



“my heartfelt commitment to you”

***Eleanor Kibrick***

applying the wisdom and tools  
of Astrology to your daily life

### ***MERCURY:*** **Magical Mediator for Relationships**

The energy symbolized by the planet Mercury, “messenger of the gods” is the filter through which we take in, process and then transmit information, ideas, and opinions. Mercury is an ***essential energetic medium for being in relationship!***

#### **Background**

This past weekend I led a workshop focusing on relationships, specifically in the area of communication. The challenge I set for myself was to facilitate the group, and each participant, to distinguish between different perceptual and communication styles based on which astrological sign each participants’ Mercury was in at the time of his or her birth.

Another desired outcome was to help everyone *appreciate each person’s communication style and realize that s/he was the “expert” in that particular way of perceiving and communicating.* Humor and our subsequent transformed discernment, could then override or heal the usual judgments we tend to make around other people’s ways of perceiving and communicating.

Indeed, I was hoping to help each participant widen the windows of his/her perception and get to know the “other” on their terms, with acceptance and respect. I feel we went a long way in accomplishing this, with lots of laughter and many “ahas.”

To illustrate what happened, here are a few examples: after an exercise where participants paired up with Mercury in different signs and asking each other Mercury questions (see below), we had plenty of time for group sharing. Person A reported in depth about her partner, B’s experience in the exercise. A’s Mercury was in the sign of Libra, symbol for relationships, and was therefore more focused on B’s response than on her own. In fact A needed to be reminded to share her own experience. Bringing this to A’s attention was helpful in illustrating some of her life patterns of forgetting to take herself into account.

In another instance, person C, with Mercury in Pisces, spoke eloquently and colorfully and told great stories filled with feeling. With the group’s good-natured feedback, C

could agree that he sometimes is a great embellisher and also very emotionally sensitive to outside influences.

Two participants, who each had Mercury in Capricorn, were thrilled to find each other and they could indulge in being as specific in minute details as they wished and find the conversation very interesting. Those with Mercury in Sagittarius or Aquarius were much more interested in “getting to the bottom line.”

As humans we have developed words, languages, concepts, assumptions and belief systems that enmesh us in a complexity of perceptions, biases, ways of knowing, styles of directness/indirectness - that are all under the umbrella called “communication.”

There is a tendency to assume that if we speak in the “same language,” we are communicating with one another. Obviously if it were that simple, there would be no misunderstandings or conflict in our personal lives or the greater world!

Many of our life experiences include painful episodes of feeling misunderstood, or of not “being heard,” or of exasperation at the *other's* apparent “denseness” - when we think we've been making ourselves perfectly clear!

### **Based on Mercury's sign at the time of birth**

Here are brief descriptions to help you recognize 12 basic ways we gather, process and transmit information, stories and ideas. Each person's birth chart is a unique blueprint that can greatly modify what I will describe below. Still, being aware of these different styles and perceptual screens – can facilitate your communication with – yourself, your partners, friends, family, colleagues, children, and even strangers.

Knowing this *one factor* about Mercury's sign when you were born, can begin to lift the veil on why you may have difficulty communicating with your spouse or boss or friend. Knowledge is power and self-knowledge is really a huge key to understanding your patterns and recognizing and respecting the “other.” If you're waltzing and someone else is doing the tango, how can you create an original dance, a unique dance for just the two of you, taking into account more than one rhythm? How can you conduct a meeting with several people and still hold a large enough space to respect that everyone perceives reality through their own filters? How can you develop the patience to *discern beneath their words* and hold the space for the highest good of all?

### **Questions Based on the placement of Mercury on the Day You Were Born**

**Mercury in Aries** – *making a point*– Do you tend to think quickly and take up ideas enthusiastically? Do you tend to be very direct, sometimes being a bit abrupt or sarcastic? Are you impatient when people seem to “take too long to think?” Are you quick to say “yes” to adventure?

**Mercury in Taurus** – *mulling things over* – Do you find you do better if you take time to “mull things over?” Do you learn more from direct experience than by reading books? Do you tend to have strong opinions or beliefs? Do you consider yourself a creative person?

**Mercury in Gemini** – *all ideas are worth considering* - Are you very quick in processing information? Do you have a very busy mind and tend to “think too much?” Do you sometimes jump to conclusions before hearing all the facts? Are you basically interested in ideas for their own sake?

**Mercury in Cancer** – *emotional conversationalist* - Would you agree that you tend to take things very personally when someone says or does something different from what you would do or say? Do you tend to get very emotional when you’re talking about things that really matter to you? Are you most comfortable transmitting information through telling a story or giving a hug?

**Mercury in Leo** – *What I have to say is worth listening to.* -Do you prefer to be heard than to listen to others? Do you tend to defend your ideas with vigor? Do you appear dignified or refined? Do you prefer large or grand ideas and schemes, rather than think about details? Are you comfortable speaking to an audience?

**Mercury in Virgo** – *there’s beauty in precise ideas and languaging* -When something bothers you, do you tend to mentally obsess about it? Do you tend to be kind to others and find ways to communicate without offending? Are you quick to learn new facts and consider yourself a logical person? Are you easily able to classify information? Do you tend to be more in your head than your heart?

**Mercury in Libra** – *and what do you think?* -When you talk to people do you tend to focus on them? Do you tend to vacillate around making decisions, even little ones? Are you a natural mediator? Are you interested in social justice or related concerns? Is it challenging for you to assert your opinions or beliefs?

**Mercury in Scorpio** – *the truth may hurt a bit and here goes.* - Do you tend to keep your personal thoughts to yourself? Are you very perceptive about other people and can identify their flaws or weaknesses? Are you a researcher by inclination? Do you tend to think very definitively with little room for shades of gray?

**Mercury in Sagittarius** – *direct and honest and sometimes too sharp* – Do you find yourself focusing on many subjects at a time? Do you prefer the big picture? Are you impatient with details? Do you have very little tolerance for deceit or lies? Do you tend to say exactly what you mean?

**Mercury in Capricorn** – *concrete thinker interested in accuracy and specificity* – Are you serious by nature? Do you need to improve your sense of humor? Do you have a good memory for facts and details? Are you interested in “getting on with it” – and solving problems?

**Mercury in Aquarius** – *resourceful and intuitive thinker* – Do you tend to be very innovative with your thoughts? Are you witty? Do you have very strong opinions and beliefs? Do you sometimes think you “know it all?” Are you a natural communicator in speech and writing? Do you tend to be involved with groups?

**Mercury in Pisces** – *idealist-poet-dreamer-mystic* – Are you emotionally affected when you’re in negative environments? Do you tend to speak in metaphor and colorfully embellish your stories, opinions and beliefs? Are you easily hurt or disillusioned and take differences of opinion quite personally? Do you feel like you’re a gentle person in a harsh world?

To check the sign Mercury was in at the time of your birth, you can cut and paste this e-address which will lead you to an international ephemeris, giving planetary positions for the past several hundred years: [http://www.astro.com/swisseph/swepha\\_e.htm](http://www.astro.com/swisseph/swepha_e.htm). Just click on your year and then check the tables. Below is information to help you understand these tables.

For astrology symbol recognition, e.g., Aries, Taurus, etc, here’s the link:  
<http://www.cafeastrology.com/symbols-signs.html>

For the symbols of the planets, including Mercury go to:  
[http://www.astro.com/astrology/in\\_planets1\\_e.htm](http://www.astro.com/astrology/in_planets1_e.htm)

### **Interacting with Others: Possible Combinations with Mercury in Different Signs**

Now just for a moment, imagine the permutations and combinations of communication styles interacting with one another in families, businesses and nations!

For example – how would two people who have Mercury in Cancer communicate their priorities? They may very well need a mediator (Mercury in Libra?) to help them get over telling negative stories about each other if they felt misunderstood or unheard. It would be important for them to reach out to each other with compassion and affection as Cancer is a sign associated with emotion, not reason. Any prolonged “he said, she said” conflicts could generate ulcers (Cancer rules the stomach).

What if a person with Mercury in Virgo had to make plans in a timely fashion with someone who had Mercury in Pisces - for a conference that was coming up? *It’s best for each to rely on the other for their area of expertise.* For example – the person with Mercury in Virgo could set up the timetable for the task flow and all the logistical needs, while the person with Mercury in Pisces could be in charge of writing inspirational material that would attract people to the event.

In Medical Astrology, Mercury rules the lungs and the breath. It also controls the thyroid gland and our metabolic rate. The configuration of Mercury in your chart can show tendencies for weaknesses or specific timings to be aware of regarding your health. For

instance, if Mercury was in Gemini at the time of your birth, it's absolutely imperative that you don't smoke! Obviously, smoking isn't healthy for anyone, and in this case, it's particularly toxic.

### **What Lies Ahead**

Now for a brief look at other planetary configurations during the next three months:

Mercury goes Retrograde from July 4th-July 28th. Three or four times a year, Mercury seemingly appears to be moving "backwards" relative to the Earth's orbit. This is a time when communication processes seem to slow down. It's wise to back up all the important data on your computer and check, double-check and triple-check your contracts, if you need to sign anything during this period. It's a good time for reflecting, re-thinking, and reviewing. Slowing down activities and taking the time to be quiet is a way to take advantage of this cycle.

The Planet Uranus, ruling Higher Mind and intuition, is in harmony with Jupiter, planet of good fortune and protection, from now until the end of September. This combination is the essence of serendipity! Hope that you have many welcome and wonderful surprises!

Do be in touch with me. I really appreciate your feedback.

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> to every one of you!

*Eleanor*

**Eleanor Kibrick** *has been a practicing Astrologer and coach since 1976. She specializes in providing in-depth, psychological/spiritual readings to help her clients appreciate and activate their potential. Eleanor also has degrees in Physiology and Pharmacology and taught Physiology, Pharmacology and Microbiology to nurses and other health professionals for many years.*

*Currently, Eleanor is Program Director for the Nightingale Initiative for Global Health (NIGH). She co-created NIGH's "Care for the Caregiver™" series of workshops that she has presented to healthcare professionals and at annual conferences of nursing organizations including AHNA, ARN and IAHC. Workshops include: "The Power of Words: Experience How Language and Thought Patterns Profoundly Affect Health and Well-Being and "The Language of Leadership: We are the Ones We've Been Waiting For."*

*NIGH's mission is to educate and empower nurses, healthcare workers and other concerned citizens to learn to communicate more effectively—about health issues—with each other, with friends and colleagues and with community and national leaders – and by networking together globally - to build a healthy world.*

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