

From the desk of:

The Existential Detective Agency

Earth, Milky Way Galaxy, Universe, Multiverse

Subject: Louise P.

The subject is positively gregarious. My first impression is that she is quite energetically generous, that this warm energy radiates freely from her suntanned skin -- and you are invited to share openly in it. But she tells me she suffers from persistent low energy, and that this has been a curse that has accompanied her thus far throughout life. She would love to be free of it -- or find acceptance of it.

Her confidence, enthusiasm, shock of bright blond hair, and flamboyant style give her sun's position away: there is no doubt of her being a Leo. But if the sun is in its home position, where it can most easily express its natural vibrancy, why then does her vibrancy wane?

I set up my materials around me. Naturally, I begin with a snapshot of the solar system at the moment she was born -- often the single most significant clue in my arsenal. I close my eyes and go back in time to stand on the red painted asphalt of George Square in Glasgow, Scotland, on August 6, 1984, at 8:04 PM -- the moment she incarnated into the Earth plane. I have brought my telescope with me and looking into it I see that every single planet in our solar system is present in the sky above Glasgow -- that is to say, were I standing on the other side of the world, the sky would be empty of anything but stars. A rich sky to be born under!

Hmm. Traditionally this suggests that the subject is quite extroverted -- that she draws her energy from social interactions. This is because the visible hemisphere in the birth chart is concerned with social expression and social identity, and suggests her spirit might pout and sag with energy were she to rob it of its innate desire to see and be seen. This is not a timid soul. The local space-time humanoid component that operates under the temporary designation "Louise P." might very well be or feel timid, might very well want to stay home -- but if so, let's hope that her spirit is a patient one, and does not become so restless at staying home that it builds up dissatisfaction!

I sit down on a bench in George Square and pull an old tattered paperback copy of Sabian Symbols out of my pocket. They always make me smile -- I really love these silly things. You see, there are 360 degrees in a circle, and thus 360 degrees in an astrological birth chart (which is a 2 dimensional representation of a 4 dimensional reality). In 1925, an astrologer named Marc Edmund Jones worked with

From the desk of:

The Existential Detective Agency

Earth, Milky Way Galaxy, Universe, Multiverse

the clairvoyant Elsie Wheeler to channel and record 360 symbolic images -- one for each of the zodiacal degrees. As Carl Jung taught us, the subconscious speaks to us in images, and these Sabian images are often enlightening.

I look up from the book for a moment to squint at the setting sun: it's in the 14th degree of Leo. I flip forward in my book until I find the symbol for the sun in this position: *A pageant with spectacular floats moves along a street crowded with cheering people.**

I almost laugh aloud. No, this is not a timid sun -- it wants pageants!

I decide to check the position of the moon while I'm at it. It's a fat waxing gibbous moon rising overhead at 17 degrees Sagittarius. A gibbous moon would mean that both the client's sun and moon are in the same element of fire, and thus operate harmoniously as a team. (From the completely subjective standpoint of someone whose moon and sun are in disharmonious relationship, I find this to be a tremendous blessing of which I cannot but feel a small twinge of envy. She is lucky to have an "engine" like this.)

The great humanistic astrologer Dane Rudhyar said that those born under a gibbous moon want to contribute meaningfully to society, that they desire growth and the resolution of societal issues. Because it's an active moon type, if the client can find a way to work around her issues of chronic fatigue, she is likely to reach her goals and, like Prometheus, bring the illuminating wisdom of fire to the masses.

But I was looking up her Sabian symbols... for her moon, I discover this image: *Children playing on the beach in sunbonnets*. I close the book and shake my head wonderingly at the synchronicity. And that the subject and I should have met each other on a planet with 8 billion souls! I look around me at the city of her birth -- though it is 4,500 miles from my own, I have come here before: I studied abroad here in college. I used to sit here on this same little bench.

One of my favorite things about being an existential detective is that I get to see, over and over, time and again, how all things are interconnected. More than that, my business is built on interconnectivity -- you cannot be a detective without relying upon it. And yet, I never get used to how beautiful this universe is -- I

From the desk of:

The Existential Detective Agency

Earth, Milky Way Galaxy, Universe, Multiverse

never take any connection for granted. I will stand in awe before this synchronous tapestry no matter how many cases I take on.

I'm shaking my head now because it was on the beach that I first got to know the subject. There was one day in particular I remember -- we were cavorting in the waves like children, I heard her declare it was one of the greatest days of her life.

I did not know her much then. I just remember being delighted that this creature was so happy as to make such a declaration as that. Now it makes sense. The moon is probably the single most important planet for feeling comfortable on this Earth. It rules our unconscious and our instincts -- it's the place we act from when we're not being totally aware. You see, the moon is the avatar of the Great Mother, and nothing could be more true of the astrological moon than the colloquial wisdom: if Mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy. In other words, if the client can't make her Sagittarius moon happy, she won't be able to realize the potential of the other planets in her birth chart.

At the moment she declared her happiness, she was far from her home in London -- she had traded the dreary gray winter there for a sunny Mexican paradise. An excellent choice for the health of her spirit. Sagittarian moons MUST seek, MUST learn, MUST grow. Stagnancy would tend the client towards restlessness, discomfort, and overindulgence in whatever vice brings a burst of passive excitement. (It could also potentially contribute in the long run to hip, thigh, and stomach issues.)

There is a duplicated theme I see here, and I always pay particular attention to duplicated themes. The one that I see, between the sun and the moon, concerns *childish play*. The client is nearing her 40th birthday, but she must be careful not to let numbers dictate her self-perception -- she is meant to stay young at heart in this life. Whatever energy level her body is at, one hopes she can keep her heart buoyant. "Playtime" can be conducted at home under covers -- it doesn't require any particular environment to be realized. The colorful world of our imagination is always at hand.

So far I have seen no clues for her persistent fatigue -- not until I look up and take note of old man Saturn. *Sigh*. We all have to have Saturn in our planetary family, we don't have a choice, but we usually

From the desk of:

The Existential Detective Agency

Earth, Milky Way Galaxy, Universe, Multiverse

don't enjoy his particular brand of wisdom. I always picture him as a rather gaunt and graying old Dickensian type fellow, severe of feature, who just loves to say no. That, in a way, is his job. Like the rings that encircle his planetary body, he exists to illuminate our limitations. Though our souls sparkle and crackle with the energy of pure possibility, our mortal bodies are not equipped to make use of it all. We must make choices, eliminations -- we must have losses.

Through the telescope, I see Saturn has sunk a little past the zenith of the sky -- into a hard angle with the Sun. A disagreeable angle. I think herein we may have stumbled upon a little clue to the problem.

The Sun is at the center of the solar system, and all else orbits it. This is why it represents the Spiritual Self in the horoscope, and the light/personal power the Spirit aims to attain. Sometimes the Sun is partnered with other planets. As we have seen already, in the client's chart, the Sun has partnered with the Moon in a soft and lovely way. They hold hands, they share values, they kiss and kanoodle.

Unfortunately, in this case, the relationship the Sun is having with Saturn is of a different nature altogether. They are combative. They have completely different values, and they refuse to compromise. Let's anthropomorphize this into a short play for illustrative purposes.

Let's cast a very Leonine actor in the role of the Sun here: I think Chris Hemsworth as Thor should do quite well. For Saturn, let's have Ebenezer Scrooge. Now these two are flying a plane and Hemsworth is the captain. He wants to go to Miami for vacation and Scrooge wants to go to Birmingham. We come in on the middle of the conversation...

Hemsworth: I told you -- what we need is a good party.

Scrooge: What *you want* is a good party. It is imperative that we conserve energy. We hardly slept last night, and is it really necessary that I mention the energetic bank balance again?

Hemsworth: Come on, man. We'll sleep when we're dead! You think sleep is SO important. I get energy from attention, and I'm starved of it. I'm sick of staying home because of the god damned bank balance.

From the desk of:

The Existential Detective Agency

Earth, Milky Way Galaxy, Universe, Multiverse

Scrooge: What we have in the bank was the result of MY careful planning, my scrimping, my hoarding. Energy doesn't grow on trees! Will you ever think of anyone but yourself?

Hemsworth: Well, anyway, I'm the one flying this plane, aren't I?

(A scuffle ensues in which Scrooge tries to take the helm.)

Hemsworth: You'll kill me!

Scrooge: Better to do it, and decrease the surplus population!

(Ahem, my apologies for that.)

And on and on, and so you see, two such different men are hardly likely to make successful compromises. What compromise between Miami and Birmingham could possibly satisfy them both?

Scrooge, rather old and shriveled, is not in the possession of surplus energy, and fights to conserve what he has, while Hemsworth, a young and juicy fellow, wants to live while the living's good. Not just live, but live out loud -- be seen -- be admired. Be funny, be vibrant!

How this disagreement plays out in reality is like this: the client has neither the energy of Thor, nor the energy of Scrooge. The equation is rather more like: $(eT + eS) / 2$. That is the amount of total energy available to her at any given time. However, it would seem from my observations on the subject that when in possession of Thor's energy, she spends it generously, until all she's left with is the energy of Scrooge. At that point, she must live life as Scrooge until the energy of Thor has had time to regenerate.

It is my personal theory that part of the solution to her energy deficit is to remain aware of the (quite valid and ever present) needs of Scrooge. That is, *that she should not wait until she finds her energy depleted to begin to conserve it*. Look, a Leo is anything but conservative by nature. A Leo wants to throw open her arms and embrace life lustily -- and so she should. Sometimes.

A Leo also doesn't want to hear she should be more like Scrooge. Scrooge is quite cranky, after all. But there are more ways to please

From the desk of:

The Existential Detective Agency

Earth, Milky Way Galaxy, Universe, Multiverse

“Scrooge” (Saturn) than making conservative choices. I wonder...how else could she appease this demanding part of her nature?

Well, Saturn likes work, hard work. Not because he's joyless and Victorian, but because he appreciates achievement. His voice might sound irritable and authoritarian in our heads, but he wants us to succeed. He doesn't want Leo to spend all the group's energy on being with people and being social because -- as rewarding as that attention is to a Leo -- we are all born alone and die alone. This is ultimately a journey of singularity, and because Saturn deeply understands this cold, hard reality, he wants us to succeed *on our own*, for *ourselves*. The products of hard work and personal achievement mean more to him than parties and friends. After all, when we're on our deathbeds, and everyone else is a quickly fading dream, we're left with what we did in this life. What we achieved. Saturn doesn't demand that we have made material, superficial achievements (though you cannot deny he quite likes those, too) -- he demands that we have accomplished some of the goals we set for ourselves. For this reason, he reminds us -- nags us if he must -- to stop frittering away time! We are lucky to have someone who remembers the budget.

One more thing before I stand up from my bench and leave this summer evening in Glasgow for the present. The sign of Capricorn is sitting on the horizon -- that is Saturn's sign. Another repeated theme. Saturn's voice doubled. With Capricorn here, the subject will be carefully ambitious and responsible. Saturn can have a somewhat depressing influence when it's heavily present in the chart, but the depression can be eased by taking actions that satisfy Saturn's requirements for comfort (as mentioned above). This ascendent also suggests there may have been something sobering about her childhood -- she may have had to grow up too fast. But there's a gift in this: Capricorn types tend to age in reverse -- they start life off feeling older than everyone, and end it feeling younger!

As I collapse my telescope and return my book to my pocket, I reflect on this thought: there is never anything wrong with us other than that we think things are wrong with us. The subject has been troubled by low energy levels throughout her life. I wonder if it's not just her protective and, yes, cantankerous Saturn reminding her not to go out and spend too much of her time and energy on others -- she needs a good part for herself. And maybe a Leo does thrive in the sun, but there is a part of us all that can only expand behind closed doors,

From the desk of:

The Existential Detective Agency

Earth, Milky Way Galaxy, Universe, Multiverse

under covers. After all, we give birth to that which has had time to gestate in the dark.

I amble slowly over to Queen's Hospital so I can look through the window of the nursery and peek at the newborns. There she is -- little Lou in her crib. It will be 39 years before we meet again. Good luck, little girl, I tell her. You will be funny and boisterous and generous. You will have many love affairs and be admired by so many friends. You will follow dreams and chase the sun and discover, bit by bit, who you are, deep down where it matters. Sometimes you'll feel sleepy, sometimes you'll make unfortunate mistakes, but who cares? You have everything you need to be happy. You're already perfect, already important. There is only one way you can fuck this up, little girl: you must never stop believing in yourself.

*Note for if you go deep diving into Sabian symbols on your own: you must add 1 degree to the degree the planet appears in. This is because there is no Sabian symbol for the "0" degree.