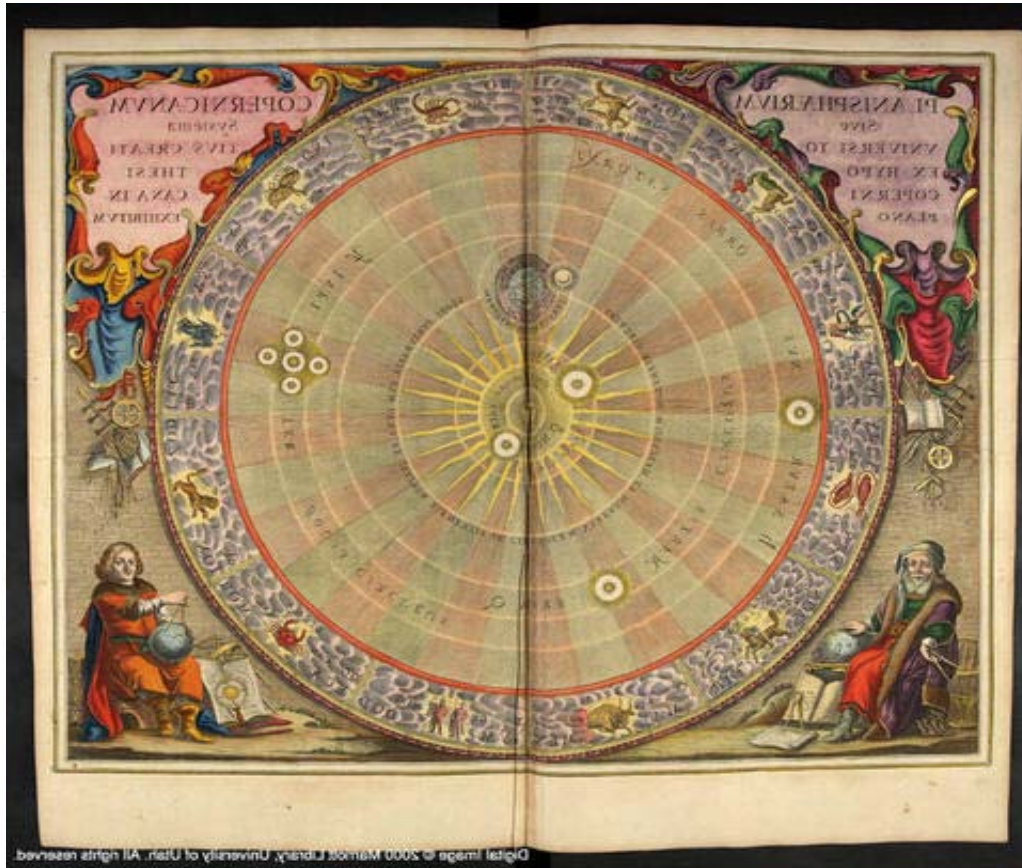


Some Remarks about Marriage and Relationship According to Vettius Valens

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The present study is based on the work of the Hellenistic astrologer Vettius Valens who wrote the "Anthology" in the second century AC.

This is a summary about configurations present in happy or unfortunate relationships, marriage, betrothals or sexual intercourses. We can see the insightful approach of the ancient master to universal problems relevant even now, in our XXI century. The actuality of his words inspired me to write this little article trying to transfer to our days and language Valens' thought and his useful and modern observations, written almost two thousand years ago into our time and language. The present article is a starting point of Valen's ideas on these matters which I will developed in the following chapter.

Since the author's ancient peculiar way of expressing is sometimes difficult to understand, may be my intent of summarizing what he pointed out about marriage is an ambitious target. For this reason I strongly recommend the reader, in case of doubt, to refer to the original book 3 of Valens's Anthology, translated by R. Schmidt and edited by Robert Hand.

In the present text Valens describes some new concepts: one of them refers to the relationship between planets by degree, not just by sign; second, he accepts that a malefic planet in trine is less dangerous than when in opposition or square, and finally he uses the 7th house for marriage, a point of view different from his statement in Book 2 of the same Anthology, where he describes the 7th house as livelihood and unforeseen acquisitions of other belongings, including those coming from death.

Valens also talks about the Lot of Marriage and the way to calculate it out from the figure. He looks to marriage in another way, reaching the place of the marriage and its relationships with the other Lots, namely the Lot of Spirit for the man and the Lot of Fortune, for the woman. This will be the subject of my next article: in the present moment I will refer only to the relationship between planets.

Summary

For marriage and relationship as well as for sexuality we must consider first of all Venus's position, as well as her ruler and the planets which are configured with her and her ruler, by exact aspect or by sign.

The configurations promising a good marriage are not as frequent as the ones promising failure, promiscuity and instability, so we see many more unfortunate relationships than happy ones.

As a matter of fact, except with Jupiter, Venus configurations are problematic.

In first place Valens uses Venus' position and the 7th house to figure out the characters of love's and passion's drama. In this drama the worst villain is Saturn. The unhappy configuration also takes Mars and Mercury into account, considering the later to be a real affliction to marriage. If Jupiter is with them the bad things are usually more disguised.

When Venus is in a cardinal sign has dealings with bicorporeal signs, especially in a night birth, it makes those who are polygamous and promiscuous, and if the signs in question are also virile, they become even more successful with regard to intercourse.

Saturn –Venus: a Difficult Relationship

If Saturn is in opposition to Venus, occupying the first house and Venus the 7th, the native is a person difficult to deal with and has difficulty to get married.

Widows and virgins are found when Venus is in Saturn signs or bounds or opposing it. However, if Mars, Jupiter and Mercury would enter in this configuration, though, we can expect relationships and sexual intercourse to happen.

Every time Saturn and Venus are in opposition we can expect a husband or wife which has been injured or is barren.

And if in the nativity Venus would be in Saturn's sign, receiving testimony of Jupiter, or if Venus would be applying to Saturn and separating from Jupiter, Mars being part of the present configuration, relationships with teachers, stepfathers and stepmothers, uncles or aunts are promised. The relationship will be more problematic if the Sun and the Moon are involved in the configuration.

If Saturn is culminating in opposition to Venus in the 4th house, the marriage will be with a lower social class person. The same will happen when Venus is in the 7th and Saturn in the 4th. The reason is that, if we take Venus as "*horoskopos*", initiating to count from her position, we will have in both cases Saturn in a superior position to Venus. If Jupiter gives testimony to this configuration the sexual intercourse will be with superior and older persons.

It's important to pay attention to the fact that the relationship between Saturn and Venus cool the marriage, and even more if Mercury is present, since Mercury gives a wandering eye, driving thoughts to other matters or persons instead of the partner.

Regardless of Venus being angular or not, if Saturn looks to it from a succedent or angular house, the native is lecherous and shameful, given to innovations, and will have intercourse with unworthy persons of lower class. If Jupiter testifies, much of the irregularities will be concealed and there is the possibility of choosing superior partners or acquaintances. Anyway, the configuration between Venus and Saturn, even if Jupiter intervenes, will bring marriages with miscarriages and few children. The same configuration with Mars participation, but with Saturn in the terms of Venus has less malice and could initially be a good fortune. It could also indicate advances by means of children or women, but in the end all will be lost, unless Venus would be in her sign or in exaltation.

In general Saturn harms and corrupts Venus's value. An aspect with Saturn corrupts the Moon as well even if it is in conjunction with a fortune like Jupiter. In this case copulation with bought women is expected.

If Venus and Saturn are in the 12th house without Jupiter giving testimony the native could marry an ill person (the 6th of the 7th is the 12th), or a widow, and they will be abandoned or lose the companion, becoming widows themselves.

If the above configuration happens and Jupiter's is not giving testimony and is

configured with Mars, the natives can become an adulterer or be liable to penalties for adultery.

Malefic planets configured with Venus or its ruler are the cause of the separation or the death of the husband or wife, and if the Moon should be afflicted it will be worse.

Other Planets...Other problems

When the Moon is under the sun beams in a nativity it is not favorable for marriage. In the same way, Mars and Venus under sun beams favor secret loves and affairs, and more so if they are oriental to the Sun or when occupying a cardinal sign. If Mercury should happen to be oriental, though, the adulteries will be commented on, and this can be dangerous, unless Jupiter is also configured and comes to the native's help.

When Venus aspects its ruler and the latter is in the 7th or in the 12th, or if they are afflicted by a malefic this signifies problems for the marriage.

But if Venus is in a good position and a destructive planet afflicts her, widowhood can be expected but also inheritances coming from women.

Assuming that Venus is not in a good position and Mars is in the 12th and they have dealings out of sect or if they were in the 7th, having dealings in the same sect, this would bring dangerous adulteries and jealous condemnations. If they are in opposition the same can happen but with strong unpleasant feelings in relation to separations, jealousies and angers.

The result is less dangerous providing that Mars and Venus have positive connections.

However every time Mercury is involved the native pursues innovative sins and furthermore such people are involved with servile personages and children. But the above is not perceptibly if Jupiter aspects the planetary configuration.

When Mars aspects Venus by trine, marriage can occur after a period of adultery.

When the Moon and Venus are in the same angle and Jupiter and Mars have participation, sexual intercourse between brothers and sisters is probable.

The Moon and Venus in square or opposition turn people jealous and it's worse if Mars is together with them.

Finally some Hope!

When Venus and Moon are in their own signs or exaltations and in trine, they confer marriage with kindred, and it is even more likely when Mars and Jupiter give testimony.

An angular Venus, especially in the Ascendant or in the Midheaven, not afflicted by Saturn, is an indication of a good marriage.

Likewise, when Venus is in a good place and witnessed by Jupiter, the native will be known by great men.

If Mercury is configured with Venus and Jupiter, the native will be effective and on target and charming, but inconstant with regard to marriage. See as example Michael Douglas chart.

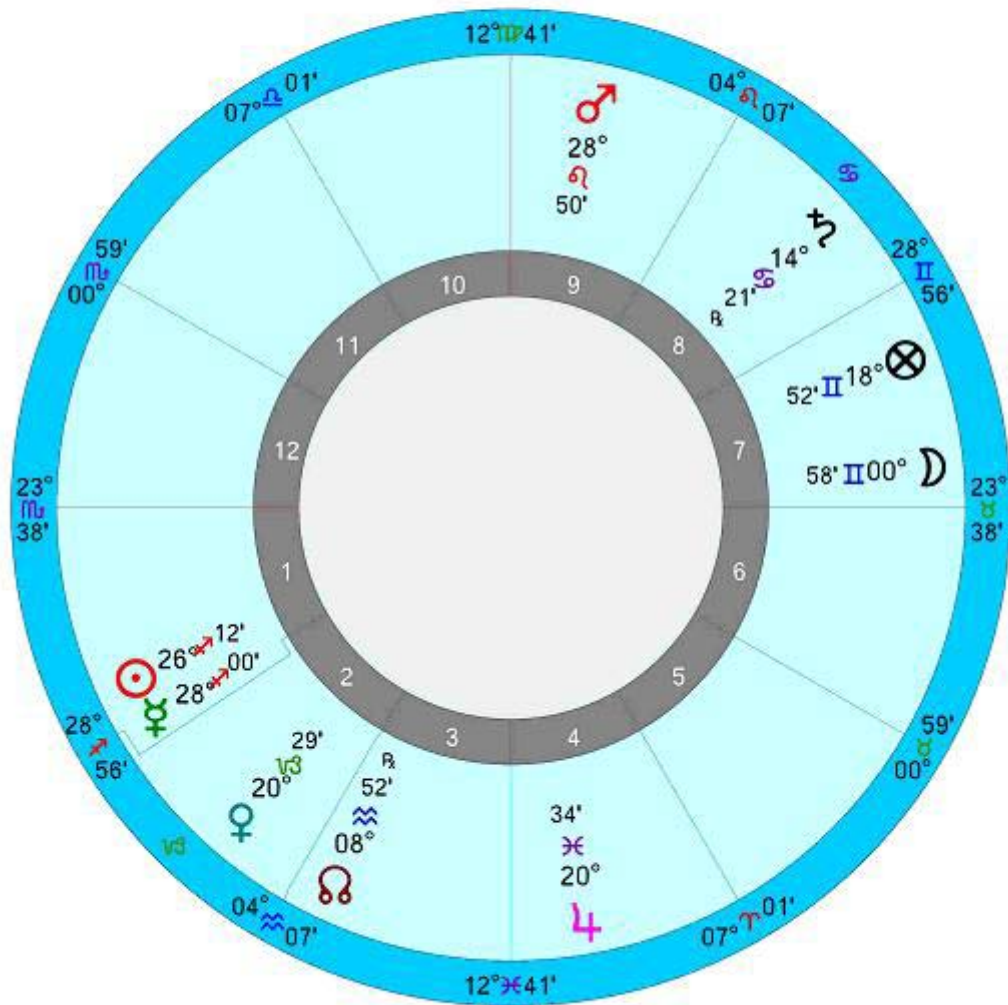
But in general Jupiter aspecting Venus make those who are well married and those who are benefited by the opposite sex. Even if Venus should be afflicted, Jupiter serves as an ally so that nothing should be overturned.

When Venus is in the 11th house (the house of Good Spirit), in its domicile or exaltation, and Jupiter is in the 10th house departing from Venus, or if both are in trine, a good marriage is expected. See as example the last chart of the article.

Examples

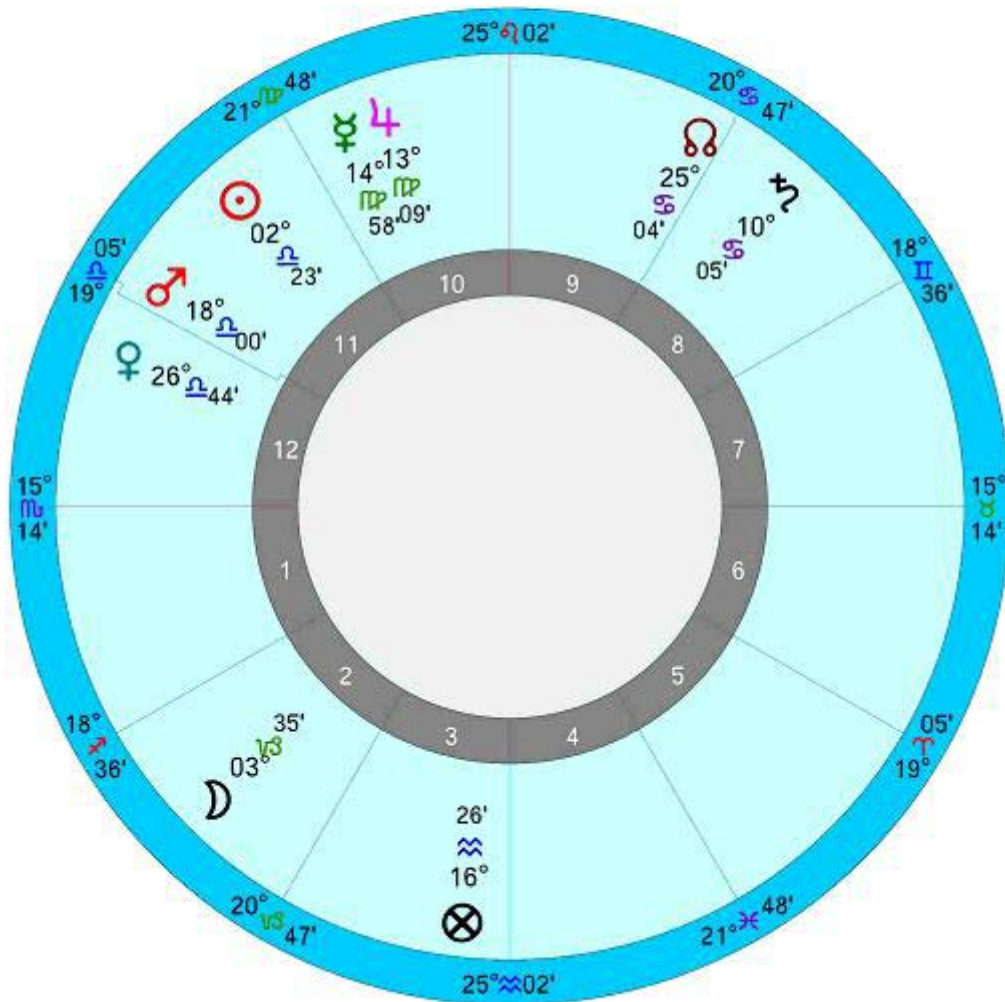
We will look at some examples of Valens' configurations related with specific charts:

Edith Piaf
 Natal Chart
 19 Dec 1915 AD GC
 5:00:00 AM
 GMT +00:00:00
 Paris
 France
 2e20'00
 48n52'00
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Alchabitius Semi-Arc
 True Node



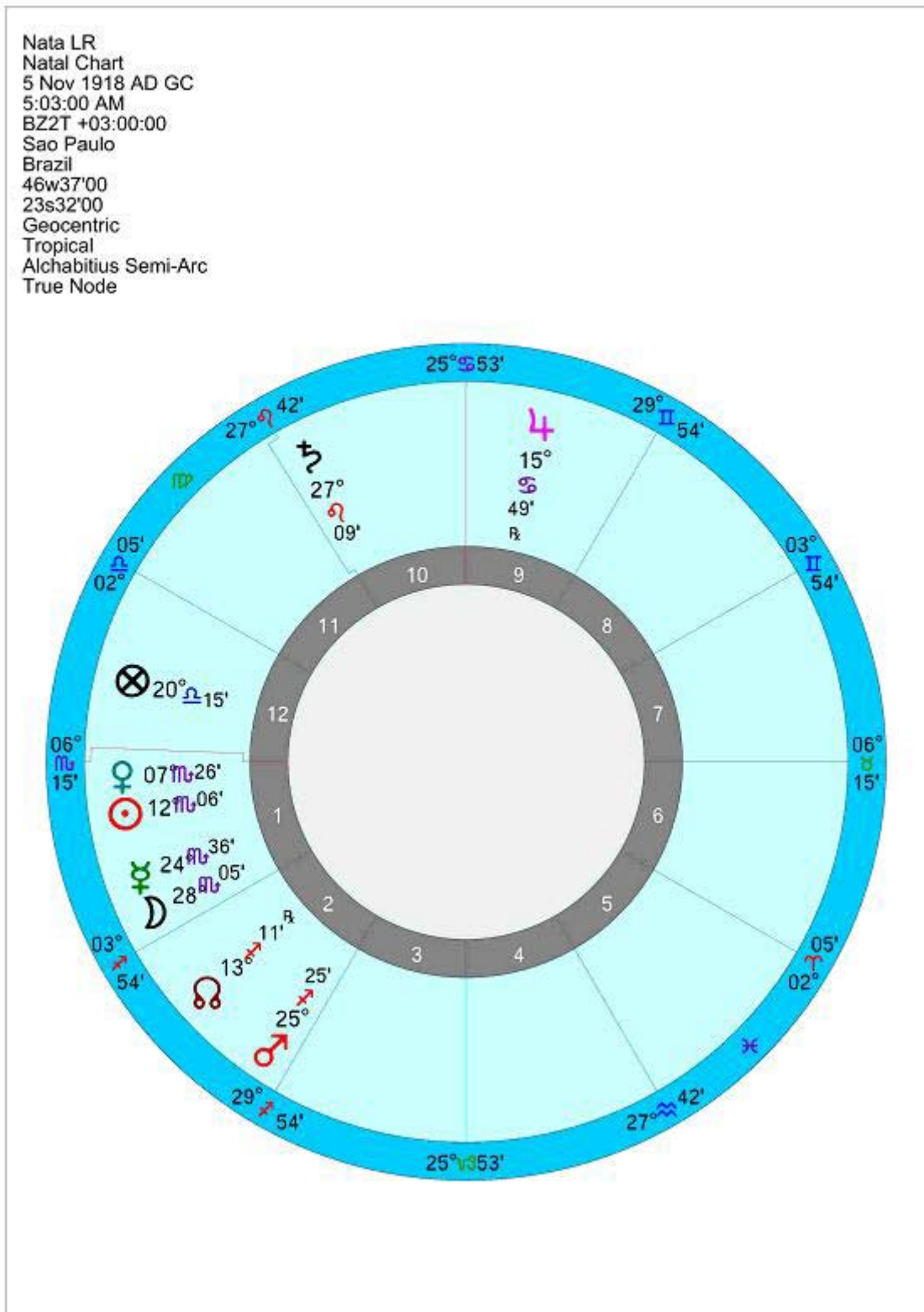
Here we see that Venus opposes Saturn, Jupiter enters in the configuration squaring Mercury. Everybody knows about the sad love stories of the famous singer. Please refer to the text above to relate it to the present configurations.

Michael Douglas
 Natal Chart
 25 Sep 1944 AD GC
 10:30:00 AM
 EWT +04:00:00
 New Brunswick NJ
 USA
 74w27'08
 40n29'10
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Alchabitius Semi-Arc
 True Node



Here Venus is in the same sign that Mars in the 12th house, so we can expect secret lovers. But Saturn opposes the Moon, corrupting it, and Mercury enters the configuration, so lot of publicity it to be expected. Being with Mercury, Jupiter also

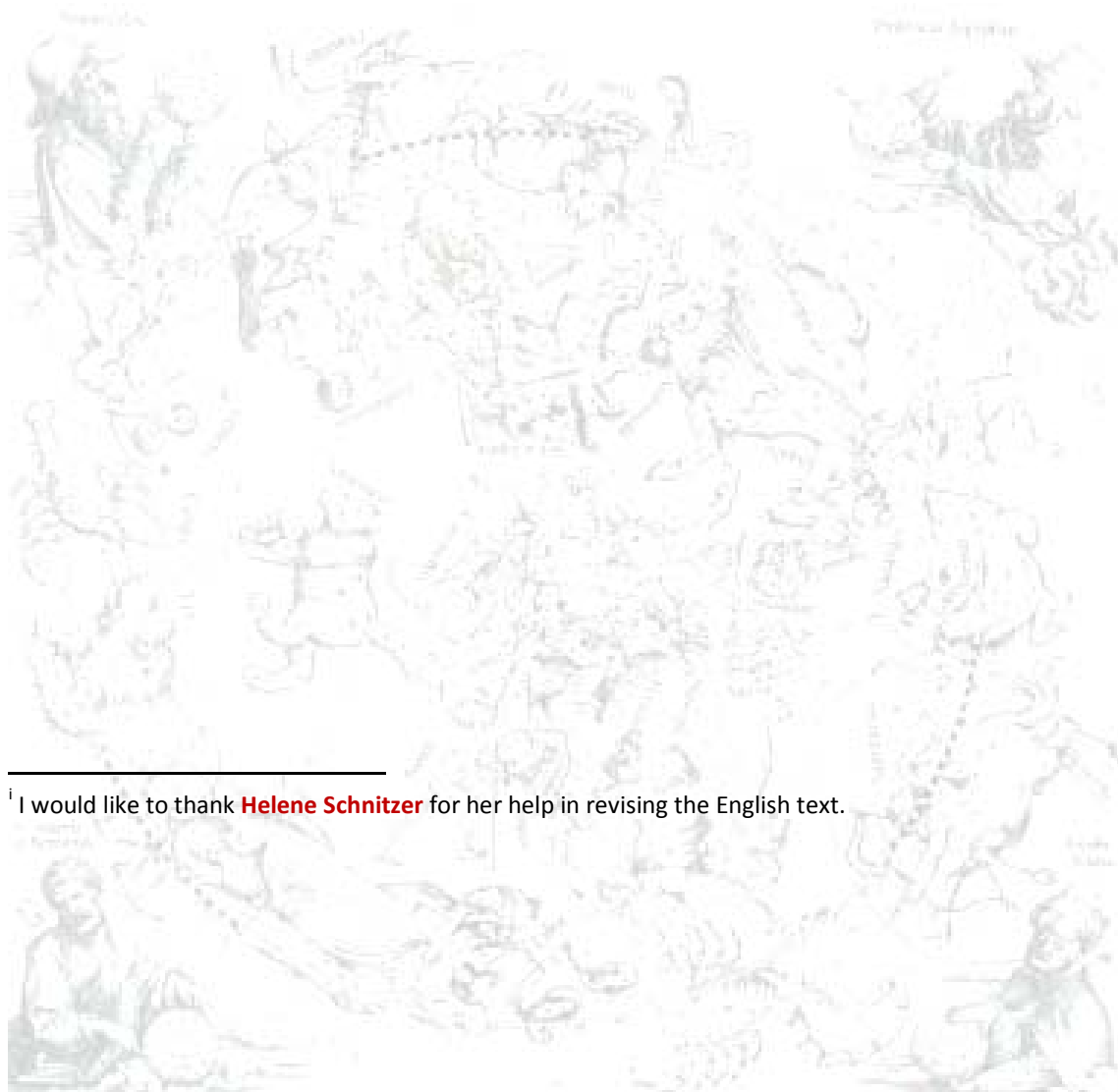
participates in the configuration, giving changing multiple partners(bicorporeal sign) but also protecting the native.



Here we see a long time married woman with few cardinal and bicorporeal

planets. Venus is on the Ascendant, witnessed by Jupiter in the 10th of Venus. The client's marriage was one of love and happiness and lasted until her old age.

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I would like to thank **Helene Schnitzer** for her help in revising the English text.