The 10 Faces of a Zodiac Sign

How do you describe the qualities of an astrology sign? How do you know that you’ve covered all of the sign’s facets in your description? Astrology literature provides many keywords to help, but is there another way? The astrology system itself might just provide the answer. We can see how every sign informs the nature of the other signs in a glorious interconnected system.

In my book Elements & Evolution: The Spiritual Landscape of Astrology, there is a thorough description of the evolutionary importance of all of astrology’s aspects. For example, the strength of Aries combined with the nurturance of Cancer produces *protection*. The intellectual speculations of Gemini combine with the earthy analysis of Virgo to give us *science*. The benevolence of Pisces with the structural organization of Capricorn joins in *charity*.

We can derive a complete profile of every sign based on how it interacts with all of the others. The result is 10 different “faces” to each sign. Here’s how it works. First off, every sign has its own face. Aries is *autonomy*, Virgo is *competence*, and Sagittarius is *direction*. If you prefer a different word, then substitute your own. The vocabulary is incidental to the larger design. Next, in the great Evolutionary Cycle, every sign builds on the strengths of its predecessor while providing a foundation for its successor. There is an evolutionary relationship between adjacent signs, but they don’t provide a face as the connection works in a cyclical manner. Through the various aspects, the remaining 9 signs provide the other faces. The result is a total of 10 faces for every sign. Here’s how it works with 2 examples; Libra and Pisces.

The evolutionary task of Libra is to develop the “I—Thou” connection, to be in *relationship*. In the Evolutionary Cycle, developing *competence* (Virgo) prepares us to enter equal relationships, which are necessary for us to hold our *power* (Scorpio) with others, and ultimately, in the world.

The opposition between Libra and Aries deals with the issue of *behavior*—how we conduct ourselves with others. The evolutionary purpose is for an individual (Aries) to learn through the process of socialization (Libra). Others provide a mirror for self-reflection, and we develop behaviour routines which are both true to the self, and considerate to others.

When we consider the trine aspect, the combination of Libra and Gemini produces *communication*—sharing our thoughts (Gemini) with another (Libra). Information (Gemini) is transferred into interpersonal contexts (Libra). Libra’s other trine is with Aquarius. This pairing brings the interpersonal dynamics of Libra to the collective level—how we can all get along harmoniously on this planet. The integration of this trine produces *culture*, the collective agreements, customs and behavioural norms that serve as social glue.

Next we move to the square. The integration of Libra and Capricorn produces *civilization*. Capricorn involves institutions, the structure of government, and other social systems. Libra adds laws to bring about fairness, social norms, diplomacy, and outreach. Capricorn cements Libran concepts (liberty, equity, and judiciousness) into form. The square between Libra and Cancer addresses the issue of getting personal needs met (Cancer) in relationships (Libra). Cancer is emotional and wants depth and nourishment, while Libra calls for harmony, agreement, and cooperation—the integration is *romantic love*.

Through the sextile aspect, Libra has a connection with Leo. These social signs pertain to *engagement*. Sharing (Leo) supports connecting (Libra), and this aspect lights up interactions in life-affirming ways. The territory here is not exclusively romantic, though the vibe could be like the energy experienced on a successful first date. Libra’s other sextile is with Sagittarius, the sign of direction. The integration is found in *politics*, using a broad definition. Collaboration (Libra) supports policy (Sagittarius)—this aspect deals with how people join together to achieve a purpose.

Then there’s the quincunx, which is often considered a minor aspect. My research shows that the quincunx pertains to more advanced evolutionary lessons compared to the other aspects. In simpler times these lessons were not as fundamental to develop, but in modern times they are becoming more essential as part of life. In *Elements & Evolution*, I argue that the quincunx should now be considered as a major aspect. The inclusion of the quincunx completes the pattern described here. With it, all signs have an evolutionary relationship with every other one.

The Libra-Pisces quincunx asks us how we could humanly connect (Libra) in Spirit (Pisces)? How do we embrace each others’ souls? With this aspect we unite the scattered pieces of Spirit together through relating. The integration points to the Sanskrit word *Namaste*, the common greeting that roughly translated means to honor the light of divinity in each other. Libra’s other quincunx is with Taurus. Both of these signs are ruled by Venus, the goddess of beauty. Taurus relates to the senses, the body, and the beauty of the physical world. Libra is conceptual, addressing aesthetics and the airy world of social norms and civility. Their meeting point is *art*. Integration is found through materializing (Taurus) ideals of beauty (Libra).

Using this approach, we can see that the 10 Faces of Libra are: *relationship, behavior, communication, culture, civilization, romantic love, engagement, politics, Namaste*, and *art*. All of the various components of Libra are represented.

For another example, let’s look at Pisces. The 12th and final sign is where everything dissolves and returns back to Spirit. It concerns our experiential connection with the divine, *mysticism*. In the Evolutionary Cycle, developing *systems* (Aquarius) provides the necessary frameworks for us to have a selfless engagement with the world (Pisces). And out of the collective oneness, an individual emerges and declares her *autonomy* (Aries).

The opposition between Pisces and Virgo concerns *improvement*, how we can realize a more advanced state of being. Virgo develops through skill development and active measures, while Pisces raises consciousness, releases what holds us back, and absorbs lessons into the soul. Either way, we are further along than where we were before.

Pisces trine Cancer brings the personal heart to the collective. The lesson is to learn how to personally love (Cancer) everyone, and all of life; the development of *empathy*. Piscean compassion within realms of intimacy (Scorpio) is *sacred union*. Here we learn how to deeply connect with others, with exchanges infused with transcendent love.

Pisces is square Sagittarius—these two signs concern discovery, the quest for meaning. Sagittarian philosophy and purpose informed by transpersonal experiences (Pisces) gives us (a broad definition of) *religion*. The Pisces-Gemini square connects left brain facts, data, and logic (Gemini), with the creative, intuitive, non-rational right brain (Pisces). By using both sides of our heads, we can arrive at holistic *understanding*.

The Pisces-Capricorn sextile concerns*charity*. Compassion towards all people (Pisces) is given organizational structure (Capricorn). This aspect attempts to bridge transpersonal love and the social fabric. With Pisces-Taurus, we learn to develop*serenity*. Piscean love and inspiration can be brought into the body (Taurus) to produce inner peace. We can learn to sit (Taurus) in Spirit (Pisces), and connect the senses to the transcendent.

Leo wants to live in the moment, while Pisces goes with the flow in its otherworldly way, always seeking loftier experiences. Managed well, this quincunx correlates to having peak experiences. Maintaining clarity of aware­ness (Leo) in such altered states (Pisces) provides the integration, *spiritual awakening.* The Pisces-Libra quincunx was addressed earlier.

The 10 faces of Pisces *are mysticism, improvement, empathy, sacred union, religion, understanding, charity, serenity, spiritual awakening*, and *Namaste*.

To see the complete layout of the evolutionary curriculum see *Elements & Evolution*.