



SOLAR WRITER

GODDESS

A SOLAR WRITER REPORT
for Penelope Cruz

WRITTEN BY BRIAN CLARK & STEPHANIE JOHNSON



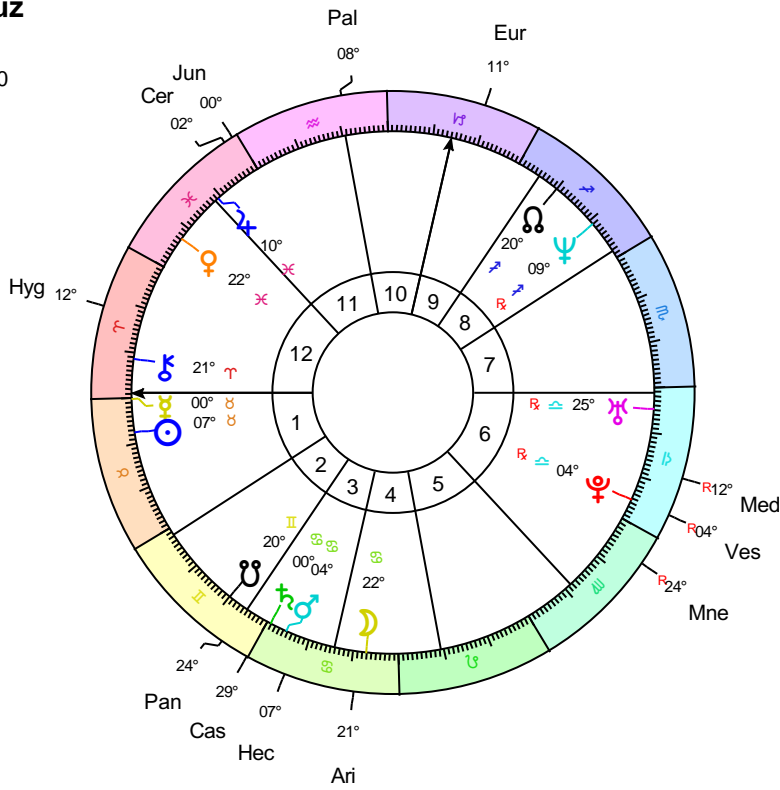
Esoteric
technologies

Prepared by
Cafe Astrology
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Penelope Cruz

Natal Chart

Apr 28 1974
 7:00 am CEDT -2:00
 Alcobendas, Spain
 40°N32'
 003°W38'
 Tropical
 Placidus



Key

Abbr	Asteroid
Cer	Ceres
Pal	Pallas Athena
Jun	Juno
Ves	Vesta
Hyg	Hygieia

Abbr	Asteroid
Ari	Ariadne
Eur	Europa
Pan	Pandora
Mne	Mnemosyne
Hec	Hecate
Cas	Cassandra
Med	Medea

Astrological Summary

Chart Point Positions: Penelope Cruz

Abbr	Asteroid	Sign	Position	House	Comment
Cer	Ceres	Pisces	2°Pi47'	11th	
Pal	Pallas Athena	Aquarius	8°Aq42'	10th	
Jun	Juno	Pisces	0°Pi59'	11th	
Ves	Vesta	Libra	4°Li49'	6th	
Hyg	Hygieia	Aries	12°Ar04'	12th	
Ari	Ariadne	Cancer	21°Cn16'	4th	
Eur	Europa	Capricorn	11°Cp02'	9th	
Pan	Pandora	Gemini	24°Ge12'	2nd	
Mne	Mnemosyne	Virgo	24°Vi21'	6th	
Hec	Hecate	Cancer	7°Cn42'	3rd	
Cas	Cassandra	Gemini	29°Ge43'	3rd	
Med	Medea	Libra	12°Li20'	6th	

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 11th House

Friendships play a key role in your life. You form strong bonds with your friends, enjoying their company in the good times and caring for them in the troubled ones. You are an empathetic and caring friend, ready with advice and comfort. You are popular with people from all walks of life. At some stage during your life you may need to question your motives in friendships. Do you really see your friends, faults and all, or do you see what you want to see? Do you have the right balance of give and take? This is particularly true for your friendships with women. You may need to take a step back and reassess your friendship with a prominent woman, making sure that this friendship is based on honesty and trust, not your need to manipulate or her need to struggle. Let go of

your expectations and the friendship will either flourish or fail.

You gain your greatest sense of belonging when you are involved with a group of caring people. Hence you can often be found at the center of a group, organizing events or people. However, it is important that you do not get caught up in 'mothering' the group or taking care of others who need to take care of themselves.

You are also a born humanitarian. The plight of refugees and other downtrodden members of society weigh on your mind. Your wish is to see all humanity on an equal level, and you may decide to follow your dream of working for a humanitarian cause.

Ceres is in Pisces

No matter what else is happening in your life you need to feel that there is an escape route. Most likely this will be through trips to the ocean, the arts, cinema or a special place in nature. The sound of the waves, the smell of the salt and the sight of the water are sources of sustenance for your soul. You may not consider yourself an imaginative person, but there is a strong need for you to take time out and rise above everyday life. You are a compassionate person and the rigors of the workaday world can be overwhelming.

Your relationship with your mother is likely to be a close and loving one, providing you with the benefits of instinctively meeting your own emotional needs. As a result you may delay marriage until you meet the right person. Your marriage may not always be smooth sailing, but you enjoy a good understanding with your spouse. Parenting is likely to be a real source of joy as your warm heart responds to the love of your children. You may also take care of other people's children. Pets are also a great source of enjoyment. On the whole your personal life thrives as your loved ones bask in the warmth of your affections, and vice versa. It is your working world that may suffer.

Depending on other aspects of your chart, you have a tendency to make decisions based on your imagination and emotions. The problem is that you don't realize that you are doing this. You think that you are being rational, but your professional decisions and relationships with co-workers are flawed. You enjoy working with other people but misunderstandings seem to blow up and get out of control. You need to be aware of not becoming a victim or an aggressor in difficult situations. This can be remedied but only if you are willing to take a back seat and listen carefully to other's advice. You may be concerned that you will be overwhelmed by other people's needs but this is unlikely to be case. It is more likely that your colleagues will rise to the occasion and respond to your warmth in the same way that your personal friends and loved ones do. Your compassion and warmth envelops others and assists them in feeling secure.

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 10th House

This is a prominent placement of the goddess Pallas indicating that matters of justice play a strong role in your public life. Your career, or your choice of marriage partner, may reflect your belief in right and wrong. For instance you may choose a profession linked to law or legal rights, politics, mediation, or diplomacy. The rights of women may feature in your public life or you may also choose a career that helps women. Whatever your choice, the goddess suggests you will make an influential impact upon your world.

In a man's chart it is possible that you marry a strong-minded woman, who offers insights and useful advice on how you can shine in the world. On the other hand you may benefit from the advice of a female boss or colleague. You do well when you listen to her advice. In some cases this can indicate a man who has decided to take responsibility for the majority of child rearing. You may enjoy being the chief cook and bottle washer

while your wife goes out to work. Your executive abilities around the home are excellent.

The goddess Pallas Athena in a woman's chart in this position indicates that you are strong-minded, able to carve your own path. You shine in your chosen career and in your marriage, if you choose to marry. You are committed to the rights of women, or indeed the rights of anyone to have the freedom to choose their own professional path. You may work in human resources helping others to recognize their talents and make the best of them. In some cases this can indicate that you and your husband have decided that he will take responsibility for the majority of child rearing. You may enjoy earning the majority of the income while he is managing the home front. However, your managerial abilities around the home and work are both excellent so it is more likely that you are a modern-day superwoman, handling all of the responsibilities at home and work.

You are well organized with executive abilities. You may be promoted to a high position quite early in life. You may also be surprised to discover how often you are called up for jury duty or asked to chair committees or boardrooms and how many of your colleagues defer to you for advice. You are well able to take on this responsibility, earning respect as long as you retain your integrity.

Pallas is in Aquarius

You are an original thinker. This has its advantages and disadvantages. You are able to be a real leader in an unusual and groundbreaking field, because of your ability to predict future trends. Of course, this makes you a brilliant psychic or astrologer, but you can also enjoy success in any field that requires forward thinking and new ideas. You can be a real genius!

However, your brilliant mind can also go off on tangents and this can get you into trouble. Do you find that your friends and colleagues (and perhaps even family members) look at you sometimes as if you are a little crazy? Do your zany antics sometimes get you into trouble? Or perhaps you have so many exciting ideas and projects that you have difficulty focusing on just one? You may be ahead of your time, a pioneer in your field. Others may need some time to catch up. On the other hand you may have lost the plot in your enthusiasm to embrace original thinking. Herman Melville once said that 'it is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation' but you would be well advised to rethink your ideas if they are not being communicated effectively to other people. You don't want to ride roughshod over people, nor disregard their creative efforts. Flexibility and teamwork are the key to your success. Mediation not litigation was one of the goddess Pallas' main aims. Therefore you need to apply creativity, rather than force, to solve any problem.

You love to learn, study and acquire knowledge. Modern technology may also appeal to you as a means to acquire further skills and knowledge. As you also love to apply this knowledge you can be a real humanitarian, committed to a cause and able to work as a negotiator or diplomat in tricky situations. This is where your ability to be original can really be beneficial. Conflict resolution is one of your fortes, depending on other aspects of your chart. World peace is a wonderful ideal! In the meantime don't forget the adage that 'charity begins at home'.

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 11th House

There is no doubt that friendships play a prominent role in your life. You may have a variety of friends from different walks of life or you may socialize in clubs, organizations, and common interest groups or with work colleagues. Whatever the source of your friendships, your social life is busy! Marriage is a different matter. Depending on other aspects of your birth chart, you may either marry a friend who happily shares common interests and enters into your social circle with glee. On the other hand you may have difficulty forming an intimate bond with one person. The thought of committing to one person concerns you. It sounds restricting, as if you have to sacrifice too much in order to commit to one person.

If you do choose a marriage partner then equality is an essential ingredient. You are not interested in settling into anything less than an open and honest partnership between two equals. Arguments or unreasonable demands are unappealing and you will shy away from anyone who tries to control your behavior. If you can attract and maintain a marriage that is based on a true friendship with someone equal to your affections then you are truly fulfilled. Anything less is likely to see you running back to your friendships and the freedom of single

life.

It is also possible that you feel that you have a strong calling to a particular vocation or cause. For instance a priest feels a strong calling to a religious lifestyle and members of organizations such as Greenpeace are totally committed to saving the environment. These vocations often hinder marriage or require an equally committed marriage partner or someone who is willing to sacrifice their interests and needs in order to support yours. Basically you are on a heroic journey to discover your own life purpose. Your friends and colleagues support this quest. You can choose whether or not to marry, but the person you wed needs to have special attributes that enable them to also support your calling.

Juno is in Pisces

You are an idealist when it comes to marriage. From a young age you are seeking the perfect somebody to help you feel complete. Romantic illusions abound from a young age. As a child you may even begin this process by having an imaginary friend, as the perfect antidote to the harsh realities of growing up. As you grow up you seek the perfect marriage partner. The trouble is you are very good at creating illusions. You are a sensitive and understanding soul, ready to see the good in everyone. You are a savior in the best and worst sense of the word.

You can really help and support your loved ones, but you can also try to save those who are not worthy of your efforts. You see everyone through rose-colored glasses. This can be a positive trait, but it can also be misleading when it comes to love and romance. You need to be very careful to make sure that you are really seeing your potential mate in their true colors. You fall deeply in love, but how much of this is illusion? Ask your more practical friends for their opinions, and listen! If you marry someone unsuitable then you are likely to be very miserable, because you have such difficulty letting go and moving on. You really want to see the best in a person and to believe in your marriage, but you are in danger of becoming a victim of abuse if you marry the wrong person. Disillusionment is the other side of illusion.

The goddess Juno is asking you to have faith in yourself, to follow your own path, to pursue your own spiritual or artistic interests. Once you have truly built on your own self-esteem, and discovered your own self-worth then you can attract a worthy mate. Religion, orthodox or unconventional, may teach you some valuable lessons. Again you need to be wary of losing your sense of self in other people. Make sure that you join reputable spiritual or religious groups, but avoid cults or any group that requires you to sacrifice your own sense of self. Once you have a strong sense of your own beliefs and values then you can begin to express your own spiritual values or follow your own artistic pursuits. You can also begin the search for a meaningful marriage, someone to share your faith and interests. From a strong sense of self you can begin to love unconditionally, both yourself and your spouse.

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 6th House

Dedication to serving other people may come in different forms - working in the service or care industry, being of service to friends and family, administering to the homeless or poor or becoming a servant of the goddess. You feel compelled to find a way in which you can be of service to others through your work or by example in the way that you live your life. You are well aware of the importance of the little things in life. Therefore you seek to express yourself through your daily routine. Your little conventions may amuse others, but you know how important rituals can be for helping to give structure and meaning to people's life, your own included. Mother Theresa would be one of the finest examples of service to humanity, but you also appreciate the way in which each person can be of service to each other. You may have the ability to heal others, either by working in the medical field or through alternative therapies. Traditional medicine, herbal medicine, energy healing or even medical astrology could provide an outlet for your need to be of service.

Many people are goal-oriented, striving to perfect and improve aspects of their lives through great achievements. You prefer to pay attention to the process, how people are living their lives rather than what they

are achieving. You are well aware of the sacrifices that often involved in the work and home environment. Your expectations are different to most other people because you are prepared to make forgo pleasures in order to adhere to a routine or to look after the needs of other people. Little acts of kindness, rather than personal comfort, are more likely to be your personal goal. However, one of the most important acts you need is the daily act of devotion, whether that be quietly meditating, focusing on those you love or centering the self. It is important you find the time for spirit in the midst of your everyday life.

As leader Martin Luther King Jr said: *'Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by LOVE.'*

Vesta is in Libra

Fairness and equality are strong motivating forces in your personal and professional life. You are an inspiration to those around you in the way that you advocate calm and respectful interactions. In your personal life you strive to understand your loved one's inner desires, encouraging each person to express themselves in a way that is respectful to other people. You are a good listener. In your professional life your talents for negotiation, understanding and diplomacy are greatly appreciated, and inspire your co-workers.

You may choose a profession that directly requires these skills such as counseling, social work, family therapy, teaching, diplomacy or workplace advocacy. You experience a deep sense of satisfaction when you feel that you have achieved a sense of harmony in the lives of your clients or loved ones. The challenge is to recognize and accept the ephemeral nature of your talents. Conflict is a reality of many situations. You may sometimes feel that you are putting out spot fires that keep sparking in various places. If this is the case then you need to reflect on the bigger picture. You cannot always control the outcome. As long as your love and motivation stays true then you are on the right track. Be as fair to yourself as you are in your dealings with others. Sharing experiences with other people is often more significant than the outcome.

Don't forget that the goddess Vesta in the sign of Libra also indicates that you have artistic talents of your own which need expressing. These could include fashion or graphic design, painting, drawing, singing, acting, dancing, quilting or photography, to name a few. Beauty inspires you. Listening to emotive music, a visit to the local art gallery, a ballet performance or a serene botanical garden could all help spark the discovery of your talent or at least help you re-establish a sense of equilibrium and peace. For it is in the sanctity of beauty that you find the core of your spiritual self.

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 12th House

Two millenniums ago Cicero suggested that diseases of the soul were more dangerous and more numerous than those of the body. Hygieia symbolizes the link between the soul and bodily health, and this is especially highlighted when the goddess occupies the 12th house. Health of the soul suggests enough time and space in the busy day for nurturing the inner life, periods of retreat to reflect and meditate and ample occasions to find meaning in the midst of the mundane. Hygieia invites you into her sanctuary where inner peace, harmony and well being can be restored through rest and retreat. To Hygieia health is achieved by maintaining a holistic balance; being in your 12th house Hygieia suggests that health is also promoted through the attention to dreams, the involvement with images and the respect of the unconscious. With Hygieia in the 12th the need for soul space is revealed through feeling 'out of sorts' or unwell as the goddess summons you to attend to the internal world. In many ways the body is the reflection of the inner world and illness the living dream projected onto the physical self. Illness is the soul's way of making the need for creativity, inspiration and imagination conscious. Hygieia longs to be able to express its urge for wholeness through a creative form or an imaginative

project.

In the 12th we encounter ancestral attitudes and images. With Hygieia in this house certain familial attitudes towards health, which may not be appropriate or beneficial for you, may be deeply engrained in the ethos of the family. To begin to support your individual and unique health regimes it may be necessary to move away from familial attitudes and values concerning healthcare, creating reactions and consequences from other family members. Healthcare and healing is a family issue and there will be many stories, which have shaped the family myth around helping, hospitalisation, and healthcare in general. In the extended family there are probably other nurses, healthcare workers or medically trained individuals who have chosen the calling to serve through healing.

Your call to healing is very strong and at times may have overwhelmed your sense of self. You seek your own wholeness through working and healing others. However, you are also sensitive to losing yourself in the pain and illnesses of others. As there is a tendency to lose boundary between you and those you care for it is important to be aware of not becoming enmeshed with those who are ill, victimised, and in need.

Hygieia is in Aries

Archetypically Hygieia represents our innate urge for health and well being and in your horoscope seeks her conscious expression through the sign of Aries. For you good health implies activity and keeping fit, as the fire in your system needs to be activated and channeled. Physical exercise would be one of the best ways to promote well being. Therefore when you are feeling run down, low in energy or even depressed, the route to fitness is through physical movement and activity. Hygieia suggests ways that we strive to feel whole and in the sign of Aries sports, exercise, competitive dance or tennis, jogging, just walking the dog is therapeutic. A dance or aerobic class works wonders. However, Aries also has a penchant for overdoing.

The goddess Hygieia focuses our attention on the Arian instinct to rush into activities unprepared and ignorant of the consequences, akin to plunging into the sea without understanding the inherent dangers or attempting the climb to the summit without adequate training. This tendency to take on too much leaves a trail of uncompleted projects. While the nature of Aries is to be assertive and competitive the goddess of health guides you into a more holistic way of attaining your goals through balance. Rather than plunging into waters unprepared, she recommends water therapies such as adding essential oils to an evening bath to soothe your scattered energies, floatation therapy, swimming then a sauna. To balance the instinct to rush she suggests relaxation exercises or meditation to sharpen your focus and put your goals in perspective. Or if you are feeling stressed perhaps you need a relaxation massage or time out to calm down.

The goddess in your chart suggests that the area of the head may be where stress accumulates. If so then you may be prone to headaches or dizziness due to a lack of oxygen, sinus difficulties and head colds. Your body wisdom speaks through these feelings of being unwell and suggests taking time to breathe more rhythmically, slow down, and control the fire that blazes out of control. Due to this emphasis on fire your blood pressure should be checked regularly. Your urge to be well suggests that you follow the path of focused activity and find a venue where your competitive instinct can be unleashed.

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 4th House

This is a prominent placement for the goddess Ariadne indicating the theme of loneliness may be a significant one in your life. Therefore it is imperative to recognize the pattern that may leave you at risk of being abandoned. Ariadne's journey of self-discovery began as she left home in the arms of her lover, not seeing the danger of turning her back on what supported her.

As a young child you may have had a supportive family environment and a strong traditional upbringing. Your soul yearned for a more creative and exciting life than the one contained in the atmosphere of the family home. Therefore you may be at risk of being enamored by a too-good-to-be-true opportunity, a handsome stranger or the promise of an exciting life somewhere else. At this point you are vulnerable to weaving Ariadne's thread into the design of your own abandonment. For if the call of a new life requires you that you leave behind the values of your home then you may be designing your own desertion. However, Ariadne's truth suggests that all along you are destined for a more stimulating life, but you must find that in the context of your background not external

to it. Authentic opportunities of your life will not force you to turn your back on security or safety. It is important to realize that you are able to make choices on your own and not be at risk of losing your self in the promise of a more exciting life or the romantic manipulation of another. However, like Ariadne your family history may have been built on a labyrinth of lies. If this is the case then it is important to know that you will be even more vulnerable to the lure of a more glamorous life. In this case it is important to be vigilant about your own values and principles.

It is also possible that you avoid marriage as a young adult. You feel as if you are on a treadmill, walking but never finding the right person to marry. You have an ideal picture of your home, family and spouse, but fail to commit. Fear is the driving force in this scenario. Subconsciously you are aware of the possibility that you will lose your sense of self worth in a marriage, home and family. You feel vulnerable knowing the risks of broken marriages and rather than commit and lose, you decide to live on your own. You build an emotional fortress and protect your heart. If this continues then you may one day recognize yourself as a character in a Woody Allen film. As the filmmaker himself is quoted as saying: *'Life is full of misery, loneliness, and suffering - and it's all over much too soon.'* This is not the answer. The goddess Ariadne is asking you to follow your heart, to maintain your sense of self and to put down roots that can sustain you and your loved ones. You have the ability to rise above your problems, to break ancestral family patterns and to find divine peace. You can then live in harmony, creating a haven that is both a comfort and an inspiration for your own creative works or for your loved ones if you so choose.

Ariadne is in Cancer

Your destiny is strongly linked with your family and your home. A strong network of family members influences your childhood. Whether this is mostly positive or negative depends on other aspects of your birth chart. Either way you are likely to feel a little lost amidst the maze of interactions within your home. You love your family members but it is likely that you need to strike out on your own in order to discover your own sense of self. Ironically the more you feel supported and loved the easier it is to leave. How you leave home will be an important metaphor for how you are able to separate later in life.

Ariadne's fate was overshadowed by the curse that plagued her family. She was compelled to leave her home with a lover, and then ultimately face life on her own. Alone Ariadne was forced to connect with her internal world. This may be similar to your lesson: to learn how to remain connected to your own sense of self no matter what is happening in your immediate and extended family and the world at large.

As an adult you may build many homes and start your own family, but until you come to peace with yourself these will not satisfy your need for comfort. You are being asked to contemplate your spiritual home. Perhaps you sometimes experience a sense of longing for a peace that does not seem available in daily life. As John Cheever said in 'The Stories of John Cheever, 1978, 'homesickness is... absolutely nothing. Fifty percent of the people in the world are homesick all the time. You don't really long for another country. You long for something in yourself that you don't have, or haven't been able to find.' The goddess Ariadne asks you to find that sense of peace and belonging. This is your quest.

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 9th House

Your destiny may be connected with a foreign country. Perhaps your parents left their homeland before you were born, or traveled when you were a child. Your links to their homeland are strong. Your connections with different cultures may not emerge until adulthood when you travel in your own right. It is possible that you "fall in love" with foreign cities or countries. You are likely to have strong feelings for countries that are not your birthplace.

This could also be through marriage. You may fall in love with someone who lives in a different country, or who has strong urges to travel. You may feel that you are being influenced by your spouse's desires to explore the planet, yet if you examine your nature you will understand that you share this passion. Being a true citizen of the world you enjoy multi-cultural activities and are drawn to what feels foreign. Your understanding of different cultures goes beyond the normal responses. You realize that our true homeland is in fact our planet Earth, not individual countries. Your personal philosophies embrace all types of races and religions leading you are on a journey of self-discovery through meditation, prayer, study and travel.

The goddess Europa was carried over the seas by a bull. She dared to climb upon him, and then slowly he took

her step-by-step across the meadow towards the sea. Therefore you are highly likely to travel at least once in your life because of your spouse's work or personal requirements. You need to heed the urgings of your spouse unless financial or other constraints prevent you from traveling to another land. In the rare cases where this placement of the goddess Europa prohibits travel, you are still likely to form significant bonds with people from different cultures. Your connections with these people are likely to shape your destiny. Perhaps a friendship developed through written communications is influential? On the other hand you may earn your living through exporting goods, or forming foreign business partners.

Your destiny is to mix the cultures, whether that is economically, philosophically, emotionally or physically. So it is safe to say that wherever you started from in your family of origin you have traveled a great distance farther on. Even though you may not have physically moved, you have traversed wide landscapes of understanding through exploring avenues unfamiliar to your relatives.

Europa is in Capricorn

You are aware of the importance of providing a basic foundation for yourself and your loved ones. Bricks and mortar and money in the bank mean a lot to you. You are able to work towards a goal with a determination to complete a task once you have made a commitment. Some may call you an 'Empire Builder' because of your commitment to accumulating material wealth. You need to make sure that you also take time to relax and enjoy your family, friends, marriage partner, children and the natural beauty of this world.

If you marry when you are young then you are likely to follow your spouse's lead, particularly if he or she wants to move to a different neighborhood. This is not to say that you blindly follow, but rather that you enjoy a partner who can initiate action that benefits you and your marriage. If you have children then you work hard to ensure that they have the best possible start in life. You are supportive, loyal and trusting. You work hard to develop your own sense of self-respect and expect others to do the same. Here's where you can run into difficulties. Your expectations of others can be too high. Not everyone has your ability to adhere to a plan when the going gets tough. Neither do your colleagues and loved ones necessarily have the ability to see the long-term gains from short-term discomfort.

It may repeatedly come as a surprise to you to see how others give up just before the tide is about to turn. You may also be surprised by other people's lack of independence. You enjoy a certain amount of solitude and autonomy, but you need to respect other people's differences. Perhaps you do not realize it but you are a hard taskmaster. Periods of loneliness may result if you continue to drive other people away with unrealistic expectations. Your challenge is to learn to enjoy life. You may need to spend more leisure time with family and friends. Take some time off. Surprise a friend with a social engagement. Have a holiday for the pure pleasure of living moment by moment. Throw the schedules out for a short time. How can your loved ones appreciate your loyal and loving nature if you are always working? If you are married, are you secretly avoiding intimacy through fear of not living up to your loved ones' expectations? If you are single, are you using your work as an excuse not to make a commitment to someone special? Only you can answer these questions.

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 2nd House

Whether you have a knack for making and saving money, or the dollars just slip through your fingers, the goddess Pandora is likely to wreak a little havoc with your finances. Your focus on material possessions is likely to be a little out of balance earlier in your life. This could be as a result of feeling impoverished in your childhood. Your lack of security early in life can lead to a determination to feel secure, as you become an independent adult. Initially you may have a talent for earning a good income, spending and saving wisely and investing for the future. You enjoy beautiful possessions and value others who share your materialistic view of the world. Problems arise if you focus solely on the acquisition of money and fine goods. In other words you need to be very wary of becoming stuck in the consumer role. What starts out as a need for security can potentially lead to an insatiable need for more because in reality no possessions are able to fill the empty emotional hole.

The goddess Pandora didn't know when to stop. Although she was forbidden from looking into the box, she couldn't help herself. In the same way you may have a tendency to be determined to succeed against all odds.

This path can only lead to hardship, as you may not only feel worn out by your desires but also alienate others in the process losing your self-esteem. There is hope if you take time out to pursue other things of value in your life. It is important to consider what new challenges will fortify your sense of value and self worth.

Occasionally this placement of the goddess Pandora indicates a healthy attitude to money adopted early in life. Your childhood experiences taught you valuable lessons about the transient nature of material possessions. As a result you place a high value on personal relationships, social issues and spiritual values. Either way you are likely to be an inspiration to others. You can teach the true values of society by working together to create a sense of community that provides services for everyone, not just the elite. Your understanding of the financial market may also be an inspiration to others. You offer a hopeful perspective on the economy and the opportunity for everyone to be sustained by the world's resources.

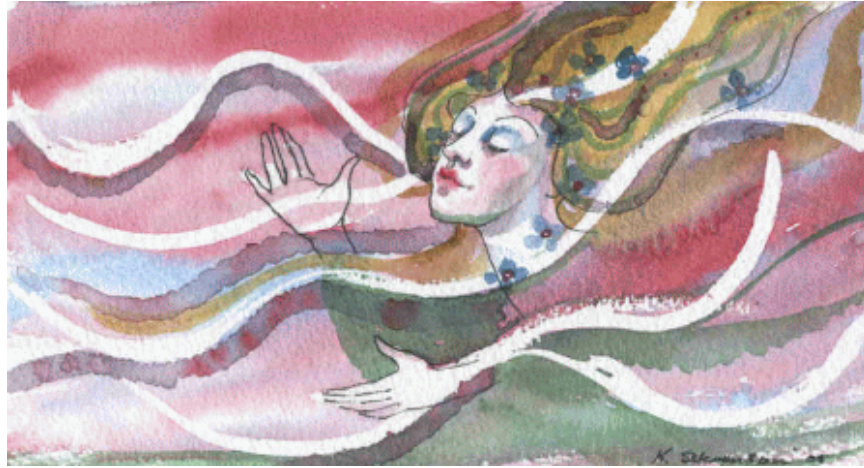
Pandora is in Gemini

You love baubles and gadgets - anything shiny, collectible, innovative and amusing. Any object that opens and shuts fascinates you. Contraptions arouse your natural curiosity. These can range from the everyday workings of a wristwatch to the more complicated machinations of computer technology. For this reason you may recognize, from a young age that you need to make enough money to help you satisfy your curiosity.

You may also be fascinated by the way money circulates in the economy. In fact you are fascinated by a variety of things, able to juggle a few things at once. Pursuing different directions simultaneously may be a bit stressful so be aware of your propensity to overtax the nervous system. People also captivate your interest. What motivates some of your friends? What are their hobbies? What are their plans for the future? And why do they make particular decisions? You enjoy gossip; however, you are also able to be quite charming and sympathetic, becoming a confidante. Be careful to keep your counsel. Otherwise your intentions may be misunderstood. You would be well advised to keep your friend's secrets, to lend a sympathetic ear but to refrain from meddling.

Offer your loved ones the message of hope. The goddess Pandora has given you the gift of humor. You can help uplift the troubles of others by taking an understanding but light-hearted approach to life's challenges. Your sense of fun can assist in lightening the load of those who cross your path.

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 6th House

Are you surrounded by many messages - lists on message boards, notes magnetized on your fridge, pop-up reminders on your computer? These are signs that Mnemosyne is at work in the 6th House of your birth chart. You love to make lists of your many chores and responsibilities. It is important that you remember to do all that you have undertaken or promised. This is part of a greater promise to yourself, to ensure that you make the most of every moment and that your everyday life reflects a deeper purpose. This purpose could be as simple as showing a kind heart to those nearest and dearest, or it could be a much bigger plan such as starting up a non-profit organization, or educating as many people as possible about the necessity to take care of planet Earth. You are often busy, making sure that odd jobs are done with finesse.

Your memory for details often comes in handy at home and work. In fact you may combine your home and work, enjoying the sense of accomplishment that comes from this combination. Prayer, meditation and other daily spiritual practices can be highly beneficial to help remind you of the higher purpose of your life. These practices also help jog your memory so you take care of your bodily needs. You can be so busy working, networking and making lists that you forget to enjoy the more aesthetic pleasures of life. Massage can be a soothing remedy, arousing memories of pleasurable experiences.

Some experts say that memory is a biological function, enabling us to learn from experience. In fact this is the best method of learning for you. Books and study courses are all well and good, but you learn the most when 'on the job'. You like to reflect on the past, and anticipate the future. If you do study then it is likely to be a subject such as psychology, which studies human's perception and relation to the environment or history, which helps humanity, learn from past experiences. As the ancient philosopher Cicero once said, 'history is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity.' You could also earn your living through teaching, writing, networking, service work, poetry, art, architecture and design, interior decorating, singing, comedy and astronomy, to name a few of the areas associated with the goddess Mnemosyne and her Muses.

Your challenge is to make sure that you are not driven by hard work. Your mind always seems to be aware of the many tasks that need to be completed within a lifetime, the fact that the clock is ever ticking. You need to be careful not to become over-stimulated by taking on too many tasks. The use of vitamins and minerals and the advice of a good doctor can help you maintain excellent physical and mental health. In other words you need to make time to enjoy sensual pleasures - to be inspired by the touch of a loved one, the sight of a sunset, smell of the ocean, taste of favorite treat or sound of favorite song. Paying attention to the five senses will help develop your sixth sense and improve your mental health and experience the joy of discovery. You may feel called to share your experiences with others, thereby persuading others to focus on improving their health and well being. On the whole the goddess Mnemosyne is encouraging you to rise above the many distractions of your daily life and to remain focused on the big picture, your life's calling. Finding inspiration through beautiful artwork, poetry and spiritual practices can be beneficial. 'Slow down and enjoy life. It's not only the scenery you miss by going too fast - you also miss the sense of where you are going and why.' So says US comedian and singer Eddie Cantor.

Mnemosyne is in Virgo

Sometimes the world is a troubling place. You see disease, pestilence, natural disasters and wars and realize that humanity has learnt little from history. You wonder why people have failed to remember the consequences of past misdeeds. As such you can find that the troubles of the world get you down unless you create diversions. You need to talk to others, share your thoughts and opinions in order to resolve inner conflict. Good mental health depends on your ability to communicate with others, create artistic diversions and find some meaning in your own life, as well as world affairs. Music can also play a key role in healing your troubled soul. The harmonies and lyrics of favorite songs can instantly uplift you from depressing thoughts and feelings. You have a love of words, but more so you have a love of the way in which these words are communicated. Poetry, choreography, and creative design are just a few of the activities that inspire the best in you. You are more likely to be the choreographer or stage manager rather than the artiste. You may work in the office of an artistic organization rather than stand in the spotlight.

Nevertheless you are inspired by the arts. You may also be interested in patterns. This interest can range from something as simple as a knitting pattern to solving a more complicated mathematical problem. Reading detective novels and solving murder mysteries may also appeal. You are sensitive to your immediate environment, to the extent that your immune system may sometimes be challenged. Dwelling in the soul Mnemosyne unexpectedly arouses memory through our senses and bodily reactions. Therefore you are likely to enjoy massage, aromatherapy and other healing modalities. You may also be interested in conventional medicine, but it is more likely to be connected to a fascination for rare diseases, x-rays or anything that presents or solves a health dilemma. You are interested in configurations, synchronicity, mysteries and collating evidence.

You recognize that there is a grand design, a destiny for humanity and yet you need to concentrate on your own gifts. You tend to get caught up in details, remembering all of the little things that need doing, rather than seeing how you can contribute to the big picture. Hence you feel overwhelmed by the world at large. You are also very critical, recalling all of the things that have been done wrong rather than concentrating on the connections. Criticism has its place, but you need to be wary of being too harsh on yourself and others. Learn to relax, remember the good times and focus on your artistic goals. You have a real gift for creating connections, either in arts and crafts or in linking people with common interests. You may also have an excellent memory for figures. The goddess Mnemosyne asks you to lighten up and share the good times, use your gifts as a service to others in your personal life, and humanity as a whole.

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 3rd House

You are a decision maker. Whenever you reach a crossroads point in your life you are able to listen to your intuition and make a clear decision. You have the ability to avoid distractions, to focus on your own true intent and to start making plans for the next path of your journey. You have a sharp mind as well as the ability to listen to your emotions. You cleverly combine the two before taking any major step forward. The goddess Hecate is illuminating your power to make clear decisions and to communicate your intent to others. You are also a good listener, with the capacity to offer sound advice when it is requested. Women and men, who are the crossroads in their own lives, listen to your words of wisdom. Your siblings and neighbors may particularly benefit from your guiding hand, either in their immediate affairs or possibly supporting your activities. You tend to have a fairly optimistic view of life, knowing that you are able to rely on your own wits. You find it easy to make your way around your local neighborhood and city environs.

On a more esoteric note, you may have an ability to communicate with the spirit world. In ancient times many appealed to the goddess Hecate for help in keeping them safe, since she was believed to have influence in the spirit world. This could be experienced in a variety of ways. Perhaps you are an intuitive thinker, a problem solver or have powerful thoughts that you feel you must act on. In some way you may receive invisible guidance that helps you make choices and navigate predicaments.

The goddess Hecate has been misunderstood, as her story has been passed down through the ages. This awesome Goddess has sometimes been denigrated as a witch, rather than revered for her powerful status as the only Titan kept in the Olympian regal system. As such there may be times when you are misunderstood, or perhaps when you misinterpret others. Occasionally interrelations may be fraught with unspoken emotions, hurt feelings that have built up over a period of time or perhaps a sharp word at a vulnerable time. Beware the

gossipmongers! You may also need to practice a little tolerance for others who are not so adept at understanding the process of decision-making, the art of communication and the need to keep a clear head. Your sixth sense is a gift, helping you stand out from the crowd. You may use this innate talent to plan your daily life, or you may use it in your profession. Sales, merchandising, neighborhood politics, writing, teaching, and acting are just a few of the areas in which you could shine. Indeed the goddess Hecate is urging you to continue to reorient your thinking and to help others to challenge any fixed and outdated ideas.

Hecate is in Cancer

When the goddess Hecate combines with the sign of Cancer the result is a powerful domestic goddess. In a woman's chart this can mean that you are the heart around whom the rest of your household revolves. You may or may not reign in the kitchen, but you do enjoy your home environment as place of refuge and spiritual sustenance. Therefore you may enjoy interior design, landscape gardening and other such home duties. The extent of your skills in the kitchen depends largely on other aspects of your chart, but you are a tour de force in your family. Kitchens are the meeting point for family life and it is here that you offer guidance and direction to family members. In a contemporary family your 'kitchen' is the metaphoric crossroads where relatives seek your wisdom and advice. Hecate was known for her suppers on the eve of the New Moon and some of her mythic power is with you as you prepare family events. Your extended family, past and present, guests and ghosts are drawn together around your dining table.

In a man's chart this placement of the goddess Hecate has hints of conflict between your mother and your partner. As a young child you revere your mother, who is the major influence in your family. Even if your mother has a negative influence she is still likely to loom large as a martyr-like figure, sacrificing her career in order to fulfill her domestic duties. This may have shaped your inner image of the secure feminine. In other words you are likely to project your expectations of domestic bliss on to your wife, rather than make an effort to create family harmony yourself. Your challenge is to recognize your mother's influence on your expectations of marriage and to encourage your partner to become your equal. Perhaps you marry someone who enjoys reigning supreme in your house, bearing your children, cooking, cleaning and managing the household. However, it is also likely that you need to do your share. You may enjoy the role of househusband or you may have difficulty adjusting to this expectation. This will depend on other influences in your horoscope, but the goddess Hecate is calling on you to embrace your feminine qualities. He-man tactics, whether passive or aggressive, will not augur well in your home! The more that you can soften your approach, embrace your loved ones and do your share of supporting your family members the more joy you are likely to feel in your home. Once you cross the threshold into your adult home you need to feel secure and safe as if all the crossroads of your life are converging here. Your task is to create a solid foundation stone for you and those you love.

The goddess Hecate has a strong association with the Moon. Therefore your challenge is to be flexible in your home and family. Go with the flow, rather than try to control. Share your values and do your bit to help your home become a haven and inspiration to friends and family alike. When loved ones reach a crossroads in their lives make sure that you are supporting their wishes, rather than imposing your own. As such the influences of this goddess and the Moon can bring great rewards to your private life, combining to create a secure base for you and your family.

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.'
1 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 3rd House

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

However, it is also possible to misuse your powers. The goddess Cassandra was both gifted and cursed. On the occasions when you sense that others are not listening, you are likely to exaggerate your words and

therefore lose some of the power with which you have been entrusted. You must also be wary of using your gifts to further your own ambitions. This god-given gift needs to be used wisely and without thought of self-gain. Ironically a focus on serving others brings great personal rewards.

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

Cassandra is in Gemini

You have a strong need to express yourself either through talking or writing. However, you need to choose your words carefully. This is a tricky placement of the goddess Cassandra. On the one hand you are a soothsayer with a keen intellect and a vision of how things ought to be. You are able to make plans and see outcomes before many of your colleagues and friends. Your insights are often valued. However, there is a Yiddish proverb that asks: 'How many will listen to the truth when you tell them?' In other words you need to learn to detect when others are ready to hear what you say.

No matter how knowledgeable you feel, no matter how valuable you believe your intuition, don't underestimate the value of silence. As the Christian Bible says in the book of Matthew: 'Neither cast ye your pearls before swine.' Others are not always ready to hear your valuable insights. If you do not adhere to these edicts then arguments are likely to erupt without you fully realizing that you have been the instigator. At times you can feel quite hysterical wondering what you have said to spark such outbursts by colleagues or loved ones. The problem is that the goddess Cassandra's lack of the power of persuasion is emphasized in your chart. The more that you learn to choose your words carefully the more power you will feel in communications, both vocal and written. Learn when to speak and when to listen in silence. Then your prophecies and magical thinking can be truly appreciated.

Gemini is the sign where we master duality. With Cassandra here you are challenged to be able to speak your truth aware that others may not understand or be able to accept what you are saying. You may feel that something is missing: this is probably the feeling of being understood and valued for what you know. Ironically you know a lot yet it is unable to be seen or valued by others. Your lesson is learning to accept your innate wisdom even if what you know cannot be proven or logically validated.

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 6th House

The goddess Medea weaves her rituals into the tapestry of your life everyday through her focus on work and health. In your 6th house she is concerned about maintaining a well-balanced life and urges you to be mindful of this in the everyday tasks of life. Therefore it would be important to recognize the need for sanctuary in your daily life, which may be found through meditation, activity or involvement with practices that you're passionate about. Medea is a goddess of the ancient wisdom and a simple ritual done mindfully like throwing the runes, choosing a Tarot card, lighting incense, playing devotional music or chanting an affirmation would empower you for the day. However, Medea could also be found by remaining alert in the simple everyday tasks when attending to domestic chores, preparing meals, caring for the household pets or sorting the laundry. You can become empowered by being involved with what you're doing no matter how simple or mundane the assignment, and have the ability to find magic and meaning day after day.

Through the ages Medea has been known as a wise woman, witch and medicine woman. In a contemporary

context she embodies the spirit of healing in an everyday context. Therefore you would find it meaningful to be informed about nutrition, diet, medicinal and herbal remedies, flower essences as well as availing yourself of the abundant knowledge available on the healing power of the mind. However, the goddess in your chart also suggests that your healing abilities may be channeled through work, whether that is healing in emotional and psychological ways through social work or counseling or through the medicinal and pharmaceutical traditions. Your work as a natural healer is innate to you and whether you choose that path professionally or not you will be called upon in this capacity by your co-workers and those you share your everyday life with. They will seek you out for your natural healing qualities.

But Medea also advises you to be cognizant of your own health regimen encouraging you to be aware of your own body and its needs. You may be more sensitive to processed food and manufactured drugs than most or find your lack of tolerance to noise, smoke or any of our modern pollutants. Therefore your body will call you to seek out the remedies and potions you need to feel well and stress free in your life. Through this journey you will encounter Medea and her depth of wisdom about the natural world and the power it can bestow to improve the quality of our everyday life.

Medea is in Libra

In your chart the goddess Medea is in Libra, which highlights your powerful ability to forge deep and intensely meaningful relationships. It also suggests you have a passion for justice and intense feelings about equality and fairness. While Libra is known for its diplomacy and tact Medea is known for her honesty and forthrightness. Libra strives for harmony and peace while Medea is often defiant and resistant. Combining these all together in the caldron of the psyche suggests you have a penchant for speaking the truth and fighting injustice. These strong feelings may have directed you into advocacy, mediation or counseling. However, you have found your voice, your fate will guide you into situations where integrity and truthfulness must be acknowledged and confronted.

Medea in your sign highlights the need to balance the kidneys and the bladder. Celery juice or parsley tea is helpful for kidney function while recommended herbs are juniper and parsley. Herbs of feverfew and catmint are not only lovely in the garden but will also help to strengthen the kidneys. Anatomically the focus on the kidneys and liver are highlighting the flow of liquids and elimination of waste products. Through flushing the system with water, a proper diet, and herbal supplements healthy functioning is likely. However, it is also important to see the psychological undertones. You may have trouble eliminating difficult feelings or being able to assert negative ones. Without the skill at being able to flush out the feelings and confront the distasteful you may disconnect and disengage. This is where the power of Medea can be of great benefit in your life. You have a strong ability to be able to face up to what feels disagreeable in yourself and others. In all relationships especially those with close friends, partners and trusted colleagues you demand honesty and integrity. Your challenge in relationship is to trust. You probably have come to realize this is about trusting yourself rather than trusting someone else. You are tested to find your strength through relationships and know that no matter what happens you will not only survive but prosper. While you would prefer to be in relationship you will not sacrifice your integrity or compromise your principles just to partner another. These lessons may have been learned in the classroom of relationship where a lack of honesty and openness lead to infidelity.

Like all good relationship counselors you have found the knowledge of relational skills, not in textbooks, but in your own personal relationships. This has given you the facility to be able to help others in critical passages of their relationship, introduce the right person to the right situation or act as a go-between in order to make something significant happen. You are a powerful instrument of change, as you instinctually know who belongs with whom, who belongs where and who belongs with what. Medea positions you on the interchange of life where you point others in the right direction.

Conclusion

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

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

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

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

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