



Welcome! to the August 2007 issue of

THE RETURN

**Newsletter for Aquarius Rising Astrological
Consulting**

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LEO – the LION



July 22 – August 23, 2007

***Positive Archetypes for Leo:**

*The... Performer; Clown/Jester; Child; Monarch/Royal
Person/Queen/King; Diva; Aristocrat; Gourmet Hostess/Host;
Epicurean; Leader/Focalizer; Romantic; Pleasure Seeker*

***Negative Archetypes for Leo:**

*The... Egomaniac / Narcissist/Attention Grabber; Spoiled Brat;
Prima Donna; Profligate / Spendthrift; Tyrant / Autocrat /
Despot / Dictator*



Leo, the Sacred Profligate

By Lark Bowerman

*The Rose cried: 'I am generous of largesse
And laughter. Laughingly my petals blow
Across the world; the ribbons of my purse
Snap and its load of coin flies everywhere.'*

-The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam,
translation by Robert Graves and Omar Ali Shah

SEEING IT FROM OMAR'S POINT OF VIEW

From Omar Khayyam's point of view, you could describe Leo as the Sacred Profligate – and definitely someone “generous of largesse.” But why are both the archetype of the Child and the Monarch part of this sign's attributes? Or the Leader or Focalizer and the Pleasure Seeker?

LIGHTS DIM, THE CURTAIN RISES...

Enter Leo. Astrologically, this stage has been set by the previous sign of Cancer, the Nurturer, and the Cancer's phase of intense inner work on emotions and feelings and establishment of correct mood and surroundings. The Mother gives birth to the Child. Inner exploration gives way to outward expression. The phase of extremely heightened sensitivity is left behind and as the Summer blossoms fully, the story of the womb experience is revealed. The Performer steps onto the world's stage. The Lion roars. Everyone looks. The audience sits spellbound as the story of the inner voyage pours forth, scantily clothed in metaphor and simile. We completely understand Leo's inner hungers through the outrageous banquet laid before us; its inner feelings, blatantly revealed in song, dance or story. We can't look away. Though we ourselves might not express these feelings so boldly, they are our experiences too, our hungers too. The audience riots with applause, a standing ovation...

WHAT IS LEO'S AIM?

It's very simple, really — creative self expression, self-enjoyment, achieving natural dignity. Childlike innocence is a part of being able to self express in an unselfconscious way. How many times have we been part of a circle of people watching a baby's antics with total fascination. There's no ego there. The self expression is unfiltered by the thinking process.

I once went to help a friend when her baby was born. We couldn't help but share our awe at what we were experiencing. My friend had been brought up Roman Catholic. She told me about how a nun had once told her that when you look into a newborn's face, you look into the face of God (though we could just change the word "God" here into the word "Deity" to neutralize the gender bias...)

BUT DOESN'T EVERYONE SEEK JOY IN LIFE?

Good question. Of course we all seek joy in life. And of course, Leo is a part of everyone's chart. But why are certain people characterized by Leo's traits *more strongly* than others?

As a **Sun sign**, it shows that someone's basic sense of *identity* is highlighted by Leonian traits. This person has incarnated with the need to infuse their basic sense of identity with these characteristics. This is what will work well for them, what will feed their ego in a positive way; on the negative side, it will represent the pitfalls where they risk losing their way. For someone whose **Ascendant or Rising Sign** is in Leo, this is the lesson they've been born to learn with regard to the *way that they interface* with the world at large. Their *personal style* runs along these lines. For someone whose **Moon sign** is in Leo, these are the life lessons they are choosing and need to learn at a very deep *emotional level*.

OK, SO I HAVEN'T ANSWERED THE QUESTION

Why does Leo seek joyful self expression specifically? Think for a moment, of the Sun, Leo's ruling "planet." It's the center of the Solar System. It's tremendous gravitational field holds the planets in their orbits and gives coherence to the system. It establishes order and at the same time gives our planet, Earth, the life giving force of sunshine. When we wake up to a new day, no matter how dark or frightening the night has been, we usually feel hope and gratitude that there is a new beginning. If we reach a point that we can't feel this anymore, if we pass through our days in a bored, mechanical

way, we know that there is a serious problem. People can't live without joy and hope. They die. As would life on Earth without Sun.

THE NEED TO BUILD A HEALTHY SENSE OF IDENTITY

So it's possible that someone who needs the types of experiences represented by Leo has previously – in another lifetime maybe or through genetic predisposition or family influence – lost or had their natural sense self and joyfulness of being alive, weakened or over inflated. The placement of Leo in the Natal chart gives the prescription for where the sense of self needs to be supported to fully and creatively express. There's the need for this person to develop their dignity of person from an innocent – I don't mean naive, but rather, *unselfconscious* – point of experience.

And of course, it naturally follows that people with a strong Leo orientation will thrive on attention, being noticed, being listened to, complimented, admired and applauded. We all know that an ego can inherently be a pretty ridiculous thing. It's blind in the respect that everyone is naturally biased to their own needs – or fears – over those of others; but sense of identity, however limited, is a necessary part of survival. Why should you let flubbing up a few lines spoil your act! Wear purple pants with hot pink accessories – or shirt – and get noticed! Look terrific and have fun doing it. That's Leo's strategy. And if someone has a problem with it, well that's not – or shouldn't be – Leo's problem... (although it's good for a Leo not to disregard that the flip side of admiration can be jealousy...)

***All the world's a stage, and all the men and women,
merely players.***

– Wm. Shakespeare

Leo, as much as anyone, can understand *that* line!

IN THE BEGINNING...

In the beginning of human culture, when we were perhaps more innocent than we are today, drama, dance, music, all artistic expression was in service to the Divine through ritual. Removing it from that context, leaving ego free to roam on its own, was

shocking and unthinkable to most of our ancestors. They recognized that it needed limits. It needed boundaries. It needed to be in service to the Higher Good.

Drama was, for example, a way of intentionally explaining a problem in a family relationship; a song or a drumbeat was used for a specific form of healing; dance was to connect directly to the Divine in ecstasy and also for diagnosis of physical and emotional problems. (There were those who knew how to discern another's problem through the way they moved.) The oldest women's dance, now commonly known as Belly dance, was used to physically and emotionally prepare women to conceive and give birth. People also knew how to truly mourn and then how to sing with joy when someone close was released by death.

In more ancient times, a Tribal Chief stepped out to dance and invited his or her tribe to dance with him or her. A Mother danced and invited her daughter to mimic her movements to understand the flow of feminine energy through her body.

We have a few remnants of ritual left. The Happy Birthday song and Birthday cake, opening presents at Christmas... The Catholic and Episcopalian churches keep a dim recollection of those remnants. But for the most part we think of ritual as something barbaric and counter productive and certainly not something that should be part of every day life.

School students and audiences in general often sit hands folded, body motionless, while someone "qualified" to self express stands before us; or if, by chance, the stage is opened to everyone, we tend to either run in terror of our own self-expression, or elbow our way through the crowd to be the first one to dominate the microphone.

A Zimbabwean proverb tells us, "If you can walk, you can dance. If you can talk you can sing." And, I might add, everyone can and should smile – not for the camera, for the joy of life! That sweet smile of a baby, that natural response to love and life that so charms us, *that's* the essence of Leo's true expression. Leo can and should, naturally lead the way in the celebrations of life.

BUT WHAT IF...?

But what if the Diva fears to sing? What if the Child doesn't play? What if the Performer loses her graciousness, *demanding*

applause? What if the Monarch turns Tyrant, addicted to the outward show of glory, driven by insane jealousy and insecurity – unhealthy pride? What happens when the Sacred Profligate becomes the Drunk, feeling pleasure as need rather than self enjoyment? What if the Lion forgets how to roar?

Well, it seems that life has whatever meaning we give it... these choices are easy to make for a Leo who's not feeling good about themselves – the Narcissist digging for another compliment, the Spendthrift mood shopping for a momentary high, the Hostess *insisting* that everyone to be present at a social function...

Reflections will come in the form of servile, false, fawning friends – flatterers seeking their own personal advantages, mountains of debt, audiences that applaud on queue, servants unable to think and act for themselves, citizens who believe their destinies to be determined by a President or Queen or King, conferring on them the “divine right” to do whatever they please, empowering (not!) the ultimate spoiled brats of the human race. (Did someone mention that George W. Bush has a Leo Ascendant plus three planets in Leo in the House of Personality...?)

THIS IS ONLY A DISTORTION, RIGHT?

So tell me, don't you think of these character traits as shadow only? As something that once the generous Sun rises, shedding its glorious golden rays on All, mostly disappears? I do.

So bring on the food and wine, sit back for a good story or two or five, and then let's dance the night away! Let's drink life to the fullest! Are you with me? (I have a Leo Moon, by the way.)

SO AGAIN...

Who specifically, is dominant in the traits of Leo? Well, anyone with their **Sun (*ego identity*)**, **Moon (*emotions, inner nature*)** or **Ascendant/Rising sign (*style of interfacing with others*)** in Leo at the time of their birth. **Sun, Moon and Ascendant** are known as the **Primal Triad**, and are considered as the basis of a grounded astrological interpretation by many Evolutionary astrologers. To understand a little more about the Primal Triad, listen to the sound recording on my web site www.aquariusastrological.com or contact

me directly: lark@aquariusastrological.com. Your comments on this newsletter are always welcome.

***My rule of life is to drink and be merry,
To be free from belief and unbelief is my religion:
I asked the Bride of Destiny her bride-price,
“Your joyous heart,” she said.***

- The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam
Translation by Peter Avery and John Heath-Stubbs



SOME WELL KNOWN LEO SUN SIGNS

Mick Jagger
Madonna
Connie Stevens
Bill Clinton
H.P. Lovecraft

Anita Hill
Wendell Berry
Barack Obama
Isabel Allende
John Galloworthy

Tipper Gore
Mae West
Claude Debussy
Cecil B. DeMille
Erika Selza



*Many of the astrological archetypes in this newsletter are drawn from the book, *The Inner Sky* by Steven Forrest or from *Skymates I*, by Jodie Forrest and Steven Forrest. These books come highly recommended by me as well as many others. They are also available from Amazon or from www.sevenpawspress.com.

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