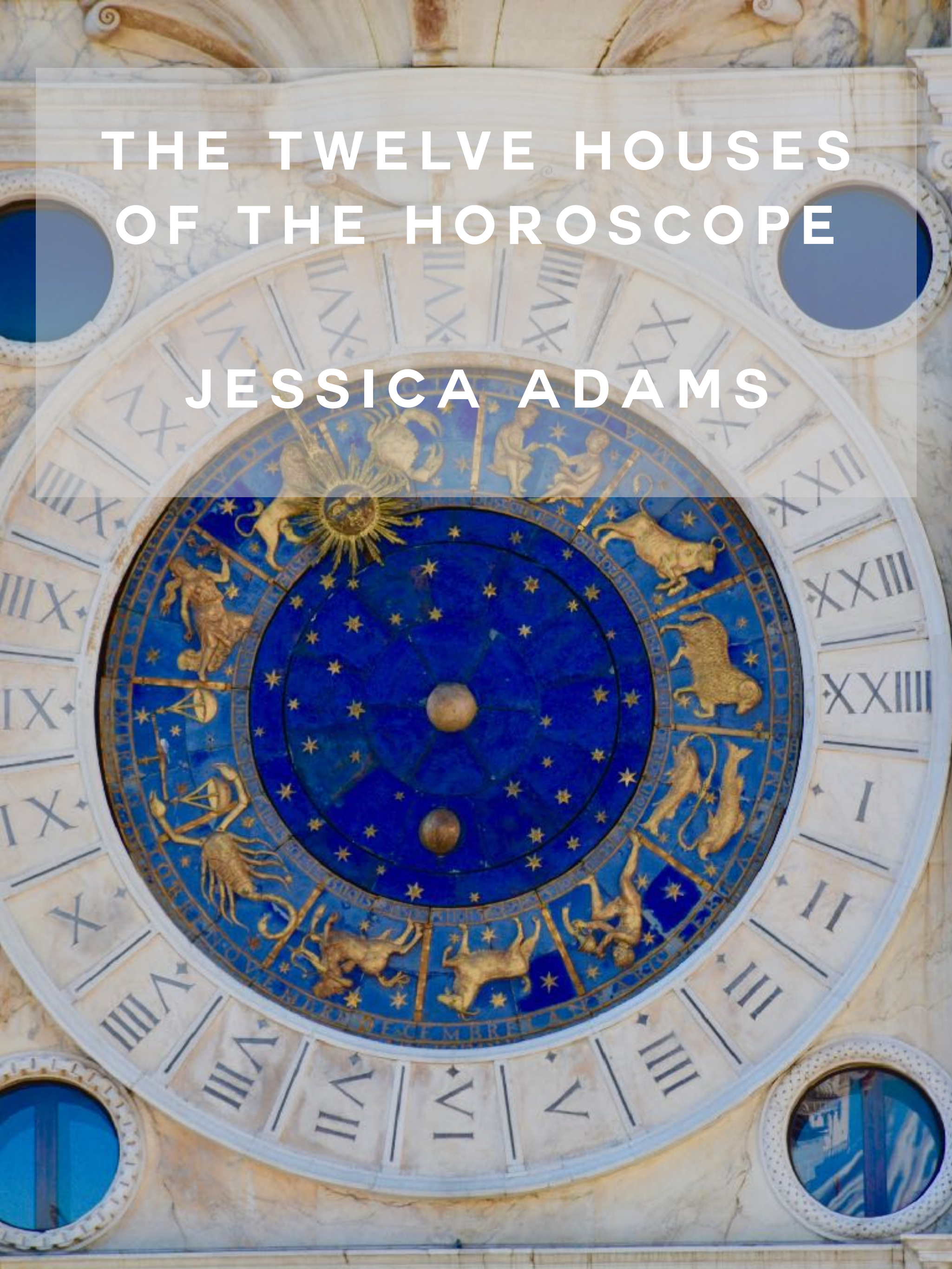


THE TWELVE HOUSES OF THE HOROSCOPE

JESSICA ADAMS



THE TWELVE HOUSES OF THE HOROSCOPE

by Jessica Adams
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Jessica Adams B.A. graduated with degrees in Philosophy, Ancient Civilisations and Religious Studies and in Screenwriting. Her career as an international astrologer began at Elle magazine and she has written horoscopes for many magazines, newspapers and websites around the world including Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, Marie Claire, Family Circle and Cosmopolitan. Her award-winning website jessicaadams.com, run by Asporea, attracts 20 million hits a year. Jessica is also the editor of The Holiday Goddess Guide to Paris, London, New York and Rome (HarperCollins) and lives and works between Australia and Great Britain.

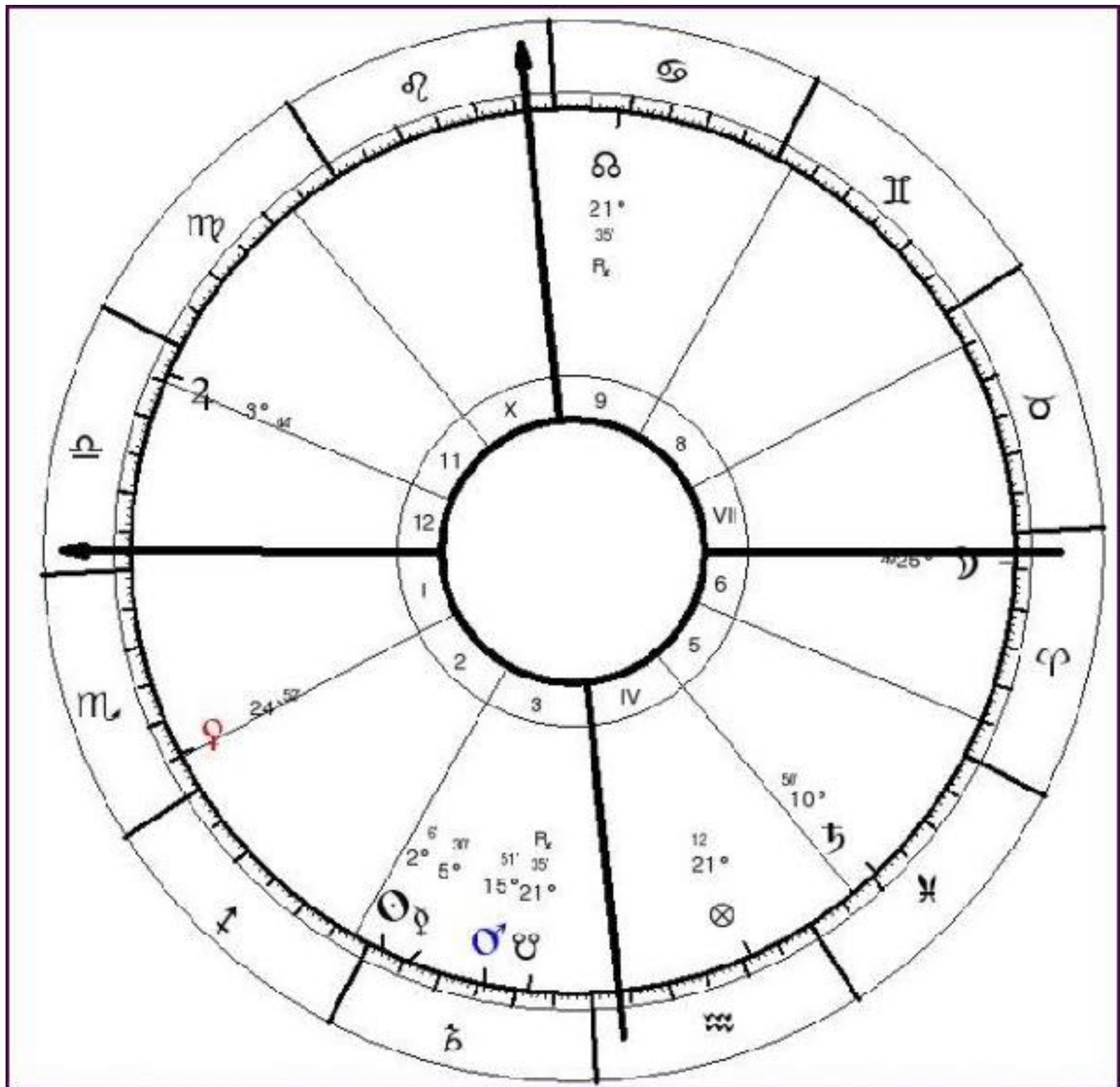


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THE TWELVE HOUSES OF THE HOROSCOPE

The Twelve houses of the horoscope are twelve segments of a circle, like the twelve segments of a clock, each covering a different area of life. The meaning of them, from the First House through to the Twelfth House, has evolved through the centuries, to reflect society's progress. The Ninth House used to rule sea voyages, now it rules surfing the web. The Seventh House used to rule wives - today it rules gay civil partnerships.

Despite this, even an astrologer like Julius Firmicus Maternus from Ancient Rome (where modern astrology comes from) would recognise the core meaning of each house we use today. So would William Lilly, the most famous British astrologer in history.



HOUSE SYSTEMS

There are over 30 ways to divide the circle up into twelve segments on Solar Fire software. The most popular house system in the world is Solar Sign, also known as Sun Sign or Solar House. It is used by media astrologers for Sun Sign columns and features. It is used for prediction, not personality, and shows the general 'weather' or astrological climate for your sign.

The Sun Sign goes on the cusp of the First House then the other 11 zodiac signs follow in order, anti-clockwise, each covering a whole house: this is known as whole-sign houses. So, for example, if you are a Virgo (you have the Sun in Virgo) that sign goes on the cusp of the First House, Libra on the cusp of the Second House, Scorpio on the cusp of the Third House and so on – finishing with Leo on the cusp of the Twelfth House.

This is the 'human weather prediction' type of astrology that is known and trusted by millions of people around the world. It gives good, broad, general forecasts.

SUN SIGN AND PERSONALITY

In terms of personality – all a Sun Sign can do is reveal how people shine – what puts them in the spotlight – what makes them stand out. The Sun Sign (the popular descriptions about 'being a Taurus' or 'being a Sagittarian') is often misused, so be careful! It does not show what you are good at, nor bad at. It does not show what you like or dislike. It does not show who you should marry, or not marry.

The Sun Sign just shows what is obvious about you, for better or worse – what you very publicly get right or wrong in your life – depending on the traits of that sign.

After that, the choice is yours, if you want to analyse personality in depth and look at detailed prediction. There are over 30 house systems to choose from on software like Solar Fire.

In this eguide I will use the Natural House System which puts Aries in its natural position on the cusp of the first house, then uses equal houses thereafter. It is also called the Natural Zodiac House System.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIVES

You have two house systems. One shows the public life and public person (that's the Sun Sign house system, where your 'sign' is on the First House cusp).

The other house system is personal, private and individual as it rests on your time, place and date of birth. For this, you can choose one of many, to reveal who you really are on the inside and what is really going on!

Placidus is popular. Equal is popular too – and Koch. But here's the catch about house systems. They reflect the person who popularised them. Using any of them means you see yourself and your world through his/her eyes.

THE PLACIDUS HOUSE SYSTEM

The Placidus House System was commonly used by 20th century astrologers before sophisticated software like Solar Fire made it possible to consult over 30 other house systems, dividing the circle up into segments in many different ways.

Primum Mobile by Placidus de Titis, translated by John Cooper and introduced by Michael Baigent in 1983 (The Institute for the Study of Cycles in World Affairs, Bromley) records that Placido Titi, who published his astrology in 1650 and 1657, lived between 1603 and 1668.

He joined an ascetic branch of the Benedictine Order, the Olivetans. This brings us to an important point about house systems like Placidus and how they affect the kind of horoscopes that astrologers produce.

HOUSE SYSTEMS REFLECT THE ASTROLOGER'S WORLD

Every house system, including the Solar Sign or Sun Sign system used for Sun Sign (media) astrology reflects the astrologer's world. The horoscopes will change dramatically, depending on which system you choose and use.

What kind of world did Placido Titi live in? He was a monk who lived outside the world of sexual relationships, family, marriage and children – which are associated with the Eighth House, Fourth House, Seventh House and Fifth House. So, at least four of the horoscope houses that Placido Titi lends his name to – still used in the Placidus system today – concern matters he had no contact with.

His charts were mainly for and about men, because that is the world that Placido Titi inhabited. House systems reflect the astrologer's world. It is a personal preference.

The most popular house system in the world is Solar Sign/Sun Sign because it is behind the media astrology which always had a readership in the multi-millions in newspapers and magazines – and today, on the Worldwide Web – has expanded again.

Kim Farnell's book, *Flirting With the Zodiac* (The Wessex Astrologer, 2007) reveals that although the system was first popularised by R.H. Naylor in the Sunday Express in 1930, we also find Sun Sign astrology documented in the mid 19th-century.



The Sun Sign or Solar Sign house system is very simple. As we've seen, the Sun Sign goes on the cusp of the First House, then the remaining 11 signs follow in order (moving anti-clockwise) around the horoscope circle, with each sign covering 0-29 degrees in one segment. It does not belong to any one person (unlike Placidus, made popular by a monk) and it is 'the people's astrology' created for the people, by a mass-media journalist last century.

WHOLE SIGN HOUSES

Going back to the second choice of house system, which shows the personal life - based on time, place and date of birth - we find Whole Sign Houses are a popular choice throughout history.

Houses used to be known as domicilii or domus - where a particular part of your life was domiciled or 'housed'. They were also known as loci (places) or locations. These 12 divisions, structured according to the movements of the sun, were part of what is known as the Whole Sign house system - the oldest in the world according to astrologer, author and academic, Robert Hand.

If you work with this idea of places, domiciles and locations - each given over to 0-29 degrees of one zodiac sign - you end up with what looks like an estate. A huge circular property on which you reside, accommodated or 'housed' in 12 separate sections, each with its own tenants and landlords or landladies. Sometimes the houses can be empty. There is no planet, asteroid, angle, Node or other horoscope factor in that sign.

It's not where the action is, if so. It's not a key part of you - or what you have a stake in. It does not have a great deal of importance on the landscape of your life. It's just another part of the whole. The real movement and also the greatest sense of permanent significance is with the houses, places or domains which show something in residence - like the Moon, Minerva, the Ascendant and so on.

In the Natural House system used in this course, the angles - the Ascendant or A.C., the Descendant or D.C., the Midheaven or M.C., the Immum Coeli or I.C. can end up in any house. In other systems they automatically end up marking the First House, Seventh House, Fourth House and Tenth House.

The idea of 12 houses, some empty, some averagely inhabited, some packed is a good one to work with, when thinking about your chart. Either by transit (travelling through - holding a lease) or resident (permanently in a house) the planets and other horoscope factors alter the atmosphere, the conditions and the environment for you.

When a slow-moving outer planet like Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto or Ceres makes what is known as an ingress (or entry) into a zodiac sign, and thus a new 'house' it is rather like experiencing the arrival of a new house guest or even, in the case of Pluto, a resident for many years to come.

This has an impact on the existing owners and inhabitants - which are all sides of you - all aspects of your personality. In the travel business people talk of transit passengers and transit hotels at airports. The planets and other bodies or Nodes, in transit, give you a very particular kind of journey in life.

PERSONAL ASTROLOGY AND SUN SIGN ASTROLOGY

The above technique is rather like a clock. It shows where you are in time - what is happening to you - which cycles you are experiencing. Because it is only based on your birthday, which is public (unlike the year and time which may be private) it is also a visible display of timekeeping. It's your public life, not your private life.

If you say you are an Aries, for example, experiencing the transit of Pluto through your Tenth House of career, you are talking about something everyone can see and know about you. Anyone at work who celebrates your birthday at the office, or the pub, can see you are an Aries and read your horoscope online, or in a newspaper or magazine.



Photo by [Luis Cortes](#)

The more intimate information - strictly personal - as we've seen - comes from your time, place and date of birth which typically only you, your parents and/or the midwife or hospital has on record. To make this inner experience even more personal - there is a choice of house system, or technique - personal to you and/or your astrologer.

Both systems used on my course as part of The Sun Sign School work very well together and are tried, tested and trusted by the 2 million visitors to my [website](http://jessicadams.com) (jessicadams.com) in the last 12 months so I have no hesitation in recommending this two-way technique to you.

The first one, the Sun Sign or Solar Sign house system, shows the headlines of your life because in the 20th century it was a technique adapted for the media (the Sunday Express newspaper) by a media employee (Richard Harold Naylor). By 1937, Naylor had created what he called 'Your Stars'. Your lifetime in real time - astrology time - on public display.

A personal birth chart, using any one of 30+ house systems (we are using the Natural House System on this course) is rather like the in-depth background story which accompanies the soundbite of the news headlines.

So, you may be an Aries experiencing the career transformation that comes with Pluto in your Tenth House, but your natal chart or horoscope may show a deeper transit, perhaps involving the Second House of finance. Both systems show different angles on the same story.

SUN SIGN ASTROLOGY AND PERSONAL BIRTH CHART ASTROLOGY

On this course I will show you how to use the Sun Sign house system together with the Natural House system, to create two different astrological chart wheels for yourself.

The former shows your public destiny, the latter shows your personality and private destiny. As you become used to doing this, you can begin to predict the future for high-profile people in the public eye - like Her Majesty the Queen, for example, or Prince William.

Put simply, as we've seen, your Sun Sign goes on the cusp of the First House of your Solar Sign chart using whole-sign houses (equal houses of 0-29 degrees each) moving in order around the zodiac: Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, Pisces.

If you were born in early July with the Sun in Cancer you would put the zodiac sign of Cancer on the cusp of the First House (the start of the First House) then put Leo on the Second House, Virgo on the Third House and so on, right around the wheel, until you ended up with Gemini on the cusp/start of the Twelfth House.

This is what you would use for public predictions for yourself as a Sun Cancer person. As part of the course, you will be making predictions for Prince William, based on the fact that he is a Cancerian - but also using his dated, timed birth data - which is on the public record. That way you can also read his individual birth chart too.

In your birth chart, no matter what your Sun Sign is, in the Natural House system you simply put Aries on the cusp of the first house, Taurus on the cusp of the Second House and so on, right around the zodiac, so that you end up with Pisces on the cusp of the Twelfth House. This is the technique you'll use for yourself, to read your personal

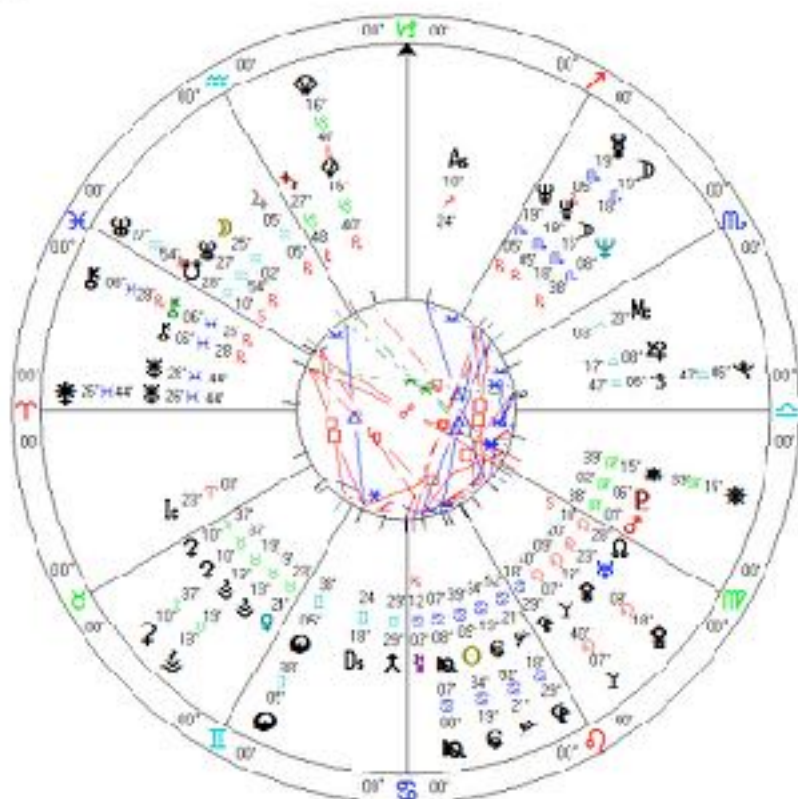
astrology trends, but also just the same technique you will use for The Queen, Prince William and others.

Same house system for all, in other words, but what makes each person and his/her future unique is the complex patterns of the planets, asteroids, Nodes, angles and so on - and there are 34 of them in modern astrology.

As you'll see on this course, you fill in each house with planets, asteroids, Nodes, angles and so on - for that particular sign.

So using the example above if you were born with five factors in Virgo, they would all be placed (either by the computer software or by hand-drawing it, if you wish) in your Sixth House. If you had nothing in Pisces at all, you would have an empty Twelfth House. Her Majesty the Queen is a Sun Taurus. Her Sun is in the Second House of wealth. Prince William is a Sun Cancer. His Sun is in the Fourth House of property and family - and country.

Diana, Princess of Wales
Female Chart
1 Jul 1961, Sat
245 pm - 1:00
Sandringham, England
12°N 00°E 10
Astrolabe
Syncler
True Node
Rating: 8



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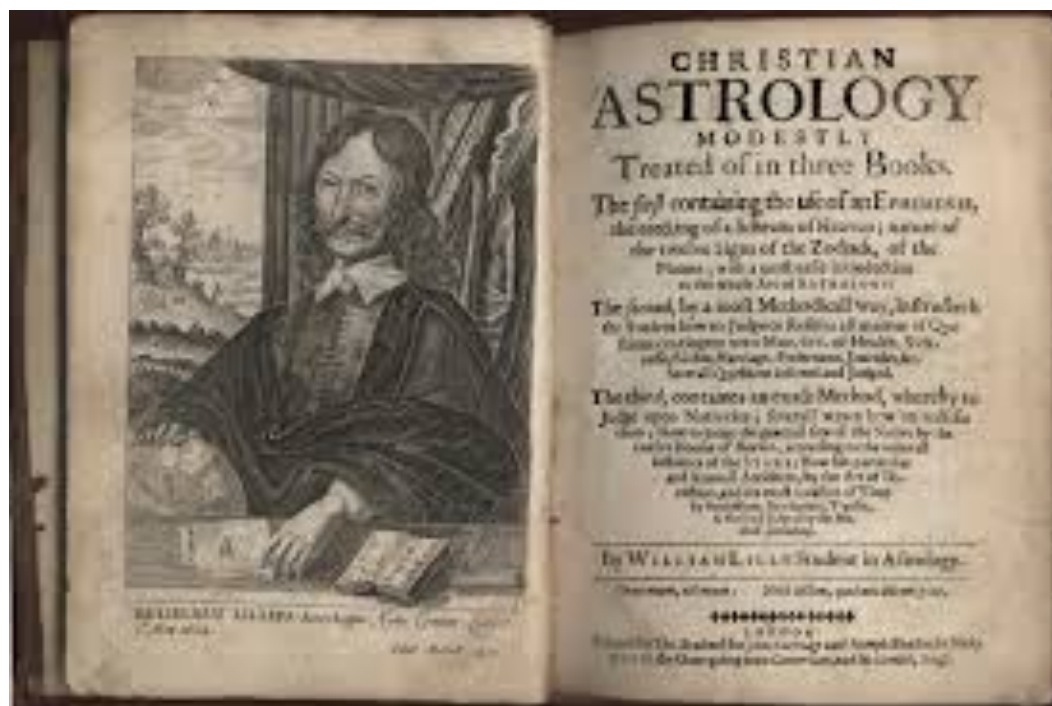
Roman Asteroid Astrology by Jessica Adams

Name	Pl	Long
Mercury	♿	21°02'10" E
Venus	♀	01°52'11" E
Mars	♂	24°12'25" E
Jupiter	♃	01°00'40" E
Saturn	♄	27°58'00" E
Uranus	♅	21°02'00" E
Neptune	♆	00°38'11" E
Pluto	♇	00°00'00" E
Chiron	♎	06°42'54" E
Seris	♏	11°52'10" E
Juno	♄	26°44'10" E
Ceres	♁	10°03'27" E
Pallas	♃	11°58'00" E
North Node	♊	28°57'40" E
South Node	♏	28°57'40" E
Ascendant	♈	00°00'00" E
Midheaven	♏	21°02'10" E
Cupid	♃	00°00'00" E
Vulcanus	♄	27°02'10" E
Descendant	♏	11°02'10" E
Iron Coil	♏	21°02'10" E
Asteroidology - asteroid names		
Apohele 1027	♏	27°02'10" E
Apollo 1862	♏	00°00'00" E
Brutus 2063	♏	07°04'11" E
Ceres 1	♁	10°03'27" E
Chiron 2060	♎	06°42'54" E
Cupid 763	♃	19°03'42" E
Diana 79	♏	15°16'52" E
Fortuna 19	♏	15°16'52" E
Hygiea 10	♏	19°00'53" E
Juno 3	♄	26°44'10" E
Minerva 93	♏	18°00'00" E
Perseus 2878	♏	23°01'15" E
Proserpina 25	♏	06°00'00" E
Psyche 16	♏	21°02'10" E
Salacia 20347	♏	11°02'10" E
Vesta 4	♏	13°00'00" E
Vulcano 4464	♏	05°00'00" E

WILLIAM LILLY

The twelve houses of the horoscope were defined in English, in print, for the very first time during the time of Londoner William Lilly (11th May 1602 to 9th June 1681). He remains the most respected astrologer in British history and the only one to have a green plaque in his memory, near the site of his old house on the Strand in London.

Lilly's book Christian Astrology was the first English language book about horoscopes. He was famous by 1659 with an annual almanac selling 30,000 copies a year.



Oliver Cromwell was even one of his supporters – he was one of the first celebrity astrologers. Lilly predicted The Great Fire of London 15 years before it happened. The Westminster City Council green plaque in his honour near his old home on the Strand reminds us of the astrologers who played their part in British history.

Another was Dr. John Dee, who selected the best coronation date for Queen Elizabeth I. Both Lilly and Dee helped lay the foundations for the astrology we use today – developed from the Romans, who imported their horoscopes and their gods and goddesses to Britain from 55 B.C.

Astrology has a long, proud history. More recently, Penny Thornton – who is part of The Sun Sign School – was astrologer to Diana, Princess of Wales.

WILLIAM LILLY AND THE HOUSES

William Lilly's text in his famous book Christian Astrology has been updated here so it is easier to read and understand. This is at the heart of the horoscopes we use today.

First House: The head and face. Personal appearance – for example, body type.

Second House: Wealth or poverty, goods, loans, profits, gains, loss, damage.

Third House: Brothers, sisters, cousins, short journeys, messages.

Fourth House: Father, house, land, gardens, grounds, home town.

Fifth House: Children, pregnancy and 'pleasure, delight and merriment.'

Sixth House: Sickness, disease and working people – servants and labourers.

Seventh House: Marriage, sweethearts, lawsuits, 'duels' (contests or conflicts).

Eighth House: Deaths, wills, legacies, testaments, marriage and money.

Ninth House: Sea voyages, journeys, books, foreign countries, religion, atheism.

Tenth House: Profession or trade (career).

Eleventh House: Friendship. Associates and allies within a group. Lilly had the King and his court in mind here.

Twelfth House: Private Enemies. Witches. Secret information. Imprisonment (in general all that is hidden).

JOHN PARTRIDGE

John Partridge 1643-1715 was the most famous astrologer in Britain by 1700. His book *Mikropanastron*, published in 1679 used a Latin distich (or memory aid) popular in mediaeval times. The illustration of John Partridge (Wikimedia Commons) shows his portrait in the middle of a horoscope with the 12 houses he named. The sequence runs: Vita, Lucrum, Fratres, Genitor, Nati, Valetudo, Uxor, Mors, Pietas, Regnum, Benefactaque, Carcer.



First House Vita: Life

Second House Lucrum: Profit

Third House Fratres: Brothers

Fourth House Genitor: Parents

Fifth House Nati: Born

Sixth House Valetudo: Health

Seventh House Uxor: Wife

Eighth House Mors: Death

Ninth House Pietas: Religion

Tenth House Regnum: Dominion

Eleventh House: Benefactaq: Benefactors

Twelfth House: Carcer: Prison

TRANSLATING MEDIAEVAL ASTROLOGY INTO MODERN ENGLISH

Astrology is a mirror of the times. With each new discovery of a planet, asteroid or other heavenly body named after a member of the old Roman family tree that began with Mercury, Jupiter and the rest - we expand our astrological dictionary. Like music, astrology has grown and modernised over the centuries, although it still uses the same basic notes.

Astrology is a language. And language is a virus, to quote Laurie Anderson. It has been passed on, partly through word of mouth, at a time when not everybody could read or write - or had access to books. I am sure you can see from the above list, how words like 'incarcerated' come to use from Carcer, the Twelfth House.

Life in the Middle Ages was about 'brothers' in monasteries, death as a fact of life and imprisonment too. The old 12 houses were reconsidered down the centuries, particularly as new planets were discovered and given rulership of the houses by astrologers. Yet often, the twists and turns of the English language, developed from Latin, remain. Our astrology shows those twists and turns. Like the language, it also moves with the times! It updates.

Thus, Uranus (1781) was given rulership of the Eleventh House after its discovery and associated with the zodiac sign Aquarius, the water-bearer.

Now, let's look at these twelve houses in greater detail. (All modern translations of Latin, below, are from the Collins English Dictionary, London, 2019.)

First House: Vita Translation: Life

(Key words: Vitality, vitamins, Curriculum Vitae) The First House in modern astrology is associated with personal appearance, first impressions, image, self-promotion and presentation. The Curriculum Vitae or professional resume – today a Linked In profile – is about showcasing and pushing oneself forward. Vitamins of course make for a healthy appearance. Weight, body language and posture are linked to vitality and form the impression you make. Thus 'vital' first impressions are also linked to the First House.

The First House is ruled by Mars and Aries the ram. To 'ram' is to use vital force. The battering ram is a large beam used to break down doors. The ancient machine known as a battering ram often had an iron ram's head on one end. Thus, the 'vital' first move. To have letters after your name – academic qualifications – is part and parcel of an internet

profile. The C.V. or Curriculum Vitae is thus essential to anyone trying to make an overall judgement. Titles, too, are part of a C.V. and so are roles and appointments.



Photo by Thought Catalog

When people tell you their life story, or their life is summed up in a biography, or even an obituary, it is often the First House that is expressed in words. Pictures can speak louder than words sometimes, so it is to the overall vitality, posture, body type and so on that

we turn to judge someone. Being overweight or underweight is a First House matter. We talk about 'vital' statistics.



A First House matter is also - always - a job title, qualification or mark of status - and of course, both first name and surname, are First House matters, as they are always at the head of any Curriculum Vitae. One of the leading astrologers in the ancient world, Julius Firmicus Maternus believed the First House was about 'the life and breath of human beings.' If someone paints an accurate portrait it is said to be 'her to the life' or 'him to the very life.'

Second House: Lucrum

Translation: Profit

(Key words: Lucrative, lucre.) The word 'lucre' is Late Middle English according to The Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford, 2019. It is translated as money. "Especially when regarded as sordid or distasteful or gained in a dishonourable way." This brings us to the

question of moral and ethical values in relation to finance, property, possessions, business.



Photo by Kats Weil

The Second House describes our value system. What we will, or will not, sell our souls for. The price we put on things. Who or what we consider precious to the point of being priceless. Taurus the bull and Venus rules the Second House. Bulls on the stockmarkets buy shares cheaply in expectation of a rapid price rise then sell again quickly to make a profit. Bullion (gold or silver bars) are associated with the Second House.

Lucrative in the Oxford Illustrated Dictionary is defined as “yielding gain, profitable.” It may be that the word ‘lucky’ owes something to the Second House and Lucrum. The Second House can function as a lucky dip. You can see how the Second House is about lucky, lucrative business but also ill-gotten gains – filthy lucre – or perhaps just clean gains, but associated with greed, exploitation and so on.

This is where we begin to get into the deeper meaning of the Second House. We develop our interpretation of the houses by examining history and the astrologers of 1939, dealing with the beginning of the Second World War, must have realised that an exact line-up of the South Node at 0 Taurus and Saturn at 0 Taurus fell that day. The London Stock Exchange closed. The Sydney Stock Exchange closed.

From that point forward, the war was about values. It raised deep questions about fundamental concerns, like food (rationing) which is ruled by the Second House. Food, of course, is at the core of any basic budget or trade – and this has been the case since Roman times, when they imported their astrology. It is possible that ‘lucky’ as well as

'lucrative' can be associated with the old Latin word *Lucrum* for the Second House. If you win the lottery, you are in luck. If you find a bargain, it's your lucky day, and so on.

Third House: Fratres

Translation: Brothers

(Key words: Fraternity (brotherhood) and fraternising (to associate with in a friendly way). All forms of writing and storytelling, knowledge and information are associated with the Third House, which in modern astrology has come to symbolise communication and commuting, as well as actual brothers. Mercury and Gemini the Twins are both rulers of the Third House. Carl Jung, in *Jung on Astrology*, wrote "In my father's chart we find Pluto in the Third House, called *Fratres* (three or four of his brothers and sisters died soon after birth). What is the connection between brothers and communication, though? The written and spoken word?

In the United States, today, a fraternity is a society of male university or college students. The term 'fraternal twins' evokes the sign of Gemini (non-identical twins) which rules the Third House. Mercury is the planet/god who also looks after the Third House and his winged sandals and helmet - from the Roman depictions of him - remind us today of couriered documents on aeroplanes - also with wings. Twin language, on the subject of brothers, is a well-known phenomenon.

When we look at similar words for this house originally named *Fratres* - we find more clues. Thus, *frater* (monastery) and *fraternity* (a literary association of students). We are in *Dead Poets' Society* territory here. It is important to go back through history to see why the Third House in particular has been associated with communication and commuting. Given that 'fratre' is a mediaeval word for a brotherhood, what is the symbolism?

Classically, monasteries of 'brothers' contain libraries. They can also accommodate schools. Evangelism is also associated with monasteries: preaching (speaking out loud) the gospel. Today monasteries are associated with universities. Prayer is of course part of monastic life and was in the period that this mediaeval word 'fratres' was given to the Third House of the horoscope. Reciting prayer - and also writing, decorating and copying books - was part of everyday life for monks in the 'frater.'

The earliest record we have of musical notation was from a monk, Notker of St. Gall, so this extends the idea of communication and the Third House. It can be about songwriting as much as it is about lecturing. Monks - the old brotherhood - also made pilgrimages - a kind of grand commute.

The Third House is associated with short journeys perhaps because of this. Pilgrimages were necessarily limited trips (not the long round-world voyages which are ruled by the Ninth House). These pilgrimages by the brothers, were made on horseback or foot; sometimes by ship. Pilgrimages from Britain to Rome are a good example of this. In modern life and modern astrology, these ideas all come together in a new form which we call the internet, as well as the electric car.

The Third House may be about your songwriting and singing, for example, and your pilgrimage may be with your band, on a bus trip, from London to Glastonbury. Centuries later, it's all the same!

Fourth House: Genitor

Translation: Parents

This is the house of family, above all. The family tree. From the root 'gen' we find generation, and generate, and genes, and genetics - and genesis. We also get genitals - reproductive organs - and gender. We also have genre - 'families' of music, art, books and so on. We also find the gentry or landed gentry who inherit their wealth from their parents.

The Fourth House is ruled by the Moon and Cancer in astrology. The Moon is linked to mothers because the repeated lunar cycle of around one month (or 'moonth') is the same length as a woman's menstrual cycle. Courting male sand fiddler crabs (male) have their greatest claw power at New Moon and Full Moon. Crabs of course carry their 'homes' on their backs. Crab families depend on the tides, where the greatest difference between low and high tide takes place around New Moon and Full Moon.

The Fourth House is about real estate and property as a result of this idea. Hermit crabs famously have a shell 'vacancy chain' which is similar to human practise. And what about gender? Gender is another word related to the Latin 'genitor.' The gene pool and gender are really about the family tree, roots, heritage, background - going back thousands of years. When the family tree is researched it is of course genealogy, another nod to the old Latin word for the Fourth House - genitor.



The ancestral line is always a Fourth House matter. In some house systems the I.C. or Immum Coeli is the point at which the Fourth House is measured. (Although not in the Natural House System - we use for this Sun Sign School course as the I.C. can fall in any house at all).

How about the word generic? When people talk about what is 'generic' they are talking about a class, or genus, or an animal or plant. This lends itself to the idea of the class system, and why/how one is born into a particular class, on either the mother or father's side of the family. I am sure you have already spotted 'gentleman' in the Fourth House and of course this was a class statement about a single man - memorably in the 18th century when Jane Austen wrote about her gentleman anti-hero Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*. That novel is, above all, a story about families and property and belongs in the Fourth House.

Fifth House: Nati

Translation: Born

The Fifth House is ruled by Leo and the Sun, which symbolises the father in astrology, as the Moon symbolises the mother. At first glance the Fourth House and Fifth House look similar, but there is more to this than family. From 'nati' we find nativity, which signals the Nativity of Jesus who was born to the Virgin Mary. Thus, the babies and children of the Fifth House are not always from two natural parents. Godchildren, stepchildren and adopted children are associated with the Fifth House.



There is still more to it than, that though. Here, we are talking about the 'natives' in a particular region too, and when Nati was the Latin term for the Fifth House, centuries ago, it tended to be natives of a town or city who married each other and produced children.

From here we also find 'natural' and natural parents belong to the Fifth House, which covers questions about adoption, too. Nati, with its direct translation as 'born' leads to other associations. The phrase 'Born to rule' is associated with Leo the lion, which rules the Fifth House - and majesty, monarchy and kingship are found in the Fifth House too, the lion being a symbol of this in many ancient cultures - and today. Activities which tie parents or grandparents to their heirs are tied to the Fifth House. Thus: "He/she is a born pianist/athlete/painter/writer." This suggests inherited skills when one is literally born into a family of particular achievers, yet the Fifth House is not about D.N.A. as such; it is about the legacy one leaves to the young, even if you are not the natural parent. That legacy can result in a 'born' cricketer or linguist for example, which is why Leo and the Fifth House are associated with teachers, mentors, guides, instructors and coaches.

If you are a native of a particular city or country then you may cook/eat your national dish or play your national sport. Entertainment which brings the generations together, from making pasta to playing baseball, is shared and enjoyed between the generations.

This is sometimes why you will see the Fifth House given over to hobbies, horse racing, gambling and the like. This is a very long way from the original Latin word 'Nati' for this house, but it is true that some pasttimes can be shared by parents and children. This is what helps the natives of a particular place keep the generations together. In India, it may be about cricket.

Sixth House: Valetudo

Translation: Body

Valetudo is at the core of 'valetudinarian' which translates as hypochondria, worry about one's health, poor health - and trying to return to a healthy state. Valetudinarian is defined as "Person of infirm health, especially unduly solicitous or anxiously concerned about health." (Oxford Illustrated Dictionary, Oxford University Press 1962).

The word 'valet' which is hidden inside this, describes a Valet de chambre, or 14th century French court assistant - sometimes in charge of apothecary (herbal medicine - what we would today call pharmaceuticals) - or a doctor.

Today we associate the Sixth House with daily workload, service and duty. We also associate it with the body, fitness, food, drugs, drink, healers, doctors and surgeons. It may well be that this is at the core of the modern meaning. The manservant, body servant or personal attendant is a symbol of one who services their employee's body, mind and spirit - and for whom, likely the only way out of the job was their own serious illness or medical condition!

In modern astrology there is a connection between how fit or well one feels (fit to work) and how the spirit feels about the job, the housework, the course, the unpaid work and so on. When astrology was booming in the 1600s, King Louis XIII of France had a Premier Valet named Jean Baptiste Bontemps who was also his surgeon. If we update the imagery to the 20th century we find the P.G. Wodehouse series, Jeeves and Wooster. Jeeves was

the valet who supplied his master Bertie Wooster with hangover cures. Not so far removed from the 14th century apothecaries who acted as valets.



Photo by Katie Smith

As astrology in its modern form came to us from the Romans, it is worth looking at the Italian language today for more clues about the Sixth House. We find, in the Oxford Italian Dictionary, that *valolo* means smallpox. *Valido* means efficient. We also find the core of the word 'valour' which means merit, worth, value. The Sixth House is the home of the invaluable staff member or colleague, as well as the servant or doctor. In astrology, the term 'values' is given over to the Second House as we have seen.

Yet, in the Natural House system, the Second House is always ruled by Taurus and there is a natural trine, or perfect angle, between Taurus and the Second House and Virgo and the Sixth House in the horoscope. So often when we face questions about work, we think about our salary – and if we are valued – and what price we put on our income, in comparison to our self-worth. If we avoid these deeper issues about the work we do, then the body may act out the hidden concerns of the soul by producing an illness which makes the job null and void. These are typical astrological questions triggered by the Taurus-Virgo trine in any horoscope.

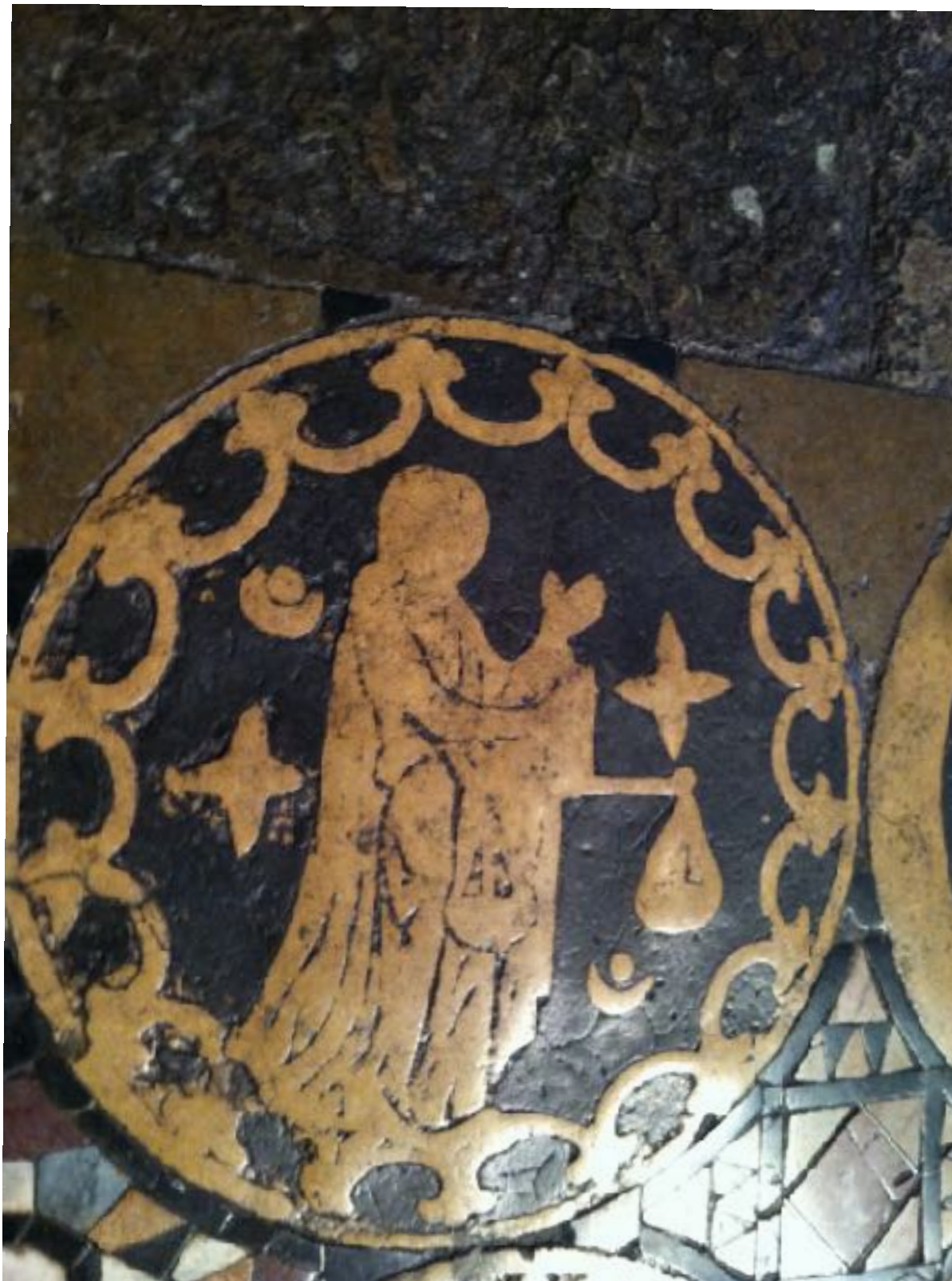
Seventh House: Uxor

Translation: Wife

In the male-centred world of the ancient world and Middle Ages, the Seventh House was given over to 'Uxor' or wife. William Lilly, in *An Introduction to Astrology* (Reprinted by Newcastle, August 1972) notes: "It gives judgement of marriage; and describes the person enquired after; whether it be a man or woman; all manner of love questions; or public enemies, the defendant in a lawsuit, in war, the opposing party; all quarrels, duels, lawsuits."

It may seem odd that the Seventh House can describe a partner, as well as an enemy, but it makes sense when we think about what a duel actually involved – right up until 1833. Men fighting over women had deadly consequences for one Robert Lyon, shot by John Wilson after a quarrel over a local school teacher, whom Wilson married afterwards.

Lyon has woken up in history as a romantic, tragic duellist. Duels can be found in novels and films including *The Three Musketeers*, *War and Peace*, *Vanity Fair*, *Hamlet*, *James Bond*, *Popeye* and *Star Trek*. When husband and wife divorce, they often duel in court,



thus William Lilly, writing in 1647, had it right. It is about battles as much as it is about weddings.

The Seventh House is also about dual concerns. The word 'dual' and 'duo' can be identified with duel. The sign of Libra and the planet Venus rule the Seventh House. Libra shows the scales, with one bowl on either side – often identified as the scales of justice. Venus was of course herself guilty of adultery and invited a duel situation. She had sex with Mars behind her husband Vulcan's back. Lady Justice, blindfolded and holding her scales, was a goddess introduced by Emperor Augustus in Ancient Rome and a temple to her was erected in 13 B.C. As it is the Romans who gave us modern astrology, it is likely that Lady Justice and her scales became linked with the idea of marriage and divorce.

After divorce, a wife could expect to receive her dowry back and would return to patria potestas – her father's protection. It can be useful to go back to the old astrologer's Latin word for the Seventh House – uxor – to see what the Italians have done with it. Thus we find uxor/e which means equal; the same. This is at the core of the Seventh House. The phrase 'equal but different' applies to man and wife, wife and wife, husband and husband in the 21st century. The victory for equal marriage was won by Generation Libra – people born with the slow-moving outer planets, Uranus and Pluto, in the sign of the scales. It is amazing how a horoscope definition from history, evolved from an ancient Roman idea, should be updated centuries later. Uxor is not so much 'wife' perhaps as partner/opponent.

Eighth House: Mors

Translation: Death

When Pluto, the Roman ruler of the Underworld/Hades (where departed souls went) was discovered in 1930 – astrologers gave this planet rulership of the Eighth House. Historically, the Latin word Mors described this house. Mors is at the core of the phrase post mortem. We also find it hidden in mortgage and rigor mortis, as well as mortician and morgue.

So, why is the Eighth House associated with both sex and money? The French translation of mortgage is 'death pledge'. The 1789 Book of Common Prayer carries the wedding promise 'until death do us part'. This gives us the link between sex and money, property and family, legacy and inheritance, death and marriage that the Eighth House is renowned for.

The Eighth House is ruled by Scorpio, the zodiac sign symbolised by the scorpion. The courtship dance of the scorpion, according to Nature magazine, has been observed and recorded since 1810, but it is likely that astrologers in the ancient world were also observing it, possibly with a very dry sense of humour. The Encyclopaedia Britannica notes that scorpions, stars of the constellation Scorpius, engage in a courtship dance called a promenade à deux. Females can kill and eat their male partners after sex. Scorpions are nocturnal, hide under rocks and are venomous predators – poisonous killers.



Photo by Alfonso Lorenzetto

About 25 species of scorpion can even kill human beings. It is likely the most obviously lethal of the 12 zodiac signs. Rams can push you off a cliff, bulls can gore you – but scorpions (especially in Roman beds, one imagines, or in the straw bedding of the 17th century) could kill you during intercourse. This is not such a far-fetched idea and perhaps the old astrologers came to associate Scorpio not only with the deadly promenade a deux itself, but the fact that lethal scorpions hid in bedding and bedrooms!

These ideas about sex and death – and this sign and house – can be found in *An Introduction to Astrology* by William Lilly, which was first published in 1647. “The estate of men deceased; death, its quality and nature; the wills, legacies and testaments of men deceased; dowry of the wife; portion of the maid.” Something we have to remember about Ancient Rome was the curse of epidemics, too. This was another way that sex could kill. Tuberculosis was passed by airborne droplets – carried on a kiss.

In *The Fate of Rome* (Princeton University Press, 2017) Kyle Harper notes that leprosy was passed directly – and we would guess, often intimately. Thus, sex and death really were linked in ancient times and even in modern life, too. It is a fact in history and astrology that in the years that Pluto made his rare pass through Scorpio, 1983-1995, the world faced the H.I.V. virus and A.I.D.S.

The Constellation Myths of Eratoshtenes and Hyginus (Oxford University Press, 2015) reveals that the Greeks believed Artemis (Diana) had caused the scorpion to sting Orion after his attempted rape of her. Manilius tells us ‘Scorpion takes pleasure in the groin’ (unforgettable words) in the first astrological work in Latin that we possess today.

A modern interpretation of the Eighth House, Scorpio and Pluto might be that obsessive sexual passion can lead one to risk anything – even death – for love. That is not necessarily negative, and one must remember ‘until death do us part’ is a solemn promise of the deepest love.

Ninth House: Sapiens

Translation: Discerning/Wise

Homo Sapiens means ‘wise man’ in Latin translation. Taking us forward in time – the new 21st century word ‘sapiosexual’ means that sexual attraction is based on intelligence – the mind – rather than appearances. Sapiens also gives us ‘saputello’ in Italian, which translates as ‘know it all.’ More favourably, in Italian, ‘sapere’ means to know. Its variations give us know-how, and knowledge. This is the house of the student and teacher of life.

The Ninth House is ruled by Jupiter and the zodiac sign Sagittarius in astrology. William Lilly, in his Introduction to Astrology, associates Jupiter with “fair dealing, desiring to benefit all men; doing glorious actions; honourable and religious.” Jupiter is associated with judges, senators, counsellors, bishops, priests, ministers, scholars, students and lawyers by Lilly – and his places are near church altars. From this jumble of ideas from 1647 a picture emerges.

This is the Ninth House of vast, global knowledge. Books and libraries. Universities and – the university of life. Today we associate the Ninth House with the Worldwide Web. It is also traditionally linked to travel, relocation and emigration (travel broadens the mind) and in Ancient Rome, where the Latin roots of astrology come from, it was the well-travelled Romans who knew the most. In an age without computers, film, radio or television, their first-hand experiences with other cultures, belief systems and nationalities educated them, and the ‘discernment’ was passed on.

Sagittarius, the sign ruling this house, is about being a student of life as much as it is about teaching. In the Constellation Myths of Eratosthenes and Hyginus we find that Sagittarius is associated with applause for the Muses – he invented clapping. The muses were Clio, Euterpe, Thalia, Melpomene, Terpsichore, Erato, Polymnia, Ourania and Calliope – in charge of literature, science and the arts.

The Constellation Myths also notes that the Sagittarian Archer was “visible to all, not only to those who are on dry land, but also to those who are out at sea.” He was thought to be shown with arrows because of his sharpness of mind and speed.

Today we associate this with the cutting edge of the internet. In the third century B.C. when Eratosthenes compiled his handbook (added to by Hyginus, librarian to Augustus) Sagittarius and the Ninth House were, in fact, about the libraries of Rome and perhaps the applause for poetry, history and astronomy (which at one point was astrology) which marked the age.



Photo by Kyle Glenn

Today, television documentaries draw ratings (a kind of applause) and of course public lectures like Ted talks are marked by the audience clapping approval. The Ninth House - originally called Sapiens - also gives us, in Italian, sapien/te: "wise. Expert. Sage. Wisdom." (in the Oxford Italian Dictionary).

Tenth House: Regnans Translation: Reigning

When considering personal success, achievement and ambition, the Tenth House is always at the top of the circle - the highest point of the wheel - in the Natural Astrology house system, ruled by Capricorn the mountain goat.

In Sun Sign astrology it is also the same. The Tenth House is up on high, above the other houses. The phrase *Regnans in Excelsis* (reigning on high) was used in 1570 by Pope Pius V to describe Queen Elizabeth I of England. *Regnum* is the Latin word meaning kingdom or dominion. Thus, the idea about 'crowning achievements' belongs to the Tenth House. The word *regal* is related to 'regnants' and also regent, regime and regency - along with regulate and regulations.

When you are in charge of the rules and regulations, you reign! If you respect the rules and regulations of the system or the establishment, you slowly rise through the ranks.

The Tenth House is ruled by Capricorn the ambitious creature who is not frightened of the soaring peaks in life - and Saturn, who ever craved top position, having castrated his own father to get it. Capricorn the mountain goat is linked to the Alpine Ibex, from the genus *Capra* (Latin for goat).

The old astrologers fancied the constellation behind the sun at year's end/year's beginning reminded them of such a goat. Perhaps it was because the extreme winters, centuries ago, meant elders had to hand over power to younger, ambitious heirs. Mountain goat breeding actually starts in December in the Northern Hemisphere (when the Sun moves into Capricorn in astrology) and male goats do famously observe a hierarchy.

The ancient astrologers must have observed that, as much as they observed the Capricornian year-end themes of promotion and departure within a system. Perhaps, the hierarchy of a tribe - yet today in corporate and business life it is also year-end and new year that bring retirement and new appointments.

The Tenth House is associated with climbing, ladders, pyramid structures, peaks and promotion. It lends itself to the class system, from peasants to the monarch, as was the case in astrologer William Lilly's day. Motifs of Ibex can still be seen on Greek objects going back to 1800 B.C. and as the Romans adapted Greek astrological ideas, it seems likely it was the Ibex they had in mind, when they began to make symbolic links between the constellation and the archetype. Lilly thought Saturn, the ruler of Capricorn and the Tenth House, was "the supremist and highest of all the planets" although he noted Saturn's pale or wan ashy colour.

Climbing the dizzying heights of the social ladder, the family's ranks - or the hierarchy in a multinational corporation - can induce fear. Saturn himself, in Roman mythology, was terrified of losing his position as the leading deity, to one of his children. Lilly goes on to associate Saturn with people who are patient, reserved, severe, grave, studious and austere.

This certainly fits the archetype of the man or woman at the top of monarchy and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is a good example of this, as was her predecessor Queen Victoria. Solid structures need sustained effort. The Tenth House is about those kinds of towering institutions and in modern life, the Tenth House is associated with the men in suits at the top of the skyscraper: Trump Tower being a modern American example.



Photo by Dakota Corbin

The family tree of the English language, taking in everything from Latin, to Sanskrit, to Hindi, to Old Irish gives us these variations of Regnans, the old word for the Tenth House:- Regular (to control), regulare (to rule), regimen (control), reule (law), realm (kingdom) and the well-known Indian 'raj' (to rule). We also find translations for 'straighten'. All of this is classically the world of Capricorn the mountain goat, Saturn his planetary ruler and the Tenth House of structure and - the system.

The Eleventh House – Benefactaque

Translation: Supporter

The Latin roots of Benefactaque, the old astrological name for the Eleventh House, come from 'bene' (well) and 'facere' (to do). The Eleventh House is about someone who does well by supporting you, or the cause/goal you both value. This is the helpful acquaintance or friend of today's crowdfunding. It is remarkable to think that this ancient word for the Eleventh House of friends and groups brings to mind the idea of a patron - and on the internet today, the concept of patronage has been relaunched, through shared group financial backing. If turning to internet crowdfunding to help save a community swimming pool, then you and your fellow supporters are the beneficiaries - yet you also benefit everyone else involved.

This is also very true of the Eleventh House, ruled by Aquarius the water-bearer, who supplied the Roman baths of the Empire. This idea of 'pooling resources' is literally what the Eleventh House is all about. People who benefit you can always be found in the Eleventh House – good friends and true.

Guilds have historically been associated with benefactors. The guild's equivalent in Ancient Rome was the collegium – meaning 'joined together.' These guilds were based on occupation, religious cult or neighbourhood, according to Claire Holleran and Amanda Claridge in *A Companion to the City of Rome* (Wiley Blackwell 2018). Benefactors of voluntary associations were a prominent feature of Rome and her empire. Today we associate the Eleventh House with good causes, charities, social change movements and networks. Ever since the discovery and naming of Uranus in 1781, astrologers have come to associate this planet and its symbol with the Eleventh House.



Photo by Helena Lopes

The Greek Myths (Robert Graves, Penguin, London 1955) notes that Uranus was the father of a very mixed bunch. Graves describes the Cyclopes, Cronus (Saturn), furies, nymphs – and as we know from other sources - accidentally of course – Uranus was the father of Venus. This is a diverse community of faces and names. What is really interesting is that the Cyclopes, born of Uranus, the ruler of the Eleventh House, were actually builders and blacksmiths.

The astrologers who gave Uranus rulership of Aquarius and the Eleventh House, after the planet's discovery in 1781, must surely have had this in mind when piecing together the meaning of this horoscope sector. Thus, the old idea of Roman collegia, or guilds in the Middle Ages, is tied to this house. In the 18th century, the Freemasons must surely have

also been on astrologers' minds. In 1781 when Uranus was discovered, the United States of America broke with Great Britain, with Freemasons in attendance!

Twelfth House: Daemon

Translation: Demigod; Guardian angel of a person or place

The Collins English Dictionary (HarperCollins) gives us the English translation of the old Latin word 'Daemon' used to describe the Twelfth House. It is associated with the invisible world of the soul or spirit. The Twelfth House is ruled by Pisces and Neptune in astrology.

Pisces the zodiac sign is symbolised by two fish swimming in opposite directions. Fish are a Christian symbol, of course. They appear in the miracle of multiplication by Christ. A piscina (fish pond) was also one of the terms for a baptistery, according to the Encyclopedia of Early Christianity (Everett Ferguson, Garland Publishing, London 1998).

Thus the Twelfth House is thus associated with what lies below the surface. The mysteries and miracles. All that is holy. The gods which the Romans believed in – and the goddesses – are part of the Twelfth House, as much as Christianity. It is certainly about angels and about the spirits associated with a particular place – especially ghosts, perhaps, as well as The Holy Ghost.

In the year that Neptune was discovered and named, in 1846, Mormons went to the Great Salt Lake. Pope Pius IX took over the Vatican. The Virgin Mary appeared to two children in France. Very importantly, in 1846, Dr. William T. G. Morton also gave the first successful public demonstration of ether anaesthesia. Ether has multiple meanings. One is clearly chemical. Another is literary. The Oxford English Dictionary describes ether as 'the clear sky; the upper regions of air beyond the clouds.' This takes us back to heaven, angels and God. The Greek 'aither' translates as 'upper air.'

The horoscope factors in the Twelfth House might thus describe how you feel about religion, or God, or Buddha, or Christ. How you feel about mediums, angels or ghosts. Astrology, being about the asteroids and planets, which in modern astrology are all named after Roman gods and goddesses, belongs in the Twelfth House. (It also belongs in the Ninth House as an ancient body of knowledge and belief).

It is interesting that Einstein, who famously had the Sun in Pisces in the Twelfth House, in the Natural House system, famously rejected astrology. In Nature, we read that in 1943, Einstein wrote a letter to Eugene Simon, describing astrology as "pseudo-science." This is a classic Sun in Pisces/Twelfth House preoccupation: the truth or otherwise of what cannot be seen or experienced by all! This Einstein quote is also interesting. He wrote, "Quantum mechanics ... delivers much, but does not really bring us any closer to the secret of the Old One. I, at any rate, am convinced that He does not play dice." The Sun in astrology is a symbol of what draws attention; what is in the spotlight or exposed – what is brightly lit and obvious. Einstein became famous for his equation $E=mc^2$, where E stands for Energy, m for mass and c for the speed of light (squared). Thus, his name has become associated with the 'upper air' after all. It has certainly been associated with his views about astrology as well as God.



Photo by pawel szvmanski

The Twelfth House is sometimes written up in astrology books as a place of self-undoing, of confinement. As a prison cell or mental hospital. Why so? Perhaps it is because in solitude, one must face one's demons, or turn to religion, or spirituality. Schizophrenia symptoms sometimes manifest as the conviction that one is God, or in touch with God. Perhaps this is where the association by some astrologers, comes from.

Perhaps the most useful way to think about the Twelfth House is to understand its rulership by Neptune, a symbol of a parallel world, just as real as the world we live in – yet clearly a different reality. It is mysterious, deep and unfathomable. This might sum up the relationship some people have with Buddha, or an extreme stance against religion, or faith.