



Hermetic astrology

*Astrology for Aquarius*  
*Sharing our Knowledge*

# Sign

# Decanates

# Show

# Special Trends

**Elbert Benjamine**

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# Symbols in astrology

The planets and zodiac signs 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

Symbols in astrology

## Contents

Introduction

Sign decanates preamble

Sign decanates show special trends

Aries

Taurus

Gemini

Cancer

Leo

Virgo

Libra

Scorpio

Sagittarius

Capricorn

Aquarius

Pisces

## Introduction

In 1919-1920 Elbert Benjamine (aka CC Zain) wrote a course of 13 lessons on *The Religion of the Stars: Origin of Man and Religion*.

He claimed this work 'is the long lost key for which occult students have vainly searched. It explains the religion from which all religions have sprung. By means of the 48 constellations it enables any person to correctly interpret all scripture of all lands.'

The 48 constellations he refers to are the 12 zodiac signs and their 36 decanate subdivisions.

Then in 1929 he announced 'it gives me pleasure to present what I believe to be an accurate rendering of the spiritual teaching associated by the ancients with each of the 48 constellations'. This information is available in Brotherhood of Light course 7, *Spiritual Astrology*.

But information like this only attains personal relevance when it's applied in a personal context so, due to its importance, it was condensed and presented at the start of Brotherhood of Light Course 10 – Section 1 – *Delineating the Horoscope*. Its placement there signifies that the delineation of your birth chart commences with the assessment of the outstanding decanates in your birth chart.

Then during the 1930s Elbert Benjamine did not restrict the public availability of this powerful information to Brotherhood of Light Course 10. Rather he made it available in articles that he wrote for various astrology magazines.

During 1938-39 he presented it in a 12 part series that appeared in *The Aquarian Messenger*, a publication of The Church of Light Canada.

These articles with their original introduction are presented here.

## Sign decanates preamble

Each zodiac sign is divided into 3 subsections.

The first decanate (subsection) occupies 00° to 9° 59' 59" of the sign

The second occupies 10° to 19° 59' 59" and

The third occupies 20° to 29° 59' 59"

A decanate subsection gives the sign's influence a special trend. Each plays an equal role in God's great plan of progressive development so no decanate (or sign) is better or worse than another.

Each decanate reveals a spiritual message that explains important ethical teachings and has an application in natal astrology.

The astrological message, which varies greatly, constitutes specific precepts.

It can involve something to be attained, an obstacle that hinders progress, a natural talent that's awaiting development, a natural inclination or the specification of a life trend.

Whatever, your intelligence and ability develops in response to experience and your dominant planet, its decanate and the decanates occupied by the Sun, Moon, ascendant and Mercury define your natural bias. They specialize your life experience.

Your **dominant planet** is the one with the highest astrodyne score.

### Chart data-check

In your birth chart the decanates occupied by the dominant planet and the Sun, Moon, ascendant and Mercury provide **important** astro-data

The decanate occupied by the Sun 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. It gives your most deep-seated character traits a natural bias and defines the way you exercise power and authority.

The decanate occupied by the Moon polarizes your mentality. It controls and restricts the direction and expression of your mind. It gives your mind a natural bias for receiving and assimilating a special type of experience. It maps a type of experience that impresses you greatly; allows you to grasp information of a certain kind; and determines the general quality of your mental processes.

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

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

Your personality is not your character. It embraces traits, inclinations, likes and dislikes and is the means by which your individuality (Sun) and mentality (Moon) are transmitted into action, through your physical self, to find expression, through personal contact, in the outside world.

The decanate occupied by Mercury polarizes your mode of self-expression and controls and restricts the direction and expression of your thoughts. It defines the way you verbalize your thoughts and the method by which you express your opinions and ideas to others. It gives your way of making known your thoughts and feelings to others a natural bias.

The decanate occupied by any planet in your birth chart will provide valuable personal data but those occupied by the Sun, Moon, ascendant, Mercury and dominant planet should receive your close attention.

## Sign decanates show special trends

Beginners in the science and art of astrology are often led to believe that the signs in which the Sun, Moon and planets are located are significant of outstanding abilities. But this is not the case.

Those thought groups within the unconscious mind which are powerful enough to manifest as special abilities are all indicated by the positions of the planets.

## Planets show special abilities

Each planet maps thought energies of a particular kind and special ability depends upon the amount of such energy.

Special ability is the manifestation of a particular kind of thinking in sufficient volume to direct the activities accordingly.

A planet's prominence, strength and influence, in an accurately timed chart, is assessed by its astrodyne score. And any planet with above average power can be rated prominent.

If Mars has above average power it indicates that the volume of aggressive thought-energy that's saved and stored in the person's astral body is set at an above average level.

So irrespective of the sign occupied by the Sun, Moon, ascendant or other planets, this person can follow an occupation that calls for combat, initiative, enterprise, destruction, construction or other Mars quality.

Likewise, if Saturn has above average power, irrespective of the signs occupied by the ten planets, the person can follow an occupation that involves systems thinking, routine methods, patience and persistence.

If Saturn has above average power there's sufficient volume of the Saturn type of thought-energy present in the individual's unconscious mind to enable her or him to do a type of work requiring this kind of energy.

The aspects to Mars or Saturn etc indicate how much harmony or discord would be attracted in the occupation or activity and thus the level of success.

But, irrespective of harmony or discord, the outstanding abilities and outstanding weaknesses are chiefly indicated by the positions of the planets in the chart.

But these abilities and weaknesses that are primarily indicated by the aspects of the planets and their house positions express in one way with one individual, and through a different channel with another.

Whatever an Aries person does, whether in the practice of law, politics, manufacturing or whatever, he or she does it in a manner characteristic of Aries; which is entirely different to the manner of approach given by Taurus or Cancer or Sagittarius.

That is, the type of thought energy — Mars thought energy, Saturn thought energy, Jupiter thought energy, etc. — when expressing from the zone of one zodiacal sign expresses from a different viewpoint to that indicated by any of the other signs.

And indicating, even more precisely, this viewpoint from which the thought energies indicated by the planets take their departure, each zodiacal sign is divided into three sections of ten degrees called decanates.

The trend of activity thus given the thought energies by each decanate is pictured in terms of universal symbolism by one of the thirty-six ultra zodiacal constellations.

## **Aries**

### **The first decanate: Triangulum – a starry triangle**

#### **The astrological message**

To picture the possibilities of the first decanate of the zodiac the masters of old traced a starry triangle in the sky.

This constellation – **Triangulum** – symbolizes the divine fire that those born under this first decanate of Aries have the capacity to inhale.

When living in their highest they are true leaders in thought; for the triangle, ever used as a symbol of flame, is also used as a symbol of mind. And again, by its three sides united into one figure, it represents the union of body, mind and soul – thus teaching the importance of cooperation.

The pioneer spirit of Aries is expressed in this decanate in all its fiery fullness. Zeal and enthusiasm mark the progress of its children. The Aries-decanate of Aries, sub-ruled by the aggressive lord of war (Mars), ever seeks new worlds to conquer.

The triangle points to heaven and when those born under its influence permit their thoughts to soar untrammelled upward they become the harbingers of better things. But when the lower martial power gains sway they become the avenging agents of death and destruction.

It is the decanate of **activity**

**Explainer:** Activity is energy in motion – movement – and when zest and enthusiasm motivate the action there's more movement and more activity.

## The second decanate of Aries

### Eridanus – the celestial river of life

#### The astrological message

The second decanate of Aries is pictured in the sky by **Eridanus** – the river of life – flowing from the never-failing fountain of perpetual youth.

Here we find the severity of Mars tempered by the magnanimity of the Sun, which has sub-rulership over this decanate.

It is the Leo section of Aries. And as Leo is natural ruler of the house of love, so the water, symbol of the emotions, denotes the influence of affection. Only through the affections, only in the sacred precincts of love, does the human soul ingest the coveted elixir that imparts eternal life. So those born under this section of the sky may well seek this hallowed source of power. They become rulers, chiefs and authority figures through their inherent power to sway the minds of others.

They are born to lead rather than to serve, for this sub-influence of Leo lends a persistent ambition for power.

The heart is somewhat joined to the head, and the more this union is cultivated the better; for the greatest lever for attainment obtainable by the natives of this decanate is a noble affection.

It is the decanate of **exaltation**

**Explainer:** Exaltation is a heightened state of mental and emotional being. It occurs when your thoughts and feelings elevate to a high degree of emotional excellence.

The Sun – planet of power, authority and distinction – is exalted in the 19th degree of Aries.

## The third decanate of Aries

### Perseus – the messenger and valiant hero

#### The astrological message

**Perseus**, with the wings of thought on his feet, the helmet of courage on his head, armed with the sword of righteousness, protected by the shield of beneficence (goodness and kindness), and holding the blood-dripping head of Medusa in one hand, pictures the third decanate of Aries. The sub-rulership of Jupiter diverts the aggressive energies somewhat into religious and philosophical channels. Consequently, this Sagittarius division of Aries has vast spiritual possibilities when its natives espouse some progressive line of thought, or use their restless never-failing energy in protection of the weak.

Perseus gained renown through his daring exploits in relieving oppression. And even as he severed the head of the Gorgon Medusa, which turned to stone all who gazed upon it, so the people of this decanate have the power to destroy the crystallizing influence of licentiousness, and like the David version of the same tradition, cut off the head of the Goliath of selfish greed.

They may become the valiant heroes who wage a successful fight against the sordid conditions that oppress civilized life. In the philosophical field of endeavor they find useful work in releasing Andromeda, the human soul, which all too often is found chained to the rock of materialism to be devoured by lust and envy.

It is the decanate of **propaganda**

**Explainer:** Propaganda is the systematic propagation, or dissemination, of an idea, doctrine or set of principles by a person, movement or organization. The practice is not bad but has acquired an off-putting, dubious reputation as governments, religions and corporations spin their misleading propaganda on an unsuspecting public.

# Taurus

## The first decanate: Lepus – the hare

### The astrological message

The masters of the olden times in tracing symbolic pictures in the sky, to convey to later generations their conception of the influence of the various sections of the heavens, sometimes pictured the highest attainment and sometimes pictured the greatest obstacle to progress.

In **Lepus** – the hare – they symbolize the thought that timidity is the greatest bar to advancement of those born under the first decanate of Taurus.

Being the first decanate of the sign that naturally rules the house of money, there is often a tendency to devote too much energy to the acquisition of wealth. And as this decanate is particularly mediumistic, those born under it easily acquire magical powers. Hence the various traditions regarding it as a place of black magic.

Yet its children easily become adepts at white magic if they overcome the lust for material things. It is only when they are blinded by physical aims that the place of the soul's exaltation becomes an adverse symbol.

Those born here have great natural healing power; and the ability to crystallize conditions to their desires by the power of the imagination to mold astral substance.

It is the decanate of **determination**

**Explainer:** Determination is the capacity to move or flow in a fixed direction and to not waver from your chosen course of action. It displays itself as a fixed purpose and a firm and resolute intention.

The Moon – symbol of the soul – is exalted in the 3rd degree of Taurus.

## The second decanate of Taurus

### Orion – the hunter

#### The astrological message

In the second decanate of Taurus the fixity of purpose is given the analytical trend through the sub-influence being that of Virgo. Therefore, some condition in the environment is attacked and made the center upon which the physical and mental forces are focused.

The result is a conflict. And this conflict may be to attain fame through literary or artistic production, to attain financial supremacy through business methods, or to rise in the field of science or politics. Thus it brings a combat for supremacy.

The thought is pictured by **Orion**, the most successful hunter of all, who attacked and slew the mighty bull.

The bull represents material pleasures and physical limitations over which it is possible for those born under this decanate to rise supreme.

They have at their command an unusual supply of electromagnetism, and can mentally attack with a force as great as the huge club wielded by the mighty arm of Orion. Thus they cause obstacles to crumble.

It is the decanate of **struggle**

**Explainer:** Struggle is the result of conflict and adversity. It displays itself as strenuous effort to overcome or break free from adverse conditions such as domination by others and/or social or self-inflicted oppression.

## The third decanate of Taurus

### Auriga – the charioteer

#### The astrological message

The third decanate of Taurus shows the reflective influence of Saturn, its sub-ruler. And even as the key-phrase of Capricorn is **I Use**, so those born under this decanate have the ability to use physical means to attain spiritual ends.

The decanate is pictured in the sky by **Auriga**, the charioteer, who with one hand guides the chariot of his soul and with the other protects and ministers unto the weak and needy.

Auriga pictures the one who has triumphed over his environment and physical limitations and attained adeptship.

Those born under this decanate have an aptitude for true spiritual attainment. And while their progress is usually not swift; yet, once undertaken, it becomes a sure and steady climb with seldom setbacks.

What they receive, however, largely depends upon the use they make of the power they already possess in ministering unto the ills of others.

It is the decanate of **mastership**

**Explainer:** Mastership is the condition of being a master or teacher. It's the mastery of a particular skill, activity, subject or knowledge and a master has exceptional knowledge or authority.

## Gemini

**The first decanate: Ursa Minor – a small restless bear**

### The astrological message

By means of a bear – **Ursa Minor** – whose restless activity and power suggest that of the mind, the ancients depicted the Mercury-decanate of Gemini. And because the unconscious mind is not so obvious as the objective mind, this bear is small. It also travels about the sky backward.

Thus, to hear ‘the voice of the silence’ you must direct your attention contrary to the trend of objective life.

Perhaps unconsciously, yet none the less effectively, those born in this Gemini decanate of Gemini tend to rely upon intuition.

Their natural field of endeavor is the mental plane.

They see, not merely the details of a problem, but view it completely, perceiving the proper relations of each part to the whole. And if they are not carried away by the restless desire to undertake too many things, they may become intellectual giants. For they assimilate all they contact and their deductions rise spontaneously from the soul.

It is the decanate of **intuition**

**Explainer:** Intuition is an unconscious (not-conscious) mental process that perceives facts and apprehends information without resorting to the laborious process of conscious reasoning. It’s an instant, immediate insight without the mental hard work.

Uranus – planet of originality – is exalted in the 7th degree of Gemini.

## The second decanate of Gemini

### Canis Major – a large dog

#### The astrological message

The second decanate of Gemini is pictured in the sky by a large dog – **Canis Major**. This noble looking beast is the emblem of faithfulness and through its adoration for its master also represents the worshipping and serving of Deity – for to the dog his master is God.

Therefore, we find those born under the second decanate of Gemini often possess a singular and admirable faithfulness, either to their human companions or to some high ideal.

They have much veneration and seek to obey the voice of their conscience implicitly.

This Venus decanate also relates to twin-souls. So there is a greater likelihood of those born here finding a congenial mate than is the case with most.

And to make the best of life they must espouse some principle or progressive cause, and work to get it generally acknowledged and accepted.

It is the decanate of **fidelity**

**Explainer:** Fidelity is faithfulness or loyalty to a promise or duty. It displays itself as unswerving allegiance to a cause and conjugal faithfulness in marriage or similar union.

## The third decanate of Gemini

### Ursa Major – a huge bear

#### The astrological message

A huge bear – **Ursa Major** – traveling about the Pole-Star in a forward direction depicts among the constellations the Aquarius-decanate of Gemini.

The bear, whose restless activity and omnivorous nature is typical of mentality, moves, as does the objective mind, in the direction of events. And it is huge in size to indicate the immense power that may be exercised by thought.

This is the scientific decanate of the sign of thought.

Those born under it are capable of accomplishing great things through the exercise of their minds.

They tend to rely chiefly upon reason, therefore, should not only train their minds, which is readily accomplished, but should cultivate idealism and religion. Otherwise their efforts crystallize and become self-centered.

It is the decanate of **reason**

**Explainer:** Reason is a conscious mental process carried out by objective consciousness. It relies on the facts as presented and employs logic and hard evidence to solve problems and draw conclusions. It dismisses emotional bias and sentiment as unreliable distortions that easily blur the reasoning process resulting in wrong conclusions and decisions. Reasoning is sheer hard work. It's not needed when dealing with humdrum daily life.

## Cancer

### The first decanate: **Canis Minor** – a yapping cur

#### The astrological message

The first decanate of Cancer is depicted in the sky by a little yapping cur – **Canis Minor** – a mongrel without courage or loyalty.

By it the ancient masters sought to convey the thought that those born under this section of the sky are particularly susceptible to domestic intrigue.

They have strong emotions and may easily be carried away by them. Consequently, they should put forth a persistent effort to cultivate the qualities of faithfulness and poise.

Through the activity of the emotional nature, and their sensitiveness to all that affects life, they are often capable of remarkable poetic and dramatic expression.

Unknown to themselves they are the mediums through which entities on the inner (astral) planes manifest. And because they are such perfect mediums they sometimes betray the trust placed in them, for they tend to yield to the temporarily strongest influence.

They should learn to be positive and firm.

It is the decanate of **moods**

**Explainer:** A mood is a state of feeling that influences what you do. It can have high or low level intensity and a short or long duration time. Pleasant feel-good moods are a mental comfort and unpleasant feel-bad moods are a psychological discomfort. You're in the mood – for what?

## The second decanate of Cancer

### Hydra – the water-serpent

#### The astrological message

**Hydra** – the water-serpent – commences as the middle decanate of Cancer and extends through the sky all the distance from this home constellation to Scorpio, the constellation of death.

Representing the Scorpio, or sex, decanate of the domestic sign, those born under it possess much resource and energy, as well as being strongly emotional.

The serpent is the symbol of creative energy and the water in which it dwells is the symbol of the strong emotions displayed by these people.

So the traditional struggle of Hercules with this monster is not without significance, for it represents the struggle with sensual desires, as well as a struggle to overcome the limitations imposed by death.

Thus we find that those born here have a natural aptitude for communion with those who have passed to the spirit side of life. And if they do not fall into the destructive forms of mediumship, but instead retain at all times full control of their bodies and minds, they are led, impressed, and guided from the spirit side of life in all their worthy undertakings.

It is the decanate of **revelation**

**Explainer:** Revelation is an instance or experience involving the disclosure or revealing of information or knowledge through a divine or supernatural source.

Jupiter – the planet of religion – is exalted in the 15th degree of Cancer.

## **The third decanate of Cancer**

### **Argo – the ship**

#### **The astrological message**

**Argo** – the constellated ship that gave foundation for the story of Noah's Ark and the adventurous Argonautic expedition – pictures the third decanate of Cancer.

There will be stormy seas in the lives of those born here, but a tranquil mind will prove an adequate bark to carry them to the shores of safety.

They are restless and somewhat discontented.

While loving domestic life, yet they are eager to learn what is just below the horizon.

Their curiosity, however, becomes an asset and leads them into fields that are all too little known.

They are great lovers of Mother Nature, take keen delight in spying out her secrets, and in this kind of work find their greatest natural aptitude.

It is the decanate of **research**

**Explainer:** Research is the systematic search for new facts and principles. It's a course of scientific inquiry – a diligent investigation into some subject or theory that seeks to discover the truth of a matter.

## Leo

### The first decanate: Crater – the cup of fire

#### The astrological message

The first decanate of Leo is pictured among the constellations by **Crater** – a furnace, or cup of fire.

In this manner did the ancient masters of starry lore portray the fiery love nature of those born under this section of the sky.

Their most notable trait is the desire and ability to rule others. And unless this tendency is restrained there is an inclination to dominate.

Yet there is always a powerful love nature. And, as love is at the foundation of all achievement, if this love energy can be directed into proper channels, it leads on to success.

But due to its strength there is danger of turning to one extreme or the other – either permitting pleasure to dominate the life, or in rebellion at the tendency toward excess to become the avowed ascetic.

As neither extreme permits of proper expression of the fine qualities of this decanate the watchword should be moderation.

It is the decanate of **rulership**

**Explainer:** Rulership is the capacity or authority to control, manage, administer or govern. It's a position of dominant power or influence – the capacity to exercise authority or dominion over others.

## The second decanate of Leo

### **Centaurus – a half-man-half horse being with a spear**

#### The astrological message

In the second, or Jupiter, decanate of Leo, the inherent quality of dominant control characteristic of Leo is modified by the sub-influence of the sign of the higher mind, Sagittarius.

The philosophical and religious elements are more in evidence, and those born here readily recognize the prevalent weaknesses both in current politics and in current religion. And, more importantly, they have the courage of their convictions and the power to gain followers for their own progressive ideas.

To picture the ruthless onslaughts with which these people attack other persons and policies that seek to ravage society, **Centaurus**, a being having the lower parts of a horse and the upper parts of a man, is represented among the constellations as impaling on the end of his spear the wolf that pictures the last decanate of Libra.

This wolf symbolizes those who use the brilliancy of their intellects to suppress truth and to foist ignorance and superstition upon society that they may profit by its exploitation.

Those born in this middle decanate of Leo have the power to convince others, so it behooves them to put forth every effort to gain truth, and to take great care that they do not disseminate erroneous notions.

It is the decanate of **reformation**

**Explainer:** Reformation is the act of improving or amending that which is wrong. The removal of faults, defects or abuses – or putting an end to social and other wrongs – results in radical change for the better.

Pluto – planet of spirituality – is exalted in the 17th degree of Leo.

## The third decanate of Leo

### Corvus – the raven

#### The astrological message

**Corvus**, the raven, is the constellation picturing the tendencies of people born under the third decanate of Leo. This raven is pictured with wings outspread as if in readiness to fly aloft, but with its feet firmly gripping the back of Hydra, the water-serpent.

This symbolizes the emotions that are associated with creative energy, for the raven appears to be making a meal of the flesh of the serpent.

In this last portion of Leo we have the love of power and rulership combined with the quality of leadership bestowed by Aries.

As a consequence those born under this section of the sky are determined to rise in life regardless of the obstacles. And when this tendency is carried to extremes they will sacrifice their associates, their family, and even integrity itself, in order to increase their power.

But when their ideals are thoroughly for the welfare of humanity rather than for mere personal aggrandizement, they become of immense service to society through their natural gift of being able to handle others and use them to advantage.

It is the decanate of **ambition**

**Explainer:** Ambition is the drive, zeal, inspiration or intent to push onwards towards a goal; or the eager desire for distinction, preferment, advancement, promotion, power, honor or fame.

## Virgo

### The first decanate: **Bootes – the bear driver**

#### The astrological message

In the Mercury-decanate of Virgo we find the assimilative quality exercised to the most pronounced degree.

Those born here have minds that are usually restless and active, a tendency pictured among the constellations by **Bootes** – the bear driver – who follows the great bear, symbol of the objective mind, about the heavens with an up-raised sickle, urging him on.

And to convey the idea that thoughts, when carefully tended, yield a most precious fruitage, Bootes is traditionally associated with the vine of the grapes; for he is also a farmer and breeder of crops.

So those who are native to this section of the zodiac press, with great dexterity, the wine from all life's varied experiences.

It then becomes a coveted elixir which incites them to greater and greater accomplishment.

This is the harvest decanate, and these people readily sift the grain from the chaff, and use it for practical sustenance.

It is the decanate of **achievement**

**Explainer:** Achievement is worthwhile accomplishment – the completion of an important task or job. It requires valor, boldness and superior ability.

## The second decanate of Virgo

### Hercules – the hero

#### The astrological message

The Saturn-decanate of Virgo is pictured among the constellations by **Hercules** – the hero – who, among other things, performed twelve super-human labors.

One foot crushes the head of the cyclic dragon, while his outstretched hand grasps the apples of Hesperides.

This depicts the tendency of those born under this section of the sky to undertake and accomplish, by unremitting toil, the performance of gigantic tasks.

They also have an exceptional variety of experiences, both with the so-called good and the so-called evil. Thus their lives are filled with events.

Here we find the assimilative powers of the mind, conferred by Virgo, to be given a diplomatic trend, and often there is a great desire for worldly fame and honor.

The temptations that come to these people are great. But if they guard against the allurements of the flesh that sooner or later come into their lives, they can rise to great heights through their unusual powers of discernment and comparison.

It is the decanate of **experience**

**Explainer:** Experience is the personal encountering or undergoing of an event, incident, adventure, happening, episode or condition that is usually identified as fortunate and good or unfortunate and bad.

## The third decanate of Virgo

### Corona Borealis – the northern crown

#### The astrological message

The last decanate of the northern signs is pictured by a crown of twelve iron spikes.

This Venus-decanate of the mental sign Virgo is the point from which the Sun passes into the winter section of the zodiac. And so the serpent, picturing the first decanate of Libra is depicted with its fangs just before **Corona Borealis** – the northern crown – as if to strike.

Virgo, as a whole, corresponds to the house of work. So this last decanate seems particularly given to working in behalf of others.

People born here find their greatest possibilities in the realm of service.

When they can lose sight of the reward and labor enthusiastically for some noble cause, they live to their utmost.

Even though the laborer is worthy of his hire, yet those born under this influence are often called upon to give up the things they would prefer to do for the sake of duty.

Though the material reward is a crown of thorns the gain in character and soul-power always more than repays for all sacrifice.

It is the decanate of **renunciation**

**Explainer:** Renunciation is the voluntary giving up; the formal abandonment of a right or title; the rejection of a belief or habit; or the repudiation of a person or thing. It usually involves personal sacrifice.

## Libra

### The first decanate: Serpens – the serpent

#### The astrological message

The first decanate of Libra is pictured among the constellations by **Serpens** – the serpent. This is the snake that sacred tradition asserts tempted Eve to her downfall.

The serpent has been used from ancient times, however, not only as a symbol of creative energy, but also of cunning.

In worldly matters those native to this decanate have no need of the admonition to be ‘wise as serpents’, for they have the innate ability to handle people and situations.

It will be remembered that the Biblical serpent told Eve if she would eat of the apple she would become wise – and that subsequent events verified the prophecy. And those born under this decanate well uphold all the serpent traditions of wisdom and subtlety, and besides possess the creative energy to pioneer in the realms of human association.

Such people should never seek seclusion to be at their best, but should mix in the world’s affairs and come in continuous contact with their fellowmen. In this field they can wield an enormous power for good through their ability to influence the thoughts and actions of others. But they should take pains not to become too engrossed in purely material aims.

It is the decanate of **policy**

**Explainer:** Policy is a course of action. It’s a line of procedure, a management method or a mode of personal conduct that’s adopted for a specific purpose.

## The second decanate of Libra

### Draco – the dragon

#### The astrological message

The Aquarius decanate of Libra differs somewhat from the other decanates of this sign in the strong tendency to express individuality.

Being under the sub-influence of Uranus, it partakes of the Uranian quality of originality and sometimes even eccentricity.

It is pictured among the constellations by **Draco** – the dragon – which winds its length in sinuous coils about the heavenly pole.

This is the dragon of worldliness that St. George was called upon to conquer, and those born under this decanate very frequently find some opposition to their views which they feel incumbent upon themselves to slay.

They are natural exponents of liberty in thought and action, and rebel against restrictions.

They find the best opportunity to express themselves as enthusiastic members or leaders of progressive movements. And in fighting the tendency toward crystallized conservatism, they reach their highest level.

It is the decanate of **independence**

**Explainer:** Independence is a state of being free or exempt from the control, rules, regulations, restrictions or support imposed by others.

## The third decanate of Libra

### Lupus – the wolf

#### The astrological message

The last decanate of Libra is not less given to contact with people than the other two. Neither is the mind less keen. In fact, it is often superior, especially where literature and art are concerned.

But as it is the decanate in the sign of partnership and open enemies next to the sign of death, Scorpio, there is sometimes a peculiar fatality associated with it.

This fact is pictured in the sky by the constellation **Lupus** – the wolf.

This original of the wolf in sheep's clothing is represented as impaled on the spear of Centaurus. And as designed it indicates the almost certain fate of those born under this portion of the sky who transgress either human laws or the laws of God.

Due to the brilliancy of their minds they sometimes use their talents to enslave others and keep them in ignorance and poverty that they may profit thereby. But when they live straight forward moral lives and do not fall into corruption, they rise to positions of power and usefulness, and no tragedy overtakes them.

It is the decanate of **expiation**

**Explainer:** Expiation is the act of making atonement for a misdemeanor. It's the means by which reparation is made for a misdeed, wrong-doing, transgression, infraction, infringement or crime.

Saturn – the planet of justice – is exalted in the 21st degree of Libra.

## Scorpio

### The first decanate: Ophiuchus – the serpent wrestler

#### The astrological message

**Ophiuchus** – the man who wrestles with a serpent – is the constellation, picturing in the sky the sex-decanate of the sex-sign Scorpio.

He typifies the thinking soul's struggle with animal desires. And even as in the Biblical story of Jacob wrestling with the angel – which is but one version of this starry struggle – s/he who is victorious is always greatly blessed.

So we find people born under this decanate with the strongest sex impulses.

There is an excess of creative energy which goads them to desire and action.

They thus have an abundant vital magnetism, which they impart to others. It gives a natural healing ability and stimulates the mind to creative imagination.

Therefore, when they turn from sensualism and direct their forces to constructive work they have a wonderful fertility of ideas and are capable of leading the strenuous life to its maximum.

Not through suppression can they overcome the serpent, but through the guidance of the surplus energy into proper channels.

It is the decanate of **resourcefulness**

**Explainer:** Resourcefulness is the skilful overcoming of difficulties. It expresses as the capacity to meet and confront situations with practical ingenuity and a rich repertoire of mental and emotional resources.

## The second decanate of Scorpio

### **ARA – the altar**

#### The astrological message

**Ara** – the altar – rising from which is seen the smoke of burnt offerings, pictures in the heavens the Pisces-decanate of Scorpio.

Here we find the self-centeredness and aggression of Mars, the co-ruler of Scorpio, somewhat modified by the restrictions of Pisces.

All the desire for expression is present, but usually there comes a time in the life when mere personal gratification must be sacrificed on the altar of devotion to the sense of duty.

Those born here are usually strong characters, either in good or in evil. They have varied passions and abundant animal force. Then comes the time when they are called upon – even as were Cain and Abel – to sacrifice the animal part of themselves.

Some, like Cain, refuse to do this and endeavor to buy favor from the law with the fruits of the earth. But others, rising to the occasion, attain to truly spiritual heights.

Those born here find themselves called upon to fill positions of importance, if they do not shirk. And the successful completion of one duty ever leads on to advancement. But the animal needs to be guarded well.

It is the decanate of **responsibility**

**Explainer:** Responsibility is the act of being responsible or the state of being in a position of responsibility. It can be a task, burden, function, obligation, duty or trust.

## The third decanate of Scorpio

### Corona Australis – the Southern Crown

#### The astrological message

Unlike the crown of spikes that pictures the last decanate of Virgo, **Corona Australis – the Southern Crown** – is the laurel crown of victory.

Picturing among the constellations the Cancer-decanate of Scorpio, it reveals the potency of sex when sublimated to carry the soul to the loftiest summit of physical and mental achievement.

Adjacent to the religious sign Sagittarius, and under the sub-influence of the sign of domestic life, Cancer, those born here have intense emotions and vivid ideas.

When the spirit of chivalry is developed and they sense their value to country and home they are capable of lofty effort.

But for the greatest success it seems essential that they have some person of the opposite sex to stimulate their ambitions and ideals, and for whom they strive to make a success of life. Social life, therefore, is always an important factor contributing to or detracting from their usefulness to society.

It is the decanate of **attainment**

**Explainer:** Attainment is the act of reaching, gaining, obtaining, earning or acquiring a purpose, goal or proficiency. High-level personal achievement requires skill, bravery and unceasing industrious effort.

# Sagittarius

## The first decanate: Lyra – the harp

### The astrological message

The Harp of Seven Strings – **Lyra** – pictures the Jupiter-decanate of Sagittarius. David played upon such a harp to soothe the spirit of King Saul.

The constellated instrument portrays the soul which places itself 'In tune with the Infinite' and becomes responsive to the thoughts radiated by the Cosmic Mind.

Those born under this influence, when true to themselves, are the most religious of all and are capable of attaining Cosmic Consciousness.

But their religion need not be tinged with orthodoxy, and is most often expressed through their kinship with Nature and their love and sympathy for all living creatures.

They live at their best, and accomplish most, when they constantly feel the abiding presence of the Cosmic Intelligence and place implicit trust in its guidance. They then feel impressed to fill a definite mission, and if they follow the dictates of the 'Inner Voice' they seldom err in judgment.

But in matters of spiritual progress or in mere worldly matters, they must rely upon their own judgment, for when they take the advice of others they most signally fail.

It is the decanate of **devotion**

**Explainer:** Devotion is earnest dedication or attachment or giving yourself over to a cause, person or pursuit. It's the zealous or exclusive application of the thoughts and energies to a cause.

## The second decanate of Sagittarius

### Aquila – the eagle

#### The astrological message

The eagle – **Aquila** – symbol of transmuted sex, and the power of the higher mind to make lofty flights through the rare atmosphere of the spiritual world, pictures among the constellations the Aries-decanate of Sagittarius.

The migratory instincts of Sagittarius are given a trend toward pioneering.

Consequently, we find people born here to be unusually successful in searching out new fields of endeavor, physical, mental and spiritual.

They are usually restless. Their minds are constantly alert for new facts. And in order that they shall not become discontented it is very essential that they have at all times some definite work to accomplish, and that this work is of a nature to be well worth their best efforts.

Confinement and restriction are most depressing to these people, and if forced to be idle or follow some uncongenial occupation they become rebellious and hypercritical.

They require some task of importance to call out their wonderful executive ability.

It is the decanate of **exploration**

**Explainer:** Exploration is the act of exploring a country or place; or the investigation or close examination of an unknown – physical, mental or spiritual – region.

Neptune – planet of idealism – is exalted in the 18th degree of Sagittarius.

## The third decanate of Sagittarius

### Sagitta – the arrow

#### The astrological message

The third decanate of Sagittarius, the Leo-decanate, is pictured among the constellations by **Sagitta** – the arrow.

This is the arrow that Mithra shot against a rock and a stream of water immediately gushed forth. It symbolized the soul piercing the illusions of matter and through this comprehension of the meaning of incarnate existence being able to quench its thirst at the fountain of Divine Consciousness.

Those born under this decanate may either tread the path of pleasure, or climb the royal road to spiritual supremacy.

Being the kingly section of the sign of the higher mind, when the sporting proclivities relating to Leo's influence are transmuted, they have not only the ability to perceive things in their proper relation, but also to synthesize their observations and impart this knowledge to others.

They, therefore, reach their greatest usefulness as teachers and leaders of philosophical and religious thought.

And when faithful to their ideals and persistent in adhering to their own conceptions they reach the highest states of consciousness possible to the human soul.

It is the decanate of **illumination**

**Explainer:** Illumination is the act of becoming enlightened. It's a moment of intellectual or spiritual enlightenment involving insight, comprehension and wisdom. The state of true illumination permits the conscious awareness of your cosmic work.

## Capricorn

### The first decanate: Cygnus – the swan

#### The astrological message

**Cygnus** – a speckled white swan with outspread pinions which wings its way from the frozen north towards the sunny southern skies – pictures among the constellations the first decanate of Capricorn.

It symbolizes the first news of a new order of things, a retreat from the crystalizing influence of materialism, and the harbinger of the approaching warmth of a spiritual spring.

So we find those born under this influence, when living at their best, to be forerunners of better conditions.

They, better than any others, realize the value of system and organization to effect any worthwhile changes.

And in business or in politics, both of which are spheres of activity to which they naturally gravitate, their greatest asset is in conciliating different factions and inducing them to join in some large merger which will operate more economically and efficiently than could any one faction alone.

These people shoulder responsibility readily and become the managers of the world. To live at their highest they must be permitted to find expression for their talent of coordination.

It is the decanate of **organization**

**Explainer:** Organization is a state of having things in order; or the act or process of systematically structuring, coordinating or restructuring an existing state of affairs to effect worthwhile improvement.

## **The second decanate of Capricorn**

### **Delphinus – the dolphin**

#### **The astrological message**

**Delphinus** – the dolphin – pictures among the constellations the second decanate of Capricorn.

This is the Taurus-decanate of Saturn's sign, the strong emotional element conferred by the sub-influence of the Moon's exaltation being indicated by the water in which the mammal lives.

While the Sun passes through this decanate we have Epiphany, and also the common civil year begins, bringing a new dispensation. And there are many traditions about the dolphin that represents this section of the zodiac implying it to be a Savior of Men.

So we find that those born here possess extraordinary ability to make the most of whatever environment they find themselves in, even as the dolphin has adapted itself to water. They utilize every condition to their purpose, and while encountering many setbacks they have the persistence to again come to the surface and 'carry on'.

They are untiring workers and when they set their minds upon some worthy aim they scale the heights to success. And if they get a higher than material viewpoint they are capable of great self-sacrifice in the interest of universal progression.

It is the decanate of **martyrdom**

**Explainer:** Martyrdom is a condition of extreme pain, torment, anguish or suffering; or the willingness to suffer or die for a cause or belief.

## The third decanate of Capricorn

### Pisces Australis – the southern fish

#### The astrological message

The southern fish – **Pisces Australis** – is the constellation picturing the Mercury-decanate of Capricorn. It is shown eagerly drinking the water that flows from the urn of Aquarius.

This symbolizes the conception that through the cultivation of the higher emotions it is possible to communicate volitionally with those who have passed to the spirit side of life. And that those on Earth are, to an undreamed of extent, the recipients of love and wisdom poured down upon them by those who are of Earth no more.

People born under this decanate have natural ability to grasp the ideal and express it in concrete form.

Their power of imagination is marked and is united to the faculty of intensive labor. They can follow clerical lines, but to develop their highest talents they should be permitted to develop and execute their own plans.

They readily contact the interior planes and draw valuable information from that source, even when unconscious of the origin of their ideas.

It is the decanate of **idealism**

**Explainer:** Idealism is the intellectual, emotional or practical enhancement of what currently exists. It's the capacity to idealize and see things as they could be.

Mars – planet of aggressive action – is exalted in the 28th degree of Capricorn.

## **Aquarius**

**The first decanate: Equuleus – a horse's head**

**The astrological message**

A horse, which is an animal used to carry a person to a desired location, has been used from ancient times as a symbol of mind.

And to picture the Uranus-decanate of Aquarius the ancients placed the head of a horse – **Equuleus** – among the constellations.

Those born under this section of the sky tend to follow their own ideas.

They are keenly interested in education and are exceptional in the fullness of their knowledge of human nature.

In fact, aside from their inventive ability their greatest asset in life is in knowing how to handle men. And it is a great mistake for them to live apart from close contact with numerous of their fellow humans.

Their tendencies are decidedly progressive and ever alert for the new and unique.

Consequently, their true mission in life is imparting their enthusiasm for advanced methods and ideas to others.

It is the decanate of **originality**

**Explainer:** Originality is the ability to act, or think in an independent, individual manner. It displays itself as inventiveness and a fresh or novel approach.

## The second decanate of Aquarius

### Pegasus – the flying horse

#### The astrological message

The flying horse – **Pegasus** – pictures among the constellations the Mercury-decanate of Aquarius. The wings pictured upon the symbol of mind indicate the ability to leave the material body and travel in the super-physical world in the astral form.

This may take place volitionally or quite unconsciously, so far as the objective mind is concerned, during sleep. And those who can bring through into the objective state the information so contacted have a never-ending supply of interesting material that they often are able to present in a fascinating manner.

People born under this decanate possess naturally the ability to gain information from invisible sources. Consequently, they have unlimited resourcefulness in imaginative creation. And they are able to present their conceptions in a most dramatic manner.

So, by all means, they should follow some occupation where the mind has power to exert itself. And when not inclined to literature they should read much and learn to express their thoughts in conversations.

They convey their ideas to others in a most convincing manner. And through this faculty lies their greatest good, both to themselves and to humanity.

It is the decanate of **inspiration**

**Explainer:** Inspiration is a state of being inspired. It's the capacity to experience an undisclosed prompting – a sudden, brilliant or timely idea.

Mercury – planet of expression – is exalted in the 15th degree of Aquarius.

## The third decanate of Aquarius

### Cetus – the whale monster

#### The astrological message

The Libra-decanate of Aquarius is pictured by **Cetus** – a whale monster that devoured the innocent youths of the country as a punishment for the haughty pride of their queen. It is the largest constellation in the sky.

It symbolizes the tendency of those born under its influence to enter into matrimony for motives other than pure love; or, from some material motive renouncing love altogether, to be consumed by its inversely directed energy.

These people reach their greatest efficiency and attainment only in harmonious association with a kindred soul of opposite sex.

When they deny true love, or make it subservient to material ambitions they are in great danger.

But when they follow the dictates of the heart and realize companionship in the higher sense they become efficient workers for human betterment.

A solitary life is not beneficial to these people. They should mix with others and take a keen interest in helping to make the world a better place in which to live. This is the work for which they are fitted.

It is the decanate of **repression**

**Explainer:** Repression is the action, process or result of suppressing into the unconscious mind, or of actively excluding from the conscious mind, painful or disagreeable memories, ideas, feelings or impulses.

## **Pisces**

### **The first decanate: Cepheus – the king**

#### **The astrological message**

The Neptune-decanate of Pisces is pictured among the constellations by **Cepheus** – the king – whose foot rests upon the immovable Pole-Star.

He holds aloft a scepter cut from the Tree of Life, and his crown is surmounted by seven globes representing the seven planets and septenary law in nature.

People born under this section of the sky are naturally interested in understanding Nature, particularly in its psychic and spiritual aspects.

They are mystics, to the manor born, and seek truth not so much through the methods of exact science and reason as through the exercise of their psychic faculties.

They readily become seers, and have a natural aptitude for grasping the esoteric interpretation of all phenomena.

This ability to recognize the truth through the 'inner response' becomes of value in the world of affairs in connection with secret-service work of all kinds.

They are detectives of the highest order and their talents can be directed to social conditions, or to the wider mysteries of universal relations.

It is the decanate of **verity**

**Explainer:** Verity is truth – the quality of being true or in accordance with fact or reality. It's a true, genuine, valid or bona fide statement, principle, belief, doctrine or idea.

## The second decanate of Pisces

### Andromeda – the princess chained to a rock

#### The astrological message

The second decanate of Pisces is pictured among the constellations by **Andromeda** – the princess chained to a rock for the sea-monster to devour.

It symbolizes the earth-bound conditions of the human soul that passes to the spirit side of life obsessed with the desire for material reincarnation.

It also represents those noblest of all who suffer persecution and imprisonment that the rest of humanity may prosper.

The lives of persons born under this section of the sky are usually filled with restrictions and limitations.

These conditions are often assumed voluntarily as the price enacted by the world for the sake of assisting in its progress.

When living at their best they are readily impressed by those on the spirit side of life, and are often chosen to carry out some important mission on earth.

They grasp more readily than others the true meaning of universal brotherhood, and they get the most out of life through alleviating the physical and mental suffering of others.

It is the decanate of **self-sacrifice**

**Explainer:** Self-sacrifice is the surrendering or giving up of one's interests, desires, happiness etc, for duty or the good, or sake, of another.

## The third decanate of Pisces

### Cassiopeia – the queen on her throne

#### The astrological message

The last decanate of Pisces is pictured by the constellation **Cassiopeia** – the queen on her throne.

It is the sex-decanate of the sign of imprisonment, and mythology attributes the imprisonment of her daughter to the pride of this queen in her beauty.

However, in another story she is the queen who furnished her children with the Ram that bore the Golden Fleece and carried them to heaven.

Therefore, we find those born under this influence to have eventful lives, and to be capable of entering upon and succeeding in a wide variety of careers.

It is the last section of the zodiac, and they often seem to recapitulate in their lives the events and conditions we expect from many other decanates.

They are unusually adaptable and likable people and require excitement and change.

They reach their highest value in psychical research, and in adopting and advocating a material existence that prepares people for life after the change called death.

It is the decanate of **vicissitudes**

**Explainer:** Vicissitude is change as a natural process or tendency. Vicissitudes are changes in circumstance, uncertainties, or variations of fortune or outcome.

Venus – planet of love – is exalted in the 27th degree of Pisces.