

Fundamentals of Archetypal Astrology

Based on the classes and writings of [Richard Tarnas](#)

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◆ The Fundamentals of Archetypal Astrology guide sets out one way to learn the archetypal astrological perspective by developing the technical language of the three forms of correspondence—the natal chart, world transits, and personal transits. The astrological perspective can provide a tremendous deepening of one’s self-reflective capacities, and when fully understood offers a world view that sees the human being as a center of meaning, intrinsically interconnected and embedded in a highly creative, loving, and intelligent cosmos.

As you begin your astrological studies remember to keep it *simple*. It is easy to get overwhelmed before becoming comfortable with the fundamentals. As with any new language, you must first learn the alphabet, new words, and grammar before writing prose or poetry. As you become well versed in the language of astrology, it will become clearer how to extend your research into further areas that draw your interest. The archetypal principles associated with the ten planets, including the Sun and Moon, reflect the foundational archetypal energies of the human psyche and reality as a whole.

~Blessings to you on your unfolding journey~

1) Memorize the glyphs of the 10 *major* celestial bodies

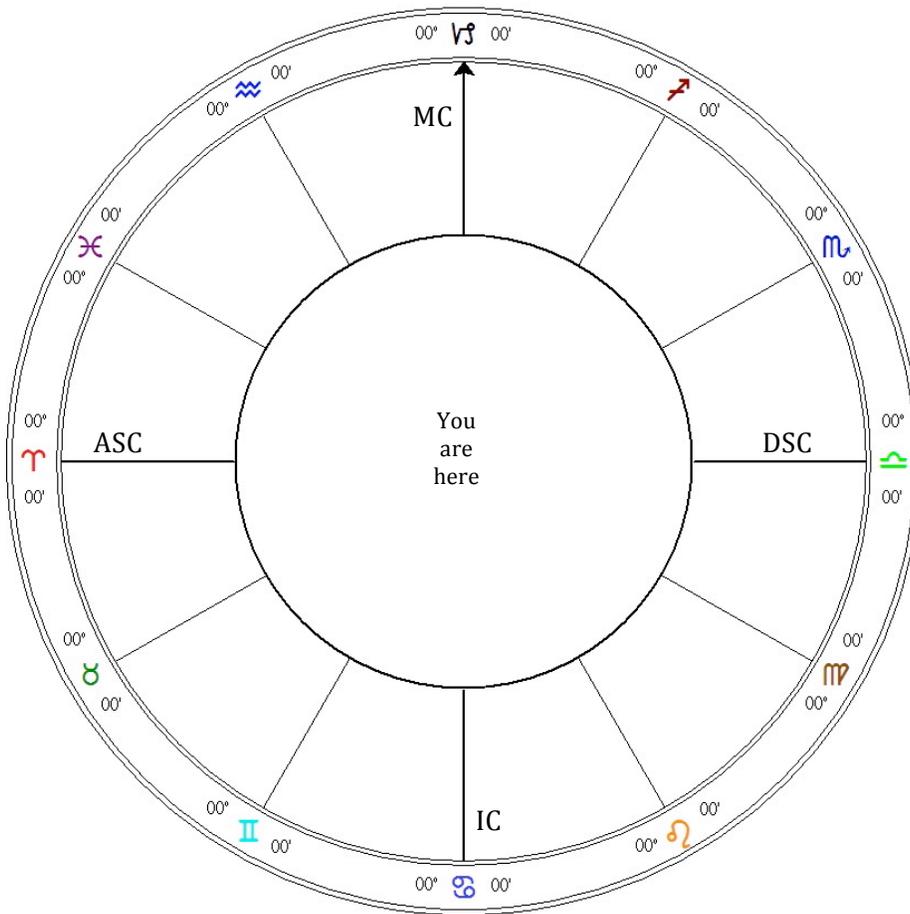
- The planets represent the *energies* of our psyche, they hold the most weight and importance in the natal chart

Pt	Name
	Moon
	Sun
	Mercury
	Venus
	Mars
	Jupiter
	Saturn
	Uranus
	Neptune
	Pluto

2) Memorize the order of the 12 signs of the Zodiac as it moves counterclockwise in a circle. Western astrology uses the Tropical Zodiac, which uses the vernal equinox as the beginning point, and is based upon the movement of the Sun in correlation with the seasons.

$$360^\circ (\text{Zodiac}) / 12 (\text{signs}) = 30^\circ (\text{number of degrees per sign})$$

- Each sign begins at 0° and ends at 29°
- Each degree has 60' (minutes)
- The signs stylize, color, or give flavor to the planets
- Below is an image of the zodiac depicting the counterclockwise order of the signs beginning with the first sign of the zodiac, Aries, on the Ascendant. The image also depicts the positions of the four-quadrature angles of the chart. Use this as a visual reference for memorizing the order of the signs and their relationships to one another and becoming familiar with the angles of the chart.



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

ASC—Ascendant
DSC—Descendant
MC—Medium Coeli
IC—Imum Coeli

Natal Chart

- 3) Learn the *major* aspects and the degrees of orb of influence used in natal chart analysis
- Major aspects = Conjunction, Opposition, Trine, Square, Sextile

The orb of influence is a general guideline, not absolute. You can assume, however, that for natal charts all aspects are operative up to 8°, except the sextile, which is operative up to at least 4°. Orbs are dependent on several factors, including which planets are involved: for example, the Sun and Moon (core parts of psyche) tend to operate with wider orbs, especially in configuration with the outer planets, as do outer-planet combinations in themselves (such as Uranus-Pluto or Saturn-Neptune aspects).

Asp	Name	Angle	Natal Orbs of Influence
♌	Conjunction	0°00'	10°-12° (up to 15°)
♋	Opposition	180°00'	10°-12° (up to 15°)
△	Trine	120°00'	8°-10°
□	Square	90°00'	8°-10°
✳	Sextile	60°00'	4°-6°

- 4) Memorize the geometrical or angular relationship between signs.

Conjunction (0°) = dynamic or hard aspect

- New Moon position
- Dividing the circle by one

Opposition (180°) = dynamic or hard aspect

- Full Moon position
- Dividing the circle by two

Aries	Libra
Taurus	Scorpio
Gemini	Sagittarius
Cancer	Capricorn
Leo	Aquarius
Virgo	Pisces

Trine (120°) = confluent or soft aspect

- Four signs away from each other, all signs of same element
- Dividing the circle by four

Fire signs = Aries Leo Sagittarius

Earth signs = Taurus Virgo Capricorn

Air signs = Gemini Libra Aquarius

Water signs = Cancer Scorpio Pisces

Square (90°) = dynamic or hard aspect

- Three signs away from each other. Memorize each of 3 “modalities”
- Dividing the circle by three

Cardinal = Aries Cancer Libra Capricorn

Fixed = Taurus Leo Scorpio Aquarius

Mutable = Gemini Virgo Sagittarius Pisces

Sextile (60°) = confluent or soft aspect

- Two signs away from each other. Learn which signs (elements) are “harmonious” together
- Dividing the circle by six

Fire harmonious with Air

Earth harmonious with Water

- Aries (fire) * Gemini (air)
Taurus (earth) * Cancer (water)

5) To begin your astrological practice the best place to start is with your natal chart.

- You will need your birth date, time, and place
- You may print a free chart at www.astro.com → Follow the links
- Practice drawing your natal chart on the blank mandala provided for you at the end of this guide. This will help you memorize the placement of your planets and become more familiar with the areas of the natal chart.
- **Draw the chart until you have it memorized**
 - First draw the glyphs of the planets (10)
 - Draw the degree of the planets
 - Include degrees for ASC, MC, DSC, and IC
 - Draw the sign that the planets, ASC, MC DSC and IC are in
 - Draw aspects between the planets on inside of circle

6) Learn natal chart's order of significance

1. Conjunction with the Sun, Moon, ASC, MC
2. Any other major aspect to Sun and Moon
3. Any stellium- 3 or more planets in conjunction
4. Any major configuration (i.e. t-square, grand-cross, grand trine)
5. Conjunctions of 2 planets
6. Any major tight aspect (typically anything less than 5°)
-Generally, the tighter the aspect the more potent the configuration
7. The signs of the zodiac the Sun, Moon, ASC are in.

7) Developing an archetypal eye

- Up to this point, you have been learning the technical aspects of astrology. Now it is time to begin learning about the planetary archetypes.
- Read as much as you can on the archetypes and begin to deeply reflect how these manifest in your own life and the world around you.
- Begin with Richard Tarnas' *An Introduction to Archetypal Astrology*. This was written as a preparatory introduction to archetypal astrology for those interested in having an astrological consultation. It is one of the most concise and in depth summary of the light and shadow qualities associated with the 10 planetary archetypes.

8) Remember

- There are light and shadow, noble and ignoble, life-enhancing and life-destructive sides to each archetype and archetypal combination.
- It is strongly recommended to read as many astrological interpretations of the archetypes as possible. Each interpretation is stemming from not only that astrologer's life experiences but also their astrological natal chart, the lens through which they view all things, containing its unique configurations and archetypal complexes. Each astrologer has their own unique insights but also blind spots. The more perspectives you incorporate the better rounded and balanced your understanding will be.
 - Suggested Resources found at end of this guide.
- One of the most empowering attributes of the astrological perspective is that as we become more familiar with the archetypal dynamics within our natal chart and thus in our psyches we are enriched with more capacity to engage consciously with the often otherwise unconscious forces of our psyche and to have compassion for those darker places in ourselves and one another.
- **Important:** This is crucial to remember, archetypal astrology is archetypally predictive *not* concretely predictive.

World Transits

Asp	Name	Angle	World Transits Orbs of Influence
♋	Conjunction	0°00'	15° (up to 20°)
♌	Opposition	180°00'	15° (up to 20°)
♍	Trine	120°00'	10°-12°
♎	Square	90°00'	10°-12°
♏	Sextile	60°00'	4°-6°

- World transits are operative from the first moment they come into the orb of influence until the very last time they exit the orb of influence even if it leaves the orb of influence during retrograde time periods.

- Transits are archetypal wave forms that begin as the planet approaches the outer orb of influence (sometimes referred to as the penumbral phase of the transit) and increase in potency when the transit is the tightest in orb and decrease in potency as the planet separates and leaves the orb of influence. However, transits are not light switches that turn on and off. They are wave forms that ebb and flow. Transits activate, catalyze, and bring into manifestation with more vividness while the planets are in aspect. Once the transit happens it ripples throughout time and space whose effects continue to be seen.

- Inner planet transits aligning with outer planet transits tend to activate the longer acting outer planet transits.

- Synchronic patterning – events that carry similar archetypal themes occurring throughout space in the collective psyche during the same period of time that correlates to the particular planetary alignment happening during that particular world transit.

- Diachronic patterning – events that have similar archetypal themes correlating to a specific planetary alignment during one period of time and as the next quadrature alignment of that planetary alignment occurs there are the same archetypal themes expressing themselves in the collective psyche.

Personal Transits

Asp	Name	Angle	Personal Transits Orbs of Influence
♄	Conjunction	0°00'	3°-5°
♁	Opposition	180°00'	3°-5°
△	Trine	120°00'	3°-5°
□	Square	90°00'	3°-5°
✳	Sextile	60°00'	3°-5°

1) Personal Transits exceptions:

- Saturn transits to all planets 5°-7° approaching and separating (Saturn's nature is to hold on)
- Saturn return 20° approaching and separating
- Saturn opposing itself 10° approaching and separating
- Mars transits 7°-9° approaching and 3° -5° separating (Mars's nature is to leap forward)
- Uranus opposition 10° approaching and separating
- Transiting planets aspecting themselves activate earlier and stronger

- Personal transits are operative from the first moment they come into the orb of influence until the very last time they exit the orb of influence even if it leaves the orb of influence during retrograde time periods.

- The outer planets carry more archetypal power during personal transits as they last significantly longer than inner planet transits therefore they deserve more attention in their overarching influences.

- When any planet is stationary, meaning staying in the same position in the sky which occurs before going retrograde and direct, its transiting power increases in potency.

- Remember, transits are fields of energy just as are aspects in the natal chart. Transits activate the fields of energy of natal configurations. For example, a transit of a natal planet that is in a 5° conjunction with another natal planet would activate both natal planets even if one planet is outside the orb of influence.

2) Order of significance in transiting planets:

Begin with outer planets and move in. Outer planets are farther from the Sun therefore they have longer orbital periods around the natal chart and thus last longer than inner planet transits. The more rare the transit, i.e. the farther out from the Sun, typically the more powerful the transit.

- Outer planet transits to the Sun and Moon and going across the Ascendant (ASC), Midheaven (MC), Descendent (DSC), and Imum Coeli (IC)

- Outer planet transits to themselves (to that planet's natal position), e.g., Saturn return, Uranus opposite Uranus, Pluto square Pluto.

- Outer planet transits to all other planets

- Inner planet transits that activate longer outer planet alignments

3) Planetary orbits around Sun and lengths of personal transits:

*Planetary orbital period around the Sun and the chart are same amount of time for all planets outside Earth's orbit from the Sun. All orbital periods for planets inside Earth's orbit are one year. The Moon's orbit is 29.5 days to go around the chart.

Orbit around Sun	Length of personal transit
Pluto 249 years	5-10 years (depends on where it is in orbit around Sun)
Neptune 164 years	4-6 years
Uranus 84 years	3-4 years (except Uranus aspecting itself)
Saturn 29.5 years	1-2 years (except Saturn aspecting itself)
Jupiter 12 years	1 month – 1 year (depends on retrograde motion)
Mars 2 years	2-3 weeks (unless in retrograde period can be up to 6 months)
Venus 225 days	1 week (unless in retrograde period can be up to 4 months)
Mercury 88 days	1 week (unless in retrograde period can be up six weeks)
Sun	Few days
Moon	Half day

Glossary of Terms

Archetype—This is a highly complex phenomenon. As concisely as possible it may be thought of as a Universal primordial essence that informs, impels, and permeates all levels of existence. A longer definition Archetype derives from the Greek adjective archetypos, which has two root words, arkhe (archai) meaning “first” or “original” and typos, meaning “model” or “type”. According to Archai, the Journal of Archetypal Cosmology, “Archai means original forms or fundamental principles in Greek and refers, as in the mythic and Platonic vision of ancient Greece, to the underlying primordial essences and forces that animate the cosmos”. These primordial essences or energies are the origins of existence, the manifestation of form, they constitute the human psyche and the cosmos as a whole. Archetypes infinitely transcend and permeate both the macrocosm and microcosm of the universe. Thus, all things and all processes in the universe are a representation of an archetype or an archetypal combination. There are a myriad of ways in which to view and understand archetypes, but in light of simplicity three distinct ways are as mythic gods and goddesses as in the Homeric perspective, as Ideas or Forms in the Platonic tradition, or as psychological in the Jungian understanding.

Aspect—angular geometrical relationship between two or more planets

Ascendant (ASC)—one of the four-quadrature angles of the chart. Also known as the rising sign, is the sunrise or ascending position on the eastern horizon where the zodiacal sign and degree are at the specific time and location of one’s birth. If there is a planet(s) conjunct the ascendant that planetary archetype(s) tends to be quite prominent in one’s life. The ascendant is associated with how one engages the world from moment to moment. It reflects the way one initially presents him or herself to the world.

Celestial body or Planet—includes the Sun, Moon and planets in the solar system.

Descendant (DSC)—one of the four-quadrature angles of the chart. It is the sunset position or the descending position on the western horizon where the zodiacal sign and degree are at the specific time and place of one’s birth. If there is a planet(s) conjunct the descendant that planetary archetype(s) tends to be prominent in one’s life. It is the area of the chart associated with how one draws energy or people into one’s life and is also associated with relationships.

Diachronic patterning – events that have similar archetypal themes correlating to a specific planetary alignment during one period of time and as the next quadrature alignment of that planetary alignment occurs there are the same archetypal themes expressing themselves in the collective psyche.

Element—each sign is associated with one of the four classical elements of fire, earth, air and water. Fire and air are considered to have positive polarity and are masculine, earth and water are considered to have negative polarity and are feminine.

Forms of correspondence – the three forms of correspondence are natal charts, world transits, and personal transits. These three forms are how astrologers track the archetypal patterns in the human psyche and world psyche.

Grand-cross—consists of two different oppositions that are also square to one another forming what appears to be a cross or large square.

Grand-trine—consists of at least three planets, typically there is one planet per each sign of the same element, which are each 120° from one another, thus forming one large triangle.

Hard or dynamic aspect—includes the conjunction, opposition and square. It is a challenging aspect that requires more work and participation from the individual to integrate the archetypal energies involved. They tend to have more dynamic tension that presses us into being, but once integrated offers true gifts and wisdom in our lives.

Imum Coeli (I.C.)—one of the four-quadrature angles of the chart, a Latin word meaning “bottom of the sky”. If a planet(s) is conjunct the Imum Coeli that planetary archetype(s) tends to be prominent in one’s life. It is the area of the chart associated with one’s roots, ancestry, past, home-life, family and foundation.

Mid-Heaven (M.C.)—one of the four-quadrature angles of the chart also called Medium Coeli a Latin word meaning “middle of the sky”. If a planet(s) is conjunct the Mid-Heaven that planetary archetype(s) tends to be prominent in one’s life. It is the area of the chart associated with career, how the public views the person over the trajectory of one’s life, one’s aspirations and goals.

Modality—a quality associated with each sign. There are three modalities, which move counterclockwise through the Zodiac beginning with the Cardinal sign of Aries. The three modalities are Cardinal, Fixed, and Mutable. The Cardinal signs represent the beginning of each season, the fixed represent the middle of the season, and the mutable represent the ending of the season as it transitions into the following season.

Natal chart—also referred to as birth chart or horoscope. Illustrates the placement of the planets including Sun and Moon at the time and place of one’s birth.

Orb—range of degrees of influence between planets where the field of archetypal energy of a certain aspect is operative.

Soft aspect—includes trine and sextile. This is a harmonious aspect where the exchange of energy between archetypes has an easier flow. They are considered to be latent potentials and gifts we are innately born with, but that may go by the weigh side if one does not activate them by participating.

Stellium—is a conjunction of three or more planets. This is a major configuration within the chart where the archetypes associated with each planet are fusing together.

Synchronic patterning – events that carry similar archetypal themes occurring throughout space in the collective psyche during the same period of time that correlates to the particular planetary alignment happening during that particular world transit.

T-square—consists of at least two planets in an opposition where a third planet is at the mid-point of these two planets and squaring both of them.

Zodiac—Greek word literally meaning “belt of life”. It is comprised by the 12 signs or constellations traditionally associated with western astrology creating a 360° circle that moves along the ecliptic.

Suggested Resources for Further Study

Suggested Texts for Interpreting the Natal Chart

Astrology Karma and Transformation by Stephen Arroyo

Combinations of Stellar Influence by Reinhold Ebertin

The Inner Sky by Steven Forrest

Horoscope Symbols by Rob Hand

Principles of Astrology by Charles and Suzi Harvey

Aspects in Astrology by Sue Tompkins

Suggested Texts for Interpreting Personal Transits

Planets in Transit by Rob Hand

Calendar of Archetypal Influences by Philip Levine – order your personal astrological calendar for the year at www.cosmicwindow.com

Suggested Texts for World Transits

Cosmos and Psyche by Richard Tarnas

World Transits article in Archai Journal (www.archaijournal.org) by Richard Tarnas

Suggested Texts for Meaning and Implications of Astrology

Astrology, Psychology, and the Four Elements by Stephen Arroyo

The Archetypal Cosmos: Rediscovering the Gods in Myth, Science by Keiron LeGrice

The Astrology of Transformation by Dane Rudhyar

Astrological Triptych by Dane Rudhyar

The Lunation Cycle by Dane Rudhyar

Cosmos and Psyche by Richard Tarnas

Prometheus the Awakener: An Essay on the Archetypal Meaning of the Planet Uranus by Richard Tarnas

Suggested Websites for Journal Articles, Blogs, Podcasts, and Videos

Initiation to Archetypal Astrology: Working with the Fundamentals:

www.vimeo.com/ondemand/trustpsyche (12 week archetypal astrology online course)

Archetypal View: YouTube channel for archetypal astrology presentations and lectures

Archai Journal: www.archaijournal.org

Correlations: Archetypal astrology podcast www.correlations.blogspot.com

Khaldea: Dane Rudhyar's archival project www.khaldea.com

Trust Psyche: Archetypal astrology and depth psychology blog www.trustpsyche.com

Astrological Software programs

Astro Gold for iPhone, iPad, or Mac (most affordable)

Solar Fire for Windows

IO for Macs

