



# TODAYS ASTROLOGY



Where Today's Astrology Shapes Tomorrow's World



## What is "Universal Astrology"?

It is a term that encompasses many factors.

\* First, "Universal Astrology" legitimizes all "systems" of astrology -- unifying them under a more universal umbrella. In "Universal Astrology", anchoring principles are more important than specific methods and systems. Meaning, the Sun, Moon, Mars brings forth the same energy regardless of the system being used. The same is true with astrology signs and astrology houses. Once we understand the anchoring principles, we can understand astrology. Until we understand the anchoring principles, we will not.

\* Second, "Universal Astrology" breaks down the barriers and limitations human beings have placed on himself and, by extension, astrology. It sees astrology as a powerful tool for helping to solve the fictitious bonds of the ego that keep individuals and mankind trapped in a low level of awareness. Rather than astrology being something "out there", "Universal Astrology" makes astrology something "in here".

Typically, when people discuss astrology, issues of "free will versus karma" and other battles and ideas come up. Planetary cycles are seen as something outside of us that we try to overcome (if it's something difficult) or get more of (if it's something we want).



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"Universal Astrology" understands this limiting perspective as reinforcing our illusion of separateness from "the source". This battle is a losing one - an illusion.

In keeping with Eastern thinking, "Universal Astrology" asserts "as above, so below". This shift in reference and focus understands the planets and their energizing forces to be the very forces of life within us that we control through the clarity of our intention or distort through the confusion of ego. It understands that each of these universal forces (The Planets) has the potential to operate fully and completely, bringing joy, knowledge and fulfillment here on earth. "Universal Astrology" empowers us through devotion and inner intention, not struggle.

In this way, each planet, sign, house and star are the forces that create all life - matter and consciousness. They are to be embraced in wholeness. They are not forces to childishly rebel against or seek to intellectually conquer or overcome. Our limited understanding is why we see different planets and forces as "good and bad". "Universal Astrology" sees it all as "good" - the only thing "bad" is our limited awareness. "Universal Astrology" expands our awareness through the planets, not in spite of them. To fight against "astrology" is to fight against oneself or the universe - or ourselves as the universe.



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## The Prism of Maya

Before we get much deeper into the Planets and their attributes and the world of Astrology it is important not to forget the real point. That point is, We are here to awaken from the illusion of separateness, to reunite with the highest truth, beyond the illusion that we are merely living in a mind / body / ego world. Visualize light shining through a prism. In your mind's eye, see one shaft of white light entering on one side, then broken up into its seven component colors. Astrology views the planet's relationship to the world in a similar way.

Visualizing light through a prism, the world of Maya (illusion) is represented by the fragmentation of the one ray of light into seven colors. It is through the prism of the mind / body / ego that light appears to be its 7 component colors. The prism separates the colors from each other and from their source. In reality their rays are one with each other and with the source itself.

Similarly there is a false sense of separateness that we have from other beings and from the source. We try to understand the wholeness of reality through its component elements. Without a prism there would be no separation of light. Similarly, without the ego and the limitations of the body / mind phenomena there would be no division of the true self into the component qualities of the smaller self.



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The seven rays of light indicate the planets and their forces. All seven colors fully shone and integrated comprise the original, single ray of light. Yet we struggle with even the individual rays in their full expression. From an Astrological perspective, spiritual growth is learning how to express the full energy of all of the planets. It is learning to allow the rays of each planet to shine fully through us. Enlightenment is when someone has fully reintegrated all seven rays into their being, fully understanding the forces behind them. But since we are not yet complete we express their energies through our limitation.

We could say therefore, that a human suffering is a result of the inability to express the full energy of the Planets.

Venus, for instance, in her highest aspect teaches selfless love – divine love – compassion. We try to express this love in our relationships with romantic partners. But we suffer in love when we fall short and are not able to fully express this truth and beauty. Jealousy, envy, fear are by products of Venus filtered through our limitation.

Venus is giving us all we need to love fully all the time, but we are not able to express her energy yet. This crisis feels like a loss of self because we are this love to our very core. We feel it, but we cannot express it through our limited bodies and perceptions. We suffer when we experience love through our limitation. In the case of love, we experience Venus in limitation. It is the goal of our lifetimes and the hope of Venus and the other planets that we learn to express their full energy.



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Essentially, the Planets are great eternal beings, teachers if you will. Through Astrology we see which of our energies are stronger and which are weaker, which lessons will be harder and easier for us to learn. The ease or ardor of these lessons has to do with our past karma relative to that planet. But we always are creating the future. Each planet gives us full intelligence if we just listen to it.

To the right is a chart that illustrates each Planet as a force of Light, Love and wisdom contrasted with its nature when filtered through our ego - filtered through the prism of Maya.

For example:

The same energy that makes us expand toward God, may also make us unrealistic about its application, leading to Dogmatism. (Jupiter energy) White Supremacy and bigotry are as much a part of Jupiter as are GOOD teachings.

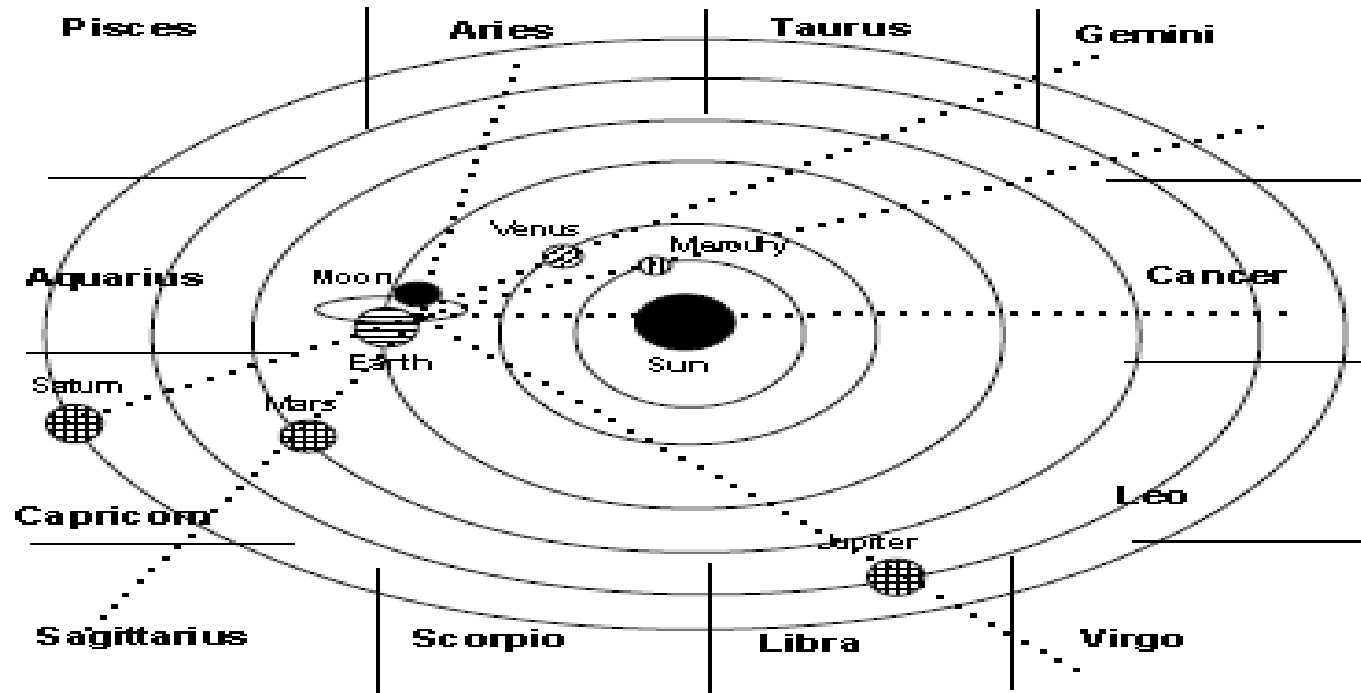
Planet	Full Expression	Through Limitation
Sun	Clarity and Confidence to express your Self	Egotistical, tyrannical, demanding praise
Moon	Peace, Clarity of mind - Consciousness	Fear, inconsistent emotions, clinging
Mars	Fighting for truth – bold, courageous	Argumentative, violent, reckless
Mercury	Discrimination – right understanding - skill	Unfocused, overwhelmed and over stimulated, insanity
Jupiter	Wisdom, Grace, Expansion, knowledge	Ungrounded, Overconfident, Haughty, Dogmatic
Venus	Joy, happiness, beauty, love, devotion	Energy wasted on sensual pursuits, vanity, poor values
Saturn	Focus, determination, practical humanism	Sorrow, isolated, cold, ruthless, fearful
Rahu (North node)	Psychic, purity / transcendence of matter	Materialistic, addicted, attached
Ketu (south node)	Inward focus, desire for liberation	Explosive, isolated, cynical, worried



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	<b>Moon</b>		<b>Merc Venus</b>
			<b>Sun</b>
<b>Saturn R</b>			
<b>MarsR</b>			<b>Jupiter</b>

The Chart to the left expresses the Planetary placements above. The stars of each constellation appear behind the planets. Their light and influence emanates to us, affecting the planet. (Using the Sidereal Zodiac)

Planetary motion is clockwise. Notice Mars and Saturn will appear to be retrograde, (moving backwards) due to the relative speeds of the Earth's orbit and their orbit.



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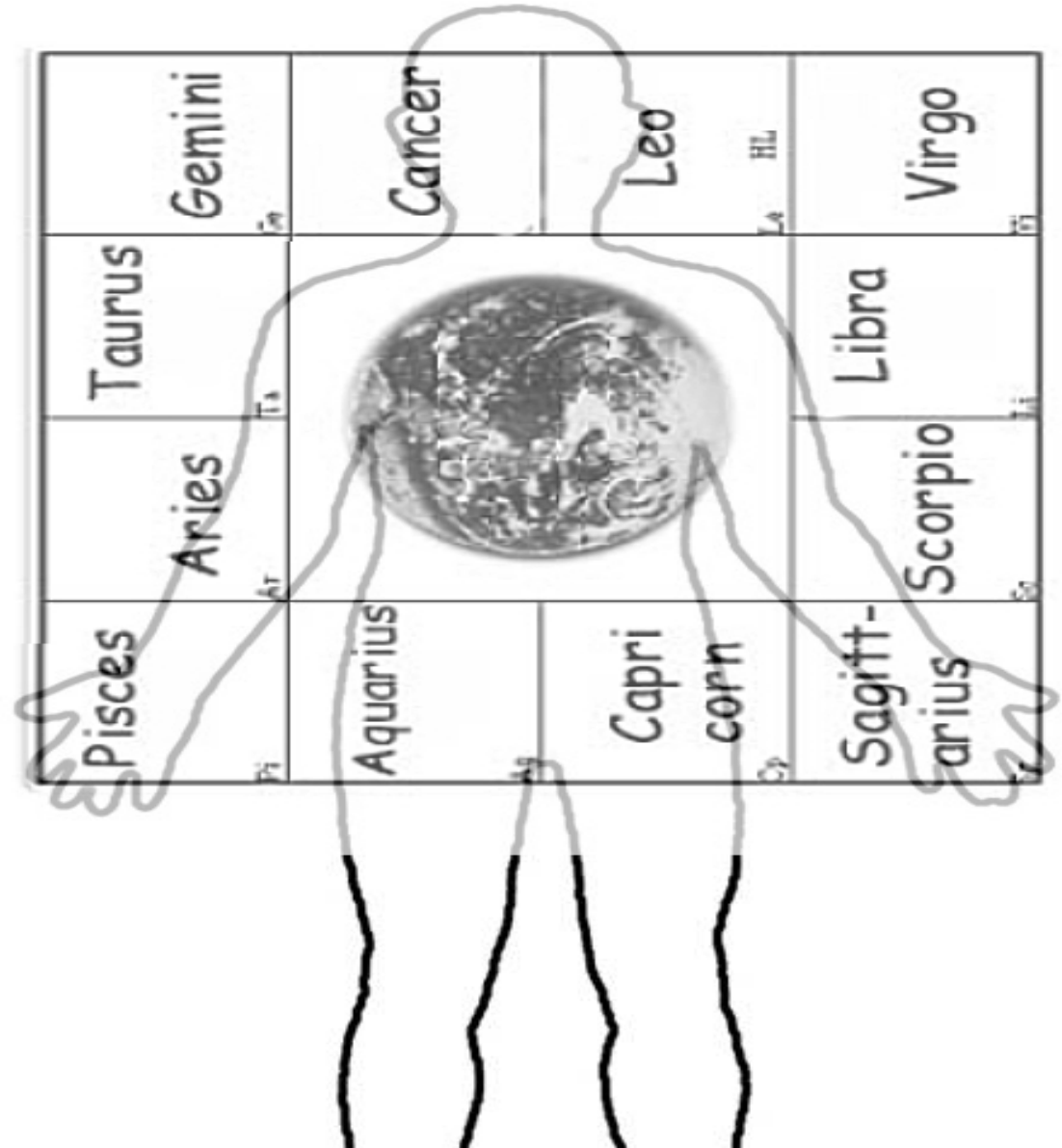


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To the right is an image which expresses the dynamics of an integrated universe, an internal one.

This is not just my creation, this is based on the energetic factors used in Vedic thinking relative to the energy centers in our subtle body, our Astral body.

Stated simply, the planets are energizing factors of consciousness that work through us on a subtle level. Their energies are the deep psychological forces that animate the body to action through preference and desire. When we read an astrology chart we're essentially reading the mind of the person. Based on the thoughts in the mind, we take action.





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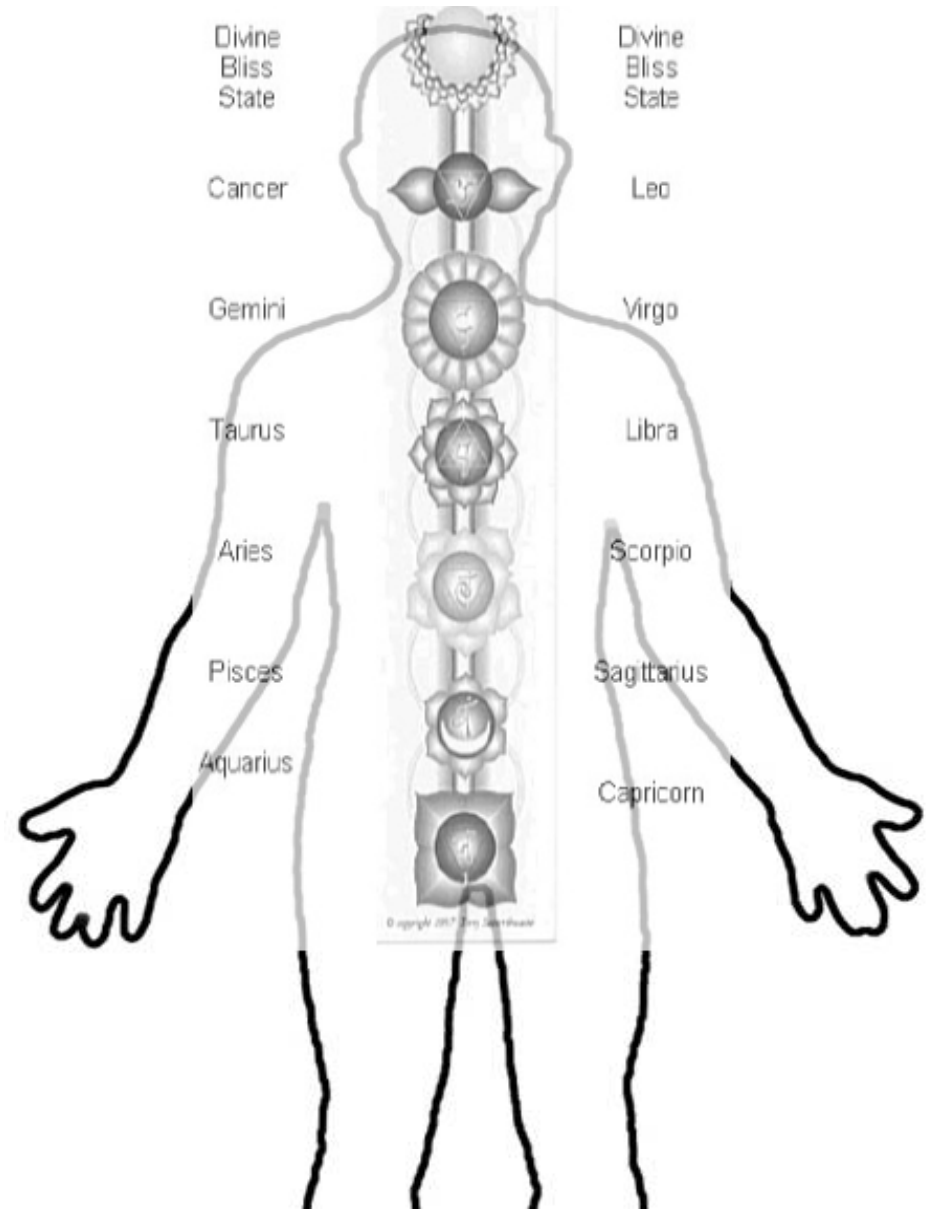
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To the right is a diagram that portrays these energetic centers directly. It is a portrait of the system of Chakras.

Next each one of the Chakras you see their corresponding sign of the zodiac referenced. In this way our inner energetics are aligned.

Notice the top chakra, in the "Divine Bliss State" is not associated with a zodiac sign or any planets. This is the realm of pure consciousness, free will. It is in this realm where we create our future every second.

Yet, understanding our astrological/energetic pattern helps us make a better creative choice. Astrology is a great tool for spiritual guidance and untangling the emotional knots that destabilize the holistic flow within us.





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## Karma vs. Freewill

Ah yes, the great debate has arrived! I find this discussion to be perhaps the biggest illusion in all of astrological discussion, and perhaps in all of spirituality. Here is why. Karma and free will are actually the same thing – just looked at from a different point in the process. For instance, your free will compelled you to pursue these classes, so you signed up, later received a correspondence from me with a link to this manual and phone number to call in order to get the classes, etc. Now, as you read this manual and perhaps listen to this class, your karma is ripening. Usually when people use the word “karma” they mean something negative. But the word simply means “action”. It refers to a continuity between our intentions and their results. There is no punishment or blame implied with karma. In the eastern sense, it is a natural law, just like gravity.

For instance, when you put your hand in fire, it gets burned. There is no punishment implied. There is simply an action and its result. If you keep making the mistake, God will not punish you for the sin of putting your hand in fire. Your punishment will be given due to your ignorance of this natural law. Just Like the Law of Karma. You will be punished for your failure to learn from your mistakes, that is all. The notion of God punishing us is immature. “Universal Astrology” asserts, in conjunction with Eastern thinking and practices, that God is all benevolent - this benevolence is always there.

Yet, was it predetermined that you would put your hand in a fire or learn astrology?



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Would an astrologer be able to see in your chart that you would be compelled to read this manual right now or get this astrological training. In general I would say, yes. But it is not always so clear or easy to see these things in advance. That doesn't mean astrology doesn't show it, just that it is possible to see a lot of things, and astrologers don't always notice everything.

I am of the idea that everything is shown by astrology – if you know how to see it. But these are different issues. There is hardly anything that happens now in the lives of my clients, students or others that I cannot clearly see in the astrology chart. One of the arguments against this type of “determinism” is a false argument that “if everything is predetermined, then why put forth any effort – won't everything just work out how it's supposed to anyway?”.

## **Life in the Universe—ity.**

The nature of life on Earth is more like a school than anything else, call it a “universe”ity. Like the University, we come to learn more than anything else. Also, like the University we have teachers, tests, timetables (school year/semester, etc.) certain subjects we like, certain ones we dislike. Think of each lifetime to be like a new school year. The teachers are the planets. Some teachers and their lessons unfold quite smoothly, others don't. Despite our preferences we must take a variety of classes if we want to graduate.



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Even if our major is physical education, because we like it, we still have to take foreign languages, history, English – and a bunch of other subjects we may not like or be good at. The university is trying to provide a rounded education.

Similar is the case when we come to earth with a body. We are here to get an education, not just enjoy ourselves and be happy. Of course happiness is part of it. There is no reputable spiritual path that advocates suffering. But happiness can be a distraction to our work on Earth as well.

It is said that we come here to Earth to experience the fruit of our karma's (our past karma's), and to learn the truth about the universe – and who we really are. The earth is a great place for this because we get immediate feedback here, especially in this dark age. We have a physical body that experiences pain and pleasure very easily. We have a psychology and the mental disposition that also experiences joy, pleasure, pain and suffering very easily. Life on Earth is not a punishment, but it is a place where our actions have an immediate consequence, which is a great teacher. This level of existence is quite heavy, with the qualities of spirit naturally darker than the qualities of flesh and emotion.

This is the perfect environment for us to learn who we really are / strengthen those parts of our self that are weak, by making our own mistakes. Earth is where we must put into practice what we think we know, not just acknowledge it mentally.



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Okay, back to the university model. Typically what we want to do is gravitate toward our strong classes and avoid our weak ones. We want to take five classes from our favorite teacher, and avoid the other ones. These are the imbalances of life shown astrologically. At the beginning of each school year, each teacher already has the lesson plans laid out. She knows when the tests are coming, all is predetermined. Similar to how an astrology chart shows when our life tests will unfold. Yet, *just because the lessons are predetermined does not mean the outcome is predetermined.* We still have to take the tests – that is why we are here. We still have to face our attractions and aversions if we want to graduate and move to the next level. We may fail and have to repeat those tests over again. Debilitated planets, or those with difficult aspects refer to lessons and classes we have had more trouble with and have probably avoided for lifetimes. The only way we will face those issues is if they become such a major problem that we have no choice but to face. Yet other times, difficult planet show the deep spiritual challenges we are ready for. Everything must be looked at and considered.

The “astrological determinism versus personal determinism” lacks imagination. Both are necessary and coexistent. In general, astrology does predetermine a lot of what happens in your life. In fact, it predetermines 100% of the choices you will face and when you will face them – if the astrologer can read it correctly. Those tests will come when the karma ripens, guaranteed. However, whether or not you pass or fail is determined by a lot of things. But what those tests are, why those tests are happening, what your soul is trying



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to learn through this test, etc. astrology will show pretty much 100% - Again – IF the astrologer knows how to read it. This is not a given. Not just because there are many incompetent astrologers, but also because astrology is hard to do at a very high level.

We have to be careful not to expect unreal things from astrology and astrologers. For instance, in my professional practice I probably get 75% to 90% accuracy in worldly predictions. This is typical for a trained astrologer. However, I am 99.9% accurate as to what the person is feeling and why those issues are arising. Just because the “fortune-telling” quality of astrology is not 100% is hardly a reason to discredit it. In general I try to avoid predictions that may inhibit or influence of persons self determinism (although clients generally want them). I think the most useful of astrology predictions are ones that help people with timing of certain events – auspicious times, etc.

In most cases when clients ask me if they should break up with their relationship partners, or do other things like that, rather than tell them what I think they should do – I tell them what I think they are going to do and why. I think this is an important difference. In either case, the focus stays on the deeper issues rather than on me as an astrologer influencing or determining the outcome. It also liberates me to discuss the core issue, not so much what I think they should do about it.



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## Venus – The Pleasure Principle and What We Value the Most

In many ways Venus has what we all want, happiness. It is she who determines what makes us the happiest and how far we are willing to go in order to get it. In Sanskrit the name of Venus is “Shukra” which literally means “sperm”, “vitality” or “luster”.

The tennis great Andre Agassi was once asked about sexual activity/womanizing and its effect on his tennis performance. He said (paraphrase) “it is not sex that drains your energy, it is going out looking for it until three o'clock in the morning that drains your energy”. This speaks a lot about the nature of Venus.

Our greatest happiness and what we are willing to do in order to find it is the realm of Venus. Our quest for happiness may descend into a selfish hedonism which corrupts our value system or perhaps it is refined and balanced which supports our values and respect for all.

The internal, reflective nature of Venus is revealed through the sign of Taurus – the sign that gives appreciation for natural beauty, comfort and gathering sensual pleasure. The external, expressive nature of Venus is revealed through the sign of Libra – the sign that gives the capacity to honor another person's happiness and desires equal to our own. The exaltation point of Venus is in Pisces. This most elevated expression is the culmination of transforming our personal desires into the desire for a union with God – the Self.



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## Scorpio – Strengthening our Emotional Fears – “Love is a Battlefield”

Scorpio is ruled by Mars expressed internally. Mars is the planet of strength. His desire to strengthen becomes a psychological factor through the sign of Scorpio, a fixed water sign. The scorpion is by far the smallest of the zodiac animals – and the most vulnerable, easily crushed by the other bipeds and quadruped animals of the zodiac. It's poison can barely kill any animal, except another insect. It hides/lives in holes.

These are some of the attributes that form the basic psychology of Scorpio, a sign I have found to be incredibly distorted by Western pop astrology. It is from this place of emotional vulnerability that the scorpion tries to hold the emotions in place and protect itself from their imagined fears and things they cannot control, especially other people and close relations.

Like all fixed signs, Scorpio wants to hold something in place. In Scorpio's case, it is the emotions. Yet, like water running through your fingers, this is impossible. Scorpio resists emotional change. From a place of emotional resistance they try to change external circumstances and impose their psychological will. The nature of Mars generally makes them combative and interested in winning. Yet, there is a deep resilience and toughness and an ancient, intuitive wisdom to this sign once the energy is elevated. Their downfall is mistaking emotional intensity and drama for growth. Mars likes to suffer and may enjoy making others suffer too. They need to learn qualities of Taurus.



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## **TeleClasses begin Monday February 18 – March 24 { 6 straight weeks }**

The cost will be 90.00 if you sign-up before Thursday February 14, 2008 – 120.00 if you sign up later. Go to <http://astro-nexus.com/anchor1.html> to see the details and sign-up. These classes will focus on “Anchoring Principles” of Planets, Signs and Houses and “Anchoring Techniques” (such as “Releasing the Serpent” and the others detailed in these classes) that show you how to implement those principles organically and holistically regardless of the system you are using.

## **Why Study Astrology?**

It's a good question, and I have a good answer. Getting an astrology reading is like having an astrologer give you a fish. You get to eat that day. Studying astrology is like learning how to fish. You get to stay involved with the universal energies every day.

Vedic astrology is one of the limbs of the Vedas. Just studying it gives you an understanding of life and how it works. When you study astrology you are not just studying planets, signs and houses – you are studying about courage, peace, wisdom and expansion, determined effort that leads to perfection, transforming illusion into psychic power – and many other things. We fill our mind with many things. Few if any subjects will uplift your mind and vibration of consciousness like astrology.



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## Thanks!

It has been my sincere pleasure to teach these three free classes and introduce to you the concepts of “Universal Astrology” that I will be taking forward into the first group of six classes. I will be dedicating the balance of my time for the next couple of months to overseeing those classes and giving personalized tutelage to those students.

If you want to be one of them, please sign up for the class. But do it quickly, the class size is limited to 30 and my feeling is it will sell out in the next few days.

BTW – Several have already worried about the dates of the class and that they conflict or that they are in a different country. No worries, the classes are all taped and recorded for you. I regularly have students from all over the world in these Classes.

Feel free to direct your friends to the astrology forum at: <http://todaysastrology.net> and join the discussion there. I will continue to stop in. It will be set up to distribute links to all of these free classes after one confirms their subscription.

Best Wishes – Sam Geppi