

PLANET: MERCURY

SIGNS: GEMINI; VIRGO

Glyph: ☿

Key words and qualities: Voice; communication; what we think; how we express. The part of us that is the Messenger-Magician; the invocative power of language. Mercury is witty, quick, expressive, and clever. It asks the question, "What are you a voice for?"

Color: Yellow

Metal: Mercury; quicksilver

Physical body affinities: Lungs, arms, hands (Gemini affinities); intestines and liver (in Mercury's analytical, digestive, assimilative Virgo mode)

Day of the week: Wednesday (*Mercredi* in French)

Way of honoring: Connecting with the Mercurial element of air; taking an air bath; walking in windy places; breathing deeply. Lightening up. Feeling like a trickster. Remembering to be in love with words. Witty repartee.

Shadow, when not honored: Being superficial, glib, hyperactive, or unreflectively provocative. Believing that talking about something is the same as having done it. To the afflicted Mercury, we'd say, "Talk less, say more." Remember the dictum of the nineteenth-century magician Eliphas Levi: "To know, to dare, to will, and to keep silent." Often, when talking about an idea, we can expend the same amount of energy as would be necessary to complete it. When we really want to get something done, we introvert our Mercury. We "keep silent," letting our inner Mercury-Messenger connect us to the means necessary for the plan's realization.