



JESSICA
ADAMS

EXTENDED PERSONAL BIRTH CHART

A Natural House System Chart
Featuring 34 Horoscope Factors.

Your Extended Birthchart Data

Kate Bush

30-Jul-1958, 12:00 (51.280233,1.0789089)

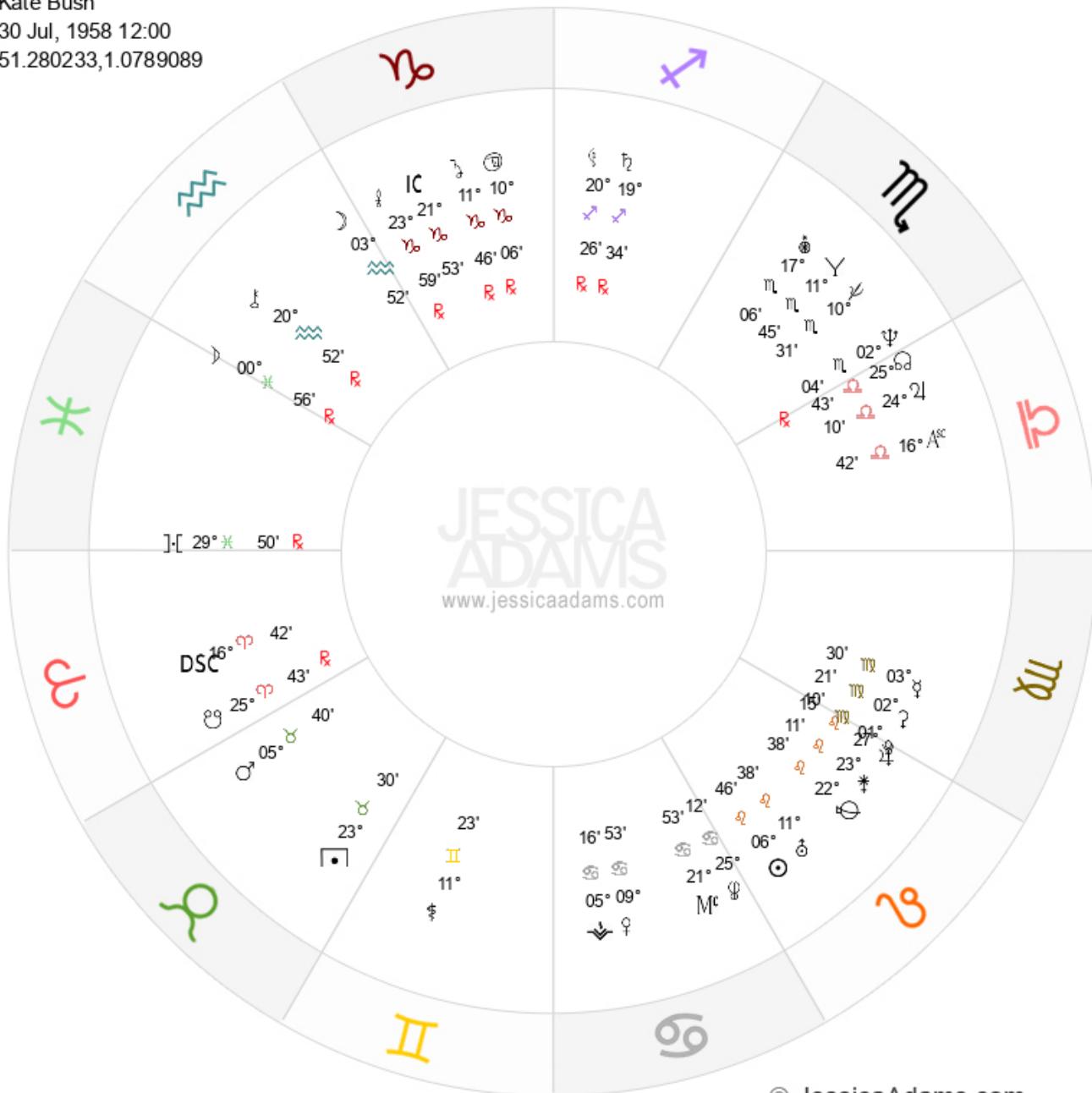
Sun 06°  Leo 46' 24"	Moon 03°  Aquarius 52' 37"	Mercury 03°  Virgo 30' 04"
Venus 09°  Cancer 53' 19"	Mars 05°  Taurus 40' 23"	Jupiter 24°  Libra 10' 56"
Saturn 19°  Sagittarius 34' 20" R	Uranus 11°  Leo 38' 34"	Neptune 02°  Scorpio 04' 35"
Pluto 01°  Virgo 10' 24"	Chiron 20°  Aquarius 52' 06" R	Juno 23°  Leo 11' 03"
Vesta 05°  Cancer 16' 56"	Ceres 02°  Virgo 21' 25"	MC 21°  Cancer 53' 43"
IC 21°  Capricorn 53' 43"	ASC 16°  Libra 42' 36"	DESC 16°  Aries 42' 36"
Diana 00°  Pisces 56' 47" R	Fortuna 17°  Scorpio 06' 33"	Minerva 23°  Capricorn 59' 29" R
Bacchus 11°  Scorpio 45' 12"	Apollo 22°  Leo 38' 14"	Aesculapia 25°  Cancer 12' 03"
Hygeia 11°  Gemini 23' 51"	Panacea 20°  Sagittarius 26' 49" R	Ops 10°  Capricorn 06' 34" R
Salacia 11°  Capricorn 46' 43" R	Proserpina 29°  Pisces 50' 01" R	Cupido 27°  Leo 15' 27"
Vulcano 23°  Taurus 30' 39"	Psyche 10°  Scorpio 31' 44"	NorthNode 25°  Libra 43' 15" R

SouthNode

25° ♈ Aries 43' 15" R

Your Extended Birthchart Wheel

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Your personality is locked into your horoscope

When decoding your birth chart in astrology, begin with the idea that your personality is locked into your horoscope, and the weather (what you experience) passes you by and affects you.

Stellums and your personality

A stellum is group of three or more factors in one zodiac sign, and one house of your horoscope. A house is one of the 12 segments of the wheel. Each house belongs to a zodiac sign. This chart is suited to Modern Astrology which includes the asteroids which complete the 'family tree' of planets. That's why you will see 34 factors in your chart. If you have more than 3 of the 34 factors in any of the 12 zodiac signs, that's higher than average.

Which signs dominate your chart?

When you have a lot of placements in the same house or sign of your horoscope, this is where you will be affected most. If you are strongly Aries (First House) and have a lot of placements there then you'll be strongly affected. You may, for example, have cosmetic surgery or be asked to appear on television. Why? Because Aries rules image. You may decide to join a swimming club and transform your body if you have a lot of Aries 'weather' across your Aries stellium.

Take a look at your chart now and look for your dominant stellums, these are the three or four signs that obviously 'rule' your chart.

Planets, Asteroids, Points and Angles

Just as the signs and their houses have a meaning (they cover a life area) so too do the planets, like Jupiter – and the asteroids, points and angles. I will explore that further in a moment, but for now, look at your dominant stellums, the three or four signs which obviously 'rule' your

chart. Now that you've identified your top stelliums, here are the themes for each sign:

ARIES

Your image, appearance, reputation and title define you. You are your costume. You are your uniform or wardrobe. You are (most of all) your brand or name. If your reputation is damaged, that's a big deal. If your title or role is taken away, that hits hard. At the same time, if you are given honours, awards (letters after your name) – or become sought-after and famous by strangers – that takes you higher. Your exterior matters as much as your interior. Having 'front' helps you push harder, pioneer, be the first – and be the winner. Having a persona to use, almost as a shield or armour, helps you front up to whomever or whatever you have to take on.

You push like a ram. Your personal appearance is a big deal with this placement. It may be easy or hard for you to deal with your face, hair, shape, body and so on. What or who you see in the mirror or in a camera lens is not the real you – of course – but strangely, it triggers so much inside you. This can be a hard trip for you, or an easy one, depending on your karma – but it is what truly defines you. You truly are the image. You project an image so strongly that people assume this is the real person inside. Is it?

Patrick Moore was born on 4th March 1923 at 10.00am in Pinner, England with Aesculapia, Chiron, Minerva and Vulcano in Aries. Astrology for absolute beginners even works for people who never believed in astrology! He was all about image. One of the few astronomers who understood television and how to make it work for him. His Aries stellium was triggered by Chiron in Aries (Aries weather) just as the BBC was beginning to explore upfront presenters in academic subject areas.

TAURUS

Your money, house, apartment, precious possessions, business, charity or company defines you. If you turned your back on all that, then your alternative lifestyle defines you. Big highs and lows with your money (rich or poor) say who you are, and what you are made of. You will not budge on price and know when to hang on to what/who is most precious to you. This may be your principles. Maybe you refuse to sell out. Alternatively you could be a very successful share market player, who knows when to hold gold. We associate Taurus with precious art and sculpture, unique art pieces, immaculate gardens, land, special buildings and the rest. Ultimately you work out your own values. Maybe you like Georgian architecture, maybe you'd rather drop out and live rent-free on a commune in exchange for picking the apples. Major transits to this Taurus part of your chart usually bring keynote experiences, like giving all your money to charity – or inheriting – or even dealing with losses. You become who you are, then. This is the sign of the person who must choose early on to become a communist, capitalist, shopaholic, philanthropist or collector.

Karl Marx, born on 5th May 1818 at 2.00am in Trier, Germany has the Sun, Moon, North Node and Minerva in Taurus. Astrology even works after you are dead. Every time there is Taurus 'weather' in the heavens the subject of Marx and Marxism has a direct impact on politics. We are next due for this when Uranus goes through Taurus from May 2018, into 2019 and beyond so watch Russia and the Russian economy at this time. Karl Marx's chart will be triggered.

GEMINI

You are here to write, teach, talk, communicate with images and act as the Messenger Girl or Messenger Boy. You may develop your abilities to a very high level, so that you give the message as best you can. So – you can become very well-known for your way with words, images or ideas. You can also struggle here, so that you end up making your issues with language, literary, speech, hearing, eyesight and so on, the defining characteristic of your personality. Typically people with a lot of Gemini factors pursue one particular medium to a very high degree – like social media, or poetry, or song writing – and become defined by

the way they reach people. It is common to find authors and journalists with Gemini stelliums, and also teachers. What is really interesting about a Gemini stellium is that it throws tremendous weight onto the message itself. Why do you pass on, what you pass on? Is this your own original thought or are you a courier? If you are a courier, then why choose that particular message to onpass? Astrology for Absolute Beginners isn't that hard if you see real-life examples.

Bob Dylan was born on 24th May 1941 at 9.05pm in Duluth, Minnesota with the Sun, Mercury, Venus, Descendant, Aesculapia and Fortuna in Gemini. The zodiac sign of Gemini is associated with the words we remember. Language is a virus! Gemini rules the words that stick – the words that sum everything up. Beatles songs are perennial for this reason. You will find an awful lot of heavily Gemini types on Twitter by the way – including Sir Paul McCartney. The Gemini weather when Jupiter (growth) went through Gemini in 1965 helped boost the song writing careers of both McCartney and Dylan.

CANCER

A stellium in Cancer tells you that your family experiences, sense of home (town, region, country, nationality) and your sense of place, defines who you are. It may be easy or hard for you. You may have simple or complex family relationships with particular relatives. There may be struggles with a particular house or apartment (or finding a home to call your own) or it may be easy. Similarly, with your own town, city, village, state, county, territory and/or country – you are either going to work it very hard or have it come very easily. Either way, you can't really think about your core self without thinking about your culture and heritage. The horoscope factors involved and the patterns they make – along with the astrological weather in your life – tells you that story. The main thing is, one way or another, you have to make Cancer work for you. You must strive to get a sense of family. That 'blood is thicker than water' feeling. You need to really get your own home, or sense of home, no matter where you are. Cancer is the crab who carries her home on her back. She runs to the crab family for security when she needs it. Your culture, heritage, history, patriotism

are crucial to you. If you are not happy with the one you inherited you may find another one.

Environmentalist Bob Brown, 27th December 1944, 2.20pm, Trunkey Creek, Tasmania has the North Node, Saturn, Juno and Panacea in Cancer. I met him years ago. He is passionate about Australia and Tasmania. I don't know if Bob Brown has even glanced at his birth chart but he lives out the strongly Cancerian stellium in his horoscope. If you also have a Cancer stellium then Cancer 'weather' (even something as simple as the Sun going into Cancer in the final week of June and through the first three weeks of July) will always raise questions about your house, apartment, garden, land, region, country, nationality, roots, culture, heritage and the rest. Why? The Sun illuminates whatever it touches. It exposes, spotlights and highlights. Everything becomes more obvious as the Sun sweeps over the planets, points, asteroids and angles you have in your Cancer stellium, at that time.

LEO

Leo rules pregnancy, babies, children and young adults. It rules the lovemaking that produces them, or (following commitment) results in step-children, godchildren, nieces or nephews. We associate Leo with the pastimes that bond adults to children. Riding. Music. Sport. Board games. If you have a stellium in Leo then one way or another, the world of children becomes a crucial part of your world as well. The generation born 20 years or more after your own, becomes a core part of who you are, what you do, and who you become. It can be easy, so you have a happy career as a teacher and produce a son you love, to a person you are sexually compatible with. It can be tough, so you have to go through infertility treatment, or terminated pregnancy, or unhappy sexual experiences. One way or another, though, you have to work the Leo in your chart in order to become who you are. It may help to think of Leo types. Princess Anne has the Sun in Leo. She went through a divorce and child custody (tough, if you're royal) and is the admired patron of children's charities. The Queen Mother had the Sun in Leo. When she passed away, she was the matriarch of a strong, long line of succession.

J.K. Rowling is a Sun Leo. She is the most famous single parent on the planet and Harry Potter is her legacy to children for all time. If your Leo trip through life is hard it may be tempting to give up on courtship or heirs altogether, but to become who you are – and feel at home on the planet – you have to find a way to make this theme fit into your life.

Princess Diana born on 1st July 1961 at 7.45pm in Sandringham has Bacchus, Minerva, the North Node and Uranus in Leo. She was perhaps the most ‘royal’ of all the Royal Family, in that she was a star who also understood the people. Having a Leo stellium does not make parenthood, or substitute parenthood necessarily simple or easy. It can be a complex journey for you, if you have a lot of elements in Leo. Yet, no matter if it’s a children’s cause, charity – or reaching younger adults by teaching them – or just dealing with your own offspring – *this will be the making of you*. Princess Diana married Prince Charles when the Sun was passing through Leo.

VIRGO

It's all about the body with you, and the body defines how you live, who you are, and what happens to you. Your physical condition and state is enormously important. You can have an easy ride with Virgo or a tough one. If it's tough then you may end up using what you learn and discover to help others and 'the body' may become your career, or a part-time passion. You may be the person who struggles with back issues that are not your fault, only to stumble across Pilates and eventually end up teaching it. Of course, the body can also be an easy ride for those with Virgo stelliums. Maybe you were born to play football, and apart from the occasional foot injury, your body becomes the vehicle you use to drive your life. Perhaps your body is naturally beautiful so you can earn money on the side as a life model. Your body and its strengths and weaknesses typically powers the kind of work you do. This may be paid or unpaid work. Housework is included. Your physical strengths (like speed typing, if you're a journalist) or weaknesses (you can't stand on your feet long so you choose a desk job) describe where you head in life. The most important relationship you have in your life, for better or worse, will be the one you share

between your mind, body and spirit. This dictates how you work, how you perform duties for others, how you serve the rest of us, and how your work ethic serves you.

Alexander Fleming, born 6th August 1881 at 2.00am in Loudon, Scotland had Cupido, Salacia, Uranus and the IC in Virgo. This is a really good example of how asteroids and other objects work in a horoscope. That's a potent stellium. If you also have a dominant Virgo side then for one reason or another, your body (and bodies in general, perhaps) have a big impact on your life. You may find that a physical condition or a food intolerance, for example, affects how you live and work on a daily basis. Or you may go into medicine as a career. Why? Often it's because Virgo 'weather' brings it out.

LIBRA

Fulfilling the archetype is what astrology is all about. With a stellium in Libra, you have to 'do' Libra no matter how tough that might be.

Partnership may not be pursued or achieved the way others do it, but it has to be there for you. Without a partner, either sexual or professional, you don't really fulfil your horoscope mission. Nor do you feel complete! Whenever I get questions about love, sex and marriage exclusively from people who sound utterly desperate to be with someone, I know that I have someone who has 3+ factors in Libra and cannot possibly define himself/herself without another person. Libra is the scales. In Astrology for Absolute Beginners we work with the same visual symbols as our ancestors. The original stargazers looked up at the constellations and tried to find a way of remembering the season, in relation to the events they saw happening around them (marriage) and the people who were born then (the marrying kind). My professional ancestors probably used the symbolism of the constellations as a memory-jogging aid.

Back to Libra and her scales. You are on one side. He or she is on the other. There may be a whole series of men or women, your whole life, on those scales. Libra is about balancing totally different people – made from different stuff – in a fair, even, harmonious, symmetrical way. This takes time and work. It will be the greatest achievement of

your life. The scales also symbolise justice. If you feel a situation is unfair, wrong, unbalanced – you will do whatever it takes. Lawsuits? Sure. Taking the law into your own hands? Maybe. Again, the pursuit of fairness and justice may be easy or tough for you, but it says who you are and what you do. You have to fulfil your mission. John Lennon (Sun Libra) had three partnerships. One with Paul McCartney, who was from a lower class than he was. One with **Cynthia Lennon**, who he betrayed. One was with **Yoko Ono**, the love of his life. Every time he went through another partnership (or war, as he did with Paul and Cynthia) he became a little more of the man he was destined to be.

Marc Bolan was born on 30th September 1947 at 12.30pm in Hackney with the MC, Sun, Psyche, Neptune, Venus and Mercury in Libra. If you are looking at the whole business of decoding astrology then Marc Bolan and T-Rex (essentially a duet) is a good example of what Libra sounds like! It sounds like the power of two. The 1970s saw slow-moving outer planets going across Libra and that is when Marc Bolan came into his own. He went in and out of relationships during this time too. Libran issues like male-female equality, gender-bending, marriage, divorce, separation, duets, double-acts and the rest prevailed in the Seventies and Marc was a channel for them. What he went through in his own life advertised the issues to his adoring fans around the world and so the planet 'got' Libra. And so did he. Any time the Sun is in Libra, late September through late October, light will be shed on your former, current or potential partner.

SCORPIO

Scorpio the scorpion is about sex and death, sex and money – and also death/money. Why? Because scorpions, when they mate, perform a strange dance which means they must separate quickly afterwards. The male could sting the female to death. The female could cannibalise the male. Where does the money come into it? Because that's what sex is often all about. Marriage is about money. It's about the mortgage. It's about the last will and testament – the legacy that husbands and wives leave to each other. Beyond marriage, prostitutes are paid and so are mistresses. Even just living together means paying

a rental bond together. If the sex stops, so does the love, and the bond must be split. I mention all this, not because I am telling you anything new, but because – if you have a Scorpio stellium, then sex has a special intensity for you. It may be easy or tough but it defines who you are, what you do, and how you live your life. Why is the lovemaking for heavily Scorpio people so deep, so powerful? Because, deep down, there is always this hidden edge.

The darkest reality of Scorpio is that it can mean a husband murders his wife for her money then escapes with his mistress. The brightest Scorpio stories are about married couples who save the lives of other people via charitable work, by joining forces in fundraising. Scorpions are potent little creatures. So is this side of you. You may struggle with your Scorpio destiny or find it a cake-walk, but you must always, always look at the deepest, darkest questions which are buried (usually about money or property) whenever you get into bed with someone.

You can review Current Planetary Positions on my website to see how the planets change position. Watch Jupiter in Scorpio and its degrees/numbers in 2018 to see if it lines up with your Scorpio stuff. If so, expect a fantastic solution or opportunity which is about sex + money or just...deadly serious finance!

Woody Allen was born on 1st December 1935 at 10.55pm in Brooklyn with Apollo, Bacchus, Cupido, Diana and the IC in Scorpio. If you have ever seen at least one Woody Allen film (I have seen many) you'll see that zodiac sign in his scripts. Woody Allen is a really good example of someone who is almost a Scorpio, even though he is a Sagittarius. His films are all about sex, death and money. One of the reasons I like to use Modern Astrology, with the asteroids, is that we get to see the truth about a chart, and a person. In his personal life, too, Allen has lived out the classic Scorpio sex-and-money theme following his painful break from Mia Farrow.

SAGITTARIUS

If you have a Sagittarian stellium then you need to find out who you are by travelling or travelling in the mind. The travel may involve emigration,

sabbaticals, business trips or export. If you have more than three Sagittarius factors then travelling is either extremely tough for you and your journeys are epics – or you find that packing your bag is a way of life, and other languages and cultures are part of your identity. Your personal chart patterns and the astrological weather will tell you which path is yours. Travel involves cultural exchange, as you have to deal with foreign religious belief systems, laws, customs and language differences. Again, this will either define you in a very natural, easy way or you may struggle with it repeatedly.

One example of this might be forced family emigration when you are a child – to a country you neither understand nor like. Later on in life you get a job which involves dealing with yet another foreign country/culture you find difficult. The more you learn about your Sagittarian side, the easier life becomes. The travel in the mind? This involves the internet and the world of books. It takes in vast subjects like Buddhism or theoretical physics. It covers the business of publishing, reading, writing, teaching, mentoring, learning, guiding. Again, depending on your chart this is either so tough for you, or a breeze, yet until you really ‘do’ this on some level you may not become who you are. There are so many ways to travel or travel in the mind. What works? If something didn’t work before, maybe there’s an alternative. You must, must embrace life as a world citizen here.

Bob Geldof was born on 5th October 1951 at 2.20pm in Dublin with Chiron, Juno, the Moon and Ascendant in Sagittarius. I have met Bob Geldof and he has that broad, global view of life – he was never meant to stay in Dublin!

CAPRICORN

Capricorn is the mountain goat who climbs to the top of an extremely high, rocky, dangerous peak. The goat does this carefully and cautiously, one step at a time, hanging on for dear life – and once he gets to the top, he’ll do everything he can to stay there. This describes your path through the social ladder and also in your chosen field, career or special subject area. It may be a very tough journey for you, or a

relatively easy one. You may occasionally lose your footing – or hit one mountain top after another. At all times, though, your Capricorn stellium defines you. There is no point in falling and refusing to get back up again with this placement. If you are made redundant, sacked or can't find a job – you just have to keep going. Why? Because you would not feel quite yourself, should you just surrender and give up.

At the same time, the classic Capricorn stellium pathway is success, followed by the extreme challenge of staying there...or the challenge of finding a new mountain to climb. How far do you climb with this placement? If you have an easy chart, right to the top. The secretary who becomes the CEO is one example. The daughter of a party planner who becomes Queen, is another. The mountain, symbolically, is the class system. It's working class, middle class, upper class. It's also the rungs of government or business. The workers. Middle management. The Board of Directors. Your life path is about climbing. If it's very hard for you, then you need to find an alternative way of climbing – but climb, you must.

Understanding Astrology is partly about accepting that an overload of Capricorn does not mean straightforward or simple success – but if you climb the heights, you'll complete your soul mission.

Oprah Winfrey was born on 29th January 1954 at 7.51pm in Kosciusko, Mississippi with the North Node, Bacchus, Chiron, Psyche and Salacia in Capricorn. People who rise to the very top from (almost) nowhere are typical of the sign. Asteroids matter just as much as planets in Modern Astrology and if you are decoding your birth chart, you'll treat them as seriously as Jupiter, Saturn and the rest. Oprah's entire life and destiny was changed by the transit of the slow, outer-moving planets Uranus and Neptune through Capricorn, across her Tenth House of mission, position and ambition – as she rose to fame.

AQUARIUS

In Rome, the Aquarius was the man who transported the water which fed the communal baths. Aquarius the water-bearer, shown with his jug

in all those Seventies zodiac medallions, is our modern version of this. If you have an Aquarian stellium then you feed the group. You supply the community. This may be a struggle for you, or a walk in the park, but you have to do it. Unless you are part of a tribe of some kind, you are not whole. In Rome, and also in Britain (where the communal bath idea was exported) the baths were a place for people to mix, mingle and meet – naked – without the usual barriers of class, gender, age, power and so on. Everyone looked the same under water. Aquarius is about that noble United Nations ideal of a large group of people coming together for a common cause – people power – without politics, or other barriers, getting in the way. It is about the human family.

If your chart shows complex factors here then you may avoid groups, or get into them then have to leave, or have your life ruled in the most difficult way by a particular band, political party, cult and so on. If your chart is an easy one, then you are in a number of groups and your biggest, best achievements come from them. Friendship is the key to you as well. Friendship is as important to you as love and sex, or family ties. Again – it may be hard or easy, depending on your chart, but as The Sunnyboys say, 'I Need A Friend.' The whole point of your Aquarian stellium is to wrestle, tussle and wrangle this until you have the version of friendship and group involvement that works best for you. It is who you are!

Germaine Greer, born 29th January 1939 at 6.00am in Melbourne has the Sun, Vesta, Vulcano and Aesculapia in Aquarius. When I met Germaine Greer a few years ago we also had an interesting discussion about Diana/Artemis in her birth chart. Diana is not in Aquarius in her horoscope but she certainly plays a prominent role. Greer liberated us all, man and woman alike. Diana was the goddess who asked for freedom from marriage and motherhood – and got it. Aquarius and the Eleventh House in your chart describe how you relate to people power, through groups, and how you choose to feed that, yet remain outside it. An Aquarius in Rome supplied the water but did not always get in the baths!

PISCES

The fishes swim in opposite directions. There is a big part of you which is always confused and confusing. To others as well as to yourself! The fishes inhabit the ocean. Like the ocean fish, you are submerged, unfathomable and below the surface. Even though lovers and others close to you can sometimes enter Pisces World, they never really know where you're at, or where you're going next. You are slippery, elusive, hard to catch, hard to see. A great part of who you are and what you do with your life will be Twelfth House ruled. You may have to keep secrets. A lot! People who work for the police force, or in hospitals or prisons, often have this placement. People whose entire life is dominated by secrets covered up from the past also have Pisces stelliums.

Perhaps this is why you can be confusing for others. Part of you is always under the radar. There is nothing open, upfront, real, ordinary, normal or grounded about Pisces. Along with secrets, which dominate your life, there is also a big emphasis on operating behind the scenes. No credit. No recognition. No acknowledgement. You may be 'behind' someone or something which grabs all the focus, even though you power the whole thing. This is a major part of your life path, no matter if it is easy or hard. Finally, if you have a Pisces stellium, then there is a third journey to take. It involves your unconscious mind, which Carl Jung explored so deeply. You might also call this your astral body, your aura, your chakras, your soul, your essence, your spirit or your etheric body. It is that part of you which still exists after they knock you out with anaesthetic for an operation. It is that part of you which floats above your physical body and can go places when you dream or meditate, or when you communicate with the spirit world – or when you cross time and space to peer into the future.

If you have a Pisces stellium, one or all of these three paths is how you define yourself and your life, no matter if the journey is difficult or easy. The more you get to know your own soul, though, the easier the trip will be. Strongly Pisces types need a diary or journal to take the contents of their head out – and onto paper, where they can view their hunches, guesswork, fantasies and visions in the clear light of day. Doing this

helps a strongly Pisces person ‘keep it real’ which is what they need, most of all.

Jeane Dixon was born on 5th January 1904 at 2.00pm in Medford, Wisconsin with Apollo, Diana, Vulcano and Jupiter in Pisces. Dixon became famous with her predictions for John F. Kennedy. Most professional psychics I know have a Pisces stellium. Why do psychics need so much peace, quiet and solitude? Often, a Pisces cluster in their Twelfth House, which is all about hibernation or meditation. Are you strongly Pisces? You thrive alone. You cross the space/time boundaries so you can predict the future but you also cross boundaries with people, so you can ‘read’ them psychically. Are you aware of this? When you have strong Pisces ‘weather’ as you are now experiencing in the early 21st century, you may find that being alone, using Tarot cards, turning to mediumship and the rest are exaggerated in your life.

Predicting the future

Heavenly bodies like the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Psyche and the rest travel through the 12 signs of the zodiac on a regular basis and we see patterns.

I can see this using Solar Fire software and some of the information is also in a big, fat book called an Ephemeris. I read my own Ephemeris front to back, and back to front, flicking from 1900 to 2050. Zane Stein from Solar Fire helped me create my own version of an Ephemeris using asteroids and other objects of Modern Astrology, because the old planets are no longer enough for a modern world.

Today we work with far more heavenly bodies, as the world has become more complex – and astronomers have found new objects.

As they travel or transit, the heavenly bodies slip into signs which trigger your own chart. The more rare the patterns, the bigger the story.

Conjunctions occur when two horoscope factors – the one that travels and the one you were born with – are at exactly the same degree, or number, of the same sign are striking.

Conjunctions in any zodiac sign/house where you have a stellium (something that rules you and your life) reshape your destiny.

Let's say you were born with a lot of factors in Capricorn and the Tenth House – among them, the Sun at 15 Capricorn. Then, travelling/transiting Pluto reaches 15 Capricorn in a pattern with Venus at 15 Cancer, that's unusual! It's a conjunction and an opposition at the same time. That's going to be big for you.

Capricorn rules your career, social status and success. That's the 'what' of the prediction. The 'why' and 'how' comes down to the meaning of whatever horoscope factors you have in that sign – and the 'weather' created by the factors travelling through. Put them together and you have a prediction. Decoding astrology is about making your first accurate prediction for yourself, using your favourite journal or diary, and that can be the turning point. Try it.

There are clusters or stelliums, when heavenly bodies or points gather in large numbers in just one sign, like a swarm of bees. That's when you can expect a massive buzz in just one area of your life.

You can always check the position of the Heavenly Bodies on my website using the free Current Planetary Positions page. On this page you can watch each planet, asteroid and so on – prepare to enter a new zodiac sign. Each ingress will show you how the action in your life just moved.

When you were born and they cut the umbilical cord, that moving pattern of heavenly bodies in the horoscope was caught in time. In astrology we believe it was caught inside you. That's your personality. It's also your destiny.

How does your destiny unfold? When the 34 heavenly bodies and points keep on moving, year by year, but eventually make rare, unusual patterns together which exactly hit your chart. Then you get a crossroads. A major event. One that makes you, who you are. New jobs are taken up. Relationships begin. Children are born. Big stuff doesn't happen every week, but when it does, destiny is reshaped.

If you have The Sun at 1 Aries and Moon at 1 Aries both travelling through and conjuncting your Mercury at 1 Aries, and Aries is one of your dominant signs – then you need to read about the Sun and Moon (the passing effects) but also Mercury, because that's the part of you being triggered. By understanding what Aries rules (above) you get to see the area of life affected. This is going to be a major story about image for you, if you have this pattern being triggered. Maybe it's your own website making a debut because Aries is about self-promotion.

Next we will look at what is being triggered in your chart, and what is triggering it! When you put these together you can make your own prediction. Using a notebook or journal you can get used to doing this until you become your own pro astrologer.

What does each planet and heavenly body represent?

THE SUN

Highlights what it touches, like a spotlight. It illuminates every detail like the sun hitting a tree branch. It exposes what was not seen before – like sunlight filtering into the entrance of a cave. It draws attention. It makes people look. This can mean admiration and wonder from others, or if things are not so great, you can feel exposed. You can feel as if the area of your life (ruled by the sign the Sun is passing through) is harshly lit. In your birth chart the Sun is where you shine, or have the most work to do, if you're not worthy of admiration there. In Astrology for Absolute Beginners you can glow, glitter, radiate and the rest, on your Solar Return – if you've 'done' your Sun right. Your Solar Return is your birthday (Many Happy Returns if it is your birthday as you read this).

Let's say you were born with the Sun at 20 Gemini. When the Sun moves around to 20 Gemini in June, you have your Solar Return. If you've been working on your Sun in Gemini in the Third House you'll get admiration for a website or blog then, or some other communication project.

THE MOON

The Moon is associated with the menstrual period as it takes around one month to repeat itself, just like a woman's menstrual cycle. It is possible that astrology was actually born from the first Moon observations, as it was so important for the tribe to know when a woman would have her period – when she was fertile – when a baby might be born – and so on. We link the Moon to women and mothers. The Moon takes about two days to go through a sign. Men or women who 'mother', care for, nurture and protect all the things related to that sign, play a bigger part then. When the Moon goes through Virgo, for example, doctors, surgeons and nurses make the news – they care for the body, which Virgo rules.

If there is also a New Moon, Full Moon or Eclipse then the stakes go up, in terms of how important that Moon pattern will be. A New Moon is a new beginning. The birth of something new. Sometimes the birth of someone new. Things kick off, then A Full Moon is an inner conflict or an external challenge to overcome. Full Moons always coincided with battles in history because armies moved in stealth, by night, using the Full Moon light to guide them. D-Day is the most famous example of this. A Full Moon is always a D-Day moment for you or others, in relation to the sign the Full Moon is passing through. It's mixed feelings. Intense emotion. It's now or never! Avoid a Full Moon for anything major in your life because either you or those around you will be internally conflicted. Yet sometimes – there is no choice – you must press ahead on a Full Moon, just as the allies did, to liberate France.

What about eclipses? They blot out what should be seen. They coincide with cover-ups. Nothing is clear or known, as it should be. It takes the world a while to catch up with itself, so allow one day before, and one day after, the eclipse (which in astrology we time for London). The most famous eclipse of the 20th century preceded the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Every American saw it, but nobody saw an unknown man called Lee Harvey Oswald step down from his job, in order to move on to Texas, the day the eclipse happened.

Let's look at D-Day again. It fell on a Full Moon in June. The Sun was in Gemini, the sign which rules the radio – and short journeys. The D-Day mission was announced in code on radio to the French Resistance. (Gemini also rules codes).

Gemini rules short journeys too, like the crossing from England to France by boat. The Sun – the spotlight – was on the allies crossing the English Channel but also on coded messages to Paris radio.

What about the Moon? That was in Sagittarius, right opposite Gemini. Sagittarius rules foreigners and foreign countries. The inner conflict for the whole world on D-Day was about fighting and possibly dying – and saving territory, lives, campaigns overseas. Everyone involved was playing mother – protecting, nurturing, defending, caring for – their families, and homes. Even Churchill was playing mother that day. He was a Sagittarian. This is how a Full Moon works.

MERCURY

Mercury is the Roman messenger of the Gods who had winged sandals and a winged helmet, so he could fly from one place to another with his news. Today we associate Mercury with FedEx packages on international flights. The fastest 'flight' of all is the whooshing sound of an e-mail, or text message on your phone, which he also rules. Mercury always brings news. That news changes everything. In your birth chart, Mercury by sign and house shows you the area of life where you have to talk, have to write, have a message, have to speak up. I am sure that even if you are starting out in astrology you also know about Mercury

Retrograde, which we'll come to next. In any discussion of astrology for Absolute Beginners he tends to come up – backwards!

MERCURY RETROGRADE

Three times a year, Mercury is Retrograde. The messages go backwards or are not delivered. Sometimes they are retracted. Thus, we associate this cycle with multimedia, internet and publishing problems. It is linked to computers, fax machines and couriers. Google famously lost a lot of money on a printing error during Mercury Retrograde. Their shares were hit hard. They should have used an astrologer. No stargazer would ever let you print your annual report on Mercury Retrograde!

It is important to count the shadows at both ends of the cycle. I always have that information on this website, usually several months before the cycle begins. That way you can plan ahead. Not every astrologer will tell you about the shadow. Be careful. Google often misinforms us by giving the wrong dates, which ignore the shadow. Major chaos often comes right at the post-shadow period.

If you were born with Mercury Retrograde then every time this is exactly triggered in your chart, allow for delays, reversals or changes with your discussions or paperwork in relation to the sign/house Mercury occupies in your chart. If you were born with Mercury Retrograde in the Fourth House then don't buy property when this placement in your chart is triggered. There will be delays, changes or even a reversal.

VENUS

Venus was the Roman goddess of love, who was unfaithful to her husband Vulcan (also known as Vulcanus) and had sex with Mars. There are many famous paintings depicting this. She was beautiful (which is why people still crowd around the Venus de Milo statue at The Louvre in Paris to admire her). She was also vain. She is usually shown with a mirror. She was jealous. She loathed Psyche, a woman who was said to rival her own beauty. She plotted against her but was defeated. Her son is Cupid, also known as Cupido, who makes people fall in love with his bow and arrow.

When Venus is involved in a pattern there will usually be a complex relationship (or two or three, entwined). It is often romantic or sexual, but can be strictly business – yet be passionate. Venus raises questions like – ‘How much do you love me/this/him/them/her?’ which shows us who and what we’re passionate about. Sometimes you’ll get a woman acting out Venus, in relation to the area of life ruled by the sign she is in. So, if Venus is passing through Cancer and the Fourth House, you might have a flatmate move into your house who is gorgeous, vain and jealous of other women.

What is her function? To show every single person in the house, including you, who they love (or what they love) and what they feel most strongly about. For better or worse, you find out. Venus in your chart shows the area of life where you are most seductive, flirtatious, jealous, gorgeous and also – arouse the most passion. Venus in Virgo in the Sixth House shows you do this at work. Your job is going to be all about the office romances.

VULCAN

Vulcan, also known as Vulcanus, is the blacksmith who was married to Venus. He symbolises strong, silent men with self-control who have tremendous power as a result of their steely resolve. His wife Venus was caught in bed with Mars. He found them. He didn’t take action. Most of the art about Vulcan shows him gripping a table, muscles taut, willing himself not to respond. He was controlling his fury but also, perhaps, controlling his desire for his wife.

Vulcan transits often reveal such men in your midst. The sign and house Vulcan is in, shows you the ‘where.’ The issue is always the same. How can human impulses like anger and longing – big emotions or physical needs – be suppressed? How does that give one the upper hand, higher moral ground or advantage?

Vulcan is the cowboy who clenches his fists and walks away from a fight. In your chart natively, he shows where you must deal with raw emotional episodes in your life, but handle them expertly. Vulcan’s big trick with Venus and Mars was to throw a net over them. They were

caught there, half-naked, and all the gods came to laugh at them. Had Vulcan hit Mars he might have been killed, because Mars was the Roman God of War. Vulcan has that same masculinity and muscle as Mars but he's sharper. As a blacksmith he worked with fire and steel. We associate Vulcan with controlled use of fiery feelings. He plays a big part in the trade union movement in Britain.

CUPID

Cupid, also known as Cupido, is the son of Venus. When he travels through your chart he shows short-term desire. It lasts as long as an arrow wound takes to heal. Weeks or months. It can be sexual or romantic, of course, but it can also be sensual If Cupido goes through Taurus and the Second House of precious possessions, you may lust after a piece of jewellery or long for an expensive jar of caviar. Whatever desires, longings or passions come up on this cycle usually begin with a 'ping' like Cupid's arrow going into flesh!

In your birth chart Cupid shows where you are most vulnerable to desire, but also where you arouse it in other people. Cupid shot himself with his own arrow before he fell in love with Psyche, but he also shot arrows into other people. If you have Cupid in Scorpio in the Eighth House then money is where you do this. You may be a very, very good stockbroker/shopaholic. Tis not a bad idea to work with: A visual image of Cupid firing his arrow into the New York Stock Exchange, or the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, gives you a strong picture of how he works

PSYCHE

Psyche was Cupid's wife. Before she married him she was subjected to all sorts of tests and trials by Venus. Psyche was beautiful. The most 'beautiful' people or situations turn up in your life when she is travelling through. When Psyche goes through Gemini and your Third House, the internet (which Gemini rules) may be full of gorgeous projects for you, or attractive faces. The big story about Psyche transits is that something or someone is about to 'live forever' (to quote Oasis) in one

area of your life. Psyche was made immortal. What or who comes out of this transit will last. It will last because it has survived tests and trials – which you will see now – and thus become immortalised. When Psyche goes through Capricorn and the Tenth House then your work project may be lovely, and so might the person involved – yet it faces challenges. It goes on to live forever. It becomes a timeless classic within your industry. In beginners terms , it can help to look at paintings of Psyche. There is one hanging in The Wallace Collection in London that I particularly love.

If you had Psyche in Capricorn in your career zone and you worked in the biscuit, cake or cookie industry then such a cycle might see the invention of the Tim Tam in Australia, the Jaffa Cake in England or the Twinkie in America. The food that lives forever. That's just one example! More seriously, Psyche by sign and house shows you obituary elements.

In your own chart Psyche shows where you are immortalised. When people talk about you at your funeral, they will usually talk about the area of life where your Psyche is placed. This is why I always want people to 'do' their Psyche sign and house, no matter how hard it is. It is a beautiful and perennial part of you.

MARS

The Roman God of War. Crash, bash, clash, wallop. Unless you worked in the military or know people who do, you are not going to hit Operation Desert Storm on this cycle. You will, however, attract people, organisations and situations which are highly assertive, to the point of aggression. Mars is linked to the colour red – the colour of blood, and also the colour your face turns when you are angry. My predecessor at *The Australian Women's Weekly*, astrologer Richard Sterling, would warn against risking speeding fines around red cars on Mars transits. It happens!

What does Mars do for you? It makes you speed up. It heats up emotions (we also associate red faces with raised body temperature and perspiration) You need to see what else is happening to figure out

if it's time to fight back, push hard or push forward – or develop a cunning plan like Baldrick in Blackadder. Fight or strategise? Now or later? Mars in your birth chart shows where you are Action Woman or Action Man. It's where you are most vulnerable to rage. It's also where anger management is most essential.

It's a smart idea to work off physical frustration or adrenaline with exercise or yoga, whenever Mars in your chart is triggered. Otherwise you may find yourself walking into a McDonalds and trying to strangle Ronald McDonald and push him off his bench. Mars is a symbol for those cocky, pushy, cocksure men who feel the urge – and do it anyway. A very particular kind of sexual relationship is shown, sometimes, by Mars in the birth chart but also Mars by transit. Typically Mars in the Fifth (sex) and Seventh (relationship) houses natively, or by transit, shows up as a retelling of the Mars and Venus story, sooner or later. She was married. He didn't care. Decoding your birth chart is about these kinds of myths.

JUPITER

The greatest and best of all Gods in Ancient Rome and the favourite of every astrologer, except some stargazers who complain he's over-rated and 'nothing happened on my Jupiter transit.' If you use Jupiter and work with him, he will reward you. He rules opportunity and expansion. He rules people and organisations who were born lucky, or feel lucky, so they give – and go on giving. These individuals or entities never want anything in return. It's just in their nature to produce happy endings and resolutions, rather like the Jupiter of Roman mythology, who fixed even the most ghastly problems with clever tricks. When people were in trouble they turned to Jupiter to sort everything out. He always did so in a way that was meticulously fair and ended in win-win. Jupiter rules acorns and oak trees. You get acorns in relation to the sign/house Jupiter is passing through when he visits. If you nurture, water, love and protect the acorns they will go into mighty oak trees and if other factors conspire, you may end up with a whole plantation and an award-winning oak table company. In your birth chart Jupiter shows where

you were born lucky. Where you are most generous and giving. Even when times are hard, your Jupiter will protect you.

If you have Jupiter in Scorpio in the Eighth House of money and property, you can go broke one year because nobody ever pays you – yet your family and friends will save you. What you do to save money, when you are desperately broke, will ultimately make you rich, years later. That's how Jupiter rolls. Jupiter is undoubtedly one of the most famous planets in astrology and stargazers spend a great deal of time interpreting him. In Modern Astrology we know he's just part of a big family and he is no more important than his wife or children (you can read more about Juno, his wife, below – in this continuing look at decoding your birth chart).

JUNO

Wife of Jupiter. She symbolises commitments and pledges – life-changing promises. When decoding your birth chart, remember Juno is best remembered as a couple of birds. Peacock and pea hen. She was married to a difficult god. Why? Because Jupiter was the admired, superstar peacock and Juno was the dull pea hen. Her bird is the peacock. The commitment you make on a Juno cycle is never going to be easy and there will be a total loss of freedom, yet one gains security, stability and definite advantages. Only you can choose. Do you marry this, or do you walk away? In modern life you see Juno women all the time. They want to get married, desperately, so they can have a lovely home and children, and live off their husbands. Their husbands are the superstars and they are the pea hens. It's a very powerful and enduring archetype and it makes a lot of women very happy! It's a Kate Middleton trip. Your husband is the King and you are the pea hen with the baby chicks. As Juno travels through, there is the option of commitment according to the sign/house she affects. If she's moving through Aquarius and your Eleventh House, you may be asked to 'marry' a group of people, like a football team or an orchestra. A contract is produced. You will have prestige and security from 'marrying' this group – yet you will lose your freedom as the people involved will be very demanding. Your choice!

In your birth chart, Juno shows where you commit and wed yourself to anything. When Juno is triggered by travelling or transiting factors, boom, the paperwork arrives. Elizabeth Taylor had a Juno opposition – exact. She didn't know if she wanted to be married to Richard Burton or not, so she did it a few times. You can use software like Stephanie Johnson's amazing Solar Fire program, to see Elizabeth Taylor's chart. Juno will stand out!

First born of Jupiter's daughters. She rules people who spin the wheel of fate and fortune without realising what they are doing. Fortuna is blindfolded. Highs becomes lows when she appears. Lows become highs. Nobody knows the impact they are having, but they spin the wheel of fortune for you – in relation to the sign/house where you are having the cycle.

You have to be philosophical about life with Fortuna. On the way up, you are already on the way down at some point. On the way down, you just know you're ultimately going to go up again. It's all very baffling. But...that's life. In your birth chart, Fortuna is where you blindly spin the wheel of fate and fortune for other people without knowing what you are doing. The sign and house show you where you steer the ship of fate for others.

FORTUNA

Fortuna was Jupiter's first-born daughter. She is symbolised by the Wheel of Fortune in the Tarot. She is an ancient image of fickle fate and fortune. Shakespeare references her in his plays. In your horoscope, when Fortuna passes through (or transits) that area of your life, shown by the zodiac sign she is in – and the house affected – becomes random. Every high is followed by a low – is followed by a high! What goes around, spins around. Fortuna was always shown blindfolded in paintings, engravings and sculpture. She did not know what she influenced. It helps to be philosophical and keep your sense of humour with Fortuna. Just when you're on top, you could be on your way down – and usually are – because there is only one direction after you've hit the heights. Equally, when you are at rock bottom, you cannot possibly go any lower, so there is only one way – and that is up. Then the whole

giddy game begins again. In your birth chart by sign and house Fortuna will show where you blindly ‘spin’ the wheel of fortune for other people without being conscious of what you are doing. You will be the ‘randomiser’ for others in this zone of your chart. You will affect their fate – perhaps in a way that changes their lives forever.

DIANA

Jupiter’s independent daughter. She did not want to be married or have children so she begged her father to set her free. She is the huntress, always seen with a greyhound or spaniel, a bow and arrow and one foot off the ground. She ran with female nymphs, swam naked or semi-naked with them, and occasionally had sex with men. Endymion was one. He was asleep when she visited him.

Actaeon accidentally saw her naked. She turned him into a stag and his own dogs ripped him apart. Diana is fiercely protective of her own independence. When Diana goes through your chart expect feminists and women with dogs, if the cycle is literal. If it’s symbolic then her spirit will have an impact. Massive issues about being free, independent and released from commitment will come up for you. In your birth chart, Diana shows where you demand space.

If you have Diana in the Twelfth House then you want freedom to pursue your secret life in private and you won’t want to be tied down with it, either. Decoding your birth chart is easier once you also know the myth about this goddess.

MINERVA

Third of Jupiter’s daughters. Born fully formed from his brain, she is a symbol of tremendous wisdom and artful cleverness. Minerva beat Neptune in a contest to give humanity the greatest gift. He produced the horse – and everyone thought he had won. She produced an olive. Minerva won because the horse could be used in war, a curse on humanity. The olive, however, could be used in Spaghetti Bolognese and face cream.

By transit she often brings clever women – academics or professionals – or wise old owls. Her bird is the owl. Watch for it now as the synchronicity rule of astrology means, owls can sometimes turn up. Minerva is well known to Harry Potter fans. J.K.Rowling is known to have cast at least one horoscope in her life. She knows what she's doing!

In your birth chart Minerva shows where you just 'know' how to do things. People come to you here for advice. If you have Minerva in Aries in the First House then you know about wardrobes and accessories and may run become a stylist for others. When Minerva transits your chart, the sign/house she occupies shows you where to ask questions, seek advice and pursue wise old owls who can give you exactly the right answer. Always find Minerva Avenue if you have questions.

BACCHUS

Bacchus is Jupiter's son. He shows pure pleasure, which is very underrated in astrology, where everyone worries about Saturn all the time. People can devote their whole lives to food, sex, drugs and alcohol! He's always shown with leopard-skin and a bunch of grapes – leopard skin underwear and vintage wine. By transit he shows hedonists and the pleasure principle, passing through your life.

Natally (in your natal chart or birth chart) he shows where you have a good time, all the time (to quote Spinal Tap). Decoding your birth chart is really about seeing how Ancient Rome myths about Bacchus (feasts, clad only in leopard skin) actually joins up with the year they found Bacchus the asteroid in 1977. The year that punk rock broke.

APOLLO

Jupiter's superstar son. He is a leader, because he is multi-talented and formidable so people respect him enough to follow him. He could be cruel and ruthless, the Roman myth tells us. You didn't mess with

Apollo. At the same time, Apollo was worshipped like a rock star. Roman teenagers used to style their hair like his. When Apollo travels through, leader types turn up.

In your birth chart he shows where you are an impressive figure to others and are often imitated. You need to know your Apollo sign and house just as much as you need to know your Jupiter. This is where you do not suffer fools gladly but also where you astound and amaze us all. When Apollo transits your chart, there is a leading organisation or a born leader to follow, in relation to the sign/house where he is.

CHIRON

Found in 1977, as they were developing Louise Brown, the first test-tube baby, who would be born the following year. This was also the year that the Sex Pistols were at Number One with *God Save the Queen* during Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee. Chiron shows jaws on the floor. Audacity. Temerity. Daring. It's what you get away with (or others get away with) that should not or could not happen. Yet it does! And everything changes forever.

Charles Kowal who found Chiron was not a famous astronomer. He was not 'supposed' to discover him. Kowal overturned the rules on the discovery of heavenly bodies. Suddenly it was no longer the province of the experienced professionals. Chiron sometimes turns up in the field of medicine, surgery and healing as outrageous cures, discoveries or breakthroughs which shock, stun and amaze people. He was a centaur who did many things in Roman myth, and herbal medicine was one of his specialities. He is most famous as a teacher (our best surviving image of him shows him teaching Achilles) and when he goes through your chart you will learn (by sign and house) what you can get away with these days. In your birth chart he shows where you are a maverick. A gadfly. A heretic.

This is how the late, great astrologer Dennis Elwell described him. Chiron is that part of you which produces OMG reactions, but this is where you will move the goalposts. When decoding your birth chart, we

look at any painting or sculpture of a centaur to understand why Chiron is about what could not, should not, must not – exist – but does. Half man, half horse. You'll believe an elephant can fly.

AESCALAPIA

Also known as Aesculapius. The most famous and respected healer in Roman mythology but also Roman life. They had healing temples named after him, like the hospitals we have today. Aesculapia is named in the Hippocratic Oath taken by the medical profession. This was the god you prayed to if you wanted a miracle cure.

People were healed often enough, that the Romans built one such temple after another and exported their god (always seen with a snake wrapped around a rod) to England. By transit, as he travels through, Aesculapia – sometimes known as Aesculapius – shows recovery and resurrection. Something or someone will come back from the brink. It will make a miraculous turnaround and be pulled back even when you or others have given up. In your birth chart by sign and house, this asteroid shows where you can revive situations, people, projects – whatever – and perform miracles.

Aesculapius in Leo in your Fifth House could easily see you working with seriously ill children in poor countries who everybody has given up on – or abandoned – and raising money so that their lives are saved. By the same token it guarantees that you can always breathe new life into a dead or dying love affair.

HYGIEA

Sometimes spelled Hygeia, she is the daughter of Aesculapius and is always seen with a snake (like his snake) and a bowl. Why is the snake so big with these two healers? Because the Romans were psychic. They chose a symbol for this father-daughter team of healers, which looks just like the famous DNA spiral symbol that we know from modern medical science. The 'snake' of the Kundalini energy in the

Indian chakra system is also significant, here. It looks strangely like the serpent held by Hygiea and her father.

When she transits or travels through, Hygiea brings people, organisations and situations which emphasise protection. Her motto is 'Prevention is better than cure.' Hygiea is about acting now, to safeguard against potential future problems. You can 'immunise' or 'inoculate' when she arrives. If you have Hygiea going through Libra and your Seventh House then you can insure against a messy divorce by having a pre-nuptial with your future husband.

In your birth chart, Hygiea by sign and house shows where you can be cleverly pre-emptive. Sure, it may never happen, but you need to know it won't! She was found and named by astronomers in the year of a major global cholera outbreak. Cholera can be avoided if people practise preventative hygiene. Her name echoes that. Now, what about her sister, Panacea? Decoding your birth chart is about knowing the astrological family tree too.

PANACEA

The Romans saw every single possible human story in their healing temples, set up in honour of Aesculapia. Panacea is his other daughter. Hygiea is her sister. Every kind of medical and moral issue comes up with Panacea. If someone is dying from an incurable disease, is euthanasia right? If someone wants to terminate an unwanted pregnancy – is that correct? In modern life we have similar dilemmas. If someone is given a placebo sugar pill by a doctor (a panacea) and lied to – but it fixes the problem, is that wrong? This asteroid shows you where the remedy, repair work, solution or answer is – often with a very deep issue. It also immediately raises ethical and moral questions. Marijuana is still illegal in many parts of the world but if it helps cancer symptoms is that wrong?

When Panacea travels or transits, there are answers about that particular area of life being triggered (great!) but massive questions about black, white and grey moral areas. As you might suspect, it works

the same natively. This is where you can fix things, but also where you have big ethical questions to answer. The sign and house of Panacea tells you where you can save people, projects, organisations or situations but only you can decide if it is right or wrong to do so.

SATURN

Saturn brings people or organisations – sometimes governments, sometimes just individuals – who feel cursed and pursue self-sabotaging ways of protecting themselves, from that which they fear. These people, groups or organisations have little methods and strategies to make themselves feel safe, because they feel so terrified by their fate. Ironically, it's these methods they employ, which usually trip them up.

Whenever you meet Saturn, you meet paranoia. As a rule of thumb, be really hip to the people, organisations or situations which pop up – in relation to that house of your horoscope – when this cycle begins. You will soon see the fear. If Saturn is going into Capricorn and your Tenth House, for example, don't just walk blindly into a new job. Grill people! Interrogate them. Find out what others might tell you, or know. Read up on the realities. What and who are you actually up for, in this cycle? Can you avoid Saturn? Not if you want to have a life. He is often there with the most tempting, desirable, irresistible people, projects, places, situations.

You long to emigrate to New Zealand and you have Saturn going through Sagittarius and your Ninth House. They let you in. It's a dreadful obstacle course for you. Yet – you learn, you find out more, you do your research, you see why the universe might be putting you through this – and ultimately you make a wise decision. No matter how experienced you think you might be, with the area of life affected by Saturn's transit – you know nothing. Assume you know nothing and ask hard questions. Don't guess or assume. If your alarm bell goes on when this cycle begins, then listen to it and follow up. Read widely. Look at internet forums for street wisdom. Sometimes Saturn doesn't really kick in, until you are a few months into the cycle. In your chart

Saturn shows where you are cursed. It shows where you have all kinds of methods, strategies and defence mechanisms to help you avoid what you fear. Saturn by sign and house shows where you are paranoid and perhaps phobic. Your first Saturn Return around age 29 usually shows you that you will be fine, in the end.

By transit, Saturn travelling through will bring you people, organisations or situations which feel heavy. They feel weighty. Hard work. Those concerned may be 'cursed' in some way. They may have had bad luck in their lives, or be loaded down with problems. You need to know what you are getting, for what you are giving. You need to know what price is required and if you think it is worth paying, to be in the situation. It always helps to speak to others who have been through the same or a similar situation before you, because so many people will also have had this Saturn pattern before you. Decoding your birth chart is about learning from the past to help the future.

OPS

The wife of Saturn. She is just as important as him, when she passes through. Ops has her name hidden in the word 'optimism' and positive, practical people and organisations will arrive now, to fix things. Remember she is also the mother of Jupiter, who is also associated with hope. No matter how tough things are, Ops turns the story around. It's never easy, yet it works. The area of life where you find Ops travelling through is where the long, hard road to turnaround begins.

Watch Ops work in your chart. She's utterly dependable. Sometimes savvy, determined women turn up now, too. In your own chart, Ops by sign and house shows you where you were born to find remedies and carry them out. It usually shows the problems too – but there are always answers. This is where you roll up your sleeves, set your jaw and get to work. Ops is very can-do. By sign and house she reveals the repeated challenges of life but also the answers.

VESTA

The daughter of Saturn. She is the goddess who ruled the Temple of the Vestales in Rome. The Vestal Virgins worshipped her. These women had a male ultimate boss – the Pontifex Maximus. If they were found having sex with a male, he was put to death and she was buried alive. Nice! Vesta shows gender politics when she passes through. One male, two or more females. Sometimes these can be children. I once gave a reading to a person at The Astrological Lodge of London whose small, baby son was creating massive politics in his all-female, single-parent family. The women were competing with each other to have him to themselves. Vesta in your birth chart shows one male/multiple female situations where the golden rule is, get some feminism. In other words, be you male or female, do not allow women to compete with other in a toxic way (the harem atmosphere in the temple can be poisonous) in order to win him/please him/get him.

If you are male don't be Hugh Hefner. This is not 1973. Vesta turns up in work situations where there is sexism so you have one male boss and two or more female employees, all trying to be his favourite. What a waste of time and energy. Men who have exclusively daughters can find themselves in Vesta World and not want to be there. Be hip to the archetype of female competition and rivalry, fellas. A sense of humour and sensitivity to the potential for games being played, can often fix things. Do not succumb to male ego and let women dance around you. In Astrology for Absolute Beginners we find a lot of paintings about the Vestal Virgins (the Vestales) to help us see the full impact of an all-female temple! Then there are the paintings of virgins alone. The women who had to consider their own sexuality, femininity and power, away from their 'sisters' in the temple.

I had a client whose former boyfriend got someone pregnant while Vesta was in Leo and her Fifth House of children. They had been together for years and he wanted her to be there for him, during this unplanned pregnancy.

One look at Vesta in her horoscope that day and she ran screaming out of the room. He wanted to be the Pontifex Maximus and have his ex

and his new sexual partner to be the Vestal Virgins. He wanted the two women to dance, dance, dance. It works the other way. Vesta can produce manipulative, scheming women who plot and plan to use men, to bring each other down using him as the person in the middle. I am sure that in Ancient Rome the Vestal Virgins also set up poor, innocent men for death, as the hapless lovers of their 'pure' temple sisters.

It may help to remember Vesta's father is Saturn. The paranoid one! She inherits fear from him. Vesta produces insecurity. Being open about the gender imbalance situation – talking about it frankly – laughing about it – and sidestepping the Temple atmosphere of secrecy is useful. If you really want to find out about Vesta go and look at the horoscopes of King Henry VIII and Prince Andrew. The cover of the famous Jimi Hendrix album *Electric Ladyland*, shows a typical Vesta scenario. Lots of lovely ladies and just one Jimi to go around.

URANUS

Uranus is a symbol of freedom, independence, revolution and radical change. When he passes through your chart, for many years at a time, that area of your life (shown by sign and house) will never be the same, and you will be liberated from old, stuck, stale ways of living. Uranus often brings little shocks or an electrical atmosphere. They found him in the same year they made the discovery that would ultimately lead to the battery. In myth, Uranus is the father of two kinds of lightning. Sheet lightning and forked lightning. When he transits your chart, there's a zap factor.

Natally, in your natal (birth) chart, he shows where you act as a catalyst for a revolution. By transit (travelling) he is the someone/something that brings change. If you were around in 1969 when they put the pill on sale, then the arrival of Uranus in Virgo travelling through your chart altered things from the outside. Uranus (change) in Virgo (the body) transformed your fertility, or your lover's fertility, for the rest of time.

Placed in your birth horoscope – your natal chart – Uranus shows that part of you which is a trigger for revolutionary events and massive changes – without meaning to do it. You accidentally invent, create and

innovate here! If you were born with Uranus in Virgo, then you are the unwitting catalyst for a revolution with the body, which has been taking place for decades. Why? Because your body does not respond well to old medicine from the 19th and 20th centuries. Your body is better suited to radical new options – like particular ways of eating, or exercising, or meditating, or healing. Your food allergies and intolerances, tell you so. Because regular doctors did not work for you, you accidentally invented a whole new way to be healthy.

Travelling Uranus always shows a massive, exciting, confronting (to traditional types) revolution in one area of your life, which will alter everything forever.

I realise that Uranus can be a confused and confusing symbol sometimes. The reason for this is very simple. He is different in your birth chart, to the way he is, when he travels or transits over a sign. When decoding your birth chart, it helps to remember that in your natal or birth chart, he is a symbol of your need to produce, create and invent. You will do this, in relation to the sign and house of Uranus, no matter what. You might do it accidentally. (Uranus accidentally gave birth to Venus when his penis and testicles were cut off and thrown in the sea).

You might also ‘birth’ the new, the different (and sometimes the remarkable) by deliberately conceiving it – but then rejecting it. Somehow, your Uranian inventions and creations take on a life of their own anyway. What about Uranus by transit? In Astrology for Absolute Beginners it is important to note that he is a process, when he passes through. This process will be a revolution. It will involve rejection. It will be radical. It will be liberating. In this respect Uranus will happen ‘to’ you and you will see others acting out the story. For the few years that Uranus passes through a sign and house of your chart, this is where you will find ‘new, new, new’.

When Uranus passed through Aries as I was researching this story on Astrology for Absolute Beginners, we saw the invention of the Selfie and the Selfie Stick. Technology made it happen. Aries rules self-promotion and self-interest. People have said how self-obsessed we are

in the modern age. That is a translation of ‘Uranus in Aries’ New ways to be a narcissist. Aries is neither good nor bad in astrology but is associated with Me Me Me.

Back to Uranus again and its association with rebellion, revolution and rejection. In your birth chart (natal chart) by sign and house, Uranus will show you where you find yourself on the receiving end of this! You will be rebelled against here. You will be rejected here, but also do some rejecting, yourself. It’s a lifelong pattern. It’s like the Americans throwing out the British in 1781. If you have any sense, you’ll go with whatever happens during a Uranus transit. Applaud the revolution. In return you get independence and a new beginning. A new world.

Leo people like me have been experiencing Uranus in their Ninth House (Solar House method) for many years. I am sure you know that Sun Signs and Solar House forecasting shows the headlines of your life. It’s the obvious, public stuff, because the Sun shines a spotlight on us.

Every Leo has had Uranus in the Ninth House of travel, foreign people and places, emigration, publishing, academia and the worldwide web. Every Leo has experienced this differently.

As a Leo author I have rejected traditional publishing, where agents take a commission (sometimes for doing nothing, and even when they are failing to collect your payments) and where publishers and others take the largest share of the cost of a book. This has been made easier by the rise of the ebook, social media and website technology. I have become an independent author working for myself. This is a very common example of how a sign like Leo has responded to the ‘invention, creation, rejection, revolution’ cycle of Uranus in a particular way. I was very interested to see how J.K. Rowling, a Leo like me, also responded to this cycle. She sacked one agent and found another who worked with her on digital projects.

Uranus is about reform. If something is tired, stuck, stale, old or not working properly, Uranus transits arrive to shake everything up and create something new – and better. We associate progress with Uranus

but it can shock people who are stuck in the past. Publishing is just one area where reform is long overdue. I'll go back to agents and publishers again once we start to see some changes out there!

I hope you are starting to get a feel for what Uranus is all about. Which sign and house of your chart does he occupy? At the moment he is moving through Aries and the First House of your chart, using the Natural House system. How has this cycle (which ends in 2018) affected your profile, image and appearance? Have you experienced Uranus in your First House through Instagram, Twitter or Selfie Sticks? Cosmetic surgery? YouTube?

Uranus in your own chart shows where you are accidentally going to give birth – repeatedly – to a new world of possibility, every time there's a pattern hitting your chart. The sign and house where you find Uranus shows you the kind of new world that lies ahead. If you have Uranus in Virgo, it's about the body, as I've mentioned. If you have Uranus in Libra, it's about marriage – Elton John and Stephen Fry are both married to men, because of the generation born with Uranus in Libra who have made it possible.

Uranus was the god who accidentally, unwittingly, produced a whole new world (including Venus, who was born from his semen mixed with sea foam). He did not mean to do it – it happened when he was castrated by Saturn, his son. In Astrology for Absolute Beginners, Roman mythology always gives us the core meaning of any heavenly body. If you want to go more deeply into Uranus, look at the myth, which Robert Graves tells so well in his Penguin classic about the Greek myths, which were then adapted by the Romans, and help inspire the astrological archetypes we work with today.

NEPTUNE

Neptune shows an escape from the real world, and yet one which is also real in its own right. When Neptune passes through, nothing is ever ordinary, dull, commonplace or 'real' ever again. (At least for the duration of this long cycle). Instead, you end up with an alternative to

reality. A parallel universe. It's like the difference between the town and the sea. As I write this I can see the beach from my window. The town is in the distance. In the town they drive cars, wear shoes and buy pies for lunch. In the sea they swim under water, wear flippers and see dolphins. Which one is real life? You might think the city, but after you've been on the beach all day, the sea begins to seem like 'normal' and life on the streets begins to look very strange indeed. A holiday from reality is the key phrase for Neptune. It's like the sea or beach – a holiday. In time it begins to feel real, but unless you get lost there forever (and become a mermaid or a merman) then don't get confused. It's just a temporary escape of a few years.

You run into trouble if you get in over your head, get lost, forget the rules (like swimming between the flags) and the rest. Here is another Neptune analogy. Glastonbury was a chaotic, muddy, messy music festival with financial losses and the occasional panic over drugs and alcohol, until they put proper fences in. Your Neptune experience, which is rather like a wonderful Glastonbury festival, needs fences. Put in boundaries. Then it all works. Natally, in your natal birth chart, Neptune shows where you live in a parallel universe to others who don't have it in their horoscopes, in that particular sign or house. This is where you baffle others. They cannot fathom you. (Rather like the ocean – which is literally unfathomable).

If you were born with Neptune in Scorpio in the Eighth House then sex and money are where you escape from reality. Pornography is not lovemaking, it is sex paid for by plastic credit card – and it is about as real as silicone breasts. It was popularised by, and is still purchased by, the generation born with Neptune in Scorpio. Neptune in Sagittarius? You take a holiday from reality by taking a holiday – all the time. Your generation invented and popularised cheap airlines and Air BnB. Your great escape is literally an escape. You also escape from reality on the internet, where you scarf down huge amounts of knowledge, information and learning – from Wikipedia Youtube You're the perpetual student of life who finds a way out of the ordinary, via websites.

SALACIA

The wife of Neptune. She is associated with both the beach and the sea. She is linked to the ocean depths, like her husband, but also the sand and the creatures which live there. The beach is also a kind of non-reality, compared to the city, so Salacia represents two different, yet compatible, holidays from reality. There is nothing ordinary, normal, raw, real, gritty, commonplace or everyday about Salacia!

She is about the seaweed, the dolphins, the waves, the sand, the shells, the crabs, the sea anemone and the rest. (Neptune found her by sending dolphins to look for her) By transit Salacia shows two different escapes from reality. Salacian people may emerge now – they dress like Stevie Nicks in 1975 and may surf. These women may not seem to belong to the world. Even if you don't have the weird experience of seeing Salacia in the flesh, this cycle will introduce you to two parallel universes. In your chart, Salacia by sign and house shows you where you can double up on two 'non-real' and unreal things at once. Just like the beach and the sea. Two other realities, side by side. If you have Salacia in Capricorn in your Tenth House then you may have two jobs, none of which most people would call real work. Yet...it works for you. Salacia is what they call a Trans-Neptunian Object.

She was found during the Asian Tsunami and reminds us that without rules and controls, a holiday from reality can become overwhelming. Salacia by sign and house in your chart tells you where you need a bit of order and organisation.

PLUTO

When Pluto goes through a sign and house of your chart, for many years, that area of your life will be utterly transformed. It's like the difference between Europe before 1939 and Europe after 1945. Pluto does not show war. It does, however, show a total and sweeping change in the balance of power, so that those who had no power before – get control. Those who try to take too much, end up losing it all.

There is also power-sharing. It's intense. When Pluto went through Libra, the sign which rules marriage, in the 1970s, the old laws on divorce were changed so that it became easier to split from your husband or wife. The power changed. Women's Liberation and Gay Liberation emerged at this time. Those who tried to control people's sexuality by banning it (or their freedom to be equal) lost out. The world changed. Libra rules the scales – equal partnership between two people. When Pluto went through that sign it was no longer possible for the old court system to power-trip people who just wanted to get divorced. Neither was it possible for the old legal system to power-trip gay or lesbian people, in particular. The tables were turned.

When Pluto went through Virgo, the sign which rules the body, the world saw everything from the pill – to the beginning of what would become health food stores. Nobody born before Pluto went into Virgo ever knew what a vitamin was. Gyms followed health food stores. The balance of power changed. People became empowered to control their own health and fitness, so the old image of Doctor as God vanished. When Pluto went through Scorpio (sex and money, death and money) the world had to deal with the HIV virus and AIDS and its impact on everything from life insurance to pre nuptial agreements. Scorpio rules sex and money – and death and money.

Pluto will be in Capricorn for many years. Capricorn rules government and big business. Anyone in those sectors trying to control everything and everybody will lose. When you use the Natural House system, which is my favourite prediction method for astrology, you can see that all of us have Pluto going through out Tenth House right now. By 2020 we're slowly coming to the end of the cycle. It has profoundly rocked our governments. Pluto is neither positive nor negative, it just is. Australia had its first female Prime Minister on this cycle. Pluto transforms the balance of power. It empowers people who had no power before. It changes the world and changes the game.

In your birth chart, Pluto shows where you try to take, and take over. If you go too far you are always stopped. It shows where you must always go through critical change, in order to play your part in a new

order; a new world. Pluto by sign and house shows where you are so passionate that you want to dominate and take control, but inevitably where you must compromise and work with others. This will be a repeated pattern in your life according to the sign/house you find Pluto in. Whenever you find yourself obsessing, it may be your Pluto being triggered or activated by transits. Have a look.

CERES

Ceres is the mother-in-law of Pluto. He took her daughter Proserpina (abducted her, screaming and wriggling in his arms) and then married her. Ceres was the goddess who ruled agriculture. She became so depressed, then enraged, with Pluto's abduction of her daughter, that she went on strike. Crops failed. People starved. Jupiter, the best of all gods (and Pluto's brother) was called upon. His solution? To ask Proserpina if she had eaten any pomegranates in Hades (Hell) when she was with Pluto. The Romans had many euphemisms for sex – a corn cob was a metaphor for a penis – and we might speculate that a pomegranate was a metaphor for a vagina. Anyway, Proserpina confessed she had eaten half a pomegranate when she was with Pluto. Sinful!

Jupiter decreed that as she had eaten half a pomegranate (or allowed Pluto to go halfway) she should spend half the year with Pluto and half the year with her Mother. Six months in Hades/Hell as Queen (not bad) and six months back up on earth with Mum – Ceres. Ceres rules corn and wheat crops, so the seasonal changes of Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn show her agricultural moods.

When her daughter Proserpina is down below, in the dark depths of sexual passion with Pluto, we have Winter and Autumn. Ceres feels cold and hard. When we have Spring and Summer, it is because Ceres is happy. She warms up. The earth laughs in flowers. Her daughter is back! Ceres travelling or transiting often brings women who are battling depression or anger. It always resolves but not before there is a major crossroads and a new start – a new world Even if actual Ceres people don't turn up, you must deal with the necessity of power sharing, compromise and questions about entitlement, control, passion and

domination on her cycles. In your chart, get to know Ceres well. This is where you have particular powers. This is where you create, control, produce and ‘run’ that particular area of life, shown by the sign Ceres is in.

However – crucially – this is where you are going to have to learn to live with seasonal change. You won’t own what or who you want, all the time. Others must take over. You must learn to share power and give it. Your ‘prac’ is actually seeing how Ceres functions in your own real life. You can check out where she is in the sky at any given time by looking at the list of Planetary Positions on my website. If you can do this then your winters and autumns will be fine. If your winters and autumns are painful to you (those times of year, or times of your life, when you feel you are losing or losing control) – then you need to know Ceres. Look at the art about her. Get to know the story. Work with the myth. It is important to look at as many paintings and sculptures as you can to really develop a deep, intuitive feeling for how a dwarf planet like Ceres works in your chart. Ceres by sign and house shows where the universe has gifted you with ownership, control and remarkable traits – yet where you must be most accepting and tolerant – and learn to live as comfortably with the down seasons and low seasons, as much as the giddy highs. Accept that this is where you will always have Four Seasons.

PROSERPINA

You already know a lot about this asteroid just by exploring Pluto and Ceres. Proserpina was found in a big year for bridges and tunnels all over the world. She is a human bridge. By transit she shows where there is a go-between, a piggy-in-the-middle or a facilitator. There are usually two powerful people, organisations or entities involved.

Proserpina meets them in the middle. She gives them both what they want. Proserpina is powerful. She is also in the precarious position of keeping two sides happy at once, like her husband Pluto and her mother Ceres.

Proserpina in your chart by sign and house shows where you act out the story. It’s where you negotiate, bridge gaps, meet people halfway,

appease, please, share your time and energy – and work it. In exchange you have remarkable control. When Proserpina travels through your chart, you have people or situations which are all about this negotiation or appeasement process. Diplomatic discussions are common, at this time. There is always some deal to figure out. Transiting Proserpina in your Second House usually means a financial agreement or compromise.

It is useful to look at the paintings and sculpture of her, usually shown with Pluto. You will sometimes see her called Persephone, her old Greek name. All Modern Astrology uses the Roman names and symbols, which were taken from Greece and developed. I'm going to drop a little hint here about that – don't mix up Greek-named objects and Roman objects! I am still amazed at how many astrologers use Pallas Athene (Greek) when they should be using Minerva (her Roman/Latin counterpart). If you're going to use Jupiter, the Roman God (and not Zeus, his Greek counterpart) then use Minerva!

SOUTH NODE

The South Node by transit shows old karma coming back, as familiar situations repeat and old stories return to us. It feels comfortable, and we can take it or leave it. We can do what we always did, one more time, or we can watch from a distance. In your birth chart, the South Node shows 'Been there, done that, written the screenplay, read the book, seen the film, acted the parts.' You may or may not want to do it all over again. The North Node and South Node work together as a pair. You sometimes read that you 'should' do one and not the other. This is really ducking the question of fate. The Nodes show what we cannot escape. Her Majesty the Queen has a Cancer/Capricorn Nodal Axis. A Nodal Axis is the 'paired up' North Node and South Node, going across each other in the horoscope. Do you think she had any choice about doing/not doing either of those signs in her life? Her family (Cancer) made her career (Capricorn) fated!

SOUTH NODE

The South Node is always in the opposite sign to the North Node. By transit it shows a more frustrating kind of karma. This is where you try to do or say things to effect change – but get nowhere. Why? Because people are going through the motions, the same old way every single time. They don't appear to respond to change. In your birth chart, the South Node reveals where the same damn thing happens over and over and over. Of course, it can be a happy thing. It depends on what else is in that sign/house. But no matter what you do, karma says this will repeat, repeat, repeat. Because you get that 'stuckness' or unavoidable, fated quality to your life, you end up becoming more philosophical, more accepting, more tolerant, better-humoured about the North Node and South Node. You are what you are. You are what destiny has decreed.

This brings us back to Her Majesty the Queen again. Her Cancer/Capricorn Nodal Axis works in both directions. We've seen how her family (Cancer) and her country (Cancer) made her career (Capricorn) and status (Capricorn) unavoidable. Yet, if Her Majesty wants to stay at the top (Capricorn) she also has to put up with her family dramas (Cancer) so the Nodes really do 'ping' off each other. What does your Nodal Axis say about your fate? By the way, you will notice I use the Royal Family a lot in my astrology examples. This isn't just because I'm a fan of Buckingham Palace (my grandfather Basil Adams collected an O.B.E. there). It's primarily because, like all astrologers, I need accurate birth times and very public life histories to do research and the Royal Family has both in abundance.

THE ANGLES IN YOUR CHART – THE IC, MC, AC AND DC

The IC or Immum Coeli shows your family tree, home town, homeland, house, apartment, culture, heritage and – where you come from. The MC or Midheaven shows your ambition, position, mission and – where you are going to. The AC or Ascendant shows your persona, profile, appearance, wardrobe, title, reputation, accessories, trappings and display. The DC or Descendant shows your former, current or potential partner. It also shows your enemy, opponent or rival.

If you have a planet, asteroid or other heavenly body (like Minerva, who I photographed below) on an angle, it's important. What do I mean by 'on an angle?' At the same degree in the same sign. If you have your IC at 3 Taurus and Minerva at 3 Taurus, she's conjunct your IC. She's right next to it.

By now, you should be able to see that if you have Minerva at 3 Taurus conjunct (or on) your IC at 3 Taurus, then she's going to have a major impact on your family tree and background. Minerva is a symbol of female wisdom. Your IC is your roots, heritage, culture. Taurus is money. Put all that together and you can see that this is the horoscope of someone whose mother, grandmother or great-grandmother was very good with money. Maybe she was a stockbroker, or economist, or a brilliant store accountant.

Aspects

Aspects is a very old word for the patterns your horoscope factors make with each other. I just gave you a simple example of Minerva in Taurus conjunct the IC in Taurus. You don't need to know more than a broad outline of aspects/patterns right now.

They are basically the geometrical patterns made, between anything in your chart. A conjunction means two things are at the same degree, in the same sign. They occupy the same space and work as a pair. They are zero through one degree apart.

Some astrologers use up to nine degrees' differences when looking for patterns and shapes. I don't do that because I think astrology was (and still is) based on Sacred Geometry. The kind you find at Stonehenge and at Giza. If our ancestors had used big gaps of up to nine numbers in their building, the pyramids would have been wonky. I don't like wonky astrology so I use what they call 'zero degree orbs' or 'exact placements.'

You'll have them! It's unusual not to have a small handful of aspects. Just eyeball your chart. What comes in at the same number? You are looking for the first number, the degree. So if you have the Sun at 12 Leo 14 and the Moon at 12 Leo 25, they are conjunct. They are both at 12 degrees (don't worry about the second number, it's too small to bother with).

SEXTILE

Beyond conjunctions (matchy-matchy patterns) we have a sextile, when horoscope factors are two signs along from each other. If you have the Sun at 12 Leo 14 and the Moon at 12 Libra 19, then they are sextile. What's a sextile? Two factors working together, quite easily, and massaging each other into life. People tend to 'do' their sextiles because they're sexy. They feel wonderful and everyone likes them. If you 'do' your Leo-Libra Moon Sun and Moon a lot, life will be easier.

SQUARE

A square is when you can't 'square' two parts of your horoscope. Two horoscope factors are three signs along from each other. If you have the Sun at 12 Leo 14 and Pluto at 12 Scorpio 20 then you have the Sun square Pluto. You may have difficulty making these two parts of yourself work together.

TRINE

A trine is when things really flow. You are counting four signs along here. If you have the Sun at 12 Leo 19 and Jupiter at 12 Sagittarius 14, then the Sun is trine Jupiter. Most people with trines rely on them. They lean on them. They use them a lot because they just seem to work together. So your Leo bits will work nicely with your Sagittarius bits if you have this pattern and you may have a holiday job (Sagittarius) taking students (Leo) around town.

OPPOSITION

An opposition is two sides of yourself, or two parts of yourself, which clash. They oppose each other. Horoscope factors will be in opposite

signs, so you are counting seven signs along. If you have the Sun at 12 Leo 14 and Uranus at 12 Aquarius 15, they are in opposition.

The astrologer, teacher and author Sue Tompkins has described this as having a back door and front door in your home, and having people knock on both at once. Which one do you answer first? Trying to 'answer to' each of the two signs in opposition in your horoscope is very hard work and sometimes people will devote all their energy to one side of the opposition (one sign) and ignore the other.

There are loads of aspects. They all show patterns upon patterns! We have a semi-sextile as well as a quincunx. You will sometimes read about major aspects and minor aspects. I don't see a difference. They all work with equal power in a birth chart. I've seen predictions come true off the back of a semi-sextile. I've seen whole personalities defined by a sextile. They all work together in that bumping, grinding thing we call a horoscope.

Transits

Transits are the cycles Which Trigger Your Birth Chart. The transits or travelling paths of the heavenly bodies and points show the human weather you undergo, in your life. In Astrology for Beginners, this key word 'weather' can help you remember that your birth chart shows who you are – and the transits show what is happening to you. Should these transiting or travelling factors fall at the same number (degree) and sign as anything in your own birth chart, that's a crossroads for you and it will alter your life. If Jupiter passes by at 15 Virgo and you have the Moon at 15 Virgo that is an epic change for you.

It can help to understand that when travelling or transiting Saturn arrives at the same degree (number) and sign as your own Saturn (the one you were born with) you have your Saturn Return.

If you were born with Saturn at 1 Aries and Saturn travels to 1 Aries, it returns to the same spot. You have a Saturn Return. This works for

everything in your chart, just about. When you were born with Ceres at 1 Leo and Ceres travels around to 1 Leo you have your Ceres Return. Any return feels just as you would expect. A double dose of that particular planet or asteroid.

The more clustering that occurs (three or more factors in one sign, at any one time) the bigger the story and the more complicated it becomes. And you can increase that message, if you have three or more travelling factors, hitting your chart – where you also have three or more factors! If you have a stellium in Pisces and in March 2016 there is also a stellium in Pisces, that month will alter your secret life.

Get to know the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Vulcan, Mars, Cupid, Psyche, Jupiter, Juno, Fortuna, Minerva, Diana, Bacchus, Apollo, Chiron, Aesculapius, Panacea, Hygiea, Saturn, Ops, Vesta, Uranus, Neptune, Salacia, Pluto, Ceres and Proserpina on this website. Get to know the Nodes and the Angles. The Louvre website is a good resource, as is the Victoria and Albert Museum online. Art and sculpture will teach you more about these archetypes than any amount of words. Paintings talk. If you're in London wander around the Wallace Collection. Spot Psyche in a painting.

Chemistry! How you make friends, lovers or partners

Remember these basic rules. If you have a stack of horoscope factors in one sign and house, that defines you – it describes your life – it says who you are, why you are here and what you do. Typically you will have anywhere from two to five, of these stelliums or clusters.

Chemistry with lovers or best friends occurs when you both have stelliums in the same zodiac sign. For better or worse you connect. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, but you will 'recognise' each other. You can learn best by seeing astrology literally work in front of your eyes. Think about the love of your life. It may have lasted, it may not, but look up this person's chart.

You two probably share the same stelliums, or you may find that you have stelliums which are picked up by the other person's horoscope factors. Let's say you have five factors in Taurus. Your former husband was a Sun Taurus. Your new lover, the actual love of our life, has four factors in Taurus – a stellium like your own.

Whenever anything passes over this cluster or stellium, in the same sign, and especially at the same degree, you have a major event or turning point. You can see why this brings about marriage or separation too. Why? You both experience it. If you both have a Libra stellium you could easily have separated or divorced in 2015, 2016, 2017. Why? Uranus in Aries has been opposing your Libra stuff, and your former lover's Libra stuff. Oppositions are hard. Splits can result.

You are still going to see astrological changes even if you have just one factor in a sign, and just one factor is travelling through. It really depends on how often you want to look at your chart and how much you want to track your life.

Your Sun Sign, or regular zodiac sign, is extremely important. It's the clusters or stelliums which tell you what's really going down, though. What is Woody Allen best-known for? Running off with his adopted daughter – and making amazing films about sex and murder. He's a Sagittarian with a Scorpio stellium. What is Karl Marx best known for? Communism. Yes, he was a Taurus, but he also had a stellium there. What do we remember Princess Diana for? Sure, she was a Cancer, but she had a stellium in Leo. Her life was about her two sons, William and Harry – but it was also about her work for children in landline areas. It was also very much about her passionate love affairs – more Leo.

Bob Dylan is a Gemini but he's a very, very strong Gemini because he has a huge cluster of horoscope factors in that sign, well above the 2-3 that the law of averages says, he should have. What's your sign? Maybe you should be asking, 'What's your stellium?' The stelliums in your chart which make up the cocktail that is you, can be thought of as three

striped ingredients in a glass (sometimes as few as two, and sometimes as many as four and more). Each stripe will give you, in just a few minutes, a slice of your history and a prediction about your future.

The zodiac signs which dominate show you the stuff of which your life was made. Dylan is a Nobel prize-winning literary star, thanks to that Gemini stellium. *Just by knowing one single stellium in your chart you can begin to predict the future, figure out relationships and find out who you are.*

Princess Diana saw several astrologers including Debbie Frank. Diana was a Cancerian with part of her cocktail mixed strongly in Leo, the zodiac sign ruling the king of the jungle. She was set to marry the future king of England when life got in the way. Leo is a dominant sign in the charts of Prince Charles, along with many members of the British royal family. They were all connected. They all felt the same astrological triggers when she divorced him, and later tragically passed. In Astrology for Absolute Beginners, you can see (on the world stage) exactly how the zodiac signs, stelliums and transits work. One glance at the Coat of Arms for the United Kingdom and you will see Leo the Lion. One look at the famous birthdays list online, and you will see that Leo season, from July to August, coincides with the birthdays of the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and Princess Anne. If you are prepared to go beyond Sun Signs (birth signs) and look at whole charts you will see Leo dominates the individual natal horoscopes of key members of the Royal Family.

Just by knowing one single stellium in Diana's chart you could have predicted that major milestones in her life would have occurred during Leo 'weather' (she married in the British summer, at the height of Leo Season, when the Sun is in Leo). You could have predicted that her life would involve leading, guiding and mentoring younger people (Leo is the Queen or King to a younger court).

Diana began as a teacher and ended as the patron of children's charities and the mother to the future King William. You might have

predicted strongly Leo people would have been glued to her, for better or worse. Prince Charles has a strongly Leo chart and they were match-made by the Queen Mother, a Leo.

Even after she passed, the Leo weather still affected Princess Diana's life. In August 2017 we saw a Total Eclipse in Leo, just as the world's attention was turning to new television documentaries about her life and death.

House Systems

I am going to end this discussion about decoding your astrology chart by looking at houses. Another old word for a simple idea. A 'house' is a life department. Look at your birth chart and you will see twelve life departments. They look like twelve slices of a cake. Each slice is a house.

People are really surprised to find out that very few astrologers use the same system! (They also vary a lot on their choices of planets to use). Astrology has many languages and we will end up 'talking' with whatever language seems natural and easy to us.

I can only tell you what I know after decades of working as a professional full-time astrologer. I speak two house systems. Solar House and Natural House. When you read your daily, weekly, monthly and annual predictions on my website and in magazines – you are reading predictions made using the Solar House system.

When you look at your personal birth chart from me you will be looking at the Natural House system method. I like it – because it's natural! It wasn't invented by some crusty old monk. It wasn't the work of any other man, actually. For all we know it was first discovered by a woman.

There are many house systems. Placidus (crusty old monk). Koch. Equal. For now, though, I hope you are longing to start making predictions, understanding who you are, and figuring out relationships.



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