

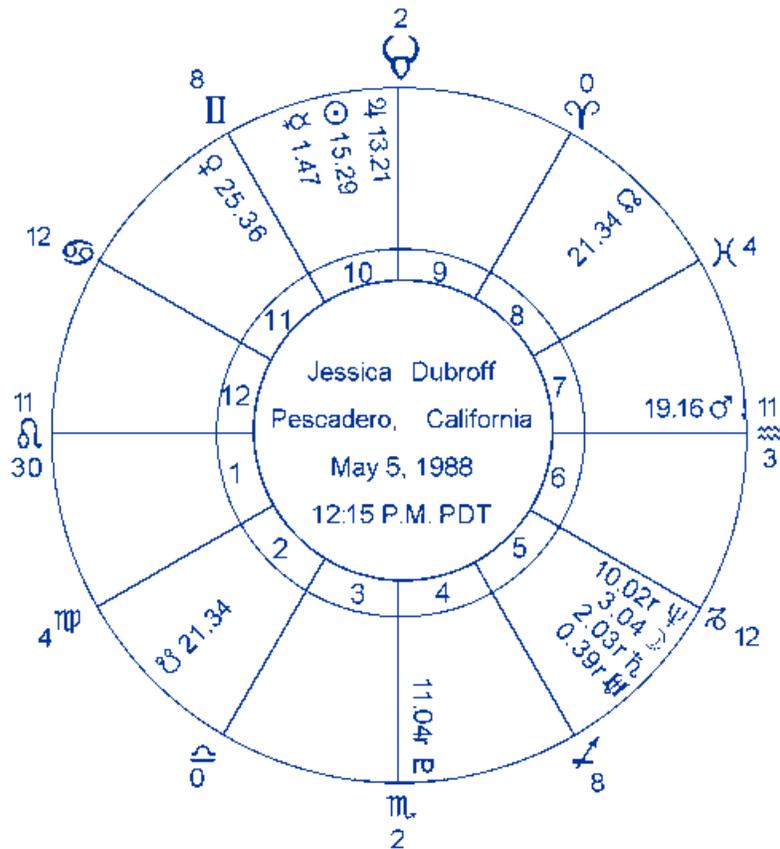
# ASTROLOGY

## *Astrology Looks at a Fatal Flight*

**C**HILDREN and their education have been prominent in the news recently. As usual, a tragic event helps focus the public mind upon a subject of national concern, namely, the need for reformation of popular concepts of education and safety. However, this article is devoted to learning astrology rather than entering into the controversy of how best to educate a child.

On April 11, 1996, the crash of a small plane in Cheyenne, Wyoming ended the dreams and lives of two adults and a seven-year-old child. The child, Jessica Dubroff, and her parents were the center of national news for a short time. Jessica was presumed to be at the controls of the airplane at the time of its crash in an effort to establish a record as the youngest pilot to fly across the country.

Children are born with a horoscope that pictures a configuration of the psychic forces which initiate in them and impel a long series of growing experiences. The actual birth environment of nurture, love, discipline, education and general exposure closely corresponds to the child's inner subconscious activity and pattern as shown by the horoscope. In addition, a child interprets its environment through its own unique pattern of consciousness which the horoscope pictures. Thus two children with the same parents may see their parents quite differently due to their individual sensitivity



and interpretation patterns. To a child, environment is largely the parents, especially the mother. In many cases, such as adoption, the biological parents do not flesh out the child's environment. Increasingly today, with our high divorce rate, children receive the *father* and *mother* psychological components from only one parent.

How does Jessica Dubroff's horoscope picture her childhood environment compared with the report given by the press? To what degree do her own dreams, ambitions and aspirations match those of her parents for her? Was her accidental death strictly attributable to misjudgment on the part of adults, or does it fit the "need-for-experi-

ence pattern” shown by the horoscope?

The following is offered to show that the psychological environment in Jessica’s short life “out-pictured” the pattern of her horoscope. Had she lived longer, the horoscope would identify the mental and emotional dynamics by which she would have continued to experience growth in the school of life.

In Jessica’s horoscope, Leo rises at the time of birth. Therefore, the “planet” which best characterizes her is the Sun. She is described as a sunny, happy, smiling child—and more. The *San Jose*

***No matter what influence a sign may have intrinsically, that influence is conditioned by the planets through which the sign must focus.***

*Mercury News* April 11, 1996, relates that “At the Three-Zero Cafe at Half Moon Bay Airport, where Jessica took her lessons, owner Mark Smith said he was stunned when he heard the news early Thursday. ‘Jessica was 7 years old going on 25; had the world by the tails; sweet, smart, articulate; really aware. She was very excited about what was going on.’” Elsewhere in the same article, “She was so confident she even spoke to her mother, Lisa Blair Hathaway, by telephone as she revved the engine on the runway.”

The confidence of the child is a mirror image of the confidence and encouragement given by her parents. Even when times were financially difficult her mother saw to it that Jessica had much private instruction in music. Jessica played the guitar, trumpet and piano. She read adult-level books. It is interesting to note that Venus, which rules the 3rd house of communication and education, is placed in the 11th house of hopes and wishes in Gemini, the sign of communication. Not all benefits were given freely by her parents; of necessity some were the result of personal hard work. Lessons in horseback riding were exchanged for her helping take care of the animals. Her father paid for flying lessons.

Is the earth element conventional in Jessica’s chart? In this horoscope both Sun and Moon are in earth signs. Additionally, the Midheaven, Uranus, Saturn and Neptune are in earth signs. The Sun, being the ruler of the Ascendant, should enhance the strength of the earth signs. However, signs express their archetypal energies through the visible planets which both focus and reveal them. This horoscope reminds us that no matter what influence a sign may have intrinsically, that influence is conditioned by the planets through which the sign must focus.

Earth signs will focus the consciousness upon the practical, physical side of life, such as environmental concerns. Outer planets (beyond Saturn) will modify conventional attitudes, each in its own way. Uranus, Neptune and Pluto all tend to promote nonordinary attitudes, heightened sensitivity, and consciousness-expanding concepts. Uranus and Neptune in the earth sign Capricorn, combined with aspects of Pluto to the Taurus Sun-Jupiter conjunction, will manifest anything but a conventional response to earthly matters. The April 29, 1996 issue of *People* magazine observes that “Little in Jessica’s short life fell within the confines of convention. She never attended school, had no children’s books, watched no TV at home, played with no toys, numbered more adults as friends than children and was a vegetarian who snacked on red bell peppers, not M&Ms. But whatever advantages Jessica did or did not have as the child of an idealistic New Age mother who calls herself a spiritual healer, her last months seem to have been nearly idyllic.”

The serious, adult-oriented environment created by Jessica’s mother is clearly indicated by the Moon in Capricorn, as well as by the Moon’s conjunction to Saturn. The mother’s attraction to spiritual healing may be seen in Uranus conjunct the Moon, as well as the Moon’s conjunction to Neptune on the 6th house cusp.

Environmental influences which come through the Sun, representing authority, are typically fulfilled through one’s father. Lloyd Dubroff, Jessica’s father, was a financial genius, an unconventional entrepreneur who “liked to go out on a limb and saw it off.” Sun in Taurus in Jessica’s

10th house suggests a strong active financial status. Jupiter's conjunction to the Sun reinforces this picture of "big finances." The Sun-Jupiter square to Mars show strong drive and an even reckless courage. Mars positioned in Aquarius suggests an unconventional attitude, not only in business but in marriage (Mars in 7th house), in religion and philosophy (Aries on 9th cusp), and toward home life (Scorpio on the 4th cusp).

Pluto's position in intense Scorpio and in the 4th house of emotional comfort suggests a deep-seated emotional insecurity which periodically manifests. Early in life this is primarily evident in the response to the parents. The 4th—10th house opposition of Pluto to Sun and Jupiter suggests Jessica's susceptibility to tension between the parents in their financial struggles. Since the 10th and 4th houses signify parental influences, so too do their occupying signs, in this case the financial signs Scorpio and Taurus. Jessica's young life was subject to both riches and bankruptcy, unconventional marriage and divorce. Pluto in opposition to both Sun and Jupiter pictures a likely periodic joining (opposition aspect) of purpose (Sun) and great optimism (Jupiter) with an intense need (Scorpio) to achieve emotional fulfillment (transformative Pluto in watery Scorpio). Pluto's square to Mars indicates that the emotional fulfillment will be sought through challenge, a need to prove one's self, possibly in finances (Scorpio and Taurus) and through unconventional means (Aquarius).

Jessica gave half her monthly allowance to a children's organization in India. Others might describe this fixed T-square pattern, which includes Scorpio, Mars, and Jupiter (ruler of the 8th house) as a picture of a death wish, but to people acting out this pattern it might seem like a perfectly normal, highly optimistic, God-will-provide-and-protect approach to life and finances, as denoted by a strong Jupiter (angular & elevated) in a fixed pattern of hyperoptimism and excessive self-confidence.

Physically, the principle of Scorpio is to absorb nutrients and eliminate waste, thus sustaining and protecting physical life. When through age or accident the Scorpio principle can no longer sustain life functions, the inner person is separated from

the outer vehicle. The corresponding house, the 8th, is a channel for life-sustaining energy, transformation, and the elimination of what is not necessary. By analogy, when the energy pattern of the 8th house can no longer sustain life, death ensues. In other words, it is through some failure, as shown by the 8th sign and 8th house function, that death occurs.

In Jessica's horoscope, Jupiter is the primary focus of Pisces 8th house cusp. Neptune as co-ruler would also focus 8th house energy. Mars and Pluto connected with the 8th sign Scorpio would also play a part in 8th house events. Being the 8th house cusp ruler, Jupiter's failure, as through an incorrect judgment, could result in death. In Jessica's horoscope 10th house Jupiter is personed as the instructor/co-pilot killed beside her on her fateful last day. Sun conjunct Jupiter describes not only an internal dynamic but also Jessica's relation to her father. According to the saying "planets are people," both Sun and Jupiter square Mars in fixed signs denote a person of inflexible drive to reach the top. Just prior to the airplane accident a commercial pilot at the same field had canceled his flight due to poor weather conditions. Pride, anticipated glory in setting a record, financial concerns regarding a delay, mental/emotional distraction, are some of the suggestions offered to explain why two grown men, one a professional flyer and instructor, made the decision for the plane to take off with its three occupants. In any case, two grown men made mistakes in judgment, the same kind of mistake which Jessica had built into her own soul pattern in the past, which resulted in death for all three individuals.

The study of horoscopy is not simply an intellectual discipline, certainly not meant to be used as a parlor game. Its real value lies in its ability to provide one with a privileged means of making more informed choices in how he lives his life, based upon the "blueprint" of the soul it discloses. We may learn not only about ourselves, but, as in this instance, we may see how knowledge of astrology sheds light on the behavior of other people, thereby increasing our respect for the significance of this soul science and further encouraging us to communicate its value to others. □

—Dewey Ross Duffel