



SOUL CONTRACTS REPORT

SAMPLE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

"Kindred Spirits are not so scarce as I used to think. It's splendid to find out that there are so many of them in the world."

– L M Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

Kindred Spirits and Soulmates

Anne Shirley, the heroine of the delightful *"Anne of Green Gables"*, innately knew when she had met her soulmate, whom she endearingly referred to as a kindred spirit. It was not the person's age, sex, race, what they were wearing, their social status, income, physical appearance, charm or any other visible clue that gave her this sense of profound knowing. Nothing purposeful or intentional drew her to her soulmates. Her heart inexplicably knew that a divine grace brought them both together.

Such is the nature of the mysterious force that brings two soulmates into contact. Relationship is a sacred rite that brings us into a close encounter with the truth of our own heart and the elusiveness of our soul. True relationship cannot be arranged, figured out or fixed up. Any attempt to control a relationship flows against the current of our soul. The best that we can do is to engage in its paradoxes and know our selves intimately enough to be in relationship, whatever that might bring.

The term 'soul' has a long history and been used in various ways philosophically and non-philosophically, contributing to its confusing and ambiguous nature. In contemporary terms it often refers to an 'X' factor that brings a piece of music alive, renders a poem inspiring, animates a theatrical performance or makes work meaningful. When applied to a relationship it describes the mystery that unites two individuals and enchants and animates the quality of each one's life. It does not suggest that the pain of daily living subsides or that life is transformed. But it does bring a depth and resonance, allowing meaning, imagination and fantasy to re-animate life. We meet our kindred spirits throughout the course of our lives, first in the family then later as friends, colleagues, lovers, partners at work and play. Soul is not generally found in the lofty heights of idealisation and illusion but in the valleys of pain and despair.

Soul is also what gives life its value and is the lynch pin of our individuality. Our soulmates honour our individuality and allow us to become more of who we are. Paradoxically by nature the soul moves towards attachment, belonging and fusion with another; yet, it also strives for separation, individuality and freedom. Our relationships become a vessel where we submerge ourselves yet from which we also attempt to flee.

This report encourages you to reflect on what it means for you to love, to be a brother, a sister, a friend, a colleague, a partner and a lover. What does your soul need in these relationships? What patterns weave themselves into the nature of your intimate relationships? Astrology is a great ally of the soul, as the Horoscope has an abundance of rich images that help us reflect on and imagine our authentic self; imagination being the language of the soul. This report will strive to veer you towards reflection by illustrating images within your Horoscope, images that may reveal powerful patterns of relationship and bring you more closely aligned with your soul's intent. Astrology helps us focus on our personal view of the cosmos and soul. Therefore this report contains some standout astrological images that may help you reconsider your relationships in a different light.

IN THE BEGINNING IS FAMILY

*"It begins with your family
But soon it comes round to your soul"*
- Leonard Cohen, *"The Sisters of Mercy"*

Lunar Legacies

The very first relationship begins within family. No matter what your individual fate may be, your family is where you forged your earliest relationships, took your beginning steps and first experienced an attachment to someone else. Your earliest experiences of forming an emotional bond have a decisive influence on your capacity to feel safe enough to explore relationships beyond the foundation stones of your family. If you experienced a secure attachment then mastery over your environment as you grow up is a lot easier. This is because you were more aware of feeling safe and knowing you were loved. Human beings gain a greater sense of self, distinct from the family, in the shelter of a safe nest and with adequate protection. We learn to develop our individuality when we have developed a sense of belonging. In a perfect world the family matrix supports and secures our sense of self. Ironically, the deeper the sense of safety and belonging, the more capacity there is for individuality and forging intimate adult attachments.

Without an early sense of acceptance and attachment, feeling secure enough to forge bonds outside the family is more complex. In this case, later relationships can become a test of our sense of safety and acceptance. Also our family is a training ground for the ways that we view relationship patterns. Father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter are all relationships that are illustrated in your Horoscope not only as literal figures, but depicting the patterns of relationships. A helpful way of thinking about your mother or father is not who they are, what they did, how they behaved but how this impacted on you and hence created patterns of behaviour in your life.

In astrology this early bonding process is depicted by the Moon. The Moon symbolises what you need to feel accepted and loved. It indicates the nature of your home and your quest to belong. As the symbol of your deepest emotional patterns, it reflects how you nest and protect yourself. Therefore, through the Moon, you can see indications of your living space, eating patterns, and habitual routines. It also represents 'mother love', your ability to feel loved and your experience of being loved. It symbolises not only your earliest associations but also your adolescent and then adult relationships.

If your earliest experiences have not been life-enhancing then you may need to change some of your innate relationship expectations and patterns. Modern psychologists would emphasise the need "to re-parent" this part of yourself in adult relationships. The Moon can help in this process by indicating the ways in which you can find solace and comfort in the depths of yourself. It is important to recognise your own needs, so you are not subconsciously expecting your friends and partners to fulfill them. Unmet needs can contribute to feeling dependent and hinder your ability to enjoy true intimacy. The idiosyncrasies, habits and routines you bring into relationships are a function of the Moon. Ironically destiny challenges you in your adult relationships to find healthy ways to nurture your personal needs. Therefore it is of prime importance to come to know your Moon as intimately and as respectfully as you can.

The Moon is in Capricorn

Your Moon is in Capricorn, which is the third Earth sign in the Zodiac. When you are born with your Moon in the Element of Earth this suggests that to feel bonded you first need to feel safe, comfortable and secure, knowing your physical needs will be met. Love and respect are intimately woven together and in an adult context you are more prone to bonding when there is maturity and self-regulation. In Classical Astrology the Moon ruled Cancer, and was therefore considered to be in its detriment in the opposite sign of Capricorn. Detriment does not imply that your Moon is disadvantaged or impaired in any way, but suggests a different way of thinking about how your Moon functions. The Moon is fluid and reflective; Capricorn is structured and masterful. The Moon is dependent while Capricorn is more autonomous. Therefore finding ways to embrace these paradoxes in order to nurture your needs is the challenge. For instance you need structure, control and organisation, feeling safer and more akin to bonding when there are enough boundaries to feel protected from potential harm. However with your Moon in Capricorn early feelings of love and acceptance may have been tinged with feelings of disapproval.

You are sensitive to the need for discipline, authority, and regulations. You also need boundaries, administration and rules. How you respond and learn to feel safe and secure within these parameters depends on your early conditioning. In a household where boundaries are rigid, rules and regulations are not enforced or well-supported and the parental figures are not responsible, then you probably learnt to rebel against your own needs for structure, having experienced anarchy rather than order. Your learning curve as an adult in relationship is to recognise and nurture these strong needs for autonomy, structure and control. In this case you would also be more prone to unconsciously drawing out the authority and controlling aspects of others. However when you feel that authorities have been supportive and that rules have helped you achieve and accomplish your needs, then you work with your instincts to organise and control feeling more authoritative and aware of how to manage your needs. You also are less inclined to seek approval and acknowledgement from others having felt supported and fostered. Your need for acknowledgement and recognition is high. As a child you would seek this approval through your authority figures: first the parent, then teachers, coaches, bosses. However the irony is that until you can acknowledge yourself, it is difficult to hear or feel the support of others.

With your Moon in Capricorn you innately set high standards. In adult relationships this can often be experienced as a barrier to intimacy. If you feel inadequate or that the situation is not quite good enough, then the ability to be intimate is compromised. Or you might feel that exposing your needs or feeling vulnerable is weakness. Again your self reliance becomes a barrier to relating. As an adult you are challenged with what is good enough in relationship. Instinctually your perfectionism is questioned and you are confronted with reality. Reality is not so bad because your Earth Moon needs the physical stimulus and affection of a relationship. However you need to be sure you feel there is enough boundaries, maturity and discipline for you to be inclined to step into the experience of relating. You feel nurtured when others genuinely acknowledge and respect you. Love and respect are interlaced in your close companionships.

Feeling Secure in an Insecure World

Planets that affect the Moon need to be honoured and acknowledged in each individual's style of attachment, as they reveal an authentic way of being in relationship. When aspecting the Moon, planets influence your early development and your ability to be intimate in adult relationships. Hence planets aspecting the Moon influence our capacity for closeness, comfort and trust in relationships.

Chiron is Square The Moon

Chiron is not a Planet in the astronomical sense, but as a celestial wanderer it fits the ancient tradition of a Planet. In many ways Chiron is marginal to the herd of Planets and metaphorically parallels these feelings of being an outsider. In aspect to the Moon it highlights the sense of feeling displaced. Often this is experienced through dislocation, abandonment or relinquishment.

Chiron combines with the Moon in a way that is akin to that uncomfortable feeling of being a stranger in a strange land. For many this combination has been experienced as their mother's postnatal depression, a family separation, an adoption or emigration. It is also possible that a parental wound of displacement or exclusion may have psychically harmed your sense of safety. However this presents in your life experience, it suggests your process of being close to your caretakers has been bruised by feelings of exclusion that infected the family atmosphere and your feelings of security. You may harbour feelings of marginality with the need to be accepted often resulting in a feeling of exclusion. Your task is to accept that your apex of security is not at the centre of the system, but on its fringe. Your fate may be to wander or feel displaced before your sense of belonging can be established. Or you may have had the experience of your family being the outsider in the culture or society you grew up in. This family wound of feeling marginal may have hampered your ability to leave the enmeshed family unit. You may feel that your family has perpetuated and confirmed a myth that the pain of living is great. If this is so, then you may feel that your spirit to adventure and explore beyond the family and its culture has been compromised.

When you feel secure, you know you can be heroic when faced with being foreign or marginal in the system within which you find yourself. If your parents encouraged a healthy sense of feeling different and demonstrated freedom was possible by not being part of the system, then you internalised a healthy sense of being foreign. You would have developed the self-esteem to be secure in a foreign environment and acquired the ability to be compassionate and caring about others who suffer the same sense of disenfranchisement. In many ways this is the task of this aspect.

However if there was not enough parental support, you felt orphaned from your family unit. Your sense of attachment may have suffered due to a parental wound. When a parent's spirit is broken, the shade haunts the family atmosphere, leaving you feeling helpless and unprepared to become part of a greater community. Your destiny is to engage in the depth understanding and healing of the family wound that keeps you feeling disenfranchised.

Feeling marginal and peripheral you are at risk of recreating relationships where abandonment or exclusion impedes intimacy. Healing comes through the forging of close bonds with others who accept you. Your kindred spirits accept you into their inner circle and celebrate your differences. They engage with you on your own level without making you feel that you need to be one of them. Through your close relationships with soulmates your feelings of exclusion and marginality are healed.

Uranus is Square The Moon

Disengagement and separation are themes that resonate when the Planet Uranus and the Moon combine. The possibility of a fractured or dislocated family atmosphere or the lack of an unconditional bond is suggested, whether perceived or real.

Individuality and independence are important hallmarks in your family, whether actualised or not. Urges to adventure, take risks and be emotionally self-sufficient are aspects of family life that you would want to have valued in your family matrix. Surprises and unexpected change may have also been part of the

family landscape. If they weren't then you felt suffocated in the atmosphere of suppression. Part of your family history may include a thwarting of independence, rejecting intellectual pursuits or an inability to live outside the square. Scratching beneath the surface of your family ancestry you might find that the disowning of individual freedoms has contributed to a disengaged family atmosphere.

If your attachment was secure, you were encouraged to be a unique individual in the family system and given enough space and freedom to pursue what was important for you. Always prepared for the possibility of sudden changes you were encouraged to develop other support systems outside your family unit; especially peer groups and others with common interests. Your facility to be individualistic and risk taking is sensibly supported and encouraged. With this aspect you need to strive for your own freedom and intellectual pursuits even if that isn't fully supported by the family.

If your family atmosphere was polluted with anxiety and tension, you feel the need to disconnect and separate from the family, as it is difficult to feel safe. As a child you might have been shocked and surprised by sudden changes, contributing to you becoming anxious that something unexpected could disrupt the status quo. As a means of protection you may have learned to be hyper-vigilant and intuitive in order to try and control what might happen in the future. If your parents were emotionally unavailable, unstable or absent then you are never sure who to rely on. This leads to an inability to settle down and a sense that to feel safe you need to leave, be alone or detach. A cold family climate or an unconscious memory of feeling abandoned or cut off from security emphasises your need to be disengaged. Therefore freedom and separateness are at the expense of closeness and togetherness. If the safe container of your childhood was punctured by a sudden or unresolved severance, then your own ability to sustain adult relationship could be compromised.

The urge to leave, restlessness, anxiety and lack of commitment permeate your ability to forge adult attachments. A common experience is to feel connected when you are separated, yet when you are separate you long for closeness; this is the dance of intimacy where you push your partner away to feel close again. To avoid the dance of approach and then avoid, you need to engage with your soulmates who acknowledge your free spirit as being a vital and attractive aspect of yourself. It is your kindred spirits who know the secret of giving you enough space and freedom to be engaged. However it is also important that you know too how to gain your own space and freedom when you need it, not push others away to get it. Having experienced an attachment style that was erratic or disengaged, unique at least, it is important to consider that the result may have left its mark on adult relationships. This would be the discomfort at committing, the swings between closeness and freedom as well as the roller coaster ride of feelings.

Home is Where We Start From

In astrology the 4th House signifies the environmental atmosphere of the family home. It is also the terrain of our innermost life where basic needs for emotional security and nurturing are first experienced. It is in this section of the Horoscope where we first experience feelings of belonging, being at home, and being connected. These experiences lay the foundation for security levels in adult relationships. When considering relationships with others, the 4th House symbolises our most intimate ties with family and those who support and nurture us. As well-respected psychotherapist D.W. Winnicott said *"home is where we start from"*.

Planets in the 4th House describe the climate of your family home and the attitudes and influences of your family of origin. These attitudes shape your sense of inner security and the degree to which you feel safe enough to reach out to others. Because 4th House patterns are not always conscious, the

planetary energies may not be fully known or understood until they surface in adult relationships as non-supportive habits and unclear behavioural patterns. A planet or planets located in the 4th House are bedrock and foundation for the security, inner strength and self acceptance that you later bring into your adult relationships.

Without planets in this sphere, the conditions of the House can be described in other ways such as the Sign on the Cusp and its Ruler. Planets, however, personify archetypal images and without a planet in the 4th, the astrologer's focus would be on the Moon to describe the attachment style moulded through the family. Take a moment to reflect on how you feel the level of emotional safety in your family influenced your relationship blueprint.

PRIMARY RELATIONSHIPS

Our Early Soulmates

Siblings, Cousins, Neighbours, Playmates and School Chums

*"One would be in less danger
From the wiles of a stranger
If one's own kin and kith
Were more fun to be with"*
- Ogden Nash

The Third House

The 3rd House significantly contributes to shaping relationship patterns, as this is where the first connection with peers is located. Initial experiences of these relationships make their impression on our attitudes towards companionship, partnership and friendship. Feelings, reactions, trauma, trust, freedom, love, fear, in effect the full spectrum of early relationships, lay the foundation for our adult attachments to friends and partners. This sector of the Horoscope is the storehouse where attitudes towards others that shared our early environment, mainly siblings, but also cousins, neighbourhood friends and primary schoolmates, are contained. Social interactions with partners, colleagues and acquaintances have their origins in these experiences, suggesting the 3rd House of the Horoscope reveals the template for relationship pattern.

The 3rd House is critical when analyzing relationships since it illustrates how we first experience peers and the impact they may have on future relationships. We first test the response from the world through the action or reaction of our siblings and early childhood playmates. The sibling relationship can extend to friends, classmates and others, particularly for only children. In many cases of an only child, fate arranges it so there is a replacement sibling: a cousin, a neighbour, a step-sibling or special friend.

When investigating the 3rd House it is important to recognise our position in the family. Our birth order, along with the number and gender of our siblings, has a considerable impact on personality. Birth order was often a theme in the myths, fairy tales, fables and biblical stories we grew up with. It is often enlightening to consider your birth position and how that impacts on your relationships. Expectations, patterns we repeat with partners and even our choice of mate may be more influenced by our siblings than we realise.

Following are some illustrations of your 3rd House energies which may help you reflect on your earliest relationships, especially those with siblings, cousins, neighbourhood chums, schoolmates, sports buddies and friends.

3rd House Cusp is in Cancer

The Water Sign Cancer on your 3rd House Cusp suggests that care, concern and kindness are qualities of any relationship that are important to you and experienced in some way with your siblings and early

friends.

The Sign Cancer represents family history and suggests how family attitudes affect your early patterns of relating and sharing. Whether it is known to you or not there may be a family story about sibling relationships that hovered in the atmosphere of your upbringing. In your younger years, the sibling relationship may have offered emotional security or provided nurturing and a sense of belonging. Another possibility is that you may have sought emotional comfort in the sibling relationship or been the one who took care of the others. This confusion between dependency and equality or caring and relating may still arise in your present relationships. Are you in relationship with a partner or a dependant? Your relationship with your sibs may have been complicated with the confusion of roles between carer and friend. A sibling may have been parentalised, while a parent may have preferred to be a friend rather than an authority figure.

It is likely that early in your life you experienced the need for connection. Whether or not this was fulfilled is not clear but the pattern of relying and needing others was established early. This brings sensitivity to the area of relating. Easily hurt or feeling left out may have contributed to an emotional scar that gets infected in later relationships. You bring a vulnerability to your relationships, which needs your protection and discrimination.

Your heightened feelings towards the other contribute to your sensing the other's needs and feelings often before they do, prompting you to soothe their sores or dress their wounds. However what you perceive may be still unconscious in the other, leaving you vulnerable to feeling unappreciated. Your learning curve starts early in relationship, as you learn not to attend to others unless they ask. Your soulmates appreciate the way you care for their well being and the food you prepare for them with kindness. In fact you know your soulmates when they appreciate your caring and cooking. And you know you are in a true partnership when you feel you belong and are well supported.

Saturn is in the 3rd House

When Saturn is in the 3rd House, the themes of authority, duty and responsibility might have first become conscious in our relationships with sibling/s and early schoolmates. In my practice I have consistently witnessed the placement of Saturn in the 3rd House with only and eldest children who feel they have been placed in positions of control and responsibility too early. There are many reasons for this; a common theme, however, was the sibling who filled a void left by an irresponsible parent. This placement might also suggest wide age spacing between sibs, feeling as if you have grown up virtually as an only child, or for some other reason you might not feel a part of the sibling system. If you are an only child, this placement talks of the world of equals being overshadowed by the world of the adult. For an eldest child, it suggests you were responsible for your younger siblings, setting the example of upholding parental law, often while your younger brothers or sisters are breaking the rules. You could have experienced difficulty sharing or delegating as a result of your sibling experiences. Issues around the division of labour may have caused resentment, as you may have felt you had a greater share of the chores than the others did or felt more dutiful than the others did. Whatever the birth order, Saturn confers a sense of the lawmaker upon you, leaving you feeling that you are obliged to discipline or direct your siblings. There could also be a tussle for the top position in the sibling system, feeling a need for the parent's approval. However this approval might come at the expense of having a close and equal relationship with your other siblings.

Another manifestation of this position could be the feeling of rejection by your sibs or feeling completely alone and separate from them. You may feel the need to become self-reliant and not have to

depend upon the siblings for support, encouragement or comradeship. It may become imperative to detach, withdraw or take care of yourself on your own, contributing to an isolationist tendency. This pattern could be the foundation of feeling self-reliant in your adult relationships and not easily able to depend upon others for support.

In adult years, Saturn in the 3rd House could also be demanding, as you might again feel it is your responsibility to bring the siblings together. Issues around family gatherings, rituals or special occasions polarise the siblings once again into their childhood roles leaving you feeling that you must direct or control the gathering. One of the greatest tests with your siblings in later life may be the concerns about responsibility and decision making for an elderly parent. With Saturn here, you learn to be responsible, but not at the expense of our own individuality. It is in the sibling system that you first learn how to delegate, discern and let go of control in appropriate ways. Learning to differentiate who is responsible and set the appropriate boundaries becomes an important lesson for your Saturn in the third. Your kindred spirits encourage you to become your own boss and an author of your own life.

Being Kind to our Kin

Another lens we can use to focus on early peer relationships is to look at planetary aspects to Mercury. Mythologically Mercury was a younger son determined to be noticed by his older brother and father and take his rightful place in the family. While he is a mascot for the younger sibling he also personifies the themes in sibling relationships. Rivalry, reconciliation, envy, companionship, separation, communication, support, loyalty and the bond of friendship are all elements of our first peer relationship with our siblings and early childhood sibling substitutes.

KINDRED SPIRITS

Friends, Acquaintances and Colleagues

"Friendship is a single soul dwelling in two bodies."

- Aristotle

The Eleventh House

The 11th House is where we hope and wish for a better future, not only for our loved ones and ourselves but also for our wider family. While the 11th House suggests participation with others outside our household we are still prone to recreating unresolved family and relational patterns in the groups, social circles and professional associations we join. Underlying the social relationships of the 11th House represented by friends, colleagues and associates are the primitive patterns and expectations from our earlier peer relationships. Friendship is one of the keynotes of this House and while we feel we have more choice in creating our friendships, we may also discover left over sibling rivalries. The ideal scenario is that we become greater than who we are on our own and in this way friendship helps to expand our boundaries and encourages growth and exploration. The relationships of the 11th House refer to those forged outside the family circle.

This House of relationship is where we meet the kindred spirits who we encounter in the world. Roles and positions have already been forged in our sibling and other relationships and we instinctively take these into our relationships in the broader community. Our impact on society and society's impact upon us is interconnected with our primary experiences of relationship. In the 11th House we become citizens of a larger community and meet our soul friends.

Relationships feel familiar, as they are kin, allies who are kindred spirits. Hopefully, the spirit that inspires and infuses us is the common link in our friends and colleagues. We can find the sense of belonging to a larger family, being individuals in a larger collective. However, the groups of friends, the group of colleagues, and the organisations we join reawaken incomplete relationship experiences and rivalry once again is experienced. Our friends, close colleagues and kindred spirits can also be the healing agents that help us reconcile and heal the pain of our earlier relationships.

In ancient Greece the polis was not only a representation of the city but also the spirit of the city-state. Here was where democracy flourished, the rights of citizens were respected and the early experiments at sharing power and influence were attempted. The 11th House of the Zodiac is political in that it links the individual in a spirit of equal relationship to others in the collective. Your understanding of the 11th House will help you consider how you forge a democratic, equal and co-operative relationship with others. Impinging upon the success of this is your earlier experiences of relating, your trust in human relationships and your unconscious expectations that you still harbour in relationships. Here you meet your kindred spirits in the world, who share your passions, witness your successes and share your burdens. Both the Zodiac Sign on the Cusp of this House and the planets contained in this sphere will help you reflect on your friendships and group affiliations

11th House Cusp is in Aquarius

The 11th House represents your community, the groups you encounter and belong to outside the family: groups that you belong to because of your interests, your passions and your professional affiliations. In this House are kin, not bound by blood, but by a similar spirit of interest. Eleventh House experiences include your first class photo, your circle of friends, Girl Guides and Boy Scout experiences, the school council; groups where you were part of the community without other family members. This House also describes your friends and kindred spirits who share your hopes and wishes and contribute to making your world the ideal place to live in.

With Aquarius on the Cusp of the 11th House, your humanitarianism and your friendliness are natural assets for creating and sustaining associations. You have a spirit of adventure that you bring to your friendships and therefore seek out original and inventive others who can share in your unique and independent lifestyle. Your kindred spirits share your intellectual and innovative ideas as well as give you the space and distance you need to pursue your ideals.

Aquarius is known for its liberal and innovative ideals, which you will bring to your friendships. Therefore you probably are attracted to relationships that are outside convention, friends that are not part of the herd or unusual individuals to befriend. Friendships are an adventure and are worth taking a risk. Yet for all your liberality there also might be a conservative streak. This might be reflected by friends who are more conventional and cautious. Your nature is such that you can find their uniqueness underneath their cloak of conservatism.

However, one defining necessity in friendships is the freedom to be who you are, enough space to experiment without judgement and the permission to break the rules. When these conditions are met you are a true and devoted friend. When you feel the other's pressure to conform or expectations you might react by disengaging or being distant. Disconnecting is a sure sign of your feeling smothered in friendship. You need your kindred spirits to allow you the freedom to be who you are, even if that means being unavailable for a while. The irony is that the more permission you feel to be unavailable or distant, the less inclined you feel to be that way.

Your fate might be to become involved in groups or organisations, especially if their focus is humanitarian or future orientated. Your mantra is to help build a more enlightened world and your associates and comrades share this world view. Friendships need to have this openness and breadth of vision or you feel stifled and your escape route is to bolt. You also seek an intellectual exchange in your friendships, as you need to explore and discuss your ideas and insights. Your kindred spirits inspire you to adventure into the future and all its possibilities supporting you to be the life explorer you want to be. In your life you have an eclectic circle of friends who each mirror one of the many facets of yourself. And through your friendships you feel as if you are connected to these varying aspects of who you are.

Mars is in the 11th House

Mars is the archetype of the warrior and its House position locates the sphere of life where anger and aggression may be ignited, where an individual may feel competitive or where the entrepreneurial and self-motivated spirit are able to be expressed. The 11th House is the social environment of others and therefore this suggests that any festering sibling rivalries, incomplete anger with current or ex-partners might spill over into your friendships. Therefore it is prudent to be aware of any simmering or contentious issues and not to let them inappropriately interfere with friends or pollute the atmosphere of any groups you belong to. Assertive impulses are best focused towards leading the group. Mars in the 11th suggests you have a passion for group involvement whether that is through sports, political issues

or other causes. You have the ability to confront the group and spur them into action. This role takes you into the group to lead them onto new challenges and inspire them in new directions.

However Mars in the 11th may also suggest that you become a target for the group's hostility or the one signalled out as the cause of the conflict. When issues of anger and aggressive instincts are denied or when your Martian qualities are projected onto others they may be set aflame in the atmosphere of the group. What seems like a random act of violence directed at you could be sublimated anger lashing out. Therefore it is important to reflect on your frustration and anger and what this means in terms of group participation. No doubt Mars in the eleventh will experience rivalry and competition with a group setting; therefore it is important that you become clear about your motives, desires and inclinations.

Friendships are important to you and while you may be conflict with others or disagree, you also feel respect and passion. Again it is important to be aware that conflict and difference of opinion are a natural part of every friendship and your challenge with Mars in the 11th is to manage this so it does not create tension and bitter conflict. Mars is the urge to assert your individuality and in the 11th it is often directed towards a friend. Therefore there may be differences of opinion, urges to move in different directions even challenges to your identity. But with this placement it is important to recognise all these are aspects of both friendship and group involvement. The challenge is to allow the disagreements to be stimulating, the differences exciting and the companionship passionate. You are willing to go into battle for your friends and for the group in order to defend rights and freedom that are important to you.

Mars' urge is for independence while the 11th House environment denotes the social sphere and community. Therefore the paradox of asserting your identity as a social being comes into play. However this need not be a conflict. With this placement it is important to recognise that in your socialisation processes the need for independence and autonomy will be activated. You need to be aware not to become so aligned with the group that you lose your identity or so independent you feel you are never part of a group. The challenge is to be part of a group without feeling a loss of your identity. Ironically with Mars in the 11th it is with your friends and also through group involvement that you can begin to assert your identity as the mirror of others helps to reflect your uniqueness and singularity. Your kindred spirits will also be warriors who champion your individuality, verve and courage.

SOUL AND RELATIONSHIP

Intimate Friends and Committed Partners

"Love consists in this ... that two solitudes protect and touch and greet each other."

- Maria Rilke Rainer

The Seventh House

As the poet describes, loving and committed relationships are forged by the alchemy of two individuals. Soul is expressed through individuality and when its unpredictable and mysterious nature is brought into intimate contact with another, a genuinely soulful relationship is possible. The 7th House is the astrological site where individuality and relationship converge. Astrologically, it is the quintessential House of relationship and its process embraces the experience of being with an equal other in a committed and intimate way. From the soul's viewpoint this is the arena where mutuality, reciprocity and respect for individuality can work to fashion a soulful relationship that embraces the unique character of each partner. Seventh House partners are not just marriage or life partners, but also close business partners and others engaged with you in a committed relationship.

Traditionally this sphere was known as the House of 'open enemies'. Whereas traditional astrology might literally ascribe qualities to a partner, contemporary astrology sees these qualities as mirror images of what is innate in us. In remaining unconscious of your 7th House energies, you proclaim them as belonging to someone else, generally your partner. We enter a mystery where we are drawn to what appears as opposite and different, yet is only a partial reflection of what is not yet conscious in us. What we sense is kin, congeniality, familiarity, yet not from the system we have known. Destiny hovers on the threshold of the 7th House; therefore the Sign on the Cusp is very often prominent in your partner's Horoscope.

We can draw an analogy between the arrival of the partner and the birth of a sibling. Powerfully conflicted feelings of love and rivalry, fascination and anger, closeness and separateness are ignited in new relationships. But this is the nature of intimate relationships as strands of each soul are woven together. Astronomically the 7th House is where the sun prepares to set. It is twilight, when the light elongates the shadows and we prepare to meet the dark. Therefore it is the partner who awakens an earlier stratum of psyche where unresolved or incomplete issues and patterns from other relationships may enter into our current relationship.

Our partners are companions, kindred spirits and intimate others. But human nature inclines towards moulding our partners with the clay of our own unresolved patterns and complexes. The material we use for this is often our own projections, fantasies and ideals. Following is a description of your 7th House energies which might help you recognise your own ideals or those you carry for your partners. In reflecting on these and becoming more conscious of underlying patterns, you can embrace these energies more fully in yourself allowing your relationships to be less focused on the past and more anchored in the present and, hopefully more soulful.

7th House Cusp is in Scorpio

Astronomically your 7th House begins on the western point of the horizon. Astrologically this is the sector of the Zodiac that was setting when you were born. This Zodiacal location is exactly opposite your Ascendant or Rising Sign. Your Rising Sign depicts your personality and independent outreach into life. Your descending Sign or Descendant, as it is known, represents “others”. Therefore the Ascendant-Descendant axis becomes vital in any relationship analysis. It describes the intimate dance between yourself and your partner.

Your Ascendant is Taurus; therefore the Water Sign Scorpio is on your Descendant or 7th House Cusp.

The Water Element contains the signs Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces, bringing a depth of feeling and love to the area of relationships. Water flows towards the mysterious and mystical side of relationship, and watery types are attracted and repelled by the ‘energy’ and ‘vibrations’ of others. You are unable to articulate either the invisible thread that pulls you towards another or the impulse that drives you away. You idealise the idea of relationship along with those who inhabit its terrain – your siblings, partners, friends and associates. While Fire may be conceptually idealistic about relationship, Water is emotionally idealistic, often drawn to unrealistic relationships. Led by feelings, aroused by empathy and compassion for another, you often flow into a relationship, unaware of the powerful currents underneath. Like a waterfall, an enormous amount of energy and power is generated as you fall in love.

With this Element your inclination is to bring a depth of connection, a sacred union and a trusting attachment to your relationships. If these feelings are not be reciprocated you feel betrayed and bereft. Water’s power to obliterate emotional separateness can create enmeshment with others. This is experienced as an ability to feel the other’s feelings, to serve the other’s needs and to care for another person’s insecurities. This is admirable; however, within the arena of equal relationship, some may experience this as smothering or invasive. It is imperative that your intense and deeper feelings are met wholeheartedly before you begin to share your deep feelings. You require respect, trust and sacredness in your intimate relationships. Anything less is not fulfilling

You enter any relationship with a sense of deep connection, moved by your need to complete the other. Water confuses boundaries, therefore you may have difficulty separating or being on your own. The flow of water fuses and merges with what it encounters and therefore is not always comfortable within this sphere of separateness. However when you discover the transformational power of water you will recognise how important it is to be in a relationship where you feel met and honoured as an equal. You are able to create something in a partnership far greater than you or the other could do by yourself. Relating opens a new realm of experience.

What you are first attracted to in others is their intensity and force. You experience the force of their character, powerful, passionate and magnetic. Something mysterious, unknown, even dark draws you towards your partner. You are drawn to the depth of emotion and the very soul of the other. While you may attract these qualities in your quest for equal relationship, you will also attract the shadow or darker side of these qualities. What once felt white-hot can chill to an icy freeze if you are not careful. You are torn between the excitement of passion and the jealous outbursts, the intensity of closeness and the possessiveness that follows. But through light and shadow you are drawn into a relationship that helps you understand the complexity of feelings, the depth of union and the possibility of intimacy. With Scorpio on this House Cusp your intense, complex and negative feelings will surface in your relationship experiences.

Qualities you admire and are attracted to in others include honesty, integrity, and passion, the ability to hold onto feeling until it is appropriate to share, to be trustworthy and emotionally safe. You are attracted to the therapist in the other and together you yearn to create a sacred sanctuary for your relationship. And it is these very qualities that a partner helps you find in yourself. So don't be surprised when your intimate partner or partners have a brooding and dark feel about them at times because, like you, they are in touch with their strong emotional side.

Neptune is in the 7th House

The Planet Neptune symbolises the quest for love of the romantic and divine kind. Individuals under Neptune's spell are otherworldly, sensitive and soulful yet often elusive and unavailable. Neptune's world is creative, magical and romantic, filled with inspirational sounds and vibrant colour. Yet it is also a world of mirage and fantasy and a fine line separates the imagination from the illusion or the creativity from the chaos. You are drawn to the creative, the inspired and the spiritual qualities in others. You may also feel the urge to rescue un-lived potentialities and help bring them to life. When you experience the urge to rescue another person's potentiality from their unconscious, you obliterate the natural psychic boundaries between yourself and the individual who you are relating to. This experience is often mistaken for romantic or spiritual love. You may be prone to trying to rescue the soulful qualities in others only to lose contact with your own.

You may visualise and fall in love with the perfect mate, but end up far from your original ideal. When you are enamoured with the ideal of love and project the rosy aura of idealism and soulfulness onto your partner, you will start to feel you have lost a vital connection to your own soul. Being on a pedestal suggests it is just a matter of time before you or your partner fall off.

Unconsciously you might be looking for your spiritual connection or salvation through a partner, someone to worship or watch over you. Neptune is the energy of selfless service, which is highly admirable, but when it becomes entangled in relating, it often is at the expense of denying yourself and losing your identity, your creativity and your spirited self. At this stage of the relationship you will become aware of your own need to build the bridge back to your creative and spiritual self.

Your love is selfless and transcendental, which is truly all embracing in its highest sense. But when you mix love with a cause, an ideal, an unconscious urge or a sacrifice then the heart becomes lost in another world. Your sensitivity and spirituality are heightened through relationships leaving you vulnerable to become entangled in the complex web of the co-addictive personality of another person. You might fall into the hopeless feelings of trying to help the partner who doesn't want to be helped or love the partner who cannot love himself or herself.

Fantasy plays a large part your relationships. This might look like falling in love with a fairy tale romantic or genius who is ultimately an unavailable lover. While disappointment, pain and suffering are part of the natural course of life you might have felt these more poignantly in the sphere of relationships due to your strong idealism. You have come to accept the mortality and limits of others, which is a painful process. Liberating, but nonetheless, painful.

How can you be more realistic in your expectations of relationship without killing off your romantic side? You want to be idolised as well, so any partnership needs this mutual idealisation and the sharing of spiritual goals. You desire romance without the unhappy endings and come to realise that perfection on the spiritual level is not found "out there" in someone else, but in your own creativity and artistry or in your own spiritual pursuits. These become more real to you as you reflect on your own soul qualities

and withdraw the focus of these from the partner. Neptune is boundless and wants to merge, whereas the 7th House is an area of equality. This combination is difficult, as your natural urge is to obliterate all boundaries of the self, leaving you vulnerable and ultimately invisible to the other. Invisibility is dangerous, as you may be flooded with the feeling life of your partner feeling drawn into their feelings, before they have even recognised their own needs or darker feelings. Subtly they are transferred leaving your partner not understanding what you are feeling. Hence the gulf of misunderstanding opens up. Your urge to merge with a loved one, to lose all boundaries is at odds with your urge to be equal.

While you may face a psychological challenge, you also have a capacity for a deeply loving and spiritual relationship through your own self-examination and acceptance. It is not an impossible dream, but one made possible through your own soul growth. Your quest is to connect with the partner who is your kindred spirit and soulmate. The odds are high, but not without the conscious recognition of your own creative and spiritual needs.

PLEASURE, PASSION AND LOVE

The Joys of Venus and Mars

"There is only a single magic, a single power, a single salvation and a single happiness, and that is called loving."

- Herman Hesse

Venus and Mars

To the ancient mythmakers, Venus and Mars were consistently paired together as companions, either lovers or close sibling allies. In Roman mythology they are the deities who preside over the Empire. To the Greeks Aphrodite and Ares were deeply attached passionate lovers or siblings. In the story of *"The Odyssey"* they are caught in a golden web woven by Hephaestus who wove the fine filament in order to entrap Aphrodite in bed with Ares. Their relationship is an erotic one. In Homer's earlier epic *"The Iliad"* their relationship is depicted as less magnetic, yet just as close. Aphrodite refers to him in this epic as 'dear brother'. Their relationship is devoted and warm-hearted. When we imagine these gods we think of them as eternal lovers, sometimes married, other times not. They represent two layers of soulmates: erotic and emotional intimacy as well as companionship. In psychological terms they represent our inner orientation to pleasure and passion, while in astrological terms they help identify what qualities attract us to others, what we value and desire. Physiologically they are our scent and libido, the innate attractive and active forces that draw us towards companionship.

In term of compatibility and conflict in relationship, Venus and Mars play a leading role. The complete picture of their placement in your horoscope can be fully assessed by a professional astrologer. For this report we are only analysing the planetary sign which signifies qualities and essences important in your intimate relationships.

Venus is pleasure and beauty. Both in body and in spirit, Venus symbolises what you find attractive and the values you place upon your relationships, what you need to feel partnered and your own inner sense of worth and value that wants to be appreciated, honoured and respected. Your Venus sign is a metaphor for those qualities you need in relationship to feel complete.

Mars is passion and desire. Whether spiritual, physical, intellectual or emotional Mars symbolises how you express your desires, frustrations and energy. In terms of relationship it suggests how you assert yourself, deal with conflict and make your desires transparent. Your Mars sign describes how you might express yourself, go after what you want and how you may deal with anger in relationship. In essence it is a symbol of how your life force naturally seeks expression.

Being opposite in nature, Venus and Mars are naturally attracted to one another and often a highlight of your soul mate's astrological constitution. Therefore take note of the sign placements of both Venus and Mars and how they are reflected in the horoscopes of intimate others. Use these descriptions to reflect on your values and desires. Venus themes in relationship focus on shared values, feeling loved and appreciated, money and pleasure, affection and sensuality while Mars brings themes of sex and desire, independence and individuality, dealing with conflict and the sharing of goals out into the open. By

nature Venus is feminine and Mars is masculine; therefore gender wise Venus might be more integrated into the personality for women while Mars might be more accessible for men. That "*Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*" thing again. Hence a man's Venus might be a fair description of women he is attracted to while a woman's Mars often describes the men she attracts.

Venus is in Gemini

Joker looking for Journalist to tell his story

Imagine this advertisement in the personal column of your local paper. On a lighter note there may be some truth in this for you, as you do love a prank and telling a story. And if you don't respond to that, surely you must love hearing a joke or listening to a lively personal discourse. Bottom line is to love to connect and that's usually through storytelling. Naturally social you will veer towards companions who you can communicate with, share your ideas and fantasies with, play computer games with or just hang out with. But you are also easily bored and feel the need to change the channel when things are becoming repetitive or dull. You value variety in your relationships. You like trying out different restaurants, joining new courses and changing your routines. Being involved with you means learning the quick step, so it is important for you to recognise not everyone is as agile as you might want him or her to be. You know when you are attracted to someone as you stumble over your words and your feet, and your nervous system runs amok.

Venus in Gemini suggests that love and companionship are united. This might be a close bond with a sibling, or in a wider context, you value companionship and friendship in your intimate encounters. Your lover is also your best friend. In an ancestral context, Venus, is the feminine principle. In Gemini this would suggest that sister relationships in the family are important. What is the inherited sibling situation: mother's relationship as a sister, father's relationship to his sister? What are the attitudes in the family towards the feminine as an equal? These questions might affect the way you value equal relationships with others.

Your values are not fixed like some others; in fact you can be quite changeable at times about what you like and appreciate. Some might think that it's fickle but you need to experiment with feelings and relationships before you can make up your mind. You also need space and distance and time to make up your mind. The more pressure you feel, the more anxious you become. Commitment is much easier when there is no pressure to commit. You value someone who gives you the space to go through the changes you need to go through. When you are pinned down you panic. You find that you are better able to express the way you feel in an email, by SMS or on the phone. You like that connection but don't want to be present all the time.

The Planet Mercury rules this sign so mobility and versatility in any relationship is important. Love and communication are intertwined and you need to communicate how you feel, light or dark. Talking helps you know how you feel, so chatter away. Some might not be able to listen but your kindred spirits will love your aerial acrobatics and sense of humour. A valued relationship is one where you can communicate without fear of judgment or reprisal.

Mars is in Pisces

How you assert yourself in your relationship and take the courage to be your own person is the domain of the Planet Mars. In watery Sign of Pisces your actions are aligned with spirituality, sensitivity and empathy. Therefore you might move with a sense of grace like a dancer or fencer, or volunteer to help others or be a leader spiritually or creatively. You forge your own understanding about the human condition and reach out to improve the plight of those who are less fortunate than you are. But with the

modern ruler Neptune lurking in the seas beneath, your acts of charity could drown out your own desires. You could be overwhelmed or easily influenced by others and then relinquish your point of view or your desires. While you might feel you need to give in you also have another side which might silently pull strings. Being so aware of feelings you can either dance like a puppet on a string or be the puppet master when you feel you can't get what you want overtly.

Activity and passivity are interconnected and this suggests you might act out passively to get what you want or be passive about what you want. In the first instance this suggests being underhanded; in the latter it is more about giving up on what you want. Sounds like when it comes to asserting yourself in the face of others, you're on a learning curve. Anger is a difficult emotion, so too is confrontation. You are inclined to forgive others too quickly, spiritualise the disagreement or sometimes just forget it. You might even hear yourself saying, *"Yes they really hurt me, but that's OK"*. Is it really OK? What happens to the anger: well it slowly starts to unravel the links between you and the ones you love. When it comes to your desires, you might confuse personal and collective worlds. For instance you may strive to be selfless, which is a commendable spiritual goal, but you are also a human being with deep feelings and desires. Your spiritual urge dampens your personal drive. Perhaps think of asserting yourself as a spiritual practice.

Your imagination prompts you into creative expression. But it also leads you into the grey area between dreams and reality, that area where romance and longing resides. You have a drive that can turn your dreams into reality, but the key is the drive. You have to be proactive. Being passive keeps you in the state of longing and daydreams which is also quite nice, but ultimately not fulfilling. You have a tendency to lack boundary when you are in a close encounter with others and this can ignite fantasy and leave you feeling unmet and used. So while it may be difficult to make boundaries is a great antidote for feeling victimised or taken advantage of. Boundaries also help the inner world of romance and passions find an outlet in the outer world. You bring poetry, diversity and spirituality into your relationships and are want to be involved as creatively as possible with others.

CROSSING PATHS

Close Encounters with Kindred Spirits

"Lovers don't finally meet somewhere. They're in each other all along."

- Rumi

The Nodes

You won't meet your kindred spirits accidentally. In the chronicles of the soul, there are no accidents, only meaningful coincidences; therefore your soulmates are already familiar to you. Whether you come across them in the sacred circle of your family, the playgrounds of your childhood, in your adult establishments or your elderly neighbourhoods, they are already part of you. Whether these relationships last a minute or a lifetime, are filled with happiness or conflict, they are destiny's design woven into your life's intricate tapestry. Therefore it is inevitable that at some time your path will intersect the paths of your soulmates.

But when? Well this is the riddle of relationship. Whatever arrangement or timing brings you into alignment with your kindred spirits is the inexplicable mystery of the soul. Astrology is a great aid in this regard as it can bypass layers of rational minds to explore timing in relationships. Astrology's timing techniques are invaluable in helping to focus on major and meaningful passages in relationship. Consulting a professional astrologer to explore these questions can be highly revealing and rewarding. Within the limits of this report we can draw on an aspect of your horoscope that will help you reflect on your encounters with kindred spirits. This is the House position of the North Node, a signpost that points to where soul may be encountered in relationship.

The House positions of the Nodes illustrate environmental factors that shape and influence your fate, including relationship. This is where the inner and outer worlds lead us to a rendezvous with soul. North Node experiences are out of the ordinary, since its nature is both subjective and participatory with the spiritual world. Therefore the House position of the North Node locates one of the settings where engagement with the spiritual self occurs. The South Node is in the opposite House and describes a familiar place, an area of safety, and a comfort zone that supplies an anchor for our relationships. However it is also a place where we can become fixed, caught in the safety zone of our complacency and neglect the invitation of the North Node. That would be a shame as it is at this pole where you might cross paths with a kindred spirit.

Considering this one image in your Horoscope invites you to feel more masterful in participating with your soul's journey and more receptive to close encounters with kindred spirits.

The North Node is in the 7th House

Close encounters with kindred spirits are an important feature of destiny's design for you. They are on the horizon of your life but you need to become more aware of them. One of your spiritual tasks is to shift the spotlight away from self towards others. As you begin to feel less self conscious and more expressive you will begin to see a different horizon filled with the possibility of relationships. You are innately adventurous but the adventure is now in the unexplored terrain of relationship. This is where

you need to take a risk and be a warrior.

With your North Node in the 7th House of your birth chart and your South Node in the 1st House, the arena of personal relationships is highlighted, as the polarity of these houses is the axis of self and other. While you may feel more inclined to do your own thing rather than follow others, compromise and co-operation are your life lessons. Your path leads in the direction of others. Whether you are aware of this or not, your life focus is on being fulfilled and complete in relationships, whether they are intimate others, close friends or business partnerships. What a task to navigate this complexity of needs, desires and expectations.

To feel that you are an independent soul, free of the need to be involved with others, is an unhappy deception and encourages a false sense of security. Naturally you have a strong spirit and a well-developed independent streak, but your task is to place effort and conscious will into forging relationships. Interestingly your time invested in others will be rewarded with realisations into your self. The pathway in front of you naturally veers towards close encounters with others, which will bring out more of your own authentic self. Don't worry – you won't become co-dependent or lose yourself completely.

Independence, freedom and adventure are innately aspects of your character; therefore you will never lose these traits, unless of course you do not value them. The task is to recognise that rewarding and fulfilling relationships encourage your individuality and champion your visions. Through relating and the interchange with others you discover the missing link to your sense of selfhood. Interpersonal relationships are the key to your expression of individuality and through your associations you are able to make an impact on the wider community. You love a contest, and the challenge now is to master relationship.

Interactions and close personal relationships help you to develop and recognise your leadership and entrepreneurial skills. With your kindred spirits you may take on a managerial or leadership role, as you have an innate sense of being able to take risks and confront difficulties. However managing others is not necessarily relating to others and effort is needed to remain involved personally. When you find the path that feels right for you, be assured that your soulmates will also journey along that same track. One thing consistent with this nodal axis is that you will recognise your kindred spirits when they cross your path, as there will be something so familiar and accessible about them that you feel you have known them forever. Just remember kindred spirits come in all shapes and sizes with both endearing and annoying traits! Perfection comes later.