



A test of Sun to Sun synastry in relationships.

The old parchments told us that trines between a man's Sun and the benefics bestow every kind of blessing, while an opposition or square with a malefic, debilitated and conjunct a dodgy star, brings forth monstrous children and death by decapitation in a shipwreck. They mollified us with the news that a little modification by a Venus sextile might reduce the sentence to a life shortened by attraction to women with loose morals and bad soup. A few decades back we decided we were grown up, threw all this stuff away sniggering and grafted ourselves to psychology. This did not change the world so the tides have turned once more to face the glories of Greece and the wisdom of Al Tazimuth. At this point it seems appropriate to start testing a few ideas from both camps. Otherwise the next generation of practitioners are in danger of re-embracing the ancient aphorisms blindfold, without realising their magical properties have been restored, at least in part, because somebody got the funding to translate them.

Astrologers cry that it is impossible to subject their art to the methods of science. I agree, but to operate without submitting the rules of astrology to some kind of systematic and critical testing periodically is likely to render it the nonsense science claims. Even if we imagine the texts of the past were unpolluted by idiots, crooks and dabblers called Claudius, and there was a Pure and Golden Age of Wisdom between Akkadian and Latinised Arabic, life has changed a bit. What worked in the golden age might not work today, now that we have redefined loose morals and bad soup.

If we start with something simple, upon which most of us agree, most of the time, there is no need to collect a lot of old people and sort through the rules for the Hyleg the first morning, (which frees us up to check the nicotine patch, eat a bit of fruit and do some cardio stuff) Therefore I offer a contribution in the form of a test to see if it is really true that people with 'good' aspects between their Suns get along nicely. Somebody, somewhere will have done this before but I have never seen such things published. They may not be as exciting as a bus timetable to read but the results can be a cause for high fives. Where they are not we need to find out why. Either way there is an excuse for time off for your own version of good behaviour after.

I compared the aspects between the Sun and Sun in the natal charts of 92 couples who have been married for at least 20 years and are still happy, and the natal charts of 65 pairs who were married and then divorced. In theory, if lots of pairs are made randomly, from a wide selection of people, about one in twelve of the pairs should turn out to have their Sun in the same sign and the same number should have their Sun in opposite signs. Since Aries is opposite only Libra but square both Cancer and

Capricorn there ought to be twice as many pairs (one in six) with Suns. in signs squared to each other. The same logic follows for signs related by semi-sextile, sextile, trine, and inconjunction. Whether the two people are a male and a female, nine and ninety or Japanese and Mexican is irrelevant to such a test. If astrology is rubbish, or aspects are meaningless, both the happy and divorced pairs should show the same pattern of results as random pairs and there should be no difference between the two test groups.

First we need to check the relationship between the two Sun signs; actual aspects, are discussed later. This will show best how both samples compare with a theoretical group. It will also give the picture before we impose our various orb sizes on the test. Whatever orbs are used information may be lost or distorted because we ignore anything that falls outside our predetermined ideas of how big each aspect is.

In addition there are those who regard a body in a sign as a trine another body in the same element, regardless of degree. The last I heard, Bernadette Brady is of this opinion. (Presumably this whole sign idea applies only to Ptolemaic aspects, we will test two others.) Most of us would agree friendship by element helps but most of us believe a 'real' aspect is better. Counting signs only might help us begin judging whether orbs are useful.

Since the two test groups were different sizes it was not sufficient to use raw numbers. 10 people in a group of 65 is a bigger proportion, and therefore more significant, than 10 out of 92. The actual number of pairs with Suns in each placement were counted and the results converted into a percentage of the appropriate group. The tables below give the results.

Sun, Sun Sign for the Happy

'Aspect'	% of Group	Chance	% of Chance
♋	6.7	8.3	80.7
♌	16.8	16.6	101
♍	12.3	16.6	74
♎	15.7	16.6	94.5
♏	24.7	16.6	148
♐	17.9	16.6	107
♑	5.6	8.3	67.4

Re-listed in Order Most in Happy First

♏	148
♐	107
♌	101
♎	94.5
♋	80.7
♍	74
♑	67.4

Sun, Sun Sign Divorced

'Aspect'	% of Group	Chance	% of Chance
♋	15.6	8.3	187
♌	15.6	16.6	93.9
♍	18.7	16.6	112
♎	15.6	16.6	93.9
♏	9.3	16.6	56
♐	20.3	16.6	122
♑	6.2	8.3	72

Re-listed in Order
Most Divorces First

♋	187
♐	122
♍	112
♌	93.9
♎	93.9
♑	72
♏	56

The first column of figures in the table shows the percentage of the group with each 'aspect'

The second column shows what percentage might be expected to appear by chance in a random group of pairs. 8.3 % is just the (rounded) equivalent of 1 in 12. 16.6 % is 1 in 6. The third column shows how much the sample tested deviated from chance. Numbers below 100 mean the 'aspect' occurred less often than chance; numbers above 100 show the 'aspect' occurred above chance.

When the figures are listed from the highest above chance to the lowest below chance it can be seen that **in the happy only one aspect occurred in numbers significantly higher than chance and it was the trine**. Chance would be 1 pair in every 6, the sample gave 1 in every 4. **Score one for astrological theory.**

The inconjunct occurred just above chance and the semi-sextile may as well be called equal to it. Sun square Sun appeared at just under chance.

It can be seen that the conjunction, sextile and opposition appeared below chance.

For the pairs who divorced it was the conjunction that appeared most often at almost twice chance and the trine the least. This tends to underscore the benefit of Sun trine Sun in a relationship.

If the figures for the happy are added to those for the divorced and halved that gives the average numbers for the whole test sample. A large random sample should equal 100% for each 'aspect'. How the test scores differ from 100 may tell us a few other things.

The averages are: Conjunction 133.8; Semi-sextile 97.45; Sextile 93; Square 94.2; Trine 102; Inconjunct 114.5; Opposition 69.7. (When these 7 are averaged they total 100.66%)

Several of the totals are near to 100%, we can infer from this that although the test sample was small it did not give peculiar results, which might suggest it was made of a biased and peculiar bunch of people. That the combined average for every 'aspect' showed a less than 1 % inaccuracy suggests the sums are in reasonable order.

It can be seen that more pairs in total had the conjunction, and less the opposition. The two figures together average to 95.9%, it seems that the extra numbers with the conjunction were lost mostly from the opposition, since the rest of the aspects are reasonably close to chance. **This suggests that more couples with the Sun in the same sign initially marry than do pairs with any other pattern. The opposite is true of the opposition.** It seems when humans love they reverse physics, like attracts like and opposite repels. **However (in this test) around 70% of all those pairs with the same Sun sign who married eventually divorced!** The results for the pairs with opposed Suns were much more equal, a small number more divorced than stayed happy. This suggests it pays to look for some balance in a partner. Life requires many skills, the all play, no work, of the double Gemini or Leo pair is as ineffective as the double Virgo or Capricorn is boring and hard.

As far as the astrology goes, note that the tendencies for the 'opposition' were opposite those for the 'conjunction'. It seems reasonable to count this as another point scored.

Now we have seen how the groups compare with chance they can be compared with each other. If the divorced pairs have squared Suns twice as often as chance we are apt to see that it confirms our belief that squares are bad. However if there are *also* nearly twice as many squares in the happy pairs as chance we must revise our judgement. There may be another factor inside or outside of astrology to consider. Each aspect was counted in each group and converted into a percentage. The results were then computed as a ratio between the two groups, which helps to give a clearer picture of the differences between them.

If ratios are scary throw away the decimal point. When you look at the table below just think of the first 1 as the equivalent of 100 happy pairs with Suns in the same sign for every 232 pairs with Suns in the same sign who divorced. 1.07 becomes 107 pairs with a semi-sextile who divorced for every 100 who were happy.

'Aspect'	Happy	Divorced
♋	1	2.32
♌	1.07	1
♍	1	1.52
♎	1.006	1
♏	2.65	1
♐	1	1.14
♑	1	1.10

Most happy first

	Happy	Divorced
♌	2.65	: 1
♌	1.07	: 1
♎	1.006	: 1
♏	1	: 1.10
♐	1	: 1.14
♑	1	: 1.52
♋	1	: 2.32

When the Sun, Sun 'aspects' of the happy and divorced are compared with each other, only the trine appeared considerably more often in the happy pairs. (Equivalent to 265 happy pairs with the Sun in the same element for every 100 divorced.) There were about half as many again as there 'should' have been by chance who married in the first place, proving the elements attract but more importantly far more of the pairs *remained* happy than divorced. (It works out to 72% of the total number who initially married with Suns in the same element.) Score one more.

It is not until we reach the sextile that the results again become interesting. It appeared about half as often again in the divorced pairs as the happy. This 'good 'aspect' did not prove advantageous. A previous test (published in *Binary Stars*) found more sextiles in the wedding charts of the divorced than the happy, between Juno, Jupiter, their rulers and the Lights. My conclusion is that the sextile is rather too light weight for the thing called marriage, which requires something deeper than the ability to cooperate on a team-building weekend. Sextiles are lively and useful enough when ideas are required but will not get too many pairs through the bad patches. These require an underlying depth of emotion, shared intention, a range of practical abilities and, occasionally, mind numbing hard

work and tenacity. Squares and oppositions with some water and earth will generally do better than sextiles alone. Water loves, earth endures.

Comments have been made on the snare of the Sun in the same sign. Here the situation is equivalent to 232 pairs with the Sun in the same sign who divorced, for every 100 pairs who were happy.

There is another, very simple reason for not testing the actual aspects first here, the sample is too small. Every pair has to have Sun, Sun in one of the 'aspects' if it is only the sign relationship that counts. In an extreme case NONE of the pairs has to have their two Suns in actual aspect as they are generally measured. If the orb allowed is 8 degrees, both applying and separating, then the chance of an actual conjunction or opposition between the two lights is slightly above 1 in 24. Chance for the other aspects is just over 1 in 12. From a pool of 92 or 65 that is not a lot! One or two cases added or missing by chance makes a mockery of the figures.

The smaller the orb the lower the chance the aspect will count. The usual orbs for the sextile, semi-sextile and inconjunct require a sample several times greater than is now available, if we are to begin taking it seriously (and we still have to have the argument about how big they should be.)

If I live long enough I hope to gather enough cases for a bigger test. In the meantime the results so far suggest we might conclude that there is something reasonable in the idea of whole sign aspects (if I may use the term without leaving it open to confusion with whole sign houses) It also seems a reasonable working theory that the closer the aspect actually is the stronger will be the observed result. I do think we also need to be open to the possibility that as an aspect gets closer the observable results might change, rather than just increase in volume. Rulership is open to abuse, why not trines? The trine that is just the compatibility of element may give a pleasant ease of movement to the life of a pair, it might in fact go bad ways when close enough that the ease becomes complacency or allows for the speed of grand theft auto. A square that is close (in suitable signs with healthy rulers) may be useful for work, while two Suns disengaged in squared signs may be merely two people who annoy each other.

It is often claimed that the relationship between the Moons is key to the quality of a relationship..... hopefully there will be another report soon.