

The Parental Dynamic

Applying Medieval Astrology to modern practice

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... "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.

Sometimes referred to as the lights or the luminaries - what do these symbols represent in Traditional Astrology, and how may that knowledge apply today? Used in conjunction with psychological astrology the traditional approach gives a broader foundation for interpretation by highlighting the relevance of personal relationships through luminary placement. At one level the Sun and Moon both represent the outer and inner person. At another primal and archetypal level, the Sun and Moon represent the parents. Sun: Father, Moon: Mother.

In most cultures it is the Father who gives us our name or our identity. This is often given by 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, assertive, 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, passive, feminine qualities.

The first consideration of the ancient astrologer was the position of the Sun. Was it posited above or below the horizon? That is, was it daytime, with the Sun above the horizon in houses seven to twelve, or was it night-time, with the Sun 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, and the parental relationships with the child. When the Sun is below the horizon the chart is considered Nocturnal. When the Sun is above the horizon the chart is considered Diurnal.

The ancients were aware of the importance of the placement of the luminaries in that the calculation of the Part of Fortune (a major Arabic Part) has a specific formula for a diurnal chart and a different formula for a nocturnal chart. This indicates that the placement of the Sun was a priority in calculating the Part of Fortune, as well as interpreting the chart as a whole. 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 from the Mother. Thus the Mother is of great influence and importance during the first decade of life. Note that 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.

Thus in a diurnal (day) chart the Father, the outer role of identity and recognition in the world and external needs, are of greatest importance during the years from birth to age ten, whereas the inner and instinctual nature, family, home, nurturing and emotional needs are of greatest importance from thirty to forty years of age. In a nocturnal (night) chart it is the inner need of the Mother, home, nurturing, and sensitivity which is strongest in the first decade of life. The outer search for identity and recognition and sense of life purpose comes at a much later time during the forties.

Aspects between the Sun and Moon indicate the interaction between the parents. Therefore any aspect (Ptolemaic) is better than no aspect at all, as an aspect indicates an exchange of energy, and thus an interaction. In representing the parents, an aspect between the Sun and Moon indicates a charge or exchange of energy between the parents. When 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 at a soul level. That is, they have different aims, ideals, dreams and needs. They each live in a very different reality, a reality which is not shared with the 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. Thus many first born, or long awaited births, show an aspect between the Sun and Moon, representing the parent’s common desire to reproduce.

Any aspect indicates a connection not only between the parents, but between the inner and outer realms, and therefore an integration within the psyche. When this is lacking the person lives in two worlds and must acquire a mechanism to bridge the internal gulf which they consciously or unconsciously perceive. Thus they have difficulty in merging their inner feeling world with the external world of identity, ego, recognition and personal power.

Traditional astrology also looked at the zodiacal state or quality of the luminary. If a planet was in good state (rulership or exaltation and angular) then the promise was that the planet would 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 which strengthens them and assists in resolving the challenge of the Sun square the Moon far more easily than if the same aspect of Sun square Moon was placed with Sun in Libra square Moon in Capricorn where both planets are debilitated. Where a debility manifests there is an added challenge in resolving the issues. In these cases the sense of self and direction in life may take longer to develop. In delineating a chart, consideration 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 the challenge presented by the astrological configuration.

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. The result is that more children are born during the hours of daylight, and on weekdays rather than weekends. More babies arriving in daylight hours 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 his life? Returning to the original principle that the Sun above the horizon indicates that the Sun is more powerful than the Moon, would indicate by traditional astrology that the Father in such cases would be considered to be the more important parental figure. Is this trend reflected sociologically and if so, how? Has the role of the Father in modern society changed thus bringing the placement of the Sun more frequently above the horizon in a greater percentage of charts. I believe it mirrors the societal changes which have occurred throughout recent decades.

A recent interview with Health and Community Services shows a radical change in the Father’s role. It appears that Sensitive New Age Guys (SNAG) Fathers really do take a much more interactive and “hands on” role in the rearing of their offspring. Fathers are more involved in both the ante and post natal processes of birth and child rearing. Gone are the days when the Father put in a brief appearance and retreated behind the sports pages of the daily newspaper! Maternal Child and Health Centres report that it is not uncommon for young infants 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! Surely, a far cry from the past generations where the Father took a much more distant and discreet relationship with his newly arrived child. Of course, the trend for mothers to make an early return to the workplace has been another major influence in the changing roles of the Father.

So 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. Fathers, represented by the Sun sign, are visibly seen to take a more active role in child rearing. However there are always two sides to the coin, the other side being the 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.

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 image 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 manifest 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 shows as a difficulty for females in relating to the opposite sex, and for males as a lack of a feminine 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 in the early years. Any compensation for the lack of such an archetype can prove helpful.

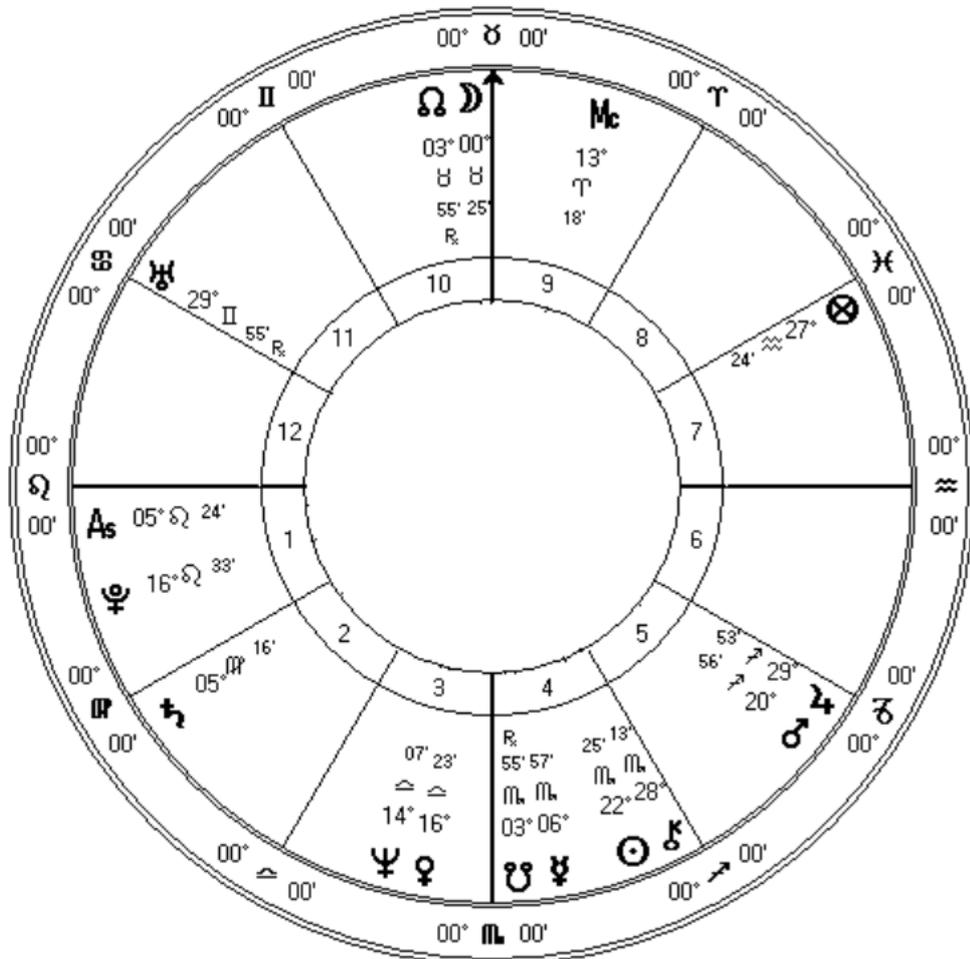
Where the parent implicated as the primary source of support during the first decade of life is absent during that time span, we are presented with a dilemma. However whilst identification of that dilemma is of great importance, it is of even greater significance that the shortfall is addressed at some point in life so that the absent archetype does not manifest and become a stumbling block when the infant of today becomes the partner and parent of tomorrow.

Once awareness occurs our modern society offers many means and therapies to re-enter and re-live, reconstruct and heal the less than ideal situations which may have occurred in our lives from circumstances shown in our birth charts - events far beyond the control of the individual. We can respond to our circumstances by growth from personal development and awareness.

Traditional Astrology is a great aid in determining the quality and quantity of the planet's energy. This allows for a greater understanding of the difficulties encountered on life's journey. As we are a spirit manifest in the reality of a physical body, the timing of particular developmental stages can be of great assistance in understanding the overall plan and the time-frame relevant in each individual life.

PLANET	RULERSHIP	EXALTATION	DETRIMENT	FALL
SUN	Leo	Aries	Aquarius	Libra
MOON	Cancer	Taurus	Capricorn	Scorpio

Prince Charles
Natal Chart
 14 Nov 1948, Sun
 9:14 pm GMT +0:00
 London, England
 51°N30' 00"W08'
Geocentric
Tropical
Whole Signs
Mean Node



Example: Prince Charles, Whole sign houses, Nocturnal chart.

Prince Charles

With his Sun placed in Scorpio in House 4, the chart is Nocturnal. From this we see the importance of the role of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, in his life. Charles' mother is represented by the Moon in House 10, which is an angular house as well as being the house of 'mother'. Clearly she is a major influence in his life which is reinforced by the Moon being in the sign of its exaltation of Taurus. This tells us that mother is important and has 'standing' in life. We can also note that the mother's role is of primary importance during the first decade of his life. No doubt reinforced by the privileged royal lifestyle of which he became aware during those early years.

His father Prince Phillip is shown by the Sun in Scorpio in House 4. Again this luminary is angular, but without dignity. The years influenced by the Sun are when he is in his forties, so we are looking at the period 1987 – 1997. During this period his home, family life and marriage were constantly reported in the media amidst speculation surrounding his role as future King of England. It was during these years that his power and personal reputation came under scrutiny.