

# Planetary Hours for Pagans

Phoenix Pagan Pride Day 2022

In addition to ruling a day of the week, each classical planet rules particular “hours” of the day and night. Planetary hours are not the “equal” hours comprised of 60 minutes used in modern timekeeping – they are “unequal” or “seasonal” hours whose length is determined by the duration of local daylight. The use of unequal hours dates back to Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome, and is also alluded to in *The Bible*.

Planetary hours are auspicious times to perform meditations, spells, and rituals that thematically fall under a particular planet’s domain. Although traditionally employed in ceremonial practice, they are useful to magicians from diverse backgrounds and preparations. Here, we will discuss their underlying rationale, how they are used, and how they may be integrated into personal practice.

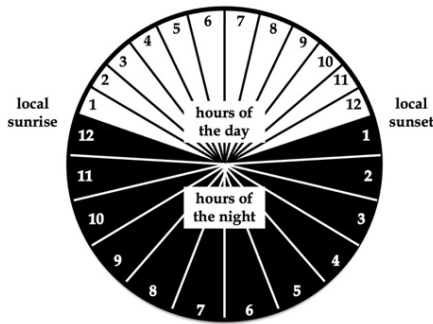
## Planetary Archetypes

Planetary archetypes are key concepts in magical thought. The ancients personified these archetypes as deities. You may think of them as ordering principles within the human psyche. A partial list of keywords and magical applications relevant to each classical planet are as follows.

<b>Classical Planet</b>	<b>Keywords</b>	<b>Applications</b>
<b>Saturn</b>	Restriction, structure, consequences, exclusion, destruction, necessity	Space-time, agricultural, karmic, banishing, binding, death magic
<b>Jupiter</b>	Expansion, abstract mind, royalty, inclusion, wealth, luck	Protection, legal, religious, amplification, luck, wealth magic
<b>Mars</b>	Might, action, intensity, conflict, courage, metalwork	Energy raising, physical empowerment, separation, combat, blood, war magic
<b>Sun</b>	Epicenter, conscious mind, personal self, purpose, success, vitality	Illumination, self-improvement/empowerment, success, health, ego magic
<b>Venus</b>	Mediation, inner feelings, love, relationships, pleasure, beauty	Emotional, social, peacekeeping, artistic, gardening, love magic
<b>Mercury</b>	Signal transduction, intellectual mind, thoughts, communication, movement, magic	Mental, travel, communication, transmutation, trickster, thinking magic
<b>Moon</b>	Foundation, unconscious mind, instincts, emotions, creation, cycles	Astral, dream, glamour, cyclical, regenerative, sex magic

## Hours of the Day and Night

### Planetary Hour Divisions



A day-night cycle (Gk. νυχθήμερον) begins at sunrise and ends at sunrise the next day. Hours of the day begin at local sunrise and end at local sunset, whereas hours of the night begin at local sunset and end at local sunrise the next day. These periods of daylight and darkness can be subdivided into 12 “unequal” hours.

### Planetary Hour Rulers

Hour	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Day Hours</b>							
1	♄	☉	☾	♂	♀	♃	♀
2	♃	♀	♄	☉	☾	♂	♀
3	♂	♀	♃	♀	♄	☉	☾
4	☉	☾	♂	♀	♃	♀	♄
5	♀	♄	☉	☾	♂	♀	♃
6	♀	♃	♀	♄	☉	☾	♂
7	☾	♂	♀	♃	♀	♄	☉
8	♄	☉	☾	♂	♀	♃	♀
9	♃	♀	♄	☉	☾	♂	♀
10	♂	♀	♃	♀	♄	☉	☾
11	☉	☾	♂	♀	♃	♀	♄
12	♀	♄	☉	☾	♂	♀	♃
<b>Night Hours</b>							
1	♀	♃	♀	♄	☉	☾	♂
2	☾	♂	♀	♃	♀	♄	☉
3	♄	☉	☾	♂	♀	♃	♀
4	♃	♀	♄	☉	☾	♂	♀
5	♂	♀	♃	♀	♄	☉	☾
6	☉	☾	♂	♀	♃	♀	♄
7	♀	♄	☉	☾	♂	♀	♃
8	♀	♃	♀	♄	☉	☾	♂
9	☾	♂	♀	♃	♀	♄	☉
10	♄	☉	☾	♂	♀	♃	♀
11	♃	♀	♄	☉	☾	♂	♀
12	♂	♀	♃	♀	♄	☉	☾

Each weekday name alludes to the planet ruling the first hour of the day – this is more obvious in languages such as Spanish and French. Day hours begin at local sunrise, and night hours begin at local sunset. In Hellenistic astrology, the planetary week begins on Saturday.

## Calculating Planetary Hours

Use the following steps to calculate the planetary hours for a particular day or night.

1. For planetary hours of the day, determine the times of local sunrise and sunset. For hours of the night, determine the times of local sunset and then local sunrise the next calendar day. You can find local sunrise and sunset times via *NOAA Solar Calculator* (<http://gml.noaa.gov/grad/solcalc/sunrise.html>).
2. Determine the total number of minutes in the planetary day or night. For hours of the day, sum the total number of minutes from local sunrise to sunset. For hours of the night, sum the total number of minutes from local sunset to sunrise the next calendar day.
3. Divide the total number of minutes in the planetary day or night by 12. The quotient is the length of each “unequal” hour during that particular planetary day or night, in minutes.
4. Now that you know the length of an “unequal” hour, calculate their start and end times. It is easiest to begin at the first hour and move sequentially through the planetary day or night, filling in the times.
5. Use the *Planetary Hour Rulers* table to fill in the planets ruling each hour of the day or night.

## Example Calculation

### *Planetary hours of the day for Saturday, November 5, 2022, in Phoenix, AZ*

Day Hour	Start Time	End Time	Planetary Ruler
1	06:51 <sup>a</sup>	07:44:30	♄
2	07:44:30	08:38	♃
3	08:38	09:31:30	♂
4	09:31:30	10:25	☉
5	10:25	11:18:30	♀
6	11:18:30	12:12	♃
7	12:12	13:05:30	☾
8	13:05:30	13:59	♄
9	13:59	14:52:30	♃
10	14:52:30	15:46	♂
11	15:46	16:39:30	☉
12	16:39:30	17:33 <sup>b</sup>	♀

Local sunrise and sunset times are from *NOAA Solar Calculator*. Phoenix, Arizona does not observe Daylight Saving Time (DST). <sup>a</sup>Local sunrise is at 06:51. <sup>b</sup>Local sunset is at 17:33. Since there are 642 total minutes of daylight, each planetary hour lasts approximately 53.5 minutes.