

ASTRO*INTELLIGENCE

CHILD'S HOROSCOPE

Astrological Interpretation and Text

LIZ GREENE

Programming

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Child's Horoscope

for

Bill Gates, born 28 Oct 1955

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I. INTRODUCTION

Your children are not your children.

They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you,

And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,

For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls,

For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.

For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

- Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet

Most parents long to provide their children with the best they can offer on every level. But what is "the best"? Less enlightened parents will see in the child a symbol of all the lost potentials of their own youth, and will envision not the future toward which the child is best suited to aspire, but the future which they would have wished for themselves. More enlightened parents will understand the wisdom of Kahlil Gibran's words, recognising not only the magic of the child as a symbol of new life, but also the profound gift of being caretaker for a developing soul with a unique individuality and a life journey which cannot be dictated in advance. Children have their own inherent blueprint for life, independent of external factors. Within any family, two children - given the same parents and the same social and economic background - will express from the first days of life distinctly different personalities and distinctly different ways of responding to the outside world. Children are not blank slates upon which the environment writes. If we wish to offer "the best" for our children, we need to discern first who they are, and how we can

most effectively support them according first and foremost to the child's, not the parent's, needs.

Much wise information on child-rearing can be obtained from friends, family members, doctors, child psychologists, and the vast body of literature available. But no general rules on parenting can sufficiently honour the unique personality which each individual child possesses. It is here that astrology can make a profound and creative contribution to our understanding of our children - and also to our understanding of the child we ourselves once were. The birth horoscope of a child is a map of patterns and potentials which exist in that child from the moment of birth. When an adult explores his or her birth horoscope, many of these potentials have been "fleshed out" according to actual life experiences and the choices that person has made over many years. Time, circumstances and relationships with others crystallise potentials into set behaviour patterns and attitudes. In a child, these potentials are so easily stifled by conflicting family demands, thwarted by inappropriate circumstances, or simply ignored through lack of recognition. Encouragement of these potentials in childhood can help a child to develop greater confidence and hope for a future which is more authentically his or her own, so that greater happiness and fulfillment are possible later in life.

Children also possess inner conflicts and insecurities, and it is healthy and natural for them, like adults, to sometimes feel afraid. But all human beings have their own individual ways of dealing with such fears, and some defense mechanisms may not always be recognised for what they are. We may not understand the language of our children's fears because we do not suffer the same ones, and we may mock these anxieties or try to "cure" them in ways which are inappropriate for the child. The birth horoscope not only reflects nascent abilities - it also describes the ways in which any individual will try to protect himself or herself against life's uncertainties. Understanding the nature of a child's fears can be of enormous help in encouraging an inner sense of security and resilience. Each



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child also has highly individual ways of expressing love, and possesses emotional needs which are not always the same as those of parents. One child may need very physically affectionate demonstrations of love. Another child may be more cerebral, needing a love expressed through verbal communication and real interest in his or her thoughts and efforts to learn. Sometimes these differences can lead to painful misunderstandings between parent and child - each of whom may feel unloved simply because their ways of loving are so dissimilar. Insight into a child's unique emotional nature can help us to build bridges over these divides and relate to our children with greater love and tolerance.

Children reflect back to us a profound insight into life's continuity and hope for the future. Rather than trying to be "perfect" parents or create "perfect" children, we could instead try to honour and support the child's right to be an individual. A relationship can then develop which contains mutual respect and recognition, and which nurtures and heals rather than cramps, suffocates or undermines. The birth horoscope does not describe a child's "fate", nor can it provide us with any predictions of what our children will or will not become in adult life - this depends primarily upon their own future choices. Nor can a horoscope provide the means for an unconsciously ambitious parent to attempt to direct the child's destiny, for a child's individual nature will sooner or later find some way to express itself - in spite of if not because of upbringing. Instead, the horoscope faithfully reflects an inner cast of characters and an inner story which awaits time and choice for its unfoldment. To explore the birth horoscope of a child is a humbling experience and a moving opportunity to participate in containing and honouring a new life.

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II. THE PSYCHOLOGICAL TYPE

The rich array of individual abilities and potentials portrayed in Bill's birth horoscope is set against the background of an inherent temperament bias which may be partly hereditary but is also the reflection of a mysterious essence which belongs to him alone. We might call this bias his psychological "type", for it is a typical or characteristic mode in which Bill is likely to respond to the situations life brings him - even in infancy. No child begins life whole or perfect, and all children have certain natural areas of aptitude which will help them to deal with challenges, conflicts and problems as life unfolds. Like the muscles of the body, these inherently strong areas of Bill's personality become stronger the more they are "worked" as he moves through childhood into adolescence.

Likewise, all children have certain innate areas of the personality which may be slower to respond and develop, and which may be a source of great anxiety during childhood. Bill's psychological type will not remain static and unchanging through the whole of his life. There is something within all of us - whether we call it the unconscious, the Self, or the soul - which strives over a lifetime to integrate all those qualities which are innately weak, neglected or undervalued. This mysterious "something" is already at work within Bill, helping him to develop his personality along the lines which are healthiest and most natural to him. At the major archetypal junctures of childhood this central core of his personality, deeper and wiser even than the wisest parent, will draw Bill into conflicts which enable him to develop the less adapted areas of his personality so that he can grow into a more complete person. Life does this for us all, sooner or later. But one of the greatest joys of interacting with a child is the pleasure of encouraging a development pattern which we know can help that child's own inner self to achieve its goal of a unique but balanced personality which can cope with the great range of experiences life offers.



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A highly imaginative nature

Bill will probably grow up to be one of the world's true romantics. He has an intensely imaginative nature, and even in infancy may display a tendency to generate a bit of theatre just because ordinary life is so boring. You may find that he is adept at generating a sizable quantity of rages, tantrums and dramatic sulks, for this is a child who even from infancy will rebel against limits - even the limits of his own small body. His will is fiery and strong and when he wants something, he wants it NOW. Patience is never likely to be one of his great virtues. But a highly creative spirit which thrives on the dramatic and the colourful is one of the great gifts of his temperament. His dislike of physical limits may make him rather self-centred or irresponsible when it comes to observing the rules of the household - particularly with regard to meals, bedtimes, domestic tasks and siblings' possessions. Try not to engage in a battle of wills with him. You would probably lose in the end. More importantly, this behaviour is not really perverse, but a reflection of the fact that it will take him longer than many children to accept the limits of reality and accommodate his extremely rich inner world to what he perceives around him. The future - full of imagined possibilities and exciting potentials - will always be more interesting to Bill than the boring old present. He may outgrow toys, books and friends at an alarming rate of speed. This is not callousness or carelessness, but the expression of a vivid inner world which is constantly generating new futures and opportunities. For him the real joy is in the anticipation; the reality, when it arrives, is likely to be left behind rather quickly in favour of the next possible future.

The vivid imagination which is such a marked gift of Bill's nature should never be stifled or mocked - even if parents and family members have more prosaic demands to make of him. In particular, he may surprise you with a deep interest in the hidden side of life - dreams, ghosts, strange fantasies about people and about the future - and it is important that these perceptions are listened to,

even if they sometimes seem a little odd. He may also be fascinated by stories and films, and the more exotic the better. Bill has a real intuitive gift which is capable of seeing past the ordinary concrete world into the inner world of the psyche. Because this intuitive gift is linked with creative talent and the need for self-expression, stifling it in childhood would create great pain and frustration for him later in life. Sometimes Bill may disturb others because he tends to see through pretence in a most uncanny way. As he grows he may be uncannily accurate in "sniffing out" the secrets of others - especially those family "skeletons in the cupboard" which everyone is at pains to hide or may not even admit to themselves. And if Bill takes a sudden irrational dislike to a particular teacher or classmate it might be wise to pay attention. With a powerful intuitive gift such as this one, it is most important that as Bill develops he is encouraged to understand what this ability is and how to learn to handle it confidently. In early childhood, it may simply make Bill seem difficult or temperamental. In later childhood, and indeed into adulthood, it may be a source of great creative ability, insight and protection.

Kicking against material limits

Because the world of the imagination is Bill's true home, he may demonstrate certain special difficulties in relating to the material environment. He will probably display a propensity to become bored very easily, and to start projects which are dropped before completion. Procrastination - in both schoolwork and domestic chores - may be an ongoing problem, although nagging him will not solve it. The disciplines which some children accept in a realistic spirit will never be happily accommodated by Bill, and he is always likely to test others' authority - both parental and school - to the limits. As he develops, this child needs gentle but firm containment, for his powerful will needs to be accommodated to the limits of reality without his being cowed, undermined or harshly disciplined. Later on, one effective method of communicating the importance of greater patience and self-disci-



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pline might lie in appealing to Bill's dreams for the future. If he wants to get to the imagined goal, he will need to observe some of the rules of the journey. Everyday life therefore assumes meaning as the road to the future, rather than an endless round of chores. Heavily authoritarian approaches are only likely to make Bill intractable - if not overtly, then covertly through sabotage. And the life-force within this child is so rich and vibrant that extra effort to understand and contain him will be well worth the energy and time.

It is also important that parents do not martyr themselves over Bill's apparent self-centredness as he becomes older. He may be careless, but the positive side of his disregard for mundane limits is that he neither needs nor wants to be fussed over - which means parents have more free time for themselves. The "Why do I always have to clean up your room?" approach will not work very well, apart from its intrinsic manipulativeness - it is likely that Bill will not want his room cleaned anyway, since it constitutes an invasion of his private space. Just close the bedroom door and let him live with his own mess; as he grows up, he will soon begin to take more responsibility because beauty matters to him. Throwing about the word "selfish" is also not helpful. This child is not selfish. He is capable of deep and devoted love. But he is also full of vitality, imagination and a desire to experience everything at the most intense level possible. He is also likely to inspire parents and family members, for his joy and enthusiasm are infectious. Crushing Bill's exuberant spirits through emotional blackmail or harsh discipline will only make him produce those typical psychosomatic ailments of childhood which are a sure sign of suppressed anger. With support, love and understanding, he will grow into a truly individual personality, full of colour and imagination, and always ready to treat life's experiences as a great adventure.

A warm heart and a vivid imagination

Bill's fine imaginative abilities are supported by a highly sensitive emotional nature, which readily

responds to the feelings of others and reflects an innate generosity of heart. His sometimes exaggerated reactions need to be listened to and taken seriously, never mocked - but at the same time he will need help in learning some detachment. Encouraging perspective, rather than criticising his innate theatricality, would be most constructive. Bill will probably also show an early love of and deep response to music and rhythm, and anything which has colour, excitement and romance in it will capture his heart and imagination. This is a child who will instinctively love the world of fairy tales and myth, and who also needs a regular input of emotional exchange and involvement. Parents who take the time to share stories, poems and films with him will be richly rewarded by the joy and enthusiasm which he expresses. He may feel very lonely if he is around people who are not forthcoming with their feelings, and there may be a quality of great emotional dependency which shows itself in a tendency to provoke scenes and utilise the powerful covert weapon of sulks and "illnesses" if he feels ignored or overlooked. He has a special talent for provoking family members into fighting amongst each other, and parents need to be aware of this and deal with it honestly and firmly. The rich world of the imagination is, in Bill, always linked to the needs and feelings of other people, and relationships will always provide the richest source of joy and fulfillment to him.

Because Bill is an emotional child, he may deal with the problem of coping with worldly limits through tears, emotional scenes and an apparent helplessness which is difficult to resist. He has a great deal of innate charm and an ability to be extremely manipulative at times. This charm, rooted in an instinctive understanding of others' feelings, may be regularly utilised to help him avoid the necessary mundane responsibilities and tasks which he finds so difficult to accommodate. This may understandably anger siblings (or even a parent) who lack that magical persuasiveness which can coax someone else into doing all the hard work. As he grows older, it might be helpful to gently encourage Bill to view his feelings more objec-



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tively, rather than taking every small vicissitude of life so personally. Learning distance and the use of clear language to discuss and negotiate can be an enormous help to him in grounding what is essentially a volatile and sometimes not very well contained nature, and may provide a positive route through which he can gradually learn to accept inevitable feelings of aloneness as well as inevitable issues of material limits. Bill is a child with enormous funds of imagination and feeling. He will develop into an individual who has the great gift of bringing warmth, life and inspiration to everything and everyone he encounters. Inevitably with a nature like this he will need to be taught about boundaries in a loving but firm way. Generally he will always be able to get most of what he wants and needs through enchanting others, even if he has just thrown a really noisy emotional scene. And his innate empathy and generosity will always draw out the love of those around him. Self-sufficiency, however, may be slower to develop, and it is here that understanding and support could be most effective in helping Bill to develop a strong and self-sufficient inner core.

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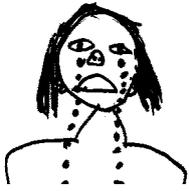
III. THE CHARACTERS IN THE STORY

One of the most important insights gained by depth psychology is the revelation that people are essentially dual in nature - some aspects of the personality are conscious and other aspects unconscious. This polarity is already present in childhood in a nascent form. Although this developing dual self may be influenced, encouraged or opposed by environmental factors, nevertheless it belongs to the individual child and will, sooner or later, express itself in life. The interplay between the conscious and unconscious sides of the personality is a complex dialogue between two important inner characters who sometimes agree, sometimes argue, and sometimes simply ignore each other's existence. These characters within the individual

also change their wardrobes and show different facets of behaviour and attitude at different stages of life. It is during childhood that the potential for a creative interchange between the conscious and unconscious aspects of the personality is most accessible and most easily encouraged to develop in life-enhancing rather than divisive ways. The tension between the main characters in Bill's inner story is the source of energy which provides the impetus for growth, movement and the formation of a healthy individuality. And there are other, less sharply defined characters within Bill as well - supporting players who sometimes harmonise and sometimes conflict with the main ones. These too contribute unique elements to a unique human life. Where they are strongly marked in the horoscope, we have included a description of them as well.

An earthy and honest child

Bill's nature contains no pretense or evasiveness. From the earliest months of life he will express himself forcefully and directly, whether he is hungry, lonely, angry or loving. As he gets older his transparent honesty will shine brightly among subtler, more guileful children. He is by nature earthy and not inclined to posture or placate in order to get what he needs. He is also perfectly willing to challenge and, if necessary, offend those who offend him. He may sometimes seem deliberately provocative because of his refusal to be "good" simply to please others. Parents should not expect him to collude with any effort to present things as other than what they are. He is liable to blurt out exactly what is going on just at the moment the family are trying to make the best possible impression on a teacher or a neighbour, and he has a kind of sixth sense about lies which makes him hard to deceive. An atmosphere of dishonesty or evasion in the home environment will invariably bring the worst out of him, for he finds it hard to understand why anything should be hidden. His way of solving problems is to confront them directly and hammer them on the head. More introverted siblings may sometimes find Bill trying because he can seem overbearing and tactless, spill-



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ing out secrets and asking embarrassing questions. He may also forget to respect others' boundaries, simply reaching for what he wants without asking permission first. But it should be remembered that he is not trying to be difficult or provocative. He has a sound, realistic and direct nature which makes it hard for him to play the social games many others find so important. The refreshing and trustworthy nature of his clear perceptions and straightforward manner can be a tremendously positive force within the family - as long as parents and family members are willing to meet it with some honesty of their own.

The direct approach

When Bill wants something, everyone knows it. He is not afraid of healthy aggression, and finds it difficult to understand why he should not try to get the things he needs and fight for them if necessary. He is likely to be very physically active and energetic, and would enjoy sports or activities such as hiking and cycling which take him out into nature and challenge his physical resources. As he is innately sensible and well-coordinated, he is perfectly capable of understanding the basic rules of safety. But he may show a courage, audacity and daredevil spirit which could alarm more protective parents. The right balance needs to be found between helping him to recognise dangerous situations and allowing him to express his considerable energy and spirit of adventure in positive ways. Bill should not be overprotected, stifled or subjected to humiliation by parents with unconscious power problems, for he is liable to fight back hard and will go on fighting until he has worn everybody out - including himself. This would be a waste of vital creative energy which he has a right to express in more fulfilling ways. Help him to find outlets for his powerful desires and energies, rather than trying to break his will or sabotage his high spirits through emotional manipulation. He can sometimes be extremely self-willed and rambunctious. But there is no malice in him and he will always respond well to clear, honest communication. And his great vitality and

strength of will are gifts which will provide him with courage and initiative throughout his life.

The need to run the show

Bill thrives on being in control of his immediate environment, and he may find it hard to make the compromises and adjustments necessary to function harmoniously within any group - whether family or peers. Although he forms strong emotional attachments and can be extremely loyal to those he loves, he may sometimes appear to trample over siblings and friends in his single-minded pursuit of something he wants. He possesses a powerful personality and a strong desire nature which does not take kindly to being thwarted. If frustrated, he may try to wear down the opposition through bad temper or sulks, or through various emotional ploys which instinctively put pressure on others to give way. Even if he appears to give up the fight, this may prove to be a temporary regrouping while he works out a different strategy. Efforts to get him to compromise on the grounds of fairness or respect for established domestic rules will generally succeed, as he has an innate sense of justice which can be called upon even when he is upset. But efforts to break his will through harsh punishment or emotional blackmail will be fruitless. His intense feelings must be respected and dealt with honestly and cleanly.

He has a healthy competitiveness which will spur him to strive to master every challenge - from learning his first steps to achieving high academic goals at school. Although he is subtle enough to sense when it is appropriate to show direct aggression and when it is wiser to move quietly, Bill has a surprising degree of self-honesty and realism and may fool others but not himself. Because he is not afraid to be selfish in fulfilling his own needs, his generosity is totally sincere and never a secret bid to win approval through being likeable. He is also free of the kind of secret envy which afflicts many children (and adults), because if he feels he deserves something he will work to get it through his own efforts. Although his forceful personality,



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intense pride and occasional bouts of willfulness may sometimes prove rather tempestuous, his essential integrity will always shine through. Bill is not a saint or a storybook angel - he is a real flesh-and-blood person with great honesty, courage and depth.

An innate self-sufficiency

Bill has a curiously adult self-containment which may sometimes make him seem rather aloof. He may also display a surprising sensitivity to criticism or rejection, reacting to it by proudly retreating into his own "shell". He possesses a complex emotional nature, proud and self-sufficient on the one hand yet extremely vulnerable on the other. Deeply perceptive about other people's motives and hidden feelings (although he may not always understand what he sees and senses), he may find it hard to reconcile his precocious awareness with his simple belief that life is a good place in which everybody can live happily ever after. His sensitivity is much greater than he may be able to show, and he is particularly vulnerable to feeling foolish or humiliated in front of others. Bill's emotional self-containment is a valuable quality which will allow him to stand on his own feet as he grows up, without harbouring unreasonable expectations of others. But he needs love and affection freely offered, as much as any child does. He may interpret an emotionally restricted or undemonstrative atmosphere at home as a sign that he is not loved, even if the difficulties arise from external issues such as financial troubles. Parents need to avoid offering love only as a reward when he does something which they want or approve of. Such conditional love is especially hurtful and damaging to him. Instead, show him that he is loved simply for himself, and that being "good" in the external sense is a bonus rather than the criterion of his worth. He can be surprisingly mature and understands perfectly well that life is not always Disneyland. Be honest with him and avoid emotional manipulation and deception "for the sake of the child". Then his sense of loyalty and great emotional

strength will be able to develop in the most positive ways.

A child with inner integrity

Thus Bill's inner integrity springs from his essentially honest and realistic approach to life and to other people. He is not inclined to live in a fantasy-world, but has the gift of finding beauty and pleasure in this world - even if the adults around him can't. He is warm-hearted without being sentimental, and generous without being manipulative. His directness and energetic nature may sometimes create turbulence and tempestuous scenes, and his strength of will may be formidable. But others are likely to trust Bill because there is nothing false about him. The occasional display of fireworks is well compensated by his total lack of hypocrisy and genuinely noble heart. He puts in the shop window exactly what is in the shop, no more and no less, and he may find it hard to accommodate subtler manoeuvrings on the part of siblings, family members or friends. Sometimes a little too earthy and pragmatic, he may display a disturbingly precocious maturity and toughness. He can be very matter-of-fact about other people's failings and has the rare gift of being able to live in the present and find ordinary things worthwhile. Abstract goals and dreams may mean little to him as long as immediate life is pleasing - and consequently overly ambitious parents may be disappointed when Bill shows no inclination to live their un-lived lives for them. His ability to relate to immediate reality gives him a deep capacity for contentment, and as he grows up he is not likely to dissipate his time and considerable energy longing for a world that does not exist.

Hidden dreams and aspirations

Although his nature is a sound and practical one, Bill has many buried dreams and fantasies which sometimes intrude on his ordinary life and provoke restless and discontented feelings. He is secretly far more refined, receptive and imaginative than his outer personality would suggest, but as he gets old-



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er he may try to suppress this hidden dream-world because he finds it confusing, strange and disorientating. His directness and realism contrast strongly with his deeply romantic and sensitive emotional nature. Thus he may feel threatened by his vulnerability as he grows up, and may try to compensate by an exaggeratedly tough and boisterous manner. And although he will usually come straight out with whatever is bothering him and will not ordinarily stoop to emotionally bribery or placating behaviour, he is far more fearful of being unloved than he is able to admit - even to himself. His self-confidence may sometimes plunge into darkly doubting and insecure moods which he may find very hard to share. And his imagination, usually disregarded when it comes to dealing with ordinary reality, may sometimes overwhelm him with fantasies of magical places and beautiful people whom he feels he will never be good enough to reach. The secret dreamer and aesthete which lies hidden within him is a very creative and positive element in his personality, for it provides not only sensitivity to others but also a link with a deeper and more meaningful reality. But Bill does not like the feeling that his feet are not firmly on the ground, and may not recognise the value of his inner world. Therefore it is important that parents can appreciate it, for throughout childhood he may need a good deal of encouragement and reassurance as he moves toward integrating these two very different yet equally important aspects of his developing personality.

The need to acknowledge finer aspirations

Well adapted to everyday life and confident in his ability to get what he wants from the world, Bill secretly carries a subtle and elusive inner nature full of dreams, fantasies and aspirations which belong to a more glamorous and ethereal realm. Extremely receptive to beauty and full of yearning for an invisible unknown, he may find it hard to acknowledge these dreams because they challenge his essentially pragmatic nature. Therefore he may be slow in revealing his creative talents and intellectual potentials. Frightened of looking a fool,

he may prefer to show the rougher face of his personality rather than revealing a sensitivity which he fears will not be wanted or appreciated. Although he would not be happy being cosseted or fussed over like some fragile scion of royalty, nevertheless he deserves as much encouragement as possible in developing the gifts of his mind and imagination. His refinement and aesthetic sensitivity need expression rather than denigration, and a careful choice of schools might be more appropriate than the simple assumption that what is local is good enough. Even if parents are not so inclined themselves, Bill needs to take his finer aspirations more seriously, so that as he grows up he can enjoy both the ordinary and the extraordinary dimensions of life.

Another important pair of characters

The characters described so far represent Bill's essential inner dialogue between the main conscious life-orientation and the hidden unconscious strengths which, if recognised and integrated, can round out the personality. Besides these figures, there are other inner characters indicated in the birth chart which are likely to emerge as Bill develops, and which are described briefly below.

A true individualist

Nothing and no one will ever succeed in turning Bill into anything other than the individual he is. Although he needs love and approval as all children (and adults) do, he will display a remarkably powerful will and a determination to do and be what he wants from a very early age - regardless of any efforts made by parents and family to produce a docile and conventionally well-behaved nature. Although he has a warm and generous heart and a spontaneously affectionate nature, he is quite incapable of any long-term suppression of his distinctive personality in order to please anyone - even those he loves most. As he grows older, Bill may often defy conventionally acceptable behaviour, and this could be particularly evident when he reaches school age and brandishes his colourful in-



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dividuality in the face of more unimaginative teachers. He also has a strong need for freedom of action, and may balk against rules and family routines which curtail his mobility. He is likely to be a hyperactive child who is constantly on the move and needs a lot of physical exercise and fresh air, as well as constant mental stimulation. Rigorous discipline will not succeed in taming him. Bill needs an unusual degree of freedom, a lion's share of attention, and a constant affirmation that he is special and different. But behind his sometimes disruptive antics lies a powerful, vital and creative individual in formation.

A feeling of being special

Thus Bill has the same needs as every other child, yet in his innermost fantasies he is also a star with a special destiny and something exciting and different to offer life. This overriding need to be himself, and to express the drama and vision he feels within him, may generate difficulties in a large family where many people's needs must be accommodated, or in a more conventionally-minded family where being "normal" and just like everybody else is the highest priority. Yet Bill has a rare and priceless gift - the vision to see new possibilities and the courage to pursue those possibilities even if they make him feel isolated from the family and from the collective into which he must eventually move. Whatever the family circumstances, he will always look beyond them to a bigger, more colourful and more exciting life where he can command the leading role and win the love and approval of the audience. Although Bill needs to be able to accept himself as a human being like every other, and to accommodate those limits and failings which life imposes on us all, nevertheless he also deeply needs the faith of parents who believe in him and have confidence in his highly individualistic spirit. As he grows up he is likely to follow somewhat unconventional paths, rather than plodding down the main road with everybody else. Give him love and support but let him find his own way. For he has the talent, the vision and the cour-

age to transform outer reality according to his dreams.

A secret need for others' approval

Despite Bill's powerful sense of individuality, his dependency on acceptance and approval from others should never be underestimated. As he develops, this dependency is likely to provoke conflict within him, for an important part of his personality development involves the sense that he, like Frank Sinatra in the famous song, has done it his way. Thus he may be quick to hide his feelings of neediness and sensitivity, and will struggle to suppress recurrent bouts of anxiety and self-doubt. On the surface he may appear to be a particularly brave and almost foolhardy child, overconfident and dismissive of parental efforts to protect him. Yet his hidden dependency and vulnerability are in fact strengths rather than weaknesses, for they help to balance a sometimes overly self-willed and self-preoccupied nature. Bill needs to be encouraged to appreciate his emotional needs - even the "weak" ones - as much as he values his independence and "differentness". Without such support for the more human and undramatic aspects of his nature, he may begin to deny his secret longing to belong. In consequence he would have to cope with considerable anxiety and insecurity beneath an overly self-sufficient and exaggeratedly individualistic outer personality.

Neediness is really a strength

Thus Bill's striking and unusual personality, gifted with vitality and imagination, is balanced by a much more dependent and needy side which may cause him conflict as he develops. Both dimensions of his nature are important and valuable. Parents could help him greatly by encouraging him to recognise and express both sides as they arise in response to the situation of the moment. Perceiving him merely as "the special one" and not acknowledging his humbler, more ordinary needs would be very hurtful and undermining. Because Bill is likely to draw attention to himself in both



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attractive and abrasive ways, parents and family members may be tempted to cast him in the role in which he casts himself - a kind of hybrid between Mozart, Sarah Bernhardt and the hero or heroine of a fairy tale. His own difficulty in expressing needier and more vulnerable feelings may be compounded by the family belief that he doesn't have any. Facing Bill throughout his childhood is the ancient human dilemma of individual versus group. Many children are not buffeted by such a conflict, for they are comfortable belonging and fulfilling the collective roles assigned to them within the family and at school. But Bill needs to be different and yet also to belong, and as he develops he may acquire various strategies which in spite of his highly individualistic behaviour are really secretly directed toward drawing the love and acceptance of others. If he proves to be a handful at times, it might be helpful to consider that he is likely to be at his most difficult when he feels most needy but cannot express it. Help him to understand this fundamental truth about himself in as loving and sympathetic a way as possible, and he will have one of the strongest supports he could ever need in finding real balance within.

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IV. EMOTIONAL NEEDS AND PATTERNS IN RELATIONSHIPS

The means by which we find happiness and nourishment through others become more complex, subtle and diverse as we progress from infancy to adulthood. But our fundamental emotional needs reflect our individual characters and in essence do not change. Every child has particular ways in which he or she experiences and seeks emotional contact with others, and this may not always accord with other, more dominant personality traits.

I am here!

Although Bill's earthy personality is focussed primarily on the realities of everyday life, his deepest need in relation to others is to feel that his specialness is recognised, affirmed and encouraged. If he feels he is not special and important enough to loved ones he may try to compensate through excessive physical activity or a focus on food or material possessions. But these are really surrogates for the attention and enthusiasm he needs from others. Bill seeks a certain amount of friction in his interaction with loved ones because it is through challenge and competition that he experiences himself as alive and emotionally real. He may sometimes become bored with friendships which are too sedate and unexciting, and may show an early preference for companions with whom he can get into mischief or do a little gentle competing. He has great warmth, passion and generosity, but he can also be quite oblivious to the fact that his high energy level and hunger for new experiences may be exhausting to loved ones. And because he has a volatile emotional nature, he may explode just to clear the air and then show bewilderment when family members or friends are hurt by what he has said or done. There is no meanness in his heart, but his way of relating may sometimes seem to be a one-way street - he performs, leads, and inspires and others follow and tell him how wonderful he is!

Bill's impulsive and somewhat demanding emotional nature may sometimes be a little overwhelming to others, especially since he is most reluctant to let go once he knows he wants someone's love and time. There is not much room for compromise in his way of relating, and he is capable of being a real "prima donna" if his needs are not met instantly. Yet there is no malice in him. He will no doubt let his anger and disappointment show in very obvious ways, and he may persist in trying to bludgeon the opposition into giving him what he wants. But he is not likely to exhibit any real unpleasantness - he is fundamentally too generous-hearted and honourable to carry grievances. He may, however, prove exhausting at times because



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of the willful quality of his emotions, which demand an immediate and whole-hearted response. But above all Bill's idealistic and warm-hearted emotional nature requires a direct, open and enthusiastic response from others. He needs to feel special and it is others' recognition and interest which affirm his worth and build his confidence in himself. He will not tolerate being ignored for long, nor is he able to cope with chilly disinterest or the kind of love which is expressed through acts of duty rather than real emotional engagement. A large family with many siblings may sorely test his limits, and if he has to share parental love and attention with too many people he will compete furiously - openly or subtly - for what he feels to be his rightful share. For Bill to feel happy and secure, he requires an imaginative and playful response from loved ones, as well as large doses of compliments and the acknowledgement that he is truly special.

Special needs in relationship with parents

There are different needs in relation to mother and father - not only based on the obvious fact of the sexual difference between parents, but also based on the child's own personality make-up and way of interacting with each parent as an individual. Just as every child's character is unique and inherent, so too are that child's feelings and emotional requirements in relation to parents, siblings and friends. Gaining some understanding of these requirements can help family members provide at least some of these fundamental needs, thereby offering an environment which - to use the words of Winnicott - is "good enough" to allow the child to develop his or her relationships with greater inner security and trust.

Exploring the world of the imagination with father

Bill's image of his father is primarily a sensitive and poetic one - a portrayal of man as artist, visionary and mystic. Even if Bill's father feels anything

but artistic or mystical, nevertheless the son attaches some sense of romantic mystery to his father and a great deal of idealism will colour his love. Whereas some sons want their fathers to be heroic and successful, Bill loves his father for all his human imperfections and is unusually responsive to any sadness or sense of failure in life which his father might carry. This boy does not want a perfect father - he needs to have enough emotional contact to discover who his father really is and how he feels about life. The sense of mystery which Bill feels about his father could be a deeply creative experience, for it opens up the boy's imagination and allows him to weave magical stories around his father. Even if his father's life is externally prosaic and unexciting, Bill secretly believes his father is really somebody else - a frustrated artist or an unacknowledged visionary. Such romantic dreams are important for Bill, but they also need to be grounded through a solid emotional relationship which allows the son to experience his father as a real and fallible person rather than a vanishing figure of mystery and unobtainability.

Because Bill longs to share his father's feelings and inner world of dreams, the quality of the time father and son spend together is extremely important - even if work pressures or family conflicts necessitate periodic separations. Parental battles should never be used as a justification for interfering with the very vulnerable but very deep emotional bond between father and son, and it is most important that Bill's father endeavours to preserve the continuity of the emotional bond even if material problems or interference from other family members make this difficult to achieve. Bill's father may also discover much of his own un-lived creativity through exploring the world of the imagination with his son - painting, reading stories, listening to music together, and talking about his own dreams and feelings. Bill's love of his father is intense and idealised. While this idealisation needs to be balanced by plenty of ordinary human interaction, it is also important that Bill can journey through mysterious and magical inner landscapes



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with his father. Although there are always experiences which no two people can wholly share with each other, a willingness on the part of the father to explore the inner world with his son can help Bill to develop greater confidence in his own creative potentials.

A close emotional bond with mother

Bill has a very special empathy with all his mother's feelings and moods. He experiences a particularly strong sense of emotional closeness with her, and perceives her as a responsive and sensitive person with powerful emotional needs of her own. Thus he is likely to identify deeply with his mother's innermost longings and dreams, and will feel a strong sense of protectiveness toward her - almost as though he were the parent and she the child. He will hate to see her hurt, and may instinctively take her side in any family conflict. This very sensitive relationship can provide Bill with a real sense of belonging, because the emotional affinity he experiences with his mother ensures that he will rarely feel lonely or isolated. Even if other family members vie for her attention, he is likely to cherish a feeling that he is special and has a unique place in her heart. Such deep attachment needs to be respected but never exploited, for the boy's profound sense of identification with his mother reflects a great degree of dependency. Therefore it is important that Bill's mother does not manipulate his emotional loyalty in the midst of family conflicts - deliberately or unconsciously - even if he seems ready and willing to offer absolute allegiance.

Bill does not need cossetting, nor is he unable to form other emotional attachments. But he may try to give his mother the feeling that she alone can make him feel safe and happy, in the hope that this will bond them more closely. The relationship between mother and son is a close, deep and caring one, and they probably share many similarities of temperament - especially on the emotional level. This could be a wonderful experience for both parent and child, because it offers what most human

beings hope for - the sense of belonging in a safe and loving family environment. But it should be remembered that one day Bill will grow up and form new relationships. For this reason, a little of this powerful bond goes a long way. The boy needs to be given emotional breathing space so that he can discover his own feelings and can experience himself as an individual separate from his mother. In order to achieve this it is important that Bill's mother does not inadvertently play the role of a needy child in relation to her son because of any loneliness she herself might experience. With sufficient consciousness and sensitivity, the warm and healing qualities in this relationship will form the emotional bedrock on which Bill can build a lasting sense of inner security that will enhance all his future bonds.

V. FEARS AND INSECURITIES

Every child, like every adult, experiences fear - fear of objects and situations that belong to "real" life, and fear of inchoate things which loom in the night and seem absurd or strange in the bright light of day. Fear is a powerful motivator in all human beings. It can work negatively, making us defensive and closed to life, and it can work positively, making us develop strengths and talents which begin as a means of self-protection and end as important assets of the personality. A child's fears have not yet crystallised into those rigid defense mechanisms which cause so many adults to block off important dimensions of their natures. Responding to a child's panic with insight may save many years of the child become adult struggling with an entrenched defensive pattern. Moreover, a child's fears can point toward profound archetypal issues which, dealt with in a spirit of understanding and compassion, reveal the wellsprings of nascent values, creative potential and individual identity. Just as one man's meat is another's poison, one child's fears are another's playground. Yet every



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child experiences personal fears as real, objective and threatening - whether they belong to the outer world or the inner. Calling such fears silly is not only unhelpful - it is downright destructive. To the child they are not silly at all and may reflect not only important personality issues but also unconscious conflicts in the family psyche which the adults are not in touch with but which the child perceives all too clearly. Listening to a child's fears with an open mind and heart can, at a formative period of life, provide what every human being most needs - a sense that his or her reality, full of unpredictability and menace as well as beauty, joy and meaning, is taken seriously. Fear is always far less frightening when shared than when it is confronted alone.

The fear of being different

Despite his reliance on adaptation to the concrete world, Bill has a deep need to express his feelings, fantasies and visions. He has a fertile and colourful inner world, and his urge to encapsulate this world in forms which others can see and understand is one of his most fundamental motivations. But as he gets older he may experience considerable conflict in his efforts to express himself, for he has an instinctive understanding of the dilemma which is likely to ensue. Any direct expression of individuality sets a person apart from others, because it is a firm and irrevocable statement of personal identity. Bill knows this deep in his heart and fears the criticism and envy of others. He also fears the isolation of being different. The exposure of an individual's inner world is a fundamental human challenge, and fear of the consequences is often the reason why many people feel creatively "blocked". Bill has a deep awareness that to be creative is to be individual, and to be individual is to separate oneself from others. Even though he longs to express himself he may inexplicably lose interest and abandon a creative project, or claim that he "can't" do it. Or he may simply follow the crowd, refusing to offer any unique contribution which might set him apart from family and peers.

As he gets older he may develop certain characteristic defences to assuage his fear of expressing himself. He may seek refuge in relationships with other, more confidently creative children in the hope that such a relationship will somehow allow him a glimpse of the magical world without his having to take the risk of revealing himself. He may also find ways of expressing himself which show technical skill but lack any real emotional involvement and exposure. His drawings may be pretty but imitative and his stories or poems safely conventional - as though he were determined to produce only things which earn him praise but involve no threat. He needs to be encouraged to show greater spontaneity in what he creates, for his fear of criticism and rejection may frustrate any genuine expression of originality.

Bill is also prone to confuse the success of his creative endeavours with his intrinsic lovability. He is deeply afraid of rejection and harbours many doubts about his worth. He may therefore try to use his talents as a means of buying the love and appreciation of others. But this would leave him with even greater anxiety because he would feel obligated to keep performing all the time, terrified that if he stopped he would be unwanted and abandoned. Any criticism of his efforts - however valid and kindly offered - may be interpreted as a profound personal rejection and he may react by withdrawing and refusing to try again. He is also deeply hurt by envious remarks, which he tends to interpret as a sign of others' dislike rather than as an indirect form of validation. Parents may need to be especially conscious of any secret envy of their own toward Bill. For although such feelings are perfectly natural, if unconscious they may be expressed as cutting criticism or a hurtful lack of enthusiasm for his efforts.

The price of being an individual

Beneath Bill's very personal defence mechanisms lies the basic human dilemma of the individual's need to be an individual - and the consequences of such striving. Self-expression is



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necessary for all human beings, and more so for Bill than for many others. No matter how intense his identification with others might be, life will only reveal its joy and meaning to him if he feels he has a unique contribution to make. His fears are surprisingly realistic, and the primary one is fear of the envy - and consequent rejection - of others. Envy is a peculiarly human emotion, and can sometimes be immensely creative because it helps us to be conscious of what we value and spurs us to strive harder for what we want. Envy from others is also the inevitable consequence of daring to move beyond identification with the collective and offering some reflection of a unique inner spirit. Like a jealous parent, the collective may be enraged when its children leave home. Thus envy can also be ugly and corrosive, expressed as spite and the desire to destroy the person who inspires it. Bill has an instinctive awareness of the problem of envy. Every effort he makes toward independent and original expression raises the deep fear that someone somewhere will make him pay for it.

Yet if he does not break through the barrier of his fear and find ways of expressing the vibrant life within him he himself may be sorely afflicted by feelings of envy toward those who have achieved the freedom of expression he seeks. For this reason parents can be enormously helpful by taking a genuine and enthusiastic interest in any creative activities which attract him. Interest and enthusiasm, however, are not the same as pressure, and it would hurt and undermine Bill deeply if parents tried to fulfill their own un-lived aspirations through his creative achievements. Nor is artistic excellence the object - it does not matter if Bill displays only an average talent in recognised creative spheres such as painting or writing. It is his joy and excitement in the process of creating which are so vitally important, and the sense of self-discovery which can allay so much of his self-doubt. The mystery of creative expression is not confined within specifically artistic spheres of life. The act of living is itself creative, if we can infuse it with something of our own unique being. It is this ability to pour his whole self into life which Bill most

needs to discover. If he can perceive the mirror of his specialness and value in the eyes of parents who do not make their love conditional on outer accomplishment, he will find the confidence necessary to discover his own unique creative path.

VI. LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Every child has a unique fund of potentials which can best be encouraged through an individual educational approach. However, most children must "make do" with what is available to them through local schools. In Western countries education, in accord with our present world-view, primarily consists of the acquisition of practical skills and specialised knowledge. Regardless of whether this particular approach is suited to every child, or even "right" in the broader philosophical or moral sense, children must to a great extent adapt their own individual abilities to the prevailing trend. Some can achieve this easily, some do so only by denying their own natures, and others accomplish little because they simply cannot make themselves into what they are not. Educational facilities may be found which place greater emphasis on a more holistic world-view, or on the imaginative and creative dimensions of a child's development. But the cost of such facilities may be beyond many parents' reach. Nevertheless, so immense is the power of innate individuality that whatever limits may exist in the educational environment, any child - given sufficient parental understanding and encouragement of natural aptitudes - can find the confidence to discover his or her appropriate path in life.

Searching for roots

Bill has a fine appreciation of physical reality, but his mental focus is on what lies behind the obvious and concrete manifestations of life. Especially important to him is the past, both family and



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the broader sweep of history. He has one eye on the outer world and one on the inner, and images and feelings are as real to him as objects. Because of this awareness of the multi-levelled nature of reality he may not find a strictly conventional educational approach very fulfilling. He has a strong love of learning for its own sake, and all knowledge is likely to prove interesting to him. But his mental perspective is more broadly based than that which is offered in many schools. Other people's ideas are always of interest to him - especially if they arise from different cultures and traditions - and he may excel at discussion and debate where the input of classmates stimulates his own thinking and enhances his pleasure in synthesising different fields of knowledge.

Bill is also extremely independent in his thinking, preferring an original but controversial idea to one which is collectively acceptable but past its prime. Because of the vitality and independence of his mind, he may not adapt well to a more dogmatic or authoritarian approach to education, and may become downright rebellious if he collides with more rigid modes of thinking. Most importantly, he needs to have room to look more deeply at things, using the faculties of intuition and fantasy as well as the more conventionally acceptable function of logic. Bill is not likely to put all his mental gifts in the shop window because the inner world is so difficult to communicate except through images, symbols and music. If it is not possible to make provision for this at school, extracurricular classes or hobbies which support his more "esoteric" interests - especially artistic ones - may prove extremely helpful and satisfying. And parents who are interested in the deeper side of life and can talk openly with him about his real questions would be most helpful of all.

A sense of continuity with the past

Deep at the heart of Bill's process of development is the need to establish a firm sense of his place in the context of the past. This need is focussed not only on the personal past of the fam-

ily. As he leaves childhood behind it will expand to include the whole of history, the sense of spiritual roots, and the picture of a world in which everything new and creative springs from the bedrock of what has gone before. He carries within him a life-long need to feel connected with his antecedents. As he moves into adulthood this will provide him with a sense that his future is the fruit not only of his own efforts but also of the lives of others who worked, played, lived and died before he came into being. His sensitivity to the hidden channels of the human heart will ensure that he remains in contact with the reality of a greater human family. The past is thus no mere abstraction or collection of historical facts - it is an unfolding drama of human suffering, conflict, aspiration and achievement, and he will increasingly feel connected to all of it. As he moves into adulthood he may be deeply drawn to the hidden domain of the psyche and the soul, probing the depths of human motivation and seeking his sense of continuity through a quest for connection with the spiritual source of life. If there is any single thing which parents would benefit from recognising about Bill, it is that he has great depth and is instinctively attuned to the invisible underpinnings of external reality. Thus, however self-assertive his manner might sometimes be, he should never be coerced into becoming more extraverted than he feels, nor pushed in any direction which requires him to be shallow or superficial. The family is extremely important to him, for it is not merely a source of security or a group of individuals whom he loves. It is a profound symbol of a life-force which continues through time, rooted in the distant past and moving toward a distant future. And even if Bill finds all the love and security he seeks within the family, in adulthood he will still - consciously or unconsciously - move toward expanding his sense of family into a broader feeling of communion with the eternity of the human spirit.

ASTROLOGICAL DATA USED FOR THE CHILD'S HOROSCOPE:

name of the child: **Bill Gates** (boy)

birthdate: **28 Oct 1955**

local time **22:00**

method **Liz Greene**

place: **Seattle, WA (US)**

U.T. **06+00**

houses: **Placidus**

long: **122w20** lat: **47n36**

sid. time **00:17:52**

25-Nov-2000

PLANETARY POSITIONS

planet	sign	degree		motion
☉ Sun	Scorpio	5m02'23	in house 4	direct
☾ Moon	Aries	8v14'54	in house 10	direct
☿ Mercury	Libra	16u36'03	in house 4	direct
♀ Venus	Scorpio	20m13'53	in house 5	direct
♂ Mars	Libra	10u07'07	in house 4	direct
♃ Jupiter	Leo	27u47'03	in house 2	direct
♄ Saturn	Scorpio	21m35'30	in house 5	direct
♅ Uranus	Leo	2u17'21	in house 1	direct
♆ Neptune	Libra	28u14'31	in house 4	direct
♇ Pluto	Leo	28u20'43	in house 2	direct
♁ Moon's Node	Sagittarius	19v28'17	in house 5	retrograde
♁ Chiron	Aquarius	0u19'42	in house 7	direct

HOUSE POSITIONS

Ascendant	Cancer	26s57'41	Descendant	Capricorn	26z57'41
2nd House	Leo	14u35'05	8th House	Aquarius	14u35'05
3rd House	Virgo	6m07'19	9th House	Pisces	6v07'19
Imum Coeli	Libra	4u51'52	Medium Coeli	Aries	4v51'52
5th House	Scorpio	12m53'50	11th House	Taurus	12z53'50
6th House	Sagittarius	23v46'43	12th House	Gemini	23u46'43

MAJOR ASPECTS

Sun SQUARE Uranus 2°45	Jupiter SEXTILE Neptune 0°27
Sun CONJUNCTION Neptune 6°48	Jupiter CONJUNCTION Pluto 0°34
Sun SQUARE Chiron 4°42	Jupiter TRINE Moon's Node 8°18
Moon OPPOSITION Mercury 8°20	Saturn SQUARE Pluto 6°44
Moon OPPOSITION Mars 1°51	Uranus SQUARE Neptune 4°02
Moon TRINE Uranus 5°57	Uranus OPPOSITION Chiron 1°57
Mercury CONJUNCTION Mars 6°29	Neptune SEXTILE Pluto 0°05
Mercury SEXTILE Moon's Node 2°52	Neptune SQUARE Chiron 2°05
Venus SQUARE Jupiter 7°32	Pluto TRINE Moon's Node 8°51
Venus CONJUNCTION Saturn 1°22	Moon CONJUNCTION Medium Coeli 3°23
Venus SQUARE Pluto 8°06	Mars OPPOSITION Medium Coeli 5°14
Mars TRINE Chiron 9°46	Uranus CONJUNCTION Ascendant 5°20
Jupiter SQUARE Saturn 6°11	Chiron OPPOSITION Ascendant 3°21

Numbers indicate orb (deviation from the exact aspect angle).