

## *The Ruler of the Ascendant*



Ludek's Brush, image courtesy Joe Tusciorone, space.com

**T**HE RULING PLANET of the Ascendant, together with its house and sign position, is another factor which must be considered simultaneously with any analysis of an individual's ascending sign. In fact, one might say that there are, for example, twelve basic types of Aries rising (depending on the sign position of Mars), twelve types of Taurus rising (depending on the sign position of Venus), and so on. Both the sign and house position of the ruling planet are extremely important factors in any chart, although the house position is much more important than sign position if the ruler being considered is Uranus, Neptune, or Pluto.

The position of the ruling planet signifies the primary energy and area of life experience that motivates you to act in the world. In addition, the element of the ruling planet's sign position is often indicative of the level of experience that gets your physical energy flowing. And, since the Ascendant itself represents the generalized experience of being yourself and realizing your individual nature most spontaneously, the house position of the ruling planet can be said to represent the the specific field of life activity wherein you can experience your essential nature most immediately. Once you have tuned in on the field of experience and the type of energy represented by the ruling planet and its house and sign, you begin to feel more alive,

more motivated to express yourself, and more inwardly secure and authentic. The aspects involving the ruler of the Ascendant are also especially important, on a par with aspects involving the Sun or Moon or the Ascendant itself. Such aspects are so significant because they indicate specific dynamics affecting the overall flow or inhibition of your self-expression. The connection of the Ascendant's ruler with the flow of physical energy and with one's state of health can hardly be overestimated, and its importance in this regard may easily be seen by watching the transits to the ruling planet. So often, such transits will correlate with marked changes in one's health, vitality, or appearance. For example, a 34 year old man with Virgo rising experienced a total nervous collapse as Uranus squared his natal Mercury. Granted that transiting Uranus being in square to anyone's natal Mercury could correlate with a period of nervous stress, such a transit would nevertheless not be so dominating a force for those who do not have Mercury as the ruler of the Ascendant.

One might ask why the ruler of the Ascendant is so important, more important in most people's lives than the ruler of the Sun sign in terms of

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profound immediate experiences and complete changes in one's attitude toward life. To answer this question, it seems to me it is necessary to return to a very ancient concept: namely, the idea of the ruling planet being the "Lord" which presides over not only one's birth but also over one's entire life. In various ancient concepts of astrological forces, the ruling planet of the Ascendant was considered to be the deity or cosmic power appointed by the Supreme Lord to preside over an individual's entire incarnation. In more modern terms, one might say that the nature of the ruling planet lends an overall tone to the person's entire life, both his experiences and his approach to interacting with the outer world. The specific sign position of this ruling planet is therefore of great importance as a symbol of the quality of experience, energy flow, and general orientation to life that will dominate the individual's way of being for this incarnation. Although I cannot claim to have enough direct experience to enable me to confirm the ancient concept mentioned above in any specific way, I have had one experience which powerfully impressed me and which might be significant in this regard.

I was present at a home birth a few years ago, and I had given specific instructions to another person there to keep a record of the exact time of birth. Therefore, I know that the child who was born then has an extremely accurate birthchart. When it appeared that the delivery was imminent, I mentally calculated an approximate Ascendant and assumed that the child would have Aquarius rising. As the child was born, the room became filled with a powerful and almost tangible presence. The intensity of pressure felt in that room at that moment could only be described as a Saturnian energy and vibration, and I remarked to one of the others present that the atmosphere was charged with this powerful force. Later that night, after things had calmed down and the new baby had fallen asleep, I calculated his chart precisely and found, to my surprise, that he had 28° of Capricorn rising. His ruling planet was therefore Saturn, and I could not have imagined a more Saturnian birth experience nor a more Saturnian vibration in the air than that which accompanied

his arrival. Since birth into the material world is of course a rather Saturnian event, I cannot say whether or not the same experience would have occurred if the child had, for example, been ruled by Venus or Jupiter. But I feel this instance is worth mentioning in order to encourage people to pay attention to the vibrations that may be felt during the birth of other souls into the physical plane.

It should be apparent by now that no consideration of the Ascendant is complete without simultaneously including the entire complex of factors which are closely related to the Ascendant. In other words, the qualities of the rising sign and its ruling planet (including its sign and house), as well as any 1st house planet, all show urges, needs, and orientations which form one of the most crucial combinations of energy in your life. All these factors together constitute a key fulcrum upon which the entire personality structure is balanced, and they reveal a theme which colors how the whole of one's self is projected. If one is not able to express these energies with ease, a generalized tension develops and, in many cases, a feeling of being bored, lifeless, and lacking direction and purpose. To give an example of how so many factors might be combined in interpretation, let us take the case of the above-mentioned child whose "Ascendant complex" contains the following factors:

- 1) Capricorn Ascendant
- 2) Ruling planet Saturn in Gemini and in the 5th house, conjunct Venus and Mercury.
- 3) Jupiter in Aquarius in the 1st house

We might describe this combination as follows:

A need to approach life with caution (Capricorn rising) and with in-depth creativity (Saturn in 5th), both mentally and emotionally (Mercury and Venus conjunct Saturn); a need to think deeply and to communicate his thoughts in a serious way (Saturn in Gemini, conjunct Mercury); and a need to see tangible results from his organized, self-disciplined efforts (Capricorn rising and Saturn in 5th), all infused with an independent faith and an expansive, optimistic generosity toward others (Jupiter in Aquarius). (Continued) □