

Raziel's

INTRODUCTORY COURSE TO

MEDIEVAL

ASTROLOGY

*A Clear and Practical Guide to the
Timeless Wisdom of the Stars*



stera docent,
non cogunt.
Intellige caelum,
intellige te ipsum.

RAZIEL MAGUS

RAZIEL'S INTRODUCTORY COURSE TO MEDIEVAL ASTROLOGY

A practical foundation for reading the traditional chart

Raziel Magus

Beginner Level • Seven Planets • Whole Sign Houses • Traditional Doctrine

About This Course

This is a concise introduction to the vocabulary and method of Classical and Medieval astrology. It is designed for the beginning student who wants a coherent system before attempting prediction, horary judgment, elections, or advanced natal delineation.

The course uses a lesson-based structure, concrete analogies, tables, worked examples, review questions, and simple exercises. It draws upon the historical tradition represented by Hellenistic, Persian, Arabic, and Latin astrologers, while presenting the material in an original voice and arrangement.

Important Scope

This is an introductory course. It teaches the grammar of the chart: planets, signs, houses, rulers, dignities, aspects, sect, and basic synthesis. It does not attempt a complete treatment of primary directions, profections, solar revolutions, firdaria, lots, medical astrology, or astrological magic.

A Note on Sources and Intellectual Property

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How to Use the Course

1. Read one lesson at a time. Do not memorize every keyword on the first pass.
2. Keep a printed chart beside you and locate each item as it is introduced.
3. Complete the review questions before consulting the answer key.
4. Repeat the worked examples using a different chart.
5. Learn to make a judgment from several testimonies, not from one placement.

Orientation: What Is Medieval Astrology?

Medieval astrology is the continuation and development of an older astrological tradition. Its foundations were formed in the Hellenistic world, preserved and expanded by Persian and Arabic-speaking scholars, translated into Latin and Castilian, and practiced throughout medieval and early modern Europe.

The word medieval refers to a historical period, but the method is not merely an antique curiosity. It is a disciplined way of reading a chart. The astrologer identifies the planet that signifies a person or matter, examines its condition, and judges what it can accomplish in the part of life shown by the relevant house.

The Basic Sentence of Traditional Astrology

A planet acts according to its nature, through the condition of its sign, in the objective affairs of its house, while being helped or hindered by its relationships with other planets.

What Makes This Different from Modern Astrology?

- The chart is read primarily as a description of life and circumstances, not merely as a map of personality.
- Planets are the principal agents. Signs qualify them. Houses locate their actions.
- Rulership is central. A house is judged through its ruler as well as planets placed within it.
- Benefic and malefic conditions are acknowledged directly rather than renamed as vague opportunities.
- Prediction begins with the natal promise. Timing techniques do not create what the nativity does not meaningfully indicate.

Why Only Seven Planets?

The traditional system was built from the seven wandering lights visible to the unaided eye: Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, the Sun, Venus, Mercury, and the Moon. Their speed, brightness, phases, relation to the Sun, and rulership of the zodiac form one integrated structure.

This course does not use Uranus, Neptune, Pluto, Chiron, or asteroids. This is not because modern astronomy is rejected. It is because adding new rulers changes the grammar of the inherited system. A student should first learn the complete traditional structure before experimenting with additions.

Why Whole Sign Houses?

In Whole Sign houses, the entire sign containing the Ascendant becomes the first house. The next sign becomes the second house, and the sequence continues one sign per house. This method is clear, historically early, and especially useful for learning rulership and topical judgment.

The exact degree of the Ascendant remains important. It marks the eastern horizon and helps judge angularity and other techniques. But it does not divide the first sign into two houses. The sign remains a complete place.

Beginner Rule

Do not mix systems while learning. Use the tropical zodiac, seven planets, traditional rulerships, and Whole Sign houses throughout this course.

Lesson 1: The Visible Heavens and the Traditional Chart

1.1 The Geocentric View

Astrology describes the heavens as they appear from Earth. This is a geocentric viewpoint. It does not require the claim that Earth is physically the center of the solar system. It means that the chart records celestial positions relative to the observer on Earth.

From this viewpoint, planets rise in the east, culminate near the meridian, set in the west, and pass beneath the Earth. Their daily movement through the houses is called primary or diurnal motion. Their slower movement through the zodiac is their secondary motion.

Analogy: The Theater

Imagine the zodiac as the circular stage setting, the houses as twelve regions of action seen from your seat, and the planets as the actors. The signs describe the conditions in which an actor must perform. The houses describe where the scene takes place.

1.2 The Zodiac

The zodiac is an ideal circle of 360 degrees divided into twelve signs of 30 degrees each. Western traditional astrology ordinarily uses the tropical zodiac, beginning with Aries at the vernal equinox.

The signs are not planets and do not act by themselves. They are places with qualities and rulers. A planet occupying a sign is like a traveler staying in a country governed by a particular lord. The traveler may be welcomed, ignored, strengthened, restrained, or placed under obligation.

1.3 The Four Angles

Angle	Meaning
Ascendant (ASC)	Eastern horizon; life, body, the native, beginning of the chart.
Midheaven (MC)	Upper meridian; public action, authority, culmination, reputation.
Descendant (DSC)	Western horizon; partners, opponents, the other person.
Imum Coeli (IC)	Lower meridian; roots, land, home, endings, foundations.

In Whole Sign houses the Midheaven may fall in the ninth, tenth, or eleventh sign from the Ascendant. The tenth whole-sign house remains the tenth topic, while the degree of the Midheaven adds a point of public action and culmination.

1.4 Direct, Retrograde, and Stationary Motion

- Direct: the planet moves forward through the zodiac in the usual order of signs.

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- Retrograde: the planet appears to move backward from Earth. Traditionally this often shows reversal, return, delay, instability, or acting contrary to ordinary procedure.
- Stationary: the planet appears nearly motionless before changing direction. A station intensifies attention and can show a turning point.

Review Questions

6. What does geocentric mean in practical astrology?
7. What is the difference between a sign and a house?
8. Name the four angles.
9. What does retrograde motion often add to a judgment?

Lesson 2: The Seven Planets

The planets are the principal agents of the chart. Each has an essential nature and a range of natural significations. Yet a planet never operates in isolation. Its sign, house, sect, speed, phase, dignity, and aspects determine how effectively it can express what it signifies.

Planet	Elemental Nature	Sect	Domiciles	Exaltation	Fall	Detriments	Core Significations
Saturn	Cold and dry	Diurnal	Capricorn, Aquarius	Libra	Aries	Cancer, Leo	Limits, age, delay, endurance, scarcity, land, labor, sorrow, authority earned through time.
Jupiter	Hot and moist, temperate	Diurnal	Sagittarius, Pisces	Cancer	Capricorn	Gemini, Virgo	Growth, law, religion, wealth, children, protection, honors, counsel, generosity.
Mars	Hot and dry	Nocturnal	Aries, Scorpio	Capricorn	Cancer	Libra, Taurus	Severing, heat, conflict, courage, tools, surgery, competition, anger, decisive action.
Sun	Hot and dry	Diurnal ruler	Leo	Aries	Libra	Aquarius	Life, authority, rank, visibility, father in a day chart, honors, leadership, illumination.
Venus	Moist and temperate	Nocturnal	Taurus, Libra	Pisces	Virgo	Aries, Scorpio	Union, pleasure, beauty, agreement, marriage, friendship, adornment, music, reconciliation

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Mercury	Variable, usually dry	Variable	Gemini, Virgo	Virgo	Pisces	Sagittarius, Pisces	Speech, writing, trade, calculation, interpretation, craft, messengers, ambiguity, adaptation.
Moon	Cold and moist, changeable	Nocturnal ruler	Cancer	Taurus	Scorpio	Capricorn	Body, change, travel, crowds, mother in many contexts, habits, nourishment , daily conditions.

2.1 Benefics and Malefics

Jupiter and Venus are naturally benefic because their temperate qualities tend to preserve, unite, nourish, and increase. Saturn and Mars are naturally malefic because excess cold or heat tends to restrict, sever, injure, or destroy. The Sun, Moon, and Mercury can produce benefit or harm according to condition and context.

Benefic does not mean morally good, and malefic does not mean morally evil. A surgeon may be signified by Mars because surgery cuts. A judge enforcing a necessary limitation may be signified by Saturn. The question is what kind of action occurs and whether it supports the matter being judged.

2.2 Planetary Speed and Order

In the traditional order from slowest and farthest to fastest and nearest, the planets are Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Sun, Venus, Mercury, and Moon. The Moon changes most quickly and therefore often carries events, transfers influence, and describes immediate circumstances.

2.3 A Practical Way to Learn the Planets

Do not begin by memorizing hundreds of keywords. Begin with each planet's central action:

- Saturn limits and preserves through resistance and time.
- Jupiter increases and protects through order, law, and confidence.
- Mars cuts, heats, separates, and compels action.
- The Sun illuminates, ranks, centers, and grants visibility.
- Venus joins, reconciles, attracts, and gives pleasure.
- Mercury connects, translates, calculates, and changes with company.
- The Moon receives, carries, nourishes, fluctuates, and manifests daily life.

Exercise

Choose an occupation and identify the planets naturally connected with it. A lawyer may involve Jupiter for law, Mercury for argument and documents, the Sun for authority, and Mars when litigation becomes conflict. The chart will show which planet has the strongest right to signify the actual profession.

Saturn

Saturn is described as cold and dry. It belongs primarily to the diurnal sect. Its domiciles are Capricorn, Aquarius; its exaltation is Libra; its fall is Aries; and its detriment signs are Cancer, Leo.

Limits, age, delay, endurance, scarcity, land, labor, sorrow, authority earned through time.

When strong and well placed, Saturn can give discipline, endurance, administration, historical memory, serious study, and the ability to carry burdens. When damaged or badly placed, it can signify fear, isolation, poverty, obstruction, grief, or harsh authority.

Beginner Observation

Find Saturn in a chart. Record its sign, house, whether the chart is day or night, and the planets aspecting it. Do not interpret yet. First learn to describe its condition accurately.

Jupiter

Jupiter is described as hot and moist, temperate. It belongs primarily to the diurnal sect. Its domiciles are Sagittarius, Pisces; its exaltation is Cancer; its fall is Capricorn; and its detriment signs are Gemini, Virgo.

Growth, law, religion, wealth, children, protection, honors, counsel, generosity.

When strong, Jupiter gives sound judgment, legitimacy, patrons, abundance, religious or legal learning, children, and confidence. When corrupted, it may promise too much, excuse excess, or produce privilege without restraint.

Beginner Observation

Find Jupiter in a chart. Record its sign, house, whether the chart is day or night, and the planets aspecting it. Do not interpret yet. First learn to describe its condition accurately.

Mars

Mars is described as hot and dry. It belongs primarily to the nocturnal sect. Its domiciles are Aries, Scorpio; its exaltation is Capricorn; its fall is Cancer; and its detriment signs are Libra, Taurus.

Severing, heat, conflict, courage, tools, surgery, competition, anger, decisive action.

When moderated, Mars grants courage, technical skill, decisive leadership, athletics, surgery, and the capacity to confront danger. When excessive, it signifies anger, accident, violence, fever, severance, and reckless competition.

Beginner Observation

Find Mars in a chart. Record its sign, house, whether the chart is day or night, and the planets aspecting it.

Do not interpret yet. First learn to describe its condition accurately.

Sun

Sun is described as hot and dry. It belongs primarily to the diurnal ruler sect. Its domiciles are Leo; its exaltation is Aries; its fall is Libra; and its detriment signs are Aquarius.

Life, authority, rank, visibility, father in a day chart, honors, leadership, illumination.

The Sun signifies unity, command, visibility, honor, and the organizing center. A strong Sun can show authority and recognition. A damaged Sun can show loss of rank, pride without support, or conflict with superiors.

Beginner Observation

Find Sun in a chart. Record its sign, house, whether the chart is day or night, and the planets aspecting it. Do not interpret yet. First learn to describe its condition accurately.

Venus

Venus is described as moist and temperate. It belongs primarily to the nocturnal sect. Its domiciles are Taurus, Libra; its exaltation is Pisces; its fall is Virgo; and its detriment signs are Aries, Scorpio.

Union, pleasure, beauty, agreement, marriage, friendship, adornment, music, reconciliation.

Venus brings agreement, attraction, pleasure, beauty, friendship, and social harmony. When weak or corrupted, pleasure may become waste, desire may override judgment, or relationships may become unstable.

Beginner Observation

Find Venus in a chart. Record its sign, house, whether the chart is day or night, and the planets aspecting it. Do not interpret yet. First learn to describe its condition accurately.

Mercury

Mercury is described as variable, usually dry. It belongs primarily to the variable sect. Its domiciles are Gemini, Virgo; its exaltation is Virgo; its fall is Pisces; and its detriment signs are Sagittarius, Pisces.

Speech, writing, trade, calculation, interpretation, craft, messengers, ambiguity, adaptation.

Mercury takes on the nature of planets joined to or strongly influencing it. With Jupiter it may signify scholarship or law; with Mars, sharp debate or technical work; with Venus, poetry or art; with Saturn, serious research or anxious calculation.

Beginner Observation

Find Mercury in a chart. Record its sign, house, whether the chart is day or night, and the planets aspecting

it. Do not interpret yet. First learn to describe its condition accurately.

Moon

Moon is described as cold and moist, changeable. It belongs primarily to the nocturnal ruler sect. Its domiciles are Cancer; its exaltation is Taurus; its fall is Scorpio; and its detriment signs are Capricorn.

Body, change, travel, crowds, mother in many contexts, habits, nourishment, daily conditions.

The Moon describes movement, bodily conditions, common life, habit, travel, and the unfolding of events. Her phase and applications are especially important because she moves quickly and connects one planet to another.

Beginner Observation

Find Moon in a chart. Record its sign, house, whether the chart is day or night, and the planets aspecting it. Do not interpret yet. First learn to describe its condition accurately.

Lesson 3: The Twelve Signs

Signs qualify planets. They describe the elemental substance, mode, gender, sect quality, fertility, voice, direction, and other conditions through which a planet acts. For the beginner, four classifications are essential: element, modality, gender/sect, and ruler.

Sign	Element	Mode	Gender/Sect	Domicile Ruler
Aries	Fire	Moveable	Masculine/Diurnal	Mars
Taurus	Earth	Solid	Feminine/Nocturnal	Venus
Gemini	Air	Double-bodied	Masculine/Diurnal	Mercury
Cancer	Water	Moveable	Feminine/Nocturnal	Moon
Leo	Fire	Solid	Masculine/Diurnal	Sun
Virgo	Earth	Double-bodied	Feminine/Nocturnal	Mercury
Libra	Air	Moveable	Masculine/Diurnal	Venus
Scorpio	Water	Solid	Feminine/Nocturnal	Mars
Sagittarius	Fire	Double-bodied	Masculine/Diurnal	Jupiter
Capricorn	Earth	Moveable	Feminine/Nocturnal	Saturn
Aquarius	Air	Solid	Masculine/Diurnal	Saturn
Pisces	Water	Double-bodied	Feminine/Nocturnal	Jupiter

3.1 The Four Elements

Element	Signs	Qualities	General Tendency
Fire	Aries, Leo, Sagittarius	Hot and dry	Active, expressive, authoritative, mobile, initiating.
Earth	Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn	Cold and dry	Concrete, resistant, practical, material, enduring.
Air	Gemini, Libra, Aquarius	Hot and moist	Relational, communicative, social, dispersing, conceptual.
Water	Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces	Cold and moist	Receptive, fertile, emotional, containing, adaptive.

3.2 The Three Modes

Traditional Term	Modern Term	Signs	Meaning
Moveable	Cardinal	Aries, Cancer, Libra, Capricorn	Beginnings, change, movement, quick activation.
Solid	Fixed	Taurus, Leo, Scorpio,	Endurance, consolidation,

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		Aquarius	stability, resistance.
Double-bodied	Mutable	Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, Pisces	Transition, repetition, mixture, twofold conditions.

3.3 Masculine and Feminine Signs

Masculine signs are also diurnal: Aries, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Sagittarius, and Aquarius. Feminine signs are also nocturnal: Taurus, Cancer, Virgo, Scorpio, Capricorn, and Pisces. These categories are traditional symbolic qualities and should not be confused with a person's gender identity.

3.4 Signs Do Not Equal Houses

Aries is not the first house, Taurus is not the second house, and Gemini is not the third house. Signs are universal divisions of the zodiac. Houses are topical divisions determined from the Ascendant. A Cancer Ascendant makes Cancer the first house, Leo the second, Virgo the third, and so forth.

Common Beginner Error

Do not interpret the second house as 'Taurus-like' or the eighth house as 'Scorpio-like.' Judge the house from its traditional topic, the sign occupying it, its ruler, planets in the house, and relevant aspects.

Aries

Moveable fire. Quick, forceful, initiating, dry, direct. Ruled by Mars. It starts, separates, and acts before conditions settle.

When a planet is in Aries, ask whether the planet agrees with the sign's element, sect, and ruler. Then inspect the condition of Mars, because the ruler acts as host and manager of the sign.

Taurus

Solid earth. Stable, material, fertile, slow to change, consolidating. Ruled by Venus. It preserves and embodies.

When a planet is in Taurus, ask whether the planet agrees with the sign's element, sect, and ruler. Then inspect the condition of Venus, because the ruler acts as host and manager of the sign.

Gemini

Double-bodied air. Communicative, divided, mobile, technical, adaptable. Ruled by Mercury. It connects and alternates.

When a planet is in Gemini, ask whether the planet agrees with the sign's element, sect, and ruler. Then inspect the condition of Mercury, because the ruler acts as host and manager of the sign.

Cancer

Moveable water. Protective, fertile, responsive, changeable, containing. Ruled by the Moon. It initiates through feeling and necessity.

When a planet is in Cancer, ask whether the planet agrees with the sign's element, sect, and ruler. Then inspect the condition of Moon, because the ruler acts as host and manager of the sign.

Leo

Solid fire. Visible, authoritative, enduring, proud, radiant. Ruled by the Sun. It stabilizes identity and command.

When a planet is in Leo, ask whether the planet agrees with the sign's element, sect, and ruler. Then inspect the condition of Sun, because the ruler acts as host and manager of the sign.

Virgo

Double-bodied earth. Analytical, practical, discriminating, service-oriented, technical. Ruled by Mercury. It divides, sorts, and repairs.

When a planet is in Virgo, ask whether the planet agrees with the sign's element, sect, and ruler. Then inspect the condition of Mercury, because the ruler acts as host and manager of the sign.

Libra

Moveable air. Social, contractual, balancing, relational, initiating through agreement. Ruled by Venus.

When a planet is in Libra, ask whether the planet agrees with the sign's element, sect, and ruler. Then inspect the condition of Venus, because the ruler acts as host and manager of the sign.

Scorpio

Solid water. Intense, secretive, enduring, defensive, fertile but potentially destructive. Ruled by Mars.

When a planet is in Scorpio, ask whether the planet agrees with the sign's element, sect, and ruler. Then inspect the condition of Mars, because the ruler acts as host and manager of the sign.

Sagittarius

Double-bodied fire. Expansive, mobile, legal, philosophical, far-reaching. Ruled by Jupiter.

When a planet is in Sagittarius, ask whether the planet agrees with the sign's element, sect, and ruler. Then inspect the condition of Jupiter, because the ruler acts as host and manager of the sign.

Capricorn

Moveable earth. Strategic, ambitious, restrained, practical, concerned with structure and consequence. Ruled by Saturn.

When a planet is in Capricorn, ask whether the planet agrees with the sign's element, sect, and ruler. Then inspect the condition of Saturn, because the ruler acts as host and manager of the sign.

Aquarius

Solid air. Organized, conceptual, collective, resistant, principled. Ruled by Saturn.

When a planet is in Aquarius, ask whether the planet agrees with the sign's element, sect, and ruler. Then inspect the condition of Saturn, because the ruler acts as host and manager of the sign.

Pisces

Double-bodied water. Receptive, fertile, compassionate, diffuse, spiritual, changeable. Ruled by Jupiter.

When a planet is in Pisces, ask whether the planet agrees with the sign's element, sect, and ruler. Then inspect the condition of Jupiter, because the ruler acts as host and manager of the sign.

Lesson 4: Rulership and Essential Dignity

Rulership is the backbone of traditional chart reading. Every sign has a domicile ruler. When a sign becomes a house, that ruler becomes the ruler of the house and carries responsibility for its topics.

4.1 The Domicile Scheme

Planet	Domiciles
Saturn	Capricorn, Aquarius
Jupiter	Sagittarius, Pisces
Mars	Aries, Scorpio
Sun	Leo
Venus	Taurus, Libra
Mercury	Gemini, Virgo
Moon	Cancer

The two luminaries each rule one sign. The other five planets rule two signs, arranged symmetrically around Cancer and Leo. This creates an integrated planetary order based on distance from the Sun and traditional cosmology.

4.2 The Host and Guest Analogy

A planet in a sign is a guest. The ruler of that sign is the host. A guest may be in its own home, in the home of a friend, in the home of an enemy, or in a place where it has no standing. The host's condition matters because the host supplies resources and permission.

Example

Suppose Mars is in Libra. Venus rules Libra, so Mars must operate through Venus. If Venus is strong and connected to Mars, she may moderate conflict or direct Mars toward negotiation. If Venus is weak, hidden, or damaged, Mars may act without adequate support in a sign contrary to its nature.

4.3 The Major Essential Dignities

Condition	Meaning
Domicile	The planet is in its own sign and has authority, familiarity, and resources.
Exaltation	The planet is honored and elevated, but may depend on maintaining status or expectation.
Triplicity	The planet has elemental support, especially according to sect.

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Term or Bound	The planet has limited jurisdiction within a section of a sign.
Face or Decan	The planet has a minor dignity, often compared to clothing or outward role.
Detriment	The planet is in the sign opposite its domicile and operates in alien conditions.
Fall	The planet is in the sign opposite its exaltation and may suffer humiliation, weakness, or reduced standing.
Peregrine	The planet lacks major essential dignity and depends heavily on its ruler and accidental condition.

4.4 Dignity Is Not the Whole Judgment

A dignified planet may be placed in a difficult house and produce difficult matters effectively. A debilitated planet may occupy an angle and become powerful but troublesome. Essential dignity describes quality and authority. Accidental condition describes opportunity, visibility, and power to act.

Rule of Restraint

Never declare a planet 'good' merely because it is dignified, or 'powerless' merely because it is debilitated. Ask: What does it signify? Where is it? What does it rule? What helps it? What harms it?

Lesson 5: The Twelve Houses and Whole Sign Houses

The houses locate events and people in objective areas of life. They are called places because each one provides a place for a topic. The first house signifies the native; the seventh signifies partners and opponents; the tenth signifies public action and authority; and so on.

House	Principal Topics
1st	Life, body, appearance, vitality, temperament, the native.
2nd	Money, movable possessions, livelihood, resources, support.
3rd	Siblings, short journeys, messages, neighbors, ordinary religion, daily movement.
4th	Parents and ancestry in context, land, home, foundations, endings, buried things.
5th	Children, pleasure, gifts, celebration, creativity, pregnancy, good fortune.
6th	Illness, labor, servants and employees, burdens, small animals, adversity.
7th	Marriage, partners, opponents, contracts, open conflict, the other person.
8th	Death, fear, inheritance, other people's money, dowry, debts, inactivity.
9th	Religion, prophecy, higher learning, long journeys, dreams, law, wisdom.
10th	Career, office, rank, public actions, authority, reputation, achievements.
11th	Friends, patrons, hopes, alliances, rewards, support from authority.
12th	Enemies, confinement, exile, self-undoing, large animals, hidden adversity.

5.1 Constructing Whole Sign Houses

10. Identify the sign containing the Ascendant degree.
11. Make that entire sign the first house.
12. Count forward in zodiacal order, one sign per house.
13. Locate the ruler of each sign to find the ruler of each house.
14. Keep the degree of the Ascendant and Midheaven as important points within the chart.

Example

If 18° Capricorn rises, all of Capricorn is the first house. Aquarius is the second, Pisces the third, Aries the fourth, Taurus the fifth, Gemini the sixth, Cancer the seventh, Leo the eighth, Virgo the ninth, Libra the

tenth, Scorpio the eleventh, and Sagittarius the twelfth.

5.2 Angular, Succedent, and Cadent Houses

Type	Houses	General Power
Angular	1, 4, 7, 10	Strong, visible, active, able to manifest.
Succedent	2, 5, 8, 11	Supporting, consolidating, following the angles.
Cadent	3, 6, 9, 12	Falling away, less direct, transitional, sometimes hidden or burdensome.

The ninth and third are cadent but can still be favorable because they aspect the Ascendant by trine or sextile. The sixth, eighth, and twelfth are traditionally difficult partly because they do not aspect the Ascendant by a major configuration.

5.3 The Ruler of a House

To judge a house, examine its ruler. The ruler shows where the affairs of the house go, what manages them, and what other topics become connected to them.

Example

If the ruler of the second house is in the tenth, livelihood may depend on career, office, public reputation, or authority. If the ruler of the tenth is in the second, career may be directed toward income, finance, trade, or management of resources. The same houses are connected, but the direction of rulership changes the emphasis.

1st House

Life, body, appearance, vitality, temperament, the native.

Judge the Ascendant sign, its ruler, planets in the first house, and the Moon. The first house is not merely self-image. It concerns the native's life, body, manner, and capacity to act.

2nd House

Money, movable possessions, livelihood, resources, support.

Judge the ruler for the condition and source of resources. Benefics can support livelihood; malefics may indicate hardship, expenditure, scarcity, or income through difficult work, depending on condition.

3rd House

Siblings, short journeys, messages, neighbors, ordinary religion, daily movement.

The third includes siblings and ordinary movement. The Moon traditionally rejoices here, fitting its connection with travel, change, messages, and daily life.

4th House

Parents and ancestry in context, land, home, foundations, endings, buried things.

The fourth concerns foundations, land, family roots, and endings. Because traditions differ on assigning mother and father, judge parents through sect, natural signifiers, the fourth and tenth, and the ruler appropriate to the method being used.

5th House

Children, pleasure, gifts, celebration, creativity, pregnancy, good fortune.

The fifth is called Good Fortune. It signifies children, gifts, pleasure, celebration, and creative production. Venus rejoices here.

6th House

Illness, labor, servants and employees, burdens, small animals, adversity.

The sixth is called Bad Fortune. It signifies illness, labor, subordinates, burdens, and small animals. Mars rejoices here because severing and toil fit its nature.

7th House

Marriage, partners, opponents, contracts, open conflict, the other person.

The seventh signifies those who face the native directly: spouse, partner, client, opponent, thief, competitor, or open enemy, depending on the question.

8th House

Death, fear, inheritance, other people's money, dowry, debts, inactivity.

The eighth is inactive relative to the Ascendant. It signifies death, fear, inheritance, debt, and resources belonging to partners or others.

9th House

Religion, prophecy, higher learning, long journeys, dreams, law, wisdom.

The ninth is called God. It signifies religion, prophecy, dreams, higher learning, long travel, law, and wisdom. The Sun rejoices here.

10th House

Career, office, rank, public actions, authority, reputation, achievements.

The tenth signifies actions for which the native becomes known, including career, office, leadership, achievement, public consequences, and reputation.

11th House

Friends, patrons, hopes, alliances, rewards, support from authority.

The eleventh is called Good Spirit. It signifies friends, patrons, alliances, hopes, and benefits from superiors. Jupiter rejoices here.

12th House

Enemies, confinement, exile, self-undoing, large animals, hidden adversity.

The twelfth is called Bad Spirit. It signifies confinement, exile, secret enemies, self-undoing, and hidden adversity. Saturn rejoices here.

Lesson 6: Aspects and Configurations

An aspect is a relationship of sight between signs and planets. The traditional major aspects arise from divisions of the zodiacal circle and from the relationships of signs to one another.

Configuration	Distance	Basic Meaning
Conjunction	0°	Combines planets in the same place; not technically an aspect in some ancient treatments.
Sextile	60°	Cooperative but modest; signs share compatible polarity.
Square	90°	Tense and productive; friction, obstruction, forced action.
Trine	120°	Flowing and supportive; signs share element or triplicity.
Opposition	180°	Confrontation, separation, culmination, two sides facing one another.
Aversion	No classical aspect	Signs do not see one another by the five major configurations.

6.1 Sign-Based Aspects

Traditional judgment often begins with whole-sign configurations. Planets in signs that are trine, square, sextile, or opposed are related even when the degrees are not exact. Degree-based closeness strengthens or perfects the relationship.

6.2 Applying and Separating

A faster planet applies when it is moving toward the exact aspect with a slower planet. It separates after the aspect has perfected. Application describes something forming or approaching. Separation describes what has recently occurred, what is leaving, or what has already been established.

Example

The Moon at 12° Taurus applying to a sextile with Venus at 15° Cancer shows the Moon carrying the matter toward Venus. After the Moon passes 15° Taurus, the aspect is separating.

6.3 Benefic and Malefic Aspects

Trines and sextiles are generally easier because they connect signs of compatible element or polarity. Squares and oppositions are more difficult because they force action, conflict, or division. But a trine from a malefic can deliver harm easily, while a square from a strong benefic may produce effort that leads to help.

6.4 Reception

Reception occurs when one planet is in a dignity of another planet. It shows recognition, obligation, permission, or willingness to assist. Mutual reception occurs when two planets occupy each other's dignities.

Example

Venus in Aries is in Mars's domicile. Mars in Taurus is in Venus's domicile. Each planet receives the other by domicile. This can create cooperation, exchange, or entanglement, but it does not automatically remove debility or conflict.

6.5 Aversion

Signs in the second, sixth, eighth, and twelfth relationship do not see one another by a major aspect. This is called aversion. A house ruler in aversion to its own house may have difficulty overseeing the house, unless another relationship such as shared rulership, reception, or special configuration supplies connection.

Review Questions

15. What is the difference between applying and separating?
16. Why is a trine not always beneficial?
17. What is reception?
18. Which houses are in aversion to the Ascendant?

Lesson 7: Sect and Planetary Condition

Sect divides charts into day and night and places planets into two teams. It is one of the simplest ways to understand why the same planet behaves differently in different charts.

7.1 Day and Night Charts

A chart is diurnal when the Sun is above the horizon, in houses seven through twelve. It is nocturnal when the Sun is below the horizon, in houses one through six.

Sect	Luminary	Benefic	Malefic
Day	Sun	Jupiter	Saturn
Night	Moon	Venus	Mars

Mercury is diurnal when rising before the Sun and nocturnal when setting after the Sun, though beginners may first judge Mercury through its company and sign.

7.2 The Malefic Contrary to Sect

In a day chart, Mars is contrary to sect and may be more excessive. In a night chart, Saturn is contrary to sect and may be more severe. The malefic of the sect is not harmless, but its qualities are more moderated.

Example

Mars is hot and dry. Night is cooler and moister, so the nocturnal environment tempers Mars. Saturn is cold and dry. Day is warmer, so the diurnal environment tempers Saturn.

7.3 Accidental Strength

- Angular planets act strongly and visibly.
- Succedent planets have moderate power and support continuation.
- Cadent planets are less able to act directly.
- Direct and swift planets generally act more readily than retrograde or slow planets.
- Planets free from combustion and close solar rays are usually more capable of visible action.
- Planets in their own dignities have more authority and resources.

7.4 Combustion and Cazimi

A planet very near the Sun may be hidden or weakened by the Sun's beams. This is called combustion. A planet extremely close to the heart of the Sun is cazimi and may receive unusual strength or honor. Exact traditional limits vary by author and technique, so this course treats the concepts without requiring memorization of all numerical thresholds.

7.5 A Simple Condition Checklist

19. Is the chart day or night?
20. Is the planet of the sect or contrary to sect?
21. Is it dignified, debilitated, or peregrine?
22. Is it angular, succedent, or cadent?
23. Is it direct, retrograde, swift, slow, combust, or free?
24. Is it helped by benefics or afflicted by malefics?
25. Does its ruler support it?

Lesson 8: Significators and Chart Topics

A signifier is a planet, point, or place chosen to represent a person, object, event, or topic. Correctly identifying signifiers is the beginning of judgment.

8.1 Natural Signifiers

A natural signifier represents something through the planet's own nature. The Sun naturally signifies rulers, visibility, and authority. Venus signifies union and pleasure. Mercury signifies writing and calculation. Natural signifiers apply in every chart, though their condition changes.

8.2 Accidental Signifiers

An accidental signifier represents something because of the chart's house structure. The ruler of the first house signifies the native. The ruler of the seventh signifies the spouse or opponent. The ruler of the tenth signifies career or office.

8.3 Specific Signifiers

For an advanced topic, several candidates may compete. Profession can involve the tenth house, its ruler, the Midheaven, the Sun, Mercury, Mars, Venus, relevant lots, and planets strongly placed near the angles. The astrologer weighs the testimonies to identify the planet with the greatest authority over the topic.

Beginner Rule

At first, use the house ruler as the primary accidental signifier and the appropriate planet as the natural signifier. Compare them. Advanced methods of al-mubtazz or almuten can be learned later.

8.4 Derived Houses

A house can become a temporary first house for another person. The seventh is the spouse. The spouse's money is the second from the seventh, which is the radical eighth. The spouse's siblings are the third from the seventh, which is the radical ninth.

Example

To judge a child's career, begin with the fifth house for the child. Count ten houses from the fifth. The tenth from the fifth is the radical second house. This does not erase the radical second-house meaning; it adds a derived meaning for this particular question.

8.5 Testimony and Repetition

Traditional judgment is cumulative. One testimony suggests. Two testimonies strengthen. Several independent testimonies establish a pattern. Repetition protects the astrologer from forcing a dramatic conclusion from one placement.

Lesson 9: A Simple Method of Delineation

Delineation means outlining the contours of a life or topic. The goal is not to recite symbols. The goal is to produce a coherent judgment from the chart's structure.

9.1 The Seven-Step Method

26. Define the topic precisely. Do not judge everything at once.
27. Identify the relevant house and natural significator.
28. Identify the ruler of the house.
29. Describe the ruler's essential and accidental condition.
30. Examine planets in the house and aspects to the ruler.
31. Follow the house ruler to the house it occupies to see where the matter goes.
32. Combine repeated testimonies into a restrained conclusion.

9.2 The Grammar Formula

Sentence Pattern

Planet = actor or action. Sign = condition and manner. House occupied = place of action. Houses ruled = matters for which the planet is responsible. Aspects = cooperation, conflict, witness, or transfer.

9.3 Example of the Formula

Suppose Mercury rules the tenth house and is placed in the ninth house in Virgo, direct and free from the Sun's beams, applying to Jupiter. Mercury signifies the career because it rules the tenth. Virgo gives Mercury dignity, precision, and technical capacity. The ninth places career matters in law, education, religion, publishing, foreign travel, or advanced knowledge. Application to Jupiter adds counsel, legitimacy, teaching, or institutional support.

A restrained judgment might be: 'The native is strongly equipped for a profession involving analysis, writing, instruction, law, publishing, or technical knowledge. Career advancement is assisted by education, institutions, travel, or a knowledgeable patron.'

9.4 What Not to Do

- Do not interpret every planet as a personality trait.
- Do not combine all keywords into one paragraph.
- Do not predict a catastrophe from one malefic placement.
- Do not ignore the ruler of the relevant house.
- Do not treat dignity as identical with happiness.
- Do not introduce timing until the natal promise has been outlined.

9.5 Writing the Judgment

Write in plain language. State what is strong, what is weak, what assists, what obstructs, and where the matter is directed. Separate observation from interpretation. A good judgment allows another trained astrologer to see how you arrived at it.

Lesson 10: Worked Beginner Examples

Example 1: Livelihood and Career

Assume Taurus rises. Gemini is the second house and Aquarius is the tenth. Mercury rules money; Saturn rules career. Mercury is in the tenth house in Aquarius. Saturn is in the ninth house in Capricorn.

33. The second-house ruler in the tenth connects income to profession, public office, reputation, or leadership.
34. Mercury signifies writing, trade, calculation, systems, instruction, and communication.
35. Mercury is in Saturn's sign, so Saturn hosts and directs the financial significator.
36. Saturn is in its own domicile Capricorn, giving it authority and stability.
37. Saturn in the ninth links career to law, government, higher education, religion, foreign affairs, publishing, or long-distance matters.

Judgment: The native's livelihood is strongly dependent upon a structured profession involving communication, analysis, administration, education, law, government, publishing, or technical systems. Long-term advancement is possible because the career ruler is dignified, though Saturn may require patience, credentials, and sustained responsibility.

Example 2: Partnership

Assume Leo rises. Aquarius is the seventh house, ruled by Saturn. Saturn is in the eleventh in Gemini, applying to a trine with Venus in Libra.

38. Saturn signifies the partner through rulership of the seventh.
39. Saturn in the eleventh connects partnership with friendship, networks, patrons, or shared hopes.
40. Gemini adds communication, duality, travel, writing, or twofold circumstances.
41. Venus in Libra is dignified and offers harmonious testimony by trine.
42. The applying aspect indicates a relationship moving toward agreement or support.

Judgment: A partnership may arise through friendship, professional networks, or shared aspirations. The partner may be serious or older in manner, yet communication is central. Venus offers genuine support, though Saturn's nature suggests the relationship develops slowly and requires explicit commitments.

Example 3: A Difficult Sixth House

Assume Sagittarius rises. Taurus is the sixth house, ruled by Venus. Mars is in Taurus in the sixth. Venus is in Pisces in the fourth, exalted, and receives Mars by domicile because Mars is in Venus's sign.

43. Mars in the sixth can signify inflammation, injury, conflict at work, or demanding labor.
44. Mars is in detriment in Taurus and cannot act comfortably.
45. Venus rules the sixth and is exalted in Pisces, giving the house ruler strength.
46. Venus receives Mars, suggesting that the ruler of the illness or labor house can manage or contain Mars.

47. The fourth-house placement may connect the matter with home, family, land, or conditions at the end of a cycle.

Judgment: The native may experience periods of demanding work, workplace conflict, or inflammatory physical strain. Yet the ruler of the sixth is strong and receives Mars, showing resources for treatment, mediation, or recovery. The difficulty is real, but it is not unsupported.

Example 4: The Difference Between Power and Quality

Assume Mars is angular in the tenth house but in Cancer, its fall. Mars has power to act because it is angular, yet its quality is impaired. It may produce visible conflict, pressure, emergency leadership, technical action, or public controversy. It is not weak in the sense of being inactive. It is strong in manifestation but poorly equipped to act cleanly.

Key Distinction

Angular = power and visibility. Dignified = authority and quality. A planet can be powerful but harmful, or well qualified but unable to act because it is hidden or cadent.

Example 5: Following a House Ruler

Assume the ruler of the fourth house is in the seventh. Home, land, family foundations, or endings become connected with spouse, partnership, contracts, or opponents. The exact judgment depends on the planet and its condition. Venus might bring marriage into the home. Mars might bring conflict over land or family. Jupiter might bring property through alliance or legal agreement.

Student Practice Chart

Use any natal chart with a reliable birth time. Complete the following without interpretation:

Item	Observation
Ascendant sign	
Ascendant ruler: sign and house	
Day or night chart	
Sect benefic and malefic	
Second-house ruler: sign and house	
Seventh-house ruler: sign and house	
Tenth-house ruler: sign and house	
Moon: sign, house, applying aspect	
Most angular planet	
Most dignified planet	

Lesson 11: A Brief Introduction to Timing

Prediction in traditional astrology is not an independent act of imagination. Timing techniques activate and organize the natal promise. The natal chart describes the range of possibilities and recurring conditions. Predictive techniques indicate when particular parts of that promise become active.

11.1 Annual Profections

Annual profections advance the Ascendant one whole sign for each year of life. The sign activated for the year becomes the profected first house, and its ruler becomes the lord of the year. The natal condition of that ruler, its houses, and its condition in the solar return become important.

Simple Sequence

Age 0 activates the natal first house. Age 1 activates the second. Age 2 activates the third. The cycle repeats every twelve years. Ages 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, and 72 return to the first-house year.

11.2 Solar Returns

A solar return is cast for the moment the Sun returns to its natal longitude. It describes the year in relation to the natal promise. The return should not be read as a stand-alone natal chart. Compare its Ascendant, house rulers, planets, and angles with the natal chart and the profected lord of the year.

11.3 Transits

Transits describe the current movement of planets across natal degrees and houses. Traditional practice gives special weight to transits that repeat natal configurations, contact activated rulers, or occur during a year when the relevant house has been profected.

11.4 Firdaria and Other Methods

Firdaria assign periods of life to planets according to whether the nativity is diurnal or nocturnal. Primary directions, distributions, triplicity periods, and other methods provide additional layers. These techniques require separate study and are intentionally beyond this introductory course.

Timing Principle

Do not predict from a transit alone. Ask whether the natal chart promises the topic, whether the year activates it, and whether several techniques repeat the same testimony.

Lesson 12: Ethics, Limits, and Continued Study

12.1 Precision Without Cruelty

Traditional astrology includes difficult topics: illness, loss, conflict, enemies, death, and failure. The astrologer should not erase adversity, but neither should the astrologer dramatize it. A judgment must be proportional to the evidence and communicated according to the client's capacity and the practical purpose of the consultation.

12.2 Astrology Is Not a Substitute

Astrology does not replace medical diagnosis, legal advice, financial planning, mental-health care, or emergency services. It may help frame timing, priorities, and patterns, but professional decisions require appropriate qualified counsel.

12.3 Separate Observation from Judgment

Write what is objectively present in the chart before interpreting it. For example: 'Mars rules the seventh and is retrograde in the fourth, applying to Saturn.' Then give the interpretation: 'Partnership conflict may return and become connected with home or family responsibilities.' This discipline reduces projection.

12.4 Use Conditional Language When Needed

Some testimonies are strong enough for a direct statement. Others require conditional language: may, tends to, is likely, becomes possible when, or is activated during. Conditional language is not weakness. It reflects the actual level of certainty.

12.5 The Student's Next Steps

48. Memorize traditional rulerships and the principal house topics.
49. Practice identifying the condition of each planet without interpretation.
50. Learn sect thoroughly.
51. Practice following house rulers and noting repeated connections.
52. Study essential dignity tables, bounds, triplicity rulers, and planetary joys.
53. Begin annual profections only after natal delineation becomes orderly.
54. Read primary and reliable secondary sources while keeping a chart notebook.

Final Instruction

The chart is not a pile of symbols. It is an ordered figure. Read it by hierarchy: topic, significator, condition, relationship, repetition, judgment.

Appendix A: Quick Reference Tables

Traditional Rulerships

Sign	Ruler
Aries	Mars
Taurus	Venus
Gemini	Mercury
Cancer	Moon
Leo	Sun
Virgo	Mercury
Libra	Venus
Scorpio	Mars
Sagittarius	Jupiter
Capricorn	Saturn
Aquarius	Saturn
Pisces	Jupiter

Planetary Joys

Planet	House of Joy	Reason in Brief
Mercury	1st	Language, interpretation, and the native's rational faculty.
Moon	3rd	Daily movement, messages, journeys, ordinary life.
Venus	5th	Pleasure, children, gifts, celebration.
Mars	6th	Labor, illness, injury, struggle.
Sun	9th	God, truth, illumination, prophecy.
Jupiter	11th	Good Spirit, friends, hopes, patronage.
Saturn	12th	Isolation, confinement, hidden adversity.

Aspect Pattern by Sign Distance

House from a Sign	Relationship
1st	Same sign / conjunction
2nd	Aversion

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3rd	Sextile
4th	Square
5th	Trine
6th	Aversion
7th	Opposition
8th	Aversion
9th	Trine
10th	Square
11th	Sextile
12th	Aversion

Appendix B: Delineation Worksheets

Worksheet 1: Planetary Condition

Question	Answer
Planet	
Natural significations relevant to the topic	
Sign and domicile ruler	
Essential dignity or debility	
House occupied	
Houses ruled	
Day or night; sect status	
Direct, retrograde, stationary	
Angular, succedent, cadent	
Applying and separating aspects	
Reception	
Summary of capacity to act	

Worksheet 2: House Judgment

Question	Answer
Topic and relevant house	
Sign on the house	
House ruler	
Ruler's sign and house	
Ruler's condition	
Planets in the house	
Natural significator	
Repeated testimonies	
Primary obstacle	
Primary support	
Restrained judgment	

Appendix C: Review Test

55. Define Medieval astrology in two sentences.
56. Why does this course use seven planets?
57. How are Whole Sign houses constructed?
58. Explain the difference between a planet, sign, and house.
59. Name the domiciles of Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, and Mercury.
60. Name the four angles.
61. Which planets are benefics and which are malefics?
62. What is sect?
63. Which malefic is contrary to sect in a day chart?
64. What is the difference between essential dignity and accidental strength?
65. What is reception?
66. What is aversion?
67. What does the ruler of a house show?
68. Why should a natal promise be delineated before timing?
69. Give a five-sentence delineation of the ruler of the tenth in the ninth.

Appendix D: Answer Key

1. Medieval astrology is a traditional system inherited from Hellenistic astrology and developed by Persian, Arabic, Jewish, and Latin authors. It judges objective topics through planets, signs, houses, rulers, and configurations.
2. The seven-planet system is the integrated visible-planet structure on which traditional rulership, sect, dignity, and aspect doctrine were developed.
3. The sign containing the Ascendant becomes the first house; each following sign becomes the next house.
4. Planets act and signify; signs qualify their manner and resources; houses locate their actions in objective areas of life.
5. Saturn: Capricorn and Aquarius. Jupiter: Sagittarius and Pisces. Mars: Aries and Scorpio. Venus: Taurus and Libra. Mercury: Gemini and Virgo.
6. Ascendant, Midheaven, Descendant, Imum Coeli.
7. Jupiter and Venus are benefics. Saturn and Mars are malefics. The luminaries and Mercury vary by condition.
8. Sect is the division of charts and planets into day and night teams.
9. Mars.
10. Essential dignity describes authority and quality in a sign. Accidental strength describes power and opportunity to act through house, motion, visibility, and other circumstances.
11. Reception occurs when a planet occupies a dignity of another, creating recognition or obligation.
12. Aversion is the absence of a major aspect between signs, especially the second, sixth, eighth, and twelfth relationships.
13. It shows the manager and destination of the house's affairs and connects the house to the ruler's location and condition.
14. Timing techniques activate the natal promise; they should not be used to invent events unsupported by the nativity.
15. An acceptable answer should connect career with ninth-house topics such as law, religion, higher education, publishing, foreign travel, or advanced knowledge; then judge the ruler's sign, dignity, sect, house strength, aspects, and support.

Appendix E: Glossary

Term	Definition
Accidental significator	A planet signifying a topic because it rules or occupies a chart-specific house or place.
Angular	Located in or strongly connected to the first, fourth, seventh, or tenth houses or angles; powerful and manifesting.
Application	Movement of a faster planet toward exact aspect with a slower planet.
Aspect	A configured relationship between signs or planets, principally sextile, square, trine, and opposition.
Aversion	A lack of major aspect between signs.
Benefic	A planet naturally inclined to preserve, unite, nourish, or increase: Jupiter and Venus.
Cadent	Falling away from an angle; houses 3, 6, 9, and 12.
Cazimi	A planet extremely close to the center or heart of the Sun, traditionally strengthened.
Combust	A planet hidden and weakened by close proximity to the Sun, outside the cazimi condition.
Delineation	The orderly outlining and interpretation of the chart's promise or a specific topic.
Detriment	A planet in the sign opposite its domicile.
Dignity	A form of authority or support a planet possesses in a sign or portion of a sign.
Domicile	A sign ruled by a planet; also the condition of a planet occupying its own sign.
Exaltation	A sign in which a planet receives honor and elevated status.
Fall	The sign opposite a planet's exaltation.
Geocentric	Describing celestial positions as viewed from Earth.
House	A topical place of life determined from the Ascendant.
Malefic	A planet naturally inclined toward restriction, severance, injury, or destruction: Saturn and Mars.
Natural significator	A planet signifying something through its essential nature in every chart.
Peregrine	A planet lacking major essential dignity.
Reception	A relationship in which a planet occupies a dignity belonging to another planet.
Retrograde	Apparent backward motion through the zodiac.
Sect	The division of planets and charts into diurnal and

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	nocturnal teams.
Sign	One of twelve 30-degree divisions of the zodiac that qualifies planetary action.
Significator	A planet, point, or place representing a person, matter, or topic.
Succedent	Following an angle; houses 2, 5, 8, and 11.
Testimony	A chart factor supporting a conclusion.
Whole Sign houses	A house system in which the entire rising sign is the first house and each following sign is the next house.

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Closing

The beginner's task is not to know everything. It is to learn the order of judgment. Master the seven planets, traditional rulers, twelve houses, major aspects, and sect. Once these foundations become natural, advanced doctrine will no longer appear as a collection of disconnected rules. It will appear as the extension of one coherent language.