

Astrological Axes – Quick Overview

Ascendant (AC) – East

“What rises – Birth of Something”

- Place of appearance
- Something becomes visible
- Therefore: body, presence, “I am here”

Symbolism of the East: Emergence, rise, appearance, vitality

The AC is often interpreted in terms of character because it is the interface between the inner self and the outer world – everything that becomes visible here is automatically perceived as part of the personality.

Those who appear (AC) show behaviors that others notice → subjectively “character.” Ancient perspective: This is where life reveals itself in appearance.

Medium Coeli (MC) – South

“What is maximally visible”

- Highest point
- Public
- Seen by everyone
- Influence, reputation, responsibility

Symbolism of the South: Light, visibility, activity

The MC marks the highest point of appearance. Everything visible here stands out and is interpreted as life purpose or vocation. Ancient astrologers saw the MC simply as the point of maximum exposure.

Descendant (DC) – West

“What stands opposite me – The Opposition”

- Place of the counterpart
- Partner
- Contracts
- Enemies
- The radically Other

Symbolism of the West: Encounter, transition, letting go

The DC is often associated with relationships and social interaction because it symbolically marks the counterpart. Everything mirrored or exchanged here shapes interaction, while in the ancient perspective, the DC simply represented the place of the “Not-Self.”

Imum Coeli (IC) – North

“What is hidden”

- Under the earth
- Invisible
- Foundation
- What everything visible rests upon
- Ancestry, roots, psyche, existential depth

Symbolism of the North: Cold, darkness, depth, stability

The IC influences inner stability, rootedness, and origin, as it symbolizes the unseen foundation of life. Everything placed here forms the support of existence. In the ancient view, the IC primarily represented the sustaining ground of life.

Summary – The Four Axes in One Sentence

- **AC:** I appear
- **MC:** I act
- **DC:** I meet
- **IC:** I ground

All of these happen simultaneously – throughout a lifetime.