

MARS

Mars is the planet of assertion and drive, sex and desire. A healthy, functioning Mars knows what it wants and has the capacity to get it and defend it. Its sign placement indicates both what we desire and how we go about getting it.

Aries

Mars in it's own sign is a very masculine placement for either gender. Highly sexed, headstrong, and very competitive, Arien Mars people are courageous and daring types given to deeds of danger and passion. They love the thrill of the chase, but can quickly lose interest once the goal is achieved. A compulsive need to prove themselves may drive them to try too hard or to come on too strong and thus set themselves up for failure and rejection. To overcome such self-defeating patterns they need to own their unconscious feelings of inferiority and become more receptive to the needs and sensitivities of others. Anger, aggression, ambition and sheer physicality may find appropriate outlets in competitive sports and hard manual labour. Vocations which involve an element of danger, or which require precise work with cutting tools and instruments, such as military and police work, mechanics, carpentry, farming and forestry are also suitable.

Taurus

Determined and persevering, Taurean Mars people can always be relied upon to finish what they begin. Given clear and concrete instructions and left to work at their own slow and steady pace, they will deliver every time. There is rarely anything flashy or controversial about these solid and dependable characters, and their typical goals of material security, and physical comfort are similarly conventional. The need for regular and reliable sex combined with a possessive streak makes monogamous marriage a natural desire too. Negatively, they can become addicted to fixed routines and get stuck in a rut, unwilling to venture beyond the known, the safe, and the familiar.

Gemini

Mars in Gemini people are mentally active, always on the lookout for interesting people, places, and cultural activities to satiate their restless, inquisitive minds. While blessed with wide-ranging intellects and versatile talents that suit them to careers in teaching, marketing, media and politics, they are also cursed with an insatiable need for stimulation that leaves them prey to being easily bored. No pursuit is too trivial - whether card, board or video games, or that great

contemporary standby 'surfing the net' - to avoid the dreaded state of 'nothing-to-do'. Change and variety, skills development, multi-tasking and flexi-time are preferred job attributes. Some are drawn to intellectual combat where scorn, invective, sarcasm and satire can be employed to deadly effect. Former Prime Minister Paul Keating is a good example. Gemini Martians also delight in word play, double entendres, and playful flirting as a strategy to interest the opposite sex. Fidelity may prove difficult.

Cancer

Mars attacks and defends. In Cancer, Mars takes on a defensive posture with a power that should not be underestimated. Here is a tenacious warrior who is well capable of taking rapid and ferocious action to protect home, family and country, or whatever it is that [s]he is emotionally attached to. On the other hand, the power of fiery Mars may be diluted in watery Cancer through an overly cautious approach to fulfilling their desires, a case of water putting out the fire of daring and spontaneity. Taking things personally, being easily offended, and a certain moody irritability may also hinder co-operative action to achieve their goals. A caring emotional connection must be present for sexual energy to flow. When it does, Cancer Mars people make sensitive and giving lovers. Sex becomes a form of mutual nurturance.

Leo

Strong-willed, energetic, high-spirited and proud, Mars in Leos naturally take the lead role in what they regard as this play of life. They love being the centre of attention and their modus operandi tends to be dramatic performance. At best, they provide an inspirational example of whole-hearted self-expression in service to the larger cause of creating more life, love and joy in the world. They love nothing better than turning themselves on by turning others on. At worst, they suffer from an 'I the King' syndrome, acting as if they were born to lead and others follow, or they may exude an 'I am a Star' aura that automatically casts others into the roles of audience or acolyte. Accusations of self-centered arrogance characteristically follow from those who resent being cast in such subordinate roles. Their desire nature is ardent and passionate, generous and demanding.

Virgo

Mars functions in a methodical and efficient manner to do many jobs well in Virgo. People with this placement get their thrills from learning new skills, practical problem solving, cutting a great deal, and adding

up the balance sheet at the end of a successful working week. Overcoming unhealthy habits to achieve optimal functioning of mind and body, and giving practical service by helping others to help themselves, also fulfill them. However, perfectionist tendencies and the habitual need for cost/benefit analyses before acting may inhibit the speed of accomplishment that Mars desires. Precise and detailed work in the fields of I.T., arts and crafts, and complementary medicine provide suitable outlets for their manifold skills and talents. When the conditions are right - which is not often enough for many a partner - their sexuality can be surprisingly erotic. Here, as in most areas, they know how to do things just right.

Libra

The passion of Mars is refined and balanced with reason in Libra. Co-operative action directed to the pursuit of peace, harmony and justice is its *raison d'être*. For evolved types with this placement, such as the Dalai Lama, it is axiomatic that the means cannot justify the end, so the use of naked aggression and violence to pursue even noble ends is out of the question. Discussion, debate, negotiation, moral persuasion, and, as a last resort, non-violent resistance, are the appropriate and acceptable means for this civilized Mars. For less evolved types, diplomacy degenerates into insincerity or resentful compromise, and legitimate anger is suppressed, rather than transmuted into the decisive action that would see justice accomplished. This Mars needs to cultivate the courage of conviction, and vanquish the attitude of avoiding conflict at all costs. Sexuality is activated by physical attraction and a sense of being complementary equals.

Scorpio

Mars, the Roman god of war and passion, is right at home in Scorpio, the sign it traditionally rules. People with this placement make both passionate fighters and passionate lovers. They love and hate with equal intensity, and what they hate most of all is middling mediocrity. It's all black and white for them, as in 'you're either with me or against me'. Determined, even ruthless in pursuing power, money, sex and intensity they are capable of great endurance and will persist until they succeed. Sex is a profound experience for them, and part of their very identity. Naturally private, even secretive, they hate other people knowing their business, for knowledge is power in their eyes. Extreme events or challenges bring out the best in them. When they feel they have been wronged, they can be implacable in the pursuit of vengeful justice. Life will teach them that hate cannot be conquered by hate, but only by love.

Sagittarius

Life for these straight-talking seekers and travelers is a quest for Enlightenment, Illumination, or Adventure, through the highways and byways of foreign lands, literature, philosophy, religion, and their own visionary imagination. Their exuberant humour and enthusiastic storytelling combine to make them wonderful entertainers, guides and teachers. Strongly competitive, they strive to be the first to discover a place, to come top of the class, to know the answers to all the big questions, to win at sports or gambling, or to be the bravest in tackling the biggest wave or risky business venture, etc, etc. Negatively, an arrogant know-it-all attitude can express itself as loud and boorish punditry about life, the universe and everything, or, at worst, lead them to engage in righteous crusades to convert others to their own dogmatically held beliefs. Sex for them is a laughing matter, an un-inhibited, high-spirited experience to be enjoyed to the max!

Capricorn

The drive and initiative of Mars is channeled through the maturity and practical wisdom of Capricorn to achieve the goals of financial autonomy and professional excellence. Strategic planning, patient hard work, and an ability to delay present gratification in the interests of long term success make this a winning combination. When they do make it to the top, Capricorn Mars people exercise firm and responsible leadership, which tends to inspire respect rather than love. Prime Minister John Howard provides a defining example. In the sexual arena, once the cares of the day have been dropped and their natural reserve overcome, they can be quite lustful. They may need to watch that the urgency of their drive for orgasmic release doesn't leave their partner feeling used.

Aquarius

Mars in Aquarians are the freedom fighters of the zodiac. Armed with the courage of conviction, they will dare to be different, rather than conform to the expectations of others or the established ways of doing things. Intolerant of intolerance, these rebellious iconoclasts insist on the freedom of each and everyone to live as they see fit, and hate stupidity, prejudice and injustice with a passion. Thus they make willing activists who will readily engage in protest and confrontation in the pursuit of a cause, perhaps needing to realize that people of equal sincerity and conviction can legitimately hold opposing views. Friendship is important to them. Without it, they can easily become

estranged outsiders who don't fit in anywhere. What really inspires them is joining together with like-minds to co-create something new and original that will make the world a better place. Sexually, they take - and possibly demand - an open and experimental approach.

Pisces

Pisces colours the actions of Mars with sensitivity and feeling, so this is more a dancer than a warrior Mars. Rather than tackle issues or obstacles head on, it will attempt to follow the path of least resistance and flow around them, rather than waste energy in direct confrontation. Its mode of action is subtle and indirect, though not for that reason less effective in obtaining the soulful sex, exotic adventures, or transcendent experiences that it desires. In fact, Piscean Mars people can be artful seducers that more overtly 'macho' Mars could learn from. Artistic expression and passionate service to help the sad and needy are other typical motivations that move this Mars to action. Surrender to escapist or addictive urges, passive acceptance of unsatisfactory situations that could be changed with a little will-power and fortitude, and a tendency to slip, slide and evade responsibility are less attractive qualities that balance the ledger.