

ARTFEMIS

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Cindy Naunton's

IT'S ALL IN THE LIGHT!

Applying Traditional Astrology
to Modern Practice

The Sun and the Moon. What do these symbols represent in Traditional Astrology and how might that knowledge be applicable today, especially with regard to parenting? Cindy Naunton shines a light on the power and relationship of these mighty celestial bodies. Cover image courtesy of Birgit Böllinger, pixabay.com

..“and God made two great lights. The greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night . . . and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years” *Genesis 1:14-16.*

It's All in the Light!

Cindy Naunton



"Ancient astrologers used the Sun and Moon extensively to determine the role and importance of the parents."

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A photographer friend once told me that when considering a photographic subject the primary consideration was 'It's all in the light'. This too is true for astrology on many levels. For now let us consider the Sun and Moon as parental significators. Both the Sun and Moon are referred to in astrology as the lights or the luminaries. The Sun is considered the 'Greater light' the Moon the 'Lesser light'. The Sun has great power and determines whether it is daytime or night-time. The Moon is the consort and support which reflects the Sun's light as they form a partnership and dance to the rhythm of life.

So what do these symbols represent in Traditional Astrology and how might that knowledge be applicable today? At one level the Sun and Moon represent the outer and inner person – the public person and the private person. At another primal and archetypal level the Sun and Moon represent our parents; Sun: Father, Moon: Mother.

Traditionally, in many cultures it is the Father who gives us our name and our identity. This often comes from the Father's standing in the community, or his occupation, whilst the Mother is considered to be the primary nurturer by the very fact that her biological role is to produce, deliver and nourish the young infant. The Sun is defined in terms of the physical Father, the giver of life, the source of identity, vitality and recognition. All are external masculine qualities. Whereas the Moon is defined in terms of the physical Mother, the home and family, the habits and emotions, protection, nurturing and sensitivity. These are internal feminine qualities.

The first consideration of the ancient astrologer was the position of the Sun by sign house and position in relation to the horizon of the chart. Was it posited above or below the horizon – the ascendant/descendant axis?



Image courtesy of Kien Virak, pixabay.com

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If it was daytime the Sun would be above the horizon in Houses Seven to Twelve, or, if it was night-time the Sun would be below the horizon in Houses One to Six. This simple observation was a primary consideration to determine the relative strength of the Sun and Moon, as well as the parental relationships with the child. The terms used to describe these charts are Diurnal (daytime) and Nocturnal (night time). The ancients were aware of the importance of the placement of the luminaries in the calculation of Part of Fortune (aka 'Lot of fortune') which has a specific formula for a diurnal chart and a different formula for a nocturnal chart,

indicating that the placement of the Sun was a priority in interpreting the Part of Fortune, as well as the chart as a whole. Briefly, the Part of fortune is a calculated point that indicates where and when a person is protected. It is used to determine when good fortune in life – usually of a material nature – may be anticipated.

Ancient astrologers used the Sun and Moon extensively to determine the role and importance of the parents, to specify the timing of the major role of the parent in the life, and to establish a time frame when the internal or external world was the most prominent feature in life.

Traditional astrology clearly shows the influence and importance of the Father in the first decade of the life in charts where the Sun is above the horizon. Where the Sun is below the horizon, the Moon defines the primary model, and bonding for the child is largely from the Mother. Thus the Mother is of great influence and importance during the first decade of life. The placement of the Moon either above or below the horizon does not alter the significance of the Mother's role in a nocturnal chart.

Aspects between the Sun and Moon indicate the interaction between the parents.

The ancients were aware of the importance of the placement of the luminaries in the calculation of Part of Fortune (aka 'Lot of fortune')

Solar Eclipse

Photo courtesy of Pete Linforth, pixabay.com



Therefore, any aspect (Ptolemaic) is better than no aspect at all, as an aspect indicates an exchange of energy and interaction. Any aspect between the Sun and Moon indicates a charge or exchange of energy between the parents. If an aspect is not present it indicates that the parents fail to perceive each other in some way. Although they may live together, they fail to have a common goal or theme that involves them both with the child at a soul level. They each live in a different reality, one which is not shared with their partner. When the Sun and Moon are in aspect the parents "see" each other and the bond is shown in the child's chart. How they actually see each other is shown by the house and sign occupied by the Sun and Moon and the aspect formed. Many first born, or long awaited births, show an aspect between the Sun and Moon, representing the parent's common desire to reproduce. An example of this is Prince William whose Sun and Moon are conjunct showing the desire of both parents to produce an heir for the monarchy.

Any aspect indicates a connection too between the inner and outer realms, and integration within the psyche. When there is no aspect the person lives in two worlds and must acquire a mechanism to bridge that internal gulf which they consciously or unconsciously perceive. They may have difficulty in merging their inner feeling world with

the external world of identity, ego and recognition.

Traditional astrology also considered the zodiacal state or quality of the luminary. If a planet was in good state (rulership, exaltation, or angular) then the promise was that the planet could deliver greater benefits in life. Aspects take on more meaning and assist in delineation if we consider the zodiacal state of the planet. For example let us consider the Sun in Leo square the Moon in Taurus. Both planets are in the signs of rulership or exaltation which strengthens them and assists in resolving the challenge of the Sun square the Moon far more easily than if the same aspect was placed with Sun in Libra square Moon in Capricorn, where both planets are challenged by their debility. This debility gives an added challenge in resolving the issues. Considera-

tion of the actual condition of the planets in aspect allows the astrologer to be sensitive to the reality of when and how the person may resolve that particular challenge and achieve a better outcome in a given situation.

It has been commented that there has been a trend over recent decades to manipulate the time of delivery of the infant. That is, medical personnel want to work more social hours wherever possible. There are now more births resulting from medical procedures such as Induction and Caesarean section. More babies are born during the hours of daylight, and on weekdays rather than weekends giving more diurnal charts. Is this interference, or is it a parallel to the reality of the changing role of the Father shown through the Sun sign and placement? How is this phenomena reflected in

the individual and their life? Returning to the original principle that the Sun above the horizon indicates that the Sun is generally more powerful than the Moon, indicates that the Father will be considered the more important parental figure. Is this trend reflected sociologically and if so, how? Has the role of the Father in modern society changed bringing the placement of the Sun more frequently above the horizon in a greater percentage of charts?

A recent interview with Health and Community Services shows a radical change in the Father's role. Modern fathers really do take a much more interactive and 'hands on' role and have become more involved in both the ante and post-natal processes of birth and child rearing. Maternal Child and Health Centres report that it is not uncommon for young infants



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As the male role in society has changed, so the placement of the Sun in the chart acts as a barometer in this changing social process.

to be accompanied by both parents on the routine visit to the centre. Sometimes the Father even makes the journey to the health centre without Mother! The trend for mothers to choose an early return to the workplace has been a major influence in the changing role of the father.

As the male role in society has changed, so the placement of the Sun in the chart acts as a barometer in this changing social process. However there are always two sides to the coin - the other side being an increasing number of sole parent families. Astrology shows that whether the Father is present or not there is a male archetype or image shown by the symbol of the Sun by both sign and House placement and aspect. The same is true for the Moon. It may be that the nurturing parent is the father as more fathers take on the role of sole parent.



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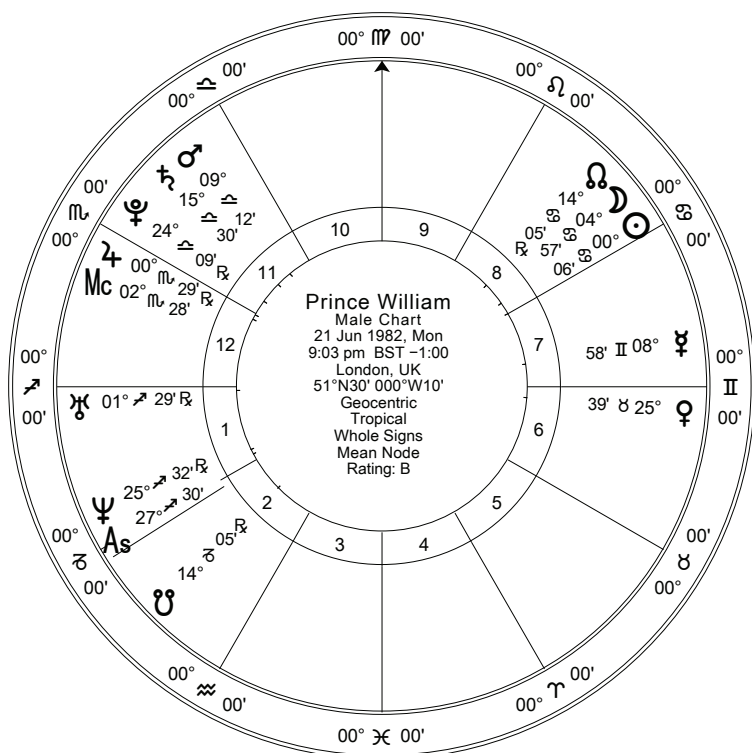
In many cases, where the Sun is above the horizon, the Father may still be an absent figure. This of course will be indicated by some aspect to, or some condition of, the Sun. Traditional astrology shows that there is some weakening of the paternal influence if the Sun is in detriment or fall, that is in either Aquarius or Libra. Nevertheless, the role of the male is defined in the birth map and will be sought in those terms. The specific lack of male archetype will mani-

fest as a search for male attention and interaction from a very early age where the Sun is above the horizon and the Father is absent. This lack will show as a difficulty for females in relating to the opposite sex, and for males as a lack of role model in the developing years. This will also be true where the Mother is absent and the chart is nocturnal and indicates the strong need of a Mother or nurturing figure in the early years. Any compensation, such as a grandparent for

the lack of such an archetype, can prove helpful.

If the parent implicated as the primary source of support during the first decade of life is absent during these years, we are presented with a dilemma. And while the identification of that dilemma is of importance, it is of even greater significance that the shortfall is addressed at some point in life so the absent archetype does not manifest and

It is worth remembering that a planet, or luminary, no matter which sign it occupies, is always true to its nature and trying to express itself.



As the chart is diurnal the father's role takes precedence as he is the hereditary 'heir apparent'. The Moon in its own sign shows the power of the nurturing mother but secondary in role to the father.

become a stumbling block when the infant of today becomes the partner and parent of tomorrow.

In summary, traditional Astrology is a great aid in determining the quality and quantity of the planet's energy. Astrologically, the parental influence is evaluated by the signs, houses, aspects and condition of the Sun and Moon in any given chart. Rulership and Exaltation are desirable but occur in a relatively small number of cases. Detriment and Fall are debilities indicating a difficulty or barrier in revealing their qualities and energies. It is worth remembering that a planet, or luminary, no matter which sign it occupies, is always true to its nature and trying to express itself. Astrology can help in understanding that energy to advantage.

Planet	Rulership	Exaltation	Detriment	Fall
Sun	Leo	Aries	Aquarius	Libra
Moon	Cancer	Taurus	Capricorn	Scorpio

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Chart Examples

Prince William
Birth data: 21 Jun 1982, 9.03 pm, London.

Prince William has an interesting parental statement. His parents, Prince Charles and Princess Diana are represented by the Sun/Moon conjunction in the sign of Cancer. As Cancer is the sign of 'family' this child is important for some reason. In this case that William becomes second in line to the British throne.

Both William's Sun and Moon – in this case an eclipse - also aspect the Mid heaven and Jupiter by trine. This brings the actions of this family and their reputation to public attention. Other features in his chart show that he is born to a family of fame.

The Moon is four degrees ahead of the Sun indicating that Diana was 'eclipsing' Charles one year into the marriage. Both luminaries in Cancer indicate the importance of the family history and lineage. The Moon in rulership shows Diana's family lineage is strong too.

As the chart is diurnal the father's role takes precedence as he is the hereditary 'heir apparent'. The Moon in its own sign shows the power of the nurturing mother but secondary in role to the father. This became apparent after the parents' divorce when access to her son was controlled by the royal family.

The House 8 occupancy of the Sun and Moon shows both family lineage and the line of succession of the crown, which is passed on only through death (or abdication).

Jesse – Birth data deliberately omitted

This is the chart of a child born to middle class parents in the 1960's. Neither the Sun nor Moon has great dignity other than both being strong in angular houses. It is a diurnal chart so one would expect that father has great influence. He has risen from a poor background to achieve in his education and career. His influence was considered negative as shown by the Sun in opposition to Saturn across Houses 10 and 4 respectively.

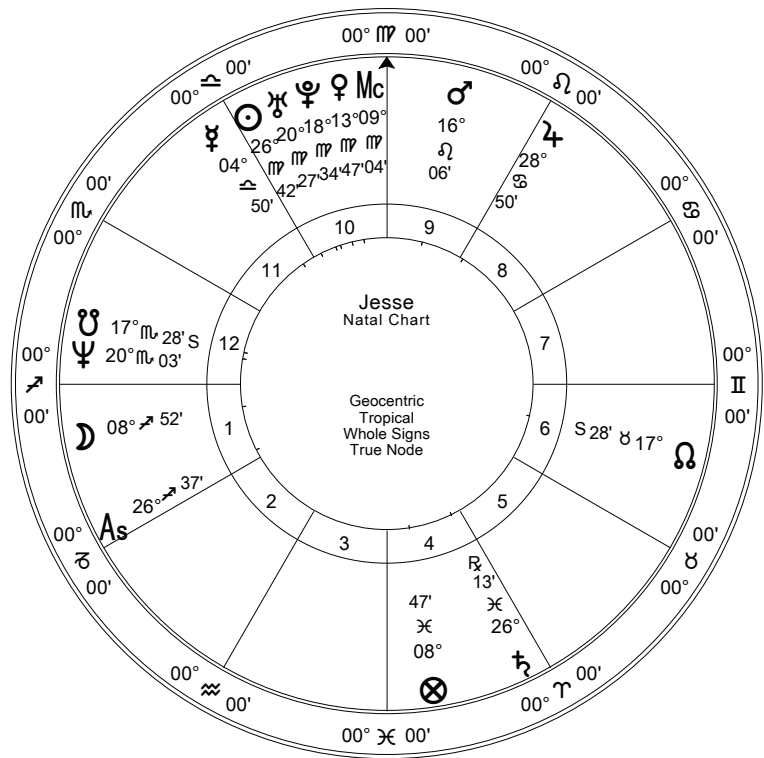
The Moon in House 1 indicates the closeness to the mother who presents as a 'larger than life' figure to the child. The Moon in House 1 is not afflicted and shows the strong influence of the mother.

The father left the family in the child's pre-school years and the mother became sole parent with little ongoing support from the father. The Sun placed in House 10 is another realm of the mother indicating that she took on the role of both mother and father.

The male role model was absent from early years and created a lack of recognition for the child during formative years as well as some early difficulties in relationships with men.

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