

An Introduction to Hermetic Astrology – Class 3

- *“The cosmos is a vast living body, of which we are still parts. The sun is a great heart whose tremors run through our smallest veins. The moon is a great nerve center from which we quiver forever. Who knows the power that Saturn has over us, or Venus? But it is a vital power, rippling exquisitely through us all the time.”*

• D.H. Lawrence

The Planets

- In ancient times, astronomers noted how what appeared to be certain stars moved across the sky in relation to the other stars. Ancient Greeks called these wandering stars "πλάνητες άστέρες" (*planetes asteres*: wandering stars) or simply "πλανήτοι" (*planētoi*: wanderers), from which the today's word "planet" was derived
- In Astrology we work with ten planets representing ten different “urges” or “thought-cells” in the unconscious mind
 - ☉ The Sun – Power
 - ☾ The Moon – Domestic
 - ☿ Mercury – Intellectual
 - ♀ Venus – Social
 - ♂ Mars – Aggressive
 - ♃ Jupiter – Religious
 - ♄ Saturn - Safety
 - ♅ Uranus - Individualistic
 - ♆ Neptune - Utopian
 - ♇ – Pluto Universal Welfare

Planets in Signs

- One stage of chart interpretation is by evaluating the placement of the planets in the signs of the zodiac
- Much like the way that musical tones sound differently to our ear whether they are played on a cello or a piccolo – the planets express their energies differently depending upon the sign they are in

- The signs or ‘sounding boards’ can allow for harmonious or discordant expressions of the planets energies

Planets in Houses

- The houses are divisions of the horoscope or birth-chart which correspond to different areas of thinking, activity, and interests
- As a planet/s occupies a houses it brings its specific influences into that department of life
- The planet closest to the house cusp is considered the “ruler” of that house, if there is more than one planet in the house the other planets become the “co-rulers”
- When the house is unoccupied, we look to the planet/s ruling the sign on the cusp of the house

☉ The Sun - Power Urges

- The Sun affects our vital life force, our sense of significance, relationships with authority figures, relationships with the male sex in general, father figures, opportunities for awards, honors and recognition
 - Vigor
 - Positive traits: Rulership
 - Negative traits: Dictatorial
 - Neutral
- To the Egyptians the Sun or Aten travelled in a solar barge; his presence in the sky created day and his absence, night.
- To the Greeks and Romans the Sun was Helios or Apollo who rode in a chariot and governed medicine, healing and the theater.
- The Sun rules the sign of Leo ♌
 - **Harmonious Sun**
 - Leadership opportunities
 - Vitality
 - Respect of others

An Introduction to Hermetic Astrology – Class 3

- Honors
- Awards
- Positive experiences with authority figures

• **Discordant Sun**

- Proudful
- Dictative
- Egotism
- Loss of honor
- Loss of esteem
- Problems with authorities

▷ **The Moon - Domestic Urges**

- The Moon affects our moods, emotional states, our mental attitude, home, family and domestic life, our everyday affairs, relationships with the female sex in general, mother figures
- Fluctuation
- Positive Traits: Adaptability
- Negative Traits: Moodiness
- Neutral
- In astrology the Moon is considered feminine and has been personified in different cultures by lunar goddesses. Artemis (Diana), the daughter of Zeus and Leto was twin to the Sun god Apollo. Worshipped throughout the Hellenic world, Artemis eventually replaced Selene as the Moon goddess
- The Moon rules the sign of Cancer ♋

Harmonious Moon

- Positive experiences with home and family
- Opportunities to be caring, compassionate, and nurturing
- Heightened intuition
- Positive interactions with women

Discordant Moon

- Passive
- Submissive
- Impressionable
- Moody

- Temperamental
- Fluctuating emotions
- Fickle
- Victim of gossip

☿ **Mercury - Intellectual Urges**

- Mercury affects our studies, mental interests, increases our writing and intellectual activity accuracy in calculations and memory, and attracts opportunities for communication and self-expression
- Thought
- Positive Traits: Expression
- Negative Traits: Nervousness
- Neutral
- Mercury or Hermes was the son of the union of Zeus and Maia. In Greek mythology Hermes was the god of weights and measures, commerce and cunning, boundaries, travel and travelers, wit, literature, oratory, and poetry. Our words merchant, merchandise, and mercenary all have their origins in Mercury the Roman god of trade
- Mercury rules the signs of Gemini ♊ and Virgo ♍

Harmonious Mercury

- Opportunities to express intelligence
- Perceptive
- Constructive Communications
- Reflective
- Analytical
- Evaluating
- Exercise Logic
- Reasoning

Discordant Mercury

- Critical
- Poor communication skills
- Errors in calculation
- Nervousness
- Anxiety
- Neuroses

An Introduction to Hermetic Astrology – Class 3

- Mental ruminations
- Forgetfulness

♀ Venus - Social Urges

- Venus attracts friendship and socializing, affection or romantic opportunities, gratuities, gifts, pleasure, experiences with beauty and the arts
- Gratuities
- Positive Traits: Affection
- Negative Traits: Pliancy
- Lesser Benefic
- (1/4 harmony)
- Greek mythology, Venus or Aphrodite was born from the ocean's foam, after Cronos castrated Ouranos and threw his genitals in the sea. Many images picture her rising on a shell out of the ocean, the most famous is Botticelli's Birth of Venus. Apples, limes, myrtle, pomegranates, and roses were considered sacred to the goddess. Among animals she rules dolphins, doves, sparrows, and swans
- Venus rules both Taurus ♉ and Libra ♎

Harmonious Venus

- Heightened creativity
- Affection or romantic opportunities
- Gifts and gratuities
- Increased cultural interests
- Greater ease

Discordant Venus

- Loss of love
- Disappointments with friends
- Creative blocks
- Laziness
- Over-sensuality

♂ Mars - Aggressive Urges

- Mars expresses through courage, passion, strife, antagonism, and effort
- Strife
- Positive traits: Initiative
- Negative traits: Harshness

- Minor Malefic
- (1/4 discord)

- To the Greeks Ares represented the unpredictable violence of war which could express as bloodlust and savage warfare. Ares's *quadriga* or chariot was pulled by four fire-breathing stallions. In Sparta he was propitiated before battle.
- Among the Romans, Mars was well-liked, unlike his Greek counterpart. He rivaled Jupiter as the most honored god. Under the stellar religion of the Babylonians Mars was Nergal, the fiery god of war and destruction.
- Mars rules Aries ♈ and is the Classical-ruler of Scorpio ♏.

Harmonious Mars

- Initiative
- Energy
- Passion
- Courage
- Defense
- Constructive effort
- Building up

Discordant Mars

- Impulsiveness
- Lust
- Anger
- Strife
- Destruction
- Aggression
- Accidents and injuries
- Fevers

♃ Jupiter - Religious Urges

- Jupiter attracts abundance, opportunities, good-will, and luck
- Abundance
- Positive traits: Benevolence
- Negative traits: Conceit
- Major Benefic
- (1/2 harmony)

An Introduction to Hermetic Astrology – Class 3

- In mythology Zeus was chief among the gods and would change his shape in order to consort among the mortals. His symbols were the thunderbolt, eagle, bull, and oak
- Jupiter is the chief ruler of Sagittarius - ♃ and the Classical ruler of Pisces - ♋

Harmonious Jupiter

- Luck
- Opportunities
- Affluence and gain with little effort
- Charitable opportunities
- Generosity
- Faith
- Feelings of optimism

Discordant Jupiter

- Conceit or arrogance
- A “holier-than-thou” attitude
- Religious fanaticism
- Overly-optimistic
- Excessive generosity
- Self-indulgence

♄ Saturn – Safety Urges

- Saturn attracts lack of resources, restrictions, losses, confinements, sorrow, responsibilities
- Poverty
- Positive traits: System
- Negative traits: Selfishness
- Major Malefic
- (1/2 discord)

- Cronos or Saturn’s mother was Gaia (Earth) and his father Uranus (Sky). Using his sickle he castrated his father, throwing his member in the sea, Aphrodite was born
- Saturn is the chief ruler of Capricorn – ♄ and the Classical ruler of Aquarius - ♒

Harmonious Saturn

- Planning, organization and the development of systems
- Preparation and safety-mindedness

- Foresight and prescience
- Personal discipline and structure
- Accountability
- Shouldering duties and responsibilities
- Conscientiousness

Discordant Saturn

- Experiences with greed and selfishness
- Prolonged hardships
- Illness and physical disabilities
- Heavy responsibilities
- Losses
- Poverty
- Sorrows
- Grief
- Depression

♅ Uranus - Individualistic Urges

- Uranus brings sudden change, eccentric behavior, fads, novelty, inventions and discoveries
- Eccentricity
- Positive traits: Originality
- Negative traits: Eccentricity
- Neutral

- Uranus (Ouranos) was one of the primordial gods known as Father Sky. The ancients conceived him as the overarching dome of the heavens that turned on an axis. Astrology the study of the heavens is said to be ruled by Uranus
- Uranus is the modern ruler of Aquarius - ♒

Harmonious Uranus

- Inventions
- Insights
- Discoveries
- Human agencies
- Heightened awareness

Discordant Uranus

- Radical or eccentric behavior
- Erratic opportunities
- Unpredictable or unwanted changes

An Introduction to Hermetic Astrology – Class 3

- Hyperactivity

♆ Neptune – Utopian Urges

- Neptune involves imagination, visionary ideals, intuition, illusions, fantasy thinking, and, psychic sensitivity
- Illusion
- Positive traits: Idealism
- Negative traits: Vagueness
- Neutral
- To the ancient Greeks, Poseidon (Neptune) was the god of both horses and the sea. With one strike of his trident, the contemporary symbol for the planet Neptune, he could cause earthquakes, shipwrecks, and drowning. Sailors would sometimes propitiate Poseidon by drowning horses as a sacrifice, before heading out to sea.
- Neptune is the modern ruler of Pisces - ♋

Harmonious Neptune

- Idealism
- Humanitarian goals
- Visionary ideas
- Heightened intuition
- Spiritual experiences
- Increased sensitivity

Discordant Neptune

- Subject to schemes
- Illusions
- Hypersensitivity
- Disappointments
- Confusion
- Vagueness

♇ Pluto - Universal Welfare Urges

- Pluto attracts experiences with compulsion, conformity, obsessions, group influences
- Conformity
- Positive traits: Cooperation
- Negative traits: Coercion
- Neutral

- In Greco-Roman mythology, Pluto was the ruler of the underworld which included both Hades and the Elysian Fields. The symbols commonly associated with Pluto were the Helmet of Darkness, which rendered the bearer invisible, and Cerberus, the three headed dog who guarded the entrance to Hades, ensuring that those who entered could not leave.
- Pluto is the modern ruler of Scorpio - ♏.

Harmonious Pluto

- Cooperative efforts
- Sense of community
- Positive experiences with groups
- Awareness of your life's purpose
- A feeling of connectedness

Discordant Pluto

- Negative experiences with groups
- Experiences with compulsion and conformity
- Obsessions
- Mob influences

Homework

Match the symbol to the corresponding name

- | | |
|-----|--------------|
| • ☉ | Pluto |
| • ☽ | Venus |
| • ☾ | The Moon |
| • ♀ | Uranus |
| • ♂ | The Sun |
| • ♃ | Neptune |
| • ♂ | Mars |
| • ♄ | Saturn |
| • ♀ | Mercury |
| • ♃ | Jupiter |

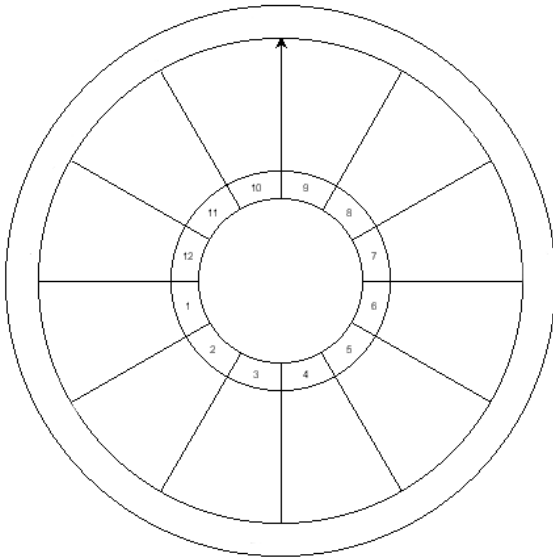
Practice writing the planetary glyph 10 times each

- ☉ _____
- ☽ _____
- ☾ _____
- ♀ _____
- ♂ _____

An Introduction to Hermetic Astrology – Class 3

- ♃ _____
- ♄ _____
- ♅ _____
- ♆ _____
- ♇ _____

- Using your computer generated chart copy the planets into the corresponding house of your blank chart form.
- Include the degree and minute of the sign where they fall



Vocabulary Building

Using a thesaurus find five synonyms that can further describe the following keywords:

- Power: _____
- Domestic: _____
- Intellectual: _____
- Social: _____
- Aggressive: _____
- Religious: _____
- Safety: _____
- Individualistic: _____
- Utopian: _____
- Cooperative: _____

Reading

- *Beginner's Horoscope Reader* Chapter 2, *We Consider Each Planet in Each Sign*
- *Astrology and It's Psychological Correspondences* – Dennis Sutton
- *Additional Reading*
- *Cs II, Astrological Signatures* Chapter 3, *Mundane Houses*, pages 85-92 on the planets