

The Zero Degree Aries Point

By Kim Falconer

What is the ZERO Degree Aries Point?

The Aries point, or vernal equinox in the tropical zodiac, is a NODE. It marks the place where the sun crosses the equatorial plain going north. Think of it as a Sun/earth node, as opposed to the Lunar nodes which involve the Sun/earth/Moon).

In the Uranian system, the Aries Point, or AP, also links to zero degrees of all the cardinal signs (as seen on a 90 degree dial). Every chart—natal, progressed or horary—has the AP at exactly the same zero degrees, yet each chart will be unique as far as the house placement of this degree and the planets and other points that relate to it. Think of the AP as a 0 degree cardinal cross involving Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn.

What is the significance of the AP?

The AP represents a movement (cardinal) from an inner quality to an outer manifestation. It orients us towards the world at large—society, public events and all relationships propelled from the individual to the collective. Sometimes it represents a "spectacular out rush of energies... and involvement with the world at large" Celest Teal

The AP also seems to relate to meetings with those famous, respected or expert in their field.

♈ As the first degree of Aries, this point suggest how our "will to be", or sense of I AM, moves out from the subjective and into manifest reality.

♋ As the first Degree of Cancer, this point suggest how our need to love and nurture, our sense of "I Feel", moves from the subjective into the world.

♌ As the first degree of Libra, this placement says, "I relate", suggesting how our drive to interact with others in socially significant ways moves from our inner world and out towards other individuals.

♊ As the first degree of Capricorn, this placement says, “I produce”, suggesting how our urge to bring tangible results moves from “self” to society as a whole. Isabel Hickey would have said that it the AP is the initial point where the spirit incarnates, the starting point of the SELF. By house and aspect contact, the AP indicates how we project out into the public, meeting life in distinct ways that the collective recognizes, acknowledges (or judges) and remembers us by.

What does it mean if a planet or point conjuncts the AP?

Don McBroom calls the AP the “Power behind dominant traits and public projection. He says, “...the AP can be an indicator of an individual's Potential for Public Projection. Often this measurement was uncannily related to the person's claim to fame or for what they will be remembered. When there was direct contact between a specific Planet or Point (i.e. Ascendant or Midheaven) and the AP (within a two-degree orb), there was frequently a distinguishable relationship with the energies traditionally associated with that planet that was publicly observable in the individual.”

Read his article at:

<http://www.noeltyl.com/techniques/010130.html>

When a planet or point conjuncts the AP the nature and energy drive of that planet has the added thrust or urge to express collectively. It may also represent what the public at large recognize most readily in us, or remember us for.

Sun-AP Can mean our energy, vitality and drive seeks to express through society. People see us for our solar qualities and we propel our creative drive into the collective. The famous individual.

Moon-AP Suggests that our inner world of feelings, reflections and intuition expresses in public ways, and these qualities are noticed by the collective. The famous psychic.

Mercury-AP Can mean our intellect, thoughts and ways of communicating capture the public eye. We are recognized as being witty, bright, mercurial, and clever. The famous writer.

Venus-AP Can mean our sensual, accommodating ability to connect and bond with others moves out into a greater social arena. People see us for our capricious, artistic and ingratiating qualities. The famous artist.

Eros-AP Suggests our passionate desire for erotic transformation is noticed by the collective. People see our potent energy as tantalizing or threatening, according to their own views. The famous courtesan.

Mars-AP Suggests our assertive, direct and action oriented qualities grab the attention of society. We are seen as commanding, raw and imposing. The famous warrior.

Jupiter-AP Can mean our leadership qualities, expansiveness, optimism and call for justice capture the attention of the collective. We are seen for our vision, immensity, and joviality. The famous world leader.

Saturn-AP Suggests our ability to build tangible results through persistent and sustained effort is highlighted by public acclaim. We are seen for our ambition, caution and pragmatic detail. The famous corporate director.

Chiron-AP suggests renown for our ability to teach, understand, strive for the impossible and restore compassion. We are seen as a healer for those who have lost faith or are in despair. The famous Guru.

Uranus-AP suggests our ability to make sudden changes, rebel against dogmatic convictions and break out of the safety zone is noticed by society. We are seen as surprising, inventive and inspiring. The famous revolutionary.

Neptune-AP The longing for the divine and the desire to merge with the collective unconscious is captured by the projection of society. We are seen as the public want to see us. The famous movie star.

Pluto-AP The ruthless drive for power and control is noticed socially as it wrestles with the need to plumb the depths of the unconscious mind. We are seen for our potent qualities, the dark hero who can be transformed. The famous eccentric.

Ascendant-AP Being known for personality traits and interactions in the world. Having famous friends!

Midheaven-AP Being known for social achievement through career, mission or profession. Working with famous people!

North Node-AP Being known for following the path to the future. Having a famous guide!

South Node-AP Being known for redeeming the path of the past. Being a guide to others.

What Orb is used with the AP?

Orbs are always controversial. Some astrologers use a 2 degree orb, allowing anything from 28 degrees of the mutable signs to 2 degrees of the Cardinal. I use a little tighter, say 1.5 degrees either way. As in all things, if it acts like it is in orb, then it probably is! Still, the idea here is to keep it tight.

How is the AP different from the MC and the Asc?

The ASCENDANT describes the way we put ourselves out into the world: "Hey, this is my personality! This is how I initiate things and assert myself. This is how I look." Isabel Hickey said the Ascendant was the window through which we view the world and that seems to work both ways. It is often the way the world sees us, on a PERSONAL level. Think of Aries as the natural ruler of the Ascendant and first house with its emphasis on personal self-awareness. This is Me, Here Now!

The MIDHEAVEN is not personal, like the Ascendant. It is public. It has to do with our social standing, career in life, mission or profession. Now, instead of personal appearances (Asc.) we are in the realm of PUBLIC APPEARANCES. This is our social identity and often reflects how we interact with "the public" or the collective. The Asc. is individual identity, the MC is social identity. Think of Capricorn as natural ruler of the MC with the Sea-goat's ambitious, pragmatic (and sometimes mystic), social awareness.

The Ascendant is always that moment of ascension, and the MC is a moment of culmination. The AP, however, can occur anywhere in the 365 degrees! It is always 0 Aries but where it falls is unique to us (if we know our birth time!)

By contrast to the Asc and MC, the AP is a solar node. It's energy is about INSTIGATION, beginnings, and action, not in terms of personal needs and drives or even for career or profession, but for Solar manifestation and distinction.

It is not so much how you see the world or leap (or tip toe) into activity (Ascendant) and not so much what you will encounter and express as you pursue your social ambitions or mission in life (MC). The AP isn't so much how we interact with society (MC) but how and WILL the world see us! It can indicate the relative "fame" of an individual (or infamy) and how society at large or world events may effect our lives.

We are not all touched equally by these kinds of things! The AP has to do with who, or what, in society, we notice and, like the two way window of the Asc., who or what will notice us. According to the Uranian School, the AP is also our concept of the world, people in the public life and our approach to manifest reality!

What about the house(s) where the AP is found?

The AP is literally, and symbolically, the point where the spirit (SUN) enters manifest reality (EARTH). For everyone, that is an ARIES thing (or a cardinal thing: action, initiation, inauguration). WHERE that initiation of spirit into matter occurs, is what becomes important. What house is it in? What area of life will evoke the feeling of connection to and action with the collective? The answer here tells us where it is we "begin" in relationship to the world at large.

What about midpoints that include the AP?

The authors of "Working with Astrology" state that the Aries Point and the midpoints to it were considered by Alfred Witte to be of great importance in every chart, and next in importance only to the MC. (page 437). For Robert Hand the Aries Point, which was used by the Greeks and also in the beginnings of our modern horoscopic astrology, is very subtle. "It isn't an energy supply like a real planet but it is considered like the last one because it forms aspects and it can be the focus for the combinations of midpoints". (*Horoscope Symbols*, Robert Hand)

The AP is the connection to the world in general, our link to manifest reality. To unravel what this means, look at the CLOSEST planet or mid-point between 28 degrees of mutable and 2 degrees of cardinal signs in your chart. What would that be? What does that say about your relationship to society? How do they see you?

What about Transits or progressions to the AP?

Transits to the AP awaken the way and means of projection out into the collective, tending to indicate events more public than private, more famous than obscure. To unravel the meaning of transits to the AP, start by observing the planets, asteroids or points that are transiting. What does that transit want to wake up? What does it need? What does it have to offer? Answers to these questions will help in understanding what the AP means in practical terms, and how that applies to the immediate moment. All comments or experiences with the AP are welcome on the forum!



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