



Dignity and Debility at work - how strong are you in that meeting?

In these grim times most of us need help if we are to survive the three redundancies and reach a pension pot at the end of the rainbow. Anybody who actually has ambitions of enjoyment or prosperity from work had better have a little something extra. Astrologers all know how useful it would be to have data for The Boss, Company Spymaster, Head of Grovelling, Chief of Knives, World's Most Frequently Promoted Skiver and Blundering Halfwit In Charge of Dangerous Substances all nicely gift-wrapped on a platter. Even in cases where all of the above could be covered by just two charts, it can take a lot of lurking by the coffee maker before you get closer than knowing one of them had a party in the holidays. For those who would like to move a bit faster, or who might be approaching a crossroads or a crisis, I offer an alternative means, which might reasonably be considered a hybrid of natal and Horary work. The method requires the adoption of a basic principle of horary, which is that planets can be used to signify people. The difference is that the rules of horary must be bent out of shape and substituted by real life observation and deduction. This is not to say horary is wrong or unhelpful but that there comes a point where this approach diverges from it.

Application of this twist on a tradition requires that you have, or develop, a genuine understanding of your craft. The bonus is that while you are honing your skills the universe will be revealed as awesome once again and Monday ought to liven up almost immediately. If you have the benefit of an astrological colleague, who also has a day job, you can almost guarantee they will share a workspace with SuperBitch, so that comparing notes in the evening will be nearly as good as pie, with no need for the gym after. Once you have witnessed that this stuff actually seems to work you are better positioned to take whatever advantages there are at your job. It can take some patience to build up a picture and astrology can never make something out of nothing but in the best case scenario I have so far seen **where the knowledge obtained by this method was effectively used** the result was a considerable amount of hard cash.

Why is this approach useful when we could just ask an horary? My answer is that divination relies far more heavily on knowing the right questions to ask, and asking them very clearly, than is generally realised. The emphasis is always on mastering what is necessary to get the answers. This may be fine when the question is simply about my lost phone or even my box of fish. The phone and the fish are not making an effort to hide. Yes, we know the fish thief is hiding but we do know what the fish and the phone look like and where they were last. The

issue is not often complicated by several thieves, some working alone, some in rival gangs, some secretly in two gangs, who all take different objects, or squabble over the same object, which they may pretend they don't want, while informing on each other to the policeman they have bribed. That kind of behaviour starts when a promotion is in sight or there is the waft of redundancy. Employers, supervisors and rivals tend to hide things; what we do not know exists, or is coming next week, we do not draw up a chart for. Meeting charts may be hard to read when they symbolise multiple characters with hidden agendas, secret alliances and cloaked enmity but they can also tell us what we would never have guessed we should ask.

A chart is drawn, in advance, for the scheduled start time of a significant meeting with the assumption that, if anything, life will run later than advertised. As with childbirth, even with a stopwatch, there is room for debate about what is considered the exact time of the event. Other practitioners may use the official time the meeting was intended to begin, even if not all the parties have arrived. I would modify the reading after the event if a significant party was late enough to merit it. Astrologers may obtain useful information by slightly different methods, partly because they read differently but also because the circumstances they encounter are different. Two people, meeting down the corridor, are less likely to be late than nine arriving on trains. If every meeting tested actually starts five minutes from the official time this will help shape the practitioner's assumptions about effective techniques. Using the official time does have clarity and simplicity on its side and in many cases it will be near enough. However the habit may need changing when the meeting conditions change and it may be dangerous, even down the corridor, when the Ascendant or Midheaven shift in the gap between theory and life.

My experience suggests that we will do best by accepting that things are not born until their appropriate time. I have seen two brides held up by a broken down limousine and, despite every effort that panic and ingenuity could produce, neither arrived at the church before the Ascendant had changed sign. The second time I knew how long we would have to wait because in both cases the late charts were more appropriate to the couple concerned. I would expect meetings to be similarly adjusted by the gods.

An added consideration are the cases when the Area Manager has arrived and shaken hands but then needs to find the loo and get a brew before business commences. Do not be afraid to modify usual practice based on a common sense view of what constitutes a beginning and growing experience of reading this type of chart.

The next matter is to assign each participant a planet. The more you know about the players, their roles and the prevailing circumstances the better. I have found almost invariably that the person who initiated the meeting takes the Ascendant ruler. If you are called to see the Boss s/he gets it. If an employee has asked to see someone about a regrading or a grievance then s/he takes it. This should be checked to see if the nature and condition of the planet reflects the person. (More follows on this matter later). It is probable that you will know the chart of at least one of the participants. If this is the case their Sun sign may be conveniently sitting on one end of the axis. If so, given a bit of reasonable support that is usually it. **But not always.** The Boss may take the Sun, even when you know s/he was born in December

In a simple case we now move on to the body on the other side of the desk, who does **not** automatically take the planet ruling the other end of the axis. This is not horary or jousting or football. By all means, once you have the Ascendant, check the Descendant, it is a good place to start but if you or the tea lady are the Ascendant and Mr Big is going to be sitting opposite he may well be the Midheaven ruler. If the tea lady is the Ascendant and opposite her supervisor try the Descendant for him / her and the MC for somebody bigger. It is very important to note that Mr Big does not actually have to be in the room for his weight to count. If either Mr Big or your supervisor has asked to see you it is fairly likely they are the Ascendant ruler and the Descendant is you. Always check, never assume. What happens when you can't tell? Dignity and debility! More on that in a while.

It is essential to bear in mind that every boss is not represented by a debilitated Mars, conjunct Saturn and a nasty star. (When you get to be The Boss you will continue to be fair and honourable won't you?) Your Boss usually has a Boss. Your boss may have been misled about exactly how many bad things would have to be done to avoid relocating to a cardboard box. Occasionally your boss may be as vulnerable as you because you are cheaper. Even less often somebody got promoted on merit. (How else will you get there?)

Mr Big may sometimes be in the twelfth, as may his faithful secretary, who is apparently only there to take minutes. Do not be fooled, anything that is in the twelfth needs watching very carefully. Never fail to look at it and its ruler. Whether in or out of the room it usually represents someone who is working to do you down. And it too could be the person the other side of the desk. The awkward fact is that, in many cases, anybody could be anywhere. The person attached to each planet is the one that is most representative of that planet overall. A woman boss may well be shown by Venus or the Moon. (Though I have seen the ones who should take Capulus.) Sometimes there are several women, who are difficult to separate with only two female symbols, if so, **provided you already understand their nature** you can try adding Pallas and Juno, who are sometimes surprisingly handy. Pallas is the woman in a man's world (and I have seen her play SuperBitch very competently). Juno (amongst other things) is the underdog, and may be in aspect to someone in difficulty. Do some homework if you need to, Juno can also be trouble.

'Significant' meetings often have witnesses or representatives of some kind present. When discipline or redundancy are concerned there may be a Union rep. I have always found the individual rep and, or the union in general terms, to be well enough described by the eleventh and its ruler. One experienced mundane practitioner I knew insisted trades unions came under the sixth. I see his logic. Rex Bills gives unions to Pluto first, with the twelfth, Uranus, and Saturn as supporting cast. Munkasey gives them to the twelfth. A brief foray into the history of the unions, makes it easy to see why they were associated with Pluto; they were illegal until 1824 and tended to be highly political and radical in the early days. When the Chartist movement took up similar aims, which were basically to get working **men** the vote and clean up the UK parliament, the unions became more concerned with actual working conditions. Note that it was 1930 before Pluto was discovered, so its connection with trades unions was made well after the fact and presumably by someone who still considered them highly subversive. I do not believe we should leave everything in stone. Whatever your political stance, unions no longer seem to me to be sufficiently clandestine, or powerful, to merit attachment to Pluto. If half the stories about truckers and the Mob in Chicago are true perhaps some do still fit the mould - but are you a trucker? Or a cardinal?

I encourage you to keep an open mind on the matter. The majority of my experience has involved individuals connected with the same union, which has an excellent record on equality of every type. It has far wider ranging goals than the annual pay negotiation. It seeks to improve standards in the profession, for the benefit of those served by its members and to support its counterparts overseas, who often work with greater disadvantages. These aims are well suited to the character of the eleventh house and those individuals who attended the meetings tended to share, at least some of, the ideals of brother and sisterhood and a better society. I have also had experience of a union whose aims appeared to me to be nothing more than self-preserving and self-serving and who still had on their Luddite hats. These types may be represented by less favourable eleventh houses or they may need another house. I would check eleven, then six. If you, or the employee, are the Ascendant then the sixth is worth checking for a union rep, as it is the house of someone whose purpose is to serve you in some capacity. If you happen to be the union rep, at least in my experience, the sixth tends to be a good indicator of 'the workers' you serve. If you take a friend to a meeting, s/he too fits the eleventh but in this capacity is also there to serve you. Which planet describes the person best? **Do not allocate planets based solely on the rules of horary.** The rules are an agreed language, they work because they are agreed, not necessarily because they perfectly reflect life. Standard house associations are a starting point but the planet you need may be in the 'wrong' place entirely, particularly given the range of systems from which to choose. My work is based on Koch houses. This is because I have seen them shout loudly many times at ingress. Different systems will produce different results. Insisting your system knows everything is a recipe for disaster here. In the most difficult cases one planet fits two people, or two planets fit one person. Often these will be in aspect. These are the reasons you must thoroughly understand the nature of the symbols before you and also the many ways they may combine to describe the individuals, their varying situations, interactions and strengths, all at the same time, depending upon from which angle you look.

(I am sorry but) even if you choose Pluto to rule trade unions it (or the other outer planets, Pallas and Juno) cannot be given a house rulership. However this does not exempt any of the above from being linked to individuals at a meeting. I have certainly seen Neptune repeatedly oozing about, in the form of staff fairly high up the food chain, often he was in aspect to Mercury. If your company sells eye shadow to ballet dancers he may be nothing to worry about, otherwise take in a tape recorder.

In difficult circumstances the other house that it may be essential to understand is the ninth, that of the law. It may show lawyers themselves if they are present or relevant but more often it shows the law pertaining to the circumstances. How that works (in my experience) is easier to understand by examining how dignity pertains to all the individuals.

The fourth house may be consulted to help judge the final outcome.

A man who works as a butcher is described by Mars. Usually so is the man cutting meat beside him who owns the shop. A secretary who requests a meeting to discuss a regrading may be described by Virgo on the Ascendant. If she takes Mercury what do we allocate to her supervisor, (who will make the appraisal), when she too used to be a secretary and has worked in offices for forty years? Somehow we must separate them. The method is to check their relative strengths. In the second case let us pretend Gemini is on the Midheaven. This appears

to suit a situation in which both parties are Mercurial but one is 'the boss'. This may be part of the story but is not yet helpful. Opposite the Virgo / Mercury secretary is Pisces. Perhaps Jupiter is the supervisor? Suppose Jupiter is in Gemini, near the MC, this may appear to fit a clerical boss but in life as we know it this is almost surely wrong! Jupiter in Gemini is in detriment. Mercury in Virgo has the benefit of rulership and exaltation. Not only is Mercury stronger it actually rules Jupiter and holds it at some disadvantage. Unless there are very unusual circumstances the secretary does not have more power than her supervisor to decide the issue. Unless she is particularly good at her job, there is some unusual reason she cannot be replaced, the boss fancies her or she is his granddaughter she is the weaker party.

If you know the supervisor may be about to retire on ill health grounds or guess that somebody higher up sees the secretary might do the supervisor's job cheaper, for the experience, if they can manoeuvre the older woman out this may also fit. If you are the older woman, you are not sick, have not recently messed up and have expressed no wish to retire, find out what the secretary has going for her or if there are plans to trim staff numbers and start minding your back. Something is wrong. You may need to raise your game or retire gracefully. Alternatively the astrologer has not yet got the right planet for the supervisor. Keep going, she may be Venus in reasonably good shape. We do not assign planets by saying this has to be X because it rules house cusp Y and then see how weak X is. We do the reverse, assign the planets based on everything we already know about the people. *Then* we see what we are not supposed to see.

Strength is important but totting up term and face cannot be trusted any more than the rival in the twelfth and I have never used triplicity in this work. Exaltation may be moderately useful but what is most telling is who rules whom. This will not only be a major help in assessing who takes which planet but, once you see who everybody is, largely based on the official hierarchy, you can look again and discover where the invisible power lies. It is possible to try and assess why somebody has more, or less, clout than they should. Useful as this is, there will inevitably be things you cannot read and may never know. Outer planets and asteroids cannot rule but they are certainly ruled. This will help tell you to whom they report, who has them trapped or where their allegiances lie. Mutual receptions whether by rulership or detriment, are enlightening things to observe. When you reach Mr Big you can use his ruler to assess what it is he *wants*. The rest of the upper echelon may also be looked at in this way to see what they might have their sights on next.

Your boss may be a planet in detriment for many reasons, even on occasions when you are not but, unless you have some very good incriminating photos, you do not rule your boss. Find what rules you and see if it looks like him or her. There may be several candidates depending upon the complexity of the organisation.

In a chain of meetings relating to one issue the Ascendant may or may not shift to another person. When someone asks you in for the first time, to mention redundancy, s/he may take the Ascendant. (Occasionally it will be their agent and the bigger someone is probably the MC) When YOU ask for a follow up meeting on the same subject the Ascendant may or may not change. If the first house contains the Midheaven ruler it is unlikely the Ascendant is you. Try the Descendant.

I have seen long running sagas in which the meeting charts had an uncanny similarity in terms of who appeared to be whom. Then each time a key personality left the organisation the next, and every subsequent, chart took on a different flavour, which took a while to assess. Eventually a series settled into its own pattern. In the middle of a steady phase I once had a peculiar chart, which scrambled everything I had seen previously and made no sense in its own right. The meeting was cancelled.

In a different organisation it seemed much more difficult to pin down the participants, from meeting to meeting. My guess is that in the first place, although large scale redundancies were in the offing, the managers were all safe enough, long enough, to move on when something better came up. In the second they were living in quicksand as deep as the subordinates they were told to let go, therefore their strengths, fears and tactics varied from week to week and different planets were needed to describe them.

I have seen a number of occasions where the employee, or the Union, had equal strength to the boss. This is probably as good as it is going to get. Either there is a stalemate and it is conceivable that a compromise will be reached or at least the employees position should not worsen. At best the employee(s) may win the case because the union has some leverage or the law is on their side.

There should be a follow up article (or two) to expand on and demonstrate the ideas with case histories and to introduce a most interesting use of separating and applying aspects.

It is of course possible to abuse the knowledge gained by these methods. Reputable astrologers ask permission before discussing client's cases. Healers and dowsers obtain permission from their clients before starting work. Many dowsers are also trained in an ethical protocol, intended to prevent them asking inappropriate questions. It is difficult to replicate this when using horary or Tarot, we must discipline ourselves not to invade privacy. However I found when using cards it began to appear that I was sometimes given the answer to a 'forbidden' question anyway. I also realised it was only ever when someone was, (usually deliberately), acting against me or mine and the consequences would be serious. This is unfortunately often the case at work.

The assumption that exceptions may be made when you are genuinely threatened was strengthened when it appeared I was given information before I knew there was a question to ask. The same, apparently irrelevant card, came out for several weeks, until I understood it was a warning. Despite saying that this work is not the same as horary, I have tried to treat meeting charts in the same spirit as divination, they should not be used as means to damage others. If you need further warning to behave, I suggest you go back and read Rob Hand on Pluto transits and imagine similar results.