The Iris Asteroids Report Rainbow Messenger of the Gods and Goddesses

by Roderick Kidston

for

Oprah Winfrey

29 January 1954 4:30 AM Kosciusko, Mississippi

sostraeab proserpina 3 pallas\$ The Supiter Saturn Siror black moon lilith 🔾 Osun **Huranus** hygiea 🖁 4 neptune
4 neptune
4 phutophuistos

Exceptuso vesta*
ceres* noon)

wearing Ybacchus

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INTRODUCTION

Ever since the early 19th Century, astronomers have been aware of the existence of asteroids, but astrologers have only been using them as part of the horoscope since 1973. And even so, only a small number of astrologers actually use the asteroids when reading charts for people. This is in large part because the asteroids are not well understood, except for the first four to be discovered: Ceres, Pallas, Juno and Vesta. But now, the Iris Report aims to change all that! Here you will find interpretations for twelve major asteroids and their impact in the natal chart. They add balance, detail and depth of meaning to astrological interpretation.

Most of the asteroids found in the Iris Report are named for classical goddesses rather than gods, and this is partly in order to balance the excess of masculine energy that a purely planetary astrology reveals. Most of you will know that the ten 'planetary' factors used in standard astrological interpretation are the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. Many astrologers also include the planetoid Chiron to this list of ten, making eleven. If the Sun and Moon are considered primal masculine and feminine energies respectively, then out of the remaining nine god symbols there is only one goddess, Venus. This hardly represents the yin-yang balance either of physical Nature or of what is taught about the spiritual realms.

The other reason for choosing certain asteroids over others is that several of the early asteroids discovered show a resonance with the way that the culture was evolving at the time, which in turn reflects the ongoing evolution of consciousness in the material realm of the Earth. The asteroids Ceres, Pallas, Juno, Vesta, Astraea, Iris and Hygiea are all especially relevant in this regard.

The other asteroids selected for the Iris report are Flora, Hekate, Diana and Apollo (additional lunar and solar symbols that show the primal life energies working in a larger social context), Proserpina, and the two great gods not represented by planets in the solar system: Bacchus and Hephaistos. These all together complete a kind of balanced listing of archetypal energies which astrologers can use to make sense of a horoscope.

One of the ways of deciding which asteroids are useful is found by considering the concept of the energy dyad. The Sun-Moon dyad of archetypal masculine and feminine energy is very well known to astrologers, as is the desire and love dyad symbolized by Venus and Mars. But other possibilities are proposed in the table below:

Yang symbol	Yin symbol
Yang symbol	Yin symbol MOON: archetypal feminine/yin life energy, soul IRIS: feminine/yin intelligence, "right brain", intuitive and synthesizing mind VENUS: feminine desire, receptive activity, inward drawn pleasure CERES: Earth Mother, female nurturer and protector, promoter of ethics/abundance VESTA: feminine energy of tradition, structure, and material good order HYGIEA: feminine energy of healing- transformation and purification PALLAS: feminine change agent and consciousness raiser PROSERPINA: feminine passivity and sublime/altered states JUNO: feminine energy of primal power and transformation ASTRAEA: feminine principle of work, order, integration and disintegration DIANA: additional lunar symbol, emotional maturity FLORA: feminine symbol of refined passions and the greening power of nature which vitalizes and inspires and brings to bloom HEKATE: feminine symbol of the focused force of desire and manifestation, and "magic" power BLACK MOON LILITH: feminine symbol of dark primal passions, resolute individualism,
disinterested connection	and renunciation

With this table you find a balanced grouping of archetypal divine energies which have significant astrological influence. The Iris Report gives you the opportunity, for the first time, to add twelve asteroids to the major factors usually considered in the chart - the Sun and Moon, the planets, Chiron and Lilith - and thereby get a much more complete picture of how the astral energies were constellated at the time of birth for the chart you are reading, whether it is your own or someone else's.

Of course, the balance suggested by these dyads, or pairings, does not mean that the yin and yang symbols are identical - Venus and Mars are hardly the same, after all! But there is a sense in which the two planets or asteroids involved represent divine archetypes whose energies complement each other, and work something like the positive and negative charges of an electrical current. One end of the archetypal 'pole' is outgoing and active, or 'masculine'. The other end of the archetypal pole is incoming and receptive, or 'feminine'.

In each of the twelve mini-chapters that follow, a particular asteroid (or dwarf planet, depending on the new astronomical definitions!) is given the focus of attention and related to all the other major elements of the horoscope, including those two important angles the Ascendant and Midheaven, and also the Nodes of the Moon. They are listed not in any order of importance, but according to the order in which they were discovered, from Ceres first to Hephaistos last.

So - let Iris, the rainbow messenger of the goddesses, add her many colors to your chart and complete the work of Mercury, the messenger of the gods.

For the benefit of astrologers and students of astrology, information used to produce this report is given below:

			0				
Sun	9	Aqu	00	Ceres	12	Lib	47
Moon	4	Sag	32	Pallas	6	Vir	23
Mercury	19	Aqu	09	Juno	21	Leo	57
Venus	8	Aqu	51	Vesta	22	Pis	14
Mars	23	Sco	35	Astraea	7	Vir	42
Jupiter	16	Gem	39	Iris	11	Cap	09
Saturn	9	Sco	03	Hygiea	21	Can	08
Uranus	20	Can	19	Proserpina	23	Aqu	10
Neptune	26	Lib	0 4	Diana	8	Aqu	33
Pluto	24	Leo	09	Apollo	11	Pis	37
True Node	23	Cap	56	Bacchus	10	Cap	47
True Lilith	11	Lib	36	Hephaistos	28	Ari	17
Asc.	29	Sag	41	Flora	13	Sag	08
MC	17	Lib	25	Hekate	24	Lib	10
Chiron	23	Cap	35				

Tropical Placidus Standard time observed GMT: 10:30:00 Time Zone: 6 hours West

Lat. and Long. of birth: 33 N 03 27 89 W 35 15

Aspects interpreted:

Conjunction: 5 Deg 00 Min Sextile : 3 Deg 00 Min Opposition: 5 Deg 00 Min SemiSquare : 2 Deg 00 Min Square : 4 Deg 00 Min
Trine : 4 Deg 00 Min Sesequiquadrate: 2 Deg 00 Min

Chapter 1: Ceres

Ceres, lady of loving-kindness

Ceres symbolizes the fertility and abundance of the corn goddess, an aspect of the great Earth Mother. Ceres was the Roman deity; Demeter the earlier Greek goddess of grain and fertility in the classical tradition. With the new astronomical definitions of the various bodies in the solar system, Ceres the former asteroid is now considered to be a 'dwarf planet'. In astrology, the divine archetype Ceres bestows the blessing of loving-kindness. She distils her energy gently in the horoscope, and does not make a fuss.

Ceres helps you to see the world through kindly eyes, and to enjoy what is natural and simple and good. With her help, you grow in compassion for others, and gain in empathic understanding. She promotes generosity of spirit, and helps you to help other living beings: people, animals, and the natural world. Her position shows something about how you find ways to look after other people, and seek to bring out the best in them. Ceres nurtures and educates, in the best sense of those words. And on a larger worldly scale, she promotes the good of ordinary people, helps humankind to build democracy, and fosters respect and care for the environment as a whole. Her darker side tends to smother love and games involving manipulation or rejection. However, her more noble urge prompts everyone towards leading a good life, which facilitates the correction or elimination of such unattractive qualities.

Ceres in Libra:

Peace and harmony are important words in your vocabulary, and conflict at the very least unbalances you, and at worst can almost hurt. This is not to say you can't fight if you must, but it is always a last resort, and leaves you feeling slightly dirty. You don't like diplomacy to fail. Dialogue and compromise are other watchwords for you, and at your best your negotiation skills are second to none. You can dither around of course, weighing all sides of an idea or argument several times, but you eventually find a conclusion. Your ability to play with ideas, and to mediate between people and their positions, is the great gift you offer others in support of their growth. Just beware you don't lose yourself by being sometimes too helpful and obliging.

Ceres in 9th house:

Love and freedom go together in your life philosophy, both for yourself and for the world in general. You don't quite get the possessiveness thing, unless there are major contradictory factors at work, and tend to regard life as a huge adventure in which vast opportunities should be open to all. You love to roam, either literally or metaphorically, and can find value and learning experiences in virtually anything you encounter. Some sort of hero quest is a major motivator, and your learning curve can become so high that you reach the point where it is time to teach others how to dare, too. Just watch out you don't spread yourself too thin, or waste time in pastures that aren't so green after all.

Ceres Conjunct MC, Orb: 4 deg. 38 min.

Your sense of vocation is informed with the Ceres drive to give care and allow things to thrive. Any kind of educational role, or a job that allows you to empower others, can appeal and bring great rewards, and will earn you love as well as respect. You just need to be careful about the 'work-life balance' and try to keep things even-handed.

Ceres Conjunct True Lilith, Orb: 1 deg. 11 min.

Ceres wants involvement, Lilith wants independence. What to do? Learning how to live and let live is a good start, as is rejecting any unwanted childhood baggage. You thrive by doing your own thing as uniquely and powerfully as you can, and by helping others to dispel the dark and do their thing in their unique way, too.

Ceres Trine Sun, Orb: 3 deg. 47 min.

Your capacity to support and help as many people as possible is a source of strength and personal enrichment. You find it easy to juggle a variety of commitments and tasks, and convey to others an aura of health and vigor. Working with the simple and natural, or to enhance the common good, draws out the best in you and offers rewards on all levels.

Ceres Trine Venus, Orb: 3 deg. 56 min.

Your love of beauty and harmony enable you to function well in social and artistic settings, and you have a knack for putting people at ease. The ideal of beauty is a source of strength, which you can channel into all endeavors, whether mundane or creative. You tend to be lucky with money or love, or both: just don't squander such good fortune!

Ceres Trine Jupiter, Orb: 3 deg. 53 min.

You draw a deep and rich strength from your ardent idealism and capacity to support good causes -

including yourself! Generosity is a potent motivator for you, but you need to watch out for spending on unworthy things, or people, too, as not all live by the codes of honor dear to your heart. Luck can come your way but use it, don't waste it!

Ceres Square Iris, Orb: 1 deg. 37 min.

Although your intuitive awareness is very strong, you sometimes have difficulty assessing what things really mean. Beware of the dangers of projecting your own stuff onto people and situations, lest it diminish your capacity to establish common ground when communicating. Keep a clear, cool head even as you let your sympathies flow.

Ceres Square Bacchus, Orb: 1 deg. 59 min.

You have a strong drive to help other people, but this can take on an addictive or compulsive quality if you overdo the generosity, either in fact or by appearance. This can lead people to suspect your motives or accuse you of intrusiveness or manipulation. Be clear about your motives and strategies, both to yourself and others, and all is well.

Chapter 2: Pallas

Pallas, lady of consciousness-raising

Pallas was a title of the great Greek goddess Athena, warrior, strategist and wisdom seeker. Her Roman counterpart was Minerva. The asteroid (perhaps eventually to be classified as dwarf planet) Pallas brings gifts of understanding, insight and skillfulness, and helps you to take things to a higher level than you might have thought possible. The energies of Pallas often seem to appear suddenly in the horoscope, and she can present in a surprising, even shocking, way. These upheavals are necessary sometimes in order to shake you out of your complacency and get you moving.

Pallas helps you to see much more clearly, and although this can involve pain, it is for the best in the long run. Illusions are stripped away and you comprehend at a deep level the lessons brought by this asteroid. You grow in intellectual dexterity and sometimes manual dexterity as well, and learn how to approach issues more strategically. Just as Pallas improves the linkages in your brain, so she also helps you to create better linkages in the world at large. Pallas can prompt you to respond very

coldly, too, so you need to be careful of her chilly intellectualism and its snare of retreat into airy, abstract absolutes. But Pallas also promotes equality and cooperation, and helps you to help others in clear-sighted and astute ways. She assists you to act more fairly towards people, and to fight for fairness in turn. Pallas is a true raiser of the level of consciousness, and ultimately she helps you to think and act in much better, more skilful ways than you might ever have imagined possible.

Pallas in Virgo:

The Virgo drive for efficiency and wholeness provides a fertile soil for the strong mental processes of Pallas to seed. You can be an 'operator', in both the best and worst senses of that word, depending on the clarity and integrity of your intentions and actions. Negatively, you can manipulate your way into and out of anything; positively, you have the capacity to work your way systematically through the most complex challenges, the kind that defeat less disciplined and thoughtful folk. Your mind is a sensitive and powerful instrument that enables you to see both the wood and the trees, depending on your focus. This enables you to become a very effective change agent, because your innovations are grounded in practical realities, and an awareness of others.

Pallas in 8th house:

Pallas in the domain of sharing and intimate exchanges turns many - if not most - of your relationships into something of a roller coaster ride. Well, it ain't dull, which you would like even less. There is, after all, something of the stimulus junky in you. No matter what window dressing the events in your life wear, most of the intense changes you experience are arising from deep changes in your own mind and heart, and the challenge is to recognize these as they are happening instead of being caught by surprise. Business matters can proceed in unusual ways, working best if you are in innovation or technology fields. Overall, change is both your watchword and passport to happiness.

Pallas Conjunct Astraea, Orb: 1 deg. 18 min.

You have a kind of inbuilt meter for tracking the signals of change even before they manifest in obvious ways. Unless there are strong conservative energies contradicting this, you are keen to be in the forefront of anything innovative and creative. And you have something practical to offer, too! Your organizational skills are strong.

Pallas Sextile Saturn, Orb: 2 deg. 39 min.

One of your greatest strengths lies in a pretty rare talent: the ability to manage paradox. You can flip from past to future in the blink of an eye or the click of a mouse, and know instinctively what to hang onto, what's past its use-by date, and what bits of all the new stuff are worth having and keeping. This crazy world needs you: Go you!

Pallas Square Moon, Orb: 1 deg. 51 min.

Your emotional responses tend to fluctuate and you often feel pulled in several directions at once. This can be very confusing. The need to balance the drives of both heart and head is a strong life theme and challenge. Learning true detachment and dispassion is the way to go, but this is a place of mental-emotional poise, not chilly withdrawal.

Pallas SemiSquare Uranus, Orb: 1 deg. 04 min.

You know what? Most people don't cope with change like you do, so go easy on them. Or maybe the problem is that you've reached saturation with change yourself. There is something of the overloaded circuit-board with this energy, and the risk of burn-out. Stand back, stop hyperventilating, and analyze what's afoot. Chill out, don't blow out.

Pallas SemiSquare Hygiea, Orb: 0 deg. 16 min.

The processes of change and the speed at which you learn the lessons of life are both intensified by this dynamic and challenging linkage of the energy of consciousness-raising with the energy of purification. Resistance only makes these experiences more upsetting. It is best to brace yourself, think positively, and go along for the ride!

Chapter 3: Juno

Juno, lady of personal power

Juno symbolizes the primal power of the original Great Mother Goddess, whom the Greeks called Hera. The goddess Hera's supreme position was lost when the sky and warrior gods of patriarchal tribes supplanted the deities of the old agricultural proto-civilization. Hera became the wife of Zeus and patroness of marriage, a much narrower remit of power. Her Roman counterpart was Juno, wife of Jupiter. Although most astrologers read the asteroid Juno primarily as a symbol of relationships and the passions and power struggles entangled in them, there is a much deeper significance to this asteroid in your chart.

Juno is above all about personal power, where you find it, and how you use or misuse it, or fail to use

it at all. People often struggle to express their Juno energy, perhaps because the world still struggles collectively with what feminine energy really means. It is not simply about sugar and spice and all things nice. Juno is often not very 'nice' at all, and challenges you to wake up to what you want and find a skilful way of shaping your life path. Juno shines a light on inequalities and demands fairness, or - if she feels thwarted - retreats into angry sulking and defeat. Her most blunted and distorted energies manifest as arrogance and self-entitlement, or in envy and spite; but at her best she bestows a kind of truly royal authority, grounded in maturity and deep understanding.

Juno demands you take responsibility, first of all for yourself. She also teaches you lessons about your values and helps you to transform anything primitive, selfish or self-defeating into a mature and empowering way of being in the world. Juno's great gift is precisely this: empowerment. As a corollary, she can help you make money or gain material successes along the way. And she can give you great style and a powerful presence, too!

Juno in Leo:

There is often a majestic quality to Juno energy, and this is never more obvious than when she is clothed in the gold of Leo, the most royal of signs. You can convey an air of effortless authority, or splendor, or drama or pizzazz, depending on what image you want - and image matters to you! Anyone silly enough to 'diss' you will be sorry, but treat you with ordinary courtesy and you are nice as pie. You know instinctively that nothing succeeds like success, and therefore will be expert in the art of faking it till you make it. One way or another you are likely to make it, somewhere, in terms that matter to you. Empowerment comes from full expression of your creativity, whether in your work or hobbies or ability to look after relationships. You're a natural, kid, so 'break a leg'!

Juno in 8th house:

Life's playgrounds have a way of turning into battlegrounds, and this is especially true when a symbol of power like Juno is found in the domain of exchange and transformation. Until you understand how to honor yourself and your needs whilst balancing this with equal (not more, not less) respect to others, you will find yourself in struggles over how things are shared or over the power balances in your relationships. This can be particularly challenging in the sexual arena, or when money is at stake. Be clear about your drives and be willing to purify negative patterns so that your dealings with people are well-intentioned and fair, and you need not attract anyone exploitative.

Juno Conjunct Pluto, Orb: 2 deg. 12 min.

When the yang and yin energies of transformative power come together, something genuinely magical can be unleashed. But in ordinary life this can be an overload energy that requires careful handling lest you get caught up in conflict or lose control in some way. Losing control isn't your style:

stay focused and real so you can achieve results.

Juno Opposition Mercury, Orb: 2 deg. 47 min.

Your mind is strong and you are able to get to the essence of things quite dexterously, but can run into problems if you get carried away with yourself. Conflicts arise if you suppose your ideas are the best or only ones: information exchanges flourish better in freedom. Don't sweat the small stuff, either, but rather save your energy for big issues.

Juno Square Mars, Orb: 1 deg. 38 min.

Your high energy level and warrior instincts can be a source of great success, giving you the vigor and determination to get ahead. But if these qualities erupt into aggressive rather than assertive behaviors you could find yourself embroiled in conflict and trouble. Find a worthy focus, even investigate martial arts training to channel physical energy.

Juno Opposition Proserpina, Orb: 1 deg. 13 min.

There is a source of empowerment to be had from your willingness to go on some kind of inner journey that takes you from a state of innocence, even ignorance, to a much deeper understanding of how you work, and how the world works too. It can happen unwillingly but its challenges and conflicts teach you to be more alert, active and self-protecting.

Chapter 4: Vesta

Vesta, lady of focused service.

The asteroid Vesta constellates a very pure energy of dedication to a higher purpose. In worldly terms this often steps down to more ordinary, everyday realities: the willingness to work hard, the willingness to put personal preferences aside to deal with issues at hand or to assist others in need, and above all the ability to focus intently on something in order to get it done.

It is worth remembering that the Roman goddess Vesta was lady of the hearth, and the Latin word for hearth is 'focus'. Where you put your focus you are, in some sense, kindling a fire in a hearth and tending it, just like the Vestal Virgins looked after the sacred hearth whose fire symbolized the life of

the whole collective. Vesta helps you to maintain your focus for as long as it takes to fulfill your obligations or to get the work done. With her help, you become less egoistic and more willing to put others ahead of yourself. But she also teaches you how to do this appropriately - turning into a doormat is hardly going to work well in the long run, either. You can become rather obsessed, too, where Vesta goes, and become righteous about issues with a moral dimension. You need to go a bit easily and honor difference whilst maintaining your own standards. Leading by example is better than grandstanding, and Vesta teaches you to work away quietly, without fuss, and achieve the sense of deep satisfaction that comes from recognizing and doing the right thing. You don't have to advertise this - virtue is its own reward!

Vesta in Pisces:

Vesta can get a little lost, initially, in the labyrinths and complex waterways of Pisces. But once you find a thread, or your bearings, you can cultivate a rare depth of subtlety and insight into anything you do. You probably don't work in the most conventional way, and some people may find your methods incomprehensible. That's their problem, not yours. You know what you are doing, sort of. If the truth be told, you don't always quite know what you are doing, or how, but you have a way of getting there (wherever 'there' is) in the end. Intuition, the capacity to attract help, even blind luck can be on your side. At your best you can magic order from chaos; at your worst you make chaos out of order. This is a paradoxical energy: whether magician or muddler, you are your own person.

Vesta in 3rd house:

Vesta finds ample scope for expression in the house of communication. Your mind takes on a very practical cast when Vesta helps to connect the synapses, and you are capable of an almost sublime focus on any work you do, especially the mental variety. You're the kind of student who can read vast amounts quickly and somehow zero in on the most important points, discarding anything extraneous. This gift can be applied in numerous helpful ways in other departments of life as well. Sometimes there can be an austere quality to your communication style, however, and you may need to work tactfully to make people understand that you are not a swot or a snob, just very, very focused.

Vesta Trine Mars, Orb: 1 deg. 21 min.

When Vesta discipline and Mars energy are in harmony, the results can be wondrous to behold. Once you get going, there is little you cannot achieve. There is much of the finely trained warrior in your makeup, but you are generous enough to make allowances for the less competent and focused people in the world. This gives you an even greater victory.

Vesta Trine Uranus, Orb: 1 deg. 55 min.

You have a knack for going with the flow and managing the wacky up'n'down quality of life. Inherently flexible, you can find freedom in structure and discipline, or put safe boundaries on chaos. Working with new technologies or at the cutting edge can be a good move, or becoming some kind of freelancer. You must do your own thing!

Vesta Sextile Chiron, Orb: 1 deg. 21 min.

Your ideal work is somehow geared to the future and to maximizing personal potential and development. You refuse to get stuck in a rut and will summon up the energy to work through any blockage that stands in your way. Working in unusual, innovative or spiritual ways will yield the best results. You could be a gifted teacher of practical life skills.

Vesta Sextile True Node, Orb: 1 deg. 42 min.

You find it easy to work hard, and draw strength and satisfaction from your ability to deliver the goods, as they say. And you can usually put a limit on worrying too much about what 'they' say, because you know how to balance what 'they' want with what you want. This is a rare gift which you can share with others who find such balancing hard.

Vesta Trine Hygiea, Orb: 1 deg. 06 min.

This energy links you to things much bigger than yourself, and gives you a drive to make a strong contribution to the greater good. You find strength and success from your ability to create practical results from your commitment to healing and wholeness, and have a subtle attunement to collective trends, and the pulse of the 'rhythm of life'.

Vesta SemiSquare Sun, Orb: 1 deg. 46 min.

You are modest to the point of being self-effacing, mostly, though you could also fall for the false pride of false humility scam as well. This is sometimes called hypocrisy. Be real, and true: because at your best your capacity to serve, in the best sense of the word, is second to none. Don't spoil it by being sanctimonious or interfering or self-pitying!

Vesta SemiSquare Venus, Orb: 1 deg. 37 min.

Your aesthetic responses attune you more to the minimalist or the austerely traditional, and to the piquant, even sad. You certainly take the love game seriously, and don't like manipulation or hysterics. Drama will turn you off; but genuine feelings, honor and commitment melt your frosty front. Don't make it too hard to warm the chill.

Vesta Sesquiquadrate Saturn, Orb: 1 deg. 49 min.

At your best, you can attain some kind of mastery, of yourself or a craft or study, or all these. But the tensions in this link could influence you to hide behind a defensive hardness that others find offputting or intimidating. Others do not have your strength and focus, so make allowances for difference. Beware of excessive conservatism, too.

Vesta SemiSquare Diana, Orb: 1 deg. 19 min.

You probably felt grown up long ahead of your peer group, either from inner promptings or outer necessities, or both. You are independent and self contained to an almost intimidating degree, and people may resist you if you become too austere and distanced. Everything flows more easily if you unbend a little and show your human side!

Chapter 5: Astraea

Astraea, lady of right judgment and integration

Astraea was a classical goddess of justice, whose symbol was the balanced scales. She presided over the moral sense of rightness and good order, and the poetic tradition relates that she was the last of the divinities to leave the world at the end of the Golden Age. Astraea was then translated into the heavens as the constellation Virgo. These elements of myth give you clues to the meaning of the asteroid Astraea in the horoscope. She is concerned with the integration and organization of things, bringing sometimes disparate elements together and finding the common links that join them up in the web of life. She helps you to focus on detail and understand the meaning of the fine print. She helps you to work both hard and well, and helps you to become more ordered and tidy in at least some aspects of your life.

Astraea can also help you to become quite high minded, whilst integrating into this spacious vision an ability to zero in and see all the small things that go together to make up the greater whole. She can stir up a compulsive quality, too, and stimulate an obsessive streak. This can cause a kind of splitting, which is another aspect of Astraea energy: the goddess who brings things together can also tear them apart. She does all this, ultimately, in the service of wholeness, and reveals those things it is time to clean up and get rid of, so that everything else can evolve into a more perfect

form. Wherever Astraea goes, you are urged to get organized and get your act together - and become the best you can be!

Astraea in Virgo:

Astraea belongs in Virgo, because this is quite literally 'her' sign. Virgo is Astraea, and vice versa. So this gives a super Virgoan streak to your personality, no matter how little emphasized this sign may be by other planetary energies. You are a sensible, practical soul, good with detail, aware of how things fit together, not (too) pushy, maybe a bit too modest for your own good sometimes, inclined to worry, and hugely self critical. This can also spill over into being critical of others. Does this sound like a Virgo character reference? You betcha. So get organized, and in your own coolly efficient, unobtrusive way, you can conquer the world. Or whatever part of it you find interesting. You know that everything and everyone will come apart without you. Quiet achievers rock!

Astraea in 8th house:

There is a funny little warrior streak in your nature, or at least something of the master strategist playing war games. This may be quite at odds with your public persona, and could either confuse or intrigue people and certainly make your more intimate relationships more, well, interesting, shall we say? Essentially, you are one of the change agents of life, and the life you will alter most profoundly is likely to be your own. You grow through a series of phoenix-like transformations, and can assist others to do the same. This is fine if the people around you want to change, but poses challenges if they aren't ready. You can't, or shouldn't, impose anything. Lead by example, not force!

Astraea Sextile Saturn, Orb: 1 deg. 21 min.

You draw strength and comfort from your capacity for hard work and focused action, and ability to keep things real. There can be something almost heroic about your organizing ability or your way of powering through a mountain of work, but you are also able to make allowances for less efficient or resilient folk, and even help them carry their load.

Astraea Trine Iris, Orb: 3 deg. 28 min.

You have a talent for absorbing masses of information and understanding complex material in a deep, thorough way. You just know things. Get real about a proper meditation practice and you could end up knowing, well, um, maybe everything. And you are pretty good at tuning into people and knowing, intuitively, what's up.

Astraea Trine Bacchus, Orb: 3 deg. 06 min.

When practicality and divine madness meet, you'll either be divinely inspired or run a mile from any of that spooky stuff. Given the harmonies in this meeting, you will find that happiness comes from getting the details right and making the right connections. Your intuition is a pretty good guide: so just do it, rather than merely dreaming it!

Astraea Square Moon, Orb: 3 deg. 10 min.

There's a driving need in you to make connections, whether of ideas or feelings or people. But you can make the wrong links if your own heart-head connection is temporarily mis-wired, as this will fluster you and bring out your worry-wart tendencies. Balance the heart's wisdom with the brain's knowledge, and all will turn out well.

Astraea Opposition Apollo, Orb: 3 deg. 56 min.

You have a strong dynamic for creative work that is both practical and pleasing, but your equally strong perfectionist streak can get in the way, big time. Don't waste your talents by giving in to fear, generated by an inner critic carping away. Believe in yourself and work patiently. You don't need magic or outside aid, just focused effort and brio.

Astraea Sesquiquadrate Chiron, Orb: 0 deg. 54 min.

You have a different take on the world and its ways, which arises from being very clued in, but you may not always find it easy to share your vision with others. You're probably a bit far ahead of the pack, and need to learn how to step down and see things from the bog ordinary viewpoint instead of your own quirky angle. Take it easy.

Astraea Sesquiquadrate True Node, Orb: 1 deg. 14 min.

Issues of attachment can come up in your relationships, whether you are too engaged or too little interested. If you overdo your interest in people or circumstances, or overdo the contrary urge to split away, you can create difficulties. You need to keep things simple and clean, neither fussing too much nor too little. Get the balance right and it will flow.

Astraea SemiSquare Hygiea, Orb: 1 deg. 34 min.

There is a powerful healing energy at work here, at quite a subtle level. But it is all too easy for you to get caught up in phantom fears and start 'sweating the small stuff'. Get the support you need to gain confidence in the fundamental goodness of life. You have the capacity to grow into an agent of healing and transformation.

Chapter 6: Iris

Iris, lady of the intuitive mind and illumination

In Greek myth, there were two divine messengers: Hermes (equivalent to the Roman god Mercury), and Iris. Some traditions suggest that Iris was the messenger of the goddess Hera (whose Roman equivalent was Juno), whilst Mercury served Jupiter. However you play with the myths, there was a feminine energy associated with communication as well as a masculine one. And modern neuroscience tells us there are masculine and feminine aspects to the brain, too.

Few astrologers have learned yet how to honor the great goddess whose archetype stands behind the 'feminine' brain and style of communication. That is why this asteroid report is named in honor of Iris! The symbol of Iris was the rainbow, and the Iris energies of the horoscope seem to encompass all the colors of the spectrum, all kinds of light: ultimately, the light of pure consciousness.

Mercury shows how you think and communicate in a more systems oriented, data gathering and sorting way. His energy is yang and outward directed. Iris, however, has yin energy and is receptive. She shows how you receive ideas, how you listen, how you intuit and empathize, and how you deal holistically with all the information thrown at you by living in the world.

Iris helps you to understand things at a deep level, and to grow in wisdom. She adds color and depth to the Mercury energies of the chart, and shows another avenue of expression. She helps you to meditate. At her very best, Iris helps you to find true illumination. There is a vastness and sublime beauty to Iris energy. Wherever she sits in your horoscope can be magical, as she helps your consciousness to expand and evolve.

Iris in Capricorn:

Old proverbs like 'Softly, softly, catchee monkey,' strike a chord with you. Anything old strikes a chord, actually, as you have a quiet, steady regard for the best of the past, and do your bit to hand it on. There is an innate cautiousness in you, which makes you both wary in your dealings with folk, and a stealthy monkey hunter when you want something. You usually prefer things that are useful, and the best way to get your mind's attention and approval, is to be practical. Change for the heck of it leaves you cold, and you aren't fooled by appearances either. Your cool eve takes in a lot, and

you've the memory of the proverbial elephant if interested in an idea, or situation, or person. You can be a bit scared by anything too strange, but have a poker face and play a dab hand every time.

Iris in 1st house:

You have a high level of mental receptivity, but how willingly you show this will depend on how confident you feel about dealing with the world. You don't want to expose yourself, especially to exploitation, but at the same time people sense you are aware of things and are likely to give them a sympathetic audience. With the right linkages to Iris, you can display quite a level of cleverness and creativity, and even if you aren't 'artistic' in the conventional sense, you probably have a sense of color and form. The main risk here is becoming lost in dreamy preoccupations. But you know, or learn quickly, that life isn't just about you, and you're generous in your inclusiveness of others.

Iris Conjunct Bacchus, Orb: 0 deg. 22 min.

There is something inspired, even rhapsodic, here. You're willing to chase rainbows to the end of the world if you believe the pot of gold will be there at the end. But chase the wrong rainbow and you'll find nothing at all. Ground your imaginative flights of fancy, though, and you can do some pretty amazing things. Tune in rather than dropping out!

Iris Sextile Saturn, Orb: 2 deg. 07 min.

You rather enjoy music in a minor key, the subtle shades of grey: the colors of heart and mind which tell the world, 'This is a serious soul.' Life is real and earnest for you, and you're very good at dealing with the practical stuff and managing things with a measure of tact and awareness. Just make sure you flow into steadfastness, not rigidity!

Iris Sextile Apollo, Orb: 0 deg. 28 min.

So much talent - but what to do with it? That's the challenge here, to find a focus for all that easily flowing creative energy. Other elements of your horoscope will show where you can harness this horsepower, which can help you to do well on so many levels of life. A certain confidence in your manner, and clarity of speech, ease your way as well.

Iris Square True Lilith, Orb: 0 deg. 27 min.

The desire for autonomy and a reluctance to get caught up in weird emotional situations can make you seem a bit distant to some people. Actually you are very sensitive, and acutely aware of what's going on. Avoidance can be positive or negative depending on what you are keeping away from, and why. Be aware and clear at all times.

Chapter 7: Hygiea

Hygiea, lady of purification and healing

Hygiea is named for the classical goddess of health and well-being, whose name also yields the English word hygiene. This brings a sense of cleansing and purification to the symbolism for the asteroid Hygiea, as well as meanings associated with health issues, sickness, cure, and the moral and physical wholeness that are implicit in ideas of good health or good order. Wherever Hygiea goes in the horoscope, she has a way of cleaning up things, bringing them into a very pure, even ideal, state of being.

Hygiea intensifies any other planetary energy with which she links, and assists it to express in a cleaner, stronger, truer form. Sometimes this poses real challenges and problems, making circumstances appear worse before they get better. Then Hygiea seems to act like the force behind a fever, which can rise to dangerous heights before it breaks, and the healing occurs. It's all about getting the poison out first, so that wholeness can be restored, or aided to form. The poison is more often metaphorical than literal, of course. Hygiea always helps you to scrub up, or purge. She's a catalyst for action as well as a force for intensifying and purifying other energies. However testing a time you have whilst she's busy, you're always left in much better shape when she has finished with you!

Hygiea in Cancer:

A sense of completeness and fulfillment comes from your ability to nurture people, and look after your tribe. If there was, or is, anything amiss in your family or group environment, you probably feel driven to heal it, but this may not be up to you alone, or your solo responsibility. Your emotions are strong and you are a sensitive soul, which can put you at some risk of exploitation. Kind as you are, if you sense anyone has an ulterior motive you can clam up like, well, a clam. Don't overdo the mothering thing, or indulge in too much comfort eating. Your system is as sensitive as your psyche, and the mind-body connection is important to keep in balance. Check your lymph system occasionally too, as sluggish emotional responses can have a way of manifesting physically for you.

Hygiea in 7th house:

So, you want to heal the whole relating game, do you? That's a tall order. You do put a lot of energy into how you relate to people, sometimes overdoing it, sometimes keeping away instead. You can be quite a loner when you aren't engaged. Does all this sound paradoxical? It should, because the paradoxes of closeness versus autonomy tend to bedevil you and drive a lot of what you do, and don't do. Harmony matters deeply to you, but you don't always find it. That's not only because of the cold cruel world, but also because your expectations can be too high. Scale back, expect nothing, hope for the best and make the most positive contribution you can. People are people - forgive them!

Hygiea Conjunct Uranus, Orb: 0 deg. 49 min.

There's an intense individuality firing up your way of being in the world, which means some people think you're fab and others call you crazy. Maybe you're both, or take turns at both. Who cares? You don't. You run your own race, and are free and swift as air. Just don't overdo the freedom thing to the point you float off like a loose helium balloon.

Hygiea Opposition True Node, Orb: 2 deg. 48 min.

There's a strong spiritual focus to your life, sooner or later. Some kind of healing crisis (moral or physical) will probably bring it on, as you learn how to surrender, gracefully rather than grudgingly, what is not serving your highest good. Figuring out what stands in your way is part of the challenge, but life has a way of helping you do that, too.

Hygiea Trine Mars, Orb: 2 deg. 27 min.

There's a wellspring of warrior energy in you which you find it easy to access and a source of both inner and outer strength and satisfaction. You need to get physical in healthy ways, and could become something of a fitness freak. But you know that ultimately moral strength is more important than mere brawn, and go for the best.

Hygiea Opposition Chiron, Orb: 2 deg. 28 min.

You have a drive to heal and transform both your own life and the life around you, but this can turn a tad compulsive or make you into some kind of fanatic for change. Don't be led astray by righteousness. Let life teach you how to work with pain and come through to wholeness, so you can get practical - and tactful - about helping others in like need.

Hygiea Opposition True Node, Orb: 2 deg. 48 min.

Learning to serve your highest good is a big challenge, and not just for you, it's a universal test. But this Hygiea-Lunar Node link does make it all a bit more intensely personal than usual. Resistance only brings pain, so it's best to look dispassionately at what you most need to be doing, and do it with grace and acceptance.

Hygiea Square MC, Orb: 3 deg. 43 min.

Your zeal to clean up the world, or at least some part of it around you, can be very noble in theory, but go horribly wrong in practice. If you believe that you alone know best, you may not play purifying angel after all, and end up wondering why nobody appreciates you. Listen and think before acting, and judge wisely so you work for the good.

Hygiea Sesquiquadrate Moon, Orb. 1 deg. 36 min.

Your emotional intensity can get the better of you sometimes, and you may find it necessary to step back and 'chill' as they say. Getting caught up in power games around feelings is also unwise, as it clouds your judgment and effectiveness. You will thrive best with periodic cleanouts both literal and metaphorical. Don't clog up on any level.

Chapter 8: Proserpina

Proserpina, lady of transitions, other-worldly realms, and sacrifice

The asteroid Proserpina is named in honor of the goddess of the dead, consort of Pluto, she who was known as Persephone to the Greeks. As a goddess archetype, Proserpina constellates an energy that is often hard to fathom at first, because in the poetic myths Proserpina/Persephone seems to have little personality of her own. As the innocent maiden, abducted by Pluto/Hades into the underworld, she was scarcely distinguishable from her fertility goddess mother Ceres/Demeter. As Pluto's wife and queen of the underworld, though, she receives the souls of the dead and as such, is also a guide to other realms and levels of being, and the deepest places of the psyche. The asteroid Proserpina seems to manifest as an energy of innocence and ignorance that learns a very great deal by (often hard) experience. She shows where you tend to take the line of least resistance, to be passive or helpless, and teaches you the consequences of such unaware or unassertive

responses. She points to what you learn through the various transitions of life, which may or may not be painful, but which always entail a letting go of what has ceased to be viable, and carry therefore some sense of sacrifice. She shows you altered states of being, can help you to open up to all the stimuli of life, assists you to adapt and change in response to your environment, and even helps you to cultivate psychic perception.

Proserpina is a tricky energy to deal with, though, because she is so hard to know in essence. You need to be still, and quietly open, to access Proserpina and work with her successfully. Ignore her altogether and you may find yourself plunging into situations you never expected or wanted; honor her and she will help you to find a way through the dark, a guide for your soul who aids your inner journey and ultimately, as a result, your path to individuation in the outer world.

Proserpina in Aquarius:

Either you just fit in with the group like a happy little lamb content to be part of the herd, or you feel like a black sheep that has lost its way and doesn't belong with the flock in any case. Giving in to either of these extreme responses is probably not smart: simply blend in and you'll lose your individuality, but opt out and you could end up so out of step, you can never fall in again. Play to your strengths and use your sometimes oddball talents to help the group - then you can end up leading it. That's more your style. You probably have a strong social conscience and could become a passionate advocate for justice or change, or for protecting the weak from exploitation: you don't like power abuses. You're a smart cookie, too, as long as you don't drift and procrastinate.

Proserpina in 2nd house:

Life is real and earnest for you, and you'll feel much safer if you have some sort of material touchstone to which you can return, or on which you can stand. Despite your best efforts to keep everything safe and solid, though, life is likely to lead you on some meandering paths that give you, ultimately, an interesting and not at all 'typical' take on what constitutes reality. As a visionary, you will be very practical, and your practicality will have odd visionary touches in it. The material demands of life can get a bit much, however, especially if you aren't in step with your fellows. You can be individual to the point of waywardness. Your reality may not quite align with the consensus version.

Proserpina Conjunct Mercury, Orb: 4 deg. 01 min.

There is a very subtle quality to the workings of your mind, and your imagination is very vivid. At your best you have psychic potentials, but you can also get carried away by fantasies and end up believing any passing whim is some kind of divine revelation. Keep your feet firmly on the ground so your head can turn safely in wonder in the clouds!

Proserpina Trine Neptune, Orb: 2 deg. 54 min.

You are very receptive, responsive and adaptable, and can flow in and out of all kinds of situations almost like a fish in a brook. And you have a good ability to avoid nets and fishing lines while you're about it! The problem here can come from being too willing or too flexible. Where do you stand on things? Be clear about boundaries and limits.

Proserpina Opposition Pluto, Orb: 0 deg. 59 min.

Life has a way of taking you to some of the darkest and most transformative places in the soul, and especially in your youth you may be daunted at the thought of such journeys. But ultimately these intense rides will teach you valuable lessons, and you will grow each time more richly in wisdom and compassion. You could even guide others in turn.

Proserpina Square Mars, Orb: 0 deg. 24 min.

Your energy levels can go up and down, and see you oscillate between intense interest and sublime indifference. Cultivating balance is a good start if you want to succeed in the world (and you do!), and don't kid yourself that it will all be easy. There's no such thing as a free lunch. Get organized and don't allow impulse to side track your journey.

Chapter 9: Diana

Diana, lady of emotional maturity

Diana was the classical goddess associated with the moon, a virginal hunter who was expert with the bow and arrow. She preferred to keep aloof from the company of most of the other gods and goddesses, living in wild mountain fastnesses with her retinue of maidens.

Diana took an interest in the affairs of ordinary mortals primarily when women were giving birth, and she cared for the young of all creatures. But she could be fierce, even lethal, if her rights were impinged upon, or if she were slighted. Her arrows never missed their target.

The asteroid Diana has not been used a lot by astrologers, which is a pity as she seems to show a different quality of emotional response from that traditionally associated with the Moon. Where Diana

goes in your chart you are not inclined to the sort of overt, even child-like sensitivity and vulnerability that the Moon tends to indicate, but to a more restrained, independent and even sometimes avoidant response to the stimuli of life. Diana energy is more austere, but she does not show a lack of sensitivity as such. Indeed, she can be almost hypersensitive in her way, which is to acknowledge feelings and immediately put boundaries in place to contain and protect them, so that Diana can sometimes seem cold or hard where in fact she is simply looking after herself. Of course, she can help you to be tough if circumstances demand it! She can also point to intense fear responses, which in turn stimulate the 'fight or flight' reflex, which in turn makes you either combative or prone to head for the hills. Ultimately the position of Diana in your chart tells you a lot about how you develop emotional maturity, although she can also say something about the distortions and setbacks of this process, too. She shows where you are able to rely on yourself rather than depending on others, and also points to ways in which you will help other people - as long as it suits you!

Diana is not needy, except for space and for the opportunity, quietly, to nurture the inner needs of the soul. She helps you to figure out what you want, but without all the emotional baggage associated with Lunar attachment. Detached, disinterested and dispassionate, Diana energy helps you to engage with life on your own terms, as a fully fledged adult. With Diana, you put away childish things and come into a richer fullness of being.

Diana in Aquarius:

There's a strong cerebral quality to your personality, which can seem a little chilly to some more fiery or physical folk. But you love ideas, especially big ones, and can be the most congenial of companions if the talk is good and the information exchange is lively. You can be visionary, probably have a strong social conscience, and you're very aware of the wider culture. You get the whole 'vibe' as easily as breathing. Group action appeals to you, but appeals most if it means you'll get recognition for your own contribution. You like power more than you admit, especially if your image is egalitarian. Sudden eruptions of vanity (usually if you feel under-valued) can shock you as much as your associates. Stay as tuned-in to yourself as you are to the world, though, and all will be well.

Diana in 2nd house:

You have an instinct for the significance of the physical or material side of life, which is really about a natural gift for resource management (on pretty much any level) but which may come across to less mindful folk as an obsession with money and things. You may or may not care how you come across to others, as you're too busy getting a job done. Security matters to you, but you like to be sensible about it. You like to be sensible, full stop. There could be a strong environmental awareness in you, or you could be a stubborn conservative. Whatever your politics, you know best! However you cut and dice it, dealing with the practicalities of life helps you travel safely to maturity and success.

Diana Conjunct Sun, Orb: 0 deg. 27 min.

Your catch-cry is quite simple: 'I'm an individual.' You do your own thing, although it may be something of a life journey to figure out the best way and the best goal. There's something quite formidable about how you present to the world, and people realize you aren't someone to fool, or cross. But you're honorable, and deal correctly with things.

Diana Conjunct Venus, Orb: 0 deg. 18 min.

This is an interesting energy, stimulating maturity though the exploration and expression of harmony, and conveying the deep harmony that arises with true maturity. You have a taste for the beautiful and artistic potential (do be flexible how you define 'artistic'), but you may encounter difficulties with relationships if you set your standards too high!

Diana Trine True Lilith, Orb: 3 deg. 03 min.

It's a little easier for you to cope with the ordinary stresses of life when you allow yourself to relax into an acceptance of your anxiety about the rottenness of the world. Although your default pattern is to withdraw into your own space, when you engage with the wider world you can be good at helping others to deal with independence issues.

Diana Square Saturn, Orb: 0 deg. 30 min.

You understand so well the expression 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going,' that you might have written it - if you're older than God, and sometimes you probably feel as though you are. Much as you thrive on tough challenges, don't become so austere that you forget what ordinary human qualities are. Be gentle with weaker mortals!

Chapter 10: Apollo

Apollo, lord of creative maturity

In classical mythology, Apollo was the god of the sun, whose patronage extended over harmony, the arts and healing. He was not the literal, physical sun, however, and the asteroid named in honor of this god has a slightly different quality from the Sun energy with which traditional astrology is familiar -

just as the energy of Diana is rather markedly different from that of the Moon.

Although work is still in progress on understanding the influence of Apollo - as with all the asteroids! - he seems to take the creative, personality-making energy traditionally associated with the Sun and then place and develop it in a wider social context. If the Sun is about 'Me' and my life force in pure potential, then Apollo shows 'Me' how to become more fully and completely and socially myself - or rather yourself, as the case may be, since this report is about you, the reader! For this reason Apollo is described here as the lord of creative maturity. He has a sway over the process of full individuation that allows your innate gifts to shine their light into the world. Apollo shows another aspect of your talents and potentials, but he also shows possible areas of downfall, if more primitive egoistic urges get in the way of the maturation process.

It is all too easy to become proud wherever Apollo goes in the chart, and to become excessively perfectionist and demanding. But all these distortions are unfortunate ways of misusing his wonderful capacities for creation. At his best, Apollo gives clear sightedness, and this includes clarity of insight into who you really are and what you are best able to do in order to make the best of yourself in the world at large. Don't allow vanity or lazy self-entitlement to trip you up. Be honest about where you are and what you want, and do the best you can to be the best you can. That's what Apollo's drive for (true) excellence is all about!

The asteroid Apollo also has a rather strange orbit and appears to spend much longer in some signs of the zodiac than others. Appropriately enough, he is much more often and longest in Leo, the traditional sign of the Sun. If you have Apollo in the signs from Sagittarius through to Taurus, this is a relatively more rare placement.

Apollo in Pisces:

The rich variety of life has a glittering tinsel allure for you, like a child surrounded by Christmas decorations and gifts. You believe in magic of one kind or another, and can at your best keep the spells of the fairies and genies alive and enchanting. There's certainly a dramatic streak, possibly even a grandly dramatic manner, in your makeup and style. Your emotions are strong and close to the surface, and your public displays can be quite something to behold, both when you are at your noblest and when you are collapsing in a teary heap. Your self-dramatizing approach will delight some and repel others, but one way or another you tend to find an audience. You can be a fighter for the right, and use your capacity to spell-bind to tremendous effect, both as a spokesperson and advocate.

Apollo in 2nd house:

You are very values driven, a somewhat slippery concept these days, since there seem to be as

many ideas about values as there are people. But you know what your values are, and if others don't, too bad for them. Compromise is something you do only if necessary. You are fundamentally very practical, a good thing to be, since you are also acutely security conscious and have almost a terror of poverty or indebtedness. Sometimes you can seem to have a Midas touch, or at least the ability to accumulate resources. Just beware of a tendency to want too much: meeting need is one thing, gratifying greed another. There's also a physical theme in your life, and a need to look after your body.

Apollo Trine Saturn, Orb: 2 deg. 35 min.

You are motivated by a rather austere, almost mathematical aesthetic, and tend to look for harmony in structure and discipline. Though disorder or laziness or wildness are not to your taste, you can be quite tactfully firm in setting things to rights instead of wading in and playing the heavy. Your practical focus helps to bring other people to consensus.

Apollo Sextile Bacchus, Orb: 0 deg. 50 min.

There is an easy flow of creative energy here, a richly complex one that allows you to play with formal ways of doing whatever you do, whilst also allowing a little wildness and passion into the process. The main risk is becoming some kind of pleasure junkie, and neglecting other works, or spoiling the worth of what you do by cutting corners.

Apollo Sesquiquadrate Neptune, Orb: 0 deg. 34 min.

If you can link your mystical, visionary qualities to a practical and consistent spiritual practice, you can manifest an extraordinary creative capacity. But you can be tempted to take short-cuts, or wallow in confused fantasies, or just laze about expecting the universe to provide for you. Get real, take responsibility, and you can turn dreams into reality.

Apollo SemiSquare Hephaistos, Orb: 1 deg. 39 min.

There is really only one thing standing in the way of harnessing your creativity in very practical ways, and that is seething in self-pity or resentment if you feel that your ideas aren't being received. Do the work for its own sake, and be sensible about what work is actually required. It isn't just about you. What do others want or need from you?

Chapter 11: Bacchus

Bacchus, lord of altered states and divine inspiration

In Roman mythology, Bacchus was the god of the vine and wine, equivalent to the Greek Dionysos. The cult of Dionysos was ancient and mysterious. He was a strange and subtle god, other-worldly, now kind, now cruel, connected with altered states (including those induced by drugs, from alcohol to hallucinogens), the deity presiding over peak experiences from ecstasy to agony. He was close to nature, wild and free, and his worship had many anarchic as well as transcendental elements. Eventually his archetype and worship became so important to the Greek collective psyche that he was elevated to the Council of Twelve, the great gods and goddesses who presided over the government of Mount Olympus. Unlike other (male) gods, Dionysos was surrounded by women, and mortal women were his most significant votaries. There is an inter-sex, almost androgynous or transgender quality to this divine archetype.

The asteroid Bacchus constellates all these contradictions and mysteries in the horoscope. A good deal of the Bacchus/Dionysos archetype is also apparent in the planet Neptune, and where this asteroid differs and adds value to the chart is in the way it focuses the area of life where you are most open to inspiration and where you are most eager for pleasure and escape from the everyday. Neptune has a collective energy, but Bacchus is more directly personal. Bacchus tells you a lot about where and how you play, what excites you and inspires you to do better, to go further, and to push things not only to the limit but even past it. The consequences, if any, you will deal with later, if you must. Where Bacchus goes you have a little taste of freedom, a little glimpse of heaven or - if you play foolishly or choose badly - you get a harrowing vision of hell. You need to be careful with Bacchus energy. When he is good he is very, very good; and when he is bad he is horrid. Or to quote another old proverb: 'Take what you want, the Good Lord says - and pay for it.'

The asteroid Bacchus has an eccentric orbit and spends more time in some signs of the zodiac than others. His longest sojourn is in Sagittarius; if you have Bacchus in the signs from Pisces through Aries to Virgo, this is a less common placement.

Bacchus in Capricorn:

Bacchus in Capricorn is inspired by power, perhaps the most seductive and dangerous of all temptations. There's an old adage that the real test of anyone is not failure, but how they handle power. And you want it. Yes, precious, you want it. Like Gollum with the ring, you want it, it's yours, yours, yours! Okay - settle down now, that's enough of that. You have to get real about how power is used or abused, or you could run in terror and never return to consensus reality, or turn into a tyrant, or end up being squashed. None of these is a good outcome. Get focused, get real, get practical.

and you will be just fine. Don't overdo anything, especially any power tripping! Make a proper estimate of your true skills, work hard, and let it all take care of itself, which it will. Greed and other emotional excesses lead directly to hell. Get skilful and go up to heaven instead!

Bacchus in 1st house:

The idea of the free or perfected self is one that inspires you to great activity, and can help you become a truly fabulous human being. But, of course, it can also be a bedeviling attachment if you get too carried away by the notion of being the very best. If ego gets in the way of that process, you could start cutting corners and indulging in fakery. Keep it real! Instead of focusing only on you, a better way might be to work with others to help them find themselves, and see what you can discover and cultivate in yourself as you go. You probably have a strong personal presence, a charisma that inspires and excites others. Just make sure your allurements are being put 'out there' with good intentions!

Bacchus Sextile Saturn, Orb: 1 deg. 45 min.

You find it fairly easy to sort out the difference between sublime inspiration and plain crazy delusion. There is a strength for you in bringing a visionary, imaginative impulse into ordinary works and the daily grind - indeed, it becomes less of a grind this way. You want work to be fun, but can make fun into work - so you profit from your pleasures!

Bacchus Square True Lilith, Orb: 0 deg. 49 min.

Your drive for freedom can drive you almost wild at times. Seemingly titanic forces can surge up from somewhere within (or maybe without), and you've no need for acid when you can go on trips with these energies. You must be authentic, you must have respect, or you can turn in sudden anger. People do best to realize that you are a truly free spirit.

Bacchus Sesquiquadrate Pluto, Orb: 1 deg. 38 min.

The inspiration you find in dark and mysterious places can certainly take you on great adventures, but you need to get sensible about the risks and have the odd contingency plan in place. Going into any sort of riot (rave party, bacchanal, political push, street brawl) does mean living life to the max, but can mean dicing with danger, too.

Chapter 12: Hephaistos

Hephaistos, lord of inner fire, talent, craft and work

The asteroid Hephaistos is named in honor of the ancient god of fire and the forge, the master craftsman and divine blacksmith. In the proto-civilizations of the early Bronze Age, those who worked with the wonders of fire and metal seemed to be magicians, and were thought to possess special powers. But the god Hephaistos had a sad, strange story. He stands for aspects of the masculine that are not only amongst the most worthy (he is a hard worker and consummate artisan) but also the most unfortunate, because Hephaistos was crippled and ugly, so the other gods and goddesses wanted little to do with him. But they could not ignore him, because he was too clever and too skilful, and he was one of the great gods who sat on the Council of Twelve governors. As we know in human life, too, those who are truly gifted always find a way to the top, and this is something the asteroid Hephaistos can point to in your horoscope. He also shows where you may feel very unworthy and self-doubting, and so make an extra effort. He reveals many of your deepest passions and dearest desires, but also shows some of your greatest sufferings, because other people do not necessarily understand you or want your company or input. He shows where and how you work, where and how you are perhaps most skilful. But above all, the divine blacksmith hammers your soul on his forge in order to make you better than you are already. This process of soul making, of what used to be called 'character building', can be hard and painful, but it is very necessary.

Hephaistos knocks you into shape. Once you understand what he is doing, it can actually be fun to cooperate, and turn the work into a game. Mary Poppins, arguably the first super-nanny, knew a thing or two about the secret purposes of the Hephaistos archetype. With his help, you can take the base metal of your nature and transform it into gold, or at least move from childhood to adulthood.

The asteroid Hephaistos also has an even more eccentric orbit than Apollo, and spends very little time in some signs of the zodiac. He is most often in Taurus, and the nearby signs of Aries, Gemini and Cancer. If your Hephaistos is in the signs from Leo to Pisces, this is a much rarer placement.

Hephaistos in Aries:

For you, the process of soul making is linked to a somewhat broader collective process of developing self reliance and deep courage. What may seem to some people as a strong self focus is not necessarily about selfishness as such, though that is a challenge you need to beware of, but more about learning how to do things for yourself and carrying on in the face of adversity. Many will find you direct, even forward, and you can have quite a feisty streak in your character which emerges quickly under stress. Suffering fools is not to your taste; those who can't shape up might as well ship out, in your view. But you can turn your own interests outwards and find commonalities with others.

and in this process develop as a leader, and also find a reassuring kinship with wider groups of people.

Hephaistos in 4th house:

The soul making process indicated by the sign your Hephaistos occupies is directed into the most fundamental areas of your life, because the challenges begin fairly literally at home. This could start early, with a lot of family issues; either the home life is stormy or you may not feel quite in step with the rest of your family group. If the truth be told, you aren't always easy to know, because you feel everything so very deeply and passionately, and some folk just can't cope with all that intensity. Try to make allowances for others, but recognize other people also need to pay you the same respect. You have a tremendous ability to reach other hearts once you learn how to reach and honor your own.

Hephaistos Trine Asc., Orb: 1 deg. 24 min.

The ideal of perfection is well and good, but troublesome if you make unrealistic demands of yourself. Find instead a practical strength in working slowly, steadily and skillfully on both your character and your life path. Everyone and everything is a work in progress, including you, but with your skills you can succeed better than most.

Hephaistos Opposition Neptune, Orb: 2 deg. 13 min.

Every now and then you hit the challenging wall of resistance when your deep fantasy life collides with consensus reality. Your dreams and visions can be seriously out of step with the mainstream, which doesn't mean they are wrong (though they could be), but you do need to understand them better and work them out in a clear and realistic way.

Chapter 13: Flora

Flora, lady of all things that flower and flourish

Flora was one of the loveliest of the Classical goddesses, and her namesake asteroid also has a lovely energy. In the mythic tradition, Flora was a Roman deity; she was the goddess of the fertile season of spring, and patroness of all things budding and flowering. Her name has passed into

biological parlance, as "flora" is given now to encompass the entire plant kingdom. Her asteroid bestows her graces and generosity upon the horoscope in sweet and gently powerful ways. Astrologically, the divine archetype Flora shows whatever has come into bloom, whatever is flourishing. She acts to enhance the energies of the other planetary archetypes she contacts, and brings them into a bright, full-flowering strength.

Whilst essentially benign in her action, Flora's ability to activate and stimulate the energies of other planets sometimes means they flourish unchecked, so that instead of manifesting as (metaphorically) lovely flowers they may look or feel more like rampant weeds! Flora usually adds a graceful strength wherever she goes. She doesn't swagger and bluster like so many of the god archetypes, but in her own sweet quiet way she points to areas of the horoscope which have a kind of divine favor and blessing. In more material terms this means she shows areas of improved capacity, and often shows things that give us particular pleasure.

In some ways Flora is like a purified Venus in the chart. She adds beauty and charm, but the quality of her energy is mostly untroubled by Venus's strong desires and attachments. Flora is like a seal of goodwill and protection. She helps you along, gives you subtle inspiration and encouragement, and ultimately shows you where many of your greatest strengths and talents lie. She helps you to "be yourself", whatever that means, and to find and make the most of your natural gifts.

Flora in Sagittarius:

It's easy for you to uphold the old hippie motto that says, "Live and let live." Your way of being in the world is open and candid, springing from a spacious attitude of mind that at its best will allow you to develop a strong and sustaining spirituality. Taken to its highest potential, this can even give you the spiritual authority to act as an exemplar or teacher of some kind, helping others to figure out what they believe in or supporting their quest for personal freedom and self-actualization. At the very least people want to believe in you, so it would be best all-round if you really do have something worth believing in to give to the world. You could get by with the appearance of talent or wisdom, but cultivating the real deal will serve you, and everyone else, much better in the long run!

Flora in 12th house:

In order to grow and blossom you draw on a very deep, secret wellspring of feeling and inspiration. Your imagination is vivid and big, and whilst this can empower some wonderful forms of creativity, you can also trip over it and fall into fantasy land. That's fine for relaxation but not the best place to idle time away! Sometimes you may try to avoid the more imaginative or spiritual side of life, because your sensitivity is so great you can be fearful of the monsters lurking in the dark places of the psyche. It works better if you face the dark and find a way to transform and heal it. The personal gains from this brave strategy are great, and afterwards you can also help other lost souls in turn.

You like to be helpful, because you have an inner awareness of the inter-connectedness of all life.

Flora Sextile True Lilith, Orb: 1 deg. 32 min.

Being on your own is very necessary for you, at least occasionally, because you re-charge when you drop entanglements with the world and cultivate your own secret garden of delight. Attuned more to music in the minor than the major key, you have a detached quality that is mysterious, sometimes elusive, sometimes edgy, always uniquely yours.

Flora Sextile Ceres, Orb: 0 deg. 21 min.

The creative juices flow and flower easily in you, whether you are creative in a purely practical or artistic or more intellectual way. You could have a green thumb, at least metaphorically, because things have a way of growing when you are around, whatever those things are. Whatever kind of garden you cultivate, you will tend it well, and yield a good harvest.

Flora Opposition Jupiter, Orb: 3 deg. 31 min.

You have a very big, spacious vision of life, and it can be magnificent. It can also become floridly overblown and completely over the top. Sure, it's great you want to try everything and do everything. Just be sensible about what you can do when, with what resources. Keep things real. Sometimes simplicity is best. Try attuning to the natural world and its constant rhythms.

Flora Square Apollo, Orb: 1 deg. 30 min.

There's a strong urge here to sing and dance and let the world see how fabulous you are, and this will go brilliantly if you've done the work and if you really are "all that". If you overestimate yourself you could crash and burn. Take a sanity check now and then, and go back and see what you've missed. Then try again, and really show 'em!

Flora Sesquiquadrate Hephaistos, Orb: 0 deg. 09 min.

You love your work, whatever it is, and have a huge fund of talent available, but sometimes circumstances or opportunities fall short of what you want, or feel you deserve. It's easy to weep about all this, but remember the slogan: "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." Get tough about managing obstacles, then get tough about your abilities and get going with them!

Chapter 14: Hekate

Hekate, lady of magical power and the gifts of wise experience

Hekate was an ancient goddess, associated with the old moon, and her name was not a local Greek one. She is perhaps more familiar under her Latinized name, Hecate. In antiquity, the goddess Hekate was as much feared as she was loved, although her devotees were very ardent in their worship. This was because they believed she was willing and able to grant great blessings, especially wealth and power, to those who found her favor. Hekate seems to constellate rather extreme reactions, and certainly her symbol in astrology has a degree of extremism to it. Neither of the two feminine archetypes who seem to balance the Lunar Nodes, Black Moon Lilith and Hekate, is exactly a sweet and simple manifestation of the Divine Mother.

The goddess Hekate was a figure of immense power, usually shown as having three faces. She related to the final phase of the moon, when the lunar goddess energy was at its most full and experienced, even though the visible moon was waning in the sky. Hekate's time of day was midnight, or the small hours of the morning, and as, over centuries, the patriarchal traditions supplanted goddess worship, she became associated with witchcraft and darkness in the moral as well as physical sense. Hekate could be found late at night, at cross-roads, with baying dogs about her, perhaps attended by those covens of wise women (demonized as witches) who were her most dedicated votaries.

The astrological Hekate has been little studied, but seems to have a tremendous force inherent in her. She certainly shows one of the points of real power in the horoscope. Like Juno she seems to be a constellation of the shakti force of the Divine Mother, and as such is indeed able to work magic wherever she goes. Magic is, after all, only a way of working with the powers of nature (or of the cosmos) which lie beyond any current level of knowledge or common capacity. There is little that is common about Hekate when she is working at full tilt in the chart. She can show where you get lucky, or rich, or both; and she almost always points to the real talents available to you, if you will only work appropriately to harness them.

Her influence is subtle and can go seemingly unnoticed for years, but sooner or later the potency of Hekate will out. When she emerges from the shadows she is a magnificent figure who enables you to do great things. But this power is perilous and easily wasted or distorted, and Hekate's dark face is dreadful. Be careful with Hekate. Work well with her, and for the right, and she will bless you and aid your prosperity. Work badly with her, or show her dishonor, and she will stimulate the pride or

folly which bring you down and force you to start all over again. In that sorry situation Hekate's stern message seems to be, "Act more intelligently next time." Her magic vanishes when you become scattered, unfocused or disconnected. The choice of skilful or unskillful action is all yours. The right use of power is the greatest of all tests.

Hekate in Libra:

You were born with a finely calibrated energy dynamic, which can either make you superbly balanced and able to bring harmony into life at many levels, or which can turn you into one of those people who run around with a proverbial bee in your bonnet, apparently all over the place. Or you could manifest both of these modes and many shades in between, depending on the day and your mood and whether you've had coffee and . . . you get the idea. Hekate's power drive poses interesting challenges when she is operating from the sign of the Balance, asking you to get things into perspective and equilibrium, or else. The heart-head link can be a little out of sync here, so that you think with your heart and feel with your brain sometimes, which other people tend to find a tad confusing. Be clear and focused about communication.

Hekate in 10th house:

Life has a way of taking you somewhere near the top; whether or not you get there or stay there will depend on how much effort you put in, and sometimes on an element of sheer good luck. Does Hekate bless you with her favor or not? Your measures of success can be very worldly, and you may find things improve if you can be a little more spiritually minded. Sometimes your ambitions or even your talents are not obvious; women especially may hide their light under a bushel with this placement, and not come fully into their own until later in life. Vocationally you can run the gamut of professions or jobs: giving full play to your talents (not wasting them) is the essential factor in propelling you to the summit. You have a way of getting caught up in powerful situations with powerful people, and readily grow into a powerful person in your own right.

Hekate Conjunct Neptune, Orb: 1 deg. 54 min.

Moonbeams come to find you, any time of the day or night. Your romantic ardor is so intense it seems magical, but sometimes you have to come down to earth, hard as that reality is. You have intense longings for other worlds, much nicer than this one, but you'll do best when you learn to deal with the everyday and ordinary - they have magic too!

Hekate Sextile Pluto, Orb: 0 deg. 01 min.

Defining power both accurately and benignly is a tricky business, but when you want power, you can access it. The energy flows easily for you, which is really good when good, and a tad dangerous any

other time. Work wisely and well with this potential. Abraham Lincoln said the greatest human challenge was handling power for the good.

Hekate Sextile Juno, Orb: 2 deg. 13 min.

Life's not so much a cabaret for you as an opera, with lots of spectacle and color and movement and sound. You love a grand production and can more than contribute your share when you're pumped up, and it doesn't take a lot to pump you. Be generous in your vision, though, and include everyone: it's not only about you!

Hekate Trine Proserpina, Orb: 1 deg. 00 min.

It's easy for you to listen to the music of the night, and you don't need any opera phantoms to motivate your attention to rhythms and sounds which others may not hear. You have a way of working with and through suffering, which can make you a fine counselor or guide. Life's mysteries intrigue you, and you are good at getting to the bottom of things.

Hekate Square Uranus, Orb: 3 deg. 51 min.

You have a huge healing potential (whether physical or emotional) but can dissipate your ability if you get stuck in old hurts or if fear gets in the way of offering a helping hand. If life deals you lemons, learn how to make lemonade out of them. You do have the ability to transform negative to positive, but need to get out of your own way first!

Hekate Square Chiron, Orb: 0 deg. 35 min.

One of Abraham Lincoln's wisest observations was that the greatest test of any person is how well they manage power. This test is part of your life path, like it or not. You need to learn how to do this well, or deal with some pretty unpleasant consequences. Your report card is always being marked, so get real, get focused, and do the very best you possibly can.

Hekate Square True Node, Orb: 0 deg. 14 min.

The pull between attachment and the renunciation of your desires is a strong dilemma, one of the great life tests before you. It could be you don't "get" quite how much power you can access, and if this is unconscious you can find yourself manifesting situations you don't want or facing tough challenges. Get real about your drives, your talents and the right use of mind power.

Hekate Opposition Hephaistos, Orb: 4 deg. 07 min.

The tremendous passions that fuel the fires of your soul are sometimes too intense for comfort. Going into really dark black places is something you do very easily, and a good wallow has its value, but you don't want to get stuck in any abysses. Complete withdrawal only wastes all the practical gifts you have, with which you can make magic in the everyday world.

Hekate Square Hygiea, Orb: 3 deg. 02 min.

If there's something in your bit of the world that needs cleaning up or healing or some TLC, you just know you've got the answer. You might have the answer too, but you might also be making a mountain out of your own special little molehill, so apply a little careful modest judgment before you charge in like Florence Nightingale on steroids!

Hekate SemiSquare Astraea, Orb: 1 deg. 28 min.

You have a certain flair for making sense of things, getting things in order, making everything work, but you can also get obsessed, overly particular about details, and generally turn into a nit-picking nag. Lighten up a bit, allow for a little sloppiness, see the beauty and potential in chaos as well as in order. Don't sweat the small stuff - use it for making magic.

Chapter 15: Chiron

Chiron, lord of healing-transformation and catalyst for evolution

Chiron is a curious astrological symbol, as the heavenly body is not a planet but a "centaur" body, half icy comet and half asteroid rubble, just as the mythical Greek centaurs were half horse, half human. Chief of the mythical centaurs was Kheiron, whose Latinized name is rendered as Chiron. It is Chiron who is the figure familiar to astrologers and their clients.

Chiron has only been part of the astrological tool-kit since its discovery at the end of 1977, and many astrologers have noted how it came into human consciousness around the time that the movements towards ecology and complementary medicine were gaining ground in western countries. The meanings of new astrological symbols have a way of echoing conditions in the world at the time they are "discovered", although of course the multitudinous heavenly bodies have been around forever. It

took a while for astrologers to know what to do with Chiron, but nowadays the general consensus is that he represents the "wounded healer". This is because in mythology, Chiron taught the art of healing, but was unable to heal a grievous wound he sustained in one of the battles fought by Herakles (or Hercules). In this fracas, Chiron was accidentally hit with an arrow tipped with the terrible poison of the hydra, or multi-headed water snake. There was no antidote to the hydra's poison, and after much agony Chiron prevailed upon Zeus to allow him to swap his immortality for death, and he was translated into the sky as the constellation Centaurus.

Years of practice have given astrologers other insights into Chiron, and one of the best has been offered by an English astrologer called Dennis Elwell, who sees in Chiron a brave and provocative maverick energy which encourages people to transcend their limitations and become the best they can be. This is not wholly incompatible with the idea of the healer, if we read Chiron as showing not just healing in a more or less medical sense, but in a more transformative psychological sense of getting past one's blockages or overcoming negative patterns, and moving on to a more integrated and skilful way of being in the world. Chiron seems to be very important as a symbol of the energy which leads us towards new evolutionary potentials. It can be hard to make this leap of consciousness, and sometimes conditions in life have to become unendurably painful before we are willing to take the steps needed to shift. This process may not always succeed; with Chiron, failure is an option. But perhaps Chiron was also behind that famous definition of failure as an opportunity to start again more intelligently.

Chiron the heavenly body has a slow and eccentric orbital pattern and a very eccentric way of playing out against the zodiac. The astrological Chiron spends a lot more time in some signs of the zodiac - Capricorn through Gemini, and especially Pisces and Aries - than others. If you were born with a slow moving Chiron, the position by house may be more important than the position by zodiac sign. Wherever Chiron is in your horoscope, however, you have an opportunity to go within and discover not only where there are difficulties or various ways in which you are (or can be) hurt. You also have an opportunity to deal courageously with challenging aspects of life, or personality, and to engage with the world in a much more intelligent, wiser, braver and more compassionate way than you have ever done before. Work well with Chiron and you really will step up to the next level. Now there's a goal worth chasing!

Chiron in Capricorn:

Your quest for healing-transformation is grounded in the need to cultivate an evolutionary movement around the best management your interaction with your physical environment and about how well you understand and exercise any power you have, or attain. The structures of life are under review here, including any structures you erect around yourself for protection or in order to project an image or carry a role. It's fine if you are real, not so fine if you are tempted to fake anything, and of course you will flourish best and make the fine impression you long to create if you really are working from the

best will, in the best way, for the best result for all. That's a tall order, but Chiron in Capricorn wants to walk tall. You may have some unresolved issues relating to family, or to any authority figures you haven't respected along the way. When the going gets tough, the tough get going, but always skillfully, and with a humane spirit.

Chiron in 1st house:

With Chiron in the domain of personality, the one thing certain is that you are very much your own person. Sometimes this presents challenges, and especially early in life you may feel as though the people around you don't quite understand you, or in some cases, you may even feel rejected or unworthy in some way. Wallowing in any sense of inferiority or victimhood will get you nowhere fast, so you need to access the daring and courage of Chiron to face up to whatever self-limiting beliefs you have, and do something positive to transform and heal them. You are capable of great good once you get your act together, and the world will be a better place with you in it once you gain full confidence in the strength of your feathers, and fly!

Chiron Conjunct True Node, Orb: 0 deg. 20 min.

Links to the North Node of the Moon always involve issues around desire and attachment, and when Chiron is part of the party, it means your desire nature needs to undergo a radical transformation. Great success is possible, especially if you have a commitment to personal healing. Part of this healing involves facing up to the realities of your wants and needs, and where these lead you. It really is about a choice for growth rather than stagnation or regression.

Chiron Sextile Mars, Orb: 0 deg. 01 min.

When the Mars-Chiron link is harmonious, you find it easier to manage the power issues and develop the skills needed for personal transformation. At your best you manifest a true confidence, almost a spiritual warrior quality, and offer leadership and guidance to the worried or perplexed. Physical activity can be very helpful, and you will thrive best if you get plenty of exercise and look after your body. It is, after all, the vehicle of the transmuted will.

Chiron Opposition Uranus, Orb: 3 deg. 17 min.

When Chiron and Uranus are in tense alignment - and many people born between the early 1950s and 1990 have a long-running challenging aspect - you are part of some much larger process of social change that you may or may not find comfortable to participate in. This synergy helped to drive the technological revolution of the second half of the 20th Century. How well you handle change is a critical issue, and healing-transformation is driven by your ability to adapt and work creatively with swiftly moving new circumstances.

Chiron Square Neptune, Orb: 2 deg. 28 min.

Dynamic aspects between Chiron and Neptune present challenges around being sensitive to the point of hypersensitivity. You are very responsive to your environment and need to learn how to cultivate appropriate boundaries in order to be safe and in order to stay grounded and practical enough to deal with life's basics. The path to healing-transformation is an extraordinary one and includes learning to discriminate fact from fancy, as well as managing your strong emotional urges.