

PART II

*The Language  
of the Heavens*

THE COSMOS  
SPEAKS

## A GALAXY IN MOTION

### *Planetary Influences*

*Astrology is a symbolic language that speaks to both our logical brain and our unconscious mind. Once you are ready, it will flood you with its insights, illuminating the archetypes that you are living out, the lessons that they are teaching you, and the ways in which you can channel the energy in your life.*

— CHANI NICHOLAS, *See How Born for This*, 2019

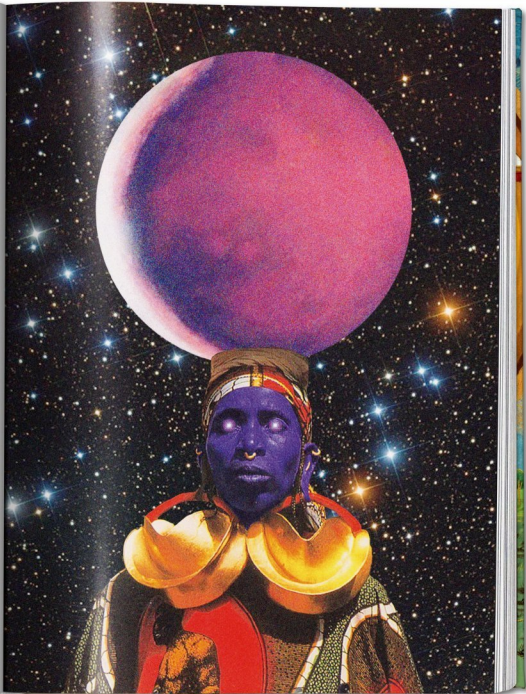
The universe is not stagnant, nor is astrology. Both rely on the movement of its component parts to function — there is no life or meaning without that dynamism. In horoscopic astrology, there are three main components to pay attention to: the planets, the Zodiac signs, and the houses. Each of these parts serves as an important building block to creating a horoscope, and they — along with their interplay — are fundamental to astrology's structure and rich language.

To understand astrology, one must start with the Sun, the Moon, and the planets because their characteristics — call them attributes, associations, or properties — are the cornerstones of the discipline. In ancient astrology, the visible planets were seen as “wanderers” because of their movement in the night sky;

in fact, the word planet comes from the Greek word *planē* or *planētis*, which translates to “who wanders around.” As these wanderers were watched by various cultures, they were named, often after specific characters from that culture's mythology, folklore, or religious stories. Today, we know them by their Roman names, which harkens back to Greek mythology, establishing an immediate and specific set of associations (correspondences) and characterizations for each planet. This mythological backdrop and its rich lore are essential to astrology. By 150 BCE, philosopher, astrologer, and mathematician Ptolemy articulated a system of ruling correspondences between what were then the five known planets (Mars, Venus, Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn), the Sun and the Moon, and the 12-constellation Zodiac.

(greenish) Raphael - *The School of Athens* (detail) Italy · 1509–11 Depicting scholars of philosophy for Pope Julius II's library, Raphael's masterpiece suggests the unity of earth and sky. Cosmographer Ptolemy, with a terrestrial globe, stands opposite the geographer Strabo, with a celestial sphere.

Mantel Bowman - *Skabard* - United States · 2017 “The planets follow a cyclic pattern, almost clock-like,” explains the artist Bowman in an interview with *Brit* *Luna of The Hoodlums*. “I believe we are creatures of patterns. No matter minuscule or macrocosmic, we are affected by the planets around us.”







PART III

*The Wisdom  
of the Wheel*

EXPLORING  
THE ZODIAC

