



# The Wise Centaur

**Centaurus**



**November 20th to December 5th**

**from**

**The Lost Zodiac**

**by Catherine Tennant**

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Illustration from Urania's Mirror

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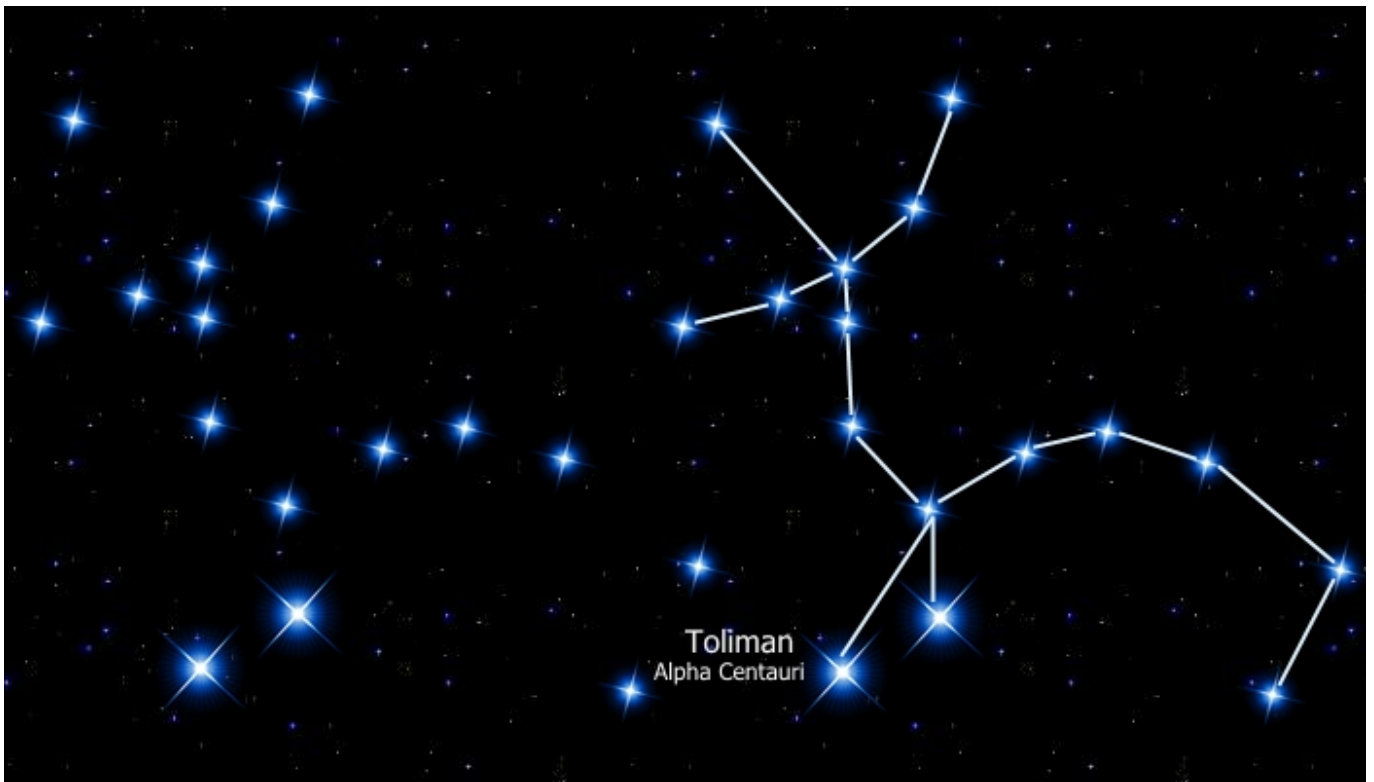


## Your Guiding Star

### beyond the zodiac

We all have a zodiac sign, but we also have another sign beyond the zodiac as well. To the ancient founders of astrology, all the stars and constellations in the heavens were both magical and powerful. They paid great attention to them, and, unlike most of us today, they also knew where, and when, to find them in the sky.

**To find your ancient star-sign** glittering above you in the heavens, and identify your personal guiding star, is to re-enter a lost and timeless world.

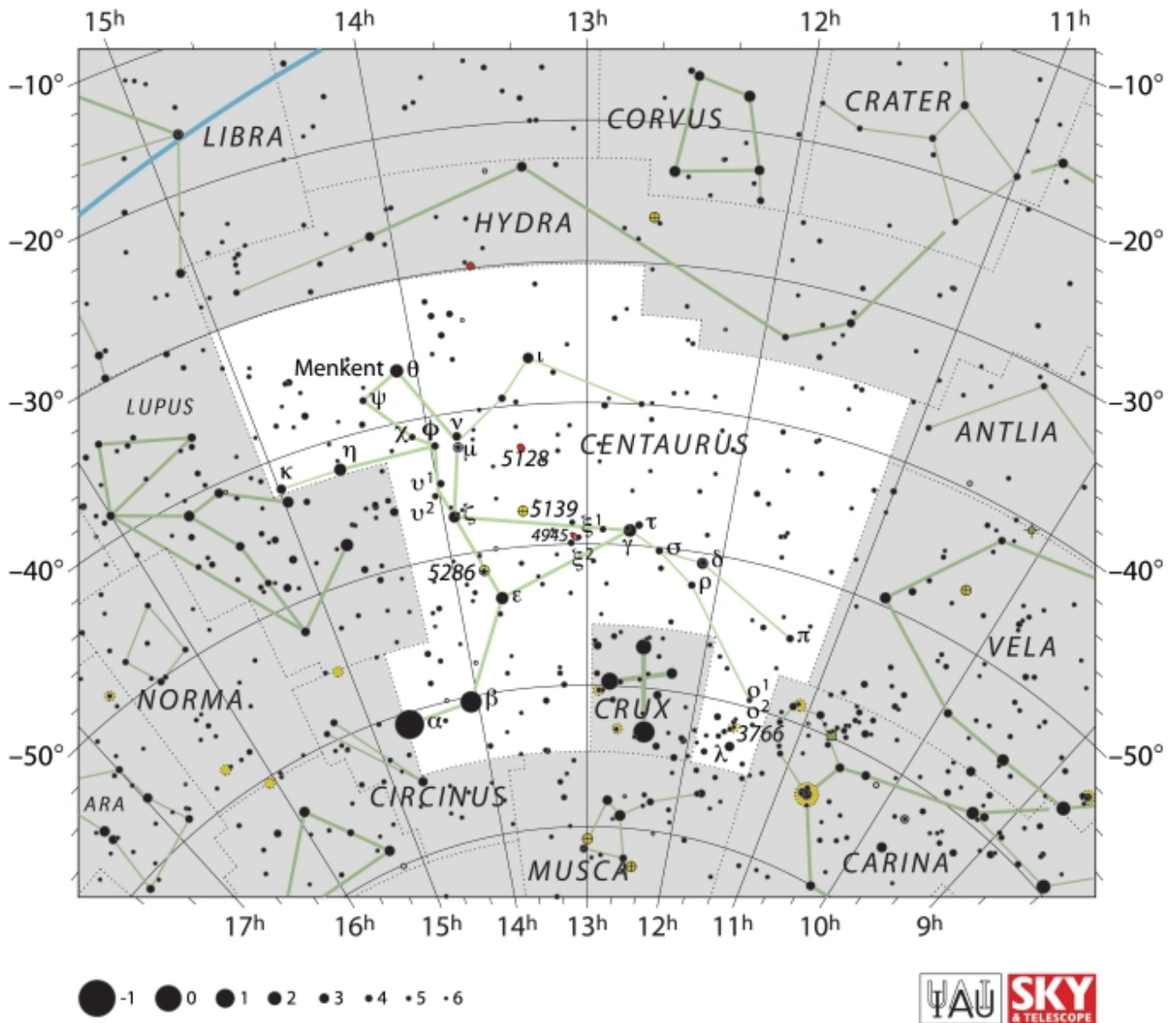


### November 20th to December 5th

If you were born between these dates, your guiding star is Alpha Centauri, the brightest star in the constellation Centaurus. It is also known as Toliman, which is said to mean 'the Heretofore and Hereafter', and was believed by early astrologers to bring honour, refinement and many friends to those born under its influence.

Alpha Centauri, which is the third brightest star in the sky, was worshipped on the Nile. It marks the foot of Chiron, the Wise Centaur, and is the closest star in the heavens to our sun, lying only approximately 4 light years distant.

Precious stone : Alexandrite    Plant : Centaury, The Cornflower



The Centaur is a southern constellation, and so is best seen from the southern hemisphere between January and May, although Alpha Centauri can be seen in February from the latitude of Florida and Egypt. It lies due south of the zodiac constellation, Virgo, and near Argo Navis, the great ship of the Argonauts, who were brought up by the Centaur in his mountain cave.

# Discovering the Twenty Two Lost Star Signs

As an astrologer, I sometimes looked for reasons for traits of character which did not seem to be explained exclusively by what the birth chart tells us. For me, the discovery of the importance of the stars and constellations lying beyond the zodiac band turned out to be the missing link.

They do not undermine conventional astrology, but to add a lost dimension to it.

## The Earliest Astrologers and The Sacred, Living Sphere

We have grown so used to seeing the planets and the zodiac, alone, as powerful that it can come as a surprise to find that for the early practitioners of astrology, the whole celestial sphere, from pole to pole, was filled with starry gods and supernatural beings who influenced the life of man. For them, all the stars had power over our lives. They worshipped them, wove myths around them and built their temples in alignment with them.

For the ancient Greeks, therefore, who inherited this vision of a living sphere, and who gave many of the constellations the names and forms which they still have today, it seemed quite natural to believe that Orion and The Wise Centaur, Perseus, the glittering hero, and the Lyre of Orpheus, the legendary musician, among others, influenced our destiny, just like the narrow zodiac band of stars which forms the pathway of the sun and moon and planets, with which we are familiar.

These twenty two lost star signs reconnect us to the ancient vision of a sacred, living cosmos, and to the great celestial sphere around us.

## Your Sign Beyond the Zodiac Linked to your Sun Sign

These star signs are the ancient constellations which lie to the North and South of the zodiac band of stars, and were used in conjunction with it.

The brightest and most powerful star, or constellation of stars, which falls nearest to the sun by longitude on your birthday is 'conjunct' your sun.

This constellation was considered to be your 'sign beyond the zodiac'.

## Why Were They Forgotten?

So why did these important star signs, which embody so many of the great myths and symbols of our culture, vanish from the scene ?

In the second century AD the great astronomer, Ptolemy, tried to simplify astrology by excluding the constellations to the North and South of the zodiac band. However, even he could not deny their astrological significance, and described the influence of their individual stars. In 'L'Astrologie Grecque' (1899), Bouche-Leclerq, the leading authority on the history of astrology, quotes Ptolemy as saying that he will 'leave to one side as impracticable the ancient method, which took account of

all, or nearly all, the stars'.

But 'the exclusion of the constellations beyond the zodiac is so artificial that it could not be maintained, even by Ptolemy ... all stellar mythology cries out against the privileged position of the zodiac'. Adds Bouche-Leclerq.

## **The Age of Aquarius, ruled by Uranus, the Personification of the Starry Sphere**

They are also highly relevant to the times we live in.

Thanks to the moving equinoxes, we are now entering the new Aquarian Age, which will be ruled by Uranus, the planet named after the ancient Greek sky god who personifies the starry sphere and is the ruler of Aquarius.

To look beyond the zodiac, and beyond the 'village' of our solar system, as astronomers are now doing, towards deep space - the domain of Uranus - is, symbolically, in keeping with the coming age. One of astrology's most important tenets is that the discovery of a new planet heralds an important shift in human consciousness. The discovery of Pluto, in 1930, for instance, which was named after the Roman god of the underworld, and which rules the depths of the unconscious mind, coincided with the rise to popularity of psychoanalysis. The reintroduction of these 'Uranian' signs beyond the zodiac, therefore, and our renewed awareness, when we find our personal star sign in the sky, of our links with the galaxies of stars around us, can be seen to coincide with our entry into the Aquarian Age.

## **Our Myth and Personal Quest**

From my research as an astrologer, it is remarkable how accurate, and how literal, these ancient star signs can be.

Born under the sign of Andromeda, the princess chained to a rock as a sacrifice for her country, for instance, are Houdini, Queen Elizabeth II and Sylvia Pankhurst, the leader of the suffragettes who fought for the emancipation of women.

These ancient signs are rich, dynamic symbols, and can describe the myths behind our lives and the 'Journey of the Soul of Man'. Perseus, for example, by cutting off the gorgon's head, conquers and comes to terms with neglected instinct and emotion, which the gorgon represents. The winged horse of inspiration, Pegasus, learns to distinguish between truth and illusion, in the form of the Chimaera. Andromeda, the chained princess, discovers freedom, and the Swan its human form. Ophiuchus wrestles with the Serpent and transforms its poison into medicine. For the River of Night, which wells up from paradise, life is a journey back towards the sea, where all separate sense of self is lost, and Orpheus overcomes the sovereigns of the underworld with the music of his lyre.

Each one has its own personal quest and compliments our birth chart and our Sun sign.

## The Roman Astrologer, Manilius

I knew of the importance many astrologers give to the fixed stars, but my first real encounter with the actual signs beyond the zodiac took place over twenty years ago, when I read the 'Astronomica' of Manilius, the great Roman astrologer and astronomer. Much of the 5th book of his 'Astronomica' is dedicated to their meaning: 'The child of the Lyre will sing beguiling songs at the banquet, his voice adding mellowness to the wine and holding the night in thrall...and, left to himself, he will ever burst into song which can charm no ears but his own...When the Dog Star rises over the rim of the sea...it will fashion unbridled spirits and impetuous hearts...the child of the Crown will cultivate a garden budding with bright flowers, and slopes grey with olives...his heart is set upon elegance, fashion, and the art of adornment, upon gracious living and the pleasures of the hour...', and so on, at great length, for all the extra-zodiacal signs.

## What Modern Psychology Has to Add

Beautiful as his descriptions are, our understanding of the myths, and of what they can tell us about the soul of man, has changed and grown, of course, since Roman times. What, I wondered, could modern psychology tell us about the meaning of these age-old stories set amongst the stars, and so about ourselves ?

With the help of psychology, which I had studied for many years, and of the modern school of astrology, which uses myth and symbol to give the zodiac and the planets a new and deeper dimension, I began to see what it could mean to be born under these ancient signs. I then applied this to famous people, both alive and dead, and to my family, friends and clients.

The results were startling. And, as I continued, an image slowly grew and crystallised of the kind of person each one represented, and of the life-issues they were most concerned with. As with the zodiac signs, each one had its own preoccupations, its own problems and its own outlook on the world.

But the rediscovered signs are different as they tell us more about where our life is leading and describe our inner quest.

## The Fixed Stars and Constellations in Astrology

To find out which constellation rules you, all you need to know is your birthday - not the time of day, the place or year. The brightest and most powerful star, or group of stars which falls nearest to the sun by longitude on your birthday is 'conjunct' your sun, and so rules you.





# Your Personal Myth - the Legends of your Star Sign



## The Origin of the Centaurs

The legendary centaurs, who were half-man, half-horse, were a wild barbaric race, who lived on the mountains and wide plains of Thessaly in northern Greece, and rarely drew near to the haunts of men. The people of Thessaly were great horsemen - unusual in ancient Greece - and the sight of them on horseback, rounding up their cattle, may have given rise to the stories about these mysterious mythic beings. Pliny, one of the great historians of Rome, however, claims to have seen one with his own eyes, which had been brought to Rome embalmed in honey.

## Chiron, the Noblest of the Centaurs

The centaurs were immortalised in the skies as Sagittarius, the fierce archer of the traditional zodiac, but their leader, Chiron, whose sign this is, was a centaur of a far wiser and nobler kind.

Chiron was the son of Cronus (Saturn), the ruler of the vanished Golden Age, when men lived in harmony with nature. His mother was the nymph, Philyra, whose name means both 'the lover of the music of the lyre', and the sweet-scented linden tree. Cronus took the form of a great stallion to seduce Philyra, who gave birth to her strange child in a dark cave near the summit of Pelion, a mountain thick with chestnut forests, beech trees and running streams, not far from the Thessalian plains. Philyra, terrified by Chiron's appearance, abandoned him and he grew up alone, amongst the forest glades.

## Teacher of the Heroes

He was not destined to remain alone forever, though. Soon, he was befriended by the gods of light and reason, Apollo and Athene, who had chosen Chiron, who lived so close to wild nature, to be their pupil and the teacher of mankind. He was the first to learn medicine, science, music and the arts from them, and the greatest of the heroes were taken to him as children, to be brought up in his cave.

## To Shoot, to Sing, to Tell the Truth

There, in the wild mountains, he taught them all to ride, 'to shoot, to sing, to tell the truth', passing on to each of them a different branch of knowledge.

## Orpheus, the Great Musician

He taught Orpheus how to play the lyre, which he did so beautifully that animals and trees would gather round to listen, and even rivers would stop flowing at the sound.

## Asclepius, God of Healing

To Asclepius, who became the god of healing, he taught medicine, for Chiron was the first physician: our word 'surgeon' (and the French 'chirurgien') comes from his name. Below Chiron's cave there lies a valley, famous for the power of its medicinal herbs, which he showed the young god how to turn into salves and potions.

## Jason and Argonauts

To Jason, who would later sail across the seas to find the Golden Fleece, he taught the art of navigation by the stars. Even Sir Isaac Newton believed that Chiron had been the first to chart the heavens and to create the constellations. He also brought up Castor and Pollux, better known as Gemini, the Heavenly Twins of the traditional zodiac. They learned to ride from the great centaur, and joined Jason when he set off on his long quest.

## The 'First Astrologer'

It was Chiron who told the Argonauts which stars to follow, but it was his daughter, Euipe, by his wife, the nymph Chariclo, it seems,

'who first by oracles presages  
And by the rising stars events divined'.  
(Clement of Alexandria)

## Achilles

Euipe also taught physics to the young hero, Achilles, who later was to play such an important part in the great Trojan war. He had been entrusted to the centaur's care, and was brought up by him on the marrow-bones of bears and wild honeycombs to make him strong.

At birth, Achilles' divine mother, Thetis, had tried to make her child immortal too, by submerging him in the dark, corrosive waters of the Styx, the ice-cold river which wound nine times around the Underworld. Every part of him became invulnerable, except the heel by which she held him, and it was an arrow in Achilles' heel which later caused his death.

## Chiron's Wound

Like Achilles, Chiron was also destined to be wounded, but, in Chiron's case, the wound could not be fatal, as the centaur was immortal. The fateful - if not fatal - accident occurred at a great wedding feast beneath the spreading chestnut trees near Chiron's cave. Wine, in those distant days, it seems, was far stronger than it is today, and was normally diluted one part wine to three parts water. The wild centaurs, whose usual beverage was fermented mare's milk, drank the strong wine neat, then went berserk and tried to rape the bride. The hero, Hercules, another of Chiron's childhood pupils, tried to stop them, and in the mayhem one of his arrows pierced the knee of Chiron, who retired in agony to his cave.

Some say that, after nine days in the depths of Hades, he was transformed into a constellation and was set amongst the stars. Others claim that he cured his wound with the plant, centaury, the 'centaurs herb', and never died.

## The Wounded Healer

Either way, Chiron has become image of the 'wounded healer', who, because he himself has suffered, can understand - and cure - sickness and pain in others.



## The Star Sign

Those born under Chiron, the wisest and noblest of the centaurs, are kind, practical, considerate people, who are naturally sensitive to the needs of others. They also have a great affinity with animals and nature. The native of Chiron, according to the Roman astrologer, Manilius, 'knows how to apply the art of healing to the limbs of animals and to relieve dumb creatures of the disorders they cannot describe for his hearing. His is indeed a calling of skill, not to wait for the cries of pain, but to recognise betimes a sick body, not yet conscious of its sickness.'

Often, in fact, these people do prefer the company of animals to humans, because, as Manilius says, they have a natural gift for understanding them.

Like Chiron, they can also be great scholars with wide-ranging interests, but they have no patience for dry, academic learning, which they see as dreary and one-sided. They are dextrous and like sport, and would usually rather spend their time in the fresh air, as they hate to be cooped up, and they will choose an outdoor occupation if they can. Like Chiron, who taught the heroes to ride and shoot and sing, as well as all the arts and sciences, they believe that you cannot have a healthy mind without a healthy body. Their ideal is wholeness, and even though this may not always be easy to achieve, it is what they strive towards.

No one knows better than Chiron, who was half-animal and half-divine, though, that it is hard to find balance between intellect and instinct, mind and body. This, of course, is Chiron's wound. But without it they would be less compassionate: because they themselves have suffered, they can understand and sympathise with other people's problems. They can, and do, usually find the right balance in the end, healing the split within them, but this is something which they must work out on their own. Like all true teachers, they often find it easier to give than to receive. Because of this they can at times feel lonely and cut off, for they rarely ask for help themselves, even when they really need it, and they are at their happiest and most relaxed with people who need them.

They are not loners, though, and usually love family life - Chiron, after all, was happy living with his wife, Chariclo, in their cave. He has also been described as the ideal parent: for those born under his sign, the bond with children is important, just as the links they have with animals and nature are strong. But they also enjoy most other forms of social life. Like Sagittarius, the other

centaur in the stars, they are gregarious people, despite their love of nature and the wilds, but they do need time to be alone, away from city life, to recharge their batteries and unwind. The people whose company they most enjoy are often younger than themselves, and their ideal life-style consists of an extended family.

They are also, as Chiron's story shows, profoundly civilised, and although they love to give advice - even when it is not needed - they are never tyrants to their loved ones. The urge to guide and educate is so strong in them, however, that they are not usually happy until they have found a real outlet for it. But the choice of career which confronts them can bewilder them at times. Because, like Chiron, they are such all-rounders, it is not easy for them to make up their minds and settle for one thing. Anyway, they do not really like to specialise in just one field, as wholeness is their goal. If they have to sacrifice too much of either the mental or the physical side of life, they feel unbalanced and may rebel, so they need to structure their routine to make room for both. Then, their wisdom can unfold and be passed on to others, which is when they truly find contentment, for they are the great teachers and healers of mankind, and can show others how to lead a whole, and rounded life.

## **Born under The Wise Centaur**

Ian Botham, Boris Becker, Scott Joplin, William Blake, Indira Gandhi, King Charles I, the astronomer Anders Celsius, Lee Strasberg (teacher of Method acting), the astronomer Edwin Hubble, William Bonney (Billy the Kid), Jo DiMaggio, Edith Cavell, Mark Twain, Claude Levi-Strauss.



## **The Wise Centaur and the Traditional Zodiac**

### **The Wise Centaur and Scorpio**

November 20th to November 22nd

In these people the 'wounded healer' is strongly to the fore, as Scorpio also is concerned with surgery and healing.

### **The Wise Centaur and Sagittarius**

November 23rd to December 5th

Amongst these 'double centaurs' are found the teachers and the scholars, as Sagittarius is the sign of philosophy, teaching and religion. They are also often more gregarious than their Scorpio counterparts.



## Relationships with Other 'Lost Zodiac' Signs

We are often linked to one another through the myths which rule our lives and through our inner quests for wholeness. Our myth may resonate with that of another person's because it describes a similar journey of discovery.

Sometimes, our 'story' may be part of the same mythic pattern, or cycle of stories, as another person's. Our story represents another act in the same drama. Or we play one part, and they another in the same timeless, archetypal saga. These are the people with whom we have most in common, but we also often hit it off, of course, with those whose outlook compliments our own, just because it is so different, and therefore fills in the missing places in our own psychology, and vice versa.

Unlike the links between the signs of the traditional zodiac, there are no hard and fast rules about who is on the same wavelength as we are, nor about how the common mythic themes will manifest in our individual lives. Each instance is unique, as we are.

Below, are listed the 'Lost Zodiac' signs which you are most linked with and in tune with. Their star sign dates are given at the end of your report.

### **The Wise Centaur with the Lyre of Orpheus**

The Wise Centaur and the Lyre of Orpheus, the great musician, have a close bond, as Orpheus was one of Chiron's pupils. Music, art, and empathy with animals and nature are their common ground.

### **The Wise Centaur with The Ship of the Argonauts**

Jason, the leader of the Argonauts, was also Chiron's pupil, and the special area shared by these two is often a love of science - and astrology.

### **The Wise Centaur with Ophiuchus**

Those born under Asclepius, the god of healing, to whom Chiron taught medicine and the properties of herbs, have, perhaps, the most in common with the noble centaur, and they are usually close and loyal friends.

### **The Wise Centaur with Pegasus**

These two star signs have always been connected. Not only is Pegasus a horse, like Chiron, but in ancient times the stars of the Winged Horse were sometimes seen as Chiron's daughter, the inventor of astrology.

## The Lost Zodiac Star Sign Dates

<b>Date</b>	<b>Sign</b>	<b>Stars</b>
December 29th to January 13th	The Lyre of Orpheus	Vega
January 14th to January 28th	The Eagle	Altair
January 29th to February 8th	The Dolphin	Rotanev and Sualocin
February 9th to February 29th	The Swan	Sadir
March 1st to March 12th	The River of Night	Achernar
March 13th to April 1st	Pegasus	Markab, Scheat and Algenib
April 2nd to April 9th	Andromeda	Alpheratz
April 10th to April 18th	The River of Night	Acamar
April 19th to May 8th	Andromeda	Mirach and Alamach
May 9th to May 15th	The River of Night	Rana and Zanrak
May 16th to May 31st	Perseus	Algol and Mirfak
June 1st to June 7th	Orion	Rigel
June 8th to June 16th	The Charioteer	Capella
June 17th to June 27th	Orion	Betelgeuse
June 28th to July 7th	The Dogs	Sirius
July 8th to July 17th	The Ship of the Argonauts	Canopus
July 18th to July 25th	The Dogs	Procyon
July 26th to August 7th	The Dragon	Gianfar
August 8th to August 15th	The Wise Centaur	Dubhe and Merak
August 16th to August 23rd	The Sea Serpent	Alphard
August 24th to September 10th	The Wise Centaur	Phekda, Megrez, Alioth and Mizar
September 11th to September 21st	The Cup	Alkes
September 22nd to September 28th	The Ship of the Argonauts	Markeb
September 29th to October 11th	The Raven	Minkar and Algorab
October 12th to October 26th	The Bear Keeper	Arcturus and Izar
October 27th to November 10th	The Crown of the North Wind	Alphecca
November 11th to November 19th	The Serpent	Unuk Elhaia
November 20th to December 5th	The Wise Centaur	Toliman (Alpha Centauri)
December 6th to December 16th	Ophiuchus	Han, Sabik and Ras Alhague
December 17th to December 23rd	The Dragon	Grumium and Etanin
December 24th to December 28th	The Serpent	Alya



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Your Lost Sign Beyond the Zodiac is adapted from the 'Lost Zodiac' by Catherine Tennant, published by Chatto & Windus, September 1995. A boxed set, containing a book describing the twenty two 'lost' signs of western astrology, the maps, and twenty two locating cards, which show the ancient image and the pattern of the stars of each star-sign constellation.

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