

GODDESS

A Solar Writer Report for Jade Esteban Estrada



Written by Brian Clark & Stephanie Johnson

Jade Esteban Estrada

Male

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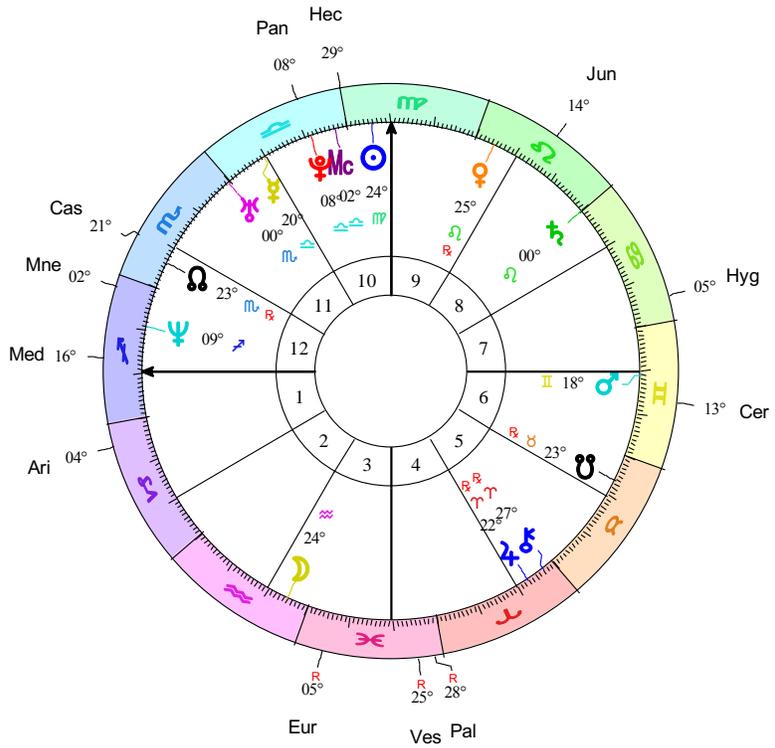
San Antonio

29°N25'26"

098°W29'36"

Tropical

Equal



Key

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

Astrological Summary

Chart Point Positions: Jade Esteban Estrada

Asteroid	Sign	Position	House	Comment
Cer	Ceres	Gemini	13°Ge27'	6th
Pal	Pallas Athena	Pisces	28°Pi14'	4th
Jun	Juno	Leo	14°Le38'	8th
Ves	Vesta	Pisces	25°Pi01'	4th
Hyg	Hygieia	Cancer	5°Cn04'	7th
Ari	Ariadne	Capricorn	4°Cp40'	1st
Eur	Europa	Pisces	5°Pi34'	3rd
Pan	Pandora	Libra	8°Li47'	10th
Mne	Mnemosyne	Sagittarius	2°Sg21'	12th
Hec	Hecate	Virgo	29°Vi56'	10th
Cas	Cassandra	Scorpio	21°Sc06'	12th
Med	Medea	Sagittarius	16°Sg50'	12th

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 6th House

You have a strong instinct to nurture your colleagues. This could simply be helping them get organized for a big event or by making sure that your office is clean, fresh and pleasant. You are also able to offer a shoulder to cry on when your co-workers are going through times of loneliness and loss. You have a warm and open heart. Your own suffering and loss has taught you to be very observant and sensitive.

You are sensitive to changes in your daily life and could develop allergies to everyday products. You need to take more care than most with poisonous substances in your workaday life. You may develop an interest in nutrition, herbs, natural remedies and other products. In fact health plays a prominent role in your life, either because you experience ill health or because you work with the sick or dying. You are understanding and empathetic, with a tendency to do too much for other people. You need to learn to look after yourself first.

You are able to reduce stress by being close to the natural world. You would benefit greatly from living close to nature, either in the countryside or surrounded by trees and flowers. You may enjoy tending to plants, animals and children on a daily basis, as you need to focus your urge to nurture. However, it is most important to find time in your busy routine to nurture and care for yourself. Find a ritual that supports and sustains you and make it your daily practice.

Ceres is in Gemini

The telephone was invented for you. Even better are the mobile phone and the computer. You need to feel connected to other people and technology helps you keep in touch with friends, colleagues and loved ones. Occasionally you are comfortable with silence but mostly you need to talk to those closest to you. If your loved ones are absent then you need to maintain some contact through the written word. This is particularly true of your relationship with your mother, your children, and your spouse.

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

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

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

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 4th House

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

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

Pallas is in Pisces

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

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

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

Juno - Socializing The Soul



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

Juno Regina shares the 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, wifedom 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 8th House

Marriage is a deeply personal and significant union in your eyes. You value love, commitment and the promise of marriage. You long to make a lasting commitment in an equal relationship and want to exchange the vows of commitment in an official ceremony. It doesn't matter to you whether or not this ceremony is performed in a traditional or unorthodox ceremony, but you do want the comfort that the ritual of making vows provides. Once a vow is made then you are determined to keep it. You expect the same from your spouse. You have a great capacity for being honest, loyal and trustworthy in your intimate relationships but this also needs to be experienced from your partner.

You enjoy the intensity of romance and passion at the start of your marriage and the excitement of setting up a home together. However, much to your own chagrin, you find that familiarity can indeed breed contempt. The daily grind of living together soon loses its shine. Your challenge is to keep the flames of romance burning, and to find meaning within daily acts of love and kindness. Otherwise you soon become bored, and if this is the case you are likely to create conflict simply for the effect of escaping boredom or look for trouble where it doesn't exist. You may start to doubt your partner's commitment, either because you realize that your behavior is not conducive to loving relations or because you are suspicious of your spouse's behavior. Possessiveness and jealousy, either your own or your spouse's, can cause further problems. The birth of a child in this scenario is unlikely to prove a salve to your problems. In fact it is more likely to cause further tribulations. Love, loss and betrayal can become themes in your marriage if you remain unconscious of the need to keep the relationship alive. You need to be mindful of not turning your love life into the soap operas that you enjoy so much.

On a more positive note, you learn much about the seasons of life through your marriage. The act of commitment to another person reflects your honorable intention of remaining true to yourself and another person. There is great beauty in your promise. You can learn to accept your own and your spouse's failings. In doing so, this strengthens your resolve to live your own life to the fullest extent. You also learn the true meaning of passion. As famous author Mark Twain once said, *'Of the delights of this world man cares most for sexual intercourse, yet he has left it out of his heaven.'*

Eventually you can attract a partner who is supportive, enterprising, as well as

challenging and confronting in positive ways.

Juno is in Leo

Love is a many splendored thing and you couldn't agree more. You are seeking true love, someone to share all the joys of life. This can involve the simple pleasures of walking in nature, creating a scenic garden or watching a beautiful sunset. Or you may yearn for a playmate to accompany you to the theater, ballet, cinema and traveling to new places. Basically you want a partner who is playful, uplifting, inspirational, perhaps even your muse and vice versa. You may even yearn for a special someone to share your creative pursuits, someone to share in the joys of parenthood, or the arts, fashion or beauty industries. You want a partner who loves life in all its facets and colors. Love, fun, and romance are important.

Imagine the beauty of a Peacock and its feathered tail and you have the image of the goddess Juno in Leo. But is this all for show? Are you able to commit? You may shy away from commitment because you have a fear of becoming trapped by feelings of responsibility towards a marriage partner. You prefer the 'better' rather than the 'worse' in the marriage vows 'for better or worse'. This, of course, depends on other aspects of your birth chart. Nevertheless there is a tendency for you to attract love affairs of the passionate variety rather than relationships of the more serious and committed nature. When you do marry you are likely to choose someone who can be your equal. While you enjoy sharing many activities, you are attracted to a person who values independence, both their own and yours. As a partner and equal Juno is supportive, enterprising, challenging and confronting helping shape potentiality into reality. These are traits that form as prerequisites for your marriage.

Your need for playful relationships usually leads to a strong rapport with children. You may work with children, or perhaps enjoy a large tribe of children, either your own or those within an extended family. It is also possible that you decide to direct your creative urges into one or more forms of the arts - dance, theater, painting, sculpture, photography, prose, poetry, and other such artistic pursuits. Your passionate nature needs a creative outlet. You have a warm heart and generous nature, and an ability to inspire others through your good works. You are likely to seek and find a vocation that brings much joy to your own and other's lives.

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 4th House

Domestic bliss is your quest. You like to keep the home fires burning and your home and family are close to your heart. The daily routines in your household provide comfort and inspiration. When all is well in your private life then you feel able to follow your true calling. In fact your passion may be for creating a family. You may marry and have children at a young age in comparison to your peers. Alternatively you may create a real sense of belonging by purchasing a lovely property. In some cases you may travel to foreign lands in search of your true home. Perhaps your parents or grandparents traveled from a different country in order to start a new life. You hear many stories of life in the old homeland and are curious to visit your ancestors. You are proud of your roots and are an inspiration to relatives, both young and old.

Your choice of career may reflect your passion for homely matters. For instance you could work in property management, real estate, interior decorating or a family business. Whatever you choose to do to support you and your family you bring an aura of authenticity and integrity to your work. Your touchstone to a sense of safety and security is creating a solid and strong family base.

Perhaps an early childhood experience has sparked your appreciation of domesticity. The loss or sickness of a close relative may have deeply affected you and sparked your quest for security and happiness. Your young life may have involved sacrifices for family members. Now you are able to throw light on past experiences, to warm the hearts of your loved ones and to support your relatives' creative urges. Your search for understanding your roots may become a spiritual quest.

Vesta is in Pisces

Sacrifice is a repetitive theme in your life. You are idealistic, yearning for spiritual sustenance on a daily basis. Your creative fire burns strongly within your heart, but somehow you are called to sacrifice your dreams for others or to attend to pertinent responsibilities. In some cases you may become the sacrificial lamb within an organization, served notice for the so-called good of the group, but not necessarily for your own personal edification. This is more likely to be true if you are sacrificing your heart-felt passion for the sake of material ambition. The more that you seek material accomplishment the more that your creative urges are likely to suffer. Therefore you need to discover your true calling, rather than

trying to fulfill other people's expectations or even your own! Retreating to a natural location may help soothe your soul and help you reconnect with your inner creative fire. Mountain mists, hazy lakes, thermal ponds, and tropical islands may all renew your joie de vivre.

Philanthropy, spirituality, healing, music, dance, theater and any other inspirational arts form is likely to be linked to your unique gift. Your compassionate nature may also flourish in any form of counseling ranging from vocational to grief therapy. You may also be attracted to light - natural daylight, moonlight, the radiance of stars, and the shades of light in art. Because you are a deeply spiritual person you will be drawn to helping others on inner levels whether that be through absent healing, group mediations or prayer. Much of your assistance may go unacknowledged in the outer world, but not in the larger scheme of things.

Ultimately you are keen to shine in the full radiance of your own soul, and to encourage others to do the same. You can be a stirring teacher. At times others may misunderstand your intentions, but those that see your true motivation become your true followers, perhaps even your muses. Just remember this quote from author Stephen Nachmanovitch: *'The most potent muse of all is our own inner child.'*

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, Ariphton

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 7th House

Being involved with others, especially in close relationship and partnerships, promotes a sense of feeling whole. While this is a truism for most people, for you it is especially so. Navigating your road to health and wholeness is not a solo affair but involves a partner. For instance in a fitness program you would perform much better with a personal trainer or gym friend than on your own; you would be more conscious of following a health regime when involved in a relationship, or would be more likely to prepare nutritious meals when dining with a partner rather than alone. In relationship your partner not only encourages but confronts you with your sense of feeling fit and well and may be the mirror that inspires you to remain healthy and hardy.

The 7th house is the arena of our relationships and with Hygieia housed here it suggests that health plays her role in this area of your life. Simply it indicates that you feel more vibrant and full of life when involved with other equals and need the stimulation and support of others to heal. However, it also indicates that you may be closely involved with others in healthcare, whether that is sharing a health regime or discipline, working together in the promotion or maintenance of health or having met and forged a relationship on the path to recuperation and recovery. You would find it easy to be able to talk to others about their health. Therefore you have a natural ability to counsel others on health-related issues, or train and coach others, being an intermediary in their healing crisis or process.

You have the aptitude and tolerance to be able to endure the pain and suffering of others, and are able to partner some one who feels unwell or is on the road to recovery. Equally, when you are unwell you have the capacity to allow your partner to share in the healing journey with you. While this may be difficult, it is your providence as Hygieia suggests that health and healing are part of the bonding agent of the relationship that you will share with your partner.

Hygieia is in Cancer

No doubt the combination of Hygieia, the goddess of health, in Cancer, the sign of care taking, emphasizes the need to take care of your health. It may also suggest that the route to your well being is not only the care of the self, but also through your innate capacity to mother and nurture others. You may feel called

to one of the health care professions, especially through caring for others when they are vulnerable. Whether you work in physical or mental health fields your interest in healing and caring for others was forged out of your own familial experiences. You also have an instinct and interest in early child development and the health care of the young. For you, a healthy family life is a priority.

For women this placement may address the instinct to mother and the healing that is constellated through this experience. While you were pregnant or during the perinatal period a health crisis may have developed, alerting you to a larger issue of health. Perhaps pregnancy or being a mother altered your attitudes to health and well being, or simply being a mother has thrown you a new lifeline and you are radiant in your role as mother. While it suggests that well being is akin to mothering it may also imply that your own healing journey was literally connected to your mother or the familial legacy of the feminine. Caring for others was a theme in the familial environment but how fate arranged this in your own experience will be unique. On a psychological level your healing journey may have started in the role of daughter or son to a mother who herself needed care taking. Or your own sensitivity to caring for others was borne either out of your own feeling of neglect or, to the other extreme, watching your mother administer to those in need.

The goddess Hygieia draws your attention to the fluctuation of your feelings and moods as there is a strong connection between the way you feel and your own physical and mental health. Your tendency to absorb the feeling atmosphere around you and not express your own feelings, especially when hurt or offended, leaves you weakened and prone to feeling unwell. The unease or bloating in your stomach alerts you to the need to express your feeling in order to regain balance. Weight and water retention are another way the goddess draws your attention to caring for yourself and urging you to express your authentic feelings.

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 1st House

You have a strong sense of your own talents and gifts. This is likely to have been developed at a young age. The path to self-realization may not have been an easy one. It is likely that you may have suffered a sense of abandonment at an early age. Perhaps one or both of your parents were unable to care for you because of circumstances beyond their control. On the other hand your parents may have neglected your needs, imposed their will on your tender developing personality or demanded levels of maturity because of their own shortcomings. Whatever the scenario it is likely that you suffered the pain of loneliness at a young age. The positive side of this experience is that, forced to rely on your own resources, you learned to survive on your own. You developed a strong sense of self that has stood you in good stead ever since. In other words you know your own heart and mind. Your colleagues and friends may seem to flail around with no real purpose in their working life or choose inappropriate life partners; however, you are wise beyond your years. You are well aware of the dangers that come from losing your way because of loved ones' actions. You are unlikely to let yourself be betrayed again. You choose your career path with a sense of purpose and you marry according to your heart. You are determined to maintain your own sense of self.

Ironically you may need to be wary of neglecting the needs of your spouse as you doggedly follow your own desires. You need to maintain a balance. Otherwise your marriage may falter, leaving you again on the precipice of loneliness. It is possible that you prefer this prospect to the one of losing yourself in a relationship. Compromise, not sacrifice, is the key to success.

This is a prominent position for the goddess Ariadne. Therefore if you face your sorrow and follow your own heart then you will experience divine peace. You also have the ability to teach others the benefits of self-reliance and the path to happiness. You have an innate gift for nurturing the free spirits of young children or encouraging the spiritual beliefs of all who cross your path. Meditation, prayer, labyrinths, nature expeditions and spiritual teachings are also likely to help you reconnect with your true self.

Ariadne is in Capricorn

You have a tendency to seek security as a way of boosting your self-esteem. You work hard to have a secure job, a comfortable house and a respectable marriage. You also like to have money in the bank and a good retirement fund. You worry when your environment or relationships change, preferring to keep everything as stable as possible. The difficulty is that, by trying to maintain the status quo, you

eventually lose the very thing that you seek - a strong sense of self. One day you may realize that all of your hard work may well have been in vain because you feel empty, unable to really enjoy the fruits of your labors. You need to consider making changes. A journey of self-discovery is in order.

If you try to avoid this journey then you may be forced to let go of your material acquisitions through circumstances that seem to be beyond your control. You need to rediscover a sense of passion and face your fears. Change can be liberating. Slowly but surely you can gain a deep understanding of your own true nature and seek new paths of self-expression. Instead of building castle in the sand you can rebuild your life based on passion, flexibility, joy and spiritual values. The goddess Ariadne celebrates a more intimate connection with your heart, whether that is through a personal relationship, a new creative endeavor or a new course of life.

Ariadne's thread binds your heart to the world outside your home and family. Part of your journey will be to negotiate the labyrinth of possibilities in the world until you find your vocation. When you do you, you will also find your own autonomy and authority, for you are the only author of your life script, not your parents or your partners.

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 3rd House

Your resources are linked to your power of understanding and communicating. You are inspired by all the feminine arts. Your intuition is highly tuned and you feel a strong link to the earth. This may manifest in your daily life, hobbies, career or relationships with loved ones. You have a keen and enquiring mind with the ability to retain all sorts of knowledge, but only if it touches your heart. Facts and figures do not hold the same power as meaningful insights and the mystical.

In a woman's chart this placement of the goddess Europa can indicate that intelligent men fascinate you. The men who cross your path influence your own life choices. You may marry a man as a result of a shared passion, but only if he is your equal. You are a feminist in the true sense, a woman who is well aware of her own feminine power and with the ability to rely on your own resources no matter what or who influences you. You have a high respect for other women and your career choice may reflect this.

In man's chart this placement of Europa represents an unorthodox way of thinking. You are likely to explore interests that question the status quo. You may enlist the help of a powerful woman and forge a powerful union to accomplish something together.

You have a love of language, perhaps learning different modern or ancient languages. You are also well aware of the power of silence. As a Spanish Proverb states, 'don't speak unless you can improve on the silence.' Diplomacy comes natural to you, because you are not afraid of silence or of conflict. You are able to grasp the bull by its horns, understand the nature of anything that takes your interest and then share your knowledge with others.

Europa is in Pisces

You are a water baby at heart. You love all things aquatic. This can range from enjoying a simple walk by the ocean to the urge to study marine life. Swimming, diving, and other aquatic activities are likely to appeal, calming and soothing your soul. Hence you are likely to live by the water, whether it is an ocean, lake, river, or creek. If it is not possible for you live by water then you decorate your home with water themes, perhaps even installing a pool, fountain or pond in your garden.

At some stage in your life you may fall in love with someone who lives across the seas. You may be tempted to move closer to this loved one. On the other hand once you are comfortable in your own waterside home or marine oriented

profession you are unlikely to change your course for someone else. In some cases this position of the goddess Europa can indicate someone who is at the beck and call of a loved one. You need to make sure that your caring nature is not taken for granted, that you are not treated like a doormat. Stand up for your own ideals.

Water represents the intuition. Yours is strong. Generally speaking you rely on your instincts to guide many decisions, combining a rational, pragmatic approach to your intuitive intelligence. You have a strong altruistic streak, a natural inclination to save others. This can shape your life because you also have the ability to channel your ideals into practical pursuits. For instance you may become a counselor, an advocate for underprivileged or disadvantaged sections of society, a policy maker for the downtrodden or a member of a group intent on saving the planet. It is also possible that you are artistic. Whether or not you have a gift for one of the arts you are likely to be soothed by harmonious music, beautiful artwork or inspirational theater. Inspiration and ideals are important to you. As US general and politician Carl Schurz so aptly said, 'Ideals are like stars: you will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but like the seafaring man on the ocean desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them, you reach your destiny.' In many ways your destiny is guided by your ideals.

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 10th House

There is no doubt about it - you are ambitious! You are eager to make your mark in society, to contribute in a meaningful way. Your career is paramount. From the moment that you enter the workforce you are a force to be reckoned with. Professional qualifications and certificates adorn your work environment. Awards and trophies line the shelves. Those in authority welcome your work ethic, although your co-workers may be somewhat overwhelmed, perhaps even resentful and jealous. You are unlikely to notice any ill feeling, because you are on a mission, determined to leave no stone uncovered in your efforts to achieve your professional ambitions.

Marriage is also like to feature strongly in your life, contributing to your social status. You may marry a colleague, someone who recognizes and supports your position in society. Alternatively you may marry someone who enhances your public life. Children are a consideration only if this suits your life plan.

Professional zeal is admirable but at some point in your life's journey you are likely to realize that you have concentrated on your public life without paying head to the consequences for other aspects. Your private life also needs attention. Your career may come to a sudden and unexpected halt as a result of ill health or at the behest of a loved one. Alternatively you may start to feel tired, weighed down with responsibilities and tasks that no longer hold any meaning. When this happens the time is ripe for a reassessment. You need to pay attention to the warning signs. Is your heart really in your career? Are you following your true dream? Do you have the right balance between career success and personal satisfaction? Are you including your loved ones in your plans? Once you can answer 'yes' to these questions then you are filled with renewed energy and hope. Your faith in yourself and your goals is an inspiration. This is a prominent placement for the goddess Pandora and so you are able to inspire all who work with and for you.

Pandora is in Libra

You are a born mediator. You sit back and observe the comings and goings and the interactions of your colleagues, friends and family members and then you can't help yourself, you... well, you meddle. You dive into the middle of conflict and try to bring two parties together. You are well aware that sometimes you seem to make matters worse, stirring the emotional pot. This awareness doesn't

seem to act as a deterrent. You are ever hopeful that you can help people to solve their problems.

Fortunately in most cases you are correct, particularly when it comes to misunderstandings between different parties. Your ability to listen to each side of the story, hold your counsel and help each party see things from a different point of view is generally conciliatory. You have the gift of being able to bring a new perspective to any situation, a point of view that others may have never thought of. Therefore you would make an excellent diplomat or mediator.

On a more personal level you are often the adept matchmaker, helping many a couple on the path to true love. You are a romantic at heart and enjoy the prospect of a happy couple and are pleased to act as go-between. If only you could do the same thing in your own love life. As a single person you seem to be attracted to the wrong people. Unrequited love is far too often your plight. Your strong desire for romance may be frightening to potential lovers. On the other hand you may be seeking the perfect partner, overlooking the values of friendship and affection in your quest for passion. Once you are married you may have difficulty accepting the mundane aspects of your union. You need to create romance and excitement in your marriage from time to time. You also may develop a love of one or more aspects of the arts such as the theater, dance, art or music. Again you have a tendency to go overboard, having some difficulty in balancing the practicalities of life with your need to explore your creative interests. The key is to inject stimulation into your relationship, be spontaneous and challenge your partner to keep the relationship exciting.

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 12th House

The goddess Mnemosyne is asking you to be reflective. On an inner level you have the ability to find meaning in the midst of the mundane. Imagination nurtures you and allows the soul to breathe and the body to feel lighter. The goddess requests that you find the confident inner knowing and inner peace that is part of your true nature. You, of all people, have the ability to leave behind any false perceptions that you have picked up in this lifetime and to remember divine love and peace. Meditation, prayer and retreats into nature may all assist in the process. Solitude is very healing and important as you may be overwhelmed by memories of the collective past.

Mnemosyne's daughters are the muses, the ones who inspire and enchant the soul. Finding your own inner muse allows you to be able to be creative and imaginative in your life. Impressions and feelings from the past can be evoked for creative works if you do not allow them to overwhelm you. You may also find inspiration from great musicians, the ballet and modern dance and even from visits to museums. In ancient times the museum was the sacred sanctuary of Mnemosyne and the Muses. These early shrines dedicated to the goddess became the structures we know today as museums, places where we accommodate great works of the imagination. Logic and science may elude you.

Depending on other aspects of your birth chart you may have difficulty finding a practical outlet for your inner longings of expression. The goddess asks that you remember that your forte is the imagination. Great works of art, the uplifting force of benevolence and charity as well as the sacrifices of humans in times of crisis moves you, inspiring you to be heroic. These are the memories that motivate you at a deep level. Your motivation is spiritual, transcendental not materialistic or even perhaps practical. Nevertheless this goddess is encouraging you to explore the hidden nature of the soul and to find an avenue through which to assuage the hunger of a materialistic world.

Mnemosyne is in Sagittarius

You like to hear stories of people living in exotic lands. As a child you may have collected stamps from other countries, read books from different cultures or attended a church or school that taught you about diverse religions and cultures. Your fascination continues into adulthood. In particular you like stories. You see storytelling is a way to encourage people to experience all religions, all cultures. You like to learn about the common threads that link all people, encouraging an all-encompassing spiritual attitude. Racism appals you, and you hope to overcome bigotry by telling people stories of your own experiences, as well as sharing tales of other people. You are a born philosopher.

Instinctually you cross cultural lines through learning a foreign language, adopting a distinctive set of beliefs or through your urge for adventure. You are likely to travel, and possibly live, in another country during the course of your life. You learn to enjoy the experience of expanding your mind through exposure to other lifestyles. You enjoy creating memories through travel. As writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn says, 'own only what you can carry with you; know language, know countries, know people. Let your memory be your travel bag.'

If you are not in a position to travel then you may enjoy visiting libraries, museums and art galleries to expand your mind, or studying. Topics that could appeal include classical mythology, metaphysics, ancient philosophers, theology, the arts, science, ancient history, foreign cultures or languages. You have a love of language, enjoying finding common words in different languages. You may enjoy studying traditional languages such as Arabic or Latin. Perhaps the ancient

papyri fascinate you? You may decide to publish your own works, a journal, magazine or book. The internet may also provide an avenue of communicating with like-minded friends and colleagues, or for you to publish your thoughts and works. Teaching may also be an option. It is important that you discover an avenue though which you can learn, expand your mind and express your philosophical ideas.

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 10th House

The goddess Hecate is a powerful influence in your birth chart, indicating that an authoritative woman, probably your mother, plays a prominent role in your early life. Your father is unlikely to be the head of your childhood household, as this position suggest the prominence of feminine principles. Your mother, or another female relative, is the boss. The extent to which this influence has a positive or negative effect depend largely other aspects of your birth chart; however, your

mother does make a significant impression of your choices in your adult life.

In a positive scenario your mother is a strong woman, able to command respect in both happy and difficult periods. Her wisdom and good common sense set an admirable example. It is possible that your father is absent in your life, and that your mother has had to struggle on her own. On the other hand it may be that your connection to your mother is more evocative than your bond with your father. Positively speaking, she teaches you what to do at different crossroads in your young life, which helps you later in life. She teaches you many life skills, preparing you to leave your family as a young adult and strike out independently. She is also able, by example, to teach you how to maintain a mutually supportive bond with your spouse.

On the other hand it is possible that your mother has had a detrimental effect on your adult life. The darker side of this placement of the goddess Hecate is that your mother, or grandmother, could be too powerful in your family system, reigning like an overpowering monarch. As you are growing up you may start to feel oppressed by this woman's level of interference in your life. You feel that you are missing out on a bond with your father. As a result you are likely to want to break free, leave your family home and learn how to live your own life without meddling from others. Your adjustment to independent living may be quite tumultuous. Your challenge is to connect with your own sense of self, your own spiritual purpose, and to create a life that works for you. You need to integrate the positive lessons that have been passed down by your mother, but to break away from any manipulative tactics. Once you feel powerful in your own life, then you are more likely to see her influence in the light of another human being trying to do their best. In order to do this you may benefit from taking part in rituals whenever you make major changes in your life direction. For instance a graduation ceremony can mark the end of one form of schooling and the beginning of a new phase, and a wedding ceremony is an important statement to society of your commitment to another person, as well as your change in social status. These rites of passage can assist you at the crossroads of your life.

Hecate is in Virgo

There is a sharp edge to your personality that others may or may not realize, depending on how well they know you. This can be a very positive trait, lending you the ability to discern and make decisions based on facts and figures. A cool head in heated moments can be a real asset. There are defining moments in your life, and those close to you, when you know precisely which turn you are going to take next. It is likely to be a logical choice and sometimes you fail to take into consideration the emotional aspects of any given situation. You have a strong intellectual bent, but the intellect needs to be balanced with the emotions, particularly in your personal life.

You are very adept at changing jobs, gaining promotions and new positions of authority with a blend of hard work and astute networking. If you are not careful

you could be conducting your personal relationships based on the same basis and this does not necessarily work. The intellect alone can be a harsh judge of human foibles. There is a saying, something along the lines of, 'do you want to be right or do you want to be happy?' You need to reserve your judgment in your private life and temper your integrity with compassion. You would be better off directing your powers of discernment into your professional career. You are honorable, perceptive, resourceful, fair and righteous. What better qualities could be required for law, justice, diplomacy, accountancy, politics, academia or research?

The goddess Hecate has been linked to many herbs, probably because of her association with witchcraft. She viewed herbs as sacred medicine. The sign of Virgo also has links with health, herbs, medicine and medical research. Therefore you are likely to be fascinated with the process of disease and cure. A look in your medicine cabinet or bookshelves may verify this! In a woman's chart this placement of Hecate in connection with the sign of Virgo indicates that you delve in to the realms of conventional or alternative healing, researching the many intricacies of health and well being. You could literally be a medical scientist, doctor, nurse or health care worker or you could be fascinated with growing medicinal herbs in your garden. In a man's chart this placement indicates that you attract a female friend, spouse or family member who is preoccupied with health. Hopefully your loved one experiences good health, but it is possible that she is searching for answers because of her own ill health. You need to encourage her to discover as many alternative-healing cures as possible. You are also expected to look after your own health. You may cringe to know that the precise details of your life scenario are not important; what is significant is how you conduct your overall life. The goddess Hecate is calling on you to bring integrity - the integration of intellect and emotions - to bear on all situations. Your healing powers then can be directed to assist sick and suffering children, adults or creatures from the natural world.

Cassandra - The Prophetic Soul



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

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

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

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

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

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

healthy identity about our beliefs.

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

Cassandra is in the 12th House

You have the ability to see far beneath the superficial aspects of life. You are wise beyond your years, able to analyze and understand everyday matters as well as highly spiritual ones. You are able to foretell the outcomes of societal trends, as well as personal ones. On a personal level others often seek your counsel, advice and support. This is because you are often able to predict what will happen to them, who will win the football match, even on what horses to place a bet. You may choose a professional that requires your gifts of personal and collective insights, such as social work, counseling, politics, policy making, stock-market trading and economics.

The goddess Cassandra was both gifted and cursed. At times you realize that your insights can be a curse. Sometimes your loved ones refuse to heed your well-meant advice. You can see the consequences of the actions of those close to you long before they can, but you can't control the way they choose to react. Sometimes you feel like you are simply sitting to one side and waiting for a train wreck to happen. This is true both for personal and societal matters.

In a woman's chart it is possible that an influential man will challenge your beliefs at a very deep level. In a man's chart it is likely that you will attract a wise woman who helps you understand the deeper meanings in life. Either way you are challenged to develop the spiritual side of your life in a way that enhances your own or other's journeys.

Cassandra is in Scorpio

You are perceptive, intense and wise, understanding the true nature of human interactions. You are not comfortable with social chitchat, preferring intimate conversations. This is because you can see beneath the layer of polite conversation to the truth of a person. Other people's desires may be hidden deep in their own subconscious but you can detect their true nature. You may also have the gift of prophecy. Sometimes this awareness feels more like a curse than a blessing. Other people may not appreciate your honest appraisal of their motivations, particularly when the darker forces such as jealousy, lust, greed, and revenge are revealed. Truth is never comfortable. In fact your friends, colleagues and loved ones may not realize that you are speaking the truth, so blind are they to their own subconscious motivations.

As a child you are likely to innocently reveal the truths of the adult world around you. You may even be removed from adult company, knowing that you have said something wrong, but not really understanding what. As an adult your awareness of your own powers of perception sharpen and you learn when to speak out and when to remain quiet. You become the holder of other speaker's secrets, a wise counselor and an advocate for intimacy.

Trust is also a subtle theme in your life. You may distrust other people's true motives, given your power for discerning the truth. Others may equally be distrustful of your ability to see beyond their social façade. As a result you may find that you gather a small circle of loyal peers and loved ones, creating an emotional reserve with acquaintances and other associates. As you mature you learn when to contain your feelings and when to disclose them. Over time you have become wiser about timing your revelations and knowing when it is appropriate to reveal the truth and when it is best kept them concealed. As a healer you know the powerfully transforming quality of catharsis that comes from disclosure, yet you also are aware of the irreparable damage a secret can unleash. You hold the power to make the decision to heal or hurt through how you unveil your knowledge.

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 knows intuitively 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 12th House

While Medea may be comfortable in the watery depths of the 12th house it does not necessarily translate that you will be at ease with this archetypal energy that is so deeply embedded in your psyche. Energetically Medea is not appreciated in our logical scientific world where knowledge needs to be measured and intuitive feelings need to be rationalized. Therefore your deep instincts, feelings, ways of knowing things and ability to see beyond this dimension may be put down and ignored. From an early age you may have been the one identified as being too imaginative or too 'strange'.

Yet interestingly the more those around you denied the more this realm of magic and mystery, the more in touch you became with your inner sense of knowing and seeing. An aspect of your fate includes the uncanny ability you have to know things or sense the future. While this may not be welcomed, even by yourself, it is a pattern that you will recognize and need to learn to accept as you mature. However, you're not alone. In the annals of your family history there will be those who would have had similar abilities and experiences. While they may not have been necessarily integrated or spoken of in your ancestral chronicles, nonetheless, they were part of your tribe. Innocent people became scapegoats in witch hunts and metaphorically speaking this is part of your racial memory. In some sense you're also redeeming this lost and misunderstood aspect of the family fate. Since this pattern in the family may still may be enshrouded or lost in shadow most familial members will still be in denial of this aspect.

While in your early years this may have contributed to you feeling marginal, in later years this will be able to be more incorporated into your personality. This suggests that you're selected in a way to redeem mystery and magic from the storehouse of the past. You have inherited an intuitive, even mediumistic quality that allows you to communicate with other dimensions and worlds. It is important not to be afraid or dismissive of your feelings, hunches or visions but recognize them as part of a legacy. While your association with this way of knowing will make many feel uncomfortable it will draw those who are in need of comfort and healing to you.

Medea is in Sagittarius

Medea in the play by Euripides passionately addresses the Corinthian women and speaks her truth: "a foreign woman coming among new laws, new customs needs the skill of magic to find out what her home could not teach her". The goddess in your horoscope will echo this feeling, as at one point in your life your fate will be to feel foreign, unprepared by your own education to understand the customs of others. Yet this pattern is woven into your life to introduce you to your own instinctual wisdom that spontaneously knows the rules of being a stranger. It also presents the challenge to expand beyond your own sense of certainty and safety. Whether the fates have arranged it so that you have lived overseas, married a foreigner or been enticed away from your homeland by work or a better life, you know how it feels to be marginal. It is through these experiences that you discover your innate wisdom and magic. As your familial beliefs are not comforting enough, the path of your life will lead you away from traditional religion into the religion of the goddess. Her religion is one that embraces the healing properties of the earth, the wisdom of cycles, the power of magic, and the insight of prophecy and intuition. All these things will be important to you especially as you do not have to join any cult to embrace them. However, you also may find a way to embrace a traditional theology in your own unique way. You are a maverick in your ideas and a nonconformist in your beliefs. Ironically it is these principles that will shepherd you into the domain of religion and philosophy, writing and publishing, education and teaching, even travel. You are an adventurous guide, an inspired writer and a convincing teacher exposing others to the multi cultural textures of the human experience.

Whether the environment is the university, the ashram, the publishing house or the sports field you bring evocative and innovative ideas into these territories. These ideas are transformational, enlightening and revealing. Unfortunately they are also threatening to those who do not want to change.

You have strong convictions and powerful reactions to immoral and unethical behavior. Therefore it is important to ground your strong mental faculties as the fire in your belly may erupt in frustration and anger. In this sign Medea offers you the herb Dandelion. Its roots and leaves help to detoxify the liver and purify the blood, or roast the roots and substitute them for coffee. Agrimony will help to dispel a fever and the flower essence of Vervain can be used for mental fatigue, stress and tension when you are too involved with your concepts. As an essential oil rosemary will work magic. To appease Medea's need for ritual and reverence for nature find an oak tree to sit under and feel its strength and earthiness. Try to remember to bring Medea's earth magic into your experience when the fever of your life begins to wear you down.

Conclusion

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

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

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

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