A Brief History of the Dharma Chart

The Dharma Chart has been around for some 400 years but only recently has been re-introduced to astrologers. It was originally discovered by the astrologer/astronomer Copernicus in the early 1500s. He pointed out that everything does not revolve around the Earth and us, but in fact the Earth and other planets actually circle the Sun and not vice versa. Thus the heliocentric chart was discovered.

It was after Copernicus' discovery that astronomers adopted the helio chart which they began to use along with the traditional Earth-centered astrological chart. Armed with these two powerful charts (Earth and Sun) the astronomers went on to become scientists and gradually lost sight of the cultural interpretation of astronomy that we know as astrology.

At the same time, astrologers chose not to adopt the new Copernican helio chart but continue to use only the traditional Earth-centered chart, which they have done up to these modern times. But just as the astrologers overlooked the value of the helio chart perspective, the astronomers failed to grasp the spiritual value of the new heliocentric map, which either was never discovered or was somehow lost on them.

So here we are in the 21st Century and we have both charts available to us: the traditional Earth-centered natal chart, which I call the Karma Chart, because it is a map of our personality and the circumstances of life into which we have been born, but we also have the astronomer's chart, which I call the Dharma Chart, a map of the deep soul or spirit of each of us that lives behind the personality. Each chart is a map of the same moment in time and the same planets but from two different perspectives.

The traditional astrology chart (Karma Chart) is a snapshot of the solar system from Earth's perspective and the heliocentric astronomer's chart (Dharma Chart) is an overview map of the entire solar system of which Earth is only one part. This report combines the Dharma Chart and the Karma Chart, and puts them together to form a stereo 3D-map of the birth moment. This report combines both of these valuable charts into a single complete report. Let's begin with the traditional geocentric astrology chart, what we call the Karma Chart.
The Karma Chart

Although the main purpose of this report is to introduce Bill to his dharma chart, the map of his life path, it is still worthwhile to go over his traditional astrological chart, with which many of you may be familiar. We call this standard astrology map your Karma Chart. It is a life map of him as a person and the particular circumstances in which he finds himself embedded in this life. Let's take a quick look.
The Four Aspect Types

Much of astrology is about the grand kaleidoscope of aspect patterns that planets form in the heavens. In this report we cover the sixteen major aspects most used by astrologers, which arrange themselves in four natural sets. Which set is dominant in this chart is what we are looking for here.

Quite Dynamic

Bill is skilled at and quite used to making things happen, perhaps pushing the envelope a bit, and putting the pedal to the metal. He dares to do “it” or make it happen. If Bill reaches a tipping or turning point, he always turns the corner and takes the plunge.

Are You an "Innie" or an "Outie"?

Another general chart indicator is that of inner versus outer; whether Bill is overall more introverted or extroverted. And we should perhaps find better terms here, for by "introvert" we don't necessarily mean psychologically vulnerable, and by "extrovert" we don't mean overbearing and rude.

Perhaps words like "public" and "private" get closer to what I refer to. Some persons or endeavors are more outward or public (in a word: visible), while others are more inward or private, preferring not to be in center stage but to work from behind-the-scenes. That is the idea, their being more of an idea person or planner (inward).

Some like to work from within and bring their plans and ideas outward to the world (introvert), while others like things out in the open, fully formed, and in the outward or construction stage. That is the general idea. Is Bill mostly a private or a public person?

Extreme Introvert

Bill is very inward or introverted, most at home in the creative world of ideas, philosophy, psychology and whatever is beyond simple grasping and the obvious. Subtle planes are where he shines, the land where thoughts and ideas come from. Bill is not comfortable in the public spotlight, but prefers working from the sidelines.
Giving: Introduction

Is Bill a Giver or a Taker? Does he give more than he takes or vice versa? We all give and take, but usually we are more skilled at one than the other. Here is how it stands in this chart.

Gives Very Much More Than Takes

Overall, Bill is way into giving, perhaps even a workaholic when it comes to putting out time and energy on whatever he is involved in. Results be damned; that is not what Bill is all about. He just naturally feels best when he gives his all and get things done. This is not to say Bill doesn't get it all back, but that is not his main motivation.

The Four Strengths

What are Bill's strengths? There are several ways to measure this, but here we will look at the four main factors to see if any of these stand out. The factors include Planning, Doing, Teaching, and Using.

Does Bill have a talent for planning things out, for getting them done, for teaching others about them, or for using and exploiting them? Most people are strong in one area, perhaps two at most. Let's see how Bill rates.

Considerable Planning Skills

If nothing else, Bill is probably naturally a good planner, and he likes to come up with new ideas and insights that he just can't help but organize into plans and schemes that he wants to see happen. Bill is at home working behind the scenes and in the background putting the pieces of the puzzle together until he comes up with a plan that he feels will work.
Four Cardinal Points

These are the four 90-degree points on the 360-degree aspect cycle for any pair of planets, and they are: Conjunction, Opposition, and the two Squares.

These sectors are measured from 45 degrees on either side of the point in question. In the 360-degree cycle, the Conjunction point is measured from 315 to 45 degrees, the waxing Square point is measured from 45 to 135 degrees, the Opposition point is measured from 135 to 225 degrees, and the waning Square is measured from 225 to 315 degrees.

When all the phase aspects for an entire chart are considered, usually one of the point areas has more phase aspects to it than the others, giving it added emphasis in the chart interpretation.

Considerable Initiative

There are more than the average number of full-phase aspects in this sector, suggesting that, as a type, Bill may be more aggressive and action-oriented than the average, reaching out and accomplishing things.

Any planets in this sector are very active in outreach, bringing plans and ideas into reality, making things happen and building incrementally toward success. If he wants to know how to get things done, look to the planets and overall concentration in this sector. The focus area for this indicator encompasses the waxing 45-degrees to 135-degrees quadrant.
We have taken a quick look at our personality or Karma Chart, but we are more than just how we personally appear to others. You can’t judge a book by its cover. Beneath or behind our person is what many people call our soul. I like to use the word spirit. Our spirit is not the same as our personality, and the Dharma Chart is a map not of our personality, but of our spirit. The term spirit is sometimes also called Archetype, the group or tribe to which we naturally belong and resonate with. It is often quite different from our personality.

Our Dharma Chart is Sun-centered and, if Bill is an astrologer, will introduce him to new thoughts about who is behind his personality. In my case, as I discovered my Dharma Chart I actually began to transfer my consciousness to the Dharma Chart. This chart was exactly who I had always felt I was. In other words, I deeply identified with my dharma chart, even to the point that from then onward that was who I was. It is a little like changing your name, but in this case what is changing is how you view yourself.

Consciousness transference of this kind is quite common when after many years of only looking at our personality chart (Karma Chart), we begin to identify with our Dharma Chart. You see, the Dharma Chart is the one we always knew ourselves to be inside of our personality, but had no way to confirm it. The Dharma Chart offers that kind of confirmation. It is a chart of our spirit. Let’s look at Bill’s Dharma Chart.
The Four Aspect Types

Much of astrology is about the grand kaleidoscope of aspect patterns that planets form in the heavens. In this report we cover the sixteen major aspects most used by astrologers, which arrange themselves in four natural sets. Which set is dominant in this chart is what we are looking for here.

Quite Dynamic

Currently you are skilled at and quite used to making things happen, perhaps pushing the envelope a bit, and putting the pedal to the metal. You dare to do “it” or make it happen. If you reach a tipping or turning point, you always turn the corner and take the plunge.

Are You an "Innie" or an "Outie"?

Another general chart indicator is that of inner versus outer; whether today is overall more introverted or extroverted. And we should perhaps find better terms here, for by “introvert” we don’t necessarily mean psychologically vulnerable, and by “extrovert” we don’t mean overbearing and rude.

Perhaps words like “public” and “private” get closer to what I refer to. Some persons or endeavors are more outward or public (in a word: visible), while others are more inward or private, preferring not to be in center stage but to work from behind-the-scenes. That is the idea, their being more of an idea person or planner (inward).

Some like to work from within and bring their plans and ideas outward to the world (introvert), while others like things out in the open, fully formed, and in the outward or construction stage. That is the general idea. Are you mostly a private or a public person?

Extremely Extroverted

Today you may find that you are extremely outward and other-oriented, perhaps even public-minded, more concerned with what is plain fact and can clearly be seen rather than with what is still in the planning stages. What you are focused on are the means for you to realize real outward success at this time.
Giving: Introduction

Are you a Giver or a Taker? Do you give more than you take or vice versa? We all give and take, but usually we are more skilled at one than the other. Here is how it stands in this chart.

Extremely A Taker

Your emphasis today should be very much on receiving, that is: using situations as they exist now, working with them, and making the best or the most of it. Your receiving qualities today are very much stronger than your giving qualities. You can be extremely receptive now and should just let things flow to you. Relax and accept.

The Four Strengths

What are today's strengths? There are several ways to measure this, but here we will look at the four main factors to see if any of these stand out. The factors include Planning, Doing, Teaching, and Using.

Is this a time for planning things out, for getting them done, for teaching others about them, or for using and exploiting them? Most people are strong in one area, perhaps two at most. Let's see how today rates.

Extreme Teaching Skills

Today, you are extremely good at learning from your experiences (whatever you are going through) and are very aware of what you have been through, and it is easy for you to talk and communicate about it. In fact, this may be your strong suit: You like to talk about your experiences, what you have learned, and share them with others, so you are probably also an excellent guide or instructor on these topics.
Four Cardinal Points

These are the four 90-degree points on the 360-degree aspect cycle for any pair of planets, and they are: Conjunction, Opposition, and the two Squares.

These sectors are measured from 45 degrees on either side of the point in question. In the 360-degree cycle, the Conjunction point is measured from 315 to 45 degrees, the waxing Square point is measured from 45 to 135 degrees, the Opposition point is measured from 135 to 225 degrees, and the waning Square is measured from 225 to 315 degrees.

When all the phase aspects for an entire chart are considered, usually one of the point areas has more phase aspects to it than the others, giving it added emphasis in the chart interpretation.

Considerable Objectivity

You have more than the average number of aspect-pairs in this section, suggesting that when it comes to smoothly handling situations, you may excel and come into your own. The gift here is one of being receptive, always working with a situation and guiding it rather than inserting something new.

The action of this sector is passive, that is, receiving or facilitating situations rather than starting or instigating them. It is the difference between Judo and Aikido in the martial arts. One is aggressive and the other is passive. The strength here is manipulation, working with what is rather than some outside adding on.

If you want to know where you will handle or facilitate situations in life, look to the planets and overall concentration in this sector. The focus area for this indicator encompasses the waxing 225-degrees to 315-degrees quadrant.
Dharma and Karma Chart Comparison

The Dharma and Karma Chart are different views of the same planets and moment in time, and their perspectives can and should be compared. Appearances can be deceiving and you can't always judge a book by its cover. What follows is a comparison of some of the major chart traits between the Dharma and Karma charts.
Are You a Giver?

At heart is Bill a true giver or does he appear to give more than he actually feels like giving?

Less of a Giver Than Appears

On the surface Bill may appear more like a giver (one who always puts out more effort than he gets back) and less of a taker, but in actuality he ends up taking much more than he gives. The reason is that Bill is better at manipulating existing situations than he is at creating new ones. So, appearances to the contrary, Bill is more adaptable and conforming than he at first sight appears.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 25% / 77% Karma Chart

Are You a Taker?

Is Bill a taker? Does he take or receive well, or is it a problem? The ability to take, including taking punches, is what we are looking at here.

Very Much More of a Taker Than Appears

With Bill, his personality may not reveal how really responsive or accommodating he actually is. Bill is exceptionally responsible, able to take care of and handle sensitive issues with care and attention. At first glance, personality-wise, he may just not look like or appear to be as responsible as he turns out to actually be in real life.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 75% / 22% Karma Chart
Are You Private?

How private is Bill? Does he prefer to work behind the scenes or does he like to get out in the public?

Less Introverted Than Appears

Bill appears more shy and private than he actually is. While personally, he may appear quiet, reserved and perhaps even a little distant, on getting to know him, he is quite outgoing and friendly, although this may be more of a mental quality than a public persona.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 25% / 77% Karma Chart

How Public Are You?

Does Bill seek out the public stage and like to perform and be seen, or is he reclusive and prefer to work backstage?

Very Much Less Shy Than Appears

Appearances can be deceiving. Bill is anything but as shy and retiring as he might appear at first glance. Just wait until you get to know him and you will see that he enjoys and probably demands his share of the limelight like all the rest of us. Don't let his more quiet exterior fool you. Bill likes the spotlight.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 75% / 22% Karma Chart
How Energetic Are You?

What kind of energy does Bill have, a lot or a little? Looking at this factor will give him an idea of how much.

Less Energetic Than Appears

Bill appears more gung-ho and enthusiastic than he actually is when you get right down to it. He looks good-to-go, but may not live up to his promise when it comes to getting the job done quickly.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 12% / 22% Karma Chart

How Challenged Are You?

Challenges are inevitable for all of us, but some have more and others have less. Here is a look at the challenges for this chart.

More Challenged Than Appears

Bill's life is more challenged than it appears on the outside, just to observe him personally. These challenges are deeper down and he will have to get to know them at a root level.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 12% / 0% Karma Chart
How Dynamic Are You?

Just how dynamic is Bill, a little or a lot? Is he a mover and a shaker or does he proceed more gradually when it comes to life changes?

Much Less Dynamic Than Appears

Bill appears much more action oriented or able to take command than he in fact is. He certainly looks the part but when it comes to making it happen, you may find that Bill may cop out and not be able to deliver.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 50% / 55% Karma Chart

How Flexible Are You?

Is Bill adaptable? Does he flex easily or does he tend to be fixed in his ways? Let's take a look.

More Adaptable Than Appears

Bill might not appear all that flexible but when it comes right down to it, he is adaptable and can accommodate change.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 25% / 22% Karma Chart
Are You a Planner?

Is Bill a planner? Does he look ahead and plan things out or just let them happen?

Less Planning Skills Than Appears

As far as the outside world is concerned (Bill's family, friends, and co-workers), he might appear as somewhat of a schemer, someone who loves to plan things out in great detail. However, this is more a matter of outside appearance than reality. Yes, he plans and sometimes even schemes, but no more than the average person, so in this way looks can deceive. As you get to know him on the inside, Bill is more spontaneous. He can probably pack for a trip in ten minutes.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 12% / 55% Karma Chart

Are You a Doer?

Is Bill a doer? Does he like to get things done and get them done? Let's check it out.

Appears More Accomplished Than Is

When it comes to actually doing and getting things done, Bill may appear better at that than he actually is, although he certainly may appear capable. So be clear that when it comes to working and building a solid infrastructure, Bill may not live up to his promise.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 12% / 22% Karma Chart
Are You a Teacher?

Is Bill good at explaining and sharing his knowledge with others? That is what we are looking at here.

Very More Teaching Skills Than Appears

When it comes to knowledge, knowing, understanding, and learning from experiences, Bill is a real sleeper. On the surface, he may not appear on the outside to be all that experienced or knowledgeable, but beneath the surface he is extraordinarily aware, not only of what goes on or he has been through, but he can express himself and easily share his experience with others, as well as teach or guide. This is his strongest quality, so take note. He is aware.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 62% / 0% Karma Chart

How Objective are You?

Is NAME1} objective and can he evaluate situations easily? Can he separate the essentials out from what has no real importance?

Less Objective Than Appears

When it comes to taking advantage of situations, using common business sense, and generally turning things in his direction, Bill appears more concerned with the outcome of events (what comes to him) than he in fact actually is. Here is a case where appearances can mislead. Bill can look out for himself and make out, but is not generally the best business person.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 12% / 22% Karma Chart
Are You an Initiator?

Is Bill a self-starter, able to get new projects off the ground. Does he naturally like to do that?

Less Initiative Than Appears

Bill appears more like a self-starter than he, in fact, is, although overall he is pretty balanced. When it comes to taking initiative, actually doing, there is probably a little more hat than cowboy, although appearances may suggest otherwise.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 0% / 55% Karma Chart

How Public Are You?

How public is Bill? Does he like to be seen or would he prefer to remain behind the scenes?

Less Public Than Appears

Bill is less outward than he may appear, not particularly interested in getting out and seeing and being seen. You would think from appearances that he is tailor-made for the public and likes to be the center of attention, but when it comes right down to it, this is not the case.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 12% / 33% Karma Chart
How Receptive are You?

How good is Bill at working with situations already in motion. How receptive?

Much More Objective Than Appears

You can't judge a book by its cover. Contrary to appearances, Bill's ability to be objective, impartial in practical matters of appraisal and sound judgment is more than sound. He can easily see to separate the wheat from the chaff every time.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 50% / 11% Karma Chart

How Inward are You?

How inward and private is Bill? Is he mostly to himself or is he comfortable out in the public?

Much More Inward Than Appears

Bill is much more inward and private than he may appear. Bill really prefers to work behind the scenes, in the background, rather than out front on the public stage.

Jargon: Dharma Chart 37% / 0% Karma Chart
Conclusion

I hope you enjoyed your Dharma Chart and Karma Chart reports plus their comparison one to another. Remember that your Karma Chart is a chart of your personality and the life circumstances in which are embedded, how you appear to others and perhaps also to yourself, while the Dharma Chart is a map of your spiritual path and archetype, your tribe who you are inside looking out through your person.

As time passes, we tend to become more and more what our Dharma Chart presents, as our personality begins to fade and gets ground down. In time the light of our Dharma Chart shines through our personality. Over time we begin to transfer consciousness from our personality and identify with our Dharma Chart. The Dharma Chart is the key to our personality, to who we are.

-- Michael Erlewine