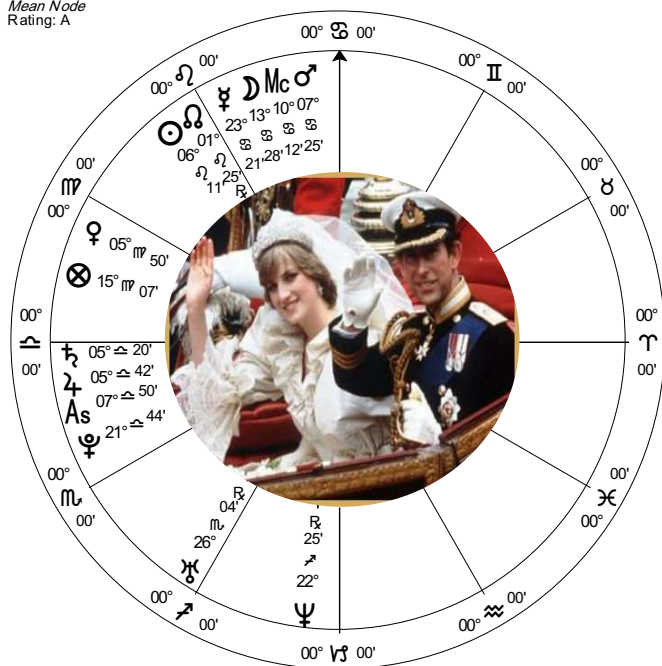


A TALE OF TWO WEDDINGS

By Mari Garcia

Charles & Diana's Wedding
Natal Chart
29 Jul 1981, Wed
11:17:10 am BST -1:00
London, ENG
51°N30' 000°W10'
Geocentric
Tropical
Whole Signs
Mean Node
Rating: A



On the 29th July 1981, the heir to the British throne, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Charles married Lady Diana Spencer, triggering a new era in the annals of the British monarchy but more especially, in the hearts and minds of the universal collective. The wedding, timed for 11:17am, captured the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction exactly, in the first house, conjunct the Ascendant, crystallising both the occasion and heralding the next series of Jupiter-Saturn conjunctions. These conjunctions have been Earth signs since the early 19th century and move into Air signs and will be in place by 2020.

Charles and Diana's wedding generated worldwide excitement, as this was the first Royal wedding to be televised in its entirety including the exchange of vows. Suddenly, it was no longer a private affair, but became

public property and as such, owned by the masses. The nature of the union represented much more than the continuation of the British line of succession, instead it also represented the hopes and wishes of all people; the belief in the 'happily ever after' notion. The chart has a cardinal cross of matter, suggesting a sense of pioneering spirit and breaking the boundaries of convention. This was crystallised in the choice of venue with the wedding taking place in St Paul's Cathedral instead of the traditional Westminster Abbey. The wedding was seen by millions around the world via the wonders of satellite technology, and it featured the marriage of the heir to the throne to a 'commoner'.

The fact that the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction was captured on the Ascendant of the occasion suggests that the marriage would be seen as a marker of a generation, just as the conjunction itself is a marker. As this conjunction presages the next era of Air conjunctions, we have not only a generational statement but also an indicator of a 'shift' as the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction moves from earth to air. This is also reflected in the collective shift that was presaged at the beginning of the decade: the rise of and eventual dominance of technology especially in personal relations, the advent of social networking starting with email, the nature of wealth moving from traditional and conservative sources such as land and to the more amorphous things like dot com enterprises and other internet based undertakings.

Charles and Diana's marriage became a symbol of what fairytales are made of in the modern world: a working girl, a prince involved in environmental matters but also personified on the collective level the notion that dreams can come true. Indeed, it was dubbed the fairytale wedding.

But what does it say about the marriage itself? Firstly, we have a chart with a Balsamic Moon suggesting the end of a cycle and something either worn out, past its prime or ending. Not a good start to a new enterprise such as a marriage. We see Libra rising again underscoring the notion of an 'ideal' and the ruler of the Ascendant, Venus in Virgo in the 12th house. Venus in Fall and cadent in the 12th house does not bode well for the 'health' of the marriage. By nature, Venus also represents love, unions and happiness and the condition and placement in the 12th house suggests that the union is one of sorrow and difficulty. Now a planet in Fall is debilitated, from the Latin *debilis* which implies a decline of natural ability or agility and diminishes the planetary virtue so what is left is corrupted and inferior.

Venus in her inferior mode is lustful, possessive and vindictive. Mars in Cancer conjunct the MC is also in Fall and in its inferior mode is adulterous, also vindictive and reproachful. Both are in sextile to each other with Venus in the 12th while the Mars is placed high in the chart in the 10th conjunct the MC. What we have is a statement of difficulty where the possessiveness of Venus stimulates the vindictiveness of Mars, while the adulterousness of Mars stimulates the lustful and vindictive Venus.

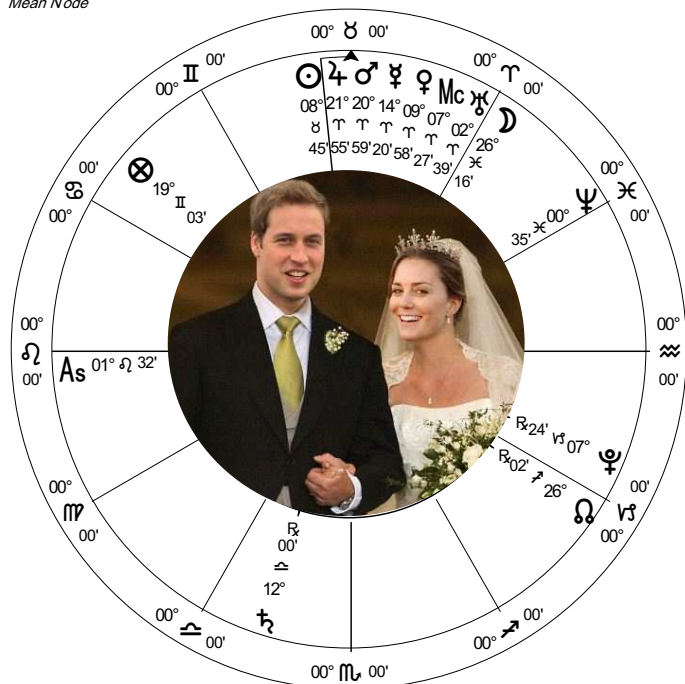
This was played out publicly as the patina of the ideal 'fairytale' wore out and the realities became evident: Charles was bored with his wife; she was not the woman for him. She was bored with this older man who did not worship her as she would have hoped. The eventual degeneration into adulterous affairs on the part of both partners seems to be the most literal translation of both Venus and Mars and the fact that their public wrangling was carried through the media.

Added to this is the Moon also conjunct Mars in Cancer in the 10th conjunct the MC. The Moon in rulership and angular suggests that the woman is dominant or is the 'dignified' one while the male is the 'corrupt' one. There is also reception between them as Mars is in the Moon's sign; the Moon is forced to give everything to Mars. This was played out by the public image of Diana as the fairytale princess married to an older man. The Moon as ruler of the 10th saw her as the public and revered partner of the marriage, indeed Charles used to complain that the public came to see her rather than pay homage to his activities. Mars rules the 2nd and 7th describing the wealth and connections which Charles brought to the marriage. There were also the very public arguments of domestic matters.

The Jupiter-Saturn conjunction on the Ascendant has Saturn as the dominant planet in exaltation and ruling the 4th and 5th - this was a marriage for family's sake and to produce heirs. Jupiter on the other hand is in neutral dignity ruling the 3rd and 6th suggesting that personal truths and affiliations as well as personal 'work' or commitments are sublimated to Saturn's affairs. The conjunction also receives a square from the afflicted Mars which describes the trials and tribulations that the marriage had often as a consequence of the over-riding duty to royal or political priorities.

Finally, Pluto rises as the marriage ceremony gets under way suggesting that hidden forces rise from the depths bringing change, crisis or obsession to the fore. All in all, a rather difficult picture for an occasion which marked a very important moment for two people, for a family and for a nation.

Kate & William Wedding
Natal Chart
 29 Apr 2011, Fri
 11:00 am BST -1:00
 London, United Kingdom
 51°N 30° 00' W 10°
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Whole Signs
 Mean Node



If we now move the clock forward thirty years we have another wedding to consider: Charles and Diana's oldest son, William is about to marry another commoner, Kate Middleton. The ceremony is scheduled to take place on the 29th April 2011 at 11 am in London.

The first thing to note is that this wedding is the Saturn Return of his father's marriage with Saturn in Libra conjunct the IC and opposing the stellium in Aries in the 10th house. The chart has a Fixed Cross of Matter suggesting stability and longevity.

This is interesting as William and Kate have certainly known each other a long time. Meeting at university, they maintained first a friendship and then a relationship through their early adult lives and bring to the marriage a certain stability of relations which

William's parents did not. Charles and Diana only knew each other for no more than eighteen months prior to the wedding. We also find fire signs on the Ascendant and MC suggesting there is a passion that smoulders between them

The Cardinal Aries MC is descriptive of a pioneering spirit and of breaking the boundaries of convention. Like his parents, William is breaking with tradition in a different way. Although the wedding venue is the traditional Westminster Abbey, the bride and groom have declined wedding gifts and instead have issued a list of charities from all around the world and asked wedding guests to give to them. They have also maintained a much more hands-on approach to arrangements in spite of the protocol that dictates such state occasions.

Another interesting point is that in the whole sign chart, the MC is situated in the 9th house suggesting that the aspirations and public image of the marriage is associated with joint beliefs and visions.

The chart also features a Balsamic Moon, just like the one at his parents wedding and it will be interesting to see how this plays out in the life of the marriage. Perhaps one could say that the marriage could symbolise an ending in itself for example, the end of the monarchy as it stands, but time will tell.

The Sun, ruling the Leo Ascendant is in Taurus in the 10th describing the very public nature of the occasion and it trines Pluto suggesting that this is a very powerful marriage where Pluto's power may be used to the good or for service as it sits in the 6th. It sits away from the angles and subservient to the Sun. The 'health' of the marriage can be described as robust and intense.

The stellium in Aries in the 9th with its opposition to Saturn describes the challenges that they face as a couple: Venus, signifier of relations, love and happiness is in her detriment in Aries but the difference is that she does not rule the Ascendant. Inferior Venus may lapse into her difficult expressions of possessiveness and vindictiveness but she is in reception to Mars, who is in its sign of rulership. Mars gives to Venus courage, valour and fortitude and I believe this will be the redeeming factor. Venus rules the 3rd and the 11th suggesting that friends and associates are brought to prominence as a consequence of the union. Venus is conjunct Mercury and we can say that their open and up-front manner is carried into the marriage. The caution might be that friends may take advantage of their connection to the new couple in order to gain benefit, influence or recognition.

As to children, Jupiter the great benefic, rules the 5th and conjuncts the Mars in rulership in the 9th and aspects the Ascendant by sign, suggesting that heirs are promised however there may not be many or it may take a while as retrograde Saturn makes an opposition, albeit a wide one. The North Node is also in the 5th emphasising the importance of children to the marriage.

Additionally, the Moon is probably the biggest concern for this chart as she squares the Nodal axis and the last aspect she made was the sextile to the Sun a few days prior to the wedding. The Moon's significator is Jupiter in Aries conjunct Mars in the 9th and the great benefic with the lesser malefic is perhaps not as difficult as Mars, in rulership, will be on its best behaviour and so this benefits the Jupiter and by signification, the Moon. The square to the Nodal axis may describe the marriage as being a crucible for William and Kate wherein they may have to sublimate their personal concerns to political realities. The Moon rules the 12th and is placed in the 8th and is probably much healthier as the sorrows, tribulations and fear of the 12th are realised in the 8th, away from public scrutiny in contrast to that of William's parents wedding chart which has the ruler of their 12th house, Mercury in the 10th house which resulted in public scrutiny of their own personal and joint sorrows and debilities such as her bulimia and his affair with Camilla, to name a few.

In electional astrology, especially in the Hellenistic tradition, the placement of the Moon indicates the beginning of the endeavour, and the placement of the lord of the Moon indicates the outcome. If we apply this dictum to the chart we can say that the difficulties implied may be at the beginning of the marriage as they adjust to the requirements of marriage with royal and public responsibilities. The assumption is that Kate may find the going more difficult to begin with, but in time may adjust to what is required as the Moon's dispositor is better placed hence the outcome will be better. This is in contrast to Charles and Diana's chart where the Moon was in rulership, conjunct the MC but also conjunct Mars in Fall, describing the fairytale beginning and the lack of any progress or improvement: indeed there was a distinct 'fall' over the duration of the marriage as the Moon succumbed to the corruption of Mars.

Finally, as mentioned before this is a Saturn return chart of Charles and Diana's wedding and perhaps one could say that this marriage is a realisation of the hopes and wishes that were inherent in that first marriage. William's marriage is everything that was hoped for and now we have the manifestation of it.

Natally, William's Saturn is in the 11th house and it rules the 2nd and the 3rd house. He has just had the first two hits of his Saturn return: the first hit of the return [10/12/12010] expressed in the official

announcement of the engagement and forthcoming wedding but news sources also said that the couple became secretly engaged in October during their holiday in Kenya coinciding with the Saturn Return of Charles and Diana's wedding on the 11th September 2010. This was also captured by William giving Kate his mother's ring to seal the engagement.

William's second Saturn Return hit [13/3/2011] was expressed in visits to the ravaged city of Christchurch and the devastated communities of Queensland to visit victims and rescue workers. This was done on his own, without Kate, suggesting that he sees it as his personal responsibility in light of his royal position rather than a joint marital one.

The third hit is in early September, five months after the wedding, and the couple, will undertake their first Royal tour to Canada in July, marking a transition from individual to joint responsibility.

In closing, these two weddings are both a personal and collective statement of the aspirations of two people as well as those of a family and nation and are brought together by the Saturn cycle. It will be interesting to see how these factors are expressed as Kate and William take the first steps in making a joint life a reality.

Note: References for times of the weddings :

Charles & Diana http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wedding_of_Charles,_Prince_of_Wales,_and_Lady_Diana_Spencer retrieved 1/3/2011

Kate & William <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jan/05/royal-wedding-details-announced> retrieved 1/3/2011

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16 March 2011

Copyright Mari Garcia 2011. *Mari Garcia is a consulting astrologer who has been involved with astrology since 1990. She has lectured widely both in Australia and the USA and has published articles in Australia and overseas and writes for several local and national publications. She runs a consulting practice in Adelaide and is co-principal of **ASTRO MUNDI**, which offers a four year course in astrology as well as special interest workshops. Mari can be contacted on 08 8563 9182 or check out the website at www.astromundi.com*