



Choosing Compatibility

Astrological Matchmaking

by Corrie Cooperman

Editor's Note: Although astrology can be very helpful in clarifying a relationship's potential strengths and weaknesses, it is no substitute for your own intuition and judgment regarding affairs of the heart.

When my husband and I decided to start a matchmaking service last year, we set off on a journey of far more complication than we could have possibly envisioned. We had acquired some strong opinions about what makes for compatibility in a relationship, mainly derived from our observations and research on our favorite couples. You know, the ones that are fun and comfortable to be with and have a sense of being in a growing, working relationship.

At the bare minimum, the natal charts of these couples showed very compatible moons, almost always in the same element, if not actually trined. They also had very similar scores when given the Myers-Briggs test of Jungian psychological type.

So armed with these two facts, we set out to form AstroJungian Compatibility Services, a consultation and matchmaking service for people seeking long-term relationships. We thought our years of involvement with astrology, as well as our professional backgrounds, my husband being a Jungian-oriented psychiatrist and myself in private practice as a nurse, would make this whole endeavor a snap.

To fill out our astrological criteria for compatibility, we made a thorough research of the literature, a most enjoyable process, and engaged in many a long discussion. We also consulted with some of the wonderful and experienced astrologers we have here in Santa Fe. As we refined our astrological definition of compatibility, we had a growing sense of the complexity of what we were getting ourselves into but still felt it would be a piece of cake.

Our ideal match began to take the following shape. First and foremost, the Moons had to be elementally similar. We feel that the Moon, much more than the Sun, plays a major role in intimate relationship. Not only does it represent the basic emotional nature of a person, but it tells us a great deal about the childhood needs, which invariably get taken into adult relationships. Our own strong feelings on this matter were reinforced by our contact with Ingrid Naiman and her taped lecture entitled "The Moon in Relationship." Dr. Naiman believes each Moon type has its own specific incarnational path which has a strong interplay in compatibility.

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We also wanted to see well-aspected Venuses, preferably trined, and a nice relationship between the male Mars and the female Venus for heterosexual couples. In synastry, we wanted no harsh aspects to the Moon, especially no squares or quincunxes. Again, using synastry, we also preferred that Pluto and Saturn not make any contacts with the horizontal angles (ascendant/descendant), and not make any conjunctions or oppositions to the lights and personal planets.¹

Finally, if a client's chart had an especially challenging configuration such as a T-square or Yod, we felt it was important that nothing, yes, nothing, make contact with (i.e. conjoin) any point in that configuration, synastrically speaking, including blocking a T-square outlet.

Over a year and 63 "matches" later, some very interesting material has emerged. First of all, it hasn't been a snap! People have come to our service with varying degrees of experience with relationship, and varying degrees of injury in relationship, all of which need to be taken into account in matchmaking. We have also discovered that some people, even though they state they are ready for a long-term relationship, when actually faced with the possibility of meeting a highly compatible person, go quickly running in the opposite direction, both to the consternation of us and the person with whom we have matched them.

I should mention that our process initially involves my husband and myself meeting with each of our clients to review



the results of their Jungian typology test, as well as doing a reading on their personal compatibility needs using their natal astrology chart. By getting feedback from all our matches, both successful and unsuccessful, plus doing consultations for couples on compatibility, some data has appeared with enough consistency that I think a nice contribution to the field of compatibility can be made.

Our rule of the need for elementally compatible Moons has held up well. People whom we match on this basis alone, i.e. with not much else going on good or bad in their synastry, say they have a sense of knowing the other person and feel relaxed with them. It really helps to have the Moons trined or conjunct by 5° or less. These are the folks that are likely to go on to dating. In the last six months, we've begun to also match for sextiled Moons (if they are elementally compatible, i.e. air to fire or earth to water, not out-of-sign sextiles) with a 2° orb or less, and found it to be an instant hit.

We have even observed that people with different Moons behave very differently in relationship. Speaking in general terms, with all the limitations that implies, air Moons need many matches before settling in with someone, whereas we can barely keep a good supply of earth Moons in our pool because they form a relationship before you can blink twice.

Most importantly, we have come to see that choosing compatibility is really an art form, and the synastry wheel, the medium. It is not enough just to have a few planets trined. The matches that have worked best have good activity on the angles, our favorite being one person's Venus on the other person's angles, especially the horizontal angles. In general, the horizontal angles have proved far more significant than the vertical ones for both emphasizing the good and avoiding the bad.

We initially didn't pay much attention to the Sun compatibility, feeling it was less influential in intimate relationships, but we've found that the matches that have truly gone well with some longevity not only have elementally compatible Moons and Venuses, but elementally compatible Suns as well.

One thing we definitely don't match for is the cross Sun-Moon relationship (one person's Sun in the same sign or element as the other person's Moon). Although it is a very common source of attraction, it does not hold up well over time. Carl Jung thought it to be a good aspect because it frequently appeared in the marriages he studied as part of his astrological research. But he did not investigate the quality of those marriages and people were not likely to divorce in those days. Our clients frequently describe previous unsuccessful relationships that had this phenomenon. While it makes for an initial feeling of camaraderie, the lack of similar emotional needs, as expressed by the Moons, becomes a big liability and a source of disappointment and conflict. Occasionally with the cross Sun/Moon synastry, the moons are also nicely compatible, and then it's all systems go!

We also rarely match for oppositions, especially Moon oppositions, even though they are elementally compatible. These just have not gone well. The clients that we've occasionally matched with Moon oppositions seem to quickly focus on the differences between their elemental natures rather than taking advantage of the similarities and the strong energetic connection.

An interesting feature that has emerged from our work is the importance of matching people for their elemental intensity. For instance, we did a consultation for a man who was considering returning to an old girlfriend, but had concerns because he felt she didn't meet him emotionally. Their Moons were tightly sextiled, but his was in Scorpio and hers in Capricorn. He had three other planets in Scorpio plus Vesta. Her only water placement was Uranus, and it just wasn't enough. We have found when people have a strong elemental feature in their chart, they need to have some representation of that in a partner to hold their attention.

Perhaps the very most important feature to materialize from our work so far, which seemed less obvious in the beginning, is the role played by the 7th house cusp. In the field of relationship astrology, the 7th house cusp has not gotten much attention. Yet, we have found that to exclude

its presence is to miss a whole area of need in relationship. We think that while the Moon speaks to the basic emotional pattern expressed in relationship, the 7th house cusp delineates the secondary external personality traits that play an important role in attraction.

For instance, we recently had a wonderfully sensitive 43-year-old man come to our introduction service. He had a Cancer Moon and became teary-eyed when we spoke to him about the importance of being in a relationship with someone who could share feelings at his same depth. He strongly resonated with our statement that

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he (Virgo Sun) needed to be with someone who was truthful. But, in spite of having very little fire in his chart, he also added that at a party he is invariably attracted to someone who is outgoing, energetic, and is wearing red. That's his Leo 7th house cusp speaking! And it's important! Without having some decent representation of Leo in the female we match him with, he will probably not feel satisfied even if they have trined Suns and Moons and Venuses up the wazoo.

To complicate matters further, we have become increasingly aware of the need to take house placement into consider-



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ation when matching people. To illustrate this, recently we had a man and a woman sign up for our service in the very same week with incredibly compatible charts. She had a stellium, including Moon, Mercury, and Sun, in Virgo and he had those very same planets, nicely trined hers, in Taurus. Already we couldn't believe what we were seeing! Their rising signs were conjunct in Gemini, their Mars were conjunct to the degree, and his Mars and her Venus were in the same sign of Leo. We thought this relationship was fated.

Their initial phone contact went very well with lengthy conversations. Their first date was also promising, but she was a little concerned that he appeared absorbed in his own world and less interested in hers. Their second and last date was a disaster. He invited her to a party he was giving so that she could meet his friends. She was upset that he didn't notice the wonderful pie she baked, didn't pay any attention to her child that she brought to meet him and seemed far more interested in his friends than in her. He was upset that she couldn't fit into his social circle. What had come into play was the strong 11th house he had due to that stellium's placement there and her strong 4th house due to her stellium. Quite a clash of needs!

I would like to say more about why we consider it important to avoid having one person's difficult configuration touched by the other person's planets or lights in intimate relationships. Using Jungian terminology, aspects like T-squares or Yods are strong complexes that frequently take much psychic attention and many years to master. These configurations are focal points of energies that can bring very shadowy issues up for view and integration. They ultimately make the personality stronger and the human being more resil-

ient and powerful. But when the partner gets involved in the process, as can happen when points of the aspect are touched by the partner's natal chart, the field can get muddy and make internal resolution far more difficult. Issues of projection and control get activated. The partner can begin to look like the cause of the problem. Of course, as we all know only too well, there is the potential for this to happen in any relationship, but when the points of a challenging aspect or configuration stay free of contact, it gives room for the issue to be worked as a personal, internal dynamic.

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As you can see, compatibility can become quite complicated. We are still refining our opinions about the functions of rising signs and higher aspects. What I have presented are the conclusions we feel most certain about through actual observation. Obviously, achieving a perfect match is near impossible. Relationship is hard work even under the best of circumstances. But, in using synastry, we strive to have the strengths of the couple be potent enough to form a solid base for working through the challenges.



Notes

1. It is possible that if a person has a strong Saturn or Pluto natively, they may be more comfortable with another person's Saturn or Pluto on their personal planets and/or horizontal angles.

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