

## **DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE THROUGH ASTROLOGY**

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The dictionary says that astrology is the science or doctrine of the stars. In early times it was connected to astronomy. Now it seems to be recognized as a pseudo-science that is used to foretell the life of an individual by studying the influence of the relative positions of the moon, sun and stars on this person's affairs.

One of my favorite pieces of history about astrology is from the year 1527 when John Dee was born. He was an astrologer, author, mathematician, alchemist, and a spy for Queen Elizabeth I throughout his many trips in Europe. He used to sign his name as 007. He was a math tutor for Prince Edward, who took the throne before Elizabeth and for the then Princess Elizabeth.

Dee was an astrologer when this was a normal profession and people had their charts done regularly. When Henry VIII's children were born their time of birth was not made public as this would have given too much information about them to the public.

Astrology was studied by most learned men and women in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and was not in any sense associated with fatalistic or simplistic superstition. The world was seen as a vitally interconnected organism, in which all things resonated with every other. It is an attitude that has been summed up well in our own age by the psychiatrist Carl Jung when he stated that "Whatever is born of this moment in time has the qualities of this moment in time." In other words, all things share in the present and resonate together. We would call this a mystical approach today but in Elizabeth's time it was simply the norm.

The astrology chart is known as a horoscope which is a map of the sky at the moment and place of an individual's birth. On your birthday when people say "Many happy returns" to you, they mean many happy returns of your planets back to the time of your birth.

No two charts are ever alike unless individuals were born at the same time and place. Just a few minutes of time differences in births puts different planets in different positions so those people will have different horoscopes and, therefore, different destinies. To have your chart "read" and created by an astrologer you must give them your date, time and place of birth.

Learning about astrology means you will learn a different language. There are ten planets and each one represent different energies. The chart is circular in shape with a 360 degree field. It is divided into twelve pie-shaped areas called houses.

There are twelve signs that are applied to the planets and houses which change the energies and experiences of the person. These signs are: Aquarius,

Aries, Cancer, Capricorn, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Pisces, Sagittarius, Scorpio, Taurus, and Virgo. Because horoscopes are listed in newspapers and magazines, under these “signs,” most people believe they are most important in astrology. Whatever sign you are born under is called your “sun sign.”

But actually the signs of your moon and your ascendant are in are just as important as your sun sign. This is one reason why horoscopes for the public are very general and not specific to the individual. The sign your moon is in rules emotions which really tell you what you do with yourself. The moon also shows how we react very intuitively and instinctively; therefore, it’s one of the signatures of our intuition and is usually very unconscious. Your emotional nature has the opportunity to get richer by having the moon pass through all signs of the zodiac. Once that is done you can then create a richer emotional life for yourself.

It seems that when a person gets a lot of energetic impact on the moon, anything they have buried or have not wanted to see either consciously or unconsciously will be “coming up” in their life. So any unresolved issues you have will be stirred up again for you to deal with. Your descendant sign supposedly is not as important as these first three (according to the astrologers I have seen over the years).

Choosing an astrologer is an important task. I’ve been blessed in this life with astrologers. Just like any other professions there are good ones and bad ones. I’ve really never met any bad ones – maybe just bland ones. But astrologers have truly had a “good read” on my life (which is helped by the fact that my birth time is most probably correct from my birth certificate). I would pick an astrologer with a recommendation from someone you trust.

If you’re going to have your chart read every year, which is recommended, you and your astrologer are going to be around together for a long time. It’s important that you both like and respect each other. From my standpoint, astrologers are like cheerleaders. They “see” so much that we don’t and they become excited. I’ve found that usually the more excited they are about this or that transit means I’m going to have quite a race to run. So their excitement has usually meant lots of change and “hanging on” as I climb through the perils of my life.

This is a good time to say that all astrologers are different in how they give you information. Some are more psychic than others. Some follow the psychology of Carl Jung, which I enjoy. Sometimes it’s good to interview them to see what modality they come from.

Your Mid-heaven is on top of the chart, your ascendant sign is the rising degree. The descendant sign is the opposite point. Where planets are near your angles will show the most powerful zones which are dominant.

One of the terms I've grown wary of is that of a "Saturn Return." This is when Saturn is completing a circuit around the entire chart and returning to its natal position. This occurs from ages 27 – 32 years of age. It marks the end of dependence on your family of origin and once you have gone through this successfully you can assume the adult responsibilities and opportunities of the second Saturn Return.

Often in biographies you will see important changes of direction or dramatic events that mark the Saturn return. The example of Jesus was given to me because he started his ministry at around that age and died about the age of 32-33 years. If we learn what Saturn is trying to teach us and have us experience, our confidence solidifies and we feel good about our lives. Then the second Saturn Return at around 58-59 years of age launches a renaissance of energy that allows us to feel young again and alive in a world of opportunity. Saturn always makes people work for anything they get. Since the only constant in life is change, astrology is a good thing to help guide you to make the best decisions you can.

On my chart, I have all of my planets on the left hand side of the circle. I've been told that this lets me concentrate on my goals and interests and I don't really let anyone stand in my way. When all of the planets are on one side of the chart, it also indicates that this person will specialize during their career.

I have enjoyed having my chart read each year for the past twenty years. Astrology gives me a place to look at my possibilities. It also helps warn me of what might be coming. One has to have a strong ego to handle some of this *knowing*. I mean that you can't dwell once an astrologer says there will be financial problems or someone may be in the hospital on that situation and worry about what you're being told.

Since I type over 100 words per minutes, I type out everything the astrologer tells me (most give you a cassette tape also so you can review it). Then I go into my appointment calendar and write certain things down for the periods they have explained to me. For instance for last Monday I had written down in the calendar (in shorthand), "Venus is in my 7<sup>th</sup> house today until 4/21. Good for relationships of all kinds – "purposeful relationships" which the astrologer said could be with builders and contractors." These "predictions" are usually good for a few days before the date or a few days afterwards.

Most of you know that I'm in the process of raising my house four feet due to damage from Hurricane Sandy. So last night when a builder called and said his bid was almost done and could I have a meeting today, I was delighted that this prediction of a favorable time for this "purposeful relationship" is already in the book. His call was timely, which I also take to mean that I am on the right track in this situation. I also have a meeting with the State of New Jersey this coming Friday with their builders so isn't it nice to know that it is an auspicious time for

me to be meeting with people with whom I will, hopefully, have “purposeful” relationships in the future.

I remember once having an astrologer say, “Your moon is semi-squaring Mars and transiting Pluto at this time – you can argue with people or you can de-clutter your house. It’s just energy so use it or it will use you.” So I de-cluttered my house, which probably needed it anyway.

Astrologers tell me I have a very creative chart. They are always excited that I’m a therapist and tell me they can tell I’m happy with my career and I’m doing what I’m supposed to be doing. I have five planets in Libra, which “they” say is an excellent sign for counseling. Libra is also my predominant energy. I want things to be calm, fair and balanced and it is what I help others achieve. “They” also say that Pluto in my 12 house gives me great psychological insight. They must be correct in all of this because I do love what I do on most days. “They” also say that my purpose or destiny is to learn to speak out and bring some practical aspects of spirituality to the general public. We’ll see eventually how true “their” prophecy is!

Libra also is very sensitive to aesthetics and beauty, which I am. Then my ascendant sign is Leo. Leo is rising, strong, forthright and outgoing. The Leo part says there’s nothing wrong with me (and I’ve dated and married Leo men and pretty much this is what they think!). However, then I have a Virgo moon which is the part of me that’s very modest, shy, self-critical and always looking to improve. Virgo worries. Leo doesn’t worry. Although, I don’t really worry much anymore because I believe it to be unproductive, probably, my Virgo side just watches now and evaluates using the wisdom of my experiences. So you can see how these different qualities meld and fuse together eventually to make a stronger personality that really has checks and balances on itself.

One thing people say about Libras is that they don’t make decisions well. That was not a problem for me so one of my other planets must have been put in charge of decision making. Some other facts about Libras I’ve learned along the way are that they have the highest rate of divorce because they are very idealistic. They also like doubles of everything so they would be married more than once or at least twice and have at least two children, two jobs, two addresses, etc. I also learned that most generals in the military are Libras, which doesn’t make sense to me if Libra is supposed to have trouble making decisions because generals mostly make decisions during their careers. However, it just shows you that sometimes it’s impossible to generalize about the different sun signs. Your chart is what really shows you who you are.

One thing about having your chart read, please keep an open mind. Let things you are told soak in. Absorb it. Take a breath. Sleep on any advice you’re

given to see if your intuition feels it is correct. *Know* things with your third ear and your third eye before you decide in which direction you will go.

Some astrologers tell you about your past lives. Some of the past lives that have come from my chart are: I was a scribe in Persia and in Judea (not in the time of Jesus). I was an artist in Florence during the Renaissance (I have sometimes taken art classes but have never really followed this urge). During the Renaissance I supposedly had a patron. He would house me and feed me. He would claim my work which may give me hesitancy today to create art. I have been in several mystery schools. These lives have all felt “right” throughout the years I was given this information.

Another item I love about astrology is that it puts religion and spirituality in two different places in the chart. Religion in astrology is associated with philosophy and law and how those things define a world view. Spirituality is direct contact with divine consciousness. They are not necessarily linked in astrology. I don't have huge energies in the area of religion in my chart but I have powerful ones in the area of spirituality. I also like physical travel for meaning and for understanding life. I've found that physical travel can stimulate this energy the way education can in the pursuit of knowledge.

I believe that the human will is the strongest force on earth. One needs direction in order to use will to its best advantage. Any good therapist doesn't just work with what she or he learned in school. They start to learn their own spirituality. One needs to use this spirituality to learn how to live their life most productively and happily. Remember what Buddha said, “There are only mistakes one can make along the road to truth – not going all the way and not starting.” Why not start with having your chart read soon?

The twelve houses in your circular astrology chart cover themes that make up your life. Those themes are listed now at the end of this article for your review.

“Who am I right now?” This is a First House question, which handles your personality, your identity and how you interact with the world and the people in it.

House #2 contains your values and priorities, which affect your self-esteem. Money and other material resources in this house make up your security needs. Are these present needs handled the way you desire? Money is energy. The way you handle it determines the flow in your life.

House #3 is about your intellect and communication. How is your environment, your neighborhood and your relationship with your siblings? This house also covers short trips. Are you happy or unhappy in this area?

House #4 covers your early childhood environment and the domestic environment you create as an adult. Your mother issues would show up here. Are

you happy with your domestic arrangement? The mother's characteristics determine what type of female will appeal to males.

House #5 is about your creative self-expression, your children, love affairs, recreation, pleasure and risk taking. If you have remained in the innocent archetype in your adult life, your ability to take risks will be low.

House #6 is your work, the day-to-day procedures of how you do it, responsibilities, health, habits, routines and pets. Some people who come to me are in marriages where they have let this area of their lives "go to pot" because they feel hopeless about cooperation from their spouse.

House #7 handles partnerships, personal and professional. The people you chose to partner with in life can be some of the most meaningful decisions that you make.

House #8 is about healing of your wounds, claiming your own power and transforming yourself with the support of others. The occult, psychic experiences and issues of trust are also covered under this house. I find that the understanding of psychic experiences usually comes later in client's recovery when they have developed their own "truth." They then have become wiser.

House #9 gives you a quest for meaning, philosophy, law, ethics, higher education, organized religion and long-distance travel. One reason I enjoy being a therapist is I can pull all my interests from House #9 into my career, which has been one of the most enjoyable parts of my life.

House #10 is your career, your "mission" in life and your ambition. It is what you are here to give to the world. This is the house that covers your "father" issues and also how you appear to other people. The father's characteristics determine what type of male that appeals to the female.

House #11 is your social consciousness which consists of your hopes and dreams for the future, the groups you belong to and your friends. Do you choose the people you want as preferred friends or just take whoever comes along?

House #12 stands for your spirituality, psychic experience, dreams, time alone, direct contact with the Divine and the contents of your unconscious. Your unconscious has unknown and hidden strengths, which is one big benefit of delving into it and releasing repressed memories. There's such potentiality there.

Because Carl Jung did astrology charts on all of his clients, I decided, years ago, to have my natal chart read yearly by an astrologer. I suggest you do the same. The astrologer guides me to decide what's important for me to accomplish in the upcoming year. It is then easier for me to connect to my Soul's purpose in life. I am happier and more in control because I have fewer surprises due to my plan. I've found its best when one has a plan and they work it. Most things are accomplished because a goal and a plan have been set.

One other thing I've found in life regarding plans is what a waste of time it is to ruminate about "If I could go back to the past, I would change this." A certain amount of grief work needs to be done probably on what you didn't do; however, try not to dwell on this. For instance, if you changed the Battle of the Bulge as an example, you may not be sitting here. Everything would be different. If we're living our life correctly, we learn from what the past is and was and we move on using this new information to make our future decisions better. Try to make this grief stage of what you did or didn't do as short as possible.

Good luck to you in discovering your Soul's Purpose with your new astrology chart!

**Bibliography:**

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