The Raven

Corvus

September 29th to October 11th

from

The Lost Zodiac

by Catherine Tennant
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Your Guiding Star

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.

September 29th to October 11th

If you were born between these dates, your guiding stars are Minkar, which marks the Raven's eye, and Algorab, at the tip of its outstretched wing. Near the Raven's beak lie two spiralling, green galaxies, which interact with each other, known as 'the Antennae'.

Precious stone : Jet and Black Onyx   Plant : Comfrey
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 Crown of the North Wind, 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.
Insight and Prophetic Powers

High-flying and far-seeing birds symbolise the soul and the faculty of thought in man, and, in nearly all mythologies they are the gods' eyes and their messengers, keeping them in touch with life on earth and linking man to the divine.

While the Eagle is connected with the sun and with long range day-time vision, the raven, thanks to its black feathers, stands for the ability to see that which is, as yet, hidden and shrouded in darkness because it has not yet happened. The raven has also long been seen as a bird of ill-omen, whose appearance foreshadows doom.

The Bird of Apollo

The Greek myth about this constellation tells us that this was not always so, however, for the raven's feathers were not always black, but silver-white, until its master, the Greek god of prophecy, Apollo, lost his temper with the bird.

Apollo loved the Greek princess, Coronis, and left his snow-white raven to guard over her while she was carrying his child. But Coronis - whose name is derived from the Greek for crow, or raven - was unfaithful to the god and, despite the presence of the raven, took a mortal lover.

The raven lost no time in reporting this to his master, and some say that Apollo, in his jealousy and rage, cursed the raven as the bearer of bad tidings, and turned its silvery feathers black forever. Others claim that Apollo changed the colour of its plumage because the raven had not pecked out his rival's eyes. Either way, from that moment on, this bird which symbolised the god's prophetic powers, has been regarded as a bringer of bad tidings.

This may be because, as time went on, the powers of intuition and prophecy came to be seen as the enemies of reason, rather than as true insights, and so were feared as sinister and dark, like the raven's feathers.

In the North, the raven has also always been connected with prophetic powers.

In Ireland, where the ancient gods owned ravens, they were once domesticated on order to divine the future, which they revealed, it was believed, in their cryptic croakings, while in Scandinavia they belonged to Odin, the one-eyed but all-seeing king of the gods.

Mind and Memory, Odin's Ravens

In order to obtain true wisdom, Odin not only hung upside-down for nine whole days and nights upon the ancient ash tree which held up the Viking universe, but also cast one of his eyes into the
fountain of wisdom, in exchange for inner vision, On his shoulders dwelt Huginn and Muninn,  
Mind and Memory, the great ravens whom he sent out each day to question both the living and the dead, and who returned each night before dawn broke to inform him of events in this world and the next, just as Noah sent the raven from the ark in search of land.

The Ability to See what is Hidden

As the mind and memory of Odin, who alone amongst the gods mingled with mankind, disguised as a simple wayfarer in a wide-brimmed hat and a grey cloak, the raven stands for the ability to discover what is hidden from most eyes, and for the wisdom and true vision which can foresee the future. Like the Greek Apollo, Odin, who had stolen the mead of the poets from the frost giants, was the source not only of prophetic powers, but of poetic inspiration. Unlike Apollo, however, he was also the Lord of the other world, the leader of the Wild Hunt, riding through the stormy northern skies at midnight on Sleipnir, his eight-footed stallion, at the head of the Host of the Dead.

The Great Spirit

For the Native Americans, the raven is a symbol of the Great Spirit; while in the Bible it stands for God's providence, as ravens fed Elijah in the desert. It is also the heraldic bird of Denmark, and is emblazoned on the Danish standard, where, in days of yore, it was said to hang its wings if Denmark was destined for defeat, or to stand erect to prophesy a victory.

The ability to find lost property is, curiously, still known as 'Raven's Knowledge'
The Star Sign

Intuition is the great gift of those born beneath the Raven's stars, and their ability to understand a complex situation, and, often, to foresee its outcome, however hazy it may seem to others, makes them the natural psychics of this world.

As a result, they excel in any occupation which relies on the capacity to sense which way the wind is blowing, and, whether they are mediums in gypsy earrings, fashion editors, or the head of a sales force, they always have their finger on the pulse.

But intuition can be unreliable at times, and sometimes they are wrong in a prediction. As they rely so heavily on their psychic powers, this can be unsettling and disturbing for them, and, until they learn to exercise their logic and their common sense, they can, at times feel lost and fear the worst. For, like the raven, whose feathers changed from snowy white to black, they also tend to see life in extremes.

Either all is well with the world, and the future is rosy, or, if they sense some kind of problem, however minor it may really be, the skies turn black with dire possibilities and Armageddon is at hand. Usually, of course, what happens is nowhere near as bad as they have foreseen while the 'prophet of doom' mood was upon them, but there is little anyone can do to clear away the storm clouds while the dark mood lasts. Luckily, it is not long before the sun comes out again, and, once their fears and forebodings are forgotten, they can function creatively and happily once more.

As time goes by, however, those born beneath the Raven usually learn to take their wilder, more dramatic insights with a pinch of salt.

And, when they discover that almost nothing is as good or bad as they had hoped or feared, they start to find a happier balance between their intuitive and psychic side and their powers of common sense and reason, which, to begin with, they despise.

Once that balance is established they really come into their own, as they can then use their extraordinary prophetic powers to real advantage. As the bird of Odin, the raven also stands for wisdom, and, once they have found their equilibrium, they, too, are able to be truly wise because, at last, they can see clearly without being blinded by their hopes and fears.

Even before they strike the happy balance, though, they can be easily distracted from their gloom by almost anything, as they are profoundly curious about life and other people, and no piece of information is too small, or trivial, to interest them. Nor does much escape their penetrating gaze. Like Mind and Memory, who kept the Norse god, Odin, well informed about events the whole world over, they like to know exactly what is going on around them, and it is thanks to their curiosity as much as their powerful intuition that they are able to foresee the likely outcome of events.
Their ability to delve beneath the surface of existence and discover hidden motives with what amounts to almost X-ray vision, can, at times, be disturbing to anyone involved with them, however.

But they are, in fact, kindly and sympathetic people. The may see, and understand, a great deal more about you than you choose to show the world, but they are not judgemental, and they make firm and lasting friends. It is always better to have them on your side than set against you, though, as they are quite capable of broadcasting your secrets if they hold a grudge against you. If, on the other hand, you are able to cheer them up when they are low and help them to regain their sense of humour and proportion, they are unlikely to forget what you have done for them in a long while, for the Raven, which symbolises memory, as well as insight and wisdom, does not soon forget its friends.

**Born under The Raven**

Graham Greene, Gore Vidal, Damon Runyon, David Oisrakh, John Lennon, Verdi, Harold Pinter, Truman Capote, Mahatma Gandhi, Aleister Crowley.

**The Raven and the Traditional Zodiac**

**The Raven and Libra**

September 29th to October 11th

There are two types of Libran: one influenced by the Raven and the other by the sign of the Bear Keeper. The Raven type is far more imaginative - and less practical - than those influenced by the Keeper of the Bears, and they are also far more concerned with discovering balance, thanks to the Libran scales, which also help them to find the harmony which they are looking for.

**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 Raven with the Swan**

These are both birds of Apollo, the god of prophecy and music, and, although they are as different as black is from white, they understand each other. The Raven can help the Swan to come to terms with life, while the Swan offers the Raven much needed sympathy and understanding.

**The Raven with Ophiuchus**

Both these signs are concerned with understanding what makes other people tick, and diagnosing the likely cause, and outcome, of events. As a result, they work well together and they can also give mutual support in times of need.

**The Raven with the Dogs**

These two are the real sleuths amongst the ancient star signs, and when they get together there is almost nothing which they cannot discover. The Dogs also help the Raven to relate more fully to their instinctive side.
### The Lost Zodiac Star Sign Dates

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Stars</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 29th to January 13th</td>
<td>The Lyre of Orpheus</td>
<td>Vega</td>
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<td>January 14th to January 28th</td>
<td>The Eagle</td>
<td>Altair</td>
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<td>January 29th to February 8th</td>
<td>The Dolphin</td>
<td>Rotanev and Sualocin</td>
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<td>February 9th to February 29th</td>
<td>The Swan</td>
<td>Sadir</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1st to March 12th</td>
<td>The River of Night</td>
<td>Achernar</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13th to April 1st</td>
<td>Pegasus</td>
<td>Markab, Scheat and Algenib</td>
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<td>April 2nd to April 9th</td>
<td>Andromeda</td>
<td>Alpheratz</td>
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<td>April 10th to April 18th</td>
<td>The River of Night</td>
<td>Acamar</td>
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<td>April 19th to May 8th</td>
<td>Andromeda</td>
<td>Mirach and Alamach</td>
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<td>May 9th to May 15th</td>
<td>The River of Night</td>
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<td>May 16th to May 31st</td>
<td>Perseus</td>
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<td>Orion</td>
<td>Rigel</td>
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<td>June 8th to June 16th</td>
<td>The Charioteer</td>
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<td>Orion</td>
<td>Betelgeuse</td>
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<td>June 28th to July 7th</td>
<td>The Dogs</td>
<td>Sirius</td>
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<td>The Ship of the Argonauts</td>
<td>Canopus</td>
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<td>July 18th to July 25th</td>
<td>The Dogs</td>
<td>Procyn</td>
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<td>July 26th to August 7th</td>
<td>The Dragon</td>
<td>Gianfar</td>
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<td>August 8th to August 15th</td>
<td>The Crown of the North Wind</td>
<td>Dubhe and Merak</td>
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<td>The Sea Serpent</td>
<td>Alphard</td>
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<td>August 24th to September 10th</td>
<td>The Crown of the North Wind</td>
<td>Phekda, Megrez, Alioth and Mizar</td>
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<td>The Cup</td>
<td>Alkes</td>
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<td>The Raven</td>
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<td>The Bear Keeper</td>
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<td>Unuk Elhaia</td>
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<td>The Crown of the North Wind</td>
<td>Toliman (Alpha Centauri)</td>
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<td>Ophiuchus</td>
<td>Han, Sabik and Ras Alhague</td>
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<td>December 17th to December 23rd</td>
<td>The Dragon</td>
<td>Grumium and Etanin</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 24th to December 28th</td>
<td>The Serpent</td>
<td>Alya</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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