

Treasures & Pleasures: The Fifth House

Modern astrology pays scant attention to the fifth house. A host of meanings is attributed to this house and they include creativity and children as well as those things which give us pleasure such as holidays, play and courtship, romance and lovers. In addition, it is also associated with risk-taking, gambling and speculative investments.

Such a grab-bag of related and not-so-related things has resulted in the playing down of the importance of the fifth house. Often this is not so much because we don't think the fifth house is important but, apart from the issue of children, we don't really understand the other meanings and how to apply them to our lives. This article hopes to bring light to the treasures of your own fifth house and provide you with tools you can use.

The astrology we practice today is primarily derived from the astrological resurrection of the late 19th and early 20th century. The astrology we inherited did not give much weight or attention to the fifth house and we can only guess why.

One theory is that the prevailing Victorian attitude said that anything that was pleasurable or enjoyable was evil. Alternatively, another way of looking at this was that aspect of a person's life was not considered to be edifying or constructive. Either way, the fifth house was relegated to the bottom of the pile. Occasionally, it was brought out to deal with the issue of children but with little else.

The question we have to ask is 'why'? Why wasn't it considered to be important? We come back again to what we all know as key words for the fifth house: children, pleasure, romance, play and gambling. Apart from children, all the other concerns of the fifth house could have been considered a trivial and unimportant.

Today in the 21st century however, our perspective on pleasure is at the other end of the scale. Where the Victorians frowned on pleasure for its own sake, today pleasure and all it relates to, is a multi-million dollar industry. We are inculcated with the belief that it is the 'right' of the individual to enjoy leisure and pleasure. This other extreme emphasis on fifth house matters is also skewed. If we simply consider the fifth house as the source of a person's pleasure or creativity then, we would also only see one aspect of the person's life.

To get a better perspective let us take the approach and consider the fifth house as part of an axis. At one end of this axis is the eleventh house which represents friends, ideals and group interaction. There is a saying in Spanish which goes "*dime con quien vas y, te dire quien eres*". Loosely translated, it means "show me the company you keep and I can tell who you are".

Basically then, the measure of the person is their friends and their social life. The eleventh house describes what we like and therefore those with whom we have things in common – ideals, ideas, opinions, etc. From

this is derived one of the meanings of the eleventh house – hopes and wishes. That which we hold as ideals to which we aspire, that which inspires us to act collectively (hopes) or sustains us (faith) are all eleventh house matters.

Our friends or, the groups with which we associate ourselves therefore are the reflection of who we are and if we want to know a person then, we look to their friends.

Now, the opposite of the eleventh house is the fifth house and as with any axis, the meaning of one plays a role in the meaning of its polar opposite. So, just as the eleventh describes a person's social circle, their hopes and ideals and their interactions in the external world, the fifth then provides us with the private view of this hopes and ideals. These relate to the instinctual and subconscious aspects of the personality, in short the private pleasures.

Our hopes and ideals, and our friends are the source of our pleasure, our 'play' and leisure as well as our romance and eventually, our children. The fifth house then, is an important pointer into the individual's private life and as Zoller says, "*the 11th is reflected in the 5th*".¹

Thus, the ideals, aspirations and faith that sustains a person finds individual expression through the fifth – the person takes what they see as an ideal (eleventh) and seeks to express it in a unique and individual manner (fifth). Through this the individual seeks to achieve their own brand of immortality whether through their children or a creative work. Therefore the 5th-11th axis is called the *immortality axis*. For the fifth house and its indicators can tell us a lot about what a person is really like. It provides us with the real measure of a person.

Each one of us is driven by desire and these can either attract or repel others. The nature of these desires are described by the sign on the fifth, its ruler and condition and its placement.

Looking at the fifth house, there are 3 main areas which it represents:

1. **Children** – the by-product of the creative act. Traditional astrology has a multitude of aphorisms which detail the condition and likely outcome of numerous planetary combinations as far as a person's children are concerned.

Whether a person had children was extremely important in the ancient and medieval world as children were the old age pension, the insurance policy. Without children, a person did not have anyone who would look after their interests when they got older. Children were a wealth as they were the family's labour force on a small holding. Even today, children are the mainstay of family businesses. How often do we hear of a business that closes or folds because there were either no children to carry on the name or, the children were not interested in carrying on the business.

¹ Zoller, R *Medieval Astrology Course Tape 5*.

In our modern world view, the concept of children has been extended to include creativity or creative expression. An artist's creations are his 'children'. Therefore, a person needs an outlet for this creativity because as we suggested earlier that the eleventh is reflected in the fifth, our ideals are made manifest in our creations and in our children. We see in the doting parent the aspirations of the individual made manifest in the child. Our children are our hopes and wishes made manifest. Having a child, whether it is a conscious decision or not, implies an inherent faith in the continuity of life.

2. **Desire and Pleasure**– this can be broadly described as what attracts or repels us; what we find desirable and what we find abhorrent. Just as our hopes and wishes (eleventh) are reflected in our children, they are also reflected in our lovers, our recreation and leisure activities.

The fifth represents any activity which is fun, pleasurable and playful. These may be anything from sex, sport or leisure activities – in short, the answer to any of following questions: *Do I like this? Does it make me feel good? Does it bring me pleasure?* are all the domain of the fifth house.

As far as human beings are concerned there are only two types of activity in which we engage:

- That which we do for its own sake – fifth house
- That which we do which serves another purpose – sixth house

It is in pursuing activities for their own sake that we make a statement about who we are and what we are about. We don't undertake these activities to make a statement rather we undertake these activities as an end to themselves. If you play sport because you enjoy it, that is a fifth house activity.

Fifth house activities do not serve any other purpose except to provide pleasure. This is play – the entire motivation that drives us to live. For play is about being. As human beings we have to 'play' in order to realise our own life purpose.

Again we have here the 11th reflected in the 5th – our hopes and wishes are expressed through play (that which we do for its own sake) which in turn helps us express our uniqueness.

3. **Honours** – as a result of 'play', of those activities which we do simply because they give us pleasure, we achieve recognition and honour. This is not a tenth house statement. The fifth house honour is that which recognises not our expertise or knowledge rather it recognises our 'talent' or uniqueness whether it is running faster, playing the piano better, or just being. It is an acknowledgement for being.

- The parent gets recognition through their children who are the creative expression of a love bond as well as the embodiment of hopes and wishes.

- The athlete who runs because they love doing it – not for anything but simply for the pleasure of it.
- The scientist whose curiosity and love of a subject leads them to life-changing discoveries.

They all achieve honour through the expression of their hopes and wishes – and this honour can simply be self-satisfaction.

These are all fifth house concerns and the key to being able to identify this uniqueness is to consider the following points which include the sign on the fifth house cusp, its ruler, its placement and condition, planets in the fifth, the triplicity lords of the fifth and the sign on the cusp of the eleventh.

Together they will provide an insight into the person.

The sign on the 5th house cusp – defines the flavour of 5th house concerns and reflects 11th house ideals as follows:

5 TH SIGN	CREATIVE EXPRESSION	11 TH SIGN	IDEALS, HOPES & WISHES
♈	active and challenging	♎	Equality, harmony and balance
♉	practical and sensual	♌	Passion, intensity and power
♊	communicative and intellectual	♋	Inspiration, Expansion and wisdom
♋	emotional and nurturing	♏	Success, credibility and control
♌	inspiring and proud	♍	Idealism, intellectual detachment and knowledge
♍	practical and organised	♎	Compassion, union and intuition
♎	Communicative and harmonious	♈	Action, challenge and physical prowess
♏	emotional and intense	♉	Sensuality, physical security and stability
♋	inspiring and energetic	♊	Communication, learning and movement
♏	practical and controlled	♋	Nurture, emotional bonding and creativity
♍	communicative and idealistic	♌	Honour, pride and recognition
♎	emotional and compassionate	♍	Organisation, analysis and practical outcomes

The ruler of the 5th – indicates the ability of the person to generate and enjoy play and creativity. A ruling planet with dignity (rulership or exaltation) will do so within social bounds. The person's pleasures are socially acceptable, they have children in a traditional manner and their attitude to children conforms to social expectations.

Should the ruler have no dignity or, is in fall or detriment, or retrograde then, the fifth house is experienced in a less socially acceptable manner or, in ways which are not conventional.

Alternatively, the person may be denied or unable to express their creativity, unable to have children or achieve satisfaction.

If the ruler is in an angular or succedent house, then the person is more likely to be able to generate their own pleasures while if it is cadent, the person may have to rely on assistance or support from others in order to do so.

Planets in the 5th –describe the quality of the play and creativity that is, ♄ may restrict or limit this while ♃ may expand or exaggerate. The outer planets ♃ ♅ ♆ will also be significant.

Triplicity rulers – using the in-sect triplicity rulers [see table below] a particular planet describes the particular facet of 5 fifth house concerns. The in-sect triplicity ruler is the one which determines the order according to whether a chart is diurnal (daytime birth – Sun above the horizon) or nocturnal (Sun below the horizon). For example, if the sign on the fifth house is ♈, which is a fire sign and the chart is nocturnal, the order of the triplicity rulers will be ♃ ☉ ♄ while if it was diurnal the order would be ☉ ♃ ♄. This is repeated for all the signs. The triplicity rulers of the fifth house are as follows:

1st Triplicity Lord – describes the person's **children** and their attitude to them. Its placement and condition will describe the person's situation in regard to children – do they have them, do they adopt or not have them at all.

2nd Triplicity Lord-describes the person's ability to give and take **pleasure** via lovers and leisure activities. Its placement and condition will determine the level of satisfaction a person gains from their pleasures.

3rd Triplicity Lord-describes the **honours** a person receives as a result of their creativity or children. Its placement and condition will determine the ease or otherwise with which they receive this acknowledgement.

embroiled in a court battle as a result of alleged sexual abuse of two of his adopted child and pursued a sexual affair with one of them when she came of age.

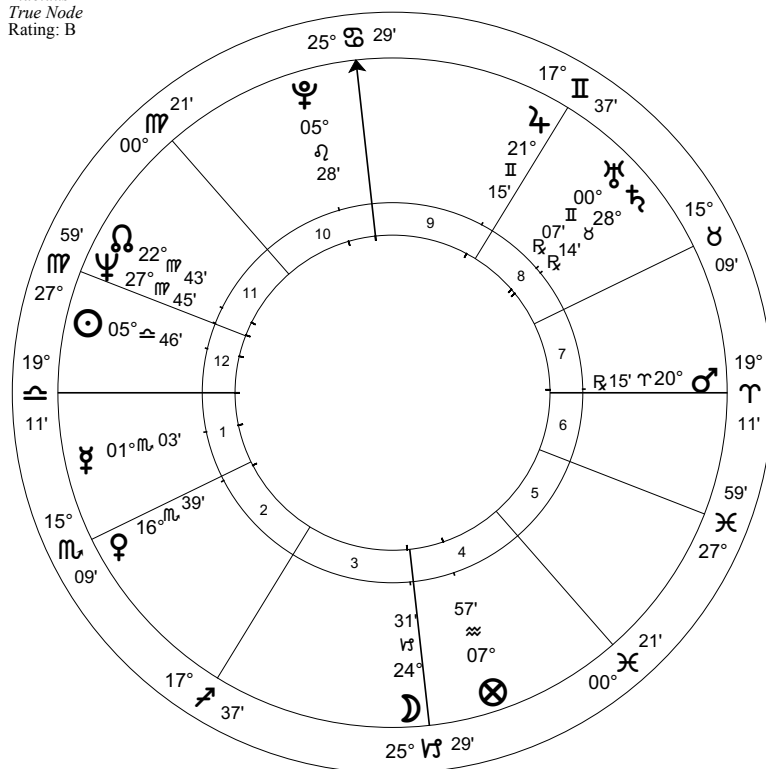
♀ ♃ 3rd – ♀ is in rulership in ♃ and is strong however its position in the 3rd, a cadent house is not as good. Allen’s ability to enjoy pleasures such as sex, play or creativity are again compromised. His pleasures are non-mainstream – if we look at his films, we see a running joke that there is always a character (which he more often than not , plays) who has trouble dealing with guilt in relation to having a good time generally and sexual relations in particular. We can also say that his ability to gain fulfilment from sensual pleasures is there however, these pleasures are unusual, or non-mainstream. Alternatively, they can backfire on him.

♂ ♃ 5th - when it comes to gaining satisfaction from his creative honours – gaining honours he is incredibly successful. The ♂ is in rulership and although in a succedent house, it does bring him recognition from that which he does for pleasure which is make films which tell stories of people and their flawed relationships.

His 11th house has ♃ on the cusp suggests that his hopes and wishes are about caring and nurturing and these are reflected in his films, his lovers (who usually are women who starred in his films: Mia Farrow, Diane

Keaton) and his children (one of whom became his lover).

Fred West
Natal Chart
 29 Sep 1941
 8:30 am BST -1:00
 Much Marcle, England
 52°N04' 002°W43'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node
 Rating: B



Example 2:

Fred West has ♃ on the 5th house cusp.

♃ – emotional, compassionate, ruthless, knows no boundaries.

♄ – ruler is in ♐ in the 9th – in detriment and cadent.

We could say that overall, his attitude to creativity and children is at best non-conformist and at worst, he has difficulty realising creative expression without the help and support of others.

The modern ruler of the 5th, ♀ is also in trouble as it is on the cusp of the 12th that we could

♂ is in fall and therefore, one would expect that he would need support in order to be able to carry this out. It is the family's fortune, that which he inherits (8th house) that provides the support to enable him to be able to express that creativity.

Looking at the triplicity rulers. ♃ on the 5th in a nocturnal or night birth gives us:

♃ ♁ 7th – ♃ is exalted and angular and his attitude to children is that they are important and has healthy, successful and handsome children. He sees them as essential in maintaining useful, productive and nurturing alliances. He derives much pleasure from his children.

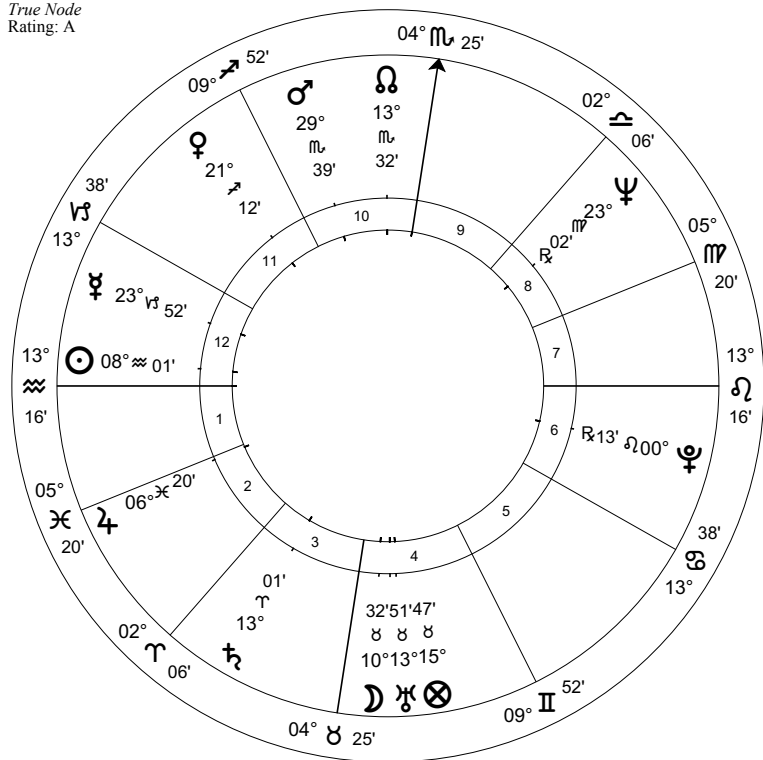
☉ ♁ 4th – ☉ is angular and his pleasures are conservative and private. The ☉ ♁ ♃, ☐ ♃ and ♁ ♀ giving us the picture of a person whose pleasures are influenced by power and money (♀), structure and hierarchies (♃) and Mother's family (♃ 12th).

♃ ♃ 2nd – ♃ is in rulership and succedent and the honours he receives are those associated with control and hierarchy. He is a man who has specialised in the take-over of media outlets and is considered to be one of

the most powerful men in the world through his control of influential media outlets.

His 11th house has ♃ on the cusp suggesting that his hopes and wishes are for an ideal with regard to communication, interaction and relationships. He also has harmony and balance as that which he promotes in the public sphere. Murdoch is known as a great supporter of the arts.

Germaine Greer
 Natal Chart
 29 Jan 1939
 6:00 am -10:00
 Melbourne, Australia
 37°S49' 144°E58'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node
 Rating: A



Example 4: Germaine Greer has ♃ on the 5th house cusp.

♃ – is communicative and intellectual

♀ – the ruler has no dignity and is cadent in the 12th.

This suggests that Greer's creativity is of an intellectual nature and because it is cadent she needs support to realize this – in her case she

taps into the support of the academic community and her university.

Her creativity is also manifested in solitary work (12th). She is not known for collaborative efforts and her writing comes from her work in an institution (12th) – Oxford.

Looking at the triplicity rulers. **II** on the 5th in a diurnal or day birth gives us:

♃ ♀ 3rd – is in fall and cadent. Greer does not have children and her attitude to children has always been an intellectual one (3rd) and her creative expression is purely intellectual.

♁ ♀ 12th – her pleasures are private and conservative and also intellectual. She has written a lot about sex, the politics of fertility and the oppression of the female sex. From what we know of her, she has had sexual liaisons but they are clothed in secrecy or hidden from public scrutiny (12th).

♃ ♁ 2nd – the honours that she derives from her creativity are described by **♃** in rulership. She is always noticed and whether she is lauded as well vilified – this is a good indication of a succedent planet – it is not always successful and if it isn't the nature of **♃** magnifies it. Any new work of hers, from *The Female Eunuch* to the latest article, always catapults her to centre stage. Even though the **♃** is succedent, she is successful in reaping honours for what she does.

Her 11th house has **♁** on the cusp indicating that her hopes and wishes are to inspire and to push back existing boundaries and she does this via her writing and her ideas **II** on the 5th.

In conclusion, the fifth house is an important yet unexplored facet of the natal chart. Proper judgement and consideration unearths a wealth of knowledge which provides an insight into a very private part of an individual's life.