

LIBRA—SIGN OF MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS

There exists a pattern in the universe that is repeated and reflected in all forms of creation. The distances between the sub-atomic particles within the body of an atom have the same ratio as the distances between the planets in the solar system, or even the distances between the stars within the Milky Way galaxy. These particles whirl about their atomic nucleus in the same way as the planets revolve around the Sun and the stars around their galactic center. Astrology is valid because there is no real separation in the universe. Everything and everyone is connected and interconnected. We are One.

--AO

We now come to a time of year governed by Libra, the sign that rules an area of life of immense importance to the majority of people: partnerships, marriage, and relationships. Libra is known in astrology as a “human sign” as it one of the four signs of the zodiac not connected to an animal.*As such it is particularly involved in the creation and maintenance of harmony and balance between people so that advances in human evolution may occur.

Such advancement is brought about through the development of consciousness and in the Ancient Teachings of which astrology is a part, we are taught that consciousness is love and love is consciousness. It is pointed out that the more loving a person becomes the more conscious he or she is. We are also taught that whenever there is a challenge in love, such a problem may be resolved only through an expansion in consciousness—an expansion that leads directly to a greater loving acceptance of what was previously unloved or rejected. Indeed this is why we see the god of expansion, Jupiter, as the bringer of gifts while the lord of limitation, Saturn, is viewed by many people (often unjustly I might add), with fear and apprehension. Nevertheless, it is Libra’s ruling planet Venus who is the goddess of both love *and* money and whose blessings all of us seek to encounter in life. It is Venus who resolves all conflicts by uniting opposites, integrates all polarities, and refines the “urge to merge.”

She does this primarily through two signs: Taurus and Libra. In Taurus she primarily works with money and the material plane. In Libra, Venus is more idealistic and romantic as she tries to help us find the right people in life with whom we can create all

forms of partnership, including the most intimate. It is in Libra that Venus seeks to harmonize the male and the female both within each of us and between ourselves and others. This energetic dynamic goes beyond men and women for it extends into such polarities as: electric and magnetic, space and place, projective and receptive, active and responsive—in essence Libra and Venus through Libra deal with all things that the Chinese would call the relationship between “Yin and Yang.” Libra the Scales is thus the urge to balance all the pairs of opposites in the universe. Quite the task! It is no wonder therefore, that Libra is considered the sign of Karma (the eternal Law of action and reaction), that Saturn in Libra is known as “the Lord of Karma and that Venus in Libra resolves karmic imbalances through the awakening of love/consciousness in our hearts.

We are all seeking balance, peace, and harmony in our relationships. We are all searching for that right person who our dreams and aspirations tell us will offer us the peace and passion of personal love. And if we have already found that person (or at least a likely “candidate”), we are always diligently at work trying to make our relationship that much more perfect, that much more balanced, that much more in touch and in tune, so that we may exist in that harmony forever and ever. This is the promise of the poets and the musicians (all ruled by Venus) as well as the visions we create of roses, violins, and candlelight (also all ruled by Venus). This is Venus acting as the love goddess Aphrodite on the personality level. As all things of the personality come and go and are temporary and ephemeral, then what of the more permanent gifts of Venus and the greater promises of Libra?

These are to be found in the more soul-centered, esoteric astrological teachings. Here we learn that the exaltation of Venus, the zodiacal placement in which both this planet and its signs are raised to a higher level, a level where personal love becomes permanent, is Pisces. It is in the sign of the Fish that the unions, polarities, and ideals of Libra are washed in the waters of pure love, “the love that passeth all understanding,” the Love Divine in which we all have our breath and being. Does this mean that all personal love is

a futile dream? Not at all. It is wonderful to love on the personal level and to cherish others with great passion. The lesson here is that eventually all personal love of passion eventually is bathed in the compassion of a greater Love and it is here that Venus truly waits for us and spins out her magic. Libra is the sign that brings about the situations of interpersonal attraction that lead eventually to an even greater union; the marriage of the personality and the soul. When this happens, the Spirit rejoices.

What follows are some indications of what most people can expect when Libra sits on the cusp of each of the twelve houses of the natal horoscope:

Libra on the cusp of the First House (Ascendant): This is the distinct urge to bring oneself into harmony with any and all events in one's environment. When Libra rises the person feels the need to create a great many social contacts as the desire for union with others is paramount. In this respect Libra rising people have to take care not to compromise their own sense of individuality through an overly dependant need for constant support and cooperation from others in their immediate circle. This Ascendant is often accompanied by considerable physical beauty, grace, and charm. The urge to please dominates the life and there can be an exaggerated concern with being judge a "bad guy" should one disagree with others. This leads in many cases to a definite indecisiveness and vacillation creating delays in decision making and taking direct action. Yet there is no sign better adapt at harmonizing and blending diverse social circumstances into unified and beautiful wholes. Except for people with the Sun in Libra, will the position of Venus in the natal chart be more important. Here are just a few examples: Venus in harmonious aspect with the Moon or Neptune will enhance the urge for beauty and endow a definite poetic and romantic sensibility to one's character. Venus inharmoniously configured with Saturn or Mars will definitely inhibit fluidity and peace in personal relationships and bring into one's life many opportunities to learn about right sharing and correct interchange within intimate social settings.

Libra on the cusp of the Second House: If Venus is well positioned, especially in good

relationship with Saturn or the Moon, a balanced attitude toward personal finances will dominate. This is a person who likes to share their resources with others. This not only applies to money but to one's talents and abilities as well. At the very least, the life attitude is: "You give me something of value and I will return something of equal value to you." As this is the sign of partnership, Libra on the Second is geared to interacting financially with others. Should Venus be afflicted by the ruler of either the Eighth or the Fifth House, care must be taken about being in financial partnership with either one's spouse or lover—the bedroom and the boardroom definitely need to be kept separate. If Venus is afflicted with the ruler of the Eleventh House, then money and friendship should never be combined. Yet Venus well placed with any of the rulers of the above mentioned Houses, will indicate that such financial interactions have the opportunity to result in positive outcomes.

Libra on the cusp of the Third House: As this is the House of communications, Libra on this cusp indicates an urge to bring harmony and union into any and all forms of social interchange. This is especially true in terms of one's relationships with close friends and siblings. The arts and the humanities were the favorite subjects at school and this person tended to complete his or her homework assignments. Relationships made before the age of twenty-one often last into adulthood (especially if Venus is well placed in a fixed sign). Travel is looked upon as a pleasure, especially when trips are made with close friends or a life partner. Although the need for wholeness and completion in terms of written and spoken communication is strong with the Scales on this cusp, if Venus is in a mutable sign and afflicted by Uranus, Pluto or Saturn, challenges in this area of life will tend to come about with regularity.

Libra on the cusp of the Fourth House (IC): In this position Libra tends to bring peace, harmony and balance into all domestic relationships. The Scales here underscore the need for the individual to have a home that is a peaceful sanctuary, one that she inhabits as a refuge from the chaos of the outside world.

At the very least, this is the urge of the person with this sign/cusp combination. Should Venus be afflicted in the natal chart however by Mars, Moon, Saturn or Pluto, such an aspiration would be challenged by life's events. As Libra is the sign of marriage, there is a strong desire to share one's home with a partner. Discord in the parental home (often indicated by afflictions between Venus, Mars, the Moon and Saturn) will tend to unbalance the psychological nature affecting all subsequent relationships accordingly. If Venus is well aspected, the native's mother tends to be a harmonious influence, and more likely than not, charming and attractive. The latter is especially the case should natal Venus be sextile, trine or conjunct the Moon.

Libra on the cusp of the Fifth House: The potential for the individual to be artistically creative is very strong with the Scales on this house cusp. There is usually an interest in the arts and anything of beauty attracts. Thus this position contributes to a highly romantic nature, one that seeks out all the possible sensual pleasures that personal love may bring into one's life. This tendency will be emphasized should the Moon or Venus be in Taurus or Pisces. This is one area where the balance between "sense and sensibility" is very important in order to maintain emotional equilibrium. Children are usually wanted and lovingly accepted into life. This would be especially the case if Venus was well aspected with the Moon, harmoniously placed in the sign of Cancer or if the Moon were positively placed in this sign. Libra on this cusp would also engender a natural orientation towards fairness with one's offspring and the tendency to avoid playing favorites.

Libra on the cusp of the Sixth House: Relationships in the workplace are very important to a person with this sign/cusp combination. There is a need for fairness in the assignment of work and the completion of tasks. A well aspected Venus here would give the ability to decorate the workplace so that it reflects esthetic harmony. Jobs that involve dealing with the public, management-worker relationships, the arts and fashion would all be natural to a person with the Scales on the Sixth. Health is often affected by the condition of one's relationships—an imbalance in the personal life can therefore often result in a weakening of

one's physical condition, especially in those parts of the body most under the influence of Libra and Venus: the urinary tract and the kidneys.

Libra on the cusp of the Seventh House (Descendant): As Libra is the natural sign of this house, there is no other sign/cusp combination that is stronger in its orientation to partnership, nor more open to imbalances in relationship. The natural challenge inherent in this position is that Aries is on the Ascendant. The celestial Ram on the First House cusp gives the urge for self-projection, an urge that can easily unbalance the potential for relationship harmony. What we have here is the juxtaposition between a "me first" attitude along with a strong need to engage in a "we are together" life pattern. These opposing attitudes may swiftly result in a personality that states: "Let's be cooperative and do things my way!" Such would be the case especially if there were a square or opposition between Venus and Mars. If, however, the nature of the personality is more whole and integrated, this sign/cusp combination may lead to great harmony and beauty within the scope of partnership. It is then that the "only me" of exaggerated Aries and the "only you" of exaggerated Libra can be combined into a forthright and healthy attitude towards relationships. The astrological student has to examine very carefully the positions of Venus and Mars to see what the potentials for marriage and partnership may be for unions with others will definitely be at the top of the priority list for a person with the Scales on the Seventh.

Libra on the cusp of the Eighth House: There are two distinct ways in which this sign/cusp combination may express itself. On the one hand, Libra on the Eighth contains an innate tension. This is because natural energies of Mars/Pluto/Scorpio (the planetary rulers and sign of this House) are geared to the creation of challenges so that change and transformation may occur. Libra has the tendency to avoid any such confrontational situations and thus resistance to these necessary transmutations may easily arise in life. Thus delays in initiating and responding to these developmental opportunities may come about and the individual loses such opportunities for growth. On the other hand, the more

psychologically mature person will find that the Scales on this cusp will bring an innate sense of perfect timing for undergoing such changes. In both cases, the field of experience through which these transformational situations occur will take place within the sphere of personal relationships. This duality extends into the use of other people's resources. The individual may have a perfectly balanced understanding of the old adage "share and share alike" and is very fair in his or her dealings with other people's money. The imbalanced nature of the Scales may also present itself and the person is one who tends to either take more than she is entitled to or give more than is necessary. The astrologer has to carefully study the position of Venus in the natal chart as it relates especially to Mars and/or Pluto in order to determine how the Scales will tip.

Libra on the cusp of the Ninth House: This is not a sign/cusp combination of a person who likes to travel alone (unless Venus is in Aries and in aspect with Uranus!). Most people with Libra on the Ninth would rather stay at home than journey on their own. Companionship in the pursuit of the adventures of life or in the fulfillment of one's higher spiritual or philosophical aspirations is of the utmost importance. Art, music, and law are three of the most natural areas of interest for advanced study. In most cases, the Scales on the Ninth reveal a person who is not fanatically attached to some religious or metaphysical belief system as the nature tends to be balanced in these directions. Yet as in all things where Libra is concerned, the Scales can tip to the other side and one can feel bound and "married" to their church and its doctrines and spend their entire life connected to their established spiritual relationship to life.

Libra on the cusp of the Tenth House (MC): Here we find a person who seeks a career in which there is an equal sharing of rewards and responsibilities. Yet Libra in this position is highly competitive as it is both cardinal, and thus motivated through relationships, as well as posited on the MC, and thus the need for personal recognition is quite strong. One of the major benefits to this sign/cusp combination is that it can give the ability to be very personable and charming in the creation of those relationships that benefit

career growth and advancement. Yet on the other hand (with Libra there is *always* “the other hand”), there is a tendency with Libra on the Tenth to want a simultaneous personal and professional relationship with others. This orientation can cause some profound difficulties if certain boundaries are not observed. Should Venus in this case be afflicted to Neptune for example, such complications are highly likely. Nevertheless, Libra on the MC gives one a natural appreciation for other people’s professional abilities and a natural propensity for joining forces with such individuals. If Venus is well aspected (especially to Saturn or the Moon), the father is usually friendly and quite supportive. He can also be a man gifted with charm and good looks.

Libra on the cusp of the Eleventh House: This is a position that bestows the urge to bring harmony into group relationships. It is usually an excellent sign/cusp combination that points to an individual with the need to share and be fair in all friendships. This person is a team player, an individual who knows that her own well-being is closely connected to the well-being of others. It is also a person who is very good about matching and blending other people’s talents and abilities into combinations that yield benefits within groups and organizations. If Venus is harmoniously connected to Saturn, this organizational gift will be that much more emphasized. Should Venus be in any strong aspect to Uranus, the choice of friends will be very eclectic, the more unusual the better! The difficulty inherent in this position is that it may indicate a person with too much idealism, one who is connected to so many people of such diverse opinions and lifestyles, that it can be quite the challenge to act with clear personal direction. A strong Mars is then needed to bring the drive and determination that can balance one’s life.

Libra on the cusp of the Twelfth House: This position sometimes makes it difficult to determine the correct degree of intimacy that is required in our dealings with others. Sometimes one is too detached and, at other times, the depth of communication is not warranted by the situation. There is also the tendency to be too idealistic and not see people for who they really are. This latter trait would be definitely the case when Libra is on the

Twelfth and Venus is in a hard aspect to Neptune. Yet the potential spiritual gifts of this position are also quite profound (especially if Venus is in an easy aspect to Neptune). The orientation of one's life would then be towards a more universal and unprejudiced form of loving others. The darker side of this sign/cusp combination has to do with having improper clandestine relationships while the lighter side brings about opportunities for being a helper to people in distress and thus amplifying the unconditional facets of love.

* The others are Gemini the Twins, Virgo the Virgin, and Aquarius the Water Bearer.

© Alan Oken, All Rights Reserved