

a virgin must sit humbly outside the dark forest from whose mysterious depths this wondrous beast will then come forth and lay its head in her lap. The soul which has cleansed itself, perhaps after many lives, and has wiped out the stains of ill deeds and karma, has brought itself back to the condition of virgin purity and is then able to offer itself of its own volition to be fructified by spiritual knowledge. Thus the unicorn is seen as a symbol of the higher self filled with the Christ light, which can redeem the mind, heart and will, through inflooding of creative intelligence and love.' All this made a great deal of sense to me and I did not feel it was by chance that I was given the symbol of the unicorn as my female aspect.

I have done much pondering on the strange life I have had to live ever since Peter and I was brought together twenty four years ago. At times the things that happened to me did not make sense, but as I pondered I began to see how Peter and I are archetypes and are working our archetypal patterns in our lives. When I heard that astrologically Pisces, with its polar opposite Virgo, are the signs for the old age, I realized that as Peter is Pisces and I am Virgo, our role is to be the bridge between the old and the new. In the beginning when Peter and I worked together to complement each other it worked very well. So why balance the male and female aspects within each individual? I have begun to discover for myself that when I bring those aspects together in myself, I feel a oneness within me, a lifting up of consciousness. When individuals are balanced within themselves, then their relationship is fuller, richer and the love flows in a balanced way. When there is no demand in us for anything from another, then we can express a love that is so great it can encompass the world. We can give and keep on giving, and lift up our consciousness so that we are expressing universal love, divine love.

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## The Astrological Birth Chart

The birth chart is cast in a circle and is an archetypal mandala, symbolising man's quest for unity and wholeness. A person's psychological structure is mapped out in the framework of the chart with its twelve-fold division of houses and signs; the planets and their relationship one to another, and the four elements of fire, earth, air and water which correspond to Jung's Four Functions. Parts of the chart will be in consciousness and part will be in the unconscious, so one can say that the birth chart indicates a person's *potential* consciousness - the work lies in bringing into the light of consciousness those areas in the chart which lies burried.

There are four other points which have relevance to the chart as a map of consciousness which we will look at in more detail in this paper. It is important



it will determine the type of personality needs which will emerge over the years because it acts as a filter through which all the other energies in the chart pass. To give an example: a person with the sensitive sign of Cancer on the ascendant will always seek emotional security however extravert they may appear, their sense of well being being concurrent with their need either to nurture or be nurtured. A person with Aquarius on the Ascendant will need space where the Cancer person's needs are to contain or be contained. Whereas the Cancer ascendant will express itself in warm physical affection (providing other factors don't contribute to making the person cool emotionally), in which case it may want to, but be unable to express it. The Aquarius ascendant, however warm the rest of the chart, will always draw back inside if it is called upon to express warmth. The ascendant indicates how a person expresses themselves in their own terms.

In the main, the qualities of the ascendant are in consciousness, but if they are not, the person will project those qualities on to those around them, in which case a great deal of work has to be done to bring these qualities into their consciousness as being within themselves.

It is possible to harness the positive qualities of the rising sign (as it is sometimes called) and to affirm them as what we are. A person can grow through this affirmation and begin to master other energies within the chart. Befriending the ascendant is important work.

*The Descendant.* This point is opposite the ascendant and these two can be seen as a polarity symbolising the personality and the Other; what we are, and what we gravitate towards. Very often the descendant is not in consciousness and people tend to attract partners who will live out the qualities of the descendant and the 7th house of the chart, both of which are linked with relationships. It is very convenient to be able to project these traits onto someone else or to condemn them for living out facets of oneself which we refuse to take into our consciousness and acknowledge as our own. For example a client with the aggressive planet Mars near her descendant constantly complained of her aggressive assertive husband until she began to bring her own aggressive side into consciousness.

If the partner's chart does not contain the energies of the Descendant, the person will develop within their own psyche an autonomous inner personality to compensate. This figure can emerge with the use of guided fantasy techniques and can sometimes be highly destructive. On the other hand, it can hold the repressed energies which go through the ascendant-descendant polarity, like the young Buddhist who lived a disciplined, devout life with a cool Aquarian ascendant, who found to his great consternation that within him lay a rake and a roue, constellated in the energies of Leo on the descendant, a sign which needs approbation from others.

*The midheaven or M.C.* This point in the chart may or may not be in consciousness; sometimes a person is so unaware of the energies of this point, that they are driven by them. From a psychological point of view, the mother

*within the psyche* is represented here. It shows how the person sees the mother, and how they have been scripted by her. Very often there is a link in the chart of the mother with her child's M.C. This is one reason why rescripting, rather than writing an anti-script is such a difficult process.

The Midheaven also indicates how the person needs their own public to see them, so the astrologer poses the question "who is 'them' to you? Who are your public?" It can be the mother, the family, colleagues, siblings, the partners, neighbours, the club - what ever it is, the person's attitude to their public will be shown by the M.C. A person may be a slave to their public not really knowing who 'they' are. Bringing *them* into conscious by studying the M.C. can be most freeing as a client found when she discovered that 'them' to her, constellated by her Libra M.C., were a set of acquaintances whom she admired socially. She was able to relax and find her own set of friends.

*The Imum Coeli or I.C.* This term is Latin for the lowest part of the heavens and represents the depths of the psyche. People have to work very hard to begin to bring into consciousness the motivating forces which operate at this level. The qualities of the sign or planets in this area of the chart will always influence a person. If Aries is on the I.C., there will usually be some form of push and drive which spurs the person on, whereas Pisces on this point may push the person into always taking on one more extra thing, so that eventually they become their own victim.

The I.C. also represents the father within the psyche, the effect of the father as a person and the child's attitude to him. Here again, we find scripting. To foreswear the pattern of the forefathers can be a big step in an individual's growth path because the security which carrying on the ancestral heritage brings is deeply rooted within the psyche, even in these socially emancipated day.

Bringing into consciousness the polarity of the M.C. - I.C. axis frees a human being to stand in the world in their own right, just as an awareness of the energies contained in the Ascendant - descendant polarity gives the person the ability to say 'I am me, and you are you.'

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