The Dogs

Canis Major and Canis Minor

June 28th to July 7th and July 18th to July 25th

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.

June 28th to July 7th

If you were born between these dates, your guiding star is Sirius, the Dog Star, which is the main star in Canis Major, the Great Dog. Sirius, the 'sparkling' and the 'scorching', is the brightest star in the heavens, and so the ideal guide for men on moonless nights. Sirius was also thought to cause the stifling heat of the 'Dog Days' which run from July 3rd to August 11th.

July 18th to July 25th

If you were born between these dates, your guiding star is Procyon, the bright star in the Little Dog,
Canis Minor. Both stars were thought by the ancients to inspire a faithful and devoted nature in those born beneath their influence. While the dogs both pursue the Golden Huntsman, Orion, across the winter skies, the Little Dog was thought by some to be the favourite of Helen of Troy, transferred to the stars.

**Precious stone : Beryl and Agate   Plant : Marigold and Mugwort**

Following on the heels of the handsome hunter, Orion, which is the largest, brightest constellation in the heavens, is Sirius, the Dog Star in Canis Major. Not far behind, but higher up, comes Procyon, the bright star in the Little Dog, Canis Minor, pursuing them across the winter sky. As Sirius is the brightest star in the sky, it can be easily located by drawing an imaginary line onwards from the three stars in Orion's belt.
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 about 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.
Guardians of the Mysteries

Dogs, in the world of myth, have always been connected with the night and with the goddess of the dark phase of the moon. From the earliest times, they have been seen as the guardians of the mysteries, standing alert, on the threshold of death and the unknown.

It may seem strange that the faithful and familiar Friend of Man should be linked with the darkness of the other world, but the belief dates from a time when death, like the dark phase of the moon, was seen as part of a great cycle. Like the moon, which waxes, wanes and vanishes before it reappears, it was believed that when we die we are reborn. Then, death, and the dark phase of the moon, were merely the unknown, through which the dog, with its superior instincts and its ability to follow a scent blindly, was the ideal guide.

The dog, of course, which appears to sense the spirit world around us, also represents our own instinctive side, which can guide us through the unknown regions of the soul.

The Old Religion

As time went on, the old religion was replaced by the worship of the sun-gods. Unlike the moon, the sun was always bright and its enemy was darkness. The more brightly shone the sun, and the light of reason, the darker seemed the realm of instinct and the night. And so the underworld became a source of fear and dread, and the dogs, the helpful instincts which had once been our guides, were now seen as a threatening pack of hounds, baying at the moon.

The Brilliant Eyes of the Dark

In Greece, dogs belong to Hecate, the Underworld Queen of the Night, the goddess of witches and cross-roads - where, ever since, witches have been buried. Before that, however, when the darkness was not feared, Hecate had been seen as 'tender-hearted', for she was really only the goddess of the unknown and of the dark phase of the moon. She carries two torches, the 'brilliant eyes of the dark', which possibly symbolise her power to see things which were hidden from the eyes of others. And, as guardian of the cross-roads, she watched over those moments of uncertainty in life when the future is unknown and undecided. Always, the dogs are by her side.

The dogs were also sacred to Artemis, the virgin goddess of hunting and the crescent moon, for dogs, of course, are also hunters.

Guide of Souls

The dog appears in Egyptian myth as Anubis, the mysterious, dog-headed god who guided the souls of the dead to their judgement. Because the dog is not easily deceived and can sense
someone's true nature, it was Anubis's job to weigh the dead man's soul, which was balanced in the scales against the feather of truth.

No one knows why, or when, Sirius became the Dog Star, and was associated with the goddess of resurrection and the dark phase of the moon. Perhaps it was because, on moonless nights, men used the star as a guide, as it is our brightest.

Certainly, the links between the ancient goddess and the brightest winter star are very old. So old, in fact, that they have almost been forgotten - but they are there, hidden in the stories of the stars.

More than 4,000 years ago, in Crete, for instance, dogs were sacred to the bee goddess, whose festival of resurrection, the ancient Cretan New Year, was celebrated when the Dog Star was closest to the sun. (Bees, incidentally, were believed to be the resurrected souls of the dead, and to this day it's thought to be unlucky not to tell a swarm of bees when their owner dies.)

**Isis and Demeter, Goddess of the Corn**

And, in Egypt, the Dog Star is Isis, the great goddess, who, with the help of the dog-headed Anubis, resurrected her husband, Osiris, from the dead. Later the famous mysteries of Eleusis, in which Demeter, the Greek goddess of the corn, revealed the hidden truth of the soul's rebirth, were held, in darkness, when the Dog Star was at its height.

The Star Sign

Those born under Sirius and Procyon, the bright Dog Stars which follow at Orion, the Golden Huntsman's heels, are most at home in the domain of instinct and intuition. Like the Egyptian Anubis, who weighed men's souls, they have almost X-ray vision when it comes to understanding people's motives and emotions, which they sense, however well hidden these may be. This is because they are always on the look-out for subtle clues. They can glean from someone's body language, and from what is unspoken - except for the unintentional slips - more than most signs ever learn from what is actually said.

As it is so difficult to fool them, they are not easily impressed by glamour and affectation, and they always choose their friends for their true characters, rather than for the face they show the world. Loyalty is the quality, of course, for which the dog is famous, and, true to type, when they do befriend someone, they rarely change their minds or let them down. Nor are they critical, even of those with whom they do not have close bonds, being generous and warm-hearted. They are extremely protective of their loved ones, however, and, if necessary, will risk life and limb to protect them.

Trying to discover other people's motives is only one way in which their boundless curiosity manifests itself. They are fascinated by anything mysterious, occult or unknown, and, like Jung, or
the archaeologist, Sir Arthur Evans, who unearthed the legendary Cretan labyrinth, they like to delve beneath life’s surface and discover what is hidden.

Once they are on the trail of something or someone, they rarely give up the quest until they find what they are looking for, however long it takes, as they are single minded and determined when their interest is aroused. This tendency can become obsessive at times - a trait which those born under the Dog Stars need to guard against if they are to keep their balance. Putting problems on ice, and allowing situations to change and develop of their own accord, does not come easily to them. They can drive themselves - and those around them - almost crazy, as they find it so hard to just sit back and let things be.

These qualities, however, make them the best detectives and explorers. But, like all sleuths, once they have found what they set out for, they lose interest and move on. Even so, they still hang onto their souvenirs, and their homes are often full of trophies from previous chases, gathering dust, as although they are adventurous, they are also sentimental and nostalgic for their past.

Being so curious about the new, and yet so profoundly loyal to their past, can be a tricky combination, and they are happiest in relationships which make room for both aspects of their nature. Ideally, they like to come and go, and the more freedom they are given to pursue their current interests, wherever these may take them, the more certain they are to return.

Those born under the Dogs are gregarious, and, given half a chance, will avoid spending too much time alone. Despite their tendency to be one-track minded when the mood is on them, in relationships with others they are adaptable and fair. And as they are so warm-hearted, they do not find it easy to hold grudges.

Being so perceptive - and sophisticated - about the quirks of human nature also means that they do not take themselves too seriously, and their sense of humour usually prevents them from holding back or being aloof for long. Above all, they are too open-minded, and too interested in life, to waste time in pretence or in being proud.

**Born under The Dogs**

The Dogs and the Traditional Zodiac

The Dogs and Cancer

June 28th to July 7th and July 18th to July 22nd

These Dogs are gentler and more affectionate than those born under Leo. They are also more nostalgic for their past and more home loving.

The Dogs and Leo

July 23rd to July 25th

Those born under this combination are more adventurous and more one-track minded than their Cancerian counterparts, and they are also more determined.

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.

The Dogs with Orion

The Dogs are Orion's natural companions and loyal friends in life, as the Dogs can help Orion to come to terms with other people's values. They are more emotionally sophisticated than Orion, but, in turn, Orion never lets them down.
The Dogs with the Crown of the North Wind

Both these signs are concerned with discovering what is hidden. The intellectual Crown can help the Dogs to make sense of what they find, while the Dogs offer the Crown instinctive wisdom, which it tends to lack.

The Dogs with the Eagle

The high-soaring Eagle, who finds it so easy to see clearly, except in instinctive matters, needs the Dogs to help it find its way through the emotional maze, while the Eagle's lucid mind can help the Dogs to be more detached when they become too obsessed by an idea or a person.
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Sign</th>
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<td>December 29th to January 13th</td>
<td>The Lyre of Orpheus</td>
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<td>The Eagle</td>
<td>Altair</td>
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<td>The Dolphin</td>
<td>Rotanev and Sualocin</td>
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<td>February 9th to February 29th</td>
<td>The Swan</td>
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<td>March 1st to March 12th</td>
<td>The River of Night</td>
<td>Achernar</td>
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<td>Markab, Scheat and Algenib</td>
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<td>The Dogs</td>
<td>Sirius</td>
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<td>July 18th to July 25th</td>
<td>The Dogs</td>
<td>Procyon</td>
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<td>July 26th to August 7th</td>
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<td>August 8th to August 15th</td>
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<td>The Great Bear</td>
<td>Phekda, Megrez, Alioth and Mizar</td>
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<td>The Serpent</td>
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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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