



styles of awakening

An introduction to Astrodharma

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www.astrodharma.org

12 styles of awakening: An introduction to Astrodharma by Hunter Reynolds

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Would you describe yourself as

A Spiritual Aspirant?

- Yes*
- Sort of*
- On a good day*

Well then, seems to me you're looking for ways to crack the code of personality.

Not exactly what you were thinking?

Let me explain.

We each have a body/mind to wake up inside of—
a unique, divinely ordained
style of awakening.

Astrologers know this in ways counselors
and priests never will.

Here's why:

Seasoned astrologers intimately encounter a vast number of psyches — frequently in the thousands. They are panoramic pattern-watchers. Unlike professional therapists and clergy who, thank God, take the time to build personal trust and accompany people through a process of slow, sustainable change, the astrologer's job is to intuitively and concisely articulate the archetypal themes at play in a particular psyche (or interplay of psyches), at a particular time.

*Therapists sensitively guide; astrologers sensitively inform.
Astrodharma: a combination of both.*

Back to the “styles,” and why you might want to get a jump start on your own—not to mention on those you claim to love...

...and, just as important,
on that shifting sea of personalities
that will, for the rest of your life,
be sloshing up against you.

Consider this: If the divine presence is ever to become more than a flickering insight, you will need to find a way of converting the everyday ego-field into a Buddha field. That means consciously confronting your archetypal biases and learning, through self-inquiry, meditation and compassion practice, to have a steadier experience of divine intent.

Yes, sudden mystical realizations—free of conceptual pointers—do, on occasion, happen. Thank God. It gets us in the door—or, as they say, “It’s a nice job if you can get it.” But wouldn’t you prefer a steadier form of employment?

Astrodharma is hiring.

Let's recap:

The twelve astrological archetypes—Aries through Pisces—are not so much personality attributes that divide us, but “styles of awakening” that point to our common destiny.

As we learn to identify and appreciate these styles in ourselves and others, our attention naturally moves past their distracting, lower octave expressions to the luminous intention that inspires them.

Egos become less and less opaque.

In this way, we effectively free ourselves of reactivity to the veil of personality and the burden of the separate self.

As you read through the following styles,

notice which ones arouse subtle feelings
of favoritism or prejudice.

Some may feel like “home turf;” others may feel foreign and difficult to relate to. If you watch closely, you may even catch yourself discounting some styles... as if their shadow side is so distasteful that you would be better off avoiding those brandishing this style altogether.

Congratulations.

You’ve just discovered how you bonsai your Self, and lose compassion for others. Try moving a little closer to people who manifest these styles: No telling how many numb, stagnant regions of your heart will come alive when you see the beauty of the Divine at play in their mirror.

Awakened Aries.

Audacious individuality.

It takes a persistent kind of brashness to fully show up on this shore, to firmly resist the psychic undertow back into the ocean of terrified niceness that ego likes to call "Oneness." Awakened Aries would rather err on the side of making a daring, improvisational mistake than cuddling up with some passionless peace. It knows that creative conflict is sometimes more separation-dissolving than superficial harmony. On a scale of one through ten, rate your ability to express this kind of bold, let-the-cards-fall-as-they-may individuality—the same kind of chutzpah, perhaps, that Spirit needed to kick off this risky dream-sport, where slumbering body-minds get more than a little roughed up and winners and losers are a brutal—if only apparent—reality.

Unwitnessed manifestation:
impulsive, arrogant, dominating.



Awakened Taurus.

Shameless embodiment.

Awakened Taurus knows that spirit is matter named. It's that shamelessly embodied, sensual and security-conscious part of the Divine that knows that the timeless absorption of the executive in a board meeting, the sensual abandon of beloveds giving/receiving touch, or the sweaty focus of a construction worker expertly hoisting an unwieldy slab of drywall are all potential mystical states— no less profound than a monk lost in chant. Rate your ability to meet the world on its own mundane, musky-animal terms and build a grounded, comfortable lifestyle that sufficiently cradles and protects the delirious Spirit incubating in your flesh.

Unwitnessed manifestation:
greedy, possessive, over-indulgent.



Awakened Gemini.

Truth in the moment.

Knowing whether you are cutting short an energetically flat situation out of healthy respect for your own aliveness or whether you are aborting an opportunity to breakthrough into a juicier depth, is not always an easy call. For this kind of snap verdict, we rely on awakened Gemini. It gives us the ability to spontaneously capture, articulate and act on our immediate experience free of outdated agendas and overly worshiped abstractions like "direction" and "ultimate meaning." How willing are you to follow the wobbly compass needle of your moment-to-moment truth and embody the enlightened impatience that would rather err on the side of learning-through-too-much-movement than filling your shrinking birth/death interval with sluggishness?

Unwitnessed manifestation:
unreliable, mentally scattered, superficial.



Awakened Cancer.

Hurttable humanness.

This vulnerable vantage point knows that allowing oneself to be hurttable is an irrational but essential part of birthing an authentically soulful and awakened body-mind. It has little patience with or interest in attempts to spiritually bypass our humanness. In fact, to Cancer, daring to walk the thin line between heartbreaking devotion and dysfunctional attachment to whomever they deem “family” is the most vigorous and life-changing kind of vision quest one could sign up for. Rate your willingness to traverse this messy, meandering path to the deliciously empty, storyless core of who we are.

Unwitnessed manifestation:
needy, temperamental, clannish.



Awakened Leo.

Divine pride.

The ability to get up and present yourself as worthy of admiration for your God-given presence and talents is often less egotistical than staying safe and small in the crowd. In fact, putting our self on the hot seat where the mind's intrinsic insecurities are made public could turn out to be the most humbling, ego-purifying path a soul could take. Alas, our spiritually fashionable egalitarianism could simply be a way of keeping our superiority and pride a secret, if only to our self. Rate your ability to get caught doing a bad — but sincere— impersonation of the God within and, thereby, to provide a flawed but vital nucleus for the larger community of human “electrons” to spin around.

Unwitnessed manifestation:
pompous, patronizing, drama-craving.



Awakened Virgo.

Reverence for protocol.

A soul wakes up nowhere, if not in the lowly details of everyday life. The supernatural gift of Virgo is to discern the profound psychic significance of each service done with efficiency, integrity and humility, no matter how unnoticed it may seem. Virgo instinctively knows that everyday tasks reverberate through the collective consciousness. Rate your ability to know that earth and every workplace is, in potential, a smooth-running ashram and that modest things like cleaning your room and cheerfully catering to the needs of another according to a prescribed protocol are, in fact, soul-stirring rituals.

Unwitnessed manifestation:
critical, workaholic, pedantic.



Awakened Libra.

Oneness from twoness.

Much of our awakening to Oneness happens inside relational mirrors or containers. These containers must be stable enough to entice and endure the disturbing emergence of two egos. In this way, people stick around long enough to witness the subtle and repressed layers of their conditioned minds in action and, by grace, wake up as their witness. This is the diamond-like clarity of Awakened Libra love. Rate your willingness to gracefully enter into unions with a mutually understood contract, such that the inevitable conflicts that unfold within this crucible of awakening are mutually healing and creative, rather than a re-enactment and re-enforcement of earlier karmic wounding.

Unwitnessed manifestation:
co-dependent, manipulative, “peace at any price.”



Awakened Scorpio.

Befriending darkness.

Rare is the person who will baldly admit that the sweet spring of pure awareness trickles under a thorny tangle of self-betrayal habits, and that blood is the price of drinking. This is the fierce grace of awakened Scorpio. It endows us with the spiritual toughness necessary to stare mercilessly at the ugly subterfuge behind every ego-inspired smile, and then to sense deeper, to the magnificent Spirit in chains in the basement. Rate your capacity to routinely notice and transform the mind's impulses to control, manipulate, and abuse power, such that when darkness, pain and crises erupt in others you greet them like old friends: with hard-earned equanimity, resourcefulness and poise.

Unwitnessed manifestation:
ruthless, controlling, vengeful.



Awakened Sagittarius.

Passion for the panoramic.

Sagittarius is the meaning-making impulse within us that refuses to let the ultimately ineffable mystery of this life discourage us from synthesizing our experience into an intelligent, inspiring world-view. Whether through travel or study, awakened Sagittarius searches for the panoramic perspective. These long distance journeys of the mind and body shape us into rigorous, yet humble, students of the mystery. Rate your ability to “venture far,” for truth and effectively transmit teachings that are, in the end, ungraspable to the mind, but crucial to the Spirit.

Unwitnessed manifestation:
preachy, commitment-phobic, adventure junkie.



Awakened Capricorn.

Reputable loving.

The world confers social recognition and its accompanying material advantages on those who can manage the ego's erratic moods and uneven motivations well enough to offer a service with consistent quality. To those who measure caring more in terms of mood and atmosphere than being a dependable helpmate, this strictness of focus may seem rather dry and calculating. Awakened Capricorn knows that, here in this world where dreams turn solid, every so-called "romantic" moment is built on the back of a previous moment of austerity and that divine beingness oozes equally through both of them. Rate your ability to let responsibility be the measure of your sensitivity and to process personal feelings indirectly— through disciplined work.

Unwitnessed manifestation:
cold, calculating, opportunistic.



Awakened Aquarius.

Visionary credibility.

Self-indulgent eccentricity and genuine genius have a way of flickering back and forth. Throw the blanket of conformity over the first one for too long and you smother the second one as well. On the other hand, indulging cutting-edge, bohemian beliefs and lifestyles can make you such an outsider that you're unable to impact the very community you long to transform. Rate your ability to package visionary insights and new models of communal harmony in such a way that your message can be heard and utilized rather than dismissed as unjustifiably disruptive or anarchistic.

Unwitnessed manifestation:
rebellious, impersonal, freedom-fixated.



Awakened Pisces.

Efficacious mysticism.

There are many genuinely wounded and oppressed people that need catering to in this world. However, the perception of oneself as a helpless, misunderstood victim of an insensitive world, is a fate far worse than most outer oppressions. Modeling an alternative to this disenfranchised perspective is, perhaps, the most spiritually healing thing one can do. By boldly embodying one's timeless dimension— untouched by the world— you ladle out more than just soup at the soup kitchen. Rate your ability to serve selflessly with an all-embracing presence of heart and, thereby, to extend genuine inspiration to a broken-hearted world.

Unwitnessed manifestation:
self-pitying, seductive, escapist.



Want to learn more about the Astrodharmic perspective?

Free, monthly Styles of Awakening Newsletter:

Pithy, playful and cutting-edge, this one-of-a-kind newsletter is chock full of articles, transit updates, poetry, video meditations, "sacred soundbites" and special, subscriber discounts—all designed with one goal in mind: to keep you mad enough to be mortal; sane enough to disappear.

3-month Styles of Awakening Training:

This experiential online course in intuitive archetype recognition is designed to empower you to better honor your own style of awakening, and to more accurately perceive and support the full spectrum of body/minds in your life—whether they be total strangers or those you claim to know and love. The training consists of mentorship calls, reading assignments, interactive/perceptual tasks and journaling exercises that unfold with online support from fellow classmates from around the world.

Astrology Readings with Hunter:

Ready to experience a new approach to astrology? Individual Readings, Relationship Readings, Relocation Readings and Family Constellation Readings. Visit the website for more information:

www.astrodharma.org

About the author.

Hunter Reynolds is an astrologer with an international following who has counseled a large cross-section of people from around the world. He travels internationally, counseling, teaching and writing about Astrodharma, his unique and practical synthesis of western astrology with the meditative insights of Buddhism. Visit his website to read more articles about Astrodharma, sign up for an individual reading and learn more about online mentorship trainings. You can also subscribe to *Styles of Awakening*—his popular, monthly astrology newsletter, available free through his website.

Hunter Reynolds is one of the most interesting astrological thinkers out there.

Rob Brezsny A dharma poet, his book *Brave New Prayers: Rascally Rhetoric to Fan the Flames of Oneness*, is available through Amazon.com or at bravenewprayers.com.

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A r i e s

T a u r u s

G e m i n i

C a n c e r

L e o

V i r g o

L i b r a

S c o r p i o

S a g i t t a r i u s

C a p r i c o r n

A q u a r i u s

P i s c e s

You who takes equal delight
firing the synapses
of inspiring saints and vitriolic
talk show hosts:

**Make us a pitiful judge
of character,
seeing only your infinitely
colorful and amusing
“styles of awakening.”**

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