

The Asteroid Report

Chiron and the Asteroids

Astrological Report for Antonio Banderas
by Viniita Hutchinson



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Your Chart Data

Name: Antonio Banderas
 Date: Aug 10, 1963
 Time: 12:00:00 PM CET -01:00
 Place: Málaga, SPAIN
 004W25'00" 36N43'00"

Planet	Sign	Position	House	House
Sun	Leo	17°Le06'	10th	01 23°Li38'
Moon	Aries	23°Ar05'	06th	02 21°Sc45'
Mercury	Virgo	10°Vi52'	11th	03 23°Sg10'
Venus	Leo	11°Le43'	10th	04 26°Cp45'
Mars	Libra	08°Li46'	12th	05 29°Aq37'
Jupiter	Aries	19°Ar29'	06th	06 28°Pi55'
Saturn	Aquarius	19°Aq58'	04th	07 23°Ar38'
Uranus	Virgo	04°Vi28'	11th	08 21°Ta45'
Neptune	Scorpio	12°Sc57'	01st	09 23°Ge10'
Pluto	Virgo	11°Vi02'	11th	10 26°Ca45'
Midheaven	Cancer	26°Ca45'		11 29°Le37'
Ascendant	Libra	23°Li38'		12 28°Vi55'
Chiron	Pisces	13°Pi43' R	05th	
Ceres	Libra	04°Li33'	12th	
Pallas	Virgo	13°Vi12'	11th	
Juno	Libra	02°Li35'	12th	
Vesta	Libra	15°Li28'	12th	

Introduction

Astrology is an ancient science and art that has been in use for centuries. The planets are named after the Mediterranean gods of ancient Rome and Greece. This illustrates the awareness possessed by our ancestors of the synchronicity between the activation of life's archetypal energies and the movements of heavenly bodies that seem to measure the timing of these events.

The last few centuries have been an exciting time for astrologers. We have witnessed the discovery of the outer planets and watched them conform to the synchronistic meaning ascribed to them by their names, joining and expanding the pantheon of deities that dance through the horoscopes of people and political events. Astrologers have become comfortable with the extended astrological family that now includes Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, and these have been utilized in western astrology for most of the twentieth century. Since the dust has settled from these cosmic discoveries, astrologers have had some time to study the action of some other newly discovered heavenly bodies - namely Chiron and the asteroids.

The asteroids lie in a belt that orbits between Mars and Jupiter. It is now known that this belt is comprised of thousands of asteroids, but the first four were discovered many years in advance of the rest. These four asteroids were named after four major Olympic goddesses, which happened to redress the gender imbalance among the primarily male planetary deities that populate the horoscope. Thus it was that Ceres, Juno, Vesta, and Pallas Athena came along at the time of the birth of the women's movement in the nineteenth century. Astrologers do work with the myriad of other asteroids as well, but these four, with their associations to four of the most important goddesses, are the "standard" ones in use.

Chiron was discovered in 1977, and was named after the wise Greek centaur who tasted immortality. Chiron lies between Saturn and Uranus and occasionally passes within the orbit of Saturn. At first thought to be a comet or asteroid it is now considered a "planetoid" or small planet-like body.

The astrological portraits of the asteroids and Chiron have emerged through the observations of fascinated astrologers over the last century. This report informs you of their symbolic meaning and gives you insight into how they operate in your own horoscope.

Chiron & the Asteroids in Your Chart

Chiron

The astronomical body, Chiron (once thought to be a comet or asteroid, now considered a "planetoid" or small planet-like body) is named after the ancient Greek, centaur demi-god who was horse from the waist down and human from the waist up. Chiron's orbit, unlike that of the asteroids, lies between Saturn and Uranus, and is irregular in that it occasionally crosses inside the orbit of Saturn. This astronomical characteristic is symbolic of Chiron's reputation for being somewhat of a maverick.

Chiron was no ordinary run-of-the-mill centaur at the mercy of instincts and appetites. He displayed such self-mastery and was so wise and gifted in both the arts of healing and the arts of war and statesmanship, that he found himself mentor to heroes and kings and their sons. His service was of such value that he was granted immortality by the gods. Chance would have it that he was accidentally wounded in the foot by one of his own poisoned arrows, carelessly tossed by one of his fosterlings (Heracles). Since by this time he was immortal, the result of this mishap was that Chiron was condemned by fate to suffer eternally the agonies of a poisoned wound that could not be healed. In order to obtain release from his endless suffering, the wise old centaur decided to relinquish the mantle of immortality that had been bestowed upon him. He gave it, instead, to Prometheus (who needed it to be freed from the punishment he suffered for mocking the gods and stealing their fire). In this way, Chiron embraced death and found release from his suffering.

Astrologically, Chiron's placement in the horoscope indicates one's experience of the wound that does not heal, (or the wound that does not seem to heal, because although an important lesson may be learned through dealing with it, the wound seems to spiral around with another lesson on a deeper level). Chiron represents one's experience of woundedness and the nature of the wound. Second, by coming to terms with suffering through an acceptance of one's mortality, one arrives at a greater state of wholeness or healing. Third, Chiron shows how one comes into one's own as an elder or mentor who can provide healing and guidance to others. Thus Chiron also astrologically indicates the ways and means with which you can guide others, as well as the kind of mentoring and healing you seek for yourself.

Chiron in Pisces

With Chiron in Pisces, mentoring and the healing process are associated with compassion, artistic sensitivity, and the fostering of a viable spiritual awareness. This applies to both the kind of mentoring you seek for yourself, and the kind that you are eventually able to extend to others. You may encounter mentor figures who are mystical,

artistic, or sensitive in some way, or who can help you navigate the choppy waters of spiritual pitfalls. You may experience wounding, inadequacy, or insoluble conflict arising from exposure to victim/martyr dynamics, addictions, spiritual exploitation, or the inability or unwillingness to distinguish "reality" from "non-ordinary" states. Spiritual escapism, or the habit of taking shelter in the cosmic state of oneness (or other addictions) as a way of avoiding the suffering of the world, can hinder the formation of a functional ego and healthy sense of self. Experiences such as these, or the loss of a spiritual mentor, are painful events that evoke your philosophical side and awaken a true sense of wisdom as you struggle to come to terms with the ongoing suffering and the healing sought.

Chiron in 5th House

Chiron in the fifth house indicates that the wounding/healing experience (as described by Chiron's sign placement) plays itself out through the sphere of life that has to do with creative self-expression, spontaneity and play, children, sports, and romantic experiences (which often involve a spirit of child-like fun and exploration). You might experience some kind of wounding through children, perhaps through self-denial for the sake of your children, or perhaps through observing the struggles and woundedness of children. You may suffer from the lack of opportunity or ability to have a child of your own; or, like Chiron did, serve as a guide or mentor to the children of others. Your creative expression may deal with themes of wounding or healing, or you may encounter mentor figures who are very creative. Experiences such as the blocking or thwarting of your creativity can have a wounding effect, and any dysfunctional defense mechanisms you use to deal with the painful issue can cause you further difficulties. Eventually you learn how to integrate and learn from these experiences in such a way that you cyclically reap deeper and deeper healing and wisdom from them.

Mercury Opposite Chiron Orb: 02°52'

Chiron forms a challenging aspect with Mercury. The Centaur battles the wily Fox! You may experience speech or learning difficulties due to the inhibition caused by an educational system that tells the masses what and how to know, and expects all individuals to be ready to learn certain things (i.e., reading and writing) at the same age. Or perhaps you are the "objective" one whose rational thought processes are offended or challenged by the perceptions, healing abilities, or holistic worldviews of others. You may have difficulty in being direct, or in verbally communicating your thoughts or perceptions, especially if your views do not adhere to the "informed thinking" or "latest research" of the times. You may learn to doubt or mistrust your own intuitions and non-logical knowings because there is no "reason" for them. There may be an issue with subliminal mind control, whether through media, cult, political or educational brain washing. The challenge is to learn to see that there is a place for both the intuitive, holistic, non-rational Zen mind as well as for straightforward communication and logical rational thought processes. Otherwise the Centaur and the Fox will be fighting until the cows come home.

Neptune Trine Chiron Orb: 00°46'

Chiron forms a harmonious aspect with Neptune. Your capacity for compassion, sensitivity, and transcendent experience is a great resource that helps you to heal painful wounds (your own, or those of others). These wounds are likely to involve issues arising from a poor sense of personal boundaries, feelings of victim-hood or helplessness, escapism via spiritual or substance abuses, or difficulty distinguishing ordinary from non-ordinary states of mind. A non-acceptance of human failings and the sufferings and evils of the world, and a desire to regress to a womb-like state can play a part in these problems. You may have a healing influence upon others via your artistic or musical gifts, your spiritual sensibility, or your compassion and psychic sensitivity. Your artistic expressions may touch the wounds of others, deal with healing themes, or be utilized in therapeutic settings. Dream therapy, dream journaling or visualization techniques may also be a part of your healing kit.

Pluto Opposite Chiron Orb: 02°42'

Chiron forms a challenging aspect with Pluto. The mentor/wounded healer archetype within yourself combines with the urge for powerful and transformative experience in such a way that these two aspects of yourself seem to be at odds with each other. You may experience a personal sense of wounding due to issues involving death, sexuality, power abuses, destructive urges, or intense and deeply buried emotions such as rage, jealousy, or possessiveness. There could be an inability to perceive the destructiveness in oneself or others, or a lack of trust in one's own instincts and gut feelings; in either case, one's self-preservation skills may be impaired or wounded in some way. You may be attracted to exciting but dangerous experiences that tempt fate - until you get burned enough to recognize that something's got to change. The challenge is to learn to reconcile the need for healing and wise counsel with the need to deal with power and peak experiences. You need to make room for both needs in your life, and to avoid the natural tendency to unconsciously repress or project one of them out onto others. Once you have embarked upon your own healing journey, you can have a profound healing influence on others who are struggling with issues of power abuses and powerful or destructive emotional, archetypal, or sexual energies. Your avenue of healing or counseling may involve work with shamanism, initiation experiences, depth psychology, or primal or archetypal energies.

Ceres

Ceres is the expression of the Earth Goddess archetype that has been worshipped in many forms by various cultures. This archetype has always been associated with mother earth, harvests, a transformational journey to and from the underworld, rites of passage, and the birth or resurrection of a fertility deity.

The myth of Demeter (da mater or "earth mother") and the sudden abduction of her dearly loved daughter Persephone by the lord of the underworld contains the same universal symbolism as other Earth Goddess myths. These myths may appear, at first, to

be early explanations for the changing of the seasons. They are actually wise, rich, symbolic teachings on such profound themes as loss and renewal, death and rebirth, and the endless transformation that constitutes the very laws of creation to which this universe and everything in it adheres.

On a more personal level, the Ceres myth deals with the severance of the bonds of love and/or attachment. When we experience love as we have known it being taken from us, we can feel as if we have been cast into a realm of eternal darkness, never to return to the world of the living again. We may then be unable to let go of the past, reliving it again and again in our minds - protesting and resisting the present, and demanding that it somehow hand over to us the treasure that has been snatched away.

Yet as with Demeter, who chose to forgo her divinity and wander in the world of humans, after which she was reunited annually with her transformed daughter, it is only when we can give up notions of eternal paradise and immortality that we can relinquish old attachments. Only when we have been humbled by and have accepted those mysterious cyclic forces beyond ourselves that we can be restored to a state of plentitude and abundance in the here and now. Then we can truly understand how our cup must be emptied in order to be filled afresh.

Ceres in the birth chart thus describes what one really cares about, and the way one nurtures others (and needs to be nurtured oneself) in a parental kind of way. It also indicates where one may tend to cling, the kind of separations that can be traumatic, and what one may be required to give up (or share with others) in order to grow. It can also indicate the ways in which we seek for something that seems to be missing, something we didn't get enough of, as well as the ways that can help us mourn such a loss. As with Demeter and Persephone, Ceres can also indicate the kind of experience that constitutes a rite of passage - the most profound transformation: the death and rebirth of the self.

Ceres in Libra

With Ceres in Libra, nurturance is expressed through the sharing of one's sense of idealism, beauty, and goodness, and is associated with learning how to relate harmoniously with others. There is a gentle prodding to learn to see things from other people's perspectives, with a point of view to fairness and justice. The nurturing experience may also be associated with an appreciation for music and the arts. Lack of this kind of nurturance could be a source of grief, through which you learn how to develop these qualities for yourself and, thus, to encourage them in others. On the other hand, an upbringing that placed too much of an emphasis on pleasing others and maintaining an atmosphere of harmony can lead to an insecure need for acceptance from others. Loss of a partner, or of artistic inspiration could serve as a transformative experience for you, one that initiates you into the lessons of loss and return, death and rebirth, and simply letting go.

Ceres in 12th House

Ceres in the twelfth house indicates sensitivity to the suffering and unconscious longing for nurturing on the part of the collective unconscious of humanity (and other

creatures) as a whole. Some people with this configuration feel "called" to nurture - whether in a spiritual or healing capacity - to answer what feels like a divine call to Love. This position can denote, literally, a sacrifice of or on the part of one's mother, mother figures, parenting, or offspring, perhaps in service to such a call, or as a result of other mysterious reasons. Such experiences can lead to the development of a deep compassion for humanity, and the ability to comfort and guide others through rites of passage that revolve around coming to an acceptance and affirmation of the transitory nature of this universe.

Mars Conjunct Ceres Orb: 04°12'

Your Ceres is conjunct Mars. Mother/daughter meets the masculine god of war! You associate nurturance with the affirmation of assertiveness, and the encouragement of one's fighting spirit and warrior skills. You will fight for what you care about, like a kind of parental crusader. Your sense of self-confidence is strongly colored by your experience (or lack of experience) of maternal bonding, and by the formation and severance of strong emotional ties. Any such experience will foster in you a defensive attitude towards others who struggle with themes of loss and return. You nurture others by affirming their independence, boosting their sense of self-confidence, and encouraging them to stand on their own two feet.

Pallas

As with goddess-myths associated with the other asteroids, the myths that pertain to the warrior goddess Pallas Athena reflect socio-historic upheavals as well as archetypal themes. One of the most interesting aspects of Athena's myth, as it has evolved, is the changing nature of her birth. In her earliest form she was said to have been born of Lake Triton in Libya, home of the legendary amazons. Her worship was brought to the Greek islands much later by the Libyans themselves as they emigrated across the Mediterranean sea. The story of her birth reflected this migration, for she was then said to be born of Metis - a sea goddess. Further evolution of her myth reflects the encounter of the goddess worshipping peoples with the patriarchal people invading Greece from the north: Metis (whose name means Wise Counsel), pregnant with Athena, was devoured by the invaders' god, Zeus, who later gave birth to a fully grown and fully armored Pallas Athena from his head. Later versions of this myth omit altogether any mention of Metis, and depict Athena as having been conceived without a woman's involvement.

Later myth also portrays Athena as bringing about the destruction of both Pallas and Medusa in what appears to be sociological evidence of the attempt to destroy goddess worship. (Pallas, Athena, and Medusa were the three faces of the Libyan version of the triple goddess.) In one of these myths Zeus tricks Athena into killing her Amazonian sister Pallas during a friendly competition. Another myth relates how Athena helped King Perseus to cut off Medusa's head by giving him a mirror to use so he could avoid her deadly gaze. Yet, as much as these myths might have been used as evidence of the wise Athena's denunciation of the Feminine, they also contain symbolism that indicates how Athena preserved the goddess trinity. For, upon the death of Pallas, the grieving Athena

placed her sister's name before her own. As for her attitude towards Medusa, she bore Medusa's image upon her breastplate and distributed her blood to healers as a regenerative medicine. The symbolic importance of the mirror in the Perseus-Medusa conflict also hints at Athena's wisdom and gift as a mediator in teaching how to reconcile opposites by seeing in oneself the disowned qualities that are projected onto opponents.

Pallas Athena signifies wisdom and creative problem solving in which a holistic view of conflicting or opposite elements (the Masculine and the Feminine) is required. This sense of fairness is backed up by a willingness to defend or fight for the underdog. Thus Pallas Athena is also associated with fighting for causes. She represents the application of practical skill and creative intelligence in order to best be of service. She was the goddess of war (defense, originally) as well as the goddess of wisdom and culture - patroness of the civilized arts such as pottery, sculpture, weaving, architecture, and animal husbandry. Pallas Athena can also represent the denial of one's own gender in an effort to cope with situations that require the skills of the opposite gender in order to survive, as well as the struggle to rediscover and reconnect with essential qualities of one's own sex. Androgynous conditions and healing through feminine wisdom, energy balancing or conflict resolution are also expressions of the Pallas Athena archetype.

Pallas in Virgo

Pallas Athena in Virgo denotes perceptive insight or intuitional skill when it comes to analytical or discriminative functions. You may be particularly inventive or creative in matters of efficiency, work, craftsmanship, or the simple management of day-to-day affairs. Difficulty may arise if this is expressed as a crusade for perfection that results in a critical attitude towards oneself and others), and it may be important for you to utilize these skills in your career. Your ability to deftly accomplish a multitude of tasks and to see to all the little details makes you a champion of service - you just know intuitively how things work, and how to get them to work. You might make use of these abilities in defending some cause or underprivileged group, perhaps by attending to all the behind-the-scenes, secretarial-type work; or you might feel inclined to fight for improved health conditions or higher standards in some other area of life (see Pallas Athena's house position, below). Skills in healing or conflict resolution may lie in a wise or intuitive understanding of the importance of preventative health care techniques such as stress reduction, exercise, nutrition, vitamins and herbs, as well as an insight into the dynamics of perfectionism or workaholic behavior.

Pallas in 11th House

With Pallas Athena in the eleventh house you like to put your creative energy and practical wisdom behind alternative collective ideals. You are gifted at working with organizations and can help make humanitarian visions a reality through tackling the practical work that needs to be done, something you do with great skill and ingenuity. It is important for you that such ideals and visions be grounded in reality through practical manifestations that can be of actual use to humanity. If this is the case, you'll back a cause all the way. Your creativity may express socio-political concerns, or be used to support such concerns. The creative intellect is stimulated and inspired through

involvement with groups, co-ops, alternatives, and organizations that share your interests, goals, and ideals. Difficulty can arise if Pallas Athena's energy is expressed as an "alternatives" crusade in which certain ideals are all that matters.

Mercury Conjunct Pallas Orb: 02°20'

The asteroid Pallas Athena is conjunct Mercury. You have a finely developed creative intellect with an innate sense of practical wisdom and a persuasive tongue. You appreciate fine or thought-provoking literature. Your conversations, writings, or studies may revolve around issues of mental/creative achievement, the arts, or non-traditional gender, cultural, or political issues. You may possess a touch of genius when it comes to conflict resolution and other forms of mediation, communications, or networking.

Neptune Sextile Pallas Orb: 00°15'

The asteroid Pallas Athena forms a harmonious aspect with Neptune. You are able to balance your need for internal spiritual, transcendent experience with your need for outward expression of your mental/creative skills and socio-political interests. You may be quite gifted artistically or musically, or perhaps your wisdom and skill gets expressed through your ability in the healing arts. You have a high degree of compassion. You may possess finely developed psychic abilities or a profoundly experienced spirituality. You may support causes that are spiritual in nature, or those that focus on health or recovery from addictions.

Pluto Conjunct Pallas Orb: 02°10'

The asteroid Pallas Athena is conjunct Pluto. Issues of power and self-empowerment are bound up with intellectual and socio-cultural interests. You may have a powerful impact upon others through the expression of your mental/creative abilities, perhaps through artistic expression or perhaps through socio-cultural contributions or activism. Or perhaps you possess a certain charisma that you wield in support of a favorite cause. You may possess intuitive insight into the workings of the human psyche, sexuality, self-transformation, and power issues. You may support groups that are experiencing or recovering from abuse of some kind.

Juno

Juno (whose Greek name is Hera) is an ancient Queen of Heaven Goddess dating from that matriarchal period when the sovereign Deity was female and reigned alone, presiding over the mysteries of birth, motherhood, and the various phases of reproduction. Mythology relates how she was seduced by Zeus, married him out of a sense of honor, endured a marriage characterized by power struggles over issues of fidelity and bearing a line of descent, as well as how she went into retreat occasionally in order to renew and center herself. Her myth parallels the history of social upheaval in the lands where she was worshipped. Northern invaders struggled to impose traditions of patrilineal descent and the worship of their chief god, Zeus, upon the indigenous

matriarchal cultures of Mycenaean Greece and Crete. Over a period of hundreds of years of cultural conflict, the two divinities were forced to share the altar. Thus, in addition to her authority over matters pertaining to childbirth and motherhood, Juno has come to be associated with issues of socially acknowledged relationship, legal marriage, marital fulfillment through commitment and fidelity, and the struggle for equality within a relationship. She represents, also, the kind of power struggles that involve controlling the partner through control over offspring, or through the withholding of sex or emotional intimacy. Juno can also represent committed relationships entered into out of a sense of duty, guilt, or for social reasons.

Juno represents both the need for relationship and the refusal to accept inequality within the context of a relationship. She represents the struggle to balance the need for intimacy with the opposing need for freedom - needs which both partners have, although one of these needs may be projected onto the partner. She can also represent the need to take marriage as a sacred trust, a way that leads to spiritual fulfillment through the reconciliation of the opposites in a state of union.

On another level, Juno can represent the way in which one feels rendered powerless by conflict in spite of sincere effort and irreproachable conduct on one's own part. The harder one tries, the more inadequate one's efforts seem to be, for there is a tendency to cling to old methods when circumstances have changed and a whole new paradigm is needed before the way clear can be seen. This frustration can sometimes lead to self-depreciation and loss of faith in oneself. Juno thus symbolizes the transition state between old and new ways of being, where the old fails to meet the needs of the times and the new is not yet manifest. She describes the need for a kind of spiritual self-rejuvenation that is needed in order to see oneself through times of utter disintegration into the future that awaits. Juno in the horoscope thus represents the ways in which we need to renew ourselves, and where our ability to adjust to changing circumstances is most tested.

Since marriage proved to be this goddess' testing ground, Juno in the horoscope also indicates the qualities associated with one's marriage partner and the ways in which one handles intimacy/freedom needs as well as the jealousy and insecurity that often accompany this balancing act. Juno's position describes the nature of any control issues, the ways in which such power struggles get enacted, and the type of sacred cows that need to be relinquished so that the path to marital fulfillment can unfold. Juno's placement in your chart can refer not only to your mate (or the way that you perceive your mate), but to the relationship and to your own behavior in a committed relationship as well.

Juno in Libra

With Juno in Libra, the qualities you seek in a committed relationship are harmony, equality, and a mutual awareness of the other person's needs. You appreciate a partner with artistic or musical skills, and a sense of good taste - a true lady or gentleman. Someone idealistic, who understands that Yin and Yang, the Feminine and the Masculine, must support each other in order for true harmony to be achieved. It could be that, in spite of your best efforts, you yourself experience a sense of inadequacy or

powerlessness when it comes to such matters, or that your partner is doing all the expressing in this regard (or vice versa). This could be a source of difficulty when it comes to intimate relations. Intimacy/freedom needs, childbearing, fidelity, and power issues need to be handled with fairness and consideration for each other, otherwise uncooperative or competitive behavior can result.

Juno in 12th House

Juno in the twelfth house indicates that there are deep unconscious emotional patterns that the relationship evokes, lending it a sense of destiny. Whether or not one believes in reincarnation, there is the sense of an ancient bond that exists between you and your partner, a kind of familiarity and "fatedness" that may have been felt from the beginning. If spiritual interests are shared, this could represent a true marriage of "soul mates" who experience divine union with the Beloved through each other. There may be a sense of a one-sided debt owed to one partner by the other, resulting in the need to undergo some kind of sacrifice for the sake of the relationship, perhaps even a sacrifice of the relationship itself. One partner may nurse the other through ill health, for example. Or perhaps the partner works as a nurse, in a hospital, or in some other institution of voluntary or involuntary confinement. At any rate issues of service, sacrifice, and spiritual connection are major concerns in the committed relationship. The qualities described by Juno's sign position (above) indicates the manner in which you can best deal with these issues.

Mars Conjunct Juno Orb: 06°11'

Your Juno is conjunct Mars. Your fighting spirit and warrior skills are inextricably bound up with issues of committed relationships. You associate healthy partnerships with the affirmation of assertiveness, the ability to take action, and a willingness to defend and protect in a valiant manner. You will fight for equality and autonomy within a relationship, and you appreciate honesty in dealing with these issues. Your experience of equality within an intimate partnership is profoundly affected by your sense of self-confidence and your experience of independence. Passion and a certain amount of healthy competition, perhaps through sports, may play a part in keeping relationships healthy.

Vesta

The asteroid Vesta (Latin) is named after the ancient Greek goddess Hestia, first born of the Olympian deities and last released by her father Cronos (father Time), who at one point swallowed all his offspring. Thus she denotes the beginning and the end - alpha and omega - and serves as a reminder of the source from which all things originate and to which all must return. She represents the preservation of sacredness and the state of connection to formless Essence. As such, she is the only Olympic deity not worshipped anthropomorphically; she is symbolized only by the altar and its sacred flame. Thus she also represents any sacred space - be it temple, sweat lodge, or meditation corner - that acts as a container in which we may center ourselves, and feel the presence of Spirit. In

ancient times Vesta was worshipped both in the city center as the flaming altar, and in every home as the central hearth whose embers were literally passed on down through the generations from mother to daughter when the daughter married and established her own hearth. In this manner Vesta came to represent the perpetuation of the spark of life, and of civilization and one's ancestral and cultural roots.

In early matriarchal societies, priestesses honoring Hestia maintained a connection to this spiritual essence (represented by a sacred flame that they tended night and day). They offered themselves in sacred sexual union in order to teach the divine aspect of sexuality and the need to remain aware of the sacred while engaged in physical life. The priestesses remained unmarried and committed to none but themselves and their worship. Their sons (conceived anonymously during ceremonial summer solstice rites) served as year-kings when there was no royal heir. These customs were finally abolished when patrilineal traditions were enforced and the priestesses were compelled by the Roman king to serve as keepers of the new (patriarchal) civilization and to observe vows of celibacy. To break these vows entailed a cruel death penalty. In exchange for the relinquishment of their sexuality, matrilineal customs, and true spiritual function, the priestesses (Vestal Virgins) were granted freedom from paternal control.

Vesta's sacred flame represents, in the yogic tradition, the kundalini force which, when properly awakened and channeled, leads to spiritual development. Thus, astrologically, Vesta has come to represent both spirituality and consecrated (or desecrated) sexuality. This can include a wide range of sexual expressions such as abstinence, renunciation and celibacy, the celebration of spiritually honored sexuality, sexual idealism, and the sacred whore. Astrologically, Vesta stands for that which provides us with inner sustenance; the way in which we are pulled back to our core or inner self; and the struggle between this and the demands of the outer world. Vesta represents the way in which we long to bless others with the fruits of the spiritual resources we have found within ourselves, but it is also the need to retreat and preserve our inner sanctuary against any disrespectful intrusion. Vesta is associated with dedication, focus, and commitment. She represents those things that help us focus, the way in which we dedicate ourselves with heart and soul, and that for which we are ready (or compelled) to make a sacrifice. The things indicated by Vesta's position in your chart may be things that you feel compelled to give up or sacrifice, often out of a sense of spiritual compulsion. Yet they can also be the very things that evoke your dedication - leading to a sense of deep inner fulfillment when you are willing to make some sacrifices on their behalf. Keep this paradox in mind as you read on, for Vesta can express itself one way or the other - or both!

Vesta in Libra

Vesta in Libra indicates that harmony, beauty, and the arts help you focus and center yourself. You use them to both go inward and get in touch with yourself, and to then move outward and commit your focused energies with dedication, zeal, and even sacrifice (described further by Vesta's house position, below). This dedication to harmony is often expressed in terms of the way you relate with others - especially with a partner. You are capable of considering another's happiness to the extent that you are willing to

deny your own needs totally. (You revere sharing and concern for one another's needs when it comes to sexuality as well, for through these you experience the most spiritually fulfilling aspects of sex.) It is possible that, through one-pointedness, you focus so much on the ideals of beauty, harmony, and equality that the means becomes an end in itself and you lose sight of the goal these things are meant to serve. If this happens, you can end up feeling obliged to sweeten others' lives, while expecting and depending on others to do the same for you (it may be against your principles to speak up for your own needs). This can leave you feeling disoriented and out of touch with yourself, and may tempt you to renounce these pursuits. It can be helpful to think of your true Beloved as dwelling within you, in order to develop the same kind of consideration for yourself that you extend to others. By constantly re-anchoring your concern for harmony and equality in your sense of inner spiritual presence, you can renew the sense of fulfilling dedication to your goals.

Vesta in 12th House

Vesta in the twelfth house indicates that sacrificial dedication and intense focus are invested in the effort to experience the Transcendent through artistic, spiritual or healing pursuits. Your focus may also be directed into secret, subliminal, or unconscious issues. Unconscious fears of persecution or past experiences of suffering for the sake of what you believe in could lead you to deny your spiritual needs. Similarly, unconscious issues regarding sexuality could result in sexual inhibitions. Or perhaps you experience periods of sexual abstinence for other reasons - for the sake of spiritual goals for example, or as a result of sacrifices made for a partner. In other words, the sense of sacrifice you experience in regard to these matters (spiritual and/or sacred sexual energies) could be expressed either as an intense one-pointed focus and sacrificial dedication to these very things themselves, or as denial of them. Careful consideration of these activities or issues will help you understand how to best manage your sense of commitment and remain centered in your self.

Sun Sextile Vesta Orb: 01°38'

Your Vesta forms a harmonious aspect with the Sun. You are able to balance the need for intense concentration and work with the need for fun and games, and taking time for yourself. Perhaps you dedicate yourself to or make sacrifices for the sake of creativity, children, self-expression, or the dramatic arts. Your approach to spirituality is one that affirms your inner essence and helps you find your spiritual authority from within. Your awareness of the sacredness of the self and of life energies may extend to your sexual energies as well.

Venus Sextile Vesta Orb: 03°45'

Your Vesta forms a harmonious aspect with Venus. The capacity for dedication and self-sacrifice is enhanced by your sense of pleasure and beauty. You are able to integrate your intense focus on your commitments with the need for pleasure and some healthy self-pampering. You can infuse your intimate relationships with a sense of the sacred, and experience ecstasy through the sensual and the sexual. Your ability to concentrate

and focus your energies can be used to support your artistic or aesthetic activities.

Mars Conjunct Vesta Orb: 06°43'

Your Vesta is conjunct Mars. Your fighting spirit and masculine energies are fueled by your capacity for intense focus and self-sacrifice. This capacity for sacrifice is manifested through your boldness and willingness to defend or protect your particular "sacred cow." You may dedicate yourself to the development of your martial skills, or to a reclaiming of the sacredness and honorable expression of the Masculine. It is also possible that you experience a sense of sacrifice of rather than to these things.

Jupiter Opposite Vesta Orb: 04°00'

Your Vesta forms a challenging aspect with Jupiter. One's personal quest for meaning, or one's need for philosophical exploration or adventure may be inhibited by a spiritual or sexual belief system that has become dogmatic or limited in its views about higher studies and the pursuit of knowledge. Or the quest for meaning may languish as a result of an overemphasis on achievement or the pursuit of profit and gain. Perhaps an interest in ceaseless travel, freedom, or adventure has, to your own detriment, resulted in a neglect of your need for commitment to a cherished goal and your capacity for self-sacrifice, or has had a negative effect on your sexual or spiritual life. Your own spiritual leanings could place you in conflict with the prevailing faith or belief system of the times, or perhaps your philosophical views create a split between sacredness and sexuality that causes difficulties for you. Spiritual or sexual conflicts could be related to excesses such as over-eating or fanaticism. By trying to balance the need for ongoing growth, adventure, and questing with the need for dedication and commitment to a cherished goal, you can avoid the natural tendency to unconsciously repress or project one of them out onto others. The same thing applies for the apparent dichotomy between faith/belief system and the need for spiritual and sexual self-empowerment.

Saturn Trine Vesta Orb: 04°30'

Your Vesta forms a harmonious aspect with Saturn. The need for commitment to a cherished goal and your capacity for self-sacrifice are nicely complemented by your sense of discipline and realism. You are able to take a balanced approach towards the integration of career/breadwinner activities with issues of spiritual commitment and/or sexual fulfillment. You can balance your outer worldly life with the fire of inspiration that burns within. Your organizational ability and your sense of duty can be put to use in the support of that which connects you to the sense of the sacred.

This sums up your report for Chiron and the asteroids in your chart. An astrological chart is like a blueprint of the human psyche, with its great and dramatic cast of archetypes. And each human psyche is like a unique, one-of-a-kind carpet woven from many beautiful threads of many different colors. Chiron and the asteroids are five of those threads.

This report has described each of those five threads by house and sign, and has even described what happens when one of those threads is intertwined with other single threads (the other planets). And this does give you some kind of overall picture. But the best way to understand the pattern that all the threads make in their weaving of the whole unique carpet, is to consult an astrologer skilled in chart interpretation. The astrologer can make a big difference in helping you piece together the puzzle of your chart so that, in the end, you can see the beautiful carpet where once, perhaps, all you saw was a tangle of threads. Hopefully, this report will help you to understand some of the magical threads that are woven into your life.