

Introduction to Synastry

An Introduction to Synastry

The purpose of these notes is to give you some basic ideas about what synastry is ,and also what it is not! It is a subject that a lot is heard about in some of the "Astrology for the general public " type books. In these books it is the Sun sign only that is used to match up two people. There are two good reasons for this :

1) Everyone (well almost everyone!) knows their own Sun sign. As a result they are interested in the Sun sign type books. Of these people very few know much about ascendants let alone the position of any planets as they have never had their birth charts drawn up. Therefore any reference to anything other than Sun signs is not information that they can currently make use of .

2) Using Sun signs only is much simpler, as we shall see when we try some 'real' synastry!

Its probably about time you were given some sort of definition so here goes :

The word synastry itself comes from the Greek language,'syn' is a prefix that means 'a bringing together' and 'astron' which means 'star'. Synastry then is the art of comparing two astrology charts to see if there is potential for harmony between them. The word potential is used because even in well matched charts other influences such as a very difficult childhood will colour the person themselves. Even if we were to look for a marriage partner we could be disappointed since the necessary lessons to be learnt from that person may well only take a few months. So we should not expect that the person who matches our own charts is necessarily the one for us. Since there would be little to learn from such a relationship. There is a school of thought which says that in marriage we seek a completion ,the missing part of ourselves ,the attraction of male and female is indeed mysterious so read on to discover more.....

The factors that are most important are the ascendants ,Sun signs ,the seventh house and Mars and Venus. As Sun sign matching has been well written about elsewhere (see Linda Goodmans 'Love Signs') here is no need to cover it here.

Venus

Venus like the Moon is a feminine planet. The placing of Venus in a mans chart indicates the sort of woman he is seeking. So if a man had Venus in Gemini he would be seeking a bright,intelligent girl to communicate ideas with ,who likes and seeks change, is quick witted and able to stimulate him with an airy kind of love and be two people for him , a lover and a friend.

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Mars

Mars like the Sun is a masculine planet. The placing of Mars in a woman's chart would indicate the sort of man she is seeking. If a woman had Mars in Aries her man should shield her from the world and would be dominant in the relationship. She would be happy to play her feminine role to the full with such a red blooded he-man as her Aries male. Just one thing though, perhaps she might wish he thought of her and showed his feelings a little more often. He will, but she will have to keep reminding him because he is a little selfish at times.

Ascendants

The ascendant can be regarded as representative of love and affection, the descendant is the marriage bond.

The following matches indicate some initial harmony between the partners.

- 1) The Sun sign of A is the same as B's ascending sign.
- 2) A's Sun sign is the same sign as that of B's descendant.
- 3) The female's sign is in the same sign as the male's midheaven.
- 4) The ruler of chart A's ascendant or descendant is in the same sign as chart B's ascendant. ie if Sagittarius is rising or descending in chart A, and Jupiter (the ruler of Sagittarius) is in Gemini which is the ascendant of chart B.
- 5) The ruler of chart A's ascendant or descendant is in the same or opposite sign in both charts.

Seventh House

This is also the house of the descendant, and as I mentioned earlier also represents the marriage bond. Any planets in this house are of particular importance as they indicate the people we are likely to attract and the type of relationship which we are seeking. If there are no planets in the seventh house then the descendant's sign could be examined for this information. Also we should also consider the eighth house as this tells us about the sexual side of the marriage.

Aspects

Always an important consideration in an individual's chart the aspects give good indications about the strength and weakness of the charts being compared.

The basic techniques for calculating the aspects is essentially the same as for an individual's chart. One useful technique is to draw the position of the planets of the second chart on the outside of outer circle of the first chart. Then you have to compare the position of each of the planets on this outer circle to each of planets on the inner circle. This means that there is potentially a lot more aspects that could be formed as the first Sun is compared with the second Sun etc.

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The Orbs of Aspects

Sounds a bit like a science fantasy novel, but of course you know what orbs are by now, don't you!

The allowable distance either side of an exact aspect is an orb. ie a square, which is 90 degrees, normally has an orb of 8 degrees so that anything between 82 degrees and 98 degrees may be considered a square aspect. However the following orbs are used when calculating aspects in synastry :

	Advanced	Beginner
Conjunction	7 degrees	5 degrees
Square	6 degrees	4 degrees
Opposition	6 degrees	4 degrees
Trine	6 degrees	4 degrees
Sextile	4 degrees	3 degrees
Quincunx	2 degrees	1 degree
Minor aspects	1 degree	1 degree

Chaldean System

There is likely to be an attraction between individuals who share the same sub-rulership of a planet. The system works like this ; each zodiac sign is divided into three sections of ten degrees. Each section is called a decan. So if you have your Sun 4 degrees 5 minutes in Gemini you are in the first decan of that sign. The complete list follows below :

Mars sub-rules

1st decan Aries	2nd decan Gemini
3rd decan Leo	1st decan Scorpio
2nd decan Capricorn	3rd decan Pisces

Sun sub-rules

2nd decan Aries	3rd decan Gemini
1st decan Virgo	2nd decan Scorpio
3rd decan Capricorn	

Venus sub-rules

3rd decan Aries	1st decan Cancer
2nd decan Virgo	3rd decan Scorpio
1st decan Aquarius	

Mercury sub-rules

1st decan Taurus	2nd decan Cancer
3rd decan Virgo	1st decan Sagittarius
2nd decan Aquarius	

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Moon sub-rules

2nd decan Taurus 3rd decan Cancer
1st decan Libra 2nd decan Sagittarius
3rd decan Aquarius

Saturn sub-rules

3rd decan Taurus 1st decan Leo
2nd decan Libra 3rd decan Sagittarius
1st decan Pisces

Jupiter sub-rules

1st decan Gemini 2nd decan Leo
3rd decan Libra 1st decan Capricorn
2nd decan Pisces

Summary

As you have seen synastry is quite a big subject. It really needs a course all to itself to go into in the depth necessary. All I have been able to do in these brief notes is give you a few clues as to where to begin. Listed below are some books that I have found useful in putting together these notes and the lecture that goes with them, au revoir!

The Compleat Astrologer
by Derek and Juila Parker
published by Mitchell Beazley

How to Handle your Human Relationships
by Lois Haines Sargent
published by Emergence Books

Synastry
by Penny Thornton
published by Aquarian Press

Relating
by Liz Green
Thorsons Publishers