

**COSMIC ASTROLOGY:  
THE BOOK OF ANSWERS**

**Chapters I & II**

*Cosmic Astrology: The Book of Answers*

## Chapter I & II

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# I. Introduction to Astrology

What is **astrology**?

**Astrology** is the ancient practice that seeks to interpret the relationship between the cosmos and life on Earth. At a glance, the planets and stars seem such arbitrary objects that shift like clockwork in the sky. In the present day, the stars have faded into the background – dimmed as the backdrop behind the glare of city lights, so that we neglect to look up at their beauty in awestruck wonder. And so, we have not yet come to the realization that there are forces that exist outside this world much greater than the sheltered surface upon which we live.

It seems more common in this day and age that we struggle to find significance in memorizing star patterns or simply pointing out the constellations in the night sky. We neglect the practice altogether, and throw it off as some form of over indulgence for amateur astronomers and crazed astrologers elated with lunacy. But with a closer observation of the planets and stars, the patterns of existence and interactions between take the shape of a divine melody, and with these patterns, we begin to unlock the beat of the drum in which chaos parades about the universe.

So what does astrology mean for us humans?

From horoscopes to natal charts, astrologers have tried to make use of the zodiac signs and planetary information they collect from the sky. Each interpretation varies from one astrologer to the next, but the key idea resounds just the same. **Our lives are very much intertwined with the motion of celestial bodies.**

This idea was once appreciated to the point that it resembled worship among the peoples of ancient civilization. Ancestors of the past were so keen to understand and interpret the night sky that they crafted legends into the stars and crowned the planets deities. Though the reasoning appears lost through the ages, those very names remain the same ones we use to name the planets and stars, even today.

How does it all work in theory?

Much of astrology brings us back to one freeze frame in time, the moment of birth. In astrology, the position of the stars and aspects between planets play a vital role in the formation of character and determine our initial essence as a human being. These **astrological aspects** are found by measuring the relationship of angles between celestial bodies on the backdrop of constellations that paint the stars of the zodiac belt. In order to calculate the natal chart, the exact birth time and place are needed. With this data, the individual's birth chart or natal chart is formed.

**Natal charts** are used to detect configurations, aspects and planetary transits that predict future trends or conditions for the individual. **Transits** can refer to the revisiting of planets, such as Saturn's return that is said to wreak havoc on one's natal chart with a transit every thirty years. When it comes to relationships, natal charts interpret the nature of the energy exchange between two people. It can feel quite heavy with the weight of multiple conjunctions or connect us with the invisible strings of grand trines.

On a wider scale **mundane astrology** interprets the influences of the motion of the Sun, Moon and planets in orbit for the whole of humanity. The Sun's orbit is marked with a zodiac sign for every month, while the Moon circles through every sign in just under a

month. Perhaps it's the planets that entice the most curiosity, when they stop dead in the sky and begin to float backwards through the zodiac in retrograde motion.

## The Moon, Planets and Sun

What are the individual characteristics of the celestial bodies?

### Sun

Sol or the Sun is the most powerful force in the immediate sky, once worshipped by the ancients as the giver of life. This brilliant star graces the shadows with light and emits fiery energies of vitality, generosity and reason. The Sun sign in astrology embodies the character of our outward expression and represents the totality of the ego. It can distinguish the nature of our pursuits in life and describe the essence of our individuality and conscious thoughts. We cannot hide it, as much as we try. It is the mask we always wear—the surface appearance we show without any realization. Others absorb it upon meeting us and take it with them as a first impression.

### Moon

The Moon is the ruler in the realm of instincts. It connects us with forms of higher emotion such as empathy and illuminates intuition and extra-sensory thought. The Moon encompasses all feminine aspects, as it cycles through the zodiac every twenty-eight days. In astrology, the Moon sign indicates the nature of our emotional reactions. We look to the Moon to find the external representation of our emotion. The Moon is the connection to our shadow self.

### Mercury

Mercury is the dexterous planet of mental processes. It rules the mind and expresses conscious thought in the form of logic and reason. Mercury holds the key to an individual's memory and intelligence. The gift of eloquence in lecture or literature is

indicated by the Mercury sign. Messages are often associated with Mercury as well as all types of communication.

## **Venus**

The gleaming planet Venus symbolizes genuine beauty and love. Venus rules our personal magnetism and describes the people and situations we most often attract into our world. The Venus sign in astrology indicates the relationships that we seek in the arena of friends and romantic partners. This sign shapes our aesthetic interests in art, literature and music. Venus appeals to the senses and embodies the things that provide the most comfort and pleasure.

## **Mars**

The blunt force of Mars calls us into action. Mars does not hesitate but jumps on the fight. Its aura of power, passion and determination fuel the urge to battle—and with this courage, we persevere. In astrology, the Mars sign marks our own individual realm of desire. It links us to our passions and the things we hold in high value for which we would be willing to put our life on the line.

## **Jupiter**

Jupiter is best viewed as the jovial father of the planets with benevolent demeanor and infinite wisdom. From Jupiter, we are graced with an air of creative expansion and growth that can quickly turn into abundance or even excess. Jupiter grants us knowledge through travel and communication. The Jupiter sign in astrology is tied to our own broad vision of the world. It indicates our personal philosophy of life and represents the nature of our own individual intellect.

## **Saturn**

Saturn is burdened with the weight of restriction and sorrow. Saturn lifts the veil between wishful thinking in abstract thought

and the external truth in reality. It provokes the most painful but necessary lessons that can only be learned by overcoming adversity. Saturn focuses on what is practical and conservative. The seriousness of Saturn gives it a cold presence, yet we find stability in its wake. The Saturn sign in astrology can signify the nature of our affliction in life. We must seek isolation to find inspiration and inner wisdom in order to conquer Saturn's trials.

## **Uranus**

Uranus is the most spontaneous force in the solar system with the power to unleash sudden catastrophe. It is linked to chaotic disturbances, the product of restricted liberties. Uranus acts on impulse—rotating in its own eccentric axis perpendicular to the status quo—and embodies all things bohemian and sarcastic. Uranus holds an inventive attitude and creates a new, original way of doing things. The Uranus sign can disrupt the present with sudden 'eureka' moments of discovery and rapid change.

## **Neptune**

Neptune is the distant trickster and ruler of mystery in the solar system. This outer planet slips on the rose-tinted glasses and allows us to live within the bounds of our own fantasy. Neptune is a theatrical character that puts on a play—dragging us into the depths of our imagination and desire through grand illusions. In astrology, the Neptune sign is where we conquer our own phantoms and develop the highest forms of human empathy. Neptune is also linked to the aether that manifests dreams and visions and is used to indicate forms of extrasensory perception.

## **Pluto**

Pluto skirts the edge of our world, where the largest ideas are born to captivate the whole of society. It circles through the zodiac once every quarter century. Pluto holds an element of destruction and death—though the outcome is not always negative, as its presence also indicates a rebirth. The Pluto sign in astrology is a generational marker that moves slowly through each zodiac sign. As it does, it shifts the core values of the entire population and improves upon

these ideas with the steady waves of influence into society over time. With Pluto, we rise from the ashes and replace the past through restoration and new forms of progression.

## The Galactic Center

The Galactic Center is a fixed point in the sky where the galactic bulge is found—the heart of our Milky Way Galaxy. At this location, it is thought that there exists a super-massive black hole about which our Sun and all the stars in the galaxy revolve. The Galactic Center is found by following the narrow glow of the Milky Way to the point where it crosses the zodiac belt on the cusp of Ophiuchus and Sagittarius. This seemingly minute zone in the sky is extremely loud and emits the most concentrated source of starlight in the galaxy.

**The Galactic Center** is the mother of our solar system, and from it we draw divine wisdom and healing vibrations. We watch the Sun pass this center each year just before the winter solstice and celebrate its passing with the lengthening day.

“There is a way on high, conspicuous in the clean heavens, called the Milky Way, brilliant with its own brightness. By the gods go to dwelling of the great Thunderer and his royal abode... Here the famous and mighty inhabitants of the heaven have their homes. This is the region which I might make bold to call the Palatine [Way] of the Great Sky.”

—Ovid,  
*Metamorphoses*

## Signs of the Zodiac

What is the significance of the **zodiac belt**?

The **zodiac belt** is the narrow strip of constellations in the sky, where the celestial bodies of our solar system are spotted in orbit around the Sun. The planets appear to circle the Earth in the plane



of this belt. The planets, Moon and Sun can be found within one of the zodiac constellations at all times of the year. Astrology interprets these orbits by framing each planet through the lens of each individual zodiac sign, so that the celestial bodies are enriched by the characteristics of each constellation they pass through on the journey.

## **Aries**

The first sign of the zodiac, **Aries** grants us a running start. Aries symbolized by the ram is a forceful and adventurous spirit that initiates life into action. Though like the ram, the sign Aries can become temperamental and even violent under pressure. Aries empowers us to confront challenges with courage and manifest our will into reality. Those under Aries are hardworking individuals and often approach life's obstacles with energetic enthusiasm.

## **Taurus**

**Taurus**, the second sign of the zodiac is quick to offer a smile. The bull is a beautiful, fun-loving creature with steadfast determination and head held high. Taurus is susceptible to self-indulgence and seeks out the sensual pleasures in life. Taurus is among the best companions to keep, since this gentle soul is the most patient and loyal friend. Those under Taurus are romantics at heart and often succeed in the domestic realm.

## **Gemini**

The third sign of the zodiac, **Gemini** is symbolized by the dualistic nature of the twins. Geminis are entertaining conversationalists – the perfect company to pass the time. The curious and analytical nature of Gemini fuels self-expression and invention in those under this sign. Geminis often wear two masks on the surface and can appear superficial when both are exposed. If overwhelmed, a Gemini must avoid patterns of excessive worry to keep from losing sight of focus.

## **Cancer**

**Cancer** the crab is the fourth sign of the zodiac with a tough shell and a tender heart. Cancers are naturally reserved and take a more cautious approach to life. The crab may come across as quiet and shy – then surprise everyone with a sudden outburst, when it is least expected. Those under Cancer are imaginative and dreamy with an intuition that seems almost uncanny. Cancers are self-sacrificing individuals when it comes to family and protect their own at all costs. When in distress a Cancer becomes restless and easily discouraged.

## Leo

**Leo** throws us into the heat of the fire, when we enter this fifth sign of the zodiac. This powerful lion holds the creative energy and ambition of a great leader. Though like a leader, such impulses of the heart must also carry a weight of dignity. Thus, Leos often come across as vain and arrogant when pursuing material pleasures unrestrained. Leo is one of the most affectionate and loving signs that holds to be the most faithful and true.

## Virgo

**Virgo** the sixth sign is the maiden of the zodiac. The maiden is kind and takes pleasure in serving others before self. Virgos are neat and organized individuals that offer the most helpful practical advice. The ingenious and introspective thoughts of a modest Virgo very rarely grace the presence of reality in conversation. Virgos are meticulous by nature and often get caught up in the minute details. Those under Virgo are the skeptics of the zodiac and have a tendency to become over-critical.

## Libra

The scales of **Libra** the seventh zodiac sign strive to bring balance back to reality. Libras are sweet and kind individuals that act with tact and hold the power of persuasion. The sign Libra draws equilibrium back into the world through cooperation and justice. Those under Libra are often artistic and thrive best in a social environment full of uplifting relationships. When the scales

become tipped, Libra is left undecided and emotionally unbalanced.

## Scorpio

The eighth sign of the zodiac **Scorpio** is known for its sting. The scorpion captivates admirers with personal success and alluring magnetism. Scorpions are intense and passionate individuals governed by the will of inner desire. Those under the sign Scorpio have an extraordinary imagination and shape the world with creative visions. Scorpions are full of secrets. If threatened, this sign has a tendency to become self-absorbed and suspicious of others.

## Ophiuchus

The forgotten sign **Ophiuchus** the serpent-bearer grants us strength to heal the world. Ophiuchus is an open-minded and refreshing soul, unconditioned to the rules of reality and often misunderstood. Many are confused by the ambitions of Ophiuchus, the seeker of higher knowledge and universal wisdom. Ophiuchus feels lost in the material world and navigates through life on intuition. When in the presence of Ophiuchus, we often lose track of time and converse over the most unusual subjects. This sign can become easily frustrated, when others do not care to listen.

## Sagittarius

**Sagittarius** the ninth zodiac sign lends us the aspiration of the archer. Sagittarius symbolized by half man, half beast presents the internal struggle between the instinct of conquest and the rational mind. Sagittarius rises to the challenge and overcomes adversity with effort and sincere enthusiasm. The freedom-loving spirit of the archer inspires us all to share in this optimism. Those under Sagittarius are idealistic and extremely ambitious with an anxious inability to wait.

## Capricorn

**Capricorn** the goat and tenth sign of the zodiac invites us to restore

cosmic order. Capricorns are organized and economical individuals that initiate the practical construction of reality. Those under Capricorn are highly focused and detailed thinkers that often allow the head to rule the heart. While Capricorns are the most trustworthy friends, they also make the worst enemies. A Capricorn will manipulate entire situations to secure the desired outcome.

## **Aquarius**

The eleventh sign of **Aquarius** inspires our altruistic outlook for humanity. Aquarius depicts parallel waves of vibration or electricity that influence the world with the spirit of invention. Aquarius is a tolerant and rational sign graced with a kind and gentle disposition. Those under Aquarius are guided by reason and weigh each outcome under sound or unsound. Aquarians often let emotions get the best of them and combat these moods with unconventional and rebellious expression.

## **Pisces**

The twelfth sign of **Pisces** embodies the struggle of the soul trapped in the material body. The restrained fishes of this sign present the weight of captivity and inhibitions in our present life. Pisces are known as the silent mystics of the zodiac. This sign practices self-denial and withdraws like the hermit to find clarity. Pisces are highly intuitive and vivid imaginers that craft themselves into schemes of higher thought. In such cases, Pisces become imprisoned inside the realm of the abstract with impractical and fatalistic attitudes toward life.

## II. Natal Chart Basics

What is a natal chart?

A **natal chart** also known as a birth chart is used to map the celestial bodies in their corresponding zodiac at the time of birth. This is where we find not just the Sun sign used in modern day horoscopes, but the Moon, Venus and all other locations of each of the planets. The nativity in astrology is a useful tool in presenting a person's individual aura or personality characteristics. To create a natal chart, the native's exact birth date, time and place are needed to map a precise depiction of the cosmic conditions upon entering this world.

With this information, each of the planets are placed into a wheel diagram of the zodiac at the exact locations they existed in time—the natal chart. This data is then used to measure the angles between the planets, Moon and Sun, to draw up **astrological aspects**.

## Astrological Aspects & Transits

What do **astrological aspects** tell us about a chart?

**Astrological aspects** illustrated by chart patterns such as conjunctions, oppositions, trines, sextiles, and squares refer to specific angles between the celestial bodies. Each of these aspects gives the native insight into individual strengths or everyday challenges. These initial aspects of nativity are also used to calculate personal **transits** that occur when a specific occupied spot is revisited later in life. Last, astrological aspects are used to predict compatibility in relationship astrology or synastry.

## Conjunction

A **conjunction** is an astrological aspect in which two or more celestial bodies can be found at the same point on a natal chart within an **8 degree orb of 360 degrees** – a circle. These aspects often find the two planets in the same sign. Conjunctions are considered constructive in nature and call for the planets involved to work in cooperation with one another. However, all aspects should be read on an individual basis. Because of this, a conjunction is derived from the characteristics of those planets involved. Strong and stable, slow-moving outer planets may find it more difficult to harmonize with the quick impulses of the fast inner planets.

Conjunctions can cause tension or ease, since these require the participating planets to function as one individual entity. It is important to measure the impact of a conjunction along with all other aspects by the degree of separation – also known as the **orb**.

## Opposition

An **opposition** is an aspect in which two or more celestial bodies can be found at opposing points in a natal chart within an **8 degree orb of 180 degrees** – a semicircle. These aspects find two or more planets in opposing signs of the zodiac. Oppositions are all about balance. It becomes a conscious effort to maintain balance between these opposing forces. There is an ever-flowing exchange of energy, like a tug on the negative and positive polarity between opposite planets. With this abundance, the result is quite overwhelming

with the ability to inspire greatness or unleash destruction – and with passion. These intense influences can be measured by the nature of the planets involved. The Moon and Sun are considered opposite, just as the influences of Mars and Venus. With these complimentary types of oppositions, the energy is raised to a higher caliber and affects the native in a deep way.

Oppositions weigh heavy on a chart and have the potential to create imbalances that are expressed in the external reality. These challenging aspects can either be highly rewarding or personally devastating.

## Trine

A **trine** is an aspect in which two or more celestial bodies are separated at thirds along the natal chart within an **8 degree orb of 120 degrees** – a triangle. These aspects become highly complementary when the occupying planets are found in the same elemental sign. Regardless, the trine is a favorable position that requires no effort on the native's part. These points often suggest a natural ability to combine the influences of participating planets in a creative way. The trine points to a place of ease – a supportive and perpetually balanced force. The trine is an excellent aspect for relief from the weight of heavy astrological influences.

With such easy flowing energy, the trine is also a source of laziness. Trines lack the challenge of maintaining balance between planetary influences and require less attention. Thus, the trine sustains rather than changes.

## Square

A **square** is an aspect in which two or more celestial bodies occupy separate quadrants of the natal chart within an **8 degree orb of 90 degrees** – a square. In this way, the signs are often of the same functioning type in traditional astrology cardinal, fixed and mutable. The planets involved naturally gravitate toward contradicting purposes. The square aspect points to disagreement between the participating planets that requires conscious

adjustment. Squares initiate growth through change, which can either be uplifting or disassembling. The outcome depends on the nature of the planets involved or the ability of the particular sign to adjust. Fixed signs—as indicated—find it more difficult to make adjustments.

These aspects are better expressed in stressful circumstances. Squares challenge the native to overthrow old habit patterns. Through reflection and self-denial, the square helps to accomplish ambitions.

## Sextile

A sextile is an aspect in which two or more celestial bodies are separated by one zodiac sign in the natal chart within a **6 degree orb of 60 degrees**—a hexagon. These aspects are often between two signs of the same polarity, both with a compatible manner of expression—male or female. In such cases, the signs either male or female promote the positive or negative perspective—where positive describes the assertive nature of masculine and negative, the receptivity of the feminine. The sextile combines these like energies to assist in the manifestation of favorable outcomes. These aspects often prove more compelling and constructive than the gentle and harmonious nature of the trine.

The sextile encourages adjustment and promotes balance through change. Because of this, the sextile requires less effort. Sextiles present opportunities that prompt external revision with ease.

How do **transits** weigh in on an individual's natal chart?

Transits refer to daily astrological aspects observed, when a celestial body revisits a point of significance on the individual's natal chart. As a transiting planet passes one of these sensitive areas, the nature of the original aspect of nativity is activated. Except, the transiting planet now grants its influence to the initial aspect and provides a fleeting moment of fortune or catastrophe. This is all dependent upon the nature of those planets or aspects involved.

Outer planetary transits provide insight into the cycles of nature. Often the planet Saturn is considered a dreaded transit that



revisits its original location once about every thirty years. Because of this, when we reach the age thirty, sixty or even ninety, Saturn prompts an important lesson that will greatly impact the way in which we carry on in the future down our own individual life path.

Jupiter is another transiting planet that provides us with a more uplifting effect. When Jupiter transits its initial position of nativity, it bestows the gifts of wisdom and life experience on the native. Jupiter transits through the zodiac belt once every twelve years. Slow moving Saturn and Jupiter transits have longer lasting effects that unfold over the course of a year.

How do planetary **transits** affect the wider world?

Outer planets point to lasting effects on the external reality. Transits connected to Uranus often provoke catastrophic consequences. However, they can also point to a spontaneous breath of excitement—a fortunate happenstance or new way of branching out from the norm. Uranus rotates in the opposite direction of the remaining planets. Because of this, Uranus transits throw us for a loop. Both Uranus and Neptune are linked to civil unrest and describe the passing of world affairs—beyond what's presented on the surface. Neptune is the ruler of widespread illusion and the ideology of the collective. Its influences have the greatest effect on the invisible realm.

In these cycles, Uranus transits in half the time as Neptune. It takes Neptune 165 years to circle the zodiac and Uranus, just 84 years. The transits of these two outer planets work hand in hand. Uranus transits break down the current reality to make way for Neptune's latest grand illusions.

Moon transits are often linked to the feminine cycle. The Moon travels through the zodiac in just 28 days—making it the fastest transiting object used in astrology. Mercury and Venus never stray far from the Sun and play an endless game of 'hurry up, and then wait' with each passing. This apparent observation of the Mercury and Venus is caused by the phenomenon **retrograde**—when a planet slows, and stops dead in the sky to reverse its motion backwards through the zodiac. In retrograde, these close inner

planets constantly communicate information with the Sun to prompt new changes in our outward expression.

What is significant about a **retrograde** period?

## Retrograde

The Moon and Sun never retrograde. The motion of retrograde is caused by the position of Earth overtaking that of another planet on its orbital path around the Sun. This illusion is caused by each planet's path of orbit. Mercury is the most sporadic planet that retrogrades each time it gets ahead of the Sun in the zodiac belt. But the retrograde period of any planet marks an important moment in time. This point of slowing just before the planet turns to reverse marks the moment in which the retrograding planet is the closest possible distance to the Earth.

Retrogrades in astrology can be read as a reconditioning for the planet involved. While the planet retraces its path in time backwards through the signs, the planetary influence is internalized and reconsidered to suit the current reality. It is a moment of re-evaluation. When this task is done, the planet returns once again along its path forward through the zodiac. Thus, the change of direction is set into motion.

## Relationship Astrology – Synastry

How does relationship astrology or **synastry** work?

"The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed."

— Carl Jung,  
*Modern Man in Search of a Soul*

In relationship astrology, **synastry aspects** are drawn to compare the natal charts of two people in order to reveal the nature

of their meeting. Synastry is also used to illustrate the energy exchange that resonates between family, friends or lovers. Those relationships that impact us the most are often drawn up with invisible ties in synastry. In such cases, the line between coincidence and fate can become blurred.

One's personal aspects can provide a favorable influence over the deficient area of another person's natal chart. Likewise, difficult aspects can be drawn between two charts that either provoke tension or prompt change and growth as a lasting effect of the relationship. Balanced synastry aspects provide a harmonious arena for expression between two people. Synastry aspects are derived by comparing two natal charts in the same fashion as described for interpreting an individual's chart aspects.

## Traditional Astrology Explained

What is significant about the moment of birth?

The initial conditions and environment of one's own development have been thought to weigh heavy on a person throughout life. Humans are conditioned from a young age to adapt to their environment. School children are introduced to the social norms of society and taught to adopt the most current moral values in trend. Those who succeed are praised, those who fail, disciplined. Some would argue the nature of early development holds key importance in how an individual will adapt later in life. In fact, many people thrive in the conditions that were presented to them in early development. They are naturally more inclined to mimic familiar settings or repeat old habit patterns for better or worse.

In this same way, a person's natal chart can be considered the initial environment of cosmic conditions presented at birth. The nativity exhibits the purest form of our existence, before any conditioning has occurred. We enter this paradigm at one significant moment in time, resonate with it and accept this pattern written in the sky as our own personal signature as time goes on.

In astrology, timing is everything, and if nothing else, the most important aspect when entering a plane of existence. With a closer look at the hours that unfold with the zodiac after the moment of birth, the very nature of our life path is narrated in the twelve **astrological houses**.

## The Houses & Invisible Aspects

What is the purpose of the **astrological houses**?

The **astrological houses** represent external affairs. House astrology is a psychologically retrospective process that invites the native to define the influences of the signs and planets as these aspects shape life's events in the external reality. The houses represent our personal approach to life. In this way, the celestial bodies describe activities, while the zodiac signs represent the nature of these activities. Through house astrology, the native is given a stage to observe their life path with an objective point of view. The houses start with the ascendant and divide the sky up into 12 slots of 30 degrees to complete 360 degrees around the zodiac belt.

What types of points create **invisible aspects**?

### Ascendant

The **ascendant (ASC)** or rising sign is the zodiac sign rising above the eastern horizon at the moment of birth. With the ascendant, we draw the line of self-awareness with our entrance into this life. The ascendant is found on the cusp of the first house on a natal chart — or at the point of zero degrees. From the zero degree line marking the ascendant, the houses begin to unfold as the zodiac belt reveals itself in time over the horizon in the east. The ascendant describes the pronounced aspects of our aura and appearance — those in which the world uses to estimate the measure of our own personal aptitudes and abilities.

### Midheaven

The **midheaven (MC)** marks the cross of the meridian and the ecliptic, opposite the Imum coeli (IC). It is situated halfway between the ascendant and descendant. The midheaven is found on the cusp of the tenth house in a natal chart. It describes our impulses toward ambitions and the direction of intellectual and physical capabilities.

## Descendant

The **descendant (DSC)** can be found opposite the ascendant and marks the point of declination. At this position, the Sun recedes beneath the visible horizon indicated by the sunset. The descendant is found on the cusp of the seventh house on a natal chart. It describes the manner in which we relate to the world and indicates relationships that complement our ascendant.

What do the **astrological houses** indicate in a natal chart?

- I. The first house** describes our early childhood and the manner in which our lives develop. It governs what distinguishes us as individuals, both our unique contributions and quirks. The first house describes our outward presentation and those idiosyncrasies that define our human quality.
- II. The second house** describes our personal resources and desires for gain. It indicates the nature of those special qualities and strengths we possess—to do with what we will. The second house displays our individual gifts that we utilize and share with the world.
- III. The third house** describes our environmental experiences and manner of knowing. It represents social lessons and relationships with siblings or the community. The third house indicates our perceptive and adaptive abilities that guide us to learn from and cooperate with others.
- IV. The fourth house** describes our early residence and emotional foundations. It rules the home and shapes our own personal sense of domestic security. The fourth house indicates gifts of

our parents, heritage and inherited adaptations that we express in family or domestic life.

- V.** The **fifth house** describes our creative urges and offspring. It represents all forms of self-replication through emotional expression or reproduction. The fifth house defines our personal legacy and things that are actualized as a product of our existence.
- VI.** The **sixth house** describes our personal responsibilities and daily routine. It represents our service to others and the nature of our own personal approach to work. The sixth house displays our adaptability to everyday crises and the health of the physical body.
- VII.** The **seventh house** describes our relationships and public image. It indicates partnerships of every type that require a combined effort toward a common goal. The seventh house depicts the give and take in life and the ways in which we see parts of ourselves reflected in others.
- VIII.** The **eighth house** describes our personal sacrifices and the evolution of self. It signifies the death of the obsolete and release from limitations. The eighth house indicates regeneration through change and invites us to abandon the desires of the ego.
- IX.** The **ninth house** describes our personal philosophy and standards in ethics. It represents our wisdom, intuition and dealings with the abstract mind. In the ninth house we meet experiences that promote higher learning and opportunities to expand beyond our personal viewpoint.
- X.** The **tenth house** describes our professional life and public influence. It indicates our position in society as the product of our occupational role. The tenth house prompts happenings in our career development and represents the nature in which our aspirations manifest in reality.
- XI.** The **eleventh house** describes our future goals and ideals with respect to humanity. It displays our associations that contribute to the external manifestation of personal ambitions. The

eleventh house grants us with the awareness of potential possibilities for progress.

**XII.** The **twelfth house** describes our unconscious experience and karmic obligations. It indicates trials of faith or activities of cause and effect. The twelfth house provokes situations, where we must confront unconscious motives and atone for past-doings.

## True Borders

What would an astronomer have to say about astrology?

For anyone who has taken the time out of their day to study the sky, it quickly becomes apparent that the widely accepted twelve constellations of the zodiac do not match up with reality. In truth, the signs of the zodiac belt hardly fit within the neat 30 degree slots of space assigned to each constellation in traditional astrology. In fact, when we take this into account, Virgo and Pisces stretch far beyond their borders at opposite ends of the zodiac, while Aries is cut short with a fitting description as an abrupt fire sign.

Unfortunately, the signs **Ophiuchus** and **Orion** are completely absent from the traditional twelve zodiac, and for this we must question, why? When we take a closer look at the constellations at night, both of these signs still hold a place among the stars. Simply not stating them in astrology will not erase them from the sky.

It is more likely we have yet to notice the significance of these signs. As they exist, Ophiuchus and Orion stand at pivotal areas in the zodiac. These zodiac signs hold the intersection where the plane of the zodiac belt and the Milky Way Galaxy cross paths—with Ophiuchus there to mark **the Galactic Center** and Orion, the furthest point from it.

## The Seasonal Approach

Have we been hoodwinked?

Not quite. The intent of the adjustment was to match the seasons separated into even quarters. And with each quarter, we experience three separate forms of the season. In this way, the zodiac signs stand as a symbol for the characteristics of the four seasons. It is interesting to note that the current calendar is split up into twelve months. The twelve **zodiac signs** seem to fit right into this scheme of uniform organization.

However, the significance of twelve is best explained by the fact that there are 360 degrees in the arc of the zodiac belt. Who needs **Ophiuchus** and **Orion** when we can even up the edges at a solid 30 degrees? It is for the sake of symmetry that we split them up in such a way. After all, astrology is a mathematical process.

If we visualize the Earth rotating around the Sun in a year's time, the zodiac signs become road markers that map out this great journey. Except from the Earth's perspective, we witness this month by month, when the Sun creeps slowly through each of the twelve zodiac signs over the course of a year. This visualization is not due to the Sun's movement, but our own planet's rotation around it at the center.

With each sign at perfect 30 degree angles, we are able to assign characteristics to the location of Earth in each quadrant on its annual path around the Sun. With this dynamic motion we capture a glimpse at the complexity of the astrological influences along the planet's path with the additional interactions between Earth and the remaining celestial bodies.

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