

# מַזְלֵ דְגַיִם

Pisces מַזְלֵ דְגַיִם

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## برج الحوت

البرج the tower; constellation

الْحُوتِ the Pisces

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## برج حوت

Pisces **برج حوت**

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# Pisces (astrology)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Pisces** (♓) (/ˈpaɪsiːz/, <sup>[1]</sup> **pisˈeɪz**, <sup>[2]</sup> Ancient Greek: ἰχθύες, "Ikthues") is the twelfth astrological sign in the Zodiac, originating from the Pisces constellation. It spans the 330° to 360° of the zodiac, between 332.75° and 360° of celestial longitude. Under the tropical zodiac the sun transits this area on average between February 19 and March 20,<sup>[a][3]</sup> and under the sidereal zodiac, the sun transits this area between approximately March 14 and April 14. The symbol of the fishes is derived from the ichthyocentaurs, who aided Aphrodite when she was born from the sea.<sup>[4]</sup>

According to new agers and some tropical astrologers, the current astrological age is the Age of Pisces,<sup>[5]</sup> while others maintain that it is the Age of Aquarius.

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## Background

While the astrological sign Pisces per definition runs from elliptical longitude 330° to 0°,<sup>[6]</sup> this position is now mostly covered by the constellation of Aquarius, due to the precession from when the constellation and the sign coincided. Today, the First Point of Aries, or the vernal equinox is in the Pisces constellation.<sup>[7][2]</sup> There are no prominent stars in the constellation,<sup>[2]</sup> with the brightest stars being of only fourth magnitude.<sup>[8]</sup> One star in the constellation, Alpha Piscium, is also known as Alrescha which comes from the Arabic الرشاء *al-rišā'*, meaning "the well rope,"<sup>[9]</sup> or "the cord."<sup>[8]</sup> Ptolemy described Alpha Piscium as the point where the cords joining the

two fish are knotted together.<sup>[8]</sup> The astrological symbol shows the two fishes captured by a string,<sup>[10][11][12][13]</sup> typically by the mouth or the tails.<sup>[14]</sup> The fish are usually portrayed swimming in opposite directions; this represents the duality within the Piscean nature.<sup>[10][15]</sup> Although they appear as a pair, the name of the sign in all languages originally referred to only one fish with the exception of Greek<sup>[16]</sup> and Bulgarian.

In Sidereal astrology, the sun currently transits the constellation of Pisces from approximately March 14 to April 14.<sup>[17]</sup> Individuals born during these dates, depending on which system of astrology they subscribe to, may be called "Pisceans."<sup>[18][1]</sup>

## Mythology

Divine associations with Pisces include Poseidon/Neptune, Vishnu, Christ, Aphrodite, Eros, and Typhon.<sup>[19]</sup>

### In early mythology

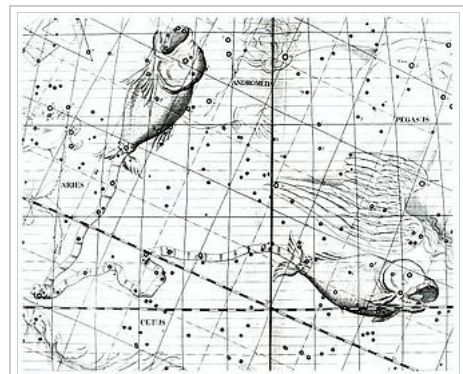
"Pisces" is the Latin word for "Fishes."<sup>[20]</sup> It is one of the earliest zodiac signs on record, with the two fish appearing as far back as c. 2300 BCE on an Egyptian coffin lid.<sup>[21]</sup>

According to one Greek myth, Pisces represents the fish into which Aphrodite (also considered Venus)<sup>[22]</sup> and her son Eros (also considered Cupid)<sup>[22]</sup> transformed in order to escape the monster Typhon.<sup>[2][23][20]</sup> Typhon, the "father of all monsters" had been sent by Gaia to attack the gods, which led Pan to warn the others before himself changing into a goat-fish and jumping into the Euphrates.<sup>[8]</sup> A similar myth, one which the fish "Pisces" carry Aphrodite and her son out of danger, is resounded in Manilius' five volume poetic work *Astronomica*: "Venus ow'd her safety to their Shape."<sup>[22]</sup> Another myth is that an egg fell into the Euphrates river. It was then rolled to the shore by fish. Doves sat on the egg until it hatched, out from which came Aphrodite. As a sign of gratitude towards the fish, Aphrodite put the fish into the night sky.<sup>[8]</sup> Because of these myths, the Pisces constellation was also known as "Venus et Cupido," "Venus Syria cum Cupidine," Venus cum Adone," "Dione," and "Veneris Mater,"<sup>[22]</sup> the latter being the formal Latin term for mother.

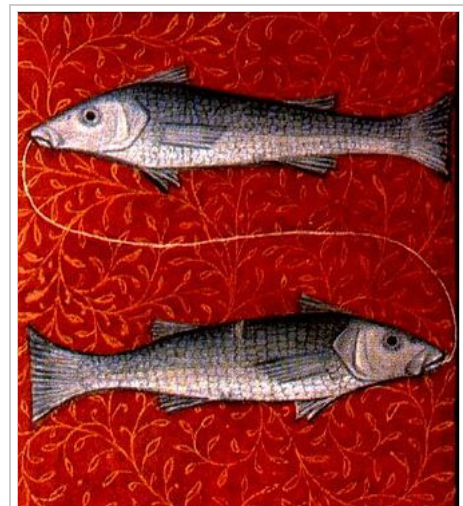
The Greek myth on the origin of the sign of Pisces has been cited by English astrologer Richard James Morrison as an example of the fables that arose from the original astrological doctrine, and that the "original intent of [it] was afterwards corrupted both by poets and priests."<sup>[23]</sup>

### In modern mythology and religion

Purim, a Jewish holiday, falls at the full moon preceding the Passover, which was set by the full moon in Aries, which follows Pisces.<sup>[24]</sup> The story of the birth of Christ is said to be a result of the spring equinox entering into the Pisces, as the "Savior of the World" appeared as the Fisher of Men. This parallels the entering into the Age of Pisces.<sup>[25]</sup>



"A cord joins the tails of Pisces, the two fishes," from *Atlas Coelestis*.



A symbolic representation of Pisces.

## Astrological age

An astrological age is a time period in astrology that parallels major changes in the development of Earth's inhabitants, particularly relating to culture, society and politics, and there are twelve astrological ages corresponding to the twelve zodiacal signs. Astrological ages occur because of a phenomenon known as the precession of the equinoxes, and one complete period of this precession is called a Great Year or Platonic Year<sup>[26]</sup> of about 25,920 years.

The age of Pisces began *c.* 1 AD and will end *c.* 2150 AD.<sup>[b]</sup> With the story of the birth of Christ coinciding with this date,<sup>[27]</sup> many Christian symbols for Christ use the astrological symbol for Pisces,<sup>[28]</sup> the fishes.<sup>[29]</sup> The figure Christ himself bears many of the temperaments and personality traits of a Pisces,<sup>[30]</sup> and is thus considered an archetype of the Piscean.<sup>[31]</sup> Moreover, the twelve apostles were called the "fishers of men," early Christians called themselves "little fishes," and a code word for Jesus was the Greek word for fish, "Ikhthus."<sup>[29]</sup> With this, the start of the age, or the "Great Month of Pisces" is regarded as the beginning of the Christian religion.<sup>[32]</sup> Saint Peter is recognized as the apostle of the Piscean sign.<sup>[33]</sup>

Pisces has been called the "dying god," where its sign opposite in the night sky is Virgo, or, the Virgin Mary.<sup>[34]</sup> When Jesus was asked by his disciples where the next Passover would be, he replied to them:

Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you bearing a pitcher of water... follow him into the house where he entereth in.

—Jesus, Luke 22:10

This coincides with the changing of the ages, into the Age of Aquarius,<sup>[35]</sup> as the personification of the constellation of Aquarius is a man carrying pitchers of water.

## Associations

Astrologers believe that the date of a person's birth can affect their own lives and personalities. In terms of astrology and science, this belief is regarded as pseudoscience;<sup>[36][37][38]</sup> there is no scientific validity to astrology,<sup>[39]</sup> as predictions and personality assignments related to birth dates have not been demonstrated in controlled studies.<sup>[40]</sup> However, some continue to believe in its validity despite this.

In astrology, essential dignity is the strength of a planet or point's zodiac position, called by 17th-century astrologer William Lilly "the strength, fortitude or debility of the Planets [or] signifiers."<sup>[41]</sup> Traditionally there are five dignities: domicile and detriment, exaltation and fall, triplicity, terms, and face. However, the latter two have diminished in usage.

A planet's domicile is the zodiac sign over which it has rulership, and the rulers of Pisces,<sup>[42]</sup> or those associated with Pisceans, are Jupiter,<sup>[43]</sup> Neptune,<sup>[44]</sup> and the moon.<sup>[45]</sup> In esoteric astrology, Venus was considered the ruler of Pisces, and prior to the discovery of Neptune in 1846, Jupiter was said to rule Pisces. Neptune is mostly



Early Christian inscription ichthys carved with Greek letters into marble in the ancient Greek ruins of Ephesus, Turkey.



Associated Piscean symbols (left to right): the astrological, mutable, water, and its house symbol.

considered the ruling planet of Pisces today because of the association with the Roman god of water and the sea, Neptune.<sup>[46]</sup> The detriment, or the sign "opposite" to that which is deemed the ruling planet, is Mercury.<sup>[47][44]</sup> Venus is exalted in Pisces,<sup>[48]</sup> while both Pluto and Mercury fall in Pisces.<sup>[47][44]</sup>

According to British astrologer Alan Leo, Pisces, along with Scorpio and Cancer, compose the triplicity<sup>[49]</sup> for water signs.<sup>[50][51][52][53][54]</sup> The mutability is key to the ever-changing element of water, found in several different forms, much like the transformative aspects found in Christ and Piscean nature. Additionally, these three water signs are considered to be the most fruitful signs,<sup>[55][43]</sup> who serve a fertilizing function in nature.<sup>[56]</sup> He also groups Pisces under the "negative pole;"<sup>[3]</sup> naturally adept to the astral and psychic worlds.<sup>[57]</sup> This is resembled in the sign for Pisces (♓), which is composed of two half-circles and a band, signifying the dual nature of man in both the physical world and the unseen realm.<sup>[58][15]</sup> According to 20th century astrologer Robert Hand, the fish facing upwards away from the ecliptic is swimming towards the heavens, or is seeking spiritual illumination. The other fish swims along the ecliptic, concerning itself with material matters.<sup>[15]</sup> The sign modality for Pisces is mutable. It is part of the group of signs, with Gemini, Virgo, and Sagittarius known as the "mutable signs."

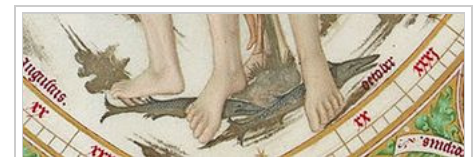
The last sign of the Zodiac, the Pisces symbol has been said to be a representation of the difficulty in extracting the good from that which appears bad.<sup>[59]</sup> The moral of the symbol for Pisces is said to be that "the severe season has passed; though your flocks, as yet, do not yield their store, the ocean and rivers are open to you, their inhabitants are placed within your power."<sup>[c][11][12][13]</sup> It is generally considered a feminine sign,<sup>[60][61][62]</sup> and colors that have been used to represent the Pisces sign are gray<sup>[3]</sup> or blue gray.<sup>[63]</sup> The body parts associated with Pisces are the feet,<sup>[50][52][64][65]</sup> or the toes.<sup>[66][67]</sup> Likewise, astrologists also associate various diseases of the body with the zodiac, and Pisces' diseases are those of the feet.<sup>[68][43]</sup> This includes gout,<sup>[69]</sup> lameness, distempers, and sores.<sup>[68]</sup> Excess of eating and drinking, as well as poisoning related to the consumption of fish and medicines are also shown in Pisces.<sup>[69]</sup>

Pisces is classified as a short ascension sign;<sup>[70]</sup> one which takes a shorter amount of time to ascend over the horizon than the other signs.<sup>[71]</sup> It is also one of the six southern signs,<sup>[54]</sup> because it is south of the celestial equator when the sun is in it. This results in it being seen in the winter sky in the northern hemisphere.<sup>[72]</sup> Pisces is also considered a bicorporeal or double-bodied sign,<sup>[54]</sup> as the astrological sign is composed of two fishes.<sup>[73]</sup>

## Personality

Western astrologers assert that Pisceans are perceptive, emotional,<sup>[45][74]</sup> and receptive.<sup>[75][75]</sup> Notorious for being highly sensitive,<sup>[76][66][77]</sup> they are also said to be desperately afraid of ridicule,<sup>[76]</sup> as the sign is deemed "unfortunate."<sup>[66][78][43]</sup> Pisces are a mutable sign, which makes them receptive, and susceptible to change.<sup>[50][79]</sup> As a bicorporeal sign, astrologists believe that events in Pisceans' lives are prominently repeated, suggesting that they may marry several times and that misfortunes never come singly. However according to astrologer Max Heindel, the Piscean's "good fortune also comes in multiple."<sup>[73]</sup>

Conforming to the traditional astrological belief of the dual nature of the Piscean, in part seeking enlightenment in the "unseen realm,"<sup>[58]</sup> they are said to be "dreamy, mystical, and artistic."<sup>[80][81]</sup> Edgar Cayce, an alleged



Part of the Anatomical Man by Limbourg brothers.



psychic, has been cited as an example of such a Piscean.<sup>[80]</sup> It is also been said that Pisceans are the quietest among the twelve zodiacal signs, and that they are good workers.<sup>[81]</sup> In line with their association with feet, Pisceans have been described as being "never quite satisfied when sitting," preferring to be standing or walking.<sup>[81]</sup>

## Compatibility

According to the Western astrologers, Scorpios and Cancers make the best partners for Pisceans,<sup>[82][83]</sup> as the former are equally as critical as Pisceans, and the latter is capable of providing the domestic comfort and satisfaction that Pisceans yearn. Pisces and Capricornus promise domestic comfort and satisfaction.<sup>[84]</sup>

## Influence

### In the arts

Venus exalted in Pisces is representative of divine love in the first canto of Dante's *Purgatorio*.<sup>[85]</sup> Pisces is the subject of Luca Della Robbia's 15th century *Plate with the Month of February*.<sup>[86]</sup> They are also the subject of one of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poetic works.<sup>[87]</sup>

And here fantastic fishes duskly float,  
Using the calm for waters, while their fires  
Throb out quick rhythms along the shallow air.

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *A Drama of Exile*

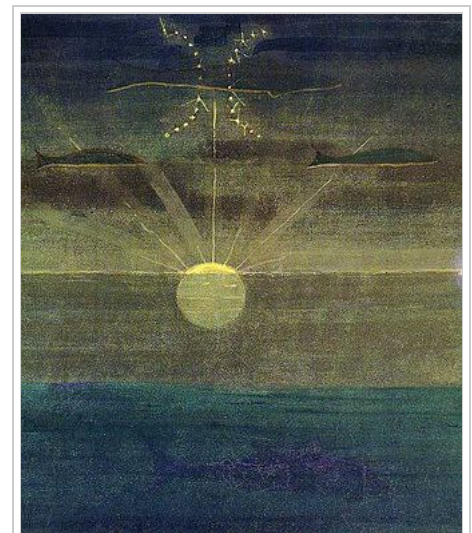
### Modern arts

In the January 1970 edition of the *Avengers* (No. 72), the supervillain group Zodiac introduced the member "Pisces" whose abilities allowed him to live underwater, which included fins, scales, and gills.<sup>[88]</sup>

In the 1979 sports fantasy film *The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh*, the fictitious basketball team the "Pittsburgh Pythons" turn to astrology after a continuous losing streak, and fill the roster with players born under the astrological sign of Pisces. They are reborn as the "Pittsburgh Pisces" and enter into a championship.<sup>[89]</sup>

In the popular web comic Homestuck, Feferi Peixes is based on, (and happens to wear) the symbol for Pisces. She is a rare seadweller, a race of alien 'trolls', who can swim and breath underwater. She also has gills/fins, like a fish.

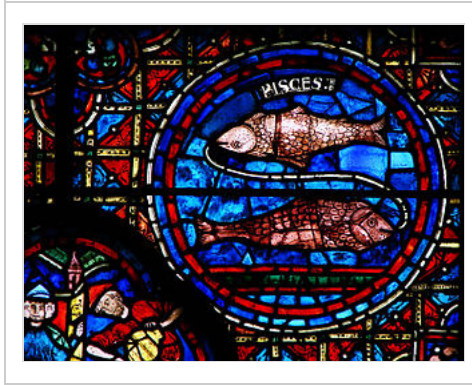
## Gallery



*Žuvys* (Pisces) by Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis.



Depicted in 14th century Arabic manuscript, *Book of Wonders*



Appearing in Chartres Cathedral in Chartres.



16th century woodcut by Johannes Regiomontanus.



Pisces on "Wishing Bridge" in Old Jaffa, Israel.



Gold coin minted during the reign of Jahangir depicting Pisces.

## See also

- Pisces (Chinese astronomy)

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### Notes

- The duration of Pisces is not distinct; for example, it is also listed as February 19 to March 20,<sup>[20]</sup> or as beginning on February 20,<sup>[1]</sup> and ending on March 21.<sup>[90]</sup>
- There are some discrepancies in when the astrological ages begin and end. The variation in the "Age of Pisces" is said to be from 1 CE until 2150 CE, 498 CE to 2654 CE, and 100-90 BCE until 2680 CE according to the interpretations of Neil Mann, Heindel Rosicrucian, and Shephard Simpson, respectively.
- From the sourcing, there are minor variations of this lesson. For example, in Robert Cross Smith's *A manual of astrology*, the author claims that the symbolical moral is "the severe season is over; your flocks do not yield their store; but the seas and rivers are open; and there you may take fish in abundance." Summarizing the various sources, it is that the fish will provide sustenance, though the wording is different.

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