Grand Configurations - Making Sense of Attitudes and Behaviors

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You know them; you have seen them. These combinations of planetary relationships that form unique chart structures. Grand configurations are very important in client work for they indicate not only central personality themes, by way of connections to house rulers and dispositor chains. Together we will explore and discover integrating the many facets of the personality.

**Grand configurations are:**
- Combinations of planetary relationships that form unique and dynamic chart structures.
- Grand configurations are very important in client work for they indicate central personality themes.
- They connect many areas of a chart and are ever present in our life.
- Knowing how to piece these configurations together in interpretation takes practice in discovering all their connections, possible manifestations, and actions.

**Central Personality Themes**
As an astrologer, a central theme in a chart becomes important to understand because:
1. Central themes are unifying elements of a person’s life story. A central theme can appear as a dominant impression or the universal truth found in a person’s life story.
2. Central themes reflect the discoveries, emotions, conflicts, and experiences of a person’s life.
3. Central themes provide a basis by which a person can grasp, develop, and shape their own unfolding destiny.
4. Central themes repeat the same message and lessons many times in a life. These repetitions allow for personal and social growth and are revisited when transiting, progressed, or solar arc planets connect.

In reviewing a chart, ask yourself, “What planetary connections, aspects, and house rulerships are involved”?

**First Step:** Dissect aspect meanings
1. List the aspects in the configuration.
2. Look at each aspect within the configuration separately.
3. Gain an understanding of the energies.

Think and feel through each aspect. Energies are dynamic and play off each other constantly in many ways.

**Second Step:** Find planet chart connections and rulerships
1. What house (attitude) does each planet (behavior) rule?
2. These houses show us the area of life where the planets will express themselves.
3. The energy of the planetary configuration will affect and demonstrate where the central theme will play out.

These areas of life become the attitudes and the central theme attitudes carried in life to be worked and experienced.
Defining or knowing how a grand configuration will manifest or play out is dependent on the combining geometric angles and their harmonic energies. It’s all well and good to read the literature on these configurations to get an idea how these combinations act. But one must remember grand configurations are taken in the context of the whole natal chart.

Geometry is explicit; a circle (chart) contains $360^\circ$. To make a grand configuration, the sum of connecting planetary angles must equal $360^\circ$. This is not true of a conjunction. A conjunction is $0^\circ$ and therefore is not an angle. The use of “orbs” allows for a range of planetary energy influence.

**Common and not so common grand configurations:**

Stellium – Four or more planets in conjunction

Grand Sextile – Six successive sextiles between planets

Grand Cross/Grand Square – At least four planets in successive squares (4 squares and two oppositions)

T-Square – Two planets in opposition with a third planet at their midpoint (third planet squares the other two).

Grand Trine – At least three planets in successive trines to each other.

Yod – Involves three planets, two of which are sextile to each other and a third planet if quincunx each of the sextile planets.

Kite – this involves four planets, three of which are in a grand trine and there is a fourth planet that is in opposition to one of the other planets in the grand trine. In this configuration you have a grand trine, an opposition, and two sextiles

Mystic Rectangle - is comprised of two opposition aspects, connected with two trine and two sextile aspects.

Grand Sextile (Star of David) – a configuration of aspects formed when two Grand Trines are present in a horoscope, connected with each other by sextiles. Appears as a hexagon.

Wreath (Pentagram) – a configuration of aspects formed by five points of a horoscope, uniformly connected by five quintiles, and by bi-quintiles. Figures of this pattern in the natal chart look like a pentagram.

Envelope – a configuration of aspects formed by four points of a horoscope: each point is in quintile to one point, in sesqui-quintile (tredecile) to another, and in opposition to the third.

Trapeze – a configuration of aspects formed when four points of a horoscope are uniformly connected by three sextiles, with the first and last points in opposition.