



Synastry tested; His Sun to Her Moon, in Happy and Divorced Couples.

Astrologers generally consider, even in modern times, that the characteristics of the natal Sun will usually be more obviously expressed and visible in the life of a man than a woman. He will frequently then be drawn to a woman described by his Moon. A woman more often exhibits her natal Moon sign and looks for a Man to play her Sun. This has led to a view that good marriages are made when His Sun is in good aspect to Her Moon. The theory rests on the assumption that each half will then be able to behave in their most natural and easy manner yet be in harmony with the equivalent self-expression of the partner. It is one of those things “everybody knows” that can work as well, or better, than good aspects between the two Suns or even the two Moons. The previous two tests suggest that the relationship between the two Suns may be more important than that between the two Moons. If this is true it may always have been the case and we have not noticed it, because we have worked largely with theory, or it may be something that has developed in recent times, as each individual is not only a little less constrained by traditional gender roles but probably free to follow a different path than the one taken by their family. Either way it seems worth comparing the relationship between the man’s natal Sun and woman’s natal Moon in couples who are happily married against those who divorced.

As in the Moon to Moon test, any pair in which the position of the (woman’s) Moon was in doubt were eliminated; this left 68 happy couples and 54 pairs who had divorced.

The ‘aspects’ used here are measured in terms of sign placement only. The tables show how the test groups compared with what might be expected by chance in a large, random sample.

Frequency of ‘aspect’ for the Happy.

‘Aspect’	% of Group	Chance	% of Chance
♋	8.8	8.3	106
♌	20.5	16.6	123
♍	14.7	16.6	88
♎	23.5	16.6	141.5
♏	23.5	16.6	141.5
♐	7.35	16.6	44.2
♑	1.47	8.3	17.7

Frequency of ‘aspect’ for the Divorced.

‘Aspect’	% of Group	Chance	% of Chance
♋	7.4	8.3	89
♌	29.6	16.6	178
♍	5.5	16.6	33.1
♎	14.8	16.6	89
♏	22.2	16.6	133
♐	11.1	16.6	66
♑	9.2	8.3	119

For the happy the most commonly occurring 'aspects' are the 'trine' and 'square', which are equal and 41% higher than would be expected by chance. The number of divorced pairs with the 'trine' is almost equal at 33% above chance. **Clearly the theory that a trine between the Sun of a man and the Moon of a woman is an attractive force appears to be true. Unfortunately it also appears that it is no guarantee a partnership will endure.**

If the figures for both groups are added then the number of 'trines' is 45.7% of the whole sample and the number of 'squares' is 38.3%. (If these numbers are representative of large groups) **about 20% more pairs with a 'trine' between his Sun and her Moon actually marry than pairs with the 'square' but very nearly half (49%) of the pairs with the 'trine' end up divorcing. About 39% of the pairs with a 'square' divorce, so that in the end there are an equal number of squares as trines who are happy.**

Life and marriage are not Cinderella. Finding that you think or feel alike and might be able to share a home without throwing pots at each other is an exceedingly good start, certain trines may do well at this bit. We tend to assume that the Aries Sun (conjunct Mars,) trine Leo Moon, (square Uranus) might have a couple more dents in the woodwork and is probably the kind of trine that ends up divorced. In fact a Virgo Sun (with an entourage of other greyish things) in trine to the beloved's Moon in Capricorn may not do the damage or make the mess of fire (or sulk or sob or plot like water) but is sometimes a very slow and agonising death. Whatever the combination, in order for a partnership to work, it is not just necessary for two people to get on with each other, they must also get on with life. Love is good stuff but it will not often conquer all. This could be why the trine fails more often than the square. The latter may be a sign that the two people are prepared to put their natural talents to use and engage in some kind of effort together. Effort that produces results (frequently measured in material assets but sometimes other things) is of great benefit in generating the feeling that life is good and the partner is an integral part of that goodness. The Sun, Moon 'trine' may stop at how good it is just to be me and how comfortable it is not to have to do anything new or scary. The results depend on who 'me' already is and whether 'comfortable' is defined by Cancer or Aquarius.

I offer up another theory for why His Sun 'square' Her Moon appears to have succeed more often than might be suspected. As before, it may have something to do with an age group. Since the happy had to have been married *at least* 20 years to be included they were, on average, older than the divorced. These women spent much more time at home than their men. They also spent more time with their own mothers, who normally helped with the children. Any problems related to the Sun of the man in square to the Moon of the woman were easy to explain away as unavoidable. If the Moon and Sun appeared to be at cross purposes it was probably seen as the necessity of domestic ties. A man was sometimes 'held back' because of the duties his wife owed to the house, the children and her mother. He did not suggest they relocate so he could take a more interesting job (careers were not yet invented) because his mother-in-law and his wife would be bereft. Whatever the relationship between a man and his wife's family, in the days before the wife dropped the mewling infant to nursery, in her own car, everybody knew it was the way things were. The couple themselves were not to blame. It remains to be seen if lifestyle changes make this particular bit of synastry more difficult in younger pairs, now that a man is branded a sexist if he complains about the mother-in-law who trained Medusa.

In this test, half of ALL the pairs who married have his Sun in the next sign to her Moon. The 'semi-sextile' is the most commonly occurring 'aspect' in the divorced; it appears at 78% above chance. Although this is a good deal more common than the same 'aspect' in the happy it is also above chance in the happy. (This seems to reinforce the results found for the Moon to Moon synastry, in which the 'semi-sextile' was also high.) Since it seems so many pairs marry with this aspect it suggests (again) issues that are unnoticed or apparently insignificant at the beginning but which frequently become a problem over time. Given the results for the square (and sextile) I suggest it may not be symbolic of a tangible problem so often as a lack of appropriate connection. A pair with the trine can be comfortable. Those with a square, once they have accepted each other, may put in the extra to survive and prosper (or this particular square may have been easy to accept in the past) but (in general) the semi-sextile does not pack enough punch. Tests done for *Binary Stars* suggest certain pairs of signs survive the semi-sextile test better than others. Natal or wedding charts with significant bodies in Libra and Scorpio being a case in point.

The 'sextile' appears very infrequently in the divorced, (about 1/3 of chance) this might be seen to confirm it as a 'good' aspect because lack of it appears to be a handicap. Unfortunately the 'sextile' is also below chance in the happy. Only 20% of the whole sample married with this aspect, compared with 45% with the trine. It seems it is not of the right character to encourage the formation of a bond as close as marriage. However, since it is still over two and a half times more common in the happy as the divorced, it looks better to have it than not. Considering the series of tests as a whole, my guess would be that the happy pairs with his Sun 'sextile' to her Moon are likely also to have several other useful aspects between them. Alternatively, or in addition, the two lights may be in particularly good condition in the happy pairs and, or the two people may be very suited to the game of marriage. It is also possible that a sextile that is close does a lot better than merely two lights in the right signs. This general test needs to be followed by individual case work in order to assess which theory or theories appear the strongest.

The 'inconjunction' between the two lights was lower than chance in both groups. If the figures for both are added the overall total is just over half chance. It seems that the kind of frustration or lack of connection with which it is associated is sufficient to discourage many folk from forming a permanent attachment. Those who did were more likely to divorce than not, since there were about 50% more in the divorced than the happy. All of which gives us cause to continue regarding it as one of the less desirable items on the shopping list.

The fact that half the people in the study DID marry with the 'semi-sextile' suggests it is far weaker, or represents something far less obvious, than the 'inconjunction'. This has been my experience in working practice. Tests conducted for *Binary Stars*, using genuine aspects, rather than sign relationship alone, suggest it is not wise to ignore a true semi-sextile with a tight orb. However it seems apparent from this test that the 'inconjunction' by sign alone is sufficient to be a problem. It is possible that, just by chance, the pairs counted here happened to have closer orbs for the 'inconjunction' than those with the 'semi-sextile' but, even if that is so, it does not explain the low number of pairs in which his Sun and her Moon form an 'inconjunction' who make it as far as marriage in the first place. It seems it must be the case that most people notice a problem before it is too late,

whereas they do not in the case of the 'semi-sextile'. Of course, if that is true, we might now ask which of these two aspects is actually the most dangerous?

The number of pairs with his Sun in the same sign as her Moon was very close to chance overall. The happy slightly above, the divorced a little more below. Since the chances of a conjunction or opposition are half as high as the other aspects the numbers should naturally be half as high in any test. This being so a larger sample is required to see whether the figures begin to deviate from chance in either group. There was not a cluster in any sign. Nothing else may safely be said at this point.

The 'opposition' of his Sun and her Moon does show a marked difference from chance and a marked difference between the happy and the divorced. It is found at less than a 1/5 of chance (17.7%) in the happy, while the divorced have around 1/5 more 'oppositions' than chance (119%) Again a larger sample is required to confirm such a big gap between the two groups but it seems reasonable to conclude, even at this stage, that his Sun opposite her Moon is frequently difficult to manage in a close partnership.

It is now possible to compare three oppositions. The Sun to Sun test showed that on average fewer couples marry with their Sun's in opposite signs. (About 70% of chance) As far as the figures go in a small sample they suggest the Moon opposite Moon is much more likely to draw pairs together, overall they married at a rate about 50% over chance. After which, of the total, around 5 pairs remained happy to every 4 who divorced. My conclusion would be that Sun opposite Sun frequently means each person is thwarted by the other when attempting to act. If one gives way to the other it may only last for so long. Nevertheless, Sun opposite Sun may still have been more common in happy pairs in the past than his Sun opposite her Moon because if he was allowed to express his Sun and she had an acceptable refuge in the shape of her Moon the pair survived. As with his Sun square her Moon the family may act as host or scapegoat for problems and the pair may have remained content with each other. Moon, opposite Moon pairs may be happier a little more often than either of the other cases for several reasons. First, *both* families carry some of the Moon symbolism and they may be at war or just very different. If the couple can maintain their own character and independence from the two tribes things may proceed reasonably well. Second, people sometimes pair up precisely because their backgrounds are opposite and they are attracted to the differences. Some are escaping, others are glad to join any moderately well-functioning group for the first time. Third, where the lights show the couple themselves they symbolise different functions, the Sun acts the Moon reacts. A pair with opposite reactions to life may balance each other in useful ways, but a pair with opposite plans, taking opposite actions, to implement what each thinks are joint plans, will just drive each other nuts.

It appears that a similar (fairly low) number of pairs begin married life with Sun opposite Sun as pairs with his Sun opposite her Moon. In the case of Sun opposite Sun about half survive. Pairs who have his Sun opposite her Moon fail much more often than not. (About 6 – 1) Provided the results have not been seriously skewed by the small sample, this implies that there is (or was) merit in the idea that men express the Sun and women the Moon more often. It seems that where the essential form of expression is thwarted the bond is usually destroyed. Society and lifestyle are not everything; I would guess that the ways of nature (and centuries of conditioning) mean this opposition will remain hard to endure for a long time. One assumes those who manage it have strong mitigating factors elsewhere.

If the apparent ability to express the light of the appropriate gender is very significant then there should be more 'good' aspects between the male Suns and female Moons in the happy than the divorced and also more 'good' aspects of this type than between the two Suns or two Moons or the female Sun with the male Moon in the happy group and less in the divorced.

More test results should follow.

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