

## Chapter 12 The Horoscope

**Background** On my first ever visit to America I was staying in San Diego with Peter Burnett and the hotel ran a regular evening dance. This stunning lady, Caroline, looking like a young Elizabeth Taylor, and wearing a bandana, actually accepted my invitation to dance. We fitted together well on the dance floor and I thought things were going well. She asked me my constellation of the Horoscope: when I replied “Virgo” she said “bastard” and walked off the floor. This got my attention. On our last night in San Diego she was still at the hotel and I risked asking for a dance once more. Things worked out much better that time. Gradually I realised that if you raised the subject of birthsign the lady would invariably ask you what hers was. This gave the opportunity to ask twelve questions. If you got it right you were looking straight into the ladies soul: if you got it wrong at least you had had ten minutes of conversation that interested her. I also had the fall back position if I got it wrong to ask if she was born at night in which case everything was different and all bets were off.

Do I believe that the position of the planets at the time of your birth has any bearing on your character – emphatically No! Do I believe that the time of year at which you are born has a bearing – yes. I make this judgement purely on the people I have known and the traits I have perceived. Now I will divulge the basic questions although these can be modified to suit the particular target.

**Sagittarius** (Deep) This is a good constellation to start with, in that I explain, as an astronomer, that Sagittarius is aligned with the centre of our galaxy, wherein lies the massive Black Hole about which we rotate. The question is – are you deep? Non-Sagittarians will shrug this off but one of the type will launch into a dissertation. They are often extremely intelligent individuals.

**Capricorn** (Loyal and temperamental) Do you throw things, with not a care about how much they may be worth? They do!

**Aquarius** (Hardworking, fun loving and stable) Tell me about your job. (An Aquarian lady will often hold down a challenging position)

**Pisces** (Kind and caring) Do men take advantage of you? (you would be surprised how often Pisces ladies answer yes to this question). They frequently settle for the strength of an Aryan man.

**Aries** (The tough ones) Would you take another woman's husband? This question sorts the wheat from the chaff – non Aryans will give an instant rebuff for the audacity of the question but an Aryan will give you a nod.

**Gemini** (Persons of very independent spirit) The question here is - if I gave you a first class ticket to travel by railway, in safety, on your own around India, would you go? A Gemini lady will give you an affirmative answer instantly. They need nobody to hold their hand.

**Cancer** (Excellent cooks – loyal – passionate) Are you a good cook and do you enjoy giving parties?

**Taurus** (Often much into horses - sentimental) Do you ride?

**Leo** (The wild ones) What do you think of thunderstorms? (Leos love the wildness of nature.) Catch a Leo lady in a car in a thunderstorm and you have arrived

**Virgo** (Accurate, methodical, decisive, practical joker) If you arrange to get somewhere at mid-day, at what time do

you arrive? Are you a practical joker? A practical joker who arrives early is virtually certain to be a Virgoan

**Libra** (Indecisive and artistic: thorough) You are being courted by two men. They are both extremely handsome, both very well heeled and each has impeccable manners. The Libran is the only lady who would confess to having difficulty in coming to a decision.

**Scorpio** (The sensual ones) Of course this has to be the final question. Well my dear, how sensual are you? If she looks you straight in the eye with an emphatic “Very!” you have landed. Of course the answer I usually get is that it is none of my business. Having said that, only a month ago I sat next to Marilyn, an American Billionaire lady (Yellow Pages), and having exhausted the conversation about why she bought the particular jet that she flies, and the twelve Foundations that she runs, I went down the Horoscope road. The answer to the final question was indeed “very” to which I concluded that she was Scorpio. She was clearly so taken aback by my decisive and accurate assessment that, on leaving, she thrust her card in my hand with instructions to look her up.

Margaret is, of course, of Scorpius!!!

**A few examples** In my astronomy internet user group there are around 4000 members. A regular contributor is an American called R.Jay Gabany. He is a complete perfectionist who hires expensive telescope time (maybe \$1,000 for one picture) and spends days working up his images. He carries the biggest label saying “Virgo” and he confirmed that my assumption was correct. I have never attempted to categorise any other Group member. On the dancefloor I went through the checklist with a young lady whose answers clearly and correctly directed me to Leo, especially when she told me that she ran Sheffield Weather Station.

Playing golf for the first time with Mike Kilby, it soon became apparent that his was a free spirit. He had just completed a six weeks solitary trek in Nepal: this was an absolute giveaway sign for Gemini, which proved the correct assessment.

We were talking with friends about their daughter, whom I had never met, and father was complaining about having to pay the rent for her flat in New York while she looked for a job. Asking what she did father advised me that she was a forensic psychologist. Now you do not get much deeper than that and I was right about her being a Sagittarian.

On a ship leaving Australia Margaret and I bumped into Sir Lawrie Barratt, the nationally prominent builder, with his wife. I introduced Margaret to them saying how many hundred thousand houses he had built. He corrected me immediately; I was fifty thousand short. He suggested dinner where, at one stage, I went down the Horoscope road. Now this man is as tough as they come and I was sure he would be of Aries. In answer to the sensuality question he replied “quite” but was immediately countermanded by his wife who extolled his virility. I accordingly decided Scorpio, which was right. The lady then asked me to look at her sign. Having asked the questions, I frankly said that I had no idea. She could possibly be Virgo or perhaps Gemini. Wrong! She was of Capricorn. “No you are not” I replied explaining that she did not belong to this type because she had given me a negative answer, when I asked if she threw things at him. “Well I lied, I get him in the kitchen”. With truthful answers I would have had both of them.

**Astronomy Club** Via e-mail, Graham, Chairman of Rickmansworth Astronomy Society had arranged for me to give a talk. He explained that he would be away for three weeks doing a solo cycle run from John O’groats to Lands End for Cancer Research. On arriving and receiving his

greeting my first words were to tell him that his Horoscope was Gemini – “however did you know that?” Pretty obvious for a man prepared to do that trip alone.

**Astrologer** At a Christmas Dinner I was getting on very well with a lady I had not met before. Enquiring what she did, she said she was a professional Astrologer. Well, that got me going so I enquired as to why it was that when I read one of her colleagues say that because Mercury was in Pisces something would happen, my charts often told me the planet was in a different Constellation, maybe Aries or even Gemini? Patrick Moore’s name came up in conversation and she got quite antagonistic about him. Relaying the conversation to Patrick he asked for her address so that he could despatch his book to her poking fun at her supposed craft.

**Alaska** In June 2008 Margaret and I took a ship up the Inside Passage in Alaska. On just three occasions I assessed a lady’s horoscope, with one hundred percent accuracy. Molly was from Tulsa (where she owned an oil company!). In general conversation I learned that she had been inside her home when a tornado blew it down. Turning to the occult I asked what she thought of thunderstorms and she loved them! A very clear cut Leo. Patricia declared that she was indeed “deep” and my judgement that was she was a Sagittarian was correct. Sheila was demure and kindly, married to a strong character, leading me to conclude that she was Piscean – correct again.

(Marion joined us on this trip. At the aquarium in Vancouver we were present when a Beluga whale gave birth. She has worked up her story about assisting in her Prada wet suit and administering the whole gas and air deal whilst stroking mother’s brow.)