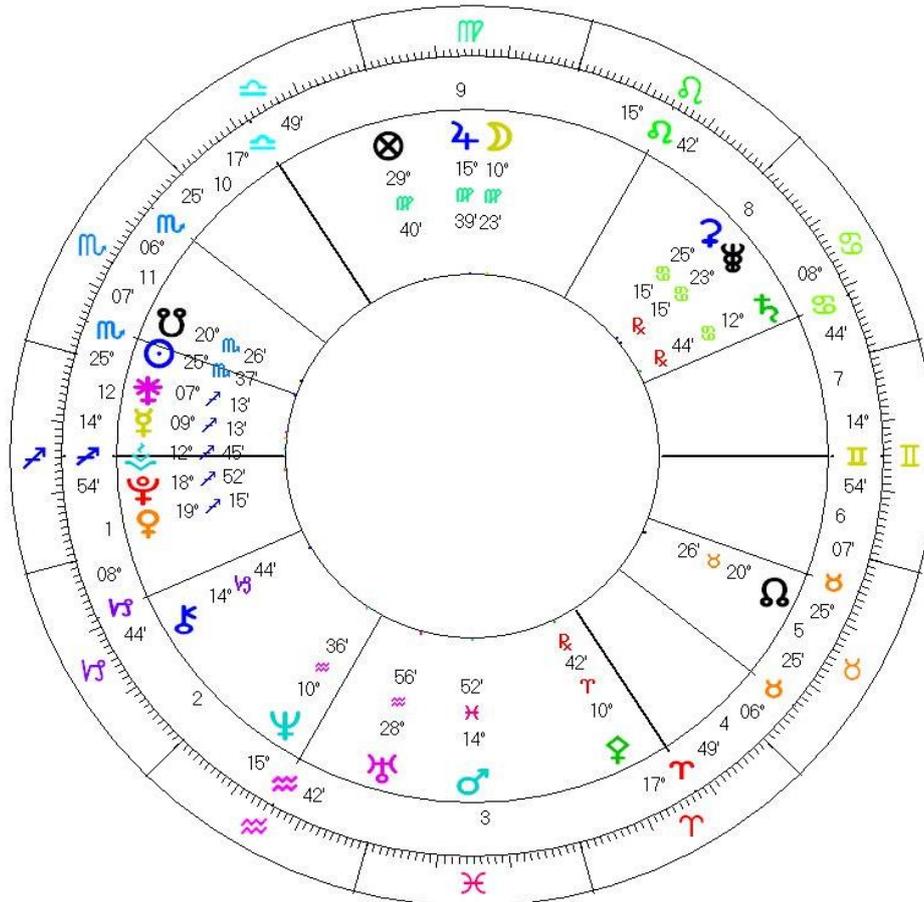


Applying and Separating Aspects in Meeting Charts. Dignity and Debility at work part 3: A more complex web.

The case following is of a meeting that began an investigation into what appeared to be racism. Neither the 'victim', whose career path seemed hopelessly and unfairly obstructed, nor the alleged road blockers were present. This is an opportunity to see a situation that is not adversarial. The characters involved are two union officials attempting to assist the individual and an outside agent, who was acting in an advisory capacity. All three are men.



It is a less straightforward matter to assign each person to a planet in this situation than in a meeting where there is a clear hierarchy and, or opposing interests. However the Ascendant seems to be a reasonable description of the union official who requested the meeting. Jupiter suits him fairly well by profession, character and personal history. In fact he is a Sun Pisces. Given the usual link between the Ascendant ruler and the initiator of a meeting that is a good start. Jupiter in Virgo is in the ninth, the issue concerning Mr Jupiter is racism at work. The ninth also suits the profession.

Mr Jupiter has come to meet a fairly senior investigator for (what was then) The Commission for Racial Equality. At the time of the meeting I had no knowledge whatever of this man. He might have fitted the Gemini Descendant by character and to some extent does so by the nature of his job. His role was to investigate working practices, when he was requested to, and report on anything that might actually be illegal. More often his task was to point out where there might be indirect or unintended racism, in the hope that enlightenment might lead to voluntary improvements. His knowledge and position were such that his reports might be used as those of an expert witness in a court case.

After careful consideration I assigned Venus to the investigator and Mercury to the second union official. There is no hierarchy in the usual sense here but the investigator is 'an authority'. His job is to achieve equality. Libra holds the MC. In many cases he has diplomatically to point out where institutions are failing, sometimes when they sincerely believe they have addressed the issue and have an effective policy in place. He informs and attempts a negotiated solution but ultimately he has the power of the law on his side. These are all Libran areas.

Venus also rules the sixth, work and workers. Additionally, from the point of Mr Jupiter, (as the Ascendant,) Venus is someone whose role is to help him. Jupiter the union official and Venus the investigator are not equal and opposite, (as **are** Mr Jupiter and the second union official, who takes the Gemini Descendant / Mercury). The investigator, Mr Venus is "ruled" by the needs of Jupiter, Venus is there to assist him and shares his concerns. Venus is also in the first, Venus is in Jupiter's house and on his team.

Mercury and Venus may both be ruled by Jupiter but it is Venus who is conjunct Pluto. Here is the investigation and the unearthing of unpleasant things. The intent is to effect positive change, if diplomacy fails the investigator (or his organisation) has power to compel it.

The Pisces and Gemini angles (and therefore Jupiter and Mercury) are equal and opposite. Mercury may be ruled by Jupiter but the two are in mutual reception by detriment. Two union officials are usually in a bad place but (I had enough information to know) these two form an effective and well balanced team. They not only trust each other but are aware they have opposite strengths that make them more effective together. As it happens the second official has a lot of Gemini about his person but we may not always have that information and need to know how to work without it. It is also crucial to understand that **a person's Sun or rising sign or even the general slant of a natal chart is not necessarily a reliable guide to the planet they should be assigned in a meeting chart.** Each should be assessed based on their position and interests relative to the matters at hand. This may or may not be characteristic of them under normal circumstances.

Once we are fairly confident we know who everybody is the aspects may become significant in very helpful ways. **Note the separating square of Venus from Jupiter.** The reason Mr Venus the investigator is on the side of Jupiter from the beginning of the meeting is because **the two had already been in contact** and the investigator was satisfied that a closer look into the case was probably warranted. The second official (Mercury) and the investigator (Venus) had no contact before the meeting, there is no aspect between them. **When you actually know who has corresponded with whom it can also help to clarify who everybody is** when there are a lot of characters or when the waters are very muddied. I doubt the method is infallible but I have seen it work many times.

The next thing that screams to be dealt with is the Sun on the twelfth cusp. This is a strong indicator that someone may be working behind the scenes, against the interests of Jupiter, (because he is the Ascendant.) In this case, by extension, this means against all three people in the room, the individual they are attempting to help and perhaps any institutional changes at the place where the individual works. Previous experience of other potentially interested parties meant I had a good idea who the Sun represented. He had appeared in solar costume in several previous meeting charts. In this case he rules no planet and no house. He has no power in the actual meeting, he did not know it was taking place. The Sun has only one aspect to a planet, an **applying** square to Uranus. Only **after** the meeting was he to discover an outside agency was to undertake an investigation. Uranus shows his shock. **Notice that**

despite not knowing anything at this point his subsequent interest in the matter and his power to have an effect is singing in the chart.

The Sun is not just in the twelfth but in Scorpio. Since he is ruled by Mars he was no doubt angry and likely to act - quietly.

The Sun is also very close to an applying sesquiquadrate with Pallas. I accept this the kind of thing is made a fuss of only when somebody is straining to prove a point and it cannot be done by other means, however it seems genuinely significant here for several reasons. The Sun has no Ptolemaic aspects. It has only one aspect to a planet. The sesquiquadrate is five minutes from exact. Pallas frequently appears to be active in this type of chart because she represents strong defensive tactics (and women in a man's world of work.) In addition, as we will see shortly, very strong defensive tactics actually appear to have been employed in this case. We need life to teach us astrology if astrology is ever to help us with life, medieval texts may not hold the entire picture. My observations over time seem to show that small rocks do not automatically mean redundant archetypes exhumed by feminists.

Mars (Mr Sun's ruler,) is in very close square to the Ascendant / Descendant. Mr Sun's anger probably encompasses both union officials. However Mars is also ruled by and opposed to Jupiter. Rule here indicates a different kind of formative principle, put simply the Sun's anger was caused by Jupiter. This aspect is **separating**, Mr Sun was **already** very angry with Mr Jupiter over another matter. This did not help!

Mr Sun is also ruled by Mars as signifier of the fourth cusp. He wants the end of the matter. At the time I paid less attention to Mr Sun than was prudent because it seemed out of character for him to sabotage this initiative but ultimately (to some degree) sabotaged it was.

The report was produced and was critical of the organisation. The union official who read it viewed it as extremely thorough and balanced. It included some criticism of the union. Standard procedure was to place the report on public record. Standard procedure was not followed. Not only had it been a long job but the investigator was not happy on principle. He made enquiries within his own organisation, he was basically told to back off and leave it alone. He resigned. Now perhaps we see other reasons why Pluto was rising, conjunct Venus (the investigator) and sextile the MC/ IC at the initial meeting.

Circumstantial evidence led to conjecture. It appeared that someone who had contact with people in high places got the report quashed. Mr Sun benefitted from this. Had the report been made public he would have been badly damaged and very unfairly, simply for being in the wrong place at the time. Mr Sun was generally aghast at bad publicity. (Sun square Jupiter, in detriment, in the ninth) However he was not simply self-serving, the entire organisation would have been very negatively impacted by any taint of racism, it might possibly have closed it down, to the benefit of nobody involved.

Mr Sun was not allowed to see the report nor be informed of its contents because it was not now to be made "public knowledge" but it became apparent over time that he had taken the fact of the inspection and the inspector's verbal comments very seriously. The troops were pleased to learn that it really was out of character for him to ignore or hide something unethical. He addressed as many issues as he could see and had means to control, by making genuine and significant improvements. Unfortunately the individual whose difficulties began the saga did not gain any benefit from the changes. The eventual consensus was that two individuals, one after the other, were in fact racist and in a position to be obstructive to the victim. Mr Sun and others made efforts to dislodge the incumbent offender but it proved a long job. The individual eventually got the promotion that was always deserved but had been so elusive.

As in the case here, separating aspects between planets have often shown contact between characters, which was known to occur prior to a meeting. Occasionally it has been possible to verify contacts after a meeting that were symbolised by the applying aspects. It is a small step to assume that these two types of aspect give a reasonably reliable guide to who has been closeted together beforehand, getting their story straight and who will scuttle off to where afterwards. Particularly in the second case the informed is likely to be someone who was not at the meeting, so you need to determine who it is. The condition of the informer and the informed, relative to each other, should be a guide to motive. Someone in a difficult position, acting under orders, may be weak and, or ruled by the informed for example. An informant applying to Neptune, in the twelfth or Pluto, almost anywhere and you know better what to expect. Sometimes people are doing no more than their job by informing others who need to know. Sometimes they are actually trying to help someone else.

Now all that remains is to get out the Machiavelli handbook and take evasive measures with the mass of information at your disposal.