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Gloria Star – A Biographical Sketch

It was not my plan to become an astrologer. In fact, like most people I knew very little about “real” astrology when I was growing up. By the time I entered college – (when I, of course, knew everything!) – a friend was always talking about her amazement with astrology. “You’re way too smart to fall for that!” I told her. So, she challenged me, and I took the bait. I set out to disprove astrology. Imagine my surprise when, after setting up an empirical study of the subject, I began to realize that there was real substance to this ancient system of understanding life. Coupled with my academic endeavors in the fields of nursing, secondary education and psychology – the study of astrology and metaphysics was a perfect compliment.

I began my work as a professional astrologer in the 1970s, and thus far the journey has been life-transforming. My clients have been my best teachers, and although I have taught countless classes in astrology, metaphysics and life enrichment – it is the process itself that has been most enriching and consciousness-expanding. Part of my quest has led me to write, and in the past seventeen years I’ve written, edited or contributed to 29 astrology books, annuals and anthologies. Among these, **Astrology: Woman to Woman**, **Optimum Child** (revised as **Astrology & Your Child**), and the **Llewellyn Sun Sign** and **Moon Sign Books** are probably the best known. Several of my books have been translated into other languages beyond English. Other writing projects have included newspaper and magazine columns on or about astrology, in addition to work that’s appeared online for a variety of applications. As the Astrologer and Astrology Channel Manager for ThirdAge.com during 2000-2001, I had a tremendous opportunity to work with fresh applications of astrology through the Internet. I’ve also written the text for four astrological computer report writers. Currently, I am at work on other projects, in addition to my consulting practice and teaching. I also have a regular feature column in *The Mountain Astrologer Magazine* – *Astrology News* – a feature that has appeared in print and online since the mid-1990s.

As a teacher, I’ve presented lectures and workshops in every venue from local classes to regional, national and international gatherings and conferences. One aspect of my work involves being before the public. Fortunately, with my background in performing arts and public speaking, this is tremendously enjoyable! Whether as a guest on talk television and radio (and news) programs, or as host of my own drive-time radio show in the summer and fall of 1990 (*Real Life Astrology*), I’ve always enjoyed work with the media. Book-signing events have also been excellent way to interface with the public.

Over time, it’s also been important for me to give back to the astrological community, and I’ve served on the Boards of astrological organizations – from local to international. Currently, I serve as a member of the Kepler College Board of Directors. As a member of the Board of the United Astrology Conference (UAC), I worked to create one of the most successful international astrological conferences ever held. Additionally, I was the Director of Entertainment for UAC ’98 and UAC ’02, where I also was the Emcee for all the plenary events. Part of my work as Entertainment Director also involved set and lighting design, along with vetting and organizing all the entertainers and performers for the major events held beyond the lectures at the UAC conferences. As a member of the AFAN (Association for Astrological Networking) Steering Committee for five years, and Editor of the AFAN Newsletter for seven years, I worked to increase the outreach to the astrological community and to enhance astrology as a profession. I also serve on the Advisory Board for the National Council for Geocosmic Research (NCGR) and for AFAN.

Currently, I live in a small town on the Connecticut shoreline. Flower gardening and landscape design give me a chance to stay connected to nature, and I also enjoy cooking. During my free time, I sing in local chorales and perform in community theater productions.

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Astrology 101: The Basics

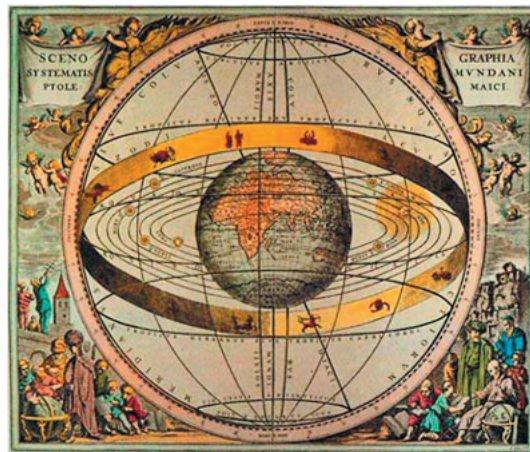
By Gloria Star

...In the Beginning

There's plenty of evidence that we humans have been fascinated by the heavens since antiquity. Although cave writings indicate that people were observing the stars, it was not until the time of the Sumerians, about 2000 BC, that an "organized" study of astrology and astronomy was recorded. Later, history tells us that about 2000 years later, the Magi who traveled in search of a newly born King of Judea were astrologers. The question asked long ago by ancient astrologers is the same question we ask today: "How does that which is above us relate to our life on earth?" The knowledge of astrology stems from that ever-continuing search.

Today, astrology is used by millions of people around the world, and the serious study and revival of astrology during the 20th Century – and now in this New Millennium – has produced record numbers of books, tapes, computer programs and readily available information on scores of websites! The word astrology, derived from the Greek roots meaning word or reason of the stars, is now applied to the study of the relationship between the heavenly bodies and life on earth. Astrology is a tool that you can use to expand your understanding of yourself, and of the world we all share.

Think of astrology as a highly specialized language. Learning the language takes a bit of time, and, like any comprehensive subject, a mastery of the subject requires serious and devoted concentration. Contrary to some ideas, astrology is not a belief system, and neither is it a religion. It is not associated with any type of questionable therapy or cult. To take advantage of the vast knowledge and information astrology has to offer, you are not required to study it, since work with a professional astrologer can be an excellent option. But if you are intrigued, you may want to learn more about this cosmic language. However, even if you decide not to study, and to simply use the services of a professional astrologer – it's always good to know some of the Basics!



One thing you need to know from the beginning is what astrology cannot accomplish. An astrologer is not a fortuneteller! Plus, astrology works in harmony with the idea of free will. In fact, Thomas Aquinas also pondered this question and wrote that the stars not do control the soul, that man's ability to reason and make choices can help determine the outcome of life situations.

Your astrological chart may indicate that you are experiencing a positive time to increase your resources or that you need to exercise greater care in high risk situations, but the exact circumstances and outcome are not determined by your chart. And an astrologer cannot and should not make your decisions for you! You can use astrology to help you make the best determinations, but you must make the decisions and take actions yourself. Think of astrological forecasting much like a weather forecast. All the indicators may be that there will be rain tomorrow, but whether or not you take an umbrella or

stand in the rain getting soaked is up to you!

One other pitfall that arises frequently is to “blame” the planets for your life situation. It’s certainly convenient to have a scapegoat, but your chart does not make you do anything. And astrology cannot give you simple answers to complex questions, like “Which sign should I marry?” One thing you will learn when you look into your astrological chart is that you have many different levels of need and personal expression. By using astrology to help you understand your inner motivations, drives and preferences, you may actually be able to make a better choice about a relationship, but it is never as simple as just pointing to a person’s Sun Sign!

What astrology can do is to help you become better acquainted with yourself, and, more importantly, your inner nature. You may reach a more profound understanding of your needs, hopes and desires, and thereby make choices which will lead to a more effective and satisfying life. You can uncover some of the repressed emotions, explore many of the questions of why you are drawn into certain situations, and become more aware of your strengths. In many ways, learning about your astrological chart is a self-confirming experience. This adds to your sense of personal confidence, and can positively influence your success in life. You can also gain special insights into any relationship using astrology, since astrology provides an objective tool to illustrate why and how you are attracted to different people and the special ways you connect with one another.

In addition to exploring your potentials, strengths and liabilities, you can use astrological information to help you determine the best times to act. Astrology offers exceptional insights into timing. Techniques have been developed which can indicate specific areas of opportunity or crisis, and which can illuminate avenues of better choices. You can also use astrological information to help you determine the best time to begin or end different ventures, and whether or not you should expand or stay closely focused.

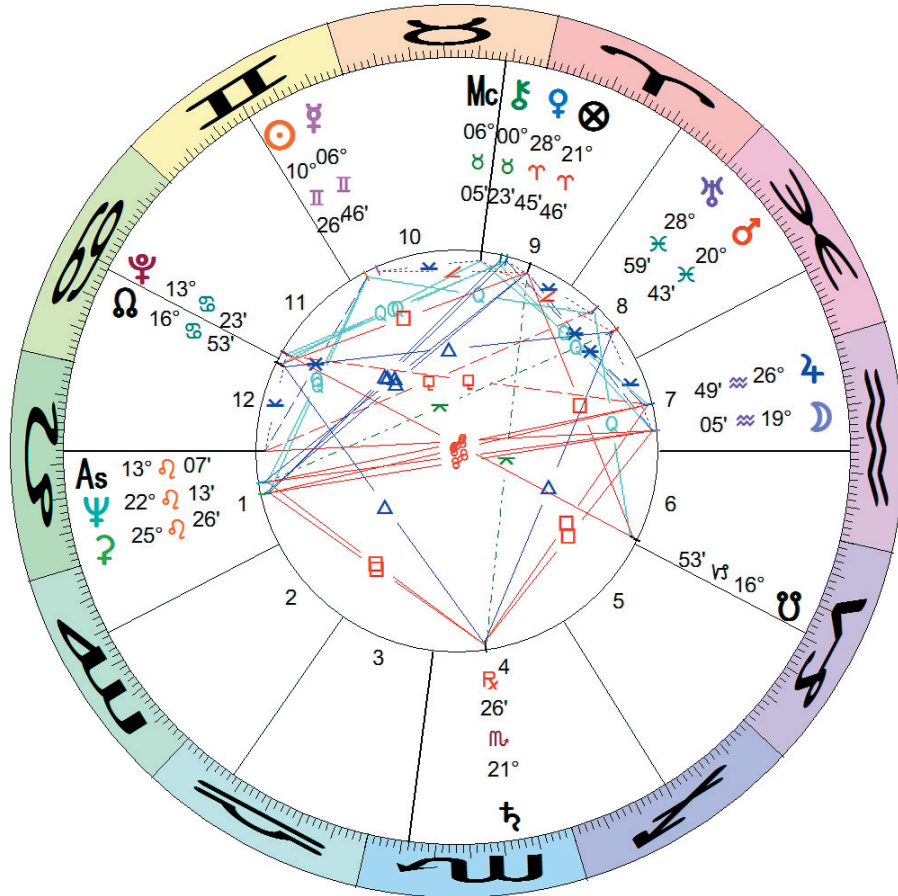
There are many branches of astrology, which reach into all levels of life experience, and there are professional astrologers who specialize in certain fields. Astrologers are frequently counselors who focus on personal growth, relationships, crisis intervention, spiritual growth, child guidance, career counseling or other areas. Others work in business and economics studying financial trends, and others are interested in world events. Some astrologers are researchers, studying the correlation of planetary energies to specific data.

What is a Horoscope?

It’s really simple: A horoscope is an astrological chart calculated based upon the date, time and place of birth. A chart can also be calculated for an event, a question, and even a country! Symbols are used to represent planets, signs, and geometric connections called aspects. In most cases, the horoscope in Western astrology is drawn on a circular wheel. The astrologer studies your chart and analyzes the patterns and factors which describe your personality and needs. In a sense, an astrologer is “reading” the information contained in your chart.

Today most professional astrologers use computers to perform the complex calculations involved in obtaining your horoscope. The mathematical formulas devised in the past are now translated into computer programs. However, a certified professional astrologer still has to learn how to complete these calculations. A Natal Chart, or Birth Horoscope, will look something like this:

Marilyn Monroe
Natal Chart
 Jun 1 1926, Tue
 9:30 am PST +8:00
 Los Angeles CA, USA
 34°N00' 118°W10'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Koch
 True Node



Natal Chart of Marilyn Monroe

The Natal Chart

A natal horoscope is a map of the heavens at the time of your birth, and is usually drawn as an earth-centered, or geocentric, map, showing planetary positions as viewed from your place of birth. The 360-degree circle upon which the chart is drawn represents the whole person. Envision a line dissecting the circle into a top and bottom half. That line represents the horizon. The planets, sun and moon are drawn around the circle in relationship to their actual positions in the heavens. Those symbols above that line were above the horizon when you were born. Those symbols drawn below the line signify planets that were below the horizon at the time of birth.

There's another division, too. The circle is divided into twelve segments, called Houses, with the First House falling just below the horizon line on the left side of the chart. Each House has a particular meaning, to be explained in another Chapter.

The twelve signs of the zodiac are placed at the dividing line, or cusps, of each of the houses. The sign placed on the left horizon is called the Ascendant, or Rising Sign. The rising sign changes about every two hours. Because such a short time differential can make a significant change, you can understand why an accurate birth time is the absolute starting point for calculating a birth chart! The symbols for the Sun, Moon and planets are placed within the chart, and sometimes the position of the Nodes of the Moon, asteroids or other factors are also included within the chart. You may notice that some of the houses in a chart are empty. There is no need for alarm. All houses are connected to a planetary influence, whether or not they contain a planet.

All the symbols you see on the chart are a kind of cosmic shorthand. Since astrology is a language that describes life, these symbols are a major part of that language. In the next several lessons, we'll explore the symbols of the planets, the signs, the houses, and more!

Astrology 101: The Signs of the Zodiac

The Zodiac

The zodiac is divided into twelve signs. Each sign comprises 30 degrees – so times 12, you have 360 degrees! The zodiac belt used by astrologers in the western world does not correspond precisely to the constellations you see in the heavens, although the mythology of the signs and the constellations is related. Here, we use something called the “Tropical Zodiac.”

Something you may not realize – your personal horoscope contains all twelve signs! You have them all, somewhere in your chart. The signs add color and definition. They are modifiers, and add qualities, traits and characteristics to the planetary energy or house that they influence. A good way to put the concepts together is to think of the planet as the actor in a play, but the sign is the role the actor portrays.

Each sign is characterized by an association with an element and a mode. These are the building blocks in astrology. In fact, if you give yourself time to consider the way these building blocks work, you’ll see that these are the foundation pieces of this cosmic language. There are four elements – fire, earth, air and water. Each element has particular meaning. Fire represents action. Earth signifies stability. Air represents intellect. Water signifies emotion.

Plus, there are three modes of expression of the signs – Cardinal, Fixed and Mutable. Cardinal mode of expression is to get things started. Fixed concentrates and strengthens. Mutability is about adaptation. All the signs grouped together by element will share certain characteristics, and signs grouped together by mode will share certain methods of expression.

THE FOUR ELEMENTS				
	FIRE	EARTH	AIR	WATER
CARDINAL	Aries ♈	Capricorn ♐	Libra ♎	Cancer ♋
FIXED	Leo ♌	Taurus ♉	Aquarius ♒	Scorpio ♏
MUTABLE	Sagittarius ♐	Virgo ♍	Gemini ♊	Pisces ♉

The Twelve Signs

The basic qualities of the signs are described below. To understand how a planet in a particular sign might operate in your chart, first, define the energy of the planet, and then consider how the qualities of the sign in which the planet is placed might influence the expression of that energy.



“Let’s get moving!” Aries is all about the beginning. Aries is the initiator. Here’s where to look for independence, courage and leadership. The cardinal fire sign of the zodiac, Aries has everything to do with movement, and is not comfortable standing in one place for too long. Ruled by the planet Mars, Aries can be highly courageous, impetuous, and abrasive and sometimes shows a rash or careless approach to dealing with issues. This is the quality of sharpness, and is strongly self-directed. Symbolized by the Ram, Aries has a headstrong, me-first expression. Exuberant and self-reliant, Aries is capable of standing alone. However, this quality can also inspire others to follow suit, but Aries is not likely to wait around to see who is following behind! Where you see Aries in the chart, there is eagerness and self-will.



Taurus

Steady as she goes! Taurus is conservative, and prefers to maintain the status quo. Just because Taurus likes to stand still, don't assume this means there's nothing happening. Taurus draws and accumulates energy. Operating in a fixed mode and earth quality, Taurus can be extremely stabilizing, much like the Rock of Gibraltar. Through a natural connection with the energy of Venus, Taurus loves the good things of life, and can be highly affectionate. A natural, earthy sensuality is associated with this sign, which can also be highly possessive. Taurus is calm, steadfast and enduring, but can become a raging bull when angered to the extreme. The symbol of The Bull shows the power behind Taurus. The desire to have a stable financial and emotional base can lead to extreme materialism when Taurus feels insecure. But in its most positive expression, Taurus is the essence of deep and abiding love. Where you see Taurus in the chart, there is focus and conservatism.



Gemini

"Hey ... what's that over there?" Gemini is endlessly curious, and indicates the experience of diversity. The mutable, air sign of the zodiac shows a high level of flexibility and cleverness. Gemini is youthful, witty, inquisitive and sometimes nervous. Symbolized by The Twins, Gemini is duality, and can present at least two sides to every picture. This quality can be the prankster, and can also show a high degree of fickleness. Intellectual pursuits, mental gymnastics and wordplay are engaging to Gemini, which is ruled by the planet Mercury. And although versatility may be the higher expression, the most frustrating expression of this sign is distractibility and lack of focus. "Jack of all trades, master of none" can describe Gemini in its weaker form. But when focused on the most positive side, there is little which can compare with the articulate, incisive and intuitive perception associated with this sign. The placement of Gemini in your chart, shows your need for adaptability and versatility.



Cancer

"Let's get comfortable and have dinner in tonight!" Cancer is emotional, and filters life through feeling. This is the quality of protection and tenderness, and shows a high degree of sensitivity. As the cardinal water sign of the zodiac, Cancer initiates emotion from the self and from others. Cancer can manipulate, and can also be passive-aggressive. Symbolized by The Crab, Cancer can also be indirect and defensive. The most patriotic of the signs, Cancer will defend home and country, and has a soft spot for mothers. Sensitive, sympathetic and intuitive, this is the quality of mothering, and is associated with the energy of the Moon. When carried to extreme, Cancer can be smothering, moody and suspicious. Where Cancer is found in your chart, there is receptivity and a need to be emotionally connected.



Leo

Lights! Camera! Famous as the regal sign of the zodiac, Leo knows how to be the center of attention – but only when Leo wants to be on stage! Operating as the fixed fire sign, Leo signifies determined inspiration that develops a sense of loyalty, pride and steadfast honor. But Leo can also be ego centered, and in its more negative forms of expression shows arrogance and pomposity. Leo may be most comfortable at play, where the ego can relax and the more creative aspect of this sign can emerge. There is magnetic energy associated with Leo, and a flair for the dramatic. Just like the Sun, which rules this sign, Leo is an attention-getter, and is difficult to ignore. Leo can be domineering, controlling and dictatorial, but when expressing the more positive dynamics of the sign, Leo's warmth and generosity are unmatched. Where Leo resides in your chart, there is a need for attention and there's also an ability to express high levels of creativity.

THE SIGNS AND THEIR MEANINGS		
Symbol	Sign	Key Concept
♈	Aries	Initiative
♉	Taurus	Conservation
♊	Gemini	Versatility
♋	Cancer	Receptivity
♌	Leo	Magnetism
♍	Virgo	Discrimination
♎	Libra	Objectivity
♏	Scorpio	Intensity
♐	Sagittarius	Expansion
♑	Capricorn	Structure
♒	Aquarius	Unconventionality
♓	Pisces	Imagination



Virgo

“I can fix that!” can be the phrase that clues you in to Virgo. Virgo’s expression is practical, neat and precise, with a high degree of analytical ability. The mutable earth sign of the zodiac, Virgo prefers an approach to life that makes sense, and can be uncomfortable in the face of frivolity. Ruled by Mercury, Virgo’s mental energy likes problem-solving. This is the quality of methodical, painstaking attention to detail, which, when carried to extremes can become hypercritical, nitpicking and tedious. But without Virgo qualities, there would be a lack of precision tools, and a wasteland of disorganized ideas! Symbolized by the Virgin with Sheaves of Wheat, Virgo represents the harvest and the importance of applied knowledge and effort. Virgo’s worst form arises in self-deprecating insecurity and general (and sometimes pointed) intolerance. Where you see Virgo in the chart, there is a need for perfection and efficiency.



Libra

Beauty is everywhere! Libra’s refined sensibilities are expressed as artistry. Social and diplomatic, Libra can be highly impartial. As the cardinal air sign of the zodiac, Libra represents the need to initiate relationships and make connections. Yet Libra can also be distant, inconsiderate and conceited, since Libra does love perfection. Symbolized by the Scales, Libra strives for balance and harmony, but is sometimes caught in indecision. The qualities of Libra extend toward a high degree of logic and consideration, but can also be expressed through placating or argumentative attitudes. Ruled by the planet Venus, Libra is continually judging the value of everything. Libra knows there are two sides to every story, and when called upon to mediate, can be an exceptional arbitrator. Where you see Libra in the chart, there is a need for harmony, beauty and refinement.



Scorpio

Classified and top secret, getting to the inner realm of this sign is not easy. Oh, certainly Scorpio is passionate --no doubting that for a moment. As the fixed water sign of the zodiac, it illustrates the qualities of strong and abiding attachment. Scorpio, ruled by Pluto, serves to bring healing and transformation and misses nothing. However, Scorpio can hide beneath a cool, calm exterior, and while sensing everything, show nothing. Symbolized by the Scorpion and Eagle, Scorpio represents the power to destroy and to regenerate. Scorpio is erotic, sensual and incisive, but can be an extremist and unrelentingly vengeful. And Scorpio explores and investigates until the core is exposed, illustrating exceptional research abilities. But there can also be an obsessive quality with Scorpio, and repressing emotions or holding onto pain can be difficulties arising with Scorpio. Yet Scorpio provides the energy necessary for birth and rejuvenation.

Where you find Scorpio in your chart, there is intensity and strong feeling, and this is the part of you where healing qualities reside.



Sagittarius

Tomorrow's promise is easy for Sagittarius to see. Sagittarius is the optimistic quality that inspires us to have faith in ourselves and our future. As the mutable fire sign of the zodiac, Sagittarius expresses the ability to maintain an open mind. Philosophical and tolerant of differences, Sagittarius can show great wisdom, and through the energy of Jupiter, which rules this sign, is stimulated reach toward broader horizons and greater tolerance. Yet Sagittarius can also be tactless or blunt, and may even be condescending. Sagittarius has an opinion about everything, and if one has not formed, can quickly generate something on the spot. Sagittarius looks for adventurous and philanthropic opportunities, and can become overly zealous and gluttonous when carried to the extreme. Symbolized by The Archer, Sagittarius is always looking upward and forward, and can sometimes gallivant into the sunset while others are left behind. Where you find Sagittarius in your chart you'll see your need to reach for Truth and to develop tolerance.



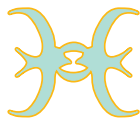
Capricorn

The most ambitious sign of the zodiac, Capricorn represents focus, caution and common sense. As the cardinal earth sign of the zodiac, Capricorn knows how to make the best use of what exists here on earth. The patience and determination seen in Capricorn can help to provide a stable foundation for growth. But Capricorn can also become too controlling, inhibited or rigid. Symbolized by The Goat, Capricorn prefers the sure-footed path to the top, and will stand firm for a long time rather than back down. When hurt, Capricorn can be melancholy, and when uncertain, Capricorn can be driven by fear. Sometimes considered to be miserly, Capricorn prefers to be responsible and frugal, and can make the best use of all resources. Through its connection with the energy of Saturn, Capricorn signifies the quintessential authoritarian. Where you see Capricorn in your chart you find a need for structure and conscientious effort.



Aquarius

"I love humanity. It's people who are hard to take!" Aquarius represents the humanitarian, but can also be strongly individualistic. As the fixed air sign of the zodiac, Aquarius expresses focused mental energy, and can show a strong level of ingenuity. Although most people think of Aquarius as progressive, there can be a fanatical attachment to an idea or ideal. Aquarius is the rebel and anarchist, but can be unselfish and altruistic, much like Uranus, the planet associated with this sign. Symbolized by the Water-Bearer, Aquarius pours forth the ideas which stream from the mind, and in its highest form is stimulated by intuitive awareness. Aquarius is unconditional and seeks to develop the true love of friendship. Aquarius' cool detachment can be directed in positive ways to bring about change, but can sometimes be felt as hurtful on a personal level. Where you see Aquarius in your chart, you see your need for the unconventional and where you can best develop your individuality.



Pisces

"Let's pretend the world is peaceful and perfect!" The most sensitive sign of the zodiac, Pisces represents imagination, idealism and compassion. As the mutable water sign, Pisces can show exceptional flexibility, but can also be unfocused and uncommitted. Pisces is the visionary, psychic and poetic aspect of life, and signifies the mystical. Ruled by the energy of Neptune, Pisces can also be an escapist and may relish the role of the victim and martyr (or get caught between victim and rescuer!). Symbolized by The Two Fish (tied together and swimming in opposite directions) – Pisces can spend a lot of time going in circles, feeling confused. But the positive expression of empathy and tenderheartedness of Pisces turns our attention to the plight of humanity and the fact that we are all One. Pisces can transcend the trap of co-dependency through quiet awareness of the true inner self. Where you see Pisces in your chart, you see your need for imagination and vision.

Astrology 101: Planets, Sun and Moon

The Astrological Energies: The Sun, Moon and Planets in Astrology

The Sun, Moon and planets each represent a different quality of energy. You use these energies to create and direct your life. Additionally, these energies are each related to a specific need, and indicate a variety of drives which serve to form your complex personality structure. Some astrological books refer to the Sun and Moon as planets, but they are actually luminary bodies. The Sun is a star, and the Earth's Moon reflects the light of the Sun. Some horoscopes will also contain other factors, and I've described a few of these at the end of this chapter.

These energy bodies in your chart operate much like the actors in a play. In fact, if you think of your life as the primary creative project on your cosmic "to do" list – then, it's easy to consider that your life is your own personal stage play!

THE PLANETS		
SYMBOL	PLANET	MEANING
☉	Sun	Ego Self
☾	Moon	Subconscious Self
☿	Mercury	Communication
♀	Venus	Expressiveness
♂	Mars	Drive
♃	Jupiter	Expansion
♄	Saturn	Focus
♅	Chiron	Purpose
♁	Uranus	Individuality
♆	Neptune	Imagination
♇	Pluto	Regeneration



Sun

Of course, we know that the Sun is not a planet; but in astrology, it is called an "energy" body. Actually, you're already well acquainted with the energy of your Sun. This is the part of you that needs to shine. Your Sun energy drives your willpower. When your Sun is operating at its fullest, you openly express your individuality and make the best use of your personal magnetism. This energy is about showing your authenticity, it the zodiac sign influencing your Sun shows how you affirm your identity to the world. Sun also represents the essence of authority, and your Sun is the drive that sustains and keeps you going. Psychologically, Sun represents the primary masculine part of your psyche and shows in the way you relate to your Father and father figures in society. Your Sun also plays an important role in your physical health, since it's the energy you feel as your vitality; if you were a car, your Sun would be your engine. Think of your Sun as the part of you that says, "Hey, pay attention! I'm right here!" The astrological sign influencing your Sun alters your basic drive to be noticed, adding qualities like mannerisms and

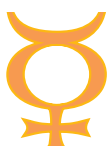
attitudes, and describes the costume your ego likes to wear in order to be noticed in the way that feels most natural and personally empowering for you.



Moon

The Moon is the most familiar body in the heavens, reflecting a continually changing light. In your astrological chart, your Moon is the part of you that reflects the way you feel. Your Moon is your comfort zone. It functions a lot like a recording device, taking in everything that is happening around you. Your Moon is your receptivity and your subconscious mind.

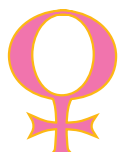
You probably know your Moon best as your habits and your instincts. Your Moon is at work when you're addressing your feelings about security, your desire to feel at home, and your need to be nurtured. When you're taking care of someone, you're using your Moon, since it represents your own ability to nurture. It's probably no surprise to discover that your Moon represents your Mother and the part of your psyche described by psychology as "the feminine self." Yes, even men have a Moon – although it's sometimes easier for males to let the women in their lives be the most emotionally expressive! For males and females alike, the Moon's sign indicates the qualities you seek that support your most significant needs and feelings.



Mercury

Mercury's sprightly expression exists in the realm of the intellect. Your Mercury shows how you take in and express ideas – it's your ability to communicate. How you connect to others, the way you adapt, socialize, understand, or develop skills and dexterity: these are all ways you express the energy of Mercury. Mercury is the part of you reaching out when you're eager to call a friend and share the latest gossip, or the driving need you feel when you're so curious about something you just have to know more. The

astrological sign influencing Mercury shows the kinds of things that hold your interest and the intrinsic way you learn and communicate. In the world around you, Mercury represents youth and your own connection to young people, and it also symbolizes transportation and technology.



Venus

When you sigh deeply, thinking about the one you love, you're feeling Venus. You feel Venus in your heart of hearts. The energy of Venus encompasses everything beautiful and valuable to you, and through Venus you express your own beauty and artistry. Oh, you may not think you're an artist, but since your life is a work of creative expression, when you get right down to it, you are! When you're tuned in to what you like, that's Venus whispering, "This is wonderful!" How you love and the way you express your love and appreciation fall under the cloak of Venus. But more importantly, the way you feel about yourself is the deepest essence of Venus. When you're filled with love for yourself, your sense of personal worth grows, you attract more of what you want, and your life seems more worthwhile. The astrological sign influencing Venus shows the kinds of things you most enjoy, the way you're most comfortable expressing your affections, and what is truly valuable in your life. Women are usually more at ease when it comes to more open expressions of Venusian energy – the power of beauty and attraction – and society allows women greater latitude to let Venus shine forth.



Mars

Bombastic Mars is the punch of energy you feel when it's time to assert yourself. Your courage, strength, passion and ability to take action are expressions of Mars. However, Mars is also at work when you're feeling angry, destructive or hostile. Without Mars, not much would happen, since you use Mars to get things going. Mars helps you meet challenges and take the initiative. Mars can be sharp as a razor and blistering hot, and you need Mars' drive and push when you're facing the challenges of life. It's all about how you direct Mars. Mars is pure physical energy, and it's the fuel that keeps your engine running. Men are usually more comfortable expressing Martian energy, since it does add an "edge" to the personality and can embody some of the things you think of as brutal or crass. After all, even in today's world, people make way for a guy asserting his power, but may be disarmed by a woman stepping into the lead with conviction. The astrological sign influencing Mars in your chart shows how you express

your strength and the manner in which you assert yourself. It also tells you the kinds of challenges that get your engine revved to the max.



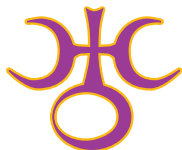
Jupiter

Jupiter, the big guy in our Solar System, symbolizes the energy you feel when you're inspired and optimistic. When you feel a conviction to do the right thing, you're tuned into Jupiter. Jupiter does not like limits, and drives you to move beyond your own backyard and find out about the rest of the world. Jupiter is working when you're thinking about the future and feeling enthusiastic about the possibilities of tomorrow. Jupiter adds a hunger to learn, but more than that, it drives your need to understand the endless questions that fall under the category of "why." This is the energy behind philosophy, morals, ethics and social consciousness. But Jupiter is not all Mr. Niceguy, since Jupiter also drives the restless impulse to push past limits, or to wander aimlessly, searching for the unknown and leave others wondering where you've gone. You get into trouble exercising Jupiter when you say "yes" to everything or when you overindulge and overspend. Fortunately, this energy's positive drive to attain wisdom and understanding usually wins out.



Saturn

Saturn, the planet encircled by icy rings, represents the energy of focus and limitation. A strong image for Saturn is the old school marm dressed in black, ready with the dunce cap when you misbehave, or the traffic cop who always seems to be around the corner the one and only time you decide to see just how fast your car can actually go. Saturn has gotten a bad rap since represents restraint, testing, discipline and limitation. When you hear about Saturn, you're likely to think that the bad news had to be in the planetary scheme somewhere! In all honesty, though, Saturn is more "good cop" than "bad cop!" Saturn's at work when you're focused and clear, when you know where you're going and when you take responsibility for yourself. Without Saturn, life would miss its framework and foundations. Saturn can be the voice of authority and the solid support of your most cherished mentor. But Saturn is also time and the process of aging. Since Saturn is the Cosmic Testing Authority and Ultimate Auditor, there's a strange mix of awe and fear when this energy is operating. At its worst, Saturn manifests as excessive control, fear, anxiety, shame and inhibition. At its best, Saturn instills a feeling of self-respect and integrity.



Uranus

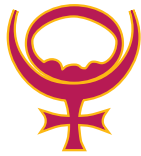
In the drama of life, Uranus is the revolutionary – upsetting the status quo, setting outrageous trends, opening the way for innovation and change. Your Uranus is in full swing when you feel rebellious and tired of the rules. You're also expressing Uranus' energy when you allow your originality and ingenuity to shine and when you stop trying to be like everyone else. Through Uranus, you break the mold and open the way for your talents and special abilities to take the lead. Uranus is the intuitive flash of insight that illuminates fresh possibilities. These impulses are also related to humanitarian idealism – the spirit of brotherhood and friendship that allows you to accept and appreciate diversity. When Uranus' energy is contained too long, it can explode as anarchy, disruption and polarization – leading to instability and frenetic impulsiveness. Reformers, inventors, altruists, rebels, humanitarians and wizards reflect pure symbols of this energy. Because Uranus takes more time to complete its orbit around the Sun, it remains in a sign for about seven years. It's one of the planets influencing what drives a generation, and a definite marker for what we call a generation gap!



Neptune

Neptune's realm is in full operation when you're engrossed in imagination, or when you've escaped ordinary reality you're drifting in a feeling of perfect peace. When you dream, you're in Neptune Land. You're experiencing Neptune when your compassion drives you to reach out and lend a helping hand. When it's time to forgive, you bring Neptune's energy into play, letting go and rising above so that you can move on. Through Neptune, you merge with your inner self, blending with your spiritual urges, reaching toward ideals. Yet Neptune's also operating when you're confused, in a fog, giving-in to

your addictions, steeped in denial, or falling victim to deception. Neptune can be the rose-colored glasses through which you see only what you want to see, but on the other side of it, Neptune allows you to see what can be. In the world around you, Neptune is working everyday in the movies, music, television, and through all the advertising permeating the collective consciousness. Neptune people are the musicians, actors and movie stars, mystics, prophets and devoted spiritual seekers. Neptune is also a slow-moving planet, and shows the ideals which tend to characterize a generation. The “flower children” have Neptune in Libra, the sign of beauty, artistry and relationship.



Pluto

Pluto is way out there – the planet furthest from the Sun – but this energy in astrological terms is the power that resides in the deepest spaces of your psyche. Either way, it’s not an easy place to reach! You feel the power of Pluto when you experience or witness birth, since the emergence of new life marks a huge change for everyone involved. All the major transitions of life – birth, healing and death – fall within Pluto’s realm. Pluto’s energy transforms and regenerates – on every level. When it’s time to get to the core of something, you’re employing Pluto. You use Pluto when you refinish vintage furniture, renovate your home, or drill for oil. In your personality, Pluto shows itself as your charisma. Psychotherapy is Plutonian. There is a dark side to Pluto, too, since it’s also felt and expressed as compulsion, coercion, abuse, repression, guilt and destruction. On a broader level, the sign of Pluto represents the kinds of breakthroughs a generation will seek to create as a marker of its time.

Beyond Planets

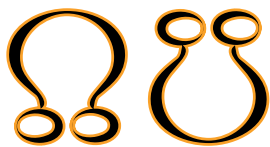


Chiron

Chiron represents your deeper sense of purpose and adds a subtle, yet powerful, drive to achieve a feeling of connection to higher values. But Chiron may also indicate areas of vulnerability or emotional wounds that require special attention. Astronomers and astrologers are still studying the exact nature of Chiron. In fact, you’ll see it described as a planetoid, asteroid and a comet! However, its influence is so well established that we do examine it.

Icy Dwarf Planets: Astronomers reoriented and redefined the concept of “planet” in 2006, removing Pluto from inclusion as a planet, renaming Pluto an “Icy Dwarf Planet.” In this same reclassification, the previously-named asteroid Ceres was brought into the definition of Icy Dwarf, and the newly discovered Eris is also included in this category. It is thought that there will be a reconsideration of the definition of “planet” once again when astronomers convene in several years. Most astrologers are utilizing this concept, but still give Pluto the consideration it had when it was classified as a planet. Stay tuned for future developments!

Asteroids: There are more than 2000 asteroids. Astrologers have studied the meanings of many asteroids, and some have included interpretations of these bodies. The most commonly used asteroids are the larger bodies like Ceres, Vesta, Juno and Pallas. The asteroids add significant stories to the drama of your astrological chart! Asteroids are an important consideration, but are best left to exploration once you’ve mastered the basics.



Nodes of the Moon

The Moon’s Nodes are points in space used to calculate the timing of eclipses. The South Node indicates your past and shows a kind of emotional comfort zone, providing insights into your talents or areas of special insights. The North Node beckons you to develop and grow in areas which may not seem as familiar. These placements are often interpreted in relationship to your karma.



Part of Fortune

Derived from Arabic methods of calculation, the Part of Fortune indicates where you can tap into resources or where you may suddenly lose resources.

Rx Retrograde Planets

Actually an optical illusion, a planet is said to be retrograde when it appears to move backward in its motion. When a planet is in retrograde motion at birth, it indicates that the energy is turned inward and must be developed from an inner awareness before it can be fully expressed externally.

Rulership and Related Concepts

The planets and signs have a comfort zone of expression, and there is a natural link or affinity between planets and signs. This link is called rulership. When a sign and planet are placed together by rulership, the expression of the planet's energy can be most at ease.

THE SIGNS AND THEIR RULERS	
Sign	Planetary Ruler
Aries ♈	Mars ♂
Taurus ♉	Venus ♀
Gemini ♊	Mercury ☿
Cancer ♋	Moon ☾
Leo ♌	Sun ☼
Virgo ♍	Mercury ☿
Libra ♎	Venus ♀
Scorpio ♏	Pluto ♇
Sagittarius ♐	Jupiter ♃
Capricorn ♑	Saturn ♄
Aquarius ♒	Uranus ♅
Pisces ♓	Neptune ♆

For example, when a chart shows the Moon in Cancer, that individual may be most at home accepting emotional needs and expressing nurturing and supportive qualities to others. The Moon – the energy of feeling and underlying emotion – is quite comfortable in the zone of Cancer – where the qualities of comfort and support are easy to express. In some ways, these matching qualities support the expression of the energy (in this case, the Moon), so that getting in touch with that aspect of the Self is much more natural for the individual.

Application of the idea of rulership extends to adding emphasis to the ease or discomfort of expression of a planet in other signs, too.

Rulership is also called Essential Dignity. A planet in its Dignity gains an energy boost. Other concepts related to Rulership involve the interrelationship from one sign to another.

Detriment: A planet in the sign opposite the Dignity expresses itself in its Detriment. This is a dilution of energy.

Exaltation: When a planet is in its exaltation, the energy expression is strengthened and intensified.

Fall: A planet in the sign opposite the Exaltation carries extra weight or is hampered in some manner. This is much like a pollution of the energy symbolized by the planet.

PLANETARY STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES				
	Ruler	Detriment	Exaltation	Fall
Sun	Leo	Aquarius	Aries	Libra
Moon	Cancer	Capricorn	Taurus	Scorpio
Mercury	Gemini	Sagittarius	Virgo	Pisces
	Virgo	Pisces	Aquarius	Leo
Venus	Taurus	Scorpio	Pisces	Virgo
	Libra	Aries		
Mars	Aries (Scorpio)	Libra (Taurus)	Capricorn	Cancer
Jupiter	Sagittarius	Gemini	Cancer	Capricorn
Saturn	Capricorn	Cancer	Libra	Aries
	(Aquarius)	(Leo)		
Uranus	Aquarius	Leo	Scorpio	Taurus
Neptune	Pisces	Virgo	Cancer	Capricorn
Pluto	Scorpio	Taurus	Pisces	Virgo

The Houses and the Chart Wheel

By Gloria Star

The Astrological Houses

The “houses” in astrology refer to the division of the circle into twelve segments. In Natal Astrology, the houses symbolize different facets of the Individual Self. Each person is, after all, multidimensional! The concept of the chart wheel helps to illustrate the many dimensions of human expression and life experience. If you think of Houses as the field of life experience - then the idea that the different environments and relationships are an extension of your whole self starts to take shape.

Here’s a clue to the way the Houses work in your personal life: consider the way you might act or dress if you were being interviewed by a prospective employer and contrast that with the way you act or dress at home around the people who know you on an everyday level. These two experiences illustrate the differences between two different houses in your chart.

If you use the idea that the Planets represent the actors in the drama of your life, and the signs show the roles the actors play - then the Houses are the setting and scene of the play. Houses also represent the different relationships in your life. While the illustrations and ideas presented here note some of these relationships, of course, there are more relationships beyond these. Hopefully, the qualities of the relationships presented will give you basic ideas that you can expand as you further your study of astrology.

Take a look at the chart wheel itself. There are twelve divisions. Also, there are four parts of the wheel that have more impact and expression. These are the “angles” in the chart.

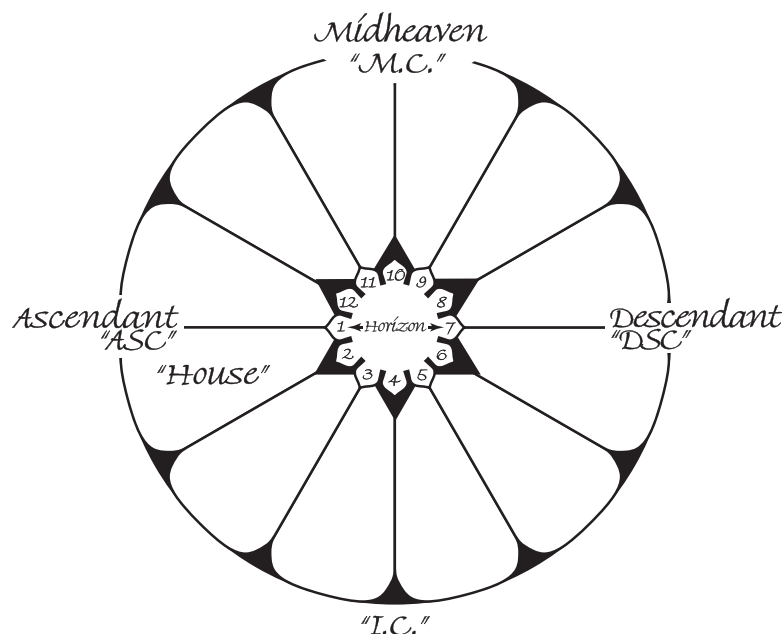


Illustration 1
The Wheel

The Ascendant (usually the cusp of the 1st House) and Midheaven (usually at the cusp of the 10th House) are especially significant. The sign on your Ascendant (ASC) indicates the way others see you, and can color the way you project your personality. Many times, the first impression others have of you is described by your rising sign or Ascendant. Your Midheaven (MC) illustrates your public persona, and the sign at your MC can signify the qualities you hope to satisfy through your vocation.

As you begin to explore astrology and to read more about it, you'll run across the idea of House Systems. There are several methods for calculating the divisions of the houses, and systems have been developed by various schools of astrology. The most commonly used calculation systems are Placidus and Koch, although other popular systems in use are Campanus, Equal Houses, and Porphyry. There are strong advocates for each of these systems, and their divisions represent philosophical as well as mathematical variations. My personal preference is Koch. When the time of birth is not known, I find that setting a chart for noon on the day of birth, utilizing the place of birth, and then placing the Sun on the Ascendant and using equal houses works reasonably well. This type of chart calculation is called a Solar Chart, or Sun on ASC Chart.

The Twelve Houses

Since the circle of the chart represents the Whole Person, you can think of each house as representative of the facets of the personality and self-expression. While each house stands on its own to some extent, the houses also have particular themes that work together.

Houses are divided into three different categories. Let's start at the points on the wheel that define the four 90-degree angles. These are the Angular Houses - 1st, 4th, 7th & 10th - and these are aspects of yourself where you can be more strongly expressive. Planets in these houses are more easily recognized by others or may be expressed in a more physical manner. Succeedent Houses - 2nd, 5th, 8th & 11th - represent more sensitive aspects of your life. Planets placed in succeedent houses are likely to trigger a more passionate charge. Cadent Houses - 3rd, 6th, 9th and 12th - represent areas where you may feel less forceful. Planets in cadent houses may operate on a more mental or detached level.

Each House has its function and outstanding features:

First House

This sector represents your personal expression, and can offer insights into your physical appearance, manner of dress and basic personality traits. Your overall physical vitality is also expressed through this house. Your attitudes toward others and toward life are projected through this part of your personality.

Second House

Your Self-worth, values, personal resources, and how you handle your material resources are illustrated by this house. Your spending habits and your approach to money and finance can also be shown by this area of your chart. All manner of resources acquired or earned can be included, whether possessions, money or other acquisitions. By the way, time is also a resource!

Third House

This house represents everyday experiences, and is associated with communication, short travels, general education, writing and mental interests. Your approach to learning and the way you network with others is represented by this House. Additionally, this house represents siblings, neighbors and acquaintances.

Fourth House

Fourth House is your home, and represents what you seek to feel personally secure and safe. Your roots and the traditions that bind your family are here, and your father is represented by this part of your chart. Your home, land holdings and feeling of completion are shown in this part of the chart.

Fifth House

This house represents your needs to express love and creativity, and it is related to love affairs,

matters of the heart, children and play. Your “inner child” emerges here. This area also extends to speculative interests (including gambling), and shows your approach to taking on the role of entertainer, or how you like to be entertained.

Sixth House

This is where you discover how to handle everyday tasks. Your sense of duty is expressed in this part of your chart, also called the “house of service.” Work, work environment and those who work under your supervision relate to this house. This area also signifies your general physical health and your body’s ability to adapt to change.

Seventh House

Partnerships, marriage, social relationships and open enemies or competitors are related to this house. Here you also find clues about your “inner partner,” and the aspects of yourself that you tend to project onto others. The focus of the chart to a more outward expression begins in this house. The 7th House also deals with contractual agreements.

Eighth House

This is the house of transformation, personal alchemy, and relates to sexuality, deep emotional attachments, your partner’s resources and inheritance and legacies. Investors, taxes and insurance are connected to this house. The process of death and regeneration occurs in this area, which also is related to the occult, or unseen, forces and interests.

Ninth House

Your mentors and inspirational teachers are connected to this house - which rules abstract thought, higher education, cultural exchange, philosophy, religious and spiritual pursuits and travel. Publishing and legal affairs, as well as the courts are expressed through this house. Relationships with in-laws are 9th House.

Tenth House

This is the most elevated house in your chart, and shows your most public persona, status, fame or notoriety and reputation. Ultimately, this part of your chart symbolizes your Life Path. Your career is expressed through 10th House activities, which also shows your relationship with your mother, authority figures and employers.

Eleventh House

What do you hope to accomplish? This house represents your goals, hopes, and wishes for the future. This house rules those relationships without boundaries -- like friendship - and illustrates the way you receive love and support from others. Clubs, organizations, special interests and political activities are related to the 11th House. Your satisfaction with your career is expressed here.

Twelfth House

This is where you dream and connect to your imagination. Also known as the house of “hidden enemies and self-undoing”, this segment of your chart shows where you will tend to fall into denial. Secrets, addictions, and confinement are related to this area, along with institutions and activities that occur behind the scenes. This is where you connect to your inner self, and shows your sense of the mystical.

Glossary of Astrological Terms

By Gloria Star

Ages (Astrological)

You've probably heard about the "Age of Aquarius" -- well, certainly we all know the song from the musical "Hair" which was highly popularized by the group "The Fifth Dimension" during the 1970s. Do you wonder if this has anything to do with astrology? Well, yes, it does. There are Twelve Ages or epochs, and they are part of the "Great Year," which is a period lasting approximately 26,000 years. The signs during the Ages go backwards through the zodiac. Instead of going from Aries to Taurus and onward through Pisces, the measurements are from Pisces to Aquarius and backwards through all the signs to Aries. Each epoch of the Great Year defines the qualities marking the evolution and focus of humanity during that particular Age. Unfortunately, nobody was marking the time using our current calendar techniques when the current Great Year began. For that reason, determining when the Ages begin and end is derived from examining the historical evolution of life on Earth and the mythology and philosophy connected to humanity as a whole during these periods. For example, the height of the Egyptian Empire occurred during the Age of Taurus, and as the Ages turned from Taurus to Aries, the Israelites made their exodus from Egypt. We are now presumably leaving the Age of Pisces and stepping into the Age of Aquarius. During the current "New Age" of Aquarius, which will last about 2,160 years, the task for humanity is to develop an altruistic spirit, learn to utilize technology in harmony with human evolution and embrace the positive elements of individuality and freedom. Now, there's a reason to sing!

Aquarius

The eleventh sign of the zodiac Aquarius (The Water Bearer) is the Fixed Air sign associated with the qualities of individuality, inventiveness, the unconventional, altruism, and humanitarianism. Aquarius is associated with the planetary energy of Uranus. Where you see Aquarius you need to break away from traditional and express your uniqueness.

Aries

The first sign of the zodiac, Aries (The Ram) is the Cardinal Fire sign symbolizing initiative, action, independence, and impatience. Aries is associated with the energy of Mars. Where you see Aries in your chart is a place where you need to get things started.

Ascendant

The Ascendant (ASC) is the specific degree of the zodiac that is on the eastern horizon at the time for which the horoscope is calculated. This point moves approximately one degree every four minutes, covering 360 degrees over a 24-hour period. The astrological sign on the Ascendant is called rising sign. This part of your astrological chart represents the basic attitudes you project through your personality, and is an indicator of the way other people view you. Your rising sign is like the face or mask of your personality.

Aspect

The geometric relationship from one point to another in the horoscope is called an aspect. Since the astrological chart is drawn against the backdrop of a 360-degree circle, it's easy to ascertain these geometric connections. A specific aspect is determined by the actual number of degrees that separate the two planets or points in the astrological chart. Each aspect represents a particular quality. Some aspects indicate a flowing, supportive connection, while others can indicate friction. The primary (major) aspects are conjunction, sextile, square, trine, and opposition. Most astrologers use additional aspects to add more color and definition to a person's chart. Aspects are also used when comparing cycles at any given point in time to an individual's birth horoscope. We use aspects to determine if an influence is helpful or difficult. Aspects are also very important when astrologers analyze a relationship, since the aspects from one person's planets to another's provides a strong indication of how two people are likely to interact with one another.

AstroCartoGraphy

AstroCartoGraphy is a system developed by astrologer Jim Lewis that utilizes the principles of the astrology of locality. The system, based upon an individual's natal chart, uses a map of the Earth's surface and specific lines represent the longitudinal and latitudinal positions where the planets, Sun, and Moon would be placed on the "Ascendant and "Midheaven of the chart.

Astrologer

An astrologer is a person who practices and utilizes astrology. The term is usually reserved for those who perform astrological work for clients. There are various methods of obtaining certification as a professional astrologer, although these programs are privately administered with certification obtained under the auspices of various astrological organizations and schools.

Astrology

Astrology is the study of the symbolic meaning of the planets and stars as they relate to life experience. Astrology is frequently called the soul of astronomy. Originally, astrology and astronomy were one body of knowledge from which astronomy broke off and became the study of celestial bodies and space.

Blue Moon

The expression "blue moon" refers to the time when two full moons occur in one calendar month. Since the lunation cycle is approximately 29.5 days, and calendar months vary in length from 28 to 31 days, this relates to the moon's cyclical motion within the framework of the Gregorian calendar.

Cancer

Cancer (The Crab) is the fourth sign in the zodiac. It is the cardinal water sign and represents the qualities of nurturing, family, fertility, protectiveness, and emotional sensitivity. Cancer is associated with the Moon. Where you find Cancer in your chart, you're more emotionally connected and aware, but where you also can feel overly protective.

Capricorn

Capricorn (The Mountain Goat) is the tenth sign of the zodiac. It is the cardinal earth sign and represents the qualities of ambition, reliability, patience, control, and practicality. Capricorn is associated with the energy of Saturn. Where you find Capricorn in your chart, you're ambitious, but also where you are most focused and productive.

Cardinal

The signs of the zodiac are classified according to three modes, and these qualify the basic expression of energy. Think of the modes as the "modus operandi" of the sign. The four Cardinal signs – Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn – represent the quality of initiation and occur at the beginning of each season of the year.

Celestial Equator

The celestial equator is the Earth's equator projected outward and onto the backdrop of the heavens, or celestial sphere.

Chiron

Chiron is a unique body in our solar system. It is currently thought to be a comet, since it has an atmosphere of dust and gas. Astrologers are studying correlations between the placement and cycles of Chiron with human life experience. In Greek mythology, the Centaur Chiron was a healer, astrologer, and shaman. Many astrologers think that Chiron's placement indicates a doorway into the true nature of healing, where an individual is sensitive with a capacity to reach out, but may be unable to heal the self.

Conjunction

A conjunction is an aspect between two planetary bodies or points in the astrological chart that occurs when these two bodies occupy the same zodiacal position. The meaning of this aspect is unity and focus, so if there are two or more planets in conjunction in your chart, their influence works as a unit.

Composite Chart

A composite chart is used to study the influence of two or more horoscopes in combination, revealing the nature of the interaction of the individuals or entities (such as a company). There are specific calculation methods used to determine a composite chart.

Cusp

The dividing point separating one zodiac sign from the next is called the cusp (for example, the moment when the Sun moves from Aries to Taurus). Cusp also refers to the line dividing the different houses in an astrological chart.

Degree

A degree is 1/360th the circumference of a circle and is a unit of angular measurement. There are 360 degrees in zodiac, with each sign comprising 30 degrees. In your chart, each planetary placement will be noted as a certain degree and minute of measurement in the zodiac. For example, your Sun might be 20 degrees 10 minutes Virgo, or your Mars might be 19 degrees 2 minutes Pisces.

Descendant

The Descendant (DSC) is the western horizon of the horoscope, the cusp of the seventh house, and opposes the Ascendant of the chart.

Eclipse

An eclipse is the partial or full obscuring of the light of the Sun by the Moon (solar eclipse) or the Moon by the Sun (lunar eclipse).

Ecliptic

The ecliptic is the orbit of the Earth as viewed from the Sun, although in astrology the ecliptic refers to the apparent motion of the Sun around the Earth forming the center of the zodiac. This sounds confusing, but think of the term “sunrise.” We know that the Sun is not actually rising, but from the viewpoint of life on Earth it appears to be.

Electional Astrology

The branch of astrology used to select the best time to begin an activity, project, business, or interaction is Electional Astrology. Frequently, Electional Astrology is used to choose the best times for marriage, opening a business, or elective surgery.

Elements

The astrological signs are classified by four primary elements – fire, earth, air, and water. Each of these elements describes a particular temperament. Fire signs are bold, energetic, and warm (Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius). Earth signs (Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn) are grounded, focused, and practical. Air signs (Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius) are intellectual, communicative, and social. Water signs (Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces) are emotional, sensitive, and impressionable.

Ephemeris

The listing of the daily positions of the Moon, Sun, planets, and related information is called an ephemeris.

Esoteric Astrology

Those studying esoteric astrology speculate on the workings of the inner self, the destiny of the soul, and reincarnation.

Dignity

When the Sun, Moon, or a planet is placed in the sign associated with or “ruling” it, the planet is said to be in its essential dignity. For example, if Mercury is in Gemini, Mercury would be in its essential dignity. Rulerships, or planet-sign associations, are noted in the basic meanings of each sign.

Fixed

The signs of the zodiac are classified according to three modes, which qualify the basic expression of energy. Think of the modes as the “modus operandi” of the sign. The Fixed signs – Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius – represent consistency, endurance and stability, and occur mid-season.

Gemini

Gemini (The Twins) is the third sign of the zodiac. It is the mutable air sign, representing the qualities of curiosity, diversity, versatility, restlessness, and duality. Gemini is associated with the energy of Mercury. Where you find Gemini in your chart, you’re exceptionally inquisitive and need to explore and make connections. This is also a place where you’re inclined to do two things at once.

Geocentric Astrology

Any astrological system using Earth as the point of reference from which to calculate and record the positions of the celestial bodies is geocentric (Earth-centered). As a rule, most individual horoscopes are calculated using geocentric methods. Yes, astrologers understand that the planets orbit around the Sun, but most horoscopes for individuals are calculated from the place of birth on the Earth, since the astrological chart is about the person’s life on Earth.

Greenwich Time

The time at Greenwich, England is the primary benchmark from which the Earth’s time zones are described.

Hindu Astrology

Hindu, or Vedic, astrology is the system of astrology practiced primarily in India. It attempts to describe the life path and karma of an individual. Vedic charts are calculated using a sidereal (star-based) zodiac, whereas typical western charts use the tropical (seasonal) zodiac. Vedic astrology is becoming more popular around the world.

Horary Astrology

Instead of using the astrological chart for a person based upon their own date, time and place of birth, horary charts are charts of questions. The astrologer will calculate the chart for the time the question is asked, and the horoscope for that question will be used to locate the answer. For example, if someone is looking for a lost object, the astrologer will calculate a chart for the time that person asks the astrologer, “Where is my lost passport?” Horary principles are governed by very precise rules, and those rules and guidelines will be used to help answer the question.

Horoscope

A horoscope is an astrological chart showing the positions of the planets, Moon, and Sun based upon the date, time, and place of a person’s birth (or the time of an event or a question). With the popularization of newspaper and magazine columns, the term has become synonymous with these predictive columns. However, the most accurate use of the term is in reference to an individual’s complete astrological chart.

Houses

The astrological chart is divided into twelve segments each called houses. While the entire circle represents the whole person, each House represents a different facet of an individual's life and expression.

Ingress

The point marking a change from one sign to the next, such as when the Moon moves from Gemini to Cancer, is the ingress.

Interception

In some instances, the calculation of the House Cusps in a chart will show some houses containing more than 30 degrees, while others contain considerably less. This is the result of the Earth's tilt on its axis and the fact that Earth is not a perfect sphere – while the zodiac is represented by a 360-degree sphere. When this occurs, it is possible for some signs to actually be contained inside a House, while not appearing on the cusp of a House. That sign contained in the House is said to be intercepted.

Jupiter

Jupiter represents the energy of expansion, optimism and outreach. Where you find Jupiter in your chart, you discover your urge to push the limits. Cycles involving Jupiter indicate periods of confidence and growth.

Leo

Leo (The Lion) is the fifth sign of the zodiac. It is the fixed fire sign and represents the qualities of drama, leadership, generosity, confidence, and egotism. Leo is associated with the energy of the Sun. Where you find Leo, you need extra attention and will be more expressive. This is where you're most dramatic.

Libra

Libra (The Balance) is the seventh sign of the zodiac. Libra is cardinal air sign and represents the qualities of companionship, diplomacy, balance, harmony, grace, and indecision. Libra is associated with the energy of Venus. Where you find Libra you'll discover the need for symmetry, artistry, and beauty.

Locational Astrology

The study of the astrological significance and influence of different locations is called locational astrology. The technique of AstroCartoGraphy is based on locational astrology principles. You can use locational astrology when you want to understand the influence of specific geographical places. These techniques are helpful if you're planning to move, travel or even if you're thinking about investing in business located in different parts of the world.

Luminaries

The so-called "light bodies" in astrology are the Sun and Moon. This is an ancient astrological term, but it is still frequently used in today's astrology.

Lunar Nodes

The nodal placements of the Moon are imaginary points in space determined by the intersection of the orbital plane of the Moon and the ecliptic, with a North Nodal position indicating where the Moon crosses ecliptic from South to the North. The North Node is called the Dragon's Head, and the opposite point, the South Node, is called the Dragon's Tail. These points are included in natal charts and have emotional and spiritual implications.

Lunation

A complete cycle from one new moon to the next is called a lunation, and the entire period is called a synodic month.

Mars

Mars is the planet representing drive, action, assertiveness and anger. Where you find Mars in your chart you're see the area in your life where you're most likely to get things moving. Cycles involving Mars indicate periods of action and forcefulness.

Mercury

Mercury represents the energy of communication, travel and the exchange of ideas. The placement of Mercury in your chart shows where you're more comfortable expressing your thoughts and getting involved in social interaction with others. Cycles involving Mercury indicate times when communication, writing or travel may be more active.

Midheaven

The Midheaven is the most elevated degree of the zodiac in an astrological chart, and in most systems is found at the cusp of the tenth house. The abbreviation for Midheaven is "MC," for the Latin term "Medium Coeli" or middle of the sky.

Modes

Each of the signs of the zodiac is classified according to one of three modes, which qualify the basic expression of energy. The modes, sometimes called the Qualities, are divided into three primary categories. Think of the modes as the "modus operandi" of the sign. Cardinal signs (Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn) represent the quality of initiation and occur at the beginning of each season of the year. Fixed signs (Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius) represent endurance and occur mid-season. Mutable signs (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces) represent adaptability and occur at the end of the seasons.

Moon

The Moon represents your habits and your most prominent emotional needs. Where you find the Moon in your chart, you'll see the area in your life where you feel a need for greater security. Cycles involving the Moon indicate periods of change and emotional sensitivity.

Mundane Astrology

The astrology of the world in which we live is called Mundane Astrology. Studies of horoscopes of countries, leaders, important events, and world trends are examples of mundane astrology.

Mutable

The signs of the zodiac are classified according to three modes, which qualify the basic expression of energy. Think of the modes as the "modus operandi" of the sign. Mutable signs -- Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces -- represent adaptability and occur at the end of the seasons.

Nadir

The Nadir is the point opposite the Zenith, or on the other side of the Earth directly beneath one's feet.

Natal Astrology

Natal or "birth" astrology is the type of astrology most people use to gain an understanding of themselves and their lives. A natal horoscope is a map of the solar system calculated from the date, time, and place of birth, generally using the Earth as the focal point (geocentric astrology).

Neptune

Neptune represents the energy of the realm of imagination and spirituality. Neptune also represents glamour, denial and escape. Where you find Neptune in your chart, you're seeing the area where you're highly impressionable. Cycles involving Neptune indicate periods when you're more inclined to deal with your inner needs and desires to become more connected to the spiritual part of your life.

Orb of Influence

Aspects (geometric relationships) between planets are rarely exact. The difference between an exact aspect and the distance still considered to include an effective influence is called the "orb." The closer an aspect is to being exact, the more powerful it is. A wider orb indicates that the aspect has a weaker influence.

Outer Planets

Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto are the outer planets – since they exist beyond the orbit of Saturn, which was the marker of the boundary of the solar system until Uranus' discovery. The cycles of these planets are longer than the cycles of "inner" planets like Mercury and Mars, and they also represent generational shifts in consciousness, trends, and attitudes.

Part of Fortune

Derived from Arabic methods of calculation, the Part of Fortune indicates where an individual can tap into resources or suddenly lose resources.

Pisces

Pisces (The Fishes) is the twelfth sign of the zodiac. It is the mutable water sign and represents the qualities of imagination, impressionability, compassion, fluidity, and escape. Pisces is associated with the energy of Neptune. Where you see Pisces you need to let go and feel the flow.

Planets

Each of the planets in the solar system represents a kind of energy and need within our lives. The planets, the Sun, and the Moon define what that energy or need is, and the signs show how that energy works.

Pluto

Pluto is the most distant planet from the Sun, and in the astrological chart it represents the depths of power and experience of healing and regeneration. Where you find Pluto, you find your ability to dig beneath the surface. Cycles involving Pluto represent times of transformational change.

Polarities

The polarities describe pairs of energy as defined by the signs of the zodiac. Each sign has a polar opposite, with the opposite representing the compliment. Psychologically, the polar opposite also indicates part of the shadow of the sign. The pairs of signs are:

Aries-Libra
Taurus-Scorpio
Gemini-Sagittarius
Cancer-Capricorn
Leo-Aquarius
Virgo-Pisces

Qualities

The Qualities is another term used for the Modes. The signs of zodiac are classified according to three modes, which qualify the basic expression of energy. Think of the modes as the “modus operandi” of the sign. Cardinal signs (Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn) represent quality of initiation and occur at the beginning of each season of the year. Fixed signs (Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius) represent endurance and occur mid-season. Mutable signs (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces) represent adaptability and occur at the end of the seasons.

Rectification

When the time of birth is unknown, astrologers use a process called rectification to determine the most accurate chart and derive a time of birth.

Retrograde

The apparent backward motion of a planet in its orbit is called retrograde. This is an optical illusion resulting from the elliptical shape of the orbit of the Earth and planets around the Sun. Have you ever noticed the effect when you’re driving on a curving road alongside traffic, when the cars beside you seem to be going backwards, even though everyone is moving forward? That’s retrogradation.

Rising Sign

The zodiac sign and degree placed at the cusp of the first house or Ascendant is designated as the rising sign and is based upon the calculation that determines the zodiac degree on the eastern horizon. This quality in the chart describes an individual’s basic attitudes and attributes of his or her personality as seen by others.

Rulership

Each planet has a natural association with a particular sign of the zodiac. These kinships work to coordinate and synthesize the structure of the system used to interpret the meanings and strengths of the different factors in an astrological chart. Also, certain activities and actions are said to be “ruled” by different planets. Think of rulerships as the most natural and easy-flowing association between planets and signs.

Sagittarius

Sagittarius (The Archer) is the ninth sign of the zodiac. It is the mutable fire sign and represents the qualities of foresight, optimism, adventure, freedom, and impulsiveness. Sagittarius is associated with the energy of Jupiter. Where you find Sagittarius you’ll discover your needs to follow a quest and seek truth.

Saturn

Saturn is the planet symbolizing responsibility, testing, discipline and limitation. Where you find Saturn in your chart you find your need to establish a strong framework. Saturn’s cycles represent periods of testing, endings and clarity.

Scorpio

Scorpio (The Scorpion) is the eighth sign of the zodiac. It is the fixed water sign and represents the qualities of secrecy, intensity, resourcefulness, passion, and extremism. Scorpio is associated with the energy of Pluto. Where you see Scorpio in your chart you’ll discover the need for privacy and peering beneath the surface.

Sidereal Zodiac

The Fixed Zodiac corresponds to a belt of 12 constellations used to mark the positions of the 12 signs of the Zodiac. Vedic astrologers use this zodiac, while Western astrologers use the Tropical Zodiac.

Signs

There are twelve signs in the zodiac. The zodiac comprises 360 degrees divided into 12 signs of 30 degrees each. This “belt” is a projection and forms a kind of backdrop in the heavens. Planetary positions are viewed against this backdrop. The function of the signs is a descriptive one; each sign signifies particular traits or characteristics. Think of the signs as adjectives and adverbs in a sentence. Most people think of their Sun sign when the term arises, but each planet, the Sun, and Moon all fall under a particular sign.

Solar Return

The Solar Return is the time each year when the Sun’s position is exactly marked by the degree and minute it occupies in an individual’s natal chart. This usually occurs very near the individual’s birthday. Astrologers calculate a chart for this time to project a meaning for the basic qualities of the year ahead.

Sun

The Sun in astrology represents your ego and drive to be recognized. Where you find the Sun in your chart you’ll see your need to express your identity in powerful manner.

Synastry

Synastry is the study of the interaction between two individuals based upon their astrological natal charts. Astrologers study these interactions to understand the general compatibility, attraction, issues, and expressions likely to manifest in the relationship.

Taurus

The Bull, Taurus is the second sign of the zodiac. It is the fixed earth sign and represents the qualities of determination, sensuality, steadfastness, manifestation, and possessiveness. Taurus is associated with the energy of Venus. Where you see Taurus, you need to slow down, take things in, and savor the experience.

Transits

The travel of the heavenly bodies in their orbits can be studied for any given day or time period. These are called the transits of the planets. When these cycles are studied in relationship to an individual horoscope or birth chart, the interplay between the ephemeral motions of the planets identifies when and for how long an action or influence will be effective.

Tropical Zodiac

Also called the moving zodiac, this is the circle of 12 signs beginning at zero degrees (Aries) used by Western astrologers to calculate the natal astrological chart. This zodiac does not necessarily correspond with the positions of the constellations from which the twelve signs were derived, since it is based on the equinoxes and solstices, which occur at slightly different times each year.

Uranus

Uranus represents the energy of the unconventional and the process of revolutionary change. In your personal chart, where you find Uranus you’ll find your need to express your individuality. The cycles of Uranus represent times of breakthrough, unexpected change and unsettled experiences.

Venus

Venus represents the energy of love and affection and shows what you value. Where you find Venus in your personal astrological chart, you’ll see the area of your life that strengthens your feelings of worth and desire to be appreciated. Cycles of Venus indicate periods of greater attraction and general ease.

Virgo

Virgo (The Virgin) is the sixth sign of the zodiac. It is the mutable earth sign and represents the qualities of analysis, discrimination, attention to detail, physical sensitivity, and the need for perfection. Virgo is associated with the energy of Mercury. Where you find Virgo in your chart is where you're most likely to be busy fixing things and making improvements.

Void-of-Course

The period after a planet, or the Moon makes its last major aspect with another planet before leaving its current sign is said to be void-of-course. This time frame continues until the Moon or planet enters the next sign. This concept is most often applied in horary and electional astrology. However, in Calendar Astrology, this time frame usually refers only to the Moon in its void-of-course cycle, and signifies a period when actions frequently do not materialize as planned.

Waxing and Waning

Usually these terms apply to the cycles of the Moon. The Moon is increasing, or waxing, in light from the new moon until the full moon. After the full moon, the Moon is waning, or decreasing, in its cycle.

Zenith

In the astrological chart, the Zenith is the most elevated point. Some people confuse the Midheaven with the Zenith. Think of the Zenith as what is directly overhead.

Zodiac

The zodiac comprises the 12 signs of the zodiac, and represents the qualities of the circle of life.

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