

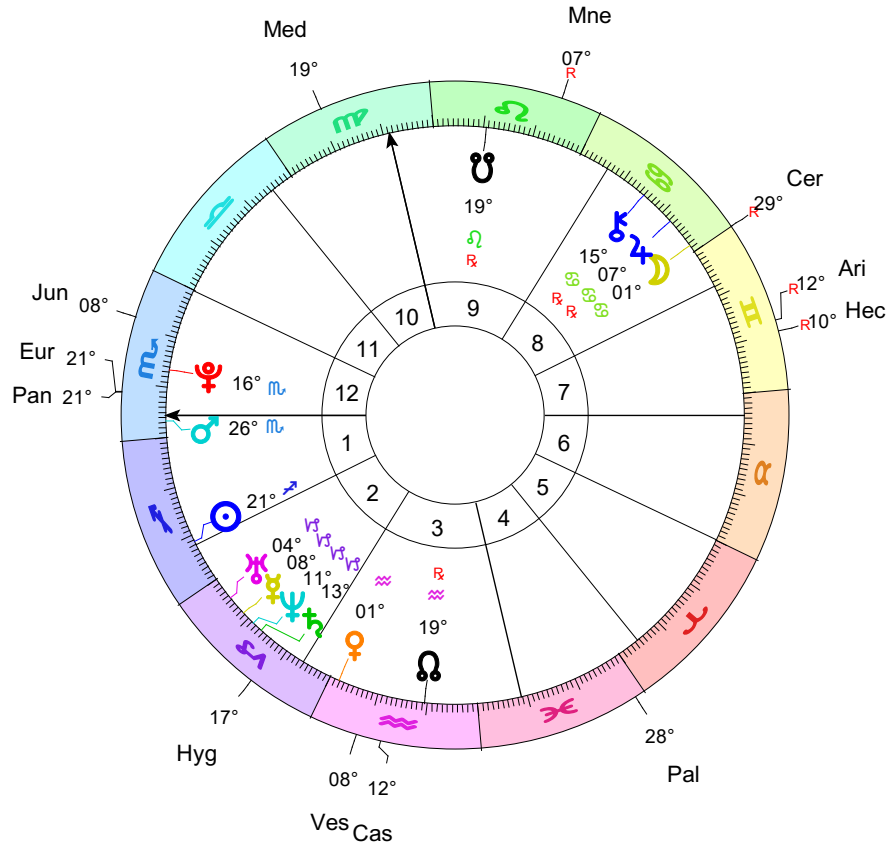
Goddess Profile

Taylor Swift



Birth time www.astro.com from AA Journal
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Taylor Swift



Astrological Summary

Chart Point Positions: Taylor Swift

Asteroid	Sign	Position	House	Comment
Cer	Ceres	Gemini	29°Ge58'	8th
Pal	Pallas Athena	Pisces	28°Pi13'	4th
Jun	Juno	Scorpio	8°Sc25'	12th
Ves	Vesta	Aquarius	8°Aq21'	3rd
Hyg	Hygieia	Capricorn	17°Cp55'	2nd
Ari	Ariadne	Gemini	12°Ge09'	7th
Eur	Europa	Scorpio	21°Sc30'	12th
Pan	Pandora	Scorpio	21°Sc35'	12th
Mne	Mnemosyne	Leo	7°Le00'	9th
Hec	Hecate	Gemini	10°Ge12'	7th
Cas	Cassandra	Aquarius	12°Aq36'	3rd
Med	Medea	Virgo	19°Vi14'	10th

Introduction



The Goddess is the custodian of life's mysteries and the primal world of archetypal forces. As representative of the world soul, she engages us in the sacred rites of nature and reanimates life through the cycles of birth and death. Goddess culture flourished in the prehistoric period when magical consciousness prevailed, supernatural forces were deified, and natural forces were revered. As consciousness developed through its phases the wisdom of the goddess was buried beneath the rational constructs of a scientific knowledge that erased the mysteries from life and excluded the magical processes.

With the advent of the asteroids the wisdom of the goddess is once again available to consciousness. Goddess wisdom revels in the ancient wisdom of cycles, the intelligence of the inner life, the sanctity of divination, the mystery of healing and the necessity for sacrifice and ritual. The ancient feminine wisdom of the goddesses embraced all phases of life, celebrated its mysteries, ritualized its passages and knew the power of the natural world. The Solar Writer - Goddess report celebrates twelve goddesses and heroines and seeks their wisdom and guidance.

The maxim 'as above, so below' underpins the philosophy of astrology. Inner and outer lives are woven together through investing the celestial sphere with meaning. Therefore, when astronomical discoveries are made astrologers find new meaning and revelation in them. Astrological tradition suggests that with the major discovery of a planet the collective is confronted with the conscious awakening of an archetypal force that may have previously lain dormant or been repressed. As the 19th century dawned a discovery of a small planet would be made, heralding the reawakening of feminine power and the wisdom of the Goddess.

Late in the 16th century Johannes Kepler first suggested that there might be a planet between the orbit of Mars and Jupiter.

Nearly two centuries later the publication of Bodes Law reiterated this possibility. Based on the theory that all the planets were in a harmonic distance from the Sun the law suggested there should be a planet orbiting between Mars and Jupiter. When Uranus was discovered in 1781 its distance from the Sun conformed to the law giving greater weight to the theory of the missing planet. Finally on New Years Eve 1800 a Sicilian astronomer spotted a new body in the region and named it Ceres after the patron goddess of his homeland. To the Sicilians Ceres favoured their island and it was here they claimed Hades abducted her daughter.

One year later its orbit was confirmed and although small in comparison to the other planets the missing planet had become visible. But early in 1802 another body was sighted between Mars and Jupiter and named Pallas Athena. Astronomers wondered if a planet had exploded in this region and therefore more would be discovered. And they were. More than four hundred of these small planets had been named as the 19th Century drew to a close.

It was not until the early 1970's as the woman's movement began to accelerate those astrologers began to take note of the significance of these new bodies, which were named asteroids. In 1973 an ephemeris of the first four discoveries was printed and the astrological community began to experiment with these new archetypes. The first four asteroids were named after the Olympian goddesses who had been previously unnamed in the astrological planetary pantheon: Ceres, Juno and Vesta were the three sisters of Jupiter while Pallas Athena was his daughter. All four were prominent in Greek myth and their cults predated their male counterparts. Previously in the astrological pantheon only the Moon and Venus were available to represent the lineage of the feminine traditions. Renewed images of the feminine had now appeared in the astrological tapestry. As astrologers began using these potent images of the asteroids the cults of the ancient goddesses were rediscovered, paralleling the cultural reclamation of feminine power. With the discovery of the asteroids and their use in astrology the ancient feminine wisdom of the goddess was brought to consciousness.

Each goddess in your personal Goddess report has a specific function, being emblematic of an important sphere of your life. Everyone embodies a different aspect of the Goddess herself. However, all twelve are involved in the handiwork of the Goddess. Therefore, underlying each individual goddess is the sanctity of being, the awareness of the seasonal cycles of our life cycle and the acceptance of inner intelligence, signs, symbols and dreams. All twelve honour the instinctual wisdom of nature and follow her guidance.

These twelve goddesses preside over the three spheres of Heaven, the Earth and the Underworld.

Being Olympians, the goddess Ceres, Pallas Athena, Juno and Vesta are the goddesses of heaven who oversee the important initiations and transitions of the life cycle. These four goddesses were also the first named asteroids and the ones most frequently referred to in contemporary astrological literature. They personify four potent feminine functions or orientations to life. The goddesses of the underworld are powerfully insightful and understand the deep waters of the unconscious, the complexity of feelings, the power of mystery and magic and the uncertainty of life. These goddesses may reveal themselves through a healing crisis, the psychic senses, loss, betrayal or a myriad of other mysteries that arise in our lives. Hygieia, Cassandra, Hecate and Medea are the four goddesses who plunge the depths of the unconscious realm. Finally, the goddesses who rule the Earth symbolize our worldly concerns and attitudes. Ariadne, Europa, Pandora and Mnemosyne are the influential representatives in the world who watch over our loves and labours, as well as our trials and triumphs.

The Goddess report is a celebration of twelve of the numerous asteroids. Below the asteroid goddesses and heroines have been listed by their order of discovery. Each asteroid has its unique cycle and position in the horoscope. Keywords are listed below to introduce you to the meaning of each goddess as well as other astrological correlations that have a similar essence to the asteroid archetype. Each goddess will be explored through her myth and cult to appreciate her ancient role and contemporary meaning. The oracular meaning of the asteroid goddesses and heroines is based on the individual cult of the goddess. Once familiar with the presence of each goddess or heroine we will petition them for an oracle based on their position by sign and house in your horoscope.

Ceres, Asteroid No 1, was discovered in 1801. Ceres is closely aligned with the archetypes of Pluto and the Moon and especially strong when the Moon aspects Pluto. Her process may enter our lives when Pluto transits the Moon or the 4th house.

Pallas Athena, Asteroid No. 2, was discovered in 1802. Athena is sympathetic to the air signs especially the justice and strategy of Libra and the intelligence and objectivity of Aquarius. She is aligned with the masculine archetypes of Mars and Uranus and close to Jupiter, her father's realm.

Juno, Asteroid No. 3, was discovered in 1804. Juno is the goddess of marriage and social customs. She reverberates with Libra and the 7th house. Her passionate side is reflected through the 8th principle of Scorpio and interchanges between these two astrological principles reflect the goddess.

Vesta, Asteroid No. 4, was discovered in 1807. Vesta is the spirit of the 6th house, the domain of the sacred in the everyday, the rituals of work and wellbeing. Planets in Virgo respond to the archetype as do inner planets aspecting Saturn, the need for authenticity.

Hygieia, Asteroid No. 10, was discovered in 1849. The axis of health in the horoscope is the 6th-12th polarity. The Sun symbolizes the vitality, and the ascendant suggests how we conduct that vital life force. Chiron is the archetype of healing. Hygieia is very much concerned with these principles.

Ariadne, Asteroid No. 43, was discovered in 1857. Ariadne's story plumbs the depths of the water houses. She leaves the familial terrain of the 4th house to be abandoned by her lover in the labyrinth of the 8th but awakens to her divine connection in the 12th. Neptune aspects to Venus or Mars may highlight these themes. Ariadne's process is revealed with transits to planets in the 8th house or Pluto transiting Venus or Mars.

Europa, Asteroid No. 52, was discovered in 1858. Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn and their rulers Venus, Mercury and Saturn represent the earth instinct. Of all three signs Taurus is the sign most closely aligned with Europa's passions and power. Planets in Taurus or the second house constellate the mythic pattern while transits through the second house or to Venus may evoke issues concerning values and resources

Pandora, Asteroid No. 55, was discovered in 1858. Pandora is a change agent and therefore may be sudden and unexpected like Uranus. Her curious nature and marking of threshold change is Mercurial, linking Mercury and Uranus. As an agent of transformation, she has a Plutonic essence as well. Planets in Gemini or Mercury aspects to Uranus or Pluto highlight the nature of Pandora.

Mnemosyne, Asteroid No. 57, was discovered in 1860. The Moon records, reflects and reveals every heartbeat, breath and nuance of primitive life. Therefore, the progressed Moon evokes memory as it progresses through the horoscope. Aspects between the Moon and Mercury as well as other planets aspecting these planetary archetypes reveal the process of feeling and rational memory.

Hecate, Asteroid No. 100, was discovered in 1868. Aspects to Mercury may signal how we might manage crossroads, our facility for change and adaptability. Crossroads in the life cycle are mapped out by the cycle of the slower moving planets while personal crossroads are reflected in the transits of the transpersonal planets to the personal ones. Note the South Node of the Moon.

Cassandra, Asteroid No. 114, was discovered in 1871. Cassandra revels in the world of Neptune - the archetype of the medial woman. Aspects between Mercury and Neptune, or Mercury in Pisces reflect Cassandra. Interconnections between Jupiter and Pluto may also ignite a similar pattern.

Medea, Asteroid No. 212, was discovered in 1880. Medea is similar to the archetypes of Pluto and Scorpio, as she understands the process of metamorphosis. Planets in the Eighth House or in aspect to Pluto may conjure up the potent magic of Medea.

Goddess Mythology



Mythology serves as a psychological record of human development recording the imagination and symbols of the culture. Mythic stories speak to the inner life as they deal with universal themes and truths illustrating the archetypal forces that influence the course of the human drama. In archaic societies myths offered an explanation of the world and its creation, the cycle of birth, growth and death, how things came into existence as well as how they disappeared. In contemporary times we have scientific explanations for many of the ancient mysteries, but myth is just as valuable to help us to imagine our own origins and invest our lives with meaning. Mythic themes stir the imagination and broaden the horizon of the individual's story placing it in a context of a larger story.

Mythology is the link between the magical phase of being when consciousness participates in nature and the rational phase when we are separated from the natural world. The magical phase embraces the culture of the Great Goddess when life is full of mystery and wonder and we are one with the natural order, not separated or expelled from it. In this phase all nature is sacred as all life is invested with the divine. The asteroids are surrogates of the Great Goddess and reconnect us to her culture. As emissaries the asteroid goddesses and heroines invest life with the sacred, value imagination and mystery and inspire ritual and sacrifice in order to reconnect to the wellsprings of her magical forces.

Following is a summary of their genealogy and mythic tradition. Let the myths resonate with your imagination and speak to you in their own way.

The Roman goddess Ceres is also known as Olympian goddess, Demeter. She is the daughter of the Titan Cronus and Rhea and mother of Persephone. She is the Corn Goddess who personifies the agricultural cycle of fertility and harvest, as well as loss and renewal through her daughter Persephone.

The Olympian goddess Pallas Athena was a daughter of Zeus, born from her father's head after he had swallowed Metis. The Romans referred to her as Minerva. She is revered as representing the wisdom of reflection and strategy.

The Roman goddess Juno is also known as the Olympian goddess, Hera. She is the daughter of the Titan Cronus and Rhea and mother to Ares, Hephaestus and Hebe. She is the goddess of Marriage and Social Customs who oversees the seasons of a woman's life.

The Roman goddess Vesta is also known as the Olympian Goddess Hestia. She is the daughter of the Titan Cronus and Rhea and is the goddess of the Hearth who embodies sacred space.

Hygieia was the daughter of the Greek god of healing, Asclepius and the beloved goddess of Health. She is the sister of other minor healing deities and heroes including Panacea, Machaon and Podalirius. As the goddess of Health, Hygieia is the giver and preserver of wellbeing whose function is to maintain a healthy relationship between body and soul.

The Cretan goddess Ariadne was from the Minoan dynasty. She is the daughter of King Minos and Queen Pasiphaë, granddaughter of Helios and Zeus. She is sister of Phaedra and half-sister to the Minotaur. As the wife of Dionysus, Ariadne embodies the sacred marriage having endured the trials of betrayal and abandonment.

Europa was a Phoenician princess, sister to Cadmus and matriarch of the Minoan dynasty, mother to King Minos and grandmother of Ariadne and Phaedra. She represents the creative and earthy process that supports and guides worldly success.

Pandora was the first woman, shaped by Hephaestus, to be the harbinger of a new age. She was married to Epimetheus and was the mother of Pyrrha. As a representative of the ancient ways of the goddess, Pandora brings the gift of hope.

Mnemosyne was a Titaness, a daughter of Gaia and Uranus, known as the goddess who personified the faculty of memory. As the mother to the Nine Muses, she represents enchantment, inspiration and the power of remembering.

The goddess Hecate was the daughter of Perses and Asteria, the granddaughter of Phoebe, and a powerful goddess revered by all the gods. Later she became an attendant to Persephone. As an underworld goddess she was represented in her three-fold nature and was worshipped at the crossroads and as the guardian of transitions.

Cassandra was the daughter of Priam and Hecuba, the regents of the powerful dynasty of Troy.

She was the twin sister to Helenus and sister to seventeen other siblings including Paris and Hector. From an early age she had oracular ability, yet no one believed her. Cassandra carries the feminine mysteries of divination even in a contemporary world that devalues the sacred tradition.

Medea was the Princess of Colchis, granddaughter of the Sun god, Helios and niece of the sorceress, Circe. Medea is the great witch of the Greek myths, knowledgeable in herbs, healing and the art of metamorphosis.

Ceres - The Earth Mother



*'I died to mineral and plant became.
Died from the plant and took a sentient frame.
Died from the beast and donned a human dress
When by my dying did I ere grow less?'
Rumi*

Ceres is the Roman agricultural goddess whose gift of grain, 'cereal', was distributed to mankind as thanksgiving for the release of her beloved daughter from the underworld and also as an eternal symbol of the continuity of life. Ceres is the goddess of agriculture who instinctually knows the cycle of loss, death and rebirth through her attachment to her beloved daughter.

The Roman goddess was modelled on her Greek counterpart Demeter whose central myth focused on the loss of her daughter, Persephone. It was this myth, which inspired the greatest initiation rites in the ancient world - the Eleusinian Mysteries. These mysteries re-enacted the terrifying journey of Persephone into the underworld and through these rituals both male and female participants faced their terror of death and became thankful for the gift of life.

Ceres, corn goddess, patron of farm life and vegetation is both an agricultural and underworld deity. She is an earth mother who presides over the cycle of fertility, birth, harvest, decay, death and rebirth. From the archaic period the goddess protected and insured the fertility and propagation of the crops and livestock. Her sanctuaries were placed near arable land, outside cities, where pilgrims would come to petition the goddess for a fertile crop and feast on the abundant gifts of food that the goddess provided.

Her myth was more ancient than her male contemporaries and reached back to the epoch when deities of the underworld (death) and the earth (life) were one.

Ceres represents both loss and harvest and her classical story embraces each aspect in the myth of her daughter who becomes the Queen of the Underworld.

The myth of Ceres/Demeter and her daughter is a heartbreaking narrative of closeness, separation, grief and reunion, the motivation behind the establishment of the Eleusinian Mysteries. The brutal breaking of their attachment is the impetus that allows each woman to develop independently of one another into sovereignty over their own sphere. Since antiquity this poignant portrait of the mother-daughter bond has probably been the most cherished of all the Greek myths. The classical myth is also remarkable as it places the feminine characters at the heart of the narrative with the male gods on the periphery honouring a sacred and profound feminine story. The Ceres myth was first told in a hymn to the great goddess Demeter.

Kore, the innocent maiden Persephone, was playing in a meadow gathering flowers when the earth rumbled beneath her and broke open. Suddenly from the chasm in the earth a chariot drawn by four black horses appeared. In the chariot was Hades, the Lord of the Underworld, who seized her. As she struggled to break free the chariot carrying them disappeared into the black hole. Demeter wandered aimlessly in search of her daughter. No mortal or god could help her with information about her daughter's disappearance. Finally after nine days she met Hecate, the goddess of the crossroads. Hecate heard Persephone screams, the only clue to the abduction.

Demeter raged and withdrew the gift of fertility from the earth causing a great famine. She also withdrew herself from the company of the gods and in disguise wandered amongst mortals unnoticed. Grief-stricken, depleted and withered, Demeter wandered to Eleusis where she met the daughters of the local king who pitied her and brought her home. Their mother gave Demeter the task of caring for her infant son. Demeter nursed him on ambrosia and nectar and every night she would baptize the infant in fire in order to render him immortal and safeguard him from the fate of the eternal cycle of life, death and rebirth. However, one evening the Queen interrupted Demeter in the middle of her ritual and screamed in fear for the boy's safety. At that moment the cycle of mourning was broken. Demeter cast off her old age, changing her size and appearance to reveal herself as the great goddess and commanded the king to build her a great temple and introduce her worship to the people of Eleusis.

However, Demeter was still furious at the abduction of her daughter and withheld the new crop's seed so the earth continued to be barren. Zeus intervened and demanded Demeter return to Olympus and fulfill her duties. Demeter refused. Finally Zeus in his anguish agreed to release Persephone from the underworld so the crops would grow again. Persephone was eager to be reunited with her mother.

But before she left the underworld Hades gave her a pomegranate seed to ingest. Innocently Persephone took the seed and swallowed it now binding her eternally to this place. Having eaten in the underworld meant Persephone now belonged there.

Demeter and Persephone's reunion was ecstatic, and both rejoiced at the sight of one another even though they knew they would not be together as in the past. As the mother, Ceres indicates the necessity to nurture a creative project even though that means letting it go. By relinquishing an attachment, a phase of the cycle ends and prepares us for a new beginning.

Astrologically the goddess Ceres represents the feminine wisdom that acknowledges loss. Loss is intricately woven into the tapestry of life; attachment, separation and loss are part of life's greatest mystery. Feminine wisdom knows that grief is only one phase of the great wheel and mourning allows the process to be complete so that life may be renewed. Following is a portrayal of the goddess Ceres in your natal horoscope.

Ceres is in the 8th House

This placement of the goddess Ceres indicates that you are extra sensitive to the cycles of life. Whereas other people seem to sail through life maintaining an optimistic outlook, you may tend to dwell on matters. On the positive side this means that you become wise and knowing, able to offer sage advice to your friends, colleagues and loved ones. You understand the true nature of things and can share this knowledge. However, it is also likely that you can be a bit overly dramatic, attached to crises rather than developing an ability to see the lighter side. As a result you may miss out on a lot of fun as you focus on the hardships.

Your challenge is to direct your desire for knowledge into research or study of metaphysics, alchemy, biology, nutrition, environmental science or other such subjects. Discover your true passion and become absorbed in this, using your resources to their full extent. At the same time create some fun and playfulness. Emulate the natural world that you so love.

Your ability to nurture others in times of loss or other difficulties is well developed. Your innate understanding of emotional cycles and depth of feeling allows you to be present for others when they are experiencing critical passages in their lives. Being compassionate in times of crisis and therapeutic in times of grief are gifts you bring to all your cherished relationships. Your transformational abilities are forged experientially from your own inner journey and understanding of the darker aspects of the human experience.

Ceres is in Gemini

The telephone was invented for you. Even better are the mobile phone and the computer.

You need to feel connected to other people and technology helps you stay connected with friends, colleagues and loved ones. Occasionally you are comfortable with silence but mostly you need to talk to those closest to you. If your loved ones are absent, then you need to maintain some contact through the written word. This is particularly true of your relationship with your mother, your children, and your spouse.

You are likely to be the type of parent who looks after your children by driving them to and from their commitments, chatting to them along the way. You also enjoy helping them with their schoolwork and hearing news of their friends. In fact their friends are likely to be welcome in your home, as this helps you feel even more connected with your children. If you do not have children of your own then you are likely to work with other people's children as a caregiver or teacher. At some stage you need to let go of your children, encourage them to live their own life and seek your own intellectual stimulation.

It is important that your spouse is your intellectual equal. Depending on other aspects of your birth chart you need a stimulating and knowledgeable partner, someone able to discuss local and world affairs. You need to nurture your intellectual ability and desire to share that with someone close to you.

It is important that you discover your own source of intellectual sustenance. Language feeds your soul. Therefore, you are likely to enjoy study, reading, writing, teaching and other forms of learning. You are keen to understand the nature of human interaction. Archaeology, literature, psychology, the arts and history may appeal to your curiosity. On a more mundane level you may simply enjoy the stimulation of catching the train to work, driving a bus for a local community group or chatting over the fence to a neighbour.

Pallas Athena - The Wisdom Of The Warrior



*'I celebrate the powers of Pallas Athena, the protectress of the city:
Dread, as Ares, She busies herself with the works of war,
With the sack of cities, with the battle-cry and with the combats.
It is She also who saves the fighters that go to war and come back alive.
Hail, Goddess, give us good fortune and happiness Pallas.'
Homeric Hymn 11*

The architectural masterpiece, the Parthenon, was dedicated to the goddess whom the classical Athenians cherished. Pallas Athena was their advocate for law and order, the teacher of household arts like spinning, weaving, and cooking, as well as their protector and defender.

As their goddess of war she helped the Greeks defeat Troy, the Athenians repel the Persians; as their goddess of useful and decorative arts she inspired them to build exceptional monuments and temples. The goddess of merciful justice transformed the law courts and at the dawn of the fifth century she inspired the democratic shift in Athenian politics. Athena was the revered goddess of the Athenians who celebrated her birthday each year with a great festival and procession through the Agora up to the Acropolis.

As a multi-tasked goddess many images are associated with Pallas Athena but it is the owl that reminds us of her wisdom. Her intelligence is 'bright-eyed' and sharp, focused on the immediate, located in the present, aligned with the head and not the instinct. Pallas Athena embodies the rational and encourages left-brain thinking. Her wisdom controls the instincts, learning to direct them into heroic pursuits to eradicate what is dark and primitive. She is civilizing and organizing, bringing culture and cultivation to mankind. Justice and law are part of her new order replacing retaliation and revenge.

Strategic, reflective and controlled her craft and skill is mirrored in the multiplicity of devices she offered man, the fertility of her ideas and the usefulness of her inventions and techniques. As Pronoia she is 'before knowing' embracing forethought and strategic thinking. As a warrior queen she was born from the forehead of her father Zeus, fully armoured and mature, suggesting that the wisdom of goddess had been reborn into a new order. As father's special daughter Pallas Athena mirrored the rational intelligence and counsel of Zeus. Metis, the mother of Athena, was an ancient goddess of wisdom known as Wise Counsel or Cunning Intelligence. She knew the feminine mysteries, the intelligence articulated by the heart and the inner world of instinct and intuition. From her Pallas Athena inherited another kind of wisdom: the wisdom of intuitive knowing often experienced in the belly as a 'gut instinct'. It is a knowing that may speak through symptoms or disease, through creativity or craft, or radiate through stillness and tranquillity or even erupt in anger or hostility. It is a wisdom born out of an intimate connection between mind and matter, a fluid way of being that the ancient Greeks knew as Sophia.

Athena is a proud daughter born from a power struggle between her powerfully dominant father and her intuitively wise mother. Consciously Athena only knows her father's way and the new order. Born of man, like Eve, this myth is often cited when tracing the emergence of 'father-right' from the long held tradition of 'mother-right'. The daughter is now aligned with the sky father who colludes in rejecting the earth mother. The tables have turned in the familial pattern and now it is father and daughter colluding against mother, no longer mother conspiring with her youngest son against the father. When Athena emerges she reflects the need for logic and rationality rather than feeling and instinct. Her path follows the reason of the head, aligned with her father, not the impulse of the heart, the vulnerable feminine side that she has not been nurtured by.

Like Eve, Athena's feminine legacy is not so easily erased. Both their myths contain the image of the snake, a sacred symbol of their legacy of feminine wisdom, healing and regeneration. By the classical period Athena's wisdom became subjugated to Zeus. Shaped by the masculine wisdom becomes linear, logical and rational. Metis is no longer acknowledged as her other parent. The internal wisdom of cycles, intuitive knowing and the complexity of intrapsychic understanding becomes concealed under Athena's armour.

Athena is also associated with the arts of healing, health and regeneration. As Athena Nike she was the goddess of Victory, first victorious in war and later a victor on the sports field. Athena signalled victory and as a patron of heroes she was also known as the goddess of the near, as she was always close to the hero and a staunch supporter of the heroic. As the goddess of war and defender of her father's realm Athena became aligned with the hero as his guide and protector. In mythic portrayals of the hero, Athena stands behind or beside him as his staunch ally against the monstrous and dark forces.

When Pallas Athena appears prominently in a birth chart, she encourages us to be heroic and battle the regressive forces of our instinctual nature. It is necessary to reflect on the situation and not react emotionally, detaching enough to formulate a decisive plan of action.

In astrology the goddess Pallas Athena represents the reflection and meditation that develops out of the turmoil of chaos and uncertainty, helping us to become more strategic and deliberate in our actions. Metis is the valued intelligence that guides our instincts and plans strategically and arises into consciousness at exactly the right moment. Pallas Athena discerns and through reflecting on emotionally entangled situations allows consciousness to develop. Following are the house and sign descriptions of the goddess Pallas Athena in your horoscope.

Pallas is in the 4th House

This prominent placement of the goddess Pallas in the fourth house of your astrology chart shows the importance of your father in your early childhood. It is most likely that your father played a dominant role during your childhood, guiding you with a firm hand, believing that he knew best. He may not have realized that his own unrealized dreams were forced on you. Nevertheless, as a young child you knew no better. You accepted, willingly or unwillingly, that daddy knew best. In some cases, depending on other aspects of your birth chart, your father may have been missing from your early childhood development. Either way the role that your father played early in your life has coloured your adult life. This could literally mean that you follow in your father's footsteps, entering the family business or pursuing the same career path. On the other hand it could mean that you spend many years planning how to overcome your father's strong influence. You find it harder than most to be your own person and may spend some of your life in a restless state, searching for a stable sense of self. This is your challenge - to escape from living under your father's shadow. You need to listen to your own instincts and forge your own path.

You are likely to champion the values of family life and a loving home, even if this is an unorthodox family unit. You are an even-handed parent with a keen sense of fair play that you like to see established in your own family. You may even work as an advocate in family law. Your home is an important focus in your life. You enjoy working around your home, particularly in the domestic arts - cooking, cleaning, gardening, home renovating and decorating. Your practical skills are considerable on the home front! You may enjoy teaching household arts like knitting, spinning, weaving, and cooking. You may have an interest in setting up your home in a way that does not drain the world's resources. In other words, a working vegetable garden, solar power, recycling and other such methods may appeal. On the other hand you are not averse to also utilising the latest in computer technology to enhance your home life. Your strong affinity with your home may also prompt you to set up a home business. This could mean setting up your home as a Bed and Breakfast facility or establishing a home office for your own business.

Your main goal is to be useful to your family, immediate and extended. If you can also make your home useful in some manner then you are likely to be very satisfied with your lot in life.

Pallas is in Pisces

The goddess Pallas is not entirely comfortable in the sign of Pisces, as her strong thinking function is required to be more imaginative and non-linear. Forced to switch from left brain logic to right brain magic may indicate that you often feel torn between your rational mind and your unpredictable emotions. You may make logical decisions only to discover that you are distracted by strong feelings. The tendrils of this quandary can creep into all areas of your life - simple daily decisions, choice of friends, workplace relations etc. Everyday practicalities can become quite a chore simply because you can't decide which to tackle first.

Bigger decisions weigh you down because part of you demands logical choice and the other part yearns for whimsy. Your friends may not realize just how much you long to build your castle in the sky. Your dreams and reality just don't seem to match. You are a perfectionist with a real fear of failure. Your expectations of yourself, and others, may be too high. It is impossible to reach the lofty heights that you aspire to when daily life holds so many practical demands. If everyday demands become too burdensome then your great escape can be communing with nature or listening to music. Hymns and arias may hold particular appeal, but for you most music soothes your soul. You are a mystic with a longing to be of practical use to humanity. Charitable works may also offer an outlet for your altruism.

Where you can excel is in artistic expression. You are likely to have a real gift for practical art - graphic design, musical composition, architecture, interior decorating or jewellery. You may also excel in the softer arts of counselling, religious education, social work and teaching. In these areas your compassionate nature has a practical outlet. It is in these areas that your soul can really sing and you feel that you are making a worthwhile contribution to humanity as well as following the calling of the goddess.

Juno - Socializing The Soul



*'And wheresoever we went, like Juno's swans,
Still we went coupled and inseparable.'
As You Like It, Shakespeare*

Juno Regina shares the honour of the highest deity in the Roman pantheon as queen next to her husband-brother Jupiter, king of the gods. Each woman had their own guardian spirit named Juno, who guided their transitions into the stages of motherhood and marriage. As a light bringer she was also invoked for protection during childbirth. As the goddess of marriage her Roman name Juno was the derivative of June, the season of the bride. Women celebrated her annually in the festival of Matronalia. By the Roman period Juno had become emblematic of the woman as wife and citizen presiding over social customs and duties. In earlier Greek myths Juno was a powerful goddess in her own right known as Hera, the adored feminine deity of many powerful city-states.

The derivation of Hera's name may be related to Hora or season, as she is custodian of the seasons of a woman's life. On the Olympian pantheon she was the goddess of marriage and embodied social ritual and custom. At her cult in Argos young girls ran races to prepare for their marriage and the rituals of womanhood. In the Greek myths Hera was a wife and unlike her husband Hera does not have affairs. However, in Greek myth Hera also seeks revenge upon her husbands' liaisons with others. By the classical period the tales of Zeus and Hera rival contemporary soap operas where the cycle of betrayal, outrage and revenge is the central plot. Hera consistently plots revenge against Zeus' lovers and children from these affairs. However, there was an earlier time when the Olympian couple was not always locked in power struggles or scheming and bullying each other. This was when they first fell in love in the palace of their aunt and uncle where they were being hidden, protected by their mother Rhea from the familial wars that were raging with their father. Here in the great palace beneath the sea, they consummated their relationship, a relationship that was to remain secret for nearly 300 years.

Underpinning the later myths are fragments, which reveal Hera was an ancient goddess before she became aligned with her brother in a sacred marriage.

Epithets of Hera such as 'cow-eyed' refer to her earlier association with the earth and agriculture, while her epithet 'of the white arms' may link her to an association with the Moon. She is often depicted in three phases as the maiden, the fulfilled and the solitary, a trinity of aspects represented by Hebe, Hera and Hecate. Hebe was the daughter of Hera and the cupbearer to the Gods who became married to Heracles after his ascension to Olympus. In this aspect Hera is the maiden, the youth and the aspect of the feminine that retains her virginity, even in relationship. The central phase was motherhood, wifehood and a woman of power. Local folklore suggested she bathed in the streams of Argos where she was able to regain her virginity lost in the marriage with Zeus. Hecate was associated with the final phase embracing Hera's aloneness and need for solace. At times Hera would leave Zeus to go off on her own to pursue her needs for privacy, renewal and worship.

Hera was indigenous to Greece long before Zeus was triumphant. The cult of Hera may have been so powerful that unlike the other goddesses Zeus was unable to be dominant, settling instead for an equal relationship. Her cults on Samos and in Argos are linked to the prehistorical period. On Samos one of the first mammoth stone temples of the archaic period was built in honour of Hera. Similarly her temple at Olympus predates the magnificent one built for Zeus. No doubt Hera is an older goddess like Demeter and Hestia, her sisters who were born to Cronus and Rhea before their brothers. However, to incorporate Hera into the politics on Olympus she became the wife of Zeus and mother to his children.

Another mythic fragment, which suggests Hera is a powerful ancient goddess, is her link to Heracles. Even though their relationship is estranged Heracles is named for the great goddess. His name literally translates into the glory of Hera. Hera whose name closely resembles hero is aligned with the greatest of all heroes, Heracles and plays a potent role in many heroic sagas. Their antagonistic relationship ironically spurred him on to become the greatest hero and ironically myth depicts Hera as his mother-in-law. No longer the object of her scorn Hera has challenged Heracles to become the hero. As mother-in-law she models a strong and uncompromising woman who demands the hero be the best man for her daughter.

Juno and Hera are the composite that portray the seasons of a woman's life as well as the evolution of woman's roles. The spirit of Juno in contemporary woman has new power and possibilities and the placement of the goddess in our horoscope is an invitation to challenge the constructs of the social roles that are inhibiting for us. As a partner and equal Juno is supportive, enterprising, challenging and confronting helping shape potentiality into reality.

In astrology the goddess Juno represents the status and achievement in the world that are intricately aligned with social customs and tradition.

Equality in relationship is necessary at all stages of the life cycle to insure both inner and outer fulfillment. Juno's ancient legacy is equal relationship and through her archetypal experience you can become aligned with your heroic self. Descriptions of the goddess in your astrological chart follow:

Juno is in the 12th House

You are searching for a deep and meaningful union, an intimate bond with another person. This is part of your heroic journey. You seek a soul mate; someone who can help you feel like a whole person. However, you need to be careful. No other person can fulfill such a tall order. You are searching for someone who totally satisfies your needs, rather than seeking an equal partnership of give and take. As a result, your marriage is likely to be unbalanced. Perhaps you have chosen a fair and decent person but have failed to acknowledge the way in which you can support your partner, thinking only of your own needs.

You may be forced through circumstances such as your spouse's ill health, unemployment or profession to accept the role of caretaker. On the other hand your need to feel the devotion of another person may cloud your vision. You are susceptible to falling in love with love or becoming romantically involved with the notion of marriage rather than the individual!

As your marriage progresses you may notice your beloved change personality and you don't know why. It is likely to take some time for you to understand this process of transformation. The karmic links between you and your spouse are intricate. Contemplation, perhaps even psychological counselling, may be required to help you understand the deep subconscious patterns that have formed in your marriage. On a more positive note once you have accepted that you are a whole person in your own right, you do have the ability to form a more positive karmic relationship with someone who shares your outlook on life. You may enjoy a reclusive lifestyle, just the two of you, perhaps you share a love of meditation and prayer, or an interest in one of the more esoteric arts. The lesson of the goddess Juno challenges you to keep seeking your own truth which consequently can be shared with your spouse but not gained by melding with another.

Juno is in Scorpio

Love and marriage are central forces in your life. Your choice of a marriage partner is likely to influence the direction of your life and your emotional well being, more so than other people. You may fall in love with someone from a foreign land, get married and travel to your spouse's homeland thus transforming your life. On the other hand you may, when young, choose an unlikely partner who betrays you in some way. The emotional rage that erupts is surprising to say the least so it is necessary to be wise in how you express this rage. The goddess Juno is asking you to find your sense of self-worth and power within yourself rather than seeking personal power through marriage.

If you do not learn this lesson at a young age, then your partner's life choices are likely to have a dramatic influence on your own life.

You are vulnerable when it comes to marital relationships as you have the capacity to merge on the deepest of levels. Your emotions, your psychological and sexual wellbeing, along with your finances are at risk in marrying the wrong person. The goddess Juno is asking you to be discriminating and choose potential partners carefully and wisely. Be careful not to let your passions rule your decisions when it comes to relationships, particularly when you are young. You are likely to fall deeply in love, enjoy a passionate union and leave the rest to fate. If you are really lucky then your lover will be a wise and wonderful mate, someone who returns your love in full. Then your marriage can be rich and sacred.

On the other hand you may discover hidden forces start to manifest as daily dramas. Jealousy, possessiveness, battles over money, extra-marital affairs and other vices may be the result of your inability to discern between lust and love. These could stem either from your own feelings of inadequacy or from your partner's. Either way your marriage could become a battleground if you do not honour your own or your spouse's emotional and psychological needs. In other words you need to develop a sound psychological understanding of your marriage and then take action to either heal the wounds or end the battle. The goddess Juno is strong in the sign of Scorpio so the good news is that you do have the ability to learn the lessons of love and form a strong and lasting bond. Once you have learnt to listen to reason as much as passion when choosing a life partner, then you are likely to form a sacred union. Loyalty, intimacy and commitment are within your grasp. The Queen of the ancient Heavens can grant you the ability to transform your life through your marriage in a way that brings true emotional and financial rewards.

Vesta - The Inner Life



*'Leave those vain moralists, my friend, and return to the depth of your soul:
that is where you will always rediscover the source of the sacred fire which so often
inflamed us with love of the sublime virtues;
that is where you will see the eternal image of true beauty, the contemplation of
which inspires us with a holy enthusiasm.'*
Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The cult of the Roman goddess Vesta was connected to the Greek Hestia. However, the Roman archetype had considerably altered from her Hellenic counterpart. By the Roman period the sacrament of virginity was liberalized, no longer conceptualized as a psychic state but now institutionalized as a spiritual way of being. Priestesses of Vesta, known as Vestal Virgins, served the goddess for a period of thirty years. While the position was privileged it also was one of great piety, devotion and responsibility. Vestal Virgins tended the sacred flame and guarded the Palladium, the secret objects brought from Troy to preserve the memory of the ancient city and protect the new satellite city of Rome. However, in ancient Greece Hestia was the embodiment of an internal and sacred space not a religious institution. Vesta's heritage reaches back to the traditions of honouring the authenticity of the inner life as symbolized by the spirit of the sacred flame, not a system of regulations.

In ancient Greece the goddess received the highest respect. Acknowledged as the deity mankind must first honour when feasting and drinking the goddess embodied grace and virtue. Veiled and virginal her sanctuaries were places of refuge, asylum and political peace. Constant, focused and disliking change Vesta is the hearth, a symbol for both the centre and the focus of the home as well as the metaphor for family life and the family circle. As custodian of the hearth she is central to psychic life representing the sacral centre, the goddess who honours sacred space and protects holy images. She embodies spatiality, conferring safe places to congregate, mediating soul by giving it a hallowed place to be acknowledged. As a virgin (unto herself) goddess Vesta is the custodian of soulful space personifying the stillness at

the centre of our busy everyday lives. As goddess of hospitality she also welcomes travellers across the threshold offering sanctuary and hospice. Vesta is the continuity of family life and the coherence it brings to our everyday experiences. Vesta was the first-born child, the first devoured by Saturn and the last one to be disgorged from his belly. Therefore she represents the beginning and the end, the alpha and the omega, the eternal cycle. Vesta is not a part of the outer rim of the cycle but situated at its centre, personifying stillness, discretion, cantering and immobility, aspects of her Greek counterpart, Hestia.

Few Greek myths remain of Hestia; she is rarely personified, no statues or temples remain, yet at times in the archaic period she was the most honoured goddess, worshipped at the centre of the city and the centre of the Greek household. By the classical period Hestia was not included as one of the twelve Olympians having been replaced by Dionysus. Hestia and her brother Hades are the only two siblings who remain detached from the Olympian family dramas and feuds. Unlike their brothers, Poseidon and Zeus, or their sisters, Hera and Demeter, they are not identified with their family of origin or their siblings. Their places are internal, interior and introverted. Few images or alters survive as reminders of their worship or importance in cult. There were virtually no temples erected to them and they were seldom represented in art, sculpture or vase painting. Neither were they parents to heroes like their siblings. As gods of place both Hestia and Hades have been re-placed and dis-placed which are potent clues as to what we culturally and psychologically have done with these archetypal energies. In a modern context this place of Hestia, as a metaphor for the hearth of inner life, has become dis-placed, re-placed by the rush and busyness of the outer world. When the inner life is sidelined and banished to the fringes of society, anxiety, terror and panic can no longer be constrained in the community. Hestia reflects the need for solace, quiet and retreat into the inner sanctuary of the Self.

As an image of centre, Hestia is not personified or remembered by statues or temples but manifests through the sense of peace. She is the central point; the meeting place the fires of the home, the hearth, the Omphalos as the symbol for the centre of the Earth. In antiquity her sanctuaries were non-warring zones, places of political peace. Plato remarked, *'when the Gods warred, only Hestia did not take part'* that characterized the goddess' propensity to non-involvement. In the earlier myths of Hestia she resisted the advances of both her brother Poseidon and her nephew Apollo and was honoured with remaining eternally virginal, symbolic of her attachment to the inner life. She is the aspect of self, which can never be violated or abused and always able to access the soul. Hestia is central to psychic life and expressions like 'can't settle down', 'off centre', being off base' remind us of being out of touch with Hestia. As the hearth she is a guide to the inner life and the central image around which soulful images can constellate. She represents sacred space, the meditative moment the soul of place and the feeling of home.

In astrology Vesta is the inner instinct that honours soul by giving it a sacred place, an altar, a quiet moment. She represents hospice and offers hospitality to the aspects of self that feel displaced and dislocated. As the hearth light she offers stillness, quietude, meditation and solitude in the midst of the everyday. The inner life is the container for anxiety and despair as well as a refuge from the pollution of daily life. Below are descriptions of where Vesta is to be found in your horoscope, the spheres where she seeks to be honoured in your life.

Vesta is in the 3rd House

The creative fire of your spirit needs an outlet through the spoken or written word. If your passion is to communicate through the spoken word then your interactions with other people are paramount. Teaching, public speaking, acting, singing, training, advocacy, language interpretation, psychology, astrology and other forms of linking with others can all provide an avenue for your ingenuity. If the written word is your outlet then fiction and non-fiction writing, policy writing, transcribing, art and design could be your forte. The key is to discover your own unique talent by listening to your intuition. You are a powerful figure with the ability to speak up for yourself and on behalf of other people. Learning the ways of the spirit are important for you. You are likely to be non-conformist, particularly when it comes to spiritual teachings. If you do follow an orthodox religion, then you are likely to delve into its origins to gain a full understanding of your theology. You may then become an advocate for change in your religion. Unorthodox teachings may also appeal to your inner self.

You have a gift for listening and responding truthfully to situations and people. Your imagination is also strong, and you are keen to understand human nature. Your colleagues, friends and loved ones are likely to seek your counsel. Work as a psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker or counsellor may appeal to need to administer to others. You are wise, leaning more towards the feminine arts rather than the sciences, becoming a spokesperson for downtrodden members of society or for an environmental cause. You believe in listening to all segments of society and finding resolution that considers all parties. You are likely to attract the support of women, rather than men to your cause. You may also have to sacrifice some of your own beliefs in order to achieve your goals.

While you may be an only child it is also possible you were the central focus for your siblings, being the one they sought in times of need or the one who could help them with their homework. In later years you repeat this role in your circle of friends being the compassionate listener, the loyal friend and the trusted confidante.

Vesta is in Aquarius

Wherever groups of common-minded people gather you are likely to be present. The forces motivating human interaction fascinate you. You are not so concerned about the emotional undercurrents, although perhaps you should pay more attention to these.

Rather you are eager to observe and effect the intellectual interactions. Therefore, you are a brilliant strategist. You are also likely to develop an ardent interest in local or world politics, psychology, magnetic forces, astrology, science, economic markets and any subject that helps shed light on the machinations of groups within society. Your brilliance lies in the fact that you are able to 'think outside the square'. In other words you are able to stand back and view matters from an unorthodox stance. Even if you are a conservative soul, or are working in a traditional role, you are nevertheless able to see and give advice in an innovative manner.

You are likely to be a pioneer in your field of interest. You need plenty of freedom to independently discover your driving creative force. If your independence is thwarted then you may be distracted, unnecessarily putting out lots of small fires of other people's expectations. You need to listen to your intuition, let your heart guide your strong and independent mind. Don't waste time on rebellion. Once you have accepted your own unique gifts, no matter how quirky they seem then you learn to trust your own judgment rather than rely on other people. You need to respect the laws of society but avoid being overly concerned with what other people think of you. Others may misunderstand your strategies, seeing only the personal control and detachment that you portray. Or perhaps they perceive that you are gaining personal benefit from your role in a group. Those closest to you will understand that your motivation comes from a much higher understanding of the ways that groups interact and your need to share your knowledge.

Esoteric astrologers have a keynote for Aquarius which says, 'Water of Life am I, poured forth for thirsty men.' With the goddess Vesta in the sign of Aquarius you have a gift that expounds these virtues. In other words, you are a humanist, able to be a true world server. Your challenge is to discover the form of service that truly speaks from your depths - from your soul.

Hygieia - The Soul Of Health



'Health, greatest of all the blessed gods, may I live with you for the rest of my life'
Hymn to Hygieia, Ariphron

In the ancient Greek sanctuaries of healing statues of Hygieia, the goddess of health, reminded the pilgrim of the archetypal quest for wholeness and wellbeing. Adorned with a simple garment Hygieia was often represented as youthful, radiant and smiling, attributes that are companions of health. Either she is holding or feeding a snake. Carrying a bowl of food or water Hygieia is generally represented tending the sacred snakes that were housed in the temples on the sanctuaries of healing. Sometimes she is presented holding a wreath of laurel, combining victory with health, or other plants known for their medicinal properties, a motif that links her to an ancient tradition of woman healers, herbalists and midwives.

Hygieia's intimate relationship with the serpent recalls her link to the ancient goddesses of healing and nature. Earth and Mother goddesses were accompanied by serpents and the ancient belief was that they transmitted the power of healing and prophecy. As a symbol of both regeneration and divination serpents were sacred to the goddess who gave them sanctuary in the bosom of the earth. Later the cult of sacred snake was adapted and serpents were included in the rituals at the sanctuaries that offered healing and spiritual guidance. The ancients also saw the sacred serpent dwelling in the body and when awakened it could offer illumination, vitality and the radiance of well being. As nature became less mysterious snakes became demonized, no longer transmitting the ancient wisdom of healing but transporting demonic and darker forces.

Hygieia nurtures and tends the snake revering its sacred power to rejuvenate and shed its old ways. She celebrates its dark, earthy force and recognizes the divine mystery of illness and health. Like her ancient ancestors, Hygieia honoured the union between the natural and supernatural worlds knowing that health and well being depended on bringing them both into a cohesive whole.

Goddess wisdom also knew that all of nature was animated by spirits that could be petitioned through magical and religious ritual in an attempt to restore equilibrium and well being. Hygieia is the modern surrogate of the ancient goddesses who honour the great mystery of healing.

To the Greeks Hygieia personified health, that mysterious amalgam of well being, wholeness and happiness. She emerged in the classical period when the cult of Asclepius became widespread and flourished throughout the Graeco-Roman world. Hygieia was mainly represented as the daughter of Asclepius, the Greek god of healing, although sometimes known as his wife. Her numerous statues equal those of Asclepius and in the cult of healing she was revered and equal to the god himself. Interestingly the popularity of temple medicine practiced at the sanctuaries of Asclepius paralleled the growth of rational medicine that had emerged through the teachings of Hippocrates. Hygieia stands at the crossroads of magico-religious healing rituals and contemporary medical practice, holding the tension between the two but allowing each to co-exist. She embraces wholistic healing in every manifestation as she is dedicated to the pursuit of health.

In the ancient community disease was portrayed as a possession by a demon, the intrusion of a spirit or the curse of a god. In the cult of Asclepius illness was seen to be more the call of the divine, the voice that echoed the split between body and spirit. It was the illness that called the pilgrim to the temple to restore equilibrium and wellbeing. At the temple the patient would prepare for an encounter with the god often by fasting, bathing or meditating. Then the patient was escorted into the temple where they would lie down and fall into a deep sleep wherein the god would appear to them in a dream. Once contact with the god had been made through the inner process of the dream the patient would be restored to health. In the healing sanctuaries of Hygieia health was evoked through contact with the divine in the inner sanctuary of the soul. Yet synchronous with these practices were medical doctors who suggested that disease was a natural occurrence and not of the god's making. Hence Hygieia eventually became associated with mental health and well being as rational medical doctors gained a stronghold on the health of the physical body.

When Hygieia is strong in a birth chart we are reminded that health is the alignment of body and soul, heart and mind, outer success and inner peace. One at the expense of the other constellates dis-ease in the temperament that may manifest as a physical symptom, mental anguish or emotional pain. Hygieia is the personification of Health who calls us into the inner sanctuary of the soul to restore health and regain equilibrium. On a divinatory level Hygieia will be chosen when the healing of a situation is imperative. Rational healing is not the only answer. It must be accompanied by attending to the root cause, which ultimately is the illness in the soul. In a psychological sense Hygieia is soul of health, the urge to attend to psyche and its needs by nurturing our deeper urges and impulses.

Feeding the snakes is a metaphor for nurturing the dark and mysterious aspects of the soul and attending to the unconscious.

In astrology Hygieia represents health that is forged through the alliance of the natural with the supernatural, the right brain with the left, the inner world with the outer, the serpent with the soul. Hygieia reminds us that health is an archetypal image embedded in the psyche. When the soul is not nourished or attended it speaks through illness and disease. The placement of Hygieia by house and sign that follow are where the goddess seeks her expression in your life.

Hygieia is in the 2nd House

Feeling healthy, vigorous and strong are important in supporting your sense of personal worth and self-esteem. Not only does your attempt to maintain well being make you more secure, but you feel personally more valued and appreciated by others when you are robust and healthy. With Hygieia in the 2nd House there is a bonus and pay off for maintaining a healthy attitude towards well being. This shines through in your sense of self-esteem and personal worthiness.

It is important to recognize that there is a direct response between your sense of well being and feeling productive and worthwhile. Like others in your environment you may get stuck in a routine or caught in an unhealthy cycle of self-care; however, you will notice that every time you mobilize yourself towards a healthier lifestyle you feel more attractive and worthy. Therefore it is important you recognize that health is one of your greatest resources and each time you invest your time and energy into promoting a sense of well being the results are always productive. Health has high rewards and any investment in it pays off. The Latin poet Virgil remarked that 'The greatest wealth is health', an appropriate affirmation for this placement of Hygieia.

Hygieia in your birth chart also reflects the great resource of health and the need to invest in it for the long term. It is important to reflect on your unhealthy attitudes and habits that are draining both your resources and sense of self-esteem and consciously attempt to combat these. Some of these unhealthy habits may have developed early in life as a compensation for not feeling appreciated or valued. A concerted effort is needed to support a sense of your own value and worth through the discipline of a health regimen. Time spent in this pursuit is rewarded as you discover that well being opens you up to a greater appreciation of the world and its sensual pleasures. With improved health you will notice your five senses are much more alert and that sensual experiences are much more pleasurable.

Hygieia is in Capricorn

The combination of divine intervention and practical treatment were trademarks of the developing cult of Asclepius and his daughter Hygieia. In Hellenistic Greece rational medicine and temple medicine survived concurrently and doctors and priests both attended the sick.

With Hygieia in Capricorn your fate will also be concerned with balancing the practicalities of life with the divine. How can you recognize and respect the goddess in the concrete world is an important question to reflect on. One of the ways might be to remember that the divine animates all worldly projects and needs to be revered even in the corporate and business world. An ancient historian tells the story of a remarkable healing that occurred during the building of the Parthenon on the Acropolis, a miracle that indicated that the goddess herself was taking a hand in completing the building. One of the more energetic and active workmen slipped and fell from a great height severely injuring himself. The attending doctors held no hope of his recovery. Pericles, the inspirational leader of Athens, was very distressed at this news but the goddess appeared to him in a dream and diagnosed a course of treatment for the injured builder. Following the goddess's advice the man easily recovered and was quickly healed. To commemorate the goddess's healing intervention a bronze statue of Athena Hygieia the Healer was dedicated to the deity. In a way your leadership and worldly successes can create healing in the global community. Through your integrity and authority you can influence others and create a more soulful situation in society. Guided by the goddess of health you may feel the urge to bring reforms and reconciliation into the arena of business, or truthfulness and honour into your profession. You innately have the capacity to become a respected healer and therapeutic leader as your course of healing leads you out into the world.

You may not be interested in holding a position of authority such as a CEO. However, you may feel the urge to heal your own internal authority figure that may have been bruised and battered by the imposition of rules, and regulations that were too rigid or controlling. Your need to find your autonomy, to author your own script and overthrow the inner voice that echoes 'must' and 'should' has framed your healing journey. The body reminds you of losing vitality through needing other's approval and acknowledgment when you stiffen, feel rigid and your bones ache! Through the recognition and the reconciliation with the strictures and the scriptures that hold you back you will feel more able to be whole in society. Reconciling with the inner critic and imprisoning authority allows you to feel freer and satisfied, creating a more tolerant and enabling world for others.

Ariadne - The Labyrinth Of The Soul



'To be always fortunate, and to pass through life with a soul that has never known sorrow, is to be ignorant of one half of nature.'

Seneca

Daughter of the great dynasty of Knossos, Ariadne's fate was overshadowed by the curse that plagued her family. In the guise of a great white bull, Zeus had abducted her grandmother Europa from Phoenicia and brought her to Crete. Her mother Pasiphaë had also become enamoured by a great bull. Ariadne participated in the family fate: as Pasiphaë's daughter her lifeblood was impassioned and as Europa's granddaughter her destiny was to abandon her ancestral home.

Poseidon cursed Ariadne's family when her father Minos refused to sacrifice his most magnificent bull to the god. Spurned, the god aroused Pasiphaë's shameful lust for the impressive bull that became embodied in her bull-son, the Minotaur, human from the shoulders down. Banished into the labyrinthine blackness below the palace Ariadne's half-brother, the Minotaur, fed on sacrificial children sent from Athens every nine years. Heroic Theseus was one of fourteen youths sent to Crete to face death at the hands of the Minotaur.

When Theseus arrived to participate in the bull games Ariadne's passions were ignited when she saw him for the first time. Beguiled by the handsome hero, Ariadne devised a plan for Theseus to slay the Minotaur and return safely through the dark tunnels of the labyrinth. For her complicity Theseus promised he would marry her and take her away to Athens. Unconscious that her fate was enmeshed with the god Dionysus and not Theseus Ariadne set upon her course to help her lover and in turn betray her family.

Through the dark labyrinthine tunnels Theseus crawled, quietly, mindful not to make sounds that would waken the sleeping Minotaur.

Wrapped around his wrist was a ball of yarn, tied to the pillar at the entrance of the maze, which unravelled as he made his way through the dangerous tunnels. Ariadne's thread was the umbilical cord that connected him to the outer world and guaranteed his return after he killed the Minotaur. That evening Ariadne escaped with Theseus. In the dark Mediterranean night, they set sail for a victorious return to Athens. Leaving behind her father and sacrificing her brother she surrendered to the passion that burned inside, the rapture only Aphrodite could inspire, a similar fervour that had inflamed her mother and grandmother. The next night Ariadne and her lover reached the island Naxos. Exhausted by traveling and fatigued from the emotional turmoil that had preceded their escape they collapsed into a deep sleep. But as the rays of the morning sun lit her face Ariadne awoke to discover her lover had vanished. At the edge of the shore, she saw the sails of his ship in the distance. Athena had carefully woken Theseus before dawn, setting him on his course home without Ariadne. Abandoned, betrayed and used, Ariadne descended into her own complex world on the shores of Naxos.

Blinded by her passions Ariadne had been complicit in her abandonment. In betraying her family to follow her hero she had set the cycle of betrayal in motion. Projecting her heroic self onto Theseus had left her separated from her own centre. Alone Ariadne was forced to connect with her internal world. At this threshold Ariadne experienced an epiphany of Aphrodite the goddess who ignited the passionate fires that led to her suffering. Appearing to Ariadne the goddess revealed her true fate: she would wed her real soul mate, the divine Dionysus. Dionysus celebrated their sacred marriage by offering Ariadne the crown as the symbol of their intimacy and eternal union.

Ariadne's myth portrays the heart's painful journey when connection to the inner self is severed and sacrificed to the lover. Ariadne followed her lover's course rather than her own internal labyrinthine journey, losing her genuine direction. Using the thread, the symbolic connection to her inner core, to serve the hero Ariadne lost contact with her own inner wisdom. Abandoned she was no longer able to define herself exclusively through a partner; therefore, a more authentic sense of self could emerge. The painful process of confronting her naïve trust and blind faith in Theseus enabled her renewal and redemption. In psychological terms a more divine sense of union is possible when projections onto the other are consciously relinquished. Dionysus embodies a woman's masculine spirit enabling her to define herself in terms of her own needs and not through someone else.

When Ariadne is prominent in the birth chart she reveals the course of the heart encouraging the individual to acknowledge that the threads to their inner self are tenuous and must be honoured in relationship. Ariadne celebrates a more intimate connection with the heart, whether that is through a personal relationship, a new creative endeavour or a new course of life.

In astrology Ariadne represents abandonment as an archetypal process that strips away the mind's illusions to hear the calling of the true self. Confronted by the painful reality of being left the individual is forced to relinquish their hopes and fantasies to awaken to the authentic path of the heart. Ariadne embodies the soul in relationship that must first experience the painful course of the labyrinth before a divine connection can be realized. Following is the astrological thread that Ariadne weaves through her house and sign in your horoscope.

Ariadne is in the 7th House

Ariadne's myth portrays the heart's painful journey when connection to the inner self is severed and sacrificed to the lover. This is certainly true when the goddess Ariadne resides in the 7th house of your birth chart. On one hand you yearn to be reflected in the mirror of the other, yet on the other you are at risk of losing your self in that reflection.

From a very young age you recognize the need for another person to complete your life. No matter what task you undertake or where you journey in life you are seeking the romantic 'other'. You are likely to believe in the concept of 'soul mate' and roam the world looking for your ideal marriage partner. Naturally you find many kindred spirits along the way. After all you enjoy relating to other people on a deep and intimate level. In fact at some stage in your life you may enjoy counselling. However, you are really seeking to lose yourself in love. Once you fall in love you forgo everything in your pursuit of the perfect union. You leave home and family behind, perhaps even traveling to another land sacrificing your own dreams to help your partner pursue theirs'. Sadly you lose yourself in the process and are also likely to lose your mate. Betrayal and abandonment may result from your fervour to pursue love in all of the wrong places.

Whether your union fails or lasts your task, once realizing that you have lost your own identity, is to then rebuild your sense of self. The process is likely to be arduous as you struggle to come to terms with the changes in your life. The good news is that the path to self-realization is part of your divine mission. Ariadne represents the marriage to the divine after the trials of betrayal and abandonment. Therefore you are finally able to become a complete person. You no longer need another person to support your identity. Your heart is whole. Your current union or any future marriage has the chance to be built on more solid foundations of mutual love and respect and compromise rather than sacrifice. You acknowledge that the threads to your inner self are tenuous and must be honoured in relationship. In some cases you may choose to live a single, perhaps even celibate life. However, this prominent position of Ariadne can herald success in partnership, particularly when you continue to follow the call of your own soul.

Ariadne is in Gemini

Ariadne asks us to connect to our hearts, not through our connection with other people but through contemplation of our own spiritual source.

She asks that we find the still, small voice within - the intuition that guides us and enables us to connect with the feminine and spiritual values in this world. This is particularly challenging when Ariadne is in Gemini because this sign represents all of the distractions offered by society - money, social gatherings, computer chat groups, telephone conversations to name a few. Your thoughts are often preoccupied with intellectual pursuits, busy schedules, a quest for information and other distractions. Your activities can be an obstacle to achieving the peace.

You may be so busy acquiring wealth or knowledge that you lose sight of the more meaningful aspects of life. You may also then have difficulty listening to your own heart. Others may be distracting you from your true purpose. It is not their fault. You are the one who is approaching life like tumbleweed, being blown from place to place at the whim of the elements. You need to become like a tree growing healthy roots with your own values and direction. Learn to trust your own instincts, rather than rely on the advice of others. As Sophocles once said, 'the keenest sorrow is to recognize ourselves as the sole cause of all our adversities'. You need to face the truth and learn to say 'no' to anything other than your true purpose. Once you have your eye firmly trained on your goal then you possess the agility and flexibility to achieve your goal. Your path in life may not be a straight line but you can achieve your heart's desire through strategy and adaptability.

One of your life's distractions is likely to be a love affair with someone unsuitable, perhaps even duplicitous. You may even become involved in a love triangle. On the other hand you may become caught up in a complicated maze of interactions with siblings, friend or colleagues. For a while you feel entangled in tricky affairs. Your heart says one thing but your mind says another. Eventually you emerge feeling lost and confused. You need a new direction. Once again your lesson is to shift your focus from the myriad of distractions to your own inner voice. Meditation and prayer may help to quiet the endless chatter in your mind.

Europa - The Soul Of The Earth



*'On a beach in Sidon a bull was aping a lover's coo. It was Zeus.
He shuddered, the way he did when a gadfly got him.
But this time it was a sweet shuddering.
Eros was lifting a girl onto his back: Europa'
The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony, Robert Calasso*

Underneath the Cretan palace of Knossos hidden in a labyrinthine chamber lived a bull-man, the Minotaur, the shameful shadow of the Minoan clan. Two generations earlier the story began when Zeus shape-shifted into a beautiful white bull to seduce a young Phoenician princess named Europa. Like the gods of the old religion Zeus took the shape of a virile and magnificent bull to mesmerize the innocent girl who was unaware that her destiny would instigate the founding of two great dynasties as well as the continent named for the virgin Zeus had abducted.

Europa had been playing in a field gathering spring flowers to make garlands when she became enthralled by a large charismatic bull that meandered into the meadow. Possessed with desire to know the bull, she moved closer. Zeus, the bull-god, knelt before her gently beckoning Europa onto his back. She dared to climb upon him, and then slowly he took her step-by-step across the meadow towards the sea. With the power of a great god, the bull strode the waves across the sea to Crete. Europa clung tightly to the powerful bull, as she rode farther and farther away from her homeland. Zeus had made his conquest. He took Europa as his lover, fathering three children by her; one was Minos the founder of the Cretan dynasty.

Europa's father summoned his sons and instructed them to search for their sister and not to return home until the task had been accomplished. Cadmus set out on the quest, eventually journeying to Delphi to ask the oracle where he could find his sister. The oracle advised Cadmus to relinquish the quest for his sister, as his fate was to found the city of Thebes, not find his sister.

To find the location of Thebes, he must follow a cow until it came to a place where it would lay down due to exhaustion. Europa had been abducted by a god disguised as a bull; her brother Cadmus is led by a cow to his destiny. Both siblings' destiny is to found a great dynasty guided by the commanding and enterprising bovine instinct. Like the zodiacal sign of Taurus the bull symbolizes inherent resource and power and the ability to either cultivate land or build structures that create wealth.

Europa's son Minos claimed the throne of Crete with the blessing of the god Poseidon, his great grandfather who offered him a gift from the sea. A sacred white bull majestically arose out of the ocean and Minos promised to return it to the god in sacrifice. However, the bull was so regal and powerful, Minos decided not to sacrifice the majestic bull but substitute it for a prized white bull from his own herd. Outraged at the deceit, the earth-shaker Poseidon cursed the Minoan dynasty provoking Pasiphaë, Minos' wife, to be sexually obsessed with the beautiful god-like bull. Her craving led to her becoming pregnant with her monstrous son, the Minotaur. Minos' greed and failure to respect the laws of the gods produced a monster that had to be buried beneath the surface of the family in the labyrinthine dungeons of the palace. Buried shame or repression lurking under the atmosphere of the family home eventually surfaces through the next generations. This became evident through the fate of Europa's granddaughters daughters Ariadne and Phaedra. The myth the Greeks retold was a variant of a much earlier motif when the bull was consort of the earth goddess. Europa is the ancient goddess whose earthy instinct is powerful and resourceful. Europa heralds contact with the ancient feminine instincts that generate the power to create abundance.

Throughout the myth of Europa the bull image reoccurs. It is a multi-dimensional symbol of earthy passions, desires, magnetism, wealth and potency whose shadow is greed and lust. The Great Bull of Heaven was an image of archaic power, fertility and enterprise. The appearance of the heavenly bull of Taurus heralded spring when the bountiful Earth became carpeted with wildflowers and the cycle of courtship began. The great bull is engaging and charismatic constellating the generative power of the feminine. Aphrodite who symbolizes the beauty, sensuality and attractiveness of this archetype is the persuasive erotic power that draws Europa, Pasiphaë, Ariadne and Phaedra into her domain. Europa embodies the wealth and majesty of the bull, its earthy passions and its worldly triumphs.

Europa, as the bull-goddess, reclaims the power to construct and direct the course of her own life. When she is prominent in a birth chart it suggests the individual's present course is to construct a solid foundation that will secure the rapid growth of resources.

In astrology Europa embodies the ability to ride the bull, harness its power and give birth to its resourceful creativity. Innately she is the image of feminine power, guidance and direction.

Embodying earthy instincts, she knows how to cultivate the earth and create abundance through her passionate, attractive and commanding nature. How she finds expression in your life is explored through the goddess Europa's placement in your horoscope, as follows.

Europa is in the 12th House

Do you sometimes feel like you are not connected to this earth and that you see the world through completely different eyes than your friends and loved ones? It is true that you have the gift of second sight, inherited from your ancestors. Whether or not you tune into this gift is entirely up to you. You may be content to simply enjoy many hours in your own company, communing with nature or pottering along in your own little world. You are happy as long as no one else imposes. On the other hand you may work in an institution surrounded by like-minded people all carrying out your allotted roles. Nursing, the armed forces and other such organizations may appeal.

You may be aware that one of your most powerful resources is your ability to hear or see things that other people don't appear to notice. You are psychic if you care to tune in. You may choose to learn more about this gift through studying alternative therapies and metaphysics. Herbalism, astrology, alchemy, auric fields and other such subjects may ignite your curiosity. Make sure that you choose carefully when embarking on any journey into the unknown. The goddess Europa was tricked when the god Zeus came to her in the form of a bull. You need to make sure that you are relying on your own intuition and judgment, claiming your own power in all metaphysical matters.

Therefore, make sure the bull you choose to ride is the one who allows you to express your passionate creativity and your enthusiasm for the mysteries of life. As you turn inward you will find that bull. When you find that inner strength you can harness the force of your passion to become compassionate and direct the ingenuity of your imagination so your creativity blossoms.

Europa is in Scorpio

You spend a great deal of time trying to escape the need for introspection. Perhaps this is because the depths of your own feelings frighten you or perhaps you simply recognize the need to make the most of every minute of your time on earth. It is possible that a childhood experience has taught you that life can change in the blink of an eye. As an adult you may try to control the outcome of events and people's actions. This is a slippery slope because you can waste a lot of your own time and energy trying to work out what motivates other people and how to manipulate them so that your needs are met. Your lack of trust can really drain your resources, especially if you become involved in battles for power with loved ones or authority figures. One of your major lessons is discovering that you cannot exert such control.

Ironically, you may need to experience enforced periods of introspection to learn this lesson, the very thing that you have tried to avoid! The fact is that you need to focus on your own intentions and learn to allow others the freedom to make their own decisions without recriminations.

It may be the bull of your own or someone else's passions that have drawn you into an intense encounter with your feelings. Strong emotions move you and confront you. Courageously you are called to face them, not deny them. Through the journey into your own passions you liberate your capacity and the possibility of intimacy.

Once you have learnt to focus on your own passion then you are a veritable tour de force, someone to be reckoned with. You are resourceful, compassionate, wise and genuine. You trust in your own ability to cope with life and its challenges. You start to enjoy the challenges rather than feel overwhelmed.

Pandora - A Gift Of Hope



*'Hope sole remain'd within, nor took her flight,
Beneath the vessel's verge conceal'd from light'
Hesiod*

Pandora's story was written eight centuries before Christ in the epoch when gender roles were rigidly defined. Yet the mythic plot echoes timeless motifs, even ones used in contemporary science fiction. In Greek myth Pandora is the first woman, mother of all mortal women, created by the gods to assert their superiority over mankind. Cast as a femme fatale, a 'beautiful evil', she possesses a jar filled with toxins designed to pollute the race of mankind. Alluring, yet dangerous, Pandora represents a vestige of the ancient goddess culture threatening the emergent patriarch. Yet she also transports an indelible gift from the goddess embedded at the bottom of the urn.

Three centuries later her myth was carved on the marble base underpinning the spectacular cult statue of Athena. When designing the Parthenon and its decorations the Athenians chose the myth of Pandora to be the motif at Athena's feet. On the pedestal of the colossal statue suppliants to Athena were reminded of the creation of the first woman and the plagues she brought to bear on humanity, a striking contrast to Athena who brought victory and pride to the Greeks. Like Athena Pandora's birth was unusual. Fashioned out of the earth at the command of Zeus, Pandora was the instrument designed to punish mankind for the unsanctioned possession of fire stolen by Prometheus.

Zeus was furious when Prometheus stole fire from heaven, smuggling it in a fennel stalk and distributing it to mankind. With the theft the distance between man and god narrowed, as fire was the alchemical agent that would refine raw materials and promote the development of mankind. As the human race developed there would be less need for the gods. Zeus' revenge was to send a 'gift' to man that would counterbalance the profit mankind gained from using fire.

To date men had lived without evil in a golden age, which now would end through the guile of a beautiful woman.

Zeus instructed the smith-god Hephaestus to fashion a beautiful maiden resembling a goddess out of clay and water. Athena was to teach the phantom how to weave a web, Aphrodite was instructed to make her seductive and Hermes, the trickster-god, was to teach her how to be deceitful. Adorned with beautiful garments from the Charities, Zeus breathed life into Pandora, who was given as a gift to Epimetheus, the brother of Prometheus. In her hands she carried an intricately designed urn, the dowry Zeus had given her. Shut inside it was all the evils, storms and plagues that bring misfortune to mankind. Instructed not to accept any gifts from Zeus, Epimetheus became enchanted by the beautiful Pandora and forgot his brother's warning. Pandora opened the jar and before she could close the lid disease, old age, pain, toil, death and all the other ills that plague humanity spilled out. When she was finally able to seal the jar nothing remained except Hope, trapped at the bottom. In their benevolence the gods had insured an antidote for suffering. Pandora offers hope when all else has failed.

The myth of Pandora was included in Greek literature synchronous with the time that the myth of Eve appeared in Jewish writings. In both myths Pandora and Eve become the patriarchal scapegoat for all of humanity's troubles aligning feminine power with evil. This mythic misogyny defines the time when masculine values were dominant and feminine values were denigrated, even demonised. Pandora and Eve became the composite projection of evil, blamed for their lack of foresight, chaos and feelings. Underlying the mythic stratagem was a motif from an earlier period when goddess culture was dominant.

In Greek Pandora translates into 'all gifts' and her entry into Greek myth suggested this name because the gods of Olympus each gave her a gift. However, this mythic thread is probably an inversion from earlier goddess culture when Pandora may have referred to the goddess giving gifts. Gift giving became an essential component of Greek culture and this inverted fragment reminds us of the abundant side of the goddess who offers us the cornucopia of plenty. Pandora is born of the earth like Gaia, supplying the gifts of life. And the gift of life she brings that cannot be destroyed is Hope. On a psychological level hope is the mechanism that breathes life into the soul after it has been bruised and deflated.

Pandora emerges at a critical time historically and psychologically. She enters Greek myth when the goddess culture has waned and been rejected, and man is no longer in favour with the gods. Psychologically Pandora appears to offer hope in devastating times. She brings a powerful gift that cannot be destroyed by life's ills. Hope is the life force that survives the disaster evoking images of healing and improvement. When Pandora is prominent in a birth chart she confronts us to delve into the deepest part of ourselves to tap the reservoir of faith.

Having survived the projections and denigration of the other, Pandora resurrects life once again through the auspices of hope.

In astrology Pandora reminds us that embedded in every disaster is the gift of renewal through the auspices of faith and hope. Illness, destruction, old age and pain are part of feminine wisdom and this knowledge stands in direct contrast to masculine fantasies of a Golden Age and Garden of Eden. How she enters our life is reflected in the placement of the goddess. Descriptions of the goddess by house and sign in your horoscope are next.

Pandora is in the 12th House

At heart you are a loner, enjoying silent contemplation and solitary pursuits. You can become immersed in your own company, bush walking for days on your own in nature or immersed in reading a good book. You don't mean to be anti-social. It is simply that you delight in solitary pursuits and you lose track of time. You also find it difficult to fit in with some of society's expectations, preferring to march to the step of a different drum. Fashion statements leave you cold. You have your own individual style. Punctuality, social chit chat, work hierarchies and other such societal structures are meaningless. You sometimes feel that you are out-of-step with social expectations and as a result you find yourself in some tricky situations. You may resent the intrusion of family members, friends and work colleagues, when they encourage you to join their social activities. You may even feel misunderstood. But like Pandora you may also be deeply in touch with hope for all of humanity.

At some stage in life you need to accept some rules and codes of conduct as being necessary to living in a community. As you struggle to come to terms with the irrational versus the rational you also need a job to survive, preferably one that gives you enough freedom to express your individual talents, but that also requires some structure. Mathematician and physicist Isaac Newton had little interest in society or for any pursuits other than science and mathematics. Yet after years of pursuing his own studies in university he was eventually required to take up a public government position. Fate played its hand.

You have a deep and profound connection to divine and metaphysical matters. Life Newton, you may also wish to be left to your own devices to study these matters particularly through meditation, alchemy and other such methods. Secret codes and societies may fascinate you. Be careful not to dabble in the dark arts because you may take on more than you can handle. Also, once again you need to be aware of society's expectations to earn function and earn a living. You also need to accept other people's spiritual beliefs even though they differ to yours. You may be required to attend baptisms, bar mitzvahs, weddings and other such rites of passage as a sign of respect for your peers. Once you have fully accepted your own eccentricities and unique talents then you are more likely to develop a healthy respect for the unique gifts of other people. As such your deep connection to other worldly matters is likely to become an inspiration for others.

Like Newton you may have a significant legacy to leave this world.

Pandora is in Scorpio

Sex, politics, and religion may be topics that most people avoid discussing in polite society, but this is not the case for you. You like to lift the lid on contentious issues. You make one challenging remark and then another and before you know it, in depth discussions ensue. Many of your friends and loved ones appreciate your insights. Your opinions are also likely to be of great value if you decide to enter the halls of academia or take up a career in psychology, psychiatry or counselling. However, you are likely to land yourself in deep water in some social situations. Like the goddess Pandora you may not know when to stop.

In a woman's chart the Goddess Pandora in the sign of Scorpio indicates a femme fatale. You are alluring yet may be dangerous. Being charismatic and alluring you easily attract men. Sexuality is a powerful weapon, and many are enchanted by your energy. However, you can also quickly lose interest if their personalities lack depth. On the other hand, you can be a feminist. The role of women in society, and in your personal life, is likely to be of more interest to you than the men.

In a man's chart you are likely to be fascinated by unusual women. Your female counterpart is likely to be exotic, alluring, and fascinating. You need to ensure that you respect your own masculine gifts. There is a tendency for you to place women on a pedestal. Through your own projection you transform them into either a wonderful benefactor or a dominating partner. Either way you need to avoid playing a subservient role. An unkind or unscrupulous woman could use sex to manipulate you. Therefore, be wary of becoming embroiled in an abusive relationship, the brunt of someone else's cruelty. You need to maintain a healthy sense of self-esteem. You may benefit from a hobby or career that involves the role of women in society, thus developing a healthy fascination in the feminine arts.

Mnemosyne - The Soul Of Memory



*'Thou fill'st from the wingèd chalice of the soul
Thy lamp, O Memory, fire-wingèd to its goal.
Dante Gabriel Rossetti*

The faculty of memory was so important to the ancients that it was personified as a goddess. In Greek cosmogony Mnemosyne was the daughter of Uranus and Gaia, a pre-Olympian goddess who characterized Memory. Being one of the original deities Mnemosyne is the custodian of memory before the advent of writing, literacy, books, recordings and computers. She embodies the voice of an oral culture that communicates from the soul through stories, pictures, metaphors and body language. Mnemosyne finds her voice through the poetry of images revealing her memoirs through a dream, a feeling, a response, a longing or a sudden thought that darts into consciousness. Embedded in the fragments of a song, a myth, or a fairy tale linger ancient truths that awaken the goddess. Dwelling in the soul Mnemosyne unexpectedly arouses memory through our senses and bodily reactions.

To the ancient Greeks memory was a goddess residing in the heart. Memory was soulful, an aspect of psyche that was creative and evocative and the ancients also saw the goddess as mother of the Muses. Goddess culture honoured her form through three phases and originally Mnemosyne was celebrated through the Muses of meditation, memory and song. In early myth the Muses were the triune aspect of memory who inspired poetry and song. As rational science and beliefs began to emerge the seat of memory began to shift to the brain, aligning memory with a more logical and calculating experience rendering Mnemosyne a passive goddess who collected and stored life's impressions. Later myth suggested there were nine muses. Zeus visited Mnemosyne for nine nights and was the father of her nine daughters, the Muses, the inspiration and manifestation of the soul of memory. As mistresses of healing and prophecy the Muses inspired and taught others to contact a deeper knowing through their imagination and creativity which guarded the wellspring of memory.

As custodians of the arts each had a sphere of influence which they inspired and animated with ancient images and recollections. History, Music, Comedy, Tragedy, Choral Dance and Song, Lyric Poetry, Religious Dance, Astronomy and Epic Poetry were the personifications of the ancient goddess of memory. Apollo, lord of the rational sphere, became their guardian and leader.

Memory's daughters are the muses, the ones who inspire and enchant the soul. Through her and her daughters we are able to engage in weaving the fragments of memory together to evoke meaning. Mnemosyne reminds us to remember the ancient ways. The goddess of Memory is not just a passive recorder of experience and events but a poetic and heart-rending process that inspires the imagination. Mnemosyne re-collects the emotional experiences, feelings and impressions of our life. She is the archive of all that we have tasted, touched, wanted, smelt and felt. Her memories are stored in the psyche as images, symbols, feelings, impressions and instincts or become imprinted in the body, in the adrenal or olfactory glands, the tension in the muscles, allergies and illnesses. Mnemosyne is rhythmic and reflective, not linear, evoking dreams, images, songs that give continuity to our life's narrative. Memory and imagination are woven together when Mnemosyne and her daughters are aroused.

To the ancients the sacred sanctuary of Mnemosyne and the Muses was the museum. These ancient shrines dedicated to the goddess ceded to the structures we know today as museums where we house the great works of the imagination. On an inner level the museum is the sphere of Mnemosyne where impressions and feelings from the past are evoked in the present situation.

In astrology Mnemosyne, the goddess, helps us remember images and impressions from previous phases of our life in order to give meaning, context and insight into these experiences. She acts as a loosening agent, allowing buried complexes, taboo feelings, repressed memories to breathe again to find some place in the sunlight of consciousness. She connects passages of time together. Links can be made back to times in the previous cycle allowing space for the process of reflection and musing. Following is a report of how Mnemosyne brings the muse into your life experience.

Mnemosyne is in the 9th House

History, Music, Comedy, Tragedy, Choral Dance and Song, Lyric Poetry, Religious Dance, Astronomy and Epic Poetry were the personifications of the ancient goddess of memory. These lofty subjects are likely to be significant during the course of your life. You may study or teach these subjects or others such as philosophy, the arts and religion. As a poet or writer you may inspire others. The goddess Mnemosyne is sometimes credited with being the first philosopher, her gift the power of reason. Even if you are considered an emotional person, you do possess the power of reason, the power to rise above your problems through philosophy, religion or travel.

You may travel to another country during your lifetime, either for an extended holiday or to live. Either way the travel provides valuable experiences and memories, which you draw on for creative and spiritual sustenance. You have a real flare for understanding world events from different perspectives. Therefore, you may be less patriotic than some of your colleagues, preferring to see humanity as a global community rather than adhering to one country's stand. If you are not in a position to travel to foreign lands then you enjoy friends from varying backgrounds. Culture is important to you and you enjoy hearing stories from other backgrounds, particularly those passed down through the ages. The culture of your own country, or an adopted one, plays a prominent role in shaping your personal, philosophical and political beliefs.

Academically speaking, archaeology, anthropology, classics, fine arts, history and astronomy may hold a special appeal. On a more mundane level you may simply enjoy collecting postcards, stamps or books on foreign cultures and religions. Music and dance are also likely to provide you with the ability to escape from any drudgery in your life. Music is the language of the universe, and you believe in its power to provoke meaning and substance. Dance is a way to express yourself in a carefree and imaginative way. Imagination is an important component of understanding yourself and the world at large. The goddess Mnemosyne is inspiring you to expand your world constantly through the study and teaching of the truths that connect all humans, no matter where or how they live.

Mnemosyne is in Leo

You are a born storyteller, particularly when it comes to telling your own story. You are an individual, likely to break away from traditional roles in society. You respect your roots, but you also recognize your need to separate from convention and tell your own story. The goddess Mnemosyne entreats us all to look deeply into our selves, to remember our true path and live our lives honestly. She acts as a loosening agent, allowing buried complexes, taboo feelings, repressed memories to breathe again to find some place in the sunlight of consciousness. You have a gift for allowing your own buried feelings to come to be expressed, as well as encouraging others to articulate themselves. Some may even say that you are soothsayer.

Depending on other aspects of your chart, you may indeed be psychic, but this goddess enables you to detect other people's unexpressed desires and enable them to find the courage within to break free of their personal and societal taboos. You are grateful for all that is given to you, and are happy to help other people but you also recognize your need to follow your own dreams. There is an Italian proverb that suggests gratitude is the memory of the heart. You have the courage to follow your own heart. Your love of storytelling may manifest in a talent for poetry, dance, music, theatre or art. If this is the case then you are likely to be revered for your talents. As Homer says in 'The Odyssey', 'among all men on the earth bards have a share of honour and reverence, because the muse has taught them songs and loves

the race of bards.' You need to be wary of squandering your talents, listening to your ego rather than to your soul-felt desires. Your attention-seeking ways may prevent you from making the right choices. You need to listen, as much as you speak; praise as much as you seek appreciation and honour other people's stories as much as you seek to speak your own truth.

You find meaning in symbols embedded in the fragments of a song, a myth, or a fairy tale, or perhaps in everyday life. You need to also find your creative voice. Mnemosyne finds her voice through the poetry of images revealing her memoirs through a dream, a feeling, a response, a longing or a sudden thought that darts into consciousness. Stay tuned to these symbols and your life takes on a whole new meaning. You find a creative voice that cannot be quietened, memories that become your own private muse and synchronicity that propels you into a life of purpose.

Hecate - The Soul In Transition



*'Leave those vain moralists, my friend, and return to the depth of your soul:
that is where you will always rediscover the source of the sacred fire
which so often inflamed us with love of the sublime virtues;
that is where you will see the eternal image of true beauty,
the contemplation of which inspires us with a holy enthusiasm.'*
Anthony Robbins

Hecate became associated with the dark phase of triple goddess who embraced the spheres of heaven (Selene), earth (Artemis) and underworld (Persephone). Her initial association with the underworld was as an attendant to Persephone. It was Hecate who heard Persephone's screams when Hades dragged her down into the netherworld. Hecate was also present when Hermes escorted Persephone out of the underworld. As a guardian of the threshold Hecate witnessed Persephone's descent and release. Her cave is located between the earth and the underworld confirming Hecate's role as an intermediary, bound to neither world but in between both.

As a threshold goddess Hecate is encountered when the paths of our lives converge and we are uncertain which fork in the road to follow. Throughout antiquity she was worshipped at the intersection of roads and by Roman times she was known as Hecate Trivia, the goddess of the three ways. On the night of the New Moon pots of food were left at the crossroads as votive offerings to the goddess. 'Hecate's suppers' honoured the transition of one lunar cycle to the next on the night that the old month ended. Statues with three bodies and three heads were erected at crossroads for travellers to leave offerings and say prayers to Hecate for guidance across an important threshold.

At transitional spaces where paths converged travellers would pass from one world into another, therefore crossroads became associated with spirits and shades.

Hecate became aligned with ghosts and hallucinations as the ancient Greeks attributed the power to conjure up the dead and the phantoms of the imagination with her. Known as the leader of souls she was associated with magic, divination and contact with the shades of the dead. By the classical period Hecate had become affiliated with witchcraft and magic, known as the goddess of ghosts and night terrors. Her companions were dogs. As guardians of thresholds and instinctually able to trace a scent hounds represented Hecate's instinctual wisdom. By later antiquity Hecate had become the patroness of witchcraft.

Hecate's triple aspect was also reflected in the phases of the Moon. As 'Mistress of the Moon' Hecate governed its dark phase. Sappho called her the 'Queen of the Night' and as a light bearer she often carried two torches. Knowing the wisdom of cycles and their triune phases of birth, death and rebirth the lunar goddess also represented the menstrual crossroads in a woman's life cycle. As a birth goddess she was an intermediary figure not only for souls departing their body but also for souls entering a new one. Hecate appears at the threshold of change in women's lives as she enters a new phase of the life cycle. As a lunar goddess associated with fertility rites she is aware of the richness of the dark and hidden treasures. In her dual role as guardian of the threshold and Queen of the Night she knows that every decision taken at the crossroads must come from a deeper level of soul.

Since her early depiction in epic Hecate has become denigrated, often portrayed as a negative and a dangerous demon of the dark. Disassociated from the totality of the lunar cycle she has become identified only with its dark phase. Fear of the dark, death and the underworld were projected onto Hecate who represented the dismembered connection to the feminine wisdom of cycles. Her ancient myth reminds us of her perpetual role as an intermediary and attendant at the crossroads. We meet her on the precipice of change, at crossroads, on doorways, in transition. During these times of initiation Hecate helps us to accept our disorientation between two ways of being.

When the goddess Hecate is prominent in a birth chart she depicts the area in which we are at crossroads in our lives. Time can sometimes seem suspended while we reorient ourselves to a new way of being. Confusion, loss and disconnection are natural moods during this phase as we let go of what has been in order to greet what may be. By house position Hecate would suggest where you will encounter her in your life; by sign she colours your life with magic and mystery. Following are the astrological descriptions where Hecate enters your experience.

Hecate is in the 7th House

This is a prominent and challenging placement of this powerful goddess indicating that you are keen to be in relationship, but may find it difficult to meet others who can be as powerful as you. In a woman's chart the goddess Hecate indicates that you are a strong person, who tends to be direct and powerful, alienating those who are uncomfortable with themselves. You may not realize just how much you like to be

an authority. You may believe that you are striving for equality, but in younger years you are likely to have difficulty getting close to a mate, because of your need to be your own person. Relationships require compromise, give and take. You may, inadvertently, try to control your mate. As a young person you are likely to attract lovers who find your independent spirit attractive. Gradually, though, the sheer force of your personality may overwhelm them. This could lead to a crisis situation that changes the course of both of your lives. The good news is that as you mature you take a more philosophical, less intense, approach to relating. As a result you are able to find true love with someone of equal status and independence, someone who has a strong sense of their own personal boundaries and requirements. You can enjoy a quality marriage as well as having enough freedom to satisfy your independent spirit.

In a man's chart the goddess Hecate in this sphere of your chart shows that you are likely to marry a strong woman. You seek a partner who empowers and supports your goals and ambitions. You are very clear about the type of person you want to marry. You are not attracted to anyone who is weak, victim-like or vulnerable. You prefer a strong-minded individual, who knows his or her own mind and is not afraid to be your equal. You are not willing to compromise and will leave a marriage rather than live unhappily. You are happy to look after your spouse, but only if you see them making an effort to improve their own situation.

The goddess Hecate is challenging you to view your partnership as an area in which you consider another person's feelings. This powerful goddess was a protector of the down trodden. Although she could be wrathful, she was also known to have a tender heart. She was an intermediary. You have all of these traits at your fingertips if you choose to follow your heart. Sometimes you might feel like you are giving more than you are receiving in your marriage. Long-term contracts, whether business or personal, can start to feel lopsided. You are being asked to keep a level head and protect both your own interests and those of your partner. You may also like to consider using your diplomatic and intercessory skills for the benefit of humanity as a whole. Perhaps you could work as a marriage guidance counsellor, an intermediary in divorce courts or perhaps an international diplomat as you are able to guide others at a crossroads in their relationship in the right direction

Hecate is in Gemini

In Australia parrots are noisy, active and brightly coloured birds that glisten in the sunlight with their coats of bright greens, reds and yellows. They chatter loudly as they flit from branch to branch in the treetops and are a wondrous sight when the full rays of the sun catch their coats. They seem to inspire joy, hope and a sense of wonder in the variety of bird and animal life in the natural world. The goddess Hecate offers you a similar disposition in the sign of Gemini.

You have the ability to be a bright, vivacious communicator inspiring others through the sheer force of your personality. No matter what path you choose to take, and you are likely to be tempted by a wide variety, you are an uplifting presence wherever you take flight . You delight in books and maps and are likely to spend many an hour divining the keys, gleaned facts and generally getting familiar with an area via a map. Perhaps this is because you have a lousy sense of direction, or more likely it is because you love the stimulation of having many choices in life. Hecate was the goddess of navigation and the sign of Gemini suggests many directions. Therefore you love the feeling of freedom that comes from exploring new destinations, even if these are just down the road. You are likely to take many journeys during your lifetime. This could simply mean that you travel for your work. However, it could also indicate that you go on a spiritual quest. For this reason mazes and labyrinths are likely to attract your attention, particularly sacred labyrinths. Labyrinths have been around for thousands of years but today they are constructed in many forms and are used for reflection, meditation, and prayer, all of which can be of great benefit for you. The sign of Gemini suggests restlessness. Your powerful message needs to be communicated and you are eager to make sure that as many people as possible are reached. Do you take time out to rest and reflect? Yes, the goddess Hecate is calling on you to teach others about the joys of the freedom of the mind and the many spiritual opportunities that exist. However, she is also urging you to pay attention to your own spiritual gifts. You can inspire as many people as you like, as long as you are fully utilising your capacity as the ruler of the crossroads. Indecision and procrastination are not options, but neither is rash behaviour. You need to take considered action, knowing that your choices will help spark ideas and eventually deliver the answers that you seek for both yourself and others.

Cassandra - The Prophetic Soul



*'And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.'
I Corinthians 13:2, Bible*

Cassandra stood on the walls of Troy and watched Paris' ship enter the harbor. Her brother had returned from Sparta having seduced Helen away from her homeland to bring her to live in Troy as his wife. With the blessings of Aphrodite Paris and his lover Helen had snuck away from her palace undetected and sailed across the Aegean to Asia Minor. A dark cloud shrouded the ship as it anchored. When Cassandra watched her brother and Helen disembark and approach the city gates she was flooded with images of Troy's destruction, filling her with an ominous and terrible feeling. Possessed by this eerie perception she uttered a warning to the crowd that was gathered at the gates to welcome the couple. From deep inside she divined the future: Helen's entrance into the city would lead to its destruction. Ignoring Cassandra and her prophecy the crowds turned away to welcome the new royal couple into their city. Time and time again her message was rejected and ridiculed. Ten years later a similar scenario would unfold. Cassandra would warn the Trojans not to accept the wooden horse into their city. Once again no one would heed her accurate predictions. The Greeks, angry at Helen's abduction, sacked Troy and left the city in ashes.

Cassandra was one of the daughters of the royal family of Troy, a sister to both Paris and Hector and twinned to her brother, Helenus. When the twins were infants they accompanied their parents to the temple of Apollo to celebrate a festival in honour of the oracular god. During the ritual the twins fell into a deep sleep. Two temple snakes slithered into their basket as they slept and bit them on their ears injecting the gift (or poison) of prophecy into them. From that day both Cassandra and Helenus were known for their prophetic nature.

Having the gift of sight Cassandra entered the temple to serve Apollo being called to her vocation as his Pythia, the voice of the oracular god. However, Apollo fell in love with her and demanded she reciprocate his desire. But Cassandra refused to consummate the relationship preferring to worship the god in spirit, not body. Enraged Apollo found a way to avenge her rejection. Knowing he could not retract the gift of prophecy that he had given her when she was so young he cursed her so no one would ever believe her prophecies. The god begged her for one kiss and Cassandra consented. As she opened her mouth to kiss the god Apollo breathed his curse into her insuring others would no longer value her prophetic vision. He turned his back on her, condemning Cassandra to see the perilous future yet never able to be understood or believed. Cassandra, cursed by the narcissistic god for rejecting him, was later violently assaulted by Ajax upon the altar of Athena when the Greeks were ransacking Troy. After the sack of Troy the leader of the Greek fleet Agamemnon took her as his slave back to his palace of Mycenae. As she approached the mammoth walled city her images of destruction became more and more intense. Racked by the violent visions she screamed a warning for Agamemnon to not enter the palace foreseeing his brutal murder at the hands of his wife. In her heart she also knew that entering the city with him would result in her own death.

Cassandra personifies the medial woman whose intuitive faculties and understanding of the unconscious patterns are not welcomed in an ordered rational society. She sees what others are too fearful to see and exposes the inevitable patterns that underpin the situation. In an atmosphere of control and denial Cassandra is marginalized and demeaned becoming the projective reflection of the fear of chaos and uncertainty. Disbelief and ignorance render her wisdom impotent. When dark feelings, dread or grief are repressed in the atmosphere Cassandra is the medium of their expression. Her curse is that she is not identified with her feelings leaving her misunderstood and marginalized. Her feelings, identified by others as autonomous ravings, isolate her. Cassandra is able to sense what is taboo and unlive but unable to remain separate from it.

Cassandra represents the archetype of medial knowledge. Unlike the ancient world there are no longer sanctuaries or sacred places to honour her way of knowing. She reflects the need to be aware of our medial skills and intuitive knowledge and seek training to help strengthen the ability to use this skill and not be overwhelmed by it. When Cassandra appears prominently she encourages the individual to find a voice for the medium through understanding the symbols, images, signs and omens of unconscious language. She embodies the ancient ways of knowing in a culture that no longer values prophecy and divination. Her knowledge is not objective but oracular. To embrace Cassandra we must abandon logic, separateness and rationality and enter into the irrational world where meaning is revealed through feeling and connectedness. However, Cassandra reminds us that in a scientific and ordered society our knowing may be rejected. Cassandra encourages us to have the strength of our convictions and a strong and healthy identity about our beliefs.

Oracular knowing springs out of the collective through an unconscious and unbound participation with everything in the environment. When boundaries are blurred and the veil between the worlds is lifted we enter into a participation mystique with the spirits of the world beyond us and may be called to act as a vessel for their message. Cassandra in your horoscope reveals where you are sensitive to the pattern of the goddess. Following are the placements of Cassandra in your horoscope by house and sign.

Cassandra is in the 3rd House

The ancient astrologers claimed that the 3rd house was the house of the goddess. Therefore this is a powerful placement of the goddess Cassandra. You are a authoritative orator, gifted with an understanding of the influence, meaning and use of words. On the positive side this means that you have a gift for inspiring others. As a result you may be a teacher, orator, writer or actor. On one level you may simply have a gift for foreign languages, an ability to deftly switch tongues and understand different accents. Innuendoes are not lost on you. You have the ability to choose exactly the right words to get your point across, to communicate in a way that your audience is likely to hear and respond. On a deeper level you are in touch with the gift of prophecy. At times it seems that you are reaching into the heavens for your inspiration. What we refer to as a Freudian slip was interpreted by the ancients as an oracle; your slips of the tongue may reveal an unconscious complex ready to be revealed.

However, it is also possible to misuse your powers. The goddess Cassandra was both gifted and cursed. On the occasions when you sense that others are not listening, you are likely to exaggerate your words and therefore lose some of the power with which you have been entrusted. You must also be wary of using your gifts to further your own ambitions. This God-given gift needs to be used wisely and without thought of self-gain. Ironically a focus on serving others brings great personal rewards.

The Book of Luke in the Bible's New Testament contains a quote that states that 'prophets are not without honour, except in their own homeland'. This quotation could hold some truth for you. It is possible that your words of wisdom will have more meaning in another country. For this reason you may have more influence when writing, lecturing or touring another land.

Cassandra is in Aquarius

You are a highly intelligent person, who perhaps has unorthodox views. It is highly likely that you have pursued a higher form of learning at an academic institution, perhaps even some form of research. Usually the goddess Cassandra is associated with the arts; however, with Cassandra in Aquarius you are probably more interested in the sciences, either pure science or social sciences. Either way you have a lively, active mind and are able to foretell trends in your field of study or work.

You have great insights that you are destined to share with your colleagues, and perhaps a wider audience. Therefore, you may elect to teach, speak in public or publish your discoveries. Your personal life is a little more tumultuous. This is because you have some difficulty balance the rational and irrational side of your nature, and therefore understanding your loved ones.

You may think that you are being rational, but you have forgotten to take into account the frailties of human nature. You are able to understand people and society from an intellectual perspective, but sometimes misjudge their response to your insights. Cassandra was blessed with the gift of prophecy, able to foretell the dire consequences of the illicit passion of Paris and Helen if the lovers did not take precautionary action. However, she was also cursed. No one could hear her words. Therefore, it is likely that your words of wisdom, which are quite unorthodox, will not be appreciated. Controversy and mistrust may be repetitive themes in your life. You need to trust your own intuition and avoid judging others. Then your brilliance will truly shine like a beacon for all to see.

In a woman's chart, this brilliance can mean that you are a leader of women. This is perhaps linked with your relationship to a powerful man. However, your individuality will also shine through. Your inventive and futuristic mind is in touch with impending possibilities and it would be wise to learn to discern which trends are valuable for you to follow. Your intuition often sense futuristic trends and imminent events.

In a man's chart, your brilliance may be guided by a wise and insightful woman, who you need to respect and trust. Trust her choices and her wild notions. While you may not be able to see the wisdom of what she sees there is an unseen intelligence that informs her decisions and advice.

Medea - Herbalist And Healer



'Of all things upon earth that bleed and grow, A herb most bruised is woman'
Euripes, Medea

Medea, a princess of Colchis, was known as the 'wise one' for her skill of healing and proficiency at using drugs and herbs. Colchis, which gives its name to Colchicum, the meadow saffron, was a kingdom on the Eastern shores of the Black Sea, considered a foreign, barbaric land through the eyes of a civilized Greece. Medea's ancestors were linked to both the sun and healing long before Apollo became the god associated with these realms. Helios, Medea's grandfather, was the Sun god of the old order, born a Titan's son. Her aunt Circe was a sorceress, a magician, herbalist and healer who knew the ancient ways of plants and spices and how to cast spells. Circe had trained Medea as a young woman in the arts of sorcery, magic and herbalism, teaching her how to mix potions, direct spells and rearrange matter. Medea was also a priestess in the temple of Hecate, honouring the goddess of the dark night and magic. Hecate guided her instincts. As a medical intuitive she knew the magical properties of herbs, the appropriate plants for healing, homeopathic tinctures and the process of preparing and administering these remedies in her caldron. As the surrogate of Hecate Medea knew the timing of the lunar cycle and how to draw down the moon when ritual and ceremony was needed.

However, Medea was unable to withstand the unholy alliance of the goddesses Hera and Athena who petitioned Aphrodite to conspire with them and cause the princess to fall in love with Jason. Medea became enchanted by Eros and fell in love with the Greek hero, who had come to Colchis to retrieve the Golden Fleece. Medea helped Jason achieve this impossible task with the help of special ointments, incantations and timing. Medea enabled Jason, her heroic/lover, to succeed at the trials set before him but in helping Jason be successful Medea had to betray her family and flee her homeland.

On their flight from Colchis Medea visited her aunt Circe who absolved her of her betrayal and eventually Medea arrived at Jason's birthplace, at the foot of Mount Pelion in Thessaly. When she arrived in her new homeland Medea used her great skill at the arts of magic and herbs to rejuvenate Jason's father but also used her sorcery to trick the king's daughters into unintentionally killing their father. To prepare for this procedure Medea disappeared for nine days collecting the special drugs and herbs that she needed. As the Moon swelled she gave sacrifices to her goddess Hecate, then used drugs to help Aeson, Jason's father, fall into a deep sleep. She then cut his throat to let the old blood run out, dismembered him, putting the pieces in a caldron with the liquid herbs she had prepared. Jason's father emerged from the caldron rejuvenated, forty years younger. Medea's spell captured the daughters of Pelias, the wicked uncle of Jason who had usurped his rightful claim to the throne. The daughters also wished to rejuvenate their father and Medea said she would perform the task again. The daughters prepared their father by dismembering him; however, this time Medea did not put the herbs in the caldron and their father never emerged.

Having been responsible for the murder of the king Medea and Jason once again were forced to escape. While fleeing Medea's herbal bag broke open, spilling her drugs seeding the plains of Thessaly with an abundance of healing and magical herbs. As the first sorceress to perform rituals in Thessaly Medea is the seminal figure behind the region being known as 'the land of the witches'. Her myth intimates that she introduced woman's herbal knowledge from Asia Minor into Greece.

In later myth Medea is usually remembered, not as the skilled healer, but as a revengeful and spurned partner, a woman caught in the grip of jealousy for which she had no antidote. By the classical period the playwrights depict Medea consumed with rage, murdering her own children to avenge Jason's infidelity. However, Medea is more a reminder of the great respect and knowledge of healing, herbs and magic that was brought to the West and then subtly ignored and eventually demonized. Underpinning the myth are fragments of an older tradition. Jason's name means 'healer' and his partnership with Medea complements the old ways of healing before the emergence of rational medicine and the demonization of magic.

As botany evolved away from gathering herbs and digging roots of the pastoral communities to empirical and detailed research, purification ceremonies and the use of herbs became replaced by manmade drugs and prescriptions. The connections to the more instinctual, earthy and natural ways of healing were left behind. Traces of magic, ritual healing and evoking the spirit of the disease began to disappear in the Western medical tradition. Left to carry the ancient process of magic was Medea, the embodiment of the archetypal witch. As a heroine Medea champions the feminine wisdom that knows intuitively knows how to cooperate with nature and her cycles.

She instinctually knows the right time to perform rituals and ceremonies to evoke the healing spirits or exorcize the demons.

When Medea is prominent in a birth chart, she reveals the need to explore the ancient feminine traditions of herbalism, witchcraft and magic ritual. Intuitively we know the natural cycle of the body and what it needs to be well. Medea reminds us to honour the ancient custom of relating to the plant world, the wisdom of nature and the powerful healing and transforming properties embedded in the natural world. Instinctually the witch is the impulse that draws us to remedies and potions at the right time and is the urge to create ritual and ceremony to evoke the powers of the goddess. Following are astrological account of how the force of the goddess may be revealed through your horoscope.

Medea is in the 10th House

Supported by the power of Medea you should never feel hesitant about taking your place in the world. Underlying the foundations of your road into life is the influential goddess who is transformational and charismatic. Your 10th house is the vocational vicinity that suggests you have a calling, a purpose or the urge to contribute something to the community. However, these feelings are always tempered by the messages that we literally receive from our parents and principals about what we should do and who we should become. Hence placed on the road into life are detour signs lovingly erected by our caretakers that can delay the authentic experience of what we are destined to do in the world.

This placement may also suggest that one of the parents is powerfully persuasive about what is important and what path should be taken. From an early age we may have been privy to seeing power unconstructively used in the world and may have shied away from wanting to be powerful ourselves. However, without feeling powerful and transformational in the world you will always feel something is incomplete or missing. Medea suggests that it is important for you to find the expression of truth in the world that probably has to do with either championing the disenfranchised, using power and influence for positive change, or healing and therapeutic activities. While the 10th house is about our career it is more useful when we think of it as our pathway through the world, not a fixed position. Therefore to feel fulfilled your skills at healing, change management, empowering the wounded would need to be used, but these skills will always be improving and changing as you utilize them in the world.

No doubt you will come across power struggles in your adult experiences just as you did as a child. It is important to trust your judgments and your hunches in work situations. You have a great instinct for perceiving what the truth of the situation really is. Therefore it is imperative to trust your instincts and support yourself when you know you're right, even against all odds. It is often through adversity and the challenge of authority from superiors that you find your powerful voice to speak the truth, not just for yourself, but all those who are underprivileged and victimized.

Medea is in Virgo

In your horoscope the goddess Medea is in the sign of Virgo, the sign most commonly associated with many different faces of the goddess through a succession of cultures. As the largest zodiacal constellation the harvest maiden has taken the shape of the Babylonian Ishtar, the Syrian Atargatis, the Egyptian Isis and the Greek Demeter as well as many other potent goddesses, even Hestia, the goddess of the inner hearth. The powerful wisdom that the goddesses protect in this sector of the sky is the feminine knowing of sanctity, containment, productivity and cycles. In your horoscope Medea in this sign draws on this wisdom, enriching your own understanding of what is sacred and what is secular.

In a literal sense you have a natural instinct to know when it is time to harvest in order to benefit from your productivity and hard work. Your psychological intelligence knows when it is time to let go. This suggests that you are good at gathering and creating, contributing to you becoming a creative artisan or craftsperson, which might be expressed in a myriad of ways. Whatever you craft will be useful. Your earthy sensibilities are adept at so many productive rituals whether that is gathering herbs, making clothes, assembling furniture or managing the household. But on a deeper level you are profoundly aware of timing and know when to let go, having analysed and digested the situation. Virgo's task is to digest and synthesize. In the body digestion is important to consider and Medea's herbs like dill aid the digestion, while flax seed supports the intestines. Remember next time you visit the health food shop to be aware of the foods you buy and how they have been harvested. You have an innate wisdom about the right foods. Chiron, the mentor to Jason and the great medical mentor of the Greek heroes, lends his name to the Bach flower remedy Centaury that supports the sense of self-containment and combats the urge to overdo and overwork. The kitchen pot or wok is a supernatural surrogate for Medea's caldron and therefore a good place to cook up your own magical ingredients! When cooking next time remember Medea as you chop the basil or throw the bay laurel into the stew. Grow some basil in your herb garden and have an endless supply of pesto or just a beautiful smell outside your door. You are able to find the goddess in the simplest of everyday tasks and need to be involved in the domestic rituals no matter how repetitive. It is in the attention to the moment when we honour the goddess. Therefore next time you iron a shirt, feed the cat, dust the coffee table or clean a cupboard be aware that this is a votive for Medea.

In Virgo the goddess earths her powerful abilities in functional and helpful labours. You too will be passionately engaged in what you do, strongly focused on the task and willing to be of service. Therefore you may feel called to serving others through various forms of alternate healing or social work. Whatever form this takes you bring your transformational energies in practical ways to the position. No matter what the circumstances, you will need to set aside your own time during the day to find stillness and refuge from the busyness and chaos of an everyday life.

Conclusion

When using this report, please bear in mind that, inevitably, every chart will contain some contradictory influences. Usually it is the responsibility of an astrologer to synthesize these apparent contradictions in order to present a cohesive and meaningful interpretation of the dilemmas of the chart.

Please also be aware of the fact that each person has positive and negative influences in the chart, and therefore in their lives. The challenge is to accept and overcome the negative influences, so that we can successfully focus on the positive traits. This report outlines both influences, and therefore parts may be difficult to accept. Any advice given is meant to be an aid to people taking responsibility for their own lives. The ultimate decision rests with each individual. The authors and publisher accept no liability for any adverse effects of this report.

This report is meant more of an introduction to the wonders of the asteroid goddesses rather than a complete course in its intricacies. Further studies, or a consultation with a professional astrologer, are encouraged to explore this most ancient scientific and philosophic tool. We hope that you will discover a common thread that gently winds its way through the 12 Goddess placements in your chart, a thread that inspires you to continue to follow your dreams and discover the Goddess or God within.

The text in this report has been written by Australian astrologers Brian Clark and Stephanie Johnson.

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