



Dorothy Oja's

Patterns of Compatibility And Conflict"

By Ivan Halvorson

"I am a working Astrologer," Dorothy said. Astrology is my only occupation."

Over the last 20 years Dorothy has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and practical experience in the area of human relations. Last month she shared much of this knowledge with valley astrologers. Here is a brief outline of Friday's lecture.

Friday *night's* lecture summary

You can learn to recognize patterns of compatibility and conflict in an astrological chart. Once acquired, this skill is a valuable tool for determining the inherent strengths and weakness in a relationship. Dorothy stressed that relationships are not limited to your most significant other. We all enjoy a variety of relationships with neighbors, friends, associates, and organizations. Even the mail carrier and grocery person are part of your life.

Three primary needs of any relationship:

Mars and its aspects are needed if you are going to experience consistency in an important relationship. They provide the stimulus, the spark, the chemistry, the sex, anger and aggression. All successful relationships have one or more of these elements.

Venus and/or Jupiter and their aspects provide the fun, joy, ease, and expansiveness. They raise and support the pure pleasure of a relationship.

Saturn and its aspects provide commitment. They are the glue that binds the relationship. They provide endurance and consistency. Any important relationship has a strong Saturn aspect. If you are interested in a short term, or fly-by-night relationship you may substitute Uranus for Saturn.

Bonding Indicators —These are the twelve aspects that show up with regularity and consistency in charts associated with successful relationships.

"I always look for the strongest aspect between the two charts — the most exact," Dorothy said. However, not any aspect will do the job. One of the following must be involved: Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus and/or Mars. The most exact aspect involving one of these planets describes the major theme of the relationship and the main reason why the people are together. "It works like a charm. It is really amazing."

"We do relationships by the numbers. If you have an exact aspect with another person you are going to feel it strongly — for better or worse," Dorothy said. "We are talking about what really grabs you as a person. What makes you resonate." And if you have several aspects that are close there will be several themes.

When you are attracted to someone you wake up. You are invited to give something of yourself. It reminds you of who you are. It helps you blossom and develop. Often this involves change and that can be a challenge.

In order to do good relationship astrology you must understand more than the natal chart. You need some indication of the clients' needs are in that relationship. This will determine what the client wants or expects to receive. The wants and needs of a person at the age of twenty are entirely different than at fifty or seventy.

"When I do a wedding chart I ask the couple to write out (separately) what it is they want from the marriage. What are their expectation? What are their needs? What will the conunion of marriage do for them?"

In the best of relationships there is a balance of hard and soft aspects. Trines are not better than squares. We would accomplish nothing if we had a chart of only trines. Squares and oppositions are areas where growth will occur. They provide the stimulus and challenge needed for progress.

Twelve Primary Bonding Aspects:

Most people have four to six of the following aspects. The more you have the better:

Sun-Moon aspects:

The strongest one is the Sun-Moon conjunction. Here you have the traditional male Sun and the female Moon. This aspect compensates for many difficult aspects. Sun-Moon trines and sextiles are positive while oppositions and squares are going to be a little more difficult.

Sun-Mars aspects:

These can be competitive and exciting. They help keep the people in the relationship going forward, ever setting new goals and establishing higher standards.

Moon-Mars aspects:

These can be the most sexually stimulating. They are very exciting because emotions respond quickly to the influence of Mars. However, any aspect with Mars can be argumentative.

Matched horizons or Meridian angles:

These are natural oppositions. Any combination of these is useful. The associated signs determine the resonance, and if they are well matched there is attraction.

Sun-Ascendant aspects:

Conjunctions and squares resonate most loudly. They can bring out the best in the other person or they can trigger competition and/or dominance. However, these can have a positive influence. They can be thought of as enhancing.

Moon-Ascendant aspects:

Emotions are going to be right up front. The Ascendant person will charge-up the Moon person's emotions. However, these aspects blend so they are not as black and white as they appear. In fact they may go back and forth.

Moon-Saturn aspects:

I find that this one is good for longevity. I don't like using the word karma since I think the whole chart is Karmic. But I do think some level of responsibility occurs with that aspect. There is a sense that one person in the relationship feels they owe the other something. There is some binding quality here that has to do with responsibility. Squares and oppositions can be very difficult. Often there is some obstacle or challenge to overcome. Conjunctions are more neutral and their influence depends upon other aspects. The prevailing wisdom shows the Saturn person as owing a debt in the relationship. Dorothy is not fully convinced of this.

Sun-Saturn aspects:

Here the key word is Harmony. Relationships with this aspect have something important to accomplish together, something important to exchange. As Dorothy was discussing this aspect, someone in the audience said that her moon trines her husband's Saturn, plus her Sun conjuncts her husband's Saturn. They have been married 53 years.

Jupiter with strong aspects to Sun, Moon, Venus, or Mars:

You need some Jupiter aspect to ease the tension when those inevitable conflicts arise. The willingness to give to one another is found in this aspect. Over-indulgence, extravagance, and over-spending can be the downside of Jupiter aspects.

Mars-Ascendant aspects:

The key words are exciting and stimulating. These are pushing aspects. They push the other person to be more and do more. However the people in the relationship can become over-competitive.

Venus-Moon aspects:

These aspects make up for a lot of other conflicts. All Venus-Moon aspects have positive attributes. There is a natural affection between people with these aspects. They just like each other. They like each other's persona. This makes up for a lot of other issues.

Contact to the ruler of the seventh houses:

Saturn is the ruler of the seventh house. If one person in the relationship has Cancer rising with Capricorn on the 7th you want to see what the aspects are to the other person's Saturn. Here I do not discriminate between aspects. Any one of them will work. All aspects have impact. Just being in the 7th house gives an indication of what the person is looking for in a partner.

Compatible Moons:

Also of interest are compatible Moons. Trines and sextiles are positive and squares more difficult. With squares, the couple's timing may be off. Their habits may be very different. But it can work. Actually, everything can work to some degree. How it works depends upon the level of consciousness and other factors.

Compatible Mercurys:

Also of interest are compatible Mercurys. Trines and sextiles are positive while squares can be difficult. You need the Moon and Mercury aspects to resolve the everyday problems.

In closing —

Dorothy does not place much emphasis on the aspects of Neptune, Uranus, and Pluto. In her experience these are not as important for bonding as the inner planets, Sun, Moon, Saturn and Jupiter.

When working with the inner planets, look first at the strongest mathematical aspect. Then look for compatible Moons and Mercurys. This is a good beginning for assessing any relationship.

Planets express their energies in many ways. We should avoid getting locked into rigid patterns of definition. Keep your mind open to all imaginable possibilities.