

36. Risk Taking

In the great manicure of life, some of us demand the emery board with coarse grain while others flinch from the least bit of roughness. Learn how much risk you prefer, in yourself, in a partner.

BODY LANGUAGE

Risk taking shows clearly in your partner's behavior behind the wheel. Clark Kent can turn into Superman, or the reverse. Body language when **driving a car** tells you plenty about aggression, temper, timidity and balance. Does this person even bother to follow the rules of the road?

Big risk-takers can scare the seat belts off low risk-takers, and not just in a car. Behavior behind the wheel can be played out later with work, money, career, health, you name it.

If you're a big risk taker, an unadventurous partner will bore you silly. (The religion of risk may have many missionaries but few converts.)

For more than a romantic romp, avoid pairing off with an extreme opposite. At work, similar styles matter even more.

Speaking of knowing what you're in for, **signaling behavior** from a driver is especially revealing. Careful communication tells you something altogether different from the "Why bother?" method.

Big risk takers who don't signal can make thrillingly spontaneous partners. But only you know how much thrill is too much.

And while you're in your partner's car, check out the decor. What do you find by way of neatness or clutter? How do you like the personal touches?

Décor like that moldy rabbit's foot may well festoon your living room one day. How do you like *that* risk?

FACE READING

When facing up to your partner's preferences for risk taking, **chin length** reveals most about personal style. (See a very long chin on Page 114, the lady on the lower left. For a very short chin, see Page 99, the middle drawing on the upper row.)

- ♦ A *long chin* shows potential for physical courage and, potentially, recklessness. Another potential problem is lack of concern for ethics, resulting in a different kind of risk.
- ♦ By contrast, a *short chin* suggests that your partner's courage tends to be ethical rather than physical. He/she will dare to do what's right, regardless of what others think. But so you seek physical chutzpah? Don't count on it.
- ♦ Fortunate are the folks with *mid-length chins*, equally comfortable taking risks or not. Their challenge is judging the "crazies" at either extreme.

AURAS

What is your partner willing to die for? Everyone has an area of life where he/she will take special risks, be they physical, emotional or spiritual. To investigate the tradeoffs, read databanks corresponding to these three areas of life.

Aura reading will also enable you to contrast deep forms of courage — gifts of the soul — with fear or other blockage. Someone who has risked and lost big may turn timid, resentful, even impotent.

But remember, STUFF like this in an aura can always be healed. Your insights may set that in motion, depending upon what you find and whether you're willing to risk a tactful discussion.

Begin with your usual Preparation Process: Pay attention to your inner awareness, then Get Big and set an intention to open your heart and learn about this person. (For more details, see Page 25.)

Plug-in first at the Physical Courage databank in the Physical Chakra. Ask, "How does he/she relate to taking physical risks?"

Plug-in next at the Emotional Courage databank in the Emotional Chakra. Ask, "How does he/she relate to taking emotional risks?"

Finally, plug-in at the Spiritual Courage databank in the Spiritual Chakra. Ask, "How does he/she relate to taking ethical risks?"

Personally, I've found this kind of research to be surprisingly helpful. Here's how I first discovered it.

On a lovely Sunday afternoon, I was stuck in heavy Washington traffic, and I do mean thoroughly stuck. To pass the time, I started to read my aura.

What I found at the Physical Chakra was that part of me actually preferred driving at a crawl, due to a loathing for physical risks.

Contrast came at the emotional and spiritual chakras, where I proved to be an enormous risk taker, loving to evolve at racecar speeds.

Then came my aha! "Some folks are just the opposite. When their approach is slo-go, instead of feeling impatient, I could remind myself: 'Hey, kiddo. That is just how you *drive*.'"

Consequently, I'm kinder. When you examine your own risk-taking proclivities, maybe you, too, will score some useful insights.