



Leo



'Leo' from 'Urania's Mirror or, a view of the Heavens' (1824)



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The Myths and Legends of Leo

The Flooding of the Nile

The proud and passionate lion, a symbol of kingship and masculine power, was worshipped in ancient Egypt as the sun entered Leo in the heat of summer, which coincided with the annual flooding of the Nile. The Egyptians' reverence for its sacred, fertilising waters, and for the Lion which caused them, is the origin of the well-known lion-headed fountains, where the water flows from the lion's mouth.

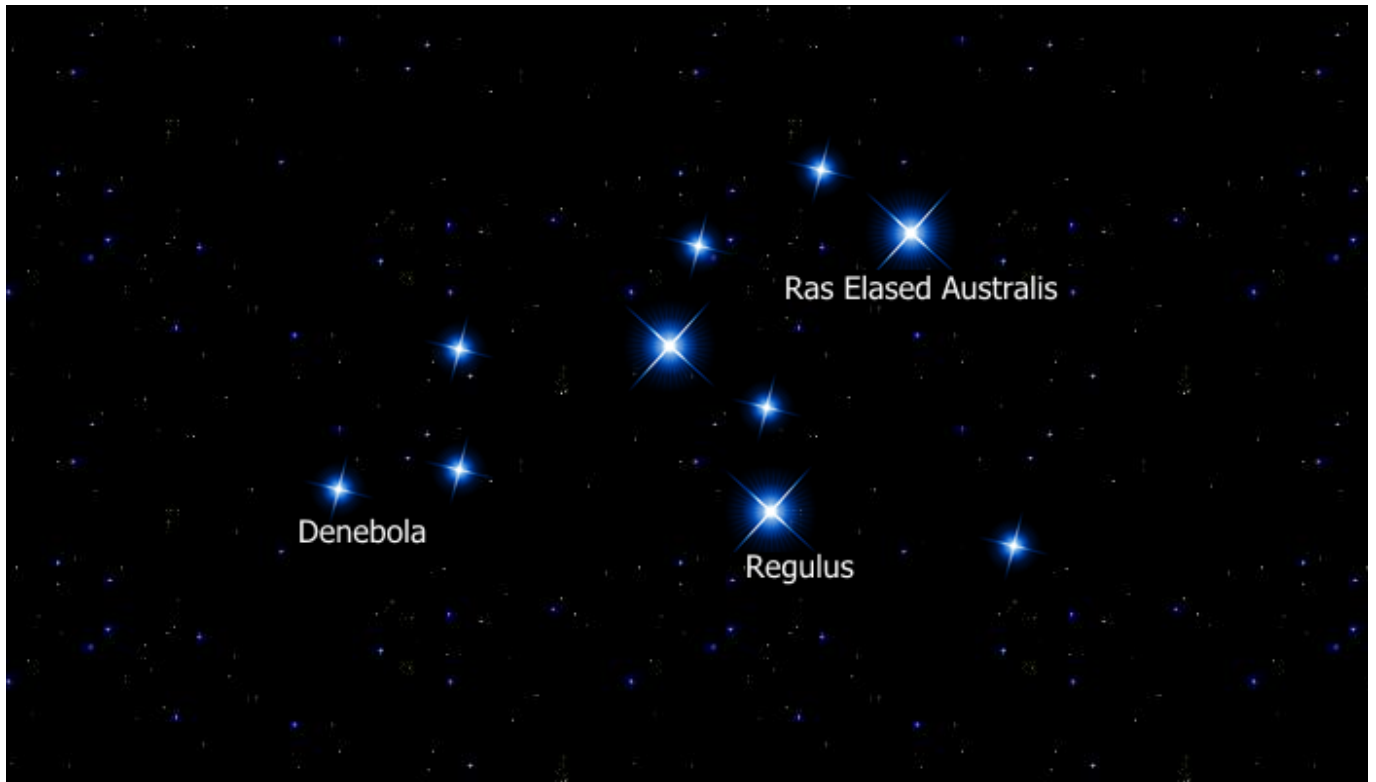
The Sphinx

The sphinx is thought by some to be made up of the body of Leo and the head of the neighbouring constellation, Virgo, who, in Egypt, was seen as the goddess Isis.

Hercules and the Nemean Lion

The first labour of the great solar hero, Hercules, was to kill the Nemean Lion. It was sent from the moon by his enemy, Hera, the queen of heaven, and he strangled it with his bare hands. Its skin, which made him invincible, he wore from that day on. Hercules' battle with the Nemean Lion depicts the struggle to achieve self-mastery by overcoming the fiery passions of the heart. Having killed the lion, and triumphed over uncontrolled emotion, he can then wear the lion's skin which makes him king.

The Stars



Regulus, the Lion's Heart, described as 'white flushed ultramarine' in colour, has been the ruler of the heavens in many parts of Europe and Asia since around 4000 Be. One of the ancient Persians' Four Guardians of the Heavens, it was the star of riches, glory and power.

Denebola, the Lion's Tail, was as unlucky as Regulus was lucky, bringing-disgrace and misfortune.

The Leonids

The shower of shooting stars known as the Leonids, reach their peak around 17th November, when they stream towards us from the direction of the constellation of Leo. These can, occasionally, turn into a meteor storm, falling at the rate of 100,000 every hour.

Leo Minor - The Little Lion

The Little Lion is a new invention, created in the seventeenth century. It has no real myths attached to it, although this part of the sky was thought, in ancient Egypt, to be sacred to Ptah, the great creator god, who first conceived the world as Thought.

To Locate

Leo, the King of Beasts, now accompanied by the Little Lion, was one of the Four Guardians of the ancient Heavens. Lying between Cancer and Virgo, it has always been associated with the sun and

with the heat of summer.

The famous 'question mark' of Leo dominates the southern sky in spring in the northern hemisphere, and the northern sky in autumn south of the equator.



The Sun in Astrology



Just as the sun in the sky is the center of the solar system, the Sun in astrology is the central nucleus of your personality. If each of the planets circling round the sun represents a single facet of your personality - Venus describes how you love and Saturn how you relate to responsibility, for example - then the Sun is the conductor of your personal orchestra, giving meaning and coherence to the wholeness that is you. It is the part of yourself that you identify with, your sense of self. Its sign - your sun-sign - and house position, as well as the aspects that it makes to other planets, describe your true potential; the 'you' you are deep down and are striving to express, as well as your will, your goals and purpose. While the feminine Moon represents your Soul, the masculine Sun represents your Spirit. Its position in your chart also shows the ways in which your outlook has been influenced by your father.



The Sun in Leo

With the Sun in regal Leo, you are flamboyant, fiery and dramatic, and you like to take the center of the stage. There is nothing petty or mean about you, and your legendary pride ensures that others treat you with respect. You also have a powerful imagination, and the future, with its many possibilities, not the past, is what matters to you. But beneath your bold and colorful exterior, you can be more unsure of who you are than you appear. In fact, with the Sun, which symbolises the true self, the real goal of Leo is the attainment of unique individuality, and you seek attention from the world around you to achieve it. Leo is the fifth sign of the Zodiac, ruling pleasure, creativity and self-expression.



The Sun, Ruler of Leo



The source of all our warmth and light and the centre of the solar system, the Sun rules the heart and the true self, as well as creativity, play, fatherhood and children. Worshipped from time immemorial, the ancient Greek sun god drove across the heavens in a chariot drawn by fiery horses.

The Flowers of Leo



Flowers that turn their faces with the sun as it travels through the skies, such as the sunflower, the sweetly scented heliotrope, or cherry pie, and the scarlet pimpernel, belong to the Sun, and so to Leo. Your herbs are the warmly scented chamomile and golden saffron, cinnamon, rosemary, angelica and lemon balm. Your trees are the bay and the juniper, as well as the orange and lemon.

Your essential oils are orange, lemon, neroli, made from orange blossom, petitgrain, made from citrus leaves, and juniper, which are refreshing and stimulating for Leo, as well as lemon balm, chamomile and rosemary, which strengthen and soothe your fiery Leo nature.

The Jewels of Leo

Amber

Leo, the sign of high summer, is ruled by the life-giving Sun and amber, which was believed to be the essence of its sunset rays, congealed by the sea and thrown up on the shore, is its stone.

Wearing amber brings the warmest most generous side of Leo to the fore. It is also a symbol of empathy with others and its use as jewelry as a lucky, talismanic substance, dates back to the earliest days of ancient Greece.

Ruby

The fiery, passionate ruby, symbol of the heart, which Leo rules, also belongs to the Lion, and is said to ward off negative emotions and give spiritual strength.



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