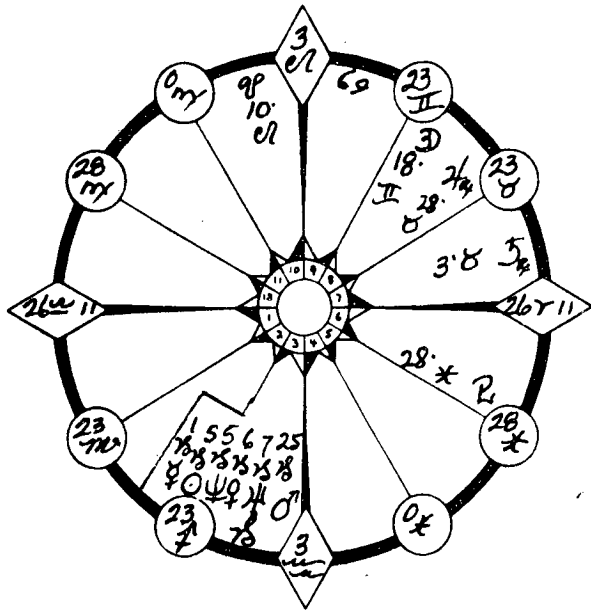
Another example would be a configuration involving a square and 2 semi-squares. Sun at 10 Gemini square Jupiter at 12 Virgo, both

semisquare Venus at 26 Cancer. Venus would occupy the Midpoint between the Sun and Jupiter. Since with squares and semi-squares we are dealing with challenges and tensions, we would have an intense individual, capable of much activity which could be positively expressed through some trine or sextile to one of the 3 planets involved in the configuration.

Our last example would involve a sextile and 2 semi-sextiles. Saturn at 1 Scorpio sextile Mars at 3 Virgo, both planets semi-sextile Mercury at 2 Libra. Again Mercury is on the Midpoint of Saturn and Mars. We have previously discussed how the sextile works, but the semi-sextile works on a slightly different principle than just a 'weaker' sextile. Again going back to the flat chart we realize that the Aries/Mars/1st house feeling is not truly harmonious with Taurus/Venus/2nd house nor with Pisces/Neptune/12th house. Active, passive, fire and earth or fire and water, cardinal and fixed or cardinal and mutable - none of these combinations are truly compatible. The best that can be said of this mixture is that it will produce a certain amount of challenge and energy which will force it to follow through. In other words, the next house by its difference compels us to learn new things, to get our results by realizing that Aries and "I" are not the only thing in this world. The sextile involved in the configuration gives us the opportunity needed to use what the semi-sextile promises.

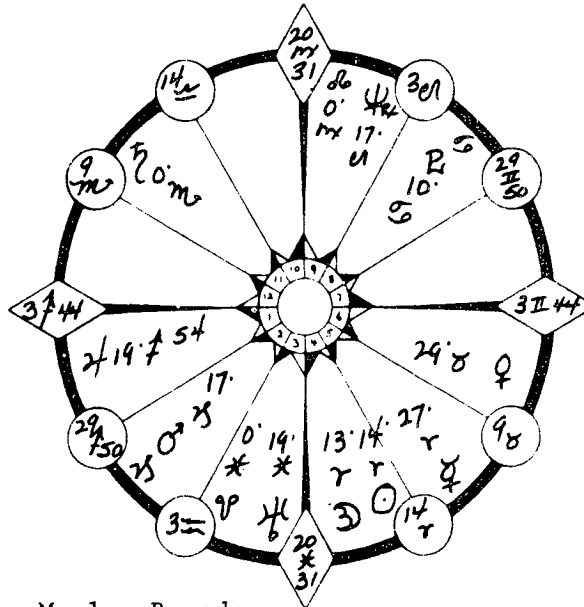
With this basic explanation of aspects and the different configurations formed by them, you should be able to interpret any other planetary formation. Just remember the flat chart and what the signs, planets and houses stand for and logic will do the rest.

STELLIUM



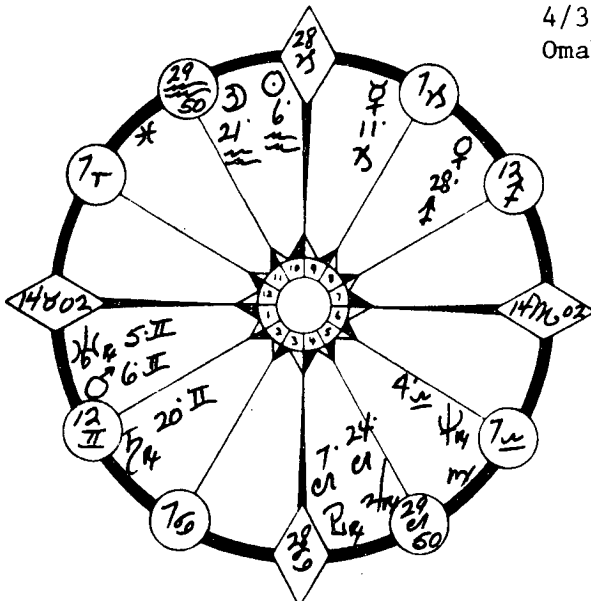
Louis Pasteur
12/22/1822
Dole, France

'T'-SQUARE



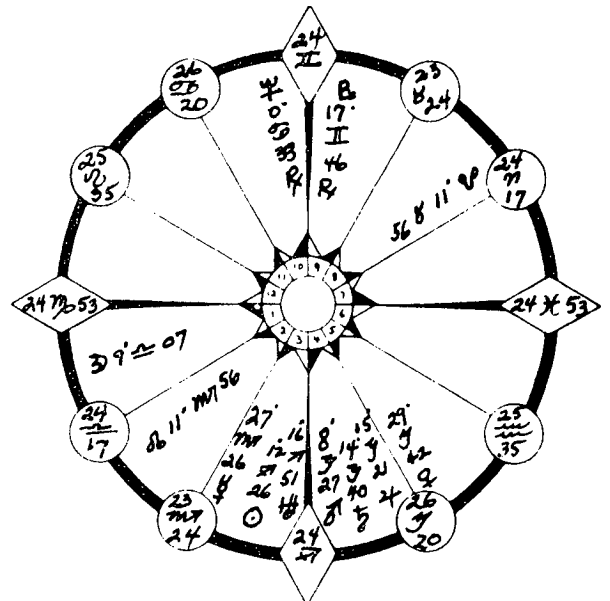
Albert Schweitzer
1/14/1875
Kayserberg, Alsace

GRAND TRINE



Marlon Brando
4/3/24
Omaha, Neb.

Y U D



Angela Davis
1/26/44
Birmingham, Ala.

12/5/1901 - 12:30 AM CST
Chicago, Illinois
WALT DISNEY