PSYCHOLOGICAL HOROSCOPE ANALYSIS

for

Joanne K. Rowling, born 31 July 1965
Psychological Horoscope Analysis
for
Joanne K. Rowling, born 31 July 1965
Nr. 6212.502-1

Astrological Interpretation and Text by Liz Greene
Programming by Alois Treindl
ASTROLOGICAL DATA USED FOR THE ANALYSIS:

name: Joanne K. Rowling (female)

birthdate: 31 July 1965
date: 2165
local time: 11:45
local time: 11:45
method: Liz Greene

place: Yate, ENG (UK)
local time: 10:45
place: Yate, ENG (UK)
houses: Placidus

long: 2w25
lat: 51n32
long: 2w25
lat: 51n32
sid. time: 07:10:43
sid. time: 07:10:43
20 November 2018

PLANETARY POSITIONS

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Planets at the end of a house are interpreted in the next house.

HOUSE POSITIONS

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MAJOR ASPECTS

Sun SQUARE Neptune 9°14
Sun SEXTILE Moon's Node 2°45
Moon SQUARE Jupiter 2°38
Moon OPPOSITION Saturn 3°20
Moon CONJUNCTION Uranus 6°47
Moon SEXTILE Neptune 2°27
Moon CONJUNCTION Pluto 4°55
Moon SQUARE Moon's Node 8°55
Mercury CONJUNCTION Venus 7°03
Venus OPPOSITION Saturn 9°17
Venus CONJUNCTION Pluto 4°52
Venus CONJUNCTION Pluto 7°43
Venus SQUARE Moon's Node 3°43
Mars TRINE Jupiter 4°35

Mars TRINE Moon's Node 6°58
Jupiter SQUARE Saturn 6°00
Jupiter SQUARE Uranus 9°25
Jupiter SQUARE Pluto 7°34
Saturn OPPOSITION Uranus 3°25
Saturn TRINE Neptune 0°53
Saturn OPPOSITION Pluto 1°33
Saturn SQUARE Moon's Node 5°33
Uranus SEXTILE Neptune 4°19
Uranus CONJUNCTION Pluto 7°16
Uranus SQUARE Moon's Node 2°08
Neptune SEXTILE Pluto 2°28
Pluto SQUARE Moon's Node 4°00
Mars CONJUNCTION Ascendant 5°17

Numbers indicate orb (deviation from the exact aspect angle).
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I. INTRODUCTION

Once upon a time, in a less scientific age than ours, astrology was a respected study, based on ancient and empirically compiled principles and used by the learned for greater insight not only into the future, but into the soul. With the coming of the Age of Enlightenment, and the increase in man's knowledge of the material universe, it seemed for a time that studies such as astrology, in company with other symbolic maps of the cosmos, had become anachronisms - pieces of superstitious nonsense which reflected a more ignorant and gullible era. But surprisingly, astrology, despite its detractors, has refused to go the way of the flat earth, the conjuring of demons, and the turning of lead into gold. It is alive and well, growing in popularity, and once again meriting the respect of intelligent minds - for it has been brought into the modern era through our increasing knowledge of psychology and of the inner nature of man. Subjected to many centuries of suppression and ridicule, astrology has outproven and outlasted its opponents, and eloquently demonstrates that it has something of great value to offer the modern individual seeking self-understanding.

In this horoscope analysis we have endeavoured, using the insights of astrology and psychology combined with the tools of advanced computer technology, to offer you an astrological portrait which is uniquely and individually focussed and which aims at providing greater self-knowledge. This is not fortune-telling astrology, but rather, psychological astrology, developed to as deep and sophisticated a level as is possible within the perimeters of computer interpretation. No computer can perform the task of an experienced human astrologer. But we think you will find this analysis a surprisingly profound and subtle interpretation of the complex dynamics at work within you.

Shakespeare once wrote that all the world is a stage, and all the men and women merely players. In a sense, your birth horoscope is a metaphor for the individual play, complete with stage set, cast of characters, and story, which lies at the core of your life journey. It might be useful for you to remember the metaphor of the theatre as you read through the various sections of your astrological portrait, because it can help you to understand the real meaning of fate as it is reflected by astrology. Fate does not lie in your being subjected to random pre-ordained events. It lies in the cast of characters which represent the deepest needs, conflicts and aspirations which lie within you. No person can be other than himself or herself; and every life experience, whether tiny and transient or major and transformative, reflects in some way the character of the individual.

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II. YOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL TYPE

The rich array of individual attributes portrayed in your birth horoscope is set, as it is with everyone, against the backdrop of a certain temperament bias. We might call this bias your psychological "type", for it is a typical or characteristic way of responding to the situations life brings you. No one begins life whole or perfect, and all people have certain areas of strength - sophisticated and well-adapted inner characters - to help them deal with challenges, conflicts and problems. Likewise, all people have certain areas of weakness - inner characters who are underdeveloped, neglected and troublesome.

Your psychological type does not remain static and unchanging through the whole of your life. There is something within all of us - whether we call it the unconscious, the Self, or the soul - which strives toward balance and completeness, and which tries to integrate into our lives all those qualities or inner characters which have been neglected or undervalued. At certain important junctures in life, it is as though some central core, deeper and wiser than the conscious "I", draws us into conflicts which enable us to develop our weak-
er areas, so that we can become more complete as human beings. Thus you will find that, incorporated in the following paragraphs about your psychological type, are some suggestions about how you might facilitate this inner movement toward a more balanced perspective on life. Life does this for us, sooner or later. But sometimes it is more rewarding and less problematic if we cooperate with the process.

The gifts of objectivity and civilised behaviour

You possess the gift of a clear, strong and objective mind, and you are a lover of truth and integrity in all your dealings. You will always favour reason over chaos, and principles over personal reactions. But there is considerable conflict within you - a dilemma between your rational, detached spirit and your intense and sometimes overpowering feeling. Another way of describing your nature might be to say that you tend to live in your head - because it seems safer, more civilised, and more "decent" - yet your heart often contradicts what your mind tells you you "ought" to feel, leaving you confused and vaguely guilty about "bad" or "selfish" reactions. Although you may not be an intellectual in the conventional sense of the word, you are naturally quick and articulate, and possess an impressive capacity to assess, weigh and analyse diverse facts and ideas objectively and fairly. This has probably earned you the reputation of being broad-minded, reflective, ethical and considerate of others' points of view. You are also an excellent planner and can transform chaos into order with the penetrating power of your mind. What you do not wish others to know about you, and what you often try to hide from yourself, is that your real feelings give you a completely different and much more subjective picture of life and of others - and these neglected feelings are often more genuinely perceptive than your usually reliable mind.

Objectivity struggles with the power of emotional needs

You tend sometimes to overvalue the gifts of the mind, and as a result you may betray your own needs and lose contact not only with what is right for you personally, but with what is right for others as well. Because you look at the general pattern, you are liable to miss essential needs in yourself which may vary from one situation to another. Your emotional nature is powerful, raw, and extremely sensitive; and it may periodically throw you into depressed moods, fits of inexplicable irritability or anger, or feelings of loneliness and melancholy which you are unable to analyse or explain. And you may also overlook another dimension of the realm of the heart which you fear so much: those mystical feelings of longing for letting go and experiencing a more infinite cosmos of love and serenity. Personal love and mystical longing lie close together within you, and if you can find the courage to balance your powerful mental abilities with a greater openness to your own humanity, you will find that intimate relationship opens doors of a deeper and more profound kind - not just love of one person, but love of people and of life itself. You have built a carefully controlled, detached and tolerant personality, and are adept at understanding another's perspective. But this outer surface is very fragile, and you must expend a considerable amount of energy preserving such a front when your real feelings are bubbling away underneath. Your assessment of your emotional life may be a distorted and overly negative one, and perhaps the parental values in which you were brought up have contributed to your harsh judgement on anything within you which is less than perfect or ideal. You will in the long run be far happier and more fulfilled if you can allow others to see and experience your great emotional sensitivity and depth.

One of the most creative methods which you might use to make better friends with your feelings is the willingness to give more time and space for their expression through channels which you know to be safe - such as writing, painting images of moods or emotional states, working with clay, ex-
pressing feelings through music or dance. These very personal pursuits, done for your understanding alone and not for the benefit of an audience, can help you to learn more about yourself, and also help you to see that your feelings are as important and valid as your ideas. Try to say no when you mean no, for the tyranny of "oughts" and "shoulds" over your real needs can only lead to an accumulation of resentment and anger at having to be a civilised and reasonable person all the time. You need to learn love and compassion for yourself first of all, for otherwise your humanitarian and democratic ideals cannot be grounded in your actual life. Because you always seek to understand things from the broadest and clearest perspective possible, you possess the unique ability to find meaning and sense in your own personal dilemmas which are relevant to others and to the human condition in general - and thus have a great gift to offer others, if you can learn to confront your own heart without fear.

Respect for reality enriches a clear mind

Your unusual mental abilities combine with realism and a sound appreciation of facts and of the ways of the world. Your mind does not fly off into realms of abstract theory and philosophy, but remains firmly grounded in reality, testing each concept against life as it is. You have well-developed organising abilities, great common sense, a careful, orderly and perhaps scientifically trained intellect, and a capacity to focus and concentrate your mental energy on obtainable goals so that you always produce results. You are a practical idealist, and are therefore powerful and effective in inaugurating new methods and procedures. You might do well in fields such as research, computer programming, sociology and medicine, and other spheres of life where your grasp of main principles combines with your ability to relate ideas to the limits of the concrete world.

However, your deepest dilemma in life remains the troublesome world of the emotions, and your common sense and realism may combine with your strongly emphasised rationality to make you intolerant of the importance of the inner world. You may be resistant to the value of anything that you cannot see or touch or analyse, and consequently you may ignore your feelings not only because they are threatening in their power, but because they are not objects which you can manipulate and control. Not only do you not take your own heart seriously enough; you also do not give enough room in your life for your imagination, and thus can begin to find that your brilliant mental world begins to feel sterile and meaningless. In order to form a better relationship with your turbulent unconscious feelings, you may need to offer more scope to the playful and childlike dimension of your imagination, so that difficult moods and emotions can be articulated in meaningful images. The night-world of dreams could provide a fruitful and fascinating path to your inner life. Try to take your eyes off the ground occasionally, so that you can discover that "inner" is just as real as "outer", and "subjective" just as valuable as "objective". When you can play as a child does, then you will be able to enjoy both the clear realm of facts and ideas that you love so much, and the dimension of life which offers you so many challenges yet promises so many rewards - the human heart.

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III. CHARACTER AND SHADOW

One of the most important insights gained by depth psychology has been the revelation that people are dual in nature, and contain a basic polarity of a conscious and an unconscious self. There is the individual you are familiar with - the "I" that thinks, feels and acts in accustomed ways which you identify as yourself. And there is another, hidden individual - the shadow-side - which contains the less acceptable and less developed aspects of your personality, and which fights for a valued place in your life at the same time that it disrupts the complacency of your self-image. The interplay between the conscious and unconscious sides of you is a constantly shifting dance, changing at different stages of your life and altering
A conflict between spiritual aspiration and attachment to the earth

There is a conflict within you between your senses and your intuitive feeling of a more meaningful reality which lies beyond the physical one. Because you are a practical person, and tend to be almost punctilious about mundane responsibilities and obligations, you probably spent quite a large portion of your early life expressing rather traditional values - perhaps holding together a family, raising children, or working at a relatively conventional job at which you were no doubt successful because of your natural tenacity, self-discipline and organising capacities. But it is likely that at some point in the past - or perhaps it is still in the future! - a growing sense of meaninglessness and emptiness became too noticeable for you to bury yourself further in worldly tasks. Thus, your quest is not for living. Underlying all your efforts is a kind of life, but is rather a kind of conversion - a revelation which has become the most important feature of your future. It is as though you have suddenly discovered what you have secretly sensed all along: that the apparent real world is a symbol and a testing ground for an essentially transpersonal reality which you perpetually strive to experience and to which you are determined to dedicate your considerable practical abilities.

You have a certain fondness for regular disciplines such as meditation, yoga, and rituals of prayer and worship, which reflect your need for structure and security combined with your striving toward the other-worldly. You also have a marked susceptibility to gurus and spiritual leaders, and will no doubt make a passage through several schools and esoteric systems - partially because you learn best through direct experience, and partially because you tend to lack trust in your own personal intuitive vision and are more inclined to believe in someone else's spiritual authority (at least for a while). Perhaps one of the keys to your fulfillment along the lines of your high aspirations is to give more credence to your own inner voice, which after all was the spark which set you on your path and which is no less insightful into the workings of the
divine than anyone else's. Thus you have a curious blend of natural spiritual longing and a species of conventionality that prevents you from straying very far off an already trodden path.

The longing to transcend material life

There is a quality of lostness and melancholy in you, a yearning to return to some other time, place or dimension which was once your home and which you long to rediscover. It is as though you always have one foot out of the door of concrete life, and one eye fixed on an ineffable something which is hard for you to articulate but which constitutes a large part of your drive toward offering some kind of meaningful service to others. To some extent this lostness springs from childhood experiences, for it is likely that you were exposed to some unresolvable sadness or sacrifice on the part of one or both parents; and you have grown up with a feeling that life is not a happy place and that the real meaning of it lies elsewhere. You are extremely responsive to the unhappiness of others, and have a certain self-sacrificial tendency which allies readily with your yearning for a divine reality in which you can lose yourself. You believe in "sacrificing the ego" in order to reach a more exalted state of consciousness, and are sometimes inclined to underestimate the importance of your own feelings and self-worth in your efforts to be acceptable in the eyes of that higher reality. Because you do not always give enough validity to your own being, you are particularly susceptible to the spiritual authority of others, and may need to learn to be more discriminating and less in love with giving yourself up. If you do not believe your "ego" to be worth anything, why should you imagine that God would think it worth anything either?

Faith in life's goodness and meaning provides resilience and humour

Despite your innate practicality, you are a natural philosopher. There is a youthful, playful spirit in you which is convinced that life is full of intelligent meaning if only you could read the codes, and full of lessons and spurs to growth which can be found even in the most difficult of circumstances. "There must be something I should be learning from this," is a common sentiment for you. In fact there is a curious and faintly perverse quality to your beliefs, where the harder something is, the better it is likely to be for you - as though God intends the best for you but makes sure that you must work extremely hard to find it. You have a unique blend of realism - which allows you to put up with all kinds of limitations and difficulties - and faith in what you see as the essential goodness of life - which allows you to turn problems into opportunities and to meet challenges with a spirit of optimism and buoyancy. You are quite wise about human nature, and love to give good advice, although you are bad at taking others' advice because you usually know better. You have the capability of being very successful in a worldly sense, yet it is probable that you do not bother that much - partly because you have a kind of natural good luck and a dislike of pressure, and partly because ultimately material rewards are not what you are really seeking anyway. You also have a constantly active and inquisitive mind which perpetually questions everything, and you are likely to be quite knowledgeable if not academically well-qualified simply because you find life interesting and worth studying - especially the world of human beliefs and aspirations.

The yearning for spiritual dedication leads to a desire to serve others

There is a strange passivity about you, and you sometimes give the impression of inhabiting a physical body and discharging your mundane responsibilities with care, but somehow not really living in this world. You are diffuse and inaccessible at times, as though your real personality were submerged beneath the water; for despite your practicality and natural sensuality, you seem to be beset by a powerful yearning to leave the world behind and withdraw into another, higher or deeper place. You might be able to express your inchoate longings in artistic form, such as paint or clay or music, for you have a valuable combination of self-discipline on the one hand and great imagination on the other. Whether you formulate your inner experi-
ences in spiritual or artistic terms, there is a curious quality of abstractedness about your personality. You keep wanting to go back home again - home being someplace other than concrete reality. Yet you are too pragmatic to ignore the world altogether, and tend to take on the task of looking after others because service is for you a natural way of expressing love. You are rather self-effacing and often do not demand your true worth in exchange for your efforts.

It is probable that your childhood was lonely, and that there were difficult undercurrents in your family background which overwhelmed you at times and left you confused and anxious. You are still sometimes confused and anxious, for you are highly sensitive to atmosphere and to the unspoken feelings and longings of the people around you - even to the psychic climate of a larger collective such as a city. The combination of natural openness to the unconscious, and a yearning toward some divine source in which you can lose yourself, makes you rather reclusive, despite your capable exterior; and this in turn emphasises the strange duality in which you live your life. Formulating your feelings artistically could help you considerably, for you are a sensitive, gifted and imaginative person with powerful desires, extremely self-willed and resentful at being thwarted in any way. You need to be careful not to use your idealism to escape from your own animal nature, for you will never be one of those pallid souls who can readily give things up because it never mattered that much anyway. Everything matters to you, particularly intimate relationships and the vitality of the erotic feelings within them. Perhaps you might consider that the senses are as valid a vessel for spiritual experience as the more fashionable disembodied states pursued by various esoteric schools and disciplines. For you, the path toward fulfillment must in some way blend and integrate your sensuality and your natural mysticism. You have a tendency to believe that you must sacrifice your desires largely because you are secretly afraid to live them and then discover that they have swept you away with their power. Violent self-abnegation will not ultimately satisfy you, for the drives of your instinctual nature will only cause you deep emotional

Discomfort with powerful passions reinforces the longing for higher reality

Spiritual aspiration is not the only reason you seek to withdraw from or transcend material reality through your dedication to an inner source. You are also very frightened of something - and this something lies within yourself. There is a dark and primitive dimension to your instinctual nature, and your sexual and emotional needs, as well as your drive toward power and control, are so potent that they sometimes seem to you to be overwhelming. You fear frustration, rejection and helplessness, for your childhood experiences have taught you about the less pleasant side of compulsive instinctual needs that are denied and then surface in more covert and more destructive ways. The whole domain of the instincts can therefore sometimes seem inimical to you, and you do not always appreciate the vitality and potency of your own sensual nature.

Thus your spirituality serves a dual purpose. It fulfills a very genuine desire in you to contact a divine source which embodies your highest values in life. And it also helps you to escape from dark and threatening feelings and needs which might lead you back to a childhood that was more difficult than you may realise, and toward a dimension of human experience which you do not feel very well equipped to handle. You will sooner or later need to confront this realm which you believe to be lower, for you will never wholly transcend it - the life of the body and the instincts is too strong in you. It is a great gift, if only you could see it, and provides the source for your considerable fund of compassion and inner strength.

Escape from turbulent emotions and instinctual needs

Your yearning for the spirit is extremely important for you; but you are also a highly sensual person with powerful desires, extremely self-willed and resentful at being thwarted in any way. You need to be careful not to use your idealism to escape from your own animal nature, for you will never be one of those pallid souls who can readily give things up because it never mattered that much anyway. Everything matters to you, particularly intimate relationships and the vitality of the erotic feelings within them. Perhaps you might consider that the senses are as valid a vessel for spiritual experience as the more fashionable disembodied states pursued by various esoteric schools and disciplines. For you, the path toward fulfillment must in some way blend and integrate your sensuality and your natural mysticism. You have a tendency to believe that you must sacrifice your desires largely because you are secretly afraid to live them and then discover that they have swept you away with their power. Violent self-abnegation will not ultimately satisfy you, for the drives of your instinctual nature will only cause you deep emotional
and physical distress if you suppress them, and will interfere with your reaching out toward any higher state of consciousness through attacks of depression and negativity. Try to be what you are, and have the courage to pursue a path which is individually suited to the vital and physically alive person that you are.

**A tense combination of earthiness and drive to transcend the earth**

Thus you incorporate within your complex nature two powerful extremes - a rich and vital sensual life, and a strong yearning for the divine which you seek to validate through service of some kind in material life. No doubt you will try many different ways and means of integrating these two poles of your character; but ultimately neither of them can be sacrificed without considerable cost to your personal happiness and well-being. Because you value tradition and structure, you are drawn to spiritual authorities and ideologies which seem to offer a well-marked path for you to follow. There is nothing wrong with this, and you may be fortunate enough to find a teacher or school in which you feel at home. But if you are too literal in interpreting the disciplines of such a path, then you will collide with your own instincts - which will inevitably oppose too much repression, and which demand a great deal of space and expression in your life. Even your love of material things - beautiful objects and the comfort which money can provide - is not mutually exclusive with a life of service to that spirit to which you are devoted; but you will need to be individual enough to accept your own apparent inconsistencies, and create a lifestyle which does justice to your sensual and emotional vitality as well as to your aspirations.

**Secret self-aggrandisement hides in the shadow**

In contrast to your strong inner commitment and your desire to serve what you perceive as a higher reality through helping others, there is another protagonist in your inner psychic drama. This figure contains all those qualities which you have had to exclude from your conscious values and behaviour so that you can live according to the high principles in which you believe. The essential qualities of your shadow-side are an intense self-centredness and a rather exhibitionistic preoccupation with your image in the eyes of others. Thus this hidden side of you is in direct contradiction to those more refined values toward which you aspire. Yet there is enormous vital life and energy in your shadow, and it is important that you find a way to include it in the framework of your everyday life. As the nursery rhyme says, all work and no play make Jack a dull boy, and you can sometimes be a little too heavily conscientious and good at the expense of your spontaneity and your sense of humour. If you repress this rather narcissistic shadow, you may find that it haunts you from outside and you mysteriously encounter it over and over again through people who seem to embody its qualities. You may also suffer from a kind of envious and resentful depression which erodes your faith and your efforts to offer help to others; for you are not helping yourself by denying such an important facet of your own personality.

**The hidden need to be adored by the audience**

Concern with a higher reality does not preclude your loving the adulation of the crowd which successful service provides you as a by-product. There is much of the actor or actress in you, for you have a secret fantasy of yourself as a kind of unique vessel for the divine word. Just as the ancient Greek actors saw themselves as the servants of the god Dionysos, mortal channels for the transmission of the divine intent, so you too secretly see yourself as someone through whom the transpersonal will flows in order to be manifested in external reality. Although your conscious personality does not usually evidence this kind of inflation and self-aggrandisement (normally you are a little too humble and understated and self-deprecating), your shadow-side behaves like a rowdy divine child, a visionary who is unique, superior, and set above the common herd which must be served as a kind of noblesse oblige.
In its most creative sense, your shadow-side contributes magnetism and charisma to your personality, and you attract people's trust easily because there really is something different, radiant and vital about you. But it is important that you are honest with yourself about your inner need for acclaim and the love of the audience; and you also need to learn to demand the appropriate dues financially for your practical efforts. Otherwise you run the risk of unconsciously identifying with a messianic role. Then the shadow will emerge covertly and your deep commitment to your definition of God becomes darkened by the problem of your hidden ambition and will to power over others. You would probably be happier pursuing a spiritual path which did not require too much abject humility, for then your highly individual style could be expressed without conflict with someone else's authority. But if you attempt to follow too narrow and self-effacing a road, or too autocratic an authority other than your own inner voice, envy and jealousy of others will work unconsciously within you and drive your frustrated shadow-side into seeking power through more manipulative and less attractive means.

The importance of recognising individual worth as well as spiritual ideas

Thus, in contrast to your high principles and your strong sense of responsibility to others, the shadow-side of your personality craves attention, adulation and power over others - which is really another way of saying love from others, on a global rather than an individual scale. You possess an intense and passionate nature which you do your best to suppress, believing it to be selfish and fearful that it will be unacceptable to others and ultimately to God. Therefore your greatest danger, with such a shadow-side, is the problem of envy, for what you do not have the courage to live in your own life you will resent in others who can live it. You may react to this problem of envy in several ways. One of the more typical responses is to invert it and then experience a regular sinking into feelings of inferiority and undermining of your sense of self-worth. Another typical expression is to be unconsciously critical and destructive to those showier folk who are not so afraid of being seen as selfish in the eyes of the world, by trying to make them feel small and somehow spiritually inferior to you. What you need is somewhere in your life where you can flaunt yourself a little - and where you can express your need to be noticed and admired without feeling so guilty about it. Perhaps, rather than damaging the higher goals toward which you aspire, this might even aid them - because you will be happier, and therefore more genuinely generous and able to give of yourself spontaneously rather than grudgingly.

Another pair of important characters

The characters described so far represent in their fundamental antagonism the main theme of your inner story. Besides these figures, there is another pair of conflicting figures indicated in your birth chart which are likely to be recognisable in your life. These figures are briefly described in the following paragraphs.

The longing for perfection

Beauty, order and perfection in everything - ideas, objects and human interchange - are for you a necessary part of life. You crave a neat, clean and well-organised environment, as well as neat and well-organised friends, lovers and partners; and if you could have your way, life itself would be neat, clean and well-organised, for you fear and dislike anything base, brutish and slovenly. Plato wrote that 95% of the cosmos was under the governorship of Reason, and an annoying and recalcitrant 5% under the dominance of Chaos. When you are confronted with the other 5% (which has a nasty tendency to creep in despite your efforts), you tend to either turn your back upon it and ignore it, or set about trying to clean it up.

You are likely to be attracted to beautiful philosophies as well as beautiful people, and need to believe in an ultimate order as well as in the potential for improvement. If you are an artist, you
will be dissatisfied with everything you produce, always striving for some flawless reflection of your immaculate inner vision; and even if you are not preoccupied with creative pursuits, but deal in numbers or technology or research (which become creative pursuits in your hands), you bring an artist's eye to everything you see, automatically measuring life against the picture held in your heart of what it could and should be if only someone could get rid of that 5%.

You do not like to dwell in the deep, dark places, and anything too primitive offends you unless it is in the form of an erotic encounter which contains its own form of beauty within the apparent coarseness. Although you are not a domineering person, you do not like being controlled by others, or by your own disruptive emotions, which occasionally have a way of breaking through the basement door and disturbing your orderly life. Life will one day challenge you on the issue of the overlooked 5% - the darkness and chaos which will always elude your understanding and your efforts at purification - for although order and beauty dominate your inner world, you, like all living things, are also part of nature, and therefore part animal. But even when confronted by this difficult issue, you will very likely handle yourself with a firm belief in reason and the ultimate triumph of sanity and balance.

Passions and instinctual needs in the shadow

In contrast to your subtle, refined and highly aesthetic nature, there is a hidden side in you which contains all those rougher qualities which you have excluded from your conscious values and behaviour in order to preserve the beauty, harmony and order of your lifestyle. This shadow-side is a good deal coarser than you are, full of raw passions, aggression and vitality. It is very difficult to combine such qualities with your stylised and cerebral approach to life, for you abhor anything crude and ugly. Yet no one, including you, can ever be perfect, and what you sometimes call ugly and unworthy may in fact contain qualities which you badly need. Your shadow-side can offer you a tough resilience that you sometimes lack because of your fragile and otherworldly sensitivity.

If you can allow this hidden side of yourself more freely into your ordinary life, you may find that you enjoy yourself much more. Perhaps more importantly, your shadow can offer you greater confidence in those spheres where you are inclined to feel awkward - your sexual expression and your physical worth. You are always trying to clean your psyche up and make it beautiful, and you might need to discover that the animal side of you has its own beauty and worth. It is very tiring to always behave as though you were standing on a marble plinth, and equally exhausting to turn your living psyche into geometric shape; and your shadow possesses the key to your capacity to relax and enjoy life, others and yourself as they are, flaws included.

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IV. THE FAMILY BACKGROUND

Family myths and psychological inheritance

Although you are an individual, you have emerged from a family background. A family is like a living organism, and it includes certain hereditary characteristics which have passed down through the generations. It also contains a particular set of psychological dynamics, an emotional climate which provides the first soil in which your nascent individuality took root in childhood. Thus you contain certain inner patterns, myths and attitudes toward life which you have acquired from the psychological soil of your family background. In other words, to return to our metaphor of the theatre, the characters in your inner drama are unique; but they carry a family inheritance.

Astrology cannot tell us about physical heredity. But it can tell us a great deal about psychological heredity, which runs through families in the same
way that red hair or blue eyes do. Psychological inheritance of deeply rooted attitudes often takes place on hidden, unconscious levels of which individual family members are unaware. Family myths move down the generations as surely as a distinctive facial structure does. An example of a family myth might be: "All the men in this family have been self-made and successful." Or, "All the women in this family have been disappointed by their men." Myths such as these do not need to be spoken, or even recognised, for they pass from one generation to the next via the unconscious, and they are communicated in a multitude of subtle, non-verbal ways. Thus the male child born into the family of "successful" men will inherit a particular set of expectations to which he will respond according to his own nature and his own inner characters. And the female child born into the family of "disappointed women" will inherit certain attitudes about relationships which will affect her later in life if she remains unaware of this inner script.

Because your family background is an integral part of your life story, it is reflected in your birth horoscope. Astrology can offer considerable helpful insight into this realm of life, for according to how conscious you are of the interplay between your own nature and your family inheritance, you will have more or less freedom of choice in life. Your parents themselves are also reflected in your horoscope, although they appear not as real three-dimensional people, but rather as images who embody a particular theme or set of attitudes. These parental images reflect how mother and father appear to you personally, how they operate as patterns within your own psyche, and how they support or conflict with the unfoldment of your own inner drama. The power of the family background should never be underestimated, for it is not the past. It is a living present within each of us. As the poet Rainer Maria Rilke once wrote: "Never believe fate is more than the condensation of childhood."

The image of the father in a woman's chart

Father is not only a real person. He is the symbol of an inner pattern or perspective through which you relate to life. The image of the father portrayed in your birth horoscope therefore describes three things.

Firstly, it is a subjective picture of the qualities you experienced as most dominant in your relationship with your father - or whoever played the role of father in your early life.

Secondly, it is a symbol of what the masculine represents to you, for your father was the first man in your life. He is therefore a powerful unconscious influence not only on what you seek in male partners and on how you relate to men in general, but also on how you express the masculine or goal-orientated side of your own personality.

Thirdly, it is a picture of your own inner father-qualities: how you order and structure your life, how you envisage and pursue your goals, how you express and direct your will, and how you formulate your ethical codes and ideals.

His psychological absence leads to sadness and confusion

The subjective image of your father which is portrayed in your birth horoscope is a mysterious and complex one. You did not know your father as a solid and supportive personality - either because he was physically absent, or because you experienced his personality as too withdrawn, weak, aloof or unhappy to allow you much access to his true feelings and character. In a sense, you have had to sacrifice a genuine close relationship with your father, and there lies somewhere within you a sad longing for what you feel you did not have, coupled with a strong tendency to idealise the psychologically absent parent into a mystical figure and justify his inaccessibility by blaming yourself. Thus there is likely to be much confusion within you about your own worth because of your early relationship with your father, and you tend in adult life to look secretly to others as the arbiters of your sense of self-value.
The longing for a father-surrogate

Because your experience of your father has been a poignant and disappointing one, there are many qualities which you have had to acquire through your own experience in life. Most importantly, your early sacrifice means that you will need to learn how to father yourself - to find inner resources which provide the necessary ambition, will and determination to actualise your potentials and accomplish something worthwhile with your talents. Because you did not experience a strong and solid model of the masculine principle in early life, you perpetually struggle against the tendency to drift along hoping that someone or something - perhaps a father-surrogate of some kind - will descend from the vault of heaven and provide you with the impetus and strength to achieve your goals. Such father-surrogates have inevitably proved disappointing to you, for your father-image offers you a challenge which you must meet with your own resources. In grappling with this problem, you will find that you can willingly relinquish your deep-seated melancholy and disappointment, and can begin to see your father as a sensitive and fallible human being rather than a semi-divine figure who has on some level abandoned you.

Then the more creative dimension of this father-image can come into play within you, for your early experience of your father can open many doors to balance your sense of disappointment. The longing which your physically or emotionally absent father has inspired in you is really your own yearning for a set of spiritual values by which you can live. Behind the idealised image of your personal father stands the divine father. Thus your sacrifice is a creative one according to the deeper meaning of the word - to "make sacred" - for through your mysteriously inaccessible father you have inherited a profound sensitivity to the transpersonal world, and may find as your life progresses that the father you are seeking is really available after all - in the vitality and boundlessness of your own imaginative and spiritual life.

The image of the mother in a woman's chart

Mother, like father, is not only a person. She is also the symbol of an essential principle in life, and of an inner dynamic or perspective through which we relate to life. The image of the mother which is portrayed in your birth horoscope therefore describes three things. Firstly, it is a subjective description of the qualities most dominant in your relationship with your mother. Many of these will be known to you, but some might be surprising, because they reflect not only her outer behaviour, but her inner life - that side of her which was unexpressed and therefore of great power in terms of its effects on you. Secondly, the mother-image in your horoscope is a portrait of what the feminine represents to you - how you relate to yourself as a woman, and how you experience other women. Thirdly, it is a picture of your own "maternal" qualities - your capacity to nurture and care for yourself and others, your sense of safety and trust in life's essential kindness, and your ability to flow with time and circumstances and to know instinctively when to wait and accept with wisdom the situations which life brings.

A figure of powerful emotional needs

The subjective image of your mother portrayed in your birth horoscope is a powerful and pervasive one. She was probably the dominant parent in terms of psychological influence in your childhood - even if she appeared the more submissive in outer behaviour. It is on the emotional level that your mother's power was rooted, and she had the capacity to influence the feeling atmosphere of your early life through moods and through what she did not, rather than she did, say and do. Whatever her behavioural inhibitions, she was probably at heart a passionate and emotionally demanding woman, capable of enormous loyalty and equally capable of enormous resentment if she was denied the emotional food she craved.
Unhappiness, frustration and resentment

There is much in this mother-image which is extremely creative, for it represents a richness and depth of feeling, and a great capacity for endurance and self-sacrifice in the face of disappointment, which lie within you and which give you immense inner strength and courage. The problem is that your mother was probably deeply unhappy and unsatisfied in her emotional needs, and she carried great resentment and even depression or despair inside her. The more this was masked, the more profound its effect on you, for you may have within you an inexplicable but deep mistrust of life and of love - particularly love in a committed relationship.

Probably your mother's marriage was a disappointment to her, and this has communicated itself to you as an unconscious expectation of grief, sadness and disappointment in any important emotional transaction with another, either your own or your partner's. You will need to look with honesty and compassion at this darker dimension of your mother, for otherwise you run the risk of bringing this inherited bitterness into your own relationships. You are prone to feeling resentful and aggrieved sometimes without real justification, while at the same time you may yourself avoid deep commitment because of the fear that you will wind up like your mother or that you will be devoured by a partner in the way your mother unconsciously fed off the members of her family to give her own life meaning.

If you can understand that deep feelings do not necessarily result in pain and frustration, and that your mother on some level best known to herself chose to remain in a situation which made her unhappy, then you can learn to trust your own powerful emotional needs. Your feeling nature is a gift, not a curse, and it will not immediately drag you into unhappiness if you learn to depend on another; and if you can separate your own life experience from the powerful image of your mother you can begin to draw from the positive dimensions of this quality which you share with her - strength of heart, and profound compassion for the pain of others.

There is still another image portrayed by your birth horoscope, which in certain ways conflicts with the experience of your mother described previously.

The hidden explosiveness of a trapped spirit

Your mother had a shadow-side which is quite different from the emotionally dependent and conventional person you may have consciously experienced in childhood. She also possessed a powerfully independent and original spirit, and in many ways was ahead of her time - for she probably needed a professional or creative outlet for her unusual ideas and her need for freedom from too many domestic ties. But it is likely that her values - springing from her own childhood - made it difficult for her to accept this side of herself, for expressing such an independent nature may have seemed to her selfish and bad. Thus she probably repressed it, and you have unconsciously inherited the tension, explosiveness, irritability and fear of being trapped which plagued her from within.

Balancing independence and emotional needs

You may need to be more conscious of this dimension of your mother, for you too possess a strong will and an independent spirit, and you will need to express it in a creative balance with your own desire for security and relationship. The experience of this dynamic unconscious side of your mother has left you with a certain inner anxiety - which may translate itself in your adult life as a fear of sudden change and disruption. You also fear being trapped as she was, and you can take your independence to extremes. This is the legacy of the atmosphere of suppressed tension in your childhood. Try to face honestly the complexity of your mother's character, for if you can see her own internal split then you will understand your own better - and will therefore be in a much better position to express the creative dimension of this original, inventive and freedom-loving quality without violating your need of emotional commitment.
There is still another image portrayed by your birth horoscope, which in certain ways conflicts with the experience of your mother described first.

A mother living through her daughter

However passive or undeveloped your mother may have seemed, she was far stronger than you have probably realised, and possessed considerable creative potential and individuality which, sadly, were never fully expressed. Because of this, she turned to her children to live out for her the meaning and success she missed, and therefore you no doubt meant everything to her - to the extent where you were expected to become a kind of vessel for her unlived life. This binds you closely to her in ways which you need to be more conscious of, for your talents and ambitions need to be lived according to your own values and your own sense of timing; yet you run the risk of feeling compulsively driven to achieve something great in the eyes of the world in order to redeem your mother's life and to feel worthwhile.

Unlived creative potential

You have inherited the distinctive individuality and creative power of your mother, although you may not yet have fully developed it; and you need to live this in your own highly unique way. Try to separate your goals from an unconscious identification with hers, for you may be placing too much importance on recognition in the eyes of others - the product of an early life where your existence became an extension of your mother's, and where her unlived creative drive focussed on you as her best creation. You are entitled to be an ordinary mortal, although something in your mother's unconscious wanted you to be semi-divine; and although your own considerable ambition is worthy of pursuing, it is not worth the cost of submerging your identity to become what others - and your mother - require of you.

The Parental Marriage

The relationship between your parents portrayed in your birth horoscope is an important symbol of your own internal model of male-female relationships. Just as you have inherited certain psychological patterns from your parents, so too you have inherited a set of attitudes toward love, partnership and emotional commitment. Also, the astrological portrait of the parental marriage is a symbol of the dynamic between the male and female sides of yourself - between the active, mental and spiritual dimension of your personality and the receptive, instinctual and emotional one. Thus the parental marriage is both a description of an inner image of relationship and a picture of your potential for integrating the opposite poles of your own personality.

The following portrait of your parents' marriage is thus meant to be understood as a subjective, and perhaps even unconscious, image of certain attitudes which you may bring into your adult relationships - and into your way of dealing with the complexities of your inner nature. It is not a judgement on your parents. It is an inclination toward a certain pattern in human relationship which, although probably enacted to some extent by your actual parents during the years of your childhood, is really a facet of your own inner drama.

Youthful vision versus conventionality

Your parents enacted a dynamic which might be best described, on its deepest level, as the conflict between freedom and commitment. Because the astrological image of your father embodies the qualities of an eternal youth, and that of your mother a more conventional, practical and possibly even self-sacrificial figure, your parents seem to have engaged in a struggle - not necessarily overtly expressed - which now takes place within you. The part of you which is like your father is reluctant to be bound to too many material or emotional responsibilities in the "real" world; and like your father, when too many demands are placed upon you, you often secretly wish you were someplace
else. For this side of you, life is full of unlived potentials; and too much structure means having to compromise or abandon the heady sense of physical, emotional or intellectual flight. But that part of you which is like your mother needs security, respectability and a guarantee of permanence which is the reward for patience, hard work and self-sacrifice.

V. RELATIONSHIP PATTERNS

Relationships are among the most mysterious, rewarding and frustrating of all human experiences. Both astrology and psychology teach us that nothing that occurs within a relationship is chance - neither its beginning, nor its fluctuations and conflicts, nor its ending. But astrology cannot say whether you are "fated" to have a good or a bad marriage, or whether you ought to be with a Cancer or a Sagittarius. Your birth horoscope describes what you are like inside, and therefore what kind of patterns, needs and compulsions you are likely to bring into your relationships with others. You cannot become somebody different, or send in your birth horoscope and request a new set of character. But you can be more or less conscious; and you always have the freedom to look at your own issues, to deal with needs which are your responsibility and not your partner's, and to respond to both joy and pain in creative ways.

The challenge of combining adventure and security

It is probable that your parents could not solve the conflict of values which lay between them, and you grew up watching the difficulties of a union of someone perpetually seeking security and someone perpetually seeking escape. It is also probable that you have unconsciously taken sides in this conflict, and that therefore you may have some problem in achieving a balance both in your relationships and in your inner life. If you identify with your father, then you will tend to feel trapped and suffocated by too firm a commitment to another person, and even by too concrete an expression of your creative ideas; but if you identify with your mother, you will tend to feel frightened, insecure and isolated without the conventional trappings of "normality" around you. Yet it is possible for you to integrate these two poles in a creative way, because you are in reality both of them, and combine within yourself a spirit of imagination and adventure with a capacity for loyalty and deep commitment. If you can refrain from taking sides, and can see that both perspectives are in themselves valid - regardless of how your parents behaved toward each other - then you will be able to perform the delicate task of integrating within yourself these two parental images which really represent your own creative potential and its capacity to be anchored in mundane reality.

The following paragraphs describe your attitudes, needs, and typical patterns in close relationships. This description is written about you in terms of your dealings with the man in your life. However, if you are involved in a close relationship with someone of your own sex, you will find that the same attitudes, needs and patterns still apply. Whatever your sexual tastes, you are yourself - and it is your inner nature which ultimately dictates the course of your love-life.

A conflict between spiritual aspiration and personal needs

Because your own nature is paradoxical, divided equally between your mystical aspirations and your need for material stability, your relationship life tends to be rather complicated. You are likely to make a relatively conventional kind of partnership in the early part of life, with someone who shares your desire for security and a comfortable home and family life. If you have made a partnership of this kind and it has endured through the many changes which have occurred within you, then you are likely to be faced with a deep dilemma; for the
more focussed you become on the transpersonal realm, the more likely you are to feel that you are leaving your partner behind. If your spiritual interests have developed in the latter part of your life, you run the risk of casting your partner in the role of the one who does not understand you and therefore holds you back; but the truth of it may be that it is your own innate conflict, and the more conservative and conventional voices within yourself, which make you uncomfortable about leaving the earth behind and aspiring toward heaven. It may be, too, that it is appropriate for you to pursue your inner journey alone, which does not necessarily mean that your relationship is "bad" or must be discarded. You have a tendency to project your own feelings of uncertainty on your partner, who may be reacting negatively to you not because he is incapable of understanding the invisible world you are trying to explore, but because you are being hostile in the way you communicate it. And it is very likely that you are shutting him out, rather than him shutting you out. A spiritual path is not mutually exclusive of a stable relationship; nor is it mutually exclusive of a partner who is more materially orientated in his concerns. After all, you want both, which is asking for a lot; and while you may get what you seek, you cannot expect everyone to walk the road with you at precisely your pace.

**Avoiding turning a partner into a guru**

There is another typical relationship pattern to which you are prone, and this is most likely if you have left a marriage or long-term relationship behind. Because it is the divine world you seek, and because you have a rather earthy and concrete way of seeing and approaching life, you are likely to project that divine world on a lover - an elusive and enigmatic man who seems to embody the spiritual qualities which you are striving to develop. Thus your love tends to become mixed with mystical longing, and you must be careful not to turn your partner into a guru who holds the key to the gates of heaven. It is possible that ultimately your relationship with what you define as God is something which you must find alone; and if you expect a partner to provide illumination or enlightenment for you, you may be sorely disappointed. A man with spiritual and creative interests might be a good companion for you, since you can share your dreams and aspirations with him; and he would benefit from your innate practicality. But try to separate the actual man from the mirror of your own spirit. They are not the same thing.

**A lack of trust in love**

There is considerable conflict hidden beneath your romantic image of relationship. You secretly have a deep fear of rejection, and you do not trust your man's love sufficiently to believe you can be happy without guarantees of some kind - emotional, material or verbal. Although some of the causes for this fear are related to experiences and values from your childhood, it is possible that you are not fully aware of how deeply you hold the conviction that love is unreliable without concrete demonstrations; and you therefore unconsciously expect emotional disappointment even if your material needs have been met. There are two typical patterns which you may find yourself enacting at various points in your life. You may go into a relationship with a man who is weaker than you, or seems "inferior" in some way - financially, intellectually, socially or creatively. Although such a partnership will usually prove disappointing, simply because you have not found a real match, it is safe - for your partner needs you more than you need him. A marriage of this kind may last for a lifetime, and yet remain, on some deep and unfathomable level, not a real marriage. You may also fall in love with a man who is in some way unavailable - either he is married to someone else, or lives far away, or because he himself is emotionally unable to make a commitment, although this is no fault of yours. You would benefit from facing your fears and understanding that the past does not always repeat itself in the future; and that if, once upon a time, you were not loved enough, this does not mean you are unlovable.
A need for unpredictability

Although you seem to want continuity and security in your relationship life, there is a rather disruptive quality in you which has a way of generating precisely the opposite situation. You are not quite as domestic and monogamous as you might appear, and need more change and freedom than you are usually able to ask for. Perhaps you do not even know you want it. But if you cannot face and live out some of this more independent side of yourself, you may unconsciously choose men who embody it, and who coerce you into having that space by demanding it themselves. Needing space and freedom does not necessarily mean having many lovers; but it means you need to have interests, activities and friendships which are wholly your own. It also means that you may need some rather unusual living arrangements - like separate rooms, or separate halves of a house, or travelling which takes you away from home occasionally - if you are contemplating a marriage or a permanent living arrangement with a partner. In short, something in you needs unpredictability in your personal life, and it is best to be aware of this and to ask for it in harmless ways, rather than repressing it until your man begins to behave unpredictably and thereby forces you into accepting disruption against your conscious wishes. Try not to be frightened by this volatile quality within you. It is not incompatible with a good and stable relationship. But it is incompatible with a stereotyped one that might have been the social model fifty years ago.

Hidden undercurrents beneath the surface of love

Things seem to happen to you in your personal life over which you appear to have no control, and which cause you deep unhappiness or frustration. Whether you have experienced loss or separation that has been forced upon you, or tend to become involved with men who are far more difficult and complicated than you expect, it is important that you understand the complex nature of your own needs in love; for you sometimes have an overly naive or simplistic view of relationship. Something in you craves an experience of depth and transformation through love which is not generally included in conventional definitions of the subject; and in spite of yourself you are fascinated by deep men who have had to struggle in life and who will challenge you and force you into exploring the hidden undercurrents that are at work beneath the surface of any partnership. In short, you need to become more aware of the unconscious dimension of love, which is the stuff of Russian novels and Greek tragedy, and is full of darker and more primitive emotions such as hatred, possession, envy and the desire to have power over the loved one. These more primitive facets of the human heart are not pathological; but they are certainly not part of the fairy-tale model of living happily ever after, nor part of any high-minded sociological vision which does not take the bestial dimension of human passions into account. You have great depth to your feelings, and your love is not always nice, kind, conventional or altruistic. If you cannot face and express some of these rich facets of yourself, you may unconsciously choose men who act them out for you - and who wind up causing you pain. Try to be more subtle and sophisticated both in your definitions of love and in the kind of relationships you create in your life. You will not find a model for the sort of partnership you need in a ladies' magazine or a political tract.

VI. PATHS TOWARD INTEGRATION

As you have seen from the preceding pages, your birth horoscope offers a detailed and in-depth portrait of many aspects of your life. It is also possible to step further back from the horoscope, and to use the faculties of a telescope rather than a microscope - so that an overview of the play comes into focus. The following provide also some suggestions of ways in which conscious effort might make it possible for you to achieve greater harmony between the different components within...
yourself, and to strengthen that centre of the personality which psychology calls the ego, the "I". Free will may not include the possibility of becoming somebody else. But it might include the ability to stand firmly at the centre of your horoscope and feel related to the different aspects of your psyche, rather than wandering about blindly, feeling impotent and victimised by conflicting cross-currents and impulses from within yourself and from the world outside. Two people may have certain astrophysical configurations which are similar, but one might be buffeted by his or her inner demons like a rudderless small boat tossed on a difficult sea; while the other individual remains somehow solid and real as a person and can therefore navigate the boat intelligently through the ocean's changing currents.

The need for high professional aims

Your fulfillment in life can only come from your taking up the challenge of making your mark on the world. There is considerable ambition in you, and this could work as a powerful goad to drive you into making the maximum use of your talents to achieve success. You need to feel that you have risen above the background into which you were born, and that you will be able to leave behind you some permanent contribution which has earned you respect and recognition from your colleagues if not from a larger public. You have a deep desire for validation from a circle wider than your family and friends; and you will not obliterative this desire by hiding behind the light of a successful partner, or pretending that such things do not matter to you. They do. You need to feel that you are serving the collective through expressing your own individual gifts.

You have a deep belief that there is something important and meaningful that you can contribute to improve at least a little corner of the world, and your belief is a true one. Try not to be frightened of your ambitions, because although there is certainly an egocentric element to anyone's desire for acclaim, it is not mutually exclusive of a genuinely humanitarian concern with making the world a better place; and this egocentricity may be a necessary ingredient to get you moving. You could never pursue recognition for its own sake. But you might do it if you felt that ultimately others would benefit. And they would.

The more energy you put into building a vocation which can earn you a place in the limelight, the more you will satisfy your inner sense of a unique destiny. It might be argued that, because you want recognition for narcissistic reasons, you have fantasised a special destiny. But it might be equally true to suggest that you do indeed have a task to perform in the world; and until you discover it and discharge this obligation to your own soul, you will not find any real sense of meaning and purpose to your life.

Developing confidence in self-expression

There is one area of life where any effort to develop yourself will always result in an increased feeling of strength and self-respect, because this is the sphere of both your greatest anxiety and, paradoxically, your greatest potential. Whatever you do, you need to do it according to your own vision, style and taste. In other words, you need to find the courage to express the whole of yourself - facing your natural shyness, your fear that you will be mocked or ridiculed, and your deep conviction that what you have to offer cannot possibly be as interesting as the creative contributions of others. If you can make this effort as much as possible, even in the midst of anxiety and discomfort, you will discover that your confidence and faith in yourself grow considerably each time you try - even if you do not always succeed the first time around.

Thus one of your great fears - of expressing your individuality and having it rejected or ridiculed - can become the indestructible base from which you launch your talents to achieve the recognition you seek. For in taking the risk of offering what is truly your own rather than what is borrowed or safe, and in subsequently finding that you can survive disappointment and public criticism, you will learn that only when you are true to your own vision do
you feel most alive, most fulfilled and most in touch with a sense that your life has meaning and worth.