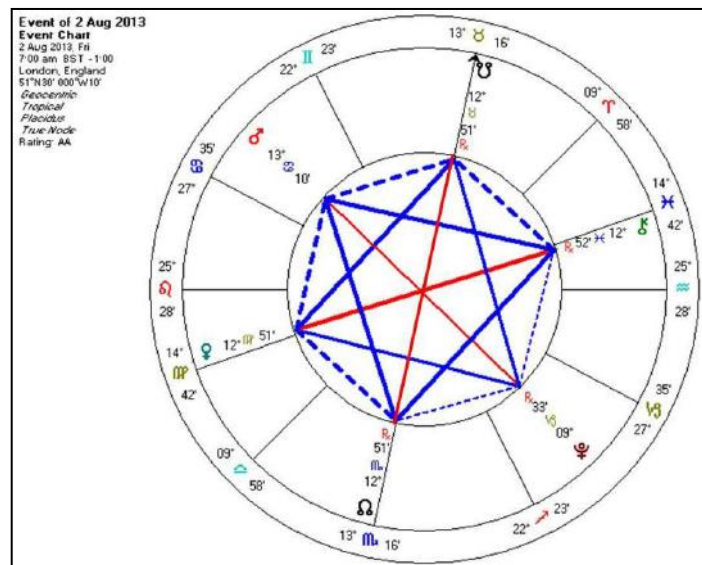


The Grand Sextile or Star of David – A Rare Occurrence in the Night Sky!

Aspect Patterns in a chart are always the first thing that “speaks” to me, when I start to delineate a chart. This could be because I’m a visual learner, I need to see things for them to make sense, maybe it could also be because I have so few in my own chart! When I was asked to talk at the VAA Last year, I decided to develop a presentation on special aspect patterns, because Mystic Rectangles have always fascinated me, and I seem to draw a lot of clients who have one featuring in their chart. Lo and behold a few weeks before my talk the Universe treated us to a rare and spectacular Grand Sextile by transit; bringing together two Grand Trines, three Oppositions, six Kites and no less than 3 Mystic Rectangles to form a rare Star of David pattern!

The harmonics of this pattern are very interesting. Trines with their harmonic of three cut the zodiac circle into three, being formed between points in the same element. In this instance we have two sets of three trines forming two Grand Trines, one in Water, the other in Earth. Whilst Grand Trines brings qualities of receiving and responding harmoniously, on their own they initiate little real pressure to act on the opportunities they present. Bil Tierney in *Dynamics of Aspect Analysis*¹, suggests “the ease with



which these energies involve flow and bring pleasurable outcomes can focus the individual unrealistically on personal satisfaction, at the expense of developing strength of character”. However the presence of a second Grand Trine, when it provides exact oppositions from an opposing element, brings into play much needed tension and initiation from the series of three oppositions it forms. An opposition with its harmonic of two cuts the chart circle in half, and always occurs between polar opposites, signs which have the same mode and positivity. For example Mars in Cancer opposite Pluto in Capricorn, Cardinal Water opposite Cardinal Earth, both cardinal in mode, and negative, or feminine, in quality. Oppositions teach us to face things from the opposite point of view in a manner that cannot be avoided. They give us no alternative but to transform and grow, and the harmonious aspects from the Grand Trines help us do this with more grace and ease. If you like they smooth out the hard corners! The three oppositions stimulate us to co-ordinate our talents and skills directing them outwards, rather than use them inwardly for self-centred activities.

In particular, in the case of a Grand Sextile formed from the receptive Earth and Water Grand Trines, the energy tends to work best when we are using our creativity to benefit the environment around us rather than for our own needs. It is best approached openly, in a co-operative manner, complementing the needs of others. Used to support the growth of a

social or humanitarian cause it can bring immense versatility, and enable us to optimally utilise the full range of our talents and skills. The current example involving the Nodal axis, brought a sense of moving more positively to resolve any emotional patterns brought forward from past lives, that were inhibiting us from reaching our true life purpose and potential. The Chiron to Venus opposition challenged us to love those we have been involved with through the mirror of relationship, throughout our lifetimes, to heal the wounds that may have existed, and take on a more spiritual and healing role ourselves towards society. Pluto making the third opposition to a merging of Mars and Jupiter's energy, brought incredible power for transformation and change, on a personal level, but even more so, when working to help bring about change in the collective. The key was around being totally honest and authentic and not using this power in an egotistical manner or to manipulate other people into self-centred schemes.

In addition to the oppositions galvanizing the Grand Trines into activity, each end of each opposition is linked back to a Grand Trine by two sextiles forming a Kite pattern. Whilst considered in the soft or easy aspect category with the trine, sextiles are far more likely to spur us into action. They are more explorative in nature, urging us to perceive things differently and making us eager to learn more about situations, try to reason them out. Their harmonic of six comes from multiplying three and two together, so it is compatible with both the trine and the opposition. In this instance they encourage us to reach out into the communal environment and understand more from our experiences. They make us curious about life! The apex point of the Kite where the two sextiles connect to the opposition, forms a funnel into which the creative energies from the Grand Trine can be focused. This is to say the six apex points of the Grand Trines, act as conductors for the energy each Grand Trine can generate, and link it together in a chain through the circle of six sextiles that form the Grand Sextile. There is abundant creativity here to be tapped into, but the talents have to be actively expressed.

The last pattern formation seen as part of a tight Grand Sextile is the Mystic Rectangle, formed around two oppositions, when they are 60 degrees or a sextile apart. This automatically produces a trine joining them on each of the other sides, and in the case of the Grand Sextile, one trine comes from one side of each of the Grand Trines. So the total harmonious energy from both Grand Trines is able to be focused through each of the three pairs of oppositions involved in the three Mystic Rectangles. Its more symmetrical form enables the energy to flow much more easily than in the case of the Kite.

Robert Hand, in his workshop "Dealing with Difficult Chart Combinations" before the last FAA Conference in Melbourne, made emphasis on the benefits brought through combinations of so called "hard" and "soft" aspects. I spoke to him afterwards about his opinion about the Mystic Rectangle. He felt the name given to it was rather curious, but that it was an extremely elegant combination of what he had been emphasizing. Single Mystical Rectangles of course occur much more frequently in the sky than the rather rare Grand Sextile.

David Cochrane has published interesting information on his website² around the frequency of Grand Sextiles occurring between 1900 and 2025. Using only the ten standard planets

used by astrologers, and a 5 degree maximum orb, his analysis using Sirius 1.3 gave only two occurrences, with a third just over a 6 degree orb:

March 31 1954 at 7.00 GMT (5°)

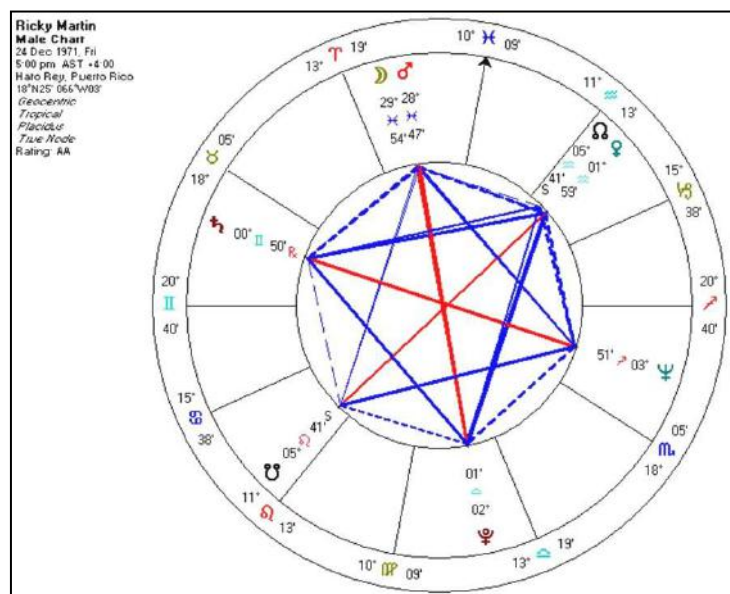
July 21 1995 at 21.00 GMT (6° 15')

July 29 2013 at 21.00 GMT (4° 55')

Obviously the addition of the Moon's Nodes and Chiron to the mix would increase the number of times this occurred. I also tend to work with a 6 orb for sextiles as recommended as used by Liz Greene on the AstroDienst website³.

So what influence does the Star of David or Grand Sextile bring to the birth potential of individuals born at these rare times?

When present in a natal chart the individual is able to have a beneficial charismatic influence over others and be seen to exert charisma and magnetism. The chart of Ricky Martin has a marginally disassociate Grand Sextile pattern, due to his Moon being 0.06 minutes out of sign from Aries. However he demonstrates its characteristics admirably. Following on from a stellar career in energetic performances involving both song and dance, he recently won the hearts of many Australians through his appearances on "the Voice". It was his eagerness to inspire and empower all the contestants, not just the ones he chose to mentor in his team, which won him popularity, over and above his handsome appearance and obvious personal talent. In Ricky's case the sextiles are in the positive elements of Air and Fire.



Sara Gilbert

1. Dynamics of Aspect Analysis – New Perceptions in Astrology by Bil Tierney published by CRCS Publications
2. <http://www.patterns.com/GrandSextiles.htm>
3. http://www.astro.com/astrology/in_aspect_e.htm

Sara's lecture on **May 3???** will also focus on the Grand Square aspect, and look at many examples of charts of famous individuals and clients exhibiting these more unusual patterns.