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# QVAREIA - THE APPRENTICE

Module 1 - Core Skills

*Lesson 8: Astrology*

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QVAREIA

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# WELCOME

*Welcome to this lesson of the Quareia curriculum.*

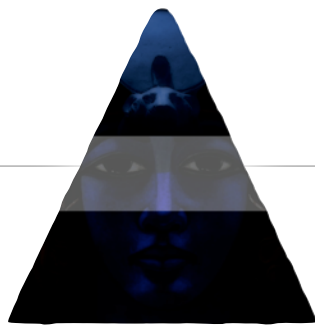
*The Quareia takes a magical apprentice from the beginning of magic to the level of adeptship and beyond. The course has no superfluous text; there is no dressing, no padding – everything is in its place and everything within the course has a good reason to be there.*

*For more information and all course modules please visit  
[www.quareia.com](http://www.quareia.com)*

*So remember - in order for this course to work, it is wise to work with the lessons in sequence. If you don't, it won't work.*

*Yours,*

*Josephine McCarthy*



# QVAREIA - THE APPRENTICE

## Module 1 - Core Skills

### *Lesson 8: Astrology*

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Astrology is one of the many tools a magician can employ in order to look at a situation, a tide of power, or themselves. Astrology—real astrology, not the newspaper entertainment variety—is like a weather report for magicians: you can look at your transits and see what powers are currently in action in your life and work.

To learn astrology in its depths requires a long-term commitment to an art form, and some magicians take on that herculean task, whereas others do not: it all depends where your focus of work lies. But for most magicians, a simple rudimentary understanding of astrology can be very helpful when they need to peer into the depths to get an overview of what forces are currently in action around them.

A magician can use their natal chart to tell where certain qualities lie, and it can help the magician focus on their strengths, while understanding and working on their weaknesses. The chart of a place or event can also shed a beam of light in understanding what underlying forces are at work at a given time.

I am no adept at astrology by any means, and my understanding of the art form is basic, but it is enough for me to be able to draw out information offered in a chart which in turn helps me understand certain events, tides, and powers that run through my life, my work, and the events that happen

around me. Such snippets of information can be of great use when it is imperative for a magician to have as much information as possible on a given issue.

At the end of this lesson, there is another astrology lesson attached which is not written by me, but by an adept who is also an astrologer. Her lesson goes into more depth about how to read a chart, how to spot aspects, and how to overview a chart. Whereas my lesson approaches this topic from a purely magical perspective (and from a stance of rudimentary knowledge), Toni's lesson opens out the information to an overall astrological viewpoint, which will give you a deeper understanding of charts and how they work.

It helps greatly to have an understanding of the powers that flow from the planets and affect everything of substance, particularly when it comes to planetary magic, fate, and ritual that works with planetary influence, all of which you will look into later in the course.

This lesson will give you a basic background of the astrological chart and enable you to look at your own chart, or the chart of an event, from a magician's perspective. It also lays the foundations for later learning in the course when you will come to work with planetary magic in depth.

If you already have a background in astrology, still have a look through the lesson, as the angle of this lesson looks at the planets and forces specifically from a magician's perspective. If you already understand that, simply look at the section of the lesson that deals with the astrological natal chart and the pentagram: it shows how the individual natal chart and the pattern of the personal pentagram can be brought together to gain insight into your own magical potential.

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## *The Basics*

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A natal chart looks at the position of the planets at the moment you were born in relation to where you were born. The ascendant, or first house, shows you the horizon when you were born, and what was 'to the east' of you at the moment of your birth. In a natal chart, you are in the centre, and everything revolves around you.

Your natal chart shows you what tools and potentials you were born with. What you do with those tools and potentials is purely up to you: you can make the most of them and work with them, or you can ignore them and be enslaved, buffeted and driven by them. The magician slowly learns to recognise what tools and gifts were given to them at the moment of their birth, and then learns how to optimise those gifts in their training and practice.

It also shows you where your weaknesses and vulnerabilities are: by knowing your weaknesses, you learn how to strengthen them, and also how to protect that vulnerable part of you. Your natal chart shows you the raw materials; it is up to you as a magician to take those raw materials and turn them into something beautiful, productive and useful.

You can also draw up a natal chart for a specific event. This will show you where all the powers are, how they are presenting, and what the tides of power are doing at a particular moment in time. It is unwise to plan magical actions or events to coincide with specific astrological events; rather it is better to let the natural flow of fate do its job. You can look at the chart of an event once its details have been set, and it will give you an idea of the deeper actions that were flowing into our world at that particular point in time.

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## *Transits*

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Transits are the current (or future if you look forward in time with a chart) positions of the planets in relation to the natal chart. Usually the positions of the planets in your natal chart are drawn inside the chart, and the transits are shown moving around the outside of the chart. The natal positions and transit positions are viewed in relation to each other, and in respect of which house the transit falls in.

When a transiting planet works its way back to the position it was in when you were born, it deeply triggers that planet's action in your life (this is called a "return"). When the planets fall at specific angles to each other, they produce a tension of power that strengthens, weakens, or otherwise alters the influence of both planets upon you. The meetings of planets can be volatile or productive and helpful, depending on the angles at which they

connect with each other. They can be face to face, or at certain degree angles to each other, or they can wave at each other from across the chart.

The complexities of these meetings can be enormous, hence to really understand a chart in depth takes years of study and practice. If you do not have the time or resources to do that, then there are many online programs and books that can work for you as a reference point. So long as you understand the basics, you will be able to make sense of the information in front of you.

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## *Astrological signs*

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We all know about the astrological signs (Cancer, Aries, Scorpio etc.), or we should. You can simply look them up on the internet if you are not sure about them. Look at their element (water, earth, etc.), look up how they work (mutable, fixed, etc.), and look up their qualities and personalities.

When you look at a chart, and you look at the houses, you will see that each house has a dominant astrological sign. That sign is like a background weather report for that house.

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## *Houses*

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- **The 1st house:** the *Ascendant*: This is the core of who you are, how you appear to others, how your personality functions, and any physical traits. It is located on the left hand side of the natal chart and is the threshold of the horizon when you were born.
- **The 2nd house:** Finance and belongings. This shows how you earn money, how you process money, and your material belongings.
- **The 3rd house:** How you communicate with your immediate family and community, how you operate with communications. It is also a house that shows learning in terms of apprenticeships and studies.
- **The 4th house:** the *Imum Coeli*: Home life, family, roots. This is where you come from in blood terms, and also shows your home/family through

your life. This is your foundation. It can also indicate influences from the mother.

- **The 5th house:** Creation and true love. This is the house of children, of true and deep love, and also the house of your art form: whatever you create, be it a child, a book, a painting, an invention, this is the house of what you bring into this world, creations that you love unconditionally.
- **The 6th house:** The house of Service, and also the house of health/illness. This house shows you if you are going into a life of serving through whatever it is that you do, and it also shows long-term illnesses that must be endured.
- **The 7th house:** the Descendant: unions, marriage. How you deal with relationship or contract partners, open enemies. This house is about how you relate to other individuals that you are in a direct energy connection with. It is opposite the ascendant and is positioned on the right hand side of the natal chart: it is where the sun sets.
- **The 8th house:** transformation, death, sex, magic, and other people's money. This house tells you about how deep hidden powers work through your life and how you connect with them. It is about power from outside of you coming to you and interacting with you: the power of magic, the power of transformation, the power of resources that come to you from outside of your own action (other people's money). This is an important house for magicians to understand: through the power of transformation and your ability to operate in a balanced way with energy (good or bad) coming to you, you will learn how to wield power maturely and successfully.
- **The 9th house:** This house works in reflection to the third house and tells you about higher learning, religious or mystical patterns, other cultures, travel to other cultures, and is another house that is very important for magicians to understand. It will show what astrological tools are at your disposal or present difficulties for you plugging into ancient mystical patterns, religions, and cultures. Whereas the third house shows apprenticeships, this house shows advanced learning.
- **The 10th house:** the Midheaven (top of the chart): This is the house of government, of professional standing and achievement, and of social

structure. It also has connotations towards what influence your father had upon you (it sits opposite the 4th house/mother).

- **The 11th house:** this house tells us about our friends, our community, and how we are perceived by our chosen community. It represents group activities, your place within your community, and how your friends and community interact with you. It is a very humanitarian house.
- **The 12th house:** This house shows hidden ordeals, hidden enemies, secrets, struggles and solitude. It is a house of isolation, be it a hospital, prison, or the isolation of an inner crisis. This house shows us how we deal with our hidden enemies, what fate patterns of hidden ordeals are in our life, and how we deal with meltdown, isolation and crisis.

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## *The Planets*

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Starting with the slow-moving planets that have a deep effect upon a chart, and often show generational tendencies, we will look at the individual planets briefly, and view them from the point of view of a magician.

- **Pluto:** Pluto is necessary destruction before regeneration. Pluto strips away all unnecessary baggage: he confronts your weaknesses and brings transformation. It is an underworld planet in that it also governs the powers of sex, magic and the mediation of power. Pluto is the cleaner: Pluto shows you what is no longer viable in your life and teaches you to let go of things. If you work with Pluto, you learn how to become efficient, you learn to know yourself, your limitations and your strengths. Through Pluto you also learn the true meaning of magical power. If you resist Pluto, he will destroy you mercilessly.
- **Saturn:** Saturn is the universal taskmaster. Saturn slows you down, makes you focus on the boring details, the discipline and accuracy of your true work. Saturn gives you burdens to carry in order to strengthen you, he teaches you about boundaries and discipline, and most of all, particularly



for magicians, shows you how to be of use, of service, and how to gain fortitude in the face of difficulty.

- **Uranus:** Uranus is a dynamic and sometimes vicious energy. Uranus brings unforeseen elements to a situation: a sudden change of power, a revolution, independence and inventiveness. Uranus is eccentric, he thinks sideways, he does not run with the pack but forges a unique path that is unpredictable and flexible. For a magician, the impact on Uranus can be good or bad depending on the magician's ability to think and operate outside the box.

If you are a 'glass half empty' type of person, Uranus can bring untold suffering as he pushes you to think independently and forces you to come up with your own unique solutions. Uranus hits like a lightning bolt out of the blue, shaking you out of complacency and confronting you with situations that are unexpected and unknown.

If you are a 'glass half full' kind of person and are adaptable, Uranus sprinkles your life with unexpected opportunities that often come out of disaster. For every destructive experience that Pluto can bring, Uranus can turn up the unexpected jewel twinkling in the ruins.

For magicians, Uranus is the unexpected solution, the sudden inspiration, the unforeseen lightning strike. Uranus is the power that keeps you alert, on your toes, lean and ready for action.

- **Neptune:** Neptune is the planet of hidden qualities, of the inner sight; he is inspiration, he is mystery, and he is water. He is the power that can flow at great depths, the power that cleans, the element that cannot be easily grasped. In the chart of the magician, depending on which house this planet falls in the birth chart (natal chart) he hints at inner abilities, hidden depths, and parts of yourself that are a mystery to you and everyone around you.

When he is transiting your chart, he can show where something is being hidden, or where the power of water is flowing, or where your deep inner qualities are in action. In a natal chart, if he is very close to the IC, he can point to a person who has inner visionary sight. He can also indi-

cate where you can have ‘blind spots,’ fake paradise, or psychological difficulties. He can also indicate a deep inner awakening.

- **Jupiter:** This is the power of expansion, of good fortune, of teaching, benevolence and good luck. If his power flows in a chart that is self-centred, he can indicate a tendency towards pretentiousness and exaggeration. But overall, his influence is about success, honours, stability and joy. He is a power that governs teachers and lawyers: Jupiter is full of charisma, he wishes to share and educate, and most importantly, he is the power of Justice and fair play.
- **Mars:** the power that flows from Mars is action, power, courage, virility and combat. Mars puts power and energy behind things; he plugs you into your ability to forge forward, to fight, to produce, and to win. He is also sexual power, the testosterone that flows through both men and women, and when his power is balanced in your life, you can achieve great things. If you are not careful, Mars can turn you into a bully. Mars is also the power of the magical sword, the power of ‘I give’ in terms of action.
- **Venus:** Venus is sensuality and beauty, and acts as a buffer for the raw power of Mars. Venus is the brightness, the estrogen in both men and women, the ability to seduce, to charm, to light up a room, and is the magical power of receiving/the cup. Venus can also indicate a love or talent in art, music, poetry, and dance. For magicians, Venus is the bright light of artistic expression within magic, the ability to hold power (the cup) and transform it into something beautiful and creative.
- **Mercury:** Mercury is the messenger of the gods. He is the power of communication, of sacred language, of communion with inner beings, and governs all exchanges between minds. He points to the intellectual capacity, the ability to work magically with the utterance, and to study in depth the mysteries hidden within texts. Mercury governs the tongue: he enables the magician to utter the sacred sounds, to express the communications of the inner worlds, and to work with knowledge in the form of text.

- **Sun:** The Sun shines a light on the individual personality, and is the truth of a person, as opposed to the Ascendant which is the public persona of a person. The Sun is noble, gives life and strength, and is the male quality within a person regardless of gender. The Sun can also shine too brightly if it is not worked with and balanced, bringing pride and self aggrandising qualities. The Sun shows where you shine, and warns you not to bask too much in the sunlight of your own personality.
- **Moon:** The moon is a fast-moving body, and casts a shadowed light at best. The moon is creative in visionary depth and reflects in the natal chart, for magicians, where their creative visionary ability will have its most profound impact on those around you, and within yourself. It can also show you where you are veiled, hidden, where you can fly under the radar and work magically to bring subtle influence. The Moon also governs dreams and where it falls in transit around your chart can indicate where your dream-self is working magically as you sleep. The moon is an indicator of the female quality within you regardless of gender.
- **Chiron:** Chiron is a comet that operates between Saturn and the outermost planets. It is also influenced by Uranus and brings a healing quality to the life challenges that Saturn and Uranus can present. Chiron is the governor of deep inner wounds, and the situations that Saturn presents in life in the form of restrictions can indicate where deep healing, courtesy of Chiron, can bubble up to the surface in the midst of that restriction.

When Chiron is placed close to another slow-moving planet in the natal chart, it can indicate the possibility of deep healing through the influence of the other planet. So for example if it is placed close to Jupiter in the natal chart, it can indicate that a positive attitude and humour in the depths of crisis can facilitate healing within yourself and those around you.

When Chiron in transit activates a part of your natal chart, it can indicate the chance for deep healing within that section of your life. Chiron is a mediator, one who filters the power of a large planet as it flows into

your life, and offers the chance for you to heal deep and lasting wounds through the action of the large planet it is activating.

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### *Practical work*

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Read the extra lesson that is attached to this lesson and then come back to this section. If you can print out the lesson, it will make it easier for you to refer to it as you look at your chart.

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### *Drawing up your own chart*

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On the internet, go to Astro.com and sign up as a member (it is free). Then go to: Horoscope drawings—chart ascendant. Fill in your details and it will draw up a chart for you. You can run many charts for free on this site, and once you get to know your way around, you will find all sorts of resources that you can use.

Look at your natal chart. Notice the pattern the chart makes, look at where most of the planets are, look at the houses and what planets are in them. Take notes and don't worry if it doesn't make sense to you at first: interpreting a chart takes time, as it is like learning a new language. Whatever jumps out at you, simply write it down.

When you have looked as much as you can at your natal chart, now go on the Astro.com website and click on 'Personal daily horoscope'. Scroll down to the bottom and click on the link to natal chart with transits. Now look at your chart with the transits.

Look and take note of which transiting planets are triggering planets in your natal chart. You will be able to tell which ones are activating natal planets by their angle, or by the relationship between the transiting planet and a natal planet. Note what house that is happening in.

Astro.com also has short reports on your transits, so you can look up what some of your current transits are, read how they may affect you, and then look back at the chart again to see if you can spot the transit and understand its action.

Sit and think about what is going on in your life at this present time. Does the description of the transit bear any resemblance to your current situation? If so, look more deeply into the descriptions of the transit to see if there is advice in there for you about how to engage the transit consciously.

Like any form of divination, astrology takes time to learn, so don't expect to 'have it' straight away. Once you are comfortable with navigating the astro.com website, explore different charts by putting in different people's dates or the dates and times of events. Curiosity and playfulness is the best way to learn these skills in a basic form.

It took a while for me to be able to look at a chart and get a rough idea of what it was saying. These days I find it very useful to look at charts for energetic 'weather' reports, and to look at my transits to see how I can best engage positively with current tides in my life.

Write down all of your findings in your journal, write down your current transits (the website will have a list of them), and print out your natal chart with transits so that you can work with it. Keep it in your journal so that you can look back at it.

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### *Ritual Exercise*

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#### ***THE PENTAGRAM AND THE NATAL CHART***

Draw a pentagram on a sheet of paper: this represents you standing in the centre of your chart. The arms of the pentagram are the horizon on the natal chart with the Ascendant (first house) on the left/east: the left arm of the pentagram is your left arm if you were stood facing south.

Now look at your natal planets on your chart. Remember that the horizon is your arms in this exercise. Put the pentagram and the chart side by side. Now look for where Pluto is in your natal chart. If you put the pentagram over the chart, where on the page of the pentagram would Pluto sit? Is he by your right hand? Or your left leg? Or near your head? Look at the astrological sigil for Pluto (the sigils are on your chart) and place it in the relevant position around your pentagram.

Now do the same for all of the other planets. When you have finished, you should have a pentagram that represents you, with the sigils of your planets marked around it in a two dimensional pattern. Look at their positions in relation to your body, and in relation to the two-dimensional aspect of the pentagram ritual (Hexagram above you, earth below you, sword to your left/east, cup to your right/west).

Look carefully at the position of each sigil. See which planets jump out at you the most, and choose one, two or three planets to focus on. Alternatively you can start practising this technique with only one planet, and add in more as your confidence increases. So for example you may have Mercury in the upper right quadrant near your head, Saturn by your left foot in the lower left quadrant, and Jupiter on your eastern horizon (left arm).

Look up the qualities of those planets, then remember the qualities of the pentagram directions. If you use the planets I have just mentioned, you would read it something like this:

*Mercury upper right quadrant, positioned between the hexagram and the cup—Divinity and the quality of receiving—Mercury is the messenger of the gods: this planet in this position in your pentagram indicates deep inner communication potential. For a magician, this could be used for learning, teaching or communicating with inner contacts. So when the magician does the ritual of the pentagram, and uses her mind to see the sword/cup/hexagram etc., she would also add in the sigil of Mercury which she would see hanging in the air to her right, maybe slightly forward of her face to give it more of a three-dimensional aspect.*

So you start to see how you can engage with the gifts that the natal planets give you by locating them on your own personal pentagram and working with them, first through visualising them in your pattern, and later through the use of seals, rituals and visions. This is one more baby step towards planetary magic.

If you wish to experiment further with this technique, work with a specific planet of your natal chart and find its location on your own pentagram. Now find out where it is currently transiting in regards to your personal pentagram, and be aware of the two positions as you work the pentagram ritual. If you choose a slow-moving planet like Saturn and work with it in its natal and transit positions in your pentagram (see the Saturn sigil in each of the

two positions), you can build up the work over weeks or months as the transit position will hardly change.

This in turn will really strengthen your relationship with that planet's powers and influence upon you, which in turn will help you to engage actively with its energy. This will help you to activate the positive aspect of the planet fully, which will also help you to learn, grow and strengthen.

If you are ambitious, once you are able to visualise a natal and transiting planet's sigils in your pentagram, start to build an awareness of where the various houses would be placed in your pentagram. If you can do that, it will give you a great deal of insight into your body, your energy sphere, and why certain things are happening around you.

The permutations of this pattern are endless, and with a bit of imagination, curiosity and a sense of experimentation, you can take this pentagram/chart exercise in many different directions.

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### *Journal*

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Write down all the experimental work you do with your chart and the pentagram. Write down any inspirations that bubble up to the surface, any 'ah-ha!'s and write down any correlations about transits and body health that may emerge from this work.

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### *Task*

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Draw out your personal pentagram and put all of your natal planets around it. Choose two of the natal planets, and look at their relation to the pentagram/your body. Now go back in your notes/journal to lesson six, and your experiment with drawing out the pentagram and adding in colours.

Look at your pentagram and the colours, and now look at your pentagram with the planets. What does the combination of the colours and the planets tell you about your body? Locate its strong points, weak points, sick

points, etc. Here is an example of how to read the two pentagrams side by side. A pentagram of a person that has Saturn in the 6th house in their chart. (Service, also long-term illness.) Saturn is currently transiting in the pentagram in the right hand arm of the pentagram (arm/hand). The colour on the pentagram for that arm is red. Does the person have joint pains in the right arm or hand? Or do they work hard with their right hand but it is currently restricted? (Saturn can indicate restriction.)

This is a very loose way of working and sometimes just brings up nonsense, but other times it can give quite startling insights. Play around with the chart/pentagram, and take notes of anything that seems to be important.

By this point in your first module, you should be sick to death of doing pentagram work. But this repeated looking at the pentagram from all different angles ensures that you gain a deep and very useful magical understanding of this shape that will embed itself in your consciousness.

That embedding and deep understanding is how the pentagram can become a powerful tool and shield in your magical work. By now you should have a good understanding of what it is and how it works, and you should be able to do the simple pentagram shield with ease and fluency. This will put you in good stead when it comes to doing deep ritual work with the planetary powers and angelic interfaces (for example the Arbatel).



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## *Module One Summary*

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At this point of your early training, you should have a solid basic grounding in a few key magical techniques: meditation, vision, ritual, and pattern-making. You should also have by now settled into a good personal method of record-keeping, observation and experimentation.

Establish for yourself a rhythm of meditation, practising skills already learned and learning new skills. Develop a schedule of work that functions best for you and your everyday life, so that you do not become overwhelmed in your studies, or shut out partners, family or everyday life activities: magic should dovetail into your life, not take it over and isolate you from others.

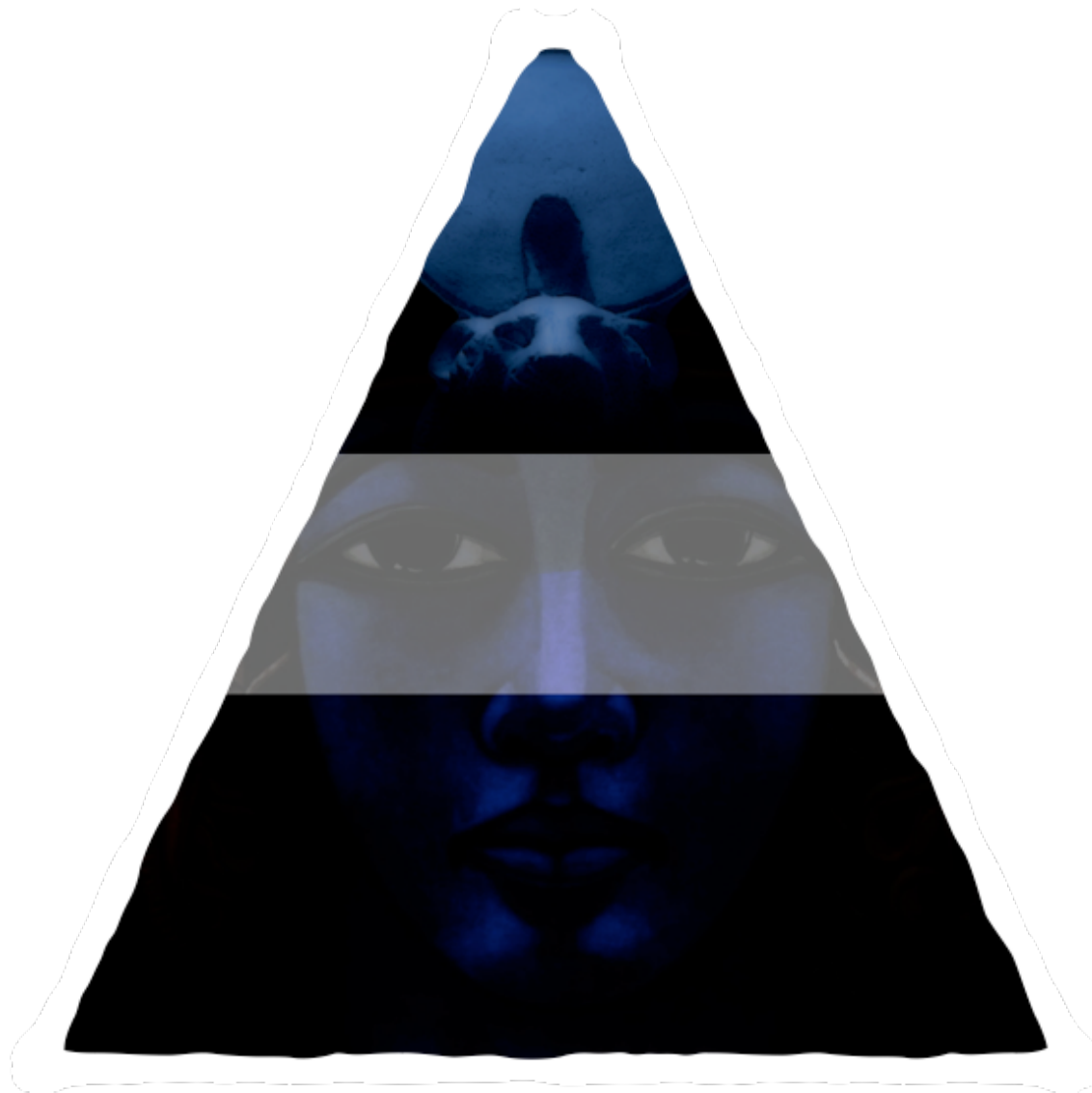
Each time you start a new module, start a new journal so that each module has its own journal, notes, experiments and essays. Use a mix of computer files and paper journals, and make sure that your online notes, essays etc. are backed up on a USB stick that is kept only for your magical study and work.

Well done for getting this far. You have made your first major step in magical education!

QVAREIA

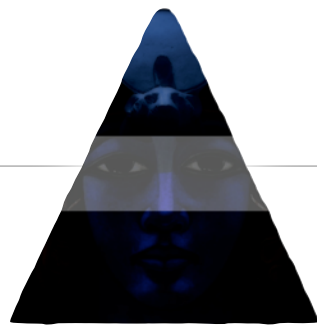
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# QVAREIA - THE APPRENTICE

## *Basic Astrology*

by Toni Paris

Module 1, Lesson 8 - *Extension*

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The natal chart is like a photograph of the position of the stars and planets in the skies at the moment of a soul's birth taken from the position of their birth. To construct a natal chart you need the person's exact date, time and location of their birth.

There are a multitude of computer programs that you can buy to do the calculations for you – or you can simply log on to [www.astrodienst.com](http://www.astrodienst.com) - open a free account and you can erect and save charts. They also have an impressive selection of asteroids and fixed stars to add to the chart – but that is at the end of a long road of learning for the novice astrologer.

All the elements that go into chart interpretation, planets, signs, houses, are interconnected and as you learn about one element, you are learning something about the others. However, without any real understanding of the planets, houses, signs and aspects anyone can begin a basic interpretation of the natal chart simply by looking at it. The pattern of the chart can tell you quite a bit about the person it represents.

If you see many planets in a particular house or quadrant of the chart you will know that that area is of particular importance and focus

for the person. Conversely, if a house or quadrant is empty it is not very important.

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### *Basic Orientation*

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The first quadrant, relates to the individual and identity and so a multitude of planets in this quadrant would indicate that the person is focusing on themselves, is very independent, a leader, an initiator and this is very Aries like.

The second quadrant, relates to a person who is very good at putting a plan in action. This person is a follower (not necessarily like a lemming) and can administer, anticipate and solve problems and work well with others. This person is often the 'behind the scenes' leader – very Cancerian.

The third quadrant, points to a person who always puts the other first. This is the therapist who is only interested in your troubles and never discloses anything about themselves, the martyr, the Human Resources manager, the doting Mother or partner who is always concerned with the other's own good and this person can be tremendously passive/aggressive and manipulative. This is very Libran.

The fourth quadrant is indicative of the person who 'gets it done'. This person – also very much a leader – takes projects and ideas to their conclusions and finishes what they start. They are solid, reliable, a bit relentless and this is a very Capricorn like person.

So, knowing a bit about the 4 quadrants of the natal chart you also now know a bit about the 4 cardinal signs – Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn. Cardinal signs are initiators – and the sun's entrance into their signs signals the beginning of a new season.

The chart is also divided into halves – really 4 halves. The lines of demarcation are from ASC, ascendant, to DSC, descendant – 1st house to 7th house and from MC (Medium Coeli) or Midheaven to IC (Imum Coeli), or Nadir. Many planets in the half of the chart, the East, from

MC to IC involving the 1st house point to someone who sees things through the lens of their own experience and tends to put self first. If the other half, West, is where the majority of planets lie, 7th house, this person puts others needs and wants before their own. There is a clue here to the meanings of the 1st and 7th houses here and the signs that rule them – or have their natural homes there. 1st is self, ego and is the home of Aries. The 7th is other and is the home of Libra.

If you see many planets above the charts horizon, the South – the line stretching from the ASC to DSC involving the 10th house - points to a person who is outgoing, socializes well, likes to be out in the world and can be a bit of an extrovert. If you find many planets below the horizon, the North, involving the 4th house, you are seeing a more introverted person, someone who is more of a homebody and would shy away from large gatherings. This also gives you further understanding of the 4th and 10th houses and their ruling signs. The 4th house is about the home, family, the weaker parent and is home to Cancer. The 10th is about ego, career, the stronger parent is the natural home of Capricorn.

There are many different shapes the chart can take. Basic shapes are presented below but the place of the shapes should be taken into consideration as well. This would mean you need to blend the shape meaning with the hemisphere or quadrant being affected.

If you see planets scattered all throughout the chart you can guess that this person is a bit scatter-brained and/or multi-talented. This is referred to as the splash pattern could be construed as very Gemini-like.

A see-saw or hour glass shape would point to a person who is very black and white and may have strong success and failures in their lives. This person is relentless and has tremendous staying power. This has a Capricorn-like flavor due to the extreme successes and failures and an excellent example of the see-saw hourglass and Capricorn is the life and times of US President Richard Nixon.

A bowl pattern has all of the planets in only one part/half of the chart. This particular pattern indicates the person is very self-contained and may have difficulty with self expression.

The bucket pattern is a bowl with a planet outside the bowl forming a 'handle'. This is also referred to as the locomotive pattern. This planet is the person's way out of the bowl. The planet, sign and house will describe how and where the person can express themselves the best.

There are more patterns but these are the most obvious to the casual observer.

In the basic natal chart there are 3 basic elements – the signs, the planets and the houses. The planets represent our basic drives, the signs describe how these drives are expressed and the houses are the areas of our lives where these drives will be played out. As stated before, these 3 essentials relate to one another and as you understand one you understand all three. The signs are ruled and described by individual planets and these signs and planets have their own houses in the basic chart. Astrologers use a bit of shorthand when writing the signs and planets. These shortcuts are referred to as glyphs. Most people are familiar with many of them. Many of the signs and planets are also named after ancient Gods and Goddesses. They share their namesakes' attributes, for good and for ill, and a passing knowledge of mythology is helpful in understanding them. Each sign also has an animal, human or inanimate symbol attached to it and this will further illustrate the meaning of the sign.

In addition to houses and planets, the signs represent one of the 4 elements fire, earth, air or water, and fall under one of the 3 qualities – cardinal, fixed or mutable. The element of fire is all about energy, drive and creativity. Earth signs are practical, sensual and take time to ponder. Air signs are communicators and put an emphasis on knowledge and learning. Water signs are empathetic, intuitive, and creative and deal with emotions.

The cardinal signs are initiators, independent and lead the way. The fixed signs dig in and get things done. The mutable signs are flexible, change and disseminate information.

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## *The Signs in the Natural Horoscope*

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**Aries** - *I am* - The first sign of the astrological year, ruler of the natural 1st house and the harbinger of spring. Aries is a fire sign and named after the God of war. This sign is considered the adolescent of the zodiac and is all about the self. Aries are the initiators, but tend to lose interest in the long haul. They are a bit self absorbed but have a tremendous amount of energy and a bit of a temper. The animal associated with Aries is the Ram – in the sense that it will beat its head against a wall, the Aries native is headstrong and will hurl head first into any situation – consequences and forethought be damned. Aries is ruled by the planet Mars – more about him later, but the relationship is pretty apparent. Aries is a cardinal sign, initiating spring.

**Taurus** - *I have* - Is the second sign of the zodiac and rules the 2nd house. Taurus natives take time to ponder, value security and ‘nice’ things. Taurus has a very strong sense of aesthetics, money may be important but it is not important for its own sake but more for what it can be used for. Taurus is a very practical sign, very earthy (it’s an earth sign) and has tremendous endurance. The bull is the animal symbol for the sign of Taurus. The planet that rules Taurus is Venus, in her artistic and pleasure aspect. Taurus is a fixed sign – underlying its bullheadedness.

**Gemini** - *I think* - rules the 3rd house of the natural zodiac and is the 3rd sign. This Air sign is high energy, quick intelligence, tremendously creative, communicative and can get bored easily. Gemini natives tend to be interested in everything, at least for a while. Twins are the symbol for this sign – as it is very dualistic picking up and dropping things quickly. The planet associated with Gemini is Mercury – in his purely messenger aspect. It is not about the information disseminated as much as the act of carrying information. Gemini is a mutable sign, which emphasizes its quicksilver, changeable nature.

**Cancer** - *I feel* - is the 4th sign of the natural zodiac and rules the 4th house. When the sun enters the sign of Cancer we welcome sum-

mer. Cancers are sensitive, devoted to the home and tend to be nurturers. Cancers protect their loved ones and themselves from hurt – real or imagined. Cancers tend to worry and can let these worries get in the way of things. The symbol for Cancer is the crab, and like the crab Cancers tend to sidestep confrontations. The planet that rules Cancer is the Moon and Cancer is a water sign very influenced by her planetary ruler. Cancer emotions tend to ebb and flow like the tides. Cancers need emotional security and home and family as a symbol of this, are very important to them.

**Leo** - *I will* - is the 5th sign of the zodiac and rules the 5th house. This sign is ruled by the sun, a fire sign and the Leo native wants to shine and be appreciated. Leos are very generous, full of energy and great charismatic leaders. Leo is confidence and the symbol for this sign is the lion – leader of the pride and the leader who presents himself to his adoring minions. Leos love to have fun and their natural confidence makes them gamblers. Leo is a fixed sign so it's a bit hard to change this sign's mind.

**Virgo** - *I analyze* - is the 6th sign of the natural zodiac and therefore rules the 6th house. As a mutable earth sign, Virgo is interested in analyzing data. Virgos are detail oriented, meticulous and practical. This meticulous approach can cause the Virgo native to be a bit of a perfectionist and a bit of a worrywart, as things are never really perfect. Virgo is also ruled by Mercury – in his aspect as disseminator and analyzer of information.

**Libra** - *I balance* - is a cardinal air sign. As the 7th sign of the zodiac Libra rules the natural 7th house. When the sun enters this sign we welcome autumn. The element of air in Libra points to skill in diplomatic communication. Libras want to keep the peace and create harmony in their relationships and environment. Because of their aversion to disharmony, Libras can appear to be indecisive. They are artistic, creative and romantic. The symbol for Libra is scales – as Libras are always seeking balance in all things. The planetary ruler of Libra is Venus, in her harmonious, romantic aspect.



**Scorpio** - *I desire* - is a fixed water sign. As the ruler of the 8th house of the natural zodiac, Scorpio is the 8th sign. Scorpios are fiercely private, loyal and devoted. The sign is about transformation and is the only sign that has 2 planetary rulers. The original ruler of Scorpio was Mars and, more recently Pluto. The Pluto rulership relates to Pluto as God of the Underworld. Scorpios look deeply into things and are not afraid to turn over the rock to see what lies underneath. Like their unusual dual planetary rulers, Scorpios also have 3 symbols, the scorpion – relating to the Scorpio propensity to sting themselves because of their intensity and somewhat obsessive nature, the eagle relating to the Scorpio’s ability to see things from a higher perspective and finally the Phoenix – pointing to the Scorpio’s transformative drive.

**Sagittarius** - *I aspire* - finds its home in the 9th house of the natural zodiac and is the 9th sign. It is a mutable fire sign and so it has tremendous drive, creative energy and wide ranging interests and ideas. The Sagittarian ideal is to wander, to learn and to expand. The planetary ruler is Jupiter in his aspect of law giver and Sagittarius is very concerned with fairness and equality. The symbol for this sign is the Centaur about to release his arrow to the heavens. Sagittarius is a true creature of the earth but also concerned with spirituality and philosophy – big ideas. All things about Sagittarius are big and Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, is all about expansion.

**Capricorn** - *I use* - is a cardinal earth sign. This sign’s home is the 10th house, which is the Midheaven of the chart. Capricorns are very practical, concerned with appearances and tend to take great pride in their careers and social status. Capricorns are concerned with accumulation of material things and can be collectors. The symbol for this sign is the goat, as a cautious climber. The planetary ruler is Saturn in his guise as Father Time. As the sun enters Capricorn we welcome the season of winter. Capricorns tend to caution, take their time and play things close to the vest.

**Aquarius** - *I know* - the 11th sign of the zodiac is a fixed air sign, which finds its home in the 11th house. This is the pioneering sign, future thinkers, rebels and seers, humanitarians. Aquarians can be seen as a bit eccentric because they are strongly individualistic. Aquarians

have strong and often unconventional ideas and like to share their ideas with groups. The planetary ruler is Uranus and the symbol for Aquarius is the water bearer – if you think of water as nourishment Aquarians nourish humanity with the water of their ideas.

**Pisces** - *I believe* - is the 12th and final sign of the natural zodiac. It is a mutable water sign finding its home in the 12th and final house of the natural chart. The Pisces native is intuitive and feels a complete and inexplicable spiritual connection to the source. Pisces tend to be dreamy, creative and have trouble relating to the mundane aspects of reality. It is difficult for Pisces to communicate their feelings and they tend to be buffeted by the emotions of those around them. The symbol for Pisces is two fish – joined together but swimming in the opposite direction. The planetary ruler is Neptune – the God of the depths of the oceans and in that sense it represents illusion and delusion. Water is clear but can cause distortion when looking through it and one can become intoxicated by water.

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## *The 12 Houses*

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The houses are the playground – or the place of work where the aspects will occur. When you look at a specific house, its opposite should be considered as well. If an aspect is occurring in the 1st house (the self) one should look at the 7th house (the other).

**First house** - *'I'*. The sign on the first house cusp is referred to as the rising sign and describes how a person appears and their public face. Often when you get to know someone and they are much different than first impressions it is because the sign here is different from the sun (personality) sign.

**Second house** – *'Mine'*. This house describes material assets and attitudes towards money, earning capacity and is the house of usable assets. It can also be moral values.

**Third house** – *‘Neighborhood’*. This is the house of early childhood, early education, close relatives, short trips and communication of all sorts. This can be described as our neighborhood.

**Fourth house** – *‘Personal/Inner’*. This house describes the person’s security, shelter, family life, the last quarter of life and the inner self. This house was traditionally ascribed to the Mother but can really be representative of the less influential parent.

**Fifth house** – *‘Love’*. This house represents lovers, children speculation, the creative self, gambling and courtship.

**Sixth house** – *‘Work/service/physical health’*. This is the placement of necessity and service – what must be done. The capacity for work is described here as well as the nature of potential illnesses or where the person could develop trouble. An example is that if the native had Pisces on the cusp and/or Neptune in the house badly aspected the person could suffer foot problems as Pisces rules the feet.

**Seventh house** – *‘Others’*. This is the house of partnerships, consultants, spouses and open enemies. This can be regarded as the house of cooperation and relationships.

**Eighth house** – *‘Yours/Ours’*. This would be the position of other people’s finances (your partner, family, etc). It is the house of sex, death and the occult.

**Ninth house** – *‘Out there’*. This represents our relationship to what is remote, long journeys, distant places and people, relatives, in-laws, higher education, philosophy and our conscience.

**Tenth house** – *‘Public/Outer’*. This is the position, authority, profession, honor ambition superiors and that which has power over us. It also represents the more influential parent.

**Eleventh house** – *‘Friends’*. The 11th house is the place of higher aspirations, group memberships and participation, friends, hopes and shared goals.

**Twelfth house** – *‘Fear/institutions/Mental health’*. This house describes one’s relationship to one’s self, the unconscious, all forms of

institutionalization and seclusion – including imprisonment. This is the position of hidden enemies and all that is considered confidential.

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## *The Planets*

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- **Mars** - Energy, drive, life force
- **Venus** - Beauty, harmony, affection, arts, attraction
- **Mercury** - Communication, mental acuity, sense of humor
- **Moon** - Emotions, sensitivity, empathy, tides, cycles, the Mother
- **Sun** - The personality, ego, self, Father
- **Pluto** - Power, obsession, addiction, destruction, transformation
- **Jupiter** - Luck, expansion, inspiration, optimism
- **Saturn** - Restriction, focus, structure, limitation
- **Uranus** - Genius, revolution, insight, restlessness, freedom
- **Neptune** - Mysticism, illusion, delusion, imagination

Here are a few examples of how to put this all together. A sun in Scorpio would be very quiet and feel more comfortable in the background, manipulating things – the behind the scenes power broker. However, if that sun were placed in the first house it would take on an Aries flare and would be more apt to be a leader and far more up front.

A person with Neptune in the 7th house (or Pisces on the cusp) would tend to idealize their partners – put them on pedestals and be devastated when reality intrudes.

A person with the Moon in the 2nd house would see their finances go up and down like the cycle of the moon.

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## *The Aspects*

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Aspects in astrology describe how the planets behave together. The major aspects are:

**Conjunction:** 0-5 degrees These planets are within a few degrees of each other and put forward a united front. The closer the aspect (1-3 degrees separating) the more intense the blending will be. A sun conjunct the Ascendant would be a person who is exactly what they seem and that person will take things very personally.

**Opposition:** 180 degrees This aspect points to a pair of planets that are opposite each other (in the 1st and 7th house for example). This is a mirror aspect and the other is reflecting what is going on.

**Square:** 90 degrees The qualities of the planets involved either square or oppose. So, for example, any planets in Leo (fixed) would square the Scorpio/Taurus axis. Any planets in Sagittarius would square the Pisces/Virgo axis and so forth. This aspect indicates that the planets are at odds with each other and tension occurs. This tension can cause action or problems.

**Trine:** 120 degrees All planets in the same element trine, for example all water signs, Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces would trine. This aspect indicates that the planets are working in harmony; there is a flow of energy between them.

A good exercise to understand how all of this comes together is to get a copy of your natal chart and begin to analyze it. Use the following steps to begin with.

- Look at the chart and determine what shape the chart is.
- Look at what quadrants the planets lie in.
- Look at empty and full houses
- Look at each planet, their sign and house. Tell yourself a story about what that means. For example, ‘my Saturn is in Virgo in

the tenth house so there would be restrictions to developing a career in healthcare or service until later in life.’

As you get comfortable and begin to see how the planetary energies work through the signs in their home bases you can move on to an exercise to learn how aspects work.

You follow the moon through your natal chart for 28 days (one lunar cycle). To accomplish this – you will need an ephemeris. The Llewellyn calendars and pocket planners can be purchased and have a daily ephemeris. You can also find a monthly ephemeris at the following website: <http://www.cafeastrology.com/2013ephemeris.html>

Look for the symbol of the moon and see where it is in the sky. Then find that location in your natal chart. Then try to determine what aspects it is making – how it is relating to the planets in your chart. Note the aspect (or aspects) and possible meaning in the morning and then in the evening see how the aspect (s) actually worked out.

You’ll find a brief description of the various aspects the moon can make to the planets below but remember – you need to blend these meanings with the house and sign. A moon in Scorpio – secretive – is very different from a Moon in Aries, open and brash.

### ***MOON ASPECTS TO THE SUN***

- Conjunction – good for cleaning, getting house in order
- Opposition – others can make emotional demands
- Square – family and domestic matters need flexibility. Irritability and frustration
- Trine – Indulge yourself – things go smoothly

### ***MOON ASPECTS TO MERCURY***

- Conjunction – Chat more about emotions
- Opposition – Hard to express self to others, hard to communicate clearly

- Square – Misunderstandings, feeling lack of appreciation, difficulty focusing
- Trine – others nurturing, short trips taken and/or planned, home changes (decorating?)

### ***MOON ASPECTS TO VENUS***

- Conjunction – very sensitive, empathetic to others
- Opposition – Conflict with obligations to self and others moodiness
- Square – Moody, oversensitive – good day to be alone
- Trine – Get along with everyone, everything goes smoothly

### ***MOON ASPECTS TO MARS***

- Conjunction – lots of family activities, possible fever/flu.
- Opposition – Hard work to keep things moving smoothly, family/others demanding
- Square – Irritable, mood swings, trouble with women
- Trine – loads of energy and focus to accomplish things

### ***MOON ASPECTS TO JUPITER***

- Conjunction – difficulties easy to fix, optimistic, extra money
- Opposition – Financial extravagance with costs higher than expected
- Square – Emotional strain, don't over-spend, issues blown out of proportion.
- Trine – very peaceful, money and business very satisfactory, travels planned.

### ***MOON ASPECTS TO SATURN***

- Conjunction – Need to organize, develop routine, feel solitary, confined, not much energy
- Opposition – Other (s) a disappointment, lack of support, delays, penny pinching
- Square – Depressed, everything seems tedious, boring, money very tight.
- Trine – Elders help, organized, efficient and practical

### ***MOON ASPECTS TO URANUS***

- Conjunction – Fluctuation, change in daily life – very erratic
- Opposition – Unexpected visitors, sudden changes in all areas, other feels unstable
- Square – Feel the need for dramatic changes and rebellion. Changes are not permanent, instability.
- Trine – Sudden new people and new ideas. Stimulating changes occur in daily life.

### ***MOON ASPECTS TO NEPTUNE***

- Conjunction – Very sensitive, creativity enhanced, tendency to day dreaming
- Opposition – Others confusing, vague, feeling paranoid, looking for escape – tendency to over exaggeration
- Square – Feeling anxious, disappointed with vague reasons
- Trine – relationships seem idyllic; dreams come true, very content



### ***MOON ASPECTS TO PLUTO***

- Conjunction – Relationships intensified, emotional upheaval, power plays, manipulation
- Opposition – Problems saying no, conflicts with people especially women
- Square – Others demanding, heavy emotional pressures, unconscious needs/drives surface
- Trine – intense intuitive insights, stress eases, let go of self destructive patterns.

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