UAC 2018 Unseen Side of Relationship

We’re going to talk a little about astrology, relationships including marriage, and dark lovers; those people to whom we are drawn that we know are no good for us.

Itinerary

How many of you have a junk drawer at home?
How about a closet where stuff ends up and really needs cleaning out?
How about a basement or room that you prefer guests don’t see?
So we all have secrets don’t we, sometimes embarrassing and dark secrets that we don’t easily share with others, not just about stuff in our rooms that we don’t want people to see but also about people in our lives.

Classically it’s been said that women love the bad boys. What does that mean for you? How many of you are willing to say whether or not you’ve experienced this kind of relationship? Some of these relationships carry a strong hint of foreboding or a whiff of danger. Some can leave us feeling ripped off, perhaps feeling stalked by an ex, and/or emotionally torn apart.

For men, we sometimes answer the seductive song of the sultry siren and abandon our established life, everything that has anchored us, and pursue this goddess embodied to who knows where.

And I will assume that these relational difficulties also apply in the LGBT community as this is a human problem.

I hope today helps in gaining a deeper understanding of these attractions and their hidden blessing despite their having been problematic in our experience.
The birth chart is not only a literal map of the sky showing where the planets in the solar system were at the originating moment when we emerged out of the world but is also, an image disclosing the hidden architecture of a temporary moment that echoes throughout a life. One of the things that a chart reflects is our likely attitudes about relationship, the kinds of people we are drawn to, and what is it that we are seeking in relationship? Plato thought we were seeking completion. In his Symposium, he tells the story of the original humans who were joined back to back as a round being. Because of human’s strength and rebelliousness, Zeus cut them in two and so they eternally seek for their other half, their original wholeness.

Relationship, especially marriage, is a mine field; we are pushed and pulled in so many directions, so many fantasies, so many sudden attractions and stressful demands, so much boredom, the occasional excitement, the chase for security, romance, disappointments and triumphs. Marriage can be a chalice of transformation that challenges us to hone our skills for interacting with others in truly authentic and intimate ways and help us recognize parts of experience that we normally ignore or keep out of view.

Carl Jung, noted that for him, “The psychological rule is that when an inner situation is not made conscious, it happens outside as fate.” In other words, we can say that our relationships manifest the unacknowledged business within ourselves. Jung also gave us the word, ‘shadow’ to denote the unwanted baggage of our persons constituted by our inferiorities, carrying an emotional charge, having an obsessive-possessive quality, and possessing autonomy. I’m not fond of the word shadow as it’s overused and seems to have taken an exclusively negative cast in our culture. Perhaps we can refer to this darkness as our shade, a word carrying a more neutral connotation. Shade can be something protective, cooling, and beneficial as well as referring to the wandering denizens of Hades.
Because we are not prone to affirming impulses, thoughts, wishes, and shameful, under-socialized behaviors that we find undesirable, this baggage has a tendency to fall into the shade and are likely to be carried by others in our lives. Say for instance that you are the kind of person who abhors aggressive, pushy people and you yourself prefer to act in a cooperative and diplomatic fashion. You may find that you frequently attract the kind of people that you dislike. This is shade material which Jung believed could only be realized through relationship. One classic example of this is “The Odd Couple.”

These unwanted qualities according to Jung are “the thing a person has no wish to be” so all that is disliked, repulsive, and twisted within us lodges in this Otherworld. Evil gets located there as do devils and demons.

When we try to muzzle, control, or incarcerate our undesirable and less attractive features we face the moral dilemma and archetypal split of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Bruce Banner and the Hulk, Beauty and the Beast, and Dorian Gray with his ever shifting darkening portrait.

My imagining of the chart is that it is an image of psyche or soul. We do not have a chart, we are a chart, the chart is a reflection, an image that mirrors our interiority, while at the same time expressing that we are images of a larger cosmos. Though many astrologers believe the chart is to be overcome, mastered, or fulfilled, my own POV is that the chart is to be plumbed, fathomed, imagined, and entered into as one would a sacred pool. As a soul image, borrowing from the 4th century Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, “You could not discover the limits of soul even if you traveled every road to do so; such is the depth of its meaning.” One
can always revisit and draw deeply from the chart; it is a bottomless well of ever fresh insighting.

The chart is a gestalt; a configural totality so unified as a whole that its properties cannot be derived from a simple summation of its parts.

Similarly, our lives appear to be wholes within wholes, within wholes though often we feel alone, alienated, and fractured within our relations. Bringing awareness to these distinct but not separate areas of our lives, by discerning these figures in the Otherworld is part of the role of astrology.

Where will we find shade in the chart? Any number of places but our focus today will be upon the 7th house, the planets within the 7th house, and planets challenging Venus, planet of Love. Additionally….

So what are the 1st and 7th houses referencing? (Persona)

The chart includes both our inscape and our landscape. We experience life both from the inside (experience) and the outside (events). The 7th house paradoxically configures both us and Other. We are drawn to certain people who express our longing and also drawn to that of which we are unaware and often dislike most in others and triggers a strong affective reaction within us is likely to be a disidentified quality. With the 7th house, we can look at the qualities of the sign on the cusp and any planets domiciled there.
The Self/Other polarity is a yin and yang dynamic or magnetic north and south, it is the wholeness of which we are part. Self is in the foreground and Other is generally in the background. It is likely that the more strongly we identify with our ASC, the more easily we meet and are drawn or repulsed by the qualities of the DESC in the Otherness of the world. In order to close or complete this gestalt, the unity of organism/environment, it does not require that we master the planets or the sign on the cusp of the 7th. Others may always express those factors of which we are disidentified or unskilled in managing. What may be important is that the person becomes aware, affirms, and learns to appreciate those qualities and functions that she may both disdain and desire and are in a dynamic ever shifting figure/ground relationship.

Let us look at the 6 pairs of signs imagining each dyad on the Self/Other axis. If you familiar with any of the following rising sign difficulties and have a real life example to offer, please do.

**Aries/Libra**

Aries rising with its orientation toward being assertive, competitive, direct, impulsive, spontaneous, decisive, fearless, and impatient.

Has difficulty claiming the Libran qualities of being relational, cooperative, compliant, collaborative, diplomatic, tactful, considerate, fair and balanced that are in the background i.e., to be found in others.
**Taurus/Scorpio**

Taurus rising with its orientation toward being calm, placid, stable, reliable, conservative, patient, steadfast, comfortable and pleasure seeking.

Has difficulty admitting the Scorpionic qualities of being intensely passionate, provocative, erotic, penetrating, deep, destabilizing, transformative, dramatic, and power-oriented.

**Gemini/Sagittarius**

Gemini rising is oriented toward curiosity, immediacy, amorality, restlessness, versatility, superficiality, scatteredness, clever, witty, endless fact gathering and studiousness.

Finding a place for the Sagittarian qualities that establish frameworks of meaning for the facts, (morals and philosophy) for being visionary, for planning ahead, seeing the big picture, knowing when to stop and teach, preach, promote, and disseminate.

**Cancer/Capricorn**

Cancer rising is oriented around being tender, emotionally warm, nourishing, caring, gentle, protective, nurturing, sensitive, responsive, and unconditionally accepting.

Has difficulty owning the Capricornian qualities of conditional acceptance, being judgmental, setting standards, exacting, disciplined, reserved, rigid, perfectionistic, ambitious, and prudent.

**Leo/Aquarius**
A Leo Asc. is oriented toward being special, creative, expressive, fiery, showy, egocentric, boastful, dramatic, prideful, confident, and playful.

There may be difficulty honoring the Aquarian qualities of just being a face in the crowd, part of the group, democratic, freedom loving, aloof, detached, unusual, impersonal, and shocking.

**Virgo/Pisces**

Virgo rising is oriented toward precision, competence, discriminating, improvement, utility, and looks at the world as needing to run more efficiently, to be made better through critical assessment, and detailed analysis.

It finds it hard to imagine Piscean inclusiveness, compassion, mushiness, complacency, vacillation, laissez faire, and go with the flow, escapist attitudes.

We can also reverse these to examine Aries on the 7th, then Taurus, Gemini, etc.

**Libra rising** with Aries on the 7th exemplifies the qualities of being relational, cooperative, compliant, collaborative, diplomatic, tactful, considerate, deferential, fair and balanced.

Difficulty affirming being assertive, me first attitude, competitive, direct, impulsive, decisive, spontaneous, and impatient.

**Scorpio** reflects being passionate, intense, provocative, erotic, penetrating, deep, transformative, dramatic, and power-oriented.

Difficulty incorporating a sense of calm, stability, reliability, patience, steadfastness, and just being placid.
Sagittarius wants wanderlust, travel, teaching, preaching, making meaning (morals and philosophy), being visionary, making pronouncements, grand plans, seeing the big picture, finding that the grass is greener elsewhere.

It may have a problem owning the trivial, superficial, restlessness, scatteredness, and endless curiosity, fact gathering, and cataloguing.

Capricorn wants to organize, structure, give form to, and control. It is exacting, ambitious, and seeking perfection. It is disciplined, reserved, formal, and prudent.

It has great difficulty with unconditional, non-judgmental, acceptance of others and doesn’t grasp wanting to nourish, express caring, nurturing, sensitivity, and responsiveness.

Aquarius wants to be part of the group, democratic, freedom loving, easily gathers perspective, innovative, progressive, and liberal.

It may have problems with the Leo qualities of wanting to feel special, showy, egocentric, dramatic, prideful, being in the spotlight, and entitled.

Pisces rising is sensitive, delicate, compassionate, romantic, poetic, imaginative, and retiring.

It has trouble with Virgo’s dynamic to involve itself and serve in a pragmatic fashion, seeking self-improvement to function competently, efficiently, and able to manage the world.
Of course, any planets in the 7th can have a sense of Otherness and autonomy about them. We recognize them in others yet occasionally their expressiveness can erupt out of our own unsettled ground frequently in the context of complaints about the relationship. To the degree that we are unable to embrace these Otherworld figures is the degree to which we may find stress and discomfort.

Sympathetic resonance

Sun - It may be difficult to feel like an independent whole person without a partner in their life. The partner may carry all the shine in the relationship and stand in the spotlight for the couple.

Darkness becomes visible when the person accuses the partner of being too self-centered, too childish, always demanding attention, clamoring for praise.

Moon…. It may be difficult to be in touch with their feeling life without a partner. They seek emotional security and nurturing, wanting to be cared for by the partner.

The dark side appears when the person accuses the partner of being too dependent, too clinging, insecure and moody, always needing the person to lead the way.

Mercury….The person will find themselves attracted to partners who may be witty, clever, curious, and intelligent. Sometimes a partner who can handle every day problems with competence, efficiency and with a keen eye for what needs to be done.

Tiny devils gather when the person starts to complain about the partner being too critical or intrusive, or a know it all who just chatters on all the time about trivial matters.
**Venus**…This person will be attracted to a partner who exhibits beauty, sensuousness, and social desirability. Someone who expresses the social graces, mannerly and tuned in to other’s needs.

Disappointment arises when the person charges the partner with being flirtatious, a people pleaser, not standing up for oneself, overly accommodating and too conciliatory.

**Mars**…The person may seek a partner who comes across as confident, bold, decisive, assertive, energetic, heroic, and dynamic.

Difficulties can be found when the person complains to the partner of insensitivity, impatience, touchiness, selfishness, domineering, being pushy, hot headed, and always on the go.

**Jupiter**….The person may be attracted to partners who seem wise and cultured, philosophical and/or religious, a morally upright partner who is optimistic and enthusiastic perhaps an outdoors person or someone who loves to travel.

The underside is revealed when the person complains that the partner is too preachy, pompous, dogmatic, hypocritical, restless, or given to exaggeration, with commitment difficulties.

**Saturn**….Suggests that the person will be attracted to someone with status and authority, who is responsible, well organized, serious, disciplined, reliable, hard working, punctual, goal oriented, and manages life well.

The scene darkens when the person complains that the partner is an old stick in the mud, lacking excitement, and playfulness, never wanting to have fun, perhaps too demanding, critical, and miserly.
Uranus…. The person may be drawn to the liberal, humanitarian, inventive, avant-garde, socially involved, cutting edge partner who will carry these progressive qualities for the person.

The Otherworld begins to peek out when the person complains that the partner is detached and distant, more involved with causes than intimacy, always agitating, inconstant in affection, and undermining the relationship.

Neptune…. The person is drawn to the romantic, the poet, the musician, the monk, the dreamer, the visionary - compassionate, empathic, imaginative, devoted, and forgiving.

Darkness seeps in when the person starts to complain about the big dreams and no results of the partner, of passivity, apathy, being unrealistic, impractical, drinking too much, and escapist behavior.

Pluto… The classic bad boy attraction - someone who is slightly dangerous, mysterious, out of the ordinary, reckless, powerful, lives by their own rules, living on the wild side.

Shadow emerges when the person complains that the partner is dominating, possessive, jealous, and controlling, perhaps uncaring, untrusting, and overly suspicious.

Now I also mentioned that we might want to pay attention to challenging aspects to the planet of love, sex, and relatedness, Venus.

Saturn – may seek partners with status and authority who are emotionally restrained.
Uranus – may draw partners who are erratic in giving affection, detached or poorly committed.

Neptune – may be drawn to dysfunctional partners whom they can rescue or save.

Pluto – Seeking drama, excitement, passion, and may wish to remake their partners.

Houses preceding those of Identity can be looked at for qualities left out of our awareness.

– The elements in the chart
– The modalities
– The orientation
– and the Outer Planet transits.

Is it easy working with these Invisibles? Not in the least, nor is it easily apparent to us, because they sit outside of our awareness and are as complicated as the chart is deep and as complex as the person. We are enigmatic creatures and relationships are one of the deep mysteries of being human.

How might you approach this Otherworld on your own?

Here is a process that is essentially a process of the interpersonal signs; Leo, Virgo, Libra, and Scorpio.

You begin with Leo; which you might imagine as your own sense of enclosed identity.
Virgo - Then, focus upon three things about your partner that you either hate or drive you crazy. List them; write about each one in exquisite detail. What bothers you about it, how is it troubling, what would it be like for you if it disappeared from your life or conversely, became a constant companion?

Libra - You can further engage this shade material by making it a partner, personifying it in a way that makes sense to you; maybe it’s a critical parent, or a dark stranger, or a controlling lover, or a needy child or a smothering spouse; whatever works for you. Have an imaginary dialogue with it, write down or record your conversations, what does it want? How can you help?

Scorpio - After engagement, we want intimacy, to deepen the relationship, to affirm it, to honor it. Do not try to change it, bring it into awareness. If it’s an angry darkness, get closer to the anger, into feeling angry without endangering anyone. If it’s childish, be childish for a short period of time. If it is very formal and uptight, become formal and uptight, if it’s free spirited, be free spirited for a half hour. The point is to experience those qualities which you disdain, become familiar with it without having to act it out unawares. Try on its awareness, its style, attitude, and feeling tone, hold the tension of this uncomfortable stance and allow it to blossom within you and then recede.
Lastly, moving to Sagittarius, fire at a different developmental level, reflect upon this experience; discover if it has meaning, are matters making a bit more sense to you, do you feel you’ve gained some understanding? My thinking is that if it works for you, you feel slightly humbled, less self-important than Leo, more accepting of others.

Shade material is often like a small child tugging at your pant leg. It will continue to tug at you until you address its concern. Once you attend to its need, it has no reason to continue to bother you for attention or if you don’t want to deal with this baggage, you try to pass it off to your partner to carry for you.

You’ll get a better sense of how you’re doing when someone enacts your hidden figures and immediately after your emotional response, you chuckle, recognizing what happened. Later on down the road when shadow is enacted again by someone, rather than emotional upset, you’ll just smile to yourself in familial recognition.

Let’s take a brief look at two celebrity charts. The first is

**Whitney Houston**

In 2009, Whitney Houston was acclaimed as the most awarded female artist of all time by the Guinness World Record organization. She had been raised in an environment saturated with successful and independent women involved in gospel,
R&B, soul, and pop music (Cissy, Dionne, Dee Dee, Darlene Love, Aretha). She was also raised in the Baptist church and exposed to the Pentecostal faith and went to Catholic girl’s high school. She was very involved in the anti-apartheid movement and a variety of charitable organizations including her own WH Foundation for Children.

_**I think we can agree that Pisces rising and the Moon/Jupiter conjunct in the first house** image this quite nicely along with her own life long performing activities echoed by the Sun/Venus conjunct in Leo in 6th trining that Moon/Jup. She was already working as a backup singer, developing her chops, at ages 14 and 15._

To the casual observer, she had it all, living the American dream, a glamorously beautiful model, famous, artistically successful, wealthy, immensely charitable, loved by many, and solid religious values. She was popularly described as angelic, having divine talent, a national treasure, a singer’s singer, a talent beyond compare, an amazing inspiration, the greatest singer ever heard, and a paradigmatic life for others to admire and emulate. Reading about her life up to a certain point is like reading a fairy tale. This, of course, is a terribly lopsided image to have to live up to for anyone. Where is the shade woven into the dark underside of her becoming?

_Unfortunately, apex Neptune in Scorpio (singleton water) in the 8th and its significator, Pluto in the 7th suggest problems in those areas._ I do not think it a stretch to suggest that her ex-husband, Bobby Brown, whom she met in 1989 and married in ’92 (divorced ’07) is Pluto walking into her life and accompanying her descent into the Underworld. As it turns out, he was abusive to her and together they were deeply involved in drugs on at least a daily basis by 1996. She had a
significant history of alcohol, marijuana, crack, and cocaine use. She had on several occasions been to rehab but as her death indicates these substances continued as her unclaimed demons. I might also suggest that her earth planets hovering around her Desc reflecting the possibility of others carrying her earth for her and suggesting embodiment issues. [2\textsuperscript{nd}, bright and shiny]

David Bowie

**Aquarius ASC with Uranus in Gemini in 5\textsuperscript{th} -** Career marked by continuous reinvention, innovation, and visual presentation. Changed his name, adopted personas, promoted an image of androgyny & bisexuality, wore dresses in public, flamboyant, and flaunted sexual conventions and mores. Considered a musical chameleon. His desire was to shock the world and helped initiate the glam rock movement in popular music. It has been said that he permeated and altered more lives than any other pop culture figure though I am not sure how you measure that.

**Sun/Mars/Mercury square Neptune -** Living in a fantasy world, identity confusion, deluded, addiction problems, and softened masculinity.

**Neptune Libra in 7\textsuperscript{th} –** One of his greatest fears was the insanity that took his brother who was Dx with paranoid schizophrenia and after several suicidal gestures killed himself at 47. “One puts oneself through much psychological damage in trying to avoid the threat of insanity, the very thing you’re scared of…”

Several years deeply involved in enormous cocaine consumption, alcohol abuse, and other drugs.

**Jupiter in Scorpio in 8\textsuperscript{th} –** the wound. He was overindulging problematic beliefs. He had fears of being possessed by a fiend, believed Satan was living in his indoor swimming pool, had an exorcism performed, thought witches wanted him to
impregnate them. He believed in the occult, explored fascism, was intrigued by the Third Reich and Nazi mythology, and owned Nazi memorabilia. It is said much of this immersion in the darkness was related to excessive and extreme drug use.

**Saturn/Pluto/Moon in Leo in 7th** – Felt alienated much of his life, disconnected, and described self as a cold person, numb to feelings, an iceman, offstage felt like a robot. Much of his thematic material is sexual and expresses alienation, paranoia, and survival.

Illegitimate child in a family where there was ceaseless harping and a tormenting atmosphere. The most warmth toward him came from his older ½ brother with whom he was close. Mother was described as someone out of a nightmare. Family has history of suicide. First wife was a bit volatile, suicidal gestures, and dramatic, described as “like living with a blowtorch.” Bowie’s possessed the fabled plutonian ability to cut off and sever relationships.

It is interesting that he ended up marrying Iman, the Somali born supermodel in 1992, a combination of literal plutonian darkness, the Saturnian perfection of form of the Dark Feminine and who happens to have a Leo sun sign. They had been married 24 years at the time of his death.

**Concluding**

Befriending shade is an opportunity for choice. It means turning your back to the light. Our relationships constantly offer up opportunities to come to terms with the darker aspects of ourselves.

We can run from Otherworld elements and still encounter them over and over again in our relationships, we can make working with dark matters an ego project and try to see what we can get out of it or how we might profit from it,
making it an attempt at transforming dark into light. Or we can surrender to them; discover their claims upon us, honor them and have no need for this shadowed manifestation of seeming fate.

The care that we offer the orphaned aspects of our selves is the cure that we seek. These are alchemical transformations that enrich us, deepen us, and initiate us into life’s deep mysteries. These occasions reopen channels that allow the flowing of life to move less impeded through us.

Affirming our rejected or unacknowledged aspects is a saying “Yes” to life in the midst of discomfort, disappointment, and failure. Find the dark gods in your life and engage them. Everything may change.

The Guest House…