**Quadrant Orientation: A Taoist Perspective**

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Quadrant Orientation defines one’s basic strategy for assimilating experience. When getting to know a client's chart I like to focus on the seven traditional planets and their Quadrant Orientation. If you want to know the person, focus on the personal planets initially. The four Quadrants rhyme symbolically with the four Seasons. Planets in Angular houses are said to be strong in outward manifestation, the most Yang of their Quadrant. Planets in Cadent houses, while outwardly weakened, are actually stronger in the interior realms of wisdom, education and flexibility, able to adapt to circumstances. They are the most Yin of their Quadrant, which, from a Taoist perspective, signifies great strength through adaptability and the tendency to bend with the wind or go with the flow. Planets in Succedent houses combine the Yin and Yang essences in a mutually empowering and balanced manner that partakes of strength and adaptability.

Some charts feature a split Orientation where two or three Quadrants are emphasized. Other charts have no specific emphasis with planets spread in all four sections granting seasonal variability in character expression. Even if there is no clear Quadrant emphasis the Orientation differences between the natural polarities of the Sun/Moon, Mars/Venus, and Jupiter/Saturn can be contemplated. For instance, if the Sun lies in the opposite Quadrant from the Moon, this can create developmental tension as the Moon attempts to reflect the power of the Sun in a way that is different than the Sun’s way of radiating light. It acts like an opposition aspect. The sixteen arrangement possibilities between any of the three polarities make for some interesting characterization. The same idea should be applied to the Venus/Mars and Jupiter/Saturn polarities. Mercury, as neutral messenger, does not engage in polarization with one specific traditional planet but is still important by Quadrant in terms of thought generation and intellectual capacity.

The following interpretations can be applied to the four birth chart Orientations.

**Spring Quadrant (Upper Left):** Since this quadrant is in the Eastern Hemisphere where the diurnal energy ascends and in the visible realm it has a double Yang essence. A concentration of classical planets in the upper left quadrant indicates a focus on self-actualization through social expression and integration. Self-development in the service of the culture becomes a life-theme and makes these leaders natural star players seeking objective recognition. Individual charisma and strong independence help drive personal goals achieved through societal contribution.

**Summer Quadrant (Upper Right):** Since this quadrant is in the Western Hemisphere where the diurnal energy is beginning to decline but still in the visible realm it has a mixed Yang/Yin essence. A concentration of classical planets in the upper right quadrant indicates a focus on cooperation through social expression and significance. Collaborative ventures in the service of culture becomes a life-theme and makes these investors ultimate team players seeking objective recognition. Interpersonal diplomacy and interdependence help drive communal goals that lead to collective achievements.

**Autumn Quadrant (Lower Right):** Since this quadrant is in the Western Hemisphere where the diurnal energy is in decline and in the invisible realm, it has a double Yin essence. A concentration of classical planets in the lower right quadrant indicates a focus on cooperation through private expression and analysis. Collaborative activities in the service of families and/or inner circles becomes a life theme and makes these emissaries masters of adaptation. Interpersonal alliances and interdependence drive subjective introspection for deep personal expression and fulfillment.

**Winter Quadrant (Lower Left):** Since this quadrant is in the Eastern Hemisphere where the diurnal energy is beginning to rise again but still in the invisible realm, it has a mixed Yin/Yang essence. A concentration of classical planets in the lower left quadrant indicates a focus on self-actualization through private expression and exchange. Self-development in the service of family and/or a close inner circle makes these lone wolves masters of self-reliance. Individual charisma and independence drive subjective introspection for deep personal expression and fulfillment.

For more on the Quadrants, including specific chart examples, go to: <http://divineinspirationastrology.com/quadrant-orientation/>