

Commentaries on a Student's Natal Chart and the Path

Having recently completed Phillip Lindsay's Esoteric Astrology and Ageless Wisdom (Mysteries Unveiled) Class, I realized just how great can be the significance of the Seven Rays when studying, and pondering, their contribution to one's path combined with the use of one's natal chart. It was a wonderful experience to gain new insights by reviewing my spiritual path in this light. I can see how much this can mean to others should they have the opportunity to have their personal journey examined in such a way through the lens of Esoteric Psychology, Esoteric Astrology, and Esoteric Healing, which are the contributing factors to the Seven Rays.

In Esoteric Astrology the *Science of Triangles* involves the interaction of Energy (that which is essential and related to constellations) and Force (effect of energy and related to the planets) upon the Chakra Centres (planetary and human). In this essay, I will be discussing a *grand trine* configuration (see Student Chart), which becomes a *kite* when the placement of planet Earth is included. This particular configuration and unfolding of triangles (forces) can be correlated to the work of personality (Sun & Moon involved) and karmic responsibilities (retrograde planets). What is presented here provides my best understanding at this point in time, and is directed toward the work of dissolving illusion and glamour.

In order to make a valid interpretation, the ray structure and point along the evolutionary path need to be known, or at the very least supposed based on biographical information and intuition. This is a difficult task given that one's vehicles can be fluid and dynamic over their lifetime. In any event, I currently believe my ray structure and point on the evolutionary path are as follows:

Ray Structure

Soul—Ray 2—Love Wisdom (Type B: Emphasis on wisdom, not knowledge. Dispassionate understanding.).

Personality—Ray 3—Active Intelligence and Adaptability (Type A: Philosopher, theorist. Emphasis on abstract ideas.).

Mental Body—Ray 5—Concrete Mind (Type A: Researcher. Intellectual. Descriptive accuracy and documentation. Clarity.).

Astral Body—Ray 6—Abstract Idealism (Type A: Receptive. Passive. Loyal. Tranquil. Worshipful (Grateful). Gentle influence.). I believe I'm in the process of moving toward a ray 2 Astral body.

Physical Body—Ray 7—Ceremonial Order (Type A & Type B. It is interesting to note that during the middle part of my life (say 20-45) the Type A qualities (Highly organized. Plays by the rules. Meticulous in action.) were predominant. Whereas, now the Type B qualities seem to be coming more into play (Emphasis on creative process. Manifests ideas into forms. Creative.).

Point on Evolutionary Path

Reversed Wheel—path of return where an attitude of Observer becomes predominant over that of Experiencer.

Fixed Cross—the struggle of expression between personality and soul is predominant.

Earth Grand Trine (Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn) becoming a Kite when Placement of Earth is considered

A *grand trine* (consisting of three planets approximately 120° from each other), by its very nature has an easy flow of energy between planets, which from an evolutionary perspective can result in one not applying themselves since there is no motivating tension present. When a planet opposes one of the apexes of the grand trine, a *kite* is formed, which actually consists of two inter-connected triangles: the grand trine and, along the baseline from the opposing planetary apex a *partial grand sextile* (three planets where two of the planets are separated by approximately 120° from each other, and the third planet is located at their mid-point forming two angles of 60° (sextile)).

As was the case for the grand trine, a partial grand sextile viewed by itself involves an easy flow of energies through the sextile/trine relationship, and an attendant lack of motivating tension. However, the two triangles taken together, resulting in formation of the kite configuration, brings into play a motivating tension through the *opposition* and *cross-arm* (baseline of grand trine), which provide the structural integrity needed for a physical kite to “fly” and for an astrological kite, from an evolutionary perspective, to be a spiritually meaningful configuration holding specific intent directed at the individual’s growth.

As can be seen in my chart the Sun & conjunct Moon, Pluto, and Jupiter form a grand trine in the Earth Signs of Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn, while the Earth conjunct Neptune (in Scorpio), Pluto, and Jupiter form a partial grand sextile, which taken together form a kite.

It is important to see that the planet Earth is pivotal in the formation of the kite, and through conjunction brings the activity of Neptune, and energy of Scorpio to bear on the overall process of working with personality (opposition to Sun & Moon):

“*Scorpio*, which brings about eventually the death of the personality and with which we shall later deal when we come to consider that sign. Esoterically as well as exoterically, Scorpio is the sign of death and burial in the earth, of descent into the depths in order to be lifted again on to the heights (the mountain top in *Capricorn*). It is stated in some of the most ancient books that ‘the heat of the earth, the mother, and the sting of the scorpion are the beneficent gifts which the turning of the wheel gives to the man at the beginning and the end.’ These gifts, when accepted and used, bring a man to liberation and eventually from the control and pain of the Fixed Cross.”¹

The second important factor is that Jupiter, Neptune and Pluto are all retrograde. Objectively, retrograde planets can have an inverse effect in the world, and subjectively instill an inner search for that which is hidden. Retrograde planets in the chart also relate to karma, past lives, and lessons brought into the current life to be worked through. In order to provide a valid context for my own experiences it is beneficial to review what Spring Wolf (<http://www.paganspath.com/meta/retro.htm>) has written in regard to these three retrograde planets and past lives:

Jupiter Past Life:

“If Jupiter is in retrograde in your chart, searching for ethics, values and fairness is probably a strong part of your personality. You seek truth and look for deeper meaning in life. Scientific or philosophical research maybe of great interest. You may shun spiritual beliefs and feel a lack of respect for those who have a strong sense of spirituality in their lives. But not having this type of spiritual connection in your life, makes you feel flat and sometimes empty.”

“You probably feel bogged down or boxed in by routine, rituals or blind faith. You continually question the latest fad or intellectual thought, only to feel disappointed in the end. You’re looking for that perfect spiritual path mixed with intellect, hoping to find the right balance between the two.”

"From a past life perspective, there may have been a lifetime when you were persecuted for your spiritual or ethical beliefs. This experience has probably left you feeling uneasy about embracing anything larger than yourself out of fear of another existence of persecution. You may be concerned about showing your wisdom, feeling fearful of responsibility or for jeopardizing the positions of those who listen to you."

Neptune Past Life:

"If Neptune is in retrograde in your chart, you are prone to escape reality through delusion or dream. Few people really know what goes on in your mind, whether you're sitting across from the dinner table or at your desk in the office. Even while you're working, you have a strong tendency to drift off into daydreams to more pleasurable pursuits. This can be one of the most dangerous retrograde positions in the Astrological chart system. This position can cause people to be inhibited and lack the confidence to reach for their dreams in reality. Consequently they may find escape from the perceived failure through an abuse of drugs or alcohol. They may also fall into an escape from reality altogether and have bouts with various forms of mental illness."

"From a past life perspective, you may have had a lifetime where your dreams were laughed at, put down or forbidden in some fashion. Or you may have been forced to give up your life long dream in exchange for other responsibilities, such as becoming the bread winner for your family unexpectedly. These past restrictions may cause you to have a penchant for escapism, or to have extreme expressions of your creativity. This has probably gotten the best of you and caused other problems in various aspects of your current life."

Pluto Past Life:

"If Pluto is in retrograde in your chart, you face issue of control. Feeling as if you must control all things in and around your life. Often to the extreme and at expense of others. Holding onto relationships so tight they become suffocating to your partner. Or holding onto past relationships, refusing to let go and move on."

"From a past life perspective, you were probably ostracized from your family, community or exiled from your home country. You may have been the scapegoat for the community and you stood alone for bad deeds that perhaps you didn't even commit. These past incarnations have left you feeling mistrustful of others, especially those close to you."

Sun conjunct Moon (New Moon) In Taurus/8th House

The Sun Sign represents the work of the personality in a given incarnation:

"This [sun] sign indicates *the present problem* of the man; it sets the pace or the established tempo of his personality life; it is related to quality, temperament and the life tendencies which are seeking expression during this particular incarnation, and it is suggestive of the rajasik or the activity aspect of the innate man. Fundamentally, the forces here found are indicative of the line of least resistance."²

The Moon represents the tendencies and proclivities that need to be addressed and overcome by the personality:

"This type of force (coming from certain [veiled] planets and not from the moon [itself]) indicates that which is *past*. It, therefore, summarises limitation and the present handicaps. It governs the physical body and shows where the prison of the soul is to be found."³

The conjunction of the Sun and Moon indicate that the primary problem, at the personality level, is to transform and resolve difficult past karmic influences, which if and when the challenges are adequately met can lead to initiating a new direction in this life (New Moon). Being in Taurus, suggests that the “desire nature” is prominent in the resolution of this struggle. Lastly, being in the 8th house suggests that sexuality and regeneration play into the overall transformational process.

Jupiter (Retrograde) in Capricorn/3rd House

Starting with the retrograde influence, I need to state up-front that I grew-up in the Catholic tradition, but strongly feel being “on the edge of the edge” of Christianity. By this, I mean there is a strong repulsive reaction relating to past historical atrocities committed in the “Name of Christ”, and “The Church,” to which a part of me really wants to completely “wash my hands” of this whole religion. However, there is something amorphous and perplexing that just doesn’t allow me this option, and I believe is psychic residue from the past.

Jupiter, “falls” in Capricorn representing the necessity to gain physical life experience(s) around the desire nature and its transmutation into love.

Intuitively speaking, I believe there is something from a past life that holds profound grief having to do with losing trust and faith with “others” through betrayal, which likely involved torture—a deep and painful psychic scar that is still veiled to a strong degree—yet one that requires resolution in this life. I believe I was persecuted for beliefs that were contrary to the established order. Of the descriptions given earlier relating to past life influences, the one for retrograde Jupiter is the most palpable to me.

As a result of the unresolved past, currently I am very cautious about sharing my ideas (3rd house) and inner nature with others because of a long held fear of persecution. The lesson involves developing discernment & discrimination, and the major challenge encompasses being able to “trust” others again. Through a steady lifelong persistence (Capricorn) of slowing delving deeper into this dynamic there is now the opportunity for resolution within the personality, which is becoming comfortable-enough for expression from soul (Jupiter is Ray 2 and square Libra Ascendant that holds the “light” for my ray 2 soul).

There was a major, life-questioning event, that occurred at age 13 in October of 1973 that had profound influence and, I believe served as a recapitulation of the karmic past.

During the 70’s in the Midwest there was a great deal of racial bigotry (especially toward African Americans). In this milieu of racial tension if one was a white adolescent then anything relating them, among their friends, to “being considered black” could be perceived as dis-respecting and an intentionally shameful inducing act.

As a teenager I had curly hair, and one of my friends used that to repeatedly insult me by writing racial slurs meant to imply “black” heritage all over my school books. In addition, he was (amazingly) able to alienate me from our entire “circle of friends.” The impact was devastating to me personally, as well as, deep down in my soul—since I felt completely betrayed by my entire group of friends! This incident outright crippled my “faith” and “trust” in the value of friendship and has had long lasting problematic effects relating to feeling comfortable-enough to express my inner self.

During this timeframe (October, 1973) the following aspects were operating and collaborate the seriousness of this life event: transiting Jupiter quincunx Pluto (Ray 2 soul struggling to adjust with destructive use of will (Ray 1)); transiting Mars conjunct Sun & Moon (my held glamour’s were forced to face reality); transiting Uranus (chart ruler) quincunx South Node (soul recapitulating past), and transiting Chiron (wounded healer) square Saturn (Lord of karma).

Neptune (Retrograde) in Scorpio/2nd House

As noted above, Neptune via its conjunction with the planet Earth provides the structural tension of the kite configuration and the motivational aspiration within personality (opposes Sun & Moon) to proceed with meeting the challenges and difficulties inherent in progressing on the evolutionary path.

In this life I have battled an addiction to alcohol, and although I have not drank for 18 years, this addiction was at its worst between 1995 and the summer 1998. In August of 1998, a turning point occurred after watching the 1995 film *Leaving Las Vegas*, where it became brutally clear to me that if I kept drinking I would soon be dead. By December of 1998, I consciously put my life on a new trajectory that included much more inner work and represented the beginning of making a sincere effort toward engaging shadow and the dweller.

For me, alcohol was used to numb the psychic pain of not living from a place of “that which is within.” The 70th verse of the gnostic *Gospel of Thomas* has deeply resonated with me since the first time I heard it about 25 years ago: “Jesus said, if you bring forth what is within you, what you bring forth will save you. If you do not bring forth what is within you, what you do not bring forth will destroy you.”

On a more objective level I used alcohol to escape from the outer world, until that time when I was ready and willing to face the inner psychic pain and engage the challenges inherent in the spiritual healing process (Neptune in Scorpio). A major factor in this realization came from a lessening of the *value* I placed on material and worldly “things/desires”, and an increasing of the *value* I placed on aspiring to live more spiritually (2nd house).

A significant aspect of my soul’s purpose has to do with creating the sense of “spiritual home”, and is astrologically indicated by Cancer being on the cusp of the 10th House (Midheaven). For me, there has been a life-long struggle with being able to feel comfortable-enough to express from the level of soul. Neptune, as esoteric ruler of Cancer and just discussed, plays a key role in the ongoing process of unfoldment, but also through exoteric rulership, Pisces is involved. That involvement is astrologically indicated by the South Node residing in Pisces and actively brought to endure in this life by a Mars conjunction.

During August of 1998 transiting Mars squared progressed Mars indicating that the psychic residue of the past, through the fire of friction, needed to be combined with the will to persevere and get on with the work. The placement of progressed Mars at this time was extremely powerful given that it was in Aries and the 7th house of “right relationship.” Furthermore, being at 17° it was precisely at the midpoint between my conjunct Venus (exoteric ruler of Sun Sign and Ascendant) and Mercury providing the vitality to work at building a bridge between the personality and soul (Antahkarana). A collaborating factor, relating this life event with the karmic past, and indicating a positive potential for growth was shown through transiting Mars being sextile to the North Node and Trine with the South Node.

In addition, during this time (August 1998) there were two other significant transits occurring. Uranus in the 4th house was quincunx to my Cancer Midheaven suggesting that change and adaption were required in my lifestyle and needed to occur in order to begin aligning to a soul purpose involving spiritual home. At the same time transiting Neptune retrograded back into Capricorn (occurring in the 4th house) indicating great opportunity along the evolutionary path if I was willing to commit myself to do the work.

Pluto (Retrograde) in Virgo/11nd House

Along the lines of the underworld, shadow, and facing the dweller it is apropos that expression of my most difficult and shameful life experiences revolve around Pluto—the planet of transformation and regeneration. Yet, it is through finding the will and determination to go down that razors edge path that the birth of love and wisdom (Virgo/Ray 2) can supersede an idealistic and emotionally oversensitive inner nature that is limited by fear from the past (Ray 6 as shown through the only other ray passing through Virgo, Mars and Neptune).

By necessity, this work needs to be forged in the subterranean realms of the psyche (Pluto), involves being able to share with others a look into my inner nature (retrograde), and at the same time aspiring toward the ultimate goal of contributing to group consciousness (11th House).

The creative life force, on the physical level is experienced as the vitality of sex. The two planets that are most commonly related to sex are Mars and Venus. I have already discussed some of the influences of Mars, however, it is important to reiterate that Venus is the exoteric ruler of both my Sun Sign and Ascendant.

For me, the dynamic of working with sexual energy, has been most influential in the realm of thought-forms. Venus is the only planet that Ray 5 passes through, and is referred to as the ray of “concrete mind and knowledge”. I have found this definition as somewhat inadequate, since at a more esoteric level, Venus and her partner Mercury (*hermaphrodite*) working the 4th Ray of harmony through conflict together build the (mental/psychic) bridge between personality and soul known as the Antahkarana, which is shown thusly:

“Venus connotes in our minds, even if we have only a glimmer of occult truth, that which is mental, that which concerns final sublimation, that which deals with sex and that which must work out into symbolic expression upon the physical plane. These are the major concepts which enter our minds when Venus and Taurus are considered in unison. These factors of expression have ever been related to these two since the night of time, because they are essentially basic and eternally cosmic in their implications. Taurus is one of the signs which veils a certain divine mystery. For the sake of disciples in training, these four concepts have been briefly summed up in an archaic writing of great significance. This writing states:

‘The holy Sons of Mind embraced the two. They saw and understood. Thus was sex born and thus the great mistake was made. The mind was outward turned. The form appears to view and not the life.

Out of the dark, they cried aloud, the holy Sons of Mind. In pain, they cried aloud. They inward looked and knew the error they had made but knew not what to do.... The Lord replied and gave to them the sign of resurrection’.

Do you grasp the significance of this statement, and its fundamental simplicity? Let me give you a hint. The earthy triplicity has been designated by astrologers as embodying the idea of plains (Taurus), of caves (Virgo) and of rock (Capricorn). It might be stated that these caves exist in the rocks, deep under the plains. I am speaking figuratively and symbolically. Out of the rocky cave, the Christ emerged and walked again upon the plains of Earth and from that time ‘the woman knew Him not.’ Form had no further hold upon him for He had overcome it in the depths. Into the cave of Initiation, the light of resurrection streams when the stone at the entrance is rolled away. From life in the form to the death of the form—deep in the rocky place, down in the crypts of the Temple—the human being goes. But into that same

place, the new life streams, bringing fresh life and liberation; old things pass away and the darkness becomes light."⁴

From the age of puberty until a few years ago I have used thought-forms, vitalized through sexual energy, to create fantasies that progressively lead to trying to create a state of mind that "allowed some type of redemption" for an unknown past karmic act. For a significant portion of my life I was unconsciously mesmerized within this process, which can be construed as a form of black magic:

"If the man concerned is materially minded, selfishly ambitious and unloving, the inpouring energy will stimulate the personality nature and he will immediately be warring furiously with all that we mean by the instinctual, psychic, intellectual nature. When all these three are stimulated, the disciple is often for a time swung off the centre into a maelstrom of magical work of the lower kind—sex magic and many forms of black magic. He is glamourised by the beauty of his motive, and deceived by the acquired potency of his personality."⁵

Over time I slowly acknowledged and became more aware of the deceptively subtle, yet powerfully real effect that thought-forms do have in the outer, as well as inner world. It is here where I began opening to the idea of taking responsibility for my own creation(s) of these influences (for further elaboration into the potential dark influence of thought-forms vitalized through sexual energy see P. 50, *Esoteric Secrets of Sex, Passion and Love* by Carol E. Parrish-Harra). I realized that the mysterious redemption that I so-long sought, through sexually vitalized thought-forms, could not possibly be achieved through those means.

On 20-22 June of 2014 I attended a class on "Ritual: The Keynote of the Aquarian Age." Here was another significant milestone in my life. The essential importance of Ray 7 (Via Uranus) and its influence on sacred ceremony was coming down into my concrete awareness (via Venus/Ray 5) in order for me to be able to create a spiritual structure capable of transferring focus and use of the sexual energies from the sacral chakra centre, up toward the throat centre and begin use for co-creative expression.

At the end of this essay I have provided a poem written on September 17, 2014 (It needs to be stated that there was a very strong compulsion late that night to put into words, as best that I could, what was striving to be expressed).

It is through a committed effort of completing the transformational path (Pluto) that the healing of past soul woundedness can be achieved and resolution found (Chiron opposes Pluto in the polarity pair of Virgo-Pisces).

There were some significant transits occurring during both of these June timeframes. During 20-22 June, 2014 transiting Mars was opposing Venus (working with sexual energies at the personality level); and transiting Mercury was conjunct progressed Sun & Venus (working with creative energies to build Antahkarana).

On September 17th, 2014 continuing this theme, transiting Mercury was opposing Venus; and transiting Venus had multiple aspects of quincunx to Mercury, opposing transiting Chiron, and quincunx to transiting Uranus. In addition, transiting Uranus was located between the natal conjunction of Venus and Mercury.

The intent of this essay has a two-fold purpose. First, it is hoped that it can provide insight for others in the use of Esoteric Astrology, and the Seven Rays, as an un-constraining spiritual self-development guide, tool and companion; and second as a vehicle for expression of my own soul's journey toward liberation.

¹ *Esoteric Astrology*, Alice A. Bailey. P. 96.

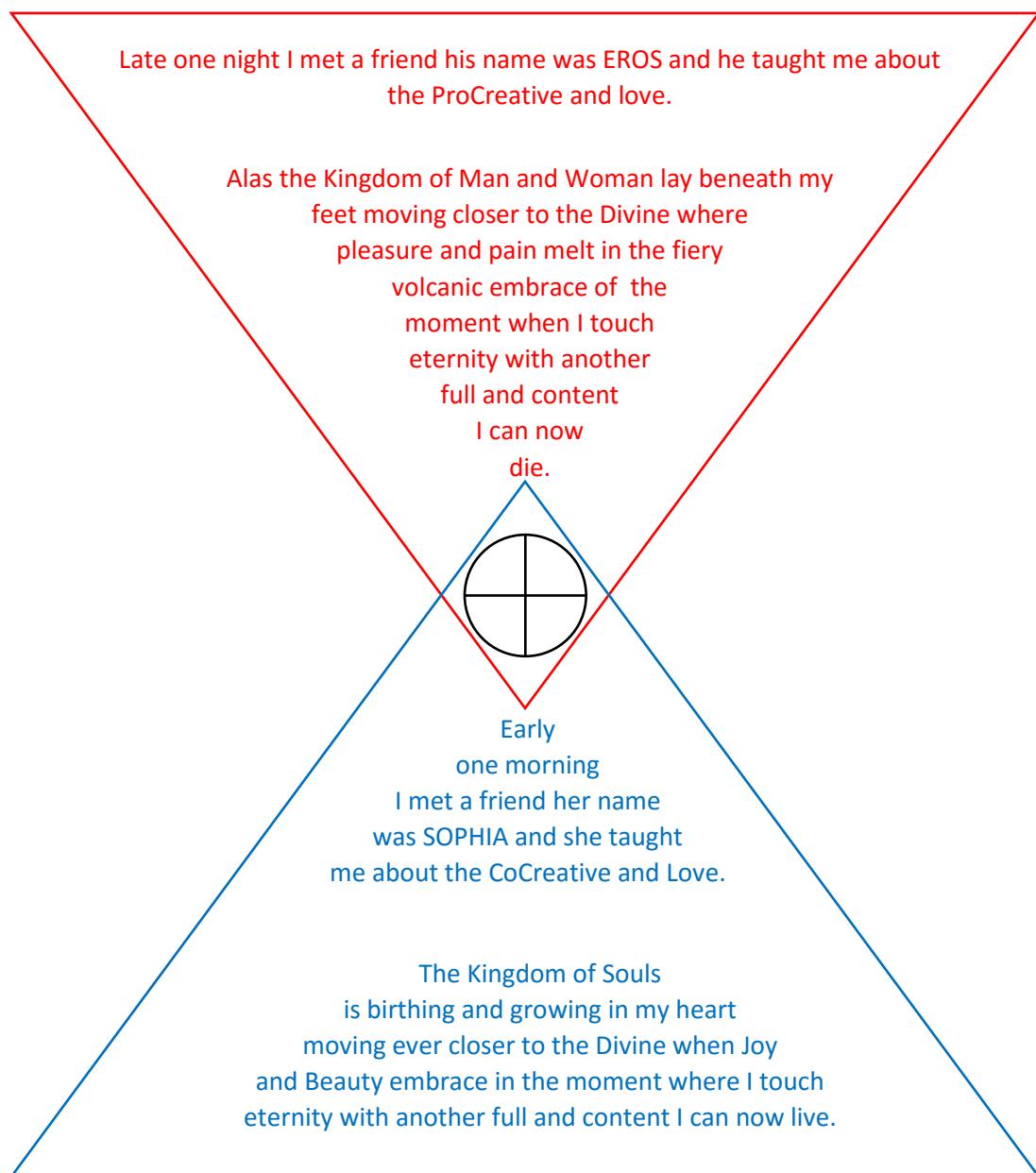
² *Esoteric Astrology*, Alice A. Bailey. P. 18

³ *Esoteric Astrology*, Alice A. Bailey. P. 19

⁴ *Esoteric Astrology*, Alice Bailey. PP. 384-385

⁵ *Esoteric Psychology II*, Alice Bailey. P. 377

Touching the CoCreative



Student
Math Sheet

Male Chart

Apr 25 1960, Mon

5:20 pm CDT +5:00

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

43°N02'20" 087°W54'23"

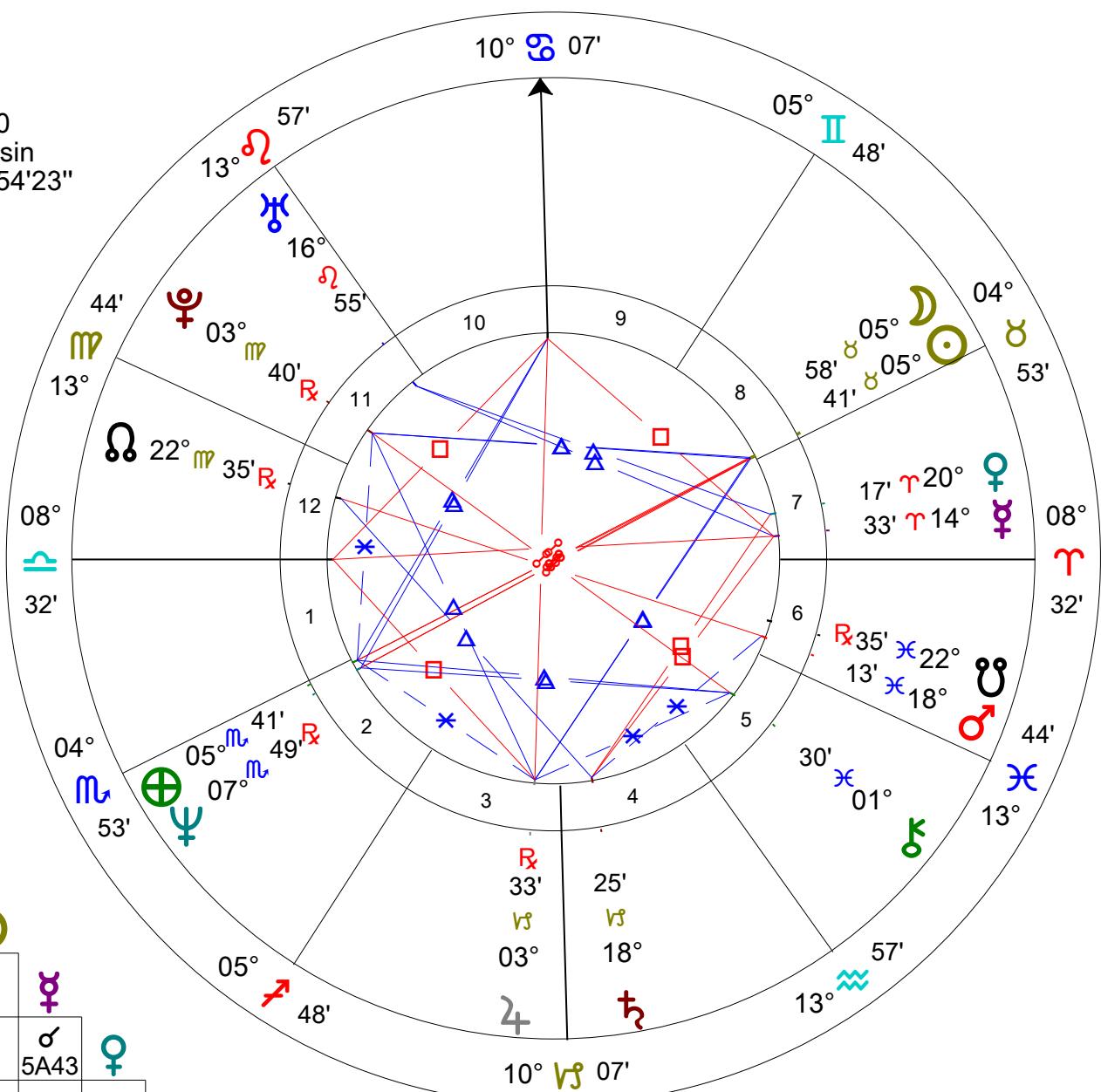
Geocentric

Tropical

Proprietary Placidus

Mean No.

Mean Node



OS17 OS00

♀

10

+		
↗		

○ ▲ *

4 2S24 2S07 2S07

†

♓

Ψ 1A51 ♂ 2A08 ♂ 2A08

• 2S18 2S01 2S01

+	2316	2301	2300
K		Δ	

4S11

As

Mc 4S26