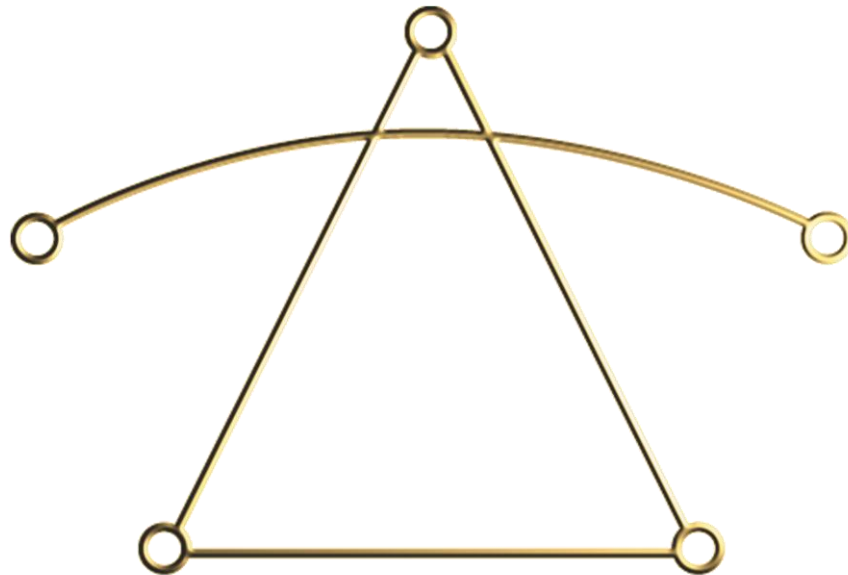


GODDESS REPORT

A Solar Writer Report for

Cybill Shepherd

Written by Stephanie Johnson



Compliments of:-
THE AJNACENTRE

ABN 29 741 345 397

P.O. Box 5166
Victoria Point, QLD, 4165
Australia

Email: brenda@ajnacentre.com.au

Web: www.ajnacentre.com.au

Cybill Shepherd

Natal Chart

18 Feb 1950

7:52 pm +6:00

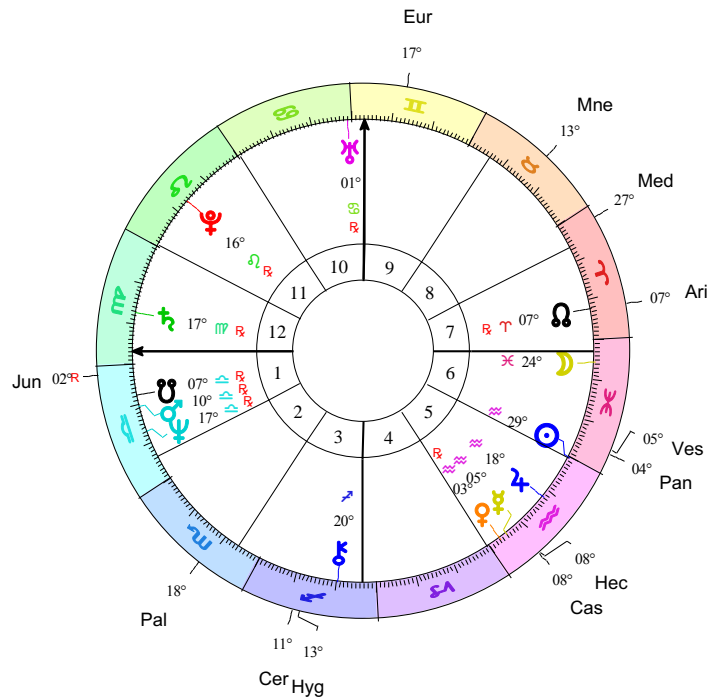
Memphis

35°N08'58"

090°W02'56"

Tropical

Placidus



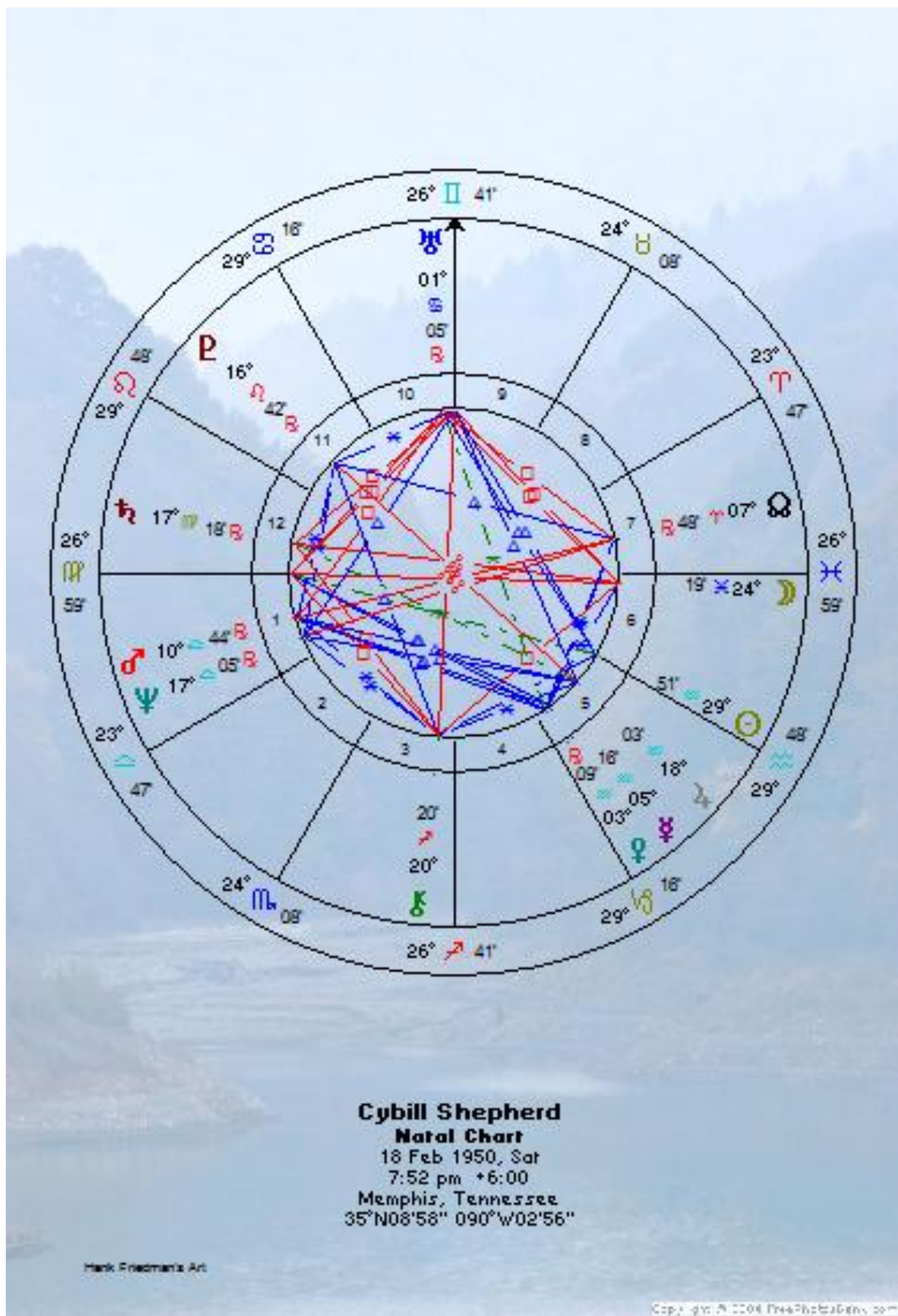
Key

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

Astrological Summary

Chart Point Positions: Cybill Shepherd

Asteroid	Sign	Position	House	Comment
Cer	Ceres	Sagittarius	11°Sg27'	3rd
Pal	Pallas Athena	Scorpio	18°Sc46'	2nd
Jun	Juno	Libra	2°Li01'	1st
Ves	Vesta	Pisces	5°Pi15'	6th
Hyg	Hygieia	Sagittarius	13°Sg03'	3rd
Ari	Ariadne	Aries	7°Ar19'	7th
Eur	Europa	Gemini	17°Ge45'	9th
Pan	Pandora	Pisces	4°Pi22'	6th
Mne	Mnemosyne	Taurus	13°Ta50'	8th
Hec	Hecate	Aquarius	8°Aq33'	5th
Cas	Cassandra	Aquarius	8°Aq09'	5th
Med	Medea	Aries	27°Ar12'	8th



Introduction



The Goddess is the custodian of life's mysteries and the primal world of archetypal forces. As representative of the world soul she engages us in the sacred rites of nature and reanimates life through the cycles of birth and death. Goddess culture flourished in the prehistoric period when magical consciousness prevailed, supernatural forces were deified and natural forces were revered. As consciousness developed through its phases the wisdom of the goddess was buried beneath the rational constructs of a scientific knowledge that erased the mysteries from life and excluded the magical processes.

With the advent of the asteroids the wisdom of the goddess is once again available to consciousness. Goddess wisdom revels in the ancient wisdom of cycles, the intelligence of the inner life, the sanctity of divination, the mystery of healing and the necessity for sacrifice and ritual. The ancient feminine wisdom of the goddesses embraced all phases of life, celebrated its mysteries, ritualized its passages and knew the power of the natural world. The Solar Writer - Goddess report celebrates twelve goddesses and heroines and seeks their wisdom and guidance.

The maxim 'as above, so below' underpins the philosophy of astrology. Inner and outer lives are woven together through investing the celestial sphere with meaning. Therefore when astronomical discoveries are made astrologers find new meaning and revelation in them. Astrological tradition suggests that with the major discovery of a planet the collective is confronted with the conscious awakening of an archetypal force that may have previously lain dormant or been repressed. As the 19th century dawned a discovery of a small planet would be made, heralding the reawakening of feminine power and the wisdom of the Goddess.

Late in the 16th century Johannes Kepler first suggested that there might be a planet between the orbit of Mars and Jupiter. Nearly two centuries later the publication of Bode's Law reiterated this possibility. Based on the theory that all the planets were in a harmonic distance from the Sun the law suggested there should be a planet orbiting between Mars and Jupiter. When Uranus was discovered in 1781 its distance from the Sun conformed to the law giving greater weight to the theory of the missing planet. Finally on New Year's Eve 1800 a Sicilian astronomer spotted a new body in the region and named it Ceres after the patron goddess of his homeland. To the Sicilians Ceres favored their island and it was here they claimed Hades abducted her daughter.

One year later its orbit was confirmed and although small in comparison to the other planets the missing planet had become visible. But early in 1802 another body was sighted between

Mars and Jupiter and named Pallas Athena. Astronomers wondered if a planet had exploded in this region and therefore more would be discovered. And they were. More than four hundred of these small planets had been named as the 19th Century drew to a close.

It was not until the early 1970's as the woman's movement began to accelerate that astrologers began to take note of the significance of these new bodies, which were named asteroids. In 1973 an ephemeris of the first four discoveries was printed and the astrological community began to experiment with these new archetypes. The first four asteroids were named after the Olympian goddesses who had been previously unnamed in the astrological planetary pantheon: Ceres, Juno and Vesta were the three sisters of Jupiter while Pallas Athena was his daughter. All four were prominent in Greek myth and their cults predated their male counterparts. Previously in the astrological pantheon only the Moon and Venus were available to represent the lineage of the feminine traditions. Renewed images of the feminine had now appeared in the astrological tapestry. As astrologers began using these potent images of the asteroids the cults of the ancient goddesses were rediscovered, paralleling the cultural reclamation of feminine power. With the discovery of the asteroids and their use in astrology the ancient feminine wisdom of the goddess was brought to consciousness.

Each goddess in your personal Solar Writer - Goddess report has a specific function, being emblematic of an important sphere of your life. Every one embodies a different aspect of the Goddess herself. However, all twelve are involved in the handiwork of the Goddess. Therefore underlying each individual goddess is the sanctity of being, the awareness of the seasonal cycles of our life cycle and the acceptance of inner intelligence, signs, symbols and dreams. All twelve honor the instinctual wisdom of nature and follow her guidance.

These twelve goddesses preside over the three spheres of Heaven, the Earth and the Underworld. Being Olympians the goddess Ceres, Pallas Athena, Juno and Vesta are the goddesses of heaven who oversee the important initiations and transitions of the life cycle. These four goddesses were also the first named asteroids and the ones most frequently referred to in contemporary astrological literature. They personify four potent feminine functions or orientations to life. The goddesses of the underworld are powerfully insightful and understand the deep waters of the unconscious, the complexity of feelings, the power of mystery and magic and the uncertainty of life. These goddesses may reveal themselves through a healing crisis, the psychic senses, loss, betrayal or a myriad of other mysteries that arise in our lives. Hygieia, Cassandra, Hecate and Medea are the four goddesses who plunge the depths of the unconscious realm. Finally the goddesses who rule the Earth symbolize our worldly concerns and attitudes. Ariadne, Europa, Pandora and Mnemosyne are the influential representatives in the world who watch over our loves and labors, as well as our trials and triumphs.

The Solar Writer - Goddess report is a celebration of twelve of the numerous asteroids. Below the asteroid goddesses and heroines have been listed by their order of discovery. Each asteroid has its unique cycle and position in the horoscope. Keywords are listed below to introduce you to the meaning of each goddess as well as other astrological correlations that have a similar essence to the asteroid archetype. Each goddess will be explored through her myth and cult to appreciate her ancient role and contemporary meaning. The oracular meaning of the asteroid goddesses and heroines is based on the individual cult of the goddess. Once familiar with the presence of each goddess or heroine we will petition them for an oracle based on their position by sign and house in your horoscope.

Ceres, Asteroid No 1, was discovered in 1801. Ceres is closely aligned with the archetypes

of Pluto and the Moon and especially strong when the Moon aspects Pluto. Her process may enter our lives when Pluto transits the Moon or the 4th house.

Pallas Athena, Asteroid No. 2, was discovered in 1802. Athena is sympathetic to the air signs especially the justice and strategy of Libra and the intelligence and objectivity of Aquarius. She is aligned with the masculine archetypes of Mars and Uranus and close to Jupiter, her father's realm.

Juno, Asteroid No. 3, was discovered in 1804. Juno is the goddess of marriage and social customs. She reverberates with Libra and the 7th house. Her passionate side is reflected through the 8th principle of Scorpio and interchanges between these two astrological principles reflect the goddess.

Vesta, Asteroid No. 4, was discovered in 1807. Vesta is the spirit of the 6th house, the domain of the sacred in the everyday, the rituals of work and well being. Planets in Virgo respond to the archetype as do inner planets aspecting Saturn, the need for authenticity.

Hygieia, Asteroid No. 10, was discovered in 1849. The axis of health in the horoscope is the 6th-12th polarity. The Sun symbolizes the vitality and the ascendant suggests how we conduct that vital life force. Chiron is the archetype of healing. Hygieia is very much concerned with these principles.

Ariadne, Asteroid No. 43, was discovered in 1857. Ariadne's story plumbs the depths of the water houses. She leaves the familial terrain of the 4th house to be abandoned by her lover in the labyrinth of the 8th but awakens to her divine connection in the 12th. Neptune aspects to Venus or Mars may highlight these themes. Ariadne's process is revealed with transits to planets in the 8th house or Pluto transiting Venus or Mars.

Europa, Asteroid No. 52, was discovered in 1858. Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn and their rulers Venus, Mercury and Saturn represent the earth instinct. Of all three signs Taurus is the sign most closely aligned with Europa's passions and power. Planets in Taurus or the second house constellate the mythic pattern while transits through the second house or to Venus may evoke issues concerning values and resources

Pandora, Asteroid No. 55, was discovered in 1858. Pandora is a change agent and therefore may be sudden and unexpected like Uranus. Her curious nature and marking of threshold change is Mercurial, linking Mercury and Uranus. As an agent of transformation she has a Plutonic essence as well. Planets in Gemini or Mercury aspects to Uranus or Pluto highlight the nature of Pandora.

Mnemosyne, Asteroid No. 57, was discovered in 1860. The Moon records, reflects and reveals every heartbeat, breath and nuance of primitive life. Therefore the progressed Moon evokes memory as it progresses through the horoscope. Aspects between the Moon and Mercury as well as other planets aspecting these planetary archetypes reveal the process of feeling and rational memory.

Hecate, Asteroid No. 100, was discovered in 1868. Aspects to Mercury may signal how we might manage crossroads, our facility for change and adaptability. Crossroads in the life cycle are mapped out by the cycle of the slower moving planets while personal crossroads are reflected in the transits of the transpersonal planets to the personal ones. Note the South Node of the Moon.

Cassandra, Asteroid No. 114, was discovered in 1871. Cassandra revels in the world of Neptune - the archetype of the medial woman. Aspects between Mercury and Neptune, or Mercury in Pisces reflect Cassandra. Interconnections between Jupiter and Pluto may also ignite a similar pattern.

Medea, Asteroid No. 212, was discovered in 1880. Medea is similar to the archetypes of Pluto and Scorpio, as she understands the process of metamorphosis. Planets in the Eighth House or in aspect to Pluto may conjure up the potent magic of Medea.

Goddess Mythology



Mythology serves as a psychological record of human development recording the imagination and symbols of the culture. Mythic stories speak to the inner life as they deal with universal themes and truths illustrating the archetypal forces that influence the course of the human drama. In archaic societies myths offered an explanation of the world and its creation, the cycle of birth, growth and death, how things came into existence as well as how they disappeared. In contemporary times we have scientific explanations for many of the ancient mysteries, but myth is just as valuable to help us to imagine our own origins and invest our lives with meaning. Mythic themes stir the imagination and broaden the horizon of the individual's story placing it in a context of a larger story.

Mythology is the link between the magical phase of being when consciousness participates in nature and the rational phase when we are separated from the natural world. The magical phase embraces the culture of the Great Goddess when life is full of mystery and wonder and we are one with the natural order, not separated or expelled from it. In this phase all nature is sacred as all life is invested with the divine. The asteroids are surrogates of the Great Goddess and reconnect us to her culture. As emissaries the asteroid goddesses and heroines invest life with the sacred, value imagination and mystery and inspire ritual and sacrifice in order to reconnect to the wellsprings of her magical forces.

Following is a summary of their genealogy and mythic tradition. Let the myths resonate with your imagination and speak to you in their own way.

The Roman goddess Ceres is also known as Olympian goddess, Demeter. She is the daughter of the Titan Cronus and Rhea and mother of Persephone. She is the Corn Goddess who personifies the agricultural cycle of fertility and harvest, as well as loss and renewal through her daughter Persephone.

The Olympian goddess Pallas Athena was a daughter of Zeus, born from her father's head after he had swallowed Metis. The Romans referred to her as Minerva. She is revered as representing the wisdom of reflection and strategy.

The Roman goddess Juno is also known as the Olympian goddess, Hera. She is the daughter of the Titan Cronus and Rhea and mother to Ares, Hephaestus and Hebe. She is the goddess of Marriage and Social Customs who oversees the seasons of a woman's life.

The Roman goddess Vesta is also known as the Olympian Goddess Hestia. She is the daughter of the Titan Cronus and Rhea and is the goddess of the Hearth who embodies

sacred space.

Hygieia was the daughter of the Greek god of healing, Asclepius and the beloved goddess of Health. She is the sister of other minor healing deities and heroes including Panacea, Machaon and Podalirius. As the goddess of Health, Hygieia is the giver and preserver of well being whose function is to maintain a healthy relationship between body and soul.

The Cretan goddess Ariadne was from the Minoan dynasty. She is the daughter of King Minos and Queen Pasiphaë, granddaughter of Helios and Zeus. She is sister of Phaedra and half-sister to the Minotaur. As the wife of Dionysus, Ariadne embodies the sacred marriage having endured the trials of betrayal and abandonment.

Europa was a Phoenician princess, sister to Cadmus and matriarch of the Minoan dynasty, mother to King Minos and grandmother of Ariadne and Phaedra. She represents the creative and earthy process that supports and guides worldly success.

Pandora was the first woman, shaped by Hephaestus, to be the harbinger of a new age. She was married to Epimetheus and was the mother of Pyrrha. As a representative of the ancient ways of the goddess, Pandora brings the gift of hope.

Mnemosyne was a Titaness, a daughter of Gaia and Uranus, known as the goddess who personified the faculty of memory. As the mother to the Nine Muses she represents enchantment, inspiration and the power of remembering.

The goddess Hecate was the daughter of Perses and Asteria, the granddaughter of Phoebe, and a powerful goddess revered by all the gods. Later she became an attendant to Persephone. As an underworld goddess she was represented in her three-fold nature and was worshipped at the crossroads and as the guardian of transitions.

Cassandra was the daughter of Priam and Hecuba, the regents of the powerful dynasty of Troy. She was the twin sister to Helenus and sister to seventeen other siblings including Paris and Hector. From an early age she had oracular ability, yet no one believed her. Cassandra carries the feminine mysteries of divination even in a contemporary world that devalues the sacred tradition.

Medea was the Princess of Colchis, granddaughter of the Sun god, Helios and niece of the sorceress, Circe. Medea is the great witch of the Greek myths, knowledgeable in herbs, healing and the art of metamorphosis.

Ceres - The Earth Mother



*'I died to mineral and plant became
Died from the plant and took a sentient frame
Died from the beast and donned a human dress
When by my dying did I ere grow less?'
Rumi*

Ceres is the Roman agricultural goddess whose gift of grain, 'cereal', was distributed to mankind as thanksgiving for the release of her beloved daughter from the underworld and also as an eternal symbol of the continuity of life. Ceres is the goddess of agriculture who instinctually knows the cycle of loss, death and rebirth through her attachment to her beloved daughter.

The Roman goddess was modeled on her Greek counterpart Demeter whose central myth focused on the loss of her daughter, Persephone. It was this myth, which inspired the greatest initiation rites in the ancient world - the Eleusinian Mysteries. These mysteries re-enacted the terrifying journey of Persephone into the underworld and through these rituals both male and female participants faced their terror of death and became thankful for the gift of life.

Ceres, corn goddess, patron of farm life and vegetation is both an agricultural and underworld deity. She is an earth mother who presides over the cycle of fertility, birth, harvest, decay, death and rebirth. From the archaic period the goddess protected and insured the fertility and propagation of the crops and livestock. Her sanctuaries were placed near arable land, outside cities, where pilgrims would come to petition the goddess for a fertile crop and feast on the abundant gifts of food that the goddess provided.

Her myth was more ancient than her male contemporaries and reached back to the epoch when deities of the underworld (death) and the earth (life) were one. Ceres represents both loss and harvest and her classical story embraces each aspect in the myth of her daughter who becomes the Queen of the Underworld.

The myth of Ceres/Demeter and her daughter is a heartbreaking narrative of closeness, separation, grief and reunion, the motivation behind the establishment of the Eleusinian Mysteries. The brutal breaking of their attachment is the impetus that allows each woman to develop independently of one another into sovereignty over their own sphere. Since antiquity this poignant portrait of the mother-daughter bond has probably been the most cherished of all the Greek myths. The classical myth is also remarkable as it places the feminine characters at the heart of the narrative with the male gods on the periphery honoring a

sacred and profound feminine story. The Ceres myth was first told in a hymn to the great goddess Demeter.

Kore, the innocent maiden Persephone, was playing in a meadow gathering flowers when the earth rumbled beneath her and broke open. Suddenly from the chasm in the earth a chariot drawn by four black horses appeared. In the chariot was Hades, the Lord of the Underworld, who seized her. As she struggled to break free the chariot carrying them disappeared into the black hole. Demeter wandered aimlessly in search of her daughter. No mortal or god could help her with information about her daughter's disappearance. Finally after nine days she met Hecate, the goddess of the crossroads. Hecate heard Persephone screams, the only clue to the abduction.

Demeter raged and withdrew the gift of fertility from the earth causing a great famine. She also withdrew herself from the company of the gods and in disguise wandered amongst mortals unnoticed. Grief-stricken, depleted and withered, Demeter wandered to Eleusis where she met the daughters of the local king who pitied her and brought her home. Their mother gave Demeter the task of caring for her infant son. Demeter nursed him on ambrosia and nectar and every night she would baptize the infant in fire in order to render him immortal and safeguard him from the fate of the eternal cycle of life, death and rebirth. However, one evening the Queen interrupted Demeter in the middle of her ritual and screamed in fear for the boy's safety. At that moment the cycle of mourning was broken. Demeter cast off her old age, changing her size and appearance to reveal herself as the great goddess and commanded the king to build her a great temple and introduce her worship to the people of Eleusis.

However, Demeter was still furious at the abduction of her daughter and withheld the new crop's seed so the earth continued to be barren. Zeus intervened and demanded Demeter return to Olympus and fulfill her duties. Demeter refused. Finally Zeus in his anguish agreed to release Persephone from the underworld so the crops would grow again. Persephone was eager to be reunited with her mother. But before she left the underworld Hades gave her a pomegranate seed to ingest. Innocently Persephone took the seed and swallowed it now binding her eternally to this place. Having eaten in the underworld meant Persephone now belonged there.

Demeter and Persephone's reunion was ecstatic and both rejoiced at the sight of one another even though they knew they would not be together as in the past. As the mother, Ceres indicates the necessity to nurture a creative project even though that means letting it go. By relinquishing an attachment a phase of the cycle ends and prepares us for a new beginning.

Astrologically the goddess Ceres represents the feminine wisdom that acknowledges loss. Loss is intricately woven into the tapestry of life; attachment, separation and loss are part of life's greatest mystery. Feminine wisdom knows that grief is only one phase of the great wheel and mourning allows the process to be complete so that life may be renewed. Following is a portrayal of the goddess Ceres in your natal horoscope.

Ceres is in the 3rd House

The realm of ideas holds great appeal for you. This placement of the goddess Ceres suggests you enjoy language, the use and meaning of words and manipulating ideas and style. All of these things nurture you. In fact they can become your escape route from intimacy in personal relationships. Computers were invented for you. The internet is your delightful playground with its plethora of chat rooms, special interest groups, and design

possibilities. You are far more comfortable expressing your thoughts rather than your feelings. If given a choice you prefer to write your feelings rather than speak them. You are aware of the power of words and rarely resort to criticism, preferring to say nothing rather than hurt someone else's feelings. You are also well able to express praise when it is deserved.

Intimacy does present a problem. Perhaps you have a strong bond with an emotionally powerful mother and now desire to escape her direct influence? Or your mother may have preferred to be a sister or friend to you, leaving you to mother your siblings. You love your mother dearly, have a close connection, but also feel the need to assert your independence? On the other hand you may have an uncomfortable relationship with your mother. Perhaps you feel that she has trouble letting go? Either way this can affect your ability to relate well on a personal level.

This placement of the goddess Ceres in a woman's chart can indicate that as a daughter you need to escape your mother's influence on your beliefs. You may marry and develop your own independent lifestyle. Alternately you may remain single, travel to another country to explore new territory before returning to your homeland. As a mother you discover the legacy continues and you desire a strong bond with your children. Your nurturing instincts, whether for your own children or other people's, are strong.

In a man's chart, this placement can also indicate a bond with a mother who influences your opinions and judgments. However, you are more likely to continue to maintain your attachment until your mother dies. You understand the cycles of life and are happy to accommodate your mother's opinions, most of the time. You may be unaware of the problems that this incurs in your relationship with serious girlfriends and eventually your wife. You will need to make sure that you listen to your partner's needs rather than turn to your mother for support. Otherwise conflict could arise. If you are not careful your wife's request of 'let's talk' could become a phrase to be dreaded.

Whatever your gender you are likely to discover a real joy in expressing yourself through the written or spoken word. Writing, teaching, public speaking, acting, singing, graphic design and interpreting languages are just some of the avenues that may consume your thoughts.

Ceres is in Sagittarius

You have an independent spirit. When the going gets tough you like to escape into the realm of ideas. Sometimes you also like to escape to faraway places. Practicality may demand that you get away for a walk to the nearest beach or park; or perhaps to a nearby holiday. On the other hand you may also need to explore foreign lands in order to satisfy your craving for adventure. You may discover that a visit to the local library, an afternoon with an inspirational book, involvement in a religious organization or a course of study also satisfies your need to 'think outside the square'. Of course, you are apt to take on too much so you may find that you combine all of the above - a trip to a foreign land to study a beloved subject or live in a religious community. Moderation is not one of your virtues. You push yourself, and those around you, to extremes. Anyone close to you needs to support your ideas and activities. Otherwise you are likely to move on, leaving a trail of broken hearts.

You are a great salesperson but your challenge is to combine your desire for intellectual stimulation with sensitivity to other people's needs. Teaching, lecturing, public speaking may be avenues of expression that provide some personal satisfaction while requiring an understanding to your audience. Your sales ability will also increase once you have tuned into the wishes of your consumers rather than your own ideas.

Your relationship with your mother is likely to be slightly strained as your beliefs, values and principles may clash. You love your mother, but you may also feel that she doesn't nurture your independent spirit. Depending on other aspects of your birth chart it is possible that you have had to fight for your right to follow your own path. Your mother may want to keep you close to her side, but you are keen to explore the world. You may compromise by living close to your mother and pursuing your own dreams in a nearby neighborhood. However, it is also possible that you move far away from your mother's home.

If you become a parent you are likely to understand the need for your children to have their own independent interests. You encourage them to pursue their dreams. You need to also ensure that you pursue your own because you have the ability and talent to be an inspirational teacher, writer, salesperson, traveller, actor, public speaker, singer, dancer or astrologer. In fact any field that enables your spirit to soar provides an outlet for your talents.

Pallas Athena - The Wisdom Of The Warrior



*'I celebrate the powers of Pallas Athena, the protectress of the city:
Dread, as Ares, She busies herself with the works of war,
With the sack of cities, with the battle-cry and with the combats.
It is She also who saves the fighters that go to war and come back alive.
Hail, Goddess, give us good fortune and happiness Pallas.'
Homeric Hymn 11*

The architectural masterpiece, the Parthenon, was dedicated to the goddess whom the classical Athenians cherished. Pallas Athena was their advocate for law and order, the teacher of household arts like spinning, weaving, and cooking, as well as their protector and defender.

As their goddess of war she helped the Greeks defeat Troy, the Athenians repel the Persians; as their goddess of useful and decorative arts she inspired them to build exceptional monuments and temples. The goddess of merciful justice transformed the law courts and at the dawn of the fifth century she inspired the democratic shift in Athenian politics. Athena was the revered goddess of the Athenians who celebrated her birthday each year with a great festival and procession through the Agora up to the Acropolis.

As a multi-tasked goddess many images are associated with Pallas Athena but it is the owl that reminds us of her wisdom. Her intelligence is 'bright-eyed' and sharp, focused on the immediate, located in the present, aligned with the head and not the instinct. Pallas Athena embodies the rational and encourages left-brain thinking. Her wisdom controls the instincts, learning to direct them into heroic pursuits to eradicate what is dark and primitive. She is civilizing and organizing, bringing culture and cultivation to mankind. Justice and law are part of her new order replacing retaliation and revenge.

Strategic, reflective and controlled her craft and skill is mirrored in the multiplicity of devices she offered man, the fertility of her ideas and the usefulness of her inventions and techniques. As Pronoia she is 'before knowing' embracing forethought and strategic thinking. As a warrior queen she was born from the forehead of her father Zeus, fully armored and mature, suggesting that the wisdom of goddess had been reborn into a new order. As father's special daughter Pallas Athena mirrored the rational intelligence and counsel of Zeus. Metis, the mother of Athena, was an ancient goddess of wisdom known as Wise Counsel or Cunning Intelligence. She knew the feminine mysteries, the intelligence articulated by the heart and the inner world of instinct and intuition. From her Pallas Athena inherited another kind of wisdom: the wisdom of intuitive knowing often experienced in the

belly as a 'gut instinct'. It is a knowing that may speak through symptoms or disease, through creativity or craft, or radiate through stillness and tranquility or even erupt in anger or hostility. It is a wisdom born out of an intimate connection between mind and matter, a fluid way of being that the ancient Greeks knew as Sophia.

Athena is a proud daughter born from a power struggle between her powerfully dominant father and her intuitively wise mother. Consciously Athena only knows her father's way and the new order. Born of man, like Eve, this myth is often cited when tracing the emergence of 'father-right' from the long held tradition of 'mother-right'. The daughter is now aligned with the sky father who colludes in rejecting the earth mother. The tables have turned in the familial pattern and now it is father and daughter colluding against mother, no longer mother conspiring with her youngest son against the father. When Athena emerges she reflects the need for logic and rationality rather than feeling and instinct. Her path follows the reason of the head, aligned with her father, not the impulse of the heart, the vulnerable feminine side that she has not been nurtured by.

Like Eve, Athena's feminine legacy is not so easily erased. Both their myths contain the image of the snake, a sacred symbol of their legacy of feminine wisdom, healing and regeneration. By the classical period Athena's wisdom became subjugated to Zeus. Shaped by the masculine wisdom becomes linear, logical and rational. Metis is no longer acknowledged as her other parent. The internal wisdom of cycles, intuitive knowing and the complexity of intrapsychic understanding becomes concealed under Athena's armor.

Athena is also associated with the arts of healing, health and regeneration. As Athena Nike she was the goddess of Victory, first victorious in war and later a victor on the sports field. Athena signaled victory and as a patron of heroes she was also known as the goddess of the near, as she was always close to the hero and a staunch supporter of the heroic. As the goddess of war and defender of her father's realm Athena became aligned with the hero as his guide and protector. In mythic portrayals of the hero, Athena stands behind or beside him as his staunch ally against the monstrous and dark forces. When Pallas Athena appears prominently in a birth chart she encourages us to be heroic and battle the regressive forces of our instinctual nature. It is necessary to reflect on the situation and not react emotionally, detaching enough to formulate a decisive plan of action.

In astrology the goddess Pallas Athena represents the reflection and meditation that develops out of the turmoil of chaos and uncertainty, helping us to become more strategic and deliberate in our actions. Metis is the valued intelligence that guides our instincts and plans strategically and arises into consciousness at exactly the right moment. Pallas Athena discerns and through reflecting on emotionally entangled situations allows consciousness to develop. Following are the house and sign descriptions of the goddess Pallas Athena in your horoscope.

Pallas is in the 2nd House

Money is important to you. Even if you are denying this, think about it. Financial security may or may not be important, but money is a key factor in your life, enabling you to achieve your creative goals. If you still think that money is not that important, then ask yourself how much of your energy goes into denying the importance of money. You are adept and creative at handling money, and are likely to earn the majority of your income through innovative or artistic work. If not then you are adept at helping other people handle their financial affairs. Perhaps you enjoy working with figures as an accountant or financial adviser. Perhaps you enjoy helping businesses with strategies to improve their profit margins. Do you lose interest once you have completed your advice? Are you ready to try a new moneymaking scheme

once your own, or other people's, finances have improved? For these reasons you may enjoy investing in the ever-challenging financial stock market, futures investments and other such economic systems.

Pallas in your second house suggests that you have the ability to make money from your practical skills, your ability to strategize and plan as well as your strong sense of justice. At some stage in your life your sense of justice may be challenged. You may be required to fight a battle to prevent a financial loss. Your opponents would do well not to underestimate your considerable battle skills. You have a strong sense of fair play. In fact your sense of fair play is one of your most valued traits. You conduct all of your own affairs with integrity and expect others to do the same. If challenged then you are likely to fight to protect your reputation, which means a great deal to you. You have the uncanny ability to step back from you own, and other people's strong emotional reactions, and plan a winning strategy. You are willing to finance your fight because you know that you will win. This can be unnerving for those around you. Your nerves of steel may surprise friends and foes, particularly if their sense of fair play is different to yours. You do need to ensure that you are valuing everyone's contribution. Otherwise you may win the battle but lose the war. In other words beware of greed and self-righteousness. It is best if you use your skills to fight on behalf of other people not against them. Of course you need to protect your own assets but only if it is fair to do so, only if they are really your assets. You are able to fight on behalf of others, helping them gain financial freedom. This is when you are at your best, being paid to make money for good causes, creative endeavors, team members or businesses.

Pallas is in Scorpio

You are a fighter. You have to be. At a young age you may have learnt the need to fight to defend yourself and protect younger siblings or friends. This may have been caused through a change of circumstances, a stern and overpowering father figure, or the need to defend your individuality in a large family. Whatever your personal reasons, the outcome is the same - you learnt how to recognize the undercurrents of the adult world and survive. You developed an ability to stand back and assess your options using reason rather than emotion to make decisions. You are like the Eagle soaring high in the skies, ready to swoop on its prey as a means to eat and live. Like the Eagle you are regal and resourceful. You don't suffer fools gladly, although you can be genuinely compassionate towards those who suffer.

Your main objective is to seek and acknowledge the truth. This results in passionate feelings flowing through your life. Your co-workers, friends and perhaps even family members feel strongly about you. You evoke intense feelings, although you don't necessarily share them. You are able to detach from emotions, investigate the truth of the matter and use your penetrating mind to solve problems, even if this means discarding objects, plans or people along the way. You don't necessarily choose the popular path and you leave no stone unturned. The ancient author Aristophanes may have said it best when he wrote, 'men of sense often learn from their enemies. It is from their foes, not their friends, that cities learn the lesson of building high walls and ships of war...' You make a better friend than foe. You know how to keep a confidence and you are a good ally to have in any fight, particularly legal or advocacy battles.

Nature and metaphysical matters can be a soothing factor in your life. You have a strong affinity to the cycles of the natural world, and are likely to be passionate about protecting nature from any unnecessary destruction by humans. You may align yourself closely to an environmental cause or study weather patterns or astronomy. You are not afraid of the dark, but rather find the night sky and the stars to be soothing.

On a lighter note you may enjoy detective novels, courtroom sagas and psychological thrillers. Any profession that demands research, resourceful ideas and applications, or psychological insights would benefit from your probing and insightful mind.

Juno - Socializing The Soul



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

Juno Regina shares the honor of the highest deity in the Roman pantheon as queen next to her husband-brother Jupiter, king of the gods. Each woman had their own guardian spirit named Juno, who guided their transitions into the stages of motherhood and marriage. As a light bringer she was also invoked for protection during childbirth. As the goddess of marriage her Roman name Juno was the derivative of June, the season of the bride. Women celebrated her annually in the festival of Matronalia. By the Roman period Juno had become emblematic of the woman as wife and citizen presiding over social customs and duties. In earlier Greek myths Juno was a powerful goddess in her own right known as Hera, the adored feminine deity of many powerful city-states.

The derivation of Hera's name may be related to Hora or season, as she is custodian of the seasons of a woman's life. On the Olympian pantheon she was the goddess of marriage and embodied social ritual and custom. At her cult in Argos young girls ran races to prepare for their marriage and the rituals of womanhood. In the Greek myths Hera was a wife and unlike her husband Hera does not have affairs. However, in Greek myth Hera also seeks revenge upon her husbands' liaisons with others. By the classical period the tales of Zeus and Hera rival contemporary soap operas where the cycle of betrayal, outrage and revenge is the central plot. Hera consistently plots revenge against Zeus' lovers and children from these affairs. However, there was an earlier time when the Olympian couple was not always locked in power struggles or scheming and bullying each other. This was when they first fell in love in the palace of their aunt and uncle where they were being hidden, protected by their mother Rhea from the familial wars that were raging with their father. Here in the great palace beneath the sea, they consummated their relationship, a relationship that was to remain secret for nearly 300 years. Underpinning the later myths are fragments, which reveal Hera was an ancient goddess before she became aligned with her brother in a sacred marriage.

Epithets of Hera such as 'cow-eyed' refer to her earlier association with the earth and agriculture, while her epithet 'of the white arms' may link her to an association with the Moon. She is often depicted in three phases as the maiden, the fulfilled and the solitary, a trinity of aspects represented by Hebe, Hera and Hecate. Hebe was the daughter of Hera and the cupbearer to the Gods who became married to Heracles after his ascension to Olympus. In this aspect Hera is the maiden, the youth and the aspect of the feminine that retains her

virginity, even in relationship. The central phase was motherhood, wifehood and a woman of power. Local folklore suggested she bathed in the streams of Argos where she was able to regain her virginity lost in the marriage with Zeus. Hecate was associated with the final phase embracing Hera's aloneness and need for solace. At times Hera would leave Zeus to go off on her own to pursue her needs for privacy, renewal and worship.

Hera was indigenous to Greece long before Zeus was triumphant. The cult of Hera may have been so powerful that unlike the other goddesses Zeus was unable to be dominant, settling instead for an equal relationship. Her cults on Samos and in Argos are linked to the prehistorical period. On Samos one of the first mammoth stone temples of the archaic period was built in honor of Hera. Similarly her temple at Olympus predates the magnificent one built for Zeus. No doubt Hera is an older goddess like Demeter and Hestia, her sisters who were born to Cronus and Rhea before their brothers. However, to incorporate Hera into the politics on Olympus she became the wife of Zeus and mother to his children.

Another mythic fragment, which suggests Hera is a powerful ancient goddess, is her link to Heracles. Even though their relationship is estranged Heracles is named for the great goddess. His name literally translates into the glory of Hera. Hera whose name closely resembles hero is aligned with the greatest of all heroes, Heracles and plays a potent role in many heroic sagas. Their antagonistic relationship ironically spurred him on to become the greatest hero and ironically myth depicts Hera as his mother-in-law. No longer the object of her scorn Hera has challenged Heracles to become the hero. As mother-in-law she models a strong and uncompromising woman who demands the hero be the best man for her daughter.

Juno and Hera are the composite that portray the seasons of a woman's life as well as the evolution of woman's roles. The spirit of Juno in contemporary woman has new power and possibilities and the placement of the goddess in our horoscope is an invitation to challenge the constructs of the social roles that are inhibiting for us. As a partner and equal Juno is supportive, enterprising, challenging and confronting helping shape potentiality into reality.

In astrology the goddess Juno represents the status and achievement in the world that are intricately aligned with social customs and tradition. Equality in relationship is necessary at all stages of the life cycle to insure both inner and outer fulfillment. Juno's ancient legacy is equal relationship and through her archetypal experience you can become aligned with your heroic self. Descriptions of the goddess in your astrological chart follow:

Juno is in the 1st House

The goddess Juno is your guardian spirit. She reigns prominently in your birth chart casting her light over your health and happiness. In practical terms this means that you are likely to be helped by strong women throughout your lifetime. You are blessed with the strength to achieve your goals in the areas of childbirth, self-improvement and marriage.

Juno in this position in a woman's' chart indicates that you are strong and attract powerful and influential women. Your roles as a wife and mother may be emphasized in your marriage, taking precedence over a separate professional career. You see yourself as an equal to your partner, the queen of the domestic matters in your marriage. This is not to say that you don't have a career, but rather that your role as wife or mother is more significant in your heart. On the other hand you may be a contemporary woman, challenging the traditional role of wife and mother. You have the power and possibilities to defy the constructs of the social roles that are inhibiting. Either way your marriage is important, and as a partner and equal you are supportive, enterprising, challenging and confronting helping

shape potentiality into reality. Depending on other aspects of your birth chart you may have a shrewish side to your nature. You are best advised to handle this with care because your marriage and personal happiness are likely to suffer if you indulge in any tendency to criticize. Juno in this position in a man's chart indicates that you are likely to marry a strong and powerful partner, who is your equal in all areas of life. Your spouse is supportive, enterprising and challenging. This person may take over the running of the household, thus presenting you with the opportunity to maintain a long and successful career. On the other hand you may wish to become the homemaker, encouraging your partner to go out to work while you take on the responsibilities of household management. Either way you are likely to achieve personal happiness with such a supportive person by your side. Treat this person with appreciation and you are able to achieve many personal rewards. Spurn your spouse at your own peril! On the other hand you are not required to put up with any shrewish behavior.

Unconditional love of your partner is paramount when the goddess Juno resides in the first house of your birth chart. This goddess does not respond well to control or arrogance. Therefore you are continually challenged to be powerful but not arrogant, assertive but not aggressive, supportive but not manipulative. You also need to ensure that becoming a powerful woman does not overwhelm your sense of well being. Your happiness is also important. At times you may need to take a stand, but do so from a position of integrity rather than a need to overpower. Equality in your relationship is necessary at all stages of the life cycle to insure both inner and outer fulfillment.

Juno is in Libra

It may come as no surprise to you to know that the goddess Juno in the sign of Libra indicates that relationships play a key role in shaping your life. You are likely to spend much of your early life seeking a meaningful marriage. Other aspects of your astrology chart will show how much of your energy you use in seeking fulfillment through a relationship. However, the goddess Juno is asking that you become an emancipated person who is seeking a relationship on your own terms. Beware of becoming eclipsed by someone else or serving your partner's needs rather than your own.

This is a prominent placement of the goddess Juno and therefore you stand a good chance of succeeding in your search for a lifelong union, as long as you also value your independence and do not subjugate your own values to someone else's. You are not interested in short-term affairs, but rather in marriage. Like the swans, you seek one true partner. Equality in your relationship is necessary at all stages of your life to insure both inner and outer fulfillment. You are truly fulfilled when married to your chosen mate.

You may be attracted to someone who is artistic, a charming person with good social skills. You enjoy intimate romantic outings with your spouse, as well as sharing busy social functions. Romance is important. However, you do need to be careful of holding too many romantic illusions. You are a romantic, and yet you are also seeking your true mate, an equal partner to share your life. You have a tendency to believe the best of people and therefore may be disappointed when they fail to share your commitment to personal relationships. If you are disillusioned or hurt early in life then you may give up your search for a mate, preferring to remain alone rather than settle for someone less than your ideal. You may instead work for the betterment of other people's relationships or humanity as a whole. You seek justice, beauty, harmony, and balance in your own personal associations, as well as for society.

Vesta - The Inner Life



*'Leave those vain moralists, my friend, and return to the depth of your soul:
that is where you will always rediscover the source of the sacred fire which so often
inflamed us with love of the sublime virtues;
that is where you will see the eternal image of true beauty, the contemplation of which
inspires us with a holy enthusiasm.'*
Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The cult of the Roman goddess Vesta was connected to the Greek Hestia. However, the Roman archetype had considerably altered from her Hellenic counterpart. By the Roman period the sacrament of virginity was liberalized, no longer conceptualized as a psychic state but now institutionalized as a spiritual way of being. Priestesses of Vesta, known as Vestal Virgins, served the goddess for a period of thirty years. While the position was privileged it also was one of great piety, devotion and responsibility. Vestal Virgins tended the sacred flame and guarded the Palladium, the secret objects brought from Troy to preserve the memory of the ancient city and protect the new satellite city of Rome. However, in ancient Greece Hestia was the embodiment of an internal and sacred space not a religious institution. Vesta's heritage reaches back to the traditions of honoring the authenticity of the inner life as symbolized by the spirit of the sacred flame, not a system of regulations.

In ancient Greece the goddess received the highest respect. Acknowledged as the deity mankind must first honor when feasting and drinking the goddess embodied grace and virtue. Veiled and virginal her sanctuaries were places of refuge, asylum and political peace. Constant, focused and disliking change Vesta is the hearth, a symbol for both the center and the focus of the home as well as the metaphor for family life and the family circle. As custodian of the hearth she is central to psychic life representing the sacral center, the goddess who honors sacred space and protects holy images. She embodies spatiality, conferring safe places to congregate, mediating soul by giving it a hallowed place to be acknowledged. As a virgin (unto herself) goddess Vesta is the custodian of soulful space personifying the stillness at the center of our busy everyday lives. As goddess of hospitality she also welcomes travelers across the threshold offering sanctuary and hospice. Vesta is the continuity of family life and the coherence it brings to our everyday experiences. Vesta was the first-born child, the first devoured by Saturn and the last one to be disgorged from his belly. Therefore she represents the beginning and the end, the alpha and the omega, the eternal cycle. Vesta is not a part of the outer rim of the cycle but situated at its center, personifying stillness, discretion, centering and immobility, aspects of her Greek counterpart, Hestia.

Few Greek myths remain of Hestia; she is rarely personified, no statues or temples remain,

yet at times in the archaic period she was the most honored goddess, worshipped at the center of the city and the center of the Greek household. By the classical period Hestia was not included as one of the twelve Olympians having been replaced by Dionysus. Hestia and her brother Hades are the only two siblings who remain detached from the Olympian family dramas and feuds. Unlike their brothers, Poseidon and Zeus, or their sisters, Hera and Demeter, they are not identified with their family of origin or their siblings. Their places are internal, interior and introverted. Few images or alters survive as reminders of their worship or importance in cult. There were virtually no temples erected to them and they were seldom represented in art, sculpture or vase painting. Neither were they parents to heroes like their siblings. As gods of place both Hestia and Hades have been re-placed and dis-placed which are potent clues as to what we culturally and psychologically have done with these archetypal energies. In a modern context this place of Hestia, as a metaphor for the hearth of inner life, has become dis-placed, re-placed by the rush and busyness of the outer world. When the inner life is sidelined and banished to the fringes of society, anxiety, terror and panic can no longer be constrained in the community. Hestia reflects the need for solace, quiet and retreat into the inner sanctuary of the Self.

As an image of center, Hestia is not personified or remembered by statues or temples but manifests through the sense of peace. She is the central point; the meeting place the fires of the home, the hearth, the Omphalos as the symbol for the center of the Earth. In antiquity her sanctuaries were non-warring zones, places of political peace. Plato remarked, *'when the Gods warred, only Hestia did not take part'* that characterized the goddess' propensity to non-involvement. In the earlier myths of Hestia she resisted the advances of both her brother Poseidon and her nephew Apollo and was honored with remaining eternally virginal, symbolic of her attachment to the inner life. She is the aspect of self, which can never be violated or abused and always able to access the soul. Hestia is central to psychic life and expressions like 'can't settle down', 'off center', being off base' remind us of being out of touch with Hestia. As the hearth she is a guide to the inner life and the central image around which soulful images can constellate. She represents sacred space, the meditative moment the soul of place and the feeling of home.

In astrology Vesta is the inner instinct that honors soul by giving it a sacred place, an altar, a quiet moment. She represents hospice and offers hospitality to the aspects of self that feel displaced and dislocated. As the hearth light she offers stillness, quietude, meditation and solitude in the midst of the everyday. The inner life is the container for anxiety and despair as well as a refuge from the pollution of daily life. Below are descriptions of where Vesta is to be found in your horoscope, the spheres where she seeks to be honored in your life.

Vesta is in the 6th House

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

Many people are goal-oriented, striving to perfect and improve aspects of their lives through great achievements. You prefer to pay attention to the process, how people are living their lives rather than what they are achieving. You are well aware of the sacrifices that often involved in the work and home environment. Your expectations are different to most other people because you are prepared to make forgo pleasures in order to adhere to a routine or to look after the needs of other people. Little acts of kindness, rather than personal comfort, are more likely to be your personal goal. However, one of the most important acts you need is the daily act of devotion, whether that be quietly meditating, focusing on those you love or centering the self. It is important you find the time for spirit in the midst of your everyday life.

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

Vesta is in Pisces

Sacrifice is a repetitive theme in your life. You are idealistic, yearning for spiritual sustenance on a daily basis. Your creative fire burns strongly within your heart, but somehow you are called to sacrifice your dreams for others or to attend to pertinent responsibilities. In some cases you may become the sacrificial lamb within an organization, served notice for the so-called good of the group, but not necessarily for your own personal edification. This is more likely to be true if you are sacrificing your heart-felt passion for the sake of material ambition. The more that you seek material accomplishment the more that your creative urges are likely to suffer. Therefore you need to discover your true calling, rather than trying to fulfill other people's expectations or even your own! Retreating to a natural location may help soothe your soul and help you reconnect with your inner creative fire. Mountain mists, hazy lakes, thermal ponds, and tropical islands may all renew your joie de vivre.

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

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

Hygieia - The Soul Of Health



'Health, greatest of all the blessed gods, may I live with you for the rest of my life'
Hymn to Hygieia, Ariphron

In the ancient Greek sanctuaries of healing statues of Hygieia, the goddess of health, reminded the pilgrim of the archetypal quest for wholeness and well being. Adorned with a simple garment Hygieia was often represented as youthful, radiant and smiling, attributes that are companions of health. Either she is holding or feeding a snake. Carrying a bowl of food or water Hygieia is generally represented tending the sacred snakes that were housed in the temples on the sanctuaries of healing. Sometimes she is presented holding a wreath of laurel, combining victory with health, or other plants known for their medicinal properties, a motif that links her to an ancient tradition of woman healers, herbalists and midwives.

Hygieia's intimate relationship with the serpent recalls her link to the ancient goddesses of healing and nature. Earth and Mother goddesses were accompanied by serpents and the ancient belief was that they transmitted the power of healing and prophecy. As a symbol of both regeneration and divination serpents were sacred to the goddess who gave them sanctuary in the bosom of the earth. Later the cult of sacred snake was adapted and serpents were included in the rituals at the sanctuaries that offered healing and spiritual guidance. The ancients also saw the sacred serpent dwelling in the body and when awakened it could offer illumination, vitality and the radiance of well being. As nature became less mysterious snakes became demonized, no longer transmitting the ancient wisdom of healing but transporting demonic and darker forces.

Hygieia nurtures and tends the snake revering its sacred power to rejuvenate and shed its old ways. She celebrates its dark, earthy force and recognizes the divine mystery of illness and health. Like her ancient ancestors, Hygieia honored the union between the natural and supernatural worlds knowing that health and well being depended on bringing them both into a cohesive whole. Goddess wisdom also knew that all of nature was animated by spirits that could be petitioned through magical and religious ritual in an attempt to restore equilibrium and well being. Hygieia is the modern surrogate of the ancient goddesses who honor the great mystery of healing.

To the Greeks Hygieia personified health, that mysterious amalgam of well being, wholeness and happiness. She emerged in the classical period when the cult of Asclepius became widespread and flourished throughout the Graeco-Roman world. Hygieia was mainly represented as the daughter of Asclepius, the Greek god of healing, although sometimes known as his wife. Her numerous statues equal those of Asclepius and in the cult of healing

she was revered and equal to the god himself. Interestingly the popularity of temple medicine practiced at the sanctuaries of Asclepius paralleled the growth of rational medicine that had emerged through the teachings of Hippocrates. Hygieia stands at the crossroads of magico-religious healing rituals and contemporary medical practice, holding the tension between the two but allowing each to co-exist. She embraces wholistic healing in every manifestation as she is dedicated to the pursuit of health.

In the ancient community disease was portrayed as a possession by a demon, the intrusion of a spirit or the curse of a god. In the cult of Asclepius illness was seen to be more the call of the divine, the voice that echoed the split between body and spirit. It was the illness that called the pilgrim to the temple to restore equilibrium and well being. At the temple the patient would prepare for an encounter with the god often by fasting, bathing or meditating. Then the patient was escorted into the temple where they would lie down and fall into a deep sleep wherein the god would appear to them in a dream. Once contact with the god had been made through the inner process of the dream the patient would be restored to health. In the healing sanctuaries of Hygieia health was evoked through contact with the divine in the inner sanctuary of the soul. Yet synchronous with these practices were medical doctors who suggested that disease was a natural occurrence and not of the god's making. Hence Hygieia eventually became associated with mental health and well being as rational medical doctors gained a stronghold on the health of the physical body.

When Hygieia is strong in a birth chart we are reminded that health is the alignment of body and soul, heart and mind, outer success and inner peace. One at the expense of the other constellates dis-ease in the temperament that may manifest as a physical symptom, mental anguish or emotional pain. Hygieia is the personification of Health who calls us into the inner sanctuary of the soul to restore health and regain equilibrium. On a divinatory level Hygieia will be chosen when the healing of a situation is imperative. Rational healing is not the only answer. It must be accompanied by attending to the root cause, which ultimately is the illness in the soul. In a psychological sense Hygieia is soul of health, the urge to attend to psyche and its needs by nurturing our deeper urges and impulses. Feeding the snakes is a metaphor for nurturing the dark and mysterious aspects of the soul and attending to the unconscious.

In astrology Hygieia represents health that is forged through the alliance of the natural with the supernatural, the right brain with the left, the inner world with the outer, the serpent with the soul. Hygieia reminds us that health is an archetypal image embedded in the psyche. When the soul is not nourished or attended it speaks through illness and disease. The placement of Hygieia by house and sign that follow are where the goddess seeks her expression in your life.

Hygieia is in the 3rd House

In a developmental process the third house represents the stage of exploration beyond our immediate environment. In terms of human development this is when motor skills develop and we become mobile through crawling and walking. As well the 3rd house is the developmental time when language is cultivated and communication skills are honed. Hygieia is located in this sphere of your horoscope and is the guardian of these developmental stages. At an early age you may have experienced a healing crisis related to your growth or early learning development, or perhaps you might have had an eye-opening accident that encouraged you to be cognizant of your health and self-care. An experience of a sibling who was unwell may have shaped your outlook on health. In some way you will be highly conscious of your health and aware of the necessity to attend to it. Your well being is sensitive to the conditions in your atmosphere and therefore the quality of your environment

and the way you interact with others in that space will directly impact your welfare.

Hygieia in this sector of your horoscope suggests that change, movement and mobility is necessary for maintaining balance and well being, as the nervous system needs an outlet. In a literal way this is about physical exercise, movement and remaining agile but equally it may also suggest the need for mental alertness and dexterity. Your health and fitness are linked to you being explorative and inquisitive, not blindly accepting what is presented, but seeking healthcare and well being beyond what is in your immediate environment. You need to be aware to periodically change your environment and create enough space and freedom in your atmosphere to feel relaxed and well.

In the third house Hygieia stresses the way we communicate our personal health requirements. As young children this emphasizes the necessity to tell our caretakers about our pain and the extent to which we felt sick. However, this may also suggest how we learn to manipulate these feelings for our own purposes. This poses the question 'how do we define health and how do we communicate our pain?' an important question for you. Do we hold onto our feelings of discomfort or do we communicate them? Because of this you may be adept at writing, teaching or communicating about health or working with others helping them to communicate their pain. This goddess is invoking an innate ability to diagnose both physical and emotional illness borne out of your own experiences.

Hygieia is in Sagittarius

No one knows the anguish of living a life without meaning more than you. When faith is lacking you experience pain. Torture for you is being involved in the meaningless futility of a repetitive life. Therefore your own journey towards wholeness has traversed the landscape through many philosophies, spiritual modalities, religions and systems of thought. Literally you may have visited many libraries, internet sites, temples and ashrams in search of the infinite, meeting many masters, gurus, wise women and shamans along the way. But at the end of the day all the experiences were part of the process and not the answer. Just like all the philosophies, books and wise women said, "The answer lies within". While you know this to be the truth nonetheless part of your healing journey is in the discovery that the same truth is expressed in many dialects. Your fate involves finding your truth, your beliefs and your system of thought in your own dialect to support your feeling whole. While this may be a journey rather than a destination, it is an essential part of your nature.

This journey may have been prompted by familial and cultural belief systems that limited you. Therefore your own healing is promoted through the exploration of human values, education and the development of an open mind. You recognize the importance of faith and a spiritual template in life to support the feelings of connection with the entire human race. This calling may have led you into the role of being an educator where you are able to encourage others to be culturally open and accepting. You are able to convey the power of belief and faith and inspire others to seek their own bliss in their own way. In sharing your own healing process others are inspired to do the same. Whether or not you are a teacher, facilitator, professor or priest you are definitely a lay minister coaching others in their search for meaning.

In our contemporary world there is a tendency to overlook the destructive impact that the lack of imagination or the lack of contact with the spiritual life has on our emotional life. Without meaning or the sacred in our lives we often feel despair, are fatigued or become depressed. Depression and exhaustion may be the means the goddess reveals the lack of meaning in your spiritual life. Your well being is intimately connected to philosophy and the search for meaning. Whether your path takes you to university, a class on meditation or

Tarot, into a Buddhist temple or a ritual to the goddess, you need to be en route to nurturing the soul spiritually in order to feel whole again.

Ariadne - The Labyrinth Of The Soul



'To be always fortunate, and to pass through life with a soul that has never known sorrow, is to be ignorant of one half of nature.'
Seneca

Daughter of the great dynasty of Knossos, Ariadne's fate was overshadowed by the curse that plagued her family. In the guise of a great white bull, Zeus had abducted her grandmother Europa from Phoenicia and brought her to Crete. Her mother Pasiphaë had also become enamored by a great bull. Ariadne participated in the family fate: as Pasiphaë's daughter her lifeblood was impassioned and as Europa's granddaughter her destiny was to abandon her ancestral home.

Poseidon cursed Ariadne's family when her father Minos refused to sacrifice his most magnificent bull to the god. Spurned, the god aroused Pasiphaë's shameful lust for the impressive bull that became embodied in her bull-son, the Minotaur, human from the shoulders down. Banished into the labyrinthine blackness below the palace Ariadne's half-brother, the Minotaur, fed on sacrificial children sent from Athens every nine years. Heroic Theseus was one of fourteen youths sent to Crete to face death at the hands of the Minotaur.

When Theseus arrived to participate in the bull games Ariadne's passions were ignited when she saw him for the first time. Beguiled by the handsome hero, Ariadne devised a plan for Theseus to slay the Minotaur and return safely through the dark tunnels of the labyrinth. For her complicity Theseus promised he would marry her and take her away to Athens. Unconscious that her fate was enmeshed with the god Dionysus and not Theseus Ariadne set upon her course to help her lover and in turn betray her family.

Through the dark labyrinthine tunnels Theseus crawled, quietly, mindful not to make sounds that would waken the sleeping Minotaur. Wrapped around his wrist was a ball of yarn, tied to the pillar at the entrance of the maze, which unravelled as he made his way through the dangerous tunnels. Ariadne's thread was the umbilical cord that connected him to the outer world and guaranteed his return after he killed the Minotaur. That evening Ariadne escaped with Theseus. In the dark Mediterranean night they set sail for a victorious return to Athens. Leaving behind her father and sacrificing her brother she surrendered to the passion that burned inside, the rapture only Aphrodite could inspire, a similar fervor that had inflamed her mother and grandmother. The next night Ariadne and her lover reached the island Naxos. Exhausted by traveling and fatigued from the emotional turmoil that had preceded their escape they collapsed into a deep sleep. But as the rays of the morning sun lit her face

Ariadne awoke to discover her lover had vanished. At the edge of the shore she saw the sails of his ship in the distance. Athena had carefully woken Theseus before dawn, setting him on his course home without Ariadne. Abandoned, betrayed and used, Ariadne descended into her own complex world on the shores of Naxos.

Blinded by her passions Ariadne had been complicit in her abandonment. In betraying her family to follow her hero she had set the cycle of betrayal in motion. Projecting her heroic self onto Theseus had left her separated from her own center. Alone Ariadne was forced to connect with her internal world. At this threshold Ariadne experienced an epiphany of Aphrodite the goddess who ignited the passionate fires that led to her suffering. Appearing to Ariadne the goddess revealed her true fate: she would wed her real soul mate, the divine Dionysus. Dionysus celebrated their sacred marriage by offering Ariadne the crown as the symbol of their intimacy and eternal union.

Ariadne's myth portrays the heart's painful journey when connection to the inner self is severed and sacrificed to the lover. Ariadne followed her lover's course rather than her own internal labyrinthine journey, losing her genuine direction. Using the thread, the symbolic connection to her inner core, to serve the hero Ariadne lost contact with her own inner wisdom. Abandoned she was no longer able to define herself exclusively through a partner; therefore a more authentic sense of self could emerge. The painful process of confronting her naïve trust and blind faith in Theseus enabled her renewal and redemption. In psychological terms a more divine sense of union is possible when projections onto the other are consciously relinquished. Dionysus embodies a woman's masculine spirit enabling her to define herself in terms of her own needs and not through someone else.

When Ariadne is prominent in the birth chart she reveals the course of the heart encouraging the individual to acknowledge that the threads to their inner self are tenuous and must be honored in relationship. Ariadne celebrates a more intimate connection with the heart, whether that is through a personal relationship, a new creative endeavor or a new course of life.

In astrology Ariadne represents abandonment as an archetypal process that strips away the mind's illusions in order to hear the calling of the true self. Confronted by the painful reality of being left the individual is forced to relinquish their hopes and fantasies in order to awaken to the authentic path of the heart. Ariadne embodies the soul in relationship that must first experience the painful course of the labyrinth before a divine connection can be realized. Following is the astrological thread that Ariadne weaves through her house and sign in your horoscope.

Ariadne is in the 7th House

Ariadne's myth portrays the heart's painful journey when connection to the inner self is severed and sacrificed to the lover. This is certainly true when the goddess Ariadne resides in the 7th house of your birth chart. On one hand you yearn to be reflected in the mirror of the other, yet on the other you are at risk of losing your self in that reflection.

From a very young age you recognize the need for another person to complete your life. No matter what task you undertake or where you journey in life you are seeking the romantic 'other'. You are likely to believe in the concept of 'soul mate' and roam the world looking for your ideal marriage partner. Naturally you find many kindred spirits along the way. After all you enjoy relating to other people on a deep and intimate level. In fact at some stage in your life you may enjoy counseling. However, you are really seeking to lose yourself in love. Once you fall in love you forgo everything in your pursuit of the perfect union. You leave home and

family behind, perhaps even traveling to another land sacrificing your own dreams to help your partner pursue theirs'. Sadly you lose yourself in the process and are also likely to lose your mate. Betrayal and abandonment may result from your fervor to pursue love in all of the wrong places.

Whether your union fails or lasts your task, once realizing that you have lost your own identity, is to then rebuild your sense of self. The process is likely to be arduous as you struggle to come to terms with the changes in your life. The good news is that the path to self-realization is part of your divine mission. Ariadne represents the marriage to the divine after the trials of betrayal and abandonment. Therefore you are finally able to become a complete person. You no longer need another person to support your identity. Your heart is whole. Your current union or any future marriage has the chance to be built on more solid foundations of mutual love and respect and compromise rather than sacrifice. You acknowledge that the threads to your inner self are tenuous and must be honored in relationship. In some cases you may choose to live a single, perhaps even celibate life. However, this prominent position of Ariadne can herald success in partnership, particularly when you continue to follow the call of your own soul.

Ariadne is in Aries

You are on a quest to express your individual talents. From a young age you are well aware of your need for independence. Some may call you headstrong as you clash with your parents, schoolteachers or others in authority, but you refuse to bend to the will of others. You may quietly withdraw to a world of your own imagination, perhaps even becoming sensitive to the touch of other people. On the other hand you may openly strike out on your own using your willpower to follow your own dreams. Whether or not the thought of being on your own concerns you, at some stage in your life you are likely to feel completely and utterly alone.

Whether this is a positive or negative experience, ultimately the lesson is a positive one. You learn to enjoy your own company, to celebrate your autonomy. The only challenge may be that you tend to alienate others along the way. People who may otherwise offered you assistance are likely to be alienated through your cavalier attitude. A little tenderness and appreciation can go a long way in gaining the cooperation of other people.

Alone the goddess Ariadne was forced to connect with her internal world. Likewise you learn the value of listening to the still small voice within and of carving your own path. As US poet Walt Whitman says in 'Song of Myself', 'I celebrate myself, and sing myself.' As you develop your own talents you are likely to become a leader or teacher in your field of interest. You are a true pioneer, forging new paths of understanding. You may prefer to work on your own rather than teaching others; however, it is still likely that you share your talents through your solitary pursuits.

Europa - The Soul Of The Earth



*'On a beach in Sidon a bull was aping a lover's coo. It was Zeus.
He shuddered, the way he did when a gadfly got him.
But this time it was a sweet shuddering.
Eros was lifting a girl onto his back: Europa'
The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony, Robert Calasso*

Underneath the Cretan palace of Knossos hidden in a labyrinthine chamber lived a bull-man, the Minotaur, the shameful shadow of the Minoan clan. Two generations earlier the story began when Zeus shape-shifted into a beautiful white bull to seduce a young Phoenician princess named Europa. Like the gods of the old religion Zeus took the shape of a virile and magnificent bull to mesmerize the innocent girl who was unaware that her destiny would instigate the founding of two great dynasties as well as the continent named for the virgin Zeus had abducted.

Europa had been playing in a field gathering spring flowers to make garlands when she became enthralled by a large charismatic bull that meandered into the meadow. Possessed with desire to know the bull, she moved closer. Zeus, the bull-god, knelt before her gently beckoning Europa onto his back. She dared to climb upon him, and then slowly he took her step-by-step across the meadow towards the sea. With the power of a great god, the bull strode the waves across the sea to Crete. Europa clung tightly to the powerful bull, as she rode farther and farther away from her homeland. Zeus had made his conquest. He took Europa as his lover, fathering three children by her; one was Minos the founder of the Cretan dynasty.

Europa's father summoned his sons and instructed them to search for their sister and not to return home until the task had been accomplished. Cadmus set out on the quest, eventually journeying to Delphi to ask the oracle where he could find his sister. The oracle advised Cadmus to relinquish the quest for his sister, as his fate was to found the city of Thebes, not find his sister. In order to find the location of Thebes, he must follow a cow until it came to a place where it would lay down due to exhaustion. Europa had been abducted by a god disguised as a bull; her brother Cadmus is led by a cow to his destiny. Both siblings' destiny is to found a great dynasty guided by the commanding and enterprising bovine instinct. Like the zodiacal sign of Taurus the bull symbolizes inherent resource and power and the ability to either cultivate land or build structures that create wealth.

Europa's son Minos claimed the throne of Crete with the blessing of the god Poseidon, his great grandfather who offered him a gift from the sea. A sacred white bull majestically arose

out of the ocean and Minos promised to return it to the god in sacrifice. However, the bull was so regal and powerful, Minos decided not to sacrifice the majestic bull but substitute it for a prized white bull from his own herd. Outraged at the deceit, the earth-shaker Poseidon cursed the Minoan dynasty provoking Pasiphaë, Minos' wife, to be sexually obsessed with the beautiful god-like bull. Her craving led to her becoming pregnant with her monstrous son, the Minotaur. Minos' greed and failure to respect the laws of the gods produced a monster that had to be buried beneath the surface of the family in the labyrinthine dungeons of the palace. Buried shame or repression lurking under the atmosphere of the family home eventually surfaces through the next generations. This became evident through the fate of Europa's granddaughters daughters Ariadne and Phaedra. The myth the Greeks retold was a variant of a much earlier motif when the bull was consort of the earth goddess. Europa is the ancient goddess whose earthy instinct is powerful and resourceful. Europa heralds contact with the ancient feminine instincts that generate the power to create abundance.

Throughout the myth of Europa the bull image reoccurs. It is a multi-dimensional symbol of earthy passions, desires, magnetism, wealth and potency whose shadow is greed and lust. The Great Bull of Heaven was an image of archaic power, fertility and enterprise. The appearance of the heavenly bull of Taurus heralded spring when the bountiful Earth became carpeted with wildflowers and the cycle of courtship began. The great bull is engaging and charismatic constellating the generative power of the feminine. Aphrodite who symbolizes the beauty, sensuality and attractiveness of this archetype is the persuasive erotic power that draws Europa, Pasiphaë, Ariadne and Phaedra into her domain. Europa embodies the wealth and majesty of the bull, its earthy passions and its worldly triumphs.

Europa, as the bull-goddess, reclaims the power to construct and direct the course of her own life. When she is prominent in a birth chart it suggests the individual's present course is to construct a solid foundation that will secure the rapid growth of resources.

In astrology Europa embodies the ability to ride the bull, harness its power and give birth to its resourceful creativity. Innately she is the image of feminine power, guidance and direction. Embodying earthy instincts she knows how to cultivate the earth and create abundance through her passionate, attractive and commanding nature. How she finds expression in your life is explored through the goddess Europa's placement in your horoscope, as follows.

Europa is in the 9th House

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

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

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

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

Europa is in Gemini

Appearances are important to you. It is not that you are a shallow person, far from it. You simply like to present a façade to the world, one that protects and disguises your deeper feelings. You can do this consciously by separating your public and private life, presenting different personas so to speak. On the other hand you may not be aware of the dual nature of your interactions. Either way your loved ones are likely to see beyond the social trappings to your true nature. If you are comfortable, accepting the parts of you that are hidden from the rest of the world then you can enjoy the intimacy of close friendships and marriage. You are satisfied that your private and public lives are in balance.

However, if you are uneasy with aspects of your own personality then you are likely to be challenged in your most intimate relationships. At some stage in your life a lover is likely to really rock your world, asking for a commitment that you may feel unable to make. If this is the case then it is important for you to recognize your own depths, to accept all traits, the strengths and the weaknesses.

You enjoy social occasions and all the trappings - the camaraderie of acquaintances, the stimulation of conversation, the decoration of the venue and the appearance of the food and drinks. Your keen intellect and mischievous sense of fun are engaging. As such you may also enjoy organizing events on a small or large scale. You are also likely to enjoy working with committees, and groups that are linked through technology. The internet may be your playground where you get carried away to far off places!

Pandora - A Gift Of Hope



*'Hope sole remain'd within, nor took her flight,
Beneath the vessel's verge conceal'd from light'
Hesiod*

Pandora's story was written eight centuries before Christ in the epoch when gender roles were rigidly defined. Yet the mythic plot echoes timeless motifs, even ones used in contemporary science fiction. In Greek myth Pandora is the first woman, mother of all mortal women, created by the gods to assert their superiority over mankind. Cast as a femme fatale, a 'beautiful evil', she possesses a jar filled with toxins designed to pollute the race of mankind. Alluring, yet dangerous, Pandora represents a vestige of the ancient goddess culture threatening the emergent patriarchy. Yet she also transports an indelible gift from the goddess embedded at the bottom of the urn.

Three centuries later her myth was carved on the marble base underpinning the spectacular cult statue of Athena. When designing the Parthenon and its decorations the Athenians chose the myth of Pandora to be the motif at Athena's feet. On the pedestal of the colossal statue suppliants to Athena were reminded of the creation of the first woman and the plagues she brought to bear on humanity, a striking contrast to Athena who brought victory and pride to the Greeks. Like Athena Pandora's birth was unusual. Fashioned out of the earth at the command of Zeus, Pandora was the instrument designed to punish mankind for the unsanctioned possession of fire stolen by Prometheus.

Zeus was furious when Prometheus stole fire from heaven, smuggling it in a fennel stalk and distributing it to mankind. With the theft the distance between man and god narrowed, as fire was the alchemical agent that would refine raw materials and promote the development of mankind. As the human race developed there would be less need for the gods. Zeus' revenge was to send a 'gift' to man that would counterbalance the profit mankind gained from using fire. To date men had lived without evil in a golden age, which now would come to an end through the guile of a beautiful woman.

Zeus instructed the smith-god Hephaestus to fashion a beautiful maiden resembling a goddess out of clay and water. Athena was to teach the phantom how to weave a web, Aphrodite was instructed to make her seductive and Hermes, the trickster-god, was to teach her how to be deceitful. Adorned with beautiful garments from the Charities, Zeus breathed life into Pandora, who was given as a gift to Epimetheus, the brother of Prometheus. In her hands she carried an intricately designed urn, the dowry Zeus had given her. Shut inside it was all the evils, storms and plagues that bring misfortune to mankind. Instructed not to accept any gifts from Zeus, Epimetheus became enchanted by the beautiful Pandora and

forgot his brother's warning. Pandora opened the jar and before she could close the lid disease, old age, pain, toil, death and all the other ills that plague humanity spilled out. When she was finally able to seal the jar nothing remained except Hope, trapped at the bottom. In their benevolence the gods had insured an antidote for suffering. Pandora offers hope when all else has failed.

The myth of Pandora was included in Greek literature synchronous with the time that the myth of Eve appeared in Jewish writings. In both myths Pandora and Eve become the patriarchal scapegoat for all of humanity's troubles aligning feminine power with evil. This mythic misogyny defines the time when masculine values were dominant and feminine values were denigrated, even demonised. Pandora and Eve became the composite projection of evil, blamed for their lack of foresight, chaos and feelings. Underlying the mythic stratagem was a motif from an earlier period when goddess culture was dominant.

In Greek Pandora translates into 'all gifts' and her entry into Greek myth suggested this name because the gods of Olympus each gave her a gift. However, this mythic thread is probably an inversion from earlier goddess culture when Pandora may have referred to the goddess giving gifts. Gift giving became an essential component of Greek culture and this inverted fragment reminds us of the abundant side of the goddess who offers us the cornucopia of plenty. Pandora is born of the earth like Gaia, supplying the gifts of life. And the gift of life she brings that cannot be destroyed is Hope. On a psychological level hope is the mechanism that breathes life into the soul after it has been bruised and deflated.

Pandora emerges at a critical time historically and psychologically. She enters Greek myth when the goddess culture has waned and been rejected and man is no longer in favor with the gods. Psychologically Pandora appears to offer hope in devastating times. She brings a powerful gift that cannot be destroyed by life's ills. Hope is the life force that survives the disaster evoking images of healing and improvement. When Pandora is prominent in a birth chart she confronts us to delve into the deepest part of ourselves to tap the reservoir of faith. Having survived the projections and denigration of the other, Pandora resurrects life once again through the auspices of hope.

In astrology Pandora reminds us that embedded in every disaster is the gift of renewal through the auspices of faith and hope. Illness, destruction, old age and pain are part of feminine wisdom and this knowledge stands in direct contrast to masculine fantasies of a Golden Age and Garden of Eden. How she enters our life is reflected in the placement of the goddess. Descriptions of the goddess by house and sign in your horoscope are next.

Pandora is in the 6th House

You like to create a sense of order in your daily life. Routines, schedules, diaries, calendars, address books, photo albums, recipes and all sorts of life's mundane matters come under your scrutiny. You are a tidy person, believing cleanliness is next to godliness. Your wardrobe is well arranged because grooming is very important. You just don't understand anyone who is messy, sloppily attired or tardy. Your emotions are also held under tight control; therefore tension headaches are not unheard of. You are a hard worker, although sometimes your work schedule prevents you from taking time to support yourself or your loved ones. Whether you realize it or not your adherence to a set of rules is preventing you from relaxing and enjoying life. You don't seem to be able to stop yourself from taking on more and more responsibilities. Your co-workers seem to offload their tasks onto your willing shoulders. Even if you are unwilling to take on their workload, you can't seem to say 'no'. When you take holidays it is likely that you take time out to get your house in order or you travel somewhere edifying but not relaxing. Pandora alerts you to the need to take reflective

time before something unexpected forces you to take note.

You would do well to ponder the Bible story in the book of Luke about Martha and Mary. In this story Jesus and His disciples arrive in a village where a woman named Martha opens her home to Him. She has a sister called Mary, who sits at Jesus' feet listening to what He says. But Martha is distracted by all the preparations that have to be made. She asks Jesus, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' Jesus responds by telling Martha about the importance of taking time to sit, relax and listen like her sister Mary.

You are such a skilled worker. Once you learn to relax and trust in the divine order of your world you are able to gain great joy from daily pleasures and rituals. Rather than being a slave to your own rigorous schedules you gain pleasure from being a servant of the goddess even when this means sitting quietly and contemplating spiritual gifts such as faith, hope and love. Pandora means 'all gifts' and to you she offers a gathering place where quietude and centeredness can be together.

Pandora is in Pisces

You are on a mission to serve humanity, or save the world. How you try to do this depends on other aspects of your birth chart, but you are determined to do good deeds throughout your life. The only problem is that your efforts seem to backfire. In your innocence you seem to unwittingly stir up trouble in the most unlikely places. The goddess Pandora was expressly forbidden to open the box and yet she did. Her innocent curiosity led to disaster.

In the same way you have good intentions, but they are not enough. You give to charity, take part in humanitarian causes, care for small animals and children and work in a carefully chosen career. Nevertheless the feeling that your efforts are at best leading to nothing, and at worst are causing more problems than they solve overwhelms you. You are an agent of change who affects those around her. Whether you are aware of it or not you have a strong impact on the environment around you.

Perhaps everyday politics is threatening your effectiveness or maybe you are not being honest about your true feelings. Mother Theresa did not care for the sick purely from a sense of duty, or by ignoring the politics. She had a sense of joy and duty. She embraced the harsh realities of her work as offering a greater expression of her love of God. In doing so she offered hope of a better world to the people under her care and the rest of the world. Your challenge is to embrace your heartfelt passion and trust that your efforts are also offering hope. You may feel pitiful and hopeless, but in fact you are able to offer hope to others. In particular you may be an excellent healer, teacher, preacher, counselor, child caregiver and animal rights campaigner. Charitable institutions may also offer an outlet for your compassionate nature. Prayer and meditation may uplift you in times of trouble.

Mnemosyne - The Soul Of Memory



*'Thou fill'st from the wingèd chalice of the soul
Thy lamp, O Memory, fire-wingèd to its goal.
Dante Gabriel Rossetti*

The faculty of memory was so important to the ancients that it was personified as a goddess. In Greek cosmogony Mnemosyne was the daughter of Uranus and Gaia, a pre-Olympian goddess who characterized Memory. Being one of the original deities Mnemosyne is the custodian of memory before the advent of writing, literacy, books, recordings and computers. She embodies the voice of an oral culture that communicates from the soul through stories, pictures, metaphors and body language. Mnemosyne finds her voice through the poetry of images revealing her memoirs through a dream, a feeling, a response, a longing or a sudden thought that darts into consciousness. Embedded in the fragments of a song, a myth, or a fairy tale linger ancient truths that awaken the goddess. Dwelling in the soul Mnemosyne unexpectedly arouses memory through our senses and bodily reactions.

To the ancient Greeks memory was a goddess residing in the heart. Memory was soulful, an aspect of psyche that was creative and evocative and the ancients also saw the goddess as mother of the Muses. Goddess culture honored her form through three phases and originally Mnemosyne was celebrated through the Muses of meditation, memory and song. In early myth the Muses were the triune aspect of memory who inspired poetry and song. As rational science and beliefs began to emerge the seat of memory began to shift to the brain, aligning memory with a more logical and calculating experience rendering Mnemosyne a passive goddess who collected and stored life's impressions. Later myth suggested there were nine muses. Zeus visited Mnemosyne for nine nights and was the father of her nine daughters, the Muses, the inspiration and manifestation of the soul of memory. As mistresses of healing and prophecy the Muses inspired and taught others to contact a deeper knowing through their imagination and creativity which guarded the wellspring of memory. As custodians of the arts each had a sphere of influence which they inspired and animated with ancient images and recollections. History, Music, Comedy, Tragedy, Choral Dance and Song, Lyric Poetry, Religious Dance, Astronomy and Epic Poetry were the personifications of the ancient goddess of memory. Apollo, lord of the rational sphere, became their guardian and leader.

Memory's daughters are the muses, the ones who inspire and enchant the soul. Through her and her daughters we are able to engage in weaving the fragments of memory together to evoke meaning. Mnemosyne reminds us to remember the ancient ways. The goddess of Memory is not just a passive recorder of experience and events but a poetic and heart-rending process that inspires the imagination. Mnemosyne re-collects the emotional experiences, feelings and impressions of our life. She is the archive of all that we have

tasted, touched, wanted, smelt and felt. Her memories are stored in the psyche as images, symbols, feelings, impressions and instincts or become imprinted in the body, in the adrenal or olfactory glands, the tension in the muscles, allergies and illnesses. Mnemosyne is rhythmic and reflective, not linear, evoking dreams, images, songs that give continuity to our life's narrative. Memory and imagination are woven together when Mnemosyne and her daughters are aroused.

To the ancients the sacred sanctuary of Mnemosyne and the Muses was the museum. These ancient shrines dedicated to the goddess ceded to the structures we know today as museums where we house the great works of the imagination. On an inner level the museum is the sphere of Mnemosyne where impressions and feelings from the past are evoked in the present situation.

In astrology Mnemosyne, the goddess, helps us remember images and impressions from previous phases of our life in order to give meaning, context and insight into these experiences. She acts as a loosening agent, allowing buried complexes, taboo feelings, repressed memories to breathe again to find some place in the sunlight of consciousness. She connects passages of time together. Links can be made back to times in the previous cycle allowing space for the process of reflection and musing. Following is a report of how Mnemosyne brings the muse into your life experience.

Mnemosyne is in the 8th House

You are a prophet. This can be as simple as having the foresight to see the consequences of other people's actions or as miraculous as having the gift of clairvoyance. The extent of your gifts depends on other aspects of your birth chart, but you are gifted in the 'invisible' arts. Psychology, prayer, meditation, alchemy, magic, astrology, divination, criminology, and stock market trading are just some of the areas of interest that may spring from your talent for foretelling the future. This talent of yours actually stems from deep within. This could perhaps be your own childhood experience, but it is more likely that you were born wise. You may or may not consciously remember life before your birth, but some well of knowledge seems to dwell within, enabling you to draw on an innate wisdom.

Your talents may not be appreciated within your immediate family or circle of friends. As a child you are likely to be the one who states an honest fact only to find out that the adults would rather that you had kept quiet. As you mature you are quick to recall the discomfort and learn to keep some of your observations quieter than you would otherwise like. Nevertheless there are times when you are asked for advice and your gift for telling the truth and predicting future trends is not always appreciated. As Matthew says in the Bible, 'a prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house'. You may have to travel further a field than your own family, or hometown, before being truly appreciated as a gifted teacher, preacher or prophet. As mistresses of healing and prophecy the Muses inspired and taught others to contact a deeper knowing through their imagination and creativity which guarded the wellspring of memory. You may choose to teach metaphysical matters, work as a psychologist, start your own business or earn your money through stock or property investment. You enjoy stepping into the unknown, because for you very little is unknown. You follow your instincts.

You are also happy to share your knowledge with your marriage and business partners, as long as these important people are trustworthy and treat you with respect. If you feel that you are being used, taken advantage of, then you are likely to leave, taking as many resources with you as possible. You have a long memory when it comes to betrayal and need to be careful that you don't try to exact revenge. Although you are gifted at foretelling other

people's lives, and the consequences of their actions, you may not be able to counsel yourself in the middle of intense emotional situations. Prayer and meditation can be highly beneficial during transformational moments such as separation, divorce, legal matters, birth and death. You are likely to be a very understanding counselor, listening and remembering details of other people's stories. However, you also need to remain open to joyful experiences. You may need to rely on your memory of pleasurable moments in order to help yourself, and others, through the portals of change. Your own experiences deepen your ability to empathize with others. This remains the goddess Mnemosyne's calling to you - to teach others intimacy, by facing the depths of sadness as well as the heights of joy.

Mnemosyne is in Taurus

The word 'connection' has several dictionary definitions. It can be defined as '*a person, especially one of influence or importance, with whom one is associated, as by kinship or common interests*'. Other definitions are, '*a means or channel of communication*' or '*reference or relation to something else; context*.' All of these definitions are applicable to your life. You are well aware of the links that exist in your environment. You are sensitive to the connections between yourself and the people in your life, your friends, colleagues and relatives. You work hard to maintain these associations, appreciating the value that each person adds to your life.

You have many fond memories of shared occasions, most probably organized by you because you are the common link. You can be relied on to remember important dates and commemorate them with small gestures. You are also well aware of the connections between people and their belongings. Did you love the 'show and tell' days at school when you were a young child? This is because you treasure special objects; those items that are connected to distinctive memories or that one belonged to a friend or loved one. To you possessions are animated and have a special character as they help you remember special times. You remember that you bought the vase in Florence and the tablecloth in Hong Kong, your mother gave you the scarf and which book is your father's favorite. For this reason you may also be an avid collector or appreciate fine arts or antiques, items that have a personal association, history or many memories attached to them. Objects are beautiful because of the history invested in them.

You may be reluctant to let go of items that are associated with people from your past or anything that may remind you of happier times. This is a lovely trait in moderation, but you need to make sure that you are not becoming too attached to the past at the expense of present day joy. A good clean out or perhaps moving house will help you avoid gathering too much clutter. It is positive that you appreciate tradition, items or rituals that have been passed down through the ages, as long as you also focus on the here and now. You are cultured and may like to study the classics, listen to music from bygone eras and attend ballet performances. You may have some talents in these areas. Your gift is in appreciating beauty, tradition and connections. You have sound values and can share these with other people. The goddess Mnemosyne is calling on you to inspire others to commune in a meaningful way, sharing values, culture and common ground.

Hecate - The Soul In Transition



*'Leave those vain moralists, my friend, and return to the depth of your soul:
that is where you will always rediscover the source of the sacred fire
which so often inflamed us with love of the sublime virtues;
that is where you will see the eternal image of true beauty,
the contemplation of which inspires us with a holy enthusiasm.'*
Anthony Robbins

Hecate became associated with the dark phase of triple goddess who embraced the spheres of heaven (Selene), earth (Artemis) and underworld (Persephone). Her initial association with the underworld was as an attendant to Persephone. It was Hecate who heard Persephone's screams when Hades dragged her down into the netherworld. Hecate was also present when Hermes escorted Persephone out of the underworld. As a guardian of the threshold Hecate witnessed Persephone's descent and release. Her cave is located between the earth and the underworld confirming Hecate's role as an intermediary, bound to neither world but in between both.

As a threshold goddess Hecate is encountered when the paths of our lives converge and we are uncertain which fork in the road to follow. Throughout antiquity she was worshipped at the intersection of roads and by Roman times she was known as Hecate Trivia, the goddess of the three ways. On the night of the New Moon pots of food were left at the crossroads as votive offerings to the goddess. 'Hecate's suppers' honored the transition of one lunar cycle to the next on the night that the old month ended. Statues with three bodies and three heads were erected at crossroads for travelers to leave offerings and say prayers to Hecate for guidance across an important threshold.

At transitional spaces where paths converged travelers would pass from one world into another, therefore crossroads became associated with spirits and shades. Hecate became aligned with ghosts and hallucinations as the ancient Greeks attributed the power to conjure up the dead and the phantoms of the imagination with her. Known as the leader of souls she was associated with magic, divination and contact with the shades of the dead. By the classical period Hecate had become affiliated with witchcraft and magic, known as the goddess of ghosts and night terrors. Her companions were dogs. As guardians of thresholds and instinctually able to trace a scent hounds represented Hecate's instinctual wisdom. By later antiquity Hecate had become the patroness of witchcraft.

Hecate's triple aspect was also reflected in the phases of the Moon. As 'Mistress of the Moon' Hecate governed its dark phase. Sappho called her the 'Queen of the Night' and as a light bearer she often carried two torches. Knowing the wisdom of cycles and their triune

phases of birth, death and rebirth the lunar goddess also represented the menstrual crossroads in a woman's life cycle. As a birth goddess she was an intermediary figure not only for souls departing their body but also for souls entering a new one. Hecate appears at the threshold of change in women's lives as she enters a new phase of the life cycle. As a lunar goddess associated with fertility rites she is aware of the richness of the dark and hidden treasures. In her dual role as guardian of the threshold and Queen of the Night she knows that every decision taken at the crossroads must come from a deeper level of soul.

Since her early depiction in epic Hecate has become denigrated, often portrayed as a negative and a dangerous demon of the dark. Disassociated from the totality of the lunar cycle she has become identified only with its dark phase. Fear of the dark, death and the underworld were projected onto Hecate who represented the dismembered connection to the feminine wisdom of cycles. Her ancient myth reminds us of her perpetual role as an intermediary and attendant at the crossroads. We meet her on the precipice of change, at crossroads, on doorways, in transition. During these times of initiation Hecate helps us to accept our disorientation between two ways of being.

When the goddess Hecate is prominent in a birth chart she depicts the area in which we are at crossroads in our lives. Time can sometimes seem suspended while we reorient ourselves to a new way of being. Confusion, loss and disconnection are natural moods during this phase as we let go of what has been in order to greet what may be. By house position Hecate would suggest where you will encounter her in your life; by sign she colors your life with magic and mystery. Following are the astrological descriptions where Hecate enters your experience.

Hecate is in the 5th House

As a young child you are likely to be more serious than your playmates. There is an intense side to your nature, which draws you to adults and drives you away from playgrounds (unless it is to supervise younger siblings). From a young age you have a mantle of authority that slightly disturbs those around you. It is as if you see things that other children don't see, and even some adults don't understand. You were born with an ability to see change before it happens. You sense when the adults in your world are about to change your life and this unsettles you.

From a young age you develop a capacity for dealing with transition periods, most likely through focusing your attention on an artistic talent, or perhaps on looking after younger children. You may also have an eerie ability to commune with nature, and unseen spirits. An imaginary friend may not actually be just your imagination! As a child you have a strong feeling that you have a special job to do on planet Earth. While other people are out having fun, you are purposeful. Perhaps you have an artistic talent, and need to spend hours practising and developing your skill. Later in life you have the chance to earn your living with your artistic talents. Alternatively you may have a real affinity for looking after children. Your main purpose in life may be to raise children of your own. Looking after younger siblings or friends is simply a way for you to learn at your mother's knee, so to speak.

Communing with the natural world is comforting. You may spend hours in your back yard, or neighboring parks, examining ants, caterpillars, birds or a whole range of creatures, large and small. This may be preparation for a life as a zookeeper, veterinarian, marine biologist, animal rights campaigner, or some such career of the natural world. Another alternative could be that you are quite the young wizard when it comes to spiritual matters. You may feel the call to participate in goddess ritual, or to an alternative form of spiritual expression. The goddess Hecate has strong connections to the spirit world. Whatever path you are on,

you are an authority at a young age. The goddess Hecate is urging you to use your creative talents and to encourage others who may be at the crossroads, wondering whether or not to take a more creative direction.

Hecate is in Aquarius

You are a powerful presence in groups. These could be groups of friends, family gatherings, political parties, or work-associated committees. Whatever the group you are the guiding force! The potent goddess Hecate is linked with the gregarious sign of Aquarius suggesting that you know that unity brings about change. Therefore you're likely to be at heart of transitions made by groups. This can be a force for good, or you can get caught up in nasty politics.

On the lighter side you enjoy family gatherings, social events and productive group meetings. You are aware of the undercurrents and are able to act as intermediary and advocate. The goddess Hecate helps you calm and soothe troubled times and avoid turning points that could lead your friends and colleagues down the wrong path. The only drawback is that you are such a powerful influence; you may inadvertently enforce your values onto other people. Are you really sure that you are doing the right thing for everyone involved or are you pleasing yourself? Has the group actually asked for your help, or are you interfering unnecessarily? You may be acting according to your principles but are you giving other people the freedom to learn from their mistakes? These are all questions that you need to constantly ask in order to keep your goals and dreams on track.

You are farsighted, able to see future trends. As a result you are an adept recruiter, campaigner, salesperson, and public relations manager. You may sail close to the edge in your efforts to please all parties. You need to make sure that you act with integrity. Just because everyone else is doing it, doesn't make it right. You may reach a crossroads in your own life during which you question your values, your contribution to family, friends and groups. You may be tempted to start again in a different field of interest, or in a new environment. You may welcome a 'sea change' as your hopes, dreams and wishes take a turn. You seek spiritual fulfillment and are being called on to find a more spirit-filled role with all of your social contacts.

Cassandra - The Prophetic Soul



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

1 Corinthians 13:2, Bible

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

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

Having the gift of sight Cassandra entered the temple to serve Apollo being called to her vocation as his Pythia, the voice of the oracular god. However, Apollo fell in love with her and demanded she reciprocate his desire. But Cassandra refused to consummate the relationship preferring to worship the god in spirit, not body. Enraged Apollo found a way to avenge her rejection. Knowing he could not retract the gift of prophecy that he had given her when she was so young he cursed her so no one would ever believe her prophecies. The god begged her for one kiss and Cassandra consented. As she opened her mouth to kiss the god Apollo breathed his curse into her insuring others would no longer value her prophetic vision. He turned his back on her, condemning Cassandra to see the perilous future yet never able to be understood or believed. Cassandra, cursed by the narcissistic

god for rejecting him, was later violently assaulted by Ajax upon the altar of Athena when the Greeks were ransacking Troy. After the sack of Troy the leader of the Greek fleet Agamemnon took her as his slave back to his palace of Mycenae. As she approached the mammoth walled city her images of destruction became more and more intense. Racked by the violent visions she screamed a warning for Agamemnon to not enter the palace foreseeing his brutal murder at the hands of his wife. In her heart she also knew that entering the city with him would result in her own death.

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

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

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

Cassandra is in the 5th House

With this placement the trickster figure could be part of your personality. Innocently you may reveal truths others prefer not to know, uncover secrets others are invested in keeping hidden or unconsciously hit the nerve of someone's Achilles' heel. Instinctively you pick up nuances and feelings from those you love.

You have a longing for fun and romance and the ability to make the most of this gift for joy. "Always look on the Bright Side of Life" could be your personal motto. On the other hand you risk overindulging in such pursuits. The trick is, as Roman comic dramatist Terence Andria said, "moderation in all things". Fun and romance can be enjoyed in appropriate circumstances. Even though you may feel torn it is important to remain loyal to the one you love; romance and courtship preceding a committed relationship can be enjoyed without the intrigue of triangles. Sounds old-fashioned? The goddess Cassandra was the one who

rightly predicted the dire consequences when the lovers Paris and Helen returned to Troy, escaping Helen's husband and homeland. This goddess knows the consequences of triangles and betrayal! Therefore you are likely to be well aware of the consequences of meddling in other people's marriages or in indulging in sexual liaisons if you are in a committed relationship. Your wisdom stands you in good stead in your own affairs of the heart, but you may be powerless to warn others. Friends may come to you with their stories but they are unlikely to heed your warnings. Therefore you must be content with being a shoulder to cry on after the fact.

Your gift for embracing joy may be at its best when relating to children. Your understanding of the nature of childlike fun means that you have a talent for communicating with young people. As a result you may work with children as a teacher, mentor or actor. The rewards are abundant as your creative juices flow when accessing the child within.

Cassandra is in Aquarius

You are a highly intelligent person, who perhaps has unorthodox views. It is highly likely that you have pursued a higher form of learning at an academic institution, perhaps even some form of research. Usually the goddess Cassandra is associated with the arts; however, with Cassandra in Aquarius you are probably more interested in the sciences, either pure science or social sciences. Either way you have a lively, active mind and are able to foretell trends in your field of study or work. You have great insights that you are destined to share with your colleagues, and perhaps a wider audience. Therefore you may elect to teach, speak in public or publish your discoveries. Your personal life is a little more tumultuous. This is because you have some difficulty balance the rational and irrational side of your nature, and therefore understanding your loved ones.

You may think that you are being rational, but you have forgotten to take into account the frailties of human nature. You are able to understand people and society from an intellectual perspective, but sometimes misjudge their response to your insights. Cassandra was blessed with the gift of prophecy, able to foretell the dire consequences of the illicit passion of Paris and Helen if the lovers did not take precautionary action. However, she was also cursed. No one could hear her words. Therefore it is likely that your words of wisdom, which are quite unorthodox, will not be appreciated. Controversy and mistrust may be repetitive themes in your life. You need to trust your own intuition and avoid judging others. Then your brilliance will truly shine like a beacon for all to see.

In a woman's chart, this brilliance can mean that you are a leader of women. This is perhaps linked with your relationship to a powerful man. However, your individuality will also shine through. Your inventive and futuristic mind is in touch with impending possibilities and it would be wise to learn to discern which trends are valuable for you to follow. Your intuition often sense futuristic trends and imminent events.

In a man's chart, your brilliance may be guided by a wise and insightful woman, who you need to respect and trust. Trust her choices and her wild notions. While you may not be able to see the wisdom of what she sees there is an unseen intelligence that informs her decisions and advice.

Medea - Herbalist And Healer



'Of all things upon earth that bleed and grow, A herb most bruised is woman'
Euripes, Medea

Medea, a princess of Colchis, was known as the 'wise one' for her skill of healing and proficiency at using drugs and herbs. Colchis, which gives its name to Colchicum, the meadow saffron, was a kingdom on the Eastern shores of the Black Sea, considered a foreign, barbaric land through the eyes of a civilized Greece. Medea's ancestors were linked to both the sun and healing long before Apollo became the god associated with these realms. Helios, Medea's grandfather, was the Sun god of the old order, born a Titan's son. Her aunt Circe was a sorceress, a magician, herbalist and healer who knew the ancient ways of plants and spices and how to cast spells. Circe had trained Medea as a young woman in the arts of sorcery, magic and herbalism, teaching her how to mix potions, direct spells and rearrange matter. Medea was also a priestess in the temple of Hecate, honoring the goddess of the dark night and magic. Hecate guided her instincts. As a medical intuitive she knew the magical properties of herbs, the appropriate plants for healing, homeopathic tinctures and the process of preparing and administering these remedies in her caldron. As the surrogate of Hecate Medea knew the timing of the lunar cycle and how to draw down the moon when ritual and ceremony was needed.

However, Medea was unable to withstand the unholy alliance of the goddesses Hera and Athena who petitioned Aphrodite to conspire with them and cause the princess to fall in love with Jason. Medea became enchanted by Eros and fell in love with the Greek hero, who had come to Colchis to retrieve the Golden Fleece. Medea helped Jason achieve this impossible task with the help of special ointments, incantations and timing. Medea enabled Jason, her heroic/lover, to succeed at the trials set before him but in helping Jason be successful Medea had to betray her family and flee her homeland.

On their flight from Colchis Medea visited her aunt Circe who absolved her of her betrayal and eventually Medea arrived at Jason's birthplace, at the foot of Mount Pelion in Thessaly. When she arrived in her new homeland Medea used her great skill at the arts of magic and herbs to rejuvenate Jason's father but also used her sorcery to trick the king's daughters into unintentionally killing their father. To prepare for this procedure Medea disappeared for nine days collecting the special drugs and herbs that she needed. As the Moon swelled she gave sacrifices to her goddess Hecate, then used drugs to help Aeson, Jason's father, fall into a deep sleep. She then cut his throat to let the old blood run out, dismembered him, putting the pieces in a caldron with the liquid herbs she had prepared. Jason's father emerged from the caldron rejuvenated, forty years younger. Medea's spell captured the daughters of Pelias, the wicked uncle of Jason who had usurped his rightful claim to the throne. The daughters

also wished to rejuvenate their father and Medea said she would perform the task again. The daughters prepared their father by dismembering him; however, this time Medea did not put the herbs in the caldron and their father never emerged.

Having been responsible for the murder of the king Medea and Jason once again were forced to escape. While fleeing Medea's herbal bag broke open, spilling her drugs seeding the plains of Thessaly with an abundance of healing and magical herbs. As the first sorceress to perform rituals in Thessaly Medea is the seminal figure behind the region being known as 'the land of the witches'. Her myth intimates that she introduced woman's herbal knowledge from Asia Minor into Greece.

In later myth Medea is usually remembered, not as the skilled healer, but as a revengeful and spurned partner, a woman caught in the grip of jealousy for which she had no antidote. By the classical period the playwrights depict Medea consumed with rage, murdering her own children to avenge Jason's infidelity. However, Medea is more a reminder of the great respect and knowledge of healing, herbs and magic that was brought to the West and then subtly ignored and eventually demonized. Underpinning the myth are fragments of an older tradition. Jason's name means 'healer' and his partnership with Medea complements the old ways of healing before the emergence of rational medicine and the demonization of magic.

As botany evolved away from gathering herbs and digging roots of the pastoral communities to empirical and detailed research, purification ceremonies and the use of herbs became replaced by manmade drugs and prescriptions. The connections to the more instinctual, earthy and natural ways of healing were left behind. Traces of magic, ritual healing and evoking the spirit of the disease began to disappear in the Western medical tradition. Left to carry the ancient process of magic was Medea, the embodiment of the archetypal witch. As a heroine Medea champions the feminine wisdom that knows intuitively knows how to cooperate with nature and her cycles. She instinctually knows the right time to perform rituals and ceremonies to evoke the healing spirits or exorcize the demons.

When Medea is prominent in a birth chart she reveals the need to explore the ancient feminine traditions of herbalism, witchcraft and magic ritual. Intuitively we know the natural cycle of the body and what it needs to be well. Medea reminds us to honor the ancient custom of relating to the plant world, the wisdom of nature and the powerful healing and transforming properties embedded in the natural world. Instinctually the witch is the impulse that draws us to remedies and potions at the right time and is the urge to create ritual and ceremony to evoke the powers of the goddess. Following are astrological account of how the force of the goddess may be revealed through your horoscope.

Medea is in the 8th House

When Medea brings her magic to the 8th house she unleashes your commanding ability to make powerful things happen to other people. When you're engaged and connected to someone else you have that ability to emotionally empower them to make the right decisions, move through difficult times or reconcile themselves with uncomfortable situations. On a more pragmatic level you may have the ability to help others become more financially resourceful, change a static business situation into a dynamic one, or support a transforming process that allows an individual to move forward. You have a potent and therapeutic gift to exchange with others.

However, you must feel valued in the process or a volcano of feelings may erupt. If it is an emotional exchange you need to feel respected and honored; if it is a commercial venture you need to be remunerated. Without this equal exchange or feeling met by the other, you

will feel betrayed. Therefore it would be important to nurture and shelter your powerful insights and instinctual knowledge, as they are transformational and intense. Like Medea you may be able to help others with their heroic labors but you need to be aware of the cost to yourself in the process.

Part of what informs your uncanny sense of knowing is being in touch with forceful feelings that must be valued. You need to feel a sense of exchange with another in order that your deep-seated capacity for intimacy and containment can be directed towards an honest outcome. You have the instinct that makes a trusted confidant, a profound therapist, a transformational coach and a powerful partner. However, these gifts are not presented to you without your own heroic journey. Coming to understand your own depths and ability to create dynamic shifts in others has arisen out of your own journey through betrayal and loss. Even though these may not be experiences you may relate to, they are feeling states you're intimate with. It is this ability to delve deeply into the darker side of the feeling life where you have discovered your own healing and transformational qualities. Your inheritance is the uncanny ability to penetrate into the territory of deep knowledge and be able to utilize it for your and others growth.

Medea is in Aries

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

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

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

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

Conclusion

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

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

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

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

Brian Clark is one of the main tutors of a four-year program in applied astrology for Astro*Synthesis. He has been active in astrology since 1972, having served as National President for both The Fraternity for Canadian Astrologers and The Federation of Australian Astrologers FAA. He has twice received awards from the Canadian astrological society, received the Education Award from the FAA and been nominated three times for the International Regulus Award. Brian also lectures on myth and conducts tours to sacred sites in Greece through Odyssey. Brian has a BA from Sir George Williams University in Montreal, Canada and a Post Graduate Diploma in Classics and Archaeology from Melbourne University. He is the author of *The Sibling Constellation* (Penguin, 1999) and a contributing author to *Intimate Relationships* (Llewellyn, 1991), books that have also been translated into French and Japanese. A new book called *Celestial Tarot* is soon to be published by US Games Systems, Inc.

Stephanie Johnson is co-director of Esoteric Technologies Pty Ltd., the company behind astrology software Solar Fire, Solar Maps, Solar Writer, Solar Spark and JigSaw. In 1994 Stephanie, and her partner, were awarded the Federation of Australian Astrologers' Southern Cross Award for Research and Development, and in 1998 they were awarded the Southern Cross award for Community Service and Research. Stephanie holds a Federation of Australian Astrologers' (FAA) Practitioner's Certificate and was awarded an FAA Diploma for her share in designing and developing the Solar Fire suite of programs. She is a student of Medieval Astrology and the Ancient Wisdom teachings, holding a Masters of Science degree in Esotericism from the University of the Seven Rays, New Jersey, USA, as well as the Robert Zoller Certificate of Medieval Astrology. She is a practising astrology with her own business, Seeing With Stars Astrology. Before commencing her professional astrology career Stephanie was a journalist for 15 years in Australia, England and the USA.

Kay Steventon is a Melbourne based artist/astrologer. After graduating from R.M.I.T. in 1980 with a Diploma Fine Art, Kay gained the F.A.A. Professional Astrologer qualification, and 'Living The Tarot' Diploma. Since 1966 Kay has had many solo and mixed exhibitions in Melbourne and overseas, specialising in symbolic art in 1992. Her first Tarot deck and book, 'The Spiral Tarot', was published in 1998. Kay's second Deck, 'Celestial Tarot', was published in 2003 with the Celestial book written by Brian Clark. A 52 card deck, 'Goddesses and Heroines' is due to be published 2005, again a joint effort by Kay and Brian Clark.

*If you would like further information please contact;

Brenda Kelly
'The Ajnacentre'
PO Box 5166
Victoria Point
QLD, 4165
Australia

Email: brenda@ajnacentre.com.au

Website : www.ajnacentre.com.au

