

# SEASONAL ASTROLOGY



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## CHAPTERS

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| CHAPTER I: Seasonal Signs                 | 5   |
| CHAPTER II: Twelve calendar hexagrams     | 15  |
| CHAPTER III: The Four Elements            | 23  |
| CHAPTER IV: The 144 Sun/Moon Combinations | 25  |
| 1. Aries Sun with the 12 Moon signs       | 26  |
| 2. Taurus Sun with the 12 Moon signs      | 43  |
| 3. Gemini Sun with the 12 Moon signs      | 62  |
| 4. Cancer Sun with the 12 Moon signs      | 79  |
| 5. Leo Sun with the 12 Moon signs         | 97  |
| 6. Virgo Sun with the 12 Moon signs       | 114 |
| 7. Libra Sun with the 12 Moon signs       | 133 |
| 8. Scorpio Sun with the 12 Moon signs     | 148 |
| 9. Sagittarius Sun with the 12 Moon signs | 164 |
| 10. Capricorn Sun with the 12 Moon signs  | 182 |
| 11. Aquarius Sun with the 12 Moon signs   | 198 |
| 12. Pisces Sun with the 12 Moon signs     | 212 |
| CHAPTER V: Yin Yang Zodiac                | 227 |

## CHAPTER 1

### SEASONAL SIGNS

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Earth centered astrology defined by the four seasons, is like a changing stage setting against which the drama of life is played out. Earth centered astrology is based on the four seasons. It expresses the annual waxing and waning relationship between planet earths prime astronomical influences, the sun and moon. The tropical zodiac is an expression of the annual seasons of the earth, when it is spring in the northern hemisphere it is autumn in the southern hemisphere and visa versa: the summer and winter seasons are similarly reversed. The tropical zodiac takes 0 degrees Aries to be the spring equinox, in the northern hemisphere this is the time and date when the sun is directly overhead at noon along the equator. The rest of the zodiacal signs are positioned at 30 degree intervals from this point. When western astrology was developed, they were unaware of the southern latitudes of the world. Ancient astrologers did not know much about the bottom part of their world, thus they developed a form of astrology, based on the seasonal observations, occurring in the spring, summer autumn, and winter, which was quite true for the northern hemisphere, but neglected to take into account the inversions of the seasons in the southern hemisphere. The tropics of cancer and capricorn mark the advance and retreat of the suns energy as it affects life on earth.

Celestial navigators reverse their charts in the southern hemisphere, and so should southern hemisphere born natives.

Familiar to many is the symbol of the Yin and the Yang, the feminine and masculine principles of the universe. The light principle reveals the same meaning as that underlying the Sun. The light principle is called the YANG. The term for the Sun is t'ai yang the Great Light. In the dark principle, it reveals the same meaning underlying the Moon. The dark principle is called the YIN. The term for the moon is t'ai yin, the Great Dark. The calligraphed character meaning change is the character for the sun placed over that of the moon. All yang when joined with all yin, means the universe, everything in the known universe is changing. The yin represents a condition of receptivity and rest and the yang represents active movement. Understanding the changing yin and yang energies of everyday life we can order and direct our lives in harmony with nature.

This ancient way of the Yin and Yang defining the course of the year within the four seasons, is derived from the Book of Changes, the I-Ching. The I-Ching or Book of Changes dates back to mythical antiquity, one of the oldest books on philosophy and astrology. For example the legendary emperor Yao active around 2357 BC commissioned his scholars to organize the calendar and pay respect to the movement of the sun through the seasonal year. the I-Ching shows the cycle of Yin and Yang through the twelve sign zodiac defined by the earths changing seasons. Each one of the twelve zodiacal signs (or each of the 12 corresponding months of the year), is defined by its unique Yin and yang energies. We refer to these as the “Calendar Hexagrams”.

Carl Jung mentioned in the forward to the I-Ching, (Princeton university press), that the benefit of the I-Ching is there for those who can discern its meaning.

The cycle of the Yin Yang Zodiac can also be viewed by comparing the two halves of the year: The Winter Solstice to the summer solstice corresponds to the signs Capricorn through Gemini, preponderance of active yang energy. In winter yang displaces yin; in spring yang reaches its annual peak. Analogous to the period from the Full moon to the New moon when yang energy is gathering its power of initiation and stimulus. The summer Solstice to the winter solstice corresponds to the signs Cancer through Sagittarius, preponderance of receptive Yin energy. In summer yin displaces yang; in autumn yin reaches its annual peak. Analogous to the period from new moon to full moon when yin energy is increasing its receptive, reflective capacity.

The rhythms of these seasons affect the development of the human fetus. At the end of nine months of gestation the individual enters the world, his first breath is going to be marked by the seasonal sign which he is born;(an individual's Natal Birth Chart) that is the whole idea of natal astrology as it is generally practiced. Tradition has it that winter is the breadth of Capricorn and that summer begins with Cancer (this is always so), and this is true in the southern part of the world as well as the north. The twelve signs are divisions of the four solar seasons. Therefore, births in southern latitudes must reverse their Sun and Moon positions.

As the earth rotates around the sun the moon is also rotating around the earth and as it does so we see different parts of the moon illuminated. Moon phases are what we see when the sun, earth, and moon align, during their rotations. For example when the moon comes between the earth and the sun we have a new moon phase, that is when the sun and moon are in the same astrological sign, six signs later we have a full moon, when the earth is between the sun and moon in opposite astrological signs. The cycle continues throughout the calendar year, the sun and moon move in

their fixed orbits, and because of this their light power endures. The seasons of the year follow a fixed law of change and transformation.

The aspect between the natal sun and moon should point the best way to use its functions, the way of destiny. Dan Rudyard mentions in his book, "The astrology of transformation, a multi-level approach: "The relationship of the moon to the sun in person's natal chart has a profound and transpersonal meaning because it should tell a great deal concerning the character and purpose of the union.

When western astrology was developed, there were no large cultures in the southern latitudes in the world. Ancient astrologers did not know very much about the bottom part of their world; thus, they developed a form of astrology which was quite true for the Northern hemisphere but neglected to take into account the inversion of the seasons in the Southern Hemisphere. The Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn mark the advance and retreat of the Sun's energy as it affects life on Earth.

The beginning of all Four Seasons are the Cardinal Signs: Aries (spring equinox), Cancer (summer solstice), Libra (autumn equinox), and Capricorn (winter solstice). They are the initiating, pivotal, activating, introductory and at the forefront of things. The four respective levels are personal (Aries), Familial (cancer), Social (Libra) and universal (Capricorn).

Aries helps to define how we make tools for self-advancement. Cancer is concerned with protection and nourishment. Libra suggests ways which help people cooperate in objective spheres as well as in all partnerships. Capricorn introduces practical ways for people to realize greater universal cooperation and advantage for the whole.

The middle of all four seasons are the Fixed signs, which are: Taurus (spring), Leo (summer), Scorpio (autumn), Aquarius (winter). They are associated respectively with Wealth, Pleasure, Sexual release and Friendship. The fixed signs have the ability to consolidate or Fix energy and materials. In many ancient cultures the fixed signs are depicted on a cosmic cross, as a Bull, Lion, Eagle and winged water bearer. Taurus representing abundance, Leo Love, Scorpio release, Aquarius knowledge.

The Mutable signs are the signs of completion and perfection. Gemini (spring) is the sign denoting maximum solar power (yang energy), because it corresponds to the annual solar zenith the time when the days (light of the sun) reaches their peak length. Sagittarius (autumn), is the time when the solar forces are at the most turned down moment, the shortest days of the year, the most Yin. Pisces and Virgo are points halfway between the two poles described by Gemini and Sagittarius, times of the year when day and night are of equal length. Perfecting the balance of Yin and Yang.