

KINDRED SPIRITS REPORT

A Solar Writer Report for Barack Obama



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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 enter into its mystery, 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 Gemini

Your Moon is in Gemini, an air sign. When you are born with your Moon in the Element of Air this suggests that you feel bonded to another when you feel that you have room to breathe. Space, whether that is physical, emotional or psychological is important to you and ironically you feel that you need to be separate to have a perspective on relationships. The Moon in Gemini, as with the other airy Moons, has a complex and difficult psychological task. This is because your need to bond with someone else is not necessarily linked to emotions, but rather to communication. Your emotional needs are met, not through warmth and comfort, but rather through stimulation. Some of your earliest feelings may include an innate need for variety, stimulation and interaction. If you did not have these needs met in your family then you may have experienced a sense of separateness, space and distance or a strange sense of dislocation: a feeling of being disconnected from where one is or where one settles. This gulf between your sense of closeness and separateness might propel you to swing back and forth between the extremes of wanting to be single but also want to be in relationship. Connection and closeness are bridged through conversation and communication.

In adult life, forming a separate identity to loved ones is a healthy task, yet for a child in the early developmental stages this task needs support and understanding. Even though disconnection may not have been apparent in your family atmosphere, powerful images of separation have none the less permeated your feeling life. Bonding may evoke a sense of anxiety, as emotional closeness is opposed to your Moon in Gemini's need for separateness. Conversely, you might feel connected when you are distanced from the object of your love. "*Absence makes the heart grow fonder*", as they say. Through the loss of connection, you become conscious of the bond of love. Emotionally this is not easy as you have a tendency to rationalise or intellectualise your feeling life rather than just feel it. It is important to know that feelings are just feelings, and not always indications of something else.

As a youngster there could have been confusion between the roles of mother as caretaker and mother as friend, leaving you feeling responsible for your siblings, befriending your mother or being taken care of by others. However fate may have arranged this, your feelings of caring for others and friendship might get entangled. Therefore in adult relationships it is important to recognise the difference between when you need your partner to be your friend and when you need them to nurture you. It is also wise to recognise when you need your own space and not to push your partner away to get it, rather claim it honestly. You have numerous and various needs and it might be helpful to recognise that this means you need a variety of friends and close companions, not expecting one individual to carry all the needs. Swinging between the poles of needing space but also needing closeness is natural and when you recognise you are able to manage both you will feel less compelled to be coming and going so much. You feel nurtured when you are encouraged to talk about your feelings without feeling pressured to know what those feelings are!

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.

Pluto is Square The Moon

This combination suggests intense and powerful feelings that may have been first experienced in the family. Issues of trust, honesty, integrity and reliability are forged with the need to feel safe. This suggests very potent, even forbidden or repressed, feelings may have leaked into your family atmosphere. Your fate suggests that there is a dark depth to your feeling life and this is where you will find soul. Like Persephone you need to descend into the feelings to find the authentic other side of self. This might leave you feeling out of control in any relationship, as you find it difficult to trust another.

Your family system may have been confronted with powerful issues of loss and grief as well as taboos and secrets. Power and influence are issues or they have been in the family past and these affect the integrity of your family. The family need for honesty, trust and cohesion are strong due to the ancestral denials and unexpressed grief that infiltrate the current family climate. You were privy to these denials and secrets, even though they were not spoken about. However, you knew them in the depths of yourself, and your destiny is to know that you know the truth even though everyone else may be denying or lying about it.

When safe, you felt protected from harm and part of a tribe that was bound by trust. Emotional honesty in the family would encourage you to be intimate and truthful about what you feel. Negative feelings were allowed to be expressed without fear of judgement or reprisal and were not allowed to pollute the atmosphere of the family. If grief and loss were acknowledged as part of the life cycle, then you were better equipped to let go and move forward with life. But this is not generally the case, as when Pluto and the Moon combine the darker feelings are often left to fester. If so you felt them and were influenced by their potency. However when authentic feelings are allowed to be expressed this engenders honesty, integrity and the powerful sense of being protected and sheltered by indelible strength.

However a darker side could exist especially if your family atmosphere was polluted with secrets, shame or unexpressed grief. This complicates your ability to be close or intimate with others for fear of exposing the secret and betraying the family. In this case separation from your family may be accomplished in a Persephone-like way through being snatched, abducted or seduced into another atmosphere of control and dominance. If power and control are mobilised to suppress a secret, a sense of shame is instilled leaving you unable to differentiate between what is private and what is secret. Power may also have been abusive in that it kept you from expressing your true self. Powerlessness induces rage therefore your family atmosphere might have been polluted with rage and brutal feelings. Feeling unprotected and vulnerable to attack, you learn to mistrust the world at large. When the family is bonded together by an inappropriate secret or shame the risk of difficulty with separation is heightened and anyone outside the family unit is cast in the role of enemy. Transferring loyalties to someone outside the family constitutes betrayal, leaving you in fear of being disinherited.

Therefore you could swing between being charismatic and compulsive. You are charismatic because you are able to confront others honestly and with integrity encouraging a sense of trust. Compulsive because when you hide your true needs or feelings you begin to ruminate and feel compelled to try to hide them. So as an adult issues of trust, power and control will be themes that help you confront your inner strength and conviction. Your kindred spirits trust you and are able to be intimate with the deepest and darkest part of your self without you feeling ashamed or defended. You know you can be completely honest about your feelings, even the darkest ones, and not be chastised or rejected. Your capacity to forge an intimate bond is great; however on the other side you also have the capacity to withhold due to mistrust. But your fate is to learn to trust yourself and know you will be safe. Your family experiences laid the groundwork for this great task.

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.

The Moon is in the 4th House

With the Moon in your 4th House your emotional security and your sense of belonging was considerably shaped by your family of origin. A strong link to your family develops because you need their support, guidance and nurturing to feel safe. Of course this is a human need, but for your need to belong and feel attached is highlighted by this placement in your Horoscope. With a positive attachment to your family, you are able to leave the nest and return on your own terms. However if your family experience was fractured and unsettled, then you have a more difficult time separating and becoming independent. Your ability to develop a sense of independence may have been compromised by others' needs, your parent/s' dependence upon you or undertones and moods that remained unspoken in your family.

You have a sixth sense about what others need. You first experienced this in your family. It might not be something that you are conscious of, but you innately respond to what is in the atmosphere, sensitive to emotional undertones, jarring vibrations or darkened moods. This is not an intellectual knowing; rather it is a gut knowing. The emotional climate in the environment is absorbed by you, often settling in the stomach or solar plexus. Without conscious knowledge of this pattern you might be responding to everyone else's needs rather than your own, unaware of what it is that you need because of the unfulfilled needs of those around you. When this occurs you feel out of sorts, alone, unsupported, as if no one really understands. Establishing a clear sense of self when it comes to your feelings is difficult for you, but it is a necessity. Hopefully you have an emotionally mature mother and family to help you feel supported and separate enough to know what you need. But if you grew up in a volatile or dysfunctional environment you probably took responsibility for some of the stress, leaving you feeling insecure and unloved. In this environment you feel that to be loved you need to take care of others and put their needs first. Love becomes dependent rather than unconditional. Therefore it is always wise in later years to reflect on the extent to which you care for others at the expense of your own needs. Your tenancy to bond, merge, be symbiotic is great for nurturing a child, but not necessarily supportive in developing friendships and relationships.

Home is important both literally and metaphorically as an image of belonging. Country too. Therefore your natural state suggests you love to be nestled in your home, active in the community and even may wave the flag on the national holiday. In a perfect world you want everyone to come to your house as you have a heart that opens wide to let people in. You are loyal and devoted. But big hearts also hurt big and over time this may have affected the way you love. In an adult context remember your task to provide enough emotional

containment and boundaries to protect your sensitivity; be selective about who you invite into that private and sacred space you call home. Your home is the reflection of your inner life and security. When you are unsettled in your self you are unsettled in the home and many of your great life changes will go hand in hand with an important move.

While you do not need to learn to love you do need to learn who you can love. You also need support and encouragement in your closely-knit circles. Remaining conscious of this helps ward off the instinct to care for others when there is nothing in it for you. Common sense dictates you do have to leave home at some point and that may be difficult emotionally and psychologically. Being habitual change does not come easily. But on an emotional level you will return home time and time again, recreating the habitat that is most familiar to you. You want to bring your friends home; you might even bring your work into your home. And from home to home you carry those transitional objects that have become dear to you. Stuffed toys, childhood photos, greeting cards are all-important mementoes of your past. It is natural to collect memorabilia from your life and give it an honoured place in your home.

Your kindred spirits will nurture you just as much as you nurture them. There's nothing like dinner parties with your closet friends or intimate gatherings to bring it back home to you just how important the image of family is. Family is belonging. Whoever is in your orbit feels like family so just be more select about who that might be. You couldn't choose your family but you can be choosy about those you share your adult life with. Making a nest is important and in your adult life home plays a major role in your relationships.

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 Taurus

Taurus on your 3rd House Cusp suggests that stability, security, sensuality and affection are primary qualities of relationship that are important to you and experienced in some way with your siblings and early friends.

Your experience of early relationships may have contributed to the way you define your sense of values, what you appreciate and take pleasure in. You may have defined your values in contrast to your siblings; equally your sibling may have been a role model for developing your sense of taste and appreciation for what you find worthy and agreeable. However this theme has arranged itself in your life, it suggests that patterns of worth and value become entwined in your relationships encouraging you to reflect on your earliest partnerships to contemplate any patterns of worth and self esteem you bring into your present ones. On the literal level this suggests your attitudes towards how you share your resources with your partner, whether that is money, possessions or your own creative self, is highlighted in your partnerships.

Your sense of self-worth and self-esteem may be directly influenced through your relationships with your sibs and how you felt valued and appreciated by them. You may search for a reflection of self-worth in your sibling. Without feeling valued or appreciated, this pattern of seek self-assurance may surface in your present relationship. This may result in feeling possessive of your partners or possessed by them. This could have become acute in adolescence, when you may have felt possessive of your friends, not wanting to share them with your siblings, or vice versa. This could contribute to making separation from the sibling and later a partner a difficult task.

Taurus represents the experience of security through ownership, learning to share what belongs to you but also clearly defining your own territory. Younger siblings often feel that what they own is not really theirs, but belongs to the elder sibling since it was handed down, while elders feel resentful having to pass on what was once theirs. The early experience of how you shared your resources – toys, clothes, and even affection – may be a forerunner for how comfortable you feel sharing these later with adult partners. You may unconsciously expect your adult friends and partners to carry certain attitudes towards sharing their resources with you or may even project your own values onto them.

Your kindred spirits help you shape your sense of worth and value. And that is priceless when you recognise that the self you bring to relationship is constant and unwavering.

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.

Jupiter is Opposite Mercury

This combination suggests that you seek a broad exchange of ideas and ideals with your friends and companions, an urge that you may have first felt with your sister or brother, or both. You want to share your visions with others and communicate your ideas freely. When you do this you feel like you are not only

communicating but also communing. Your urge to share your ideals and adventures with others would have been first experienced in your sibling relationships. Early on a sister or brother may have been the right travelling companion, guide, teacher or co-adventurer. A sibling is your socialising agent who may lead you beyond the family's beliefs and morals or it is with a sibling that you experiment with new things. You may have shared a variety of experiences with your siblings or been inspired by their quest for meaning in life. The dark face of this wiser sibling image could be an arrogant or inflated sibling who is prejudiced, dictatorial and overbearing. While traditional astrology might suggest this represent many siblings, you may have experienced a wide set of experiences that helped formulate your philosophy on life. It is this essence that you take into later relationships, seeking partnerships where you can share your visions and spiritual ideals.

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 Sagittarius

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 who contribute to making your world the ideal place to live in.

With Sagittarius on the Cusp of the 11th House, your friends are your fellow travellers through life. You seek companions who share your philosophy of life, who are freedom-loving, good-humoured and have a vision. Potentially you bring abundance to your friendships and in many ways friends are your *raison d'être*. Whether it is on the sporting field, in the university, on an aeroplane or in an ashram you draw your kindred spirits to you through your honesty and straightforwardness, along with your faith and zest for life.

From the beginning you were interested in others from all walks of life, especially those that were foreign to you. Anyone foreign seemed so much more interesting than the locals did. Your early friends helped instill in you a sense of wanderlust, an exploration into the unknown and a curiosity about life. Today that means your friends might be from distant parts of the globe, different cultures or backgrounds. However you experience this, your friends are an eclectic congregation who share your philosophy, ideals and values. It is so important for you that your mates are farsighted, broadminded and big hearted. However, in your search for open minded others, your encounter with prejudice and the unethical side of human nature can leave you feeling despairing. On the other hand it also whips you into a state of action and community concern.

Community is important to you, especially the social groups that advocate human values and morals. However you are also drawn to groups that defend ethics, stand for philosophical ideas, demonstrate spiritual ideals and pursue intellectual knowledge. Therefore, you participate in the community and are a welcome addition to the side, whether that's the soccer or the debating team. Welcome because you are identified, outspoken about your beliefs and put your spirit fully into what you are involved with. Whether friendship is shared in the religious community, in the university, through travelling together or being on the same team your spirit and optimism is a boon for others.

Your friends admire your spirit and faith in life. You have a knack of being able to see the horizon when others cannot and finding the reason behind what seems unreasonable. Therefore others are drawn to your spirit and faith. You need your friends to share the bigger picture of life with you, to help answer the larger questions and to journey through life together. You bring a sense of abundance to your friendship and your kindred spirits reciprocate, sharing the bigger pictures of life with you. Your soul friends are fellow travellers on the road of your life.

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 Leo

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 Aquarius; therefore the Fire Sign of Leo is on your Descendant.

Fire is a spirited element and its approach to life’s experiences is generally highly instinctive, spontaneous, forthright and willful. With this fiery Element in the relationship arena of your chart, you are attracted to dynamic and charismatic partners. You are drawn to playful, creative and fascinating lovers who encourage your sense of self-discovery and creative self-expression. Relationships are a vital area for you to investigate and experiment elements of your own nature. Therefore the confidence, courage and conviction of others stimulate you.

Fire is passionate and, like its element in nature, burns new ground and yearns to move farther afield. But with passion and excitement comes restlessness and boredom. Your natural tendency might be to fall in love quickly or wear your heart on your sleeve, becoming weary and disinterested in the relationship as the initial glow wears away. Therefore you need to be in relationship with someone who is able to draw out your own spontaneity, creativity and inner child and who can equal your passion and enthusiasm for life.

Leo’s spirit and quest for creative expression and acceptance meets its shadow or darker side in negative feelings, lack of acknowledgement and criticism. Therefore you may easily become annoyed with your partner if they are unable to share your positivity or faith in yourself. You often struggle with negative feelings; however, expecting your partner alone to cheer you up is not helpful. It is true that you need to feel admired in relationship and to forge a mutual admiration society, but you need to know that sometimes your partner may not be able to influence your own negative feelings. You need to know that your partner is your best audience and sincerest critic while also generating some positive feelings of your own.

What you are first attracted to in others is their creative flair, their positive outlook, enthusiasm and generosity of spirit. You admire the way they are able to be spontaneous and let loose all the time being both broad-minded and expansive. And you must admit you are drawn to their playfulness and their fascination with their own creativity. But while you may attract these qualities in your quest for equal relationship, you will also attract the shadow or darker side of these qualities. The talented and fun-loving actor you admire may also become egocentric and arrogant. And what was once fascinating and exciting may become tedious. The gold has become tarnished and with Leo in your relationship sector you need to become aware of how to enlighten and impassion your relationship when it becomes dull. But through light and shadow Leo on the 7th draws you into a relationship that helps you to have confidence in your own abilities and faith that you

are as you always expected: creative and quite magnificent. With Leo on this House Cusp need for creative expression will be a strong feature of relating.

Qualities you admire and are attracted to in others include loyalty, generosity of spirit, creativity and self-expression, child-like enthusiasm, and attractiveness. And it is these very qualities that a partner helps you find in yourself. So don't be surprised when your kindred spirits have astrological placements in Leo or are prize winners in their chosen field.

Mars is in the 7th House

The feisty planet Mars feels rather awkward in your 7th House of relationships. This is because the planet Mars' nature is competitive. Being here it is on a steep learning curve about co-operating, sharing and compromising. Hence you might attract competitive, independent, fiery, and potentially quarrelsome individuals who remind you of your Martian needs. Mars is edgy in relationship and its manifestation of anger or aggression often sits uneasily in partnering. If this energy has been deeply repressed, your projection may be exaggerated in attracting aggressive behaviour from others.

You might find yourself reacting in a variety of ways when confronted by belligerent or offensive behaviour. For instance you might give up, believing that the other person has all the power. But by relinquishing the fight, your power and self assertion is in the other's camp, rendering you submissive and powerless. Another reaction might be that you are quick to realize the competition within any relationship, and you then make sure you get in first. You could become overtly 'trigger-happy', when reacting to any real or imagined threat to your territory. Finally you could retreat so others are not able to threaten you, leaving you numb and disengaged in the relationship. All these scenarios are reactive and ultimately keep you feeling isolated within your primary relationships. You need to learn that anger and competition are a natural art of relationship and the expression of your own desires will not kill off the relationship.

Allowing other people to express themselves without you having a say leaves you feeling unassertive and dependent. When your fiery passions are used to fuel your partner's goals, endowing them with courage and an entrepreneurial spirit, you might collapse into a black hole, becoming lethargic and lacking direction. A relationship can vitalise and stimulate you; therefore if you are in a partnership that renders you immobile, you need to reflect on what you are doing.

While you are only able to see your partner as angry, not yourself, you fail to see how you may have provoked them or colluded with them to express your anger. This leaves you feeling powerless with no will to redirect the situation. When you overlook your own drive and determination, eventually you become red with anger and hostility. The best way to start integrating your energy back into your relationship is to co-operate - you both have the power, so take turns sharing it. Your relationship needs to create a space where each one can do their thing within the safety and structure of your relationship. You can also be integrated through healthy competition, where you and your partner can compete together, win sometimes, lose sometimes, so the winning and the losing is not unbalanced, yet the competitive streak is kept alive. You need to express your power and anger within the relationship without the fear of being chastised or criticised like you may have been in the past. Your partner is your rival but he or she is also your best friend. You may also have unresolved conflict with a brother, especially aggression and rivalry that could affect your current relationship. However your partner (either gender) can also be like a supportive brother to you. Your kindred spirit is on your team. They want to help you go for whatever it is you want, so let them know what that is and how they can help.

Uranus is in the 7th House

Uranus was the first planet discovered beyond the rings of Saturn and as such opened the gateway, more like a causeway, into new and unexplored worlds. When this energy is personified, individuality, uniqueness and separateness are enhanced. One of these distinctive individuals may appear from out of the blue, suddenly and unexpectedly entering your life. An alien from another galaxy, perhaps? Your unconscious urge to be different and liberated may end up being projected on extraordinary and unorthodox people. And the more out of touch you are with your own need for freedom and space, the more unusual and eccentric they might be. Your comfort zone is proportional to the amount of space and adventure you feel in your relationships. Your restlessness and urge for different stimulation and adventures needs to be satisfied in yourself before you feel ready to take on a commitment to another. If you remain unconscious of your need for independence then you might be pondering why you attract a parade of partners who are radicals, leftists or disengaged. Why do I just happen to keep meeting these types of people?

Often your unconscious provides a situation where you just happen to meet another unusual person. After a while you reflect on why; events don't just happen, do they? A common theme is your need for space - physical, emotional and psychological. If you disown this need, you might attract those who are overly noncommittal and willing to give you as much space as you need. Or you may keep engaging in the theme of approach-avoidance in your relationships. As soon as you feel close you need to flee; yet when your partner is miles away you yearn for closeness. You may feel unable to reconcile your need for freedom with your need for relationship. Consciously your task in relationship is to claim your own space within the relationship without pushing someone else away to get it. This includes your need to assert your individuality, pursue your own friendships and be as independent as possible within the framework of your relationship. Ironically the freer you feel, the less you desire to be free.

The freedom-closeness dilemma may be your or your partner's intricate defence against the fear of being left. Another manifestation of this defence is hyper-vigilance and anxiety. You and your partner may become acutely aware of any clues that might suggest separation and then suddenly end or break apart, leaving the relationship before they are left. Themes of separation and the engagement-disengagement polarity are often psychologically underscoring the feelings of anxiety in relating. Uranus represents separation but not necessarily from the partner. It also suggests the psychological journey to become separate, an individual and within any relationship the process of self-discovery and individuality is heightened. Fears of separation and alienation may be echoes of our earlier experiences of relationship.

You need to realign with your uniqueness, your individuality and freedom. Then you have less need for these qualities in your partner, leaving you feeling free enough to be in partnership. Balancing this in your relationship means the two of you accepting each other's uniqueness and recognising your relationship is not destined to fit in the norm. Your relationship is outside the bell curve. This creates more space and freedom to be an individual. By honouring this you find the relationship that allows you to consciously create your own emotional, psychological and even physical space as well as allows your partners to have theirs. Your relationships are an adventure and an area that you need to exploration with your spirit of discovery and wonder. Your kindred spirits might be an unusual bunch, but they are exciting and adventuresome inspiring you to become the individual you know you can be.

Pluto is in the 7th House

You are attracted to the mystery and the unexpressed depths that you sense in others. Through your relationships you explore your own emotional depths. Therefore you are likely to be attracted to deeply intense individuals and relationships, the 'till death-do-us-part' type of intensity. As a reflection of your own

unexpressed emotional strength, you might attract powerful people into your life. You could feel almost controlled or manipulated in some ways. Perhaps you feel under their spell, drawn to a mystery that captivates and captures you. However this could be the red flag that warns you about giving your power away to someone else who may not always know how to be intimate and understanding. You may be drawn to a 'therapist' type, who reveals your deeper and more passionate sides. This kind of relationship is constantly revealing deeper and darker feelings, yet you may not feel equally loved or met.

During the course of your life, and your relationships, you learn how the darker, repressed aspects of the feeling life of both partners are brought to light. Learning to share power is necessary, especially in dealing with shared resources like money or sex. You also learn to let go of using resources like money, emotions and sex as a means of manipulation or control. You need to be emotionally honest and open to intimacy. If you are not then you may be prone to attracting power struggles within a relationship, partners who turn possessive. Equally, you might feel obsessed with another person, perhaps even someone who does not return your passion.

Pluto was the God of the underworld, so it might be beneficial to reflect on whether the motif of the Pluto-Persephone partnership underpins your relationship. It is your innocence and naiveté that might be abducted through compulsive or obsessive feelings aroused in relationship. Partners may bring your dark and uncontrolled feelings to the surface or you may see these darker feelings in your partner, not realizing that they reflect your own. When you allow the underworld god into your relationship through honouring the dark and dangerous feeling life, you also invite in transformation, honesty and intimacy. Through the sharing of these deeper and vulnerable feelings you become more intimate in your relationships. The theme of trust and betrayal is also running through your relationships. And while a partner's betrayal may feel devastating, it awakens you to your authentic feeling life which is when you discover your muscularity and strength emotionally.

You might try to control your negative feelings, but burying these feelings is likely to unleash obsessive and controlling issues, often expressed through any partner. When you summon your emotional power and courage to express your deepest feelings, when you risk honesty and vulnerability in your committed relationships is when you also discover intimacy. Persephone, innocent and virginal, was abducted by Pluto yet she became his equal. By honouring your own underworld, you have a greater opportunity for equality within your relationships. Pluto demands integrity, honesty, vulnerability and trust. Your chart suggests that these traits need to be honoured in your relationships. Your kindred spirit might wear a helmet of invisibility, be a mystery, even a secret to you, but through the honesty and open engagement with your deepest and often darkest feeling, you experience the depth of your shared bond.

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 Cancer

Cook looking for Dinner Companion

Imagine this advertisement in the personal column of your local paper. On a lighter note there may be some truth in this for you, because when you are in love don't you love to cook? NO, well maybe you should try it. Your grandmother used to say, "*The way to a man's heart is through his stomach*". She probably had Venus in Cancer too! Seriously love and nurture are intermeshed in your psyche and you love to care for others, be needed by them and offer them your emotional and physical support.

So it's very painful when the ones you love don't respond or reciprocate. You hurt fairly easily and are accustomed to dealing with mood swings. Bad moods seem to brew when you start ruminating over being left out, misunderstood or taken for granted. You value closeness and kindness, but few have the emotional breadth that you do and fewer still are as kind and considerate as you are. Therefore you might feel exhausted from giving out. This might be true in terms of emotionality, so it is important to find ways to let others nurture you. Kindred spirits demonstrate and reciprocate love in their own ways.

Since the Moon rules your Venus sign, emotional tides will be a regular feature in relationship. You will get to know them and find ways to surf them. This means that kinship and family are also valued. It not necessarily guarantees a loving family but it does suggest that you need to make your soulmates your family. Therefore in adult years your family circle embraces your friends, work mates, kindred spirits and loved ones.

Some astrological reports might suggest you are prone to mothering your partners and companions. Or that you might be an orphan looking for a foster home. Well, when did nursing and caring become such a problem? It certainly is not a problem for those who value your warmth, kindness and yummy meals! Those that can't deal with closeness might flee, but your kindred spirits will always value your warmth and depth and are not afraid to be drawn into the tides of your feelings. You value kindness, tenderness and empathy; qualities that need to be returned for you to feel loved.

Mars is in Virgo

How you assert yourself in your relationships and take the courage to be your own person is the domain of

the Planet Mars. In earthy Sign of Virgo you may find that you are circumspect and discriminating about where you focus your energy. Before you exert yourself you analyse the situation, a trait that is natural to you. Being so prepared you can be shrewd and critical which serves you well in your everyday life of work and well being. But perhaps these qualities are not as effective in terms of personal relationship. Unfortunately people aren't as methodical, rational or organised as you had expected, which is bit of a disappointment. The good news is that there is lots of room for improvement and that's where you come in.

Given a challenge to fix what's not working, edit the manuscript, analyse the problem or challenge the hypothesis, then you are the person to call. Therefore it's important that you work on your relationship, not your partner. You desire to feel that your close encounters are improving with age and that they fit in with the scheme of your life. You do have a tendency to make sure everything fits into your schedule and your well thought through plans. Unfortunately relationships tend to be a bit more chaotic than you might be prepared for.

Having such a strong reserve you tend to be focused on your work, well being and lifestyle enjoying the routines that you have created. You are stimulated when a kindred spirit shares a similar health regime, work routine or lifestyle and long to share the day-to-day with intimate others. Even though you may not physically occupy the same space during the day, at the end of the working day you want to share the highs and lows of your day with someone who listens and understands. You have a drive for perfection and are quite comfortable on your own. But in reality you have been rehearsing for relationship for a long time. You bring coherence and healing into your close encounters and you desire to have someone share in the daily domestics of life.

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, closes 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 relationship 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.

CONCLUSION

*“Love to some is like a cloud, to some as strong as steel
For some a way of living, for some a way to feel
And some say love is holding on and some say letting go
And some say love is everything, some say they don't know.”*

-John Denver, Perhaps Love

Songwriter John Denver's lyrics capture the paradoxical nature of love for each individual. Every relationship whether it is familial or formal, professional or personal, intimate or casual is an invitation to self-discovery. We bring our hopes, secrets, expectations, resources and desires to our relationships and through the alchemy of interaction come to better know ourselves and others. Soul does not strive to work out or control relationship but inspires us to consider what is being asked of us; what is the fate of this relationship? In this way astrology is a unique tool in helping us reflect on the purpose and patterns of our relationships, not to fix or control them, but to understand their complexity and place in our lives.

Kindred spirits are relationships in which a deep bond is present, not inspired by the teachings of a self-help manual but through the soul's grace. And that is a mystery which astrology helps us to consider. I have written this report to promote a spirit of inquiry into the patterns and purposes of soul in your relationships. Like soul there may be contradiction and confusion, as it seeks understanding not clarity. Also the report is limited in its nature to explore the more detailed and intricate patterns of your horoscope. However it is the author's sincere hope that it provides an initial step to your reflection on relationships. Perhaps love in the end is what we are willing to bring to it, like the poet Ovid implied in *“The Art of Love”*: *“If you'd be loved, be worthy to be loved”*.

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