



houses below the horizon are considered secondary to those above, the 5th is the most fitting because of its harmonious trine to the ascendant. Similarly, although Saturn shares less of a natural association with the 12th house than it does with the 4th, they have familiarity because both are considered baleful and their influence is limiting and restrictive.

### The Fifth House

The preceding discussion shows that, in the case of the 5th house, we have an interesting example of how planets associated through the concept of house rulership or ‘joy’ have reflected their meanings into the houses, and how those meanings have modified in accordance with alteration of the planetary associations. Even if we accept that much of the 5th house’s fortunate reputation is derived from the trine aspect to the ascendant, the specifics of the meanings used by authors after Manilius are clearly Venusian in origin. Firmicus is quite clear in informing us that classical astrologers called the 5th house the ‘House of Good Fortune’ *because* it is the house of Venus. Consider some of its traditional associations: –

§ The principle rulership of the 5th house is in signifying pregnancy and children, as befits Venus, the ‘goddess of fertility’ of whom the classical historian Pliny wrote:

“... its influence is the cause of the birth of all things upon earth; at both its risings it scatters a genital dew with which it not only fills the conceptive organs of the Earth but also stimulates those of all animals.”<sup>8</sup>

§      The 11th century Arabic astrologer, Al Biruni, called it the house of joy, clothes, pleasure and friends – all of which fall naturally under the rulership of Venus.<sup>9</sup>

§      The 12th century Hebrew astrologer, Ibn Ezra, describes an association with pleasure, food, drink, gifts and diplomats.<sup>10</sup>

§      The 16th century astrologer, Claude Dariot, used the 5th house for signification of love, ambassadors and gifts.<sup>11</sup>

§      The 17th century astrologer William Lilly called it “the house of Pleasure” and associated it with taverns, plays, recreation and sport – all of which he also ascribed to the natural signification of Venus (including sport as a pleasurable, recreational activity).<sup>12</sup>

In every instance the derivation from Venus is striking. Modern astrology books that suggest the 5th house is the house of pregnancy and ‘creativity’ because it relates to the 5th sign, Leo, disregard the fact that Leo is marked throughout tradition as a sterile and barren sign – in matters of pregnancy one of the main arguments to judge a denial of fertility. A little reflection upon historical literature shows that few if any of the principal rulerships associated with the 5th house derive from Leo; the house has been indelibly tinged with the aura of Venus. It is significant that Manilius did not mention any of

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8.      Pliny the Elder, *Natural History II* (1st cent.), trans. H. Rackham (Harvard Uni. Press, Harvard, 1942); ch.6 (8).

9.      *The Book of Instruction in the Elements of the Art of Astrology*. v.461.

10.     *The Beginning Of Wisdom*, edited by Raphael Levy and Francisco Cantera, (John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1939); ch.III, p.193.

11.     *A Brief and Most Easie Introduction to the Judgement of the Stars*, translated by Fabian Withers, 1583; available as facsimilie reprint (Ascella, London, 1998); XIII.

12.     *CA* p.53.

### 5th House Associations Through History

<b>Manilius:</b>	A region of uncertainty.
<b>Others : (classical)</b>	Children, good fortune; friendship. Accomplishments.
<b>Firmicus:</b>	The number of children and their sex. Called the house of Good Fortune because it is the house of Venus. Favourable because it aspects the ascendant by trine.
<b>Al-Biruni:</b>	Children, friends, clothes, pleasure, joy. Wealth of father (2nd from 4th).
<b>Lilly:</b>	Children, pregnant women. Banquets, taverns, plays, gaming, Ambassadors.
<b>Modern:</b>	Creativity, children, pleasures, holidays, love affairs, gambling, sport, gifts, all pleasant things.

these rulerships in his description of the house. He did not place Venus there so had no reason to do so.

### The Eleventh House

The opposite house to the 5th, the 11th, was known to the classical authors as the 'House of Good Spirit'. A planet appearing in the 11th house has distanced itself far enough from the ascendant to be seen in clear vision and in the rising of the Sun will be free of combustion. Symbolically, it is perceived to have freed itself of the connotations of captivity and invisibility associated with the 12th house and to have moved into a condition of strength, freedom, release, hope, triumph, movement towards the attainment of desires and general good fortune. Naturally, this is the temple of Jupiter.

Today we call the 11th house the house of friends but that also implies benefactors and anyone who helps and supports our aims, as befits its planetary ruler. All of the symbolism underpinning the interpretation of this house is favourable. Besides its affiliation with the 'greater benefic', it forms a sextile relationship with the ascendant

and, most importantly, enjoys an elevated position above the earth, rising in diurnal motion towards the summit of heaven. It is this movement upwards towards the midheaven which gives the house a connection with motivation and positive ambition. Manilius tells us that the 11th house is the most fortunate house of all, better even than the 10th; for whilst the midheaven represents completion and power, it has nowhere to aspire to – the only movement it can make is to decline:

“Consummation attends the topmost abode, and no movement save for the worse can it make, nor is aught left for it to aspire to.”<sup>13</sup>

Not so the 11th house, this “surges ever higher being ambitious for the prize”. Hence it is associated with hope, trust, and expectation – the working towards something whilst the goal is still ahead to garner

### **5th House Associations Through History**

<b>Manilius:</b>	Hope, ambition, triumph. Blessed with the lot of Happy Fortune. The temple of Jupiter.
<b>Others: (classical)</b>	Good luck, hope; attainment of desires, freed persons, friends, gifts, children.
<b>Firmicus:</b>	Called Good Spirit. Favourable because it aspects the ascendant by sextile and is the house of Jupiter.
<b>Al-Biruni:</b>	Happiness, friends, praise, love, friendship of women, ornaments, commerce, longevity.
<b>Lilly:</b>	Friends and friendship; hope, trust, praise, comfort, promotion by recommendation of friends; secret hopes and wishes.
<b>Modern:</b>	Friends and acquaintances, clubs and societies. Objectives in life, intellectual pleasures. Detached contacts made in day to day affairs.

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13. *Astronomica*. II.886.

inspiration. It bestows optimism, joy, faith and luck. Lilly knew it as the house of friendship, hope, trust, confidence and praise, and noted that if anyone asks if they will obtain the thing they hope for, or has a secret wish and is reluctant to tell you what it is, the condition of the 11th house ruler will reveal whether or not they will attain what they want.<sup>14</sup> A favourable 11th house and a strong 11th house ruler is a blessing in any chart.



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14. *C.A.* p.458