

LOVE ASTROLOGY ARTICLES



The Dark Pixie
ASTROLOGY

Love Astrology Articles

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Mars

Mars is the planet of energy and drive, pushing us to take action and go for what we want, when we want it. We can take initiative with Mars, and feel excited about what's possible. We can feel pioneering and enthusiastic, and ready to take action.

In love, Mars brings with it that same energy and drive, helping us to take chances in love and relationships.

Mars, Transits, & Love Astrology

Mars can help be a catalyst when you first meet someone under positive Mars aspects (conjunctions, sextiles, and trines) to the natal or progressed 5th or 7th house cusps or rulers, or natal Venus. The 5th house is the house of love, the 7th house is the house of relationships and commitment, and Venus is the planet of love and relationships.

You can feel more willing to take a chance, to take the first step, to take initiative, and you don't necessarily have to wait for them to act. You can make the first move with Mars. These aspects don't last very long though, so you've only got a few days to make your move.

Transit Mars in the 5th house can bring extra desire for love and romance, and you can be more open to meeting someone new and exciting, or breathing fresh air into an existing romantic relationship; Mars in the 7th house can bring extra focus on commitment, and you may only be interested in something that can become serious quickly, and can become more committed or take the next step in an existing love relationship; and transit Mars in the 8th house can bring a strong desire for intimacy (or at least a strong sex drive!).

Transit Mars is in a house for about 2-3 months, so you get a longer period to take advantage of Mars energy.

Hard Mars aspects (squares and oppositions) can bring out anger and irritation, and you can feel easily frustrated, so it's usually not the best time to try and work on love! Instead, it's better to keep yourself busy, especially physically.

All hard Mars aspects require you to keep busy to use up the extra energy that the hard aspects stir up. If you don't, that's when lots of fighting can occur, and you can get in some hot water with someone! It can be good for sex though, since that can be a good outlet for the extra energy (though adds to frustration if you're single!).

Mars & Synastry

When you have a Mars connection with someone in synastry, this can show you stir each other to take action. This most likely isn't a connection where you're meant to just kick back together! You can do lots of activities together, and have extra passion together. But you may also fight more with one another than with others, and get under each other's skin sometimes. If everything else is good, then this can be managed, and the fights can be brief and not create any lasting scars.

If you have a really good Venus connection to go with Mars, this can create a super romantic connection between you. Venus and Mars go hand-in-hand, playing the astro tango together, and balance each other out nicely (you may want to read the article on Venus conjunct Mars if you've got that!).

In transit, Mars alone won't really give you a lasting connection though, so you do want to see some positive Saturn or Pluto in the mix as well. Otherwise, it may just be a passing fun time!

Jupiter

Jupiter is the planet of expansion, opportunity, and fun. Jupiter doesn't want to take too much too seriously, and wants to get out and explore, experience life, and open up to the world. Jupiter wants to goof off and be playful.

In love, this means Jupiter is the planet that helps us be romantic, find new people to date, and have fun flings. With Jupiter, love is fun and light and not too scary or serious. That's the job of other planets. Jupiter's job is to help us enjoy each other.

Jupiter Transits & Love

Meeting someone and dating someone new and exciting can come with Jupiter aspects (conjunctions, sextiles, and trines) to the natal or progressed 5th house cusp or ruler (house of love), 7th house cusp or ruler (house of relationships and commitment), or natal Venus (planet of love and relationships).

When transit Jupiter is touring the natal 5th house of love, this is often a period where you can meet lots of potential love interests and be more open to love; when transit Jupiter is touring the 7th house of relationships, this is often a period where you can be lighter about commitment, more open to it, but desire some space within it; and when transit Jupiter is touring the 8th house of intimacy, this is often a period where you're more open to intimacy (and sex!). But note that Jupiter is the planet of expansion, so if you're having problems in love (5th house), relationships (7th house), or intimacy (8th house), Jupiter touring these houses can make them worse!

Hard Jupiter transits (squares and oppositions) can make it so you don't really want any strings attached since Jupiter loves freedom, or can make it so you're lazy about any new connections and don't pursue them, or lazy about issues in existing relationships and don't work on them. Jupiter needs a push under the hard transits, otherwise things can get stale and nothing moves.

Jupiter & Synastry

When you have a Jupiter connection with someone in synastry, this is one of the best indicators of compatibility. We often get along very well with the people who are of the same sign as our natal Jupiter, and it can generate a genuine like between you. It's not usually unrealistic, rose-colored glasses kind of like (like Neptune); we usually see the flaws in one another, but don't mind them so much. We still like ya anyway!

Jupiter isn't really terrible in love astrology at all, BUT without other planets to ground the energy, it can cause new relationships to be fleeting flings. Saturn is usually needed to counter Jupiter since Saturn is super committed and grounding. Pluto can also be of help since Pluto is also a serious planet, and wants strong connections.

Having positive Jupiter transits combined with Saturn and/or Pluto can be one of the best indicators of a new relationship that will last or of advancing an existing relationship. But without Saturn or Pluto? Enjoy the ride - it probably won't last!

Saturn

Saturn is the planet of responsibility, maturity, and reality. Saturn is not fun and play, romance and romps in the hay. Saturn takes everything seriously, especially commitment.

Saturn is the late bloomer, so it may not commit early in life. But once Saturn commits, Saturn is in it for life, and does not take that responsibility lightly.

In love, this means Saturn is one of the planets that can show taking the next step and committing to someone.

Saturn Transits & Love

Deciding to commit to someone often comes under a positive Saturn transit (sextiles and trines) to the natal or progressed 5th or 7th house cusps or rulers or natal Venus. The 5th house rules love, the 7th house ruler relationships and commitment, and Venus is the planet of love and relationships.

When transit Saturn is touring the natal 5th house of love, 7th house of relationships, or 8th house of intimacy, this is often a period when people decide to get really serious about their relationships. No more just goofing off and no strings attached. It's time to settle down and bring some stability to your love life.

Hard Saturn transits (squares and oppositions) can actually show periods that are really hard on your relationships, and you may question your loyalty (or theirs), and feel restricted, stifled, suffocating in relationships that aren't really good for you. When that's the case, you have to either work on the problems to make it better, or walk away.

Saturn conjunctions can make it imperative for you to abide by Saturn and act completely responsibly in relationships, fully committed, and with healthy connections. Lacking that, your relationships can act to hold you back, and make you feel overwhelmed.

Saturn & Synastry

When you have a Saturn connection with someone in synastry, this can be tricky. On the one hand, this can show that you take the relationship seriously and can commit more easily to one another. On the other hand, it can show that this connection has a tendency to make you feel overwhelmed, insecure, or limited. The latter tends to be less of an issue if you're both in a good place in your lives, know who you are, and come together as complete individuals. Without that, this connection can be extremely difficult.

To counter Saturn, you usually need to focus on a little bit of Jupiter. Saturn restricts while Jupiter expands, and Jupiter helps bring some lightness, some brevity, some air that's often needed with Saturn.

Having strong Jupiter in your natal chart can help you to avoid being overcome by the weight of Saturn; having positive Jupiter transits while undergoing hard Saturn transits can help as well (but hard Jupiter transits or conjunctions can make it worse!); and having a strong Jupiter (or Venus) in the composite chart can help you both to focus on more of the positives. If there's no Jupiter energy? This might be a relationship that crushes you!

Uranus

Uranus is the planet of change, ruling the sudden and unexpected, the unconventional, and the new. Uranus is the future, the one who pushes us outside of our comfort zones, and challenges us to find new perceptions.

In love, this means that Uranus can shake things up in existing relationships, and bring some totally new, different people into our lives. Sometimes this is great, and sometimes this is NOT!

Transit Uranus & Love

When you or someone you know experiences a major change in a relationship, this is often the work of a Uranus transit. Transit Uranus conjunct, square, or opposite natal or progressed Venus (planet of love and relationships), the natal or progressed 7th (committed relationships) or 5th (love relationships) house cusps, or the natal 5th or 7th house rulers often bring about some relationship upheaval.

In some cases, this can get you out of a relationship rut, and the sudden developments and changes can offer an opportunity for you to improve your connection and become closer. But probably in most cases, the upheaval results in the breaking of the relationship as you suddenly want something other than what you have, and don't find what you have to be fulfilling the need for the new and for greater independence.

When you experience these transits while single, this can bring a complete shift in your approach to relationships, what you want from relationships and a partner, and what you're willing to give. This can be a time when you push back even more, craving even more space from

others as you desire to be completely and totally free to be yourself, unabashed.

For those of you who are the loner types, it might end up being the reverse, and the change you experience is actually being with someone.

The people you attract into your life will likely be very different from the people you normally attract or are attracted to. A new relationship may also be different from any kind of relationship you've had before; if you're naturally traditional, you may opt for something unconventional, and vice versa.

Uranus in Synastry

When you have a Uranus connection with someone in synastry, that can bring out some erratic energy between the two of you depending on the planet Uranus is connecting with.

If it's the Sun, Moon, Venus, or Mars, this may show difficulty with having stability in the relationship, and one of you may view the other as way too erratic. A certain amount of space is likely required, and you need to not smother each other. This connection can show the relationship starts hot and fast and burns out in a jiffy.

To counter Uranus, you need some Saturn in the mix. Where Uranus is unconventional and wild, Saturn is traditional and stoic. Saturn controls the uncontrollable.

Having strong Saturn in the natal chart can help prevent you from being too crazy in relationships in the first place; having positive transit Saturn aspects while experiencing difficult Uranus aspects can help bring some calming energy that allow you to find more control; and having

Saturn links in synastry or the composite chart can help smooth out the erratic Uranus energy.

Without Saturn? Get ready for a wild ride!

Neptune

Neptune is the foggy planet, ruling illusion, delusion, and deception. Sometimes, this is self-deception, self-delusion, and we refuse to see what's right in front of us. Neptune also rules our spiritual selves, and what we connect with spiritually.

In love, this means Neptune can govern soul connections where we feel a strong link to someone on a soul level, but also not seeing people for who they really are and falling for the wolf in sheep's clothing.

Transits, Neptune, and Love:

Falling for the very-wrong person often comes in transits, with hard aspects (conjunctions, squares, oppositions) by transit (moving) Neptune to the natal Sun, Moon, Venus, or 5th or 7th house ruler of cusp.

Care must be taken during those times to avoid falling prey to someone who does not have your best interests at heart (at all!). This can also sometimes happen with hard aspects involving Neptune and progressions, particularly when the progressed 5th or 7th house cusps or progressed Venus conjunct, square, oppose natal or progressed Neptune. It can show finding a soul mate, or finding that wolf!

Usually which manifests depends on what predispositions are in your natal chart, as well as what's going on with the chart of the person you meet and in your composite chart together. If there's lots of hard Neptune, water energy, or 12th house energy, that increases the likelihood.

Neptune & Synastry:

When you have a Neptune connection with someone in synastry, there can be some trouble seeing each other as you really are. This can be a good thing sometimes, and it can inspire you to rise to the level you feel they're at.

But, it can also show that you're not being realistic at times, and that this is someone who can easily deceive you, and you won't figure it out until it's too late.

The Neptune connection does show someone you have a soul connection with though, for better or worse, and this may be someone you have to learn a lesson from, even if it's not meant to last a lifetime.

To counter Neptune, Saturn and some earth energy is usually needed. Saturn is the planet of reality and is super grounded, as is earth energy, so this helps to balance out the flowy energy of Neptune.

Having strong Saturn or lots of earth energy in your natal chart can help you to avoid falling for the wolf; having positive Saturn transits while undergoing hard Neptune transits can help as well; and having a strong Saturn or wolf energy in the composite chart can help you both to see each other realistically and ground the spiritual connection.

If there's no Saturn or earth energy? Maybe hide in a closet!

Pluto

Pluto is the planet of passion, power and control, and has depth and intensity. This can go to extremes, and can become obsession, rage, and make it difficult to see the forest from the trees. When Pluto is healthy, we're passionate, focused on our purpose, and have strong wills to get through anything.

In love, Pluto brings the intensity and passion, the depth and power, but also sometimes the unhealthy obsession and rage.

Pluto, Transits, & Love Astrology

Pluto can help you to come together with someone in a strong, intense connection under positive Pluto aspects (sextiles and trines) to the natal or progressed 5th or 7th house cusps or rulers, or natal Venus, and this can be handled with greater ease. Intimacy can feel easier, and you can explore new depths together. You can take the connection seriously, and feel more devoted.

The 5th house governs love, while the 7th house governs relationships and commitment. Venus is the planet of love and relationships, so that's why these positions are in play.

Transit Pluto in the 5th house can make you take love more seriously, and you won't settle for anything superficial; transit Pluto in the 7th house can make you take commitment more seriously, and you can give your all in relationships; and transit Pluto in the 8th house brings Pluto home, helping you feel more intimate and open.

Hard Pluto aspects (conjunctions, squares, and oppositions) can bring out obsessive energy, and you can become quite enthralled with

someone, or attract someone enthralled with you. This can bring out intense connections, and sometimes this is very unhealthy or even dangerous.

Pluto is the stalker, the jealous ex, the abusive spouse when not manifesting properly. It can be difficult to let go, and you can latch on irrationally to someone that you shouldn't, or experience someone latching on to you that you want to get away from but can't.

At its core, Pluto is the planet of transformation, and this is most apparent under hard aspects. This becomes crucial for you to navigate the difficult energy. A major transformation in your approach to love, sex, dating, and commitment, to what you give and take in your connections with others, to how and what you share, may need to be undertaken.

Any love and relationship issues need to be addressed, especially the heavier stuff relating to abuse and neglect. Pluto wants you to emerge from the cocoon a beautiful butterfly, but it'll be a jarring process in the meantime!

Pluto Connections

When you have a Pluto connection with someone in synastry, this can create a very intense connection between you. You can be quite passionate with one another, but this can also mean that you're more aggressive, fight over power and control, and bring out some of the darker sides of one another. The intense connection can help with commitment, but it needs to be healthy, otherwise it can turn toward the bad quickly.

To counter the intensity of Pluto, you usually need some positive Jupiter in the mix. Jupiter is optimistic, light, happy, and this can help to balance some of the intensity and seriousness of Pluto. Having positive Jupiter transits with Pluto can be a great indicator of a solid relationship that can stick around for a while, and not get sucked into the hard stuff.

But without Jupiter, Pluto can be very tricky to manage, especially hard Pluto. When that's the case, you may want to hide on an island!

Chiron

Chiron is an asteroid (well technically it's disputed what Chiron actually is, but for astrology's sake is classified as an asteroid), and is linked to our wounds. Chiron represents our greatest wounds in life, the ones that leave the biggest, most lasting scars, and also shows how we can heal and grow from those experiences and move forward more complete people. In love, Chiron can bring this energy to relationships, and can show a relationship that has the potential to help us heal, or to hurt us more.

Chiron Aspects & Love

Under positive Chiron aspects (sextiles and trines) to the natal or progressed 5th or 7th house cusps or rulers, or natal or progressed Venus, Chiron can help you enter into relationships that allow you to gain more insight into yourself, into your wounds and old baggage, and find ways of healing. This can make you feel better as an individual, and more secure in the relationship.

Transit Chiron in the 5th house can offer opportunities to heal issues that have impacted your ability to express love and affection, opening your heart up more; transit Chiron in the 7th house can offer opportunities to heal issues that have impacted your ability to commit, compromise, and be an equal partner, and transit Chiron in the 8th house can occur opportunities to heal issues that have impacted your ability to connect with others intimately, both physically and emotionally.

Hard transit Chiron aspects (conjunctions, squares, and oppositions) can make it easier to be wounded, and you may attract people to you on purpose subconsciously that will open up old wounds and make them worse. In a way, this can prompt you to finally heal from something that

you've been avoiding as it makes it more obvious. But it can be a challenging experience. It's an experience that has the potential to wound you much deeper, to create even more problems for you, so you really have to lean into the healing and embrace it. Face the issues that you've been avoiding and don't look away when something comes before you. Take your time in relationships so you can build appropriate boundaries and not let in the snakes. Otherwise they may come for you!

Chiron & Synastry

When you have a Chiron connection with someone in synastry, this can show that this person has the potential to help you heal or hurt you badly. The connection can be strong on a spiritual and psychic level, so you may have a hard time resisting either way. But it's important to try and focus on the healing potential so you can avoid the hurting potential. Which it ends up being usually depends on where both of you are in your lives when you come together. If you're more secure in who you are and are open to growing and evolving, it can be a wonderful pairing. But if you're running from your problems, not ready for tackling those wounds, and insecure, then it can be damaging.

To counter the challenges of Chiron, some positive Jupiter in transit and synastry can help a lot! This can help you to be more positive and open in transit, and in synastry, you can like each other a lot which can help you manage any discomfort that may come with a Chiron connection in synastry. Moon connections in synastry can also help with Chiron since this helps you with comfort even more, and you can have emotional understanding so you're (hopefully) less likely to emotionally wound one another. Without emotional understanding from the Moon or the like from Jupiter, you may want to handle this connection with kid gloves!

The Lunar Nodes

Let's continue with the love astrology focus! For this article, we're going to cover the Lunar Nodes and their impact on love in astrology.

What are the Lunar Nodes?

The Lunar Nodes are the points in the Moon's orbit where the Moon crosses the ecliptic. There are two Lunar Nodes, a North Node and a South Node, and they exactly oppose one another. The North Node represents your potential, your future, where you can find ultimate life satisfaction, but you have to grow into it and it can feel uncomfortable because it's unfamiliar.

The South Node represents your past, your karma, the baggage you carry from past lives or early in this life, but it's familiar and comfortable so you can fall back to it in times of stress and upset, using it as an emotional crutch, and that has to be moved away from. For each of us, this is found through the house and sign location of each Lunar Node, as well as any planets conjunct them.

If you have your North Node in the 5th house (of love) or 7th house (of relationships), or your natal Venus in your North Node sign, this can show that you can actually create great connections with others, and you can really find yourself through your relationships. But because it's unfamiliar and uncomfortable, you'll usually avoid this for a while, until you've worked out whatever issues are blocking you, and get some courage to take the next step.

If you have your South Node in the 5th or 7th houses, or your natal Venus is in your South Node sign, this can show that you're comfortable being in relationships and with others, but you may give too much and

have relationship baggage that needs to be released. In your case, learning how to be in a relationship with yourself may be needed.

The Lunar Nodes & Synastry

We often attract people to us who connect with our Lunar Nodes through one of their personal planets (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars), or their Ascendant or Descendant. For better or worse! Those who connect to the North Node tend to be people who are meant to bring us forward in life in some way. Sometimes this is a positive experience, but because of the discomfort of the North Node, it's quite often a challenging one that we can learn from. The North Node people in our lives are meant to help us grow, however that actually comes through.

Those who connect to the South Node tend to be people we're pretty comfortable with and keep coming back to, but this can serve to hold us back. Remember that the South Node governs baggage, so these are people who can bring that baggage out in not-so-good ways, or are a part of that baggage themselves. The South Node people in our lives can give us some comfort, but without other more positive connections, we're likely meant to move away from them.

The Lunar Nodes are considered karmic and spiritual in nature, so connections via the Lunar Nodes are seen as karmic and spiritual. The whole, for a reason, a season, or a lifetime? Lunar Node connections are for a reason (sometimes for a season or lifetime, but that usually depends on other factors). North Node connections are meant to be for this life for a reason, hence being unfamiliar and uncomfortable; South Node connections come from past lives with us, hence being familiar and comfortable yet with baggage.

Lunar Node Transits & Relationships

The transit (moving) Lunar Nodes can move through the houses of your natal chart and aspect your natal planets. When the North Node is in the 5th or 7th houses, or conjunct your natal Venus, this can be a positive time for relationships if you move forward as you should. Connections you make during these periods can be lasting. When the South Node is in the 5th or 7th house, or conjunct your natal Venus, this can stir up some old relationship issues, and you may fall back on bad relationship habits or run to people you shouldn't. Use the period to release the baggage and the people who aren't serving you well.

The transit planets can also conjunct your Lunar Nodes, and if your Lunar Nodes are in your 5th or 7th houses or with your natal Venus, this can bring out the relationship stuff that has to be faced, dealt with, courageously moved forward. Each year, transit Venus (the planet of love) conjuncts each of your Lunar Nodes, and when conjunct your North Node, this can be the time of year when you can open to positive relationship experiences and grow; and when conjunct your South Node, this can be the time of year when you're grabbing back people from the past or relationship vices that need to be released.

The 12th House

The 12th house is the house of hidden things, which includes your subconscious mind, your karma and spiritual baggage, and it's the house of endings (since it's the last house). Anything in the 12th house tends to be hidden from us, though we may not know it consciously. In love, the 12th house brings that same hiding quality, and makes us keep quiet about our feelings, not want to show affection, and hide our hearts.

When you have relationship planets in the 12th house . . .

If you have any natal planets in the 12th house, this can make you someone who hides more than usual in your life. The more planets you have in the 12th house, the more you can hide! And this can stretch out into your relationships, of all types. Natal Venus in the 12th house can make this your natal way of being in relationships, and you don't want the whole world to see everything. Progressed Venus in the 12th house can make you feel like a native while your progressed Venus is in the 12th house (which can last a few decades!).

When transit Venus is in the 12th house, you can experience a period where you have difficulty showing how you feel, and can stay quiet about any feelings you have for someone. You may want to keep things behind closed doors, under wraps, and may be more prone to something like an affair.

If your natal 5th or 7th house rulers (houses of love and commitment, respectively) are in the 12th house, this can operate similarly to the natal Venus in the 12th house. You may keep love and affection quiet with the 5th house, or keep quiet about commitment with the 7th house.

You can come out more under positive aspects (sextiles and trines) to your 12th house cusp or ruler, and it's less hiding and more taking time to be certain of things. But when transit planets are touring your 12th house, you may hide a lot more with everything!

The 12th House & Synastry

When you have a 12th house connection in synastry and your natal planets fall in their 12th house, this can make you have difficulties expressing whatever that planet governs in the relationship (or vice versa if it's their natal planet falling in your 12th house). This is particularly challenging when it's Venus, the planet of love, and it can be difficult to show love. This can be an issue for both of you when it's planets in the composite 12th house. On the positive, it can show a spiritual connection, but you have to work at expressing yourselves.

1st and 5th house connections can be helpful with that since the 5th house governs affection and the 1st house is an outward, expressive house. In love relationships, you ideally want to see some 5th house connections in synastry and the composite chart to help you show love for one another, and the 1st house can help balance the 12th house since it's out in the open. Without these to help, it's likely that the relationship never really gets off of the ground.

Eclipses

As we experience eclipses, they bring big energy for new journeys and opportunities with solar eclipses, and emotions and culminations with lunar eclipses. We can make progress and achieve, get recognition and make use of excitement and enthusiasm, and this can play out in a variety of areas of life. How about how eclipses impact love and relationships?

What is an eclipse?

An eclipse occurs when a new moon or full moon is within 18 1/2 degrees of the Lunar Nodes, which are the points in the Moon's orbit where the Moon crosses the ecliptic. When it's a new moon, we get a solar eclipse, and when it's a full moon, we get a lunar eclipse. Since eclipses occur with new or full moons, their base energy can be similar. BUT eclipses have much more power than new and full moons do!

Eclipses & Love

Solar eclipses can be excellent times for starting something new, so it can be beneficial to start a new relationship, move in together, or get married with solar eclipses. Lunar eclipses are times of endings and culminations, so this can bring emotional next steps (whether happy ones like saying, "I love you" or not-so-happy ones like break ups and divorces).

For you personally, you're most likely to be impacted in your relationships from an eclipse if it occurs in your 5th house of love or 7th house of relationships, is in your Venus sign, or is aspecting your Venus, 5th or 7th house rulers. These are the areas of your natal chart that have direct connection to your relationships and love, so when an eclipse is

impacting them, this brings focus on your relationships. When it's making a hard aspect (squares and oppositions), this can bring challenges that have to be worked on, blocks in relationships, and potential breaking apart (more with lunar eclipse than solar eclipses, but it depends on other aspects). When it's an easy aspect (sextiles and trines), this can bring pleasant energy for dealing with others, and you can feel more comfortable with love and commitment.

In general, we can all focus more on love with an eclipse in Leo, sign of love and romance. A solar eclipse in Leo is great for dating and fun romantic ventures, while a lunar eclipse in Leo is great for deeper connections of the heart. We can all focus more on relationships and commitment with an eclipse in Libra, sign of relationships. A solar eclipse in Libra is great for starting new relationships and making new commitments, while a lunar eclipse in Libra is great for strengthening commitments.

If an eclipse is conjunct transit (moving) Venus, this can give some focus on love and relationships for all of us as well. The way we connect and come together, what we want and need from others and are willing to give, and the attitude we have toward relationships can get attention.

The Intimacy Factor

The 8th house and Pluto are rules of intimacy and sex, so an eclipse in your 8th house or aspecting your natal Pluto can also impact these areas. Solar eclipses in the 8th house or conjunct, sextile or trine your natal Pluto or 8th house ruler can increase your sex drive and open you up to improved intimacy; square or opposite your natal Pluto or 8th house ruler, and you can struggle with being open. Lunar eclipses can impact your sex drive based on how you're feeling emotionally, and you can crave more intensity in your connections with others. Scorpio

naturally connects to Pluto and the 8th house, so we can all experience this broadly when an eclipse occurs in Scorpio.

Retrogrades

Another Mercury retrograde is nearly here, and there's always lots of focus on what this can impact for you. For this article, we're going to go into how retrogrades can impact relationships in astrology.

What is a retrograde?

A planet is called retrograde when it appears to be moving backward through the Zodiac from our view here on Earth. It isn't actually moving backward, and just looks that way. This is reverse motion for the planets, so their energy can get thrown off. Mercury retrogrades 3-4 times each year for about 3 weeks, Venus every 1 1/2 years for about 1 1/2 months, Mars every 2 - 2 1/2 years for 2 - 2 1/2 months, and Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto retrograde for months at a time every year. The Sun and Moon don't retrograde.

Transit Retrogrades & Relationships

When Mercury or Mars retrograde in your 5th house (of love) or 7th house (of relationships), or aspect your natal Venus, this can impact your relationships. You can experience challenges in existing relationships that have to be worked on, or you can reconnect with people from the past. You may become aware of old subconscious issues with Mercury, or have to deal with motivations in relationships with Mars. Communication has to be mindful, otherwise both can result in some epic fights and nasty exchanges.

Since Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto are retrograde for months at a time, their impact isn't very strong. With Jupiter, you may grow lazier in dealing with issues; with Saturn, you may struggle with responsibilities; with Uranus, you may feel restless and impulsive; with

Neptune, you may have a hard time seeing what's there; and with Pluto, you may want some space.

Venus is the planet of love, so Venus retrograde is the only one that impacts relationships regardless of where the retrograde is occurring or what aspects it's making. When Venus is retrograde, there tends to be all sorts of relationship problems! We often see people break up or get back together under Venus retrograde. It's usually best not to make a rash decision though, and try to understand what it is that the Venus retrograde may be trying to get you to see.

Natal Retrogrades & Relationships

If one of your natal planets is retrograde and is located in the 5th or 7th houses, conjunct your natal Venus, or is the 5th or 7th house ruler, that retrograde planet has some bearing on your relationships. It'll be much stronger when it's Mercury, Venus, or Mars, and this can show you have some big relationship or love issues to work on, and that your whole approach to relationships may be on the unconventional side. With Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, or Pluto, you simply may go about relationships in a slightly different way, or go for people who are a little different.

Retrogrades & Synastry

If you have Mercury, Venus, or Mars retrograde in your natal chart (so you were born while they were retrograde), and someone else's planet conjuncts, this can elevate the nature of your retrograde planet in your dealings with one another. When it's one of their personal planets (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars) or Jupiter, they may actually like the way your retrograde planet operates. While you may normally encounter people who don't like it, they may list it as one of the things they like

most about you! When it's Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, or Pluto, this can create challenges in the relationship.

Often, when you have Mercury, Venus, or Mars retrograde, you'll want to be with someone who has that same planet retrograde in their natal chart or progressed chart (which can make them comfortable with the retrograde energy now). You fit together nicely because you understand a part of your charts that is usually one of the most, if not the most, challenging part of your chart. There's less of a desire to change that as you understand it in one another. You're two strange peas from the same strange pod!

Asteroids of Your Name

Asteroids are a fun addition to your astrology learning once you've mastered the planets. There are thousands of them (currently over 20,000!), so it's impossible to know and use them all, but they can be interesting. You can look them up in your natal chart and you can track them like a transit planet.

One set of asteroids you can look into are the asteroids that are just names. Lots of asteroids are just names, named after those who discovered them or others. You can find the asteroids of your first, middle, or last names, or of your nicknames, and they can almost operate like an alternate Sun.

You can use these in love astrology analysis too! By using the asteroids for your name and the asteroids for the name of your beloved.

Asteroids of Your Name Transits & Love

When the transit asteroid of the name of your beau aspects your natal planets, or the transit planets aspect your natal asteroid of your beau's name, this can show developments and higher energy with them, good or bad. Hard aspects (squares and oppositions) may show fights (especially with Mercury, Mars, Uranus, or Pluto), or dealing with them may be more of a challenge (like they're more distant with Saturn or Neptune, too unstable with Uranus, too stubborn with Venus, a little demanding with the Sun).

Beneficial aspects (sextiles and trines) can show happy developments between you, and can be good times to further the relationship and take next steps (like moving in together or getting married), to go on dates or

vacations together, or anything else that's just a pleasant thing between you. The energy can be easier for simply getting along.

I often find that when someone comes into your life, an asteroid of their name is prominent for you at that time. It may be that the transit asteroid of their name conjuncts one of your natal planets or angles, or that there's a progressed aspect involving the asteroid of their name, or an eclipse. Or it may be reversed, and the asteroid of your name is big for them. But usually, when it's important for both of you, then both of you will have it!

Asteroid of Your Name & Synastry

No surprise, but there's usually some strong synastry with the asteroids of yours and their names as well. They may aspect one another in your natal charts; the asteroid of one person's name conjuncts a natal planet or angle or Lunar Nodes in the other person's chart; the asteroid of one person's name makes lots of aspects to the other person's natal chart; or the asteroid of one person's name fills a hole in the other person's chart, like occupying the empty leg of a t-square or being in the missing sign of an element to form a grand trine.

By itself, the name asteroids may not show that much, but if someone's name is important in your natal chart, they are likely going to show up at some point. This may just get triggered by transits and progressions and actually bring that named-person into your life.

Extra: Astrology Indicators You're a Relationship Late Bloomer

Some people start dating when they're like, five (how does that work?). Most are somewhere in the teen years. But some are late bloomers when it comes to relationships, and never have one until they're well into adulthood.

Astrology has an answer for almost everything - even this! What can show being a relationship late bloomer astrologically, and what does this mean? Let's explore!

Saturn: Wait Til You're a Grownup

Saturn is often associated with being a late bloomer in anything in life, and this often is with the areas of life ruled by the house in your natal chart Saturn resides (as well as planets conjunct or in the same sign). This is because Saturn wants you to grow up first!

Saturn is the disciplinarian, the one who insists we learn lessons to grow. Saturn is serious and practical, and doesn't care for whimsy and being carefree.

Saturn may be the one slowing you down with relationships if it's:

- in the 5th house (of love) or 7th house (of relationships)
- in Leo (ruling love) or Libra (ruling relationships)
- closely aspecting your natal Venus (planet of relationships), natal 5th house ruler, or natal 7th house ruler
- in the same sign as your natal Venus, 5th house ruler, or 7th house ruler

With Saturn, you usually don't get whatever it is Saturn is impacting until you've had your first Saturn Return (when Saturn returns to the same exact position it was at when you were born). This happens between 28-32. So when Saturn is the one preventing you from having that relationship until you're older, it's usually going to be when you're over 30.

You can get through Saturn when you learn your Saturn lessons. If you fight Saturn, this becomes a problem. Then Saturn can keep you single - forever!

North Node: Your Uncomfortable Destiny

Another one that many don't think of is the North Node. The North Node is a part of the Lunar Nodes, which are the points in the Moon's orbit where the Moon crosses the ecliptic. There's a North Node and a South Node that exactly oppose one another. The South Node is what you've already learned/are comfortable with/your past or early life, while the North Node is your potential, purpose, and what you need to grow into.

Because the North Node is unfamiliar, it's uncomfortable, and we tend to shy away from it until we're older. Until then, we'll gravitate to the South Node, because this is energy we're familiar with.

This means your North Node can make you a relationship late bloomer if it's:

- in Leo (sign of love) or Libra (sign of relationships)
- in the 5th house (of love) or 7th house (of relationships)
- in the same sign as your natal Venus (planet of love), 5th house ruler, or 7th house ruler

You gravitate to the South Node at first in life, so with North Node in Leo (or 5th house), your South Node is in Aquarius (or 11th house), which makes you more independent and casual; and with North Node in Libra (or 7th house), your South Node is in Aries (or 1st house), which makes you more comfortable alone than with others.

Your North Node is unfamiliar and uncomfortable, so you have to get over that and start manifesting that energy in your life. You have to work on blocks that may be in the way to using the energy. This can be seen with planets that are square (3 signs away) your Lunar Nodes, and having Venus, a planet in Leo or Libra or your 5th or 7th house ruler square can also show being a relationship late bloomer.

The thing about the North Node is, this is your potential and purpose, so you're definitely not meant to be alone. But, if you keep living in the South Node and avoiding any blocks, you won't manifest your North Node energy and realize that potential and purpose.

With both Saturn and the North Node, you need to work on yourself! When you do work on yourself, and you do learn and grow and pursue your purpose, then you can find the relationship that's been missing.

Challenged Venus, 5th house ruler, 7th house ruler, and Descendant

One other thing that can show being a relationship late bloomer is if your natal Venus, 5th or 7th house ruler, or Descendant are challenged, meaning they are:

- anaretic (at 29 degrees)
- intercepted (contained within a house)
- a singleton (the only planet in an element, quality, or house type)
- retrograde

There are some more but those are the main ones! Now, this doesn't *only* indicate being a relationship late bloomer though; this can also be present when you do have relationships at a more normal age, but those relationships are not great (okay, outright bad!). Saturn and the North Node can be stronger indicators of relationships coming later in life, but sometimes these positions show it too (depending on the rest of the chart).

Extra: When Venus Meets Mars

Venus conjunct Mars gets a lot of attention wherever it pops up, whether it's in transit, in the natal chart, in synastry, or in the composite chart. Why? It generates a lot of passion, intensity, friction, heat. It can be highly creative and full of energy, but it can be a little frustrating too.

Venus Conjunct Mars in the Natal Chart

When Venus conjuncts Mars in the natal chart, this tends to stimulate a very healthy sex drive in the native (maybe a little too healthy sometimes!), though the degree to which depends on the sign and house involved. It can also stimulate a creative soul, and can be a source of creative energy that can be tapped into.

Mars has a bad habit of overtaking Venus at times though, and so you'll find many with this placement identify more with Mars than Venus, or come across in a more Mars-y way (more "masculine" or dominant). The trick with this position in the natal chart is to balance the energy of the two and not let Mars overtake Venus. Venus needs some say too!

Venus Conjunct Mars Transits

When transit Venus conjuncts natal Mars or transit Mars conjuncts natal Venus, this usually stimulates a few days where you have a higher sex drive, more passionate energy, or a more creative approach.

Again, this will largely depend on the location of the conjunction by sign and house. In the 3rd house, this may mean more mental energy and connection, while in Capricorn, this may mean more passion for goals and success. It's important to use the energy with this transit though, otherwise you can get very grumpy and frustrated.

Venus Conjunct Mars in Synastry

In synastry, this means one of your Venuses conjuncts the other person's Mars, and this is a standout maker for major attraction between two people (and the closer they are to being exactly conjunct, the stronger it can be). The attraction can be instant and the chemistry strong, so much that it can almost be difficult to stop (if say, you're already with someone else).

When it's an attraction you can act on (and has other healthy aspects to support it), it can keep the spark going much longer than usual. When you don't want anything to happen, you may need to just stay apart though. Even if you don't like each other, you may find that there's still that chemistry there that can't be denied, so go your separate ways.

Venus Conjunct Mars in the Composite Chart

With composite Venus conjunct composite Mars, this can be similar to the conjunction in synastry, but it's generally felt more evenly between you, and can be something that bonds you together in a more harmonious way. You can find that together, you channel the passion between you easily through the sign and house location of Venus and Mars, and in a way that you don't alone.