

## ASTROLOGY & LOVE – the chemistry in relationship

Astrology is becoming increasingly popular. Nearly every paper and magazine devotes a column to it, sometimes a whole page or an article of several pages. Recently in the Sunday Age there was an article on 'Roger Federer the person', which included the learned opinions of 3 experts, the first of which was an astrologer. Many people in fact turn to their "stars" before reading anything else. And if you do a search today on the catalogue here you will find that most of the books on astrology are out on loan.

The core of astrology is the study of planetary cycles and their effects on human behaviour. There are specific planets and points that we refer to when studying relationships – Venus and Mars, the Sun and Moon, Mercury, Saturn, and the Ascendant, also referred to as the Rising sign. Astrology offers fascinating insights that help us understand ourselves and other people, especially our partners. So it would be no surprise to learn that relationship questions are the most common by far, whether they are personal, family or work related. The advantage of using astrology is that we can identify potential compatibility. It reveals such things as the qualities we like, who we are attracted to and what our possible fears and level of commitment might be.



### CUPID / EROS – the astro-mythos connection

Apart from a heart, the most recognised symbol associated with love, and especially Valentine's Day, is the image of Cupid with his bow and arrow. His name is derived from Cupido, which means "desire", but he is also known as Amor, which translates as "love". It was commonly believed that Cupid was the son of Venus - the Roman goddess of love. Venus is Aphrodite in Roman mythology, and Cupid her son is the Roman equivalent of Eros. In Greek mythology, Eros was the god responsible for lust, love, and sex. He was also worshipped as a fertility deity. In Hesiod's Theogony, Eros sprang forth from the primordial Chaos together with Gaia, the Earth, and Tartarus. In later antiquity, he was the son of Aphrodite and Ares.

His most well known myth is that of Eros and Psyche. Aphrodite, jealous of mortal Psyche's beauty, commands her son Eros to cause Psyche to fall in love with the ugliest creature on earth. When Eros lays eyes on Psyche he falls in love with her himself. This of course goes against his mother's wishes. So to keep it a secret from Aphrodite, he spirits her away to his home and only visits her in the dark of night. Eros used the darkness to his advantage in order to conceal his identity. He whispered in Psyche's ear that he was her husband and that she must not under any circumstances look upon him or seek to know who he was. At first she loved her life with Eros but eventually felt isolated and homesick. She begged to see her sisters, to which Eros reluctantly complied. Psyche's jealous sisters convinced her to betray the trust of her husband.

One night while Eros was sleeping Psyche lit a lamp and surprised at Eros' beauty and perfection she dropped the lamp and woke Eros, who swiftly leaves his wife. Psyche wanders the earth, looking for her lost love. In order to regain the trust and love that she cast away, Psyche must complete three tasks, one requiring descent to the underworld. By embracing the help of nature, she is successful and is received into the pantheon of gods as an immortal. She also reconciles with her mother-in-law, and eventually bears Eros a daughter, Hedone, whose name means "pleasure."

Some people believe that this story tells of how love arises when we desire (Eros) a person's soul (Psyche) rather than their body. We may find love but easily lose it because of mistrust.

So what is love?

## LOVE

Love is an extremely popular topic, but how do we actually define it. We use the word to describe many different types of love.

I love the feel of silk,  
I love to surf,  
I love this food,  
I love you.

Saying I love you to a child conveys a very different meaning to when saying it to a lover. The ancient Greeks had different words for different types of love, which the astrologer Richard Idemon separated into 4 categories:

- \* **Epithemia** – which is an earthy, Taurean type of love
- \* **Phileo** – ruled by the fire sign Leo, a romantic kind of love
- \* **Eros** – is Scorpionic; a deeply emotional watery love
- \* **Agape** – ruled by the airy Aquarius, this is an altruistic and libertarian form of love

**Epithemia** is the instinctive urge to touch, to caress. It is childlike, innocent and naive. A primitive urge for physical, sensual expression, it is neither romantic nor erotic. Humans need to be touched, to be held, to be caressed. As babies, we cannot survive without physical closeness to another human being. Epithemia is ruled by the earth sign Taurus, which is associated with awareness of the senses, and sex for self-pleasure's sake.

**Phileo** love, is a fiery, feisty, joyous feeling, narcissistic in essence, that delights in being with a person who makes us happy. It is adolescent by nature, playful, heroic, romantic and warm-hearted but it is not a love experienced by equals. Each person sees the other as the esteemed beloved and sets them on a pedestal, which realistically

cannot be maintained forever. So this is an idealised form of love, ie. romantic love. Phileo is ruled by the fire sign Leo, which is associated with the awareness of heart-felt emotion.

Now we come to the most revered and often feared love, **Eros**. When people come together and are totally transformed by an erotic experience this is Eros, erotic love. Eros always involves the death of the ego in order to merge souls, psyches and emotions. To the French the orgasm is “le petit mal”, which translates as the little death. The erotic experience belongs to the realm of the religious, the mystical, and the creative. The feelings involved are intense, ecstatic and cathartic. But Eros also implies that love involves pain and risk, because there is no guarantee that the beloved will reciprocate or stay. Eros is ruled by the water sign Scorpio, associated with passionate love that involves pain and suffering.

**Agape** is simply defined as unconditional love – love with no strings attached. It synthesises the previous 3 forms of love Epithemia, Phileo, & Eros to produce the highly civilised, openhearted Agape. It is physical, sexual, loving but also detached. It harks back to the free love of the sixties, where the catchcry was “make love, not war”, where one loves enough to set the beloved free. We strive to achieve this level of love but we find it the most difficult to maintain. Agape is ruled by the air sign Aquarius, which is associated with the generous, unselfish, objective expression of love.

**To summarise:**

**Epithemia** (earthy love - instinctive) says I love you because you're mine and you open my senses

**Phileo** (fiery love - intuitive) says I love you because I feel joy when I'm with you

**Eros** (watery love - subjective) says I love you because of the intense, passionate desire we invoke in each other

**Agape** (airy love - objective) says I love you because you're completely and uniquely you

## THE ELEMENTS

The 4 types of love links us in with the elements. Below is a table showing which signs belong to which element. Every planet in the chart is in a sign belonging to one of these elements. This then describes your overall temperament and indicates what you are like and what you are attracted to. If I was looking at your chart right now, the first thing I would take note of is the elemental balance, and if there is an overall dominant element.

Fire	Earth	Air	Water
Aries	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer
Leo	Virgo	Libra	Scorpio
Sagittarius	Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces

**Fire** – is intuitive, spontaneous, enthusiastic, direct, childlike, idealistic, colourful, dramatic, & wilful  
likes to be inspired, active, creative and fed with ideas

it is therefore attracted to air signs, because they keep the fire burning

When stressed will drink to drown out the pain and prop up their energy.

Alcohol feeds the fire, but notice how they soon become full of hot air!!

Specifically **Aries** – individualistic, headstrong, enterprising, assertive, easy to anger, selfish

**Leo** – creative, confident, dramatic, romantic, proud, attention-seeking, boastful

**Sagittarius** – optimistic, jovial, frank, knowledgeable, preachy, irresponsible

**Earth** – is sensual, practical, organized, materialistic, factual, persistent, cautious, & traditional  
likes to be well fed, kept comfortable, sensual pleasures of all persuasions

is attracted to the gentle sensitivity and nurturing of water signs

Will eat when stressed – comfort food – anything sensual makes them feel good, like massage.

Drinking plenty of water is obvious, and it's the simplest way to overcome the urge to eat.

Specifically **Taurus** – grounded, reliable, loyal, traditional, possessive, stubborn, gourmand

**Virgo** – discriminating, diligent, fastidious, perfectionist, skilful, analytical, critical

**Capricorn** – ambitious, hard-working, conservative, controlling, egotistical

**Air** – is a thinker, rational, logical, objective, detached, principled, refined, flighty, unemotional  
likes to share thoughts and ideas, listen to stories, keep the mind active

is attracted to fire because they use and appreciate ideas, and are so exciting to be around

Will go off on a long-winded diatribe, never taking a breath, to avoid confrontation. A good workout at the gym will raise the internal fire and burn off excess air.

Specifically **Gemini** – versatile, flighty, curious, vivacious, talkative, easily bored, superficial

**Libra** – tactful, diplomatic, considerate, charming, impartial, romantic, indecisive

**Aquarius** – detached, observant, altruistic, innovative, eccentric, unemotional, tactless

**Water** – is sensitive, subjective, emotional, empathetic, irrational, moody, sentimental, disorganised  
likes to dream and meditate, listen to music, soothe and care for loved ones

finds reality difficult, ~ is attracted to earth signs who can offer grounded, practical solutions

Will sleep a) to avoid issues, b) because they are easily emotionally exhausted, c) to dream. A bit of gardening might alleviate irrational fears and ground their fantasies

Specifically **Cancer** – security conscious, protective, empathetic, clingy, fearful, moody

**Scorpio** – intense, brooding, enduring, ruthless, vindictive, passionate, secretive

**Pisces** – compassionate, inspired, spiritual, psychic, escapist, dreamy, idealistic

## THE PLANETS

**Venus** – sensual pleasures, love, affection, values, likes, wants, magnetic attractor

**Mars** – sex drive, desires, ability to act, how you get what you want

**Sun** – essential purpose, core self, identity, vitality, spirit, self-expression, relationship to ‘father’

**Moon** – comfort zone, habits, instinctive reactions, emotional responses, relationship to ‘mother’

**Mercury** – communication style, thinking process, how you express yourself

**Saturn** – commitment style, the glue of the relationship, reality check (responsibility)

*Rising sign* – self-projection, personality, the ‘face’ masking the Sun

**The Sun** represents the core of who you are and what you are aspiring to be in this lifetime. We come to know who we are through experience and especially through our relationships. Apart from your Sun sign, which is also referred to as your Star Sign, there are the two primary ‘relationship’ planets, **Venus**, our magnetic attractor; and **Mars**, our go-get-em impulse.

There is also the **Moon**, which describes our needs and comfort zone; **Mercury**, our mind and our communication style; **Saturn**, our possible fears and the level of commitment we bring; and the **Ascendant**, the face we greet others with to protect our vulnerabilities.

To work out your Sun Sign all you need to know is your date of birth. To accurately create a birth chart to show where ALL the planets were when you were born, including your Rising sign (Ascendant) you need the date of birth, place of birth and time of birth.

*To quickly find out what sort of partner a man is looking for, refer to his Moon and Venus. If they are in a healthy sign and in a healthy relationship to each other then he will potentially relate well. Likewise, for a woman we look to her Sun and Mars. Then we compare the charts of the two people involved and see if they are compatible. If so, then we have a green light so to speak. While this is a great start remember that people have free will to act, plus environmental influences have also shaped their personality.*

## VENUS & MARS

Boticelli's Birth of **Venus** is one of the most recognised images in art and most popular representations of the Goddess. She stands naked on a large shell with flowing hair, beautiful, innocent and at the same time a voluptuous, seductive image of womanhood.

To the Greeks she was **Aphrodite**, goddess of love; either the daughter of Zeus and Dione or she sprang from the foam of the sea. In early writings she was depicted as a soft, unimposing goddess, but later she became a treacherous, spiteful goddess who exerted a destructive power over men.

Perhaps the most famous of her exploits were the events that led to the Trojan War. There was a contest to name the most beautiful of the goddesses. The choice was narrowed down to three: Juno, Pallas Athena and Aphrodite. Zeus was chosen to decide and intelligently declined, suggesting they ask a young shepherd, Paris, who he assured them, would be a fair judge. Paris was not asked to look upon the goddesses, but to choose the fairest by choosing which of their gifts he would accept. Juno offered to make him the ruler of Europe and Asia, Pallas Athena assured him he would lead the Trojans to victory over the Greeks and **Aphrodite** offered him the fairest woman in the world. He gave the golden apple of choice to **Aphrodite** and the goddess led him to Helen of Troy. And the rest is history.

**Venus** is easily the most beautiful of the goddesses, yet she needs constant validation. She is easily threatened by other beautiful women and exhibits a jealous, angry side. When mortals began talking about Psyche, whose beauty they said rivalled **Aphrodite**, the Goddess condemned her to death. Psyche was rescued by Eros, Aphrodite's son. The Aphrodite/Eros/Psyche story is mirrored in the fairy tale of Snow White. Snow White is condemned to death by the queen when Snow White began to rival the queen for beauty. The handsome prince rescues her from death and they marry and live happily ever after, just like Eros and Psyche. Their union signifies the displacement of the mother as the most important female in a son's life with the elevation of the wife.

**Venus** was married to Vulcan, the skilled artisan/craftsman who cared only for his work and possessed little capacity for holding up his end of a relationship. As a result of her being neglected by Vulcan, **Venus** looked for passion and physical love elsewhere, which she found with **Mars** (Aries), and **Mars** adored **Venus**.

It must be remembered however, that **Venus** and **Mars** were having an extramarital affair. **Venus** was never faithful to her lovers. She enjoyed the act of falling in love but once a love relationship was established, the ability to maintain the relationship eluded her.

As the ruling planet of **Libra**, the marriage sign, **Venus** is sometimes mistaken for the planet of marriage, but it actually falls under the realm of Juno (Hera). In **Libra**, **Venus** is concerned with the interplay of opposites that exists in relationships. **Venus** is gentle

and seeks the aggressive **Mars**. Unfortunately, once we have that "opposite" attraction in a relationship, we immediately begin to work on changing that person, a frictional element in such relationships.

As the ruling planet of **Taurus**, **Venus** exudes raw sensuality, and enjoys the abundant earthiness of the physical world represented by nature and the body.

**As the Morning Star**, Venus is concerned with infatuation rather than the relationship itself. People with a morning star Venus tend to be impulsive and fall in love quickly. **The Evening Star** represents greater maturity. With maturity one is more cautious and more aware of love's transformative process and in this state more able to keep a relationship together.

**Mars was the Roman god of war**, the son of Juno and Jupiter. He was the Roman god of fertility and vegetation and a protector of cattle, fields and boundaries.

**The warlike aspect of Mars** was derived from the Greek Ares, the God of War. The Romans were mostly farmers, and saw Mars as protector of their homes against attack or success in quick battles. To the Romans, Mars was worshipped as a heroic God but to the Greeks, Ares was cowardly, unpredictable, and unreliable.

**Ares did not marry** but had 3 children with Aphrodite, Eros, Phobos and Demos. The twins, Phobos (panic) and Deimos (fear) always accompanied him on the battlefield. Phobos and Deimos are the two moons of Mars.

The name of the third month of the year, **March**, is derived from Mars via the Roman month Martius, which was considered a lucky time to go to war.

**Venus** in a woman's chart describes how she attracts a man whereas Venus in a man's chart describes the type of woman he is attracted to.

**Mars** in a man's chart describes how he chases after a woman. Mars in a woman's chart describes the qualities she desires in a man.

To illustrate the difference:

A woman with **Venus** in Libra attracts others through elegant, social behaviour, whereas a man with **Venus** in Libra wants a trophy wife and a charming hostess.

A man with **Mars** in Aries is assertive, highly motivated and an ardent lover, whereas the woman with **Mars** in Aries desires a rugged, sporty alpha-type man.

## SUN SIGN COMPATIBILITY

This is the simplest form of astrology and only needs the date of birth. If you're born near the beginning and end dates you will need an astrologer to confirm your Sun sign.

### This is a list of the 12 Sun Signs with their corresponding date ranges

**Aries** – 21 March – 20 April    **Leo** – 22 July – 23 August    **Sagittarius** – 23 November – 22 December  
**Taurus** – 20 April – 21 May    **Virgo** – 23 August – 23 September    **Capricorn** – 22 December – 21 January  
**Gemini** – 21 May – 22 June    **Libra** – 23 September – 24 October    **Aquarius** – 21 January – 19 February  
**Cancer** – 22 June – 22 July    **Scorpio** – 24 October – 23 November    **Pisces** – 19 February – 21 March

These dates are a rough guide only – every year the dates will vary slightly

### Sun Sign Compatibility Table

This table is a light-hearted and simplistic guide to Sun Sign compatibility. There are many compatible partners to choose from and many to avoid. Then there are relationship choices that are okay but may not hit any great highs, or lows for that matter.

♥ compatible    ✕ not compatible    ○ so-so

*female* →

Sun Sign	Aries	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer	Leo	Virgo	Libra	Scorpio	Sagittarius	Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces
Aries	✕	♥	♥	✕	♥	✕	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	✕
Taurus	♥	○	✕	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	✕	♥	♥	♥
Gemini	♥	✕	✕	✕	♥	✕	♥	✕	♥	✕	○	✕
Cancer	✕	♥	✕	♥	✕	○	✕	♥	✕	♥	✕	♥
Leo	♥	○	♥	♥	✕	✕	♥	✕	♥	✕	✕	♥
Virgo	✕	♥	○	✕	✕	○	✕	♥	✕	♥	✕	♥
Libra	♥	♥	♥	✕	♥	✕	○	♥	✕	✕	♥	○
Scorpio	♥	♥	✕	♥	♥	♥	♥	✕	✕	♥	✕	♥
Sagittarius	♥	✕	✕	✕	♥	✕	♥	✕	♥	✕	♥	✕
Capricorn	✕	♥	✕	♥	✕	○	✕	♥	✕	○	♥	✕
Aquarius	♥	✕	○	✕	♥	✕	♥	✕	○	✕	♥	○
Pisces	○	♥	○	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	✕	♥	○	♥

*male* ↓

**NOTE – Adjoining Sun Signs** can be compatible if they share Mercury or Venus links. Mercury and Venus are never far from the Sun so one or both of these planets might be in the same sign as your Sun sign. Relationships that really work also have their Moon, Mars, Rising sign or another planet in their partner's Sun sign, giving them traits or interests in common.

### FLOWERS AND STONES

**Aries** – Tiger Lily / Diamond    **Leo** – Marigold / Peridot    **Sagittarius** – Carnations / Turquoise  
**Taurus** – Roses / Emerald    **Virgo** – Narcissus / Sapphire    **Capricorn** – Pansies / Garnet  
**Gemini** – Lavender / Agate    **Libra** – Freesias / Opal    **Aquarius** – Orchids / Amethyst  
**Cancer** – Water Lily / Pearl    **Scorpio** – Gardenia / Topaz    **Pisces** – Violets / Aquamarine



## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

To analyse compatibility between two people is a complex process that requires the help of an experienced astrologer. The different factors in your chart are weighed up and interpreted to give you a clear and comprehensive outline of your relating style and what you are looking for. To check your compatibility with someone, the same process is applied to the other person's chart then both charts are compared.

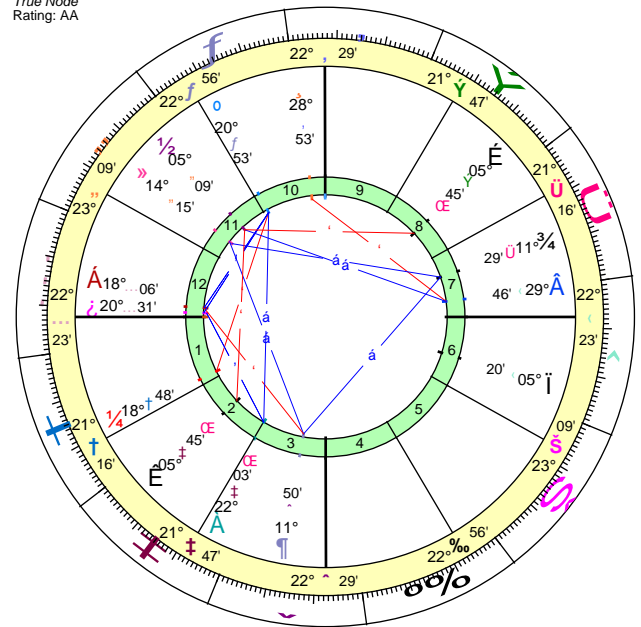
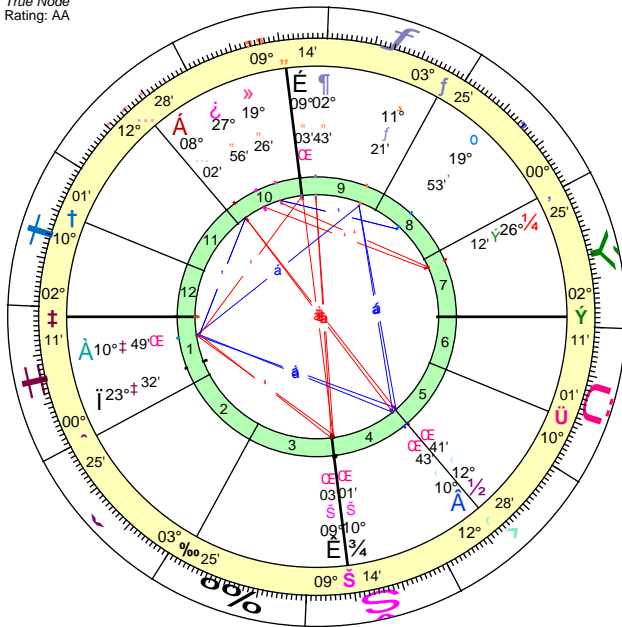
### Let's compare Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise – divorced and both have remarried

**Tom Cruise**  
Male Chart  
3 Jul 1962  
3:06 pm EDT +4:00  
Syracuse, New York  
43°N02'53" 076°W08'52"  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
True Node  
Rating: AA

Compliments of-  
Nikki Worth  
AstroSense Astrology  
astro@astrosense.net  
www.astrosense.net  
0402 140 525

**Nicole Kidman**  
Female Chart  
20 Jun 1967  
12:05 pm AHST +10:00  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
21°N18'25" 157°W51'30"  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
True Node  
Rating: AA

Compliments of-  
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**Elements** – Nicole has a well-balanced chart whereas Tom is stronger on Water and Fire, so he may be volatile when out of sorts.

Their **Sun** signs are in adjoining signs, which can only be harmonious if there are other supportive elements present, and they are. Nicole has the Sun in Gemini and Mercury in Cancer and Tom has Sun in Cancer and Mercury in Gemini.

Some of their nicest aspects are **Venus** conjunct **Venus** (they share the same values) and a wide **Moon** trine **Moon** (they support each others needs).

Tom's **Moon** is also conjunct Nicole's **Jupiter** – she generously looks after his needs. Her **Moon** squares his **Jupiter**, which is more challenging but still positive overall. Nicole's **Mars** is sextile to Tom's **Venus** – a sign of sexual attraction, but his Mars does aspect her **Venus** so the attraction is lop-sided.

They do not share a direct **Mars** connection. His **Mars** is earth, hers is air so they don't speak the same language. Their sex life may not be great because their sex drives are out of sync. This would create a lot of friction and frustration.

Through their **Mercury** they can learn to understand the other but they do not think alike and may argue with no understanding or agreement being reached.

Plus, while their **Saturn's** have the opportunity to work together, they have two harsh **Saturn** aspects. (Nicole's **Saturn** is square Tom's **Sun**, and Nicole's **Venus** is opposite his **Saturn**.) He stifles her femininity and she opposes his controlling manner towards her. This may be, so she throws a verbal tantrum to mask her underlying fear. Basically, she finds him bossy and controlling and harsh. This in turn offends Tom's dignity and wounds his sensitive Sun. Often difficult aspects involving Saturn are the reason a relationship breaks down because the lessons are very hard to embrace and endure.

While Tom and Nicole's charts show reasonable compatibility, we must remember that people can change and perhaps the difficulties are too much to bear. I believe all relationships have a lifespan. It may not be a literal 'til death do us part', but rather, the death of the relationship. But while we are together we can offer each other support, love, comfort, closeness, intimacy and friendship. Relationships are different things to different people but every one of us wants to make the most of them. Astrology can help us understand ourselves, and each other. With understanding and compassion we can learn to love, to tolerate, to forgive, to grow, be responsible and be happy.

### **other famous partnerships**

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Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban – together since 2006

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie – together since 2005

Charles and Camilla – together since 2005

Justin Timberlake and Cameron Diaz – together since 2003

John Travolta and Kelly Preston – together since 1991

Paul and Linda McCartney – 1969-1998 (until Linda's death)

Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton – 1964-1974 and 1975-1976

John and Yoko – separated by John's assassination

Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward – still together