



Mercury • 6 • Vesta



Virgo

## The Principle of Humble Service Archetype: The Flame Keeper



The sixth position is where the person is preparing to progress into the public sphere. It is the last position of personal development from objective experience. Virgo walks a fine line between service and criticism. She attends to the details of life. She tends to the health of the physical body, growing plants and small animals. She is responsible for one part of a larger picture. She must stay in charge for her 'shift'; her duty to keep the fires burning. She straightens the cobblestones so the dancers won't fall on uneven walkways. She mends the wings of injured birds and feeds the cat every day at six o'clock. She is the dutiful young adult holding the light for others. When she is in top form, she recruits by example. She must tend to the light for herself; do her own mending and sewing. She must

tend to the needs of her body and her soul, and when she is diligent, she is a beacon to others. Others fall in step with her, in simplicity; perfecting quietly each ritual and routine. Mercury is at his best in this sign. The asteroid Vesta's qualities mimic those of Virgo. The Vestal Virgin was a Priestess of the flame. They were the nuns of Rome for a thousand years. There were only six at a time. They had acolytes, trainees, but there were only six full-fledged Vestals in charge at one time.

Virgoan KEYWORDS: Duty, diligence, purity, critical, careful, practical, skillful, high strung.

