

A GUIDE TO THE NATAL CHART

A natal chart is a map of the heavens, a snapshot for the moment of birth. The angle from which the heavens are mapped depends on the location of the birthplace.

The drama of life **The chart shows us the positions of the heavenly bodies – the Sun and the Moon and the planets of the solar system, although some astrologers also include asteroids.**

The chart represents the moment through which we emerged into our present incarnation. All the activities in the heavens at that moment act as a mirror for the inner world that we carry with us. Within each one of us is a drama, waiting to manifest itself. The actors, the costumes, the scenes and the dialogue in that drama are all represented by the various components of the natal chart:

The planets are the actors. Each one represents a basic human need or drive. The planets have been named after the Greek Gods and Goddesses and the stories we have heard about those characters give us an idea of the drive which they represent: for example Venus represents the need for love beauty and harmony.

The signs are the costumes which the actors don. For example, when Venus wears the costume of Gemini her need for love is expressed as a need for companionship and a friend to talk to. When she dons the costume of Scorpio, talking may be replaced by sex! Each sign will fall into one of four 'elements' (Fire, Earth, Air, Water) and one of three 'qualities' (Cardinal, Fixed, Mutable.) These are explained on Sheet Three.

The houses are the scenes. Each house represents a different kind of human activity. For example, the Fourth House (IV) represents domesticity, family, home, ancestors, parents. The houses have a connection with the signs – the Fourth House is connected to the fourth sign, Cancer, which is the most domestic sign in the Zodiac. The beginning of the First House is the ASCENDANT or RISING SIGN and the beginning of the Tenth House is the MID-HEAVEN – see Sheet Four.

The aspects are the dialogues between the actors. In my charts I show these in various colours, depending on the quality of the conversation – see Sheet Five.

The Sun is the chief actor in the chart. Our inner Sun must learn how to shine with its own true light, uncluttered and clear. As Marion Williamson said, “when we learn to shine true then we give others permission to shine their own light”. In order to do this we must work with the Director – but who is directing this play? The Director is the Soul and the Soul is not to be found on the circumference of the chart, in the wheel of the signs, or the wheel of the houses, but at the still point in the centre. This is marked on your chart with a gold star.

GOD IS A CIRCLE WHOSE CIRCUMFERENCE IS NOWHERE AND WHOSE CENTRE IS EVERYWHERE – *Hermetic teachings*

THE PLANETS

The Actors

- ☉ **The Sun** Centre of the solar system; the Monarch in the chart; the driving force of the Self; the sense of individuality.
- ☾ **The Moon** Emotional life; indicates what we need in order to feel secure; how we were mothered; how we nurture ourselves and others; our memories; habits, instinctive behavioural patterns.
- ☿ **Mercury** The messenger; how we communicate, not always with words, but also through the arts – music, dance, painting.
- ♀ **Venus** Goddess of love; how we relate to people; what we like; our style; personal tastes in the things around us, music, clothes; how we appreciate or express the feminine.
- ♂ **Mars** God of agriculture and battles; what we want and how we get it; how we assert our own wants; the driving force to grow and develop; our ambition; how we appreciate or express the masculine.
- ♃ **Jupiter** God of abundance and jollity; our desire to expand, to express ourselves; being generous; having fun; philosophy of life; positive religious experience.
- ♄ **Saturn** God of old age, Lord of the Boundaries; the need to be cautious; the need to protect ourselves by setting boundaries and limitations; how we work; restricted attitudes; where we find things difficult.
- ♅ **Chiron** The Wounded Healer; where we are wounded; where we can heal others; self sacrifice; the mystical entrance to higher worlds.
- ♆ **Uranus** God of change and revolution; inventiveness; new ideas; our need to kick over the traces and create from scratch; being contrary.
- ♇ **Neptune** The god of the sea represents spirituality; our need to blend with something larger than our everyday self; our fantasies; ideals.
- ♁ **Pluto** God of the underworld; our deep-seated urge for regeneration; how we die into new life; the ability to manipulate the life force; sexual drive.

The Planet which rules your Ascendant is of especial significance in your life and we look to see what house it occupies. This Planet is called the Ruler of the chart.

The Planet which rules your Sun sign and its house placement is also of significance.

THE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC

The Costumes

All activities in creation are based on a cycle of rising, shining and setting and each Element is represented by a group of three signs which mark out this process:

Cardinal people are those who initiate activities

Fixed people continue and 'fix' the activity

Mutable people distribute or dispense the end product

THE FIRE SIGNS:

- ♈ **Aries** The Ram. Cardinal fire. Ruled by Mars. *Initiative, courage, impulse, enterprise, leadership, passion, drive.*
- ♌ **Leo** The Lion. Fixed fire. Ruled by the Sun. *Enthusiasm, generosity, drama, dignity, confidence, entertainment, glory.*
- ♐ **Sagittarius** The Archer and Centaur. Mutable fire. Ruled by Jupiter. *Jovial, philosophical, optimistic, spontaneous, adventurous, visionary.*

THE EARTH SIGNS:

- ♉ **Taurus** The Bull. Fixed earth. Ruled by Venus. *Practical, sensual, productive, steadfast, comfort-loving, determined, cautious, patient.*
- ♊ **Virgo** The Heavenly Lady. Mutable earth. Ruled by Mercury. *Critical, efficient, fruitful, perfectionist, pure, modest, analytical.*
- ♋ **Capricorn** The Sea Goat. Cardinal earth. Ruled by Saturn. *Disciplined, responsible, conservative, ambitious, consistent, authoritarian, status seeking.*

THE AIR SIGNS:

- ♊ **Gemini** The Twins. Mutable air. Ruled by Mercury. *Adaptable, versatile, creative, sociable, talkative, creative, inquisitive.*
- ♎ **Libra** The Scales. Cardinal air. Ruled by Venus. *Cooperative, diplomatic, judgmental, harmonious, balanced, conciliatory, relationship-seeking.*
- ♒ **Aquarius** The Water Carrier. Fixed air. Ruled by Uranus (old ruler Saturn). *Detached, reasonable, eccentric, idealistic, innovatory, humanitarian, thoughtful.*

THE WATER SIGNS:

- ♋ **Cancer** The Crab. Cardinal water. Ruled by the Moon. *Emotional, sympathetic, vulnerable, nurturing, tenacious, sentimental, shy.*
- ♏ **Scorpio** The Scorpion. Fixed water. Ruled by Pluto (old ruler Mars). *Intense, magnetic, transformative, perceptive, secretive, manipulative.*
- ♓ **Pisces** The Fishes. Mutable water. Ruled by Neptune (old ruler Jupiter). *Compassionate, receptive, imaginative, mystical, sensitive, elusive, psychic.*

THE HOUSES

The Scenes

Each house has a similar quality to the sign it is associated with.

- I First House** **Personality** Relates to Aries. *Begins at the Ascendant (ASC.) and can be seen as an extension of it. Physical attributes; body; health; where energies within are transmitted outward; interface; self-image; the filter for the whole chart; how we appear to others.*
- II Second House** **Attachment** Relates to Taurus. *Possessions; property; sustenance; resources; assets; where one identifies with objects/people/ideas so that they become necessary.*
- III Third House** **Mind** Relates to Gemini. *Communications of all kinds; early education; short or daily journeys; everyday acquaintances; perception; learning skills; where we experience reality at a mental level; habitual thought patterns.*
- IV Fourth House** **Home** Relates to Cancer. *Family life; childhood; mother; home-town or country; the past; memories; traditions; inherited traits; where we return for our sense of security and protection; can indicate received family traditions from father, whose name we often carry.*
- V Fifth House** **Pleasure** Relates to Leo. *Children; creativity; love affairs; places of entertainment; risk-taking; speculation; sense of self esteem; innermost desires; where we do things for our own satisfaction; playing games; work for the joy of it.*
- VI Sixth House** **Work** Relates to Virgo. *Everyday work; fellow workers; personal efficiency; expectations; self worth through giving; hygiene; where we work for the sake of something (to earn a living, get qualified, provide for others, etc.); care and maintenance; obligations; duties.*
- VII Seventh House** **Partnerships** Relates to Libra. *Begins at the descendant and can be seen as an extension of it. Business or marriage partnerships; close friends (and enemies); cooperative ventures; relationships; alliances; mutual aid; affection; where we experience harmony or conflict; people who reflect part of ourselves; acts as a sounding board for the first house ('me'). The seventh house stands for 'them'.*
- VIII Eighth House** **Transformation** Relates to Scorpio. *Business or property belonging to other people/partners; critical situations which bring change; birth; death; separation; the mysteries of life; sexuality; where we learn to adapt to crises and shed past attachments (second house); inner strength and capacity to reach below the surface.*
- IX Ninth House** **Higher Mind** Relates to Sagittarius. *Higher education; profound thinking; long journeys (physical or spiritual); guides; gurus; prophets; philosophy; far horizons; where the mind seeks eternal truths, wisdom or foresight.*
- X Tenth House** **Public Life** Relates to Capricorn. *Begins at the Mid-heaven (r) Social status; reputation; career; the socializing parent (of either sex); those in authority; ambition; goals; desire for recognition; father figures; where the self identifies itself; creating a public image.*

XI Eleventh House **Communal Spirit** Relates to Aquarius. *Social groups; wider friendships; causes; ideals; organizations; where pleasures (fifth house) become purposeful; joining groups for the sake of an ideal; joining a community of people (sometimes never met in person); progressive attitudes; adapting to society at large; social conscience.*

XII Twelfth House **Concealment** Relates to Pisces. *Isolation; retreat (chosen or enforced); institutions; care of others; hidden enemies; the personal unconscious (buried fears that can undermine us); sacrifice or sublimation of personal desires; renunciation; withdrawal; where we can retreat from the everyday world.*

OTHER SYMBOLS IN THE CHART

The Moon's Nodes indicate the path of spiritual development. This is drawn in lilac on the chart.

- ♁ South Node indicates where we have come from, possibly past lives or inherited traits, where we have already achieved something and we find matters pertaining to this house/sign easy and comfortable – we tend to fall into this because of previous success.
- ♁ North Node shows where we need to make an effort to achieve new perspectives in this lifetime.

Planets conjuncting these points will show where and how we are held back or propelled forward.

- ⊗ **The Part of Fortune** Where we find our 'bliss', our joy, our 'pot of gold', emotionally or spiritually. Following our bliss will lead to a sense of achievement and satisfaction. The universe supports us when we listen to this call.

ASPECTS

The major aspects are:

- △ Trine 60° coloured green – easy
- Square 90° coloured red – challenging
- ♁ Opposition 180° coloured purple – challenging
- * Sextile 30° coloured blue – easy
- ⋈ Quincunx 150° coloured lilac – uneasy
- ♁ Conjunction 0° coloured orange – depends on planets involved