

GODDESS

A Solar Writer Report for Winona Ryder



Written by Brian Clark & Stephanie Johnson

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Chart Wheel

Winona Ryder

Natal Chart

29 Oct 1971

11:00 am CDT +5:00

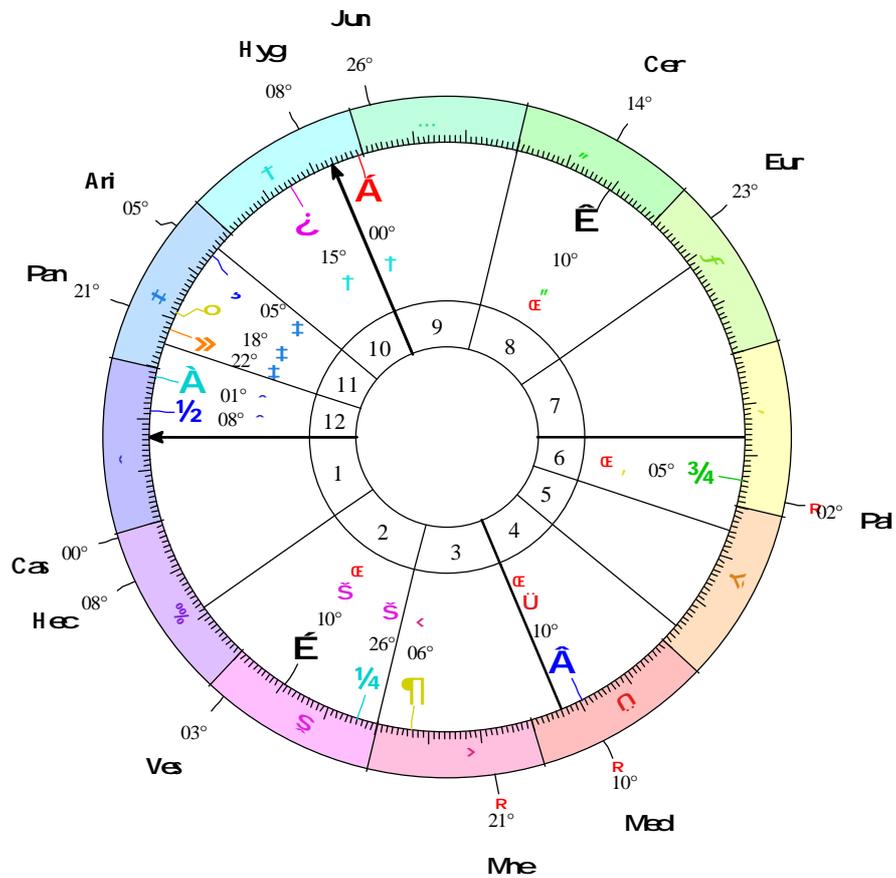
Winona

44°N03'

091°W38'21"

Tropical

Placidus



Key

Abbr	Asteroid
Cer	Ceres
Pal	Pallas Athena
Jun	Juno
Ves	Vesta
Hyg	Hygieia
Ari	Ariadne
Eur	Europa
Pan	Pandora
Mne	Mnemosyne
Hec	Hecate
Cas	Cassandra
Med	Medea

Astrological Summary

Chart Point Positions: Winona Ryder

Asteroid	Sign	Position	House	Comment
Cer	Ceres	Leo	14°Le01'	8th
Pal	Pallas Athena	Gemini	2°Ge32'	6th
Jun	Juno	Virgo	26°Vi31'	9th
Ves	Vesta	Aquarius	3°Aq05'	2nd
Hyg	Hygieia	Libra	8°Li56'	10th
Ari	Ariadne	Scorpio	5°Sc10'	11th
Eur	Europa	Cancer	23°Cn30'	8th
Pan	Pandora	Scorpio	21°Sc00'	11th
Mne	Mnemosyne	Pisces	21°Pi35'	3rd
Hec	Hecate	Capricorn	8°Cp36'	1st
Cas	Cassandra	Capricorn	0°Cp44'	1st
Med	Medea	Aries	10°Ar36'	4th

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 favored 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 that 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 Solar Writer - Goddess report has a specific function, being emblematic of an important sphere of your life. Every one 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 honor 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 labors, as well as our trials and triumphs.

The Solar Writer - 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 well being. 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.

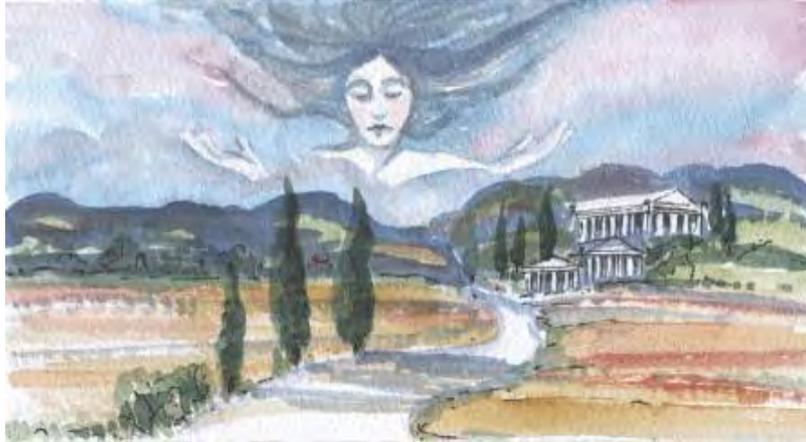
Mnemosyne, Asteroid No. 57, was discovered in 1860. The Moon records, reflects and reveals every heartbeat, breath and nuance of primitive life. Therefore the progressed Moon evokes memory as it progresses through the horoscope. Aspects between the Moon and Mercury as well as other planets aspecting 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 well being 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 modeled 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 honoring 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 Leo

Although you are well aware that life has its serious moments, you prefer to concentrate on the lighter ones. Therefore you are good company. Friends and relatives enjoy your cheery nature. Of course you are not always bright and cheerful, but you do like to take care of yourself by focusing on life's pleasures. Beauty, fashion, the arts, and any fun activity all play a part in helping you remain upbeat. You are also keen to share these activities with those close to you.

Depending on other aspects of your birth chart you are likely to enjoy a pleasurable relationship with your mother, or a key mother figure. As a child it is likely that your mother encourages the playful side of your nature, perhaps even indulging your whims. You learn how to have fun and enjoy the world of make-believe, playing happily on your own or with other children. You share many traits with author J.M. Barrie's characters Peter Pan and Tinkerbell. As you grow older you are likely to retain many of these traits. In fact one of the few drawbacks of the placement of the goddess Ceres in the sign of Leo can be that you find it difficult to grow up, leave the

family nest and make adult decisions. You need to 'grasp the nettle' and face life with maturity. Commitment can be rewarding. In fact you are likely to be surprised by the treasures that result from facing all the seasons and changes in your life.

You need to hear the echo of your own voice, the applause from your performance or the acknowledgment of a job well done. You are a creative soul and need to be interactive in an expressive way. Ceres supports all your efforts in expressing your self and encourages you to feel comfortable with your creativity.

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 armored 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 tranquility 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 armor.

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 signaled 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 6th House

You are one of the lucky ones. You usually have good vitality and health, plenty of drive to complete your daily chores. You are a responsible, hard worker able to achieve many tasks because of your excellent organizational abilities. Usually your friends, family and colleagues benefit from your practical skills and useful tips. You like to support friends, family and co-workers with practical help. Like Pallas, who was the patroness of artisans and craftsmen, you are adept at handiwork and crafts. Cooking, cleaning, sewing and gardening are all in your repertoire. You are an exceptional administrator and the ever-willing servant of your co-workers and loved ones. Your co-workers are well aware of your strong sense of fair play.

You are even handed with friends and colleagues trusting your instincts in most of your interactions. The challenge that you face is when others fail to recognize and appreciate your support. You do not like being taken for granted, or even worse feeling used. Your resentment is likely to skyrocket when this occurs. You enjoy helping other people but you also have your own agenda, your own objectives. Occasionally you need support from others. You are adept at co-opting willing helpers for other people's projects, but you also want assistance for your own. If others do not notice your need and help is not forthcoming then you are likely to go into battle mode. Your transformation from willing servant to angry warrior is a truly magnificent sight, depending on who is on the receiving end.

You are a brilliant strategist, able to detach from your anger, deduce a plan and enlist willing allies. This is a wonderful gift when you are motivated to achieve a common goal, but when these skills are directed against someone else, things can get nasty. You need to make sure that you do not give in to the temptation to behave in a manner that is cruel or punishing. You know that you are powerful and that other people may lack your drive and persistence. You need to use your power in order to heal situations rather than inflame them. Diplomacy is more likely to resolve any day-to-day conflict than outright war. Persistent anger may indeed drain your usually high levels of vitality. You may have the gift of healing hands. As such orthodox or unorthodox medicine may appeal to you as a career path. The goddess Pallas Athena is civilizing and organizing, bringing culture and cultivation to mankind. Justice and law are part of her new order replacing retaliation and revenge. You, too, can embrace these gifts.

Pallas is in Gemini

You are intelligent, quick thinking and brilliant in any field that demands sharp thinking, debate and tactics. However, you may be highly aggravating for your loved ones, because of your love of a good argument. You enjoy the cut and thrust of a good discussion, arguing your point until others are exhausted (or perhaps have retired hurt?)

Of course, occasionally you will meet your intellectual match and sparks are ignited. Finally you have found a soul mate, someone who understands your independent mind and your need for freedom of expression. You like to sharpen your mind by testing your ideas on other people, but this is not always possible. Therefore you may enjoy sparring in a debating team, taking on a public speaking role or tackling the challenges of a sales job. The strategies and policies of politics may also appeal. You have the ability to focus on reason rather than emotion, which can be an advantage in the halls of parliament.

Any job that provides intellectual stimulation is likely to appeal. On a more personal front, reading, academic study, and writing are pastimes that may satisfy your quest for knowledge. Trivia quizzes, brainteasers and crossword puzzles may also appeal. Albert Einstein once said that 'imagination is more important than knowledge'. This is your challenge with the goddess Pallas in the sign of Gemini. You are keen to learn as much as you can. In fact you can fight for the right to freedom of information. However, you also need to learn the power of silence. Imagination, intuition and wisdom are all powerful tools for anyone on the road to education. In other words integrating your knowledge is important. Once you have risen to this challenge then you are likely to become the educator rather than the educated. You may choose to teach, sponsor a cause or become a political commentator, or an activist.

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 honor 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 honor 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 9th House

Throughout your life you seek a like-minded lover suitable for marriage. If you are fortunate then you may meet your soul mate early in life, but it is more likely that your search for a mate becomes more like a quest. You may travel to distant shores, or socialize with different cultures before finding someone to marry. It doesn't matter if your potential partner is from a different country, religion or culture; in fact this may be preferable. You would enjoy taking part in a foreign wedding ceremony (even if it weren't your own).

What you seek is a companion who will help you expand your horizons. You may share an interest in long-distance travel, the arts, academic life, legal matters, religious or spiritual practices, or world sports or politics. Whatever your common goal your spouse enables you to expand your horizons. You seek enlightenment through marriage, someone to guide you through the transitions in your life. As a partner and equal your spouse is supportive, enterprising, challenging and confronting helping shape your potentiality into reality.

If you compromise and choose a marriage partner with conflicting ideologies then your marriage could be in serious trouble. Your levels of tolerance may be sorely tested. You need a partner who respects your intellect, opinions, philosophies and beliefs. You enjoy a lively exchange of opinions, but you do not easily tolerate anyone who acts in a superior manner. You enjoy the company of people from all walks of life, and expect your spouse to share your easy-going, inclusive attitude. At the same time you may hold passionate philosophical or political beliefs, recognizing that these beliefs are so deeply-felt that you need your spouse to share these convictions. Your lifestyle may preclude a union with someone of conflicting ideals. You are better served living according to your own ideologies rather than succumbing to the imposition of adhering to a lifestyle that is not truly part of your own heroic journey. You have a real opportunity to marry a benefactor who helps you achieve your true calling.

Juno is in Virgo

You have a fairly accurate mental picture of the type of person who is worthy of your love, trust and fidelity. You require a partner who has integrity; someone who can communicate and is willing to work with you rather than against you to make sure that the relationship is an equal partnership. Equality does not necessarily mean sharing the same tasks, but rather working out what each person can contribute from their field of expertise. It is possible that you will attract a partner who has considerable practical skills; someone who cooks, cleans, fixes household appliances or is skilled in trades jobs. Even if you have extensive skills in these areas, you are keen to attract someone who can match these skills rather than an impractical, romantic or laid-back person. In other words the practical application of expertise of any kind is an attractive quality in a potential mate.

You have a keen sense of self-awareness and also require your loved one to develop personal communication and relationship skills. You enjoy sharing daily rituals with your spouse and are willing to put in the extra effort required to be thoughtful and

attentive. However, you are very keen to avoid being the only person working within or on your marriage. You have high standards when it comes to marriage and so you need to be wary of having unrealistic expectations of your spouse. You are a perfectionist and may be unduly critical of perceived failings in your partner. If you are not careful you are likely to alienate your loved one with your constant vigilance. You are likely to discover the hard way that no one person is perfect and that not everyone shares your need for constant self-improvement. If you can acquire a good dose of tolerance and compassion, then you are more likely to succeed in maintaining a long-term union based on mutual respect and love.

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 honoring 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 honor 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 center 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 center, the goddess who honors 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 center of our busy everyday lives. As goddess of hospitality she also welcomes travelers 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 center, personifying stillness, discretion, centering 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 honored goddess, worshipped at the center of the city and the center 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 center, 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 center 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 honored 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 center', '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 honors 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 honored in your life.

Vesta is in the 2nd House

Whether you are focused on spiritual, artistic, philanthropic or material resources, you are passionate in your quest for fulfillment. You are ardent about pursuing anything that you hold of value. You are on a quest to discover your own skills and resources. As a result you are likely to be totally focused on your own innate talents, rather than other peoples'. Being resourceful you happily employ the talents and finances of other people to help you achieve your ambitions, but you are unlikely to reciprocate. Your own inner fire is lit and you are keen to live true to your own goals.

Money may or may not be important to you. Depending on other aspects of your birth chart you may or may not be wealthy and you may or may not care. On the whole your rewards are likely to be in utilizing your own talents whether or not this makes a good income. You are likely to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle and happily provide for yourself, but spiritual values outweigh material ones. Spiritual riches and resources may be of more significance than worldly possessions and supplies.

In fact you may have reassessed your values at some stage during your lifetime due to a spiritual crisis or awakening. If you have been somewhat obsessed with making money then you may need to re-light the creative spark within. An artistic or spiritual project may re-ignite your fire. If you have been concentrating on your own artistic project or spiritual studies then perhaps you are required to earn some money and clear your debts. You may have to make some sacrifices in order to move on with your self-esteem intact. It is important that you maintain a healthy sense of purpose. In your life Vesta seeks to unite the spiritual with the mundane and therefore you may have a gift of being able to be resourceful by creating assets of great value and beauty.

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 well being. 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 honored 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 honor 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 well being. 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 10th House

Hygieia is in your 10th house, the sphere of the horoscope that is the most elevated, suggesting that the issues of health and well being play a prominent role in your life. The task that is implied by this placement is to maintain a healthy attitude while being involved in worldly pursuits. Balancing the expectations of the world, its demand for high achievement and award-winning outcomes, with a regime of health and well being is of primary importance.

One way this could manifest in your life is that you feel called to the healthcare professions. Whether or not you are conscious that you have a calling, you may have felt impelled to train professionally in a healing capacity, moved by the urge to help prevent disease, cure illness or attend the frail. What is clear is that you have an instinct to be involved in administering to the welfare of others and feel compelled to hone these skills in the world. Your urge is preventative and therefore you could also be involved in not only the maintenance of good health but in the prevention of disease.

From a young age you may have felt a keen interest in health due to the influence of authority figures and mentors around you. The well being of a parent, the parental point of view towards medical treatment and illness and their health regimens have shaped your attitudes towards health and well being. Hygieia in your 10th suggests that to be healthy in the world it is important to forge authentic ways to balance the demands of the world with the inner need for harmony which may challenge some of the parental and societal constructs. Therefore it is important to recognize the critical interface between your health and your worldly aspirations and the need to attend to your well being in the midst of your busy life.

Hygieia is in Libra

Hygieia's health bulletin of balance and harmony in life is easily monitored in the sign of Libra. The seventh sign of the zodiac is about equilibrium and keeping things in perspective, therefore the urge to strive for a sense of balance is consciously acceptable to you. However, what is more difficult to accept are the symptoms at the core of the disturbance. While the diagnosis may be the need for balance in your life the prognosis is that this will not be possible without engaging in the emotional origin of the problem. You may feel equipped to return the situation to a balance but unprepared to face the difficult task of confronting the denials that have inflamed the condition. Part of your healing journey is to come to terms with the darker and more negative feelings that underpin the dis-ease and prevent healing from occurring.

Your peaceful temperament may lead you to submerging your own feelings and desires to keep peace, which leads to a state of disease. This may manifest in feeling disconnected to others, moody, reactionary and rude, certainly far from your ideal of being available and even-tempered. Therefore when the scales are out of alignment

the important question may be, 'what feelings am I not expressing for fear of reprisal?' Your fate is to work through your discomfort with another, whether that be a friend, a close partner, your spouse or a counselor, as you need to have your sense of self mirrored back to you in order to feel whole. It is important that you are able to feel that you can be loved and liked, even though you may harbor negative responses or feel dark feelings.

Your self-examination, ability to listen and assess situations, in tandem with your innate regard for others, endows you with an ability to counsel. Whatever form that takes you are a healing presence in the middle of arbitration, a voice of reason in a heated argument, or an impartial judge in a difficult dispute. Your own healing journey into understanding and accepting the wisdom of feelings and the passion of emotions is given back to others through your ability to fairly assess contentious issues. Hygieia knows that healing begins with harmony and that your fate is to be the architect of the peace proposal. Yet at the end of the day the virtue of peace is not in the external reconciliation, but in the inner acceptance of the warring aspects of your own nature.

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 enamored 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 fervor 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 center. 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 honored in relationship. Ariadne celebrates a more intimate connection with the heart, whether that is through a personal relationship, a new creative endeavor or a new course of life.

In astrology Ariadne represents abandonment as an archetypal process that strips away the mind's illusions in order 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 in order 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 11th House

Friendships are an important facet of your life, providing you with the social interaction that you eagerly seek. Business associates, work colleagues, old school friends, social clubs and special interest groups all play a role in your life. You enjoy socializing and networking, exchanging ideas with friends and associates, even taking part in a little gossip. You have a keen understanding of human nature, particularly group dynamics. You may work in a field that requires skills such as strategizing and diplomacy. For this reason the labyrinthine halls of politics may spark your interest, whether this means joining a local special interest group committee, advising a political member or running for a government position yourself.

The challenge of this placement of the goddess Ariadne is to overcome the tendency to lose you in a maze of commitments to friends and colleagues. Perhaps you are too keen to get involved in your friend's lives. Sometimes there is a fine line between caring and meddling. Your interest in other people may be hampering your ability to self-regulate your own life. On the other hand perhaps a friend or colleague has betrayed you, leaving you with the sense that you have wasted your time on others. Perhaps this also prompts you to realize that you have put far too much effort into your social life. You then decide that you need to spend some time on your own, isolated from the demands of associates. You begin the process required to discover your own dreams and wishes, rather than spending your time supporting the aspirations of other people.

Ironically once you have discovered your own callings you are likely to again work with groups; however, now you are well aware that the threads to your inner self are tenuous and must be honored in all friendships. Your interactions with others bring a sense of peace and fulfillment. In your worldly associations you once again rekindle the earlier bonds you had with a brother or sister which help in the healing of past wounds.

Ariadne is in Scorpio

You are on a quest to understand the mysteries of life. Do we have a soul? Where do we come from before we are born? What happens to us when we die? These are just a few of the questions that play on your mind. This quest may have been sparked by difficult or dramatic childhood experiences. Perhaps you lost a much-loved pet or person when you were a youngster. This is the classic scenario of a person who studies and practices psychology in order to fully understand his or her own beleaguered childhood. On the other hand maybe you were born seeking wisdom, a naturally curious child wanting to understand the mechanics of the material world and why people behave in the way that they do. You have a tendency to ask the difficult questions, preferring to understand what makes things and people work rather than skim the surface. On a mundane level you enjoy murder mysteries, unsolved crimes and courtroom battles. On a deeper level metaphysical subjects speak to your heart.

In your journey to enlightenment a powerful bond with a lover, teacher or boss may

enthrall you. You passionately pursue this person and their ideals, perhaps even following them to distant shores or becoming involved in their intrigues. If you are not careful you run the risk of becoming lost in a maze of ardor, jealousy, obsession or betrayal. Abandonment of your own ideals underlies this placement so it is important to be conscious of what you are relinquishing in the relationship. Betrayal may be the painful surgery on the heart that lets you see the truth.

The goddess Ariadne's myth portrays the heart's painful journey when connection to the inner self is severed and sacrificed to the lover. Once you have lost your way you then face a journey into the dark side of your own soul, one from which you can rise triumphant, gaining an understanding of your own divine mission. Ariadne represents the marriage to the divine after the trials of betrayal and abandonment. This rather long quote by Northern Exposure's Stuart Stevens in 1991 says it all, 'There's a dark side to each and every human soul. We wish we were Obi-Wan Kenobi, and for the most part we are, but there's a little Darth Vader in all of us. Thing is, this ain't no either or proposition. We're talking about dialectics, the good and the bad merging into us. You can run but you can't hide. My experience? Face the darkness, stare it down. Own it. As brother Nietzsche said, being human is a complicated gig. Give that old dark night of the soul a hug! Howl the eternal yes!' Then like Ariadne you may awake in Naxos ready to meet a more authentic party of yourself.

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. In order 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 8th House

Your life is a strange and compelling journey. Often you feel safe and secure in your associations, investments and joint ventures. However, you are also aware that life

changes and you need to adapt in order to survive. You are well aware of the benefits of pooling resources with other individuals and carefully select your allies. Your resources are both emotional and physical. Therefore when you are deeply connected and involved with another person your happiness and fulfillment is mirrored in the world through ample capital and possessions. You like to spend money on beautiful possessions, ranging from small objects for daily use to investment properties. However, you also have an uncanny ability to gain through the efforts of others. You need to ensure that you do not become a burden on others. Teamwork requires that everyone pitches in. If you do your fair share then you are likely to reap great rewards through any joint ventures.

You do not wear your heart on your sleeve, as the saying goes. In fact you may do a pretty good job of covering up your deepest feelings, but your emotions are far from superficial. You are sensitive to your environment, but particularly to other people and mostly to your spouse. You love deeply, even if you do not always show your emotions. You are loyal and trusting in intimate relationships.

You are a good listener, although you are sometimes surprised by some of the things that people tell you. A colleague, friend or family member may start to share some personal matters and then the story takes an unusual turn. This is because people feel comfortable in your presence. They trust you to keep their inner most secrets. Honoring intimacy through confidentiality, containment, privacy and trust is important in all your close relationships. First make sure that you want to be drawn into the intimacy of the other's confidence and secondly if you are, respect their confidentiality as you would your own.

You are also sensitive to the cycle of the seasons, probably preferring Spring to Winter. You may also feel a deep bond to the natural environment. Pets do not have quite the same appeal as seeing an animal in its natural habitat. Therefore, when you need to feel connected, return to a natural setting to reunite with the wellspring of your inner strength.

Europa is in Cancer

Family is the cornerstone of your life. When you are young your family shapes the way that you view the world. Coming from a strong lineage of women, you are likely to have a strong bond with your mother, grandmother or another caring female family member. As you mature you are keen to strike out independently but never too far from home. If you leave home for distant shores, sooner or later you probably return to your birthplace. One exception to this can be if you meet, marry and have a family of your own in your new town or city. However, it is more likely that you live close to relatives with a household filled with animals and children.

You are wise when it comes to the institution of families. You know the importance of marrying the right person and are willing to wait if necessary before settling down and having children. You are well aware of the responsibilities involved in caring for dependents. You watch other people's parenting closely while making up your own mind as to how effective their methods really are. If for some reason you decide not

to marry and have children then you are likely to work closely with other people's children as a nanny, teacher, counselor or school assistant. Perhaps you would enjoy writing children's books or creating something that appeals to the child in all of us. You may be a devoted uncle, aunt, godfather or godmother. You have a strong urge to nurture that cannot be denied and must be channeled into a hobby or profession.

Your challenge is also to nurture yourself. Caring for others is admirable but don't forget to recharge your own batteries. As an old Irish Proverb says, 'bricks and mortar make a house, but the laughter of children makes a home.' Take the time to enjoy your life and the company of your loved ones. As you feel the securest when you are in the sanctity of nature, it would be of great value to make the time to rekindle your attachment to the great outdoors.

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 come to an 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 favor 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 11th House

You have a tendency to take on too many social commitments. You enjoy many and varied friendships, an active social life and a diary full of social commitments, but you also have a real tendency to burn the candle at both ends, as the saying goes. Committees, clubs and social outings can easily consume everything else. Your intentions are good but your inability to say 'no' to your friends and colleagues leaves little time for your own goals and personal life. Ironically you are often busy and have many friends but if you are not careful then you have no one who you can confide in. Social chit chat loses its meaning after a while. Life can become very empty. You feel alone in a crowded room and yet you are not sure why.

In reality you need times when you can choose to be alone. You need to learn how to manage your hectic social schedule so that there is time for contemplation, independent pursuits and communing with yourself. As first lady Eleanor Roosevelt once said, 'friendship with oneself is all-important, because without it one cannot be friends with anyone else in the world.' Once you have sowed the seeds of self-love then you can choose a few close friends who take precedence. Others can become part of a wider social circle that is valued but not a priority. If you join a group you can do so for a good cause - your own spiritual edification, the furthering of your career goals or a good cause. As a result you can share your passions with friends, find fulfillment in furthering humanitarian causes and inspire others with your talents.

As a humanitarian you have a lot of ideas about change! It is your nature to be a change maker in a group, in the community or in your circle of friends. Now and again it is good to remember the part of you that is a revolutionary, especially when it comes time to make the change.

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 counseling. 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 benefactress 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 honored 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 3rd House

The written and spoken word means a great deal to you. The goddess Mnemosyne was believed to be the inventor of words and therefore you are likely to have a love of language, either spoken or written. Depending on the sign of this goddess you are likely to have either an incisive mind or a poetic soul. If the goddess Mnemosyne is in the signs of Scorpio, Gemini, Aquarius, Aries, Capricorn or Virgo then you are more likely to delve into the meaning of words. You may be a speechwriter, researcher, politician, strategist, or perhaps just enjoy reading dictionaries, doing crosswords and other such word puzzles.

You have a good memory for facts and figures. If the goddess Mnemosyne is in the signs of Taurus, Libra, Leo, Sagittarius, Cancer or Pisces then you are more likely to have artistic inclinations. Poetry, art, imagery, hymns, dance and other such creative interests appeal to your sense of beauty. You have a good memory, learning through emotional memory and storytelling rather than logic. The goddess Mnemosyne indicates that you have a love of language, storytelling and reading. You are interested in stories from all cultures, recognizing the commonality of all races. You

may not have a lot of patience for religious fanatics, becoming agitated when you recall all of the wars started in the name of religion. Nevertheless you have a love of history, culture, archaeology and other avenues for exploring the past. Astrology or astronomy may also appeal.

You are keen to develop some sort of understanding of the nature of our planet earth in relation to the surrounding planets and galaxies, but your beliefs are unlikely to be orthodox. This, of course, does depend on other aspects of your birth chart. You may have developed a deep and abiding faith in an orthodox religion, but nevertheless you are still likely to adhere to your personal interpretation rather than be restricted by a particular credo. The goddess Mnemosyne is asking you to find your own individual voice, express your talents through the written or spoken word, or some form of poetry or art. Silence is not an option, unless it is the silence of deep contemplation. Tell your story and you are likely to touch the hearts and minds of those who take the time to listen.

Mnemosyne is in Pisces

You are a muse, an artistic and poetic person with a vivid imagination. It is so important for you to find an artistic outlet for your creative vision. The goddess 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. 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. All of these things she asks of you.

Perhaps you feel this yearning? Or perhaps you have buried it deep under the responsibilities of daily life? Your soul longs for expression. You must find time to express your truth, your imagination, even if only in a daily journal that you tuck under your bed. If you do not follow your heart's desires then you could feel lost, like a wanderer trying to find a safe haven. You are a gentle soul and prone to depression if your life lacks meaning. If you start to feel despondent then you need to rediscover your creative spark through spiritual or artistic means. Tell your friends about your dreams, read about other people's epic journeys, inspire yourself with beautiful artwork or watch an inspiration film. Do whatever you can to discover the wellspring of artistic talent that yearns to be free. You can express yourself through music, art, poetry, film, theater, or any form of writing. If you tune into your intuition then ideas and words will flow.

Your artistic nature and works are likely to bring joy to all who come into contact. Of all of the signs of the zodiac the goddess Mnemosyne is the most poetic in Pisces. Poetry is likely to speak to your heart. You can read other people's poetry, listen to the poetic words of songs, attend poetry readings or write your own. As English poet John Masefield wrote, 'since the printing press came into being, poetry has ceased to be the delight of the whole community of man; it has become the amusement and delight of the few.' A Poet Laureate, John Masefield was known, amongst other

things, as the poet who wrote about the sea. A love of the ocean is likely to feature largely in your own life. You may spend many a moment daydreaming while soaking up the sun, smelling the salt water and feeling the wind. You recognize the importance of valuing the sacred moments in daily life, the importance of myth and magic. The goddess Mnemosyne is urging you to express these values so that you, and those who come into contact with you, can experience joy and peace.

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' honored 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 travelers to leave offerings and say prayers to Hecate for guidance across an important threshold.

At transitional spaces where paths converged travelers 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 colors your life with magic and mystery. Following are the astrological descriptions where Hecate enters your experience.

Hecate is in the 1st House

Can you recall the witch Samantha in the television series or film called 'Bewitched'? This colorful character is able to manipulate her world and the people in it with a blend of charm and a little magic. You are able to do the same. In this sense you are a powerful person, making an impact on your environment. The goddess Hecate is well known for her influence on witchcraft, but she is more than a witch. She is a very powerful goddess, the only Titan to be accepted into the Olympian reign. You are also a very powerful person, whether you realize it or not. Other people respond to you at a very deep level.

You are healthy, perhaps with the help of herbal medicine and good exercise. Nevertheless, unless other influences in your birth indicate poor physical health, you are sturdy, vibrant and energetic. You are well able to physically accomplish all of

your personal life goals. The goddess Hecate in this sphere of your birth chart also indicates that you are well able to emotionally, mentally and spiritually achieve your life purpose. You are one of those lucky people who seem to spread a little magic wherever you go. You may gather a flock of friends, relatives and colleagues who want to benefit from your protection. On the other hand your friends, relatives and colleagues may want to protect you from your constant need to look after the outcasts of society. You have a great capacity for love and compassion, wanting to look after the victims of society.

Partially your power lies in the fact that you can tune into spiritual realms while also holding a position of authority in human society. At times you may feel overwhelmed by the responsibility that you feel towards those less fortunate than yourself. You may be somewhat reclusive or contemplative, but not for long, because you know that you have a job to do. Whenever you are at a crossroads, you know the importance of pausing to contemplate the next turn, but you also know it is imperative to make a choice and keep moving. You are active, not passive, in all that you do. You make an impact on the world around you. The goddess Hecate is urging you to keep your own self-esteem intact and to make a positive impact.

Hecate is in Capricorn

Generally speaking you are a sensible person, who is able to make clear-headed decisions based on sound logic. You are levelheaded in a crisis and may be the person to whom your friends, family and colleagues turn to when a crossroads has been reached. You are particularly adept at dealing with these turning points in your career. At work you are calm, dealing with a myriad of day-to-day decisions that need to be made as part of the workaday. You are corporate material.

However, the goddess Hecate also has a darker side. As you climb the ladder of success you have a tendency to forget those who gave you a helping hand. You are likely to reach a very personal crisis point at least once in your life, during which you question the meaning of your life. Those who have relied on you in the past may be surprised to see you hesitate, become cautious and generally flounder, perhaps even become depressed. Your challenge is to take your focus away from material success and embrace Hecate's spiritual gifts. Yes, this awesome goddess had power over the underworld, the earth and the sky, but she also had strong links with the spirit world. She worked for the benefit of others, interceding and healing. Perhaps you need, at some stage in your life, to question who is benefiting the most from your gifts. Is it you? Are you self-seeking, building an empire for yourself? Or are you offering your personal gifts for the betterment of humanity?

If others are telling you to 'lighten up' then you know that you need to start your spiritual quest. This will help you make the transition from being dispirited to feeling joy. If you focus on your passions and the emotional rewards rather than on the financial prize you will be surprised by how relieved you feel. Yes, you have the ability to be a prized member of society, but you also have a responsibility to be happy within yourself. Your private life needs as much nurturance as your public status. Once you have re-examined your life, you may change direction. Alternatively

you may continue in the same job, along the same path, but you are so much more personally satisfied once you relax, enjoy your family and friends and embrace a fun-filled hobby. Your spiritual satisfaction provides sustenance for the rest of your life.

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 honor 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 honor 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 1st House

This is a prominent placement of Cassandra. On the positive side Cassandra in the first house of your birth chart means that you are insightful and visionary. As a young child you have a love of knowledge which continues to blossom as you grow older. This is more likely to be in arts subjects rather than in logical or scientific fields. The classics, the origins of language, history, the dramatic arts and other such topics are all likely to appeal. You are a good student because you have an enquiring mind, and you can become an expert once you have gained an understanding of a subject. This can be disconcerting to others when you are young. As you grow older your authority is more likely to be accepted.

Cassandra was given the gift of prophecy and yet was hindered by a curse that meant that others didn't listen to her insights. As such you may sometimes feel misunderstood. You enjoy talking. Some would even say that you enjoy talking a little too much. However, you believe in sharing your insights with your colleagues, friends and family. Others may not always listen and take note. This may or may not concern you. However, you do need to learn the art of choosing your words and your audience carefully if you truly want to be a force to be reckoned with in your personal or professional life. Once you have learned to discern what to say and to whom then you are likely to become a powerful orator. Your gifts can also be used to speak on behalf of those less able to speak up for themselves. You can become an advocate, teacher, public speaker or peacemaker. You may also be an actor, someone who truly delights in the use of words on stage.

In a woman's birth chart this placement of the goddess Cassandra can sometimes depict a strong attachment to a man with different values, a man who does not recognize your true gifts. You would be wise to search within for your own values, to listen to your own "voice" rather than adopt the truths of another. Otherwise you are likely to lose your way. As long as you follow your own counsel then you are likely to be a powerful spokesperson for those less fortunate, perhaps an advocate for women's rights.

In a man's chart this placement of the goddess Cassandra can indicate that you form a strong bond with powerful woman. You have the good judgment to listen to this woman and follow her advice, which brings great rewards for your life journey.

Cassandra is in Capricorn

Former US President Abraham Lincoln once asked: *'Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them?'* This is the wisdom of a stable and powerful leader. You have the ability to follow in this man's footsteps if you don't get too caught up in vying with your peers for authority. From a young age, you understand the need for hierarchies in society, but you may try to talk your way to the top of ladder before the time is right. Your urge for supremacy needs to make way for equality. If you can

maintain an egalitarian attitude then you are able to be a wise leader in your field and in your immediate circle of friends and family. You may enter politics or business, but it is likely that becoming a leader in the arts or metaphysics also attracts you.

As a youngster other people may have misunderstood your mannerisms and ways of thinking. Hence you may withdraw into a world of your own or learn to disguise your true thoughts. As you mature, you learn to choose your words wisely and develop a strong sense of right and wrong. You understand the nature of cause and effect. In other words you understand that actions have consequences. You develop strength of character. Another, more contemporary politician J C Watts said: 'Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that's right is to get by, and the only thing that's wrong is to get caught.'

The goddess Cassandra in the sign of Capricorn in a woman's chart can indicate that you prefer to rely on your own powers of discernment rejecting patriarchy. Depending on other aspects of your birth chart you may be a real rebel against authority, speaking out for women's rights through the arts or politics. On the other hand you may be a conservative and yet powerful leader. Whichever way this destiny leans your voice is a public cry for respect and equality. Women like Oprah Winfrey or Amelia Earhart who have this placement have used the voice of the goddess in their unique way.

In a man's chart this placement of the goddess Cassandra can indicate that you form a strong bond with a powerful woman, one who enables you to achieve a prominent position in society as long as you respect her wise counsel. The voice of the collective feminine reverberates through your professional life.

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, honoring 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 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 honor 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 4th House

Medea in your 4th house suggests that her archetypal narrative underpins your experiences of the family and the way you shaped your security. Medea left her country of origin for a foreign land and therefore this mythic thread of displacement or alienation may be woven into the tapestry of your family. You may have grown up in a family atmosphere different from your schoolmates. From an early age you may have been introduced to ways of healing, or beliefs and rituals that were not understood by others outside the family environs. Therefore you may have had to restrict what you shared about family life or not disclose your family's beliefs and customs. Your security rests on not feeling marginal because of your background but embracing the old customs and rituals that are part of your heritage. As a child you may have felt this estranged you from others but as an adult you hopefully discover the life-giving power of these customs brought from the ancestral land.

Underneath the floorboards of your childhood home you may have felt a haunting presence that both mesmerized and preoccupied you. If so, her name was Medea, the ancient priestess from the cult of Hecate, a goddess of the underworld and an autonomous witness to the family history. Located in the 4th house Medea suggests that the atmosphere of the family of origin may have been permeated with her predilection for mystery, magic and intrigue. Through one of your parents you may have been initiated into the mystery of another world. Or something incomplete from the past may have infiltrated the family atmosphere and you may have been the one in the family who sensed these deeper feelings as well as the one to expose them in order to heal the rift.

However, Medea has revealed herself through your family line this placement suggests you have inherited a strong sense of knowing things, of being able to sense the deeper feelings and motivations of those that you're attached to. You need to feel comfortable with the unexplained and recognize the powerful legacy of healing and magic that you're part of, as this is an authentic aspect of your deeper self.

Medea is in Aries

In your horoscope the dynamic goddess Medea is in the leading sign of the zodiac. To the ancient Greeks this part of the heavens told the story of the Golden Fleece and Jason's quest to recover this talisman in order to claim his birthright. Medea was central to Jason's success and therefore with this placement it is important to recognize how this mythic pattern could enter your life. You have the power and passion to be able to support others in their quest, often against impossible odds. However, it is important to recognize what you desire and expect in return. While your potent projection onto another may empower them to succeed in their task, you may possibly be left dis-empowered and deceived in the process.

In Aries your task is not to project your magical power and instinctual wisdom onto others, but focus it towards your goals and desires. If that desire should be the urge to be in relationship then be clear about your motives and responsible for your actions. You are enchanting but need to be careful about not getting entangled in your own spell. Your passion and powerful intent is transforming by nature and when you engage and involve in a partnership or project a dynamic shift occurs. A man with Medea in Aries seeks a therapeutic woman to partner because of his own inner feminine that seeks mystery and intrigue. Women with this placement have a powerful magnetic quality that constellates strong feelings, often jealousy or obsession. For both sexes relationship is a passionate pathway.

You can source an instinctive wisdom about who you can trust and who you cannot because you become passionate when engaged, but aloof when repelled by those you do not like. In many ways you are a pioneer for woman's rights, an advocate for women who have been betrayed or a crusader for equality. Like Medea you are fiery and forthright about your feelings. Therefore trust your instinctual responses about others and heed your own wisdom about becoming involved.

On a practical note Medea is the herbalist and in this sign she prescribes iron-rich nettle whose leaves can be used for tea to strengthen the constitution. St. John's Wort purifies the blood and calms the nerves, while a blast of cayenne pepper in your stews and soups mixed in the caldron of your kitchen stimulates the circulation and heart. As a flower essence impatiens soothes muscular tension and restores calm. Or plant some impatiens near the front door, in pots and hanging baskets, to remind you not to rush. Accessing the medicinal magic of Medea in the busyness of your life will empower and regenerate your enthusiasm.

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.

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