

ASTRO*SHAMANISM - PART 6
What Chakra Are You In?
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The first parts can be found deeper in My Wall or at:

[HTTP://MichaelErlewine.com/](http://MichaelErlewine.com/)
under "Astro*Talk Blog"

As a counseling astrologer, you want to be able to determine which of the chakras your client is currently living and learning in. It is not that difficult, and here are some general rules that have proved helpful to me in figuring this out.

Most of the clients you encounter will be in the Saturn, Jupiter, or Mars chakras, somewhere on their journey to reaching the Earth or Heart chakra, which is where each of us is trying to get to. Those who are in the Earth chakra will not need our help, and these are pretty rare anyway. The type of person who would seek out astrological council will most often be, as mentioned, those in the Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars chakras, one of these.

Forget about the Venus, Mercury, and Sun chakras. These are inner chakras, internal to Earth existence and, while we all aspire to their qualities, you will probably not encounter (or at least not be aware of them) anyone living at this level. In my entire life, I have only met one living person who appeared to be fully in the Venus chakra, and that was a very high lama in the mountains of Tibet, who was fully realized in that chakra, realized enough that anyone in his presence experienced themselves (not the lama) as pure compassion, which is the nature of the Venus chakra. I wrote about that lama in my book "Our Pilgrimage to Tibet," a free ebook at:

<http://www.astrologysoftware.com/books/index.asp?orig>

Identifying the Saturn Chakra

Those living primarily in the Saturn chakra are very easy to spot. For one, they can't manage to make a living, and have not found a way to get through or handle the demands of Saturn, and simply to survive. This would involve invoking Jupiter, and gradually making their way to that chakra, and, once there, maintaining that chakra. By "maintaining," we mean, simply, making a living, surviving and learning to handle their Saturn, keeping their head above water. In other words, they have not yet found a career that works for them. They cannot handle or cope with Saturn.

You will find a great many clients that are in this state, or who wander in and out of the Saturn chakra, trying to learn it, and master it. It is not as if they have anywhere else to go. Jump-starting one's Jupiter is pretty much required to have any sort of life in this world.

Can't Make a Living

So, if the client has no way of making a living, and is constantly besieged by one onslaught of Saturn after another, trying to find a way to just survive in a minimal way, then you have someone in (or mostly within) the Saturn chakra.

The Key to Saturn: You will want to read to these folks from the “Book of Jupiter,” helping them to identify what is their particular way to go through life, their career or life path, some way for them to cope. Of course, you can use all the astrological techniques you know relating to career, such as sign, house placement, and aspects for Jupiter, and probably the north lunar node as well. These are all solid vocational indicators. I have found that the best Jupiter-type information are the heliocentric StarType Patterns. See my free ebook “StarTypes: Life-Path Partners” for details.

In general (not always), you may find that until the Jupiter chakra is awakened and routinely functioning, that inner chakras like Mars, which has to do with marriage and settling down, will probably not be very workable. The traditional order of opening these chakras are Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, and NOT Saturn, Mars, Jupiter. In other words, it is going to be hard to help a client stabilize their marriage (Mars), if the Jupiter chakra is not first stabilized, that is: if they can't first make a living. You have all seen the old movies or read the books where the young man first finds a career and then gets married. This is the normal way these chakras are opened, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, etc.

Invoking Jupiter

I always work with clients who are lost in the Saturn chakra by helping them to invoke and stabilize their Jupiter (career) chakra, and that stabilization alone is usually enough to bring more stability to any inner chakra, like Mars, if that chakra is already activated, that is: if the client is married. A married client, with a weak or unstable Jupiter chakra, more often than not, will have trouble with the marriage. The first step then, is to strengthen the Jupiter chakra, and THEN work on the marriage. A strengthened Jupiter will already bring help to a struggling Mars or marriage.

Keep in mind that each of us has ALL the chakras available to us and, of course, we cycle in and through all of them constantly. However, each of us tends to spend most of our time in one particular chakra at a time, and determining which chakra that is can be important in a consultation. What we are looking for and speaking of here is stabilization, practically mastering a particular chakra, so that the client can use it at will, when they need to.

For example, if you have found a career, and know how to make a living and hold a job, that is a permanent part of your makeup. You learn to make a living, and you keep on making a living. It is a constant. At that point, you can operate in the Jupiter chakra, and have more or less mastered it.

Identifying the Jupiter Chakra

Identifying whether the client is in the Jupiter chakra is also straightforward, usually as easy as determining if they have a successful (or at least a workable) career AND are still unmarried. That is the pure Jupiter experience plain and simple: working, but unmarried.

Once the Jupiter chakra is activated and some path or career is discovered and maintained, this is considered sufficient mastery of this chakra. The client is able to keep a career open and functioning. If they have a solid career and are happily married, you want to be looking into the Earth chakra. Otherwise, Jupiter is where to focus.

Crossing the Gap

The gap between Saturn and Jupiter, between the Saturn and Jupiter chakras, is not great, and most of us are able to come up with some means of making a living, some work that will keep the wolf (Saturn) from our door. However, the gap between Jupiter and Mars (relatively speaking) is very much greater than any other two planets. We could say that it is somewhat of a long journey from making a living (Jupiter) to being happily married (Mars). This is simple statistics. There are many people who have jobs, and fewer people who have a successful and happy marriage. Right?

It is one thing to have sharp career skills, and another to translate those skills into a marriage that is as stable or content. The vast asteroid belt is located between Jupiter and Mars, and there are countless small bodies (asteroids) there that never made it to being a planet, a fact that we will pass over for the moment.

Jupiter's Lightning

Astronomers are even now marveling at the immense lightning storms beneath the surface of Jupiter, the largest such storms in the entire solar system. I mention this, because Jupiter is very much also an intellectual trip, literally using the mind to control matter. Remember, aside from his role as guru or guide, Jupiter is also the lawyer, the one who handles (Saturn), and the law. There often can be a lot of manipulating and not a little conniving, when Jupiter is invoked.

The Lawyer: Skillful Means

Jupiter is the career or life path, but finding that path involves using your head, and figuring out how to get around or at least work-with or handle Saturn. This is the planet of skill, and skillful means, and Saturn requires real skill to master. The legal profession is full of those with a pronounced or highly active Jupiter chakra. On the near side of Saturn, the Jupiter chakra leads to using the intellect to master the law and matter, lawyers, and what not. On the side of the Jupiter chakra closest to Mars, we have more of the guide or guru Jupiter types, leading or guiding others. More about this further on.

To repeat myself, it is a LONG way from the Jupiter skill to the more feeling and intuitive nature of Mars. As we each journey from Jupiter to Mars, we learn to ground our skill (our sometimes too clever minds) in directionality or meaning, that is: to mean what we say, and we learn to say things with meaning. There are many stages and stories on this Jupiter journey, and we will detail some of them in the journal entries in a later section.

Mars: The Key to Jupiter

Here, we will just point out that the Key to Jupiter will always be Mars, and that the point of all our skill and directionality (Jupiter: where we are going in life) has to do with what it all means. Those who are awake and successful in the Jupiter chakra, who are no longer struggling to make a living, will always be concerned with "But, what does it all mean? What is the meaning of life?" They have achieved material (have mastered Saturn) success, but what does it mean? This is how you will know the Jupiter chakra client.

The Jupiter client has mastered simple survival, has overcome Saturn through one career move or another, but where does one go from there? What is the point of a life of simple survival? They are now a free floating agent, freed from Saturn's demands, but have not found love (other than fleetingly), much less taken the plunge, tied the knot, and settled down to a marriage. The

Jupiter chakra person is fascinated with what things mean, the sense of things, where do they lead, but they have not followed those meanings down to where they end, in the sense world itself. They are not grounded. The rubber has not yet met the road.

Still Unmarried

We will go into how this Jupiter-to-Mars journey might manifest later on in this blog. For right now, it is enough for you to identify that the client has a successful career, would like to find a life companion, but is as yet unmarried. This is the nature of life in the Jupiter Chakra, and is easy to determine, by just asking the client.

For these Jupiter chakra clients, you want to read from the book of Mars or marriage, encouraging them to ground their thoughts and desires in experience, and to make some “sense” out of whatever they can imagine. This can be as easy or difficult as pointing out to them that all their speculation, their interest in what things mean, where things are going, the drift of things, all point to the sphere of action, to taking the plunge.

And the Jupiter-chakra person is invariably caught up in one form of dualism after another, always on one side of equation with some “other” or “negative” forces on the reverse side. Jupiter is always trying to resolve difference or duality, trying to find the One in the Two, trying to make sense of it all – sense and sensual.

All thoughts, to the extent that they have any meaning at all, are only as useful as the sense they make, and “sense” has always to be an experience, an experience that we each must have. Book learning is not enough. The Jupiter type must be encouraged to stop thinking so much, and to act on their feelings, and to more fully immerse themselves in life, to somehow take the plunge, and that plunge is into the realm of marriage or Mars.

Career Problems

If the client has some sort of career, but that career is sputtering on and off again, or is generally unstable, you may want to look to their Mars, for the Mars chakra is what drives Jupiter.

Mars is the meaning and movement or emotional drive of thought, what it all means, where it points to. And finally, all thought points to experience, to action. The meaning of any thought is the “sense” it makes, and thus all thoughts end in experience or action, the sense world. Mars is the planet of action, movement, ambition, drive, urges, urging, anything that motivates us to the sphere of action. Mars drives us to act and experience life. Mars propels us through Jupiter’s course. It keeps the career moving along.

The experience of life itself is what life means; that experience is its own meaning, and this, traditionally, is Earth or the Heart Chakra, the end of all meaning or directionality. It all points to experience, the Earth chakra. We will get to that soon.

Identifying the Mars Chakra

Identifying whether a client is actively initiated in the Mars chakra is as easy as determining whether or not they are (more or less) happily married, that is: committed. That is the simple test.

The Mars chakra is all about union or yoga (resolving duality), and the most common form of

yoga practiced in the world today is that of marriage, the joining of two persons in one life. A better way of saying this would be the realization that the two are already and always have been one.

The Mars chakra is another major initiation, one involving simple acceptance, saying "I do," which is what marriage is all about, the recognizing the "one" in the two persons, a common bond.

We do not have to be married to a physical partner. One can be married to one's work in the world, to whomever or whatever. The point is that in marriage, there is somehow the realization and acceptance of another person or the world, just as they are or it is -- treating another like you would treat yourself. The two (duality) that went before is seen as one, as always already having been one.

In fact, after the first Saturn return, we all are, in effect, married to life, whether we know it or not. We must accept or embrace our personal situation. At some point, soon after 30 years of age, anyone who has not said "I do" to life is living an imaginary separateness, and is just unrealistic – an ostrich in the sand.

The Most Common Form of Yoga

The dualities that we had previously seen and struggled against in our self, and in the world, are, after Saturn returns, somehow now seen as one; the two become one. Where before there were two, man and woman, you against the world, etc., that is seen through to the unity uniting both, the two become one. In fact, the two have always already been one; we just didn't know it. Being married, spiritually, is when we realize just that, when the concept of duality is seen through. As Parmenides said: "Being alone is" or "Being all-one is."

Once we have accepted a partner, whether in the form of a person or the world itself, we enter into union or yoga, a relationship that gradually works through dualism in all its forms, resolving differences into the unity that embraces them. In other words, experience in the Mars chakra gradually stills the rush and roar of the mind, solving its dualities, reducing at last, over time, dualities to stillness.

The Mars chakra follows all direction or meaning to the sense it makes, and this is finally an experience in itself.

Identifying the Earth Chakra

We might think that all of us, by virtue of having been born on Earth, are automatically masters of the Earth chakra, but we would be wrong. In esoteric astrology, Earth is not something we are given by virtue of our birth, but rather something we aspire to, and earn. In fact, masters of the Earth or Heart Chakra are few and far between. Moreover, anyone skilled in this chakra does not normally need astrology of any kind, and will probably not seek it out. We should seek them out.

The Earth of Heart Chakra

Let's review what it takes to reach the Earth chakra. It means mastery of Saturn, and that requires a successful career, one that can be maintained, and is under our control. That is the Jupiter chakra. In addition, it means a successful marriage of some kind, the Mars chakra, and a

thorough knowledge of meaning and emotions, an acceptance and resolution of any and all dualisms, which is what would bring someone to the brink of the Earth chakra.

The Earth chakra is pretty much the master of the external world, not in some arrogant or aggressive sense, but in a peaceful and confident sense. As I mentioned, these initiates don't, for the most part, seek counsel, because they have no need for it. They are their own counsel.

Although we might be quick to point out that spiritual adepts (rinpoches, zen masters, enlightened priests, and so on) would qualify, but so would masters of any trade or station in life, anywhere we find someone who is confident, content, and present.

The Chakras Inner to Earth

There are two chakras or planets interior to Earth (aside from the Sun itself), and they are Venus and Mercury. The inner chakras, those inside the orbit of Earth, are just that, inner, ones that we won't find by looking in the outside world, as we know it. They represent something interior to Earth, inner qualities that perhaps we can only aspire to and dimly sense.

Identifying the Venus Chakra

The first of these would be the Venus chakra, that of love and compassion. Poets and bards, throughout the long traditions of song and literature, have always written that the key to life here on Earth is love and compassion. Venus is that love.

How appropriate, for Venus is the next interior planet to Earth and it has always been associated with love and compassion. Venus is the key to Earth.

Identifying the Mercury Chakra

Mercury is the other inner chakra, one that we may perhaps visit on the best days of our lives, but probably not where we live or get to spend much of our time. Mercury (the Sanskrit word is "Budha") is awareness itself, the light in our eyes that we see shining! Again, like Venus, Mercury is an inner quality we all have, and reach for. We don't live there in any real sense.

And the Sun chakra is that about which nothing can be said. I shall be foolish enough to say something, but the Sun (monad) is, pretty much by definition, beyond description or words.

We will go into these inner planets in more detail later on, but for now let's examine the life experience for the chakras Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, and Earth in greater detail.

Let me know if you still are with me, please.

Astro★Shamanism

Astrological
Rites
of Passage

