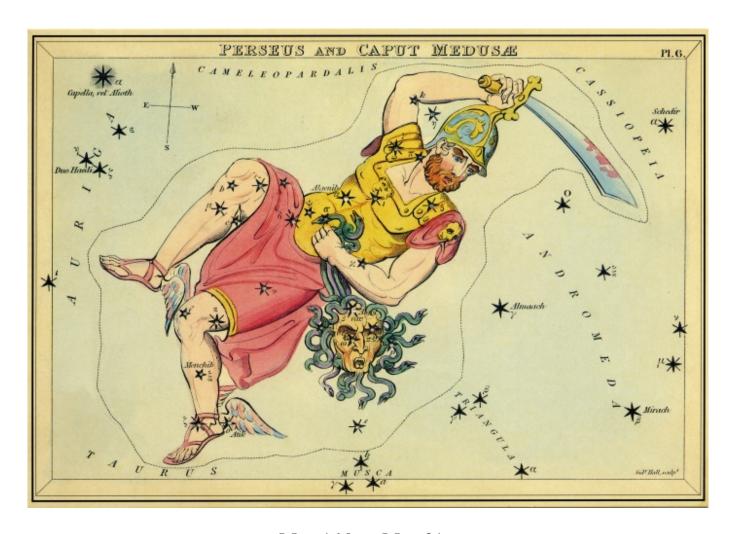


Perseus



May 16th to May 31st

from

The Lost Zodiac

by Catherine Tennant

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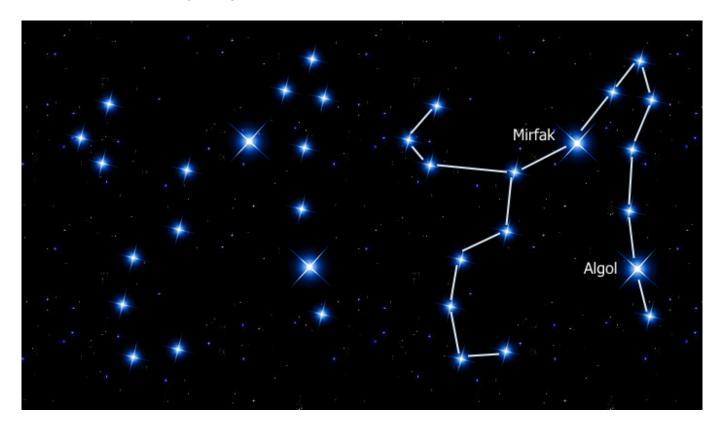


Your Guiding Stars

beyond the zodiac

We all have a zodiac sign, but we also have another sign beyond the zodiac as well. To the ancient founders of astrology, all the stars and constellations in the heavens were both magical and powerful. They paid great attention to them, and, unlike most of us today, they also knew where, and when, to find them in the sky.

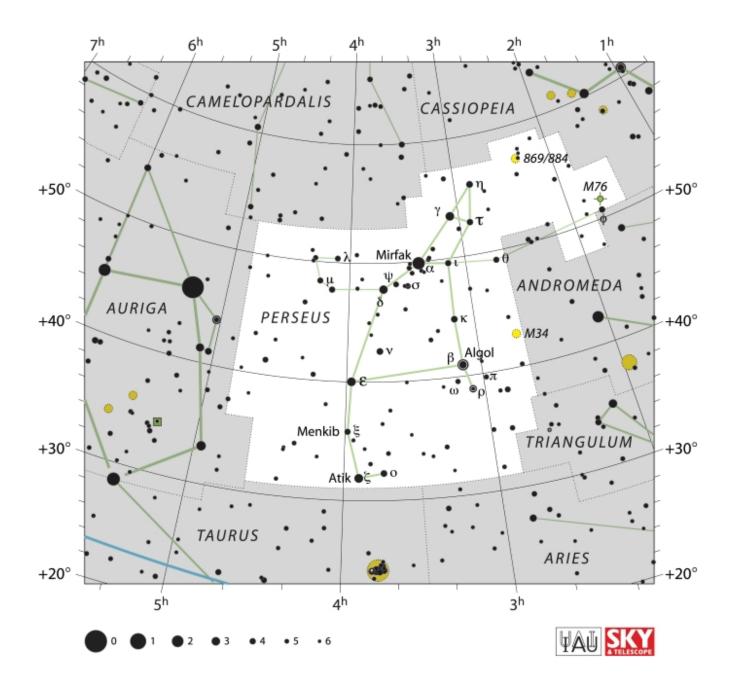
To find your ancient star-sign glittering above you in the heavens, and identify your personal guiding star, is to re-enter a lost and timeless world.



May 16th to May 31

If you were born between these dates, your guiding star is **Mirfak**, a yellow supergiant, marking the hero's side. It is said to give courage and success through perseverance. Nearby, lies **Algol**, the Demon Star that marks the head of the petrifying gorgon that Perseus overcame.

The glittering Greek hero, Perseus, was conceived by a shower of gold, and his 'birth', when he starts to rise each year over the northern horizon, can be seen each August, preceded by our brightest annual shower of shooting stars, the Perseids, which appear to stream towards us from his rising constellation.



The stars of Perseus lie near to Cassiopeia and Andromeda.

First locate the bright W-shape of Cassiopeia, the Queen of the North Pole. Beside her lies the Y-shaped constellation of Perseus, which is high up near the zenith in December in the northern hemisphere.

Perseus sets in the west in Spring and can be seen low on the horizon from the southern hemisphere between November and January.

Discovering the Twenty Two Lost Star Signs

As an astrologer, I sometimes looked for reasons for traits of character which did not seem to be explained exclusively by what the birth chart tells us. For me, the discovery of the importance of the stars and constellations lying beyond the zodiac band turned out to be the missing link.

They do not undermine conventional astrology, but to add a lost dimension to it.

The Earliest Astrologers and The Sacred, Living Sphere

We have grown so used to seeing the planets and the zodiac, alone, as powerful that it can come as a surprise to find that for the early practitioners of astrology, the whole celestial sphere, from pole to pole, was filled with starry gods and supernatural beings who influenced the life of man. For them, all the stars had power over our lives. They worshipped them, wove myths around them and built their temples in alignment with them.

For the ancient Greeks, therefore, who inherited this vision of a living sphere, and who gave many of the constellations the names and forms which they still have today, it seemed quite natural to believe that Orion and the Great Bear, Perseus, the glittering hero, and the Lyre of Orpheus, the legendary musician, among others, influenced our destiny, just like the narrow zodiac band of stars which forms the pathway of the sun and moon and planets, with which we are familiar.

These twenty two lost star signs reconnect us to the ancient vision of a sacred, living cosmos, and to the great celestial sphere around us.

Your Sign Beyond the Zodiac Linked to your Sun Sign

These star signs are the ancient constellations which lie to the North and South of the zodiac band of stars, and were used in conjunction with it.

The brightest and most powerful star, or constellation of stars, which falls nearest to the sun by longitude on your birthday is 'conjunct' your sun.

This constellation was considered to be your 'sign beyond the zodiac'.

Why Were They Forgotten?

So why did these important star signs, which embody so many of the great myths and symbols of our culture, vanish from the scene ?

In the second century AD the great astronomer, Ptolemy, tried to simplify astrology by excluding the constellations to the North and South of the zodiac band. However, even he could not deny their astrological significance, and described the influence of their individual stars. In 'L'Astrologie Grecque' (1899), Bouche-Leclerq, the leading authority on the history of astrology, quotes Ptolemy as saying that he will 'leave to one side as impracticable the ancient method, which took account of

all, or nearly all, the stars'.

But 'the exclusion of the constellations beyond the zodiac is so artificial that it could not be maintained, even by Ptolemy ... all stellar mythology cries out against the privileged position of the zodiac'. Adds Bouche-Leclerq.

The Age of Aquarius, ruled by Uranus, the Personification of the Starry Sphere

They are also highly relevant to the times we live in.

Thanks to the moving equinoxes, we are now entering the new Aquarian Age, which will be ruled by Uranus, the planet named after the ancient Greek sky god who personifies the starry sphere and is the ruler of Aquarius.

To look beyond the zodiac, and beyond the 'village' of our solar system, as astronomers are now doing, towards deep space - the domain of Uranus - is, symbolically, in keeping with the coming age. One of astrology's most important tenets is that the discovery of a new planet heralds an important shift in human consciousness. The discovery of Pluto, in 1930, for instance, which was named after the Roman god of the underworld, and which rules the depths of the unconscious mind, coincided with the rise to popularity of psychoanalysis. The reintroduction of these 'Uranian' signs beyond the zodiac, therefore, and our renewed awareness, when we find our personal star sign in the sky, of our links with the galaxies of stars around us, can be seen to coincide with our entry into the Aquarian Age.

Our Myth and Personal Quest

From my research as an astrologer, it is remarkable how accurate, and how literal, these ancient star signs can be.

Born under the sign of Andromeda, the princess chained to a rock as a sacrifice for her country, for instance, are Houdini, Queen Elizabeth II and Sylvia Pankhurst, the leader of the suffragettes who fought for the emancipation of women.

These ancient signs are rich, dynamic symbols, and can describe the myths behind our lives and the 'Journey of the Soul of Man'. Perseus, for example, by cutting off the gorgon's head, conquers and comes to terms with neglected instinct and emotion, which the gorgon represents. The winged horse of inspiration, Pegasus, learns to distinguish between truth and illusion, in the form of the Chimaera. Andromeda, the chained princess, discovers freedom, and the Swan its human form. Ophiuchus wrestles with the Serpent and transforms its poison into medicine. For the River of Night, which wells up from paradise, life is a journey back towards the sea, where all separate sense of self is lost, and Orpheus overcomes the sovereigns of the underworld with the music of his lyre.

Each one has its own personal quest and compliments our birth chart and our Sun sign.

The Roman Astrologer, Manilius

I knew of the importance many astrologers give to the fixed stars, but my first real encounter with the actual signs beyond the zodiac took place over twenty years ago, when I read the 'Astronomica' of Manilius, the great Roman astrologer and astronomer. Much of the 5th book of his 'Astronomica' is dedicated to their meaning: 'The child of the Lyre will sing beguiling songs at the banquet, his voice adding mellowness to the wine and holding the night in thrall...and, left to himself, he will ever burst into song which can charm no ears but his own...When the Dog Star rises over the rim of the sea...it will fashion unbridled spirits and impetuous hearts...the child of the Crown will cultivate a garden budding with bright flowers, and slopes grey with olives...his heart is set upon elegance, fashion, and the art of adornment, upon gracious living and the pleasures of the hour...', and so on, at great length, for all the extra-zodiacal signs.

What Modern Psychology Has to Add

Beautiful as his descriptions are, our understanding of the myths, and of what they can tell us about the soul of man, has changed and grown, of course, since Roman times. What, I wondered, could modern psychology tell us abut the meaning of these age-old stories set amongst the stars, and so about ourselves?

With the help of psychology, which I had studied for many years, and of the modern school of astrology, which uses myth and symbol to give the zodiac and the planets a new and deeper dimension, I began to see what it could mean to be born under these ancient signs. I then applied this to famous people, both alive and dead, and to my family, friends and clients.

The results were startling. And, as I continued, an image slowly grew and crystallised of the kind of person each one represented, and of the life-issues they were most concerned with. As with the zodiac signs, each one had its own preoccupations, its own problems and its own outlook on the world.

But the rediscovered signs are different as they tell us more about where our life is leading and describe our inner quest.

The Fixed Stars and Constellations in Astrology

To find out which constellation rules you, all you need to know is your birthday - not the time of day, the place or year. The brightest and most powerful star, or group of stars which falls nearest to the sun by longitude on your birthday is 'conjunct' your sun, and so rules you.



Your Personal Myth - the Legends of your Star Sign



Perseus, the Glittering Hero of the Air and Sky

Because an oracle had told Acrisius that his own grandson would cause his death, he locked his daughter, Danae, in a subterranean chamber made of bronze. The sky-god, Zeus, desired Danae, however, and rained down on her as a shower of gold, and Perseus, the hero of the air and sky, was born.

A Shower of Golden Meteors

The 'birth' of Perseus can, in fact, still be seen each August, when his stars reappear over the horizon, preceded by a 'shower of gold', our richest annual rain of shooting stars, the Perseids, which appear to stream towards us from his rising constellation. Almost everything about Perseus, in fact, connects him with the air and sky, as the legends show.

Perseus' Quest

When Perseus grew up, the King of Seriphos (the island where Perseus and his mother lived, banished after his birth), who wished to marry Danae against her will, sent Perseus to bring back the head of the Medusa, an appalling Gorgon with serpents in her hair, whose petrifying gaze turned all who looked her in the face to stone. The king imagined he was sending Perseus to his death, but fate was on the hero's side. So were the gods.

Help from the Gods Athene, the grey-eyed goddess of reason and reflection, gave him her burnished shield, a highly polished mirror, so that he could use its reflective surface to help him to cut off the Gorgon's head without being turned to stone.

Even Hades, the dark lord of the underworld and death, helped him in his battle against evil, lending him the helmet which made anyone who wore it vanish, like the dead, from view.

Hermes, the messenger of the gods, gave him a curved dagger made of diamonds, and his winged sandals, in which Perseus soared up, unafraid, into the blue Aegean skies.

Like his constellation, which travels westwards through the heavens every autumn, Perseus journeyed through the air towards the Gorgons' lair in the far west of the world.

The Gorgons' Lair

As he approached their lonely dwelling, he put on the helmet of invisibility and raised the mirrored shield. In it, he saw reflected three archaic and barbaric beings lying asleep, with their brass hands, boars' teeth and serpents' hair. They were surrounded by the surreal, rain-worn shapes of men and animals, whom their gaze had turned to stone. Perseus raised his diamond sword and struck off

Medusa's head. From her severed neck sprang Pegasus, the white, winged horse of inspiration, and his twin, Chrysaor, her hitherto unborn children.

Perseus thrust the awful head into a magic wallet he had brought with him, and fled from the remaining Gorgons, this time on the back of Pegasus, airborne, like the stars named after him, once again.

Perseus and Andromeda

As he flew, drops of blood fell from Medusa's head into the sea, and created the first coral. Suddenly, far below, he saw Andromeda, chained, naked, to a rock and hung with jewels, about to be devoured by a sea-monster. Perseus fell instantly in love with her, and, swooping down he killed the great sea-monster with his diamond sword.

As soon as Perseus and Andromeda were married, they returned to Seriphos, arriving just in time to prevent the rape of Perseus' mother, Danae, by the king, who was turned to stone, together with all his courtiers, by the Medusa's head.

Perseus then returned the magic shield, sword and sandals and gave the Gorgon's head to Athene, who placed it on her shield, a symbol of reason's triumph over instinct and barbaric evil.

They then set off for the land of Perseus' birth, where the hero, joining in the local games, threw a quoit which accidentally killed his grandfather, as the oracle had foreseen. Perseus was heartbroken, and, to put the past behind him, he exchanged his rightful kingdom for another. There, Perseus and Andromeda had many children, and founded a long line of heroes.

They also founded the legend-haunted citadel of Mycenae, where what must be the Gorgon's flower, the sinister snake's-head fritillary, now grows wild amongst the ruins.



The Star Sign

Perseus, the 'shining one', is the airiest and brightest of the heroes, and those born under the symbol of this Clark Kent of the ancient world are fast-moving, witty and mercurial, with an edge and sparkle which ensures that the are never dull or heavy-handed.

Interested in anything and everything, they will pursue whatever fires their imagination with great energy and drive - until they tire of it, which can happen with alarming speed when something new and more exciting comes along. Which it usually does, as they are always on the look-out for amusement and distraction. Without novelty, in fact, or mental stimulation, they become not only restless but depressed, and there can be no sadder sight than Perseus tied to a life of drudgery and routine.

Not that they often are, though, as they can talk themselves out of almost any corner, and they usually find someone who will believe in their new schemes, and is prepared to help them out. They often get through life relying on their native wit, and, like Hermes-Mercury, the god of communication - who lent Perseus his winged sandals, and rules the zodiac sign of Gemini - they can convince you of almost anything, and can explain even the most complex, knotty issues so that anyone can understand.

Sooner or later, however, as the myth tells us, Perseus must confront the Gorgon, whose timeless realm is as far from his bright world of movement, light and reason as it is possible to be.

There, all is immobile, for the Gorgon is an image of nature, ancient and unchanging, and of the irrational and instinctive side of life, which is not evil in itself, but which can become destructive if it is too long neglected or denied. She also has the power, as we have seen, to turn all living beings to stone.

To be petrified, of course, is to be frozen to spot and deprived of life and movement: the state which Perseus most fears. His quest is to come to terms with the very thing he dreads and does not understand. All airy, intellectual signs tend to be out of touch with their instincts or their feelings - in fact, these make them decidedly uneasy. But the more they run away from their emotions the more afraid of them they become.

One thing Perseus is not, however, is a coward. He also has the powers of life - and evolution - firmly on his side, and with the help of reason and reflection, he can overcome his fears and make his peace with the irrational side of life. When he cuts of the Gorgon's head, he also frees the winged horse of the imagination, and can soar off, once more, back into the air, where he feels most at home, using the Gorgon's terrifying head to combat evil and stagnation.

Above all, Perseus is the great innovator, and questioner of the status quo. Those born under him will never follow the herd blindly; they can always be relied on to see things from a new angle, and they are not easily taken in.

It is usually Perseus who is the first to spot that the emperor has no clothes, and to make a mockery of pretension. No lovers of convention, those born under the bright hero can be quite mischievous as well, and they will happily put the cat amongst the pigeons, and then vanish, like Perseus, in his helmet of invisibility, leaving everyone else to fight things out.

They are also capable, when angry, of being extremely cutting and sarcastic, and the effect can be as devastating as the Gorgon turning its victims to stone. Usually, however, they do not go in for the kill, as they are catalysts of change, and their real purpose is to get things moving, not to freeze their fellow mortals in their tracks.

Without Perseus, in fact, little in society would grow or change. The world would be a duller and more earth-bound place, as they make the best company - if you can keep up with them - of any sign.

Those born under Perseus may be mercurial and restless, but once they have slain the Gorgon, and come to terms with instinct and emotion, they are very loyal and single-minded, and will stick to the right relationship through thick and thin, when they believe that they have found it. Like Perseus when he saw Andromeda, they also tend to make their minds up fast. Monogamy was a rare thing in Ancient Greece, it seems, especially for the heroes, but once Perseus falls in love, it is for ever. Having shaken everybody up, he can then relax and found a race of heroes, who can carry on the good work he has begun, while he rules his kingdom with his queen.

Born under Perseus

Bertrand Russell, John Stuart Mill, Lionel Lukin (inventor of the lifeboat), Otto Lillenthal (German aviation pioneer), Henri Farman (French aviation Pioneer), Igor Sikorsky (designer of the first helicopter), Ian Fleming (creator of James Bond), Franz Mesmer, Albrecht Durer (inventor of etching), Andrei Sakharov (the 'father of the Soviet H bomb'), Walter Gropus (the pioneer of modern architecture), Amelia Bloomer (suffragette), Nancy Astor (the first woman to sit in the British parliament), Al Jolson (star of the first 'talkie'), Walt Whitman, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Honore de Balzac, Conan Doyle, J.F. Kennedy, Bob Dylan, Alexander Pope, Bob Hope, William Heath Robinson.



Perseus and the Traditional Zodiac

Perseus and Taurus

May 16th to May 20th

Perseus adds speed and sparkle to the earth-bound sign of Taurus, while Taurus acts as a steadying ballast to the glittering hero. This is a balanced combination, although it can lack the brilliance of Perseus-Gemini.

Perseus and Gemini

May 21st to May 31st

These are the most quick-witted and mercurial Geminis of all, as Perseus is very similar to Hermes, the airborne messenger of the gods, who lent Perseus his winged sandals, and who, as Mercury, rules Gemini.



Relationships with Other 'Lost Zodiac' Signs

We are often linked to one another through the myths which rule our lives and through our inner quests for wholeness. Our myth may resonate with that of another person's because it describes a similar journey of discovery.

Sometimes, our 'story' may be part of the same mythic pattern, or cycle of stories, as another person's. Our story represents another act in the same drama. Or we play one part, and they another in the same timeless, archetypal saga. These are the people with whom we have most in common, but we also often hit it off, of course, with those whose outlook compliments our own, just because it is so different, and therefore fills in the missing places in our own psychology, and vice versa.

Unlike the links between the signs of the traditional zodiac, there are no hard and fast rules about who is on the same wavelength as we are, nor about how the common mythic themes will manifest in our individual lives. Each instance is unique, as we are.

Below, are listed the 'Lost Zodiac' signs which you are most linked with and in tune with. Their star sign dates are given at the end of your report.

Perseus with Andromeda

This is a great love-match, as the story tells us, as Perseus can help the chained princess to find her freedom, and she, in turn, can teach him to learn to live on earth.

Perseus with Pegasus

These high flying allies always get on well, although they share a tendency to avoid responsibility.

Perseus with the Dragon

These signs have a lot to offer one another. The Dragon needs to transform its instincts and emotions into vision, which Perseus can help it to achieve. The Dragon, in turn, can help Perseus to face up to his instinctual side, instead of flying off into the airy abstract realm.

Perseus with the Eagle

Perseus and the Eagle have a lot in common, and the Eagle's great determination can help Perseus to achieve his aims.

The Lost Zodiac Star Sign Dates

Date	Sign	Stars
December 29th to January 13th	The Lyre of Orpheus	Vega
January 14th to January 28th	The Eagle	Altair
January 29th to February 8th	The Dolphin	Rotanev and Sualocin
February 9th to February 29th	The Swan	Sadir
March 1st to March 12th	The River of Night	Achernar
March 13th to April 1st	Pegasus	Markab, Scheat and Algenib
April 2nd to April 9th	Andromeda	Alpheratz
April 10th to April 18th	The River of Night	Acamar
April 19th to May 8th	Andromeda	Mirach and Alamach
May 9th to May 15th	The River of Night	Rana and Zanrak
May 16th to May 31st	Perseus	Algol and Mirfak
June 1st to June 7th	Orion	Rigel
June 8th to June 16th	The Charioteer	Capella
June 17th to June 27th	Orion	Betelgeuse
June 28th to July 7th	The Dogs	Sirius
July 8th to July 17th	The Ship of the Argonauts	Canopus
July 18th to July 25th	The Dogs	Procyon
July 26th to August 7th	The Dragon	Gianfar
August 8th to August 15th	The Great Bear	Dubhe and Merak
August 16th to August 23rd	The Sea Serpent	Alphard
August 24th to September 10th	The Great Bear	Phekda, Megrez, Alioth and Mizar
September 11th to September 21st	The Cup	Alkes
September 22nd to September 28th	The Ship of the Argonauts	Markeb
September 29th to October 11th	The Raven	Minkar and Algorab
October 12th to October 26th	The Bear Keeper	Arcturus and Izar
October 27th to November 10th	The Crown of the North Wind	Alphecca
November 11th to November 19th	The Serpent	Unuk Elhaia
November 20th to December 5th	The Wise Centaur	Toliman (Alpha Centauri)
December 6th to December 16th	Ophiuchus	Han, Sabik and Ras Alhague
December 17th to December 23rd	The Dragon	Grumium and Etanin
December 24th to December 28th	The Serpent	Alya



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Your Lost Sign Beyond the Zodiac is adapted from the 'Lost Zodiac' by Catherine Tennant, published by Chatto & Windus, September 1995. A boxed set, containing a book describing the twenty two 'lost' signs of western astrology, the maps, and twenty two locating cards, which show the ancient image and the pattern of the stars of each star-sign constellation.

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