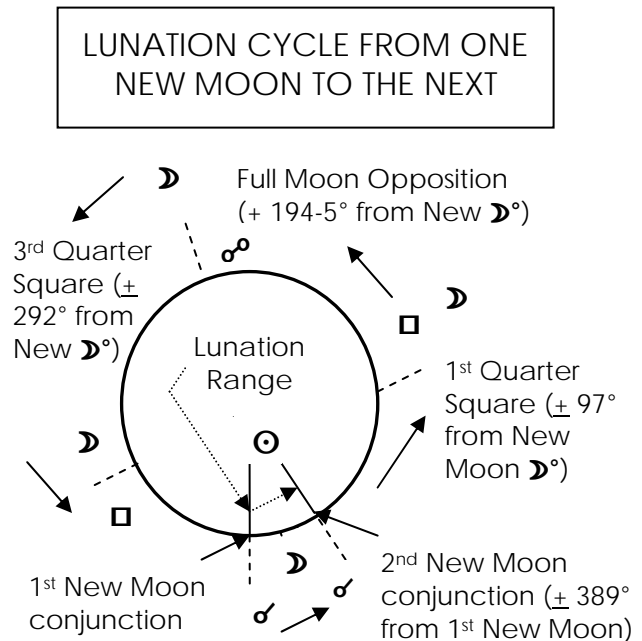


Sol-Lunar Three-peats

by Janet Booth

Though the Sun and Moon do not go Retrograde like planets do, they can give us a set of three transiting aspects. In a lunar cycle, the two lights traverse a 29-degree range three times between them. First the Moon passes through the lunation territory in the New phase, then comes the Sun, followed by the Balsamic Moon. Borrowing from sports lingo for a 3-time champ, I call this phenomenon sol-lunar "three-peats."

Typically, astrologers diagram a lunar cycle with a circle cut in quarters to show the New Moon conjunction, the opening First Quarter square, the Full Moon opposition, and the closing Third Quarter square, returning to the starting point for the next New Moon conjunction. But this is a static look at two bodies constantly in motion! The distance the Moon travels between two New Moons is not the 360° circle, but more like 389° - the full circle plus the distance the Sun has moved during the cycle, a little over 7° in each quarter phase [see illustration]. The aspects they both make during the cycle are key influences during that period.



With transit-to-transit or progressed-to-progressed aspects, there aren't always three repetitions in a lunar cycle because the planets being aspected are also moving. Some may enter or exit the lunation degree range between the New Moons. When we compare a lunar cycle to a static reference point, like a birth (or event) chart, there will always be three repetitions. As with the three visits from a Retrograde planet, the first can set up actions that link to the timing of the second and third aspects, with the second visit (here, by the Sun) the turning point in a 3-step process.

While the Moon is in the lunation range, the only aspects it makes to the Sun are the New Moon conjunctions and two near-exact semisextiles, one in the New phase near the degree of the next New Moon, and a second one in the Balsamic phase, close to the degree of the current cycle's New Moon. Another planet conjunct any of these aspects is emphasized like a planet at a station degree of a planetary retrograde.

With 15° separating a semisquare (45°) from a semisextile (30°) or a sextile (60°), and a 15° difference between a sesquiquadrate (135°) vs. a trine (120°) or quinquinx (150°), the Moon and Sun can aspect a natal planet 6 times in a cycle (2 different aspects)!

Ways to work with the sol-lunar three-peat phenomenon:

Transits – The Moon moves around your entire chart each month, making the same aspects in the same order. The Sun does this in a year. It traverses only about a twelfth of the zodiac each month, suggesting that the aspects it makes in a given cycle are of strong importance then. Factor in two identical aspects from the Moon in the same period and the result should be noticeable, though temporary. Watch as the Moon makes other aspects to the planet(s) that the Sun aspects. The Sun will only make a limited number of aspects to the other planets, but as the Moon gets around the whole zodiac, it makes many other aspects besides duplicating the Sun's. Check what happens to see if the most important aspects during the cycle are indeed those that the Sun makes. It may be significant whether an aspect is made before or after the illumination of the Full Moon, if it occurs during the daylight vs. night hours, or if it was not only a last aspect but also the aspect that ushers in a Void of Course Moon.

Natal Interpretation

New Moon Before Birth – You were born in the midst of a lunar cycle. What aspects were three-peated in that cycle? Are these meaningful in your journey?

First and last planet aspected – If there were multiple aspects three-peated in your birth cycle, which occurred first and which last? Do they correlate to your *modus operandi* in your initial approach to and wrapping up of your life's circumstances?

Progressed Lunar Cycle(s) – At what ages do three-peating aspects of your birth or subsequent lunar cycles come due? We should expect major developments then.

Transits to a Natal Chart – Check the houses of the lunation range. These are the primary areas of interest for the month. Usually a house receives attention two months in a row. Are any natal aspects or aspect patterns activated? What are the first and last planets receiving three-peat aspects? (Your highest-degree planet - the one closest to 30° of its sign - is not necessarily the last planet; it depends on the range.)

Lunar Returns – We have approximately thirteen lunar returns in a year, during which we rotate through all eight lunar phases - in reverse order: Balsamic, 3rd Quarter, Disseminating, Full, Gibbous, 1st Quarter, Crescent and New. About half the time, we have two months in a row where the phase is a repeat of the month before. Both these cases strike me as Retrograde-esque! The latter gives us an opportunity for a second try. Take note of those months when you have New or Balsamic phases. They are always around the same time each year, when the Sun transits past your Moon. There will be a New Moon before it conjuncts your Moon and another after. Examine the New and Balsamic phases and the aspects of both these transiting lunar cycles. The zodiacal degrees of the lunation ranges vary over the years. Thus in some years, which of the three-peated aspects occurs first or last changes. Check its significance.

Intentional Three-peating -- Begin an intention with a transiting aspect during a New phase. Further it, bringing light (consciousness) to it when the Sun repeats the aspect. Follow up, finish up or go up a level when the Balsamic Moon makes the three-peat.