

# **Astrology 101: You Are More Than Your Sun Sign**

**By: Holly H. Miller – [www.venusrayastrology.com](http://www.venusrayastrology.com)**

In Western culture, those with only a vague grasp of astrology often mistakenly attempt to define and describe themselves and others by simply using their sun sign in only a 12 month/12 sign system which is the kind of astrology we see in magazines, newspapers and online sources. However, such an overly simplified and shallow astrological understanding robs individuals of the true depth found in their natal chart.

## **Natal Chart**

The natal chart is a freeze frame snapshot of the cosmos at the moment a person enters the world. It reveals the universal energies influencing a person throughout the course of their life. Natal charts are considered vital for making sense of the lessons, trials and tribulations that are encountered during one's lifetime.

## **Rising Sign**

For the vast majority of astrology's history, rising signs were considered to be the standard for analyzing the nature of a human being. A rising sign is the ascendant zodiac on the eastern horizon during the moment a person takes their first breath. The ascendant rules first

impressions, meaning it represents the mask one wears when first interacting with others.

If attempting to understand a person and their behavior based on their sun sign alone, there is potential for immense confusion. It's very important to consider the chart in its totality, all the planetary functions, the signs they are in, and the angular relationships they form with one another for true insight.

For the sake of ease and simplicity, in this article, we will only consider a tiny handful of birth chart factors.

Let's take for example, a person who was born on April 1<sup>st</sup>, when the sun was in Aries. A few of the well-known Aries characteristics are impulsiveness, aliveness, joyful exuberance, self-assertion, competitiveness, and selfishness. Like the headstrong ram that assertively bursts forth towards situations and people with dynamic force or the brave soldier who courageously rushes forward ready to fight for and protect innocent people. How could we explain this so called "Aries" person who displayed diplomatic, considerate, peaceful behavior and who can be indecisive and conciliatory?

His cool headed and harmonious way of expressing himself would seem to contradict his "Aries" sun sign. Ahh...his behavior can be explained by his Libra rising/ascendant sign. While sun signs can give clues of one's nature behind closed doors, the rising sign (or ascendant) describes people's first impression of him and the way he meets the world.

## **Moon Sign**

The moon affects the most intimate aspects of a person. It governs the way emotions are processed, and is at the center of deep-rooted fears and dreams. The energy of the moon is raw and primal, found at the very core of one's being. This renders it an essential factor for deciphering the messages being delivered by the cosmos.

If you've ever experienced an existential crisis, your moon sign was likely a driving force. In times of great emotional distress, when things are either do or die, this is when aspects of the moon sign manifest the strongest. It describes a person's inner most needs and unconscious behavior patterns once all the protective walls have been removed. Typically, it is those closest to us, spouses, close friends and relatives, who more deeply experience our lunar aspects.

## **Nodal Axis**

The nodes of the moon are not celestial bodies. Instead, the nodal axis measures the relationship between the earth, sun and moon on the day of one's birth. The nodal axis is comprised of the various points in which the orbit of the moon intersects with the elliptic plane. In astrology, this provides valuable insight to the types of lessons one must learn throughout their lifetime.

## **North Node**

The north node symbolizes the soul's greatest desires. It is the inner potential that leads to glory and personal happiness once fully embraced. It reveals all the elements that once mastered, leads to a greater feeling of accomplishment and fulfillment.

## **South Node**

The south node, on the other hand, consists of inherent abilities, talents and knowledge. While the north node embodies what to strive for, the south node describes tendencies and attributes that come easily to the individual. During the earlier stages of development, it is common for people to rely entirely on south node sign tendencies. However, focusing exclusively on the south node may leave the individual feeling like something is missing. Although the qualities and characteristics found in the north node's sign may not feel comfortable and be easily expressed, developing these qualities, behaviors and actions will lead the individual to a greater sense of fulfillment.

## **It Isn't Black and White**

Astrology is by no means a simple discipline. Like a snowflake or fingerprint, each natal chart is as unique as

the individual it symbolically represents. Astrology is meant to serve as a guide and personal manual for individual evolution, offering clues that help put some of life's most challenging aspects into perspective. A person can never be accurately understood by a single sun sign alone. Instead, it's essential to undertake the extensive research and probing required to achieve a meaningful and integrated understanding of the ever unfolding individual.