

Dangerous Beauty



For those of you lucky enough to be under clear skies this past week, you are being treated to quite a steamy heavenly tango. Mars and Venus are in close conjunction due south of the waxing winter moon as it rises to its zenith. This conjunction is in the fiery sign of Aries. Depending on where Venus and Mars are in your chart, you're likely feeling some relationship fireworks right now in a sort of carnal way. Sexuality during this time is fairly straightforward with both parties in touch with primal urges and not letting boring old good sense and rumination get in the way. I'm not talking about lets discuss our feelings, I'm

talking about clothing strewn about the room because God knows it was a cold February! All right, you get my point.

The romance of Mars and Venus has been idealized over the years and depicted in many a renaissance painting and sculpture. Venus is often regarded as the goddess of love, beauty, and marriage and Mars her handsome, brave companion. I'm probably about to completely ruin your opinion of Venus right now and for that I'm sorry. Venus was in fact very beautiful... on the outside anyway and she is the goddess of love and sex, but not marriage. Juno is the goddess of marriage, in case you were wondering. The relationship between Venus and Mars is in fact an adulterous one. Venus was actually married to Vulcan. Not the live long and prosper Vulcan (may he rest in peace), but the son of Jupiter and Hera, Vulcan. In contrast to Mars' handsome, war hero persona, Vulcan was a little rough around the edges. There are many mythological accounts that call him, "unsightly". The poor fellow had some physical challenges as well. Apparently as a child his mother couldn't take the sight of him so threw him into a volcano crippling his legs, where he was rescued by sea nymphs. Living by the sea he found the leftover coals of the fisherman's fires fascinating. Learning how to control the heat of these coals, he became quite a skilled, self-taught metal worker. He is in fact the god of fire and the patron of metal work and crafts. It was he that forged Mercury's winged sandals, Minerva's shield, his father's thunderbolts, Pluto's helmet, all of the thrones on Mt. Olympus and many other things. The throne that he crafted for his mother clamped down around her, trapping her as revenge for the whole volcano thing. He could not be convinced to let her free until Jupiter promised him the hand of the beautiful Venus in marriage.

He was well respected by god and mortal alike for his craft but Venus felt that he spent too much time at the office, or anvil, I guess, so her eye began to wander. The list of Venus' lovers with whom she mothered children is a long one. If they had Maury on Mount Olympus, Venus would have been a regular. Vulcan was humiliated by this and when Venus is unfaithful he is said to go to his smithy



inside Mt. Etna and begin pounding on his anvil. Suffice it to say, Mt. Etna is the largest and most active volcano in all of Europe. Vulcan grew tired of the disgrace of her infidelity and when he found that Venus and taken up with Mars, he could take it no more. He crafted an unbreakable mesh that he placed over his bed. The next time that Mars and Venus met there, he dropped the net down upon them and called all the gods of Olympus to come and witness their betrayal. This story is talked about in Homer's Odyssey.

As an archetype Venus can be seen as the dark side of beauty. It's jealous beauty that is never satiated and needs constant reassurance. She became jealous of Psyche, a beautiful princess and ordered her son Cupid to make a horrible monster fall in love with her. This dark side of Venus is what the vain and evil queen in Snow White is based upon and the story of Cupid and Psyche has some Beauty and the Beast elements to it as well. Her part of a relationship is not the beautiful, nurturing wife, but the part that is constantly searching out her opposite to complete her. And as we know, that's not a very healthy place to be in when looking for a relationship because once someone is with their opposite, they often go about trying to change them or somehow make them dependent. Venus wants people to give to her, to admire her, to come to her. This is opposite of the way Mars deals with the world. He is completely experiential, waiting for nothing to come to him, but taking it instead and not wanting the affection of others but rather, deference and submission. From their unhealthy union two sons are born who are the perfect symbols of how the product of this kind of relationship can undermine and out right poison another person. The sons are Phobos and Deimos, the personifications of fear and terror who follow their father into battle. Fear and terror are probably the least useful companions for a warrior.

There's no denying that there is something so appealing about a bad boy especially in a culture that values the warrior over the artisan. In reality, if Venus was more mature, she would have seen that Vulcan was a better match for her. Ok, he's not flashy and he doesn't even have his own planet, but he's a totally solid guy with a good livelihood and an impressive resume. She missed her opportunity to be the ultimate trophy wife.

As it stands now she gets all dolled up and comes in both the morning and evening to make sure we don't forget that she is the brightest and most beautiful light in the sky. She still has an occasional rendez vous with Mars and she's still acting out as the motherless girl, born of sea water who was sacrificed by Jupiter to save the woman he loved. That doesn't mean that I don't think that you shouldn't be enjoying the fiery energy of this time but do take some time out to go peek at their little tryst in the sky. If you're under cloudy cover, you can check out a collection of photos here on [Kryschendo's new video channel!](#)