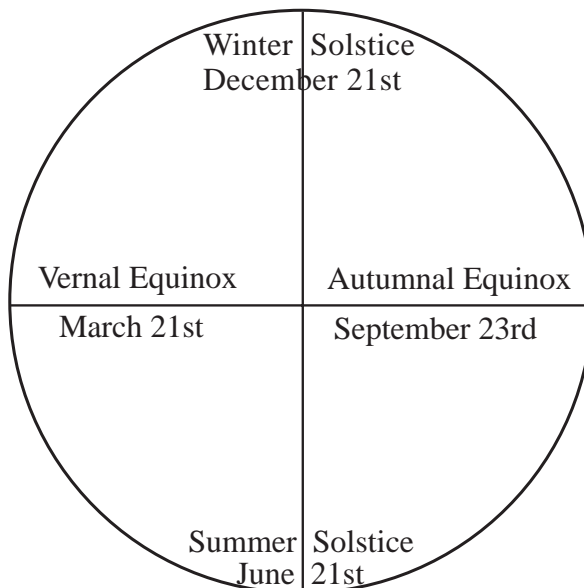


CHAPTER 1 - THE TWELVE SIGNS

The 12 signs of the zodiac come down to us from over 2000 years ago. Back a little over 2000 years ago, the zodiac constellations lined up the way they are used in astrology. Since then the constellations have slowly moved almost 1 sign from where the constellations were. However, most astrologers use the point of spring as the beginning of Aries. In Self-Evident astrology, we do too. It is called the Tropical Zodiac.



Each day we have dawn, noon, dusk and midnight. On a monthly basis we have the four phases of the Moon. Annually we have the solstices and the equinoxes. In all cases we have the same four cardinal points. Let's look at the annual cycle. Over a year period there are 4 cardinal points, each point being the start of a new season. (See diagram to the left.)

Note we have taken the orientation of the northern hemisphere because a large majority of the earth's population is north of the equator. Also, since the zodiac is external to us and long term,

we will focus on the annual cycle, as opposed to the related daily cycle which will be the basis of the house structure of the horoscope chart in Chapter 2..

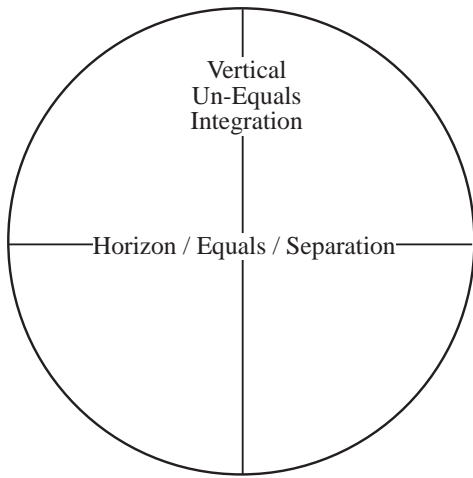
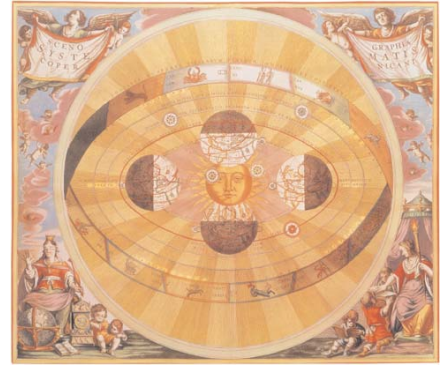
The first is the vernal(spring) equinox. This is the day that has as many hours of daylight as darkness. This is usually around the 21st of March and we commonly refer to this as the first day of Spring.

The second cardinal point is the day with maximum sun, the summer solstice (around June 21st). The third is the autumnal(fall) equinox. The autumnal equinox(around September 23rd) is very similar to the spring equinox in that the day and night periods are the same. However, in the fall the sun is waning and the darkness is overtaking the light. Around the 21st of December we have the last of the 4 cardinal points, the winter solstice, the day of maximum darkness.

If one were to think of the whole year period the sun grows to its maximum during

the spring, wanes during the summer and fall until the maximum darkness of the winter solstice. Then on the first day of spring the cycle of light and dark begins again.

On an annual basis, the day the Sun becomes longer than the night or shorter than the night on the equinoxes, which is like the Horizon. On the solstices the Sun is at its longest or shortest.



Hence things horizontal are equal and things vertical are un-equal as shown to the left.

Vertical structures suggest families and communities. Each has a vertical component, a hierarchy. Horizontal structures of equals suggest individuals, each being equal to the other.

In the middle of winter, we gather together for survival and hence large groups are on the top. In the summer, we are more likely to act as a family group as in a summer family vacation. And so family goes to the lowest point.

We have 4 cardinal points, but we know there are 12 signs of the zodiac. It would seem that we should look for a 3x4 matrix that can define the other signs.

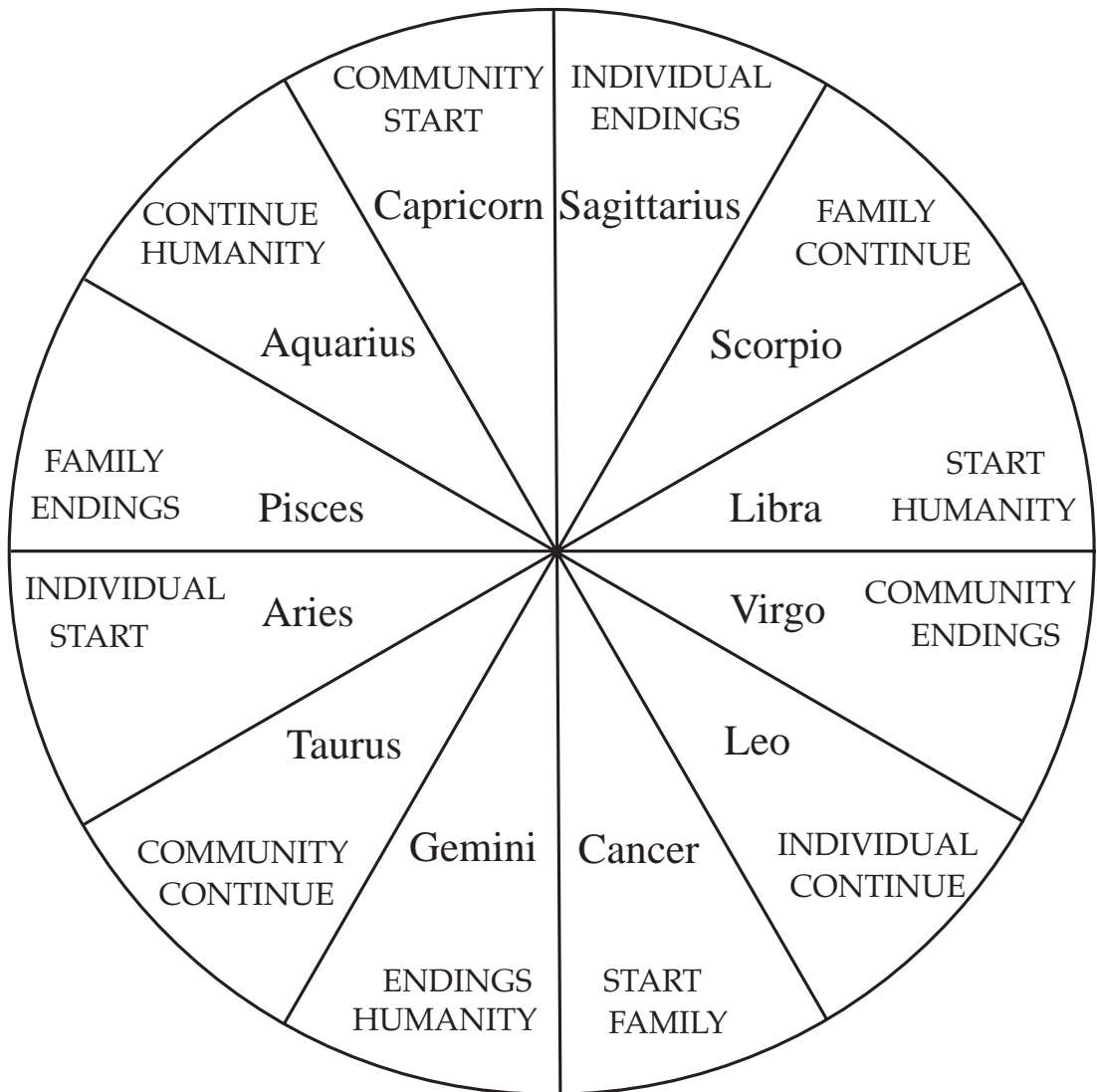
The 4 cardinal points are all points where things start. Winter starts on the winter solstice, by Jan 21st winter gets into full swing for the 2nd month of winter and then after the 21st of February winter slowly ends. Notice the pattern. Winter starts for 30 days, it continues on for 30 days and then ends in the final 30 days. The pattern is start - continue - completion.



If we take our 4 cardinal points and form a matrix with the 3 actions we would have 12 key word combinations. The list is shown below. Shortly we will use the key words and other items to derive the meanings of the signs of the zodiac. From these meanings we will derive keywords that will make interpretations easier later on.

Again our apologies to those south of the equator.

<u>ZODIAC SIGN</u>	<u>3-PART MEANING</u>	<u>4-PART MEANING</u>
ARIES	START	INDIVIDUAL
TAURUS	CONTINUE	COMMUNITY
GEMINI	END	HUMANITY
CANCER	START	FAMILY
LEO	CONTINUE	INDIVIDUAL
VIRGO	END	COMMUNITY
LIBRA	START	HUMANITY
SCORPIO	CONTINUE	FAMILY
SAGITTARIUS	END	INDIVIDUAL
CAPRICORN	START	COMMUNITY
AQUARIUS	CONTINUE	HUMANITY





SIGN 1 - ARIES
 21 March to 21 April
 Individual Start
 (Birth, Childhood, Pioneer)



The beginning of individuals is birth. Birth, and childhood, are what we associate with the beginning of spring, the individual blades of grass becoming evident.

The symbol for Aries could be looked at from bottom up. Two individuals start in the same direction, but then each branches into a different direction. Note that in this branching, the direction is not opposite the original direction but is simply changed to a new and different direction.

If Aries deals with individuals starting, the motion into different directions seems fitting. Starting represents some new direction. The pioneer goes in a new direction.



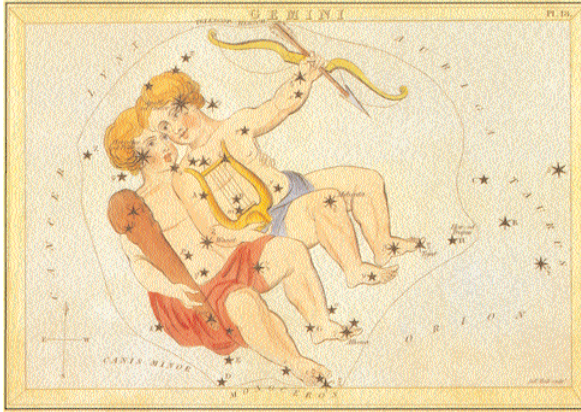
SIGN 2 - TAURUS
 21 April to 21 May
 Community Continuance
 (Beauty, stability, stubbornness)

While in Aries we had single blades of grass, under Taurus the grass has grown to a lawn and we now see a community of grass, not individual blades.

The lone crocus or small clumps of forsythia give way to large groups (communities) of beautiful plants and flowers. These large numbers of flowers and plants let us know without doubt that we have changed, spring has arrived! Taurus has to do with beauty.

The Taurus symbol is fairly clear. We have the family (semi-circle) on top of, and tied to the individual. What does it mean to have the family more important than the individual? The importance of families is that they form a community. Families and communities have hierarchical structure. If the individual is more important than the family, the structure of the community would be lost. So for a community to continue, it would seem that the family is more important than the individual. Taurus has to do with continuation, stability and being stubborn.





SIGN 3 - GEMINI
 21 May to 21 June
 Humanity Endings
 (two-faced, talkative, intelligent, twins)

Gemini, also known as the “twins”. This is also the time when blossoms die, which is an ending that comes to the entire world of plants and trees.



In following with our analogy of nature, the completion of humanity (the whole of) the world of flowers and trees would be something that tied together all types of flowers and trees. This is also the time period where we notice a great many insects buzzing about from one type of plant to another and in so doing cause pollinations. These pollinations, in turn, lead to a new start which comes during the next thirty day period.

Symbolically, in Gemini we have two sets of parallel lines at odds with each other. There are no circles or semi-circles, so it may be that Gemini does not deal with individuals, families or communities, but rather humanity. If the parallel paths suggests multiple people traveling in the same direction, then Gemini has one set of lines that encompass or enclose the other. So here we seem to have the (en)closure of humanity. The symbol seems to stand for the ability to take a point of view that encompasses many divergent points of view. This is sometimes thought of as the ability to take two-sides of an issue at the same time.



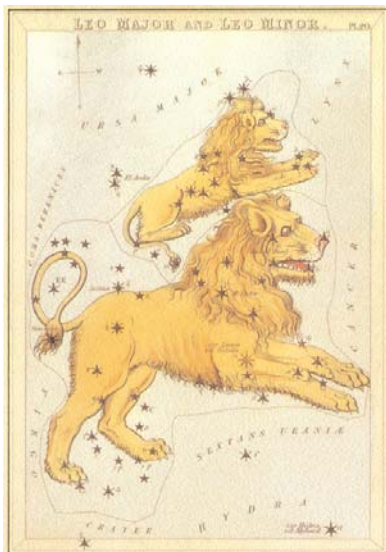
SIGN 4 - CANCER
 21 June to 21 July
 Family Start
 (mothering, sensitive, protective)



This is the period that we first notice the growth of seedlings of many types. Each family of plant and tree now forms seedlings which grow and later become the basis of a new generation of whichever plant or flower family the seeds belong to. Each family of tree or flower tries to protect the seedlings so that they will later have a chance for survival, so that its particular family might have a next generation.

Breaking down the symbol of Cancer is relatively easy. You have two circles which are two individuals and you have two semi-circles that represent family. It could be that we have two families with the two semi-circles,

but in a more traditional frame-work, the two individuals, who are at the same level vertically would seem to be parents. Re-enforcing the single family idea is that the family semi-circles are connected directly to the parents. If this is so, why are the semi-circles both below and above the parents. What does it mean to have the family both above and below the parents? If you think of the attitude of parents toward young children you might think that on the one hand they have to protect the children, hence the children are lower than the parents. On the other hand many parents feel so strongly about the safety and well-being of their children that they will sacrifice for them when needed. In this sense the children are more important than the parents. Finally, when the symbol is taken as a whole it reminds you of an outer wall protecting those inside.



SIGN 5 - LEO

21 July to 22 August

Individual Continue

(royal, lazy, in the prime)



This is the point that we oft refer to as the lazy-hazy days of summer. This is a time when the corn and most other crops continue to mature for the harvest that will come in the next 30 day period. The sun has gone well past its maximum and it is the last period where one can bask in the sun as the days are starting to become noticeably shorter.

This is also a time when the plants have already grown to their full stature and are quietly developing their fruits. This is the prime of the individual.

Symbolically, Leo has a single path. This would suggest that we are dealing with an individual and that the path of the individual may travel up and above. Another way to look at the symbol is to divide it into upper and lower. The upper portion looks a bit like a semi-circle (family), a big important one. The lower portion contains two inverted and smaller semi-circles (families). If one family is so much more important than others, would this bring to mind a royal family? In thinking of a King or Queen, the phrase "long live the King/Queen" - the continuance of the individual.

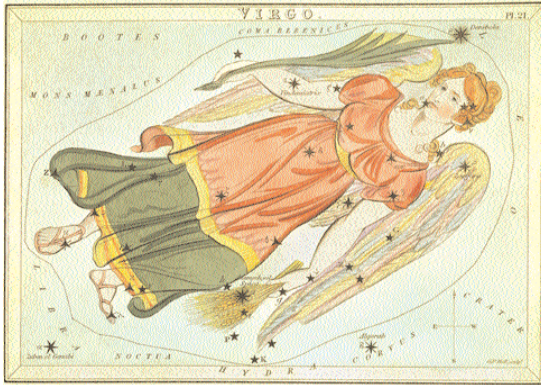
SIGN 6 - VIRGO

Aug 22 to Sep 22

Community Completion

(perfectionist, can't let go, health, hard-working)

This is the harvest time, the time of Virgo. It is at this time that each group of plant

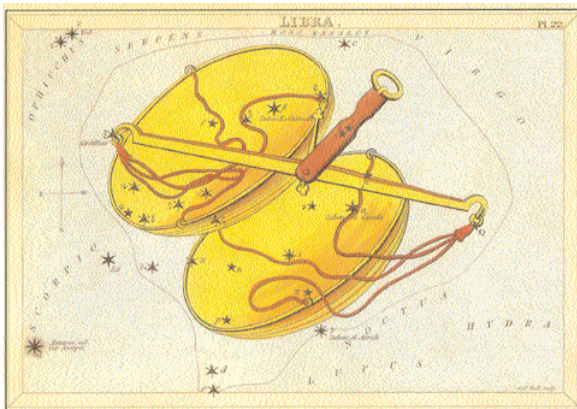


& vegetable is harvested. Large fields of wheat and corn, etc. Each a community of its own and each coming to completion (harvest). Harvest is also an activity which takes the whole community of farmers to handle, not just some individuals or a few families. It takes a concerted effort of large groups of people, such as migrant workers to handle. The harvest also represents the fullness of the efforts of a community.

In terms of the symbol for Virgo, if we start at the top of the symbol, we see many families. This would seem to be a community as a community is simply a collection of organized families. The odd part of this symbol is that while the families seem to be on the same paths (the vertical lines), one line cuts across (encloses) the other paths. So when all the families are connected and operating in parallel (in harmony) you have perfected community - Community closure.



The harvest is dependent on the health of the land and the hard-working nature of the farmers.



SIGN 7 - LIBRA
 22 Sep to 21 Oct
 Humanity Starts
 (balance, left-overs, non self-starter, harmony)

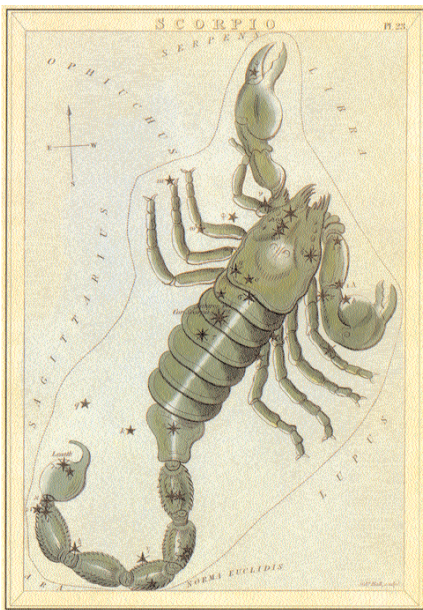
The period of Libra is best known in temperate climates as the period of the vibrant fall colors. It is at this time when you look over all the hillsides, that all the colors blend together in a harmony. Here all the individual trees and bushes are “equal” in their beauty and value. The blending together brings out the idea of the totality of trees, not just one variety or even a given hillside, which might be likened to a community. All the trees that turn color are included in the impact that hits your eye. Another way in which a totality of something is involved in Libra is the migration of the birds. Almost all birds begin leaving during this period. The coming hibernation of the plant and tree life hits virtually all species alike. We are at that time of year when the balance shifts from live to dead.



The libran symbol has the parallel lines of Gemini (and when we get further along we will see that Aquarius, which also deals with

Humanity, has a symbol with sets of parallel lines). If we make the assumption that the lines are groups (multiple lines suggests large groups as it did for Gemini), you have two groups which from left to right start in harmony (parallel), then diverge for a while (go out of balance) and then return to balance. Bringing to this balance is the realization that no one group is ultimately more important than another.

In communities we have hierarchies, in moving to the larger picture - Humanity - there is no hierarchy, there is equality, balance. The movement from the community hierarchy to the equality of humanity is to enter the realm of humanity, that is to the beginnings of humanity.



SIGN 8 - SCORPIO

21 Oct to 21 Nov

Family Change

(extremes, death and rebirth, sex)

At this time the biggest event in nature seems to be the falling of the leaves. The life is now waning very fast. It is also at this time that acorns and other seeds are dropped. It is this action that allows for the rebirth in the spring. Since the dropping of acorns is such a noticeable event, it points out that each family type of tree and plant has their own method of dropping seeds, seed pods or fruits containing seeds to allow for the continuance of the family of fruit or tree that the seeds represent.

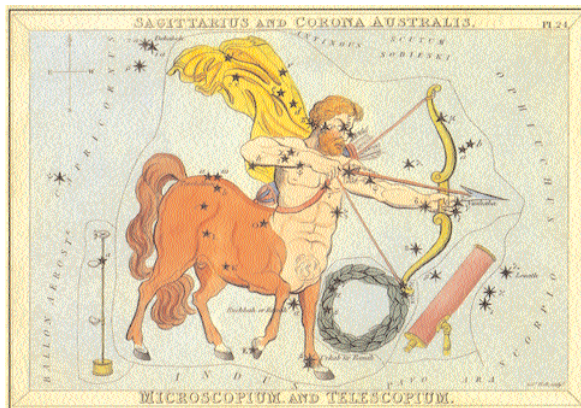
In moving from Libra to Scorpio, we also make the transition from a time when there was just enough light each day (in Libra) to still "feel" like the light was with us, but during Scorpio the fact that the hours of darkness are now considerably greater than the hours of light forces us to recognize that the darkness hours are now clearly dominant.

This move to the darkness is reflected in the hibernation of the trees, their apparent death - or temporary death. The actions of the seeds laying the ground work for the next generation is not as visible. In fact, in many cases these seeds need to work their way a bit into the ground in order to allow for germination the following spring.

Scorpio is a little like Virgo, and appears to deal with multiple families. However, the eye is drawn very strongly to the arrow pointing in a new direction - away from the existing life of the existing community. One family has changed direction. The existing families view this as



the death of the family moving away, the new family sees this as a birth - or more a rebirth. You might look at this as the death of the older generation or the birth of yet a new generation, neither of which is the “present” generation. Thus we have the change that happens in families (sex).



SIGN 9 - SAGITTARIUS

21 Nov to 21 Dec

Individual Completion

(jovial, outgoing, directing, hunting)

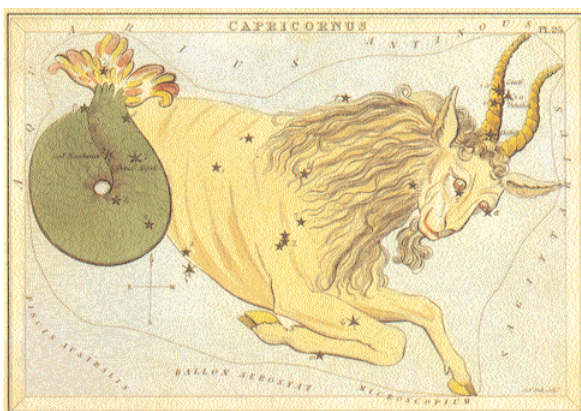
This period is well known to hunters as prime hunting season as the leaves are fully off the trees but the heavy winter snows have not yet come.



In this season the hunter acts. The act is that of individuals against their prey. And generally the prey is an individual animal. It is a one on one activity. Hunting brings to completion or, if you will, an end to the hunted prey.

This is also a time of the year that we can see clearly all the individual trees and plants. While the leaves were on we saw a forest, but with the leaves down, we notice the individual trees. With the leaves, fruit or other seed fallen, each individual tree has completed its annual cycle. Hence this is the period of individual completion. Individual completion beings the outgoing, jovial attitude.

The symbol for Sagittarius lacks a semi-circle, which points away from family or community orientation. While it does have two lines, they are not parallel as they are for the three signs of universality (Libra, Aquarius & Gemini). Hence we are left with individual. If, like Scorpio, we put an emphasis on the arrow, the path with the angled arrow line, is the path of the individual, it cuts over, (encloses) the path of another. This would seem to point to one person understanding another.



SIGN 10 - CAPRICORN

21 Dec to 21 Jan

Community Start

(politics, diplomacy, the long hard road)

This is the time when the harshness of winter fills our thoughts. This is the time of darkness. This period starts with the darkest day and we all know that we have both the cold and dark to fill our

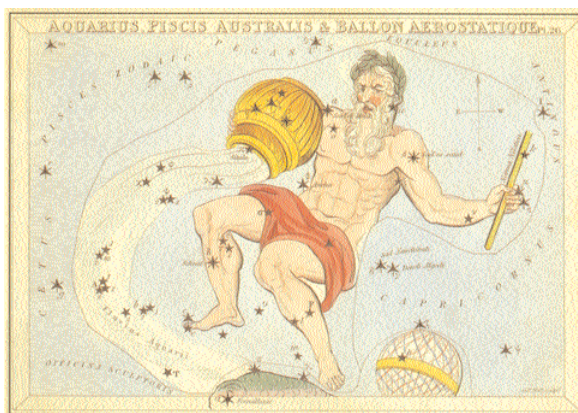
lives during this period.

Six months ago, the plants and trees took advantage of the period of the sun being greater than the darkness to start families. The opposite of starting a family is starting a community. The darkness represents the invisible and community is one of the invisible structures. There isn't much that can be done, so this period is the time to work on the unseen nature of the community. Hence this period is seen by default as being the time to do things that are not done at any other time of the year.



Capricorn seems a two-part symbol. On the left you have a repeat of the Aries symbol, but here it is tied to two semi-circles. The semi-circles, families are vertically oriented and facing different directions. The vertical arrangement of families clearly suggests community, and the "Aries" symbol suggests the idea of breaking away. Thus if one community breaks away from another community, you have the start of a new community.

To have a new community takes leadership and hence the keywords of diplomacy and politician.



SIGN 11 - AQUARIUS

21 Jan to 21 Feb

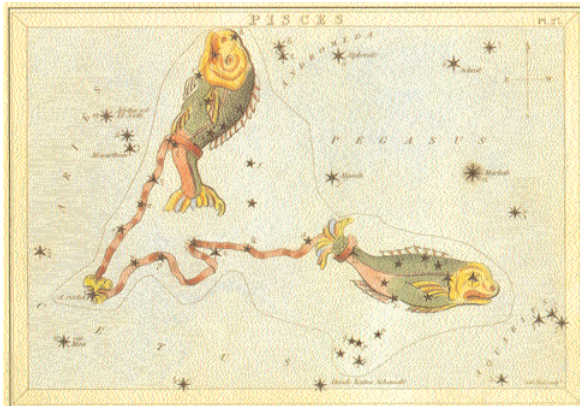
Continuance of Humanity
(humanitarian, caring for everyone, but no one person in particular)

Under Leo we noted that the Sun was noticeably waning, under Aquarius we begin to note that the Sun is now clearly growing stronger and soon the snow will melt. The Sun shining on the snow makes

a blanket of white. The snow is a great equalizer. All around is snow, it covers a near totality of the temperate zone. It is a time of hope, the next year is coming and humanity will continue. Hence the focus of this period is the continuance of humanity.

The diagram shows multiple lines, like Gemini and Libra. So we seem to be dealing with humanity. If you have two large groups that keep changing direction, as groups do over the course of time, if they keep in parallel, you have the continuance of humanity. To continue humanity you must care for all people and not focus too much on a few or just one person. Hence Aquarians take flight from deep relationships, but are well-liked by almost everyone.





SIGN 12 - PISCES

21 Feb to 21 Mar

Family Fulfillment

(endings, under the surface, too few boundaries)

That Pisces deals with endings is fairly easy to see. This is the period that winter ends, the snows melt and provide the water needed to help life start up again in the next 30 day period - Aries. During

this time the melting water seeps into the ground. In the ground are the seeds of new life and the root systems of plants and trees that otherwise appear dead and have little or no activity above ground. Life during this period is mostly confined to activity under the ground, activity that is preparing for spring.

Seeds that were dropped under Scorpio now complete their gestation. This ties Pisces to Scorpio and by the same logic on to Cancer. This would infer that Pisces deals with family completion.

This diagram shows two families, apparently of equal value (the semi-circles are vertically equal) and the line connects them.

They could represent the connection between the different generations of a family. They are different, but equal, connected, yet apart.

