

ORIGINS OF ASTROLOGY

MINI-COURSE

THE LIVING ZODIAC

Alright so a key to take note of is the pattern that the elements move within the zodiac, starting with fire, then to earth, then air, and finally water, and this repeats 3 times to complete the wheel. 4 elements and 3 modes or expressions of each element equals 12 signs. To simplify, fire is awareness and there are 3 types of awareness, earth is the body and container of that awareness of which there are 3, air is the mind or mediator between fire and earth, and there are 3 types of minds, then water is the feeling, emotion, reflection, the spirit, and again 3 types.

Fire > Earth > Air > Water

Awareness > Body > Mind > Emotion

ARIES

The first sign of the zodiac is Aries. Aries begins at the vernal equinox and its elemental expression is fire in the form of a spark. Aries is the sign of beginnings, and is the beginning of spring within the seasonal cycle. In nature, we see at the beginning of spring that spark of new life: the trees start budding, and it's also the time where we get back to work after the winter season, preparing our gardens and planting our seeds. In the daily cycle the spirit of Aries shows at the moment of

sunrise when the day begins, the light of the Sun peeks over the horizon and sparks the day as the light begins to take over.

The part of the body associated with Aries is the top of the head, the brain and the eyes, you can even see the symbol of Aries on our face. We see the representation of the spark in the synapses that fire in our brains and even at the beginning of the day the first thing we do when we wake up is open our eyes and light and awareness flood in. Being the sign of beginnings we see Aries also as the beginning of life, when we are first born, head first into this world, we are but a pure and innocent spark of awareness, unaware of our body, our mind, or emotions, just pure awareness. So Aries is the beginning of spring, the moment of sunrise, fire as a spark, the top part of the head, and the moment of birth.

TAURUS

Next we transition to the sign of Taurus. Taurus is Earth in the form of the mineral kingdom, the soil, stones, crystals, the raw building blocks of matter. Seasonally Taurus marks and holds the middle of spring, with Aries the seeds were planted and the trees and plants began budding out, now Taurus takes that spark and light provided by Aries and begins to take it into the Earth, the plants photosynthesize as they begin to build their bodies and leaf structures while also sinking their roots deep into the soil to take in the minerals and

nutrients of the soil. The beauty of the spring flowers, all the colors and wonderful smells of spring reflect the sign of Taurus to us. Taurus is an absorbing sign, taking in and materializing.

For the human body, Taurus is connected to where we too take in this physical world, Taurus is the ears, nose, mouth, and throat, where we take in our senses of sound, scent, and taste, where we intake our food and water to build our own physical bodies. The time of Day Taurus rules over is the morning time, the sun has risen and the light is spreading revealing the land and all of the colors of the day. As humans these are the hours when our senses are beginning to wake up, perhaps we are having our coffee or tea and having some breakfast.

In the human life cycle Aries was the beginning of life when we are but a spark of awareness, and what is the first thing we become aware of? Well our physical body and our senses. Our Aries awareness is absorbed into our physical Taurus body. Taurus is the middle of spring, the morning time, the mineral kingdom, the ears, nose, mouth, and throat, and the time of life where our senses awaken and we become aware of our own physical body.

GEMINI

So now that our *Aries* awareness has been absorbed into our physical body, we then look out into the *Air* of Gemini and the world of duality reveals itself. We see there is me and this thing, me and that thing, me and that other person. And we begin to label things, words form and build the structure of our mind - this is why with the mind everything is duality and reflected in the glyph for Gemini.

Physically Gemini is our two arms and hands, the thinkers and communicators of our bodies. It is also our lungs, and when the air from the lungs move through the *Taurus* vocal cords it gives us a voice to share our thoughts and communicate our ideas. This is also why our breathing reflects the state of our mind: calm the breath, calm the mind.

Gemini's elemental expression is air as the wind, and like our minds can be calm or chaotic like a tornado of thoughts or a hurricane of confusion. Seasonally, Gemini is the end of spring, as is a time when a real "buzz" is in the air. With *Taurus* releasing its beautiful scented flowers, it attracts the pollinators and we see the birds and bees buzzing through the air. The wind also carries the pollen from plant to plant. This is why Gemini is the communicator sign, sharing information and being the pollinator of thought.

In the daily cycle, Gemini is the late morning when we have fully woken up and we begin planning out our day, maybe taking care of the logistical tasks of the day. It is also a great time to learn and study something as our minds are fresh and open. Gemini is the end of spring, the late morning hours, the wind, the arms, hands, and lungs, and the time of life when our minds begin to develop and our basic learning of our logic and communication.

CANCER

At birth we were an Aries spark of awareness, then were absorbed into our physical Taurus body as we became aware of our senses and the physical world of matter. We then looked out into the Gemini air to meet the world of duality and our minds began to develop as we started the learning process of life. And then as we gathered this new information and started to learn, we then reflected on this information and the world of our Cancer emotions began.

Here is where we start to feel and respond. This is also why Cancer is the “mother” of the zodiac as we usually get our first sense of love and nurturing from our mothers. Our mother also nurtured us and supplied us with our nutrients from the part of the body associated with Cancer: the chest, breast, and the pericardium which is the sack of liquid that our hearts are suspended in. This brings us to the

element expression of cancer: Cancer is liquid flowing water - the life giving waters of the oceans, rivers, creeks and streams, the water we need to drink to survive. Seasonally, Cancer is the beginning of summer and is marked by the June Solstice.

In the summer the water flows, as the temperature rises, and our gardens need more water, as do we. We also see in summer that humans pour out like water from their homes, traveling, and going on vacations to enjoy the warm waters of summer. Cancer also marks the noon hours of the daily cycle, when we get into the rhythm and flow of our day, also perhaps nurturing ourselves with a snack or lunch. So Cancer is the beginning of summer, noon time, liquid moving water, the chest, breast, and pericardium, and the stage of our first feelings and development of our emotional bodies, under the guidance of our parents where the “home” is our world.

You can see we have moved through the first segment of the zodiac - we have met all four of the elements. This first stage of the zodiacal journey sets the initial pattern. It is the journey of awareness itself. Started by the fire of Aries, becoming aware of our earthly body, the air of our mind and the water of our spirit and emotions. So now with the first four signs we are aware of each of the life giving elements and are now ready to meet a new fire with a new quest and questions as we repeat this elemental pattern for a second time, starting with Leo...

LEO

Now that we have begun to reflect on our own awareness and begin to have emotions, a question arises: “Who am I who is feeling these things?” and just like that, the flame of self awareness has been lit. A new journey of awareness begins, and the ego is born. We begin to play, express, and create with our life. This is why Leo is like the child of the zodiac, coming from the heart, dancing, and creating. Just like the flames and light of the fire that dances before us. With Aries being the spark of the fire element, Leo is the light and flames of the fire and like the child says “hey, gather around me and watch me dance and shine my light”. Leo teaches us that all of our hearts want to shine, be seen, and have the ability to express themselves to provide light, warmth and a place to gather.

And this brings us to the part of the human body ruled by Leo: the heart, upper back, and spine. And our heart (like the sun, which rules the sign of Leo) is what provides the life-giving blood and light of vitality to our bodies, just as the sun does for our mother earth. Seasonally, Leo marks the middle of summer when the light and heat rule the day, and the sun is out shining its creative life-giving rays to the earth while the plants are taking it all in creating their flowers and fruits, and our gardens burst with life and all the colors of the rainbow.

The time of day for Leo is the afternoon and the heat of the day. As humans, this is the time for our life creations and carrying out our passions in celebration of life, playing in the light of the day, or even taking a siesta cat nap as the lions do. So Leo is the middle of summer, the afternoon hours, the light and flames of the fire, our heart, upper back and spine, and the time in life when the journey of self awareness begins and we express, play, discover our passions, and create ourselves.

VIRGO

Now just as our earthly Taurus body is the container and vessel for the Aries spark of our awareness, this pattern now repeats and evolves. So what is the container body of our creative self awareness? It is in the actual things we create and is the “work” that we do and the services we provide. So our next sign Virgo represents the time in life where we begin to find our craft, the work we want to do, and the way we operate in our daily lives. If Leo was our creative fire, Virgo is the actual crafting and making process of creation.

The elemental expression of Virgo is earth in the form of the plant kingdom. Plants are our healers and medicine, and they’re always in a process of perfecting the earth and themselves while creating useful things such as food and medicine. And it’s during this Virgo time of

year at the end of summer when the plants are taking in all the creative rays of the Leo sun and working their craft and perfecting the making of their fruits, vegetables, and medicines. As humans, we also are working hard and close to the plant kingdom in our gardens, making sure they have all the things they need so that we can get the most out of our harvest.

The Virgo hours of the day are also the times when we are working hard to get the work done for the day in the late afternoon before the sun goes down. Speaking of work, plants, food, and medicine, the Virgo part of the body is our gut and digestive system. We took food in at the Taurus part of our body and now, in the gut, our bodies put in the work to digest and supply the body with all of its nutrients to heal and work properly. We even call the collection of bacteria in our gut our internal “flora” or inner forest. I even like to look at the glyph for Virgo as the M with a tail curling into it as the “M” for medicine that we put “in” to our bodies. So Virgo is the end of summer, late afternoon, the plant kingdom, our gut and digestive system, and the time in life when we start working and finding our life’s craft.

LIBRA

Now, just like we looked into the air at Gemini to see the world of duality and “things”, we now look into the air again. But now we see other people like ourselves, and we begin to share and relate

ourselves to others. Each sign contains the ones that came before, so at Gemini we only had Aries awareness, and the physical world of Taurus and the senses, so Gemini is the realm of thought and the mind that gives and receives “information”. But with Libra, we also now have Cancer (feelings and emotions), Leo (the self and heart), and then Virgo (our work, practices, and ways of living). In the air of Libra, we share our emotions, hearts, and ways of living as a sense of relating.

So Libra is the time in life where we go out and share our Virgo work, services, and daily lives with others, forming relationships, and learning about others. Elementally, Libra is air expressed as the atmosphere that surrounds the earth, keeping everything in balance, and giving us the oxygen that we all share and breathe. This is why Libra has the aesthetic understanding of beauty and likes to create a nice “atmosphere” for others to share, relate and enjoy each other’s company. In our bodies, Libra is the kidneys which keep the chemicals of our blood in balance and also rules the lower back and hips - the halfway point of our body and how we balance ourselves upright.

The sign of Libra begins at the autumnal equinox and is reflected in the beginning of the fall season. The scales of balance are seen with the equal day and equal night just before the darkness of fall and

winter start to set in. We also have the harvest time of our gardens and weigh what we have, perhaps heading to the market to sell and trade our goods or having gatherings to share in the bounty of our work together. In the cycle of the day, Libra is the moment of the sunset: the beautiful colors of the painted sky encourage us to stop and watch, to find peace and balance within, and share the time with a special person, sitting together in the beauty of the moment. So Libra is the beginning of fall, sunset, the atmosphere and oxygen, the kidneys, lower back and hips, and the time in life when we start to really share our lives with others and create relationships.

SCORPIO

So just as with the transition from the air sign of Gemini to our first water sign of Cancer where after our minds started to develop and we began taking in all the information around us, then reflecting on it all and experiencing our own emotions and feelings within ourselves. The pattern now repeats and evolves as we move from Libra to the deep waters of Scorpio. So by our second look into the air with Libra, we began to see others and start to form relationships through sharing our thoughts and emotions, expressing ourselves, our hearts, and ways of doing things. From that relating to others, now a new realm of emotion opens up to use. In Cancer, we were reflecting upon our *own* mind and thoughts.

Now, in Scorpio we are introduced to the thoughts, feelings, and emotions of *others*. It's not only about how we feel but how others feel, how we feel about each other, and the mystery of how to allow others to know how we actually feel, and to know how others actually feel. It is a mystery, and the best we can do is try to show others through symbolic gestures, such as giving someone flowers, or a gift, or a kind action, an expression of love or even dislike. Scorpio presents us with the great mystery of life, deeper meaning, and the symbolic realm.

The elemental expression of Scorpio is the still waters of a lake, pond, swamp, puddle or ice. Before we had mirrors, still waters were the only way to see our own reflection and to look into our own eyes with a deep wonder of who and what we are deep inside. Seasonally, Scorpio holds the middle of the fall season when everything in nature appears to be dying: the leaves turn colors and fall to the earth, the trees look like a skeleton structure of what they once were, and the mushroom kingdom appears to devour and transform the dead material to create and regenerate the soil for the new life to come once the next spring arrives.

Speaking of the mushroom kingdom, Scorpio rules the reproductive and excretory systems of the body, which resemble the male and

female reproductive parts, and is where we both create new life, and release what isn't needed from the body.

The time of the day for Scorpio is after the sun has set and the darkness starts to take over. The veil is thin and mysterious at this time, and we turn back to our homes to prepare for our rest and regeneration of sleep.

So Scorpio is hidden within the middle of fall, the hours after sunset when the darkness starts to take over, in the still waters like lakes, pods, swamps, and ice, in our reproductive and excretory systems, and the point in life where we meet the great mystery of life and begin to merge our emotions with others, forming deep emotional bonds and making commitments in life.

SAGITTARIUS

So in feeling and meeting the deep mystery of life with Scorpio, we now begin to ask the bigger questions of life: “What is the meaning of life? Where are we going? Where did we come from? What do I believe in?” From the mystery, the final fire of Sagittarius ignites us into a journey to pierce into and beyond the unknown to seek our wisdom and to discover and experience a greater meaning of this mysterious life.

In the body, Sagittarius rules over our upper legs, our quads and hamstrings, which allow us to run and travel around this earth as we explore this world. The elemental expression is the embers, charcoals, and heat that radiates and travels away from the flames. When we run, we feel the heat burn in our quads and it warms our bodies.

Seasonally, Sagittarius marks the end of the fall season when we are hunting and gathering our supplies to prepare for the winter, going on journeys and traveling with the fire each night to keep us warm, and also bringing the fire into our homes to keep us warm with its heat.

In the Sagittarius hours when we enter the night preparing for the journey of sleep, we sit by the fire and reflect on our journey of the day, share our stories and the wisdoms that we have discovered, and we may give our thanks for what we have and share our prayers of gratitude. Then we climb into our beds under the covers that keep us warm as the fire of our waking consciousness burns down to embers and eventually burns out as we enter our sleep.

So Sagittarius appears in the end of fall, the evening hours, the embers, charcoals, and heat of the fire, our upper legs of the quads

and hamstrings, and the time in life when we question and seek the greater meaning of life.

CAPRICORN

Sagittarius ignited our long journey as we traveled through time, and we now reach the peak of the mountain with the sign of Capricorn. Here, we've reached the elder phase of life: We've put our time in and experienced this life - we've earned our wisdom and now sit on the mountain of our life. We can look back and see the journey that brought us here, and we can also look to see how we may begin our descent back down the mountain.

Like the cap of the mountains we see the white tops of snow, and in our elder years we see that with the white hair on the top of our heads. Atop the mountain it is also cold and an eternal winter - Capricorn begins on the December Solstice and marks the entry into the winter season. Where Sagittarius meets Capricorn, we see our stories of time and traditions of warmth and joy with the solstice holidays such as Christmas, which is a celebration of the sun being reborn, reaching its lowest point in the sky and beginning its journey back up towards the highest point in the sky.

Capricorn's nature of practicality, time, and resource management comes from the natural way of life in the winter, when we have to be wise with how we use our time and resources, to make it through the winter. The time of the day associated with Capricorn is the midnight hours, when we are still and asleep hiking up the celestial mountain of our sleep into the astral realms. All is quiet, and the light of the sun is nowhere to be found.

The elemental expression of Capricorn is earth in the form of the animal kingdom. The animals move with purpose, and they teach us how to do things and follow the natural movements of time. We know when the birds fly south we are headed to winter - when certain animals appear, it lets us know what season we are in.

Within our bodies, Capricorn rules the knees, our skeletal structure, and our hair which grows on the cap of our heads over time and reveals our age. Capricorn represents the things on top and the governing authorities. We see it in the word itself, we have our kneecaps, the snow caps of the mountains, baseball caps on our heads and the capital of government, the captain of a ship and capitalism, and so on. So Capricorn is found in the beginning of winter, the midnight hours, the animal kingdom, our knees, skeletal system, and hair, and is the elder phase of life.

AQUARIUS

After putting our time in, earning our wisdom, and reaching the peak of our life with Capricorn, we realize that we can not just stay atop the mountain holding on to our wisdom, stories, and teachings. We realize we must come down from the mountain and return to the valleys of our community and share the wisdom we have earned with humanity.

We must allow our teachings and stories to carry into the future once we are gone. Aquarius the water bearer is our next sign. The aquarian pitcher of water represents wisdom. As we journey through life, we've been collecting the water of wisdom that is our life. And when we reach the end phase of life, we then pour that water back onto the earth, sharing our wisdom with humanity, taking on apprentices, and teaching the next generations.

Now don't get confused here, Aquarius is not a water sign. It is air in the form of the vast and infinite space. It is the all inclusive "open mind" - the collective mind of humanity that holds all the wisdom throughout all of time. During the Aquarius hours in the coldest and darkest hours of the night our minds are able to expand, and if we look up to the sky will see the vast community of stars that our own sun is just one of billions.

Seasonally, Aquarius holds the middle of the winter season when the still, crisp and cold air surrounds us. In our human bodies, Aquarius rules over our lower legs of the calf muscles (which give us the spring in our step that propels us forwards), our shins, and the circulatory system that returns the opposite sign of Leo's blood back to the heart - just like the elders who pour the waters of their wisdom back into to the hearts of children.

So we will find Aquarius in the middle of winter, the late hours of the night, the vast and wide open space, our lower legs and circulatory system, and the time in life when we give back the wisdom of our life to humanity and empty out our hearts and minds to the next generations.

PISCES

So now that we have emptied our life and wisdom and given everything back to the earth, we now reach the final water sign of Pisces, giving us the final reflection and emotions of life: the feelings of completion and letting go. If we've done our best all along the way, our spirit is happy and ready to return to where it all began.

Pisces shows us that life is a spiritual journey and what that means is that everything is included. Pisces holds all of the other signs within it, and this is why Pisces is known for its compassion, unconditional love, and understanding: because it has gone through the stages of all of the other signs and has compassion for each phase. This shows us that spirit is not separate from matter, the mind, or anything, and that it is all as one in life and death.

Elementally, Pisces is water in the form of the vapors, mist, rains, the morning dew, and the clouds that go with the flow making shapes for our imaginations. When the light shines through the vapors, we are blessed with the beauty of all the colors of a rainbow, showing us again that all the colors of life are as one. And the morning dew that arrives in the Pisces hours of the moments before the sun rises, when again the veil is thin and there is a peaceful magic in the air. These are the hours where (if we are asleep) the dreams come. As they say we dream the most right before we wake, and if we are not sleeping and rise before the sun, we can meditate or pray. The voice of our spirit is much closer to us at that time before the sun rises, and we may be blessed with a vision for our life.

And seasonally, as the temperature begins to slowly heat up, the rains start to come with the end of the winter season, and we see the sign of Pisces. At the end of winter we begin to dream and have visions of

what we will do once spring arrives. Pisces is the two fish that we see as our own two feet, and the lymphatic system of the body. Our feet are what we walk on and what connect us to this earth and the rest of the world.

So we can meet Pisces in the end of winter, the hours before sunrise, in the vapors of the clouds, mist, rains and morning dew, in our feet and lymphatic system, and the end of life when we let go of this life and rain down blessings of compassion and unconditional love to those who we have shared our life with.

And after this evaporation back into the great mystery, within the darkness another “spark” begins again....

This is the cycle and story of life and the zodiac, and this is the true origins of the 12 signs of the zodiac.