



Hermetic Astrology

*Astrology for Aquarius*  
*Sharing our knowledge*

# The Decanates User-Guide

**The Hermetic System of Astrology**

Using measurement to give  
the astro-data a more valid  
and reliable interpretation

**DW Sutton**

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# Symbols in astrology

The planets and zodiac signs displayed in your birth chart and the aspects formed by the planets recorded on your chart's aspect grid are identified by symbols.

## The planets

☉	Sun
☾	Moon
☿	Mercury
♀	Venus
♂	Mars
♃	Jupiter
♄	Saturn
♅	Uranus
♆	Neptune
♇	Pluto

## The zodiac signs

♈	Aries
♉	Taurus
♊	Gemini
♋	Cancer
♌	Leo
♍	Virgo
♎	Libra
♏	Scorpio
♐	Sagittarius
♑	Capricorn
♒	Aquarius
♓	Pisces

## The aspects

♌	Conjunction	△	Trine
♍	Semisextile	◻	Sesquisquare
♎	Semisquare	⋈	Inconjunct
♏	Sextile	♋	Opposition
♐	Square		Parallel

## **Decanate date and keyword reference**

(dates are approximate)

### **Sun is in Aries from March 20 to April 19**

First decanate: March 20 – March 30	- activity
Second decanate: March 31 – April 9	- exaltation
Third decanate: April 10 – April 19	- propaganda

### **Sun is in Taurus from April 20 to May 20**

First decanate: April 20 – April 30	- determination
Second decanate: May 1 – May 10	- struggle
Third decanate: May 11 – May 20	- mastership

### **Sun is in Gemini from May 21 to June 21**

First decanate: May 21 – May 31	- intuition
Second decanate: June 1 – June 10	- fidelity
Third decanate: June 11 – June 21	- reason

### **Sun is in Cancer from June 22 to July 22**

First decanate: June 22 – July 1	- moods
Second decanate: July 2 – July 12	- revelation
Third decanate: July 13 – July 22	- research

### **Sun is in Leo from July 23 to August 22**

First decanate: July 23 – August 2	- rulership
Second decanate: August 3 – August 12	- reformation
Third decanate: August 13 – August 22	- ambition

### **Sun is in Virgo from August 23 to September 22**

First decanate: August 23 – September 3	- achievement
Second decanate: September 4 – September 13	- experience
Third decanate: September 14 – September 22	- renunciation

## **Sun is in Libra from September 23 to October 22**

First decanate: September 23 – October 2	- policy
Second decanate: October 3 – October 12	- independence
Third decanate: October 13 – October 22	- expiation

## **Sun is in Scorpio from October 23 to November 21**

First decanate: October 23 – November 2	- resourcefulness
Second decanate: November 3 – November 12	- responsibility
Third decanate: November 13 – November 21	- attainment

## **Sun is in Sagittarius from November 22 to December 21**

First decanate: November 22 – December 1	- devotion
Second decanate: December 2 – December 11	- exploration
Third decanate: December 12 – December 21	- illumination

## **Sun is in Capricorn from December 22 to January 19**

First decanate: December 22 – December 31	- organization
Second decanate: January 1 – January 10	- martyrdom
Third decanate: January 11 – January 19	- idealism

## **Sun is in Aquarius from January 20 to February 18**

First decanate: January 20 – January 29	- originality
Second decanate: January 30 – February 8	- inspiration
Third decanate: February 9 – February 18	- repression

## **Sun is in Pisces from February 19 to March 20**

First decanate: February 19 – February 28	- verity
Second decanate: March 1 – March 10	- self-sacrifice
Third decanate: March 11 – March 20	- vicissitudes

# Introduction

Hermetic astrology is grounded in evidence-based scientific data. Thirty years of statistical and observational research eliminated the mystical beliefs and misinformation that currently defines popular astrology.

The science pertains to the birth chart. It's a reference map that's calculated for a specified time, date and place. It displays an image of the planets and zodiac signs. Hermetic astrology measures the chart's data.

The planets and zodiac signs are birth chart markers and a chart's astrodyne report measures their strength and functionality.

The chart's assessment commences with the planets. They're located by sign and house and the signs are divided into three subsections called decanates.

The science of astrology embraces information pertaining to the zodiac signs and decanates and the application of the science to your own chart allows you to learn about yourself.

Some chart data is easy to understand and much of the data simply confirms what you already know; but getting a handle on some of the more abstruse data can be a challenge.

So, if you're serious about having a worthwhile, productive life then the astro-data contained in your birth chart is the key to getting it right. But in the excitement of the astrological moment don't forget the decanates. They give your practical living a spiritual dimension.

This Decanates User-Guide explains (1) how to identify and study the outstanding decanates in your chart; and (2) why applying the data in your daily life ensures big rewards. You can fast-track your mental, emotional and spiritual development.

## **A few words about your birth chart**

Your birth chart showcases you.

It's a map of your not-conscious soul-mind.

Your chart records, in astro-text, past-life data that's saved in memory. It's a textbook about you that's written in the author's original words.

Hermetic astrology provides a translation.

Each planet, aspect, sign and house in the chart is sending you a text message. And when you apply the science of astrology to your birth chart you can discover why you are who you are.

Chances are you're curious about yourself.

Self-understanding may be an important personal issue, but your search is easily undermined by unsubstantiated beliefs and false information. The minute you start to think about yourself seriously you will question your level of self-understanding. And after gathering all the popular self-information that's currently available the honest answer to the question 'how well do I know myself?' is 'not very well'.

And that's why your birth chart is such a valuable personal resource.

It describes your character at the time of your human birth and you're now actively engaged in the business of living your life.

### **Chart data-check**

The houses in your birth chart define your local environment – the life-matters, activities, people and places that grab your attention and occupy your time. Certain life experiences, specified by the active houses in your chart, will play a central role in your life story.

**The planets in your chart are the dynamic factors; and the most important single factor when it comes to discovering your natural bias is your **dominant planet**. It's the planet with the highest astrodyne score.**

### **Chart data-check**

Each planet in your birth chart is a marker for a dynamic urge in your not-conscious soul-mind and your life and behavior is all about satisfying their incessant cravings. You satisfy the desires mapped by the planets through the life-matters and activities made possible by your local environment.

**Your not-consciousness soul-mind is a world of thoughts, feelings and impulses and the aspects formed by the planets indicate if the dynamic urges mapped by the planets are embedded with pleasant feelings of feel-good pleasure or unpleasant feelings of feel-bad pain.**

### **Chart data-check**

The planets in your birth chart form angular relationships called aspects. Each aspect has a mode of expression that is defined as neutral, harmonious or discordant. The discordant aspects mark for character defects – the root cause of all your problems.

**The zodiac signs express attitudes, motivations, likes and dislikes. They're subdivided into three ten-degree sections called decanates. A sign's decanates specialize its fundamental mode of expression.**

### **Chart data-check**

The dynamic not-conscious urges mapped by the planets in your birth chart have an attitude-motivation that's defined by their sign and decanate locations.

**Past-life data, saved in memory as a psychological footprint, is the foundation of your future self.**

## The decanates

The decanates are more astrological wisdom from an unknown ancient world.

The first astrologers discovered that the twelve signs of the zodiac could be divided into three sections, and that each section, which they called a decanate, had a distinct influence of its own that was only less pronounced than that of the sign itself.

They then pictured the influence indicated by each decanate by its corresponding ultra-zodiacal constellation.

Embedded in the constellated pictures in the sky are coded messages that provide practical and spiritual data pertaining to their astrological correlates in the zodiac. The constellations explain in the language of universal symbolism the practical and spiritual teachings of their corresponding zodiac signs and decanates.

A decanate is a  $10^\circ$  sub-section of a zodiac sign.

The first decanate of a sign occupies  $00^\circ$  to  $9^\circ 59' 59''$

The second decanate occupies  $10^\circ$  to  $19^\circ 59' 59''$  and

The third decanate occupies  $20^\circ$  to  $29^\circ 59' 59''$

The basic tapestry of life is defined by the 12 zodiac signs.

Each sign expresses a basic motivating force that defines a way of living and a sign's three decanate subdivisions give its central mode of expression a unique and special trend that has a practical and spiritual application.

The constellations in the sky depict in their pictographs ethical teachings that provide a narrative for the development of spiritual attributes.

They convey powerful messages that spiritualize the intelligence and ability that's developed through practical living.

## Each decanate has a keyword description

The course your life journey takes is mapped by your dominant planet and the decanates occupied by the Sun, Moon, ascendant and Mercury in your birth chart.

These decanates define your reason for being. They describe a special set of distinguishing features that only you possess.

The outstanding decanates in your chart provide big data that you should tag as very **important**.

The special knowledge pertaining to a particular decanate can relate to an unusual power, high attainment, a natural interest, talent or ability that's awaiting development, a destructive tendency or danger that has to be avoided, a barrier that hinders progress and has to be overcome or a general life trend.

Whatever...this influence is summarized by a keyword that best describes its influence in human life and its various affairs.

This keyword provides an easy to remember one word summary description of the decanate's influence.

You can liken it to a chapter heading and the allegorical story that describes the decanate provides a detailed account of the chapter's contents.

So while it's important to know and understand the keyword descriptions of your outstanding decanates some understanding of the allegorical story it summarizes is also helpful.

So you need to know your outstanding decanates and understand (1) their special message and (2) the meaning of their keyword descriptions.

Each decanate provides stand alone information so you won't consider the sign and house positions of their planetary ruler or rulers.

## **Your decanate profile**

Your birth chart pictures an astrological image. It gives you a view of yourself and your life from above. It connects you to the universe. It provides you with a blueprint for living and a plan of your future self.

The planets in the chart mark for thoughts, feelings and impulses that express in your daily life. They identify characteristics and traits that are easily discerned by you – your soul's objective observer.

You have some awareness of your thought and feeling world.

You know about your aggressive tendencies (Mars) and your impulse to compete, have sex and attack opponents and obstacles. You know about your religiosity (Jupiter) and your impulse to worship, pray, revere, make money and show goodwill, tolerance and benevolence. And you know about your security urge (Saturn) and your impulse to feel safe by protecting yourself from poverty, hardship and disease.

But the decanates provide data that is not immediately obvious. It's soul-deep data that gives you distinguishing features, a special identity and a unique role to play in God's great evolutionary plan.

The outstanding decanates in your birth chart play a lead role in your life story. So even though your decanate-data may seem a little abstruse, even mysterious, you should view it as something you've got. It's definite and profound. It gives your life a special, unique focus. It individualizes you and defines a special life journey that is a developmental certainty.

Your decanate-data sets you apart. It separates you from the bunch and ensures your development into a one-of-a-kind creation.

It defines a definite shaping influence that ensures you become the person nature intends – a special creation with special features that contribute to the practical and spiritual tapestry of life.

## **Chart data-check**

Your key decanate profile embraces the decanates occupied by your dominant planet and the Sun, Moon, ascendant and Mercury.

These decanates detail an orderly arrangement of developmental experiences that merge to produce a life story that has a special purpose.

Your decanate profile is a definite astrological influence that will play a key role in shaping your life. It's a dynamic inner-world astral force that acts on your external environment to produce events and conditions which become the means by which your practical and spiritual intelligence develops.

Your life might seem to be a haphazard happening but your character is being formed and shaped by internal and external forces; and the outstanding decanates in your birth chart are positive internal shaping forces.

They're not ifs, buts or maybes.

They're giving your life a special developmental trend and this means they're having a dynamic impact on who you are now and the person you're in the process of becoming.

You're on a developmental journey to acquire and express intelligence and ability and by being you and living your life you contribute to the tapestry of life.

But there's more to life than work, fun, family and the struggle to survive a difficult and sometimes harsh environment. And the decanate data in your birth chart defines something about you that is unique and special.

It adds a spiritual dimension to your life and living.

It defines special qualities and attributes that allow you to contribute to the spiritual tapestry of life.

## **The outstanding decanates in your birth chart**

The decanates occupied by the planets, ascendant and Midheaven in your birth chart provide valuable astro-data pertaining to you and your life; but those occupied by your dominant planet and the Sun, Moon, ascendant and Mercury must receive special consideration. They're the outstanding decanates in your chart. They provide crucial information pertaining to your existence, life experience and reason for being.

Of primary importance is the decanate occupied by your dominant planet. It gives the lead player in your life story a special bias that greatly influences what you do and how you live your life.

Next in importance is the decanate occupied by the Sun. It gives your Sun-sign's fundamental expression a special drift. It defines a deep seated attitude-motivation that you naturally adopt as you strive to express your individuality and satisfy your desire for power, control, self-esteem and social respect.

Third in importance is the decanate occupied by the Moon. Your Moon-sign identifies an attitude-motivation that defines (1) your approach to daily life and (2) your mental life in terms of feelings, hunches and impressions. And the Moon's decanate location gives the sign's common mode of expression a unique and special trend.

Fourth in importance is the decanate occupied by the ascendant. Your ascendant-sign identifies an attitude-motivation that defines (1) your personality and (2) your personal life in terms of personal interests, likes and dislikes. And the ascendant's decanate location gives the sign's basic expression a singular and special quality.

And fifth in importance is the decanate occupied by Mercury. Your Mercury-sign identifies an attitude-motivation that defines your intellectual life in terms of objective thinking, reasoned judgments and the expression of your thoughts in speech or writing. And Mercury's decanate location gives the sign's elemental mode of expression a special focus.

## Your dominant planet

For a planet to have an outstanding influence in your life, whether fortunate and beneficial or unfortunate and detrimental, it must possess above average astrodyne power. The psychological correlate of a planet with above average power has an incessant desire. It's sure to accomplish something.

Your chart's planet power summary lists the 10 planets, ascendant and Mid-heaven in descending power order. So, the one with the highest astrodyne score is listed first. It's the hub of your life experience.

Your dominant planet tells a powerful story. More of its particular type of astral energy is stored in your astral constitution and more of its astral energy flows through the stellar structures of your astral body.

The desires corresponding to this planet are active throughout the life. They dominate your not-conscious thought world and stream into your brain to dominate your conscious field of mental activity.

Your dominant planet marks for a not-conscious urge that's propelled by a massive volume of desire energy so it dominates your not-conscious thinking and drives your life. More than any other birth chart factor it defines the type of person you are and the type of life you're destined to live – just because you're you. It marks for a well developed aptitude profile that you can transform into ability through education and practice.

The decanate occupied by your dominant planet gives a viewpoint and special life trend or set of circumstances or unique skill-set that will play the lead role in your life story. It greatly influences what you do and how you live your life.

Your dominant planet is the one with the highest astrodyne score. More than any other birth chart marker it defines your natural bias and the decanate it occupies gives a special trend to its field of expression. Its decanate data requires your careful attention and consideration. And your dominant planet could be the Sun, Moon, ascendant or Mercury.

## **Your Sun-sign decanate**

Your Sun sign maps deep seated traits and behaviors that define your attitude-motivation when expressing your desire for power, control, self-esteem and social respect. It's a core tendency allied to your individuality and sense of self-importance.

The decanate occupied by the Sun gives the fundamental expression of your Sun-sign a unique and special trend. It's the region of your astral body where your ego contacts your soul and your soul, during its human incarnation, must constantly receive energy from its spiritual ego. So this decanate becomes of prime importance as indicating the interior viewpoint and motive-power behind your life as a whole.

The decanate occupied by the Sun in your birth chart polarizes your individuality. It controls and restricts the direction and expression of your core self. It maps a special type of experience that directly relates to the satisfaction of your desire for pride, self-esteem and social significance.

Your Sun-sign decanate defines your individuality and gives your desire for power and significance a special motivation. It gives your most deep-seated character traits a natural bias. It indicates the section of your astral body where those experiences involving power and significance have been organized into a dynamic stellar structure.

The decanate occupied by the Sun in your birth chart sets you apart as a distinct and remarkable individual. It indicates a key developmental experience that in many respects unlocks the mystery that is you. It distinguishes you, gives you distinct attributes and defines a natural bias for a type of experience that represents your reason for being. It plays a core role in the development of your special type of intelligence and ability.

Your Sun-sign decanate provides powerful information regarding the special attributes that define you as an individual. It's a significant player in your search for meaning and self-understanding.

## **Your Moon-sign decanate**

Your mentality is a set of feelings that define your everyday self and your Moon-sign maps your attitude-motivation to daily life. As your everyday consciousness it's a world of thoughts, feelings and impulses. Your mental attitude represents your way of adapting to an ever-changing daily life environment. As an ever shifting circumstance it requires flexible adjustment. Feelings direct your actions. There's no time to engage in critical analysis. Your everyday thoughts are just your feelings turned into words and judgments. You rock and roll with the punches. You can say with certainty that how you feel is just your soul responding to what's happening right now and you think, say and do what your feelings dictate.

The decanate occupied by the Moon shifts the fundamental expression of your Moon-sign in a unique direction. By controlling and restricting the direction and expression of your mind it polarizes your mentality. It gives your mind a natural bias for receiving and assimilating a special type of experience.

Your Moon-sign decanate provides valuable astro-data pertaining to your mind. It governs the general quality of your mental processes. It gives your mind distinctive attributes. It maps deep-seated mental traits and a special type of experience that more than any other sustains the development of your mentality. It defines a spontaneous attraction for a special type of experience; a natural bias to attract, receive and assimilate a particular type of information; and a natural capacity to learn, grasp and understand a particular kind of information.

Your birth chart is a map of your soul's thought structure and while every planet and aspect represent not-conscious mental factors your mental attitude and capacity are specified by the decanate occupied by the Moon.

In the natural order of things it represents an experience that is second only to the Sun in its personal relevance and importance, but the Moon could be your dominant planet.

## **Your ascendant-sign decanate**

Your time, date and place of birth personalize the astro-image displayed in your birth chart. The degree and minute of the zodiac on the eastern horizon identifies your ascendant. It acts very much like a planet. In reality it maps a heavy astral-electromagnetic line of energy that grounds your astral body or soul to the earth environment around you.

Your ascendant sign defines your personality. It's the data-point for information pertaining to your physical appearance, personal attributes, personal likes and dislikes and personal interests.

Your personality expresses an attitude-motivation that defines your personal viewpoint or way of seeing the world. You move about and conduct yourself in your own distinct way and your personality is what other people observe as you engage in the business of living – your way.

Your personality is not your character. It's the means by which your individuality (Sun) and mentality (Moon) are transmitted into action. Through physical, personal contact these key components of your character find expression in the outside world. And if your ascendant has the highest astrodyne score the influence of your ascendant sign and decanate is very pronounced.

The decanate occupied by the ascendant in your birth chart polarizes your personality. It controls and restricts the direction and expression of your personal conduct and interests. It gives your physical body and personal inclinations a natural bias. Here on Earth your physical form influences what you can and can't do.

Your ascendant-sign decanate provides astro-data pertaining to the special focus that defines the expression and development of your personal attributes. It governs the quality of your personal magnetism. It gives your personality distinctive traits and characteristics that single you out as a special and unique individual. So you're not just a common personality type identified by a letter of the alphabet!

## **Your Mercury-sign decanate**

Your mind is a world of mental activity. You can't stop thinking and Mercury in your birth chart is the astro-marker for a dynamic group of thought-cells in your not-conscious soul-mind that express your desire to reason carefully and communicate your thoughts in speech or writing. When you were born this thought-cell group represented the psychological footprint of your soul's previous experiences with perception, remembering and communicating.

Mercury in your birth chart is the data-point for information pertaining to your cerebral activity. It identifies your intellectual urge. It defines your intellectual life. You have intellectual/academic interests. It identifies your desire to relate your life story to your listening audience. Mercury defines your habitual way of objective thinking. It represents your way of solving problems using reasoned thought. You've got your thinking cap on (Mercury) when you're solving a perplexity, making a comparative judgment, or carefully formulating words and sentences.

The decanate occupied by Mercury polarizes your intellect. It gives your intellect distinctive attributes and a special attitude-motivation. It controls and restricts the direction and expression of your objective understanding. It provides powerful information pertaining to your intellectual ability and gives your potential to develop reasoning skills a special developmental focus.

Your Mercury-sign decanate defines your way of perceiving and comparing sensory inputs. It gives your cerebral processes – your habitual method of objective thinking or mental word processing – a special mode of expression. It gives your desire for self-expression a unique attitude-motivation.

The decanate occupied by Mercury gives your way of making known your thoughts and feelings to others a natural bias. It defines your special way of verbalizing or documenting your thoughts, ideas and opinions. It indicates the motive power driving your desire to talk and communicate. And Mercury in your birth chart could be your dominant planet.

## Decanate study sessions

Decanate study sessions have a definite purpose. They're self-learning opportunities.

The key issue for you is self-discovery.

You want to know: Who am I and what am I doing here? Reaching your full potential may have crossed your mind.

And Hermetic astrology offers you a self-discovery opportunity.

Your birth chart pictures your character; and the events and conditions that ensure the continued development of your intelligence and ability.

Your intelligence and ability expresses talent. It's what you've got to give the world; and the decanates occupied by your dominant planet and the Sun, Moon, ascendant and Mercury give you special features and qualities that set you apart as a unique, one-of-a-kind creation.

These decanates provide big data pertaining to you and your life and each bit of data requires a sensible, in-depth assessment. There is no room for error or misunderstanding as you conduct an honest self-inquiry.

So, during a decanate study session you're focused on learning something important about yourself.

You're drilling down into the data to learn about the special features that define your life and spiritual potential. *A heartbeat powered by a worthwhile purpose has a high potential for spiritual achievement.*

But it's not a matter of taking the two, three or four outstanding decanates in your chart and giving each one a separate interpretation. You need to merge their data into your character as special distinguishing features.

The special trend given by a decanate will be supported by other markers in the chart and you're digging into the data to understand what it means and how it relates to you.

The meaning of a decanate is captured in its keyword description so it's important to understand what these keywords signify and mean. And you can devote some study sessions to learning about a decanate's pictograph and the allegorical story it tells.

During each study session you should focus on developing a personal decanate profile and getting a clear understanding of its role in your life.

At the start some data may relate to a quality that you haven't yet observed so you don't even know you've got it. But it shouldn't be dismissed just because you don't have an immediate connection with it.

Data that isn't immediately obvious or personally verifiable should not be considered flimsy or uncertain. Over time it will be revealed to you through self-reflection.

As your consciousness continues to grow and develop, through experience, you'll come to see yourself in your decanate profile.

It provides soul-deep information that enlightens you about your soul; and these soul-deep personal insights will change the way you see yourself.

So your objective is to walk away from each decanate study session with a slightly better understanding of your special attributes, reason for being and spiritual potential.

And after each study session you should evaluate the learning outcome by asking yourself: 'What did I learn about myself from my decanates?'

## **Create a basic decanate profile**

The outstanding decanates in your birth chart give you special features, qualities, attributes and developmental experiences and you're the best person to create a basic decanate profile. This is easy.

It's a just a matter of systematically sequencing the data provided by the decanates occupied by the dominant planet and the Sun, Moon, ascendant and Mercury in your chart.

It's a basic assessment that doesn't consider their astrodyne scores.

How you go about recording and sequencing your decanate data is your call, but a written (typed) report that can be easily referenced and studied seems best.

At the very least you need to know the keywords for each of the outstanding decanates in your chart. And some knowledge of their pictograph images and allegorical stories will help you to develop a deeper understanding of what the data means.

A basic decanate profile can also consider any decanate, not occupied by the dominant planet or the Sun, Moon, ascendant and Mercury, where 2 or 3 planets are located.

Your objective is to assess and measure the volume of astrological energy expressing through each section of the zodiac at the time you were born.

Whatever...the decanates occupied by your dominant planet and the Sun, Moon, ascendant and Mercury provide you with a basic decanate profile that gives you and your life story unique features and a special focus.

Your basic decanate data profile is a hierarchy of self-information pertaining to your reason for being and life story both now and in the eternal future.

## **Fine-tune your decanate data with numbers**

The decanates occupied by the dominant planet and the Sun, Moon, ascendant and Mercury in your birth chart provide you with a basic decanate profile; and some quick and easy birth chart sleuthing allows you to fine-tune the importance and relevance of the data.

The astrodyne scores of the planets in your chart measure their relative power and this measures the volume of energy expressing through the decanates they occupy.

So the astrodyne scores of your dominant planet and the Sun, Moon, ascendant and Mercury allow you to fine-tune the assessment of your decanate data using numbers.

Your objective is to build an authentic decanate profile using their astrodyne power scores and conjunction aspects to measure the strength and influence of their decanate data.

Your chart's planet power summary, by listing the planets in descending power order, allows you to see which planet, whether the Sun, Moon, ascendant or Mercury, has the strongest influence in your chart.

Your dominant planet has the dominant place in your life story.

Your chart will reveal if the planets are closely bundled or scattered and it's easy to observe the conjunction aspects.

A conjunction aspect is formed when two planets are near to each other in approximately the same degree of the zodiac. It brings their influence into prominence. And if the two planets forming a conjunction aspect are in the same decanate the influence of this decanate is accentuated.

The two planets could be in adjacent decanates, which accentuates the influence of both decanates, but the planet with the highest astrodyne score will determine which of the decanates has the stronger influence.

There may be four, five or six active decanates in your birth chart but the most reliable decanate profile considers the decanates occupied by your dominant planet and the Sun, Moon, ascendant and Mercury and factors in their astrodyne scores and conjunction aspects. And there's a good chance that the Sun, Moon, ascendant or Mercury is your dominant planet.

If this is the case and the Sun, Moon, ascendant or Mercury is conjunction another planet in the same decanate you can call this decanate your dominant decanate. Its data will define your life story.

Whatever...if the Sun, Moon, ascendant or Mercury is conjunction another planet in the same decanate it will be a data hot-spot.

Mercury is often conjunction the Sun, it's the most common recurring birth chart aspect, and if they're conjunction in the same decanate its influence is accentuated.

If the Sun, Moon, ascendant or Mercury has a low astrodyne score and stands alone in the decanate it occupies the decanate's influence is correspondingly reduced.

If your ascendant has a higher astrodyne score than the Sun, Moon or Mercury and is conjunction another planet in the decanate it occupies the decanate's influence is pronounced.

In the natural order of things the decanates occupied by the Sun, Moon, ascendant, Mercury and dominant planet give your life special features, but you can't ignore the astrological message being sent by a decanate – not occupied by the Sun, Moon, ascendant or Mercury – where two or more planets are located. This decanate's influence will be accentuated.

The fine-tuning of your decanate profile allows you to create a reliable hierarchy of decanate data and a crystal clear image of your life story, reason for being and spiritual potential.

## **Working with your decanate data**

The decanates occupied by your dominant planet and the Sun, Moon, ascendant and Mercury provide you with information that you can learn and turn into knowledge. It's there to be learned, understood and applied.

It's meant to be used in your daily life to guide your mental, emotional and spiritual development. It gives the life you're living, as defined by your birth chart and local environment, a practical and spiritual dimension.

The outstanding decanates in your birth chart provide valuable personal data which, when properly understood and applied, ensures a higher level of social usefulness and satisfaction.

What's indicated might be something to attain, an obstacle that you have to overcome, a natural talent you can develop, some advice on what to do, or a warning about a harmful activity that you need to avoid.

Your life journey involves events and situations that cause states of consciousness to develop. These experiences – some pleasant and fortunate and some unpleasant and unfortunate – provide you with a personal curriculum in the school of life. You're developing intelligence and ability by learning to deal with an ever changing environment and your capacity to keep on adapting by overcoming problems determines how well you survive.

Now, at the human stage of your journey, your birth chart puts you in the picture. But working with your decanate data to guide your life is a whole new ball-game. It's a new idea – a new way of dealing with your existence – and something you have probably never thought about before.

No doubt you will experience life events that are common to most human beings. You will receive an education, develop skills and pursue a career. You'll marry, set up house, raise children, experience sickness, go into debt, travel and have social fun.

How well you do is entirely up to you, but you need to know that every experience provides an opportunity to develop love and wisdom – and that’s why you’re here.

Effective character development spells worthwhile personal progress and the decanates in your birth chart provide spectacular inside information that will allow you to stay focused on what you’re here for. You’re here to develop know-how. It’s the result of experience and its effectiveness is not static. You can always do better. There’s always room for improvement and usually lots of it.

Elbert Benjamine wrote: ‘Spiritual astrology explains in the language of symbolical pictograph that the universe is an organic whole permeated with the consciousness of God, and is not, as the materialists would have us believe, just an aimless collection of material particles obeying blind physical laws.’

He explained that, as a human soul, you have an important role to play in the realization of God’s Great Evolutionary Plan. You have a personal obligation to develop and use the natural aptitudes displayed in your birth chart and that you will only reach your highest level of social usefulness when your strongest natural aptitudes are directed into proper channels.

He claimed that to be complete ‘society must have statesmen, poets, artists, musicians, writers, engineers, architects, healers, naturalists, astronomers, mathematicians, leaders and a variety of other persons each skilled along certain lines.’ And you’re one of these, or one of the other persons.

You also have a spiritual potential that’s awaiting development.

As your life unfolds the decanates occupied by your birth chart and progressed planets will play a key role in what eventuates, but you will have to be astrology savvy and very alert to detect what’s going on.

But when you work with your decanate data you’ll keep your mental, emotional and spiritual potential moving forward.

## **Decanates and progressed aspects**

Your progressed chart provides powerful information.

It brings your life up to date and allows you to monitor and manage new events and situations as they arise.

You can see what's going on in your personal astrological environment and the impact it's having on your not-conscious mental world.

The progressed aspects in your progressed chart are dynamic astrological events that let you know what's going on in your life right now. They provide you with powerful information that, when heeded, allows you to get it right even when the signs point to mishap and misfortune.

You need to know about your progressed aspects.

Progressed aspects turn on not-conscious desire and you go where your desires take you. And when you know the desire that's getting stimulated and whether the stimulation is harmonious or discordant you can use this inside information to manage the situation much more effectively.

The progressed planets are located by sign and house and when a progressed planet forms a progressed aspect with a birth chart or another progressed planet the stage is set for a new developmental experience.

The common practice when assessing a progressed aspect is to judge its nature and the house or houses it directly or indirectly influences, but you should also consider the decanates occupied by the birth chart and progressed planets.

The decanates detail special developmental experiences and what they indicate can only occur at astrologically opportune times and the progressed aspects in your chart time when birth chart potential can become a personal reality.

So when assessing your progressed aspects don't ignore the decanates and their allegorical stories. You can use this information to personal advantage.

Life's not a matter of being a helpless puppet but of taking positive action and making the most of what's currently on offer.

The decanate occupied by your progressed Sun defines a special trend that is currently influencing the development of your desire for power and social significance. And when your progressed Sun forms a progressed aspect you can use the information to guide your endeavors.

The decanate occupied by your progressed ascendant reveals the special trend that is currently influencing the development of your personality. And when your progressed ascendant forms a progressed aspect you can use this decanate data to guide your personal development.

The progressed Moon's ten-month stay in each decanate provides your mentality with a brief – but important – special developmental trend. And when the Moon forms a progressed aspect you can use the decanate data to pilot your mental development and daily life.

The decanate in which progressed Mercury is located reveals the special trend that is currently influencing the development of your perception skills and intelligence. And when Mercury forms a progressed aspect you can use this data to guide your intellectual development.

The progressed planets provide energy that stimulates not-conscious desire into activity.

Desire is the driving force that propels your life and the decanates occupied by the birth chart and progressed planets provide a rich detail of data that puts you in the know.

This data is meant to be used – so use it.

## **Decanates and harmony and discord**

Elbert Benjamine explained that fame (not celebrity) is reserved for those who perform some needed work exceptionally well and that ‘every degree and decanate in the zodiac offers equal opportunity for nobility and greatness.’ But...‘the greatness that more easily may be attained by a person born in one decanate is not the kind of greatness that may be grasped readily by one born in another.’

Harmony and discord play a vital role in God’s school where souls develop intelligence and ability through experience. Discord expresses as misfortune, mishap and mistake and you develop ability by overcoming your misfortunes and changing or modifying your mistake prone thinking and behavior.

The harmony or discord pertaining to some decanates, which can’t be measured or compared, contributes to the development of the special type of intelligence and ability they define.

Who’s to say if the tendency towards violence indicated by the first decanate of Aries is worse than the greed indicated by the second decanate of Taurus, or the self-centeredness indicated by the third decanate of Gemini, or the domestic intrigue indicated by the first decanate of Cancer, or the unscrupulous criminal tendencies indicated by the third decanate of Libra, or the sportive-gambling tendencies indicated by the third decanate of Sagittarius.

You need to know that some behaviors have attained social respectability when all the evidence indicates that they’re a road to misery and misfortune.

Your progressed chart maps the road you’ll travel and the decanates occupied by the progressed Sun, Moon, ascendant and Mercury will give your life special trends involving harmony or discord that will play an important role in your intelligence and ability development.

Times of discord are opportunities for developing intelligence and ability and times of harmony are when you can move forward by putting the know-how you’ve developed into practice.

## How the decanate system works

The signs of the zodiac are grouped into triplicities.

The signs of the fire triplicity are Aries, Leo and Sagittarius

The signs of the earth triplicity are Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn

The signs of the air triplicity are Gemini, Libra and Aquarius and

The signs of the water triplicity are Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces

The first decanate of each sign vibrates to the sign and its ruling planet or planets. It expresses the sign's full influence.

The second decanate of each sign vibrates to the next sign of the same triplicity and its ruling planet or planets.

And the third decanate of each sign vibrates to the next sign of the same triplicity and its ruling planet or planets. So...

The first decanate of **Aries** is the Aries decanate ruled by Mars

The second decanate is the Leo decanate ruler by the Sun and

The third decanate the Sagittarius decanate ruled by Jupiter

The first decanate of **Taurus** is the Taurus decanate ruled by Venus

The second decanate is the Virgo decanate ruled by Mercury and

The third decanate is the Capricorn decanate ruled by Saturn

The first decanate of **Gemini** is the Gemini decanate ruled by Mercury

The second decanate the Libra decanate ruled by Venus and

The third decanate is the Aquarius decanate ruled by Saturn and Uranus

The first decanate of **Cancer** is the Cancer decanate ruled by the Moon

The second decanate is the Scorpio decanate ruled by Mars and Pluto and

The third decanate is the Pisces decanate ruled by Jupiter and Neptune

The first decanate of **Leo** is the Leo decanate ruled by the Sun  
The second decanate is the Sagittarius decanate ruled by Jupiter and  
The third decanate is the Aries decanate ruled by Mars

The first decanate of **Virgo** is the Virgo decanate ruled by Mercury  
The second decanate is the Capricorn decanate ruled by Saturn and  
The third decanate is the Taurus decanate ruled by Venus

The first decanate of **Libra** is the Libra decanate ruled by Venus  
The second decanate is the Aquarius decanate ruled by Saturn and Uranus and  
The third decanate is the Gemini decanate ruled by Mercury

The first decanate of **Scorpio** is the Scorpio decanate ruled by Mars and Pluto  
The second decanate is the Pisces decanate ruled by Jupiter and Neptune and  
The Third decanate is the Cancer decanate ruled by the Moon

The first decanate of **Sagittarius** is the Sagittarius decanate ruled by Jupiter  
The second decanate is the Aries decanate ruled by Mars and  
The third decanate is the Leo decanate ruled by the Sun

The first decanate of **Capricorn** is the Capricorn decanate ruled by Saturn  
The second decanate is the Taurus decanate ruled by Venus and  
The third decanate is the Virgo decanate ruled by Mercury

The first decanate of **Aquarius** is the Aquarius decanate ruled by Saturn and  
Uranus  
The second decanate is the Gemini decanate ruled by Mercury and  
The third decanate is the Libra decanate ruled by Venus and

The first decanate of **Pisces** is the Pisces decanate ruled by Jupiter and Neptune  
The second decanate is the Cancer decanate ruled by the Moon and  
The third decanate is the Scorpio decanate ruled by Mars and Pluto