

SAGITTARIUS—EXPANDING OUR HORIZONS

The principle of reincarnation teaches that each one of us comes into life possessed of a history of personal karma. We are born to continue developing along certain energetic templates as well as to initiate and complete others. We are here to fulfill certain energetic debts and to plant seeds for future evolutionary promises. Even if one were to discount reincarnation altogether, there is still not a babe born who is not carrying part of an ancient history into the present times. This is human history and it is physically present in the genes and chromosomes of one's DNA. It is also held in humanity's collective consciousness, its racial memory and carried in the child's Soul. The more conscious a person becomes through his or her struggles along the Path, the more that history is revealed to the conscious mind. Thus memory of "past lives" is revealed. The Soul is the revealer.

---A.O.

Sagittarius is very much a human sign for it exemplifies the struggle each of us must undergo to free ourselves from the prison of the personality and thus move consciously into a more expansive, spiritual reality. One of the principle purposes of an incarnation with the Sun or Ascendant in Sagittarius is for the individual to orient herself to some lofty objective—one that will unfold a higher goal for the conscious direction of life. In a very ancient and sacred astrological text it is said: "It is in Sagittarius that the Light of Life becomes a beam, pointing to and revealing a greater Light ahead and illuminating the Way to the center of that Light." This is to be found at the summit of the Mountain of Initiation, known in astrological symbolism as the next sign in the zodiac after Sagittarius, Capricorn.

It is in the Sagittarian quest for the expansion of consciousness that leads to initiation that astrologers hear a most common question from their students and clients: "What is my purpose in life?" Although the specific life purpose may be revealed through looking at the natal chart from the Soul-Centered perspective, there is a *collective* life purpose that we all share. Indeed it is the "life purpose" of the solar system itself. Briefly but distinctly stated, the purpose for Life is the evolution of consciousness--and consciousness is Love.

Sagittarius embodies the urge for expansion but like all of human life lived on Earth, Sagittarius is a dual sign, expressing the simultaneous need to expand through the

physical senses of the personality as well as to expand through the spiritual senses of the Soul. The symbol of the Centaur illustrates this duality in the life of Sagittarius: the lower half of the Centaur is an animal (a horse), demonstrating the passions of the instinctual passions of animal man. The upper half is the enlightened human being aiming his arrow toward the higher goal of initiation. Thus when love is expressed and expanded on the level of the personality it leads to romantic love, narcissistic love, possessive and exclusive love—all are states in which love can be “lost.” When Love is experienced on the level of the Soul, on the level of the spiritual warrior with bow and arrow in hand, Love can never be lost, only sought and found. This is transpersonal, healing love. It is non-sensual, inclusive, unconditional, and may never be lost.

Sagittarius teaches the difference and relationship between these two kinds of love as well as pointing to the Path that unites them. Sagittarius represents that stage of spiritual growth in which the new vision of oneself emerges out of the intense conflicts of Scorpio. The mountain peak of Capricorn is now sighted upon the horizon but is yet to be climbed. These three signs—Scorpio, Sagittarius, and Capricorn—are said to symbolize the “valleys, plains, and mountaintop” of the initiation process at work in humanity’s spiritual quest.

We may also think of Sagittarius as the “sign of the boomerang,” or as a great Tibetan Master Astrologer once wrote, “(Sagittarius) is the returning arrow of intuition.” In this respect, the undeveloped, personality-centered Centaur is most likely to state: “I shot an arrow into the air, it fell to earth, I know not where, nor do I much care!” The more developed disciple-Archer who ever journeying on his or her “vision quest” is more likely to discover: “I shot an arrow into the air, it fell to earth and hit me!” This is the arrow of aspiration, the point of which returns to its sender as a ray of enlightenment.

The Earth is a most important planet for the Soul-centered Sagittarian, as it rules this sign from the esoteric perspective. Thus in order to serve the higher purpose of Life on both the personal and collective levels, the idealistic, expansive, and altruistic orientation of the Enlightened Archer has to be grounded in earthly pragmatism. It is only thus that one’s

arrows not only may hit their target, but that there is a target to hit.

Let us now take a look to see how Sagittarius affects each of the twelve houses when it is placed on the various cusps of the natal chart:

Sagittarius on the cusp of the First House (Ascendant): This position of the Centaur gives a person the need to cover a great deal of territory in life. These are the philosophers of the zodiac and they possess a distinct urge to travel, learn, teach, and just experience all that life has to offer. Eventually they develop a one-pointedness which aids significantly in creating a direction for all of this enthusiasm. If a sense of clear life orientation is not present, or until it is developed, the tendency is to move out aimlessly into several directions while all the while dissipating their fiery vitality. Thus the need for a distinct life purpose becomes an uppermost consideration in their lives. Many people with Sagittarius rising express a definite, physical, emotional, and intellectual restlessness. Life is seen as a challenge, a battle to be overcome with optimism and self-assurance. This sign/cusp combination reveals an individual who tries to avoid all circumstances in which his or her freedom of movement and spontaneity is in any way limited. An independent person, the Centaur on the First House has a distinct disdain for any form of restriction imposed on his behavior. The need to cultivate a correct and practical sense of personal responsibility will be one of the major life lessons.

Sagittarius on the cusp of the Second House: There is often a generous and sometimes reckless attitude towards money and there is often a tendency towards speculation and gambling when the Centaur. This would be especially the case if Jupiter were in the Fifth House and/or in major aspect to the ruler of the Fifth House. Winning or losing are all part of the game and it is the game that counts. Sagittarius on the Second also gives a natural orientation to expressing ones talents and abilities through teaching, publishing, and travel. These are the areas of life where one is most likely to find material support. This tendency is emphasized should Jupiter be in the Ninth House and/or in major aspect to the ruler of the Ninth. Earning capacities are limited if Jupiter is afflicted by Saturn, especially if

Jupiter is in Capricorn but earnings definitely tend to increase after age 56 if Jupiter is well aspected by Saturn.

Sagittarius on the cusp of the Third House: An avid curiosity about life and a strong urge to explore the realm of the intellect is present when the Centaur stops here. Should Jupiter be well placed in the natal chart, this sign/cusp combination indicates that one is a life-long student. There is a *love of knowledge* (the literal meaning of the word “philosophy”) and its accumulation. Travel is frequent and looked forward to with great enthusiasm. The tendency is to have a brother or a sister that is a great pal, a friend for life or even a benefactor (especially if Jupiter is well placed in the native’s Second or Twelfth House). Teaching may easily be as important as learning to this person. Should Jupiter be poorly placed by sign or aspect, there will be a tendency to attempt too many fields of study simultaneously, thus dissipating mental energy. This would be especially the case if Jupiter were in Gemini or Aquarius and/or afflicted by Mercury or Uranus.

Sagittarius on the cusp of the Fourth House (IC): This sign/cusp combination reveals the tendency for the person to have been born into a family in which religion or a particular philosophy of life was important. Should natal Jupiter be in any strong aspect with Uranus, the individual will want to change this early spiritual environment and create a more individualistic path to his or her expanded view of life. Should Jupiter be in aspect with Saturn, especially if either planet is in Cancer, Capricorn or in the fixed signs, the tendency will be to follow that early parental belief system. This will be done either easily (harmonious aspects between the two planets) or the individual will feel highly restricted by it (any hard aspect connecting Jupiter and Saturn). Very often people with the Centaur on the IC will leave home at an early age and it is not uncommon to find such people living either in another country or far distant from the place where they were born. This would be especially the case during the last phase of one’s life.

Sagittarius on the cusp of the Fifth House: The natural urge with this sign/cusp placement is for the individual to be expansive and eager in the expression of his or her

creative orientation. The adventurous part of one's life is often expressed through speculation in love, money, and the arts. Most often Leo is on the Ascendant when Sagittarius is on the Fifth, so this tendency for pleasure and passion is certainly increased and emphasized. Travel is often the realm where such joys of life take place. All of the above would be especially emphasized should there be a strong aspect between Jupiter and the Sun. One of the greatest pleasures for Sagittarius on the Fifth House cusp is the accumulation of knowledge. This is often accomplished first hand through travel and highly personalized educational choices. Look for aspects between Jupiter and the rulers of the Third and Ninth Houses to delineate the nature and circumstances of this tendency further. The attitude towards children is to foster their independence and endow in them their own spirit of adventure. The latter is highlighted should the Sun or Moon be in the sign Sagittarius.

Sagittarius on the cusp of the Sixth House: As Sagittarius is an exuberant sign, it brings hopefulness and optimism into the workplace. This is a person who adds vision to any task. But if Jupiter should be in Virgo and afflicted by either Saturn and/or Mercury, be on the lookout for an individual who exaggerates any task and who tends to worry over the smallest detail of any assigned job. If Jupiter is well aspected, the tendency is for advancement at work, especially if the planet in question is the ruler of the Tenth or First House. Jobs most closely associated with this position have to do with travel, sports, and publishing. Health is often robust, especially if Jupiter is well aspected with the Sun and/or Pluto. The areas of greatest physical sensitivity will be the hips, thighs, and liver. Pets are often large (one would naturally associate a love of horses with the Centaur on this house cusp), and should Jupiter be in a strong aspect with Uranus, the individual will prefer these animals to be of exotic and unusual varieties.

Sagittarius on the cusp of the Seventh House (Descendant): Relationships create the potential for adventure and partners point the way to new worlds of opportunity when the Centaur is on this house cusp. It has to be kept in mind that with Sagittarius in this

position, Gemini will always be on the Ascendant. The joining of these two signs points the way to a free-spirited, open, and fundamentally friendly attitude to all forms of partnership. This is definitely not a person who seeks to feel retrained or constrained by “the bonds of matrimony.” Even when pledged to “love, honor, and obey,” the Centaur on the Descendant will demand a great degree of personal liberty and freedom. The wise partner of such an individual should not expect this person to be a lover of domestic routine. In fact, this is the kind of partner who will ring up and inquire if the “significant other” would like to have dinner at a special restaurant in another country! Emotional depth, passionate attachment and the resultant jealous insecurity are not part of this relationship picture (unless the Moon is in Scorpio and square or conjunct Pluto!). This is an individual who expects his or her partner to be self-sustaining and not make too many emotional demands. This will be especially the case if Jupiter is in a fiery or airy sign and/or connected to the Moon in fire or air.

Sagittarius on the cusp of the Eighth House: This sign/cusp combination indicates that the transformational crises one encounters during the course of life are often characterized by a need for intense changes in one’s personal belief system. The individual may find that his or her religion or life philosophy just does not suffice for the situation at hand. An expansion of consciousness, a redefinition of life purpose becomes immanent, forcing one to continue searching for a greater truth. What a blessing! In terms of sexuality, there can be either an attitude of great permissiveness and openness to experimentation (especially if Jupiter is in strong aspect with Uranus) or one that is surprisingly limited. This limitation can come from those strictures found in the more orthodox and fundamentalist religions. Look for Jupiter in hard aspect to Saturn (especially if the signs Cancer, Cancer or Taurus are involved) for conflicts between one’s philosophical beliefs and one’s personal sexual expression when Sagittarius is on this house cusp.

Sagittarius on the cusp of the Ninth House: As this is the natural house placement for this sign, its position here tends to be a positive or at the very least, a strong one. It

indicates that this is a person who is eager to travel, learn and explore. Keep in mind that more often than not, Aries will occupy the Ascendant when the Centaur is on the Ninth House cusp. The combination of the warrior and the philosopher thus emerges. This would be especially the case should Jupiter be in a strong aspect with Mars. We would then have the “knight errant,” the noble man or woman in search of truth, eager to help others in distress, and always in pursuit of lofty life values. Should Jupiter be afflicted, especially by Neptune or Mars, then idealism may be misplaced and a ceaseless search for truth may come about that even when found goes unrecognized. This would be even more the case if the signs Pisces or Sagittarius were involved as the planetary sign placements. In the best scenario, Sagittarius on the Ninth will lead a person to those life experiences that expand awareness, lend support to one’s ideals and create a teacher of the highest ideals and principles.

Sagittarius on the cusp of the Tenth House (Midheaven): “The sky’s the limit” when the Centaur mounts the MC. Sagittarius on the MC states in no uncertain terms: “I see the goal, I reach that goal and then I seek another.” Although this is a helpful attitude in life, Sagittarius on this cusp may be so involved with upward mobility that he fails to see the Earth under his feet. The tendency is to concentrate on the world of possibilities and underestimate the practical realities surrounding one at all times. Should Jupiter be in poor aspect to Saturn, there will be definite problems in this respect. Jupiter well aspected with Saturn, especially if one or more of the earthy signs is involved can do much to mitigate such problems, although the danger is still one of exaggerated ambition. This is nevertheless a somewhat fortunate position for at the very least it bestows many opportunities to forge ahead in life. All professions involving sports, travel, religion, and publishing are highlighted. If Jupiter is well placed, especially to Saturn, the father was a helpful and friendly influence.

Sagittarius on the cusp of the Eleventh House: This tends to be a positive influence in the natal chart as both Sagittarius and Aquarius (that natural ruler of this house) are signs of

vision, idealism and opportunity. This sign/cusp combination describes an individual who is capable of adding an amazing amount of energy and insight into any group function. Sagittarius is always looking at the larger picture and avoids becoming bogged down in petty egocentric disputes. But should Jupiter be afflicted by Saturn and/or Uranus, especially if the fixed signs are involved, the individual may hold on to those religious and philosophical beliefs that are in conflict with the collective good of any social group to which he or she may belong. In terms of friendship, the Centaur on the cusp of the Eleventh usually makes a fine pal, one who approaches these relationships with open enthusiasm.

Sagittarius on the cusp of the Twelfth House: This sign/cusp combination often points to an individual with a deep interest in the metaphysical and philosophical. He or she is on a constant quest for knowing. This is especially the case if Sagittarius is also on the cusp of the Ascendant. But should Capricorn be the rising sign, there can be conflicts between one's inner spiritual aspirations and the responsibilities and duties of one's material life. How one integrates these two seemingly opposing facets of life will constitute an important challenge in one's life. This challenge will be exacerbated if there is a hard aspect between Saturn and Jupiter; it will be facilitated if the aspect is either a trine or a sextile. The conjunction can lead to an integrated world view, one in which the real and the ideal merge. The Centaur on the Twelfth House cusp may give a special gift. This is the uncanny ability to know the most obscure facts, or at the very least, to know where such information may be found.