

Asteroid Goddesses

in the natal chart of
Princess of Wales, Diana

by Demetra George and Douglas Bloch
with Patricia White

Asteroid Positions

Planet		Sign	Longitude	Declination
♀ Ceres	is in	♉ Taurus	10° 37' 35"	+ 7° 27' 00"
♀ Pallas	is in	♋ Pisces	25° 37' 58"	+ 9° 03' 00"
♁ Juno	is in	♋ Pisces	26° 44' 04"	+ 3° 08' 00"
♁ Vesta	is in	♉ Taurus	13° 19' 01"	+10° 04' 00"

Other Positions

Planet		Sign	Longitude	Declination
☉ Sun	is in	♋ Cancer	9° 39' 46"	+23° 05' 00"
☾ Moon	is in	♒ Aquarius	25° 02' 18"	-12° 54' 00"
☿ Mercury	is in	♋ Cancer	3° 12' 05"	+18° 41' 00"
♀ Venus	is in	♉ Taurus	24° 23' 58"	+15° 58' 00"
♂ Mars	is in	♍ Virgo	1° 38' 44"	+11° 55' 00"
♃ Jupiter	is in	♒ Aquarius	5° 05' 49"	-19° 31' 00"
♄ Saturn	is in	♑ Capricorn	27° 48' 49"	-20° 43' 00"
♅ Uranus	is in	♌ Leo	23° 20' 09"	+14° 24' 00"
♆ Neptune	is in	♏ Scorpio	8° 38' 11"	-12° 40' 00"
♇ Pluto	is in	♍ Virgo	6° 02' 38"	+21° 00' 00"
♊ N. Node	is in	♌ Leo	29° 43' 05"	+11° 34' 00"
♌ Ascendant	is in	♐ Sagittarius	18° 24' 25"	-22° 56' 00"
♍ Midheaven	is in	♎ Libra	23° 03' 17"	- 8° 57' 00"
♁ Chiron	is in	♋ Pisces	6° 28' 02"	- 3° 38' 00"

Planetary Aspects

☉ Sun	is *	Sextile	♀ Ceres	The orb is	0° 58'
☉ Sun	is *	Sextile	♁ Vesta	The orb is	3° 39'
☾ Moon	is ♁	Semisextile	♀ Pallas	The orb is	0° 36'
☾ Moon	is ♁	Semisextile	♁ Juno	The orb is	1° 42'
♀ Venus	is *	Sextile	♀ Pallas	The orb is	1° 14'
♀ Venus	is *	Sextile	♁ Juno	The orb is	2° 20'
♃ Jupiter	is □	Square	♀ Ceres	The orb is	5° 32'
♄ Saturn	is *	Sextile	♀ Pallas	The orb is	2° 11'
♄ Saturn	is *	Sextile	♁ Juno	The orb is	1° 05'
♆ Neptune	is ♂	Opposite	♀ Ceres	The orb is	1° 59'
♆ Neptune	is □	Sesquiquadrate	♀ Pallas	The orb is	2° 00'
♆ Neptune	is ♂	Opposite	♁ Vesta	The orb is	4° 41'
♇ Pluto	is △	Trine	♀ Ceres	The orb is	4° 35'
♀ Ceres	is ∠	Semisquare	♀ Pallas	The orb is	0° 00'
♀ Ceres	is ∠	Semisquare	♁ Juno	The orb is	1° 06'
♀ Ceres	is ♂	Conjunct	♁ Vesta	The orb is	2° 41'
♀ Ceres	is *	Sextile	♄ Chiron	The orb is	4° 10'
♀ Pallas	is ♂	Conjunct	♁ Juno	The orb is	1° 06'
♁ Juno	is ∠	Semisquare	♁ Vesta	The orb is	1° 35'

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 after you've 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 Taurus

When you were born, Ceres was traveling through the sign Taurus. This means that when you were a child you most likely identified nurturance with receiving physical security, a sense of stability, and being touched and held. You also wanted your caregivers to provide a home environment with lots of physical comforts.

If these needs were not met in an ideal manner, you may have felt either materially impoverished or anxious and fearful about a lack of material in your life. You may have reacted (and still be reacting) to this lack by feeling that you never have enough. This can lead to excessive attachment to things or to the hoarding of possessions.

As an adult, you still desire to have these needs met by whomever you turn to for your nurturing - whether it be a parent, partner or other loved one. Your natural style of nurturing others is by fostering their physical security and providing for them in tangible ways. Also, in being a good provider for others as well as yourself, you can achieve a feeling of self-worth and self-acceptance. Just as when you were a child, your feelings of warmth and safety have a lot to do with your physical surroundings.

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 Fourth House

With Ceres moving through the Fourth House at the hour of your birth, your need to nurture is most easily expressed in the area of home and family. Issues relating to parents and other family matters tend to play an especially important role in your life. You have a strong connection to your lineage and ancestry, and may need to engage in family-of-origin work in order to heal deeply imbedded familial patterns.

To provide a psychological or physical foundation for yourself and your family, you may also have a stronger-than-average need to own land or a home. It is as if you draw nourishment from the land itself. To satisfy this craving, you may even make a purchasing real estate into a vocation.

In the course of life, people inevitably lose family members through death, physical separation, or emotional estrangement. For you, such losses and separations have a special significance. You may find your human attachments intense to the point of obsession, and surrounded by a fear of loss. You may feel as if your roots and the very ground you stand on are about to vanish under you. Sometimes this can become literally true as, instead of people, those with this Ceres placement lose their home or real estate or become separated from their homeland or ancestral roots.

Whatever happens, it helps to remember that in the myth of Ceres, loss is only part of a cycle of loss and then return. Once you have let go of what is lost, the way is open for whatever is fresh and new to come into your life. At first you may be upset if what is returned to you is not the original object or source of your nurturance - for example, not your own child or your former home, but instead a substitute. In these times remember that you are the child of the Great Nurturer, and that she who loves you always provides what is best for your growth at this particular moment. Concentrate on the hidden gift within the loss. Be grateful for whatever you have been given, and your joy will increase.

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 sextile the Sun. 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 square Jupiter. Moderate influence.

Ceres's capacity to nurture and protect combines with Jupiter's urge to search for meaning, truth and ethical values.

This aspect intensifies Ceres's need to bestow love and unconditional acceptance. Jupiter's generous nature increases - even to excess - your desire to nurture your loved ones, and to provide for their well-being and domestic comfort. Jupiter also influences you to nurture your children by giving them the best of educational opportunities and by imparting a strong system of values and beliefs.

On the wider scene, you may nurture people's minds as well as their souls through teaching and publishing. Or you may provide for others by becoming involved in world hunger programs or with the large-scale production, provision, and distribution of food and other basic services.

Since Jupiter rules excess, and Ceres rules self-worth, there is a potential for grandiosity through an overinflated sense of self. This could be the result of a parent's overindulging you. When you left the nest, you may have felt shocked that the world didn't cater to your every need.

There is also a danger of over-identifying with the parental role and believing that you must bestow all good things, perhaps even the best, on your family and perhaps on the rest of the world as well. Remember that if you give too much, you deplete your own nurturing reserves. This can lead to personal overindulgence such as overeating or overspending. To keep this overweening hunger at bay, you must remember to balance generosity to others with generosity to yourself.

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 semisquare Pallas. Slight influence.

Ceres's capacity to nurture and give unconditional love combines with Pallas's capacity for creative intelligence and original perceptions.

This Ceres-Pallas interaction in your chart shows that you have the potential to give birth to powerful creative ideas and perceptions. This is because you can channel your procreative energy into mental and artistic forms and also into political activism. Any of the Pallas art forms such as drawing, painting, graphics, photography or domestic crafts may appeal to you. You can also nurture on the social level by working for those institutions, such as schools, public housing and feeding programs, that protect, nourish and promote healthy growth.

In her aspect as Hygeia, Pallas signifies healing powers, with a special strength in mental healing. Thus, your nurturing energy could also be expressed in any of the healing arts, but particularly in areas such as creative visualization or hypnosis. An example of Ceres conjunct Pallas is Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Science religion and spreader of the doctrine of mental and spiritual healing.

You are particularly suited to combine the empathetic values of Ceres with the intellectual pragmatism of Pallas Athene. In your role as a parent, you may give your child a high regard for education and learning. It is also possible that your children may be especially bright or creative, or that they may have learning disabilities that will call upon your ability to nurture the mind. With this ability, you may also work as an educator with talented and gifted or otherwise exceptional children.

When the energies of Ceres and Pallas are not well integrated, you may have, as in the Pallas myth, over-identified with the father and denied or rejected the mother figure in your life. (Or, conversely, you may have favored your mother over your father.) Psychologically, this can lead to alienation from your feminine nature, creating a split between your intellectual and emotional sides and blocking your creative abilities.

On an external level, you may have felt pressure to thwart your mental and educational development in order to serve your family, or you may experience a conflict between family and career. Full integration of these energies can be achieved through learning to balance nurturing yourself with the obligations and responsibilities in the world. The many parents who combine a rich family life with a fulfilling career show that this integration is indeed possible.

Ceres semisquare Juno. Slight 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.

Ceres conjunct Vesta. Strong influence.

Ceres's capacity to nurture and give unconditional love combines with Vesta's urge to deepen one's relationship to one's true Self, explore one's spirituality and find a true vocation or path of service.

This connection in your chart between Ceres and Vesta suggests a special devotion to your family, and also a special ability to experience or give nurturing through your work, vision quest, or spiritual practice. Whether it is to children or other loved ones, one of the principal ways you nurture is by providing spiritual guidance. In some instances, you may become inspired to dedicate your life to serving and nurturing others. Another appropriate way to combine these archetypes is to focus on your own self-care and self-nurturing.

You may follow a spiritual path that worships the Divine Mother or Mother Earth; or you may play a parental role in your spiritual community - for example, being the mother superior of a convent. Because of Ceres's connection with the death/rebirth mysteries, you may become involved with hospice work.

Sexuality can be another way you nurture yourself or others. At the same time, sexual inhibitions or complexes may make it difficult for you to get your sexual needs met. In your family of origin, there may have been either inappropriate sexual acting-out or total sexual repression. Emotional or physical incest may have also been part of your early childhood experience. Based on Vesta's mythology, you may have fears of giving birth. These fears may manifest as problems in conceiving or carrying a child to term.

There is an inherent conflict between Ceres's desire to tend to family demands and Vesta's need to seek solitude or to be engrossed in work. You will want to find creative ways to balance these competing needs. If you are not able to do this, you may feel alienated from the parenting role or from the family system. Thus, you may periodically want to withdraw from your familial responsibilities in order to nourish yourself and your soul.

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 Pisces

Your creative intelligence springs from a special ability to perceive the underlying unity in people and things.

As a healer, you may have a knack for intuitive diagnosis, or find yourself interested in psychic or spiritual healing. For your own well-being, you might use the psychological techniques of guided imagery and dream interpretation, as well as meditation, devotion, and tuning in to your spirit guides. Other possible avenues of healing might be through music or dance. It's possible that you may heal through the feet, as in podiatry or reflexology.

Your artistic production would tend to be especially poetic, imaginative, or inspirational. You may like to create in cinema, photography or other areas that play with light and illusion. (For example, Walt Disney, whose fantasies have entertained generations, has Pallas in Pisces.) Music and dance are other likely avenues of expression, and these may well have an ethereal quality that brings back to earth something from the heavens or the beyond.

In the realm of politics, you may identify with the archetype of the enlightened warrior, the bodhisattva, or the martyr. With your sense of the underlying unity between all people, you are likely to be motivated by compassion, for both the highly placed and the downtrodden, no matter what their station in life. Because you can approach the powerful without self-righteousness, you are doubly effective in helping the unfortunate. To achieve your aims, may use or advocate nonviolent resistance, turning the other cheek and refusing to use force. Besides the issues dealing with human welfare, areas such as toleration, pacifism, and the resolution of conflicts may also engage your creative ingenuity.

The wisdom of Pallas in Pisces is the wisdom of compassion: the recognition of universal suffering and desire for all beings to be happy. It is also the wisdom of knowing when to let go and let a higher power do the job.

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 Third House

Pallas Athene in the Third indicates that your creative intelligence may well be expressed through some form of communication, be it writing, speaking, teaching, advertising, reporting the news or otherwise transmitting information. Along with other media for the spoken or written word, telephones, computer networking, and the Internet are likely to have a special fascination for you. In your development, an older brother or sister may have assumed a "fatherly" role in your life, teaching you about the world of work and ideas and helping you find a career.

You probably have a greater than average thirst for knowledge, learning and the collecting of facts. On a philosophical or scientific level, you may use your creative intelligence to explore the nature of the mind and how it works. Since the Third House rules earlier education, you may also be attracted to educational philosophies, such as those of Maria Montessori or Rudolf Steiner, that promote the creative expression and independent thinking of the child.

You may engage in work involving neighbors or siblings, and your political activism may find expression through your neighborhood, community, or other aspects of your daily environment. Alternatively, Pallas in the Third House can involve you in some sort of local, everyday transportation, such as trains, buses, chauffeuring or piloting.

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 semisextile the Moon. Moderate influence.

Pallas, archetype of the wise daughter, combines with the symbol of the feminine, emotional and feeling nature.

When it works well, this combination can show a fusion of intellect and emotion, producing a clear perception of the world of feelings. With a harmonious Pallas- Moon aspect, your intelligence and creativity are augmented by feminine powers and abilities that are strongly experienced and clearly expressed. You may possess a highly intuitive and fertile mind as well as overall psychic ability. This could suit you for work, such as psychotherapy, in which your keen pattern perception can help to heal the emotional problems of others.

Because Pallas defended those under attack, you may become involved with the protection and defense of the helpless and disempowered. One expression of this combination would be working as an advocate for women, or for young children and their mothers.

Like Pallas Athene, women with this aspect can model to others an image of a woman who is strong, successful, intelligent and creative. If you are a man, you may attract Pallas women who are strong, creative, and independent. Such was the case with Chopin, who had Pallas in Aries opposing the Moon (his own feminine nature) in Libra. Delicate in health, this composer of exquisite piano music became involved with the iconoclastic and mannish woman writer George Sand.

When the energies of Pallas and the Moon do not combine harmoniously, you may experience an ongoing conflict between your mind and your feelings. As a child, you may have viewed your mother as weak, powerless and ineffectual, and have preferred to identify with your father. You may have had conflicts with, or were not attuned to, your sisters or other women. This may have led to an alienation from your own feminine qualities of softness, sensitivity and vulnerability. Out of a strong fear of being dependent in any way, you may put on a false front of independence. As an adult, you may call upon logical, analytical and cold behavior as a means to gain worldly power and success.

The resolution of these conflicts lies in acknowledging a feminine-defined intelligence that integrates the mind and heart, combining Pallas Athene's logical thought with the Moon's intuition, warmth, and feeling.

Further to understand this important aspect, we suggest that you re-read the story of Pallas. As you do so, you may find that many of its sub-themes as well are reflected in your life experience.

Pallas sextile Venus. Moderate 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 sextile Saturn. Moderate 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 Juno. Strong influence.

Pallas's creative intelligence combines with Juno's urge to have meaningful long-term relationships.

This Pallas-Juno aspect makes it quite possible that you will contribute greatly to your partner's creative self-expression or work in the world. It is also likely that your own creative endeavors will be expressed through some kind of long-term partnership, most probably marriage. Such was the case with Princess Diana, who had Pallas conjunct Juno in Pisces. Through her marriage to Prince Charles, she attained a position where she found her own remarkable Piscean talent for charitable work. In the same way that Juno was First Lady of the Olympic pantheon, Diana was Queen of Hearts to the British people and ultimately to the world.

If the partnership is not marriage, it can be with an artistic collaborator or business associate. In some cases, it could even be that you work with more than one collaborator in a group.

It is also possible that your inquiries or enterprises have to do with relationships or with the institution of marriage. On a fundamental psychological level this was true of Carl G. Jung, the founder of Analytic Psychology, who had Pallas conjunct Juno in Leo. In his quest to find how human beings can achieve a sense of wholeness, he wrote about the inner marriage of male and female elements within the self.

When Pallas and Juno are in a stressful relationship, there can be a conflict between relationship needs and the need for individual enterprise and creativity. When the conflict is internalized, you may find yourself torn between marriage and career. When the conflict is externalized, you may find one partner placing limits on the other's accomplishments. Your challenge, then, is to acknowledge the value of the other in the creative process and to find a way to incorporate his or her contributions while being true to yourself.

If a stressful Pallas-Juno relationship surfaces as difficulty in forming and being happy in long-term partnerships, it would be well to look at your earlier relationship to your father. Examining the way in which this earlier tie was troubled and then making peace with the father figure within you is a way you may resolve your relationship problems in adult life.

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 Pisces

Through your committed relationships you seek to realize your highest ideals. You may be extremely romantic, longing to reach a mystical state of transcendence through union with your mate. Such a lofty ideal will not always be met in the reality of committed partnership, which demands daily work, struggle and the resolution of conflict. It needs to be tempered by the understanding that your partner is an imperfect human being and not a god or goddess.

If the gap between your ideal and the reality is too great, either of you may withdraw, become disillusioned, become a victim or martyr, or escape into fantasy or substance abuse. This placement of Juno may even work against forming a partnership in the first place, either because one is too shy or passive to go out and look for a mate, or because no earthly person can measure up to one's romantic ideal.

If the danger lies in Pisces, so also does the cure. As long as you don't seek complete perfection in a relationship, it will be all right. The strength of this Pisces placement is that, paradoxically, it can also give you an accepting, non-judgmental approach to your partner. With a Piscean ability to empathize, you can see the world from your partner's point of view and cherish your partner's foibles. This empathy and flexibility and ability to be "in tune" may also bring you a mate with very little effort. Also, rather than demanding that your partner be ideal, you can both strive toward a common ideal: by together pursuing a spiritual path, or by creating imaginative works of fantasy or illusion.

Another tendency of Juno in Pisces is a wish to become totally merged with the partner. As with all water signs, you want to know that your partner will always be there for you. If you lose your sense of self and give away your power and individuality, problems will arise. This is because Juno relationships require a certain measure of equality. For there to be a true partnership there must be two distinct selves. You need to balance devotion to your beloved with a similar devotion to your own selfhood. In this way your relationship is nourished and kept vital.

Your business partnerships will probably not be concerned so much with money and tangible products as with the dissemination of ideas, the spreading of faith, the giving of comfort, or the creation of works of art, glamour, fantasy or illusion. This is the perfect placement for a close, intuitive collaboration, but do be sure to keep all your agreements clear and above-board from the very start.

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 Third House

Your most important relationships tend to focus on communicating information and ideas. Whether the partnership is for romance or business, intellectual and verbal communication form a principal way in which your relationship is played out. Phone calls, letters, faxes or e-mail may thus be an important part of your life together. You deepen your relationship by exchanging ideas, and, when there are problems, you are driven to talk them out. In this way, your partner may serve as a catalyst for your own self-understanding.

Your partner may be a neighbor, a schoolmate, a sibling or other relative, or such people may become an important part of your life together. You may have met in connection with writing, teaching, learning basic skills or networking with others. Or once you become partners, these activities may become central to your relationship. It's also possible that you may have met on a bus or commuter train, or perhaps even on the Internet - or as partners you may spend much time together in these places. You might also spend a lot of time together in the car or on short trips.

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 semisextile the Moon. Moderate influence.

Juno, the archetype of the wife or partner, combines with the symbol of emotional responsiveness.

This aspect mixes Juno's concern for meaningful relationships on the one hand with lunar matters such as feelings, daily habit patterns, and your most basic sense of security and belonging. The fulfillment of your emotional needs is more than usually intertwined with having a meaningful long-term relationship. More than most people, you want a partnership in which you feel a secure sense of belonging. Creating a home and family may be an important way of meeting this need.

Once you feel emotionally safe, you are able to express an unusual degree of sensitivity and empathy toward your significant other. In the course of understanding, supporting and nurturing your partner, you may find yourself tuning into his or her unconscious, and fulfilling needs of which your partner may not even be consciously aware.

More than for most people, your partnerships tend to become identified with the early relationship that you had with your mother. Very likely, you will pair off with a partner who resembles your mother, and this initial imprint may affect your approach to, and beliefs about, all human relationships.

When Juno and the Moon are relating stressfully, your need for a long-term committed relationship may come into conflict with your need for nurturing and emotional security. There may be a tendency to project unmet childhood needs onto your partner, or to have your partner do this with you. Feelings of insecurity in either of you may bring out possessiveness, jealousy, dependency, or emotional manipulation. Either or both of you may feel emotionally needy, and a fear of being engulfed may lead a partner to withdraw as a strategy for emotional self-protection.

One Juno issue that is at odds with the Moon is that of equality in a relationship. With your strong Juno-Moon connection, there is a danger that dependency issues could compromise the equality needed in a truly adult partnership. To achieve the strong partnership that is so essential to your emotional well-being, you will need to face up to these dependency issues and move beyond them.

Besides yourself being lunar in your Juno-type relationships, you tend to seek long-term partners who have a lunar quality. These are strongly feeling types who may have the Moon or the sign Cancer or some other water sign prominent in their charts. You may experience such a partner as sympathetic, sensitive or nurturing, or in some way parental. This can feel sometimes smothering and sometimes comforting.

At other times you may find yourself playing the parent to a partner. You may find your partner dependent or moody or otherwise childish, but may also be nourished by a partner's strong emotional energies.

Since Juno-type relationships are such a strong factor in your emotional makeup, still other themes from the Juno myth may well repeat themselves in your life. We suggest that you re-read the story of Juno. As you do so, you may find that many of the themes discussed there are reflected in your life experience.

Juno sextile Venus. Moderate 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 sextile Saturn. Moderate influence.

Juno's desire for committed relationship combines with Saturn's urge to create order, form and discipline.

In your chart Juno is influenced by Saturn's tendency to slow things down, make them tangible, and impose form and structure on them. In your committed relationships, this melding of Juno and Saturn can take various forms.

To begin with, you will probably be slower than average getting into a committed relationship, either marrying later than most people, or at least not committing yourself until you have given it a great deal of thought. Sometimes, in order to form a meaningful relationship, people with this contact may first need to overcome limiting belief systems, personal insecurities, or fears of commitment.

Once committed, however, you tend to stay that way, and your relationship will probably have great longevity. It is natural for you to take a grounded and realistic approach to your partnerships, and to be capable of great loyalty. You may hang on in order to complete and perfect the relationship. You may also remain in the partnership for quite non-romantic reasons, such as social pressure, a sense of duty, or the desire for material security. Or even if it is quite romantic and full of fun, your relationship may center on building something concrete in the world. Juno-Saturn contacts favor any sort of partnership involving business and other financial concerns.

Another way that Saturn with Juno can work out is in a difference in real or perceived age between you and your partner. It may be simply that one of you is considerably older than the other in an otherwise un-Saturnine relationship. Alternatively, one of you may play a parental role, while the other plays the child who sees the parent-person as a serious, responsible provider of safety and security. Carried to extremes, one partner might see the other as childish and irresponsible, while himself being seen as authoritarian and controlling. Sometimes this aspect means that one or both of the partners is depressed.

It is fortunate that people with Juno-Saturn contacts tend to understand that relationships take a lot of work. Don't be discouraged. When you are willing to make the effort needed to overcome obstacles, you can realize your goals. With Juno teamed with Saturn, you have the stuff to persevere until you manifest the relationship you want.

Juno semisquare Vesta. Slight influence.

Juno's commitment to partnership must deal with Vesta's virgin nature as whole and complete in herself.

Associated with the First and Seventh Houses of the birth chart, Vesta and Juno signify the polarity between the self and the other. If this polarity is not integrated, you may experience a conflict between personal focus and relationship needs.

Some people with this aspect feel that all their energy must go into work on themselves so that they have nothing left to give to a partner. Or if they are in a relationship, they may feel isolated or alienated from the partner. For others, the great relationship of their lives maybe with their own spirituality. They may relate primarily to a spiritual teacher or guru, or feel a calling to unite with the divine rather than with an earthly partner.

It is still possible, however, to have a long-term marriage-type relationship with another human being. Vesta brings a feeling of sacredness to the union. Self-contained, she does not cling, but with her great focus and devotion she keeps the home fires burning just as she does in the myth.

Juno-Vesta unions are especially likely to succeed when the partners assist each other in spiritual growth. You may either follow a spiritual path together, or pursue parallel paths. In either case, your common goal to seek higher consciousness can contribute to the relationship's well-being.

Sexual issues are likely to be important in Juno-Vesta partnerships. Like the pre-Classical temple priestesses, you may find yourself alternating between intense sexual activity and periods of celibacy. Your interactions with your significant other may bring up sexual fears and inhibitions from the past, which you may have to experience and work through before intimacy can be attained.

With this Juno-Vesta aspect, you may attract a partner who is focused, self-identified and devoted, or your partner may see you in this way. If the energies of Vesta are not working well, however, you may experience your partner as self-absorbed, alienated or repressed.

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 Taurus

Your path of self-integration involves becoming firmly anchored and grounded in physical reality. Part of your personal development may involve learning how to manage your own financial resources.

In pursuing your desire to manifest resources, you have an excellent ability for long-term, concentrated focus. When this gets too single-minded, however, you run the danger of becoming overly attached to material things and of forgetting their underlying spiritual purpose.

In your spiritual life, you may be attracted to earth-based religions that honor the Divine in the natural, sensory world. As an integral part of your path, you may go back to the land, grow plants, spend time outdoors, or study nature in one of its many forms.

Your path of service could be through work with the earth or its resources, as in gardening, ecology, physical body work, or making pottery. You may also be attracted to helping others to manage their resources and become self-sufficient.

To bring the sacred dimension into your sexual relationships, you need to experience a great deal of pleasurable physical touch. You will especially delight in the beauty and physical presence of your partner. Creating a setting that involves all the senses, and then bathing, scenting and adorning your body would be appropriate parts of your sacred ritual.

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 Fifth House

Your inward quest tends to be channeled through Fifth-House matters such as creative self-expression, recreation and children. This area of dedication can marshal your creativity and bring you into the limelight.

Your spiritual path may involve art, especially working in the theater, and you may use art to promote a cause or ideal. Alternatively, your path may be to study recreation, in the sense of self re-creation through play. Or you may feel drawn to serving others by improving the lives of children, as through, teaching, social work, foster-parenting or being a parent yourself.

With dedication comes some sacrifice. A single-minded dedication to your path may at times alienate you from children, romance or pleasure. Pursuing your art, or taking on excessive responsibilities with and for children, may call for sacrifice in other areas of your life. If you accept this as your path of service, it can further your spiritual growth and bring a deep sense of satisfaction. If you sometimes feel a blockage in your creativity and spontaneity, it may be because of Vesta's tendency to focus on flaws. In such cases it is helpful to lighten up and remember that the Fifth House is for play. If you take some time for recreation and fun, your creativity will flourish.

In the area of romance, Vesta in the Fifth is more likely to signify short-term relationships than the courtship that precedes marriage. In keeping with Fifth- House symbolism, the focus is on the moment for its own sake rather than as a means of achieving an end. Vesta here sees sex as recreation, especially in the higher sense of spiritual re-creation. Her sexual style in the Fifth House would be playful, and would include role-playing, ritual, and art. In the Fifth House, Vesta may also find her outlet sublimated into creative pursuits.

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 sextile the Sun. Strong influence.

Vesta, the sister and priestess, unites with the symbol of one's basic identity and conscious purpose.

This interaction of Vesta and the Sun suggests that going on an inward quest takes on central importance in your life. Turning within to locate your own true center, you embark on a heroic quest to regenerate and integrate the parts of your being. Shining light on the dark corners of your soul, you find your demons and do battle with them. This being done, you can then dedicate yourself to work in the outer world. Your Vesta vocation may have to do with solar matters: with either being yourself a source of light and energy to others, or with helping others to realize the light that is within them.

Vesta gives you a strong need to get in touch with an inner calling and then to commit yourself to it. As Vesta represents the archetype of the temple priestess, this may well be a spiritual vocation. Even if it is not, you will want to infuse spiritual values into whatever work you do.

If the connection between Vesta and the Sun is problematical, you may have difficulty finding a larger purpose in your life to which you can dedicate yourself. This may result in a general sense of confusion and aimlessness about your life direction. To give yourself a substitute sense of direction, you may keep your nose to the grindstone and become so absorbed in your daily job that you exclude other people and activities. The cure for this form of workaholism is to go within and connect with your higher purpose. Only then will you have the perspective to put your work in its proper place.

Another possible difficulty with Vesta is that you may experience confusion over the appropriate expression of your sexuality. Like the temple priestess in the ancient Near East, Vesta sees sacred sexual rites as a part of spiritual life. In modern culture, however, sexuality is divorced from spirituality, and is still often surrounded by negative moral and religious attitudes. As a product of your culture, you may have either repressed the natural expression of sexual urges, or expressed them outside the boundaries of conventional standards and then been made to feel ashamed. Alternatively, believing sex to be sacred, you may not be able to enjoy it unless the sacred dimension is present, and in our culture the sacred dimension may be hard for you to find.

Vesta's virginity signifies a woman who, though not necessarily sexually chaste, is nevertheless whole and complete within herself. Whether you are male or female, with this aspect you may fear intimacy, and find it hard to commit to a relationship for fear of giving up your sense of self. People with this aspect do have intimate relationships, but they retain a sense of separateness and self-containment. Such a relationship can be happy as long as it suits the needs of both partners.

Isadora Duncan is a famous example of the Vesta-Sun archetype. With Vesta in Taurus conjunct the Sun in Gemini in the Second House, she was a self-identified woman who defied sexual taboos and communicated inner meaning through her celebration of the body and her dedication to the dance.

Contemplating the whole story of Vesta can give you further insight into this centrally important aspect in your chart.

Vesta opposition Neptune. Strong influence.

Vesta's focus on a spiritual path combines with Neptune's urge to transcend one's boundaries and merge with a greater whole.

Vesta's combination with Neptune in your chart doubly emphasizes Vesta's devotion to spiritual development, making it more idealistic, more intuitive, more compassionate, and possibly more artistic. You may be committed to a life-long spiritual path. Neptune's clairvoyant nature may allow you to channel metaphysical information from other realms. Compassionate impulses may lead you to alleviate the suffering of others through some sort of healing ministry. To communicate your spiritual vision, you may use painting, poetry, music or dance, and you may create your art specifically for religious or spiritual purposes.

For you, personal integration means opening yourself to the subtle and transcendent dimensions of reality where you can have a direct experience of the Divine. Vesta gives you the impulse to focus strongly on your spiritual development, and gives you ample discipline to realize Neptunian goals. From sustained study of religion or consciousness-expanding techniques, or a daily practice of meditation, prayer and kindly service, you can eventually learn to transcend everyday feelings of separation and find a Neptunian sense of unity and bliss.

Though the early temple priestesses took part in ritual sex, the Vestal priestesses of Rome became oath-bound to celibacy, and thus had to sublimate their sexual energy. With Neptune combining with Vesta, you, too, may be inclined to do this. Neptune tends to flee from the physical in order to merge with the Divine. You may either entirely sublimate your sexuality into spiritual or vocational pursuits, experience sexual energies on an internal level as part of a mystical experience, or desire that the outer sexual unions that you do have lead to an experience of mystical unity with your partner.

When the energies of Vesta and Neptune do not work well together, it may be difficult for you to become clear about your spiritual path or vocation. If you have not established a firm foothold in the ordinary world, you may have romantic illusions or unrealistic expectations about the nature of spirituality. This could work out in several ways. You may use your spiritual quest as a way to avoid earthly responsibilities. Seeking the transcendent experience, you may become enmeshed in drug or alcohol use. You may be vulnerable to spiritual charlatans or cults. Lacking a sense of boundaries and an orientation in reality, you may inappropriately deny or sacrifice yourself for the sake of others. Later, when you see that you have been misled, you feel disillusioned or betrayed. If this happens, do not become discouraged or cynical. This is just a stage in your learning process. Though painful at the time, it is a reality check. If you let it, it will be a step forward on your spiritual path, teaching you the difference between illusory spirituality and a true, grounded connection with the Infinite.

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).

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