



Beyond the Brain

THE POWER OF INTUITION IN ASTROLOGY

by Nina Bentzon-Ehlers



Most people have had experiences with intuition. Not thoughts, but a valuable flow of information spontaneously presenting itself out of the blue. In the form of knowledge, images, energetic or bodily sensations. We also use other terms like inspiration, inner knowing, gut feeling, being in flow, having a hunch and more.

A powerful intuition is akin to an advanced GPS-system that elevates life to a higher level to the benefit of ourselves and the totality we move in. It is enlightening, often fun and full of surprises, a kind of everyday magic.

But do we know what we are talking about – and are there different kinds of intuition? Can astrology shed some light?

As students of astrology, we are aware that a profound understanding of a chart in its totality, with all of its moving parts, is founded on intuition. The mind in itself cannot grasp the complex interaction within the multi-layered inner world of an individual. Interpreting these cosmic modes requires the feel of a musician or the inspiration of a soccer player doing a brilliant run while reading the field.

My own interest in intuition was prompted first by a spiritual opening unexpectedly resulting in the healing of a long time infertility, as described in my book *Meet Your Soul*.¹ The effects were spectacular – from no children over a period of six years to the birth of three boys in only two years. The last birth was a set of twin sons born on my birthday, adding two more Aquarians to the 17 (!) already in the family.

But it was the occurrence of a simple discovery that later deepened my interest and kick started a more thorough investigation into intuition. One day I was engaged on

the phone in a truly inspiring conversation. During this conversation, I noticed my left hand moving about in the air, gesticulating forcefully. Surprised, I looked at the moving hand... being normally 100% right handed. In that moment, I scanned my body and registered other changes like breathing equally through both nostrils, a particularly open sensation in my throat and being able to feel all of my body in full. My voice had a fullness to it and the words came out in a pleasant vibration and flow. My entire body was filled with vibrant energy as if it were – *awake*. This observation hit like a lightning bolt. It seems that under specific circumstances we can shift or transcend to a new level of awareness and connect with something higher or larger. A shift that has **physical effects** on the body. It is not just a subjective “feeling”.

I started a research project doing interviews with a long line of professional freelance creative people – and also people employed in industries such as nursing or finance, where creativity does not serve the cause. My findings validated my original observation in full.²

Some had experiences like mine but the physical effects presented themselves in a wide range such as goosebumps, tingling or buzzing sensations, energy waves on different parts of the body, the need to look upwards in a specific direction, a change in vocals and almost always an experience of *light*, in the form of powerful clarity, a feeling of elation, enhanced vitality and lightness of body. The intuitive state of awareness is *real* and differs from our day-to-day consciousness, mentally, emotionally and physically. *Intuition* means “tuition from within”.

Intuition can be defined as meaningful information of a higher order spontaneously inflowing without the use of cognitive thought. This can come in the form of knowledge, images, music/sounds, energetic or bodily sensations. Often this occurs so quickly that it never registers in one’s awareness – you hear the words as they leave your mouth or observe the painting as it manifests through the brush in your hand.

Through astrology, we can observe a number of different kinds of intuition:

Psychological Intuition

This is the ability to perceive basic human emotions and motives connected to survival;

the struggle for energy and resources, and the fear of lacking or losing them. This form of intuition is signaled by the intense and uncompromising desire for sex, food, money, power and recognition, or even mere attention. It is connected with **the sign of Taurus/Scorpio, planet Pluto and the Eighth House**. If this power is enhanced, an individual can tap into collective trends of the masses.

A frightening example of an expert in this field was top Nazi **Joseph Goebbels**, whose effective apparatus of propaganda is said to have been the determining factor in the spread of national socialism through precisely tapping into the collective feeling of humiliation in the German people after their defeat in WWI. Goebbels had Sun and stellium in Scorpio in the 11th house and Pluto sextile his Leo Ascendant. **Hitler** himself was a Taurean Sun with Pluto conjunct Neptune in the 8th sextile his MC in Leo. When I saw Hitler’s chart for the first time, it was not the buzzing chart of a world leader that I expected, but a chart with the dominant theme of *lack*. There are few planetary aspects and a Capricorn Moon with its shadow side representing a sense of restriction, of having too little and often a resentful envy of others who appear to have enough, leading to rigid judgment and bias—a chart of scarcity and disconnect. On reflection, it makes sense that, “If God is Life itself” and the “Giver of Life,” then the opposite would be “lack of life” and the active principle the “taker of life.”

It is a somewhat spectacular fact that the three warlords of the next World War, generals **Patton, Rommel and Montgomery**, were all born with the Sun in Scorpio on the 11th, 15th and 17th of November. They lead millions of young men into the hell of war. A

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recent biography describes through personal letters and other sources how they were intensely preoccupied – not with the young men dying or injured under their command, but with *each other* and winning their inter-personal competition.³

In the mixed department, we find Christian reformer **Martin Luther**, whose demeaning views on women and sexuality had destructive effects for hundreds of years. His mission of reform was prompted

by the corrupt practice of the papal church in receiving money for letters of absolution, and he worked to give back to the individual the power of the relationship with the Divine, and to remove that power from the interfering hands of clergymen and rulers.

Luckily this power also can be manifested in a light, wonderful, and transformative way, such as found in the works of Scorpio writers **Michael Ende** and the amazing work of Danish **Lars Muhl**, author of *The O*

Manuscript describing the mystery of Mary Magdalene. Scorpio, **Astrid Lindgren**, creator of **Pippi Longstocking** worked as a letter censor in Stockholm during the second world war. Everyday she read the despairing correspondence of young soldiers and their families. She has explained that she created the children's book character, **Pippi**, as a direct response to the madness of the grandeur of Hitler. What if the strongest person in the world were a small girl?

Psychological intuition will often be directed at the area of traditional psychology as formulated first by **Sigmund Freud**. Freud's chart displays a Taurus Sun and stellium in the 7th house. Pluto on the Descendant shows an intense interest in underlying emotional drives of "the others" – 7th and 8th houses being classical houses of psychology. To top it off, Freud had a Scorpio Ascendant. The chart of **C. G. Jung** places his Sun on the 7th house/Descendant, Moon-Pluto conjunction in Taurus, as well as Jupiter in the 8th house. The area of the astrological chart under investigation will often be that of the Moon. This is part of our inner child with subconscious and habitual early behavioral patterns, and with ingrained strategies for survival. The psychological intuition is connected with the survival of the body and the element of Earth.

Creative Intuition

This type of intuition is connected to the **element of Fire** and its corresponding signs, Aries, Leo, Sagittarius, and bodies, Mars, Sun and Jupiter, as well as the First, Fifth and Ninth houses.

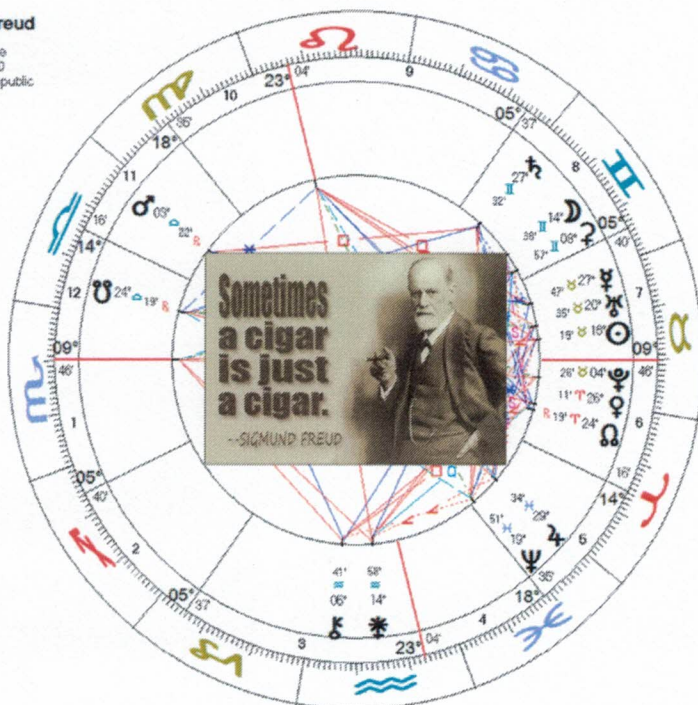
Creative intuition is spontaneous and dramatic, and often is visual and artistic with an emphasis on action, adventure, risk taking and transgressing limitations. The fire signs need to experience their *sense of identity* through creative self-expression.

Artists like **Lady Gaga**, **Elton John** and **Eddie Murphy** beautifully demonstrate the fiery energy and colorful creative powers of the Sun in Aries. I can personally vouch for the absence of forethought in the young male ram in particular ☺. When a typical Aries needs to pass through a door, his last resort is reaching for the handle.

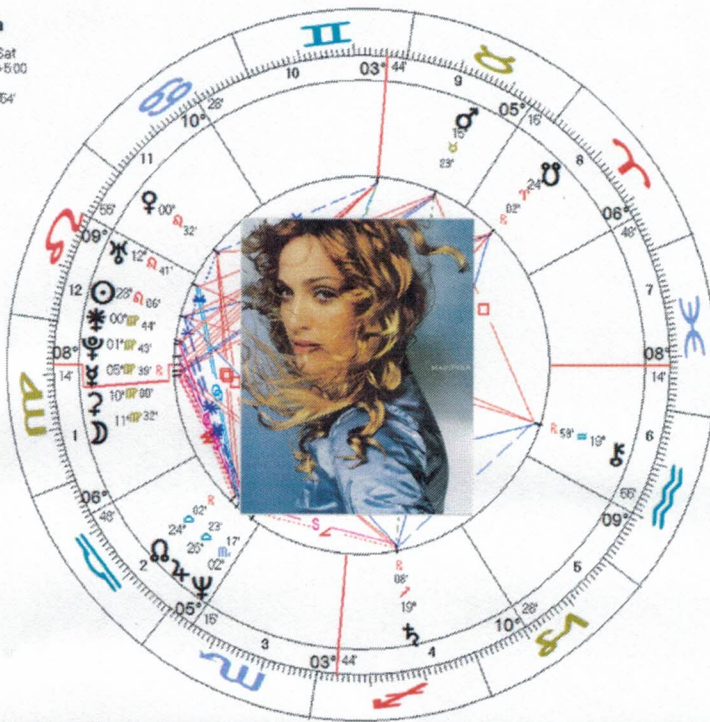
Sun sign Leos, **Madonna** and **Whitney Houston**, demonstrate the greatness and the challenges of the creative powers of this sign. The birth chart of Whitney Houston displays a grand Fire trine between a Venus-Sun conjunction, Moon-Jupiter conjunction in Aries and Sagittarius rising. Perhaps a fire that proved to be too difficult for her to handle as her life ended tragically. One of the best known songs of Madonna is titled "Express Yourself".

One of the artists that participated in my research interviews is also a Leo with

Sigmund Freud
Natal Chart
May 6 1856 NS, Tue
6:30 pm CET -1:00
Prattbor, Czech Republic
49°N39' 018°E 10'
Geocentric
Tropical
Koch
True Node



Madonna
Natal Chart
Aug 16 1958 Sat
7:05 am EST +5:00
Bay City, MI
43°N30' 083°W54'
Geocentric
Tropical
Koch
True Node



INTUITION IN ASTROLOGY

Aries Moon – a successful flower creator who describes his creative process as being initiated by roaring sounds in his inner ear and later, as manifesting as images of his future creations saturated with intense ambiance and colors—much like the lion Aslan creating all of Narnia through his roar.

Sagittarians **Jane Fonda, Winston Churchill, Steven Spielberg** and **Walt Disney** need no further introduction and fully demonstrate the battle-ready, fearless visionary and visual gifts of this sign.

Creative intuition is connected with the Fire element – creativity through *vision and action*.

Clairvoyant/healing/musical Intuition.

Clairvoyance, musicality and gifts of healing are often reflected by the sign of **Pisces, Neptune and the 12th house**; the spiritual medium or channel, healer, musician, photographer, mystic and dreamer. This type of intuitive often has experiences through images and sensations, and has the ability to *feel* the energy of another person or animal. They can contact spirit guides, deceased loved ones, angels and highly intelligent non-physical entities.

Among the famous “seers” are **Edgar Cayce** and **Rudolf Steiner**, both Pisces born. In a state of deep trance, Edgar Cayce was able to “remote scan” a personality, determine life purpose and diagnose physical weaknesses of an individual and suggest directions for healing. His chart displays a stellium in Pisces and a Neptune-Moon conjunction in Taurus. He had no recollection of his sessions and sometimes struggled with his Christian beliefs in reading them afterwards.

Steiner’s great contribution within the field of education and child-rearing lies in his forceful emphasis on the right of a child to innocently *experience* the magical wonder of life, all the way through childhood with an aim toward the natural emergence of the intellect and powers of discrimination around the age of nine. Steiner’s educational methodology included the understanding of the importance of music for the harmonious development of the personality. Later research has shown that music enhances powers of teamwork – and wires the brain for math. The Pisces-Virgo axis is reflected in the Steiner’s chart with a Virgo Moon opposing his Sun. At the core of Steiner’s work is the profound understanding that the personality and gifts of a child are *innate*. His work emphasizes that these gifts must be brought out through the nurturing care and interest of adults, acting much like a human gardener. There is no ‘Tabula Rasa’. This was a totally new concept in the often violent world of the 19th century and prior centuries. In Denmark – an enlightened country

compared to most – the right to beat a child was only banned in 1997.

American Pisces **Esther Hicks**, quite rightly, has become world famous as a channel for the highly intelligent entity “Abraham”.

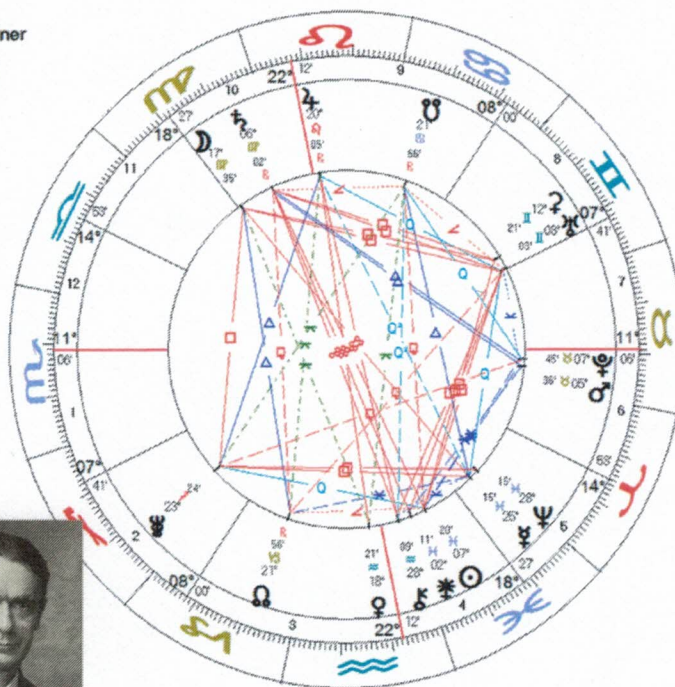
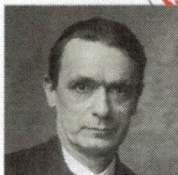
Pisces **Albert Einstein** often spoke of his intuitive insights, love of music and religious life view; painter **Renoir** demonstrated poetically the dreamy beauty of the sign and so did composer **Chopin**.

The clairvoyant/musical intuition is connected with the perception of energy in multiple dimensions and the element of water.

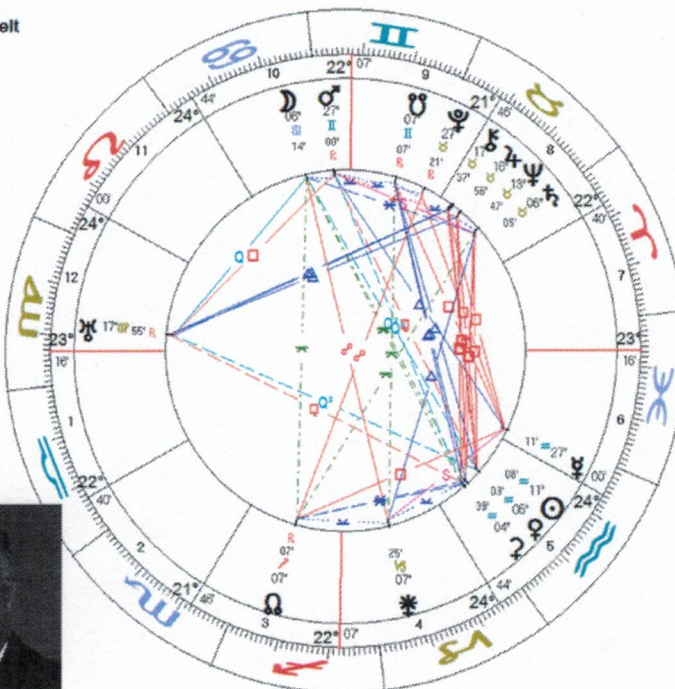
Higher Mental Intuition

This form of intuition is often connected to **Aquarius, Uranus and the Eleventh House**. This archetype in particular can send up an antenna to the higher realms and bring down innovative ideas and advanced, progressive

Rudolf Steiner
Natal Chart
Feb 26 1861 NS, Mon
11 15pm LMT -058
Kraljeva, Hungary
48°N 16° 01'E 34"
Geocentric:
Tropical
Koch
True Node



Franklin Roosevelt
Natal Chart
Jan 30 1882 NS, Mon
8 45pm LMT -4:05:44
Hyde Park, NY
41°N 47°06' 078°W 55°01"
Geocentric:
Tropical
Koch
True Node



knowledge for the future. Here we find the brilliant inventor and scientist, the political and social activist/reformer, the inspiring teacher and wise advisor.

At the highest levels we find the incorruptible individual who speaks unselfishly with the voice of Truth for the enlightenment and liberation of mankind. The sign of Aquarius is connected with the myth of the Titan, Prometheus, who discovered that humans lived in misery, crouching in darkness without the light and warmth of fire (in other versions of the story, knowledge of fire was removed from humanity by Zeus). Prometheus, felt compassion and stole fire from the Gods to give to the human race. Prometheus paid a terrible price of punishment from Zeus until liberated by Hercules, who can be viewed as a symbol of the awakened disciple on the Path of enlightenment.

Many Aquarian emphasized individuals served as social liberators in the course of history.

Abraham Lincoln liberated the country from the onus of slavery, displaying a larger than life courage in combination with refined practical and psychological cleverness.⁵ Further examples of Aquarian leadership are Franklin D. Roosevelt, who together with Churchill liberated the world from Hitler. Boris Yeltsin courageously flaunted the powers that be on a military tank in Moscow and following Gorbachev's steps to dissolve the Soviet Union, cooperated with another Aquarian, Ronald Reagan. Together their policies helped in bringing down the Berlin wall and in reducing nuclear weapons around 1989. With the genius and idiocy of the sign, we find in Mozart – watch the movie *Amadeus* on this genius-fool who loved farting jokes. The list goes on with Darwin, Dickens, Francis Bacon, Edison (lights on!) and in present day, Oprah Winfrey, Eckhart Tolle and Alicia Keys.

In the context of modern astrology, Uranus rules Aquarius, yet in a branch of astrology called Esoteric astrology (initiated by Alice Bailey), Uranus is a ruler of Libra. This becomes relevant for the more evolved individual. We find here **Gandhi** with Uranus on his MC, Libra poet **Rumi** and First Lady **Eleanor Roosevelt**, chairwoman of the UN Commission drafting the Human Rights Declaration in 1948.⁶ Gandhi

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wrote in his autobiography that everything he did was solely his "experiments with truth". An outstanding pioneer of astrology is Aquarian **Evangeline Adams**. The art of astrology itself, the language of energy, is commonly said to be associated with the sign, Aquarius, and its modern ruler Uranus.

The most powerful version of this higher mental intuition, in my experience, is in a combination of Aquarius/Uranus and Pisces/Neptune. Using an example, the founder of soul centered astrology, Alan Oken, displays Uranus conjunct Moon sextile Sun and trine Neptune in his chart.

How do we access the intuitive level?

This question is the topic of countless spiritual and religious works.⁷ Generally, it is agreed that transcendence or the shift to intuitive states is founded on a specific **intention**, and specifically the intention and profound wish to serve and create to the good of other living beings. As well as doing what you love and surrounding yourself with positive, supporting people. Also therapeutic work and a spiritual practice such as meditation and prayer. And living "at ease" with yourself (your true or essential nature) and value system, thus avoiding dis-ease.

Individually, **the placement of the Sun**, interacting with the rest of the chart, is central in showing our creative potential – the Divine spark of life. Your particular brand of intuition is displayed in the signs and planets.

What may constitute some of our intuition blocks? Generally speaking – *doubt, scepticism and fear*.

At the individual level, we must look at the placement of the Moon, as it displays our subconscious defense mechanisms and basic emotions founded in childhood. The Moon comes with creative gifts of its own but on an emotional level, it can hinder higher intuitive faculties.

The Moon reflects our inner child, who attaches itself to *what is familiar*. In the attempt to have love and nurturing, it doesn't matter if it is good or bad, as long as it is familiar. One cannot overemphasize the Moon's need for security. It can at times be obsessive. While the need for security is part of survival, and attachments serve their developmental purpose, it is important to learn to identify our automatic subconscious programming and transcend it, so we may access higher levels of realization.

Shedding detailed light on the Moon to render the subjective objective and the subconscious conscious is what I would perceive as one of the most useful aspects of astrology. As astrologers, we can be human gardeners, cultivating the Divine Spark in every being, helping lift up all into the air, away from the snake of fear, the Hydra. By doing so we empower the individual to transcend limitation and to access the higher levels of intuition.

Harvard neurosurgeon Eben Alexander, puts it beautifully, reflecting on his near death experience in *Proof of Heaven*: "True thought is not the brain's affair... True thought is pre-physical. This is the thinking-behind-the-thinking responsible for all the genuinely consequential choices we make in the world. A thinking that is not dependent on linear deduction, but that moves fast as lightning, making connections on different levels, bringing them together. In the face of this free, inner intelligence, our ordinary thought is hopelessly slow and fumbling... Our truest, deepest self is completely free. This is the true spiritual self that all of us are destined someday to recover. But until that day comes, I feel, we should do everything in our power to get in touch with this miraculous aspect of ourselves – to cultivate it and bring it to light."⁸

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NOTES:

1. All Astrological data from Astrodiens: https://www.astro.com/astro-databank/Main_Page
2. *Meet your Soul*, by Nina Bentzon-Ehlers. Currently only Danish version titled *Kend din sjæl* - <http://ninabentzon.dk/kend-din-sjael/Laes>. English version in production.
3. Join our research project! We would be delighted to hear your experiences with intuition. Please fill out questionnaire here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/6hq1r5zwfsmk237/Questions%20on%20Intuition%20.pdf?dl=0>
4. *War Lords*, by Terry Brighton.
5. *The O Manuscript and Law of the Light – the Aramaic Mysteries*, by Lars Muhl, voted among the Top 100 of the world's most spiritually influential persons 2013 on the Watkins list. *Momo and The Neverending Story*, by Michael Ende. *Astrid Lindgren – en livsskildring*, by Margareta Stroemstedt.
6. See a true Aquarian in action – watch the movie *Lincoln*. The US Northern troops so loved this man that they sometimes recited his speeches back to him. The actor playing the role of Lincoln, Daniel Day-Lewis, later stated that he "intensely missed" being an expression of this elevated man after shooting the film. For more inspiration, move on to Sagittarius glory in *Darkest Hour* about Churchill.
7. Second chair was a Danish woman, Bodil Begtrup. The achievements of these women came to my attention only due to the fact that one of them was my grandmother's best friend... not the educational system. The rest of the draft team consisted of a Lebanese muslim poet, the head of the French Resistance and a Chinese professor. From biography *A World Made New*, by Mary Ann Glendon.
8. Go to *Nina's Book Shelf* www.ninabentzon.dk.
9. Quote from *Proof of Heaven*, p. 84, by Eben Alexander, Simon & Schuster. Meet him on Gaia.com.

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