

Horoscopic Interpretation

Casting a horoscope is relatively straight-forward, if not easy. The hard part is how to interpret the various features in the horoscope or chart, and how to interpret the whole. There are various ways to interpret a horoscope, ranging all the way from emotional to intellectual to intuitive. Thus delineation is according to the consciousness of the astrologer or interpreter. If the astrologer is reasonable and rational, then delineation is a matter of actual interpretation, and depends on the knowledge, understanding, relative perceptiveness, intelligence, and biases of the astrologer.

All astrologers who function at the personality level, i.e., all professional astrologers and most others, and rely on the mind, are necessarily biased, at the very least by knowledge and by personal values. Thus there are many, many possible interpretations or delineations of every feature and the whole. If the astrology is of somewhat higher consciousness, and can draw upon the true intuition (buddhi), then the interpretation or delineation can to some extent rise above intellectual limitations and other bias and be a true apprehension rather than actual interpretation. Because "interpretation" varies so much from chart to chart, and from interpreter to interpreter, the focus here is upon the constituents of the horoscope, the features to be interpreted, rather than interpretation per se.

The horoscope itself, if done correctly, and based on the actual particulars of birth (accurate location and accurate time) which is not so hard to do, and is generally consistent among astrologers, the horoscope itself reveals the sun sign and placement within that sign, the ascendant, the placement of the various houses, the location of the various planets in the various signs and houses, and the various aspects or relationships that appear in the chart. Delineation is about interpreting all these things, determining the significance of each feature and the significance of the whole.

- Delineation of Static Features

Each of the twelve signs is subject to interpretation, i.e., what is the quality and character of influence of each of the twelve signs, e.g., what is the overall quality and character of Aries? Similarly, each of the twelve houses is subject to interpretation, e.g., what is the overall quality and character and nature and domain of the first house? And each of the various planets, e.g., what is the overall quality and character of Mars? Also the ascendant, where the ascendant falls is subject to interpretation, e.g., what does Virgo ascending mean? Of course there are more details than these, but these are among the principal static features.

- Delineation of Dynamic Features

Dynamic features are more complicated, and much more numerous, because they are combinations of things. Each planet in the context of each sign is subject to interpretation, e.g., what is the significance of Venus in Capricorn? And in a more detailed sense, what is the significance of a planet in a particular decan or degree of a particular sign, and given the relative motion of the planet in the context of that sign? Similarly, each planet in each house is subject to interpretation, e.g., what is the significance of Jupiter in the second house? And in a more detailed sense, what is the significance of a planet in a particular decan or degree of a particular house, and given the relative motion of that planet in the context of that house? Also, each planet in aspect to every other planet, e.g., what is the significance of Mars and Venus in conjunction, in the context of Cancer and the third house? And in the more detailed sense, in the context of the particular decan or degree of each of the two planets and in the context of the given sign and house? And in the more detailed sense of a planet in aspect to another planet in the context of all aspects in the charts. Of course there are many more details than these, but these are among the principal dynamic features.

- Delineation of Individual Features

While there are many possible individual features, many astrologers have published compilations, providing their interpretations of each of the various individual features, both static and dynamic. Of course these compilations reflect the bias and consciousness of the astrologer, and are generally drawn from the particular (limited) experience of the astrologer, but they can be nonetheless useful in the sense of providing hints as to the nature of features, especially if one considers many such interpretations to get a sense of the nature and range of meaning. But ultimately one must sense for oneself what all of these things means.

- Individual Features and the Whole

While each of the various interpretations or delineations of individual factors has some relative significance, these are all properly modified by collections of features and the entirety of the chart. Thus one must look at the whole of the chart, to see how some features or collections of features may be moderated. Some features will be more prominent, others less so, if one takes into account the whole of the chart. And last but not least, one must properly take into consideration the consciousness of the subject, because someone of limited consciousness will be influenced more directly by a natal horoscope, and someone of considerably advanced consciousness will be influenced much less directly, and much more subtly. In other words, a given static or dynamic feature will mean one thing for someone of limited consciousness, and something very different for someone of higher consciousness. Which also means that astrological generalizations only really apply to people of “ordinary” consciousness, and even then not very well. Effective horoscopic interpretation requires a fundamentally intuitive apprehension, through buddhi, which precludes all professional astrologers and most others.