

MEANING OF THE ASTROLOGICAL GLYPHS

by Marion March

PART 1

Many astrologers and students of astrology get so involved in the intricacies of their craft that they don't remember basics. One of the often forgotten basics is the meaning of the astrological glyphs. Yet this symbolic language of astrology is important, since it can give us insight into the real meaning of planets and signs.

Astrological glyphs are made up of a few very basic strokes:

- | 1. The vertical line which is called the line of destiny and intellect.
- 2. The horizontal line which represents the physical or material plane.
= When two lines are involved (upper and lower), the lower one is considered physical and the higher one metaphysical.
- + 3. When lines 1 and 2 cross, they form the cross of matter.
- 4. The circle which represents infinity or spirit.
- ⌣ 5. The crescent which is called the soul force or consciousness.
- ⌢ 6. An upward stroke which is said to be pouring out. Curving right it is considered extroverted or looking forward; curving left it is introverted or more aware of self and the past.

To enlarge on this concept, here are some brief interpretations of the glyphs for each sign of the zodiac, but if you really understand the basic principle behind each stroke, you can do your own interpreting.

In  the two incomplete crescents move upward in pouring out strokes. At their lowest point, where the two meet, they form a straight, nearly double line considered the line of mentality or intellect. The symbol also depicts a fountain gushing forth the water of consciousness.

With  the self contained circle of spirit supports the new moon crescent of soul force. The moon is considered the mother and the circle of spirit is the growth potential. The total symbol represents fertility.

The two lines of destiny in  are linked by two horizontal or physical lines. The dual line of mentality or intellect represents the "Pillars of Wisdom." They are tied by the physical line on two levels and can bring the higher plane to the lower one.

The  symbol has no straight lines, only crescents and circles and its reaction is purely emotional. The two circles of spiritual force are on the inside of the crescents, thus beginning and ending on a spiritual level. The position of the symbol shows a protective design. It also denotes the merging of the male sperm with the female ovum in the act of fertilization.

♁ begins with a small circle depicting the vein which pushes way up to the large curve or the main coronary chamber. The downflow curve which represents the artery, goes below the earth or physical plane as it pumps blood through the system. Leo becomes the center through which all energy must flow and from which all life force emanates. This symbol also has no straight lines and is all feeling and emotion or "all heart."

The first three strokes of ♀ represent the three levels of consciousness: the conscious, the subconscious and the superconscious. The last stroke shows an outward movement but all the coils of energy are kept from release by the final inward stroke which ends below the horizon or earth line, denoting a locked door (the unconscious). Thus, despite the three levels of consciousness, the symbol becomes introversive and materialistic. It also represents the untouched vagina, the coils being the ovaries, tubes and uterus, while the closed loop is the intact hymen.

The two horizontal lines of ♎ represent the physical (lower) and metaphysical (upper) planes. The two lines never touch, showing detachment. The crescent in the top line points upward and shows pure and divine justice, since the higher nature of Libra is objective and not attached to matter. The symbol also denotes the sun sinking below the horizon; it demonstrates that night will dominate.

The three levels of consciousness are again present in ♏. The lower mind is imbued with animal desire (the scorpion), the higher mind is trying to evolve (the eagle), and the regenerative ability is trying to transform (the phoenix). The last stroke of the symbol is an upward curve which ends in a barb, indicating desire. It is also the symbol of the concentrated tension in the male penis and it shows the barbed tail of the scorpion raised to inflict death on a chosen victim.

The lower part of the shaft in ♐ is the physical or animal nature. The upper part shows the arrow shooting into the sky, reaching out and up. The line which divides the shaft forms the cross of matter and indicates the duality or indecisiveness as to how or where to aim the great physical and mental powers. At its highest Sagittarius denotes aspirations released by the soul into infinity, its target being the Godhead; but it can be held back by human desires, (the barb).

The metaphysical line at the beginning of ♑ descends through the line of destiny or intellect to the material earth plane and then rises to its highest level where it forms the circle of spirit. The crescent of consciousness though flows downward, below the earth level, swinging inward into self-consciousness.

♋ is all angular lines, denoting pure electrical impulses and magnetism. The two lines never touch, showing detachment. This is the original Egyptian glyph for water, in this case it is the water of consciousness. The three carets also depict the ways of communication: first by foot, second by animal, third by mechanical means and fourth, represented by the unfinished stroke pointing upward, by the ultimate form of communication, telepathy or brain waves.

The two crescents of consciousness are back to back. ♋ represents the finite consciousness of man versus the infinite consciousness of the universe. Both crescents are tied together by the line of matter, representing earth where the two forces meet. The physical and divine forces are being pulled apart, showing the eternal struggle between body and soul, but the crescents are imbued with the compassionate quality of pouring out.

In the next issue of ASPECTS I will give some interpretations for the glyphs of the planets.

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PART 2

In Part I of this article we discussed the basic strokes which comprise all astrological glyphs; we also gave some brief interpretations of the glyphs for the signs of the zodiac. Now let's discuss glyphs as they relate to the planets.

The circle of the ☉ is the perfect shape of infinity, without beginning or end. The dot is the inner light, the opening from which manifestation is born out of the unmanifested--namely man. Thus man is totally imbedded in the spiritual circle of eternity.

The two crescents of consciousness or soul force in the ☾ are linked at the lower earth level and at the higher spiritual level. Being a semi-circle, the Moon lives only in the reflected light of the infinite Sun; it is all curves (emotional) and is turned back facing itself, carrying the past within.

The symbol for ☊ is very easy to interpret -- the cross of matter is encased within the infinite circle of spirit. Matter manifests through the life source of spirit.

In ☿ the circle of spirit rises over the cross of matter and is topped by the crescent of consciousness. The line of destiny or intellect struggles upward to be manifested in spiritual consciousness.

The ♀ glyph is derived from the ancient form of the Egyptian ankh or ansata ♀ known as the "giver of life." Again the spiritual circle is elevated above the cross of matter or materialization, as essence tries to transcend substance.

The circle of spirituality is at its lowest point in ♂ with a slanted line of destiny striving or driving upward; but the glyph ends in the barb of desire, penetration and testing. The old symbol for Mars ♂ looks like an upside down Venus, denoting the cross of matter created from the primal energy of spirit; or the values of matter often predominating over spiritual values.

With ♃ the crescent of consciousness or soul force is placed higher than the cross of matter; yet, because the crescent faces inward, Jupiter can become self-oriented or self demanding.

♄ represents matter in its purest sense, as the cross of matter is the most elevated part of this glyph. From the most concrete level, the earth plane, the crescent of consciousness first curves downward and inward, looking within - it then reaches out toward others, ending in a final upward stroke of true evolution. This last upward stroke is omitted by some astrologers, yet it will show the difference in attitude toward Saturn as the great denier versus the great and positive teacher.

Even though  represents the letter H for Herschel, the discoverer of Uranus, there are great symbolic meanings in this and the other commonly used glyph.  uses all straight lines of pure intellect and emotional detachment. The pillars of wisdom symbolize the intellect which emanates from the circle of spirit below the earth line into earthy manifestation of inventive creativity.  portrays the more emotional crescents of finite and infinite consciousness joined by the line of manifestation or earth; all are upheld by the center line of destiny and intellect which is born out of the circle of infinite spirit.

The crescent or semi-circle of soul consciousness is pierced by the cross of matter in , dividing the soul by the physical aspects of life. This results in a symbol looking like a three-pronged fork, each prong denoting an aspect of human consciousness, all waiting to be purified by the divine waters of Neptune. This symbol also depicts the struggle between body and soul, so well symbolized in the glyph for Pisces.

With  the crescent of consciousness or soul force above is linked to the cross of matter below, and hovering overhead is the circle of spirit. On its least evolved level the spirit descends through the soul to manifest as matter; on its highest level matter rises through the soul to regenerate as spirit reborn.

The other often used  symbol basically represents the initials for Percival Lowell, discoverer of Pluto. Yet even the most innocently conceived glyph will take on symbolic significance, describing its purpose -- which is the beautiful mystery of life showing the inner harmony of man with the universe. In this symbol, the line of destiny is intercepted by the physical line of matter on the earth level; but highest of all is the crescent of consciousness, turned back and facing itself, looking deep within, always probing and ready to transform.

As you begin to understand the symbolic meaning of each sign and planet, you will also realize that not everyone is meant to evolve, grow, think or act in the same way.

For example, you have just read an interpretation for the planet Mercury. If you now interpret the sign in which it is placed, you can easily see the possible growth or evolvment of the mind. Mercury in Cancer would obviously have a different goal than Mercury in Gemini. Visualize the symbol for Cancer. The two circles of spirit are on the inside; therefore it begins and ends on a rather spiritual level. The symbol is all emotions with none of the intellectual reasoning usually associated with Mercury. Now let us analyze Gemini. The two vertical lines of intellect are linked by the two horizontal lines of matter on the lower, earthy or reasoning plane and on the higher, more evolved level. But note again that there are no curves in this glyph which represents thinking on a purely mental and intellectual plane.

In the Vedas it is stated that each person reaches up and out in his own way and the different types of Yoga describe the many ways in which people can learn to grow and evolve. Mercury in Gemini would equate with "Jnana Yoga," the path of enlightenment through reasoning and mental understanding, whereas Mercury in Cancer would choose "Bhakti Yoga," the path of love, feeling and devotion.

So when you delineate a chart, keep these basic differences in mind and apply them to every planet and every sign. I hope these interpretations of the glyphs will give you a better understanding of astrology. †

