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ASTROLOGY PRIMER

Much of the information that follows was written for a friend's web site, with various additions put in over the years. It is designed to provide a few of the basics for astrology including the meanings of the planets, zodiac signs, and houses. There is also a Monthly Astrology Forecast at my website and an Esoteric Monthly Lesson & Class Schedule page. www.astromark.us

ENJOY!

Each planet in our solar system affects an element of your personality. Astrologers say there are ten planets, which includes the sun and moon as planets (to make the terminology easier). Each planet has a meaning and rules different parts of your life experience.

The Planets

The Sun is the largest body in our Solar System and therefore defines the dominant traits of your personality according to the zodiac sign it falls in. Newspaper horoscopes focus on the Sun sign, but it is only one of ten planets that influence your astrology chart. The sun and moon are called planets in order to make conversations easier.

The Sun is your basic life force, vigor, and vitality. It defines why you get out of bed in the morning. The Sun drives you to express your heart's desire in this life. While an Aquarius may want to revolutionize the ideals of the world, a Taurus may want to have a tangible and long-lasting impact upon the world. Aquarius opens you to innovative possibilities; Taurus wants to build a house make those ideas workable in the world.

The Sun represents leadership traits, how you express your power, pride in your accomplishments, and self-confidence. As you might imagine, negative traits of an afflicted Sun are excessive pride, undue need for recognition, and misuse of power. Used positively, you are a dynamo who brings forth your unique Divine Essence in service to planet earth.

The Sun is associated with your heart, spine and upper back. It is associated with both the color and metal gold. The house placement of the Sun indicates an area of life where you can let your light shine.

Born on the cusp: Many people wonder what it means when they were born close to the day when the sun changes signs. Astrologers suggest that births that occur approximately between the 19th-22nd of any month are **born on the cusp** of a sign. The only way to know the exact sign is to cast a natal chart for the time and place of birth. Although there are differing opinions on the subject, the general consensus of opinion is that you are a blending of both signs. This is especially true if you were born at the end of a zodiac sign rather than the beginning. (Ex. Libra's born on Sept 20th are near the beginning of the sign Libra, so they may have some efficient and shy Virgo flavoring since Virgo is just ending.)

The Moon embodies your feelings and emotions. Just as the moon cycles in phases around the earth, so too are your emotions likely to go through phases. If you know the house that your natal moon falls in, you will know what area of your life is likely to go through phases. The moon is associated with the mother, nurturing, family, and your ability to tap into the feelings of others. The moon rules the public as well. This is because the intuitive nature of the moon helps you to sense what the world around you is feeling. The sign the moon was in at your birth will help you know how you express your feelings. In an intellectual air sign like Gemini, Libra, or Aquarius, you may have difficulty tuning into your own emotions. However, it can make you quite good at counseling others because you have the ability to detach emotionally. In water signs like Cancer, Scorpio, or Pisces, you may be highly in tune with the emotional undercurrents of life. However, you may need to go off in private to separate your feelings from the emotions of those around you. Physically, the moon is associated with your digestive system, the disease cancer, and breasts. If you read your daily horoscope, it would be useful to read your moon sign as an indicator of how your emotions are operating for the day.

Do you know that studies show that more people commit suicide at the New Moon than at the Full Moon. The reason may be that the New Moon is a time of pulling within your own Being, where the Full Moon is a time of outer expression. The moon has power too. Northwestern University tested to see if a certain type of shellfish opened and closed its protective shell casing with the changing of the tides. When they took the shellfish away from the ocean to their University near Chicago and hid them in a light-proof box, they found that the shellfish opened and closed based upon the position of the moon, not because of the tides.

Void- of-Course Moon This term is in reference to a phase of the moon that is best for introspective activities and not the initiation of important activities. Al Gore announced his candidacy for the President of the USA under this 'nothing comes of it' phase of the moon. The moon is a relationship planet in astrology. It likes to relate to other planets. The moon spends about 2.5 days in each sign as it travels around the zodiac each month. As it travels around the circle of its orbit, the moon makes geometric angles to other planets. Some of these are challenging emotional relationships, and others are flowing and helpful. Before the moon changes to the next sign, there is commonly a period where it does not make any more geometric aspects to other planets. This is the *void of course* moon phase, which can last from a mere few minutes or sometimes for an entire day. You need an astrology calendar to find these void times. During the void of course phase, it is good to do laundry, meditate, clean your desk of existing projects. In my work with trial attorneys, we attempted to manage the timing of the case to have the opponent put on their case during the void phase, as little or nothing comes out of such a time period. There is also an old Wall Street Journal article that researched 1200 businesses, selected at random, that went bankrupt- and all of them were incorporated during a void of course moon.

Mercury is associated with intellect, logic and communication skills. It also rules your nervous and respiratory systems. Mercury represents quick trips, short classes, siblings, and transportation. Mercury, in a natal chart, is very important for understanding how you communicate with others. Mercury in Pisces may speak in visionary, poetic, and even flowing musical terms. In Libra, Mercury may be expressed indecisively or through balanced diplomatic words. The house placement of Mercury will give you hints as to where you are likely to communicate. A second house Mercury may earn her or his income through speaking. A ninth house Mercury could communicate as a teacher or publisher.

If you want to prove that astrology works to your friends, pay attention to **Mercury retrograde** cycles (Mark lists them on his ASTROMARK astrology forecast on www.astromark.us) . Mercury retrograde occurs about three times each year, and for approximately three weeks at a time. This is know as a communications-breakdown phase. You want to back up your computer, repair your car, and make important phone calls prior to Mercury giving the illusion of going backwards in the sky. Practice flexibility and adaptability during Mercury retrograde. Give stressed out people a little extra space during Mercury retrograde.

Venus rules love, relationships, cultural activities, art, luxury items, and beauty. Jewelry generally falls under her rulership. The natal placement of Venus provides hints as to what you value and how you go about manifesting your desires. In the twelfth house, you may value the peace and harmony of your privacy, keeping your desires a secret. In the seventh house, marriage partnerships may be a high priority. The importance of material possessions is associated with Venus. In the sign Taurus, you may own items that are high in value yet sensible. In Leo, you may prefer highly passionate relationships, or clothing that is royally luxurious. Physically, Venus governs the throat, kidneys, and diabetes. The house placement of Venus in your chart indicates where you express beauty and peace. In the fourth house, you may decorate your house in a beautiful way.

Mars indicates your power, aggressions, and initiative. The warrior planet helps you to achieve your ambitions in the world. On the positive level, you assert yourself to manifest core level goals. Negatively, it can be repressed anger, the need to win at any cost, or excessive reliance on the physical (like sex without love). Mars gets you moving towards your goals. The natal house placement of Mars in your chart tells you where you direct your ambition. A second house Mars in Taurus may like to remodel houses in order to sell them for a substantial profit. A sixth house Mars in Taurus may become a massage therapist in order to earn a living healing others. Mars is associated with headaches, cuts, gunshot wounds, burns, rashes, and red blood cells.

Mark Dodich's Class schedule at www.astromark.us as is a monthly astrology forecast

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Jupiter represents optimism, generosity, philanthropy, luck, philosophy, and foreign cultures. People with a strong Jupiter may be large in size, loud in voice, or simply command attention when they walk into a room. Jupiter orbits around the sun almost every 12 years, so you can look at each 12-year segment in your life as a new way of expressing your philosophy in the world. Jupiter coaches and encourages people to overcome obstacles to achieve their greatest desires. Jupiter is a loyal friend. Used negatively, Jupiter can be boastful and tends towards overdoing (overeating, overspending, etc.) The location of Jupiter in your natal chart indicates the area of life where you can express expansive philosophy. In the ninth house, you may love to travel or pursue higher spiritual or educational goals. Jupiter governs the liver and diseases caused by excess.

Saturn represents patience, boundaries, delays, restrictions, and life karma. Many astrologers discuss Saturn with a “you poor thing” look in their eyes. However, Saturn is a great helper. Saturn helps you separate what is real and appropriate in your life from that which is not. If you have been holding tightly to a relationship that has long lost its reason for being, Saturn will come along to help you release. If you want to start a new business, Saturn will help you do the work necessary for it to succeed. The trouble comes when you say you want something but are not willing to bring forth the energy necessary for it to manifest. Saturn will help you, but you must do your part. Saturn also requires you to be patient and approach your goals over the long term. If you impatiently “want what you want, and want it now,” Saturn is likely to teach you some lessons in hard work and perseverance. In a natal chart, Saturn challenges you to manifest your goals. Located in the fourth house, Saturn teaches you to take emotional responsibility. This may come through difficult childhood lessons, but you do learn the lesson thoroughly. A fourth house Saturn person may have had to grow up while still young. With Saturn, the trick is to learn the lesson without giving into depression, despair, or cynicism. Saturn is associated with your skin, teeth, bones, and skeletal structure of your body.

A **Saturn Return** is when the planet Saturn in the sky comes back, or returns, to the exact same place it was when you were born. This happens approximately at the ages of 29 and 57. When you hear of people talking about some issue that happens at 7 or 14 years, that is likely to be a Saturn issue. For example, the “seven year itch” in a marriage where a person wonders if they still want to be married is a Saturn issue. Or when one partner is 14 years older than the other, that is likely to be a Saturn related issue. Saturn is about restructuring your life to give you a greater sense of your own authority. This means that you need to grow up, take responsibility, release that which does not empower you, and make a long-term commitment to your path.

Uranus represents independence, freedom, invention, innovation, friends, and revolution. You simply need to find a new way to do things when Uranus is involved. You must learn to choose change for something better, rather than change for the sake of change. Uranus takes seven years to move through a zodiac sign, so the sign Uranus was in at birth affects a large number of people. This makes the natal house placement of Uranus very important for understanding how it is used in your life. Located in the tenth house, you may prefer to be self-employed, or to at least have a supervisor who doesn’t hover over you. In the seventh house, you may need a marriage partner who gives you plenty of space in the relationship. Uranus is associated with astrologers, aviators, inventors, and revolutionaries. On a spiritual level, Uranus helps you to break free of self-imposed limitations so you can experience the miracles of the Universe.

Neptune governs your illusions and your spirituality. To be enlightened, you must first burst through your illusions. Neptune rules intuitive development, filmmaking, musical creativity, and oceanic professions. You must go beyond worldly boundaries to merge with the cosmos with Neptune. Escapist activities like alcoholism, drug addiction, excessive fantasies (like winning the lottery to fix

all your problems), and romanticizing all of those bad relationships are Neptune-ruled. You must go beyond yourself in order to understand Neptune. With Neptune placed in the second house, a person must find true prosperity consciousness rather than prosperity based solely on material possessions. In the fifth house, you could help children to open to their creativity or get lost in romantic illusions. A fifth house Neptune might be under the fantasy that they will win the lottery and that will fix all or their problems. Neptune helps you to step into a larger part of yourself, a part that is totally connected to your Divine Essence. Initially, Neptune may be confusing. Ultimately, you gain a cosmic perspective.

Pluto is the powerful transformer of your life. It takes you down to the deepest part of yourself, encompassing emotional fears, abuse, fear of death, and the darker areas of sexuality. In the not too distant past, there was scientific controversy over whether or not Pluto should continue to be classified as a planet (due to its small size). When you have a Pluto transit across another planet in your natal chart, you will feel like a volcano has cataclysmically erupted in your life. So, most astrologers agree that Pluto is a planet! Pluto is associated with the elimination system of your body, obsessive-compulsive tendencies, and rape. The location of Pluto in your natal chart indicates where you are transforming your deepest emotions, beliefs, and values in this life. In the third house, you are transforming the way you think. In the eighth house, you may be working with issues of life and death, emotional abuse, or financial responsibility. Pluto helps you to experience life in a way that transcends the intellectual. Pluto requires you to make deep-level changes, especially changes that secretly wanted to make.

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What are Zodiac Signs?

Everybody is familiar with the Zodiac, at least in passing. When someone asks you “what’s your sign,” they want to know what zodiac constellation the Sun was passing through when you were born. The zodiac is actually a ring of constellations that form a band around the earth. Each constellation is thought to represent a particular form of energy, which is projected through people born in each sign.

It should be noted that the energy of each sign is simply energy. This means that you must take responsibility for how you use that energy. In other words, a Sun in Aries does not make you angry and a Sun in Taurus does not make you pig-headed stubborn. Each constellation has a positive and negative interpretation to it. Your task is to use the energy of the sign in the most constructive way. A

Sun in Aries can use pent up energy to courageously pioneer a new path. A Sun in Taurus can persevere to accomplish great tasks, yet know when to release a project.

The Sun sign is what you read in your daily newspaper horoscope. Although the Sun is the very important life-giving force in your life, there are many other influences in an astrology chart. In actuality, you are made up of all twelve zodiac signs, ten planets (including the Sun and Moon), and their placement in the twelve houses of the chart. If you seem to always have a problem with people who are of a particular zodiac sign, that is a clue as to where you are having a problem within yourself. Look to the house placement of that problematic sign in your chart to show you where you need to do some self-improvement.

If you want to get more out of the daily horoscope, read your Sun sign as relating to why you get out of bed each day. Read the sign the Moon was in when you were born as your feelings and emotions about the day. Lastly, read the sign of your Ascendant (also called a Rising Sign) as to how you are going to project yourself into the world each day. The meanings of the planets and Ascendant are located elsewhere in this web site.

In reading information on the signs below, please keep in mind that it is necessary to look at the entire birth chart to gain a comprehensive understanding of the person. One astrological term needs to be clarified to help you with the material below. When a planet “rules” or is in “rulership,” it means that the various planets, signs, and houses of an astrology chart fit together nicely. They like each other. A person who has their Sun in the zodiac sign Leo is considered to be highly favorable since Leo rules the Sun. It can also be said that Aries rules athletics, meaning that the Aries (or Mars placement) is naturally disposed to help you achieve athletic physical goals.

The Signs of the Zodiac

Aries is headstrong, assertive, enterprising, and adventurous. The sign of the ram is ready to pioneer a new path. Their passionate approach to life can be both their strength and their weakness. When you want to travel to uncharted territory, call upon an Aries. Their strong will power can help them through difficult challenges. The problem comes when it is time to follow through on a project. Many Aries become enamored with a new challenge, then leave the unfinished project to go on to new adventures. An example would be an Aries who has ten books on the coffee table, having read a couple of chapters out of each one. On the spiritual level, Aries helps people to burst through membranes of inertia. Aries stimulates you to try something new. Aries represents athletics, pioneers, headaches, cuts, and courage. Their color is red.

Taurus is characterized as reliable, patient, steady, and trustworthy. Those born in the sign of the bull are either sensually elegant or very earthy. Their strength is that they can survive the most difficult of challenges. However, they often need to learn to let go rather than hanging on to a losing situation. Although Taurus people like beautiful and luxurious items, their possessions must have long-term value and durability. You want to avoid approaching a Taurus with a philosophy that says “my way or the highway,” unless of course you want to hit the road. Taurus brings beauty and earthly healing to the world. It is not uncommon to see artists, singers, and massage therapists with a Taurean influence in their chart. Taurus rules the throat, thyroid gland, wealth, beauty, and wheat fields.

Gemini is intellectual, outgoing, spontaneous, and lively. Those born under the sign of the twins are curious and versatile. They can talk to anybody, ranging from the curbside wino to the suit in the ivory tower. Gemini's must avoid fickleness and superficiality. Some people suggest that Gemini's are prone to making up a story when they don't really know the answer. In actuality, they want to be helpful, so they stretch the truth or leave out important details so as not to hurt anyone's feelings. Gemini rules transportation, communication, the media, shoulders, arms, asthma and the nervous system in general. On the spiritual level, Gemini helps open people to new ideas and concepts. They help people to see beyond their on limiting beliefs and concepts. On the positive level, they can clearly communicate abstract higher ideas into words that are easily understood. On the negative level, they can chatter incessantly without saying anything of significance.

Cancer (Moonchild) has the same nature as the crab: hard on the outside and soft on the inside. They often keep outsiders at arm's length. This is to protect their deeply felt emotions. Once you find your way into a Cancer's heart, it takes a cataclysmic event to kick you out. They tend to be highly intuitive, sensitive, and possess empathic healing abilities. Cancer's must learn to honor their own boundaries, meaning that they should not pick up every stray animal or person- or at least let them go after they are nourished and healed. On a spiritual level, Cancer helps people to know that they are loved and cared for. The people who fall through the cracks of society or have unmet emotional needs fall into Cancer's domain. Never insult the family of a Cancer person, as family is sacred to them. Cancer rules the breasts, stomach, ulcers, the disease cancer, children, and milk. The United States has its Sun in Cancer.

Leo is generous, passionate, enthusiastic, and cheerful. Those born in the sign of the lion like to be the center of attention. They are proud and make a loyal friend. As the tribal leader, father, or coach, Leo's make sure that those in their charge have their needs met. Leo's can be dramatic, or get lost in melodrama. They can stand with pride, or have an excessively prideful ego. The color and metal gold are associated with the bright Leo sunshine. Leo likes to have fun. It rules games, gambling, romantic affairs, and theaters. In the body, Leo rules the heart, spine, sunstroke, and heartburn. Leo's spiritual task is to infuse people with the enthusiasm that radiates from the great central Sun.

Virgo has a reputation for being a perfectionist. However, Virgo is also the sign of the goddess. She is simultaneously discriminating and elegant. Virgo wants to be of service to the world. Never tell a Virgo that they are not useful. They are excellent editors, organizers, and purifiers. As the goddess, she wants nothing to get in the way of Truth. Perhaps this is why she precedes the sign Libra. She purifies the path to justice. Virgo must learn that not everything can be fixed, that not everything has a neat little category to fit into, and that there is time to play. While many people think Virgo's can be overly critical, they are even harder on themselves. Virgo's job is to bring the spirituality of Pisces down to earth for pragmatic application. The Virgo part of your chart will tell you where you need to simplify and organize your life.

Libra represents balance, peace, and harmony. Those born under the sign of the scales of justice want things to be fair. Libra also represents beauty and grace. The Venus de Milo statue comes to mind. Relationships, romance, and cooperation are important to Libra's. Speaking in a crude or unrefined way may be a turn-off to someone with strong Libra influence in her or his natal chart. An out-of-balance Libra may have problems making decisions or communicating what needs to be said in a relationship. Many learn that living under the false belief that "peace at all costs" or "don't rock the

boat” will help them find harmony. They find out that speaking their truth sooner, even though it will rock the boat, creates greater harmony in the long run. It is interesting to note that many great military leaders, like Dwight Eisenhower, were in the peacekeeping sign of Libra. Libra rules the kidneys, adrenal glands, cosmetics, fashion, marriage, divorce, clear air, fine arts, and weddings.

Scorpio can be best characterized by its intense, passionate, emotional nature. Scorpio has two symbols, the scorpion and the eagle. This is because Scorpio often experiences the polarity of the lowest of the low, and the highest of the high. When a Scorpio learns a lesson, they learn it at the very core of their being. There may be lessons in jealousy, envy, right use of power, and the transformation called death. Scorpions make excellent detectives, knowing who is telling the truth or hiding a secret. At the same time, a healthy-attitude Scorpio can keep your secret. They help you through issues of emotional abuse, listen non-judgmentally to your dark thoughts, or counsel you through the grieving process. Many jokes have been made about Scorpio’s sexual prowess. Scorpio does rule the sexual organs, but there are many more factors that go into the sexual beyond the pure Scorpionic experience. Scorpio’s spiritual task is to be what might be called a world disciplinarian. They see energy being used that is not in harmony with the cosmic flow of the Universe, and then they speak up to put the situation or person in order. To do this in a non-manipulative way, they must be vibrating at a high soul frequency that is represented by the eagle. Scorpio rules sex, death, and taxes. It rules dentists, reproductive organs, and sexual diseases (but probably not a.i.d.s.)

Sagittarius is embodied by intelligence, philosophy, and freedom. The sign of the archer loves an adventure, be it in the outdoors or in pursuit of the outer reaches of the higher mind. A Sagittarian makes for a good friend, as they are honest, generous, and optimistic. It is better to tell a Sagittarius an awful truth rather than breaking their trust with a lie. Integrity is critical to them. In terms of the higher mind, Sagittarians are here to help us go beyond self-limiting thoughts and beliefs. You can often find them coaching or encouraging people to achieve their dreams and goals. Sagittarius rules the legal system, abundance, banks, wild animals, and big things (not just a pet, but a horse or Great Dane). In the body, Sagittarius rules the upper legs, hips, and the liver. They may have a bawdy sense of humor.

Capricorn represents discipline, patience, and rationality. A Capricorn knows the value of sacrificing short-term satisfaction for the long-term goal. Those born in the sign of the goat tend to have a good sense of humor, although it is often expressed as a dry wit. Capricorn understands the value of what has been tried and true. This means that they respect tradition and the elders of the culture. In esoteric, or spiritual, astrology, Capricorn rules initiation. An example would be when ancient Egyptians entered the pyramid; they let their lower self die in order to be initiated into embodying a higher form of their Divine Essence. Capricorn rules antiques, big business, government, the skeletal structure of the body, teeth, clocks, mountains, and the disease called depression.

Aquarius is characterized as progressive, revolutionary, inventive, and idealistic. Although the symbol is that of the water bearer, Aquarius is associated with the element of air, or the ethers. Aquarius helps humanity to understand group consciousness and community. They remind us that we are all One at the core essence of our Being. At the same time, Aquarius honors independence, freedom, and individuality. They teach people that you can be a unique individual and still play nicely with everyone and everything else on planet earth. An out of balance Aquarius may listen to good advice while smiling, then go off and do what they darn well please as if never hearing a word. They can make constructive changes to revolutionize the world, or they can make change for the sake of change. If you are in a relationship with an Aquarius, you want to establish a strong friendship with your Aquarian, but give them the space they need to express their individuality.

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Pisces is the sign of sensitivity and receptivity. They have great compassion, which can be a blessing or a curse. A Pisces can support a person's strengths or weaknesses. Although it is important to help the downtrodden, it is equally important to help them to stand strongly on their own two feet. Pisces rule the feet. Look for unusual socks or shoes! The sign of the fish is considered to be highly intuitive. They often need to spend time alone to separate their own intuitive feelings from the environment around them. Because of this, it is especially important for Pisces to choose friends and activities that are in harmony with their energy field. The negative side is that they can get lost in escapist activities like addictive behavior, unrealistic goals, or relationships that drain energy rather than enhance. Pisces rules the film industry, photography, the ocean, psychics, monasteries, mystics, dreams, and spiritual practices. In the body, Pisces rules alcohol/drug/chocolate addictions, immune system diseases, and mysterious diseases.

Regarding ASTROMARK Consultation prices: Extensive preparation goes into your session. Please plan ahead. Please see the website for current prices, or contact Mark Dodich for a current ASTROMARK newsletter and brochure(snail mail) for current prices.

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Elements & Modes

Elements relate to the nature of the signs. They are fire, earth, air, and water. Just think about what you know about each element to gain better understanding. Planets in the same element within your natal chart, or between two people, are generally considered to be in harmony.

FIRE: (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius), Fire signs are passionate and creative, always ready for the next adventure. People who are strong in fire signs can instill you with inspiration or they can burn you out. They are excellent at starting exciting new projects and relationships but have life lessons in completing projects.

AIR: (Gemini, Libra, Aquarius), This is the element of ideas, communications, and social skills. Air element people are open to sharing concepts and ideals. They must learn to bring their ideas down to earth.

EARTH: (Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn), Earth is excellent for stability, grounding, perseverance, and going the distance. They must be careful of getting caught in a rut, unable to let go and change when stuck. They like tangible results for their efforts.

WATER: (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces), Watery people are sensitive, intuitive, and feeling oriented. They can generally go with the flow of life, but must be careful of letting their emotions take over. They also have to be careful of going into excessive self-sacrifice.

Modes relate to the quality of the signs. Planets within a natal chart, or between two people in a compatibility comparison, are said to provide challenge and motivation.

CARDINAL: (Aries, Cancer, Libra, Capricorn), Cardinal signs are the action-oriented signs. The cardinal areas in your chart, or planets in cardinal signs, never have trouble finding things to do. They have lessons in completing projects and stepping back to see how others feel about the action (rather than simply assuming that everyone is on board with their special project).

FIXED: (Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, Aquarius), Fixed signs follow the action providing the needed follow-through to get the job done. They have excellent abilities to persevere and endure, but must learn to let go when it is time.

MUTABLE: (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, Pisces), Adaptability and flexibility are key characteristics to the mutable signs. They have an innate understanding of the relationship between people, places, and things. Lessons include the need to get involved, and to use good discernment with what to get involved in and what to stay away from.

Cardinal signs are like the elephants leading the parade. Fixed signs follow the elephants and clean up the mess. Mutable signs watch the parade.

Astrology and Intuitive Consultations since 1980

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Astrology Houses:

An Astrology Chart is divided like a pizza into twelve sections called houses. Each house represents, or rules, different areas of life. A natal astrology chart places the zodiac position of the sun, moon, planets, and other significant points at their correct location in the twelve houses of the chart. Simply stated, the houses provide a frame of reference to help you understand the areas of life that are affected by the planets.

The chart begins counting with the Ascendant, or cusp of the first house. This is located at the horizontal line pointing to the left of the chart. Houses are counted in a counterclockwise manner around the circle. The zodiac sign on the left horizontal line represents the zodiac constellation that was rising in the East at the time of your birth. Astrologers say that you will project yourself into your life based upon the sign that was Ascending. Read about the ascending sign elsewhere in this website to know the zodiac sign characteristics that influence your approach to life.

Just as the houses are counted in a counterclockwise fashion, so too are the signs of the zodiac. If your Ascendant, also called a Rising Sign, is in Virgo in the first house, the next sign in a counterclockwise direction will be Libra in the second house, followed by Scorpio, and so on around the chart circle.

You will see that when the sun, moon, and planets are placed in your chart, some houses will be loaded and others empty. Houses containing planets require greater attention during your life. Empty houses do not mean that you can ignore them; and, they do not indicate that nothing happens in the area of life represented by the house. For example, an empty seventh house (represents marriage, partnerships) does not mean that you will never get married. It may mean that your primary life emphasis is not focused on partnership issues, or that it is only emphasized during specific life cycles called transits and progressions. So don't worry if you have an empty part of your chart. It is common. Keep in mind that you must look at the entire chart before making any determination.

Houses one through six are located in the bottom half of your astrology chart. They represent subjective matters. In other words, you view life in a highly personal way when you have an abundance of planets in houses one through six. If you work for a living (sixth house), you want to get paid. You want personal feedback for your efforts.

The top half of the circle is the objective part of your astrology chart. Planets located in houses seven through twelve were above the horizon when you were born. If you were born around lunchtime, the sun in your natal chart will be located near the "high noon" tenth house cusp. Planets in the upper hemisphere represent the larger world. The objective eleventh house represents your life goals and ambitions in the world, whereas the opposite and subjective fifth house represents personal fun, creativity, and romance.

Why do two different charts cast by two astrologers look different? There are different "house systems" for measuring the sky. Everyone knows where the sun rises and sets in the sky. You can also see "high noon" in the sky. However, there are different ways to measure the middle of the sky. Different astrologers use different calculation methods (Placidus, Koch, Porphyry, etc.). Almost everyone calculates the four angles of the chart the same (Ascendant=sunrise, Descendant=sunset, Midheaven = high noon, Nadir or IC= midnight *note, this is not a technically precise definition of the 1st, 7th, 10th, and 4th house cusps, respectively, but it will do for a basic primer). Astrologers sit around the cocktail lounge at conferences and argue about which system of measurement is better. So the best advice might be to pick a system that works for you and stay with it as long as it serves your needs. Mark Dodich started using the Placidus house system. This moved transformative Pluto into his 11th house where he experienced many years of Plutonian release of friends (11th house represents friends and Pluto represents death and release). When Mark turned his astrology practice from a part-time hobby into his life work, he switched to Koch House System. This moved his Pluto into the 12th house of spirituality. He experienced the "death" of his corporate suit life and the birth of his life work. However, the differences should be minor when you switch house systems. So relax when you see these minor differences between house cusps in your chart. Each astrologer has something to tell you based upon their knowledge and experience and the system they use. The point is to open yourself to learn what you need, not to get lost in calculations.

The information contained here are general guidelines. Astrology is not a fated, carved-in-stone art/science. Each planet and each house has a positive and a negative interpretation. Astrology is an organic system to help you through life. It is your responsibility to choose to live your life at the highest level of integrity that the signs, planets, and houses represent.

Calculating the houses requires the casting of a chart. Most commonly, people begin with Mark Dodich's Initial Astrology Consultation. For details, call 503-252-1558 or mark@astromark.us or check out the website at www.astromark.us

THE IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER WHEN LOOKING AT YOUR CHART IS THAT YOU MUST LOOK AT THE ENTIRE CHART, NOT JUST ISOLATED SEGMENTS.

The First House describes your outward behavior. It involves your disposition, appearance, manners, and sense of self. The positive use of the first house is that it helps you to put your best foot forward into the world. The negative interpretation is that you can get caught up in excessive ego issues or the need to show off due to self-esteem or self-worth challenges. The first house indicates your outlook on life.

You physical appearance may correlate with the zodiac sign on their first house cusp. A Libra Ascendant may be graceful while a Capricorn Ascendant may appear conservative and stern. The first house often indicates activities that you take into the world. An Aries first house may be athletic and prefer to wear bright, fiery clothing. A Pisces first house may appear dreamy and illusive, preferring gentle colors like the blue of the ocean. The first house helps you to project your unique talents into the world.

When you have natal planets in your first house, the planet flavors the way you project energy into the world. With Mars in the first house, you passionately and courageously pioneer new paths in the world. However, you may need to work through anger issues or the tendency to not complete projects. The first house shows you the way to project your special and unique talents into the world. See the zodiac signs web page to understand the quality of experience you project into the world.

The Second House deals with material possessions and your attitude towards the physical world. Although astrologers often talk about money, real estate, and your personal possessions when discussing the second house, it is important to remember that the second house represents your value system. Every dollar you spend in the world represents a vote in your value and belief system. If you are not experiencing the abundance and prosperity that is naturally yours to experience in this world, the second house of your astrology chart is the first place to look. Read the sign on the cusp of your second house to get a hint about your belief in money or real estate. Taurus on the second house may purchase a luxurious home with solid resale value. Gemini on the second house cusp may prefer a home loaded with books. Be aware, there are many other places to look in an astrology chart for material resources and your value system. Natal planets in a house will influence the nature of that house as well. The second house relates to your throat and voice. It has to do with speaking your truth. The second house helps you manifest beauty and your highest values into the world.

The Third House contains your siblings, education, communication, transportation, and self-expression. It represents things that happen quickly, like a one-day workshop, writing a magazine article, or a short weekend trip. The third house represents ideas and mental acuity. It provides hints about how you speak and how you learn. It is one of the places in the chart to look at nervous respiratory system ailments, asthma, and communications problems like stuttering. The third house provides information about how you get your ideas across to the world. A Cancer third house cusp may speak in words that express feelings and emotions, whereas a Sagittarius cusp may speak in broad, altruistic, and philosophical concepts. The third house helps you to open your mind to a variety of new

ideas, then to mold those thoughts into a form that can be expressed in the world. The third house can tell you about your brothers and sisters, or it can give you hints about the car you drive. A Leo third house cusp may want to drive a showy, luxury car.

The Fourth House represents home, family, parenting, traditions, and your general attitude about where & how you live. It is the place of seeking emotional security. The difficulty is that to find true emotional security, you must face your insecurities. A Taurus fourth house cusp may believe that owning a home provides security, only to find that they may lose their home due to unforeseen circumstances. This teaches the person that true emotional security comes from within, not from a physical object like a house. Naturally, a Taurus fourth house cusp does not mean you will lose your home. It only means that you will have to look at your values regarding security. Bad things do not happen to people just because a sign or planet is challenging you. Information regarding your early childhood can be found in the fourth house. An Aquarius fourth house cusp may indicate a home with unusual circumstances. This could include moving frequently, eccentric visitors passing through your home, adoptions, a missing parent, or unusual family relationships. Astrologers differ on whether the fourth house represents the father or mother. The most common thing to say is that the fourth house tells you about how you obtain your nurturing. A Cancer fourth house may prefer a home cooked meal. A Sagittarius fourth house may feel more nurtured by a meal cooked over a campfire stove. The fourth house can be quite a complicated house due to numerous emotional undercurrents combined its action-oriented focus. (The 1st, 4th, 7th, and 10th houses are given the term “angular.” This means that they are action oriented and add to the complex dynamics of your chart.)

Mark Dodich’s Class schedule at www.astromark.us as is a monthly astrology forecast

There is also a quarterly print newsletter called ASTROMARK. Call for a free copy of the current issue or download it directly off the Monthly Astrology Forecast page at www.astromark.us.

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The Fifth House represents children, romance, creativity, and pleasure. It is one of the places in the astrology chart that calls you to take a risk on yourself. Whether it is showing the world your creative talents, opening your heart to the possibility of romance, or hitting the blackjack tables in Las Vegas, you need to open to your passionate nature. With the fifth house, it is time to have fun. The zodiac sign on the fifth house cusp can give you hints about the way you like to have fun. A practical sign like Capricorn may turn a fun hobby into a business. It may also indicate a person who does not have children, or holds off on children until they are a bit older in life. Capricorn fifth house people may not be big gamblers, instead preferring conservative risks. Cancer on the fifth house cusp may take great enjoyment in playing with children. They may have difficulty letting go when it is time to end a relationship. It is important to look at a variety of factors in a chart before making a determination on risk-taking, children, or the way a person approaches romantic involvement. It is time to take your passion to the world.

The Sixth House rules work, humble service in the world, health, and domestic pets. It is the part of your job that needs to be done, but you do not get a lot of recognition for doing it. For career issues, you also need to look at the second and tenth houses. The sixth house can relate to military service, domestic help, health-related professions, and service businesses. With planets in your natal sixth house (current planets transiting through your sixth house), you need to simplify and organize your life so that you can be highly efficient. It often asks the question, “how can I be of service to the world without becoming a slave to it?” A Virgo sixth house cusp may be a nurse or a veterinarian, whereas a Gemini cusp may provide information or technical services. In terms of health and healing, you need to look at a wide variety of factors to understand health factors in a chart. In general, a person with Aquarius, Gemini, or Virgo in the sixth house may need to avoid overtaxing the nervous system. Scorpio sixth house people may need to pay attention to dental care, reproductive organs, and the elimination system. Please use caution in making health determinations based upon the sign on the sixth house cusp. In relationships, the sixth house represents the practical factors. When the honeymoon part of a relationship settles down, you have to organize your life to accommodate your partner and your worldly work.

The Seventh House relates to relationships of both a business and personal nature. It determines your experiences with marriage and partnership. Ironically, this area that represents your marriage also holds your open enemies. On a spiritual growth level, the people with whom you share, be it in love, business, or war, are all here to help you open to a greater level of your spirit. Perhaps an enemy can be viewed as a soul who has agreed to help you grow, much the same as a marriage partner. People want different things in a marriage. An Aries Descendant (the name for the 7th house cusp) may like fiery passion in a marriage partner. An Aquarius cusp may need someone who is as much a friend as a marriage partner. Planets in the seventh house greatly influence the needs of committed partnership. The Moon in the seventh house may show a strong need for emotional connection, or the desire for partnership may go through fluctuations (as in one day you are happy she/he is in your life, and the next you just want your private emotional space). The main point of the seventh house is that you are being called to step away from purely self-serving needs in order to share and cooperate with others.

The Eighth House represents death, deep emotional connection, fears, and inheritances. The astrology joke is that the eighth house rules sex, taxes, and death – a fertile ground for fears and obsessions! It is where we merge with something greater than ourselves. In sex, you merge with another such that two becomes one. With taxes, you merge with the collective unconscious of what USA readers might call the great Uncle Sam tax god. In death, you go beyond all boundaries and merge with Oneness. In a relationship, the eighth house talks about how you share your body, your time, your possessions, and so forth with your partner. It represents your partner’s income, accounting, insurance, and financial planning. Emotionally, this area is ruled by the planet Pluto (death, obsessive-compulsive, power, regeneration, elimination). The eighth house is where you go into the swamps of those intangible fears. A Scorpio eighth house cusp may need to work with people who are emotionally abused, provide financial planning services, tax accountants, sex-industry workers, or morticians. A Gemini cusp may help people to talk about issues of grief, sexual abuse, or fears. The eighth house helps you to get in touch with the deepest feelings that you carry below the surface.

The Ninth House represents the higher mind. It is associated with foreign travel, religion, higher education, certain areas of the legal system, and the social mores’ of society. More than anything, the ninth house calls you to open your mind to your highest spiritual truth to know whom you are beyond the labels of society. Because this house is naturally ruled by Sagittarius, you are called to express the utmost integrity and honesty. In general, the ninth house represents your in-laws and is one of the

places to look for grandchildren. A person with Pisces on the ninth house cusp may get involved in compassionate and humanitarian activities. Gemini on the ninth house cusp may indicate someone who is constantly going back to college to get another degree. Natal planets in the ninth house add flavor to the philosophical nature. Saturn in the ninth may indicate a conservative approach to religion and philosophy. Uranus in the ninth may indicate a person who leaves the family religion or works for philanthropic causes.

The Tenth House represents your public image and career. You will find big business, government, and other administratively heavy organizations in this area of the chart. Politicians and Chief Executive Officers are associated with the tenth house. The world sees you according to the sign on the tenth house cusp (also called the Mid Heaven). In esoteric, or spiritually focused, astrology, it is believed that the tenth house cusp indicates aspects that your soul incarnated to accomplish in this life. Whereas the sixth house represented your work, the tenth house indicates career. In the sixth house, you work away like a busy little bee. In the tenth house, you are seen for your accomplishments and/or failures. Natal Mars in the tenth house may indicate strong ambition if well aspected in the chart. Jupiter in the tenth house may indicate a person who appears larger than life, or one who is known for coaching and encouraging those in her/his charge. Aquarius in the tenth house may be a person who prefers to work alone, or own his or her own business. Leo in the tenth house may be a person who prefers supervisory positions.

The Eleventh House influences friends, intellectual pleasures, socializing, and attitude towards society. It shows your goals and ambitions. The eleventh house represents group consciousness. This can include community service, humanitarian aid, business-support groups, or community living lifestyles. It is those parties and events you go to, shaking a lot of hands, but not really getting to know anyone well. The sign on the eleventh house cusp tells about how you approach social situations. Virgo on the cusp may indicate shyness in opening to groups, or they end up in the kitchen cleaning up after the party. Aries may know everyone's first name at an event, but never stick around to know their last name. Having your Sun in the eleventh house may make you magnetically attracting to everyone. The moon in the eleventh may indicate the person who listens to everyone's problems and nurtures them like a mother.

The Twelfth House relates to that which is hidden from view. The twelfth house rules prisons, hospitals, and psychiatric facilities. Spiritual practices like meditation, shamanic vision quests, past life regression, dream therapy, psychic development, and hypnotherapy fit into the twelfth house. This is the place you go for your privacy. It also shows what you would like to hide from the world, but will need to deal with at some time in your life. Mercury in the twelfth house is often the child who is told that he/she talks too much, so learns to be seen and not heard. However, as the child gets older, they must learn to communicate all over again. The twelfth house is where we want to escape from the world. This can include alcoholism, drug addiction, or anywhere a person lives excessively in their fantasy world. This energy can be used positively through contemplative spiritual practice or other forms of self-analysis. Photography, the ocean, and secret societies are associated with the twelfth house. In the twelfth house, you need to look at the shadows of your inner being in order to bring forth your connection to the One Source of all that is.

Why do charts from different astrologers look different? There are different systems for measuring the houses. Placidus, Koch, and Porphyry are some of their names. The important house cusps are called angles (Ascendant is the sunrise place). Most astrological methods calculate the important angles exactly the same. The in-between houses, called succedant and cadent, may be different because there

is no one method for measuring the middle of the sky. If a planet is very close to a cusp, it is important to look at the meaning of the planet in both houses.

What are Aspects?

In an Astrology Chart, the planets have an additional dimension. Their geometric angles to each other also influence your personality. Astrologers look at the inter-relationship of the planets to understand how planets work with, or against, each other. Be aware that there is no “good” or “bad” in an astrology chart. As in life, some relationships require more attention than others.

Aspects represent stresses, tensions, and harmonious relationships between the different parts of your life. A challenging aspect between two planets can motivate you to accomplish great things in life, or you can hide under the covers. Harmonious aspects can help you to express life creatively; or, you can get lazy because the planets involved flow so easily that you decide to just kick back and do nothing. All astrology charts have a combination of challenging and harmonious aspects.

Many people tend to judge the challenges in their astrology chart. Remember that you chose to be born into this life because the conditions were perfect for your soul to experience what it needed to learn. It is your choice to accept the opportunity or to hide under the covers. Your chart is a map of the challenges you brought into this life, and the set of talents you gave yourself to overcome those challenges. The inter-relating aspects in a chart help you to integrate the challenges and the talents.

Conjunction: Two or more planets that are aligned exactly next to, or very close to each other in your chart are said to be “conjunct.” Astrologers like to go to conferences and discuss how close is close enough to be called a conjunction. The range of how far an aspect is away from exact is called an “orb” of influence. Common orbs range from 2-10 degrees depending upon the astrologer, the aspect, and the planets involved. If you are in a relationship with a person whose birthday is within ten days of your own, you could say that your suns are conjunct.

A conjunction means that the planets involved affect each other very strongly, usually blending and assisting each other. It is a natural place of connection where two or more planets act as one. They become integrated. Depending upon the planets involved, this integration may come naturally to you, or it could be a life-long practice if the planets challenge each other. The New Moon is an example of a conjunction. This is the dark phase of the moon when the Sun and Moon are in alignment. An example would be when you have a strong friendship with someone; then, she or he goes away for a while. When she or he returns, you plug right back into the friendship like time has stood still. That is an example of how a conjunction feels.

Opposition: When planets fall exactly across the circle (180 degrees apart) of the chart from each other, they are said to be opposite each other. An opposition is like a tug-of-war where two sides pull for equal attention. Although you will initially feel pulled apart, the purpose is to provide a greater life perspective based upon the nature of the two planets. The goal is to integrate the two planets so they can work together in a better way than they work individually. Every Full Moon is an opposition of the Sun and Moon. A full moon is highly expressive where people tend to act out. Inner behavior patterns express themselves outwardly so that we can see what is going on at deeper levels.

Square: Planets at a 90-degree angle from each other are said to be Square. Imagine a hurdle in a track meet. You are motivated to get over the hurdle, but it takes extra planning and effort. A square ties two or more planets together in such a way that they are challenged to work together. This challenge often manifests as tension and stress. However, people who learn how to work with the difficult aspects of their chart often accomplish more than those who have charts filled with easy aspects. Signs that are square to each other: 1) action oriented signs- Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn; 2) persevering signs- Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius; 3) adaptable signs- Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces.

Trine: Planets that are 120 degrees apart from each other are said to be in a trine. When you divide a circle by three, you get a shape that looks like a pyramid, hence the term trine. Harmony and flow are characteristics of the trine. The most common form of trine is between planets that are in the same element: 1) Water signs are Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces; 2) Earth signs are Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn; 3) Fire signs are Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius; 4) Air signs are Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius. A relationship between the Sun in Pisces and the Moon in Cancer would be called a trine. The basic vitality of the life force-giving Sun would be in harmony with the emotions of the Moon. Astrologers like to be specific about the exactness of what is called a trine, so they look to see how close two planets are to 120 degrees apart before they call it a trine.

Sextiles: A mini-trine is called a sextile. This is also a harmonious relationship between planets, but not quite as strong as a trine. You need to consciously pay attention to the two planets involved in a sextile in order to get the most benefit from them. Measuring 60 degrees apart, a sextile represents planets that are two signs away from each other. Many people who were born in the late 1940's and early 1950's had Neptune in Libra sextile Pluto in Leo, meaning that Neptune was two signs away from Pluto and within an orb of influence that was near 60 degrees apart.

Unaspected Planets: Occasionally, you will see a planet that is not aspected by another planet. This means that the major aspects listed above (and planets not in a parallel/contra parallel relationship- a term having to do with their north-south latitude positioning, known as declination) are not aspected with another planet. It is almost as if that planet does not know how to relate in the world. A person with an Unaspected planet must learn to integrate the nature of that planet into their life. An example of an Unaspected Venus is a person who seems to have this magnetic charm and beauty, yet is oblivious to the reaction they receive from people who are attracted to them.

Other aspects: There are numerous minor aspects used by astrologers. A **Semi-square** (45 degrees), a **Sesquiquadrate** (135 degrees) and an **Inconjunction** (150 degrees) are considered to have some stress associated with them. Dividing a circle by five creates a 72-degree aspect called a **Quintile**. This is considered to be a subtle, but highly creative, aspect. A **Septile** divides the circle by seven (51 3/7 degrees) and is thought to have karmic implications in a chart.

Chart patterns: Astrologers consider certain geometric relationships within a chart to create a pattern. Some people have one or more of these patterns, and others do not. One challenging (motivational) pattern is called a **T-Square**. It would look like a capital letter T if you connected the planets with a highlighter. It is like a three-legged chair that should have four legs- you are always attempting to find your balance point. A **Grand Cross** is like a T-Square with all four points filled in such that it looks like a cross or big square when you connect the dots with a highlighter. This pattern requires you to integrate all aspects of your life, looking ahead four steps before taking an action. If not, you end up running around trying to do crisis management until you get tired and look for a better way.

A **Grand Trine** is a harmonious pattern of ease and flow. A **Yod** looks like a Y shape and is the feeling of being caught between a rock and a hard place, it's a fated feeling. When you have a chart pattern in your natal chart, it becomes a focal point in what you have to do in this life. **When a transiting planet in the sky touches one of the points in a pattern, it sets off the entire pattern like a row of dominoes being knocked over.**

Other significant areas of the chart, romance compatibility, right location, changing cycles in your chart, choosing an astrologer.

There are additional strong influences in your chart, although they are not planetary bodies.

Your **Ascendant**, or Rising Sign, is the zodiac constellation that was rising on the Eastern horizon when you were born. It is located at the left horizontal line between the 12th and 1st houses of your natal chart. The Ascendant is based upon your time* and location of birth. The Ascendant is your rose-colored glasses in life. This means that you see life through the lens filter of the sign that was rising at birth. A Virgo Ascendant may project themselves into life to be of useful service to the world. A Capricorn rising is more likely to take a cautious approach to the world than an adventure-seeking Sagittarius rising. Knowledge of your rising sign will help you to understand why you project yourself into the world the way you do. Although there are many factors that go into your physical appearance, the rising sign is one strong indicator of physical appearance. A Gemini rising may be thin and wiry, whereas a Sagittarius rising may be tall or large.

* If you cannot get your time of birth from a birth certificate, family member, or other government record, you can place your Sun sign on the Ascendant. This gives you a symbolic chart that provides accurate planetary placement, with only the fast-moving moon potentially in error. This is the method used for all of those daily newspaper horoscope forecasts.

The **Midheaven** is the point overhead when you were born. If you were born at noon, your Sun would be near the Midheaven (abbreviated as Mc). The zodiac sign of your Midheaven is located at the top of the line that separates the ninth and tenth houses. The zodiac sign on your Midheaven describes the outward expression of your individuality and ego. It provides information on career, public image, and how the world perceives you. In esoteric (spiritual) astrology, the Midheaven is considered to represent something you need to take to the world in this life. An Aquarius Midheaven may need to take innovative new ideas and techniques out to the world.

The **North Node**, sometimes called the "Dragon's Head," is a sensitive point where the moon's orbit around the earth crosses the sun's path from South to North. It expresses your dharma, or soul destiny. The sign your North Node is in will tell you about the qualities that you must develop within yourself. A Pisces North Node may need to trust their intuition in order to manifest the highest principles of compassion into the world. The natal house containing your North Node indicates the area of life you will need to bring those qualities into. Pisces North Node in the fifth house may need to express compassion and creative vision into working with children.

The **South Node**, sometimes called the "Dragon's Tail," is the intersection point where the moon's orbit crosses the sun's path from North to South. The South Node is exactly 180° away from the North Node. It expresses your karma, or the lessons you need to learn from your past life. If you do not believe in past lives, you can consider this point to be lessons that you need to learn, or challenges to overcome, from childhood. The South Node also gives you hints as to talents that you brought into this life. The South Node is a bit of a "double-edged" sword. On one hand, you have talents in the sign of the South Node. On the other, you need to use those talents to move to the sign of your north node. If your South Node is in Sagittarius, you may have spent many past lives developing wisdom while meditating in a mountain cave. In this life, you may not want to come in to the world from your peaceful mountain. However, you must step into the opposite sign Gemini North Node to do your work in this life. A Gemini North Node person would need to communicate all of that past life Sagittarius wisdom to the world during this lifetime.

Have you ever looked at your natal chart cast by two different astrologers and found some minor differences in the degree placement of the nodes? This is because there are two methods for calculating the nodes- **mean node and true node**. Before computers, it was difficult to locate the exact position of the nodes because they "wobbled" several times per day. So astrologers took their "mean" placement for their calculations. With the precision of computers, we are now able to calculate the "true node" placement. Some astrologers still use the mean node. Mark Dodich uses true node.

Chiron, an asteroid orbiting between Saturn and Uranus, represents the wounding we sustain in life. As a centaur (half human, half animal), it represents overcoming our lower, animal nature in order to serve the highest forms of human service. The idea is that we create our own suffering in life because we hold on to ideas, behaviors, and possessions that are transitory. In mythology, Chiron gave up not only his life, but also his god-like immortality in order to release his suffering. His reward was to be placed up in the sky for eternity. Chiron in your chart represents ways and areas where you suffer, as well as areas where you can release your suffering. Chiron teaches you to go beyond your sense of limitation and powerlessness. It teaches you to see the Truth of the Universe. Because Chiron was only discovered in the 1970's, you will find a variety of opinions on the meaning of Chiron in the chart.

The **Part of Fortune** is a mathematically derived sensitive point in your chart. The symbol in your chart is a circle with an "X" inside it. The Part of Fortune is an ancient Arabic interpretive element usually associated with the physical body, especially health and money. As its name implies, it is an area of your chart that is benevolent, especially when activated by a transiting planet. If you were born at night, you will need to decide on one of two methods for calculating the part of fortune.

Transits are the relationship of the planets' current position as compared to where they were when you were born. Some transits help you to get into the flow of life; others challenge you to work through growth issues. Many people see an astrologer on a regular basis in order to get "updated" on how the transiting planets are activating their natal chart. Near your birthday each year, the Sun returns to the same degree of the sign of your birth. A chart is then cast, called a **Solar Return**, to help you understand the changing cycles of the year ahead.

Progressions are a mathematical way of moving the planets in your chart. Progressions show the subtle, inner, and psychological influences that influence you as you grow through life experiences. There are several methods for doing this, but the most common is called Secondary Progressions. The idea is that you take on different "flavors" as you grow older. A person who was born on the first day of Sagittarius would have a Sagittarian influence for the first thirty years of life. During the second thirty years of life, she or he would still be a Sagittarius. However, she or he would take on a Capricorn

influence. This would flavor the adventurous Sagittarian energy with the pragmatic grounding of Capricorn. The easiest way to understand these changing influences is to schedule annual updates with a competent astrologer.

Solar Returns (also other planets return too): A “return” chart is a chart cast for when a planet comes back to its original starting point. The sun goes around the circle of its orbit every year; Jupiter takes 12 years, Saturn 29 years. A chart is cast for the exact moment of return. So you can cast a chart for your upcoming birthday anytime within three months before your birthday. **A solar return provides an annual forecast for your coming birthday year.** This helps you know where the action will be in your life. If the action is in career places, you may want to put more effort into your career during such a year and not worry so much about the romance aspects of life in a work year.

Romance Compatibility

What are the best signs for romantic partnership? This question is asked of astrologers on a regular basis. The answer is that there is no simple answer. Consider that each person has ten planets (including the Sun and Moon), twelve zodiac signs, and twelve houses, not to mention asteroids, nodes, and changing dynamics called transits and progressions.

All relationship compatibility consultations show challenges and opportunities in every partnership. Every astrologer has seen relationships work that “should not” work. And, they have seen relationships fail that “should” work. You can also take this question to a spiritual level. Perhaps there was a soul-level contract made prior to birth for a couple to come together to work on a specific aspect of life (i.e. Opening to unconditional love, working on abandonment issues, etc.). In such a case, it may be that the eye-popping romance was not intended to last forever. Perhaps it was to just work on that one issue, then to move on.

But for those of you who just have to have an answer to the most compatible signs for you, the following shows general signs of compatibility.

Air signs (Gemini, Libra, Aquarius) and **Fire signs** (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius) are considered to work well together. Air represents communications, ideas, and social activities. Fire represents passion, enthusiasm, and spirituality. Together, they can stimulate each other to new heights of understanding, or they can burn each other out.

Earth signs (Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn) work well with **water signs** (Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces). Earth provides stability and water flows into the structure of earth. Earth is grounded, stable, and practical. Water is feeling-oriented, sensitive, and intuitive. Together, they can give each other needed nurturing and security, or they can get stuck the muddy waters of their own weaknesses.

When you look at relationship compatibility, you must look beyond comparing the two Sun signs. The emotional Moon is extremely important in relationships (see planet web page). Even if the Sun signs are not compatible, you want the moon signs to be compatible with either each other, or the partner’s sun sign. It also helps to have the Ascendant in each person’s chart in a compatible sign with the other’s Sun and/or Moon. It is important to have Mercury, planet of communications, in harmonious relationship to the other person’s sun and/or moon. After all, every relationship needs to discuss the issues that arise.

Relationship astrology can be very complicated. It is best not to make quick opinions on relationship compatibility based solely on the above. **Mark Dodich provides several different levels of Relationship Compatibility Astrology ranging from an inexpensive computer printout for you and your partner, to a full relationship astrology consultation for romance, business partners, and family relationships. 503-252-1558 www.astromark.us**

Geographical Location Compatibility * Relocation Astrology

Your astrology chart can be drawn onto a map to show your most powerful places for romance, career, spirituality, etc. It is popularly known as **AstroCartoGraphy®**. The relocation and travel maps show you which natal planets are strong in a particular geographic area. **Mark Dodich calls his service EARTHLINES™ because he combines different relocation techniques in your relocation consultation, including AstroCartoGraphy®, Local Space (your personal Feng Shui), relocation charts, transits & progressions, minor paran & aspect lines, etc.**

Jewelry can be used to help you. You can enhance the energy of the area by wearing a stone that is associated with the planet(s) that are strong or weak in a geographic area. For example, a person born at sunrise would have a Sun ascending power line near their birthplace. You could wear gold or amber to enhance the effects of your sun line. Another example of a chart strength/deficiency would be strong water element person (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces) who is living in Tucson, Arizona in August. Unless they have a swimming pool, fountain, or fish tank, they might feel as if they are going to dry up and blow away. They could use a piece of jewelry using a water-element stone (opal, coral, pearl) to compensate for the lack of water.

Mark Dodich provides a service called EARTHLINES to help you map out your best places to live on planet earth. 503-252-1558 www.astromark.us

Choosing an Astrologer: A person does not need a degree or formalized training program to become an astrologer. This makes it important for you to choose an astrologer who is competent, honest, and professional. It would be wise to talk to the astrologer you are considering to get a “feel” for their compatibility with you. Most astrologers are happy to spend five minutes with you to help you make your decision. But please be considerate of their valuable time. You can also check out their literature to see if it works for you. Although a formal certification does not guarantee that the astrologer is good, it does show that they put in the effort to get the certificate to begin with. There are several credible organizations including the International Society of Astrological Research (ISAR) who offers C.A.P. = Certified Astrological Professional certificate and the National Council for Geocosmic Research (NCGR) who offers several levels of certification. A good source for information is a magazine called “The Mountain Astrologer.” Each astrologer has her or his perspective on life. This puts a bias to their consultation. You must take responsibility for discerning the importance you place on the information provided. For every “bad” astrological placement, there is a talent to help you attain a higher level of life understanding. Astrology can help you to understand yourself and the changes you are going through. However, you must take responsibility for using that information for the Highest Good.

Mark Dodich has been providing astrology and intuitive consultations since 1980. He holds a certificate as a Certified Astrological Professional (CAP). Mark provides consultations internationally from his office in Portland, Oregon. Mark is past president of the Oregon Astrological Association, is viewed regularly in the media, and publishes his own newsletter, ASTROMARK.

Mark Dodich's Class schedule at www.astromark.us as is a monthly astrology forecast
There is also a quarterly print newsletter called ASTROMARK.

Send a donation to help cover copy and postage costs along with your postal mailing address to:

Mark Dodich PO Box 16276 Portland, OR 97292-0267 USA

What is Precession of the Equinoxes?

Do you remember that there was a newspaper article that suggested that your sun sign was actually in the previous sign if you were born in the first 23 days of a sign? Well, your sun sign has not changed. The article was referring to the fact that the exact measurement of the zodiac is off by about 23 degrees.

This is a large question relating to the accuracy of western calculations for a natal chart. The earth wobbles on its axis due to various gravitational forces. This causes the earth to change its position relative to the pole star. We currently see Polaris as the North star, but this changes about every 26,000 years. The idea is that at Spring Equinox, the zodiac sign of Aries "should" rise with the sun. The truth is that this only happens for 2000-year segments out of every 26,000 years.

Currently, the sign Pisces rises at Spring equinox, making the alignment of the constellations and the seasons about 2/3rds of a sign out of alignment. We are currently leaving the Age of Pisces and entering the Age of Aquarius. Prior to the Age of Pisces, was the Age of Aries, and prior to that was the Age of Taurus. Currently, Christianity (the fish) is representative of the Age of Pisces. Prior to that was the ram (ram's blood on the door is a biblical story) and Taurus was the bull (or religions surrounding the sacred cow). It seems that at the end of each age, there is turmoil surrounding changing philosophies. Currently, the new age of Aquarius is talked about in a negative way by those who hold on too tightly to the outgoing Age of Pisces. This suggests that we are on the cusp of the age of Aquarius.

In terms of casting a chart, some people suggest that western methods of astrology are no longer valid because of this out of alignment condition. However, there are archaeological records from ancient civilizations that suggest that the constellations were used symbolically much as they are used today – even though they were far more out of alignment in ancient times.

Astrologers often go to conferences to discuss this and other controversial topics. The only correct answer seems to be the answer that is correct for you. One suggestion is to have a consultation by a western astrologer and another by an astrologer who uses Vedic or Jyotish methods of calculations (Hindu). Then determine which methods suits you best. Numerous people use a combination of the two methods.

I often get questions on a couple of my special consultations, so thought I would offer additional explanations on relocation astrology which shows your power places on the planet, and the esoteric seven soul rays which deal with issues of spiritual service in this incarnation.

EARTHLINES™ (AstroCartoGraphy®) Maps for relocation.

Locating Your Personal Power Zones on Planet Earth **Find your best places for Relocation, Travel, Romance, and Career**

EARTHLINES™ Geographical Astrology gives you a tool that you will use for the rest of your life, *even if you never leave home!* Knowing your personal planetary action zones helps you to make life choices whether you are relocating, vacationing, seeking spiritual retreat, or doing business in other localities.

The maps require fairly accurate birth time, within 15 minutes is best. If you do not have your birth time, you can often order a copy of the “long form” of your birth certificate from the record holding department of the city or state where you were born. Be sure to ask for the complete detail of the birth rather than just the certificate because the certificate does not always contain the birth time.

The maps have vertical lines which are the major power lines and have an effective range of 300 miles east or west of the line. There are also subtle lines called “parans” which show the subtle energy difference of places approximately 100 miles north or south of each other. For example, it may occur that the same major power line (s) runs through both Portland, Oregon and San Francisco. The difference between these places would be seen in the different paran lines. Of course, you must take into consideration that San Francisco and Portland are very different in appearance, climate, and other external factors.

The consultation looks at your power lines for the entire planet, and about 80% of the information will be good for the rest of your life. You can provide up to three locations that you would like even more detail on (although there is plenty of detail to begin with). Just keep in mind that there will not be much difference in places that are close together, like Washington DC and Baltimore.

The lines on your major maps are good for life. Even people who have had a map done many years ago can benefit due to technological advances. I now include asteroids and soul destiny-oriented node lines.

There are also temporary maps called transits and progressions which are good from a matter of weeks to a full year. These maps tell you what energy is passing through an area for you personally at a given time. If you have a specific time that you will be travelling, I can run a transit and progression map for that time period. If not, I normally run a map for the USA (for USA residents) for about 1 month after the appointment.

There is also a map called Local Space. It is your personal feng shui map. The map looks like a wagon wheel with spokes emanating from the center. You can use it to choose a restaurant for an important meeting, to plan a trip around someplace like Europe, and even to arrange furniture in your home or office.

The consultation is a full 1½ hours, and there is even a lot more that I could provide in future sessions if you are an information junkie.

Hopefull, I was able to get to most of your questions here. There are also some graphics and additional information at my website: www.astromark.us
If I can answer any other questions, please give me a call or email.

SEVEN SOUL RAY ESOTERIC CONSULTATION

A soul purpose astrology reading explores your Universal Soul Vibration using the 7 Soul Rays from Ancient Mystery School Information (Alice A. Bailey channeling of Djwahl Kuhl). This unique consultation activates your spiritual work and is best for people who are seeking greater meaning and spiritual path service.

You will learn about your soul and personality rays combined with an esoteric astrological perspective on your natal chart. Understanding the ray upon which you have incarnated helps you to work more fully with your Divine Source, thereby helping you to powerfully resonate with the Universe. People who journey through life in harmonious flow with the Universe have a greater life satisfaction and inner joy. This reading is best for people who have reduced the need to ask “what’s in it for me?” and are calling forth, “what is my soul purpose in this life?”

You will notice that there are two different fees for this consultation. The charge is lower if you have already done the Initial Astrology Consultation with Mark Dodich. The reason it is higher if you have not done the Initial Astrology Consultation is that my preparation time increases substantially because I must prepare for the Soul Ray Consultation some of the information that normally would have already been provided at the Initial Astrology Consultation.

A 1½ hour consultation includes charts, rays, current transit update, and tape.

Consultations fees: A full listing of current charges is provided in the brochure, The consultation can be provided in person, by telephone, or simply as a mail order consultation. You can pay be cash, check, Visa or Mastercard.

Appointments rescheduled with less than 24 hours notice are subject to a \$25 fee. Appointments that are cancelled altogether within 48 hours of the appointment are charged \$50 to help cover the cost of lost preparation time.

Of course, Mark offers a full range of astrological services in addition to the above.

Mark Dodich’s Class schedule at www.astromark.us as is a monthly astrology forecast

There is also a quarterly newsletter called ASTROMARK. Call for a print copy or download it directly as a pdf from the Monthly Astrology Forecast page at www.astromark.us

There is also a bi-monthly email newsletter designed to give you quick information on planetary shifts going on right now. It is sent out at the New and Full Moon. Sign up for it on the front page at www.astromark.us

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Central Sun
Guided Meditation CD
by Araline Cate & Mark Dodich

Guided meditations to help you balance, heal, dissolve into your core essence,
and to inspire you to bring your highest truth into your life.

Featuring exotic background music including didjeridoo, gopichand, claribu, gongs,
bowls, djembe and more by Christopher of the Wolves.

Central Sun CD \$17 + \$3 s & h + \$20

also see picture and details at www.astromark.us under products for spirit

Here is a basic list of books that I have found helpful:

Basic Astrology for non-astrologers who want to know more:

“Chart Interpretation Handbook” Stephen Arroyo; a quick and easy guide to give you more information on your chart

“Complete Astrology” Alan Oken; a good overall guide to astrology with quick notes on your planets, signs, and houses

“Spiritual Astrology” Spiller & McCoy; provides basic chart interpretations and soul purpose of prenatal eclipses

“Planets in Transit” Robert Hand; a classic reference for changing cycles in your chart.

Relationship, Spiritual Astrology:

“The Astrology of Human Relationships” Sakoian & Acker; shows how the planets interact between two charts.

“Relationships & Life Cycles” Stephen Arroyo; a bit more involved reading but very good

“Astrology for the Soul” Jan Spiller; works with the moon’s nodes relating to soul purpose

“Karmic Astrology” by Martin Schulman; helps explain soul purpose using the moon’s nodes

“Sabian Symbols” by either Dane Rudyhar or Marc Edmund Jones; provides esoteric symbols for each degree of the zodiac (I use them with your prenatal eclipses in the initial astrology consultation)

“Interpreting Your Rays using Astrology” Mae R. Wilson-Ludlam (AFA 1981, out of print, great for esoteric 7 rays astrology)

“Interpret Your Rays Through the Planets” Mae R. Wilson-Ludlam

“The Rays and the Initiations” by Alice A Bailey www.lucistrust.org

Relocation Astrology:

“The Psychology of AstroCartoGraphy” Jim Lewis; a comprehensive book on your EARTHLINES maps

“Astrolocality Astrology” Martin Davis; complex book on your EARTHLINES Maps (AstroCartoGraphy, Local Space, etc.)

Cosmic Love by Jan Spiller, Spiritual Astrology by Jan Spiller

Topics for your spiritual growth and understanding:

“Life & Teaching of the Masters of the Far East” Baird T. Spalding; a life changing series of books

“The Kybalion” by Three Initiates; explains basic principles of the universe in a very logical way

“The Key” and “That Which You are Seeking is Causing You to Seek” ; fun to read books on spiritual growth C. Huber

“The Keys of Enoch” JJ Hurtak; heavy reading but transformative

Books by Alice Bailey, including “The Rays and The Initiations” ; difficult to read but worth the effort

“Sirius” by M. Temple Richmond, about the star Sirius and how it relates to spiritual service

“Money and Beyond” and audio tapes by Arnold Patent; a spiritual way of looking at prosperity and quality of life

Zodiac Sign & Symbols:

Quality (nature) of signs:

BOLD signs are “cardinal” action oriented.

ITALICS signs are “fixed” - endurance and perseverance are traits.

UNDERLINED signs are “mutable” they adapt and change.

Aries ♈ : pioneering, spontaneous

Taurus ♉ stable, builder

Gemini ♊: communications, versatility

Cancer ♋: receptive, nurturing

Leo ♌: pride, leadership

Virgo ♍: analytical, service

Libra ♎: balance, relating

Scorpio ♏: intimate, intense

Sagittarius ♐: adventure, philosophy

Capricorn ♑: responsibility, striving

Aquarius ♒: independent, humanitarian

Pisces ♓: intuitive, compassion

Planets:

Sun: identity, life force, will, individuality

Moon: instincts, emotions, nurturing, mother

♂ Mercury: thinking, talk, ideas, short trips

♀ Venus: romance, values, finances, women

Mars: ambition, drive, male, sexuality

Jupiter: philosophy, higher mind, adventure

Saturn: discipline, patience, responsibility

Chiron: stretch boundaries, heal, maverick

♃ Uranus: freedom, revolution, invention

Neptune: spirituality, illusion, enlightenment, escapism

Pluto: power, transformation

: North & South Nodes: soul destiny and karma

Elements of the signs:

Fire: ♈ ♌ ♎ passion, spirit, creativity
Aries, Leo, Sagittarius

Earth: ♉ ♍ ♏ stable, builder, practical
Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn

Air: ♊ ♎ ♏ social, communications
Gemini, Libra, Aquarius

Water: ♋ ♏ ♓ emotions, intuition, flow
Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces

Asteroids:

- Chiron: Stretching your boundaries to relieve suffering
- Vesta: Letting go of lower pursuits to serve a higher purpose
- Pallas: Creative Intellect & Strategy
- Juno: Love & Marriage, partnership
- Ceres: The Great Mother Goddess of the Harvest and Healing
- Hygeia: Healing
- Astraea: Where you are too fixed in thought or action
- Vulcan: A mythical planet representing your path back to Source
- Fortuna: a place of happiness, opportunity
- Earth: Where you get grounding, always opposite your sun

Other terms:

Ascendant (aka Rising Sign):

This is the constellation that was on the Eastern horizon when you were born. It represents self-identity and the way you take yourself out into the world. The Ascendant is on the left side of your chart and begins the first house.

MC (aka Midheaven):

The “high noon” tenth house cusp represents career and public image. It is where you let your light shine in the world.

Descendant:

The seventh house cusp represents partnerships, including both marriage and business. It is the area that seeks commitment and long-term sharing.

IC (aka Nadir):

This is the bottom of the chart, or fourth house cusp. It represents your roots and how you seek emotional security. Home and family issues and desires are in the fourth house.

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