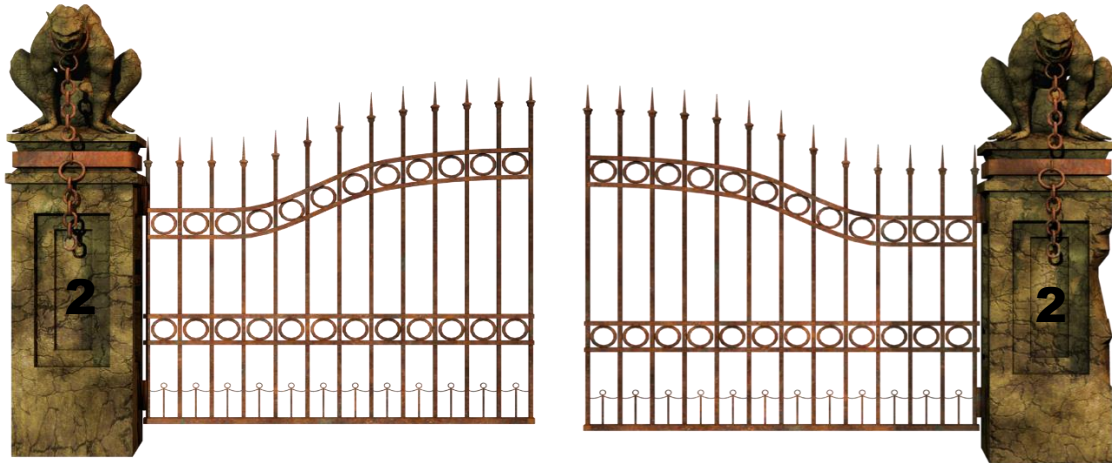


# THE 2nd GATE

"A Priori ... From What Comes Before"





Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gate, the world of Taurus and Venus. It is the place of spiritual responsibility, mystical reasoning and Karmic Fortitude as it plays out through Earth experiences. What grows in your etheric garden? Grounded beings are here to remind you of your duties and help you come full circle. **SELECTIONS: Greed, Green Man, Botanical Astrology, Gnomes.**

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# ***Greed***

**Are You Spiritually Bankrupt?**

In Mundane Astrology, the 2<sup>nd</sup> House is considered one of the Houses of Values (along with the 8<sup>th</sup> House) that concerns acquisitions and material possessions and

the manner in which they are garnered. In some Esoteric Circles, the 2<sup>nd</sup> House cusp is believed to demarcate the GATE OF HADES. This sounds very ominous since humankind tends to think of any reference to Hades as evil and deadly, sorrowful and barren however, the reference to Hades and the 2<sup>nd</sup> House of Values refers to the obsessive unhealthy attitude towards acquisition and material gain that can derail the Soul.

GREED is one of the Seven Deadly Sins and its residence is the 2<sup>nd</sup> House. This is the place where human attitude towards “materialism” has been handed down to the present from past life actions and concerns. In essence both positive and negative karma regarding “wealth status” and “life values” will manifest in the present lifetime through beneficial or malefic patterns and habits. These patterns will also reflect the polarity of the energy of the 8<sup>th</sup> House which will provide a “control panel” through which materialistic passion and obsession will be channeled into constructive or destructive uses. Attachment to the material thus becomes the lesson for the Soul and the test becomes one of transmuting worldly desires into stepping stones of spiritual advancement and Soul Evolution.

#### ARIES ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> HOUSE CUSP –

“I WANT it and I want it NOW!”

The Higher Value of Aries on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House cusp is strong inner resources fostered by courage and initiative to defend and fight for that which is valued... not just for the Self but for others. This can turn detrimental if *money* and *possessions* become “symbols” of power and strength. The “get it and grab it” aggression of Aries can be very counterproductive particularly if the polarity control of Libra is used negatively as a “lure” through manipulation or entrapment for personal gain or gratification. With negative Karma at play, there is a propensity to try to benefit from the legacy of partners fostered by the attitude, “what’s yours is mine and what’s mine is mine.” Conversely with positive Karma expertise is spent to help others gain. Excess is an issue and the Arien influence will spend as soon as it acquires which promotes an impulsive viscous cycle of waste and get more. There can also be some tendency to selfishly destroy what is valuable just so no one else can have it.

The opportunity with Aries on this cusp is to use entrepreneurial potential to garner success while using tact, timing and willpower advantageously for proper gain... then *everyone* benefits and wins. As the Great Initiator of the Zodiac this sign

above all others is responsible for standing as an example of the “pay it forward” principle.

#### TAURUS ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> HOUSE CUSP –

“I own it AND I own YOU too!”

Taurus is the natural ruler of the mundane 2<sup>nd</sup> House and it loves to own and acquire things of quality. Luxury and possessions can easily become central to well being. The Higher Value of Taurus on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House cusp recognizes that this signature is the storehouse of life energy or prana and of the acquisition of spiritual resources and values. When it turns negatively bitter with greed it focuses upon the control of forms and people as the misguided expression of divine values. What is to be personally gained by marriage or business partner or a friendship becomes a game of strategy via the Scorpio polarity far beyond the need for security, tangled and tied to the web of possessiveness. The Karmic implication is attachment to the “material” which must be broken down and dispensed leading to a new reformulated focus on the proper use of life energies. The reorientation of the basic personal values system will actually occur through the destruction of nonregenerative relations.

The opportunity of Taurus on this cusp is that of diplomatic service which is inherent through the lens of the ruler Venus. Innate resources include a sense of fairness and tact and the ability to attract what is truly needed not just for the self but for all involved.

#### GEMINI ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> HOUSE CUSP –

“I WILL take it you WON’T see me do it!”

Gemini, the Loki of the Cosmos, is a skillful manipulator of money and finances when this sign appears on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House cusp. This placement is also adept at all sorts of arbitration due to cleverness, inventiveness, dexterity and the skillful and sometimes superficial or deceitful use of verbiage. Gemini is always in the think tank so the Higher Value of this sign on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House cups is that security comes from knowledge and learning how something works for the best benefit of not just the Self but for all. If operating negatively, time will be wasted before experiences are fully transmuted into full spiritual understanding regarding the best use and exhibition of skills pertaining to value. Cleverness and ingenuity are marketable assets as long as divided attention does not make the course run too thin and produce a “jack of all trades and a master of none.” The Karmic implications are associated with lack of truth – either blatant lying or lying by omission for the sake

of gain. There is a reason for this aspect of Gemini and that is that Gemini always sees the multifarious possibilities there are to life and has the need to examine them all for good or ill. Gemini can literally rationalize and talk themselves into anything they wish to believe and then pass it on to others as truth robbing them of both their physical and spiritual values. It is a trait that exists through many incarnations. It is imperative that the Prince of Thieves becomes the King of Generosity in both words and deeds.

The opportunity of Gemini on this cusp is for the lower mind (Gemini) to learn through its polarity (Sagittarius) of the Higher Mind. In this way, the Soul can relate with to the material world with more clarity and direction. Gemini must learn that the mind is not the sole commandant of the Self, rather the mind must be transcended and made a servant of the Self.

#### CANCER ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> HOUSE CUSP –

“It’s MINE because I NEED it!”

When the sign of Cancer occupies the 2<sup>nd</sup> House cusp there is an emotional tie to security and a need to protect what is owned physically and spiritually. This sign is the Cosmic Collector of people and things and when it appears on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House Cusp and the state of well-being is dependent upon material comfort and the support of others. There is also a dependence upon holding onto money and material goods to the point of being overtly stingy and covetous. The Karmic implications are the deliberate ignoring of the capability for adaptability and the disavowing of instincts that indicate what others need aside from the self because of selfish desires. In some cases this can operate in an opposite fashion where everything is given away in order to garner love and security from others. Either way, the tenacious hold of Cancer dictates that, “... this is mine ... I need it.” Unwittingly this often causes separation from what Cancer needs most. It is imperative for Cancer on this cusp to detach so it is no longer attached. This includes reactions to personality responses as well as the obsessive stashing of material goods.

The opportunity of Cancer on this cusp is to dispel fear surrounding issues of security while learning that the world is an unstable place and what has been secured away today can easily be gone tomorrow. The principle of “supply” (greed) and “supplier” (generosity) must be balanced.

#### LEO ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> HOUSE CUSP –

“I KNOW how to get it and I WILL!”

Through Leo, the Sun brings power to whatever House Cusp it occupies. To the 2<sup>nd</sup> House, Leo brings vitality and force pressing the development of personal skills tied to values. There is a karmic need to define individuality and independence through what constitutes security. Power and self worth may be garnered from acquisition of money and goods and the proper organized control of them however there can be a karmic disposition towards status seeking and extravagance in order to prove self worth. What needs to be balanced is ego needs and accomplishment thus eliminating spiritual and material self aggrandizement. There is a strong warning in self promotion becoming the total expression of personality. The result is often loneliness and isolation ... King Midas sat alone in his world of gold. Leo is the astrological messenger of love. The basic essence esoterically speaking is that of a loving source of creative focus that walks the path of discipleship of world service ... a point of “light” on the horizon.

The opportunity of Leo on this cusp is to be noble no matter how much cash is in the bank. This has more to do with collective stewardship than personal satisfaction. There is also an opportunity to manage resources in pursuit of the arts and social or philanthropic endeavors which is life enhancing for the many and not just the few.

## VIRGO ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> HOUSE CUSP

“I Will METHODICALLY Take What I DESERVE!”

In mundane astrology, the sign of Virgo on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House Cusp emphasizes precision and attention to detail as innate resources worth developing. Karmic implications include shrewdness to acquire not only what is needed but what is desired. This can affect where importance is placed ... is it on “quality” or “quantity?” If the answer is quantity, then the individual is working on undoing karma connected to unhealthy entitlement. In all matters, the values system is based upon what can produce concrete, practical results. Of all the signs, Virgo is the most concerned with filling the void. The result is an excessive exteriorization of a wall of materiality to make up for fear of looking within and gauging spiritual value which is at the heart of the matter. This can be carried to the point of neurosis concerning the sense of lack. Excessive worry leading to narrow mindedness results in fear of evolutionary change. It can also lead to scheming and deliberate dishonesty in order to justify the wall of materiality which serves as a pseudo fortress of security.

The opportunity of Virgo associated with the 2<sup>nd</sup> House is to learn the importance of a healthy functioning balanced mind as the most valued of possessions. This

realization can cut down pessimism and lack of tact while promoting diplomacy and service.

## LIBRA ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> HOUSE CUSP

“I Will FINNESSE My Way Into Your POCKET!”

The sign of Libra is the great procrastinator of the zodiac, weighing all the pros and cons concerning any deliberation. In mundane astrology, Libra on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House Cusp has a concern for fair and equitable distribution of goods. Karmic implications however point to self indulgence, idle luxury and meaningless social niceties. This is often a camouflage for hidden hypocrisy and conceit. Personal gain is the goal and that includes gaining favor via the opposite sex often used to influence the public for broader acquisition. The opposition is always managed to be held in check via a pseudo ability to charm one's way into another's pocket. In essence this all becomes the ultimate battle between the higher and lower selves until the higher self is cultivated. Libra is challenged to maintain an allegiance to others without manipulation and false self promotion. In this way, Libra learns to be neither a king or a servant.

The opportunity for Libra on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House Cusp is to learn not to take things and especially people for granted and to learn true appreciation for the value of all things.

## SCORPIO ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> HOUSE CUSP

“I DESIRE what you HAVE!”

In mundane astrology, Scorpio on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House Cusp involves issues surrounding the acquisition of money and acquiring of possessions for security. There is a driving ambition to acquire money, resources and goods and depending upon karmic response - a resourcefulness for doing so. Karmic implications involve selfishness and pure greed. This can result in loss of friendships, financial difficulties and lawsuits. What must be uncovered is the underlying motivations which promote strong feelings towards overall resources and how they are tied to feelings of security. Several factors may come into play such as money accrued and used to control and manipulate others, as a way to be more publically attractive and successful or simply a platform to extend overall influence. Regarding security issues, Scorpio here must discern if there is actually a real threat that is fostering counter effects against danger. Further, in this regard, Scorpio must also guard against unconsciously provoking externalized and unnecessary disaster. On the flip



side, Scorpio here would do much better to use innate skills to take things of little value and transform them into things of worth.

The opportunity for those with Scorpio on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House Cusp is to purify motivations regarding financial responsibilities and realize that they are universal stewards for material resources that must be used unselfishly for the collective good.

### SAGITTARIUS ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> HOUSE CUSP

“I OVERREACH and take what is yours for GRANTED!”

The sign of Sagittarius is free loving without much care for the future ... the perfect epitome of joie de vivre. Under good circumstances regarding the mundane 2<sup>nd</sup> House there is often substantial business ability and a knack for securing fortune in money and property matters. The esoteric view however is quite different. The Karmic implications include too much overreach, lack of responsibility, selfishness and bohemianism taken too far. Sagittarius here can be truly morally bankrupt incurring spiritual debt along with material gain that simply seems to disappear. In a sense Sagittarius is oblivious to contingencies in both departments. Enterprise in general nearly takes on a religious outlook where resources are considered the be all, end all of existence tied to the happiness of life. Sagittarius can and will pick the pockets of others in many senses because the acquisitive instinct is heightened in this position but just like a pocket or purse that empties quickly to waste so does spiritual fortitude. The formula is no sense of guilt along with an appetite that cannot be whetted and this formula spells spiritual disaster.

The opportunity for those with Sagittarius on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House Cusp is to use their innate resources of optimism, natural enthusiasm and the ability to inspire others to teach and impart practicality to the meaning of life.

### CAPRICORN ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> HOUSE CUSP

“I know HOW to get it BEFORE you do!”

Capricorn influencing the mundane 2<sup>nd</sup> House indicates ambition and drive to acquire money and goods along with the status associated with “having” and “hoarding.” The karmic indications include a shrewd frugality that is laced by stinginess and feelings of lack. There is the possibility that in past lives the individual developed cautiousness that arose from a fear of poverty. The result is a built in expectation of difficulty, possible failure, limitation and the need for self testing that easily leads to selfishness, possessiveness and greed. This sign knows



how to be first at the gate and get whatever it is that is required to fill a void before anyone else even tries. Capricorn in this house is tied to Dharma and character building through tests and trials and innumerable stumbling blocks so the individual can gain strength and above all wisdom. The process is difficult and requires the giving up of ideals, images and material objects in order to raise consciousness.

The opportunity for those with Capricorn on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House Cusp is to realize that all growth financial and otherwise requires flow and the constant processing of in and out for material and spiritual wealth to amass. This will help them to understand that they have innate worth and value and do not need to “over” prove themselves.

### AQUARIUS ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> HOUSE CUSP

“I can MAKE you WANT to give it to me!”

In mundane astrology, Aquarius on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House Cusp often indicates a corporate connection and in keeping with the erratic tendencies of Aquarius, those who can also have unsettled finances. They either land admirably or end up penniless. This is most likely Karmic residual from past lives where too much involvement in impractical financial ventures occurred and coercion of acquaintances, friends and family for loans or even ‘expected’ gifts ensued. The coercion was the easy part however, these impractical ventures failed miserably with regards to materialism but taught the soul much about where real value lies. A dichotomy of what constitutes ‘values’ is the current result that still wages often disrupting personal security enough to instigate the re-evaluation of the personal life. The values system of Aquarius on this cusp varies and is different from the ordinary person. Positively on the spiritual level, they often regard conventional values as worthless because they are envisioning the bigger picture on a collective level. This attitude is often misunderstood and scorned by others because Aquarius here shuns what others actually seek materially.

The opportunity for Aquarius on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House Cusp is to develop the innate resources like inventiveness, originality and the capacity to accept progressive ideas thus manifesting their genius so what takes shape on the higher plane of existence can be brought to Earth to help than many rather than the one.

### PISCES ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> HOUSE CUSP

“I can GUILT you into GIVING it to me!”

Easy come, easy go could well be the theme of Pisces on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House Cusp. In mundane astrology, Pisces here generally constitutes one who is idealistic about money and resources yet more than capable of making money and acquiring great wealth. Karmically, issues surrounding a liberal attitude with resources comes to the fore. This includes past lives where money easily slipped through the fingers usually via mysterious or odd circumstances including scandal. Odd as it may sound, Pisces on this cusp indicates one who on a deep level worships money not necessarily for wealth or fame but because it offers a way and means to indulge fantasy. The unrealistic/ideaistic Neptunian vibe working through Pisces can constitute one of two options – either the individual is easily taken advantage of financially OR they can easily take advantage of others financially with woven tales of woe and desperation and “poor pitiful me.” Laziness is also a key factor of successfully pulling one smooze job after another which is also a karmic implication.

The opportunity for Pisces on the 2<sup>nd</sup> House Cusp is to focus more on practicality in order to step out of the swamp of financial muddle. Balance is probably more important for Pisces positioned here than any other sign for they need to seek security from within rather than from without.



# THE GREEN MAN

## THE 2ND GATE



Like antlers, like veins of the brain the branches  
Mark patterns of mind on the red winter sky;  
'I am thought of all plants,' says the Green Man,  
'I am thought of all plants,' says he.

The hungry birds harry the last berries of rowan  
but white is her bark in the darkness of rain;  
'I rise with the sap,' says the Green Man,  
'I rise with the sap,' says he.

The ashes are clashing their boughs like sword-dancers,  
Their black buds are tracing wild faces in the clouds;  
'I come with the wind,' says the Green Man,  
'I come with the wind,' says he.

The alders are rattling as though ready for battle  
guarding the grove where she waits for her lover.  
'I burn with desire,' says the Green Man,  
'I burn with desire,' says he.

In and out of the yellowing wands of the willow  
the pollen-bright bees are plundering the catkins;  
'I am honey of love,' says the Green Man,  
'I am honey of love,' says he.

The hedges of quick are thick with may blossom  
as the dancers advance on the leaf-covered King;  
'It's off with my head,' says the Green Man,  
'It's off with my head,' says he.

Green Man becomes grown man in flames of the oak  
as its crown forms his mask and its leafage his features;  
'I speak through the oak,' says the Green Man,  
'I speak through the oak,' says he.

The holly is flowering as hayfields are rolling  
their gleaming long grasses like waves of the sea;  
'I shine with the sun,' says the Green Man,  
'I shine with the sun,' says he.

The hazels are rocking the cups of their nuts  
as the harvesters shout when the last sheaf is cut;  
'I swim with the salmon,' says the Green Man,  
'I swim with the salmon,' says he.

The globes of the grapes are robing with bloom  
like the hazes of autumn, like the Milky Way's stardust;  
'I am crushed for your drink,' says the Green Man,  
'I am crushed for your drink,' says he.

The aspen drops silver of leaves on earth's salver  
and the poplars shed gold on the young ivy flowerheads;  
'I have paid for your pleasure,' says the Green Man,  
'I have paid for your pleasure,' says he.

The reedbeds are flanking in silence the islands  
Where meditates Wisdom as she waits and waits;  
'I have kept her secret,' says the Green Man,  
'I have kept her secret,' says he.

The bark of the elder makes whistles for children  
to call to the deer as they rove over the snow.  
'I am born in the dark,' says the Green Man,  
'I am born in the dark,' says he.

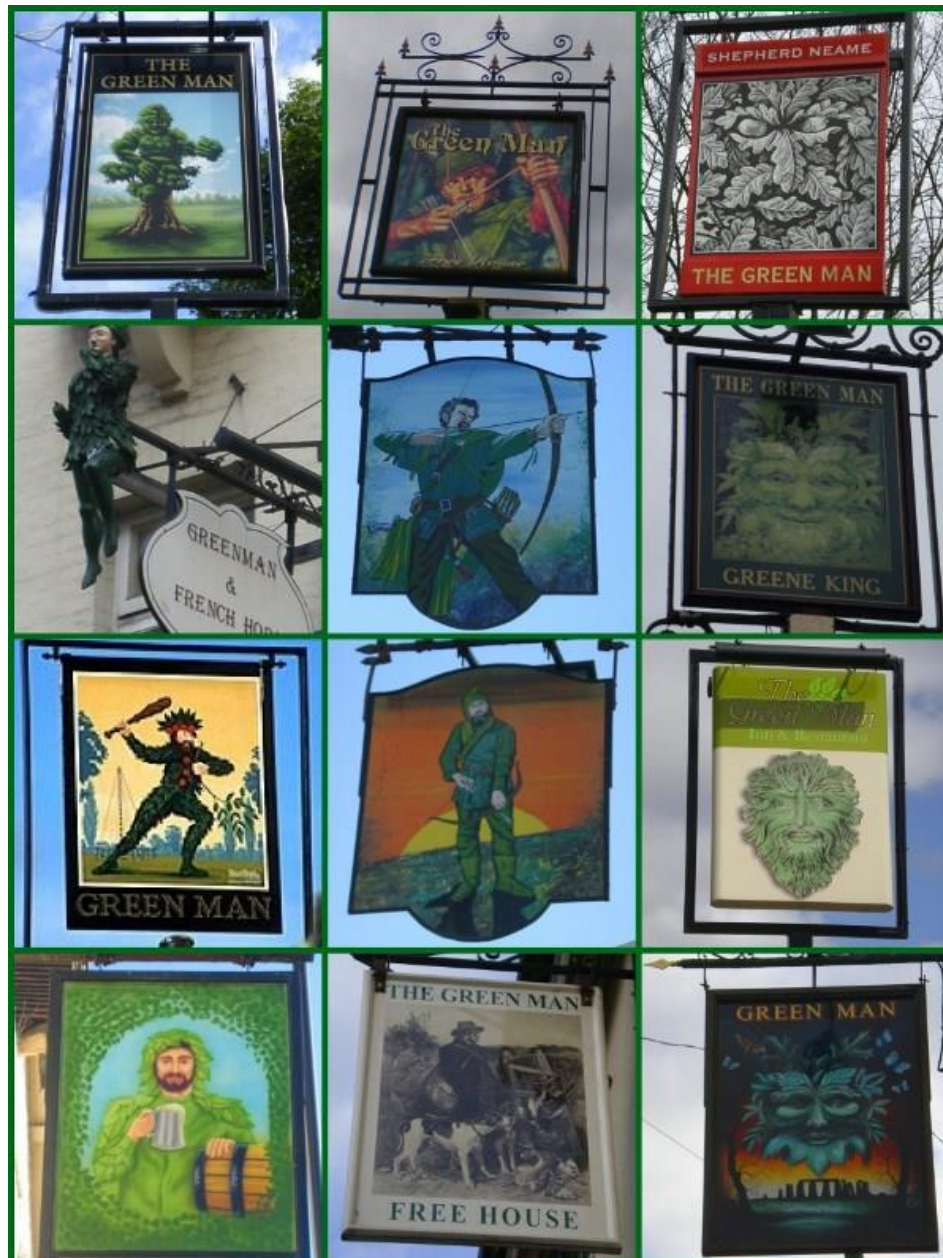
~William Anderson~

The Green Man is the spirit of all things green and growing. He has always been present since the very beginning walking amongst creation and remains active in every primitive aspect of place and time. To the early human mind he was seen in the forests exhibiting a visage in trees and bushes and foliage. His voice was heard as the whispers produced by leaves rustling in the wind and as creaks and moans produced by crackling branches. The distant elders saw his weathered face in the bark of trees and in leafy patterns.

The oldest surviving images of the Green Man are found in the lands of the Middle East in cities such as Hatra in old carvings depicting half human and half treelike faces. It is thought that these images were most likely derived from ancient gods of vegetation that were worshipped in these lands. From the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> Century, the Green Man or "Foliate Heads" began to appear throughout Europe. They appeared with such proliferation that it is easy to conjecture that the Spirit of Green was known to human consciousness for a very long time and they enshrined the beliefs of very old Pagan beliefs.

As Christianity flourished throughout Europe with mighty cathedrals dominating the landscapes, pillars enhanced with foliage and vines and faces with eyes, noses and mouths infiltrated by hearty leafy structures equally appeared enhancing each architectural achievement. We can believe that these creations were no more than intricate patterns and designs created to please the eye crafted by skilled artisans who more than happy to carve anything but also desirous of bringing something of

their own traditions to the newly formed Christian religion OR we can believe that there was indeed a Divine Hand at work. The bountiful face of the Green Man can be found in every cathedral with little exception – the Chartres Cathedral outside Paris, to the cathedrals of Aachen, Gloucester, Lincoln and Rheims, to the basilicas of Rome and Venice. Images of the Green Man have been found in some form nearly everywhere in the world and as far away as the Indian subcontinent to the Americas including England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Africa, the Near East, India, Indonesia, Brazil, Mexico the USA and Canada.





There has been no shortage of names for the Green Man. Among his many “aspects” have been Green Jack, Green George, Green Knight, Holly King, Robin-in-the-Hood, Rex Nemorensis, Winter King and the Wildman. The three most common forms of the Green Man are:

- The Foliate Head - completely covered in green leaves
- The Disgorging Head - spews vegetation from its mouth
- The Bloodsucker Head - sprouts vegetation from all facial orifices (tear ducts, nostrils and mouth)

His presence always brought along both a blessing and a challenge. The blessing was always a promise for fertility and growth and the challenge was recognizing that human power could never be exerted over or forced upon the natural world. The fourteenth century poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* illustrates this concept along with how Pagan and Christian elements can stand by side by side with the same meaning for everyone. The message underlying the poem could be easily recognized by all who heard or read it as it emphasized the strength of the green world and nature while proclaiming the death and resurrection of Christ and the importance of honor and purity during trials and travails. The synopsis of the poem is as follows:

At Christmas, a knight who is completely green rides into King Arthur's hall. The Green Knight proposes a game: Any knight brave enough to strike off the Green Knight's head may keep the Green Knight's ax, but that man must accept a return stroke in one year. Gawain accepts the challenge and cuts off the Green Knight's head. The knight picks up his severed head and leaves, telling Gawain to look for the Green Chapel.

Near the end of the allotted year, Gawain sets out in search of the Green Chapel. He finds a castle in the wilderness. The lord of the castle asks Gawain to stay until New Year's Day, because the Green Chapel is nearby. The lord proposes an agreement: He will go out hunting while Gawain stays at the castle, and the two men will exchange whatever they have gained at the end of the day.

The exchange of winnings takes place over three days. Each day, the lord goes out hunting, while the lady of the castle tries to seduce Gawain in his bed. Gawain politely refuses her advances, although he does give her some kisses. Finally, she offers him a magic belt that will protect the life of any man who wears it. Gawain repays the lord his lady's kisses, but he does not mention the belt.



Gawain keeps his appointment at the Green Chapel. The Green Knight raises his axe to cut off Gawain's head, but twice he draws back. The third time, the Green Knight barely cuts Gawain on the neck. The Green Knight reveals that he was Gawain's host and that his appearance as the Knight was made possible by Morgan le Fay. He tells Gawain that the first two blows were for the first two days of their agreement, when Gawain fairly repaid him his wife's kisses. The small cut was for accepting the belt and concealing it. Overcome with shame, Gawain acknowledges his fault and wears the belt to remind him of his fault. When he returns to Camelot, the entire court wears green sashes in fellowship with Gawain.



In contemporary times, the Green Man can be seen throughout literature in every guise from Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest to the Green Arrow to the Ents in Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. In the Sumerian epic of *Gilgamesh*, the wild and



powerful Enkidu was a primitive being who embodied the energy of nature. In ancient Egypt the great god Osiris was a god of vegetation and resurrection known in Pyramid texts as 'The Great Green.' In Arabic texts and in particular the Koran, there is reference to Al-Khidir or the Great Green One whose origins can be traced to an ancient vegetation cult. He lived outside of time and was later described as a spiritual guide to Alexander the Great and Moses. In India, the dark green skinned avatar Rama lives in the woods and has as his wife Sita, the goddess of nature.

Sometimes a Green Man appears with a feminine "consort" identified with the feminine principle of Gaia or Mother Earth. She is more of a Dryad spirit and has a gentler aura to her. Although, one would be wise to note that these Green Women can be quite fierce while guarding their trees. She represents and rules the sacred feminine of life; gentleness and kindness also represents the primordial and fierce love for offspring. She watches over the birth and growth of fauna, flora and fey allowing them to flourish in the forests and the countryside.



“Though the *Green Man* has existed as an important symbol throughout history and in many different cultures, he has only recently begun to re-emerge as a male representation of humankind’s connection to Nature. While the idea of ‘Mother Nature’ has remained prominent in Western culture, there has long been a lack of a positive male image of connection to the natural world. For the last few hundred years our male-dominated culture and scientific developments have been increasingly abusive to Nature and cut us off from our crucial connection to the world that sustains us. While women are still commonly encouraged to forge a bond with the nurturing forces of Nature, men have increasingly been led away from a peaceful connection to Nature and towards an obsession with technology, business, and other domineering ways of life. It is almost as if the *Green Man* has reemerged from our collective subconscious to help us reconnect with our World before we make it unlivable.” ~ Steve of Just Say Gnome



# BOTANICAL ASTROLOGY

## THE 2ND GATE



We've all heard of botanical and vegetable gardens, but what about an astrological garden?! Botanical Astrology has played an important role in gardening since our ancestors first began planting seeds in the soil to grow food, medicinal herbs and flowers. In ancient times the sun, moon and stars were critical because they were constants in our ancestors' lives. An astrological garden should contain elements to astrology and the sky. Plants with associated names such as Sunflower or New Moon Iris are examples.

Color also plays an important role. For example flowers would be of the color associate with a planet:

Yellow and Orange ~Sun

White ~ Moon

Blue ~ Mercury

Pink ~ Venus

Bright Red ~ Mars

Purple ~ Jupiter

Blue-Violet ~ Saturn

Fuchsia ~ Uranus

Lavender ~ Neptune

Dark red ~ Pluto

*Fruitful Zodiac Signs According To Moon Transit:*

Cancer and Scorpio: This is a great time for planting, transplanting, budding and grafting.

Taurus: A semi-fruitful time. Better for root and leafy crops.

Capricorn and Libra: Semi-fruitful Better for root crops, tubers and vines.

*Barren Zodiac Signs According To Moon Transit:*

Leo: This is the most barren sign.

Virgo, Gemini and Aquarius: This is a good time for weeding, cultivating and solving pest problems.

Aries and Sagittarius: Plant onions and garlic. Continue weeding.

Your astrological garden needn't just be flowers. Consider everything – trees, shrubbery, herbs and even some vegetables and fruits if you take a fancy. Here are some astrological rulerships connected to the afore-mentioned. This list is based upon suggestions by astrologer Alan Leo for planets Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. Correspondence to the planets Uranus, Neptune and Pluto come from my research. They are normally excluded from botanical lists because of their more recent discoveries (Uranus 1781, Neptune 1846, Pluto 1930) but it is time to move the rest of the information into this century and get away from the excuse that they are merely generational planets!



Sun: Almond, angelica, ash tree, bay tree, celandine, centaury, chamomile, corn hornwort, eyebright, frankincense and other aromatic herbs, heart trefoil, juniper, male peony, poppy, marigold, mistletoe, olive, pimpernel, rice, rosemary, rue, saffron, St. John's wort, sun dew, tormentil, turnsole, vine, wiper's bugloss; also bay, citrus, and walnut trees.

Moon: Adder's tongue, cabbage, chickweed, clary, coral-wort, cuckoo flowers, cucumber, dog-tooth, duck's meat, gourd, hyssop, iris, lettuce, melon, mercury, moonwort, mouse-car, mushrooms, pearlwort, privet, pumpkin, purslain, rattle grass, rosemary, seaweed, spunk, turnips, wallflowers, water arrowhead, watercress, water lily, water violet, white lily, white poppy, white rose, white saxifrage, whitlow grass, wild wallflower, willow, winter green, and all night blooming plants; also maple, olive, palm, and other trees rich in sap.

Mercury: Azaleas, bitter sweet, calamint, caraway, carrots, cascara, coraline, dill, elecampane, endive, fennel, hare's foot, hazel, horehound, hound's tongue, lavender, lily of the valley, liquorice, male fern, mandrake, majoram, mulberry, myrtle, olive spurger parsley, pellitory, southernwood, star-wort, trefoil, valerian, wild carrots, winter savory; also hazel, and filbert trees.

Venus: Apples, archangel, artichoke, beans, bearberry, bishop's weed, black alder, bubbleholly, burdock, cloves, cock's head, couch grass, cowslip, cranebill, cudweed, daffodils, elder, featherfew, ferns, foxgloves, goldenrod, gooseberry, grapes and other vines, groundsel, kidneywort, lily, little daisy, marshmallows, mint, pennyroyal, pennywort, peppermint, red cherries, roses, sanicle, sea holly, sorrel, spearmint, tansy, throatwort, vervain, violets, wheat; also almond, apple, apricot, ash, cypress, pecan and pomegranate trees.

Mars: All-heal, aloes, anemone, arsmart, barberry, basil, box tree, broom, butcher's broom, cactus, capers, catmint, coriander, crowfoot, flax-weed, furze-bush, garden cress, garlic, gentian, ginger, hawthorn, honeysuckle, hops, horse radish, horsetongue, hyssop, leadwort, leeks, madder, masterwort, mousetail, mustard, nettles, onions, peppers, plantain, radish, savin, tobacco, wake-robin, wormwood, and all briars and thistles; also trees with thorns.

Jupiter: Agrimony, aniseed, apricots, asparagus, balm, balsam, betony, bloodwort, borage, chestnut, cinquefoil, cloves, currants, daisy, dandelion, hart's tongue, house leek, jessamine, liver wort, mint, myrrh, nailwort, nutmeg, polypody, rhubarb, sage, scurvy grass, small samphire swallow wort, strawberry, sugar cane,

thorn apple, wild pinks, wild succory; also ash, almond, birch, fig, lime, linden, mulberry and oak trees.

Saturn: Aconite, barley, barren wort, beech, black hellebore, blue bottle, comfrey, crosswort, flaxweed, fleawort, fumitory, gladwin, ground moss, hemlock, hemp, henbane, holly, horsetail, ivy, jew's ear, knap-weed, knotgrass, mandrake, mangel, medlar, moss, navelwort, nightshade, pansies, parsnips, quince, rue, rupture wort, rushes, rye, sciatica wort, senna, shepherd's purse, sloes, Solomon's seal, spinach, tamarisk, vervain, wintergreen. Also cypress, elm, pine, willow and yew trees.

Uranus: Dragonwort, spikenard, all fruit trees in general.

Neptune: Rubberplant, hops, tobacco, coffee plants, cotton, opium poppies, fungi, hallucinogenic mushrooms, seaweed (good for fertilizer), tomatoes.

Pluto: Mushrooms, blackthorn trees, horehound, leeks, woad, wormwood, all poisonous plants like yew, monkshood, deadly nightshade.

Plant some crystals!

Another consideration for your astro-garden is the use of crystals and stones since they significantly assist growth and health of all botanicals. Quartz Crystals are most commonly used crystals in gardens. Quartz represents the entire Zodiac.

Quartz can be placed at each corner of the overall plots or separate plots. Some people also like to place a crystal at the center of each plot as well.



Embed single terminated (single point) crystals with the pointed end facing upwards just below the soil line.

Double terminated (double point) crystals can be placed, lying flat, in a diagonal direction so the crystal generates energy coming in and going out.



It is nice to include some citrine for constant clearing of energies and Boji Stones and seashells as they are useful and will disintegrate into the soil providing minerals and nutrients. Quartz crystal chips scattered on top of soil will add extra energy and some “sparkle” to the scene and may attract butterflies and a few faeries! Small river stones or pebbles bring the astrological element of water to the garden and provide a focus on tranquility and peace. Wind chimes made of agate slices or obsidian needles have a nice bell like tone and not only enhance the beauty of the garden but also contribute earth energy and protection. Remember, the astrological garden is a magickal place!

The shape of the garden plot would also be associated to a planet, constellation or spiral galaxy. The best garden of course is the one that is based upon celestial alignments that represent your personal connection to the Universe and your place in it. Here are some helpful pointers that can help you choose the celestial events that most apply to you:

- If you are an early riser (as in up at dawn) use sunrise alignments.
- If a western view is your favorite choose sunset alignments
- If both your sunrise and sunset view are obstructed or impeded use a noontime shadow alignment.
- Pick a star! Perhaps you want to use Polaris the North Star and if so you’ll be marking the Cardinal Directions.
- Use the solstices or equinoxes (depending where you live and gardening suitability) or even your birthday as timers. It would be a great idea to pick up the copy of the current Old Farmer’s Almanac which contains a good deal of celestial gardening information!

Once you have chosen what suits you best, survey your property decide the best area on your property to plant the garden. If you live in an apartment or have no property space, deck or porch gardens or even a terrarium can be made to suit.

## THE ELEMENTAL GARDEN

### FIRE GARDEN (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius)



The Fire garden faces South hopefully catching warm winds and breezes. The North side of the garden should be edged by bushes. At the center a large tree should be planted OR an open in-ground fire pit should be built. Plenty of fiery colored plants and flowers should adorn the area. Paths are usually straight and made of stone, brick, or gravel. The garden should be large with plenty of grassy spaces outside of the garden perimeter.

#### EARTH GARDEN (Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn)



True Earth gardens are usually orchards or vegetable gardens but if a decorative garden is desired it should be facing north. An apple tree or other fruit tree should

grace the garden if space permits. Earth gardens are often created with steps of different height levels allow for variation of landscaping and the inclusion of seating. Paths tend to be small and covered in wood chips or decorative stepping stones.

### AIR GARDEN (Gemini, Libra, Aquarius)



The air garden is a very open and face east. Fragrance is a necessity so plenty of blossoming flowers trees and bushes are needed. Paths of concrete or light sparkly gravel are quirky and take unexpected turns ending up in lovely respites. Self seeding herbs surround many sections of the garden. Sculptures and other pieces of art grace the entire expanse.

### WATER GARDEN (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces)

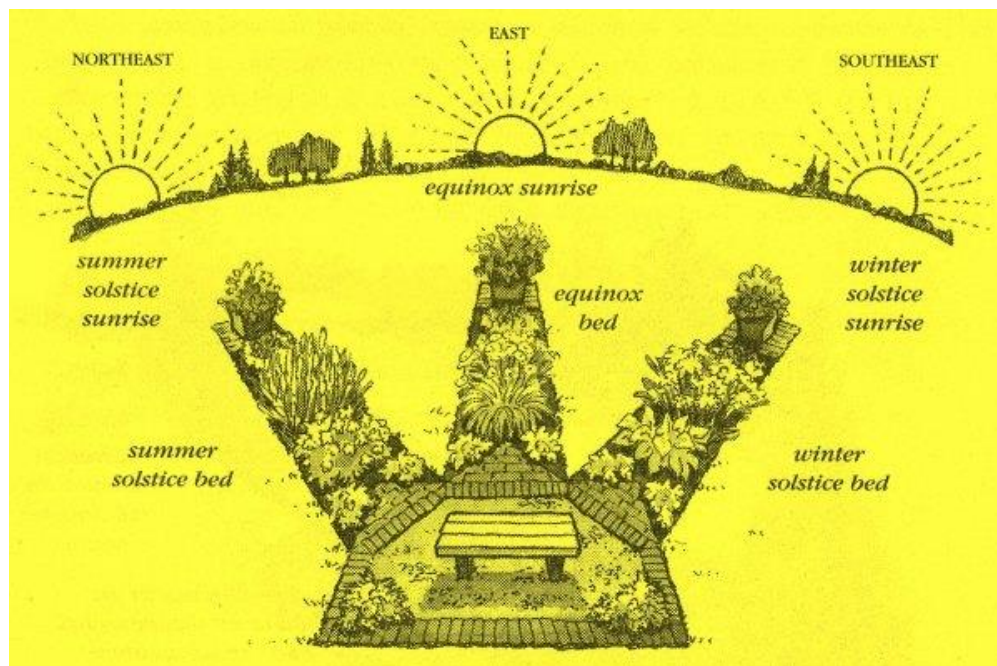




Obviously this garden will be centered surrounding a pond or even better a small waterfall. It should face west and be very mystical by design with labyrinthine paths, dense bushes and mossy banks. There are no hard geometric shapes in this garden rather, everything is designed organically. Garden edges are not clearly defined but overgrown somewhat. If possible the pond should contain fish preferably Coy. Sheltered areas for contemplation and meditation should be included. It is all very Zen!

### THE SUNRISE OR SUNSET GARDEN

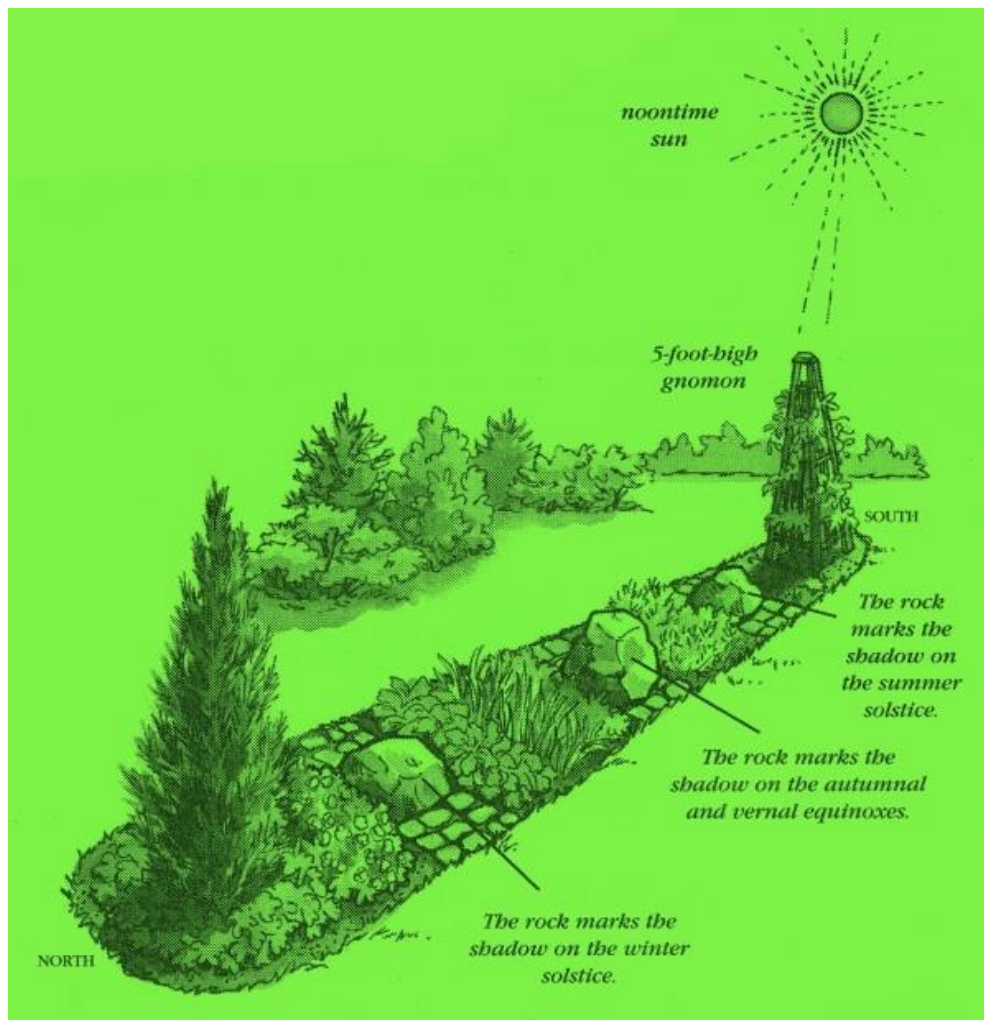
This garden works best if you have spacious property. The solstice sunrise and sunset alignments are most northerly in June and most southerly in December. The point where the Sun rises on an Equinox or Solstice should be marked at that visual point with a stone as a way of honoring the cycle of the year. Check out the diagram:



### THE NOON-SHADOWS GARDEN

This garden works well if you don't have a lot of space. You will be marking the noontime shadows using 12:00 pm for Standard Time and 1:00 pm for Daylight Saving Time. This is a simple garden to mark because you just need to locate the spot where the noontime Sun is visible for as much of the year as possible. This

garden always contains a gnomon which is a fixed object of any kind such as a sculpture, garden tripod etc. Ideally the gnomon should be at least five feet tall so the noontime shadow on the summer solstice will be at least 1 ½ feet long (the length at midnorthern and midsouthern latitudes). The garden base will run north to south of the gnomon and the bed should be three times the height of the gnomon. Mark the length of gnomon's noontime shadow every 2-4 weeks along the garden bed and place a large stone there OR use your favorite dates such as your birthday or special occasions to mark the bed. This eventually will become a calendar of the Sun. Check out the diagram:



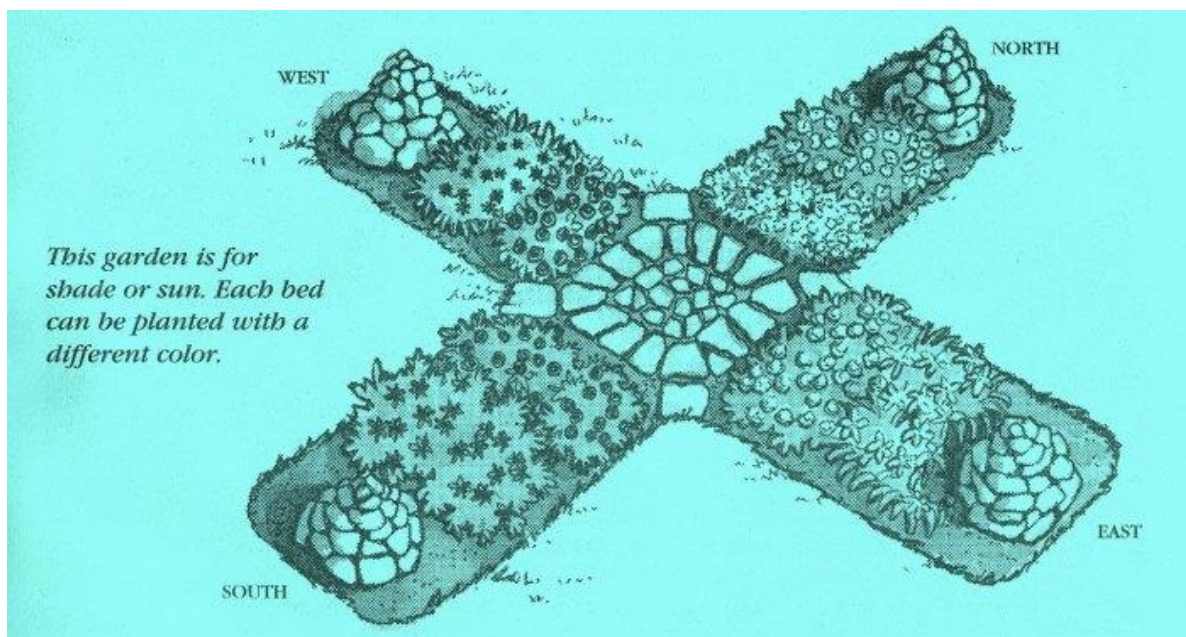
### THE CARDINAL DIRECTIONS GARDEN

This garden includes some help from astronomy: True North comes from the direction of Polaris the North Star. For those at midnorthern latitudes, south comes

from the direction of the noontime Sun as it transits the sky in a daily arc. Due east and west come from the sunrise and sunset on the equinoxes.

There is plenty of flexibility with the layout and size of this garden. Pick a good size spot and mark where you think the center of the garden should be. Decide upon the size and the shape while including how far from the center you will mark the Cardinal Directions. The markers can be incorporated into the garden bed at the perimeter or extend beyond the confines of the plants. Get out your compass to determine N, S, E, and W and mark these directions using large rocks (these should be big enough so they can't be kicked out of place).

Basically this garden is in the shape of a cross - the Cardinal Cross so the beds will run north-south and east-west. At the center create a circle using flat garden stones. A fountain would also be nice. Don't forget to set in flat garden stones to make pathways for N-S and E-W directions to connect the center of the garden to the four directions. This garden represents alchemical initiation and the element of Fire so be sure to include color associated with the Sun/Leo (yellow/orange), Mars/Aries (bright red) and Jupiter/Sagittarius (purple) in the beds. Check out the diagram:



These are just a few examples of what you can do. Anything is possible with use of your imagination, resonance and dedication to Mother Earth and the Universe!



Resources: Astrologer Loni Haas R.MAFA, NCGR, CCHT; Astrologer Alan Leo; Astronomer Judith Young Ph.D.; Old Farmer's Almanac







# GNOMES

## THE 2ND GATE

*Dialog by GUS*

Greetings Earth people, I am Gus the Gnome here to inform you properly about my people and their realm.

The elemental spirits of Earth are the Gnomes and Dwarfs. I was chosen among our people to come and speak after careful casting of the Sacred Runes. We did invite an emissary from the Dwarf Kingdom to also come forward and speak but they are a grumpy lot and are too caught up in the iron and lead works down below in the Earth's bowels to bother!

All wee Folk know many ancient secrets that we can share with humankind so let's start with the Earth Element. Earth is stable, receptive, and feminine sustaining all life upon which the other three elements rely. It represents abundance and prosperity and allows all to use creativity in a practical and physical manner. It encompasses all of nature – mankind, animals, rocks, crystals, trees, and vegetation. The energy of Earth houses great strength, common sense, and practical wisdom that can be tapped for success. In magickal practices, Earth element is the grounding force keeping the Root chakra chord connected to Mother Earth.

Earth element rules the direction of North, the time of Midnight, and the season of winter. It governs the Zodiac signs of Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn and the planets Venus, Mercury, and Saturn. Earth Elemental Magick includes garden magick, image magick, stone magick, tree magick, knot magick, and bind magick. The goddess energies corresponding to Earth are Hathor, Ceres, Cerridwyn, Demeter, Gaia, Persephone and Rhiannon and the god energies are Adonis, Athos, Arawyn, Cernunnos, Dionysus, Herne, Marduk, Pan, and Tammu. These deities can be fun folk except for Demeter and Cernunnos who tend to be a bit bossy at times. Revered animals under the Earth element are the ant, bear, bison, bull, cow, deer, dog, gopher, horse, snake, stag, and wolf. Revered plants are cedar, cypress, comfrey, honeysuckle, ivy, grain, magnolia, patchouli, all kinds of nuts, and the mighty oak (favored by the Druids).

This is indeed a fine lecture so far is it not? Let's move on ...

Are gnomes real? No one really knows. Our existence is greatly attributed to Scandinavian mythology. There is some evidence that does give us away. For example, in 470 A.D. a roman, Publiu Octavus wrote that he had seen *a miniature person* who was further described as wearing a red cap, blue shirt and green leggings. This miniature person was said to communicate quite well although a few of his words were odd and unknown. He claimed to be from a race known as the Kuwalden. In the 1200s a fisherman discovered a statue of a gnome carved in wood that when tested dated back nearly 2000 years. The statue was inscribed with, "Nisse, Riktig Storrelse," which when translated means: "Gnome, actual height."

Our general visage is quite spiffy considering that we live extraordinarily long lives which is about 400 of your human years. Gnomes at 275 are in the prime of life. Our average height runs about 6 to 10 inches tall depending upon which kind of gnome we are. All of us have grey eyes and our beards always turn grey before the hair on our heads does! We all fancy our red caps and too belts and like to stay busy making flowers, plants, trees, crystals, and minerals grow. We bring color to nature using magic mushrooms we carry in our pockets and work with the fairies to guard the secret treasures of the earth. We are benevolent creatures with big hearts the only exception being our cousins the Siberian gnomes who can be quite vindictive.

Our females tend to stay in the background dressing less flamboyantly than the males so they can blend in better with nature's scenery. They tend to stay at home. The males start thinking about marriage at around age 200 years. Female Gnomes tend to wear camouflage colors gray or khaki. Until she is married she wears a

green cap, with her braids sticking out. After marriage, her hair disappears under a scarf and darker cap. When she reaches 350 years or older she begins to show a light beard.

When we mate we all only have one twin set of offspring Gnomes are born in sets of twins, two girls, two boys, or a girl and a boy. Children are breast fed for several years after birth. Gnome children wet the bed until they are 12 years old. Gnome girls are raised by their mothers and gnome boys are mostly raised by their fathers. Parents still spend time with the opposite sexed child but they don't teach them much about gnome living. At the age of 13 the gnomes are taught the things every male/female gnome should know. Male gnomes teach their son gnomes about knowledge of mushrooms and herbs, how to increase running speed, methods of escape by using mole tunnels rabbit tunnels and other ways, whistling, woodworking and painting, and many other tasks a gnome needs to know to do his everyday tasks. Young females are taught the "homely arts" such as cooking, spinning, knitting, identifying animals of prey. The adult male gnome weighs 300 grams, and the adult female weighs 250-275 grams.



All of us are nocturnal although we can be seen once in a while out in the daylight. We are friends with all animals but sometimes are considered prey by domestic and wild cats, snakes and hornets. We are also highly psychic and can easily see what ails the human heart. All gnomes are seven times stronger than any human. Our brain capacity is larger than the human brain capacity and our sense of smell is

nineteen times greater than human smell. We can also retain urine for a whole 24 hours! The males like their names prefixed with the title “Mr.” and we certainly do not like to be referred to with coddling names like “cute” or “adorable.”



We are known by many names throughout the world:

English - Gnome

Irish - Gnome

Mexico - Gnomo

Flemish - Kleinmanneken

Dutch - Kabouter

German - Heinzelmännchen

Norwegian - Tomte or Nisse

Swedish - Tomtenisse or Nisse

Danish - Nisse

Polish - Gnom

Finnish - Tonttu

Russian - Domovoi Djedoesjka

Serbo - Kepec

Croatian - Patuljak

Bulgarian - Djudje

Czechoslovakian - Skritek

Hungarian - Mano

There are several different types of gnomes: dune gnomes, farm gnomes, garden gnomes, house gnomes, mountain gnomes, woodland or forest gnomes and our distant cousins the Siberian gnomes.

The woodland/forest gnome is very shy. They are thought to be the most common gnome but there is no way to really tell because they are extremely adept at avoiding mankind. They never venture out of the forest and spend their lives caring for the woodland animals. They live in tree houses with little gnome tree doors and fancy green and brown hats, trousers and pants.

Next are the garden gnomes which can be found in just about any long-lived gardens. Long lived is a prerequisite since garden gnomes avoid new gardens. Garden gnomes have at least fifteen pockets in their overalls to carry their garden necessities. Garden gnomes are the travelers. They will even go live in busy human cities just to be in an older established garden. When they get tired of all the city lights and hub bub, they will take a vacation or retreat into the nearest forest. Unlike other gnomes, garden gnomes have no beards but do have bushy mustaches and fancy wearing bandanas along with their hats. They tend to look “dusty.” Never, ever call a garden gnome a lawn gnome or a yard gnome! They will retreat in their dugout houses and not come out.

House gnomes are the closest to humans and are scholars. They prefer older houses and enjoy knowledge and make sure they learn human language so they can better understand man. In this clan there is a somewhat different society where kings are chosen to keep their people safe. Even though they understand humans, they still view them as a threat.

The farm gnomes are secretive and conservative. They prefer old farms and live in barns more often than houses. They love farm animals and take care of them.

The dune gnomes live in deserts or beaches. They are a slightly larger gnome clan which makes it harder to stay out of the site of man. Dune gnomes have no beards or moustaches and are completely bald. They dress in loose fitting clothing, usually white, tan, or gray and wear scarves on their heads fashioned like Arab style headdresses. They live in either mud huts or regular people's houses. Sometimes desert gnomes ride on animals to travel.

Mountain gnomes are miners. They have both beards and moustaches and wear miner-like clothing in colors of gray, black, and white. They live in caves and dens in the mountains.

The Siberian gnomes are the most aggressive, and therefore, can be considered the most dangerous of all the gnome peoples. Unfortunately they have been affected by crossbreeding. They like to hang out with trolls and are well-known for their cruel tempers. They care nothing at all for animals or people and they take offense at the slightest things a human may do or say. They have no problem attacking humans in any way they can if they perceive an offense. The Siberian gnome takes revenge by killing cattle, causing bad harvests, droughts and abnormally cold weather.

All gnomes are knowledgeable of apothecary and herbal remedies. Here are some to share

Prevention of High Blood Pressure - Shepherd's Purse (2 grams to 50 cms into boiling tea)

Protection against Flu and Colds - Elder Blossoms (brew tea)

Infections of bronchial passages - Selfheal *Prunella vulgaris* (used for gargling)

Curing Insomnia - Chamomile or Dill seed (tea)

Prevent flatulence - Fennel Seed (tea)

Hardening of the Arteries - Daily leaf of Centaury Plant

Prevent or Cure Constipation - Dandelion Leaf (tea)

Depression and Listlessness -St. John's - Wort (tea)

Prevent Kidney Stones - Birch Leaf (tea)

Well humans, that wraps up today's lecture and I do hope you found it enlightening! I have some magickal work to do so I'll be on my way ...



*A gnome named Norman had no skills,  
he could not make a thing.  
He could not craft a wizard wand,  
nor forge a magic ring.*

*The King of Gnomes sent Norm away  
to go to craftsman school.  
There Norm could train to use his hands  
and learn to use a tool.*

*But, schools do not believe in gnomes,  
and child size Norm appeared.  
So, Norm was placed in second grade  
and told to shave his beard.*

*And Norman might attend your school,  
you'll know him anyplace.  
Not only is he two feet tall,  
he never shaved his face.*





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