

THE SKY WITHIN

Report for Barbra Streisand
An Interpretation of Your Birth Chart
by
Steven Forrest



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The Sky Within

Barbra Streisand
Apr 24, 1942
05:08:00 AM EWT +04:00
Brooklyn Heights, NY
073W59'39" 40N41'43"

<u>Planet</u>	<u>Sign</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>House</u>
Sun	Taurus	03°Ta33'	01st	01 08°Ar16'
Moon	Leo	10°Le36'	05th	02 17°Ta25'
Mercury	Taurus	08°Ta07'	01st	03 13°Ge06'
Venus	Pisces	17°Pi35'	12th	04 04°Ca23'
Mars	Gemini	28°Ge51'	03rd	05 26°Ca22'
Jupiter	Gemini	19°Ge59'	03rd	06 24°Le39'
Saturn	Taurus	28°Ta12'	02nd	07 08°Li16'
Uranus	Taurus	28°Ta50'	02nd	08 17°Sc25'
Neptune	Virgo	27°Vi36'	06th	09 13°Sg06'
Pluto	Leo	03°Le29'	05th	10 04°Cp23'
	Capricorn	04°Cp23'	10th	11 26°Cp22'
Ascendant	Aries	08°Ar16'	01st	12 24°Aq39'

Planets within orb of 1.5 degrees of the following house cusp are displayed and interpreted as being in that house, except the Ascendant which uses 3 degrees.

*Orb Conjunctions with Sun or Moon are 8 degrees.
All orbs are set according to Steven Forrest's methods.*

THE SKY WITHIN

by Steven Forrest

Using Your Birthchart as a Spiritual Guide

A woman has a baby and is blissful about it. Another one does the same, and spends the rest of her life dreaming about how she might have been a ballerina. The same choice: having a child. But only one smiling woman.

Nobody has a generic formula for happiness, at least not one that does the trick for everyone. That's where astrology comes in.

The birthchart, stripped to bare bones, is simply a description of the happiest, most fulfilling life that's available to you... personally. It spells out a set of strategies you can use to avoid boring routines, bad choices, and dead ends. It lists your resources. And it talks about how your life looks when you're misusing the resources and distorting the strategies -- putting yourself in the foot, in other words.

All from a map of the sky?

Hard to believe. But think for a minute...

"How can the planets possibly affect us? They're millions of miles away." Astrology's critics are fond of rolling out that argument. But it doesn't hold water. Go out and gaze at the moon. What's really happening? Incomprehensible energies are plunging across a quarter million miles of void, crashing through your eyeballs and creating electrochemical changes in your brain. We call the process "seeing the moon." Certainly the planets affect us. The question is where do we draw the boundaries around those effects?

Let's go a step further.

Open your eyes on a starry night. What do you see? A vast, luminous space, full of shadows and light. Now close your eyes so tight they ache. Where are you now? What do you see? Again, a vast, luminous space, full of shadows and light. Consciousness and cosmos structured around the same laws, follow the same patterns, and even feel pretty much the same to our senses.

"As above, so below." Just as the starry night awes us with its vastness, there's something infinitely deep inside you, a place you go when you close your eyes, a place that's beyond signifying an Aries or a Gemini or even a specific gender. At the most profound level, a birthchart maps you back to that magical center. It describes a series of earthly experiences which, if you're brave and open enough, will trigger certain states of consciousness in you -- states that operate like powerful spiritual catalysts, vaulting you into higher levels of being.

On the pages that follow, you'll tour your personal birthchart. But don't expect the usual "horoscopes are sexy" stuff. You are a mysterious being in a mysterious cosmos. You're here just a little while, a blink of God's eye. You face a monumental task: figuring out what's going on! In that spiritual work, astrology is your ally. How will it help?

Certainly not by pigeon-holing you as a certain "type."

Astrology works by reminding you who you are, by warning you about the comforting lies we all tell ourselves, and by illuminating the experiences that trigger your most explosive insights in awareness.

After that, the rest is up to you.

YOUR TEN TEACHERS

Freud divided the human mind into three compartments: ego, id, and superego. Astrologers do the same thing, except that our model of the mind differs from Freud's in two fundamental ways. First, it's a lot more elaborate. Instead of three compartments, we have the Sun, Moon, and the eight planets we see from Earth. As we'll discover, each planet represents more than a "circuit" in your psyche. It also serves as a kind of "Teacher," guiding you into certain consciousness-triggering kinds of experience.

The second difference between astrology and psychology is that astrology's mind-map, like Freud's, is rooted in nature itself, just as we are.

The primary celestial teacher is the Sun. What does it teach? Selfhood. Vitality. How to keep the life-force strong in yourself. If the Sun grew dimmer, so would all the planets -- they shine by reflecting solar light. Similarly, if you fail to stoke the furnaces of your own inner fire, then you'll simply be "out of gas." All your other planetary functions will suffer too.

How do we learn this teacher's lessons?

Start by realizing that when you were born the Sun was in Taurus.

Peace, calm, naturalness -- those are the spiritual goals of the Bull. Silence too. But not the kind that comes from keeping your mouth closed. The Bull's silence is deeper: it's a quiet heart. Feel the wind in your hair. Feel the efficiency of your body, the rightness of its rhythms, the easy intelligence of your cells and muscles. That's Taurus. The part of you that's learning the lessons of the Bull is getting more grounded, more present, more receptive to immediate reality. As a result, it has a physical orientation and a practical feeling. It's not interested in abstract flights of speculation. It avoids the metaphysical Disneylands that tend to fascinate so many people. It specializes in the wordless mysticism of ordinary life.

Feed your Taurean side with hands-on work: gardening, crafting wood or cloth, communing with animals. Soothe it with music. Restore and renew it with time spent close to nature -- in the forest, in the mountain valley, by the ocean. Dress it in blue jeans and a flannel. And never, ever, ask it to go to a cocktail party!

With your Sun in Taurus, you renew your basic vitality in simple ways. Take a walk in the woods. Paddle a canoe. Build something of oak or maple. Your deepest nature is quiet, stable, solid. You benefit from having a strong tone of continuity in your life -- especially in your relationships. Keep in touch with old friends. Stay close to people who aren't too quick to get off on "trips," be they guru-scenes, make-a-million schemes, or a new kind of bean sprout. Change will change your life. At the deepest level, you are learning about calm and naturalness. Keep things simple.

Your practical skills are enormous: you understand the world of raw materials, of money, of daily life. Be careful those skills don't run away with you! A pitfall for you lies in getting so busy keeping all your responsibilities magnificently fulfilled that you starve yourself for quiet time. Then the Sun grows dimmer in you, and every other aspect of your character has to wait for light to reflect.

We can take our analysis of your natal Sun a step further. When you were born, that solar light illuminated the First house. What does that signify?

Start by realizing that Houses represent twelve basic arenas of life. There's a House of Marriage, for example, and a House of Career. Always, we find an element of "fate" in our house structures; the "Hand of God" continually presents us with existential and moral questions connected with our emphasized Houses. How we react and what we learn -- or fail to learn -- is our own business.

One brief technical note: Sometimes the Sun, the Moon, or a planet lies near the end of the house. We then say it's "conjunct the cusp" of the subsequent House, and interpret it as though it were a little further along... in the next House, in other words.

Stories always have two dimensions: plot and character. But on a deeper level the concepts merge. "Janie is shy." How do we know? "She walked into the room and didn't talk to anyone." Character is defined through action; action implies character -- that is, needs, desires, and values. In the First House, the territory you face is the plotting of your life -- and therefore the definition of your character.

First House energies "act out" a lot. They're a visible, dramatic, well-developed part of your nature. For that reason, this is a part of your life where people think you have a real gift for leadership. They're right -- but it doesn't always feel that way to you. How to get it right? Listen -- trust your instincts. Be yourself. A good plot proceeds from a sound, coherent character.

With your Sun in the First House, there's a lot of punch to your style. People tend to be impressed by you, to remember you. In fact, you sometimes have to make an effort to avoid overwhelming them. That charisma and apparent self-assurance masks the evolutionary issue you face: creating a destiny. Because, unlike most people, you were born without one! The "Hand of fate" plays a minimal role in your life. There's a frightening freedom built into this position. It all boils down to the words of St. Augustine, "Love God, and do what you love."

The next step in our journey through your birthchart carries us to the Moon.

As you might expect, Luna resonates with the magical, emotional sides of your psyche. It represents your mood, averaged over a lifetime. As the heart's teacher, it tells you how to feel comfortable, how to meet your deepest needs. While the Sun lets you know what kinds of experiences and relationships help you feel sane, the Moon is concerned with another piece of the puzzle: feeling happy.

When you were born, the Moon was in Leo.

When we hear "Lion," we think "fierce." But that's misleading. Go to the zoo and have a look at the "King of the Beasts." He's lying there, one eye open, looking regal. He knows he's the king. He doesn't need to make a fuss about it. The lion, like Leo at its best, radiates self-confidence. A happy, creative, comfortable participation in the human family -- that's what Leo the Lion is all about.

The evolutionary method is deceptively simple: creative self-expression. As we offer

presence of our internal processes to the world, we feel more at home, more accepted, more spontaneous -- provided the world claps its hands for us! That's the catch. Leo needs an appreciative audience. That audience can be a thousand people cheering or one person saying "I love you." Either way, it's applause, and for the Lion, that's evolutionary rocket

Toughing it out, not letting oneself be affected by a lack of support or understanding, may well be an important spiritual lesson -- but not for Leo. Here the evolutionary problem comes down to lack of real, ultimate trust in other people. The cure isn't toughness; it's finding a pattern of joyful give-and-take. So perform! And if no one claps, go somewhere else and perform again.

With your Moon in Leo, you have the instincts of a performer. To feel comfortable, you need to feel appreciated. That is to say, you need to feel as though people are enjoying you, getting pleasure and inspiration from what you have to offer them. This combination is a little tricky: the Moon, unlike Leo, is inherently timid. You must nurture the performer in yourself, being sure it's not too easily rebuffed. Some of that work revolves around cultivating your own creative talents, polishing them, making them all that they can possibly be. Another piece of the puzzle lies in learning to select the right audiences... and if you're giving your all and everybody's yawning, then for sure you'd better pack your bags and go somewhere else.

If you don't feed your Leo Moon the applause it needs, then you'll slip into the "occupational hazards" associated with this combination: getting haughty, self-centered, or arrogant. You'll be the "performer" who offers nothing, and still expects everyone's rapt attention.

Going farther, we see that your Moon lies in the Fifth house of your chart.

Pleasure -- that's Fifth House territory. It's as though God marched you off the end of the cosmic diving board with the words, "Go down there and try to have a good time!" That sounds pretty lightweight, but think about it: feeling good in this world isn't so easy! We've got global pollution, schizophrenics with AK-47s, ego-maniacs with nuclear warheads... not to mention disease, taxes, mosquitos, cars that won't start....

How do we feel real pleasure here on planet Earth? Alone, the "pleasures of the flesh" don't cut the mustard; money, alcohol, orgasms -- they help, but they're not enough... just look at the usual life-expectancy of a "purely physical relationship." Where to turn? To the pleasures of the mind, the heart, the soul! The joy of learning. The spiritual high of athletic excellence. The bliss of meditation. And, perhaps above all, the sheer pleasure of creative self-expression.

Astrological force is focused here in your birthchart. It offers joy -- and warns of the temptations that can overcome you if you miss that joy, or seek it all in one place.

With the Moon in the Fifth House, there's clearly a playful streak in your character, a desire to express yourself whimsically and creatively. Trouble is, it's fairly easily abashed. Your evolutionary challenge is to keep that "child within" alive and confident, despite the demands of life's early years. You have a terrific imagination. You can build inner worlds

ore breakfast. Make sure you enjoy the bliss of expressing that fantasy-life. If you don't, 'll try to make up the pleasure deficit in less healthy ways: stupid self-indulgences, cally with food or sex.

There's a third critical piece in your astrological puzzle -- the Ascendant, or rising sign. ng with the Sun and Moon, it completes the "primal triad." What is it? What does it in? Simple -- the Ascendant is the sign that was coming up over the eastern horizon at the ant of your birth. It's where the sun is at dawn, in other words. In exactly the same way, Ascendant represents how you "dawn" on people -- that is, how you present yourself. It's r "style," or your "mask."

The ascendant means more than that. It symbolizes a way you can help yourself feel tered, at ease, comfortable with who you are. If you get its message, then something iderful happens: your style hooks you into the world of experience in a way that feeds r spirit exactly the kinds of events and relationships you need. Your soul is charged with e enthusiasm for the life you're living -- and you feel vibrant, confident, and full of nal grace.

When you took your first breath, Aries was lifting over the eastern horizon of Brooklyn ghts, NY. Let's begin our analysis by considering the meaning and spiritual message of the i of "The Warrior".

Courage! That's what Aries is all about. Traditionally this sign is represented as the Ram fierce, frightening creature. That's a pretty good description of how this energy looks n the outside. Inside, it's different. Not the Ram, but the newborn robin, two days old, hatched from its shell, living in a world full of creatures who think of it as breakfast. s it cower? No -- the little bird flaps its stubby wings and squawks its head off, anding its right to exist. That's Aries: the raw primal urge to survive. Existential rage.

Courage is a funny virtue -- it has to be scared into a person. In the evolutionary scheme ife, Aries energy has a disconcerting property: it draws stress to itself. You can choose a of risk and adventure. Or you can choose a life of one damn thing after another. Refuse first, you'll get the second.

However gentle your intentions may be, with Aries rising, you often frighten people! r "mask" is direct, brusque, impulsively honest. Only people with solid ego-structures along easily with you -- unless you intentionally tone yourself down. That's something may learn to do in social or business situations, but it's no fun and doesn't contribute ctly to your happiness or sanity.

What helps you feel centered is basically "going for it" -- taking chances, putting yourself he line. That can involve adventure, or some sporting activity, but just as readily it can onfronting a friend with a real disagreement -- and those who are truly, naturally, your nds will enjoy that process rather than view it as a threat to your relationship. However look at it, one key notion emerges: for you to feel good, you need to feel the "edge" every / and then.

What have we learned so far? Quite a lot. Astrologers use the primal triad of Sun, Moon,

Ascendant in much the same way people who know just a little astrology use Sun signs. The difference is that while there are only twelve Sun signs, there are 1728 different combinations of all three factors. So when we say that you are a Taurus with the Moon in Aries and Aries rising, that's a very specific statement.

Here's a way to make those words come even more alive. Traditionally, signs are connected with Bulls and Sea-Goats and Scorpions -- creatures we don't see every day. But we can translate those images into more modern archetypes.

We can say you are "The Naturalist", or "The Elf", or "The Silent One". Those are just different ways of saying you have the Sun in Taurus.

We can say you have the soul of "The Performer", or "The Aristocrat", or "The Clown"... or Moon lies in Leo, in other words.

We can add that you wear the mask of "The Warrior", or "The Survivor", or "The Medevil". Those images capture the spirit of your Ascendant, which is Aries.

You can combine those archetypes any way you want. And you can go further: Once you have a feel for the three basic signs in your primal triad, you can make up your own images to go with them. Whatever words you choose, those simple statements are your fundamental astrological signature. It's your skeleton. Our next step is to begin adding flesh and hair to the skeleton by considering the planets.

Unsurprisingly, planets can gain prominence in a birthchart through association with the Sun, Moon, or Ascendant. These three are power brokers, and any linkage with them boosts a planet's influence.

We find exactly that situation in your case. Mercury lies in your First House, a part of the chart which is really just an extension of the Ascendant. Thus, Mercury adds yet another tone to your "mask," modifying and deepening some of what we've already seen.

Mercury buzzes around the Sun in eighty-eight days, making it the fastest of the planets. It buzzes around your head in exactly the same way: frantically. It's the part of you that never sleeps -- the endless firing of your synapses as your intelligence struggles to organize a picture of the world. Mercury represents thinking and speaking, learning and wondering. It is the perpetual observer, always curious. It represents your senses themselves and all the raw, unprocessed data that pours through them.

Mercury is shaped by the quiet, earthy reasonableness of Taurus. Your mind is not quick; instead, it's reflective and deep, with an instinctive appreciation of practicality and resourcefulness -- and for the eloquence of silence. Spiritually you are learning to use logic objectively as a convenient tool without becoming so identified with it that you become a human microchip.

With the traditional "Messenger of the Gods" occupying your First House, people's first impression of you is that you're a quick-witted person, radiating alertness and mental acuity. From an evolutionary perspective, you center yourself most effectively when you avoid freedom and mental stagnation as though they were dreadful viruses.

Your own birthchart is complicated by the fact that, at your birth, Mercury (described earlier) was aligned with the Sun... or "conjunct" the Sun, to use the proper astrological term. As a result, the energy and spirit of that planet is fused with your solar identity. In a sense, you are an "incarnation" of Mercury."

While a fairly large number of people have Mercury in that sign and house, the fact that it is conjunct your Sun gives it special emphasis. By pushing the strengths it suggests toward their limits, you charge your solar vitality, approach your destiny, and set the stage for fulfilling your spiritual purpose.

The lunar dimensions of your astrological signature are deepened by planetary overtones. From the instant your independent physical life began, the planet Pluto was conjunct the Moon -- aligned with it, in other words. As a result, we cannot discuss your emotions and instincts without including the notion that your Soul is charged with the spirit of Pluto, as though that ancient "god" lived inside you.

Our first step, of course, is to get acquainted with this new element in the puzzle.

"Life's a bitch. Then you die." Go to any boutique from coast to coast; you'll find those words on a coffee mug. Meaninglessness. Like most truly frightening ideas, we make a joke of it. That's Plutonian territory: the realm of all that terrifies us so badly we need to hide from death. Disease. Our personal shame. Sexuality, to some extent. Initially, Pluto asks us to

our own wounds, squarely and honestly. Then, if we succeed, it offers us a way to create an unshakable sense of meaning in our lives. How? Methods vary according to the Signs and Houses involved, but always they have one point in common: the high Plutonian path invariably involves accepting some trans-personal purpose in your life.

One more point: Pluto moves so slowly that it remains in a given Sign for many years. As a result, its Sign position in your birthchart refers not only to you but also to your generation. Its House position, however, is much more personal in its relevance.

Pluto was journeying slowly through the sign Leo. Thus the shadow material you are called upon to face has to do with the dark side of the Performer archetype: an obsession with being noticed. In what part of your life or personal history have you chosen style over substance, glitz over moral excellence? (If your answer is "Nowhere!" then congratulations... you're Enlightened... or not looking hard enough.)

At the moment of your birth, Pluto gleamed in the Fifth House... the most self-expressive House of the birthchart. Spirit has blessed you with creative passion. Find your art and cultivate it. But to create a sense of meaning in your life, that art must serve a purpose beyond mere entertainment. It must shake people into consciousness, shock them into wrestling with parts of their lives that aren't clean and clear. You have a mission in life, and it involves telling us what we'd prefer to avoid.

Your birthchart displays another area of heightened activity: the Third House. The reason for this is simple -- there's a lot of planetary activity. With Mars and Jupiter in that area of your life, it is charged with activity, soul lessons, and opportunities for personal development. Before we even consider the planets separately, our first step is to explore this area of existential real estate in broad terms.

Learning to see what's before your eyes -- that's Third House territory. Traditionally, this is the House of Communication. Perception might be a better word. The words on this page are "communicating" with you. But so does the blueness of the sky and the warmth of a friend's touch. Through your perceptions, the universe floods you with a continuous storm of information. Trouble is, we tend to miss most of it. How? By filtering it through the dark mesh of our preconceived notions and pet theories, often symbolized astrologically by whatever planets lie in this part of the birthchart.

The evolutionary question you're facing in this House is simple... to say. Can you keep a radically open mind? Can you really see what is before your eyes? Can you bleach your senses as clean as buffalo bones in the desert?

Spirit has given you intelligence and a capacity to communicate. It's given you curiosity. The discipline here is talking -- and listening. Experiencing -- and digesting. Understanding and endlessly questioning your understanding.

Pale red Mars suggested blood to our ancestors, and they named it the War God. That's an evocative metaphor -- Mars does represent violence. But today we go further. The red planet symbolizes the power of the Will. Assertiveness. Courage. Without it, there'd be no fire in the world. No spark. Where your Mars lies, you are challenged to find the Spiritual Warrior inside yourself, the part of you that's brave and clear enough to claim your own path and follow it.

Mars is vibrating in Gemini. When circumstances contrive to rob you of variety and vital stimulation, the Warrior inside you rises up and starts throwing Molotov cocktails. When you're bored, you're mean, in other words. Spiritually you're learning how to engineer - creatively, if necessary -- a fascinating, varied life, full of encounters with amazing dangers and astounding experiences.

With Mars occupying your Third House, the War-God sits on the tip of your tongue. Your speech tends to be direct, effective, and brusque. Reflexively, you satirize, even tease. It's likely that you'll be in a logical argument that you lose -- even when you're wrong! Be careful. In your sincere search for truth, you don't put people off with overly dramatic one-liners. After all, this is your life, not an Elizabeth Taylor-Richard Burton outing.

Take all the planets, all the meteors, moons, asteroids, and comets. Roll them up in a big ball of cosmic mush. They still wouldn't equal the mass of the "King of the Gods" -- Jupiter. Actually that same bigness pervades the planet's astrological spirit. Jupiter is the symbol of abundance and generosity, of opportunity and joy. At the deepest level, it represents faith... faith in life, that is, rather than faith in anybody's theological position papers.

Jupiter stands in Gemini. This is an important piece of information -- maybe a pivotal one. Being human is tough sometimes. When you need to boost your elemental faith in life, your power lies in following the Way of the Witness or the Storyteller. What that means is that when you're sad, the only cure is a big dose of amazement. Do something new. Take a chance. Learn something. Break up a routine. Have a fascinating conversation with an intriguing stranger. Almost invariably that will put the sparkle back in your eyes.

In your chart, the "King of the Gods" reigns in the Third House -- traditionally the "House of Communication." You are a natural teacher, able to convey not only information to people, but also enthusiasm for that information. Given time and an audience, you're a spellbinding storyteller. Spiritually, you are learning to gain confidence in the fact that you have a very specific kind of healing in your voice: you can give people hope, and doing that is a big piece of your destiny.

Your birthchart shows still another area where planets congregate: the Second. By combining forces, Saturn and Uranus emphasize that department of your life almost as powerfully as the Sun or Moon would.

Traditionally, the Second House is the House of Money. That's true, but the issues here are much broader. This is the House of Resources, and resources aren't always financial. If you're lost in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, at two in the morning, you'll probably feel pretty desperate. If you have a thousand dollars in your pocket, that'll help; you'll feel more confident. The money is a resource, and it produces the classic Second House effect: knowing you feel more confident. But speaking fluent Serbo-Croatian would do the same; knowing the language is a terrific resource, even though no one will give you a nickel for it.

Your Second House energies feel awkward, as if everyone is staring at them. Dignity and self-esteem are the issues here. The solution isn't some "We all God's chillin'" formula for ritual self-love. Instead, it's a process of recognizing your deficiencies objectively and trying to correct them: proving yourself to yourself, in other words.

Look at a NASA photo of Saturn. The icy elegance of the planet's rings, the pale re-statement of the cloud bands... both hint at the clarity and precision which characterize Saturn's astrological spirit. Part of the human psyche must be cold and calculating, cunning enough to survive in the physical world. Part of us thrives on self-discipline, seeks excellence, pays the price of devotion. Somewhere in our lives there's a region where nothing the best of what we are is enough to satisfy us. That's the high realm of Saturn. In its low m, we take one glance at those challenges and our hearts turn to ice. We freeze in fear, despair claims us.

The earthy terrain of Taurus offers a region of profound spiritual challenge for you, as Saturn was passing through that sign at your birth. You must learn to steel yourself in the shadow of the Bull's shadow side: spirit-numbing predictability. Will yourself toward openness! Throw a monkey wrench into your efficient systems! This is especially healing -- and challenging -- in the context of Saturn's House in your birthchart. Which House was that?

The Second! The arena of life where we must prove ourselves to ourselves -- or slip into crippling self-doubt. With Saturn here, you build faith in yourself brick by brick through working on long-term, often solitary, projects that ask for everything you can do. Depending on the tone of the rest of your birthchart, that could mean anything from medical school to a solo trek across Greenland by dogsled. You weren't born with a lot of faith in yourself, but you were born with the ability to earn it.

If Uranus were the only planet in the sky, we'd all be so independent we'd still be underthals throwing rocks at each other. There would be no language, no culture, no law. On the other hand, if Uranus did not exist, we'd all still be hauling rocks for Pharaoh. All individuality would be suppressed. This is the planet of individuation... the process whereby we separate out who we are from what everybody else wants us to be. Always it indicates an area of our lives in which, to be true to ourselves, we must "break the rules" -- that is, overcome the forces of socialization and peer pressure. In that part of our experience, what is our souls tends to annoy mom and dad... and all the "moms" and "dads" who lay down the law of the tribe.

With Uranus in Taurus, the process of individuation for you is tied up with the Path of the Earth Spirit. That is to say, you strengthen and clarify your own Uranian identity through opening your bond with nature -- and without that you're likely to clog up your life with unnecessary conservatism. Consciously chosen forays into the natural world, such as hiking, gardening, or close association with animals, purify your sense of self, purging out the various "inner voices" you've swallowed sitting in front of the great wraparound television of late twentieth century Industrial Culture.

House of Money -- that's the old name for the Second House, where your Uranus lies. The stakes are broader; not just money, but the whole basis for your self-confidence and sense of personal legitimacy. Uranus is your Teacher here, and the lesson can be summarized this way: what other people think of you is none of your business. That which "normally" gives people a sense of being "okay" -- lots of social approval and a middle-of-the-road position -- is not you utterly. You hear a different drummer. Trust your ears!

In the final analysis, all planets are important. Each one plays a unique role in your

elopmental pattern, and failure to feed any one of them results in a diminution of your . Just because the following planets aren't "having breakfast with the President" through ociation with the Sun, Moon, or Ascendant doesn't mean we can ignore them.

Venus is the part of your mental circuitry that's concerned with releasing tension and ntaining harmony. Its focus is always peace, inwardly and outwardly. As such, it esents your aesthetic functions -- your taste in colors, sounds, and forms. Why? Because perception of beauty soothes the human heart. Venus is also tied to your affiliative ctions -- your romantic instincts, your sense of courtesy or diplomacy, your taste in nds. Invariably, this planet has one goal: sustaining your serenity in the face of life's laughts.

Venus was passing through Pisces. Thus, both your aesthetic sensitivity and your taste in ners is shaped by the mystical, dream-like spirit of the Fishes. In the realm of beauty, ether natural or wrought by human hands, you have a taste for the fantastical, for the antic, for the spiritual. The same goes for friends and sexual partners -- you appreciate ividuals with vivid imaginations, a sense of magic, and a willingness to explore their own sciousness.

With Venus in your Twelfth House, your Inner Teacher is the Goddess of Beauty. nslated, that means that you benefit spiritually from immersing yourself in inspiringly ely surroundings. Ultimately, in this House we are learning the hard lesson of letting go -- therefore at least one of the most critical spiritual turning points for you revolves around loss of someone upon whom you've allowed yourself to depend a little too much.

You're lying in your bed, going to sleep. Suddenly a jolt runs through your body. You just ght yourself falling asleep." Where were you two seconds before the jolt? What were ? Astrologically, the answer lies with Neptune. This is the planet of trance, of meditation, reams. It represents your doorway into the "Not-Self." Based on the sign the planet opie, we identify a particularly critical spiritual catalyst for you... although we need to ember that Neptune remains in a Sign for an average of a little over thirteen years, so its 1 position actually describes not only you, but your whole generation. Its House position, ever, is more uniquely your own.

Neptune was passing through Virgo. Thus, to trigger higher states of consciousness in rself and to stimulate your psychic development, you may choose to follow the Path of Servant... that is consciously, intentionally to seek the perfection of those skills and ues in yourself which benefit others. Without exposure to the purifying, soul-bleaching cts of selfless service, you tend to drift away from Spirit, losing yourself in the mazes of y life -- or in the subtle ego-traps of meditation.

Neptune, planet of transcendence, occupies the Sixth House of your birthchart, where stical dimensions become linked to your natural skills and instincts for service. You grow itually through helping others -- and not because God hands out brownie points, but er because service, more than any other spiritual discipline, teaches us humility and passion. One more piece of the puzzle: You have a special instinct for working directly 1 other people's unconscious minds. This may mean you were born to help others unravel r dreams, or that you should work with guided imagery, or with hypnosis.

Your Lunar Nodes

The soul's journey

Here's a jolly baby. Here's a serious one. An alert one. A dull one. A wise one. Those are common nursery room observations, but they raise a fascinating question: How did that person get in there?

Most of our psychological theory, either technically or in folklore, is developmental theory... abuse a child and he'll grow up to be a child-abuser, for example. But in the eyes of a newborn infant, there is already character. How can that be? One might say it's heredity, that's certainly at least part of the answer. A large part of the world's population would say it's reincarnation -- that baby, for better or worse, represents the culmination of centuries of soul-development in many different bodies. A Fundamentalist might simply announce, "That's how God made the baby." Who's to say? But all three explanations hold one point in common: They all agree that we cannot account for what we observe in a baby's eyes without acknowledging the impact of events occurring before the child's birth.

In astrology, the South Node of the Moon refers to events occurring before your birth, bringing us to see what was in your eyes ten seconds after you were born... however we might figure it out! The Moon's North Node, always opposite the South Node, refers to your evolutionary future. It's a subtle point, but arguably the most important symbol in astrology. The North Node represents an alien state of consciousness and an unaccustomed set of circumstances. If you open your heart and mind to them, you put maximum tension on the deadening hold of the past.

As we consider the Nodes of the Moon in your birthchart, we'll be using the language of reincarnation. Whether that notion fits your own spiritual beliefs is of course your own business. If it doesn't work for you, please translate the ideas into ancestral hereditary terms. In any case, it makes little practical difference whether we speak of a certain farmer weeding his fields a thousand years before the Caesars as your great, great, mega-great grandfather... or as yourself in a previous incarnation. Either way, he's someone who lived way back there in history who sort of is you, sort of isn't, and lives on inside you--influencing but not ultimately defining you.

At your birth, the South Node of the Moon lay in Pisces, the sign of the Mystic. Anyone peering into your eyes as you took your first breath would have observed an eerie wisdom, as though he or she were looking into the eyes of a Buddha. For centuries, you've been exploring altered states, typically in the context of spiritual traditions and institutions but occasionally in other ways... like the "trance" induced by alcohol or opium. As a result, an intuitive grasp of sacred and higher states of consciousness has arisen in you. Now, like one who has become heavenly to be of any earthly good, you must learn new lessons: practical helpfulness toward others and a willingness to face squarely the mucky details of getting free.

That nascent ability to willingly and effectively accept the yoke of service is symbolized by your North Node of the Moon, which lies in Virgo -- the sign of the Craftsperson. As we

earlier, the North Node can be seen as the most significant point in the entire birthchart. Why? Because it represents your evolutionary future... the ultimate reason you're alive, in other words. How can you accomplish this Virgoan spiritual work? The "yoga" is easy to say, harder to do: you must overcome the myth of "World Transcendence" inside yourself, and in polishing a set of skills with which you can address the pain of other people, one by one.

There's another piece to the puzzle: The Moon's South Node falls in the Twelfth House of your chart. This implies that previous to this lifetime you learned a great deal about letting go of your attachments. You've probably done some of that work in the context of a spiritual discipline, but other times you've learned the hard way -- by experiencing searing, ego-shattering losses. Those losses sometimes taught you profound spiritual lessons; other times, they merely drove you into numbing addictions.

In this lifetime, with your North Node of the Moon in the Sixth House, you must act to counterbalance some of that focus on releasing and transcending... not because it's "wrong," because you've already learned everything you can from it. The time has come for you to concentrate on making concrete commitments, humbling yourself before them and carrying them through to successful conclusions. What kinds of commitments? The only kind that will fully hold your attention in this lifetime: commitments to helping other people.

And that's your birth chart.

Trust it; the symbols are Spirit's message to you. In the course of a lifetime, you'll make a million choices. Any one of them could potentially hurt you terribly, sending you down a crooked road. How can you steer a true course? The answer is so profound that it circles the globe and sounds trivial: listen to your heart, be true to your soul. Noble words and accurate signs, but tough to follow.

The Universe, in its primal intelligence, seems to understand that difficulty. It supplies us with many external supports: Inspiring religions and philosophies. Dear friends who hold the torch of truth before us. Omens of a thousand kinds. And, above all, the sky itself, which delivers its cryptic message above each newborn infant.

In these pages, you've experienced one reading of that celestial message as it pertains to you. There are others. You may want to consider sitting with a real astrologer ... micro-chips are fine, but a human heart can still express nuances of meaning that no computer can grasp. You may want to order other reports, ones that illuminate your current astrological "weather," or ones that analyze important relationships. Best of all, you may choose to learn this ancient language yourself, and begin unraveling your own message in your own words.

Whatever your course, we thank you for your time and attention, and wish you grace for your journey.