

A TRIBUTE TO TAURUS: **THE MATERIAL LIFE AND SELF-WORTH**

Astrology is a system of thought and a way to interpret our lives through the understanding of the laws, principles, and archetypes contained within its symbolism. These symbols (and the geometry of their interconnections) help to structure the rational mind so that a relationship between the visible and invisible causes of events may be perceived and predicted.

The primary focus of a soul-centered approach to astrology and the interpretation of the natal horoscope, combine the influences of the personality with the higher creative potentials available to a person once the element of consciousness has been introduced into the life. This may be viewed through a discussion of the differences that present themselves when we speak about a sign through its traditional ruler and its esoteric one. In the case of Taurus, this is Venus and Vulcan respectively.

Venus is the planet which governs the Law of Attraction and its “partner,” the Law of Repulsion. The position of Venus in your chart, the sign and house it is in and the aspects it makes to other planets, reveals how, what, and who we attract into our lives. It also shows how, what, and who we keep away from us. Taurus is a very magnetic sign—it draws the energy of life into itself and coverts this energy into material form and substance. Thus the taurean motto: “I am what I have.”

On the purest and most basic psychological level, everyone “wants.” We want all the things that Venus and Taurus may give to us: money, physical comforts, sensuality, as well as permanent and enriching relationships. The ability to channel such blessings into our daily existence is very conditioned upon another primary psychological factor: our sense of self-worth. This is the basic agreement that we make with ourselves that says: I am (or I am not) worthy to receive such bounty. On the surface of things, everyone would agree that they are more than open to accept such venusian abundance. But when we explore the nature of the human psyche more profoundly, we find that there are many people who have been conditioned to believe that they are definitely not worthy of these promised roads to happiness. A great deal of our personal evolutionary work consists therefore in the transformation of these subjective, negative voices.

Venus is closely associated with the Fifth Ray. This is the energy field that produces the rational, personal mind. It is this facet of ourselves that when linked to our biological patterning and thus our primary psychological nature, that produces our inner dialogues, our subjective voices, and thus the words that we give to ourselves. In the many texts that comprise the Ancient Wisdom Teachings, we come across the phrase: *Energy follows thought*. Earnest Holmes said in his amazing book, “The Science of Mind”: *What you say about yourself to yourself is the Word of God to you*. This statement is linked to a much older truth, one that comes from Genesis where it states: *In the Beginning there was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God*. We can thus conclude that each of us is always in the process of creating our own reality from the words I utter about myself. We should keep in mind that Venus via Taurus rules the throat and the throat is a highly creative center of activity.

Vulcan is the esoteric ruler of Taurus. In her incredible text, *Esoteric Astrology*, Alice Bailey tells us that Vulcan is a small globe that has its orbit between Mercury and the Sun. If Venus is the magnetic force of attraction that brings people, places, ideas, and things into physical manifestation in our lives, then Vulcan is the force of transformation which refines these forms. Let us take a brief look into Greek mythology where Vulcan has a very important role to play:

Vulcan was a god as well as the blacksmith of the gods. When the Immortals of Mount Olympus needed to have their miracle tools repaired and recharged, they went to Vulcan for the job. There he stood next to his alchemical fire ready to take on the task of transformation. The Olympians often used metal weapons as their “magic wands” so Vulcan would place such swords, arrow tips, and lances into his forge where he would reshape and strengthen them through his transmutational powers. Such tools were now empowered with greater potency for divine purposes.

Vulcan is a First Ray planet. This is the energy of will power and allows the creative intent of the Higher Life to manifest. Vulcan can only become the ruler of Taurus in terms of our everyday life when we have set foot on the Path of Consciousness, the Way of Love. It is then that Venus abandons her partnership with Mars (desire) and joins in an alchemical relationship with Vulcan (Divine Will). Thus the Mind may manifest ideas that

are in agreement with the intent of the soul and the material potency and magnetism of the Bull brings us more refined and purposeful relationships with both people and money. This is the path of true wealth.

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We know that in natal astrology the Second House is the place where we can discover much about the nature of our relationship with money as well as discover much that has to do with how we implement our sense of self-worth. This is a good time to take out your chart and examine the cusp of your second house and note the sign that is on this cusp. Once you determine this important fact, note the position of the ruler of this house. If for example you have Gemini on this house cusp, Mercury would be its ruling planet. Much can be said about the placement of this ruler in the other houses of the chart. Let's discuss this factor.

The ruler of the Second House in the First: This position points to an urge to project what we possess to the forefront of life. In effect, this is a very potent way of saying. "I am what I have." It is also a way of demonstrating that we "wear our self-worth on our sleeve," as this house/planet combination definitely combines our self-image to what we own and clearly demonstrates our sense of self-worth or lack of it. If self-esteem is very low (indicated by the Second House ruler afflicted by Saturn or the Moon for example), the we are likely to present a very poor material or physical image to the world. On the other hand, if Jupiter is the ruler of the Second and well placed in the First, the individual is likely to be very showy and ostentatious, and often quite generous as well. On a different level of expression, this is a person who may well say to the world: "My wealth is in my wisdom."

The ruler of the Second House in the Second: This is a powerful placement for good or ill depending on the "condition" of the ruler. Finances and issues of self-worth will be very important. There is a very great tendency to use one's resources to further (or harm) the expression one's own talents and abilities. "I use my resources to invest in myself," says this person. If the Sun is the ruler (Leo on the cusp) and is in the Second, we have an individual who will rely on his or her own resources their creation as the primary sense of personal identity. If the Sun is afflicted, say by Saturn, then one will feel very limited indeed about how such resources may be produced and expanded. If however, Saturn is

trine or sextile the Sun in this position, then the sense of self-worth and personal resources tend to grow steadily over the years as the individual gradually rises to be a authority figure in his or her own domain.

The ruler of the Second House in the Third: Any planet in the Third House is used to make connections. When it is the ruler of the Second, then such contacts are geared to the generation of funds and/or to the sharing of one's particular talents and abilities. In essence one is *communicating one's sense of self-worth* through that particular planet. If the planet is afflicted then there is a challenge with the communication, contact-making process. Let's say that Virgo is on the cusp of the Second and Mercury is in the Third in Libra square to Saturn in Capricorn in the Sixth. In this case, the individual seeks to communicate her ideas within the context of personal relationships but is blocked in some way from doing so effectively. Such blockages may come from older people (Saturn in Capricorn) in work-related situations (Sixth House placement).

The ruler of the Second House in the Fourth: There is a need to use one's personal resources as a foundation block for building greater potentials of personal self-expression. One's sense of self-worth could be very much linked to one's parental background. Let us say that Cancer is on the cusp of the Second and the Moon is in the Fourth in Virgo. Let us further state that the Moon is trine to Jupiter in Capricorn in the Eighth. This individual may be blessed by family money (the Eighth is the house of inheritances) but will also come into life with a work ethic that is very traditional (Capricorn) in nature. Thus an easy way for this person to earn money and gain in resources would be to continue in the family tradition, take up the family business, work (Virgo) in the same way as her family (Moon in the Fourth).

The ruler of the Second House in the Fifth: This Fifth is the "pleasure dome" of the natal chart. Thus a person with this position would be very inclined to use his resources for fun (and hopefully for profit!). There is also the tendency to view one's self-worth in terms of one's children. Afflictions to the Second House ruler in this position can bring financial burdens in relation to one's off-spring, or disappointment with children who do not follow in the footsteps of our own system of values. The Fifth is also the house where we express our creativity. Positive contacts between other planets (especially the Sun and/

or Jupiter) to the ruler of the Second in this house, help us to make money from what we value in ourselves and our resulting talents and abilities.

The ruler of the Second House in the Sixth: The indication is that the individual has to use his or her special skills to work for a living. If well aspected, this points to the ability to increase one's sense of self-worth and one's income through the practical application of such personal methods and techniques within the working environment. Thus if Venus were the ruler of the Second (Libra on the cusp) and in Aquarius in the Sixth sextile to Mercury, such financial improvements could easily come about through social contacts. As Aquarius is the sign of friendship, it would be easy for such a person to make friends on the job, or use his or her "friendly attitude" to increase his or her job status.

The ruler of the Second House in the Seventh: Partnership will be essential to the sense of self-worth and the increase of personal wealth. No matter what the planetary ruler may be, in this particular situation, the student should always carefully judge the position of Venus as she is the natural ruler of *both* the Seventh and the Second. Thus if Venus is in harmonious aspect to the ruler of the Second in the Seventh (or well placed in the Seventh), the opportunity for financial gain in relationship, i.e. marriage or partnership to a financially helpful partner, is very strongly indicated. Should Venus afflict the Second house ruler in this position, then there will be financial challenges in partnership and/or it will be difficult to have one's set of personal life values and personal sense of self-worth validated by the partner.

The ruler of the Second House in the Eighth: This planet/house relationship indicates a very strong connection between our own and other people's resources. It also speaks about "regenerating income." Thus if we gain financially through commissions we earn through other people's spending, royalties that come back to us from our previous efforts, money that is inherited or otherwise given to us from other people's efforts, all of these circumstances are typical results from having a well placed Second House ruler in the Eighth. But what if that planet is afflicted? If for example your Second House ruler in the Eighth is square to Neptune from the Eleventh, then you should be very careful about mutual investments between yourself and your friends—money lent might never be returned. A square or opposition from Jupiter could easily indicate an inheritance that you

tend to squander. Yet good aspects from Pluto to the planet in question, can point to your ability to increase income coming to you from other people.

The ruler of the Second House in the Ninth: The individual's sense of self-worth is based upon one's religious or philosophical beliefs. If the Moon were the ruler of the Second (Cancer on the cusp of that house), the orientation to money and personal values would be deeply involved to your family's belief system. Should the Moon for example be in Aquarius in the Ninth and square Saturn in Scorpio, it would be extremely challenging for such a person to develop his or her own set of beliefs relative to the use of personal finances. A well aspected Second House ruler here (especially when Jupiter is involved) can bring income from foreign sources, publishing, or teaching.

The ruler of the Second House in the Tenth: When well aspected, this position allows us to make the best out of what we have, especially in light of our career choices. Let us remember that the Tenth is the House of fruition. The Second supplies us with the raw materials but it is through the Tenth that such basic materials take form and gain in power. A trine or sextile between Saturn and the ruler of the Second in the Tenth goes a long way to insure that our prosperity develops and grows with the passing of time. Benefits may also come through contacts with older people and/or people in positions of authority. Such interpersonal contacts are reversed if Saturn is square, opposed, or inconjunct this position. In this case, such older or powerful people may block or otherwise challenge or block the individual's sense of self-worth. Such a person may well feel that she is being "short changed" by life and that one's career does not give her a chance to express her talents and abilities to their fullest extent.

The ruler of the Second House in the Eleventh: Here one's resources are intimately linked either with our friends or closely connected with any organizations with which we are involved. The individual tends to do well financially if his belief system is in sync with his surrounding social circumstances. Should this person be at odds with the prevailing social trends, then it will be that much more difficult to have one's talents and abilities accepted by that society and hence one's earning power is limited. Material losses can occur in the Eleventh, especially if the afflicting planet is in either the Second or the Eighth. In this case, complicated financial involvements may occur involving your resources and

your friends'. Financial benefits accrue from friendships if the Second House ruler in this position is well placed, especially when in good aspect to either Jupiter or Venus.

The ruler of the Second House in the Twelfth: If the Second House ruler is well placed here (especially with good contacts to Pluto, Venus, or Jupiter), there is the tendency to have a source of hidden income or be the recipient of money that seems to come out of nowhere and land in your pocket. This is also a very good placement to find valuables in auction houses or garage sales, old attics or basements. When afflicted (especially by Neptune or Jupiter), there is a tendency to squander or gamble money away. Such placements may also make it difficult to establish a distinct sense of personal self-worth. Yet when Jupiter or Neptune are involved with Second House ruler by trine or sextile, there is a tendency to develop a personal value system that is universal in scope and application.

Note: The reader is also welcome to discover more about Vulcan in the new edition of my book, *Soul-Centered Astrology* (Ibis Press, 2008).

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