

Sect - Diurnal and Nocturnal

Hellenistic astrologers categorize charts according to their sect. A diurnal or day chart has the sun above the horizon (the ascendant-descendant axis), and a nocturnal or night chart has the sun below the horizon.

The planets are divided up into two groups, teams or parties, by sect.

The diurnal planets are, the Sun, Jupiter, and Saturn.

The nocturnal planets are, the Moon, Venus, and Mars.

Mercury is ambivalent, and is considered diurnal when it rises before the Sun, and nocturnal when it rises after the Sun.

Planets act in a more balanced, positive, comfortable and effective way when in a chart that agrees with their sect. Planets in a chart that differs from their sect are either less positive or more harmful; they are less at home or at ease, and are more likely to act in an unbalanced or unfavorable manner.

Benefic and Malefic

Benefic planets are thought to act in a harmonious, balanced, temperate way. They are typically life and growth promoting, and produce what we experience as good fortune.

Jupiter (diurnal) is the greater benefic, and Venus (nocturnal) is the lesser benefic.

Malefic planets are thought to act in a more extreme, harsh, unbalanced, intemperate way. They act in ways that threaten, inhibit, block or destroy life, and produce what we experience as bad fortune.

Saturn (diurnal) is the greater malefic, and Mars (nocturnal) the lesser malefic.

(Note: this has nothing to do with good or evil, or whether a not a native can derive something good from the effect of a malefic.

Also, the effect of a planet, whether positive or negative, has nothing to do with reward or punishment, or that a person deserved a particular event or brought it on themselves.)

Combining Sect and Benefic/Malefic

Once you know the sect of the chart, look to the Benefic that is of the chart's sect to be a likely source of the person's best fortune.

Look to the malefic that is out of the chart's sect to be a likely source of the native's worst ill fortune.

Benefics are more benefic when in sect. Malefics are more malefic when out of sect.