

12 Reasons Why Whole Sign Houses Is The Best System of House Division

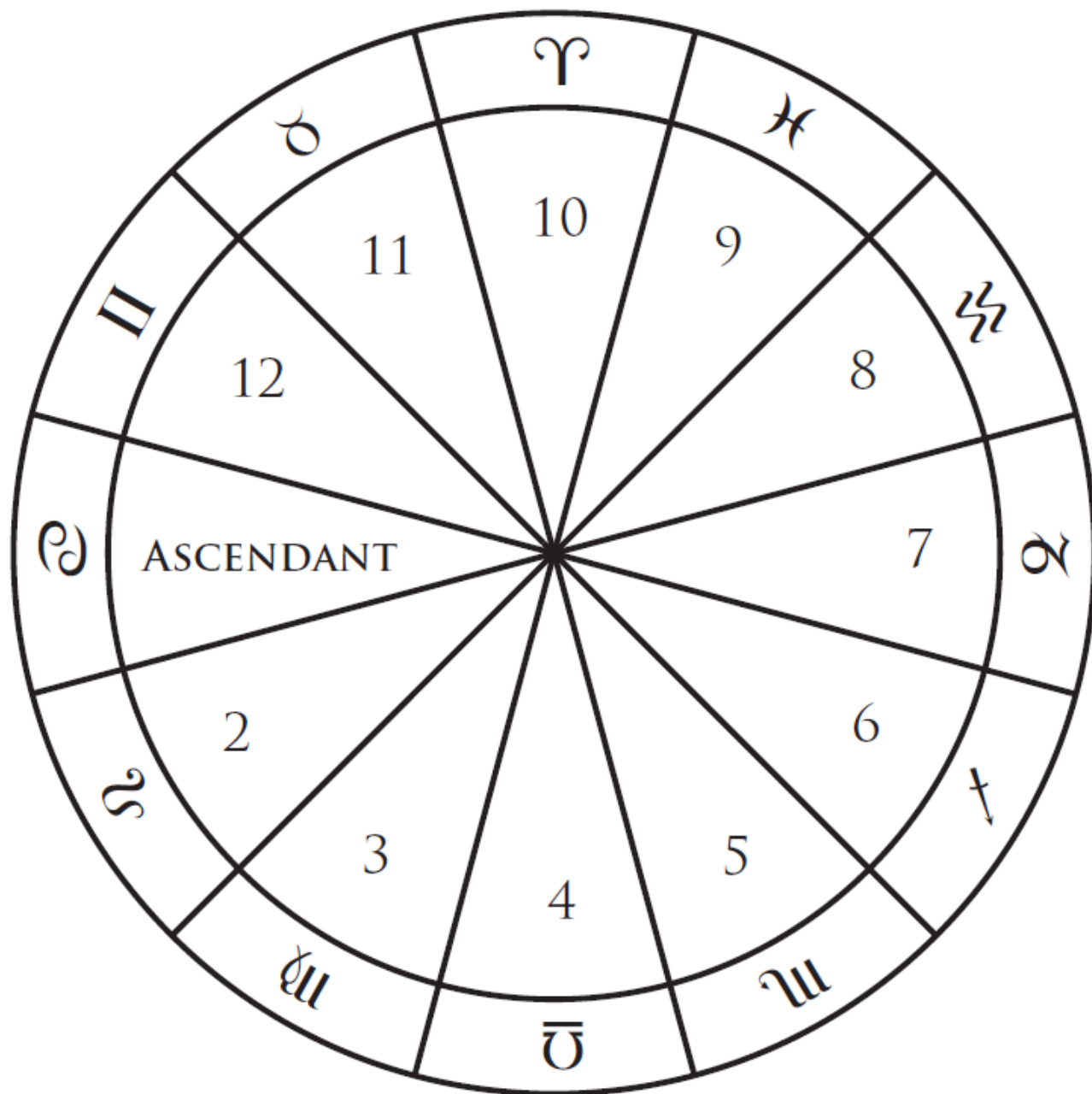
Chris Brennan

Background Information

- In 1982 Holden published a paper in the AFA research journal titled “Ancient House Division.”
 - He was first to point out that WSH was the original system of house division in western astrology.
- Later confirmed by Schmidt & Hand in mid-90s.
 - They dubbed it “whole sign houses.”
- Hand started popularizing it in the 90s.
 - Started to catch on by the late 2000s/early 2010s.
- Quickly becoming a widely used system.
- I’ll present some arguments for why.

Calculating Whole Sign Houses

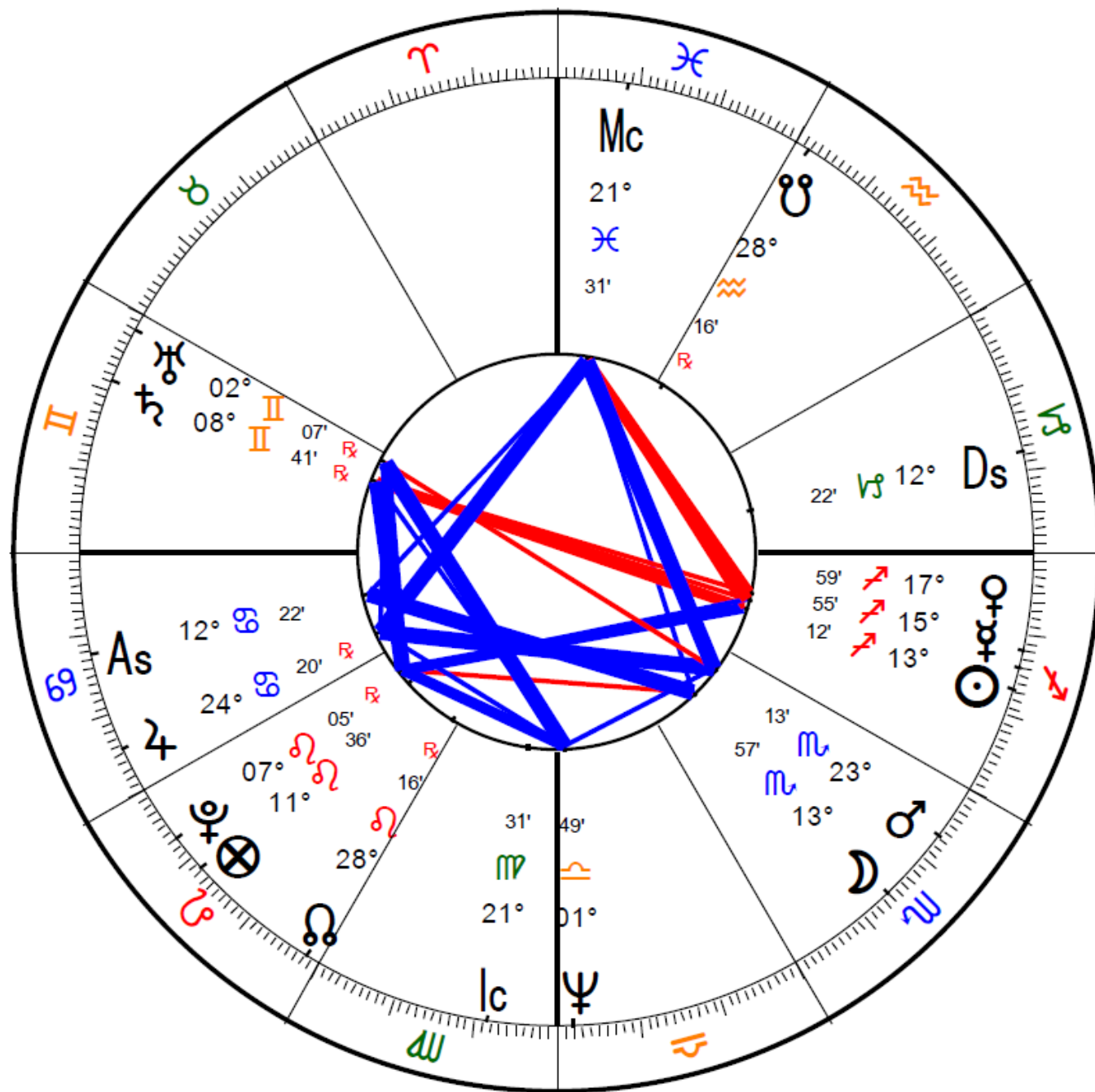
- Whatever sign the Ascendant is located in, that sign becomes the first house.
 - From 0 to 30 degrees of the sign.
 - Regardless of how early or late the ASC is.
- ASC was originally called the “Hour-Marker.”
 - It marks or designates the rising sign.
- ASC is not the starting point of the 1st house.
 - Acts as a floating sensitive point.
- Other houses assigned to the signs in order.
 - There are 12 houses and 12 signs.

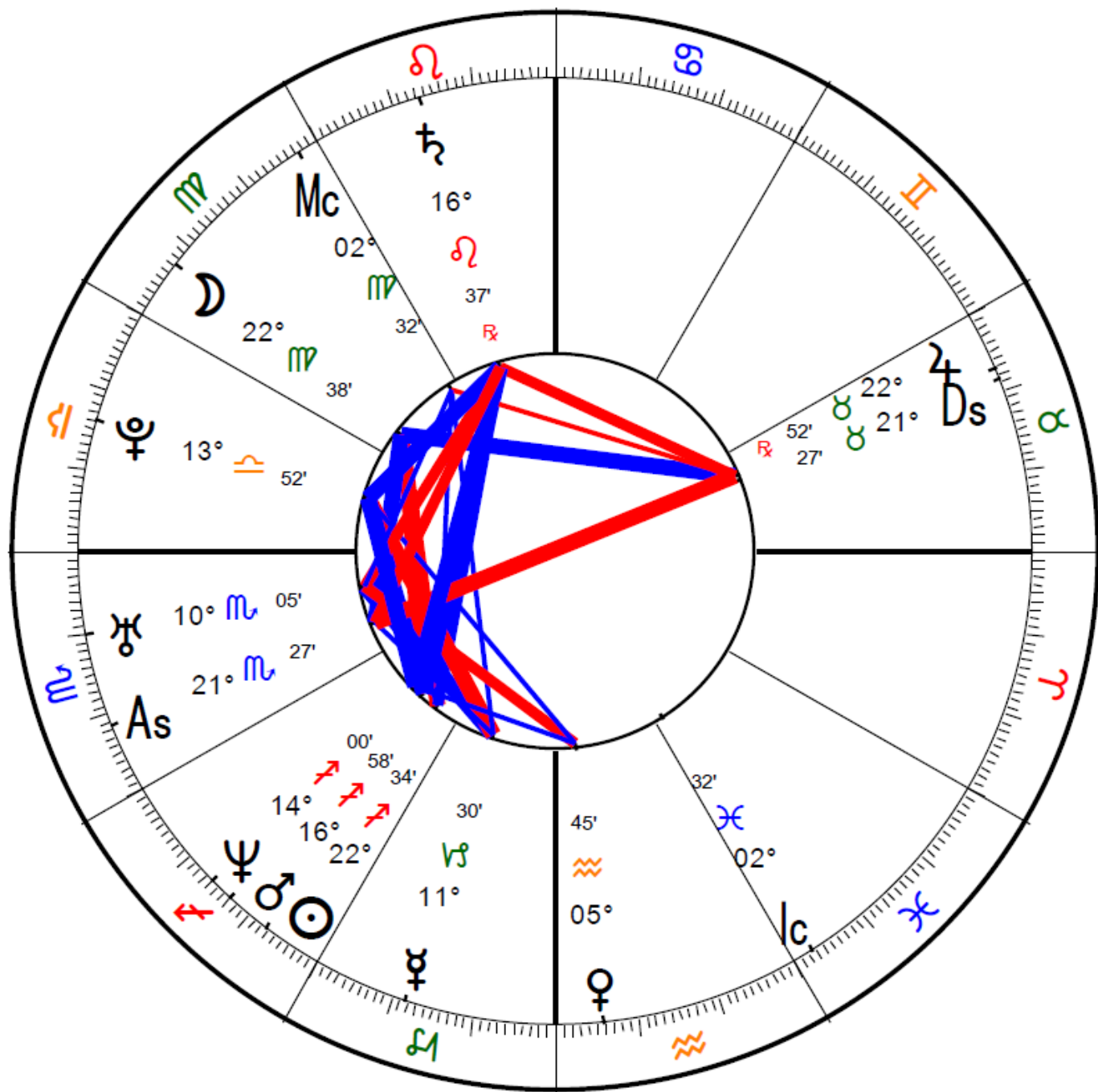


The MC and IC

- MC and IC become floating sensitive points.
- They do not act as the start of the 10th or 4th.
- They important 10th and 4th house significations into the house they fall in.
- This doubles up the significations of that house

The diagram is a circular chart with 12 radial lines dividing it into 12 equal segments. The segments are numbered 1 through 12 in a clockwise cycle starting from the top. The chart is divided into four quadrants by two perpendicular lines. The quadrants are labeled: PIVOT (top), SUCCEDENT (right), DECLINE (bottom), and PIVOT (left). The labels are placed on the outer edge of the circle. The numbers 1 through 12 are placed in the center of each segment. The segments are arranged as follows: 12 (PIVOT), 1 (PIVOT), 2 (PIVOT), 3 (PIVOT), 4 (DECLINE), 5 (DECLINE), 6 (DECLINE), 7 (DECLINE), 8 (SUCCEDENT), 9 (SUCCEDENT), 10 (SUCCEDENT), 11 (SUCCEDENT). The diagram is labeled 'Figure 1. The 12 months of the year'.





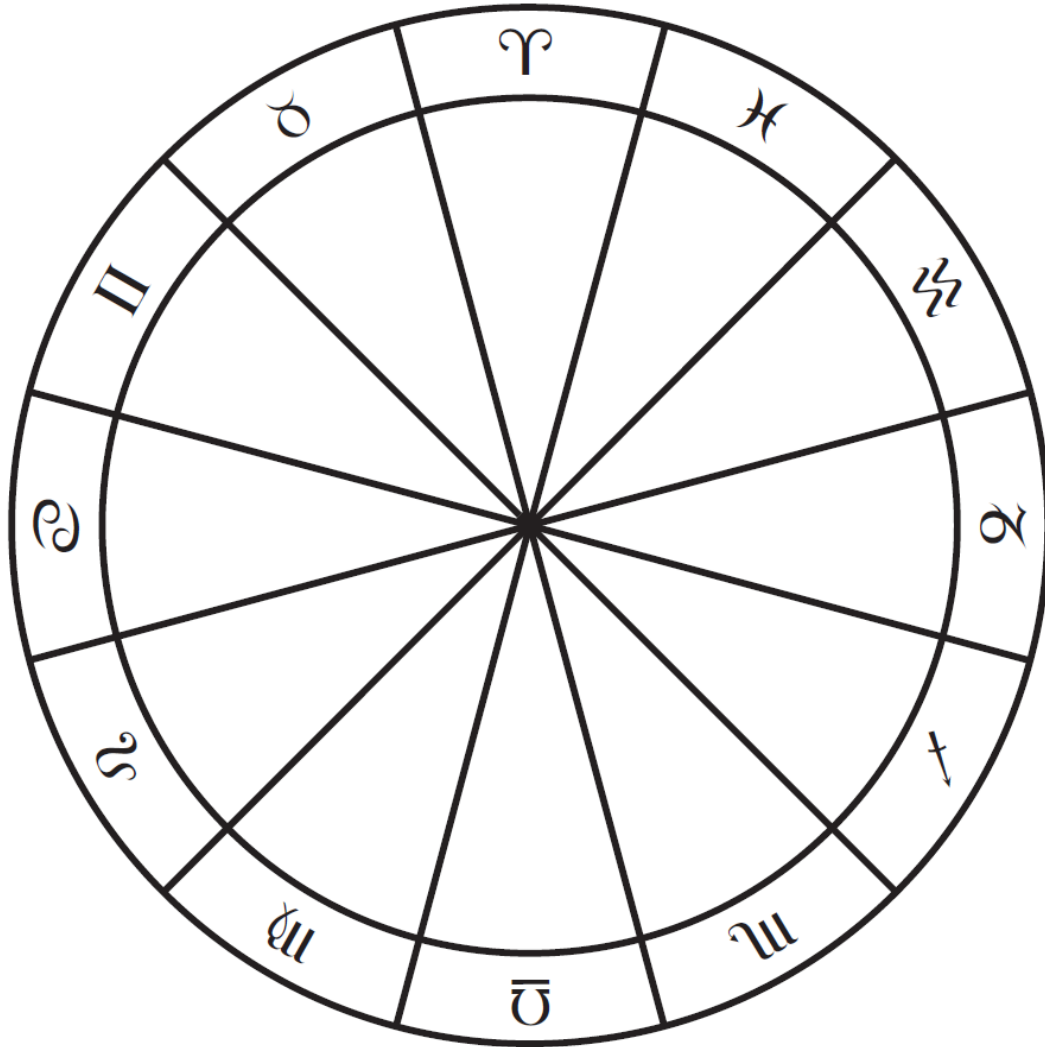
The Origins of Houses

- Western astrology was created in the 1st century BCE based on a fusion of the previous Mesopotamian and Egyptian traditions.
- Beginning of “Hellenistic astrology.”
 - Practiced from 1st century BCE to 7th century CE.
- Concept of houses first introduced c. 75 BC.
- Didn't really exist as we know it prior to this.
- Resulted from merging zodiac with decans.

A satellite map of the Middle East region, specifically focusing on Mesopotamia. The word "MESOPOTAMIA" is written in a white, serif, all-caps font across the center of the image. The map shows the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flowing through a dry, brownish landscape. The surrounding areas include the Mediterranean Sea to the west, the Persian Gulf to the east, and the Red Sea to the south. The terrain is characterized by a mix of brown, tan, and green hues, indicating different land types and vegetation. The word "MESOPOTAMIA" is centered horizontally and vertically, with a bounding box of approximately [383, 436, 655, 490].

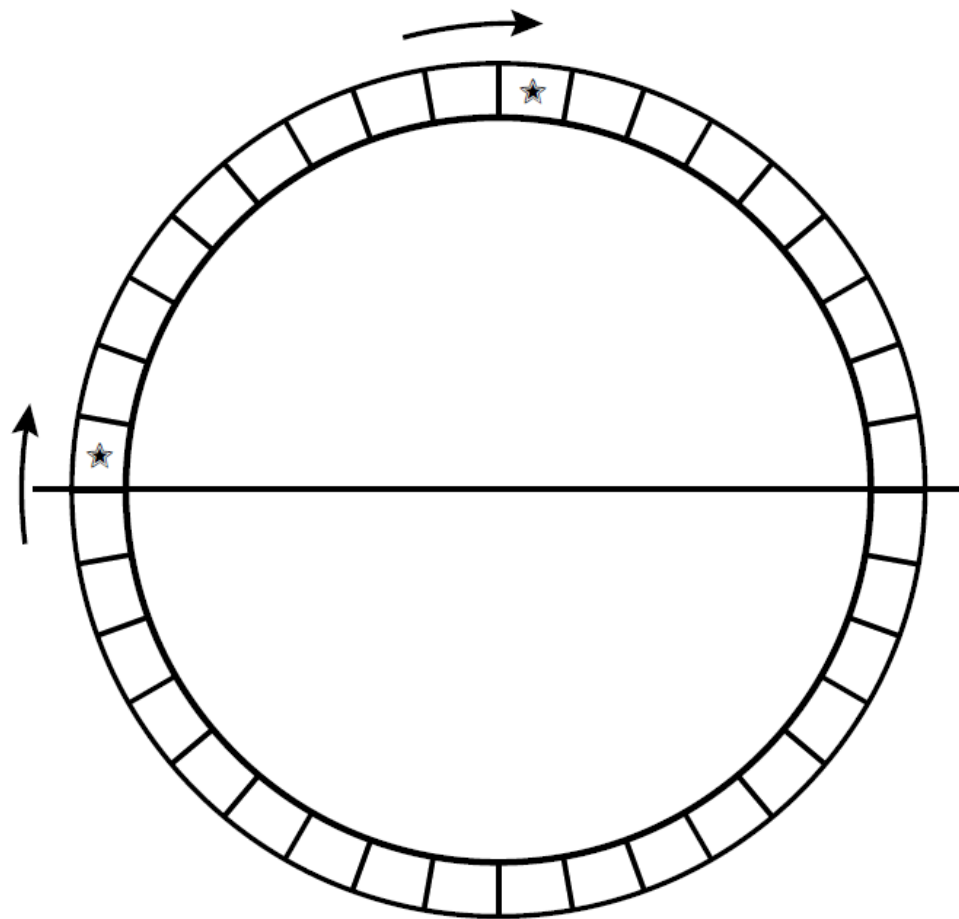
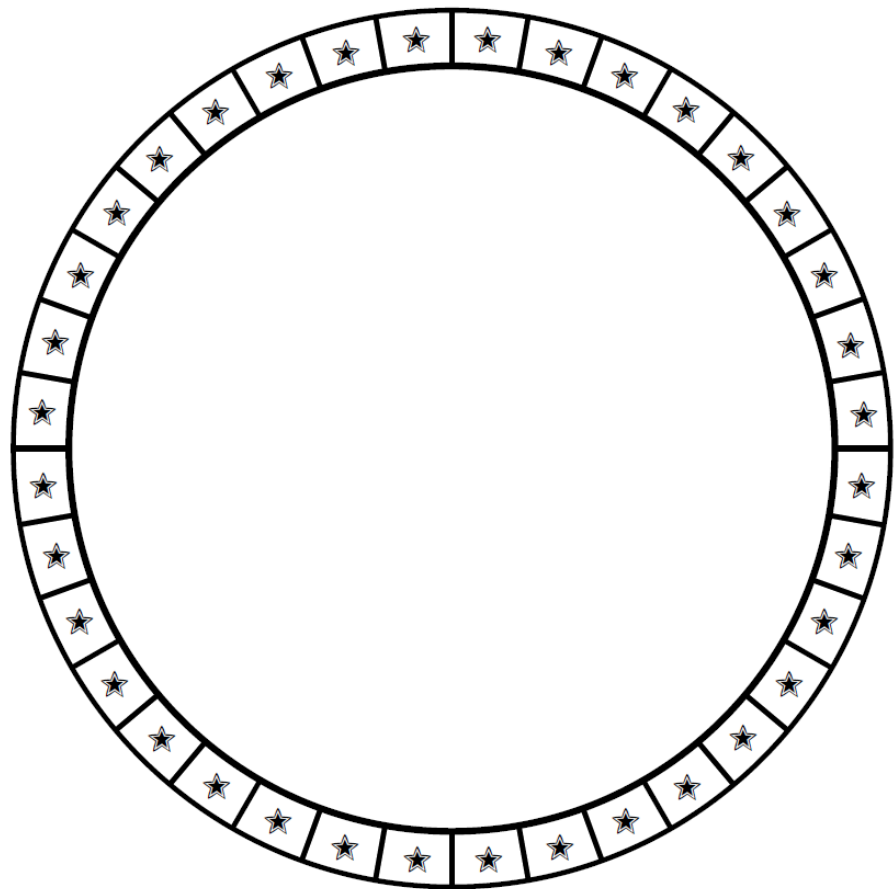
MESOPOTAMIA

The Zodiac





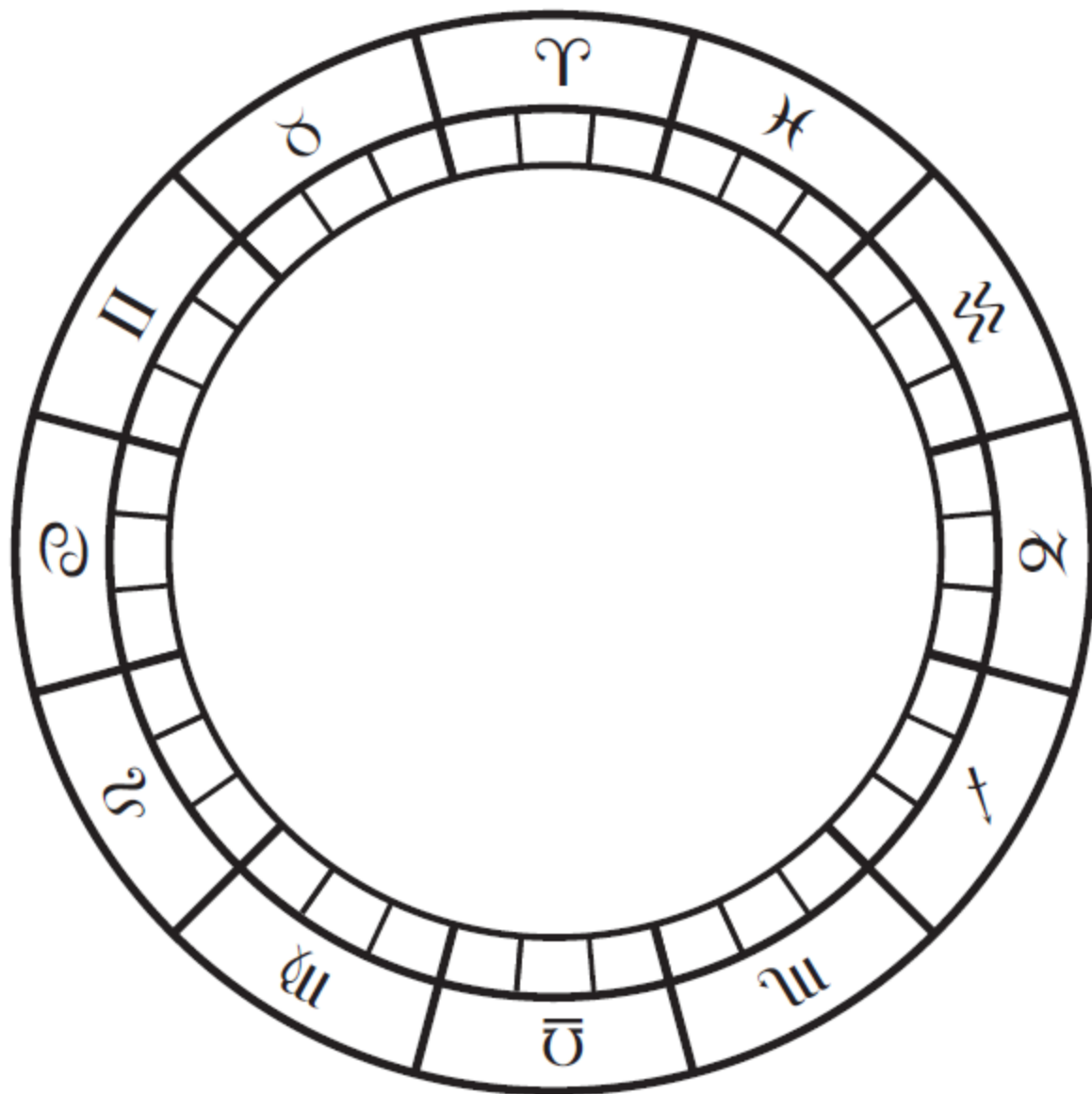
The Decans

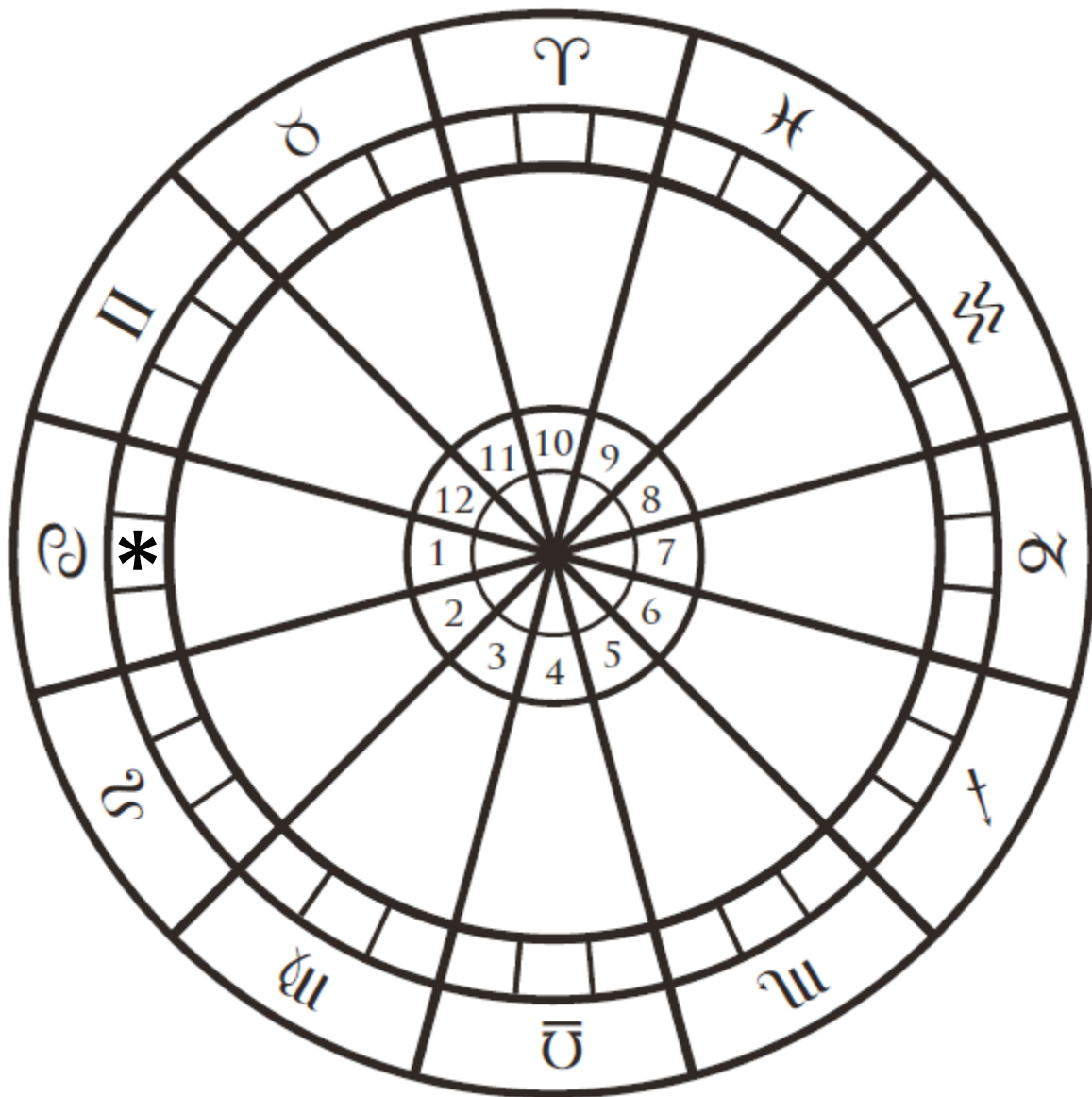


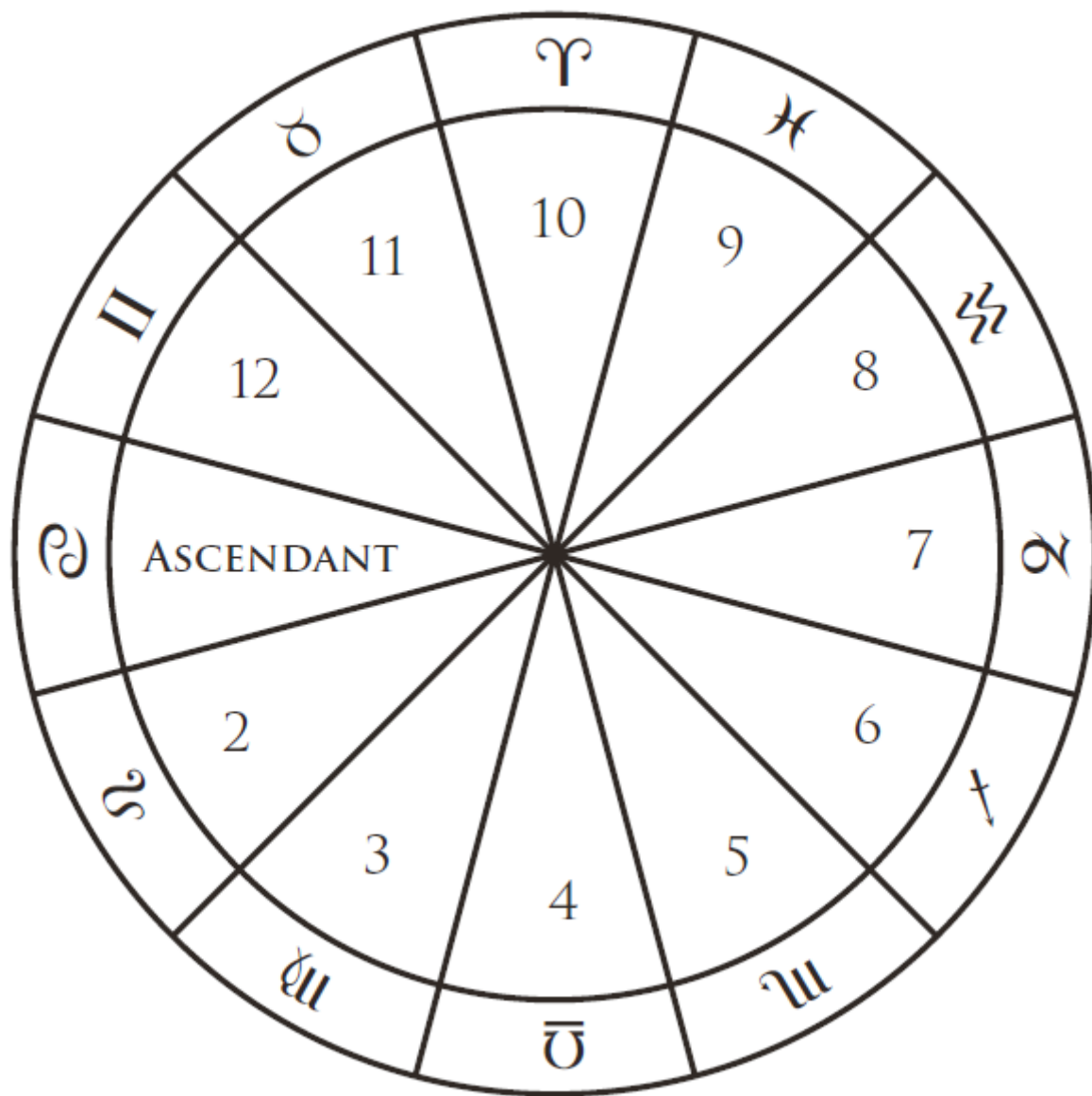
Conquests of Alexander the Great - Hellenistic Empire (4th century BCE)



Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:MacedonEmpire.jpg>







12 Arguments for Whole Sign Houses

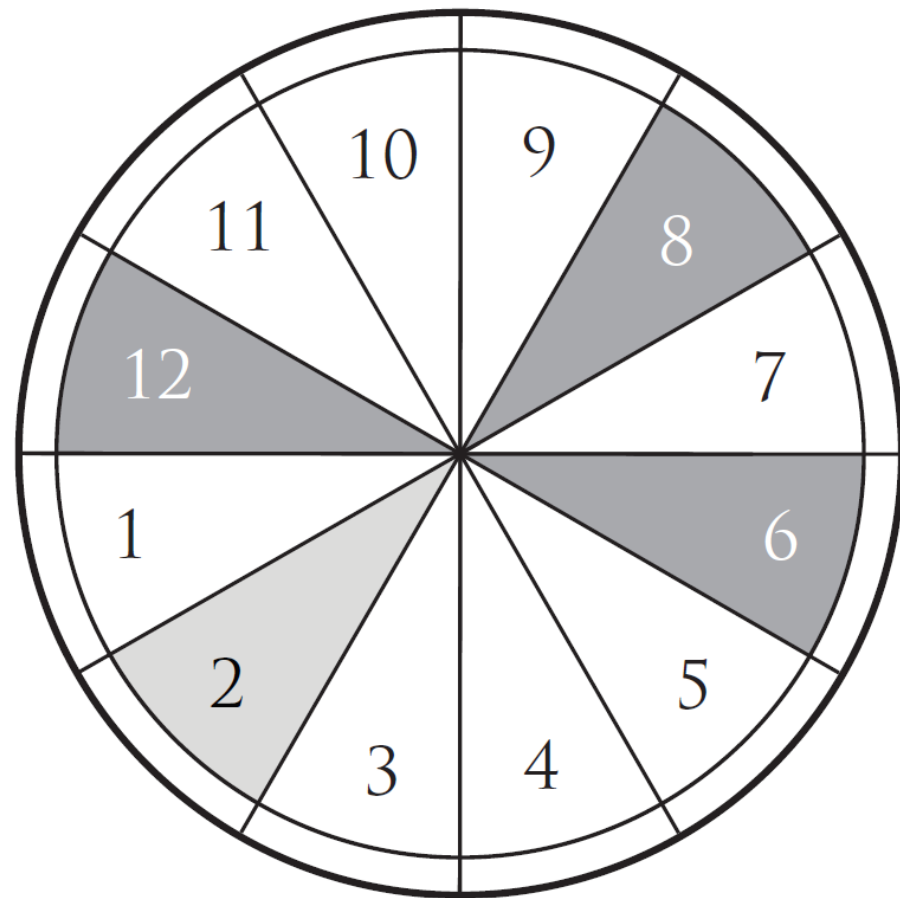
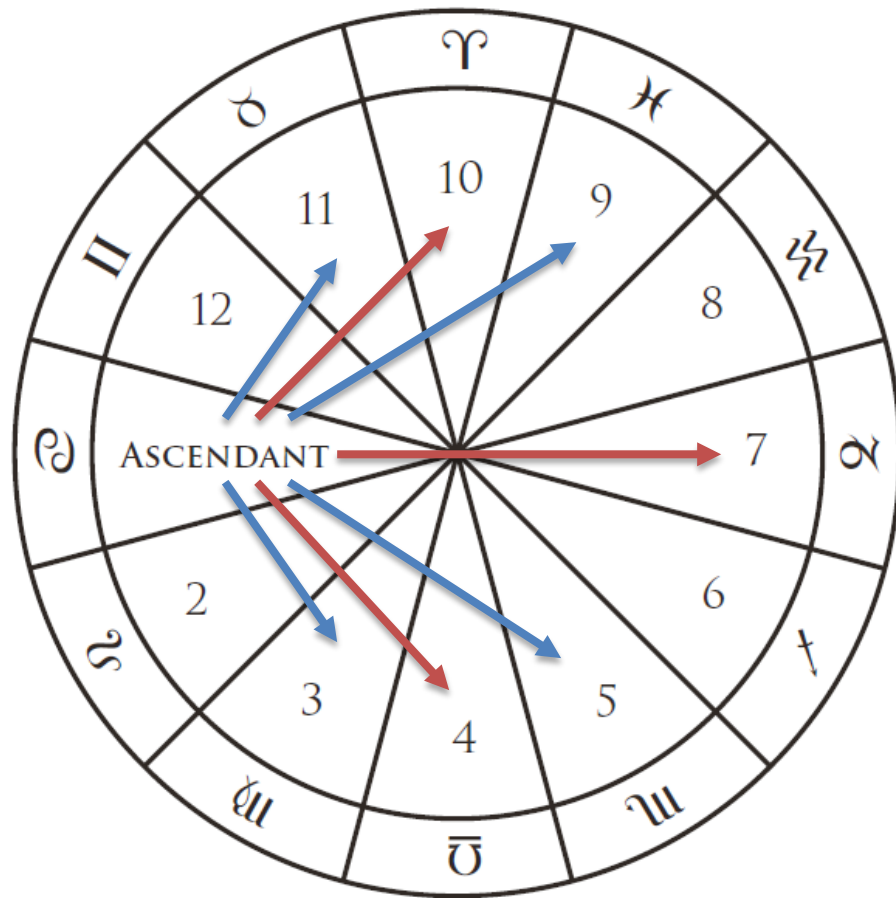
Argument 1: Appeal to Antiquity

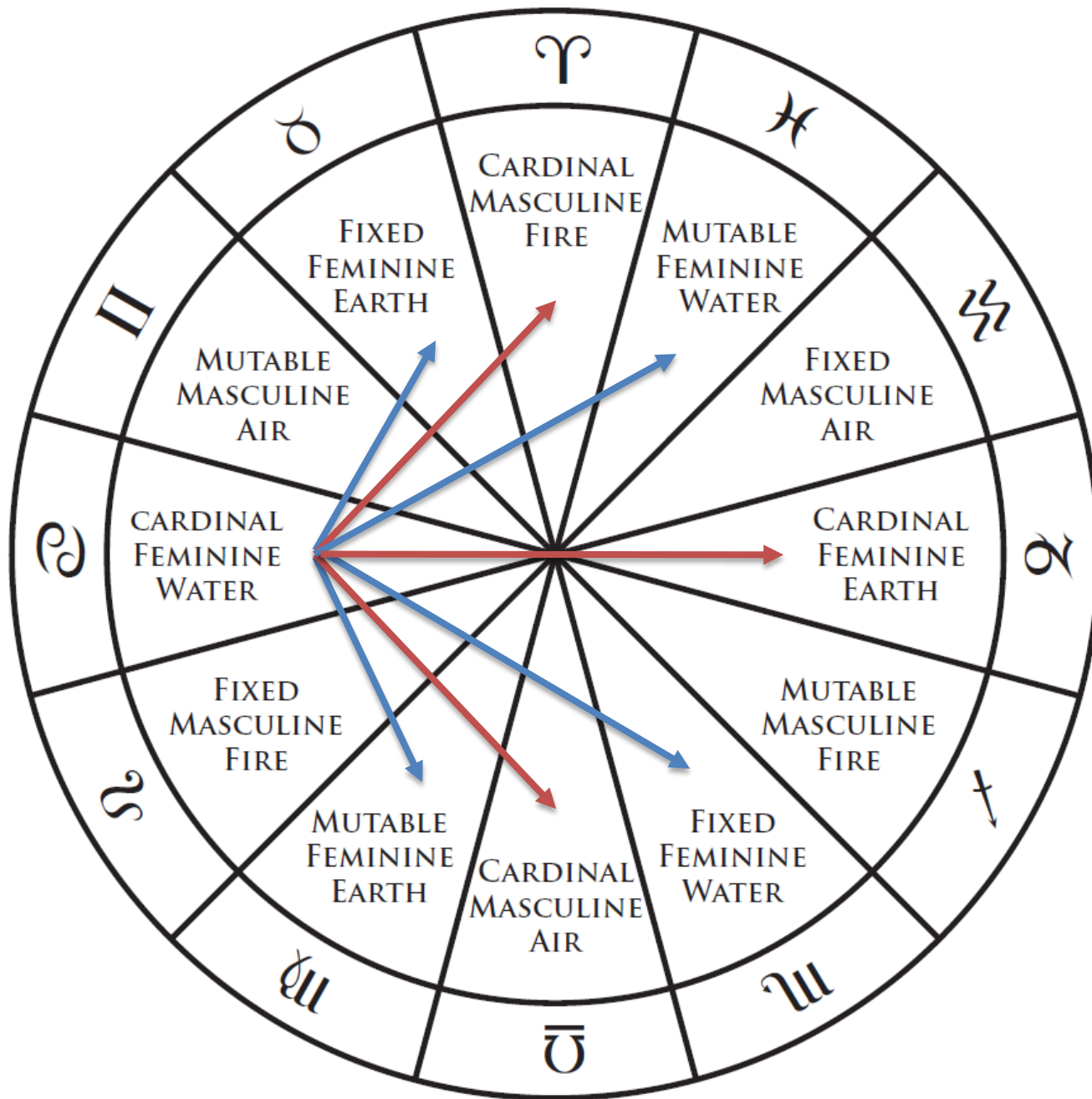
- WSH was the original form of house division.
- Also the dominant form of house division for the first thousand years of western astrology.
- Virtually all of the Hellenistic astrologers used it, from the 1st through the 7th century.
 - Ptolemy, Valens, Dorotheus, Rhetorius, Manilius, etc
- Even used in the early Medieval tradition.
 - Masha'allah, Sahl ibn Bishr, Theophilus

Argument 2: Many Core House Significations Are Derived from WSH

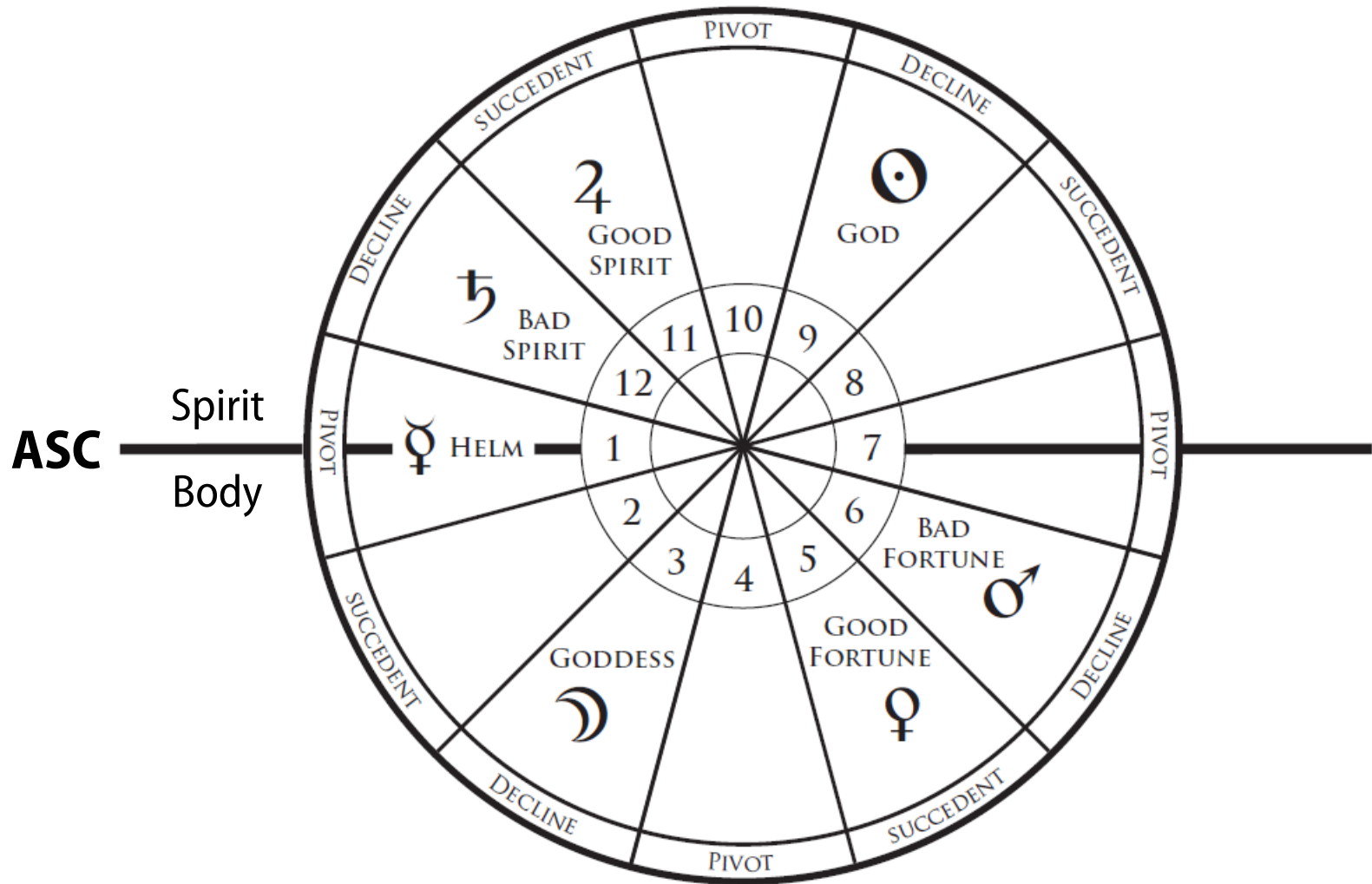
- Since it was the original system, many of the core significations of the houses were originally developed within the framework of WSH.
- Even though many of these significations are still attributed to the houses today due to tradition, many of them **only** make sense conceptually in the context of WSH.
- This is due to the connection between houses, signs, and aspects in the ancient traditions.
- Same logic doesn't hold up in quadrant houses.

Significations of Difficult Houses Partially Based on Lack of Aspect to Rising Sign

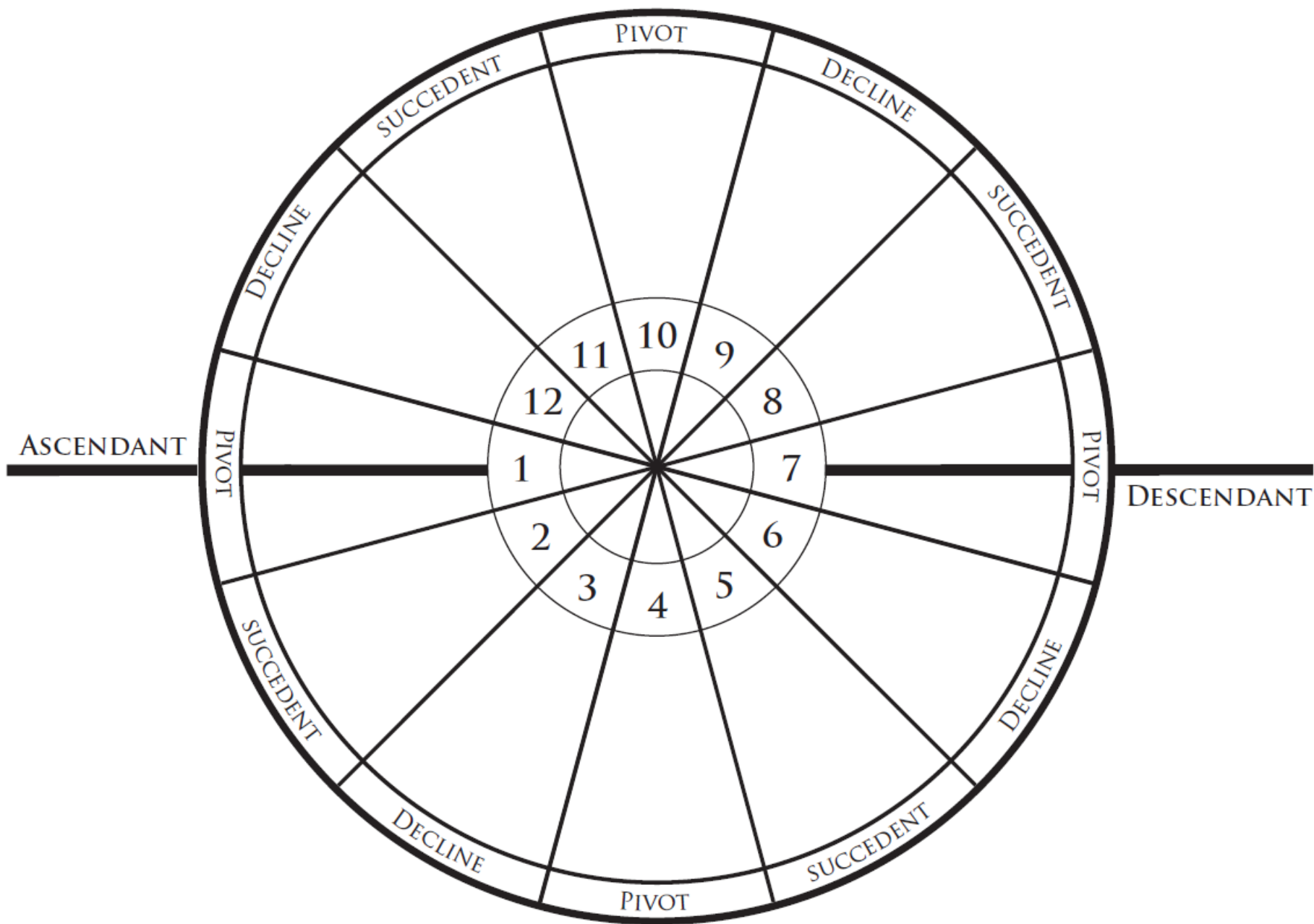




SOLAR HEMISPHERE
SOUL / MIND
SPIRIT



FORTUNE
BODY / MATTER
LUNAR HEMISPHERE



Argument 3: The Shift to Quadrant Houses Was Sudden and Not Well-Considered

- Early Medieval astrologers like Sahl and Masha'allah (c. 800 CE) still primarily used WSH.
- By the time of Abu Ma'shar (c. 850 CE) and after there was a sudden shift to quadrant houses.
- The shift may have happened within the course of a single generation of astrologers.
 - We don't know why.
 - After this WSH were forgotten.
- 20+ forms of quadrant houses are introduced.
 - Little agreement after this point.

Why Did the Switch to Quadrant Houses Happen Around the 9th Century?

- Frankly, we don't know.
- There are many possible theories.
- Hand: misunderstanding or translation error?
- Other possible theories:
 - Introduction of new aspect doctrines and move towards using orbs may have obscured original connection between signs and houses?
 - Different mathematicians showing off their skills by creating new systems?
 - Quadrant houses seem more sophisticated and complex, which may have been appealing.
 - May have seemed like a new and more advanced piece of technology, which may have started a fad.
 - Were quadrant houses the iPhone of the 9th century?

Argument 4: Solves a Longstanding Dispute

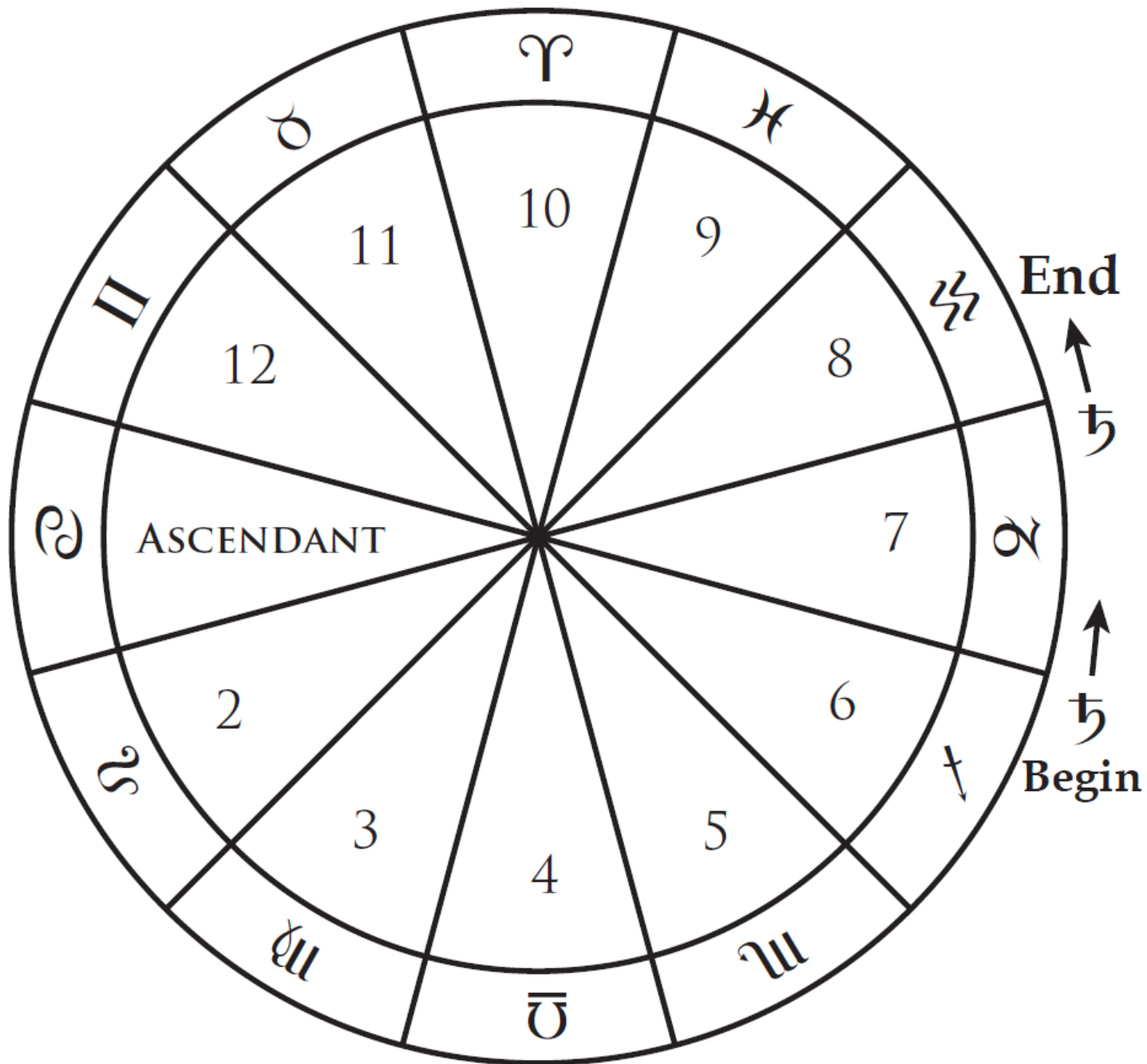
- 20+ systems of quadrant houses are introduced shortly after the 9th century.
- From then until now house division became one of the most disputed topics in astrology.
 - 1000 years of disagreement!
- Astrologers frequently have poor reasons for favoring one approach versus another.
 - “It is the system I started with.”
 - “It is the one that Rudhyar/Alan Leo/Lilly used.”
 - “X system of houses puts the asteroid Beer on the cusp of my 11th house.”
- Maybe this is an area of disagreement because we have been going about it wrong since 9th century?

Argument 5: More Readily Testable

- Cusps are not always hugely different in QHS.
 - Especially since there are dozens of systems.
- With so many different systems, how can you test them against each other and know for sure which one is working better?
- WSH presents such a radically different approach that it is more easy to test.
- Also more readily testable because there is no question about where the cusps are.
 - Cusps of the houses are the cusps of the signs.

Argument 6: Transits Through Houses are More Clear

- In WSH the ingress of a transiting planet into a new sign is also an ingress into a new house.
- The transit begins when the planet enters the sign, and ends when it leaves that sign.
- You will often notice the house topics coming into focus right away.
- There is no BS 5 degree rule with cusps.
- Also works with transits to planets.
- Makes WSH very easy to test.



End

Begin



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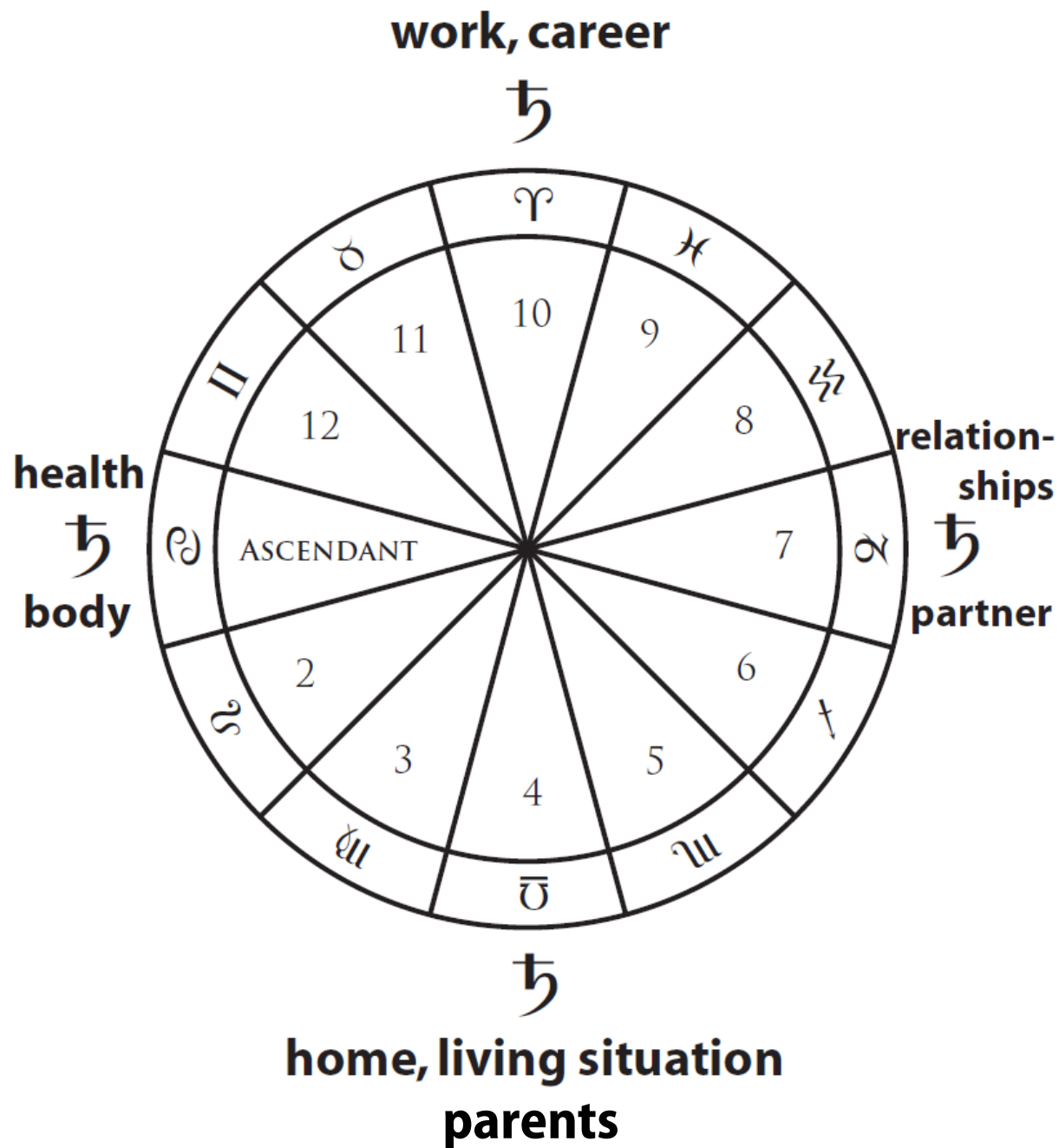
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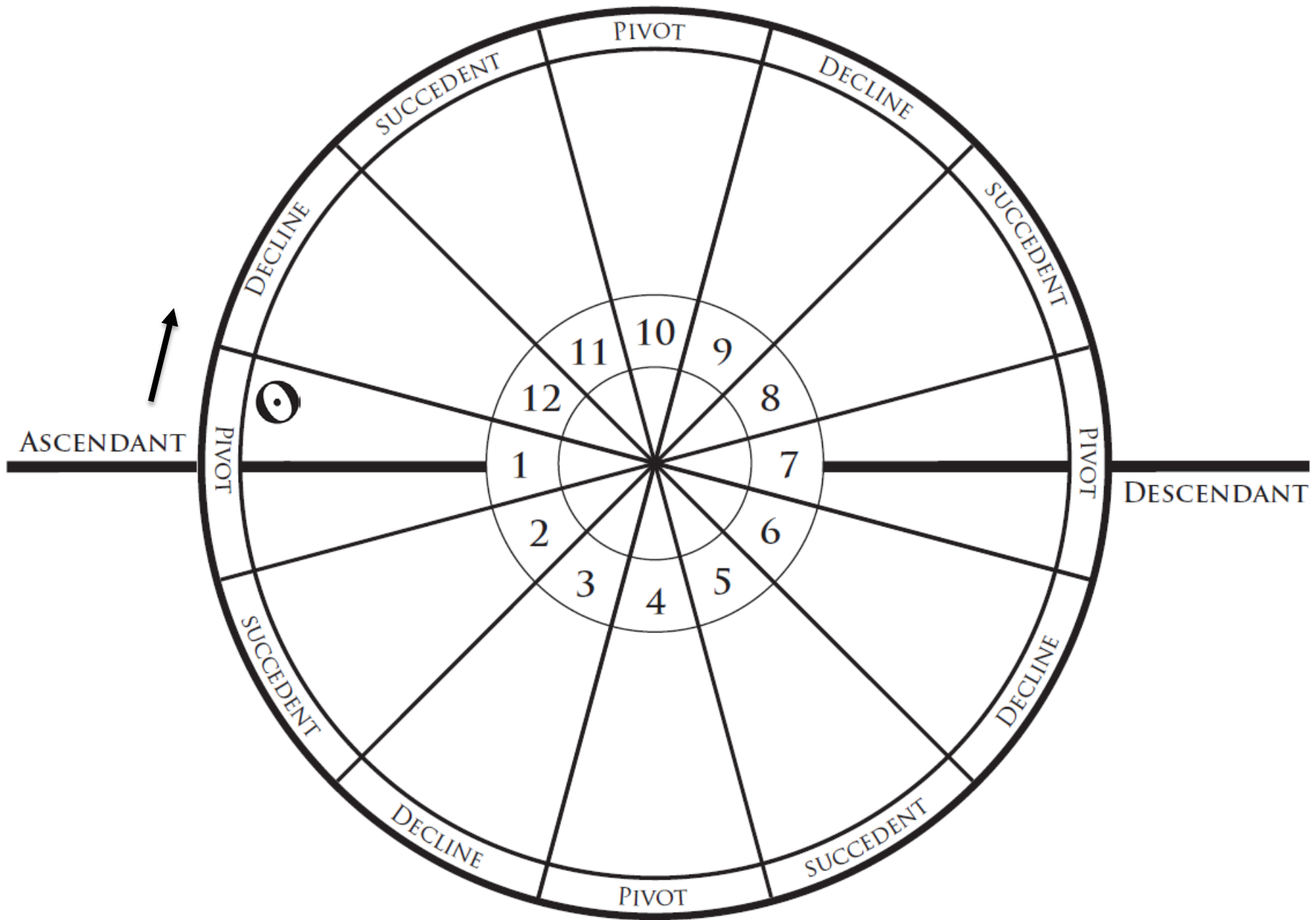
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Argument 7: Better Distinction Between the 1st and the 12th Houses

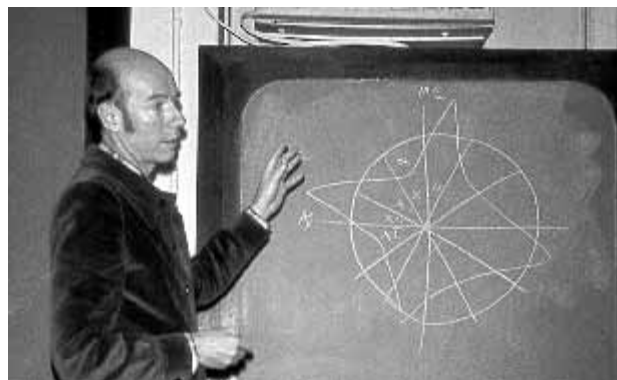
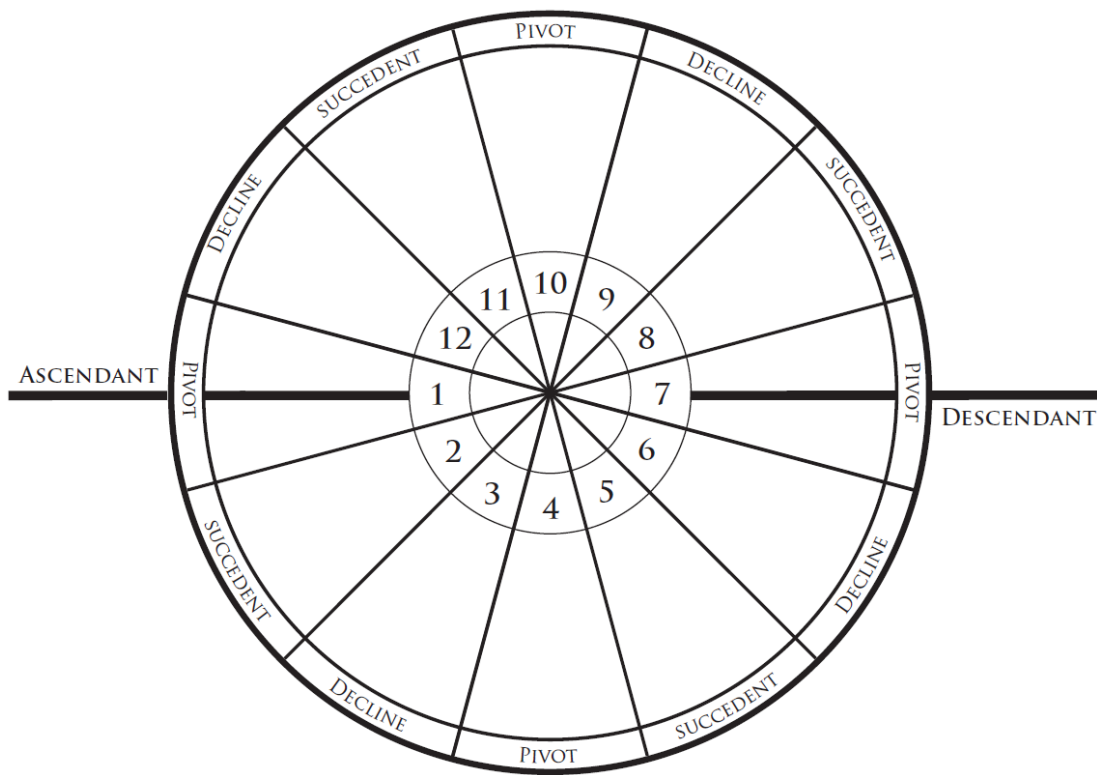
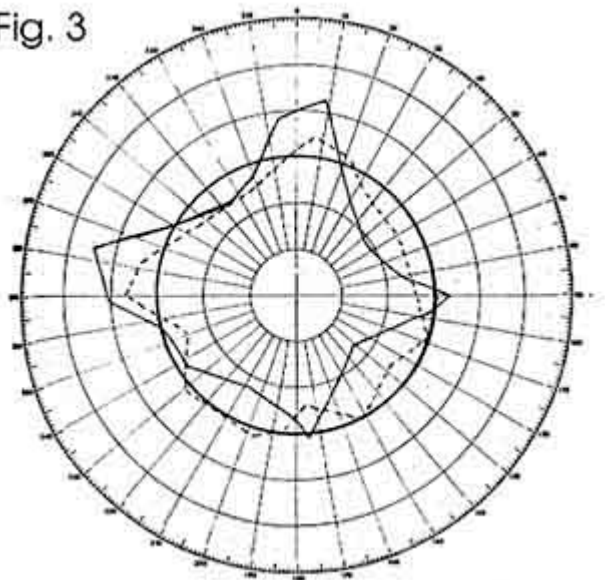
- In quadrant houses the Sun moves into the 12th as soon as it rises over the horizon.
- Why would the 12th be associated with hidden matters and secrets if planets that are just emerging from under the earth are moving into that house?
- WSH solves this issue because it is the only system in which planets that rise over the horizon do not immediately move into the 12th.
 - A planet can be above or below the horizon and still in the 1st, as long as it's in the rising sign.



Argument 8: Provides a Solution to the Gauquelin Plus Zone Mystery

- One of the only large scale scientific tests that showed an astrological correlation was known as the Mars effect.
- Showed that eminent athletes tended to be born with Mars rising or culminating.
- The problem is that the effect peaked on the 12th house side of the Ascendant.
- Traditionally the 12th is supposed to be less active than the 1st.
- WSH may provide a solution to this issue.

Fig. 3

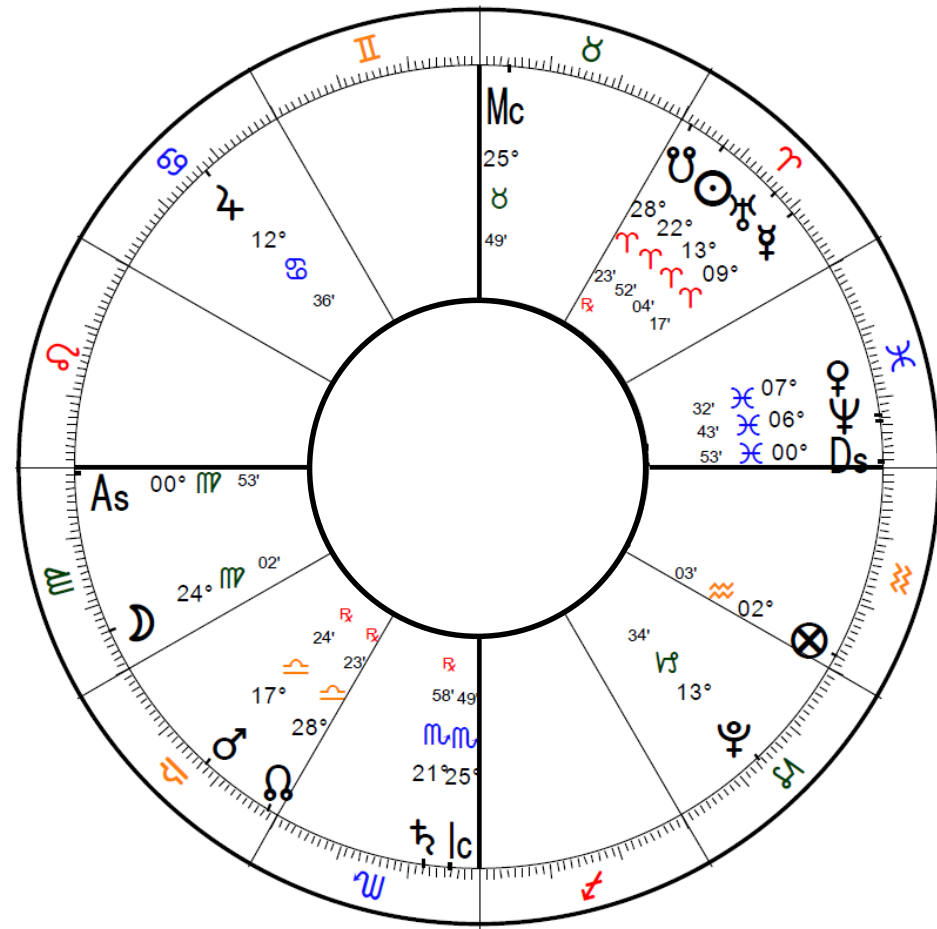
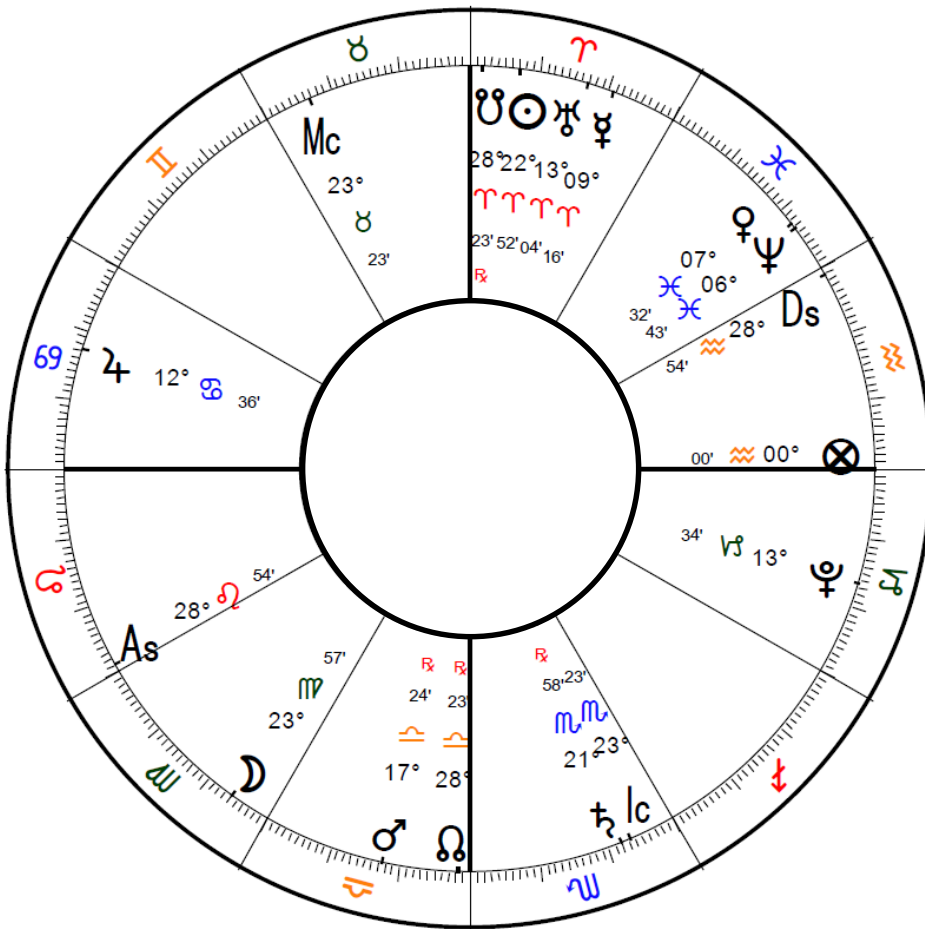


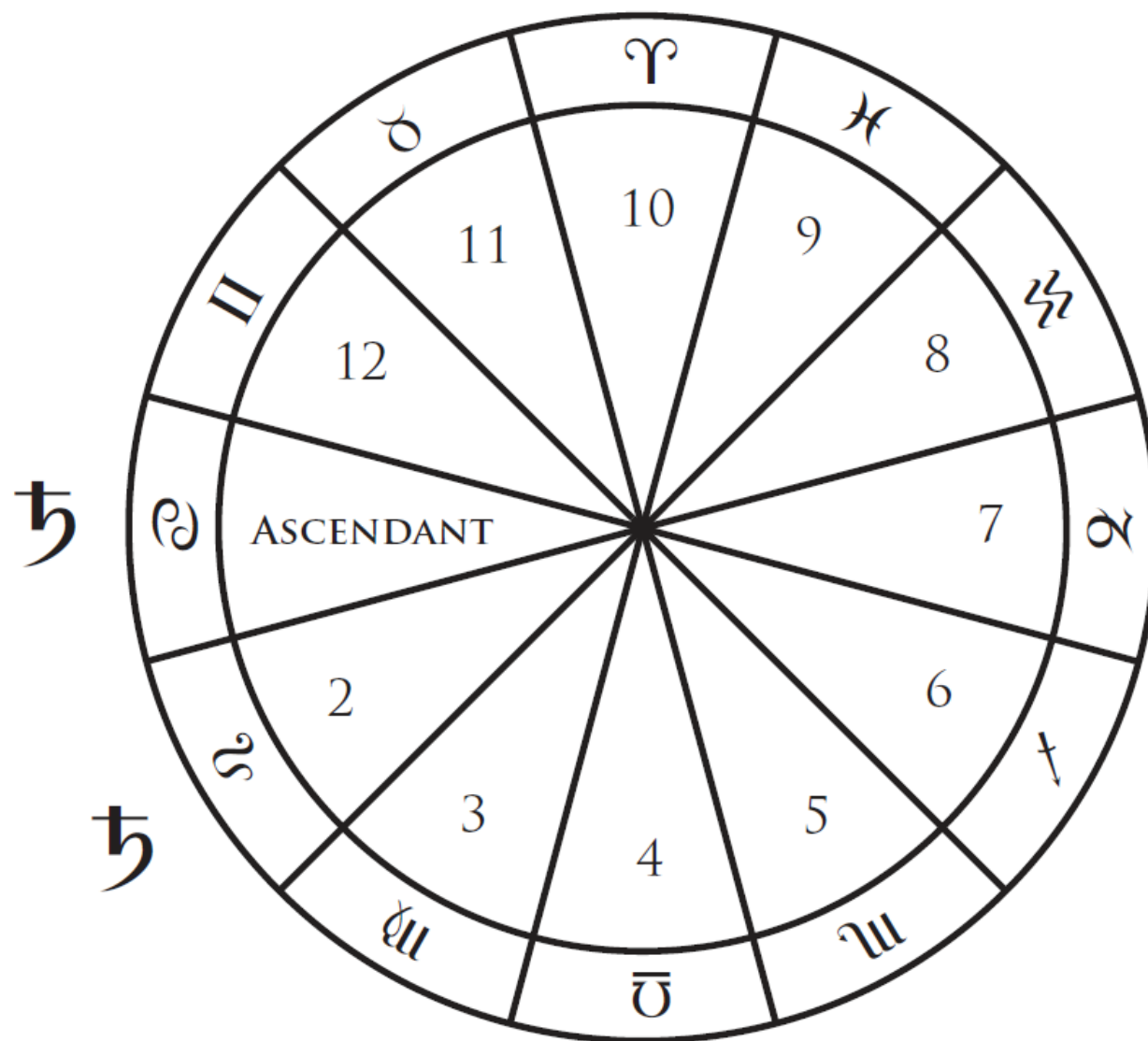
Argument 9: Rectification Becomes More Straightforward

- When rectifying charts, once you determine the correct rising sign, all of the other house positions fall into place.
- The difference between one rising sign and another is more stark since all of the planets shift houses when the rising sign changes.
- As a side effect this makes rectification easier.

Saturday, April 12, 2014

3:00 versus 3:10 PM





Argument 10: Still the Primary Form of House Division in India

- Hellenistic astrology was transmitted to India in the 2nd century CE.
- Merged with the indigenous form of astrology based on the nakshatras to create what they have today.
- They have had a more stable transmission that we have had in the west in the past 2000 years.
- As a result of this WSH is still the primary form of house division used amongst Indian astrologers to this day.

Argument 11: It Was Used in the Earliest Texts on Horary & Electional

- The earliest complete texts on horary that have survived were written by Masha'allah and Sahl ibn Bishr in the 8th century.
- They used WSH in these texts.
- Same for electional: Dorotheus (1st century)
- Just because Lilly used Regiomontanus doesn't mean that that is the best or the only system for horary.
- There is no good conceptual reason to use one system for horary and another for natal.

Argument 12: All The Cool Kids Are Doing It

- In the past 20 years a number of prominent astrologers have switched to WSH.
- Robert Hand, Demetra George, Benjamin Dykes, Robert Schmidt, Rick Levine, Austin Coppock, Kelly Surtees, and others.
 - This means some established astrologers are going out of their way to make the switch.
 - Sometimes interrupting their lives and practices.
- Two recent polls indicated that WSH was the second most used house system after Placidus.
- Holden said that Placidus was adopted in the 20th century because it was the only system that tables were available for to do the calculations.

Final Points

- Many of the placements in your WSH chart may be the same as in quadrant houses.
 - You may already be using some WSH placements.
- Even if they aren't, there may be other ways that the same things are indicated.
 - Instead of having Saturn in the 7th maybe you have Saturn square the ruler of the 7th?
- You may not have to give up QHS completely.
 - In the late Hellenistic tradition they used both.
 - Solution may be to use WSH primarily, and then QHS as a secondary overlay.
 - Or WSH for topics and QHS for activity.
- Ultimately what is most important here is just having good reasons for doing what we do.

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