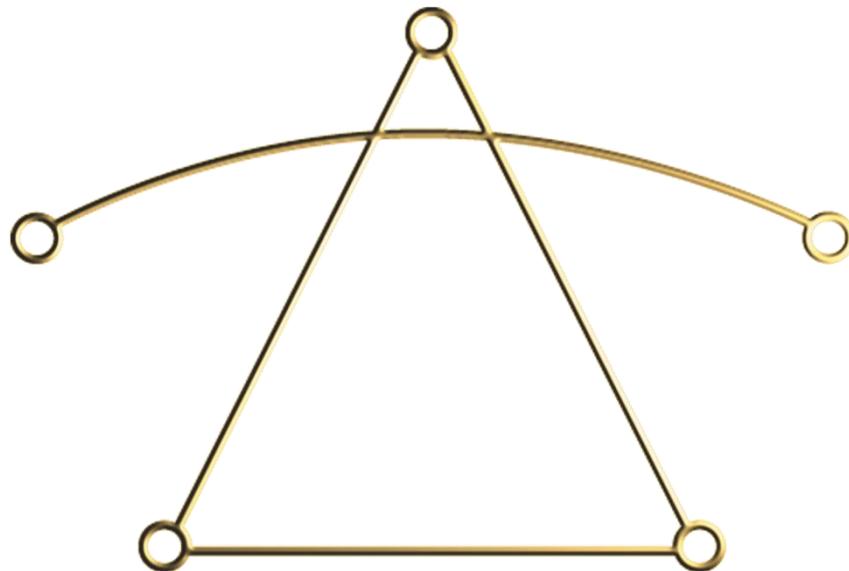


VOCATION REPORT

A Solar Writer Report for Richard Branson

Written by Diana K Rosenberg

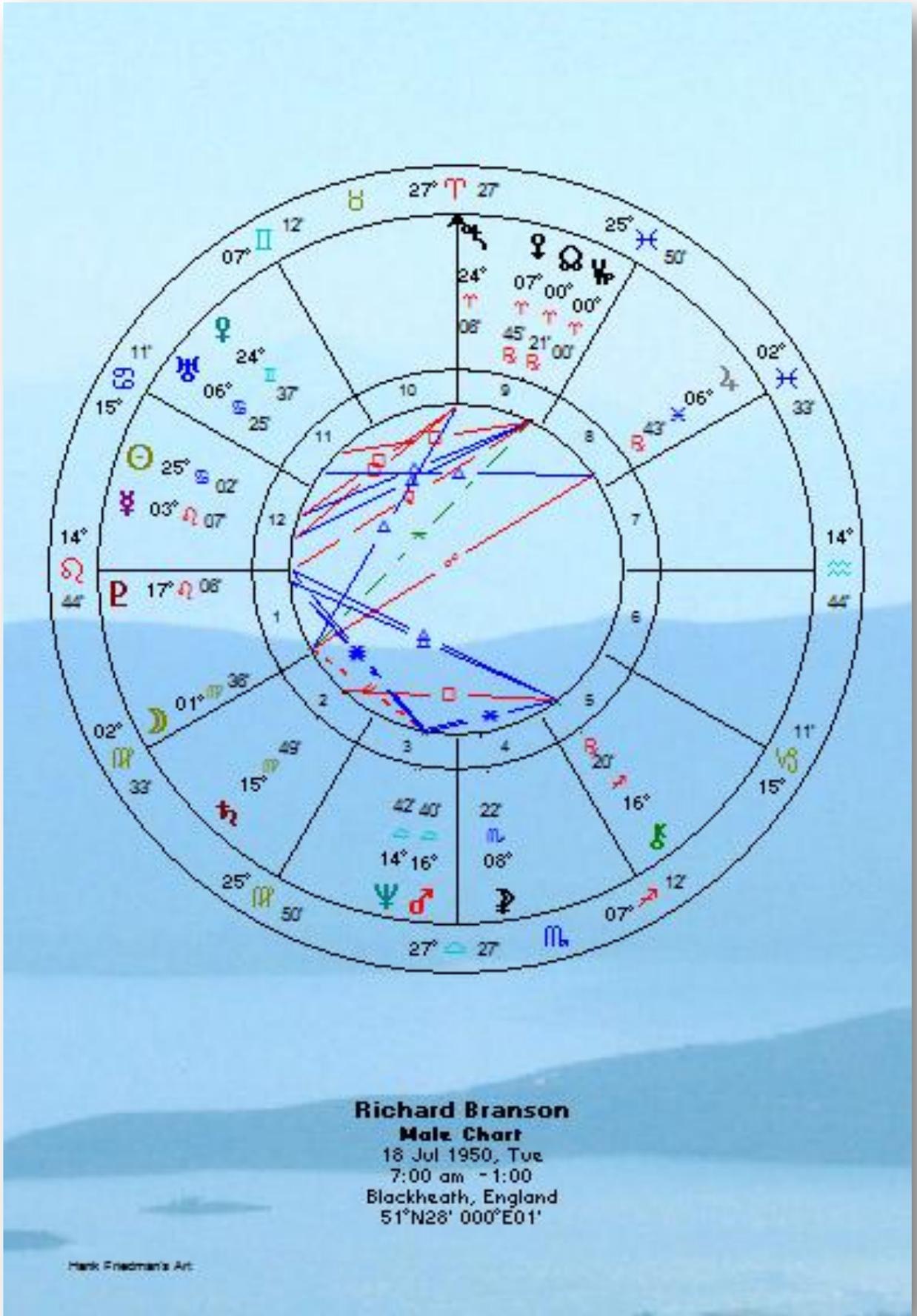


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INTRODUCTION



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

- Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

A Fulfilling Vocation

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

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

When you were a child what was your answer when adults inevitably asked 'what do you want to be when you grow up?' As children we are uninhibited in our career choices, not yet influenced by cultural standards and values that judge professions. Still unaware of what work entails, the answer springs from our imagination. How we shape these soulful images of which we may be in the world is our vocation and a large part of the individuation process. These impressions are already inherent in us and often accessible to us through the imagination, and certainly through images in the horoscope. However one of the main obstacles in our vocational search is literality. Mistaking an internal image for a concrete career perpetuates the myth that vocation is something existing outside of us, already established in the world for us to find, not something that unfolds over the course of our lives.

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

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

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

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

VOCATION AND DESTINY



Vocation is the spine of life
-Friedrich Nietzsche

The Lunar Nodes

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

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

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

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

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

The house position of the Nodes will illustrate the environmental factors that help to shape and influence an individual's destiny. The North Node's house position directs us to be aware of an important arena of our lives. It is important to consciously participate in the area of life described by the house position of the North Node. This is an area where both the inner and outer worlds collude to lead us into an encounter with our destiny. It is a part of life that beckons and invites us into its experiences. Since the North Node is often the place where we momentarily may experience the transcendent and spiritual aspect of the self, its house position maps the place where these experiences happen. The North Node does not have a cumulative effect; in other words experiences at this place are not sequential, but more arbitrary, and may seem to happen out of the ordinary. The random nature of the North Node is more to do with its subjective nature and entanglement with the spiritual world. Hence the house position of the North Node may suggest the setting where the encounter with the spiritual self occurs. The South Node is in the opposite house and may describe a familiar place, an area of safety, and a comfort zone which supplies an anchor. However it is also a place where we can become rigid, caught in the safety zone of our complacency. Therefore it suggests an area we must leave to develop and explore our life's pathway. Another metaphor we could use to define the nodal axis is that the North Node is the destination, the station where the path is headed, while the South Node is like the departure point, the station where we embark. The Nodal axis is like a track with the well-worn grooves of the path near the South Node.

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

The North Node is in Aries

You have the North Node in Aries and the South Node in Libra, which suggests that a sense of fair play and cooperation is inborn. Social skills, diplomacy, mediation expertise and competence in dealing with others are well developed and need to be used on your path; however, you need to focus on your individual goals in order to feel fulfilled at work. Being involved with others is natural for you, therefore becoming more self-focused adds to the quality and depth of every relationship. Since you have a tendency to avoid altercations or putting yourself in confrontational situations you may compromise your own desires leaving you feeling angry and unfulfilled. It is important to recognise that your difficulty in putting yourself first actually fuels the tension between yourself and others in your workplace. Therefore it is important to know that co-workers appreciate decisiveness and clarity. Ironically you are complimented and supported when you take the lead, as those around you know they can count on you to do the right thing by everyone.

At the South Node, the Libran scales remind us of the sign's propensity towards judgement. Psychologically this is the path of discovering how to value and appreciate through comparison with others. Through judgement you weigh up your options and possibilities. Vocationally this instinct to judge can be utilised in professions where arbitration, a keen perception or clarity of thought is important. Libra also has skills at conflict resolution, negotiation, relating and communication, therefore suits professions which involve personnel recruitment, adjudication, political negotiation, counseling, consulting and judging. You are fulfilled when you can negotiate a truce, resolve an awkward situation or introduce the right person into the right situation. It is this instinctual counselor and mediator that need to be used in your vocation in an entrepreneurial and active way. While you like people you may work best on your own; although you are other-orientated you need to consider your own opinions first. While you like to be in accord with others you are called on to be identified for your personal thoughts and ideas. This is part of the paradox of your vocational quest and to leave the herd you need to confront the displeasure of offending others.

A conscious effort needs to be applied to forge a sense of independence and entrepreneurial skills. Risk taking, adventure and initiative need to be developed to ensure success. You need to dig deep to find the inspiration and courage to support your own goals and strike out on your own to find the space where you are surrounded by like-minded colleagues and workers. Your destination is more self-governing and self-determining than you may have ever imagined, and in order to fulfill this you need to rescue your aptitude to relate to others.

The North Node is in the 9th House

The North Node is in your 9th house with the South Node being opposite in the 3rd house. This contrasts the sphere of ideas and information with meaning and imagination. You might be instinctually able to gather together statements, pieces of evidence, figures, statistics and information but in your vocation you will be called upon to infuse these facts with meaning and insight. With the North Node in the 9th you are called to expand your horizons, remove yourself from your familiar surrounds and look farther afield. There are broader issues, wider social parameters and cross-cultural attitudes that want to be developed vocationally. Therefore you might become involved in travel and adventure that exists outside the normal bell curve, find yourself drawn to the study of different religions and cultures to understand others' philosophy of life, or you might be challenged to learn human values and ideals becoming educated in the ageless traditions of human aspirations. Your soul urges you to take flight into the search for meaning and the pursuit of higher values. To do this you need to develop a vision and not get trapped by the details of the smaller picture.

Your comfort zone may be become involved in detailed information and ideas rather than exploring the larger picture. However your vocational probably calls you away from the safety zone of your neighbourhood and all its familiar connections. Vocationally you might be challenged to step away from your schoolmates, your friends and familial surrounds to find what feels missing. What you need to discover is outside these familial and cultural safety sectors. While your career may lead you into information technology or the world of ideas your destiny will be to infuse this area with meaning and imagination, educating and awakening others to greater meaning. Your nodal invitation is to become an educator, inspiring others to become more of who they are. Your gift is that you have an instinctual and intuitive way of being able to express this in a language others understand. Your strategic capacity provides maps for others to follow on their journeys through life.

Venus is Square The North Node

In your horoscope Venus forms a square to the Nodal Axis. Traditionally this is often a tricky aspect; however, in aspect to the Nodal Axis Venus has a unique role in terms of your vocation. A conventional way of thinking about this aspect was that the planet was on the bending, a moment of transition in the cycle. Therefore in terms of the course of your career Venus needs to be consciously integrated and acknowledged. The challenge is to create space for this archetype in your vocational strategy. This would suggest welcoming her aesthetic energy into your life.

Astrologically the nature of Venus seeks connection, acceptance and value and therefore these are important aspects of what you need in your career. As Venus is on the bending you may need to strive for these, as they are not essentially a part of the path you are on. Therefore it is important to recognise that you need to both support and confront your sense of worth in what you do. To be appreciated and valued in your work you have to be in contact with your own merit. It is often difficult to price this but in the marketplace it becomes a necessity. You may also be challenged to bring your social skills and aesthetic qualities into the work environment. Venus is the archetype of beauty and your challenge will be to integrate her need for symmetry, harmony and beauty into your vocation. Ultimately it is on the vocational track that you discover your creative talents and social skills; however it is also on this path that you are also likely to meet the perfect stranger who invites you to take the long way round, challenging you to choose between career and romance.

VOCATION AND DIRECTION



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

- James Hillman

The Ascendant and Angular Planets

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

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

Your four angles form two planes of experience. The first plane of experience is your individual and personal orientation to the world detailing your personality, your outlook on life and your natural inclination towards partnership. This is the angle of the ascendant, the degree of the zodiac rising at the moment of your birth. This helps describe your motivation to life and therefore what personal traits you can bring to your vocation. The polar position on this plane is known as the descendant, the degree of the zodiac setting on the horizon when the Fates cut the cord. Here the astrologer reads the patterns and potentialities of merging your personality with a soul mate. In a vocational analysis this is also important to read in terms of co-operation with others.

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

Therefore to familiarise yourself with these influences will add to your understanding of vocation. The ascendant marks the birth point and is metaphoric of your natural disposition and outer image. This describes your natural outreach and personality traits that are

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

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

1st House Cusp is in Leo

Let's hope that an audience showed up to applaud your entrance into the world. With Leo on the ascendant you enter the world with aplomb and the world needs to take note. Your first audience is likely to be your family, but later in life you yearn to shine in public. Luckily you have the ability to do so whether this is simply in your social life, or in your chosen profession. If you want, you can walk into a room and light it up with your poise and self-possession. Creative and self expressive, you have a knack for commanding everyone's attention, sometimes through your warmth and charm, sometimes your humour but essentially just by being you. You may express this natural joie de vivre in a creative or artistic profession. Fashion, beauty, theatre, dance, entertainment, and any where that offers opportunities to work at the top may appeal to your need to be noticed. A natural gift is your personality that wins friends and influences people. Ironically, though, when you show up for a job interview the prospective employer is more interested in your diligence and discipline than your personality and charm. Herein lies the paradox. While you have an expressive persona and vital image you might have to check it at the reception room before you enter the world of work. Vocationally you are called on to develop your competency and authority. No doubt you need the passionate fire to burn at the heart of what you do, but it is more of a steady flame than you might have imagined. Satisfaction in your working life comes through your well-earned accomplishments, patience and commitment. Your vibrant personality needs to support your vocational search, not stand in its way.

Aquarius is the setting sign, suggesting that you are attracted to the qualities of fairness and equality in others and appreciate their differences and uniqueness. Through friendship and relationship you learn to respect other's individuality, their different opinions and viewpoints. This is helpful as you might be called on in your job to be a supervisor of others, a boss or authority. Vocationally, creativity and self-expression is found in the daily routines of life. Ultimately the world offers you the recognition and praise you seek but when it does you know you earned it, not because you showed up, but because you were disciplined and committed.

Pluto is Conjunct The Ascendant

Pluto, the archetype of life and death, was rising when you were born symbolising your birth struggle. Whether literal or figurative your birth would have confronted some situations of death in the atmosphere around you. You are profoundly aware of transition and what must be relinquished to move forward. Endowed with a perceptive and penetrating personality you are acutely conscious of whether others are being genuine or not. This can sometimes intimidate others, especially those unable to be honest with themselves, but you are not too

concerned because you are so focused on your own ambitions. At the same time your direct approach also inspires trust and loyalty and allows you to be a powerful force in the world. Your powerful and charismatic personality can befriend you on your vocational pathway as it helps you discriminate and choose what is right for you. Being true to yourself and honest with your feelings opens doors that allow you to become powerful and influential. The power of Pluto to influence the masses and transform public opinion is reflected in careers like marketing researchers, media and vocations of influence, politics, police work, big business and government.

VOCATION AND CHARACTER



Character is fate.
- Heraclitus

Considering the Sun and Moon

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

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

THE SUN: Virtues of the Essential Self

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

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

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

The Sun is in Cancer

While kindness may not be exclusively the domain of Cancer, this virtue is shaped from the bonds of kinship first experienced in the home. Family values such as doing good rather than harm, being friendly, compassionate and helpful are the tender-hearted acts that promote the virtue of kindness. Deep inside these are virtues that inspire you. Even if your family upbringing did not provide the stability you needed to feel safe, you feel drawn to nurturing and acts of kindness.

Like crabs that dwell on the threshold of the sea Cancer is sensitised to the shape shifting seas and its tidal cycle. It secures its home regardless of the fluctuation in fortunes and the alternating tides. For you this instinctual truth suggests you have the ability to find stability within the daily tides of feelings, which swell, ebb, flood and retract. You feel compelled to find a secure place on the edge of life's upheavals and live in the world without being swept away by emotional complexity. You build a strong enough shell to contain your feelings so that you are able to love and care without harm to your tender heart.

When you feel safe and protected you emerge from your shell to demonstrate your caring, affection, warmth and kindness. You are vulnerable and tender, slow to trust and warm up, but when you feel securely attached then your heart opens to care and nurture others. Your instinct is to protect the vulnerable, shelter the homeless and care for the sensitive. Being so responsive to others, you are finely attuned to what others need. Moved by the plight of those less fortunate, those in distress or people, who feel hurt or rejected, you are able to demonstrate kindness and compassion. You are strongly influenced by the maternal archetype, whose natural instinct is to nurture, protect, shelter and foster those who are vulnerable.

Charity begins at home, which is your domain. Donald Winnicott reminded us that home is where we start from and having a secure enough base allows us to wander into the world with the legacy of a sympathetic ear and a tender heart. Therefore one of your labours of life is to find your home, where you belong, and your ancestry. This might take some time. In the meantime you will have different places where you settle in your search for home. Along the way you bring warmth and character to your tasks. To find your vitality and spirit and to feel soulful in the world you need to strive to find the qualities of caring, helpfulness, protection, sympathy and tenderness.

THE MOON: Caring for Your Soul

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

-Thomas Moore

The Moon is the archetype of care and nurture. From a general overview the Moon reveals what needs are important to satisfy in our vocation. The Moon sign can help to identify what basic requirements are necessary to care for the soul at work. In a vocational capacity the

Moon corresponds with the nurturing professions and if the individual is drawn to one of these professions, the Moon sign helps to differentiate what kind of caring could suit its temperament. The planetary sign acts as a filter for the archetypal urge when it seeks expression through the vocation.

The Moon is in Virgo

You have the Moon in Virgo reflecting your innate understanding of the cycles and rhythms of life. Your feelings and moods are embodied inspiring your life search to understand the nature of health and well being. To care for your soul you need to provide enough ritual to feel you are able to deal with the natural chaos and disorder of life. Without order or coherence you are prone to worry, anxious about what might happen. You are so acutely aware of what may possibly go wrong that your body often bears the stress, making it imperative to create the rituals of an everyday life through work and health. This characteristic calls you to your vocation to analytically understand the complexities of life.

From a young age you might have recognised your urge to attend to others, to cultivate, prepare and improve situations. Instinctually you are drawn to be of service through figuring out the problem. Whether your vocational path has led you into the service or technology industries, repair, labour or improvement occupations, you have a great need to be productive and helpful. Work and labour provide you with the means to feel productive and meaningful.

If you are called to the nurturing professions then your Moon in Virgo is comfortable with clinical work such as psychiatric nursing, clinical psychology, medical research and analysis. Instinctually you are health conscious and to care for your soul you need your daily regimen to be balanced and regular. Therefore you are naturally drawn to learning about healthy habits and routines. Being in touch with health may be so nurturing you may be called to a vocation where you can participate in assisting others feel healthier through diet, preventative medicine, holistic healing, exercising or analytic methods. Naturally you find these skills inside you.

INCOME



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

- Russell A. Lockhart

The Rich Resources of Your Life

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

The 2nd House suggests innate resources, which can be developed and valued. In a literal sense these are 'traded' for income or other rewards which support us in the world. This area suggests our innate strengths, skills and talents that must be utilized in earning our living. Psychologically these are our personal assets and resources, which sustain and support us in our career. Talent not only refers to our natural abilities and capacity for success, but also in ancient times was a weight of gold or a monetary unit. The secret of the 2nd house is to recognize that it is our innate talents and skills that bring our wealth and living. This house also describes what we value and also what gives us value. In a way it describes what we like to do. Consider what you appreciate and desire. Your 2nd house is indicative of what you desire and planets in this house reveal what you might attract because of your values and desires.

The sign on the cusp of the house symbolizes aspects of the assets you need to use in a resourceful way. The sign suggests what needs to be valued in your vocation, the natural style of earning an income, as well as your attitudes towards wages and money. 2nd house planets reveal the earning style and literally may suggest how you earn your living or your patterns and relationship to money and possessions. These are the archetypal urges needing to be expressed in a skillful and resourceful way in your career. Planets here are the forces that shape your sense of worth and value and help you tap into your innate resources.

It is important that you use these skills and resources in supporting your own sense of self-esteem. Symbolically, understanding this archetypal presence in your life can help unravel any damaging patterns that support an impoverished sense of self or a disapproving attitude towards money and possessions. Forging an alliance with this energy helps you create a supportive and positive approach to your sense of worth which in turn influences the way the world values you.

2nd House Cusp is in Virgo

The earth sign Virgo is on the cusp of your 2nd house, revealing the qualities and procedures necessary to enhance your sense of self-esteem and personal worth. Over time the potent and fertile images associated with our astrological Virgo have waned. Yet from our earliest records this constellation was associated with the harvest and the harvest maiden. Many prominent goddesses have been identified with this constellation, which has a rich and complex mythology of fertility, cultivation and harvest. It is this rich fertile field that is the landscape of your 2nd house, the territory where resources and assets are revealed. Metaphorically your abundant resources need to be cultivated and tended before they can be disseminated. Like the agricultural maiden you might need to honour the process of time and be aware of the order of seasons to know when to reap and when to sow. You may have an innate ability to tune into the cycles of money – earning and spending, saving and investing. You may also be very practical in your career decisions preferring to keep your hobbies separate to your job. In other words you may pursue your real passion after hours, while putting in a good day's work for a good day's pay at your day job. This placement also suggests that your innate industriousness and analytical skills are a central part of your work. Mostly you need to remind yourself that you have an abundance of renewable resources that need to be tended carefully and respectfully.

The qualities that provide the most satisfaction in your working life may not always be compatible with your personality; therefore it is important to be mindful of which skills need to be brought into the workplace. While you have a vibrant personality, it is your unassuming and focused nature that is rewarded. Virgo on the 2nd House Cusp suggests that you need to value your discriminating faculties, analytical skills, self-reliance, containment and orderliness. Ritual and routine may be an essential component of helping you feel balanced enough to be resourceful. Reflect on the qualities that you feel need to be valued to provide you with a sense of personal security, self-esteem and reward. One of your great assets is your skill at detail and ability to focus your attention on the task. Whether this takes you into the business world, an artisan workshop, a medical clinic or a veterinarian surgery, you will be required to trade on your detailed and analytical skills when earning your living. Vocationally you are suited to making your living in the health and service industries but any area that provides you with the feeling of improving and developing will be satisfying to you. Whether that is working with animals, crafts or healing medicines you need to feel that you are improving a situation in order to feel valuable.

Virgo on the cusp of your 2nd house implies that you might become anxious and insecure about your earning ability. When you start to ruminate about what you do not have or what you do not earn, rather than what you do have and what is possible, you undermine your greatest asset which is your unshakeable knowing that all things are cyclical. The time might not be right now, but it will soon. Like the goddesses that represent the fertile fields of Virgo, you have a range of resources that provide a secure living. Your pleasure is derived from being in tune and in sync with the natural cycles of life.

Saturn is in the 2nd House

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

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

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

WORK



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

- Thomas Moore

The Labours of the 6th House

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

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

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

continuity of our daily rituals. Metaphorically work is the way we honour the archetypal force that underlies the planetary expression.

6th House Cusp is in Capricorn

Capricorn is the sign on the cusp of your 6th house. This describes what you need in the routine conditions of your job in order to feel satisfied. As an earth sign, Capricorn suggests that your working life needs regularity and structure. Alternatively this could simply mean that your destiny requires you to forge a relationship to the conventional world. You may spurn routine, but work within a conventional occupation or employ a workforce which maintains order in your occupation. Even though you may choose to live on the margins of the institution or corporation, your path seems to involve the establishment; therefore it might be wise to be open to learning about the world of commerce and industry. You might find that you are comfortable in the business world, whether you are self employed, in partnership or working for a large company. Tradition and customs are important to respect as they define the atmosphere of your vocational world.

You are also aware of parental and societal expectations; you respond to the voice of authority. In part this is because you have a strong sense of responsibility and duty yourself. While you might feel that your dutiful nature has been shaped by your early environment, it is also part of your natural dispensation. Therefore it is sensible that you direct your dependable and conscientious temperament towards your livelihood, forging an authoritative and autonomous career. Innately you are good at creating structures and boundaries which add to your professionalism. Your work ethic is strong; hence vocational roles that draw out your leadership qualities, management abilities, proficiency and clarity help you to find your place in the world. You might find you are able to feel more competent and effective in positions where your responsibilities are well defined and the hierarchical chain of command is unmistakable. However one pattern which might resurface is that your level of competence and commitment is not necessarily shared by those you work with. While you need to respect your bosses and superiors, you may actually see that the system has promoted those without the adequate skills and know-how. Rather than feeling deflated by this, be more resolved to develop your own authority, ambition and principles.

As well as having a definite job description, you need to know that there are possibilities of advancement. Recognition and approval is also important. If your need for recognition is unsatisfied you may be overly ambitious or controlling or feel manipulated and oppressed by your workmates. It is also important to recognise your compulsion to achieve may be fuelled by feelings of not being adequate enough. This might manifest as either a fear of success or an inappropriate command of authority. When you find that your perfectionist streak is stressing you out, it is time to take a break. In fact it is important to schedule holidays and breaks into your lifestyle or you may become overwhelmed with work. When you become sick and tired of work you feel it in your aching joints and your sore back. Stress stiffens your body and you feel cold and removed. Respect your bodily messages that encourage relaxing, doing some yoga and unwinding. It is imperative for you to be aware that the rituals of your daily life need structure. Because work is a large part of daily life you will need to structure time out, something that may be difficult for you.

PROFESSION



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

The Status of the Tenth House

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

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

The sign on the cusp of the 10th house (the Midheaven) suggests the career paths which may be fulfilling and lead to success. The sign also indicates what we want to achieve and where we need to strive for authority. Planets in the 10th house are in the public sphere and seek to be expressed through vocational pursuits and are also heavily influenced by both parental and societal expectations. Planets in the 10th house are the archetypes encountered along your professional path. They represent both resources and challenges met in the career as well as characterize images of a fulfilling vocation.

10th House Cusp is in Aries

Aries is the sign on your MC ruling the gateway to your 10th house and the course of your career. The spirit of Aries needs to feel free to take action without relating to authority or being bound by rules and regulations. Its need for independence, including the need to make its own decisions, is high therefore you will thrive in a vocation that encourages your independent and enterprising personality. The need to feel able to act independently in the world is paramount, a high priority in any Arian career description. Working freely and instinctively is suggested. You like to be out front and in the firing line, leading rather than following. Your career path is consistently changing and reshaping and constantly presenting challenges. Your vocational outlook recommends careers that are not fixed or static, but have a high degree of uncertainty and risk. Therefore you could choose a career as an

adventurer or in a sporting arena. You may seek your fortune in mining unexplored territories, or in fighting fires or police work. If you choose a more risk-free work environment then your pioneering spirit is likely to express itself in self-employment. You enjoy the risk of working independently, for yourself, freelancing or perhaps even starting up your own business.

An essential aspect of Aries temperament is its need for activity and its impatience with waiting. Therefore in any vocation you yearn to let your spirit of discovery soar; you need to trail-blaze, to adventure, to pioneer, to charter virgin territory and explore what has not yet been discovered. At heart you are an adventurer and risk taking is an aspect of this. Challenges ignite your spirit. At the end of the day you crave to have accomplished the impossible or at least be farther ahead from the place where you started. As the cardinal-fire sign is ruling the highest point in your horoscope, you are called to adventure and to be heroic along your career path.

Self-image is important and personal identity needs to be a focus. Vocations utilising and encouraging personality and identity are appropriate, as you need to be out there. You learn by making mistakes, breaking rules and dealing with consequences rather than through books. Being self-motivated you thrive on competition and challenges from others. The fire spirit also needs to push itself, therefore physical work or work requiring courage, nerve, adrenaline and stamina suits you. Occupations having a goal, a deadline or a risk factor encourages the driving spirit of the Ram. Aries likes to be first. You like to initiate projects, but not necessarily see them through to completion, therefore vocations, which involve planning, brainstorming, vision, and entrepreneurial skills suit your personality best. Without these vocational urges being fulfilled, frustration and boredom could be prevalent igniting an aggressive and self-defeating attitude. Therefore it is important to recognise that you need to harness your competitive and industrious instincts towards a successful and fulfilling occupation.

CONCLUSION

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

-Robert Frost

A Considered Vocation

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

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

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brian Clark is the co-founder of the Chiron Centre, a multi-disciplinary centre in Melbourne, Australia where he is one of the main tutors of a four year program in applied astrology. This comprehensive program is also available by distance learning (www.AstroSynthesis.com.au). He has written numerous articles on psychology, mythology and astrology, is a contributing author to *Intimate Relationships* (Llewellyn: 1991), the author of *The Sibling Constellation* (Penguin: 1999) and *Celestial Tarot* (U.S. Games, Inc. 2006), as well as a series of astrological publications for students published by Astro*Synthesis. His books and articles have been translated into Japanese, French, Italian, German, Spanish and Dutch. Brian also teaches mythology for the Nexus program, co teaches a course on Tarot and leads tours to the sacred sites of ancient Greece through Odyssey. Brian also lectures internationally. He has a private counseling practice utilising astrology from a psychological perspective. He has his Masters in Classics and Archaeology from the University of Melbourne.

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