

Day and Night



**Adding Layers:
Planetary Sect**

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Photo from 7-
hours-in-one-shot
by Isil Karanfil

What is "Sect"

- Sect is term that refers to dividing the chart, signs and planets into two categories: Daytime (dirunal) or Nighttime (nocturnal)
- As the primary actors, the planets are key in determining how the issue of sect plays out in interpretation.

Hairesis (αἵρεσις)

- The term 'sect' is a translation of the Greek word hairesis (αἵρεσις), which has a variety of meanings outside of its astrological usage, such as the act of 'making a choice,' or 'a course of action,' but it was also often employed to refer to 'a school of thought,' or 'a philosophical or religious sect.'
- This term was often used to refer to a group, faction or division of people that adhere to a specific set of tenets or views. For example, in modern times Christians would represent a specific hairesis, while Muslims would represent a separate hairesis.

– Chris Brennan.

<http://horoscopicastronomyblog.com/2008/11/25/the-astrology-of-sect/>

Robert Hand

from *Night and Day-Planetary Sect in Astrology*

- I believe that the understanding of planetary sect may be the single most important area of interpretation to have been lost, or at least mislaid, between the Greeks and modern astrology.
- And it is fitting that it should resurface at this time when we are paying more attention to the feminine and the positive aspects of darkness and night, the realms of the Moon, for, the proper understanding of sect in astrology restores these to equality with the solar and diurnal aspect of astrology which has arguably been overemphasized in the period since astrology came from the Greeks to the Arabs and thence back to the Latin West.

Division and Unification

The word [sect] itself represents division (as in section), but also implies unification within that division through affiliation and common interest (as in a religious sect).

– <http://www.skyscript.co.uk/gl/sect.html>



Planetary Sect

DIURNAL PLANETS

- **SUN**
 - **JUPITER**
 - **SATURN**
-

- **Sun above the horizon emphasizes Jupiter and Saturn**

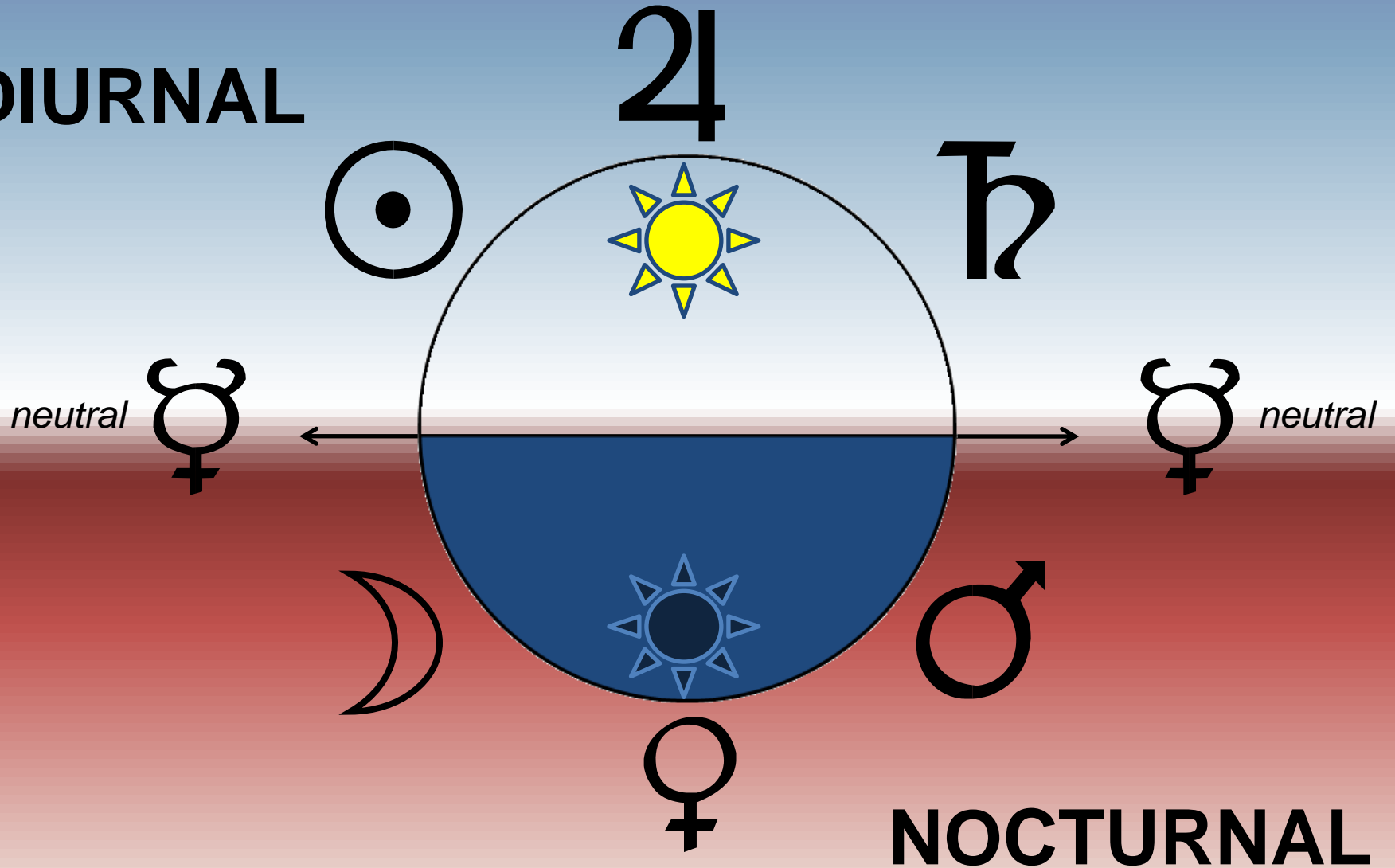
NOCTURNAL PLANETS

- **MOON**
 - **VENUS**
 - **MARS**
-

- **Sun below the horizon emphasizes the Moon, Venus and Mars**

Planetary Sect

DIURNAL

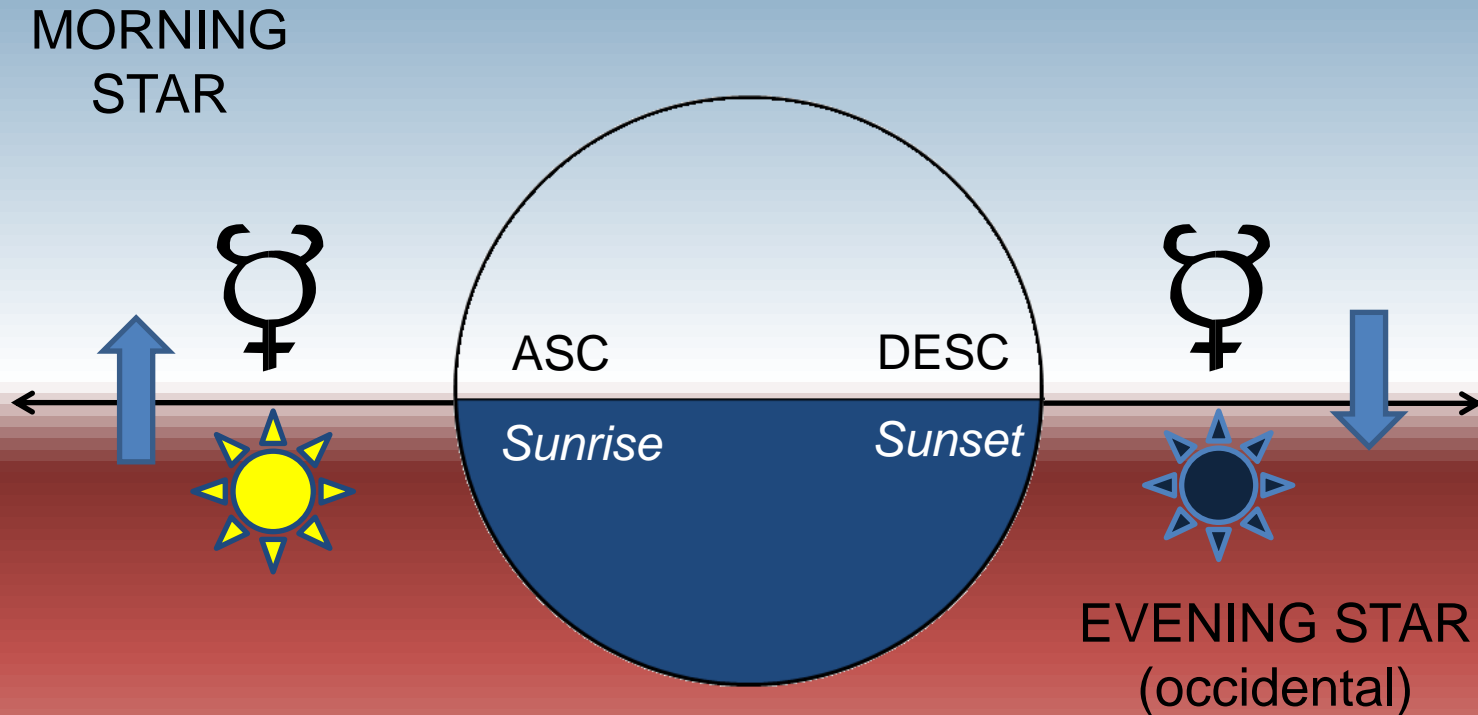


NOCTURNAL

The Sect of Mars & Saturn

- You might wonder then why Mars is nocturnal and Saturn diurnal. Mars and Saturn are malefics , and were placed in the sect opposite their intrinsic nature in an effort to moderate their effects.
- Hellenistic astrologers felt that the day would warm up Saturn's somewhat cold nature, while the night would go a long ways towards controlling Mars' fiery tendencies.
 - <http://www.azastrologers.org/Articles/Noblehorse1mportanceofDeterminingSect.pdf>

Mercury is considered neutral but...



- Mercury leans toward the diurnal sect when he is the morning star (oriental) and toward the nocturnal sect when he is the evening star (occidental)

How is Sect used in Interpretation?

- [A] planet's sect status alters the quality of that planet in the chart and the way that it acts as a benefic or malefic, for better or worse.
- The malefic planets, Mars and Saturn, tend to be particularly problematic when they are contrary to the sect in favor (i.e. Saturn in a night chart or Mars in a day chart).
- On the other hand the malefics can be quite benign and even beneficial or constructive when they are of the sect in favor (i.e. Saturn in a day chart or Mars in a night chart).

– Chris Brennan.

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Considerations

- To use sect, you need to evaluate three factors:
 1. First, where is the Sun? Was the person born during the day or at night. You also use the Sun's position to determine which is the diurnal/daytime half of the chart.
 2. Are the planets located in the half of the chart that matches their sect
 3. Are the planets located in a sign that matches their sect

(1) Sect of the Chart

- The Sun determines the overall sect of the chart.
 - Sun above the horizon (ascendant/ descendant line): This is a diurnal (daytime) chart.
 - Overall, the emphasis is on the Sun, Jupiter and Saturn
 - The **Diurnal** half of the chart is above the horizon
 - Sun below the horizon: nocturnal (nighttime) chart
 - Overall, the emphasis on the Moon, Venus and Mars
 - The **Diurnal** half of the chart is below the horizon

(2) Planetary Placement

- The sect of the planets and their placement
 - Born during the day (Sun above the horizon):
 - A **dirunal** planet in a daytime chart does best if it is placed **above** the horizon
 - A **nocturnal** planet in a daytime chart does best if it is placed **below** the horizon
 - Born at night (Sun below the horizon)
 - A **nocturnal** planet in a nighttime chart does best if it is placed **above** the horizon
 - A **dirunal** planet in a nighttime chart does best if it is placed **below** the horizon

(3) Sign Placement

- Masculine Signs are diurnal (active)
 - The Sun, Mars and Saturn will better express their good qualities in the diurnal signs
- Feminine Signs are nocturnal (receptive)
 - The Moon, Venus and Mars will better express their good qualities in the nocturnal signs.
 - Side note: A waxing moon is less nocturnal than a waning moon.
- Morning star Mercury does somewhat better in diurnal signs and Evening star Mercury does somewhat better in nocturnal signs. (“Somewhat” because Mercury is fairly neutral)

Why does it matter?

- If the chart sect matches the planet's sect, the planet's good qualities are emphasized and vice versa.
- Special Cases:
 - **Hayz:** If a planet meets all three factors (it's sect matches that of the chart as a whole, it is in sect by its position in the chart, and in sect by sign), it will most often express the best of its nature (skilled expression without a great deal of effort).
 - **Extra-conditione:** If the planet does not meet any of these three factors, then is completely out of sect. The planet will have difficulty expressing its better qualities.

Resources

- Brennan, Chris. *The Astrology of Sect*.
<http://horoscopicastronomyblog.com/2008/11/25/the-astrology-of-sect/>
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- Lehman, J. Lee. *Classical Astrology for Modern Living*. Whitford Press. 2000