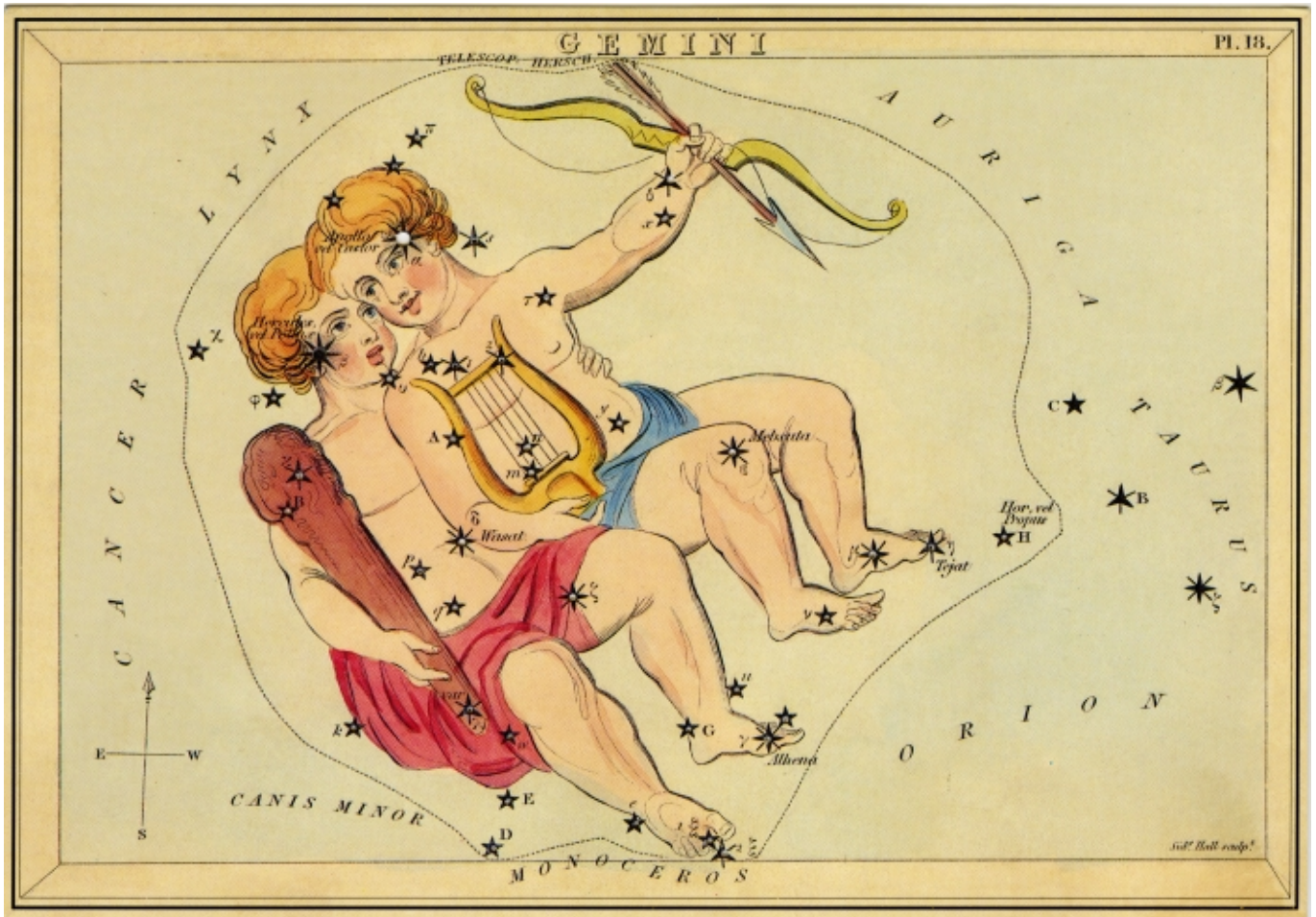




## Gemini



*'Gemini' from 'Urania's Mirror or, a view of the Heavens' (1824)*

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# The Myths and Legends of Gemini

## The Heavenly Twins

Castor and Pollux, the Heavenly Twins, lying between Cancer and Taurus on the zodiac band, were immortalised for brotherly love.

Zeus, in the shape of a dazzling white swan, seduced Leda, the wife of Tyndareus. The result of their union was two great eggs, one of which contained Helen of Troy and the immortal Pollux, who were the children of Zeus. In the other were the offspring of Tyndareus, the mortal Castor, and his sister Clytemnestra, who murdered her husband in the bath.

## St Elmo's Fire

Castor, who was a famous horseman, and Pollux, who was a boxer, were inseparable. They accompanied the Argonauts on their famous journey and calmed the rough seas which threatened to capsize the boat. They have been an omen of good luck to sailors ever since and the appearance of twin balls of lightning in the rigging, which we now call St Elmo's Fire, after the fourth-century Syrian bishop Erasmus, who became the patron saint of sailors, was a guarantee of safety from the storm. A single light, however, presaged disaster, as this was Helen, the fateful sister of the twins, who had caused the fall of Troy.

## Castor and Pollux Appear in Rome

The help of the Heavenly Twins was invoked in war as well as storm. In 496 BC, during the Roman war with Latium, the authorities decided to erect a temple to them, although up until then they had not been Roman gods. Within moments, the Twins appeared, leading the Roman cavalry to victory. That evening, two youths, both dressed in purple, were seen watering their white horses at a fountain in the Forum, and a huge temple in their honour was built without delay.

## Symbol of Duality

A symbol of duality, and of the coexistence of the mortal and immortal sides of man, they spent alternate nights in Hades and Olympus, and they stood for Life and Death in Rome. Their origins, in fact, go back to the Euphrates.

# The Stars



Both Castor and Pollux are extremely bright stars, which have been recognised as twins not only in Europe and Asia, but by the Australian Aborigines and the Polynesians. Castor is an enormous 'multiple' star, which portended mischief and violence in astrology, while Pollux, the orange star of the immortal boxer, brought fame and glory.

## To Locate

Take a line straight along the handle of the Plough and out through Merak, or from the bottom star of Orion through Betelgeux (or Betelgeuse) on his left shoulder to find Castor and Pollux. Looking south, Gemini can be seen from November to April in the northern hemisphere, and to the north from December to March south of the equator.



# The Sun in Astrology



Just as the sun in the sky is the center of the solar system, the Sun in astrology is the central nucleus of your personality. If each of the planets circling round the sun represents a single facet of your personality - Venus describes how you love and Saturn how you relate to responsibility, for example - then the Sun is the conductor of your personal orchestra, giving meaning and coherence to the wholeness that is you. It is the part of yourself that you identify with, your sense of self. Its sign - your sun-sign - and house position, as well as the aspects that it makes to other planets, describe your true potential; the 'you' you are deep down and are striving to express, as well as your will, your goals and purpose. While the feminine Moon represents your Soul, the masculine Sun represents your Spirit. Its position in your chart also shows the ways in which your outlook has been influenced by your father.

## The Sun in Gemini

Of all the signs, Gemini is the most quick-witted and you have a natural gift for grasping new ideas and for sharing them with ease to others. Your curiosity is boundless and you are always on the go, moving from one subject to another, trying to see life from new angles. The down side is that you can easily grow restless and finishing a project can be hard. But one thing that life can never be for those with the Sun in Gemini is dull! So long, that is, as you can follow your own instincts and avoid being trapped by dull routine. The goal for Gemini is to unite the opposites within, and to come to terms with the human condition and its limitations. Like Mercury, the messenger, which is your ruler, your domain is communication.



# Mercury, Ruler of Gemini



Mercury, the versatile, quick-witted messenger of the gods and guide of souls, rules communication, commerce, wit and learning. The link between this world and the next, he was also the protector of travelers and the bringer of luck. For the Greeks, he was Hermes, the inventor of music. The planet which belongs to him lies closest to the Sun.

Mercury's colour is bright lemon yellow, its jewel is agate and its metal, mercury or quicksilver.

## Mercury in Astrology

Mercury's position at birth describes your mind and intellectual powers. The sign and house it occupies, as well as the links it makes to other planets, show not only how you communicate, but what kind of mind you have - how you think and reason - and how, and what, you learn. Its position also shows your relationships to your brothers and sisters - or your lack of them. Above all, it is concerned with making connections. It also rules all forms of trade and commerce.

# The Flowers of Gemini



The flowers of Mercury, Gemini's planet, are lily of the valley and honeysuckle, the most sweetly scented flowers of the shady woodlands and the waysides that Mercury rules. Quick-witted Mercury also owns all fresh and sharply scented flowers and herbs, such as lavender, lemongrass and mint. Your herbs are marjoram, parsley, valerian and dill, and your trees are the hazel and palm. Your essential oils are lavender, lemongrass and peppermint, which all refresh and stimulate Gemini's active, curious mind, bringing clarity and calm.

# The Jewels of Gemini

The opal, with its ever-changing coloured fires, reflects Gemini's sparkling, multifaceted personality and its boundless appetite for change, novelty and information. Alexandrite, which glows red during the day and turns emerald green at night, also belongs to Gemini. It helps the wearer to see both sides of a situation simultaneously and to keep in balance. The many hued agate is also a healing stone for Gemini. Warm, reddish brown agates are earthing, while blue lace agate eases mental tensions and helps the wearer to maintain emotional balance and a sense of peace and continuity in relationships of every kind.



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