

DRIVE vs. BALANCE August 10, 2012

By Michael Erlewine (Michael@Erlewine.net)

We Become What We Want

Why do we have the drive and ambition to accomplish some days and don't feel like doing much of anything on other days? I don't usually explain technique in these blogs because it can be too much to take in, but this technique is so easy that I will give it a try. It all has to do with balance.

Like walking a tightrope, when we are unbalanced or start to lose our balance, we naturally strive to regain it. The degree to which we are unbalanced is the amount of our energy that is striving for balance. Not just people, but everything seeks balance, yet balance once attained no longer has that same drive and impetus. The drive to balance is lost when balance has been found. That is what balance is all about. Make sense?

Chinese and Asian philosophy is all about balance, attaining equilibrium. Equilibrium is just that, an absence of forces that would upset the balance. You can't have it both ways, on the one hand be driven to balance and on the other hand be in equilibrium. The struggle between these two forces is what drives the universe. It is called change.

Years ago I discovered an easy way to determine how much change is in an astrological chart of a person or of the current day. I am not saying this is the only way to measure change, because it is not. It is one way to see change or drive in an individual's chart or a chart of the moment.

Here is a simple technique that I have never seen mentioned in the astrological literature, so perhaps I discovered it for myself. At least it works for me. It has to do with approximating a person's inner or outer drive. First some background.

"NATURE ABHORS A VACUUM"

"Nature abhors a vacuum," often attributed to Rabelais, simply means where there is a gap or void, we tend to fill it. This is certainly true for any empty space I manage to create in my office. Before I know it I have it filled up with stuff. I find this works in astrology as well.

An easy way to look at someone's basic drive and ambition, either inner drive (helio) or outer drive (geo) is to look for gaps in the placement of planets around the chart wheel. Simply look at a 360-degree open wheel and place your planets in zodiac order in that wheel. You are ready to go.

Now look for open space between any two planets around the wheel. Are the planets more or less evenly spaced around the wheel or are there large gaps between planets?

Large gaps indicate something we don't know or where part of the zodiac is empty and wants to be known and filled-in. This indicates a want or lack, and correspondingly a desire to fill the gap or get to know that empty area. My motto for this is:

“We Become What We Want”

If there are large gaps between planet placements, the individual will have a drive or urge to fill that gap or want. We can go further. Find the largest gap in a chart and note which two planets are at either end of that gap. These two planets flanking the gap will be the two planets with the greatest drive or urge. Check it out.

Major patterns like a Grand Cross, Grand Trine, T-Square and so on, with clearly marked and equal gaps, seems to be especially significant.

Large gaps in the chart wheel are empty of planets. They want or lack anything there. We tend to become what we lack or want, to fill in the gaps. This amounts to an urge or drive to balance out our empty spots.

Let's see, with the geo chart we have ten bodies equally spaced around the wheel, which would give an average of 36 degrees of space between each body. If we look at the heliocentric placements, where there are nine bodies, we get 40 degrees of space. Of course nature is not prone to that kind of neatness, but it does happen.

Looking at the helio chart is IMO more effective, because that is the way the planets actually exist as they orbit their center the Sun.

As often as not planets tend to bunch together, and when they do the space between planets grows wider until it can at times be more than 180 degrees wide. That would be 180 degrees of empty space, and I have seen charts with up to 250 degrees (and more) of open space between two planets. That is a big gap.

Check it out for yourself. Go to the following link, which is one of our sites.

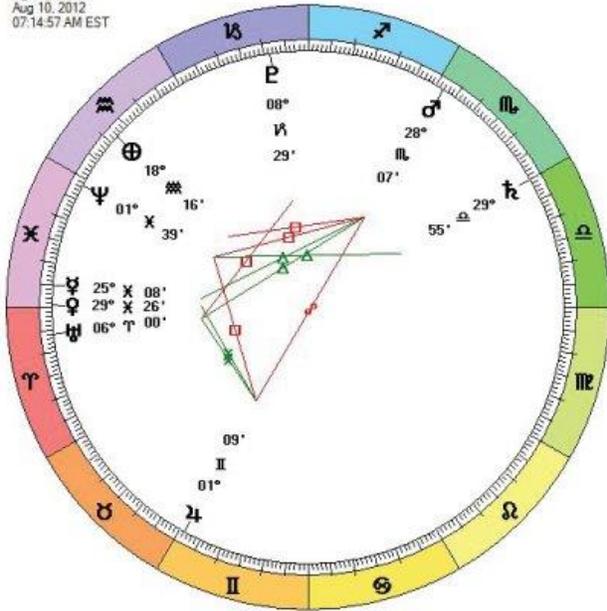
http://astrologyland.com/free_chart_wheel/YourFreeChart.aspx

Enter your Month, Day, and Year and select from the Wheel Styles the “Aries” Wheel. This will show you the geo or personal/outer chart. Then press the button that says “Helio” and look at your inner/dharma chart wheel.

As you can see there is a large empty space in the inner Helio chart (which indicates lots of drive or urge to do and experience), but the Geo outer chart is much more evenly spaced. So we can say “Today there is a strong inner urge to do or accomplish, but circumstances on the outside are too easy-going and balanced to make that happen easily.” Got the idea? Try it for yourself.

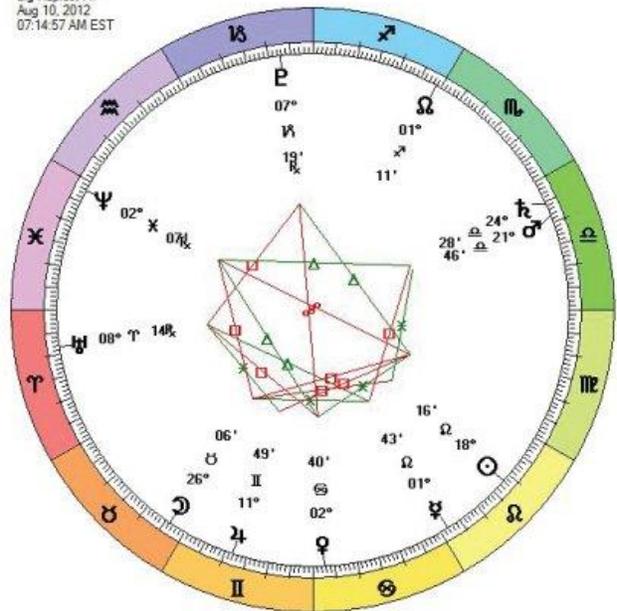
Take a look at some of the other charts in this album.

Now
Big Rapids, MI
Aug 10, 2012
07:14:57 AM EST



Inner Helio Chart

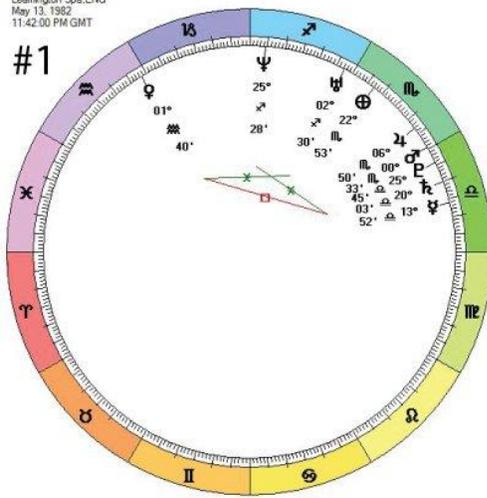
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Outer Geo Chart

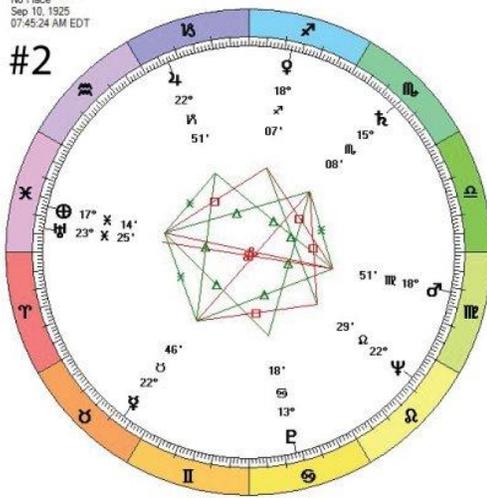
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#1



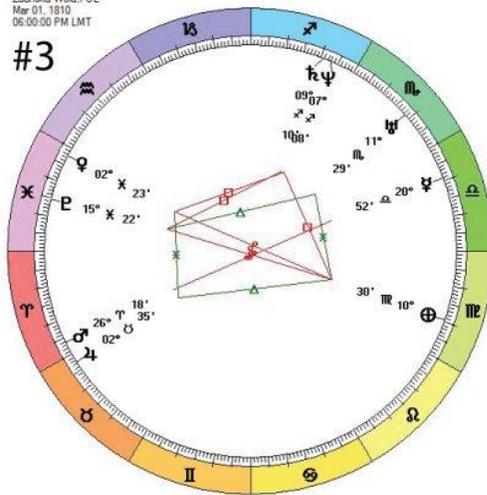
No Place
 Sep 10, 1925
 07:45:24 AM EDT

#2



Frederick Chopin
 Ząbunka Wola.POL
 Mar 01, 1810
 06:00:00 PM LMT

#3



Michael Erlewine
 Lancaster, PA
 Jul 10, 1941
 05:03:00 PM EDT

#4

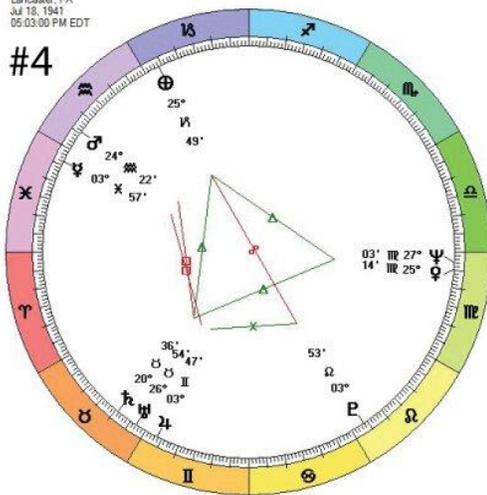


Chart #1

Here is a chart with an enormous gap, flanked by the planets Mercury-Venus. This gap is unusually large, which suggests a huge driver or need to fill in that gap. If an individual, this would be a life-long drive to gather experience enough to satisfy all of those empty signs. This could be accomplished by traveling, meeting many people, and doing, doing, doing.

Chart #2

Here is a distribution of planets that is almost in perfect equilibrium. Even the largest gap between planets is less than 60-degrees, flanked by the planets Mercury-Uranus. Interesting enough, this is the chart of a Uranian astrologer. Things are static here, with little change indicated.

Chart #3

Here is a chart with two main gaps, one between Jupiter and Earth, and the other between Venus-Saturn or Venus-Neptune, both. There is a lot of drive here.

Chart #4

And last, here is my own helio chart, representing another approach, that of not the widest gaps but ones built around a pattern, in this case the Grand Trine made up of six planets. The major gap of almost 120-degrees is flanked by Earth-Neptune (Earth-Venus). A second gap is flanked by Mercury-Saturn. However, and now we are getting a little sophisticated, the gaps are roughly 120-degree sections, with Jupiter-Pluto-Venus making up one of the 120-degree sections. What we want to focus on here is the balance of the gaps. Lots of gaps, but in balance.

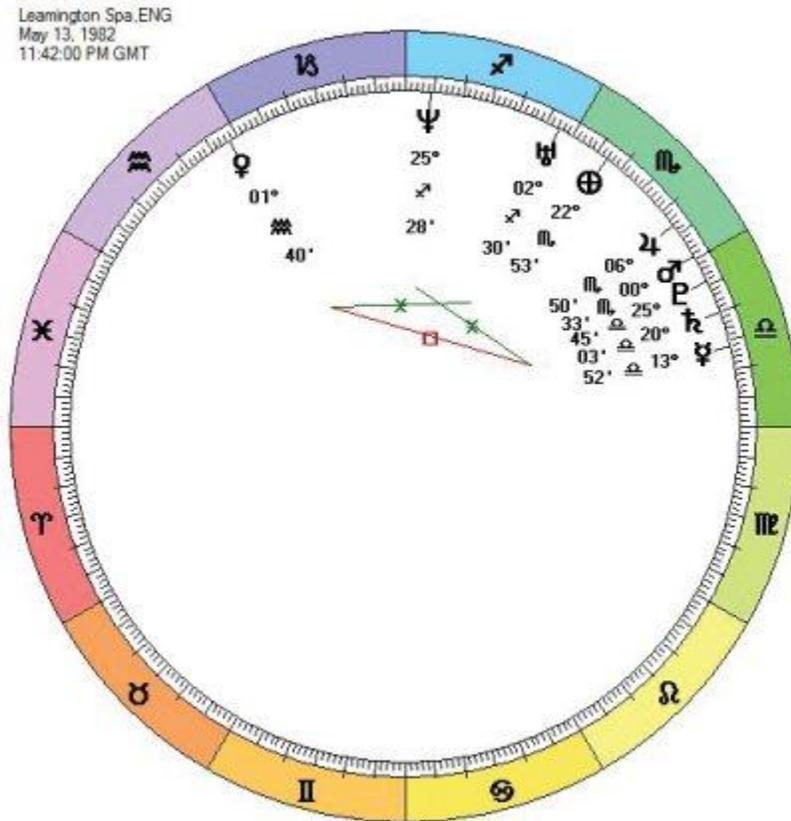


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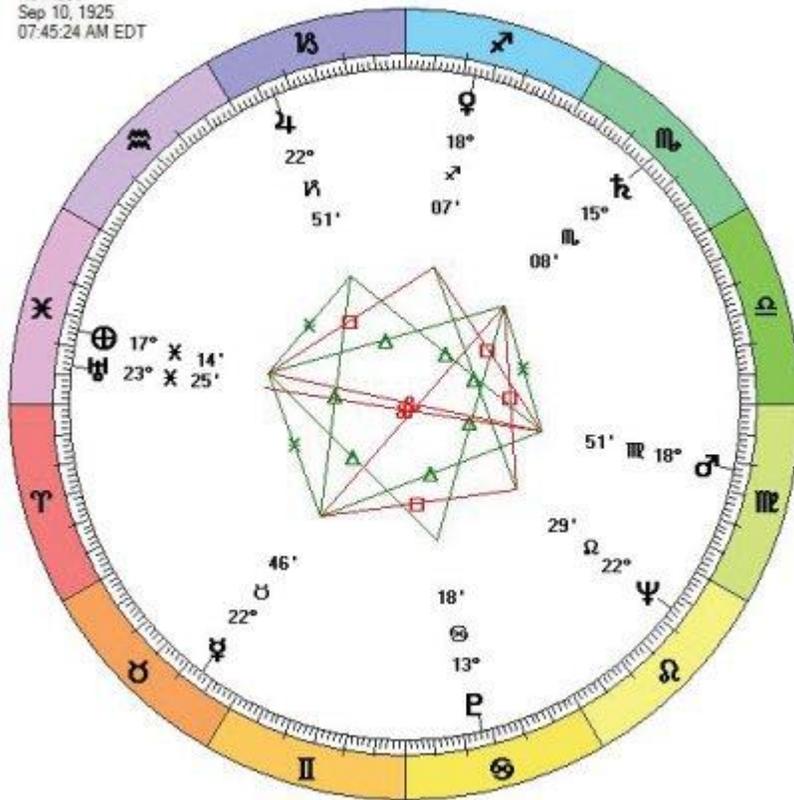


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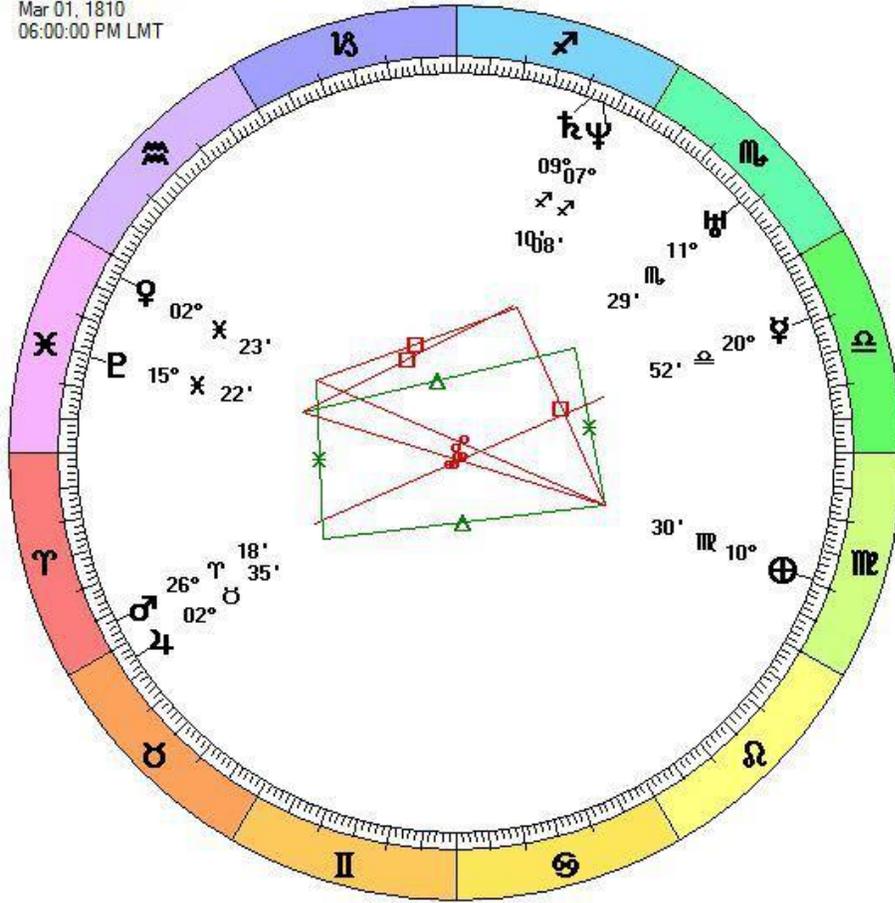


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Michael Erlewine

Lancaster, PA

Jul 18, 1941

05:03:00 PM EDT

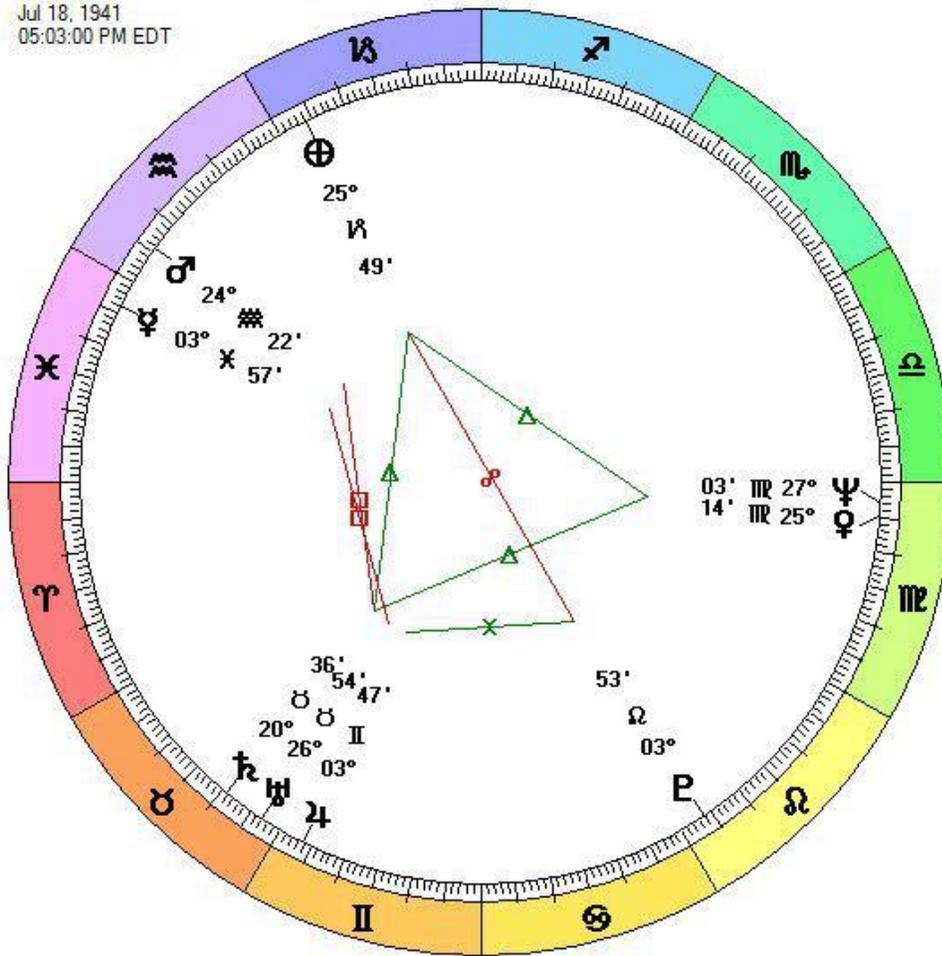


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