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The Moon

Astronomy:

Mean distance from Sun: The average distance of the Moon from the Sun is a mere 24,000 miles/384,000 kilometres.

Diameter: With a diameter of about 2160 miles/3,476 kilometres, the Moon is about a quarter of the size of the Earth.

- Even though the diameter of the Sun is about 400 times that of the Moon, when viewed from the Earth, the Moon looks about the same size as the Sun. The reason for this is that although much larger, the Sun at 93 million miles/150,000 million kilometres away, is also much more distant. Astrologers often comment that the seemingly similar size of the Moon and Sun, reflect the equal importance that the Moon has in the horoscope. It's nearness to us also reflects the idea that it is concerned with those things that are of the closest concern. The apparently similar size of the Sun and Moon is what makes total solar eclipses possible, for if the conditions are right, the entire disk of the sun is covered by that of the Moon.
- The Moon turns on its axis every 27.3 days which is also roughly the same time that it takes to orbit the earth. Because the duration is so similar, the Moon always shows us the same face. The far side of the moon was first observed by humans in 1959 when an unmanned Soviet space craft photographed it. Ten years later, on 20 July 1969, US astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first to walk on the Moon.
- The Moon's light comes from reflecting just 7% of the Sun's rays. The Sun is about 400,000 times brighter than the Moon even at Full Moon.
- Spending just two and half days in each sign per month, the average daily motion is 13 degrees 12 minutes or roughly a degree every two hours.

Mythology: With extensive mythology in all cultures; Goddesses associated with the Moon have usually been concerned with matters of fertility, child-rearing and agriculture. Countless worldwide festivals are also associated with the Moon – e.g. Easter falls on the first Full Moon following the vernal equinox (this is why Easter Sunday can fall anywhere between 22 March and 25 April). In Greek mythology the principle goddesses associated with the Moon are:

- *Artemis*, the maiden who is associated with the crescent or waxing Moon.
- *Demeter*, the Mother or mature woman who is associated with the Full Moon
- *Hecate*, the crone or wise woman associated with the waning Moon.

Artemis was the Greek version of the Roman Goddess, Diana. The daughter of Leto and Zeus, Artemis was the twin sister of Apollo and it is said that she assisted in his birth. Indeed, as well as protecting the very young, she was Goddess of childbirth. More especially, she was the virgin goddess of the hunt, and one of only three Goddesses who were immune to the enchantments of Aphrodite (the other two being Hestia and Athene). She was friendly with mortals and Gods alike and was a great protector of young women and wild creatures. She is often pictured dancing through the forests and meadows in her silver sandals with a band of nymphs following on her heels. Basically Artemis's role was to preside over women's transition from girl to woman. She helped young men too in their transitions into adulthood. Whilst Demeter corresponds to the Mother archetype, Artemis is the maiden, autonomous and complete in herself. She is usually portrayed as determined, courageous and fierce. In the same way that her brother Apollo (and the astrological Sun) may be linked with integrity and heroism. Artemis is often portrayed as an upholder of purity and virtuous behaviour. When Actaeon the hunter spied her naked while bathing, she changed him into a stag, whereupon he was ripped apart by his own dogs.

According to Homer, Artemis' mother (Leto) was insulted by Niobe who boasted that she had twelve children whilst Leto had only two. As punishment, Apollo killed Niobe's six sons and Artemis killed her six daughters. Here one can see the fiercely *protective* nature of the Goddess.

Demeter, the Full Moon Goddess of the harvest and of fertility, is representative of the fully mature

woman. The word "meter" means mother and Demeter translates into something akin to 'earth Mother'. The major story associated with Demeter concerns the time when her daughter Persephone was abducted by Hades. Not knowing what had happened to her daughter, Demeter was driven to despair and forgot or was too grief stricken to look after the Earth. All living things started to wither and die (a metaphor for winter time) until she was reunited with Persephone in the Spring. This story serves to illustrate the strength of maternal feeling; it is a force so powerful that it can override all else.

If Artemis is the Maiden, and Demeter the Mother, then the waning Moon *Hecate* is the Goddess to associate with the older or post-menopausal woman. Often described as the crone or wise woman, she is usually depicted as having three heads (either three dog heads or a head each of dog, bear and horse) and with these heads she is all seeing and all-knowing. As the Goddess of crossroads she can see in every direction. Whilst the wise woman can offer advice when people are at a crossroads in their lives, old age is scary and thus Hecate was often viewed as a frightening creature and something of a witch. Hecate's wisdom and seemingly supernatural powers is illustrated by the fact that she was the only one that knew about Hades abduction of Persephone. Indeed, she was made a goddess of the underworld as reward for helping Demeter to find her daughter. In her role as Underworld goddess she looked after the souls of the dead and ensured they reached the Underworld safely. All three Greek lunar Goddesses are concerned with transitional states; with Hecate the concern is with the latter years and with the end of life itself.

General Characteristics:

The *Mother and baby* in us all. The Moon by sign, house and aspect will usually describe, and describe very graphically, certain aspects (but not all) of how we experienced our Mother - the person who gave birth to us as well as other subsequent caretaking figures in our childhood - especially those who taught us about women and "mothering". The importance of our experience and image of mothering is supremely important. Mother is not only life-giver but potentially the one who can take life away. A provider of milk, comfort, unconditional love, containment and safety on the one hand but also, on the other, the one who can withhold those things; the devourer, destroyer and baby eater. She can carry the image of the suffocating mother as perhaps in the image of the witch, spider or octopus. Or she can be a siren or a sexual mother and one who has the capacity to castrate. Then there is the image of the all knowing, all understanding, non judging wise woman.

The early physical and emotional nourishment provided by early caretakers can help produce secure and contented children and adults, or, when the process goes wrong, then individuals may feel empty, unfulfilled and insecure with a range of emotional and even physical difficulties. As astrologers we know that the process is much more complicated than the mere simple 'childhood causes adulthood' type of equation, for the individual is born with a birth chart before they have a childhood. Nevertheless, the horoscope can provide a means for working through the ways that the past has imprinted the individual with behavioural patterns as adult.

The emphasis on the Moon alone in the chart as describing 'Mother' is often exaggerated as the MC and IC axis and their rulers plus planets in the 10th and fourth houses, will all be descriptive of early caretakers. Even planets – any planets – in Cancer, can also provide information. The emphasis that should be placed on the 'baby/infant' half of the partnership tends to be underplayed. The Moon symbolises that part of us which is *vulnerable, needy and dependent*. That part of us which is still a needy infant inside.

Behaviour and Habits: Anyone who has been closely involved with a baby will know that babies are responsive beings from the word go. They respond to emotional expressions like a 'full on' smile within the first few weeks of life. Emotions such as joy, disgust, anger and sadness can be reacted to and expressed within the first three months. Presumably babies are born with these emotional abilities to help them survive by forming strong bonds with their caregivers. Whatever the exact mechanisms occurring in babyhood, the Moon describes the way the individual *habitually* reacts and responds throughout life. As an infant, the individual will have learned which signals were the ones that would ensure that their needs were met. As adult, the habits and, to some extent, body language continue. Almost any important activity going on in the horoscope can contribute to behavioural patterns but the Moon is especially concerned with that aspect of behaviour which is to do with *reaction*. Such reactions are not only very *immediate*, they are *automatic* and *unconscious* and are thus almost *instinctual*.

Needs, safety & protection: Thus the Moon has much to say about what we *need* (as opposed to consciously want) in order to feel *safe*. To some extent, what we may cling to for security; what gives us

a feeling of rootedness in the world. The Moon describes our whole attitude to the notion of being protected and of protecting others. How do we protect ourselves, how do we protect others? The Moon describes what we are likely to *sense* about given situations (for example, whether we think them dangerous) and what we say and do in those situations in order to keep ourselves or others safe.

We all have a tendency to fall back on our Moon whenever we are in situations that feel in anyway threatening. Our Moon describes those things we tend to find *comforting* or at least *familiar* so it is little wonder that at times of extremis we tend to fall back on lunar behaviour. Some examples might help. A Moon in Cancer person might literally go back to Mother, whilst someone with their Moon in Gemini might take a course or read a book. A person with Moon picking up their Mars may become 'touchy' or fly off the handle when under stress, even if their behaviour is seemingly controlled the rest of the time. Or they might roll their sleeves up and get involved in some new project. A Moon-Jupiter person will want to lift themselves out of the situation, pretend it doesn't exist perhaps and broaden their horizons, whereas Moon-Saturn will tend to draw themselves inwards, batten down the hatches and protect their resources.

Our Moon describes what we have an instinctual *feeling* for. An easy way of getting into interpreting Moon placements and in particular aspects to our Moon, is to think in terms of the sentence 'sensitive to....' So a Moon-Mars person may be especially sensitive to danger and discord whilst Moon-Uranus types may be especially sensitive to the plight of the outsider and perhaps personally sensitive to feeling rejected.

Moods & Feelings: How any of us might behave is usually linked to how we are feeling, both about ourselves and about the world in general. If we feel positive, we will usually reflect back an optimistic and cheery mood. If we feel angry or depressed, then we will tend to reflect back those feelings too. Basically the Moon describes our moods. Some people exhibit a wide variety of mood states, whilst others appear temperamentally to be always much the same. Our Moon describes the everyday ebb and flow of our feelings - the moods we may get into and why. How we feel about ourselves and our general mood influences the vibes we radiate out but, more than that, the kind of signals we give out will, in turn, affect how other people feel about us. In physical terms, the Moon has no light of its own, it reflects the light of the Sun, similarly in psychological terms, the Moon is largely about the *mirroring* and reflecting backwards and forwards that occurs between people. The Moon is the planet of *feedback*. Our capacity for nurturance is also a reflection of how we feel about ourselves and the world. If we feel good about ourselves we can take care of others, but if we feel dreadful we may not have sufficient resources to get much beyond our own needs.

The Past and attachment: Along with the IC and fourth house, the Moon describes our background, roots and heritage; where we are coming from, in a number of different contexts. Whereas the Sun has a future orientation, the Moon is concerned with the past and memories of the past, whether these are conscious or not. The Moon describes patterns of behaviour which tend to drag us back. Our Moon may describe stories of attachment to people, places, things, or ideas. Such feelings and memories may prevent us moving forward but they do provide feelings of safety, belonging and familiarity. In old age, when people sometimes feel that they have little to look forward to, there is often an urge to look back. Thus lunar psychology tends to be active not only in early life but in old age too.

The Moon & the Everyday: As people enter their twilight years they tend to become much more involved with small domestic matters. Affairs of state dwindle in importance in comparison to the state of one's garden or the lunchtime menu. This too is lunar, for the Moon is concerned with the daily round. It is about everyday life, unlike the Sun which symbolises major life decisions. The Moon describes how we strive to maintain an inner sense of emotional and physical well-being and it is every day life that facilitates that, whatever our age.

The principle of actuation: Rather as the starting pistol going off heralds the beginning of a race, the Moon plays an important role in astrology in that the lunation's (New and Full Moons and eclipses, and, to a much lesser extent, quarter Moons) make things happen. The astrologer uses various techniques to assess what is likely to be going on in a person's (or nation's) life at any given time. One such technique is to study the planets in the sky (transits) and see where those planets touch factors in the individuals' natal chart. Lunations trigger the 'events in waiting' into actual happenings.

Home: The Moon is descriptive of how good we are at *accommodating* others and adjusting to a gamut of everyday life situations. It can also literally describe our home. However, the IC, aspects to the IC and the ruler of IC as well as all planets in the fourth house, are usually more pertinent in this respect.

Nevertheless the Moon is a significator of home, especially in an emotional and atmospheric sense. Home is a place where we feel *safe*, it is akin to our adult womb, a container, a place we retreat to, a place that might give us *emotional or physical anchorage*. Home is also a base from which to go out and do Sun things. Thus our Moon can describe:

- The environment & décor of our home
- *How* we live (e.g. tidily, disorderly)
- *Where* we live (e.g. abroad, in a caravan, by the sea, in a converted church, by a railway etc.)
- *What* we may be like to live with (how easily we can accommodate others)

The Feminine Principle: Along with Venus and even more than Venus, the Moon can be taken to represent women as a whole and, whilst for everyone it will say something about important caretaking figures, in a heterosexual man's chart, it will almost always be descriptive of their female partners or of how they experience women. The reader needs to bear in mind that projected energy tends to be more dramatic and graphic in its manifestation than when the individual lives it out for themselves. Thus a woman with Moon in Leo in her chart may not behave like an attention seeking Drama Queen whereas the female *partner* of a man with the same placement is quite likely to.

The general public and the masses: The Moon represents the public as a whole and the feelings of the masses. TV personalities, successful politicians and the like often have a prominent Moon (e.g. on the Asc or MC) as their skill lies in feeling the pulse of the audience and responding accordingly. In mundane astrology, the Moon is always taken to describe the people.

Food: The Moon is the only significator in the chart for food and eating habits, although certain signs (e.g. Taurus and Cancer) are especially food driven. The Moon in the chart will literally describe:

- Food in a wider context – as we have seen, the Moon describes how we *sustain others* on a variety of levels, how we feel sustained, what *feeds* us, what *feedback* we need, what kind of feedback we automatically tend to give to others. How we interpret feedback, plus the fact that the kind of feedback we elicit from others in turn influences our reaction to them.
- *How & when* we eat (e.g. quick, slow, regularly, huge meals, small meals, for comfort, when angry) and why. For example, some people eat for comfort, whilst for others, anxiety cuts the appetite.
- *What* we eat (e.g. sweet, spicy, vegetarian, salty, meaty)
- Eating disorders (e.g. anorexia, bulimia) and potentially their cause and ways to cure.

For example, someone with the Moon in Capricorn often likes crunchy food, in Gemini, perhaps a lot of variety on the plate, in Sagittarius, foreign food, in Scorpio fish. With Moon touching Mars, there may be a liking for spicy food and a tendency to eat quickly. Whereas the Moon in close contact with Venus usually denotes a sweet tooth and a Mother tended to placate by dishing out sweets.

Body: The Moon governs the tides and, since we are 70% made up of water it is not surprising that the Moon is associated with all *hormones* and fluids in the body including the *lymphatic system* and the *menstrual cycle* (a woman's own personal tides) and in all matters pertaining to *pregnancy* and *childbirth*. The Moon also has rulership over *stomach* and *breasts*, although the zodiacal sign Cancer is undoubtedly important here too. The Moon describes how we *digest experience* and how we digest our food and has a role in most aspects of the *digestive system*. Alongside the zodiacal sign Cancer, the Moon is also associated with *memory*.

Metals: The Moon can be associated with Silver – both the colour and the metal. Silver is a rare, expensive and lustrous metal, though considerably less prized than gold. It is easy to work with being very malleable and therefore capable of being hammered thin or drawn into wire. In the same way, that the Moon reflects the light of the Sun, Silver is the most *reflective* metal and for this reason has been used since ancient times to make mirrors. It has also been used for thousands of years to make jewellery and ornaments and in the last century, for various photographic processes. *Aluminium* is almost definitely another lunar metal. Interestingly, some researchers have linked Alzheimer's disease (dementia characterised by memory loss and a return to varying degrees of infancy) to aluminium absorption. The Moon can always be associated with the principle of *absorption*, as well as babyhood, receptivity and reflection. Aluminium can be used as an alternative to silver in making mirrors and in some photographic techniques. The usual lunar link with food and eating can also be made; food is often covered with aluminium foil and sometimes eaten with silver cutlery. Possibly stainless steel, another metal commonly used to make cutlery, can also be linked to the Moon.

Other traditional associations:

- Receptacles that hold things; cups, cauldrons (a crescent container in which to brew lunar potions),

chalices, containers, cradles, chests, coffins, shells, bowls, boats. Many of these items begin with the letter 'c' in the English language – itself a letter that looks like the crescent Moon and turned to the left, becomes a *container*.

- Mirrors, pearls and the water itself are largely signified by the lunar principle as are all things that *reflect*, although Neptune can also be the significator here. The menstrual cycle, the sea, the tides - things that *fluctuate* and, like the Moon, go through phases
- There are many foods that have been considered lunar but the principal ones are of course milk, seeds and eggs and foods derived from such ingredients. Matters of domesticity and all activities related to childbirth (obstetrics) and fertilisation and also catering. Both types of nursery – horticultural and child related - are also strongly linked to the lunar function.
- Animals that have been associated with the Moon are many and various. Certainly animals that have been used to represent Mother either in the Nursery or in the sense of Mother Earth have a lunar link. Bears and whales being prime examples in this respect. Creatures have been ascribed to the lunar function for a host of reasons. Perhaps by virtue of being *nocturnal* or because they are especially *fertile* (e.g. rabbits), or for being a source of food or for just being mammals and milk producing. *Crescent horned* animals (e.g. cattle and deer) or those able to *change their appearance* (e.g. chameleon) have also been traditionally ascribed to the Moon. Cats are often associated with the Moon, not least because they can see in the dark.

MOON in ARIES

Behaviour: Typically, those with their Moon here respond quickly, strongly and spontaneously and may be in the habit of 'butting in'. Full of fervour, this can be the person who rushes to the defence of others. The one who jumps in to help with lightning immediacy. There may be an instinct for danger and a need to be at the scene of the accident, trauma or tragedy *first*. Basically the person is competitive in matters of caring and territorial about people with whom they are emotionally involved. Not only territorial about loved ones but fiercely protective of them too. Often, they just have to be the quickest and most involved 'mother' in a given situation. They can go for what they want with drive and passion and basically just want their needs met *now*. A major characteristic in most situations is of being *early*.

Skills: Leadership. Speed. The ability to act independently. Can be a powerful advocate for others. Excellent in emergency situations.

Needs: This is the person with a strong need for *action* and to be *doing* something. Typically s/he wants to be able to act without interference from others and without the imposition of any kind of restraint.

Nurtures others by: Rushing to their defence. For example, the individual may 'argue the toss' for you when you are languishing in hospital and not getting your needs met. Or they may complain on your behalf when you have been given an inadequate meal in a restaurant and are just too 'wet' to sort it out for yourself.

Under stress: Impatience can be a major behavioural trait under stress. Sometimes there can be an impatience with those who refuse to get better or move on. A tendency to flare up (and cool down) quickly is common, as is the potential to take everything personally and get hurt easily. This person can be 'touchy'. They may too hasty in responding to meet another's needs, often assuming (inappropriately) that the other person's needs are the same as their own - which they might be in emergency situations (in which Moon in Aries excel) but often won't be in more day-to-day situations where we are all different. The strong impulse to mother and for action can sometimes lead to bossy and domineering behaviour. Often the individual just *has* to lead and certainly to do things in their own way. Co-operation can be difficult, although other chart factors (such as a prominent Venus or Libran emphasis) can provide the capacity to co-operate.

Parenting: Quick mothering might be a key phrase here. This can manifest as having children when young and sometimes before one is really ready to do so. Often there would have been a strong or brave caretaking figure in the childhood. Perhaps a parent who was a pioneer for the place, time or circumstance in which they lived. Typically there will have been an experience of 'no-nonsense', let's not cry over spilt milk, type mothering with the individual and/or their caretaker believing that one just has to get on with things and 'roll one's sleeves up'. An image for the caretaking figure might be of a bird feeding its young in the nest – the bird just has to arrive quickly, distribute food to the nestlings and get back out there, finding more. There is no time to hang around. Also of course, the nestlings compete for the parent bird's attention. Moon in Aries can at times indicate competition with the Mother or conflict with her, but it can also describe a close relationship where mother is put *first*. A parent who is good with a needle and always knitting or sewing, a mother who is sharp in a number of different ways

Home: Typically there will be few frills and a corresponding dislike of fussy furnishings, chintz and sometimes even curtains. Functionality will usually be more important than comfort or looks. As in most things, the individual may go for what is *expedient*. In house, garden and office, classically there will be a preference for all things that are low maintenance. Time saving gadgets may also be favoured.

Food: Might be a liking for hot food and for spices, for food that is 'gingered up' a little. Fast food; when hungry, the need to eat *now*. Preparing meals yesterday (.i.e.early) so they can be served quickly today. Eating quickly.

MOON in TAURUS

Behaviour: Typically the type is steady, realistic and calm. Slow to get upset and not easily ruffled. There can be a huge dislike of change – even when change may be what is required. The principle way of protecting the self is not to rush into things. The usual fluctuating behaviour, moods and feelings to be associated with everyone's Moon just doesn't seem to apply. The word 'immediacy' is just not in the dictionary. I remember one student with both Sun and Moon in Taurus who related how he *had* to walk to work exactly the same way everyday. Apparently he had been the same when going to School! The perfect image of the type is of a cow steadily chewing her cud, unmoved by all that is happening around her unless action is really required.

The need for material security is usually very marked and the type will often create or attract a reasonable degree of financial security if not actual wealth. Money, food and general comfort are of supreme importance.

Skills: This is a very *tactile* placement. Any or all of the five senses may be highly developed but skills involving touch and an appreciation of texture are nearly always strong. There can be an instinctual understanding both of one's reliance on the material world and a feeling of interconnectedness with the earth itself. There can be business acumen and skills with investments and most things to do with money, the land and property.

Needs: Material security and physical comfort have to be in place, the individual just *has* to know where their next meal is coming from, in order to feel safe. There is often a non-sentimental appreciation of nature, animals and the countryside and an ability to be restored by gardening, working with matter and luxuriating in the body. Sex, massage, shopping for clothes, cooking and especially eating are the kind of activities which this type revels in.

Nurtures others by: Being constant and stable, by hanging on in there. By not getting ruffled and by doing something practical to help. Perhaps providing food or massage etc.

Under stress: The type can be ponderous and laborious, unable to move or change. Materialism, conservatism, laziness to the point of downright inertia can also be marked. Many an inadequate relationship has survived because a Taurus Moon partner cannot bear either to rock the boat or to give up the nice house or comfortable lifestyle. The desire for a quiet life will lead some with this placement to avoid conversation if they think it might be in any way 'difficult'; as always, the blessing and the curse of this placement, can be the inability to *move*. Sometimes the Moon in Taurus person will just not understand what the other person is talking about; they can feel secure just by the physical presence of the other person and be blissfully ignorant of any restlessness or dissatisfaction that might be felt by the 'other'.

Parenting: The placement of the classic 'earth' mother, a Moon in Taurus experience of parenting may be of one who put practical considerations and the need to make the family secure, over other issues. A caretaking figure who sought to provide stability and anchorage. One who perhaps wanted to keep things simple, didn't want to make waves and tried to avoid complicated emotional scenes. Sometimes such a parent may feel threatened by the more intellectual concerns of her children or their needs for adventure and exploration.

Home & food: All else being equal, a leaning toward the conventional and conservative with a preference for soft colours and natural materials such as wood. There is often an appreciation of simple food. Some will like rich food but usually the person doesn't want it to have been 'fiddled about with' too much. In all things this type has no sympathy with what it might see as 'fads'. There may a liking for starchy foods and especially potatoes. A slow metabolism with a solid build can be expected if other chart factors agree.

MOON in GEMINI

Behaviour: Fluctuating moods and feelings are to be expected from those with this restless, adaptable and versatile Moon placement. Always interested in what others think and feel; the type can be very impressionable. Impressions made may not be deeply made but they are many and various and those with this Moon feel all the different tugs made upon them. Tugs made by others but also all the different pulls from within their own psyche. Bright, light and chirpy behaviour can be expected plus an ability to cope well with shifting goal posts. At home in libraries, bookshops and internet cafés, the typical Moon in Gemini will always be on the go, in their body as well as in their mind.

Skills: The ability to reflect and accommodate a variety of viewpoints will often be strongly developed and may make for a good writer or journalist. Frequently there is an instinctual feeling for language and languages. Sometimes mimicry. Verbal dexterity may be matched digitally; these people will often be

very good with their hands and strong on hand/eye co-ordination. There is often a marked capacity to do several things at once.

Needs: To be able to alight socially hither and thither as the mood takes them and as opportunity allows. Needs conversation whether the dialogue is with another person or in the pages of a book. Enough dialogue can enable the individual, after considering all the options, to know what is right for them. There is a need for emotional issues to be *explained*. A dislike of heavy emotional situations often goes with the territory. Although inevitably, it will be those who can provide some anchorage that will be attracted to this child of the Universe, Moon in Gemini souls respond best to those who keep them interested and keep them guessing. Some with this placement will feel more than usually nourished by light reading and many will be restored by frequent changes of scene and a variety of activities. They may thrive on trivia, novelty and frivolity as well as more intellectual pursuits.

Nurture others: By lightening things up. By being interested, listening and communicating. By being flexible and adaptable and by fitting in with the needs of others.

Under stress: A scattered, all-over-the place quality can apply to this Moon. Restless, irresolute and unreliable behaviour and difficulties with commitment can result. Decisions made often have to be changed as outside influences and competing aspects of one's own psyche, jostle for supremacy. There can be a tendency to rationalise feelings as a way of protecting oneself. Sometimes there can be a tendency to avoid real life by over-analysing situations to the point where they aren't actually experienced in reality, only in one's head.

Home and food: A home full of books, magazines and correspondence can be expected with this placement. Depending on the chart overall (and especially the IC and fourth house), there may be many visitors and a great deal of comings and goings generally. Moon in Gemini also often indicates several homes. There can be a curious willingness to try different foods and a yen for experimenting with menus. The ideal meal might consist of a little bit of this and a little bit of that. Snacking (e.g. frequent light meals) and TV dinners may appeal. Reading newspapers and magazines or doing crosswords or jigsaw puzzles whilst eating is typical of this Moon.

Parenting: In childhood the individual will often have received mixed messages and perhaps have absorbed the notion that one must try and please everyone, however contorting that might feel. Often the early message picked up being that one needs to accommodate others in order to feel safe and secure. Often the Moon in Gemini person is the family member who is 'elected' to be flexible and fit in. This placement can describe mothering from different sources (e.g. where there are literally two mothers), sometimes an important relationship with an Aunt (e.g. the Mother's sister) and sometimes that the mother figure needs someone (her children) to talk to. Not uncommonly, the Mother finds it difficult to arrive at settled views of her own and reflected views voiced by stronger members of the family. Sometimes this placement is descriptive of a mothering figure who is forever catering for people who all eat something different and maybe come in to eat at different times. Sometimes it describes a chatty gossipy caretaking figure. Frequently a childhood is described where news is a major feature; whether this be newspapers lying around, the radio always being on, the TV being watched or simply neighbours dropping in for a chat. Twins often feature in the family pattern.

MOON in CANCER

Behaviour: The Moon in its own sign will often be descriptive of an individual who is in touch with the Inner Infant. That part of themselves and others which is needy, dependent and vulnerable. There is usually a well-developed capacity to nurture, mother, care for and to generally protect. The need to be at the receiving end of such nurturance and protection is also likely to be very strong.

Skills: At best, here is someone so attuned to how another is feeling that they instinctively know what to do to improve that person's comfort and well-being. The 'other' doesn't have to be human – the vulnerability of a pup or a kitten will usually also be felt to a greater than usual degree. This Moon can also be associated with a strong imagination which can be useful in artistic and literacy pursuits. A feeling for the past can give rise to particular talents with history and all matters surrounding the nation's heritage. Skills in cooking are common.

Needs: Usually there is a strong need to be mothered and a need for someone or something to care for and protect. To feel emotionally safe and safe in one's home environment is usually felt to be essential, as is a feeling of *belonging*, thus the 'nesting' instinct can be strong.

Nurtures others: By classical nurturing behaviour, by attending to others' needs, by cooking and home-making. May nurture others by letting *them* mother; by being a Big Baby oneself.

Under Stress: There can be timidity and a tendency to hide. The inclination to cling to the familiar; perhaps even running home for safety, can get in the way of moving forward. Those with this placement need to cultivate their instinctual feeling for the past without getting stuck in it. Going back can also imply going back over old wounds and this, coupled with an attentive memory, can make the type prone to brooding. A given mood might be sourced to some distant hurt that everyone else has long since forgotten. Touchy, crabby and moody behaviour can go with the territory. Under stress, the Moon in

Cancer person may choose not communicate what is going on but instead retreat into a mood. Sometimes this placement can contribute to a 'fusspot' or 'clucking hen' way of being and may also contribute to a Big Baby sub-personality. Some with this placement will stifle independence in others and prevent them going forward. Most will have experienced some degree of this kind of behaviour from their own caretakers.

Parenting As has been noted, a very symbiotic mother/child tie is common. This does not necessarily mean that the relationship would have been good or happy - the whole chart has to be studied for that kind of information, the placement merely suggests that the relationship would have been more than usually powerful. Often there will have been a very yielding quality about the principal caretaking figure. Not uncommonly the Mother may have preferred her children as babies or infants and thus it is not surprising if some with this placement have learned to keep the infant side of the self very well developed.

The Mother's relationship with *her* own mother may be of interest; indeed all the womenfolk in the family might be worthy of particular study. Not infrequently, the Mother or principal caretaking figure may have been a professional Mother (e.g. fostered children or run a nursery) or carer. It is hard to get away from the image of a perfect 'mumsy' kind of Mother (e.g. always there, warm and understanding) with this placement but a home life with an emphasis on guilt and emotional blackmail is also often part of the territory, all the more so if Pluto is part of the lunar equation.

Home and food: The Lunar Cancerian home may be a place of retreat and sanctuary or a home to all sorts of waifs and strays, (human and otherwise). Many with this placement will live by water. Living in the house of one's parents is a common manifestation. Food is usually seen as very important and as a great source of comfort. Dairy foods are often particularly enjoyed.

MOON in LEO

Behaviour: Typically, the Moon in Leo person has a tendency to dramatise feelings. Usually no stranger to attention and appreciation, those with this placement often also have a strong need for acknowledgement and recognition. This need often translates into a person who responds well to praise. At best these types respond with warmth, generosity and magnanimity. Moon in Leo people, especially women, often end up in positions of power, perhaps as the head of some organisation. Men may hook up with someone in that role even if it does not apply to them. Leader or not, there is often a feeling of nobility about those with this placement. Individuals have a sense of their own importance and won't easily do things they consider beneath them.

Needs: There is a strong need to be *best* at something. Perhaps to have the best home, to be the most loved child or to have the brightest children. There can be a need for recognition and attention. If circumstances and finances permit, this is a person who enjoys going out and having fun.

Nurtures others: By giving *them* lots of attention. By inspiring others and giving them confidence.

Skills: Can often be found in the charts of therapists and others whose job involves the illumination of others in various contexts. Perhaps to shine light on another's behaviour or possibly to act in the role of some kind of promoter. The typical Moon in Leo person likes dramatic displays of emotion. There is a liking too for vibrant colours and heroic story lines. Not surprising therefore that the entertainment industry abounds with this Moon placement. Many will like the opera and most will feel at home in the theatre, even if in a spectator role.

Under stress: The vulnerability of less evolved souls may stem from their mistaken belief in their own publicity or their susceptibility to flattery. One-upmanship and undue competitiveness can also create problems. A more difficultly placed Moon can give rise to drama queen tendencies, pretentiousness and exhibitionism although this is less likely when found in an otherwise more self-effacing horoscope.

Needing centre stage oneself can prohibit others from receiving their due share of recognition. More dominant personalities may tend to 'take over'.

Parenting This placement implies either giving and/or receiving parenting that gives confidence and permission to the child to shine. People with this placement want their parenting figures to feel proud of them and equally want to feel proud of *their* children. The mothering figure at best would have been a warm, strong and creative person. Perhaps something of a lioness who gently cuffs her cubs if they misbehave and who wards off danger with a ferocious spirit. Often the Mother figure wanted a lot of attention herself (she may have been something of a drama Queen even) and so the Moon in Leo type may have got into the habit of giving attention to others. Sometimes Mom gave lots of attention and Moon in Leo continues to expect it. Occasionally there is mothering where the Mother wants to show her children off; maybe put them on the stage. The Moon in Leo may play this parenting role themselves or have been at the receiving end of it. As always aspects to the Moon and the chart overall need to be carefully weighed.

Home & Food: Typically those with this placement like to have a home they can feel proud of. Some will be impressed by a luxurious and pampered life style. Often there is a flair for interior décor. The placement may be descriptive of a home with colour, vibrancy and a feeling of creativity about it.

Typically Moon in Leo likes to be monarch of all they survey and are best suited to 'wearing the trousers' in the given home.

MOON in VIRGO

Behaviour: This is not the warmest of Moon placements, nor descriptive of a person given to spontaneous displays of strong emotion or affection (unless other chart factors provide this) but Moon in Virgo types can be very attentive to another's needs and accurate in meeting them. Typically they will nurture others by taking care of them, by doing something practical. No task is beneath them and no detail too small to attend to. Strong on humility and gentleness, above all, this is a helpful, kindly Moon and also one packed with common-sense.

Whilst instinctively wanting to serve, many feel less comfortable in the role of boss. This can be because of an innate tendency to worry. Easily stressed and nervous, those within this Moon can easily get into the habit of feeling unequal to the task – whatever the given task may be.

Needs: To be useful. Even if they think they are sick of their job, typically those with this placement feel most comfortable if working, or at least being of service in some way. These people are usually industrious and in any event usually derive comfort from keeping busy. Typically this is the type who cannot *just* watch TV. There is a need to be able to independently get on with the matter in hand. A need for tranquillity is also often marked.

Skills: There are often skills with precision and detail plus an ability to discriminate and prioritise. The Virgo Moon can be good at organising.

Under stress: If the Moon is receiving difficult aspects then this placement may be prone to fault finding, carping and nagging. The individual may also don the cap of martyr; always attending to what others don't want to. Often the individual will tend to be over-critical in relationships and certainly prone to over-analysing emotional situations. Self-critical and self-questioning, this type may never feel truly satisfied by what they do and tend to hear criticism from others, even when it is not there. Frequently there is dissatisfaction with one's life but no confidence to take the steps to improve it. Under-estimating one's abilities and generally 'doing oneself down' is another common manifestation. Some with the Virgo Moon need to learn to face challenges rather than always setting goals which they know they can easily meet.

Parenting: Often there will have been some kind of illness in the family or early environment. The mother may have been ill herself or may have run around nursing other family members. Many with this placement will have experienced parenting figures as being quite prudish; overly concerned with perfectionism and what the neighbours might say. One woman with this placement reported how, when twelve years of age, she came home and told her mother she had been abused in the park. Her Mother's first reaction was to get the child into the bath and scrub her clean! An overly critical parent is common and many with this placement will also be critical of their mother or other caretaking figure. The criticism can work both ways.

Home & Food: For women especially, this is often the placement of the person who lives independently. Being rather picky in emotional matters and liking to live how they like to live, many will choose to live on their own. Some will seek a perfect home life and thus will inevitably feel dissatisfied as life just isn't like that. Many will be unhappy or critical about the actual building they live in. Ideally this will act as a spur towards achieving an improved home environment but many with this placement are too anxious to make decisions about where to live. There can be a tendency to hold off for too long for something more ideal. If the chart is a mutable one overall, those with this Moon can be prone to missing out through dithering. One might expect Moon in Virgo types to be picky about food. Diet conscious, non smoking vegetarians who consume large volumes of vitamins. This is rarely true unless Virgo is also on the sixth house cusp or strongly represented elsewhere in the chart. Neither are Moon in Virgo homes always immaculate, most with this placement prioritise other areas of life above housekeeping. For others a clean and tidy home is essential.

MOON in LIBRA

Behaviour: Disliking all that is crass or crude, this placement suggests grace, social polish, charm and refinement. The dislike of any kind of discord or disharmony whether in the home or in relationships is usually very marked. Some with this placement will do anything to avoid making a fuss or engaging in any form of confrontation. Usually there will be a tendency to 'cover up' social embarrassments.

Skills: Diplomacy and persuasion. This is a good placement for anyone in a 'middleperson' or bridge building kind of occupation. Perhaps a lawyer, wholesaler or agent; an individual whose role lies between the customer and producer or between warring factions. There is a capacity to bring people together and thus a habitual tendency to 'match-make.'

Needs: For many, the need for relationship is very marked; this individual just does not feel comfortable on their own; sometimes even if just embarking on a trip to the shops. Their dependency needs stem from this need for companionship and mirroring from another person. The 'mirroring' will work both

ways of course. Individual will tend to reflect the behaviour and needs of whoever they are with.

Nurtures others: The Moon in Libra person may nurture you by instinctively knowing the right thing to say and by being able to look at things from your angle. Basically they will agree with you or at least express disagreement so gently that you are persuaded to changing your own point of view.

Under stress: The vulnerability of the type stems from their need for social approval. As with other placements in Libra, there can be indecision, and the decision is often about which course of action will please others more. Whilst those with this placement are in the habit of playing peace maker, curiously they can arouse anger in others. This will often be caused at least partially by their inability to be straight and authentic in their dealings. The striving to please everyone, can result in their not fully pleasing anyone. Typically Moon in Libra types can be relied upon to behave appropriately but not necessarily sincerely or authentically. Some with this placement will be downright flattering and ingratiating. At worst, the abhorrence of 'scenes' and the need to keep everything nice can mean that the Moon in Libra individual is incapable of dealing with the deepest emotions and feelings, both their own and those of others.

Parenting: At least one caretaking figure will usually be experienced as being a yielding and accommodating kind of person. At best inculcating in the Moon Libra child, the virtues of being kind, helpful, obliging and generally considerate of others. More negatively the principal caretaker may simply be seen as making the most strenuous efforts to avoid any form of confrontation. Sometimes a high personal (and sometimes family) cost can result from this insistence on 'keeping the peace'. There can be the kind of home life where a "not in front of the children" strategy is employed. The Mother figure may not be a very warm, passionate or demonstrative kind of person (unless other chart factors provide these qualities) but will exhibit grace and the qualities of being a lady. Rarely one to make waves, she can even be the kind who might be able to overlook her partner's infidelities. Very occasionally she is experienced as being more of a wife than a mother and of putting both her own relationship needs, and the needs of the partner well above those of the children.

Home and Food: A harmonious and possibly beautiful home is positively required for those with this arty Moon. Classical styles (at home, in clothes and in the Arts) are the styles usually favoured. This also tends to be *tidy* placement for, as in most areas of life, this person *needs order*. There is some tendency towards a sweet tooth and those with this placement may be in the habit of standing on the *scales*; an over-concern with their weight is a frequent manifestation of this placement.

MOON in SCORPIO

Behaviour: All else being equal, this person needs to be deeply involved emotionally in whatever they are doing and whoever they are with. The type responds to life with passion and intensity. There will usually be deep feelings about the activities associated with whatever house the Moon is to be found. Many will be patriotic and possessive of home, land and country. This placement can be descriptive of the person who leaves you in no doubt whatsoever as to what they are feeling or the individual who feels it safest to hide what's really going on. Both modes of behaviour are possible in different circumstances. When the individual feels safe or in more extrovert trusting personalities, then the full flood of their intensity, emotionality and passion, may be on view. This is the *'full on'* Moon in Scorpio type and also sometimes descriptive of how the introvert may be when in private and feeling safe. Frequently, though, there is a secretive, proud, intense quality which goes along with a feeling of vulnerability with this placement. Often this individual feels most comfortable being enigmatic. Secrecy being a way of protecting oneself or others. Typically the type will protect you by keeping your confidences and expect the same kind of discretion in return. There is often a proud feeling nature here, tinged sometimes with revenge; this can be the individual who "wouldn't give you the satisfaction" of telling you what is going on. Trust rarely comes easily.

Needs: There is usually a strong need for intimate relationship and often for sexual contact. This is the person who wants to be passionately involved with something or someone, but to feel safely involved. The Moon in Scorpio type can be very sensitive to what they consider acts of betrayal on the part of others. Thus can be strong need for loyalty and privacy.

Skills: This is an emotionally sophisticated placement and will often be found in street wise people who don't flinch from life and understand the feeling realm. Their emotional strength and perceptive skills can give rise to an ability to bring others through crisis.

Nurtures you: By being close and by encouraging confidences. Not opening up to everyone can be very seductive if you are the person with whom those rare openings occur. A feeling of confederacy can be what precipitates a feeling of closeness for some.

Under Stress: Letting go of difficult feelings can be difficult. Some can be overly possessive, jealous and vengeful if they don't feel that their needs are being met. Some Lunar Scorpions thrive on emotional drama to the extent of being a crisis junkie. Such individuals can create storms in seas which were previously calm. Depending on other chart factors, these people tend to love and hate totally. They may

take everything too personally and lack objectivity unless this is provided by other chart factors. Shrewd and manipulative; the type can be overly suspicious and self-protective. The cultivation of trust will solve most problems.

Parenting: There is often a history of some early traumas (perhaps deaths) in the family in the early life. Sometimes the mother figure may have been undergoing some kind of crisis when the individual was born or very young. Frequently the caretaking figure is experienced as being very strong and depending on the condition of the Moon overall, may have been experienced as domineering or even scary. She will rarely be known for her milk and water temperament. A sophisticated understanding of the concept of emotional blackmail will have been learned around the family hearth. Not infrequently there will be jealousy issues surrounding the Mother figure; she may be the cause of these in others or may exhibit these characteristics herself. As with those with a Scorpio ascendant, whatever is going on will have been absorbed by those with this Moon. Sensitive and suspicious; little will have been missed.

Home & Food: Some privacy in the home is usually required and, despite the need for intimacy, many with this placement like to live alone for at least part of the time. They may like to be possessive of their little bit of space. Also home can be the place where one wants to hide. Many like sea food such as prawns and some like raw food. Thus an appreciation of Japanese cuisine is not uncommon.

MOON in SAGITTARIUS

Behaviour: Warm, buoyant but fairly casual behaviour is to be expected. The type is 'open' and candid, often with a sense of humour and a Tiggerish quality. Tact is not usually a strong point and there can be a generalised clumsiness both physically and in relating. Inevitably, there will be a strong need for space and freedom and a need to explore on both physical and emotional levels. These individuals need the space to be able to search and quest after the big questions in life and to be able to roam as far a field as possible – in their head and emotionally, even if not physically. Those with this easy-come, easy-go Moon will often seek to protect themselves by keeping as free from responsibilities as possible.

The instinctual feeling of this Moon is that there is more to heaven and earth than the rational intellect might lead one to believe. Innately there is faith in life and in the notion that everything that happens has a meaning and purpose.

Skills: An ability to see the larger picture and an ability to imbue others with faith. The inclination to teach and give advice is often well developed, indeed teaching and preaching may be the habitual attitude.

Nurtures others: By encouraging them to be more adventurous and by imbuing them with their own buoyant, philosophical stance. Also by encouraging others to take their own broad view of a situation. Nurtures other by taking them on some sort of caper or helping them spread their wings.

Under stress: Sometimes the Moon in Sag.type lays themselves open to charges of naivety, and of looking at the world through rose coloured glasses, by more pragmatic types. There is often a tendency to believe the best and to overlook the obvious flaws in a given plan, coupled with a tendency to over-estimate themselves and others. Recklessness, carelessness and a too laissez faire attitude can be part of the picture. Those with this restless Moon will often have a tendency to believe that the grass is greener elsewhere; this can sometimes lead to a habitual 'moving on' lifestyle. For some there can be difficulty in keeping emotional issues in proportion and some will be prone to living on an emotional roller coaster, especially if this is borne out by other chart factors. This placement can sometimes be reminiscent of a large floppy dog in its mannerisms. There can be exaggerated gestures, exaggerated feelings; hysteria even, in the roller coaster types. Others may exhibit judgemental, moralistic tendencies if other chart factors concur.

Parenting: Often a caretaking figure will have had a tendency to over-react emotionally, as the individual with this placement may themselves do too. Usually someone in the family has strong difficulties keeping things in proportion. Some parents may have been religious or have held strong views on morality or politics. A snobbish social-climbing aspect to the childhood is also not uncommon. Sometimes there is a parent prone to squandering the family resources; if not actually a gambler then someone who is overly laid-back with money.

Home & Food: Many will live abroad for part of their life. Certainly the type feels very comfortable with foreigners and with new people and new situations as these represent another opportunity to learn and explore. The Moon in Sagittarius person may live in or near a religious building; for example in a house across the road from a monastery or church or in a flat in a converted church. Some might live in an educational setting. Most will have a liking for the wide open spaces. There may be a liking for food that is foreign to the culture in which they were raised. Some will get into dietary regimes which are linked

with philosophical or religious beliefs. Unless other chart factors indicate a homebody, few with Moon in Sagittarius will be particularly domesticated or tied to a particular hearth, for there is something of the gypsy and nomad in the soul here. In all things, Moon in Sagittarius types don't like to be confined.

MOON in CAPRICORN

Behaviour: The behaviour of those with this unsentimental Moon tends to be 'correct', sometimes somewhat austere and given to high standards of conduct. There is a strong need to be respected and taken seriously and individuals with this placement will seldom behave in a way that might threaten to destroy that respect. For some it is important to be a pillar of society. There is usually some caution and shyness about expressing feelings, especially on the part of men towards women. There is often a felt need to be in charge of one's feelings, so some degree of emotional self-control is to be expected. Classically the type behaves in a self-effacing, non-flashy kind of way. The type feels more comfortable being in charge but will tend to be realistic about their own talents and may therefore be less pushy than other, equally ambitious types.

Skills: There is usually an instinctual feeling for organisation and structure. These people can put just about anything into some kind of *order*. Practicality and an ability to master working with many different materials can feature. Innately this is a carpenter, shipwright, dentist, sculptor and architect. A feeling for the land and tradition can give rise to many rural skills.

Needs: There is a need to achieve, to feel that one is producing something tangible perhaps, that one is building something up, contributing to society, in however a humble way. There is a need to be doing something that can be measured and quantified. The type is usually very sensitive to all aspects of the aging process and typically has a strong need to feel materially secure in old age.

Nurtures you: By taking responsibility; this can include emotional responsibility where the individual absorbs all the responsibility for something going wrong, when it wasn't even remotely their fault. The Moon in Capricorn person can be quite hard on themselves. Classically the type nurtures others by rolling their sleeves up and getting on with things, by getting everything organised and in order. Those with the Moon here may nurture you by introducing a modicum of realism into a given situation.

Under stress: Can be overly dour, pessimistic and negative in attitude. Everything in the day-to-day life can take on an inappropriate weightiness. The type can be in the habit of thinking that life has to be burdensome. Materialism and meanness can also be part of the picture. Undue shyness and caution in emotional matters can make for isolation, as can a life overly dedicated to work. Some may be strict when a more yielding approach is what is required. Many will have a problem with what they see as childish behaviour in others.

Parenting: Many will have received early caretaking which emphasized achievement in some way. There is frequently some feeling of lack or austerity in childhood. Sometimes this placement just describes an early life where everyone is working very hard and there isn't a great deal of money. Sometimes the mother will have taken on the role of Father; possibly having had to support the family financially. Often she will have been a professional woman. Indeed, as with Venus in Capricorn, men with this placement are often attracted to women in professional jobs. The Moon in Capricorn conjures up the feeling of a caretaker who was dutiful and responsible but perhaps a little bit rigid. A parent perhaps who was afraid of getting it 'wrong' so carries out the child-rearing following certain rules. 'Playing it by the book' in this way might mean the setting of clearly set boundaries of behaviour - sitting down to meals on time for instance. Some kind of clock-watching in the family is often a feature. Being raised in an institutional setting is within the symbolism of this placement but has to be borne out by other chart factors too. The experience of having older parents than the norm is also a frequent manifestation.

Home & Food: As always, the IC and IC ruler is a better significator for one's home but two classic images emerge from this placement. One is of a spartan existence in a rural setting complete with dry stone walls. Another image is of somewhere more upmarket and classy but nevertheless understated. As with planets in Capricorn generally, here is nothing flashy about this lunar placement. Usually there is a liking for natural materials such as stone. In culinary matters, the individual sometimes likes food with a bit of 'crunch'. The tendency will be to under-eat rather than over-eat as indulgency isn't usually part of the picture unless provided by other chart factors.

MOON in AQUARIUS

Behaviour: This is usually a friendly and sociable Moon but also somewhat emotionally detached. Cool

and rational, this is also a very independent and emotionally self-sufficient placement. Although there is frequently great curiosity about people, there is no felt need to talk about feelings and often a general distrust of them anyway. Often the individual would have been raised to be independent and emotionally self-sufficient. There is a need for an almost scientific approach to life; to search for the truth and to arrive at rational decisions. Often there is an instinctual awareness of the larger picture and a disinclination therefore to get stuck in one's own petty emotional problems. At best the type sympathises with the needs of all of humanity and has a strong belief in community, reform and in bettering the lives of people everywhere.

In relationships, the type tends to feel most comfortable with friendship. Men with this placement seem to have a strong need for female companionship. Some are able to establish strong platonic links with women. A good male example of Moon Aquarius can be found in the chart of John Lennon. Some of the sentiments expressed in his songs reflect his lunar placement whilst his wife Yoko Ono is the living embodiment of it. Curiously many European men with this Moon are attracted to American women. It might be noted that the US has its Moon in Aquarius.

Needs: Many a lunar Aquarian will feel nourished by nature and the wilderness. Subjects such as astrology will often sustain – these people need concepts and ideas. Seeing a pattern at work in the Universe will often be especially comforting. There is a strong need for space and freedom especially in domestic and emotional matters.

Skills: Sympathy may be extended to the plight of the many. This is potentially a humanitarian, progressive and altruistic Moon. There can also be resourcefulness in finding solutions to problems. Often there is inventiveness and a knack for repairing and designing gadgets. Sometimes a marked, seemingly instinctual, understanding of machines, computers and technology can feature.

Nurtures by: People with this placement can be very understanding and interested in you in a detached and impersonal way. They will listen carefully and impartially and rarely be shocked. This can be a non-judgemental Moon. Some will cultivate others' independence and encourage freedom of thought and action. The Moon in Aquarius type may care for you by telling you the Truth as they see it.

Under stress: Some with this placement may feel more comfortable with machines and gadgets than with people. At worst, the type can be detached, aloof, out of touch with their feelings and emotionally self-contained, to the point of downright coldness. Warmth and the capacity to get more intimately involved with others will of course, usually be found in other parts of the horoscope. Nevertheless, the shunning of emotional ties can border on the autistic in extreme cases. Opinionated, know-it-all behaviour can also feature.

Parenting: The Moon here may denote a parental figure involved in community affairs, perhaps with some kind of reform. A mother who worked in social housing would be an example. It will also often describe a caretaking figure who was devoted to her friends. A frequent manifestation is that of having an independent, and therefore often a single mother. It is also a classic placement for those brought up in a kibbutz or in other situations where parenting is given by a larger group. Independence will have been fostered in such situations but sometimes there would have been a lack of emotional feedback. The mothering figure may have been more of a friend to her children, treating them as equals, rather than a traditional mothering type. Few with this placement fully believe that blood is thicker than water; they may well have friendly relationships with their family; it is just that family members may each operate independently, not really as a family.

Home & Food: Often there is a liking for plenty of light – big windows are ideal. As are top floors in high rise buildings. The Lunar Aquarian may prefer living on their own, certainly they are likely to believe in everyone living by their own standards and generally doing their own thing. Computers and the latest Hi-fi equipment may feature strongly in those who can afford these things. The home may also be strewn with the individuals own inventions and gadgets. There is often a mix of the old and the new.

MOON in PISCES

Behaviour: Any planet in Pisces is particularly prone to being 'contaminated' by other planets plugging into it, so there are endless possibilities for the way this particular Moon might manifest. Certainly this is an impressionable Moon but the impressions received may not always reflect the true reality of the given situation. It will rarely be conscious, but some with this placement distort things so they appear to be how they would like them. Perhaps the distortion is to see oneself or others through rose tinted spectacles. Part of the reason for the distortion is also that this Moon is exceptionally imaginative.

Those with this placement often have a need to believe in magic and miracles, and to believe that anything is possible. Basically there is a need for the spiritual and the romantic. The type feels nurtured by situations where they can feel emotionally 'lifted' or by situations where there is at least a faint possibility that they might be whisked away. Part of the reason for the strong need for escape can be an acute sensitivity to all the suffering in the world and a marked preference for avoiding that suffering.

In practise they rarely do so, for life is simply not like that and often they are too 'soft'. The type will often be in the habit of making sacrifices for others and for feeling sorry for people. They feel vulnerable themselves and sniff out the vulnerability of others. Becoming involved with others' problems can often be a way of avoiding one's own dilemmas. Some with the Moon here have a need for others to need rescuing. Moon in Pisces people will often be in the habit of collecting society's waifs and strays. This can be the placement of the Lost Soul's Junkie. Equally it can describe the person who is in the habit of feeling *sorry for themselves* and be always on the look-out for potential rescuers. As always, the whole chart has to be studied. Often the Moon in Pisces manifests as someone who just feels much more comfortable if they can relax and let go. Those with this placement rarely feel comfortable feeling confined in any way.

Needs: Some lunar Pisceans may need sympathy and a shoulder to cry on, or they may have a need to take on the role of saviour themselves; and so be in need of willing victims. Some degree of wonderment, romance and magic in the life can work wonders for the emotional well being of the type. Some will like to merge with others and with their environment. Others feel safest if they can retreat and withdraw. The type tends to protect themselves by swimming in and out of situations and by remaining uncommitted wherever possible. Typically the individual will be nourished by the arts and spiritual pursuits.

Skills: This can be a supersensitive placement conferring compassion, empathy and intuitive understanding. The sensitivity can be so marked that it is not uncommon to find psychic abilities. Typically, there is a tremendous capacity for mirroring and reflecting the feelings of others. Some with this placement will make good counsellors and carers and others will be adept at acting. The type will often be able to mix with people from all backgrounds and are often unusually at home with those on the periphery of society. Many feel quite at home with those with mental disturbances or criminal leanings. There will often be strong artistic skills; the fine arts, dance, drama and music providing the most likely arena.

Under stress: The impressionability of the type can lead to difficulties with focusing and they can be vacillating, vague, disorientated and diffident. Escapist behaviour and sometimes a tendency to seek comfort in alcohol or drugs is common, as are situations of co-dependency, where the individual is 'dry' themselves but their loved one isn't. Indolence, irresolution and a tendency to be too easily led can also feature – the Moon in Pisces person can be very gullible. An avoidance of anything rough, crass, difficult and uncomfortable can make for laziness and dishonesty but only if borne out by other factors. Integrity and strength ideally will be suggested from other parts of the chart. The setting of boundaries and keeping to them can be difficult unless Saturn is also strong.

Parenting: The Mother or other caretaking figure in early life will sometimes have been viewed by the individual as something of a victim, hence their own habit of rescuing. They are actually saving Mother. Sometimes the caretaking figure was one who habitually made sacrifices and the individual has learned to do that too or has learned to avoid getting oneself into that kind of situation. Typically the boundaries between Mum and child are weak and emotional boundaries are something that this person may need to develop. Separation can be difficult with this placement.

Home & Food: There is a strong need for the home to be a place of sanctuary and retreat. Many will prefer a home by water. Some degree of chaos may be tolerated in exchange for a comfortable artistic atmosphere. Music will usually feature strongly in the life. I have not noticed any especial food preferences but in culinary matters, as elsewhere, the type may be very open to experience.