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| The Midpoints of the 4 Quadrants  by  **Derek R. Seagrief**  There are no less than 78 midpoints that the astrologer can use with the horoscope. Determining which ones are more important than others is a demanding skill, and yet, there are 4 midpoints that every student of astrology should make special effort to evaluate and which form the basis for this article.  But first, what are midpoints? They are simply points in the zodiac located halfway between any other two points. Midpoints between all possible combinations of planets, Nodes, MC and ASC are commonly used. It is accepted that a midpoint combines the qualities of the two points, so the point halfway (direct midpoint) between Mars and Jupiter would combine qualities of Mars and Jupiter. The degree and particularly the house of the midpoint symbolize the point where the particular relationship represented by these two heavenly bodies should be released in the most dynamic and focussed manner.  All students of astrology recognize the value of the 4 Angles of the horoscope, which effectively creates the circle divided into four quadrants. This is the symbol for the Self in Jungian psychology and the symbol for our planet Earth. The idea of bisecting the quadrants is relatively new to modern astrological thought. The quadrants are divided into two equal parts – the line of division being the midpoint between two angles that define the quadrant.  This midpoint is of great significance, for it **symbolizes the point of greatest intensity within the quadrant and the point of creative release of its meaning.**  The midpoint of a Quadrant is therefore the point within that Quadrant where the most concrete manifestation of purpose, symbolized by the two angles defining the Quadrant, will be externalized.  Mother Nature divides the circle of the year into 4 seasons, which is symbolized by the zero degree of the Cardinal signs, the Equinoxes and Solstice points. Across this diagram we place another cross to mark the half-way point of each season at 15-degrees of the Fixed signs. These sensitive points were well known to the ancient world, and they celebrated the cycle of the Sun’s increasing and decreasing light through these 8 Holy Days. These half-way points at 15-degrees Fixed signs were called the *“Avataric Gates”.* They were the 4 Gates of Manifestation. The name implies the descent of Cosmic power into the Earth plane.  The ancient world believed these 8 calendar Festivals to be times of sacred power when there existed a major opening between the worlds. Indeed, their belief was that these seasonal Festivals taken as a whole provide a clear structure for dealing with our perennial anxieties about sex, death, survival through the winter, the need for community and the need for a way of envisaging the supernatural world.  The fact that the Quadrant is divided into two by the midpoint also reveals that there is a build-up, a *waxing phase up to the midpoint,* showing that we **build structures to carry the purpose of the process;** and after the midpoint is reached, then the *waning phase* dominates, as the next section of the quadrant deals with the **release of the meaning** of the entire process represented by the quadrant.  **Here are the general meanings of the midpoints of each Quadrant:**   1. Midpoint of the lower Eastern Quadrant (ASC. to IC): the point of the dramatic emergence of self-awareness. 2. Midpoint of the lower Western Quadrant (IC to DSC.): the point of emergence of the personality through the development of one’s creative skills. 3. Midpoint of the upper Western Quadrant (DSC to MC): the point of creative release of self through interpersonal relationships. 4. Midpoint of the upper Eastern Quadrant (MC to ASC.): the point of creative release of self through social participation.   **Significance of planets on the Quadrant midpoints**  If a planet is found on the midpoint of any Quadrant, then this planet’s function will be involved in the release and concretization of the purpose symbolized by that Quadrant. This is much more significant than it may first appear, for any planet on one of these 4 midpoints literally dominates that entire quadrant. And because each Quadrant deals with a specific area of the psyche, then that planetary function will serve as the vehicle through which we come to realize ourselves in this area of our life.  As a practising astrologer with daily client work for more than 30 years I know the value of this and always take note of these 4 Quadrant midpoints to see if there is any planet located here at birth. In my radix horoscope I have sensitive Venus positioned upon the third Quadrant midpoint, and this has proven to be the dominant factor in creative sharing & counselling with thousands of clients.  Venus in the third Quadrant & therefore the 8th. House has a totally different meaning than Venus on the second Quadrant midpoint.  One of my clients is a successful international golf player with Venus in Scorpio 5th. House. His love of competitive sports, plus Venusian design & relationship skills between ball, golf club and the green landscape with 18 holes, clearly shows Venus on his second Quadrant midpoint as the dominate factor in his horoscope.  And this is a highly significant point to emphasize for any student of astrology – *that a planet on one of these 4 Quadrant Midpoints – can become the dominant factor in our interpretation*, regardless of what the rest of the horoscope is saying.  A classic example of this is the pioneer of grief therapy, *Elisabeth Kubler Ross*, who had *Chiron, the Wounded Healer*, sitting exactly on her 1st. Quadrant midpoint, close to the discovery degree in Taurus where Chiron was found in November 1977. With just one placement we have the whole story of her famous work with the death and dying. Aspiring USA Presidential candidate, *Donald Trump* with his Chiron in the sign of relationships, Libra on the 1st. Quadrant midpoint has successfully wounded many on his campaign trail, although others would claim that he is healing the nation.  Here are other examples. A famous opera singer has the Moon in Taurus (governing throat) on the 2nd. Quadrant midpoint of creative skills. A Director of her own Head Hunting Company has the Sun in Aries exactly on the 4th. quadrant midpoint of outer self-awareness.  Here we see her contribution to life & the world as gained from personal experiences and interaction with others.  **Saturn on 1st. Quadrant midpoint**  So what if Saturn was placed at birth on my first Quadrant midpoint – how will we interpret this?  Regardless of what the Ascendant was, or if there were other planets positioned in the first house, our reading of this person would require placing more significance of Saturn’s position on this midpoint. We could anticipate a slowness in the individual’s self-development process, starting with a defensive nature in childhood, issues surrounding authority, the father, inheritance from the past, fear of making mistakes and cycles of cautious self-expression, often emphasized by periods of intense self-denial, like the erection of Berlin Walls around the personality.  If this person is to discover their essential nature and separate identity from the world, then they must integrate Saturnian characteristics into their self-awareness (1st. Quadrant). The person with this placement would need to constantly *define themself* by taking on greater responsibility, taking on greater power, disciplining themselves, working with the opportunities provided by changing time cycles, making a Friend with the Lord of Time, Saturn. This would allow their rich reservoir of personal experience to become their major source of contribution, both to themselves and to the world.  No matter what else the rest of the horoscope was showing, Saturn on the 1st. Quadrant midpoint would be the deciding factor in the correct judgment of that individual’s life directions. Consider the enormous value of this psychological-astrological tool, that a planet placed on one of the 4 Quadrant midpoints can reveal such fundamental life issues and their creative resolution.  In this example of Saturn placed on the 1st. Quadrant Midpoint, this whole Quadrant represents the “unconscious self”, that which is below the horizon. In the classic Heroic Journey, this symbolizes the descent into the unknown, and the basic requirement for survival is self-knowledge or knowledge of self. Although the instinctive reaction will be one of self-defense, yet in order to make progress on the Heroic Journey, which is a journey of ever-increasing self-awareness, becoming like the radiant Sun, we will need to work through our Saturnian resistance to change our self-image.  We would need to open out and try things in new ways because the 1st. Quadrant represents the Spring season. As the 2nd. Quadrant the Summer season and our expression of creative skills, 3rd. Quadrant, Autumn and the 4th. Quadrant the Winter Season.    **1st. Quadrant: The Sword**  In the symbolism of the Tarot cards, the first Quadrant resonates with ***the Sword;*** the second Quadrant, ***the magical Wand***; the third Quadrant ***the Disk*** or ***Pentacle*** and the fourth Quadrant the Celtic ***Cauldron of Rebirth*** which in the Christian era became the ***Holy Grail Cup.***  The function of the Sword is that of dispeller of illusion, cutting through obstacles, whether material or spiritual and bringing light to darkened places. As the 1st. Quadrant represents our unconscious self, existing deep within our roots, *then at the midpoint we must awaken to our* *own* *Excalibur.* In the Arthurian Initiation traditions, the first task of the Hero is the taking of the sword from the stone in order to prove his right of rulership. In myth & legend, the sword is a statement of your attunement with your deepest source of power. Likewise, when a general surrenders his sword in battle, it is a symbol of his loss of power.  In the Hero’s Journey, by the time we reach the first Quadrant Midpoint we meet tests that ultimately strengthen us. So *if we have a planet on this sensitive point, consider how it is to be used as a Sword for self-awareness.*  One client had Neptune on this point and didn’t value her power or her boundaries, allowing everyone to use & abuse her time and energies, thus fulfilling an obscure sense of martyrdom and self-sacrifice. Through a series of visualisation exercises, she eventually came to value her Neptunian sword, learnt to say “No” and didn’t feel disconnected from her own feelings, or that she had abandoned the other. This dispelled her confusions and established her own needs, proving that sustained working with guided-imagery - positive use of Neptunian imagination -provided her with the inspiration for her personal transformation.  **Transits & Progressions**  As always when working with midpoints, the orb is small, no more than 2 degrees, and only conjunctions apply to this midpoint, no other aspects are considered.  Some of the readers of this article will say that they don’t have any planets on their 4 quadrant midpoints in their birth horoscope, so they can’t use this information. Then my response will be that these essential midpoints are also highly sensitive to *our current transits and progressions,* which clearly opens out a wonderful area of research possibilities - *for the rest of our life!*  One man, who lacked planets in the Earth element, became father to a son when transit Saturn moved on his 2nd. Quadrant midpoint, although no other clear astrological contact to describe this significant event were shown anywhere else in his horoscope. In another example, transit Uranus, the ruler of a man’s 7th. House of Marriage, produced the sudden death of the wife when moving over his 2nd. Quadrant midpoint.  What does it mean to have two planets sitting on two quadrant midpoints and therefore both in square aspect?  One client had Neptune on her 1st. Quadrant midpoint in Libra, squaring the Moon in Capricorn, sitting exactly on the 2nd. Quadrant midpoint. So her essential journey towards self-discovery required combing first quadrant self-image with the creative skills of the 2nd. Quadrant, combining the universal compassion of Neptune with the mothering  qualities of the Moon. She integrated these placements by becoming a psychologist (Neptune 1st. Quadrant) working with homeless people (Moon 2nd. Quadrant).  Or the example of the internationally acclaimed *Paramahansa Yogananda,* who was the first Indian Guru who introduced Eastern philosophy & yoga to the West. He was born with Saturn exalted in Libra on the 1st. Quadrant midpoint in square to his Capricorn Sun on the 2nd. Quadrant midpoint. This was not a man fearful of expressing his talents & authenticity, a typical Sun-Saturn square interpretation. Yogananda demonstrated mastery over his personality vehicles which allowed the full radiance of his inner Sun to shine. He was in total contact with the significance of his 4 Quadrants, the symbol of the cross within the circle, Jung’s symbol of the Self. Interesting parallels can be made with the life of India’s unifier, *Ghandi,* who also has Saturn on the 1st. Quadrant midpoint. Actor *Clint Eastward* earnt his film reputation playing “tough guy” roles – Saturn in Capricorn sits on this midpoint. While Saturn in Gemini defined the creator of “Star Wars”, *George Lucas,* to communicate his science-fiction legacy.  Rather than write a lengthly “cook-book” article describing each of the 11 planets on the 4 Quadrant midpoints, I would like to end by listing some famous people for your on-going inspiration and study.  **1st. Quadant Midpoint planets:**  **SUN** – in Scorpio *Leonardo Dicaprio*, popular film star; or Sun in Libra, *Christopher Reeve*, Mr “Superman”; in Taurus, Bolivian revolutionary *Che Guevara;* in Gemini, *Eric Clapton*, superstar & guitar man.  **MOON** – in Libra, *Orville Wright*, pioneer of man’s first flight; or in Gemini, *Amelia Earhart*, America’s first female pilot.  **MERCURY** – in Sagittarius, *Isaac Newton*, famous English scientist; or in Scorpio, *Winston Churchill*, UKs Prime Minister during 2nd. World War.  **VENUS** – inAquarius**,** *Nicolas Cage*, film star; in Scorpio *Leonardo Dicaprio;* or in Libra, *Peter Sellers*, star of the “Pink Panther” films.  **MARS** – in Gemini, *O J Simpson;* in Libra, rebel *Nelson Mandela;* in Scorpio, Lord of the Rings author, *JRR Tolkien*; in Sagittarius, Russia’s *Vladimir Putin*;in Aquarius, *Leonardo da Vinci.*  **JUPITER** – in Cancer, *Niels Armstrong*, first man on the Moon; in Sagittarius, politician & past President of USA, *Jimmy Carter.*  **SATURN** - in Libra, *Yogananda*, spiritual teacher; in Sagittarius, *Mohandas Gandhi;* in Capricorn, tough guy in films, *Clint Eastwood;* in Taurus, *Ringo Starr*, the Fab 4 Beatles; in Gemini, *George Lucas* of Star Wars fame.  **URANUS** – in Virgo, *Pablo Picasso*, modern art genius; in Scorpio, *Rudolf Valentino*, star of the silent screen; in Taurus, “Imagine”, *John Lennon;* in Leo, *Jasmuheen*, she who lives only on sunlight.  **NEPTUNE** – in Pisces, *Emanuel Swedenborg*, 18th. century Swedish mystic; in Libra, rock star *Freddie Mercury;* or in Leo, *Gene* *Roddenberry*, creator of “Star Trek” TV cult show.  **PLUTO** – in Leo, *Bill Gates*, creator of Microsoft & *Camilla Parker Bowles,* wife of Prince Charles; in Cancer, *Dalai Lama,* Tibet’s spiritual leader; in Libra, *Robbie Williams,* pop singer.  **CHIRON** – in Taurus, *Elizabeth Kubler-Ross*, pioneer of grief-therapy; and in Libra, *Donald Trump*, Republican candidate for President.  **2nd. Quadrant Midpoint planets:**  **SUN** – in Capricorn, *Yogananda*; in Sagittarius, *William Blake,* highlyoriginal artist & visionary during 18th. century England.  **MOON** – in Aquarius, *David Copperfield*, stage magician & illusionist; in Libra, *Bruce Springsteen*, rock star.  **MERCURY** – in Aries, Human Rights activist & the Godfather film star, *Marlon Brando*.  **VENUS** – in Capricorn, *Placido Domingo*, opera tenor; in Aquarius, *Franklin Roosevelt*; in Gemini, *Malcom X*, 1960s black revolutionary.  **MARS** – in Aquarius, *Hugh Hefner*, creator of Playboy; in Cancer, *Karl Marx*, creator of the Communist movement.  **JUPITER** – in Cancer, *J. Krishnamurti,* spiritual teacher/philosopher; or in Capricorn, *Edgar Cayce*, the Sleeping Prophet; in Scorpio, film producer of great adventures, *Steve Spielberg*.  **SATURN** – in Gemini, *Bille Jean King*, famous tennis star; or in Cancer,  sexy film star, *Marlene Dietrich.*  **URANUS** – in Libra, *Martinus*, Danish Cosmologist; in Aquarius, past President of USA, *Richard Nixon,* in Pisces, fashion designer, *Pierre Cardin.*  **NEPTUNE** – in Libra, State of *Palestine* 1948.  **PLUTO** – in Cancer, *Bruno Huber,* Swiss Astrologer; in Gemini, Greek billionaire shipowner, *Ari Onassis*.  **CHIRON** – in Leo, State of *Syria* 1941.  **3rd. Quadrant Midpoint planets:**  **SUN** – in Gemini, *J.F.Kennedy*, past USA President.  **MOON** – in Cancer, *Sai Baba*, Indian Guru; in Scorpio, *Nostradamus* & singer *Johnny Cash*; in Gemini, *Louis Pastour*, inventor pasteurization.  **MERCURY** – in Aries, *Shirley Temple*, famous child actress, also the Godfather films of *Marlon Brando;* in Virgo*, Dustin Hoffman.*  **VENUS** – in Gemini, *Julian Assange* and Wiki Leaks; in Leo, *Sylvester Stallone,* Rocky & Rambo film star.  **MARS** – in Cancer, *Marcel Duchamp*, DADA artist; in Aries, *Albrecht Durer,* 15th. century artist & engraver.  **JUPITER** – in Aries, *FW Alexander,* body-therapist; in Leo, *Joe Frazier*, 20th. Century boxer; in Aquarius, *James Hillman*, archetypal psychology.  **SATURN** – in Gemini, psychiatrist *Sigmund Freud*, also Crown Prince *Haakon Magnus,* Norway; in Aries, *John Cleese*, Monty Python fame.  **URANUS** – in Leo, *Lady Diana*; in Pisces, *Richard Attenborough*, film producer; in Capricorn, *Sir Laurence Oliver*, UK actor extraordinarie.  **NEPTUNE** – in Scorpio, *Joseph Smith*, charismatic Founder of Mormon Church in USA.  **PLUTO** – in Leo, *Oprah Winfrey*, TV reality show; or in Pisces, *Otto von Bismarck,* unifier of modern Germany.  **CHIRON** – in Leo, the Dragon, *Bruce Lee*, martial arts superstar.  **4th. Quadrant Midpoint planets:**  **SUN** – in Virgo, Bible fanatic, *David Koresh;*in Libra,the Hugging Saint of India, *Ammachi.*  **MOON** – in Leo, tennis star, *Venus Williams;* in Aquarius, Astrologer *Stephen Arroyo*; in Libra, Mr. Communist Cuba, *Fidel Castro*.  **MERCURY** – in Gemini, black-&-white line drawing artist *M.C.Escher*, and actress *Meryl Streep*; in Cancer, *Carl Lewis*, athlete & Olympic Gold medallist; in Taurus, singer & icon *Cher.*  **VENUS** – in Gemini, *Alice A. Bailey,* creator of the famous 24 Blue books of esotericism.  **MARS** – in Libra, *J.K.Rowling*, and the “Harry Potter” book series; in Taurus, Surrealist painter, *Salvador Dali;* in Sagittarius, *Prince Harry.*  **JUPITER** – in Gemini, *Maria Montessori*, pioneer of alternative education for children; in Libra, automobile pioneer, *Henry Ford.*  **SATURN** – in Gemini, famous USA chess superstar, *Bobby Fischer*; in Pisces, feminist *Jane Fonda*.  **URANUS** – in Taurus, crazy *Woody Allan*, in Libra, avant guard artist *Marcel Duchamp*; in Gemini, versatile film actor *Steve Martin,* and King of Sweden *Carl Gustav.*  **NEPTUNE** – in Scorpio, Renaissance genius, *Michelangelo*; or in Leo, shape-shifting horror movie star, *Christopher Lee.*  **PLUTO** – in Cancer, *Indira Gandhi,* assassinated Prime Minister of the largest democratic nation in the world, India; in Virgo, USA Space Agency, *NASA.*  **CHIRON** – in Leo, the creator of the Hobbit & Lord of the Rings saga, *J.R.R. Tolkien*.  © Derek R. Seagrief  - Copenhagen, Aquarius Full Moon January 2016  [derek@seagrief.com](mailto:derek@seagrief.com)  [www.seagrief.com](http://www.seagrief.com)  Mobile: +45-23 81 76 18 |