

The Iris Asteroids Report
Rainbow Messenger of the Gods and Goddesses
by Roderick Kidston

for

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Evanston, Illinois



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INTRODUCTION

Ever since the beginning of the 19th Century, astronomers have been aware of the existence of asteroids, but astrologers have only been using them as part of the horoscope since 1973. And even so, only a small number of astrologers actually use the asteroids when reading charts for people. This is in large part because the asteroids (or dwarf planets, as some are recently re-defined astronomically) are not well understood, except for the first four to be discovered: Ceres, Pallas, Juno and Vesta. But now, the Iris Report aims to change all that! Here you will find interpretations for twelve major dwarf planets and asteroids, and their impact in the natal chart. They add balance, detail and depth of meaning to astrological interpretation.

Most of the dwarf planets and asteroids found in the Iris Report are named for classical goddesses rather than gods, and this is partly in order to balance the excess of masculine energy that a purely planetary astrology reveals. Most of you will know that the ten 'planetary' factors used in standard astrological interpretation are the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. Many astrologers also include the planetoid Chiron to this list of ten, making eleven. But if the Sun and Moon are considered primal masculine and feminine energies respectively, then out of the remaining nine god symbols listed, there is only one goddess, Venus. This hardly represents the yin-yang balance of either physical Nature or what is taught about the spiritual realms.

(The issue of the 'demotion' of Pluto to dwarf planet status does not have any real impact on the philosophical issues being discussed here, or the current 'promotion' of Ceres from asteroid to dwarf planet status, and the possible elevations of Pallas, Vesta and Hygiea. The power of the divine archetypes standing behind astrological symbols is more significant than what is or is not defined astronomically as a planet, dwarf planet or asteroid.)

The other reason for choosing certain asteroids or dwarf planets over others is that several of the early heavenly bodies discovered show a resonance with the way that the culture was evolving at the time, which in turn reflects the ongoing evolution of consciousness in the material realm of the Earth. The dwarf planet and asteroids Ceres, Pallas, Juno, Vesta, Astraea, Iris and Hygiea are all especially relevant in this regard.

The other asteroids selected for the Iris report are Diana and Apollo (additional lunar and solar symbols that show the primal life energies working in a larger social context); Proserpina; and symbols of the two great gods not represented by planets in the solar system: Bacchus and Hephaistos. These all together complete a kind of balanced listing of archetypal energies which astrologers can use to make sense of a horoscope.

One of the ways of deciding which asteroids are useful is found by considering the concept of the energy dyad. The Sun-Moon dyad of archetypal masculine and feminine energy is very well known to astrologers, as is the desire and love dyad symbolized by Venus and Mars. But other possibilities are proposed in the table below:

Yang symbol	Yin symbol
SUN: archetypal masculine/yang life energy, spirit	MOON: archetypal feminine/yin life energy, soul
MERCURY: masculine/yang intelligence, "left brain", data collecting, and analytical mind	IRIS: feminine/yin intelligence, "right brain", intuitive and synthesizing mind
MARS: masculine desire, dynamic activity, outward acting pleasure	VENUS: feminine desire, receptive activity, inward drawn pleasure
JUPITER: Sky Father, male protector and nurturer, promoter of ethics/abundance	CERES: Earth Mother, female nurturer and protector, promoter of ethics/abundance
SATURN: masculine energy of tradition, structure, and material good order	VESTA: feminine energy of tradition, structure, and material good order
CHIRON: masculine energy of healing transformation and purification	HYGIEA: feminine energy of healing transformation and purification
URANUS: masculine change agent and consciousness raiser	PALLAS: feminine change agent and consciousness raiser
NEPTUNE: masculine passivity and sublime/altered states	PROSERPINA: feminine passivity and sublime/altered states
PLUTO: masculine energy of primal power and transformation	JUNO: feminine energy of primal power and transformation
HEPHAISTOS: masculine principle of work, order, integration and disintegration	ASTRAEA: feminine principle of work, order, integration and disintegration
APOLLO: additional solar symbol, creative maturity	DIANA: additional lunar symbol, emotional maturity
BACCHUS: masculine symbol of dark primal passions, escapism and individualism, and inspirational power	BLACK MOON LILITH: feminine symbol of dark primal passions, escapism and individualism, and inspirational power

With this table you find a balanced grouping of archetypal divine energies which have significant astrological influence. The Iris Report gives you the opportunity, for the first time, to add twelve asteroids to the major factors usually considered in the chart - the Sun and Moon, the planets, Chiron and Lilith - and thereby get a much more complete picture of how the astral energies were constellated at the time of birth for the chart you are reading, whether it is your own or someone else's.

Of course, the balance suggested by these dyads, or pairings, does not mean that the yin and yang symbols are identical - Venus and Mars are hardly the same, after all! But there is a sense in which the two planets or asteroids involved represent divine archetypes whose energies complement each other, and work something like the positive and negative charges of an electrical current. One end of the archetypal 'pole' is outgoing and active, or 'masculine'. The other end of the archetypal pole is incoming and receptive, or 'feminine'.

In each of the twelve mini-chapters that follow, a particular asteroid (or dwarf planet, depending on the new astronomical definitions!) is given the focus of attention and related to all the other major elements of the horoscope, including those two important angles the Ascendant and Midheaven, and also the Nodes of the Moon. They are listed not in any order of importance, but according to the order in which they were discovered, from Ceres first to Hephaistos last.

So - let Iris, the rainbow messenger of the goddesses, add her many colors to your chart and complete the work of Mercury, the messenger of the gods.

* * * * *

For the benefit of astrologers and students of astrology, information used to produce this report is given below:

Sun	6 Leo 45	Ceres	3 Tau 20
Moon	24 Sag 01	Pallas	8 Pis 02
Mercury	18 Can 57	Juno	29 Leo 47
Venus	26 Gem 31	Vesta	11 Pis 04
Mars	21 Vir 49	True Lilith	19 Pis 47
Jupiter	9 Lib 27	Astraea	14 Pis 48
Saturn	28 Aqu 29	Iris	5 Lib 05
Uranus	19 Cap 32	Hygiea	22 Leo 00
Neptune	19 Cap 18	Proserpina	3 Tau 02
Pluto	22 Sco 44	Diana	28 Tau 59
True Node	10 Sag 52	Apollo	17 Can 20
Asc.	11 Sag 59	Bacchus	6 Tau 48
MC	2 Lib 17	Hephaistos	21 Gem 49

Tropical Placidus Daylight Savings Time observed

GMT: 21:29:00 Time Zone: 6 hours West

Lat. and Long. of birth: 42 N 02 28 87 W 41 24

Aspects interpreted:

Conjunction:	5 Deg 00 Min	Sextile	:	3 Deg 00 Min
Opposition :	5 Deg 00 Min	SemiSquare	:	2 Deg 00 Min
Square :	4 Deg 00 Min	Sesquiquadrate:	:	2 Deg 00 Min
Trine :	4 Deg 00 Min			

Chapter 1: Ceres

Ceres, lady of loving-kindness

Ceres symbolizes the fertility and abundance of the corn goddess, an aspect of the great Earth Mother. Ceres was the Roman deity; Demeter the earlier Greek goddess of grain and fertility in the classical tradition. With the new astronomical definitions of the various bodies in the solar system, Ceres the former asteroid is now considered to be a 'dwarf planet'. In astrology, the divine archetype Ceres bestows the blessing of loving-kindness. She distils her energy gently in the horoscope, and does not make a fuss.

Ceres helps you to see the world through kindly eyes, and to enjoy what is natural and simple and good. With her help, you grow in compassion for others, and gain in empathic understanding. She promotes generosity of spirit, and helps you to help other living beings: people, animals, and the natural world. Her position shows something about how you find ways to look after other people, and seek to bring out the best in them. Ceres nurtures and educates, in the best sense of those words. And on a larger worldly scale, she promotes the good of ordinary people, helps humankind to build democracy, and fosters respect and care for the environment as a whole. Her darker side tends to smother love and games involving manipulation or rejection. However, her more noble urge prompts everyone towards leading a good life, which facilitates the correction or elimination of such unattractive qualities.

Ceres in Taurus:

There is something of the 'good mother' in you, regardless of gender or parental status. You radiate a dependable and protective quality, something solid and stable, that less assured people are going to depend on just as much as you let them! You may get leaned on more than is good for you at times, and so encounter lessons in boundary setting. The natural world is a tonic for you. Essentially you are peaceable, but can be aroused to strong anger if you see the weak being hurt in some way. You have a drive for material security, especially if you are providing for children, because you want the best for them even more than you do for yourself. Beware of over-identifying with possessions: it is your integrity and inner strength that sustain you, not attachments to things.

Ceres in 5th house:

You have a deep need to create, and feel that this is somehow essential to expressing who you most truly are. Whether you make babies or bread, dig a garden or build a company, you are most fulfilled when you bring something new into the world that enlivens and enriches it. You may turn a hobby into a career, and the urge to play is never far from anything you do. Even if you have no children, the welfare of the young or of the next generation (in your business, say) will matter to you. In any field you are a terrific mentor. Because you value and honor your own inner child, you can be very skilful in helping others to access their inner child as well, and in teaching them how to play.

Ceres Conjunct Proserpina, Orb: 0 deg. 18 min.

There is a potent mythic dimension to linkages between Ceres and Proserpina, and the nature of the mother-child bond is a touchstone of your life, whether easy or challenging for you. The establishment of a strong personal identity and independent life will be a major theme, both in doing it for yourself and in setting others free to do it, too.

Ceres Conjunct Bacchus, Orb: 3 deg. 28 min.

You tend to define happiness by your ability to help other people, but can use this as a crutch or escape from other responsibilities, such as to yourself. You are profoundly inspired by the image of the Good Mother and can make this an integral part of your own being, but do not corrupt it with fantasy or manipulative behaviors.

Ceres Trine Juno, Orb: 3 deg. 32 min.

You draw strength from your talent for fostering equality in relationships and from an innate ability to know what your personal power is, and how to harness it benignly. You don't waste time with power games and will tactfully help others to see the pointlessness too, and offer alternative strategies for

developing better linkages and support systems.

Ceres Square Sun, Orb: 3 deg. 26 min.

Your drive to support and help as many people as you can is a source of both strength and potential weakness as you grapple with the need to balance personal needs with your focus on the needs of others. You need to get clear and well organized to manage such a busy life, or risk becoming over-committed, ineffective and self-critical.

Ceres SemiSquare True Lilith, Orb: 1 deg. 28 min.

Somehow or other Mother looms large in your psyche, and can carry every projection from wicked witch to plaster saint. Understanding she was a woman who only did the best she could, however lousy or great that was, will set you free from attachments. Lack of forgiveness only hurts you, and so (more subtly) does idolatry. Let it all go!

Chapter 2: Pallas

Pallas, lady of consciousness-raising

Pallas was a title of the great Greek goddess Athena, warrior, strategist and wisdom seeker. Her Roman counterpart was Minerva. The asteroid (perhaps eventually to be classified as dwarf planet) Pallas brings gifts of understanding, insight and skillfulness, and helps you to take things to a higher level than you might have thought possible. The energies of Pallas often seem to appear suddenly in the horoscope, and she can present in a surprising, even shocking, way. These upheavals are necessary sometimes in order to shake you out of your complacency and get you moving.

Pallas helps you to see much more clearly, and although this can involve pain, it is for the best in the long run. Illusions are stripped away and you comprehend at a deep level the lessons brought by this asteroid. You grow in intellectual dexterity and sometimes manual dexterity as well, and learn how to approach issues more strategically. Just as Pallas improves the linkages in your brain, so she also helps you to create better linkages in the world at large. Pallas can prompt you to respond very coldly, too, so you need to be careful of her chilly intellectualism and its snare of retreat into airy, abstract absolutes. But Pallas also promotes equality and cooperation, and helps you to help others in clear-sighted and astute ways. She assists you to act more fairly towards people, and to fight for fairness in turn. Pallas is a true raiser of the level of consciousness, and ultimately she helps you to think and act in much better, more skilful ways than you might ever have imagined possible.

Pallas in Pisces:

Pallas can get a bit discombobulated when she is trying to steer a clear mindful direction on the changeable seas of Pisces. Which is in control of the ship, the head or the heart? You need to have a good heart-brain connection going here, or find yourself way off course. At your best you have a psychic sensitivity to help you navigate, but you can get very muddled if you believe your intuitive abilities are greater than they actually are. However, when you combine the clarity of Pallas with the receptivity and universality of Pisces, you can achieve remarkable successes, especially in any ventures that require creativity and innovation. This can also empower a swift spiritual path, and enable you to work as a subtle change agent in the world around you.

Pallas in 3rd house:

Pallas has an absolute ball in the houses of communication. Here you are stimulated to be a very stimulating influence one-on-one, or in a small group or local community context. Unless there are strong counter-balancing influences, you probably breezed through school - if you were bored, though, you were probably a tad disruptive - and you know how to make learning fun for other people, too. You are motivated by anything new and exciting, be it news, a book, something online, or encountered traveling. You do have a tendency to roam. The main risk for you is boredom, which brings out your ratty worst. Take responsibility for your own amusements, and don't make demands on others.

Pallas Conjunct Vesta, Orb: 3 deg. 02 min.

There is a restless quality driving you, an urge not to let moss gather on stones. You sense when it is time to make necessary changes, and have the savvy to know what to do and what to leave alone. This process isn't always easy, but works out for the best. Your mental processes can be very sharp and astute.

Pallas Sextile Bacchus, Orb: 1 deg. 14 min.

You are very in tune at your best, and can receive the most wonderful flashes of inspiration to guide your works. Although you go your own way, people don't tend to mind and instead admire your independence and zaniness. Life's a bit of a roller coaster ride, but that's how you like it, and you'll find drama if drama doesn't find you.

Pallas Square True Node, Orb: 2 deg. 51 min.

You have a strong urge to jump in response to the stimulus of change, and tend to have little patience with other more resistant or timid folk. You can also get into quite unnecessary disputes over ideas or ideals as well, so you need to be willing to stand back and look at all sides of things as honestly and fairly as you can. Gently does it!

Pallas Square Asc., Orb: 3 deg. 57 min.

Your drive to be seen as original, clever and visionary is all well and good, but can create discords in your dealings with particular people in your environment. Either they don't understand you, or they understand you only too well. Cultivate the Pallas virtue of detachment to assess what you are doing and make sure you are playing fair and clear.

Chapter 3: Juno

Juno, lady of personal power

Juno symbolizes the primal power of the original Great Mother Goddess, whom the Greeks called Hera. The goddess Hera's supreme position was lost when the sky and warrior gods of patriarchal tribes supplanted the deities of the old agricultural proto-civilization. Hera became the wife of Zeus and patroness of marriage, a much narrower remit of power. Her Roman counterpart was Juno, wife of Jupiter. Although most astrologers read the asteroid Juno primarily as a symbol of relationships and the passions and power struggles entangled in them, there is a much deeper significance to this asteroid in your chart.

Juno is above all about personal power, where you find it, and how you use or misuse it, or fail to use it at all. People often struggle to express their Juno energy, perhaps because the world still struggles collectively with what feminine energy really means. It is not simply about sugar and spice and all things nice. Juno is often not very 'nice' at all, and challenges you to wake up to what you want and find a skilful way of shaping your life path. Juno shines a light on inequalities and demands fairness, or - if she feels thwarted - retreats into angry sulking and defeat. Her most blunted and distorted energies manifest as arrogance and self-entitlement, or in envy and spite; but at her best she bestows a kind of truly royal authority, grounded in maturity and deep understanding.

Juno demands you take responsibility, first of all for yourself. She also teaches you lessons about your values and helps you to transform anything primitive, selfish or self-defeating into a mature and empowering way of being in the world. Juno's great gift is precisely this: empowerment. As a corollary, she can help you make money or gain material successes along the way. And she can give you great style and a powerful presence, too!

Juno in Leo:

There is often a majestic quality to Juno energy, and this is never more obvious than when she is clothed in the gold of Leo, the most royal of signs. You can convey an air of effortless authority, or splendor, or drama or pizzazz, depending on what image you want - and image matters to you! Anyone silly enough to 'diss' you will be sorry, but treat you with ordinary courtesy and you are nice as pie. You know instinctively that nothing succeeds like success, and therefore will be expert in the

art of faking it till you make it. One way or another you are likely to make it, somewhere, in terms that matter to you. Empowerment comes from full expression of your creativity, whether in your work or hobbies or ability to look after relationships. You're a natural, kid, so 'break a leg'!

Juno in 9th house:

With Juno in one of the houses of learning and communication, you will find empowerment through developing the strengths of your mind. This may be problematic earlier in life, and institutions of higher learning or traveling, especially abroad, could be testing grounds for your willingness to learn (your openness) and your resilience. You might go looking for power or enlightenment in a foreign land, but the real journey is inward to the core of your being. A path that allows you to gain deep understanding will serve you best, and it is likely to be a spiritual one sooner or later. Just be clear about what you are looking for, and where and how, and leave small egoistic urges behind.

Juno Conjunct Chiron, Orb: 4 deg. 33 min.

You are geared to the future and your sense of possibility is very large. There is an evangelical, even messianic, quality to some of your ideals and visions, so you may need to go easy if you want to win friends and influence people. And you do want to influence people: making a positive, healing difference in the world is a strong aim.

Juno Trine Proserpina, Orb: 3 deg. 14 min.

For you, there is a source of empowerment deriving from your willingness to go on some kind of inner journey that takes you from a state of innocence, even ignorance, to a much deeper understanding of how you work, and how the world works too. You may slide into this, but will be protected in a process that teaches you true self mastery.

Juno Opposition Saturn, Orb: 1 deg. 18 min.

A certain austerity of purpose in your makeup facilitates worldly achievement but makes you a little intimidating to some people. Learn to relax and don't come on too strong with the dogma. 'Rules is rules', but they are also made to be broken, and you of all people, with your practical savvy and strong work ethic, know where to cut loose and do well.

Juno Square Diana, Orb: 0 deg. 48 min.

Tensions can arise for you in the world as a consequence of your insistence on going your own way. You need to find skilful ways of dealing with people so that you honor your own wishes without causing unnecessary conflict. Your strategic sense can take you a long way if you are willing to make some compromises whilst promoting your agenda.

Chapter 4: Vesta

Vesta, lady of focused service.

The asteroid Vesta constellates a very pure energy of dedication to a higher purpose. In worldly terms this often steps down to more ordinary, everyday realities: the willingness to work hard, the willingness to put personal preferences aside to deal with issues at hand or to assist others in need, and above all the ability to focus intently on something in order to get it done.

It is worth remembering that the Roman goddess Vesta was lady of the hearth, and the Latin word for hearth is 'focus'. Where you put your focus you are, in some sense, kindling a fire in a hearth and tending it, just like the Vestal Virgins looked after the sacred hearth whose fire symbolized the life of the whole collective. Vesta helps you to maintain your focus for as long as it takes to fulfill your obligations or to get the work done. With her help, you become less egoistic and more willing to put others ahead of yourself. But she also teaches you how to do this appropriately - turning into a doormat is hardly going to work well in the long run, either. You can become rather obsessed, too, where Vesta goes, and become righteous about issues with a moral dimension. You need to go a bit easily and honor difference whilst maintaining your own standards. Leading by example is better than grandstanding, and Vesta teaches you to work away quietly, without fuss, and achieve the sense of

deep satisfaction that comes from recognizing and doing the right thing. You don't have to advertise this - virtue is its own reward!

Vesta in Pisces:

Vesta can get a little lost, initially, in the labyrinths and complex waterways of Pisces. But once you find a thread, or your bearings, you can cultivate a rare depth of subtlety and insight into anything you do. You probably don't work in the most conventional way, and some people may find your methods incomprehensible. That's their problem, not yours. You know what you are doing, sort of. If the truth be told, you don't always quite know what you are doing, or how, but you have a way of getting there (wherever 'there' is) in the end. Intuition, the capacity to attract help, even blind luck can be on your side. At your best you can magic order from chaos; at your worst you make chaos out of order. This is a paradoxical energy: whether magician or muddler, you are your own person.

Vesta in 3rd house:

Vesta finds ample scope for expression in the house of communication. Your mind takes on a very practical cast when Vesta helps to connect the synapses, and you are capable of an almost sublime focus on any work you do, especially the mental variety. You're the kind of student who can read vast amounts quickly and somehow zero in on the most important points, discarding anything extraneous. This gift can be applied in numerous helpful ways in other departments of life as well. Sometimes there can be an austere quality to your communication style, however, and you may need to work tactfully to make people understand that you are not a snob or a swot, just very, very focused.

Vesta Conjunct Astraea, Orb: 3 deg. 44 min.

When Vesta and Astraea conjoin there are shifts in the social fabric of the world, and your life will somehow link you with bigger themes of getting things right and promoting better efficiencies. You will have a perfectionist streak that can be very empowering, but also self-defeating. Allow things to be less than ideal, even messy, sometimes!

Vesta Square True Node, Orb: 0 deg. 11 min.

You have a rather stern belief in the virtues of hard work and efficiency, which either impels you to model the model worker, or reject the whole game and run wild(ish). You don't do the wild thing very well, though, and will flourish best if you stick to building good linkages with people to get the work done. Just don't become a workaholic!

Vesta Square Asc., Orb: 0 deg. 55 min.

You seem a serious soul, even if underneath you're a fun loving elf, and there is a driven quality to your personality that may seem obsessive to others. Mostly you'll be driven to work hard and honor Duty, but need to cut yourself some slack, both for sanity's sake and because other people will end up finding you rather scary if you're on duty all the time!

Chapter 5: Astraea

Astraea, lady of right judgment and integration

Astraea was a classical goddess of justice, whose symbol was the balanced scales. She presided over the moral sense of rightness and good order, and the poetic tradition relates that she was the last of the divinities to leave the world at the end of the Golden Age. Astraea was then translated into the heavens as the constellation Virgo. These elements of myth give you clues to the meaning of the asteroid Astraea in the horoscope. She is concerned with the integration and organization of things, bringing sometimes disparate elements together and finding the common links that join them up in the web of life. She helps you to focus on detail and understand the meaning of the fine print. She helps you to work both hard and well, and helps you to become more ordered and tidy in at least some aspects of your life.

Astraea can also help you to become quite high minded, whilst integrating into this spacious vision an

ability to zero in and see all the small things that go together to make up the greater whole. She can stir up a compulsive quality, too, and stimulate an obsessive streak. This can cause a kind of splitting, which is another aspect of Astraea energy: the goddess who brings things together can also tear them apart. She does all this, ultimately, in the service of wholeness, and reveals those things it is time to clean up and get rid of, so that everything else can evolve into a more perfect form. Wherever Astraea goes, you are urged to get organized and get your act together - and become the best you can be!

Astraea in Pisces:

Your vivid imagination and openness are your greatest blessing and sometimes, your greatest curse as well. Your mind is so spacious and receptive that at your best, you are able to understand and assimilate vast amounts of information and experience at one go, as when a meditator takes in the whole world in a moment of insight. Or, if fantasy and narcissistic projection get the better of you, you can dream up any old rubbish and clothe it in borrowed robes. So you've got your work cut out learning one of the great Astraea gifts: right judgment, or 'discrimination' in the best rather than the worst sense of this word. Once you work out what is truly inspired and what is simply hot air, you can offer the right ideas to the right people in the right way at the right time. Don't wallow and stumble in fog: seek the clear air and light of the higher planes of consciousness.

Astraea in 3rd house:

You can really switch on to the idea of the brain as a computer, and vice versa: the whole neuronal connection thing is an easy concept for you, because you are always looking for the connections between ideas and people. At your best, your mind does work a bit like a super efficient computer, and you can have an excellent recall of detail. But you can also go into a rather critical, even obsessive way of thinking, which only makes life harder for you and especially harder for those around you. 'Don't sweat the small stuff,' as they say. Work with the small stuff instead, and keep it in perspective. You have far too much to offer as a thinker and communicator to lose it all by unnecessary fretting and carping!

Astraea Conjunct True Lilith, Orb: 5 deg. 00 min.

There's a strong independent streak in your nature, which arises from a certain distaste for human delinquency. Although you have the ability to help others in practical ways, you'll only do it if you trust their motives and feel that you're respected and well received. You're a no-nonsense person who deals with the world on your terms!

Astraea Trine Apollo, Orb: 2 deg. 32 min.

Astraea and Apollo are both perfectionists who like balance and harmony, so put them together harmoniously and you've got huge creative potential. For all your perfectionism, you can usually get your inner critic onside, which means you believe in your potential and knuckle down to work patiently. Focused effort and brio take you a long way.

Astraea Square True Node, Orb: 3 deg. 56 min.

Issues of attachment can come up in your relationships, whether you are too engaged or too little interested. If you overdo your interest in people or circumstances, or overdo the contrary urge to split away, you can create difficulties. You need to keep things simple and clean, neither fussing too much nor too little. Get the balance right and it will flow.

Astraea Square Asc., Orb: 2 deg. 49 min.

Many Virgo qualities can appear in your personal style, usually the virtues, but also the vices too if you aren't well centered. By all means be sensible, organized, disciplined, efficient and focused on the well-being of others. Just watch out for a tendency to flip into less skilful behaviors: worrying, uptightness, and an overly critical attitude!

Chapter 6: Iris

Iris, lady of the intuitive mind and illumination

In Greek myth, there were two divine messengers: Hermes (equivalent to the Roman god Mercury), and Iris. Some traditions suggest that Iris was the messenger of the goddess Hera (whose Roman equivalent was Juno), whilst Mercury served Jupiter. However you play with the myths, there was a feminine energy associated with communication as well as a masculine one. And modern neuroscience tells us there are masculine and feminine aspects to the brain, too.

Few astrologers have learned yet how to honor the great goddess whose archetype stands behind the 'feminine' brain and style of communication. That is why this asteroid report is named in honor of Iris! The symbol of Iris was the rainbow, and the Iris energies of the horoscope seem to encompass all the colors of the spectrum, all kinds of light: ultimately, the light of pure consciousness.

Mercury shows how you think and communicate in a more systems oriented, data gathering and sorting way. His energy is yang and outward directed. Iris, however, has yin energy and is receptive. She shows how you receive ideas, how you listen, how you intuit and empathize, and how you deal holistically with all the information thrown at you by living in the world.

Iris helps you to understand things at a deep level, and to grow in wisdom. She adds color and depth to the Mercury energies of the chart, and shows another avenue of expression. She helps you to meditate. At her very best, Iris helps you to find true illumination. There is a vastness and sublime beauty to Iris energy. Wherever she sits in your horoscope can be magical, as she helps your consciousness to expand and evolve.

Iris in Libra:

Fair play and balance are concepts that keep recurring in your consciousness. There is something very spacious and accommodating about your mind, and you find it pretty easy to listen to people and really hear them, a gift that can win you lots of friends and gain you lots of influence. The usual Libra caveat applies here, though: don't dither too much, even though you want to give due thought and weight to every idea and point of view. And you can't please all the people all the time, either, so sooner or later you need to come to a few decisions! But you do have charm, a true blessing, and a gift of insight into people and their pain. You can be a good counselor, because whilst you are attentive and sensible, you're also able to disentangle yourself from any excess emotionalism.

Iris in 10th house:

Unless you attain sainthood or self-realization, you may not quite 'bring Light to the world' in the Christian sense. But you can bring illumination of some kind to your own particular patch, and your gifts of understanding and empathy can be a quietly powerful way of making a difference. They can also serve you well in a professional way, too, if we can come down now to a more tin tacks level. Your smarts are your ticket to ride. Whatever way you find to express your creative gifts you can turn to advantage in a career sense, and you will be valued by bosses, peers and subordinates alike for your responsiveness and ability to bring reflective discussion into the workaday craziness.

Iris Conjunct Jupiter, Orb: 4 deg. 22 min.

There is a great spaciousness of mind promoted by the pairing of Iris-Jupiter, which makes you very noble and idealistic at your best, and a little too noble (read 'grandiose') if you get carried away by style over substance. Don't sit on your laurels, but use your power to think big in order to do big, and do good, too. Then you can preen with pride!

Iris Conjunct MC, Orb: 2 deg. 47 min.

When you're on top form, your communication skills are fantastic, and a source of great potential for worldly success. You have a particular gift for listening and being present, and taking in everything around you. This enables you to tune your responses to situations with particular skill and sensitivity, winning approval and opening doors.

Iris Sextile Sun, Orb: 1 deg. 40 min.

You find strength and purpose in your ability to understand as much as possible about the world around you, and the people in it. Your notion of self worth is bound up in a sensitive awareness of your environment, and your ability to respond both creatively and appropriately. The more you tune

in, the better things turn on and turn out.

Iris SemiSquare Hygiea, Orb: 1 deg. 55 min.

There is something very high minded about you, a kind of chaste purity of mind that doesn't necessarily mean you're a prude or wet blanket, but does make you serious about preferring the best of everything. You are very smart, but some people may think you are prouder about this than you are. Self deprecating humor can take you a long way!

Chapter 7: Hygiea

Hygiea, lady of purification and healing

Hygiea is named for the classical goddess of health and well-being, whose name also yields the English word hygiene. This brings a sense of cleansing and purification to the symbolism for the asteroid Hygiea, as well as meanings associated with health issues, sickness, cure, and the moral and physical wholeness that are implicit in ideas of good health or good order. Wherever Hygiea goes in the horoscope, she has a way of cleaning up things, bringing them into a very pure, even ideal, state of being.

Hygiea intensifies any other planetary energy with which she links, and assists it to express in a cleaner, stronger, truer form. Sometimes this poses real challenges and problems, making circumstances appear worse before they get better. Then Hygiea seems to act like the force behind a fever, which can rise to dangerous heights before it breaks, and the healing occurs. It's all about getting the poison out first, so that wholeness can be restored, or aided to form. The poison is more often metaphorical than literal, of course. Hygiea always helps you to scrub up, or purge. She's a catalyst for action as well as a force for intensifying and purifying other energies. However testing a time you have whilst she's busy, you're always left in much better shape when she has finished with you!

Hygiea in Leo:

No matter how quiet or modest the rest of your chart is, Hygiea in Leo gives you a little star performer streak. You need to strut some kind of stage at least some of the time, and become deeply wounded by lack of appreciation. Your heart is normally strong, both literally and metaphorically, but if you cut off from people out of sorrow or anger then your well-being, either emotionally or physically, can be at real risk. Your great creative drive needs proper expression, and you can produce fine new things for the benefit of the wider world. Be careful what you think and feel, because your thoughts and emotions have wings that carry far. Focus on the gold, in yourself and others, and cultivate the joy of life. Be as bright a star as you can - but make room for other stars, too!

Hygiea in 8th house:

The intimacy game needs healing at the best of times, and the times get really interesting when you have Hygiea at the eighth house let's-share-everything party. Hygiea is pretty keen on balance and wholeness, and this high requirement is present in every transaction you make, whether financial, vocational, familial, social, or sexual. The more emotion involved, the trickier it is to get the balance and wholeness right. But don't take fright and give up before you start! Do be honest, though, at least with yourself, and preferably with everyone else as well. Then you keep the moral high ground, the only safe place to be if (or when) things go wrong. Play dirty and the dirt comes flying back. Karma rules.

Hygiea Conjunct Chiron, Orb: 3 deg. 14 min.

You have a strong drive to heal and transform both your own life and the life around you, which is fine as long as you don't try to force any issues or agendas. Lead by example and don't play the one-note fanatic. Life teaches you how to work with pain and come through to wholeness, and you have a gift for helping others in similar need.

Hygiea Trine Moon, Orb: 2 deg. 01 min.

Strong emotional drives can be more hindrance than help but this is unlikely for you, as you are able to draw on very generous responses to the world around you, and especially towards those you love. There is a nurturing quality here. You're good at assisting others to know what and how they feel, promoting greater harmony and healing all round.

Hygiea Sextile Hephaistos, Orb: 0 deg. 11 min.

You've talent to burn, and a strong practical streak with it (part of it?), but you just have to get over the little mountain of under-confidence. If you don't want to climb it, blast a hole through it. If anyone can do it, you can. Use your smarts to find the right way. Your potential for mastery of some kind is great, especially as a healer or craftsperson.

Hygiea Square Pluto, Orb: 0 deg. 43 min.

You are driven by a need to get rid of what has passed its use-by date, and whether by conscious design or seeming fate, you act as a catalyst for transformation. This energy can get a bit overwhelming, though, and you need to build a safe container for it. Don't play power games, and don't store resentments. Stress can catalyze chronic illness.

Chapter 8: Proserpina

Proserpina, lady of transitions, other-worldly realms, and sacrifice

The asteroid Proserpina is named in honor of the goddess of the dead, consort of Pluto, she who was known as Persephone to the Greeks. As a goddess archetype, Proserpina constellates an energy that is often hard to fathom at first, because in the poetic myths Proserpina/Persephone seems to have little personality of her own. As the innocent maiden, abducted by Pluto/Hades into the underworld, she was scarcely distinguishable from her fertility goddess mother Ceres/Demeter. As Pluto's wife and queen of the underworld, though, she receives the souls of the dead and as such, is also a guide to other realms and levels of being, and the deepest places of the psyche. The asteroid Proserpina seems to manifest as an energy of innocence and ignorance that learns a very great deal by (often hard) experience. She shows where you tend to take the line of least resistance, to be passive or helpless, and teaches you the consequences of such unaware or unassertive responses. She points to what you learn through the various transitions of life, which may or may not be painful, but which always entail a letting go of what has ceased to be viable, and carry therefore some sense of sacrifice. She shows you altered states of being, can help you to open up to all the stimuli of life, assists you to adapt and change in response to your environment, and even helps you to cultivate psychic perception.

Proserpina is a tricky energy to deal with, though, because she is so hard to know in essence. You need to be still, and quietly open, to access Proserpina and work with her successfully. Ignore her altogether and you may find yourself plunging into situations you never expected or wanted; honor her and she will help you to find a way through the dark, a guide for your soul who aids your inner journey and ultimately, as a result, your path to individuation in the outer world.

Proserpina in Taurus:

You aren't too keen on life's uncertainties and will have a strong drive to find and keep material touchstones that reassure you all is well in the garden. Your vision is grounded in what is solidly real; you may be a bit wary of 'all that spooky stuff'. But if someone or something convinces you that there are other levels of reality than the 3D you know and love, you can be quite a brave explorer of the inner or higher realms, or wherever they are. You'll find out! But if you try to avoid the ordinary and the material, perhaps out of lofty disdain for such 'lower things', then life will teach you the necessary lessons about honoring and managing things of form. Over time you could become quite keen on playing with ideas about what reality is: you're driven to ground an ideal vision.

Proserpina in 5th house:

You've a strong creative streak, but might have learned early not entirely to trust it. Or maybe you've preferred to direct it into rather safer scientific channels where invention is validated by

facts, facts, facts. There is a serious cast to your makeup which tends to make you more aware of life's sorrows than joys, and you are very good at living out the adage that if you are dealt lemons, then learn to make lemonade. There can be issues with children, or something unusual about your own offspring, and you may face lessons on letting go. Your courage is great most of the time, but can waver in the face of undue complexity or uncertainty. You like life to be a bit more straightforward and clear.

Proserpina Conjunct Bacchus, Orb: 3 deg. 46 min.

There is something potentially wild and anarchic about this pairing of other-worldly energies. In your youth you may either feel an irresistible pull to walking on the wild side, or run a mile to avoid it. Ultimately it isn't about dropping out, but about getting everything together in a profound spiritual journey that leads to deeper understanding.

Proserpina Square Sun, Orb: 3 deg. 44 min.

It probably feels almost necessary for you to shape-shift your way through life, either because you are busily self-protecting, or because circumstances drive you through a series of transformations, or both. Try not to overdo the self sacrificing bit, lest you slide towards self destruction instead. Be clear about boundaries and honor your rights.

Proserpina SemiSquare True Lilith, Orb: 1 deg. 46 min.

Perhaps it feels as though you've had more than your share of turmoil or wounding, and become hypersensitive about the possibilities of being exploited in some way. Setting boundaries for protection is one thing, but giving up on life is another. Not all people or situations are bad: learn how to make sensible choices, and temper caution with trust.

Chapter 9: Diana

Diana, lady of emotional maturity

Diana was the classical goddess associated with the moon, a virginal hunter who was expert with the bow and arrow. She preferred to keep aloof from the company of most of the other gods and goddesses, living in wild mountain fastnesses with her retinue of maidens.

Diana took an interest in the affairs of ordinary mortals primarily when women were giving birth, and she cared for the young of all creatures. But she could be fierce, even lethal, if her rights were impinged upon, or if she were slighted. Her arrows never missed their target.

The asteroid Diana has not been used a lot by astrologers, which is a pity as she seems to show a different quality of emotional response from that traditionally associated with the Moon. Where Diana goes in your chart you are not inclined to the sort of overt, even child-like sensitivity and vulnerability that the Moon tends to indicate, but to a more restrained, independent and even sometimes avoidant response to the stimuli of life. Diana energy is more austere, but she does not show a lack of sensitivity as such. Indeed, she can be almost hypersensitive in her way, which is to acknowledge feelings and immediately put boundaries in place to contain and protect them, so that Diana can sometimes seem cold or hard where in fact she is simply looking after herself. Of course, she can help you to be tough if circumstances demand it! She can also point to intense fear responses, which in turn stimulate the 'fight or flight' reflex, which in turn makes you either combative or prone to head for the hills. Ultimately the position of Diana in your chart tells you a lot about how you develop emotional maturity, although she can also say something about the distortions and setbacks of this process, too. She shows where you are able to rely on yourself rather than depending on others, and also points to ways in which you will help other people - as long as it suits you!

Diana is not needy, except for space and for the opportunity, quietly, to nurture the inner needs of the soul. She helps you to figure out what you want, but without all the emotional baggage associated with Lunar attachment. Detached, disinterested and dispassionate, Diana energy helps you to engage with life on your own terms, as a fully fledged adult. With Diana, you put away childish things and come into a richer fullness of being.

Diana in Taurus:

Diana energy bestows a potential for instinctive mastery, which comes alive in a steady physical way in the stable sign of Taurus. You are in tune with the complex rhythms of physical life, which doesn't necessarily mean you're a nature lover or greenie, though you could be. But it does give you a sixth sense about what is happening in your material environment. There is something quite strong and earthy in your makeup, a physical or even subtle/psychic presence some may find a bit daunting. You'll fight hard for your share of space and for anything you consider you own. The primal hunter-gatherer skills are strong, and you're adept at getting whatever you need to succeed. You're also good at keeping emotions safely corralled, but feel very deeply when you open up and care.

Diana in 6th house:

Diana seems to lose some of her cool in the House of Work. You have a firebrand streak, a restless urge to get moving and get others moving as well. Essentially, you want to be useful, and make a solidly practical contribution to the common good. Because you want to be useful, you want everyone else to be useful, and you want society as a whole to be useful, and you want it all to be integrated and functional and yielding reliable results. Whew! Steady on and take it a little more quietly. Lead by example and try not to let your enthusiasm get so strong you come across as demanding or critical. Setting a gentler rhythm is better for your physical well-being, too. Slow and steady wins the race!

Diana Trine MC, Orb: 3 deg. 18 min.

You have a high level of ambition and will be happiest when you see your plans falling into place, so you can tick off your list of goals. Your sense of purpose, and sometimes duty, is strong, and little fazes you. Fear is not something you willingly give way to, and you are very good at those practical strategies for keeping any bogeymen at bay.

Diana Square Saturn, Orb: 0 deg. 30 min.

You understand so well the expression 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going,' that you might have written it - if you're older than God, and sometimes you probably feel as though you are. Much as you thrive on tough challenges, don't become so austere that you forget what ordinary human qualities are. Be gentle with weaker mortals!

Diana Square Chiron, Orb: 3 deg. 45 min.

You have a rather quirky take on the world and the ability to conquer obstacles through your capacity to rise above setbacks and find new ways of doing things. But fear can hold you back, and you don't always like having to face up to weakness or vulnerability, your own or anyone else's. Find the strength in gentleness and seek practical healing tools.

Chapter 10: Apollo

Apollo, lord of creative maturity

In classical mythology, Apollo was the god of the sun, whose patronage extended over harmony, the arts and healing. He was not the literal, physical sun, however, and the asteroid named in honor of this god has a slightly different quality from the Sun energy with which traditional astrology is familiar - just as the energy of Diana is rather markedly different from that of the Moon.

Although work is still in progress on understanding the influence of Apollo - as with all the asteroids! - he seems to take the creative, personality-making energy traditionally associated with the Sun and then place and develop it in a wider social context. If the Sun is about 'Me' and my life force in pure potential, then Apollo shows 'Me' how to become more fully and completely and socially myself - or rather yourself, as the case may be, since this report is about you, the reader! For this reason Apollo is described here as the lord of creative maturity. He has a sway over the process of full individuation that allows your innate gifts to shine their light into the world. Apollo shows another aspect of your talents and potentials, but he also shows possible areas of downfall, if more primitive egoistic urges

get in the way of the maturation process.

It is all too easy to become proud wherever Apollo goes in the chart, and to become excessively perfectionist and demanding. But all these distortions are unfortunate ways of misusing his wonderful capacities for creation. At his best, Apollo gives clear sightedness, and this includes clarity of insight into who you really are and what you are best able to do in order to make the best of yourself in the world at large. Don't allow vanity or lazy self-entitlement to trip you up. Be honest about where you are and what you want, and do the best you can to be the best you can. That's what Apollo's drive for (true) excellence is all about!

The asteroid Apollo also has a rather strange orbit and appears to spend much longer in some signs of the zodiac than others. Appropriately enough, he is much more often and longest in Leo, the traditional sign of the Sun. If you have Apollo in the signs from Sagittarius through to Taurus, this is a relatively more rare placement.

Apollo in Cancer:

Sorry if it punctures your ego, but there are lots of Apollo in Cancer people running around in the world. You're a varied lot, but what you tend to have in common is some fundamental regard for 'family'. Your own definition of family could be quite broad, not necessarily just the nuclear grouping, and indeed you could have a very strong regard for the connectedness of the whole human family, or of all living things. You tend to be quite receptive (though other factors could mask or limit this predisposition) and there is often a yin or 'feminine' quality to how you present and relate to people. Emotions can get the better of you, but you're pretty good at putting up the necessary barriers to hide or protect your soft center. This makes you formidable when you want to go and get something!

Apollo in 8th house:

There's a powerful erotic drive at the core of your being, but 'erotic' here does not simply mean sexual. Your desires and passions are very strong, and can be channeled in many directions, but you may not always know quite what to do with them. Confusion prompts implosions or explosions of energy; confidence leads to 'right action', fitting to the situation in every way. You do have an active, warrior instinct, and once you decide you want something, you just go for it, either overtly or covertly. Power plays can crop up: you may have to deal with issues of abuse, or money conflicts. Whatever you do, you go deep, seeking answers to profound questions about the meaning of life - and death.

Apollo Conjunct Mercury, Orb: 1 deg. 38 min.

There is something finely calibrated about the way the machinery of your mind operates, which puts you in a very good position to go far in the world. Just don't get too pleased with yourself, or too impatient with people who aren't as sharp and quick. Cultivating a harmonious mind is a noble ideal: but remember to live in harmony with others too.

Apollo Trine True Lilith, Orb: 2 deg. 27 min.

You find it easier than many people to find creative resolutions to paradoxes, as you live with a free-flowing push-pull energy that enables you to express your creativity through sympathy for dark emotions, whilst taming some of your crazier urges. You bring light to dark places whilst also allowing a little darkness to make the light more interesting.

Apollo Opposition Uranus, Orb: 2 deg. 12 min.

Perhaps you are the original devil-rebel, or perhaps there's a bit too much of the autocrat in you. One way or another you refuse to play by ordinary rules, though you can be quite inflexible if other people refuse to recognize your authority in any sphere you feel entitled to exercise it. Be tolerant, and use logic to demonstrate the value of your ideas.

Apollo Opposition Neptune, Orb: 1 deg. 58 min.

If you can link your mystical, visionary qualities to a practical and consistent spiritual practice, you can manifest an extraordinary creative capacity. But you can be tempted to take short-cuts, or wallow in confused fantasies, or just laze about expecting the universe to provide for you. Get real, take responsibility, and you can turn dreams into reality.

Chapter 11: Bacchus

Bacchus, lord of altered states and divine inspiration

In Roman mythology, Bacchus was the god of the vine and wine, equivalent to the Greek Dionysos. The cult of Dionysos was ancient and mysterious. He was a strange and subtle god, other-worldly, now kind, now cruel, connected with altered states (including those induced by drugs, from alcohol to hallucinogens), the deity presiding over peak experiences from ecstasy to agony. He was close to nature, wild and free, and his worship had many anarchic as well as transcendental elements. Eventually his archetype and worship became so important to the Greek collective psyche that he was elevated to the Council of Twelve, the great gods and goddesses who presided over the government of Mount Olympus. Unlike other (male) gods, Dionysos was surrounded by women, and mortal women were his most significant votaries. There is an inter-sex, almost androgynous or transgender quality to this divine archetype.

The asteroid Bacchus constellates all these contradictions and mysteries in the horoscope. A good deal of the Bacchus/Dionysos archetype is also apparent in the planet Neptune, and where this asteroid differs and adds value to the chart is in the way it focuses the area of life where you are most open to inspiration and where you are most eager for pleasure and escape from the everyday. Neptune has a collective energy, but Bacchus is more directly personal. Bacchus tells you a lot about where and how you play, what excites you and inspires you to do better, to go further, and to push things not only to the limit but even past it. The consequences, if any, you will deal with later, if you must. Where Bacchus goes you have a little taste of freedom, a little glimpse of heaven or - if you play foolishly or choose badly - you get a harrowing vision of hell. You need to be careful with Bacchus energy. When he is good he is very, very good; and when he is bad he is horrid. Or to quote another old proverb: 'Take what you want, the Good Lord says - and pay for it.'

The asteroid Bacchus has an eccentric orbit and spends more time in some signs of the zodiac than others. His longest sojourn is in Sagittarius; if you have Bacchus in the signs from Pisces through Aries to Virgo, this is a less common placement.

Bacchus in Taurus:

You are motivated by questions of what is fundamentally of value, especially relating to those things of real material worth. This could make you literally a market assessor or some kind of assayer, but the fundamental questions that bother you can be as much about moral or spiritual concerns as about anything worldly. You probably have a 'back to basics' urge, and a tendency to want to roll up your sleeves and get to work. It is often easiest for you to ground and express your inspirations in concrete or physical ways: perhaps the plastic arts, or work relating to health and physical well-being. A concern about the most basic issues of life and death can also drive you, or a regard for a more equitable distribution of resources. Nature is also a source of inspiration and comfort.

Bacchus in 5th house:

One of Bacchus's blessings is a more than usually vivid imagination, and when the god of play is running loose in the House of Play, you really just want to have fun. You have access to the magic of what is so often called nowadays 'the inner child', that aspect of your being which is full of wonder and delight and knows instinctively how to enjoy life. At your best you can engage the inner child of everyone, and turn everything into a party! Your creative powers can be extraordinary, and you could be an inventor or performer or the model parent. Working at the height of your powers, whatever you produce can touch hearts, a great gift. Somehow you do best in front of an audience, and seem to find one!

Bacchus Square Sun, Orb: 0 deg. 03 min.

You want to be a visionary, but if your ego gets in the way of doing any constructive work, you may be more of a fantasist, at least until something, or someone, wakes you up. Taking short cuts or being satisfied with the look of things will not serve you in the long run. Be sensible about your inspirations, ground them in the real.

Bacchus Sesquiquadrate Mars, Orb: 0 deg. 01 min.

Ardent, active, resolute and extroverted (unless there are strong countervailing influences), your high octane energy level can have you roaring through life like a top drag racer. But you might get too carried away by this brio, and need to watch for burn-out, or even burn-up. Try a steadier approach, and you'll probably achieve much more!

Bacchus SemiSquare Hephaistos, Orb: 0 deg. 01 min.

When there is tension between the force of divine inspiration and the force of hard work and craft, the energies unleashed are mighty, but not always immediately well directed. That spoils what could be superb results. Try starting with an inspired channel for consistent practical activity, and then see what creative powers are made manifest!

Chapter 12: Hephaistos

Hephaistos, lord of inner fire, talent, craft and work

The asteroid Hephaistos is named in honor of the ancient god of fire and the forge, the master craftsman and divine blacksmith. In the proto-civilizations of the early Bronze Age, those who worked with the wonders of fire and metal seemed to be magicians, and were thought to possess special powers. But the god Hephaistos had a sad, strange story. He stands for aspects of the masculine that are not only amongst the most worthy (he is a hard worker and consummate artisan) but also the most unfortunate, because Hephaistos was crippled and ugly, so the other gods and goddesses wanted little to do with him. But they could not ignore him, because he was too clever and too skilful, and he was one of the great gods who sat on the Council of Twelve governors. As we know in human life, too, those who are truly gifted always find a way to the top, and this is something the asteroid Hephaistos can point to in your horoscope. He also shows where you may feel very unworthy and self-doubting, and so make an extra effort. He reveals many of your deepest passions and dearest desires, but also shows some of your greatest sufferings, because other people do not necessarily understand you or want your company or input. He shows where and how you work, where and how you are perhaps most skilful. But above all, the divine blacksmith hammers your soul on his forge in order to make you better than you are already. This process of soul making, of what used to be called 'character building', can be hard and painful, but it is very necessary.

Hephaistos knocks you into shape. Once you understand what he is doing, it can actually be fun to cooperate, and turn the work into a game. Mary Poppins, arguably the first super-nanny, knew a thing or two about the secret purposes of the Hephaistos archetype. With his help, you can take the base metal of your nature and transform it into gold, or at least move from childhood to adulthood.

The asteroid Hephaistos also has an even more eccentric orbit than Apollo, and spends very little time in some signs of the zodiac. He is most often in Taurus, and the nearby signs of Aries, Gemini and Cancer. If your Hephaistos is in the signs from Leo to Pisces, this is a much rarer placement.

Hephaistos in Gemini:

Hephaistos spends quite a lot of time in Gemini, so you are linked to a broader collective process about learning truly effective communication. For you, soul making is bound up with learning how to give and receive ideas and information, without either holding back or demanding more than your share of the oxygen. You may find a challenge in speaking your mind, either saying too little through under-confidence or a failure to prepare, or banging on for too long and alienating people. At your best, you can be very bright, and if you really work on your ideas and the best way to communicate them, you can discover a real talent for speaking or writing. You could be a natural psychologist and work through deep issues (talking therapy!) or a gifted inventor with something new to offer the world. All you need is a platform - and a properly grounded self-belief - and away you go.

Hephaistos in 7th house:

The soul making process indicated by the sign your Hephaistos occupies is channeled into the whole partnership arena, whether we are talking about business or more personal partners, or a spouse. The great drama of relating to people becomes a catalyst for powerful changes in your life, and the

forging of an ever developing, and ideally ever improving, character. You don't tend to do things by halves; your encounters go deep and leave big impacts both on you and those you meet. Power struggles will be the greatest of all tests, and you probably have to deal with questions of equality and the expression of respect. You have to learn how to do the best for others, and get the best in return.

Hephaistos Conjunct Venus, Orb: 4 deg. 42 min.

Beauty moves you to the depths of your soul, and the quest for it could take you on some magnificent quests or some wild goose chases. There will be big lessons around what and how you love, and where your heart leads you. The relating game is not always easy, but is your source of greatest joy and deepest sorrow. Seek balance and good sense!

Hephaistos Opposition Moon, Orb: 2 deg. 12 min.

You are a very sensitive soul, but you probably want to put up a tough front and would hate to think anyone was onto who or what you really are. Your emotions are so strong you may feel they will overwhelm your practical mind, but suppressing them will only intensify the pressure. Find effective release valves and respond with skilful calm.

Hephaistos Square Mars, Orb: 0 deg. 00 min.

The dynamic mix of earth and fire in your makeup can build to quite a high level of energy and pressure, and manifest explosively if you aren't careful. Your eruptions are something to watch, but don't necessarily win friends and influence people. Work on safe containment, find good outlets for your energy, and work hard - that's your panacea.

Hephaistos Square True Lilith, Orb: 2 deg. 02 min.

Tense alignments between Hephaistos and Lilith constellate a wounded energy around being undervalued and misunderstood, so this is a challenging combination to live out. You need to cultivate a fundamental, practical self-belief, and this duo will teach you great canniness and skill in finding an appropriate way to maximize your potential.

Hephaistos SemiSquare Sun, Orb: 0 deg. 04 min.

People probably sense something of the deep passions that drive you, since you project a kind of heat, as though your aura is charged. The intensity isn't always easy to handle, though, and you could be rather sensitive about yourself, especially if you think anyone is slighting you. Don't take things so much to heart - relax and cut loose a little.