

# Vocation Profile Taylor Swift



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# Introduction

*You work that you may keep pace with the earth and the soul of the earth. When you work you are a flute through whose heart the whispering of the hours turns to music. Work is love made visible.*

- Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

## A Fulfilling Vocation

In the midst of our busy lives, worn out by the endless repetition of meaningless tasks, it is difficult to appreciate Kahlil Gibran's poetic image of work as a soul-making sphere. In a technological environment work and soul seem worlds apart. The outer rewards of career - prestige, status, vacations, salary packages, job security - conceal the urge to express soul through our vocation. When we are no longer anchored by values and images that remind us of a meaningful life, emptiness permeates the working atmosphere, contributing to an epidemic of dissatisfaction, depression and insecurity in the workplace. This report is aimed at helping you reflect on your vocation or calling. It is not meant as a quick fix, but rather as an aid to self-understanding and awareness which in turn helps your vocational choices.

Vocation is from the Latin *vocare*, to call, and in early English this referred to a spiritual calling. In modern terminology we can conceive of vocation as the calling to one's authentic role in the world. As an aspect of the individuation process, our vocational path is not predetermined but forged through the interrelationship of our inner self with the outer world over time. Carl Jung suggested it was vocation, which induced an individual to follow his own soul and become conscious. He suggested vocation was 'an irrational factor that destines a man to emancipate himself from the herd and from its well-worn paths. True personality is always a vocation'. To follow the voice which summons one on their authentic path demands that the individual be spirited enough to forge their own way in the world. As Jung reminds us, 'Creative life always stands outside convention'. Vocation demands we risk being unique.

When you were a child what was your answer when adults inevitably asked, 'what do you want to be when you grow up?' As children we are uninhibited in our career choices, not yet influenced by cultural standards and values that judge professions. Still unaware of what work entails, the answer springs from our imagination. How we shape these soulful images of who we may be in the world is our vocation and a large part of the individuation process. These impressions are already inherent in us and often accessible to us through the imagination, and certainly through images in the horoscope. However, one of the main obstacles in our vocational search is literalism.

The illusion that the right career path, a creative job or our own business will dissolve our job dissatisfaction hinders the discovery that vocation is already present in us.

A complexity of external factors influences our career choices: familial awareness, educational opportunities, financial resources, parental support, and encouragement. Role models whom we admire as children, experiences that capture our imagination and the breadth of exposure to the world around us impress us. Another major influence on career choice is parental expectations. Whether it is overt or not, we are subjectively influenced by the unconscious expectations of the parents, the ancestors, and the culture. This pressure contributes to moulding our careers whether we yield or rebel to it. Yet instinctively we are drawn to certain courses, beliefs, and theories, experiences that are all part of the process of helping our careers unfold. Ultimately the vocation is like a large tapestry woven with the threads of all of our life experience and choices, not a well-trodden career path with guaranteed superannuation.

Unfortunately, vocations do not come with job descriptions, opportunities for promotion or a guaranteed income. No doubt work and career are an aspect of vocation, but we often confuse the longing for self-fulfilment with a literal job. Vocation, like individuation, is a job, it is a task; it is the 'opus' of one's life. Therefore, the task of vocation continuously unfolds throughout our lifetime and its success depends on our ability to courageously follow its call. Vocation is an aspect of our fate, a force deep inside that pushes itself to be expressed in the world, therefore is intimately bound up with the course of our lives. Yet because work is how we 'make a living' we often identify work as something we do rather than something we are. Because some professions can bestow such prestige and status, we may be drawn to a profession because of what it can offer materially, not creatively. Some careers offer the financial rewards that provide a wealthy lifestyle; however, at a critical point in our lives it becomes evident that career bonuses are never enough if vocational urges are still unmet.

A vocational analysis utilizing astrology is very beneficial in revealing an individual's calling. The astrological horoscope does not supply literal details, but it does offer suggestions as to the features necessary to make the vocational journey fulfilling. Vocation may also be found in hobbies, volunteer work, and courses of study, not always presenting in the form of a career. This report will help you to reflect on the qualities of your character that create an empowering effect on shaping a meaningful vocation. Using your horoscope as the personal guide this report will offer suggestions to help you consider a fulfilling vocation. As you read about the vocational images from your own horoscope you will find that many repeat similar themes, reminding you to be alert to these patterns. In other cases you will find that there may be contradictions. Human nature is full of paradoxes and it is of equal importance to have an insight into the nature of our own ambiguities and inconsistencies.

# Vocation and Destiny



*Vocation is the spine of life*  
-Friedrich Nietzsche

## The Lunar Nodes

In the Hindu tradition the Nodal axis is symbolised by a dragon. The North Node is the dragon's head; the South Node is the dragon's tail. This archetypal image is an aspect of many culture's myths. In western mythologies it is the hero who comes across the dragon at some point in their journey and must battle this monster to gain the sacred treasure. This encounter is a psychological story depicting our battle against the forces that keep us from following our own path. Astrologically, it is along the nodal axis where we encounter this dragon and experience the incentive to confront our own destiny.

In considering this axis we can envisage the North Node or Dragon's Head as the calling to be heroic, to develop an identity in the world, or in other words, to follow our vocation. The North Node points to what can be developed through valuing and cultivating innate faculties. The South Node, known as the Dragon's Tail, is the container of talents, skills and aptitudes gleaned from the past, lying untapped and undifferentiated. Without recognition or consciousness, they remain stagnant, unable to be directed advantageously. Hence a heroic act needs to dislodge and distribute this energy so it can be of service. In circulating this energy, the potentiality of the North Node is heightened. Each time this energy is liberated, destiny is petitioned, and vocation is more conscious; therefore the South Node is a vital key to unlocking the treasure chest of vocational talent.

Another way we could think about the North Node is that it is an invitation to participate and cooperate in the life journey.

The North Node is where effort must be exerted. This is an opportunity to learn what needs to be developed and made conscious. For vocational purposes we could view the North Node as a symbol of what demands to be anchored and directed in the world. Unlike the South Node it is not instinctive and therefore needs to be recognised before it can be applied. In striving to realise the potentiality of the North Node, satisfaction and meaning will be derived.

The South Node in the opposite sign suggests an innate quality that needs to be disseminated and used freely in pursuit of a vocation. It is providence, a gift of inherited qualities from the past that can be used as resources for the future. The South Node suggests that well developed residues need to be dispersed and shared, or they may threaten to entrap you. It symbolises what must be utilised in the conscious attempt to fulfill one's destiny. The South Node acts as a dissemination point for what becomes conscious at the North Node. In a way the South Node brings to mind the need to contribute this energy to the familial and social realms, the world at large. Since this energy is instinctual it is not necessarily always consciously directed or purposefully used.

The Lunar Nodes are important to consider in a vocational analysis since this polarity in the horoscope represents an axis of destiny. The issues involved in the nodal axis seek conscious expression and reconciliation, which are often sought through vocation. The nodal axis is intimately connected to the individual's path in life and therefore the nature of this polarity is often drawn into the pursuit of a fulfilling career. The sign position of the Nodes reveals an essential aspect of the individual's destiny. The polarity of signs embraced by the North and South Nodes describe important qualities necessary to both develop and disseminate in the vocation.

The house position of the Nodes will illustrate the environmental factors that help to shape and influence an individual's destiny. The North Node's house position directs us to be aware of an important arena of our lives. It is important to consciously participate in life described by the house position of the North Node. This is an area where both the inner and outer worlds collude to lead us into an encounter with our destiny. It is a part of life that beckons and invites us into its experiences. Since the North Node is often the place where we momentarily may experience the transcendent and spiritual aspect of the self, its house position maps the place where these experiences happen. The North Node does not have a cumulative effect; in other words, experiences at this place are not sequential, but more arbitrary, and may seem to happen out of the ordinary. The random nature of the North Node is more to do with its subjective nature and entanglement with the spiritual world. Hence the house position of the North Node may suggest the setting where the encounter with the spiritual self occurs.

The South Node is in the opposite house and may describe a familiar place, an area of safety, and a comfort zone which supplies an anchor. However, it is also a place where we can become rigid, caught in the safety zone of our complacency.

Therefore, it suggests an area we must leave to develop and explore our life's pathway. Another metaphor we could use to define the nodal axis is that the North Node is the destination, the station where the path is headed, while the South Node is like the departure point, the station where we embark. The Nodal axis is like a track with the well-worn grooves of the path near the South Node.

Combining both factors of sign and house establish a more individual profile of the essence needing to be to be recognised and developed to actualise an individual's potential pathway. Planets aspecting the Nodal axis will also demand attention especially if conjunct either pole of the axis. Planets that square the nodal axis suggest the need to incorporate this energy into the vocation. Therefore, these planetary placements in reference to the nodal axis will also be analysed. Following is the description of the lunar nodes in your natal horoscope to help you reflect on your own vocational pathway.

### *The North Node is in Aquarius*

You have the North Node in Aquarius and the South Node in Leo, indicating that you have a well-developed sense of self. Underlying your personality is self-assurance that you are loved, but in order to deeply know this to be true your vocation will lead you into the community. Your invitation is to join the human race and develop your humanitarianism. You might beat a loud drum but now it needs to be in the context of a collective parade. Become a friend to others and you will find that you shine brighter than ever. Stepping away from your own creative pursuits into the community actually provides the best venue possible for your talents and creativity. You are an original, a classic as they say. But your ample charisma and abundant charm must be aligned with community concerns before you can feel purposeful and appreciated. Ironically you become the star of the show when you are the producer focusing on the needs of the group. You find your heart's desire through the lighting of the communal fires and not solely your own. Behind the scenes is where you are the star of the show

Humanitarian ideals are an important aspect of any vocation. However, your vocational ideals may lead you into an involvement in humanitarian pursuits or organisations and companies, sympathetic to humanitarian, ecological or animal concerns. While individualism is of high importance in your vocation you also need tribal and social interaction, intellectual stimulation and personal interchange in your work. You need to express its individuality in the work sector and feel unique and independent in what they do. Therefore, it is the vocations that are different, even marginal that you may be drawn to. You are not afraid of being on the fringe when you tap into that confidence that you have inherited.

If your working atmosphere is too rigid, authoritative, or emotionally demanding then you will rebel either through shock tactics, acting out or simply leaving. You need to feel unrestrained in your occupation and work best in a democratic structure than a hierarchical one

You need social involvement to feel successful, but this does not necessarily mean you need to attach, in fact you are happier at work when you are non-attached. Therefore, in a work environment you appreciate the social interaction but do not necessarily develop deeper emotional bonds. The more space you have on your vocational path, the more effectible you become. Without space in your working lives you might feel frantic and suffocated. When you draw on your reserves of self-confidence and conviction in your talents you can create an open ticket in your vocational pursuits.

### *The North Node is in the 3rd House*

The North Node in the 3rd house brings the issues of how we coordinate and collate information to make sense of it rationally, so that we can communicate it effectively to others in our environment. This task is important since you need to know that the world around you is not haphazard and that you are not pursuing pointless connections or unnecessary detours. This suggests you need to be cognizant of the immediate environment and its boundaries exploring its environs before you feel confident enough. Curiosity and interest are prompts you can use to help expand your territory and push the boundaries, but it is important not to be sidetracked by impossible schemes, vague philosophies or charismatic ideals. Finding your place in any system is important. Originally this may have been with your siblings or friends; however vocationally it is important to be aware of your place in the corporation and with co-workers and colleagues. The culture of the workplace is an important consideration for you and therefore you might take some time before you settle into a routine. Your early work experience is broad, and you might have to exhaust some wanderlust before you can establish yourself professionally.

Naturally, you have a worldly intelligence. You instinctually understand cultural and philosophical complexities and are more comfortable than most with the bigger picture. You might feel like a citizen of the world, not bound to your place of origin. Vocationally you may be challenged to express and disseminate this understanding, whether that is through written or oral communication, the creative arts or another class of dissemination or broadcasting. One of your developmental tasks expressed through your vocation will be to challenge yourself to be articulate about what you know. Like a journalist you may find yourself expressing the complexities of human nature to others who do not have your level of understanding and far sightedness. Your nodal invitation is to express your vast understanding in a succinct and everyday language. You are drawn to the mystical and metaphysical sphere but your destiny is to translate the imaginative into the practical.



### *Pluto is Square The North Node*

In your horoscope Pluto is squaring the Nodal Axis. Traditionally this is often thought of as a harsh aspect; however, in this regard Pluto has a unique function in terms of your vocation. A time-honoured way of thinking about this aspect is to see Pluto at the bending of the cycle, the turning point when something is about to change course. Therefore in terms of the course of your destiny Pluto reveals itself, suggesting that it needs to be consciously integrated and acknowledged. Pluto is the transformational quality when change is accepted and the inevitable is embraced. At the bending of the Nodal axis Pluto challenges you to let go of outmoded ways of thinking about your vocation. What is past its use-by-date needs to be relinquished so that something new can replace it.

This suggests that you will be challenged to leave no stone unturned, for your vocational direction reveals itself through research, digging deep and overturning what is on the path to find new clues. You need to call on the investigative and self-probing aspects of yourself for assistance. No matter what it is you do to occupy yourself you will always be aware of the urge to go deeper, unveil the truth, probe the mystery or crack the code. This drive will come in handy for researchers, investigators, scientists, archaeologists, psychotherapists and all those who know that there is more under what they can see. Denying the call to look beneath the surface casts a black cloud across the vocational horizon; however, honouring this vocational urge to dig deeper will uncover some priceless treasures. Therefore it is wise to heed the call to the unknown. The more you tend to this calling, the stronger you become. In this way the descent into knowing yourself is intimately entwined with your vocation. Therefore it is wise not to sidestep what appears to be difficult and demanding.

# Vocation and Direction



*Many are called, few are chosen: many have talent, few have the character that can realise the talent. Character is the mystery, and it is individual.*

- James Hillman

## The Ascendant and Angular Planets

From the moment of your first breath, your fate was sealed. The Fates that spun the thread also measured its length and then cut the cord to free the spirit. The patterns woven at birth by the Fates were embedded in the soul and it is these soulful designs that have become the template for your human journey. Your genesis is a map for your life. This map is the horoscope, a vibrant multi-layered design of character, potentialities and persuasions.

This moment of birth has defined your orientation to life through four directions known as the angles of the horoscope. Like a compass pointing you along the right path, each one of the four angles plays a major role in defining the direction of your life. Direction and vocation are entwined as along the angles we find the course of our lives.

Your four angles form two planes of experience. The first plane of experience is your individual and personal orientation to the world detailing your personality, your outlook on life and your natural inclination towards partnership. This is the angle of the ascendant, the degree of the zodiac rising at the moment of your birth. This helps describe your motivation to life and therefore what personal traits you can bring to your vocation.

The polar position on this plane is known as the descendant, the degree of the zodiac setting on the horizon when the Fates cut the cord. Here the astrologer reads the patterns and potentialities of merging your personality with a soul mate. In a vocational analysis this is also important to read in terms of co-operation with others.

The second plane of experience is an inherited view of the world, shaped by ancestry and familial lines. Along this polarity of angles you experience the impact of your family or origin on your direction as well as the expectations and influences placed upon you. Embedded in this plane of experience are familial patterns and fate shaping your direction and vocation. The angle of the IC reveals the atmospheric conditions of your early familial experiences while the opposite angle suggests your destiny in the world, strongly influenced by parental and societal expectations.

Therefore to familiarise yourself with these influences will add to your understanding of vocation. The ascendant marks the birth point and is metaphoric of your natural disposition and outer image. This describes your natural outreach and personality traits that are spontaneous; in fact this is the person we first meet, the face turned out towards the world. However in the natural wheel of the horoscope the sign on the ascendant is at odds with the signs that rule the cusps of the houses that describe vocation. Therefore as a more integrated self begins to emerge we often experience what we do in the world to be in conflict with whom we feel we are. This is a human challenge to learn to adapt your personality to your vocation. Following is a description of the signs on this axis. Reflect on how these qualities might need to be utilised and adapted to your vocation. If you have a planet that was rising or setting at your birth then this energy needs to be acknowledged as a powerful guide and influence on your vocational path.

Each angular planet could be seen as a guiding force, a daimon or soul force seeking expression through you. If you have more than one angular planet they will have different needs and likely will contradict or conflict with one another. The key as always is to find the right time and venue to be able to express both as fully as possible.

### *1st House Cusp is in Scorpio*

At the time of your birth the sign Scorpio was rising in the East, foreshadowing the way you reach out into the world. Since you are fiercely private, having no time for small talk, you are often seen as being intense and unapproachable. Truth is you are wary of becoming too close too fast. Trust is important to build over time and when it is established you are loyal and true. Sincerity and honesty are priorities for you and you have a knack of knowing when others are phoney or inauthentic. Therefore you are often intimidating to other, yet paradoxically they are also drawn to your depth and charisma.

Ironically, though, in your vocation you are called upon to share your insights and beliefs, be challenging and self expressive. Satisfaction in your working life comes not through being private and insular but through the acknowledgement of your identity and forging a good approval rating. Vocationally your challenge is to be creative and popular in the world without losing your soul. Therefore you need to retreat from time to time. A sabbatical, not a full time retreat, is the answer.

On the other side of the horizon is the sign Taurus. This suggests that you need to be complemented by a stable and grounding partner. Therefore you are attracted to others who can help you build your life but are self contained enough to not interfere with your vocation. However it is these qualities of stability, durability and reliability you need to develop in yourself. Ironically once you find your own inner rock and stability you are free to enjoy a variety of relationships and friendships. Therefore while you might feel more inclined to closet yourself away, your vocation is found through exploration, expression, learning and developing. And when you are not looking, praise and recognition come your way.

### *Mars is Conjunct The Ascendant*

From earliest associations, the planet Mars has been connected to gods of war. In your horoscope he is rising at your moment of birth bringing this archetype out into the open. This suggests that your personality is strongly in touch with this aggressive energy. Psychologically it is not necessarily war, but certainly competition, ambition and drive that are the hallmarks of his presence in your personality. Therefore it is imperative to channel your drive and energy towards goals you desire. Knowing what those are or what you want might be the problem. Adventure, action and physical exertion will help bring those into focus. It is important for you to act, to be challenged and to go after what you want in your life. And until that's clear keep training, exploring and adventuring.

# Vocation and Character



*Character is fate.*  
- Heraclitus

## Considering the Sun and Moon

Whatever Heraclitus meant two and a half millennia ago is a mystery. However, this phrase has captured philosophical attention ever since, as its truth is evident. We do contribute to our fate through forging our character. It is that personal mix of our habits, rituals, values, beliefs, ideals and morals that all inform our character and contribute to our deeper layers of personality. Through time these become forged into who we are; our character becoming our fate. While the world may acknowledge our achievements from work well done, our greatest success lies in self-fulfillment and the satisfaction of a life well lived.

Again the astrological horoscope becomes a useful guide to understanding personality characteristics that shape character. Astrologically the three aspects of your horoscope, which are the most relevant in considering your own individual character, are the Ascendant, which we have explored in the last section of this report, and the Sun and Moon. Character is fate and expressed through our life journey. Through examining your Sun and Moon it becomes clearer what you need to identify with and need on your vocational path, and therefore what is necessary to develop and nurture in character. Your Sun sign reveals the virtues that are part of your potential character while the Moon sign suggest what needs are important for you to feel safe in the world. Each individual's character is unique and your description of the Sun and Moon sign will be personalised through other astrological factors. However, this is an entrée to begin to consider the virtues and needs of your character.

## THE SUN: Virtues of the Essential Self

*In the final analysis, we count for something only because of the essential we embody, and if we do not embody that, life is wasted.*

- C.G. Jung

The Sun is the central focus of its system and therefore represents a multi-dimensional symbol. On one level it is the essential self and the twelve signs of the zodiac, which mark its apparent path through the heavens, represent spiritual concepts and virtues. Each sign characterises qualities of the human spirit. To the ancients the path of the Sun in the sky was akin to the hero's journey and each sign designated a heroic labour. Astrologically we can present a case for each one of the twelve signs represents a soul state. Therefore, when we are in touch with the virtues underpinning our Sun sign we become closer to its spiritual essence and feel closer to the true self. Psychologically this suggests a more soulful and meaningful experience of who we are.

On the other level the Sun is symbolic of our identity, the passport of the self. Of course, one of the important considerations of identity besides sex, age and nationality is profession. The Sun is essentially what we might identify as important, what helps us feel vital and good about ourselves. The Sun suggests what we may be skilled at. It might not be easy at first, but as we grow we naturally become more aware of our solar impulse. Therefore, in many ways the Sun sign helps shape the vocation, as it hints at what is important to be identified with and qualities that help us excel.

### *The Sun is in Sagittarius*

In Sagittarius we encounter the human virtue of faith that encourages each soul to know the continuity of life through its darkest moments. With your Sun in Sagittarius you are blessed with this gift of faith. Your positive spirit can soothe the troubled soul and your innate wisdom can guide the weary traveller. Your zodiacal messenger is an archer whose bow is taut, ready to release an arrow towards the heart of the galaxy. This arrow suggests your power of perception and your ability to penetrate to the heart of the matter. With your Sun in Sagittarius you are a positivist and urge to act according to the highest values and principles possible. You flee from futility by focusing your arrows on a faraway target, one that is preferably unknown. Whether this is an overseas locale or a philosophical ideal, you are on a quest to make the foreign familiar and participate in broadening your horizons of life.

Your instinct to the religious and philosophical as well as your urge to develop spiritually will lead you into many different cultures, beliefs, ideas and places. You must ascribe meaning to the world around you and in order to do this you search for the answers to metaphysical questions. You are naturally far sighted.

Your inner vision extends far beyond what the naked eye can see. You are intuitively orientated, following your instinct and sensitivity, in the face of scepticism and statistics, trusting in the reality of internal perceptions. Buoyed by your faith you are confident in the power of positive thinking and spiritual insight. Conviction is your empowerment, and the certainty of your beliefs allows a buoyant attitude even through the most difficult of times. Protected by an armada of affirmations you can always be optimistic, even at the darkest hour. William Wordsworth defined faith as 'a passionate imagination', as it is an act of lovingly engaging with the divine. Your ability to conceive of a more worthy life, to know the existence of something greater than just what is visible and the urge to search for a higher purpose in life requires your courageous spirit and open mind. You need to explore cross-culturally and journey beyond the safety of what is familiar. Therefore, you are highly motivated by adventures into the unknown whether it is through physical travel, intellectual discoveries or educational opportunities. Vocationally you are well suited to any sphere that offers you the opportunity to educate, administer, publish or inspire others.

What is moral and right is of great importance. You live by a code of ethics that inspires you to do what is noble, non-discriminatory, honourable and just. You seek temperance, moderation and balance in order to find the middle path and discern between right and wrong. For you right action is not imposed by an external moral code but spontaneously springs from your inner respect for all of life. When you act ethically you feel closer to the divine and therefore closer to your goals in life. Your capacity to search for meaning and establish your own belief system, free from the prejudices and opinions of others, is your vocation. But one of your greatest initiations is the experience of having faith in the process of life. When you are armed with a reason you can face anything. To find your vitality and spirit and to feel soulful, you need to strive for justice and temperance and remain enthusiastic and optimistic about the world. Your ideals, ethics and positive nature need to be your constant companions.

### **THE MOON: Caring for Your Soul**

*Care of the soul asks us to observe its needs continually, to give them our wholehearted attention.*

-Thomas Moore

The Moon is the archetype of care and nurture. From a general overview the Moon reveals what needs are important to satisfy in our vocation. The Moon sign can help to identify what basic requirements are necessary to care for the soul at work. In a vocational capacity the Moon corresponds with the nurturing professions and if the individual is drawn to one of these professions, the Moon sign helps to differentiate what kind of caring could suit its temperament. The planetary sign acts as a filter for the archetypal urge when it seeks expression through the vocation.

### *The Moon is in Cancer*

Your Moon is in Cancer, its natural home. As the governess of the tides, you too are aware of the constantly changing moods, the fullness of feelings and the letting go of attachments. Therefore, you are highly sensitive to the subtle textures and colours of the feeling life, especially when you are in a closely-knit group. You respond to others in your environment and can feel easily hurt when they are unresponsive or withdrawn. Therefore, in your daily work and rituals it is important to feel emotionally safe and secure. You prefer your work environment to be like family and instinctually might try and recreate a familial environment. It is important to be aware of your security needs at work and strive to have these met or protect yourself when you feel unsafe. Building both emotional and financial security in your vocation is important.

From an early age you recognised your tender touch. You might have imagined being a nurse, a vet, a carer or a teacher. While your life path may have veered away from your childhood images you still need to feel engaged and attached to what you are doing. Much of your need to care can be fulfilled through parenting. However, if you do not choose this path then you might find yourself drawn towards professions where care is highlighted. To care for your own soul, however, you need to feel supported by close friends and provide a safe nest for yourself.

If you are called to the nurturing professions then your Moon in Cancer might lean towards caring for the dependent, such as aged care, childcare, becoming a paediatrician or specialising in infant illnesses. Women's issues or family orientated concerns may also appeal. Nurturing professions such as health care, nursery or day care, primary teaching, social work, nursing, counsellors, and helpers of all kinds like family therapists and social workers would be part of the wide spectrum that you may feel drawn towards.



# Income and Resources



*The worth of someone is deeply tied to images of destiny, the twists and turns of fate, and the wheels of fortune. The same is true of money. Our relation to money is our relation to fate.*

- Russell A. Lockhart

## The Rich Resources of Your Life

Traditionally the 2nd House is associated with money and the accumulation of assets. In a vocational sense the 2nd house details our earning capacity, income and resources. Psychologically this is the sphere where self-esteem and personal values are shaped by our early experiences. It is where we learn what is 'mine', how to share, trade and exchange articles of value. Self-worth, the impact of familial values, the substance and significance we place upon our efforts, income received or value returned are all intimately interwoven into the fabric of this house. In the modern climate of the corporate world, pay replaces satisfaction in the workplace; yet the secret of the 2nd house is that fulfilment is intimately tied to the expression of our skills and resources, not wages. Having found the wellspring of our talent, money follows. Pleasure is experienced through apprenticeship and mastery of our skills and talents, not through economic management.

The 2nd House suggests innate resources, which can be developed and valued. In a literal sense these are 'traded' for income or other rewards which support us in the world. This area suggests our innate strengths, skills and talents that must be utilized in earning our living. Psychologically these are our personal assets and resources, which sustain and support us in our career. Talent not only refers to our natural abilities and capacity for success, but also in ancient times was a weight of gold or a monetary unit.

The secret of the 2nd house is to recognize that it is our innate talents and skills that bring our wealth and living. This house also describes what we value and also what gives us value. In a way it describes what we like to do. Consider what you appreciate and desire. Your 2nd house is indicative of what you desire and planets in this house reveal what you might attract because of your values and desires.

The sign on the cusp of the house symbolizes aspects of the assets you need to use in a resourceful way. The sign suggests what needs to be valued in your vocation, the natural style of earning an income, as well as your attitudes towards wages and money. 2nd house planets reveal the earning style and literally may suggest how you earn your living or your patterns and relationship to money and possessions. These are the archetypal urges needing to be expressed in a skillful and resourceful way in your career. Planets here are the forces that shape your sense of worth and value and help you tap into your innate resources. It is important that you use these skills and resources in supporting your own sense of self-esteem. Symbolically, understanding this archetypal presence in your life can help unravel any damaging patterns that support an impoverished sense of self or a disapproving attitude towards money and possessions. Forging an alliance with this energy helps you create a supportive and positive approach to your sense of worth which in turn influences the way the world values you.

### *2nd House Cusp is in Sagittarius*

Sagittarius, the sign that searches for meaning, is on the cusp of your 2nd house, suggesting that the quest for meaning supports and strengthens your personal worth. You value and appreciate education, vision and philosophy and incorporate these concepts in your occupation. You are invested with the gift of giving meaning to other people's life experience. When this is coupled with your intense and charismatic personality you are able to make your living in meaningful and significant ways. Literally one of these ways might be as a teacher, instructor, professor, guide or educator. However, in your own way, you are satisfied when you are able to help shape other's beliefs and attitudes about themselves in order to improve the world they live in, their life experience or lifestyle. In modern jargon you are a life coach, best suited to making your living inspiring others. Because of your intense commitment to your beliefs you are able to be inspirational and influential. You are valued and respected for your beliefs, therefore it is imperative that you value and respect what you do. What you value, appreciate and believe is disseminated through your occupation and therefore your capital worth is intimately bound up with being true to your beliefs. Ethics play a large role in your sense of wealth and investments. You also bring your philosophy and principles to your understanding of money. On one extreme you might have lofty ideals about money and end up feeling ripped off when others do not aspire to such ideals. On the other pole you could exaggerate and inflate your resources to cover up a meaningless life. Your quest is to forge a valid way of thinking about money, assets and possessions so that you feel satisfied and supported in doing the things that you value, like travelling, studying and learning.

Qualities that seek expression in your vocation are your search for truth and knowledge, your vision, far-sightedness and optimism, as well as the idealistic, philosophical side of your nature. The freedom to explore, be involved in cross-cultural projects, travel and learn is key to your sense of satisfaction. Vocationally this suggests that you will need to be expansive in your ideas, your principles and your opinions and remain open for all kinds of possibilities. You learn on the job and opportunities are always on the horizon for you when you let yourself have faith and confidence. Even though you may not recognise it, there is a pattern of development in your choice of jobs. You might feel that your fortunes are not paying off but Jupiter, the ruler of Sagittarius, spins your Wheel of Fortune. Luck and timing are on your side so make sure you have enough faith to keep searching. Believe in yourself and your abilities and the world responds.

### *Mercury is in the 2nd House*

Mythologically Mercury is the divine patron of commerce, the god of the marketplace, trade and exchange of money. He was also known as the trickster god and also brought his penchant for deceit and theft into the marketplace. All archetypes have dual faces and both sides of Mercury influence your experiences with and attitudes towards money. Consider both sides of the coin in all financial dealings for what may seem to be a sound investment could turn out to be a sham or on the other hand what appears to be dodgy could really be beneficial. You have an innate capacity to tell the difference and you hone your skills at reading people and situations in the marketplace. You are at home in the world of commerce, bargaining, buying or selling, trading, importing and exporting, even communicating about financial markets. E-Bay and shopping on line are the modern manifestations. If Mercury were given a portfolio in the government he would either be the Minister for Communication and Transportation or the Minister of Information.

Vocationally you would make a good living as a trader, salesperson, commercial investor, financial writer, and stock expert. You can thrive in areas where there is a lot of anxiety, movement and change. Whether you are on the floor of the stock exchange, behind a counter on Boxing Day sales or purchasing the latest fashion line in Milan you are at your best when there is lots of activity, challenges, and things to do. Your great skill is to think fast, be swift footed and mobile. Also as the divine patron of writers, Mercury in this sector suggests that you have a knack for earning your income by telling a story, writing, lecturing, educating. Whether you are a scriptwriter, songwriter, speechwriter, screen writer, journalist, novelist, columnist or just write in your journal for pleasure you are satisfied when you are exchanging stories and information. However you also might be the one delivering the speech, radio announcing, public speaking or teaching, as it is through communication that you find your worth and value. You certainly are capable of earning your living in the communication and transport industry.

To be realistic would be to suggest that you would have many wild ideas and great schemes about how to make money and earn your living. Why not? That's part of the fun. For you making a living is about having fun, communicating what is important and being able to be flexible and mobile. You need money to buy books, travel, pay for your courses and use the Internet. After that it is debatable. Mercury inspires you to use your intellect, your ideas and your ability to communicate in the way you earn your living. Whether you write it, think it, speak it or draw it you need to express it to feel satisfied. Your secret to success is that when you are able to express your ideas are when you attract appreciation, acknowledgement and assets.

### *Saturn is in the 2nd House*

Saturn is in your 2nd house. To ancient astrologers this planet defined the edge of the solar system, the last visible god who wandered about the Sun. As such it became known as the boundary keeper and the authority that dealt out the consequences of inappropriate action. Placed in the sector of your resources and finances it is important that you use the conscious awareness of this archetype to support your attitudes towards self worth and value. This suggests that tradition, caution and security in how you approach the sphere of money and finances will be important. You are more a long-term investor than a short term one. Over time what you value will appreciate and grow, and you will derive a great satisfaction when your mortgage is paid off or your investments mature, as you value time and its natural process of maturation. Anything too fast or too sudden will not suit your investment style. Similarly when it comes to making your living you will be cautious and hard working as ethically you value what has been truly earned through effort and conscious application. Therefore your attitude towards material possessions will also be the same, valuing what is of good quality and well made, and mistrusting what is cheap and readily available. It is wise to build your financial portfolio over time, not rushing into anything or getting caught up in get rich quick schemes. Also it is prudent to recognise that you value employment where there is a strong structure, is well established and where you have room for advancement.

With the planet of consequence in your financial sector it is best you follow the letter of the law. Creative accounting, tax dodges and money laundering are not for you; if they are then you have an above average chance of being caught out and fined. Therefore it is important that when rules apply, you follow. Destiny has bound you to the system and it is in respecting the system that you find your wealth. It is also wise to take your own advice and heed your own judgement when it comes to financial matters as you need to learn to be an authority in this realm. While you seek approval and feedback in these matters it may not come. The reason is that you need to find your own way. Even though you would prefer that you were mentored, fate has placed the responsibility for financial success in your own hands.

Saturn may often be highly self-critical. This might suggest you introject negative feelings of self worth and internalise a lack of value contributing to your struggle to create a healthy sense of self-esteem. You may have been highly criticised earlier for your values and chastised for what you liked. And today you may still be rebelling against these standards through unconsciously participating with a negative version of your worth. Time to reassess. You need to take stock of your resources. Take a personal inventory and you will find a wide array of valuable resources that support you and need to be valued, including organisational skills and professionalism, self discipline, competency, being highly responsible, trust worthy, dedicated and respectful. Sound management of your resources makes it likely that you will earn your income in an executive or managerial capacity. Like the mountain goat you are adept at starting at the bottom of the mountain and slowly climbing to the summit of your success. However the key to this is maintaining your integrity, self-respect and valuing the process of time.

### *Uranus is in the 2nd House*

Ultimately wealth and independence are entwined and when you are self-reliant you feel affluent. With Uranus in your 2nd house it is important to be aware that your approach to money and possessions could be quite unconventional, as this planet is known for its rebelliousness and nonconformity. This planet also signifies unpredictability and surprises. In the 2nd house this could suggest sudden changes of fortune. Therefore it would be important to consider how you might bring your unique skills and specialised talents to your career path in order to feel more comfortable on the wheel of fortune. You might forge your own independent route choosing to make your living outside convention or in an unconventional way. Or it could also suggest working in an environment that is futuristic, cutting-edge or ahead of its time. Another possibility is that you might find that you earn your income in a humanitarian way, working to improve the human condition or the state of the earth. Whatever road you take into the world of work, it needs to be a road less travelled.

Finding your own distinctive path that has not been trampled upon suggests that you will need to tap into your uniqueness and inventiveness. You are ingenious and can use your imagination to forge your way. Vocationally you are well suited to fields of endeavour that are unusual, ones that have not even been thought of yet. Therefore you are comfortable being on the edge of change, helping forge new directions and advancements. A career in technology might suit especially if you are helping revolutionise attitudes to work or helping create solutions for the future. Or politics is another sphere where you can use your vision and your protest to create change. Revolutionising the human experience is also akin to this astrological statement. Therefore whether you are attracted to science or the liberal arts, you feel the need to help advance human understanding and equality. You have an altruistic streak that needs expression in your vocation.

Uranus in the 2nd also reveals your attitudes towards money and possessions. Again this may be unusual or at least out of the ordinary. Your attitudes to material assets and financial security may fluctuate and change considerably. Or you might also unexpectedly receive money. It is important to consider your attitudes to money as they might be unconsciously contributing to financial worries. Ironically you need money to help you feel independent; therefore it is in your best interest to find ways to make this possible. You might find you have an uncanny knack at picking the right shares, making astute investments or being clever at financial planning. Reflect on original ways to make money. You have an inventive streak, which is a resource. Discover how this might work best for you. Ultimately you have the ability to be detached from the material world. This is important as this helps you feel relaxed and confident that you have enough resources.

### *Neptune is in the 2nd House*

Neptune, the planet associated with spirituality, fantasy and otherworldliness, is in the financial sector of your horoscope bringing its mystical and creative ability to bear on your attitudes towards money, earning a living and resources. At face value this might suggest that your perspective towards money and possessions are not well-grounded in reality. Therefore it is important to recognise your propensity towards being out of touch with the commercial world. On the other hand it reveals that your earning capacity and resourceful nature is fluid and creative and that you value the more refined, spiritual and artistic aspects of life. On a practical level you would be able to do well investing in art, creative ideas or spiritual projects. However this archetype manifests in your experience, it suggests that you need to acknowledge the powerful rip tide in your life that pulls you away from the ordinariness of making a living. Being in the work a day world may be painful and soul destroying until you are able to reconcile the two worlds and incorporate your creative longing in the everyday experience of earning a living. To do this you need to recognise that your talent and skills are coloured by the Neptunian archetype of transcendence, suggesting that you need to make your living as an artist or a healer. Whether or not it is one of these avenues, you are satisfied most when your spiritual longing can find a place on the pedestrian walk of life.

Therefore it is wise to reflect on whether your attitude towards money is misshapen by spiritual beliefs or driven by fantasy. You have a propensity to confuse the material and spiritual worlds, leaving your ability to handle money matters in chaos. If this is the case then it is best to seek practical advice about how to manage your money in the best possible way for you. It is important that you do not unconsciously collude with sacrificing or surrendering your talents due to feeling impoverished. On the other hand you also need to recognise the enormous potential of Neptune in your financial sector because anything becomes possible. Your task is to not let your creativity or spirituality be held back by lack of money. This suggests you need to bring your artistry, your compassion and your magic into how you earn your living. You need to appreciate and value your own creativity before it can be visible to others.

Re-enchanting the way you earn a living in a disenchanted world may not be easy. However it is not impossible and it is the archetype of Neptune that inspires you. This suggests that it is possible to make your living in a creative and spiritual way. In fact it becomes a necessity, as it is in the mundane world where you need to find the magic. Rather than turning away from the traditional, physical and mundane world of commerce and industry you need to embrace it in an inspirited way. Your struggle with money is soul making and for you soulfulness lies in the everyday world of making a living.

# Work



*All work is a vocation, a calling from a place that is the source of meaning and identity, the roots of which lie beyond human intention and interpretation.*

- Thomas Moore

## The Labours of the 6th House

Astrologically, the 6th House is an eclectic territory associated with many facets of daily life. All these components of the 6th House suggest everyday routines that are necessary to maintain order and coherence in order to contain the chaos of life. The 6th House recommends ways to remain focused and centered. When we lose touch with this thread of continuity, chaos fills the void with stress, loss of direction and purposelessness. The 6th house also indicates the areas of the body susceptible to carrying the stress when work is not nurturing or fulfilling. When we are not able to en-soul our everyday life with our work, then we are reminded of our distress by complaints of the body and the mind. Literally work makes us sick.

Vocationally the 6th house symbolizes what is compatible with our nature and what we need in our work to feel fulfilled, therefore less stressed. Traditionally the 6th house describes occupation; it illustrates the routine conditions of the job, the daily responsibilities and activities involved in performing job tasks that contribute to personal satisfaction. It also describes the atmosphere and those who share the workspace. Astrological wisdom has always suggested that work and well being are one and the same; to be well we need work that suits our soul. However, 6th house issues can become confused. In our workaday world often duty replaces satisfaction, the process of work is sacrificed for outcome, and ritual becomes obsession. The work instinct is to be productive; however when this turns to duty or perfectionism the enjoyment of work is lost.



Analysing the 6th house reveals the most satisfying work environment and routines, and profiles the most rewarding way an individual can be employed. The 6th house is often referred to as a house of service. However, it is where we best serve ourselves through the quality of our employment.

Following is an analysis of your 6th house as described by the sign on the cusp and any planets that occupy this sphere. You will be able to maximize your fulfillment with work by recognizing the routines and tasks that are incompatible with your temperament and therefore create stress. Through becoming aware of daily rituals that support your natural disposition you will feel more satisfied and rewarded by your job. The sign on the cusp of the 6th house is the first clue to rewarding work. Planets in the 6th house are archetypal energies that need to be accessed daily and integrated into your lifestyle. They are life forces that you are fated to meet in the world of work and vocation. In a perfect world we would use them productively through our daily tasks and labours, giving them an expression in the continuity of our daily rituals. Metaphorically work is the way we honour the archetypal force that underlies the planetary expression.

### *6th House Cusp is in Taurus*

Taurus is the sign on the cusp of your 6th house, suggesting that one of the more significant aspects of your employment is stability. It is important that your work routines are stable and secure. You need to feel part of an industry, corporation or working atmosphere that is dependable, reliable and well established, having achieved success and recognition over time. It is necessary to see your daily tasks through to the end; therefore you do best in positions that are slower paced and task focused. You work well on long-term projects, which develop over time and are satisfied with tangible results of your endeavours. It is more difficult to work in situations where results are elusive, changeable or high risk. It is essential that you have a detailed job description and are aware of the functions of your responsibilities. Opportunities for growth are also important but you are probably more interested in steady growth and practical outcomes. It is critical that you feel adequately valued and rewarded for your work or else you may feel undervalued for your effort.

Work and values are intimately linked. Psychologically your work reflects your sense of self-worth. Without a feeling of your own worth or value you may be caught in a job that depletes yourself-esteem. When you do not value the work that you do, your values may be transferred onto the material world of possessions and finances, attempting to feel rewarded through your assets; however without the connection to the worthiness of work, money and assets never will be able to offer what is missing. Therefore it is important to recognise the need to be valued and appreciated in the work you do and perhaps the best way to begin is to insure you find work that you value and welcome.

Stability, physical comfort, tangible results, value are the ingredients of a satisfactory working environment. Without these mixed in the appropriate way, then stress accumulates. Taurus rules the throat and thyroid; first stress may just appear as a sore neck, nagging cough or sluggishness. However, over time accumulated stress may develop into more chronic throat problems. Ways to improve your working environment is to surround yourself with warm colours, pot plants and have regular breaks. You seek a solid relationship with your co-workers and therefore it is important not to invest too much in co-workers who do not respond to your warmth or welcome. On a practical level work is a satisfying place where your vibrant personality can find solace and reward through hard work and patient building.

# Profession



*Every man has is own vocation; his talent is his call*  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

## The Status of the Tenth House

The cusp of the 10th house is the Midheaven, the highest point on the ecliptic at our moment of birth. Its elevation in the horoscope suggests a complex of factors: it is the most public area of the horoscope and represents our relationship to and experience of the world; this represents the goal posts which are not only set by ourselves but have been put in place by our ancestors; the MC and 10th house represent the parental expectations and values influencing our career choices. Therefore the 10th house is a very important sphere in considering a fulfilling vocation. In essence it suggests our fate in the world.

Traditionally the 10th house is associated with career. Since career suggests a course of one's life, the 10th house will play a prominent role in helping to navigate the career path. The 10th suggests where we need to find our authority and autonomy in the world and where we strive to be successful. As the peak of the horoscope the 10th house suggests what we would like to achieve in our relationship with the world. It also suggests the public sphere and how we are recognized in that sphere, either through our professional titles, our achievements or contributions. It is in this arena where we strive to contribute to the world in our own unique way

The sign on the cusp of the 10th house (the Midheaven) suggests the career paths which may be fulfilling and lead to success. The sign also indicates what we want to achieve and where we need to strive for authority.

Planets in the 10th house are in the public sphere and seek to be expressed through vocational pursuits and are also heavily influenced by both parental and societal expectations. Planets in the 10th house are the archetypes encountered along your professional path. They represent both resources and challenges met in the career as well as characterize images of a fulfilling vocation.

### *10th House Cusp is in Virgo*

Virgo is represented by the maiden, a complex image that has undergone considerable transformation from its original meaning. Ironically it implies an image of freedom and independence, a woman in relationship to her internal self, contained and autonomous, in charge of her own desires. Vocationally this motif is important to you, suggesting you need to follow your own call into the world considering your own needs and honouring your desire to be of service. Depending on other aspects of your personality you may prefer to be the assistant rather than the leader, however, you are still likely to display executive abilities. You could choose a career in administration, either as a civil servant or as a manager.

The urge to serve and to strive for wholeness should be considered in any vocational pursuit. However while this urge may be projected onto a literal career your true vocation is serving yourself in your quest for wholeness. Therefore it is important that your vocation fulfills the desire for self-improvement and self-understanding. It is this quest that leads you into considering a wide spectrum of occupations in health care, social services or holistic healing. Reflect on the field of health care as a potential vocation, for instance dentistry, nursing, mental health, nutrition, veterinary science, chemistry, or medicine. Social work and clinical psychology are spheres where you may also be adept. Holistic healing careers involving herbs, natural remedies and therapies, nutrition, hygiene, physical realignment etc. are also well suited to Virgo's sympathy with the natural world. A naturopath is both a literal and metaphoric image that encapsulates this urge to find a path towards wholeness.

Virgo's need to serve may be satisfied through a myriad of repair and service industries as well. However, this earthy side of Virgo can also manifest in many other ways. You might have an innate technical skill that could be utilised vocationally in scientific (laboratory technicians, scientific research) or medical occupations (health inspection, medical research and technology). Or you may resonate with the instinctual and natural world of plants and animals; vocationally an example could be a nurseryman attending to plants or a veterinarian attending to animals.

Analysing facts and figures is another skill that can be used in a variety of ways such as auditing mathematics, and accounting. Your ability for detail and precision is also a skill, which can be utilised in your vocation.

The influence of Virgo suggests the ability to deconstruct the whole into its various parts to help it function better. Whether this deconstruction is done through dissection, editing or criticising your goal is to improve whatever you become involved in. Your quest for perfection needs to be recognised and directed in any profession, or else you may feel unsatisfied obsessing on what is not right.

A common theme is to feel that your job is constantly improving. At the end of the day Virgo you need to feel that you have completed your tasks and that your efforts have improved the system you work in. You also need to feel contained and ordered in the execution of these tasks as well as by the atmosphere of your workplace. Routine and ritual are very necessary in order to promote a sense of coherence. Chaos in the workplace feels very unsettling for you. The thin line between the need to constantly improve and the pressure to be perfect may drive you into over compensating by working too hard and for too long. You need to be reminded that your calling towards wholeness needs balance and moderation.

# Conclusion

*'Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference.'*

-Robert Frost

## A Considered Vocation

Fulfillment in the world is more a product of who we are, not what we do. Our vocational nature implies a path of individuation, a road 'less travelled by', and in some ways, a road still under construction. Hopefully, this astrological consideration of your vocational potentialities has helped you reflect on a fulfilling career path.

Astrological consideration of a vocation also needs to be placed in the context of the life cycle. Adolescents benefit from a traditional examination of the vocational patterns in the horoscope to help confirm and inspire their career plans. However, in adult years, especially when on the verge of mid-life (36+), the urge to find meaning and purpose through vocation is more the issue. Vocation is a lifelong task and one that is at the heart of the individuation process and the lenses through which we view vocation need to be re-examined and rechecked at every new stage of the life cycle.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brian Clark has written numerous articles on psychology, mythology and astrology, is a contributing author to *Intimate Relationships* (Llewellyn: 1991), the author of *The Sibling Constellation* (Penguin: 1999) and *Celestial Tarot* (U.S. Games, Inc. 2006), as well as a series of astrological publications for students published by *Astro\*Synthesis*. His books and articles have been translated into Japanese, French, Italian, German, Spanish and Dutch. Brian also teaches mythology for the Nexus program, co teaches a course on Tarot and leads tours to the sacred sites of ancient Greece through *Odyssey*. Brian also lectures internationally. He has a private counselling practice utilising astrology from a psychological perspective. He has his Masters in Classics and Archaeology from the University of Melbourne.