

TRANSFORMERS AND CONVERTERS: PLANETS IN THE EIGHTH HOUSE

The science of astrology can be said to be an expression of the Law of Correspondences—As Above, So Below. This Law states that there exists a pattern in the universe that is repeated and reflected in all forms of creation. The distances between sub-atomic particles have the same ratio as the distances between the planets in the solar system, or even the distances between the stars within our own Milky Way galaxy. These sub-atomic particles whirl about their atomic nucleus in the same way as planets revolve around the Sun and the stars revolve around their galactic center. There is no separation in the universe. Everything and everyone is connected and interconnected. We are all One.

–A.O.

It is essential for the astrological student to view the planets, signs, houses, and aspects of the horoscope as *fields of energy*. True astrology is devoted to measuring astronomical movements and then interpreting such activities as energetic shifts and dynamics in human behavior. The planets reveal the “whats” of the natal chart—what energy is at work? The Sun is the source of vitality for the solar system. The planets represent the primary differentiation of the radiation of the solar life and can be seen as prismatic expressions of the Sun’s rays and powers.

In traditional astrology, the horoscope is built around the Sun’s sign. The planets give color, form, conditions, and shades of meaning to the purpose of the solar force in the natal map. The astrological houses reveal the “wheres” of the chart—where are the planetary energies manifesting in one’s life with their greatest strengths or weaknesses? The houses are the most “physical” indicators in the chart as they reveal the “place” of manifestation.

This month my focus is on the meaning of the planets when they are found in this domicile, the “astrological cyclotron” of the chart. I want to approach our subject from two perspectives: 1. when the rulers of the various cusps of the houses are found in the Eighth and 2. the nature of the specific planets themselves when they are so placed. The contents of these two articles taken together should give the reader a fairly comprehensive indication of many (but certainly not all) of the implications of Eighth House placements and purposes in the horoscope.

Eighth House Keywords: crises of transformation; regeneration or degeneration, path of evolutionary development and growth; expressions of sexuality; death; wills, legacies, shared resources, and other people's resources in general.

When the ruler of the First House is in the Eighth: There will undoubtedly be major crises of transformation of the personality in this individual's life so that one becomes better equipped for more powerful creative possibilities and the expression of one's greater good. Sexuality will play a very important role in life. Sexuality is important in all lives, but in this case, the focus on the nature of one's sexual needs and their expression as well as the social dynamics that come as a result of one's sexual nature will be a dominant life theme. When strong and positive, this position gives a person the ability to be a catalyst and transformer in other people's lives; if negative, the tendency is to be a manipulator of other people's energy for one's own benefit.

When the ruler of the Second House is in the Eighth: This is an indication that personal financial resources are inherited. At the very least, one's own financial welfare and concerns are totally connected to one's partnerships and/or one's relationships with other people in general. Tests in the transformation of personal values are likely as they individual must learn to share and play fair in all financial dealings. If well aspected and the individual is of high moral character, this placement is excellent for constant increase throughout life as well as the ability to help others prosper. When negative, financial manipulation is likely.

When the ruler of the Third House is in the Eighth: The individual has the urge to change the way others think so that they conform to one's own opinions and ideas. When positive, this is an indication of a person who aids others to refine their ways of thinking and add potency to their communicative abilities. It is a wonderful position for psychologists and teachers, whose responsibilities lie in the exploration and transformation of other people's minds. When negative, this position can result in the tendency to manipulate and control other people's opinions. Third House rulers in the Eighth when in the watery signs (and especially if in aspect to the Moon or Neptune) can result in a psychic or highly imaginative nature.

When the ruler of the Fourth House is in the Eighth: Inheritance from the family is a major issue. Such inheritances are not limited to money as they may easily take the form of inherited emotional, mental or physical tendencies. If the planet is poorly aspected, the individual will have the task of transforming and releasing such inherited energy patterns. If the condition of the planet is positive, then gains and benefits can be expected from this placement. Should the planet be a poorly configured Moon for example, then there may easily be traumatic psychological circumstances that need to be regenerated and transmuted in order for the individual to be free of such family afflictions. A well placed Venus on the other hand can give the individual a strong foundation of family values that support one both in terms of self-worth and actual financial stability.

When the ruler of the Fifth House is in the Eighth: This is a person who has a lot invested in his or her romantic life. Should the planet be either Venus or Mars, then this tendency towards a strong libido is further emphasized. If the planet is afflicted (especially in the fixed signs), then there may easily be obsession surrounding the pursuit of pleasure, especially of a sexual or romantic nature. Problems connected with children are also likely. If the planetary ruler of the Fifth in the Eighth is well aspected, then the expression of one's romantic urges and one's relationship with children will be far easier. When positive, this is also an excellent indication of rewards coming to the individual as a result of his or her creative self-expression.

When the ruler of the Sixth House is in the Eighth: When well aspected (and especially if the planet is the Sun, Pluto, or the ruler of the Eighth), this placement is an indication of good health and the ability to regenerate oneself quite easily as a result of accident or illness. When afflicted (especially by Saturn, the Sun, Pluto or the ruler of the Eighth), such regenerative abilities are curtailed and the road to recovery can be more arduous. A positive placement would also give a person the ability to make the most out of any job and rise up through the ranks to a better position. When afflicted (especially by Saturn or the ruler of the Tenth), the ladder to success in terms of one's job is often blocked, requiring many challenges and transformations until the individual "gets it right".

When the ruler of the Seventh House is in the Eighth: The correct handling of mutual and shared resources will play a very important role in one's relationships. If the ruler is

well aspected (especially by Venus or the ruler of the Seventh House), circumstances surrounding such financial interchanges are likely to be quite successful. This would be even more certain should the planets involved be in the earthy signs. The sexual facet of intimate relationships take on an added significance when the ruler of the Seventh is in the Eighth, so much so that should the planet be afflicted, severe challenges to relationship harmony may result. According to the condition of the planet, relationships will play a major role in bringing about those crises of transformation that lead either to personal growth or to severe challenges in interpersonal dynamics.

When the ruler of the Eighth House is in the Eighth: There is no doubt that the regenerative and transformative crises in life as well as one's sexual expression are heightened with this position. Obviously, if Scorpio were on the cusp of the Eighth and Mars were situated in this house and sign, then the individual's sexual orientation would be an intense and powerful one with its direction and expression always being tested. Regardless of which planet rules this house cusp, we can say that this position in general would bring out all of the topics highlighted under "Eighth House Keywords" at the outset of this section. The question of how and under what circumstances these issues would be experienced in one's life has much to do with the particular planet and its aspects. The second listing in this article will give the reader some additional clues to understanding these situations.

When the ruler of the Ninth House is in the Eighth: We are seeing here an indication that one's philosophical and religious orientations will be the areas in life that will undergo the transformational processes always indicated by Eighth House positions. A person with the ruler of the Ninth in the Eighth will have to undergo a spiritual journey of self-discovery. What a great opportunity! Along the way, the individual may find herself traveling to far off places in body and/or mind. The obstacles or supports one finds through these travels will have much to do with the nature of the aspects that link this planet to the rest of the chart. A square or opposition from the Moon to this planet indicates that one has to overcome a lot in the way of family beliefs. A trine to Saturn could imply that one will encounter an older teacher and guide or that some traditional or orthodox beliefs can be most helpful.

When the ruler of the Tenth House is in the Eighth: When Eighth House influences in a horoscope are positive, the possibilities for regenerative and growth producing life situations are very present. In terms of the Tenth House, such positive placements give a person a tremendous boost where worldly standing and career are concerned. Look for such indications as the ruler of the Tenth in trine or sextile to the ruler of the Eighth or to Saturn, Pluto or the Sun to result in success. Such aspects also indicate that help comes in one's career through established and powerful figures. On the other hand, achievements are blocked and/or the road to worldly status and acclaim is thwarted if Saturn, Pluto or the Sun afflict the Tenth House ruler in this position or one of these planets is itself the ruler and afflicted.

When the ruler of the Eleventh House is in the Eighth: One's life path brings about strong shifts and crises in relationship to society in general and to certain friendships in particular. Yet such changes are not always easy ones. Uranus stimulates growth and individualization but only through revolutionary changes in our character! If positive, friends may be the source of additional financial revenue; when negative, friends may betray us financially (especially if Neptune is involved!). Our political or other group affiliations may change in ways that powerfully affect the course of our lives, bringing us into contact with different social connections. Look for Eleventh/Eighth House contacts to stimulate changes in our public roles, roles that force or encourage our social development.

When the ruler of the Twelfth House is in the Eighth: A most fascinating placement as it combines the energies of the two most esoteric houses of the horoscope. To the soul-centered, spiritually anchored individual, this combination can give a universality of feeling that makes no person a stranger. It helps us ride the "cloud of all knowable things" and come up with insights to life surprising others as well as ourselves. When positive, this position gives us powerful hidden resources that can be utilized for the good of many people. When negative and/or when expressed in the life of the psychologically or spiritually immature, this placement is the source of much difficulty. It can indicate an addiction to substances, people or activities that may do much to tear ourselves down and take us on a most degenerative track in life.

Primary meanings of the planets when placed in the Eighth House:

Sun: The solar disc in this house acts as a catalyst or transformer in all of life's situations. When positive, it indicates a person who can bring about enormous uplifting changes in any situation in which she finds herself. When negative, it points to an individual who can be a vehicle for chaos. The person is naturally aware of any resources, both financial and energetic in the lives of other's with whom she is in contact. Such resources can be used or abused, regenerated or degenerated depending on the individual's nature and character. Aspects between the Sun and the other planets will give clear indications of the direction of such individual power.

Moon: A person with this position is possessed of the type of sensitivity that allows one to perceive any changes and fluctuations in other people's emotions. It thus gives one the ability to "tune into" other people's feelings. This is especially the case if the Moon is in the watery signs. What one does with this sensitivity depends on the moral character and psychological maturity of the individual in question: some people will use this power for their own benefit, others to help people with their life problems. In all cases, the Moon in the Eighth links one's sexual nature very closely with one's emotional needs and psychological issues.

Mercury: The mind is like a searchlight probing into the depth of things, especially into how other people are thinking. There is a characteristic "spy mentality" that is associated with this position making it an excellent placement for investigative, laboratory, or even occult work. When positive, the individual can do much to change other people's ways of thinking for the better. When negative, a person with Mercury in the Eighth can be very mentally manipulative.

Venus: One can expect that personal relationships of a financial and/or romantic nature will be very important to a person with this planet/house combination. When positive, the individual can be a catalyst, helping people to overcome obstacles to their own self-worth and aiding others to make the most out of their natural resources. When negative, the individual may have the tendency to use other people's money or affections for selfish aims. In a broader context, this position places one in social situations that require change and transformation. Depending on the individual's character as well as Venus'

other planetary aspects, this placement indicates a person who can be of great service in bringing out the best in all social situations or one who uses personal magnetism for his or her own advantage.

Mars: Passion and sexual intensity are certainly increased when Mars occupies its own natural house position. If the individual is psychologically mature, this planet/house combination is most helpful for standing firm under any social crisis, helping people to find their way out of extremely complex situations. We must remember that when Mars is behaving himself, he is a brave and courageous leader and not the egocentric fanatic that he can be when he is on the wrong track! There is no other placement for Mars that can bring out either the best or the worst in his nature and character. When positive, Mars in the Eighth takes people to their next step in life; when negative, he is an abuser and manipulator.

Jupiter: Abundant financial benefits are likely if Jupiter is well aspected in this position, especially by Venus, the Sun or the ruler of the Eighth House. Such material benefits are augmented should Jupiter be in one of the earthy signs. When negatively placed, especially when square to Venus, the Moon, or the ruler of the Eighth, the squandering of one's own and especially, other people's resources is likely. From the philosophical perspective when positive, look for Jupiter to leave no stone unturned in the search for truth. When negative, he tends to negate other people's beliefs in the attempt to strengthen his own philosophical views.

Saturn: If afflicted, there is the tendency for sexual inhibitions as a person would tend to repress his or her natural sexual inclinations. In certain cases, especially if Saturn is afflicted by Pluto, Mars or Uranus, severe sexual problems are noted, linked particularly to cases of early sexual abuse by a parent or other authority figure. It may also indicate a person who uses sex as a means to control his or her relationships. When positive, Saturn in the Eighth indicates a person who is sexually modest and mature. It is also an indication of an individual who can structure mutual financial resources for continued growth and benefit. When negative in this sense, it points to fears surrounding money and/or the urge to control other people's finances for one's own benefit.

Uranus: This planet/house combination is a significator of a person with unusual or erratic sexual interests. At the very least, it points to a person who has a strong curiosity

about sex and the urge for sexual experimentation. If well placed, Uranus in the Eighth can give sudden financial windfalls. This may often occur through unexpected inheritances, partnerships (especially with friends, unless Uranus is the ruler of the Seventh and then such rewards can come through marriage as well) or through surprising gains in investments. When negative, upsets and losses occur in the financial situations mentioned above.

Neptune: There is a definite increase in psychic sensitivity and the intensity of one's dream life when Neptune occupies the Eighth House. Such abilities when positive can be very useful in healing and advising others. When negative, this type of psychism leads one into many false and illusionary directions that are harmful to both self and others. A poorly placed Neptune in the Eighth (or even a positive Neptune in the life of the psychologically immature) is also an indicator of difficulties that may come about through the misuse of alcohol or other drugs. Sexual misconduct and its resulting chaos is another consequence of the wrong use of Neptune in this house.

Pluto: As Pluto is the natural ruler of this house, this placement is a very powerful one. When positive, the individual is a natural born transformer for good, a source for healing and a vehicle for renewal and regeneration on all levels. The constructive dynamics of Pluto in this position make for an excellent psychologist, medical doctor, teacher, or any other profession in which one seeks to improve the lives of others. When negative, Pluto brings up all the powers of Hades and is a force for destruction and chaos, disintegration and degeneration. In this respect, it is a strong contributor to the tendency to manipulate and abuse people both financially and psychologically.