



All About The Angles, June 2005

The 'angles' are the cusps of the 1st, 4th, 7th, and 10th houses, which are all angular houses. The angular houses are often considered very important because they seem to be strong points of entry into the world, and the beginning of the cycle of development that each quadrant of a natal chart represents. For instance, in the first quadrant (houses 1-3), all activities are focused very much on self and feelings about self, expressing the self. As we move around the circle, we expand ourselves and our concern and interaction with the world until we come to the 12th house, whose activities encompass spirit and the vastness of consciousness, not just our own small egos.

The meaning of the angles corresponds to four important points in the sun's 24 hour daily journey. The cusp of the 1st house is, of course, your Ascendant (or Rising Sign), corresponding to the dawning hour. It is the 'first light' that people see of you. Your Ascendant is like an entry and exit point for your chart – what you send out to the world and what comes into you. The sign on the cusp of this house as well as planets in this house can give details on how you present yourself to the world, and how you see the world as it comes through your own personal filter.

The cusp of the 4th house is referred to as the Nadir. The Nadir corresponds to the midnight hour. It is the quiet 'midnight' part of you that is deep and is often only seen by you and those very close to you, if it can be seen at all. It is said that this angle and house represent family, but more specifically, the sign on the cusp and planets in this house can tell you about what lies at the root of your heart and being that is completely ingrained in you. Early childhood experiences and the ideas and beliefs that you form from them is only one example of that. What are you standing on? What is the nature of the place you come from, figuratively and literally? At midnight, when the sun is buried beneath the earth, we must dig deeply to see even the faintest light shed on our deepest roots of self.

The cusp of the 7th house is known as your Descendant, corresponding to dusk/sunset. The sign on the cusp of this house as well as planets in this house can give details on the sort of people you attract (and need to attract) to you to learn from, to round you out, to give you perspective on yourself. Being the opposite point of the Ascendant, it is, in a way, not about you, but about the other people that have an impact in your life in a personal way, and how the shock of their differences impacts you and your perspective on them and yourself. This is the house of partnership, where we get into the one on one dance with another person (or people) and what we learn about ourselves from our interaction with them. As we approach sunset, the shadows grow long, and we must be careful when our Descendant is activated that we are not projecting our 'shadow' side traits onto others and disowning a part of ourselves.

The cusp of the 10th house is known as the Midheaven, corresponding to high noon. At high noon it is the brightest time of the day, and we can see things from a great distance with enough light (and a clear sky). The Midheaven is how we appear to others from a great distance; for instance, when they ask us what we do for a living, or any of those social nicety questions that can tell us some things about a person that we use to form an opinion, even if we don't know who they really are inside yet. It's more than your job though, and it might not be your job at all. When you say the phrase "I am" and follow it with any kind of a noun, you are identifying yourself as to what you stand for, in a sense, and that is a Midheaven statement. The Midheaven is the role you are meant to play in society or in your community. The sign on the cusp as well as planets in this house can give details on what the nature of your 'cosmic job description' is. What is the work you are supposed to do, whether or not you get paid for it? How are you meant to serve your community? We must develop the qualities in ourselves that our Midheaven suggests to us to a radical degree to find the work we are meant for.