

THE NODAL AXIS AND ITS BENDINGS

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There is a long and a short answer to questions about the nodal axis and the bendings.

THE SHORT ANSWER: The bendings are the points that are 90 degrees from the nodal axis. If you have a nodal axis at 00 Taurus (NN) and 00 Scorpio (SN), the bendings would be at 00 Leo and 00 Aquarius. These points are sensitive. 00 Leo would be considered the North bending, since it is 90 degrees from the North Node, and 00 Aquarius would be the South bending, since it is 90 degrees from the South node.

In a natal chart, if there is a planet within 3 degrees of the bendings, it assumes higher energy than if it were not. I tend to think that if it is within a 1-degree orb, it has the same power as the apex of a Yod, or of a planet that is out-of-bounds by declination. Bottom line: it's important, and is more than just a "square to the Nodes." Pay attention to what house(s) it rules, and in which house it falls.

Remember, too, that planets can transit and progress to the locations of the North and South bending in your chart.

It was astrologer Dane Rudhyar who observed that the Nodal cycle in space was the equivalent of the seasonal cycle of the Sun. That being the case, the nodes actually have four points instead of two: Their North and South locations, and their North and South bendings.

THE LONG ANSWER:

Using the concept of the bendings and the emphasis on North and South, it is useful to visualize where in the nodal cycle a natal planet or light falls in one's natal chart.

First, find your North Node. Then proceed forward in zodiacal order to the South Node. (That is, if your North Node is at 6 Pisces, the Northern emphasis would fall between 6 Pisces and 6 Virgo. You would move from 6 Pisces to Aries, Taurus, Gemini, etc. until you reach the South Node at 6 Virgo.) This distance between the North Node and the South Node is considered the Northern position. Planets falling in this area generally have a better chance at outward manifestation and goal achievement, and worldly success can come easier if the planet falls in the Northern position.

Planets falling between the South Node and the North Node are assigned to the Southern position. Using the above example, the South Node "begins" at 6 Virgo, then moves to 6 Libra, then 6 Scorpio, etc. This area is considered the Southern position. Planets that fall in it may operate in a different fashion—given more to spiritual, intuitive sides, emphasis on service to others, and not manifesting in the goal-oriented, achieving fashion of the Northern position. (I should mention, though, that North Node and South Node interpretations are not as cut-and-dried as the texts would have us believe, but that is beyond the scope of this article.)

For an example I am using Donald Trump's chart, since it is easy to see the point. His chart is at the bottom of this article. (Please know I have no skin in the game where politics are concerned, am not encouraging political discourse, and choose charts based only on what they can show.)

Trump has the North Node at 20 Gemini and the South Node at 20 Sagittarius. (Interestingly, they are both in conjunction with one of the luminaries.) So, the area between 20 Gemini and 20 Sagittarius is in the Northern position, and encompasses much of the 10th house, as well as the 11th, 12th, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and part of the 4th. This places most of his planets, except for the Moon and Uranus, in the Northern area of worldly success. The Southern area begins with his South Node at 20 Sagittarius and includes his 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th houses and the planets or points in them. This means that the Moon and Uranus are in the Southern position, interesting when you consider that the Moon rules real estate, where Trump has made most of his wealth. (The times that I've heard him speak, however, he emphasizes that he wrote a book about making deals—very much an emphasis of his North Node and Northern position planets.)

Because 20 Virgo is 90 degrees from his North Node, that is the Northern bending in his chart. (Also it is the degree and sign of the Sept. 13 eclipse. So he had the eclipse on the Northern bending in his chart. Any point at 20 Pisces would be his Southern bending.)

With so many other factors involved in the delineation of planets, why is it important to know whether they fall in the Northern or Southern position? *It is important because the Nodal Cycle position is one of the key determinants of whether a lunation is a New Moon or a New Moon (solar) eclipse. The Nodal axis must be between 00 and 9 degrees of either node for a total solar eclipse, though a wider orb is seen for partial eclipses.* The nodal influence means that an eclipse can either be a South Node eclipse or a North Node eclipse, and the distinction is a considerable one. The Nodes also have a synodic cycle of approximately 19 years: That means that every 19 years, one experiences a Nodal return, and it explains why events occurring every 19 years can have a far-reaching effect. (This Nodal return is usually tied to the return of the pre-natal eclipse as well, another reason for their importance.)

For further reading, I would recommend Lee Lehman's book, "Classical Astrology for Modern Living" which features a chapter on the Nodal axis and the bendings, and has insights into a lot of other things.