

*The nodes
in your chart:*

YOUR KARMIC PAST AND
YOUR LIFE PURPOSE

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Perhaps the number one question I get from my clients is some variation of:

What is my life purpose?

That's a big question! Perhaps *The Biggest*.

Fortunately, I have astrology to help me guide the client toward their answer.

In the following pages, I'll give you the tools to begin answering this question, via the astrological sign placements of your *North and South Nodes*. You will also be able to use the table within this document to find the Node placements of your family and friends.

Please note: There is no substitute for an individual birth chart reading. A holistic reading of the birth chart will always give the most depth and specificity. However, knowing the signs of your *North and South Nodes* will give you a lot to work with. This knowledge will give you a sense not only of your blocks to growth, but how to move through those blocks. And it will reveal to you the nature of your life purpose.

So let's dive in. How can the *North and South Nodes* help you answer the Big Question?



LIFE PURPOSE VS. CAREER

First, let's clarify the difference between life purpose and career choice. One's life purpose is a broader set of themes and ideals, while career is the worldly work you are doing. While these two things may align, they are not the same thing.

For example, your birth chart won't tell you:

You are here to become a school teacher.

Instead, the chart can tell you, via the Nodes:

You are here to learn to express and share your ideas, perhaps via writing, teaching or speaking.

Therefore, your choice of day job is not as important as how you are meeting the broader aims of your life purpose.

*But why don't I just know
the answer?*



Moving toward your life purpose is not always easy. Quite the contrary. It often feels challenging, or even scary. It is something that you have never before attained or experienced.

That is why you are here: to grow and to evolve. By definition, your life purpose is that which will push you to grow beyond your comfort zone. Your life purpose is something your soul has not already mastered in past lives.

That's right, I said *past lives*. As an Evolutionary Astrologer, I embrace the concept of reincarnation, the premise that our soul returns to different bodies lifetime after lifetime. The soul seeks to gather new experiences. Whatever we didn't get to resolve in one lifetime, we put on the docket to be addressed in the next.

In order to understand our life purpose for *this* lifetime, we must also understand that there are influences from these past lives—a.k.a. *karma*.

What is Karma?

Karma is a loaded word and a vast topic. For our purposes, here's what I mean when I use this word in regards to your birth chart:

- * Karma is cause and effect.
- * Karma shows up in this life in response to unresolved issues from past lives.



- * Karma is a force that seeks to create balance.
- * Karma encourages us to grow through presenting us with the same issues over and over, throughout lifetimes, until we get it right.

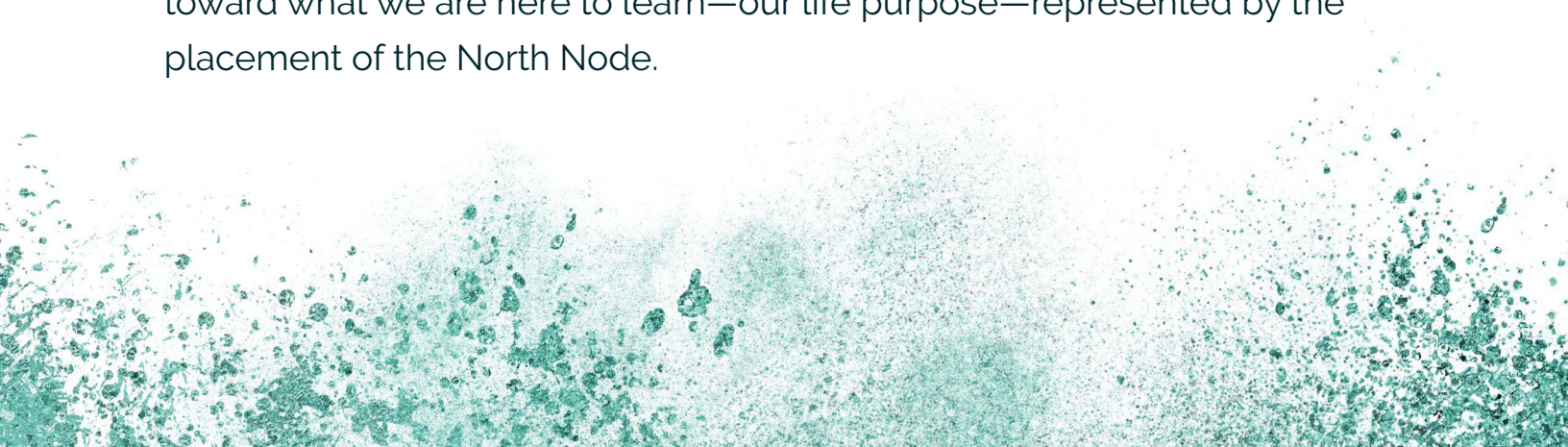
What karma *isn't*:

- * A “tit for tat” game with the Universe (or God or Spirit or insert-your-deity-here)
- * Punishment
- * Wholly negative or wholly positive
- * Something we can avoid (If you're alive, you have karma)

SO HOW DOES KARMA RELATE TO OUR LIFE PURPOSE?

The **South Node's** sign in the birth chart tells us about our Karmic Past – what our soul experienced in past lives, what was left unresolved. The South Node represents what is *familiar* to your soul. Whatever feels familiar, we are drawn to repeat. That's because it's more comfortable to repeat something—even if it's painful—than to confront the unknown. But if we stay stuck in those past-life patterns, life is unfulfilling. We feel as if we are just treading water.

The magnetic pull of the South Node can prevent us from moving toward what we are here to learn—our life purpose—represented by the placement of the North Node.



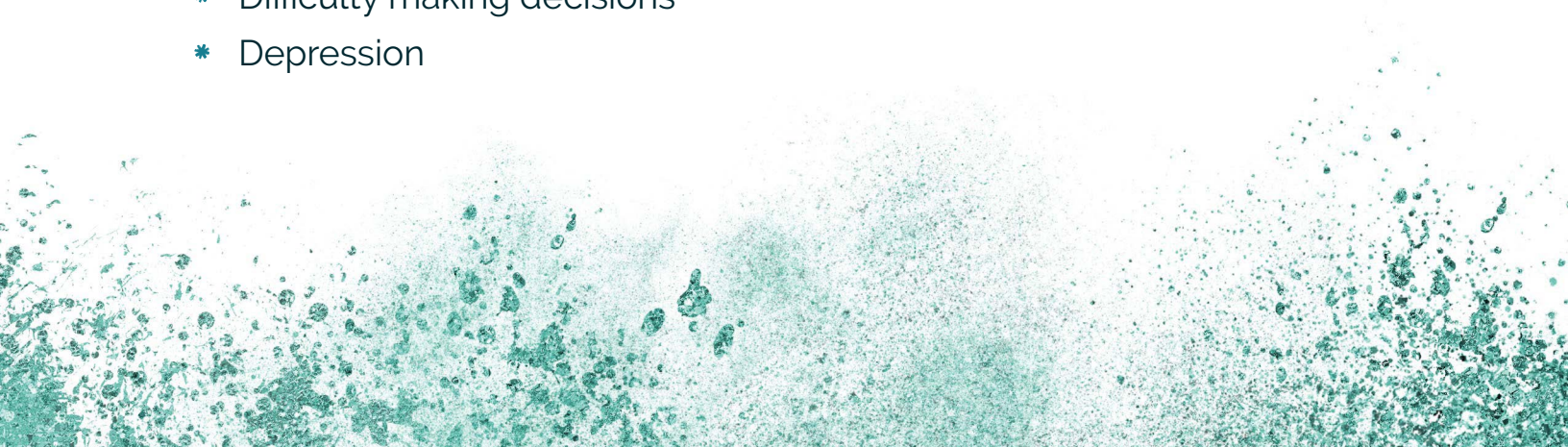
The **North Node's** sign points toward what you did *not* experience as a soul in past lives. It suggests the qualities that you need to develop in order to take the next step on your path. But you must work consciously to develop the North Node traits – they do not come naturally, because the North Node represents what is new to your soul. When you move toward it, you will feel out of your depth. But when you bravely venture into the unknown waters represented by your North Node, you will also feel alive, exhilarated, and fulfilled.

Note: Nodes also occupy an astrological "House" in your birth chart, but you will need to have a reading with me or another experienced astrologer in order to add this deeper level of analysis. However, the sign placements that you find in this booklet will give you an abundance of information on your karmic patterns and your life purpose.

The bottom line is: When we are stuck in the patterns of the past, we can't grow and evolve. We stagnate on a soul level, and we feel that something is not quite right in our life.

SIGNS THAT WE ARE STUCK IN THE SOUTH NODE AND/OR AVOIDING THE NORTH NODE ARE:

- * Lack of energy
- * Inability to take action
- * Difficulty making decisions
- * Depression



WHEN WE ARE MOVING TOWARD OUR NORTH NODE, WE CAN ACCESS:

- * Overall zest for life
- * Clarity on where we want to go
- * Ability to act, even if it's scary
- * Peace about our place in the world

So, let's get to it! What can your North and South Node tell you?

Finding Your Nodes

Step 1 - Please find your birth date within the table on the next page in order to determine the sign of your North Node

Please note: If your birth date is on the cusp between the dates or if your birth date is outside the range of these dates, you can cast your chart to verify your North Node sign. One of many free chart resources is <http://www.astrologycafe.com/free-natal-chart-report> When you enter your information, it will tell you the positions of your planets and your North Node in a list format.



DATES	NORTH NODE	DATES	NORTH NODE	DATES	NORTH NODE
Jan 1/40 – May 24/41	Libra	Dec 24/62 – Aug 25/64	Cancer	Apr 7/86 – Dec 2/87	Aries
May 25/41 – Nov 21/42	Virgo	Aug 26/64 – Feb 19/66	Gemini	Dec 3/87 – May 22/89	Pisces
Nov 22/42 – May 11/44	Leo	Feb 20/66 – Aug 19/67	Taurus	May 23/89 – Nov 18/90	Aquarius
May 12/44 – Dec 3/45	Cancer	Aug 20/67 – Apr 19/69	Aries	Nov 19/90 – Aug 1/92	Capricorn
Dec 4/45 – Aug 2/47	Gemini	Apr 20/69 – Nov 2/70	Pisces	Aug 2/92 – Feb 1/94	Sagittarius
Aug 3/47 – Jan 26/49	Taurus	Nov 3/70 – Apr 27/72	Aquarius	Feb 2/94 – Jul 31/95	Scorpio
Jan 27/49 – Jul 26/50	Aries	Apr 28/72 – Oct 27/73	Capricorn	Aug 1/95 – Jan 25/97	Libra
Jul 27/50 – Mar 28/52	Pisces	Oct 28/73 – Jul 9/75	Sagittarius	Jan 26/97 – Oct 20/98	Virgo
Mar 29/52 – Oct 9/53	Aquarius	Jul 10/75 – Jan 7/77	Scorpio	Oct 21/98 – Apr 10/00	Leo
Oct 10/53 – Apr 2/55	Capricorn	Jan 8/77 – Jul 5/78	Libra	Apr 10/00 – Oct 13/01	Cancer
Apr 3/55 – Oct 4/56	Sagittarius	Jul 6/78 – Jan 5/80	Virgo	Oct 14/01 – Apr 14/03	Gem
Oct 5/56 – Jun 16/58	Scorpio	Jan 6/80 – Sep 24/81	Leo	Apr 15/03 – Dec 26/04	Taurus
Jun 17/58 – Dec 15/59	Libra	Sep 25/81 – Mar 16/83	Cancer	Dec 27 04 – Jun 22/06	Aries
Dec 16/59 – Jun 10/61	Virgo	Mar 17/83 – Sep 11/84	Gem	Jun 23/06 – Dec 18/07	Pisces
Jun 11/61 – Dec 23/62	Leo	Sep 12/84 – Apr 6/86	Taurus	Dec 19/07 – Aug 21/09	Aquarius

Step 2 – Based on your North Node sign from the chart above, find your interpretation in the following pages:

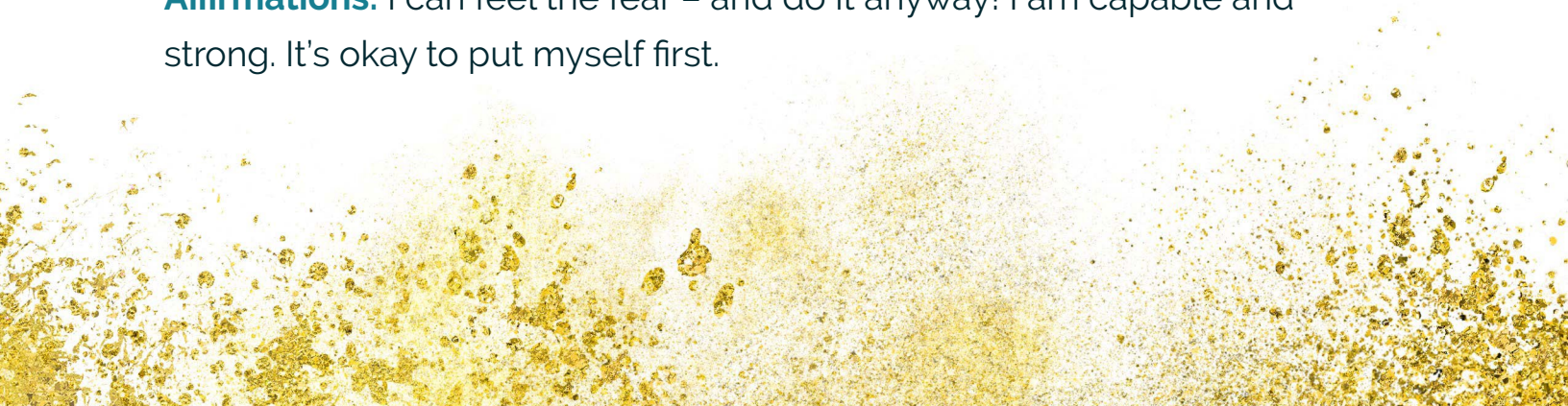
NORTH NODE IN ARIES / SOUTH NODE IN LIBRA

Karmic Pattern: In the karmic past, you were defined by your immersion in a significant partnership. You may have had self-negating patterns in relationships. You gave too much of yourself away to the needs and desires of others. Your life revolved around another person or other people. Co-dependency and indecisiveness were part of the familiar pattern of the soul's past.

Fears: Confrontation. Rocking the boat. Independence. Standing alone.

Growing Edge: With the North Node in Aries, you are here to learn about independence. You are developing self-confidence and decisiveness. Your soul wants you to embrace the ideal of courage. It's time to take some Big Risks. And it's important to pursue your desires, despite what others may need of you.

Affirmations: I can feel the fear – and do it anyway! I am capable and strong. It's okay to put myself first.



NORTH NODE IN TAURUS / SOUTH NODE IN SCORPIO

Karmic Pattern: In the karmic past, you were surrounded by chaotic situations at the expense of comfort and peace. You experienced non-stop drama and crisis, and there was no space to settle into life. You likely invested too much time and energy in supporting others, becoming enmeshed with them at the expense of your own comfort and needs.

Fears: Too much calm. Boredom. The "other shoe is going to drop" feeling is with you often.

Growing Edge: With the North Node in Taurus, you need to enjoy more peace and calm. But this is not easy as it sounds. Letting go of fearful expectations is a challenge. But it's time to develop the ability to be present in the here and now. Enjoy the simple pleasures of life – earthy, bodily pleasures. Deepening your connection with your body through bodywork and healing touch is helpful.

Affirmations: Keep it simple. It is okay to just "be." I deserve security and safety.



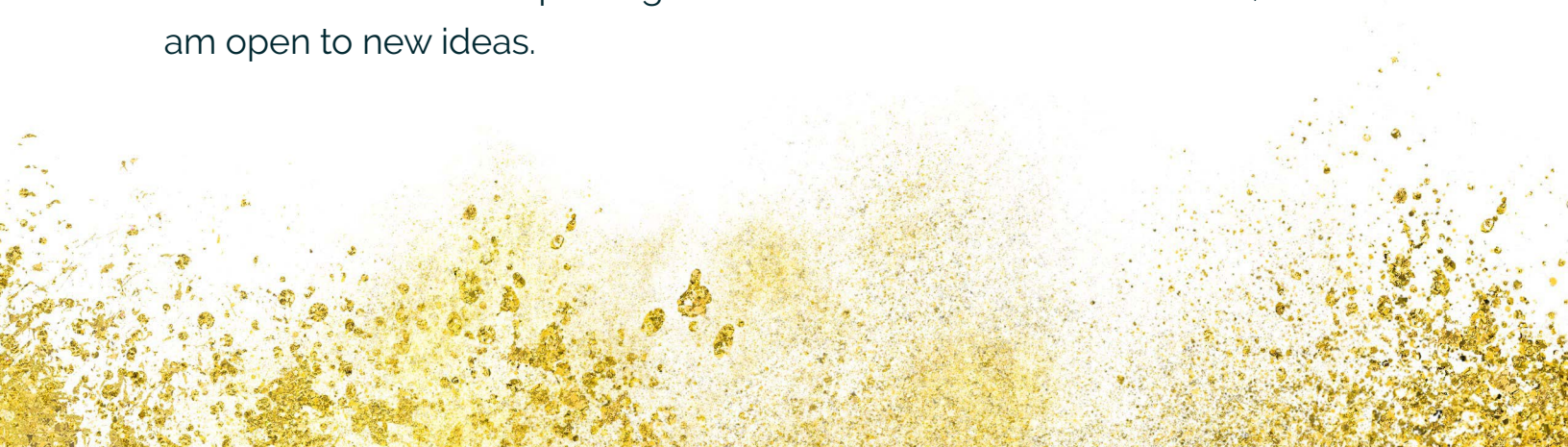
NORTH NODE IN GEMINI / SOUTH NODE IN SAGITTARIUS

Karmic Pattern: In the karmic past, you were attached to dogmatic beliefs. They may have been religious, political, or both. There was a tendency to take in these beliefs without questioning. You took things on faith. The past life pattern may have also been a "leap before you look" approach in which you acted without questioning, putting yourself on the line for your beliefs. You valued a devotion to ideals over interpersonal connection.

Fears: Opening to new ideas. Letting go of old beliefs. Living with uncertainty.

Growing Edge: With the North Node in Gemini, you are invited to open your mind to the opinions of others, to deeply listen, and to develop two-way communication within your relationships. It's time to be radically curious. You are learning how to say: "I don't know, but I can learn something new." You are also developing a sense of your own voice and a willingness to share what you know. It's time to ask questions rather than feel like you have to have all the answers.

The Affirmations: I keep a beginner's mind. When I listen to others, I learn. I am open to new ideas.



NORTH NODE IN CANCER / SOUTH NODE IN CAPRICORN

The Pattern: In the karmic past, you were attached to your career or status at the expense of emotional connection with others. You may have been a "workaholic," and your family life suffered. Your life was full of heavy responsibility and duty, which made it difficult for you to open up emotionally. You felt alone in your struggles.

Fears: Vulnerability. Being dependent on others. Revealing your feelings.

Growing Edge: With the North Node in Cancer, you are developing the capacity to connect deeply with others emotionally. It's time to expose some of your insecurities, and to speak up for your needs within your relationships. It is important to make your home and family a priority. Seek to strengthen family bonds. Having a sense of tribe allows you to share your burdens.

Affirmations: I open my heart to my family and friends. It's okay to let others see my feelings. I don't have to do it all alone.



NORTH NODE IN LEO / SOUTH NODE IN AQUARIUS

Karmic Pattern: In the karmic past, you rebelled for the sake of rebellion – at the expense of following your own path. You may have been part of a political or religious cause that forced you to extremes. Additionally, your creative talent and originality may have been obscured by a need to be part of that movement. You were swept up by forces greater than you at the expense of your creative expression and individuality. Life was Very Serious, and there was not a lot of “playtime.”

Fears: Stepping into the spotlight. Owning your creative talents. Taking risks and standing out.

Growing Edge: With the North Node in Leo, you need to shine. You must develop the capacity to put your ideas on stage for others to see and appreciate. It is important to nurture and develop your artistic talents. Honor those activities that feel like “play” to you. Open to the joy of life.

Affirmations: It is okay to step into the spotlight. My creativity is worthy of appreciation. I see the humor in life.



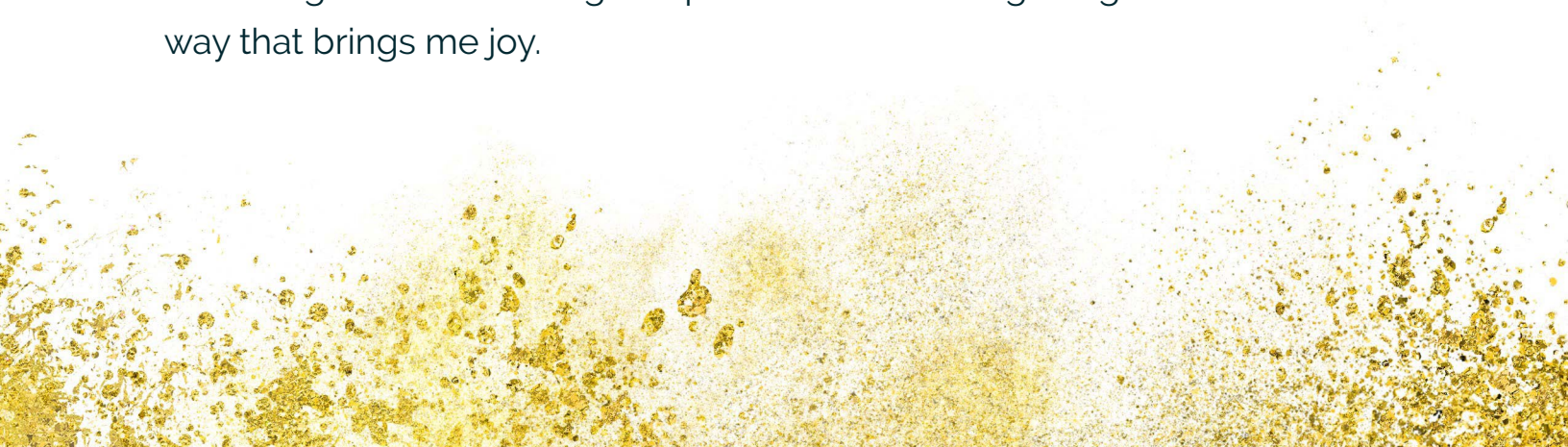
NORTH NODE IN VIRGO / SOUTH NODE IN PISCES

Karmic Pattern: In the karmic past, you devoted yourself to a religious or spiritual path that kept you from taking the reins of your life. You sacrificed the ability to plan your own life in order to give yourself fully to the (unobtainable) ideals of this path. You may have put too much focus on the big picture while ignoring practical concerns. You wanted to serve, but you did so at the expense of your personal fulfillment. There was a theme of being the victim of larger circumstances or overwhelming forces which kept you in a weakened, confused state.

Fears: Looking at the details. Making decisions. Moving toward personal goals.

Growing Edge: With the North Node in Virgo, you must develop the ability to commit to the plan, the schedule, and the routine. You empower yourself by realizing that you do actually hold the reins in your life, and when you pay attention to the details, you more easily succeed.

Affirmations: I can reach my dreams when I focus on the here and now. Attending to the little things helps me to achieve big things. I can serve in a way that brings me joy.



NORTH NODE IN LIBRA / SOUTH NODE IN ARIES

Karmic Pattern: In the karmic past, you lived amidst conflict and violence, perhaps even a great war. There was no time for peace and love. You just had to survive. So, you became supremely self-sufficient. But this independence came at the expense of important relationships. You may have also been quite brash and competitive, and your warrior-like qualities helped you to survive. However, you had difficulty putting down the sword long enough to accept the embrace of human warmth.

Fears: Relying on others. Letting down your guard. Opening to love.

Growing Edge: With the North Node in Libra, you are learning that sometimes asking for help is necessary. Embrace cooperation. You are here to develop healthy partnership dynamics in business, friendship, and love. You're coming to understand that life does not have to be full of so much conflict and pain. It's time to trust, open up, and let love in.

Affirmations: It is okay to ask for help. I benefit from balanced connections with others. I welcome peace into my life.



NORTH NODE IN SCORPIO / SOUTH NODE IN TAURUS

Karmic Pattern: In the karmic past, you enjoyed wealth and material comforts. However, your need for security kept you from a full experience of life's extremes. While you managed to miss some of the "lows" you also missed out on the "highs." You may have had things down-pat financially, but you were not able to explore the full range of human experience. You were attached to keeping things so calm and secure that your life lacked passion and intimacy.

Fears: Rocking the boat. Taking risks. Opening to intimacy.

Growing Edge: With the North Node in Scorpio, there is a need to embrace the changes you fear. Opening up to deeply intimate and intense connections with others is a way to challenge yourself to move out of your comfort zones. You achieve a sense of fulfillment when you experience passion – and all the extremes that passion brings about.

Affirmations: I will survive the changes life has to offer. It is okay to let my passions guide me. I am strong enough to take risks.



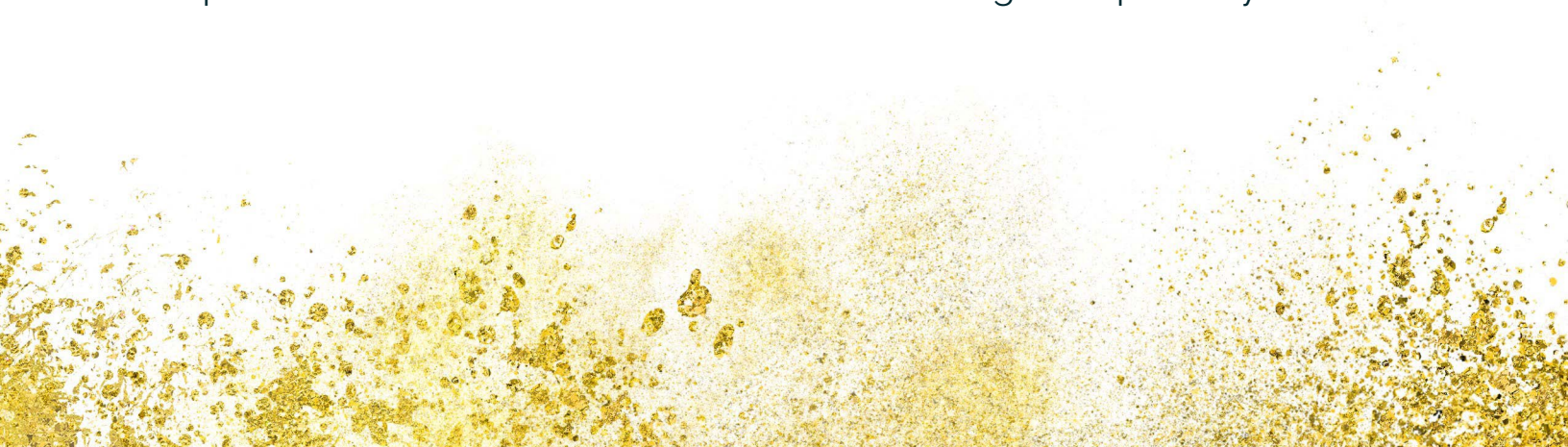
NORTH NODE IN SAGITTARIUS / SOUTH NODE IN GEMINI

Karmic Pattern: In the karmic past, you found yourself repeating or parroting the ideas of others, spreading their message at the expense of finding your own truth. You were always the student and never the teacher. Furthermore, you were perpetually distracted by your fast-paced, busy life. This kept you from being able to develop your own sense of the meaning of it all.

Fears: Committing to your own Truth because you might be seen as "wrong." Stepping into the role of the teacher. Owning what you believe.

Growing Edge: With the North Node in Sagittarius, you must develop the ability to discern your philosophy of life – even in the face of others' disagreement with your beliefs. You need to travel widely and gain a variety of life experiences in order to develop perspective. You are empowered when you embrace the ideal of "faith" – and figure out what it is you have faith in.

Affirmations: My Life has meaning and purpose. I can state my truth and experience freedom at the same time. I have the right to speak my truth.



NORTH NODE IN CAPRICORN / SOUTH NODE IN CANCER

Karmic Pattern: In the karmic past, you were immersed in family duties. You let your goals and dreams get eclipsed by the needs of others. The others in question may have been your family of origin, your spouse, your children, or all of the above. Your needs became invisible as you attended to their nurturing and care. You might also have willingly given up control of your life to more dominant figures (parents or an overbearing spouse).

Fears: Following your aspirations when it seems your actions would hurt others' feelings. Being seen and recognized, even in a positive way. Being "selfish" or judged as such.

Growing Edge: With the North Node in Capricorn, you are here to make your mark in the world. When you develop your talents and do the work, you find that you have gifts to offer your community. You are developing the ability to set boundaries with those people in your life who demand too much of your caretaking energy. You must follow your path where it leads.

Affirmations: I deserve to be seen and recognized. I can make a difference in the world around me. My dreams matter.



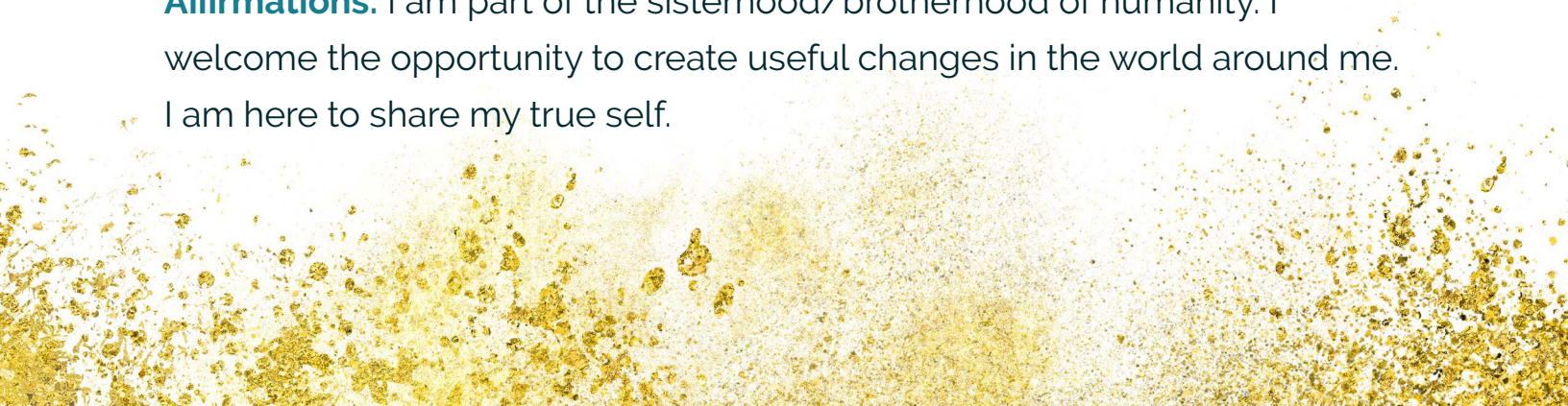
NORTH NODE IN AQUARIUS / SOUTH NODE IN LEO

Karmic Pattern: In the karmic past, you were set apart from others and deemed "special" or above the crowd. You may have been royal or famous in some regard. You were often the center of attention either for your talents or by accident of your birth. There was a lot of drama and excitement in your life, but your feeling of being set apart kept you from finding a sense of community. You felt lonely and disconnected because of your social position.

Fears: Disapproval from others. Losing others' love, adoration, and attention. Disappearing in the crowd.

Growing Edge: With the North Node in Aquarius, you are here to release attachment to approval and follow your authentic path, even if it ruffles the feathers of those around you. Develop the ability to embrace the edgy, revolutionary aspects of yourself. When you do, you find you are living the life you want to live rather than waiting for permission from others. Connect with others who hold similar values to yours. Connection with a like-minded community helps you along your path.

Affirmations: I am part of the sisterhood/brotherhood of humanity. I welcome the opportunity to create useful changes in the world around me. I am here to share my true self.



NORTH NODE IN PISCES / SOUTH NODE IN VIRGO

Karmic Pattern: In the karmic past, you were attached to doing things perfectly. You may have been in a profession that required you to "get it right" every time, or else there would be dire circumstances. You beat up on yourself mercilessly for your mistakes. Your powers of analysis were strong, but your highly intellectual approach overpowered everything. You were filled with anxiety, unable to trust and surrender into the flow of life.

Fears: Letting go of control. Making mistakes. Trusting in something beyond oneself.

Growing Edge: With the North Node in Pisces, you are here to develop compassion for your perceived imperfections and those of others. You are learning to let more things go. It's time to release the tendency to beat yourself up. It is helpful to find a spiritual path which helps you to have more trust and faith in a larger order of things.

Affirmations: I accept myself exactly as I am. I trust that I am taken care of within the greater order of things. I go with the flow of life.



Here are some frequently asked questions about the Nodes and how to work with them:

Does the South Node refer to a literal past life identity? For example, can you tell if I was Queen Elizabeth I or insert your favorite historical figure here!

No, the South Node does not give us a past-life reading. It refers to themes, emotional dynamics, and patterns of your past life or lives. There is no way to know for sure from the Nodes if you were Queen Elizabeth I. But if you would like to explore past-life regression, you can reach out to a qualified counselor or therapist who does that type of work.

Does the South Node refer to one past-life or many past-lives?

The South Node can represent one particularly potent lifetime or a collection of lifetimes. But what's most important to understand is that, even if it is more than one lifetime, it is about a set of themes which ties these lifetimes together. The karma is showing up in this life because your soul is ready to work on that unresolved material from the past in the here and now.



I totally don't relate to my North Node. It doesn't describe me at all! What gives?

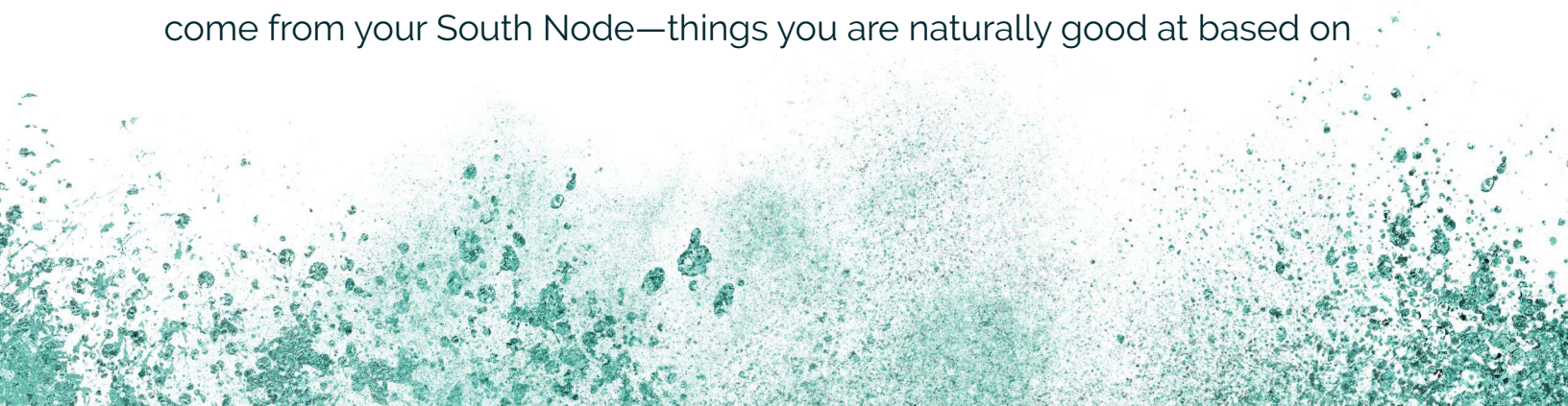
That's because the North Node is not descriptive. It is a point of pure potential, a polestar to guide you. But it's up to you to decide how much you want to grow, evolve, and change in this life. The North Node only points the way. By definition, you'll always feel as if you've not quite mastered the North Node material. If you'd mastered it, you wouldn't have needed to be born!

It sounds like my past life was a total bummer. Is that bad or wrong?

No. By definition, what shows up as karma via the South Node is going to have a negative slant. That's because if everything went well in a past life, it doesn't have karma attached to it, and it doesn't show up in the birth chart for this life. The South Node tells us what was left unresolved, what troubled you, and what your soul is here to resolve or heal. Did you make mistakes in a past life? Certainly! As has any living person. We incarnate because our souls want to continue working on lessons that we did not get in the past.

My life now (or in the recent past) sounds a lot like you described my South Node/Past Lives. Does that mean I'm not very evolved?

It's very common that past life themes echo in the present life. In fact, it's inevitable. But that doesn't have anything to do with one's level of evolution. It's okay to feel comfortable in the South Node material. In fact, I hear from most of my clients that they've seen those karmic themes repeat again in this life to a greater or lesser extent. But there are even gifts that come from your South Node—things you are naturally good at based on



past-life experiences. The point is not to just stay where it's comfy all the time. If you can nudge yourself toward the North Node the majority of the time, you're growing! And, you ought to see the beneficial results of that effort.

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER INQUIRY

If you're interested in learning more about reincarnation or Evolutionary Astrology, check out the following books:

Many Lives, Many Masters, Brian L. Weiss, M.D.

Journey of Souls, Michael Newton, Ph.D.

Children Who Remember Previous Lives: A Question of Reincarnation, Ian Stevenson, M.D.

Yesterday's Sky, Steven Forrest

*And, if you are interested in
an individual reading with
me, please reach out here.*



Wishing you
fulfillment and
joy on your
soul's journey!

Warmly,

Dena DeCastro