

*Astro Mysterium*

# Nature's Book of Secrets



Virgo Mercury  
6th House

by Astro Witch  
Kathleen Prophet

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## Introduction

### **Welcome to Nature's Book of Secrets ~ Virgo, Mercury & the 6th House!**

*I invite you to join me...on this initiating journey into the WILDS of your Psyche through the Solar and Lunar cycles of the year. From it you will receive much more than a study in Astrology. You will receive the guidance, support and ground for your journey of individuation ~ the Art of Self Creation ~ from the forces of Nature themselves.*

The encounters with Nature's primal intelligence is here to initiate, fortify and root us more deeply into our one precious life, maturing us through the cycles of our lives, supporting us to stay true to our original nature, while empowering us to carry this awakened intelligence into our World for positive change.

Rather than an intellectual study of astrology, my desire for these Books of Nature's Secrets is to inspire your journey and direct encounter with these living astrological archetypes. As the Sun and Moon dance through the signs and planets of the zodiac they offer us a golden opportunity to have a direct experience with them so as to be initiated and enlightened by their primal intelligence.



## The Book of Secrets

Each of the *Book of Nature's Secrets* contains astrological teachings, myths, artwork, and magickal practices, with guidance to create your own living book! Each Book also contain lessons in astrology within them so as you circle around the year you will learn how to read your own and others' charts, not from memorized facts, but from your own embodied experience and and gnosis.

## This month is Virgo!

**Most people do not understand that we are all the signs of the zodiac.** The astrological signs represent our primal instincts, and Nature made sure we each had them all. This is one of the greatest misperceptions that people have about astrology. They believe they are their Sun sign. Do you have a body? Deal with Health? Work? The Earth? Then you are Virgo!

**In Virgo's Book of Secrets you will discover new ways of perceiving your Body as Mystery.** As Archetype. As the hallowed temple Priest/esses of the God/dess in Ancient times understood and practiced. You will find out about the gut brain and how it is one of our most powerful guidance systems in our lives. You will hear about how disease and illness is where our Daemon, the Genius lies.

**You will discover new ways of playing in Nature which evoke its inherent powers into our psyches for healing, support and integration of our shadows.** You will read the wondrous **myth of Demeter and Persephone**, from Demeter's point of view, revisioned by the great myth-writer, Amy Palko, who has given me permission to include the full myth in this book.

At the end of the book you will find charts and diagrams that will help you read and create your own chart. *May they serve!*

**Virgo's brilliance is beyond any definitions I have read.** Most lack the magick, the myth and the imagination of this radical force of Nature. Once you understand the power in our Bodies and this archetype of Virgo, you will know why She is a threat to the over-culture and has been relegated to these dumbed down perceptions. *Hallowed be her name, Virgo!*





# Virgo The Alchemical Body

The Woman  
Unto Herself



# Who am I?

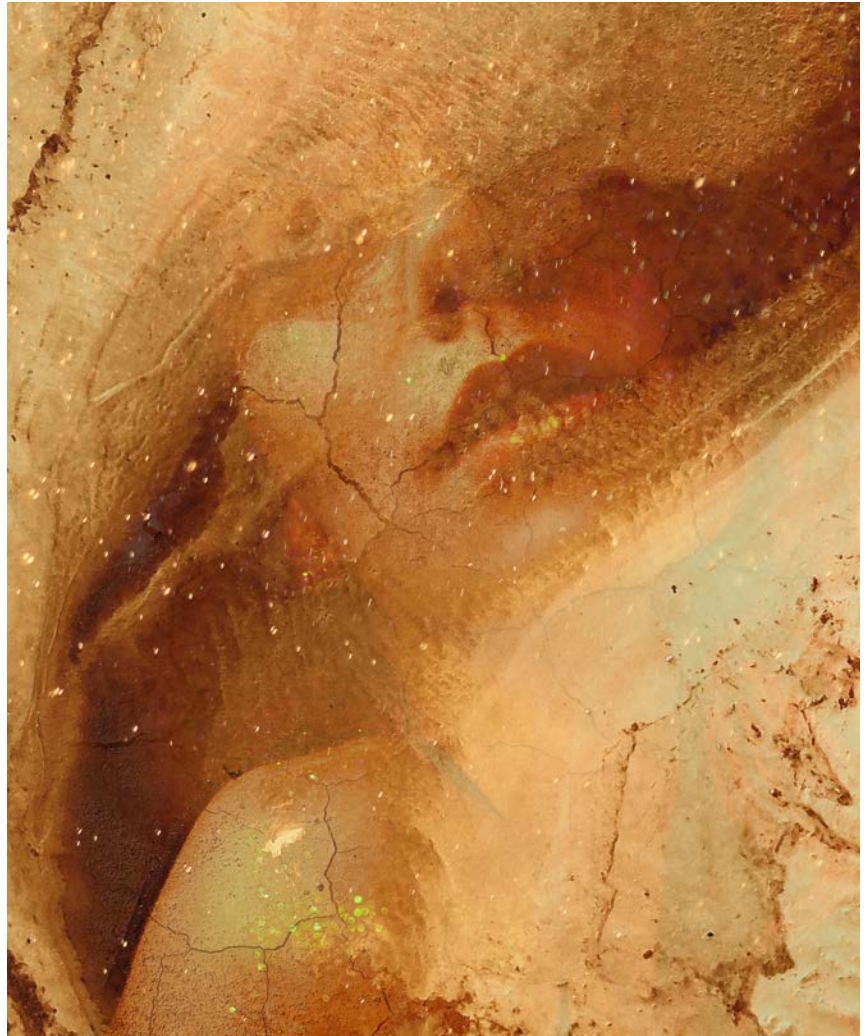
***I am the Woman of the Earth.*** There is no place I would rather be. No star I want to return to. No galaxy far, far away. Only this, my precious earth, my bitter earth. This home of my own.

*This Bitter Earth,  
which we have made so  
through our ignorant use of poisons.*

*And yet Gaia does not mind. She  
moves on, continues on, evolves on,  
carrying us with her. **Where one  
species dies another is grown,  
groan! We are not dead yet!***

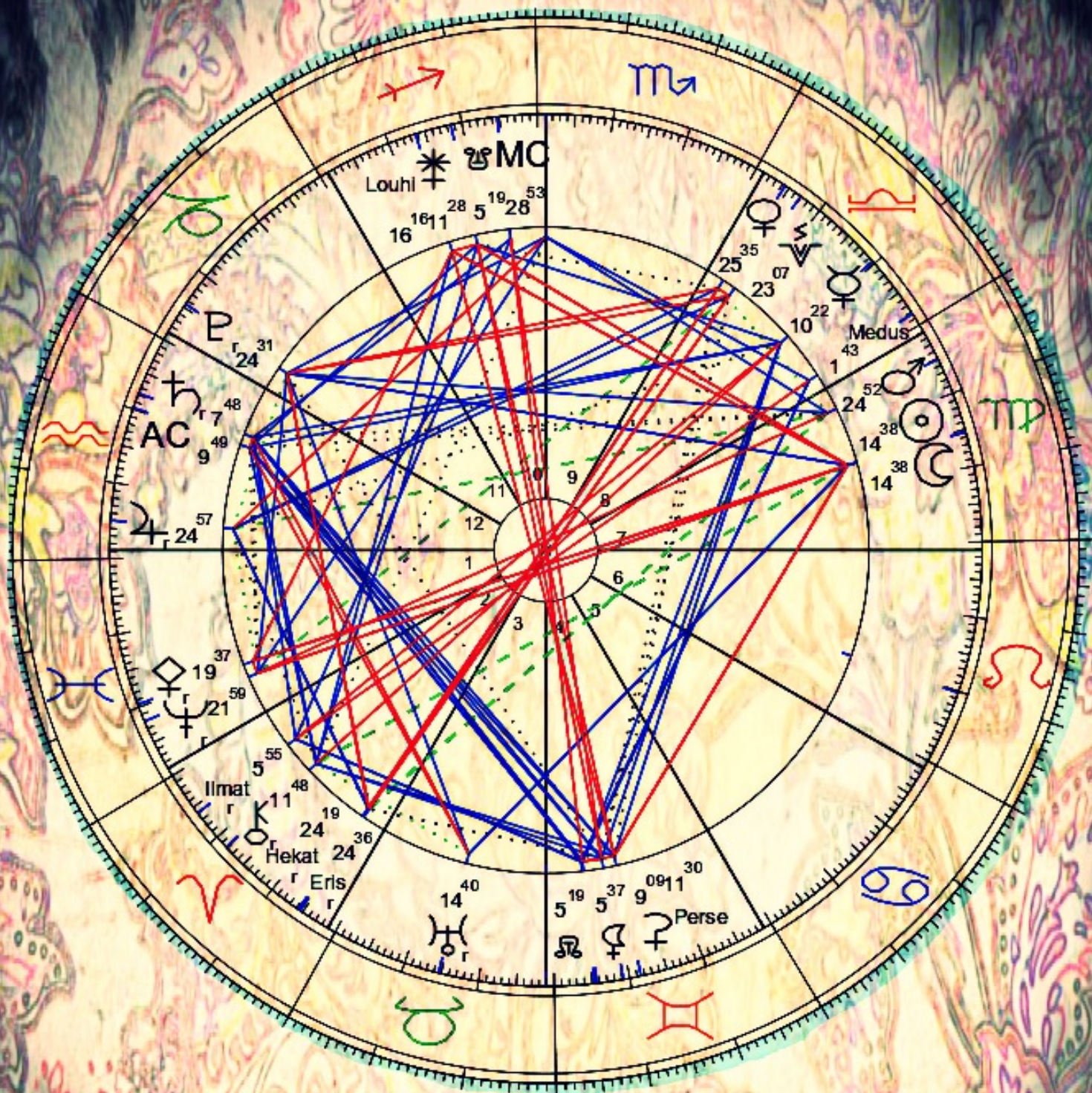
*Do not send me off to the sky after I  
die! Do not place me in the heavens  
which look down upon us with great  
yearning to be here! Not despising  
the dirt, the insanity, the diseases,  
the debauchery. All of it is existence.  
The most brilliant of all. **All of it I  
embrace, and to it, I shall return.***

*Bring me your suffering, your disenfranchised, your rot, your imperfections, your poisons, your exiled ones. Allow me to teach you through them, enlighten and awaken you to the power of my/ your Nature... **Earth, oh this, my Bitter Earth***





2021



Virgo New  
Moon



# The Virgo Instinct

13min video



[Click Title to go to the video](#)



# The Mysteries of Virgo and the 6th House



**The Villa of Mysteries**

Women's Initiations into the Body Wild

**Welcome to Virgo's Temenos!** *Temenos* is a place separate from common use and dedicated to a god/dess, a sanctuary, holy grove, holy land. This is our holy place. In Virgo's story, the common place *is* the temenos.

*And thus we enter in...* to the scintillating Nature of Virgo's presence with us, imbuing all we do with its intelligence and support. When we enter in with intention and devotion to draw this force into our lives, Virgo transforms us! For indeed, *there is magick in the mundane.*

**In Virgo we enter the realm of the Mysteries of the Body,** our Body as alembic of transformation. Alchemy is one of Virgo's expressions. It is ruled by none other than Mercury, *Hermes Trismegistus!* God of Alchemy, psychopomp to the Underworld.

As ruler of Virgo and the 6th House, it brings into focus Mercury's earthy powers of healing arts and analytical thinking for the *Great Work of Embodied Creation* to occur. This is one of Virgo's and the 6th House mystical meanings.



**The 6th House in astrology is where our relationship to our Body resides** through our engagement with our *health, work, daily rituals, practices, artisanship*. Like Mother Earth to her ecosystem, we are urged by this instinct to tend and care for every aspect of our ecosystem - *body, mind, soul*.

**The 6th House links our inner world to the outer through Work and Service.** It is the last of the personal Houses, 1-6, in our astrology chart, and is therefore the bridge of the Inner Self to the Outer as we move towards the *Other* - the Descendant and the 7th House, all the way to the 12th.

*David Whyte*, storyteller and poet, wrote an exquisite book on the holy nature of these aspects of Virgo: ***Three Marriages; Reimagining Work, Self and Relationship***.

*"We humans are involved not just with one marriage with a significant other. We have also made secret vows to our work and unspoken vows to an inner consistently developing self."*

Virgo is the instinct of ***making vows***. We desire to *serve* the Self in all its many manifestations whether we are conscious of it or not. Through our Work. Through caring for our loved ones in sickness and in health. Through our attention and care for the details of life. This force of Virgo is our drive to *serve* our humanity, our World, in our own unique way.

**"Work n:** *an opportunity for discovery and shaping; the place where the self meets the world. Crossing the Unknown Sea is about reuniting the imagination with our day to day lives."*

~ David Whyte, *Crossing the Unknown Sea-Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity*

## **Mysteries of the Body**

**In the image on the cover of this Book of Secrets, a woman holds a red thread which weaves its way into the labyrinth of her body. The image points hints towards the frescoes in Pompeii of these rites and mysteries of the Body.**

The Ancient Mysteries of the Body, were illuminated in the mystery rites of ***Dionysus and Ariadne***. In these mysteries what is encountered is the Body as sacred container for the ecstatic dance with the transpersonal. Through these initiations and rites, the Maenads were married to their Lover, the Wild God Dionysus, who represents the Holy Wild forces of Nature.

In this union the Holy Wild and the Human become One. Both are stirred awake, enlightened and transformed.

You can view all the frescoes from the *Women's Initiation Dionysian Rites of Pompeii* at this link:

### **Women's Initiation Dionysian Rites**

*"The powerful frescoes depict an initiatory rite of passage for women, and believed to have served as a preparation ritual for marriage. The frescoes unveil, scene by scene, of a woman, and her journey to the inner sanctum of the mystery - the unio mystica, or sacred marriage - with the god/dess, represented here by Dionysius, a male god of passion, ecstasy, and fertility, and his goddess/human-lover, Ariadne."*

Jungians view this marriage as the ***Conjunctio, Sacred Marriage to the Self***. They view the woman moving through these stages of initiation as depicted in these images being an older woman, and therefore not a marriage ceremony to another, but the deeper ceremony of marriage to the Self. **Virgo, the One unto Themselves.**

**The Virgo 6th House opposite the Pisces 12th House form the Axis of Bodypsyche.** In our human need to understand the parts (the left brain function which is Virgo's nature), we have split this axis in two, separating the imaginal archetypal powers of our Psyche from the Body, and the rejuvenating powers of the Body from the Psyche. Nature wove them together to support each other in a profound healing and enlightening process. This is the Way.

Because of our the disconnect which began at the point body was separated from soul by our minds, we have fallen into epidemics of mind, body, and soul maladies, which are often ignored and exiled, unloved because of our conditioned repulsion towards our illness. Yet illness always points to the sacred, to primal intelligence. Jung stated that pathology is the royal road to the self. In my experience, this includes illness in our bodies as well.

***May we hear the call from the God of Embodied Ecstasy, feel s/he rising in our blood and bones, our vagina and cock, our sinew, breath and hair.***

***Dance under the moon and sunlight of Virgo, Hallowed be Her Name!***





# VIRGO: 6th House

RULING PLANET: Mercury

TRIPPLICITY (ELEMENT): Earth

PERSONAL KEYWORD: I Analyze

## CHARACTERISTICS:

<i>Observant</i>	<i>Discriminatory</i>	<i>Dexterous</i>	<i>Health-Oriented</i>
<i>Methodical</i>	<i>Organized</i>	<i>Craftsman</i>	<i>Self Care</i>
<i>Scientific</i>	<i>Considerate</i>	<i>Artisan</i>	<i>Humane</i>
<i>Practical</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Studious</i>	<i>Animaltarian</i>
<i>Critical</i>	<i>Skeptical</i>	<i>Perfectionist</i>	<i>Service-Oriented</i>

## BODY PARTS RULED:

*nervous system, intestines, stomach, abdomen, lower dorsal nerves, spleen*

## AILMENTS:

*anxiety, nervous tension, bowel and digestive system disorders, intentional disorders, abdominal disorders*



# Virgo - The Art of Self Care

Gustav Klimt - Medicine



**The original nature of Virgo is the *One Unto Herself, Him/Their self*.** She teaches us that our bodies and psyches truly are one. Bodysoul! To care of our body with consciousness and desire like a lover to ourselves, we support our psyche. By supporting our psyche, our mental/emotional well being through embodied practices, such as yoga, meditation, authentic movement, we support the wholeness and health of our psyche.

This instinct can drive us to extremes. When neurotic it will wield the whip like a cruel taskmaster, becoming relentless in overwork, overexercise, starvation diets, completely disregarding the needs and health of our body.

A weak and unattended body will begin to overwhelm our emotions and psychology, making us emotionally and mentally ill. On the other end of the spectrum, those who work with metaphysical, intuitive and spiritual practices and ignore the needs and desires of their animal body, suffer in their health. **The bodypsyche is an axis that is continually adjusting itself one to the other.**

This is very important for many of us to pay attention to. For those who are into the pscho-spiritual end of the spectrum, it is can be effortless to journey to vast cosmologies, the realms of the archetypes, dance with the gods and goddesses! To be inspired by the riches of myths woven into the warp and woof of the tapestry of our lives is to live ecstatically!



Yet if we do not **embody** our visions, if we do not **digest** them by engaging them through embodied practices, along with the daily nourishment of our bodies with healthy sustenance, movement and other forms of body care, we will be required to live it in other ways.

***Illness is one of Virgo's most direct ways to illuminate its primal intelligence.*** While some may feel it is a cruel turn of nature to become ill, for many it is the only way we will slow down, listen and come to respect, understand and tend to our soft animal bodies. This is not the only 'reason' for disease, yet it is one of them.

**Virgo as our Earth Body also includes our sexual nature.** For those with female bodies, there are 8,000 clitoral nerve endings, for males there are 4000 in the tip of the cock. These nerves lead to 18,000 nerves in the pelvis. The nerves are a network of primal intelligence that turns on the brain and self confidence, Self knowing and centeredness.

*Lost Gardens of Heligan - Cornwall, England*

To fully embrace and engage with our sexual bodies unto ourselves is to care for our health on all levels of being. Virgo points us to the truth that we should not be dependent on another for our sexual health. S/he/y is unto themselves, and thus regular masturbation and tantric practices that connect us to this rejuvenating force of energy in our bodies, is vital for our healthcare.



We are being wooed to rock over ourselves... sing to all the parts like a sacred rosary with the passion of the fires of our hearts. **When we do, we unleash the Holy WILD powers within to heal and guide, love and support us.**



Introspective

Pragmatic

Critical

Dexterous

Kindly

Crafty

Healthy

Witty

Fussy

Service-Oriented



# Virgo, the Virgin

**Virgo has many mythic images.** The origins for her attention to detail, her drive for perfectionism, comes from her role as **Gaia, the Earth Mother**, caring for the tiniest organisms and ecosystems with the awareness that the extinction of one plant, animal, or illness of an organ in our body, ripples to effect the whole.

Virgo has a bad rap of being OCD, a perfectionist to neurotic degrees, so conscious of detail that she loses sight of the big picture. But all archetypes have their extremes. All have their shadows. All have their superficial levels played out in a world which doesn't allow for their natural expression.

**Virgo, the Virgin**, is how she is most commonly referred to. Few realize that in the Ancient world, the word **Virgin** meant *unto herself*, and not one who has not had sex. **It meant one who belongs to themselves**, is self sustaining, devotional to their body as a sacred temple, and chooses not to be owned in relationship to another. They were the priestesses and priests of the temples of the God/dess of Love, tutored in the Tantric arts, offering themselves and their bodies which they knew as sacred up to others in service to the Holy Wild nature of sexuality.

Virgo's image has been distorted under the gaze of the patriarchy. ***We despise our bodies and have shoved sex into the shadows.*** It takes a repressive religious patriarchy to turn something so whole and vitally alive into something so distorted and pathological. Ugh. So grateful I live today and am able to seize myself out of this millennia old conditioned madness.

***This month, let us celebrate our Holy WILD Body! Love ourselves like no other. Create our vows of commitment to self, and then watch how our relationships flourish from this vitalizing force of self love.***

**Look to see where 0° Virgo lives in your chart.**



# Virgo, the Wild Maiden

Another image of Virgo is Artemis, the Goddess of the WILDS and the Moon, protectress of animals, mothers and children.

*Virgo is the Wild Earth!* While some may think Wild means dancing round a fire in the woods creating earth art, Wild is much more. *It is the primal intelligence of the universe* that carries the power to transform our lives when unimpeded. If our ego/conscious mind has no idea how to shift our lives, the Wild does. And not in violent ways. No. The Wild takes care of its own... our heart, our loves, all of it... and has the intelligence to create a revolution in our lives without demanding that we leave our husband and kids to run off into the forest with a wild man. Well, maybe for a retreat.



Like the Maenads who over the majority of the year devoted themselves to their families and work, when the WILD called them, they left their looms to nourish themselves in the Dionysian mystery rites, then returned home to be part of the community again. They were not repressed women. They were *alive* to the rhythms of nature, theirs, and the forces of Nature.



**Virgo's WILD is a force which can be used for a revolution in her realms.** A revolution to take back our bodies, our minds, our emotions, our homes, our kitchens, from the conditioning which has caused our self-loathing and loss of magick in the mundane. A revolution in our Work to address abusive situations rather than continue suffering in silence. A revolution for the creation of Work that nourishes our wild minds wild souls. This force of Nature knows the way.

**The WILD is here to change the World in powerfully positive ways.** Her revolution is bringing us hooooommmme to our bodies. OUR BODIES. Which means we must be the ones to honor and love them first. Have intimate ravishing encounters with ourselves. **Look ourselves in**

**the eye and say "I love myself. I seeeeeeeee my beauty. This body, mine. This shape and size. This state of health, mine. I seeeeeee, love, and honor meeeeeeeeeeeeeee."**

**This is the first step in the revolution.** If we can't do this, we cannot expect the world to do it for us. Begin, even if at first you don't feel it. Watch your body and deeper self rise up.

The reason the World is so ill, is that it has cast out the WILD. It is up to US to bring Her home.

**Take time to connect with your body on a very physical level over this month, out in the wilds or in your home.** Tis time to tend to any health issues which may have troubled you. This is the intelligence of Virgo moving in all of us. **The Earth of our Body.**



Artemis, Goddess of the Hunt



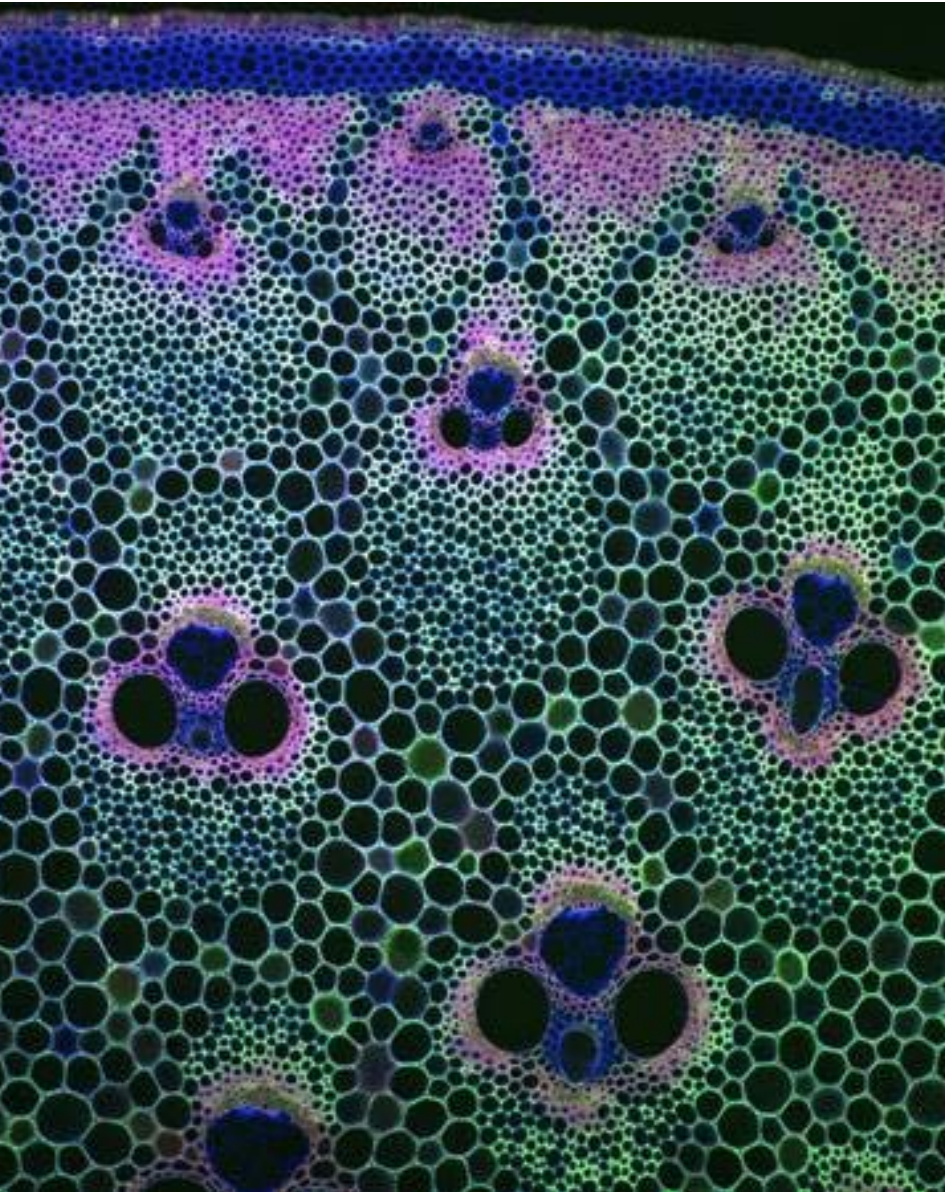


# VIRGO: 6<sup>th</sup> House

- NATURALLY ASSOCIATED WITH MERCURY AND VIRGO
- REFINING AND DIFFERENTIATING OURSELVES FROM OTHERS.
- UNDERSTANDING THE PARTS OF WHOLE (LEFT BRAIN).
- ASSESSING THE USE WE MAKE OF OUR POWER, ENERGY AND CAPABILITIES.
- OUR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WHAT WE ARE INSIDE AND WHAT SURROUNDS US ON THE OUTSIDE; THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE INNER WORLD OF MIND AND FEELINGS (THINKING AND FEELING FUNCTIONS) AND THE OUTER WORLD OF FORM AND THE BODY (SENSATE).
- OUR BODYMIND CONNECTION.
- OUR ADJUSTMENT TO MEETING THE NECESSITY OF THE MOMENT AND LIVING OUR LIVES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF WHAT WE HAVE THE ABILITY AND CAPACITY TO DO.
- MUNDANE EVERYDAY REALITY, DAILY RITUALS. MAGIC IN THE MUNDANE.
- OUR RELATIONSHIP TO HOW WE SERVE OTHERS AND HOW OTHERS SERVE US.
- HOW WE WORK AND OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THOSE WE WORK WITH.
- CRAFTSMANSHIP/ARTISANSHIP - OUR ATTENTION TO DETAIL, PERFECTION AND TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY.
- RELATIONSHIPS OF EQUALITY-INEQUALITY.
- HEALTH ISSUES: THE NATURE OF OUR PHYSICAL PROBLEMS AND UNDERLYING PSYCHOLOGICAL DRIVES WITHIN OUR ILLNESSES.



# Virgo the Ecosystem



Wood Stalk Plant Cross-Section

**Virgo is the Earth.** She urges us towards sorting into patterns and ordering into categories. Think of this organization like the fractal patterns in Nature rather than the negative perception of Virgo as being a perfectionist. **Pathologies occur when we are not rooted in the deeper meaning of the archetype.**

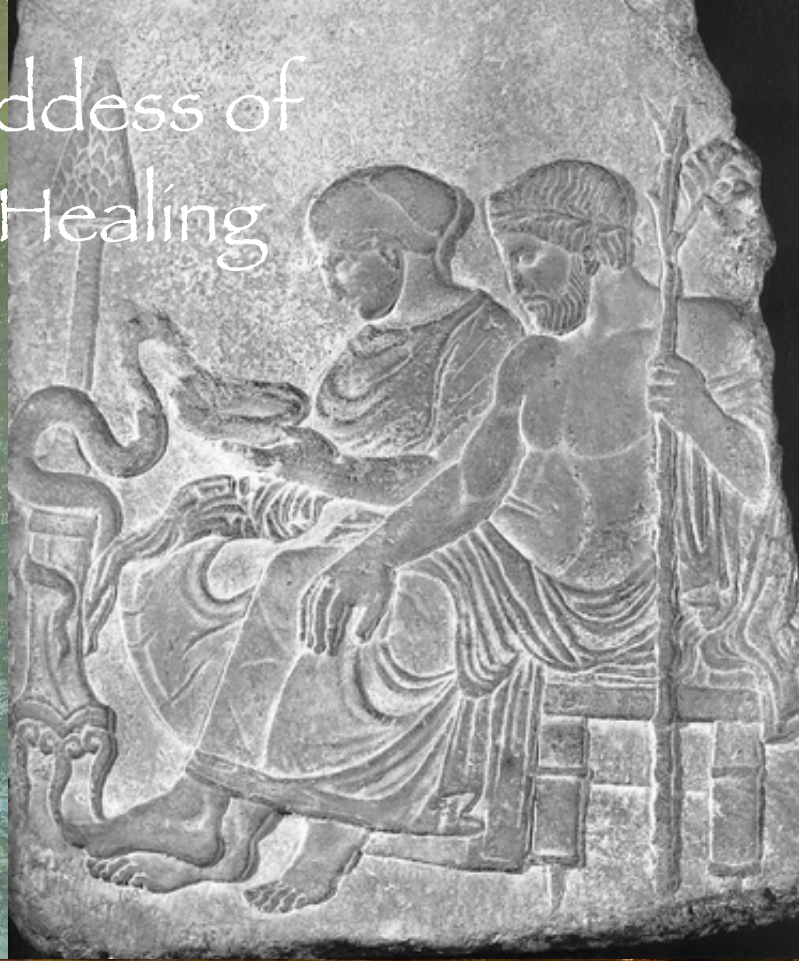
***S/he/* IS Holy and WILD!**

Virgo rules the **6th House of Health, Work and Service**. She is the **Earth Witch**. The *Knower of the Mysteries of Healing*, only now being accepted in western medicine. She knows how vital it is to see the body as a whole organism which by its nature includes psyche. Which by its nature includes everything we engage in with our bodies.

***She drives the Mysteries few understand, such as healing the body through expressive art, movement, and dreamwork.*** She drives the mysteries of our energy and how the psyche uses the ebbs and flows to do its integrative work.

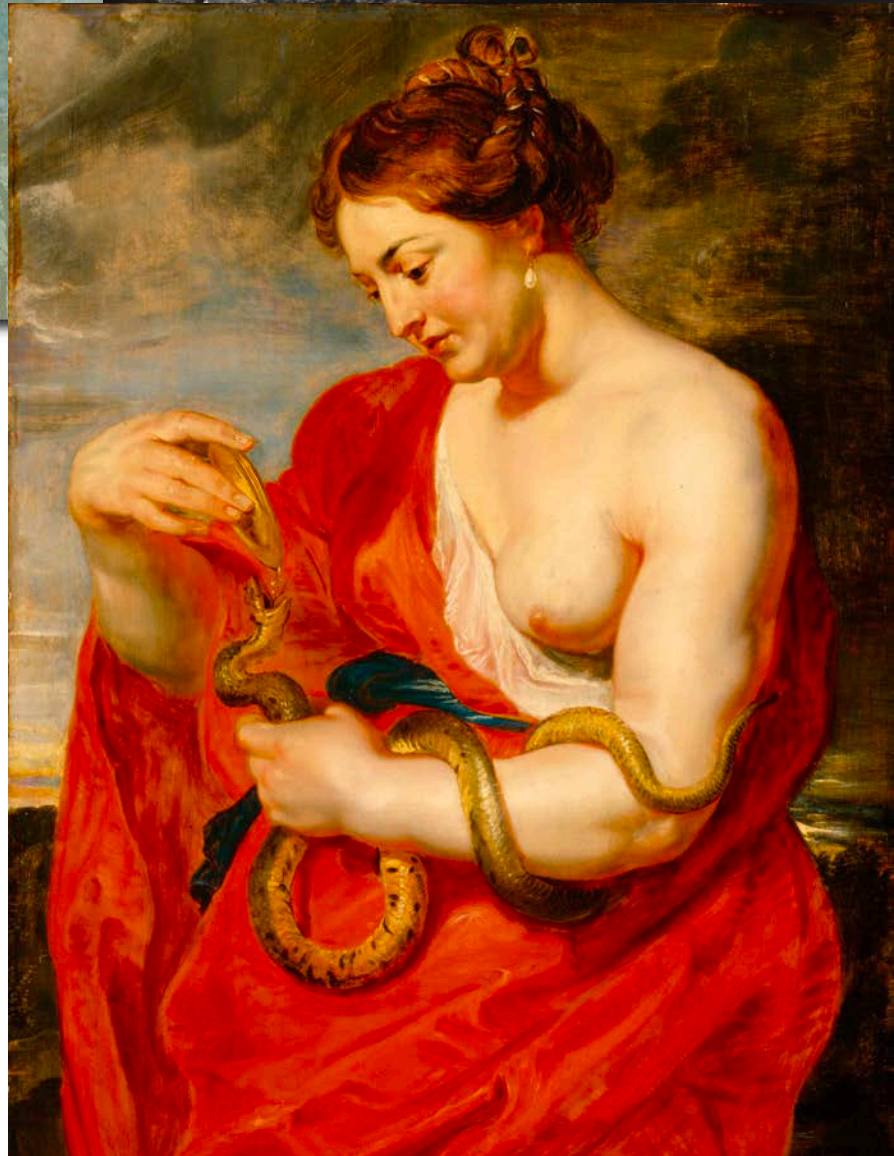


# Hygeia Goddess of Health & Healing



The Goddess Hygeia is another expression of the archetype of Virgo

Hygeia is the daughter of the god of medicine, Asclepius, and Epione. While her father was more directly associated with healing, Hygeia was associated with the prevention of sickness and the continuation of good health. Her name is the source of the word "hygiene".



*Hygeia, Goddess of Health* by Peter Paul Rubens 1615



# Hygeia - Goddess of Health & Healing



**Hygeia is the ancient Greek goddess of health.** She gave her name to *the philosophy of hygiene*. The cult of Hygeia started in Athens in the 600s BCE, in connection with the cult of Athene, goddess of wisdom and purity. Statues of Athene and Hygeia stood at the entrance to the Acropolis temple in Athens.

**Hygeia was a young goddess, daughter and chief attendant to Asklepios, the god of medicine.** She was in charge of cleanliness and how to live a long life through **preventive medicine**. She also had two other medical sisters: ***Panacea*** ('Cure-All') and ***Iaso*** ('Remedy').

In classical sculpture she was often shown holding or feeding a large snake (the symbol of Asklepiion medicine) in her arms. Her other official symbol was **a large water basin and a snake**. Statues of Hygeia were erected in all the major healing centers sited in the temples of Asklepios. Her primary temples were in Epidaurus, Corinth, Cos and Pergamon.

**The cult of Hygeia spread during the 400s BCE after the first appearance of plague in Greece. Her cult statues all over the empire, adorned with votive**

**offerings.**

In Greek '*hygeia*' meant '*soundness*' or '*wholeness*'. **Hygiene in medicine was about maintaining the 'wholeness' of the body and keeping it fit.**

**Hygieia is a holistic healer.** Natural remedies such as herbs, plants, and body rituals, are her prescriptions. Her companion, giant snake, represents the healing powers of the *kundalini*, the life force which lies coiled at the base of the spine. Through yogic practices this energy is raised, moving through the chakras, releasing the healing powers of our sexual nature.



**Perhaps the best way to connect with any of the god/desses,** these archetypal forces that live as instincts in our body, is to have their name upon our lips, singing out in joyous honoring and acknowledgement of their great gifts, while engaging in their simple daily rites.

**For Hygeia this could be the simple act of washing our hands** thoroughly with presence in the moment. The Montessori child is taught to pay full attention to the suds they conjure as they rub every wee finger betwixt and between, over back and front, all the while singing a ditty to be sure they have spent enough time cleaning off those tiny unseen creatures that can spread a plague. A favorite song is *Row row row your boat gently down the stream*, which one doctor told me the is the right amount of time to clean one's hands.

**I love to read these ancient Hymns to Hygiea aloud in pure devotion!**

## Hymns to Hygeia

*Bright-eyed mother, highest queen of Apollon's golden throne, desirable gently laughing Hygeia.* — Greek Lyric V Licymnius Frag 769 (from Sextus Empiricus, Against the ethicists)

*Hades, life's bane, alone resists they will, and ever hates they all-preserving skill. O fertile queen, from thee for ever flows to mortal life from agony repose and men without thy all-sustaining ease find nothing useful, nothing formed to please. without thy aid, not Aides' self can thrive, nor man too much afflicted age arrive for thou alone, of countenance serene, dost govern all things, universal queen. Assist thy mystics with propitious mind, and far avert disease of every kind.* — Orphic Hymn 68 to Hygeia

*To Hygeia, Fumigation from Manna. O much desired, prolific, general queen. Hear me, life-bearing Hygeia, of beauteous mien, mother of all; by thee diseases dire, of bliss destructive, from our life retire; and every house is flourishing and fair, if with rejoicing aspect thou art there. Each daidal art they vigorous force inspires, and all the world thy helping hand desires.*

— Aides

*Hygeia (Health), most revered of the blessed ones among mortals, may I dwell with you for what is left of my life, and may you graciously keep company with me: for any joy in wealth or in children or in a king's godlike rule over men or in the desires which we hunt with the hidden nets of Aphrodite, any other delight or respite from toils that has been revealed by the gods to men, with you, blessed Hygeia, it flourishes and shines in the converse of the Kharites; and without you no man is happy.*



# CHIRON

## *the Deeper Mysteries of the 6th House*

*Virgo rules the 6th House. Some suggest that Chiron is its ruler, not Mercury.* Chiron is connected to the Earth through his instinctual body as a Centaur. He was renowned as a healer and used holistic modalities for healing, such as herbs, art, music, and astrology. This reflects a Virgoan 6th House nature with the whole of the bodypsyche supported in its eternal movement

towards healing, integration, and wholeness.

**In our western medical culture, physical symptoms are treated solely on a physical level, rather than including what the unconscious may be attempting to communicate through them.** Dis-ease has a message of Self in it... something we are unconscious of is seeking to be realized through our health. This doesn't necessarily mean the psyche has caused the illness, but it will use the illness as a shamanic journey into awakening more fully to the intelligence of the body. In every health crisis I have lived through, this has been the case. I encountered an archetype attempting to break through to enlighten and heal my fragmented state of being. This is the nature and drive of wholeness, not necehealthy body.

**Chiron is the Wounded Healer.** We shame ourselves and others for their diseases out of ignorance. We strive for the ultimate healthy strong body machine, meanwhile our psyches ail. Meanwhile, our greatest wisdom moving through our deepest vulnerabilities is unseen, unknown, railed against and unloved.

The Body is our ultimate Guru! I have seen physical illness bring the gnarliest of giants to their knees in humility. The God/dess is in the symptom. Treat it and *you* with deep love, honor and respect, and you will be realize the genius at its core.

*Your doctor must have a broken leg to doctor.  
Your defects are the ways that glory gets manifested.  
Whoever sees clearly what's diseased in himself  
Begins to gallop on the Way*

*Don't turn your head. Keep looking at the  
bandaged place.  
That's where the light enters you.  
~ Rumi*



# MYTH OF CHIRON

Jason & His Teacher Chiron - Maxfield Parish 1909



**Chiron was born under mythical circumstances.** His father, the titan Kronos, was coupling with the nymph Philyra when Rhea, Kronos' wife, suddenly appeared. Kronos turned himself into a stallion to escape her notice. Nine months later, Philyra gave birth to a half-horse baby, whom she abandoned in disgust at his sight.

**Chiron grew up to be just, kind and wise in many arts,** including medicine, gymnastics, prophecy, hunting and music. Because of this, he was sought after as a tutor of heroes, which included Peleus, Jason, Aesclepius (Hygeia's father) and, Achilles. **Homer calls Chiron the "wisest and most just of all Centaurs."** Generally, Centaurs were known as being brutish, lustful, violent, and living outside the bounds of civilization.

One of the most important myths about Chiron which relates to the **Wounded Healer** aspect we find in the astrology chart, involves Hercules and Prometheus. While visiting Chiron, Hercules accidentally shot Chiron with one of his arrows poisoned with the blood of the Hydra. The poison's virulence made the wound incurable, despite Chiron's skill in healing, and the

centaur was doomed to an eternity of agony.

Chiron turns to the healing arts as a means of healing his incurable wound, as well as others too. Rather than allowing the original wound to fester, **he finds within it a source of motivation, even of inspiration, that leads him to great insight and achievement.** This in turn invites, or rather imposes, a sense of purpose and service or duty that ennobles and enriches his life.

**In the end Chiron offers up his immortality to his father Zeus** in exchange for freeing Prometheus who was being punished for stealing fire from the Olympus to save humanity. In a compassionate response to his son, Zeus agrees and Prometheus is freed.

**Chiron's soul was placed among the stars where he became the constellation Sagittarius.**



# FRIDA KAHLO



**The Wounded Table by Frida Kahlo** - “In *The Wounded Table* Frida Kahlo presents to the viewer the idea that Mexican Frida also finds herself in the process of disintegration. All the figures and objects in the painting are a symbol of *mexicanidad* and a symbol of different aspects of Frida Kahlo’s personality.”

“The Skeleton, the feminine representation of the Aztec Queen of the Dead, is also Frida Kahlo. The Skeleton (Death) has a close relationship with Frida Kahlo. Death sleeps over her bed (see her painting *The Dream*), death sits at her table, plays with her hair. In the aftermath of her almost fatal bus accident in 1925, Frida Kahlo wrote to Alejandro: ‘Here Death dances around my hospital bed’.”  
(Continue article [here](#))

***Pain, pleasure and death are no more than a process for existence. The revolutionary struggle in this process is a doorway open to intelligence.***  
- Frida Kahlo



*The Deeper Mysteries of the 6th House cont.*

**I think of Frida Kahlo whenever I bring this subject up. Bodypsyché. Pain and suffering which gives birth to genius and enlightenment.**

***Frida's relationship between her art and her body are inseparable.***

While we are a culture which aspires to model beauty, good health and athletic prowess as being the highest forms of human expression, there are few humans as embodied as Frida. Few as sexually and passionately alive. As beautiful in her broken body. As genius in her ill health. As artistically *real* in her surreal artwork. As fully lived as she lived her life.

**There is nothing like physical pain to keep us tethered to the here now and what deeply matters... the heart of the matter.** Nothing like Frida's body being imprisoned in body casts to unleash the depths of her genius and her fierce passion for her love of life and devotion to death to the fore.

So while we may still get hooked on what is wrong with us because we are not measuring up to the health, beauty, and success standards others are touting... look again. Your Daemon's particularity holds the genius for your life in all that is occurring *as it is* in your body and in your life.

Dare to see your ailments as primal intelligence at work. ***What is it informing you of? What is it pointing to? Tear from your eyes the brutal conditioning that strives to punish and shame you***

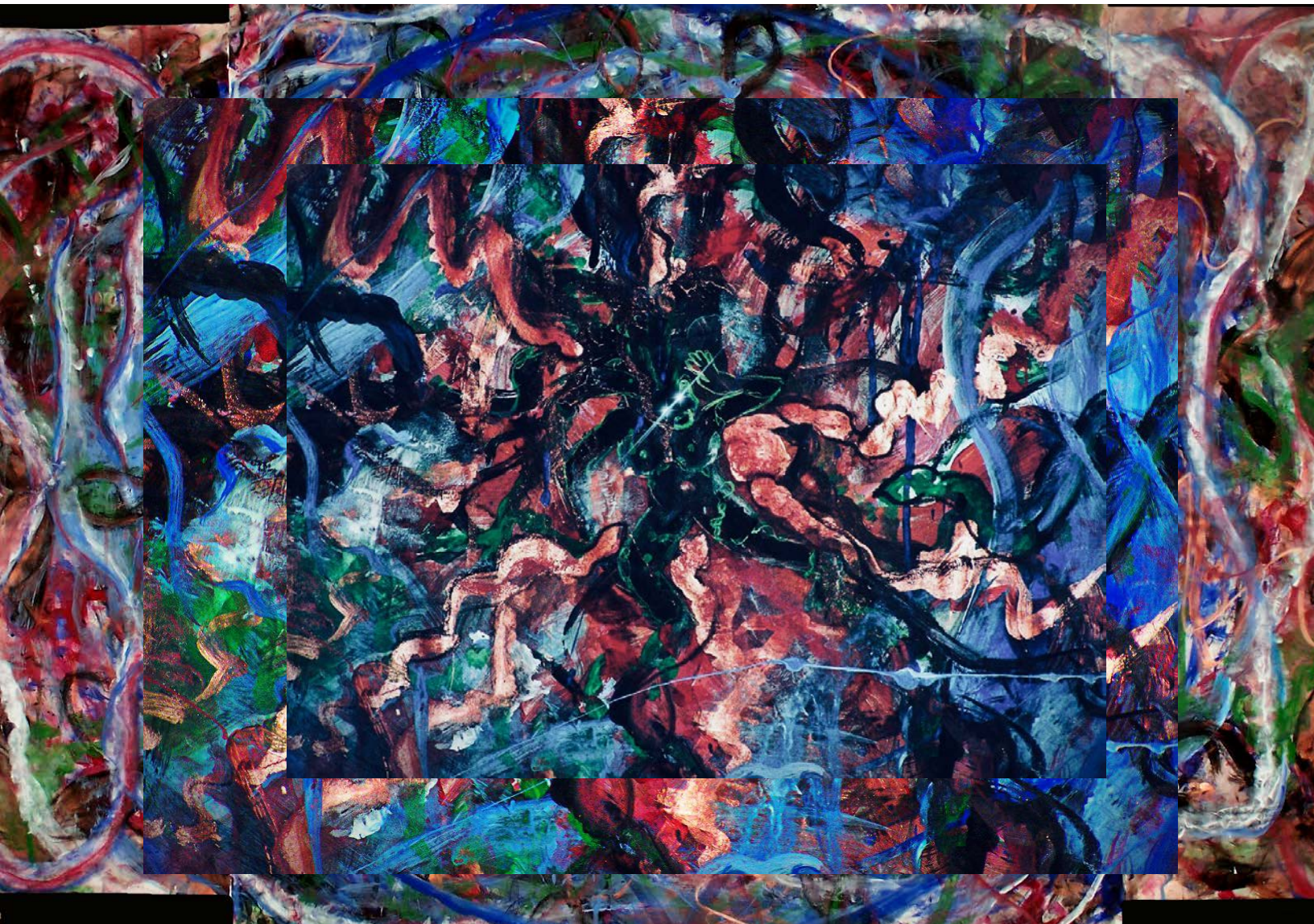
I am often brought to the earth, the ground in surrender as my bodysoul demands that I let go and deepen inward to meet this holy place, this body mine, as it *is!* Listen to her needs. Respond to changes I may need to make. All the while fully loving, accepting and approving of myself as I am.



# Throat Chakra

I did this painting in the midst of an acute condition with my throat and voice and the life altering crisis it put me through. In the center of the painting is my bleeding hemorrhaged polyp out of which the Black Goddess of Sound and Creation sprang forth out of. From my bleeding wound arose consciousness and deeper self awareness. The past and my Ancestors were memorialized and laid to rest in honor and love. My new life released. *Are you listening? she sang.*

*What is happening in your body and health in this moment? Can you perceive a deeper intelligence, an archetype, an ancestor seeking to communicate with you and gift you its intelligence out of it?*





# The Zodiac in Medical Astrology

**Each astrology sign rules a particular part of our body, starting with Aries ruling the head and ending with Pisces ruling the feet.** While strong indicators of the nature of our health are found in the 6th house, Virgo, and Mercury, it also serves to understand our body's expression of health through all the signs in the chart. By looking at the signs our houses are in from a health perspective, we can learn about the needs for our health and vitality in these various areas of life.

By approaching astrology in this way, we can answer questions about how best to strengthen and nourish our natural energies. Understanding what it means to have Gemini in the fourth house can lead to a more fulfilling home life, and the reduction of nervous system issues.

Understanding the difference between Capricorn on the Ascendant as opposed to Libra can initiate a more creative access **to the outer world**, which the ascendant bridges us to, and minimize chronic lethargy, depression or problems with the knees and joints, all ruled by Capricorn..

**Looking closely at the signs through the horoscope and how they are express themselves in any given moment, is one way to ascertain what is speaking to us, trying to make itself known.** We can then make meaningful adjustments in response that can support us in a greater sense of well being. By honoring the individual needs of the signs through the houses, the door opens to natural vigor, energy flow and zest for life. Think of it as your personal healing compass for wellbeing.

***Remember, we are looking at the body and any “dis-ease” or lack of balance as a message, not a diagnosis. Use astrology to approach health in a more holistic way. Explore!***

The sign of Cancer rules the stomach. It is a water sign which impels us to make connections. Our Cancerian natures seeks to nurture and be nurtured, to fulfill others' needs and to be needed by others. If my stomach is upset, my nurturing life may be out of balance. With that knowledge I can start to ask the right questions, ***Am I feeling loved? Am I giving love? Am I going beyond my healthy boundaries in my relationships?***

## *The Zodiac In Medical Astrology cont.*

**The Zodiac begins with Aries at the Spring Equinox and ends with Pisces at the tippy end of Winter.** Aries rules the head. Pisces the feet. And each of the other signs and planets has rulership over a different part of the body:

**Aries** – head, face, brain, eyes

**Taurus** – throat, neck, thyroid gland, vocal tract

**Gemini** – arms, lungs, shoulders, hands, nervous system, brain

**Cancer** – chest, breasts, stomach, alimentary canal

**Leo** – heart, chest, spine, spinal column, upper back

**Virgo** – digestive system, intestines, spleen, nervous system

**Libra** – kidneys, skin, lumbar region, buttocks

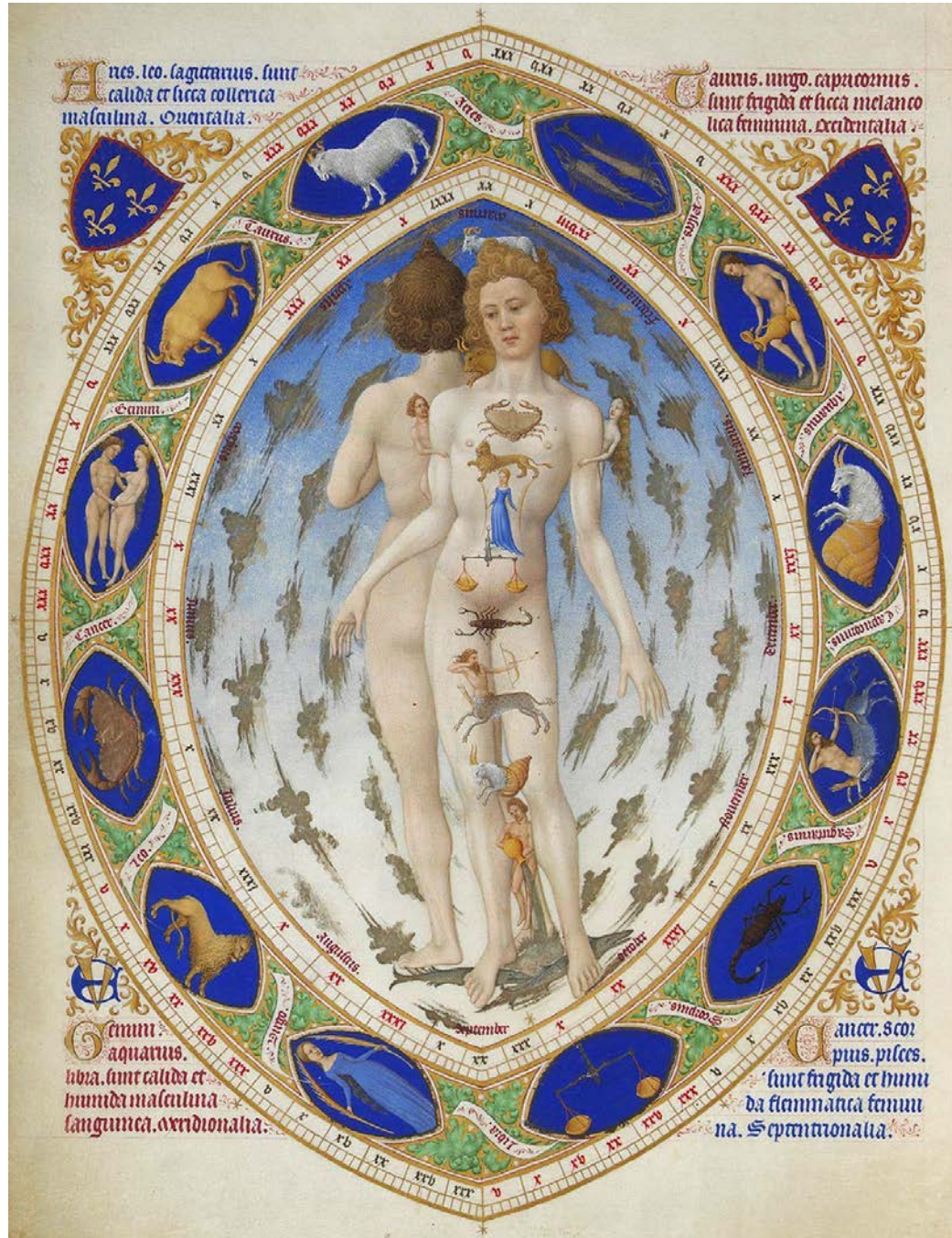
**Scorpio** – reproductive system, sexual organs, bowels, excretory system

**Sagittarius** – hips, thighs, liver, sciatic nerve

**Capricorn** – knees, joints, skeletal system

**Aquarius** – ankles, calves, circulatory system

**Pisces** – feet, toes, lymphatic system



*Limbourg brothers - The Anatomy of Man*



### *The Zodiac In Medical Astrology cont.*

**Planets are also associated with specific organs, limbs and functions within the body,** though their rulerships are not fully agreed upon within the formal branch of medical astrology.

#### **The anatomical-astrological human;**

- **Sun** – heart, eyes, circulatory system, upper back, vitality
- **Moon** – stomach, breasts, cheeks, lymphatic system, digestive system, womb, glandular tissue, circadian rhythm, mood cycle, inherited health
- **Mercury** – brain, nervous system, lungs, arms, hands, bowels
- **Venus** – neck, kidneys, **thymus gland**, lips, chin, cheeks, palate, eustachian tubes
- **Mars** – muscles, testicles, phallus, sinews
- **Jupiter** – liver, fat, adrenals, thighs, feet, sciatic nerves
- **Saturn** – skin, hair, teeth, bones, joints, knees, spleen

**More contemporary associations not made until the discovery and inclusion of the following planets into astrology and the rebirth of medical astrology:**

- **Chiron** – trauma
- **Uranus** – **parathyroid gland**, excitation, attention span, triggers, spasms, nerve damage
- **Neptune** – **pineal gland**, mucus, lymphatic system, allergies, infections, intoxication, anaesthetics, drugs in general and addiction, receptivity to medication, stupor, **ego death**, imprinting and mirroring, placebo effect, spiritual experiences
- **Pluto** – **pancreas**, elimination, tics, anxiety, panic, obsession and compulsion, stoppage mechanisms (e.g. speech and learning disorders, neurodevelopmental disorders in general, destruction of senescent cells), DNA damage, inherited diseases



# Virgo Rules the Digestive System

## The Gut Brain

Virgo energy in one's astrology chart points to where we need to follow our *gut instinct*. When we *feel it in our gut*, our intuition is coming to an awareness arrived at by *analyzing* (Virgo's function) large amounts of information. This is the *primal intelligence* of our body in action!

### The Brain in Your Gut

The gut's brain, known as the enteric nervous system, is located in sheaths of tissue lining the esophagus, stomach, small intestine and colon.

#### SMALL INTESTINE CROSS SECTION

##### Submucosal plexus

Layer contains sensory cells that communicate with the myenteric plexus and motor fibers that stimulate the secretion of fluids into the lumen.

##### Myenteric plexus

Layer contains the neurons responsible for regulating the enzyme output of adjacent organs.

##### Lumen

No nerves actually enter this area, where digestion occurs. The brains in the head and gut have to monitor conditions in the lumen across the lining of the bowel.

##### Mesentery

Attaches the bowel to the body wall and contains major arteries, veins, lymphatics and external nerves.

Source: Dr. Michael D. Gershon, Columbia University

**Information-oriented Virgo has rulership over the gut.** The ancients understood the wisdom in following where their gut intelligence led them.

**The emotional responses from the stomach area are due to the large amount of blood vessels and nerve endings that reside there, rivaling only the brain in its complexity.**

Our Gut Brain is connected to our autonomous nervous system. It responds to stimuli directly without having to reach the brain for its permissions. Meaning we don't have to think about what's happening,

which is good when we are fleeing from danger. Not so good when we are not thinking through stress.

### From the article:

“The gut's endocrine signaling to the entire body is quite elaborate. Communication from our *gut-dwelling microbes* to the brain affects our *emotions, motivation, cognition, memory and behavior*. Just like our thinking brain, our gut brain is also able to learn and remember.”



**"I suspect so-called gut intuition is most finely developed in people who say the GI system is the first place they experience stress. While the gut may be their weakness, it may also give such people an advantage by providing an early warning about the things they need to change in their lives. Gut feelings are a very definite form of information."**

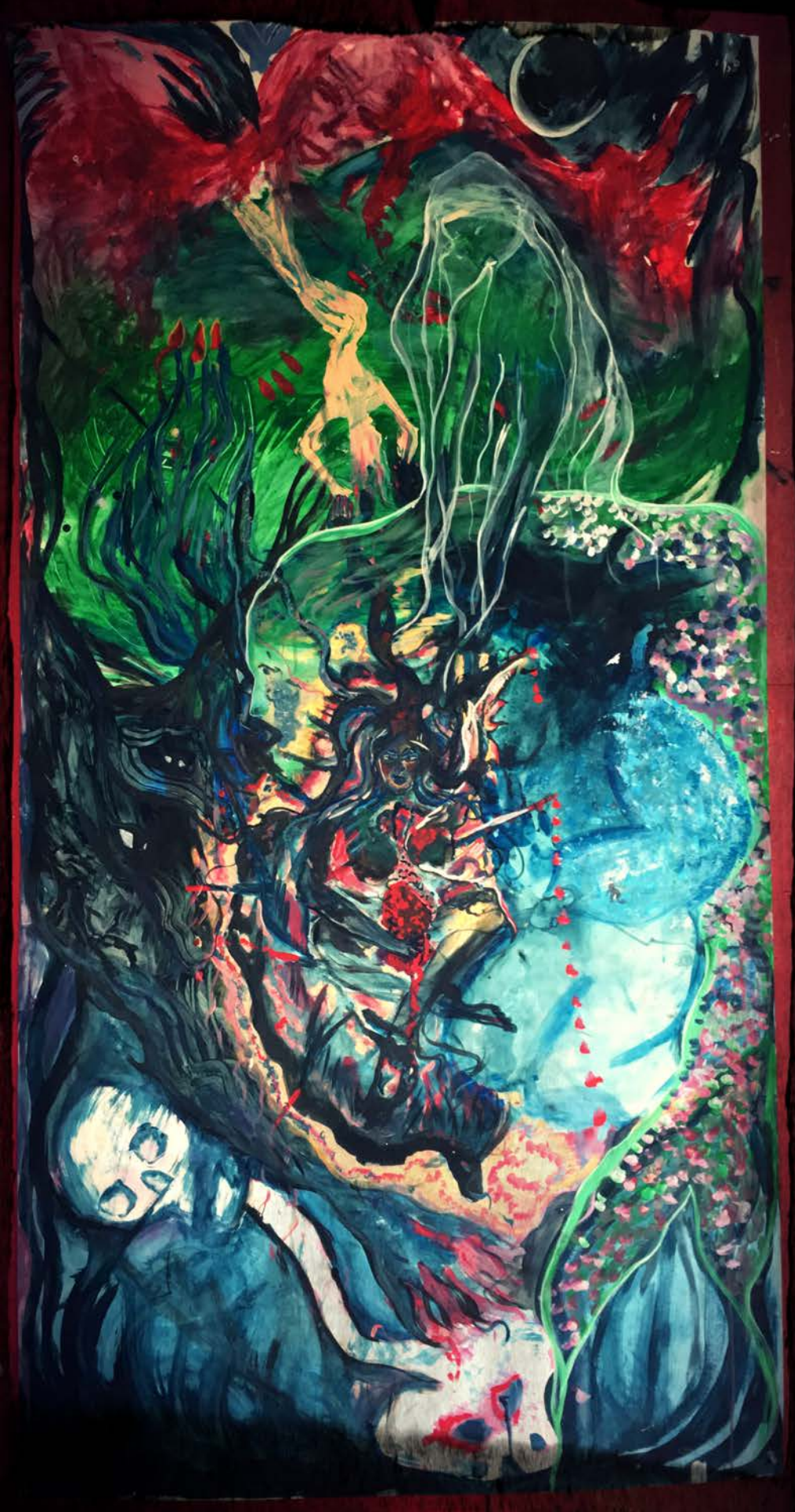


Pisces Dark Moon Deep Dive Painting - Detail

The other day after hearing about another world tragedy which triggered anxiety and grief, and then later in the day a large dog attacked my dog, Lilu, when we were on our hike in the canyon, my nervous system went into overdrive. It took the whole night to calm it down. I placed my hands gently on my gut area, breathing deeply into it, repeating mantras to help me shift out of the looping panic fight-flight state of mind I was caught in. Over and over again throughout the night I repeated... *I am here. I am safe. I am protected*

**That night, in my dream, I was given a Gut Brain Shield.** It was the image from a painting I had done of Sedna, the Inuit Sea Goddess. In the myth, Sedna is horribly betrayed by her father. Over time she becomes the Goddess of the Sea who shamans journey to, to honor her pain and supplicate for the people. She is fiercely protective of her realm against any who attempt to abuse the sea.





When I gazed on my painting I realized that if I imagined the whole image as my body, Sedna lives in my gut! Immediately I felt the presence of her fierce protection in my gut.

The gut brain, is where my early childhood wound lives, fashioned out of the environment I was born into. My father's violent temperament shaped my nervous system. This was such a powerful realization for me!

Now that it has come to consciousness I have begun working on healing this area of my body. As brilliant as it is, it can get triggered and overwrought, therefore overreact at times.

We are learning so much about the Gut Brain! And for someone like me who lived the first two decades of my life in a volatile environment, this new knowledge is life and body changing!

*Pisces Dark Moon Deep Dive Painting The Sacrifice of Sedna*



I recommend researching all you can on the gut brain and work on healing your gut. Tune into it when you are caught in a reaction. While our guts are wiiiiiiise, they have also been traumatized. I need to work with mine to clarify the stimuli that is causing it to freak out. Perhaps it isn't a life/death situation, which my PTSD can get caught in reaction to because of old triggers.

By examining ourselves we become Self Knowing Ones who respond in effective ways to the daily stressors occurring to us and those we love.

**One important thing to remember when reflecting on outer situations and whether they are dangerous or not.** If you are in an unclear situation, alone, in the dark, in a parking structure, on the street, in the subway, at a party, this is no time to take your gut response through a critical examination. If it tells you to get in your car and lock the door, or cross the street and go the long way home, leave a party because something does not feel right, ***do it!*** People who unpack the stories of victims of violent crimes have discovered that in many cases, the individual's first impulse was to leave or run.

We have a brilliant primal intelligence system that is here to guide and protect us! Hallowed be its name!

**Love my guts! Love yours!**

Sources:

***The Gut Brain Connection - How it Affects Your Life***

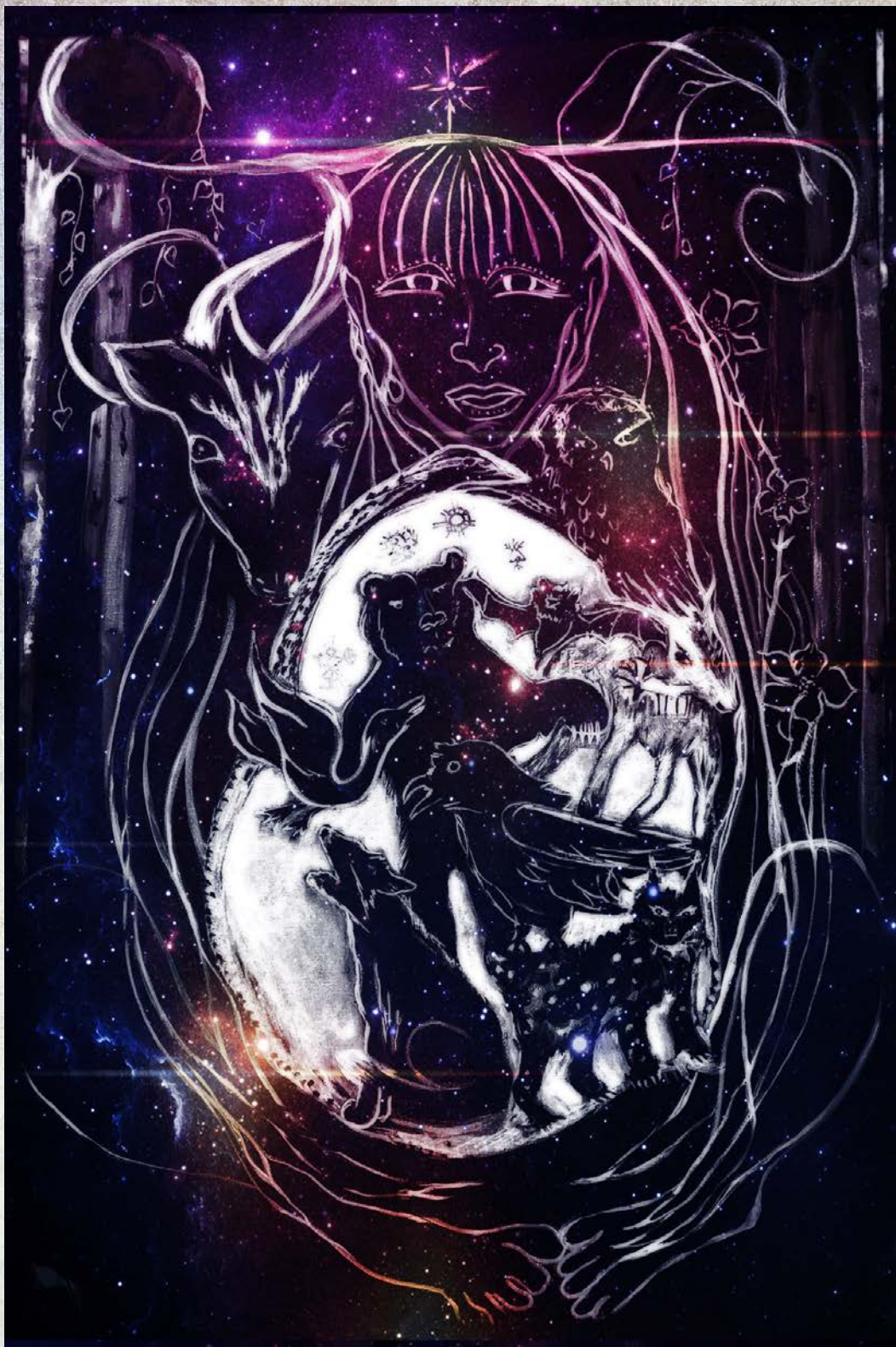
<http://www.organiclifestylemagazine.com/the-gut-brain-connection-how-it-affects-your-life>

***Exercise to Connect Your Brain and Gut***

<http://allergiesandyourgut.com/2014/09/07/exercise-connect-brain-gut/>







# Lovíatar

The Finnish Mother of Plagues &  
Wildlings which cause Fright!



**In Finnish mythology Loviatar is the primordial mother of wolves.** She gave birth to nine diseases; pistos (consumption), ähky (colic), luuvalo (gout), riisi (rickets), rupi (scab), rutto (plague), paise (ulcer) and syöjä (cancer)... The Ninth child remains nameless and later becomes a **Witch** who is the scourge of mankind.

It is said that the east wind made her pregnant and when the priest refused to baptize her children, calling her evil, she did it herself in the name of the Holy Wild. Because of this profane and vile reaction upon the laws of nature, she sent her nine children, and her 10th daughter, Witch, to deliver illness and death upon the people.

**When dealing with a sick person the sorcerer recited the spell *Origin of the Nine Diseases* in which the birth of the demons and their diseases are told.**

These charms are of a very old type, as they were originally known only to the professional sorcerers. They show their age, too, by using the formula which traces the origin of whatever caused the injury. An idea as old as the Kalevala was that naming the beginnings of an evil force would cure the damage it had caused.

## LOVIATAR & THE BIRTH OF THE 9 DISEASES

*A blind girl of Tuonela, a hideous child of Manala, the origin of every ill, of thousands of destructive acts, sits with her back towards the east, passes her time with her head towards the south, her feet directed towards the west, her hips towards the north-west. A wind began to blow, the horizon to storm. The wind blew against her hips, a chill wind against her lower limbs. The west wind blew, the north-west wind dashed, the north wind crashed through her bones and limbs; the wind blew upon her, the chill wind quickened her.*

*Thereby Tuoni's swarthy girl became big, became round and large. Thus she carried a name full of suffering for two summers, for three, she carried it for seven summers, for eight years at any rate, for nine years altogether, less nine nights, so in the ninth year she seized with pains of travail, is struck down by woman's throes, is pierced with a young woman's anguish...*



# Virgo Practices & Daily Rituals



## *Practice (verb)*

medieval Latin *practicare* ‘perform, carry out,’ I would add, with intention and care.

## *Ritual (noun)*

a series of actions or type of behavior regularly and invariably followed by someone.

**Practices** and **rituals** fall under the rulership of Virgo. From yoga to writing morning pages, jazz scales to meditation, these are the Virgo instinct of *practical pursuit towards perfection through repetitive practice*.

The pursuit of perfection has a bad rap because people take it to obsessive levels, beating themselves up when they don’t achieve it. Some never begin because they know they will make mistakes and why bother if they can’t achieve the mastery of the greats?

To fall in love with the yearning that is never fulfilled but always reached for allows us to lean into that desire, like the great Mother Earth does in her drive towards evolution. Mistakes are welcomed because every single one hones and refines us every time we make one.

## **The Vow**

I invite you to create practices and daily rituals you can commit to while we sojourn through Virgo. **Discipleship** is one of Virgo’s characteristics. Let us be devotees of our Daemon, our Wild Souls, and this our one precious Life.

This is the ***Marriage Unto Ourselves***, that is at the heart of all things Virgo. Committing to something we love and desire supports our ability to show up. It could be something that is present for you that you enjoy but have allowed to fall away. For me, it is piano playing, yoga, painting and writing. Always writing!



# Virgo practices:

- **Writing** - Morning Pages. Journaling, Editing
- **Movement** - Yoga. Authentic Movement.  
Body Prayers. Resistance training
- **Nourishing Meals** - Learning different diets.  
Planning, shopping, taking time to create them
- **Extra Health Support** - Supplements.  
Smoothies
- **Work** - Planning. Writing. Teaching. Creating  
delivery systems for your work.
- **Artistic Expression** - Studying the Arts.  
Painting. Music. Claywork.
- **Rest** - Naps and nighttime sleep rituals.
- **Different forms of Meditation practices**
- **Nature Revelries** - Hikes. Camping. Being out in Nature for extended periods. Try it  
alone and experience the wonder of the hidden wild.
- **Animal Care** - Pets. The Wild Creatures in your environment - feed and water the birds.  
Learn their names and their ways.
- **House Witchery** - Cleaning, organizing and beautifying. See it as witchery to create the  
haven you need to give birth to your Dancing Star, rather than drudgery!
- **Body inclusive work practices** - Set your timer to get up and stretch hourly, dance, go  
outside and look at the sky, feel your feet on the earth. Then focus without distraction on  
your work.





# The Four Elements

There are four elements of nature relevant for a deeper understanding of Astrology: **Earth, Water, Fire and Air.** **Virgo is Earth!**

**The four elements are the building blocks of the Universe.** Used by humans since their beginnings to understand Mother Nature and by alchemists to find answers. The four elements are the foundation of everything we are surrounded by and everything we carry within.

## *Zodiac and the Elements*

**The four elements in astrology point to certain tendencies of each zodiac sign.** They help us understand that there are other ways of looking at each individual, give us patience for those who are different from us, and make it clearer why some signs are more compatible than others.

**Earth goes well with Water and Fire goes well with Air.** This is quite logical if you think about it, for Water gives Earth its fertility and brings us to life, while Air keeps the Fire burning and sparks the light and our power of creation. Yet Earth can also help to temper and slow the quick burning impulsivity of Fire. And Water loves to be swirled about by AIR! Always play with definitions. Mix them up! says Mercury.



## *Natural Order of Things*

In nature, the elements are in perfect harmony, working with each other every day. The division of their higher and lower energies only reflects the need of the humans to divide things into two – the good and the bad, emotion and reason, masculine and feminine, plus and minus.

*This means that manifestation of all things depends on the element of Earth.*

No element works without the other, and all elements have one thing in common in the world as we know it – **matter**. This is the link that connects them all into our body. Without Earth, life in this form wouldn't be possible and we would be unable to taste, touch, smell, or even listen.

## **Interpretation of Elements**

**When you are scrying over your chart, look to see how much of each element you have.** If you see that you have no planets in one of elements, this could be an area of greater challenge for you that nature will by its nature, urge you to grow..

It is important to note, that in my study and examination of hundreds of charts, sometimes an element that an individual has missing is the strongest because of our natural drive to fulfill its expression. While early in life we may express more of one element than another, over a lifetime our deep nature will reach for them all!

## **The 4 Elements = Carl Jung's 4 Psychological Functions**

Carl Jung bases his typology on four functions of consciousness, namely: ***feeling, thinking, intuition and sensation***. In astrology, the four functions are synonymous with the 4 elements. This means you can look at your chart and see what are your most dominant functions along with those that will over your lifetime be grown into more fully. This is nature at work and play!

**Earth** - Sensate - Practical Pragmatic Matter

**Air** - Thinking

**Water** - Feeling Function (note: this is not the same as being emotional. People feel into them as a way of knowing whether they like them or agree with them.

**Fire** - Intuition

# The EARTH TRINE

**Virgo, Woman Unto Herself. Gaia. Earth Nature. Body. Physical. Matter IS the HEART of the Matter!**

Our minds carry us into visions of other realities (**Intuition-Fire**), and our emotions into the passions of today and the troubles of our past (**Feeling-Water**), our thoughts into figuring it all out! (**Thinking-Air**) while our **Earth-Sensate** nature calls us to **connect to our existence here and now**. And there is no better place to do this than in Nature, for it provides the greatest of mirrors to what in fact *is* our nature!

"Nature" is what we see—  
The Hill—the Afternoon—  
Squirrel—Eclipse— the Bumble bee—  
Nay—Nature is Heaven—  
Nature is what we hear—  
The Bobolink—the Sea—  
Thunder—the Cricket—  
Nay—Nature is Harmony—  
Nature is what we know—  
Yet have no art to say—  
So impotent Our Wisdom is  
To her Simplicity.  
~Emily Dickinson

**When planets are in a TRINE to each other, 120° apart, there is an easy, flowing, pleasurable relationship between them.** Because the planets will be in the same element, they understand, accommodate and support each other.

Two planets in a **Fire** sign trine, for example, will share the same qualities of enthusiasm, optimism and vision. Two planets in an **Earth** trine will share a rooted in matter, *pragmatic* approach to the world. Two planets in an **Air** trine will share the qualities of detachment and objectivity. And two planets in a **Water** trine will flow together in a harmony.





**While we continue in our sojourn with Virgo, I invite you to enter into a deeper contemplation of the profound nature of Earth.** Not through thought, or feeling, strong feelings may be induced. Or imagination, though powerful images of the Fairies and gnomes may arise! Do it through your senses, your flesh and bones. Feel into the support your body and earth provide for you everyday.

Drop down into your body and experience the communion that is ongoing within and without you. Discover how your flesh responds to the AIR. Your ears and brainwaves to the SOUNDS of the birds. Your feet to the GROUND beneath them.



### **The Spirit of the Woods by Rebecca Hey**

*I find myself beneath the Weeping Birch, most beautiful of forest trees, the lady of the Woods.*

The pensile character of its foliage has obtained for it the designation of the “Weeping Birch.” We are here reminded of a glowing passage denying the applicability of such an epithet to any thing in inanimate nature. “That stem, white as silver and smooth as silk, seems so straight in the green sylvan light, and thus arily overarching the coppice with lambent tresses such as fancy might picture for the mermaids hair, is said by us, who vainly attribute our own sadness, to belong to a tree that weeps; though a weight of joy it is, and of exceeding gladness, that dust depresses her pendant beauty till it droops, as we think, like that of being being overcome with grief.”



Painting by Emily Carr



*Dear Mother Earth  
I think I have always  
specially belonged to you,  
I have loved from babyhood  
to roll upon you, to lie with  
my face pressed right down  
onto you with my sorrows.  
I love the look of you and  
the smell of you and the  
feel of you. When I die  
I should like to be in you  
uncoffined, unshrouded,  
the petals of flowers against  
my flesh and you covering  
me up  
~Emily Carr*

### ***Do you have an Earth Trine in your chart?***

A **Trine** is between *two* planets of the **same element**. They are 120° apart, give or take a few. I am not a stickler for exact degrees, though exact degrees during transits are potent.

A **Grand Trine** is between **three planets of the same element**. The magick of Grand Trines is notable. For me, they are *keys* that unlock the door to Eternity. The Transcendent Self. Portals to Shamanic dimensions.

You could **create a Sigil, a magical symbol that weaves the three planetary symbols together as one**, to support bring awareness to this energetic field that exists in you and in Nature. This will help you to perceive what is really going on here.

I have the planet of Power & Rebirth - Pluto, trine the Planet of Love - Venus, trine my South Node. While some suggest the south node is not what we are to focus on in this life, I find it holds a wealth of treasure to resource the wisdom of the Ages from!





## Altar to Virgo

**I invite you to create an Altar to Virgo.** It is such a vital practice to avail ourselves of Virgo's energies. You could create Altars in different places that Virgo's intelligence resides in. In your Kitchen. Outside on the earth. Your garden. In your room of your own.

**Place your supplements and vitamins on your Altar.** Or clean and order the shelf you keep them on. Spray an essence, place a wee flower, light a candle.

**When you take your supplements or eat your food, do it mindfully.** Pause. Breathe deeply. Sing praises to its source. Give thanks to the many who have enabled you to receive it. Connect with the organ your supplement or medication is supporting. Feel the organic wellspring of gratitude well up. Eat with your feet flat on the floor, connect with the earth. Taste your food. Chew it slowly.

**Sing praises to Virgo and to the Finnish Witch of Disease, *Loviatar*,** to support and guide you on your journey of healing, knowing that this journey is about the whole of our bodymindsoul.

All these small actions garner a greater felt sense of the support we always have with us.

**Place images of your body systems and organs that you are specifically focusing on to heal on your Altar.** Learn everything you can about this part of your body and its interconnectedness with the whole of your ecosystem.

**Healing may come through growing consciousness, a deepened intimacy with ourselves, connecting with our body's wisdom, rather than physical good health.** In the end, wholeness comes in many forms, including being disabled and living with chronic disease.

**Create a Sacred Vow to Virgo...** and your sacred wild soft animal Body. Light your candle, bow before your Altar, meditate on this force. Hold yourself with this holy attitude and watch the powers which created this universe be stirred to life in support of you!

**Body:** Virgo rules over the stomach and digestive organs. Spleen.

**Energy:** Virgo energy is earthy, grounded and helps us to stay motivated to move through life's challenges. Virgo energy is also about noticing the smaller, more refined details and is very headstrong.

**Imbalances:** When Virgo energy is out of balance it can manifest as digestive problems, constipation, eating disorders, chronic dieting and poor digestion. It can also manifest as over-thinking, stubbornness and obsessive behaviors.

**Healing:** To balance Virgo energy, it is important for us to learn how to let go and release some of the expectations we place on ourselves. It is also important to calm our mind and nervous system and take the time to get underneath any obsessive thoughts. This is best done through activities like meditation, yoga, creative expression, hikes in the wilds. Making peace with your body and ensuring that you are eating a lot of healthy fruits and vegetables can also be helpful.





# *Full Moon Mysteries*

## **Luna in Pisces ~ Sol in Virgo**



**The full moon that occurs during the Sun's Virgo cycle is its opposite, Pisces.** At every full moon we are impelled into this dance of opposites so as to grow ourselves and weave into a new whole! This is the most powerful tension point of the Lunar month.

*Virgo and the 6th House which she rules, governs the Mysteries of our Bodypsyche, which reveals itself through our physical symptoms.* We have been so conditioned to see our ill health as something we need to rid ourselves of that we completely miss its opposite 12th House Piscean point: *there is an Archetype at the core of every symptom seeking to be devotionally tended to so as to unleash its sacred wild enlightening intelligence within us: Embodied Enlightenment.*

**The fastidiousness of Virgo's attention is to the details of life,** the care for the tiniest organisms and ecosystems, and the awareness that the extinction of one plant, animal, or organ, in our body ripples to affect the whole. She and her House rule Health, Work, Service.

The Rise of the Full Moon in Pisces  
Me in my precious Canyon

*Full Moon Mysteries, cont.*

**Pisces/12th House** represents the Holy Wild forces of *the Collective Unconscious from which all archetypes rise*. It is the realm of spiritual masters, shamans and the mentally ill, of addiction and criminality.

One of the mythic expressions of Pisces can be seen in the image of Kuan Yin riding the water dragon of the dark seas, pouring her vials of mercy and compassion on the suffering seas of humanity. Dionysus, the god of ecstatic mysteries also reigns here.

*Virgo is imaged as Gaia, the Earth Mother*. In Demeter, the Goddess of the great rounds of life, death and rebirth, of all living things on earth through the seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter, played out in her myth as the birth, life and death-abduction, and return of her daughter, Persephone.

**Virgo and the 6th House are in service to life. Pisces and the 12th makes the service to our daily rounds and our Body devotional, sacred, our temple.**

When these two forces are split from each other, our service and work loses its meaning and purpose, we unconsciously seek the sacred through harmful food, drugs, and behaviors, falling into patterns of addiction and self-loathing.

*Through tending with love to our body as the Holy WILD, the transpersonal is evoked and moves its transformational force through us*. While this doesn't always lead to a physical healing, it leads us to greater wholeness in our relationship to the Self and a deeper awakening to the sacred within all, no matter the health or reality we are experiencing.

This *is* the Holy Wild. This moment. As we are. Here. Now. In this Holy Wild Bitter Earth.

**These are the Mysteries of the 6th - 12th House axis.**





# Full Moon Ritual: Pisces -Virgo Axis

**I invite you to enter into ritual with the full moon energies.** Gather images and totems of these archetypes, the God Mercury and Goddesses I've written about. Include pieces that represent areas of life you are presently working with and challenged by. Gather your vitamins and medications. Your whiskey and sweets. Place these on your Altar..

**Gather the 4 Elements in whatever form calls to you.** Earth from your Grandmother's grave or other beloved site. Water from the ocean, pools of rainwater, babbling brooks. Candles for Fire, sage and sweetgrass to burn. Air as feathers, chimes, your breath. The Wind.

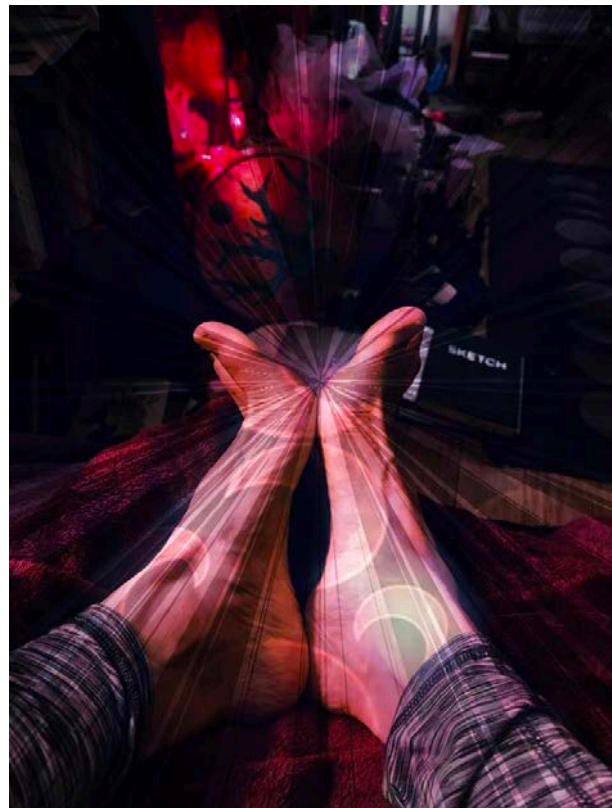
**Enter into a a dance with these force in movement, expressive art, and stream-of-consciousness writing so these god/desses can commune with you.**

Gift yourself this opportunity in the powerful energetic field of this Full Moon so as to arrive to a deeper reconciliation and relationship to these wild forces of nature.

**Tis a WILD Holy World and the energies of the Full Moon can feel chaotic!**

The most important piece for us to remember this full moon is to ground ourselves in our beloved flesh, our soft animal body. ***Dig your feet (Pisces ruled) deep into the earth. Drink water. Have a moonlit bath. Feel your heartbeat, the pulse of your life moving in and through you. Breathe.***

**By thus doing we consciously honor and garner support from these Holy Wild forces of Nature.**



# The Uroboric Uterus



*I once did a large mandala painting which I named the Uroboric Uterus. I painted my heart, liver, kidneys, adrenals, gall bladder, pancreas round the circumference of the womb.*

The wee adrenals cap the kidneys as crowns. I painted them gold as a way to honor their profound nature which I was presently being initiated by. During this period of my life I was in a severe state of adrenal exhaustion.

It was the first time I had been aware of my adrenals and the golden gift of energy they are responsible for. I learned more about these wee vital ones during this cycle of illness than I had ever known during my health. I became adrenal wise... and a devotee.

Along with learning about how adrenals work as a complex support system to my hormones, body and life, this illness carried me into **sacred stories - my own**, my parents, my ancestors, humanity's - which are inextricably linked to the adrenals. The stories of their fight and flight to survive. Their ferocity to carry through a revolution. To work day in and day out whether they felt like it or not, plowing the fields, nurturing their children, creating art, a business... birthing an era! Without our adrenals we would not have the energy to fulfill our sacred dharma or seek our bliss. We would have quite literally given up the ghost as a species.

**Who is calling to you through your illness? Your exhaustion? Your addictions? What does your soft animal body want you to know? *Look to where the Pisces Moon and Virgo Sun lands in your chart. These are the areas of your life which are being initiated.***







# The Kitchen Witch

## KITCHEN WITCHERY

### COURAGE

Pepper  
Basil  
Chives  
Horseneadish  
Nettle

### HEALTH

Allspice  
Cinnamon  
Angelica  
Coriander  
Poppy Seed  
Chamomile

### PEACE

Marjoram  
Mint  
Clay Sage  
Sage  
Lemon Balm

### TRAVEL

Caraway  
Dill  
Fennel  
Marjoram  
Mustard  
Parsley

### FERTILITY

Cinnamon  
Mint  
Coriander

### INSIGHT

Orange  
Lemon Grass  
Marjoram

### LUCK

Allspice  
Cloves  
Nutmeg  
Heather

### PROTECTION

Angelica  
Basil  
Bay  
Cinnamon  
Cloves  
Dill  
Garlic

Mint  
Peppermint  
Pepper  
Marjoram

### HAPPINESS

Cinnamon  
Feverfew  
Mint

### LOVE

Vanilla  
Cinnamon  
Coriander





## **Virgo more than any other archetype inspires our *instinct for Self Care*.**

This force is as vital as our imagination, for without it we have no body to carry our visions and dreams. It is this force of Nature that drives us towards healthy eating, using lotions made with pure ingredients, such as honey and essence, rather than chemicals. Virgo's instinct drives towards including the whole spectrum of healing modalities, from western medicines diagnostics and necessary medical treatments, to holistic approaches that include healthy diets for health.

### **Virgo is a Kitchen Witch. Hers are the ways of healing through the foods we eat.**

Ways of eating which support health as much as the palette, such as Macrobiotics, Vegan, Vegetarian, Keto, Paleo, all fall under Her reign. All healthy diets require attention to the body and a more studied approach to what our bodies need to stay healthy. This is unique for each one, which unfortunately some feel the need to suggest their way is *the* way. What most discover over time is that each body has specific needs that we have to respect, or we become ill.

## **Allow natural Altars to Virgo to spring up everywhere!**

**Potted herbs growing in the kitchen is a beautiful way to honor Virgo** and our whole body senses. Create a spot that you can place them with an image of the Earth Mother, and a candle, so that when you are cooking you can bow and honor these acts as vital to LIFE. To honor this archetype through our daily acts serves us on a fundamental psycho-spiritual level. ***There is Magick in the Mundane.***

**Virgo drives our urge to organize and clean and clear our clutter**, and this is a perfect time to do just that and do it in honor of this archetype. Connect with this force through your instincts, urges and imagination, as well as being being out in Nature.



**Virgo is a House Witch! Never call her a housewife, for she will cast a spell on you! She is married to no thing or person but herself.**

**She knows the ways of the magical placement of things** and makes use of color, symbols, image, textures, aromas. She brings the WILDS inside ~ rocks and earth, plants and flowers. She decorates with intention for healing, calming, serving the body rather than beauty for beauty sake.

**Create a Sacred Vow to Virgo your Body during this Virgo cycle.** Hold yourself with this sacred attitude and watch you flourish!

**My daily rituals include...** making a toast to Virgo before I drink my green drink. Making an infusion of cucumber, ginger, lemon water to gently flush, cleanse and nourish my body. I have purchased a large glass jar which I've placed on my kitchen counter so I can be visually nourished by the juicy colors and presence of these fruits.

**Include some form of body movement practice** - 15 minutes of yoga, walking in the forest, dance. Begin any regular movement practice that connects you to this force as Nature, yours, and the earth underfoot which has grown you. Body Prayers! Make them! You've the sacred gestural dances that people do in other cultures. They are sourced from the intelligence within.

These are some suggestions. The magnificence of the Wild Criatura that you are will guide you to what most serves you at this time. **Keep it real and close to your Heart.**

Relate to your Body, not just as a Temple for your Soul, but as your **Body soul**, with the primal God/dess, the Intelligence of the Universe, dancing in you as YOU! Not as simply flesh which you will discard at the end of your life moving onto bigger and better things. But as the Divine, **the Body of the Universe**, here and NOW.

**Relate to yourself in this way and the Mysteries of Virgo will reveal themselves to you. This is your one precious Body. Hallowed Be Its Name!**





## *Ancestral Health Tales*

I've been navigating between family members with a cold virus and stomach flu while being the only one left standing, scurrying hither and thither for their care. Boosting my immune system every witch way I know how! Diffuser on 24/7, wellness shots, sinusalia, airborne, emergenC, ginger lemon cayenne tea... and washing my hands so many times I can almost see mebones! Hope my loves recover soon and that I don't go down with the ship!

Wondering how my mom did it when the viruses ripped through our household through all umpteen numbers of us. She rarely got ill and lived till she was 97. Wonder if it was because she kept on moving so those microscopic attackers couldn't catch her. Had a sense of this today when I was running about keeping my lymphatic flowing and sweating it all out.

This is photo is of momma driving the only means of transportation she had in the early years on the farm. Next to her is my eldest sister, Joyce, and my brother, Dale. They lived and worked the farm for the first half of her life til she had me at 47 and my younger brother at 49. They were ready to leave the handwork of the farm and moved to the city.

She was one gnarly woman. As a young person, she preferred to plow the fields with a team of five horses than be bound in the kitchen cooking with her mother. That changed when she had seven of her own.



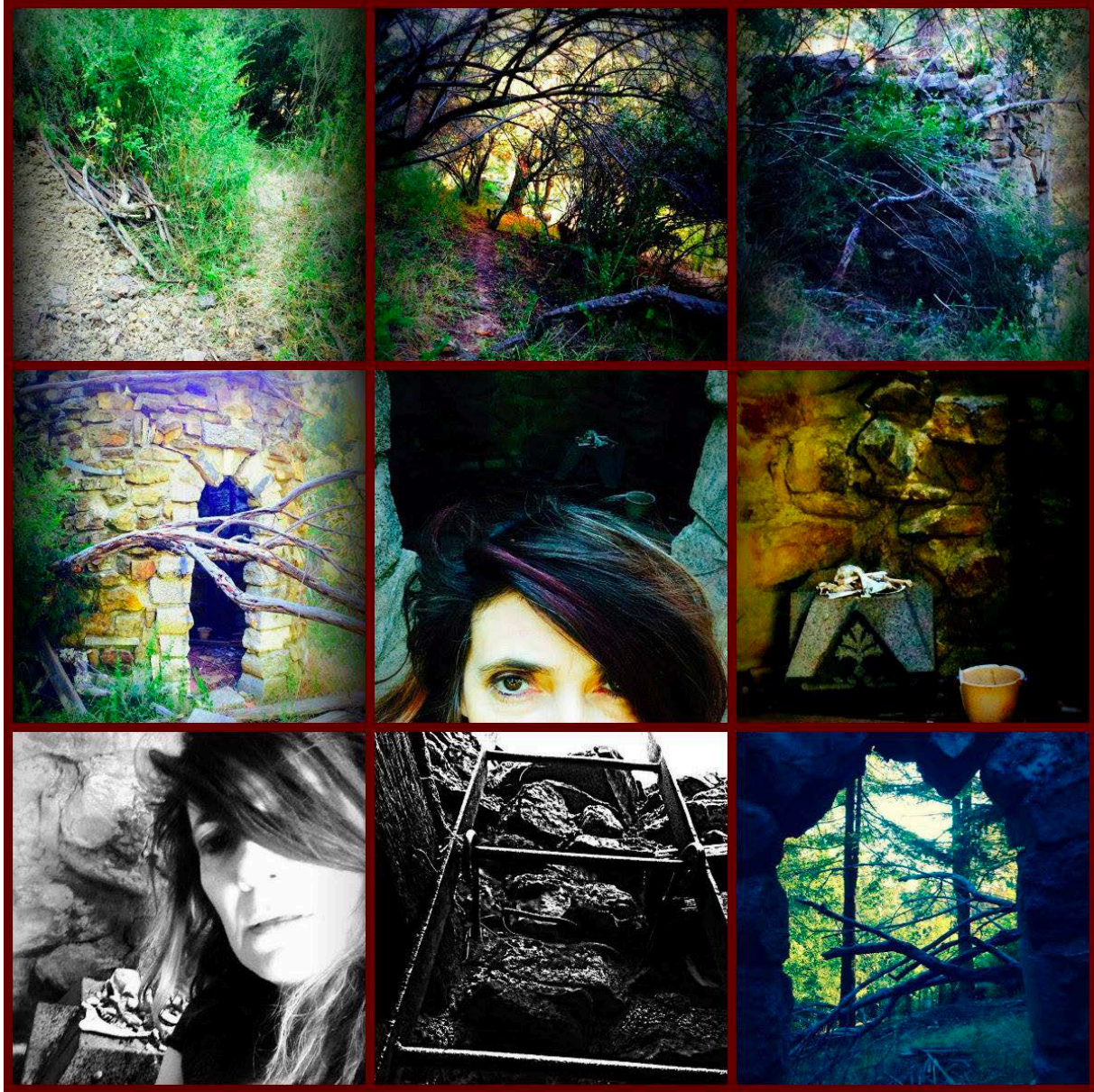
I think of her often at times like this. Saint Mom, who not only endured but flourished through it all. I know it wasn't fun. But she didn't allow herself to go there, as far as I know. It's fortifying just thinking about her.

Thanks mom! = Best boost to my immune system sourced out of the earth from which I came.









## Virgo Play! Nature Play!

### *Embodying Our Imagination in the WILDS*

Just as a child loves to play in the forest and create all kinds of imaginary friends and castles out of rocks and trees, Nature Play is about fully immersing ourselves in our feeling-sensory imagination, engaging the elements, being moved by them and embodying their powers.

***Go out into nature and look for an area you feel intuitively attracted to.*** You could do this in your backyard or a wild place you love. It is important you are alone and that you can enter into a depth process safely without disruption. This is what allows us to let go and let ourselves play with our imagination.

***Begin by walking... walking... walking...*** until you find a specific spot that you feel drawn to. Stay out of your analyzing brain and just follow your desire, your intuition, your witchy senses! When you find it, bow and thank the Spirits of the Land and place.



**Allow yourself to enter into the magickal feeling imagination of a child and begin to play and explore the environment.** Perhaps you feel the need to clear the area of sticks and begin building a witches hut. You see bramble that you feel edgy about and yet know the Witch wisdom you are seeking for your life is hiding there.

**You may feel the urge to gather food, dig holes, dance with the breeze, sound the call of the owl, or... become a Witch who lives in the hut in the forest, and make potions.**

Allow yourself to be moved by the natural urges that bubble up! Make sounds! Spit and curse! Tell your secrets to the trees! Sing with the wind!

**Drink in your experience through your senses.** Dig in the earth. Smell it! Feel the wind and sun upon your face. Roll in the dirt. Be a snake. Climb a tree. CAW! CAW! CAW! Be carried by your feeling-sensory-imagination and *fully embody it*. Allow your experience to unfold like a living dream.

Notice the feelings that arise. Do you feel frightened? Powerful? Alert? In danger? **Allow yourself to express your emotions...** *tears of grief, ferocity of rage, mad wild laughter!* **Give yourself 45 minutes to 1 hour to fully immerse in your play.** Yet even if all you have is 10-15 minutes to drop into your WITCH mindbodysoul and enter into some magick play out in Nature will serve this rite!

**When you are finished, take a photo of the area and a Selfie of you in the environment** - this serves to really see yourself embodying the moment in the process. You as observer. As Witness. **Choose an object from your Nature Play to bring back to your altar.** Honor this act by offering something in return. Water to plants. A hair. Gratitude.

**Do some flow writing.** Allow your writing to come from the direct experience. *Speak in the first person of the WITCH, the Ancestors, the animals, the Hut itself. Give your experience the pen, channel your imagination.* When you return home flow write around what occurred for you and the feelings, thoughts, sensations and imagination you experienced.

**This can be a powerfully altering experience.** Stay fluid with your imagination and allow your experience to unfold into your dreams, and your ongoing expressive artwork and flow writing.

Always remember to stay safe. Be alert to your environment. And if you need it, bring a friend or your partner to stand guard while you drop in. Then give them a turn!





# The Madwoman of the Woods

**I first went to the deer bed  
thinking I saw a deer,**  
was a woman instead.  
My work is done here, I said.  
Then I felt the call  
to the haunted hut in the woods,  
for I am ever called to that which is dark  
in exile and reviled.

Felt my hip my leg...  
I began to limp  
became the old witch of the hut.  
I began to mutter,  
I am the madwoman of the woods,  
the one who has been shunned by all  
and yet so misunderstood.  
Dirty and decrepit  
I make my home in the  
houses that others dread

Inside were bones and a child's pail  
"I did not eat them," I heard myself say,  
But meat I do eat  
I gathered the bones in the pail  
thought, if I clean up this hut just a bit  
paint the door red  
the roof purple  
perhaps the Missus will let me stay here  
where the yellow flowers bloom  
and the creatures of the forest tread

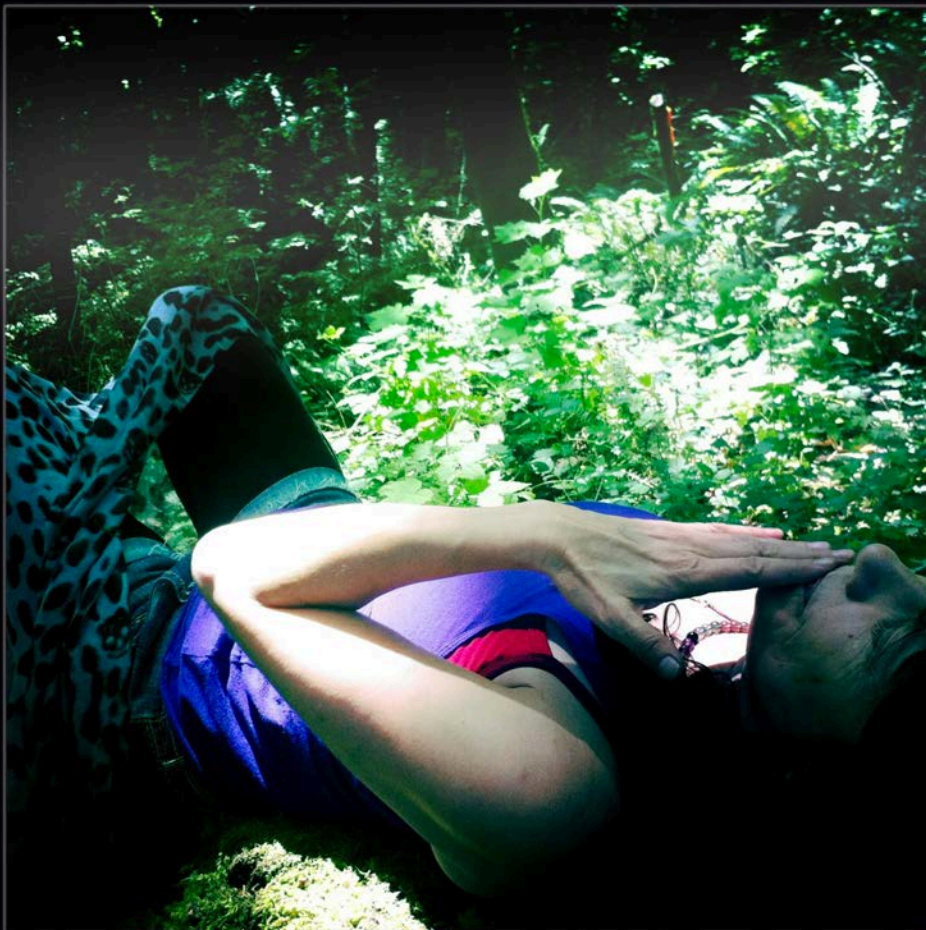
If I honor the bones  
bury them in the deep earth where they belong  
Perhaps she will let me stay  
I will care for her lands  
and lay the ghosts to rest







HPSTM 269



269

HPSTM 269



# The Asteroid Goddess Ceres



Ceres was the first asteroid to be discovered in the asteroid belt because it is the largest. Since its discovery it has been reclassified as a *dwarf planet*. Ceres is the Roman name for the Greek Goddess, Demeter. The word, *cereal*, comes from her name.

**She is the Goddess of Agriculture and Seasonal cycles of the earth.** She is the Mother of Persephone, daughter of Spring who becomes Queen of the Underworld after her abduction by Hades/Pluto.

**Ceres is the quintessential Earth Mother.** She rules over the earth's food cycles, sustenance and nutrition. Wherever she appears in our charts reveals how we like to nurture and be nurtured.



Demeter mourning Persephone by Evelyn de Morgan, 1906

The sign our *Ceres* is in influences *mothering, hard work, parenting, and gardening*. It reveals how well we go with the floooooowww of the Universe. **It is the unification of both giving and receiving through ourselves as an exchange of energy.**

Ceres is associated with *fertility, the uterus and stomach*. **She is the Midwife of Birth and Death.** She holds the Rites and tends to the body in all ways upon birth into life and birth into death.

**On her unconscious pathological side**, she expresses through *work issues and eating disorders*, both related to *Virgo and the 6th House*. She influences our *esteem, fear of abundance, feelings of abandonment, unworthiness, over or lack of attachment, possessiveness, parent-child complexes and barrenness*.

**As Mother, Ceres represents the force of unconditional love, sustaining and nourishing newly created life forms.** It is important to note that in the myth of Demeter (Ceres' Greek name) and Persephone, Demeter is compassionate and nurturing as well as the force of fury towards Zeus, withholding sustenance for humanity when her daughter could not be found. She doesn't stop in her pursuit of her child who has been abducted by hell, allowing all else, including her own life, to die. Remember to think of your child as anything you give birth to.

Ceres and Persephone hold the keys to the *Eleusinian Mysteries*, safeguarding the secrets of the Greater Mysteries of *birth, death and renewal*. This hallowed mystery rite was enacted for 2000 years as the people's *religio, link to the sacred*. It fed and nourished the bodysoul and spirit through a direct encounter with Death, awakening the initiate to the deeper realities and organic truth of this eternal cycle.

**Astrologically, Ceres represents the ability to unconditionally love and accept ourselves and our beloveds.** When a person becomes excessively attached to their children, creations, or possessions, Ceres' cycle takes them through the **transformative process of loss and return**.

**She teaches the wisdom that sharing and letting go lead to reunion.** If one is fixated on the Ceres process, he or she may experience abandonment and rejection in their life, until learning to transform grasping into generosity.

**Look for this glyph on your birth chart and note the Zodiac Sign it's in. You can place this symbol anywhere on your body that you feel you need Ceres-Demeter support.**







**The Asteroid Goddess, Ceres**, carries the theme of Earth Mother to touch on the life, death, rebirth cycles of agriculture and the mysteries they reflect. She is about food. Food and our relationship to it, which is often tied to the original mother in this life. If our mothers felt negatively about their bodies, if they had unattended food pathologies and self abuse around them, we as young ones took those in.

Food is nourishment. The sweetness of the Mother was had through the milk. The closeness and intimacy we yearned for from our mothers and did not receive, we may now seek to find through sugary treats that we may not have control over because we want it/her so bad. Rather than beat ourselves up over these issues, it is vital that we touch them with care, love and support and look to what nourishment and fulfillment we can instead give ourselves.

One of the more challenging aspects of Self that we are growing is the inner Wild Mother. Most of never received from our personal mothers what we needed. Yet Nature fills in that void. Its

eternal impulse towards wholeness guides us to become the one we are looking for. To be the protectress of our wild nature and our Daemon. We are the ones to nourish and give ourselves what we need.

Until we learn to do this, we will continually seek it from parents and others who don't have the capacity to do that, who are often mentally ill and incapable of giving us what we seek. Or we will seek it from destructive eating and drinking habits. While I am not a purist, I believe life is WILD and needs to be lived from a true passion play. If we are miserable and harming ourselves through what we are imbibing then we need to look within and find resources that will give us the nourishment we need.

**Look to find the Asteroid Goddess Ceres and her House placement in your chart. Ceres and Virgo point to this Nature in you.**



# The Myth of Demeter & Persephone and the Cycles of Nature

**The following version of the myth of Demeter and Persephone** was written by my dear friend and myth writer, storyteller and goddess guide, **Amy Palko**. She has given me permission to include it in this work on Virgo. It is the fundamental myth for this sign. Virgo's glyph holds a sheaf of corn. The life cycle of food and wild things that seed, grow, fruit and die, fall under her rule.

I know of no other telling of this tale that touches me so intimately and viscerally as this one. Through it I am able to feel into the places in my own life where I have experienced terrible loss, descent and darkness at such an acute level that I do not know whether I will return to life.



*Within the body of the myth and following it is my imagery and poetry that came out of this initiating force. These pieces are part of a larger work called: **Mother Persephone Demeter's Descent***







## **I am Demeter**

*by Amy Palko*

I am Demeter. In this part of the world I am known as the goddess of the grain. But the truth is I am so much more than that. I am the bountiful goddess of the harvest, the abundant essence that dwells in the hearts of all living things and whispers, “Grow, grow!” It is because of me that apples swell, tomatoes redden and olives ripen.

I am the creative force that fills the seed with the divine spark and then plants it deep in the black fertile soil, that tends to it and calls it up through the surface – tender seedlings striving for the sun. Onward! Upward! They stretch their stems out and spread their leaves far and, before long, flower and fruit, offering their produce to the world.

While all these expressions of the divine spark were precious and beautiful to me, there was one who was most precious, most beautiful. *Kore*. My daughter was everything to me. She made my world a more beautiful place. Her innocence, her purity, her soft, luminous presence lit up the land and the world was better for it.

And yes, perhaps I was a little over-protective. We lived in a valley, our very own paradise, and for years Kore never left this place, our home. And I was happy that she stayed put. I always knew where she was. I always knew she was safe. For a long time we lived in a perpetual bliss... except no bliss is truly perpetual.

The day came when I lost my beautiful girl. She had been playing over by the stream. She used to like to sit and watch the little silver flashes of fish as they swam downstream. I was calling to her, but she wasn't responding. At first this didn't worry me. I mean, how many times had she become so absorbed in what she was doing that she didn't hear me calling?



But after shouting her name several times, a sliver of cold fear slid into my belly, and my calls became tinged with panic. I started to run towards the stream, but when I got there, it was deserted. No one was there.

My heart pounded in my chest like a bird that wanted freed from its cage and my mind whirled as I tried to make sense of the unthinkable. I ran from one end of the valley to the other calling, always calling, but to no avail.

My whole insides wrenched as I slumped down on the ground and held my head in my hands, but I did not weep. Not then. My Kore, my daughter was gone, and with the acceptance of this fact, my whole being re-orientated itself around her absence. My anger arrived suddenly – a slow burn of fury that licked at my soul.

I would find Kore. I would find her no matter what the cost. My course was now set. Just as I was preparing to leave the valley to begin my search, Hecate appeared. Older than time itself, Hecate was here before the dawn of days. She gathered the darkness around her, draping it over her bony shoulders, her white hair contrasting strongly against her black cowl. “Venerable mother,” I beseeched her. “My daughter has been taken from our home and I am just now setting out on my quest to find her. Can you offer me any wisdom, any light at all which might help me to best determine my direction?”

Hecate sighed, the wrinkles around her mouth and eyes deepening. “I was coming here to tell you what I heard, Demeter, but it grieves me deeply to know that what I heard is connected to the disappearance of your daughter.” Her voice was not that of an elderly woman. The crone spoke with a strength that always surprised those who sought her wisdom.

At her words, my anguish increased. “Tell me Hecate. Tell me what you heard.”

“I heard a scream. A scream that was suddenly swallowed up.” Hecate’s eyes were full of deep compassion, but I barely noticed, so full of grief was my heart at this terrible news. Wringing my hands, I began to pace back and forth, back and forth. “What to do? What to do?” I muttered over and over to myself.

Hecate, taking pity on this most miserable mother, walked towards me and taking me by the hand, looked straight into my eyes. “I will tell you what we will do. We will speak to Helios, he who drives the sun across the heavens. He was passing directly overhead when I heard the scream. He will have seen what happened to your daughter. He will give you the direction you seek.”

“Yes, kind Hecate. Thank you. That is what we shall do.”



We called upon Helios, the charioteer, to grace us with his presence. It was not long before he appeared, his skin burnished bronze from his constant proximity to the sun, his golden hair curling around his temples, his eyes the colour of topaz. Hecate explained our request to the sun god who, upon hearing the sorry circumstances, turned to me, his expression full of profound regret.

“Dearest grieving mother, I did see what happened to your radiant daughter, the pure and beautiful Kore. I was indeed passing your valley at just that very moment. Kore was playing by the brook, when she caught sight of the most beautiful flower I had ever seen. Such many-petalled loveliness I had never seen before, and neither, judging from Kore’s actions, had she. In seeming awe, she bent forward to pluck the bloom, when the earth cleaved apart and swallowed her whole. One moment she was in this world. And then in the next she was in the underworld.”

My heart broke. I sobbed; Hecate’s arm around my shoulder was the only thing that kept me upright. Approaching this most bereft of all beings, Helios bent on one knee and gently took hold of my hand. “Mother Demeter, I am more sorry than I can say that I am the one to have to bear such dark tidings. Hades took your daughter, goddess. And if he took her, then he must have done so with the sanction of Zeus. She is gone, Demeter. I am so very sorry.”

Without another word, Helios returned to his chariot and left us in the valley crying our silent tears for the missing Kore.

Hecate spoke first into the silence which had enveloped us. “I will return to the underworld, Demeter. I will travel into the land of the dead, and I will watch over her. You must search for a solution on this earthly plane. If you keep yourself always busy,” the elder goddess advised, “then you will be able to ward off the encroaching darkness that threatens to overtake your soul. Do not allow your grief to consume you.”

And with that, Hecate also left me alone in the valley, the silence pressing itself against my heart like a thick fog of despair. I turned my back on my home where I’d enjoyed so many hours with Kore, and left.

I wandered far throughout the land, my feet always taking me onwards, even when I felt like I just wanted to curl into a ball. Curl up and let the wind strip away the layers of my soul until a dry husk would be all that was left – a dry husk which would crumble back into the dust from which we all sprang. But the restless grief that coursed through my veins wouldn’t let me stop.



I travelled across the great plains, where the grasses swished and swayed as I pushed my way past. I stumbled between the trees of forests, skirted around cliffs, trudged through sand dunes... ever onwards. Never stopping. Never resting. I was relentless in my search.

Yet, my search yielded nothing. Not one clue. My legs ached with the constancy of my wandering and my arms ached from not holding my daughter, her absence crushing my spirit, hollowing out my bones.

After the unbearable weight of days, weeks, months and years had passed, I stopped. At the city gates of Eleusis, I stood still, my need to cradle, to nurture, to cherish so overwhelming that I could no longer continue. I clothed myself in the guise of an old woman, and walked to the doors of the King's palace to offer my services as nursemaid.

Their tiny infant Demophoon had just been birthed and I was gratefully employed on sight. The moment I set eyes on this tiny infant, I loved him so much. I poured all of the love that I would have lavished on Kore into this brand new soul. And he thrived on it.

He had the most beautiful dark eyes, so large and full of wonder and love. They would sparkle in the sunbeams that danced through the nursery window, and I would gaze into those eyes, the windows to his soul, and I knew what I had to do.

That night I began the process of turning Demophoon into a god. I anointed him in ambrosia. I breathed my immortal breath upon his perfect skin. I would dangle him over the fireplace where, bit by bit, the flames burned his mortality away. I watched him grow strong. I watched him transform into a young demi-god.

It was all going so well. I had found someone who I could pour all my love into. A perfect distraction from the grief that would always gnaw at my heart. And then, one awful evening, his mother walked in just as I had begun the nightly ritual of holding the child in the fire. She screamed and I... I dropped him.

His loss was too much for me to take on top of my daughter's continued absence. I drew all of my pain, all of my sadness, all of my anger and howled at the sky. I drew on great wells of the earth's power and allowed it to fill me, to fuel my despair. I have never been so fierce, so terrible as I was in that moment, and my identity to the civilians of Eleusis was revealed.

They built me a temple where I retreated. I withdrew from the world. I turned inwards and with that inward turning the earth began to change.

At first the change was almost imperceptible. There were fewer bees, less butterflies, the chirp of the cricket was silenced. And then the lush green grasses turned to straw, the orchards bore nothing but spoiled fruit, the crops failed, cattle wasted, people starved.



To begin with the people brought me tributes. They brought all the gods and goddesses tributes. Great piles of gifts – all that they could spare. Anything to reverse this awful barrenness which had overtaken the land. And then the tributes grew less and less, as the people had less and less to give. And then there were no tributes at all. But still I did not leave my retreat. Still I stayed curled in on myself. A dry husk.

The other gods and goddess, each of whom was aware of my continued distress and who stood back and did nothing, were now vexed at their lack of tribute and petitioned Zeus to persuade me to ‘play nice’. This god of gods pleaded with me to bring fertility back to the world. He offered me riches and power and position. None of which I wanted. None of which would reignite the divine spark that was now missing from the world.

I looked at this magnificent god, this father, this brother, and all I could see was his betrayal. He had permitted the abduction of my heart’s best treasure. There was nothing he could offer me. Nothing except her return.

Zeus squirmed, and if I hadn’t been so consumed I would have been transfixed by this most rare appearance of a god abased and compromised. As it was, it merely acted to steel my resolve.

“Give me back my daughter, and I will give you back the world.” My anger vibrated through every word, and he knew that I would not be appeased with promises of glory. I was the mother. My reason for existing was not to be showered with material goods, tributes grand and small, the acquisition of power – no. My reason was solely to nurture, to cherish. And the object of my affection was all that I desired.

With shoulders slumped, Zeus left my temple promising me Kore’s return, and I felt the first glimmers of hope. A feeling which I had never expected to feel ever again.

The day she returned to my arms will be forever emblazoned on my soul. My joy at her return was all consuming and it flowed from my heart freely and uninhibited. It spread out from me like a golden wave enveloping everything it touched in love.

Fertility resumed. The grasses began to grow, the trees yielded fruit, the crops thrived, and the emaciated people of the world began to enjoy the earth’s bounty, growing fat and happy. It was only when I embraced Kore, however, that I realized she was much changed. My heartbeat faltered slightly as I held her from me to get a better look, to see if I could discern the change, to see if I could fix it.



“Kore, darling, what happened to you?” I asked her.

“I am no longer Kore, mother. I am now Persephone, and while there are parts of me which are still the girl you knew, I am transformed. I am my husband’s wife. I am the Queen of the Underworld.” She stood there, a newfound inner strength permeating her whole being. And yet, for a moment or two I could not fully fathom her meaning. I could not make sense of these strange words that she spoke.

Very sweetly, she took my hand and in a soft voice she told me of the arrangement. She would spend six months on the earth with me and then for the next six months she would return to Hades.

And so the cycle began. For six months of the year I would have my daughter beside me and the earth flourished. Plants grew, livestock thrived and all were happy. Then she would withdraw from me, return to her husband in the underworld, and the earth would enter into a period of repose.

In this way, time was no longer solely divided up into the day and night. It was now divided into seasons as well.

Spring, which marked Persephone’s return, is coloured by the return of life to the land. Summer, the season which celebrates the fullness of life, of the ripening and flourishing of all, is only tinged by sorrow in the end days when I must say goodbye once more to my beautiful girl.

Autumn is when I begin my withdrawal and the life begun and grown in the months of Persephone’s presence is gathered in and preserved for survival through the cold season to come. Winter is the worst of times for me – months where I have retreated so far from the earth’s surface that nothing grows and all exists between the inhale and the exhale – a pause in the breath of the world’s continuation. Spring, and the whole cycle begins again.

One after the other after the other after the other, stretching forwards throughout time.



# Demeter's Descent

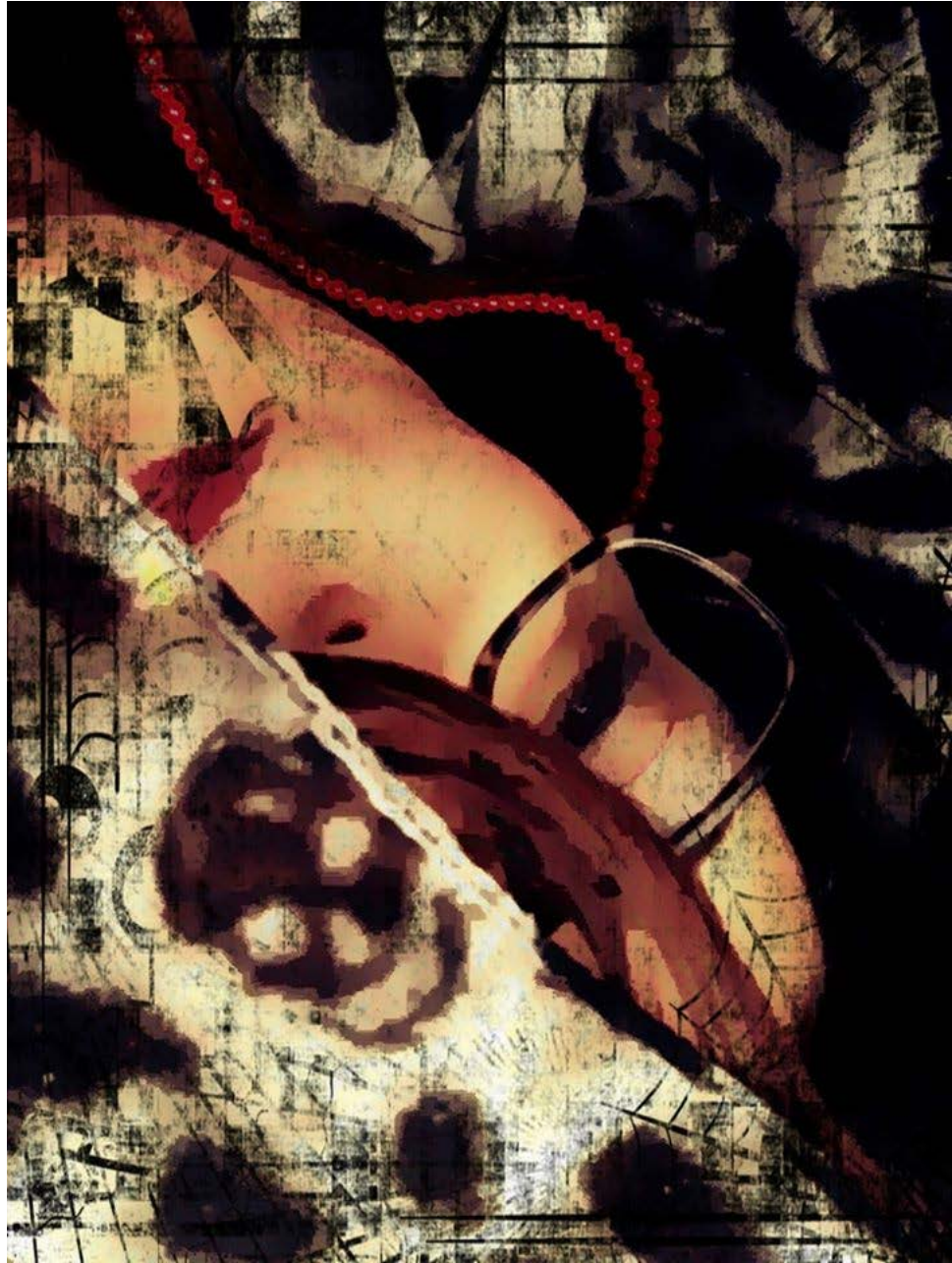
## **Standing at the Altar of Women**

I weave  
caress  
rub and stir  
the primordial amber tears of my  
dead sister  
I stroke my hair  
hold my head

Yeah, I'm not dead yet.  
I shall not lie down  
this body  
mine.  
Instead I dance  
in the softness  
of love with me  
No. One. Else.

They lie there in stillness,  
but I am not dead yet.  
I feel my feet upon the planked  
wooden floor of my Ancestors  
I gently rock  
and sway  
to the rhythm of my breath  
and heart beat.  
To my own self be true.

And thus I stand before the Altar  
I rock  
I sway  
I caress  
this Altar of Me





Feeling my place here,  
at the Altar of Women  
my home,  
with their tears  
their bodies,  
And the years I have lived  
carrying me to this moment.  
I have arrived.

Finally, I begin to move slowly  
midst and through  
the body of women  
to my Self .  
I curl up in an egg  
wrapped in my blue soft-animal  
blanket  
on the Earth  
self-contained in love and nurturance

Upon my back I lie supported  
by the earth  
the planked floor,  
my Ancestors.  
My hips are supported  
my lower back  
on this ground of my Body

At the Altars of the Women  
I shed my tears  
in supplication  
Help! Help!  
from my depths I cry!  
from my bones  
my self  
from the women  
Hugs hold

I rub your back  
you hold my heart  
we caress  
Holding  
Being Held  
Tender LoveWomen  
Temple of the Women

To the temple of the Women  
I carry the grail of my holy Tears  
to the World of Mothers  
I offer up my Dark Suffering  
Initiation of Darkness  
Scathing  
Wretched  
Horrendous

You are me  
I am you

Bees making honey out of the flesh,  
blood, bones, heart of me.



# Virgo through the Planets and Houses

I am not a believer in canned definitions for the planets through the signs and houses for anyone's chart. The archetypes are much too complex and multi-dimensional and when dancing with other archetypes through the aspects (opposites, squares, trines) in our chart, become a whole new thing altogether.

I know we all hunger for definitions that will unlock the key to the mystery of ourselves. I pursued them for years. Pursued the astrologers that were most aligned to my philosophy of life, rooted in archetypal astrology and the understanding of the Self and shadows, to give me those keys.

Yet even the best left me wanting. I know this is because the ultimate definition is supposed to come from ourselves. The ultimate keys to unlock the mystery of me is to be discovered by none other than me!

**The Daemon is specific. The Genius is a soulprint.** The specificity of how the archetypes play out through us is unique to ourselves, our nature, and our inheritance. And no one knows us better than ourselves.

And thus, as much as I explored including definitions in this book, I have chosen instead to believe in your intelligence and self knowing mixed together with all you have read and pondered through this book on what the meaning of Virgo is, to now apply it to each of the planets and what their drives, the instincts, represent. I have included the definitions of the planets.

**Play! Explore!** Ask questions of anyone you know with a Sun sign, or Moon, or Venus, or Mars, or Pluto in Virgo. Ask *them, or yourself*: How do I do that thing when I am in dealing with conflict with my **Mars in Virgo**? Do I nit pick in a fight? Analyze to strategize? What about the **Moon in Virgo**? Are my emotions calmed by being in the forest? By doing some Kitchen witchery? **Venus in Virgo**, do I need to feel my autonomy? Feel independent? In my lover relationships?

**Explore the Houses in the same way.** What does it look like to have Virgo in the 3rd House of Communication? The 5th House of Self Expression?

**If you must search for definitions, after reading them come back, come back to yourself, to what you know, what the myths inform you of, the element of Earth, your Body. This is where the primal intelligence of Virgo resides, hallowed be its name.**





# VIRGO

August 23 - September 22



Symbol

Ruling Planet

House Ruled

**The Maiden**

**Mercury**

**Sixth**



Element

Mode

Keyword

**Earth**

**Mutable**

**"Analyze"**

Virgo is conscious of details. The human instinct to serve health and well-being. This is the universal principle of organization. Virgo creates order out of chaos.  
GAIA and her Ecosystem



## The Planets

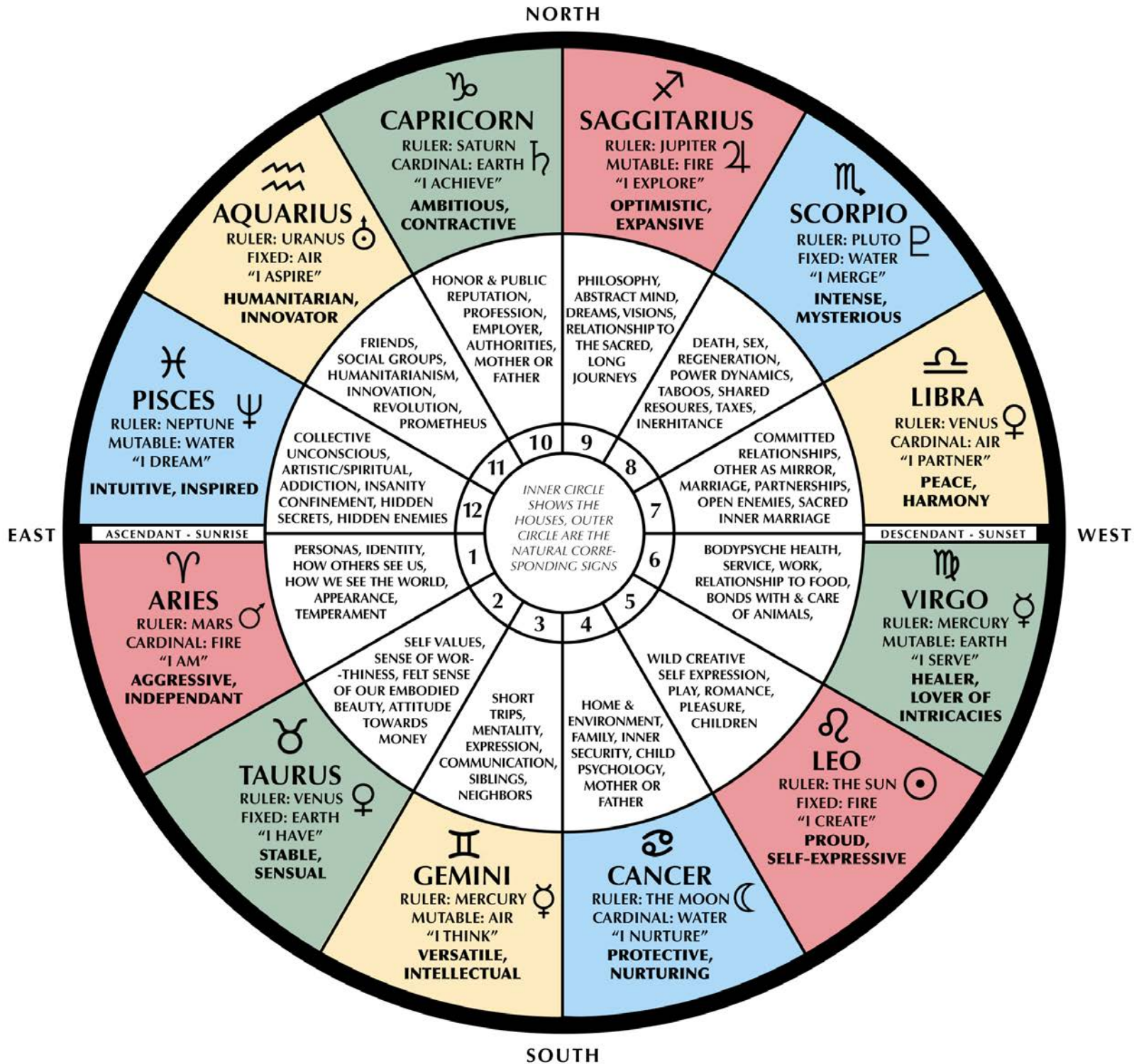
*The Actors* - psychological *drives*, *urges* and *needs* of the personality

Look at your own chart. **What sign is in the 1st House? What planets are in the 1st House?** The planets represent different facets of who you are, expressing their energy through the nature of the sign they occupy in your chart.

<u>Planet</u>	<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Description</u>
The Sun	☉	Creative Potential, Personal Identity - the urge to create and to Be
The Moon	☾	The Past, Nurturing, Receptivity - the urge to nurture, respond and feel
Mercury	☿	Thinking, Communicating, Analyzing, Thinking, Networking - the urge to know
Venus	♀	Relating, Love and Beauty, Sense of Values - the urge to love, appreciate and relate
Mars	♂	Self Defense, Energy, Aspiration, Motivation, Sexuality - the urge to act and motivate
Jupiter	♃	Expanding, Philosophy, the Search for Meaning - the urge for growth and meaning
Saturn	♄	Boundaries, Limitations, Concretization - the urge to build structure and stability
Chiron		Healing, Integrating, Whole-Making, Teaching, mentoring - the urge to be healed, to heal, teach and mentor others
Uranus	♅	Collective Mind, Illumination, Awakener - Humanitarian urge
Neptune	♆	Collective Feeling, Universal Love, Imagination - the Spiritual urge and the need for Unity
Pluto	♇	Life-Death-Rebirth, Transformation, Regeneration - the urge for evolutionary growth



# THE HOUSE, SIGN & RULER CHART



# The Mutable Houses & Signs

Virgo is the 2nd Mutable sign of the Astrological year.

0° *Gemini* marks the last month of *Spring*. 0° *Virgo*, the last month of *Summer*. 0° *Sagittarius*, the last month of *Autumn*. 0° *Pisces*, the last month of *Winter*.

These four create the *Mutable Cross* in our astrology charts.

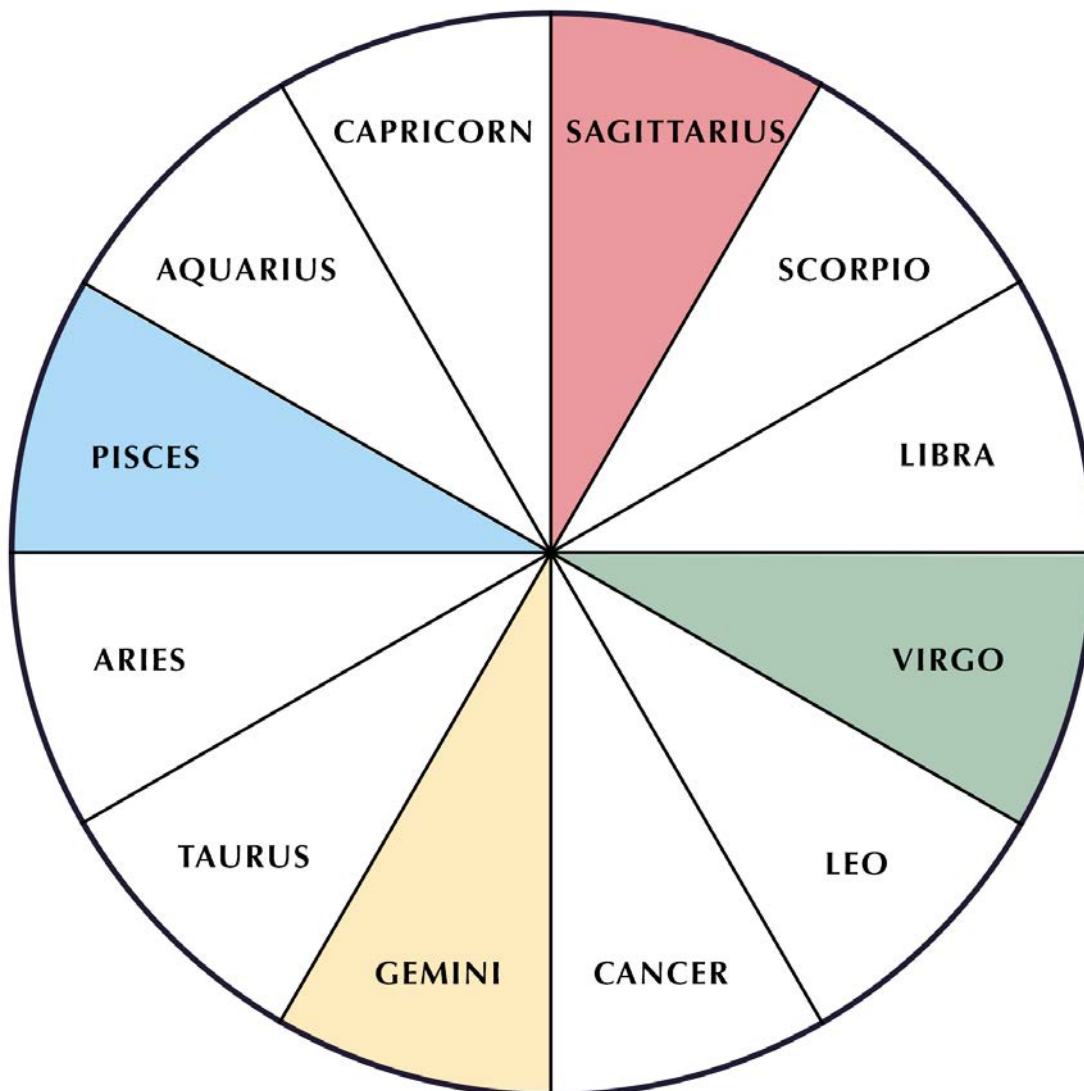
Look to your chart to see where this Mutable Cross occurs for you! As well as where 0° *Gemini* lands in your chart.

The *Mutable Signs* occur at the last month of the Season: *Spring-Gemini, Summer-Virgo, Autumn-Sagittarius, Winter-Pisces*.

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They are comprised of the 4 elements: *Gemini-Air, Virgo-Earth, Sagittarius-Fire, Pisces-Water*.

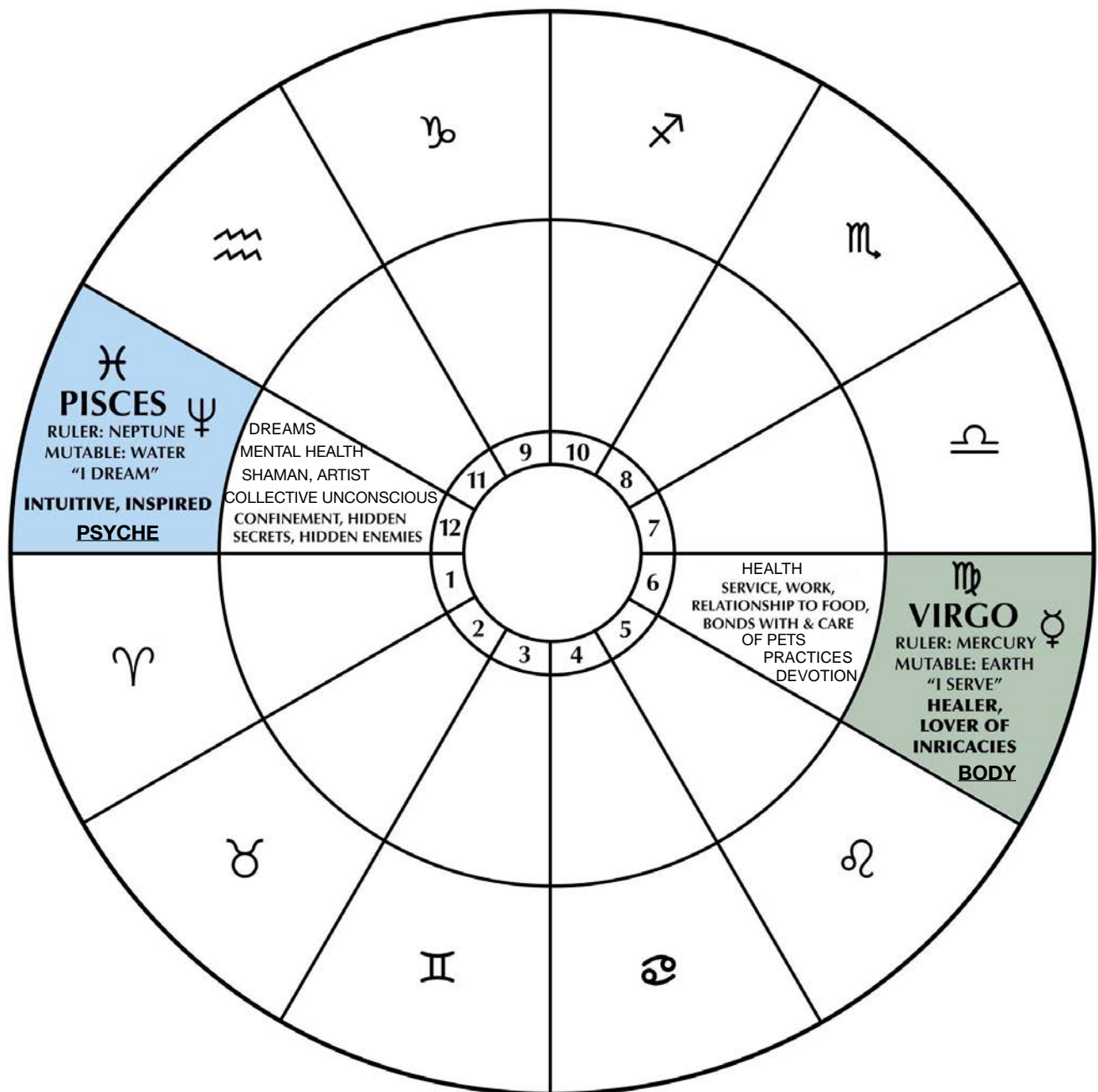
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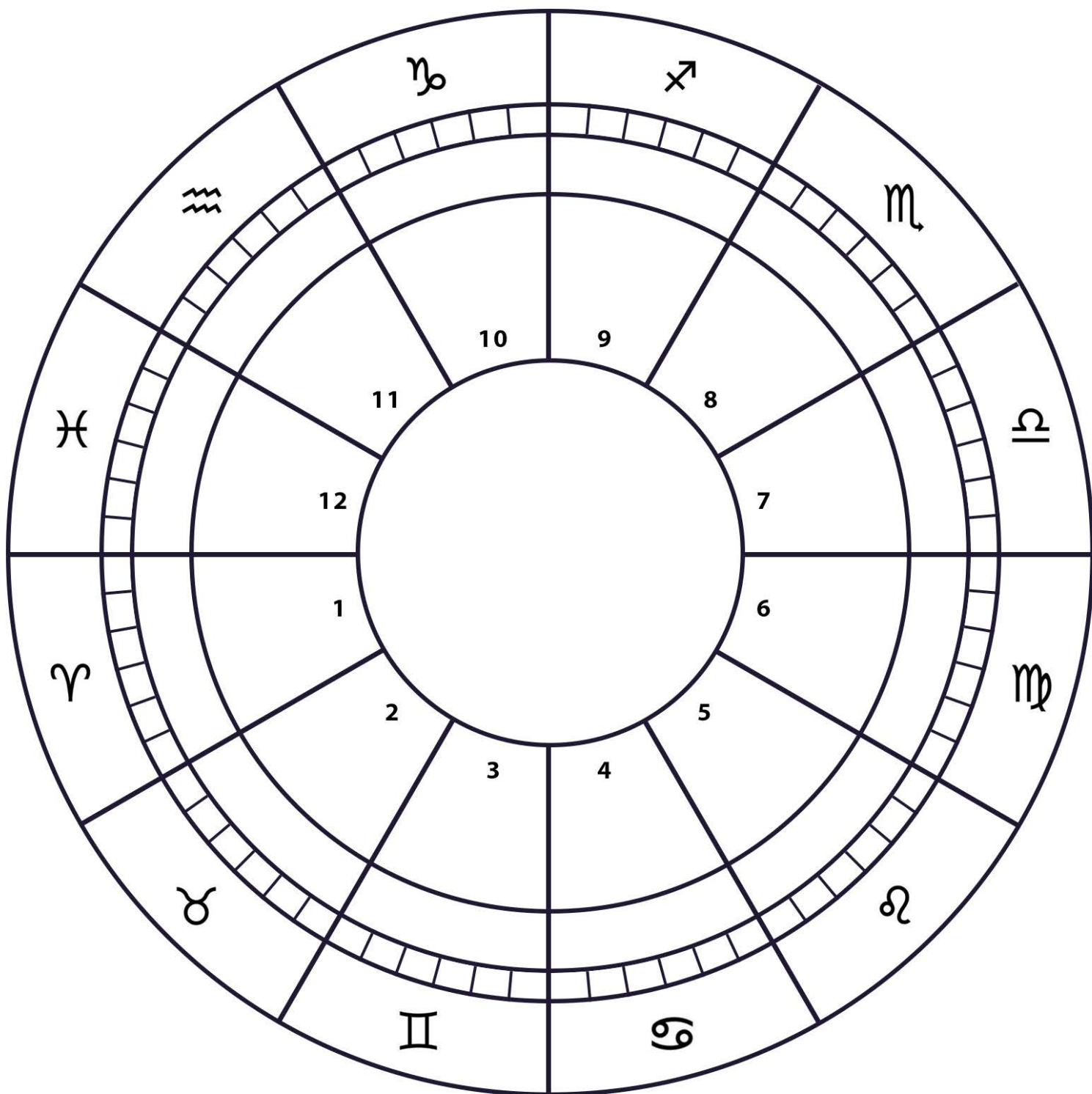




# *The 6-12 Houses*

## *Axis of the Body-Psyche*







## Angel on the Kitchen Floor

is there no more  
Dancing round this  
feminine House  
SHE has taken over

Altar of my being  
living room  
there the Women lie  
living Altar to our Lilith  
Holy ground of my Bodysoul

Now into the Wilds we go!  
where the birds and bees  
and dead Women lie  
Old parts of myself  
have given birth to THIS!  
Earth of my Soul!

So here I am once again  
an Angel, though not dead.  
I remember the heavy weight  
of our bodies colliding  
on that kitchen floor  
Weight of  
I AM HERE!  
I heard her/us cry!

Birtherd  
Fallen  
Risen  
Throw open the cupboard doors!  
tLIBERATE Lilith!  
Let the women  
FLYflyflyyyyyyy!

Let it out!  
Shake it out!  
Let Shakti out!  
I have arrived.





# Dedicated to my teacher, *Marion Woodman*

*“As consciousness develops, the body will act as a donkey for only so long,” Marion Woodman wrote. “Men as much as women need to know that their soul is grounded in their own loving matter: ‘This is who I am. Every cell in my body tells me this is of value to me — not to my persona, to me.’ ”*





# Kathleen Prophet

*Each one's Jewel is unique unto their life and wounds...  
extracting it is the Art*



**Kathleen Prophet** is a Storyteller, Astro Witch, Depth Artist, Underworld Guide, and author of Archetypal Astrology, Tales of the Wild Mother, and Myths of her Finno-Ugric Ancestors.

She is a ritual community leader of Seasonal portals & Dark Moon Rites. A mentor & guide into the Mysteries of the Holy Daemon, the Genius we are entrusted with to give birth to over our lifetime. She is also an Activist for Climate Change, Indigenous Peoples, Children & Social Justice.

In her workshops, trainings and Astro Readings, Kathleen guides humans into the heart of their Wild Soul's inner terrain to encounter the metamorphic power of the Self.

Through the dance with the Self in relationship with the Holy Wild forces of Nature without, the individual is awakened to the archetypal mythopoetic realm from which all magick, imagination and art arises. This results in a life fully lived and deeply loved. **Amor Fati!**

**Kathleen leads Embodied Arts workshops, Mythic Astrology events, Depth Writing classes and Ancestral Ritual pilgrimages in her Wild Crone School of Enchantments.**



