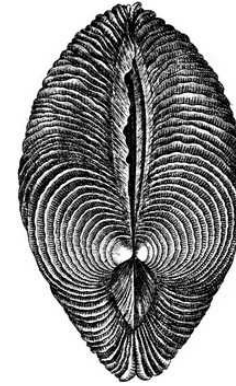


Your Taurus Mystery School



Your Venus is in the fixed earth sign of **Taurus**, increasing your Venusian sensitivity to beauty, nature, stability and the comforts of touch. Perhaps you've already read a few Venus-in-Taurus descriptions and contemplated how they did or didn't fit you. But have you ever wondered *why* your Venus was in Taurus? That's where the real story begins.

If birth didn't bring forgetting, you might remember... an eternal perfumed temple... its cool stone floor... how you dropped your garments and were bathed in soft rose-petal water, surrendering to the Divine Feminine as a chorus of honeyed voices filled the air. Intimate and vast, nurturing and alluring, here was wisdom beyond words. Lifetimes of training could not exhaust these mysteries. Twelve doors appeared. The one marked "Taurus" opened as you approached. This was the facet of the Divine Feminine you most wanted to explore. Crossing the threshold overwhelmed your senses. There were scents on the wind, colors arranged in harmonious patterns, a symphony of pleasing sounds... the deep lullaby of a distant ocean, the quiet melody of a mountain stream. A tree limb gently bowed and touched your hand, offering the grapes entwined on its limbs. You absorbed it all, the plenitude and the mystery, your heart quickening for the teachings to come.

This wasn't a past life, but a "before life" experience. Edgar Cayce and Alice Bailey report that in the in-between spaces before incarnation, everyone is schooled in certain planetary mysteries. We choose our birth times accordingly. That's why you were born when Venus was in Taurus—to bring your Venus learning into manifestation. This lies behind your yearnings to love, receive pleasure, create beauty and weave harmony in a distinctly Taurus way.

What does Venus in Taurus most desire? To explore and embody the Feminine gift of Equanimity, the serene abiding quality of Love. Not easy in a fragile world where matter crumbles, forces rush, and everything is susceptible to change. Your Venus seeks Contentment and Ease. This prosperity won't be found on some distant mountaintop. It's as near as your senses, requiring nothing less than mastery in the art of savoring. Let your body fully receive life's goodies. This is not to be confused with clutching, piling things up or locking them down, fearing what can disappear or run away. Equanimity is a solid ease with earth's changing round. It's an unflappable smile, full of desire, yet needing nothing more than the moment offers. That way the bliss goes on forever.

Venus is not the Moon

In astrology, the Feminine principle is shared by two bodies—the Moon and Venus. Moon is Mother, the nurturing, empathetic, intuitive and sometimes irrational face of the Feminine. Venus is the Lover, passionate, seductive, and creative. The Moon forms relationships based on need—the protectiveness of a parent, the dependencies of a child. Venus creates relationships based on desire. She connects with others because she wants to—socially, sensually. Through Venus, your heart opens beyond the family unit, loving not just other people, but whatever you see and do. You might love ideas, how the pavement smells after it rains, or digging your fingers into the earth. Whenever you feel delight, Venus is there. She's the joy factor—the seat of happiness—in your chart.

Astrology considers the Moon one of the three pillars of personality, representing your instinctive emotional nature and primal security needs. Being so powerful, she can frequently overwhelm your Venus, creeping into your relationships with her demands, clouding your happiness with her fears. The more spontaneous and fickle Venusian desires may get lost—along with your happiness. If Venus could speak to you now, what might she want you to know?

Venus in Taurus Speaks

I am your radiance. I am the rosy golden light within. Even on a dense or dirty city street, I am wonderstruck by the abundance of earth. I whirl on its surface, a delighted dancer. I can feel its strength stretching for thousands of miles beneath my feet. Let's visit an arboretum bright with

flowers, buzzing with bees. Imagine a soft brook bubbling by, as I feed you cherries, or you feed me. Next we'll go shopping. Or spend a whole day at the spa. Mud packs, salt rubs, a lavender oil massage. We'll wear plush chenille robes and choose just the right color to paint our toes. Oooh—there's a cart full of pastries: chocolate, caramel, whipped cream. So much to enjoy! Turtledoves serenade us from a nearby tree. Puffy clouds float across a tender blue sky. Life can be so peaceful, so delicious, so luxurious, with me at your side.

I am sensuous and slow. I live in the body. It's a shame most people live in their heads—when the body offers such a wealth of sensations, seducing us into infinite pleasures. I love being touched. But understand this: I'm no harem bimbo. I'm grounded, strong, nurturing and creative—I've got a green thumb for beauty. And I know life includes both the sour and the sweet. Wars rage. Orphans hunger. Loneliness drowns love. I can hold these truths too. Nature is my teacher. Midst all the coming and going, there's something in nature that just... endures. A tree stands tall through a storm. In the charred ruins of a forest fire, green growth appears. Serene elegance—this is how Nature keeps at her dance.

My patience causes trouble sometimes. Passivity trumps my need for pleasure and I get stuck—with difficult people in unpleasant situations. I'm loyal. Even when the thing I've been longing for lies just around the corner, I'll stay planted where I am. Secretly, deep down inside, I sometimes feel terrified. Earth is strong, but it's fragile too. I fear our paradise may disappear. Or the bliss I long for will never come again. Like a blind woman I send out my hands searching for some happiness! That's when I must remember—not hate,

but fear is the enemy of Love. And holding Love is my true mission— being passionate holy joyful open—a sensuous partner with a dancing universe!

What do the astrology books say?

Taurus is the luckiest sign for Venus, since this is her natural home. Astrology books *love* your Venus and say things like: “Venus in Taurus has the beauty, talent, charm and self worth to achieve material prosperity and long-lasting romantic happiness. She enjoys luxury and comfort, is gifted in the arts, lusty in bed, and is usually pursued, without having to chase her lovers. Her partners are generally quite wealthy.” If this has been your experience, read no further. Just keep enjoying your happy life!

But if you feel slightly cheated, you may find some comfort in what others with Venus in Taurus have shared:

I don't feel like the 'very sexual woman' one of my astrologer friends once informed me I was.

I haven't had the long term relationships that are supposed to come with this placement.

How come my Venus hasn't made me rich?

Venus Journal



Don't take my word for it. No matter how insightful this report, you know your Venus better than I do. She's alive, changeable, and perfectly unique. One way to grow closer to her is by keeping a journal and occasionally posing provocative questions/assignments. Here are a few to get you started.

1. Collect images from favorite magazines—gathering various pictures of women, objects and scenes that inspire or delight you. Can you see how these images reflect your Venus nature? What fits with your Taurus needs and tendencies? As you read further in this report, you'll learn about your Venus house and aspects. These may also be reflected in your collection of pleasing images.
2. Think of women you've known—in your family, among your friends, or even a celebrity you've never met. Who stands out and inspires you with her feminine expression? Keep adding to this list whenever you're struck with a woman's radiance or power. Know that it says something about your Venus—the beauty and power that's within you too.
3. My friend Rebecca once asked me, “Have you ever seen a goddess?” Her eyes sparkled. “I once did,” she said. “Twelve years ago in a dream—a dakini was standing in front of the most plentiful garden I'd ever seen. She was so radiant, my breath was taken away. All normal thoughts ceased.” Have you ever met such a being—whose beauty was so remarkable your thoughts disappeared? Even if you haven't—imagine one now. She could be standing before you, floating on a cloud, or sitting in your body... small as a thumb or fully sized. Describe what you see when you imagine a goddess.

That's what happens when astrology books get carried away. Raising expectations so high, they disconnect you from what is indeed a beautiful placement. Venus in Taurus won't guarantee wealth or everlasting love. But the capacity to enjoy simple pleasures—hiking in the woods, eating good foods, playing, singing, loving, creating, being a new mother nursing her babies—this is how your Venus showers you with blessings. When you slow down and listen, she brings you into the most exquisite relationship with the physical world, an abundance others would envy. Notice how generously she works her magic in small and infinite ways.

Last night I dozed on my front porch on a chaise lounge while the nearly full moon rose over the barn. A couple of owls were calling each other. A chorus of coyotes on one hill were answered by an excited solo coyote on another hill. The air was fresh and cool on my skin.

I could feel an approaching rain storm, as clouds gathered on the horizon. I was standing in the yard barefoot, feeling the grass, as the first few tiny drops begin to fall. Later I sat inside eating a meal of pungent pasta, listening to the steady rain through open windows, feeling the moist air on my back.

Once I was by a lake in Italy after a stressful time. It was April and warm, no one else was there. I bought some salami and cheese from a local shop, sat in an olive field on a terraced slope, read a book and fell asleep! I was finally able to breathe... In moments like that (and I've had many) I feel like the world is speaking to me.

For me, celebrating the Sabbath is a very sensual experience. It's a holiday that is all about enjoying and being grateful, stopping busyness and ambition. Every week I get to remember what's really important. I get to delight in the gifts of my life. I slow down, open and receive.

Venus is happy in Taurus. Being this sign's ruling planet, no other planet modifies her expression. But that doesn't mean she's all sweetness and light. Goddesses have their dark side too. And Venus is no exception. If you remember the myth of Psyche and Cupid, Venus (as Aphrodite) went wild with jealousy when she learned some mortal girl rivaled her beauty. Your inner goddess can also become emotionally unstrung.

I guess my dark side is possessiveness and jealousy. I can be totally unforgiving, capable of a cold hatred once a line has been crossed.

My dark side is a tendency to become jealous when my husband gives attention to someone else. I want him to be passionately attracted to me and only me. I want him to see me as the most beautiful, sexy, wonderful woman.

Jealousy is a clue that your Venus needs attention. **Your** attention. You may need to step away from whatever situation is causing you distress and reset your dial to Equanimity. Return to the temple of your body. Loving it, adorning it, pleasuring it, and nurturing it with proper rest, food, *and* exercise are all acts of Feminine devotion. Your body is the gateway to an ease as deep and refreshing as Earth herself.

Feeling impoverished or trapped, stuck in a bad relationship, going nowhere in a rotten job—these are also clues that your Venus needs renewal. You must start *moving*—toward those sights, sounds, people and activities that bring her joy.

Imagine giving your Venus the perfect gift. Just the thought will make her smile!

Mmm... The perfect gift would be a beautiful hand-painted silk robe with deep pockets. In one pocket I find an airline ticket to Bali and an all expense paid reservation at an exotic resort. The other pocket holds a small chocolate truffle wrapped in handmade paper with a beautiful love poem written on it.

VENUS IN TAURUS: GODDESS REFLECTIONS

"I've seen many goddesses awake and in dreams. Sometimes I've been the goddess. They've come in all sizes, colors and ages. Sometimes she's a bag lady and other times she seems like royalty. But there's a feeling I have when I see one and when I am one. It is inner peace and fearless love for everything. Every person, animal, flower, tree and rock is alive with love when a goddess is around. Water is safe and alive." –BL

"My goddess has got both feet firmly planted on the ground, a big smile, warm and friendly, makes you feel at home, a slightly wicked sense of humor, full of energy and is self-possessed. She's sexy and charming." –DJ

"My goddess? Infinite beauty: the feminine aspect of God. Beyond sex, beyond body. Infinite love, infinite mercy, compassion and forgiveness." –FD

"When I imagine a goddess, I think of many unseen females with flowing hair and confident, radiant faces helping us to enjoy satisfying, fulfilling lives. I also see all the females in my life right now. I see my daughter sitting at the table eating a snack and suddenly giggling uncontrollably. I see my friend smiling radiantly even though she has been on strict bed rest in the hospital for seven weeks due to preterm labor. I see myself relaxing in the filtered sunlight sipping a decaf iced Americano with cream, breathing in the fresh air and connecting with nature. One woman who particularly inspires me moves and looks graceful even when she is sixty pounds heavier than she'd like to be. She holds her head high with confidence even when things are not going her way. I can learn a lot from her! When things aren't going my way or I am feeling chubby, I beat myself up and hang my head low. She reminds me that it's these times that I should pamper myself and face the world with my best even when going through my worst." –ME

"When I first saw her I told my friend I had to have her. My friend looked at me quizzically. Ironically, her attire prevented others from seeing what I saw. Rainbow head band, glasses unsuited to her face, acne, baggy overalls, and work boots unlaced. However camouflaged she may have been, she was the most sensual, sexy and beautiful woman I had ever seen. She was the full and complete embodiment of the feminine. I knew it within minutes and would never change my mind." –BO

"*Sheena, Queen of the Jungle*, a TV show from the 50's comes to mind. As a 9-year-old girl, I used to watch reruns of the show in my country with awe. I thought she was the most perfect being on earth: beautiful, sensual, womanly, sexy, luminous with her blonde hair (even on black and white TV). She had a beautiful figure, was tall, strong, athletic, and savage. She was one with nature, able to communicate with animals. A true virginal goddess, possessed by no one. I imagine her enjoying an active sex life with men and gods alike, but she would not belong to any, being a goddess of nature, a goddess of the wild." –AM

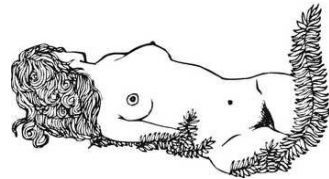


VENUS AND SEXUALITY

Venus *loves* sex. So you might think that understanding her Taurus placement will identify once and for all what sexually pleases you. Yet if you've ever read astrology books promising to predict sexual preference (based on Venus or any other factor), you've likely been disappointed. Sexuality, like a wild and beautiful animal, can't be captured so easily. At least not by simple astrology formulas. There's a sexual component to *every* planet in the chart. The Sun turns you on. Mercury has sexual opinions. Your Mars lusts. Venus alone has many moods, depending on her sign, house, ruling planet and aspects. The erotic you is complex! With such vibrant energies at play, it's no wonder your sexuality is a rich mystery, inviting—no *requiring*—your constant discovery.

So how does Venus in Taurus influence your sex life? Likely she's the girl at the ticket booth, representing your preferred entrance into eroticism. She can either let you in or keep you out. She controls the gateway. But understand that once you've entered the theater, your Venus is naked. By that I mean she's unlimited, no longer defined by a particular preference or style. To surrender deeply into Venus means to experience the unbounded range of the Divine Feminine. At her deepest level, your Venus is indivisible from all expressions. There's nothing in the Feminine experience she can't embrace or understand. She is every flower in the garden.

Following are sexual confessions from women and men with Venus in Taurus. Let their admissions inspire your own. Stating your truth brings movement, leading you to even deeper truths. How does it feel to for you to be naked? What would the perfect lover need to know about your body?



I have always felt comfortable being naked. My parents never had any taboos about this and I have always been happy being naked. In fact I remember how surprised I was when I discovered growing up that most people don't walk around their house naked. —GW

I don't like quickies. I'm slowly warmed up. Sex is an experience I want to have with all five senses fully engaged. —MK

Venus in Taurus likes to be fed. Eating in a relaxed setting puts me in a love-making mood. I heard that Venus in Sagittarius women feel more in the mood if you've made them laugh. Not me. I don't laugh easily, but I smile a lot. Being in a beautiful setting helps, being near water, the ocean or a mountain lake. I do love freshly washed sheets. One of my greatest joys is having my bedding changed by my housekeeper. To get into a bed that someone else has made up... divine! And best of all, being held in a full body embrace, lips locked, while lying on a wonderfully large-enough sofa with my boyfriend. —AT

In my sexual fantasies I alternate between being playful and deeply intimate. I feel totally seen and cherished. I explore every inch of my lover and take delight through all my senses. I invite the Goddess to inhabit my body and experience her power and vision.—CR

I like sex to be the last thing I do before I drift off to sleep. It's like taking my love with me to the other plane. —RR

I adore making love, but have never enjoyed having just sex. I tried it for a couple of times but it does not work for me. I guess I need to feel that I am special to the other one. It is like sex is something so private, something where you are so vulnerable, so open, that I cannot let a perfect stranger in. I have to know I am safe. —DN

I've had ecstatic sexual experiences when, close to my lover's neck with my breath, I can feel a change in her perceptions, feeling every part of her body and knowing what she is thinking and feeling. We are both so very ready, yet I wait, to make us both long for it even more (as if that were even possible). My touch changes from light touches to heighten her sensitivity to firm grabs to somehow bring her closer to me or into me, whispering to her that she is too far away and I want her closer. Her wetness engulfs her, my hardness is forceful. I know entry will define the moment so I take my time letting her first know that I am at the door and that I am ready to come in. Sometimes I enter with the force of a locomotive and the rush of ecstasy and the bracing of delight. Other times I inch my way in, letting her be filled more in this moment than in the last. She arches her back to give more room to what is expanding inside her. It is pure bliss. We are the divine. We are one. —VM

I felt shame about my body when I was a teenager, but learned to love it in my twenties. I enjoy being naked now—even more when I'm happy with my weight. What would the perfect lover need to know about my body? Nothing in particular. It's not rocket science. He just needs to enjoy and worship it. —KS