

# THE INNER PLANETS



## THE PERSONAL GODS

We now move into the realm of the faster-moving personal planetary gods: Mars, Venus, Mercury, the Moon, and the Sun. While Pluto's orbit takes 250 years to complete its journey through all of the signs, Mars takes a mere 2.5 years. Venus's orbit takes 243 days; Mercury's, 88 days; the Moon's, 28 days. As viewed from the Earth, the Sun's complete journey through the zodiac, of course, defines our year of approximately 365 days.

This means that people born in the same year, but a couple of months apart, probably have their outer planets in the same signs, while their inner planets are more customized. Because these inner planetary bodies move more quickly than the outer ones, what they represent in us is less generational and has more to do with the individual style of our unique gift to the world.

In order to contribute to the world, the Zeitgeist of which is delineated by the rhythmic patterns of the outer planets, we must cultivate and befriend what the inner planets represent in us.

Saturn and Jupiter, the gods of limitation and expansion, respectively, are paired in the middle of this astrological language. Saturn, the god of three-dimensional reality, defines the rules of the game so that we can learn how to break them consciously. We are abetted in this task by our ongoing relationship to the forces represented by

the outer planets—the Change Gods. The appropriate Saturnian demeanor with which to meet these powerful outer-planet relations would be self-possessed, focused, and cool, yet witty. After all, Pluto, Uranus, and Neptune preside over serious and intense stuff: death, birth, disruption, awakening, and freedom gained from loss, illusion, and redemptive vision.

Jupiter, on the other hand, encourages us to approach the inner planetary gods with a jovial demeanor. Saturn's inner prompting, designed to keep us on track, is, "Uh-oh, *almost* lost my sense of humor." Jupiter guides us to the appropriate attitude with which to engage the inner planets with the internal query, "Are we having the most fun possible?"

Just as Chiron, the centaur god, prepared all the Greek heroes for their adventures, Jupiter similarly prepares us by igniting our enthusiasm for the joyful quest of self-knowledge. Self-cultivation of what the inner planets represent lies at the heart of Eastern philosophy. You come to peace with yourself, so that then your house becomes peaceful. If your house is peaceful, it contributes to your street being peaceful, then your neighborhood, and on out to the world, infinitely radiating as ripples of goodwill to all of creation.

The next four chapters—Mars, Venus, Mercury, and the Moon—lead us in to the Sun, the literal and symbolic center, so that we can find out who we are. Jupiter asks, "How can you play the game if you don't know who the player is?" Each of us has specific individual assignments and adventures. We come to peaceful hearts often through stormy journeys and bumpy rides, like the knights of the Round Table. But the adventures on which we embark are undertaken with an attitude of joyful bravado for serious fun.

Mars will invite us to consider and cultivate the unique ways we each act, desire, make love—the manner in which we are to be noble and heroic. Venus will charm us into knowing the unique ways in which she seeks to incarnate through us, in order to enter the world through our creative self-expression. In the Mercury and Moon

chapters, you will be able to identify the forces that seek expression through you, and cultivate your individual way of thinking, expressing, invoking, and feeling. Because these two gods are the fastest moving, and change signs most frequently, we will be exploring them in all of their zodiacal manifestations.

Mars will initiate our journey. Let's go!