

Significations of the Sun According to Ancient and Modern Astrologers

This document gives some excerpts from different ancient and modern astrologers about what the Sun signifies in astrology. It is meant to accompany the discussion in episode 302 of The Astrology Podcast titled [The Sun in Astrology: Meanings and Techniques](#), with Demetra George and Chris Brennan. Please see that episode for a full discussion of these passages.



Sun



Domicile



Antithesis



Exaltation



Depression

Vettius Valens, *Anthology*, 2nd Century CE (trans. Brennan, *Hellenistic Astrology*)

The all-seeing Sun, consisting of fiery and intelligent light, the instrument of perception of the soul, in a nativity signifies kingship, authority, mind, intelligence, form, motion, height of fortune, dealings with the gods, judgment, being engaged in public affairs, action, leadership of crowds, father, master, friendship, notable figures, being honored by portraits, statues, and crowns of office, high-priests of the fatherland, ... places. Of the parts of the body, the Sun rules the head; of the sense organs: the right eye; of the torso: it rules the heart, the life-breath or sensory movement, and the nerves. Of substances, it rules gold. Of crops, it rules wheat and barley. He is of the diurnal sect, the color lemon-yellow, and bitter in taste.

Abu Ma'shar, *Abbreviation to the Introduction to Astrology*, 4.15-19 (trans. Burnett)

The Sun is a benefic. Its nature is hot and dry. It indicates the animal soul, light, brightness, the intellect, knowledge, intelligence; leaders, leadership, nobility, communities of men, wealth, riches; eloquence, cleanliness, judgment, religion, the life to come; fathers, middle brothers, mixing with men, powers over evil men. It brings good fortune, it brings bad fortune' at one time it raises, at another time it brings down.

William Lilly, Christian Astrology, 1647

Nature: Masculine, diurnal, hot and dry, choleric; a fortune if well dignified.

People signified: Kings, princes, emperors, dukes, marquesses, earls, barons, lieutenants, deputy-lieutenants of counties, magistrates, gentlemen in general, courtiers, desirers of honour and preferment, justices of peace, majors, high-sheriffs, high-constables, great huntsmen, stewards of noblemen's houses, the principal magistrate of any city, town, castle or country village - yea, though a petty constable, where no better or greater officer is. Goldsmiths, braziers, pewterers, coppersmiths, minters of money.

Manners when well dignified: When well dignified very faithful, keeping their promises with all punctuality, a kind of itching desire to rule and sway where he comes: prudent, and of incomparable judgement; of great majesty and stateliness, industrious to acquire honour and a large patrimony, yet as willingly departing therewith again; the solar man usually speaks with gravity, but not many words, and those with great confidence and command of his own affection; full of thought, secret, trusty, speaks deliberately, and notwithstanding his great heart, yet is he affable, tractable and very humane to all people, one loving sumptuousness and magnificence, and whatever is honourable; no sordid thoughts can enter his heart.

Manners when badly placed: Then the solar man is arrogant and proud, disdainful of all men, cracking of his pedigree, he is purblind in sight and judgement, restless, troublesome, domineering; a mere vapour, expensive, foolish, endued with no gravity in words, or soberness in actions, a spendthrift, wasting his patrimony, and hanging on other men's charity, yet thinks all men are bound to him, because a gentleman born.

Reinhold Ebertin, The Combination of Stellar Influences, 1940

Principle: Spirit, mind, the living being.

Psychological Correspondence:

+ The will to live, the urge to rule, the striving for an objective, organization, the ability to make a decision.

- Lack of vitality and will-power, lack of determination and organization, indecision or vacillation.

Biological Correspondence: Health, vitality, the heart, the circulation. - The body, the cell.

Sociological Correspondence: Man, father, authority, leading personality, official or civil servant.

Richard Tarnas, Cosmos and Psyche, 2006

Sun: the central principle of vital creative energy, the will to exist; the impulse and capacity to be, to manifest, to be active, to be central, to radiate, to “shine”; to rise above, achieve, illuminate, and integrate; the individual will and personal identity, the seat of mind and spirit, the animus, the executive functions of the self or ego, the capacity for initiative and purposeful assertion, the drive for individual autonomy and independence; directed and focused consciousness and self-awareness, the centrifugal expression of the self, the trajectory of self-manifestation, ascent and descent; the ruler of the day sky, of the clearly visible, the single source of luminosity that overcomes the encompassing darkness, the monocentric; yang; the part that contains the whole in potentia; Sol and all solar deities, the archetypal Hero in its many forms.

Demetra George, Astrology and the Authentic Self, 2009

The Sun signifies the radiant core of a person's essence - the soul, the mind and consciousness, the life force and vitality, the basic sense of selfhood, the purpose of the life, and the source of the will for accomplishing that purpose. Keep in mind that the Sun describes both the basic nature of the individual and the life purpose as an expression of that nature. Thus, what we do in terms of living a meaningful life is simply who we are on an essential level. The ascendant ruler points to the capacity of the personality to accomplish a life goal that is motivated by the core drive. The Sun, by its sign and house positions, describes the nature of the underlying purpose striving toward expression.