

At its most basic, astrology is about mapping the positions of the *planets* as they move against the backdrop of the *stars* on the *celestial sphere*. As the celestial sphere rotates around Oerth and as one moves about Oerth, different stars come into and out of view, but the positions of the stars never change relative to each other for they are inscribed on the inside of the *celestial sphere*.

The *planets*, which include the sun, the greater moon, the lesser moon, and the five minor planets, move between Oerth and the celestial sphere and thus they appear to move against the backdrop of the stars.

A third aspect of astrology involves dividing the visible sky into different portions called *realms*, but that's outside the scope of this introduction.

Astrology concerns itself therefore with how the planets move against the stars and how the stars rotate through the sky. The planets all follow a path through the sky called the *ecliptic* and, as they do so, they pass through ten different constellations, known as the *zodiac constellations*.

Celestian, the god of the stars, placed the stars on the celestial sphere specifically to allow mortals insight into the cosmic forces that shape the evolution of the world and all the creatures within it. Or perhaps the stars actually give rise to the forces that shape the evolution of the world. That is for the scholars to argue.

The point is, by tracking the position of the planets against the stars and the stars in the sky, astrologers can understand the cosmic forces that shape the fates of individuals and the world.

Astrology concerns itself primarily with the construction of natal charts and horoscopes. A natal chart is a map of the sky as it appeared at the moment of an individual's birth and thus it gives insight into the forces that may shape that individual's destiny. A horoscope is a map of the sky as it appears at the present moment. While a horoscope may provide some broad insight into cosmic forces at play in the present moment, it is most valuable when compared with an individual natal chart to give insight into the ebb and flow of cosmic forces in an individual life.

Of special note are five stars of a notably reddish cast called the Azari. These stars are associated with malevolence and ill fortune. Why Celestian placed them in the sky is a mystery, but he spread them out so that all five would never share the sky and, further, he tasked the sun and the moons, Celene and Luna, to protect the world from their influence. Two of the Azari lie close enough to the ecliptic — near the signs of the Griffon and the Sage — to make their influences felt as the planets pass through them.

Numerous traits and aspects are associated with the planets, the constellation, and the realms of the sky and the traits themselves are far less important than the interplay between them as they move in their cosmic dance. On the following page, however, is a simplified set of broad meanings generally associated with the planets and the signs and the season in which the sun is passing through the sign in question.

You will also find images of the signs of the zodiac and a map of the stars on the celestial sphere in the northern hemisphere.

The Planets

Sun

Luna, The Greater Moon

Celene, The Lesser Moon

Chandos

Nenia

Hestar

Glyth

Oina

Associated Aspects

Self and Will

Heart and Harmony

Love and Passion

Action and Independence

Thought and Perception

Optimism and Abundance

Discipline and Tenacity

Transformation and Regeneration

The Signs of the Zodiac

The Sage

The Dragon

The Hermit

The Griffon

The Staff

The Nymph

The Ship

The Phoenix

The Knight

The Treant

Season

Spring

Spring

Low Summer

Low Summer

High Summer

High Summer

Autumn

Autumn

Winter

Winter

Focus

Inward

Outward

Inward

Outward

Inward

Outward

Inward

Outward

Inward

Outward

Aspect

Change

Birth

Descent

Growth

Recovery

Change

Birth

Descent

Growth

Recovery

Trait

Innovative

Impulsive

Introspective

Courageous

Agreeable

Charismatic

Curious

Compassionate

Idealistic

Stubborn



The Sage



The Dragon



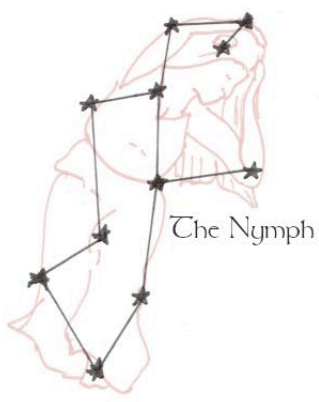
The Hermit



The Griffin



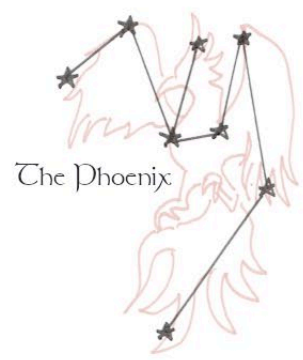
The Staff



The Nymph



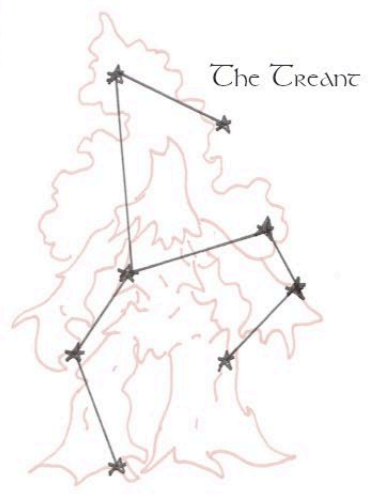
The Ship



The Phoenix



The Knight



The Tarent

