

STORYTELLING YOUR ASTROLOGY CHART

December 17, 2013

By Michael Erlewine (Michael@Erlewine.net)

This is like when at a music concert the performer asks you if you would like to sing along. Here we will do some fascinating astrology together, if you will.

This blog is not only for astrologers, but also for anyone who enjoys astrology. As most of my Facebook friends know, I try to share what knowledge I have with those interested. And this goes for astrology knowledge as well, in this case something very special. I want to share a technique I came up with that is as simple as pie, and yet very, very useful. It is also easy for anyone to do.

I have been holding back on this technique, not because I want to keep it a secret, but because I wanted to put it in a special report and package. It is that special. Well, the long and the short of it is I sold my business, so now I don't have any easy way to finish it up the way I had planned. Still, I need to tell you about this technique because it is so useful, and it is entertaining at the same time. After fifty years of practice, few astrology techniques amaze me; this one does.

In a word or so, this very simple technique allows almost anyone (even non-astrologers) to read a chart, with or without a birth time. It actually does this. All you need is a list of planet positions for the day (or time, if you have it) you were born laid out in an open wheel so you can see how many degrees each planetary pair are separate from one another. You can get those here:

http://astrologyland.com/free_chart_wheel/YourFreeChart.aspx

And what is most amazing to me is that this very simple technique tells a story, your story (my story), using astrology as a language. You will have to take my word for it until you try it for yourself.

It is one thing to parse astrological keywords and patch together sentence-like interpretations, and a very different thing again to read a story written in the stars about you and the life you are living -- very rare in my experience. That is why folks seek out an astrologer, but here is a simple technique that you can do yourself. You can read for yourself your own story.

I know you are busy. I am too, but do yourself a favor and check out this very simple technique. Technically I call it "Full-Phase Aspects," which makes it sound more intellectual than it is. To myself, I just call it "Phase Charts." That sounds better.

And perhaps the best news is that if you know even the basic meaning of the planets, you already know everything you need to know to take advantage of this technique AND

you can use your own knowledge and interpretation methods. The only new thing I have done is to nicely rearrange the way we all look at aspects, so that it tells a better and more accurate story. To do this, I take the way we use aspects in astrology, parts that are usually strung together in patchwork sentences and then, like pieces in a large jigsaw puzzle, I put the pieces together in a single seamless image, AND the image shows a picture of the birth moment, and that picture image is, as they say, worth a thousand words. Anyone can see and read it.

In Phase Charts, every planet has a story to tell, and Phase Analysis allows it to come out easily and naturally. For me Phase Charts are somewhere between an interpretation and a horary technique. In other words, it not only speaks like an oracle, but you can ask and answer questions just by looking at a Phase Chart.

In my fifty years of studying and practicing astrology, this is the first technique that actually has a narrative, and lends itself to storytelling. As usual, I have a whole free e-book about it called "Full-Phase Aspects: Astrology's Mirror" and you can find that here.

e-book

<http://dharmagrooves.com/e-Books.aspx>

But I also put together a video tutorial for you to hear me talk about it and show you how to use it. Also, if you are an owner of the Matrix BlueStar program, it has totally automatic Phase Charts built-in as a standard feature.

Here are the video tutorials:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/merlewine/videos>

Those of you who actually check it out, please feel free to ask me questions and I will do my best to answer them.

And finally, for those of you who just want a report, and can pay for it, some of the Phase Chart analysis is in the report "Dharma Chart, Karma Chart" here:

http://astrologyland.com/personal_report/DharmaKarma.aspx

To make it still easier, I have included a blank chart wheel and one example of a phase chart, in this case a phase chart for my natal geocentric Sun. Here is how to make your own.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR PHASE WHEELS

(1) Download the blank chart wheel and print out some copies.

(2) Write the symbol of the planet you want to examine at the top of the wheel under the small symbol for the conjunction. Let's use the Sun in my natal chart as an example.

(3) Take your birth chart (geocentric or heliocentric) and determine the number of degrees of separation between the Sun (planet used in this example) and every other body, in this case all the planets and the Moon. You can figure this out pretty easily.

(4) The table below has all of the planets, and the Sun and Moon, listed in order of how fast they move (on average), with the fastest (Moon) listed at the top, and the other bodies in order of declining speed.

PLANET SPEED

MO=Moon
ME=Mercury
VE=Venus
SU=Sun
MA=Mars
JU=Jupiter
SA=Saturn
UR=Uranus
NE=Neptune
PL=Pluto

Pick any pair of bodies in the list. Whichever body (of the two you picked) is lower on the list is the slower planet and the second planet (faster) is either moving away from it or toward. If it is moving AWAY FROM it (toward an opposition aspect), then it is listed on the LEFT side of the wheel. If it is moving TOWARD it (coming back from the opposition aspect), then it is listed on the right side of the wheel. Determine which case it is and how many degrees between the two planets.

(5) With the Sun listed at the top (as we did earlier), write the symbol for the second planet on the right or left hand side of the wheel at the number of degrees from zero to 180 as measured from the top of the chart. If you don't know how to make the symbol for the planets, use the two-letter combination I gave in the above table.

(6) That's it. Now all you have to do is just note what hemisphere or quadrant the various planets are in and start reading the chart. I have given you plenty of video tutorials plus a complete (and free) e-book to help you see how to interpret. I suggest you look at one of those to get a feeling how to interpret.

(7) Note that the Phase Chart may look a lot like your natal chart, but not exactly. The reason is that with Phase Charts, all we want to know is how many degrees separate any two planets and to plot that degree of separation on one side or the other of the chart wheel, depending if the second planet of any pair of bodies (the faster) is moving away from the slower (left side of chart) or moving back toward the slower (right side of chart).

This may seem complicated, but it really simple and very easy to do.

Feel free to ask me questions.



To get you started, using my Sun Phase Chart (included here) as an example. The Sun traditionally represents the Self.

The Phase Chart can be divided into four hemispheres, two vertically and two horizontally. Of the two horizontal hemispheres, the upper half refers to inner or private, and the lower half to outer or public. Dividing the wheel in half vertically, the left hemisphere is the sphere of action and giving, putting out effort, while the right hemisphere is that of taking, receiving.

We can see at a glance that the concept of my Self is very inward, call it mental, subjective, secret, private, deep, and so on. All the planets except one are in the upper hemisphere, what is called the private hemisphere.

The point is that there is only one planet, Mars, that is in the outer (lower) public hemisphere, and it is at the Aries or First House position. We can see I like to start things and, as an entrepreneur who has started many businesses, this makes a lot of

sense.

In a Phase Chart, there are four quadrants, Conjunction to 90-Degrees, 90-Degrees to Opposition, Opposition to 270 degrees (2nd Square), and 270-degrees back to the Conjunction. This is the synodic aspect cycle any two bodies go through. Simply the first quadrant, is inner planner, the second quadrant is the doing of things, the third quadrant is expressing or knowing what we did, and the 4th quadrant is taking a lesson from what we learned, separating the wheat from the chaff.

The planets in the inward upper-half of the chart, those on the waxing side (Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus) are where I am taking inspiration or ideas and building them into plans to make into reality, trying to make my dreams come true. They are in the first quadrant, that of PLANNING, the quadrant measured from zero (Conjunction) to 90-degrees (Square).

Let's look at them, using traditional astrological interpretations. We can see that Venus is very near the cusp of the Semi-Sextile aspect, corresponding to Aquarius or the 11th house of community, therefore I have dreams and plans to build a community. As a child of the 60's, this is so true.

The sometimes-troublesome planet Saturn and close by, Uranus, are positioned at the Sextile aspect (60 degrees of separation), giving great energy and freedom of movement or ease. It is easy for me to do things, to get things done, and very inventive things at that, like this technique. This is a fortunate place for Saturn.

This leaves Jupiter, exactly at the 45-degree or Semi-Square aspect, and this is definitely one of the challenge points in the wheel. Jupiter is my career, and suggests that my life path or career is not a slam dunk, but may involve a lot of obstacles or challenges. However, if you read the phase articles/video, this particular Semi-Square is one where we don't take "no" for an answer, but press onward, suggesting that gentle movement forward will remove any career blocks and insure steady progress.

Now let's look at the waning side of the chart (right hemisphere). In my case all the bodies are in the inner (upper, 4th quadrant, from 270-360-degrees) part of the chart. The waning hemisphere of the chart tells us about the returns of our life, how we receive from life, we could even say our "destiny." This is where life presents things to us, without our having to do anything.

"Doing" is the waxing side of the chart. If we were talking martial arts, we would have to say that the waxing side of the chart is Judo, and the waning side of the chart is Aikido. With Judo, we strike or reach outward, with Aikido, we passively use force and momentum already in play to our advantage. One is aggressive, one is passive. One hand places, and the other hand takes away – giving and taking.

Notice that my Moon is the leading or most outward planet, along with Neptune, which is in a very tight Sextile. Both of these planets are strong Sextiles, so, again, this

suggests great ease and facility. However, both of these planets are inward, rather than outward, so this points to a more private sense, and perhaps more internal activities, not reaching out, but reaching in.

It is a fact that I played music for the public, but always from a very inward or shy stance. You get the idea as to how I am interpreting here. Mercury and Pluto are much more inward, with Pluto being my most inward planet on the receptive side. My interest in occultism and initiation on a somewhat inner or deep level might be indicated here.

That ought to give you some kind of idea of how these Phase Charts can be interpreted. It is visual. You can see my Mars right out there in the public half of the chart, toward the Opposition. Everything is right there.

More Help

First Quadrant or Quarter
Most planets in First Quadrant.

The First Quarter suggests an inward-to-outward approach, meaning coming up with and working with ideas in the most formative state, shaping them into plans, and then moving to make those plans real, launching new plans into the sphere of practical reality - making it happen.

The overall or majority activity for this kind of chart has to do with planning things out, starting with ideas, insights, and urges, shaping them into projects and plans, and then moving to actually make those plans real. The First Quadrant. Dominant Skill: Planning

The Second Quadrant or Quarter
Most planets in Second Quadrant.

The Second Quarter suggests an outward-and-upward approach, meaning you are most at home with building infrastructure once it has been started, rather than planning and creating projects from scratch. You work to incrementally add on and build projects toward completion. Building

The overall or majority activity for this chart has to do with bringing plans across into reality, getting things done, and building outwardly something real and physical. Successful projects.

The Third Quadrant or Quarter
Most planets in Third Quadrant.

The Third Quarter suggests an outward-to-inner approach, meaning you are expert at working with situations and projects that are already in existence, but need defining or understanding. Your special skills are in developing an awareness of what things mean, and drawing the appropriate conclusions. You can help to conserve and salvage

existing situations. Teaching.

The overall or majority activity for this chart has to do with working with situations and projects that are already in existence, but need defining or understanding. Its special skills are in developing an awareness of what things mean, and drawing the appropriate conclusions, and perhaps teaching or explaining this to others. Also, helping to conserve and salvage existing situations.

The Fourth Quadrant or Quarter
Most planets in Fourth Quadrant.

The Fourth or Last Quarter suggests an inward-to-inward approach, which means you can be very objective and impartial when it comes to viewing things, and are able to see what should be removed and what can remain from any situation - solid business decisions.

The overall or majority activity for this chart has to do with being very objective and impartial when it comes to viewing things, and includes the ability to see what should be removed and what can remain from any situation - solid business decisions. Dominant Skill: Appraising.



For those of you who may not understand how to interpret the various angular separations (aspects), here the "Sweet 16" major aspects, with brief interpretations. Also some little tarot-like cards to get you in the mood.

Conjunction: 0 Degrees

This is a shift point, away from facilitating or handling things in a receptive way, and toward creating and doing things in a more active and aggressive manner. It is during this time, when there is this shift or temporary "unbalance," that new ideas and approaches can occur to us, and present themselves. Like catching a baseball and throwing it back, we shift from receiving to acting, and in that pause there is the start of something new.

Waxing Semisextile: 30 Degrees

This is a point where ideas and thoughts of all kinds can be shaped into strategies and where plans are formed, a clear vision of what needs to be done and carried out. There is a sense of community and welcoming help in making the plans real.

Waxing Semisextile: 45 Degrees

This is point where things shift away from gathering ideas and making plans, and toward putting those plans into action. This means we leave off gazing into the well of ideas, prioritize what we now have in hand, and go with those. No more endless dreaming, but a case of go with what you've got.

Waxing Sextile: 60 Degrees

This is an energy point to where we begin to put plans into action, to get them off the drawing board and on the way to reality. This is a push point and not a point to back off or turn back. Any obstacles that arise, and there usually are some, are just that, obstacles, and not signs to give up. The traditional advice at these points is to gently push forward. Keep going.

Waxing Square: 90 Degrees

This is a shift point that marks the start of something, moving from the planning stages to the stage of action, a point where something emerges and can be seen. This is where things start to come up or rise into view, when there is something to be seen.

Waxing Trine: 120 Degrees

This is the premiere energy point to build infrastructure, a point in time when things actually can get done and moved forward, so best to take advantage of it and heave to. Put the pedal to the metal. Great things can be accomplished in this window of time.

Waxing Sesquiquadrate: 135 Degrees

This is a point where the shift is away from building infrastructure and generally driving forward, and toward finishing off whatever you have in the works to date. This involves a curbing of the momentum or desire to push on, and a turning instead to completing the details - doing the fine work.

Waxing Inconjunct: 150 Degrees

This is a point where all new growth and forward push comes to a standstill, and all attention is turned to finishing off the details, completing whatever it is that is being worked on.

Opposition: 180 Degrees

This is a major shift point that marks the living end of the entire cycle, the point of maximum strength, reality, physicality, and, above all, experience. This is a time to experience and soak in whatever is the meaning of the particular cycle. During this time there is a shift from acting to receiving, although it is gradual and may not be noticed. We stop pushing, and start being more receptive, but mostly we just feel and

experience.

Waning Inconjunct: 210 Degrees

This is a point where light begins to dawn about whatever we have been going through or on whatever project has been in the works. This is the "A Ha!" point, where we begin to get the picture and can put it into thoughts or words enough to explain or tell others about it.

Waning Sesquiquadrate 225 Degrees

This is a point where the shift is away from going along with whatever is being experienced, and, instead, turning away in favor of getting a handle on or developing an awareness of the situation at hand - a perspective.

Waning Trine: 240 Degrees

This is the energy point to draw conclusions, put things into perspective, and to conserve or salvage what you can from a situation. You are pulling out, but with care and discernment.

Waning Square: 270 Degrees

This a shift point, one that marks the emergence of greater objectivity, and a letting go of a more purely personal or selfish view (giving up on that), and adopting an impartial view, what we could call a public or group perspective - growing up.

Waning Sextile: 300 Degrees

This is the energy point to be objective, to stand back, take everything in and to be impartial. Here you can see what has value versus what is sheer excess and can be cut out. This is a good aspect for business.

Waning Semisquare: 315 Degrees

This is a point where the shift is away from whatever conclusions you are drawing, and toward actually concluding the business at hand, getting down to the nitty-gritty.

Waning Semisextile: 330 Degrees

This is a point where everything non-essential is shut down, and only the most salient thoughts, the seed essence, and kernel are retained. Everything else is allowed to pass and blow away - keep the seed.

