

# THE BIG FOUR ASTEROIDS: Ceres, Pallas, Juno & Vesta

IASTERX

## An Information Special from Astro Communications Services, Inc.

by Maritha Pottenger

For more detailed information, positions, example delineations, mythology and astronomical background, please see *The Asteroid Ephemeris* by Zipporah Dobyns with Rique Pottenger and Neil Michelsen, or *The Asteroid Goddesses* by Demetra George.

Ceres ♃: Mythologically, she was Demeter, the Earth Mother. Goddess of green growing things, she was devoted to her daughter Persephone. One day, Persephone was stolen away by Pluto and imprisoned in the underworld. Ceres went into mourning and neglected her duties. Earth began to die. Zeus had to intervene. Since Persephone had eaten six pomegranate seeds while in the underworld, Zeus decreed that she must spend six months a year underground (during which Ceres mourns and we have Fall and Winter) and six months above ground (at which point Ceres rejoices and we have Spring and Summer).

Astrologically, we are assigning a mixture of Virgo and Cancer to Ceres. She does relate to the ethic of the craftsman: doing something well for its own sake. She seems to symbolize the personal, fertile side of Virgo, involved with gardening, growing things, the Earth and fertility. She also operates as another key to the mother or mother figure (along with the Moon) as well as the individual's own capacity to mother others. The sense is someone who does a good job for the sake of the people involved. An integration of home and family needs with work needs when positively expressed.

Vesta ♀: The vestal virgins dedicated their lives to the temple, where they kept a hearth fire burning continually. Any household could come to the temple of Vesta (Hestia) and get a torch to replenish their hearth at home, if it had gone out. The vestal virgins did not have committed relationships with men, nor did they have children while serving the temple. After their term of service, they could—and did—marry and have children.

Vesta seems to operate as a super Virgo: single-mindedly focusing on the work—the job for its own sake. There is often tunnel vision. The total dedication can lead to great success in the world, but sometimes the price is alienation from personal relationships. When found in personal areas of the chart (Letters 4, 5, 7, & 8), Vesta indicates the need for extra care and balance lest one set the work and career in opposition to the personal home, family and love life. A sense of almost spiritual dedication to work (♃) or obsessive-compulsive (♁) overtones to the basic ♀ theme.

Pallas ♃: Pallas Athena was the goddess of wisdom, who sprang from Zeus' forehead, fully clothed with armor and shield. She was a warrior goddess, noted for choosing the winning (or "righteous") side. Her relationships with men were on her own terms. She taught weaving and other arts to mortals.

Pallas seems to represent the fighting side of Libra: the willingness to compete as well as cooperate. There may be subtle overtones of Aquarius or Sagittarius to symbolize the independent approach to relationships. Pallas is prominent often in therapists, counselors, business consultants and all kinds of people who relate to others on a more impersonal level, not a committed marriage or living together situation. She may also be a key to political action, fighting for social causes and the entire struggle for equality in the Women's Movement and other groups.

She is also associated with artistic talent (particularly visual and graphic arts) and may be a factor to watch in learning disabilities such as dyslexia.

Pallas denotes a strong desire to relate, but on an equal basis.

Juno ♃: or Hera was one of the few married goddesses on Mount Olympus. She is remembered largely in our male-biased myths for her jealousy and possessiveness (hence the suggestion of Scorpio overtones). She does seem to operate as an asteroid of marriage—a key to that relationship and to the kind of marriage partner(s) we tend to choose. Often prominent in synastry between two people romantically involved, especially when marriage has been the farthest from their minds in the past or seems unlikely due to major differences. She shares the Libran focus on beauty and enjoyment of the luxuries of life. Artistic talent is likely when she is prominent. She is more inclined to seek the legal bond of marriage, some kind of firm commitment. Libra with Scorpio overtones is suggested.

In general, Ceres and Vesta are more true to their own nature. Pallas and Juno (as would be expected with their Libran focus) are more chameleon-like. They may blend and adapt, depending on their context. Thus, Pallas in relationship-oriented houses and signs (5, 6, 7 & 8) may be very interested in marriage, home and family, and Juno in transpersonal arenas (9-12) may be quite freedom-oriented, political, into social causes, etc.

On the back of this information special is a table from *Asteroid Goddesses* by Demetra George, reprinted here with kind permission of the author. The table helps to distinguish between:

- (1) feminine functions;
- (2) woman's relationships;
- (3) stereotyped roles into which these feminine functions were locked;
- (4) alternative ways for women to express this feminine energy;
- (5) how men can develop and use the feminine more fully in their lives.

	<b>Ceres</b>	<b>Pallas Athene</b>	<b>Vesta</b>	<b>Juno</b>
<b>Feminine Function</b>	creating, supporting, sustaining physical progeny, physical nurturing—food	creating mental progeny, mental nurturing—visions	self-renewal & regeneration, inner union with self	relationship renewal & regeneration, outer union with other
<b>Woman's Relationship</b>	mother	daughter	sister	wife
<b>Woman's Stereotype</b>	"Mom" at home cooking in kitchen, cleaning the house, nursing the family, living for and through children	asexual comrade/friend, Amazon: "mannish," tomboy, professional career woman; <i>puella</i> : behind-the-scene supporter of a man's success, "Daddy's girl"	old maid/spinster/workaholic/fanatic priest/nun	wife as woman who gives economic responsibility and decision making to husband, 1:1 solo, monogamous, heterosexual relationship, husband as sole/major source of identity, fulfillment
<b>Alternate Modes of Expression for Women and Men</b>	teachers and educator of children, children's services, issues of pro-choice/pro-life, midwifery and humane childbirth, farming, gardening, food-related services, nutrition, health awareness, single parenting as a conscious choice, world hunger & relief organizations, death, dying, hospice work	development of talents, artistic creativity, intelligence, educational & career potential, political and social awareness, depolarizing male/female role typing, integrating love and creativity	commitment to a cause, idea, belief system (for women apart from and in addition to family responsibilities as wife and mother), spiritual/devotional paths, acknowledging value and active practice of periodic retreat from outer world, liberation from sexual inhibitions and complexes, work on "self"—health/fitness integration	dissolving illusion of ego separateness, "I don't need anyone else" attitude, advocate for women's rights in economic/political/educational/sports arenas, enlarged scope of intimate relationships, gay/lesbian, cutting through jealousy & attachments in relationships, creating new forms of relating
<b>Practice of the Magical life</b>	rituals for transformation & dying, women's blood mysteries—menstruation, menopause, menarche	creative visualization, ceremony and ritual, psychic development	creative visualization, ceremony and ritual, psychic development	<i>tantric</i> sexual practices
<b>Especially for Men in Order to Activate and Utilize Their Centers/Powers</b>	increased participation in childbirth/child rearing/child sharing, developing active role of nurturer (as opposed to nurturer), developing attitudes of compassion/acceptance/empathy, single father issues and responsibilities	development of imagination/creativity, integrating values of emotional concerns with worldly success, developing <b>holistic</b> understanding in education, health and all areas	learning to recognize that sexuality belongs only to oneself and no one else has rights of ownership over it, acknowledgments of "inner life," developing non-judgmental attitudes and morality concerning sexuality, development of sexual sensitivity and skill in pleasing partner	house husband, ability and willingness to adapt to changing women and rules of relationships, accepting idea of equality/work/values of women's input (apart from sex/food/physical comfort), development of sexual sensitivity and skill in pleasing partner