



Wisdom Path
by Judi Thomases
Member A.F.A., N.C.G.R.



Dell Horoscope Article
Published January, 2005

"Redesign Your Life in 2005! A 10-Step Plan for Taking Charge & Creating Change "
by Judi Thomases

Lots of coaches in the business and personal growth fields advise us to state our goals in life in order to make them concrete and bring them to realization, and these advisors often use a format of "Ten Tips to Doing/Reaching Something..." to make their point simply and clearly. So I figured, why not apply this approach to astrology? After all, the entire practice of astrology is a path to growth, and the amazing awareness it gives the practitioner is one of the best tools available for reaching that. So, why not analyze the way in which to put this golden tool to use in a structured, outlined format, just as would be applied nowadays to any practical endeavor?

You might want to read through this material twice, the second time with a pen in hand and a few nice, clean sheets of paper to take notes on, because every one of the following ten items will apply to you, and, when implemented, can help you redesign your life and ease your journey.

A horoscope is the depiction of our soul's decision to play a game – a very challenging game. In it are reflected the choices made before birth (choices that are partly brand-new, but also partly karmic, to rebalance and realign prior errors or omissions). The horoscope gives us the absolute best way to read these soul choices, and also the best way to steer through or around them when necessary. No one on Earth can avoid some pain – that's the point of it all, since life's a learning experience. But everyone can use his or her dilemmas wisely.

The Top 10 Ways to Wield the Tool

1. Know your patterns.

This might seem so basic, like Astrology 101! But while it's true that knowing our patterns means understanding the meaning of planets in signs and houses, as well as aspects, there's also a far deeper level to this. How well do we really know our own chart and what it might mean from a soul perspective?

Keeping in mind that the universe always works towards the greater good, it can be helpful to pursue certain kinds of questions. For instance, why did some of us set up antagonistic energy patterns, within a single psyche, in which the "message" of one of our planets or aspects works against the "message" of a different one? (Perhaps we needed an irresolvable conflict to act as a catalyst for achievement.) Why did some of us choose to emphasize a certain component of life, such as loaded house placements or sign importance, rather than another? (Maybe we underemphasized a life task in prior lives.) Why did some of us bury our Sun sign – the very essence of oneself – to be eclipsed by so much other influence? (Perhaps we are working on ego issues this time.) And there are so many, many other such questions. What, in other words, did we have in (our greater) mind when we settled on these decisions as the game plan for this life?

Did we want to emphasize work over love? Family over self? Responsibility over creativity? If so, why? Did we choose to focus on relating to others (inhabited fourth, fifth, seventh, eighth, or eleventh houses), or did we need to



Wisdom Path

by Judi Thomases
Member A.F.A., N.C.G.R.



remain independent and self-reliant (much fire, hard aspects to the personal planets, empty relationship houses)? Did we guarantee our self marriage and children, or complete freedom? And is the result of that a happy or unpleasant circumstance?

If you find a pattern in your chart that speaks of inevitable pain, ask yourself: Why on Earth would I choose that? Am I a crazed masochist, or did my soul have another agenda in mind?

I'll give you a personal example: I have Venus in the twelfth house, and Saturn in the fifth. I've therefore bargained for a fair share of grief when it comes to love and/or kids. But Venus happens to be in Sagittarius near the Ascendant, and Saturn happens to be conjunct Jupiter. One day, bemoaning my problems regarding this particular set of issues, I received a message from my spirit-guides, The Brotherhood of Light Workers, telling me that I chose to know more intimately both life's pain and life's joy. Hurt, but optimism. Lows, but highs. Darkness, but the way out. Up to then, during the painful experiences all I could focus on was the negative, but after receiving that message, I saw the larger perspective. I felt empowered and a lot clearer, and realized that things weren't just bombarding me; there was a perfect plan involved.

In general, I'd say that our conjunctions are what's most obvious and in-your-face for good or for bad in this life, while our squares and oppositions are where our real issues lie, and our trines are the help we took along in order to deal with them. When I see a horoscope that has a few really tough major aspects, like a Fixed Grand Cross plus one or two T-Squares, especially involving the personal planets, and yet a lovely Grand Trine as well, then I know I'm looking at a soul who was quite gutsy in his/her choices, bargaining for a lot of growth with as much help as possible in reaching it.

Many of us are not used to asking why, only to describing our chart's features. But knowing our own patterns in a deeply interior fashion gives us a larger picture of what we came here to do. Of our soul's agenda. If you're still complaining about what life has thrown at you, and what a victim you are because of it, you're not yet at the stage of realization. Try a little more introspection, and figure out what your astrological pictures are telling you about you. You, and you alone, are the architect of your world.

2. Know your close ones' patterns.

Now that you've begun to ask yourself some really deep questions about your horoscope (and assuming that you're well on the way to grasping your fundamental issues from that broader perspective), it's time to consider the soul-choices behind your most basic relationships.

For example, many of us are tightly bonded to parents, children, or spouses with whom we are terribly incompatible. As an astrologer, I see this all the time. There are many soul reasons for this quite common phenomenon. One might be growth (a catch-all term that covers lots of life missions); another, the learning of patience or assertiveness; another, that of being on the receiving end of what you formerly doled out (an excellent strategy for increasing one's compassion); and another still, that of relating intimately to someone greatly unlike the self. Still other reasons might apply to matters such as soul agreements in which you contracted with another that one of you would learn



Wisdom Path

by Judi Thomases
Member A.F.A., N.C.G.R.



responsibility at the expense of independence, while the other needed propping up. The list of soul reasons is as endless as the variety of souls. The key thing to realize is that your dilemma isn't just happenstance.

Individuals of different generations often have tense aspects between the outer planets. For example, all the Baby Boomers born with Pluto in Leo are in conflict with today's Twenty-Somethings who were born during the Pluto in Scorpio era. There will be deep conflicts in their values, and probably power struggles. And many of these same "ol' folks" have Uranus and Saturn in Gemini fighting with the Uranus/Pluto conjunction in Virgo of the Yuppies. Here's traditional in-person connectivity versus impersonal technology... or the spoken word versus email!

But these generational conflicts get really bothersome when the personal planets are also involved. What if, for instance, in the above examples, the Twenty-Something is an Aquarian, or has prominent personal planets in that sign, forming oppositions to their parents' Plutos in addition to the generational Pluto squares? Although the basic relationship is one of parent and child, it will always reflect tension and cause suffering. It's truly enlightening to realize that this was a chosen birth to a chosen parent. And both parent and child chose it; it wasn't an accident.

The same can be true of marriage. Why would someone initially be passionately attracted to another who will inevitably cause wounding? Why choose to get together in the first place, not simply as casual associates, but as intensely involved lovers? There are myriad patterns that will show this pain, varying from natal date-of-birth karma (i.e., you'll always have relationship problems in this lifetime) to current compatibility studies in synastry (i.e., this one's just a bad match), so examples are too numerous to list. When you see it showing, however, always ask why. Why did the two souls want this experience? There are soul lessons that can only be learned from heartache, and others that can only be learned through the experience of rejection or abandonment. Understanding a deeper answer won't remove the pain, but it will give insight.

On the other hand, there are many bonds of basic relationships in which there is great, even perfect, harmony: Sun/Moon conjunctions; many trines and sextiles between the two charts; benefics in the house(s) denoting the nature of the relationship, etc. Then the question is: Is there another task outside the relationship itself that both souls need to accomplish with the support of a great relationship to do so? For example, if you are the parents of sextuplets, it helps a lot to have that kind of bond in your marriage. And if you agreed to accept a spouse with a major disability, it won't do to have a lot of useless romantic drama in the way. In fact, it's often a guarantee that if a basic relationship is smooth, there is another life task going on outside of it.

Your insight into your close ones' patterns will empower you. You can use your understanding of their patterns to help them complete their mission, at the same time you can realize their patterns' impact upon you, and thus flow better with the "why" of it all. You may find yourself less apt to feel angered or disappointed with them – quite a leap of wisdom right there! Or best of all, you might feel your heart opening and your compassion growing.

3. Look into avenues to ease your hardest aspects

Here's another point that seems so basic: resolve your toughest inner challenges by applying appropriate solutions. But so much can be awakened in you when you ask the soul reason for it all.



Wisdom Path

by Judi Thomases
Member A.F.A., N.C.G.R.



Suppose your chart shows a theme of bottled rage (e.g., Mars in a water sign; Saturn in a hard aspect to Mars; Sun square Pluto; Aries Moon with no helpful outlet, etc.) Then, you have chosen to wrestle with this powerful emotion, and life would work best if it were given a healthy expression such as anger management or martial arts. Struggling against your extreme urges by succumbing to explosive anger or intense repression would work least well. But as important as it is to manage your anger, it's equally crucial to define the root reason for accepting such a horoscope. Did you have too many past lives of being a sucker?! Did you avoid standing up for your principles? Do you need to learn self-esteem? Confidence? Such a perspective on anger can moderate it wisely. Extreme anger always reveals a weakness, not a strength.

Hard aspects are those that bring us pain. They may also function to bring pain to others in our lives, but they're primarily the bane of our own existence. To deal with them wisely, we can tackle them psychologically (gaining emotional insight), astrologically (applying logical neutralizers), or spiritually (grasping the soul purpose) – or all of these together – to overcome our karmic predicament. But the least wise route is to do nothing at all, and just succumb to the problem, be it as seemingly innocuous as stage fright, or as overwhelming as poor health.

For example, what if the chart shows lots of sad frustration (e.g., conflicts between Mars, Saturn, and Neptune)? Then the soul job might be success over failure through perseverance. Loneliness (e.g., afflicted Moon, Uranus against personal planets, Saturn in water signs)? Then the soul job might be success over rejection through compassion and humility. Hard aspects will almost always relate to the larger theme of the present incarnation, shown also in contradictory house and sign placements, as I mentioned. The point to keep in mind is that the horoscope as a whole is reflecting the task(s) you gave yourself to complete...and you and your spirit-guides didn't want to make things too easy since growth-producing challenge is the ticket!

4. Use Mars, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto well.

Ah, the “malefics”! What would Earth be without ‘em? Not school, that's for sure.

Every one of these guys has its positive side, and its “bad” side. Again, Astrology 101! Apply each planet's metaphysical meaning to your dilemma. Use its higher vibration on behalf of your everyday difficulty to see what's really going on. Mars is the motivator, the desire that brought you here and keeps you pushing toward a goal. Saturn is the Lord of Karma, or Taskmaster, that's your teacher, insisting that the life task be completed according to the rules of the physical world, no matter how much you rail against them. Uranus is the Liberator, opening the jailhouse door when you're too stuck, and sometimes forcing you through it despite your fear. Neptune is the Inspiration, “the dreamer that's dreaming the dream”, reminding you of your true spiritual nature and true residence whenever Earth gets too real. And Pluto is the Transformer, the means by which to change into your true self without actually dying.

So, how to use these “malefics” wisely? Well, here are just some examples: if you're infuriated, ask yourself what you desire that's being thwarted; if you're restricted, ask yourself what's the impatient goal that's requiring your self-discipline and acceptance; if you're upset and discombobulated, ask yourself what inflexible stance are you in that's too crystallized; if you're fooled and confused, ask yourself what beautiful fantasy you're preferring to believe in; and if you're altogether without hope, ask yourself what better movie role you'd rather play. Once you get your wise answer, change your behavior or response accordingly.



Wisdom Path

by Judi Thomases
Member A.F.A., N.C.G.R.



5. Learn the best days for each activity

In this, I'm not really talking about an astrological almanac, although that's certainly a great tool, but rather about two sides of the same coin: to harmonize with the flow, and to practice right timing. When to act, and when not to act. Do you go ahead with something, or do you resist going ahead with something? Each decision will have a right or wrong timing, just as there'd be a time when it's worse to fear going on that interview (i.e., not acting) than to set up the appointment, or worse to buy that used car (i.e., acting) instead of waiting for the new models to come out. The wise person bases action on inner harmony with the flow, and not on emotional reaction or intellectual decision alone. To do so requires honing the intuition in order to "know" the flow's direction.

"Surrendering" is the term given to the conscious allowing of the Greater Will to prevail over your own small ego. It doesn't mean "giving up." It's done best with an absolute awareness that the larger Plan is always preferable to your own designs – until, that is, your own designs reach the point of being completed guided by the larger Plan. "Thy Will be done" is an apt and concise way to say it. So is "The Great Way is not difficult for one who has no preferences." This is easy to grasp, but very hard to do.

Study your daily transits as well as your progressed aspects. Keep track of them in a date book, or use astrological software that will calculate and print out lists of these events for any given period. First of all, you'll be able to see clearly what energy patterns are unfolding during each time-period so that you can accommodate your desires to what's actually available. Second, you'll know within each pattern the precise day it'll be best to pursue a certain activity. For instance, when you are looking for an event that's romantically-, financially-, or socially-based, watch what Venus does. However, if Saturn is otherwise stymieing it, or if your progressions aren't conducive, the overall timing simply isn't all that major, and only minor results will follow. In other words, you can date, but you probably won't meet Mr./Ms. Right just then.

6. Understand the way you respond (Moon).

Emotional response to life's experiences is one of the most important factors in how a soul plan is furthered.

A water Moon, for example, will respond to the same set of circumstances completely differently than a fire Moon. In an event of hardship, the former might sob while the latter, get angry. So again, let's ask questions. Did you need to be vulnerable, or hard-hearted? Did you want a life in which you responded dispassionately and with practicality to get the job done (earth Moon)? Or one in which you wanted to stay lively and cheerful (air Moon)?

It isn't enough to describe the characteristics of the Moon sign of yourself (or your close ones); you need to glean the perfect reason behind that choice. And don't forget to figure out the complications brought about by having the Moon conjunct or in other aspect to a different item in the horoscope – that would all go into the mix. And, as the Moon also rules mom, family, home life, and related issues such as guilt trips, childhood roles, and early environments, stir those into the pot too!

7. Change your values (Venus, H2, H9).

Values are defined as what you think makes life worthwhile; as such, they can't be divorced from your beliefs. You



Wisdom Path

by Judi Thomases
Member A.F.A., N.C.G.R.



will spend your life desiring and pursuing that which you consider beneficial to its quality. Problems arise from values when their pursuit leads you into suffering.

Say you love wealth and beautiful luxuries, and believe that life isn't worth living if you don't have them. Is that bad? Does that need "changing"? Well, no, not in and of itself. But if that value-system tips you into greed, like the Enron crew, then you have built your life around a structure of beliefs and practices in the service of those beliefs that was faulty and unwise. Hard lessons will ensue, from which greater wisdom will come about. But wouldn't it have been a lot easier to have realigned your value-system before the fall?

An individual I knew was a Taurus, had Venus/Saturn in H8, but a Pisces Node. This person was quite materialistic, constantly buying new gold jewelry, and competing with "the Jones". Over the course of a long life, she suffered many burglaries and other financial losses, until, finally, she realigned her values entirely toward her Pisces Node, sacrificing her few remaining means to her loved ones, and placing her faith more in the universe's providing than in her checkbook. When she exited life, she had reached a place of greater serenity... but how long and painful a process it had taken! Far better if she had used wisdom with her horoscope from the get-go.

Another individual, also with Saturn in H8, has Venus in its ruling sign of Libra trining Saturn but in H12 (very contradictory messages), and Pluto/Jupiter in H9 squaring a Scorpio Ascendant. Here we have tough karma regarding finances and relationships, yet also some guardian angels looking over the shoulder. Her financial well-being and emotional happiness will depend on how she treats close ones; if nicely and with balance, then life will flow well; if vindictively and from fear, then life will bite back. Because of a long period of deep pain and awakening, she is in the process of transforming her values from those of suspicion and rancor to those of openness and hope.

We live in a culture that tends to promote materialistic rather than spiritual values. Fame, wealth, political or sexual power may all be advertised as better than friendships, inner peace, or non-attachment... but are they for you? If, right now, you could be Britney Spears, would that solve everything for you? Before you blindly succumb to external values, it might be wise to examine yours deeply, and come to a clear statement of true personal desire.

8. Do your North Node!

In other words, fulfill your karmic challenge. Perhaps more than anything else, this would be one of the wisest astrological insights one can get because it means studying all the various meanings that can be applied to the sign and house placement of your North Node, and then consciously attempting to execute as many as possible of these.

You came to Earth with a mission, or task, that you assigned yourself. Perhaps it was something interior, perhaps something regarding another. Perhaps it was as simple as learning to play the game of life better, learning the "rules." Perhaps it was a very complex, long-term goal. Although many paths exist that can offer life guidance, such as religion or psychotherapy, and whose guidelines can be generally applied to your own journey, only a distinctly personal path will bring the sense of contentment and joy of a job well done. It's what your soul craves, and constantly seeks, and in astrology the North Node defines it.



Wisdom Path

by Judi Thomases
Member A.F.A., N.C.G.R.



Let's say you have the North Node in Aries. Then you must learn to be self-reliant, gutsy, and independent. You probably leaned on a partner too much in past lives (and early on in this one), and failed to establish a strong sense of self. Will it be easy to be on your own? No, because the Node's task is never easy. It's always where learning has to take place. A woman with an Aries Node in her fourth house spent her adulthood as a single parent with a big house to run, doing it well but forever seeking comfort from the right male partner (who was denied to her). Another with an Aries Node conjunct her Ascendant (what a reinforced message!), while affluently but unhappily married strives mightily for her own business success in order to give herself options to stay or leave. It hardly matters whether or not the task brings "happiness"; it's just what the soul has to do to feel completed.

If you want a way to determine your own North Node's task, locate its position, then find keywords for the sign and house it's in, and, using only the positive meaning of both, see how many combinations you can create that would fit. Then, you'll undoubtedly realize that many of these combinations describe your strongest life goal. (While you're at it, do the same with the South Node, except use the negative meanings of these, and you'll get a handle on where you've been taking the path of least resistance, or avoiding growth.)

Here's a very basic start for thinking about your North Node:

.SIGN -- POSITIVE KEYWORDS (use for North Node qualities)

Aries: Leadership; strong, courageous, self-reliant, energetic, confident, assertive; trail-blazing; idea person; bold, eager, individualistic, spunky, ardent, competitive, speedy, spirited; action-oriented; (head, face)

Taurus: Security-seeking, persevering, luxury-loving, contented, sensual, steady, kind, gentle, tenacious, trustworthy, enduring, practical, caring, composed; money-minded; stamina; (neck, throat)

Gemini: Curious, communicative, witty, sociable, versatile, logical, adaptable, agile, glib, sophisticated, busy; multi-tasking; skillful, perceptive, analytical, diverse; (arms, hands, ears, chest, lungs)

Cancer: Sensitive; family bonding; nurturing, protective, sentimental, tenacious; homebody; emotional; collectors instinct; domesticity; (breasts, stomach)

Leo: Noble, creative, loyal, courageous; vitality; high energy; aristocratic, dignified, proud, honest, optimistic, talented; warm, affectionate; (heart, spine, upper back)

Virgo: Health-conscious, analytical, service-oriented, detail-conscious; purist; high standards; patient, orderly, thorough, modest, practical, hard working, fastidious, gentle, conscientious; (bowels, intestines)

Libra: Gracious, peace-loving, romantic, artistic; good at partnering; diplomatic, sweet, cooperative, outgoing, sociable, tactful, just, fashionable; balance-seeking; musical, fair-minded; (kidneys, ovaries, lower back)

Scorpio: Sexy, deep, probing, concentrated, strong, subtle, resourceful, passionate, magnetic, powerful, psychic; able to transform self; (sexual organs, eliminative organs)

Sagittarius: Adventurous, philosophical, easy-going, extroverted, cheerful, optimistic, independent, spiritual, humanitarian, direct, athletic, intuitive, expansive, lucky, idealistic, honest, humorous, free; excelling at selling or counseling; reasonable; (hips, thighs)

Capricorn: Entrepreneurial, organized, responsible, cautious, dutiful; leadership; ambitious, conscientious, persistent, patient, strong, dedicated, humble, structured, loyal, realistic, efficient, dependable; hard working; late bloomer; corporate; administrative; managerial, prudent; (knees, shins)

Aquarius: Innovative, humanitarian, friendly, ingenious, magnanimous, individualistic, scientific, progressive,



Wisdom Path

by Judi Thomases
Member A.F.A., N.C.G.R.



intellectual, sociable, curious, logical, inventive, fair, egalitarian; (ankles, legs, calves)

Pisces: Psychic, imaginative, spiritual, introspective, sensitive, sensual, compassionate, self-sacrificing, sympathetic, artistic, romantic, dreamy, mystical, gentle; (feet)

SIGN -- NEGATIVE KEYWORDS (use for South Node qualities)

Aries: Self-centered; impatient; reckless; noisy; arrogant; domineering; clumsy; egotistic; can't relax; "me first"; demanding; no patience to finish things; lose interest fast; opinionated; competitive; headaches or head injuries

Taurus: Bullheaded; long-suffering; need true values; possessive; greedy; jealous; fear of loss; inflexible; acquisitive; extravagant; hoarding; indulgent; lacking detachment; conservative; gluttonous.

Gemini: Easily bored; changeable; scattered; restless; superficial; tense, neurotic; dislike routine; fickle; split personalities; dislike binding ties; dual; nervous; two-faced.

Cancer: Passive; moody; elusive; side-stepping; easily hurt; lazy; self-centered, selfish; clams up.

Leo: Won't delegate authority; egotistical; hard to be detached; arrogant; need stroking, flattery; vain; flashy, flamboyant; show-offs; rose-colored glasses; braggart; snobbish.

Virgo: Feel inferior; jittery; hypochondriacs; critical; feel inadequate; fault-finding; impossibly high standards.

Libra: Secretive; iron fist in velvet glove; dominating; self-willed; anything to be liked; dislike hard work; indecisive.

Scorpio: Battle within self; vindictive, vengeful; sarcastic; jealous; resentful; stubborn; proud; don't get mad, get even!; problems in relationships; extremist; secretive.

Sagittarius: Scattered; unorganized; undisciplined; superficial; glib; con artists; tactless; gamblers; hard to pin down; gypsyish; won't settle down; hucksters; non-traditional; procrastinators; the bachelor sign.

Capricorn: Worrier; cautious; fearful, insecure; slow to accept change; stifles originality; repressive; unsentimental; embarrassed by emotion; shy; cold; calculating; selfish; stickler for rules; false pride; materialistic; disciplinarian; "street angel, house devil"; pessimistic; social climber; dreary; opportunistic; seek power, control freak

Aquarius: Rebellious; problems with intimacy and in marriage; inflexible; critical; demanding; cold, detached; unpredictable; impersonal; outrageous; stubborn; non-committal; controversial.

Pisces: Moody; escapist; feel inferior, unworthy; self-indulgent; lazy; overworked; alcoholic or drug-prone; martyrs; gullible; impressionable; unrealistic; suffer through empathy; deep suffering; dependent; daydreamer; can't handle money well or drugs, alcohol; self-pity.

HOUSE -- KEYWORDS (use for either house placement)

1-- Appearance, personality, nativity, habitual manner, outlook on life; window to view the world; "mask", natural disposition, temperament; self-interest; (head and face)

2-- Ownership, resources, possessions, financial standing, financial prospects, values, strongest desires; manner of meeting obligations; earning and spending capacity; (throat and ears)

3-- Your thoughts; relating to your environment; dexterity; early education; short journeys; siblings; acquaintances, neighbors, community, brethren; writings, news, contracts; rumors; memory, perception, speech; basic skills, studies, mental ability, concrete thought; (shoulders, arms, hands, lungs, collar bones, nervous system)

4-- Base of operations, home, inner world, soul, hidden self, domestic matters, birthplace, residence; end of matters, latter part of life; real estate and property; lesser parent; (breast, stomach, digestive organs)

5-- Self-expression, offspring of the self; personal stamp; romantic matters of the heart, the love principle; children;



Wisdom Path

by Judi Thomases
Member A.F.A., N.C.G.R.



speculation, amusement, entertainment; crafts, dramatics; love affairs; pleasurable emotions; (heart, back)

6-- Employment, employees; health; domestic pets, small animals; service, working conditions; construction details, routines, servants; food, hygiene, clothing; (solar plexus, bowels)

7-- Relationship, marriage, partnerships, cooperation; the lower courts, open adversaries, unions; contracts, lawsuits; the general public; (kidneys, ovaries, lower back)

8-- Sex; regeneration, death; psychic abilities; legacies, inheritance, gifts, partner's possessions and finances, taxes, other people's money, insurance, stock market, investments, joint business matters; astral realm; (muscles, bladder, sex organs)

9-- Religion, philosophy; superconscious mind, intuition, inspiration, faith, abstract thought; the law; spiritual visions, dreams; long journeys, foreign countries, expanded horizons, distant travel, other cultures; publishing; in-laws; higher education, philanthropy; (liver, thighs)

10-- Prestige, public honor, social standing, public persona; major parent; profession, career, occupation, fame, how world sees you; promotion, reputation; employers, nature of work; politics or government matters; (knees)

11-- Goals, objectives; friendships, social relationships, group affiliations; hopes, ambitions, wishes; organizations, associations; money from profession; (ankles)

12-- Hidden matters, secrets, secret enemies; subconsciousness; confinement; Initiation, service to humanity, charity; karma; God's Grace; self-undoing; limitations; "ripe destiny"; hospitals, clinics, institutions; seclusion; occult; large animals; (feet)

POSSIBLE KARMIC TASK

Now to play "mix and match" to find your possible karmic task in this life! Try putting together something from the table of signs (positive) with something from the table of houses to figure out your true life goal. Then use the table of signs (negative) with the table of houses to see where you might be stuck, or acting self-destructively. If you have, say, a North Node in Aquarius in the twelfth house, your fulfilling karmic task might be to play a behind-the-scenes role in a progressive humanitarian organization that brings friendships as well as service. (In your past life – the Leo South Node in the first – you might have focused far too strongly on gaining recognition for talents and ego needs; your current "job" will require a far less self-important role.)

Or, suppose you have a North Node in Virgo in the fifth house. Here you might strive to develop a practical, detailed form of heartfelt creativity, such as carefully crafted but useful decorative household items that would sell well, instead of past-life dreamy and idealistic visions that were imaginative but did not pay the bills (Pisces South Node in the eleventh).

A client had a North Node in Gemini in the fourth, conjunct the IC. Wanderlust was strong (Sagittarius South Node and MC), but so were roots, family, and social ties. Having raised a family in a large house from which she also ran her profession, she sold it and bought a large RV (mobile home), and set off to make her way to her be near her son in a distant place, thus satisfying the messages of both North and South Nodes in one fell swoop. Along the way, she plans to visit all her friends around the country, and to make new ones (Gemini).



Wisdom Path

by Judi Thomases
Member A.F.A., N.C.G.R.



Another person, an artist with a stellium in Leo but a North Node in Aquarius fourth house, long resisted setting up a website of his offerings, until, very frustrated by lack of sales, found a friend (Aquarius) to help him with the technology (Aquarius), and is now doing well in a worldwide market run from his home (fourth house).

Astrology is like a puzzle to be solved. You'll be well on your way to awareness of your life's challenge by playing this simple yet infinitely useful pursuit.

9. Become love.

Two simple words, but one of our most difficult tasks. Not needing love, just reflecting it. Radiating from the heart.

If astrology is teaching us that we're all here to express the self and simultaneously to complete a life mission, then everyone's doing their best at life, and should ideally be encouraged as well as cut some slack in this hard work. Insight and compassion. Wouldn't it be great if everyone walked around with a badge identifying his/her life task and how much success they were having with it so far, instead of being pigeonholed by labels of fame, looks, wealth etc.? It might be so much easier, then, to keep one's heart open to another, rather than getting all messed up with our own emotions, reactions, and expectations.

A client assured himself of reaching deep compassion in this life by choosing a very painful energy pattern. At age 44, through a series of progressed aspects impacting dynamic natal patterns, the stage was set – he'd have nowhere else to go than inwardly toward spiritual awakening and an unrequited but deeply opened heart. A married Libran, with a North Node in Libra on his Sun forming a Grand Cardinal Cross with Saturn in Capricorn fifth house opposite Moon in Cancer eleventh house, and a concluding Venus at the last possible minute and degree of Leo rising in his first house conjunct impassioned Pluto, he had always longed for his true soul mate. Ironically, he met and lost her as progressed Venus and progressed Ascendant approached a conjunction to his natal Sun/Node (true love) but a square to his natal and progressed Saturn (obstacles), while his progressed Moon entered Pisces (self-sacrifice) in his seventh house (relationships). Unable to bear leaving his wife and children (Libran stellium, Cancerian Moon), but confronted with 3-4 years of romantic heartache (the Libran soul longing), he is faced with little choice but to learn the lessons of higher love – for his family, for his understandably indecisive lover (he won't leave them for her), and for himself. His wife, apprised of the situation, has chosen to remain in the marriage. And even if the illicit relationship periodically resumes over the given stretch of years, there can be no happy resolution because, by progression, the message of thwarted soul mate love remains in effect. What a pickle!

Why would anyone choose such an emotional melodrama? That it's karmic is indisputable, but as punishment or retribution? No, modern astrology holds to a more mature belief system. We are all here to evolve, and we no longer see stark contrasts of good and evil, only duality as inherent in the physical world. It's all just the game the soul is playing with itself to learn the greatest wisdom it can gain from planet Earth. And in this case, the soul – playing the "game" of love affairs – is assuring itself that it must reach unconditional love (giving without the need to receive), or else remain in misery.

Wouldn't it be terrific to achieve this enlightened fourth chakra open-heart stage without plunging into desolation? Perhaps astrology can be the device that shows the way.



Wisdom Path

by Judi Thomases
Member A.F.A., N.C.G.R.



10. Appreciate your blessings (Jupiter).

Think of Jupiter not simply as the Great Benefic, but as that which is accompanying you throughout your entire journey, allowing what must manifest to do so in order for you to accomplish your task. If Saturn is the taskmaster, Jupiter is the door-opener, the provider in your universe, the opportunity you absolutely require to bring the whole game into play and keep it going. Not just luck, Jupiter is that which enables you to continue to be.

You took Jupiter along to give you the cushion to ride upon, to pave the road ahead that you must walk down, and to bail you out when the going gets too tough. What's a blessing anyhow, if not the stroke of God that changes the odds in your favor when the going gets rough? Just as you need your teacher, you also need your sustainer.

Where's Jupiter in your chart, and what is it promising that it will always make available to you? Here are some clues: In Aries, it is the sustenance of physicality and the self; in Taurus, of the material world and its abundance; in Gemini, of social interaction and the gift of gab; in Cancer, of home and family; in Leo, of talent and "heart"; in Virgo, of care and usefulness; in Libra, of refinement and others' attraction; in Scorpio, of insight and power; in Sagittarius, of the broad perspective; in Capricorn, of material mastery; in Aquarius, of originality; and in Pisces, of spiritual connection.

Pulling It All Together

By now, you should be able to write your mission statement. What does your chart tell you about your soul choices? What are you here to do? (It doesn't matter if it's only for your own needs, or if it serves others, or even the world. As long as you can express it, you can see your true task, your heart's desire. Then you are on your way.)

Study your chart, and make some educated guesses. It's okay to change this mission statement as your insight grows, so don't hesitate to state something right now. By attempting to see your life task wisely, you'll have made a priceless beginning. Next, write down five or ten ways you can implement your mission from now on, keeping in mind the Top Ten Measures of using astrology to become wise.

It's my hope that we will refrain from using astrology – that great gift of a divine tool – as simply a fortune-telling methodology, and instead use its messages and keys to understand what we're doing here, what "the meaning of life" is for each and every one of our unique selves. And by raising astrology to this level, the tool shows us how to become wiser, and becomes shinier and brighter itself as it does so.

Wisdom is the one thing that makes life easier. It does not make it richer, nor more romantically satisfying, nor healthier, nor any of the things that are chased and sought after, for those are under the category of desire. Wisdom gives the means to achieve all of those, for it is the one inner tool that allows you to reach, from a centered and joyful place, that which the world is offering. It makes life's game so much easier to endure, and so much more fulfilling than when lived with only a meager amount of it. So, if you wish to seek something in this life, do not choose the desire as the first goal, but choose the inner reward first, and the desire will follow. That is what is meant by choosing wisely. Then you will see your life blossoming into its best manifestation, and your heart's desire within reach.

— Received via The Brotherhood of Light Workers on 6/24/04



Wisdom Path

by Judi Thomases
Member A.F.A., N.C.G.R.



###

COPYRIGHT January, 2005, Judi Thomases. All rights reserved. Permission required for reprinting.