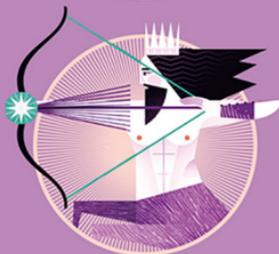


DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF EACH SIGN THROUGH VERSE

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EDITED BY LIZ ISON



ARIES
21 MARCH - 20 APRIL





ARIES

21 MARCH – 20 APRIL

'the wingèd energy of delight'

SYMBOL	RAM
MODALITY	CARDINAL
ELEMENT	FIRE
RULER	MARS
POLARITY	POSITIVE/MASCULINE

ARIES: INTRODUCTION

Aries, symbolized by the Ram, is the first sign of the zodiac and so ushers in new beginnings: dawn, spring, the start of life itself. Not only is Aries the pioneer and leader of the zodiac, but it is also our first fire sign. Aries is ruled by the red planet Mars, who, in mythology, is the god of war.

Those born under this star sign are likely to have strong, independent spirits: to be natural leaders with energy, enthusiasm and spontaneity. With an energetic personality, the typical Aries is bold, competitive and courageous. So arises a direct and determined approach, quick to discern the most important factors in making decisions along with a strong will to succeed.

It feels fitting that the vernal or spring equinox (one of two moments in the yearly cycle when the Sun is exactly above the equator and day and night are of equal length) falls within this astrological sign: after all it is the first cardinal sign of the zodiac and its energy burst awakens the new season, the spring of the northern hemisphere.

Poems for Aries vibrate with the essence of life and sparkle with energy, adventure and a sense of the wonder of our world. Readers whatever their star sign will sense real possibility in these poems: new beginnings, the spark that ignites creativity, change on both a personal and cosmic level and an activated, even explosive, relationship between the individual and the world we live in.

POETRY

And it was at that age ... Poetry arrived
in search of me. I don't know, I don't know where
it came from, from winter or a river.
I don't know how or when,
no, they were not voices, they were not
words, nor silence,
but from a street I was summoned,
from the branches of night,
abruptly from the others,
among violent fires
or returning alone,
there I was without a face
and it touched me.

I did not know what to say, my mouth
had no way
with names,
my eyes were blind,
and something started in my soul,
fever or forgotten wings,
and I made my own way,
deciphering
that fire,
and I wrote the first faint line,
faint, without substance, pure
nonsense,
pure wisdom
of someone who knows nothing,

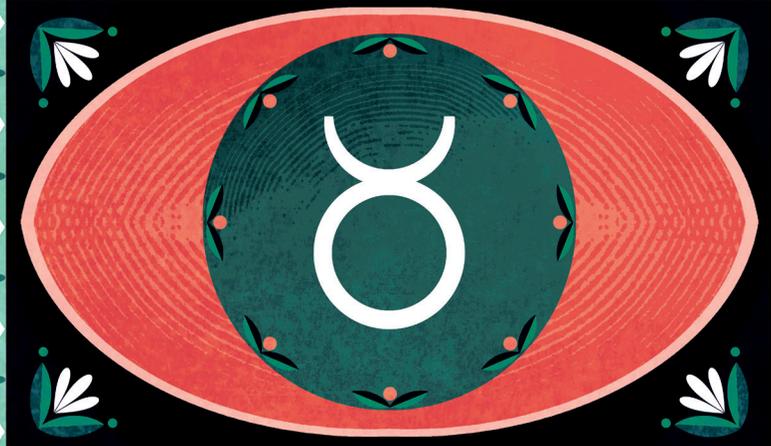
and suddenly I saw
the heavens
unfastened
and open,
planets,
palpitating plantations,
shadow perforated,
riddled
with arrows, fire and flowers,
the winding night, the universe.

And I, infinitesimal being,
drunk with the great starry
void,
likeness, image of
mystery,
felt myself a pure part
of the abyss,
I wheeled with the stars,
my heart broke loose on the wind.

— Pablo Neruda (1904–1973)
Translated by Alastair Reid



TAURUS
21 APRIL - 21 MAY





TAURUS

21 APRIL – 21 MAY

'touching the surface and the depths of things'

SYMBOL	BULL
MODALITY	FIXED
ELEMENT	EARTH
RULER	VENUS
POLARITY	NEGATIVE/FEMININE

TAURUS: INTRODUCTION

After the zodiac's wonderfully energetic and creative start in Aries, Taurus's vibe is abundantly earthy: it is the star sign of our world when it turns green in spring. Where Aries created, Taurus gives it form and substance. It is time to enjoy and savour the pleasures and beauty of the planet.

Taurus is the first of the three earth signs and is ruled by the planet Venus, which is said to add a sensual side. Symbolized by the bull (the 'Bull of Heaven' being one of the most ancient of Babylonian symbols of fertility and power), Taurus is also a fixed sign which brings a quality of focus, firmness and persistence.

People born under this star sign tend to be warm-hearted, reliable and loyal. Their dependable nature makes them willing to take on responsibility. Although they can be tenacious and steadfast, they are firmly grounded in reality which can make them slow and cautious at times. Fantastically attuned to the world, and to their place in it, they are also romantic, kind and gentle. They are responsive to all that is beautiful. They will take great joy in making people happy and ensuring that everyone feels at ease.

Poems for Taurus communicate abundance and they are of the earth: grounded and strong; not ethereal, but of real substance and deep-rooted. These are poems of celebration: celebrating the world, our earthly home, the universe and our own unique place in it: to be enjoyed, to be experienced, in which to be alive.

LIKE A STRONG TREE

Like a strong tree that in the virgin earth
Sends far its roots through rock and loam and clay,
And proudly thrives in rain or time of dearth,
When the dry waves scare rainy sprites away;
Like a strong tree that reaches down, deep, deep,
For sunken water, fluid underground,
Where the great-ringed unsightly blind worms creep,
And queer things of the nether world abound:

So would I live in rich imperial growth,
Touching the surface and the depth of things,
Instinctively responsive unto both,
Tasting the sweets of being and the stings,
Sensing the subtle spell of changing forms,
Like a strong tree against a thousand storms.

— *Claude McKay (1889–1948)*

IN MY CRAFT OR SULLEN ART

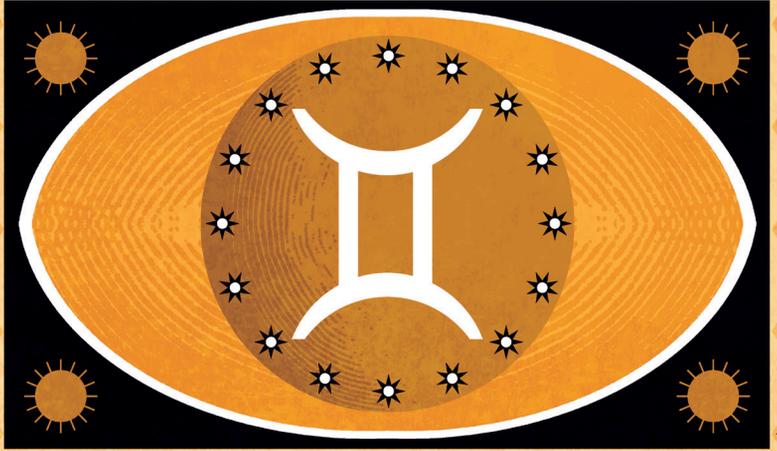
In my craft or sullen art
Exercised in the still night
When only the moon rages
And the lovers lie abed
With all their griefs in their arms,
I labour by singing light
Not for ambition or bread
Or the strut and trade of charms
On the ivory stages
But for the common wages
Of their most secret heart.

Not for the proud man apart
From the raging moon I write
On these spindrift pages
Nor for the towering dead
With their nightingales and psalms
But for the lovers, their arms
Round the griefs of the ages,
Who pay no praise or wages
Nor heed my craft or art.

— *Dylan Thomas (1914–1953)*



GEMINI
22 MAY - 21 JUNE





GEMINI

22 MAY – 21 JUNE

'truth was to me a breath, a wind, a shadow'

SYMBOL	TWINS
MODALITY	MUTABLE
ELEMENT	AIR
RULER	MERCURY
POLARITY	POSITIVE/MASCULINE

GEMINI: INTRODUCTION

Gemini is a mutable, masculine air sign. Gemini takes its name from the twin stars in this portion of the sky (in Latin 'gemini' means twins). The twins are said to be the half-brothers of Greek and Roman mythology, Castor and Pollux.

The duality of the star sign suggests that a goal of Geminis should be to unite the opposites within them, and to come to a unified understanding of the human condition and its limitations. The mutable nature of the sign means that Geminis can be restless and volatile, but also flexible, quick and inquisitive. This versatility allows them to pursue several paths of action at once, and take note of different perspectives.

Ruled by the planet Mercury (named for the messenger of the gods), Geminis are eloquent, communicative, sociable and witty, with a love of learning. This is a star sign of the intellect: curious, with wide-ranging knowledge of life, excited by everything the world has to offer.

Poems for Gemini have breadth, with a sweeping scope. As the star sign of language, these poems are full of invention and a quest for truth even when truth can often feel elusive. Readers will nonetheless notice their minds expand by the questioning and shifting voices in search of meaning. Given the sign's air element, these living, breathing Gemini poems will make us all feel more alive.

'TRUTH,' SAID A TRAVELLER

'Truth,' said a traveller,
'Is a rock, a mighty fortress;
'Often have I been to it,
'Even to its highest tower,
'From whence the world looks black.'

'Truth,' said a traveller,
'Is a breath, a wind,
'A shadow, a phantom;
'Long have I pursued it,
'But never have I touched
'The hem of its garment.'

And I believed the second traveller;
For truth was to me
A breath, a wind,
A shadow, a phantom,
And never had I touched
The hem of its garment.

— *Stephen Crane (1871–1900)*

THE MYSTERY OF PRESENCE

The mystery of presence
will not arrive through the mind,
but do some physical work, and it comes clear.

An intellectual gets bound and wrapped
in complicated nets of connectedness.
Whereas the Friend rides the intelligence
that is creating genius at the center.

The mind is husk, and the appetites love coverings.
They look for them everywhere.
That which loves the kernel and the oil
inside the nut has no interest in shells.

Mind carries reams of reasons into court,
but universal awareness does not move a step
without some definite intuition.
One covers volumes of pages.
The other fills the horizon with light and color.

The value of scrip resides in gold
stored somewhere else. The value of a body
stems from the soul. The value of soul
derives from presence. Soul cannot live
without a connection there.

— *Rumi (1207–1273)*

Translated by Coleman Barks