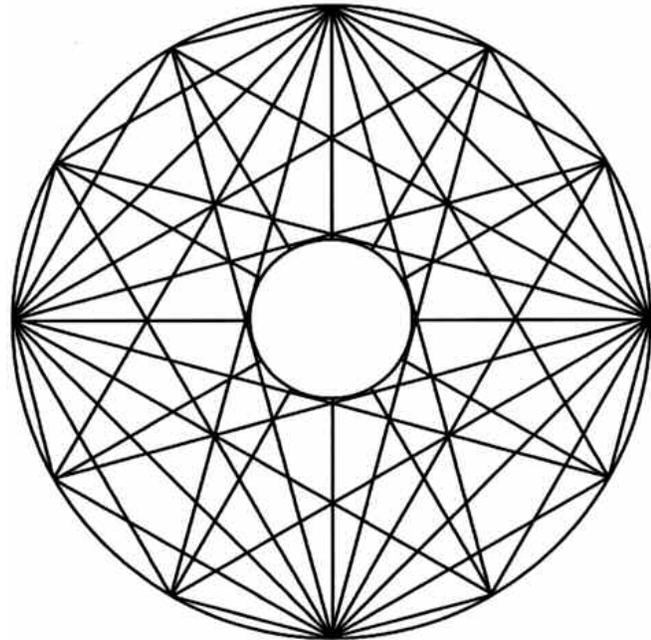


Creative Astrological Analysis— Aspects



ALL OF THE ASPECTS in use in astrology today can be obtained by dividing the circle of 360 degrees by an integer and taking either the result or its supplement. Let us review all the currently used aspects and see how this works out: conjunction (0°), the circle divided by 1; opposition (180°), the circle divided by 2; trine (120°), the circle divided by 3; square (90°), the circle divided by 4; quintile (72°), the circle divided by 5; sextile (60°), the circle divided by 6; septile (51.5°), the circle divided by 7; semisquare (45°), the circle divided by 8; nonagon (40°), the circle divided by 9; decile (36°), the circle divided by 10; semisextile (30°), the circle divided by 12; quindecile (24°), the circle divided by 15; vigintile (18°), the circle divided by 20; tridecile (108°), the supplement* of the circle divided by 5 (72°); sesquare (135°), the supplement of the angle produced when a circle is divided by 8 (45°); biquintile (144°), the supplement of the angle produced when a circle is divided by 10 (36°); quincunx (150°), the supplement of the angle produced when a circle is divided by 12 (30°). The parallel is not obtained by a division of the circle, but occurs when two planets are the same distance from the celestial equator.

The above method of obtaining aspects theoretically can yield an infinite number of aspects, for there are an infinite number of integers with which to divide the circle. But we can see that as we

divide the circle by increasingly larger integers, the resultant aspects are closer and closer together.

Below lists the results of dividing a circle by the numbers one through twelve and the number of degrees each aspect is separated from the next one.

1.	conjunction	360°	180°
2.	opposition	180°	60°
3.	trine	120°	30°
4.	square	90°	18°
5.	quintile	72°	12°
6.	sextile	60°	8.5°
7.	septile	51.5°	6.5°
8.	semisquare	45°	5°
9.	nonagon	40°	4°
10.	decile	36°	3.3°
11.	no name	32.7°	2.7°
12.	semisextile	30°	0°

From the galaxy of possible aspects, we must determine which ones are useful in astrological work. Otherwise, we shall find that it is possible to have an aspect from each planet in the horoscope to every other one, making analysis a hopelessly complicated mess. It is logical to suspect that the aspects obtained by using smaller integers are

*A supplement is the quantity by which an arc or an angle falls short of 180° or a semicircle. If angle A in the diagram at left is 45° , then the supplement B is 135° .



more potent in their net effects than those obtained by using larger ones. It is further reasonable to assume that there must be a point beyond which the potency of an aspect becomes quite secondary in relationship to free will, other more powerful aspects to a planet, and the house and sign position of a planet. This renders the use of such an aspect relatively meaningless, because it would be subject to so much qualification. But we need to find some method whereby we can discover where this cutoff point should be placed.

As it is true that aspects become less potent as they are obtained from larger integers, so it is also true that each aspect in itself is more or less potent in its individual effect according to how far it is from exact. That is, each aspect has an "orb" within which it is considered to produce a valid effect when two planets are so placed. The closer to the exact degree of an aspect two such planets are, the more powerful is the effect of that aspect, while the closer to the outside limit of the orb they are, the less powerful the effect of that aspect. Once again, there is a point beyond which the effect of an aspect becomes so weak that it is negligible. And once again, there is the question of establishing what the outside limit of an orb should be.

By using both of these considerations together, we will find the solution to both problems.

If we used only the conjunction in a horoscope, we would be considering only the most powerful astrological configuration. To be consistent with such a practice, we also would have to allow only a very narrow orb of influence. If we allowed a wider orb, we would be admitting weaker influences and then would be justified in also allowing aspects that were weaker in net effect. Considering that the conjunction derives from the integer, we should also allow an orb of only one degree. If we used conjunctions and oppositions in the horoscope we could allow an orb of two degrees; using conjunctions, oppositions, and trines we could

allow a three degree orb, and so on,

It is obvious that we will soon reach a point where our orbs will begin to be so large they will start overlapping one another, making it possible for a planet to be in more than one aspect relationship to another planet due to overly wide orbs. If we can find the point where this begins to happen, we will have the solutions we want.

The point we are looking for lies between the sextile and quintile. Allowing as far as the sextile aspect, we would use a six degree orb. The distance between the sextile and quintile is

twelve degrees, so that a six degree orb from each aspect would just meet but not overlap. To demonstrate that this is the point we want, let us examine the case of the next higher aspect—the septile. In this case we would use a seven degree orb. Such a situation would give an overlapping area of about 5.5 degrees between the septile and sextile and two degrees between the sextile and quintile. Therefore, the highest aspect that we should use is the sextile, and the widest orb should be six degrees.

Let us state this as follows: the highest aspect whose net effect can be considered without undue qualification is the sextile, and the widest orb within which the *net effect* of each aspect from the sextile on down can be considered without undue uncertainty is 6 degrees.

However, despite this theorem, we are going to have to make somewhat of an exception for the conjunction and opposition. Diagram 1 shows the different aspect configurations possible for a single planet. We observe that there are two possible aspect positions for the sextile, quintile, square, and trine but only one each for the conjunction and opposition. It is as if the conjunction and opposition each combined two aspects into one. As a consequence, they extend their orb of influence beyond the usual six degrees. It does not seem proper to double the orb for these aspects, as the process is not necessarily additive. An orb of eight

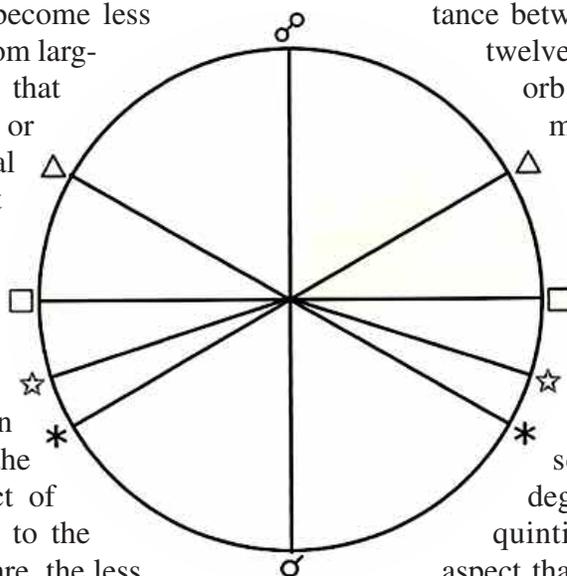


Diagram 1

degrees is suggested.

It seems quite reasonable that those aspects which are obtained by the use of supplementary angles are very secondary in nature.

We recall that personal planets indicate forces which are internal in man; thus, aspects between them indicate how these several internal forces relate together harmoniously or dissonantly in one's daily life.

Aspects from personal to impersonal planets indicate how one's individual qualities are helped or hindered by, or themselves help or hinder, the generational consciousness that one is born into, and by other forces that originate externally.

Aspects between impersonal planets of themselves do not have much importance in the personal chart since they indicate the working together of nonindigenous forces. This is not to say that such aspects have no influence over an individual, but when an individual reacts to such an aspect he is not doing so as an individual, but as a participant in a collective consciousness.

However, the above case alters when, in addition, a personal planet conjuncts one of the impersonal planets and makes the same aspect to the second impersonal planet as the first one does. In this case, the person has identified with and allied himself in some way, depending on the planet, to the external pattern. He is then more sensitive and responsive to that pattern.

Aspects from planets to the ASC, MC, and Part of Fortune are "one way" aspects. This is because these three points are not planets but abstract points in space. Consequently, they can be influenced by other forces but cannot themselves influence anything. For example, an aspect between the Sun and the Ascendent is an avenue of expression for the forces of the Sun, but the Ascendent does not act directly back on the Sun; the Sun is not an avenue of expression for the "forces" of the Ascendent. Of course, the Ascendent influences the Sun indirectly by virtue of the fact that it gives the latter an outlet for expression. Mutual aspects among the ASC, MC, and Part of Fortune are of no consequence.

We have six different aspects to consider, three of which obtain from odd integers and three from

even. The conjunction, trine, and quintile obtain from the integers 1, 3, and 5, while the opposition, square, and sextile obtain from the integers 2, 4, and 6. The difference between these two sets of aspects can be compared to the difference between harmony and dissonance in music. The former set is the one which represents harmony, and the latter, dissonance.

We must try to stay away from the idea of "good" or "bad" in dealing with aspects. In examining music we find that both harmony and dissonance have their place, and each have their good and bad points. Harmony is pleasant to the ear and restful to the mind, but at the same time, it does not have any forward impetus or tendency to lead anywhere. It is satisfied with where it is. Dissonance is "incomplete" to the ear and agitating to the mind, but it also demands further development and as a consequence it leads somewhere.

Similarly, harmonious aspects in a horoscope lead to experiences and situations that a person generally would consider to be "comfortable" and which do not require any great effort on his part. Since these aspects are not generally stimulating in nature, the person must himself supply the incentive which is necessary to reap the full benefit therefrom.

If a horoscope is overbalanced with harmonious aspects as compared to dissonant ones, the life tends to be vapid and devoid of fruits produced through individual efforts. Such a person may find life easy, but then again he may be led into very undesirable paths due to his tendency to want to take things easy and desire to attain results without having to struggle for them. There is a tendency to strive for desired goals through intense, sporadic, but short-lived efforts rather than through patient, persistent, sustained efforts.

Dissonant aspects in a horoscope lead to experiences and situations that a person would generally interpret to be unpleasant, and they therefore draw a great deal of attention. Since these aspects are not very restful, the person himself must supply the peace and equipoise that are necessary to derive the full benefit therefrom. These aspects generally produce results of some definite kind through individual initiative, either good or bad, depending on how the person has chosen to handle

the indicated dissonance.

A horoscope that has an overabundance of dissonant aspects in relation to harmonious ones tends toward a life of constant stress and strain, which may lead to many undesirable results due to continual frustration, tension, and strife. On the other hand, continual struggle may also lead to a highly productive life due to the power and insight gained in overcoming dissonance.

To summarize: harmonious aspects are passive while dissonant aspects are progressive. Harmonious aspects need initiative and expressiveness to operate to best advantage, while dissonant aspects need calmness and equipoise to operate to best advantage.

It would be most desirable to have at least one of each kind of aspect in a horoscope. A lack of any one type of aspect leads to a corresponding lack in the person's life, which can be determined from the nature of the aspects as given further on.

There is a tendency in astrology to regard a planet having few aspects as being "weak," while a planet having many aspects is considered "strong." It is true that such a situation may render a planet more or less prominent or influential, since many aspects would indicate that a planet is involved in the affairs of many other planets, while this would not occur with a planet having few aspects. But that has nothing to do with how strong or important a planet in itself may be. Every planet in the horoscope has its part to play and that makes each one important. A planet having no aspects becomes important by that very fact, for it shows a lack of integration which must be corrected if the person is to live a balanced life.

Strength or weakness is more a function of sign and house position than it is of aspects. Mars in Aries and the 10th house is a strong Mars regardless of aspects or their lack. A lack of aspects would indicate, instead, that a strong, energetic, initiative impulse exercised in positions of authority needs to be integrated with other areas of the person's life. It would show that this impulse does not tend to carryover into other types of situations or work with other forces.

Thus we may say that aspects indicate the degree of prominence or influence a planet has due to its integration and relationship with other plan-



A. Kircher, *Iter exstaticum* (Ed. Caspar Schott), Würzburg, 1671, Stadtbibliothek Mainz

Kircher, holding a compass, receives instruction from the angel Cosmiel, who is guiding him on an extended dream journey through the competing astronomical systems existing in his day (middle seventeenth century). Kircher favored the cosmology of the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, since he wanted to do justice to the fundamental experience of geocentricity, while, at the same time desiring to give an appropriate status to the sun (and the still novel, and in some quarters heretical, Copernican system) which, in the hermetic view, represents the divine in the cosmos. While the sun is the center of our physical cosmos, astrology is a geocentric science in that it studies extraterrestrial influences as they impact upon Earth. This Earth-centered perspective actually accords with cosmic reality in the Desire World.

ets, that every planet is important in its own way, and that strength is a function of essential and accidental dignity.

Conjunction—A conjunction indicates two planets in simultaneous expression. Activation of the forces of the planet automatically activates the forces of the other. If the natures of the two planets are agreeable the expression will tend to be positive; but if the natures of the planets are antagonistic there will be a tendency toward negative

expression. There may be a need to learn to use the forces of the two planets individually—to be able to utilize the forces of one without letting those of the other get in the way.

Opposition—This aspect is the corollary of the conjunction in that planets in opposition work on an either/or basis: the expression of the forces of one planet tends to shut off the expression of those of the other. Thus, there is a tendency to swing from one extreme to the other, to express first one and then the other in an exclusive manner. This obviously indicates a need to balance the two forces and be able to work with both of them together without sacrificing the one for the other.

Trine—This aspect indicates mutual support. Two planets in trine contribute to each other without dominating or overwhelming one another. Each planet primarily expresses its own nature and yet receives an undercurrent of support from the other. The need here is to make use of the support that is offered in a constructive way rather than to let it go to waste by neglecting its development.

Square—The square indicates a struggle for domination. In one sense this is a corollary of the trine, because here each planet wishes to take control of the other and assert its nature to the detriment of the other. Each tries to subvert the other to its own ends. The need here is to manipulate the escalating forces to mutually support, rather than inhibit, each other.

Quintile—Two planets in quintile aspect form a symbiotic relationship. Each works with purposeful intent to help advantageously the other. Each willingly sacrifices its interests to the needs of the other. We could say that each planet helps itself by helping the other. Sometimes, it even happens that the two planets seem to exchange places in the horoscope for a while. As with the trine, the need with the quintile is to make use of the symbiosis. Otherwise, there develops a feeling of a lack of fulfillment and a disappointment of expectations.

Sextile—Two planets in sextile aspect form a parasitic relationship, which is the negative form of symbiosis. Here each planet helps itself by taking from the other, and although there may be no intention purposely to hurt the other, still, neither is there any concern as to whether the other is

being helped or hindered. Each planet has its own interests at heart and takes advantage accordingly of what the other has to offer.

This aspect has traditionally been considered a "good" aspect, and, unfortunately, this is perhaps an unfavorable reflection upon many people's idea of how to "get ahead" in the world. It is true that something is usually gained through the sextile, but at a cost in most cases. The need shown by a sextile is for less self-seeking and more consideration between the two principles involved.

Parallel—This aspect tends to intensify whatever other aspect may be in effect between two planets, and thus make that aspect more influential. When there is a parallel between two planets that have no other relationship, the parallel does not count for a great deal.

Although the parallel is not too significant in the natal chart, it does have its role in progressions, for in progressions one is concerned with which influences are most active in a person's life at a particular time. A parallel will indicate when the forces of a planet are more intense than usual, and, therefore more apt to be noticed.

Some astrology texts make a case for applying and separating, waxing and waning aspects. These are refinements in aspect theory and no doubt have some import. Generally, they are considered to operate as follows: applying aspects are building toward a climax and tend to increase their potency with time, while separating aspects are toning down from a climax and tend to decrease in potency with time. *Waxing aspects* are those in which the faster moving planet is moving away from the slower, toward an opposition, and have a more personal tinge that looks toward inner or self-development. *Waning aspects* are those in which the faster planet is moving toward the slower, toward a conjunction, and have a more social tinge which looks toward outer development through sharing.

However, it would seem that these concepts are more applicable to progressions and transits than they are to the natal chart. The natal chart is like a character print which shows the possibilities for a life, while progressions and transits are like a timetable that shows when the indicated possibilities will have a chance to become manifest. Thus, the

natal chart is static while progressions and transits are in motion, and the concepts of applying and separating, waxing and waning, are concepts that apply to planets in motion. Of course, this is not to say that the above mentioned concepts have no application to the natal chart.

Let us look at midpoints since they have been prominently in the astrological news. A planet is at a midpoint when it is half-way between two other planets, regardless of whether or not there are any aspects involved. A planet so placed is said to be "activated," and to influence a person according to its own nature and the combined natures of the planets which are activating it. The theoretical significance of midpoints cannot be denied, but once again, they seem to be one of those factors that do more to confuse the issue than clarity it.

The nature of midpoints is similar to the nature of parallels. They have the effect of intensifying the force of a planet and making it more prominent. They are also similar to the parallel in that,

unless there is an aspect involved, they do not count for much.

It turns out that traditional astrology already takes account of those midpoint situations that are important by recognizing aspect patterns. In Grand-Trines and Grand-Crosses, each planet falls at the midpoint of two others; in a Grand-Sextile, each planet falls at the midpoint of two other pairs of planets; in a T-Cross, the squared planet falls at the midpoint of the two that are in opposition. There are similar situations in which a planet makes sextiles or quintiles to two planets on either side of itself.

In situations such as the above, the symmetry of the pattern and the intensification caused by midpoints set up a resonant condition in which the usual aspect orbs can be widened, sometimes to as much as 10 degrees. It is recognized that such patterns are significantly more potent than the average aspect. □

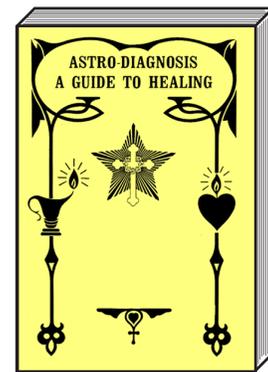
—Karl Kleinstick

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