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A Taste of Astrology

A Tropical Zodiacal Approach

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1. Planets, Signs, and Houses

1.1 The classical planets

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From the point of view of an earthbound observer, the stars of the night sky appear to be fixed-in-place on a concentric spherical surface that is called the **celestial sphere**. The noun 'planet' (whose Greek name means 'wanderer') was used to describe any object that appeared to wander along the celestial sphere. To peoples of the ancient world, these wanderers were the two **luminaries** *Sun* and *Moon* and the planets *Mercury*, *Venus*, *Mars*, *Jupiter*, and *Saturn*, all of which are visible to the naked eye. These seven wanderers are called the **classical planets**. The adjective 'classical' here means 'standard and traditional'.

Astrology is the study of the behavior of celestial bodies in the belief that they indicate the course of human affairs. The term '**traditional astrology**' refers to the combination of the Hellenistic tradition of astrology (which is a blending of Mesopotamian and Egyptian astrological traditions with Greek philosophical thought) and the subsequent contributions of ancient Roman, Medieval (Indian, Islamic, and European), and European Renaissance astrologers.

In traditional astrology, the classical planets intrinsically represent the fundamental essences that collectively characterize all persons, places, and things. Therefore, each classical planet is the natural representative of some subset of persons, places, or things.

The radiant and solar-system ruling **Sun** intrinsically represents vitality, self-esteem, volition, and leadership. Sun's intrinsic attributes make it the natural representative of:

> Fathers; leaders and bosses among people; recognition among social interactions; things that give life and energy; gold among metals; lions among animals; eagles among birds; diamonds among gemstones; the heart among organs; things that are yellow in color.

Spiritually speaking, Sun is the energy associated with Man's will – one's ability to deliberately decide on a course of action, one's freedom to choose between right and wrong. Sun is nobly expressed whenever one asserts oneself with dignity by using their will to rise above course and unsavory things.

The faithfully reflecting and phase-changing **Moon** intrinsically represents receptivity, adaptability, and devotion. Moon's intrinsic attributes make it the natural representative of:

> Mothers; nurturers; susceptible people; domestic matters; that which is watery or associated with water; emotions; stages of change; short-term travel; wandering; lost items; nocturnal entities; new things or newborn creatures; silver among metals; the stomach and the intestines among organs; the digestive system; things that are white in color.

Spiritually speaking, Moon is the energy associated with Man's trance ability, which enables one to learn and to change. In a trance state, one has a heightened receptivity in which beliefs, images,

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and words become empowered to create or undo habits. Moon is nobly expressed whenever one is receptive to and compliant with right guidance.

The swift-moving planet **Mercury** intrinsically represents mobility of thought, word, and deed. Mercury's intrinsic attributes make it the natural representative of:

> Clever action; deception; ideas and beliefs; speech and all modes of communication; expertise; negotiations, trade, and transactions; exact sciences and calculations; transportation; things that imitate humans; wind and everything that causes it; small items coming in large numbers; things of mixed composition; mercury among metals; the tongue and the vocal cords among organs; the nervous system; things that are multicolored.

Spiritually speaking, Mercury is the energy associated with Man's verbal mind – one's ability to think logically and to express oneself through words. Mercury is nobly expressed whenever one uses their cleverness and verbal facility to further that which is wholesome.

The planet **Venus** (whose Latin name means 'love') intrinsically represents affection, enjoyment, attractive power, and harmony. Venus's intrinsic attributes make it the natural representative of:

> Friendly action; intimate (that is, closely personal) relationships; social activities; personal charm; charisma; that which is attractive or beautiful; that which is fragrant; that which is sweet or delicious; that which is pleasing to the touch; arts and entertainment; copper among metals; the kidneys and the thyroid gland among organs; the vagina and the uterus among female organs; fertility; things that are green in color.

Spiritually speaking, Venus is the energy associated with Man's visual mind – one's imagination, which enables one to form mental images. When intensely entertained with aroused feelings of enjoyment, mental images gain the power to attract the necessary resources for their realization. Venus is nobly expressed whenever through joyful optimism, one attracts the necessary resources for faring well.

The blood-red planet **Mars** intrinsically represents courage, enthusiasm, assertiveness, and pioneering. Mars's intrinsic attributes make it the natural representative of:

> Aggressive action (that is, energetic assertive action or hostile action); athletic skill; bodily injury; that which is hot or burning like fire; things that are sharp or cutting; that which causes bleeding; iron among metals; the gallbladder and the adrenal glands among organs; the penis and the testicles among male organs; the muscular system; things that are red in color.

Spiritually speaking, Mars is the energy associated with Man's sense of justice. Being just with all people in all situations requires one to have a warrior's courage and zeal for righteousness, even at the cost of personal loss. Mars is nobly expressed whenever one has the courage to take right action.

The huge and gaseous planet **Jupiter** intrinsically represents virtuous optimism (that is, the belief that virtuous action eventually brings the best outcome) and expansion (material and spiritual). Because one's optimism draws positive circumstances to oneself, Jupiter is the bringer of good luck (that is, favorable circumstances that are beyond willful control). Jupiter's intrinsic attributes make it the natural representative of:

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> Noble-minded action; high social position; religion/spirituality; science and law among professions; tin among metals; money and luxury items among possessions; that which is large or spreading; sources of fertility and abundance; tin among metals; the liver and the pancreas among organs; adipose tissue (body fat); things that are purple in color.

Spiritually speaking, Jupiter is the energy associated with Man's moral sense – one's intuitive ability to distinguish right from wrong. Jupiter is nobly expressed whenever one acts with good character and good judgment.

The ringed and slow-moving planet **Saturn** intrinsically represents restriction, structure, and slow change. Saturn is the bringer of challenges that require patient perseverance in order for one to prevail. Saturn's intrinsic attributes make it the natural representative of:

> Sober-minded action; restraints and limitations; rules and regulations; hierarchical organization; that which is hard and heavy; that which is lonely or isolated; chronic ailments; that which is old and decaying; death; that which is freezing and preserving; lead among metals; the spleen among organs; the skeletal system; the teeth; the skin, hair, and nails as body protection; things that are black in color.

Spiritually speaking, Saturn is the energy associated with Man's ability to patiently persevere (that is, to calmly remain constant to a purpose in spite of obstacles). Saturn is nobly expressed whenever one stabilizes one's heart (that is, one's prevailing mental and emotional attitude), so that one may think clearly and respond properly to situations in life, instead of reacting according to habit or impulse.

1.2 Sun's daily cycle and the angles

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The notion of a time period called 'a day' is tied to Earth's daily rotation about its line of poles. From the point of view of an earthbound observer, Earth remains at rest while the surrounding celestial sphere and everything on it (including the zodiacal belt) rotate about the sphere's line of poles (which is the same as Earth's line of poles). Consequently, as seen from Earth, each planet and fixed star rises in the east, culminates above the horizon, sets in the west, and anti-culminates below the horizon. This apparent rising, culminating, setting, and anti-culminating of planets, signs, and fixed stars is called **primary motion**, and it is associated with Earth's axial rotation.

The **local horizon** is the local plane at which Earth's surface and the sky appear to meet. If we parallel-transport this plane until it meets Earth's center, then we get the **geocentric horizon**. In astrology, we are considering distant celestial bodies, and so the difference between the local and geocentric horizons is negligible. The intersection of the geocentric horizon with Earth is a great circle. The **horizon circle** is the projection of this great circle onto the celestial sphere. From here onward, we will take the noun 'horizon' to refer to the horizon circle.

Four important points of Sun's daily journey are the **sunrise point** (that is, Sun's position at sunrise), the **noon point** (that is, Sun's position at noon), the **sunset point** (that is, Sun's position at sunset), and the **midnight point** (that is, Sun's position at midnight). Here we take sunrise to be the instant when Sun meets the eastern part of the observer's horizon. Similarly, we take sunset

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to be the instant when Sun meets the western part of the observer's horizon. The sunset point is opposite the sunrise point. Here we take noon to be the instant when Sun meets the observer's **meridian** (that is, the projection of the local geographic longitudinal line onto the celestial sphere), thereby reaching its highest position above the horizon on that day and casting the shortest shadow. In this regard, we take midnight to be the instant when it is noon at the opposite end of Earth. The midnight point is opposite the noon point.

On the celestial sphere, Sun lies on a great circle called the **ecliptic**. In astrology, the sunrise point is called the **Ascendant**, and the sunset point is called the **Descendant**. Each of these points is an intersection between the ecliptic and the horizon. In astrology, the noon point is called the **Midheaven** (or **Medium Coeli**, meaning 'middle of the sky'), and the midnight point is called the **Imum Coeli** (meaning 'bottom of the sky'). Each of these points is an intersection between the ecliptic and the meridian. The Ascendant, the Descendant, the Midheaven, and the Imum Coeli are collectively called the **angles**.

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On page 109 of his book *Flash of the Spirit*, art historian and writer Robert Farris Thompson[1] speaks about the Kongo cosmogram called the **yowa cross**. This cross involves a horizontal line that intersects a vertical line. There is a small disk at each end of both lines. Thompson states that "the four disks at the points of the cross stand for the four moments of the sun". The movement from one disk to the next one is counterclockwise. Thompson states that "the horizontal line divides the mountain of the living world from its mirrored counterpart in the kingdom of the dead." Regarding the vertical line, Thompson states that:

> The summit of the pattern symbolizes not only noon, but also maleness, north, and the peak of a person's strength on earth. Correspondingly, the bottom equals midnight, femaleness, south, the highest point of a person's otherworldly strength.

In traditional African cultures, one reaches the peak of one's otherworldly strength whenever one becomes an honorable ancestor.

Let's examine the *yowa* cross in relation to Sun's daily cycle of primary motion. In this regard, the cross's horizontal line represents the horizon, which divides the region of Sun's daytime journey from the region of its nighttime journey. Daytime is a masculine expression; it is a period of extroverted consciousness, a time when one is awake and focused outward. Nighttime is a feminine expression; it is a period of introverted consciousness, a time when one is asleep and focused inward. Note that a **masculine expression** is centrifugal, expansive, or externalizing, while a **feminine expression** is centripetal, contractive, or internalizing. The cross's horizontal line connects the Ascendant (the disk on the right) and the Descendant (the disk on the left). The Ascendant (the sunrise point) represents one's entry into the physical world, which involves bodily life (that is, the incarnation of one's immortal essence into a mortal body). Here one leaves the feminine spirit world and enters the masculine physical world. The Descendant (the sunset point) represents one's exit from the physical world, which involves bodily death. Here one leaves the masculine physical world and enters the feminine spirit world.

[1] Thompson, Robert Farris, Vintage Books (1984), ISBN-10: 0394723694, ISBN-13: 978-0394723693.

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The cross's vertical line connects the Midheaven (the disk at the top) to the Imum Coeli (the disk at the bottom). The Midheaven (the noon point) represents making it to the top in earthly life. Here one gains prestige (that is, high status that is achieved through success, influence, or other favorable attributes). The Imum Coeli (the midnight point) represents ancestral lineage and traditions. Those who live righteous and truthful lives in the physical world are on the way to becoming honorable ancestors, thereby making it to the top in the spirit world.

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In traditional astrology, the local sky (above and below the horizon) is divided into twelve sectors called **houses**. Each astrological house refers to some subset of areas of human life. The 1st through 6th Houses lie below the horizon, and they refer to areas of one's life that are somewhat private. The 7th through 12th Houses lie above the horizon, and they refer to areas of one's life that are somewhat public.

The Ascendant-Descendant (or horizon) axis is the boundary between the upper sky (which contains the Midheaven) and the lower sky (which contains the Imum Coeli). The Medium-Imum Coeli (or meridian) axis is the boundary between the eastern sky (which contains the Ascendant) and the western sky (which contains the Descendant). A **quadrant-house system** uses the horizon and meridian axes to divide the local sky into four quadrants, each containing three houses. The varying angular sizes of these quadrants result in houses of unequal angular size. The **cusp** of a house is the dividing line that marks the beginning of that house. In a quadrant-house system, the Ascendant is the 1st-House cusp, the Descendant is the 7th-House cusp, the Midheaven is the 10th-House cusp, and the Imum Coeli is the 4th-House cusp. The locations of other house cusps depend on how the quadrant-house system is defined.

1.3 The twelve houses

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Here we will explore the 12 astrological houses as they come to us from the Hellenistic tradition of astrology. This tradition uses the notion of **planetary joys**, which says that each classical planet has an affinity for a particular house where it feels most comfortable.

TABLES 1.3a and 1.3b present some meanings of the various houses. Note that the information in these tables usually refers to one's own self. For example, the 3rd-House item 'siblings' refers to one's own siblings, not someone else's siblings.

The **1st House** takes after the Ascendant (the sunrise point), which represents bodily life (and by extension, bodily health). In the Hellenistic tradition, the 1st House is called the 'helm', which is the part of a ship from which it is steered. The 1st House refers to self-identity, which is the set of characteristics by which a person or thing is recognizable or known. One's self-identity involves one's persona, which is the vehicle of personality (that is, characteristic way of thinking, feeling, and behaving) through which one navigates earthly life. The 1st House refers to one's physical body (and by extension, any physical vehicle in which one travels), which is the 'ship' that one steers through the physical world. The 1st House refers to one's well-being (that is, state of being happy, healthy, and prosperous). The 1st House is Mercury's joy. Mercury is versatile (that is,

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capable of doing many things competently), and so it rejoices in the diversity of human individuality.

TABLE 1.3a: The astrological houses

House	Areas of Life
1st	**Bodily life or bodily health:** Self-identity; the physical body and its health; the physical vehicle of travel and its condition; well-being; the querent (in horary astrology); the native (in natal astrology).
2nd	**Supportive persons or things:** Food, money, and portable property; helpful people on whom one can rely.
3rd	**Early development:** Early education; basic know-how; siblings; relatives; community; neighbors; short-distance travel.
4th	**Roots and home:** Ancestors; parents; upbringing; the house and other landed property; comfort and security; underground places; being gravebound.
5th	**Childrenand personal interests:** Offspring; fertility and pregnancy; creative endeavors; recreational activities; overdoing pleasure; representatives of one's personal affairs.
6th	**Sickness and servitude:** Acute illness; stress; being subject to unwholesome influences; being of service to others; subordinates; employees; small animals.

In the Hellenistic tradition, the **2nd House** is called 'the place of livelihood', which refers to one's means of maintaining one's physical existence. The 2nd House refers to supportive persons or things, which are one's resources (that is, sources of aid or support that can be readily drawn from when needed). These resources are food (as sustenance), money, transportable possessions, and helpful people on whom one can rely.

In the Hellenistic tradition, the **3rd House** is called 'the place of motherly God'. The 3rd House refers to early development. Man's ability to learn and to change is based on trance, which is feminine (that is, internalizing) in nature. Trance is a state of heightened receptivity in which beliefs, images, and words become empowered to create or undo habits. Early education involves reading, writing, and arithmetic, and it aims at developing one's basic knowledge and skills. Learning involves interacting with others. Interacting with relatives (that is, people to whom one is connected by heredity, adoption, or marriage) helps to build one's sense of community (that is, a sense of "one for all and all for one"). Eventually one begins interacting with others, which involves travel within one's neighborhood or to nearby regions. The 3rd House is Moon's joy. Moon is the energy associated with Man's trance ability.

The **4th House** takes after the Imum Coeli (the midnight point), which represents ancestral lineage, traditions, and remembrance. In the Hellenistic tradition, the 4th House is called 'the underground

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place', which refers to the Imum Coeli as Sun's bottommost point below the horizon. The 4th House refers to roots and home. The roots of a plant are its underground section that serves as its support and through which it draws nutrients from the surrounding soil. One's roots are one's ancestral guardians in the 'underground' spirit realm. One's immediate roots are one's parents, who are responsible for one's upbringing (that is, the care and training that one receives during a formative period). At best, one's upbringing leads to one becoming an accepted member of a community. The house where one's family lives is where the family 'puts down roots' (that is, makes its home), where one expects comfort and security. The 4th House refers to underground places, such as wells, graves, and buried treasures. In this regard, the 4th House can refer to being gravebound (that is, headed for bodily death).

TABLE 1.3b: The astrological houses

House	Areas of Life
7th	**Partnerships and oppositions:** Romantic partners; marriage; contractual partners; transactional relationships; someone else; opponents; bodily death or bodily harm.
8th	**Death and another's resources:** Bodily death; an ending that facilitates transformation; life-threatening situations; dealing with another's passing; inheritances; debts; gaining or losing via another's efforts.
9th	**Higher development:** Religion/spirituality; magic; higher education; professional know-how; long-distance travel; foreign countries or foreign people.
10th	**Making it to the top:** One's calling or career; achieving something significant; gaining prestige; head persons; being on top of a situation; high places.
11th	**Friends and benefactors:** Friends; social activities; comrades and shared interests; help from others; fulfilling one's hopes.
12th	**Unpleasant limitations:** Trying situations; chronic illness; self-undoing; hidden enemies; hexing; confinement; large animals.

In the Hellenistic tradition, the **5th House** is called 'the place of good fortune' in relation to Man's physical body. The 5th House refers to children and personal interests (that is, activities that one pursues for enjoyment and satisfaction). Fertility and pregnancy are necessary for having children. Creative endeavors yield the offspring of one's imagination. Recreational activities (such as sex, entertainment, hobbies, sports, and theatres) restore one's spirits by enjoyment and relaxation, thereby helping one to feel childlike. Ambassadors and similar representatives are others who negotiate on behalf of one's personal interests. The 5th House is Venus's joy. Venus intrinsically represents affection, enjoyment, attractive power, and harmony, and it is the energy associated with Man's imagination.

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In the Hellenistic tradition, the **6th House** is called 'the place of bad fortune' in relation to Man's physical body. The 6th House refers to sickness and servitude. Acute (that is, short-term and severe) illness is referred to here. Physical or mental stress often leads to illness. 'Unwholesome influences' not only refer to things that are detrimental to physical or mental health, but also to things that are morally harmful. On a negative note, the noun 'servitude' refers to the ill condition of being forced to serve another person. On a positive note, the noun phrase 'being of service' refers to voluntarily offering help to others. Subordinates are those of a lower rank, who are subject to the authority of a superior. Small animals (up to the size of a goat) are more easily domesticated, thereby becoming subordinates in one's household. The 6th House is Mars's joy. The aggressive nature of Mars is on full display here.

We say that two houses are opposite houses if each one is 6 houses ahead (or equivalently 6 houses behind) the other. For example, the 1st and 7th Houses are opposite each other. Note that one meaning of the adjective 'opposite' is 'being the other of two complementary things'. In this regard, opposite houses are two halves of a whole.

The **7th House** takes after the Descendant (the sunset point), which represents bodily death (and by extension, bodily harm). In the Hellenistic tradition, the 7th House is called 'the setting place', which refers to the Descendant as the point where Sun sets. The Descendant's meaning of death is usually taken here in the figurative sense of dying to a life of 'me' in order to be reborn to a life of 'we'. The 7th House refers to partnerships, which are agreements in which parties cooperate to further mutual interests. Matters of love involve romantic partnerships. A spouse is one's partner in marriage. A contract is a formal agreement between parties entering into a partnership. In a transactional relationship, each party does things for the other, expecting to get something in return.

Because the 7th House is opposite the 1st House, it takes on some opposite meanings. While the 1st House refers to oneself, the 7th House refers to someone else. This 'someone else' is sometimes an opponent (that is, someone who acts contrarily to one's interests or welfare). The Descendant's meaning of death can sometimes be taken literally. While the 1st House refers to bodily life or bodily health, the 7th House refers to bodily death or bodily harm.

In the Hellenistic tradition, the **8th House** is called 'the inactive place', which we will take to refer to death as the permanent end of some type of activity. The 8th House refers to death. Whether taken literally or figuratively, death is an ending that facilitates transformation. Because the 8th House is opposite the 2nd House, it takes on some opposite meanings. While the 2nd House refers to one's own resources, the 8th House refers to someone else's resources, which may be an inheritance (which is something inherited as a result of someone else's bodily death) or one's own debts (which are what one owes another). By extension, the 8th House refers to gaining or losing via another's efforts.

In the Hellenistic tradition, the **9th House** is called 'the place of fatherly God'. The 9th House refers to higher development. Religion/spirituality is a means to spiritual elevation. Magic is the use of incantations and suitable materials to invoke spiritual energies to influence events. Higher education aims at developing one's know-how with regard to some type of profession, at the end of which is some type of certification. Travel broadens the mind, and long-distance travel exposes

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one to foreign countries and foreign people. Religion/spirituality, higher education, and long-distance travel call one to expand the range of their knowledge, experience, and interest. The 9th House is Sun's joy. Sun is nobly expressed whenever one asserts oneself with dignity by using one's will to rise above course and unsavory things.

The **10th House** takes after the Midheaven (the noon point), which represents making it to the top in earthly life. In the Hellenistic tradition, the 10th House is called 'the place at the top', which refers to the Midheaven as Sun's topmost point above the horizon. The 10th House refers to 'making it to the top' (that is, reaching a position of prominence). One's vocation is an occupation (that is, something to which one devotes time and energy) that could be a calling (that is, a pursuit to which one is drawn) or a career (that is, a chosen pursuit). Through one's vocation, one achieves something significant and gains prestige. A head person is at the top in that they are in charge of someone/something. Being on top of a situation means to be in full control of it. The 10th House can refer to high places, such as mountains, roofs, and a building's upper floors.

In the Hellenistic tradition, the **11th House** is called 'the place of good spirit', which refers to goodwill (that is, an attitude of kindly interest). The 11th House refers to friends and benefactors. One's friends take a kindly interest in one's life and offer their help. Shared interests can bring people together as comrades. Goodwill from the divine realm leads to the fulfillment of one's hopes (that is, things that are wished for and considered possible). The 11th House is Jupiter's joy. Jupiter is the energy associated with Man's moral sense, through which one has the noble-mindedness that is necessary to be morally upright, to judge rightly, and to exhibit loving-kindness.

In the Hellenistic tradition, the **12th House** is called 'the place of bad spirit'. The 12th House refers to unpleasant limitations. One's trying situations subject them to difficulties that test their character and resiliency. On page 96 of his book *Maat, the 11 Laws of God*, Ra Un Nefer Amen [2] says: "… as long as you are anything less than the vehicle of God, you will go through experiences that will make you suffer as spurs to your spiritual realization." Therefore, on the path of spiritual ascension, one will experience trials and tribulations.

Here is more on unpleasant limitations. Chronic (that is, long-term) illness works against good health. Self-undoing involves actions that have negative consequences for the person doing them. Hidden enemies are people and things that work against one's well-being without one being aware of it. A hex is an incantation that is aimed at bringing bad luck to someone. Hospitals, prisons, and other places of confinement keep people or things within specific bounds and allow limited access. The 12th House is Saturn's joy. The restrictive nature of Saturn is on full display here.

Because the 12th House is opposite the 6th House, it takes on an opposite meaning. While the 6th House refers to small animals (up to the size of a goat), the 12th House refers to large animals (beyond the size of a goat).

IMPORTANT COMMENTS: A house can take on a derived meaning that is based on its position relative to another house. For example, consider the 7th House, which refers to one's spouse. We may view one's 7th House as the spouse's 1st House. It follows that one's 8th House is the spouse's 2nd House, thereby referring to the spouse's resources. Moreover, one's 9th House is

[2] Ra Un Nefer Amen, Kamit Publications (2003), ISBN-10: 1930097751, ISBN-13: 978-1930097759.

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the spouse's 3rd House (the spouse's siblings), one's 10th House is the spouse's 4th House (the spouse's parents), and so on. In this regard, the spouse's houses are called **derived houses**.

1.4 Sun's yearly cycle and the zodiac

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The notion of a time period called 'a year' is tied to Earth's annual orbit about Sun. From the point of view of an earthbound observer, Earth remains at rest while Sun orbits it along the celestial sphere. As Sun makes its orbit, it moves along a great-circular path called the **ecliptic**. In our imagination, let's thicken this circular path into a circular belt that extends about 8 angular degrees on each side of the ecliptic. As seen from Earth, the classical planets all wander within this circular belt called the **zodiac**. This apparent movement of the planets along the zodiac is called **secondary motion**, and it is associated with Earth's orbital motion about Sun.

On the celestial sphere, a **constellation** is a grouping of fixed stars that is believed to resemble a person, animal, or inanimate object. As Sun makes its annual journey along the zodiac, it passes through portions of fourteen constellations. Going forward along the zodiac, the names of these constellations are **Aries** (Latin *ariēs*, 'ram'), **Taurus** (Latin *taûros*, 'bull'), **Gemini** (Latin *gemini*, 'twins'), **Cancer** (Latin *cancer*, 'crab'), **Leo** (Latin *léōn*, 'lion'), **Virgo** (Latin *virgo*, 'virgin' or 'maiden'), **Libra** (Latin *libra*, 'scales'), **Scorpio** (Latin *scorpio*, 'scorpion'), **Ophiuchus** (Greek *ophioûkhos*, 'serpent-bearer'), **Sagittarius** (Latin *sagittarius*, 'archer'), **Capricorn** (Latin *capricorn*, 'horned goat'), **Aquarius** (Latin *aquarius*, 'water-bearer'), **Pisces** (Latin *pisces*, 'fishes'), and **Cetus** (Greek *Kêtos*, 'sea monster' or 'whale').

TABLE 1.4a: Sun's time spent in the constellations

Constellation	Time spent
Aries	25 days
Taurus	37 days
Gemini	31 days
Cancer	20 days
Leo	37 days
Virgo	45 days
Libra	23 days

Constellation	Time spent
Scorpio	7 days
Ophiuchus	18 days
Sagittarius	32 days
Capricorn	28 days
Aquarius	24 days
Pisces	38 days
Cetus	14 hours

Within the 360° of the zodiacal belt, the aforementioned fourteen constellations are generally unequal in angular expanse.[3] In this regard, TABLE 1.4a presents the time that Sun spends in each constellation during its annual journey. Note that while traveling through Pisces, the southern edge of Sun's disk overlaps with Cetus for about fourteen hours.

[3] The article *The Real Zodiac*, posted on the website <https://www.classroomastronomer.com/zodiac.htm>.

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By the end of the fifth century BCE, Mesopotamian astrologers had conceived of dividing the zodiacal belt into twelve equal regions (called **signs**), each region having an angular expanse of 30°. They ignored the Cetus constellation and considered the Scorpio and Ophiuchus constellations in combination. This concept is called the **sidereal zodiac**. The names of the twelve sidereal signs are *Aries*, *Taurus*, *Gemini*, *Cancer*, *Leo*, *Virgo*, *Libra*, *Scorpio*, *Sagittarius*, *Capricorn*, *Aquarius*, and *Pisces*. Each sidereal sign is occupied predominantly by the constellation after which it is named.

TABLE 1.4b: Sun's annual location in the tropical zodiac

Sign	Time Period
Aries	21 MAR – 20 APR
Taurus	21 APR – 21 MAY
Gemini	22 MAY – 21 JUN
Cancer	22 JUN – 23 JUL
Leo	24 JUL – 23 AUG
Virgo	24 AUG – 23 SEP

Sign	Time Period
Libra	24 SEP – 23 OCT
Scorpio	24 OCT – 22 NOV
Sagittarius	23 NOV – 21 DEC
Capricorn	22 DEC – 20 JAN
Aquarius	21 JAN – 19 FEB
Pisces	20 FEB – 20 MAR

In the second century ACE, the seasons were roughly aligned with the sidereal zodiac according to TABLE 1.4b. This alignment of the seasons began to inform the interpretation of the zodiacal signs. At some point, astrologers conceived of dividing the zodiacal belt into twelve equal signs, each corresponding to approximately one month of Sun's annual journey along the zodiac. This concept is called the **tropical zodiac**. The names of the twelve signs of the tropical zodiac are the same as the names of the twelve signs of the sidereal zodiac.

The **celestial equator** is the projection of Earth's equator onto the celestial sphere. The **equinoxes** are the two points where the ecliptic intersects the celestial equator. The tropical zodiac is a season-based sign arrangement that takes tropical Aries 0° to be the location of Sun at the March equinox. Sun spends about a month in each sign as it goes forward along the zodiac. Between the March equinox and the June solstice, Sun travels through the tropical signs of Aries, Taurus, and Gemini. Between the June solstice and the September equinox, Sun travels through the tropical signs of Cancer, Leo, and Virgo. Between the September equinox and the December solstice, Sun travels through the tropical signs of Libra, Scorpio, and Sagittarius. Between the December solstice and the March equinox, Sun travels through the tropical signs of Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces. See TABLE 1.4b for pertinent details.

Like the axis of a spinning top, Earth's rotational axis undergoes a slow, cyclical change in which it traces a cone-shaped path over time. This wobbling motion of Earth's rotational axis is called *axial precession*. As a result of axial precession, the equinoxes slowly move westward along the ecliptic (that is, backward along the zodiac), thereby giving rise to the **precession of the equinoxes**. Consequently, we perceive each fixed star to move forward along the tropical zodiac at a varying rate, currently about 50.29″ of arc per year (which amounts to about 01° every 72

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years). In this regard, sidereal Aries 0° is usually not the same as tropical Aries 0° (the March equinox point).

The angular difference between sidereal Aries 0° and tropical Aries 0° is called the **ayanāṃśa**. The *ayanāṃśa* called 'True Chitrā 0° Libra' is based on taking the fixed star *Chitrā* (Spica) to always be at sidereal Libra 0°. Consequently, sidereal Aries 0° is longitudinally opposite *Chitrā*.

IMPORTANT COMMENTS: Although each tropical sign is the namesake of a sidereal sign, tropical sign *X* is generally not the same zodiacal region as sidereal sign *X*. Tropical sign *X* refers to the zodiacal region occupied by Sun during a particular time of Earth's annual cycle of seasons, while sidereal sign *X* roughly refers to the zodiacal region occupied by constellation *X*.

1.5 More on the tropical zodiac

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The celestial equator is the projection of Earth's equator onto the celestial sphere. The **equatorial coordinate system** enables us to specify the location of any point of the celestial sphere in terms of pertinent values of longitude and latitude. Equatorial longitude (called **right ascension**) is angular distance measured along the celestial equator, going from 0° to 360° as we go eastward from the March equinox point. Equatorial latitude (called **declination**) is angular distance (along the celestial sphere) from the equator, going from 0° to $+90°$ as we go perpendicularly northward and going from 0° to $-90°$ as we go perpendicularly southward.

Four important points of Sun's yearly journey are the **first point of Aries** (that is, Sun's location on the ecliptic at the March equinox), the **first point of Cancer** (that is, Sun's location on the ecliptic at the June solstice), the **first point of Libra** (that is, Sun's location on the ecliptic at the September equinox), and the **first point of Capricorn** (that is, Sun's location on the ecliptic at the winter solstice). The first point of Aries is where Sun intersects the celestial equator as it moves northward. The first point of Cancer is where Sun is most northward of the celestial equator, thereby reaching a declination of $+90°$. The first point of Libra is where Sun intersects the celestial equator as it moves southward. The first point of Capricorn is where Sun is most southward of the celestial equator, thereby reaching a declination of $-90°$.

In Section 1.2, we examined the *yowa* cross in relation to Sun's daily cycle of primary motion. The *yowa* cross involves a horizontal line that intersects a vertical line. There is a small disk at each end of both lines. The four disks at the points of the cross stand for the four moments of the sun. The movement from one disk to the next one is counterclockwise. The summit of the pattern symbolizes not only noon, but also maleness, north, and the peak of a person's strength on earth. Correspondingly, the bottom equals midnight, femaleness, south, the highest point of a person's otherworldly strength.

Let's examine the *yowa* cross in relation to Sun's yearly cycle of secondary motion. Here we will use a Northern-Hemisphere perspective. In this regard, the cross's horizontal line represents the celestial equator, which divides the region of Sun's northern journey from the region of its southern journey. Sun's northern journey is a mostly masculine expression because it is where each civil

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day has more daytime (which is a masculine expression) than nighttime (which is a feminine expression). Sun's southern journey is a mostly feminine expression because it is where each civil day has more nighttime than daytime. The cross's horizontal line connects the first point of Aries (the disk on the right) and the first point of Libra (the disk on the left). The first point of Aries (the March equinox) is the balance point after which daytime becomes longer than nighttime. The first point of Libra (the September equinox) is the balance point after which nighttime becomes longer than daytime.

The cross's vertical line connects the first point of Cancer (the disk at the top) to the first point of Capricorn (the disk at the bottom). The first point of Cancer (the June solstice) represents the moment of time when daytime most surpasses nighttime. Moreover, it is Sun's most northern position from the celestial equator. The first point of Capricorn (the December solstice) represents the moment of time when nighttime most surpasses daytime. Moreover, it is Sun's most southern position from the celestial equator.

1.6 The twelve signs

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In traditional astrology, the four primary qualities of zodiacal signs are: [1] planetary rulership, [2] gender, [3] element, and [4] modality.

Each classical planet rules a number of zodiacal signs. Sun rules Leo. Moon rules Cancer. Mercury rules Virgo and Gemini. Venus rules Libra and Taurus. Mars rules Scorpio and Aries. Jupiter rules Sagittarius and Pisces. Saturn rules Capricorn and Aquarius.

One's personality is one's characteristic way of thinking, feeling, and behaving. Each sign is a personality expression of its ruling planet. Its **gender** refers to whether it is a masculine expression (which is centrifugal, expansive, or externalizing) or a feminine expression (which is centripetal, contractive, or internalizing). See TABLE 1.6a for pertinent details.

On examining TABLE 1.6a, we see that sign gender alternates between masculine and feminine as we sequentially go forward along the zodiac. The table also shows a pattern involving the sign rulers. Let's view Sun and Moon here as the respective masculine and feminine expressions of a planet called *Luminary*. As we go from Leo to Capricorn, the order of the sign rulers is: Luminary, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn. As we go from Aquarius to Cancer, the order of the sign rulers is: Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, Mercury, Luminary (which is the reversal of the previous order).

Fire, earth, air, and water symbolize the fundamental elements of human personality. **Fire** symbolizes the desires that burn within us. **Earth** symbolizes our physicality. **Air** symbolizes the thoughts that blow around in our mental sky. **Water** symbolizes our emotional and intuitive feelings. We may categorize the twelve signs into four sets of three (called **triplicities**) that each correspond to a particular element of personality. See TABLE 1.6b for pertinent details.

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TABLE 1.6a: Planetary rulerships and genders

Sign	Ruler	Gender	Personality Qualities
Leo	Sun	masculine	Authoritative, self-assured, wants recognition.
Virgo	Mercury	feminine	Discriminating, methodical, meticulous, tidy.
Libra	Venus	masculine	Charming, has good taste, sociable, tactful.
Scorpio	Mars	feminine	Deep-diving, passionate, secretive, tenacious.
Sagittarius	Jupiter	masculine	Adventurous, frank, jolly, philosophical.
Capricorn	Saturn	feminine	Cautious, reserved, success-driven.
Aquarius	Saturn	masculine	Altruistic, innovative, reformist.
Pisces	Jupiter	feminine	Compassionate, introspective, mystical.
Aries	Mars	masculine	Ambitious, courageous, enterprising.
Taurus	Venus	feminine	Determined, reliable, sensual, slow to anger.
Gemini	Mercury	masculine	Clever, communicative, curious, versatile.
Cancer	Moon	feminine	Caring, intuitive, protective, sensitive.

TABLE 1.6b: Elements and modalities

	Cardinal	Fixed	Dual
Fire	Aries	Leo	Sagittarius
Earth	Capricorn	Taurus	Virgo
Air	Libra	Aquarius	Gemini
Water	Cancer	Scorpio	Pisces

In addition to categorizing the zodiacal signs according to personality elements, we may categorize them according to modes of operation. We may liken these modalities to stages within any season of the year. The **cardinal modality** is related to a season's beginning stage, and it refers to the tendency to initiate action and to create change. The **fixed modality** is related to a season's middle stage, and it refers to the tendency to be determined and to resist change. The **dual modality** is related to a season's ending stage, and it refers to the tendency to be adaptable and to embrace change. The dual modality has attributes of both the cardinal and fixed modalities. We may categorize the twelve signs into three sets of four (called **quadruplicities**) that each correspond to a particular mode of operation. See TABLE 1.6b for pertinent details.

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Note that the portrayal of each dual sign involves some type of twoness. Gemini is portrayed as two twins. Virgo is portrayed as a winged maiden. Sagittarius is portrayed as a centaur, which is half-man and half-horse. Pisces is portrayed as two fishes.

***

The sign **Aries** (whose Latin name means 'ram') expresses Mars in a masculine way. As a fire sign, Aries is desirous, energetic, and forthright. As a cardinal sign, Aries initiates action and creates change. Like a combative ram, Aries likes challenges and has an abundant amount of physical energy. Aries is courageous and pioneering – he is always ready to take risks. In his eagerness to get things done, he is inclined to act first and think later. Like a charging ram, he rushes headlong into situations without considering the consequences. At his best, masculine Aries has the courage to jump into action in order to enthusiastically pursue worthy goals.

The sign **Taurus** (whose Latin name means 'bull') expresses Venus in a feminine way. As an earth sign, Taurus is grounded and focused on material stability. As a fixed sign, Taurus is determined and resistant to change. She holds on to anyone and anything that she views as her own. Like a charging bull focused on his target, Taurus stays set on her course. She wants to see tangible results from her efforts, and so she is inclined to getting absorbed in acquiring material comforts and in indulging herself. At her best, feminine Taurus is doggedly determined to make tangible progress in achieving a better quality of life.

The sign **Gemini** (whose Latin name means 'twins') expresses Mercury in a masculine way. As an air sign, Gemini is intellectual, communicative, and social. As a dual sign, Gemini is adaptable and embraces change. The twins represent both multiplicity and communication. Gemini expresses multiplicity through his versatility – he is curious, is quick to learn, and can do many things competently. He enjoys communicating his thoughts and feelings with others. Gemini thrives in environments of continuous activity and change. At his best, masculine Gemini seeks to learn and communicate in order to further wholesome social development.

The sign **Cancer** (whose Latin name means 'crab') expresses Moon, which is the feminine luminary. As a water sign, Cancer is emotional, intuitive, and empathetic. As a cardinal sign, Cancer initiates action and creates change. Cancer is caring and protective – she is motivated to create a secure environment for herself and her loved ones. Like a crab clinging to its shell, Cancer is strongly attached to her roots, and she clings to anyone and anything that she finds comfortable and familiar. She takes offense easily and holds on to negativity from past experiences. At her best, feminine Cancer safeguards those who are near and dear.

The sign **Leo** (whose Latin name means 'lion') expresses Sun, which is the masculine luminary. As a fire sign, Leo is desirous, energetic, and forthright. As a fixed sign, Leo is determined and resistant to change. Like the roaring kingly lion, Leo wants others to take notice of him and to somehow revolve around him. Leo likes things to be done his way, takes pride in his achievements, and seeks due recognition. If he becomes conceited, domineering, or ostentatious, then he loses the goodwill and admiration that he enjoys. At his best, masculine Leo acts nobly and safeguards those for whom he is responsible.

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The sign **Virgo** (whose Latin name means 'virgin' or 'maiden') expresses Mercury in a feminine way. As an earth sign, Virgo is grounded and focused on material stability. As a dual sign, Virgo is adaptable and embraces change. Virgo has a keen eye for detail, which enables her to approach problems with logic and efficiency. Being analytical and pragmatic, she can adjust to changing circumstances while keeping a focus on detail and order. Like a virgin, Virgo sets high standards for herself. If she sets her expectations too high, then she faces disappointment and a pessimistic outlook on life. On a negative note, Virgo may use calculated thinking to plot against others. At her best, feminine Virgo uses calculated thinking to determine how to make life run more smoothly for everyone.

The sign **Libra** (whose Latin name means 'scales') expresses Venus in a masculine way. As an air sign, Libra is intellectual, communicative, and social. As a cardinal sign, Libra initiates action and creates change. Like the justice scales, Libra seeks balance and harmony. He initiates relationships and partnerships with a diplomatic approach. He may have a difficult time making decisions as he weighs up all the pros and cons. He finds ugliness in people and things distasteful – he seeks to be surrounded by beauty and harmony. At his best, masculine Libra inclines toward justice and strives for fairness in all situations.

The sign **Scorpio** (whose Latin name means 'scorpion') expresses Mars in a feminine way. As a water sign, Scorpio is emotional, intuitive, and empathetic. As a fixed sign, Scorpio is determined and resistant to change. Like a scorpion's claws, Scorpio is tenacious – she tightly holds on to people and things. She takes relationships seriously and is intensely loyal to her friends. Moreover, she carries her goals to fruition with unshakable resolve. Scorpio has a sharp insight that helps her to accurately size up people and things. If she feels threatened, then she is inclined to become angry and vengeful. At her best, feminine Scorpio is driven by a deep sense of purpose, and she is not easily deterred by obstacles or setbacks.

The sign **Sagittarius** (whose Latin name means 'archer') expresses Jupiter in a masculine way. As a fire sign, Sagittarius is desirous, energetic, and forthright. As a dual sign, Sagittarius is adaptable and embraces change. The ancients imagined Sagittarius as a centaur, which is a mythical half-horse and half-man creature. The half-horse represents the need to explore new things. The half-man is an archer who shoots his arrow into the air and then optimistically follows its trail. Sagittarius is adventurous and optimistic – he enjoys exploring new ideas, new experiences, and new philosophies. At his best, masculine Sagittarius is not afraid to go beyond his comfort zone and to take risks in order to achieve worthy goals.

The sign **Capricorn** (whose Latin name means 'horned goat') expresses Saturn in a feminine way. As an earth sign, Capricorn is grounded and focused on material stability. As a cardinal sign, Capricorn initiates action and creates change. Capricorn is ambitious and success-driven – she seeks social accomplishment through her goals and long-term plans. Like a mountain goat, Capricorn climbs cautiously to the summit of success, leaving behind those who are less resolute. If she gets absorbed in her pursuits, then she tends to become unconcerned about anyone and anything perceived as inconsequential to her success. At her best, feminine Capricorn is diligent – she gives steady, meticulous attention to ongoing tasks.

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The sign **Aquarius** (whose Latin name means 'water-bearer') expresses Saturn in a masculine way. As an air sign, Aquarius is intellectual, communicative, and social. As a fixed sign, Aquarius is fixed in his ideals and is often resistant to following conventional rules. The ancients imagined Aquarius as a person who is carrying life-giving waters and pouring them over the earth. Aquarius desires to make a positive impact on the world, and he thinks often about how to improve people's lives. He works well in groups, but he may have difficulty being intimate one-on-one. At his best, masculine Aquarius is unselfish and makes improvements for the common good.

The sign **Pisces** (whose Latin name means 'fishes') expresses Jupiter in a feminine way. As a water sign, Pisces is emotional, intuitive, and empathetic. As a dual sign, Pisces is adaptable and embraces change. The ancients imagined Pisces as two fishes swimming in opposite directions, representing emotional versatility. Pisces is compassionate and intuitive – she can easily empathize with others, adapting to emotional shifts with ease. She is compassionate and tends to see the best in others. If others abuse her kindheartedness, then she may develop a victim mentality in which she perceives herself as being constantly wronged or powerless over her circumstances. At her best, feminine Pisces is resilient and shows kindly concern for others.

We say that two signs are **opposite signs** if each one is 6 neighbors away from the other. Aries and Libra are opposite signs. Taurus and Scorpio are opposite signs. Gemini and Sagittarius are opposite signs. Cancer and Capricorn are opposite signs. Leo and Aquarius are opposite signs. Virgo and Pisces are opposite signs.

1.7 The astrological chart

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TABLE 1.7 presents the sign longitude of each classical planet, according to the tropical zodiac, as observed at my time and place of birth. A planet's **sign longitude** is the zodiacal sign in which it appears, together with its **sign degree** (that is, its numerical degree within its hosting sign).

TABLE 1.7 also presents the motion of each planet as seen from Earth. A planet is said to be in **direct motion** if it appears to move forward along the zodiac. A planet is said to be in **retrograde motion** if it appears to move backward along the zodiac. A planet is said to be **stationing** if it appears to be standing still, which occurs when it transitions between direct and retrograde motion.

There are many ways of dividing the local sky into 12 houses. In this book, we will be using the tropical zodiac, Porphyry houses primarily, and whole-sign houses secondarily. As a quadrant-house system, the **Porphyry house system** uses the horizon and meridian axes to divide the sky into four quadrants, each containing three houses. Moreover, the three Porphyry houses within a given quadrant are equal in angular expanse. The **whole-sign house system** is an ecliptic-based house system in which each house is tied to a single sign.

Regarding the Porphyry house system, we will be using the denotation 'PH*n*' to mean 'Porphyry House *n*' and the denotation 'PC*n*' to refer to its cusp. Note that the angles are PC1 (the Ascendant), PC4 (the Imum Coeli), PC7 (the Descendant), and PC10 (the Midheaven). The even-numbered, nonangular house cusps (that is, PC2, PC6, PC8, and PC12) have the same sign degree.

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Moreover, the odd-numbered, nonangular house cusps (that is, PC3, PC5, PC9, and PC11) have the same sign degree.

Regarding the whole-sign house system, we will be using the denotation 'WS*n*' to mean 'whole-sign House *n*'. In the whole-sign house system, WS1 is tied to the **rising sign** (that is, the sign of the Ascendant), WS7 is tied to the sign of the Descendant, but WS10 and WS4 are not always tied respectively to the signs of the Midheaven and the Imum Coeli.

TABLE 1.7: My natal astrological information

	Planet	Sign Longitude	Motion
Aakhut Em Bak	Sun	Pisces 17° 21′ 51″	direct
Tuesday, 08 March 1955	Moon	Virgo 18° 08′ 46″	direct
11:15 CST	Mercury	Aquarius 20° 02′ 20″	direct
17:15 UTC	Venus	Aquarius 04° 28′ 18″	direct
	Mars	Taurus 07° 11′ 01″	direct
Chicago, IL	Jupiter	Cancer 19° 59′ 17″	retrograde
latitude 41° 51′ N	Saturn	Scorpio 21° 07′ 47″	retrograde
longitude 87° 39′ W			
Tropical Zodiac	The Ascendant is at Gemini 29° 37′ 25″. The Midheaven is at Pisces 04° 53′ 20″.		

FIGURE 1.7: My natal chart

Ma 07:11 (PC12) 21:22 WS12 TA	(PC11) 13:08 WS11 AR	(PC10) 04:53 Su 17:21 WS10 PI	Ve 04:28 (PC9) 13:08 Me 20:02 WS9 AQ	(PC8) 21:22 WS8 CP
(PC1) 29:37 WS1 GE	**Aakhut Em Bak** Natal Chart (Tropical Zodiac) Tuesday, 08 MAR 1955 at 11:15 CST Chicago, IL (41° 51′ N; 87° 39′ W)			(PC7) 29:37 WS7 SA
Ju 19:59 R (PC2) 21:22 WS2 CN	(PC3) 13:08 WS3 LE	(PC4) 04:53 Mo 18:08 WS4 VI	(PC5) 13:08 WS5 LI	Sa 21:07 R (PC6) 21:22 WS6 SC

The natal chart of FIGURE 1.7 presents my natal information of TABLE 1.7. As an example of how we will be combining Porphyry and whole-sign houses, consider Venus (at Aquarius 04° 28′) in

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my natal chart. In terms of Porphyry houses, Venus is in PH8, which extends from Capricorn 21° 22′ up to Aquarius 13° 08′. In terms of whole-sign houses, Venus is in Aquarius WS9. Therefore, Venus lies in the intersection of PH8 and Aquarius WS9. This means that Venus refers to someone/something that carries an 8th-House meaning with a 9th-House nuance.

Regarding the astrological charts in this book, I have designed the rectangular-chart framework to mimic the circular-chart framework used by many astrologers. The houses appear in ascending numerical order as we go counterclockwise in the chart. More specifically, WS12 always appears in the upper left-hand corner, WS2 always appears in the lower left-hand corner, WS6 always appears in the lower right-hand corner, and WS8 always appears in the upper right-hand corner. Note that as we go counterclockwise in the chart, we go forward along the zodiac.

An astrological chart is a visual representation that is related to Sun's daily and yearly cycles. Firstly, the division of the local sky into 12 houses is related to Sun's daily cycle of primary motion. In this regard, suppose that we (at a fixed location) were to compare various astrological charts, all for the same day, but for different times of day. As the hours go forward in time, we would see chart-wise that Sun changes its house location in descending numerical order. More specifically, Sun rises in the east at the Ascendant (PC1), culminates at the Midheaven (PC10), sets in the west at the Descendant (PC7), and anti-culminates at the Imum Coeli (PC4).

Secondly, the division of the zodiac into 12 signs is related to Sun's yearly cycle of secondary motion. In this regard, suppose that we (at a fixed location) were to compare various astrological charts, all for the same time of day, but for different days. As the days go forward in time, we would see chart-wise that Sun moves forward through the signs, which implies that it changes its house location in ascending numerical order.

IMPORTANT COMMENTS: The astrological charts in this book are based on data provided by the websites Astrodienst (https://www.astro.com/horoscope) and Astro-Seek.com (https://www.astro-seek.com).

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2. Some Notions

2.1 Ecliptic coordinates

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From the point of view of an earthbound observer, the ecliptic is Sun's annual path along the celestial sphere. This path is nearly a great circle. The plane of the ecliptic is inclined at a slowly varying angle relative to the celestial equatorial plane (which is the same as Earth's equatorial plane). The line of intersection between these planes passes through Earth's center, and it connects the equinoctial points (that is, points of Aries and Libra).

The **ecliptic coordinate system** enables us to specify the location of any point of the celestial sphere in terms of pertinent values of longitude and latitude. **Ecliptic longitude** is essentially angular distance measured along the ecliptic, going from 0° to 360° as we go eastward from Aries 0°. **Ecliptic latitude** is angular distance (along the celestial sphere) from the ecliptic, going from 0° to $+90°$ as we go perpendicularly northward and going from 0° to $-90°$ as we go perpendicularly southward.

Table 2.1: Sign and ecliptic longitudes

Sign Longitude	Ecliptic Longitude
Aries 0°	0°
Taurus 0°	30°
Gemini 0°	60°
Cancer 0°	90°
Leo 0°	120°
Virgo 0°	150°

Sign Longitude	Ecliptic Longitude
Libra 0°	180°
Scorpio 0°	210°
Sagittarius 0°	240°
Capricorn 0°	270°
Aquarius 0°	300°
Pisces 0°	330°

In the tropical zodiac, Aries 0° is the March equinoctial point. As a result of Earth's axial precession, the equinoxes slowly move westward along the ecliptic (that is, backward along the zodiac). Consequently, tropical Aries 0° is usually not the same as sidereal Aries 0°. The angular difference between sidereal Aries 0° and tropical Aries 0° is called the **ayanāṃśa**. Subtractng the *ayanāṃśa* from a tropical ecliptic longitude yields its equivalent sidereal ecliptic longitude. Note that Earth's axial precession does not affect ecliptic latitude, and so the tropical ecliptic latitude equals the sidereal ecliptic latitude.

Table 2.1 shows how ecliptic longitude is related to sign longitude. As an example, suppose that Moon has a sign longitude of Virgo 18° 08′. From the table, we find that Virgo 0° has an ecliptic longitude of 150°. It follows that Moon's ecliptic longitude here is $150° + 18°\ 08' = 168°\ 08'$.

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Sun's ecliptic latitude is 0° exactly. For each of the other planets, the ecliptic latitude varies along the zodiacal belt between some extreme negative (southern) value and some extreme positive (northern) value.

2.2 Degree-based aspects

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An **aspect** between two astrological entities exists whenever the difference between their ecliptic longitudes is in the vicinity of some signature value carrying astrological meaning.

TABLE 2.2a: Aspects

Aspect	Separation	Type	Interaction
Conjunction	0°	major	soft or hard
Duodecile	30°	minor	hard
Sextile	60°	major	soft
Square	90°	major	hard
Trine	120°	major	soft
Quincunx	150°	minor	hard
Opposition	180°	major	hard

TABLE 2.2a presents the signature separations for aspects that each involve an integer multiple of 30°. An aspect is said to be exact when it has its signature value. For an aspect between planets, we will follow astrologer Mychal A. Bryan by taking the margin of inexactness to be 07° in order for the aspect to be valid. See TABLE 2.2b for pertinent details.

TABLE 2.2b: Strength of planetary aspects

Inexactness	Aspect Strength
from 05° to 07°	strong
from 03° to 05°	stronger
from 00° to 03°	strongest

TABLE 2.2a presents the signature separations for aspects that each involve an integer multiple of 30°. An aspect is said to be exact when it has its signature value. For an aspect between planets, we will follow astrologer Mychal A. Bryan by taking the margin of inexactness to be 07° in order for the aspect to be valid. See TABLE 2.2b for pertinent details.

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Aspects show interactions between astrological entities. An aspect is either 'soft' or 'hard'. A **soft aspect** indicates a harmonious relationship between the two entities in question. For a soft aspect, little or no effort must be made for the two entities to cooperate (that is, to work together for a common purpose). A **hard aspect** indicates an inharmonious relationship between the two entities in question. For a hard aspect, suitable effort must be made for the two entities to cooperate.

A **conjunction** is a major aspect that is formed whenever two entities are about 0° apart longitudinally. It usually involves two entities that have almost the same degree in the same sign. A conjunction is a blending of the agendas of the two entities involved, and it is soft or hard according to the degree of compatibility between the two agendas.

A **duodecile** (or **semi-sextile**) is a minor aspect that is formed whenever two entities are about 30° apart longitudinally. It usually involves two entities that have almost the same sign degree in signs that are next-door neighbors. The two signs of a duodecile have different genders, different elements, and different modalities. Element-wise, they involve duos of lesser compatible elements. Fire and air do not work so well with earth and water. The difference of gender, element, and modality, together with the lesser compatibility of elements, indicate that the two entities share no common ground (that is, shared beliefs or interests) thereby making this aspect hard. Nevertheless, this aspect involves next-door neighbors, and so the two entities can potentially build common ground by thinking creatively and making suitable adaptations.

A **sextile** is a major aspect that is formed whenever two entities are about 60° apart longitudinally. It usually involves two entities that have almost the same sign degree in signs that are two neighbors away from each other. The two signs of a sextile have the same gender, but different elements and different modalities. Element-wise, they are either a fire-air duo or an earth-water duo. Fire and air support each other; earth and water support each other. The sameness of gender and the compatibility of elements indicate that the two entities share substantial common ground, thereby making this aspect soft.

A **square** is a major aspect that is formed whenever two entities are about 90° apart longitudinally. It usually involves two entities that have almost the same sign degree in signs that are three neighbors away from each other. The two signs of a square have different genders and different elements, but the same modality. Element-wise, they involve duos of lesser compatible elements. The sameness of modality, together with the difference of gender and lesser compatibility of elements, indicate that the two entities share little common ground, thereby making this aspect hard. A square often indicates a call for one entity to bring its agenda into line with the agenda of the other entity.

A **trine** is a major aspect that is formed whenever two entities are about 120° apart longitudinally. It usually involves two entities that have almost the same sign degree in signs that are four neighbors away from each other. The two signs of a trine have the same gender, the same element, but different modalities. The sameness of gender and element indicates that the two entities share substantial common ground, thereby making this aspect soft.

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A **quincunx** is a minor aspect that is formed whenever two entities are about 150° apart longitudinally. It usually involves two entities that have almost the same sign degree in signs that are five neighbors away from each other. The two signs of a quincunx have different genders, different elements, and different modalities. Element-wise, they involve duos of lesser compatible elements. The difference of gender, element, and modality and the lesser compatibility of elements indicate that the two entities share no common ground, thereby making this aspect hard.

An **opposition** is a major aspect that is formed whenever two entities are about 180° apart longitudinally. It usually involves two entities that have almost the same sign degree in signs that are six neighbors away from each other. The two signs of an opposition have the same gender, compatible elements, and the same modality. The adjective 'opposite' can mean 'being the other of two complementary things' or 'being contrary to one's interests or welfare'. In this regard, the two entities here are two halves that are somehow not acting as the whole that they are meant to be, and so an opposition indicates a call to harmonize these two competing interests.

Regarding aspects, consider the following principle:

> **The principle of overcoming:** Whenever two planets are configured according to a sextile, square, or trine, the planet lying at the configuration's zodiacal rear dominates the aspect between the two planets.

The dominant planet is said to 'overcome' (that is, prevail over) the other planet.

FIGURE 2.2: My natal chart again

Ma 07:11 (PC12) 21:22 WS12 TA	(PC11) 13:08 WS11 AR	(PC10) 04:53 Su 17:21 WS10 PI	Ve 04:28 (PC9) 13:08 Me 20:02 WS9 AQ	(PC8) 21:22 WS8 CP
(PC1) 29:37 WS1 GE	**Aakhut Em Bak** Natal Chart (Tropical Zodiac) Tuesday, 08 MAR 1955 at 11:15 CST Chicago, IL (41° 51′ N; 87° 39′ W)			(PC7) 29:37 WS7 SA
Ju 19:59 R (PC2) 21:22 WS2 CN	(PC3) 13:08 WS3 LE	(PC4) 04:53 Mo 18:08 WS4 VI	(PC5) 13:08 WS5 LI	Sa 21:07 R (PC6) 21:22 WS6 SC

FIGURE 2.2 presents my natal chart according to the tropical zodiac. The major planet-to-planet aspects in my natal chart are the Moon-Jupiter sextile, the Moon-Saturn sextile, the Mercury-Saturn square, the Venus-Mars square, the Sun-Jupiter trine, the Sun-Saturn trine, the Jupiter-

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Saturn trine, and the Moon-Sun opposition. The minor planet-to-planet aspects in my natal chart are the Moon-Mercury quincunx and the Mercury-Jupiter quincunx.

For learning purposes, let's see why Moon (at Virgo 18° 08′) and Saturn (at Scorpio 21° 07′) form a sextile in my natal chart. Firstly, Moon and Saturn have almost the same sign degree in signs that are two neighbors away from each other. Secondly, the difference between their sign degrees is $21° 07' - 18° 08' = 02° 59'$, which does not exceed 07° (our margin of inexactness). That's it!

Here is another way to see why there is a sextile here. Firstly, in terms of ecliptic longitudes, Moon is at 168° 08′ and Saturn is at 231° 07′. Secondly, the difference between their ecliptic longitudes is $231° 07' - 168° 08' = 62° 59'$. Thirdly, the deviation of this difference from the sextile signature value is $62° 59' - 60° = 02° 59'$, which does not exceed 07° (our margin of inexactness).

In my Moon-Saturn sextile, Moon lies earlier in zodiacal order because Leo comes before Libra. According to the principle of overcoming, Moon overcomes Saturn here. Therefore, Moon is the chief influence in the aspect.

In dealing with aspects, we will be using the notion of **aspect copies**. According to this notion, each planet longitudinally projects a virtual copy of itself to points that are at 30°, 60°, 90°, 120°, 150°, and 180° away. Each aspect copy at 30° away has duodecile qualities, each aspect copy at 60° away has sextile qualities, each aspect copy at 90° away has square qualities, and so on.

For learning purposes, let's consider the sextile relationship between Moon (at Virgo 18° 08′) and Saturn (at Scorpio 21° 07′) in my natal chart. Moon longitudinally projects a sextile copy to Scorpio 18° 08′, and so Saturn experiences the sextile as a conjunction in Scorpio between Moon's sextile copy and itself. Moreover, Saturn longitudinally projects a sextile copy to Virgo 21° 07′, and so Moon experiences the sextile as a conjunction in Virgo between itself and Saturn's sextile copy.

An angle (that is, the Ascendant, the Descendant, the Midheaven, or the Imum Coeli) does not project aspect copies. Therefore, whenever there is an aspect between a planet and an angle, the planet is making the aspect to the angle. For such an aspect, we will take the margin of inexactness to be 07° in order for the aspect to be valid.

2.3 Exact and close aspects

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Regarding angular separation, an aspect is either exact or close. Practically speaking, an **exact aspect** occurs when the two entities in question share the same degree, minute, and second of arc in their respective signs according to the aspect's definition. A **close aspect** occurs when the two entities in question deviate from the aspect's signature angular separation within the margin of inexactness.

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A close aspect is said to be **applying** if the pertinent angular separation is decreasing toward the signature value. The model applying aspect involves a direct-motion planet that has a lower sign degree than a slower entity. In this case, the planet's aspect copy is moving toward the slower entity. Here we say that the faster planet is applying to an aspect with the slower entity. An applying aspect becomes more potent as it approaches exactness.

A close aspect is said to be **separating** if the pertinent angular separation is increasing from the signature value. The model separating aspect involves a direct-motion planet that has a higher sign degree than a slower entity. In this case, the planet's aspect copy is moving away from the slower planet. Here we say that the faster planet is separating from an aspect with the slower entity. A separating aspect becomes less potent as the aspect leaves exactness.

If the faster planet is applying to or separating from a slower entity that is ahead of it in the zodiac, then the aspect is said to be **sinister**. If the faster planet is applying to or separating from a slower entity that is behind it in the zodiac, then the aspect is said to be **dexter**.

TABLE 2.3: Average longitudinal angular speeds

Planet	Angular Speed
Saturn	00° 02′ 01″ per day
Jupiter	00° 04′ 59″ per day
Mars	00° 31′ 27″ per day
Sun	00° 59′ 08″ per day
Venus	01° 12′ 00″ per day
Mercury	01° 23′ 00″ per day
Moon	13° 10′ 35″ per day

TABLE 2.3 presents the average longitudinal angular speed of each classical planet as it undergoes secondary motion along the celestial sphere. Arranged from slowest to fastest, these planets are: Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Sun, Venus, Mercury, and Moon. This speed hierarchy is called the **Chaldean order** of planets, and it may be used to determine whether an aspect is applying or separating.

In the *Tajika* tradition of astrology (which is a blending of Indian and Perso-Arabic astrological traditions), applying and separating aspects are two types of planetary yogas. The Sanskrit noun **yoga** means 'joining'. An applying aspect is called an *ithasala yoga*, while a separating aspect is called an *isharafa yoga*. The Sanskrit word *ithasala* comes from the Arabic noun *ittiṣāl*, which means 'making contact'. The Sanskrit word *isharafa* comes from the Arabic noun *inṣirāf*, which means 'turning away'.

Yogas are not limited to the joining of two planets. Let's consider two yogas that each involve the joining of three planets. A **nakta yoga** is formed whenever a faster third planet is in a major aspect

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with each of two slower planets having no major aspect between them. The Sanskrit word *nakta* comes from the Arabic noun phrase *naql an-nūr*, which means 'translation of light'. A **yamaya yoga** is formed whenever a slower third planet is in a major aspect with each of two faster planets having no major aspect between them. The Sanskrit word *yamaya* comes from the Arabic noun phrase *jamʿ an-nūr*, which means 'collection of light'. In each of these yogas, the third planet serves as a link between the two planets having no major aspect between them. Each of these three-planet yogas indicates an event that is facilitated by a third party.

2.4 Dispositors, reception, and domiciles

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If Planet *A* is in a sign that is ruled by Planet *B*, then Planet *B* is said to be the **dispositor** of Planet *A*. Another way to express this situation is to say that Planet *B* disposes Planet *A*. In this context, the verb 'dispose' means 'to determine the outcome of'. For example, if Venus is in Mercury-ruled Gemini, then Mercury is the dispositor of Venus. In other words, Mercury disposes Venus.

In his blog post *The Essential Role of Dispositors in Horary* (13 March 2021), astrologer Anthony Louis states that:

> The theory behind dispositorship is anthropomorphic and straightforward. If I am a planet visiting your home, then I am dependent on you for the resources at my disposal to accomplish my aims.

If Planet *B* disposes Planet *A*, then this situation indicates that Planet *A* is subject to Planet *B*.

Reception occurs whenever a planet and its dispositor are connected by an applying major aspect. If a planet and its dispositor are not connected by a major aspect, then the dispositor takes no special interest in the planet. But if reception occurs, then the dispositor receives the planet as a welcomed guest in its home. Regarding reception, consider the following principle:

> **The principle of reception:** In reception, the dispositor of the received planet is a source of aid and goodwill that helps the received planet to advance toward a positive outcome.

In his book *Mastering Traditional Astrology*, astrologer Mychal A. Bryan states that reception is a blessing for planets that might find themselves in an otherwise challenging set of circumstances.

A planet is said to be in **domicile** whenever it is in a sign that it rules. In other words, a planet in domicile is its own dispositor. We may view a planet in domicile as receiving itself. It follows from the principle of reception that a planet in domicile is greatly able to help itself to advance toward a positive outcome.

Note that we are treating a planet in domicile as a special case of reception, which is an aspect-based relationship. From this point of view, it does not make sense to give any special meaning to a planet lying in a sign that is opposite its domicile.

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2.5 Benefics, malefics, and sects

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The words 'benefic' and 'malefic' are both adjectives and nouns. A planet is said to be **benefic** (that is, causing good) if it facilitates progress or improvement. A planet is said to be **malefic** (that is, causing bad) if it brings difficulties to overcome.

In his book *Hellenistic Astrology: The Study of Fate and Fortune*, Chris Brennan states the following with regard to the benefic/malefic distinction:

> The observation that in the night sky, Venus and Jupiter appear as bright white stars, while Mars appears dark and red, and Saturn dark and brown, was probably at the core of this distinction originally. Thus it sets up an observable contrast between two groups of planets, with one set appearing brighter and the other set appearing darker. This then elicits a light/dark analogy, which is then extended into the realm of other contrasts or polarities between light and dark, such as good and bad, positive and negative, virtue and vice, constructive and destructive, and so on.

Venus and Jupiter are considered to be natural benefics, while Mars and Saturn are considered to be natural malefics. Sun, Moon, and Mercury can each be functionally benefic or functionally malefic depending on its circumstances.

If Sun represents something positive, then it is functionally benefic. Moreover, if Sun represents something negative, then it is functionally malefic.

Moon is functionally benefic during its waxing period, and it is functionally malefic during its waning period. A new Moon occurs whenever Sun and Moon are in conjunction, while a full Moon occurs whenever Sun and Moon are in opposition. Moon waxes as it moves from newness to fullness. Moon wanes as it moves from fullness to newness.

Mercury is functionally benefic if it is closely associated with a benefic: [1] by being disposed by the benefic, or [2] by close proximity in the same sign, or [3] via a major aspect. Similarly, Mercury is functionally malefic if it is closely associated with a malefic.

In the Hellenistic tradition of astrology, the classical planets are divided into two **sects** (or teams), each consisting of a luminary, a natural benefic, and a natural malefic. The **diurnal sect** (or day team) consists of Sun, Jupiter, and Saturn. The **nocturnal sect** (or night team) consists of Moon, Venus, and Mars.

Mars and Saturn were assigned to sects that would somewhat curb their malefic nature. In his book *Mastering Traditional Astrology*, astrologer Mychal A. Bryan states:

> The coolness of the nighttime was meant to temper the raging fires of Mars, whereas the heat and radiance of the daytime was meant to soften the deadliness of Saturn's frigid resolve.

Mars in nocturnal conditions is less harmful than if it were in diurnal conditions. Saturn in diurnal conditions is less harmful than if it were in nocturnal conditions.

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Mercury's sect association depends on how it has risen relative to Sun. Whenever Mercury has risen before Sun (that is, becoming visible before daylight appears), then Mercury is considered to be diurnal. In that case, Mercury lies zodiacally behind Sun. Whenever Mercury has risen after Sun (that is, becoming visible after daylight appears), then Mercury is considered to be nocturnal. In that case, Mercury lies zodiacally ahead of Sun. Note that with respect to Sun, Mercury is always located in either the same sign or an adjacent sign.

In Section 1.3, we mentioned the notion of planetary joys, which says that each classical planet has an affinity for a particular house where it feels most comfortable. TABLE 2.5 presents the house of joy for each classical planet except Mercury. Note that the joy of each diurnal planet is in a diurnal house (that is, a house lying above the horizon), while the joy of each nocturnal planet is in a nocturnal house (that is, a house lying below the horizon).

TABLE 2.5: Sect and planetary joys

Planet	House of Joy
Sun	9th
Jupiter	11th
Saturn	12th

Planet	House of Joy
Moon	3rd
Venus	5th
Mars	6th

We may divide an astrological chart into two hemispheres. The **diurnal hemisphere** consists of the diurnal houses, while the **nocturnal hemisphere** consists of the nocturnal houses. In this book, I will be using the notion of sect in my own way. More specifically, I will be associating the diurnal sect with the diurnal hemisphere and associating the nocturnal sect with the nocturnal hemisphere.

Sect is a quality that alters how benefics and malefics function in an astrological chart. Regarding sect, consider the following principle:

> **The principle of sect:** A planet is 'happy' whenever it lies in the hemisphere of the astrological chart that matches its sect. A happy benefic greatly facilitates progress or improvement, while a happy malefic brings difficulties that require moderate effort to overcome. A planet is 'unhappy' whenever it lies in the hemisphere of the astrological chart that doesn't match its sect. An unhappy benefic moderately facilitates progress or improvement, while an unhappy malefic brings difficulties that require great effort to overcome.

A diurnal planet is happy whenever it lies in the diurnal hemisphere, and it is unhappy whenever it lies in the nocturnal hemisphere. Moreover, a nocturnal planet is happy whenever it lies in the nocturnal hemisphere, and it is unhappy whenever it lies in the diurnal hemisphere.

I say again that I will be using the notion of sect in my own way. More specifically, I won't be associating the notion of sect with whether an astrological chart is a diurnal chart (in which Sun lies above the horizon) or a nocturnal chart (in which Sun lies below the horizon).

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2.6 Quadrant-house strength

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As declared in Section 1.7, we will be using the Porphyry house system, which is a quadrant-house system. A quadrant house is said to be **angular** if its cusp is one of the angles (that is, the Ascendant, the Descendant, the Midheaven, and the Imum Coeli). Therefore, PH1, PH4, PH7, and PH10 are angular. A quadrant house is said to be **succedent** if it succeeds (that is, comes next in numerical order after) an angular house. Therefore, PH2, PH5, PH8, and PH11 are succedent. A quadrant house is said to be **cadent** (that is, declining) if it immediately precedes an angular house. Therefore, PH3, PH6, PH9, and PH12 are cadent.

In executing primary motion, a planet moves through the houses in descending numerical order. Regarding primary motion, consider the following principle:

> **The principle of angularity:** As primary motion brings a planet toward an angle, the planet's ability to achieve its agenda (that is, things to get done) increases. As primary motion takes a planet away from an angle, the planet's ability to achieve its agenda decreases.

As primary motion brings a planet in a succedent house toward an angle, the planet achieves its agenda at a relatively good pace. In an angular house, the planet achieves its agenda quickly. As primary motion takes a planet in a cadent house away from an angle, the planet achieves its agenda at a very slow pace or not at all.

TABLE 2.6: Quadrant-house strength by connection to PH1

House Number	House Strength	Connection to PH1
PH1, PH4, PH7, or PH10	high (100%)	hard major aspect
PH3, PH5, PH9, or PH11	moderate (50%)	soft major aspect
PH2, PH6, PH8, or PH12	low (25%)	minor aspect

The strength of a quadrant house is its ability to help a hosted planet to achieve its benefic/malefic agenda. In his 1647 book *Christian Astrology*, the English astrologer William Lilly ranked the quadrant houses from strongest to weakest as follows: 1, 10, 7, 4, 11, 5, 9, 3, 2, 8, 6, 12. My simplified version of this ranking is presented in TABLE 2.6.

We may extend the notion of aspects to houses and signs. As an example of a house-based aspect, two houses have a square relationship if each one is three neighbors away from the other. As an example of a sign-based aspect, two signs have a trine relationship if each one is four neighbors away from the other.

The primary consideration for Lilly's ranking is how the houses are connected to PH1 by aspect. With respect to PH1 (the Porphyry 1st House), PH10 and PH4 are each in square (which is a hard major aspect), PH7 is in opposition (which is a hard major aspect), PH11 and PH3 are each in sextile (which is a soft major aspect), PH5 and PH9 are each in trine (which is a soft major aspect),

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PH2 and PH12 are each in duodecile (which is a minor aspect), and PH8 and PH6 are each in quincunx (which is a minor aspect).

Another consideration for Lilly's ranking is whether a house is angular, succedent, or cadent. Although PH3 and PH9 are naturally cadent, their major-aspect relationship with PH1 makes them functionally succedent. Moreover, although PH2 and PH8 are naturally succedent, their minor-aspect relationship with PH1 makes them functionally cadent.

The agenda of a benefic planet is to facilitate progress or improvement. The agenda of a malefic planet is to bring difficulties to overcome. A planet having high house strength achieves its benefic/malefic agenda quickly. A planet having moderate strength achieves its benefic/malefic agenda at a relatively good pace. A planet having low house strength achieves its benefic/malefic agenda at a very slow pace or not at all.

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3. Some Horary Astrology

3.1 Introduction

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Horary astrology is based on the belief that the answer to a query can be determined by casting an astrological chart for the query's time and place of birth. This chart is called a **horary chart**, and the person who is primarily asking the question is called the **querent**. The person(s) or thing(s) that are asked about are called the **quesited**. The query's time of birth is the instant when the querent communicates their query to the astrologer. The query's place of birth is the querent's location when they communicate their query to the astrologer.

As declared in Section 1.7, we will be using the tropical zodiac, Porphyry houses primarily, and whole-sign houses secondarily. Regarding the Porphyry house system, we will be using the denotation 'PH*n*' to mean 'Porphyry House *n*' and the denotation 'PC*n*' to refer to its cusp. Regarding the whole-sign house system, we will be using the denotation 'WS*n*' to mean 'whole-sign House *n*'.

In his book *Predictive Astrology Textbook*, astrologer Alexey Borealis presents criteria that show the querent's matter of concern. In this regard, Moon's dispositor indicates what is on the querent's mind with regard to the query. Moreover, Moon's house location shows an area of life that is of great interest to the querent. We will use these two criteria to clarify the query.

Each Porphyry house of an astrological chart is represented by its **house lord**, which is the planet that rules the sign of the house's cusp. For example, if PC9 lies in Saturn-ruled Aquarius, then Saturn is the PH9 lord. In horary astrology, PH1 refers to the querent, and the **querent's significator** is the PH1 lord. The **quesited's significator** is the lord of the Porphyry house that refers to the quesited. In most cases, Moon is a co-significator of the querent, but there are some cases in which it is the quesited's significator instead.

In order to get the query's answer, we will apply the following **horary-astrology rubric**:

- **Step #H1:** Identify the querent's significator. Assess it sect-wise and house-wise.
- **Step #H2:** Identify the quesited's significator. Assess it sect-wise and house-wise.
- **Step #H3:** Assess Moon sect-wise and house-wise.
- **Step #H4:** Give thought to other noteworthy considerations. One such consideration could be occupants of the respective houses of the querent and the quesited.
- **Step #H5:** Look for major aspects among the querent, the quesited, and Moon.
- **Step #H6:** Make a judgment.

This rubric (that is, set of procedural rules) is an alteration of the rubric presented by astrologer Mychal A. Bryan in his books *Mastering Traditional Astrology* and *Horary Astrology & the Natal Promise*.

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The horary-astrology rubric calls us to make use of the following tools of chart analysis:

- **Sect assessment:** This tool shows a significator's benefic or malefic quality. Does the significator facilitate progress or improvement? Does it bring difficulties to overcome?
- **Quadrant-house strength:** This tool shows a significator's ability to achieve its benefic/malefic agenda. At what pace can the significator achieve its benefic/malefic agenda?
- **Dispositors:** This tool shows a significator's dependence on another entity. What are the circumstances under which the significator is operating? Is the significator under another's control?
- **Exact aspects:** This tool shows events in which two significators come into contact with each other. If a major aspect is inexact by *X* degrees, then it indicates that the two pertinent entities will come together in *X* time units (whether hours, days, weeks, months, or years).
- **Close aspects:** This tool uses close aspects to show a relationship between two significators that occurs over a period of time. This relationship could be a long-term connection, a long-term influence, or a process.

These tools are often adequate for answering the query.

Each classical planet serves as the representative of its house(s) via its accidental role as the house lord. Moreover, each classical planet is the natural representative of some subset of persons, places, or things. We will follow astrologer Mychal A. Bryan by interpreting what a planet means firstly as an accidental representative and secondly as a natural representative. Note that the adjective 'accidental' here means 'occurring according to circumstances'.

IMPORTANT COMMENTS: No matter how good or bad your situation may be, seek divine help through prayerful affirmations and other suitable magical work. Be mindful that the power of God is within you, and so you can transcend any circumstance, habit, or personality trait. Tap into your divine power by cultivating good character and good judgment.

3.2 A 3rd-House query: A possible trip

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Back in the fall of 2020, I considered driving my car to New Orleans, Louisiana in order to visit my friend JRM around his birthday in November. On Friday, 23 October 2020 at 01:38 pm, EDT, the following question formed in my mind:

> **Query:** I am considering visiting the New Orleans metro area around the time of my friend JRM's birthday. Would making this visit result in good fortune for me?

FIGURE 3.2 presents the pertinent horary chart according to the tropical zodiac.

Let's use Moon to clarify the query. Firstly, Moon's dispositor indicates what is on the querent's mind with regard to the query. For Moon in Aquarius, its dispositor is Saturn. As the lord of PH7 (opponents), Saturn refers to my concern about anything that opposes my proposed drive.

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Secondly, Moon's house location shows an area of life that is of great interest to the querent. Moon lies in the intersection of PH1 (the querent and their physical vehicle) and Aquarius WS2 (supportive persons or things; portable property). This house location indicates that the condition of my car is a matter of importance.

FIGURE 3.2: The horary chart

(PC12) 21:51 WS12 SA	Su 00:46 (PC10) 04:59 Me 05:20 R (PC11) 28:25 WS11 SC	WS10 LI	Ve 24:45 (PC9) 28:25 WS9 VI	(PC8) 21:51 WS8 LE
(PC1) 15:17 Ju 19:57 Sa 25:50 WS1 CP	**Aakhut Em Bak** (Tropical Horary Chart) A proposed drive to New Orleans Friday, 23 OCT 2020 at 13:38 EDT Atlanta, GA (33° 45′ N; 84° 23′ W)			(PC7) 15:17 WS7 CN
Mo 02:53 (PC2) 21:51 WS2 AQ	(PC3) 28:25 WS3 PI	Ma 18:10 R WS4 AR	(PC4) 04:59 (PC5) 28:25 WS5 TA	(PC6) 21:51 WS6 GE

Now that we have clarified the query, let's use the horary-astrology rubric to get the answer.

STEP #H1: Firstly, let's identify the querent's significator. The querent (me) is associated with PH1. Because PC1 lies in Saturn-ruled Capricorn, Saturn is the PH1 lord and hence the querent's significator. Secondly, let's assess the querent's significator sect-wise and house-wise:

> **Saturn in PH1:** Saturn is the lord of PH1 (the querent and their physical vehicle) and PH2 (supportive persons or things), and it is the natural representative of sober-minded action. Saturn lies in the intersection of PH1 and Capricorn WS1, both houses referring to the querent. In light of the foregoing, Saturn refers to me as giving steady, meticulous attention to the proposed drive.
>
> As a diurnal malefic lying below the horizon, Saturn is unhappy. Therefore, Saturn brings difficulties that require great effort to overcome. PH1 allows 100% quadrant-house strength, and so Saturn quickly brings difficulties.

Note that Saturn is in domicile, and so it is greatly able to help itself to advance toward a positive outcome. In light of the foregoing, circumstances are to my advantage.

STEP #H2: Firstly, let's identify the quesited's significator. The quesited pertains to my proposed trip, which is associated with PH3 (short-distance travel). Because PC3 lies in Jupiter-ruled Pisces, Jupiter is the PH3 lord and hence the querent's significator. Secondly, let's assess the quesited's significator sect-wise and house-wise:

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Jupiter in PH1: Jupiter is the lord of PH3 (short-distance travel) and PH12 (trying situations), and it is the natural representative of noble-minded action. Jupiter lies in the intersection of PH1 and Capricorn WS1, both houses referring to the querent and their physical vehicle. In light of the foregoing, Jupiter refers to my proposed drive as being a trying situation.

As a diurnal benefic lying below the horizon, Jupiter is unhappy. Therefore, Jupiter moderately facilitates progress or improvement. PH1 allows 100% quadrant-house strength, and so Jupiter quickly facilitates progress or improvement.

In light of the foregoing, my proposed drive poses a problem, but circumstances favor me to quickly remedy the situation.

STEP #H3: Moon is a co-significator of the querent. Let's assess Moon sect-wise and house-wise:

Moon in PH1: Moon is the lord of PH7 (opponents), and it is the natural representative of short-term travel. Moon lies in the intersection of PH1 (the querent and their physical vehicle) and Aquarius WS2 (supportive persons or things; portable property). In light of the foregoing, Moon refers to my car as being troublesome.

Waxing Moon is benefic. As a nocturnal benefic lying below the horizon, Moon is happy. Therefore, Moon greatly facilitates progress or improvement. PH1 allows 100% quadrant-house strength, and so Moon quickly facilitates progress or improvement.

In light of the foregoing, my car poses a problem, but circumstances favor me to quickly remedy the situation.

STEP #H4: Let's give thought to other noteworthy considerations. There is nothing in this regard.

STEP #H5: Let's look for major aspects among the querent, the quesited, and Moon. Saturn (the querent) is applying to a conjunction with Jupiter (the quesited):

Jupiter-Saturn conjunction: As previously found, Jupiter refers to my proposed drive as being a trying situation. Moreover, as previously found, Saturn refers to me as giving steady, meticulous attention to the proposed drive. The applying conjunction here indicates an opportunity for me to have a safe trip in my car.

By taking proper precautions, my proposed drive can result in good fortune for me.

STEP #H6: I am the astrologer, and here is my judgment. Apart from the condition of my car, taking my proposed drive seems favorable.

COMMENTS: My chart analysis here is somewhat the product of hindsight. At the time when I cast the chart for the query here, I didn't understand what it was telling me. Nevertheless, I felt uncomfortable about driving out of town, and so I remained in Atlanta around the time of JRM's birthday. It was during that time that my car battery failed and needed to be replaced.

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3.3 A 6th-House query: My battle against diabetes

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In early 2022, I was given the bad news of having a condition of type-2 diabetes. After making many prayerful affirmations and changing my diet, I have come to the point of moderating my blood sugar without the use of medications. On Wednesday, 29 January 2025 at 08:00 am, EST, the following question formed in my mind:

Query: Is my body mending from diabetes?

FIGURE 3.3 presents the pertinent horary chart according to the tropical zodiac.

FIGURE 3.3: The horary chart

(PC12) 21:21 WS12 CP	(PC10) 01:45 (PC11) 26:33 WS11 SA	 WS10 SC	(PC9) 26:33 WS9 LI	(PC8) 21:21 WS8 VI
Me 02:19 Su 09:52 Mo 10:05 (PC1) 16:08 WS1 AQ	**Aakhut Em Bak** (Tropical Horary Chart) Is my body mending from diabetes? Wednesday, 29 JAN 2025 at 08:00 EST Atlanta, GA (33° 45′ N; 84° 23′ W)			(PC7) 16:08 WS7 LE
Sa 17:09 (PC2) 21:21 Ve 25:26 WS2 PI	(PC3) 26:33 WS3 AR	 WS4 TA	(PC4) 01:45 Ju 11:20 R (PC5) 26:33 WS5 GE	Ma 21:13 R (PC6) 21:21 WS6 CN

Let's use Moon to clarify the query. Firstly, Moon's dispositor indicates what is on the querent's mind with regard to the query. For Moon in Aquarius, its dispositor is Saturn. As the lord of PH1 (the querent's physical body and its health) and PH12 (chronic illness), Saturn refers to my concern about my diabetes condition. Secondly, Moon's house location shows an area of life that is of great interest to the querent. Moon lies in the intersection of PH12 (chronic illness) and Capricorn WS1 (the querent's physical body and its health). This house location indicates that I am concerned about my diabetes condition.

Now that we have clarified the query, let's use the horary-astrology rubric to get the answer.

STEP #H1: Firstly, let's identify the querent's significator. The querent (me) is associated with PH1. Because PC1 lies in Saturn-ruled Aquarius, Saturn is the PH1 lord and hence the querent's significator. Secondly, let's assess the querent's significator sect-wise and house-wise:

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Saturn in PH1: Saturn is the lord of PH1 (the querent's physical body and its health) and PH12 (chronic illness), and it is the natural representative of sober-minded action. Saturn lies in the intersection of PH1 (the querent's physical body and its health) and Pisces WS2 (supportive persons or things). In light of the foregoing, Saturn refers to my physical body as being supportive to good health.

As a diurnal malefic lying below the horizon, Saturn is unhappy. Therefore, Saturn brings difficulties that require great effort to overcome. PH1 allows 100% quadrant-house strength, and so Saturn quickly brings difficulties.

In light of the foregoing, remedying the situation is a demanding effort.

STEPS #H2 and #H3: Firstly, let's identify the quesited's significator. The quesited pertains to my diabetes condition, which is associated with PH12 (chronic illness). Because PC12 lies in Saturn-ruled Capricorn, Saturn is the PH12 lord. Because Saturn is the querent's significator, it cannot also be the quesited's significator. Moon is the lord of PH6 (acute illness), and it is the natural representative of the digestive system. The gut microbiome is the variety of bacteria and other microorganisms living in the digestive tract. An unhealthy gut microbiome can lead to type-2 diabetes. Let's take Moon to be the quesited's significator. Secondly, let's assess the quesited's significator sect-wise and house-wise:

Moon in PH12: Moon is the lord of PH6 (acute illness), and it is the natural representative of the digestive system. Moon lies in the intersection of PH12 (chronic illness) and Aquarius WS1 (the querent's physical body and its health). In light of the foregoing, Moon refers to the danger posed by digestive illness.

Waxing Moon is benefic. As a nocturnal benefic lying above the horizon, Moon is unhappy. Therefore, Moon moderately facilitates progress or improvement. PH12 allows 25% quadrant-house strength, and so Moon facilitates progress or improvement at a very slow pace.

Circumstances favor my diabetes condition to progress slowly.

STEP #H4: Let's give thought to other noteworthy considerations. Sun is the lord of PH7 (bodily death or bodily harm), and it is the natural representative of the will to survive. Sun represents something positive here, and so it is functionally benefic. As a diurnal benefic lying above the horizon, Sun greatly facilitates progress or improvement. My will to survive greatly facilitates the healing of my physical body.

A planet is said to be **under the beams** if it is within 15° of Sun's location. Whenever a planet is under the beams, its light is overpowered by Sun, and it becomes hidden from view. Being under the beams refers to something that is overpowered or hidden from view with regard to the planet's role in the astrological chart. Moon and Mercury lie within the intersection of PH12 (chronic illness) and Aquarius WS1 (the querent's physical body and its health), where they are under the beams.

As previously found, Moon refers to the danger posed by digestive illness. Mercury is the lord of PH4 (comfort and security), PH5 (overdoing pleasure), and PH8 (bodily death), and it is the natural representative of the nervous system. Mercury refers here to the mild nerve damage (in my feet) that accompanies my diabetes condition. As a diurnal malefic lying above the horizon, Mercury

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brings difficulties that require moderate effort to overcome. Moon and Mercury are each in conjunction with Sun, and their proximity to Sun is a visual representation of my diabetes condition as being burned up by my will to survive.

STEP #H5: Let's look for major aspects among the querent, the quesited, and Moon. Moon (the quesited) is making a conjunction to PC1 (the querent):

> **Moon-PC1 conjunction:** As previously found, Moon refers to the danger posed by my digestive illness. PC1 refers to the querent's physical body and its health. The conjunction here indicates that my physical body is subject to digestive illness.

The gut microbiome is the variety of bacteria and other microorganisms living in the digestive tract. An unhealthy gut microbiome can lead to type-2 diabetes.

STEP #H6: I am the astrologer, and here is my judgment. My body is healing. My diabetes condition is gradually abating. In order to further my well-being, I must pay attention to my gut microbiome.

COMMENTS: On Thursday, 30 January 2025, I posed the query here to the *Yì-Jīng* Oracle. The response was Hexagram 02 (KŪN, 'submissiveness'), which corresponds to astrological Moon. In medical astrology, Moon refers to the digestive system. Toward ridding myself of digestive illness, I have been making use of probiotics (live, good bacteria that support the gut) and prebiotics (non-digestible fiber that acts as food to help probiotics to grow).

3.4 A 7th-House query: Racial relations in America

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On Saturday, 15 February 2025 at 07:58 am, EST, the following question formed in my mind:

> **Query:** What are African Americans to learn from our historical interactions with Caucasian Americans in this country?

FIGURE 3.4 presents the pertinent horary chart according to the tropical zodiac. True *Rāhu* is in direct motion, lying at Pisces 27° 34′ 05″.

African Americans are an American ethno-racial group consisting of partial or total ancestry from any of the dark-skinned racial groups of Africa. Caucasian Americans are an American ethno-racial group consisting of partial or total ancestry from any of the pale-skinned racial groups of Europe. Note that ethnic identity is based on cultural characteristics, while racial identity is based on physical characteristics. African Americans are the 'we' group to which I (the querent) belong. Therefore, the term 'querent' may be extended here to refer to African Americans as a group.

In the 1500s, European colonial powers began establishing plantations in the Americas in order to produce cash crops like sugar, tobacco, and cotton. These Caucasian powers turned to enslaving African captives in order to acquire the labor force in support of their plantation industry. Even after the 1865 abolition of slavery in America, there has been a power differential by which Caucasian Americans have mistreated African Americans. A power differential is an imbalance

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of power in a relationship where one individual or group has more authority, influence, or control than another. In the presence of the aforementioned racial power differential, there cannot be racial harmony, which is the peaceful coexistence and respectful cooperation of people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds within a society.

FIGURE 3.4: The horary chart

(PC12) 11:27 Su 27:05 WS12 AQ	(PC11) 14:14 WS11 CP	(PC10) 17:01 WS10 SA	(PC9) 14:14 WS9 SC	Mo 00:36 (PC8) 11:27 WS8 LI
Me 01:54 (PC1) 08:40 Sa 19:04 Ra 27:34 D WS1 PI	**Aakhut Em Bak** (Tropical Horary Chart) Racial relations in America Saturday, 15 FEB 2025 at 07:58 EST Atlanta, GA (33° 45′ N; 84° 23′ W)			(PC7) 08:40 Ke 27:34 D WS7 VI
Ve 07:00 (PC2) 11:27 WS2 AR	(PC3) 14:14 WS3 TA	Ju 11:29 (PC4) 17:01 WS4 GE	(PC5) 14:14 Ma 17:28 R WS5 CN	(PC6) 11:27 WS6 LE

Let's use Moon to clarify the query. Firstly, Moon's dispositor indicates what is on the querent's mind with regard to the query. For Moon in Libra, its dispositor is Venus. As the lord of PH3 (community) and PH8 (gaining or losing via another's efforts), Mercury refers to my concern about African Americans losing out to Caucasian Americans. Secondly, Moon's house location shows an area of life that is of great interest to the querent. Moon lies in the intersection of PH7 (opponents) and Libra WS8 (gaining or losing via another's efforts). This house location indicates that I am greatly interested in how Caucasian Americans have gained at the expense of African Americans.

Now that we have clarified the query, let's use the horary-astrology rubric to get the answer.

STEP #H1: Firstly, let's identify the querent's significator. The querent (African Americans as an ethno-racial group) is associated with PH1. Because PC1 lies in Jupiter-ruled Pisces, Jupiter is the PH1 lord and hence the querent's significator. Secondly, let's assess the querent's significator sect-wise and house-wise:

> **Jupiter in PH3:** Jupiter is the lord of PH1 (the querent's well-being) and PH10 (achieving something significant), and it is the natural representative of noble-minded action. Jupiter lies in the intersection of PH3 (community) and Gemini WS4 (comfort and security). In light of the foregoing, Jupiter refers to African Americans as nobly seeking a secure communal footing.

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As a diurnal benefic lying below the horizon, Jupiter is unhappy. Therefore, Jupiter moderately facilitates progress or improvement. PH3 allows 50% quadrant-house strength, and so Jupiter facilitates progress or improvement at a relatively good pace.

In light of the foregoing, circumstances favor African Americans to remedy their situation.

STEP #H2: Firstly, let's identify the quesited's significator. The quesited pertains to Caucasian Americans as an ethno-racial group, which is associated with PH7 (someone else). Because PC7 lies in Mercury-ruled Virgo, Mercury is the PH7 lord and hence the quesited's significator. Secondly, let's assess the quesited's significator sect-wise and house-wise:

Mercury in PH12: Mercury the lord of PH4 (comfort and security) and PH7 (opponents), and it is the natural representative of clever action and deception. Mercury lies in the intersection of PH12 (trying situations; hidden enemies) and Pisces WS1 (the querent). In light of the foregoing, Mercury refers to Caucasian Americans as gaining advantage by skillfully deceiving African Americans.

Mercury is malefic because it is in conjunction with malefic Sun. Mercury lies zodiacally ahead of Sun, and so it is nocturnal. As a nocturnal malefic lying above the horizon, Mercury is unhappy. Therefore, Mercury brings difficulties that require great effort to overcome. PH12 allows 25% quadrant-house strength, and so Mercury brings difficulties at a very slow pace.

Caucasian Americans have taken advantage of African Americans for their own ends.

STEP #H3: Moon is a co-significator of the querent. Let's assess Moon sect-wise and house-wise:

Moon in PH7: Moon is the lord of PH5 (personal interests), and it is the natural representative of susceptible people. Moon lies in the intersection of PH7 (opponents) and Libra WS8 (gaining or losing via another's efforts). In light of the foregoing, Moon refers to African Americans as being susceptible to unwholesome efforts of opponents.

Waning Moon is malefic. As a nocturnal malefic lying above the horizon, Moon is unhappy. Therefore, Moon brings difficulties that require great effort to overcome. PH7 allows 100% quadrant-house strength, and so Moon quickly brings difficulties.

African Americans have been subject to influences that have not served our best interests.

STEP #H4: Let's give thought to other noteworthy considerations. Mercury is separating from a conjunction with Sun (the quesited). For Mercury, we find the following:

Sun in PH12: Sun is the lord of PH6 (being subject to unwholesome influences), and it is the natural representative of leaders and bosses. Sun lies in the intersection of PH12 and Aquarius WS12, both houses referring to trying situations and hidden enemies. In light of the foregoing, Sun refers to Caucasian Americans as being an adversarial authoritative influence.

Sun represents something negative here, and so it is functionally malefic. As a diurnal malefic lying above the horizon, Sun brings difficulties that require moderate effort to overcome. PH12 allows 25% quadrant-house strength, and so Sun brings difficulties at a very slow pace or not at all.

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For the aspect here, we find the following:

> **Mercury-Sun conjunction:** As previously found, Mercury refers to Caucasian Americans as gaining advantage by skillfully deceiving African Americans. Moreover, as previously found, Sun refers to Caucasian Americans as being an adversarial authoritative influence. The separating conjunction here indicates that there has been a power differential by which Caucasian Americans have mistreated African Americans.

Let's move on!

For the configuration of the lunar nodes *Rāhu* and *Ketú*, we find the following:

> **Rāhu in PH1 and Ketú in PH7:** *Rāhu* in PH1 (self-identity) indicates high ambition, self-focus, and the determination to establish a strong identity. *Ketú* in PH7 (partnerships; someone else) indicates detachment from relationships. With time and experimentation and multiple changes, spiritual work, or self-development, the person here begins to discover their true identity and to live authentically. Consequently, they may discover that they have outgrown old relationship styles and patterns that no longer fit their authentic identity. The person's relationships need to evolve in order to fit the person's new reality. By having the courage to live authentically, the person here becomes powerful and able to inspire others to become their authentic selves.

See Appendix B for pertinent details.

The fixed star Skat lies at sidereal Aquarius 15° 01′, and it is the third-brightest star of the Aquarius constellation. See Appendix D for pertinent details. The *ayanāṃśa* for our horary chart is 24° 11′ 42″ according to True Chitrā 0° Libra. On adding this *ayanāṃśa* to Skat's approximate sidereal ecliptic longitude of 315° 01′ 00″, we get Skat's approximate tropical ecliptic longitude of 339° 12′ 42″, which is Pisces 09° 12′ 42″.

Skat is making a conjunction to PC1 (the querent). Skat inspires altruistic action that leads to eventual blessings. The Skat-PC1 conjunction refers to altruistic efforts by African Americans.

STEP #H5: Let's look for major aspects among the querent, the quesited, and Moon. There are no such major aspects, but there is a Moon-Sun quincunx (which is a hard minor aspect).

STEP #H6: I am the astrologer, and here is my judgment. There is a power differential by which Caucasian Americans have mistreated African Americans. In this regard, the historical interactions between African Americans and Caucasian Americans have been mostly negative.

COMMENTS: On Saturday, 15 February 2025, I posed the query here to the *Yì-Jīng* Oracle. The response was Hexagram 23 (BŌ, 'deteriorating') changing at Lines 4 and 6, thereby showing Hexagram 16 (YÙ, 'enthusiasm'). Caucasian Americans have been a force of deterioration that has weakened the well-being of African Americans. Nevertheless, African Americans are advised to take action that is aimed at faring well in the long run.

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3.5 A 9th-House query: Improving my astrology skills

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On Tuesday, 24 December 2024 at 09:42 am, EST, the following question formed in my mind:

Query: How might I best improve my skills as an astrologer?

FIGURE 3.5 presents the pertinent horary chart according to the tropical zodiac.

FIGURE 3.5: The horary chart

Su 03:16 (PC12) 09:59 WS12 CP	Me 11:20 (PC11) 16:03 WS11 SA	(PC10) 22:08 WS10 SC	(PC9) 16:03 Mo 21:25 WS9 LI	(PC8) 09:59 WS8 VI
(PC1) 03:54 Ve 19:39 WS1 AQ	**Aakhut Em Bak** (Tropical Horary Chart) Improving my astrology skills Tuesday, 24 DEC 2024 at 09:42 EST Atlanta, GA (33° 45′ N; 84° 23′ W)			(PC7) 03:54 Ma 04:02 R WS7 LE
(PC2) 09:59 Sa 14:00 WS2 PI	(PC3) 16:03 WS3 AR	(PC4) 22:08 WS4 TA	Ju 14:03 R (PC5) 16:03 WS5 GE	(PC6) 09:59 WS6 CN

Let's use Moon to clarify the query. Firstly, Moon's dispositor indicates what is on the querent's mind with regard to the query. For Moon in Libra, its dispositor is Venus. As the lord of PH4 (upbringing) and PH9 (spiritual or professional know-how), Venus refers to my concern about becoming competent in astrology. Secondly, Moon's house location shows an area of life that is of great interest to the querent. Moon lies in the intersection of PH9 and Virgo WS9, both houses referring to spiritual or professional know-how. This house location indicates that I am greatly interested in acquiring astrological know-how.

Now that we have clarified the query, let's use the horary-astrology rubric to get the answer.

STEP #H1: Firstly, let's identify the querent's significator. The querent (me) is associated with PH1. Because PC1 lies in Saturn-ruled Aquarius, Saturn is the PH1 lord and hence the querent's significator. Secondly, let's assess the querent's significator sect-wise and house-wise:

Saturn in PH2: Saturn is the lord of PH1 (the querent's well-being) and PH12 (trying situations), and it is the natural representative of sober-minded action. Saturn lies in the intersection of PH2 and Aquarius WS2, both houses referring to supportive persons or things.

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In light of the foregoing, Saturn refers to me as becoming astrologically resourced (that is, having all the resources necessary to function properly).

As a diurnal malefic lying below the horizon, Saturn is unhappy. Therefore, Saturn brings difficulties that require great effort to overcome. PH2 allows 25% quadrant-house strength, and so Saturn brings difficulties at a very slow pace.

In light of the foregoing, improving my astrology skills involves great effort and gradual development.

STEP #H2: Firstly, let's identify the quesited's significator. The quesited pertains to astrological know-how, which is associated with PH9 (spiritual or professional know-how). Because PC9 lies in Venus-ruled Libra, Venus is the PH9 lord and hence the quesited's significator. Secondly, let's assess the quesited's significator sect-wise and house-wise:

Venus in PH1: Venus is the lord of PH4 (upbringing) and PH9 (spiritual or professional know-how), and it is the natural representative of friendly action. Venus lies in the intersection of PH1 and Aquarius WS1, both houses referring to the querent. Venus refers to me as joyfully engaging astrology.

As a nocturnal benefic lying below the horizon, Venus is happy. Therefore, Venus greatly facilitates progress or improvement. PH1 allows 100% quadrant-house strength, and so Venus quickly facilitates progress or improvement.

Circumstances favor me to improve my astrology skills.

STEP #H3: Moon is a co-significator of the querent. Let's assess Moon sect-wise and house-wise:

Moon in PH9: Moon is the lord of PH6 (being of service to others), and it is the natural representative of nurturers. Moon lies in the intersection of PH9 and Virgo WS9, both houses referring to spiritual or professional know-how. In light of the foregoing, Moon refers to me as using astrology to be of service to others.

Waning Moon is malefic. As a nocturnal malefic lying above the horizon, Moon is unhappy. Therefore, Moon brings difficulties that require great effort to overcome. PH9 allows 50% quadrant-house strength, and so Moon brings difficulties at a relatively good pace.

It will take some time for me to develop my astrological knowledge and skills.

STEP #H4: Let's give thought to other noteworthy considerations. Venus (the quesited) lies in PH1 (the querent), and so astrology is making itself available to me.

STEP #H5: Let's look for major aspects among the querent, the quesited, and Moon. Moon (the querent) is separating from a sinister trine with Venus (the quesited):

Moon-Venus trine: As previously found, Moon refers to me as using astrology to be of service to others. Moreover, as previously found, Venus refers to me as joyfully engaging astrology. According to the principle of overcoming, Moon dominates the aspect here. The separating trine here indicates that I am already increasing my astrological know-how.

Improving my astrology skills involves unselfish efforts.

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STEP #H6: I am the astrologer, and here is my judgment. The way is open for me to make progress in furthering my astrological know-how with an aim at helping others.

COMMENTS: On Wednesday, 25 December 2024, I posed the query here to the *Yì-Jīng* Oracle. The response was Hexagram 54 (GUĪ MÈI, 'the junior wife') changing at Lines 2 and 4, thereby showing Hexagram 24 (FÙ, 'returning'). I am advised here to follow due process. Regarding the query, this means learning fundamental astrological knowledge and skills, listening to elder astrologers, finding out what truly matters, and complying with ethical standards of behavior.

3.6 Someone else's query

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My friend TJB is divorced from his former wife, who has been denying him the opportunity to spend quality time with their son BB. On Friday, 31 January 2025 at 10:58 pm, CST, my friend TJB (in New Orleans, Louisiana) presented the following query to me (in Atlanta, Georgia) during a telephone conversation.

Query: How might I best help my son BB at this time?

FIGURE 3.6 presents the pertinent horary chart according to the tropical zodiac.

FIGURE 3.6: The horary chart

(PC12) 23:09 WS12 VI	(PC11) 23:40 WS11 LE	Ma 20:24 R (PC10) 24:10 WS10 CN	Ju 11:17 R (PC9) 23:40 WS9 GE	(PC8) 23:09 WS8 TA
(PC1) 22:39 WS1 LI	**TJB** (Tropical Horary Chart) Helping my son BB Friday, 31 JAN 2025 at 22:58 CST New Orleans, LA (29° 57′ N; 90° 05′ W)			(PC7) 22:39 WS7 AR
(PC2) 23:09 WS2 SC	(PC3) 23:40 WS3 SA	(PC4) 24:10 WS4 CP	Me 06:43 Su 12:34 (PC5) 23:40 WS5 AQ	Sa 17:26 Mo 17:55 (PC6) 23:09 Ve 27:36 WS6 PI

Let's use Moon to clarify the query. Firstly, Moon's dispositor indicates what is on the querent's mind with regard to the query. For Moon in Pisces, its dispositor is Jupiter. As the lord of PH3 (relatives) and PH6 (being of service to others), Jupiter refers to TJB's concern about being a helpful parent to his son. Secondly, Moon's house location shows an area of life that is of great interest to the querent. Moon lies in the intersection of PH5 (children) and Pisces WS6 (being of

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service to others). This house location indicates that it is important to TJB that he be a helpful parent to his son.

Now that we have clarified the query, let's use the horary-astrology rubric to get the answer.

STEP #H1: Firstly, let's identify the querent's significator. The querent (my friend TJB) is associated with PH1. Because PC1 lies in Venus-ruled Libra, Venus is the PH1 lord and hence the querent's significator. Secondly, let's assess querent's significator sect-wise and house-wise:

> **Venus in PH6:** Venus is the lord of PH1 (the querent) and PH8 (an ending that facilitates transformation), and it is the natural representative of friendly action and intimate relationships. Venus lies in the intersection of PH6 and Pisces WS6, both houses referring to being of service to others. In light of the foregoing, Venus refers to TJB as working at achieving a wholesome father-son relationship.
>
> As a nocturnal malefic lying below the horizon, Venus is happy. Therefore, Venus greatly facilitates progress or improvement. PH6 allows 25% quadrant-house strength, and so Venus facilitates progress or improvement at a very slow pace.

It will take some time for TJB to develop a wholesome relationship with his son BB.

STEP #H2: Firstly, let's identify the quesited's significator. The quesited pertains to TJB's son BB, who is associated with PH5 (children). Because PC5 lies in Saturn-ruled Aquarius, Saturn is the PH5 lord and hence the quesited's significator. Secondly, let's assess the quesited's significator sect-wise and house-wise:

> **Saturn in PH5:** Saturn is the lord of PH4 (parents) and PH5 (children), and it is the natural representative of sober-minded action. Saturn lies in the intersection of PH5 (children) and Pisces WS6 (being of service to others). Saturn refers to helping BB as being a matter of TJB's concern.
>
> As a diurnal malefic lying below the horizon, Saturn is unhappy. Therefore, Saturn brings difficulties that require great effort to overcome. PH5 allows 50% quadrant-house strength, and so Saturn brings difficulties at a relatively good pace.

In light of the foregoing, circumstances favor the cultivation of a wholesome father-son relationship.

STEP #H3: Moon is a co-significator of the querent. Let's assess Moon sect-wise and house-wise:

> **Moon in PH5:** Moon is the lord of PH10 (achieving something significant), and it is the natural representative of nurturers. Moon lies in the intersection of PH5 (children) and Pisces WS6 (being of service to others). In light of the foregoing, Moon refers to TJB as being a nurturing father.
>
> Waxing Moon is benefic. As a diurnal benefic lying below the horizon, Moon is happy. Therefore, Moon greatly facilitates progress or improvement. PH5 allows 50% quadrant-house strength, and so Moon facilitates progress or improvement at a relatively good pace.

Circumstances favor TJB to be a nurturing father.

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STEP #H4: Let's give thought to other noteworthy considerations. There is nothing in this regard.

STEP #H5: Let's look for major aspects among the querent, the quesited, and Moon. Moon (the querent) is separating from a conjunction with Saturn (the quesited):

> **Moon-Saturn conjunction:** As previously found, Moon refers to TJB as being a nurturing father. Moreover, as previously found, Saturn refers to helping BB as being a matter of TJB's concern. The separating conjunction here indicates that TJB has already made some progress in achieving a wholesome father-son relationship.

TJB will eventually achieve a wholesome relationship with his son BB.

STEP #H6: I am the astrologer, and here is my judgment. At this time, TJB can help his son by being of service. The blogger Steve Errey stated: "A somewhat whimsical and naïve view perhaps, but giving without expectation of receiving is the truest definition of being of service."[4]

COMMENTS: On Friday, 31 January 2025, I posed the query here to the *Yì-Jīng* Oracle. The response was Hexagram 42 (Yì, 'increasing') with no changing lines. TJB will experience a major improvement or increase because of his reverent commitment to God, and he is advised to do the good that God has enabled him to do.

[4] Errey, Steve, *The 8 Laws of Being of Service* (23 July 2012), < https://copyblogger.com/being-of-service/>.

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4. Some Natal Astrology

4.1 Introduction

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Natal astrology is a system of astrology that is based on the belief that a person's potential (that is, latent but unrealized abilities), opportunities, and challenges can be determined by casting an astrological chart for the person's time and place of birth. This chart is called a **natal chart**, and the person for whom it is cast is called the **native**.

As declared in Section 1.7, we will be using the tropical zodiac, Porphyry houses primarily, and whole-sign houses secondarily. Regarding the Porphyry house system, we will be using the denotation 'PH*n*' to mean 'Porphyry House *n*' and the denotation 'PC*n*' to refer to its cusp. Regarding the whole-sign house system, we will be using the denotation 'WS*n*' to mean 'whole-sign House *n*'.

Each Porphyry house of an astrological chart is represented by its **house lord**, which is the planet that rules the sign of the house's cusp. For example, if PC9 lies in Saturn-ruled Aquarius, then Saturn is the PH9 lord. Each classical planet serves as the representative of its house(s) via its accidental role as the house lord. Moreover, each classical planet is the natural representative of some subset of persons, places, or things. We will follow astrologer Mychal A. Bryan by interpreting what a planet means firstly as an accidental representative and secondly as a natural representative. Note that the adjective 'accidental' here means 'occurring according to circumstances'.

Important comments: Astrologer Isabel M. Hickey said that: "Fate is earmarked in tendencies, not in facts. All anyone can see in a birth chart are tendencies that will become facts if one does not do something to alter them." In the divinatory corpus of the *Ifá* spiritual system, it says in chapter *Ogbè Ògúndá* that: "It is character alone that speaks. Personal destiny is never bad in *Ilé-Ifẹ̀* (a *Yorùbá* town that symbolizes earthly life). It is character alone that speaks." No one is born into the world with a bad destiny; it is one's character that makes or breaks them.

4.2 The natal chart

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On Tuesday, 15 January 1929, Michael King Jr. was born to Michael King Sr. and his wife Alberta Williams King at the family home (501 Auburn Avenue) in Atlanta, Georgia. According to his mother Alberta, the junior King was born at high noon. After returning from a trip to Germany in August 1934, the senior King changed his own name to Martin Luther King Sr. and his son's name to Martin Luther King Jr.

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The late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil-rights leader who campaigned against racial injustice in America. King famously said: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Moreover, he famously said: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

FIGURE 4.2 presents the natal chart of Martin Luther King Jr. according to the tropical zodiac. True *Rāhu* is in retrograde motion, lying at Taurus 28° 38′ 35″. Note that Atlanta was in the Central Time Zone until legislation switched it to the Eastern Time Zone on Friday, 21 March 1941.

FIGURE 4.2: King's natal chart

(PC12) 08:36 WS12 AR	(PC11) 03:24 Ve 10:33 LSp 19:21 Mo 19:35 WS11 PI	Me 11:45 WS10 AQ	(PC9) 03:24 Su 25:08 (PC10) 28:12 WS9 CP	(PC8) 08:36 Sa 25:21 WS8 SA
Ju 01:10 (PC1) 13:48 Ra 28:38 R WS1 TA	**Martin Luther King Jr.** Natal Chart (Tropical Zodiac) Tuesday, 15 JAN 1929 at 12:00 CST Atlanta, GA (33° 45′ N; 84° 23′ W)			(PC7) 13:48 Ke 28:38 R WS7 SC
(PC2) 08:36 Ma 21:53 R WS2 GE	(PC3) 03:24 LFo 08:45 (PC4) 28:12 WS3 CN	WS4 LE	(PC5) 03:24 WS5 VI	(PC6) 08:36 WS6 LI

In this section, we will take a look at King's natal chart by: [1] examining PH1, [2] examining the Lots of Fortune and Spirit, and [3] looking for interesting astrological configurations.

EXAMINING PH1

In natal astrology, PH1 refers to the native. More specifically, PH1 refers to the native's persona, which is the vehicle of personality (that is, characteristic way of thinking, feeling, and behaving) through which the native navigates earthly life. Moreover, PH1 refers to the native's well-being (that is, state of being happy, healthy, and prosperous).

Examining PH1 answers the question "Who is the native?" in astrological terms. In order to examine PH1, it is useful to consider: [1] the Ascendant and major aspects to it, [2] planets in PH1, and [3] the PH1 lord and its major aspects.

Firstly, the Ascendant refers to the native's central personality traits. Moreover, planets that make major aspects to the Ascendant indicate factors that add to the native's central personality traits. Secondly, planets in PH1 further indicate factors that add to the native's central personality traits. Thirdly, the PH1 lord represents the native, and its house location indicates where the native gives

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great attention and great effort. Moreover, planets that make major aspects with the PH1 lord indicate factors that affect it for good or for bad.

In King's natal chart, PC1 (the Ascendant) is at Taurus 13° 48′ 38″. For Taurus as the rising sign, we find the following:

> **Taurus Ascendant:** The sign Taurus expresses Venus in a feminine way. As an earth sign, Taurus is grounded and focused on material stability. As a fixed sign, Taurus is determined and resistant to change. She holds on to anyone and anything that she views as her own. Like a charging bull focused on his target, Taurus stays set on her course. She wants to see tangible results from her efforts, and so she is inclined to getting absorbed in acquiring material comforts and in indulging herself. At her best, feminine Taurus is doggedly determined to make tangible progress in achieving a better quality of life.

The Ascendant refers to the native's central personality traits.

Moon is making a sinister sextile to PC1:

> **Moon in PH11:** Moon is the lord of PH3 (community) and PH4 (comfort and security), and it is the natural representative of nurturers. Moon lies in the intersection of PH11 and Aquarius WS11, both houses referring to comrades and shared interests. At his best, masculine Aquarius is unselfish and makes improvements for the common good. In light of the foregoing, Moon refers to King as working together with others in order to get a secure footing for his community.
>
> Waxing Moon is benefic. As a nocturnal benefic lying above the horizon, Moon is unhappy. Therefore, Moon moderately facilitates progress or improvement. PH11 allows 50% quadrant-house strength, and so Moon facilitates progress or improvement at a relatively good pace.

Mercury is making a sinister square to PC1:

> **Mercury in PH10:** Mercury is the lord of PH2 (supportive persons or things) and PH5 (personal interests), and it is the natural representative of clever action, speech, and expertise. Mercury lies in the intersection of PH10 and Aquarius WS10, both houses referring to achieving something significant. At his best, masculine Aquarius is unselfish and makes improvements for the common good. In light of the foregoing, Mercury refers to King as achieving something significant by being a clever, unselfish advocate for his community.
>
> Mercury is malefic because its dispositor is malefic Saturn. Mercury lies zodiacally ahead of Sun, and so it is nocturnal. As a nocturnal malefic lying above the horizon, Mercury is unhappy. Therefore, Mercury brings difficulties that require great effort to overcome. PH10 allows 100% quadrant-house strength, and so Mercury quickly brings difficulties.

Venus is making a sinister sextile to PC1:

> **Venus in PH11:** Venus is the lord of PH1 (the native) and PH6 (being of service to others), and it is the natural representative of friendly action and intimate relationships. Venus lies in the intersection of PH11 and Aquarius WS11, both houses referring to comrades and shared interests. At his best, masculine Aquarius is unselfish and makes improvements for the common good. In light of the foregoing, Venus refers to King as working together with others in order to further the common good.

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As a nocturnal benefic lying above the horizon, Venus is unhappy. Therefore, Venus moderately facilitates progress or improvement. PH11 allows 50% quadrant-house strength, and so Venus facilitates progress or improvement at a relatively good pace.

Planets that make major aspects to the Ascendant indicate factors that add to the native's central personality traits.

Planets in PH1 further indicate factors that add to the native's central personality traits. There is nothing in this regard.

Let's now consider the PH1 lord and its major aspects. Because PC1 lies in Venus-ruled Taurus, Venus is the PH1 lord. As previously found, Venus refers to King as working together with others in order to further the common good. The PH1 lord represents the native, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort.

Planets that make major aspects with the PH1 lord indicate factors that affect it for good or for bad. There is nothing in this regard.

EXAMINING THE LOTS OF FORTUNE AND SPIRIT

See Appendix C for pertinent details. In King's natal chart, the Ascendant is at Taurus 13° 48′ 38″, Sun is at Capricorn 25° 08′ 04″, and Moon is at Pisces 19° 35′ 11. On making use of TABLE 2.1, we find that

$$Asc = 43°\,48'\,38'' , \qquad Sun = 295°\,08'\,04'' , \qquad Moon = 349°\,35'\,11''$$

are the pertinent ecliptic longitudes.

For the Lot of Fortune, we get

$$LFo = Asc + Moon - Sun = 43°\,48'\,38'' + 349°\,35'\,11'' - 295°\,08'\,04''$$
$$= 98°\,15'\,45'' = 90° + 08°\,15'\,45'' ,$$

which is Cancer 08° 15′ 45″. Therefore, Moon is the Lot's dispositor.

For the Lot of Spirit, we get

$$LSp = Asc + Sun - Moon = 43°\,48'\,38'' + 295°\,08'\,04'' - 349°\,35'\,11''$$
$$= -10°\,38'\,29'' \equiv -10°\,38'\,29'' + 360° = 349°\,21'\,31'' = 330° + 19°\,21'\,31'' ,$$

which is Pisces 19° 21′ 31″. Therefore, Jupiter is the Lot's dispositor.

The Lot of Fortune indicates how and where one can attract good luck to support their efforts. King's natal Lot of Fortune lies in the intersection of PH3 and Cancer WS3, both houses referring to community. At her best, feminine Cancer safeguards those who are near and dear. As previously found, Moon (the Lot's dispositor) refers to King as securing a good footing for his community. In light of the foregoing, King can attract good luck by safeguarding his community.

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The Lot of Spirit indicates how and where one can wholesomely develop their life potential. King's natal Lot of Spirit lies in the intersection of PH11 and Pisces WS11, both houses referring to comrades and shared interests. At her best, feminine Pisces is resilient and shows kindly concern for others. For Jupiter (the Lot's dispositor), we find the following:

> **Jupiter in PH12:** Jupiter is the lord of PH8 (an ending that facilitates transformation) and PH11 (comrades and shared interests), and it is the natural representative of noble-minded action. Jupiter lies in the intersection of PH12 (trying situations) and Taurus WS1 (the native's well-being). In light of the foregoing, Jupiter refers to King as taking transformative spiritual action to further the common good.

In light of the foregoing, King can wholesomely develop his life potential by engaging in fellowship with others who seek to further the common good.

LOOKING FOR INTERESTING ASTROLOGICAL CONFIGURATIONS

Let's now look for interesting astrological configurations in King's natal chart. In this regard, Sun is making a conjunction to PC10 (the Midheaven). For Sun, we find the following:

> **Sun in PH9:** Sun is the lord of PH4 (comfort and security), and it is the natural representative of leaders and social recognition. Sun lies in the intersection of PH9 and Capricorn WS9, both houses referring to spiritual or professional know-how. At her best, feminine Capricorn is diligent – she gives steady, meticulous attention to ongoing tasks. In light of the foregoing, Sun refers to King as being a diligent, spiritual leader.
>
> Sun represents something positive, and so it is functionally benefic. As a diurnal benefic lying above the horizon, Sun greatly facilitates progress or improvement. PH9 allows 50% quadrant-house strength, and so Sun facilitates progress or improvement at a relatively good pace.

As a co-founder of SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference), King used the power of black churches to conduct nonviolent protests aimed at civil-rights reform.

For the configuration of the lunar nodes *Rāhu* and *Ketú*, we find the following:

> **Rāhu in PH1 and Ketú in PH7:** *Rāhu* in PH1 (self-identity) indicates high ambition, self-focus, and the determination to establish a strong identity. *Ketú* in PH7 (partnerships; someone else) indicates detachment from relationships. With time and experimentation and multiple changes, spiritual work, or self-development, the person here begins to discover their true identity and to live authentically. Consequently, they may discover that they have outgrown old relationship styles and patterns that no longer fit their authentic identity. The person's relationships need to evolve in order to fit the person's new reality. By having the courage to live authentically, the person here becomes powerful and able to inspire others to become their authentic selves.

See Appendix B for pertinent details. King famously spoke of the 'beloved community', which he viewed as an achievable society in which justice, equal opportunity, and love for all human beings prevail.

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4.3 The Profected Ascendant

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The Latin-derived noun '**profection**' means 'a movement forward'. The **Profected Ascendant** (PR1) is the result of moving the natal Ascendant forward at a rate of 30° per year of life. More specifically, for the native at A tropical years of age, we add

$$\text{profection addition term} = (30 \times A)\ deg$$

to the ecliptic longitude of the natal Ascendant in order to get the ecliptic longitude of PR1. Note that a mean tropical year (about 365.242189 mean solar days) is the time taken by Earth to complete its annual cycle of seasons.

FIGURE 4.3: PR1 in King's natal chart

<K2> 02:16 (PC12) 08:36 WS12 AR	(PC11) 03:24 Ve 10:33 Mo 19:35 WS11 PI	Me 11:45 WS10 AQ	(PC9) 03:24 Su 25:08 (PC10) 28:12 WS9 CP	(PC8) 08:36 Sa 25:21 WS8 SA
Ju 01:10 (PC1) 13:48 <K1> 26:28 WS1 TA	**Martin Luther King Jr.** Natal Chart (Tropical Zodiac) Tuesday, 15 JAN 1929 at 12:00 CST Atlanta, GA (33° 45′ N; 84° 23′ W)			(PC7) 13:48 WS7 SC
(PC2) 08:36 Ma 21:53 R WS2 GE	(PC3) 03:24 (PC4) 28:12 WS3 CN	<K3> 20:20 WS4 LE	(PC5) 03:24 WS5 VI	(PC6) 08:36 WS6 LI

In order to examine the native's life at a given time, it is useful to consider: [1] PR1 and major aspects to it, [2] planets in the house location of PR1, and [3] the PR1 ruler and its major aspects.

Firstly, PR1 refers to the native's situation at the time of interest. Moreover, planets that make major aspects to PR1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. Secondly, planets in the house location of PR1 further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. Thirdly, the PR1 ruler represents the native at the time of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. Moreover, planets that make major aspects with the PR1 ruler indicate factors that affect it for good or for bad.

In this section, we will use PR1 together with hindsight in order to examine three particular events in the life of Martin Luther King Jr. These events are: Event #K1 (King's wedding day in 1953), Event #K2 (King's DC speech in 1963), and Event #K3 (King's passing in 1968).

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EVENT #K1 (King's wedding day in 1953)

On Thursday, 18 June 1953, Martin Luther King Jr. married Coretta Scott, who would later become a civil-rights leader in her own right. By this date, King had lived through 6 leap days (namely, those of 1932, 1936, 1940, 1944, 1948, and 1952). It follows that on his wedding day, King's tropical age was about

$$\frac{[(6 \times 366) + (18 \times 365) + 16 + 28 + 31 + 30 + 31 + 18]\ days}{365.242189\ days/yr} \approx 24.4221513\ yrs\ .$$

For $A \approx 24.4221513$, we get

$$\text{profection addition term} = (30 \times A)\ deg \approx 732.664539\ deg \approx 732°\ 39'\ 52''$$
$$= 2 \times 360° + 12°\ 39'\ 52'' \equiv 12°\ 39'\ 52''\ .$$

The natal Ascendant is at Taurus 13° 48′ 38″, and so its ecliptic longitude is 43° 48′ 38″. We find that the ecliptic longitude of PR1 is

$$43°\ 48'\ 38'' + 12°\ 39'\ 52'' = 56°\ 28'\ 30'' = 30° + 26°\ 28'\ 30''\ ,$$

and so the Profected Ascendant (PR1) is at Taurus 26° 28′ 30″.

Firstly, let's consider PR1 and major aspects to it. PR1 refers to the native's situation at the time of interest. PR1 (denoted in FIGURE 4.3 as 'K1') lies in the intersection of PH1 and Taurus WS1, both houses referring to the native's well-being. At her best, feminine Taurus is doggedly determined to make tangible progress in achieving a better quality of life. King's marriage was an opportunity for him to work at having a better quality of life.

Planets that make major aspects to PR1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. Sun is making a sinister trine to PR1. As previously found in Section 4.2, Sun refers to King as being a diligent, spiritual leader. In the context of marriage, Sun refers to King as being a good husband according to spiritual standards.

Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of PR1, which further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. There is nothing in this regard.

Thirdly, let's consider the PR1 ruler and its major aspects. The PR1 ruler represents the native at the time of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. As previously found in Section 4.2, Venus (the PR1 ruler) refers to King as working together with others in order to further the common good. In the context of marriage, Venus refers to King as working together with his wife in order to further a wholesome marital union.

Planets that make major aspects with the PR1 ruler indicate factors that affect it for good or for bad. There is nothing in this regard.

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EVENT #K2 (King's DC speech in 1963)

On Wednesday, 28 August 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have A Dream" speech during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. By this date, King had lived through 8 leap days (namely, those of 1932, 1936, 1940, 1944, 1948, 1952, 1956, and 1960). It follows that on the date of his speech, King's tropical age was about

$$\frac{[(8 \times 366) + (26 \times 365) + 16 + 28 + 31 + 30 + 31 + 30 + 31 + 28]\ days}{365.242189\ days/yr}$$

$$\approx 34.6153878\ yrs\ .$$

For $A \approx 34.6153878$, we get

$$\text{profection addition term} = (30 \times A)\ deg \approx 1038.46163\ deg \approx 1038°\ 27'\ 42''$$

$$= 2 \times 360° + 318°\ 27'\ 42'' \equiv 318°\ 27'\ 42''\ .$$

The natal Ascendant is at Taurus 13° 48′ 38″, and so its ecliptic longitude is 43° 48′ 38″. We find that the ecliptic longitude of PR1 is

$$43°\ 48'\ 38'' + 318°\ 27'\ 42'' = 362°\ 16'\ 20'' = 360° + 02°\ 16'\ 20'' \equiv 02°\ 16'\ 20''$$

$$= 00° + 02°\ 16'\ 20''\ ,$$

and so the Profected Ascendant (PR1) is at Aries 02° 16′ 20″.

Firstly, let's consider PR1 and major aspects to it. PR1 refers to the native's situation at the time of interest. PR1 (denoted in FIGURE 4.3 as 'K2') lies in the intersection of PH11 (comrades and shared interests) and Aries WS12 (trying situations). At his best, masculine Aries has the courage to jump into action in order to enthusiastically pursue worthy goals. The core agenda of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was to advocate civil rights and economic equality for African Americans.

Planets that make major aspects to PR1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. Saturn is making a sinister square to PR1. For Saturn, we find the following:

> **Saturn in PH8:** Saturn is the lord of PH9 (spiritual or professional know-how) and PH10 (achieving something significant; head persons), and it is the natural representative of sober-minded action. Saturn lies in the intersection of PH8 and Sagittarius WS8, both houses referring to an ending that facilitates transformation. At his best, masculine Sagittarius is not afraid to go beyond his comfort zone and to take risks in order to achieve worthy goals. In light of the foregoing, Saturn refers to King as achieving something significant through transformative spiritual leadership.
>
> As a diurnal malefic lying above the horizon, Saturn is happy. Therefore, Saturn brings difficulties that require moderate effort to overcome. PH8 allows 25% quadrant-house strength, and so Saturn brings difficulties at a very slow pace.

Let's move on!

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Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of PR1, which further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. There is nothing in this regard.

Thirdly, let's consider the PR1 ruler and its major aspects. The PR1 ruler represents the native at the time of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. For Mars (the PR1 ruler), we find the following:

> **Mars in PH2:** Mars is the lord of PH7 (partnerships) and PH12 (trying situations), and it is the natural representative of energetic assertive action. Mars lies in the intersection of PH2 and Gemini WS2, both houses referring to supportive persons or things. At his best, masculine Gemini seeks to learn and communicate in order to further wholesome social development. In light of the foregoing, Mars refers to King as enthusiastically partnering with others in order to further wholesome social development.
>
> As a nocturnal malefic lying below the horizon, Mars is happy. Therefore, Mars brings difficulties that require moderate effort to overcome. PH2 allows 25% quadrant-house strength, and so Mars brings difficulties at a very slow pace.

Let's move on!

Planets that make major aspects with the PR1 ruler indicate factors that affect it for good or for bad. Moon is applying to a sinister square with Mars:

> **Moon-Mars square:** As previously found in Section 4.2, Moon refers to King as working together with others in order to get a secure footing for his community. Moreover, as previously found, Mars refers to King as enthusiastically partnering with others in order to further wholesome social development. According to the principle of overcoming, Moon dominates the aspect here.

Mars is separating from an opposition with Saturn:

> **Mars-Saturn opposition:** As previously found, Mars refers to King as enthusiastically partnering with others in order to further wholesome social development. Moreover, as previously found, Saturn refers to King as achieving something significant through transformative spiritual leadership. The opposition aspect here calls for King to harmonize these two efforts.

In his famous "I Have A Dream" speech, King addressed the issue of racial inequality in America, and he argued that racial justice is in accord with God's will.

EVENT #K3 (King's passing in 1968)

On Thursday, 04 April 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. passed away from assassination. By this date, King had lived through 10 leap days (namely, those of 1932, 1936, 1940, 1944, 1948, 1952, 1956, 1960, 1964, and 1968). It follows that on the date of his passing, King's tropical age was about

$$\frac{[(9 \times 366) + (30 \times 365) + 16 + 29 + 31 + 4]\ days}{365.242189\ days/yr} \approx 39.2178134\ yrs\ .$$

For $A \approx 39.2178134$, we get

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$$\text{profection addition term} = (30 \times A)\ deg \approx 1176.53440\ deg \approx 1176^\circ\ 32'\ 04''$$
$$= 3 \times 360^\circ + 96^\circ\ 32'\ 04'' \equiv 96^\circ\ 32'\ 04''\ .$$

The natal Ascendant is at Taurus 13° 48′ 38″, and so its ecliptic longitude is 43° 48′ 38″. We find that the ecliptic longitude of PR1 is

$$43^\circ\ 48'\ 38'' + 96^\circ\ 32'\ 04'' = 140^\circ\ 20'\ 42'' = 120^\circ + 20^\circ\ 20'\ 42''\ ,$$

and so the Profected Ascendant (PR1) is at Leo 20° 20′ 02″.

Firstly, let's consider PR1 and major aspects to it. PR1 refers to the native's situation at the time of interest. PR1 (denoted in FIGURE 4.3 as 'K3') lies in the intersection of PH4 and Leo WS4, both houses referring to being gravebound.

Planets that make major aspects to PR1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. Mars is making a sinister sextile to PR1. In the context of King's assassination, we find the following for Mars:

> **Mars in PH2:** Mars is the lord of PH7 (bodily death or bodily harm) and PH12 (hidden enemies), and it is the natural representative of bodily injury. Mars lies in the intersection of PH2 and Gemini WS2, both houses referring to supportive persons or things. In light of the foregoing, Mars refers to bodily death at the hands of hidden enemies.

Let's move on!

Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of PR1, which further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. There is nothing in this regard.

Thirdly, let's consider the PR1 ruler and its major aspects. The PR1 ruler represents the native at the time of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. As previously found in Section 4.2, Moon (the PR1 ruler) refers to King as working together with others in order to get a secure footing for his community. In the context of King's assassination, Moon is the lord of PH4 (being gravebound). On putting it all together, Moon refers to King as being bound for bodily death because of his efforts to further his community.

Planets that make major aspects with the PR1 ruler indicate factors that affect it for good or bad. Moon is applying to a sinister square with Mars:

> **Moon-Mars square:** As previously found, Moon refers to King as being bound for bodily death because of his efforts to further his community. Moreover, as previously found, Mars refers to bodily death at the hands of hidden enemies. According to the principle of overcoming, Moon dominates the aspect here.

King famously said: "The time is always right to do what is right.". King faced constant threats of violence that came primarily from white supremacy groups and from a covert surveillance and harassment campaign that was orchestrated by the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation).

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4.4 Secondary progressions

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Earth's orbital motion about Sun gives rise to secondary motion. From the point of view of an earthbound observer, secondary motion is perceived as Earth remaining at rest while Sun and other planets generally move forward along the zodiac. The **method of secondary progressions** is a technique that uses secondary motion to predict events. According to this technique, each mean solar day after birth corresponds to one mean tropical year of the native's life. Therefore, the native's life at A tropical years of age is revealed by what is happening astrologically when they are A days old. For example, the native's life at age 90 is revealed by an astrological chart that is cast for when the native is 90 days old.

If we take age 90 to be the human life span, then we can examine the native's entire life based on what is happening astrologically during the first 3 months after their birth.

FIGURE 4.4a: SP1 in King's natal chart

(PC12) 08:36 WS12 AR	(PC11) 03:24 Ve 10:33 Mo 19:35 WS11 PI	Me 11:45 WS10 AQ	(PC9) 03:24 Su 25:08 (PC10) 28:12 WS9 CP	(PC8) 08:36 Sa 25:21 <K2> 29:11 WS8 SA
Ju 01:10 (PC1) 13:48 WS1 TA	**Martin Luther King Jr.** Natal Chart (Tropical Zodiac) Tuesday, 15 JAN 1929 at 12:00 CST Atlanta, GA (33° 45′ N; 84° 23′ W)			(PC7) 13:48 WS7 SC
(PC2) 08:36 Ma 21:53 R WS2 GE	(PC3) 03:24 (PC4) 28:12 WS3 CN	WS4 LE	<K3> 02:34 (PC5) 03:24 WS5 VI	(PC6) 08:36 <K1> 22:12 WS6 LI

Let SP1 denote the Ascendant of the secondary-progression (SP) chart. In this section, we will use SP1 together with hindsight in order to examine three particular events in the life of Martin Luther King Jr. These events are: Event #K1 (King's wedding day in 1953), Event #K2 (King's DC speech in 1963), and Event #K3 (King's passing in 1968).

EVENT #K1 (King's wedding day in 1953)

On Thursday, 18 June 1953, Martin Luther King Jr. married Coretta Scott, who would later become a civil-rights leader in her own right. In Section 4.3, we found that King's tropical age on the event date was about $24.4221513\ yrs$. For $A \approx 24.4221513$, we get

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$$A\ days \approx 24.4221513\ days \approx 24\ days + 10\ hr + 7\ min + 54\ sec$$

as the chart-addition term.

FIGURE 4.4b: SP chart for Event #K1

(PC12) 22:56 WS12 VI	(PC11) 23:41 WS11 LE	(PC10) 24:26 WS10 CN	Ma 21:56 (PC9) 23:41 WS9 GE	Ju 03:45 (PC8) 22:56 WS8 TA
(SP1) 22:12 WS1 LI	**Martin Luther King Jr.** Secondary Progression Chart (Tropical) Friday, 08 FEB 1929 at 22:07:54 CST Atlanta, GA (33° 45′ N; 84° 23′ W)			Ve 06:43 (PC7) 22:12 WS7 AR
(PC2) 22:56 WS2 SC	(PC3) 23:41 Sa 27:45 WS3 SA	(PC4) 24:26 WS4 CP	Mo 13:15 Me 15:29 R Su 19:56 (PC5) 23:41 WS5 AQ	(PC6) 22:56 WS6 PI

On adding the chart-addition term to King's time of birth (Tuesday, 15 January 1929 at 12:00 pm, CST), we get Friday, 08 February 1929 at 10:07:54 pm, CST. FIGURE 4.4b presents King's SP chart according to the tropical zodiac. The SP Ascendant (SP1) is at Libra 22° 12′ 01″.

Let's examine the natal chart. Firstly, let's consider SP1 and major aspects to it. SP1 refers to the native's situation at the time of interest. SP1 (denoted in FIGURE 4.4a as 'K1') lies in the intersection of PH6 and Libra WS6, both houses referring to being of service to others. Like the justice scales, masculine Libra seeks balance and harmony. He initiates relationships and partnerships with a diplomatic approach.

Planets that make major aspects to SP1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. Sun is making a dexter square to SP1. As previously found for Event #K1 in Section 4.3, natal Sun refers to King as being a good husband according to spiritual standards. Mars is making a sinister trine to SP1. As previously found for Event #K2 in Section 4.3, Mars refers to King as enthusiastically partnering with others in order to further wholesome social development. In the context of marriage, natal Mars refers to King as acquiring his 'better half' (a friendly reference to the spouse with whom one shares one's life).

Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of SP1, which further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. There is nothing in this regard.

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Thirdly, let's consider the SP1 ruler. The SP1 ruler represents the native at the time of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. As previously found in Section 4.2, Venus (the SP1 ruler) refers to King as working together with others in order to further the common good. In the context of marriage, natal Venus refers to King as working together with his wife in order to have a wholesome marital union.

Let's examine the SP chart. Firstly, let's consider major aspects to SP1 in FIGURE 4.4b. Planets that make major aspects to SP1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. Sun is making a dexter trine to SP1 (the native's well-being), and so it is making a sinister sextile to PC7 (marriage). Sun is the lord of PH11 (comrades and shared interests), and it is the natural representative of husbands. Sun lies in the intersection of PH4 (comfort and security) and Aquarius WS5 (personal interests). In light of the foregoing, SP Sun refers to King's commitment as a husband to providing comfort and security.

Planets that make major aspects to SP1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. Mercury is making a dexter trine to SP1 (the native's well-being), and so it is making a sinister sextile to PC7 (marriage). Mercury is the lord of PH9 (spiritual or professional know-how) and PH12 (trying situations). Mercury lies in the intersection of PH4 (comfort and security) and Aquarius WS5 (personal interests). In light of the foregoing, SP Mercury refers to King's marriage as a trying situation that requires spiritual guidance for comfort and security.

Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of SP1, which further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. There is nothing in this regard.

Thirdly, let's consider the SP1 ruler. The SP1 ruler represents the native at the time of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. Venus (the SP ruler) is the lord of PH1 (the native's well-being) and PH8 (an ending that facilitates transformation), and it is the natural representative of friendly action and intimate relationships. Venus lies in the intersection of PH6 (being of service to others) and Aries WS7 (marriage). In light of the foregoing, SP Venus refers to King's marriage as being transformative and giving.

EVENT #K2 (King's DC speech in 1963)

On Wednesday, 28 August 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have A Dream" speech during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. In Section 4.3, we found that King's tropical age on the event date was about $34.6153878\ yrs$. For $A \approx 34.6153878$, we get

$$A\ days \approx 34.6153878\ days \approx 34\ days + 14\ hr + 46\ min + 10\ sec$$

as the chart-addition term.

On adding the chart-addition term to King's time of birth (Tuesday, 15 January 1929 at 12:00 pm, CST), we get Tuesday, 19 February 1929 at 02:46:10 am, CST. FIGURE 4.4c presents King's SP chart according to the tropical zodiac. The SP Ascendant (SP1) is at Sagittarius 29° 11′ 57″.

Let's examine the natal chart. Firstly, let's consider SP1 and major aspects to it. SP1 refers to the native's situation at the time of interest. SP1 (denoted in FIGURE 4.4a as 'K2') lies in the

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intersection of PH8 and Sagittarius WS8, both houses referring to an ending that facilitates transformation. At his best, masculine Sagittarius is not afraid to go beyond his comfort zone and to take risks in order to achieve worthy goals.

Planets that make major aspects to SP1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. Jupiter is making a dexter trine to SP1. As previously found in Section 4.2, natal Jupiter refers to King as taking transformative spiritual action to further the common good.

Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of SP1, which further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. Like SP1, Saturn lies in the intersection of PH8 and Sagittarius WS8, both houses referring to an ending that facilitates transformation. As previously found for Event #K2 in Section 4.3, natal Saturn refers to King as achieving something significant through transformative spiritual leadership.

Thirdly, let's consider the SP1 ruler. The SP1 ruler represents the native at the time of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. As previously found in Section 4.2, natal Jupiter (the SR1 ruler) refers to King as taking transformative spiritual action to further the common good.

FIGURE 4.4c: SP chart for Event #K2

(PC11) 11:17 WS12 SC	(PC10) 17:19 WS11 LI	(PC9) 11:17 WS10 VI	(PC8) 05:14 WS9 LE	Mo 01:12 WS8 CN
(PC12) 05:14 Sa 28:34 (SP1) 29:11 WS1 SA	**Martin Luther King Jr.** Secondary Progression Chart (Tropical) Tuesday, 19 FEB 1929 at 02:46:10 CST Atlanta, GA (33° 45′ N; 84° 23′ W)			(PC6) 05:14 Ma 23:55 (PC7) 29:11 WS7 GE
WS2 CP	(PC2) 05:14 Me 08:53 st WS3 AQ	Su 00:14 (PC3) 11:17 WS4 PI	Ve 16:29 (PC4) 17:19 WS5 AR	Ju 05:16 (PC5) 11:17 WS6 TA

Let's examine the SP chart. Firstly, let's consider major aspects to SP1 in FIGURE 4.4c. Planets that make major aspects to SP1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. Sun is making a dexter sextile to SP1. Sun is the lord of PH8 (an ending that facilitates transformation), and it is the natural representative of leaders and social recognition. Sun lies in the intersection of PH2 (supportive persons or things) and Pisces WS4 (comfort and security). In the context of King's DC speech, SP Sun refers to King as seeking a secure footing for his supporters through transformative leadership.

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Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of SP1, which further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. There is nothing in this regard.

Thirdly, let's consider the SP1 ruler. The SP1 ruler represents the native at the time of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. Jupiter (the SP1 ruler) is the lord of PH1 (self-identity) and PH3 (community), and it is the natural representative of noble-minded action, high social position, and religion/spirituality. Jupiter lies in the intersection of PH4 (comfort and security) and Taurus WS6 (being of service to others). In the context of King's DC speech, SP Jupiter refers to King as taking spiritual action in order to get a secure footing for his community.

EVENT #K3 (King's passing in 1968)

On Thursday, 04 April 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. passed away from assassination. In Section 4.3, we found that King's tropical age on the event date was about $39.2178134\ yrs$. For $A \approx 39.2178134$, we get

$$A\ days \approx 39.2178134\ days \approx 39\ days + 5\ hr + 13\ min + 39\ sec$$

as the chart-addition term.

FIGURE 4.4d: SP chart for Event #K3

(PC12) 01:34 WS12 LE	(PC11) 00:34 WS11 CN	Ma 25:07 WS10 GE	(PC9) 00:34 Ju 06:02 (PC10) 29:34 WS9 TA	(PC8) 01:34 Ve 20:33 WS8 AR
(SP1) 02:34 Mo 07:10 WS1 VI	**Martin Luther King Jr.** Secondary Progression Chart (Tropical) Saturday, 23 FEB 1929 at 17:13:39 CST Atlanta, GA (33° 45′ N; 84° 23′ W)			(PC7) 02:34 Su 04:52 WS7 PI
(PC2) 01:34 WS2 LI	(PC3) 00:34 (PC4) 29:34 WS3 SC	Sa 28:54 WS4 SA	(PC5) 00:34 WS5 CP	(PC6) 01:34 Me 09:54 WS6 AQ

On adding the chart-addition term to King's time of birth (Tuesday, 15 January 1929 at 12:00 pm, CST), we get Saturday, 23 February 1929 at 05:13:39 pm, CST. FIGURE 4.4d presents King's SP chart according to the tropical zodiac. The SP Ascendant (SP1) is at Virgo 02° 34′ 07″.

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Let's examine the natal chart. Firstly, let's consider SP1 and major aspects to it. SP1 refers to the native's situation at the time of interest. SP1 (denoted in FIGURE 4.4a as 'K3') lies in the intersection of PH4 (being gravebound) and Leo WS5 (supportive factors to being gravebound). Note that with respect to the 4th House (being gravebound), the 5th House is the derived 2nd House (supportive persons or things). On a negative note, Virgo may use calculated thinking to plot against others.

Planets that make major aspects to SP1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. Jupiter is applying a sinister trine to SP1. In the context of King's assassination, Jupiter is the lord of PH8 (life-threatening situations) and PH11 (being gravebound because of threats), and it is the natural representative of high social position. Note that with respect to the 8th House (life-threatening situations), the 11th House is the derived 4th House (being gravebound). Jupiter lies in the intersection of PH12 (hidden enemies) and Aries WS1 (the native's well-being). In the context of King's assassination, natal Jupiter refers to King's bodily death as being related to enemies in high places.

Saturn is making a dexter trine to SP1. In the context of King's assassination, Saturn is the natural representative of death. Saturn lies in the intersection of PH8 (bodily death) and Sagittarius WS9 (supportive factors to bodily death). Note that with respect to the 8th House (bodily death), the 9th House is the derived 2nd House (supportive persons or things). In the context of King's assassination, natal Saturn refers to King as facing the threat of bodily death.

Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of SP1, which further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. There is nothing in this regard.

Thirdly, let's consider the SP1 ruler. The SP1 ruler represents the native at the time of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. Mercury (the SP1 ruler) is the lord of PH2 (supportive persons or things) and PH5 (personal interests), and it is the natural representative of clever action, speech, and expertise. Mercury lies in the intersection of PH10 and Aquarius WS10, both houses referring to achieving something significant, gaining prestige, and head persons. In light of the foregoing, Mercury refers to King as achieving something significant by being a clever committed advocate of improving the lives of his supporters.

Toward relating Mercury's message here to King's assassination, we mention that King was assassinated while he was in Memphis, Tennessee in support of African American sanitation workers who were on strike. Moreover, King's advocacy of civil rights made him a target of COINTELPRO (Counterintelligence Program), an FBI initiative that aimed to prevent the rise of a messiah who could unify and electrify the militant black nationalist movement.

Let's examine the SP chart. Firstly, let's consider major aspects to SP1 in FIGURE 4.4d. Planets that make major aspects to SP1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. Sun is making an opposition to SP1 (bodily life or bodily health), and so it is making a conjunction to PC7 (bodily death or bodily harm). Sun is the lord of PH12 (hidden enemies), and it is the natural representative of vitality. Sun lies in the intersection of PH7 and Pisces WS7, both houses referring to bodily death or bodily harm. In the context of King's

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assassination, the SP Sun-SP1 opposition (or equivalently, the SP Sun-PC7 conjunction) refers to bodily life as encountering bodily death.

Moon is making a conjunction to SP1. Moon is the lord of PH11 (comrades and shared interests), and it is the natural representative of nurturers. Moon lies in the intersection of PH1 and Virgo WS1, both houses referring to the native's self-identity. In light of the foregoing, SP Moon refers to King as working together with his fellow African Americans. King's advocacy of civil rights made him an assassination target of enemies in high places.

Mars is making a sinister sextile to SP1. In the context of King's assassination, Mars is the lord of PH3 (life-threatening hidden enemies), PH4 (being gravebound), and PH8 (bodily death; life-threatening situations), and it is the natural representative of bodily injury. Note that with respect to the 4th House (being gravebound), the 3rd House is the derived 12th House (hidden enemies). Mars lies in the intersection of PH10 and Gemini WS10, both houses referring to being bound for bodily death. Note that with respect to the 4th House (being gravebound), the 10th House is the derived 7th House (bodily death or bodily harm). In the context of King's assassination, SP Mars refers to King as being bound for bodily death because of hidden enemies.

Saturn is making a dexter trine to SP1. Saturn is the lord of PH5 (dangerous hidden enemies) and PH6 (being subject to unwholesome influences), and it is the natural representative of death. Note that with respect to the 6th House (being subject to unwholesome influences), the 5th House is the derived 12th House (hidden enemies). Saturn lies in the intersection of PH4 and Sagittarius WS4, both houses referring to being gravebound. In the context of King's assassination, SP Saturn refers to King as being bound for bodily death because of unwholesome people.

Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of SP1, which further describe the native's situation at the time of interest. Like SP1, Moon lies in the intersection of PH1 and Virgo WS1, both houses referring to the native's self-identity. As previously found, SP Moon refers to King as working together with his fellow African Americans. King's advocacy of civil rights made him an assassination target of enemies in high places.

Thirdly, let's consider the SP1 ruler. The SP1 ruler represents the native at the time of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. Mercury (the SP ruler) is the lord of PH1 (the native's well-being) and PH10 (achieving something significant; gaining prestige; head persons), and it is the natural representative of clever action, speech, and expertise. Mercury lies in the intersection of PH6 and Aquarius WS6, both houses referring to being of service to others. In light of the foregoing, SP Mercury refers to King as achieving something significant by being a clever, unselfish advocate for the common good. King's advocacy of civil rights made him an assassination target of enemies in high places.

4.5 Solar returns

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The native's **solar return** is Sun's annual return to its natal location. This return occurs on or close to the native's birthday. A solar-return year spans the time interval from one solar return to

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the next one. In astrology, the noun '**transit**' refers to the ongoing movement of a planet across the sky. In working with transits, we look at current planetary locations. A **solar-return chart** is a transit chart that is cast for the time when a solar return occurs, and we take it to represent the entire associated solar-return year.

There is disagreement among astrologers about the location for which a return chart should be cast. Some believe that the chart should be cast for the native's location at the time of the return. Others believe that the return chart should be cast for the native's birthplace, regardless of the native's location at the time of the return. We side with the latter group.

FIGURE 4.5a: SR1 in King's natal chart

(PC12) 08:36 WS12 AR	(PC11) 03:24 Ve 10:33 Mo 19:35 WS11 PI	<K1> 11:17 Me 11:45 WS10 AQ	(PC9) 03:24 Su 25:08 (PC10) 28:12 WS9 CP	(PC8) 08:36 Sa 25:21 WS8 SA
Ju 01:10 (PC1) 13:48 WS1 TA	**Martin Luther King Jr.** Natal Chart (Tropical Zodiac) Tuesday, 15 JAN 1929 at 12:00 CST Atlanta, GA (33° 45′ N; 84° 23′ W)			(PC7) 13:48 WS7 SC
(PC2) 08:36 Ma 21:53 R WS2 GE	(PC3) 03:24 (PC4) 28:12 WS3 CN	<K2> 12:48 WS4 LE	(PC5) 03:24 WS5 VI	(PC6) 08:36 <K3> 15:11 WS6 LI

Let SR1 denote the Ascendant of the solar-return (SR) chart. In this section, we will use SR1 together with hindsight in order to examine three particular events in the life of Martin Luther King Jr. These events are: Event #K1 (King's wedding day in 1953), Event #K2 (King's DC speech in 1963), and Event #K3 (King's passing in 1968).

EVENT #K1 (King's wedding day in 1953)

On Thursday, 15 January 1953, King reached age 24. Sun's natal ecliptic longitude is 295° 08′ 04″. We find that Sun achieves this natal value on Thursday, 15 January 1953 at 08:42:00 am, EST. FIGURE 4.5b presents King's 1953 SR chart according to the tropical zodiac. The SR Ascendant (SR1) is at Aquarius 11° 17′ 03″.

On Thursday, 18 June 1953, Martin Luther King Jr. married Coretta Scott, who would later become a civil-rights leader in her own right. Let's see how this event shows up astrologically in the natal and SR charts.

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Let's examine the natal chart. Firstly, let's consider SR1 and major aspects to it. SR1 refers to the native's situation in the solar-return year of interest. SR1 (denoted in FIGURE 4.5a as 'K1') lies in the intersection of PH10 and Aquarius WS10, both houses referring to achieving something significant and to gaining prestige. At his best, masculine Aquarius is unselfish and makes improvements for the common good.

Planets that make major aspects to SR1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation in the solar-return year of interest. Mercury is making a conjunction to SR1. As previously found in Section 4.2, Mercury refers to King as achieving something significant by being a clever, unselfish advocate for his community. In the context of King's marriage, natal Mercury refers to King as speaking in favor of his marital union.

Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of SR1, which further describe the native's situation in the solar-return year of interest. Like SR1, Mercury lies in the intersection of PH10 and Aquarius WS10, both houses referring to achieving something significant and to gaining prestige. As previously found, natal Mercury refers to King as speaking in favor of his marital union.

Thirdly, let's consider the SR1 ruler. The SR1 ruler represents the native in the solar-return year of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. As previously found for Event #K2 in Section 4.3, Saturn (the SR1 ruler) refers to King as achieving something significant through transformative spiritual leadership. In the context of marriage, natal Saturn refers to King as being a good husband according to spiritual standards.

FIGURE 4.5b: King's 1953 SR chart

Me 13:39 (PC12) 16:53 Mo 24:52 Su 25:08 WS12 CP	(PC11) 22:29 WS11 SA	(PC10) 28:04 WS10 SC	(PC9) 22:29 Sa 26:55 WS9 LI	(PC8) 16:53 WS8 VI
(SR1) 11:17 WS1 AQ	**Martin Luther King Jr.** Solar-Return Chart for Age 24 (Tropical) Thursday, 15 JAN 1953 at 08:42:00 EST Atlanta, GA (33° 45′ N; 84° 23′ W)			(PC7) 11:17 WS7 LE
Ve 11:19 Ma 12:03 (PC2) 16:53 WS2 PI	(PC3) 22:29 WS3 AR	Ju 11:09 (PC4) 28:04 WS4 TA	(PC5) 22:29 WS5 GE	(PC6) 16:53 WS6 CN

Let's examine the SR chart. Firstly, let's consider major aspects to SR1 in FIGURE 4.5b. Planets that make major aspects to SR1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation in the

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solar-return year of interest. Jupiter is making a dexter square to SR1. Jupiter is the lord of PH2 (supportive persons or things) and PH11 (comrades and shared interests), and it is the natural representative of noble-minded action, high social position, and religion/spirituality. Jupiter lies in the intersection of PH3 (relatives) and Taurus WS4 (comfort and security). In the context of marriage, SR Jupiter refers to King's marriage as a means of mutual support that requires spiritual guidance.

Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of SR1, which further describe the native's situation in the solar-return year of interest. There is nothing in this regard.

Thirdly, let's consider the SR1 ruler. The SR1 ruler represents the native in the solar-return year of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. Saturn is the lord of PH1 (the native's well-being) and PH12 (trying situations), and it is the natural representative of sober-minded action. Saturn lies in the intersection of PH9 and Libra WS9, both houses referring to spiritual or professional know-how. In the context of marriage, SR Saturn refers to King's marriage as a trying situation that requires spiritual guidance.

EVENT #K2 (King's DC speech in 1963)

On Tuesday, 15 January 1963, King reached age 34. Sun's natal ecliptic longitude is 295° 08′ 04″. We find that Sun achieves this natal value on Tuesday, 15 January 1963 at 07:12:40 pm, EST. FIGURE 4.5c presents King's 1963 SR chart according to the tropical zodiac. The SR Ascendant (SR1) is at Leo 12° 48′ 10″.

FIGURE 4.5c: King's 1963 SR chart

(PC12) 10:28 WS12 CN	(PC11) 08:08 WS11 GE	(PC10) 05:48 WS10 TA	(PC9) 08:08 WS9 AR	(PC8) 10:28 Ju 11:51 WS8 PI
(SR1) 12:48 Ma 21:55 R WS1 LE	**Martin Luther King Jr.** Solar-Return Chart for Age 34 (Tropical) Tuesday, 15 JAN 1963 at 19:12:40 EST Atlanta, GA (33° 45′ N; 84° 23′ W)			Me 04:43 R Sa 11:37 (PC7) 12:48 WS7 AQ
(PC2) 10:28 WS2 VI	Mo 05:03 (PC3) 08:08 WS3 LI	(PC4) 05:48 WS4 SC	(PC5) 08:08 Ve 08:29 WS5 SA	(PC6) 10:28 Su 25:08 WS6 CP

On Wednesday, 28 August 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have A Dream" speech during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. In his speech, King addressed the

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issue of racial inequality in America, and he argued that racial justice is in accord with God's will. Let's see how this event shows up astrologically in the natal and SR charts.

Let's examine the natal chart. Firstly, let's consider SR1 and major aspects to it. SR1 refers to the native's situation in the solar-return year of interest. SR1 (denoted in FIGURE 4.5a as 'K2') lies in the intersection of PH4 and Leo WS4, both houses referring to comfort and security. At his best, masculine Leo acts nobly and safeguards those for whom he is responsible.

Planets that make major aspects to SR1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation in the solar-return year of interest. Mercury is making an opposition to SR1. As previously found in Section 4.2, natal Mercury refers to King as achieving something significant by being a clever, unselfish advocate for his community.

Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of SR1, which further describe the native's situation in the solar-return year of interest. There is nothing in this regard.

Thirdly, let's consider the SR1 ruler. The SR1 ruler represents the native in the solar-return year of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. As previously found in Section 4.2, natal Sun (the SR1 ruler) refers to King as being a diligent, spiritual leader.

Let's examine the SR chart. Firstly, let's consider major aspects to SR1 in FIGURE 4.5c. Planets that make major aspects to SR1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation in the solar-return year of interest. Venus is making a dexter trine to SR1. Venus is the lord of PH3 (community) and PH10 (achieving something significant; gaining prestige; head persons), and it is the natural representative of friendly action and charisma. Venus lies in the intersection of PH5 and Sagittarius WS5, both houses referring to personal interests. In the context of King's DC speech, SR Venus refers to King as being committed to achieving something significant for his community.

Saturn is making an opposition to SR1. Saturn is the lord of PH6 (being of service to others) and PH7 (partnerships), and it is the natural representative of sober-minded action. Saturn lies in the intersection of PH6 (being of service to others) and Aquarius PH7 (partnerships). In the context of King's DC speech, SR Saturn refers to King as partnering with others in order to serve the common good.

Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of SR1, which further describe the native's situation in the solar-return year of interest. Like SR1, Mars lies in the intersection of PH1 and Leo WS1, both houses referring to the native's self-identity. Mars is the lord of PH4 (comfort and security) and PH9 (spiritual or professional know-how), and it is the natural representative of energetic assertive action. In the context of King's DC speech, SR Mars refers to King as using spiritual guidance to seek a secure footing for his fellow African Africans.

Thirdly, let's consider the SR1 ruler. The SR1 ruler represents the native in the solar-return year of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. Sun (the SR1 ruler) is the lord of PH1 (self-identity), and it is the natural representative of leaders

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and social recognition. Sun lies in the intersection of PH6 and Capricorn WS6, both houses referring to being of service to others. In the context of King's DC speech, SP Sun refers to King as being a servant leader to his fellow African Americans.

EVENT #K3 (King's passing in 1968)

On Monday, 15 January 1968, King reached age 39. Sun's natal ecliptic longitude is 295° 08′ 04″. We find that Sun achieves this natal value on Tuesday, 16 January 1968 at 12:10:40 am, EST. FIGURE 4.5d presents King's 1968 SR chart according to the tropical zodiac. The SR Ascendant (SR1) is at Libra 15° 11′ 15″.

FIGURE 4.5d: King's 1968 SR chart

Ju 04:51 R (PC12) 15:39 WS12 VI	Mo 01:39 (PC11) 16:07 WS11 LE	(PC10) 16:35 WS10 CN	(PC9) 16:07 WS9 GE	(PC8) 15:39 WS8 TA
(SR1) 15:11 WS1 LI	**Martin Luther King Jr.** Solar-Return Chart for Age 39 (Tropical) Tuesday, 16 JAN 1968 at 00:10:40 EST Atlanta, GA (33° 45′ N; 84° 23′ W)			Sa 06:54 (PC7) 15:11 WS7 AR
(PC2) 15:39 WS2 SC	(PC3) 16:07 Ve 17:12 WS3 SA	(PC4) 16:35 Su 25:08 WS4 CP	Me 06:32 (PC5) 16:07 WS5 AQ	Ma 05:18 (PC6) 15:39 WS6 PI

On Thursday, 04 April 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. passed away from assassination. Let's see how this event shows up astrologically in the natal and SR charts.

Let's examine the natal chart. Firstly, let's consider SR1 and major aspects to it. SR1 refers to the native's situation in the solar-return year of interest. SR1 (denoted in FIGURE 4.5a as 'K3') lies in the intersection of PH6 and Libra WS6, both houses referring to being subject to unwholesome influences.

Planets that make major aspects to SR1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation in the solar-return year of interest. Mercury is making a dexter trine to SR1. As previously found for Event #K3 in Section 4.4, natal Mercury refers to King as achieving something significant by being a clever committed advocate of improving the lives of his supporters. King's advocacy of civil rights made him an assassination target of enemies in high places.

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Mars is making a sinister trine to SR1. As previously found for Event #K3 in Section 4.3, natal Mars refers to bodily death at the hands of hidden enemies.

Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of SR1, which further describe the native's situation in the solar-return year of interest. There is nothing in this regard.

Thirdly, let's consider the SR1 ruler. The SR1 ruler represents the native in the solar-return year of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. As previously found in Section 4.2, Venus refers to King as working together with others in order to further the common good. King's advocacy of civil rights made him an assassination target of enemies in high places.

Let's examine the SR chart. Firstly, let's consider major aspects to SR1 in FIGURE 4.5d. Planets that make major aspects to SR1 indicate factors that further describe the native's situation in the solar-return year of interest. Venus is making a dexter sextile to SR1. Venus is the lord of PH1 (the native's well-being) and PH8 (life-threatening situations), and it is the natural representative of friendly action and charisma. Venus lies in the intersection of PH3 and Sagittarius WS3, both houses referring to community. In the context of King's assassination, SR Venus refers to King as being targeted for death because of his social advocacy and his charismatic effect on people.

Secondly, let's consider planets in the house location of SR1, which further describe the native's situation in the solar-return year of interest. There is nothing in this regard.

Thirdly, let's consider the SR1 ruler. The SR1 ruler represents the native in the solar-return year of interest, and its house location indicates where the native gives great attention and great effort. As previously found, SR Venus (the SR1 ruler) refers to King as being targeted for death because of his social advocacy and his charismatic effect on people.

4.6 An inception chart for America

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The Continental Congress began as the provisional government for the Thirteen Colonies of Great Britain. After the American Revolutionary War began in 1775, the Congress became the governing body by which the Thirteen Colonies (then known as the United Colonies) coordinated their resistance to British rule.

According to *Journals of the Continental Congress*,[5] the Congress was scheduled to begin its business of Thursday, 04 July 1776 at 09:00 am. Consideration of the Declaration was the second item of business. In his article *Time and Temperature: Philadelphia, July 4, 1776*, historian Paul H. Smith[6] presents evidence that the Declaration of Independence was probably ratified before 11:00 am, LAT. We will take the ratification of the Declaration of Independence to be the birth of the United States of America (USA).

[5] *Journals of the Continental Congress, Vol. V*, United States Government Publishing Office (1906).
[6] *The Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress, Vol. 33, No. 4*, October 1976.

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Local Apparent Time (LAT) is sundial time, which is a longitude-dependent time scale that is based on the actual position of Sun in the local sky. The length of an apparent (or actual) solar day varies during the course of a year, and so it is convenient to use Local Mean Time (LMT), which is based on the notion of a mean solar day (which is exactly 24 hours long by definition). Over the course of a year, LAT ranges from about 14 minutes slower to about 16 minutes faster than LMT. On the morning of Thursday, 04 July 1776, LAT was about 4 minutes behind LMT.

During the Congress's morning of business, we find (by trial and error) that a Virgo Ascendant occurs before about 11:07:08 am, LMT and that a Libra Ascendant occurs afterward. Moreover, a Mars-PC10 conjunction was occurring while the Continental Congress was in the process of ratifying the Declaration of Independence. This conjunction became exact at about 10:28:51 am, LMT.

FIGURE 4.6: Our USA inception chart

Ra 06:35 D (PC12) 21:57 WS12 LE	Ve 02:45 Ju 05:52 Su 13:03 Me 24:19 R WS11 CN	(PC10) 21:11 Ma 21:11 WS10 GE	LFo 02:25 (PC9) 21:34 WS9 TA	(PC8) 21:57 WS8 AR
(PC1) 22:19 WS1 VI	**United States of America** Inception Chart (Tropical Zodiac) Thursday, 04 JUL 1776 at 10:28:51 LMT Philadelphia, PA (39° 57′ N; 75° 10′ W)			(PC7) 22:19 WS7 PI
Sa 14:47 (PC2) 21:57 WS2 LI	(PC3) 21:34 WS3 SC	(PC4) 21:11 WS4 SA	(PC5) 21:34 WS5 CP	Ke 06:35 D LSp 12:14 (PC6) 21:57 Mo 23:08 WS6 AQ

An **inception chart** is an astrological chart pertaining to the beginning of an endeavor – it is the endeavor's natal chart. FIGURE 3.1 presents our inception chart for the United States of America. Here we are taking the estimated birth time to be Thursday, 04 July 1776 at 10:28:51 am, LMT, which is the time of the aforementioned Mars-PC10 conjunction. The Ascendant is at Virgo 22° 19′ 59″. True *Rāhu* is in direct motion, lying at Leo 06° 35′ 30″.

As previously stated, a Mars-PC10 conjunction was occurring while the Continental Congress was in the process of ratifying the Declaration of Independence. In this regard, we find the following for Mars:

> **Mars in PH10:** Mars is the lord of PH3 (relatives) and PH8 (an ending that facilitates transformation), and it is the natural representative of hostile action and of things that are sharp or cutting. Mars lies in the intersection of PH10 and Gemini WS10, both houses referring to achieving something significant and to being on top of a situation. The Latin name *Gemini*

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means 'twins'. In light of the foregoing, Mars refers to the United Colonies as severing ties with their British kinfolk in order to have self-determination.

The Mars-PC10 conjunction refers to Mars as being helpful to PC10 (achieving something significant; being on top of a situation).

Let's take a look at the USA inception chart by: [1] examining PH1, [2] examining the Lots of Fortune and Spirit, and [3] looking for interesting astrological configurations.

EXAMINING PH1

PH1 refers to America's identity (that is, the set of characteristics by which America is recognizable or known) and to America's well-being. In the USA inception chart, PC1 (the Ascendant) is at Virgo 01° 36′ 19″. For Virgo as the rising sign, we find the following:

> **Virgo Ascendant:** The sign Virgo expresses Mercury in a feminine way. As an earth sign, Virgo is grounded and focused on material stability. As a dual sign, Virgo is adaptable and embraces change. Virgo has a keen eye for detail, which enables her to approach problems with logic and efficiency. Being analytical and pragmatic, she can adjust to changing circumstances while keeping a focus on detail and order. Like a virgin, Virgo sets a high standard for herself. If she sets her expectations too high, then she faces disappointment and a pessimistic outlook on life. At her best, feminine Virgo uses calculated thinking to determine how to make life run more smoothly for everyone.

The Declaration of Independence sets a high standard by proclaiming:

> We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Ascendant refers to the nation's central personality traits.

Mercury is making a sinister sextile to PC1:

> **Mercury in PH11:** Mercury is the lord of PH1 (the nation's well-being) and PH10 (achieving something significant; gaining prestige), and it is the natural representative of things of mixed composition. Mercury lies in the intersection of PH11 and Cancer WS11, both houses referring to comrades and shared interests and to fulfilling one's hopes. At her best, feminine Cancer safeguards those who are near and dear. In light of the foregoing, Mercury refers to America as exemplifying its traditional Latin motto *E pluribus unum* ('out of many, one'), by which people from diverse backgrounds blend into a single unit.
>
> Mercury is malefic because its dispositor is malefic waning Moon. Mercury lies zodiacally ahead of Sun, and so it is nocturnal. As a nocturnal malefic lying above the horizon, Mercury is unhappy. Therefore, Mercury brings difficulties that require great effort to overcome. PH11 allows 50% quadrant-house strength, and so Mercury brings difficulties at a relatively good pace.

Mars is making a sinister square to PC1:

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Mars in PH10: Mars is the lord of PH3 (community) and PH8 (an ending that facilitates transformation), and it is the natural representative of energetic assertive action. Mars lies in the intersection of PH10 and Gemini WS10, both houses referring to achieving something significant. At his best, masculine Gemini seeks to learn and communicate in order to further wholesome social development. But on a negative note, Gemini's twinness may refer to two-facedness in the sense of hypocrisy (that is, professing standards that are contrary to one's actual behavior). In light of the foregoing, Mars refers to America's ongoing effort to "form a more perfect union" by fixing its flaws over time and by strengthening social bonds.

As a nocturnal malefic lying above the horizon, Mars is unhappy. Therefore, Mars brings difficulties that require great effort to overcome. PH10 allows 100% quadrant-house strength, and so Mars quickly brings difficulties.

Planets that make major aspects to the Ascendant indicate factors that add to the nation's central personality traits.

Let's now consider planets in PH1, which further indicate factors that add to the nation's central personality traits. Saturn is in PH1. For Saturn, we find the following:

Saturn in PH1: Saturn is the lord of PH5 (personal interests) and PH6 (sickness and servitude), and it is the natural representative of restraints and limitations and of hierarchical organization. Saturn lies in the intersection of PH1 (the nation's well-being) and Libra WS2 (supportive persons or things). At his best, masculine Libra inclines toward justice and strives for fairness in all situations. In light of the foregoing, Saturn refers to America as being morally ill by creating a power differential by which Caucasians mistreat other ethno-racial groups.

As a diurnal malefic lying below the horizon, Saturn is unhappy. Therefore, Saturn brings difficulties that require great effort to overcome. PH1 allows 100% quadrant-house strength, and so Saturn quickly brings difficulties.

In his famous 1852 speech 'What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?', the African-American abolitionist Frederick Douglass said: "The existence of slavery in this country brands your republicanism as a sham, your humanity as a base pretense, and your Christianity as a lie."

Let's now consider the PH1 lord and its major aspects. Because PC1 lies in Mercury-ruled Virgo, Mercury is the PH1 lord. As previously found, Mercury refers to America as exemplifying its traditional Latin motto *E pluribus unum* ('out of many, one'), by which people from diverse backgrounds blend into a single unit.

Planets that make major aspects with the PH1 lord indicate factors that affect it for good or for bad. There is nothing in this regard.

EXAMINING THE LOTS OF FORTUNE AND SPIRIT

See Appendix C for pertinent details. In the USA inception chart, the Ascendant is at Virgo 22° 19′ 59″, Sun is at Cancer 13° 03′ 26″, and Moon is at Aquarius 23° 08′ 31″. On making use of TABLE 2.1, we find that

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$$Asc = 172° \, 19' \, 59'' \, , \qquad Sun = 103° \, 03' \, 26'' \, , \qquad Moon = 323° \, 08' \, 31''$$

are the pertinent ecliptic longitudes.

For the Lot of Fortune, we get

$$LFo = Asc + Moon - Sun = 172° \, 19' \, 59'' + 323° \, 08' \, 31'' - 103° \, 03' \, 26''$$

$$= 392° \, 25' \, 04'' = 360° + 32° \, 25' \, 04'' \equiv 32° \, 25' \, 04'' = 30° + 02° \, 25' \, 04'' \, ,$$

which is Taurus 02° 25′ 04″. Therefore, Venus is the Lot's dispositor.

For the Lot of Spirit, we get

$$LSp = Asc + Sun - Moon = 172° \, 19' \, 59'' + 103° \, 03' \, 26'' - 323° \, 08' \, 31''$$

$$= -47° \, 45' \, 06'' \equiv -47° \, 45' \, 06'' + 360° = 312° \, 14' \, 54'' = 300° + 12° \, 14' \, 54'' \, ,$$

which is Aquarius 12° 14′ 54″. Therefore, Saturn is the Lot's dispositor.

The Lot of Fortune indicates how and where one can attract good luck to support their efforts. The USA natal Lot of Fortune lies in the intersection of PH8 (an ending that facilitates transformation) and Taurus WS9 (spiritual or professional know-how). At her best, feminine Taurus is doggedly determined to make tangible progress in achieving a better quality of life. For Venus (the Lot's dispositor), we find the following:

> **Venus in PH10:** Venus is the lord of PH2 (supportive persons or things) and PH9 (spiritual or professional know-how), and it is the natural representative of friendly action and intimate relationships. Venus lies in the intersection of PH10 (achieving something significant; gaining prestige) and Cancer WS11 (comrades and shared interests). At her best, feminine Cancer safeguards those who are near and dear. In light of the foregoing, Venus refers to America as applying its know-how in ways that have its people's best interest at heart.
>
> As a nocturnal benefic lying above the horizon, Venus is unhappy. Therefore, Venus moderately facilitates progress or improvement. PH10 allows 100% quadrant-house strength, and so Venus quickly facilitates progress or improvement.

In light of the foregoing, America can attract good luck by genuinely caring about its people being happy, healthy, and prosperous and by applying its efforts accordingly.

The Lot of Spirit indicates how and where one can wholesomely develop their life potential. The USA natal Lot of Spirit lies in the intersection of PH5 (personal interests) and Aquarius WS6 (being of service to others). At his best, masculine Aquarius is unselfish and makes improvements for the common good. As previously found, Saturn (the Lot's dispositor) refers to America as being morally ill by creating a power differential by which Caucasians mistreat other ethno-racial groups. In light of the foregoing, America can wholesomely develop its life potential by committing itself to furthering the common good.

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LOOKING FOR INTERESTING ASTROLOGICAL CONFIGURATIONS

Let's now look for interesting astrological configurations in the USA inception chart. A **stellium** is a concentration of planetary energy in which three or more planets are grouped together in the same sign or same house. Venus, Sun, Mars, and Jupiter form a stellium in PH10 (achieving something significant; gaining prestige; head persons; being on top of a situation). The USA stellium indicates that America has a potential for greatness.

For the configuration of the lunar nodes *Rāhu* and *Ketú*, we find the following:

> **Rāhu in PH11 and Ketú in PH5:** *Rāhu* in PH11 (comrades and shared interests; fulfilling one's hopes) indicates ambition that leads to becoming socially well-connected and to gaining through cooperative efforts. *Ketú* in PH5 (creative endeavors) indicates unusual creative abilities.

See Appendix B for pertinent details.

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APPENDIX A
Measuring time
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UNITS OF TIME

The **second** is the basic unit of time measurement. One **minute** is 60 seconds, and one **hour** is 60 minutes. A **sidereal day** is the time taken by Earth to complete a single rotation relative to the fixed stars, and it consists of approximately 23 hours, 56 minutes, and 4.0905 seconds (which is about 1436.068175 minutes). A sidereal day is a few minutes short of a **mean solar day**, which is the time taken by Earth to complete a single rotation and to advance about one degree along its orbital path about Sun. A mean solar day is exactly 24 hours, and it is the basis of the 24-hour civil day.

A **sidereal year** is the time taken by Earth to complete its orbit about Sun relative to the fixed stars, and it consists of 365 mean solar days, 6 hours, 9 minutes, and 9.8 seconds (which is about 365.256363 mean solar days). A **mean tropical year** is the time taken by Earth to complete its annual cycle of seasons, and it consists of 365 mean solar days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45.1 seconds (which is about 365.242189 mean solar days).

TIME ZONES

Local Apparent Time (LAT) is sundial time, which is a longitude-dependent time scale that is based on the actual position of Sun in the local sky. The length of an apparent (or actual) solar day varies during the course of a year, and so it is convenient to use **Local Mean Time** (LMT), which is based on the notion of a mean solar day (which is exactly 24 hours long by definition). Over the course of a year, LAT ranges from about 14 minutes slower to about 16 minutes faster than LMT.

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is the local mean time at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England. **Coordinated Universal Time** (UTC) is the effective successor of GMT, and it is the primary standard used globally to regulate clocks and time. A **time zone** is a region that observes a uniform standard time. The time zone that uses UTC is designated as UTC+00.00.

A time zone is usually designated according to the integer difference between its standard time and UTC. For a time zone lying west of UTC+00.00, the pertinent difference is a negative integer. For a time zone lying east of UTC+00.00, the pertinent difference is a positive integer. The contiguous United States lies west of UTC+00.00, and its basic time zones are Pacific Standard Time (PST, which is UTC-08.00), Mountain Standard Time (MST, which is UTC-07.00), Central Standard Time (CST, which is UTC-06.00), and Eastern Standard Time (EST, which is UTC-05.00). The country of Egypt lies east of UTC+00.00, and its basic time zone is Egypt Standard Time, which is UTC+02.00.

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APPENDIX B
The lunar nodes
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A **lunar node** is an astrological point at which the orbit of Moon intersects the ecliptic. There are two lunar nodes, and they are longitudinally 180° apart. **Rāhu** (also known as the North Node or the Ascending Node) is where Moon crosses the ecliptic from south to north. **Ketú** (also known as the South Node or the Descending Node) is where Moon crosses the ecliptic from north to south. *Rāhu* and *Ketú* are the names given to the lunar nodes in *Jyotiṣa* (the Indian tradition of astrology).

The lunar nodes are eclipse points. A solar eclipse can occur only when new Moon is near either node, that is, when Moon and Sun are near the same node. A lunar eclipse can occur only when full Moon is near either node, that is, when Moon is near one node and Sun is near the opposite node.

Figurative speaking, to eclipse something is to overshadow it (that is, to make it less important by comparison) or to overpower it (that is, to affect it so strongly as to make it inadequate). Astrologically speaking, each lunar node refers to an influence that overshadows or overpowers.

Rāhu amplifies desire in whichever house that it occupies. Moreover, wherever *Rāhu* lies, things happen suddenly and intensely. *Rāhu* pushes one toward worldly gain, which refers to the accumulation of material possessions, status, power, recognition, and other temporal pleasures and achievements that are part of one's earthly life. The influence of *Rāhu* may lead to greed, deceptive behavior, or obsession with worldly desires.

Ketú creates detachment, spiritual inclination, or sudden losses regarding the house that it occupies. *Ketú* pushes one toward spiritual gain, which refers to the enrichment and advancement of one's inner life, character, and connection with God. The influence of *Ketú* may lead to dissatisfaction or disinterest in material life, responsibilities, and relationships.

We are each a divine being having a human experience. The lunar nodes help us to 'be in the world, but not of the world'. That is, *Rāhu* and *Ketú* help us to wholesomely participate in earthly life while being mindful of divine standards.

***

Let's examine the lunar nodes when lying in the angular houses. Here are some possible interpretations.

Rāhu in PH1 and Ketú in PH7: *Rāhu* in PH1 (self-identity) indicates high ambition, self-focus, and the determination to establish a strong identity. *Ketú* in PH7 (partnerships; someone else) indicates detachment from relationships. With time and experimentation and multiple changes, spiritual work, or self-development, the person here begins to discover their true identity and to live authentically. Consequently, they may discover that they have outgrown old relationship styles and patterns that no longer fit their authentic identity. The person's relationships need to

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evolve in order to fit the person's new reality. By having the courage to live authentically, the person here becomes powerful and able to inspire others to become their authentic selves.

Ketú in PH1 and Rāhu in PH7: *Ketú* in PH1 (self-identity) indicates possession of spiritual wisdom and a deep understanding of self. *Rāhu* in PH7 (partnerships; someone else) indicates a strong desire for meaningful relationships. We are each a divine being having a human experience. This fundamental truth is known to the person here, but not known to many of those around them. The person here begins to lose hope in humanity as they see most people becoming engrossed in worldly gain. By righteously persevering with joyful optimism, the person here will attract the resources necessary for faring well.

Rāhu in PH4 and Ketú in PH10: *Rāhu* in PH4 (parents; upbringing; comfort and security) indicates a restless quest for increased emotional security. *Ketú* in PH10 (one's calling or career; achieving something significant; gaining prestige) indicates detachment from career ambitions or disinterest in public achievements. The person here struggles to find their true heart's desire (that is, a longing that is in tune with one's godself). Consequently, they have problems in achieving life goals and in developing wholesome relationships. By quieting the mind, the person here can listen to their inner knowing and then discover their true heart's desire.

Ketú in PH4 and Rāhu in PH10: *Ketú* in PH4 (parents; upbringing; comfort and security) often indicates detachment from home and family, usually because of some deep emotional wound caused in childhood. *Rāhu* in PH10 (one's calling or career; achieving something significant; gaining prestige) often indicates fame, success, and a relentless drive for professional growth. Detachment from home life and from emotional connections may push the person here toward career ambitions and public recognition. Their emotional trauma inclines them to operate from a deep sense of insecurity and a lack of compassion. By wholesomely healing this trauma, the person here will not misuse their advantage or position of power over others.

***

IMPORTANT COMMENTS: Some of the information presented in this appendix is based on material presented in: [1] the book *The Candid Guide to Neo-Vedic Astrology* by astrologer Hogarth Neville Brown, [2] the blog post *Decoding Rahu and Ketu: The Karmic Nodes of the Moon* (05 January 2025) on <https://astroassured.com/blog/>, and [3] the blog post *Rahu and Ketu Effects by House Placement: A Complete Guide* (08 June 2026) on < https://www.astrosewa.com/blogs>.

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APPENDIX C
The Lots of Fortune and Spirit

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The noun 'lot' may be used to refer to a divinatory tool. The Hellenistic tradition of astrology made use of a number of calculated points as lots. The two most important Hellenistic lots involve the Ascendant, Sun, and Moon. The **Lot of Fortune** (or **Part of Fortune**) is an astrological point that is calculated according to the formula

$$LFo = Asc + Moon - Sun\,.$$

The **Lot of Spirit** (or **Part of Spirit**) is an astrological point that is calculated according to the formula

$$LSp = Asc + Sun - Moon\,.$$

The quantities in these formulas are the pertinent ecliptic longitudes.

Intrinsically speaking, Sun refers to activity that follows from one's volition, while Moon refers to things that are beyond willful control (and hence things to which one must submit). Let's use these notions to interpret the formulas for the Lots of Fortune and Spirit.

The Greek noun *túkhē* (fortune) refers to luck, which is the occurrence of favorable or unfavorable events that are beyond willful control. Regarding the Lot of Fortune, Sun refers to willed efforts, and Moon refers to good luck. Therefore, the mathematical difference '*Moon* minus *Sun*' figuratively represents traveling the distance from one's willed efforts (Sun) to good luck (Moon). Adding this difference to the Ascendant makes the journey pertain to oneself specifically. In summary, the Lot of Fortune indicates how and where one can attract good luck to support their efforts.

The Greek noun *daímōn* (spirit) refers to a divine guardian spirit. Regarding the Lot of Spirit, Moon refers to latent, inborn abilities, and Sun represents willed display. Therefore, the mathematical difference '*Sun* minus *Moon*' figuratively represents traveling the distance from one's abilities as being potential (Moon) to one's abilities as being realized (Sun). Adding this difference to the Ascendant makes the journey pertain to oneself specifically. In summary, the Lot of Spirit indicates how and where one can wholesomely develop their life potential.

As a calculation example, let's determine my natal Lots of Fortune and Spirit. In my natal chart (FIGURE C), the Ascendant is at Gemini 29° 37′ 25″, Sun is at Pisces 17° 21′ 51″, and Moon is at Virgo 18° 08′ 46″. For your information, true *Rāhu* is in retrograde motion, lying at Capricorn 02° 29′ 13″.

On making use of TABLE 2.1, we find that

$$Asc = 60° + 29°\,37'\,25'' = 89°\,37'\,25''\,,$$

$$Sun = 330° + 17°\,21'\,51'' = 347°\,21'\,51''\,,$$

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$$Moon = 150° + 18°\,08'\,46'' = 168°\,08'\,46''$$

are the pertinent ecliptic longitudes.

FIGURE C: My natal chart again

Ma 07:11 (PC12) 21:22 WS12 TA	(PC11) 13:08 WS11 AR	(PC10) 04:53 Su 17:21 WS10 PI	Ve 04:28 (PC9) 13:08 Me 20:02 WS9 AQ	LFo 00:24 Ra 02:29 R (PC8) 21:22 WS8 CP
(PC1) 29:37 WS1 GE	**Aakhut Em Bak** Natal Chart (Tropical Zodiac) Tuesday, 08 MAR 1955 at 11:15 CST Chicago, IL (41° 51′ N; 87° 39′ W)			LSp 28:50 (PC7) 29:37 WS7 SA
Ke 02:29 R Ju 19:59 R (PC2) 21:22 WS2 CN	(PC3) 13:08 WS3 LE	(PC4) 04:53 Mo 18:08 WS4 VI	(PC5) 13:08 WS5 LI	Sa 21:07 R (PC6) 21:22 WS6 SC

For the Lot of Fortune, we get

$$LFo = Asc + Moon - Sun = 89°\,37'\,25'' + 168°\,08'\,46'' - 347°\,21'\,51''$$
$$= -89°\,35'\,40''\,.$$

Here we have encountered an angle that lies outside the customary range of values for ecliptic longitude (which is from 0° up to 360°). In such cases, we add or subtract 360° as many times as necessary in order to get an angle that lies within the customary range. In this regard, we find that

$$LFo = -89°\,35'\,40'' \equiv -89°\,35'\,40'' + 360° = 270°\,24'\,20'' = 270° + 00°\,24'\,20''\,,$$

which is Capricorn 00° 24′ 20″ according to TABLE 2.1. Note that the mathematical symbol '≡' means 'is equivalent to'. Two angles are equivalent if they differ by some nonzero integer multiple of 360°.

For the Lot of Spirit, we get

$$LSp = Asc + Sun - Moon = 89°\,37'\,25'' + 347°\,21'\,51'' - 168°\,08'\,46''$$
$$= 268°\,50'\,30'' = 240° + 28°\,50'\,30''\,,$$

which is Sagittarius 28° 50′ 30″ according to TABLE 2.1.

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APPENDIX D
Some zodiacal fixed stars
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In traditional astrology, astrologers have assigned classical planetary attributes to fixed stars. For example, a Jupiter star has the attributes of the planet Jupiter, thereby indicating gains in wealth and status. Many fixed stars have assignments that are an ordered arrangement of two planets. One possible interpretation is that the first planet indicates initial situations, while the second planet indicates the outcomes. For example, a Jupiter-Saturn star indicates benefits and rising status that are followed by losses or refinement over many years, whereas a Saturn-Jupiter star indicates difficulties and losses that are followed by benefits. Another possible interpretation is that the first planet indicates the foremost aspect of the situation, while the second planet indicates pertinent circumstances.

Each fixed star belongs to some constellation, and so it chiefly has the attributes of that constellation. We will take each fixed star to be described by its assigned planetary attributes taken within the context of its constellational attributes.

The **apparent magnitude** of a star is a measure of how bright that star appears to an earthbound observer. The apparent-magnitude scale is reverse logarithmic, and so the brighter a star appears, the lower its magnitude number. A difference of 1.0 in apparent magnitude corresponds to a brightness ratio of $100^{1/5} \approx 2.51188643$. For example, a star of magnitude 3.0 is about 2.51188643 times as bright as a star of magnitude 4.0. The faintest stars that are visible to the naked eye have apparent magnitudes of about $+6.5$. In descending order of brightness, the six brightest stars within the zodiac are *Aldebaran*, *Antares*, *Spica*, *Pollux*, *Regulus*, and *Castor*.

In this section, we will examine some fixed stars within the zodiac. These stars are *Aldebaran*, *Antares*, *Castor* and *Pollux*, *Elnath*, *Regulus*, *Skat*, and *Spica*. Regarding aspects that are made with a fixed star, we will take the conjunction to be the only aspect that is worth considering, with 01° as the margin of inexactness.

ALDEBARAN

Aldebaran (*Alpha Tauri*) is a red giant star lying at sidereal Taurus 15° 56′ with an ecliptic latitude of $-05°\ 27'$. Aldebaran has an apparent magnitude of $+0.86$, and it is the brightest star of the Taurus constellation. Longitudinally speaking, Aldebaran and Antares are about 180° apart. The name *Aldebaran* is derived from the Arabic phrase *ʔal-dabarān* (the one who trails behind), and it refers to Aldebaran as trailing behind the Pleiades star cluster across the night sky.

As a Taurus star, Aldebaran has Taurus attributes. Like a charging bull focused on his target, feminine Taurus stays set on her course. She wants to see tangible results from her efforts, and so she is inclined to getting absorbed in acquiring material comforts and in indulging herself. As a Jupiter-Mars star, Aldebaran indicates gains in wealth and status that are followed by struggles to

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hold on to these gains. In this regard, Mars is nobly expressed whenever one has the courage to take right action.

Aldebaran presents not only great success, but also moral choices that challenge one's integrity. Any compromising of integrity will lead to negative results, and all that has been gained could be lost very rapidly.

ANTARES

Antares (*Alpha Scorpii*) is a red supergiant star lying at sidereal Scorpio 15° 54′ with an ecliptic latitude of $-04° 34'$. Antares has an apparent magnitude of $+0.91$, and it is the brightest star of the Scorpio constellation. Longitudinally speaking, Aldebaran and Antares are about 180° apart. The Greek name *Antárēs* is derived from the words *anti-* (rival) and *Árēs* (Mars), and it refers to Antares as rivalling the planet Mars in reddish color.

As a Scorpio star, Antares has Scorpio attributes. Feminine Scorpio carries her goals to fruition with unshakable resolve. If she feels threatened, then she is inclined to become angry and vengeful. As a Mars-Jupiter star, Antares indicates battles to gain justice that are followed by gains in wealth and status. In this regard, Mars is nobly expressed whenever one has the courage to take right action.

Antares ignites the desire to strive for success, and it enhances the potential for ambitions to be fulfilled. But if one is headstrong, rash, or vengeful, then one could lose all that one has gained.

CASTOR AND POLLUX

Castor (*Alpha Geminorum*) is a sextuple star system lying at sidereal Gemini 26° 23′ with an ecliptic latitude of $+10° 05'$. Castor has an apparent magnitude of $+1.58$, and it is the second-brightest star of the Gemini constellation. Pollux (*Beta Geminorum*) is a red giant star lying at sidereal Gemini 29° 22′ with an ecliptic latitude of $+06° 41'$. Pollux has an apparent magnitude of $+1.14$, and it is the brightest star of the Gemini constellation. The names *Castor* and *Pollux* belong to twin brothers appearing in Greek and Roman mythologies. In some accounts, Castor was mortal, while Pollux was immortal.

As Gemini stars, Castor and Pollux have Gemini attributes. Masculine Gemini is curious, is quick to learn, and can do many things competently. He enjoys communicating his thoughts and feelings with others. As a Mercury star, Castor indicates heightened intellectual skills. As a Mars star, Pollux indicates boldly assertive efforts.

Castor furthers measured action, and it benefits any situation that requires slow, careful thinking, but not any situation that requires spontaneous action, quick decision, or daring. Pollux furthers fearlessness, and it benefits any situation that requires spontaneous action, quick decision, or daring, but not any situation that requires slow, careful thinking.

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ELNATH

Elnath (*Beta Tauri*) is a blue giant star lying at sidereal Taurus 28° 44′ with an ecliptic latitude of +05° 23′. Elnath has an apparent magnitude of +1.65, and it is the second-brightest star of the Taurus constellation. The name *Elnath* is derived from the Arabic phrase *ʔal-naṯḥ* (the butting), and it refers to Elnath as being at the tip of the northern horn of the Taurus bull.

As a Taurus star, Elnath has Taurus attributes. Like a charging bull focused on his target, feminine Taurus stays set on her course. She wants to see tangible results from her efforts, and so she is inclined to getting absorbed in acquiring material comforts and in indulging herself. As a Mars-Mercury star, Elnath indicates boldly assertive efforts that are supported by clever action and speech.

Elnath furthers aggressive action (especially via the tongue) that is aimed at prodding people to respond.

REGULUS

Regulus (*Alpha Leonis*) is a quadruple-star system lying at sidereal Leo 05° 59′ with an ecliptic latitude of +00° 27′. Regulus has an apparent magnitude of +1.40, and it is the brightest star of the Leo constellation. The Latin name *Rēgulus* means 'little king'.

As a Leo star, Regulus has Leo attributes. Like the roaring kingly lion, masculine Leo wants others to take notice of him and to somehow revolve around him. Leo likes things to be done his way, takes pride in his achievements, and seeks due recognition. If he becomes conceited, domineering, or ostentatious, then he loses the goodwill and admiration that he enjoys. As a Jupiter-Mars star, Regulus indicates gains in wealth and status that are followed by struggles to hold on to these gains. In this regard, Mars is nobly expressed whenever one has the courage to take right action.

Regulus ignites the desire to rule, and it enhances the potential for ambitions to be fulfilled. But if one is spiteful or vengeful, then one could lose all that one has gained.

SKAT

Skat (*Delta Aquarii*) is a binary star system lying at sidereal Aquarius 15° 01′ with an ecliptic latitude of −08° 11′. Skat has an apparent magnitude is +3.28, and it is the third-brightest star of the Aquarius constellation. The name *Skat* is possibly derived from the Arabic phrase *ʔal-šīʔat* (the hope), and it refers to something that is wished for and considered possible.

As an Aquarius star, Skat has Aquarius attributes. Masculine Aquarius desires to make a positive impact on the world, and he thinks often about how to improve people's lives. As a Saturn-Jupiter star, Skat indicates difficulties and losses that are followed by benefits.

Skat inspires altruistic action that leads to eventual blessings.

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SPICA

Spica (*Alpha Virginis*) is a triple-star system lying at sidereal Virgo 29° 59′ with an ecliptic latitude of $-02° 03'$. Spica has an apparent magnitude of $+0.97$, and it is the brightest star of the Virgo constellation. The star's name is derived from the Latin phrase *spīca virginis* (the virgin's ear of wheat grain).

As a Virgo star, Spica has Virgo attributes. Feminine Virgo can adjust to changing circumstances while keeping a focus on detail and order. Like a virgin, she sets high standards for herself. The Virgo virgin is a harvest maiden, that is, a figure representing the culmination of the growing season and the abundance of the land. As a Venus-Mars star, Spica indicates heightened powers of attraction and fertility that are followed by just efforts. In this regard, Mars is nobly expressed whenever one has the courage to take right action.

Spica helps to turn one's potential into fruitful efforts, and it rewards according to how well one uses one's abilities for what is right (that is, morally obligatory) and good (that is, beneficial).

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