

# Eclipses: The Universes Maverick.

By Helen Hartley – August 2005

## Introduction: The Magnificence of Mother Nature.

If you have ever experienced an eclipse and if you have, you will know its one of the most awesome natural phenomena you could ever experience. In December 2002, in Ceduna a small town in South Australia, Australia there was a total solar eclipse and although Ceduna is, approximately 800Km from Adelaide a few thousand people decided to descend on the small community to witness one of natures' wonders. The journey took around 10 hours and the town had gone all out to celebrate and capitalise on this grand spectacle. The clouds rolled in however, not deterred, we positioned ourselves close to the waters edge right behind the scientists and a group of Japanese tourists. In typical Aussie style, with a blanket shared by eight of us, an esky for drinks and the food we bought, we waited. The clouds got darker and thicker which made us wonder if we had come all this way for nothing, however our spirits remained high and we wondered if mother nature would allow us the privilege of sharing her moment. Moreover, quietly we prayed because to have travelled so far and miss out would have been so disappointing.



The atmosphere was electric and it seemed as if the clouds were also competing for the best viewing position. Then it started. The Moon began its path across the face of the Sun and for approximately sixty minutes; we sat mesmerised wearing the appropriate eye protection. The clouds parted, reluctantly, granting us our wish to see those few minutes of totality. Words cannot adequately express the magnificence of this dance between the Sun and the Moon and the level of complex astronomical precision it involved. Just before totality, as it became darker the birds stopped singing and all went quite. The scene was peaceful, unnervingly silent and calm and yes,

spiritual. Even the humans were quiet, not a word could be heard. We stood paying homage to the majesty of it all as I am sure the ancients had done many times before us. In fact symbolically, eclipses have been said to coincide with the ending of great wars and often the birth of kings or other persons of great importance, Jansky (1979, pg 21). Cameras clicked and videos recorded the moment. As the Sun's rays burst out from behind the Moon, gasps of delight could be heard. These moments continued, we took it all in and suddenly it was over. I now know why people just follow eclipses because there is nothing quite like it.

## Background on Eclipses

As an astrologer, I work with eclipses and how they might shape the events occurring in the lives of my clients. There are Solar (Total, Annular, Partial and Hybrid) eclipses, where the Moon passes between the earth and the Sun in alignment as described above and Lunar (Annular, Partial and Total) eclipses where the Sun passes between the Earth and the Moon in alignment. This is not an astronomical technical article. I will not expand my explanation except to say, know the difference, as they all work in the horoscope!

Observing this phenomenon over many years, interpreting their effect in terms of human behaviour, and in conjunction with the prevailing circumstances reflected in the horoscope, I find they operated like a Maverick. By Maverick, I mean one can expect the unexpected in as much as the eclipse triggers and magnifies the outcome and good astrologers will be completely familiar with the relationship between the progressions, arcs, aspects, house position and patterns of growth that coincide with the eclipses phenomena.

As generally agreed by contemporary astrologers, Solar eclipses manifest as external activities and or circumstances in the native's environment. Alternatively, Lunar eclipses manifest internally and best describe the subconscious state or internally processing taking place within the individual. This article, for simplicity, focuses on Solar eclipses because of their overt nature which makes it easier to provide evidence of their impact.

## Two Commonly Used Eclipse Cycles

There are two different eclipse cycles. One discovered by the Chaldeans, of 18 years 9-11 days and we call these Saros Cycles and one cycle lasts for about 1260 years, Jansky (1979, pg 26). Each Saros Cycle has a particular nature or theme and the eclipses, although quite precise Brady, (1992, pg 219) describes them as being a family...having a beginning, middle and an end... [and to] make a study of individual eclipses is equivalent to watching a giant hardwood tree grow.

A Greek astrologer called Meton, around 432 BC in Athens, discovered that some eclipses occurred every 19 years around the same zodiacal degree. The Metonic cycle is best described by Lineman (1984, pg 5) who states that many solar eclipses observe a Metonic return: that is they reappear in the same zodiacal position within a degree or two every nineteen years. Not all solar eclipses follow a Metonic return: some occur at shorter intervals: others do not reappear for many years; a few do not reoccur (return) within the individual's lifetime, appearing only once in a particular position during a life cycle. According to Jansky, (1992, pg 26) Metonic returns are not precise 23% of the time and I think this is significant in terms of the individual's development as will be explained shortly.

Although they are both, valuable my preference is to use the latter. Why? I like the repetitive nature of the eclipse triggering the same point, or not. It enables me to determine how the client accepts the challenge of growth because while the circumstances may differ with individuals the underlying theme will not because it is activating the same point. It is how this theme gets integrated in the personality that will be important in terms of learning life's lessons, maturing and the attainment of wisdom, at least in that part of the horoscope being highlighted.

What makes these eclipses so useful is the fact the interval period produces a short return, a long return or none at all which provide the astrologer valuable insight into the development of the client and as Lineman, (1984 pg, 5), states, a continued Metonic return lends natural rhythm to unfolding life patterns in the horoscope activation. A short return...indicates comparatively rapid development...a long return is associated with stagnation or completion.

## Using Eclipses in Astrological Interpretation:

When interpreting any eclipse activity it is essential that it occur within the context of the natal horoscope. Look at what is going for that client at that particular time. Know the natal chart, the key themes and issues, as this will give you the clues as to how important particular planets, aspects and or points are. There are two ways to consider the effect of eclipses:

1. The first is through contact in the natal horoscope as these planets and points (MC-IC, ASC-DSC) represent the raw material, pre-disposition or potential of the person. Usually clients can identify with hits to their personal planets: ☉ ☽ ☿ ♀ ♂ or the transpersonal and outer planets: ♃ ♅ ♁ ♃ ♃ that are in tight hard (♁ □ ♁) aspect these. Eclipses to these points that occur on regular basis describe the evolving development of that particular quality.
2. The second scenario occurs when secondary progressions (P), or solar arcs (SA) (which I prefer), and or transits (T), trigger any natal planet which in turn may have also been activated by an eclipse. For example a Taurus noted for stubbornness and typically prefers stability may have SA ♁=☉, which seeks freedom of expression and the need for liberation of old habit patterns. However, within the context of the typical Taurean experience change may be as a particularly disruptive or unsettling time. If this configuration is triggered by an eclipse, within the same period, the whole developmental focus and experience will be magnified, for example,
  - a. It may create the pathway to new adventures so they can experience their own uniqueness through the liberation of ♁ energy. As it is the ☉=♁ and not the other way around I would expect to see more development with respect to doing things differently!Or
  - b. It could be so disruptive that by the end of the SA and the eclipse period the person's life has completely changed, hopefully for the better but then that is up to how willingly they cooperate with the universe!

### The Question of Orb and Duration:

With respect to orbs, Jansky (1979, pg 40) and Lineman (1984 pg 11) suggests +/- 5 degrees, is acceptable. I tend to work with +/- 3 degrees and depending what else is in the horoscope I may choose to go to +/- 5 degrees. Remember the rule of thumb: the tighter the orbs the more powerfully the effect is likely to be.

In terms of how long the eclipse effects last there are verifying perspectives. For solar eclipses, I notice that up to six months out can represent the culmination point of any pressure build up. After that, the energy appears to lessen in its intensity. Alternatively the individual may have adapted to the circumstances so the effect may still be there yet the perception of its potency becomes somewhat diminished.

### The Case Studies Preamble:

Following on will be three case studies that examine the events in the native's life at the time of the eclipses. It would be foolish not to acknowledge that other 'things' were going on in these horoscopes at the time because they were however the eclipses really seem to have demanded attention of the individuals in the particular areas they triggered. In addition, I will not dilute the discussion by launching into treatise of every astrological goings on because I believe this would make the discussion more convoluted than I intend at this point.

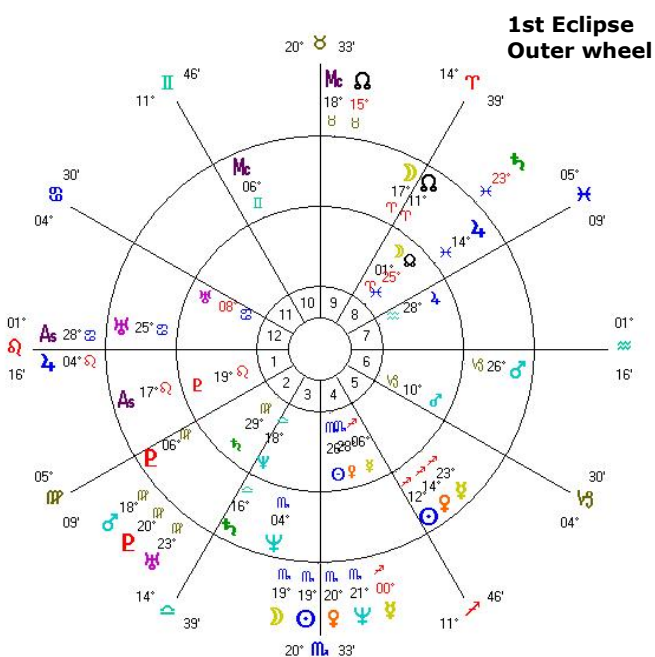
In the first case study: Bruce, we look at three times in his life where the ☾ eclipse triggers of his IC/MC Axis. In Bruce's horoscope, you will notice I have showed the Solar Arc Directions which I prefer to use when delineating horoscopes. The second case study compares two women born within two weeks of each other with ♀ at 00 & 02. One woman has ♀ D and the other has ♀ R.

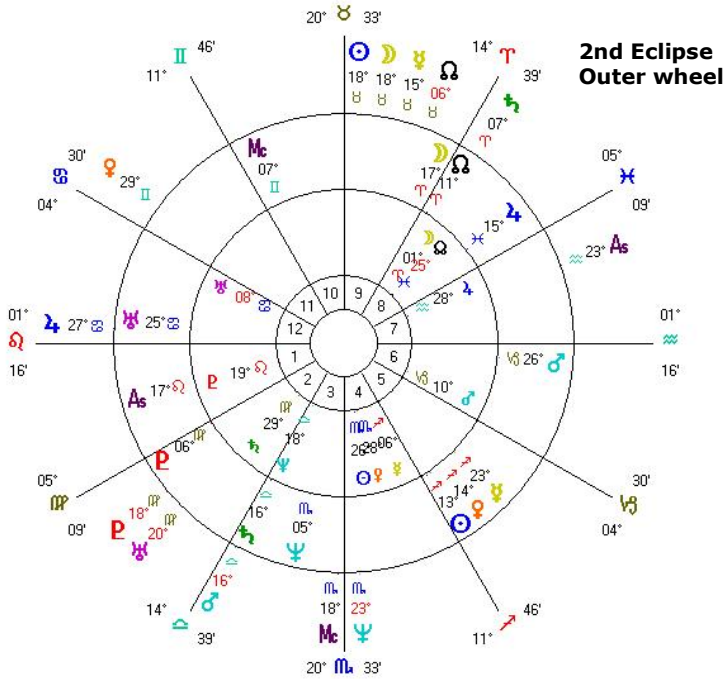
What becomes apparent in each of the cases is the nature of the eclipse patterns that seems to support Lineman's notions about the evolving and developmental nature of eclipses with the emphasis taking into account the point or planet triggered and a call to action from the houses affected.

### Case Study Number One: Eclipse Cycles to the IC-MC Axis.

The following case study is of a male, Bruce, born 19/11/1950 and shows the developmental circumstances where eclipses have also influenced. We will look at a series of eclipses across the IC/MC axis. The first occurs at 16 years in 1996 then six months later in May 1997. The third one is consistent with the Metonic cycle of 19 years, where the eclipse returns to the same zodiacal degree. I believe the following discussion will demonstrate the developmental nature of using eclipses.

The first eclipse occurs in Nov 12 1996, he is sixteen years old ☾ = IC/MC axis. Even though the eclipse is technically, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> house we know that if it is close to a house cusp we also take into account the next house. In this case it is so close to the 4<sup>th</sup> /10<sup>th</sup> house we would allow it. The importance of this axis validates this decision on this occasion. We know that this axis brings into focus the career (10<sup>th</sup> House) and more broadly his life perspective and home (4<sup>th</sup> roots/family). At this stage the pressure comes from the 4<sup>th</sup> house yet is manifesting in the 10<sup>th</sup>, he is being asked: Where are you going? What do you want to make of your life? In this era it was customary to start asking high schools students about career aspirations about this age. Now it occurs so much earlier. With ♀ involved in this eclipse I suspected that he might have also experienced his first 'love'. He did!





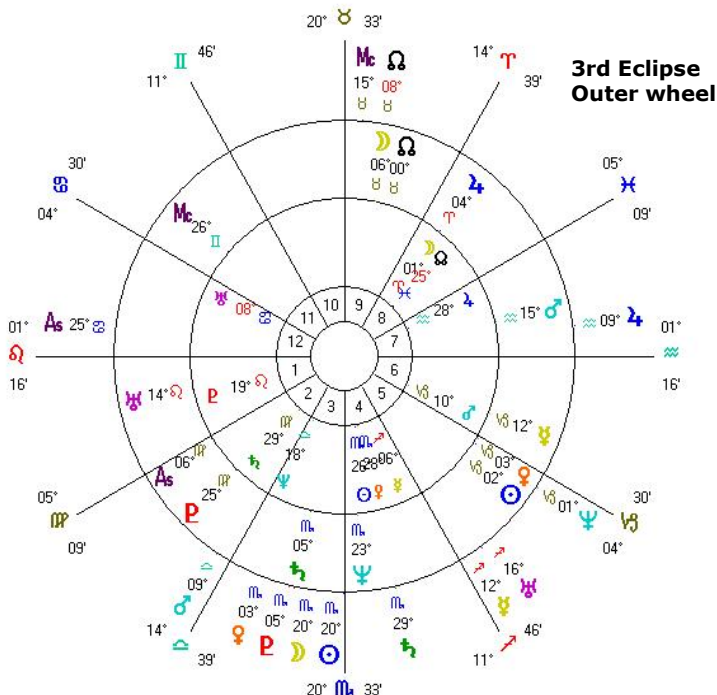
The second eclipse May 1967 = ♁ MC/IC axis. In June/July 1967 he applies for the RAAF with aim of being a pilot. He failed the medical because he has a perforated ear drum. He is very upset, as he had no alternative plans. In August/Sept 1967 he applied to Police Force and passes all the requirements. They will not take him at 17 year of age so he waits till Jan 1968 then he attends the Police Academy for a period of 3 years.

The significance again that the IC/MC axis is being affected, this time in the 9<sup>th</sup> but so close to the 10<sup>th</sup> we take it into account. However events would certainly have been affecting his worldview or philosophy (9<sup>th</sup> house and they way he communicated, the 3<sup>rd</sup>). It is also interesting that Bruce had a stutter and affected his confidence when communicating, so this would have been a very big step for a young person, yet he took it. His Police Academy years were confidence building.

What is also significant is some of the other key contacts. **TΨ = IC/♁**.

He was looking for his ideal job, was unsuccessful and disillusioned and yet the **TΔ♁NO**, **♃ΔMC** bought with it another offering. With his natal **♁♎, ♃♏** and **♁♓** the military type environment proves to be a very suitable career. The impact on the fourth house was a natural one. His move into the Police Academy meant that he left home.

With third eclipse, 19 years later, in 1985, the boy had become a man, with a wife and child. He was still in the police force. In 1981, he met a woman to whom he was very drawn. She was different from his usual circle of friends (**T♃♁NO!**) and they had a brief affair. In 1982, his wife started having an affair that he was oblivious to; **SAΨ** would have hit his IC/MC axis. Within 12 months she left him and he came home from work one night to a 'Dear Bruce' letter on the table, he had no idea why!



By the time the eclipse ♁ = IC/MC axis occurs in Nov 1985 life has not been going well and with **Ψ=IC/♁!** I would not have expected it to be going well. His life began to fall apart. His ego was in crisis, his home life, his foundation was dissolving before his very eyes and he becomes despondent. The separating **T♃=N♀** would have also contributed to setting the stage for the break down. **SA♃=TΨ** surfaces the anger on both side of the relationship. His wife divorces him and there is an unfavourable property settlement of which he loses a considerable amount of money. This is interesting in as much as **SAΨ=IC/♁** and he is forced to think about the meaning of life, his life. This represents a fundamental and profound shift in his life perspective. Of interest, is that now, **SAΨ** that the same point as **TΨ** was back in 1967 when he first experienced a shift in life perspective?

His ex-wife had custody of their son and made the contact with his son extremely difficult by imposing the most bizarre sanctions on visitation. He did not fight but gave way to a sense of failure and disappointment. Under  $\Psi$ 's spell he truly feels lost. At the same time, his work underwent considerable change. The unit he belonged to was dismantled and he was transferred to another station and section. He was not happy.

By tracking these events, we observe that although the cycle may not be regular there is a theme associated with the eclipse hitting the same zodiacal degree. In Bruce's case, it was about the  $\blacklozenge$  activity across the **IC-MC Axis**, a very sensitive point in the horoscope, flowing into one house, creating the cause and effect in the polar opposite house. In particular it challenged his foundation (4<sup>th</sup> house) and at a Meta level, his life perspective (10<sup>th</sup>). We also need to note that the experiences were consistent with what you would expect for his age, which further supports the notion of the developmental nature of  $\blacklozenge$ s.

### **Case Study Number Two: A Comparison of Solar Eclipses to the same Zodiacal Degree.**

The following is a comparison of two lifelong friends who were born within two weeks of each other in March 1953. Their Natal horoscopes are included as appendix A of this document. The names have been changed and the charts are being used with permission. It is the intention of this comparison to provide you with a sense of the continuing and deep underlying themes presented by eclipses. In addition, these two women have  $\text{♀}$  at 00 $\blacklozenge$ 02 with one twist. Ann's  $\text{♀}$  is **direct** and Josephine's is **R**. In the following discussion, not every possible meaning of the planetary energies, aspects and sensitive points were examined. I have kept to the salient points. Ann's  $\text{♀}$  is in the 1<sup>st</sup> house of self, polarising to the 7<sup>th</sup>, which is concerns itself with relationships. Josephine's  $\text{♀}$  is in the 10<sup>th</sup> polarising to the 4<sup>th</sup> concerning career and family respectively. They both have  $\text{♀} \text{♂} \text{♄}$  already predisposing them to issues in relationships, having to work hard for their money and coming to grips with their own value. This planetary aspect alone compels them to work hard to understand the nature of their own attractiveness and worth as an individual, through the experience of the rulership networks ruled by  $\text{♀}$  and  $\text{♄}$ . Ann's  $\text{♄}$  is in her 7<sup>th</sup> and rules her 10<sup>th</sup> house while Josephine's is in her 4<sup>th</sup> and rules her 8<sup>th</sup> house. Of note is that Josephine had six planets ruled by  $\text{♀}$ !

While their experiences of starting school were different, the outcome was that very quickly, they learnt to be afraid of authority ( $\text{♄}$ ) and that they were not approved ( $\text{♀}$ ) of. This resulted in low and later underdeveloped self-esteem. Of course, the significance of this is that they occurred in the formative years and left their mark for many years to come. They learnt not to 'trust' authority figures i.e. people they should have been able to trust, and so the stage for the future was being set. The natural confidence usually seen in children was denied and would take many years build. Trusting others for both of them was and is still an issue.

As they grew into womanhood, you see the developmental challenge and complex repetitive nature of the life themes as they experience each eclipse. You will see how their lives evolve through the eclipse cycle and how they continue to experience a compelling need to change circumstances while they experience their  $\text{♀} \text{♄}$  through the natal aspect and the houses they rule.

The following table compares their experiences of the same eclipses over 50 plus years and tracks the events that occurred in their lives, using many of their own words. You will notice the jumps in time consistent with the Metonic eclipse cycle.

What makes this work so insightful is the ability to see if and how the eclipse cycles operate with the natives because they have  $\text{♀}$  at 00 $\blacklozenge$ 02 the same degree, in the same sign! As Josephine's is, **R** we will have the opportunity to see if and how that may have influenced her. Because  $\text{♀}$  occupies different houses in their natal horoscopes one would expect the zone of experience and the rulership networks to reflect this. Other wise we would conclude that the eclipses do not work!

Trust me they do!

Date	Person A - Ann	Person B - Josephine
	♀ 00 8 02 1 <sup>st</sup> House-Polarity 1-7 Houses Rules 2 <sup>nd</sup> house Key aspects ♀♂♂♂♂♂, ♀♂♂♂	♀ 00 8 02 R 10 <sup>th</sup> House-Polarity 10-4 Houses Rules 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 Houses Key aspects ♀♂♂♂♂, ♀♂♂♂
♣ 23 Oct 1957 ♂♀ orb 0.10	Started school and suffered traumatic mother separation anxiety. She was crying and could not stop. The teachers were very unsympathetic. They locked her in the store cupboard to punish her and to make her stop crying! Another incident where the class was being naughty she was hit on the arm with a cane which split her arm open.	Started school and the nun's habits scared her she scaled 6ft high fence to get out and run to her maternal grandmother for comfort, as she was afraid of the nuns. Father very harsh disciplinarian, almost cruel, her Mother was hateful and told her she was stupid.
♣ 19 April 1958 ♂♀ orb 0.10	In 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade, she needed to go to toilet: the teachers refused and she wet herself and felt humiliated. At recess, she escaped from school, went home, and told mother and as you might imagine, all hell broke loose. However, from that point she was petrified of the nuns and the schooling system.	Her mother was pregnant with her 3 <sup>rd</sup> child. She became responsible for doing many of the household chores. She was afraid of her father and her mother always told her she was stupid...Lived in climate of fear. She bit her nails and used to get cold sores on her chin regularly but never showed any external signs of stress.
♣ 23 Oct 1976 ♂♀ orb 0.04	Met 2 <sup>nd</sup> Husband. 1st husband was on the way out as he was violent and she has to hide from him, as she feared for her physical safety. The final straw was when he attacked her after a work dinner. She ran away moving from house to house, borrowing cars to move. She's learning about what she values in relationships	May 76, went into business, hairdressing (how ♀!) by Oct wanted out because it was hard work and she got no help. She was advised not to, takes that advice, and does very well. She had 1 <sup>st</sup> child in 1975 and has trouble balancing the family and work because there is no support from family. 1 <sup>st</sup> husband is lazy and does not contribute to the running of the household. All she gets is the responsibility, has to organise the family and work the business.
♣ 18 April 1977 ♂♀ orb 1.44	In June 1977 got pregnant and miscarried in Sept. She divorced 1 <sup>st</sup> Husband in Dec 1977. Remarried in March 1978 and was already pregnant with 2 <sup>nd</sup> child, which was born perfectly normal.	Problem with business location and tenancy agreement, which was not resolved by landlord and as a consequence she decides there is a need to relocate, extra expenses incurred. After an initial boom, business suffers as a result and finances become tough and affect home and family.
♣ 24 Oct 1995 ♂♀ orb 0.17	Partner #3, with whom she had been having an exciting part time relationship came to live with her. Relationship 'fell' apart after a Hysterectomy and partner said sex was not the same. She became humiliated in the relationship because he made her feel unworthy and not like a woman. She found it devastating.	Her Manager changed—he did not like her strength (☉♂♂MC) and she did not respect him because he was weak. He begins to undermine her career by taking her of international assignments and exposure to higher-level projects and people. Global downsizing also threatens her career and creates a tentative workplace for all as the threat of redundancy hangs about.
♣ 17 April 1996 ♂♀ orb 1.49	June 1996 was when she first wanted to split with 3 <sup>rd</sup> partner. She left her partner but came back. Relationship improved but failed and they separated for good. Her confidence was at an all time low: he had issues around control and he was mentally cruel.	Problems in second marriage, related to intimacy resulting in self worth crisis, marriage nearly breaks up and finances were a major issue. In April 1996, a close teacher who became her friend and mentor tragically, dies. She has a hysterectomy in June has 7weeks of work.
♣ 19 April 2004 ♂♀ orb 0.10	June 2004 – Goes on holidays around the world. Visiting relatives on UK, conference in France, then to Las Vegas and won \$US 2500 on the pokies.	Significant increases in pay. She has a very senior role and considerable responsibility. Achievement is there but like 'swimming thru treacle'. She seriously begins to question if she stills wants a career however fears loosing the salary and what that brings. June 2004 has emergency gall bladder operation. Spontaneously decides to go overseas with husband.

The comparison clearly demonstrates the effects of eclipses within the houses they occupied and or the effect in polar opposite house. The field of experience is also clear and we should not forget the ♃ experience as it is incorporated into the mix, adding to the complexity of the experience as do the effect of the rulership networks.

Anne really had had ongoing issues in relationships and experienced very powerful circumstances that forced her to take action. She experienced being unloved, the shame of violence and the need to make change when the eclipses hit. It seems out of a need for love and approval she stays with partners until she can no longer stand it. Therein lays her theme. Of interest is that she is a wonderful judge of character. Perhaps ♃ has done its work because these days she has a different sense of her worth. She also has a wonderfully loving partner. The evolutionary process has helped her understand herself through the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> house polarities.

Alternatively, Josephine's theme correlates with responsibility and hard work. Is this the way she works out the effects of those early damaged years? One wonders. Although, she learnt at an early age not to trust and rely on anyone her early lack of confidence now manifest as someone who can stand the pressure of being different and confident enough not needing the approval of others to move forward in life. In her circles, she wields considerable power both positional and personal. Literally, when she speaks, people listen

Common to both is that the eclipses correlate with changes instigated by the actions of others although at a deeper, significant psychological level Ann and Josephine would have been complicit in some ways and spiritually colluding to have the experiences for their own evolution, a characteristic of development that is beyond the scope of this paper.

Again, I state that these events will have occurred within the context of the natal chart and whatever advanced techniques you may use. As stated previously, I prefer to work with solar arc and I suspect that whatever techniques you favour my point is still valid. I have drawn exclusively on the experiences at the times of eclipses to demonstrate that they may be worth considering in your astrological consulting. It is my belief that the use of eclipses will add a deeper dimension to the client's understanding and their life's tapestry. Enjoy!

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