

MORYA FEDERATION
ESOTERIC SCHOOLS OF MEDITATION



Welcome to the Esoteric Astrology Series

The Labours of Hercules (Aries to Cancer)

An Astrological Interpretation

BASED ON ARTICLES BY ALICE A. BAILEY

FIRST PRINTED IN *THE BEACON* 1957-1958

(*THE LABOURS OF HERCULES* BOOK WAS PUBLISHED IN 1974)

Why Study the Hercules Myth?

- The progress of a disciple is illustrated in the heavens
 - by the Labours of Hercules through the zodiacal signs.
- But the progress isn't limited to just disciples
 - We all can better understand the lessons of each sign
 - By reading about Hercules' journey through the signs
 - We all have each sign in our chart
 - Some signs are better represented than others, but all are there
 - We start off learning about the lower expressions of each sign
 - And eventually begin to face the lessons Hercules recapitulates for us in his symbolic journeys

The Link between the Myth & Sign

- By combining the astrological and symbolic story
 - the tests of everyday life of a disciple are shown
 - via the sign in which the myth takes place
- Each sign subjects the disciple to
 - influences of certain distinctive forces
 - and provides him with certain tendencies
- When understood, the meaning of the test emerges
 - And it's implications for all of us in our journey



The Myth



Labor I – The Capture of the Man-Eating Mares

♈ The mares of war were ravaging the land

- Hercules' task was to rescue the people from these wild mares
- He brought his beloved friend Abderis with him
- They carefully planned & executed the capture of the mares

♈ Cocky & arrogant, Hercules had Abderis drive them in

- Abderis lost control, was killed, & the mares were freed
- Humbled, grief stricken & discouraged, Hercules redid the task
- He was successful this time, and proclaimed a hero
- But Abderis was dead because of Hercules' arrogance
- The task was badly done
- But the gifts of failure guarantee success, if rightly understood

Labor I – Meaning of the Myth

- ♈ The 1st labor marks the 1st step upon the path
 - The life of inner unfoldment of the Soul & life of service begin
 - Brings about reorganization, reorientation, regeneration
- ♈ It is a sign of learning mental control
 - Right direction, right orientation, right thought
 - The horse stands for intellectual activity
 - ✓ White horses symbolize the illumined mind
 - ✓ Black horses represent the lower mind, false ideas, wrong concepts
- ♈ The task was to destroy wrong mental attitudes & ideas
 - Capture the female aspect of mind so no more mares are bred
 - Stifle selfishness, unkindness, gossip, criticism

Labor I – Journey

♈ Through the capture of the Man-Eating Mares

- We see Hercules make his start and react to thought impulse
 - ✓ But he's dealing with it from the angle of his personality (represented by Abderis in the Myth)
- Until he begins to learn something of mind control
 - ✓ How to corral evil thought forms
 - ✓ And use the mind positively under Soul influence

♈ As the intelligent disciple, he started his journey

- Beginning with an undefined spiritual urge to righteousness
- And eventually he'll end as the world savior

Aries:	the Ram
Element:	Fire sign
Quality:	Initiating. Beginnings. Will or Power expresses itself through the great creative processes. In the early stages, activities are directed toward the material side of life; later toward the spiritual.
Traits:	Negative traits: arrogance, stubbornness, impulsiveness, confrontational attitude, a tendency to leave projects mid-way. Positive traits: courageousness, liveliness, a positive outlook, mental acumen, adventurous spirit.
Esoteric Concepts:	Learning the right use of the mind and life force with unselfish intent, and gaining control over wrong thought, wrong speech, and wrong action.
Polar Opposite:	Libra, an Air sign (balance).
Rulers:	Exoteric, Mars; Esoteric, Mercury.
Keywords:	
form angle:	Let form again be sought.
soul angle:	I come forth and from the plane of mind, I rule.

Summary of Aries LoH p 211

The Myth



Labor II - The Capture of the Cretan Bull

♊ **Still sad, Hercules embarked on his 2nd labor**

- To find and lead the sacred bull to the Holy Place
- To navigate the maze & save the bull from sacrificial death
- He was guided by the gleaming star on the bull's forehead

♊ **This task he did alone**

- At times he rode the bull, at times he carried it on his back
- Taking it to the three Cyclops in the Holy Place
- Walking in the light
 - ✓ The star on the bull's forehead represented Aldebaran
 - ✓ The eye of the bull, illumination

Labor II – Meaning of the Myth

♈ In working out the Plan, desire follows thought impulse

- Mental consciousness is succeeded by sensitivity
- The potency of desire is tested here, a lesson of proportion & restraint
 - ✓ For a long time the disciple fails and is ridden by the bull of desire
 - ✓ Before rising above desire into the guiding light of the Soul

♈ The key is right understanding of the Law of Attraction

- The law of magnetic force & coherence of forms
- It produces stability & the persistence of forms
 - ✓ Between positive & negative, Spirit & matter, the Self & not-self
- Concerns the interrelation between the builder & the form
 - ✓ The bull represents the creative force

Labor II – The Journey

The strong urge and potency of attraction

- Produces the great illusion
- But can eventually become the cause of illumination

Hercules has to learn the nature of desire

- To transmute it into aspiration
- To dominate sex
 - ✓ The lowest expression of the Law of Attraction
- And use it rightly (capture the bull)

Taurus:	the Bull
Element:	Earth sign
Quality:	Desire, for the mass of men; will or directed purpose, for the disciple.
Traits:	Negative traits: stubbornness, self-indulgent behavior, laziness, materialistic, possessiveness. Positive traits: dependability, practicality, patience, independence, persistence.
Esoteric Concepts:	Illumination; applying knowledge & experience toward spiritual aspirations; the wish to overcome the baser desires by transmuting them into love for humanity.
Polar Opposite:	Scorpio, a water sign (conflict of duality, desire overcome; triumphant discipleship).
Rulers:	Exoteric, Venus; Esoteric Vulcan.
Keywords:	
form angle:	Let struggle be undismayed.
soul angle:	I see and when the Eye is opened, all is illumined.

The Myth



Labor III – The Golden Apples of the Hesperides

II Hercules was eager and confident as he started

- But he got nowhere for a long time as he searched
- A guide was sent to aid him, but he never realized it
- Then he had a small measure of success killing the serpent
 - ✓ These were smaller tests within the labor, one failed, one passed

II He continues on, and faces more of the smaller tests

- He encounters and is delayed by following a false teacher
- He is delayed yet again as he stops to help Prometheus
 - ✓ But this is a valuable lesson he learned that service is never a delay
- He continues on and finds Atlas in distress, and aids him
 - ✓ And the Golden Apples are then offered to him, he passed the labor
 - ✓ “The Way to us is always marked by service,” he was told by the 3 sisters

Gemini Labor
LoH p 54-76

Labor III – Meaning of the Myth

II The mystic must add occult knowledge and achievement

- He gains knowledge through his 5 senses
- Opens him up to new fields of awareness
- He becomes a man of action
- But he must also listen for than inner guide, the Soul
 - ✓ His guide Nereus

II The knowledge must be transmuted to wisdom

- Knowledge is the quest of the senses
- Wisdom is understanding & applying it to problems of life
- Hercules had to integrate his lower self into his higher self
 - ✓ He had to conquer glamor and illusion
 - ✓ Presented as Busiris

II Despite failures & long delays, Hercules obtains Wisdom

- But only after giving up his search in selfless service

Gemini Labor
LoH p 54-76

Labor III – The Journey

II Hercules's progress

- At first subjective, characterized by thought & desire
- Worked out as expression on the physical plane
- Until he arrives at knowledge about himself as a personality

II Then he begins gathering the apples of knowledge

- Realizes the duality of man, personality vs Soul
- He must subordinate the personality to the Soul
- By controlling his 3 lower vehicles
 - ✓ Body, desire nature, mind
- And developing his Soul nature
 - ✓ Clarity of perception unaffected by delusion
 - ✓ Love and wisdom
 - ✓ Service to humanity

Gemini:	the Twins
Element:	Air sign
Quality:	Duality. Love-Wisdom. Fluidity. Control of every pair of opposites. The underlying love of Deity reaches our solar system through Gemini.
Traits:	Negative traits: inconsistency, superficiality, indecisiveness, lack of focus, nervousness. Positive traits: versatility, enthusiasm, eloquence, wit, intellect.
Esoteric Concepts:	The intermediary between the soul and body (depicted as the mortal & immortal twin); Dual aspect of the mind as it mediates between the higher and the lower expressions.
Polar Opposite:	Sagittarius, a fire sign (one-pointedness; preparation for initiation).
Rulers:	Exoteric, Mercury; Esoteric, Venus; Hierarchical, Earth
Keywords:	
form angle:	Let instability do its work.
soul angle:	I recognize my other self, and in the waning of that self I grow and glow.

Summary of Gemini LoH p 211

The Myth



Labor IV – The Capture of the Doe or Hind

♋ Hercules starts his journey in deep silence

- He watched and listened
- Heard quarreling voices of Artemis & Diana, both claiming the doe
- He also heard a 3rd voice, asking him to rescue & save the doe

♋ He chased the doe, hindered by both Artemis & Diana

- For a year this went on, until he glimpsed the doe sleeping
- He captured the doe, claiming the sacred doe as his
- But the Presiding One told him the doe belonged in the shrine
 - ✓ It belonged to no man, even a son of God
 - ✓ It should be shared with all who dwell within the shrine

♋ Done, he looked & saw a fawn where the doe once stood

- Again & again, he was told, the fawn must be brought to the holy place

Labor IV – Meaning of the Myth



Cancer is the last of the 4 preparatory signs

- Here he enters, through birth in Cancer, the Human Kingdom
- A mass sign, he gets a more universal sense of mass consciousness
- This readies him for the work of the next 4 signs



Objective is the evolution of the consciousness aspect

- Cancer is primarily one of instinct that is lifted up by intellect



He must now become familiar with intuition

- That instantaneous recognition of truth and reality

Labor IV – The Journey

☿ The higher faculty of intuition is brought into play

- Symbolized by the capture of an elusive doe
- Sensitive and hard to find

☿ In his previous cycles of life experience

- Hercules transmuted intellect into intuition
- He has to become aware of the world of human ideas
- And develop its use
 - ✓ as all lower powers have to be developed and used

☿ The battle for possession of the doe continues

- Apollo knows the doe is intuition
- Diana knows the doe is intellect
- Artemis thinks the doe is just instinct

Cancer:	the Crab
Element:	Water sign
Quality:	Mass sensitivity; for the average man, mass identification with form. For the disciple, service for the masses.
Traits:	Negative traits: moodiness, being too clingy, over emotionalism, suspicion, tendency to nag. Positive traits: imagination, intuition, loving compassion, protectiveness.
Esoteric Concepts:	Developing intuition and a sensitive response to the environing conditions and circumstances; psychic development of both the lower and higher senses; transmuting instinct to intuition and emotional reactions to inclusive love.
Polar Opposite:	Capricorn, an earth sign (spiritual awareness after struggle; birthplace of the Christ).
Rulers:	Exoteric, the Moon; Esoteric, Neptune.
Keywords:	
form angle:	Let isolation be the rule, and yet the crowd exists.
soul angle:	I build a lighted house and therein dwell.

The Myth



Labor V – The Slaying of the Nemean Lion

🌀 Now it was time for a “dread” labor

- Hercules felt strong & courageous, armed with gifts of weapons
- And went to Nemea to slay the lion terrorizing the area
- Realizing they were weighing him down, he dropped all weapons
- Keeping only a club made by his own hands, and a bow & arrows

🌀 He sought the lion for days and days before finding it

- And shot arrow after arrow at it, but they failed to pierce the lion

🌀 Following the lion to a cave, they faced each other

- He grabbed the lion and choked it to death with his own hands
- Then skinned the lion to show to the Nemeans they were now safe

Labor V – Meaning of the Myth

♁ Hercules the aspirant symbolized the lion

- This is why he traditionally wore a lion's skin
- The lion stands for his coordinated, dominant personality run wild
 - ✓ With the lower vehicles blended & potent beyond average man
 - ✓ A personality can become a difficult, aggressive person

♁ The personality is self-confident and powerful

- He can become a devastating force in a family group or society
 - ✓ As he becomes self-aggrandized & asserts himself too strongly
- Until such time as the aspirant slays the lion of his personality
 - ✓ And rids himself of the sense of I-ness
 - Selfishness has to give way to selflessness
 - The individual self becomes subordinate to the group

Labor V – The Journey

- Ω Equipped from his previous lessons, Hercules
 - Tracks the lion & faces it in a cave
- Ω He demonstrates in this test that
 - He has refocused and coordinated his personality
 - It's characterized by courage, a gift of this sign
 - The lower can be subordinated to the higher
- Ω He becomes identified with the real, spiritual identity
 - Is no longer occupied with his own form
 - Or mental/emotional reactions
 - The personality is overcome
- Ω Through service rendered and sanity of his methods
 - He gives a guarantee of the strength of his purpose

Leo:	the Lion
Element:	Fire sign
Quality:	Sensitivity leading to individual awareness. Self assertion.
Traits:	Negative traits: too headstrong, egoistical, dominating, impatience, arrogance. Positive traits: kindness, a big-heart, optimism, truthfulness, loyalty.
Esoteric Concepts:	The mind and heart united in the will-to-illumine; learning to express spiritual will, purpose and intent.
Polar Opposite:	Aquarius, an air sign (group awareness, world service).
Rulers:	Exoteric, Sun; Esoteric, Sun
Keywords:	
form angle:	Let other forms exist, I am because I am.
soul angle:	I am That and That am I.

Summary of this Webinar Series



Observe the Influences in Your Life

- We've covered some main points about Esoteric Astrology
 - Our outer life is exoteric and mundane, but gains us experience
 - Our inner life can be working with or against our outer life
- Work with these for a while, become comfortable with them
 - Ascendant as emerging soul purpose
 - Sun as the personality (is it cooperating with the soul?)
 - Moon as the past, path of least resistance, and prison of the soul
 - How the 7 Rays work through the planets and signs
 - How positive & negative traits of planets/signs/rays impact us
- Observe these influences in your own life & those around you
 - What do you learn about yourself by doing this?
 - Does it help you understand your family, friends & colleagues better?




It's All a Learning Experience

- We are here to live, learn, and face tests and trials
- We experience life as a myriad of cycles going on
 - Multiple overlapping and interacting cycles influence us every day
 - Impacting our outer lives while stimulating our inner lives
- These are rhythmic, lifetime experiences
 - Designed to create crisis, shake things up, and provide opportunity
 - Designed to stimulate soul growth and expand our consciousness
- Look at the bigger picture
 - Understand the underlying energies of your natal chart
 - And how transits and progressions trigger events
 - Can you identify the astrological energies that need to be cultivated, balanced, or controlled?

Summary of the Signs

Exoteric Traits	Sign	Esoteric Traits
Arrogant, Stubborn, Impulsive, Confrontational, Tendency to leave projects mid-way.	♈ Aries	Adventurous, Courageous, Lively, Positive, Passionate.
Stubborn, Self-indulgent, Lazy, Materialistic, Possessive.	♉ Taurus	Dependable, Down to earth, Patient, Independent, Persistent.
Inconsistent, Superficial, Indecisive, Lack of Focus, Nervous.	♊ Gemini	Versatile, Enthusiastic, Eloquent, Witty, Intellectual.
Moody, Clingy, Suspicious, Overemotional, Born nagger.	♋ Cancer	Imaginative, Intuitive, Loving , Emotional, Protective.
Headstrong, Egoistic, Dominating, Impatient, Arrogant.	♌ Leo	Kind and big-hearted, Energetic, Optimistic, Straightforward, Loyal.
Overcritical, Fastidious, Harsh, Conservative, Judgmental.	♍ Virgo	Meticulous, Intelligent, Practical, Analytical, Reliable.

Summary of the Signs

Exoteric Traits	Sign	Esoteric Traits
Superficial, Detached, Unreliable, Laid-back, Indecisive.	 Libra	Tactful, Romantic, Charming, Diplomatic, Balanced.
Jealous, Secretive, Resentful, Controlling, Moody.	 Scorpio	Determined, Fearless, Loyal, Ambitious, Intuitive.
Careless, Tactless, Superficial, Inconsistent, Overconfident.	 Sagittarius	Optimistic, Intellectual, Philosophical, Generous, Adventurous.
Cautious, Pessimistic, Stubborn, Self-centred, Detached.	 Capricorn	Practical, Ambitious, Prudent, Disciplined, Patient.
Loyal, Unpredictable, Inconsistent, Detached, Stubborn.	 Aquarius	Friendly, Humanitarian, Intelligent, Inventive, Independent.
Escapist, Idealistic, Over-sensitive, Pessimistic, Lazy.	 Pisces	Imaginative, Kind, Intuitive, Compassionate, Sensitive.

RAY

VIRTUES AND VICES OF THE RAYS

1st Ray

Special Virtues: Strength, steadfastness, courage, truthfulness arising from absolute fearlessness, power of ruling, capacity to grasp great questions in a large-minded way, and of handling men and measures. Vices of Ray: Pride, ambition, willfulness, hardness, arrogance, desire to control others, obstinacy, anger.

2nd Ray

Special Virtues: Calm, strength, patience and endurance, love of truth, faithfulness, intuition, clear intelligence, and serene temper. Vices of Ray: Over-absorption in study, coldness, indifference to others, contempt of mental limitations in others.

3rd Ray

Special Virtues: Wide views on all abstract questions, sincerity of purpose, clear intellect, capacity for concentration on philosophic studies, patience, caution, absence of the tendency to worry himself or others over trifles. Vices of Ray: Intellectual pride, coldness, isolation, inaccuracy in details, absent-mindedness, obstinacy, selfishness, overmuch criticism of others.

4th Ray

Special Virtues: Strong affections, sympathy, physical courage, generosity, devotion, quickness of intellect and perception. Vices of Ray: Self-centeredness, worrying, inaccuracy, lack of moral courage, strong passions, indolence, extravagance.

5th Ray

Special Virtues: Strictly accurate statements, justice (without mercy), perseverance, common-sense, uprightness, independence, keen intellect. Vices of Ray: Harsh criticism, narrowness, arrogance, unforgiving temper, lack of sympathy and reverence, prejudice.

6th Ray

Special Virtues: Devotion, single-mindedness, love, tenderness, intuition, loyalty, reverence. Vices of Ray: Selfish and jealous love, over-leaning on others, partiality, self-deception, sectarianism, superstition, prejudice, over-rapid conclusions, fiery anger.

7th Ray

Special Virtues: Strength, perseverance, courage, courtesy, extreme care in details, self-reliance. Vices of Ray: Formalism, bigotry, pride, narrowness, superficial judgments, self-opinion over-indulged.

The Natal Chart

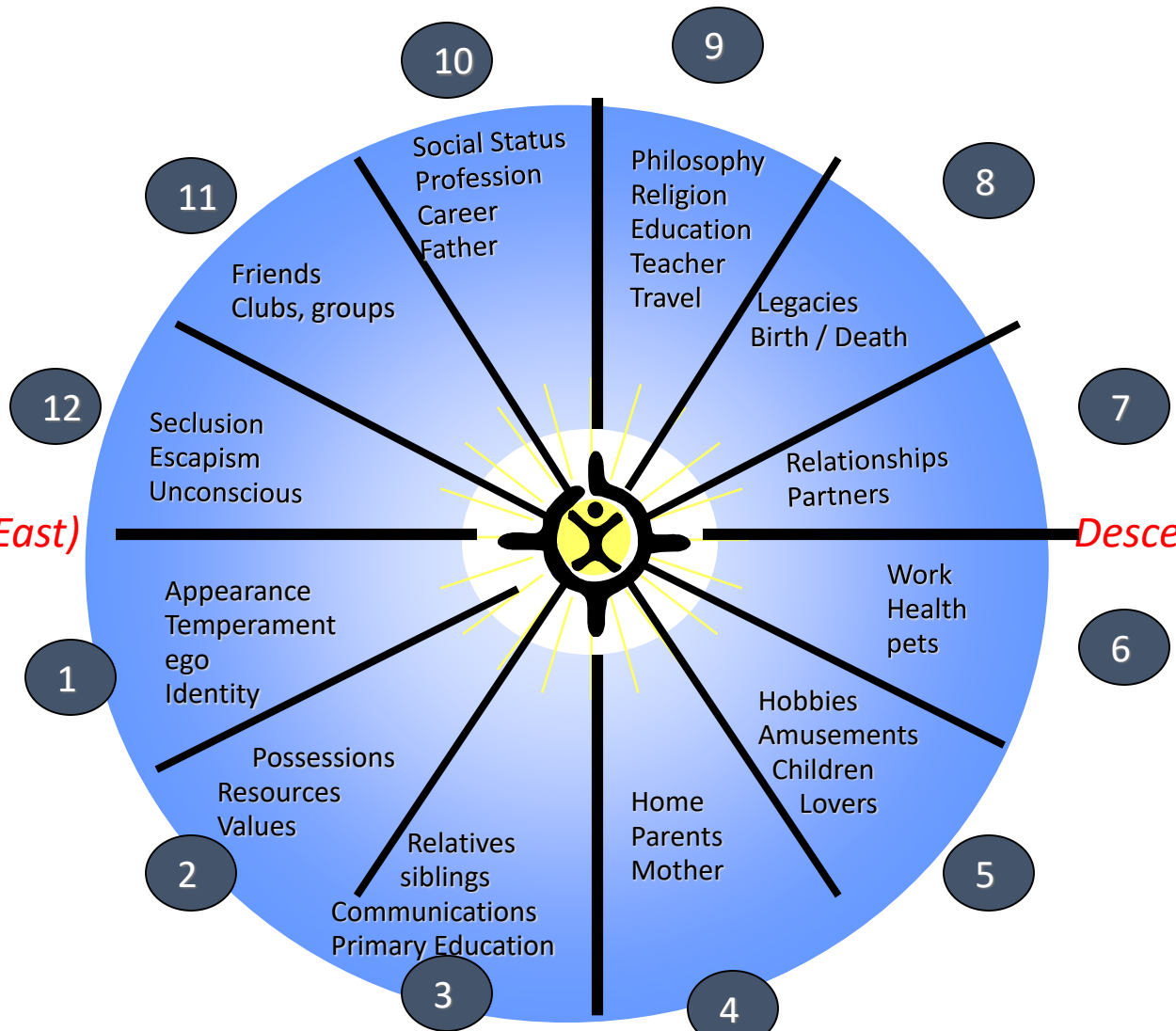
(Traditional Houses)

MC - Medium Coeli (South)

Ascendent (East)

Descendent (West)

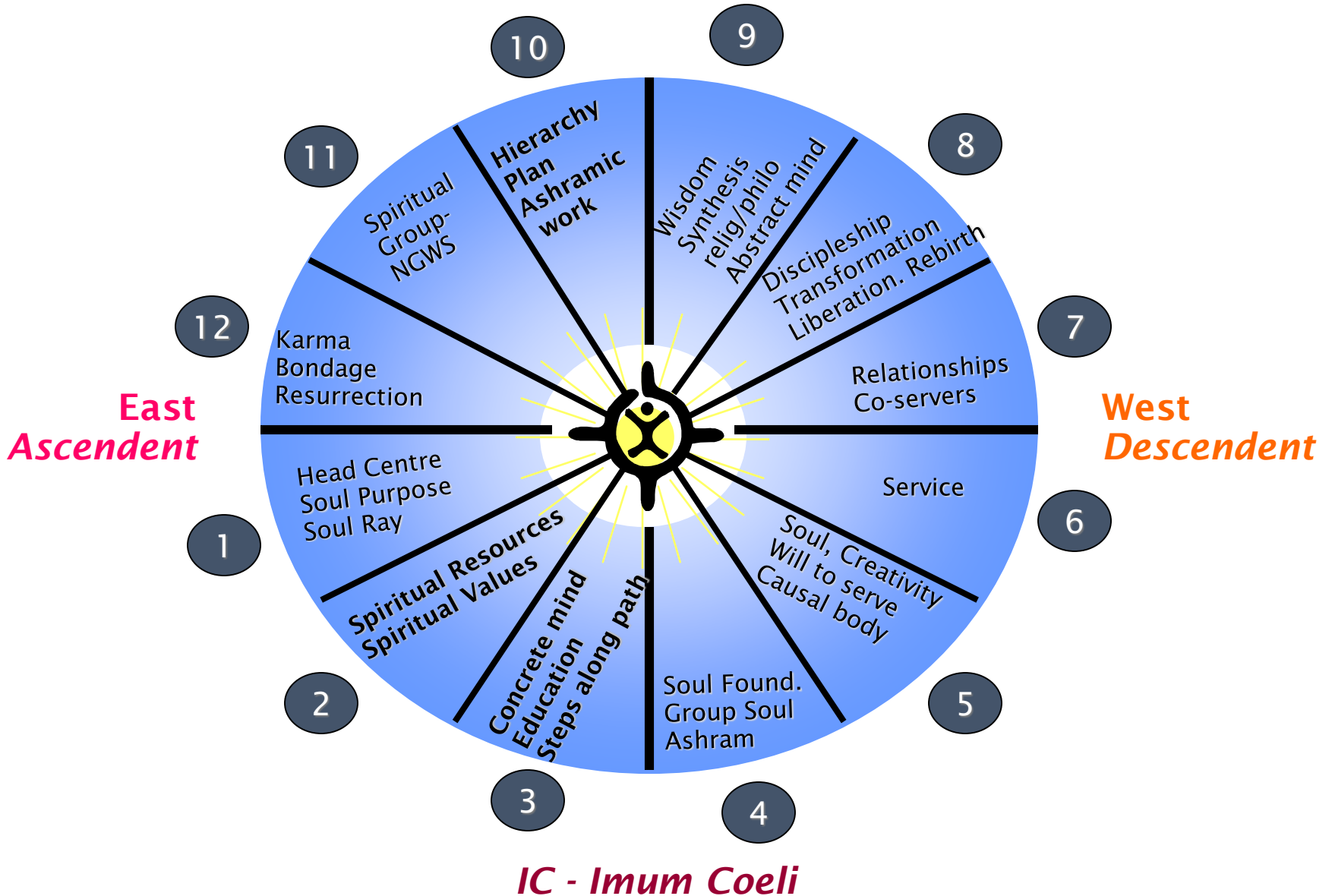
IC - Imum Coeli (North)



The Natal Chart

(Soul-Centered Houses)

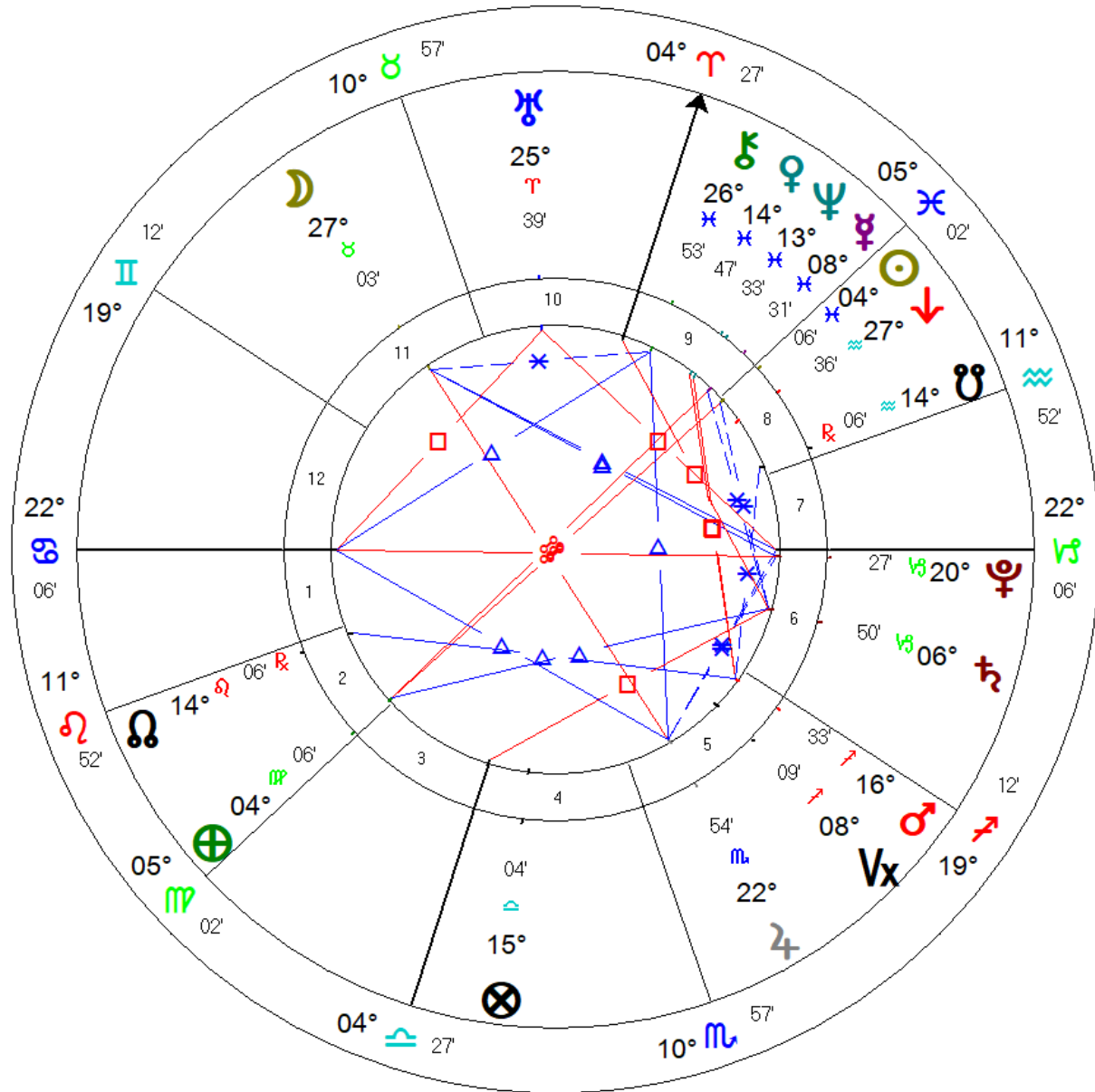
MC - Medium Coeli



Signs, Rulers, and Glyphs

Signs	Exoteric	Esoteric
♈ Aries	Mars	Mercury ♀
♉ Taurus	Venus	Vulcan ↓
♊ Gemini	Mercury	Venus ♀
♋ Cancer	Moon ☾	Neptune ♆
♌ Leo	Sun ☉	Sun (veiling Neptune)
♍ Virgo	Mercury	Moon (veiling Vulcan)
♎ Libra	Venus	Uranus ♅
♏ Scorpio	Mars + Pluto	Mars ♂
♐ Sagittarius	Jupiter	Earth ⊕
♑ Capricorn	Saturn	Saturn ♄
♒ Aquarius	Saturn + Uranus	Jupiter ♃
♓ Pisces	Jupiter + Neptune	Pluto ♇ ↑

LET THE FUN BEGIN!



Our Roles for Chart Delineation

- **Facilitators** (Eva and BL)

- Assist person to see where the planets are situated in chart
 - Modes (Cardinal, Fixed, Mutable); Elements (Fire, Earth, Air, Water)
 - Quadrants (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th); Hemispheres (East, North, West, South)
 - Signs, houses and their characteristics
 - We'll send you a natal chart and brief natal report

- **Students**

- Research student astrology guides, webinar slides from this series
- Prepare an astrological profile on yourself
- Explore characteristics of how your Asc, Sun, Moon are working
 - Define how their exoteric and esoteric rulers impact their expression
- Present your astrological profile to class (with help from the facilitators)

Volunteer: What to Send Us

- Date, time, and place of birth
 - Exact time is crucial to establish the Ascendant
- Something about yourself
 - How much astrology have you studied?
 - Was it exoteric, esoteric, or a little of both?
 - Please send us any astrological self-profile you've done for either Great Quest, Quest Universal, or other study group
 - What is your occupation?
 - Is that a help or hindrance to your esoteric studies?
 - Is there an area of focus you want us to look for in your chart?

Email to blallison@cfl.rr.com