

Mercury Star—Exceptional Ingenuity

When an asterisk with six spokes is found on the mount under the pinkie finger (Figure 70), you find someone with exceptional mental qualities. This glyph is usually tiny, and you may need a magnifying glass to locate it. The star brings a sparkle, a lighting up, of the ingenuity and cleverness available for use by the owner.

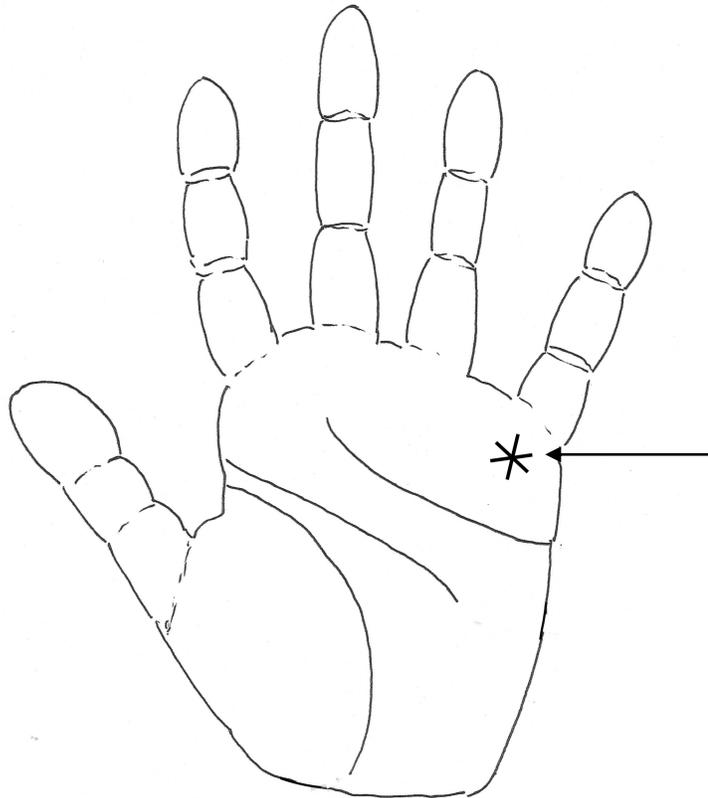


Figure 70: Exceptional Ingenuity

By nature, Mercury is quick, sharp and clever. This is a person who has smart ideas, brilliant concepts and stellar strategies. Their mental dexterity is almost startling. It's natural to consider things from three different angles during problem-solving gyrations. It's crucial to have an outlet for his or her originality in thought and word. This person is inventive and highly resourceful and ideally uses cleverness to help themselves and others. Having a mechanism for feedback to validate his or her inventive ideas is important for bringing their Einstein-like genius to the light of day. A method for feedback could include a think-tank or having a Sherlock-type

mentor.

The challenge side of this archetypal energy is reflected when the metaphorical wings are clipped. He or she will find it difficult to message effectively and instead highlight the crafty, cunning, quieter side of Mercury. Or they may even be clueless about what's going on around them.

The film *The Social Network* depicts the startup of Facebook. Jesse Eisenberg stars as founder Mark Zuckerberg, illustrating a perfect example of exceptional inventiveness. He's a fast-talker, extremely quick on his feet, with tremendous mental clarity. His ideas come faster than people can grasp or respond to. He is, however, socially awkward and clueless about relationships, illustrated by the loss of his best and only girlfriend, who dumps him in the opening scene. If you recall, Mark Zuckerberg created the largest social network on the planet in 2004. He made his genius functional.

Another example of Mercury in flight: Artificial intelligence (AI) researchers and developers creating programs *to learn* from users and vast amounts of data so questions to Siri and Alexa can be quickly answered.

In an article by Michael Lagapa called "How Siri Works: Voice Recognition on a SmartPhone," he writes, "With the variations and subtle nuances we have in our speech there are an infinite number of ways to construct sentences. Mimicking the complex way humans comprehend speech into a programming software is a monumental undertaking. As a result, Siri's developers—alongside dictation software company Nuance Communications—have programmed its voice recognition software to interpret commands and questions through a series of steps allowing people to interact with Siri in as human a way as possible."

Lagapa was a summer intern at Jameco Electronics. He is entering his sophomore year at UC Santa Cruz.

The Mercury Star is also a Wisdom Marking, which will be covered in the next chapter. Wisdom results only through *use* of this exceptional cleverness.

Strengths: My exceptional mental agility and ability to formulate quick conclusions make for a highly skilled strategist.

Pitfall: Sneakiness, withholding information, cluelessness, vulnerability issues.

Money Mindset: I cleverly negotiate for top dollar for access to my gift of special ingenuity and highly complex code-cracking.

Breakthrough Questions: In what settings does my quick wit increase my cash flow? How do I best apply my mental agility? *[Make note of this.]* Is my feedback loop open or closed most of the time? If open, who's in my think tank with me? If it's closed, who would make sense to have in my life as a sounding board?

Affirmation: "Wonder is the beginning of wisdom." —Socrates