

Asteroid Goddesses

in the natal chart of
Sally Sample

by Demetra George and Douglas Bloch
with Patricia White

Prepared by:

The Stellar Clock

Asteroid Positions

Planet		Sign	Longitude	Declination
♀ Ceres	is in	♍ Virgo	10° 20' 10"	+16° 48' 00"
♀ Pallas	is in	♋ Cancer	5° 54' 28"	-32° 03' 00"
♁ Juno	is in	♏ Scorpio	20° 39' 26"	- 9° 53' 00"
♁ Vesta	is in	♑ Capricorn	3° 42' 05"	-23° 18' 00"

Other Positions

Planet		Sign	Longitude	Declination
☉ Sun	is in	♐ Sagittarius	13° 11' 12"	-22° 23' 00"
☾ Moon	is in	♍ Virgo	13° 23' 32"	+10° 29' 00"
☿ Mercury	is in	♏ Scorpio	29° 37' 56"	-17° 36' 00"
♀ Venus	is in	♐ Sagittarius	2° 19' 35"	-19° 56' 00"
♂ Mars	is in	♎ Libra	24° 10' 58"	- 8° 19' 00"
♃ Jupiter	is in	♒ Aquarius	13° 04' 23"	-17° 40' 00"
♄ Saturn	is in	♐ Sagittarius	2° 10' 23"	-18° 50' 00"
♅ Uranus	is in	♐ Sagittarius	17° 53' 47"	-22° 57' 00"
♆ Neptune	is in	♑ Capricorn	2° 35' 26"	-22° 21' 00"
♇ Pluto	is in	♏ Scorpio	6° 08' 49"	+ 1° 44' 00"
♁ N. Node	is in	♉ Taurus	7° 13' 54"	+13° 56' 00"
A _S Ascendant	is in	♎ Libra	5° 52' 04"	- 2° 20' 00"
M _C Midheaven	is in	♋ Cancer	6° 23' 47"	+23° 17' 00"
♁ Chiron	is in	♊ Gemini	11° 53' 17"	+17° 11' 00"

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Planetary Aspects

☉ Sun	is	□ Square	♀ Ceres	The orb is	2° 51'
☾ Moon	is	♌ Conjunct	♀ Ceres	The orb is	3° 03'
♀ Venus	is	✕ Semisextile	♃ Vesta	The orb is	1° 22'
♂ Mars	is	∠ Semisquare	♀ Ceres	The orb is	1° 09'
♄ Saturn	is	✕ Semisextile	♃ Vesta	The orb is	1° 32'
♆ Neptune	is	♋ Opposite	♀ Pallas	The orb is	3° 19'
♆ Neptune	is	♌ Conjunct	♃ Vesta	The orb is	1° 07'
♇ Pluto	is	* Sextile	♀ Ceres	The orb is	4° 11'
♇ Pluto	is	△ Trine	♀ Pallas	The orb is	0° 14'
♇ Pluto	is	* Sextile	♃ Vesta	The orb is	2° 27'
♁ N. Node	is	△ Trine	♀ Ceres	The orb is	3° 06'
♁ N. Node	is	* Sextile	♀ Pallas	The orb is	1° 19'
♁ N. Node	is	△ Trine	♃ Vesta	The orb is	3° 32'
♀ Pallas	is	□ Square	♁ Ascendant	The orb is	0° 02'
♁ Juno	is	∠ Semisquare	♁ Ascendant	The orb is	0° 13'
♃ Vesta	is	□ Square	♁ Ascendant	The orb is	2° 10'
♀ Ceres	is	* Sextile	♁ Midheaven	The orb is	3° 56'
♀ Pallas	is	♌ Conjunct	♁ Midheaven	The orb is	0° 29'
♁ Juno	is	▣ Sesquiquadrate	♁ Midheaven	The orb is	0° 44'
♃ Vesta	is	♋ Opposite	♁ Midheaven	The orb is	2° 42'
♀ Ceres	is	* Sextile	♀ Pallas	The orb is	4° 26'
♀ Ceres	is	□ Square	♄ Chiron	The orb is	1° 33'
♀ Pallas	is	▣ Sesquiquadrate	♁ Juno	The orb is	0° 15'
♀ Pallas	is	♋ Opposite	♃ Vesta	The orb is	2° 12'
♁ Juno	is	∠ Semisquare	♃ Vesta	The orb is	1° 57'

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 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 Virgo

When you were born, Ceres was traveling through the sign Virgo. When you were a child you identified nurturance with being raised in a clean, orderly, healthy living environment. Also, you wanted your parents to teach you skills and competence, thus equipping you to function in the everyday world.

If these needs were not met in an ideal manner, you may have been told that you were not good enough, no matter how hard you tried. You may have reacted (and still be reacting) to this criticism by having an obsessive need to be perfect and by finding fault with other people or with your circumstances.

As an adult, you still desire to have these needs met by whomever you turn to for nurturing - whether it be a parent, partner or other loved one. You can nurture yourself or the child within you by creating a clean and orderly living environment, by mastering a skill or technique that reinforces a sense of competency, by cultivating good health and hygiene habits, and by finding ways to be useful. In turn, your natural style of nurturing children or other loved ones is to create order in their surroundings and habits, to teach them to achieve excellence by the right application of skills. You have a strong desire to be of service, and may be especially drawn to the areas of health and nutrition.

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 Twelfth House

With Ceres moving through the Twelfth House at the hour of your birth, you may experience difficult karmic patterns in the way that your family of origin raised you, or in your later role as a parent yourself. Either from one's parents or one's children, this position can symbolize experiences such as loss, illness, rejection, denial and/or abuse. You may also have felt that your parents undermined you in some way.

Any of these situations may have caused you great grief or depression. This can open your heart to the pain of others. By extending love and assistance to those in need, you are able to heal both others and yourself.

This position of Ceres denotes the potential to experience unconditional love through connecting to a higher reality, even if that love is not found in personal relationships. Your family of origin may have modeled for you the search for spiritual truth, or you may find a sense of family through living in monasteries, convents, ashrams, or other spiritual communities.

Whether you live in a spiritual enclave or not, you will want to nurture yourself by periodically withdrawing from daily life through meditation or going on retreats. In this way you will nourish your soul and foster your growth as a spiritual being.

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 square 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 conjunct the Moon. Very strong influence.

Ceres's desire to nurture and protect is reinforced by lunar matters such as your emotions, feelings and habit patterns.

Your aspect between Ceres and the Moon brings together the two mother archetypes in the chart. The Moon is the all-encompassing symbol for all that is yin or female in the chart, of all that gives form or contains, and of the earth itself. Ceres is a particular facet of lunar energies. Ceres deals specifically with motherhood, nourishment, and attachment, or the lack of it, to a loved one. When the Moon and Ceres are connected as they are in your chart, the more general lunar function takes on a Ceres-like character so that lunar issues in your life tend to assume Ceres's particular qualities.

As a Ceres-Moon person you have a deep longing to be needed by others and to bond with them. You may become intensely involved with your family, specifically parenting your own children or taking care of other people's. This could also manifest as taking care of your parents. By extension, you may be drawn to activities like growing or preparing food, feeding the homeless and hungry, protecting Mother Earth through environmental activism, or working with the dying.

Adelle Davis, who had Ceres opposition the Moon, is a classic example of one who lived out the Ceres-Moon archetype. A nutritionist and author of cookbooks which showed how to add maximum nutritional value to every meal, she produced many books, including *Let's Eat Right* and *Let's Have Healthy Children*.

With your Ceres-Moon aspect comes a strong degree of compassion, empathy and sensitivity. This sensitivity may cause you to become overly involved and identified with the problems of those for whom you care. If you become too enmeshed, you will inappropriately take on their pain. This will make you suffer, and will prevent them from having the opportunity to work out their own difficulties. Also, if you feel unneeded or that your efforts are unappreciated, you may become depressed.

Other problems that may arise with a Ceres-Moon aspect include experiencing a conflict between taking care of your loved ones and meeting your own personal needs. It is well to remember that when your own needs go unmet long enough, your ability to help others becomes impaired. You may think you are expending all your efforts taking care of their physical and emotional needs, when what they really want from you is an equal kind of companionship, or a role model that teaches them how to become happy, autonomous human beings themselves.

With this aspect you need to be on guard against smothering your children or other loved ones with over-protectiveness. Were you yourself overwhelmed by a domineering, controlling parent who eclipsed your own sense of individuality? If so, mentally putting yourself in the shoes of your child can help you refrain from this temptation. When an unconscious pattern becomes conscious, you are freed from repeating it.

Your protectiveness may, of course, stem from real-life concerns. In these times, we see the Ceres myth playing itself out through a child actually disappearing for a time into a kind of underworld: running away, being abducted by a stranger or the other parent, getting involved with drugs or other unsavory circumstances, or perhaps being confined in a hospital. It may be hard to find any solace for this heartache, but following in the footsteps of Ceres and giving oneself permission to grieve can help, as can the knowledge that in the myth the loss was followed by a return.

Refraining from too much protectiveness and giving children more freedom to go off on their own can often enable the Ceres-Persephone drama to play out on a less disastrous level. In order to grow up into autonomous individuals, during the teen years children need to leave their parents in some way. When this need is honored, they can accomplish the necessary distancing from their parents without straying too far into dangerous territory.

There is also a possibility that you guard your children out of an underlying fear that they may be sexually violated. In this case, you need to determine whether your fears are a projection or arise from a real situation. If the latter, your natural Ceres protectiveness is well-placed.

Because Ceres rules the mother-child bond and the Moon governs early childhood, this combination may suggest that your basic needs for emotional nurturing and love were not met as a child. You could be harboring separation anxieties, with fears (or actual experiences) of rejection and abandonment by your caretakers. This emotional isolation and alienation can lead to periods of depression. If you are feeling needy and unloved, it helps to extend love and nurture to others who are likewise in need. By being of service to others you can heal your own sense of emotional isolation.

A lack of early nurturing could also result in an inner emptiness that you try to fill up with drugs, alcohol, work, sex or other addictions. Part of this "filling up" process can involve an obsessive relationship with food which may turn into an eating disorder. Ultimately the void can only be filled with unconditional love that you receive from the Divine Mother and give to yourself.

To further understand this important aspect, we suggest that you re-read the story of Ceres. As you do so, you may find that many of the themes we discussed are reflected in your life experience.

Ceres semisquare Mars. Slight influence.

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

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

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

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

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

Ceres sextile 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 sextile Pallas. Moderate 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.

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 Cancer

This suggests that your creative intelligence is deeply involved with the emotions. You intuitively feel your way in the world and come up with your perceptions in a "nonrational" way. Your special wisdom is that of empathy: a knowing gained through the direct perception of the feeling world.

Your talents find a natural expression through anything connected with the home, such as cooking, decorating, architecture, gardening or real estate. You may be a "people" person who applies ingenuity to ways people can be made more comfortable, better nourished or emotionally supported. You may also apply your Pallas function toward seeking security in terms of finances or real estate. When healing others, you would think first of providing for the basic biological needs: security, warmth, comfort, and food. In politics, you would lean toward defending Mother Earth or the home and family (for example, seeking justice for victims of domestic violence) or your homeland. The latter may come out as patriotism, with your activities arising from an appreciation of your country or region, or in work dealing with your own roots and history or the roots and history of others.

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 Ninth House

Pallas Athene in the Ninth House indicates that your creative intelligence and ingenuity may be drawn to all-embracing systems of thought such as philosophy, social theories or political ideologies, toward the dissemination of knowledge, or toward broadening experiences such as travel.

If your leanings are philosophical, you will probably publish writings about your subject. If you are politically minded, this placement of Pallas could indicate legal involvement and activism, or you could be a legal scholar or theorist.

You could also be involved in publishing books, magazines or newspapers, in broadcasting, or even in newer ways of putting out information such as the Internet. Since the Ninth House rules higher education, you may engage in learning or teaching in higher educational institutions.

You may also be drawn to foreign travel and learning about other cultures. In some instances, you may decide to live in another country in order to broaden your horizons and understanding of the world. Joining the Peace Corps, the Foreign Service or a multinational corporation is a possible way to accomplish this. You might also study abroad, or engage in cross-cultural studies such as anthropology, or combine publishing with foreign travel and become a foreign correspondent for a news organization.

Pallas has special prominence in your chart.

Assuming that the birth time you have given is accurate, Pallas is near the Midheaven, the highest point in your chart. Being next to any of the four "angles" of the chart throws any planet or asteroid into the foreground of one's life. Here, in addition, the symbolic themes of the Midheaven reinforce those of Pallas Athene.

As for your reputation and public image, you are likely to be well known for your competence, mental powers, skill or creativity. Your calling, the main thing that you are striving for in life, will probably involve a field suggested by the Pallas myth: for example, military or political strategy, law or mediation, crafts or manufacturing, the visual arts, education, medicine or science. Just which of the particular Pallas occupations emerges depends on the sign that Pallas and your Midheaven are in, and on the aspects that they make with other planets and asteroids.

Because Pallas is so prominent in your chart, you may find that even the minor themes in her story are echoed in your life.

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 opposition Neptune. Strong 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 trine Pluto. Moderate influence.

Pallas's creative intelligence combines with the Plutonian urge to bring about deep transformations.

This Pallas-Pluto interaction enables you to use the power of your creative intelligence to bring forth ideas that will transform yourself and influence the lives of others. Like Sigmund Freud, who was born with Pallas conjunct Pluto, you have penetrating insight that cuts to the core of the matter.

You may have the capacity to work with regenerative healing techniques, both in the physical and mental body. Thus, you may be attracted to healing modalities, such as psychotherapy, surgery, and cellular regeneration, that go to the root of the problem. Because Pluto is the god of death, you may be attracted to working with the dying through hospice work or bereaved people through grief counseling. Techniques such as kundalini yoga, which transform the energy currents in the body, may also appeal to you.

As an artist, you stimulate your audience to plumb the depths of their emotions. Because Pluto is the god of the underworld, your political activism may take the form of undercover work or investigative reporting. You may have a fascination with the occult. You may also be involved in protecting innocent people from Plutonian excesses such as child sexual abuse or domestic violence.

Some difficulties that you may encounter with this combination of energies include having deep unconscious blocks in the expression of your creative potential. You may use your mental powers to try to control other people and circumstances for your own benefit or personal gain. Powerful mental obsessions and fixations may dominate your thinking. These may arise from unconscious, forgotten childhood memories or surface from unresolved issues in past lives. Becoming conscious of and releasing these old traumas can promote healing and mental relief.

Because Pallas rules androgyny and Pluto rules transformation, your inner and outer male/female identity and roles may be subject to far-reaching changes.

Pallas sesquiquadrate Juno. Slight 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.

Pallas opposition Vesta. Strong influence.

Pallas's creative intelligence combines with Vesta's urge to deepen your relationship to yourself, to your spirituality and to your vocational calling.

You can find your path to personal integration by accepting and expressing your creative wisdom and intelligence. This is a powerful combination for focusing and manifesting your creative visions and inspirations. You have the capacity to become inspired by an idea which leads you dedicate yourself to a cause. Or you may dedicate yourself to a life-long path of creative expression. In fact, you can sublimate sexual energy into artistic, political, intellectual, or spiritual pursuits.

Your talents may be drawn to creating spiritual art such as a mandala that contains religious symbolism. Or you may craft objects that are used for meditation or other religious or spiritual purposes. Since Vesta represents personal integration, these artistic creations tend to contribute to your own sense of wholeness.

If involvement in your personal creative process is excessive, however, it can lead to self-absorption that may exclude others from your world. In addition, since Pallas, the warrior, was associated with political activism, Vesta's habit of one-pointed focus can lead to becoming extreme or fanatic in your activist causes. An example of this is Carrie Nation, who with Vesta in Virgo opposing Pallas in Pisces, saw visions which led her to crusade against alcoholic beverages.

In classical times, both Pallas and Vesta were virgin goddesses who were not involved in intimate personal relationships. Pallas redirected her sexual/creative force into artistic and worldly accomplishments, while Vesta sublimated her sexuality into spiritual development. With these two planets linked by aspect, you may likewise have the capacity to channel your sexual energy into artistic, political, intellectual or spiritual endeavors. Without these creative outlets, you may experience blocked creativity or frustrated sexual energy.

The resolution of these challenges lies in using Vesta's self-integrated and focused energies for the transmission and actualization of creative ideas.

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 Scorpio

Juno in Scorpio gives your long-term relationships a special depth and emotional intensity. When you give, you want to give "All of me," and you demand the same in return from your partner. Superficial exchanges simply do not fulfill Scorpio's need to penetrate below the surface and uncover what is essential. It is even possible that your search for a committed relationship may approach obsession.

When your relationship is sexual, it goes far beyond sex. Sex is just one aspect of a deep, close and essentially mysterious bonding. Sexual intimacy depends on how emotionally intimate you feel with your partner. As one client stated, "I can't feel physically connected to my partner at the end of the day unless I feel emotionally connected the rest of the day."

When this need for emotional intensity is thwarted, your relationship may seem a shallow mockery. Having no patience with sex that is not deeply felt, you may completely withdraw from it. Or, in a frustrated quest for intimacy, you may become entangled in power games and emotional manipulation. You may have to deal with your own jealousy, or with your partner's desire for exclusive attention. Even though you are the one with Juno in Scorpio, the power play may come from either person, as in these murky emotional waters projection is a real possibility.

Since Scorpio deals with primal forces in the psyche which are not easily accessible to conscious thought, the emotional web of your relationship may well be a tangled one. It helps not to fear these emotional depths, but simply to relax, if possible, and honor them for what they are. What you are dealing with is the life force itself, the evolutionary power that keeps all of nature moving into life and then into death and into life again. The world of Scorpio may not follow our civilized ideas of morality and order, but, like the world of nature, it does have a healthy and an unhealthy expression: healthy when the life energy is allowed to flow; unhealthy when it is dammed up or denied. To deal with it, you must put intellectualization aside and attend to your and other people's feelings. How does the energy feel? Where does it want to go? When you honor the sacredness of the life force, overcome fear, and allow love flow without obstruction, Juno in Scorpio can bring relationships of unparalleled depth, fertility and creativity.

This fertility can happen even in non-sexual relationships such as business partnerships. You put a great deal into joint ventures, and expect your partner to give just as enthusiastically of financial, creative, or other resources. Because your emotional involvement is likely to be great, it is best for the two of you to set out clear ground rules and agreements from the very start. With all the vital energy that goes into the project, the potential is great for bringing into existence something new and powerful.

Scorpio is the sign of transformation. With this Juno position, you may experience many deaths and rebirths in your committed relationships - either having a series of significant partnerships or experiencing many changes in the same one. Whatever path you choose, know that your committed relationships and the way you view them will undergo constant metamorphosis.

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 Second House

Your committed partnerships have much to do with financial and material resources. You may benefit from your partner's possessions, or, perhaps more likely, your partner or the relationship itself may assist you in accumulating your own.

Money and possessions may become the chief arena in which you and your significant other work out the issues of your relationship. In some cases, one person may appear to assume the major financial responsibility, while in others, there will be more mutuality. Joint financial ventures are possible. Whatever the particular issues and whatever the outcome, the process of working out how financial responsibilities and resources will be shared is the way you deepen and balance your relationship and anchor it in the real world.

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 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 Capricorn

Vesta in Capricorn suggests that your path of self-integration requires working in a structured and disciplined fashion to make something manifest in the material world. In your journey inward to your essential Self, you have Capricorn's ability to formulate and execute plans and to use whatever tools and resources are at hand. For you, Capricorn's ambition and drive to succeed can be directed toward a greater spiritual purpose.

You are probably best at following a spiritual path that has a strong basis in tradition, especially one that prescribes organized, structured rituals that are performed on a regular basis. This could be a religion, a meditation discipline, spiritual studies with a graded curriculum or series of initiations, a martial art, or the careful, attentive acquiring of some other art or skill over a period of time.

Your journey inward involves looking for the essence, paring things down to the bone. If you are following a meditative tradition, this might, for example, involve contemplating the question "Who am I?", which is intended to peel away layer after layer of your identity until you find your essential Self. This quest may also find material expression as you seek a simpler lifestyle, reducing your needs and surroundings to what is essential.

In your spiritual search, you have both Capricorn's and Vesta's ability to focus in a concentrated manner over the long term. Remember to guard against becoming too narrowly focused, and do not let an overly high ideal of perfection discourage you. A prime spiritual lesson for you is to learn to value your own emotions and to feel all right about your human imperfections and limitations. Instead of relying only on hard work, intellect and will, you will find that you reach your spiritual goals more easily if you ride upon the vital tide of feeling.

To bring the sacred dimension into a sexual relationship, many with this placement need a long-term commitment in which they can cultivate a sense of order, stability and physical security. If Capricorn or Saturn is very strong in the chart, however, the relationship can get too rigid. In this case, those with Vesta in Capricorn may need just the reverse: a spontaneous encounter that surprises them out of their usual defenses. Either way, people with Vesta in this earth sign derive a sense of the sacred through the physical realm: the body, the setting, all the senses, but particularly the sense of touch.

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 Third House

With Vesta in the Third House, your path toward personal growth is likely to involve working in areas of the mind. This includes learning of all sorts, and exchanging information with others. Your spiritual path may consist of investigating how your own mind operates, either from a scientific point of view or from meditating.

Early in life, you may have experienced limitation in communication as you were pressured to focus on clarifying your ideas. In your quest for purity and perfection, you may have turned your critical faculty on yourself so that you felt intellectually inferior. This struggle may have been what first set you on your spiritual path.

To serve others, you should consider a field such as writing, editing, reporting, networking, teaching, or another branch of education or the media. Your skills are best used in coordination with others. Your siblings or other relatives may be involved, or you may be drawn to working for service organizations in your neighborhood or community. Other ideas for serving others include chauffeuring them from place to place, arranging transportation, and repairing vehicles. You might also teach language or other basic skills.

Vesta has special prominence in your chart.

If your birth time is accurately given, at the moment you were born Vesta was right near the very bottom of your chart. Being so close to the IC or Imum Coeli makes her themes sing out loud and clear in your life.

In this position Vesta is likely to have much to do with your origins and ancestry. Possibly you were raised by a single parent, or even by an aunt or uncle, or your position as an elder sister takes on special importance in your life. In your family there may be a tradition of scholarship, priesthood, prophecy. Your upbringing probably emphasized things such as religious values, tradition, modesty, duty, hard work and sacrifice. For you, home and hearth are sacred, to be preserved and protected at all costs. In fact, at times you may find devotion to family interfering with your commitment to your own privacy and personal growth. No matter what course your life takes, at the end, you are likely to return to your Self, living in a retired fashion and making your peace with your inner being or with Deity.

Because Vesta is so prominently placed in your horoscope, you may find personal relevance in many of the details of her myth. Also, you should place special emphasis on the aspects she makes with other asteroids and planets in your chart.

The Aspects that Vesta Makes

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

Vesta semisextile Venus. Slight influence.

Vesta's urge toward spirituality combines with the feminine principle of love and sexuality.

In ancient times, when sexual rites were an expression of one's spiritual devotion, the temple priestesses we associate with Vesta were one and the same with Venus's priestesses of love. One of the difficulties that people with this aspect now have is that today sexuality tends to be divorced from spirituality. Because of the negative moral and religious attitudes our culture has toward sex, you may believe that you cannot be sexual and spiritual at the same time. You may therefore repress the natural expression of your sexual urges.

It's also possible that you may have freely expressed your sexuality outside the boundaries of conventional standards and then been made to feel ashamed about it. This, too, can cause confusion over the appropriate expression of your sexuality. Or, because of prior-life memories concerning the higher purposes of sexuality, you may find it difficult or unsatisfying to participate in sexual interactions that do not include the sacred dimension.

While both goddesses in their way are concerned with sex, neither Vesta nor Venus are particularly interested in committed partnerships. The Vestal temple priestesses were not allowed to marry during their term of office, and Venus simply didn't want to. A Vesta-Venus aspect thus tends to produce sexual expression outside of legal marriage. If you are married, containing your sexuality within the marital structure may be a struggle, but to the extent that the marriage is based on spiritual foundations, fidelity will be far easier. Also, preferring to keep a sense of separateness and self-containment, you may find it difficult to surrender all of yourself to a partner. An example of this kind of Vesta-Venus interaction is Bill Clinton, who has Venus and Mars conjunct Vesta on the Ascendant.

In fact, some people with this aspect prefer to have their primary intimate relationship with the god or goddess within, as do nuns who take vows as the bride of Christ. Alternatively, as described in Jungian psychology, a woman may simply relate to the inner male known as the animus, and a man to the inner female known as the anima.

If you have given your sexuality freely, with a Vesta-Venus aspect it may be an expression of your spiritual service. Another possibility with this aspect is sublimating your sexual expression into a dedication to the arts, the creation of beauty, or a spiritual path.

This aspect can also give you a sensitive understanding of feminine psychology that leads you to work with women or participate in women's spirituality or healing groups. An example of this is Anais Nin, who had Venus conjuncts Vesta and wrote psychologically perceptive novels on the nature of women and their sexuality.

With this aspect, Vesta's desire for personal integration is linked to accepting, enjoying, and feeling comfortable with Venus's femininity. Strongly focused on the cultivation of your feminine nature, you may enjoy making yourself beautiful, not primarily for another, but for yourself.

When Vesta and Venus are in a tense relationship, dedicating yourself to your career or engaging in your spiritual practice may seem at odds with sustaining an intimate personal relationship. In the course of your life you may try one and then the other, and through trial and error eventually find the path that is right for you.

Vesta semisextile Saturn. Slight influence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vesta conjunct Neptune. Strong influence.

Vesta's urge to deepen your relationship to yourself and find your true work in the outer world 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.

Vesta sextile Pluto. Moderate influence.

Vesta's urge to deepen your relationship to yourself and find an inner calling combines with the Plutonian urge to bring about profound change.

This Vesta-Pluto aspect emphasizes the transformative dimension of the spiritual path. For you, personal integration involves diving down into the deepest levels of your psyche and encountering anything and everything that you find there, including the most ugly and demonic parts of yourself. Intuitively, you know that within these seemingly destructive forces is enormous power for change and renewal. Facing these demons with respect, you make them your allies. In this way you release and purify the unconscious patterns and beliefs that create separation between you and the Divine.

Vesta gives you great power to engage in long-term, concentrated focus on this and related tasks. You may plumb inner realms through pure introspection, through the study of dreams, the penetrating analysis of the outward behavior and events that reflect the inner realms, or through the mirror of symbols in art and literature. Alternatively, life events may force you to deal with your inner demons, the worst parts of yourself and the most shattering fears. Again, Vesta gives you the focus and concentration to do so.

Once you have confronted your demons successfully, you are ready to follow your true calling. Having faced the worst in yourself, you are uniquely equipped to comfort others who are going through various sorts of hell. Your work may involve life-threatening diseases, major crises and catastrophes, or helping others face death or other kinds of profound loss. Triumphant over your worst inner demons also gives you great poise and power for other sorts of work, such as doing business or politics on a grand scale, dealing with people who have great power for good or evil, or creating art that has a devastating emotional effect. Whatever you do, it may affect large numbers of people. Pluto's penetrating, delving quality and Vesta's one-pointed focus could also suit you for scientific or other kinds of research.

Like Vesta's temple priestesses of old, you are able to engage in sexual practices that create regeneration, healing, and spiritual illumination. Another possibility is that you can sublimate your sexual energy and redirect it toward a variety of creative accomplishments. Sigmund Freud provides an interesting example of this. With Vesta conjunct Pluto, he focused his work on uncovering and healing the sexual complexes of his patients.

When the energies of Vesta and Pluto do not work well together, you could be subject to sexual obsessions and compulsions, or experience sex in connection with power, domination and control. Or a single-minded focus on dark and dangerous realms could lead to extreme, one-dimensional, obsessive and decidedly unwholesome thinking and actions. With great power to do good also comes great power to do evil. With Pluto involved, it is important to exercise discrimination and care when using Vesta's great capacity for focus and devotion.

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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