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The Sacred Marriage

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This is a matter of owning our own inner masculine for women, or inner feminine for men. The make-up of Mars in a woman's chart, and of Venus in a man's, defines largely the inner partner we need to complete the Sacred Marriage. Once our Venus and Mars are in balance, we have within ourselves the ability to deal with the world through both feminine and masculine perspectives, bringing each to bear at the appropriate time. But before we have achieved that blending and agreement, we are in a situation where we tend to rely on someone else to do the "opposite" side for us. We study those situations, observing what our chosen "expert" does. Then, as we become familiar with the patterns, we finally graduate to the Sacred Marriage within ourselves, and no longer need that external input to do the opposite side for us.

Daniel places emphasis on chart signatures that contain connections, particularly the harsh ones, from Pluto and Saturn, to the natal Mars or Venus. These people have a special set of lessons and an urgency about those lessons. For these evaluations, he uses a 10° Ptolemaic aspects.

The beginning point in following Daniel's models is always with the lineage signature: Moon (sign and, to a lesser extent, house) and South Node (house, and to a lesser extent, sign). To understand the Venus and Mars in a chart, we need to know where the lineage has provided expertise; in other words, the Moon sign. There might be a renunciate signature of the Moon (e.g. Aries, Gemini, Sagittarius) or expertise in intimacy but not pair bonding (Leo, Taurus), or in pair bonding but not intimacy (Libra). Then,

for Daniel's model of the Sacred Marriage, we shift to the Venus and Mars signatures. These, together with the Sun, are the tools and equipment of the current life, those things one will be able to work with in trying to make progress. So we look at the relationship between these three planets.

Sun and Venus in the same sign for women provides a clear signature of the intent and the "fuel" (Sun) for achieving it. In different signs, the intent is defined more clearly by the Venus signature, with the Sun providing information on how she will reach the goal. Similarly for Sun and Mars for men. Obviously there are more people with Sun and Venus in the same sign than there are with Sun and Mars in the same sign, since Venus never gets more than 48 degrees away from the Sun, whereas Mars can be in any sign without reference to the Sun. So there is an implication that women are more likely to be clear about their relationship intent than men. But this is not guaranteed. Some of the semisextile signs are the most contrasting, e.g. Aries with Pisces or Aries with Taurus.

Next he points out the difference between relationship intent and physical attraction. The Sun, Venus, and Mars describe the physical attraction characteristics in a chart, but the Ascendant-Descendant describe the relationship intent. This axis comes in six pairs, making no distinction between the sign on the ascendant and that on the descendant in the analysis, i.e. Taurus rising and Scorpio rising are the same relationship intent signatures. Daniel's experience indicates that about two-thirds of the horoscopes he examines show a split between the

relationship intent and who we are attracted to. This is dealt with in different ways by different cultures. Some essentially arrange marriages based on social condition, horoscopes, or other traditions. Others, like the French, assume there will be lovers and mistresses, but they don't talk about them. In the U.S., we tend to be rather hypocritical, Daniel suggests, presumably because there is a fair amount of infidelity going on but very little acknowledgement of it.

We also find clues in the horoscope about how relationship will work out for the individual. Some will have a series of high-speed monogamous relationships, e.g. cardinal and fire signs, especially Sagittarius and Aries, but not forgetting Libra's potential for "doing" their relationship thing over and over. Others may have signatures of long-term commitment without sparks, e.g. Earth and fixed signs, typically Capricorn, Scorpio and the like. Other signs might indicate the possibility of non-committed, parallel relationships, e.g. Gemini, Sagittarius, or Aquarius. Romantic Pisces could also fall into this category if they are unable to set boundaries about commitment at any one time. All these suggestions are only hints, not to be interpreted for every chart that has ascendant and descendant playing along these axes. But a combination of these signatures with confirmation from the positions by house and sign of the ascendant and descendant rulers, Mars, Venus, and the Sun can be quite telling in interpreting the actual relationship behavior.

The Sacred Marriage is a fulfillment of the Venus-Mars relationship within the individual's nature. It depends on full development of the masculine and feminine in balance and in harmony. This set of current intents may be very different than the lineage defined by Moon and South Node. The first requirement in the process of achieving the Sacred Marriage is for a woman to work on her Mars and for a man to work on his Venus. Then they have to understand how Venus and Mars relate in their lives. Each has its own set of 12 sub-archetypes that allow the feminine to express in a very masculine or Yang way, e.g. Venus in Aries or Sagittarius; or that allow the masculine to express in a decidedly feminine

way, i.e. Mars in Taurus or Cancer. So Daniel provided insight into the archetypes, assuming that we could derive the feminine from the masculine and vice versa.

A selection of those insights follows, beginning with examples of the masculine Venus followed by examples of the feminine Mars.

Masculine Venus in Virgo: This individual is encountering the Virgin Priestess, using the older definition of virgin, where it describes a woman who does not "belong" to any single man, but is independent and self-sufficient in her service of the goddess. This man might want to bond and form long-term relationships, e.g. if he has Libra rising. But he continually attracts into his life the Virgin Priestess type, who will tolerate a relationship for some period, but not to the stage of becoming a possession or dependent of the man. These woman have no intention of bonding. He needs to do inner, Sacred Marriage work first. Then he can be attracted to something other than what he started with. The primary thing to observe here is that attraction is not logical but dictated by the needs of the individual and reflected in the Venus, Mars, and ascendant-descendant signatures in the chart. So the man with Venus in Virgo needs to become self-sufficient to the extent that he doesn't perceive a desire to trap women and get into a bondage style of relationship with those he associates with. This can happen when he has come to grips with the need of practical service to his feminine needs, when he can perform the Sacred Work and service that he might otherwise demand of his partner. Then he can attract someone who will not be scared off by the neediness expressed through projecting his Venus on her.

Masculine Venus in Aries: This is a Warrior identity of the feminine. Athleticism, spontaneity, independence, competitiveness and assertiveness are emphasized, Again, a Cancer or Libra ascendant-descendant signature will probably make it very difficult for these people to draw a partner interested in settling down with them until they have done the inner work of becoming independent and adventurous in their own right. These two signatures (Venus

in Virgo and Venus in Aries for men) really require the individual to be prepared to operate outside the cultural archetypes of normalcy.

Masculine Venus in Libra: This is a Hera signature. Hera, the wife of Zeus, was known for her great jealousy in dealing with the philanderings of her husband, and in generally carping about his behavior. But he was the archetypal Sagittarian! The other side, the reason she did not leave this malingering miscreant, is that he was, after all, the King. This conveyed a status and power derived from his that she found sufficiently attractive and important to put up with his behaviors and only scold him rather than leave him. This signature wants the feminine to be the #1 priority in life. In contrast with Venus in Virgo in a man's chart, requiring that the Sacred Work be accomplished, this is about relationship, pair bonding being the most important factor.

Feminine Mars in Pisces: Here are Dionysus parallels. He was the god of wine, women and song, but his basic ability was the ability to be comfortable to the women around him. They could let go with him, and enjoy their rapture and ecstasy in his company. He has been described as the god of gay men. This signature is closest to the feminine principle but has a transpersonal quality. Dionysus marries in only one of the stories. Ariadne was a Tantrika, Scorpio-type avant-garde priestess. She observed the emergence of a new type of masculine/solar principle. She helped Theseus through the labyrinth but later was abandoned as Theseus moved into patriarchal

thinking. She then matches with Dionysus. Here we are seeing the search for a man with a really well-developed feminine, feeling side. Her lesson is to develop self-nurturing, self-empathy rather than self-condemnation, and the ability to take care of her own feeling needs. Once she has done that, she can deal with men of various types, while providing her own inner feeling support system.

Feminine Mars in Sagittarius: This is a Vision Quest warrior signature. These women have a need to go on to the next challenge, the next excitement, and to keep traveling rather than settle down and nurture. The lesson is to learn how to support that need from her own resources. Maybe this involves shaping her own travel plans or her own growth process before getting into a relationship, and maintaining that independence when a possible relationship does surface. If she depends on the man to express her need to travel and to experience new dimensions or to be her spiritual teacher, she will only become frustrated with being shut off from the world.

Feminine Mars in Cancer: The need here is for a stable, loving, giving, and nurturing householder, a perfect Mr. Mom. There tends to be a price for the Cancerian signature: he may be very nurturing with the family, but may not be very intimate with his wife. She needs to provide her own environment of love and nurturance, taking care of her own needs. Given this, the right kind of partner will be much easier to find.