

LEO: SIGN OF CREATIVE SELF-EXPRESSION

Astrology allows us to see ourselves as an expression of a system of interactive energies and forces that give rise to various types of actions and reactions. Its advanced study also reveals how we may look upon our lives more objectively and even to grasp the universality of our being. Astrology asks us to envision a larger picture of the cosmos rather than one only seen through the limited lens of our personalities. Once we open ourselves to our true nature, we may then understand that we are connected as one human family to the Family of the planets and stars.

—A.O.

The purpose of our own life and that of the Life of the solar system is the same—the evolution of consciousness. In terms of human existence, this evolution demonstrates through a growing, deepening and ever expanding sense of self-awareness. At a certain point in our development—different for each and every one of us—we come to know ourselves as an extension of universal creativity. Along with this revelation comes a great gift: unconditional love. That love takes on real meaning and power for us when we can express it creatively in some highly individualized, focused way. We are then “tapped in” to our creative source and have a direct line of communication and connection to our real inner potency and strength.

Leo is a fixed, fiery sign. In the Ancient Wisdom Teachings (of which the *true* astrology is a part), we are told that human beings are “Children of the Fiery Mind of Heaven.” This is because the Sun, ruler of Leo and representative of a creating and consuming flame, is the central energizing point of all life in the solar system. We all come from the Sun and to the Sun we shall return. In effect the Sun is the originating Father Principle and we are all His offspring. Leo as the sign of the Sun expresses the creative potency of the focused power of will—the will to be. As we mature and unfold our creative potential, we come to the clear realization that without a focused will, we can produce very little of anything. We also come to realize that if this will is centered only in our little egos, then what we produce has no lasting value and can and often does inhibit the creativity of others. So how do we balance the need to be creatively self-expressive in our own and individual ways within the larger social context of the world in which we live? This is an important issue not only for Leos but for each of us. In effect, as the Sun is the center of everyone’s horoscope, we are all Leos to one extent or another!

The zodiac holds the answer to this question within its very structure. The sign opposite to Leo, that great constellation that polarizes and balances the Celestial Lion, is Aquarius, the sign of group consciousness. Thus if Leo represents the heart in our physical body as well as the heart of the solar system, Aquarius represents the circulatory system. It follows naturally that the creative potential so

fixed and stabilized in the fixed, fiery sign of the Lion has to be distributed and integrated into society through the airy networking of the Water Bearer.

This raises yet another question: How does Leo (or a person of any sign) come to the necessary stage of individualized self-awareness without losing him or herself within the greater collective of the group? It is here that we find one of the great secrets of Leo's success and the key to the right use of will. In the early stages of his development, Leo is going to be very egocentric. This is only natural. Leo is in search of creating a monogram that can be a blazing letter of self-identification on all of the clothing that he loves so much. Leo thus identifies completely with his outer appearance: his hair, his jewelry, his style of dress, the way he is treated by others, the amount of recognition he receives just by being himself. In effect, like the Sun, Leo seeks to become a star. Yet without the intense inner fire and light possessed by a real Sun, this egotistical fire soon burns out. There is no internal regenerative power, no real storehouse of limitless fuel, no eternal life principle at work—only the limited ego. Thus the immature Leo fails and society (Aquarius) eventually rejects him.

This rejection forces Leo to turn inwards and awaken within himself a greater contact to the other fixed signs: Taurus and Scorpio. In Taurus he finds the raw materials out of which he is shaping his creative self-expression. In Scorpio he finds the path to death, renewal, refinement, and regeneration. He comes to understand loss and release as a vehicle for personal evolution. The combined effects of Taurus and Scorpio upon him and the trials and errors that are required to unfold the treasures of these signs, gradually give Leo a sense of his own creative substance. He tries again, lifting himself out of egocentricity and into a place of awareness that allows him to be himself within the larger world. He eventually shines forth as a star that is not the center of a solar system that demands that other people act as the planets and revolve around him. Thus in time, he develops into an authentic star, self-sustaining and self-illuminating. He becomes a star within the greater galaxy, which in its highest level is also symbolized by the sign of all collective organisms—Aquarius, the fourth and culminating sign of the fixed quaternary.

The reader would do well to examine his or her own horoscope at this point and note the cusps of the houses upon which the four fixed signs are placed. In this respect, you can determine from:

Leo—the area in your life where the potential of your creative power is most strongly focused.

Taurus—where you can find the raw materials that you can use to stabilize, nurture, and feed that

creativity.

Scorpio—where the tests, trials, and rewards will come that in the guise of death and loss, signify the unlocking of the door to your greatest potency.

Aquarius—the area in your life in which you can reach the greatest number of people and do the most good in sharing what you have accomplished on your path.

The primary functions of the sign Leo in terms of the activity of the purifying solar energy may be summarized by the word “sensitivity.” This sensitivity is revealed to us in three ways:

1. Sensitivity to the influences coming to us from our external environment. As we grow in consciousness and the heart of the Lion beats more strongly within us, our ability to observe these influences becomes more objective and less concerned about what others think of us or the impressions we are evoking from others.

2. Sensitivity to the needs and demands we are making on the world. We cease acting on “automatic pilot” and take more responsibility for our actions.

3. Sensitivity to our Higher Self, and the greater meaning and purpose for our life. In essence, our point of reference both to ourselves and to the world around us has become “fixed” in Leo to the soul.

Thus as we learn the lessons of Leo and grow stronger in the Sun’s Light, the resultant gift we receive is that we can consciously focus our creative willpower. This leads us directly to the Will-to-Good and the awareness of our real Self.

Let us now turn to the twelve house cusps of the natal chart, placing Leo on each of these in order to determine more about the Lion and its influences upon our daily lives:

Leo on the cusp of the First House (Ascendant): The Lion rising in a chart needs to be appreciated and noticed. He therefore strives to cultivate a “high approval” rating among his friends and colleagues. People with this position in their chart usually take great pride in how they appear in public. There is a great fondness for clothes, jewelry and accessories and a strong attraction to having fun and leading the “good life.” Leo rising is keenly aware of the old adage, “Life’s a stage,” and Leo on this cusp knows that he is the star of the drama. This rising sign also bestows enormous creative potential, what is often required is the cultivation of a clear direction for the expression of this potency. Once activated, Leo rising makes for a fine organizer of both himself and others and is a continuous fount of strength, courage and determination. The greatest danger when this sign is acting negatively is pure, unabashed egotism.

Leo on the cusp of the Second House: There is often the tendency to take great pride in one's own abilities when the Lion is in this position. Money is most often earned and possessions acquired through a very personal expression of one's creative talents and abilities. Should Saturn be square, opposed, or conjoined the Sun, wealth may be delayed until one is much older and/or difficulties surrounding money are encountered throughout one's life. At the very least, learning how to budget resources will pay off in the long run. People with Leo on the Second House cusp tend to play favorites with their resources. They can be overly generous with those they love and esteem while penny pinchers with people who are out of favor. People with this position tend to be quite magnanimous with their own offspring unless the Sun is poorly aspected by the ruler of the Fifth House.

Leo on the cusp of the Third House: This sign/house combination gives the urge to state one's opinions very firmly and there is little room for compromise when it comes to sharing one's opinions with others. This would be especially the case if the Sun and/or Mercury were in a fixed sign. These people like communicating with young people. They often pursue education as one of their great pleasures in life, especially when what they are studying enhances their prestige among others. There is often considerable mental activity which leads to an abundance of intellectual outpouring. This is especially the case if the Sun is in one of the air signs and is well aspected with Uranus or Jupiter. Should the Sun be afflicted by either Saturn or Neptune, the mental dynamics tend to be slower and more foggy.

Leo on the cusp of the Fourth House (Nadir, IC): There is no other sign/cusp combination that embodies with greater certainty the saying, "A man's home is his castle." This would be especially the case if the Sun or the Moon were placed in Leo in the Fourth. No matter what one's economic circumstances, Leo on the Fourth describes a person who needs to take pride in his home and family. On a psychological level, this position indicates an individual who seeks to stand firm within herself. If the Sun is well-aspected in this position (especially by Saturn, Jupiter, or the Moon), the ability to hold one's own under any circumstances is a natural gift. The relationship between the Sun and Saturn in any event will do much to describe the relationship the individual has with his or her father. The aspect between the Sun and the Moon as well as the sign of the latter, tell the astrologer much about the person's relationship with the mother.

Leo on the cusp of the Fifth House: Unless the Sun is debilitated by poor aspects to other planets,

especially Saturn and Neptune, this position indicates an abundance of creative potential, along with the stamina and willpower to back it up. The latter characteristic is reinforced if the Sun is found in a fixed sign. Romance plays a very important part in the individual's life, as does the pursuit of sensual pleasures. Children are usually well-loved and cared for, although there is a tendency to be a bit dictatorial in the way one interacts with them. The danger here is to see one's children as "planets" that need to revolve around the will of the parent. Such a tendency would be reinforced if the Sun were in Taurus, Leo, Aries, or Capricorn especially if afflictions from Saturn were also present. The Fifth is the House of hobbies and pleasurable pastimes. Look for such interests to be very important in the life of this person, especially if the Sun is connected by aspect to Jupiter, Uranus or conjunct to Venus—in which case the hobby will be the art of love!

Leo on the cusp of the Sixth House: Should the Sun be well placed in the chart, the health will tend to be very robust and there is an abundance of vitality present. This is especially the case if the Sun is well aspected to Mars and/or Pluto when Leo rules the Sixth. A great deal of attention will be placed on one's job and the orientation will be to shine out and be noticed for what one does. The theater, the arts, fashion and work involving children are natural outlets but no matter what work this person does, there is a need for it to be pleasurable. Pets can be a source of pride and often are treated as children—cats, of course, will be a natural favorite of the Lion on this cusp.

Leo on the cusp of the Seventh House (Descendant): As the sign of friendship, Aquarius is on the Ascendant when Leo is on the Descendant. The Lion on this cusp seeks and requires loyalty as a primary characteristic in all social interactions. The First/Seventh cusp axis speaks directly about how we relate to others. Leo and Aquarius are both fixed signs and as such prefer long-term relationships. Leo here gives the possibility for stability and consistency in the way the individual interrelates with others. This is a person who takes pride in his or her friends and lovers, seeking someone with a highly individualized creative spirit. But should the Sun be afflicted by Uranus, the need for personal freedom will supercede the need for steady relationship. This planetary combination will also tend to attract unstable people into our lives.

Leo on the cusp of the Eighth House: This is a powerful and beautiful position in the life of an emotionally mature individual. It represents a source of tremendous creative potential that when applied to other people's lives, brings out and augments their hidden potentials. Thus the Lion on this cusp can

stimulate creative productivity as well as increase both oneself and others on material as well as psychological levels. When in the horoscope of more egocentric individuals, this sign/cusp position can overly stimulate the desire nature as the fire of the Sun ignites the passions of Scorpio's natural domain. This would be especially the case if the Sun were in strong aspect to Mars and/or Pluto. Leo on the Eighth would then ignite the fires of transformation bringing challenging lessons to a life lived through the passions.

Leo on the cusp of the Ninth House: The Lion brings gusto to any cusp it tenants. When on the Ninth, it adds to the joy of experiencing life as an adventure, stimulating the urge to travel. This is a person who tends to take a great deal of pleasure from the sensual joys of foreign sights and sounds, art and architecture. Higher education is approached in much the same way—as a gratifying adventure in self-development. Should the ego be immature, Leo here indicates people who take too much pride in what they know. Their knowledge can then be expressed with a great deal of pomposity, a trait that alienates and separates them from others. This would tend to be the case if there were afflictions between Jupiter and the Sun.

Leo on the cusp of the Tenth House (Midheaven, MC): The Lion brings strength, creative vitality, and potency to the Midheaven. It indicates an individual seeking recognition through his place in life and by his professional achievements. This is a person who wants center stage in terms of what he does and as a result may dominate others in the career arena. Should Saturn and the Sun be in good aspect, the individual can expect help from people in authority and gradual but steady progress up the ladder of life. But should there be a square or opposition from Saturn in the chart, this will tend to delay success although not necessarily negate the personal will and drive needed to succeed. This sign/cusp combination is a natural for anyone involved in show business, the arts, and anything that has to do with young people.

Leo on the cusp of the Eleventh House: When the Lion is in this position, the individual needs to stand out in all organizational and group activities. If this is done in an overly egocentric manner, the person will encounter conflicts and opposition in terms of these relationships. Hopes and wishes also suffer when egocentricity dominates as the individual would then tend to use friendships as a means for self satisfaction. When this sign/cusp combination is found in the horoscope of an emotionally mature person, it adds tremendously to collective purpose and success. We then find an individual who tends to

be supported by friends and associates, one who is a strong contributor to the society in which he or she lives.

Leo on the cusp of the Twelfth House: This sign/cusp combination brings forth lessons of humility and quiet service in life. It indicates a person who may possess an immense wealth of potent willpower, yet the will is not allowed to be used in obvious ways. Thus we find that such a person may either be quite manipulative, getting his way no matter at what cost, or it reveals a person who is a powerful but subtle supporter of life's circumstances. As a result of this individual's helping hand, she finds that life provides an abundance of deep inner strength available for her own purposes. Although the hot flares of the Sun may not burn in ways that are visibly apparent, these solar flames are nonetheless potent when the fire of self burns unselfishly.

© Alan Oken All Rights Reserved