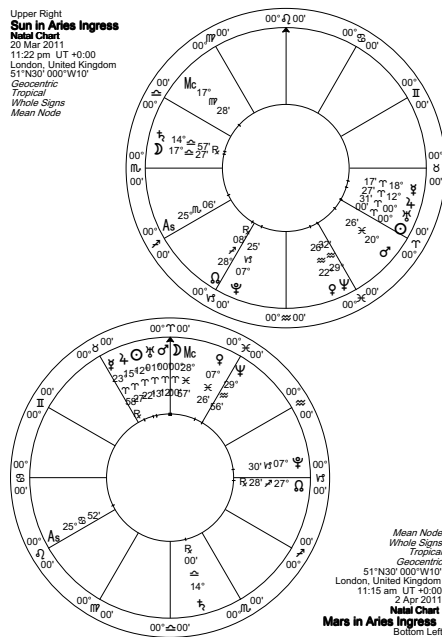


Conflict Charts for 2011 : What's Happening in Your Life?



Well, it's been an interesting month! If you have experienced April as a fast and frenetic time in your life, and if you are currently feeling somewhat shell-shocked, then these two ingress charts might give some insight into the wear and tear you have been suffering.

The Sun's ingress into Aries on 20th March 2011 saw our golden orb catch up in sign with Jupiter, Mercury, and a forward moving Uranus, having itself returned to Aries after retrograding back into Pisces for the past 10 months. This league of dashing but highly disreputable gentlemen had as their adversary an exalted, but retrograding Saturn, in collusion with a 'corrupted' Moon travelling in Via Combusta. To quote Anthony Louis' *Horary Astrology*: "*In Latin Via Combusta means "the burned path" or "the fiery*

way" and is (the Moon) in the section of the zodiac from 15° Libra to 15° Scorpio. In ancient times the Via Combusta corresponded to the half of Anu descending south which contained the constellation Scorpio and malefic fixed stars of the nature of Mars (fire) and Saturn (hindrance)." Not exactly an auspicious start to the month!

Two weeks later, on 2nd April, 2011 (chart above), Mars not only joined this motley crew, but became its Jack Sparrow, brandishing its sword, flying its rulership colours, and bringing with it a coy but willing hostage in the Moon, a mere two hours after its own ingress. Thus we find no less than six planets charging their way through Aries. By this time, Mercury was moving backwards, ensuring he was not going to miss out on any of the fun! Meanwhile, Saturn remained a cool and distant observer on the furthest side of the zodiac from Aries. Chart Two, whilst set two and a half hours after Mars' ingress, is purely for dramatic effect, as it displays the Moon's juxtaposition to the slower moving planets, as it too ingresses into Aries.

These charts are a startling visual reminder that in our everyday lives we are constantly faced with fluctuating states of opposition: opposition that can range from annoyances brought about by ignorance or selfishness, to a sudden escalation resulting in unexpected acts of aggression. As social animals, we ideally seek harmony through compromise and resolution, yet the act of contest keeps leading us toward conflict rather than peaceful co-existence. By contest I don't mean the winning of a prize or the struggle for victory, but rather "*I contest that this is true*", and that my 'truth' is more real, logical, viable or more valid than your 'truth'. Every time two or more parties come together to argue a point of contention, the defensive mechanism of '*us vs them*' is born anew. That is not to say that every meeting is between rivals and enemies – although conflict can be a very fertile ground for some of our most productive and creative work. Sometimes we meet for a mutual purpose, with supposedly a common goal in mind, but the tension lies in our individual approach to the situation, or the fact that both parties pursue a different pathway to that goal, often seeking to turn the situation to their own advantage.

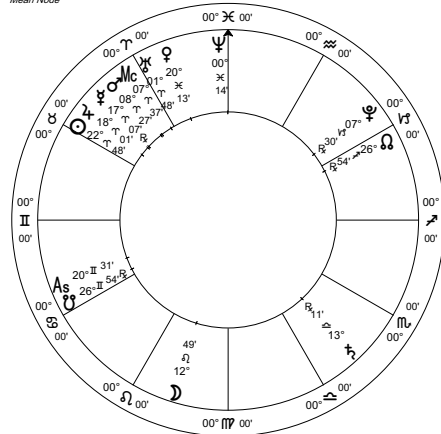
The ancients were well aware that humankind would always be engaged in conflict, so an astrologer could forge his reputation and make a tidy fortune by knowing how to elect the best chart to favour his side's chances in battle. Thirteenth century astrologer Guido Bonatti was one such fellow who studied the Arab writings and was famed for choosing the most auspicious time for his lord to go to war. Whilst Monday's 'think tank' or Friday's 'happy hour' may seem benign and un-warlike, one can still limp away from informal meetings such as these feeling bruised, battered and totally defeated by the brutal tactics being employed in supposedly innocuous surroundings.

The idea of casting a chart for battle is strongly dependent on the horizontal axis of Ascendant and Descendant. The condition of the lords of both pivots, as they were called, is vital to how the battle will begin, how it will proceed, and how it will be brought to an end. The skill lay in determining which party was which – in other words, who started it? Did you choose the time and place for this battle, did you instigate the action, did you deliver the first blow? If the answer to these questions is yes, then you play the role of the Ascendant, and once the play is set in motion, you succeed -or suffer the consequences - dependent on the good or bad condition of the sign's ruling planet. The relationship between these respective angles and the planets themselves is important, as you seek allies or reinforcements during the most heated part of the battle. The Moon, as the fastest moving planet, plays a significant role in determining whether the advantage will turn this way or that, and any replacement troops or sudden attacks must be taken into account in order to judge how the matter will end, and ultimately, who will be the victor.

Sometimes meetings are not so formally arranged, with time and place marked on the calendar. Sometimes they are more like skirmishes, running battles or ambushes, in which case either party may take the initiative according to their respective actions. Little tricks and subtle ploys can be brought into play to shift the balance of power, so that the apparent owner of the Ascendant can be turned and forced to take up the opposite point to become a more disadvantaged Descendant. There is also a difference between meeting the opponent on 'open ground', or meeting them in a situation known as 'besiegement'. In other words, are you on equal terms, or does one party have greater 'ownership' over the territory? Are you a defender of your own property, or are you an invading force? Once again, the rules may change according to the situation.

My own personal experience of the two ingress charts was not so much a battle raged against another party, but rather a critical meeting which marks a new phase in my life. My 90 year old mother has lived a fiercely independent life since the death of my father several years ago. At the Sun's ingress into Aries she suffered a fall and was admitted to hospital. Note the Saturn Moon in 12th opposing the stellium in Aries in the 6th. By Mars' ingress, the family knew it would be unlikely that she would be strong enough to return to her own home and her former lifestyle. As witnessed by the elevated Aries stellium in the chart, she was convinced that she was perfectly capable of living on her own. Finally, the weight of opinion of doctors, the nursing profession and various authorities (Saturn in opposition) convinced her that a trial period in convalescence with a long term view towards placement in an aged care facility was in her own best interests.

Broker's meeting
Natal Chart
 13 Apr 2011
 11:20 am ACST -9:30
 Adelaide, Australia
 34°55' 138°E53"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Whole Signs
 Mean Node



This is where the next chart comes in. We were advised that the best way to secure a placement for my mother was by engaging the services of an aged care broker (who knew such things existed?). Again, this was a meeting we had sought out, so even though the axis itself is in opposition, the two parties were not in conflict. We both had a common goal, but we were looking at it from different perspectives.

The time for the meeting was set by the broker as a time which was most convenient to her, so given the rules of contest, one might presume she takes the Ascendant to represent her. However, we can apply the rules of besiegement here, as we were firmly, if only temporarily, ensconced in

the hospital, where the meeting was to take place. When she arrived 20 minutes late, we had already claimed the Ascendant by time and position, so she took the role of the Descendant. The stellium in Aries still dominates the chart, with 5 planets, plus the MC in Aries. Saturn is still retrograde, opposing the stellium.

The first thing to explore in conflict charts is the natural polarity between the signs in opposition. For instance, we were lucky in that the Asc/Desc axis was not a Leo/Aquarius opposition, as we may have encountered a difficult relationship with ego clashes between two exalted planets (Sun and Saturn) facing off against each other across the chart, with one in the damaged state of retrogradation. Likewise, an Asc/Desc ruled by Venus and Mars (Libra/Aries or Taurus/Scorpio) may have proved frustrating, as although both planets have dignity (Venus exalted in Pisces and Mars in rulership in Aries), the two signs are adjacent therefore there is no aspect between the planets, so whilst both parties are strong, they have completely different agendas and potentially are not speaking to each other. A Cancer/Capricorn axis would have been fine as both lords are in sextile aspect to each other, but Saturn's retrograde condition was still a worry, and the Saturn party often dominates its lunar counterpart.

That left the final combination of Mercury/Jupiter, and with the chart a Gemini rising, this is exactly what we were to experience firsthand. I believe we took the Ascendant as the broker met us at the hospital, and we had actively sought this meeting. The two planets are conjunct in the chart, with retrograde Mercury moving quickly away from Jupiter at the time of the meeting. We later found out that we were very lucky to engage her services as she was fully booked up, and had originally no intention to take on any more clients before Easter.

Both planets are in a favourable position, the 11th house, a house that connects to both the Ascendant and the Descendant by good aspect. In fact, both rulers form an aspect to their house by degree as well as sign: Mercury by sextile and Jupiter by the stronger aspect of trine, so both planets are effective in working well for each party. Neither planet has dignity in Aries, although Jupiter is in its house of joy in the 11th, and both enjoy the patronage of a powerful Mars travelling with them, and high on the MC. There was definitely a sense of urgency, and a certain amount of pressure on us

to vacate the premises before Easter holidays, shown by our planet Mercury being retrograde and in Aries.

In all respects, the broker is the expert as shown by Jupiter, both in its nature as the 'learned one', and in its position in the chart. Her planet Jupiter is direct, and as well as ruling the Descendant, also rules the 10th sign, which shows power or authority over the situation. Jupiter is also the exalted ruler over the 2nd house, our house of resources, so it indicates we will honour our word to pay her when she completes her end of the bargain! Also, there is a friendly aspect between the lord of our 2nd house, the Moon, and her 2nd house lord, Saturn, so this again ensures a successful outcome in terms of payment for services rendered. Jupiter's only weakness appears to be its proximity to the Sun, as such it is combust, but the faster moving Sun is separating, so hopefully it will not damage her ability to work effectively for us. The nodal points conjunct the axis gives her the advantage of a benefic North Node, but as this was a contest not a conflict chart, every advantage she gained would ultimately be to our benefit. I also think the presence of the Moon's Nodes indicates what a life-changing event this was for our whole family.

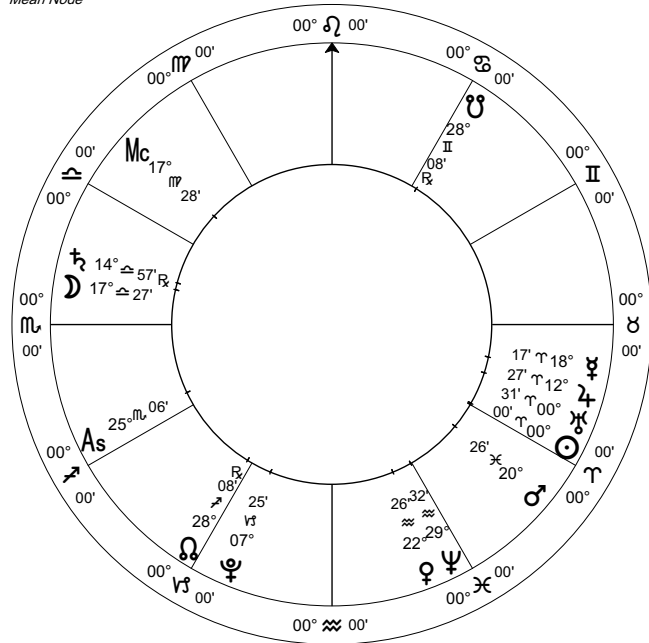
Our planet, Mercury was retrograde, so we were under pressure, not only from the hospital, but also from our mother who was starting to become anxious and fretful about the situation. My sister and I handled all the negotiations together, and as we have a good relationship, I feel this was signified by the Gemini Ascendant squaring an exalted Venus, which sits in midpoint to the axis. We were also willingly engaging the services of a female broker so Venus shows the good relations between both parties, with a promise of success. Also, totally unconsciously, my sister and I turned up at the meeting, wearing near identical styles in the same colours – shades of Gemini once more! As you can see from the chart, we achieved a successful result and my mother is now convalescing in a delightful and caring facility not far from me.

Which brings me to my request from you. I would love to hear from you if, in retrospect, you had a conflict chart from this month that you would like to share with me. I am currently collecting data, stories and experiences of these types of charts for my own research. If, on the other hand, you have a meeting scheduled in the near or distant future, I would also be delighted to correspond, so that we might jointly discuss the chart both before and after the event, in order to gain an insight into how to bring out the best results from your perspective. All charts and discussions will be confidential and free of charge. My email address is joydusher@yahoo.com.au so please get those charts to me – no meeting is insignificant as every exchange is a learning experience in astrology, so I hope to hear from you soon.

Footnote: By the way, if you thought you were out of the woods by May, I have some alarming news for you. On 21st April, 2011 Venus will ingress into Aries. On the day before the Sun moves into the following sign of Taurus, but it still leaves Uranus, Mercury (still retrograde), Mars and Jupiter in Aries, so Baby makes 5. On the day of The Wedding, 29th April, 2011, the Moon ingresses into Aries, so we are back to 6 planets in Aries, if only for a day or two. And Saturn, yes you guessed it, he's still opposing the lot in retrograde motion, in the sign of Libra. The party (Charlie Sheen calibre) starts to break up by 15th May 2011, when Mars, Venus and Mercury all retire to the more stable, down to earth sign of Taurus. So buckle up your seatbelts kids, it's going to be a wild ride!

Sun in Aries Ingress

Natal Chart
20 Mar 2011
11:22 pm UT +0:00
London, United Kingdom
51°N30' 00°W10'
Geocentric
Tropical
Whole Signs
Mean Node



Mars in Aries Ingress

Natal Chart
2 Apr 2011
11:15 am UT +0:00
London, United Kingdom
51°N30' 00°W10'
Geocentric
Tropical
Whole Signs
Mean Node

