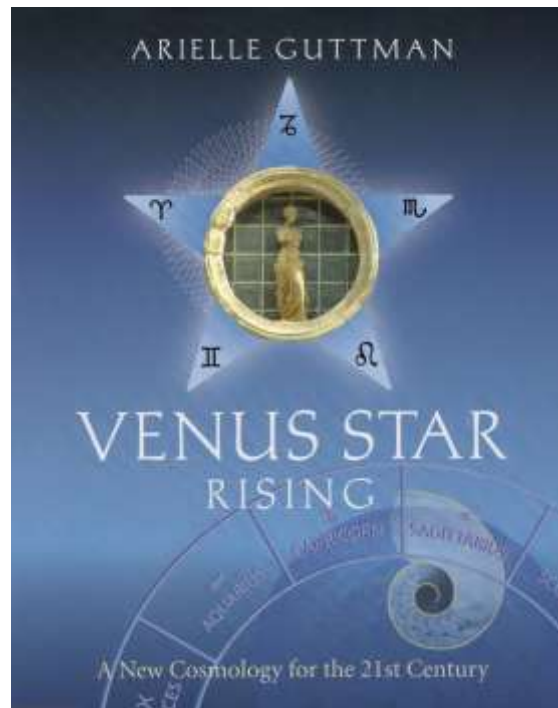


## **VENUS: THE DUAL GODDESS and THE STAR GODDESS**

*by Arielle Guttman*

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### **VENUS**

- Rules two astrological signs (Taurus and Libra)
- Has two birth myths and places
- Creates two complete pentagrams in eight years
- Is a Morning Star and an Evening Star
- Transits the Sun in pairs (2004 and 2012 most recent)

### **The Dual Nature of Venus: Morning Star and Evening Star**

Two observations have led me to conclude that the Venus Star affects Earth and its inhabitants in much greater ways than anyone has yet comprehended. The myths and legends that have come down to us through the ages give Venus two faces - that of the Morning Star and the Evening Star - and the qualities ascribed to Venus in such stories seem correct when observing which star is operating in a person's life based upon when they were born.<sup>1</sup>

The myths point to Venus as both the goddess of love and of war. She does seem to have a firm grip on Earth and its inhabitants, cradling us in her star pattern, keeping humans between the states of love and war. Transcending this duality, so that we can reflect the love that is the core principle of Venus and the universe, is the major challenge currently faced by humanity.

Accepting that Venus has a dual nature - that she is both a love goddess and a warrior goddess - acknowledges the holistic nature of Venus and of love itself. Although we may think of war more as a masculine phenomenon and love as associated with the feminine principle, the ancients saw Venus as female, whether lover (Evening Star) or warrior (Morning Star). This takes in the dual nature of Venus and the dual nature of love, in which the shadow side is fear, anger, jealousy, hatred, rage, and war fueled by a wounded or broken heart.

Astrologer Robert Hand has noted the following:

*There are two distinctly different Venuses. All astrological traditions except the modern Western one, and to some extent the Hindu one, recognize this. There is a warrior Venus and a love goddess Venus. They're both female. But one of them is more like Athena. The warrior goddess Venus is Venus as a Morning Star. Phosphorus Lucifer, although it should be "Lucifera." There's nothing satanic about it. It's just a warrior goddess. And the evening one is the soft, squishy love goddess. They actually have different names. In Mesopotamia it was Ishtar Akkad and Ishtar Uruk. One was a Morning Star, the other the Evening Star Venus. The MesoAmericans recognized this phenomenon, the Chinese recognized this phenomenon, so did the Mesopotamians, and there are references to it in Greek astrology as well. If you have a morning Star Venus and it is powerfully placed in your chart and you are a woman, you probably are not as soft and squishy as the modern textbooks would have you believe. It's a placement that makes a woman very beautiful, but not in a soft, squishy way. Sort of Valkyrian—grand, statuesque, strong. So the ancient Venus embodies two distinctly different types of feminine. And yet, they are both feminine, which is something we should pay a great deal of attention to in modern astrology.<sup>ii</sup>*

Various aspects of the dual nature of Venus can be summed up in the following chart:

| <b>MORNING STAR</b>                      | <b>EVENING STAR</b>                     |
|--|---|
| Venus Phosphorus Lucifer                 | Venus Hesperus                          |
| Aphrodite Pandemos                       | Aphrodite Urania                        |
| Warrior goddess                          | Love goddess                            |
| Yang                                     | Yin                                     |
| Closest to Earth: perigee                | Farthest from Earth: apogee             |
| Follows retrograde cycle                 | Follows direct cycle                    |
| In the "underworld"                      | In the "upperworld"                     |
| Rules the daytime                        | Rules the nighttime                     |
| Moves slower                             | Moves faster                            |
| Follows inferior conjunction with Sun    | Follows superior conjunction with Sun   |
| Ruler of Taurus                          | Ruler of Libra                          |
| Daughter of Zeus and Dione               | Daughter of Gaia and Ouranos            |
| Primal, raw sensuality                   | Refined, social acceptability           |
| Earth goddess                            | Sky goddess                             |
| Ascends rapidly, descends slowly         | Ascends slowly, descends rapidly        |
| Visible ~ 6-8 days following conjunction | Visible ~ 60 days following conjunction |

### **A Psychological Comparison between Morning Star and Evening Star**

The Mayan concept of Morning Star/Evening Star that has come down to us refers to the relationship that Venus in the sky had to their decision-making practices concerning policies, politics, weather prediction, and most particularly war. The Maya linked its warrior nature to the Morning Star and its benevolent nature to the Evening Star phase.

A literal interpretation might lead the modern individual to draw an incorrect conclusion about Venus in their chart. What does the modern woman, for instance, as a peace-loving individual, do with the idea that she is a Scorpio (sign of battle) Morning Star (warrior goddess)?

The Morning Star Venus may be instinctually more capable of being a war goddess when the situation arises - that is, expressing her anger or rage, becoming an activist for causes, and fighting for what she feels or believes in - but she is also capable of being a love goddess. The Evening Star Venus may be much more comfortable in surroundings and relationships that are predominantly harmonious, while denying that anger, hostility, and disharmony even exist. But the integrated, self-aware Venus operates from the place that acknowledges both sides as needed at different stages, appropriate to the situation.

If we consider the Greek notion of Venus Pandemos versus Venus Urania, we might glean from their understanding and nomenclature that Pandemos (the Morning Star Venus) was a goddess of the Earth, while Urania (the Evening Star Venus) was a celestial entity. The twelfth century Hebrew astrologer Avraham Ibn Ezra explains how the combination of being light in body and movement, and at the height of its circle above the Earth, makes the planet's influence more subtle and soul-related.

*It has a less noticeable effect upon earthly events, and in the consideration of temperament and physical description, it describes the body as sensitive and lacking strength; however, there is a greater level of spiritual purity, and the mind is more receptive to inspiration and higher wisdom...as she pulls away from the Sun and descends from apogee to draw closer to the Earth, the strength of her influence upon all mundane matters increases."<sup>iii</sup>*

This, I believe, has a fuller and richer psychological implication for the person who possesses the Uranian (Evening Star) Venus versus the Pandemos (Morning Star) Venus. The Pandemos Venus is one who inhabits the earth, is connected to the physical world and the physical sensations of the body, and who is more likely to feel internally complete. The Pandemos Venus is likely to have faith in themselves and what they see in the world of nature. They know how things operate in the physical world, understand the laws of science, accept the mechanical nature of things, are very aware that the needs of the material world (developing skills and resources that are marketable and sustaining) might be driving them and is responsive to their internal drives. Pandemos Venus personalities desire partnership, but because they are complete within themselves, they do not need a partner to validate their ideas, instincts, and actions. The partnerships for Pandemos Venus are driven by desires for companionship, exchange, and for reasons even more basic to the instinctual desires of Pandemos: sexual union, fertility, and reproduction of the species. There is a tendency for the Pandemos Morning Star Venus to see their partnerships realistically rather than idealistically.

The Evening Star, Urania Venus, located on the far side of the Earth, in the heavenly abode, seems to live not only outside the boundaries of the physical body, but often at a great distance from the physical world. Urania Venus, connected to the sky and to the idea of the deity being placed in the cosmic panorama of stars, is where people with this Venus configuration are focused. The Evening Star Venus moves through life as if they float or fly; they have a rich imagination; they are poetry in motion; they are alluring and have a very well formulated "other-worldly" perspective on life. The problem for people born under the influence of this Urania Venus is that they need to be reminded that they do possess a body; they are in human form; they are connected to the earth; and they do have to learn to navigate accordingly. It is more common for them to look outside themselves for approval and validation, and they do this by connecting with a partner, a guru or teacher (or God or the Holy Spirit or the Great Mother Goddess, etc.), or a series of life partners who will seem to offer the completeness they are searching for in life.

Neither of these personalities - Pandemos or Urania - is good or bad; they simply act in accordance with the placement of Venus prior to their birth. Pandemos Venus, the Morning Star, occurs just after Venus and the Sun are in inferior conjunction at their closest point to the Earth. In contrast, the Evening Star, or Urania Venus, occurs when Venus and the Sun are in superior conjunction at their farthest point from the Earth - out there in the heavenly realm - in a world far removed from the physical. There is a different rhythm operating in each of these Venuses as well. The Morning Star Venus shoots rapidly to maximum elongation in about eighty days, then descends quite slowly, while her twin the Evening Star slowly ascends to maximum elongation, then, in about eighty days, quickly descends.<sup>iv</sup>

Pandemos Venus, the Morning Star, has been thought of as an initiator, while Urania Venus, the Evening Star, has been considered a receiver. Consequently, it is not surprising that Venus rules two signs in astrology - Pandemos rules Taurus (the earthy one) and Urania rules Libra (the airy one). Both are exalted in Pisces, where Venus becomes one with the oceanic realm from whence she came. In this context, we could say Venus as the Evening Star better fits the nature of Libra in the western part of the zodiacal wheel, reflecting her true western direction as setting after the Sun. Venus as the Morning Star better fits the nature of Taurus, a sign located in the eastern part of the zodiacal wheel, reflecting her position in the eastern sky as rising before the Sun.

Thus, when considering the interpretation of the Venus Star in a person's chart, there are several factors to consider. What house and sign does she occupy? Is she a Morning Star (Pandemos) or an Evening Star (Urania)? And finally, what zodiacal sign does the Venus Star Point occupy at one's birth?

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<sup>i</sup> To determine if your Venus is a Morning Star or Evening Star, simply note the relationship in your horoscope to your Sun. If Venus is zodiacally ahead of the Sun, she is an Evening Star. If Venus is placed zodiacally behind the Sun, she is a Morning Star.

<sup>ii</sup> Robert Hand, "Planetary Periods" (lecture, Australis 1997 Congress, Adelaide, Australia, 1997)

<sup>iii</sup> Deborah Houlding, "The Beauty of the Venus Cycle," *The Mountain Astrologer* Feb/Mar 2010, 77, quoting Abraham Ibn Ezra's 12<sup>th</sup> century *The Book of Reasons* (Leiden, The Netherlands, Brill, 2007)

<sup>iv</sup> Susan Milbrath, *The Star Gods of the Maya*, 52

For more about Venus and the Pentagram, go to: [www.VenusStarRising.com](http://www.VenusStarRising.com) where archival articles on the Venus Star Point® appear.

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**Arielle Guttman** published **Venus Star Rising** in 2011. Since then, she has been touring the country presenting material on the Venus Star Point, a new tool for astrologers.