

CERES BY HOUSE AND SIGN

The horoscope house where you find Ceres describes a seasonal adjustment, for the whole of your life. As Ceres is triggered in your birth chart by transiting (travelling) heavenly bodies, you will live episodes where you lose, grieve, deal with anger, negotiate terms and finally learn to share. The real challenge is not sharing with others/the universe, though. It's about actually learning to enjoy it.

If you hang onto depression and anger because you feel you're missing out or losing out – because God took something/someone away again, or because other people have taken over, and taken what was yours – you suffer most. That's the lesson of Ceres. Savouring the absences, down times or 'missing bits' of life on their own merits is the key. So too is realising the highs are that much sweeter.

Ceres by house shows you where you start out with control, power and a firm role. That's the beginning of each individual story as it's played out in your life. Then someone or something takes that away and you have to learn to live with it and even come to love it. Everyone has Ceres in his/her horoscope somewhere. Everyone loses and gains, on a rotating basis. You too. It's the astrological reality.

CERES IN ARIES AND THE FIRST HOUSE

Although your package and profile makes you powerful

and fulfilled, you can't own anyone or anything affecting that. To avoid an overload of depression and anger, learn to let go and allow people to own their own power too, at least where your 'me' issues are concerned. This is your reputation, role, title, look, name and image – of course. But the universe, or other people, also has a stake. Most of all, learn that the absence of something/someone affecting your look or reputation, makes the highs even more welcome. Learning to accept the 'loss' or 'absence' periods on their own merits (they too have advantages for you) is also the key. If the issue for you is losing a role (and losing control) then try to find alternative roles that also fulfil you. I know it's superficial stuff, all this identity and photo/video business – but it affects your emotional equilibrium. For sanity's sake, shrug your shoulders and put up with the lows. They too have a purpose.

CERES IN TAURUS AND THE SECOND HOUSE

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Actually it's just the universe and you are part of its grand seasonal adjustments around money, property, charity, possessions and business. In the original Roman myth Ceres actually ruled the wheat and corn – the staple of Italian agriculture and the economy – so this myth may resonate with you, even though you're counting dollars, pounds and euros rather than grain sacks. When you are in full possession of the cash, the house, the precious possessions, the non-profit funds or the flat, I am sure you feel fully in control and gloriously happy. The downside is always that you know it won't last. Share and share alike. The universe will call, in a predictable way, and wants its stuff back. There may be

theft, financial loss or other crossroads in your history which have produced slow-burn rage or cold depression. And yet, you always get the cash or stuff back. So put a price on peace of mind. Get it.

CERES IN GEMINI AND THE THIRD HOUSE

You were born to control so many things. Big chunks of the internet or media, Publishing or education. The written or spoken word. Language or information flow. Voices, including yours, which can be heard winning debates or singing songs. Communication is the state of your nation and although you have distinct episodes where you rule the words-world, you have just as many (over the course of your lifetime) where you lose. Projects and plans get taken from you. The internet gets taken from you. Sometimes computers and microphones just stop working or get stolen (that's the ultimate expression of the Universe doing a raid on your entitled, controlling, Ceres role). As communication really *is* the state of your nation, it's ironic that negotiation depends upon it, yet you find it so hard to achieve. Without being heard or read correctly, though, and selling your message as you must, you will never arrive at the right share-share agreements. Ever.

CERES IN CANCER AND THE FOURTH HOUSE

Life has a weird seasonal rhythm if you look back over everything that has affected your family, house, flat, household, home town or homeland since the day it started to matter to you. You've won some, lost some. By this stage, you have no doubt reached a point where you're almost used to the fact that there will be big gaps

in your life, when it pays not to think too hard (or mind too much) about what you've lost. It is, after all, strictly temporary. The space or place which you can call your own always comes back to you, in one form or another. Sometimes Ceres in the Fourth House manifests literally, echoing the Roman myth so that a mother, daughter, husband, wife have to act out some kind of enforced sharing arrangement – child custody, perhaps, or in-law negotiations? The sense of 'got it/lost it/got it back/prepared to lose it again' with your physical home, home town or homeland is a big one. Seasonal adjustments work.

CERES IN LEO AND THE FIFTH HOUSE

You lose and gain, in a repeated way, as a parent, godparent or relative to younger people. You lose and gain, in a repeated way, with projects and plans involving the next generation – those born 20 years or more after you. You lose and gain, in a repeated way, with relationships which could end in pregnancy or step-parenthood. This is your lifetime challenge. To understand that although your 'heirs' and 'dynasty' makes you powerful and fulfilled, you can't own anyone or anything. To avoid an overload of depression and anger, learn to let go and allow people to own their own power too. And most of all, learn that the absence of something/someone makes its eventual presence even more wonderful. Learning to accept the 'loss' or 'absence' periods on their own merits (they too have advantages for you) is also the key. If the issue for you is losing a role (and losing control) then try to find alternative roles that also fulfil you.

CERES IN VIRGO AND THE SIXTH HOUSE

The trick to managing the down times, or fallow periods, with work (or your life as a volunteer or student) is to make the most of them. If you are ruthlessly honest, you will look back on your own history with particular jobs, charity roles or academic commitments and admit that they've been stressful. So when you go without, or you feel others have got what you 'want' – try to appreciate that sometimes the absence of a particular role, project, plan, person or organisation can be utterly soothing. For a start, there were always questions about who or what was in charge. The best way to handle Ceres in the Sixth House is to appreciate the highs (and they will be huge) and cleverly manage the so-called lows. This also applies to your body. Food, drink, health, fitness, medical care, alternative medicine – it's all key. Yet here, too, you will have to give up control on a repeated basis. Managing this is something that will bring peace of mind.

CERES IN LIBRA AND THE SEVENTH HOUSE

If you look back over the history of your love life, with specific former, current or potential partners, you will soon see a pattern emerge. When you've hit the heights and had the power, it's been remarkable. Holding the reins and in fact shaking them has put you up where you belong. At the same time, there is a constant feeling of losing, letting go and relinquishing. Your relationship or marital history is full of him, her, them or sometimes 'It' (the world itself) coming in and dominating you, so that

you end up feeling left out or lost. This is a mistake, though. Do not use other people's labelling system for separation, divorce, adultery, affairs or other kinds of apparent downers. Life is what you make it not what you label it. Your internal experience of the times you spend without him or her – or being forced to share – does not have to mirror some Amy Winehouse ballad. Winter and autumn are okay too. It's not just about summer.

CERES IN SCORPIO AND THE EIGHTH HOUSE

Life, the universe, other people – or perhaps you, yourself, on an unconscious level – have engineered unforgettable financial loss. And maybe more than one. If it wasn't the money, it was cash in kind. Property. A business. Precious possessions. Looking back at your own history, the week you were forced to give up, give in or let go probably stands out in terms of the entire *decade*. Since then you've found alternatives to explore, within the context of finance, property, charity, business or valuable items. Yet the same thing always seems to happen. No matter how differently you try to play this game, you always have to go without, or lose, or go on some kind of time-share with God, who appears to give when he feels like it, or suddenly take away. You gain and control the world. You lose and you feel like ripping the world to shreds or going into a decline. Neither reaction is sane. Highs are okay, low are okay too. They both have their functions.

CERES IN SAGITTARIUS AND THE NINTH HOUSE

When you publish a traditional or digital book (or blog, website or podcast) you must realise that you don't own the product or the process. All or part of it will be taken from you at some stage so don't cry or gnash your teeth. It's called reality. This is also very true of your life as a student, teacher or academic. The structure may be formal (a university) or informal (Wikipedia) but the message is the same. You win, you lose. You control, you give up. Eventually you let go of this fixation on ownership of the process of education and learn to share. It's not just your special subject/area of expertise – it belongs to the universe as well. The Ninth House is also about foreign places and people. What part of Europe, America, Australasia or even more exotic destinations makes you most emotional? And the locals? Which nationality or culture pushes your buttons? For your own sake, try to accept that you're on a cosmic time-and-space share.

CERES IN CAPRICORN AND THE TENTH HOUSE

You will never fully own, nor possess, particular careers, roles or titles. You'll have to share. This is rather like handing your godchild back to his/her parents. It's all on a roster system. Perhaps more painful, over the long-term history of your life, is the acute sense that other people have got what you want. But be honest. Would you really, truly, honestly, want that particular professional, academic or philanthropic role? Ceres in the Tenth House is also about big, fated loss or sacrifice. Look back over your CV and you will see one or more seriously heavy moments, when redundancy,

resignation or sacking sent you in a completely different life direction. If there is any remaining grief or anger over that loss, you may need to read more about Ceres and how she works. The original Roman myth is a good place to start – try Lempriere’s Classical Encyclopaedia of Greek and Roman Mythology (free, online). The trick to this chart placement? Get your sense of power and control outside ‘success’ too.

CERES IN AQUARIUS AND THE ELEVENTH HOUSE

In all the big milestones of your life, losing a friendship, or a whole group (or perhaps sacrificing it) must stand out. If the emotional charge has gone, then you have come to terms with your life and are hopefully on top of the extreme swings that come with friends, tribes, teams, networks, social media and your social life in general. It must feel as if some months you are in control and have what/who you need, to feel complete and fulfilled. Then other months, you only see the lack or absence. Ceres can be like that. She is that part of you which is a have, and then a have-not, depending on the month and year. Because it fluctuates so often for you (perhaps friends must be shared, borrowed or returned to the universe like library books) a reasoned strategy can help. You win some, you lose some. Just like every other human being. Though some people have these seasonal changes, losses and adjustments around money or career instead. The big lesson of teams or groups for you? Gracious sharing of control.

CERES IN PISCES AND THE TWELFTH HOUSE

The Twelfth House is much misunderstood and misinterpreted in astrology and I am constantly reading that it rules 'mental hospitals.' I have no idea why, unless the astrologer in question is actually blogging from one. The Twelfth House is about Neptune and Pisces. Neptune is about alternatives to reality, just as the ocean is an alternative to the earth. Pisces is about parallel worlds, just as fish inhabit a parallel world to sheep. The Twelfth House is where you are in another space. It is where you are submerged and also where you are invisible. It is about your unconscious mind (Neptune was found in the year they pioneered anaesthetic) and thus it is about dreams, sleep and the 'consciousness' that survives death and travels when you sleep. In all these areas of life, you have a repeated process to work with. First, you are entitled and in possession. Then you lose. Then you get angry or sad. Then you adjust. Then you accept. Then you win and become entitled and in possession. *Repeat!* But most of all, *manage this.*