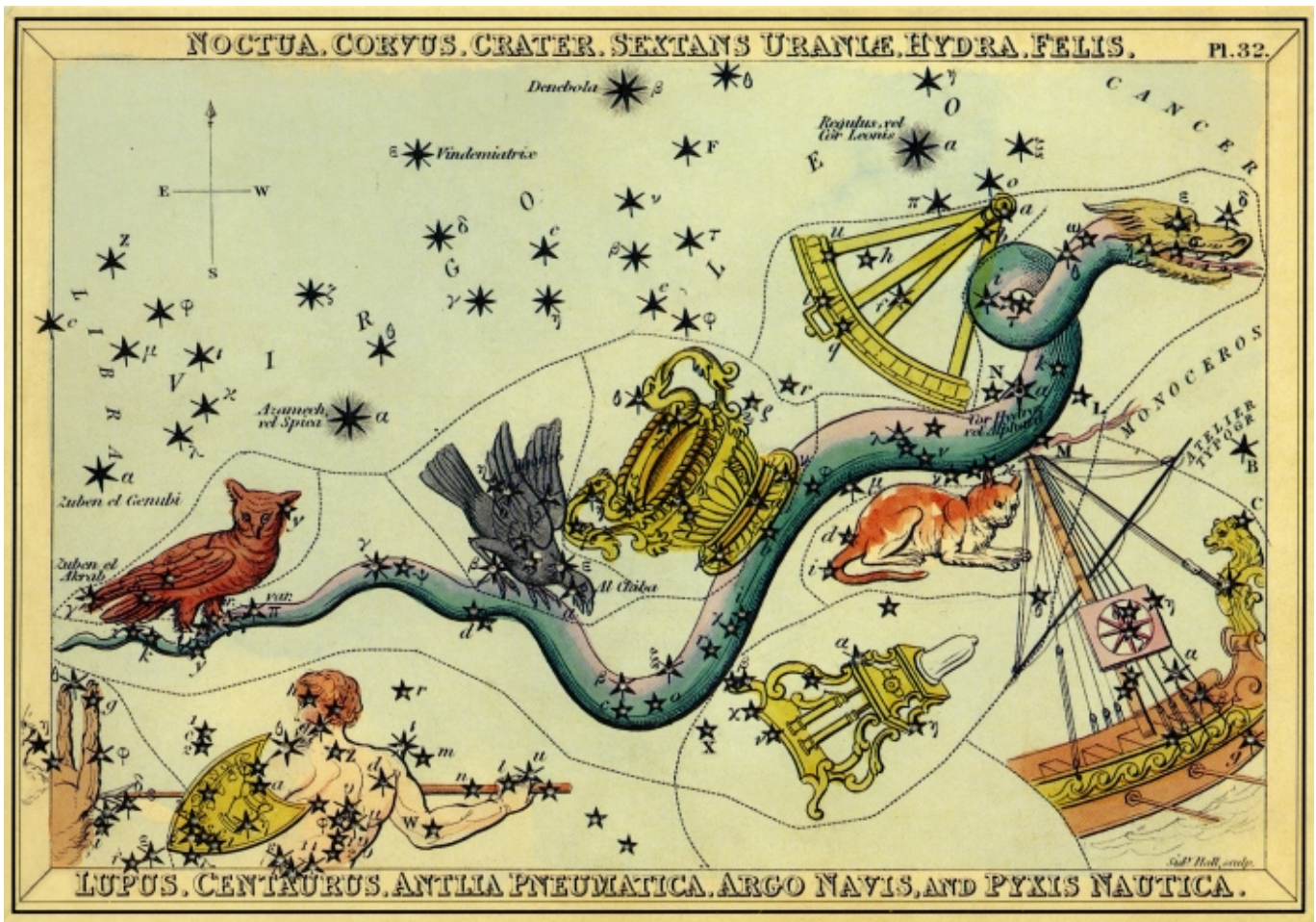




The Sea Serpent

Hydra



August 16th to August 23rd

from

The Lost Zodiac

by Catherine Tennant

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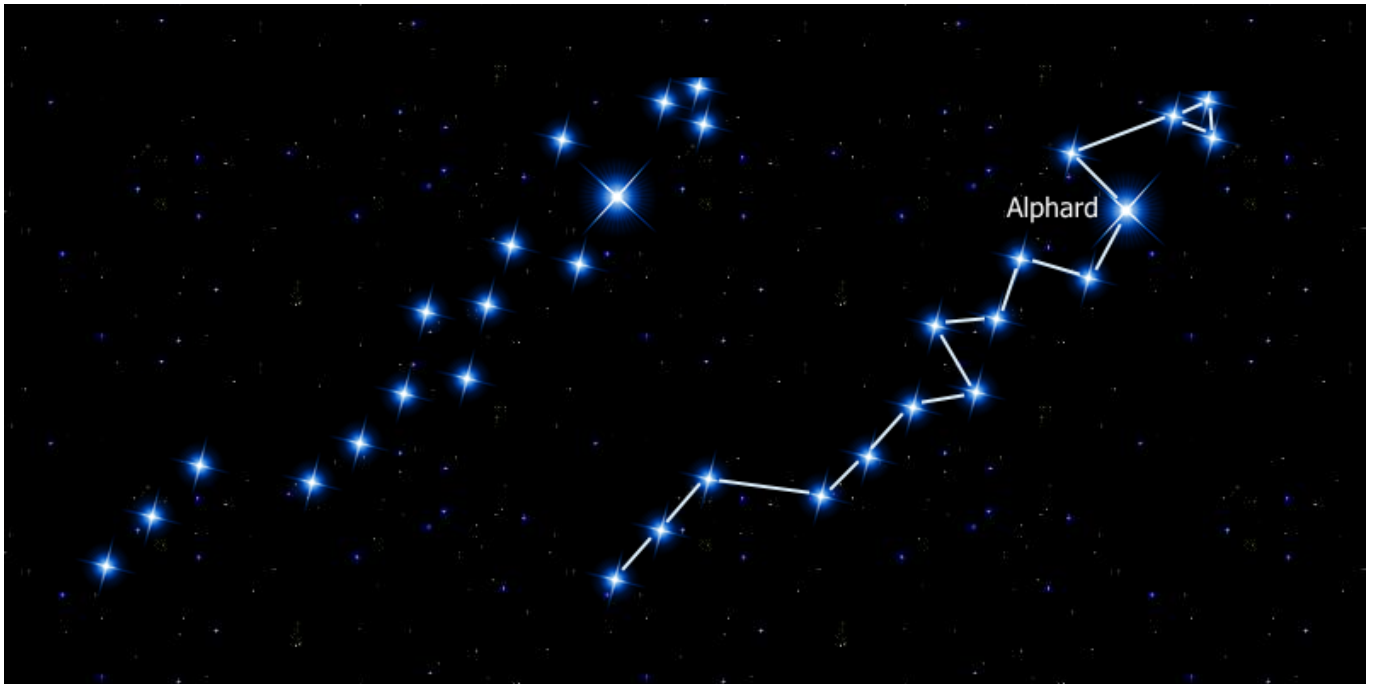


Your Guiding Stars

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.

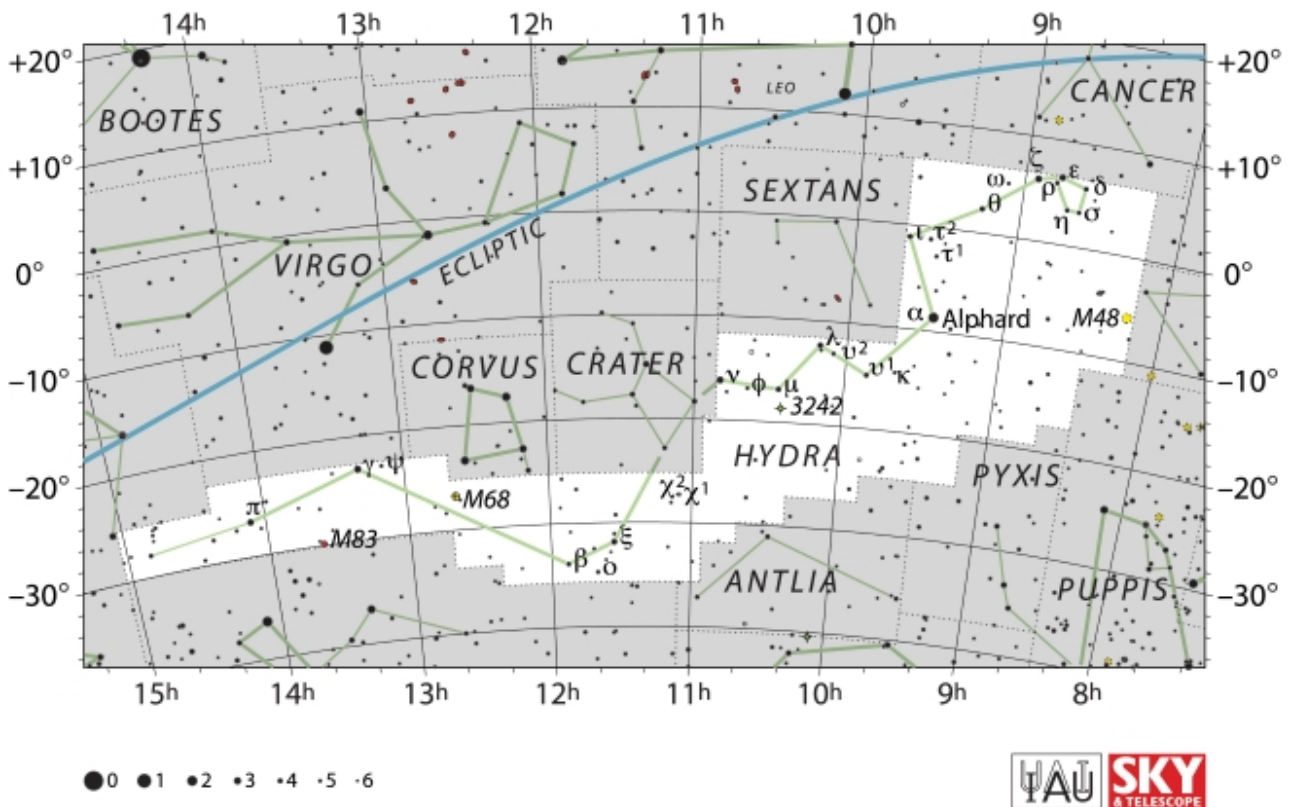
To find your ancient star-sign glittering above you in the heavens, and identify your personal guiding star, is to re-enter a lost and timeless world.



August 16th to August 23rd

If you were born between these dates, your guiding star is **Alphard**, The Solitary One. This orange star, which marks the heart of the **Hydra**, or Sea Serpent, the largest constellation in the sky, was believed by early astrologers to bestow a love of art and music, strong passions and some wisdom, especially about human nature. The Sea Serpent, whose winding course once symbolised the path of the moon, was seen in Babylon as 'the source of the fountains of the deep'.

Precious stone : Lapis Lazuli Plant : Sea Holly



Hydra, the Sea Serpent, stretches all the way from Cancer to Libra, south of the zodiac band

Follow the line of Orion's feet to Alphard, the Solitary One which marks the Hydra's heart. Alphard, which is best seen in February or March, to the east of Orion and his dogs, was known in China as the 'Red Bird' which rules the planets, and was worshipped at midsummer.

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.



Your Personal Myth - the Legends of your Star Sign



Symbol of the Ancient Goddess

Long before Babylon was built, about 4,000 years ago, the goddess, Nammu, was worshipped in the 'fertile crescent' of Sumeria, where civilisation first began, between the river Tigris and the broad Euphrates. Nammu, the Great Mother, personified the primordial ocean from which all life emerged, and the sea serpent was her symbol.

The Goddess Dethroned

By Babylonian times, however, the sun-gods had replaced the ancient mother goddess, whom they called Tiamat, the she-dragon of chaos and the salty ocean. By then she had come to be seen as evil and a force that needed to be slain and overcome by solar gods and heroes.

The Babylonian creation myth, the Enuma Elish, describes how she met her end at the hands of her great-great-great grandson, Marduk, who is the prototype for all the dragon-slayers, like St. Michael and St. George, who followed after. This story, in which the feminine principle, which had once been viewed as the benign source of life, is seen as destructive, demonic and chaotic, and something to be feared and overcome, formed the basis for the great patriarchal religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

In the Christian world, Leviathan, the terrifying monster of the deep with which Jehovah struggles in the Bible, is probably the best known of the great sea serpents.

The Plumed Serpent of the Mayans

Not all serpents were viewed as evil everywhere, however. For the Aztecs and the Mayans, for example, Quetzalcoatl, the Plumed Serpent, was the creator god who gave breath and brought rain. Later, the serpent god was seen as an ancient and benevolent king, who had come to teach agriculture, religion, art, crafts and weaving to the people. It was thanks to their belief that Quetzalcoatl had departed eastwards across the ocean on a raft of serpents, but would one day return, like King Arthur, that the Aztecs surrendered to Cortes and the Spaniards when they came.

The Rainbow Snake

In west Africa, the serpent is also a positive being. There, it is the Rainbow Snake, or divine python, that supports the weight of the whole world, around which it lies with its tail in its mouth. If it loosened its coils, the world would fall apart, but, except for an occasional wriggle, which is the cause of earthquakes, it lies mercifully still.

The River of Time

The same idea of a great cosmic serpent, encircling the earth with its tail in its mouth is also found in ancient Greece and in Scandinavia. In Greece, this mighty serpent-river is Oceanus, the serpentine River of Time, which girdled the earth, just as the zodiac girdled the sky. The Ourobouros, a round serpent with its tail in its mouth, is still a symbol of the cycle of time, life, death and rebirth. Midgard, the middle-earth of the Norse world, was also surrounded by one, known as the Serpent of Midgard. There, however, the sea serpent, with which Thor, the thunder-god, did battle, is seen as a destructive force, perhaps because the Viking universe is war-like and male.

Last but not least of the great sea serpents are those which still continue to haunt man's imagination - if not the world itself. The Loch Ness monster is probably the most famous of the mysterious sea serpents, which have been 'sighted' the world over. It is, however, not the largest, or the fiercest of these strange beings, which, by all accounts, can measure up to 600 feet in length and snatch men from the decks of boats. Whether they exist may not, of course, ever be discovered, but the descriptions are detailed and varied: 'The head in all kinds has a high and broad forehead, but in some a pointed snout, though in others that is flat like that of a cow or horse, with large nostrils, and several stiff hairs standing out on each side like whiskers', wrote a Norwegian bishop in the mid eighteenth century. He continues: 'The eyes of this creature are very large, and of a blue colour, like a couple of bright pewter plates. It is speckled and variegated with light streaks and spots that shine like a tortoiseshell.' And they appear, it would seem, only when the sea is calm, during the warm 'Dog Days', which stretch from mid-July to early August.



The Star Sign

As water is the element of feeling and emotion in astrology, those born beneath the stars of the sea serpent, whose winding course once symbolised the pathway of the wandering moon which rules the tides, are more at home in the watery realm of feeling than any other sign, except, perhaps, the Zodiac sign of Pisces.

This does not mean that they are always calm, however. This is the sign of the sea, and the range of their emotions is as wide and fast-moving as the ocean, which can be as smooth as a sheet of glass, and then, without warning can turn stormy and start crashing on the shore. But the storm usually passes of its own accord, and, even though they may be volatile, not far beneath the surface they are not really that disturbed, as they have a natural and instinctive faith in life and in the future, and are not afraid of change or the unknown.

It is in solitude that those born under the influence of Alphrad, the Solitary One, often find it easier to tune into these deeper waters, which are not disturbed by passing storms. They live a great deal through their senses, and the sounds and colours which surround them are so real and so vivid to them that they can happily spend days on end enjoying the pleasures of the moment on their own.

But they have no wish to isolate themselves unless they feel rejected. They are tactile, sensuous and erotic, and they need human contact to feel good about themselves; at the same time it can be hard for them to understand other people's boundaries and inhibitions, as they have so few themselves.

To live in this world, however, some boundaries are essential - a fact which those born under the Sea Serpent, which personifies the boundless ocean, need to come to terms with if they are to find contentment and relate successfully to others. Until they manage to develop a more separate sense of self, they can be too open, trusting the wrong people, which means that they get hurt - and, when they are, they quickly vanish back into their private inner world. This is the ocean of the senses and emotions where there are no manmade boundaries to confuse them, and so they feel at home.

As time goes by, however, they learn to be more cautious, and so they are less vulnerable and more balanced in their dealings with the world. And because they have been subject to such a wide range of moods, they become subtle and sophisticated when dealing with emotions of all kinds.

This is also when they can begin to tap the source of their creative powers - for which the ocean is a symbol - instead of merely plunging deep beneath the waves to hide. For the Sea Serpent, which, in ancient Babylon, was believed to be 'the source of the fountains of the Great Deep', is one of the most creative of all signs once the waters start to flow. They then excel at anything which makes use of their well-developed eye - and ear - for beauty, as well as of their sense of humour and their natural ability to enjoy life to the full. They do have a tendency, however, to indulge their senses, and their love of pleasure, luxury and comfort can sometimes go well into the realm of excess, as can their self-pity. But their generosity of spirit, and the fact that they are, mostly, such fun to be with, more than makes up for their failings. Above all, they are tolerant and warm hearted and they expect the same from others in return, as life according to their way of thinking, is too precious, and too short, to waste on being disapproving or unkind.

Born under The Sea Serpent

Aubrey Beardsley, Ted Hughes, Claude Debussy, Coco Chanel, Max Beerbohm, Dorothy Parker, Cartier Bresson, V.S. Naipaul, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Jack Teagarden, George Melly, Madonna, Mae West, Robert de Niro, Robert Redford.



The Sea Serpent and the Traditional Zodiac

The Sea Serpent and Leo

August 16th to August 23rd

These Leos are more fun loving and emotional - and less autocratic - than those born under the Great Bear or the Dragon. They are also more concerned with comfort and material possessions.



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 Sea Serpent with the Dolphin

These two sea-creatures are both sensual and artistic. They can have lots of fun together and empathise with one another, but their shared dislike of limitations and routine can mean that they play too hard and achieve too little.

The Sea Serpent with Crown of the North Wind

The natural spontaneity of those born under the sea serpent, and their ability to live life simply in the moment, make them the ideal companions for the complex and sophisticated Crown, who needs simplicity, and enjoys their easygoing company.

The Sea Serpent with Andromeda

While those born under Andromeda tend to be too hidebound by conventions, especially when young, the Sea Serpent hardly seems to notice such conventions, which can be liberating for the chained princess. In return, Andromeda can teach them how to understand what the world expects of them, which makes life easier for them.

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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