

# The Days of the Week and the Planetary Days

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The easiest way to discover the ancient sequence of the planetary hours is to start with the days of the week. Each day of the week is ruled by a planet. Let's try to guess... Which planet rules Sundays? What else could it be if not the Sun? And how about Saturdays? Isn't it obvious that Saturdays are ruled by Saturn? And it then doesn't take a lot of effort to figure out that Mondays are ruled by the Moon. As you can see, English language itself retains clear references to the planetary rulers of time.

But how about the other days of the week? For example, which planet rules Tuesday? English language isn't very helpful here but French is. The French word for Tuesday is *mardi*, and we can easily guess that this is the day of Mars. Wednesday, *mercredi* is the day of Mercury, no doubt.

Now, we have two planets left, Jupiter and Venus. Can the French names for the remaining two days of the week help us to figure out which planet rules which day? Thursday is *jeudi* and Friday is *vendredi*. Any doubts here? I don't think so.

Therefore, no esoteric knowledge is needed to discover the planetary rulers of the days of the week. Here is the whole list, for reference:

- Sunday is ruled by the Sun.
- Monday is ruled by the Moon.
- Tuesday is ruled by Mars.
- Wednesday is ruled by Mercury.
- Thursday is ruled by Jupiter.
- Friday is ruled by Venus.
- Saturday is ruled by Saturn.

But how about the English names for the days of the week that do not sound like the names of their ruling planets? Tuesday, for example. As a matter of fact, Tuesday is the day of the god *Tiw*, the god of Norse mythology, quite similar to the Roman god Mars. Wednesday is actually the day of *Woden*, or *Odin*, as he was called in the Northern nations, and this god has many similarities with Mercury or *Hermes*. Thursday was named after another Norse god, *Thor*, associated with thunder, and Jupiter can be easily recognised in him. Finally, Friday, is the day of the Anglo-Saxon goddess *Frige*, the wife of *Odin*. See, the English language was formed at the crossroads of civilisations, so its names for the days of the week represent quite a mixture of different cultures.

We now know which planet rules which day of the week but there is a potential trap in this knowledge. For example, it is now Sunday, the day ruled by the Sun. It will end at midnight, and Monday will start then. Correct? Yes, this is how it works in our contemporary calendar. Can we say then that after midnight the Moon will become the ruler of the day? NO. That would be a mistake.

One important rule to remember is:

**PLANETARY DAYS START WITH THE SUNRISE.**

By planetary days I mean the same days of the week but their timing is defined according to the ancient tradition rather than contemporary calendars. And according to the tradition, the day begins at sunrise. The moment of sunrise depends on the location and the time of the year. So the contemporary Monday will start at midnight but the planetary day of the Moon will start quite a bit later. In my current location and in the middle of December that will happen at 7:34 in the morning.

So to avoid confusion, we shall distinguish between the days of the week and the planetary days. Monday is a day of the week that starts at midnight after Sunday and continues until the next midnight. The planetary day of the Moon starts on Monday at the moment of sunrise and continues until the next sunrise. Similarly, the planetary day of Mars starts on Tuesday at the moment of sunrise, and continues until the next sunrise, and so on. Here is a table that summarises all the information.

Now, we have the planetary days, and in the next lesson we shall split them into the planetary hours.