

Your Venus Unleashed

by Dana Gerhardt

Created for Diana Frances Spencer
Born July 1, 1961 at 19:45:00 BST in Sandringham,
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Koch Houses

Fifth house Venus in Taurus



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“The Pursuit of Happiness”

may be the most miserable phrase in the English language
It implies that happiness exists somewhere outside of you,
that you must do something or go somewhere to get it.

Astrology pictures it differently.

As the planet of happiness, Venus appears in every chart.
This means the happiness you seek is already in your possession.
You were born with it.

All you need do is connect with your inner Venus.
And making that connection is what this report is about.



why must venus be unleashed?



Venus has always been my guilty secret. I have Venus in Scorpio, which suggests I've got an intense, seductive, and smoldering femininity. I wouldn't mind this at all. I'd even accept Scorpio's shadow reputation as a vengeful witch. Yet the usual observations about Venus in Scorpio have never rung true for me. Venus is my neglected planet. Years ago, my husband left me for a woman who probably was a Venus in Scorpio. She was dark, mysterious, and passionately sexual, "Everything," he said, "you're not."

Absorbed in my own limitations, it was some time before I lifted my head and discovered that many of you don't have such a good relationship with Venus either. When I admitted my failings in a *Mountain Astrologer* article, I heard from hundreds of readers with similar confessions. As one woman shared, "Where's *my* Venus? I cringe when I look in a mirror. I don't have any fun. I'm tired, out of sorts, worried about money, and oh yes, my relationship sucks."

Astrologers promise that Venus brings happiness, love, beauty, sexual passion, financial abundance, and healthy self esteem—the very things that most people feel they lack.

Missing out on Venus goodies may seem like a personal failure. But the problem is sourced much deeper than that. It pervades the whole culture—stretching all the way back to Adam and Eve's punishing exile, when they were banned from their pleasure garden because Eve talked with snakes and ate ripe, delicious fruit. Their banishment was code for the real exile.

The Goddess of All Good Things was supplanted as the life-giving fountain of our culture. Sexy Aphrodite, Freya, Isis, and Ishtar were run from their temples by manly, more rational gods. We lost our happiness and have suffered love troubles ever since.

A banished goddess never disappears. She goes underground and seeks her revenge. That's why we're taunted with images of Venus everywhere: near naked babes beckoning from ads and music videos. The goddess is selling yogurt and sports cars, while porn sites proliferate, and teen girls starve themselves into a confused ideal of beauty. All because we're desperate to return Venus to our lives.

Astrology can help. But first we must do as ancient diviners did to remedy our life problems: we need to understand the offended divinity and make an offering. Rather than passively expecting our Venus in Leo or Cancer to bring goodies *to* us, we need to ask what Venus in Leo or Cancer wants *from* us. We need to find out what's important to Her. Only then can we make the proper offerings and receive her gifts.

To that end, I asked over four hundred people an extensive list of Venus questions. Through their words, the Goddess spoke. I learned what She truly desires in Virgo or in aspect to Mars. I quote from these exquisite voices in the following pages (some remarks have been edited or combined). I am endlessly grateful to my survey participants, who taught me more about Venus than any astrology book. They showed me that Venus is very much alive... just waiting to be recognized and unleashed!

"Come to me. . ."

I'm attractive... irresistible.
What I desire, I draw to
me... I perfume... I pout... I
manipulate... I work my
wiles... How else does one
so vulnerable wield power?

SEDUCTIVE

Ecstasy. . .

I receive the world, take it
in...pierced and
penetrated... I shimmy like a
belly dancer, trembling with
delight. I live in joy. I am
open and full.

SURRENDERED

Grace. . .

With flowing movement,
I weave beauty and
harmony...I listen. I
empathize. I civilize. I create.
With diplomatic and artistic
sensitivity, I smooth and
reshape the world

ENGAGED

"Go away!"

I rot... I freeze... I seethe... I
rage... I petrify with my
gaze... I do not know
myself... I am gone... I am in
the dirt... under the ice... I
cannot take the world.

WITHDRAWN



*Venusian
Receptivity*

MORE THAN A SEX GODDESS

Marilyn Monroe: luscious, vulnerable, inviting. Albert Einstein: brilliant, original, audacious. What do these two have in common? Both have Venus in Aries at the top of their charts—in the powerful Gauequelin sector—making Venus the planet most responsible for their fame. Even in death, Marilyn remains the object of countless fantasies. Albert—a scientist who worked more like an artist, an avowed pacifist who wanted to know god’s thoughts—reinvented our view of the world. Together they represent the alpha and omega of Venus expression, the rich plenitude of Venusian possibilities. This archetype is juicy, creative, intelligent, and might inspire you to write music, bake mouth-watering cupcakes, or take a skydiver’s leap from a plane. Reducing Venus to sexuality alone—already evident in the depiction of the Greek Aphrodite—resulted from a steady fragmenting of female deities across thousands of years. Before that, Venus was Inanna, the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Before that, she was the all-powerful fertility goddess, the source of everything alive.

To connect with Venus in her full potency, you must go to her altar—the place within where she resides. Her altar is, quite simply, your receptivity—your capacity to be open to life. I have a friend who likes to image his receptivity as a goddess reclining on a couch while savoring chocolates. This is a good start. But it’s important to understand that receptivity is also dynamic and changeable. Imagine each day doing nothing but lounging on pillows and receiving an endless supply of gifts. After awhile, you may weary of ribbons and colored paper, growing curious about the world outside your room, wondering how you could dance or play with it. Maybe the FedEx guy bringing packages looks sad one day. You ask to hear his story and it brings tears to your eyes. That night you compose a song you hope will soothe his heart. On another day, despite the huge pile of objects in your possession, you find yourself longing for something that never arrives... a hot fudge sundae, a passionate kiss, tickets to Bali. Glued to your pillow, you wonder, what can you do to make this luscious thing enter the room? Bat your eyes? Drop hints? Send suggestive letters to friends? And of course on many days, you find yourself groaning, “Oh no, not another package! Leave me alone!” When the door swings open with yet another gift, you throw a shoe at the deliveryman’s head.



We are all born sexual creatures, thank god. It's a pity so many people despise and crush this natural feeling—because art comes from that, real art—everything!
Marilyn Monroe



The state of mind which enables a man to do work of this kind... is akin to that of the religious worshipper or the lover; the daily effort comes from no deliberate intention or program, but straight from the heart.

Albert Einstein

what puts you in a venusian mood?

One square of dark chocolate after lunch.
Venus in Virgo

Any moment of communion with the Divine.
Venus in Pisces

A good workout at the gym. It makes me more aware of my body; it makes me stand tall and move gracefully. I also become more aware of the physical beauty of those around me.
Venus in Aries

After my husband leaves for work, I sit on my couch with a cup of tea and stare out the window at the trees for about an hour. Daydreaming.
Venus opposite Neptune

Color color color – seeing rocks, water drops in sunshine, beautiful bright strawberries, or a glowing pink raspberry.
Venus in Leo

Hanging clothes on the line. I enjoy feeling the fabric against my skin while birds are twittering and the smell of grass and flowers tickles my nose as the sun shines on my body, and the soft breeze is a caress.
Venus in Cancer

Getting dressed up and looking so great people turn around to look at me. Or just relaxing after a very productive day.
Venus in Capricorn

Stimulating conversation with fine wine and terribly decadent food.
Venus in Libra

Waking up late on a rainy Sunday morning, feeling a perfect warmth under my covers, knowing I don't have to jump out of bed and go to work.
Venus in the 5th House

Being in nature or anywhere beautiful, and of course wearing lipstick—something pink, red or maroon.
Venus in Taurus

What really gets me in a feminine mood is attention from men... especially a few men I find attractive... Oh, I guess it's called flirting!
Venus in Gemini

As the ancient fertility goddess, Venus was both loved and feared. She brought forth earth's bounty, but could rain down chaos and destruction too. This is her essential teaching on receptivity and happiness. All states are impermanent. Like the goddess, the part of you capable of pleasure is also vulnerable to pain. The part of you that can beautify and harmonize will also erupt and rage. Your openness can attract others, but it can also push them away. If you want desire without jealousy, if you want bliss without breaking your heart, if you want creativity without any fallow periods—your experience of Venus will be diluted. You might even wonder if she's present at all. Reject or suppress her more difficult manifestations and the joyful ones likewise dim. Profound happiness requires the willingness to accept all her states—as when a woman wants a man to acknowledge her not just in the bedroom, but when she's screaming with rage. Venus is a force of nature, both beautiful and terrible. The ones who understand this, who learn how to dance with all of her moods, become the priests and priestesses of her temple.

Venus is more than sexuality. But sex remains her central metaphor. This is significant. It suggests the surest way to bring Venus into any moment is to go toward pleasure. Even in the worst sorrow, there is something that can awaken pleasure... following the path of a teardrop falling down your cheek, noticing the tenderness of your aching heart, enjoying the warm socks caressing your neglected feet. There is no situation so awful that Venus can't receive it as a worshipper or lover, to use Einstein's words. Going toward pleasure is a movement toward union and wholeness, toward harmony and communion with reality. Its opposite is resistance. There's a story from long ago. After the male gods had already forgotten the goddess and her talents, the world suffered a great calamity. A giant phallus raged over the earth, destroying armies, crushing mountains, draining rivers. Nothing the gods tried could subdue its destructive force. Remembering the fertility goddess, they sheepishly returned to her temple, begging for her help. The angry phallus followed them and the warrior gods ran away. The goddess remained. She dropped her robes. She reached for the phallus. She drew it inside of her. "Ah!" Both the phallus and the goddess enjoyed themselves, dissolving in ecstasy. The world was once again a paradise. Such is the power of Her magnificent receptivity. Meet everything in your life with pleasure—and Venus will always be your guiding angel.

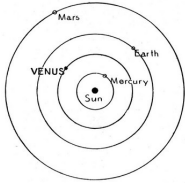
your morning star



You were born when Venus was the Morning Star, rising before the Sun, herald of a new day. In Earth's sky, Venus appears to move with the Sun, never more than 48 degrees away. This makes her visible only before sunrise or after sunset—hence her two identities—Morning Star and Evening Star, illuminating what I call, “The Two Happy Hours” of any day. The French-American culture critic Clotaire Rapaille has speculated that a good way to understand any culture is to look at what its people do at 5 o'clock (he asserts that the English pour tea, Spaniards fight bulls, hard-working Americans get drunk, and the French take a hotel room to pleasure someone other than their spouse). Rapaille's 5 o'clock observation is intriguing, but I would revise it this way: “You can assess people's relationship to Venus by looking at what they do at dawn and dusk.” Being a Morning Star person, the quality of your mornings is particularly relevant.

How do I know you were born under the Morning Star? This is easy to see in a birth chart. Whenever Venus is further along in the zodiac than the Sun, she's an Evening Star. Whenever the Sun is ahead of Venus (like your Sun, at 9 Cancer 40 being ahead of your 24 Taurus 24 Venus), it means that on the day you were born, the planet Venus rose before dawn and disappeared before sunset.

Astrologers sometimes call your morning Venus “Venus Phosphorus” or “Venus Lucifer” (“light-bearer”). They believe she adds an energetic, impetuous quality to your nature. She's an act-first-think-later sort of Venus who more quickly bounces back from emotional upsets than the evening Venus (who's more thoughtful and tends to simmer in her feelings). I find these generalizations rather broad, however, and I was unable to verify any personality differences through my research. But I did notice something else. Those with a Morning Star Venus seemed to have a special relationship with this time of day. Perhaps they had a favorite morning ritual, like savoring their first cup of coffee. Or maybe they found sex sweetest at this hour. When I asked them to describe their most pleasurable sensation in the past 24 hours, many reported a morning experience, like the taste of buttered toast or the feel of a hot shower massaging their scalp. They enjoyed smoothing moisturizer on their skin or dressing themselves in a way that made them feel beautiful or powerful. For many this was high priestess time, when they could most easily sense the sacredness of their world. For the next six weeks, I encourage you to make conscious use of your mornings to connect to Venus. Focusing on pleasure is the most direct route. But you can also strengthen her two energy centers in your body. See what a difference this can make.



THE VENUS CYCLE

Venus spends nine months as the Morning Star and nine months as the Evening Star, disappearing into the arms of the Sun as she transitions from one to the other. Going from Morning Star to Evening Star, we can't see her for about a month and a half (she's on the far side of the Sun from our perspective). Going from Evening Star to Morning Star, Venus is retrograde and disappears for about ten days (she's now in front of the Sun). Ancient sky-watching cultures eagerly awaited her pre-dawn rise on the Eastern horizon—this marked the beginning of a new Venus cycle. The regularity of Venus' orbit gives her cycles an exquisite mathematical precision. She rises as the Morning Star five times in an eight year period—five and eight being her sacred numbers. At any point in her cycle, count eight years forward or back and she will be at the same degree relative to the Sun. Before rising, retrograde Venus conjuncts the Sun (called the "Inferior Conjunction")—in the same five signs every hundred years. The inferior conjunction before your birth sets the tone for your Venus cycle and indicates another layer of your Venus assignment.

Your Prenatal Sun/Venus conjunction was in Aries. You're meant to honor, in your own way, the fierce, independent and passionate qualities of the Divine Feminine. Venus retrograde periods though this sign may have brought or will bring important Venusian decisions or experiences.

Your Morning Venus Chakra

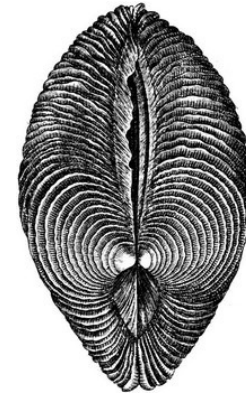
Before emerging from bed in the morning, tune into your second chakra—located in the lower abdomen, below the navel and above the genitals. Scan this area for a sensation of greater heat or aliveness. Visualize a flame, a flower, or a colorful spinning wheel there, but be sure to send the energy in a clockwise direction. All planets except Venus rotate counterclockwise. Notice how the clockwise Venusian movement brings more expansiveness and peace.

When the second chakra is functioning well, life feels more relaxed, abundant, rich with possibility. Colors, smells, and textures are more vivid and intoxicating. With a healthy second chakra, you walk with greater confidence and grace. You take joy in connecting to the earth. If this chakra is weak or out of balance, you feel unsatisfied, overcome with a restless craving for what you lack. There is an intelligence in this chakra, a kind of "desire intuition." If you listen and let it guide your activities, you may discover a new efficiency, superior to mental (and often agitated) planning. It's called "flow." I first experienced this through Tantric dance, a movement akin to meditation. The dancer tunes into her second chakra pleasure space and lets her dance source from there. The moves are slow and often subtle. Yet to watch someone deeply listening to herself this way is so absorbing, I don't exaggerate when I say it's riveting. Each morning listen to your second chakra. Notice where it wants to take you. Allow yourself to dance more beautifully through your day.

Your Twilight Venus Chakra

Recall Venus at dusk as well. Raise the energy from your second chakra to your fourth, the heart chakra, spinning it clockwise. See it as a golden, bright white, or rosy pink light that you send in ever widening circles to the furthest reaches of the universe. This chakra opens you to universal love, increasing your kindness, compassion, and connectedness. It fuels your higher chakras and draws in divine wisdom. It puts a sparkle in your eyes. Your voice becomes melodious, strong, and clear. Others perceive you as generous and welcoming. When the heart is weak, you may be depressed or disconnected. If the fourth chakra is out of balance, you may feel helpless, stuck, or alone.

Your Taurus Mystery School



Your Venus is in the fixed earth sign of **Taurus**, increasing your Venusian sensitivity to beauty, nature, stability and the comforts of touch. Perhaps you've already read a few Venus-in-Taurus descriptions and contemplated how they did or didn't fit you. But have you ever wondered *why* your Venus was in Taurus? That's where the real story begins.

If birth didn't bring forgetting, you might remember... an eternal perfumed temple... its cool stone floor... how you dropped your garments and were bathed in soft rose-petal water, surrendering to the Divine Feminine as a chorus of honeyed voices filled the air. Intimate and vast, nurturing and alluring, here was wisdom beyond words. Lifetimes of training could not exhaust these mysteries. Twelve doors appeared. The one marked "Taurus" opened as you approached. This was the facet of the Divine Feminine you most wanted to explore. Crossing the threshold overwhelmed your senses. There were scents on the wind, colors arranged in harmonious patterns, a symphony of pleasing sounds... the deep lullaby of a distant ocean, the quiet melody of a mountain stream. A tree limb gently bowed and touched your hand, offering the grapes entwined on its limbs. You absorbed it all, the plenitude and the mystery, your heart quickening for the teachings to come.

This wasn't a past life, but a "before life" experience. Edgar Cayce and Alice Bailey report that in the in-between spaces before incarnation, everyone is schooled in certain planetary mysteries. We choose our birth times accordingly. That's why you were born when Venus was in Taurus—to bring your Venus learning into manifestation. This lies behind your yearnings to love, receive pleasure, create beauty and weave harmony in a distinctly Taurus way.

What does Venus in Taurus most desire? To explore and embody the Feminine gift of Equanimity, the serene abiding quality of Love. Not easy in a fragile world where matter crumbles, forces rush, and everything is susceptible to change. Your Venus seeks Contentment and Ease. This prosperity won't be found on some distant mountaintop. It's as near as your senses, requiring nothing less than mastery in the art of savoring. Let your body fully receive life's goodies. This is not to be confused with clutching, piling things up or locking them down, fearing what can disappear or run away. Equanimity is a solid ease with earth's changing round. It's an unflappable smile, full of desire, yet needing nothing more than the moment offers. That way the bliss goes on forever.

Venus is not the Moon

In astrology, the Feminine principle is shared by two bodies—the Moon and Venus. Moon is Mother, the nurturing, empathetic, intuitive and sometimes irrational face of the Feminine. Venus is the Lover, passionate, seductive, and creative. The Moon forms relationships based on need—the protectiveness of a parent, the dependencies of a child. Venus creates relationships based on desire. She connects with others because she wants to—socially, sensually. Through Venus, your heart opens beyond the family unit, loving not just other people, but whatever you see and do. You might love ideas, how the pavement smells after it rains, or digging your fingers into the earth. Whenever you feel delight, Venus is there. She's the joy factor—the seat of happiness—in your chart.

Astrology considers the Moon one of the three pillars of personality, representing your instinctive emotional nature and primal security needs. Being so powerful, she can frequently overwhelm your Venus, creeping into your relationships with her demands, clouding your happiness with her fears. The more spontaneous and fickle Venusian desires may get lost—along with your happiness. If Venus could speak to you now, what might she want you to know?

Venus in Taurus Speaks

I am your radiance. I am the rosy golden light within. Even on a dense or dirty city street, I am wonderstruck by the abundance of earth. I whirl on its surface, a delighted dancer. I can feel its strength stretching for thousands of miles beneath my feet. Let's visit an arboretum bright with

flowers, buzzing with bees. Imagine a soft brook bubbling by, as I feed you cherries, or you feed me. Next we'll go shopping. Or spend a whole day at the spa. Mud packs, salt rubs, a lavender oil massage. We'll wear plush chenille robes and choose just the right color to paint our toes. Oooh—there's a cart full of pastries: chocolate, caramel, whipped cream. So much to enjoy! Turtledoves serenade us from a nearby tree. Puffy clouds float across a tender blue sky. Life can be so peaceful, so delicious, so luxurious, with me at your side.

I am sensuous and slow. I live in the body. It's a shame most people live in their heads—when the body offers such a wealth of sensations, seducing us into infinite pleasures. I love being touched. But understand this: I'm no harem bimbo. I'm grounded, strong, nurturing and creative—I've got a green thumb for beauty. And I know life includes both the sour and the sweet. Wars rage. Orphans hunger. Loneliness drowns love. I can hold these truths too. Nature is my teacher. Midst all the coming and going, there's something in nature that just... endures. A tree stands tall through a storm. In the charred ruins of a forest fire, green growth appears. Serene elegance—this is how Nature keeps at her dance.

My patience causes trouble sometimes. Passivity trumps my need for pleasure and I get stuck—with difficult people in unpleasant situations. I'm loyal. Even when the thing I've been longing for lies just around the corner, I'll stay planted where I am. Secretly, deep down inside, I sometimes feel terrified. Earth is strong, but it's fragile too. I fear our paradise may disappear. Or the bliss I long for will never come again. Like a blind woman I send out my hands searching for some happiness! That's when I must remember—not hate,

but fear is the enemy of Love. And holding Love is my true mission— being passionate holy joyful open—a sensuous partner with a dancing universe!

What do the astrology books say?

Taurus is the luckiest sign for Venus, since this is her natural home. Astrology books *love* your Venus and say things like: “Venus in Taurus has the beauty, talent, charm and self worth to achieve material prosperity and long-lasting romantic happiness. She enjoys luxury and comfort, is gifted in the arts, lusty in bed, and is usually pursued, without having to chase her lovers. Her partners are generally quite wealthy.” If this has been your experience, read no further. Just keep enjoying your happy life!

But if you feel slightly cheated, you may find some comfort in what others with Venus in Taurus have shared:

I don't feel like the 'very sexual woman' one of my astrologer friends once informed me I was.

I haven't had the long term relationships that are supposed to come with this placement.

How come my Venus hasn't made me rich?

Venus Journal



Don't take my word for it. No matter how insightful this report, you know your Venus better than I do. She's alive, changeable, and perfectly unique. One way to grow closer to her is by keeping a journal and occasionally posing provocative questions/assignments. Here are a few to get you started.

1. Collect images from favorite magazines—gathering various pictures of women, objects and scenes that inspire or delight you. Can you see how these images reflect your Venus nature? What fits with your Taurus needs and tendencies? As you read further in this report, you'll learn about your Venus house and aspects. These may also be reflected in your collection of pleasing images.
2. Think of women you've known—in your family, among your friends, or even a celebrity you've never met. Who stands out and inspires you with her feminine expression? Keep adding to this list whenever you're struck with a woman's radiance or power. Know that it says something about your Venus—the beauty and power that's within you too.
3. My friend Rebecca once asked me, “Have you ever seen a goddess?” Her eyes sparkled. “I once did,” she said. “Twelve years ago in a dream—a dakini was standing in front of the most plentiful garden I'd ever seen. She was so radiant, my breath was taken away. All normal thoughts ceased.” Have you ever met such a being—whose beauty was so remarkable your thoughts disappeared? Even if you haven't—imagine one now. She could be standing before you, floating on a cloud, or sitting in your body... small as a thumb or fully sized. Describe what you see when you imagine a goddess.

That's what happens when astrology books get carried away. Raising expectations so high, they disconnect you from what is indeed a beautiful placement. Venus in Taurus won't guarantee wealth or everlasting love. But the capacity to enjoy simple pleasures—hiking in the woods, eating good foods, playing, singing, loving, creating, being a new mother nursing her babies—this is how your Venus showers you with blessings. When you slow down and listen, she brings you into the most exquisite relationship with the physical world, an abundance others would envy. Notice how generously she works her magic in small and infinite ways.

Last night I dozed on my front porch on a chaise lounge while the nearly full moon rose over the barn. A couple of owls were calling each other. A chorus of coyotes on one hill were answered by an excited solo coyote on another hill. The air was fresh and cool on my skin.

I could feel an approaching rain storm, as clouds gathered on the horizon. I was standing in the yard barefoot, feeling the grass, as the first few tiny drops begin to fall. Later I sat inside eating a meal of pungent pasta, listening to the steady rain through open windows, feeling the moist air on my back.

Once I was by a lake in Italy after a stressful time. It was April and warm, no one else was there. I bought some salami and cheese from a local shop, sat in an olive field on a terraced slope, read a book and fell asleep! I was finally able to breathe... In moments like that (and I've had many) I feel like the world is speaking to me.

For me, celebrating the Sabbath is a very sensual experience. It's a holiday that is all about enjoying and being grateful, stopping busyness and ambition. Every week I get to remember what's really important. I get to delight in the gifts of my life. I slow down, open and receive.

Venus is happy in Taurus. Being this sign's ruling planet, no other planet modifies her expression. But that doesn't mean she's all sweetness and light. Goddesses have their dark side too. And Venus is no exception. If you remember the myth of Psyche and Cupid, Venus (as Aphrodite) went wild with jealousy when she learned some mortal girl rivaled her beauty. Your inner goddess can also become emotionally unstrung.

I guess my dark side is possessiveness and jealousy. I can be totally unforgiving, capable of a cold hatred once a line has been crossed.

My dark side is a tendency to become jealous when my husband gives attention to someone else. I want him to be passionately attracted to me and only me. I want him to see me as the most beautiful, sexy, wonderful woman.

Jealousy is a clue that your Venus needs attention. *Your* attention. You may need to step away from whatever situation is causing you distress and reset your dial to Equanimity. Return to the temple of your body. Loving it, adorning it, pleasuring it, and nurturing it with proper rest, food, *and* exercise are all acts of Feminine devotion. Your body is the gateway to an ease as deep and refreshing as Earth herself.

Feeling impoverished or trapped, stuck in a bad relationship, going nowhere in a rotten job—these are also clues that your Venus needs renewal. You must start *moving*—toward those sights, sounds, people and activities that bring her joy. Imagine giving your Venus the perfect gift. Just the thought will make her smile!

Mmm... The perfect gift would be a beautiful hand-painted silk robe with deep pockets. In one pocket I find an airline ticket to Bali and an all expense paid reservation at an exotic resort. The other pocket holds a small chocolate truffle wrapped in handmade paper with a beautiful love poem written on it.

VENUS IN TAURUS: GODDESS REFLECTIONS

"I've seen many goddesses awake and in dreams. Sometimes I've been the goddess. They've come in all sizes, colors and ages. Sometimes she's a bag lady and other times she seems like royalty. But there's a feeling I have when I see one and when I am one. It is inner peace and fearless love for everything. Every person, animal, flower, tree and rock is alive with love when a goddess is around. Water is safe and alive." –BL

"My goddess has got both feet firmly planted on the ground, a big smile, warm and friendly, makes you feel at home, a slightly wicked sense of humor, full of energy and is self-possessed. She's sexy and charming." –DJ

"My goddess? Infinite beauty: the feminine aspect of God. Beyond sex, beyond body. Infinite love, infinite mercy, compassion and forgiveness." –FD

"When I imagine a goddess, I think of many unseen females with flowing hair and confident, radiant faces helping us to enjoy satisfying, fulfilling lives. I also see all the females in my life right now. I see my daughter sitting at the table eating a snack and suddenly giggling uncontrollably. I see my friend smiling radiantly even though she has been on strict bed rest in the hospital for seven weeks due to preterm labor. I see myself relaxing in the filtered sunlight sipping a decaf iced Americano with cream, breathing in the fresh air and connecting with nature. One woman who particularly inspires me moves and looks graceful even when she is sixty pounds heavier than she'd like to be. She holds her head high with confidence even when things are not going her way. I can learn a lot from her! When things aren't going my way or I am feeling chubby, I beat myself up and hang my head low. She reminds me that it's these times that I should pamper myself and face the world with my best even when going through my worst." –ME

"When I first saw her I told my friend I had to have her. My friend looked at me quizzically. Ironically, her attire prevented others from seeing what I saw. Rainbow head band, glasses unsuited to her face, acne, baggy overalls, and work boots unlaced. However camouflaged she may have been, she was the most sensual, sexy and beautiful woman I had ever seen. She was the full and complete embodiment of the feminine. I knew it within minutes and would never change my mind." –BO

"*Sheena, Queen of the Jungle*, a TV show from the 50's comes to mind. As a 9-year-old girl, I used to watch reruns of the show in my country with awe. I thought she was the most perfect being on earth: beautiful, sensual, womanly, sexy, luminous with her blonde hair (even on black and white TV). She had a beautiful figure, was tall, strong, athletic, and savage. She was one with nature, able to communicate with animals. A true virginal goddess, possessed by no one. I imagine her enjoying an active sex life with men and gods alike, but she would not belong to any, being a goddess of nature, a goddess of the wild." –AM

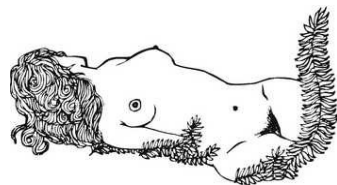


VENUS AND SEXUALITY

Venus *loves* sex. So you might think that understanding her Taurus placement will identify once and for all what sexually pleases you. Yet if you've ever read astrology books promising to predict sexual preference (based on Venus or any other factor), you've likely been disappointed. Sexuality, like a wild and beautiful animal, can't be captured so easily. At least not by simple astrology formulas. There's a sexual component to *every* planet in the chart. The Sun turns you on. Mercury has sexual opinions. Your Mars lusts. Venus alone has many moods, depending on her sign, house, ruling planet and aspects. The erotic you is complex! With such vibrant energies at play, it's no wonder your sexuality is a rich mystery, inviting—no *requiring*—your constant discovery.

So how does Venus in Taurus influence your sex life? Likely she's the girl at the ticket booth, representing your preferred entrance into eroticism. She can either let you in or keep you out. She controls the gateway. But understand that once you've entered the theater, your Venus is naked. By that I mean she's unlimited, no longer defined by a particular preference or style. To surrender deeply into Venus means to experience the unbounded range of the Divine Feminine. At her deepest level, your Venus is indivisible from all expressions. There's nothing in the Feminine experience she can't embrace or understand. She is every flower in the garden.

Following are sexual confessions from women and men with Venus in Taurus. Let their admissions inspire your own. Stating your truth brings movement, leading you to even deeper truths. How does it feel to for you to be naked? What would the perfect lover need to know about your body?



I have always felt comfortable being naked. My parents never had any taboos about this and I have always been happy being naked. In fact I remember how surprised I was when I discovered growing up that most people don't walk around their house naked. —GW

I don't like quickies. I'm slowly warmed up. Sex is an experience I want to have with all five senses fully engaged. —MK

Venus in Taurus likes to be fed. Eating in a relaxed setting puts me in a love-making mood. I heard that Venus in Sagittarius women feel more in the mood if you've made them laugh. Not me. I don't laugh easily, but I smile a lot. Being in a beautiful setting helps, being near water, the ocean or a mountain lake. I do love freshly washed sheets. One of my greatest joys is having my bedding changed by my housekeeper. To get into a bed that someone else has made up... divine! And best of all, being held in a full body embrace, lips locked, while lying on a wonderfully large-enough sofa with my boyfriend. —AT

In my sexual fantasies I alternate between being playful and deeply intimate. I feel totally seen and cherished. I explore every inch of my lover and take delight through all my senses. I invite the Goddess to inhabit my body and experience her power and vision.—CR

I like sex to be the last thing I do before I drift off to sleep. It's like taking my love with me to the other plane. —RR

I adore making love, but have never enjoyed having just sex. I tried it for a couple of times but it does not work for me. I guess I need to feel that I am special to the other one. It is like sex is something so private, something where you are so vulnerable, so open, that I cannot let a perfect stranger in. I have to know I am safe. —DN

I've had ecstatic sexual experiences when, close to my lover's neck with my breath, I can feel a change in her perceptions, feeling every part of her body and knowing what she is thinking and feeling. We are both so very ready, yet I wait, to make us both long for it even more (as if that were even possible). My touch changes from light touches to heighten her sensitivity to firm grabs to somehow bring her closer to me or into me, whispering to her that she is too far away and I want her closer. Her wetness engulfs her, my hardness is forceful. I know entry will define the moment so I take my time letting her first know that I am at the door and that I am ready to come in. Sometimes I enter with the force of a locomotive and the rush of ecstasy and the bracing of delight. Other times I inch my way in, letting her be filled more in this moment than in the last. She arches her back to give more room to what is expanding inside her. It is pure bliss. We are the divine. We are one. —VM

I felt shame about my body when I was a teenager, but learned to love it in my twenties. I enjoy being naked now—even more when I'm happy with my weight. What would the perfect lover need to know about my body? Nothing in particular. It's not rocket science. He just needs to enjoy and worship it. —KS

Her Garden of Earthly Delights



You were born. And celestial suitcase in hand, Venus quickly made her way to a favorite spot—her garden—located in the house of your horoscope where she resides. There are 12 houses in an astrology chart, each representing a particular area of life—like relationships, career, creativity or health. Your Venus house suggests a realm where you’re instinctively drawn for pleasure and fulfillment, where you have the fine tastes of a connoisseur. Venus in her house reminds me of the heroine of *Chocolat*¹, Vianne Rocher, an attractive single mother who, blown by a changing wind, arrives in a drab town run by a grim priest. There she opens a magical chocolate shop—during Lent!—forcing the townspeople to choose sides in what is essentially a man-made dilemma: Should one serve Pleasure or serve God? The priest tries to expel her. The widows dressed in black are indignant. But one by one, the townspeople sneak into her shop, to be transformed by her recipes. Venus can have a similarly transformative effect on your life, by sweetening the house where she resides. What you enjoy, you tend to excel in, so you can be most attractive—and quite seductive—in matters of this house. How goes it in your chart? Is your Venusian chocolate shop busy with visitors? Or does a grim priest keep trying to shut it down?

¹ If you aren’t familiar with the book (by Joanne Harris) or its film adaptation (with Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp), I recommend this treat!

Venus is in the 5th house of creative expression; romance, children, amusements.

Classical astrologers used a lot more rules than contemporary astrologers do. But one ancient rule I still very much like is that each planet has one or two houses that it governs and another house where it has a good time—or “joys.” Roman poet and astrologer Manilius said that a planet in its house of joy is in its temple. And that’s what it means to have Venus in the 5th. She’s in her temple. The house of romance, fertility, creativity, and fun is where she joys. She may, as some astrology books suggest count her abundance in lovers and children. However, the abundance most often celebrated by my 5th house Venus research participants was unstructured time—to do exactly what they wanted to do, whether that meant gossiping with friends,

A Venus Lexicon

Venus is a planet, an archetype, and a multitude of energetic sensations. The following are a few portals into her presence.

Love: An ocean of energy that pours through the heart chakra whenever you open to life (or another) without judgment or resistance. Your essential nature, it can be obscured by fear.

Joy: A tremoring vibration charging every atom in the universe—it's in the sun, the moon, a blade of grass, a drop of dew. You can tune into this excitement anytime, without needing a reason.

Pleasure: The natural state when you surrender to and savor present moment sensations. Flows more abundantly if your 2nd chakra (sexuality, creativity, and self esteem) is healthy and balanced.

Happiness: A positive attitude about your circumstances. Just as Abraham Lincoln once said, "Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

Desire: This longing to possess is more accurately associated with Mars (and testosterone levels in both women and men). But Venus, by being receptive, allows it to build.

Passion: Intense engagement with life. A willingness to feel your highs and lows.

eating a sumptuous meal, decorating a room, roaming through nature, reading, writing, drawing, or what some would call "doing nothing," like relaxing in a hammock on a lazy afternoon. When Venus is in the house of pleasure, she has a gift for finding pleasure almost anywhere.

What puts me in a Venusian mood? Shopping for gorgeous clothes! Being pampered! Dancing! Dressing up to go out to dinner! Preparing a meal at home! Breastfeeding! To be honest, it is rare that I don't feel feminine and I am innately creatively inspired. I express it in a hundred ways every day.

Happiness for me is having an extremely flexible schedule so I can indulge my moods by doing what I want when I want.

Many of my happiest times are quite ordinary—I just feel happy. I might be alone or with others, doing some activity or doing nothing. The events that are supposed to make you happy—like getting recognition for a good performance, meeting someone interesting, or because it's a beautiful day—these often heighten my awareness of how transitory happiness is, so I like the ordinary happy times the best.

Many astrology books claim that a 5th house Venus promises you plenty of wonderful romances. One of your Venus sisters called this "A load of crap." I tend to agree. Reading the questionnaires of my research participants, I began to think the 5th house romance diva was a mythical creature living only in astrology books. Yet at least one woman volunteered that she'd been blessed with hundreds of affairs. She wrote, "I'm currently single and loving it. I have a different man for different occasions, one to go fine dining with, one to watch dvds with, one to play sports with, another to have drinks with. There are always lovely men floating around me." Passion-increasing aspects to her Venus from Mars and Jupiter are no doubt helpful, for house position alone rarely guarantees a particular fate. Important too is acknowledging the difference between romance and relationships. One summer a Vedic astrologer noted a 5th house transit and predicted I would have an affair. "An affair?" I said glumly. I wanted a relationship! But he was right. I had a four-month affair that was perfectly delicious until the day it ended and then vanished, swift as a summer rain.

Romance is a state of intoxication that's quite Venusian—but having a lover isn't the only way your Venus enjoys the thrill of falling in love. Reading my 5th house Venus questionnaires, I noticed this is a Venus who uses the word “love” a lot.

I love fine jewelry. I love my free time and being creative. I love romance—flowers, candles, incense. I love sex. I love helping others. I love to take baths with salts and oils. I love my bed, especially with lots of pillows around me, and I love to wrap myself in soft fluffy blankets. I love being massaged. I love to meet friends for lunch and hang out. I love watching movies and going shopping.

Quite simply, yours is a Venus who loves life! Children are particularly special to her because they're such a beautiful expression of life force—and because they offer Venus her greatest gift—an opportunity to be someone loving. It's said that the 11th house is where you receive love and the 5th is where you give it. Your Venus can love so many things—children, creative projects (“children” of the mind), or even, as in the third quote below, a delightful puppy.

When my daughter was born, I fell in love with her immediately and could not take my eyes off her for 24 hours until I finally fell asleep.

During the past year my daughter and I have taken up an evening drive. She makes different music CD's for us to sing along to, introducing me to music from around the world—Russian, Japanese, and Latin American. We always stop to swing at this one playground where the swings face the water and she usually talks to me about herself at this time. Then we go get a cup of cocoa and chat up our friendly neighborhood organic grocer. No matter my mood when we set out, I feel better by the time we get home.

One of the happiest times was when I brought home my Labrador retriever puppy, Emma. I had just moved out of a live-in relationship, was house-sitting without a home of my own, and studying for the bar exam. I was feeling lonely and vulnerable, like the world was a big scary place and I wasn't sure where I fit into it. It was perfect to have my sweet little Emma to lavish with uncomplicated affection and care, and to watch her being completely present at every moment—splashing in her little pool, smelling the grass and chasing grasshoppers. It reminded me that joy is everywhere, no matter what the external circumstances.

Natural Aphrodisiacs

Eroticism is so much more than getting naked. Sexuality is the charged state when energetic opposites meet—active and receptive, yang and yin, electric and magnetic—creating a third state of union or divine bliss. Because these polarities already exist within, you can bring yourself into a delighted state with or without a partner. Following are some natural ways to bring a sparkle to your eyes and new bounce to your step.

Curiosity: Nothing awakens Venus more rapidly than wondering (“I wonder what will happen next?”) Allows you to see things afresh, as though for the very first time.

Contentment: Do you fully appreciate the life you now have? Metaphysicians often recommend gratitude lists as a quick way to summon Venus.

Compassion: Judgment blocks connection. Feeling empathy for another opens your heart and lets you expand into a more peaceful, unified state.

Community: Venus knows how electricity builds with likeminded others. Joining and sharing alters your energetic field.

If your libido is dead, try turning yourself on first. Don't wait for a lover to seduce you. Stress, isolation, and self-pity can destroy sexuality long before you reach the bedroom. Cleansing your thoughts can charge your body with new vitality and desire.

Jealousy



When I asked participants in my Venus survey to tell me about their dark side, a majority confessed to feelings of jealousy. No surprise there. Jealousy is a natural Aphroditic trait, so if consumed by it, take heart. You're in touch with the goddess. She's so tuned into beauty, sociability, harmony and discord, that measuring and comparing what others have is an inevitable liability.

Aphrodite was incensed to discover humans worshipped Psyche for her beauty. When the goddess' own son lay with this mortal girl, Aphrodite conspired to split them up. A jealous queen threatened by a young girl's beauty is a common fairy tale motif. Jealousy moves the plot along. It performs the same function in your life too.

When jealousy flares, take notice. It's a signal that something in you has grown old and stopped developing. Rather than actually changing, it wants to defeat your regenerating feminine self. Jealousy is like the witch disguised as a hag, offering Beauty a poisoned apple. If you bite, your Out-of-Balance Stuck Self wins. But if you recognize jealousy as the warning it is, you can use it to grow, renewing

When your Venus has someone or something to love, her radiance and confidence increase. She is a bold, dynamic, self-expressive Venus. Perhaps this is why, more than any other Venus position, 5th house Venuses seemed to have the most fun playing with their appearance.

Growing up, I loved wearing makeup. I felt like an artist applying paint to a canvas. ... I mostly dress for comfort, but I do like to dress up occasionally. It feels like putting on a costume, and that's how I treat it, a bit "over the top." ... My style is my own, especially when I designed and created my own wardrobe. Everyday I choose what to wear according to what best suits my mood. ... I like to play with my looks by dressing as different characters each day: a romantic girl, a mystic fairy, a rock singer and songwriter or a skateboarder boy (my masculine side)—in other words, a modern young woman with her own style.

Whatever her style, a 5th house Venus likes to be appreciated for who she is—which may mean entering a room and becoming the center of attention. Her gaze is often direct. She usually knows what she wants and how to get it. But of course there is a learning curve. Until your Venus discovers how to express and hold her own power, she may be attracted to strong and confident partners—only to find later they're just domineering and stifling. And that never works out!

The Descent of the Goddess

Truth didn't warn her. Love didn't protect her. Beauty couldn't save her.

You take the plunge. You leap. You soar. But sometimes you find yourself in a basement heap. Where the goddess resides there are gifts and ecstasies. But as the ancients learned from Inanna, there is also despair. Such is the cyclical nature of the Feminine. Preceding every ascent, there is a descent, a sundering, a rendering, a hollowing out. You are stripped naked, left hanging upside down in the underworld. Always unexpected, it is also necessary. Descent is how the goddess renews herself and her creativity. Going into the underworld is the way that any Venus grows, but it's a particularly important journey for a 5th house Venus. If trouble strikes, or when love affairs end, your Venus falls hard. But in the face of even minor irritations, your Venus can rage like a scary winter storm. The 5th

house Venuses in my study were often disturbed and embarrassed by their dark sides. Many confessed to overwhelming emotions of hatred, anger, jealousy, arrogance, or pride. These are Venusian too. I've said it before: If you desire to truly know Venus, don't expect just the joy and none of her tantrums.

I recall a waking dream/vision I once had. I remember it because it had such a high emotional intensity for me. In it... I... or someone I identified with strongly... was breaking into an inner altar of some temple. She was dark and powerful and tremendously angry. She trashed the place entirely without any thought or care about what retaliation might happen to her because of what she was doing.

Whatever was being worshipped there... she hated it ... and she was venting.

One of your Venus sisters told a cringing story about how she once struck her daughter at a spiritual retreat. She was trying to be the perfect devotee with the perfect devotee child, but when her daughter wouldn't sit quietly and obediently like the other children, the mother couldn't repress her own wild emotions. She was mortified at what she'd done. Only later could she forgive herself, after hearing stories of the guru Ammachi, who spent hours in mad blisses and wandered the woods falling into stupors and ecstasies. With tears, the mother realized she had a passionate divine madwoman inside her too. "Perhaps I can now let her loose and not be so scared she'll get me thrown in the loony bin or ridden out of town on a rail." Dealing with your wild side is part of the 5th house Venus learning curve. May you find how to fully embrace your wild heart. May you continue to love life, both the sour and sweet, the songs and the noise.

I was driving somewhere with the window open, feeling aggravated and generally tired. The radio was blaring some stupid bad song. There was the noise of traffic around me. And then I heard it—this very loud sweet song of a bird—beautifully crystal clear and perfect over all the noise. I slowed down and turned into a parking lot, craning my neck left and right to look for where it was coming from. Way up on top of a light post was a little bird, so high up, it looked like a little round ball of feathers. I saw its belly expand out and in and then it sang again with its sweet voice. I shut off my radio and just enjoyed that pretty bird in that ugly asphalt parking lot.

Jealousy...

your inner harmony and peace. When jealousy flares, let it flourish, like a signal sounding through your soul. You may even find its sharp sting and tender wounding a pleasurable intense sensation—if you let go of the “less than” storyline your mind wants to attach to it. Allow the feeling to move through your body without repression or obsession. It's like sending the witch on her way without eating the apple. See her instead as a wisdom being who came to wake you up.

Now decode jealousy's message. What needs to change in you? Perhaps you've been ignoring your desires for greater abundance, not allowing yourself to dream big enough. Maybe you've lost touch with your innate worth and given your power away to someone less deserving. Possibly you've gotten caught on the nail of feeling special or better than others. Even the wealthiest can make themselves miserable if they think someone else has more.

Restore your radiance with the following healthy remedies. Rejoice in the good fortune of the one who made you jealous. Through the law of attraction, this good feeling will do more than envy to bring the same to you. Visualize your own success and take steps in that direction. Maybe you need to renew your spiritual practice. Refocus your eyes and heart on the equality of divinity. See how joy lives everywhere, in everyone and everything.

People sometimes worry when they first see their astrology chart and notice that certain houses are empty. Yet to astrologers, no house is without a planetary influence. That's because each has a ruler who is active in affairs of that house.



WHERE VENUS RULES

Venus has authority over houses with Taurus or Libra on their cusp, also any planets in these signs. She's the Queen or Lord of these placements, which means they must serve her desires for beauty, creativity, and pleasure. Planets in or transiting a Venus-ruled area are guests in her house; its territory will in some way reflect her values and tastes. Taurus emphasizes her sensuous earthiness. Are you productive or lazy in this area of life? Honoring Venus may be the key to greater success. Libra emphasizes grace and balance. Is this area harmonious? Is it beautiful? Although it's beyond the scope of this report to give a more detailed analysis of these other placements, especially if you know some astrology, you may enjoy meditating on her influence. Any significant transits to your Venus may affect these other placements as well.

TAURUS

5th house of creative expression; romance, children, amusements;
6th house of health and employment; also daily routines, co-workers, pets

LIBRA

10th house of career and public reputation; social status, parents, and authority figures

Venus Journal



Following are more questions from my original Venus survey. Responses from my research participant taught me a lot about the various Venus placements. Your answers will teach you more about your Venus too.

4. You live in a pleasure kingdom where everyone receives more than enough money to work at something they truly love. To find your calling, you must prepare a special resume that lists the five to six activities you most enjoy doing and/or think you do well. Appropriate pleasures can come from any realm of experience, sexual, intellectual, emotional, physical, or spiritual. If you love walking on the beach or organizing spice jars—if you love waking up late or telling people what to do—these would go on your list. What belongs on your pleasure resume?
5. Remember two or three times in your life when you were really happy. What was going on? What most brought you joy?
6. Now recall two or three miserable times in your life. What made these periods so unhappy?
7. Is there somewhere you experience abundance in your life right now?
8. Is there anywhere you experience poverty or scarcity?

Wait a few days then return to your Venus Journal and review what you've written. Can you identify which Venus needs—her sign or house—are most involved?

VENUS AND MONEY: HER TRUE FORTUNE



"I supposedly have a great Venus, but so far the money hasn't materialized."

I heard this complaint many times from my research participants. Who can blame them? Plenty of astrology books promise wealth as one of the goodies Venus brings. When Venus appears in or rules the 2nd or 8th houses (the two money houses), financial blessings may appear. But beyond that, I'm skeptical. Venus is associated with fertility, creativity, and luxurious pleasures, but I haven't read any mythological texts that show the goddess running her hands through piles of money. I asked my respondents about their family financial histories and for any dates they received large sums of money. No consistent Venus patterns emerged.

It is perhaps the culture's confusion between money and happiness that inspires us to keep hoping for Venus dollars. Venus does rule happiness. But as many have noted, having money is no guarantee of bliss. If we want abundance from Venus, we must first ask "What are *her* values?" instead of expecting her to dutifully fund ours. What does Venus want from us? An excellent answer appears in the following tale, which occurred so long ago, I can hardly remember when I made it up!

In the Heart of the Forest

Most witches prefer to live secret lives deep in the forest. Yet in a world that craves magic, rumors of a powerful witch still travel far. And so it was with Baba Yaga, a wart-riddled crone of whom it was suddenly rumored, she could grant abundance and happiness to anyone who asked her. But she was cranky. And unpredictable as fate. If for any reason she did not like the

petitioner, she would toss them into her soup pot. That meant only the brave would seek her out. Or the foolish. Or the desperate. Or those with pushy noble parents who insisted on having nothing but the best. It seemed the world was teeming with desires.

Soon there was a knock at Baba Yaga's door. "What do you want?" she barked from inside her hut. Outside stood a young man with a fine coat, manicured hands, and a well-tooled leather purse. "I want wealth—all the gold in the world," he said. She opened her door and the youth, along with his coat, purse, and manicured hands, flew into her boiling pot.

Some days later came another knock. "What do you want?" she barked. "I want power over women and men." She opened the door. The town's mayor bounced into her pot. Another knock. "What do you want?" the witch barked. A student replied, "I want to know all there is to know in the world." Soon the soup was sizzling with his learned bones. Another knock. "What do you want?" A monk in plain robes answered, "I want to know god." The door opened and along with his begging bowl, the monk flew into her pot. One fine morning when the bird songs were especially sweet, another knock came at Baba Yaga's door. "What do you want?" she barked. A sad-eyed maiden whispered, "I want my true love to make me happy." Baba Yaga sighed as she added the girl to her pot.

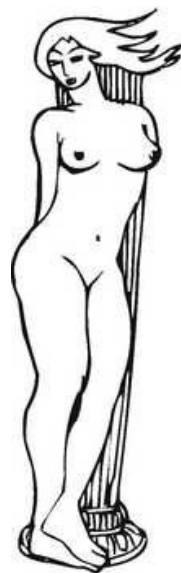
It was a long time before anyone came again. Baba Yaga grew used to the silence. One morning she walked out into her garden to gather herbs. There she found a young maiden walking down the path. "What do you want?" she barked. "I don't know that I want anything at all," the maiden replied. "Surely you'd like more abundance," the witch hissed. The girl thought for a moment, then shook her head. "No, I don't think I have any desires. Everything just as it is brings me such

pleasure. I love whatever I see or touch, or taste, hear or smell.” On hearing this, Baba Yaga’s wart-filled face broke into a rare smile. “Ah, you I can work with!” She knew the maiden was already abundant with the greatest fortune of all: a heart filled with love. Only that has the power to turn everything into treasure.

Abundance Defined

Venus values love over dollars. Whenever we love what we’re doing, we do it well. Whenever we love what we already have, we feel abundant. A Tibetan master once identified two types of good karma: the karma to attract wealth and the karma to enjoy it. This ability to enjoy our lives comes from Venus. Astrologers have called this the “lesser fortune,” though it is easy to agree with the King that this may be the greatest treasure of all. I’ll never forget the woman in my study who lived below the poverty line in a modest apartment with a door that opened onto a forest. This made her feel like one of the wealthiest women in the world. Of course there were many in my study who owned homes, traveled, and indulged themselves with luxuries, but felt there just wasn’t enough.

No one planet rules money; many play their part. Pluto and Mars may increase our drive to acquire it. Saturn helps us work hard for it. Neptune draws it to us through magical laws of attraction. Jupiter opens us to new opportunities and lucky breaks. Venus too plays her part. The day Venus transited over my Ascendant I received a surprise in the mail. A reader had sent me a crisp \$100 bill as a gesture of gratitude for my articles. So yes—Venus had brought me money. But her true currency was the gift of appreciation. That’s a Venusian dollar. Giving and receiving appreciation will make you rich. Want to feel like a millionaire? Become a lover of the people in your life right now. Love your talents and possessions. Understand that what you don’t have today, you don’t need today. Become a lover this minute. Open your heart to whatever you’re sensing now!



enjoying venusian abundance. . .

I’m running hard across the playground to get to the dorm before the rain reaches me. I’m running ahead of the rain. I can hear it sweep, clattering over the tin roofs of the Big School, smack onto the paved quadrangle, spatter into the dry dust of the playground, and I run as fast as my legs will carry me, excitement and exhilaration bursting as I’m being chased by the storm. I don’t make it to the shelter. I turn as I hear the rain almost upon me and I see it approach in a thick sheet of fat rain drops. The rain hits me and within seconds I’m soaked through. I feel clean. I dance and shout and laugh and spin about with my arms out. It is pure pleasure. *Venus conjunct Sun in Scorpio*

I just had a lovely experience with a very ripe peach. As I was passing the fruit bowl, its fragrance captured me and I had to have it. I washed it. It was so heavy, ripe, and rosy. I actually talked to it, told it how beautiful it was, how I was so honored to be taking it into myself and making it part of me. I told it we would do wonderful things together, and I felt that its beauty would now become part of mine. I sat on my screen porch and ate it piece by piece, enjoying its lushness and intensity. My fingers still smell of it. Now it’s in me and I am more beautiful. *1st house Venus*

Yesterday I was on the back of an ATV. My sister was driving, fast. I glanced over and saw our silhouette in the afternoon sun racing alongside us in the field and thought to myself, “Isn’t life grand!!” I leaned back, looked at the sky and laughed. My sister yelled back at me, “What’s funny?” “I said, “Just thinking about how much I love you!” She laughed too, understanding exactly what I meant. *Venus conjunct Saturn/Neptune square Uranus*

My favorite daily ritual is getting into a heated bed at night, lying there, luxuriating, relishing the warmth and the sheer pleasure of lying down. I LOVE my bed. My next favorite thing is to open a book and begin the night’s journey of reading. *Venus conjunct Jupiter in the 12th house*

I was cutting dead blooms in my flower garden yesterday when I noticed a bumblebee buried in a large bright yellow marigold. He wasn’t moving. Was he dead? I tickled his fuzzy back and he buzzed. Happily I realized he was in bee paradise, overcome with the offerings of the marigold. In other words, he was in his Venus place---delighted!! *12th house Venus conjunct Ascendant*



YOUR PROGRESSED VENUS

Your birth chart is a snapshot of the sky as you took your first breath. But the planets kept moving. Astrologers take particular note of the planetary movements in the first three months of your life. They call these “progressions” — and believe that each day after your birth was predictive, showing how you’d evolve every year of your life. In other words, the celestial alignments thirty days after your birth would describe how you’d be at thirty years old.

As Venus progresses, she aspects other planets. She may station direct or retrograde. Typically, she’ll change signs, usually more than once. Think of this as her continuing education courses. She’s studying new facets of the Feminine experience. As your progressed Venus crosses into new houses, you may find new and enduring interests. The year of a sign change may bring a landmark event that opens up a whole new direction. Or the shift may be subtle, bringing a change in your tastes. You could adopt a new approach to socializing, discover a passion for new colors, alter your personal style, or become attracted to a different type of partner.

If and when your Venus progresses into a new sign, the year before she makes this change (when she is at 29 degrees of the previous sign), you may feel particularly urgent about one or more Venus-related themes—restless and impatient to make changes that seem slow to materialize. It can feel like depressing the accelerator of a car stuck in mud; the engine roars, the wheels whirl, but you don’t move. It can be a relief when the sign change occurs. Life is new. You feel excited, more exploratory, and relaxed.

December, 1965: Venus enters your **6th house** of work and health, bringing greater compassion and kindness to your days. Choose foods and exercise that increase your beauty.

November, 1966: Venus enters quick-witted **Gemini**. Her curiosity and communication skills increase.

December, 1983: Venus enters your **7th house** of partnership, learning greater balance. Without losing herself, she becomes more attuned to others.

August, 1986: Solar Arc Venus crosses your natal **Descendent** or **7th house** cusp. The year a solar arc planet crosses an angle is significant. It’s like a new birth in that area of life. An important relationship may enter your life this year. Your experience and ideas about relationship may change.

May, 1994: Venus enters nurturing and protective **Cancer**. Feeling secure becomes more important.

April, 2005: Venus enters your **8th house** of sex, transformation, others’ resources. More aware of subtle energy exchanges, her power and perception grow.

April, 2020: Venus enters creative, fun-loving **Leo**, bringing greater warmth and dramatic flair.

November, 2037: Venus enters your **9th house** of travel and higher education. Her horizons widen. She’s ready for a bigger adventure.

May, 2045: Venus enters nature-loving **Virgo**. Sensuous and discriminating, she’s attuned to high quality.

celestial allies



PLANETARY ASPECTS

Imagine Venus on Mt. Olympus, preparing to incarnate in your form. Scanning the sky maps, she chose that moment when the planets were arrayed just so... depicting her connections to the other gods. Perhaps Mercury had pressed his number in her hand, "Call me," or Saturn issued a warning, "I'll be watching." Aspects to Venus indicate both benefactors and tricksters. Flowing relationships are described as *conjunctions*, *sextiles*, and *trines*; prickly ones as *squares* and *oppositions*. Yet in real-life experience, I've found these distinctions often break down. What matters most is that the planets are *connected*. Whether that's favorable or challenging depends on how you choose to work with the energies. If you're conscious of Pluto's benefits, for example, you can turn your Venus/Pluto square into a trine. If you're unconscious of Pluto's liabilities, your trine may act like a square. That's why in discussing planet connections, I downplay the specific aspect and prefer to explore the full range of archetypal possibilities.



A note about orbs: "Orbs" signify how tight or loose the planetary relationships are. "Separating" aspects were exact before your birth. Some believe they indicate gifts or liabilities brought in from a previous life. "Applying" aspects became exact after you were born. Integrating these energies may feel more urgent or important (you may also have experienced their grace or friction as an early life event by transit or progression). The tightest aspect in your chart is usually considered most influential. But often I've seen wider aspects exert greater pressure on a life, especially when other placements reinforce the same theme. One surprise in my Venus research came from the planets sharing the same sign as Venus. No matter how far apart their degrees, their influence was often like a conjunction. I use wide orbs (up to ten degrees for conjunctions, squares and oppositions) because they work. Even wider orbs will work for some, but I've had to set limits which are hopefully accurate for the majority. Ultimately only you can decide whether a planet's influence has been strong or weak. Acknowledging how each Venus aspect manifests in your life can be a wonderful eye-opening exercise. Do pay special attention to the tightest Venus connection. Sometimes this close aspect gets lost in your blind spot. You may take its gifts for granted or neglect to notice its liabilities. Bring this aspected planet more fully into consciousness. Then more of your Venus will shine.



Moon Square Venus (Orb: 0 degrees 38 minutes separating)

Squares are wild and wonderful—but difficult too. The power struggle between these planets was likely defined and hardest to cope with in your youth. People are usually aware of their squares. They bring the issues that force you to grow. They make sure you learn your lessons. And when you rise to the occasion, they bless you with energy, action, and success. Venus is the focal planet of a difficult planetary configuration known as a “T-Square.” Developing her capacity to love and harmonize the various parts of your nature is key.

The Goddesses: Moon and Love

Go back far enough in archetypal history, and there was no difference between Goddess Moon and Goddess Love. Sensuality, fertility, nurture and protectiveness were embodied in a single form. That’s the bright promise of a Moon/Venus aspect—to reclaim this ancient fullness. Both Venus and Moon are symbols of the receptive feminine. With this aspect, you may have been raised to strongly value women. You may feel passionately about women’s issues. Yet this pairing isn’t always smooth. When patriarchal gods marched into the archetypal mind, the once all-powerful Goddess was splintered into lesser deities. The divided Feminine began quarreling with itself, reflecting a new friction between mothering, marriage and sex. Competition between jealous Hera, Goddess of Marriage, and sensuous Aphrodite, Goddess of Pleasure, ignited the Trojan War. But why should they oppose each other? Hera had no reason to be jealous. She was the most beautiful goddess on Mt. Olympus, so much so, that Zeus tried desperately to seduce her. Failing at that, he turned himself into a pathetic cuckoo, frozen in the winter cold, awakening Hera’s motherly instincts. To warm the bird she held it to her breast. Zeus seized the opportunity to rape her. Shame made Hera marry him. She was faithful to the bitter end, but vowed never again to lose her body’s sovereignty. In contrast to lusty Aphrodite, she discovered how to conceive her children without sex, growing Hebe from a head of lettuce and Ares from an Olen flower. With a Moon/Venus aspect, you may unconsciously re-enact this conflict between security and pleasure—so it may be brought to consciousness and healed. You are on the front lines of

what is a larger cultural dilemma, where the divided feminine flares as eating disorders, poor body image, the inability of women to share power with other women, the criminalization of prostitutes, or men confusing wives with mothers and sneaking out on “mom” with their mistresses.

The Gift: You’ve seen that beautiful rosy belt glowing on the horizon at dawn and dusk? That’s Aphrodite’s magic girdle—which even at the height of the Trojan War she loaned to rival sister Hera. Its magical powers could make whoever donned it irresistible. Beauty matters! You likewise have a gift for making things beautiful—most of all, beautiful spaces that feel loving and serene. You may create gardens and rooms that feel peaceful and divine. You value nature and may have a passion for protecting the environment, knowing deeply the importance of home.

The Lesson: Perhaps like me (I have a Moon/Venus square), you’ve heard this line a few times: “You’re way too sensitive!” Maybe like me, it was your mother who said it most often. It’s hard to tell whether mom was indeed hurtful or your ears were fitted with a special device that increased the volume of her criticism. Either way, it’s true this aspect magnifies your vulnerability—to your mother in particular, but not exclusively. Both receptive Moon and Venus are porous placements, tripling your sensitivity, especially to criticism. Even praise might sound like an attack to your ears. You may also be more vulnerable to stress, which could be why you have that knack for creating beautiful and peaceful environments. Truth is, you have a knack for taking care of many things, Stand tall

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like the goddess you are and create your protective magic raincoat. Remember that the joyful union of pleasure, sexuality and nurture is the goal of this aspect. For some it comes easily, for others, it's a longer journey.

"When my Venus energy is flowing and I'm with my kids, I see the effect on them—seeing their mom so alive, they thrive too. They sense the truth of it and are not afraid. I feel it nourishes them in a different way. I feel it heals the old virgin/whore thing. I hope it inspires them to their greatness." (Venus conjunct Moon)

"Growing up in a Catholic household, I remember as a preteen boy putting pin-up pictures of beautiful women on the walls of my bedroom. Nothing prurient, but some sexy pictures of the *Life* magazine variety. My mother expressed discomfort with these, and I soon took them down. I learned that it was not safe or comfortable to express myself in this way in my house."
(Venus opposite Moon)

"I've had sensual desires even before knowing what sex was. When I was only four, my mother took me to the beach. Once she was settled she noticed that my attention had gone to an incredibly handsome man who was sunbathing close to us. I suddenly got up and walked straight to this man, knelt beside him, stroked him gently from his upper thigh to his knee and said, "Hmmm, you smell like a man." My mother was horrified. I've always had boys on my mind, but funnily enough "sex" scared me. I was a virgin until the age of 19. ... My relationships have been a disaster. As I have been on my own since the age of 16, I think I have confused love and security... settled for second best because I did not feel I could do better. ... I feel very self-conscious about my body, not keen on being naked. I don't want to feel shame, but I do; however, when aroused and during sex, this disappears. I no longer fear not being perfect. My inner goddess takes over and it feels wonderful to be unclothed." (Moon square Venus)

We can understand mother's horror at her daughter's early sexual awakening, but the child has no idea what it means, taking mom's reaction as a reason to turn against herself, feeling guilty for sexual feelings, or learning to compromise desire for safe commitments. Many with this aspect battle against their bodies. "It's not perfect," "It's disgusting," or "It reminds me of my mother's." They tell stories of feeling criticized by their mother or embarrassed by their mother's flirtatiousness. Loving the body and reclaiming its sacredness can be a significant step toward integrating these two feminine potencies. This was an important discovery for the following Moon/Venus square.

"I learned a valuable lesson while in a summer vacation in Brazil when I was 17. In Rio, they walk practically naked on the streets. Men were those tiny Speedo bathing suits and women of all ages, shapes, ages, and sizes were bikinis or t-piece tangas, and no one

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takes a second look at them. They feel so free with their bodies. After the initial shock, something clicked inside about the beauty of the human body and the different shapes it takes. If someone else doesn't like it, he or she can just look the other way. "

Many with a Moon/Venus aspect feel a sweet connection to their mothers, even if the relationship is sometimes fractious. A positive feminine influence—a mother, aunt, or grandmother who's able to contain both Hera and Aphrodite with ease—can help to give this aspect a beautiful expression: confident, creative, sensitive, sensuous, and nurturing. It is of course a greater challenge to integrate these qualities if one's female role model was more often moody, domineering, or neurotic.

"My grandmother was a wonderful communicator. She was warm, rich, quirky, passionate, vibrant, intelligent, curious about life, immediate, colorful, had flair, was temperamental, musical, creative, flirtatious, exotic and beautiful (even when old). She had a wonderful irreverent sense of humor. She was interested in astrology, alchemy and the occult and I now have her books as the rest of the family scoff at this and describe her as mad. We had a very close bond—she became my "mother" and my confidante, understanding my personal struggles without judgment. "(Venus conjunct Moon)

"As a child I learned not to trust everyone who claims to love you. When I was 14 I became deeply depressed and developed a serious illness. Entering high school, my deepest concern had been what I was going to do with my life. Because of an unsupportive and competitive relationship with my Mother (and sister), I felt I had no legs to stand on. The illness was an unconscious attempt at suicide. But even then, I knew in my heart that if I checked out, I would still have to come back and face this karma. Betrayals by the women in my life were frequent and to be guarded against." (Venus square Moon)

"My appearance is very important to me... in a sense that I never stop finding faults about the way I look. My mother used to criticize the way I dress, smile, etc. and still does. I don't like to be criticized by her, but I'm the biggest critic of myself after all." (Venus conjunct Moon and Saturn)



Uranus Square Venus (Orb: 1 degrees 4 minutes separating)

Squares are wild and wonderful—but difficult too. The power struggle between these planets was likely defined and hardest to cope with in your youth. People are usually aware of their squares. They bring the issues that force you to grow. They make sure you learn your lessons. And when you rise to the occasion, they bless you with energy, action, and success. Venus is the focal planet of a difficult planetary configuration known as a “T-Square.” Developing her capacity to love and harmonize the various parts of your nature is key.

The Gods: You Don’t Own Me

As sky god Ouranos stretched himself over earth goddess Gaia, ready to take her again in pleasure, Kronos swiftly drew his scythe and severed his father’s genitals. The sky god tumbled into the sea. The heavens were liberated. And from the foam surrounding his severed genitals, something beautiful arose: Aphrodite. Given the biologically intimate relationship between these two archetypes—the goddess sprang from his sea-foamed semen, after all—we might expect Uranus to be a comfortable connection for Venus. But consider the particulars. She was born from an act of violence, not love. Hers was an unusual, motherless birth. And Ouranos was a tyrant who swallowed his own children to forestall change. Strangely, astrologers now consider this despot a poster child for freedom and unorthodoxy. He’s become a symbol for what took him down—an act of rebellion. And that’s the urge that defines this aspect. With Uranus, Venus often rebels against her own nature, valuing independence over intimacy, insistent on her personal space and freedom. She defies social norms, excites rather than soothes, resists more than accommodates. To her what’s unusual is beautiful. She’s provocative and abhors the predictable. She can run hot or cold. She can party hard and take many lovers. Or she can be distant, indifferent, aloof. Tolerant of all types, she is a fierce advocate for universal love. She can, however, channel a bit of Ouranos arrogance in declaring that whatever she believes is best, new, or right. Her partners sometimes complain she’s stubborn and willful.

The Gift: Dazzle. Electricity. Brilliance. The sky god had magnetism and so does your Venus. When these planets are paired, you radiate intensity and presence. Maybe at times you’ve felt like an outcast or alien, but face it—you bring a certain excitement to the room. Likely you prefer an unorthodox style and a distinctive look. And you’ve got the sky-god-given chutzpah to carry it off. The original lord of all things, Ouranos had plenty of creative juice. Your Venus does too. Many artists, performers, and innovators have this aspect in their chart. Whenever you dare to be experimental and different, you can tap into a heavenly genius.

The Lesson: Aphrodite’s birth was magnificent. But its violent circumstance was traumatic. This is a telling legacy, for those born with this aspect often suffer a traumatic introduction to love. Maybe it was an accident. Or a sudden shocking view of something a child shouldn’t see. Perhaps there was a pattern of family conflict. Or a single but devastating abandonment. As protection, you may have adopted a cynical attitude toward romance, holding yourself back from love’s surrender. You may subconsciously expect rejection and keep choosing partners to prove you right. Sometimes with this aspect, there’s an addiction to excitement, masking a deeper anxiety. All of these are symptoms of post-traumatic love disorder. Go towards your fear and soothe the incredibly sensitive still-wounded heart within. Remember: it wasn’t your fault. (For clues toward healing, watch or read the “Horse Whisperer.”)

uranus venus chat room



Fireworks and lightening may characterize your relationships. This can be exciting—also inconsistent and unstable. Sparks can fly with instant attractions and disappear when it's time for a deeper commitment. Long term relationships may follow an on-again/off-again pattern—or like Goldilocks eating Mom and Papa Bear's porridge, never taste exactly right.. Your liaisons may be wild or simply odd. At the least, they're probably unconventional, negotiated to give you and your partner the maximum freedom. You'll do best with a partner who craves as much personal space as you do. You may be ambivalent about a marriage certificate. Or fall for unavailable people. But likely your life isn't boring. Some of the most interesting love stories came from people with this aspect.

"I totally feel the conjunction of Venus and Uranus, even though they are 7 degrees apart. I value friendships but there is a point where I can't really go any further in my involvements with people. Too many expectations and responsibilities make me feel somewhat uncomfortable. I sometimes feel trapped. My first love drew me to him like a moth to a flame. He was three years older than me and had blonde hair and blue eyes and was a musician. He had been adopted, which really attracted me, because even though I was not adopted, I never felt like I fit in to my own family. I broke up with him for no reason at all. Of course I wanted him back almost instantly, but he wasn't interested. I used to write to him everyday in a journal. Looking back, the writing helped me to heal. I was really devastated. The one thing I took away from that experience was to never do anything in a relationship that you are not totally sure of, including breaking up with someone for no good reason."

(Venus conjunct Uranus)

"My partners... one was gifted spiritually but not connected emotionally or physically and the other was very available physically but not emotionally or spiritually. I always get in too fast—instead of waiting and seeing if it's right for me."

(Venus conjunct Uranus)

"James made the waters stand still for me. But our relationship was not in the world—he didn't tell people about me and I didn't tell others about him. He wasn't interested in building a life with me. Rather he put me on a pedestal, keeping me far enough away to admire. He loves me more than I thought a person could. He idealized me, which was intoxicating and dangerous because it's not living in reality. He was patient and accepting and would do anything for me—except commit to me in a real-world way. I miss him. Lately I've been dating like a mad-lady. Some of it has been fun, some exhausting, some frustrating, and some incredibly disappointing and sad. After joining the online dating thing, the drama pitched up to a new wavelength—including one uncharacteristic-for-me fling. We met on a Wednesday, had a 12-hour lovefest, met up again Saturday night, and said goodbye Sunday morning. No word from him since and it was amazing. Felt like a defibrillator. He fell in love with me-as-Goddess and I fell in love with him-as-worshipper. Then he left. I felt everything I could feel in the space of those few days. Goddess, hold him forever. " (Venus sextile Uranus)

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"My parents fought a lot when I was a child and my father had many infidelities, so I struggled a lot with the concept of love as a child. I learned that love wasn't always faithful and that love involved fighting. Love wasn't peaceful or calm, but a stormy sea with lots of jealousy, anger and pain. Yet my parents stayed together despite the fighting, so I also learned that love is commitment and unconditional." (Venus sextile Uranus)

"I've chased men who didn't like me; the men who liked me I wasn't attracted to. The man I married is mentally unstable, though I didn't understand that for a long time. What I've learned about love is that you can end up hating people you used to love, and come to realize that the people you have hated caused you to develop a better life." ((Venus opposite Uranus)

"The thought of a commitment to live out my life with one person scares the hell out of me, though less so now than when I was younger."

"Love breaks your heart open to the discovery that love is the consciousness of the universe. What is not love is a cry for love." (Venus square Uranus)



Saturn Trine Venus (Orb: 3 degrees 25 minutes applying)

Michael Munkasey has dubbed this the “goddess aspect.” Identifying talents you perhaps perfected in a previous life, a trine can bring you joy. There’s a nice flow of energy between planets in trine. They support and reinforce each another, but without any struggle, you might take them for granted—neither using nor developing their gifts. An unattended trine can sometimes trick you into negative behaviors.

The Gods: Beauty and the Blacksmith

Promiscuous Venus. Hard-working Saturn. The original odd couple. Astrologers usually underestimate the chemistry between these two, convinced that dull Saturn can only limit the goddess’ pleasure and playfulness, bringing loneliness, inhibition, and low self esteem. But there’s a deeper mystery behind their pairing, suggested by the story of Venus and Vulcan, or as the Greeks called them, Aphrodite and Hephaestus. Hephaestus was the lame smith god who labored at a hot forge deep in the earth. The son of Zeus and Hera, he was born with a deformity so disgusting, his mother hurled him into the sea. Aphrodite’s birth took her in the opposite direction—from the sea she ascended to Mt. Olympus, draped in kelp and provocatively cascading hair. The gods gasped at her beauty. Jealous Hera demanded that Zeus marry her off immediately. Many suitors stepped forward with eloquent speeches and remarkable gifts. Poseidon offered pearls and hidden grottos, fine horses and sailors, the devotion of the tides. Apollo offered the love of poets and musicians, a fine gold chariot, a crown made of sun rays. Hermes promised riddles and laughter, the adoration of travelers, an endless stream of gossip and tales. To each petition the goddess smiled, but said nothing. Hera kicked Hephaestus from his hiding place. “Go ahead, idiot!” He stammered, “Uh, I think I’d make a good husband. I’m faithful. And I work hard.” Aphrodite walked up and down the line of suitors, tapping her finger on her chin, deep in thought. Then she wheeled around and pointed, “I’ll marry the blacksmith. There’s something endearingly real about him.” She kissed the lame god and he swooned.

The Gift

This aspect fits you with pair of glasses opposite to rose-colored ones. It brings a responsible “adult” attitude toward love, money, and pleasure. You’ve got loyalty, stability and focus, which can help manifest an enduring love. plus many of life’s finer things. Aphrodite was adept at social relationships, a walking work of art. Hephaestus was an artist of the forge, hammering intricate and powerful pieces, exquisite jewelry for his wife, thunderbolts for Zeus, and for Aphrodite’s mortal son, the greatest work of art in immortal history, Aeneas’ magnificent shield. With this aspect, all your labors of love—relationships or craft—are blessed when you apply your skill and commitment to success.

The Lesson

Imagine what it felt like—to be so ugly even his mother discarded him—and yet the most enticing goddess chose him. After the euphoria, Hephaestus couldn’t help himself. Everywhere he heard the muttering, “Why is she with... *that?*” He tried to make up for it by working harder. He tried to please her with beautiful objects. Yet he was afraid it was never enough, that he was never enough. His own worthlessness was buried so deep, that when Aphrodite moaned with delight in their marriage bed, he didn’t believe it. Then he just got paranoid. He made a complete jealous ass of himself, trapping the goddess in a tryst with Mars. This is what he had to learn: Real love means living with your partner’s imperfections and accepting your own. Venus had seen value in him. But until he saw it too, the relationship was doomed. You’ve got a similar challenge. Can you love the imperfect god and goddess in you?

saturn venus chat room



"I know your life has been hard, but you are what you are because of it. The best steel must go through the fire.

It is not enough to be loving, talented, or beautiful. We must be strong!" Charles Dickens

With Saturn aspects, early experiences with your father may have been particularly influential in your ideas about love, prosperity or partnership (though for men, your mother may have played the key role). Exploring these relationships can be revealing. Some astrologers believe that Saturn denies what he touches—in aspect to Venus, withholding love, affection and happiness. More often, I believe, Saturn delays. The planets he touches get better with age. The older you get, the more fun you'll have with Venus. You can heal lifetimes of inadequacy with this aspect, but initially it may be rough. A lack of love and affection in early life may have caused you to identify more strongly with Hephaestus, learning to brush off compliments, expect rejection, settle for less. You may have attracted partners who "proved" your unworthiness and reinforced your fears of intimacy. You may have wondered if you'd be better off alone. You're serious and practical. That's not bad. But whenever you wish you were thinner or smarter or more like somebody else, you're the one who's being unfaithful—to your special gifts. One day, listening to the barrage of self-critical thoughts running through your head, you begin to realize it's all nonsense. That's the day your true marriage to Venus begins. With awareness, you can change your inner chatter. Better yet, simply become the gliding goddess easing through your world. Deserving has nothing to do with it. Send Hephaestus to his forge and let him fuel your diligence and competence. Then relax into your radiance ; enjoy the compliments.

"I get enjoyment out of earning an income to provide my own creature comforts, though it sometimes disappoints me that I can't 'let go' and enjoy what someone else can provide." (Venus square Saturn)

"Having my father constantly criticize me and yell at me for seemingly no reason made me very unhappy. It was extremely difficult to live with him. My mother recently confirmed that I was a good girl and never did anything to cause my father to act this way. It was very confusing." (Venus/Saturn sign conjunction)

"My father never showed me his love, so it is very difficult to believe that someone would be interested in me if my parent wasn't. When I was a kid, my father bought me a Walkman for Christmas; after an argument, he gave it to my sister and nothing to me. Later, I had a partner who did not come to visit me on my birthday as a punishment. I realized he did not want to please me, which meant he did not really love me." (Venus opposite Saturn)

"My darkest aspect is my deeply ingrained self-hatred and self-sabotage. Just can't seem to shake it." (Venus opposite Saturn)

more from the saturn/venus chat room. . .

"My first love was my dad. I thought he was perfect when I was little. When I was older, and he was drinking, he broke my heart. This made it very difficult to trust that anyone could love me. I thought they were lying. I do have close friends and family who have continued to love me and support me as the years have gone by. I now know that I am loved by these people and have been transformed by it. It took me many years to fall in love with my husband." (Venus conjunct Saturn)

"'Love' was not a word ever spoken in our household. I did sense that my parents loved my sister more. After all these years and much work, I still seem to choose unrequited love (I'm attracted to married men and continually play out the 'Mom/Dad always like you best scenario.'" (Venus square Saturn)

"I have issues around work and income and self esteem and relationship which are very old and which I'm really chipping away at—basic issues of worthiness and receiving abundance. What I learned about money from my family: Money is to be earned with good honest labor and is not to be frittered away or played with. Money is serious business and has to be put away for a rainy day. Money is to be used for practical needs and only occasionally for the pleasurable things that one really wants." (Saturn conjunct Venus ruling 2nd house of money)).

"My Venus is opposite Saturn and I assume that's why I've never found a life partner. It seems hurtful to me that I'm made the way I am. I've had lots of lovers, but no one has ever been able to make me lose my doubts and fears about love. Love relationships tend to start strong and then stop as suddenly as they started. I have run away from more men than I can count as soon as I could see they were interested in me."

Love is perhaps one of the most tender and easily wounded aspects of anyone's life—with or without a Venus/Saturn aspect. It would be a mistake to think that this aspect dooms you to an unhappiness that the rest of the world gets to enjoy. Learning how to love freely with an open heart is one of the great challenges and rewards of Venus/Saturn. But there are other benefits. With this aspect, one can work quite skillfully with the material world, including managing money wisely. One also can also learn the secret treasures of simplicity, of finding joy in small pleasures.

"Those in my family are savers and investors. They encouraged us to spend wisely after careful thought. My life is rich in love and caring and I am doing okay financially. I just prefer to maintain a focus that says my life is full of abundance." (Venus trine Saturn)

"My family was pretty frugal. I was taught to first look at the price, before I even considered something. I learned the pleasure of getting a bargain. I also like to enjoy small amounts of many different kinds of food and drink and drugs. Savoring just one taste, one puff, one sip—each one is delicious and uniquely satisfying. (Venus opposite Saturn)



Mars Square Venus (Orb: 7 degrees 15 minutes applying)

Squares are wild and wonderful—but difficult too. The power struggle between these planets was likely defined and hardest to cope with in your youth. People are usually aware of their squares. They bring the issues that force you to grow. They make sure you learn your lessons. And when you rise to the occasion, they bless you with energy, action, and success. Venus is the focal planet of a difficult planetary configuration known as a “T-Square.” Developing her capacity to love and harmonize the various parts of your nature is key.

The Gods: Addicted to Love

A brute with battlelust. Even his parents, Zeus and Hera, believe his warrior ways are crude. Yet Aphrodite finds Ares irresistible. His manly courage. His decisive action. Most of all his passion. Oh the hours of pleasure they share! Though not married to each other, their adulterous affair is one of the longest lasting and most celebrated relationships among the gods. Homer sang the tale of how Aphrodite’s husband Hephaestus trapped them in a tryst. Hanging naked in her hubby’s net with all the gods laughing and leering, Ares and Aphrodite continued making love. They were tempestuous and touchingly faithful in their way. When Aphrodite fell for Adonis, Ares transformed into a wild boar that killed the handsome boy. When Ares slept with Dawn, jealous Aphrodite cursed the girl into becoming a nymphomaniac. Full of fireworks, these two have been the archetypal template for many legendary couples—Bogart and Bacall, Hepburn and Tracy, Taylor and Burton. They are a fertile duo. Ares slept with many women, but his five children were all birthed by Aphrodite. Their progeny’s differing natures offer a tantalizing suggestion of what a Mars/Venus aspect can bring. Though rare, too much Mars can raise Deimos and Phobos, the twin gods of terror and horror, or more commonly, Eris, goddess of strife and discord. When Venus predominates, there’s Harmonia, the goddess of concord, harmonious competition, and marital bliss. Mars and Venus in perfect balance yields their most famous offspring of all—the joy of all beings: Eros, or erotic delight.

The Gift: Erotic energy ebbs and flows. But with a Mars/Venus aspect, the flows are usually livelier and more enduring than the ebbs. Few consider this a problem. But the benefits don’t stop there. You’re more charismatic with this aspect. Your eyes sparkle. People feel like there’s something special in the air when you’re around. The physicality of Mars combined with the social intelligence of Venus can make you outgoing and popular. You may find it easier to connect with the opposite sex. Let Mars intensify your Venus charm and others will be drawn to you. This is a dynamic and creative combination.

The Lesson: For centuries, sorcerers, ancient herbalists and modern pharmaceutical firms have tried to bottle the magic between these two. But an overdose can cause havoc. So can the wrong proportions. More Mars than Venus can make you impulsive, pushy and promiscuous, or confused about love and sexuality—unable to separate friendliness from a sexual advance. You may drop the “love” from love-making altogether, so that it’s more of a sport than an intimate encounter. Too much Mars can put you perpetually on the prowl. Too much Venus might make you overly sensitive, quick to recoil from behavior that feels rough or crude. Sometimes a Mars/Venus aspect can actually irritate or dampen your sexual rhythm—so that erotic play with your partner becomes contentious or too slack. There is a time to do Venus and a time to do Mars. Knowing which is which and being able to dance back and forth between these roles will increase yours and your partner’s delight.

mars venus chat room



It's not all about sex. Mars represents animalistic, muscular activity and Venus artistic expression. There are countless ways these two can collaborate. Movement and speed are fine ways to keep this aspect happy and well tuned.

"I LOVE to dance. I go to creative free form group dance classes, where my Venus quite regularly busts loose—especially when I get into my belly dancing moves! I am a devotee of movement as meditation and shamanic spiritual practice. My most recent lover, who I met at a movement class, is a practitioner of Tantra. When we connected, magic happened and since then the relationship has been on another plane altogether. Just hugging him felt ecstatic." (Venus trine Mars)

"Happy times in my life... My friends and I had planned a trip to the beach. We took my friend's Subaru STI, which, being designed as a rally car, has incredible acceleration and handling. The whole ride, twisting at high speeds through winding canyon passes, put a smile on my face. The desert scenery was beautiful. And, to enhance the mood, we were blasting Eurobeat, which is possibly the greatest type of music to play while driving. I also love to go for rides on my bicycle, a lightweight touring bike that is an absolute pleasure to take very fast. Yesterday I went as fast as I could along the path. I felt physically vibrant and alive and like I could keep on cycling indefinitely. I could taste the sea air in my mouth. I saw the Venice boardwalk rushing by. I love feeling full of energy and capable of anything!"

If Scorpio or Aries is strong in your chart, Mars may dominate Venus; if Libra or Taurus is strong, Venus can dominate Mars. But this is a dynamic aspect, which means its expression can change as you become more consciously aware of its assets and liabilities. If you don't like how your Mars and Venus dance together—or apart—meditate on new expressions. You've got plenty of creativity!

"It's been very easy to seduce men and charm people. I can also be very competitive, which is probably my least attractive trait. My current boyfriend was pretty shocked when he played me at Scrabble and actually made me realize just how out of control it can be." (Venus square Mars)

"With a Mars/square Venus, I've often been uneasy with my role in relationships—when to put out energy versus letting things be."

Not everyone with a Mars/Venus aspect feels "hot." Astrological sleuthing can help uncover why.

"I am a bit inhibited. It takes some time for me to get aroused. I am not a very sexual person, but I think I would enjoy learning to be more sexual." (Virgo Venus sextile 12th house Mars)

Sign, house, and aspect do make a difference. Here, Virgo is shy, the sextile is softer, and a 12th Mars is less dynamic. Even so, the aspect is present and wants to be used. Knowing you have a Mars/Venus connection can give you greater confidence in bringing these planets to a positive expression. Let their charisma sparkle through your eyes.



Midheaven Quincunx Venus (Orb: 1 degrees 21 minutes separating)

Innately incompatible, bringing Venus and this point into harmonious expression requires constant adjustment. This can be stressful, also motivating. You've got to keep changing your process, opinions or attitude—which promotes highly creative solutions.

*I cannot help myself; the window is inviting enough, but I cannot resist the temptation to gild it a little, closing my eyes, to light the whole with a sudden glow of welcome. An imaginary sign which flashes like a beacon—COME TO ME. I want to give, to make people happy; surely that can do no harm. --Vianne Rocher, decorating her chocolate shop window (in Joanne Harris' *Chocolat*)*

When Venus aspects your Midheaven, she can't help herself. She wants to shine through you for all the world to enjoy. She may inspire you to select a Venusian career, involving beauty, the arts, or human relationships—or she may simply bring her charm and flair to whatever field you choose. You may be attentive to manners and social decorum. Likely you appreciate beauty and are happiest when your profession puts you in surroundings that are harmonious. This Venus aspect could indicate a special artistic gift or strong creative drive—and/or excellent social skills that may draw the attention of influential people.

I have a friend with Venus conjunct her Midheaven. Carol has enjoyed good career success, having risen to a position of authority with a nice salary, despite just a high school education and being so much younger her peers. In the office, she's often the center of attention. And she's beautiful, knows exactly how to line and shade her eyes, and in a world that glorifies the anorectic female, is unashamed of the voluptuous curves inside her skin-tight jeans. She can be both bawdy and proper. At formal (Midheaven) occasions, she's quite keen on observing correct

social forms. At her bridal shower, I watched how with remarkable grace and skill she transformed her modest living room gathering into the most important, elegant event in the world (it was to her). From Carol I've learned how Aphrodite's confidence and commitment to beauty can shine like a beacon, uplifting everyone in her radius.

All of this happens easily when Venus makes a harmonious aspect to your Midheaven. It's a bit more complicated when the aspect is difficult. Then your Venus nature can work at cross-purposes to your success. The Midheaven indicates your career and public reputation. It also rules your parents. Your relationship with your parents may be a good indicator of how smoothly this aspect is working. Don't despair if you've experienced more difficulty than success. It just means you need to develop and fine-tune your Venus gifts, so they truly delight and serve those around you.

"Creativity comes easily in any area of my life that I apply myself. The natural flare has sometimes given me a sense of entitlement, and it has taken a long time to realize that the world does not always readily yield to mere talent or insight. Venus trine my Midheaven gives me the ability to be successful, but the rebellious nature reflected elsewhere in my chart indicates my propensity to trip myself up."



North Node Square Venus (Orb: 3 degrees 47 minutes applying)

Squares are wild and wonderful—but difficult too. People are usually aware of their squares. They bring the issues that force you to grow. They make sure you learn your lessons. And when you rise to the occasion, they bless you with energy, action, and success.

Oh Aphrodite, the divinity of your beauty is expressed in your unself-conscious acceptance of it. Only a goddess could so naturally and entirely delight in her own loveliness.

--Christine Downing, Goddess

The expression of Venusian values acquires profound importance when Venus aspects your Nodes. Indeed, she does not aspect one without touching the other (a conjunction to the North Node, for example, brings an opposition to the South). The North Node represent your soul's chosen purpose this lifetime; the South suggests karmic gifts and emotional baggage carried in from prior lives. Venus aspecting these points articulates certain karmic assignments, designed to further develop your already highly practiced Venusian expression. Relationships may ignite instantly and magically when you meet someone you've known before. People usually have romanticized notions about meeting past life partners, but often these reunions are meant to balance the karmic scales, so the relationships may take inexplicable turns or bring significant lessons. The goal is to maintain your open-heartedness, whatever the outcome.

Some astrologers believe a positive Venus/Node aspect assures wealth and a life of ease, owing to past life good works and generosity. Unfortunately, this appears to be another astrology myth, as I did not find a significant correlation. (All associations between Venus and wealth seem generally overrated.) But your wealth may indeed come in other ways. In particular, you may have an artist's eye for beauty or aesthetic symmetry, seeing and hearing what others miss. You might often find yourself at odds with the prevailing culture and its preferred Venus expressions.

You are a chosen ambassador for Love and Beauty, required to believe in their virtue as fiercely as Venus does, even if others are deaf and blind. Your attractions are primary clues to how this aspect is working. When a past life pattern needs clearing, your desires bring disharmony. When your attractions open doors and bring success, you are integrating past life gifts with new and necessary discoveries.

"I felt bad about my looks when I was young. My mother always laughed at me 'What terrible legs you have!' Twiggy was in fashion then and I had breasts. Even so, I am a connoisseur of beauty. Some might think I'm a lesbian because I admire beautiful women as much as men. Once I drew a picture of my school fellow. She was very fat and had two plump cheeks, Yet I noticed the sparkle in her eyes and drew her as beautiful. She was impressed. Then she drew my picture and it was awful. She enlarged all the defects on my face.

(Venus opposite North Node)

"You have to take the love that is around you and immerse yourself in it. Love can't be captured and bent to your liking. It is there for the asking in so many forms, but if you persist in trying to make love happen you will be very lonely."

(Venus opposite North Node/ Saturn.)

"My art expresses feminine radiance. I also see beauty in a wide range of people objects, situations, connections—whenever I open myself to allow it. I think that's the key. You have to open to that energy within yourself before you see it in your environment. When I do, I feel this shimmering sense of joy, as my energy joins with the energy of those around me."

(Venus conjunct North Node)



Sun SemiSquare Venus (Orb: 0 degrees 16 minutes applying)

There is some tension between these planets—though it may be buried deep in your psyche. The effects of this minor aspect may seem sudden and surprising (“Where did that come from?” or “The devil must have made me do it!”) Identify the friction between these archetypes and you can better direct their gifts.

The Gods: A Radiant Heart

The Sun God Ra divided the great dark from the awesome light. The creator of all things, Ra was the most powerful god in the ancient world. But after a time he grew uncaring, consumed with his own heat and glory. Isis was powerful too—she was a star goddess, an earth goddess, a water goddess, a corn goddess, Queen of the Underworld, and the first woman. She stole a drop of the Sun God’s saliva, mixed it with mud, and made a poisonous snake with her hands. She slipped the snake into Ra’s bed; there it bit him. Now the Sun God was suffering! Isis approached with compassion: “Please oh powerful Ra, let me cure you of your pain.” It must have been difficult for the center of everything alive to admit he needed help. “The cure requires something I hope you can agree to. I need to speak your secret name.” Ra’s secret name was the source of his power over life and death! But his pain was so great, he reluctantly agreed, whispering his secret into her ear. She mixed her potion, she spoke his magic name, and Ra was instantly cured. But now Isis possessed the knowledge of life and death. With her power equal to Ra’s, she was able to bring wonderful new benefits to the people.

The Gift

Isis had many names, among them, “She Who Knows How To Make Right Use of the Heart.” The Sun represents the ego. It also rules the heart. Receptive Venus can soften the ego and make the heart more generous. When these two are linked, each can boost the other’s best attributes, so that your beauty shines, your compassion acts, your charisma and charm are magnified. This combination can increase your popularity and creative talent. When you’re friendly, generous and warm, you’re blessed with the X factor. If your Sun and Venus blend harmoniously, you’re affectionate, kind, loving and lovable, also gifted in the arts.

The Lesson

To make the most of this aspect, you must let your inner masculine and feminine sides share power (the moral of the Ra/Isis tale). Whenever planets (or lights) are linked by aspect, you may be innately more comfortable with one over the other. If your masculine solar nature dominates, the will and egotism of your inner Ra may diminish the cleverly compassionate magic of your inner Isis. You may have a charm that quickly wears thin. Over time you may become as grumpy and uncaring as Ra. If your feminine Venusian nature dominates, your confidence and will may be weak. You can become overly dependent, unable to live without a relationship. If other chart factors reinforce the solar weakness, you may be self-indulgent, addictive, or lazy.

sun venus chat room



The Sun represents your ego, but according to traditional astrology, it can also (especially in a woman's chart) represent significant men in your life—thus the Sun/Venus aspect may be descriptive of your father or male partners. You may gravitate toward beautiful men. Or you may be hard-wired with a pair of magic Venus glasses, quick to see the beauty in your partners. I like how the following woman expresses her Sun/Venus nature. Not only did she have a gorgeous (ie: Sun/Venus) husband, she also wears those wonderful Venus glasses, which allows her to keep growing her capacity to love.

“My first love was the man who became my husband. He was an answer to a prayer, very good looking, a dream come true. Although I have been in love many times since my divorce, I have always loved each one more than the last.”

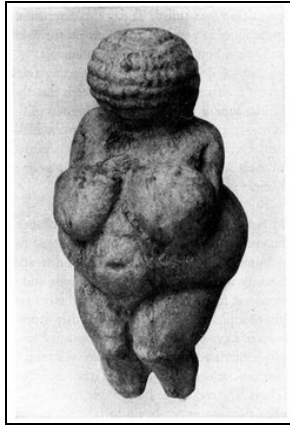
With a Sun/Venus aspect, it's likely your father demonstrated Venus values. Can you identify how he carried the Venus influence? In the following, from a woman with Sun/Venus in Taurus, the father expressed her Sun/Venus blend through his affections, his generosity, and his insistence on a beautiful mate.

“My father was initially very generous and his legacy to me was that money can demonstrate affection or lack thereof. In Dad's later years, he got quite miserly with my mother, once she became a burden and less pleasing to him (he treated her in her younger attractive years like a china ornament that one puts on a shelf for people to admire, but which is actually useless). Dad tended to lavish gifts on people that he liked.”

Of course gender is a two-way street. Particularly in a man's chart, a Sun/Venus aspect can be descriptive of significant women—perhaps a mother with a strong will, or strong female partners. This is from a man with Sun/Venus in Aries:

“My mother was a single parent long before that was in vogue. She was a tough cookie—but she also insisted that we be polite in public and always leave the house looking clean and well-groomed. I love fine shirts, good cologne, and am miserable with a bad haircut—all of which, I suppose, comes from my mother.”

Integrating the masculine and feminine is the central task of this aspect. Your initial blending of these energies may have much to do with your parents' modeling. You may unconsciously repeat their successes and mistakes—or actively move in the opposite direction. Either way, they've been a strong influence. The Sun/Venus aspect is an important one. It is the dance between these two that defines the Venus cycle. You may have heard that when Venus is conjunct the Sun, she's “combust”—supposedly a bad thing that makes your Venus disappear. Indeed, in the sky when Venus nears the Sun, you can't see her. But among my Sun/Venus research participants, I noticed she was very much alive. “Combust” is a technique from horary astrology; applying it to people doesn't hold true. If Venus feels like she's disappeared, it may be that she's so like second nature to you, you just don't notice her presence. I suspect that those around you do!



enter the temple of venus



*It's my job to
disturb you,
to rearrange you,
to delight you and
change you
to become who you
truly are.*



Darsan...

is a Sanskrit word that means “to see.” It primarily refers to the relationship between god and devotee—of seeing and being seen. The devotee beholds the god (or goddess) in reverence—and is in turn beheld by the deity. This seeing goes beyond the eyes. It is transformative. Information is exchanged. An energetic transmission is received. I had such a “darsan” experience with Venus during the first year of my research. Not usually an early riser, I awoke one morning at 5:00 am. Something propelled me out of bed and took me to the front door. When I opened it, across the street and between the trees, the planet Venus was glittering beside the crescent Moon. I was transfixed. I watched for several minutes—as something happened that I couldn’t quite name. I just know that I was changed by what I saw. My feelings for my Venus project gained new confidence and momentum. My greatest hope is that by following the movement of Venus this next year, through the sky and through your chart, you’ll receive divine transmissions too.

The Venus Cycle: Venus offers countless opportunities for “darsan”—seeing a beautiful woman, a captivating flower, or observing love exchanged. Consider all visions of beauty as visits from Venus and you’ll receive her transmissions. Watching the planet is another form of “darsan.” In the pages that follow, you can keep track of Venus’ appearance in the sky over the next year. Our culture has lost the art of sky watching, but keeping your eye on Venus is a great way to reclaim it.



When Venus changes sign: Venus has an infinite array of styles and moods. You can tune into these different expressions throughout the year as she changes sign. Let her sign transits deepen your appreciation and expand your own feminine expression (whether you’re male or female). An optimum time for goddess-watching is the day each month when the Moon conjuncts Venus. I’ve listed these dates and times for you. Keep track of Venus’ status as morning, evening or underworld star and you can predict whether their “kiss” will be visible. If it is, I hope you’ll make the effort to view it. The Babylonians believed that the seven evening Moon/Venus conjunctions depict Inanna’s descent to the underworld, disrobing her seven garments as she passes through seven gates. The seven morning Moon/Venus conjunctions describe her ascent and return through these gates. These are potent times for rituals or spontaneous celebrations of the divine feminine.



When Venus changes house: Venus changing sign is a universal experience—it happens at the same time for everyone on the planet. But her entrance into the various houses of your chart is a more personal rhythm, describing a changing orientation to pleasure, love and beauty that is more organic for you. At least once during her transit through each house, meditate on how you can bring more creativity or Venusian flair to matters of this house. Use the dates and times that Venus conjuncts personal planets for special rituals or meditations.



Venus Progressions and Transits to your Venus: Transits to Venus or progressions from Venus (solar arc or secondary) are the most personal and often dramatic experience of her celestial dance. Years with powerful transits or progressions signal an important time to meet Venus with fresh curiosity and enthusiasm. Progressions and Solar Arc directions generally describe inner growth or frustrations that demand expression in the outer world. You may be the catalyst for change. Transits can bring surprises in your outer circumstances that inspire you to confront old patterns and make new and healthier choices.





Santeria Venus Ritual

“The invisible world wants to help us,” declares visionary activist and astrologer Caroline Casey, “but spiritual etiquette requires that we ask.” One of the best ways I know to ask for Venus blessings is the **Santeria Venus ritual** (described by Casey in *Making the Gods Work for You*.) I like to perform this ritual at least once a year on a Friday during the Taurus cycle. But you can do it anytime you feel the need to call on the goddess for help.

The first time I did it as a lark. I meditated on my desires—they seemed faraway, perhaps impossible, but I knew exactly what I was dreaming of: I wanted a fabulous new home and a man to share it with. Given the magnitude of my request, I figured it would take time to create such bounty. But perhaps it wasn’t too soon to let Venus know. I performed the ritual. Just six weeks later I found myself in escrow on a home so beautiful, with waterfalls, French windows, breath-taking views, it was grander than my wildest dreams. And guess what—the man arrived too, bringing a loan for the down payment and a desire to move in with me! I was stunned.

I’ve performed the Santeria Venus ritual many times since. None have surpassed the sheer drama of that first result. Yet my repeated petitions to Venus have brought something far more profound: Venus is now a living presence in my life. My exquisite dream house has since been sold, its profits funding a prosperity of ease and playfulness that was once only a dream of mine. The man who materialized after that first ritual has since moved on, allowing another man, even more passionate, to join my life. My days are more pleasure-filled than ever before. I have become her servant, by regularly celebrating what she loves.

The Ritual: Do this on Friday (this is Venus’ day). Get a round piece of bread, like a dinner roll. Make a hole in it and put a nickel inside (the number five is sacred to Venus). Add the folded piece of paper on which your desires are clearly stated. Pour a little honey on top of that (as Casey always says, “for obvious symbolic reasons!”). Finally, place a small candle in the hole (bigger than a birthday candle, but smaller than a taper—Casey suggests a yellow candle, though I’ve found different colors fun to play with). Light the candle. As it is burning, honor Venus: take a luxurious bath, go shopping, make love. This prepares the way for Venus’ arrival. When the candle is completely burned down, so that only melted wax is on the bread, take it to sweet flowing water. Toss this now ritually potent (and fully bio-degradable) roll into the water, reciting a poem or prayer of your choice.



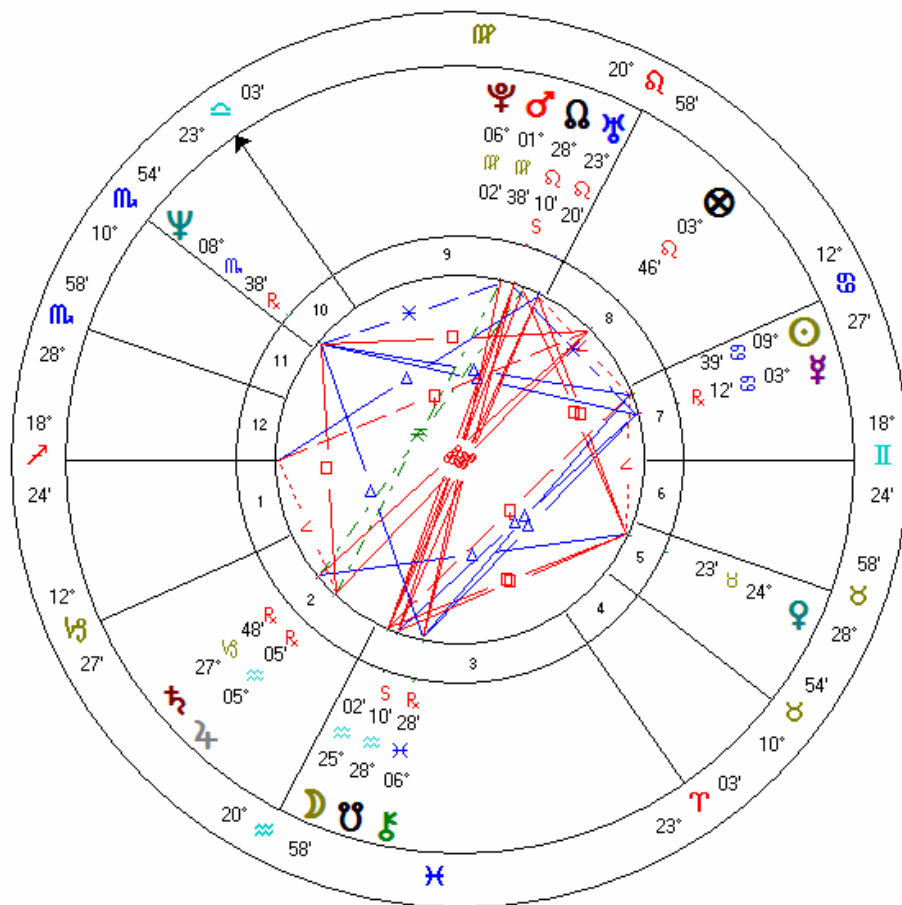
Free-form Rituals

What sets rituals apart from mundane activities is simply the higher consciousness you bring to them. At the beginning of a ritual, sounding a bell, lighting a candle, or arranging a circle of stones to create sacred space are all signals that you’re entering a higher level of perception. What is your purpose? What invisible presence do you wish to invoke? Setting intention at the beginning allows you to surrender to higher energies (or divine surprise) in the middle of a ritual. Closing the sacred space with a sound, a bow, or blowing out the candle are ways to contain and honor what just occurred. With this simple shift of awareness, you can turn many daily activities into Venus rituals—arranging a bowl of flowers or spritzing a room with scent. Even standing at the bathroom mirror readying yourself for the day can become a Venus-charged event.

If you want to awaken a sleeping inner Venus, try the following **5-Minute Goddess Meditation**. For best results, do it for eight consecutive days. Start by entering a mindful state. Explore a few rounds of conscious breathing to feel into your body and quiet your mind. (1) Then tune into the sensations of your body’s sexual space, where there are thousands of nerve endings designed purely for pleasure. You may feel aroused. You may

5-Minute Goddess Meditation continued: feel numb. It doesn't matter. No judgment. Just enjoy and be with whatever you find. Now that you're present to your body, (2) close your eyes and visualize yourself as a radiant goddess. Select the dress and bearing you prefer that day. Feel fully embodied as this divine being. Open your eyes and imagine an audience of gleeful followers praying, applauding or smiling at the sight of you. Really take this in. When you're fully charged with love and appreciation, finally (3) imagine as this goddess, you have the power to make a dream come true. Wave a hand or nod your head and see a dream realized. This can be for yourself or others. It can be as big as world peace or as small as a new purse. Venus doesn't care what your inner goddess manifests. Just be sure you luxuriate in the results—feel, enjoy and see your dream coming true!

Diana Frances Spencer
Natal Chart
 Jul 1 1961, Sat
 7:45 pm BST -1:00
 Sandringham
 52°N 50° 00'E 30'
Geocentric
Tropical
Koch
True Node



Transits/Progressions: For transits or progressions to your chart, I offer a brief description of archetypal potentials. For more about the type of planetary event, consult this key.

Conjunction: Can be beneficial or stressful, depending on the seeds that have been planted (i.e., past decisions or actions). The optimum approach is to integrate the needs of both planets in one expression.

Sextile There may be opportunities around the corner. Keep your eyes open and if none show up, invent one. Waiting usually means that nothing will happen.

Square: You are challenged to grow. This is a tense aspect that may bring difficulties, but looking back on this time, you'll likely realize the challenges were a gift.

Trine: Brings a nice flow. If you've been working hard, you can easily win the marathon at this time. But if you haven't been training for anything, don't expect much.

Quincunx: You may be thrown off balance, but the required adjustments may inspire new and very creative solutions.

Opposition: Can be a direct challenge by someone else. But think "integrate" rather than "fight." Opponents may reflect a neglected part of your nature.

Your year with Venus begins... April 10, 2012



A beautiful way to begin your Venus journey is to make a visual sky connection. Venus is currently an **evening star**. Pick a relaxed and auspicious evening to commune with her, as she sparkles above the western horizon after sunset.



April 11:

Check ahead—Venus will station retrograde in about a month. **She has now entered her pre-retrograde shadow period** (having touched the degree she will later retrograde back to: 7 Gemini). She is slowing down, reaching that time in her orbit when she comes closest to earth. The area of your chart where she now appears is especially important—as she'll be evaluating your satisfaction here for the next three or four months. During this shadow time—between now and the retrograde—you may get a taste of which Venus issues you'll be reviewing and rebalancing. Denied desires may come to the surface. You may feel the need for new perspectives, particularly in finances, relationships, and creative pursuits. What you've been simply tolerating—but not enjoying—may become more aggravating. Or maybe to your surprise, you'll find that matters are better than you recognized. It's wise to reconsider all your old assumptions about love, beauty and prosperity.



April 13, 2012: It's Friday the 13th—Freya's special day! Forget that nonsense about bad luck. Somewhere in heaven, Freya is riding joyously in her cat-drawn chariot, heading to meet her beloved consort Od, the god of ecstasy. Before the Church cast its gloomy superstitions on Friday the 13th, this was a pagan festival day, devoted to guiltless indulgence in pleasure and love-making. Both the number 13 and Friday are sacred to the goddess, and fish, (also co-opted by the Church) was one of her sacred animals. Eating fish on Friday was considered an aphrodisiac and fertility charm—but today I hope you feel inspired to invent a few pagan rituals of your own.



April 26:

Transiting Jupiter Sextile your progressed Venus: this aspect is approaching and will be exact on **April 30, 2012**.

Yumm... good days to focus on Venus! This can be a pleasurable transit, like getting a wonderful kiss from the universe. According to sex experts Steve and Vera Bodansky, the secret to a good kiss is to do what makes your lips feel good. Keep them moist. Then *feel* with them. Most people work too hard, say the Bodanskys, because they're hoping to affect the person they're kissing. That really spoils the fun. What does this have to do with a Jupiter transit? Most people push or suck too hard, expecting Jupiter to deliver colossal pleasure because that's what astrologers generally predict. This *can* be a wonderful feel-good transit-- *if* you meet whatever shows up with moist lips and the intention of really enjoying yourself. You are the instrument—be the Jupiter transit you've been dreaming of.



April 27 at 1:25 pm:
**Transiting Venus enters
your 7th House of partnerships**

When Venus enters your relationship house, she wants to freshen it up—like an interior decorator who aims to make things more beautiful and pleasing. Disgruntled souls may expect her to throw out the old partners like chairs and drag in new ones. But that's not her style. She puts her finger to her chin and ponders the options. What about this great piece of relationship advice from the Sufi poet Rumi?

*Every time your spouse or lover says something stupid
make your eyes light up as if you*

just heard something

brilliant.

Try it and see what happens. Or even better, try this. Wherever you go, whomever you meet, assume the other person loves you. Try this with strangers, loved ones, acquaintances. Move through a world in which you're utterly adored. No matter what people say, no matter the look on their face or mood they're in, assume each person loves you. See what happens *then!*

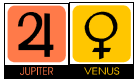


May 2:
**Transiting Saturn Quincunx
your natal Venus:** this
aspect is approaching and
will be exact on **May 10,
2012.**

Venus is buoyant, joyous, carefree. Saturn is hard-working, heavy, serious. Occasionally he brings worries, limitations, or fear. What happens when these two meet? The possibilities are endless. Your Venus could meet a serious new love. She might renew her commitment to a current partner. She could feel productive and creative—reveling in the thrills of accomplishment, the rewards of hard work. Or she could find herself walking under a gloomy sky. She may experience the loneliness and frustration of “not enough”—not enough love, not enough appreciation, not enough money. Life dances between expansion and contraction. Times of contraction allow you to sweeten your love of simplicity, to take new joy in small pleasures. If your Venus is suddenly wearing lead boots, let it be an opportunity to learn new dance steps.



A Venus festival day! The pagan holiday **Beltane** is devoted to everything the goddess loves—merrymaking, dancing, and unabashed reveling. A spring cross-quarter holiday, it is frequently celebrated on **May 1**. But I'm a purist. Cross-quarter holidays actually occur on the day the Sun reaches 15 degrees of a fixed sign (which in spring occurs during Venus-ruled Taurus). The “real” Beltane occurs on **May 5, 2012**. Dance around a Maypole or something just as fun!



May 14:

Transiting Jupiter Conjunct your natal Venus: this aspect is approaching and will be exact on **May 18, 2012.**

Yumm... good days to focus on Venus! This can be a pleasurable transit, like getting a wonderful kiss from the universe. According to sex experts Steve and Vera Bodansky, the secret to a good kiss is to do what makes your lips feel good. Keep them moist. Then *feel* with them. Most people work too hard, say the Bodanskys, because they're hoping to affect the person they're kissing. That really spoils the fun. What does this have to do with a Jupiter transit? Most people push or suck too hard, expecting Jupiter to deliver colossal pleasure because that's what astrologers generally predict. This *can* be a wonderful feel-good transit-- *if* you meet whatever shows up with moist lips and the intention of really enjoying yourself. You are the instrument—be the Jupiter transit you've been dreaming of.



May 15 at
3:31 pm

Venus stations retrograde at 23 Gemini. As Venus shines bigger and brighter in the nighttime sky, so may her themes appear bigger and brighter in your life. At her retrograde station, she lingers almost two weeks in the same degree—making her influence on houses and planets at this degree stronger than transits at any other time in her cycle. If you've studied Venus conjunctions to your own chart, you've likely noticed that a typical Venus transit might bring a nice day or happy moment, perhaps a passing desire—an urge for chocolate, a longing for romance. You may be inspired to smile at a stranger, dine at an exquisite restaurant, plant new flowers in the garden. But during Venus stations, this Venusian mood lasts longer. It's as though Venus were following you everywhere, ready to provoke, pout, or bring new harmony to your life throughout these weeks. You can see why her retrogrades are such an appropriate time to explore your Venus nature!

Because Venus is your pleasure principle, this is primarily an opportunity to return more pleasure to your life. But be aware, as with all retrogrades, the energy can be unconscious and somewhat unstable. Sudden new impulses may be regretted later. Listen to your desires. They bring important news. But consider your actions carefully. Be especially wary of large purchases and investments—their actual value may be less than what you imagine. New relationships may seem to offer what you've been hungering for—but recognizing and taking responsibility for your needs may be more important. Check out new partnerships carefully before committing. With retrogrades, old friends and lovers might re-enter your life. You could discover new treasures among old and faded objects. If you're experienced in assessing the value of antiques, this can be a good time to check out garage sales. In all things Venus, this is an excellent time to conjure fresh strategies.

Part of the Venus mystique is the mathematical regularity of her cycle, which astrologers often plot as a beautiful five-pointed star. Translated into more practical terms, the regularity of her cycle means she cycles back to the same point every eight years. That makes her prior retrogrades easy to research. Eight years ago you experienced a Venus retrograde in the same degrees of your chart. Eight years before that you experienced another, and so on. Often there's a resonance between these linked retrogrades—as when you pluck one string on a lute, the other strings vibrate. Are there any similarities between your concerns now and issues you faced during the prior retrogrades?



May 30:

Venus disappears from the twilight sky. According to ancient Venus watchers, this is when Venus enters the Underworld. What does this mean? I could make up a story. That's all we've inherited from the ancient cultures—their stories. In one she plays a fateful game of ball, then changes gender, going from female to a man. I'm not sure what to make of that story. But I do think we need to weave appropriate stories of our own. What does it mean when Venus disappears? Let this be a question that drops into your mind like a pebble in a pool, sending energetic waves rippling out until they reach Venus in the Underworld. Tune in. Let her tell you what this moment means.



June 1 at 6:39 pm:

Transiting Venus enters your 6th House of work, health, service and daily routines

This is a practical house, a dutiful do-gooder house; in other words, it's dull. But not when Venus enters! Cue the music. Bring a smile to your face. You're about to enjoy your days. You're going to glide through time like a goddess, riding the divine wave of "flow." What's "flow"? It's being effortlessly absorbed in the moment, like an athlete, artist, mystic, or musician who's "in the zone." When you're flowing, you feel engaged, clear, alive, and strong. Hours pass in minutes. You rise to meet challenges with delight, bringing all your skill to whatever task you're absorbed in. You're surprised at what you can do. Through moments of flow, life becomes its own reward. Without flow, you might instead reach for pre-packaged entertainment or substances that take you out of time—into the zombie zone. According to psychologist and flow expert Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi (pronounced "chick-sent-me-high"), most people get into flow several times a day, but rarely notice and acknowledge it as such. Flow can happen when you're doing a favorite activity, like reading, listening to music, cooking, or gardening, but often enough, it can be during something mundane, like driving. Working also brings flow. Become a personal flow detective. Notice today how many times you get so deeply involved with something that nothing else matters and you lose track of time. I usually tell myself that writing is hard work. But I just noticed: while writing this paragraph, I was in a state of flow. Ahh...



June 6 at 2:09 am

Venus is in the heart of her Underworld journey. She rendezvous with the Sun and a new Venus cycle begins! **Venus meets the Sun at 15 Gemini.**

Every eight-year Venus macro cycle brings five of these "interior" conjunctions (with Venus between the earth and Sun). Each occurs in a different sign—yet over a hundred-year period, Venus meets the Sun in only these same five signs. Each has a collective significance, pointing to the optimum means for renewing political and artistic expressions of the divine feminine in contemporary culture. The Sun/Venus conjunction has a personal significance too, suggesting how (the sign) and where (the house) you can renew your feminine embodiment. Below are dates when you experienced this Venus sign/house renewal before. Is there a continuing thread, a Venus story you've been working on from different angles across the years? Especially when this conjunction is in the same sign as the Sun/Venus conjunction before your birth (see page 8 of this report), your decisions, dreams, and choices may be particularly important.

Eight years ago: **June 8, 2004 at 17 Gemini**

Sixteen years ago **June 10, 1996 at 20 Gemini**

Twenty-four years ago **June 13, 1988 at 22 Gemini**



June 12:

If you're an early riser, watch the eastern horizon before sunrise. **This week Venus emerges as the morning star.** Ancient priests would sit in watch, waiting for this moment, then announcing her appearance with great celebration. The "new" Venus is revealed. Her energy is audacious, impetuous, and fearless. When it was necessary, armies would march at this auspicious time. Is there somewhere you need to take up arms in your life? Honor the power of this strong and divine feminine rising within you. Think of a wonderful way to celebrate her emergence.



June 27 at
4:08 pm

Venus is at her brightest in the predawn sky—don't miss her! And, **Venus stations direct at 7 Gemini.** Planets at this degree will be supercharged. At her stations, Venus lingers almost two weeks in the same degree—making her influence on houses and planets near this degree stronger than her transits during any other point in her cycle. If you've observed the Venus conjunctions to planets in your own chart, you've likely noticed that a typical Venus transit is fleeting, bringing a happy day, a bouquet of flowers, an extra sweet kiss. But now she's a more constant companion, following you everywhere, insisting on her priority in your affairs. During her Underworld journey, she gave you a view of life through her looking glass. She may have stamped impatient feet, shimmied with anger, whispered new dreams. Whatever she inspired, it's now time to move forward. With presence. That means you don't have to rush. Venus is in the shadow of her retrograde for about another month. Let this be a time for testing your new awareness.



July 1, 2012: It's your birthday! The goddess says, "Have fun!"



July 13, 2012: It's Friday the 13th—Freya's special day! Forget that nonsense about bad luck. Somewhere in heaven, Freya is riding joyously in her cat-drawn chariot, heading to meet her beloved consort Od, the god of ecstasy. Before the Church cast its gloomy superstitions on Friday the 13th, this was a pagan festival day, devoted to guiltless indulgence in pleasure and love-making. Both the number 13 and Friday are sacred to the goddess, and fish, (also co-opted by the Church) was one of her sacred animals. Eating fish on Friday was considered an aphrodisiac and fertility charm—but today I hope you feel inspired to invent a few pagan rituals of your own.



July 24 at 7:05 am:

**Transiting Venus enters
your 7th House of partnerships**

August 11 at 3:22 am Venus conjunct
Mercury (intellect)

August 17 at 10:34 pm Venus conjunct Sun
(ego, identity)

When Venus enters your relationship house, she wants to freshen it up—like an interior decorator who aims to make things more beautiful and pleasing. Disgruntled souls may expect her to throw out the old partners like chairs and drag in new ones. But that's not her style. She puts her finger to her chin and ponders the options. What about this great piece of relationship advice from the Sufi poet Rumi?

*Every time your spouse or lover says something stupid
make your eyes light up as if you*

just heard something

brilliant.

Try it and see what happens. Or even better, try this. Wherever you go, whomever you meet, assume the other person loves you. Try this with strangers, loved ones, acquaintances. Move through a world in which you're utterly adored. No matter what people say, no matter the look on their face or mood they're in, assume each person loves you. See what happens *then!*



July 30:

Venus passes her retrograde degree (23 Gemini). We're out of her retrograde shadow period. In joy, it's full speed ahead!



August 1:

**Transiting Saturn Quincunx
your natal Venus:** this
aspect is approaching and
will be exact on **August 9,
2012.**

Venus is buoyant, joyous, carefree. Saturn is hard-working, heavy, serious. Occasionally he brings worries, limitations, or fear. What happens when these two meet? The possibilities are endless. Your Venus could meet a serious new love. She might renew her commitment to a current partner. She could feel productive and creative—reveling in the thrills of accomplishment, the rewards of hard work. Or she could find herself walking under a gloomy sky. She may experience the loneliness and frustration of “not enough”—not enough love, not enough appreciation, not enough money. Life dances between expansion and contraction. Times of contraction allow you to sweeten your love of simplicity, to take new joy in small pleasures. If your Venus is suddenly wearing lead boots, let it be an opportunity to learn new dance steps.



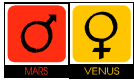
August 7 at 2:43 pm:

**Transiting Venus enters
Cancer**

8/13 at 8:45 pm: the Moon and Venus
kiss in Cancer



The goddess is a chemical! Chemists have a name for Venus in Cancer: “oxytocin.” It's the “cuddle hormone.” Its presence was first noticed in nursing mothers, but was later identified as an active ingredient in romantic bonding for both sexes. It's what transforms sex into love. Emotional support--caring, compassion, soothing touch, appreciation—all increase oxytocin levels. This in turn decreases stress, depression and illness. Open-heartedness is the best way to bring this goddess into your life. You don't even need a partner to float in oxytocin. Just feel love and tenderness for every being you see, even the ants marching sweetly across your kitchen counter.



August 14:
Transiting Mars
Quincunx your
natal Venus

It's a passion day. Somewhere deep within the recesses of your psyche, Ares and Aphrodite will meet today and helplessly surrender to their desire. You may feel this as an energetic surge, or spontaneous passion—for a lover, or simply your life! It's a good day for romping in the wild or between the sheets. But if you're feeling dull and disconnected (it happens), you can wake yourself up by writing a seductive love letter—to a real or imaginary (and maybe future?) friend. Choose sensuous paper and pens, with colors, scents, and textures that delight you. Arouse your lover by using the word "you" more than "I," describing the details of your lover's body and mind that delight you. Send, hand-deliver, or sneak your letter into your lover's bed or laptop. Light a candle and imagine your lover (or future lover!) discovering and reading your letter. May you both be as aroused as bees in summer.



August 15:

Have you been enjoying Venus as the morning star? I hope you've been lucky enough to witness at least one of her predawn conjunctions to the moon—well it's either luck or planning. Check her "kisses" in each sign, mark your calendar, and unless the moon is dark, you can witness this high holy *darsan* of the divine feminine. Bring your reverence and your current mysteries. Bathe in the blessings. Ask for guidance. **Venus has reached her maximum distance from the Sun**—which means she now appears in the sky for her longest duration—almost three hours before sunrise. If you're not an early riser, make it a long night and stay up late enough to see her rise.



August 20 at 6:46 pm:
Transiting Venus enters
your 8th House of transformation
and psychic energy exchange

Venus has moved through your relationship house. Now her journey deepens as she enters your 8th house of sex, death, and taxes, also your partner's money—an odd assortment of ideas that find their unity in being matters you can't control. This is a house requiring surrender and intimacy, though many feel guarded, even anxious here. But not Venus. As she transits this house, she invites you to witness your barriers to intimacy. She asks that you—imaginatively at least—dare yourself to shake them up. Try this exercise created by spiritual/sexual guru David Deida. Imagine being at a public place with a trustworthy group of friends. Suddenly you see someone who looks both sexy and psychologically healthy. Imagine walking up to this sexy stranger, handing him or her a dollar, and while looking into this person's eyes, saying, "As part of an exercise, I've been asked to give a dollar to someone I find really sexy, after which, I can have no further contact with you." How does it feel to expose your desire this way? Sex and money are complex areas for most people. Both are a form of energy exchange that, according to Deida, represent most people's least enlightened areas. Even in imagination, few can do this exercise without encountering an emotional charge or resistance. Venus doesn't have such charges, which is why she wants you to challenge yours. Imagine yourself regularly giving dollars away to sexy people. How would it feel to be so honest, vulnerable and generous?



September 6 at 3:48 pm:
Transiting Venus enters Leo

9/12 at 4:16 pm: the Moon and Venus
kiss in Leo



This goddess has a flair for the dramatic. Think Cleopatra, who drenched the sails of her ships in the attar of Damascus roses, so that up and down the Nile, offshore breezes carried news of her arrival. Don't be shy now. Announce your inner goddess with an intoxicating detail. Experiment with details from each of the five senses. Notice which most increases your confidence.



September 22, 2012: It is the Equinox—a day sacred to Venus as the Sun enters her sign and night and day are poised in equal balance.



September 23:
**Transiting Mars
Trine your
progressed
Venus**

It's a passion day. Somewhere deep within the recesses of your psyche, Ares and Aphrodite will meet today and helplessly surrender to their desire. You may feel this as an energetic surge, or spontaneous passion—for a lover, or simply your life! It's a good day for romping in the wild or between the sheets. But if you're feeling dull and disconnected (it happens), you can wake yourself up by writing a seductive love letter—to a real or imaginary (and maybe future?) friend. Choose sensuous paper and pens, with colors, scents, and textures that delight you. Arouse your lover by using the word "you" more than "I," describing the details of your lover's body and mind that delight you. Send, hand-deliver, or sneak your letter into your lover's bed or laptop. Light a candle and imagine your lover (or future lover!) discovering and reading your letter. May you both be as aroused as bees in summer.



September 25 at 12:08 pm:
**Transiting Venus enters
your 9th House of
long distance journeys**

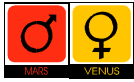
September 27 at 1:31 pm Venus conjunct
Uranus (originality and freedom)

October 1 at 6:14 pm Venus conjunct North
Node (life's purpose)

October 4 at 5:55 pm Venus conjunct Mars
(inner warrior: action, desire, assertion)

October 8 at 12:08 pm Venus conjunct Pluto
(transformation, generational interests and
obsessions)

Venus wants you to "sabsung" now. Pronounced "sob-soong," this is a Thai verb for Venus' favorite 9th house experience. Literally it means to immerse in liquid something that has become dry. Metaphysically it means to revitalize your heart and mind, to quench a thirst you didn't know you had. This happens most often when you travel, leaving your parched and worried life for an unknown land. One morning, after the latte and the little pastry at the small café you'll never forget, you head up a mountain and see such a sight, your whole body eases, your spirit blossoms, and the juice of the universe comes pouring in—exactly the taste you've been craving for months, years, maybe your whole life. You don't have to go to Tierra del Fuego or the south of France to "sabsung." You can get the same experience from witnessing a work of art, by reading a poem, or truly seeing the smile on a loved one's face. The beauty of long distance journeys is how they unlock your receptivity and make you available to the world's bounty. Your eyes are refreshed. Your mind is open and curious. Without hopping on an airplane, take a long distance journey now. Step out of your routine, if just for a moment. Take a book of poems off a shelf. Or instead of going to the gym, head for the hills. Pull over when your heart whispers "Here."



September 29:
**Transiting Mars
Opposite your
natal Venus**

It's a passion day. Somewhere deep within the recesses of your psyche, Ares and Aphrodite will meet today and helplessly surrender to their desire. You may feel this as an energetic surge, or spontaneous passion—for a lover, or simply your life! It's a good day for romping in the wild or between the sheets. But if you're feeling dull and disconnected (it happens), you can wake yourself up by writing a seductive love letter—to a real or imaginary (and maybe future?) friend. Choose sensuous paper and pens, with colors, scents, and textures that delight you. Arouse your lover by using the word "you" more than "I," describing the details of your lover's body and mind that delight you. Send, hand-deliver, or sneak your letter into your lover's bed or laptop. Light a candle and imagine your lover (or future lover!) discovering and reading your letter. May you both be as aroused as bees in summer.



October 3 at 7:59 am:
**Transiting Venus enters
Virgo**

10/12 at 3:36 pm: the Moon and
Venus "kiss" in Virgo



If only astrologers would stop maligning wonderful Venus in Virgo! Don't think of her as a cold, constricted and barren goddess—or an uptight, disapproving school marm. According to the Sumerians, Venus (as Inanna/Ishtar) was most fertile in Virgo. See if you can discover why. Tune into her sensuous ease. Experience the way she enjoys her own nakedness. How she loves the natural world. That's because she has an eye for quality. Let her discernment increase the quality of your own life. If you have clothes with uncomfortable textures, give them away. Everything should feel good or it shouldn't be in your wardrobe. Cleanse your palate with a one or two day fast. Then notice the foods you habitually eat. Do they really taste good? Quality foods taste good. Let this Venus introduce you to the rich storehouse of the natural world.

October 9:
**Solar Arc Jupiter Sextile your natal
Venus:** this aspect is approaching and will
be exact on **January 12, 2013.**



Venus is joy and Jupiter is abundance. Old fogey astrology has a somewhat hysterical response when these two get together. First they inflate its happy benefits like a hot air balloon—then immediately unleash the sandbags to bring you back to earth. "Watch out!" they warn. "You're gonna eat, drink or spend too much!" In my experience, most people just don't have enough fun. And that's what this progression is about. It's a celestial opportunity to make pleasure your priority. If you're truly present when indulging yourself, you naturally stop when you're feeling full and satisfied. And if you usually put work before pleasure, this may be an important time to ask yourself why.

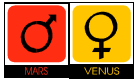


October 28 at 1:04 pm:
**Transiting Venus enters
Libra**

11/11 at 2:12 pm: the Moon and
Venus "kiss" in Libra



Aware and impressionable, this goddess is a Stradivarius of sensations, a fine-tuned instrument of receptivity. Tomorrow morning awaken this goddess through awareness of scent. Bring your hand to your nose and smell your skin. Walk through your house and notice if one room smells differently from another. Notice how the world demurs or speaks with subtle messages on currents of air. See how your thoughts soften as you move this way. The next day awaken to touch, sight, or sound. Notice how your sensing can calm an agitated mind. If everyone paid this much attention, our world would never be rough, rude, or ugly. Most people mistakenly believe themselves to be tender, easily hurt, and therefore more sensitive than everybody else. But not this goddess. Venus in Libra is intimate with the delicate nature of everyone and everything.



November 4:
**Transiting Mars
Quincunx your
progressed
Venus**

It's a passion day. Somewhere deep within the recesses of your psyche, Ares and Aphrodite will meet today and helplessly surrender to their desire. You may feel this as an energetic surge, or spontaneous passion—for a lover, or simply your life! It's a good day for romping in the wild or between the sheets. But if you're feeling dull and disconnected (it happens), you can wake yourself up by writing a seductive love letter—to a real or imaginary (and maybe future?) friend. Choose sensuous paper and pens, with colors, scents, and textures that delight you. Arouse your lover by using the word "you" more than "I," describing the details of your lover's body and mind that delight you. Send, hand-deliver, or sneak your letter into your lover's bed or laptop. Light a candle and imagine your lover (or future lover!) discovering and reading your letter. May you both be as aroused as bees in summer.



November 9:
**Transiting Mars
Quincunx your
natal Venus**

It's a passion day. Somewhere deep within the recesses of your psyche, Ares and Aphrodite will meet today and helplessly surrender to their desire. You may feel this as an energetic surge, or spontaneous passion—for a lover, or simply your life! It's a good day for romping in the wild or between the sheets. But if you're feeling dull and disconnected (it happens), you can wake yourself up by writing a seductive love letter—to a real or imaginary (and maybe future?) friend. Choose sensuous paper and pens, with colors, scents, and textures that delight you. Arouse your lover by using the word "you" more than "I," describing the details of your lover's body and mind that delight you. Send, hand-deliver, or sneak your letter into your lover's bed or laptop. Light a candle and imagine your lover (or future lover!) discovering and reading your letter. May you both be as aroused as bees in summer.



November 16 at 10:07 am:
**Transiting Venus enters your 10th
House of career, status and
authority figures**

November 29 at 12:47 am Venus conjunct
Neptune (intuition, imagination, dream,
spirituality, escapism)

E.O. Wilson is a microbiologist who patiently studied ants. He eventually changed the world with his at first controversial then accepted theories of social biology. A curious nature-loving boy, poor hearing in the higher registers meant he wouldn't be studying bird calls. His defining moment came while summer fishing on a pier. A pin fish leapt and blinded him in one eye. Now he had to pull the world up close—and his destiny for studying nature's tiniest footprints was set. Why do I mention him now—when lovely Venus has entered your 10th house? Venus is an artist. Today she's a weaver, a painter, a composer, or a sensitive documentary film-maker--whose subject is you. She wants to capture all the details that led to you this moment. The accidents that turned you down this road instead of that one. The passions that made you different from the other kids. The peculiar childhood leanings and disappointments. All of this made you who you are. The 10th house indicates the piece of the world's tent that only you can hold up. And Venus is in love with this role you play. She appreciates your special celebrity, knowing the gods are aware and grateful that you're here. As Venus follows you with her camera or composes an aria in your honor, her influence rubs off. You're inspired to wear her joy as you work, attending to what brings delight. With an easy laugh and radiant smile, just keep doing your wonderful thing.



November 22 at 1:20 am:
**Transiting Venus enters
Scorpio**

12/11 at 1:08 pm: the Moon and
Venus "kiss" in Scorpio



Nothing escapes this goddess. She's on intimate terms with her own ecstasy. She regularly has tea with her inner bitch, not intimidated by her own power. This goddess hides nothing from herself, but is an expert at keeping secrets. When she was young, a wise crone whispered, "The world loves a little mystery." There's something terribly erotic in holding back, which is one of this Venus' many powers. Like a volcano patiently waiting to erupt. Or Mona Lisa with that smile. Venus in Scorpio stays in harmony with herself, never giving too much away, or pathetically pleasing others first. She relishes the power of saying no—with a captivating smile.



November 30 at 8:41 pm:

Transiting Venus enters your 11th House of friends, organizations, hopes and dreams

Mystics consider the Divine their beloved. They often hear their Beloved whispering, “I am made whole by your life. Every life completes me.” Perhaps you glimpsed this truth when Venus transited through your 10th and you saw your own role through her artistic eyes. With Venus now in your 11th house, you get to savor the secret of everyone’s celebrity. You are made whole by the others in your life. Every other soul completes you. This is a house of friendship, the larger collective, and, love received. Consider how the people in your life are like valentines, daily love letters sent to you. You’ve been cared for by people you don’t even know. If you visit a restaurant, a stranger will have washed your plate. Who built the house you sleep in every night? Who was the artist who designed your comforter? Who made sure your pillow was soft? If you have a favorite shirt or pair of shoes, go to your closet and examine it. Study its material, color and lines. Appreciate every detail. Someone you’ve never met created this gift you love. Look around the room. How many delights have other souls brought you?



December 13:
Transiting Mars Opposite your progressed Venus

It’s a passion day. Somewhere deep within the recesses of your psyche, Ares and Aphrodite will meet today and helplessly surrender to their desire. You may feel this as an energetic surge, or spontaneous passion—for a lover, or simply your life! It’s a good day for romping in the wild or between the sheets. But if you’re feeling dull and disconnected (it happens), you can wake yourself up by writing a seductive love letter—to a real or imaginary (and maybe future?) friend. Choose sensuous paper and pens, with colors, scents, and textures that delight you. Arouse your lover by using the word “you” more than “I,” describing the details of your lover’s body and mind that delight you. Send, hand-deliver, or sneak your letter into your lover’s bed or laptop. Light a candle and imagine your lover (or future lover!) discovering and reading your letter. May you both be as aroused as bees in summer.



December 15 at 8:56 am:

Transiting Venus enters your 12th House of spiritual and psychological renewal

All beauties have flaws. A funny nose, gap teeth, wide eyes—it’s what makes a supermodel distinctive. Yet most people believe their own distinctive (and often exaggerated) flaws render them undesirable. When Venus enters your 12th house, it’s time to journey through your own worst features, like a prince hacking through brambles and thorns, to discover, awaken and possess your true beauty. There’s no one *exactly* like you—which means only you can own your look with loving pride. That will be your assignment when Venus enters your 1st house. But for now, you get to pull down the shades and withdraw. Settle into your cave. Listen to the quiet of your breathing. Arrange a plate of colorful, healthy foods. Scent the room with candles or the fine mist of an atomizer. And whenever you’re ready, stand naked in front of a mirror, with a clipboard in hand. Itemize every little feature that makes you cringe. Have at it. When you’re complete, put the clipboard away. Refresh the room with new scents. Drape some fine loose fabric on your skin—but don’t get fully dressed yet. Now take a walk through your house. Going slowly, in different rooms, touch each perceived flaw. Caress it. Breathe into it. Send it loving energy. Chances are this area has become disconnected as you’ve subconsciously withdrawn your life force. Like lovers separated far too long, embrace it. Do this until every luscious flaw has been kissed. With particularly difficult features you may need an extra step—take glitter, clay, or colored pens, and honor this flaw by portraying it in a work of art. When you’re done (and this exercise could take days), you’ll walk, sit, and sleep in your skin with new pleasure.



December 16 at 4:38 am:
**Transiting Venus enters
Sagittarius**



Mornings when this goddess awakens, she says, “Yummm... how will I fall in love with myself today? Shall I pour the most delicious cup of coffee? Serve myself fresh raspberries and cream? Shall I wear hiking boots to the office? Schedule an adventure for lunch? Or take a half hour right now for nothing but self pleasure?” Don’t mistake her adoration for selfishness. Quite the opposite. Because Venus in Sagittarius knows how to make herself happy, she takes everyone else off the hook. If you’re lucky enough to spend time with her, you’ll feel so free in her presence, you’ll keep coming back for more. If only everyone treated their inner goddess like this, the whole world would be in bliss.



December 18:
**Transiting Mars
Trine your
natal Venus**

It’s a passion day. Somewhere deep within the recesses of your psyche, Ares and Aphrodite will meet today and helplessly surrender to their desire. You may feel this as an energetic surge, or spontaneous passion—for a lover, or simply your life! It’s a good day for romping in the wild or between the sheets. But if you’re feeling dull and disconnected (it happens), you can wake yourself up by writing a seductive love letter—to a real or imaginary (and maybe future?) friend. Choose sensuous paper and pens, with colors, scents, and textures that delight you. Arouse your lover by using the word “you” more than “I,” describing the details of your lover’s body and mind that delight you. Send, hand-deliver, or sneak your letter into your lover’s bed or laptop. Light a candle and imagine your lover (or future lover!) discovering and reading your letter. May you both be as aroused as bees in summer.



December 30 at 10:03 pm:
**Transiting Venus enters
your 1st House of personality and
appearance**

Beauty. Charm. Approachability. That’s Venus in the 1st house. It’s time to restyle yourself. If it’s hanging in your closet and doesn’t make you feel beautiful—let it go. Buy a special little something that makes your whole wardrobe feel new. Experiment with color. Get a fresh look at the salon. And practice something even more powerful: Move through the world with a smile. Make that an “inner smile.” When Elizabeth Gilbert (author of the very Venusian *Eat, Pray, Love*) met with her Bali shaman, he gave her a simple alternative to rigid meditation practice. He offered a one-word instruction: Smile. Do this inwardly. Without moving any muscles on your face. Notice how your whole body lifts. Your jaw relaxes. Your teeth too. When others meet you, they will sense this very Venusian relaxed openness. Those who study the body’s secret pathways have observed that the jaw is connected to the sexual organs. That makes sense. Who wants to make love to a clenched jaw?



January 1, 2013: The goddess wishes you a happy new year!



January 9 at 4:11 am:
**Transiting Venus enters
Capricorn**

1/10 at 11:31 am: the Moon and
Venus "kiss" in Capricorn



This goddess never turns away a compliment. If you admire her purse, her car, her coat, she doesn't say, "Oh this old thing?" That's because whenever she buys something, she's fully present. She lets it catch her eye, like an admirer from across the room. She senses its energy, runs her fingers down it, listens to the sounds it makes. She asks herself, "Do I really love the way this feels?" And, "Does it love me as much as I love it?" She doesn't understand why some people shop, eat, or go to meetings as if it were all a chore. Venus in Capricorn delights in the goodies of a cultured life. She's an earth goddess; she loves trees and mountains too. But she's also an urban connoisseur, studying the city like a botanist looking for orchids in the Amazon. For you to behave differently now would starve her. Don't let the beauty of civilization escape you.

January 12:

**Solar Arc Jupiter is Sextile your natal
Venus.**



Astrology graffiti says, "For a good time call... Venus and Jupiter!" Now that you're in the heart of this progression, you're either the life of the party or wondering when the phone will ring. As pleasure diva Mama Gena says, "If you wanna glow, you gotta have fun!" You can passively wait for Venus and Jupiter to bring you goodies. But I recommend jump-starting the process. To "do" Venus and Jupiter, you need to raise your appetite for fun and your ability to feed it. Mama Gena has some great suggestions. Create a pleasure basket for yourself—fill it with all the little goodies you enjoy. Be adventurous—say yes to an invitation you'd normally decline. Or take a chore that's normally not fun—like doing the laundry or commuting to work—and turn this into a pleasure-filled event, with snacks, entertainment, or whatever would bring you delight! Progressed Venus and Jupiter will likely add a few surprises of their own.



January 19 at 2:49 am:
**Transiting Venus enters
your 2nd House of resources**

January 31 at 8:54 am Venus conjunct
Saturn (discipline, structure, responsibility)

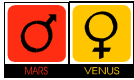
February 6 at 4:26 am Venus conjunct
Jupiter (wealth, optimism, luck and
prosperity)

A proactive approach to your 1st house Venus transit may leave you feeling more confident. What if you raised your value even higher? That's what actively working a 2nd house Venus transit can do. This is your house of wealth. Till the soil now, plant seeds, and your wealth can grow. Start with a little brainstorming session. Get out a piece of paper, blank on both sides. On one side write: "What would make me feel more prosperous?" On the other: "What would make me feel more productive?" Answer each question with the wide-ranging free-associative style that's useful in brainstorming. Jump around. Let one idea trigger another. Keep going until both sides are filled—with smart, wild, silly, stupid, scary, and inspiring ideas. Scan your responses with a quiet mind and soft-focused eyes. One or more ideas will step forward. Either your eyes will keep returning to them, they'll seem to rise from the page, or your body will somehow signal its approval. Pick at least one idea from each side of the page and convert it into a goal. Go for it with Venus' blessings!



January 21:
**Transiting Mars
Quincunx your
progressed
Venus**

It's a passion day. Somewhere deep within the recesses of your psyche, Ares and Aphrodite will meet today and helplessly surrender to their desire. You may feel this as an energetic surge, or spontaneous passion—for a lover, or simply your life! It's a good day for romping in the wild or between the sheets. But if you're feeling dull and disconnected (it happens), you can wake yourself up by writing a seductive love letter—to a real or imaginary (and maybe future?) friend. Choose sensuous paper and pens, with colors, scents, and textures that delight you. Arouse your lover by using the word "you" more than "I," describing the details of your lover's body and mind that delight you. Send, hand-deliver, or sneak your letter into your lover's bed or laptop. Light a candle and imagine your lover (or future lover!) discovering and reading your letter. May you both be as aroused as bees in summer.



January 25:
**Transiting Mars
Square your
natal Venus**

It's a passion day. Somewhere deep within the recesses of your psyche, Ares and Aphrodite will meet today and helplessly surrender to their desire. You may feel this as an energetic surge, or spontaneous passion—for a lover, or simply your life! It's a good day for romping in the wild or between the sheets. But if you're feeling dull and disconnected (it happens), you can wake yourself up by writing a seductive love letter—to a real or imaginary (and maybe future?) friend. Choose sensuous paper and pens, with colors, scents, and textures that delight you. Arouse your lover by using the word "you" more than "I," describing the details of your lover's body and mind that delight you. Send, hand-deliver, or sneak your letter into your lover's bed or laptop. Light a candle and imagine your lover (or future lover!) discovering and reading your letter. May you both be as aroused as bees in summer.



February 2 at 2:47 am:
**Transiting Venus enters
Aquarius**



2/9 at 10:25 am: the Moon and Venus
kiss in Aquarius

She's sudden as weather, wild as a lightning storm, and kind as the clouds. From her sky god daddy, Aquarius Venus was blessed with an unlimited mind. She can think up ideas no one ever thought before. She can hold global conflicts without choosing sides. She's gifted in the art of telepathy, knowing what the email says before it arrives. She can hear every radio station playing in the universe. So how does she keep her sanity? She tunes it all out. Except for one frequency. The one that's playing her song. "Now find your own melody," she invites "and dance to it."



February 16:

Venus disappears from the morning sky. Fragments of ancient myths suggest that when Venus disappears, she enters the Underworld. During her 18-month cycle, Venus "disappears" twice—like now, when she's out of view for about six weeks, transitioning from morning to evening star, and again, when she's invisible for about a week, as she transitions from evening to morning star. Modern astrologers are unsure of what these underworld visits mean— or even if the current morning-to-evening transition was actually considered an underworld visit by ancient priests. We do know that it is a turning point in her cycle. And it may bring a turning point in your own experience of Venus themes—love, creativity or abundance. Observe how these areas of your life unfold over the next few weeks and draw your own conclusions.



February 18 at 8:54 pm:
**Transiting Venus enters
your 3rd House of learning and
communication**

February 22 at 2:46 am Venus conjunct
Moon (emotions, intuition, mothering)

February 24 at 3:00 pm Venus conjunct
South Node (past life talents and
unconscious tendencies)

March 3 at 6:18 am Venus conjunct Chiron,
the Wounded Healer (wounds and gifts)

Let Venus bring new magic to your 3rd house with just three little words. Along with "I love you," she loves to say "*Tell me more!*" Utter these three little words as often as possible. Work them into every conversation. Notice how they energize the one you're talking to. Venus is a fascinating conversationalist because she's curious. She listens to others with real interest. And because she listens, she always knows just what to say. Venus is a social goddess, but even when you're all alone, you can scan the room or the street and let your eyes land somewhere. Inwardly say "Tell me more" to whatever you see. Your world will open up in surprising ways. I believe we are surrounded by "devas," the invisible intelligence or spirits guiding all the forms you see—there is a *deva* of zucchini, a *deva* of the coffee beans in your coffee cup, there's a cloud *deva* in the sky. Open to them. Listen to them. How long they've been waiting to tell you their secrets!



February 26 at 2:03 am:
**Transiting Venus enters
Pisces**

3/11 at 11:33 am: the Moon and
Venus *kiss* in Pisces



Aphrodite has a magic girdle that can make anyone & anything beautiful Venus in Pisces has a similar gift. It's called imagination. And it works like fairy dust, invisibly transforming what she sees, so there's nowhere she can go, no one she can meet that disappoints or displeases her. A gloomy day? She sees the strokes of a master artist in the clouds. The shop is closed? She imagines what fun the owner is having. This goddess knows just how to be with whatever is right now—which means she doesn't live in the past, mourn loves lost, and never, ever pities her bad fortune.



February 28:
**Transiting Mars
Trine your
progressed
Venus**

It's a passion day. Somewhere deep within the recesses of your psyche, Ares and Aphrodite will meet today and helplessly surrender to their desire. You may feel this as an energetic surge, or spontaneous passion—for a lover, or simply your life! It's a good day for romping in the wild or between the sheets. But if you're feeling dull and disconnected (it happens), you can wake yourself up by writing a seductive love letter—to a real or imaginary (and maybe future?) friend. Choose sensuous paper and pens, with colors, scents, and textures that delight you. Arouse your lover by using the word "you" more than "I," describing the details of your lover's body and mind that delight you. Send, hand-deliver, or sneak your letter into your lover's bed or laptop. Light a candle and imagine your lover (or future lover!) discovering and reading your letter. May you both be as aroused as bees in summer.



March 5:
**Transiting Mars
Sextile your
natal Venus**

It's a passion day. Somewhere deep within the recesses of your psyche, Ares and Aphrodite will meet today and helplessly surrender to their desire. You may feel this as an energetic surge, or spontaneous passion—for a lover, or simply your life! It's a good day for romping in the wild or between the sheets. But if you're feeling dull and disconnected (it happens), you can wake yourself up by writing a seductive love letter—to a real or imaginary (and maybe future?) friend. Choose sensuous paper and pens, with colors, scents, and textures that delight you. Arouse your lover by using the word "you" more than "I," describing the details of your lover's body and mind that delight you. Send, hand-deliver, or sneak your letter into your lover's bed or laptop. Light a candle and imagine your lover (or future lover!) discovering and reading your letter. May you both be as aroused as bees in summer.



March 22 at 3:15 am:
**Transiting Venus enters
Aries**

4/10 at 5:25 pm: the Moon and Venus
kiss in Aries



This goddess makes things new. She lives in a vibrant aliveness, without boundaries. She goes where she's never been before. How can you do this without an unlimited budget or time? Just look at life as though it were a fresh discovery. Forget your judgments. Your tired old concepts. Let life become an adventure. What if you'd never seen a rose before? Wouldn't it amaze you? Wouldn't you slow down and bring your nose into its exquisite center and inhale? What if you'd never seen your lover before? It might be exciting to wake up and find this other person lying next to you. With Venus in Aries, take nothing or granted. Like any adventurer, you'll make some surprising self discoveries.



March 28 at
5:05 pm

We have not seen Venus for weeks as she's traveled with the Sun, but now she's reached her turning point. **Conjunct the Sun at 8 Aries**, she is in the heart of her Underworld journey. What has been happening to her beyond the veil? Consider what's been happening in your own life. You are a special jewel in the countless reflections of her journey. I tend to think of this of this meeting between Sun and Venus (often called their "superior" conjunction) as her coronation. Throughout the months since her "interior" Sun/Venus conjunction, she has been ascending to her throne through celestial gates (signified by each Moon/Venus "kiss"). Now as she receives her crown, you see in your own life a fulfillment of earlier dreams—or a reckoning for hopes dashed or deferred. Either way, you've learned a few things about love, creativity, and prosperity. Venus will soon shine as an evening star, becoming a more mature, refined and civilizing influence. May you become so too.

Meditate on what you have achieved since the beginning of this current Venus cycle: **June 6, 2012**. There is another flowering—from seeds planted at the last Sun/Venus conjunction near this degree. **March 27, 2009 at 7 Aries**. What were you dreaming of then? Is a celebration in order now?



April 8:
**Transiting Mars
Square your
progressed
Venus**

It's a passion day. Somewhere deep within the recesses of your psyche, Ares and Aphrodite will meet today and helplessly surrender to their desire. You may feel this as an energetic surge, or spontaneous passion—for a lover, or simply your life! It's a good day for romping in the wild or between the sheets. But if you're feeling dull and disconnected (it happens), you can wake yourself up by writing a seductive love letter—to a real or imaginary (and maybe future?) friend. Choose sensuous paper and pens, with colors, scents, and textures that delight you. Arouse your lover by using the word "you" more than "I," describing the details of your lover's body and mind that delight you. Send, hand-deliver, or sneak your letter into your lover's bed or laptop. Light a candle and imagine your lover (or future lover!) discovering and reading your letter. May you both be as aroused as bees in summer.



April 9 at 5:46 pm:
**Transiting Venus enters
your 4th House of home and
emotional roots**

Venus in the 4th wants to live in the lap of luxury. Advertisers understand this. When they use the adjective "luxury" to describe whatever they're selling—whether it's condominiums, cars, or chocolates—they know it will increase consumer desire. You can celebrate Venus' visit to this house by buying something luxurious for your home. Bring in new colors. Add something beautiful and natural. Or simply savor the luxuries you already have. First try this visualization. Imagine yourself as any of the millions of people on this earth who are living in conditions much less luxurious than yours. Imagine you are the one whose house burned down last night. Or you're the widow of a Ugandan farmer. You're in a tent with your sister's children in a crowded refuge camp. Maybe you're an abandoned orphan sleeping in the sewers of a major city. Or you're a housewife in a war-torn neighborhood in the Middle East. You have no water or electricity. And you're terrified to go to the market. Now imagine that as this person you are given a home just like the one you're living in right now. Through your imagined fellow human's eyes, enjoy all the luxuries there. Savor your blessings. Your foundations. This is a heart-opening exercise too. Feeling compassion for all beings also raises your Venus.



Want more Venus? If you enjoyed using this Venus transit guide and would like to receive an update for another year, you can order an emailed version for \$9.95 (add \$5 for a snail-mailed hard copy). Just email (dana@mooncircles.com) your request with "Venus Transit Guide" in the subject line. Or snail-mail a check/money order to Dana Gerhardt at 397 Arnos Road, Talent, OR 97540. Credit cards accepted through PayPal.



What would life be, what pleasure without Golden Aphrodite?
May I die when secret love and sweet gifts and the bed
mean nothing to me any more. Such things are the flower
of our prime, delightful to men and women.
Mimnermus