

Asteroid Goddesses

in the natal chart of
Lana Del Rey

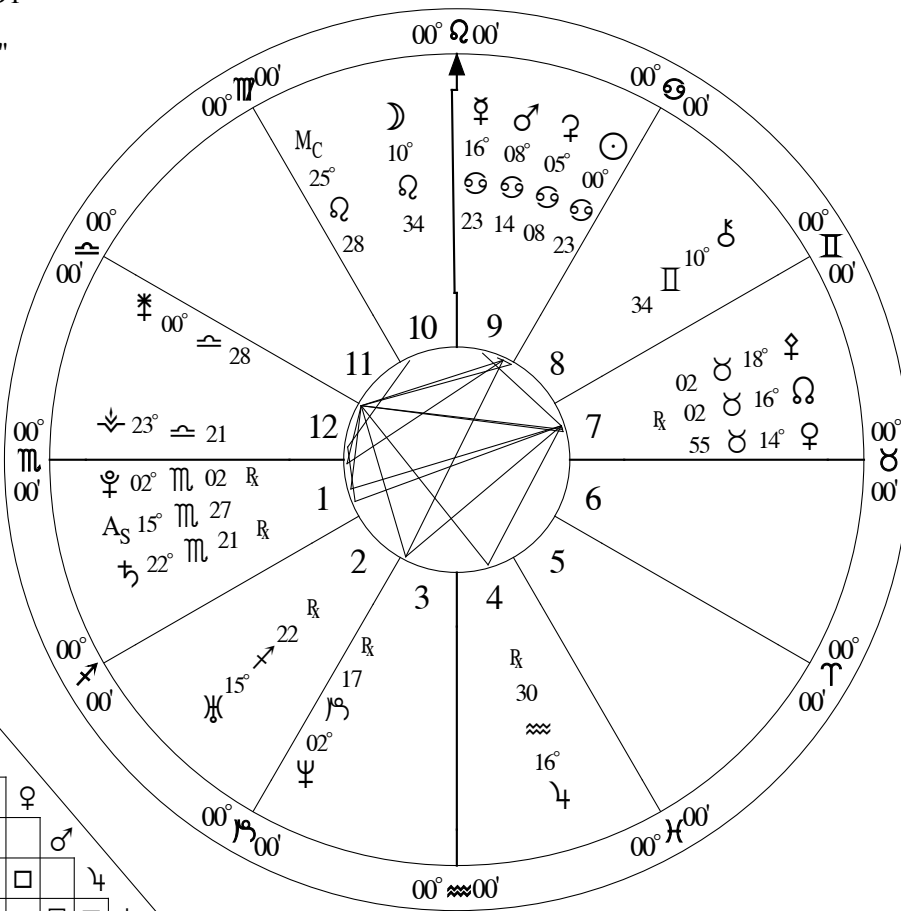


Written by Demetra George and Douglas Bloch
with Patricia White.

This report was provided by Eclectic Soul Expressions.
Visit EclecticSoul.nl for more insightful reports.

Lana Del Rey
New York, NY
Jun 21 1985
16:47:00 EDT
40°N 42'51"
74°W 00'23"

Tropical
Geocentric
Whole Signs



Aspects Grid

	♈	♉	♊	♋	♌	♍	♎	♏	♐	♑	♒	♓
♈												
♉												
♊												
♋												
♌												
♍												
♎												
♏												
♐												
♑												
♒												
♓												

Asteroid Positions

Planet		Sign	Longitude	Declination
♀ Ceres	is in	♋ Cancer	5° 08' 19"	+25° 32' 00"
♀ Pallas	is in	♉ Taurus	18° 02' 23"	- 0° 42' 00"
♁ Juno	is in	♎ Libra	0° 28' 07"	+ 6° 02' 00"
♁ Vesta	is in	♎ Libra	23° 21' 45"	- 1° 31' 00"

Other Positions

Planet		Sign	Longitude	Declination
☉ Sun	is in	♋ Cancer	0° 23' 58"	+23° 26' 00"
☾ Moon	is in	♌ Leo	10° 34' 08"	+22° 30' 00"
☿ Mercury	is in	♋ Cancer	16° 23' 32"	+24° 23' 00"
♀ Venus	is in	♉ Taurus	14° 55' 14"	+13° 35' 00"
♂ Mars	is in	♋ Cancer	8° 14' 50"	+24° 06' 00"
♃ Jupiter	is in	♊ Aquarius	16° 30' 32"	-16° 34' 00"
♄ Saturn	is in	♏ Scorpio	22° 21' 48"	-16° 09' 00"
♅ Uranus	is in	♐ Sagittarius	15° 22' 45"	-22° 40' 00"
♆ Neptune	is in	♑ Capricorn	2° 17' 32"	-22° 15' 00"
♇ Pluto	is in	♏ Scorpio	2° 02' 24"	+ 3° 47' 00"
♁ N. Node	is in	♉ Taurus	16° 02' 59"	+16° 38' 00"
♁ _S Ascendant	is in	♏ Scorpio	15° 27' 35"	-16° 28' 00"
♁ _C Midheaven	is in	♌ Leo	25° 28' 03"	+13° 01' 00"
♁ Chiron	is in	♊ Gemini	10° 34' 06"	+17° 53' 00"

Software Copyright © 1998 Astrolabe, Inc.
 Text Copyright © 1998 Demetra George and Douglas Bloch.
 All rights reserved.

Planetary Aspects

☉ Sun	is	♌	Conjunct	♀ Ceres	The orb is 4° 44'
☉ Sun	is	☐	Square	♆ Juno	The orb is 0° 04'
☿ Mercury	is	♌	Sextile	♀ Pallas	The orb is 1° 39'
♀ Venus	is	♌	Conjunct	♀ Pallas	The orb is 3° 07'
♀ Venus	is	☐	Sesquiquadrate	♆ Juno	The orb is 0° 33'
♂ Mars	is	♌	Conjunct	♀ Ceres	The orb is 3° 07'
♃ Jupiter	is	☐	Square	♀ Pallas	The orb is 1° 32'
♃ Jupiter	is	☐	Sesquiquadrate	♆ Juno	The orb is 1° 02'
♄ Saturn	is	♋	Opposite	♀ Pallas	The orb is 4° 19'
♄ Saturn	is	♌	Semisextile	♃ Vesta	The orb is 1° 00'
♆ Neptune	is	♋	Opposite	♀ Ceres	The orb is 2° 51'
♆ Neptune	is	☐	Sesquiquadrate	♀ Pallas	The orb is 0° 45'
♆ Neptune	is	☐	Square	♆ Juno	The orb is 1° 49'
♇ Pluto	is	♌	Trine	♀ Ceres	The orb is 3° 06'
♇ Pluto	is	♌	Semisextile	♆ Juno	The orb is 1° 34'
♁ N. Node	is	♌	Conjunct	♀ Pallas	The orb is 1° 59'
♁ N. Node	is	☐	Sesquiquadrate	♆ Juno	The orb is 0° 35'
♀ Pallas	is	♋	Opposite	♁ Ascendant	The orb is 2° 35'
♆ Juno	is	♌	Semisquare	♁ Ascendant	The orb is 0° 01'
♃ Vesta	is	♌	Sextile	♁ Midheaven	The orb is 2° 06'
♀ Ceres	is	☐	Square	♆ Juno	The orb is 4° 40'

Introduction: The Asteroid Goddesses

The Discovery of the Asteroids

The asteroids are small planet-like bodies that orbit the Sun in a belt that lies mostly between Mars and Jupiter. They first dawned on human consciousness in the early 1800s. The first four asteroids to be sighted were given the names of four of the great goddesses of classical antiquity: Ceres (discovered in 1801), Pallas Athene (discovered in 1802), Juno (discovered in 1804) and Vesta (discovered in 1807).

Many more asteroids were soon discovered, so that by the end of the 19th century, over a thousand were known. The first asteroid ephemeris (a table listing planetary positions) was made available to astrologers in 1973 by Eleanor Bach, and it covered only the original four. Today astrologers have computer software that tracks the placements of over five thousand.

What the Asteroids Mean for the World

Astrologers have often observed the tendency for the sighting and naming of new bodies in the solar system to come at the same time in history as the activation of new centers of consciousness in the collective human psyche. Overall, the rapid discovery of so many new celestial bodies in such a short time mirrors the modern acceleration of human brain potential, and the recent exponential growth of information that has yielded so many thousands of new facts.

As to uncovering a more particular meaning for the asteroids, the names that become attached to newly discovered bodies always seem to be significant. Though many asteroids were given the names of gods, people, places, concepts and things, over three-quarters of the first thousand to be discovered were named after goddesses from various mythological traditions.

The naming of so many asteroids after female deities paralleled an awakening of a feminine-defined principle in women, men and society. Around 1973, when the first astrological asteroid ephemeris was published and astrologers began extensive consideration of asteroids, the women's movement emerged, and new aspects of feminine expression began to awaken in human consciousness. Women became imbued with the seed possibilities of feminine creativity and intelligence that expanded and transcended the traditional roles of wife and mother. This period also marked the rediscovery of women's ancient history, the growth of women's culture in creative and professional areas, and the rebirth of the Goddess in women's spirituality. The lives of men and that of society in general have also been affected by the activation and growing influence of a right-brain, feminine-polarity, holistic way of perceiving the world.

In the symbolic language of astrology, the goddess asteroids provided new archetypes that specifically addressed the current psychological and social issues that arose from this activation of the feminine principle. Only two of the usual planets, the Moon and Venus, represent feminine archetypes, and these are of the mother and the wife. Until the asteroids, astrology had to fit all other women's experiences into masculine-defined archetypes. What was needed was a set of symbols by which to describe the other avenues of feminine expression that exist today. During the years since 1972 when astrologers have observed the significance of asteroids in birth charts, they have uncovered a wealth of information that adds insight and understanding above and beyond that gained from the usual ten planets.

Astrology's Use of Asteroids

Clearly, it is impossible to include all the thousands of asteroids in a birth chart and then make sense of them. To select asteroids to look at, some astrologers note only the asteroids that are very closely conjunct important points in the chart such as the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, Midheaven or a particular planet that is being considered. Alternatively, they look for asteroid names that suggest people, places or themes in a person's life, and then see where these asteroids fall in the chart. Using these approaches, astrologers such as Zipporah Dobyns, Jacob Schwartz, J. Lee Lehman, Nona Gwyn Press and Batya Stark (as well as myself) have come up with an amazing number of startling (and often amusing) synchronicities. Playing the asteroid name game is great fun, and it gives yet another comforting manifestation of the interconnectedness of all things.

Ceres, Pallas, Juno and Vesta

Among the thousands of asteroids known, Ceres, Pallas, Juno and Vesta have a special place. While these are not necessarily the largest asteroids, they were the first to be discovered, and as such they have imprinted themselves on human consciousness in a major way.

They also complete the female pantheon of goddesses, rounding out the system of symbols begun in the usual ten planets. Of the six great goddesses of Olympus, only Aphrodite (Venus) and Artemis (the Moon) are represented in the conventional astrological symbol system. The other four great goddesses of Graeco-Roman mythology, Demeter (Ceres), Athene (Pallas), Hera (Juno) and Hestia (Vesta), were missing from astrology until they were re-invoked by their discovery in the early 1800s.

The Mandala of the Asteroid Goddesses

Ceres, Pallas, Juno and Vesta represent four very basic feminine archetypes which amplify and particularize the more general energies of the Moon and Venus. Their relation to the regular planets and to each other becomes clear in a mandala.

The large circle in the mandala represents the Moon, the fundamental feminine principle that contains all the potential expressions of the feminine nature. Behind the Moon resides the Sun, the embodiment of the fundamental masculine principle. The union of the masculine and feminine, of the Sun God and Moon Goddess, give rise to what mystics have described as Oneness.

In the center of the mandala is Venus. As the essence of the feminine nature in her activated form, Venus embodies the feminine creative, magnetic, sexual, reproductive, vital life force. Venus is surrounded by Ceres, Pallas, Juno and Vesta. Each of the four in its unique way uses the creative sexual energy of Venus to express the various functions and activities of the feminine principle as it operates in both women and men.

Note that these asteroids are placed at the four cardinal directions of the mandala. These correspond to the four "angles" of the astrological chart: the Ascendant and Descendant to the left and right along the horizon, and the MC (Medium Coeli or Midheaven) and IC (Imum Coeli or Lowest Heaven), at the top and bottom of the vertical meridian line. The basic symbolism of these four great goddesses is as follows:

♀ **Ceres**, the archetypal Mother and the Goddess of Agriculture, gives birth to the world of physical form, bearing children and providing food for their survival. As the Mother archetype, she stands for the principle of unconditional love and nurturing support in both women and men. In the above mandala she is placed at the IC, the very bottom of the horoscope wheel, which in astrology is related to the foundation, the roots, and the family.

♀ **Pallas Athene**, the daughter of Zeus, is the Goddess of Wisdom who generates mental and artistic creations from her mind. Sprung from the head of her father, she represents the principle of creative intelligence. Her place in the mandala is at the MC, the "head" of the chart, the uppermost point, which symbolizes one's ambitions and one's visible, socially useful accomplishments.

* **Juno**, or Hera, was the wife of Zeus. As such, she is the Goddess of Marriage who fosters and sustains union with a partner. More generally, she symbolizes the principle of relatedness and commitment to another over time. In the mandala, she is placed at the Descendant, which in the horoscope wheel is the point that signifies reaching out from the Self to another in order to complete oneself in a one-to-one relationship.

♄ **Vesta**, or Hestia, was Zeus's elder sister who never married. In mythology she became the protectress of the hearth and the sacred altar flame. The archetypal Temple Priestess, she is a virgin in the original sense of being whole and complete in oneself. In the system of goddess symbols, she represents the principle of spiritual focus and of devotion to following one's calling. Placed in the mandala at the Ascendant, Vesta corresponds to the Self.

These asteroids represent the primary relationships of a woman's life: that of mother, daughter, wife and sister. The fertile sexual energy of Venus is used by Ceres to birth children of the body, by Pallas to birth children of the mind, by Juno to build relationships with others, and by Vesta to deepen a relationship with the Self or with the Divine.

The Asteroid Goddesses in the Charts of Men

Just as the planets named after male gods pertain to the lives of women, these asteroids named for female goddesses are also important in the lives of men. The recognition and honoring of one's contrasexual side completes and strengthens the personality, embracing the unintegrated energies that are often sources of trouble.

♁ **Ceres** expands on the Moon's symbolism by further illuminating the relationship of a man to his mother and also to women and other nurturing figures in his adult life. In addition, Ceres signifies a man's own tender, caregiving side and the ways in which this part of his nature can find expression. Typical manifestations of Ceres energies in a man are teaching and mentoring, pediatrics and pedagogy, farming and gardening, cooking and nutrition, medicine and therapy, ecology and environmental protection, and, of course, his part in helping his own children thrive and grow.

♀ **Pallas**, for a man as well as a woman, can symbolize his capacity for strategy, his quest for clarity and truth, his sense of justice, the acquisition of skill and ingenuity in useful arts, and the ability to channel life energy for healing. Just as she can in women, Pallas can signify either a man's rejection of the feminine within himself, or the drive to integrate the opposite sexual polarity into his psyche. The placement of Pallas can also suggest how a man perceives the strong, independent women in his life. This usually has to do with his sense of his own competence.

* **Juno** can signify a man's style of dealing with marriage and other forms of partnership, including, in some cases, business partnerships. Her placement determines how the struggle between the self and the other plays out, and whether the partnerships a man enters into are likely to be equal or unequal. Juno may also show the sort of wife a man is likely to pick, and his attitude toward married women in general. This asteroid has to do with the man in his procreative role as husband and father, and, by extension, in any joint venture for the production of a new entity. Just as she does for a woman, Juno may also show how a man deals with the infidelity of a partner.

♃ **Vesta** signifies a man's relationship to himself as a complete being, apart from relationships with others. Her placement can suggest to a man how he can best become still, look within, and tend to Deity or his inner spirit. Just as she does in women, Vesta can also signify a man's urge to conserve and preserve the home, the state, the culture and its institutions.

The Asteroids as Developmental Stages

When you combine the above basic symbolism of the first four asteroids with the order in which they were discovered, the four great goddess asteroids form yet another self-contained symbol system, one that defines four stages of human, and most particularly feminine, lives:

♀ **Ceres**, the first asteroid to be discovered, governs the first stage of life, when the person's primary focus is the mother. This is the stage of the Child.

♃ **Pallas**, the second to be discovered, suggests the time of life when the child starts looking toward the father to be initiated into the rules of the world outside the home. This period starts when many girls become tomboys and dream of their future careers. It continues into the period when young people are out in the world studying or working or pursuing a career but are not yet parents. In a woman's life this pre-reproductive stage is that of the Maiden.

♁ **Juno**, the third asteroid to be discovered, was the archetypal wife on Olympus and was also a protectress of childbirth. She suggests the one stage of a person's life that is commonly devoted to marriage and reproduction. In a woman, this is the stage of the Matron.

♃ **Vesta**, the last-discovered of the four, represents the final stage of life when a woman's focus commonly turns away from child-bearing and child-rearing, and she turns toward cultivating herself as a separate individual, apart from her family relationships. In women, this post-reproductive period is the stage of the Crone. This supplements the pre-reproductive or self-contained Virgin symbolism already mentioned in connection with Vesta.

Arranging the asteroids in this way gives further clues to their meaning. Naturally, however, a woman may embody the symbolism of any of these asteroids at any time in her life.

These life stages pertain to a woman's life in particular, something that has until recently been largely neglected. They of course have their analogies in the lives of men, but in a slightly modified form, since reproduction does not tend to be so central to men's lives and many men can reproduce well into old age. Like women, men typically have a Ceres stage in which their primary attachment is to their mother, a Pallas stage where they are initiated by the father into the outside world, a Juno stage when they are husbands and fathers working to sustain a family, and a Vesta stage when they are free to retire and cultivate their inner lives.

How to Use This Report

You could think of your birth chart as a play. The planets and asteroids are the actors, harmonizing with, clashing against, or ignoring one another, depending on the aspects that they do or do not make with the other points in the chart. The sign of the zodiac that the asteroid or planet is in shows where the actor is "coming from": whether he or she is at home or in foreign territory, and his or her style of operation. The house that a planet or asteroid falls into is like the scenery, showing the area of life in which that archetype is most likely to operate.

The house cusps, and the Ascendant, Imum Coeli, Descendant and Midheaven (which in most systems of house division are the cusps of the First, Fourth, Seventh and Tenth houses) are the fastest-moving points in the chart. Moving about one degree along the zodiac during every four minutes of time, they travel all the way around the zodiac every twenty-four hours.

These are what make your chart different from the charts of other people born the same day. They deliver the most personal, particular information in your chart, but for them to do so, your birth time must be given as accurately as possible, preferably within a half-hour of time. If you are uncertain of your birth time, it is best to ignore the paragraphs that deal with houses, or with conjunctions to the Ascendant, Imum Coeli, Descendant or Midheaven. If necessary, you can probably get your birth time from your birth certificate, obtainable from the Bureau of Vital Records in the state where you were born.

When You're Reading This Report

When you read about the sign and house placements of each asteroid, it is best not to draw any conclusions about that asteroid until you have read about the asteroid's aspects. For example, if you had Ceres in Cancer conjunct the planet Uranus, Ceres's Cancerian need for emotional security would be offset by Uranus's desire for freedom and change. Both indications may apply, but in different areas of life, or you may feel an ongoing sense of contradiction and tension between the two. Conversely, if several indications reinforce each other, their manifestation in your life will most likely be strong and obvious. Also remember that when a planet is at the end of a house within a degree or two of the cusp of the next house, it starts to take on the meanings of the next house as well.

An Important Note about Aspects

The authors do not consider the "hard" aspects (squares, oppositions, semisquares and sesquiquadrates) and other traditionally difficult aspects (like quincunxes and sometimes semisextiles) as uniformly bad. Neither do they consider the so-called "soft" or "easy" aspects (trine and sextile) as always good. Practicing astrology from a mythic and psychological point of view, they find that the nature of the two archetypal principles being connected is more important than the nature of the aspect. Regardless of the type of aspect being made, most people experience the entire range of interactions between two planets (or between a planet and an asteroid).

We believe that people grow by integrating opposing polarities in the psyche (represented by the opposition aspect) and by resolving inner conflicts (represented by the square). We do not wish to give you the limiting suggestion that the issues depicted by difficult aspects are impossible to resolve, or give you a false sense of security that the so-called good aspects require no awareness and effort on your part. You will therefore find that the interpretations in this report cover a wide range of both positive and negative possibilities for each aspect.

Aspects do, however, differ in *strength*. Major aspects (particularly the conjunction and opposition) and aspects involving the Sun or Moon tend to speak louder than others. To help you spot the more important aspects in your chart, you'll see notations ranging from "Very strong influence" to "Slight influence."

You can get an even more precise idea of the strength of an aspect by looking at the aspect table at the beginning of this report. The values in the "The orb is" column show how far the aspect is from being exact. If you see an aspect with an orb of zero (that is, less than one degree), you can mentally "bump up" the aspect's rating a notch (for example, from "Strong" to "Very strong"). Conversely, if you see an orb greater than eight degrees, you can consider the aspect's importance diminished.

With this said, let us now explore the role that each of these four asteroid goddesses plays in your astrological chart.

Part One:

Ceres, the Mother

Appropriately, the first asteroid to be discovered was named after the Olympian goddess who most exemplifies the mother - the first human being with whom most of us have contact, the first relationship that we encounter in life. Ceres, the Mother, deals with all sorts of mother-child issues. Of the four stages in a person's life, she signifies the Child.

The glyph or written symbol for Ceres takes the form of a scythe. Besides signifying the goddess of agriculture, this tool for harvesting suggests both the roundness of a breast and the themes of separation and death that run through the legend of Ceres. As the mother, she brings us into life, and, like the Christian Mary who grieves over her crucified Son, she also lets us go into death, thus starting another cycle. For this reason she is associated with the IC of the horoscope, the very bottom of the day cycle, where, in the system of astrological houses, life begins and ends.

The Myth of Ceres

Known to the Greeks as Demeter, Ceres was the goddess of agriculture who worked unceasingly to bring food and nourishment to the people of the earth. One of the great classical myths tells of her daughter Persephone's ravishment and abduction by Pluto, lord of the underworld. Grieving, Ceres wandered over the earth in search of her missing child. In her grief, depression and anger, she caused a famine, withholding production of all food until her daughter was returned.

Persephone meanwhile had eaten pomegranate seeds, a symbol of sexual awareness, thus giving Pluto a claim over her so that she could not be returned permanently to her mother. A compromise was reached whereby Persephone would spend part of each year in the underworld with Pluto caring for the souls of the dead, but each spring would be reunited with her mother in the upper world as she initiated the dead into the rites of rebirth. For over two thousand years, this drama was celebrated regularly in ancient Greece as the initiation rites of the Eleusinian mysteries.

Ceres Within Us

Ceres represents the part of our nature that longs to give birth and then to nourish and sustain the new life. She represents the essential bonding or lack thereof that occurs between mother and child. She is the impulse not just to nurture, but also to be nurtured by others through the giving and receiving of acceptance and unconditional love.

The story of Ceres and Persephone speaks to the complex mother-child relationship, emphasizing the interplay of closeness and separation, of nurturing and eventual letting-go as the child becomes an adult able to function on her or his own. Once the letting-go is accomplished, the child is free to reestablish the bond in a different key by becoming a friend to the parent and by producing grandchildren.

The Ceres myth also contains the themes of major physical or emotional loss, separation, abandonment, rejection, and estrangement that occur between parents and children, and later in life with other loved ones. One example of this is the anguish we face in cases of divorce or adoption when we need to share our children with their other parent. Ceres symbolizes attachment to whatever we have given birth to or created, and also the agony of losing it. If her myth is one of loss, however, it is also one of return, of death but also rebirth. Reminding us that loss makes way for new birth, Ceres can teach us the lesson of letting go.

A central part of Ceres bonding is the giving of food as an expression of love. In our early experiences as children, this food and love may be freely given. In other instances, however, it is conditionally awarded, withheld as a form of punishment, pushed upon us, or simply neglected. Then the self-love and self-worth of the child are undermined and underdeveloped, causing a host of psychological problems.

The mythological Ceres withheld food in the midst of her grief and depression. Correspondingly, one typical kind of Ceres wound is an obsessive relationship with food, including the whole range of eating disorders and food-related illnesses. Related to this, there can also be problems with a poor body image.

In her grief, Ceres became immobilized. Thus another Ceres problem manifests as being plunged into depths of depression or despair, making us incapable of daily functioning, work, and all other forms of productivity. To the extent that depression is associated with incomplete mourning, working through the stages of grief (shock, anger, bargaining, depression, and ultimately acceptance) can help to promote healing in times of loss.

An additional theme comes from Ceres's daughter Persephone being raped by Pluto, her mother's brother. This points to fears that parents may have in protecting their children from similar harm. Certain Ceres placements in the chart may also point to one's having oneself experienced incest or other sexual abuse as a child.

In a desire to keep their children safe, parents with strong Ceres placements can become overly controlling and restrictive. In order to establish their own identity, their children may then struggle against the parental attachment. This, in turn, can bring up the Ceres theme of loss of the child.

On a transpersonal level, Ceres as the Mother of the World moves us to care about the homeless and hungry, and also about the destruction of the earth's resources. She urges us to take compassionate action to provide for fundamental human needs, and to care for the body of the earth which supports and sustains us.

Ceres not only gave birth to the living, but in her aspect as Persephone she received the souls of the dead back into her womb to prepare them for rebirth. Thus Ceres can also express as a vocation for either midwifery or hospice work, facilitating the transition from death to life and back again on either the physical or the psychological level.

Ceres embodies the great truth of transformation, that from death comes new life. This comes not just from the Persephone part of her story, but also from the nature of food, which always requires the taking of plant or animal life in order to sustain our own lives.

Ceres also teaches the wisdom that over-attachment and possessiveness can eventually bring loss, whereas sharing and letting go lead ultimately to reunion.

Ceres in Your Chart

Ceres's Zodiacal Sign

The zodiacal sign of Ceres shows the particular quality of nurturing that you experienced as a child. This sets the stage for how you presently nurture the child within yourself, and ultimately determines how you nurture others. The sign position of Ceres can alert you to possible problems with nurturing, and can direct you to the kinds of experience that you need to feel unconditionally loved and accepted.

These indications may be reinforced or contradicted by other factors in the chart such as aspects and (if you have given an accurate birth time) houses. Therefore, to get a rounded picture, be sure to read through the whole section on each asteroid.

Ceres in Cancer

When you were born, Ceres was traveling through the sign Cancer. More than most children, you identified nurturance with bonding with your mother, feeling loved, and being fed. You wanted to be reassured that everything was going to be all right. You also wanted your parents to be emotionally supportive and to encourage you to express your moods and feelings.

If these needs were not met in an ideal manner, you may have felt rejected and uncared for, anxious and insecure. This could lead to excessive neediness or emotional dependency on your part, which you may still be coping with today. Alternatively, you might have felt smothered by an over-protective or over-concerned caregiver, leading to a later dislike of over-closeness.

As an adult, you tend to want these Ceres needs met by whomever you turn to for nurturing - whether it be a parent, partner or other loved one. You can nurture yourself through asking the child within you what it needs for emotional fulfillment, and by providing for those needs. In turn, you nurture your children or loved ones by helping to create a warm and loving family, however you define that to be. Particularly for those with Ceres in Cancer, home life may center about the kitchen and dining table, and nurturance may become identified with giving and receiving food.

The House that Ceres Occupies

Assuming that the birth time that you have given is accurate within an hour or so, the houses of the horoscope give more particular information about the way the asteroids and planets operate in your chart.

Besides the Fourth House, which shows your earliest upbringing, the house that Ceres falls into shows where or in what department of life you may most directly feel the need for mothering and nurturing. The house that Ceres is in also suggests the areas in which you are likely to feel your profoundest losses. In addition, it can give a key as to what kinds of experiences will either foster feelings of self-love, or feelings of self-criticism and rejection.

Ceres in the Ninth House

With Ceres moving through the Ninth House at the hour of your birth, you nurture yourself and others through pursuing higher knowledge and truth, and by communicating it to others. You may foster the growth of others as a teacher in higher institutions of learning, or through writings that you publish. These may well be about Ceres-related issues such as parenting or agriculture.

Alternatively, your nurturing activities may involve contact with other countries or cultures: for example, by being a missionary or Peace Corps worker, or by adopting or otherwise helping foreign children.

You yourself receive spiritual nourishment from travel that broadens your horizons and expands your world-view. One of the most nurturing things your parents and /or friends do for you is to introduce you to new ideas and encourage you to develop a religious outlook or a philosophy of life.

As for philosophies, you may be drawn to those (such as Marxism) that particularly address the question of providing for fundamental human needs such as food and shelter. Religions that attract you will probably be based in some way on the worship of the all-nurturing mother-goddess, be she the Virgin Mary, Gaia, or one of Her many other forms. You may also be drawn to churches or sects (such as the Quakers) that stress service to others.

Among the many forms of loss that people are likely to experience, for you one of the most poignant can be a loss of faith in whatever you currently believe. With your questing mind, however, you are specially equipped eventually to restore that loss with a newer and larger vision. In this way you foster your own growth.

The Aspects that Ceres Makes

The aspects that Ceres makes with other planets and asteroids show how her nurturing energies interact with the concerns of the other gods and goddesses in your chart. If her aspects reinforce the themes suggested by her sign and house, these themes are bound to be obvious in your life. If the aspects in some way contradict the themes of the sign and house, they may give rise to interesting tensions that take some creativity and practice to resolve. If an asteroid makes an aspect with the Sun or Moon, her importance for you is greatly magnified.

Ceres conjunct the Sun. Very strong influence.

Ceres, the great nurturer, unites with the symbol of your basic identity and conscious purpose.

This aspect suggests that parenting or some other kind of nurturing is central to your being. Whether or not it is directed toward your own children, you have a strong desire to love, protect, take care of. Either literally or figuratively, you are driven to give birth or start something, and then to nourish and sustain the new entity as it grows.

Paralleling the Ceres myth, at some point in your life you may have to deal with loss, separation, rejection or abandonment from your parents, children or other family members, or with the loss of something else that you have created or which is dear to you. According to the myth, after a period of grieving and withdrawal, this loss can be followed, in one form or another, by a return.

You may become intensely involved with your family, either parenting your children or taking care of your parents, or both. Outside of the family, you may find that activities such as growing or preparing food, feeding the homeless and hungry, protecting Mother Earth through environmental activism, or working with the dying (as in the hospice movement), take a central place in your life.

A person who lives out the Ceres-Sun archetype is Yoko Ono, wife of the late John Lennon. With Ceres conjunct the Sun in Aquarius/Pisces, she suffered the denial of her first child, lost her husband, and as a single parent has given much of her inheritance from John Lennon to feed poor and hungry children.

There are some potential dangers in this aspect. One is that excessive attachment to your children or loved ones can lead you to smother them with over-protectiveness. As a result, the child or other loved one may struggle to break free from your control. In the past, you yourself may have had to struggle to assert your own independence from an overbearing or controlling parent. This over-attachment to a child could also stem from underlying fears that, like Persephone, the child could experience sexual violation.

Remember that, in the myth, Pluto dragged Persephone into the underworld. Paralleling this, people with strong Ceres energies sometimes have children who slip into the underworld - through substance abuse, running away, experiencing sexual violation, getting involved in unsavory circumstances, or having a life-threatening illness. Fortunately, the myth suggests that the child will eventually return.

Another danger of this aspect is that you may feel a conflict between being your own person and taking care of others. If you self-sacrifice long enough, you will also sacrifice intimacy and closeness with your loved ones. This is because when you suppress your own needs, you eventually lose touch with yourself. You cannot have real intimacy with others if they find "no one there" with whom to relate. To nurture the souls of your loved ones, you must first nurture and develop yourself.

Other Ceres problems may include a low self-image, the thwarting of your nurturing needs, an obsessive relationship with food (which may turn into an eating disorder), a poor body image, or recurring themes of depression and rejection. The resolution of these challenges lies in developing a positive sense of self-worth. Again, the key is always to remember to nurture yourself. If you seek counseling or therapy for such problems, your counselor may have a Ceres-like, nurturing style.

To increase your understanding of this important aspect, we suggest that you pay special attention to the story of Ceres. As you do so, you may find that other themes from her story are reflected in your life experience.

Ceres conjunct Mars. Strong influence.

Ceres's capacity to nurture and protect combines with Mars's masculine principle of action and assertion.

Mars is the archetypal warrior, representing one who defends and protects boundaries. Ceres was also highly protective of her daughter. Therefore this combination indicates that your drive and energy can be channeled into defending and protecting your loved ones, or teaching them how to defend and take care of themselves. Because of Ceres's concern for the earth, this protective energy can also be channeled into ecological or environmental causes.

When these energies are not harmoniously combined, your need for independence and autonomy may have felt thwarted by a dominating or smothering parent. As an adult, you may find it difficult to act and be effective in the outer world, and may have feelings of inadequacy, incompetence, and powerlessness. With men, particularly, power is often connected to sexuality, so that in men with Ceres-Mars contacts, sexual inhibitions and complexes may arise. When you have this aspect, you should give attention to transforming your subconscious self-image and replacing thoughts of fear and inadequacy with those of confidence, courage, and self-reliance.

You may have been raised by an angry parent. If your parent repressed his or her anger, you may be carrying that unconscious rage in your own psyche and body. Getting in touch with and releasing this hostility is essential so that it will not be displaced onto spouses, children and other innocent victims.

Another possibility is that your personal ambitions and desires conflict with the needs of your family. If this causes strong feelings of anger to erupt, it is important that you and your loved ones learn the skills of conflict resolution so that Mars's anger does not lead to domestic violence or abuse.

Ceres opposition Neptune. Strong influence.

Ceres's capacity to nurture and protect combines with Neptune's urge to transcend the finite self and merge with a greater whole.

A combination of Ceres and Neptune like this can indicate a sensitizing of the nurturing impulse to create a depth of compassion and empathy for all beings.

The unconditional love you experience through your connection to Spirit inspires you to give selflessly to others. You may be involved in work to alleviate suffering in the world. Your psychic sensitivity to the emotions of others fits you well to serve as a healer and helper, or to nourish others through artistic creations.

Your primary caregivers may have been spiritual, artistic, psychic or involved in healing pursuits, and this may reflect in your own style of caregiving later in life. Alternatively, one or both of your parents may have had emotional problems, played the role of martyr, been involved in substance abuse, or had difficulty in coping with the material world. To the extent that you took on the pain of your parents, you may be struggling with the same issues yourself.

You may have been raised in an environment where the chaos of the family system made it difficult to distinguish between fantasy and reality. You may have idealized one or both parents and may therefore have unrealistic expectations of the type of nurturing that you can receive from others. When your needs are not met, you may feel disillusioned and let down. Your resulting emotional neediness may predispose you to seek nurturing by playing the victim. Or, unable to bear your emotional pain and isolation, you may seek refuge in some form of escapism such as drugs, alcohol or overeating.

To resolve such Ceres-Neptune challenges, you ultimately need to find your nourishment through Spirit, through experiencing the oneness that connects all beings. You can fulfill your innate longing for wholeness by ministering to the wounds of others, but you must guard against indiscriminately trying to rescue people in the hopes of fixing or rehabilitating them. Truly to help others, you must first find nourishment for yourself by contacting the Spirit within.

Ceres trine Pluto. Moderate influence.

Ceres's capacity to nurture and protect combines with Pluto's urge to bring about profound change.

This aspect gives your nurturing activities a particular emotional intensity. You tend to form deep emotional bonds with your parents, children and other loved ones, and in general you may possess a profound understanding of the human psychological world.

This emotional intensity embraces the issues of life and death. Your quality of nurturing has to do with Ceres's rulership over the Eleusinian rites of death and rebirth, and Pluto's rulership of the underworld. As a child you may have experienced the death of one of your parents or had a life/death crisis yourself. As a result of this, your nurturing presence may enable you to facilitate others in their passage into either life or death, as a midwife or hospice worker, or on a personal level with family or friends. Alternatively, you could do therapeutic or shamanic work, being a comforting companion on people's voyages into their personal hells.

Just as Ceres lost her daughter Persephone each year, you may have periodic losses in your life, or need to share what you most love with another. You may be forced to go through the trauma of losing a child or loved one - either through death, separation, kidnapping, or adoption. In case of divorce, you may have to learn to share the responsibilities of parenting with your ex-spouse; or you may lose children in a custody battle. Sometimes, as Ceres had to share her daughter with Pluto, you will need to share your "mental children," such as books and artistic creations, with collaborators.

Your losses may lead to times of intense grief, sorrow, and depression. This can be alleviated through accepting the teaching of the Ceres-Pluto myth: that letting go precedes return and renewal, that death is followed by birth, and that loss is replenished by gain. A real understanding of this truth is needed to erase the fear of loss and change from your subconscious and replace it with trust, acceptance and joy.

You may have fears about your children's safety that become obsessive. Worrying about them incessantly, you may try to control their coming and goings. Following the Ceres myth, you may be especially concerned over the possibility of your child being sexually violated, or your parents may have had such fears about you.

In the myth, Ceres had a power struggle with Pluto over her daughter Persephone. In your upbringing, intense power struggles for control and domination may have occurred within the family system or between you and your caregivers, so that you may have had to struggle against being oppressed or controlled. If you lost the struggle, you may feel weak and powerless as an adult, and may then have to work on developing a sense of your own strength. If you won, you may be a naturally dominant person who rides roughshod over others, brings about beneficial change, or does a little of both.

Paralleling the life/death symbolism of Ceres and Pluto, your mother may have displayed both a loving and an abusive side. This can create a confusing Good Mother/Bad Mother split. You may have lived in fear, never knowing when your parent's dark side would emerge. This reality is especially evident in alcoholic families or other addicted families where the parent alternates between being Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

This aspect evokes more than any other Ceres aspect the archetypal Ceres-Pluto themes of loss and return, and of power struggles over a beloved person or object. The chief lesson that this aspect offers is that we cannot become overly attached to that which we love.

Ceres square Juno. Moderate influence.

Ceres's urge to nurture and give unconditional love combines with Juno's desire for a committed relationship.

With this contact, the likelihood is high that the purpose of your primary relationship will be to raise children and create a family. If there are no children, you and your partner will mutually exchange unconditional love and caretaking. The two of you may become involved with Ceres-related projects such as gardening, nurturing others, and caring for the earth. Also, nurturing each other through the preparing and sharing of food may be important in your relationship.

You may attract a nurturing, parental partner, or your partner may see you in this way. More than most people, you may experience your partner as nurturing and providing. If Ceres energies are not working well, however, you may experience your partner as over-attached, smothering or dependent.

In your committed relationships, parental issues may be played out with one person playing the role of "parent" and the other playing the role of "child." There may be nothing wrong with this, especially if you periodically switch roles so that each person can play both parent and child. Problems arise when roles become rigid and one partner becomes excessively dependent on the other. Juno's need for mutuality and equality is subverted by this kind of dependency.

Another way this aspect could work out is that unresolved difficulties with your parents could bleed over into your primary relationship. Thus, your unmet needs from your parental relationships as well as your resentments may be projected onto your partner. Therapy can be helpful to decondition the subconscious images and past imprinting that may be contaminating your relationship in the present.

There may exist potential disagreements with your mate over child rearing. In addition, you may experience conflicts between your responsibilities as a parent and those as a partner. If your children are from a previous marriage and your spouse does not get along with them, then you may experience conflicting pulls of loyalty between the two. There may also be problems with in-laws or other members of your partner's family.

Alternatively, your primary relationship may be not with a mate but with either your parents or your children. As an adult, you may share a home with your parents. This could be to care for them as they age. You could also care for them from a distance, but your relationship with them would be somehow central in your life. Or, in the absence of a mate, you may look to your children to meet your primary relationship needs. This is not healthy for the child, who could become emotionally enmeshed with you.

Part Two:

Pallas, the Daughter

Pallas, the second asteroid to be discovered, was named for the goddess who, instead of being born from the womb, sprang from the head of her father and in her later actions exemplified strengths that are often thought of as masculine. Befittingly, this second asteroid to be discovered represents a second developmental stage in people's lives, when they look to their fathers to provide them with the firmness and independence to leave the home and go forth into the world. This is the time of life when one acquires skills and a sense of competence, and starts to formulate oneself as an independent person. In societies where female children were expected to marry at the earliest possible age, this stage was largely neglected in a woman's development, but it is a stage as important for women as it is for men. For either sex, only when this stage is successfully mastered is one truly ready to embark on the next stage, wherein one becomes a partner in a relationship of equals.

The astrological glyph for Pallas pictures the spear that is carried by the goddess in many depictions. The spear points upward and outward toward the world at large. Like the suit of swords in the Tarot, the spear suggests the intellect, which probes and severs, seeking knowledge and separating one idea from another to achieve clarity. The glyph also suggests a head upon a body; signifying the goddess's origin, her associations with the intellect, and the movement from the womb center to the head, or from the bottom, or IC, of the horoscope wheel to the top, or Midheaven.

The Myth of Pallas Athene

Pallas was better known to the Greeks as Athene, the Goddess of Wisdom. She is said to have sprung full-grown, clad in a suit of gleaming war armor, from the crown of the head of her father, Zeus (Jupiter), and to have immediately taken her place at his right-hand side.

As patroness of Athens, she presided over military strategies during wartime and over justice in peacetime. She also fostered useful arts, including spinning and weaving, pottery, healing and other areas in which human skill and ingenuity improve the quality of life for all. Another art that she fostered was horse-taming (an interesting association in light of the "horse-crazy" stage that many girls go through in early adolescence).

Among all the goddesses, the classical Greeks held Pallas Athene in a unique position of power and respect. She walked easily and freely through the world of gods, heroes, and men as their colleague, advisor, equal, and friend.

She was idealized as Athene Parthenia, the virgin warrior queen, and took neither lovers nor consorts. In the myths she denied her matriarchal origins, claiming that no mother gave her life, as she arranged for the death of her sister Medusa. In all things except marriage, she upheld male supremacy.

The price that was extracted from her was the denial of her femininity. She severed her connection from her mother (Metis), her sisters, the community of women, and her sexuality, and lost touch with her feminine qualities of sensitivity, softness, and vulnerability.

Pallas Athene is mythologically related to an ancient lineage of goddesses from the Near East, North Africa and Crete who were associated with the serpent as a symbol of wisdom and healing. She affirmed this connection by placing the head of her dark sister, Medusa, the serpent-haired queen of wisdom, in the center of her breastplate. In the yogic tradition, kundalini energy is depicted as a serpent that is coiled at the base of the spine ready to rise through the spinal canal and emerge from the top of the head as cosmic illumination. This has similarities to the wisdom of Pallas Athene, who emerged from the head of Jupiter.

Pallas Within Us

Pallas Athene's association with both the serpent and the taming of horses suggests that her basic theme has to do with reason civilizing the forces of nature for the benefit of humankind. As a woman, she represents the force of nature that brings new life into being, the raw energy that underlies aliveness. As her father's daughter, she executes his will, using that force for the good of society. Administering justice, she is able to discern the truth amid tumultuous emotions. Healing illness, she diverts the life force back into the proper channels. As a weaver and potter, she uses cleverness and dexterity to turn raw materials into useful objects.

Through the ages, women have been major contributors to these arts of civilization. However, in some eras such as the one we are emerging from, many of the civilized arts including the law, medicine and manufacturing were largely taken over by men while the role of most women was limited to handmaiden and reproducer of the race.

In our culture still, women who are smart, powerful, strong, and accomplished are like Pallas in that they may not be considered "real women." They are often pressured to make a choice between career and creative self-expression on the one hand, and relationship and family on the other. We see Pallas Athene all over again in the high-school girl who is applauded for her victory on the debate team, but who is not asked to the prom.

The danger of the Pallas Athene archetype is one of severing our feminine side and encasing the wounds in armor. This may lead us to further our ambitions with a kind of cold, ruthless, calculating, expedient strategy.

To heal ourselves, we must remember that even though the Greek myths had Athene denying her female origins, they still made her not a god but a goddess, one whose unique strength has its roots in the feminine powers of nature. Her story enlarges the possibilities for women, telling women everywhere that they, too, are free, if they wish, to channel their womanly life-creating Venus energy not only through their procreative powers but also through their intellects. This is the Pallas way of enriching and enhancing life. Pallas Athene, that productive and powerful goddess, shows that women do not have to be men to be effective in the world. As women, they are able to impart a special kind of life-promoting energy to intellectual and professional pursuits.

As Zeus's favorite daughter, the archetypal "daddy's girl," Pallas Athene points to another issue, our relationships to our own fathers. In our birth charts she reveals the ways in which we emulate them, seek their approval, want to interact in their world, and give them power over our lives. A strong, well-placed Pallas in a woman's chart usually shows a girl who was cultivated by her father and who has learned valuable life skills from him.

As a woman dressed in the garb of a warrior, Pallas speaks to calling up and expressing the masculine within women, and the feminine within men. This movement toward androgyny balances and integrates polarities within the self and brings wholeness through reclaiming our contrasexual identity.

Pallas Athene's serpent symbolism also connects her to the healing arts. In one of her guises she was called Hygeia, goddess of miraculous cures. Her armor and shield can be likened to our immune system warding off attacks. She especially represents the power of our minds in curing disease.

To sum up, Pallas represents the part of you that wants to channel creative energy to give birth to mental and artistic progeny, children of the mind. She represents your capacity for creative wisdom and clear thinking, and speaks to your desire to strive for excellence and accomplishment in your chosen field of expression. The model of the strong, courageous, ingenious, artistically creative and intelligent woman, Pallas shows how you use your intelligence to seek truth; how you achieve in practical, mental or artistic fields; and how you work to attain worldly power.

Insofar as Pallas is the military strategist and the administerer of justice, her placement in the horoscope shows how you apply your intelligence to warding off attack and preserving balance and integrity in your body, mind and social interactions. This is not only a matter of self-defense, it is also a fundamental principle of healing. The placement of Pallas in your chart shows the healing modalities that are likely to work best for you, either when applied to yourself, or by you to others.

In addition, the placement of Pallas may suggest how you relate to your father and to what fathers stand for, and how you incorporate the qualities of the opposite sex into your own makeup. It may also suggest what life was like for you when you were deciding upon a career and setting out for yourself in the world.

Pallas in Your Chart

Pallas's Zodiacal Sign

The zodiacal sign in which Pallas was placed at your birth shows the style of perception through which your creative mind operates, and also your style of applying your creative intelligence and ingenuity to the affairs of life. It can therefore have a lot to do with your career and hobbies. It also shows the special kind of wisdom and skill that you offer to the world. In a sense, the placement of Pallas shows how you carry out the will of the Deity (or the light within you), and make it materialize here on Earth.

Pallas in Taurus

Your creative intelligence is expressed particularly well in the physical world of tangible substance. In this Venus-ruled sign, the organizing, civilizing function of Pallas may come out as being in touch with the world of the senses and creating beauty in tactile, visual, or perhaps auditory ways.

You may be ingenious at shaping earthy things, such as pottery, with your hands, or in dealing rationally with slightly more rarefied forms of substance and energy such as money. Your healing gifts will very likely be expressed through highly physical means such as the laying on of hands or other forms of bodywork. In Taurus, Pallas Athene may also take up her spear and shield to protect the beautiful world of nature and work for ecological and environmental concerns.

For you, the ingenuity and intelligence of Pallas may be brought to bear on form, texture and color, enabling you to create beauty in tangible media such as sculpture, painting, gardening or landscaping. In this sign connected with the throat, Pallas may also find expression through the voice or other forms of music or sound.

The special wisdom of Pallas in Taurus is common sense: that is, finding practical solutions to daily problems.

The House that Pallas Occupies

The house in which Pallas is found shows what departments of life are most likely to provide the outlet for your creative intelligence and ingenuity. Taken along with the Tenth and Sixth houses, which are the traditional signifiers of your calling and your daily work, the house that Pallas occupies can be an indicator of your career. Along with the Fifth house, the house in which Pallas is found can also indicate your hobbies.

Pallas in the Seventh House

Pallas Athene in the Seventh House directs your creative intelligence and ingenuity toward one-to-one relationships. These could be partnerships, marital or otherwise. You may have a special talent for fostering such relationships by creating harmony and cooperation between people. Likely to have strong mediating and counseling abilities, you might do well in a career such as marital counseling, mediation, or conflict management.

You may also do well at one-to-one consulting or counseling activities such as being a therapist or astrologer. Another possibility is adversarial relationships with an opponent, such as in debating or legal work.

The Seventh House rules what you yourself seek in a marriage or other one-to-one relationship such as a business partnership. With Pallas in the Seventh, you may seek partnerships where you can cooperate in intellectual or artistic pursuits. Also, you may find yourself attracted to partners with Pallas-like qualities such as intelligence, creativity and competence. If this is true of you, it is good to ask yourself whether you yourself are also manifesting these qualities. If you are not, you may be projecting these parts of yourself onto your partner, thus giving this sort of strength away when you yourself would be better off owning it.

Pallas in the Seventh may affect your relationships in another way also. In the myth, Pallas had to sacrifice personal relationship in order to rise to a position of power and prominence. You may feel more comfortable in non-binding relationships such as friendships because you believe that having a long-term relationship is not compatible with creative autonomy and professional advancement.

Pallas has special prominence in your chart.

Assuming that the birth time you have given is accurate, Pallas stands very close to the longitude of your Descendant. This gives her particular importance for you. Pallas themes figure very strongly in your makeup, but you are somewhat likely to experience them as coming from other people instead of from yourself.

It is fine to have clever and competent mates, partners, associates and friends, so long as you are exercising your own cleverness and competence. If you sought approval from your father, there is a danger of continuing this with subsequent men, acting in their interests rather than your own, concealing your own considerable talents and giving away your autonomy. Even if you avoid this pitfall, you may sometimes need to deal with a fear of winning in any kind of direct competition with someone else. Unless your Mars is strongly placed, you are most comfortable concentrating on the job at hand and letting winning take care of itself.

Occasionally someone with this placement has the opposite problem: being relentlessly independent in relationship situations at times when it would be appropriate to be more soft and receptive. The cure is to develop your competence to the point where you feel so secure in it that you can easily let it go when the need arises. You are fortunate in your innate capacity for independence and autonomy, because this is the very best foundation for a relationship of true equals.

Because Pallas is so much in the foreground of your chart, even minor themes in her story are apt to find echoes in your life. You should take special note of the aspects that Pallas makes with other planets and asteroids.

The Aspects that Pallas Makes

The aspects that link Pallas to other planets and asteroids in your chart show how her intelligence and skill become connected with other drives such as your urge to nurture, to communicate, to create and to assert yourself.

Pallas sextile Mercury. Moderate influence.

Pallas's wisdom combines with Mercury's urge to communicate and share ideas.

Any combination with Mercury especially highlights the creative intelligence symbolized by Pallas Athene. When this contact goes well, you possess strong creative-intellectual capacities and can often display power and skill in using words and the communications media to make your point. You can be a good orator and can be adept in the arts of mediation and negotiation. You can use the power of thought in a creative way through visualization, affirmations and positive thinking. You can also use logic and the written or spoken word as a means of protecting or defending yourself or in persuading others to take action. In addition, you may communicate a certain wisdom or understanding that goes beyond the mere intellect.

A prime example of this contact is Marie Curie, the only person to win a Nobel Prize in both chemistry and physics. She has Pallas conjunct Mercury at her Midheaven, the point of the chart signifying career and status. Yet, as brilliant as her intellect was, following the Pallas Athene archetype she was never admitted to the Academy of Sciences because she was a woman.

Stressful Pallas-Mercury interactions can signify potential blockages in your ability to reason, create, and verbally express your ideas. Perhaps intelligence and/or creativity were not encouraged or valued when you were a child and thus you lack confidence in your mental or creative abilities. Feeling inadequate and insufficient, you may feel hampered in your ability to express yourself clearly and coherently. This aspect may point to learning problems or to perceptual, auditory, or mental dysfunction. At times, your thinking may be scattered or clouded, and you may have difficulty defending yourself against other people's criticisms.

Sometimes a Pallas-Mercury contact can make you overly mental. There may be periods when you have difficulty giving voice to your creativity. At times your rational mind may overpower your wisdom nature so that you may talk yourself out of an idea that you intuitively know is right. You may also be caught up in details and not see the big picture. At other times your creative visions may overlook key facts and thus be impractical. The resolution of these challenges involves bringing together the needs of the mind and heart, so that you can successfully integrate knowledge with real wisdom.

Pallas conjunct Venus. Strong influence.

Pallas's creative wisdom combines with Venus's urge to create beauty and to express love and sensuality.

This relationship with Venus brings out the aesthetic qualities of Pallas Athene and indicates that you have a special ability to channel Venus's sexual energy into artistic or mental creations. You could be engaged in any of a number of artistic expressions, including the visual and tactile arts as well as the whole gamut of crafts. Since Pallas was known as the goddess who gave weaving and spinning to humanity, these may well be arts involving textiles.

Since mythical Pallas was also prominent in political and worldly life, your feminine nature can find successful expression these areas by being an advocate and protector of women's rights.

One example of an artistic Pallas-Venus contact is the avant-garde creativity of Yoko Ono, who had Pallas conjunct Venus. The political nature of this contact is shown by Eleanor Roosevelt, who with a Pallas-Venus conjunction in the Ninth House took on the role of a world ambassador of peace and good will.

There is also, however, an inherent conflict between Venus and Pallas. In the Homeric hymns, Pallas Athene was one of the three goddesses who was not pleasing to Venus Aphrodite. This is because Pallas was a virgin goddess who had no interest in sexual liaisons. A Pallas-Venus combination in your own nature may create a conflict between intimate relating and creative and worldly accomplishment, a conflict that leads you to sacrifice one for the benefit of the other.

In this culture, intelligence and worldly success are not seen as feminine qualities, and often women who develop this part of their natures are considered to be mannish, or not "real women." This may have been especially true when you were an adolescent. In that time of life, boys or girls who are identified as "brains" are often perceived as not being datable. On the one hand, you could have thought, "Since I am not datable, I might as well be smart." Or, "I am going to suppress my intelligence so as not to threaten men and so I will be accepted by them." The latter scenario specifically applies to women in this culture.

The healing of Pallas-Venus conflicts lies in the realization that creativity and wisdom arise out of the feminine principle, and you do not have to alienate yourself from your sexuality in order to express your creative intelligence.

Pallas's asexualization could also be interpreted as a movement toward androgyny. Women may find themselves more in touch with their masculine energies, and men with their feminine sides. Due to this depolarization of male/female stereotype roles, such people can feel equal and at ease as a friend in the company of both men and women.

However, there may also be a confusion over the nature of one's sexual identity so that these associations do not lead to sexual relations. The resulting buildup of frustrated sexual energy is often redirected into creative and mental accomplishments.

Pallas square Jupiter. Moderate influence.

Pallas's creative intelligence combines with Jupiter's urge to search for meaning, truth and ethical values.

This astrological combination of Pallas Athene with Jupiter recalls the myth in which Athene sprang from the head of her father to bring the gifts of intelligence and skill to human society. Jupiter, known as the supreme ruler of all the Gods, is astrologically connected with the principle of wisdom, and Pallas carried out his will.

A Pallas-Jupiter combination can indicate exceptional intelligence. More specifically, it means a broad, far-seeing vision that grasps the implications of the larger whole. It bestows a holistic mind that sees how the parts of any system interweave and interconnect. From this, Pallas can take this process one step further and create altogether new and original understandings, theories and formulations.

In keeping with the Jupiter symbolism, you will probably be drawn to philosophical, judicial, or educational pursuits, or become involved in fighting for justice or defending the truth. An example of this is Winston Churchill, Premier Minister of England, who was born with Pallas in opposition to Jupiter.

If the Jupiter-Pallas relationship is a stressful one, however, it can mean mental blocks in expressing or understanding concepts and ideas.

As her father's daughter, Pallas served the patriarchal state and upheld traditional masculine values. She considered Jupiter to be her only parent and denied that she had a mother. Pallas was the first goddess to initiate women into the rites of the father-daughter relationship, and as such, symbolizes all the complexes that women have with their fathers.

Pallas can signify a woman who has a strong relationship with her father. She may want to please him by emulating him and moving out of the domestic scene to function in the outer world. In wanting to be like her father, she may over-identify with the masculine and see the feminine, perhaps symbolized by her own mother, as being ineffectual or unimportant. This signifies the ways in which women devalue and reject their own feminine nature. It can also point to an idealization of the father and a disappointment with other men who cannot live up to one's unrealistically high expectations.

In an earlier matriarchal myth, however, long before the arrival of the god Jupiter into Greece, Pallas Athene was a queen in Northern Africa who exemplified both wisdom and warriorship on her own. This theme suggests the importance of acknowledging your own wisdom nature as opposed to projecting it onto an outside male authority.

Pallas opposition Saturn. Strong influence.

Pallas's creative intelligence combines with Saturn's urge to create structure, limits and form.

Saturn in combination with Pallas Athene can give you a high degree of self-discipline and systematic thinking to manifest your creative ideas. You have the potential for great mental concentration and focus, which can make you extremely productive and enable you realize your plans. Especially in business activities, you can make wise decisions resulting in recognition and rewards.

You may, however, need to face the issue of whether to measure your success as defined by the traditional order or by your own values. Your parents may have had unrealistic expectations for success which you could not live up to; or societal definitions of success may not equate with your own. To remain true to Pallas and do her creative work, you may have to listen to your own inner promptings.

Another difficulty you may have with this combination is a conflict between pragmatism and your need for artistic expression. You may have been told by your parents or teachers, "It's okay to write (or paint, sculpt, etc.), but don't try to make a living from it." Comments like this can lead you to doubt your creative talent, devalue its worth, or not even try for fear of failing. You may thus experience a sense of frustration or delay about externalizing your creative projects. To fully express your creativity, you will need to challenge and release whatever negative beliefs are blocking your creative process.

When connected with Saturn, Pallas, the archetypal daughter, can also signify a range of father-daughter complexes. You may have strongly identified with a stern father (or other parent who embodied austere masculine values) who may have had a strong control over you. You may have seen the feminine as being weak and ineffectual and not worthy of emulation. Internally, you may devalue and reject your own feminine qualities, thus cutting off a valuable, life-giving energy.

On the constructive side, this aspect emphasizes the law-giving activities of Pallas Athene and may signify work in upholding the law and the criminal justice system.

Pallas sesquiquadrate Neptune. Slight influence.

Pallas's creative intelligence combines with Neptune's urge to transcend one's boundaries and merge with a greater whole.

This Pallas-Neptune aspect in your chart gives you the potential to sensitize your perceptions and have access to more subtle realms and dimensions. These include the world of dreams, psychic phenomena, and expanded states of consciousness.

Such a combination often shows a strong interest in metaphysical, spiritual and occult study. Spiritual practices that involve concentrated focus on visual imagery may appeal to you. You may have telepathic abilities and the capacity for psychic healing, perhaps using color or music. You may have pronounced artistic creativity in areas such as poetry, music, visual art, photography or cinema.

Politically, Pallas-Neptune types are attracted to programs that seek to alleviate suffering or benefit the underprivileged or needy.

Some difficulties that you may encounter with this combination include having periods of mental confusion. In extreme cases, people may be unable to distinguish between the real and unreal and may have delusions or hallucinations. Due to the impressionability symbolized by Neptune, you may attract negative psychic influences which create fear and disorientation. The resolution of these problems lies in expressing your mental creativity and sensitivity in a tangible and well-grounded manner.

You may be attracted to psychedelic or mind-expanding substances as a way of entering altered states of reality. In ancient cultures, psychedelic drugs and alcohol were used in sacred rites in order to commune with the gods. In modern times, this sacred function of drugs has been largely forgotten so that the use of these substances usually leads not to spiritual illumination but to addiction and despair. Richard Alpert, born with Pallas conjunct Neptune square the Moon, provides an interesting example of this facet of Pallas-Neptune. Originally a professor who was a leading force in the psychedelic revolution of the 1960s, he eventually became Ram Dass, a spiritual leader who advocated meditation and other traditional Eastern religious practices as a way to reach Deity.

When the androgynous tendencies signified by Pallas combine with Neptune's tendency toward confusion, one can have doubts about one's sexual orientation, or sexual life-energies may take a disembodied form. Often sexual energy may be sublimated into artistic expression or spiritual service. A case in point is Saint Francesca Cabrini, who was born with was born with Pallas conjunct Neptune in Pisces.

Pallas conjunct the Dragon's Head. Strong influence.

Your chart shows Pallas conjunct the Dragon's Head, an older and more colorful name for the North Node of the Moon. This point where the Moon's orbit crosses the Sun's apparent path in a northward direction is thought to signify the direction in which you are meant to head in this lifetime, and the skills and talents that you must develop to get there.

This conjunction of the North Node with Pallas directs you to grow into a more Pallas-like role. Pallas's attributes of creative intelligence, wisdom, courage, and personal accomplishment may not come easily to you. If you make an effort to cultivate these qualities, however, you will feel the satisfaction of traveling forward on the path that is right for you. The sign and house placements of Pallas give clues about how and where you can integrate these qualities into your life.

This placement can also mean that you have family members or other close connections who express the Pallas archetype.

Part Three:

Juno, the Wife

Juno, the third asteroid to be discovered, represents a third stage of life. After the Pallas stage of going out into the world, possibly to have a career, one is ready to encounter one's equal and embark upon the journey of partnership that usually takes the form of marriage.

The glyph for Juno suggests a scepter, befitting the queen of the gods, and a flower, befitting her femininity. In general form, the glyph for Juno resembles that for Venus; but instead of the circle denoting Venus's mirror, there are outward-pointing rays, indicating that the seductive femininity of Venus is about to turn outward, bearing fruit in marriage and children.

The Myth of Juno

In classical mythology, Juno, known to the Greeks as Hera, was wedded to Jupiter (Greek Zeus), supreme king of heaven and earth. As such, she became his queen and the Goddess of Marriage. In the myths of an earlier time, however, long before her meeting with Jupiter Juno was one of the primary great goddesses in her own right. As the only one who was his equal, Juno was chosen by Jupiter to initiate with him the rites of legal, monogamous, patriarchally defined marriage. As his queen, she became but a figurehead and was repeatedly deceived, betrayed, and humiliated by her husband's many infidelities. In the myths Juno was portrayed as a jealous, manipulative, vindictive, revengeful, and malcontent wife who, after tempestuous fights, would periodically leave her husband. However, she always returned to try to work things out one more time.

Juno Within Us

In the human psyche, Juno represents that aspect of each person's nature which feels the urge to unite with another person to build a future together in a committed relationship. This partnership is sustained over time through a formal and binding commitment, whether it be a worldly or a spiritual bond. Juno speaks to our desire to connect with a mate who is our true equal on all levels - psychologically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.

When we do not receive intimacy, depth, equality, honesty, respect and fulfillment in our unions, Juno speaks to our emotions of disappointment, despair, anger and rage, which can overwhelm us. This is especially true when we have given up a great deal, such as a career, family, home, or religion, to enter the relationship. The Juno in us makes us confront the issues of submission and domination, fidelity and infidelity, trust and deception, forgiveness and revenge. In her realm we find ourselves in power struggles for equality as we attempt to balance and integrate ourselves with another person and learn to transform selfish desires into cooperative union.

Within a context of separation and return, Juno encourages us to take the vow of "for better or worse, in sickness and health, till death us do part." She brings the wisdom that conscious relationship is a path to spiritual enlightenment, and the knowledge that relationships allow us to perfect and complete ourselves.

In today's world, Juno is also a symbol for the plight of battered and powerless wives and minorities; for the psychological complexes of love-addiction and codependency; for the rise in divorce rates as people are driven to release unmeaningful relationships; and for the re-definition of traditional relationships in the face of feminism and of gay and lesbian coupling.

To sum up, Juno is the archetype of the wife and partner who maintains her marital commitment to her husband in the face of conflict and struggle. In the birth chart she, along with other chart factors such as the Seventh House, represents your capacity for meaningful committed relationships, your attitude toward such relationships, and the type of relationship experiences that you need in order to feel fulfilled. She represents both what you need and what you attract, and she also signifies the ways in which you act out your disappointment over broken unions. These relationships are usually romantic in nature, but may sometimes assume other forms such as business, professional or creative partnerships.

If you are in a relationship, you may want also to determine the element of your partner's Juno. In general, fire signs are most compatible with air signs, while earth and water seem to form a harmonious pair. However, if you and your partner's Juno's are placed in challenging elements (for example, fire and water), the relationship is still workable. It simply means that you will have to make more of an effort to understand each other's needs.

Juno in Your Chart

Juno's Zodiacal Sign

The sign that Juno was in when you were born describes what you are seeking in a long-term sexual partnership such as marriage, or, by extension, in a business partnership or enduring friendship. It can give clues about your most likely relationship problems, and can suggest ways to make your style of relating work more harmoniously for you.

Juno in Libra

Juno, the asteroid of relatedness, is very much at home the sign that has the most to do with one-to-one relationships. Whether in personal life or business, relating to a long-term partner tends to be a major theme in your life. Learning through relationships is not just an option, it is your life's curriculum.

At first glance, your relationships are marked by decorum and sociability, with conversational exchange playing a large part in both your romances and commercial partnerships. For some, a Libran desire for peace and harmony may lead to a stance of "peace at any price."

The problem with this is that, with Juno in Libra, the issues of equality and mutuality assume special importance. You really need to relate to your partner as an equal, with neither one of you being in a one-up or one-down position. You wish to share in decisions and to consult with each other before major decisions are implemented. If these egalitarian needs are not met, you or your partner may become either uncooperative or excessively competitive, and the price of peace may become too high for you to bear. Then, the Libran theme of one-to-one combat will emerge, and your relationship will become an arena for working out a balance of power.

Fortunately, Libra also rules fairness. When you do need to confront each other, you will be able to lay down ground rules that will minimize the carnage. With your preoccupation with equality, you will find in all your one-to-one relationships ample opportunity for learning how to cooperate and to compromise with your partner so that you can come to "win-win" decisions together.

The House that Juno Occupies

In the birth chart, Juno's house position shows where or in what department of life you will experience your most significant relationship interactions.

Juno in the Twelfth House

At the moment of your birth, Juno had just recently risen into the Twelfth House from the hidden depths below the horizon. Only very newly established in the upper and more public hemisphere, she still carries with her an atmosphere of inwardness, the unconscious and the past.

For this reason, Juno's position in the Twelfth House can give your long-term partnerships a karmic dimension. Whether they are for romance or business, your committed one-to-one relationships may have a destined or fated quality. Though there seems to be no discernible reason for the union, under the surface there is an emotional power that you cannot deny. Sometimes people with this placement may simply experience a sense of loss, limitation, or confinement in the relationship, and have a difficult time figuring out why because there seems to be no immediate cause.

The visible relationship, of course, is only the tip of the iceberg. The causes may go back to previous lives, or to traumas of the forgotten past in this lifetime. These unconscious aspects may surface and dominate your life together. For example, one partner may be disabled or ill, so that the other needs selflessly to serve and make amends. Or one partner may play the victim, and the lesson for the other will be to release that partner to grow on his or her own.

In your relationship, your joy is most likely come from the compassion and selfless service that you are called upon to give. Your lesson may be to find happiness even when you seem to be denying your own desires. Because your relationship is so likely to bring up issues from your depths, it may become a fertile ground for artistic invention, for deep insights into yourself, or for devising ways to help others in similar circumstances.

Alternatively, your partnership may have an element of secrecy. It may be a clandestine relationship, there may be secrets between the partners, or the devotion of one of the partners may remain unseen to the other. On a happier note, it may be simply that, as a couple, you lead a relatively secluded life, or that one of you, at least, remains behind the scenes. If you are business partners, your business may have to do with undercover work or be in some area of which the public is seldom aware.

It is also possible that a long-term committed relationship may never quite get off the ground. One person may remain devoted to the other for a long time, but this devotion may be unrequited, or your relationship may remain platonic. Or you may be so self-sufficient that you do not really need a primary relationship with another person.

Yet another possibility of Juno in the Twelfth is that in your partnerships you may really be seeking a divine union, either with a higher power or with someone with whom you can pursue a spiritual path and share mystical aspirations.

The Aspects that Juno Makes

Juno's aspects to other planets and asteroids indicate how her issues of attracting and keeping long-term relationships fit in with your other drives, as, for example, for self-expression, communication, creativity or the search for meaning in life.

Juno square the Sun. Strong influence.

Juno, archetype of the wife and partner, unites with the symbol of your basic identity and conscious purpose.

An important part of your life revolves around developing meaningful, committed long-term partnerships. Depending on other factors, such relationships may be easy or difficult, but they are an inescapable part of your life.

When Juno and the Sun are relating harmoniously, your partnerships tend to enhance the fulfillment of your life goals. Committed to your significant other, you feel merged or joined. You have a gift for developing intimacy and rapport in your relationship, and feel that together you make a team. Your partnership is able to stay in balance because you know how to maintain a sense of your own individuality.

Marie Curie provides an example of what someone with this aspect can accomplish. With Juno conjunct the Sun in Scorpio in the Eighth House, she had a fruitful collaboration with her husband, Pierre, to do important scientific work, which included the discovery of radioactivity.

When Juno and the Sun are relating stressfully, your life may instead revolve around a conflict between your need for a long-term committed relationship on the one hand, and your need for individuality and creative self-expression on the other. Getting stuck at one pole, you may feel that you are nothing without a partner, and may base your whole identity on having a relationship. Getting stuck at the other pole, you may expend much energy trying to push the relationship away. With this aspect, relationship is central to your life purpose. To achieve harmony in it, you may need to overcome obstacles such as jealousy, mistrust, infidelity, betrayal, and power struggles with the partner.

While your relationship may sometimes seem opposed to your own needs, it offers an essential experience that will make you a more complete and whole individual. Just as Juno took periodic retreats from her husband, you may feel the ebb and flow of separation and coming back together as you make a renewed effort to solve your problems. Even if a significant relationship does not work out in the end, you will most likely attract a new partner with whom to continue your learning process. Juno-Sun individuals often select partners who embody the solar archetype. You may experience your partner as strong, self-assured, magnetic and magnanimous, a center of energy whose light shines forth on others. If these energies are not well-integrated within you, however, the telling symptom may be your attracting a partner who is egocentric, grandiose, and dominating. To experience the bright side of a solar partner, you need to look at how Juno and Sun energies combine within yourself.

To further understand this important aspect, we suggest that you re-read the story of Juno. As you do so, you may find that some of its other themes are also reflected in your life experience.

Juno sesquiquadrate Venus. Slight influence.

Juno's desire for committed relationship combines with the feminine principle of love and sexuality.

A Juno-Venus aspect such as this emphasizes the romantic and aesthetic dimensions of partnership. You may form artistically creative partnerships, or marital partnerships that you infuse with love, pleasure, and the appreciation of beauty. It is usually important for you to experience your partner as beautiful and sexually desirable.

The downside is that Juno and Venus represent two different approaches to relationship. Whereas Juno symbolizes the monogamous wife, Venus symbolizes the polygamous lover. When these two symbols are well-integrated in your chart, you have a passionate, erotic relationship with your marriage partner. When the Venus and Juno energies are not integrated, you may have a satisfactory relationship with your partner but still find that either you or your partner are drawn to having outside romantic relationships. This is exactly what happened in the Juno story, where her husband, Jupiter, enraged her by having many sexual affairs. This can give rise to jealousy, fear of sexual betrayal, and competition with real or imagined rivals.

In other instances, one or both partners may remain faithful, but may be frustrated by sexual problems or by a lack of sexual fulfillment in the primary relationship. There may be differences in tastes, preferences and values. Or a woman may feel dependent on the relationship to validate her femininity.

Juno-Venus individuals are attracted to artistic and sensual (that is, Venusian) types. While at some times they may experience their partner as attractive, pleasing and graceful, at other times they may view the other as self-indulgent, passive or superficial (beauty being only skin deep).

Juno sesquiquadrate Jupiter. Slight influence.

Juno's desire for committed relationship combines with Jupiter's urge to search for meaning, truth and ethical values.

Because of Jupiter's philosophical orientation, you may look to your primary relationships to broaden your horizons and find meaning in life. For you, a meeting of minds contributes to your sense of unification on emotional, sexual, and spiritual levels. In fact, you may choose to work with a partner for the advancement of a shared philosophical, educational, or religious belief system.

The downside of this combination recalls the mythic story of the marriage of Juno and Jupiter. In this relationship, Juno's desire for equality, respect, and full self-expression was not met. Even when Juno is in a harmonious aspect to Jupiter in your chart, a prevalent theme in your relationship may well be a search for equality.

When the energies of Juno and Jupiter combine in an inharmonious way, you may experience, as Juno did in her marriage, infidelity, betrayal, humiliation, frustration, resentment, and despair. There may be periodic separations and numerous attempts at reconciliation.

Because of Juno's loyalty to her marital commitment, she stayed in her marriage with Jupiter despite her difficulties. In similar fashion, you may be invested in keeping the relationship going, even if the relationship is not meeting your needs. Especially if children are involved or you have certain religious beliefs or societal values, you may be torn between your desire to honor your commitment and your need to leave a relationship that is not working.

Because Jupiter governs high ideals, you may also have brought a certain idealism into the relationship, an idealism that does not match the current reality you face. Because Jupiter rules expansion, the issues of your relationship may assume huge and seemingly overwhelming proportions, overshadowing other parts of your life. If this is the case, try to find ways to gain detachment or perspective on your situation.

Another way this aspect could work out is that your own philosophical or religious belief system may be at odds with your partner's. The resolution of this challenge lies in each partner learning to accept and tolerate each other's moral and philosophical views.

With a Juno-Jupiter signature, you will probably be attracted to Jupiterian types. This means that you may experience your partner at times as expansive, broadminded and optimistic, and at other times as arrogant, self-righteous, and excessive.

Juno square Neptune. Moderate influence.

Juno's capacity for meaningful relationships combines with Neptune's urge to transcend individual boundaries and merge with the greater whole.

Neptune's psychic sensitivity gives you the potential to relate to your partner with empathy, compassion, and even telepathic rapport. Highly idealistic about marriage, you wish to have a mystical union with your partner and may want to dedicate this union to a cause. It's also possible that you will work with a long-term partner in spiritual, healing or artistic pursuits.

Before the modern age, people sought to fulfill their spiritual need through a relationship to Deity. Now many ask human relationships to fill this need. With this Juno- Neptune tie, you may be one of those who see romantic love as a path to salvation. The problem with this is that human partners are not God or the Goddess. They can neither save us nor make us happy. When you place unrealistic expectations on your partner, you invite disillusionment. The way to be happy with your all-too-human partner is to look to the Infinite to fulfill your spiritual hunger.

A similar Juno-Neptune way of relating is to try to save or rescue the partner. You may attract partners who are addicted, have been victimized, or who have emotional or physical problems. Helping others in need may do real good and bring you a sense of fulfillment, but if you take on a long-term partnership to do so, you need to ask yourself why you are doing it. Do you feel truly strong and capable yourself? Are you projecting your own sense of weakness onto another? To continue feeling needed, do you have an unconscious investment in prolonging your partner's dependency on you? If you embark on a savior-victim relationship, you run the risk of disappointment when your partner rejects your efforts or does not improve in the way that you want. At some point you will realize that you are actually draining your own energies and only perpetuating your partner's problem. If you find yourself in the savior-victim trap, you are not alone. There is a whole co-dependency support movement out there to help.

There have of course been successful, fulfilling and really noble partnerships where one partner helps the other who is disabled in some way. In these cases the disability is usually some physical one and not an addiction. The important thing in a partnership that is truly a marriage of human beings is that there be some kind of equality. If one partner is unable to contribute in some area, he or she makes up for it in another, so that both partners are bringing roughly the same amount of energy to the relationship.

With a Juno-Neptune aspect it's also possible that you are legally married, but your relationship is not psychologically a marriage. For example, your partner could be disabled to the point where there can be no equality, or you could have a heterosexual marriage to someone who is gay, or some other sort of union that is not what it seems on the outside. Such relationships are not necessarily emotionally disastrous. Some Juno-Neptune people do not need an egalitarian marriage. As long as they are not deceiving themselves, they may actually find that such unions suit them and that they are quite content.

Yet another possibility is that you project your fantasies onto your partner, expecting him or her to fulfill your desire for the white knight or golden princess. In time, when it becomes clear that your partner is not what you wished him or her to be, you become disillusioned. Though you may feel you were deceived, it was your lack of clear perception that set up the fall.

You may also attract a genuinely deceptive partner. Developing your powers of discrimination will keep you from forming deep unions with these people and playing the role of victim.

With a Juno Neptune aspect, you may attract Neptunian mystical or artistic types, or your partner may see you in this way. When all goes well, the Neptunian partner will be seen as refined, sensitive, empathetic and spiritual. If the Neptunian energies are misdirected, however, the partner can be seen as victimized, confused, helpless, or deceitful.

Juno semisextile Pluto. Slight influence.

Juno's capacity for committed relationship combines with Pluto's urge to bring about profound transformations.

Pluto's intensity means that committed partnerships tend to bring out your deepest emotions. A passionate emotional and sexual intimacy with a long-term partner may well lead you to a peak experience.

The dark side of this is that Pluto rules the underworld, and with this aspect your relationship may bring you face-to-face with the deep, unconscious, destructive parts of the psyche. Emotions such as jealousy, rage, hatred and the urge for revenge have the potential to blow your relationship apart. The best way to deal with these emotions is to accept them, forgive yourself for having them, and simply feel them fully as they arise. It helps to breathe easily and deeply, and to try to pin down their exact quality and the images that arise, possibly by dancing or painting them. It's best not to turn them into imaginary dialogues, or locate the source of blame, or solidify them into theories. If you have been wronged, that is in the past. All you can do now is figure out what your rights really are, and take action to protect them so that they are not violated again. If you can simply let your ugliest emotions be without denying them or venting them on others, they will eventually lead you to a place of compassion and forgiveness. When treated with respect, the enormous power of these demons from below becomes a source of healing and renewal. In this way, your relationships become a vehicle for profound personal transformation. With Pluto, the depth of darkness to which you can descend is an exact measure of the heights of ecstasy to which you can reach.

The issues that provoke these storms are often ones of power and control. Pluto is the god who carried Persephone off by force. You may experience violent or compulsive power struggles with your partner that lead to abuse and domination. Deep-seated resentments may exist in the relationship and continue long after the relationship has ended. Other problems may include intense jealousy or sexual frustration.

Pluto also speaks to the fear of loss, and the compulsive attachment that results. Since such fears may be based on past losses or betrayals, you may have a deep-seated mistrust of your partner, leading to intense jealousy. The way out of this trap is to remember that the tighter you hang on, the more likely you are to lose. It's really the clinging, not the loss, that causes the pain. The lesson of Pluto is that nothing is permanent, and clinging only brings suffering and sorrow. As discussed earlier, the message of the Ceres-Persephone-Pluto story is that letting go of the old enables a new and vibrant life to begin.

With a Juno Pluto aspect, you may attract intense, powerful types, or your partner may experience you in this way. When Pluto energies are working well, the other partner may be seen as fascinating and magnetic; but if they are not working well, the partner may seem suspicious, dictatorial, obsessive, or abusive.

Part Four:

Vesta, the Sister

After one has been nurtured, gone out into the world, found one's life partner and borne children, the time comes to turn inward to reconnect with one's spirit. In women, the Matron becomes the Crone; in the culture of India, the householder sets out on his final spiritual journey as a monk-like wanderer; and in Jungian psychology, the active person of affairs embarks on an inward journey to find the Self.

Vesta, the fourth and final of the major Olympian goddesses to give her name to an asteroid, relates to this final stage of life. Although renowned for her shining beauty, she is in fact the eldest of the Olympian gods.

Like Pallas Athene, Vesta was known as a virgin. If Pallas Athene was the pre-reproductive Maiden, Vesta could be thought of as the post-reproductive Crone. After their thirty-year term of office was up, the Vestal Virgins of Rome were allowed to marry, but they were then often beyond childbearing age. In pre-classical times, the cult of the goddess who later became Vesta included sex as a sacrament. Thus Vesta, insofar as she is sexual, represents a rarefied form of sex that transcends the procreative function and aims to achieve spiritual union rather than physical children.

Vesta was related to Jupiter as his sister. This, too, expresses her non-procreative way of relating, and the fact that she is often thought of as the prototype of the nun, whom we also call "Sister."

Besides suggesting the letter V, which points downward and inward, the astrological glyph for Vesta represents a flame burning on either a hearth or an altar. This signifies Vesta's function as keeper of the hearth fire and the temple flame, but it also points to the cultivation of the pure spark of spirit within us. Fittingly, Vesta is the brightest object in the asteroid belt.

The Myth of Vesta

To the ancient Greeks, Vesta was known as Hestia, a name derived from the word for hearth, and it appears that she had to do with the domestication of fire for human use in the home and in sacrificial offerings. As the eldest of the Olympian gods, she was the most venerated, and was always given the first sacrifices and libations. There are few stories about her deeds, and the few depictions of her show her in repose, indicating an inward, contemplative nature. She refused the marriage offers of Apollo and Poseidon, and under Zeus's protection vowed to remain a virgin forever.

In Roman mythology, Hestia became Vesta, always veiled, but known as the most beautiful of the deities. In the home she was venerated as the protectress of the hearth and its flame. In public life, she was thought of as the protectress of the state, and her priestesses were the six Vestal Virgins of Rome. Dedicated to spiritual service, the Vestals were responsible for keeping the sacred flame burning which was thought to ensure the safety of Rome. They enjoyed great prestige, but if they let the flame go out, they were whipped, and if they violated their oath of chastity during their term of office, they were punished by a public whipping, and then buried alive.

Vesta became the prototype of the medieval nun. However, several thousand years earlier in the ancient Near East, the predecessors of the Vestals tended a temple flame but also engaged in sacred sexual rites in order to bring healing and fertility to the people and the land.

The original meaning of the word "virgin" meant not "chaste," but simply "unmarried." Whereas Ceres and Juno required relationship to complete themselves, Vesta's priestesses represent an aspect of the feminine nature that is whole and complete in itself.

When the old goddess religions gave way to those of the solar gods, sexuality became divorced from spirituality, such that a woman desiring to follow a spiritual path had to remain chaste. Earlier, however, a priestess, representing the Goddess, could enter into a state of spiritual transcendence through sexual union with an partner in a manner that did not call for marriage or commitment. In the later patriarchal culture, ecstatic illumination was experienced as the descent of the spirit of the god into oneself, and the now-chaste Greek priestesses became the brides of the god Apollo in the sense that the Christian nuns became the brides of Christ.

Vesta Within Us

In the human psyche, Vesta represents the part of each person's nature that feels the urge to experience the sexual energy of Venus in a sacred manner. This may occur in several different ways.

If we are a typical product of our culture's mores, we will most likely internalize this sexual energy. We may devote ourselves to following a spiritual, religious, or meditational path, even following in priestly or monastic footsteps. Or, in our lifelong therapeutic work, we may experience this union with the Self as the process of psychological integration. In one way or another, we turn inward to attain clarity, and in this way we energize ourselves. The vision that arises when we reach the whole and self-contained core of our being then enables us to follow a vocation in which we can be of service in the world.

Vesta the virgin speaks to us of the importance of the relationship we have with ourselves. This may lead to a single lifestyle. If we are married, we may not be comfortable with the total surrender asked for in the merging with another. In Vesta's realm we may find our most satisfactory sexual encounters in being our own best lover.

Alternatively, we may hark back to the earlier cults of priestesses in the Ancient Near East, and periodically find ourselves in sexual encounters with those who pass briefly through our lives or to whom we are not married or committed. These couplings are often marked by a sense that something special, healing and sacred has occurred. To the extent that our society has no context in which to validate sexual unions that do not lead to becoming mated, we may be left with a sense of shame, guilt, and incompleteness. To free ourselves from this burden, we must understand the inherent nature of Vesta's virgins and how they unified sexuality and spirituality.

Vesta protects not only the inner flame of spirituality and sexual energy, but also other precious things that ensure the continuation of human life. As "keeper of the flame" she preserved the state and the institutions of society. She also guarded the home and hearth, including kitchens and the preparation and purity of food. Today she could be seen as a librarian, museum curator, or other sort of worker who preserves the sparks of human culture. She could also express herself in an occupation that deals with housing or food.

Through Vesta, you integrate and regenerate on inner levels so that you can then focus and dedicate yourself to work in the outer world. In the human psyche, Vesta represents the process of spiritual focus that can lead to personal integration. In a broader sense, she signifies the ability to focus on and dedicate ourselves to a particular area of life. When our focus becomes too narrow, we can sometimes feel limited and hemmed in. When our capacity to focus is obstructed, we can feel scattered. This, too, may cause us to experience limitation in the area of life represented by Vesta's sign or house position.

To sum up, Vesta is the archetype of the Sister and the Temple Priestess, whose virginity signifies her wholeness and completeness within herself. Her sign, house and aspect placements in your birth chart show how you use the basic sexual energy of Venus to deepen your relationship to yourself.

Vesta in Your Chart

Vesta's Zodiacal Sign

The zodiacal sign of Vesta in your chart suggests how you can best cultivate the spiritual flame within, and then use it in service to others. It can alert you to ways in which the intense focusing quality of Vesta can become too narrow and hence counterproductive, and it can also provide a key to exploring the spiritual qualities of sexual energy.

Vesta in Libra

Vesta in Libra suggests that your path of self-integration involves creating some sort of harmony and balance, either within yourself, between people, or in aesthetic pursuits.

Vesta in this position makes your one-to-one relationships important even when you withdraw to commune with the divine element in yourself. Conversing with an intimate partner or close friend, or just being with other people, seems to help you along your spiritual path. Since your spiritual goal may be to work out a just and fair balance between two souls, you will need some sort of relationship to reach it. Nevertheless, even in a long-standing intimate partnership such as marriage you will always have a virginal sense of self-containment, a self that remains private and your own. For the balance you seek is necessarily that of two separate and distinct persons.

When you come home to your own center, you can truly serve others. With Vesta in Libra, you may find your path of spiritual service through being devoted to a partnership, counseling or advising others, making peace between people, or promoting justice, fairness and equality. Or you may soothe and uplift others by creating objects, surroundings or an atmosphere of serenity and beauty.

Your power to engage in long-term, concentrated focus is specially directed to the areas of personal relationships and art. Just be aware that Vesta's self-containment can sometimes be at odds with Libra's need for interpersonal contact. With Vesta in the sign of one-to-one relationships, exploring the sacred through sexual encounter with another will probably be an important avenue for your spiritual development. To bring this sacred dimension into your sexual relationships, you need a sense of mutuality, of equal give and take. The beauty of your surroundings, of your partner, and of all that you see and sense contributes to your joy. The spiritual union that you experience may take the form of seeing beauty and feeling a sense of balance and peace.

The House that Vesta Occupies

Vesta's house position shows the areas of life where you are most likely to experience your desire for self-integration and your dedication to a calling. This can be a place of dedication and commitment, and also a place where you experience limitation of some sort in order to realize that commitment.

Regardless of the house where your Vesta is placed, you might also like to look at other houses that have to do with Vesta themes. The Fourth and Twelfth houses show how you withdraw into yourself to do inner work. The Tenth House signifies your dedication and your calling. The Sixth House deals with service, the Twelfth House with where you experience limitation and blockages, and the Eighth House with inner transformation and your attitudes toward sex.

Vesta in the Twelfth House

Vesta in the Twelfth gives you a stronger-than-average need to pursue spiritual values and to dedicate yourself to selfless service. You may feel that in a past lifetime you belonged to a spiritual order, or you may wish to join one this time around. Based on a past-life experience, some people with this placement feel a subliminal fear of being persecuted or ostracized for a religious belief. This can give them a need for isolation and retreat when they are going within to find their true Source.

Following this theme, your path of service is likely to be in some way retired or hidden. It may lead you to work in institutions like hospitals, prisons or asylums. As part of your spiritual process, you may choose to experience periods of isolation and retreat. Or, feeling that your spiritual life is a private matter to you, you may be hesitant to share your beliefs and experiences with others.

Sometimes this position can mean deep unconscious sexual fears and inhibitions stemming from very early conditioning or even from experiences in previous lives. Tracing this sense of constriction to its source can be a pathway for spiritual liberation and growth. Sometimes this position just means that sex for its own sake, outside of reproduction, must take place in secret.

Your dreams are likely to be a rich source of spiritual guidance, and you may be receptive to psychic phenomena. You might also tap into the unconscious through prayer, meditation, trance work, shamanic soul retrieval or psychotherapy.

The Aspects that Vesta Makes

Vesta's aspects to other bodies in the solar system show how her drive to go inward and search for higher meaning either clashes with or finds an outlet through the other functions of your chart.

Vesta semisextile Saturn. Slight influence.

Vesta's urge toward spirituality combines with Saturn's urge to create order, form and discipline.

Your path to personal integration is a highly disciplined and practical one that involves tapping into the spiritual and bringing it into form.

When pursuing your spiritual path and your vocation, you show self-discipline and seriousness of purpose, and can actualize your goals and aspirations through dedication and hard work. Diligent in your efforts, you also have the patience to wait for the results. Once realized, your aspirations will be grounded in a solid and secure foundation.

You are dutiful and take your obligations seriously. You have the capacity to honor long-term commitments and follow through on them, regardless of how you are feeling personally. There may be times when your obligations to others seem to conflict with your focus on your own inner work. When your vocation and spiritual awareness are strong, however, the burdens of Saturn are lightened. When you know that discipline and hard work are part of your spiritual service, this awareness can transform mundane obligations into opportunities for discipleship.

As temple priestess, Vesta has a primary connection to the spiritual or divine. Saturn, on the other hand, sees material reality as all there is. When these energies are not skillfully integrated, you may doubt the existence of a higher spiritual reality and find it difficult to tap into that power to guide, inspire and uplift your life. Also, because Saturn rules limitations, you may go through many false starts and dead ends before you find your vocational path. With both Vesta and Saturn tending to concentrate your attention, you also run the danger of allowing your work to become the sole focus of your life.

The Vestal virgins in Roman times were punished by death if they broke their vow of chastity. This may be echoed in fears and inhibitions around the expression of your sexual urges. Because Saturn rules tradition and authority, your religious or societal conditioning may have convinced you that sex is sinful and immoral, and you may fear being punished if you break these taboos. This can lead to difficulties in experiencing intimacy and sexual or sensual pleasure. Healing can come through adopting new beliefs based on Vesta's pre-patriarchal nature, where sexuality was an expression of spiritual communion.

Conclusion:

Taking This Report Further

Now that you have read all about your asteroids, you may wonder which of the four goddess archetypes predominates in your nature. Having just immersed yourself in the symbolism of these four great goddesses, you most likely have a feeling for which of the mythical themes has touched you the most deeply.

But what does your chart say about this? Looking back at the lists of chart positions and aspects at the beginning of this report can give you some idea of which asteroid has the strongest position in your chart. Roughly in order of importance, the main factors that give a planet or asteroid strength are:

1. Being in aspect to the Sun, Moon or Ascendant. If there is a tie, you can consider the aspect with the smallest orb to be the strongest. In order of importance, the aspects are the conjunction, opposition, square, trine and sextile. The "minor" aspects such as the quincunx, semisextile, semisquare and sesquiquadrate are only considered if they are very close (say, within an orb of 2 degrees).
2. Being closely conjunct (within 5 to 7 degrees of) the Midheaven, Descendant or IC. If you have more than one asteroid conjunct one of these points, the one that has the smallest value in the "Orb" column is the strongest. If the orbs are approximately the same, aspects to the Midheaven are considered stronger than aspects to the Descendant or IC. Also, applying aspects are stronger than separating ones.
3. Having the closest aspect of any of the four asteroids. Run your eyes down the "Orb" column and find the smallest orb value. You might think of this as a sort of keynote aspect in your chart, especially if it is a major aspect such as the conjunction, opposition, square or trine.
4. Having the most aspects. This means that the asteroid is well-integrated into your chart and influences many functions in your life. If it is involved in a pattern of planets such as a cluster of conjunctions, a T-square, grand cross, or grand trine, this group of planets and asteroids will form a more or less self-contained complex that describes a recurring theme in your life.
5. Having an asteroid that is "elevated." Look at your chart wheel. Even if an asteroid or planet is not closely conjunct the Midheaven, if it is closer to the Midheaven than any other planet or asteroid, it gains some power because it tends to be more publicly observable than the other celestial bodies in your chart.

After all these considerations, do you feel that you are primarily a Ceres nurturer, a Pallas career person, a Juno partner, or a Vesta keeper-of-the-flame? We hope that these four great goddesses of antiquity have given you some new and useful perspectives on the major themes in your life.

If you would like to learn more about these goddesses and what they represent in your birth chart, we recommend the books *Asteroid Goddesses* by Demetra George, and *Astrology for Yourself* by Douglas Bloch and Demetra George. These are available at bookstores or through the authors.

The Authors of This Report

This report comprises over forty years of combined research by the authors. During this time, we have been amazed at the power of the goddess archetypes to give understanding and meaning to people's lives. With the release of the *Asteroid Goddesses* computer report, this information is being made available to many more individuals. As part of our continuing research, we would like to hear your stories about how the themes symbolized by the asteroid goddesses in your birth chart have manifested in your life. Please write, call, or email us at the addresses that follow.

Demetra George, a practitioner of astrology for thirty years, teaches internationally and leads pilgrimages to sacred sites in the Mediterranean. Her pioneering work synthesizes ancient history, cross-cultural mythology and archetypal psychology with contemporary astrology. In order to further her studies in mythology she is currently pursuing graduate studies in Classics at the University of Oregon.

Demetra George is the author of four books. *Asteroid Goddesses* (San Diego: ACS Publications, 1986; co-authored with Douglas Bloch) is considered a seminal textbook on the subject. It is rich with additional meanings for the four first-discovered asteroids, as well as having some interesting perspectives on lesser-known asteroids. Other books by Demetra George include *Astrology for Yourself* (Wingbow Press, 1987, co-authored with Douglas Bloch), a basic text on astrology in workbook format; *Finding Our Way Through the Dark* (ACS, 1994); and *Mysteries of the Dark Moon* (Harper, 1992).

Demetra George can be reached at dgeorge@orednet.org or at P.O. Box 5431, Eugene, OR 97405, or telephoned at (541) 345-5680.

Douglas Bloch, M.A., has practiced as an astrological writer, counselor and teacher since 1973. He is a member of the Oregon Astrological Association and the AFAN astrology network, and has hosted a call-in radio talk show in the Portland, Oregon, area. | His own books include *Words That Heal* (Pallas Communications, 1989); *Listening to Your Inner Voice* (Hazelden, 1991); *I Am With You Always* (Pallas Communications, 1992); *Positive Self-Talk for Children* (Bantam, 1993), and *When Going through Hell . . . Don't Stop: A Survivor's Guide to Overcoming Clinical Depression and Anxiety* (Pallas Communications, 1998). With Demetra George he has co-authored the books *Asteroid Goddesses* and *Astrology for Yourself*.

Douglas Bloch can be reached at dbloch@teleport.com or 4226 NE 23rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97211, or telephoned at (503) 284-2848.

Patricia White is vice-president and one of the five founders of Astrolabe, Inc., a leading publisher of astrological software. She has served as publications director of the National Council for Geocosmic Research, and as editor of its Journal. She can be emailed at pat@alabe.com.