

# WHAT IS YOUR ASTROLOGY ARCHETYPE?

Words by Caroline Robertson

**Your sun sign story can clarify trials, tendencies and transformative possibilities. Learn how to listen to your cosmic constellation's call to decode your myth's meaning.**



## Aries

March 21–April 19

**Symbol** Ram

**Ruling planet** Mars

**Catchphrase** "I am."

**Qualities** Adventurous, confident, courageous, driven, entrepreneurial, passionate and self-reliant.

**Story** Aries is the first astrological sign representing the spring equinox. It sweeps the sky as a four bright star constellation of a ram's head. In Greek mythology Ares was both the destructive war god and the flying, speaking, golden-fleeced ram Aries. The ram flew Nephelē's children, Helle and Phrixus, to safety from their malevolent stepmom. Phrixus offered Aries' golden fleece to Aeetes and it ended up with a dragon. Jason of Argonaut fame claimed the fleece hanging on an oak tree to prove himself the rightful ruler of Iolcos and to sanctify his union with Medea.

**Significance** Though warmongering god Ares was bloodthirsty, lusty and merciless, he had a courageous and honourable side. Those with an Aries sun could take this as a cautionary tale to tame their temper and impetuous tendencies.

A call to develop compassion and selfless service ripples through the ram's philanthropic escapades. Aries are all about action, assertion and energy. They thrive on challenges to channel their big horn energy. When they direct their ambitious and adventurous ways into higher causes they can fulfil their protective purpose. Once Aries have a compelling reason motivating their mission they are unstoppable. The oak tree from which the fleece was taken represents self-awareness in Jungian psychology. Aries' tendency to act for external approval and sense gratification can be balanced by a healthy dose of self-reflection and self-sacrifice for the greater good.



## Taurus

April 20–May 20

**Symbol** Bull

**Ruling planet** Venus

**Catchphrase** "I have."

**Qualities** Determined, grounded, loyal, practical, resilient, sensual and steady.

**Story** The Taurean tale is one of getting what we want at any cost. Zeus transformed into a white bull in a ruse to seduce Europa. After jumping on the bull's back she was kidnapped to Crete. Zeus and Europa bore a child called Minos who matured to become king of Crete. Poseidon agreed to give Minos dominion over the sea in exchange for an offering of a superior bull. When Minos deceptively offered an inferior bull, Poseidon retaliated by arranging Minos' wife Pasiphae to fall for a bull and birth Asterion the minotaur – a cannibalistic bull-headed beast.

**Significance** Ruled by Venus, Taureans are the sign of sensuality and luxury. They can be so stubborn in pursuing their desires that they don't see the bigger picture. It's important they consider others and long-term consequences.

Like a bullock tilling a field, Taureans patiently plant seeds of future dreams and persevere until they attain their aims. Taurus disappears behind the sun from May to July, which ancient Egyptians believed was a sacrifice to renew the land. In such a way the industrious bull can have faith that their industrious input can reap rich rewards for many.



## Gemini

May 21–June 20

**Symbol** Twins

**Ruling planet** Mercury

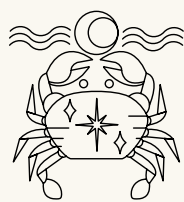
**Catchphrase** “I think.”

**Qualities** Curious, expressive, extrovert, imaginative, impulsive, versatile and wordsmiths.

**Story** Considering Geminis generally enjoy company and communicating, it’s fitting that they have a tale of twins Castor and Pollux. These offspring of Leda form the brightest stars in the Gemini constellation. They shared many adventurous travels including the Trojan War and the quest for the Golden Fleece as Argonauts.

When the mortal Castor died, his bereft immortal brother Pollux offered to exchange his life for his brother’s resurrection. Pleased with the sacrificial suggestion, Zeus blessed them to be eternal celestial bodies.

**Significance** This twin sign is symbolic of the exchange of ideas, connection with others and shared endeavours. It also indicates the dual nature of Gemini, evident through changeable moods and the opposition of mind and body. The myth indicates that Gemini thrive when they can communicate meaningfully with others and forge mind-body coherence.



## Cancer

June 21–July 22

**Symbol** Crab

**Ruling planet** Moon

**Catchphrase** “I feel.”

**Qualities** Emotional, dreamers, generous, nurturing, sensitive, sentimental and protective.

**Story** Cancer literally means crab in Latin. Carcinus, a giant crab, was enlisted by Hera to assist the multi-headed Hydra to kill Hercules. The crab caught the toe of Hercules, who stepped on it and hurled it to the heavens.

**Significance** Cancer sun signs are said to be caring to those close to them. They like to create a safe sanctuary surrounded by all their comforting people and possessions, just as a crab collects treasures in their hidden hole shelter. Beneath their hard exterior lies a soft sensitive side that can get hurt easily. Cancerians are advised to pick their battles and honour their need for safety and sensuality, otherwise they can easily get emotionally crushed.



## Leo

July 23–August 22

**Symbol** Lion

**Ruling planet** Sun

**Catchphrase** “I will.”

**Qualities** Ambitious, big-hearted, dramatic, engaging, entertaining, flamboyant and inspiring.

**Story** Leo is represented by the powerful Nemean lion. Hercules was ordered to slay the lion and an epic battle ensued. The lion with steel teeth and impenetrable golden fur fought valiantly, destroying Hercules’ armour and biting off his finger. Eventually Hercules strangled the lion and removed its hide with its own claws.

**Significance** Leos are famous for their courage and confidence. Just as the lion had an invincible skin, Leo’s ego is often as sound as the sun. The fact that the lion could only be skinned by its own claws reflects the fact that they can be their own worst enemy if they don’t watch destructive, driven tendencies.



## Virgo

August 23–September 22

**Symbol** Virgin Persephone, fertility goddess

**Ruling planet** Mercury

**Catchphrase** “I analyse.”

**Qualities** Analytical, discerning, dutiful, health-conscious, humble, philanthropic and reliable.

**Story** The Virgo way of withdrawing and reflecting is personified by Persephone, Demeter’s daughter. The underworld god Hades kidnapped this virginal beauty to his underground lair. Agricultural goddess Demeter was so sad that she stopped any crops from growing until Persephone’s rescue. Hades agreed to release her annually for spring to ensure the earth’s bountiful harvest.

**Significance** As the zodiac’s only feminine form, Virgos are linked to the fertility goddesses Ceres, Demeter, Ishtar and Isis. This relates to Virgos’ productive and nurturing nature. Just as Persephone retreated to the underground, Virgos tend to dive into their psyches to process and get perspective. They also bunker down to fulfil their duties. Quiet retreat allows them to rejuvenate before moving back into their selfless service mode.

**“Working with myth and archetype, we discover that we are characters in the drama of the Anima Mundi, the Soul of the World. In this discovery we push the boundaries of our own human story and gain the courage to live mythically ourselves and to help heal our world.” Jean Houston**



## Libra

September 23–October 22

**Symbol** Scales

**Ruling planet** Venus

**Catchphrase** "I balance."

**Qualities** Aesthetic, diplomatic, non-judgemental, harmonious, idealistic and intellectually curious.

**Story** Libra is the only sign represented by an inanimate symbol. The scales of balance and justice were held by Themis, the mother of Astraea aka Virgo. They reside beside each other in the sky. As the goddess of law, order and wise counsel, Themis instructed Zeus on ways to maintain planetary peace and balance.

**Significance** Librans can apply their impartial intellect to help harmony reign inwardly and outwardly. Their tendency to overindulgence may be moderated by self-discipline and discernment. Physical exercise is vital to balance their tendency to overthink things.



## Scorpio

October 23–November 21

**Symbol** Scorpion

**Ruling planet** Mars/Pluto

**Catchphrase** "I create."

**Qualities** Charming, deep, determined, experimental, honest, mysterious and open-minded.

**Story** Orion was a famed huntsman and son of Poseidon and Euryale. Artemis, goddess of hunting, was attracted to Orion and invited him to hunt. According to legend, Orion tried to rape Artemis and threatened to massacre all Earth's animals. The gods sent a scorpion to destroy Orion, who was then set in the sky in an eternal head-on battle with the Artemis constellation.

**Significance** A Scorpio's sting can strike out of anger, vengeance and vindictiveness. This alienates others and leaves Scorpio to stew in self-pity and resentment. Just as scorpions symbolise death and rebirth of ego, the Scorpio story reminds them to tame their temper and lustful tendencies. Empathy, discipline and focus are their best allies to achieve their aims.



## Sagittarius

November 22–December 21

**Symbol** Centaur

**Ruling planet** Jupiter

**Catchphrase** "I perceive."

**Qualities** Direct, independent, jovial, optimistic, philosophical, pioneering and playful.

**Story** Sagittarius is associated with the half-human/half-horse archer Chiron in Roman mythology and Cronus the son of Pan and Eupheme in Greek stories. Chiron was a compassionate and wise tutor to Achilles, Jason, Hercules and more. Cronus was a fierce hunter and musician who sacrificed immortality to replace Prometheus in the underworld.

**Significance** Sagittarians have an adventurous, wild side that leads them to expansive inner and outer escapades. They excel at challenges such as teaching others physical or metaphysical arts. Reining in their restless nature allows them to focus on aims and hit their target.



## Capricorn

December 22–January 19

**Symbol** Goat

**Ruling planet** Saturn

**Catchphrase** "I use."

**Qualities** Ambitious, conservative, determined, good provider, hardworking, persistent and stable.

**Story** According to Greek mythology, Capricorn is named after the horned half-goat, half-fish form of Bacchus when entering the Nile to escape Typhon. Capricorn is also associated with the player Pan.

**Significance** The goat represents a being so hungry for success they will scale any mountain to meet their desires. Capricorns often have an authoritative and ambitious aura, such as the commanding presence of a large-horned goat. Capricorns such as David Bowie enjoyed diving depths of consciousness while exploring the heights of name, fame and fortune. Capricorns thrive when they develop their spiritual and material side simultaneously.



## Aquarius

January 20–February 18

**Symbol** Water bearer

**Ruling planet** Uranus/Saturn

**Catchphrase** "I know."

**Qualities** Benevolent, creative, empathetic, humanitarian, innovative, unconventional and visionary.

**Story** Aquarius is associated with Ganymede, the prince who charmed all with his inner and outer beauty. Zeus was so enamoured with Ganymede that he morphed into an eagle and flew him to Mount Olympus to be a heavenly cup-bearer. When merciful Ganymede begged Zeus to help the suffering earthlings he was given the role as rain god to quench everyone's thirst and supply crops with showers.

**Significance** The role of water bearer reflects the Aquarian's benevolent generosity. At their best, Aquarians are motivated by planetary benefit more than personal gain. They get satisfaction from giving. The moral to the Aquarius anecdote is to fill oneself with loving energy and become a source of sustenance for others.



## Pisces

February 19–March 20

**Symbol** Two fish

**Ruling planet** Neptune/Jupiter

**Catchphrase** "I believe."

**Qualities** Comical, compassionate, creative, intuitive, faithful, sensitive and spiritual.

**Story** When Gaia sent the dragon-headed water serpent Typhon to terrorise the gods they transformed into animals to escape. Aphrodite and Eros took fish forms swimming in opposite directions.

**Significance** It's fitting that this deeply sensitive sign is born in water, the element of emotion. Pisces often feel like a fish out of water in the material world as they have such a heightened awareness of the interconnected cosmos. The fish swimming in opposite directions is symbolic of the disparity between Pisces' higher ideals and the regularly immoral reality. Learning to flow with their feelings, trust their intuition, find their likeminded tribe and prioritise self-care is vital for Pisces to find peace.

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