

ASTRO*INTELLIGENCE

Psychological Horoscope Analysis

Astrological Interpretation and Text by
LIZ GREENE

Programming by
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Psychological Horoscope Analysis
for
Bill Gates, born 28 Oct 1955

Nr 25125.1-1

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ASTROLOGICAL DATA USED FOR THE ANALYSIS:

name: **Bill Gates** (male)

birthdate: **28 Oct 1955**

place: **Seattle, WA (US)**

long: **122w20** lat: **47n36**

local time **22:00**

U.T. **06+00**

sid. time **00:17:52**

method **Liz Greene**

houses: **Placidus**

25-Nov-2000

PLANETARY POSITIONS

planet	sign	degree		motion
☉ Sun	Scorpio	5m02'23	in house 4	direct
☾ Moon	Aries	8v14'54	in house 10	direct
☿ Mercury	Libra	16u36'03	in house 4	direct
♀ Venus	Scorpio	20m13'53	in house 5	direct
♂ Mars	Libra	10u07'07	in house 4	direct
♃ Jupiter	Leo	27u47'03	in house 2	direct
♄ Saturn	Scorpio	21m35'30	in house 5	direct
♅ Uranus	Leo	2u17'21	in house 1	direct
♆ Neptune	Libra	28u14'31	in house 4	direct
♇ Pluto	Leo	28u20'43	in house 2	direct
♁ Moon's Node	Sagittarius	19v28'17	in house 5	retrograde

HOUSE POSITIONS

Ascendant	Cancer	26s57'41	Descendant	Capricorn	26z57'41
2nd House	Leo	14u35'05	8th House	Aquarius	14v35'05
3rd House	Virgo	6m07'19	9th House	Pisces	6x07'19
Imum Coeli	Libra	4u51'52	Medium Coeli	Aries	4v51'52
5th House	Scorpio	12m53'50	11th House	Taurus	12z53'50
6th House	Sagittarius	23v46'43	12th House	Gemini	23u46'43

MAJOR ASPECTS

Sun SQUARE Uranus 2°45	Jupiter SEXTILE Neptune 0°27
Sun CONJUNCTION Neptune 6°48	Jupiter CONJUNCTION Pluto 0°34
Moon OPPOSITION Mercury 8°20	Jupiter TRINE Moon's Node 8°18
Moon OPPOSITION Mars 1°51	Saturn SQUARE Pluto 6°44
Moon TRINE Uranus 5°57	Uranus SQUARE Neptune 4°02
Mercury CONJUNCTION Mars 6°29	Neptune SEXTILE Pluto 0°05
Mercury SEXTILE Moon's Node 2°52	Pluto TRINE Moon's Node 8°51
Venus SQUARE Jupiter 7°32	Moon CONJUNCTION Medium Coeli 3°23
Venus CONJUNCTION Saturn 1°22	Mars OPPOSITION Medium Coeli 5°14
Venus SQUARE Pluto 8°06	Uranus CONJUNCTION Ascendant 5°20
Jupiter SQUARE Saturn 6°11	

Numbers indicate orb (deviation from the exact aspect angle).

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I. INTRODUCTION

Once upon a time, in a less scientific age than ours, astrology was a respected study, based on ancient and empirically compiled principles and used by the learned for greater insight not only into the future, but into the soul. With the coming of the Age of Enlightenment, and the increase in man's knowledge of the material universe, it seemed for a time that studies such as astrology, in company with other symbolic maps of the cosmos, had become anachronisms - pieces of superstitious nonsense which reflected a more ignorant and gullible era. But surprisingly, astrology, despite its detractors, has refused to go the way of the flat earth, the conjuring of demons, and the turning of lead into gold. It is alive and well, growing in popularity, and once again meriting the respect of intelligent minds - for it has been brought into the modern era through our increasing knowledge of psychology and of the inner nature of man. Subjected to many centuries of suppression and ridicule, astrology has outproven and outlasted its opponents, and eloquently demonstrates that it has something of great value to offer the modern individual seeking self-understanding.

In this horoscope analysis we have endeavoured, using the insights of astrology and psychology combined with the tools of advanced computer technology, to offer you an astrological portrait which is uniquely and individually focussed and which aims at providing greater self-knowledge. This is not fortune-telling astrology, but rather, psychological astrology, developed to as deep and sophisticated a level as is possible within the perimeters of computer interpretation. No computer can perform the task of an experienced human astrologer. But we think you will find this analysis a surprisingly profound and subtle interpretation of the complex dynamics at work within you.

Shakespeare once wrote that all the world is a stage, and all the men and women merely players. In a sense, your birth horoscope is a metaphor for the individual play, complete with stage set, cast of characters, and story, which lies at the core of your

life journey. It might be useful for you to remember the metaphor of the theatre as you read through the various sections of your astrological portrait, because it can help you to understand the real meaning of fate as it is reflected by astrology. Fate does not lie in your being subjected to random preordained events. It lies in the cast of characters which represent the deepest needs, conflicts and aspirations which lie within you. No person can be other than himself or herself; and every life experience, whether tiny and transient or major and transformative, reflects in some way the character of the individual.

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II. YOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL TYPE

The rich array of individual attributes portrayed in your birth horoscope is set, as it is with everyone, against the backdrop of a certain temperament bias. We might call this bias your psychological "type", for it is a typical or characteristic way of responding to the situations life brings you. No one begins life whole or perfect, and all people have certain areas of strength - sophisticated and well-adapted inner characters - to help them deal with challenges, conflicts and problems. Likewise, all people have certain areas of weakness - inner characters who are underdeveloped, neglected and troublesome.

Your psychological type does not remain static and unchanging through the whole of your life. There is something within all of us - whether we call it the unconscious, the Self, or the soul - which strives toward balance and completeness, and which tries to integrate into our lives all those qualities or inner characters which have been neglected or undervalued. At certain important junctures in life, it is as though some central core, deeper and wiser than the conscious "I", draws us into conflicts which enable us to develop our weaker areas, so that we can become more complete as human beings. Thus you will find that,

incorporated in the following paragraphs about your psychological type, are some suggestions about how you might facilitate this inner movement toward a more balanced perspective on life. Life does this for us, sooner or later. But sometimes it is more rewarding and less problematic if we cooperate with the process.

Romantic vision and the gift of imagination

You are one of the world's true romantics, for your intensely active imagination must always inject into ordinary circumstances an aura of meaning, potential and purpose without which you find daily life inconsequential and sometimes suffocating. The great strength of your nature lies in your well-developed relationship to the creative power of the unconscious, which allows you to look into the future and envisage potentials which are not immediately apparent in the present. Because of this, you tend to see opportunities which others miss. You have a habit of living mostly in the future, always looking toward the next project and the next stage of the journey. Yours is a temperament which will never stagnate, because whatever you have accomplished, it is experienced not as a final achievement but as a temporary stage on the way to something bigger, better, more enriching and more meaningful.

Another strength in your character is your ability to appreciate the connections between apparently disparate facts and circumstances, and to see a story or a hidden pattern which others might ignore. You often have an instantaneous grasp of all the important factors in a situation, and can leap with a kind of hunch or "sixth sense" to a conclusion which is usually extremely accurate yet which you may not always be able to explain logically. You may or may not literally gamble with money, but you are probably willing to back your stronger hunches with effort, and therefore often obtain rewarding experiences or material gains through means which others would not dare to try. There is a quality of liveliness and colour about your interpretations of life which makes all your experiences seem like worthwhile lessons. Bad times cannot keep you

down for long, for the next opportunity is always just around the corner. Mere security with no future creative possibilities is a kind of death to you, and you will often abandon your efforts just when they are about to bear fruit because it is the challenge and the journey, rather than the goal, which excite you most.

The romantic vision rejects life's limitations

However, because of your emphasis on the imaginative and intuitive side of life, you run the risk of forgetting worldly limits. You tend to be on rather poor terms with day-to-day reality and its responsibilities and demands, because these thwart the vision that means so much to you. You may resent the boredom of a routine job, feeling secretly that you are entitled to something more special and glamorous; or you may dislike having to bind yourself to domestic obligations because these stop the flow of the imagination. You may also resist having to select one thing to which you must apply yourself, preferring to feel that you have many potentials open in the future; and this could result in you becoming a "jack of all trades" who dabbles in everything and produces nothing lasting. This is the "one day when I grow up..." syndrome, which may be appropriate in youth but which begins to feel rather uncomfortable with the passing of the years.

You tend to neglect your body, or drive it too hard. You may forget at times to rest and eat sensibly; and the world of mechanical objects may seem personally inimical to you because things constantly break down and need attention and fixing. Having your time filled by tasks like servicing the car and doing the monthly accounts can make you extremely irritable. But the more you ignore this side of life the worse it tends to get, and there will not always be someone else there to clean up the mess which you leave behind. Your lack of attention to your body may result in problems with your health, not because you are intrinsically unhealthy - in fact, you are probably blessed with a strong and energetic constitution - but because any living thing, including the flesh of which you are

made, resents neglect and may retaliate with a message of its own. You are inclined to be ill at ease with your body because you have not befriended it, and thus tend toward hypochondria, or an obsession with "mastering" the body through strenuous diets and exercises which might be more punishing than helpful because they are excessive.

You will sooner or later need to make better friends with the physical world. This effort can be rewarding and exciting because your sensual nature, although often repressed or neglected, is powerful and capable of great intensity and pleasure, and your uncannily accurate intuition can also be applied to practical matters to ensure your success. Any achievement of a material kind can be enormously rewarding to you, and you possess a rare capacity to respond to nature and to the beauty of the physical world - if you will only stop running away from what you call "lower" or "unimportant". In very personal matters such as sexual expression your unease with the body can also make you shy and awkward, and here too there might be a promise of much greater fulfilment if you can allow yourself to experience the powerful demands of the instincts which you sometimes fear. Your perception of physical reality may be too negative, and it is possible that family attitudes in your early life have contributed to your undervaluing of yourself in this realm of life. If you can learn the art of being an ordinary mortal in a sometimes unromantic world, then your unusual and powerful imaginative gifts will always bring you new adventures as well as earning you concrete rewards.

Sensitivity to others combines with a creative imagination

Your imaginative abilities are supported by a deep instinctive insight into human behaviour and motives. You have a profound response to the world of symbols, myths and images, and may excel in one of the arts, such as music, painting, dance or theatre, where your ability to intuit character and mimic it in plastic forms may give you exceptional talents. Or you may combine your imagination and your sensitivity to the handling of

others' problems, offering much sympathy and vision to loved ones or to those whom you might choose to counsel or help. Your grasp of the potentials of a situation combines with sensitivity and compassion for the needs and problems of others, and this lends a human touch to the strange and often uncanny abilities of your intuition. Your great gift lies in the sensing of human potential and the deeper and more meaningful lessons to be found in life's dilemmas; and you blend this with gentleness and a sense of timing that can allow you to midwife this potential in yourself and in others. Your imagination never divorces itself from the world of human feelings because your perceptiveness and concern will always keep you related to other people, so that all your creative hunches and inspirations ultimately work to enhance and enrich interpersonal relationships.

Your deepest challenge in life, however, still remains the problem of earthing your vision and sense of human potential within the confines of material reality; and here your dependency upon human contact may make it even more difficult for you to cope with the restrictions and responsibilities that the world imposes upon you. Life sometimes requires a tough survival instinct and a capacity to cope alone if necessary. Your need to express your creative imagination through relationships with others may cause you to fear the cold self-sufficiency that situations sometimes demand of you. Occasionally too empathetic and idealistic for your own good, you have difficulty in drawing boundaries around yourself, and perpetually take on the burden of others' problems - not only because you are compassionate, but also because you do not know how to be firm about your own limits. And because your natural romanticism tends to express itself through faith in the potential of a relationship, you find it hard to face the imperfect reality of another person, preferring to live in a fantasy-image of what he or she could become rather than accepting the person who confronts you in actuality. You need to learn greater detachment and a more objective vision of life, and also could benefit from more overt stating of your ideas and needs to others - rather than hoping to be instantaneously and tele-

pathically understood. Not everyone is as intuitive as you, and being able to be clear and direct about who you are and what you want can help you to a much greater sense of confidence in inhabiting that concrete world which you both fear and yet ultimately must embrace in order to feel real and secure in life.

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III. CHARACTER AND SHADOW

One of the most important insights gained by depth psychology has been the revelation that people are dual in nature, and contain a basic polarity of a conscious and an unconscious self. There is the individual you are familiar with - the "I" that thinks, feels and acts in accustomed ways which you identify as yourself. And there is another, hidden individual - the shadow-side - which contains the less acceptable and less developed aspects of your personality, and which fights for a valued place in your life at the same time that it disrupts the complacency of your self-image. The interplay between the conscious and unconscious sides of you is a constantly shifting dance, changing at different stages of your life and altering according to the pressures and challenges which you encounter. The tension between the primary characters in your inner drama, described in the following paragraphs, is the source of energy which provides your life with movement, purpose, conflict and growth. There are other characters inside you too - supporting players who blend and conflict with the main ones to make you the unique individual you are. Where these are strongly marked in your horoscope, we have included a description of them as well. The story thus portrayed, with its complicated interaction of light and shadow, represents what is really meant by individual destiny.

Uncompromising loyalty to individual values

Nothing and no one will ever dictate to you who you should be or what you should do with your life;

for you live from a conviction of the sacredness of your own individuality. Although you enjoy the company of other people, and attract them easily because of the vitality of your personality, you are quite incapable of compromising your ideals, beliefs and freedom of action for very long in order to please anyone - even those you love most. You are often at odds with what might be called the collective norm, both because you are an idealist who refuses to accept that things cannot be changed, and because you resent having your liberty curtailed by rules which have been designed by the herd for the herd. You are in love with your differentness, and have considerable contempt for those who live their lives like sheep trying to copy some image offered by media, advertising and Mary Whitehouse. You want to be left alone to express yourself in your own way; but rather than making those necessary small external compromises which might grant you the privacy to pursue your own lifestyle, you tend to demand, with a certain charming arrogance, that the world make adjustments for you. Surprisingly, much of the time it does, at least within the circles in which you move, because you possess the intelligence and force of character to be convincing even if you are being outrageous.

The chronic discontent of the rebel

Although time and age will no doubt mellow you somewhat, you possess a restless imagination which demands that the present be ceaselessly improved upon; and this vision will probably drive you all your life. As soon as you have achieved something, or arrived somewhere, you immediately see how much better it could be with a little improvement; so it is very difficult for you to settle contentedly and enjoy the fruits of your labours. The tranquil security of later life toward which so many people aspire does not hold much appeal for you, and you are quite capable of changing your career completely just as you are beginning to become successful, or abandoning an entire lifestyle in favour of a new one, more than once during the course of your life. You keep noticing potentials in yourself which you did not notice earlier; and this is a kind of plague as well as a gift, because it

makes you extremely uncertain and prone to feelings of dissatisfaction. You are a chronically discontented soul, always believing that people and life could be more than they are, and firmly convinced that you yourself could be more than you are - even if your achievements are, by other people's standards, considerable. You make your own laws and then try to live by them, and have therefore no doubt had your share of conflict with traditional values, authorities and institutions. It would be very surprising indeed if you had managed to pass this far in life without being considered eccentric or abnormal by someone - probably your family. Time has not taught you to bend and compromise; rather, it has entrenched your conviction that you have the right to follow your own vision and live according to your own rules. But you also possess the gift of being able to leave others alone too, and grant them space and tolerance - especially if they are eccentrics like you. Even if more conventional people sometimes fear or mistrust you, they are forced to respect your originality and your ability to live as you please without really giving a damn for what others think.

A tendency to self-mythologising and an unease with the collective

Somewhere in your fantasies you have cast yourself in an ideal heroic image - a kind of cross between Clint Eastwood and Jeanne d'Arc - and much of your intensely individualistic manner and style spring from this deep self-mythologising. Your originality arises from a close connection with the mythic world of the imagination, and you are repelled by the banal, the mundane and the philistine - because these things, to you, violate your sense of life's essential meaningfulness and imply bondage to collective expectations and responsibilities. Paradoxically, mythic images are no more truly individual than the bland faces that stare up at you from Good Housekeeping Magazine, for the radiant creatures of fantasy also arise from the collective. But for you they epitomise the essence of individuality, for they are larger than life and expressing their attributes requires a certain courage and panache - which you have in abundance. Al-

though you strive toward this heroic image of yourself - for the hero or heroine of myth is, of necessity, different from the rest and marked by a burning sense of destiny - your early childhood experiences have, to some extent, undermined your confidence in yourself. This fuels your need to realise a unique identity that will make an impact upon the unappreciative outer world as well as fulfilling your own dreams. Paradoxically, it is your secret feelings of loneliness and inferiority which comprise much of your fierce determination to be accepted as yourself; for you have suffered in childhood through conventional expectations in a deep and wounding way, and you do not experience the collective - the great They - as a friend. You need a creative field in which to express your fertile imagination, for creative expression is really an act of dedication to some spirit within you that is magical, numinous and sacred. Whether you create a work of art, a company, or simply an original and colourful lifestyle, you will find your greatest fulfillment in daring to offer your own creative products to that conventional world which has both hurt you and yet, surprisingly, also provides the most fruitful field for your endeavours.

The drive to be yourself dominates all other needs

Because you are so loyal to your inner vision, you are likely not only to appear and feel different; you are also likely to make a valuable contribution of some kind, possibly through creative work, which acts like yeast on the imaginations of others because it stirs up in them their own longing to define themselves as individuals. This is the psychology behind the "star", whether this is an actor, a writer, a politician, a painter or any other person who seems to have greater vision and farther-seeing eyes, and who embodies a goal of some kind that others can model themselves after. Although you may never be famous in the grand sense, somewhere within the circle of your professional and personal life you have considerable influence on others simply because you do not depend on them for your ideas and values. This gives you power, because you are your own person. Sooner or later

life will challenge you on the hidden issue of your unconscious dependency on the very collective from which you have withdrawn your identification in order to pursue your own dream; for no one can be so strenuously original and individualistic all the time. But you are a striking and courageous personality, and have much to offer - not just in terms of what you do, but in terms of what you are. As the line in the song goes, you do it your way.

A secret dependency on the good opinions of others

In contrast to your fervent belief in your own individual vision, there is another protagonist in your inner psychic drama. This hidden side of you contains all those qualities which really belong to you, but which you have necessarily had to exclude from your conscious values and behaviour in order to remain firmly your own person and committed to your own unique path. The shadow-side of you, which you generally repress and which tends to live an unexpressed life in the unconscious, cares inordinately about what others think of you; for this figure is a much more dependent and less defined personality than the one with which you are familiar. It is the thing which secretly drives you to constantly seek the approval and validation of others - even when this validation is expressed as grudging respect, or even condemnation (which you take as a compliment because it is more flattering than being ignored). Your dependency on the collective is an important and potentially creative facet of your personality, although it is difficult to reconcile this secret side of you with the sharply drawn and almost stylised personality which you prefer others to see.

The need to please causes unconscious anxieties

Although you strive, most of the time, to rely on your own inner authority for assessment of what you create, do and are, the views of others are far more important to your shadow-side than you might wish to acknowledge. Something in you longs to please people, to be liked, and to belong -

and not just because you are distinctive and original and merit respect. You yearn to be appreciated simply because you are likable and a nice person. This secretly unassuming and inoffensive character inside you would never dare to do the things you do, nor risk the censure of others; and you can sometimes feel terribly lonely, shut out and very much an outsider and an outcast because it is so difficult for you to express this dimension of yourself and simply relax in the company of others without having to make a stand in one way or another.

Usually you project your shadow-side onto others, tending to have a little contempt for what you consider weak and vacillating souls who can do and think nothing without someone else's approval. At the same time, you are likely to be deeply attracted to that mysterious quality in others which somehow, gently and unobtrusively, attracts love and devotion without the individual in question having to do anything dramatic, original or noteworthy to earn it. You have a great conflict about just what constitutes individuality, for although you are clear, on a conscious level, about how important your own integrity and ideals are, you can also sometimes catch a glimpse of what your shadow-side tries to tell you: that individuality may not lie in "doing" anything, nor in necessarily being different from everybody else. It is much more elusive, mysterious and subtle. If you can begin to make a relationship with that side of you which is ordinary, needy and more dependent on a sense of belonging than your fiercely proud personality usually expresses, you might begin to understand that individuality really has something to do with being all of oneself - including the shadow.

Hidden vulnerability and the longing to belong

You are more sensitive, vulnerable and easily hurt by criticism than you wish people to realise. Despite your proud stance, and your determination to live by your own ideals, you are secretly rather frightened of confrontation with others, and take much longer getting over rejection and disapproval

than you admit. You have a tendency to provoke conflict and stir up mischief because it is part of your style; you do not like boring people and stagnant situations, and would rather be disliked than stifle in a soup of polite non-conversation made by polite non-people. Yet there is often a backlash to these episodes once they happen, for after you have enjoyed the initial lift from having "been yourself" and provoked a little excitement, you tend to feel inexplicably let down and lonely, unsure of yourself, and even depressed. This is because you need emotional warmth and closeness more than you care to acknowledge, and you need it not only from those few select friends who live up to your idea of an original and interesting companion; you need it from people in general. You have certain wounds springing from childhood, where you were very likely torn between your need for closeness to your family and your need of loyalty to yourself. You chose the latter because that is the nature of your character, and it was the right choice for you. But something in you longs for the feeling of family - not just camaraderie with like-thinking friends, but the mindless and deep bond of feeling that transcends differences and offers a place of shelter and emotional safety. Try not to be quite so contemptuous of others' dependency on family and group; for you secretly envy it, and might be happier if you expressed this hidden need of yours more openly and honestly.

A secret indecisiveness and identification with the crowd

You work hard to make sure that everything about you bears your individual stamp; from the clothes that you wear to your ideas about life, you have borrowed from no one. But the shadow-side of your personality is considerably more blurred in its boundaries than you might realise. You are highly sensitive and permeable to atmospheres and to the unconscious feelings of others; and there is something in you which, chameleon-like, responds to the colouration of the environment and acts the appropriate role. In fact you are much less independent than you like others to see, for this secret fluidity in your nature does not distinguish between

you and another, or between you and the group around you. You are far more influenced by the needs, imaginings and attitudes of others, and often what you believe to be your own original creation is in fact drawn from a deeper and broader pool than your own mind. Often you pick up what others are feeling without realising that you are doing it; and you may walk away with someone else's headache or depression and believe it to be your own. In this way your shadow-side is virtually psychic, and many of your fantasies and ideas seem to arise mysteriously from this deep unconscious fusion with the psyche of the collective. Rather than being a hindrance or a negative factor, this is in fact a great gift, for it means that your creative vision can draw on sources larger than your own personal experiences and values. That it also means you are dependent on the collective for the real source of your creativity is not a bad thing, if only you could be comfortable with the fact. Your fierce individuality is not lessened or compromised by your openness to the currents and longings of the world around you; rather, it is enhanced, for it means your vision is truly universal, although necessarily expressed through your highly unique personal style.

The importance of balancing strong individuality with a common humanity

Thus your distinctive and original stance and your commitment to your own values are contradicted and complemented by a secret sensitivity to and dependency upon others. This need of others ranges from an ordinary social need - to belong and be approved of by those very people whom you often dismiss as unoriginal and boring - to a deep unconscious connection with the collective unconscious of which you, like everyone, are a part. The shadow-side of your personality acts like a powerful undercurrent in the sea, drawing you out toward others in a need to have your identity and your creative offerings recognised and validated, although you profess most of the time not to care about the opinions of others unless they are of a standard that matches your own. Everything in the psyche works in polarities, and the whole issue of

individuality, which is so important to you and a goal in itself for the whole of your life, cannot be seen except within the perspective of its opposite - merging with the group, and the similarity rather than the differences between people. You could not take such an individualistic stance unless there were something to pit your vision against; but this something really lies within yourself, and is the part of you which is just like everybody else. More mystically speaking, it IS everybody else. If you can accept this and live a little less defensively, you can utilise your great creative potential to express ideas and views which touch everyone, and are not merely an angry and rebellious statement of being different.

Another pair of important characters

The characters described so far represent in their fundamental antagonism the main theme of your inner story. Besides these figures, there is another pair of conflicting figures indicated in your birth chart which are likely to be recognisable in your life. These figures are briefly described in the following paragraphs.

Drawn to the centre of the stage

Not much is as fascinating, as irresistibly exciting, or as endlessly interesting as you. Although this may seem selfish and egocentric to some, there is a highly creative dimension to your eternal self-preoccupation. You possess great quantities of sheer unadulterated vitality, and serve as a vivid example to others of the importance and value of living out one's own desires and fantasies regardless of whether they fit into conventional ideas of proper behaviour. You spend considerable time working to improve your image - which includes things like your personal appearance, your manner of speech and movement - and you are also likely to spend a lot of money on it as well. If all the world is a stage and all the men and women merely players, then you intend to be the star - or, at the very least, the villain, if you cannot obtain the hero's or heroine's role. You would rather be dis-

liked and thought badly of than pass through life unnoticed. You have no intention of leaving an epitaph that reads, "Here lies a nice person, pity we can't remember the name or face."

Your self-preoccupation is not a hindrance to your creativity; if anything, it is a spur to it, since you like to think of yourself as an artist of some kind even if you do not deal in what is conventionally considered art. Your need to be seen and adored will no doubt earn you some recognition, and if you can combine your urgent desire for love and validation with the necessary discipline and patience that any professional skill requires, then you can accomplish a great deal with your talents. You are a little too prone to wearing other people down with your intense self-preoccupation and the driven quality of your energy; but you are likely to be admired anyway, and to gather people around you who are happy and willing to offer the suitable backdrop for a star. A star is indeed what you wish to be, in whatever field you work. It would be quite pointless to suggest that you slow down and learn to sometimes touch the ground, for you would rather burn out brightly than adopt ways of making life peaceful and serene if this costs you your immortality. Life will of course challenge you on just this issue - who are you when you are not performing? - but you are likely to treat this challenge too as yet another glorious and exciting adventure.

A humbler and more selfless character lies in the shadow

In contrast to the rather flamboyantly energetic personality which you habitually show the world, your shadow-side is a good deal more humble, more ordinary and more rooted in the affairs of mundane life than it might seem; and it might be summarised by the image of the good person (good in the sense of nice, decent, and the hardworking servant of others). Naturally all this goodness and decency is offensive and demeaning to your more colourful image of yourself, for you have a deep fear of being boring and therefore cling to a certain naughty panache. Other people wrap their pornographic magazines in a plain brown wrapper; you

would wrap the Bible in one, rather than be caught reading it.

Thus your shadow-side is rooted in ordinary mundane life, mortal rather than godlike, humble rather than arrogant, and deeply dependent on the love and validation of others. More importantly, it is also deeply dependent on validation from an inner, rather than an outer, source; and this is really what is meant by a spiritual or mystical aspiration. The sense that you serve something higher, and that the world's notice is a by-product rather than the source of your value in life, is the gift that your shadow-side can provide. You are both more ordinary and more extraordinary than you realise. The nice, decent, boring dimension of your shadow is really your link with common humanity, and the antidote to your chronic hidden feelings of loneliness, emptiness and isolation; and it is also a link with that sense of a higher purpose which can offer your life value even when you are not performing.

Such an inner dedication to some spiritual or transpersonal source can also help you to break the strong unconscious cord that binds you to your parents' aspirations, for this is a larger factor in your intense ambitions than you may realise. Much of your life is spent trying to live up what you believe they wanted from you, so that you can at last feel loved. The sad reality is that, the more acclaim you get, the less loved you feel; for you always feel that the love is conditional and based upon your performance rather than upon yourself. Then you feel a fraud. Your shadow-side, which you fear because it might make you ordinary, human and uninteresting, is really your greatest source of strength, if you can find the courage to look inside at what you believe to be empty and come to know it better.

In your birth horoscope, several important themes are portrayed, and there is an additional pair of characters which also plays an important part in your story. These figures are described briefly in the following paragraphs.

A direct and honest approach to life

There is little nonsense and pretense about your personality and your views. You are blunt, direct and honest, and you do not try to hide behind elaborate social veneers and posturings to mask who you are and what you want. You have little patience with hypocrisy, and are not averse to directly challenging and, if necessary, offending those who offend you by their refusal to be themselves. You enjoy luxury and pleasure and are unafraid of calling desire by its name and unashamedly pursuing what you want; and you have no illusions about the fact that life sometimes demands courage, ruthlessness and effort if a person wants to get ahead. Some people might find you a little overbearing or tactless, but it is not these people whom you wish to impress anyway.

Despite your intelligence, basic good taste and perceptiveness, you are at heart a very basic and simple personality - not simple in the sense of stupid or naive, but in the best sense of being at home with the real bones of life and people, and responsive to the beauties which are here on earth rather than those which hide behind clouds in heaven. You are one of those people whom others instinctively trust, because there is nothing false about you - you put in the shop window exactly what there is in the shop, no more and no less, and your natural intuitive capacity to read people (for someone who is instinctively honest in the deepest sense can always perceive falsity in another person) allows you to navigate the currents of others' more convoluted motives without getting harmed. Life will eventually challenge you on that side of your life in which you are uncomfortable and awkward - the worlds of the intellect and the spirit, and all the things which you cannot see and touch. But when faced with such a challenge you are likely to be as innately honest and free of pretensions as you are in the other spheres of your life.

The importance of beauty and culture must be acknowledged

In contrast to your direct and unpretentious way of handling your life, there is a hidden dimension in your personality which is far more delicate, romantic and intellectually subtle than your ordinary expression would suggest. There is a certain image in the eyes of others which this secret side of you seeks: the educated, cultured, sophisticated and polished person who knows all the right places to go, has read all the right books and seen the right films, and shines with the patina of style and fashion. Your shadow-side is difficult for you to integrate into your life, for you mistrust it and feel it to be false and vain; but you may need to look with more insight into just what this aesthetically sophisticated world really represents. For it contains the key to your sense of the subtler and higher things in life, without which you can sometimes seem, and feel, merely clumsy, boorish and inferior.

It could be said that you underrate yourself and play yourself down, although it might not seem so to you; for in your insistence on simplicity and basic values, you overlook your own intellectual and artistic and social potentials, as well as denying your longing to join a more cultured, sophisticated and luxurious world. Try not to reject your aspirations toward a more sophisticated lifestyle because you feel you might not belong there and could be laughed at. You need to look more honestly at what you condemn, for much of your condemnation springs from fear; and you possess in potential a highly unique combination of genuine and deep aesthetic feeling with a solid and honest core that can always recognise quality and will never be led astray by imitations. You should trust yourself more, rather than trusting life less.

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IV. THE FAMILY BACKGROUND

Family myths and psychological inheritance

Although you are an individual, you have emerged from a family background. A family is like a living organism, and it includes certain hereditary characteristics which have passed down through the generations. It also contains a particular set of psychological dynamics, an emotional climate which provides the first soil in which your nascent individuality took root in childhood. Thus you contain certain inner patterns, myths and attitudes toward life which you have acquired from the psychological soil of your family background. In other words, to return to our metaphor of the theatre, the characters in your inner drama are unique; but they carry a family inheritance.

Astrology cannot tell us about physical heredity. But it can tell us a great deal about psychological heredity, which runs through families in the same way that red hair or blue eyes do. Psychological inheritance of deeply rooted attitudes often takes place on hidden, unconscious levels of which individual family members are unaware. Family myths move down the generations as surely as a distinctive facial structure does. An example of a family myth might be: "All the men in this family have been self-made and successful." Or, "All the women in this family have been disappointed by their men." Myths such as these do not need to be spoken, or even recognised, for they pass from one generation to the next via the unconscious, and they are communicated in a multitude of subtle, non-verbal ways. Thus the male child born into the family of "successful" men will inherit a particular set of expectations to which he will respond according to his own nature and his own inner characters. And the female child born into the family of "disappointed women" will inherit certain attitudes about relationships which will affect her later in life if she remains unaware of this inner script.

Because your family background is an integral part of your life story, it is reflected in your birth horoscope. Astrology can offer considerable help-

ful insight into this realm of life, for according to how conscious you are of the interplay between your own nature and your family inheritance, you will have more or less freedom of choice in life. Your parents themselves are also reflected in your horoscope, although they appear not as real three-dimensional people, but rather as images who embody a particular theme or set of attitudes. These parental images reflect how mother and father appear to you personally, how they operate as patterns within your own psyche, and how they support or conflict with the unfoldment of your own inner drama. The power of the family background should never be underestimated, for it is not the past. It is a living present within each of us. As the poet Rainer Maria Rilke once wrote: "Never believe fate is more than the condensation of childhood."

The image of the father in a man's chart

Father is not only a real person. He is also the symbol of an inner pattern or perspective through which you relate to life. The image of your father portrayed in your birth horoscope therefore describes three things.

Firstly, it is a subjective picture of the qualities you experienced as most dominant in your relationship with your father - or whoever played the role of father in your early life.

Secondly, it is a symbol of what the masculine represents to you, for your father was the first man in your life and is therefore a powerful unconscious influence on how you express your own masculinity and how you relate to other men.

Thirdly, it is a picture of your own inner father-qualities: how you order and structure your life, how you envisage and pursue your goals, how you actualise your potentials in the world, how you express and direct your will, and how you formulate your ethical codes and ideals; and, lastly, how you father your own children.

His psychological absence leads to sadness and confusion

The subjective image of your father which is portrayed in your birth horoscope is a mysterious and complex one. You did not know your father as a solid and supportive personality - either because he was physically absent, or because you experienced his personality as too withdrawn, weak, aloof or unhappy to allow you much access to his true feelings and character. In a sense, you have had to sacrifice a genuine close relationship with your father, and there lies somewhere within you a sad longing for what you feel you did not have, coupled with a strong tendency to idealise the psychologically absent parent into a mystical figure and justify his inaccessibility by blaming yourself. Thus there is likely to be much confusion within you about your own worth because of your early relationship with your father, and you tend in adult life to look secretly to others as the arbiters of your sense of self-value.

The longing for a father-surrogate

Because your experience of your father has been a poignant and disappointing one, there are many qualities which you have had to acquire through your own experience in life. Most importantly, your early sacrifice means that you will need to learn how to father yourself - to find inner resources which provide the necessary ambition, will and determination to actualise your potentials and accomplish something worthwhile with your talents. Because you did not experience a strong and solid model of the masculine principle in early life, you perpetually struggle against the tendency to drift along hoping that someone or something - perhaps a father-surrogate of some kind - will descend from the vault of heaven and provide you with the impetus and strength to achieve your goals. Such father-surrogates have inevitably proved disappointing to you, for your father-image offers you a challenge which you must meet with your own resources. In grappling with this problem, you will find that you can willingly relinquish your deep-seated melancholy and disappointment, and can be-

gin to see your father as a sensitive and fallible human being rather than a semi-divine figure who has on some level abandoned you.

Then the more creative dimension of this father-image can come into play within you, for your early experience of your father can open many doors to balance your sense of disappointment. The longing which your physically or emotionally absent father has inspired in you is really your own yearning for a set of spiritual values by which you can live. Behind the idealised image of your personal father stands the divine father. Thus your sacrifice is a creative one according to the deeper meaning of the word - to "make sacred" - for through your mysteriously inaccessible father you have inherited a profound sensitivity to the transpersonal world, and may find as your life progresses that the father you are seeking is really available after all - in the vitality and boundlessness of your own imaginative and spiritual life.

In addition to this dominant image, there is another figure portrayed by your birth horoscope which adds further complexity to your experience of your father.

High ideals, but little emotional support

Your father represented a quality of aloofness or detachment for you, which is highly creative on one level, and quite difficult on another. From him you have inherited a deep appreciation of the world of the mind, and a detached perspective on life which gives vision and breadth to your thinking. But you and your father were alienated - either because he was physically absent, or because he could not relate through ordinary demonstration of affection. He may have emphasised your education and mental development while at the same time subtly or overtly rejecting your feeling and instinctual needs - and you may have interpreted this rejection as your own failing and now, as an adult, strive toward too high an ideal of perfection while unnecessarily devaluing your more human needs.

Balancing head and heart

You can express your lofty standards and love of independence and clear thinking in a creative way, while still retaining a sense of self-worth in your emotional dealings with others. The heart is as valuable as the intellect, although the message you received from your father is that it is not; and you need to be careful not to become too rigid in your definition of what you think human beings, including yourself, ought to be. The power of this cool and lofty father-image within you is very great in both positive and negative ways, and you will need to stand firmly on the ground of your own human worth while exploring the clear heights of the mind and the spirit, which are your inheritance.

There is still another image portrayed by your birth horoscope, which in certain ways conflicts with your dominant experience of your father.

Hidden anger and suppressed violence

Your father seems to have possessed a powerful and passionate shadow-side which contradicts the softer or more aloof qualities you have seen in him. This shadow-side is wilful, aggressive and angry - full of competitive spirit and resentful at having to compromise with anyone else's needs and wishes. It is probably that your father did not display such qualities openly or consistently, either because his personality was too peaceable and fearful of conflict, or because he was rigidly controlled by ethics and opinions that did not permit him acceptance of his own animal nature. Thus, you may be partly or completely unconscious of this dimension of your father's personality, and you may therefore not understand the effects it has had on your own life; for you have inherited your father's dilemma. In particular, you too fear anger and aggressive feelings, and you have a tendency to be too equable and eager to please others who attempt to dominate you.

Dealing with your own aggression

It is important that you understand this aggressive and self-willed face of your father, for it is also within you. You possess great force of character, passion and determination which could, expressed creatively, take you far in life. You have within you the potential of a natural leader. But your father was split within himself, and you now face the challenge of learning to handle your aggression in a way which is balanced with your need for emotional harmony. Because this shadow-side of your father is also a strongly sensual one, it is important that you face your passions honestly for the sake of your own physical fulfillment; for you may be afraid of the power of your desires because your father was afraid of his and therefore did not provide you with a positive model of self-acceptance. If you can recognise and make a relationship with the aggressive instincts within yourself, you can achieve most of the things you desire in life; and you will also have healed a split which existed in the fabric of your family long before your own birth.

The image of the mother in a man's chart

Mother, like father, is not only a person. She is the symbol of an essential principle in life, and of an inner dynamic or perspective through which we relate to life. The image of the mother portrayed in your birth horoscope therefore describes three things. Firstly, it is a subjective description of the qualities most dominant in your relationship with your mother. Many of these will be known to you, but some might be surprising, because they reflect not only her outer behaviour, but her inner life - that side of her which was unexpressed and therefore of great power in terms of its effects on you. Secondly, the mother-image in your horoscope is a portrait of what the feminine represents to you - how you experience women, and how you relate to the emotional and instinctual dimensions of your own personality. And thirdly, it is a picture of your own "maternal" qualities - for men possess mothering capacities too - your ability to nurture and care for yourself and others, your sense of safety and

trust in life's essential kindness, and your ability to flow with time and circumstances and to know instinctively when to wait and accept with wisdom the situations which life brings.

A force of nature

The subjective image of your mother portrayed in your birth horoscope is that of a force of nature. It seems that, however controlled or rational your mother appeared to be, she was really a creature of changeable feelings and moods. Her emotional power in your early life was considerable - perhaps even to the point where her volatile feelings pervaded the household and swamped your own and your deep attachment to her made it difficult for you to distinguish what you felt from what she felt. There is much that is positive in this experience of your mother - in particular, the great emotional richness and depth which she possessed, and which in turn you too possess, if you are able to remain in contact with it. You could express this colourful and sensitive side of yourself through fields of work which involve dealing with the feelings of others, perhaps the public, because of your acute awareness of the shifting moods and needs of those around you.

Differentiating your own feelings from your mother's

In order to find the best expression for this highly volatile side of your personality, you will need to be as conscious as possible of the enormous hold which your mother possessed over you. This is particularly the case if her natural emotionality was not held in balance by other, more rational, qualities - for then she would have seemed to you like the weather, incomprehensible and unpredictable, and liable to sudden frightening shifts and changes - from balmy days to terrible thunderstorms. With such a powerful force at work in your childhood, you will need to disengage your own feelings and responses from those of your mother; for otherwise you run the risk of expressing instead her feelings and characteristic emotional reactions rather than your own.

You also depend a great deal on emotional "feedback" from others, just as you did on your mother's, for you had to develop acute sensitivity to her cues in order to feel safe with her unpredictability. If other people do not respond as you expect in your adult life, you can become confused and unsure of yourself. Learn to rely on your own instincts, which are good ones, and try to understand that your feelings and needs are as important, as powerful and as worthy of notice as your mother's once were in your childhood. Your experience of your mother has developed in you a great facility to reading the responses and needs of others, and this gift is the creative side of your inheritance.

There is still another image portrayed by your birth horoscope, which in certain ways conflicts with the experience of your mother described previously.

A hidden will to power

There is a covert but forceful dimension to your mother-image which she probably could not fully express but which has had a potent unconscious effect on your own ambition and will to succeed in life. Your mother had within her a spirit of considerable courage, strength and ambition, but, because of the essentially masculine flavour of these qualities, her personality or her upbringing made it difficult for her to express them. Perhaps the only sign of such a powerful inner drive was her anger, and even her anger may have been expressed only through manipulative ploys and subtle criticism. You have inherited your mother's competitiveness and her deep desire to make something important of her life; but you will need to be conscious of this hidden dimension of your mother if you are to avoid being driven by a compulsive ambition which makes you a "workaholic" without regard for your more personal needs.

The problem of envy and competition

You will also need to face your own dilemma with competitiveness and envy, for it is possible that, because of her own frustrated energies, your

mother felt envious of your strengths and displayed considerable aggression toward you. If this was the case, then you will be nervous and uneasy when confronted with envy or challenge from others. And you may have learned to fear your own competitive drive and your own aggressive instincts, although these comprise a positive force which can take you far in life. Anger is another issue which is part of your inheritance from your mother, and although you possess quite a temper yourself, you may fear the expression of healthy anger because of the atmosphere of largely unarticulated anger which surrounded your mother. But in essence this dimension of your mother-image is a creative one, full of vitality, energy and courage. The more clearly you can see this unexpressed side of her, the more freely you will be able to relate to and utilise this powerful spirit within yourself.

V. RELATIONSHIP PATTERNS

Relationships are among the most mysterious, rewarding and frustrating of all human experiences. Both astrology and psychology teach us that nothing that occurs within a relationship is chance - neither its beginning, nor its fluctuations and conflicts, nor its ending. But astrology cannot say whether you are "fated" to have a good or a bad marriage, or whether you ought to be with a Cancer or a Sagittarius. Your birth horoscope describes what you are like inside, and therefore what kind of patterns, needs and compulsions you are likely to bring into your relationships with others. You cannot become somebody different, or send in your birth horoscope and request a new set of character. But you can be more or less conscious; and you always have the freedom to look at your own issues, to deal with needs which are your responsibility and not your partner's, and to respond to both joy and pain in creative ways.

The following paragraphs describe your attitudes, needs, and typical patterns in close relation-

ships. This description is written about you in terms of your dealings with the woman in your life. However, if you are involved in a close relationship with someone of your own sex, you will find that the same attitudes, needs and patterns still apply. Whatever your sexual tastes, you are yourself - and it is your inner nature which ultimately dictates the course of your love-life.

The attractions of a sociable partner

Your pride, self-sufficiency and vivid individualism make you need the balance of a woman who is on comfortable terms with the collective and who knows how to blend easily and gently with others in any social situation. Such a relationship can work very well for you, since you have much to offer such a woman through the example of your courage and style; and in turn you need a partner who can help you to face your own deep unconscious loneliness and need to belong. But you need to be very careful of your tendency to envy, for such a woman can inadvertently make you feel clumsy and inadequate the moment you enter any group or crowd with her; and if you are unaware of this, then you can become destructively critical and demandingly possessive. You are more jealous than you might imagine, because you tend to put all your eggs into one basket, rather than allowing the human family to support you.

Respecting people who need other people

Try not to cloak your envy with contempt and denigration of your partner's tendency to compromise in order to be liked. You would do it too, if you were not so proud and also so frightened of looking an idiot. You need a relationship which can offer you a bridge to others, so that your original ideas can be translated into language understood by more than just an intellectual or artistic elite. Try not to treat your partner as an inferior because she is not as fiercely independent as you; for social adaptability is itself a creative act, and your partner probably does it with grace and style.

A lack of trust in love

There is considerable conflict hidden beneath your romantic image of relationship. You secretly have a deep fear of rejection, and you do not trust your woman's love sufficiently to believe you can be happy without guarantees of some kind - emotional, material or verbal. Although some of the causes for this fear are related to experiences and values from your childhood, it is possible that you are not fully aware of how deeply you hold the conviction that love is unreliable without concrete demonstrations; and you therefore unconsciously expect emotional disappointment even if your material needs have been met. There are two typical patterns which you may find yourself enacting at various points in your life. You may go into a relationship with a woman who is weaker than you, or seems "inferior" in some way - financially, intellectually, socially or creatively. Although such a partnership will usually prove disappointing, simply because you have not found a real match, it is safe - for your partner needs you more than you need her. A marriage of this kind may last for a lifetime, and yet remain, on some deep and unfathomable level, not a real marriage. You may also fall in love with a woman who is in some way unavailable - either she is married to someone else, or lives far away, or because she herself is emotionally unable to make a commitment, although this is no fault of yours. You would benefit from facing your fears and understanding that the past does not always repeat itself in the future; and that if, once upon a time, you were not loved enough, this does not mean you are unlovable.

A need for depth and honesty in relationship

You know things about love that you certainly didn't read in fairy tales, ladies' magazines or school primers. You have an instinctive appreciation of the fact that the human heart is complex and sometimes savage; and that, when one loves deeply, one can also hate the loved one because of the power she then wields. You are not afraid of experiencing emotions which others might consider unconventional, destructive or dark, although natural-

ly you might not always choose to put these emotions in the shop window for your woman to see. Because of this gift of deep compassion for the darker aspects of love, you can be truly understanding and containing of your partner's complexity; and even when you have been deeply hurt or are very angry, you still retain a secret sympathy for the things which drove her into hurtful or destructive behaviour. In short, you are not naive, although you may demand a lot from your loved one; and you would rather have a difficult relationship that offers real confrontation and passion than a shallow companionship where you and your woman are on your best behaviour but never really touch each others' souls.

A tendency to excess

Your motto in love is that more is better. This means more romance, more candlelight, more courtly declarations of affection, and, perhaps, more partners. You may justify your profligacy by means of an ideology which says that people should not possess each other, or a spiritual vision which says that you need the right soul-mate, or an aesthetic ideal which tells you that your present companion is not quite perfect. Or you may simply be honest about your love of variety. But you are going to have certain difficulties if you make the decision to commit yourself to one woman for a lifetime. It is not that you cannot love; for, if anything, you love to excess, and throw your whole self into it. But you crave adventure too, and you are deeply idealistic about love; and time and familiarity are the enemies of such a romantic spirit. No relationship, however passionate, will automatically remain mysterious and challenging if you do not nurture its unpredictability by frequent holidays and travel with your woman, frequent absences from the domestic front with its endless responsibilities, and frequent admonitions to yourself not to take your partner for granted. Otherwise you might be faithful from a sense of honour and idealism, but not from real inclination. It would be better to be honest about your own restlessness, for there are many levels on which your adventurous spirit can be lived out, and some of them can include a stable

relationship and do not necessitate deceit and betrayal. But it would be better not to repress this side of yourself, for then you are really asking for trouble. You are more prone than many people to falling in love at first sight, at the wrong time, in the wrong place, and with someone other than the person with whom you came in the door.

VI. PATHS TOWARD INTEGRATION

As you have seen from the preceding pages, your birth horoscope offers a detailed and in-depth portrait of many aspects of your life. It is also possible to step further back from the horoscope, and to use the faculties of a telescope rather than a microscope - so that an overview of the play comes into focus. The following provide also some suggestions of ways in which conscious effort might make it possible for you to achieve greater harmony between the different components within yourself, and to strengthen that centre of the personality which psychology calls the ego, the "I". Free will may not include the possibility of becoming somebody else. But it might include the ability to stand firmly at the centre of your horoscope and feel related to the different aspects of your psyche, rather than wandering about blindly, feeling impotent and victimised by conflicting cross-currents and impulses from within yourself and from the world outside. Two people may have certain astrological configurations which are similar, but one might be buffeted by his or her inner demons like a rudderless small boat tossed on a difficult sea; while the other individual remains somehow solid and real as a person and can therefore navigate the boat intelligently through the ocean's changing currents.

Finding an inner source

You will never find fulfillment solely through pursuing ambitions in the outer world, for your real

path lies within - back to your family origins, and beyond these to the realm of the spirit. Whatever you achieve in worldly terms, it is not likely to offer you a sense of contentment and meaning, unless you can relate it to some inner principle which represents an ethical, moral and spiritual set of values. The path to this inner principle is not, however, a conventional one, such as orthodox religions might offer; nor is it an esoteric one in the sense of trying to transcend earthly life through disciplines such as meditation - although this kind of path may provide other valuable benefits. It is, in essence, a psychological path - a quiet exploration of the family from which you have emerged, and the parents who gave birth to you, and the line of the father which ultimately leads to your search for a father-principle of a higher order. Thus you may need, before anything else, to face honestly the issues and challenges of your childhood. It is through such inner searching that you will eventually find that sense of a centre upon which everything in your external life needs to be built.

You have a deep belief in your own destiny, and this provides strong support for the kind of inner journey that would provide you with serenity and fulfillment. But you may need to deal with your desire to manage and control what you meet in life, for although you can to some extent live according to your own rules in the outer world, the laws of the inner world are a mystery whose substance you may spend a lifetime exploring. You already have a deep sense of purpose. What you might need to cultivate is more humility toward that inner reality which is your source.

Developing confidence in self-expression

There is one area of life where any effort to develop yourself will always result in an increased feeling of strength and self-respect, because this is the sphere of both your greatest anxiety and, paradoxically, your greatest potential. Whatever you do, you need to do it according to your own vision, style and taste. In other words, you need to find the courage to express the whole of yourself - facing your natural shyness, your fear that you will be

mocked or ridiculed, and your deep conviction that what you have to offer cannot possibly be as interesting as the creative contributions of others. If you can make this effort as much as possible, even in the midst of anxiety and discomfort, you will discover that your confidence and faith in yourself grow considerably each time you try - even if you do not always succeed the first time around.

Thus one of your chief fears - of unashamedly expressing your own individuality - can become an indestructible base of self-confidence which can support you on your inner journey. For in taking the risk of being yourself, you will gradually learn to trust your own inner voice; and those deeper and higher values which you seek will therefore always bear the stamp of your own spirit, rather than being a borrowed doctrine culled from some parent, teacher or ideology.