

Planets: Symbols, Protocols and Core Energies

I've always found it amusing that popular astrology referees to the 'stars' when in fact the 'stars' have very little to do with the practice of astrology. The constellations do have meaning yet their main function is to do provide the backdrop thru which the planets and luminaries pass. The luminaries are the sun and the moon. From this point the words planets will be used generically and includes the luminaries.

Astrology views the movement of planets from a geocentric perspective. This means as viewed from the earth. It is as if the earth were the centre of the solar system and everything is gets mapped from there. Mapping the movement of the planets from the sun is called heliocentric and will not be discussed at this point.

The planets symbols have 3 essential components

- Circle symbolising eternity and representing spirit
- ⊙ When a dot is placed at the centre, i.e. the Sun it reflects the emergence of spirit.
- + Cross representing matter.
- ∪ Semi circle representing the mind.

These components combine in various ways to make up the planetary symbols.

In simple terms the planets represent **what** core energy manifests and the signs represent the **attitude** or through which the plants express themselves. This ultimately manifests as behaviour.

Planets/ Luminaries	Symbol	
Sun	⊙	Personal Planets
Moon	☾	
Mercury	☿	
Venus	♀	
Mars	♂	
Jupiter	♃	Trans-Personal Planets
Saturn	♄	
Uranus	♅	
Neptune	♆	
Pluto	♇	

Astrologers work with planets in a definite order commencing with the Sun, Moon then in order of the speed at which they travel through the solar system. Faster moving planets move through the signs more quickly and the slower moving planets may stay in a sign for many years!

Astrologers usually express the faster moving planet first.

Planets/ Luminaries	Symbol	Core Energy
Sun	☉	The Sun is the generator of life and represents the life force or individuality. It is about creative expression of the self. Its how one strives to make ones journey in life and the way in which the rest of the horoscope manifest its potential. The Sun's sign and house placement tell us about how the power of the Sun manifests. The Sun also represents the male principle
Moon	☾	The Moon tells us about how and what we need to feel nurtured. It also describes how we instinctively respond to outside stimuli. In other words how you respond before you have the opportunity to think it out? It represents the female principle.
Mercury	☿	Mercury symbolises how we communicate, our alertness, our ability to reason and any mental interests. It describes how we learn, our and manual dexterity. As all things commence with a thought, androgenous Mercury needs to be understood.
Venus	♀	Venus symbolises how we attract what we want in life and our need to define our aesthetic circumstances. What pleases us is connected to Venus. Love and sensuality are governed by her. Money is also rules by Venus
Mars	♂	How I go about getting what I want is the energy of Mars. The way in which we assert who we are and how we take action is the activity of Mars. Anger, aggression are all attributed to Mars. The ancients called Mars the God of war!
Jupiter	♃	How I grow and expand my consciousness. It is the principle of expansion and understanding the universal principles, justice law, honour and truth. Jupiter also symbolises higher learning, religion, philosophy morality.
Saturn	♄	Saturn symbolises our need to structure and have a solid foundation from which to grow. Traditionally, Saturn has been associated with limitations and restrictions. Today we find that Saturn can provide focus so the hard work can be done to achieve goals. It is often referred to the Lord of Karma. Timing is also related to Saturn
Uranus	♅	The principle of awakening is related to Uranus. Uranus is humanitarian, inventive, and intuitive. It can be self willed and refuse to be influenced by outside forces. Uranus is the revolutionary spirit in all of us. It is also associated with sudden unexpected upheavals in life. Whether they are liberating or frightening will rest on other factors in the horoscope.
Neptune	♆	Idealism, vision, dreams, and inspiration along with nebulousness, confusion and deceit is the realm of Neptune. It's the master of disguise the trickster. He is the parton of dance and supplies inspiration to artists. Very often where Neptune resides things are not what they seem.
Pluto	♇	Major transformations in life are attributed to Pluto. Pluto Represents the death and rebirth principle. The energy is rarely direct and must be confronted, acknowledged and change must take place.

Key Words

Planets/ Luminaries	Symbol	Key Words
Sun	☉	Personality, ego, essence
Moon	☾	Instinctual response, emotions,
Mercury	☿	Expression, reasoning communication
Venus	♀	Values, social connection, affection
Mars	♂	Action, aggression, energy
Jupiter	♃	Expansion, growth, philosophy
Saturn	♄	Structure, responsibility, duty
Uranus	♅	Freedom, awakening, intuition
Neptune	♆	Illusion, escapism, trickster, psychic ability
Pluto	♇	Transformation, rebirth, reinvention

Signs	Symbol	Key Driver/Essence	Ruler
Aries	♈	Activity	♂ Mars
Taurus	♉	Stability	♀ Venus
Gemini	♊	Versatility	☿ Mercury
Cancer	♋	Devotion	☾ Moon
Leo	♌	Magnetism	☉ Sun
Virgo	♍	Practicality	☿ Mercury
Libra	♎	Harmony	♀ Venus
Scorpio	♏	Intensity	♇ Pluto
Sagittarius	♐	Expansion	♃ Jupiter
Capricorn	♑	Ambition	♄ Saturn
Aquarius	♒	Liberation	♅ Uranus
Pisces	♓	Understanding	♆ Neptune

Note

Astrologers generally refer to the Sun and Moon as planets yet it is understood that they are luminaries