

Venus in dignity and debility; what happens in real life?

Wishful thinking has prevented the world from seeing the kind of girl Venus really is. Wishful thinking has made men cling to the fantasy version of perfected womanhood invented by his ancestors. The hope still lives that another one of her hot and luscious sisters will be found in every check-out queue. Then, if she is authentic, she will be instantly wild with desire for this man in particular, drag him to experience an innovative version of ecstasy behind the bananas and then move along nicely before the match starts.

Eventually women got their hands on astrology and so recrafted the story to suit their own tastes. Venus was raised from her (non-speaking, cameo) role in nine minutes of molten red-gold, bar room lust until she was shimmering in the silvery white radiance of a perfected love that would last for all eternity. (Poetry allowed this version to sigh the name of her beloved).

Women seem to have got involved in the plot about the time psychological astrology was established and we were all being taught how vital it was to understand the mythological symbolism behind the planetary characters. How then has Venus the harlot been so studiously ignored? Why has nobody noticed how contemptuously The Goddess of Love treated her husband? Why was it assumed that Venus was free to escape the clutches of the patriarchy and transform into a purer and more romantic role than sex goddess because a generation of females had just acquired a quarter of the spending power of men? After all these centuries Venus is still hotter than hell.

Whether we choose to believe the old or new interpretation of her nature, if we observe closely, we will see Venus has less to do with real love than most astrologers assume when they actually read a chart. The argument may be offered that Venus in her old role, crafted by men, is alive in Scorpio, (where she is in detriment and therefore also assumed to be at her worst). Her new washed whiter, spiritual (and exalted) state, begins forming when the little girl first puts Barbie on the pink unicorn. Too many adult women still believe Venus lives in Pisces. Once we are dunked in a bucket of cold water we should realise that the new vision is no more likely to exist than the old and, even if it should appear to manifest for nine minutes, it is no better fitted for real life than the steamy pheromone myth. In addition two versions cannot be the end of the matter. Once we link each vision of the goddess to a sign of the zodiac we must then accept there are ten other possible variations in her expression. Naturally we then start at the easy end of the task and define Venus in Libra. Unfortunately, though nobody is keen to believe it, she is not nearly so well fitted for a true and enduring partnership when she is "at her best" in the sign of marriage as theory suggests.

The results of a test should illustrate the point. As with previous tests discussed on this site two groups of natal charts were compared. The Venus sign of one group of individuals who were happy in long term marriages was compared with a second group who were divorced. Since many thousands of people have read the results of similarly constructed tests the details of the methods used are not repeated. They may be referred to if required. Things have been simplified here for easier reading. In this instance the test was composed of 183 happy individuals and 168 divorced. These days it seems reasonable to assume that the astrological indicators that appear to be linked with a long, happy marriage are equally likely to be relevant to those who have an equivalent but informal relationship. At this stage I would not assume the findings would automatically apply to homosexual pairs. We do not know how Venus or any other planet, which is normally assigned to one or other gender, will represent two people of the same biological sex.

I already suspected that the results would not be a loud chorus confirming a “well placed” Venus as the true omen of a happy pair bond. In fact the results were not even a muted singing of her praises but a spirited rendition of a different tune.

Based on this test group the best placement of Venus for a long happy relationship turns out to be Aquarius! In round figures it resulted in 4 happy individuals to every 1 divorced. Other work is suggesting that Aquarius in general seems quite a lot better at relationships than we guessed. It is fixed, it is ruled by the less heavy version of Saturn, which does long term better than any other candidate. Aquarius, when working properly, is not out blowing things up, it is concerned with an effective, ordered and equal society. Libra, being a fellow air sign, is also concerned with matters social and cultural. Libra trines Aquarius and comes before it in the cycle, marriage or its equivalent (and again working properly) is a significant building block within any ordered society. Astrology was constructed at a time when only a marriage intended to support a political alliance was a matter for men. Otherwise it was a female, domestic and therefore small time matter. To some extent this attitude still underlies our collective thinking. Where it does not the alternative view can be that it is a mechanism for enslavement or at least conformism of one sort or another. Therefore marriage (or any enduring, fair, honest, monogamous, pair bond) has been hugely underrated in its importance in supporting the larger whole. Stable and happy pairs have the best chance of producing healthy, well-functioning offspring, who may even take society forward in positive ways. We all know Mr Obama and Mr De Caprio were brought up by single moms but go ask them how easy it was.

Aquarius is about long term friendship. When the lust or the romance is wearing thin friendship is not a bad thing to have left. This much we know from the nature of the sign. Other results will make it clearer why Venus in Aquarius did so well.

Second place was taken by Venus in Leo with 2 happy to every 1 divorced. Venus in the sign of Love seems all well and good and sounds closer to a result we would have expected. Leo is also fixed. The Lion is not just ardent but also romantic and it can house a royal princess. Therefore, at best, it should offer scope for both the old and new version of the Venus archetype to exist at the same time. It ought then to suit both men and women to some degree, which may be why it did well. However in reality it was only **half** as good as for the cooler end of the polarity. Fire is lovely but it does need a lot of tending.

The bronze medal was taken by Venus in Virgo, where she is in fall. This means Venus does not get to do her usual thing. She is forced to work harder, remain faithful and spend a bit less of the rent money on ear rings. How surprising that when Venus stops playing the field and stops waiting for the knight on a white horse her partnership starts to work rather better. Virgo is boring but some of it, somewhere, is essential to get through real life. **Now is the point at which it is necessary to start asking whether you want to continue waiting for the myth or try for a real relationship, which has a lot of its own rewards?** Venus in Virgo resulted in about 66% more happy relationships than divorces. (5 happy to every 3 divorced). As a general rule in relationship work TOO MUCH Virgo is as bad as too little but it seems fairly good for curbing Venus (and Jupiter) appropriately. Pure Venus can be great while it lasts, but that often means for only one half of the pair. It is unlikely that HIS perfect Venus will ever be even vaguely similar to HERS. And while we all try to deal with that minor detail life happens, which requires good sense and patient use of a wet mop through the bad bits.

Venus in Cancer is the only remaining sign to have more happy cases than divorces and then only just. According to this test it seems to offer only about 14% more chance of being in the happy group. Another test might change the figures a bit but let us say that Cancer still looks

much less of a good bet than we might have thought for a nice female, sign. Unfortunately gender identification is close to where it ends. Venus does not do domesticated. Venus is either a sex goddess or a princess, neither of whom have an impressive leftover turkey recipe and neither ever, ever does stretch marks for all that mewling infant stuff.

The other side of the line came Venus in Sagittarius, Capricorn and Gemini (in that order), they were all very close to 6 divorces to 5 happy.

Next in 8th place was Venus in Aries. It was actually so close to the previous three signs, at roughly 6 divorces to 5 happy that other tests may well change their order. However this is where things got interesting again.

8th - Venus in Aries, Venus in detriment.

9th - Venus in Taurus, Venus in rulership.

10th - Venus in Scorpio, Venus in detriment.

11th – Venus in Libra, Venus in rulership.

12th – Venus in Pisces, Venus exalted.

Psychologically oriented astrologers who do not regularly use dignity are equally likely to be surprised at the bad outcome for Venus in Libra and Taurus, because of the associations and character of each sign. Most will associate Venus in Pisces with a spiritual form of love, which is generally thought of as positive. Why did these three signs do so badly? Why does rulership appear to be no better than detriment? The first thought may be that the test must be too small and, or flawed. It is true the test is small but the more tests I conduct the more I am surprised by how sensible the results appear to be even in small samples. In general they tend to verify astrological theory reasonably well, which implies that the system works well enough to be visible even in a small sample. We do not need thousands of cases to find a slight tendency towards something.

Where the results are shocking because they do not confirm our theory, as is the case here, a little brain work usually suggests that we have not been thinking hard enough about each particular case. There are usually answers to be found before we cry out that the entire chart has to be considered. This is absolutely true but there are things we can learn before turning to other symbolism, which will deepen our understanding. Astrological theory is a collection of general principles, sometimes they are contradictory. In addition much of what astrology stands on was invented by Greeks, who were seriously inclined to like tidy patterns. If they had half a good system going but the last bits did not fit then the answer was to hit the bits harder and use the system anyway. Eventually Ptolemy found sufficient excuses for it. (I offer triplicity up as proof). Theory is a useful starting point, it should not be a strait jacket.

Whatever we expected to find from this test, the pattern of the last five signs seems to me to be too marked to be coincidental because the test is small. This is probably a case for rethinking the theory and looking to see where it may have been hit because it did not fit where it was supposed to.

Venus was placed in detriment in signs where her character would go “bad ways” or she would behave inappropriately. In Aries she might become too masculine, too forward, too bad tempered, too selfish, (which naturally makes her wholly unfeminine and automatically unattractive to men). Feisty is not required in order to Love, Honour and Obey. These days Aries may simply be seen as the polar opposite of the married state. We assume that Venus

in Aries is either unfit for or disinclined towards partnership, that she will not be fair if she does pair up. We do not expect her to do well there. She did not.

Similarly in Scorpio she used to be tainted by Martial rule, though of a softer more subtle kind. Although the sex goddess was the object of every man's desire, when ALSO in Scorpio Venus might continue to put herself about a bit after she was married off, which was considered a highly unattractive quality in the female (and it spoils the girly princess image at the same time). Scorpio came down to us loaded with all manner of nasty baggage and then Pluto was added to the mix. Now Venus placed there is potentially manipulative, we can all see the possibility of ruthless scheming for advantage. Seduction for power. We are not shocked she did badly there either.

So far we have little problem seeing these two signs at the bottom of the league. (Nor at Capricorn and Gemini being very nearly as bad). So how can the opposite signs also do badly? The answer is twofold. **Firstly Venus in rulership in Libra and Taurus has the power to behave at her most characteristic and she does. That brings us to the second factor, which is that her character simply does not suit a long relationship.** The goddess of Love in her raw state is the stuff of dreams. She is about romance or passion or both. Unfortunately these things are most often fleeting and frequently imaginary. This is the simple answer to why Venus in Pisces did worst of all. (The more complicated answer, which may be dealt with at another time, is that exaltation is not really what we think it is. Exaltation often fails).

When a planet is in rulership it has maximum opportunity to be itself. The results depend on what that self is when it is unfettered and what the circumstances are. Bulls are not great in china shops. Venus in Taurus may require an impossible amount of earthly comfort. In the worst case scenario she may expect an awful lot of high quality pretty things and hairdressing without a lot of personal effort. She may become grasping and dull. (We will stop before we paint the full vision of lazy and fat on the antique chaise).

Venus in Libra (like Sun in Libra) can be way too keen to enter partnership and dive in at the first opportunity. This version may not know what to do next, it can be shallow and unable to enter deeper emotional territory. Neither is it good at the anatomy of drains or weevil infestations in the wheat flakes. Venus in Libra expects life to be colour coordinated, whether this placement is in the man or woman each couple will probably needs to pay a second man to do the extra shift. Alternatively Venus in Libra may give so much up to the partner that eventually she (or the rest of the chart) cannot take the loss of selfhood.

The good news is that (within my available sample) there were more divorced individuals who had a **good second marriage** who had Venus in Libra than in any other sign. It appears that many of the problems of the placement may be solved by experience and maturity. It seems it is possible to learn what makes a true partnership and even to live the lesson. The results for Venus in Aquarius. Leo and Virgo should guide us.

However since the results were not in line with theory as we are currently using it we must accept that the nature of Venus is improperly understood or wilfully ignored. Winning a meaningful and lasting partnership requires us to stop concentrating so hard on the one enticing facet represented by Venus and accept that real love must encompass the mundane as well as the glorious and the pleasurable. We must acknowledge that nothing worthwhile is won without effort because the alternative is to survive a series of painful disappointments or give up and decide life is easier alone. Treasure sometimes needs a map, a spade and a tin of polish. Astrology can offer the map but we must look more closely to the Sun and Moon,

Jupiter and Juno and the seventh house to find a personal prize that is more solid gold than the thin beaten leaf, which is applied to the surface of cheaper stuff and offered up as real by Venus alone. After that we have to care for it.

For those who can handle the figures. Here are the ratios for the bottom five Venus signs.

	Happy	:	Divorced
Aries	1	:	1.22
Taurus	1	:	1.34
Scorpio	1	:	1.45
Libra	1	:	1.50
Pisces	1	:	1.93