



The Lot or Part of Fortune - by Derek R. Seagrif

The Lot (Greek word) or Part of Fortune is today the most widely (and usually only) used of the dozens of planetary Parts developed centuries ago by the mathematically inclined Arabian astrologers. It is a fact that very few modern astrologers make use of the Parts, and even if your computer programme places the Part of Fortune in your charts, yet the tendency is to quietly ignore it when making an interpretation. If modern textbooks have little to say about these "Parts", things were very different in ancient & medieval works. They not only devote substantial space to the Part of Fortune, but also use a great number of other Parts. These many Parts were used extensively in Horary charts and the Arabs also developed Parts for use in Solar Ingress & eclipse charts to assist in economic and political forecasting. Today, through the Solar Fire V8 computer program, modern astrologers have access to no less than 40 Arabic Parts - so where did all these "Parts" go?

One natural reaction is to say that they were abandoned because they did not work – but that is not necessarily the case. Religious fundamentalism largely destroyed learning in the Arab world in the later Middle Ages, and irreligious fundamentalism almost extinguished astrology in 18th. Century Europe. Few people realize that serious damage was also done in the 16th. Century. The Renaissance is normally seen as a time of great progress, which it was, but not without loss. The preoccupation with classical scholarship and the reaction against everything medieval had a narrowing effect especially when reinforced by the Reformation. And naturally all this had implications for the use of the "Parts".

As for the Part of Fortune, as we shall see, it was wrongly calculated and this resulted in its gradual abandonment.

In our modern times American astrologer **Robert Hand** and **Project Hindsight** have been translating the original Greek texts which has greatly contributed to our deepening knowledge of the ancient astrologer's use of these Parts. They found over two dozen Lots which come from Egyptian sources, and this discovery should dispel once & for all the notion that Lots are Arabic. Most of them in fact are from a book attributed to the legendary *Hermes Trismegitos*, "The Panaretos", which can be safely ascribed to Greek-Egyptian sources or earlier.

This article will place the focus upon the Part (or Lot as the Greeks called it) of Fortune. If readers request it, then a second article can explore some of the other Parts, such as Part of Marriage, Part of Sons, Part of Daughters, Part of Profession or Part of Death etc.

It is now clear that for approximately 50% of all people the Part of Fortune is usually computered incorrectly, namely those persons born at night between sunset and sunrise. The ancient world placed great focus upon whether you were a day birth or a night birth. Many modern authorities have used the Day Formula for Night births! This is because one ancient authority, Ptolemy, seemed to advocate doing all charts with the Day Formula. Due to Project Hindsight's translation of the ancient texts, it can now be established that both Ptolemy & his ancient commentators did not intend this. In fact, people who have been born at night and have been using the Lot of Fortune as computered by most software & computer services *have actually been using the Lot of Spirit!* The Lot of Spirit is a point which has strong psychological & spiritual overtones, unlike the very physical-plane based Lot of Fortune.

According to the ancient astrologers, the Part of Fortune is only half the picture. If you measure from the Moon to the Sun and add the result to the Ascendant by day or subtract by night, you arrive at the Part of Spirit (Greek: *Daimon*). However Ptolemy makes no mention of this Part in his classic work, *Tetrabiblos*, even though he paid a great deal of attention to the Part of Fortune. The *Tetrabiblos* became the key text in the development of astrology after the Renaissance and so the Part of Spirit has been largely forgotten. Ptolemy's intention was to place astrology on a respectable, scientific basis. The Part of Fortune, indicative of material success, was evidently more acceptable in this context than the mysterious Part of Spirit. Yet taken together, these two parts reflect the

fundamental polarity of Sun and Moon, day & night. According to the ancient authority Firmicus, the Part of Fortune shows *“the quality of life”* and the Part of the Spirit, *“the essence of the soul”*. The Part of the Spirit is the reverse of the Part of Fortune in meaning as well as in method: spiritual well-being is opposed to worldly success.

The Part of Fortune is calculated in the following manner:

DAY BIRTHS: FORTUNE= ASCENDANT + MOON – SUN

NIGHT BIRTHS: FORTUNE = ASCENDANT + SUN – MOON

Calculate the longitudes of the Ascendant, Moon & Sun as measured from 0 degrees of Aries.

Aries.....Add 0	Libra.....Add 180
Taurus.....Add 30	Scorpio.....Add 210
Gemini.....Add 60	Sagittarius.....Add 240
Cancer.....Add 90	Capricorn.....Add 270
Leo.....Add 120	Aquarius.....Add 300
Virgo.....Add 150	Pisces..... Add 330

Example: A person has an Ascendant of 20 degrees Virgo, a Moon of 4 Aries and a Sun at 17 degrees Aquarius. An Ascendant of 20 Virgo means a Descendant or 7th. House cusp of 20 Pisces. Since the Sun is between the Ascendant and the Descendant, this is a night birth so we use the Night birth formula.

Ascendant 20 Virgo + 150 = 170.

Sun 17 Aquarius + 300 = 317.

Moon at 4 Aries + 0 = 4.

Part of Fortune = 170 + 317 – 4 = 483.

This is more than the 360 degree circle so we subtract 360 from the total: 483 – 360 = 123. The Part of Fortune becomes 3 degrees Leo.

So what is this Part of Fortune? It is used to describe the basic way in which the individual is physically connected with the surrounding world. It is one of the signifiers of the body and health, and it is the primary signifier of prosperity – and also career as it relates to prosperity. The sign of the Part of Fortune and its Ruler will give very good information about profession as it relates to making money along with the 10th House.

In ancient astrology the Ascendant is the primary indicator of the physical body and health. The Moon is also a very important secondary indicator about the body. But there is a difference between them. The Ascendant was considered to be the body at its most physical, material level. The Moon was the living aspect of the body, in fact soul, but soul incarnated in a physical body. The Part of Fortune, being composed of both of these along with the Sun, is also an indicator of the living, physical body and its relationships with the physical & social world in which the individual lives. Its capacity to show prosperity comes from this. If the Part of Fortune is in good condition, the relationship between the individual and the physical & social world in which he/she lives is one that supports and enables the individual to live well. If the Part of Fortune is in poor condition, the individual has a harder time living in relationship with the world that seems not to offer support. The same can also be said about the relationship of the Part of Fortune and health.

Now although the Part of Fortune is a primary indicator of prosperity – but it is more than that. It is created out of the longitudes of the Sun, Moon and Ascendant, and therefore is composed out of the three most important integrating factors in any horoscope. In modern astrology there is a tendency to regard the Part of Fortune as a minor point in the chart but this was not the case with ancient astrology.

It was the pioneering works of the French-American astrologer Dane Rudhyar in the 1940s & 50s that introduced modern astrologers to the use of the Part of Fortune in his book *“The Lunation Cycle”*. Rudhyar showed us that it has little significance unless it is seen as a means to evaluate a cycle of relationship created by the motions of two celestial bodies, in this case, the Sun & Moon. For example:

At New Moon – The Part of Fortune will be conjunct the Ascendant or within the 1st. House.

At First Quarter – The Part of Fortune will be conjunct the Nadir or IC cusp, within the 4th. House.

At Full Moon – The Part of Fortune will be conjunct the Descendant or within the 7th. House.

At Last Quarter – The Part of Fortune will be conjunct the MC or Midheaven and within the 10th. House.

So the phase of the Moon at birth enables the astrologer to discover the essential character of the solar-lunar relationship and of the power of “life” – but the actual location of the Part of Fortune reveals the particular way in which this life force is received and used by the individual. The Part of Fortune synthesizes the 3 factors of the cycle of the Sun-Moon relationship with the Earth (Ascendant). It is the focal point for the expression of the power generated by this Sun-Moon relationship. Now this power can manifest as personal magnetism, as radiant health, and prosperity, but it was Dane Rudhyar who first showed us the link between the Part of Fortune and the individual’s capacity for happiness.

This ease of energy flow is why some modern astrologers have chosen to use the word “Joy” to capture the essential quality of the Part of Fortune, while other modern astrologers describe it poetically as *“the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow”*. In my own astrological practice for the past 40 years, I would have to say that one cannot consider an individual fortunate just because the Part of Fortune is well placed & well aspected – unless the Sun and Moon are also strong and free from affliction. On the other hand, favourable Sun & Moon are of limited use if the Part of Fortune is afflicted. In a more psychologically orientated astrology, the promise suggested through the POF is truly dependent upon how well integrated the Sun, Moon and Ascendant are in the individual’s psyche.

There are 3 ways in which the position of the Part of Fortune in a natal chart can give information concerning the personality of the individual and the best ways in which he or she can operate in society, seek happiness and release their vital energies.

First, the POF’s position in the 12 Houses, secondly, its position in one of the zodiacal signs, and thirdly, the contact it may make with other planets. So the **House** is the most important factor to consider when interpreting any of the Parts, for it symbolizes the circumstances and

type of experience in which the individual will find the greatest ease of function. Then the **zodiacal sign** in which the Part of Fortune is found represents the type of activity the individual will find most rewarding and will respond to with the greatest ease. An exploration of the condition of the planetary Ruler of this sign will also form part of the interpretation. And thirdly, when **a planet is contacting the Part of Fortune**, the planetary function will be involved with the individual's search for happiness, as that planet's characteristics will also be externalized & made evident within the personality.

Let's take some examples. As I recently have been working in USA, the example of **President Donald Trump** will illustrate each of these 3 points.

His Part of Fortune is at 28-degrees Aquarius, at the end of the 6th. House and opposing both natal Mars at 26½-degrees Leo and his 30-degrees Leo Ascendant.

This 6th. House placement, within 1-degree of the 7th. House cusp means that he was born at the time of a Full Moon, indicating that climax & culmination dominant, a person riding the crest of a wave, a person seeking to understand whatever has been started in the past and bringing it to a completion. Thus happiness will be found in work, self-improvement, and self-discipline. Such a person usually thrives in periods of crises when traditions are being challenged by a restless society. The Part of Fortune is located in Aquarius, and you will note that the modern ruler Uranus is conjunct both his Gemini Sun & North Node, and opposing his Sagittarius Moon.

Trump's search for happiness involves the social idealism and the reforming zeal of Aquarius, bringing radical change to society through largely unconventional and unpredictable behaviour. Regardless of one's political persuasion, this combination singles out a person as a contributor to the progress of civilization. Aquarius is known as a *Friend to All*, yet with the Part of Fortune's dynamic opposition aspect to natal Mars & the Leo Ascendant, it becomes abundantly clear that Trump's search for Happiness will inevitably involve instinctive impetuosity and aggressive behaviour, a dramatic display of personal strength & courage, manifesting as a love of fighting, bordering upon bully tactics. Other examples of the Part of Fortune aspecting Mars on the birth chart can be found in the horoscopes of the Spanish Dictator Franco. A rather

convincing display of how just this one factor, the Part of Fortune, accurately describes the man and his destiny.

A second example is the multi-talented American actor **Robin Williams**. His Part of Fortune is located at almost 24-degrees Gemini, 8th. House forming a close square to Saturn and opposition to The Wounded Healer & Story-Teller Chiron.

His family background encouraged intellectual pursuits and the future actor was obsessively happy about his university studies. He made his career breakthrough doing a radio & TV show called “*Good Morning Vietnam*”, an outrageous black humour satire communicating about the American war in south-east Asia. This same planetary contact would have brought him into contact with the deep and dark wounds of a modern society struggling with a recognition of its less attractive mind-sets. His 8th. House Part of Fortune in Gemini suggests that the pathway to his joy & happiness was to demonstrate a quick mind to learn and the ability to spread oneself out and to contact everything, while simultaneously penetrating deep into life’s mysteries and to communicate this to an everyday audience. His shape-shifting role in the film Mrs Doubtfire is another wonderful representation of these placements. His POF’s square aspect to Saturn clearly manifested as profound highs & lows, optimism contrasted with pessimism. When he died through suicide, news of the event stunned the world and a tidal wave of appreciative solar response came from every part of the globe to honour this man’s colossal impact upon the hearts and minds of millions.

Here in Denmark we have our own **Queen Margrethe** and it will come as little surprise to discover her POF located in the 5th. House of “*creative self-expression & children*”, the sign of Scorpio and in close square aspect to her natal Moon in early Leo. With a Scorpio POF, the search for Happiness and personality integration is interwoven with the problem of the right use of power – and in her case, not only as the Head of Danish Monarchy, but her great creative power & shape-shifting versatility as artist & illustrator. With the contact to the Moon, her POF not only suggests her contact with the people, but her great creative depth of resourcefulness that provides an inspirational source of example to millions.

A final example – screen goddess **Marilyn Monroe** – born with a 9th. House Part of Fortune in Aries, in exact conjunction to Venus, making an

exact trine aspect to a rising Neptune in the 1st. House, sextile to the Moon, in addition to an exact quincunx aspect to Saturn in the 4th. House of the home environment. A major factor in Monroe's life was the separation from her mother, due to the latter's insanity. Her search for Happiness will come through the exercise of the power of initiative and the process of self-aggrandizement (Aries) and becoming the activator of new social-cultural impulses, specifically linked to her personal charm and feminine magnetism (Venus). Her 9th House POF showed itself in her search for Happiness through deep study & intellectual pursuits. And regarding the 9th. House of Internationalism, she will forever remain an iconic Sex Goddess for men throughout the world. Her POF's aspects show her success, founded on her ability to project an almost mythical femininity.

Here follows a simple list of planets contacting the Part of Fortune:

SUN & PART OF FORTUNE:

The essential purpose of the life is felt in a deeply personal way, making the person an agent of solar power, and setting them apart from normal people.

Examples: *Michael Jackson, Martinus, Pablo Picasso, George Lucas (Stars Wars), Paul McCartney (Beatles), Edgar Cayce, J.K.Rowling, Francis of Assisi.*

MOON:

This is symbolic of a person who should be involved and at ease with personal & mundane affairs. Can represent an extremely sensitive individual, plus a natural attunement to the public.

Examples: *Queen Margrethe, Nostradamus, Nikola Tesla (inventor).*

MERCURY:

Refers to a personal search for Happiness via the Mercurial occupations of communication, writing and bridge-building. Astrologer's who actually earn money from doing astrology have often this contact or Mercury in the zodiacal sign of the Part of Fortune. Mercury is the ancient ruler of Astrology before Uranus was discovered.

Examples: *Ernest Hemmingway, Derek Seagrif, Ammachi, the Hugging Saint.*

VENUS:

Characterizes an introverted person, concerned with internal & personal matters, yet projects great personal charm & charisma. The search for Happiness & Prosperity will involve the Arts, or diplomacy, a peace maker.

Examples: *Marilyn Monroe, Nelson Mandela, John Lennon.*

MARS:

The POF connected to natal Mars refers to a person with great personal strength or aggressiveness. The search for Happiness is through the exercise of will-power, stamina, powers of endurance and self-mastery.

Examples: *President Donald Trump, Pope Francis, Whitney Houston, John Lennon.*

JUPITER:

An optimistic personality that functions well within the social sphere. There is a trust in Destiny, faith in oneself & capacity to motivate others, which in turn normally leads to success or wealth.

Examples: *Justin Tiberlake, Joseph Smith (Founder of Mormon Church) Carl Jung, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Lady Diana, Luciano Pavarotti, United Nations World organisation.*

SATURN:

Denotes a serious and profound attitude, the power to concentrate, with the possibility of pessimism and a sense of Destiny. The approach to daily life can be highly structured, filled with responsibility, and with an appreciation of everything in its appropriate place in society and the world. Possible sign of austerity & spiritual discipline.

Examples: *Robin Williams, Michelangelo, Mohandas Gandhi, Rudolf Steiner, Alan Leo (19th. Century Theosophical Astrologer) Cleopatra Queen of Egypt.*

URANUS:

This is representative of the type of person who must constantly break down walls and overcome limitations in order to feel at ease with life. Such an individual's life should always be changing and expanding its field of relationships. Fosters a spectacular and dramatic feeling of being a unique or original personality.

Examples: *David Bowie, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, Martin Luther King, Mussolini, Dane Rudhyar, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, J. Krishnamurti (20th. Century spiritual teacher), Jeanne d'Arc.*

NEPTUNE:

Is indicative of a person who wishes to participate in some kind of vast social or spiritual network/movement. There is the obvious concern with all things mystical, often on a subjective level. This search for Happiness leads to varied outer results depending on other factors in the horoscope.

Examples: *Aleister Crowley, Lady Diana, President Theodore Roosevelt, Alice A. Bailey (Ageless Wisdom books).*

PLUTO:

Characterizes the type of person who should feel inclined to pursue and be at ease within political activities and when participating in various forms of social agitation. On the other hand, such a person may be concerned with the process of refocalizing their energy to a higher level of activity. Death and war may play a strong part in one's attitude to life and the personal search for Happiness.

Examples: *The King of International finance, J.P.Morgan, Nikola Tesla, Luciano Pavarotti, Lady Gaga, Leonardo da Vinci, Mohamed Ali (World Champion Boxer, Francis of Assis).*

The Point of Illumination

Happiness is basically the result of the individual's orientation to life, love, culture and significant purpose. If the Part of Fortune is conjunct to a planet, the nature of that planet will actively influence this orientation. If it is in opposition to a planet, then this is called the *Point of Illumination*. This is the polar opposite of the Part of Fortune and carries the significance of the waning hemicycle of the lunation cycle. This point is an expression of the release of the creative meaning of the inner, spiritual Self. It deals with the internalization of the lunation cycle – where the Part of Fortune deals with its externalization. So when the Point of Illumination is contacting a planet on the birth horoscope, then that particular planetary function will be involved in the individual's search for Happiness within the spiritual realm of creative meaning.

Classic examples of this would be the horoscope of **J.K.Rowling**, author of the Harry Potter book & film phenomena who has the POF in exact opposition to her Leo Sun in the 9th. House of publications and international fame. Another example would be the world famous trance medium **Edgar Cayce**, whose POF is also in opposition to his natal Pisces Sun in the 8th. House, that enabled him to retrieve revelations from the Akashic Record or Cosmic Bank of the 8th. House.

As a person with a 1st. House Aquarian Part of Fortune in exact opposition aspect to Mercury in Leo, this Point of Illumination has resulted in a variety of bridge-building disciplines & teachings that I have devoted my life to exploring. Mercury-Hermes-Thoth is both Messenger and Teacher. In my own life this includes running Schools in Astrology, working in Holistic Health Centers, publicizing the Egyptian Book of Thoth throughout Scandinavia, and being a Custodian for the Teachings of Hermes Trismegistus and Hermetic Kabbalah.

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