One reason why every astrologer should know about quotient structures is because every harmonic chart is a quotient! For example, if we look at the 2nd harmonic of a birth chart, then in this harmonic, points that are 180° apart are identified with each other. Thus, in this quotient structure, we make no distinction between 0° Aries and 0° Libra, and planets at these two points will appear conjunct in the 2nd harmonic. Likewise, planets whose angle of separation is a multiple of $120° = \frac{360°}{3}$ will appear conjunct in the 3rd harmonic, and planets with an angle of separation that is a multiple of $90° = \frac{360°}{4}$ will appear conjunct in the 4th harmonic. Recall, too, that the quick and easy way to find the nth harmonic position for a given planet is to multiply its angular distance from 0° Aries by the desired harmonic and then reduce the result to an angle between 0 and 360 degrees by subtracting multiples of 360° from the product until you get a difference that is in the 0° to 360° range. For example, if you have a planet at 0° Sagittarius, then that is 240° from 0° Aries, and if we want the 2nd harmonic position, then we first multiply this by 2 to get 480°. To now get its position on a 360° clock, we subtract just one occurrence of 360° to get everything in the proper range, and when we do so we get $480° - 360° = 120°$ which is equivalent to 0° Leo. Hence, in the 2nd harmonic chart, 0° Sagittarius is transformed into 0° Leo. Below now is my birth chart and my 2nd harmonic chart.
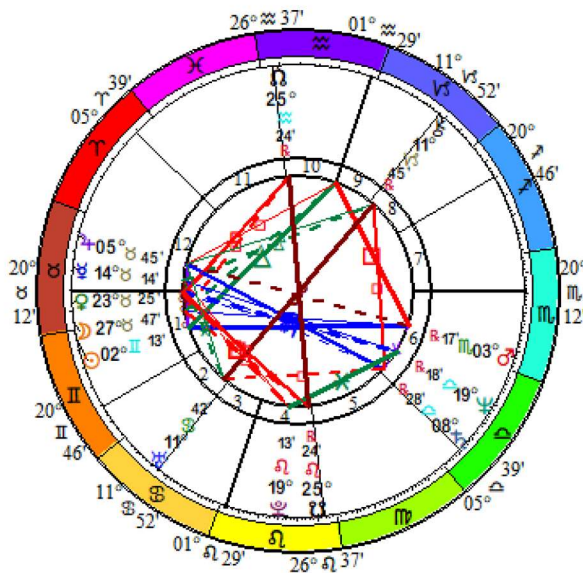

Christopher Benton
May 23, 1952
4:29 AM
Joplin, Missouri
37N05'03" 94W30'47"
Standard Time
Time Zone: 6 hours West
Tropical Regiomontanus
NATAL CHART
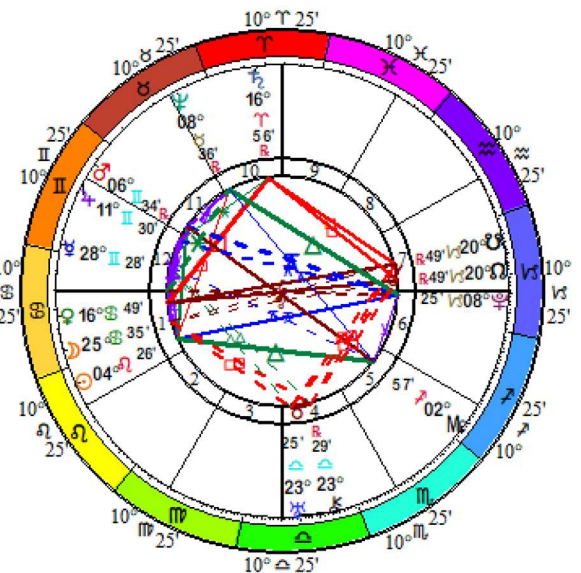
Christopher Benton
May 23, 1952
4:29 AM
Joplin, Missouri
37N05'03" 94W30'47"
Standard Time
Time Zone: 6 hours West
Tropical Equal
2nd Harmonic NATAL CHART

Again, in a 2nd harmonic chart, points that are in opposition to one another appear as conjunct, and that means that what is being divided out is the difference between every pair of points that are 180° apart from one another. Thus, in my birth chart above one can see that Jupiter and Mars are approximately 180° apart as are the two Lunar Nodes and Pluto and also my Uranus and Chrion, and so in the 2nd harmonic chart the difference between each of those planets in opposition is divided out and the planets appear conjunct. Thus, in the 2nd harmonic chart below we see Jupiter conjunct Mars in Gemini, the North and South Node both conjunct Pluto in Capricorn, and Uranus and Chiron in a strong conjunction in Libra, and the closer the opposition in the birth chart, the stronger the conjunction in the 2nd harmonic chart.
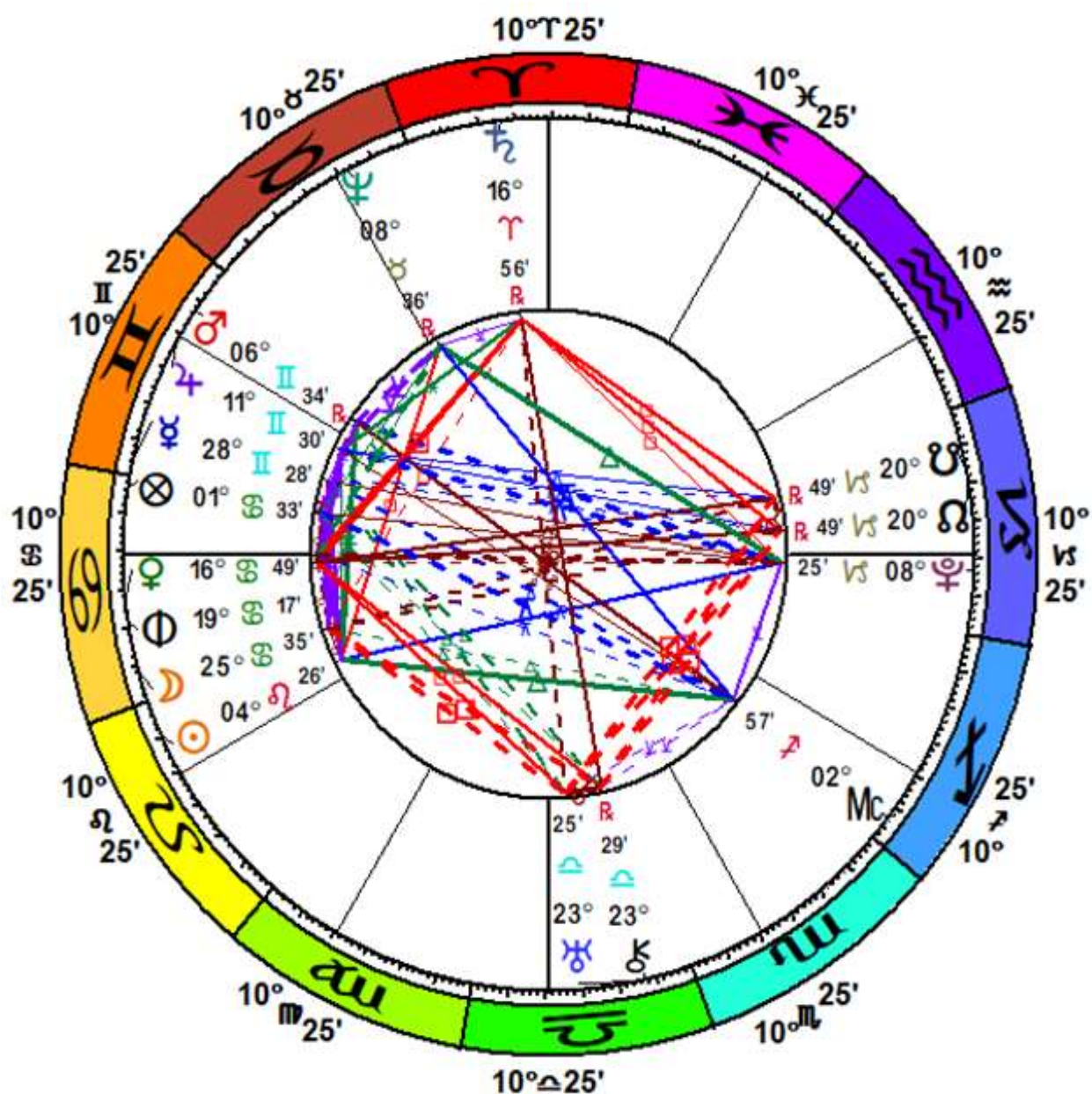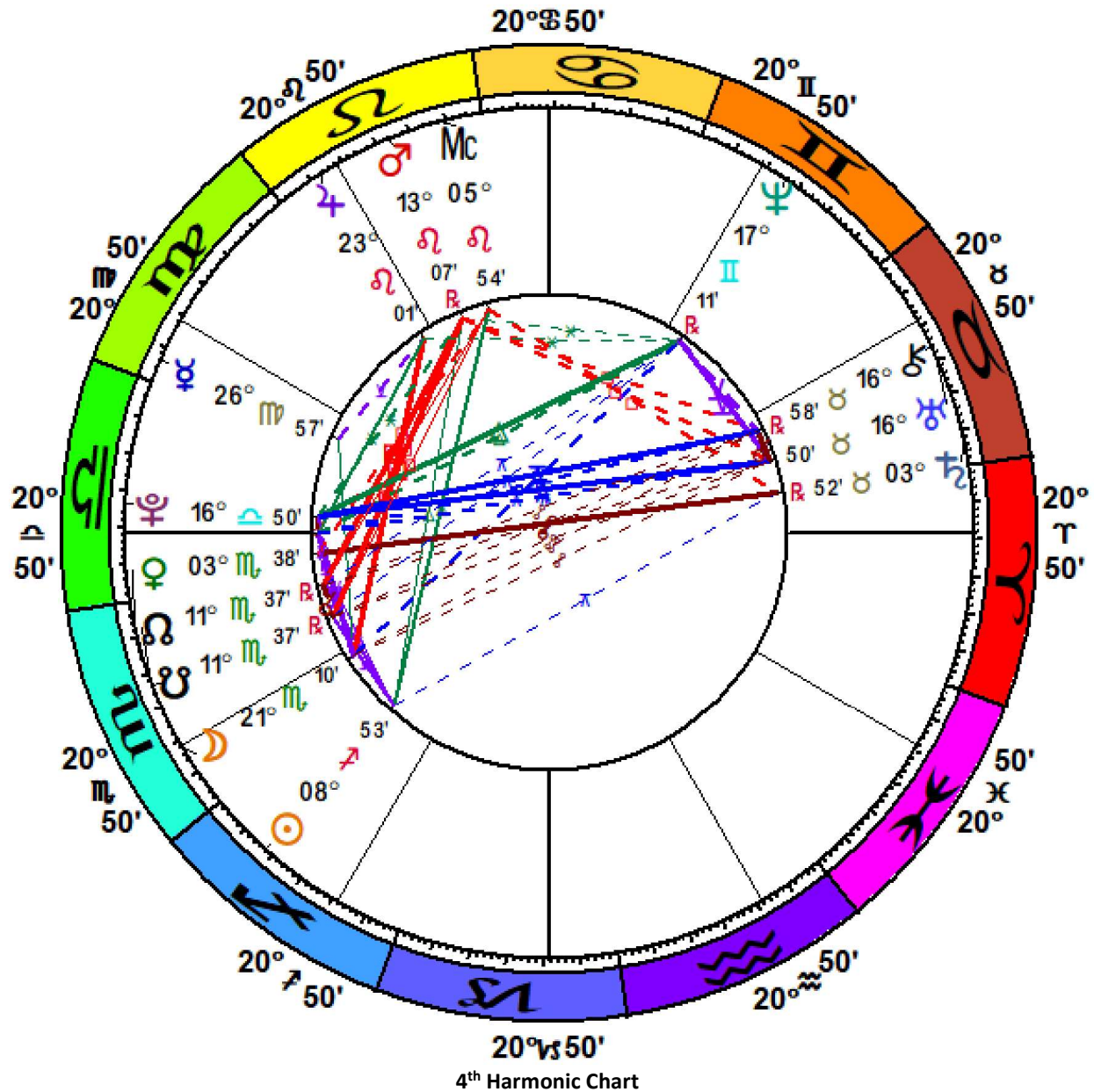

2nd Harmonic Chart

If we next look at the 3rd harmonic chart below, then since the root 3rd harmonic angle is $\frac{360°}{3} = 120°$, the angular distance between planets that are 120° apart is divided out so that planets that are trine one another in the birth chart will be experienced as a conjunction in the 3rd harmonic chart. Thus, for example, there is a strong trine in my birth chart between my Sun and Midheaven, and in my 3rd harmonic chart they appear strongly conjunct one another.
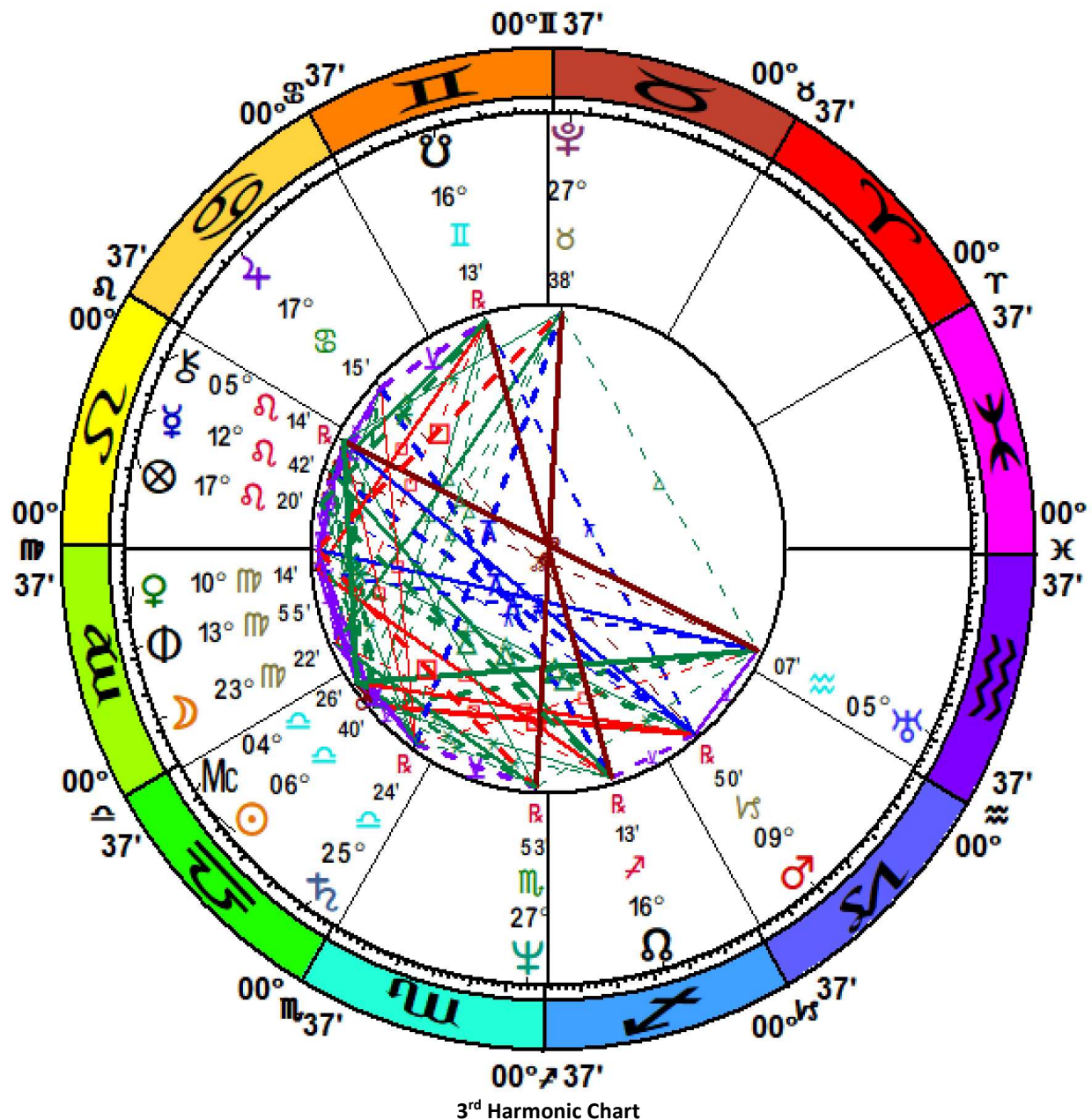
3rd Harmonic Chart

Similarly, in the 4th harmonic chart, planets that are separated by multiples of $90° = \frac{360°}{4}$ will appear conjunct, and in the chart below we can see that Ascendant square Pluto (natal chart) is now Ascendant conjunct Pluto, Jupiter opposite Mars (natal chart) is now Jupiter conjunct Mars, and Uranus square Saturn and opposite Chiron (natal chart) is now a Uranus-Saturn-Chiron stellium in the 4th harmonic.

4th Harmonic Chart

It is generally felt that the root or fundamental n^{th} harmonic angle sets the tone for all of the nth harmonic angles. For example, the tone of the 2nd harmonic is set by the opposition $(180° = \frac{360°}{2})$, the tone of the 3rd harmonic is determined by the trine $(120° = \frac{360°}{3})$, and the tone of the 4th harmonic is set by the square $(90° = \frac{360°}{4})$. In the case of a composite number like $6 = 2 \cdot 3$, the harmonic angles are characterized as

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a blend between the opposition and the trine. Some will tend more toward one or the other, but the root 6th harmonic angle ($60° = \frac{360°}{6}$) should be definite blend of these two qualities. Hence, we conclude that the sextile combines both the integrative qualities of the opposition and the ease of coordination associated with the trine with the bottom line being that it is an easy aspect, though not so easy as the trine, and that it also involves integration of the two planetary drives involved. Given this theoretical framework, we can now understand why a division of our circle into twelve sectors called "signs" is considered so fundamental. Since $12 = 3 \cdot 4$, it combines the aspect of maximum ease (the trine) with the aspect of maximum stress (the square), and as a consequence, it also provides a decent model of the ups and downs of reality. Hence, the qualities of both the trine and the square are combined in the root 12th harmonic angle ($30° = \frac{360°}{12}$).

When we construct a 12th harmonic chart, all points in the natal chart that are 30° apart are identified with one another in order to produce this derived chart, and while some of the structure of the original natal chart is divided out, others parts carry over from the natal chart to the harmonic chart. However, this is not the only way in which we use harmonics to define quotient structures. For example, in the case of the 12th harmonic, we can mark off our 12th harmonic angles around a circle, and then if we identify all the points in between any two 12th harmonic angles with each other, then the result is a quotient structure that defines our traditional 12 astrological signs. In other words, Aries is defined by quotient structure in which all the points in the half-open interval $[0°, 30°)$ are identified with one another, Taurus is defined by the identification of the points in the interval $[30°, 60°)$ with one another, Gemini by $[60°, 90°)$, and so on. This also provides a deeper explanation of what is happening when one uses either whole sign houses or whole sign aspects in astrology. In each case we are simply looking at things from the perspective of a quotient structure in which no distinction is made between separate points within the corresponding astrological signs. Thus, the only question in my mind is not whether such whole sign relationships exist (they exist within the appropriate quotient structure), but instead, how strong are they? As always in astrology, the astrologer needs to consider a multitude of influences and then decide which ones are going to be dominant at any particular moment.

The 12th harmonic angles that are based on harmonics 3 and 2^2 are the most widely used ones in astrology ($0°, 30°, 60°, 90°$ $120°, 150°, 180°, 210°, 240°, 270°, 300°, 330°$), but they leave out one very important harmonic, namely the 5th harmonic which is important since 5 is a factor of 360. The root 5th harmonic angle is $72° = \frac{360°}{5}$, and the 5th harmonic angles are $0°, 72°, 144°, 216°,$ and $288°$. Astrologers today usually think of 5th harmonic angles as describing talents that the person possesses, but I usually think of them as experience points, and here's why. If we plot these 5th harmonic angles on a zodiac circle, then one thing that is very obvious is that each one occurs after a 6th harmonic angle. Specifically, the 5th harmonic angles $0°, 72°, 144°, 216°,$ and $288°$ follow the 6th harmonic angles $300°, 60°, 120°, 180°,$ and $240°$. Thus, in terms of the evolving relationship that the cycle represents, each 5th harmonic angle occurs after the experience of the relative ease of a 6th harmonic aspect, and thus, a 5th harmonic aspect basks in the light and experience of the successful completion of a prior, enjoyable stage in our quest for union.

If we now want to combine the 5th harmonic with the 12th harmonic, then we just multiple the two together to get the 60th harmonic ($6° = \frac{360°}{60}$). Hence, the root 60th harmonic angle is 6°, and an interesting fact is that 6° divides each sign into five equal parts ($5 \times 6° = 30°$), thus echoing the division of our 360°

cycle into quintiles (5th harmonic angles). If we now associate the points within each 6° segment with one another, then we can think of each 6° interval as representing a particular stage of development. For example, I am a Gemini, but my Sun is within th first 6° of Gemini, and so, theoretically, one could say that I am a young Gemini and that my mind has a very playful, childlike quality. On the other hand, my brother's Moon is at 21° Gemini and Donald Trump's Sun is at 23° Gemini, and both of these positions fall within the fourth 6° segment of Gemini. Hence, both my brother and Donald Trump exhibit an intellectual process which is less childlike than mine. In that sense they are more mature, but not necessarily more wise as wisdom and righteousness are the result of individual choices and not astrology. In the *Bible* in *Psalm 90:10* we read, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten (70 years)." If we divide this cycle by 5, then we get 5th harmonic "ages" of 14, 28, 42, 56, and 70 years, and these ages correspond roughly to the ages at which we expect either a Saturn return or opposition to its natal position. I say "roughly" because Saturn, like the other planets, will sometimes move faster and sometimes slower, and so things don't always happen at exactly 14 year intervals. Nonetheless, we know that at each of these Saturn periods that we tend to rapidly mature as we assimilate past experiences, and this corresponds well to our understanding of the 5th harmonic as related to talents that result from past experience.

Below is a copy of my 5th harmonic chart, and in that chart there is a close conjunction between Mercury and Saturn, and that suggests that past experience, from whatever lifetime, has resulted in a talent for controlling and regulating my mind, and, indeed, the ability to focus and concentrate has been one of my biggest assets in this lifetime. If we go back to my natal chart, though, the specific angular separation between my Mercury at $14°\,\text{♉}\,14'$ and Saturn at $8°\,\text{♎}\,28'$ is $144°\,14'$, and this is very close to an exact biquintile aspect of 144°. Furthermore, since the waxing biquintile comes after the harmonious aspect of 120°, this biquintile represents a stage in which strong harmony between Mercury and Saturn has already occurred, and thus, I can now reap the reward of that experience in terms of enhanced concentration and other mental abilities.
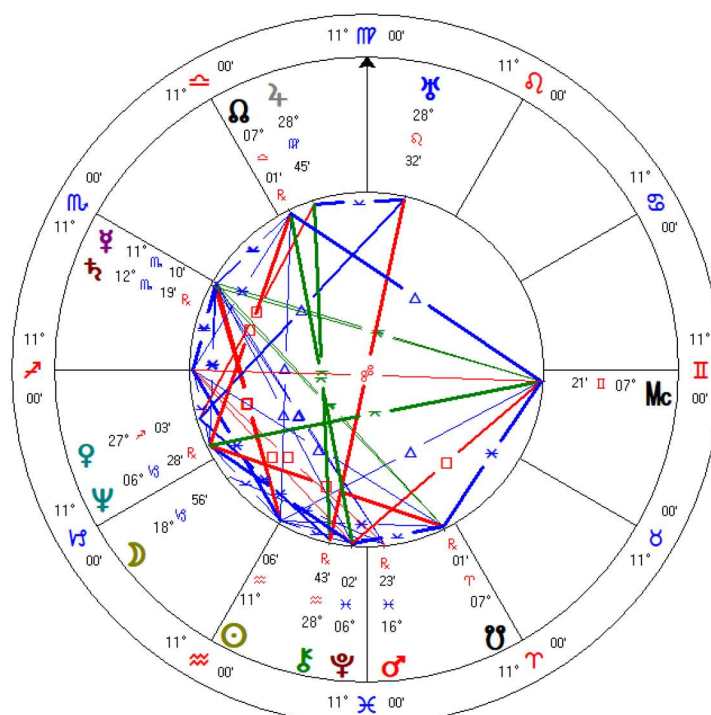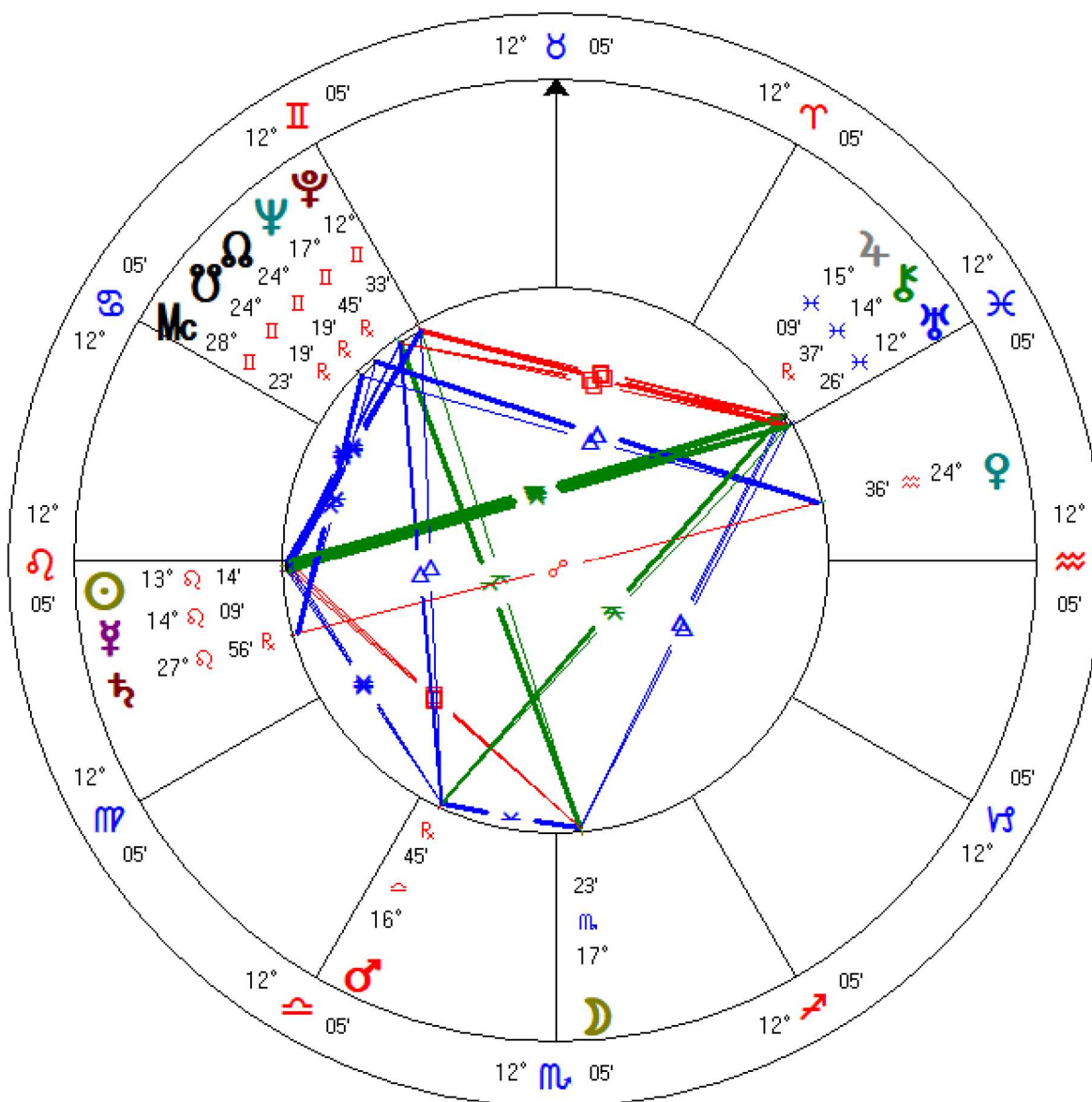

5th Harmonic Chart

In many respects, the 12th harmonic chart represents who we will be once we have successfully integrated the trines and the squares in our chart, and the "common denominator" of these two aspects is the root 12th harmonic angle of 30°. In my 12th harmonic chart below we see Sun conjunct Midheaven, Pluto conjunct Neptune, and Chiron very strongly conjunct Uranus. These represent "unions" that will complete themselves as a result of mastering the lessons of the trines and squares in my birth chart. Hence, when more fully integrated it is natural that I would function more as a leader (Sun conjunct Midheaven) who can wield transcendent forces (Neptune conjunct Pluto) as I find enlightenment in the self (Chiron conjunct Uranus in Leo). Furthermore, with Sagittarius rising in this chart, I am a seeker of truth and am ever expanding my horizons. This gives an overall interpretation of my 12th harmonic chart, but even deeper insights may be derived by considering the other aspects in the chart along with sign and house positions. Thus, since my Pluto/Neptune conjunction is in Scorpio in the 12th house, the facet of me presented in this chart wants to enter seclusion in order to go more deeply into the secrets of reality!
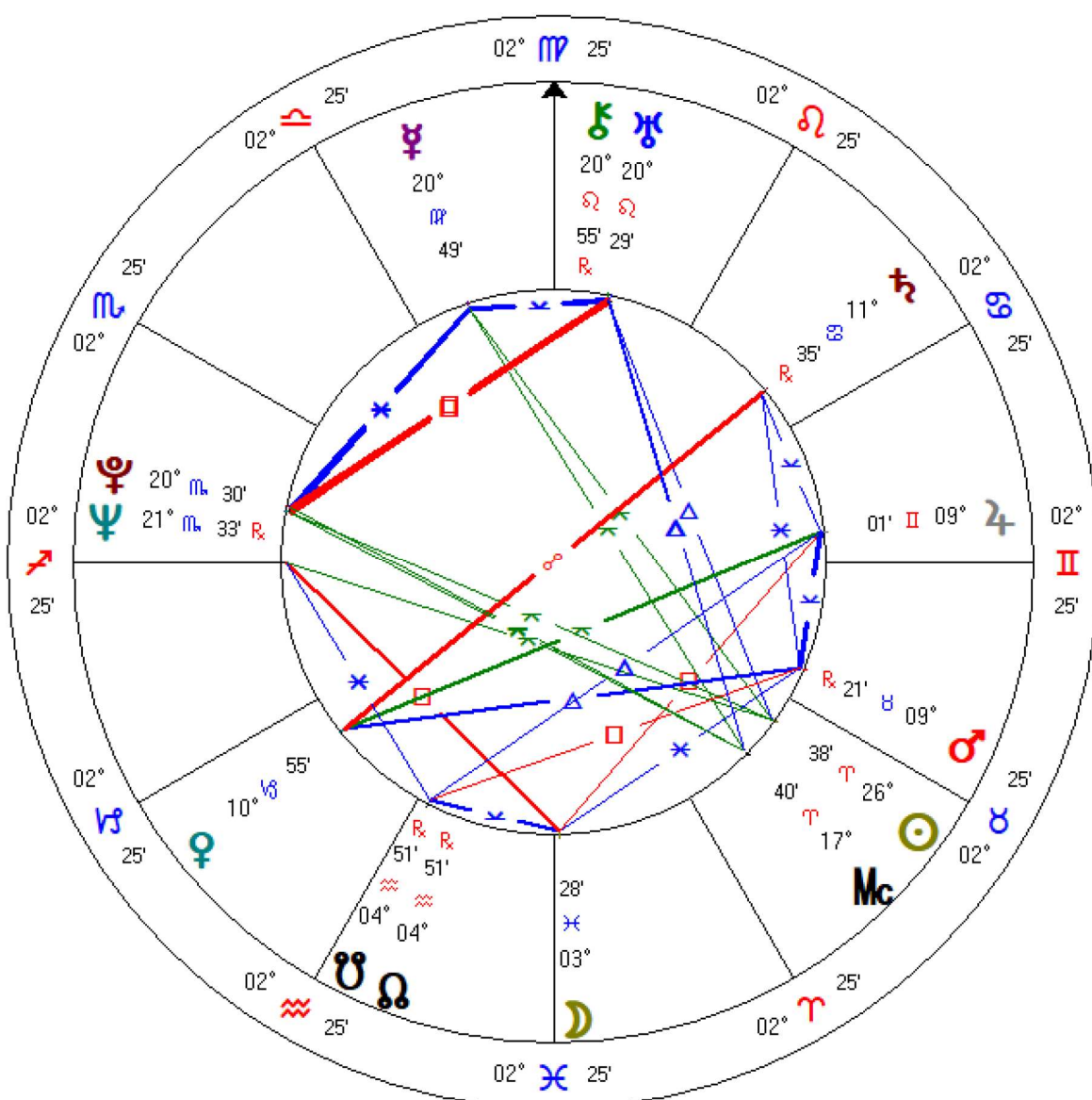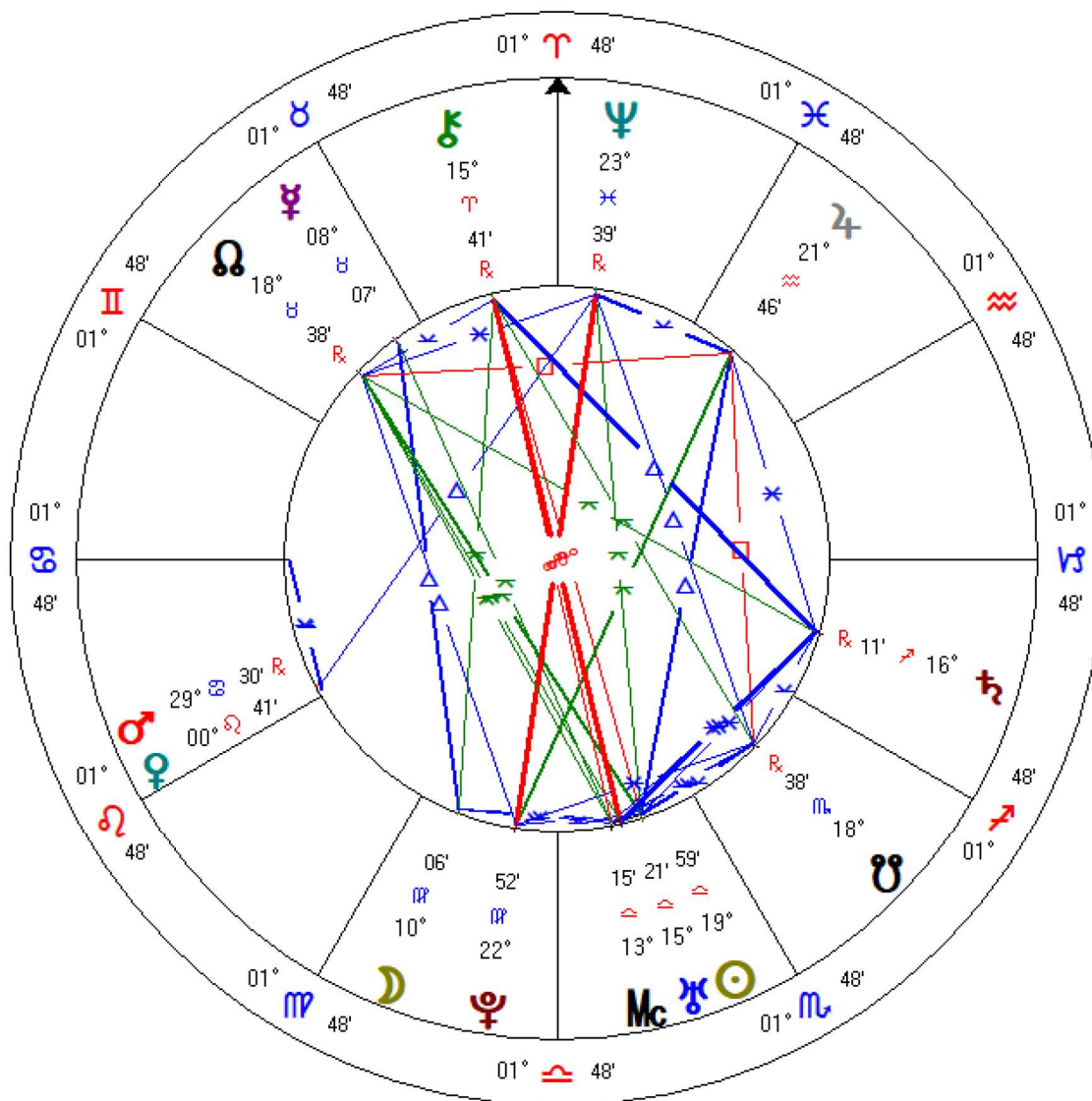

12th Harmonic Chart

Since $360 = 2^3 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5$, a harmonic chart that also incorporates 5 as well as 3 and 4 would represent an even greater level of integration, and the simplest such harmonic chart would be the 60th harmonic since $60 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$. Below is my 60th harmonic chart, and it says much about my better self that will be present when I manifest this level of integration. In the first house in Leo is a conjunction of Sun, Mercury, and Saturn. *Through focus on the true Self, my left-brain is enlightened*. Trine these planets is the stellium of Jupiter, Chiron, and Uranus in Pisces in the eighth house. *Concentration on the Self (1st house planets) enhances (trine) the depth of my mystical transcendence (Jupiter/Chiron/Uranus conjunct in the 8th house in Pisces)*. And finally, there is a Neptune/Pluto conjunction in Gemini in the eleventh house. *Working in groups, my intelligence expresses a higher wisdom*. We can also look at the other aspects present and interpret them in terms of the associated planetary drives as working either in coordination (good aspects) or separately (bad aspects) as each drive fulfills its purpose.

6th Harmonic Chart

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When used in ways as illustrated above, harmonic charts can add tremendous depth and nuance to our understanding of the original horoscope, and they do this by dividing out various elements in order to bring other structures into focus. The harmonics that I currently find most useful are 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 24, and 60. In Vedic astrology, it is customary to also look at what we would call the 9th harmonic chart. If we were to look at a 3rd harmonic chart, then in this chart planets that are trine in the natal chart will appear conjunct. However, in our 3rd harmonic chart we may also see some additional planets that are trine, and if we take the 9th harmonic chart (the 3rd harmonic of the 3rd harmonic), then even these 3rd harmonic trine planets will appear as conjunct. Hence, the 9th harmonic is in some sense the harmony of harmonies. It represents, in a sense, the most relaxed and easy going face of our nature. One small but important factor of my 9th harmonic chart is that I have Midheaven/Sun/Uranus all conjunct in Libra in the 4th house. Hence, reducing tension (9th harmonic) and having harmonious relationships with others (Libra) enhances both my status and my creativity (Midheaven/Sun/Uranus conjunction).

Other harmonic charts that many harmonic and vibrational astrologers will look at are the 8th harmonic which represents the evolutionary outcome of our struggles (since $8 = 2^3$), and the 7th harmonic even though 7 doesn't divide evenly into 360°. In all of these harmonic charts, if you exam enough of them, you will tend to find certain trends and features repeated, and this is because they are all quotients of the birth chart. Hence, each harmonic retains some of the structure of the original natal chart even as it divides out other aspects. Additionally, once we go beyond the 12th harmonic, we begin to obtain root harmonics that are less than 30°, and this creates angles that fall within the sign of Aries. Hence, since Aries rules the head, it is expected that these harmonics will be expressed more mentally than otherwise. To further analyze these higher harmonics, I usually subdivide 30° by 12 to create a secondary zodiac, beginning with Aries, where each sign occupies 2.5°. Thus, for example, let's consider the 17th harmonic. The root harmonic angle for this harmonic is $\approx 21.18° = \frac{260°}{17}$, and using our secondary zodiac we would expect this position to have characteristics of both Aries and Sagittarius. This is a position that denotes individuality (Aries) and an expansive personality that seeks knowledge and truth (Sagittarius). Those who do extensive studies in harmonic astrology note that many people with a strong 17th harmonic chart tend to excel in acting which would certainly be supported by the expansive Sagittarius nature of this harmonic. Hence, given the very harmonious Star of David configuration in my 17th harmonic chart, I'm not surprised since I am not only a seeker of wisdom, but also a past member of Actor's Equity Association!

17th Harmonic Chart