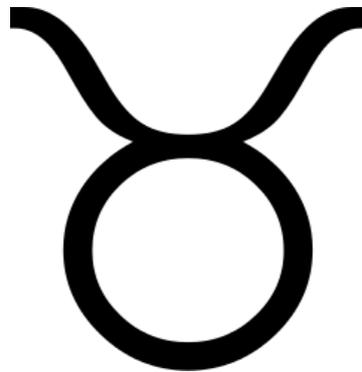


Taurus



Taurus



21st April – 21st May

Element **Earth** ~ Quality **Fixed**

Charge **Negative** ~ Ruling Planet **Venus** ~ Day **Freya**

Sensual and magnetic **Taurus** is the second sign of the Zodiac and is ruled by **Venus**, the planet and Archetype of *passion, desire* and Love. Together with a *feminine awareness*, Taureans value *practicality* and *security* as well as being creative creatures of *sense* and *charm*. The **Moon** is exalted in Taurus providing a charged nature teamed with a strong sense of *loyalty* and *fidelity*.

The symbol of Taurus is the **Bull** and much like this strong and solid creature of the **Earth**, individuals who are born under this stable Earth sign are lovers of Nature and enjoy spending time in the world of *flora and fauna*. They make fantastic gardeners and as Taurus rules the *throat*, they have a great love of *singing* and *music*. They are also *kind* and *generous lovers* and sensual areas include the *neck, ears* and *throat*.

The Taurus personality is the 'what you see is what you get' down-to Earth attitude and Taureans enjoy *taking their time* with decisions.

Change can come with difficulty, however they are *loyal* in all their relationships and possess a fine *sense of humour*. Theirs is a flow of *common sense* and *responsibility* and when a task is started it is stubbornly taken to **completion**.

Taureans are *physically strong, solidly built* and are *easy to understand*. They are *attractive, practical, persevering, reliable, conservative* and possess a *strong will*. When times are not so good they can be rather *grumpy, possessive* and *selfish*. Sometimes individuals of Taurus have difficulty seeing to the end of their nose. The Earth is all there is and that is that!

Finance, love of money and the comforts in life are traits that Taurus enjoys and this makes Taureans *hard-working individuals*. Because of the love of comfort and security, Taureans tend to get *lazy*, so a bit of exercise at times is good.

Flowers that symbolize Taurus are the *red rose, daisy, lily, daffodil, violet* and *poppy*. Colours include; *pale blue, lilac, pink, brown, russet* and *turquoise*. Birthstones that represent Taurus are; *alabaster, topaz, rose quartz* and the striking *emerald*.



The identification of the constellation of Taurus with a Bull is ancient, dating to before 15,000 BCE. A painting of the constellation was found in the *Hall of the Bulls* in the caves at **Lascaux**, together with a portrait of **The Pleiades**. Taurus marked the point of the *vernal Equinox* in the *Chalcolithic* and the *Early Bronze Age* (Age of Taurus), from about 4000 BCE to 1700 BCE. The Pleiades were closest to the Sun at the *vernal Equinox* around the 23rd century BC.

In **Babylonian** astronomy, the constellation was listed in the MUL.APIN as GU4.AN.NA, "*The Heavenly Bull*". As this constellation marked the *vernal Equinox*, it was also the first constellation in the Babylonian Zodiac and was described as "*The Bull in Front*". The *Akkadian* name was **Alu**. The Bull of Heaven was closely associated with **Inanna** in early *Mesopotamian* art. One of the earliest depictions shows the bull standing before the goddess' standard.

The same iconic representation of the Heavenly Bull was depicted in the *Denderah Zodiac*, an **Egyptian** bas-relief carving. The orientation of the horns was portrayed as upward and backward. This differed from the later Greek depiction where the horns pointed forward. To the Egyptians, the constellation Taurus was a sacred Bull that was associated with the *renewal of life* in **Spring**.

About four-thousand years ago, the *spring Equinox* entered Taurus. The constellation would become covered by the Sun in the western sky as Spring began. This '*sacrifice*' led to the renewal of the land. To the early **Hebrews**, Taurus was the first constellation in their Zodiac and consequently it was represented by the first letter in their alphabet, *Aleph*.

In **Greek** mythology, Taurus was identified with **Zeus**, who assumed the form of a *magnificent white Bull* to abduct **Europa**, a legendary *Phoenician* princess. In illustrations only the front portion of the constellation are depicted; in Greek mythology this was explained as Taurus being *partly submerged* as he carried Europa out to sea. Taurus is the same archetype that formed the myth of the *Cretan Bull*, one of *The Twelve Labours of Heracles*.





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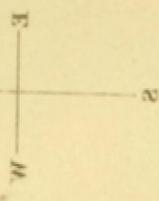
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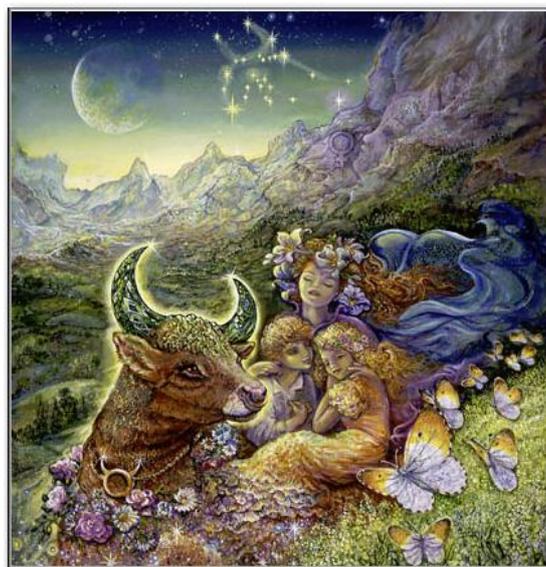
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