

# ASTEROIDS

*By Mary Esther Andrews*

*The first four major asteroids located between the planets Mars and Jupiter were sighted in the early 1800's.*

One theory has it that there was at one time a planet located at this position and, for whatever reason, it exploded into these large particles of matter. We could reflect on what this means relating to the etheric or devic substance that is still transmitted by these asteroids. Certainly, the Tibetan inspires us to contemplate on the significance of these planetary radiations.

The true figures in connection with any planetary scheme and its occult activity are not ascertainable by the man who cannot be trusted with the significance of the other planetary bodies (of great number) within the solar ring pass not. The entire solar sphere is full of such bodies, characterized by the same features as are the seven and the ten, and each of them in some degree has an effect upon the whole. As these [etheric] bodies are organs of energy, permeating the dense form, the study of the interaction of solar energy, and the occult "give and take" of planetary bodies will assume a new significance. Certain planetary bodies (both greater and lesser) are "absorbers," others are "radiators," while some are in the stage of demonstrating a dual activity, and are being "transmuted." All these circumstances require to be considered by the initiate who is dealing with cycles. Figures also must be computed when the effect upon the planets of what are called "asteroids" is known. This is much greater than exoteric science has so far admitted, but the significance of this must be eventually be interpreted in terms of energy and on etheric levels.<sup>1</sup>

The first four asteroids sighted: Ceres, Vesta, Pallas Athene and Juno, were named after Goddesses. Therefore, they are sources of feminine consciousness when placed in the astrology chart. These asteroids are a collective representation of femininity and reflect the fourth ray, Buddhic principle. It is interesting to note that the asteroid belt is located between Mars (sixth ray) and Jupiter (second ray). It is known that the bridge between the sixth and second rays is the fourth, Buddhic principle.

In exoteric astrology the Moon indicates the feminine principle within the chart mirroring the qualities of nurturing, motherhood, women and instinctual care of children. Esoterically, the Moon, although veiling the fourth ray, reflects the past, the dead, or the lifeless as indicated within the following passage from *The Secret Doctrine*:

The moon is now the cold residual quantity, the shadow dragged after the new body, into which her living powers are transfused. She now is doomed for long ages to be ever pursuing the Earth, to be attracted by and to attract her progeny. Constantly vampirized by her child, she revenges herself on it, by soaking it through and through with the nefarious, invisible and poisonous influence which emanates from the occult side of her nature, For she is dead, yet a living body. The particles of her decaying corpse are full of active and destructive life, although the body which they had formed is soulless and lifeless.<sup>2</sup>

This passage, however useful in understanding the more mundane aspect of the Lunar, nevertheless fails to convey the higher and more esoteric aspects of the "Divine Feminine" that is recognized through the fourth ray (the plane of harmonic magnetic

blending).

There is a need to look for more positive, realistic symbols of the feminine within the astrological chart both exoterically and esoterically. The feminine devic principle has often been overlooked as an integral part of the spiritual process. "Female" has been overly stereotyped as the limiting and restrictive principle within the evolutionary scheme. It is clear when we look at the greater cycle that matter and spirit are synonymous terms and evolve reciprocally together. Let us keep in mind the occult aphorism that "matter is spirit at its lowest point of manifestation and spirit is matter at its highest."

Men and women collectively have over identified the Divine Feminine as that which limits or holds back. To the experienced meditator, the release of Shakti or divine kundalini hidden in the base of the spine leaves little doubt of its awesome creative spiritual power upon awakening and its ability to transform. Let us consider the symbolism of the asteroids Ceres, Vesta, Pallas Athene and Juno and see them as the feminine bridges to understanding the third aspect of spirituality hidden deep within the form side of life.

This is not to imply that the asteroids are pure reflections of matter; but, rather, they are gateways to understanding other realms of the feminine that the archaic and limiting patriarchal stereotypes that have been passed down from age to age and imposed upon humanity convey. These glamors and illusions of the past must be pierced with new bridging concepts. There is more to the matter aspect than simple biological procreation. This article is a humble attempt to open astrologers' minds to the deeper and positive influences of these four feminine asteroids as they each reflect a deeper, holistic view of the third aspect of divinity. It should be noted that this feminine consciousness can and must work through and be grounded by both genders equally.

## CERES

**Mythological:** mother

**Stereotype:** "Mom" in the kitchen cooking and

cleaning

**Esoteric:** teacher and educator of children, children's services, midwifery

The great "Earth Mother", Ceres, also known by the ancient Greeks as Demeter, gave two gifts to humanity; grain and the Eleusinian Rites (the enactment of loss and return is a key theme of these initiatory rites).<sup>3</sup> She is the Goddess of the Harvest, nurturing, and of devotion to mothering (as in the myth of Persephone, her daughter). She teaches the discipline necessary for people to live together; therefore, her emphasis is on teaching others how to work together in groups.

Ceres as the teacher of early childhood experience, is associated with Mercury.

Mercury, embodying the energy of the fourth ray, eventually carries the man around the wheel of life and through the medium of conflict enables him to achieve harmony. Mercury illumines the mind and mediates between the soul and the personality, being the Messenger of the Gods.<sup>4</sup>

The force of Mercury is to illumine the minds of disciples to look beyond the needs of self and to the needs of the group. As the Tibetan states:

Those upon the teaching ray will learn to teach by teaching. There is no surer method, provided it is accompanied by a deep love, personal yet at the same time impersonal, for those who are to be taught. Above everything else, I would enjoin upon you the inculcation of the group spirit for that is the first expression of true love.<sup>4</sup>

The "grain" as represented by Ceres can be seen as "seed thoughts" that feed the mind through the force of Mercury, the Messenger of Intelligent Love through the Buddhic quality of the fourth ray.

The concept of "Earth Mother" is associated with Ceres connecting her with the sixth ray. With Ceres and the abduction of her daughter Persephone by Pluto, the devotion and one pointedness of the mother Ceres to find her daughter, to do all within her power including

reclaiming the Earth's bounty during the winter season, reflects the power of the sixth ray. In addition, the loss and bereavement that this mother endured during the winter months as she longed to be reunited with her daughter connects the Ceres energy with Mars, the lower aspect of the sixth ray.

Mars embodies sixth ray force which leads to idealism, destructive fanaticism frequently, struggle, strife, war, effort and evolution.<sup>6</sup>

Ceres battled with Pluto for her daughter's return with passion and paid for this with her grief.

### VESTA

**Mythological:** sister

**Stereotype:** old maid, workaholic, nun

**Esoteric:** spiritual devotion, commitment to a cause, Service to humanity

Vesta is the Goddess of the Hearth; both the home fire and the sacred fire. She reflects within the astrology chart that which one is devoted to, that area in one's life where the fires of desire burn brightly -especially connected with service. She encourages sacrifices to attain goals, including repression of intimate relationships (e.g. the priestess who remains a virgin devoting her life to a spiritual cause, thereby, retaining her sacral energy for higher psychic development). Devotion relates to Mars and Neptune, both emanating the sixth ray. Vesta by virtue of her never ending devotion to service and zealous beliefs forces the transmutation of the lower to the higher aspect of the sixth ray.

...the sixth ray energy of Mars is transmuted into the sixth ray energy of Neptune, for the one is "objective and full of blood" and the other is "subjective and full of life."<sup>7</sup>

Neptune, being the sign of the Deity of the waters, is related to the sixth ray that governs the astral or emotional plane of desire.<sup>8</sup>

Here we can recognize the theme of inspiration and see how it can become

transformed into aspiration - that fiery driving force which commands the disciple to move more quickly towards the path of initiation. That same compelling force is what allows disciples to spend endless hours in study, meditation and service. Vesta is the sign of service.

To transmute sexual energy into higher creative pursuits in service to humanity as experienced through Vesta, we need to look at the energy of Mars through the sign of Scorpio.

In Scorpio, that same spirit of devotion (which is based on the sense of duality and the need to go out towards that which is not the Self) is turned in the reverse direction and that urge towards liberation and the desire to tread the Path of Return becomes so strong that the disciple submits to tests, reverses at tremendous cost and gain his position upon the wheel of life and assumes the attitude of the Observer in contradistinction to that of the Experiencer.<sup>9</sup>

Again we see the desire nature of the sixth ray turned inward in aspiration; and the fires of sexuality moved towards the higher fires of the sacred initiatory experience. Vesta now reflects the nature of Jupiter and the second ray as the higher energy of this feminine symbol is now being expressed from the centers below the diaphragm to those above.

Jupiter – Ray Two – The fusion of heart and mind, which is the subjective purpose of manifestation... Jupiter gives an inherent tendency to fusion which nothing can arrest. The achievement of ultimate synthesis is inevitable, and this Jupiter promotes.<sup>10</sup>

Jupiter...is a deity who is the symbol and prototype of...ritualistic worship. He is the priest, sacrificer, suppliant and the medium through which the prayers of mortals reach the Gods.<sup>11</sup>

The desire of the Deity expresses itself through the second Ray of Love Wisdom. Desire is a word which has been

prostituted to cover the tendency of humanity to crave material things...desire is essentially love...a love of the formless instead of desire for form, and wise adaptation of all experience to the process of transmuting desire into love.<sup>12</sup>

The sacrifice and death of material desire to a higher inspired principle is now replaced with the fire of love and the entrance into the second initiation when the heart center begins to open through transmuting the solar plexus (Mars, Neptune) energy upward to the heart (Jupiter).

### **PALLAS ATHENE**

**Mythological:** daughter

**Stereotype:** asexual comrade, tomboy

**Esoteric:** political and social awareness, development of talents and vision, integration of creativity and love

As Goddess of Wisdom and Justice, Protectress of Cities, Patron of Weavers, Beauty and Pattern, Pallas Athene was noted for her wise counsel to groups. In the astrology chart, Pallas Athene represents the capacity for visualization, our perception of right thought, and how we judiciously utilize the power of thought forms in group service. Esoterically, Pallas Athene symbolizes the third aspect of divinity, the third ray of creative intelligence through the process of "keeping the mind steady in the light" relates to the opening of the knowledge petals within the egoic lotus; and is closely connected with the planet Saturn.

Saturn third Ray of Intelligence. God the Holy Spirit, He who knows. Mind. Human Consciousness. Instinct to Intellect.<sup>13</sup>

The ability to utilize the creative aspect of divinity is latent in the process of visualization or the "picture making faculty." The Art of Visualization is in close alliance with the Science of Impression, an integral part of telepathy and the building of the Antahkarana.

...the reason why the Knowers of the world have ever referred to the dual action of the mind as it is sensitive to the higher

impressions and active in the mental creation of the needed thought forms. The mind, rightly trained, will seize upon the fugitive impression, subject it to the concretizing effect of mental activity, produce the required form, and this, when correctly created and oriented, will finally lead to the externalization of the registered impression, as it took form in an intuition and eventually found its place upon the mental plane.<sup>14</sup>

The inspired vision and higher use of the creative aspect of Pallas Athene shows the ability of the feminine goddess to exemplify the blending of the third ray of creative intelligence with the seventh ray of form bringing ideas into matter.

The unfolding of the sense of vision and of the sense of synthesis, through visualization, will lead to a sense of livingness in form.<sup>15</sup>

Another aspect of Saturn remains to be investigated with reference to Pallas Athene; that aspect which represents the sense of justice. As the Warrior Queen and as the leader of armies whose passion is to right the wrongs of the world, Pallas Athene gave prudent direction on matters pertaining to order. She seeks justice and equality for humanity, thus, relating to the women's movement, civil rights and social justice. Saturn, as Lord of Karma, continues this theme of right action.

Saturn...the imposer of retribution and the one who demands full payment of all debts and who therefore condemns us to the struggle for existence, both from the form side and from the soul side.<sup>16</sup>

Here we see the significance of the actions of Saturn in keeping a sense of balance as also connected with the sign Libra, third ray and the impact of right relations upon world peace.

Justice is engendered through the use of the seventh ray with its power to create form. The esoteric ruler of Libra is Uranus reflecting the seventh ray force.

Uranus is a planet whose characteristics are the scientific mind, which, at this stage

of the disciple's career, means that he can begin to live the occult life and the way of divine knowledge can take place of the mystic way of feeling. It means also that knowledge can be transmuted into the way of wisdom and of light...Uranus, therefore, initiates a new order of life and conditions and this...in its turn produces an understanding of the causes of things as they are, and the desire to change the old order and the old orientation into the new.<sup>17</sup>

The ability to bring spirit into form is associated with Pallas Athene as Patron of Weavers, and also with her connection to the healing of the physical body through forms such as polarity, acupuncture or those treatments that bring balance. All of these ideas relate to the seventh ray.

## JUNO

### **Mythological: wife**

**Stereotype:** wife subservient to husband

**Esoteric:** dissolving illusion of separateness, advocate for equal rights, balance of male/female within.

Juno is the Goddess of Marriage and committed partnerships. She reigns over marriage rituals and the spiritual use of sexuality within the marriage commitment or, negatively, the use of sex magic. She reflects the polarity of power and manipulation.

The principle of relatedness through the act of marriage is associated with the sign Libra and the planets Venus, fifth ray and Uranus, seventh ray. Through Venus and the fifth ray, Juno exemplifies relations between male and female through the mind (i.e. the two fold aspect of the ajna centre). It is the so-called "meeting of the minds" that allows man and woman to create the bond of commitment.

He needs to grasp the spiritual side of Venus which emphasizes that the Son of god who is the Son of mind is the instrument of God's love; he must learn, therefore, to transmute knowledge into wisdom.<sup>18</sup>

Sex is usually connected in the mind of the average astrological student with the signs Taurus and Scorpio...For most aspirants in the early stages, sex does constitute a fundamental problem. Esoterically, however, it is Libra that the whole question comes up and will increasingly come up for answering, and it is in Libra that the balancing of the pairs of opposites must take place and reach solution through the activity of the judicial mind and the establishing of a point of equilibrium between the male and female principles.<sup>19</sup>

Uranus and the seventh ray govern the act of marriage ritual. But, furthermore, they govern the spiritual marriage within the sacral center. It is through wrong orientation towards the seventh ray that sex magic distorts a higher type of spiritual blending.

The seventh ray is, par excellence, the medium of relationship. It brings together the two fundamental aspects of spirit and matter. It relates soul and form and, where humanity is concerned, it relates soul and personality... The major function of the seventh ray is to bring together the negative and positive aspects of the natural processes. It consequently governs the sex relationship of all forms.<sup>20</sup>

Sex is then seen to be in truth only the relation of the lower nature to the higher Self; it is then lifted up into the light of day in order that man may reach complete union with divinity...is elevated into its rightful plane as the divine marriage, carried out and consummated upon the levels of soul awareness...Sex is but the symbol of an inner duality which must be itself transcended and wrought into a unity.<sup>21</sup>

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The spiritualized potential and power of the sacral fire is only esoterically understood when we build the Antahkarana or the bridge to the throat centre and connect the kundalini or the divine feminine power seated at the base of the spine with the father principle seated within the highest head center. It is this union via the divine mind that constitutes the "Divine Heavenly Marriage." It is only in this union of the divine male and divine female energy in which the "Divine Son" (Christ) is produced. It is through love or the buddhic principle that the disciple reaches the "Mother" and, in turn, raises the kundalini along the spine activating all the centres in their highest expression. It is here that "the highest and the lowest meet."

The ceremonial ray has been often called "the marriage ritual of the Son" because upon this ray Spirit and matter can meet and have union.<sup>22</sup>

Too apt is the student to see the divine feminine and masculine as two distinctly different realities instead of polar opposites within the one spiritual life. The matter or substance aspect should not be overly identified or confused with the more esoteric or hidden aspect of the third logos whose central galvanizing "fire by friction" forms a necessary polarity with the father principle or electric fire and can only be fully understood in her awesome power by high initiates. It has been an oversimplification historically to say that no man goes to the Father but by way of the Divine Son. It would be more accurate to say that no man goes to the Father but by way of the Son and the Divine Mother. It is only here when the Earth power has been raised up, we find the divine feminine and masculine have

always occupied the same equal status. Those who either repress or misunderstand the divine feminine principle can never comprehend the divine "Father in heaven," for esoterically speaking, both contribute equally to final liberation.

To summarize, the influencing rays and the four major asteroids are as follows:

ASTEROID	PLANETS	RAYS
Ceres	Mercury, Mars	4,6
Vesta	Jupiter, Neptune	2,6
Pallas Athene	Saturn, Uranus	3,7
Juno	Venus, Uranus	5,7

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