

How to Read a Horary Chart  
Pt 1  
(An Introduction for the Layperson)

Learning to read horary charts is the best possible introduction to reading natal charts (*natus* is latin for *birth*). Many of the same rules are followed with the difference being that horary charts are far simpler because they deal usually with only one subject, one dimension of life instead of the whole gambit of possible experiences (as in natal charts).

The first thing to understand is the concept of rulership. Each planet (excluding Sun/Moon) is said to rule or govern two zodiacal signs. These are called its domiciles (or houses in some older literature). Domicile simply means dwelling place. The basic rationale for which planets rule which signs is as follows:

- Moon/Sun rule Cancer (summer solstice) and Leo - the brightest and hottest time of the year
- Next moving one sign out from Cancer and Leo we have Gemini and Virgo - each ruled by Mercury
- Moving one more sign out from Mercury's domiciles we get the domiciles of Venus - Taurus and Libra
- Following this same pattern we get Mars' signs - Aries and Scorpio
- Once more and we arrive at Jupiter's signs - Pisces and Sagittarius
- Finally we end with two adjacent signs both ruled by Saturn - Aquarius and Capricorn - these two marking the darkest coldest months of the year and opposing the domiciles of the Moon/Sun
- This rationale only applies to the northern hemisphere as far as the seasons go
- The order of the planets follows the order of their speed along the ecliptic (the Sun's apparent path around the earth) from fastest to slowest (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn) - this also being the order nearest the Sun to most removed

How to use this practically?

As we have 12 signs we have 12 houses in a horoscope. The first step to any horary reading is to observe the sign rising and the planet having dominion over it. This is called L1 (meaning the lord of the first house or Ascendant). This planet signifies the querent (the person who asked the question). It's condition and aspects tell us something of their thoughts, mood, and state in general. The Moon is usually a co-significator in all questions for the querent as well and deals more with the querent's emotional state and the outer focus of their attention. The Moon, due to its high speed, is very often used for timing purposes.

The other possible first step is to ignore the querent entirely (as sometimes they are irrelevant to the question) and find the house and its lord relevant to the question. In a question about a sibling and their spouse we would look to the 3rd house (of siblings) its lord (L3) and the 7th

house (of relationship) and its lord (L7) counted from the 3rd (the 9th from the rising sign) to see their spouse.

Another technique that is very important is to observe the planets who naturally signify the thing or person inquired about. This means that in a question about money we look at the 2nd house and its lord (L2) AND to Jupiter who naturally signifies wealth. Or in questions about love Venus will be very important, for its hows our capacity for love and what we are magnetically drawn to.

In practice there are many factors to consider and many testimonies to carefully balance in order to arrive at a proper judgement. Some charts are much simpler than others and therefore less time and techniques are required. Yet the older books instruct us to be quite thorough in order to properly assess the matter inquired about and it is never a bad thing to be thorough.