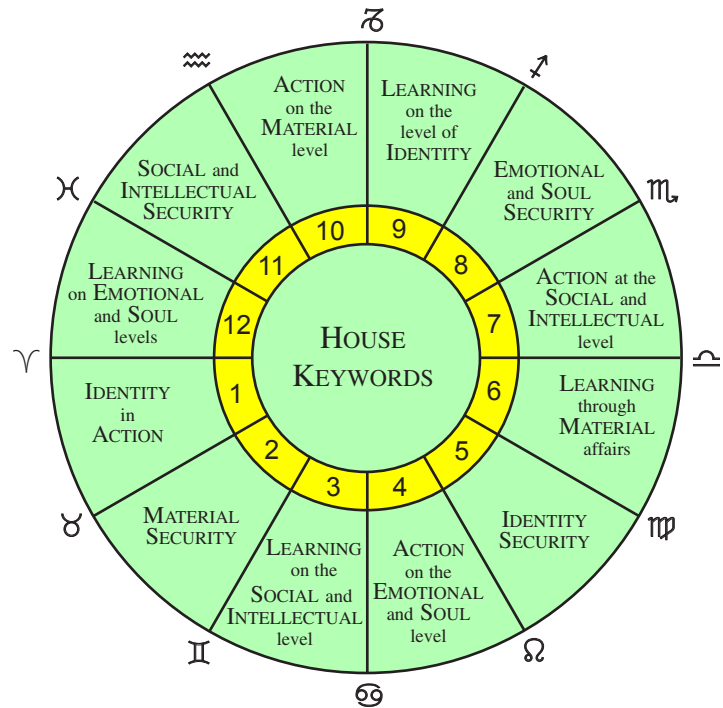


House Classification

THE MOST FAMILIAR way of defining the different types of houses is to separate them into the classifications of angular, succedent, and cadent. The angular houses are associated with a self-activating quality and have an immediate impact on the structure of one's life. The keyword for the angular houses is ACTION. The succedent houses are associated with individual desires and the things we want to control and manage. This urge toward control is motivated by our need for SECURITY, the keyword for this type of house. The cadent houses are the sections of the chart where there is input, exchange, and distribution of thoughts and observations. And hence, the keyword for these houses is LEARNING.

The progression of houses from angular through succedent and cadent and back to angular again symbolizes the flow of life experience: we act, we consolidate the results of our actions in order to attain security; we learn what we have done and also become aware of what remains to be done; and therefore we act again. Everyone participates in this cycle of life, but our individual birth charts reveal which phases in the cycle are dominant in this lifetime.

The houses are also divided according to groups of three, depending upon the element of the signs associated with those houses. For example, the three houses associated with the water signs (4, 8,



House keywords are a composite of the mode of energy expression—based on whether the house is angular, succedent, or cadent—and the level or emphasis (material, emotional, mental, or egoic) of experience—based on the element of the sign occupying that house in the Earth's horoscope at the Spring equinox (Sun in 0°♈).

12) make up what has been called the “psychic trinity” or the “trinity of soul.” For the sake of brevity and simplicity, I’ll call these houses simply “the water houses.” All of these houses deal with the past, with the conditioned responses which are now instinctual and operate through the emotions. Planets in these houses show what is happening on the subconscious levels and indicate the process of gaining consciousness through the *assimilation* of the essence of the past, while simultaneously letting go of the useless memories and fears that hold us back. These “water” houses relate to attaining emotional peace by freeing ourselves from the grip of the past. At the deepest level, these houses symbolize the most profound *yearnings* of the soul; for they indicate the process by which the emotional residue from the past is purged before the soul can express itself clearly and actively. The keywords for the water houses are, therefore, EMOTIONAL

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and SOUL.

The earth houses (2, 6, 10—often called the “trinity of wealth”) are associated with the level of experience wherein we try to satisfy our basic needs in the practical world: possessions, money, job, health, reputation, etc. The keyword for these houses is therefore MATERIAL, for the earth houses deal chiefly with concerns of the material world.

The fire houses (1, 5, 9—often called the “trinity of life”) are associated with one’s attitudes towards life itself, toward the experience of being alive. They represent an outpouring of energy into the world and the aspirations and inspirations that motivate us to do so. The keyword that sums up the essential meaning of the fire houses is IDENTITY; for our sense of identity, our sense of being, determines our attitude toward life in general. In other words, if we feel good about ourselves, we feel good about being alive; and we therefore develop faith that this life will be an essentially positive experience.

The air houses (3, 7, 11—called the “trinity of relationship”) are associated not only with social contacts and relationships of all types, but also with *concepts*. The social and intellectual realms of activity are inseparable, for it is our concepts that motivate us to seek out other people of like mind and those very concepts constitute a great part of what is shared between any two people. The keywords for the air houses are, therefore, SOCIAL and INTELLECTUAL.

The tabulation above presents a concise formulation of these keywords.

THE WATER HOUSES

As seen above, all of the water houses have certain things in common, in that they all represent experience on the emotional and soul level. However, analyzing the three modes of expression indicated by the keywords gives us a clue to the interrelationship of these houses.

The Fourth House The fourth house is the area of direct ACTION on the EMOTIONAL and SOUL level. All action at this level of experience is necessarily conditioned by factors beyond our control. Traditionally, the fourth house is related to, among other things, the home and family. In what area of life do we act so much on the basis of habit and emotion as when dealing with our family members?

The fourth house also represents our need for privacy, for an environment in which we feel comfortable, in order that we can turn within and relax, recuperate, and reflect without feeling any pressure from the outside world.

People who have the Sun in the fourth house generally spend many years trying (whether consciously or uncon-

sciously) to gain freedom from the conditioning associated with their early life experience. In other terms, we could say that those who have a strong emphasis on the fourth house have a need to act at the deepest emotional level in order to assimilate the essence of their experience in childhood and youth. They yearn for *peace for the individual self*, which often requires a physical distance from the parents so that they can gain detachment on the emotions aroused by their presence.

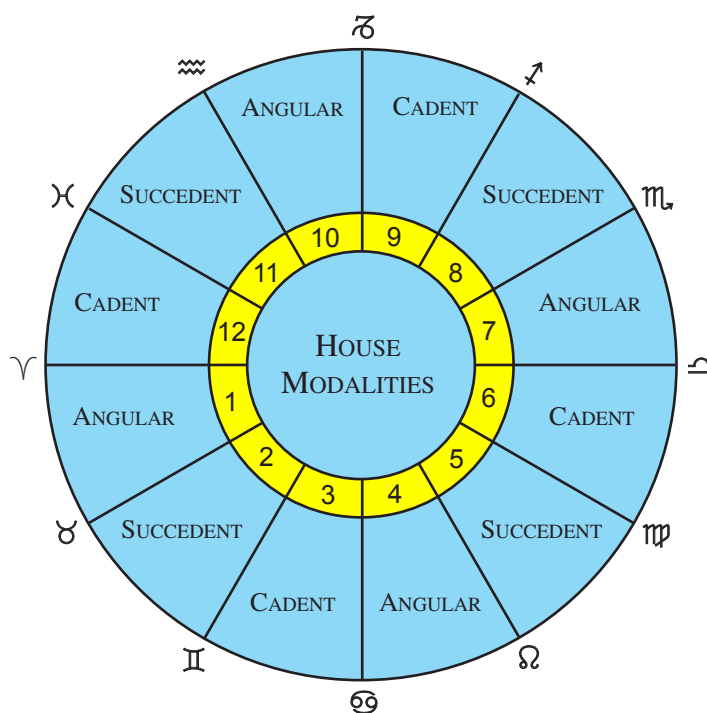
The Eighth House The succedent water house, the eighth, represents the need to find EMOTIONAL SECURITY and SOUL SECURITY. Those with an emphasis on this house in their birth charts inevitably involve themselves in activities which, they feel, will provide them with this sort of deep inner stability. The sexuality associated with the eighth house is prompted not merely by instinct, but also by a need to experience ultimate emotional security through merging with another person. Many people attempt to gain this feeling of security by achieving power and influence over others. This power is sometimes provided by wealth or by participation in large corporate ventures, and it sometimes stems from their knowledge of occult laws or from a penetrating psychic sensitivity.

<u>Mode of Expression</u>		<u>Level of Experience</u>	
Angular:	Action	Water:	Soul & Emotional
Succedent:	Security	Earth:	Material
Cadent:	Learning	Fire:	Identity
		Air:	Social and Intellectual

Other eighth house matters, such as insurance and joint finances, can also be clearly related to emotional security. The fact that the eighth house is also called the “house of death” points out why people with an eighth house emphasis are often preoccupied with thoughts of death, afterlife, spiritualistic phenomena, and legacies. These people are concerned with such matters because, although they may not recognize it as such, they sense within themselves a longing for soul security, for an assurance that their soul will be “saved.”

Although people with eighth house emphasis may seek security in material values, power, sex, or psychic knowledge, a real feeling of emotional and soul security can only exist when the tumultuous emotional conflicts always shown by this house begin to subside. And such emotional turbulence gives way to a deep sense of inner peace only when the true nature of the individual’s yearnings are recognized. The occult studies associated with this house are primarily useful as a means of attaining this inner peace through the knowledge of the deepest laws of life. The sexuality of the eighth house is an expression of the urge to be reborn through union with a greater power than self. In short, this house symbolizes a longing for a *state of emotional peace* which can be arrived at only by growing free from desires and compulsive willfulness.

The Twelfth House The cadent water house, the twelfth, is the area of LEARNING on the EMOTIONAL and SOUL level. This learning takes place through the gradual growth of awareness that accompanies loneliness and deep suffering, through selfless service, or through devotion to a higher ideal. The twelfth house represents influences and experiences which are totally and obviously beyond our control, but which can be transcended by directing our energies toward self-knowledge and spiritual values. It reveals the phase of evolution wherein one must assimilate the results of all past life experiences and responsibilities. And, at the deepest level, this house indicates the urge to seek *peace for the soul* through surrender to a higher unity, through devotion to a tran-



scendent ideal, and through freedom from the ghosts of past thoughts and actions.

THE EARTH HOUSES

The Tenth House The angular earth house deals with ACTION on the MATERIAL level; and, traditionally, this house is said to represent one’s reputation, position in the world, and vocation. The action that anyone performs in the material world is the basis upon which his reputation rests, and the public categorizes the individual according to what action he is performing: baker, salesman, doctor, etc. The keywords also clarify the tenth house’s association with the specific ambition that one hopes to accomplish in the world.

The Second House The succedent earth house, the second, has for its keyword MATERIAL SECURITY. This explains why the second house has been related to money, earnings, possessions, and the desire to control things and people. However, the keyword also clarifies the broader principle underlying such inclinations, for many people with a strong second house emphasis are not so much concerned with money itself as with an assurance that they will always be secure in the material world by having an abundance of resources to draw upon. Thus, many such people

collect coins, buy land, invest in banks and real estate in the attempt to consolidate their security. I have also noticed that people with the Sun in the second house are generally rather stingy with their time (especially if the Sun is in a fixed sign), for they feel that their every effort must be specifically productive of income in some form or another.

The Sixth House The cadent earth house is the sixth, and it has been associated with work, health and duties. When we see that the underlying principle of the sixth house is that of LEARNING through immediate experience with MATERIAL affairs, we can easily understand the motivation behind these activities. We learn about our material body's needs and limitations chiefly through health problems (often coming from bad habits, too much pressure from work or duties, or excessive self-criticism or negative thinking—all sixth house matters). We also gain practical insight into our selves through the everyday performance of our work and duties. All these areas of experience help us to learn humility, to accept our limitations, and to take responsibility for our own state of health, both physical and psychological. When it is understood that the sixth house represents a phase of purification through immediate contact with the material level of experience, we can begin to interpret this house in a true and positive way.

THE FIRE HOUSES

The First House The angular fire house is the first house and represents one's IDENTITY in ACTION, the phase of life wherein one is identified with specific, self-directed action. People with a strong emphasis on their first house are impatient for action since their sense of self begins to fade if they abstain from active individual involvement with the outer world. Traditionally, this house is also associated with the energy and appearance of the physical body; and, using the keywords, one can see that the body is one's identity in action. People recognize us and are influenced by our most characteristic manner of physical movement and expression; and anyone begins to feel devitalized if the qualities shown by the first house planets and the ascendant are suppressed or thwarted.

The Fifth House The succedent fire house, the

fifth, represents the search for IDENTITY SECURITY. Those with an emphasis on this house are seeking a secure sense of self by identifying with things or people in which they see themselves reflected. These people want to be significant in some way, not simply *to be* as in the first house phase. An emphasis on this house can indicate a self-attitude toward life, but it more deeply reveals the individual's emotional attitude and religious feelings about all of life. The urge toward significance and the attempt to gain a secure sense of identity are reflected in each matter commonly associated with this house. Children, for example, are often a focus for one's own desires for a secure identity. Not only are many children named after their parents (especially sons being named after the father), but also we have all seen how many parents foist their own desires for recognition and accomplishment upon their children. A person with a strong creative bent (fifth house) finds that he has to produce something in order to feel good about himself.

One of the greatest attractions of love affairs (another fifth house matter) is that such a relationship, although it may be totally impractical and often extremely disruptive, gives us a brief experience of self-worth simply because another person has found us worthy to love. In an intense love affair, our sense of identity is confirmed; we see ourselves in the other person; and, because we feel better about ourselves, our outlook on life itself brightens considerably. To sum up, a strong emphasis on the fifth house in the natal chart indicates that the individual must project himself into the world, that he must exercise his creative powers responsibly and consistently in order to attain the sense of joy and security he needs.

The Ninth House The cadent fire house, the ninth, represents LEARNING on the level of IDENTITY, in other words, learning who one really is. From this essential principle flow all the religious and philosophical attitudes, searchings, and activities with which this house is usually associated. The motivation behind all religious and philosophical speculation is the need to know one's true identity. The question "Who am I?" is the spring from which every religious quest flows.

Therefore, people with an emphasis on this house are drawn to activities which widen their horizons of self-awareness, enable them to improve themselves, and help them to gain a perspective on human nature. Foreign travel and higher mental studies are the beginning stages in this quest. In the next stage, the person identifies himself with a religion, philosophy, or metaphysical doctrine; and thereafter, he often devotes himself to learning directly from a teacher or from an organization which he believes embodies the truth.

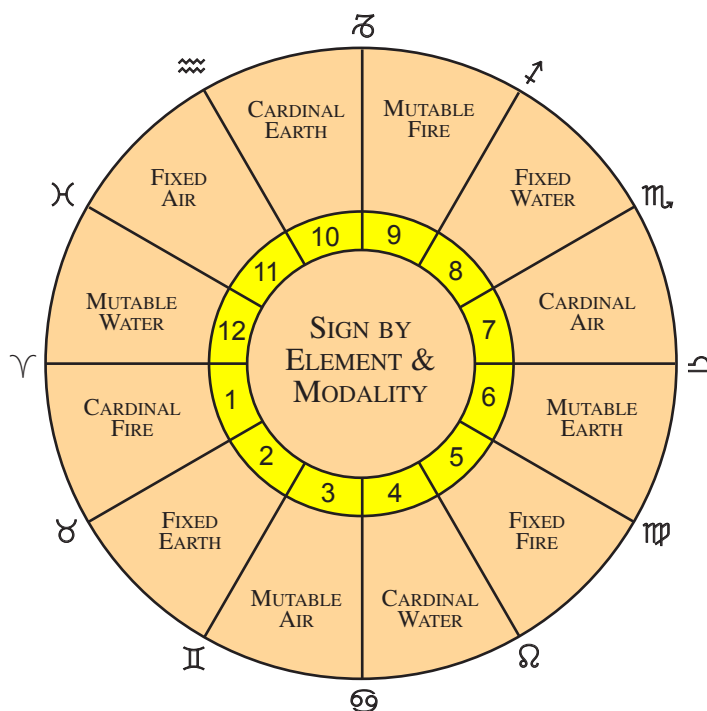
THE AIR HOUSES

The entire range of personal relationship is represented by these houses, comprising not only the way one approaches various kinds of relationships but also the social urges and intellectual needs that motivate specific types of behavior in these areas.

The Seventh House The angular air house, the seventh, symbolizes ACTION at the SOCIAL and INTELLECTUAL level. Since one-to-one relationship is the basic meaning of the seventh house, and since all social structures and activities depend upon the quality of such relationship, it is appropriate that the angular air house focuses on this field of experience. More specifically, all advanced societies are founded upon the “marriage” unit, and the stability and efficiency of that social unit to a great extent determines the viability of the social order. On the individual level, the quality of a person’s chief partnership has such impact that its influence pervades all the other areas of life: health, finance, children, sex, professional success, etc. (Sociological research exits which indicates that an individual’s career often suffers when his marriage breaks up.)

The intellectual aspect of this house can be seen in the way that people with a strongly accented seventh house so readily appeal to the public in their presentation of ideas. Such people are often sought out as consultants, advisors, and counselors purely on the basis of their intellectual competence and objectivity.

The Eleventh House The succedent air house is the eleventh and represents the search for SOCIAL



and INTELLECTUAL SECURITY. Those whose natal charts focus on the eleventh house invariably tend to associate themselves with others who share their ideas and objectives. This is so because they feel socially and intellectually insecure and therefore find great comfort in the knowledge that there are other people who can understand and accept them as they are. These people often join groups or align themselves with friends who share their intellectual bent, although they may not agree at all on specifics. Their search for intellectual security also leads them into vast systems of thought, whether political, metaphysical, or scientific. These people have a marked ability to facilitate group activities, social change ventures, and the “management” of large masses of people.

The mental rigidity so common in these people stems from the fact that they are intellectually insecure and therefore extremely hesitant to change their ideas once they find concepts that satisfy them. (It is an interesting sidelight that an Aquarian president, F.D.R., devised the system known as “Social Security”; and the eleventh house is naturally correlated with Aquarius.) The most effective way that a person with a strong eleventh house can achieve the security he seeks is to establish a strong sense of individual *purpose*

which not only fulfills his personal needs but also *harmonizes with the needs of society as a whole*. To avoid the rigidity and opinionated characteristics of this house, he would do well to focus on the purpose itself rather than upon oversimplified concepts that purport to state absolute truth. In that way, he can apply his ideas concretely toward the amelioration of society.

The Third House The cadent air house, the third, is the field of LEARNING on the INTELLECTUAL and SOCIAL level. It therefore represents all forms of exchange of information, such as basic communication skills, media work, merchandising, sales, etc. Those with a third house emphasis have an insatiable need to communicate with others and an ability to deal in an easy and friendly way with people of the most diverse qualities and interests. Their curiosity about people and ideas is endless; and this inquisitiveness leads them to make numerous casual acquaintances and to evolve a broad and flexible intellectual background. Basic facts and abstract ideas are both important to these people, even if such information is isolated from any "significant" context. Whereas the learning represented by the ninth house comes about through the use of the inspired intuitive mind, the learning of the third house occurs through the application of one's own logic and reason.

ASTROLOGY: A TOOL FOR SELF-KNOWLEDGE

After having used this keyword system for a while, it will become apparent that it is valuable not only for understanding the general life pattern shown in the natal chart, but also that it makes the meaning of current and future trends and cycles much more accurate and psychologically significant. For example, if a particular birth chart has a lack of the air element as indicated by planetary placement, why is it that this person is so interested in people and continually involves himself in social activities? An emphasis on the air houses will reveal that, although he may not have an *energy attunement* to that element, he still may focus some of his water, fire, or earth energy toward social, intellectual, and relationship *activities*. Or if a person has no attunement to the fire element, why is it that she seems to exemplify the high-

spirited and optimistic qualities that she supposedly lacks? An emphasis on the fire houses in her chart indicates that, although she does not have the energy attunement to the fire element, she nevertheless pours her air, water and earth energies into inspired, creative, and idealistic fields of experience.

In cases like those mentioned above, the individual will still lack attunement to a certain element and will usually still manifest some of the problems associated with that lack. However, since the sorts of activities that interest them compensate to some extent for their elemental imbalance, such people will often experience a more moderate form of the expected difficulty. It is only by a patient and detailed examination of the entire birthchart that the astrologer can evaluate the degree in which one astrological factor compensates or balances off another. If, however, a particular person lacks emphasis on the water signs and the water houses, for example, one can almost be assured that the problem indicated has reached a severe degree of imbalance.

In the area of understanding transits, progressions, Key Cycles, and similar projection techniques, the astrologer who uses this system will no longer have to choose one of the many possible meanings of, for example, transiting Jupiter or Saturn in a certain house, leaving the distinct possibility that the main point will be entirely missed. He will be able to know with confidence that the advice and explanations he gives will help clients to look within themselves for the real meaning of a particular time period, rather than encouraging them to focus on some trivial or non-existent event.

By clarifying the basic principle involved in a particular phase of life experience, a principle that invariably pertains to the situation regardless of the surface conditions that the client may talk about, the astrological practitioner will be able to eliminate much of the usual guesswork and to avoid being misled by the client's lack of perspective or self-deception. In short, the utilization of this keyword system can be in actual practice one more step in making astrology what it should be: a tool for promoting self-knowledge. □