

Tom Lescher – New Paradigm Astrology, Astrology 101, #7

Thank you for coming. You are keeping astrology alive. You are helping astrology to grow, to expand, to flourish, to affect the lives of 7 billion people. I heard that the 7 billionth person was born last summer, so our planetary population is now over 7 billion people. The more of those people who are familiar with astrology and listen to the guidance offered by astrology, I think that the more peace, joy, love and happiness will exist on planet Earth.

Overview

Let's get down to business. We've done all the signs, all the planets and all the houses. Now we're going to start putting these things together. I believe that Stephen Forrest talks about aspects between planets in *The Inner Sky* (assigned reading). I'm going to talk a little bit about aspects to start with, but not in super great detail because this is a beginner course. I would much rather have you start applying and working with the information that you've already received than to overload you with the Virgonian details to the point where you feel overwhelmed. We don't want to forget the spirit of the law while interpreting the letter of the law. If there's too many letters, you forget the spirit. We want to stay in the spirit of astrology, the spirit of interpretation. In fact, we want to use astrology to tap into spirit mind.

Let's look at aspects from that particular perspective. Just like Daniel Giamario says with *Shamanic Astrology*, this astrology is archetypally driven. As such, when we look at two planets in aspect to each other we will come to an understanding of their dynamic largely using the archetypes of the signs that they are in and not dwell so much on the particular aspect that is formed. As an example, if Venus in Leo is square Neptune in Scorpio we will come to an understanding of how these two planets are working together starting with what does Venus in Leo want and what does Neptune in Scorpio want? Answering these questions actually helps us understand the nature of the 90 degree (here 270 degrees) aspect in that there will arise challenging wants between the two planetary positions. Saying that the square aspect is a challenging (or hard) aspect is can actually limit our ability to understand what is going on compared to this archetypal approach.

The Aspects

The Conjunction is when 2 planets are exactly together. The new Moon is a Conjunction of the Sun and the Moon. That is the 360 degree circle divided by 1. We divide the circle by 2, full Moon is the Opposition; Sun opposite Moon. We divide the circle by 3. That is a triangle, it is 120 degrees. It's a Trine. The Square is a circle divided by 4. It is 90 degrees. We can also take the circle and divide it by 6. I'm not going to do 5. We'll talk about that later, it's not a major Aspect. The Sextile is the circle divided by 6. It is 60 degrees. One major Aspect that I use is called the Inconjunct or the Quincunx. That is 150 degrees. Those are the Aspects we'll deal with.

We can go through the different aspects using the monthly Moon cycle. Let's start by saying that the New Moon occurs at 0 degrees of Aries and the Sun stays there while the Moon continues through the signs. The New Moon is a conjunction of the Sun and the Moon, and then the Moon moves away toward its crescent phase. The first aspect that we will discuss is the 60 degree aspect called a Sextile which would equate with the Sun staying at 0 Aries and the Moon reaching 0 Gemini.. Then the Moon will continue moving toward a 90 degree Square or 0 Cancer as each sign is made up of 30 degrees. Then it goes up to 120 degrees, the Trine. That's 0 degrees of Leo. Next is the Quincunx, 150 degrees, or 0 degrees of Virgo. Then it makes it to 0 degrees of Libra, 180 degrees opposite 0 degrees Aries and we have the full Moon, or the Opposition aspect.

From the opposition it continues on to 0 degrees of Scorpio and you have another 150 degree aspect only this time going the other way around. It's still at Quincunx but it's a very different kind of Quincunx and we will talk about this. You get up to 0 degrees of Sagittarius and that is 120 degrees (again coming from the other direction). That is a Trine. It is also 240 degrees if you begin counting from the Sun at 0 degrees Aries and going counterclockwise through the signs. From there it continues up to 0 degrees of Capricorn which is called a third quarter square. It is 270 degrees, which is a Square, but it differs from the first quarter square of 90 degrees and we will talk about that. Then we move on to 0 degrees of Aquarius to our second, waning Sextile. Finally, it returns back to 0 Aries and we have another new Moon.

The Conjunction

The Conjunction - 'con' is with, 'junction' is join; joined with. Two planets that are right next to each other. We'll give these Aspects 9 degrees. If your Sun is at 10 degrees of Aries, we would say anything from 1 degree to 19 degrees of Aries is Conjunct your Sun. The 9 degrees is called an orb; the orb of influence and differs according to the aspect and the astrologer. Of course, if two planets are at exactly the same degree, that's the strongest Conjunction. If you've got your Sun at 10 degrees of Aries and Neptune is at 1 degree of Aries, it's still a Conjunction but it's not as strong. So when you look at planets aspecting each other, the smaller the orb the more powerful the aspect. The intensity of the aspect wanes as the orb increases until finally they are out of orb, or out of aspect.

I use the Conjunction, the Opposition and the Squares primarily. Those are the circle divided by 1, 2 and 4. We know that 4 creates the Cross; the Cross of matter. The Opposition and the Square both create tension toward manifestation. I work with manifestation, events, what is happening, what is going on. It's action. The Conjunction, the Opposition and the Squares have to do with action. You're going to see something, even if it's an internal action. You're still going to get a blow up, an argument, a jump for joy, some 4th of July Fireworks!

So 9 degrees is the biggest orb I will use. I also look at the planets that are involved. With Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, they move pretty darn slow. If you've got Neptune 9 degrees away from your Sun, it could take 5 years for Neptune to move and come into an exact conjunction with the Sun. but if you've got Mercury or the Moon 9 degrees away from the Sun, it could take a few hours for that Moon to be on the Sun. Therefore, I give the fast-moving, personal planets (Sun through Mars), a little bigger orb than the slower moving planets (Jupiter through Pluto).

Another exception to the 9 degree orb for aspects is when they are out of sign. I will also use a smaller orb in this case. Let's say that I have the Sun at 28 degrees Gemini. I have Venus at 5 degrees of Cancer. That's 7 degrees away from each other, but they are in different Signs/elements. Cancer is Water and Gemini is Air. I will say yes, the Sun is conjunct Venus, but since they are out of sign, I wouldn't go much farther than that 7 degrees. If the Sun was back at 26 and Venus was at 5 Cancer, it's stretching it to call that a Conjunction, because they aren't in the same sign and are 9 degrees apart.

Aspect by Association

If the Sun in Venus were maybe 10 degrees apart, and let's say they were on the Ascendant, or on the Midheaven. Let's say the Sun is at 15 Leo, you're 20 Leo rising and you've got Venus at 25 Leo. Now they are 10 degrees apart, the Sun and Venus, but the Ascendant is in the middle. They are in the same sign of Leo. Then we can say that the Sun and Venus are conjunct because they're both conjunct the Ascendant, they are in the same sign, and they're only 10 degrees apart. So I use a 9 degree orb, but you need to look at the whole chart knowing that there are exceptions to every rule.

In this example the Sun and Venus are both conjunct the Ascendant by 5 degrees. So the Sun and Venus are Conjunct by *association*, by both of them being conjunct the Ascendant. That is called a Conjunction by association and can occur with other aspects also. If there's a planet in between two planets then that orb of 9 degrees may stretch. I hope I'm not getting too technical and this is not confusing you. A lot of it is common sense and when you start looking at charts it will automatically come to you.

Here is the most important thing. This is what I really want to be clear about. I use these Aspects as archetypally driven. It's not even so much the Aspect. Technically, the planets don't even have to be in this 9 degree orb in order to be affecting the whole chart, the whole constellation.

An Example of a Square

Mercury in Taurus

Let's put Mercury in Taurus in the 2nd house. Mercury is my left-brain, linear, logical, rational thinking. The filter is Taurus, remember the sign is the filter. So the way that I think is Taurean. I'm a Taurus thinker. What is that? Slow. Taurus is the bull. Slow, practical, Mercury in Taurus. "I think about what I can see, what's tangible. I am an Earth sign. I think about survival, money, my possessions, what's practical, how I'm going to get practical, tangible results, what is going to put money in the bank for me. This is my stuff, my approach, my attitude. Mercury in Taurus can indicate that I have blinders on. I'm like a racehorse, I see things the way I have always seen them." It's a Fixed sign; tried and true and very subjective. Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer. "I have my thinking, my attitudes, my ideas, my approaches. It's in the 2nd house so that's going to

be about possessions, money, what I value. I can be mentally attached to my way, my values. I want the job done this way. You don't do it my way, you're fired. I don't care about your new ideas. This is the way we've always done it." Taurus can get stuck in a rut. I've been making shoes for 7 generations: my father, my grandfather and my grandfather's father. We make shoes this way. We sew them by hand.

The upside of Mercury in Taurus in the second house can also be somebody who, and this relates to the Square to Mars in Aquarius, the other side of that is "I am against Monsanto, against GMOs, and you're not going to change my mind. I know that this is wrong. I'm going to write about it, petition about it." This is Mercury with a certain set of values that are practical and Earth-centered. This person will take it to the President. They will initiate Prop 37. This is a positive Mercury in Taurus that says "I'm sticking with it". Taurus is endurance and perseverance.

So everything is relative. You can say the person is stuck in the mud and they have a bad attitude, they'll never change their minds. But if you're on their side, you don't want them to change their minds. If they're fighting for you, it's like "Oh yeah! Nobody's going to argue with so and so. They have Mercury in Taurus. They may as well forget it and give it up. A lot of things are relative, and you look at the rest of the chart to see what that Mercury in Taurus might be fighting for.

Mars in Aquarius

Now, talking about fighting, let's put Mars in Aquarius squaring that Mercury. In this case it would be in the 11th house. We know Mars. It's the warrior, fighter, and the initiator. "I'm going to go for it. I'm going to get it. Roar." Intense, impulsive, spontaneous, sexual, desire, "I want." In the sign of Aquarius, "I will negotiate with the community. We must bring this to the board of directors. We are Ambassadors of foreign nations, and we are trying to put together a peace plan that will meet the needs of all the countries involved." Aquarius: it's not personal, not Fire, it's an Air sign. So Mars in Aquarius can be very non-attached. It's not so impulsive and aggressive. Mars in Aquarius will be the inventor, the intellect, all that root chakra, second chakra, Mars, Fire, sex energy is shot up to the third eye. "I'm going to channel all my Chi up to my third eye and become a visionary, a prophet. I'm going to be John the Baptist, Gandhi, taking my personal

interest and putting it towards global enterprises. I'm going to take my personal stuff and do amazing things for the whole wide world."

This is Mars in Aquarius. It's non-personal, it's non-attached. On a personal level, Mars in Aquarius could also be sexual trauma. You have to look at the whole chart, but we talked about Aquarius as I'm out of here, out of the body, not even here. Sometimes that's the result of the body being traumatized.

The main thing that we have to say about Mars in Aquarius is that it's non-attached, non-personal, ingenious, inventive, about the future, time-travel, global events, corporate interests, governmental or political pursuits.

The Different Sides of the Square

We've done Mercury in Taurus and Mars in Aquarius. You can see how different they are. A Square is about connecting together the same modality. Taurus is Fixed, Aquarius is Fixed. So the Conjunction, Opposition and Squares will most often connect together the same modality. Those planets will either both be Cardinal, both be Fixed or both be Mutable. They are in a different element. Aha! Here's the big thing. Mercury in Taurus is Fixed Earth, and Mars in Aquarius is Fixed Air. This is where we get into tension. This is where we get into some challenges.

What I'm encouraging you to do and what I would like to focus on is not worrying about Aspects. Just look at the planet in the sign in the house. Is it going to agree with and get along with this other planet in a different sign in a different house? Look at each one of the planets. What does this planet want? What does that planet want? Do they want the same thing? If they don't, it creates a challenging, stressful, tense Aspect. This thing about tense Aspects, and we should put this in capital letters, underline it and bold it:

IT CAN'T BE EITHER/OR, IT HAS TO BE BOTH AND MORE

So let's look at it. Mercury in Taurus in the second house is about my money, my possessions, my attitude, etc. It can be the close-minded racehorse. It will be very happy being a gold miner and going after the gold. Mars in Aquarius is all about the politics, everybody else, what's good for the group. "I have to take into consideration everybody's ideas and I take the future into

consideration.” Aquarius is about change, the future, and inventions. Taurus is about I’m going to stay with the tried, the true, the tested and the proven. So you can see these guys are not going to get along together. But they are in the same chart. Some soul said, “I want to take those two apparently opposing energies and find a way to integrate them, make them work together and out of that there’s going to be a new creation.”

The Tension of the Square

We can see what the tension of this Mars/Mercury, Taurus/Aquarius Square could lead to. Let’s look at the downside of it. If it’s too much Mercury in Taurus and Mars is being left out, projected. That Mars in Aquarius is my boyfriend. “He’s always in his head. He’s very detached and can walk around with his nose in the air, and think he knows everything. He never really gets anything done. He just thinks about new ideas all day. He’s always on the computer. He’s always emailing.” My Mercury in Taurus is “I want to talk about what’s here and now. I want a massage. I want to talk about and get into the here and the now. Things don’t have to be so complex, life can be simple you know.”

The Taurus can be too personal, too Earthy, too grounded or narrow. The other side will be too much Aquarius. “OMG that Mercury in Taurus is so slow. I have this impulse and I want to act on it like lightning.” Aquarius, Uranus, sudden, unpredictable, eccentric. Mars in Aquarius: “I’m going to start a revolution! I’ve got to talk to the group about this and get some consensus, I want to belong to the group.” The Mercury in Taurus doesn’t need to belong to any group, it makes up its own mind. It can be slow, dull, and dense until it gets a blast from that Mars in Aquarius that could serve to drive it nuts! Mars says, “I have to explain myself over 10,000 times to get it through their thick bonehead that this is wrong or that Monsanto is trying to kill us instead of help us. That GMOs are bad, not good, and that darn Mercury in Taurus could care less about the big broad picture, the political movements, and just bury it’s head in the sand and go about it’s own business.”

Balancing the Square

You can see where you can get out of balance with either one; the Mercury or the Mars. They’ll come together in that Square though! Bam! When something comes around and it hits Mars, it’s also going to hit Mercury. Let’s say Saturn comes around and joins Mercury; it’s going to Square

Mars. So Aspects tie planets together for life. Every time this guy or gal gets triggered intellectually, they'll get triggered with their Mars energy as well. So this is an active, passionate thinker, Mercury/Mars. There's a connection between the Mars and Mercury function signified by this Aspect, and it makes for somebody who argues. They are passionately attached to their sometimes fixed ideas (new or not). They have a desire connected to their ideas and thoughts. They will debate. This would be a great person for the debate club. Mercury in Taurus will never give up. The Mars in Aquarius is super intelligent and will be ready to assert the ideas. That Mercury in Taurus could want to give up, not argue. "Why bother? I've got my own ideas, and I'm just going to go plow the field and forget about everybody else." But Mars/Aquarius will pull that Mercury in Taurus out and say, "Wait a minute! Remember the last time you plowed the field, and you had to buy those seeds from Monsanto. Now you're hooked in, and you can't grow your own seeds any more. You have to buy seeds because these seeds are designed to not reproduce!" (*laughing)

So Mars in Aquarius is the rebel, the one who's ready to go blow up Monsanto. The Mercury in Taurus is like, "Oh, I see what you're getting at. You're right. We're going to stick with it, stay with it, and we'll do what's practical. We'll take practical steps." These two planets, or functions within your psyche that are not of the same ilk, or the same energy, can actually, one way or the other, complement each other, help each other focus to create something new. You know what Einstein said, a problem is never solved at the same level it was created. A Square is like a box. You go to the Mercury in Taurus, and whenever it hits the Mars/Aquarius, it hits the side of the box. Everywhere the Mercury in Taurus goes, it hits Mars in Aquarius. It feels blocked and stymied. "I never get my way. I have to go to the community. We all follow the guru Yogananda, and I can't do anything on my property without bringing it before the board, the whole community to see if they will allow me to put a huge sculpture in my front yard."

The Mars in the Aquarius needs the community to make the decisions, and the Mercury in Taurus is like "I just want to do what I want to do, say what I want to say, go where I want to go." But it keeps hitting it, so the Mercury in Taurus will hit the walls of the box (Mars), and Mars will hit the wall of Mercury every time it wants to come out. "That new invention will never work.... totally impractical!" etc.

So you can see that the square aspect forces the individual (through those two or more planets) to rise up, out of the box and function at a higher level where both functions/planets can be satisfied! Wherever you have a Square in your chart, you can be fighting battles with yourself, or you can rise up into your observer, your witness and creatively find a way to integrate both of those planets in both of those signs, in both of those houses. You accomplish this by doing something new, original, different and unique that's never been done before.

Question about the Grand Cross

A Grand Cross is when you have an Opposition squaring another Opposition so as to make a box, or what is called a Grand Cross. I like to call it a diamond. That diamond says that this person has a lot of tension, a lot of stress. These are people who get stuff done. They make it happen. They've got the Fire going on. That Grand Cross can be Cardinal, Fixed or Mutable. Look at the modality of the Grand Cross. One way or the other, the inner conflict represented by this configuration can also lead to tremendous insights and approaches that otherwise would not be realized.

Harmonious Aspects

Now let's look at what is called a harmonious aspect like the Sextile (60 degrees). We'll put Saturn in Libra sextile the Moon in Leo. A Square will connect two signs of different elements that are also of different genders. In our last example Mercury was in Taurus and Taurus is feminine. Mars in Aquarius is in Air, masculine. When you get into a Sextile, it's always going to connect together two harmonious signs. Leo is Fire, Libra is Air. Fire and Air go great together, they are both masculine in nature. The Fire needs Air and the more Air there is, the bigger the Fire goes. The Fire heats up that Air and the Air rises to new heights, oh yeah!

In our last example with Earth and Air, Earth will smother the Air. The wind, Air, will come down to the Earth and make a dust storm and mess up the Earth. That's masculine and feminine for ya haha! However, if you have a Sextile between Taurus and Cancer, they are both feminine signs. Earth and Water are both feminine. A Sextile from Sagittarius will go down 60 degrees and you've got Libra. Go up 60 degrees and you've got Aquarius. Either way it's Fire to Air or Air to Fire. With a Sextile, you know you are dealing with elements that are different but

complementary. In a Square you're dealing with elements that are different and not complementary. Just look at the signs more than the particular aspects.

Example of a Sextile

Saturn in Libra

Let's go into the second example. We've got Saturn in Libra which has to do with "I want things to be just, fair, and equitable. I'm a mediator. I have to have balance and order." This is like the lawyer, the judge, the person who is very clear and precise about what is right and what is wrong. Of course this can also be taken as Saturn is Karma. Saturn is where we can be a little bit out of alignment so that Saturn in Libra can also create relationship issues around who is in control, who is the authority, who is to blame etc. to the point where the person can be hard to get along with. This person has some kind of misalignment in the way they do partnership/relationship. It's usually either too much or too little. The easiest way that I work with Saturn, when I look at somebody's chart, is that whatever the authorities like your Mom, Dad, Teachers, Rabbis, Priests, Nuns, told you about relationship (Saturn in Libra) is wrong. External authority is Saturn. Not only is it wrong, but you believed it, and you have a tendency to live your life that way, make your decisions that way, and have ego work that way.

You can have some guilt or shame around the way that you do relationships or partnerships. You could feel bad about choices that you've made, and this can lead you into needing too much control. Saturn is control and "I'm kind of shut down in this. You need to listen to me." There can be this overreaction out of insecurity because "I don't really know how to do relationship. I'm just doing relationship the way my Mom and Dad did it, the way I was told. So I'm insecure about it. I could be wrong, and I could make mistakes, so I'm going to overcompensate for my feelings of inadequacy or insecurity in this realm, this relationship. I'm going to try to control my partner, and run the partnership; be overbearing." The flip side of that is that when that doesn't work, "I'm going to shut down." Saturn is suppression. "I don't need a partner. Forget it. It's too heavy, hard and demanding. I attract people I can't control. I attract people who want to control me."

There can be relationship struggles and issues around control and who's in charge, who makes the decisions and choices. This is part of this person's evolutionary process, this Saturn in Libra,

and it goes again without saying that you want to look at the whole chart to see what this is all about. We've all just gone through three years of Saturn in Libra. This is critical partners. You get by yourself, and that doesn't work either, so you want to go back into partnership. Then the partnership works out to where old issues come up. You don't feel like you have any authority. You can be overly responsible. Then you can shut down. That's the way Saturn can work. That process evolves and evolves ultimately bringing maturity. You stop listening to what you were told, the way your parents did relationship and society said relationship is supposed to look. You stop being governed and ruled by external authorities in the realm of Libra and you stand in your own authority. You write your own rules and understand and do relationship in a new way.

This evolutionary process deals with coming into, and being responsible in your partnerships for your own needs and your own truth. It involves restructuring the way that you do partnership and relationship. Then you become an authority. You know what's right, what's just. You're not following some manual. You've lived through it and matured. "I've had 5 partners leave me. I know what's going on. I know why people leave." - Or "I've had to leave 5 partners. I know what is unbearable." You become an authority on partnership and relationship, on justness, fairness and equality, 50/50, give and take. You become an excellent lawyer, mediator. It's very powerful.

Moon in Leo

So this is the Saturn in Libra. We take the Moon in Leo. This Moon in Leo is Fire. The Moon in Leo is "Yeah, I am big stuff. I'm happy, joyous, I like to party and play. I'm a good mom. I'm a lioness with my little lion cubs. I'm a Queen. I like to dress up and look good. When I throw a party, everybody has a good time." The Moon in Leo is the hostess with the most-ess. Let's put it all out there, lay it all out, big shiny emotions; the Queen.

So you're coming from the Moon. Your job in past lives was "I've got a whole kingdom to think about. I'm big stuff. You treat me with respect." You don't swear at somebody with the Moon in Leo. There are consequences for that. The Moon in Leo is "I am the King, the Queen, I am big stuff."