

PALLAS ATHENA

THE WISDOM OF
THE WARRIOR



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The architectural masterpiece, the Parthenon, was dedicated to the goddess whom the classical Athenians cherished. Pallas Athena was their advocate for law and order, the teacher of household arts like spinning, weaving, and cooking, as well as their protector and defender.

As their goddess of war she helped the Greeks defeat Troy, the Athenians repel the Persians; as their goddess of useful and decorative arts, she inspired them to build exceptional monuments and temples. The goddess of merciful justice transformed the law courts and at the dawn of the fifth century, she inspired the democratic shift in Athenian politics. Athena was the revered goddess of the Athenians who celebrated her birthday each year with a great festival and procession through the Agora up to the Acropolis.

As a multi-tasked goddess, many images are associated with Pallas Athena but it is the owl that reminds us of her wisdom. Her intelligence is 'bright-eyed' and sharp, focused on the immediate, located in the present, aligned with the head and not the instinct. Pallas Athena embodies the rational and encourages left-brain thinking. Her wisdom controls the instincts, learning to direct them into heroic pursuits to eradicate what is dark and primitive. She is civilizing and organizing, bringing culture and cultivation to mankind. Justice and law are part of her new order replacing retaliation and revenge.

Strategic, reflective and controlled her craft and skill is mirrored in the multiplicity of devices she offered man, the fertility of her ideas and the usefulness of her inventions and techniques. As Pronoia she is 'before knowing' embracing forethought and strategic thinking.

*"There is fire within me.
I make no apology for it.
Tell me there is no path
and I will clear the way.
Try to say I should give
up and turn back
And I will go further,
I will fight harder and I
will shine brighter.*

I OWN my fire.

*I own it when it blazes
through my life leaving a
wake of destruction,
ruin and ashes.*

*I own it when it breathes
everything back to life,
charging me with the
strength to start over as
many times as it takes.*

*I AM fearless and I AM
ready."*



As a warrior queen, she was born from the forehead of her father Zeus, fully armoured and mature, suggesting that the wisdom of goddess had been reborn into a new order. As father's special daughter Pallas Athena mirrored the rational intelligence and counsel of Zeus. Metis, the mother of Athena, was an ancient goddess of wisdom known as Wise Counsel or Cunning Intelligence. She knew the feminine mysteries, the intelligence articulated by the heart and the inner world of instinct and intuition. From her Pallas Athena inherited another kind of wisdom: the wisdom of intuitive knowing often experienced in the belly as a 'gut instinct'. It is a knowing that may speak through symptoms or disease, through creativity or craft, or radiate through stillness and tranquillity or even erupt in anger or hostility. It is a wisdom born out of an intimate connection between mind and matter, a fluid way of being that the ancient Greeks knew as Sophia.

Athena is a proud daughter born from a power struggle between her powerfully dominant father and her intuitively wise mother. Consciously Athena only knows her father's way and the new order. Born of man, like Eve, this myth is often cited when tracing the emergence of 'father-right' from the long-held tradition of 'mother-right'. The daughter is now aligned with the sky father who colludes in rejecting the earth mother. The tables have turned in the familial pattern and now it is father and daughter colluding against mother, no longer mother conspiring with her youngest son against the father. When Athena emerges she reflects the need for logic and rationality rather than feeling and instinct. Her path follows the reason of the head, aligned with her father, not the impulse of the heart, the vulnerable feminine side that she has not been nurtured by.

Like Eve, Athena's feminine legacy is not so easily erased. Both their myths contain the image of the snake, a sacred symbol of their legacy of feminine wisdom, healing and regeneration.



By the classical period, Athena's wisdom became subjugated to Zeus. Shaped by the masculine wisdom becomes linear, logical and rational. Metis is no longer acknowledged as her other parent. The internal wisdom of cycles, intuitive knowing and the complexity of intrapsychic understanding becomes concealed under Athena's armour.

Athena is also associated with the arts of healing, health and regeneration. As Athena Nike, she was the goddess of Victory, first victorious in war and later a victor on the sports field. Athena signalled victory and as a patron of heroes, she was also known as the goddess of the near, as she was always close to the hero and a staunch supporter of the heroic. As the goddess of war and defender of her father's realm, Athena became aligned with the hero as his guide and protector. In mythic portrayals of the hero, Athena stands behind or beside him as his staunch ally against the monstrous and dark forces. When Pallas Athena appears prominently in a birth chart she encourages us to be heroic and battle the regressive forces of our instinctual nature. It is necessary to reflect on the situation and not react emotionally, detaching enough to formulate a decisive plan of action.



ATHENA IN YOUR CHART

In astrology the goddess Pallas Athena represents the reflection and meditation that develops out of the turmoil of chaos and uncertainty, helping us to become more strategic and deliberate in our actions. Metis is the valued intelligence that guides our instincts and plans strategically and arises into consciousness at exactly the right moment. Pallas Athena discerns and through reflecting on emotionally entangled situations allows consciousness to develop. Following are the house and sign descriptions of the goddess Pallas Athena in your horoscope.

Pallas is in the 9th House

You are a strategist, enjoying making plans and following them through. This is most obvious in your career, but also flows into other aspects of your life. Your home and office are often cluttered with the evidence of several projects in the pipeline. Lists are a mainstay of your life. Reminder notices on the fridge, shopping lists, computer diary dates, address books, birthday reminders and many other lists all help you gain your objectives. You are ambitious with the practical skills to achieve your objectives. Mostly your head guides your heart. Your instincts are good and you don't let emotions affect important decisions. You have the ability to weigh up the pros and cons of any given situation and make the wisest choice given the options available.

In a woman's chart, the goddess Pallas in the prominent first house indicates a modern-day superwoman. You successfully juggle many aspects of your life - household management, career, social calendar and family responsibilities. Male chauvinism is more of a nuisance than a challenge because you are such a brilliant diplomat. On the rare occasions when diplomacy fails, you are able to strategize. Pity the rare person who tries to hoodwink you or stop you achieving your end results!. You are able to plan a battle strategy and win! You would prefer peaceful negotiation, but are not averse to getting your way through tougher measures. Your goals are practical. Feelings are transient. But results are not. Pallas was the goddess of war, able to select her battles and her weapons. It is not unusual for you to rally your own resources for the right cause. If you retire from a battle then it is likely that you are rallying your resources to fight another day. You rarely walk away.



Pallas is in Libra

You are fair and reasonable, able to see matters from everyone's point of view. For this reason you are an excellent co-worker, enjoying an affable and equable working environment. You also make a good boss, because you are even-handed, more interested in teamwork than one-upmanship. You work well with other people, helping to develop individual talents and sharing the workload. Co-workers are also happy to share their troubles knowing that you will not judge them but rather will help them resolve their problems in a fair-minded manner. Generally speaking you are popular, although you do not strive for popularity. Your aim is to ensure that everyone is treated well, and that everyone is happy.

You like to establish harmony. Being a diplomat, you are able to smooth over troubled waters at home and work. Your personal relationships can suffer if you feel that you have been unfairly treated. Equality is important. Ethics also play a prominent role in your life, either your own personal ethics or your profession's code of ethics. You do not take kindly to dictators and may join your work union to ensure equality in the workplace. You are likely to react to anyone who uses authority to judge or control. You will follow another person's lead, but only if you respect their methodology and if you are given the freedom to pursue your own talents.

You will only stand firm if you really believe that something is not beneficial for all involved. When conflict arises you enjoy peaceful negotiations rather than brash arguments. Then again you are not afraid to fight for your own, or other people's rights. You can be a good strategist because you have a good understanding of people. Your challenge is to believe in your individual rights as much as you believe in the common good. Not everyone is as high minded as you. Has someone else taken the credit for your ideas? Or have you allowed someone else to walk roughshod over your rights? You may have to fight for recognition for your talents at some stage in your life, perhaps even taking legal action.

Some forms of esoteric astrology believe that the sign Libra rules the vegetable kingdom meaning that you are likely to have a natural affinity with flora. You may enjoy gardening, walks in nature, scenic art and films and flowers. Beauty is likely to sooth your soul. The arts may also appeal. You have a gift for seeing the patterns in nature, art and crafts. Therefore you could be a designer of fine arts, crafts or gardens either as a hobby or a profession. The goddess Pallas is calling on you to express your talents through your own associations with people, beauty and the natural world.

ATHENA

Invite the Goddess Athena into your pathway and work with her energy to connect to your light and shadow energies and the wisdom they hold for you.

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"My soul is awake and as my path is revealed I am open and grateful to receive its blessings."

"My mind, body and spirit flourish when I allow myself to unlock the wisdom of my deepest inner knowing.

This harmonizing energy is the inner well that I will nourish with every breath of presence and peace.

I charge all my energy work with the highest love and light vibrations so that I may fully align with my true purpose."

Crystal energy

The crystal to honour Pallas Athena is **Sodalite** helping you to feel calm and rational in your thoughts so you may approach situations and experiences with discernment, courage and trust in your own wisdom.

If you have trouble organising your thoughts and you feel displaced in your life then use **Sapphire** to help balance mental overwhelm and bring clarity and order to be more present and feel more capable.

