

GODDESS

A Solar Writer Report for Cameron Diaz

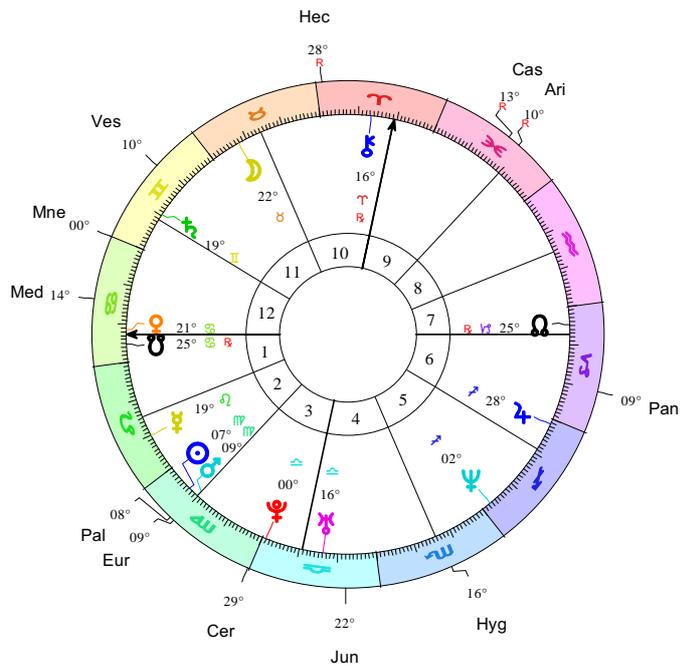


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Cameron Diaz

Natal Chart
 30 Aug 1972
 2:53 PDT +7:00
 San Diego CA
 32°N43'
 117°W09'
 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: Cameron Diaz

Abbr	Asteroid	Sign	Position	House	Comment
Cer	Ceres	Virgo	29°Vi35'	3rd	
Pal	Pallas Athena	Virgo	8°Vi44'	2nd	
Jun	Juno	Libra	22°Li04'	4th	
Ves	Vesta	Gemini	10°Ge52'	11th	
Hyg	Hygieia	Scorpio	16°Sc27'	5th	
Ari	Ariadne	Pisces	10°Pi55'	9th	
Eur	Europa	Virgo	9°Vi38'	2nd	
Pan	Pandora	Capricorn	9°Cp36'	6th	
Mne	Mnemosyne	Cancer	0°Cn02'	12th	
Hec	Hecate	Aries	28°Ar36'	10th	
Cas	Cassandra	Pisces	13°Pi47'	9th	
Med	Medea	Cancer	14°Cn39'	12th	

Introduction



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

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

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

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

avored 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 Virgo

You feel most comfortable when you are being useful. This can be when you are putting things in order in your own household or when you are helping someone else with practical matters. You are a whiz at household chores because you enjoy the

comfort that comes from cleanliness and order. You also sincerely delight in helping others achieve a sense of order in their lives. Nevertheless you need to be wary of being too bossy or critical. Mostly your help is very welcome, but sometimes others can feel that you are taking over. Therefore you need to make sure that being honest with yourself about your motives for helping. Who needs to create order from mess? Perhaps your friends prefer their chaos? Or perhaps you need to ask your friends to help you with practical matters in times of need? It is possible that your gifts would be better channeled into your professional rather than personal life. For instance you may enjoy working in an environment where your skills are needed and welcomed, perhaps as a personal secretary, accountant, events organizer, librarian or office manager.

Gardening or farming may also be a great solace to you in times of stress. You have an inborn-understanding of the cycles of nature and therefore get much pleasure from digging, weeding, pruning, planting and other gardening chores. Innately you know the rhythms of the seasons and appreciate the phases of life. You may also enjoy caring for domestic animals particularly those that can contribute animal products.

This placement of the goddess Ceres is likely to reflect a fairly reserved relationship with your mother. You know that she cares for you, but you sometimes wish that she could be a little more affectionate and a little less practical. On the positive side you have inherited your mother's wisdom, her love of the natural world and her ability to nurture through practical means. Your relationship with your children, on the other hand, may be one in which you attempt to compensate for your own sense of loss. You are a dedicated parent and know how to guide your children's development and growth.

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 Pronoai 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 Virgo

You are a skilled artisan, a professional whose work is consistently of high quality. You apply yourself to your chosen profession with aptitude and diligence, preferring a task that requires concentration and application rather than something nebulous. You are likely to be intelligent and practical, although you may get a little lost in the details. You like to get to the heart of the matter and struggle with the nuts and bolts of a problem.

This can present some problems in your love life, because you are more likely to be more focused on finding a practical solution rather than listening to your partner's feelings. You aim to be helpful and wonder why your spouse is complaining. Depending on other aspects of your birth chart this is because romance, for you, is second best to practical considerations. You may also be more focused on your own interests rather than on your spouse's activities. Try not to turn your critical mind onto

your partner's failings, but rather try to find common ground. Your skills are considerable when applied to a practical problem, but you can get rather tangled in human emotions, preferring the practicality of mechanics.

You like to create using practical tools. You are the artisan rather than the artiste. For instance you are more likely to be the photographer than the model, the editor rather than the writer, the stage crew or theater reviewer rather than the actor and the curator rather than the artist. You are a creator of great skill in the manual arts, a person who grows or makes or invents things. You like to connect the parts into a cohesive whole. You enjoy a challenge that stimulates your analytical mind. You may be a manual worker, a craftsman, inventor, technician or handyperson. However, you also have executive abilities. Your powers of discrimination are strong and others may come to rely on your ability to make decisions, form practical strategies and organize structures and people.

Juno - Socializing The Soul



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

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

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

Epithets of Hera such as 'cow-eyed' refer to her earlier association with the earth and agriculture, while her epithet 'of the white arms' may link her to an association with the

Moon. She is often depicted in three phases as the maiden, the fulfilled and the solitary, a trinity of aspects represented by Hebe, Hera and Hecate. Hebe was the daughter of Hera and the cupbearer to the Gods who became married to Heracles after his ascension to Olympus. In this aspect Hera is the maiden, the youth and the aspect of the feminine that retains her virginity, even in relationship. The central phase was motherhood, wifedom and a woman of power. Local folklore suggested she bathed in the streams of Argos where she was able to regain her virginity lost in the marriage with Zeus. Hecate was associated with the final phase embracing Hera's aloneness and need for solace. At times Hera would leave Zeus to go off on her own to pursue her needs for privacy, renewal and worship.

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

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

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

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

Juno is in the 4th House

This is a prominent position of the goddess Juno indicating that she is the guardian spirit of your home and family. Whether you are single or married you value the institution of marriage in society. You also respect the value of traditional roles within

marriage. From a young age, you have observed your parents and other family members' marriages. You have formed your own strong beliefs. Perhaps these have been in reaction to negative influences, or perhaps you have seen the benefits of a sound union. You realize that courtship is only the beginning of a good marriage and family structure. You are more interested in 'living happily ever after'. Is this possible? How can this be achieved? Who is the best person for me to marry? Will they fit in with my family background? You are interested in marrying someone who also respects the role of families in society, and who can fit in with your own family.

You also show an interest in your intended's family to see how they relate. Your partner is likely to play a prominent part in family life. You may choose to consult your parent's opinion, or perhaps even the local priest's view, of potential marriage candidates. You need to be careful of relying too heavily on parental approval. It is possible that your parents have come to rely on you more than you realize. They may not be the objective parties that you expect. You are likely to be the custodian of your own family, perhaps taking over this role from a young age after the absence of one of your parents (most likely your father). You preside over the social customs and duties. As you mature you discover that you would like to rely on your partner to help provide a home base for your own children, and for your extended families. You are looking for a helpmate in this area.

Once you are married your home is likely to become a place of welcome for all members of your family, although you may be less generous with your own children. You love your children and provide a firm foundation for their childhood, but perhaps there are strings attached? If you are not careful you may start to have expectations of them that are unrealistic. If you are lucky then your children will naturally fall in with your plans for them to take on roles of responsibility in the family and workplace. However, you need to also make sure that you are offering unconditional love and support. Otherwise, you may have a minor rebellion take place within your own home! You will not enjoy feeling out of control, after years of ruling the roost. Therefore you do well to be benevolent rather than bossy, loving rather than critical and supportive rather than controlling in your own home. These traits will help provide a firm foundation for your marriage and family life.

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 11th House

US anthropologist Margaret Mead once said: *'Never doubt that a small group of*

thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.' This is something that speaks to your inner core. You are passionate about the power of the people and need to express this passion!

On a personal level you may have many friends. You are popular, enjoying a wide and varied social life. In your social circle, you are loyal, devoted to supporting your friend's and colleague's creative ideas and projects. Sometimes your social life can become a little too hectic. Yet no matter how devoted you are to others or how much you enjoy their company you have a great need for solitude. An aspect of Vesta's lesson is how to balance your need for privacy with your urge for social participation. On a larger scale you are committed to humanitarian ideals, the power of groups to achieve what individuals cannot. Unionism, environmental groups, and community activist groups can provide a vehicle for your energetic pursuits of improved living conditions for everyone. Anthropology, sociology, and urbanization are topics that may fire your intellect and ideals.

You are willing to sacrifice your own personal creative projects in order to help others, both on a personal and communal scale. However, you need to be careful to take time out to define your personal beliefs and visions. Otherwise you could become a little too fanatical, miss the point and lose yourself in the process of always helping others.

Vesta is in Gemini

You are a thinker, inspired by the intellect. On a simple level this means that you may enjoy reading fiction or non-fiction, talking to friends and co-workers and socializing. Your social network is likely to be varied. You are interested in your friends' activities, appreciating the stimulation of other people's stories. You may enjoy organizing social events, marketing and promoting ventures, and working with social or business networks. On occasion you may simply enjoy sitting back and observing other people's interactions, rather than social chit chat. Your main motivation is to learn. From an early age the spirit of learning inspired you. You are fired up with the need for intellectual stimulation. Solitary moments may be a challenge unless you have a form of intellectual stimulus such as reading, writing, composing or working on a computer. Your quest for knowledge may at times seem insatiable. Perhaps you feel inadequate no matter how much you experience or learn. On the other hand you may simply enjoy the study.

This placement of the goddess Vesta indicates that your emotional satisfaction and spiritual needs are strongly associated to your desire for mental acumen. Therefore you are likely to desire stimulating friends, co-workers and lovers. Since you need intellectual rapport to feel intimate you will probably be more attracted to the intellect of the other. You desire a spouse who stimulates your thirst for knowledge, someone who can converse as an equal and rouse your mind as well as your body. The flirtation and romantic chase at the start of a relationship are exciting, but for a long-term marriage your potential spouse must be your equal in intelligence as well. Otherwise you are quickly bored and are tempted to look elsewhere. Your spouse needs to have their wits about them in order to keep up with you. Your ability to commit to marriage depends on other aspects of your birth chart.

At some stage, perhaps in the second half of your life, you are likely to make the

transition from student to teacher. As a result teaching, lecturing, writing, public speaking or some other form of communicating may become your new mission. However, in your soul you will be always be the dedicated student of life.

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 5th House

The 5th house of the horoscope symbolizes the theater of the self and with Hygieia in a leading role it suggests that your well being is intertwined with creative self expression. As a child the 5th house is the playground and the park where the freedom of open spaces inspired your urge to be vital and robust. Later it was games, sports and recreation that became critical to your physical and mental health. As an adult the playhouse of the 5th sector of the horoscope is the arena where you are able to express your artistic self. Therefore with Hygieia here it suggests that your vitality, happiness and sense of feeling healthy are intimately connected with the ability to express your creativity. As a child you would have first experienced how alive and vital you felt when engaged in play and this would be an early touchstone in forging your identity. Later your identity and sense of self would have matured the more you became engaged with activities that promoted your creativeness and imagination

Besides being entertaining and amusing the sphere of creativity is therapeutic in your life. You may have recognized how essential amusement and having fun are in reconstructing a healthy lifestyle. You also are aware of how activity and play engage the individual in feeling alive and well. Therefore you might have been drawn to work in physical education or sports training or be interested in therapeutic processes like sand play, inner child work or art therapy.

Your lifeline and road to health lead through the playhouse of the inner child. Therefore if there is not enough time for play, enough joy, or enough space for the expression of the creative self you will probably become run down, prone to feeling off-color, even sick. Hygieia will call you back into her sanctuary where it is necessary to amuse yourself and become engaged in the theatrical production of your life. To regain, maintain or improve the health quotient in your life you need to take some leisure time to explore the creative aspects of your self and risk hanging out in the playground of your life.

Hygieia is in Scorpio

In the sign Scorpio Hygieia finds her expression through your intense and passionate urge to be whole. This pattern may be woven into your life in many ways. One may be that you have a deep urge to be involved with therapeutic rehabilitation and through your own cathartic experience you feel called to minister to others. This combination suggests you have an instinct for in depth healing which may lead you into the areas of psychotherapy, grief and loss, palliative care, primal healing, physiotherapy and other forms of deep body work. Your vocation involves being engaged with trauma and recovery as you have a natural instinct to be able to deal with critical issues in a way that is helpful and transforming. While you may not forge your career in these ways the goddess calls you to this vocation as therapist with colleagues, friends, family and loved ones. You know the double-edged healing power of both disclosure and containment, being able to listen respectfully and honor the sanctity of what has been revealed.

Placements in this sign of the zodiac need to descend below the surface in order to find their authentic essence. Death and life are mysteriously intertwined together like the two snakes that interlock themselves on the caduceus. Their fate does not rest with what is visible but rather with what is not, engaging the individual in mystery and an inevitable confrontation with the truth. Therefore part of your own mastery in

feeling whole and happy involves your descent into your own legitimacy and honesty, often facing the uncomfortable truth of the past to be free to experience the future. Healing involves the confrontation with pain and loss, death and suffering in order for closure to mend the festering wound. You have an unerring need to be honest with yourself and others, which leads you into your own healing. While betrayal or loss may create the wound it is your triumphant instinct for life and trust in your own strength and courage that will heal the damaged soul. Your capacity to face crisis and be stronger for the experience is great. Therefore you should never fear that you would not be able to see the light again or be anxious that things will never get better, as the goddess of health guides your journey through the dark channels of the unconscious to help strengthen your spirit and fortify your soul. She helps navigate your journey down into the depths of the self to recover the transforming essence of the self.

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 9th House

You journey far from the origins of your birth in pursuit of meaning in your life. This could mean that you travel to the shores of foreign lands, seeking cultural meaning or that you live your life based on a very different philosophy to that of your childhood family. Perhaps you go so far as to reject the religion of your upbringing. You may

marry someone from a different culture, adopting his or her religious beliefs and losing your own cultural identity. Your pursuit of meaning is a valid one; however, you run the risk of losing all meaning if you reject your own creed. You need to listen to your heart in order to gather the grains of truth. Famous author D H Lawrence states, 'it is a fine thing to establish one's own religion in one's heart, not to be dependent on tradition and second-hand ideals. Life will seem to you, later, not a lesser, but a greater thing.'

Your challenge is to pursue your passion for meaning without losing your own identity. Travel, academic study and teaching, prayer, meditation, mythology and other uplifting pursuits are likely to help you stay connected to a sense of purpose, therefore bringing peace.

Your call to wake up to a greater understanding of life may be first heard through the pain of a broken heart. Ironically in following the call to adventure you leave the pain behind, often finding your soul mate and your vocation far from your place of origin. Therefore you have a story to tell, a book to write or a lecture to give on the mysterious forces that lead us to our destiny.

Ariadne is in Pisces

You are motivated by pure and self-sacrificing values. You feel a deep yearning to serve society through your own skills. You are likely to have a good understanding of the planet Earth and the plight of impoverished people and endangered species. You are also likely to be attracted to the history of ancient civilizations and the laws of the spiritual world. Aware of the need for each human being to sacrifice his or her own ego desires in order to live in a global community, you strive to be in relationship with the divine in everyone. You are kind, compassionate and committed to serving humanity through your labor, relationships and daily rituals.

However, you need to be careful of losing yourself along the way. Personal desires can be a danger, but some common sense and material goods are needed in order to survive. You have a tendency to lose yourself in your longing to do good. Others may take advantage of your good heart. Therefore you need to do a little soul-searching and to learn discrimination. There is no need to be a victim to your own, or other's unrealistic expectations. You need to develop a healthy sense of self so that you can operate successfully in your own life. Your loving and healing skills need to be maintained, not drained.

The goddess Ariadne represents the marriage to the divine after the trials of betrayal and abandonment. If you have experienced emotional hardships then you will also know that your suffering has also deepened your ability to empathize with others and to experience the joy of a profound connection to the goddess.

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 2nd House

The goddess Europa is asking that you focus on ways to nurture and sustain your self-esteem. If other aspects of your birth chart indicate healthy self-development from child to adult then you are likely to thrive with this position of the goddess - enjoying personal and monetary riches. However, if other aspects of your chart indicate that you tend to rely on others for your sense of self worth then this could be a challenge. You need to rely on your own emotional resources, ensuring that others

do not have the power to challenge your self-worth. The more you try to rely on other people, the more you are likely to feel as if circumstances are forcing you to maintain your independence. Even though you would prefer to sit back and relax in a warm and secure relationship you first need to secure your own sense of self. On the other hand you may enjoy maintaining a sense of self-reliance no matter what bonds you form with loved ones.

Money is likely to play an important role in your life. From a young age you discover that wealth is desirable and attainable. You have the ability to make a good income, but you will only keep it and build on it if you keep your other strong desires in check, especially the urge to overreach or take on too much. You tend to rate your services highly, but you are also generous with your earnings. You are more resourceful than most, but that doesn't mean that you have to give away your own income. You would be well advised to decide on a proportion that you are willing to donate to good causes and then invest the rest. This is particular true in women's charts, where the desire can be to support a man financially. You need to use your discretion to choose between a healthy decision to support a lover or husband and a need to shore up an unhealthy relationship.

You enjoy exploring different ways in which to invest your money and you are never foolish. You know when to make an investment and when to bide your time. You are not necessarily materialistic. You have the ability to earn your income from your creativity or from products of the earth. You may also enjoy studying the spiritual laws of economics. Money inspires you to see the beauty in the world. As Oscar Wilde said in 'The Soul of Man under Socialism', 'Ordinary riches can be stolen; real riches cannot. In your soul are infinitely precious things that cannot be taken from you'.

Europa is in Virgo

You are resourceful; able to work hard to achieve your goals, but also maintain a strong network of colleagues and friends who can help you further your position in society. You have high standards and expect others to meet these standards, both at work and play. You may be attracted to a mate who is as exacting as you. Your yen for perfection can be somewhat off-putting to your friends. If you are not careful you may lose friends because of your exacting standards. Whether or not this matters to you depends on other aspects of your birth chart. However, people in positions of power are likely to find your skills highly suitable for their purposes. For instance your parents are likely to hold you in high regard, appreciating your ability to succeed at school and then find suitable employment. You may not achieve high academic results, but you are likely to receive recognition for your practical and social skills.

You have a real gift for carrying out tasks in an efficient manner, simplifying complicated matters. At home you may discover a gift for renovating and decorating your home in a cost-effective and elegant style. At work you are able to use all available resources to achieve results. Your boss is likely to recognize your ability to work hard and achieve results. Therefore you are likely to be promoted to positions of authority at an early age. This may spark some jealousy from other more experienced colleagues, but your ability to focus on the task at hand once again helps you move beyond petty jealousies and remain engrossed in your work.

The goddess Europa in the sign of Virgo also indicates a strong link to Mother Nature. You know how to cultivate the earth and create abundance through your passionate, attractive and commanding nature. Landscape gardening, ecology, and farming may spark your passion. Whatever course you choose you need to find a practical outlet for your passionate nature.

Pandora - A Gift Of Hope



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

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

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

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

Zeus instructed the smith-god Hephaestus to fashion a beautiful maiden resembling a goddess out of clay and water. Athena was to teach the phantom how to weave a

web, Aphrodite was instructed to make her seductive and Hermes, the trickster-god, was to teach her how to be deceitful. Adorned with beautiful garments from the Charities, Zeus breathed life into Pandora, who was given as a gift to Epimetheus, the brother of Prometheus. In her hands she carried an intricately designed urn, the dowry Zeus had given her. Shut inside it was all the evils, storms and plagues that bring misfortune to mankind. Instructed not to accept any gifts from Zeus, Epimetheus became enchanted by the beautiful Pandora and forgot his brother's warning. Pandora opened the jar and before she could close the lid disease, old age, pain, toil, death and all the other ills that plague humanity spilled out. When she was finally able to seal the jar nothing remained except Hope, trapped at the bottom. In their benevolence the gods had insured an antidote for suffering. Pandora offers hope when all else has failed.

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

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

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

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

Pandora is in the 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 you 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 Capricorn

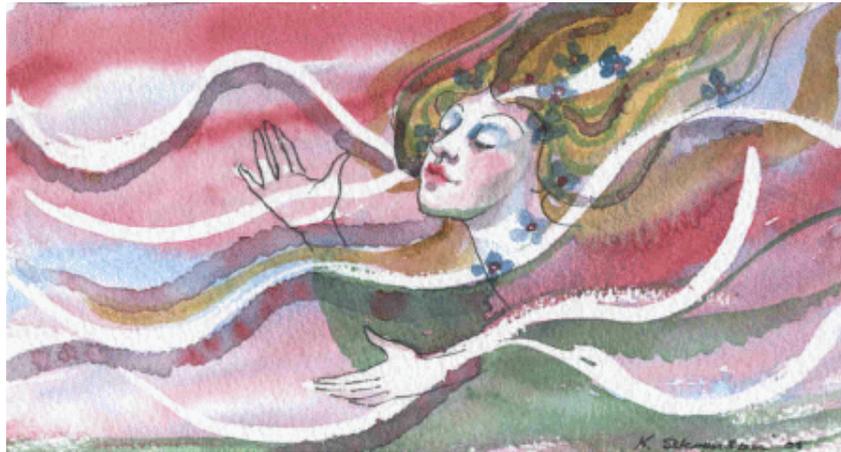
Has anyone ever told you that you have an over developed sense of responsibility? That you work too hard, worry too much or look after your family too much? All of the above? Well it is true. You are a dedicated person of integrity. You are keen to do the right thing in your private life, as well as in society. You hold down a responsible job, working hard to pay the bills and achieve a little extra. If you are married then you are likely to be a stable and loving partner, ready to support your spouse's hopes, dreams and wishes.

Compromise is your middle name! If you are single, then you are a loyal and loving friend, ready to listen to their problems and share their joys. You give regularly to charity, help out on local club committees when possible and do your share on your child's school roster. You are a model citizen. So what is the problem you ask? The problem is that you don't know when to stop. You are so busy being the perfect spouse, dedicated employee, responsible boss, all-powerful parent that you don't know when to take time out for yourself. Just the thought of being a little selfish heralds waves of guilt. You may be frightened that if you stop caring for others, even for a moment, then your achievements will come to nothing, that all will fall like a

house of cards. This is not necessarily true.

If it does become a reality then your achievements were not based on a firm reality. You need to consider your own hopes and wishes occasionally. You may need to reconsider your own ambitions, the big ones such as career options and marriage proposals. However, you do not necessarily have to change much in your life. You may only need to consider listening to your own heart on daily matters, such as taking some time to relax and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. You may even enjoy sitting down and watching someone else do some of the daily chores without feeling compelled to join in. Once you have achieved more balance in your life you will be amazed by your renewed sense of hope and vitality.

Mnemosyne - The Soul Of Memory



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

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

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

Memory's daughters are the muses, the ones who inspire and enchant the soul. Through her and her daughters we are able to engage in weaving the fragments of memory together to evoke meaning. Mnemosyne reminds us to remember the ancient ways. The goddess of Memory is not just a passive recorder of experience and events but a poetic and heart-rending process that inspires the imagination. Mnemosyne re-collects the emotional experiences, feelings and impressions of our life. She is the archive of all that we have tasted, touched, wanted, smelt and felt. Her memories are stored in the psyche as images, symbols, feelings, impressions and instincts or become imprinted in the body, in the adrenal or olfactory glands, the tension in the muscles, allergies and illnesses. Mnemosyne is rhythmic and reflective, not linear, evoking dreams, images, songs that give continuity to our life's narrative. Memory and imagination are woven together when Mnemosyne and her daughters are aroused.

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

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

Mnemosyne is in the 12th House

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

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

Depending on other aspects of your birth chart you may have difficulty finding a

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

Mnemosyne is in Cancer

You are the custodian of the family story and the curator of the family museum. This can be indicated in many ways in your life. You may be the person who organizes the social get-togethers, providing the food and warmth for relatives to gather and swap stories. You may be the ongoing link in your family, continuing the family tree with your offspring. On the other hand you may be the keeper of the family records, the family photo album and family heirlooms. Perhaps you are a genealogist, tracing your family history. You have a deep and abiding love of your family, its history, the stories and the many extensions.

You may also enjoy reading family sagas, biographies and other such stories. Your family values extend to society, because you believe that the family is the building block of society. You may not believe in a traditional family structure, but you do see the links in families of all cultures. You recognize that the global community is linked through love of those nearest and dearest. All people share the common bond of love for their children. There may even be a part of your personality that longs for a Garden of Eden scenario, adults, children and animals all sharing domestic life in a peaceful and harmonious manner.

Depending on other aspects of your birth chart you may enjoy the domestic arts, cooking, cleaning, gardening and home remedies. You may learn these crafts from a family member, probably but not necessarily your mother. Recipes may be passed down through the generations to pop up in your kitchen. Of course, you may enjoy inventing a few recipes of your own, or researching the origins of other people's recipes. Food is likely to play a prominent role in your life, the sharing of food and recipes. You are likely to pass these skills on to your own children, relatives or teach them in schools. You have a warm heart, fond memories of gatherings in your home and an eagerness to impart these values to other people. Deeply embedded in your character is the respect for the traditions and continuity of family life.

Hecate - The Soul In Transition



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

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

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

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

become the patroness of witchcraft.

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

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

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

Hecate is in the 10th House

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

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

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

Hecate is in Aries

The goddess Hecate is strong in the sign of Aries because both are connected with independence. The sign of Aries suggests autonomy, a talent for self-motivation and self-reliance. Hecate represents feminine independence.

In a woman's chart this indicates that you are strong-willed, probably breaking new ground in your personal or professional life. You spurn the stranglehold of traditional male roles, insisting that women are able to achieve equality in all walks of life. You are likely to be the head of your household, garnering support from the men in your family. In a man's chart this suggests that a strong-minded woman, someone who you admire and aspire to imitate, has influenced you. As a result you feel that you understand women, while still maintaining a healthy self-respect. You seek equality in your personal friendships with women, and may even be considered a feminist.

With this placement of the goddess Hecate you are likely to have a close group of female friends on who you rely to help you make decisions whenever you reach a crossroads in your life. You seek advice from your friends, but you are able to make your own decisions. You are a sharp-faced go-getter, a leader rather than a follower and hence you forge your own path in life. When you reach a fork in the road, you take action knowing that inaction is the real obstacle. Either path takes you forward and moving forwards is your favorite direction! Fortunately, you are charming and charismatic. Otherwise you could be a bit of a human bulldozer. You are lucky in that other people respond well to your potency. It is almost as if you cast a spell on others compelling them to obey your wishes. You need to ensure that you remain aware of the potent affect that you have on those around you. Insensitivity to other people's opinions may be detrimental in the long-run, because they are more likely to just disappear rather than succumb yet again to the persuasive affects of your charm. On the whole, though, you are able to accommodate other people needs. You like to protect and direct anyone who is suffering ill luck. You enthusiastically assist troubled

souls, helping them to make decisions and move forward on their life journey. Nursing, psychology, counseling, and teaching may appeal as avenues for contributing to society. You know when to let someone make his or her own decisions and when to give a helping hand. The goddess Hecate urges you to focus on your spiritual direction, as well as material achievements.

Cassandra - The Prophetic Soul



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

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

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

Having the gift of sight Cassandra entered the temple to serve Apollo being called to her vocation as his Pythia, the voice of the oracular god. However, Apollo fell in love with her and demanded she reciprocate his desire. But Cassandra refused to consummate the relationship preferring to worship the god in spirit, not body.

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

Cassandra personifies the medial woman whose intuitive faculties and understanding of the unconscious patterns are not welcomed in an ordered rational society. She sees what others are too fearful to see and exposes the inevitable patterns that underpin the situation. In an atmosphere of control and denial Cassandra is marginalized and demeaned becoming the projective reflection of the fear of chaos and uncertainty. Disbelief and ignorance render her wisdom impotent. When dark feelings, dread or grief are repressed in the atmosphere Cassandra is the medium of their expression. Her curse is that she is not identified with her feelings leaving her misunderstood and marginalized. Her feelings, identified by others as autonomous ravings, isolate her. Cassandra is able to sense what is taboo and un-lived 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 9th House

You have the gift of prophecy. This could be linked to a deep religious belief that springs from a divine experience in your childhood. On the other hand perhaps you have always felt a profound understanding of the goddess and her spiritual realms. Either way you are likely to have a reverence for the spiritual world, which you express through orthodox religion or alternative spiritual avenues. You may spend much of your life intertwined with spiritual pursuits, perhaps traveling to foreign lands in search of an outlet for your prophetic insights. Religious study may also appeal whether through an organized institution or through reading the works of saints and other religious teachers. You may publish your own works at some stage in your life. On the other hand you may devote yourself to a religious or spiritual way of life, preferring to follow in the footsteps of humble and holy teachers or gurus.

The goddess Cassandra was both gifted and cursed, so you need to make sure that you balance your gift of prophetic teaching with a keen interest in the workings of the mundane world. At times you may prefer to escape the harsher daily realities. You need to make sure that you develop a sense of belonging in your personal or professional life.

In a woman's chart this placement of the goddess Cassandra is more likely to mean that you feel overwhelmed, abandoned or misunderstood by the Orthodox Church. You may seek an alternative religion or take a role as an orator, expressing strong views about the constraints of a patriarchal religious system. You do not feel heard in the conventional church and need to find your voice through an alternative system where your intuitive knowledge can be acknowledged and understood.

In a man's chart the goddess Cassandra in the 9th house is more likely to indicate a love affair with the Orthodox Church or a passionate search for meaning. You may attract a strong and loving partner to help you achieve a sense of balance and meaning and to help you spread the word of God.

Cassandra is in Pisces

You are a true visionary. Your intuition is a powerful force enabling you to follow your own dreams and to encourage others to seek their true purpose. You are a strong ally and a formidable enemy because powerful subconscious forces influence you. Others make the mistake of underestimating your true worth. Fortunately you have a strong desire to understand the spiritual laws that govern humanity. Therefore you are more likely to concentrate on inspirational and supportive plans rather than destructive ones. Nevertheless your prophetic words may create more confusion than comprehension. The goddess Cassandra was blessed with the ability to foretell the future. You share this ability. Your dreams are particularly prophetic. However, Cassandra was also cursed and her peers, friends and relatives would not listen to her. She was persecuted. You need to choose your friends carefully and ensure that those in authority do not single you out for harassment.

Conservative society, in particular, may misunderstand your gifts. Therefore you are more likely to excel in less orthodox pursuits such as the arts, music, charitable work, environmental and humanitarian causes and spiritual healing. By nature you are mediumistic. As a channel you are able to tap into forces that can be utilized in a

positive way as they will bring an enriching quality to whatever you express. This suggests you may have a charismatic voice or vision as you draw on collective forces that are familiar to all.

The goddess Cassandra in the sign of Pisces in a woman's chart indicates a highly intuitive and creative nature. In a man's chart this placement indicates the sensitivity of his inner feminine. Therefore he is likely to attract a vulnerable and responsive woman who he feels he needs to protect. Psychologically he needs to protect his own intuitive skills and learn to develop and use them wisely in his life.

Medea - Herbalist And Healer



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

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

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

On their flight from Colchis Medea visited her aunt Circe who absolved her of her betrayal and eventually Medea arrived at Jason's birthplace, at the foot of Mount Pelion in Thessaly. When she arrived in her new homeland Medea used her great skill at the arts of magic and herbs to rejuvenate Jason's father but also used her sorcery to trick the king's daughters into unintentionally killing their father. To prepare for this

procedure Medea disappeared for nine days collecting the special drugs and herbs that she needed. As the Moon swelled she gave sacrifices to her goddess Hecate, then used drugs to help Aeson, Jason's father, fall into a deep sleep. She then cut his throat to let the old blood run out, dismembered him, putting the pieces in a caldron with the liquid herbs she had prepared. Jason's father emerged from the caldron rejuvenated, forty years younger. Medea's spell captured the daughters of Pelias, the wicked uncle of Jason who had usurped his rightful claim to the throne. The daughters also wished to rejuvenate their father and Medea said she would perform the task again. The daughters prepared their father by dismembering him; however, this time Medea did not put the herbs in the caldron and their father never emerged.

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

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

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

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

Medea is in the 12th House

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

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

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

Medea is in Cancer

Even though Medea had a powerful family her fate was to leave home for a different culture and new experiences. Therefore underlying the position of Medea in Cancer, the emblem of home and country, may exist a powerful pattern about how or why you leave or left home. This may have been due to the passionate lure of a foreigner, a powerful desire to experience life or your search for the place to call home. You need to feel safe at the deepest levels and seek a place where you can belong. This need is a powerful motivation that urges you to seek a place of refuge, one where you can feel safe and in control. Even though your upbringing may have been caring from an early age you may have felt you did not belong in your family or culture and needed to find out why.

This placement highlights the motif of nurturing, beginning with the personal experience of mother and the extended family. Mother may have felt foreign or experienced an estrangement from her family or culture, which may have interfered with your relationship with her. Through her you may have been introduced to customs and rituals, which aroused a curiosity about magic and mystery. She may

have introduced you to exotic spices, herbal tinctures or foreign cuisine. The preparation and enjoyment of eating may have played a significant role in your upbringing which may strongly influenced your own eating rituals. You need an intense relationship with meaning and mystery and when this is lacking you may turn to comfort food to fill the gap.

Medea brings her intensity and passion into your mothering style contributing to your strong protective bond for your own children and creativity. By nature the goddess needs a secure home base. You, too, need a shelter for your intense feelings and needs. Therefore you might completely transform your living space to reflect your personal style, needing to renovate all spaces that you occupy.

Medea recommends you brew some teas as a mood enhancer to comfort the feelings and stimulate relaxation. Peppermint and spearmint are good brews in your teapot while chamomile tea can be shared in a family tea ceremony or when you just need to relax by yourself. When you feel too nostalgic or unable to let go of some of the past hurts then some flower essences are recommended. Clematis and honeysuckle neutralize nostalgia while chicory also can be helpful in releasing old feelings. Or plant some geraniums in pots outside the kitchen window or use a few drops of the geranium essential oil to remind you of the prolific bounty of nature. Medea was a lunar goddess and being in Cancer suggests how sensitive you are to the tides of the lunar cycle. Mark the dates of the Full Moon on your calendar and set some time aside to draw down her power to help restore yourself to an emotional equilibrium.

Conclusion

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

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

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

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

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