

A Sampler of Materials from Astrological Analysis: Selected Topics in Chart



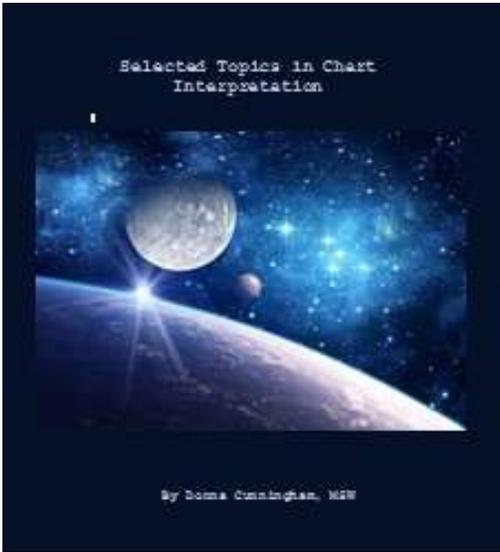
By Donna Cunningham, MSW

ASTROLOGICAL ANALYSIS: SELECTED
TOPICS IN CHART INTERPRETATION
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Note: This booklet is a sampler of materials covered in the full-length ebook. Below is a list of all the articles in the book itself. What follows after that are selected excerpts.

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Astrological Analysis: Selected Topics in Chart Interpretation

About This Book: This is a collection of essays on various facets of chart interpretation, based partly on Donna's much-acclaimed series for intermediate students in *The Mountain Astrologer*. In this richly-illustrated volume, she shares insights and observations gathered from 35 years of astrological practice.

Topics include aspect patterns, elemental balance, identifying chart themes, finding the strongest planets in a chart, singletons, stelliums, transits, the second Saturn return, relocation, and more. This ebook is regularly used as a text in online astrology classes at Kepler [College](#).

Order the book here: [My Books](#). \$15 if ordered separately, but there's a special price of \$35 if 3 of the \$15 ebooks are ordered at the same time. (Only available in PDF format, this ebook works well with a laptop or 10" tablet, but is not yet available for Kindle.)

Here are some Excerpts:

In the house where Uranus is located, people show their unconventional side by frequently doing things that fly in the face of convention in matters related to that house.

With Uranus in the 3rd house, for instance, such people often embrace — and speak or write about — unconventional, modern, or even radical points of view, though their viewpoint would tend to shift dramatically from time to time.

With Uranus in the 11th, they would have friendships with unusual, eccentric, or even rebellious types, with new people coming and going frequently.

Have you ever sworn that someone was a Capricorn, yet the chart didn't have the Sun, Moon, Ascendant — or any planets at all — in that sign? Chances are that Saturn was in high focus or the 10th house was strongly emphasized. Saturnians are often strongly motivated by security and the drive to succeed; they are cautious and capable, though hard on themselves and others in their quest for perfection.



People with the 6th house strong in the natal chart often contribute to the world at large in meaningful and rewarding ways — contributions that far outweigh the importance of socializing.

Certainly, that may be their major karmic focus in this lifetime, rather than a committed partnership. However, if they want to maintain *both* their work *and* their intimate connections with others, the key is to keep these two sets of needs in balance consciously.

Not all Mercury retrograde spans are alike. Some are smooth, passing with hardly a ripple if one uses sensible precautions. Others are real bears, with nothing running smoothly, an epidemic of computer crashes, and great difficulty in getting paperwork finished or ironing out agreements. In my observation, Mercury’s retrograde motion is not the deciding factor, but rather the aspects Mercury forms to other planets around the time it is stationary turning retrograde. From around the time it turns retrograde to the time it turns direct, it moves fairly slowly, so any difficult aspects Mercury forms will be in effect continuously for about three weeks.

INSIGHTS ABOUT ASPECTS:

People with Venus–Uranus aspects usually have a unique sense of style, to put it mildly. They are in no sense part of the mainstream, though the mainstream often winds up following their trend-setting creations. Examples include Richard Simmons, Carrot Top, Elton John, Princess Diana, Queen Latifah, and Michael Jackson.

Some people with oppositions between any two planets might almost be wearing a T-shirt that says, “Look what you made me do.” They tend to project their own inner conflict onto people or circumstances outside themselves, rather than taking responsibility for their part in the situation.

Those with Uranus oppositions, for example, react strongly to what they perceive as society’s desire to restrict their freedom and individuality. So, they become even more outrageous and rebellious — more of a “character.” When an opposition that involves two planets is being used in a healthy way, the person is effectively juggling two sets of needs, concerns, or desires, and neither one is neglected.



From years of observing the quincunx (150-degree aspect) in action, I have a sense that the keyword for it is "stretching." When two planets are quincunx by sign, their basic natures are so completely different that the only way they can connect is a stretch, maybe a creative leap. This produces an expansion of perspectives, and so quincunxes wind up helping us grow in a way that a square or opposition does not—it's not a conflict as much as it is an evolution.

The quality of relationships with people you care about can be strongly affected by planets that form aspects to the degree of your actual Ascendant. Conjunctions are the most powerful modifiers—they are like doormen that people have to check in with for admittance into your inner life. Trines show social assets that draw people to you, as do sextiles. Squares and semi-squares are like security checkpoints along the way, because they can show how you actively run into conflict with your environment.

ABOUT THE FOUR ELEMENTS:



To enrich your understanding of the astrological signs, spend time with the four elements and experience how you respond to them. For the element **fire**, light a candle, sit by a campfire, and watch the flames flicker, or bask in the warmth of the Sun. To love the **earth**, plant or visit a garden and enjoy fresh, home-grown tomatoes, inhale the rich, fertile smell of the soil or the flowers that grow in it, or be awed by the majesty of a mountain. For **water**, gulp down a cool drink when you are parched, go swimming, or allow yourself to get drenched in a sudden downpour. For **air**, feel the wind on your face, fly a kite, or go sky diving.

Astrology students often worry about a particular facet of a chart, but they need not become alarmed unless this factor is confirmed in other ways. For instance, many people born without planets in the water signs (Cancer, Scorpio, or Pisces) have sworn that they are not especially emotional. Yet, some of them have Neptune—the ruler of Pisces—on the Ascendant or Pluto—the ruler of Scorpio—conjunct the Moon; these people are, on the contrary, *extremely* emotional. Their challenge, instead, is to manage those emotions.

When our charts are missing an element or are weak in that element, we can overcompensate. Life circumstances can force us to develop the qualities and abilities more naturally conveyed by that element, so over time we learn to make up for our lack by conscious attention and diligent efforts. People who are lacking in earth may stumble their way into practicality through trial and error — and too many bounced checks. The gifts of a missing element are seldom natural and instinctive, but they become easier as we work at them.

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