

Planetary Profiles: Venus, Mars, and Saturn

IN OUR LAST ARTICLE [July/August '96] we started a dissertation on Venus, which was in a certain sense sidetracked ere well commenced. Here we continue.

The intrinsic nature of Venus may be summed up in the ideas of Harmony and Rhythm; therefore, she has the tendency to draw together all who are in accord, to unite mankind in pleasant companionships of varying degrees which we call friendship and love. The department of our lives in which she will exercise her beneficent office is, of course, indicated by the house, and the quality or degree by her configurations with other planets. If well-placed in the third house, which signifies brothers and sisters, we may conclude that we have *earned* the love of our relatives by devotion in a former life and that their affection for us will brighten this earthly existence. From the angle of the 7th house she may draw to us a soul companion whose conjugal love would make this earth seem heaven-like, for true marriage, marriage of souls, is a song of ecstatic joy, a paean of praise by kindred spirits. It is taught by the angels in heaven to the tuneful accompaniment of the Song of the Spheres, and whoever



Mars



Venus

succeeds in bringing even the faintest chord of that celestial harmony to earth has a song of joy in his heart, a source of gladness which no sorrow can diminish.

From the 11th house Venus will attract kind friends whose affections we have won before, for the horoscope shows what we have earned—joy or sorrow. We have made our “luck”; the stars only mark the time to reap, as the sun calls the farmer to harvest. The kindness of friends today was enlisted yester-life by our helpful acts. Nor can we *keep* friends, life partners, relatives, in bonds of love unless we keep feeding the fires of love.

We must continue being brotherly and sisterly to retain affection from such relatives. It requires a friend to hold friendship, and we must act as lovers to merit continued conjugal affection, or the love light will wane no matter how well Venus is placed. The planets show only the trend of things; we have made the tendencies given by a well-placed Venus and we can also mar them. If we do, an afflicted Venus in the horoscope of our next life will make it difficult for us to attract love. Let us so build that the Venus ray may be the brightest of all.

Mars is the exact opposite of Venus, and if we

study him now while the characteristics of Venus are fresh in mind, we may learn more of his nature. The first great contrast I wish to point out is that the higher the status of a person in the scale of evolution, the better Venus is placed in the horoscope, and the younger the soul, the more it is dominated by the discordant martial ray. The animals are wholly under the sway of Mars, for as Venus nourishes the love nature, so Mars fosters the passions. An illustration will make the difference clear.

Suppose Venus is Ruler and situated in the 7th House (representing the public), sextile to Jupiter in the 9th (Religion), trine to the Moon in the 11th (Friends). It is then easy to see that here we have a person well disposed toward the public (Venus in 7th). Jupiter is benevolence, and his being placed in the 9th House shows his work to be along religious lines. The Moon signifies the people, and is in the house of friends. In short, good planets in good aspect describe him as a benefactor of mankind, much esteemed for his benevolence.

Now take an opposite case, where Mars is ruler, placed in 10th House, denoting social status, square to Uranus (whose keynote may be called Ingenuity) in the 7th House, which is the public. These are so-called malefic planets and aspects, signifying that this person uses his ingenuity as a menace to the public; and if Mars is also square Saturn, the planet which binds and restricts, and Saturn is placed in the 12th House (sorrow, trouble, and imprisonment), we may conclude that his depredations will bring him into jail as a public enemy.

But let us now suppose that the potential public enemy comes as a child under the influence of the developed benefactor, that his horoscope is read, the latent tendencies to evil detected, and pains

taken to eradicate them ere they get a chance to flower. Saturn in the 12th House will always make him a recluse; very few are ever strong enough to break the bonds of Saturn, but the power of Mars may be turned to construction, and Uranus may bring ingenious inventions from his laboratory to the public. No matter how evil a horoscope seems, it also has good points, and if we as parents can find and bring them out, great will be our treasure in heaven.

Proceeding with our comparison of Mars and Venus, let us not make the mistake of thinking that Venus is altogether lovely and Mars totally evil.

Each has light and shadow, and ours is the privilege of living in the best or the worst of their phases. The intrinsic nature of Mars is "dynamic energy"; from him comes ambition to accomplish; he furnishes the power for the world's work. Necessarily the hustle and bustle incident to the expression of this constructive energy

Mars energy drives people to face disagreeable situations and overcome difficulties that would discourage people dominated by the Venus ray. Blended, the Venus ray softens the harshness of Mars, and thus the highest good is reached.

cause friction between man and man. Thus anger and hate are engendered by the Mars energy in operation along various lines. Mars never generates this discordant element directly; it is produced by our method of using his energy, and it is as much a mistake to blame Mars for our temper as it is to blame well-prepared food for causing indigestion when our stomach is out of order. In the latter case the stomach should be blamed for not performing its duty properly and for spoiling the good food instead of utilizing it in the economy of the system. Similarly, when the Mars ray works through us as passion, we are to blame for not better using this great constructive force.

Then again, how wonderfully everything is balanced in the Kingdom of God, the solar system, and how necessary these opposites! If we had only the Venus ray, we could never really learn to love

the good and the beautiful, for we distinguish only by contrast. If nothing around us were ugly or evil, the desirable qualities of the opposite condition would not appear so marked. People who aim to cultivate exclusively the Venus faculty of love and beauty find their esthetic sense revolted more and more by the sordid phases of life, which they bewail, but in a helpless manner, because they have mistakenly repressed the Mars ray and killed out their temper. Mars energy drives people to face disagreeable situations and overcome difficulties that would discourage people dominated by the Venus ray. Blended, the Venus ray softens the harshness of Mars, and thus the highest good is reached.

The dynamic energy of Mars, which is the power that moves the world from the civil and industrial standpoints, under certain afflictions becomes recklessness and destructiveness, making the person so expressing it a dangerous man, a public enemy. When the Venus ray is afflicted, it curtails the sense of beauty and order; hence the person becomes slothful, disorderly, and lacking in proper self-respect. Incapable, because of the affliction, of feeling true love, such a person becomes perverted and licentious, and it is often said of him: "He is his own worst enemy." Such people do not harm others intentionally; yet they spread an immense amount of unhappiness among those whom they profess to love. One of these classes is dangerous to society because it has not the love ray of Venus to guide its exuberant energy; the other, because it lacks the dynamic energy necessary to carry its good intentions into execution.

We see these classes in the world, and the misery they cause themselves and others; but usually



Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld

Elijah on Mount Horeb

"A great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice"—I Kings 19:11-12.

their character has become "set," and we can do but little to change their conditions and must leave them to the schoolmaster "Experience." Children are growing up among us and our chances of helping them are great.

When the "Spirit" spoke to the churches in Revelation, it found fault in many directions; but one received a stinging rebuke: "I wish thou wert hot or cold, but because thou art neither I will spew thee out of my mouth." The so-called "bad-boy" is not nearly so difficult a problem as one who is so goody-goody that he is likely to turn out to be a good-for-nothing, a pitiable human wreck. You will do well to look the latter over constantly and thoroughly, and remind him of the slightest neglect or mistake. It takes strength to be a sinner, and the worst boy becomes the best man when Mars has been downed by Venus; but the greatest firmness is required to correct an afflicted Venus and give the child sufficient dynamic energy to be really,

instead of seemingly, good.

Since the intrinsic nature of Mars is *dynamic energy*, that is to say, force in action, people who have Mars strong at birth are people who make a stir in the world so far as their environment reaches. They are so full of life and ambition that they sweep all other people's rights aside and force their own views, ideas, and methods to the front regardless of whom it hurts or harms. They are impulsive and always ready to initiate novelties on the spur of the moment. They strongly resent objections to their plans, but usually lack sufficient persistence to carry their designs into execution. If obstacles of magnitude present themselves, they abandon their plans as suddenly as they conceived them and commence to ride another hobbyhorse with the same ardor that marked their previous ventures, and with the same disregard of reason.

In the Kingdom of God all things are balanced to produce the highest ultimate good to all, and so the influence of Saturn, another so-called evil planet, is used to offset the exuberant life of Mars. The intrinsic nature of Saturn is *obstruction*; he is as slow and persistent as Mars is impulsive and quick to change; he takes no chances, but looks before he leaps, and his cold, calculating reason misses no flaw in any scheme.

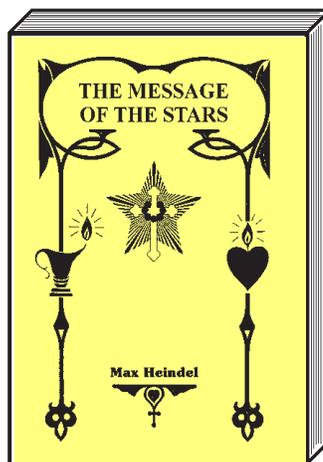
In the horoscope of a young soul, Mars is dominant and the man grows along physical lines much as animals do under the law of the survival of the fittest; but gradually the thumbscrews of Saturn are applied, squares and oppositions bring sorrow and suffering, Saturn is placed above Mars in the horoscope to frustrate and check him, till it seems as if every effort is futile because of the Saturnian obstruction.

Elijah could not hear the voice of guidance in the fire, the storm, or the earthquake, but when the tumult was over, he heard "the still, small voice" to cheer him. Likewise with us, while we yield to the unchecked Mars impulses, our lives are too turbulent to admit of communion with the Higher Self, but when the sorrows of Saturn have chastened the unruly Mars spirit, when the night seems darkest, as in Elijah's cave, then we also may hear the voice that shall speak peace after the storm. □

—Max Heindel

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