

THE IMPORTANCE OF THOROUGH DELINEATION

Why do most of us study Astrology? why do we spend years and years in hopes of learning just a little bit more? Because we want to truly understand another human being. With the help of Astrology we hope to see what makes Jane uniquely Jane and John uniquely John. But more than that, we hope to find the potential that Jane or John are born with, how much of that potential they have used to date, and hopefully help them utilize the dormant potential so they can live a more satisfying and fulfilling life.

Yet many of us fail to teach our students, or fail to teach ourselves the discipline necessary to find this potential. I hope that every teacher takes on the sometimes dull and always tedious task of showing students a thorough, nitty-gritty, step by step way of delineating a chart.

After a few years of study most of us have the ability to look at a chart and 'zoom' in on the 'important and outstanding aspects of that horoscope. With delight we note that Jupiter is in the 10th house, highest in the chart, and probably will give much ease in achieving success. We worry that a Saturn/Sun or Saturn/Moon conjunction may give the native repressed feelings. That's all very nice, but these most obvious facts are as obvious to the client or friend or relative as they are to the astrologer, and do little to help find those potentials the native is not aware of. Yet that should be one of the most important aims of the astrologers, to help the other person grow, to look within and find where the hidden talents as well as the hidden traumas are. And unfortunately there is but one way to achieve this -- by delineating the entire chart, step by step, planet by planet, house by house.

Everybody has their own way of delineating, and of course you should use the one which brings you the best and most thorough results. For myself I have found the following to work and give me total insight into a chart:

First and foremost what I call the 'overview' of the chart. Before

we take a person 'apart', we must look at the 'whole' picture and get a general feeling of character and tendencies. To do this we look at the East/West, above and below the horizon distribution. We note the qualities and elements predominant in the chart, how many planets are angular, succedent or mutable, which planets are found in the houses of life, substance, relations and endings. We determine the planets in dignity, detriment, exaltation, fall and mutual reception; we see if there is a final dispositör, which planet rules the chart and which is the highest. We might look for critical degrees, for some of the prominent fixed stars and also if the chart forms a pattern, such as bundle, bucket, locomotive or any of the other accepted patterns. We find all the aspects and take particular note of any configurations such as grand crosses, T squares, grand trines or yods. After we have thoroughly familiarized ourselves with all these facets, we have a pretty good idea of the person in question. This 'overview' needs to be constantly kept in mind as we now start taking the chart apart.

Our first step is to delineate the 'heart of the chart', namely the Sun. We consider the sign and house the Sun is in, then the sign and house where the ruler is located, the decanate and all the aspects made by the Sun. To give you an example:
Sun at 12 Gemini in the 6th house, ruled by Mercury in Cancer in the 7th house. Sun in Gemini is talkative, vacillating and needs to cultivate stick-to-itness. The native is versatile, has good intellectual comprehension and is able to detach himself emotionally when necessary. He is not as restless or in need of constant change as some Geminis can be, since the ruler is in Cancer. Some Cancerian overtones, such as sympathetic and sensitive should be added to the delineation. With the Sun in the 6th house we also add a nuance of Virgo (natural ruler of the 6th house), thus our Gemini native is discriminating, can be quite orderly and pay attention to detail, which many other Gemini natives do not do. In the 6th house he likes to work and takes pride in his achievements. 12 Gemini would be the second or Libra decanate, therefore we add a slight Libra overtone, which might make our native very refined, quite charming and, considering that the ruler of the Sun is in the 7th house and Libra is the natural ruler of the 7th, we realize that some type of partnership is important.

Please do not take this example out of context. This is just an illustration, and, as previously stated, we need to look at the total chart which means not just the 'overview' as discussed before, but also the rest of the horoscope. The Moon might trine the Sun, but if the Moon also has tension producing squares and oppositions, the emotional flow will work differently.

But let us continue with our sequential delineation. If the Sun is the 'heart of the chart' or inner individuality, then the Moon represents the emotional personality. Again we delineate by observing the sign, house, ruler, decanate and aspects of the Moon. Then we dissect the Ascendant and first house to recognize the outer personality. From there on we proceed around the chart, house by house and planet by planet. We always look at the cusp of the house first, what rules it and where does the ruler come from, then we delineate the ruler and any planet in the house. As we study each house, we keep in mind what we are looking for. The second house not only shows us the earning capacity, but also the sense of value. The 3rd house not only denotes our ability to communicate, but also early childhood, neighborhood involvements and relation to our siblings. Ruler of the 2nd in the 10th might show us that money can be made through the career, but not necessarily the type of career. Gemini on the 3rd could show us writing or some kind of communicating ability, but where is the ruler Mercury, in what sign, what house and what are the aspects to Mercury in particular and to the house in general. Are there other planets in this 3rd house? All these facts and fine points have to be analyzed and studied, and as you go around the chart, never forget the 'overview', for the synthesis of the whole is stronger than each aspect taken apart.

Also remember that many indications or traits will show up in different forms. Some of them might show up 6 or 7 times. Those are the truly indicative, deeply embedded character forming traits or talents. The kind the native cannot fail to notice. Other talents or potentials might only show up 1 or 2 times. They are the ones we are least aware of, yet they do exist and can be used, once brought into the consciousness and worked with. You will also encounter

many contradictions. These often scare or confuse the beginning astrologer. How come Jane's horoscope shows tremendous drive and initiative with one aspect and an innate laziness or indulgence with another. Is that really so unusual? Think of yourself or anyone you know well. Aren't we all a bundle of contradictions? Can't we have loads of drive for one purpose and be quite lazy or uninterested at other times? Human nature is a wonderful and fascinating study, full of contradictions, hopes, failures, traumas, happy memories, a mixture of ups and downs. It is up to the astrologer to sort this out, to relate the findings to the client, to show him or her how far they have come and how much further they can go -- and then -- leave it up to their free will. Because finally and ultimately, that is as far as we can go. We can suggest, counsel, open up new vistas - but the final choice is up to the native.

And that brings us to another area of delineation. Namely the progression. Each friend or client wants to- and is entitled to know not only the traits and talents he is born with, but also at what stage of development he finds himself at any given point in time. Whether you progress a chart by the secondary method or use the Solar Arc is relatively immaterial. Personally I put 3 rings around my chart and use both secondary and Solar Arc, since I have found that some people respond more to one than the other, and I don't know in advance which method will apply more to my client. In the 3rd ring, by the way, I place the slow moving transits.

Again I take this progressed chart quite seriously and study it at great length. Where is the progressed Sun? Has it moved from its natal 3rd house placement to the natal 4th house? Has it changed sign? All these facts will give me input on where the emphasis may be. Have any of the other planets changed house or sign by secondary method, where are they by Solar Arc? What aspects do they make to the natal chart? By the same token I check where the natal planets fall in the progressed horoscope. The Moon may be in the 6th house natively, but by progression this might now be the 4th or 5th house. Again we have a change of emphasis.

All progressions have to be viewed as changes of inner attitude, and these inner changes will enable the native to use some of the

natal possibilities in new and different way. A natal square between planets might by progression become a trine and thus the natal challenge or stumbling block can easily become a stepping stone. The transits on the other hand indicate possible outer events or happenings, the more tangible occurrences of our daily life. The slow moving transits set the stage and the faster, personal planets become the timers.

A progression can be a rich source of information, and again I cannot stress strongly enough that in fairness to yourself and your friend or client, you take ample time to study all the possibilities. And do remember 2 very important astrological sayings: THE STARS IMPEL, THEY DO NOT COMPEL. Translation, never forget the free will. And the second one, ALL IMPORTANT EVENTS ARE BACKED BY ASPECTS, BUT NOT EVERY ASPECT WILL BRING AN IMPORTANT EVENT. Translation, remember the free will. Transiting Uranus might go through your 5th house, thus stimulate your love life, your creative ability, unexpected happenings involving your children or speculations. Which one will it be? Maybe I know that you are not married, have no children; I even know that according to your chart you are too conservative to speculate, and I also know that you have never shown any creative inclination. So I may take a guess and say you will have a new and unexpected love affair. But lo and behold, you decide you don't want a love affair and instead, out of a clear blue sky you choose to take painting lessons, and suddenly realize you not only love it, but are very good at it. Therefore, beware of predicting. Realize the areas of new emphasis, growth potential, pitfalls or difficulties. Help the native utilize all possible growth areas, find positive outlets for the more stressful aspects, and then hope that his free will carries him in the right direction. But most and foremost, give yourself enough time to truly analyze the chart, so that you know and understand the task at hand.