

# Jupiter in Sagittarius: what domicile actually confers

*A planet in its own sign is the clearest case in the tradition — and the one most often over-read.*

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Jupiter in Sagittarius is a planet in its own domicile: the strongest of the five essential dignities, held by the greater benefic, in the sign of its diurnal rulership. It is about as favourable a single placement as the tradition offers.

It is also, for that reason, the placement most often asked to carry more than it can. What follows is an attempt to say precisely what it gives and where it stops.

## What domicile means

A planet in its own sign is at home. The image is the tradition's own and it is exact: the planet disposes of itself, answers to no one else, and has the means of its own signification to hand.

Three things follow, and the third is the one that matters most in practice.

- **It is not impeded by its own placement.** Whatever else happens to it, the sign is not working against it.
- **It has no dispositor above it.** A planet in another's sign depends on that other planet's condition; a planet in its own does not. The chain stops there — which simplifies a judgement considerably.
- **It delivers what it signifies in the sign's own manner.** Jupiter in Sagittarius gives growth, law, permission and largeness in a fiery, mutable, outward-directed way: by expansion and by conviction, not by accumulation.

## Sagittarius rather than Pisces

Jupiter rules two signs, and the difference between them is not decorative.

Sagittarius is Jupiter's **diurnal** domicile, Pisces the nocturnal. Jupiter belongs to the diurnal sect; in Sagittarius, therefore, sign and sect agree, and the planet is in the arrangement that suits it. In Pisces it is equally at home and less in character.

The elements do the rest. Sagittarius is fire and mutable: Jupiter there is directed outward, towards the far, the foreign, the argued conviction — the ninth-house matters that share the sign's nature. Pisces is water and mutable: the same planet there dissolves boundaries rather than crossing them.

A chart with Jupiter in Sagittarius and a chart with Jupiter in Pisces both have a dignified Jupiter, and they describe different people.

### Where the reading usually goes wrong

Four cautions, in order of how often they are needed.

#### *Dignity is not placement*

Essential dignity says what a planet *can* do. House placement says whether it can do it here. Jupiter in Sagittarius in the twelfth house is a strong planet in a weak position: it has every resource and no opportunity. The tradition does not soften this, and neither should a reading.

#### *A benefic can still be afflicted*

Domicile protects against one kind of harm and not others. Jupiter in Sagittarius combust is still overwhelmed. Jupiter in Sagittarius besieged between the malefics with no aid is still hemmed in. What domicile guarantees is that the planet has something to offer — not that anyone lets it.

#### *What it rules is half the story*

A dignified Jupiter benefits the houses it rules. If it rules the second and the fifth, the good goes there. Reading it as generalised good fortune, without asking which departments of life it governs, is the most common error in the whole of natal practice.

#### *Too much of a good thing is a real category*

The tradition is clear that Jupiter's fault is excess: over-extension, over-promising, generosity beyond means, conviction beyond evidence. A very strong Jupiter in a chart with no Saturn worth the name describes someone with no brake. That is a real reading and a useful one, and it is not pessimism.

### The cycle

Jupiter returns to Sagittarius roughly every twelve years and stays about a year. This has two consequences worth keeping in view.

**For a nativity**, the placement is shared by everyone born within that year. It is therefore not, by itself, distinguishing. What individuates it is the house it falls in — which depends on the ascendant, and so on the birth time — and the aspects it makes to the personal points.

**For prediction**, the twelve-year cycle is one of the more legible rhythms in a life, and the Jupiter return is a real marker. The tradition reads it as an opening: permission, room, a widening of what is possible. As with any single technique, it is reported only when the profection, the directions and the solar revolution agree with it.

## What to say to a client

That there is a resource here, in the departments of life this Jupiter governs, and that it is available rather than merely promised.

Not that things will go well. A planet in domicile describes a capacity, and a capacity unused is indistinguishable, from the outside, from one absent — which is the whole content of the old formula that the stars incline and do not compel.

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**On the scoring.** Domicile is conventionally worth five points in the almuten calculation, exaltation four, triplicity three, term two, face one. The scheme is a late convenience and useful for finding a chart's almuten; it is no substitute for judging each dignity on its own terms, and it systematically flatters a planet that holds several minor dignities over one that holds domicile alone.

**On sect.** The diurnal and nocturnal division of the domiciles is not an ornament of the scheme but its organising principle, running outward from Leo and Cancer in the order of the planetary periods. A reading that ignores sect discards roughly half of what the older authors thought they were saying.

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The scoring recalled in the note above — five points for domicile, four for exaltation, then triplicity, term and face — is published in full by Your Astral Life: the five dignities and the two debilities, sign by sign and degree by degree, with one table for the day chart and one for the night, and the almuten of each degree. The figures there are read from the engine that calculates the charts, not transcribed.

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