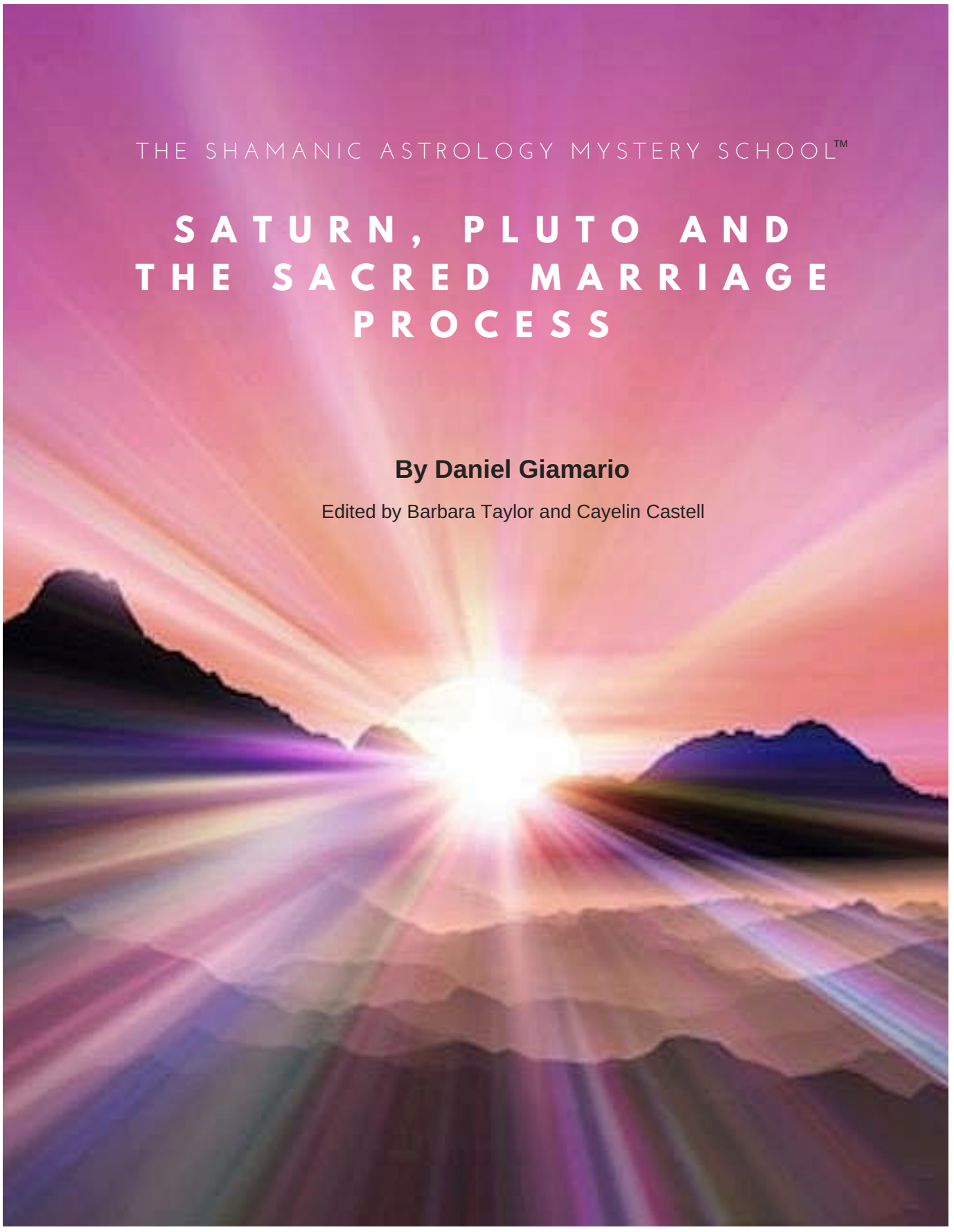


THE SHAMANIC ASTROLOGY MYSTERY SCHOOL™

SATURN, PLUTO AND THE SACRED MARRIAGE PROCESS

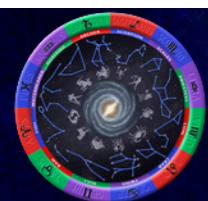
By Daniel Giamario

Edited by Barbara Taylor and Cayelin Castell



The Shamanic Astrology Mystery School

Living the Magic of Earth and Sky



Saturn, Pluto and the Sacred Marriage Process

A Shamanic Astrology Lens on the Fascinating Journey to Inner Wholeness

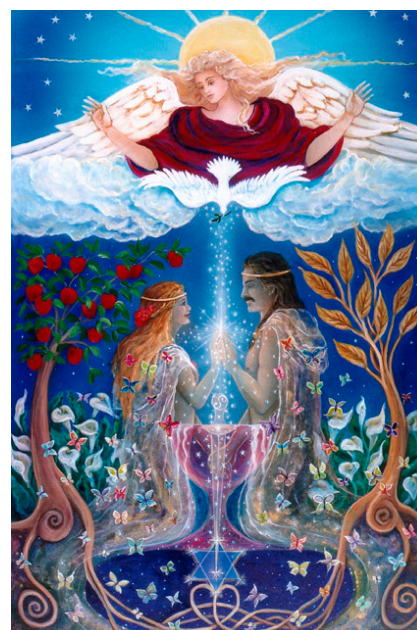
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What is the Sacred Marriage?

It could be argued that most individuals in our contemporary culture are 'wired' to look outside themselves for completion, wholeness, and happiness. Most of us are familiar with the intense longing to find the *magical other*: the soul mate, the twin flame, the beloved. This longing serves a useful purpose in motivating even those who are inherently autonomous, or a renunciate, to learn more about self through relationship with another. It could be said that the relationship quest is the yoga of our current time.

Finding the 'perfect' partner, however, does not eliminate the personal work required along the path to inner wholeness. In the Shamanic Astrology paradigm we call this process of creating inner wholeness – with or without a partner – **The Sacred Marriage**.



A significant contribution of Shamanic Astrology is the observation about how men and women project the sign of their opposite sex planet (Venus/for men and Mars/for women) onto their partner. In other words, women and men *look outside of themselves* for the imagery of the other they carry inside. The key to creating inner wholeness or the Sacred Marriage, is for men to claim their own Venus, and for women to claim their own Mars rather than being at the effect of their projections. This applies to everyone, even those who have had success at manifesting an external relationship.

While this may sound rather tidy and straightforward, the process itself can be anything but tidy or straightforward! It's very helpful to have a headlamp and a map in this terrain and Shamanic Astrology provides both. While the outcome of a grail quest is never assured, we find insight in Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*: "I confess I have urged you onward with me, and still urge you..."

Working With The Surrounding Influences

In this exploration our attention is specifically turned to the planets most associated with projected imagery in relationships. I'm proposing categories of experience that occur in a person's life defined by the *Sacred Marriage Cycles*. Some of these cycles are *enforced*, meaning they entail a time when you have no choice but to face and address these issues. These are times you *find it necessary to do the Sacred Marriage work*, even if it is challenging or unpleasant. Of course a person can refuse to engage this process but then the challenges usually magnify.

There are other cycles featuring the Sacred Marriage that are more enjoyable. In these cycles you aren't learning through violation or deficiency, but rather through more pleasant ways.

It seems human beings tend to learn through more difficult strategies! Perhaps if it widely caught on that we are capable of learning through other ways, we could change our understanding! However, for now it is the difficult strategies that usually get our attention.

The Saturn and Pluto Effect

To A Man's Venus Or A Woman's Mars

In this exploration it is necessary to first define the terms of inclusion such as oppositions, squares, and conjunctions that occur natively on a person's chart with regard to Saturn and Pluto. Additionally, we will look at the cycles when there is significant influence on a woman's Mars or a man's Venus from either Pluto, or Saturn, or both.

An additional factor to consider for the individual who might otherwise bypass this material because they do not have Pluto or Saturn square, conjunct, or opposite their Mars or Venus is when the Sun is within 15 degrees of Mars (on a woman's chart) or 10 degrees of direct Venus (on a man's chart). Venus with the Sun when Retrograde, is an entirely different category.



This factor is an innovative contribution of Shamanic Astrology but is likely something the ancients knew, operating as underworld strategy similar to when a person has Pluto square, conjunct, or opposite their Mars or Venus. The reason a Sun-Mars conjunction or a Sun-Venus (direct) conjunction are important is because you visually cannot see a conjunction with the Sun: it's below the horizon or, in Shamanic Astrology terms, it has *gone into the underworld*. I believe this is the way the ancients knew and understood the underworld initiation because they could not see Pluto.

So why are we just looking at Saturn to a woman's Mars and not to her Venus in this part of the discussion?

It's because a woman's Mars sheds more light on her relational issues. If a woman has Saturn or Pluto to her Venus, she will go through Saturn issues to become the version of the goddess she came to be. If her Venus is in Libra, she definitely has relationship implications, but if her Venus is in Aquarius it's a different story! Likewise, for a man, having Saturn or Pluto to his Mars, influences what he will go through in his life to become the version of the masculine (or god) he is here to be.

How are Saturn and Pluto different?

In order to understand this whole deal with Saturn and Pluto to a woman's Mars or a man's Venus, we have to first understand the difference between Saturn and Pluto initiations. Pluto is an underworld initiation and Saturn is a middle world (objective reality) initiation. In other words, these initiations occur in different realms, have a different intent and are experienced differently.

Pluto: Surrendering to the Underworld Initiation

An Underworld experience is a time when the three main ways we usually handle challenges *will not work*.

These three ways of handling challenges are:

1. People of action tend to use strength, muscle, or will to remove an obstacle.
2. People who are thinking types will perceive an obstacle or challenge as a puzzle to solve, or something that can be figured out with the head or intellect.
3. The third approach is expressed through *the varieties of denial*. The most common is, "I didn't care about him anyway, so it's all good!" This type of denial goes by various names: spiritual bypass, light polarization, etcetera. Basically, the person is saying: "I don't care!"



Another type of denial that comes up is the workaholic who decides to remain so busy, so occupied, so involved in their work, they don't notice any obstacles or challenges.

Please understand this is not a criticism of any of these approaches; we have all done one or more of them! The important thing to know is the Underworld Initiatory process is when these strategies don't work. Instead, these cycles are typified by the experience of powerlessness, chaos, and irrational events resulting in no choice but to surrender.

In Pluto's realm we are dealing with conditions that require us to surrender. I would further suggest there is no successful technique for surrender. In fact, if there were such a technique, it wouldn't be true surrender! Many try to discover this technique but eventually come to understand that they haven't yet reached surrender if they are still attempting to use a technique.

A Pluto cycle is designed to be irrational, meaning when it's an underworld initiation it doesn't work to employ the common tendency to think, when something difficult happens: "Well, it must be bad karma" or "Oh, it must be a punishment for having done something wrong" or "This is absolute proof of my own deficiency."

Nor can we truly figure this out by concluding, "If I'd done something different, this wouldn't have happened." When Pluto enters the scene it ushers in conditions *utterly and completely beyond our control*. Worth repeating here is that in this type of cycle it is not a referendum on whether we've been good or bad, right or wrong, or any of that. To say it in the least elegant way, it is the astrological equivalent of that old bumper sticker "Shit Happens."

Saturn: Growth Through Limitations and Boundaries

On the other hand, Saturn is logical. In a Saturn cycle you can figure it out, though often when you do figure it out you may not like the answer! It's like Sisyphus, laboring to push the rock up the hill and as soon as he reaches the top the rock crashes back down. After the 18th or 19th year it seems he would have figured out that *the same thing was going to keep on happening*.

A Saturn initiation often feels like the cultural definition of insanity: you do the same thing, with the same result, every day, and yet somehow you keep expecting the outcome will be different the next day. People with strong Saturn are frequently among the most stubborn people in the world! Some might *get it* within the first year; others, in the 15th year, other's much later. In other words, how many times will you have to go through it, before you get it?

Here's an example: a client complains about how unfair his or her love life has been, how many obstacles or disappointments there have been. If it's a Saturn issue, the guidance is: "Well, what do you expect? This is the n^{th} time you've chosen the same kind of woman or man. Change the game!"

Unlike Pluto, it is possible to figure Saturn out. However some people can figure it out sooner than others. Saturn instructs us to change the game. Remember this is not a judgment about you being good or bad, right or wrong, sufficient or insufficient, perfect or imperfect. It is simply time to change something.



Being a Saturn conjunct Venus person myself, I received this teaching directly (and painfully) from a woman that came into my life during a Pluto (square) cycle. It was an activation of my Saturn-Venus conjunction.

It is a grisly story, but I learned something very important from it. For the very first time in my life, I met a woman who I truly thought wanted to be married to me. She proposed to me under a total eclipse of the Moon and I accepted. (NOTE: *It is not wise to accept a marriage proposal under a total eclipse of the Moon!*) So we sent out about 100 wedding invitations and the next day, she said: "Daniel, you know I don't believe in marriage. I just wanted to see what you would do." Ouch.

She was a Sagittarius-Aquarius, and it turns out she had shape-shifted into what she thought I wanted her to be! But I didn't give up easily as I was pretty hooked in to the relationship (she was quite the seductress). On the morning when I finally gave up the relationship, I clearly remember her screaming at me, "The guides have just told me that it wasn't intended to work!" It was the last time I ever saw her.

This experience released me from the Saturn prison because I knew *I had done everything right*. It simply wasn't intended to work. The golden message came directly from the person who had inflicted a lot of pain, revealing to me how much I actually *did* want a marriage and to be someone's number one priority. But this particular relationship wasn't intended to work. I had learned the core of Saturn's teaching and received a gift.

This describes the difference between Saturn and Pluto. Saturn teaches us how to grow, change, and evolve through limitations and boundaries. It sounds like something negative, but ultimately it is the process of maturation.

When we encounter boundaries it is the best way to grow. It's not an underworld process, but one that is totally natural. The analogy in nature is the snake shedding its old skin. Imagine if the snake had self-awareness and sees the old skin coming off, it might think: "I'm in deep trouble. It's over. I'm finished." After all the skin is our identity. It's what we know. However, everyone outgrows the old skin so a new skin (a new identity) can take its place.

Saturn Requires Action

When the old skin is coming off and you get over your fear that there might not be a new skin underneath (because you never know it might be the last skin), you still have action to take. If the snake doesn't take action to move out of the old skin it might suffocate. So action is required in a Saturn cycle. In fact, *Saturn cycles are important times to take action*, particularly around clearing the space that you know for sure is no longer working.

This impacts men and women when their natal Mars or Venus undergoes a square, conjunction, or opposition with Saturn or Pluto. With respect to the Sacred Marriage, this is the best set of articulate instructions, enforcing and insuring a person does the work. If they don't engage the Sacred Marriage they will not experience the intended wholeness that results. Remember, the work does not arise out of being deficient in some way, or needing to seek improvement. It's about being forced to do the inner Sacred Marriage to change the game and therefore experience greater inner wholeness.

People who have these Saturn or Pluto aspects natively will experience every possible variation of mental explanation known. It's bad karma, or the goddess doesn't love me, or no matter what I do it's not good enough, I am deficient, etcetera. The way a person experiences this is relative to the archetype they carry but it's still within the general flavor of some kind of deficiency.

When this happens to a man's Venus, he typically feels he is somehow inadequate, or that he has to get better in some way. It is possible this could show up as the other way around - meaning when a person has such high, stringent standards - no one makes the grade, and it becomes a way to avoid becoming intimate. However, the majority of time the Saturn theme shows up as deficiency.

"Nothing will knock you down quicker than offering the best of yourself to someone and it still not being good enough."

- M.W Poetry

It's fortunate I don't follow traditional astrology, because according to medieval astrologers, no one could have a more flawed combination than me. With a ruler on my ascendant, Saturn Venus and a Capricorn Moon, this is considered the maximum allotment of Saturn a person can have! An astrologer did a reading for me using these medieval techniques years ago. He indicated that there was a time when no one would have done a reading for me because they would be certain I wouldn't live past the age of five!

Long story short: I had to become good friends with Saturn.

Saturn All The Way

It's also true we are asked to take Saturn's full curriculum. All those scenarios associated with deficiency where we try harder, or we try to become better, or to be more patient, or we just give up – set us up to feel as if the sacred feminine (for men) or the sacred masculine (for women) is impossible to please, no matter what we do.

A person can even have a resume that objectively shows they are the opposite of deficient. For example, you might have been in a relationship where you know you were the best possible lover, or supporter, or you demonstrated whatever your partner wanted to be valued for, where you fully showed up and still you did not get a fair return - meaning, however you measured the situation to feel that you were being treated well - didn't happen.

So what is this experience about, if it's not going to be solved by strategies for getting better at relationship? We can repeat the pattern over and over again, trying to get it right, only to find that while it's perhaps becoming more subtle, it's still the same pattern or another version of the same issue.

Any time a man has Saturn Venus on his natal chart (square, conjunction, or opposition) there is a piece of advice that works every time, across the board, regardless of archetype. Do NOT base your happiness (on any level) on what some woman thinks about you.

The point here is it's not about being perfect, or even meeting certain standards. The reality is women don't want perfect partners. They want authentic partners. So taking what a woman thinks about you personally is

disempowering. This does not equate to not caring or being insensitive. It means don't base your happiness upon meeting expectations in some kind of way you think is *perfect*.

Distinguishing Natal Saturn From A Saturn Cycle (Regarding Natal Mars Or Venus)

If the Mars archetype (or sword quality), is measuring how well a relationship is going, it could be a turning point. However, the emphasis here is on the projected image because that always has to do with the Sacred Marriage process.

An example of this is a man I met in his early 30's whose chart was mainly all Aquarius, with Mars in Scorpio. He had an extremely undeveloped Scorpio Mars that was undergoing a Saturn in Scorpio transit. It was a maturation point for him, so he could learn more about this aspect of his masculinity.



Saturn to a man's Mars does not always mean he has to do the Sacred Marriage, but if Saturn is to his Venus, then he does. When Saturn is to his natal Venus, he encounters many opportunities to do the Sacred Marriage work - often through unpleasant experiences already mentioned such as: deficiency, separation, apparent failure, something that doesn't turn out well.

The prevailing question is: have you been in a relationship – whether lover, husband, wife, or friendships – where you know you absolutely and objectively did everything right and it didn't turn out? This is a symptom of the presence of Saturn! Once we know what it feels like we might ask, "What does it mean? And what am I to do about it?"

My own take on this dynamic is that it's not deficiency or bad karma or *too bad for you*, but rather it's a set of instructions. These are the most articulate instructions available illustrating that you are not going to catch a break externally *so focus on the inner* - all the way.

Saturn Strategies: Two Levels Of Magic

There are two levels of magic we can use: low-level and high-level magic. Low-level magic might express as: "If I act like I don't want her, then she will come to me." And sometimes this works.

Higher magic is when you let go of having the other be a certain way with you. It's scary to do it this way, but high-level magic *Allows* where low-level magic is a form of *Manipulation*.

Sometimes when a person has seven or eight relationships that have not been enjoyable, they often give up on relationships altogether. Perhaps they convince themselves of the following: "I'm fine on my own, I don't need anyone, I can take care of myself." This is the warrior stance compensating for something that is not working. It is low-level magic. High magic is claiming, owning, or choosing your own autonomy or sovereignty and allowing for whatever might happen.

This can be tricky, because low-level magic says, "Okay, I am choosing my own autonomy. A-ha! This technique works! When I choose my autonomy, someone comes!" It sometimes does work. But this is still not *all the way*. To enact high-level magic, you really have to *choose it*. It's a conscious choice. The most radical archetype for this is Libra. This is where you choose the relationship with yourself to be the finest possible relationship you could ever have and therefore if you ever have another relationship, it's simply delightful and adds to the wholeness you already have within.

If there is a natal Saturn complex to a woman's Mars or a man's Venus regardless of the sign, the intent is to do the Inner Sacred Marriage. This applies to those who may be in a great relationship or those who are challenged in their current relationship, or those who have trouble sustaining a relationship, or those who can't seem to find a relationship at all.

It is true we all eventually experience cycles that are about engaging the Inner Sacred Marriage. However, if a person has Saturn to their Mars or Venus natively - it highlights a very specific issue they are working on in this life, denoting the kinds of experiences they will have, including barriers and limitations, unfair conditions, experiences of deficiency, taking it personally, thinking they're not good enough, providing opportunities for deep inner awareness and growth. If you've have Saturn and you spend your life going to self-improvement seminars and you keep having the same experiences, over and over, then all that does is give you more reasons to judge yourself!

I'm here to tell you that it's not what the game is about!

If a person with Saturn to Venus or Mars really gets this to the depths of their being - they will discover freedom. This is why I personally think that Saturn is ultimately the most spiritual planet because it's the one that releases us from the binding illusion that life is a linear, cause-and-effect game.

Even the **Tarot experts** knew this. Consider the Devil card in the Rider-Waite deck with people in chains. If you look very closely, you'll see that the chains are actually loose! It suggests we can take those chains off when we free ourselves of Saturn's false reality.

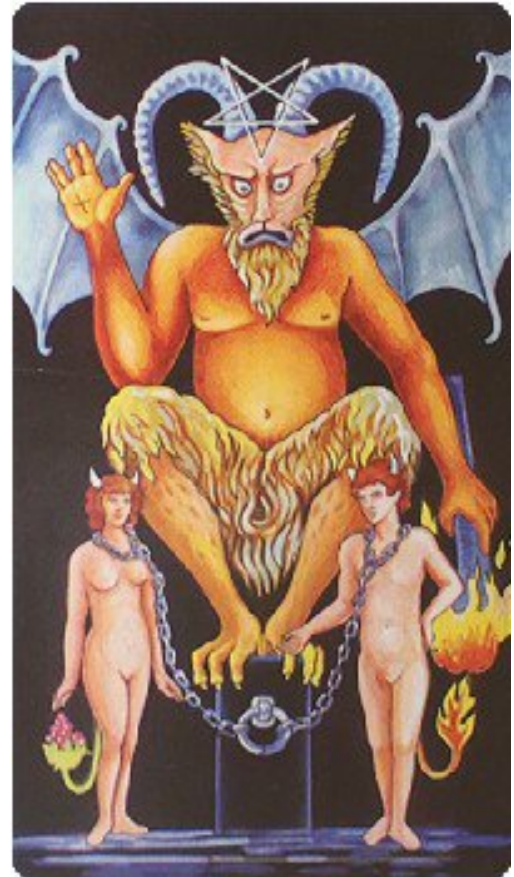
This is not to say there isn't value in having a Saturn complex because of course if you have a Saturn complex, you are going to be motivated for self-improvement! I'm not putting down self-improvement. What I'm saying is there is not a logical connection. It is better to pursue self-improvement for other reasons.

If you want to be a relationship expert, one of the best ways is to have four or five marriages. It's ironic that many self-help books on marriage or relationship counseling were based on a relationship the author was lauding and by the time you get around to reading their book, they are already no longer in that relationship!

I can remember a time where I didn't have anyone in my life that wanted to be in a relationship with me. The reality of a girlfriend or a wife eluded me until I was 43 years old. When I was in my 30's giving relationship workshops I was always afraid someone in the back of the room would question why they should listen to me because where was my partner? Thankfully that never happened.

This isn't about teaching something we have perfected! Most teachers teach what they most need to learn. And many people are therapists for that same reason.

A strategy for Saturn to natal Mars or Venus is to realize it is up to you to own that archetype yourself. It took me until age 62 to go through the final doorway on this. I thought, five or six times, that I'd gone through that last doorway. Wrong! I would love to assist those of you who are younger than 62 to go through that final doorway sooner!



The Two 'Infections' Of Saturn Complexes

Most people with strong Saturn are motivated to be good, or at least be the best they can be. (Some have been completely crushed by Saturn but that is a small subset.) There's nothing wrong with being motivated by Saturn.

Over the last 2,000 years there have been two 'infections' that have infiltrated our reality as a symptom of the triple aberration of monotheism, hierarchical patriarchy, and patrilineal family descent and all the structures that go with these. Saturn complexes today are different than they were 5,000 years ago.



What are the two infections?

1. A person is motivated to be good out of a sense of deficiency. In the William Blake painting (shown above) *The Judgment of Adam*, it shows Adam looking down in abject shame and desolation. God is pointing at Adam as if to say "not okay." This image was used on the cover of Jungian author Sylvia Brinton Perera's book on the scapegoat complex to illustrate this dynamic.

The judgmental finger is the Saturn aspect. There is another book that covers some of these same themes, James Hollis's book called ***Under Saturn's Shadow: The Wounding and Healing of Men*** (1994). Another book with regard to what we're learning here about the sacred marriage work is Hollis's book ***The Eden Project: In Search of the Magical Other*** (1998).

2. The second infection is the belief that if we *were* to attain that external image of perfection we think we should strive for out of a sense of deficiency - there is an additional reward for doing so, a payoff of some kind. Sorry! There is no connection between perfection and a payoff! At least, not in this lifetime.

It's really hard to 'get' or come to understand this second infection. If you have a Saturn complex this is exactly what you are learning to be true - there is no reward for perfection. If there is no reward for being perfect then the question is why am I doing all of this? There needs to be some other reason and we can glean that reason from the Rising Sign. For example the Scorpio rising's reason is because it's a turn on. Or Virgo's reason is because they love being in the closest possible harmony to the pattern!

The Distinct Flavors Of The Twelve Signs

Every sign has its own payoff. This has nothing to do with some idea that the god or goddess is going to love you more if you attain some notion of perfection. This is a difficult concept to finally truly grasp. I mean, it's fairly logical: look around the world. We've all noticed that there are people we objectively know who are far from perfect and yet they seem to garner a great return.

Conversely there is also the opposite experience, as illustrated by the large section in most psychology libraries with titles along the lines of *Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?* The evidence is everywhere that there is no logical connection between perfection and an additional payoff, *so why is it that we don't actually apply this?*

With this understanding you can now be thankful if you have a Saturn complex because you are among the lucky ones who actually get to see through and break through the complex. Its freedom! The chains will be taken off. You get to where you realize you can be perfect if you want to be. Or Not. It doesn't make any difference either way, unless being the best you can be gives you some other thrill or reason to pursue it.

Capricorn, for example, really likes to do a good job. Their role is to hold it together for the greatest number of people. It feels good to them. The reward is in the act itself. There might not be a reward for it; in fact you might even run into an iceberg like the captain of the Titanic. He exemplified a Capricorn Moon, though I recently discovered he had a Cancer Moon with major Pluto - so not all that different.

Perfection Isn't Good Enough

I'm not attempting to make light of how Saturn can feel. However, at least there is a way through the territory. We call this 'getting the joke of Saturn' and it can be summarized in a brief saying you can write out and post on the refrigerator or bathroom mirror: *Perfection itself isn't good enough.* OR *Perfection is insufficient for your liberation.*

I'm going to share the Saturn story that I simultaneously love and hate the most. It is the story you may know, about the lead disciple who has been following the guru for many years. He is really a good student and an excellent, number-one disciple. He's been doing this for 30 years.



During his years with the guru, other people have become enlightened. One day a hardened criminal arrives at the ashram, a really bad dude who has without remorse killed dozens of people. However, in a single moment of surrender to the guru, he too becomes enlightened. This causes number-one disciple to lose it! He freaks out. At this point, the guru turns to him and says: "Finally, you are making progress!"

A movie that illustrates this Saturn principle is *Deception*. The entire plot revolves around the main character believing he heard his dying father say: "I am disappointed in you." And so the son spends his whole life trying to please and be perfect for his dad. Throughout the whole movie, all his actions are based around those words he thought he heard.

What his father really said was that he was disappointed that his son was trying to be like him. The son's whole life had been based on the edifice that he was not able to live up to his father's standards; whereas his dad was disappointed in him because he was in fact trying to do so. When the son finally got this realization it changed everything. If you have the Saturn Mars or the Saturn Venus, you are directly working with these themes.

Saturn And Late Bloomers

Now, there are other great benefits of having a Saturn signature to your Venus or Mars that usually come later in life. This getting it later in life scenario is referred to as a *Late Bloomer*. This is someone who develops the Saturn gifts over time after going through an intensive curriculum before arriving at something enjoyable.

If you have Saturn to Venus or Mars you might wonder: "Exactly *how* late is that?" It depends on how long it takes you to get the joke that it is not about being perfect or meeting some high external standard!

Often, with Saturn Venus or Saturn Mars, it is as simple as not going for the same type of person in a relationship experience. It is safe to assume that things didn't work out as a result of you being deficient. Yes we can always improve ourselves and how we show up in relationship. Developing relationship skills, communication skills, and inner wholeness skills are a must to have a healthy relationship.

However, it helps to know that *even if you were better, the result would have been the same* as long as you are seeking your projected external other. If you don't believe that, then in your next relationship you will continue to try and demonstrate *how much better you are* and the result will be the same. In that way, Saturn is relentless.

Working with Saturn

This is one of the most remarkable tools in the Shamanic Astrology toolkit. If Saturn is transiting a woman's Mars or a man's Venus, and your happiness is in any way based upon how things are working in your relationship, it is going to be a depressing and difficult time.

Saturn's nine-month cycle is not about the external relationship. It is the time to work on your stuff in your own space. This does not mean relationships have to break up. However, this is the time for focusing on your inner relationship with your self.

If you are not in a relationship and you want to be with someone during Saturn to your Mars (for a woman) or Saturn to your Venus (for a man), this cycle is a complete waste of time to try to make an external relationship happen. All you will find is deficiency, one-way or another. This is not a time for someone to get an online dating profile! The best advice is to be in your own space.

Now, let's say you're in the relationship of your dreams, you have no desire to be with anyone else and this is the person you want to be with for the rest of your life. You could go through a Saturn cycle to (Venus or Mars) wondering what to do since you are already in a great relationship?

Ideally, find a way to take some time apart. An example is a friend of mine was going through Saturn to his Venus when he told his partner that because he was finishing his PHD at Oxford they wouldn't be seeing much of each other over the next few months. He didn't know about this cycle until later but it turned out to be exactly the right time for this to happen.

My own partner and I have this cycle at approximately the same time, so we do something similar. We still talk and connect but we take time away from being in each other's space. We don't necessarily find it that easy to be apart, but it's the right time to do it.

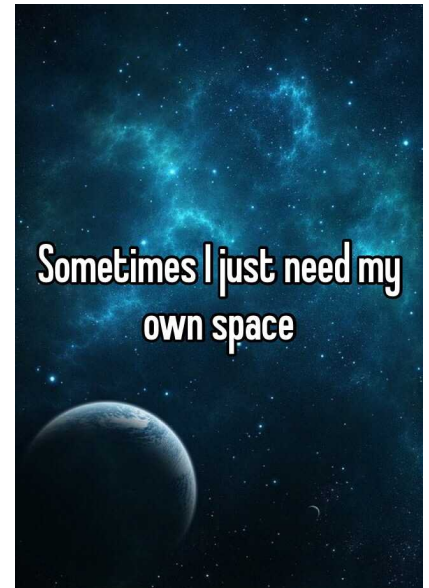
This is a time to 'not try' with respect to relationships because all you are going to do is run into deficiencies. It is the perfect time to work alone on your main Sacred Marriage issue(s), even if it's as simple as loving and enjoying your own company. Each person has their own specific set of instructions for how to do the inner Sacred Marriage work based on their Venus or Mars position, outlined on the last two pages.

The Intent Of Saturn On The Ascendant/Descendant Angle (Nately Or By Transit)

If you have Saturn nately to Venus (for men) or Mars (for women) it is often very confusing because it has a double meaning. Saturn has to do with form and structure. To understand what occurs in a Saturn transit, it helps to go back to the black and white traditional meaning: marriages or divorces.

If it's Saturn his crossing the descendent, then you're ready for marriage. Or, it can be time for an existing marriage to be over. In traditional astrology, it's a clear-cut phase of development regarding the partnership project.

In the Shamanic Astrology Paradigm Saturn is about becoming clear – black and white – about what you want in a



relationship - then you can trust you are ready. In a culture where every one is expected to marry at the appropriate age, Saturn crossing the descendent is an indicator for one of the times to do this.

However, it is also important to look at how this applies to the various rising signs to understand the overall relationship intent. Saturn crossing the ascendant may be a time when we realize we want something different than what we currently have. Or we know we want to be with the same person, suggesting a time for creating new vows (or commitments) essentially re-examining the reasons you are together so these reasons work for you both. It also may be the appropriate end point of a relationship.

In my own life, Saturn crossed my descendant when I was 19 (there is a wide variation around what age this happens). I have Saturn conjunct Venus and Libra rising. Age 19 was when I had my first real girlfriend and my first horrendous heartbreak, both within the same cycle. It's a turning point, or a maturation point a time for moving to the next stage.

Natal Saturn on the Ascendant or Descendant looked at traditionally is thought to represent a long lasting mature marriage. However, that could be experienced as a prison. A more evolved perspective is no longer engaging in relationship for security and longevity if it blocks who you are.

Doing The Work: From Generalities To Specifics

Your own unique path to the Sacred Marriage is based on the archetype of Mars (for women) or Venus (for men). What is exciting about Shamanic Astrology is that it extends what the mystics knew into something highly workable. The Sufi mystic poets called this *The Guest* discovering who we are seeking outside of ourselves has been within us all along. The Sufis viewed this as a one-size-fits-all approach.

The Jungian version also comes from a one-size-fits-all perspective where a man finds his anima (soul) through a woman and a woman finds her animus (spirit) through a man. This is a limiting generalization from the Shamanic Astrology perspective (though certainly better than the Freudian view) that needs expanding.



Men who have the archetype of the feminine showing up in Aquarius, Sagittarius or Gemini are often seeking their muse (the one who carries the songs, poetry and spiritual visions). If a man has Venus in Taurus or in Scorpio they are seeking their sex goddess or tantrika. Men with Venus in Cancer are seeking their mother, not a muse!

The core of the Sacred Marriage process says we need to own this part of ourselves and not just project it onto to someone to be that for us. We need to find it within ourselves. A man doesn't actually need the external woman, though it can be really cool to have the external woman to make you aware of it!

This understanding takes us beyond the idea that *men are from Mars, women are from Venus!* (See next two pages) Certainly the many millions or more of us who identify as [Cultural Creatives](#)* can handle the concept that we are more diverse than a 'one-size-fits-all' model wherein a man needs a woman in order to find his soul or a woman needs a man in order to find her spirit!

Find out More about the Sacred Marriage in our [Ready to Take Online Class](#) answering the following Questions:

How to be you your own best Partner? Do you know what you or your partner may project onto each other? Do you know your soul's external relationship intent? Do you know how to engage the Sacred Marriage within according to your personal intent? Are you interested in gaining powerful tools for creating the best relationships of your life and greater wholeness within yourself? Did you know Venus and Mars together in the evening sky represent the Sacred Marriage between the Masculine and Feminine?

Guidelines for Focusing your Inner Sacred Marriage Work

(Based on the sign of your opposite sex planet or OSP)



The Inner Other For Women (Very Brief Summary)

Mars in Aries OSP: Commit to a noble cause or purpose. Do not be dependent on an external partner for this. Take action on your own and be willing to be 100% all-in with your commitments.

Mars in Taurus OSP: Develop the capacity to receive. Give yourself permission to savor and enjoy being in the body. Enjoy beauty and aesthetics for their own sake.

Mars in Gemini OSP: Get in touch with your magical creativity. Enjoy shape shifting and the freedom to be in any role you choose. Experience life as a playful dance. Take delight in creative expression.

Mars in Cancer OSP: Develop the capacity to provide nourishment to yourself. Accept your vulnerability. Be willing to re-parent yourself and not expect others to take care of you. Do not focus on only taking care of others; direct these energies to yourself.

Mars in Leo OSP: Choose to be an active and intuitive force in creation and leadership. Don't live in the shade of a *great man*. Claim the joy of being creator for its own sake. Create your own reality just because you can!

Mars in Virgo OSP: Make your emphasis in finding and developing your sacred work or calling. Honor your need for sacred space and connection to our Earth Mother. Do not rely on the work or career of your partner.

Mars in Libra OSP: Choose yourself as your best partner. Develop a love for a deep and complete relationship with yourself, even when with a beloved. Do not define yourself through another.

Mars in Scorpio OSP: Make the development of your own Shakti (active life force energy) your priority. Connect with your organic passion and desire without relying on the outside stimulation of exciting and provocative partners.

Mars in Sagittarius OSP: Take on the responsibility of leading your own quest for meaning and purpose. Commit to including freedom and adventure in your life. Do not rely on the vision and inspiration of teachers and partners.

Mars in Capricorn OSP: Take on a practical and responsible activity or project that contributes to the sustainability of the community and society, and serves the well being of future generations. Be willing to take this on with or without a partner who has these qualities.

Mars in Aquarius OSP: Be willing to be completely unique, even eccentric. Allow yourself to experience the leading edge and the revolutionary spaces beyond what is considered normal. Develop radical "free electron" spaciousness and revolutionary perspectives.

Mars in Pisces OSP: Open to the transpersonal embrace of the infinite love and nourishment of the masculine aspect of the One Reality and Great Mystery. Be open to receiving a celestial and ecstatic source of nourishment. You are worthy of this healing.



The Inner Other for Men (Brief Summary)

Venus in Aries OSP: Make a commitment to a noble cause or purpose, one that is not dependent on the inspiration or dictates of a partner. Do not project power and strength onto the feminine. Own your own will.

Venus in Taurus OSP: Place attention on your physical embodiment, allowing yourself to emphasize your own capacity to enjoy *intimacy as art*. Do not be seduced or distracted by the beauty and intimacy of women.

Venus in Gemini OSP: Get in touch with your creative, magical, playful side. Allow yourself to be the 'eternal youth' (*puer aeternis*). Do not rely on your partner or women in general as necessary for your inspiration.

Venus in Cancer OSP: Develop the capacity to provide your own nourishment. See your vulnerability and longing for nurturing as a strength. Be willing to take responsibility for re-parenting yourself. Above all, do not project a need for nurturing onto a partner.

Venus in Leo OSP: Be the creator of your own reality and the vision carrier of your own life. Be willing to actively create for its own sake, for the joy of it. Do not project these qualities onto a powerful solar feminine (Amazonian) woman in order to be inspired.

Venus in Virgo OSP: Make your calling, or your *sacred work*, your priority. Develop a relationship with the natural world: the Earth, the stones, the landscape, the sky, etc. Find your own sacred space. Do not expect any woman to totally "get" what you are doing.

Venus in Libra OSP: Never define who you are by who you are with, instead become your own best partner. Love being in relationship with yourself - then you will find an external relationship that adds to your wholeness.

Venus in Scorpio OSP: Develop your own physical and emotional passion and power and find a creative expression for it. Be willing to deeply feel ALL your feelings. Do not be distracted by - or addicted to - external sources of stimulation, especially a *shakti dominant* women.

Venus in Sagittarius OSP: Take responsibility for discovering your own meaning and purpose. Develop your capacity for exploration and adventure. Don't rely on guidance and direction coming from other women.

Venus in Capricorn OSP: Take responsibility for developing a practical project or contribution that benefits the community and society with future generations in mind. Honor your own wisdom and don't rely on partners that show up to teach you, parent you, or support you.

Venus in Aquarius OSP: Be willing to explore your uniqueness, going beyond the revolutionary edge of possibilities. Be open to being *other than normal*. Develop ease and comfort in your freedom and spaciousness. Don't rely on unusual, eccentric, and free-spirited women for this experience or fall into the trap of feeling a need to support them.

Venus in Pisces OSP: Open yourself to the transpersonal and universal embrace of the loving essence of *Great Mystery* in her female expression, receiving unconditional love and support from this deep feminine source. Do not project this longing onto any human individual.