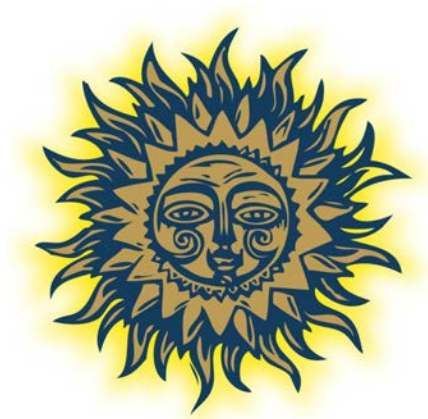


# **GODDESS**

## **A Solar Writer Report for Princess Diana**



**Written by Brian Clark & Stephanie Johnson**

**Report by:**

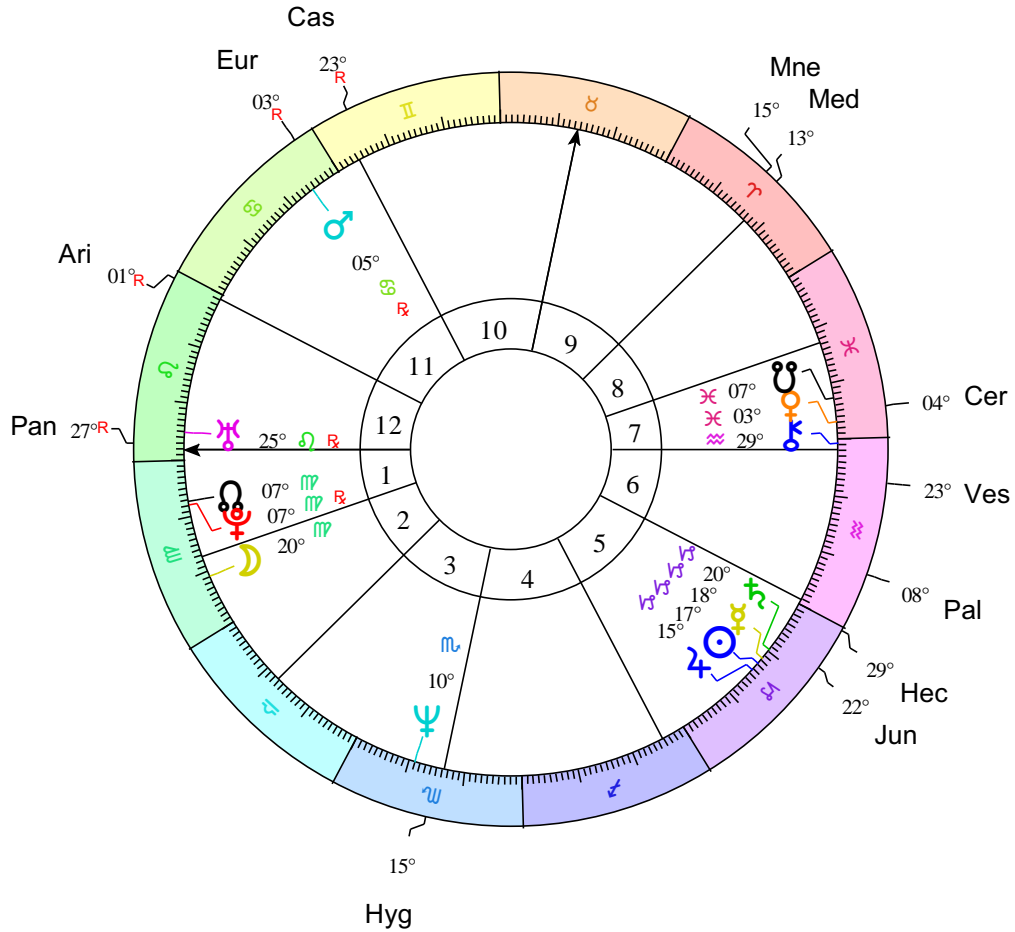
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**Princess Diana**

**Natal Chart**

Jan 7 1961  
 7:45 pm UT +0:00  
 Sandringham  
 52°N50'  
 000°E30'  
 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 SummaryChart Point Positions: Princess Diana

<b>Abbr</b>	<b>Asteroid</b>	<b>Sign</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Cer	Ceres	Pisces	4°Pi52'	7th	
Pal	Pallas Athena	Aquarius	8°Aq51'	6th	
Jun	Juno	Capricorn	22°Cp47'	5th	
Ves	Vesta	Aquarius	23°Aq03'	6th	
Hyg	Hygieia	Scorpio	15°Sc04'	3rd	
Ari	Ariadne	Leo	1°Le11'	12th	
Eur	Europa	Cancer	3°Cn06'	11th	
Pan	Pandora	Leo	27°Le10'	12th	
Mne	Mnemosyne	Aries	15°Ar38'	9th	
Hec	Hecate	Capricorn	29°Cp26'	5th	
Cas	Cassandra	Gemini	23°Ge58'	10th	
Med	Medea	Aries	13°Ar27'	9th	

## 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 favored their island and it was here they claimed Hades abducted her daughter.

One year later its orbit was confirmed and although small in comparison to the other planets the missing planet had become visible. But early in 1802 another body was sighted between Mars and Jupiter and named Pallas Athena. Astronomers wondered if a planet had exploded in this region and therefore more would be discovered. And they were. More than four hundred of these small planets had been named as the 19th Century drew to a close.

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

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

These twelve goddesses preside over the three spheres of Heaven, the Earth and the Underworld. Being Olympians the goddess Ceres, Pallas Athena, Juno and Vesta are the goddesses of heaven who oversee the important initiations and transitions of the life cycle. These four goddesses were also the first named asteroids and the ones most frequently referred to in contemporary astrological literature. They personify four potent feminine functions or orientations to life. The goddesses of the underworld are powerfully insightful and understand the deep waters of the unconscious, the complexity

of feelings, the power of mystery and magic and the uncertainty of life. These goddesses may reveal themselves through a healing crisis, the psychic senses, loss, betrayal or a myriad of other mysteries that arise in our lives. Hygieia, Cassandra, Hecate and Medea are the four goddesses who plunge the depths of the unconscious realm. Finally the goddesses who rule the Earth symbolize our worldly concerns and attitudes. Ariadne, Europa, Pandora and Mnemosyne are the influential representatives in the world who watch over our loves and labors, as well as our trials and triumphs.

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

**Ceres** , Asteroid No 1, was discovered in 1801. Ceres is closely aligned with the archetypes of Pluto and the Moon and especially strong when the Moon aspects Pluto. Her process may enter our lives when Pluto transits the Moon or the 4th house.

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

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

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

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

**Ariadne** , Asteroid No. 43, was discovered in 1857. Ariadne's story plumbs the depths of

the water houses. She leaves the familial terrain of the 4th house to be abandoned by her lover in the labyrinth of the 8th but awakens to her divine connection in the 12th. Neptune aspects to Venus or Mars may highlight these themes. Ariadne's process is revealed with transits to planets in the 8th house or Pluto transiting Venus or Mars.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Goddess Mythology



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cassandra was the daughter of Priam and Hecuba, the regents of the powerful dynasty of Troy. She was the twin sister to Helenus and sister to seventeen other siblings

including Paris and Hector. From an early age she had oracular ability, yet no one believed her. Cassandra carries the feminine mysteries of divination even in a contemporary world that devalues the sacred tradition.

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

Ceres - The Earth Mother

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

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

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

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

Her myth was more ancient than her male contemporaries and reached back to the

epoch when deities of the underworld (death) and the earth (life) were one. Ceres represents both loss and harvest and her classical story embraces each aspect in the myth of her daughter who becomes the Queen of the Underworld.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### *Ceres is in the 7th House*

You are a warm and loving mate, quietly seeking a partner who believes in love, marriage and all that this entails. When you find the right person you are willing to give a great deal to this union, perhaps even sacrificing a little of yourself in order to maintain the relationship. It is most likely that you will form a strong and lasting bond with a partner who values and appreciates your caring manner. However, you do need to be wary of becoming too self-sacrificing or too demanding. Martyrdom does not equal longevity in marriage. You should not put up with autocratic behavior, but then neither should you display it.

Equality needs to be your firm focus, rather than dependency or attachment. Ironically the more that you try to hold on to someone near and dear the more likely that you are to lose him or her. Therefore you need to let go, embrace each person's differences and accept the changes that occur in any long-term relationship. It is true that you may be required to nurture your partner, perhaps through an illness or some form of loss; however, you also gain many positives.

It is not just your marriage that is beneficial. Business partnerships are also advantageous. In any business partnership it is necessary to forge a close bond with the other in order for you to feel productive and creative. Through the strong attachment to your business partner you are able to feel secure and confident. You may enter into a contract with your spouse or be part of a family business. You offer a strong sense of security and stability to your partner and to any business associate as well.

This is a significant placement of the goddess Ceres indicating that your creativity really sings when you are working closely with another person.

### *Ceres is in Pisces*

No matter what else is happening in your life you need to feel that there is an escape route. Most likely this will be through trips to the ocean, the arts, cinema or a special place in nature. The sound of the waves, the smell of the salt and the sight of the water

are sources of sustenance for your soul. You may not consider yourself an imaginative person, but there is a strong need for you to take time out and rise above everyday life. You are a compassionate person and the rigors of the workaday world can be overwhelming.

Your relationship with your mother is likely to be a close and loving one, providing you with the benefits of instinctively meeting your own emotional needs. As a result you may delay marriage until you meet the right person. Your marriage may not always be smooth sailing, but you enjoy a good understanding with your spouse. Parenting is likely to be a real source of joy as your warm heart responds to the love of your children. You may also take care of other people's children. Pets are also a great source of enjoyment. On the whole your personal life thrives as your loved ones bask in the warmth of your affections, and vice versa. It is your working world that may suffer.

Depending on other aspects of your chart, you have a tendency to make decisions based on your imagination and emotions. The problem is that you don't realize that you are doing this. You think that you are being rational, but your professional decisions and relationships with co-workers are flawed. You enjoy working with other people but misunderstandings seem to blow up and get out of control. You need to be aware of not becoming a victim or an aggressor in difficult situations. This can be remedied but only if you are willing to take a back seat and listen carefully to other's advice. You may be concerned that you will be overwhelmed by other people's needs but this is unlikely to be case. It is more likely that your colleagues will rise to the occasion and respond to your warmth in the same way that your personal friends and loved ones do. Your compassion and warmth envelops others and assists them in feeling secure.

Pallas Athena - The Wisdom Of The Warrior



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

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

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

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

Strategic, reflective and controlled her craft and skill is mirrored in the multiplicity of devices she offered man, the fertility of her ideas and the usefulness of her inventions and techniques. As Pronoia she is 'before knowing' embracing forethought and strategic thinking. As a warrior queen she was born from the forehead of her father Zeus, fully armored and mature, suggesting that the wisdom of goddess had been reborn into a new order. As father's special daughter Pallas Athena mirrored the rational intelligence and counsel of Zeus. Metis, the mother of Athena, was an ancient goddess of wisdom known as Wise Counsel or Cunning Intelligence. She knew the feminine mysteries, the intelligence articulated by the heart and the inner world of instinct and intuition. From her Pallas Athena inherited another kind of wisdom: the wisdom of intuitive knowing often experienced in the belly as a 'gut instinct'. It is a knowing that may speak through symptoms or disease, through creativity or craft, or radiate through stillness and tranquility or even erupt in anger or hostility. It is a wisdom born out of an intimate connection between mind and matter, a fluid way of being that the ancient Greeks knew as Sophia.

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

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

Athena is also associated with the arts of healing, health and regeneration. As Athena Nike she was the goddess of Victory, first victorious in war and later a victor on the sports field. Athena signaled victory and as a patron of heroes she was also known as the goddess of the near, as she was always close to the hero and a staunch supporter of the heroic. As the goddess of war and defender of her father's realm Athena became aligned with the hero as his guide and protector. In mythic portrayals of the hero, Athena stands behind or beside him as his staunch ally against the monstrous and dark forces. When Pallas Athena appears prominently in a birth chart she encourages us to be heroic and battle the regressive forces of our instinctual nature. It is necessary to



reflect on the situation and not react emotionally, detaching enough to formulate a decisive plan of action.

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

### *Pallas is in the 6th House*

You are one of the lucky ones. You usually have good vitality and health, plenty of drive to complete your daily chores. You are a responsible, hard worker able to achieve many tasks because of your excellent organizational abilities. Usually your friends, family and colleagues benefit from your practical skills and useful tips. You like to support friends, family and co-workers with practical help. Like Pallas, who was the patroness of artisans and craftsmen, you are adept at handiwork and crafts. Cooking, cleaning, sewing and gardening are all in your repertoire. You are an exceptional administrator and the ever-willing servant of your co-workers and loved ones. Your co-workers are well aware of your strong sense of fair play.

You are even handed with friends and colleagues trusting your instincts in most of your interactions. The challenge that you face is when others fail to recognize and appreciate your support. You do not like being taken for granted, or even worse feeling used. Your resentment is likely to skyrocket when this occurs. You enjoy helping other people but you also have your own agenda, your own objectives. Occasionally you need support from others. You are adept at co-opting willing helpers for other people's projects, but you also want assistance for your own. If others do not notice your need and help is not forthcoming then you are likely to go into battle mode. Your transformation from willing servant to angry warrior is a truly magnificent sight, depending on who is on the receiving end.

You are a brilliant strategist, able to detach from your anger, deduce a plan and enlist willing allies. This is a wonderful gift when you are motivated to achieve a common goal, but when these skills are directed against someone else, things can get nasty. You need to make sure that you do not give in to the temptation to behave in a manner that is cruel or punishing. You know that you are powerful and that other people may lack your drive and persistence. You need to use your power in order to heal situations rather than inflame them. Diplomacy is more likely to resolve any day-to-day conflict than outright war. Persistent anger may indeed drain your usually high levels of vitality. You may have the gift of healing hands. As such orthodox or unorthodox medicine may appeal to you as a career path. The goddess Pallas Athena is civilizing and organizing, bringing culture and cultivation to mankind. Justice and law are part of her new order

replacing retaliation and revenge. You, too, can embrace these gifts.

### *Pallas is in Aquarius*

You are an original thinker. This has its advantages and disadvantages. You are able to be a real leader in an unusual and groundbreaking field, because of your ability to predict future trends. Of course, this makes you a brilliant psychic or astrologer, but you can also enjoy success in any field that requires forward thinking and new ideas. You can be a real genius!

However, your brilliant mind can also go off on tangents and this can get you into trouble. Do you find that your friends and colleagues (and perhaps even family members) look at you sometimes as if you are a little crazy? Do your zany antics sometimes get you into trouble? Or perhaps you have so many exciting ideas and projects that you have difficulty focusing on just one? You may be ahead of your time, a pioneer in your field. Others may need some time to catch up. On the other hand you may have lost the plot in your enthusiasm to embrace original thinking. Herman Melville once said that 'it is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation' but you would be well advised to rethink your ideas if they are not being communicated effectively to other people. You don't want to ride roughshod over people, nor disregard their creative efforts. Flexibility and teamwork are the key to your success. Mediation not litigation was one of the goddess Pallas' main aims. Therefore you need to apply creativity, rather than force, to solve any problem.

You love to learn, study and acquire knowledge. Modern technology may also appeal to you as a means to acquire further skills and knowledge. As you also love to apply this knowledge you can be a real humanitarian, committed to a cause and able to work as a negotiator or diplomat in tricky situations. This is where your ability to be original can really be beneficial. Conflict resolution is one of your fortes, depending on other aspects of your chart. World peace is a wonderful ideal! In the meantime don't forget the adage that 'charity begins at home'.

Juno - Socializing The Soul

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

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

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

years. Underpinning the later myths are fragments, which reveal Hera was an ancient goddess before she became aligned with her brother in a sacred marriage.

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

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

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

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

In astrology the goddess Juno represents the status and achievement in the world that

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

### *Juno is in the 5th House*

The creative muse is strong but you may not have the opportunity to listen to the muse's call. Your spouse, and perhaps your responsibility for children, is likely to take precedence over your own passions. For this reason you are likely to seek passion in your marriage. You want both romance and commitment, and may pursue this fervently throughout your life. If you are lucky then you will marry your soul mate and live happily ever after. However, you may have trouble maintaining the romance, and therefore the interest, in your marriage.

You are the type of person who may decide to have children to bring a spark back into your union. This may well work if your spouse is someone who is equally committed to parenting. You are not keen on being the one to keep the home fires burning while your partner is out having fun. You are happy to do your share of the parenting chores, but you would rather be having fun as a family. Your expectations of your spouse, as well as your ability to choose a stable life partner are not necessarily your strong points. Single-parenthood is not much fun, as far as you are concerned, but it does give you the freedom to do your own thing. You are likely to adore all children, whether they are your own or someone else's. Blended families are not a challenge for your warm-hearted soul because they give you the opportunity to truly share parenting with your lover. However, you do need to be careful of transferring your unrealistic expectations onto your children if you are not married. Unconditional love is very important. If you place conditions on your children then they are likely to rebel not realizing how much you love them. It is important that you let go and encourage your children to leave the nest and live their own lives. Give them the freedom to pursue their own dreams, not yours. Support and affection will have their rewards.

At some stage in your life you need to discover your own passions. If you are in a stable marriage then you may have to challenge the status quo in order to pursue your own creative dreams. You may wait until your children have grown up before making this move. On the other hand if you are single then you may need to explore your own creative urges rather than ardently seeking love affairs. Of course you may be satisfied being your partner's muse or share your partner's passion and happily co-create, but this is a rarity. You would be better advised to find the creative light within and ask others to kindly step out of your light.

### *Juno is in Capricorn*

Status is important. Even if you do not hold a strong position in society, you are attracted to people who do. You are a traditionalist, who would prefer to remain single

rather than compromise your values. For this reason you choose your marriage partner carefully and may marry later in life. As a young person you are amazed when your peers follow their passions, making unwise marriages. Can't they see the terrible mistakes they are making? You need to make sure that your disapproval is not too noticeable as your friends celebrate their wedding days.

It is possible that you will marry when you are young, particularly if you are strongly influenced by a matriarch in the family, a strong woman in either your own or your spouse's family. If you are lucky then this marriage can be long lasting and successful. However, if you are wise then you will seek your own counsel and only marry when you are satisfied that it is the correct decision. You are likely to be cautious, taking your time in a long and well-planned courtship. You are wise and are unlikely to let your heart rule your head. Marriage needs to increase your status in society, and to be based on mutual respect rather than emotion. You are quite capable of biding your time, waiting for the right person rather than rushing into an impetuous romance. You are seeking an enduring union, not a fling. If anything you need to be careful that your marriage is not defined as successful purely in monetary terms or how society views it. Romance and fun can have their place. Also if you marry only for status or to keep pace with your friends or family members then you are likely to regret your decision.

The goddess Juno asks that you find your own place in society, develop a strong sense of self-worth and then choose a mate based on a good blend of reason and passion. As English poet Alfred Lord Tennyson said, 'the happiness of a man in this life does not consist in the absence but in the mastery of his passions.'

Vesta - The Inner Life

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

*Jean-Jacques Rousseau*

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

In ancient Greece the goddess received the highest respect. Acknowledged as the deity mankind must first honor when feasting and drinking the goddess embodied grace and virtue. Veiled and virginal her sanctuaries were places of refuge, asylum and political peace. Constant, focused and disliking change Vesta is the hearth, a symbol for both the center and the focus of the home as well as the metaphor for family life and the family circle. As custodian of the hearth she is central to psychic life representing the sacral center, the goddess who honors sacred space and protects holy images. She embodies spatiality, conferring safe places to congregate, mediating soul by giving it a hallowed place to be acknowledged. As a virgin (unto herself) goddess Vesta is the custodian of

soulful space personifying the stillness at the center of our busy everyday lives. As goddess of hospitality she also welcomes travelers across the threshold offering sanctuary and hospice. Vesta is the continuity of family life and the coherence it brings to our everyday experiences. Vesta was the first-born child, the first devoured by Saturn and the last one to be disgorged from his belly. Therefore she represents the beginning and the end, the alpha and the omega, the eternal cycle. Vesta is not a part of the outer rim of the cycle but situated at its center, personifying stillness, discretion, centering and immobility, aspects of her Greek counterpart, Hestia.

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

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

In astrology Vesta is the inner instinct that honors soul by giving it a sacred place, an



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

### *Vesta is in the 6th House*

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

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

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

### *Vesta is in Aquarius*

Wherever groups of common-minded people gather you are likely to be present. The forces motivating human interaction fascinate you. You are not so concerned about the emotional undercurrents, although perhaps you should pay more attention to these. Rather you are eager to observe and effect the intellectual interactions. Therefore you are a brilliant strategist. You are also likely to develop an ardent interest in local or

world politics, psychology, magnetic forces, astrology, science, economic markets and any subject that helps shed light on the machinations of groups within society. Your brilliance lies in the fact that you are able to 'think outside the square'. In other words you are able to stand back and view matters from an unorthodox stance. Even if you are a conservative soul, or are working in a traditional role, you are nevertheless able to see and give advice in an innovative manner.

You are likely to be a pioneer in your field of interest. You need plenty of freedom to independently discover your driving creative force. If your independence is thwarted then you may be distracted, unnecessarily putting out lots of small fires of other people's expectations. You need to listen to your intuition, let your heart guide your strong and independent mind. Don't waste time on rebellion. Once you have accepted your own unique gifts, no matter how quirky they seem then you learn to trust your own judgment rather than rely on other people. You need to respect the laws of society, but avoid being overly concerned with what other people think of you. Others may misunderstand your strategies, seeing only the personal control and detachment that you portray. Or perhaps they perceive that you are gaining personal benefit from your role in a group. Those closest to you will understand that your motivation comes from a much higher understanding of the ways that groups interact and your need to share your knowledge.

Esoteric astrologers have a keynote for Aquarius which says, 'Water of Life am I, poured forth for thirsty men.' With the goddess Vesta in the sign of Aquarius you have a gift that expounds these virtues. In other words you are a humanist, able to be a true world server. Your challenge is to discover the form of service that truly speaks from your depths - from your soul.

Hygieia - The Soul Of Health

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

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

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

Hygieia nurtures and tends the snake revering its sacred power to rejuvenate and shed its old ways. She celebrates its dark, earthy force and recognizes the divine mystery of illness and health. Like her ancient ancestors, Hygieia honored the union between the natural and supernatural worlds knowing that health and well being depended on

bringing them both into a cohesive whole. Goddess wisdom also knew that all of nature was animated by spirits that could be petitioned through magical and religious ritual in an attempt to restore equilibrium and well being. Hygieia is the modern surrogate of the ancient goddesses who honor the great mystery of healing.

To the Greeks Hygieia personified health, that mysterious amalgam of well being, wholeness and happiness. She emerged in the classical period when the cult of Asclepius became widespread and flourished throughout the Graeco-Roman world. Hygieia was mainly represented as the daughter of Asclepius, the Greek god of healing, although sometimes known as his wife. Her numerous statues equal those of Asclepius and in the cult of healing she was revered and equal to the god himself. Interestingly the popularity of temple medicine practiced at the sanctuaries of Asclepius paralleled the growth of rational medicine that had emerged through the teachings of Hippocrates. Hygieia stands at the crossroads of magico-religious healing rituals and contemporary medical practice, holding the tension between the two but allowing each to co-exist. She embraces wholistic healing in every manifestation as she is dedicated to the pursuit of health.

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

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

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

### *Hygieia is in the 3rd House*

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

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

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

### *Hygieia is in 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 naive 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 12th House*

You are a wise and adept strategist, most likely playing a key role of support in a large institution. Perhaps you are a military or political strategist, able to advise people in important roles in society? On the other hand you may work in service to society as a whole - in a hospital with the frail, disabled or disadvantaged members of society. You may simply be the person who quietly supports members of your own family, a behind the scenes nurturer. It is important that you also take care of yourself. A deeply embedded pattern from your family suggests you may feel it is more important to give to others than to yourself.

This placement of the goddess Ariadne means that you could be your own worse enemy, neglecting your own needs in favor of others. You are likely to lose yourself in the maze of undercurrents that exist in your environment. Perhaps you are trying to please everyone and end up helping no one? On the other hand you may sometimes feel lost in a labyrinth of other people's problems and misunderstandings. Do you feel like you are always cleaning up other people's messes? Do you have trouble saying 'no' because you just seem to get drawn into the middle of an altercation or conflict? You feel torn between the need for isolation, to run away to a desert island or deserted beach, and the need to sort out the troubles.

The answer is finding an accepted method of escape. You are not 'running away' per se. You need to discover inner resources that can help you in this life of service that you have chosen. You need to find peace. Of all of the placements of the goddess Ariadne this one gives you the ability to find divine peace. When you feel like your family or workplace is cursed and you are immersed in all of the dramas you need to remove yourself to a calm place. Meditation, prayer, a quiet place in your own garden or a public park may help. At times you may need to go further a field, to take a holiday on your own or take part in a religious retreat. Eventually the process of moving to a peaceful habitat will help you to incorporate harmony into your daily living. Your connection to the divine aspects of life will strengthen your own spiritual gifts.

### *Ariadne is in Leo*

You set out on amazing journeys, seeking fun and excitement. You organize social events, are at the center of artistic groups and travel the world for fun. All the time you are seeking to express your originality. You love to involve your friends and family, the more the merrier. You fall in love wholeheartedly with your artistic pursuit or with a passionate lover.

Strangely, at some stage in your life journey, you realize that many of these pursuits lack meaning. They lose their lustre. Activities become boring. Lovers lose their appeal. Perhaps once or twice you chase a lover who does not return your feelings. You are caught up in the drama of a broken heart or the saga of unrequited love. Soon, this too, loses its charm. Are you addicted to love and excitement? The likely answer is 'yes'. The goddess Ariadne is challenging you to stop looking for love in all of the wrong places. You need to learn to love yourself, the greatest love of all.

Of all the signs of the zodiac Leo has the strongest link with the heart and Ariadne is the goddess who requires that we open our hearts to ourselves. You are so wonderfully adept at sharing your love and heartfelt talents with others but what about yourself? Do you really love yourself as well? Learn to love yourself and the world is your oyster. You can then celebrate a more intimate connection with the heart, whether that is through a personal relationship, a new creative endeavor or a new course of life. Dance, sing, and jump for joy, for the pure pleasure of expressing your love of life and your own unique self. Then you find that you will be able to weave Ariadne's thread into the brightly colored tapestry of your life.

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 11th House*

You are most resourceful when working with groups rather than acting independently. This is because you understand the power of the people and because a sense of belonging is vital to your well being. If you do not feel a connection to a group then you are likely to feel lonely and isolated. You are able to create abundance for friends and associates through your passionate, attractive and commanding nature. You need to also create this sense of abundance for yourself within a club, group or organization.

Professionally you may choose to work within an organization that promotes the ideals of large groups or humanitarian causes. The United Nations, Trade Unionism, Greenpeace, and the Red Cross are just a few of the types of groups that could appeal. Even if you are not involved in a hands-on way you are supportive of the efforts of organizations that strive for human development.

Personally you could flourish through your friendships. You enjoy social gatherings, even if you are sometimes the observer rather than an enthusiastic participant. You are an excellent net worker, able to link friends with common interests. You may also enjoy a committee or office bearer's role in a social organization. Individual rights may not figure largely in your life because you understand the need for organization of communal resources. At times you may feel a little overwhelmed by the needs of a group, but you are still aware of the benefits of social, professional, cultural and political parties. Tribal values are close to your heart. For this reason you may also feel a strong affinity with a particular cultural or indigenous 'tribe' as you belong to a wider human family

### *Europa is in Cancer*

Family is the cornerstone of your life. When you are young your family shapes the way that you view the world. Coming from a strong lineage of women, you are likely to have a strong bond with your mother, grandmother or another caring female family member. As you mature you are keen to strike out independently but never too far from home. If you leave home for distant shores, sooner or later you probably return to your birthplace. One exception to this can be if you meet, marry and have a family of your own in your new town or city. However, it is more likely that you live close to relatives with a household filled with animals and children.

You are wise when it comes to the institution of families. You know the importance of marrying the right person and are willing to wait if necessary before settling down and having children. You are well aware of the responsibilities involved in caring for dependents. You watch other people's parenting closely while making up your own mind as to how effective their methods really are. If for some reason you decide not to marry

and have children then you are likely to work closely with other people's children as a nanny, teacher, counselor or school assistant. Perhaps you would enjoy writing children's books or creating something that appeals to the child in all of us. You may be a devoted uncle, aunt, godfather or godmother. You have a strong urge to nurture that cannot be denied and must be channeled into a hobby or profession.

Your challenge is also to nurture yourself. Caring for others is admirable but don't forget to recharge your own batteries. As an old Irish Proverb says, 'bricks and mortar make a house, but the laughter of children makes a home.' Take the time to enjoy your life and the company of your loved ones. As you feel the securest when you are in the sanctity of nature, it would be of great value to make the time to rekindle your attachment to the great outdoors.

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 12th House*

At heart you are a loner, enjoying silent contemplation and solitary pursuits. You can become immersed in your own company, bush walking for days on your own in nature or immersed in reading a good book. You don't mean to be anti-social. It is simply that you delight in solitary pursuits and you lose track of time. You also find it difficult to fit in with some of society's expectations, preferring to march to the step of a different drum. Fashion statements leave you cold. You have your own individual style. Punctuality, social chit chat, work hierarchies and other such societal structures are meaningless. You sometimes feel that you are out-of-step with social expectations and as a result you find yourself in some tricky situations. You may resent the intrusion of family members, friends and work colleagues, when they encourage you to join their social activities. You may even feel misunderstood. But like Pandora you may also be deeply in touch with hope for all of humanity.

At some stage in life you need to accept some rules and codes of conduct as being necessary to living in a community. As you struggle to come to terms with the irrational versus the rational you also need a job to survive, preferably one that gives you enough freedom to express your individual talents, but that also requires some structure. Mathematician and physicist Isaac Newton had little interest in society or for any pursuits other than science and mathematics. Yet after years of pursuing his own studies in university he was eventually required to take up a public government position. Fate played its hand.

You have a deep and profound connection to divine and metaphysical matters. Like Newton, you may also wish to be left to your own devices to study these matters particularly through meditation, alchemy and other such methods. Secret codes and societies may fascinate you. Be careful not to dabble in the dark arts because you may take on more than you can handle. Also, once again you need to be aware of society's expectations to earn function and earn a living. You also need to accept other people's spiritual beliefs even though they differ to yours. You may be required to attend baptisms, bar mitzvahs, weddings and other such rites of passage as a sign of respect for your peers. Once you have fully accepted your own eccentricities and unique talents then you are more likely to develop a healthy respect for the unique gifts of other people. As such your deep connection to other worldly matters is likely to become an inspiration for others. Like Newton you may have a significant legacy to leave this world.

*Pandora is in Leo*

You are a born troubleshooter. You have a gift for recognizing that embedded in every disaster is the gift of renewal. Therefore you are often called on to solve problems that others can't seem to fathom. You tend not to take these things too seriously, although this does depend on other aspects of your birth chart. You would rather tackle problems with optimism than pragmatism. You do need to be careful of running roughshod over other people's feelings.

You have a wonderful ability to believe in yourself and to trust that others do the same. However, not everyone shares your natural good self-esteem. Therefore you may unwittingly overrule them only to discover that different problems assert themselves later, namely resentment over your problem solving tactics. Fortunately your enthusiasm usually means that, by this time, you have moved on to another challenge. US movie producer Walt Disney once said: 'It's kind of fun to do the impossible.' This is a sentiment that you like to share. However, you need to make sure that you don't go overboard in your enthusiasm. A little self-restraint can be a good thing.

Let your natural enthusiasm inspire hope and faith in the hearts of other people, but let them follow their own hearts rather than try to please you. Walt Disney is also quoted as saying that he loved his cartoon creation Mickey Mouse more than any woman he had ever known. You also have a tendency to love your own creations to the exclusion of all else. You need to make sure that you are also taking your loved ones' needs into account as well. It is possible to find the right balance between following your own passion and nurturing your happiness with your loved ones. Does your spouse know how she or he is loved? Do you spend time with your children? Are you sharing your gifts with those you love most? Asking these questions on a regular basis will help you have a joyous journey throughout your life, inspiring those around you.

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 9th House*

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. These lofty subjects are likely to be significant during the course of your life. You may study or teach these subjects or others such as philosophy, the arts and religion. As a poet or writer you may inspire others. The goddess Mnemosyne is sometimes credited with being the first philosopher, her gift the power of reason. Even if you are considered an emotional person, you do possess the power of reason, the power to rise above your problems through philosophy, religion or travel.

You may travel to another country during your lifetime, either for an extended holiday or to live. Either way the travel provides valuable experiences and memories, which you draw on for creative and spiritual sustenance. You have a real flare for understanding world events from different perspectives. Therefore you may be less patriotic than some of your colleagues, preferring to see humanity as a global community rather than adhering to one country's stand. If you are not in a position to travel to foreign lands then you enjoy friends from varying backgrounds. Culture is important to you and you enjoy hearing stories from other backgrounds, particularly those passed down through the ages. The culture of your own country, or an adopted one, plays a prominent role in shaping your personal, philosophical and political beliefs.

Academically speaking, archaeology, anthropology, classics, fine arts, history and astronomy may hold a special appeal. On a more mundane level you may simply enjoy collecting postcards, stamps or books on foreign cultures and religions. Music and dance are also likely to provide you with the ability to escape from any drudgery in your life. Music is the language of the universe, and you believe in its power to provoke meaning and substance. Dance is a way to express yourself in a carefree and imaginative way. Imagination is an important component of understanding yourself and the world at large. The goddess Mnemosyne is inspiring you to expand your world constantly through the study and teaching of the truths that connect all humans, no matter where or how they live.

### *Mnemosyne is in Aries*

The goddess Mnemosyne is encouraging you to know yourself, to recognize and acknowledge your true motivations. Often daily life, and other responsibilities, distracts us from our true motivations, but you are being called on to live according to your own truth. Fortunately you are likely to be self-motivated, well able to live independently on your own resources. You don't need to share memories and experiences with others, and can easily enjoy own company. This is a very positive trait giving you the ability to be an innovator or leader in your own field.

You may be self-employed, preferring to work in isolation. On the other hand you may choose to live a somewhat reclusive private life, while taking a prominent public role. You have a quiet and private muse, indicating that you need a lot of time on your own to recharge your batteries. Music and books are soothing, providing time to reflect on your responsibilities and achievements, as well as relaxation. Your loved ones need to give you the freedom to enjoy your independence, knowing that everyone will be better off if you are living true to yourself. In turn you also need to remember to be compassionate to others who depend on you, or those who find it more difficult to rely on their own resources.

You need to be careful how you express yourself to loved ones. Choose your words carefully, practice tolerance and acknowledge other people's gifts. If you can remain patient and understanding, then you have a real gift for inspiring others to live true to

their own inner guidance. Gradually those who find it difficult to truly acknowledge their own needs and talents will make their own discoveries. You can tell your own story, either as a written autobiography or as a living example, and therefore encourage others to follow in your footsteps. You know when you are living true to your own ideals, creating your own reality. This Goddess reminds you to continue to listen to your inner voice and make sure that you are on track.

Hecate - The Soul In Transition

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

*Anthony Robbins*

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

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

At transitional spaces where paths converged travelers would pass from one world into another, therefore crossroads became associated with spirits and shades. Hecate became aligned with ghosts and hallucinations as the ancient Greeks attributed the power to

conjure up the dead and the phantoms of the imagination with her. Known as the leader of souls she was associated with magic, divination and contact with the shades of the dead. By the classical period Hecate had become affiliated with witchcraft and magic, known as the goddess of ghosts and night terrors. Her companions were dogs. As guardians of thresholds and instinctually able to trace a scent hounds represented Hecate's instinctual wisdom. By later antiquity Hecate had become the patroness of witchcraft.

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

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

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

### *Hecate is in the 5th House*

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



about to change your life and this unsettles you.

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

Communing with the natural world is comforting. You may spend hours in your back yard, or neighboring parks, examining ants, caterpillars, birds or a whole range of creatures, large and small. This may be preparation for a life as a zookeeper, veterinarian, marine biologist, animal rights campaigner, or some such career of the natural world. Another alternative could be that you are quite the young wizard when it comes to spiritual matters. You may feel the call to participate in goddess ritual, or to an alternative form of spiritual expression. The goddess Hecate has strong connections to the spirit world. Whatever path you are on, you are an authority at a young age. The goddess Hecate is urging you to use your creative talents and to encourage others who may be at the crossroads, wondering whether or not to take a more creative direction.

### *Hecate is in Capricorn*

Generally speaking you are a sensible person, who is able to make clear-headed decisions based on sound logic. You are levelheaded in a crisis and may be the person to whom your friends, family and colleagues turn to when a crossroads has been reached. You are particularly adept at dealing with these turning points in your career. At work you are calm, dealing with a myriad of day-to-day decisions that need to be made as part of the workaday. You are corporate material.

However, the goddess Hecate also has a darker side. As you climb the ladder of success you have a tendency to forget those who gave you a helping hand. You are likely to reach a very personal crisis point at least once in your life, during which you question the meaning of your life. Those who have relied on you in the past may be surprised to see you hesitate, become cautious and generally flounder, perhaps even become depressed. Your challenge is to take your focus away from material success and embrace Hecate's spiritual gifts. Yes, this awesome goddess had power over the underworld, the earth and the sky, but she also had strong links with the spirit world. She worked for the benefit of others, interceding and healing. Perhaps you need, at some stage in your life, to question who is benefiting the most from your gifts. Is it you? Are you self-seeking, building an empire for yourself? Or are you offering your personal gifts for

the betterment of humanity?

If others are telling you to 'lighten up' then you know that you need to start your spiritual quest. This will help you make the transition from being dispirited to feeling joy. If you focus on your passions and the emotional rewards rather than on the financial prize you will be surprised by how relieved you feel. Yes, you have the ability to be a prized member of society, but you also have a responsibility to be happy within yourself. Your private life needs as much nurturance as your public status. Once you have re-examined your life, you may change direction. Alternatively you may continue in the same job, along the same path, but you are so much more personally satisfied once you relax, enjoy your family and friends and embrace a fun-filled hobby. Your spiritual satisfaction provides sustenance for the rest of your life.

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 unlive but unable to remain separate from it.

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

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

### *Cassandra is in the 10th House*

This is a prominent placement of the goddess Cassandra in your birth chart indicating that you possess a unique skill that needs to be expressed through your chosen profession. This talent is perhaps an inherited one from your mother's side of the family. As a direct result of the bond with your mother you have developed a unique aptitude. Your mother's influence and subtle unspoken values has indirectly shaped your professional choices. It is most likely to be a deep understanding of human nature, which can be utilized on the job. Perhaps you are an advocate, orator, writer or actor using words to convey powerful messages. On the other hand your strong intuitive powers may be used to foretell economic or political trends. These powers may also influence your life path in other ways, such as prompting you to move in a completely different direction when others are asking why you would consider such a move. Your motivations may baffle other people, but you need to listen to your own truth.

At times your colleagues may be impressed with your powers of deduction; however, beware of professional traitors. The goddess Cassandra was both gifted and cursed. Her curse meant that others refused to listen to her prophetic claims. Make sure that you use your powers of discernment to learn who is with you and who is against you in your job. This will save you much heartache and help you to be truly able to reap great rewards from this prominent placement of the goddess Cassandra.

If this placement is in a woman's chart then you may feel the conflict between your need to be successful and your need to be in relationship. Perhaps you fear, rightly or wrongly, losing your ability to be mistress of your own destiny. You need to be aware that your partner is able to respect your right to express your unique gifts.

If this placement is in a man's chart you may marry an influential woman, who supports your professional life. This union is likely to bring great rewards as long as you respect and listen to her words of wisdom.

### *Cassandra is in Gemini*

You have a strong need to express yourself either through talking or writing. However, you need to choose your words carefully. This is a tricky placement of the goddess Cassandra. On the one hand you are a soothsayer with a keen intellect and a vision of how things ought to be. You are able to make plans and see outcomes before many of your colleagues and friends. Your insights are often valued. However, there is a Yiddish proverb that asks: 'How many will listen to the truth when you tell them?' In other

words you need to learn to detect when others are ready to hear what you say.

No matter how knowledgeable you feel, no matter how valuable you believe your intuition, don't underestimate the value of silence. As the Christian Bible says in the book of Matthew: 'Neither cast ye your pearls before swine.' Others are not always ready to hear your valuable insights. If you do not adhere to these edicts then arguments are likely to erupt without you fully realizing that you have been the instigator. At times you can feel quite hysterical wondering what you have said to spark such outbursts by colleagues or loved ones. The problem is that the goddess Cassandra's lack of the power of persuasion is emphasized in your chart. The more that you learn to choose your words carefully the more power you will feel in communications, both vocal and written. Learn when to speak and when to listen in silence. Then your prophecies and magical thinking can be truly appreciated.

Gemini is the sign where we master duality. With Cassandra here you are challenged to be able to speak your truth aware that others may not understand or be able to accept what you are saying. You may feel that something is missing: this is probably the feeling of being understood and valued for what you know. Ironically you know a lot yet it is unable to be seen or valued by others. Your lesson is learning to accept your innate wisdom even if what you know cannot be proven or logically validated.

Medea - Herbalist And Healer

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

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

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

On their flight from Colchis Medea visited her aunt Circe who absolved her of her

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

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

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

As botany evolved away from gathering herbs and digging roots of the pastoral communities to empirical and detailed research, purification ceremonies and the use of herbs became replaced by manmade drugs and prescriptions. The connections to the more instinctual, earthy and natural ways of healing were left behind. Traces of magic, ritual healing and evoking the spirit of the disease began to disappear in the Western medical tradition. Left to carry the ancient process of magic was Medea, the embodiment of the archetypal witch. As a heroine Medea champions the feminine wisdom that knows intuitively knows how to cooperate with nature and her cycles. She instinctually knows the right time to perform rituals and ceremonies to evoke the healing spirits or exorcise 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 9th House*

Like Medea you may have emigrated to another country, married into a foreign culture or dramatically altered the religious beliefs you experienced in your family and country of origin. The powerful wise woman of antiquity oversees your 9th house bringing her knowledge of the old ways and her wisdom from the past into your search for meaning. In this territory she is outspoken about her beliefs and overt in her search for the truth suggesting your spiritual journey will never be boring! In fact it seems full of mystery, intrigue and ritual.

One of your life tasks is to shape your unique sense of faith, to forge your own human values and to come to know your moral and ethical agendas. Since Medea is your guide to this realm your personal assignment is to acknowledge and integrate the ancient mysteries into your own belief system, free from the constraints of family principles, cultural doctrines or the convictions of your peers. The archetypal underpinning suggests that the task is to integrate imaginative thinking, magic and ritual, non-linear thinking and non-rational ideas with an educational or adventuresome approach. On one hand your journey to explore the ancient wisdom of astrology, herbalism, psychometry or the Kabbalah will supply an adventure of the mind. On the other hand you may be working to integrate the traditional beliefs of academia with your ancient non-traditional ones. Either way you're encountering the archetype of Medea in your individuation process, which will help you to shape your own unique worldview.

Whether your encounter with the ancient wisdom is an outer journey to sacred landscapes, temples, mosques and museums filled with ancient artefacts or an inner one into esoteric studies, you will be drawn to search for deeper meaning in your life. You will endeavor to strip away the institutionalized veneer of dogma to reveal what is hidden. You're interested in deeper ideas, the source of philosophy, the ancient principles and their religious rituals; you're a student of the mysteries. Having such a passionate urge to understand the depths of knowledge will take you on many journeys either to exotic locations or imaginative places. You're both a student and teacher of the magic of philosophy and the mystery of life.

### *Medea is in Aries*

In your horoscope the dynamic goddess Medea is in the leading sign of the zodiac. To the ancient Greeks this part of the heavens told the story of the Golden Fleece and

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

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

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

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

### Conclusion

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

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

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

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