

THE TWELFTH HOUSE, PART II—THE MYSTERY UNFOLDS

We can view the relationship between the Soul and the personality as a charioteer and his three horses. The chariot itself can be looked at as the synthesized personality energized by its three component parts (the horses): the physical, emotional, and mental bodies. When the three horses are working in unison under the direction of the charioteer, the chariot may be easily directed on its path. If, however, the three horses are left to travel without the inspiration of the charioteer, the journey becomes aimless or at the very least only takes the chariot to places of interest to the animals.

--A.O.

In the first Part of this article, we discussed the meaning of the Twelfth House and the indications that each of the signs brings to the natal chart when on the cusp of this, the most mysterious of the astrological domiciles. In Part II of this subject, I would like to present the meaning of the planetary ruler of the Twelfth when it occupies the other houses of the horoscope. The pattern of locating the rulers of the various houses in the natal chart is of utmost importance to all beginning and intermediate student of astrology—advanced and professional astrologers should have by now become quite familiar with this technique of interpretation. The ruler is quite simple to determine. All one needs to do is to ascertain the sign on the cusp of the house in question and locate its ruling planet in the chart. The resulting information will help you to see how the interactions of planetary forces play themselves out in the birth map.

The special significance of the Twelfth House is its association with the collective. It is thus the storehouse of what we have experienced from other turns of the astrological wheel. Those students of astrology who believe in reincarnation tend to associate the Twelfth with the accumulation of karma from past lives. But no matter what our spiritual beliefs, it is true that at the very least the Twelfth will store and record the synthesis of, both positive and negative events from the cycles and experiences of this lifetime. The Twelfth should therefore be considered as our “secret attic,” holding both our treasures and our junk. This is the last house of the horoscope and as such, it contains our reserves of power and potency from all the good we have done as well as those characteristics that bring us

into the more troublesome circumstances we encounter in life. It is this factor that leads astrologers to call the Twelfth, “the House of self-undoing.”

When the ruler of the Twelfth is in the First House: A person with this position tends to bring his hidden elements, talents, strengths and weaknesses to the forefront of his life. When positive, this placement makes it very easy to tap into one’s secret potentials. When negative, such a condition creates a lot of chaos for it is then that one cannot escape confronting those situations and conditions in our life that get us into difficulties. It can be said that when Mercury is square to Neptune in the natal chart, a person has a difficult time expressing truth; self-deceit is rampant, as one tends to make up stories or mask the clarity of concise and one-pointed communication. Should Virgo be on the Twelfth House cusp for example, Mercury would be the ruler of this house and if placed in the First and square Neptune, you can be sure that one of the primary challenges such a person would face would be his or her inability to distinguish fact from fiction. But should the ruler of the Twelfth be well aspected in the First by other planets, then the person may expect many surprising positive experiences. Such rewards would seem to come “out of nowhere.” Capricorn on the Twelfth House cusp for example, would naturally make Saturn its ruler. Should Saturn be in the First and trine to Jupiter, then the individual would be quite prone to receiving many benefits from older people, not the least of which would be wise advice, guidance and perhaps (if Jupiter were in an earthy sign and/or positively connected to the Second or Eighth Houses) some financial rewards as well. This individual could also expect hidden and/or long-term investments to pay off when least expected.

When the ruler of the Twelfth is in the Second House: If the ruler of the Twelfth is Venus (Taurus or Libra on the cusp) and poorly aspected, or if the ruler is any other planet but poorly aspected *by* Venus (or the natal ruler of the Second), care must always be taken with money and other material resources. If Libra is on the Twelfth and Venus is afflicted in the Second, financial harm will come through partnerships, especially when they are of a clandestine nature. There is also the tendency to waste money, especially if Jupiter is the

afflicting planet. If ruler of the Fifth is afflicting the ruler of the Twelfth when in the Second, financial difficulties come through children or gambling. Likewise, if the ruler of the Sixth afflicts the ruler of the Twelfth when in the Second, financial troubles come through employees. If on the other hand, the ruler of the Twelfth is in the Second and well aspected especially by Venus, Jupiter, or Pluto, financial help and strong benefits are likely especially from unlikely or hidden sources. The student should always refer to the keywords for the meanings of the houses, stringing them together will unfold the entire horoscope for you.

When the ruler of the Twelfth House is in the Third: If the ruling planet is well aspected, then the person will have a sort of “inner guidance system” as part of her communication equipment. The influence of the ruler of the Twelfth House is not as easily apparent as say the rulers of the Ascendant or Midheaven. The influence that the Twelfth House ruler wields tends to be more subtle than obvious. This is especially true when placed in the cadent houses of the natal map. If Aquarius is on the cusp of the Twelfth and Uranus is therefore the ruler and well aspected in the Third for example, the individual is bound to be quite intuitive and have the ability to understand the results of many life situations before all the events have played themselves out. But should Uranus be in this position but square or opposed Mercury, intuition conflicts with reason and the person may easily jump to the wrong conclusion or entertain several conflicting conclusions simultaneously. The latter would be especially the case if the mutable signs were involved. Thus the notion that one is unfailing in one’s intuitive perceptions in this case is definitely a source or cause for one’s “self-undoing.” As the Third is the house of siblings, the placement of the ruler of the Twelfth within this domicile may also indicate a very special karmic bond between the native and a brother or sister. The nature of this karma can be delineated through a close examination of the planet(s) involved.

When the ruler of the Twelfth House is in the Fourth: Should the individual be spiritually aware and the ruler is well aspected, the indications are that such a person will

have an understanding of life that goes beyond his or her actual experience. If the ruler is Uranus, Neptune or Pluto in this position, this profound understanding of life is at the very foundation of his or her nature. Should the watery signs be involved in this combination, look for a deeply psychic nature, one that reveals a sincere empathy with all and everyone. If the ruler of the Twelfth in this position is poorly aspected (especially by Neptune or Pluto or the ruler *is* one of these planets and is afflicted), there is a tendency to mistrust life and a general sense of apprehension will color the personality. If Saturn is the afflicting planet (or the planet afflicted) in this position, melancholy and “unnamed” fears are likely. If the Moon and especially the sign Cancer are involved, look for the above indications to be strongly marked. But should the Moon and Cancer be well situated, kindness and generosity of spirit will strongly characterize the person’s nature. In effect the Twelfth House/Fourth House combination takes what is most inclusive within us and brings it into our personal, psychological roots and our instinctual nature is modified accordingly. In the examples given above, this can lead either to an exaggeration of our primal fears or an expansion of our goodwill and compassion.

When the ruler of the Twelfth House is in the Fifth: The result of this combination can lead to a mode of self-expression that is filled with universal symbolism. This can produce an artist whose paintings evoke a widely accepted general approval and/or whose efforts are understood by all regardless of race, religion or nationality. In effect, the artist’s work transcends the usual boundaries that separate people, thus linking personal creativity (Fifth House) with collective or universal applications (Twelfth House). This ruler/house combination may also give rise to a writer whose words evoke a common bond of experience in all who read him. A poorly aspected Twelfth House ruler in this position if found in the horoscope of an emotionally immature person is likely to produce circumstances that lead to romantic addictions: co-dependency, an insatiable need for romantic stimulation, poorly selected lovers who add chaos to the life, etc. This would be especially true if the sign Libra were present and/or Venus and Neptune as the planetary

significators.

When the ruler of the Twelfth House is in the Sixth: Certain challenges to one's health are possible if the planetary significators of this combination are afflicted. Let's say that Neptune in Virgo is the natal ruler of the Twelfth (Pisces on the cusp) and is in the Sixth House (Virgo on the cusp) square or opposite Mercury. Problems may come about through drug addiction or even hypochondria. Such addictive circumstances could be increased if Saturn (especially if afflicted in a fixed sign) were also involved as the latter rules habit patterns. Yet should the connection of this planetary ruler/house combination be positive, looks for a person whose skills, tools, and urge to be of service draw him to aid those in prisons, hospitals, asylums, and other institutions. Because the Sixth is the House of self-improvement, when it is linked harmoniously to the Twelfth a universal element is added, thus giving one the potential to enlarge one's knowledge of all things curative. This would be the case especially if Jupiter were also prominent in the chart.

When the ruler of the Twelfth House is in the Seventh: When this planet/house combination is positive, the karma of personal relationships is such, that a person can make tremendous spiritual progress through his or her partnerships. People tend to enter one's life with tremendous lessons to teach us and visa-versa. Very often when the ruler of the Twelfth is in the Seventh, we have relationships with people to whom we feel a great previously established bond: "Although we have only recently met, it's like we have known each other all our lives!" This is a typical reaction when the ruler of the house of universal experience is found in the house of relationships. Conversely, should afflictions exist (especially if the Moon, Venus and Neptune and their respective signs are involved), then relationships are apt to be fraught with confusion and difficulty. Care has to be taken not to overly idealize the people with whom one is in relationship as the urge to say that so-and-so is my "soul-mate" or the unending search for same can become obsessive.

When the ruler of the Twelfth House is in the Eighth: Should there be afflictions to the Twelfth House ruler in this position (especially from Mars, Pluto, Neptune and/or the ruler

of the Eighth), harmful or addictive sexual behavior can lead to a person's self-undoing. In extreme instances, the mishandling of sexual energy can lead to financial ruin, prison or death. Yet in the life of a psychologically mature, soul-centered individual, this position gives enormous potential for spiritual (and terrestrial) growth. Two things should be kept in mind: 1. You are placing the Twelfth House energies of universal experience in the Eighth House of transformation and regeneration and 2. There is a strong esoteric link between these two houses as Pluto is the soul-centered ruler of Pisces! Thus in the first case, there is the natural inclination to regenerate universal resources potentially leading to great spiritual and material riches. In the second case, the ultimate death of the personality occurs when the lower and higher selves merge. This final freedom severs the tie linking (as well as separating) the two Fish thus enabling the liberation/transcendence of the little ego (Eighth House).

When the ruler of the Twelfth House is in the Ninth: A natural and positive affinity exists between these two houses and Jupiter is both the co-ruler of Pisces (Twelfth) and the ruler of Sagittarius (Ninth). Thus this planetary ruler/house combination gives a natural attraction to deep metaphysical and occult knowledge. As the Twelfth is the house of all things hidden and the Ninth is the "Encyclopedia of the Zodiac," this combination can also stimulate and interest in (ancient) history, museums, and other profound knowledge-based cultural pursuits (archaeology, anthropology, etc.). This would be especially the case if Jupiter were either the ruler or harmoniously in aspect to the ruler. In this case, foreign travel will be a source of great learning for the person fortunate enough to have such a placement in his or her natal chart. If there are planetary afflictions involved with this combination (especially from Saturn, Neptune or Jupiter), one might feel like a perpetual "victim of the Inquisition," as surrounding religious and philosophical beliefs will be experienced as oppressive or restrictive to one's own philosophical development.

When the ruler of the Twelfth House is in the Tenth: If well placed, the individual may have a profound talent for business strategy. He or she will certainly have an abundance of

hidden resources (in the form of people, knowledge, and/or money) that can be quite useful in the achievement of professional goals. The individual may be familiar with business patterns or universal economic cycles that aid and support his own agenda. This would be especially the case if the signs Cancer and Capricorn were present and Saturn was well configured in the chart. In soul-centered astrology, we think of Saturn as “Lord of the Third Ray.” This Ray represents the energy of economics and a person gifted with this energy field knows how to make the most out of the least. This planet/house link may also serve a person well in the ability to “pull a rabbit out of a hat.” The person is likely to say, “I don’t know how I accomplished what I did; I must have a secret helper!” On the other hand, if the ruler is afflicted in the Tenth, then subterfuge and deceit are likely. The influence of gangsters and other unsavory characters can bring ruin and self-destruction, thus completely annihilating one’s career and social ambitions.

When the ruler of the Twelfth House is in the Eleventh: Depending on the condition of the planet in question, this combination may either bestow a highly inclusive understanding of human nature or one may too easily lose oneself in the activities of social groups and organizations. If the individual is intellectually gifted, this planet/house combination contributes to a profound understanding of the political and sociological dynamics not only of the present times but also of the historical context leading to current world situations. In the lives for people less formally educated, it gives a healthy dose of “good common sense.” The individual can rightly say: “I know people, their habits and their customs. There is nothing about human nature that surprises me.” But should the ruler of the Twelfth be afflicted in the Eleventh (especially if Uranus is involved), then there is a tendency to join those groups and organizations that are not supportive of one’s highest good; one may even find oneself a member of some religious and/or political cult.

When the ruler of the Twelfth House is in the Twelfth: This planet/house combination contributes to an individual seeking solitude in the pursuit of his or her special interests. It is thus an indication in the horoscope of a person who may either be an expert at research

or simply just a recluse. If for example, the ruler of the Twelfth were the Moon (Cancer on the cusp) and the latter were in Cancer in the Twelfth and well aspected, the individual might easily be involved in shelters for victims of domestic abuse.

In the less mature (and with the Moon afflicted by Saturn and/or Neptune), this position can lead to a great deal of unhealthy self-absorption with one's emotional state. The internationally known anthropologist, Dr. Margaret Mead had the ruler of her Twelfth (Saturn) conjunct to Jupiter in the Twelfth. Dr. Mead spent decades isolated in remote corners of the world studying the habits and customs of island cultures and won numerous honors for her contributions to a more universal understanding of human life.

©Alan Oken, All Rights Reserved