

Nelda Tanner

Inclination for Declination

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As an observer, I think gaining more knowledge in certain areas of study can work in our behalf at a later time because we have a greater understanding of the “Big Picture” when re-introduced to a specific study area such as declinations.

Declinations Defined

Nelda Tanner set the stage for the lecture with definitions. The first thing that she did was to define declination. And to do that, other terms such as ecliptic and celestial equator had to be defined. The ecliptic is the apparent path of the sun through the constellations of the zodiac belt. The celestial equator is an imaginary extension of the earth’s equator into space. The declination is the degree north(+) or south(-) of the equator.

As we learned in grade school, the earth is tilted on its axis and that tilt is 23 degrees and approximately 27 minutes. That means when the sun is at its greatest northern declination in the summer (0 degrees?) and southern declination in winter (0 degrees?) it is at its greatest declination. Then when the sun intersects or crosses the equator it is a 0 degrees on the first days of Aries and Libra. Note that the four reference points all happen in cardinal signs hence, the cardinal points, east, north, west, and south.

Out of Bounds

Nelda went on to add that the sun sets the boundaries for the planets. Anything greater than 23 degrees and 27 minutes of declination is considered to be out of bounds.” Planets in that classification in a birth chart have a tendency toward “maverick” or unusual behavior.

Interestingly enough, our speaker stated that Neptune is never out of bounds and the Moon can be the farthest out of bounds.

We then learned that the signs Aries through Virgo are of northern declination and Libra through Pisces are southern declination. According to Nelda, solstice points or anticia (or mirror) of each planet can mark a turning point” in some way when aspected. Although these are not planets they do act as “hidden forces.”

Next to consider is the orb in determining parallels (same declination) and anti-parallels (opposite declination but same degree). If the declinations are under 20 degrees use a 1° orb, and if they are over that number one should narrow the orb to 15 minutes. The energies of any two planets within orb should exert a powerful influence.

Southern Planets Symbolize Karma

Planets in southern declination symbolize karma that is to be resolved and that one is working through this lifetime, and northern declination planets indicate where we have talent and power to deal with karma and to build good credits for another lifetime.

Transits to Natal Declinations

Perhaps the most important thing to take from this lecture is that the transits to natal declinations and the secondary progressed aspects to the natal positions have much to reveal. The thought that came to me as a planetary investigator is that these transiting and progressed aspects to the natal can go a long way in addressing things going on in a chart that we may not see by the conventional planetary longitudinal aspects.

With the moon being very active by progression, the first planet it crosses (conjuncts by declination) after birth sets an unconscious natural response in the personality. That last statement offers much food for cosmic thought.

The ASA wins again. Another great speaker with more tools for our astrological tool box.

Thank you Nelda!