

# THE MOUNTAIN ASTROLOGER

TAURUS-SCORPIO AXIS • SATURN IN PISCES • POKÉMON • JUPITER IN TAURUS



ISSUE N°226

| MARCH-MAY 2023

| ARIES NOX



## THE FIGHT

*by Rick Levine*

*Mars rolls up his fiery sleeves,  
mounts his armor for the battle;  
Angry red,  
adrenaline charges the system;  
Martial music blares,  
proteins march: hup, two, three, four.*

*Mars marching martial music,  
brass bands with drums beating;  
The relentless rhythm of soldiers' feet  
as they lose individual identity,  
locking physical action with the masses,  
defending from a common enemy.*

*The belief systems of any land!  
The God and lesser gods of any culture!  
The Higher Healing Power of Love!  
The Unity of one's individual path!  
All these are worth fighting for!*

*Aries, the Ram, stands firmly its ground;  
it must not yield to the harsh dry early spring winds.  
Aries, the Ram, is guarding its fold;  
it must explore and protect the outer reaches.  
Aries, the Ram, is protecting its loved ones;  
they must not be placed at risk.*

*At this Changing of the Ages,  
we are standing at the Threshold;  
we are knocking at Heaven's Door;  
we are at the edge of a New World;  
we are in a battle over Fundamental Truth;  
we are fighting to protect our familiar gods;  
we are fighting to protect our home planet.*

*Soldiers of Love gather on the streets;  
kamikaze consciousness warfare  
fought on the side streets and information highways;  
The mind of the planet is taking over;  
worldwide webs of thought;  
global communication systems;  
neural networks of inter-networks;  
Brains within brains.*

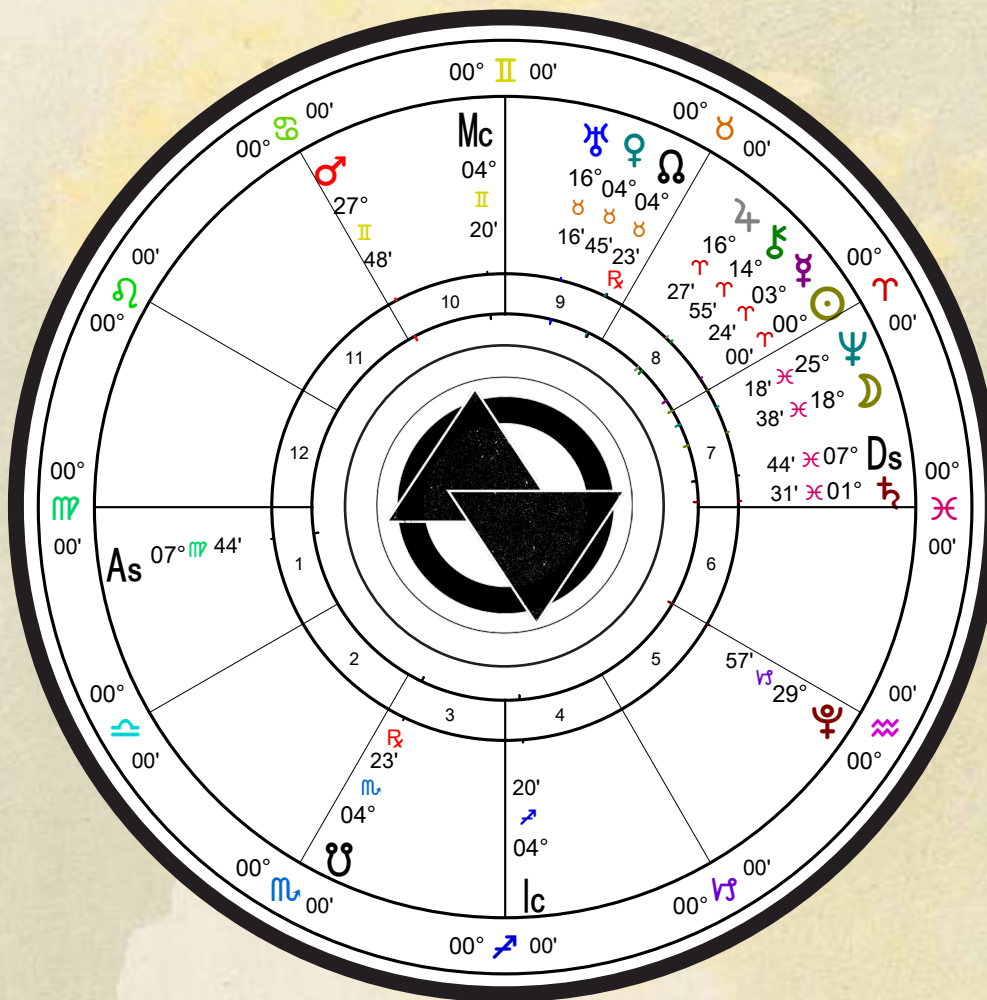
*The axes of destruction are sharpened.  
The axes of symmetry are measured.  
Soldiers start their march.  
Hup, two, three, four.  
North, South, East, West.  
The Cardinal Points Square the Lands!*

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*Rick Levine, cofounder of StarIQ.com, Emeritus Trustee of Kepler College, co-authored (with Jeff Jawer) eight years of Barnes and Noble's annual Your Astrology Guide. For nearly 20 years, Levine's daily horoscopes reached millions of readers online. He is as comfortable writing mass-market Sun sign astrology as he is pushing the technical and theoretical envelopes of the profession. Every month, tens of thousands of astrology students worldwide view his teachings on YouTube, Patreon, and The Astrology Hub. Wizard by day, net-junkie by night, he denies that time-traveling aliens have implanted microprocessors into his cerebral cortex. Reach him at rlevine@stariq.com or www.patreon.com/ricklevine*



# ARIES EQUINOX 2023



March 20, 2023  
5:25 pm EDT +4:00  
Washington, DC  
38° N 53' 42" 077 W 02' 12"  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Whole Sign  
True Node

**A**ries season starts with a cluster bowl of planets inviting us to reconsider our relationship with the semi-sextile rub. This is best done by accessing our inner innocence and remembering to ask why! What would it feel like to be open to the wonder of meaning-making in our world again?

Let this, and the following soul queries, light your way toward the next solstice ...

Do you feel stuck like glue to a mirror that fails to reflect your inner vision?

What's right next to you?

What can you learn — or have you learned from feeling the opposite?

What comes up when you listen — can you get curious about it instead of infuriated?

What waits in the middle?

What can balance "between" bring?

Ready ... Set ... Dream ...



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# LETTER FROM TMA



Dear Readers:

Welcome to Aries season! As the resident Aries on staff, I'm actually hyped for my birthday for the first time this decade thus far. For better or worse, it's sure to be an Aries season like none other recently — though with the pure, optimistic thrust for novelty of my sign, you know my money's on "better."

While we're still finding our sea legs from Saturn's splash into Pisces, a one-two punch swiftly follows the Sun's Aries ingress as Pluto enters Aquarius (what, me worry? — it's just the next 20 years) and Mars moves into Cancer (slamming the door on over half a year of Rx-fueled Gemini chaos). A mid-season Jupiter cazimi keeps the mood larger-than-life, while a solar North Node eclipse at the anaretic degree caps the epic with a fiery bang. While all Aries seasons offer a chance at self-reinvention, this one also births a new era. So, in the spirit of such times — who's the new you?

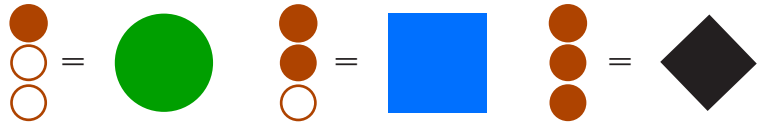
Big question — and of course, we're serving big-picture features to help you size everything up. To round out our current nodal transit, Sam Reynolds and Gina Piccolo offer a groundbreaking read of racial history through the Taurus–Scorpio axis. Looking forward, Sue Tompkins gives us a growth-oriented view of Jupiter in Taurus, while Alexandra Karacostas examines the power of Saturn in Pisces to bring boundaries to the boundless. But what's Aries season without fun and games? Drew Levanti toys with play as a global essential, exploring the astrology of Pokémon as the franchise hits its first Saturn return.

I'll close this letter with a phrase that's been popping up on my feed lately: "Networks connect. Communities care." While networks require shared interests, the beauty of community lies in shared identity. You come as you are. You're held for who you are. All you have to do is act in kind.

No one exists in a vacuum. We can't ask ourselves who we are without also asking who we care about. Where do we stand? What do we fight for? This Aries season, we might just make over the world in our own image. For better or worse — but you already know how I'll bet.

All the best,  
Valentine

## WYRD ARTS & CULTURE MAGAZINE



To help our readers navigate this mountain of a publication, we are now providing a scale of serviceability. Please see the diagrams above to read and ride accordingly.

- 1 Spot / Green Circle = Steep
- 2 Spots / Blue Square = Steeper
- 3 Spots / Black Diamond = Steepest

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## DREW LEVANTI

### The Astrology of Pokémon

Gotta catch this article! As the world's favorite franchise enters its first Saturn return, this joyful, nostalgic romp spans science, spirituality, and the global power of play. (p. 25)



## SUE TOMPKINS

### Jupiter's Journey through Taurus

They say go big or go home. Will Jupiter in Taurus prove to be the best (or worst) of both worlds? History and imagination inform this exploration of expansion and appetite. (p. 31)



## SAMUEL F. REYNOLDS & GINA PICCALO

### Exploring Race and Astrology Along the Taurus-Scorpio Axis

From colonialism's roots to the current day, this groundbreaking research draws on 40+ key charts in the Black experience to form a novel theory of racial struggle in the US. (p. 36)



## ALEXANDRA KARACOSTAS

### Bringing Shape to Water Saturn in Pisces: 2023–2026

What happens when stern authority swims in the waters of compassion? With Greek myth as our guide, we look to Saturn's last three transits through Pisces for a glimpse. (p. 42)





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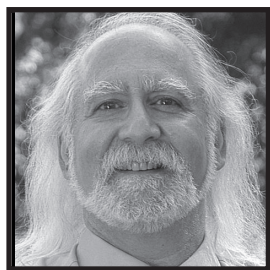
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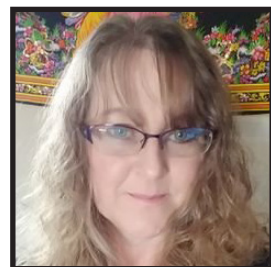
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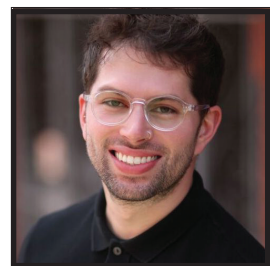
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# ASTROLOGY NEWS & CONFERENCE CALENDAR

by Gloria Star

*Do you have news or events to share with TMA readers? Send info to [Gloria@GloriaStar.com](mailto:Gloria@GloriaStar.com).*

## Awards Presented at ISAR Conference

Several awards were presented at the recent ISAR conference held August 25–29, 2022 in Westminster, Colorado. The “Favorite Astrology School” honor was presented to Kepler College. For notable “Community Service,” there were two recipients: Maurice Fernandez and Samuel Reynolds. “Favorite Astrology Podcast” singled out Chris Brennan’s *The Astrology Podcast*. Congratulations to all honorees, and thank you for your superb work.

## Reality Dating TV Show Highlights Astrology

The “AstroTwins” have taken a big leap with the production and release of a new TV series streaming on Amazon Prime, and *Cosmic Love* debuted in August 2022. The AstroTwins are sisters Ophira and Tali Edut, and their stars have been steadily rising since 2009, when they became the in-house astrology columnists for *ELLE* magazine. Their global brand is Astrostyle, reaching millions of readers worldwide. They have also written 13 books, presented numerous workshops and trainings, and appeared on-air on the *Today* show, *Good Morning America*, and *Sirius XM*.

Now, they bring their creative focus to a new venture: *Cosmic Love*.

“We conceived the Cosmic Love astrology reality show in partnership with Hudsun Media/Amazon Studios and served as astrologers and matchmakers from concept to final production.” (<https://astrostyle.com/cosmic-love/>).

The show draws on matchmaking programs seen on TV, but with one major exception: *Cosmic Love* brings astrology into the spotlight as the tool that’s used for finding the perfect match for the contestants, all hoping to find their one true love. The AstroTwins call the program a social experiment, and state that the matches are made using the accurate astrological birth chart of each individual. Contestants are identified by the element of their Sun sign, although as the show develops, more astrological data from their charts is revealed. Throughout the quest, contestants are brought together socially and also spend time with potential matches, following guidance from the “AstroChamber.” Voiced by Cree Summer, the AstroChamber is described as a mystical guide. This guide refers to both the natal chart and comparison techniques used by astrologers with clients. Information provided is generally quite practical and does ultimately lead to probing questions, as the elements find their compatible matches.

Now that we have an introduction to the background of this social experiment, during this first season of the show, I’ll be curious to find out whether it will return. It was entertaining, and could actually form the basis of future shows employing astrological information to drive the story, the script, or the competition.

## In Brief

Two New England astrological groups reached their 50th year anniversary in October 2022. Founded within two weeks of one another, the Astrological Society of Connecticut (ASC) and the Astrological Society of Princeton (ASP) have continually provided a source of light and information during their long histories. The ASP was founded October 6, 1972, and the ASC was founded October 17, 1972. Both groups continue to offer programs on astrology. Congratulations!

The death of Queen Elizabeth II has been a powerful media focus, prompting interest into the insights astrology might offer in terms of the Queen. A *New York Post* feature article (September 15, 2022) written by pop-culture astrologer Kyle Thomas, provided an in-depth look at the Queen’s natal chart in regard to her life and destiny. Yahoo featured a video online — [yahoo.com/video/queen-elizabeth-ii-birth-chart-184622525.html](https://www.yahoo.com/video/queen-elizabeth-ii-birth-chart-184622525.html) — featuring astrologer Penny Thornton, who was also known as Princess Diana’s astrologer.

Another astrology-focused program was broadcast on Today.com, September 12, 2022. Then, on September 19, the *Today Show* aired a feature about six planets being retrograde. The discussion, featuring *Oprah magazine*’s resident astrologer, Lisa Stardust, also included an exploration of the chart of Queen Elizabeth II, her life, and her recent passing. URL: <https://www.today.com/today/amp/rcna47614>.

## In Memoriam

Astrologer Billee Hellen Domell passed away on July 29, 2022, at the age of 98, at her home in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Over the years, she owned several businesses, and may be best known by her presence at the Sticks and Stones shop in Saturday's Market in Middletown, Pennsylvania. She was one of the pioneering subscribers to *The Mountain Astrologer* and had every issue of the magazine.

## Astrology Conferences and Events

**March 3-5, 2023:** 5th Annual Vibrational Astrology Conference, 2023, Gainesville, FL, USA. **Info:** Phone: (352) 373-2023. URL: [astrosoftware.com/va2023.html](http://astrosoftware.com/va2023.html).

**March 31 - April 2, 2023:** Congresso Internacional de Astrologia, Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal. **Info:** [congressointernacionaldeastrologia.com](http://congressointernacionaldeastrologia.com).

**May 25-29, 2023:** 39th Annual NORWAC (Northwest Astrology Conference), Tukwila, WA, USA. This will be a HYBRID conference and will be simulcast. **Info:** [nwastroconf@gmail.com](mailto:nwastroconf@gmail.com); Phone: (206) 930-7613; URL: [www.norwac.net](http://www.norwac.net)

**2023:** The 55th Annual AAGB Conference is set to be a HYBRID conference with the theme "Light Emerging from the Shadows." **Info:** <https://www.astrologicalassociation.com/conference-2023/>.

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*Gloria Star is a professional astrologer, author, and teacher. You can learn more about her and her services at <https://www.gloriastar.com>.*



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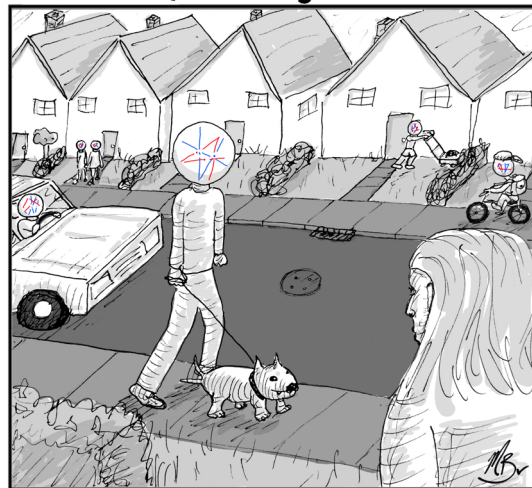
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2023 celebrates 6th season

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SUBTLE DIFFERENCES

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IT WAS THEN THAT TRACY BEGAN TO WONDER  
IF SHE WAS STUDYING TOO MUCH.

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# MUNDANE REFLECTIONS

## WHAT EMERGES IN THE LIMELIGHT

by Wade Caves

*Note to readers: In this column, syzygies and other mundane figures are regularly referenced without accompanying visuals. To follow along, it is advised that readers cast these charts for themselves. The location to use is provided in the column text.*

Before 2022, I can't say I knew who Ezra Miller was, but eventually you recognize the name that keeps coming across news headlines for increasingly bizarre and erratic behavior. If you've seen *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, or any of the trailers for DC's feature film *The Flash* (Miller has Uranus culminating upon the Midheaven), then you will have seen Miller in action, and will recognize many high-billing co-stars: Jude Law, Eddie Redmayne, Johnny Depp, Ben Affleck, Gal Gadot, Tilda Swinton, Emma Watson, and the list goes on.

Somewhere between debut and today, Miller — who identifies as non-binary and uses they/them pronouns — appears to have entered a rather more complicated reality. Reports have surfaced of bar violence in Iceland, two arrests in Hawai'i, "grooming" minors, burglary, larceny. Recent descriptions of Miller depict them as armed with a gun and wearing body armor; Miller has taken to social media to suggest they're being hunted by the FBI and KKK.<sup>1</sup> As of the time of this writing, Miller is facing 26 years in prison if a 2023 trial favors the prosecution.

There's always going to be more to the story than headlines and astrology can tell. Still, with a known birth time and confirmed timestamps of Miller's transgressions, we can map some of the astrological waves that Miller is sailing.

### Background and natal temperament

Miller was born to parents of reasonable social standing. Miller's mother is a modern dancer with acting credits to her name, and their father was a senior executive in the publishing industry and founding director of Hyperion Books. Miller catapulted to celebrity status at a young age, but with parents like these, one's astrology doesn't need to be especially illustrious for one to reach positions of prominence. It's all about context, and Miller's birth chart instead points to what might be made of an inherited position on the world stage.

The luminaries are toughly placed in Miller's nativity. (See **Chart 1**, p. 13.) The Sun is in its sign of fall and cadent, which might augur poor handling of fame and attention, and given the Sun's position in the 6th, we might expect mental anguish to come with stardom. The Moon is peregrine (classic in the case of flighty individuals like Miller who are seen all around the world in a short period of time) and in tight sextile to the Sun. The luni-solar aspect is a creative aspect generally, but given the dignities and houses involved, we must presume that difficult themes emerge with the positive. Both luminaries apply to 10th-ruler Saturn, a natural malefic, retrograde and stationing on the 11th cusp. Saturn does not stand idly by where there's responsibility to be doled out; Saturn's collection of the luminaries' light would make it hard for Miller to avoid accountability for long.

The fruitful sextile between the luminaries likely produced a reasonably healthy and supportive home environment. Still, the Moon is disposed by the ruler of the 12th (a house associated with the earliest years of childhood when we are most impressionable), and conjunct Antares, a star said to make "its natives rash, ravenous, headstrong and destructive to themselves by their own obstinacy."<sup>2</sup> Jupiter, ruler of the 8th and 12th houses and dispositor of the Moon, is under the Sun's beams and under great strain in the 6th, disposed by 6th-ruler Mercury.

To sort through the busy 6th-house theme, it probably helps to take a step back to talk about the Western system of organizing the rational mind (as it was explained by 17th-century astrologer/physician Nicholas Culpeper). The Moon and Mercury both govern what's called the *animal faculty*, that part of the mind which opens up passageways enabling the movement from one part of the body to another, particularly as it regards messages to and from the brain and the nervous system.

The animal faculty is divided into two categories: the *sensing* (sight, taste, smell, etc., and common sense) and the *intellective* or *thinking*. The Moon and Mercury govern the animal faculty as a collective principle; Mercury governs common sense under the *sensing* umbrella, and under the *thinking* umbrella, Jupiter rules judgment and Mercury rules imagination.<sup>3</sup>

The Moon's position on the 8th cusp applying to a planet in the 6th threatens the function of the animal faculty generally. In fact, both natural rulers of that system are poorly placed. Mercury's rulership of the 6th and placement within it points to issues with both common sense and imagination. The placement of 8th- and 12th-ruler Jupiter in the 6th, under the rays of the Sun, suggests big and dramatic displays (Jupiter) of poor and abasing judgment (Jupiter in fall), perhaps as a response to unresolved anxieties, fears, and traumas (Jupiter ruling unfortunate houses). Miller's astrology

reflects the seeded potential for strains on mental well-being — and transits to these natal planets are prominent in the charts for Miller’s many missteps, as we will see.

Some of the 6th-house potential was staved off early by attentive parenting. Miller’s mother placed them in an opera program at an early age to correct a developing speech impediment (the nature of which is unknown). Mercury is the planet we look to first for issues with speech, and the Ascendant-ruler (because the Ascendant governs the head and mind).

Mercury is in the 6th house, under the Sun’s beams, separating from tough contacts: squares to Uranus and Neptune on the Midheaven, and a trine to a stationing Saturn. Venus rules the 1st, found angular in its sign of fall, which isn’t so much a signature of a speech impediment as it is an indication that the door might be open to one. Venus is applying to the square of Saturn, and Saturn is translating the light of Mercury to Venus. Saturn governs hearing; Mercury, speech; and the combination of these planets in hard configuration with the Ascendant-ruler is common in the charts of those who benefit from speech therapy early in life.

The most striking feature of Miller’s birth chart is the one I have yet to mention: the conjunction of Uranus and Neptune on the upper meridian, squared tightly by Mercury and opposed in uneven fashion by a Cancer Mars in the 3rd house. The adaptive, elusive nature of Neptune — the most angular of the four planets — fits with the mixed imagery of this cardinal sign, Capricorn the Sea-Goat, shown straddling land and sea. Miller’s strength comes in their comfort with the imaginative, the dramatic, and the difficult to define. But the hard contact from Mars, most closely opposed to Uranus, turns this into a trigger point with latent signatures of violence and divisive behavior.

### Prenatal lunation in Libra

Given Miller’s public profile, the prenatal lunation might be instructive. (See **Chart 2**, p. 14.) It was a New Moon at 3° Libra, conjunct a Libra Ascendant, disposed by Venus in Scorpio. What’s notable about this New Moon, when centered on Englewood, New Jersey (Miller’s birth location), is how both luminaries apply immediately to the squares of Mars and Uranus, themselves arranged in opposition across the MC/IC axis.

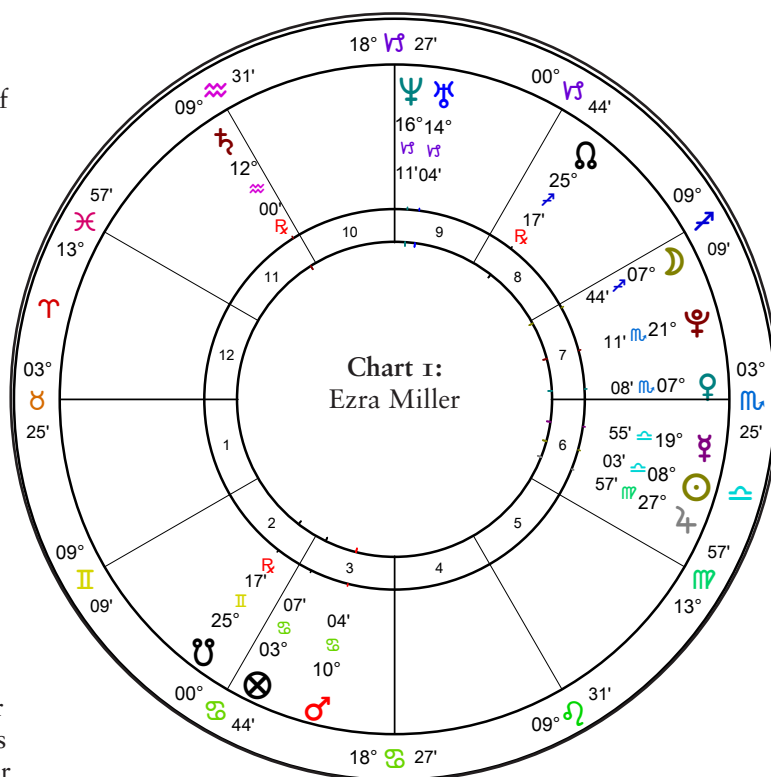
Libra is often described as peaceable and relationship-oriented, but this may mask the sign’s association with violence hidden behind a cloak of civility and respectability politics. Signs are environments, and the environments of Saturn and Mars (by sign or exaltation) retain something of their malefic nature. Libra, the exaltation of Saturn, carries an image of justice, the courts, and what is codified or

socialized. We must remember it is a *human hand* that holds the scales of Libra — Libra speaks about justice, yes, but a subjective, consensus-type justice.

The application of Miller’s prenatal lunation to a fallen Mars opposite Uranus doubles down on themes of irascibility, and with so much happening with degrees of the angles, we can expect violent displays to be public or made visible to all. And, because of the Libran signature, we might expect actions under the lunation’s auspices to be protected, glossed over, or re-contextualized with socially ratified frameworks. Many have called for Warner Bros. to rethink the release of *The Flash* and Miller’s role in the franchise. At the time of this writing, the studio has made little effort to hold Miller accountable for their behavior, notably shelving deserving film projects while preserving the future release of *The Flash*. In fact, Miller was invited to re-shoot scenes for *The Flash* between two arrests in Hawai’i in spring 2022.

Criticism from Miller’s peers is sparse, too. The most notable comment came from director/producer Issa Rae, whose synastry with Miller plays upon themes of attention and illumination.

Issa Rae (January 12, 1985; 12:24 p.m. PST; Inglewood, California) has a Sun–Jupiter conjunction crowning Miller’s own Midheaven, and her Moon at 7° Libra aligns with Miller’s Sun at 8° Libra and prenatal lunation at 3° Libra. Her Moon squares Miller’s Mars within 3° of exactitude. Her Pluto sits exactly on Miller’s Descendant, and her Saturn on Miller’s natal Pluto — expectations of accountability are implicit in





## Assessing the offenses

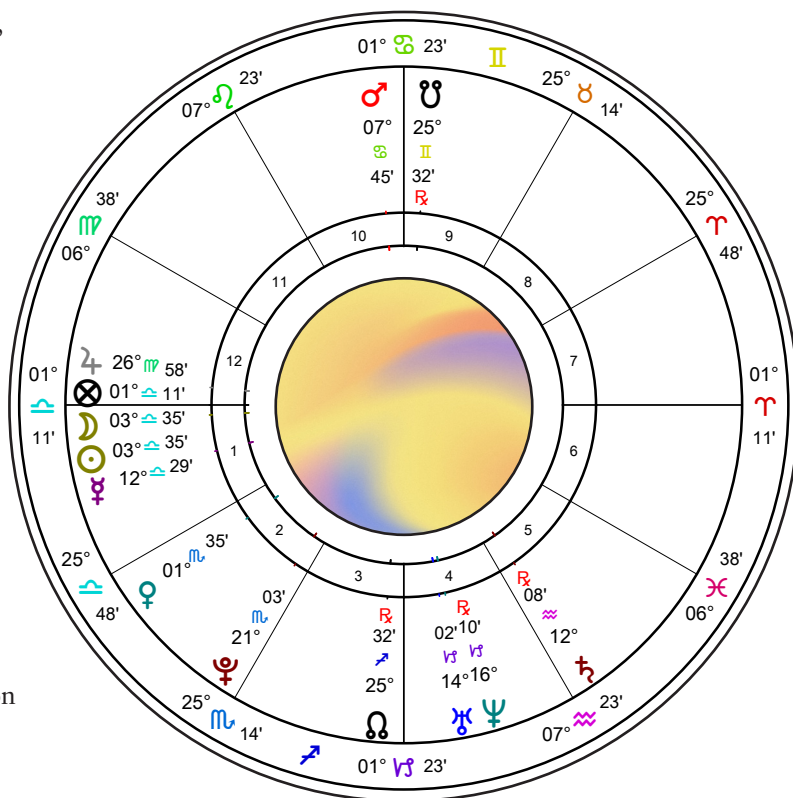
After repeated efforts, the tribal courts admitted that they were unable to reach Miller.<sup>6</sup> The lunation preceding the June 10, 2022 decision was a New Moon at 9° Gemini, in opposition to Miller's natal Moon. When centered on the Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota, the New Moon fell in the 12th house. The 12th cusp was 3° Taurus, Miller's natal Ascendant degree, and its ruler, Venus at 2° Taurus, was conjunct that cusp. These signatures supported Miller in evading detection by the Sioux tribal court. The court would later refuse the Iron Eyes family's request to make the order permanent, and finding themselves with few options in reach, the family withdrew from the legal path.<sup>7</sup>

The Iron Eyes scandal was only the first accusation of grooming made against Miller that month. A few days later, a Massachusetts mother filed for an order of protection from the Greenfield District Court. “She said she told the judge that Miller offered to buy the child gifts, including a horse, even after she rejected Miller’s earlier offers. ‘I kept wondering why Ezra was here. Like, don’t you have Hollywood stuff to do? Don’t you have movies coming out?’ she said.”<sup>8</sup>

We don't have birth data for Tokata Iron Eyes, not even a confirmed birth year, and the timestamps for the Greenfield case are scant. The astrology of those offenses would be a bit too speculative for my liking — but we have more verified times with respect to more recent events.

## The senseless burglary

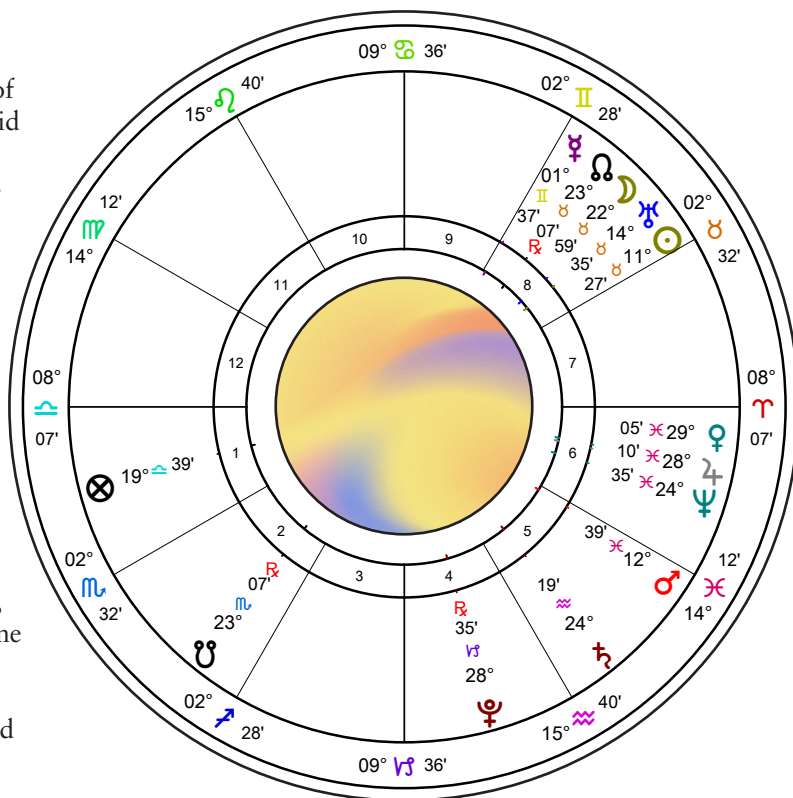
Miller has a home in Stamford, Vermont, and was in the area in May 2022. Police were called on May 1, 2022 when a local family came home to find their home burglarized, with bottles of alcohol missing, valued at less than \$900 USD. Security footage on the property showed Miller, a neighbor, breaking into the home and removing alcohol from the property earlier that day.



### Chart 2: Prenatal lunation

*Charts use Regiomontanus houses, the same calculation for Fortune day or night, and Mean Nodes*

### Chart 3: Burglary



The burglary was reported to occur a little before 5:00 p.m. local time,<sup>9</sup> just one day after a solar eclipse in early Taurus (Miller's natal Ascendant). The event chart for the burglary features 8° Libra on the Ascendant (Miller's natal Sun), and the Moon at 22° Taurus in a tight square to transiting Saturn at 24° Aquarius. (See **Chart 3**, p. 14.) Culminating on the Midheaven in Stamford was 9° Cancer, in a close conjunction with Miller's natal Mars.

Police charged Miller with burglary in an occupied home and petit larceny. Burglary is a felony charge with a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison, accompanied by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 USD. The petit larceny charge yields a maximum prison sentence of 1 year, and a maximum fine of \$1,000 USD. All told, Miller is looking at a potential 26 years in prison.

According to court documents, Miller is next due to appear before the court in Bennington, Vermont on 13 January 2023, when Mars stations direct at 8° Gemini in opposition to their natal Moon at 7° Sagittarius. The transiting Moon will be in early Libra — transiting Miller's natal Sun and the Ascendant of the burglary itself (8° Libra).

Miller's solar return for 2022–23 features the Ascendant-ruler, the Sun, in fall in the 3rd house (badly judged actions regarding neighbors), opposing the 9th-ruler Jupiter (legal troubles). The solar return Moon is opposite Mars in the 5th and 11th houses, respectively, which looks like an exhausting of goodwill. Interestingly, the solar return Ascendant at 10° Leo and the Midheaven of 28° Aries are close to the angles of the lunation preceding Miller's January 13 court date (6° Leo rising, 21° Aries Midheaven); this typically suggests the two periods share resonant themes. My guess is that the commencement of this trial is likely to shape the themes of Miller's entire solar year.

### Public expectations of accountability

DC's *The Flash* is set to be released on June 23, 2023. The astrology of that evening is clearly strained. A Venus–Mars conjunction in mid-Leo lines up neatly with Miller's solar return Ascendant. Jupiter in early Taurus transits Miller's Ascendant (suggestive of mercy against the worst that may happen). The Virgo Moon is in sharp, mutually applying opposition to retrograde Saturn in Pisces, squaring Miller's natal Moon at 7° Sagittarius. That's a harsh signature and lessens the likelihood of this being a smooth, trouble-free period for Miller. Still, Jupiter in early Taurus will be transiting Miller's Ascendant, which may protect against the worst that could happen. I think at best we can expect conflicted feelings at the box office.

But I am struck by the immediacy of Jupiter's transit over Miller's Ascendant. Compassion for Miller may come after recognition of significant mental health concerns for the actor. "Having recently gone through a time of intense crisis, I now understand that I am

suffering complex mental health issues and have begun ongoing treatment," Miller said in a statement released to CNN. "I want to apologize to everyone that I have alarmed and upset with my past behavior. I am committed to doing the necessary work to get back to a healthy, safe, and productive stage in my life."<sup>10</sup>

### Chart Data and Sources

**Chart 1: Ezra Miller's nativity**, September 30, 1992; 7:36 p.m. EDT; Englewood, NJ, USA (40°N53', 73°W58'); AA: Collector Viktor cites birth certificate on AstroDatabank.

**Chart 2: Prenatal lunation**, September 26, 1992; 6:40 a.m. EDT; Englewood, NJ, USA.

**Chart 3: Burglary**, May 1, 2022; 4:55 p.m. EST; Stamford, VT, USA (42°N45', 73°W04'); A: news media.

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(All links accessed November 2022.)

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- To read Culpeper's explanation of this integrated medical system firsthand, see his *Astrological judgment of disease from the decumbiture of the sick* (1655); republished by Astrology Classics (2003).
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- <https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2022/08/ezra-miller-has-now-been-accused-of-grooming-minors-and-leading-a-cult>. Some of the most consistent reporting on Ezra Miller is published in *Vanity Fair*. The publication was first printed in 1913 and ceased operations in 1936. *Vanity Fair* started anew in early February 1983 after a near fifty-year hiatus. The lunation preceding the new imprint (28 January 1983) has 2° Taurus on the Midheaven at the publisher's headquarters in New York City — exact within one degree of Ezra's natal Ascendant.
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- <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/actor-ezra-miller-accused-stealing-alcohol-vermont-home-rcna42131>. (I used a 4:55 p.m. time.)
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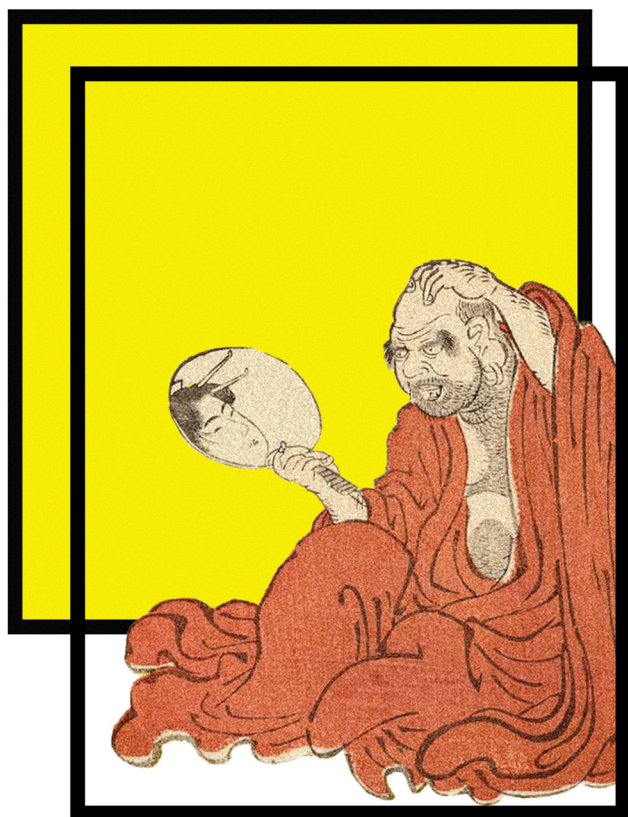
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# THINK LIKE AN ASTROLOGER

by Rod Suskin



One summer evening, I found myself as a guest speaker talking to a rather unlikely audience: the national sea bird rescue organisation. Many of them probably wondered why on earth the event organiser engaged an astrologer to give this month's talk. I wondered the same, but I have found that explaining astrology to a completely lay audience is one of the most exciting lecture experiences I have had.

Sure, apart from the befuddled birders you have to contend with the yawning partners, and there are also a few questions that need a lot of patience and a straight face to deal with, but nothing beats the pleasure of gifting them with a bit of enlightenment, the odd realisation, maybe a bit of mind blowing, and perhaps a new life-long fascination.

They took to my lecture well and seemingly drank up every word about the things we may take for granted, like how astrology can be useful when dealing with the overwhelming and confusing nature of life, and for making the most of the best of times. (I did search for things to say about saving sea birds too, but everything sounded cheesy and forced.)

I didn't delve too far into discussing fate and free will; it's not something you can easily talk about to a spread of people who may have few common interests or shared knowledge, other than that of oily penguins. Rather, I concentrated on the practical details of facing obstacles and either accepting things or trying to change them, as the case may be.

Then, a man in his late 30s raised his hand and stood to ask a question: "I just want to ask, on what basis do you give this advice? I mean, you're not a psychologist, you're not a priest. What is the source of the advice you give?"

It was one of those questions that made everyone else realise that they too had the same question. With clients, it's one thing to mirror the personality, even the karma, in the chart and to talk about predictions and all the well-known tools of our trade ... but to give advice? Where exactly does that fall in astrology — when it isn't in the context of some other discipline like psychology or religion?

What I told him is that astrology alone offers little in the way of advice in the sense of why you should do something, and rather, simply, that you should — you can tell someone to "adjust to the change" without a reason that might come from a personal belief or an assumption. Astrology itself is not a philosophy of life necessarily, but is compatible with many ways of understanding why things happen the way they do here on Earth.

For some astrologers though, those assumptions are so ingrained, and they sometimes forget these are assumptions — something like, "astrology shows you your potential." That word, potential, is, of course, a belief about astrology and is an assumption dissimilar to the belief that astrology shows your karma or fate. On the subject of potential, it's a good example of how amateur psychology can easily creep into our practice, giving homespun advice or, more scarily, raising issues like buried abuse or hidden traumas, when we should be referring our clients to an appropriate counselling professional, rather than taking on that role ourselves.

Any advice we have to give about what position or aspect we are accusing of causing something to happen must be somewhat bound by who and where we are. Just like the medieval prognosticator who completely assumed that we come from a rather orthodox Judeo-Christian view of the world, we must unconsciously incorporate lots of the assumptions of our times.

Sometimes all of this is compounded by the problem that we are not likely to have the expertise in these other

disciplines that astrology so easily aligns itself with, and of course the unspoken likelihood that anybody you are explaining the chart to does not automatically have the same beliefs about life that you do.

The honest truth is that this frequently results in a personalized blend composed of our own beliefs and vague ideas absorbed from contemporary culture. Today, this includes “new age” ideas as well as quasi-scientific ones that vaguely identify astrology with things like quantum theory (usually with little actual knowledge, but any number of beliefs and assumptions may be incorporated, even those that a medieval Bible-thumper would probably recognise).

So, between us, what is the complete answer to the thorny question of “on what basis do we give advice?”

As astrologers, we need to speak in a way that is consistent with a coherent philosophy of astrology. More fundamentally, we need to be able to speak in a way that is in accord with the astrology we practice, and we need to make it explicit to our clients that this is where we are coming from.

Clearly, there is no one philosophy behind astrology, which is natural and great, but we need to be a lot louder about what we do think, or at the very least, we need to thoroughly think it through for ourselves. Just what do I believe? What is my philosophy of life that is consistent with the fact that I am an astrologer, and that I use astrology to give advice?

For two reasons, I find the ancient philosophy of Stoicism to be most compatible with how I view the world and what I think about astrology. First, a key idea of Stoicism is universal causality: everything has a cause, and everything that happens is the cause of something else. Thus, everything is a natural process unfolding.

There’s lots of room for fate in all of that, and many Stoics are comfortable with at least one of the underlying ideas of fate: that you are not in control of most of what happens.

As for events being somehow pre-ordained and predictable, as astrology essentially has it, that isn’t quite the same as saying that events are out of our control. But it does make room for astrology and Stoicism to find some common ground, and for astrology to have some meaning behind the way it explains the world.

Second, another basic Stoic idea is related to giving advice: since we’re not in control of most of what happens, it makes sense to concentrate on what we are in control of. To a very large extent, that entails only us and some things in our immediate environment. In reality, it’s very little, and this makes the most sense to me in our world and in our astrology.

It seems to me that, at its heart, astrology says the same thing. It may be possible to develop our potential, to express things in particular ways by choice, and to seek and even find all sorts of reasons and meanings behind things — and astrology does that with aplomb. But when it comes to doing something about it all, in the

end there’s not much we can do. Even if it were possible, it would be miraculous to change more than just a few things at any particular time, because there is way too much happening simultaneously, affecting all things.

Whatever our take on astrology, we have to engage with the fate question every so often, and the Stoic approach allows me a context for all the stuff we don’t control no matter what the truth behind it is. I don’t have to wonder about whether something was caused by fate or poor parenting, I just have to know when it can be changed, or how much it can be improved. This allows me to establish a comfortable position in the mix between fate and free will, how these may affect the meaning of everything and how they may affect the meaning of what I do as an astrologer.

For me, Stoicism becomes a practical, realistic, and honest way of giving advice that is entirely consistent with how I practice astrology, and I can give this advice based on sound principles argued by philosophers rather than on some passing or untested opinion of mine, which might not be the most authoritative source of good advice for someone face to face with fate.

The advice we have to give is about knowing when — when things that are not in our control may happen, and when it is possible to do something about them.

The most fundamental purpose of astrology is to master ourselves and our worlds, to whatever extent is possible. By knowing what we need to change and what we need to accept, we can achieve this mastery. The chart is the mirror that shows what can be changed, and what can’t. It is the mirror of the world in how it says what happens; and it is the mirror of the self in how it says where the control lies, and just how much of it there is.

If I can provide my clients with a glimpse into this mirror, which allows them to know when to act and when to accept, I believe I have also given them the opportunity to reach towards the happiness that the philosophers promise when we know the nature of ourselves and the world.

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# MOMENTS IN TIME

by Frank C. Clifford

“Good morning, Starshine, the Earth says ‘Hello.’”

*The Age of Aquarius and the First Performance of Hair: October 17, 1967; 8:30 p.m. EDT; Public Theater, Lafayette St., New York, NY, USA (40°N44', 74°W00').*

The Age of Aquarius was said, by many, to have begun — or at least to have “dawned” — at the solar eclipse of February 5, 1962, during which all seven classical planets (Sun to Saturn) were in the sign of the Water Bearer. Astrologically, it heralded a period that would become synonymous with a counterculture expressing free love, protesting against war, and exploring drugs and life to excess — a time of movements that sparked revolutions in civil rights, social norms, and music. And the older members of the Pluto in Leo generation (born from 1937 onwards) grasped the chance to reinvent the world in their own image.

If the 1960s officially began astrologically on February 18, 1961 with the Jupiter–Saturn conjunction at 25° Capricorn (an omen of a challenge to authority, and a degree that transiting Pluto is transforming as I write), the decade really got kicking at the February 1962 Aquarian lineup.

But it was an era that had petered out by the start of the 1970s. With Jupiter in Scorpio opposing Saturn in Taurus four times between December 1969 and June 1971, many of the countercultural icons of the Swinging '60s had died or were now card-carrying members of the Establishment. And although the mobilisation of the civil rights movement in the mid-'60s truly felt Aquarian at the Uranus–Pluto conjunction, to the cynic born post-1962, much of the rest of the decade seemed, in hindsight, to reflect the last vestiges of a Piscean age.

But there's a symbol of the 1960s that encapsulates the energy and spirit of the much-hoped-for Age of Aquarius, and still grabs audiences today: *Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical*. According to the *New York Daily News* (October 15, 1967, p. S3), it premiered in Manhattan at 8:30 p.m. on October 17, 1967 — just four months after the Summer of Love and eleven days after the mock funeral ceremony,

“The Death of the Hippie,” took place in the Haight neighbourhood of San Francisco.

*Hair* was pioneering and controversial in its racially integrated cast, its exploration of sexuality and illegal drugs, its nudity and profanity, and its irreverence for the American flag. “It was the first real attempt to explain and extol the hippie subculture to mainstream America,” explains Eric Grode in *Hair: The Story of the Show that Defined a Generation* (Running Press, 2010). And in the same book, famed theatre producer Joseph Papp is quoted: “*Hair* was marvelous for middle-aged people. They said, ‘Oh that’s the reason my son is that way!’”

In its first performance chart, we have the Ascendant in Gemini and the Midheaven (MC) in Aquarius, reflecting the story of a tribe of hip youths living a Bohemian life. (See Chart, p. 19.) Fascinatingly, the MC in Aquarius ties in powerfully with the solar eclipse of February 5, 1962 — the “Age of Aquarius” chart — which occurred at 15° Aquarius (with Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter nearby at 16–18°). At that eclipse, Uranus sat at 29° Leo and Pluto at 9° Virgo, linking exactly to *Hair*’s Jupiter and Venus placements, respectively.

*Hair*’s chart has three further notable features:

- A lunar eclipse: Sun in Libra in the 5th house opposite Moon in Aries in the 11th — a powerful spotlight on the fight against sexual and social inequalities;
- Chart ruler Mercury conjunct Neptune in Scorpio (square the MC–IC axis) — an aspect about speaking for the disenfranchised, or being tainted by scandalous sexual opinions; provocative lyrics;
- A partile (exact degree) t-square involving Mars, Uranus, and Chiron, with Mars in Sagittarius in the 7th as the apex — the outsider/outcast who dares to speak up and speak out; the sexual adventurer; the inflammatory truth-seeker.

These placements all reflect the musical’s main premise and the spirit of the cool, long-haired Hippie movement it showcased: the irreverent youth counterculture that rejected “the Establishment” and promoted individual freedom, peace, and sexual revolution, opposed nuclear weapons and consumerism, encouraged religious and cultural diversity, embraced Eastern philosophies, explored alternative lifestyles, and developed an eco-friendly approach to our world — many issues that have become worldwide movements today.

In addition, Mars–Uranus–Chiron plus Mercury–Neptune square MC–IC suggest the pigeonholing of members of this counterculture as debauched, anti-American dropouts indulging in excessive promiscuity and hallucinogenic drugs and ... even worse ... dodging the draft. (One infamous line from the musical sums up a character’s attitude to the latter:

“The draft is white people sending Black people to make war on the yellow people to defend the land they stole from the red people.”)

The off-Broadway stint closed in January 1968, and *Hair* was overhauled (13 new songs were added) by the time of its Broadway opening in April — a production that would include up-and-coming stars Melba Moore, Ben Vereen, Meat Loaf, Keith Carradine, Diane Keaton, and Oscar-winning composer Paul Jabara. A pre-disco Donna Summer joined the German tour, and the London production brought together Tim Curry and Richard O’Brien, who would star in their own musical epic to the stage five years later entitled *The Rocky Horror Show*. The original off- and on-Broadway company had its own Tarot reader plus an astrologer, Maria Crummere, who elected the time and date of the Broadway premiere.

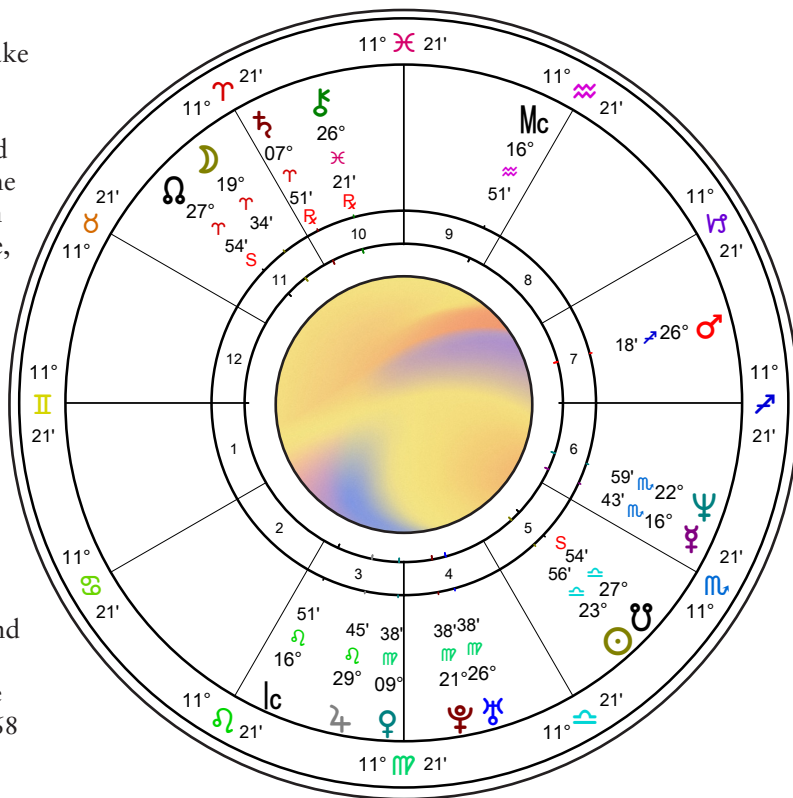
*Hair*’s music was composed by Galt MacDermot. The book and lyrics were created by Gerome Ragni and James Rado, who began writing the autobiographical *Hair* in late 1964, and both played leading roles in the Broadway production, which opened on April 29, 1968 and ran for 1,750 performances (closing July 1, 1972, the month Pluto finally left Virgo).

AstroDatabank has SMRs (Sun, Moon, Rising signs) for both Ragni and Rado but no confirmed birth times. A 1935 natal chart for Ragni has, as the lyrics to “Aquarius” proclaim, “the Moon in the 7th house and Jupiter align[ed] with Mars.” And it is also rumoured that Rado began writing the song after researching his own Sun sign in Aquarius.

Tours met with controversy, legal challenges, and religious resistance. In Acapulco, the cast was arrested and expelled from Mexico. In April 1971, a bomb was thrown at the exterior of a theatre in Cleveland, Ohio, which had been housing the production.

Reviews of the nonconforming concept musical were mixed. Boze Hadleigh, in *Broadway Babylon* (Backstage Books, 2007), writes that *Hair*’s revolutionary format “ignored almost every rule in the book. It offered non-rhyming lyrics, various songs that didn’t end but rather slowed down or segued into the next number.” Writer Scott Miller reflected in 2001: “Some people can’t see past the appearance of chaos and randomness to the brilliant construction and sophisticated imagery underneath ... The show rejected every convention of Broadway ...”<sup>1</sup>

Looking back, co-creator James Rado said, “It was very important historically, and if we hadn’t written it, there’d not be any examples ... We thought, ‘This is happening in the streets,’ and we wanted to bring it to the stage.”<sup>2</sup> Patrick Pacheco, in the *Los Angeles Times*, highlights the Aries–Libra Full Moon and the Mars–Uranus square in *Hair*’s horoscope, saying the musical is about “true freedom, questioning authority,



a fight against whatever inequality means most to you ... Not only did it ride a cultural zeitgeist whipped up by social and political events that seemed on the verge of spinning out of control, but it also brought unprecedented change to a Broadway that was then beginning to fossilize into irrelevance.”<sup>3</sup>

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3. <http://www.michaelbutler.com/hair/holding/articles/HairArticles/LATimes6-7-01.html>.

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*Frank C. Clifford was honoured with The Charles Harvey Award for Exceptional Service to Astrology in 2012, a writing award from ISAR in 2016, and Regulus Award nomination in 2018. His books include the interpretation manual Getting to the Heart of Your Chart, and a guide to forecasting, The Solar Arc Handbook. Both are now available as ebooks. Frank teaches astrology and palmistry online and in person, and his courses are also available in Chinese, Japanese, and Turkish. To sign up for free videos, articles, news, and live Q&As, please visit <https://www.londonschoolofastrology.com>.*



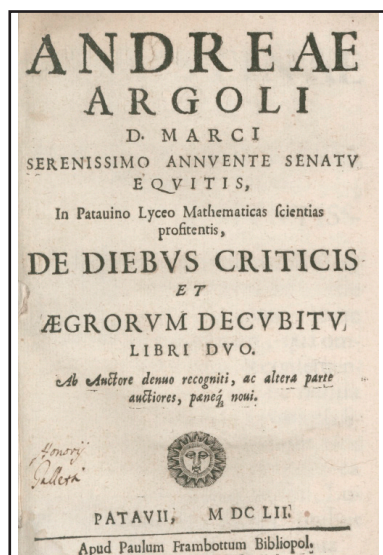


Figure 1: Title page of Andrea Argoli, *De Diebus Criticis et Aegrorum Decubitu Libri Duo*, 2nd Edition (1652).

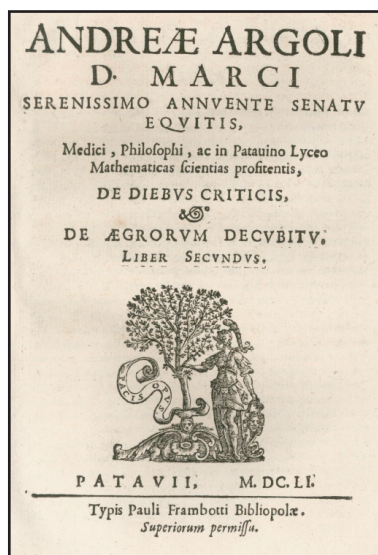


Figure 2: Andrea Argoli, *De Diebus Criticis et Aegrorum Decubitu Libri Duo*, 2nd Edition (1652), added t.p. to Book II with vignette illustration.

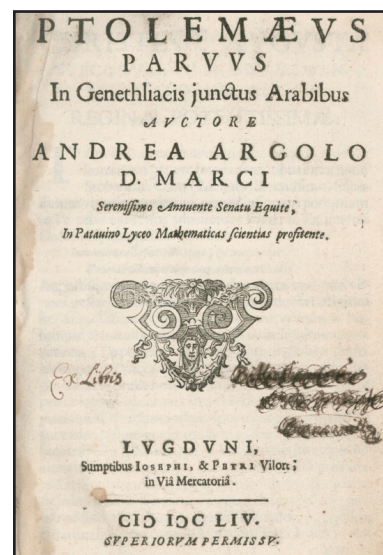


Figure 3: Title page of Andrea Argoli, *Ptolemaeus Parvus In Genethliacis junctus Arabibus*, 2nd Edition (1654).

## PRIMARY SOURCES

### Andrea Argoli

by Philip Graves

**A**ndrea Argoli, born on March 15, 1570, was an Italian academic mathematician, astronomer, and astrologer who also took an interest in medicine.

Born in the small town of Tagliacozzo, in the province of L'Aquila within the Abruzzo region of central Italy, Argoli studied at the University of Napoli Federico II. He subsequently launched an academic career, which would culminate in 1622 with his appointment as Reader in Mathematics at the University of Rome "La Sapienza."<sup>1</sup>

In earlier life, Argoli is said to have studied with the astrologer Giovanni Antonio Magini,<sup>2</sup> 15 years his senior, who died in 1617. (See *The Mountain Astrologer*, *Libra Nox* 2022 issue.) Argoli himself developed a simplified system for the calculation of astrological primary directions, which was first published in 1610, complete with extensive tables, as *Tabulae Primi Mobilis*,<sup>3</sup> the same title used by Magini for a similar work in 1604. Argoli's *Tabulae* were reprinted in 1644, and again posthumously in 1667.

Andrea conceived his own theory of cosmological mechanics that sought to reconcile the Copernican and Ptolemaic systems. Fearing repercussions from the Roman Inquisition, he chose not to publish this.<sup>4</sup> Nonetheless, around 1627 he was sacked by his employers at La Sapienza because of his astrological interests<sup>5</sup> amid a heightened inquisitorial climate. He was tided over economically for the next five years by his

patron, Cardinal Lelio Biscia (1575–1638), whom he served as his personal librarian and teacher of astrology.<sup>6</sup>

While in Rome, Argoli became acquainted with Orazio Morandi (1570–1630), abbot of the monastery of Santa Prassede, himself a noted astrologer. For a while, Andrea paid frequent visits to the monastery's library, which was rich in astrological books. There, he met fellow Italian astronomer Ilario Altobelli (1560–1637), who had been developing a new, more accurate set of astrological tables of houses,<sup>7</sup> said to have influenced Argoli's own subsequent writings.<sup>8</sup>

When Morandi's prediction of the death of Pope Urban VIII led to his arrest and subsequent death in prison, Argoli felt at risk by association with the disgraced abbot. In April 1632, thinking it safer to leave Rome, he accepted an offer of the Professorship of Mathematics at the University of Padua in Veneto, northern Italy.<sup>9</sup>

At Padua, Argoli's teaching was so esteemed that he was awarded an honorary Knighthood of San Marco. Thorndike records that Argoli's students at Padua included Bohemian military commander Albrecht von Wallenstein (1583–1634) and Wallenstein's personal astrologer, Gian Battista Zenno.<sup>10</sup> However, Wallenstein finished his studies at Padua before 1605, so for this to be true, Argoli must have begun his university teaching career there before moving to Rome, only to return to Padua later.

In 1635, when pressed by the authorities in Rome to condemn Galileo Galilei, who had been convicted of heresy and sentenced to house arrest by the Inquisition in 1633, Argoli refused, instead sending tokens of his esteem for the persecuted astronomer.<sup>11</sup>

Argoli calculated detailed astrological ephemerides for the 17th century that appear to have achieved a wide sale. The original printed edition, covering the years 1620 to 1640, was first published in 1621,<sup>12</sup> and revised in 1629.<sup>13</sup> A much enlarged second major edition, spanning 1630 to 1680, appeared in 1638.<sup>14</sup> A third edition, extending from 1641 to 1700, was published in 1648<sup>15</sup> and posthumously reprinted in 1659.<sup>16</sup>

It is testimony to his mathematical and astronomical expertise that Argoli prioritised the publication of astronomical tables for use by astrologers. However, he also wrote two notable books of astrological theory.

The first of these deals with medical astrology. The title, *De Diebus Criticis et de Aegrorum decubitu Libri Duo* (“Two Books on Critical Days and on the Decumbiture of the Sick”), reflects its central focus upon the theory of critical days, an ancient doctrine recorded by Galen, which holds that critical junctures in the course of an illness occur on certain days after the moment of its onset, based on the cyclical motion of the Moon, and significantly influence its outcome. To support its teachings, the book audaciously analyses the nativities and decumbitures of several recent Popes.<sup>17</sup> It ran through two editions in the author’s lifetime, the first, of 1639,<sup>18</sup> being significantly expanded into the definitive second, of 1652.<sup>19</sup>

The second of Argoli’s astrological treatises, *Ptolemaeus Parvus* (“Little Ptolemy”), was a compact work on natal astrology, whose first edition runs to 247 pages. Published in Lyon, France, it proved popular enough to achieve three printings within seven years, dated 1652,<sup>20</sup> 1654, and 1659.

*Ptolemaeus Parvus* is divided into three internal books, of which the first introduces the astrological meanings of the planets, fixed stars, and zodiac signs; the second looks at directions and at indicators of diseases and dangers, as well as at twin births; and the third treats of solar revolutions and the lord of the year, among other topics.<sup>21</sup>

In the preface to *Ptolemaeus Parvus*, Argoli argues for the compatibility of natal astrology with Christianity, proclaiming that it does not violate Church laws or deny the doctrine of free will. However, on June 10, 1658, the book was placed by Papal decree on the *Index Librorum Prohibitorum* (the Index of Banned Books), where it would remain until 1900.<sup>22</sup>

This prohibition did not stop the 1659 printing from proceeding; and a fourth printing followed, also at Lyon, in 1680, suggesting that French publishers felt safe from being hauled before the Papal authorities in Rome.

In common with the Latin works of most Italian astrologers of the Renaissance and early modern period,

none of Argoli’s astrological books has ever been translated into English.

Argoli further authored and had published in 1650<sup>23</sup> a volume of tables of planetary motion, accompanied by instructions for its calculation by various methods, the positions of the fixed stars, and longitudes and latitudes of many cities.<sup>24</sup>

Aside from his astrological and astronomical works, Argoli had published in 1644 a 354-page compendium of geophysics, meteorology, astronomy, astrology, and medicine<sup>25</sup> entitled *Pandosion Sphaericum*.<sup>26</sup> A revised second edition appeared in 1653.

Argoli died on September, 27 1657.

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(Continued on p. 23.)

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# PLANT PLANET

## Mercury

by Paetra Tauchert



**W**e arrive now to Mercury, the planetary god of communication, commerce, and traveling between the upper worlds and underworlds. In this role, Mercury is referred to as “psychopomp,” and no other planet has this capacity. Botanically, Mercury is associated with feathery leaves and complex, multicolored flowers, with bluish-gray and metallic colors, as well as umbels; flower clusters with several short stalks that spread from a common center, somewhat like umbrella ribs. The communication planet is connected to plants that affect the nervous system and respiratory system, as Mercury rules the nervous system and lungs.

### Butterfly Weed

Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) is a very magical plant that fits the Mercurially associated description of complex and multicolored, since there are many species of this plant in various colors. I grow this plant in every garden I can because it is the larval food for the beloved and iconic monarch butterflies. It's native to eastern North America and Canada. The beautiful and regal monarch is probably the most iconic insect across North America and faces

survival challenges along its 3,000-mile migratory route through Canada, the United States, and Mexico. The endangered monarch's migratory pattern is the most highly evolved of any known butterfly species, and the *Asclepias* flowers are essential to them.

For me, there is a very natural association between the planet Mercury and butterflies, as they are agents of cross-pollination in their visiting of many flowers in many lands for nectar. In Mexico, people host elaborate festivals and celebrations for Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, in which women dress up in monarch wing-themed dresses, representing the souls of the ancestors returning to visit. This tradition connects to Mercury as psychopomp, flitting around and cross-pollinating through the souls of the living and the dead. The orange marigold flower, known as *cempasúchil*, is used to guide the ancestors to the altars because of its bright color. The bright orange of the flower is a symbolic link to the monarch's wings. When *Asclepias* goes to seed, the seed pods split open and the most ethereal silken seeds emerge, to be caught on the slightest breeze and dispersed to many new locations in an exceedingly Mercurial way.

### Ginkgo

Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) is known as the maidenhair tree, connecting it to the maidenhair fern because their leaf and frond shapes are essentially the same. Macro and micro twins, both resonate with the planet Mercury. Ginkgo is a 290-million-year-old tree native to China that has been cultivated for a very long time.

European herbalists have been using ginkgo to treat anxiety, depression, memory, and balance problems for 40 years, though in its native China, ginkgo has been used to nourish the circulatory system for a far longer time, as well as to treat asthma and tinnitus. Ginkgo is an effective vasodilator and increases peripheral blood flow. Increased blood flow to the brain helps to prevent damage due to oxygen deficiency. Legendary Sagittarius herbalist Rosemary Gladstar recommends mixing ginkgo leaves with sage, rosemary, and gotu kola for concentration if you feel fatigued, confused, forgetful, or dizzy. It also helps to prevent dangerous blood clots from developing, thereby decreasing the risk of stroke.

But here is the most impressive thing about ginkgo: in August 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped on

Hiroshima, Japan. Hiroshima's ginkgo trees were in full leaf, just 6,600 feet away from the blast. When the bomb hit, it created a fireball 1,200 feet in diameter killing nearly 150,000 people and leveling biological and human-made landscapes. Little was left standing post blast, yet somehow the 170 ginkgos were able to weather the manmade storm. The heat of the blast immediately incinerated leaves and branches, completely scorching the outer bark. Yet the trees were still alive on the inside. After being exposed to extreme radiation and the most stressful soil conditions in history, incredibly the trees survived. The extreme natural organization of their cell tissues was immune to destruction. The next spring, the ginkgos leafed out and have continued to thrive until the current day.

If we understand Mercury to be a planet that teaches adaptability as a survival skill, then Mercury-ruled ginkgo may be the champion. Add in its capacity to support cognition and memory, and you have a Mercury plant that should be in everyone's tonic herbal apothecary.

## Dill

Familiar garden friend and culinarily essential dill (*Anthem graveolens*) is a Mercury plant by its umbelliferous nature, as well as its bluish-gray feathery leaves and stems. Annual dill is quite the Mercurial dandy in how it moves around the garden by self-sowing. Some plants with this penchant can be quite invasive — not so with the charming dill. Somehow it manages to pop up in the perfect spots. Right now I have a late-season volunteer who took up residence in the very front of a bed filled with shorter plants. If another plant tried this, I would have redirected it to a different location, yet this gregarious darling shot up its silvery grey-green feathery foliage in front of a collection of warm tones in a way that absolutely took the entire botanical panoply to the next level.

Peering through the kaleidoscopic pattern of leaves, stems, and flowers conveys the same sort of charm that is found on an old patinaed copper roof. The effect is quite enlivening and subtly ever-changing in the way that quicksilver is known for.

Medicinally, dill is great with chamomile for digestion, and is used to treat colic in kids. Dill is colloquially known as “meetinghouse seeds,” due to the Quakers' habit of chewing the seeds during long meetings to keep people awake. Very Mercurial!

These plants — butterfly weed, ginkgo, and dill — are all associated with Mercury and, as such, teach us the value of variety, complexity, resilience, communicating, and moving freely between worlds. With Mercury as our guide, we can emerge from our comfort zone, like a sprout breaking through the soil, and open our minds to diverse points of view. Mercury's plants bring vivid color to our lives, help to allay our anxieties, and allow us to breathe more deeply, enhancing our experience on this beautiful Earth.

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(Continued from p. 21.)

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"Up Periscope" by Surrealistly



# THE ASTROLOGY OF POKÉMON

by Drew Levanti

All charts are calculated for noon Tokyo, Japan.  
Charts use Sun on the 1st house and the True Node.

## Pocket Monsters

In 1999, *Time* ranked Pokémon mascot Pikachu #2 on its annual Best People of the Year list.<sup>1</sup> Yellow and mouse-like with red, supercharged cheeks, according to Pokémon lore, “When several [Pikachus] gather, their electricity could ... cause lightning storms.”<sup>2</sup>

Pokémon indeed struck like lightning, taking the world by storm as the highest-grossing media franchise of all time. While the intense “Pokémonia” craze of the late ‘90s has faded in the decades since, the franchise remains immensely popular, continually releasing a flourishing canon of games, films, and anime.

Pokémon’s astrological inceptions can help us understand its cultural roots, and what it wants to become. As Pokémon approaches its Saturn return in Pisces, we’re seeing the franchise reach an important turning point as it reaches maturity. Originally a kids’ game, recently Pokémon has grown in popularity with adults, bolstered by the isolation and return to old comforts brought on by the Covid pandemic. (Last year, when my friend whipped out *Pokémon Stadium* on N64, I was transported back.) It’s also morphed to span new media: Pokémon is now popular as a genre on YouTube, as well as an e-sport.

With a revitalized fan base and dynamic emerging technologies, Pokémon is on the threshold of big changes during its first Saturn return.

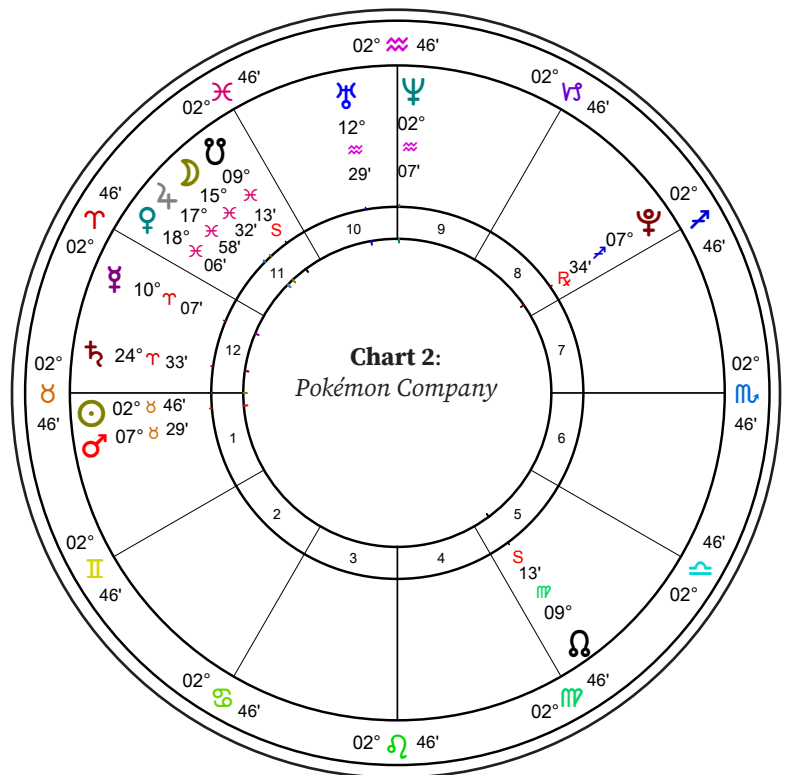
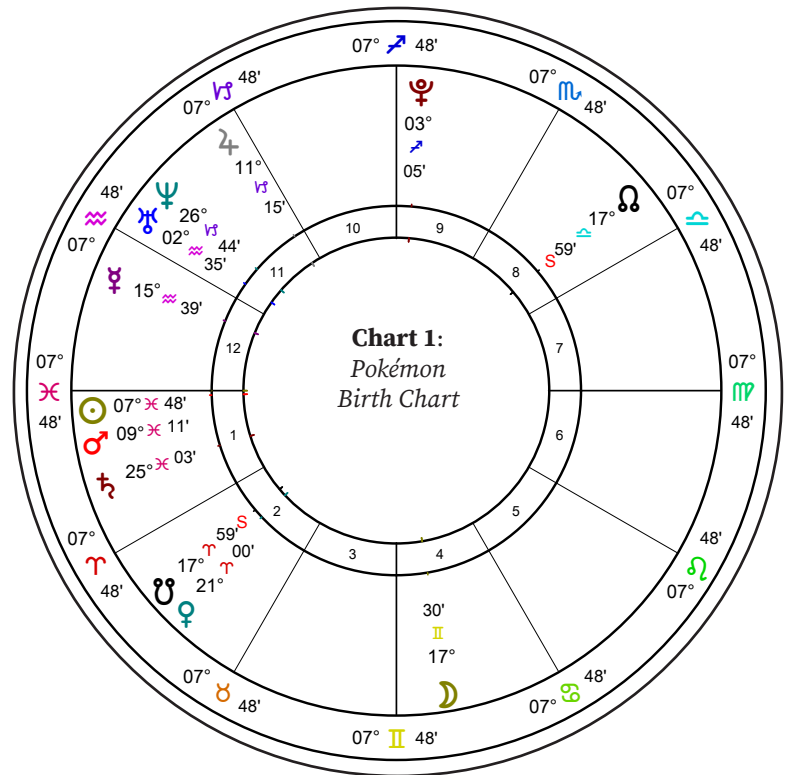
But first, let’s go back to the beginning.

## Pokémon’s Inceptions

Pokémon’s founding inceptions show strong Pisces signatures, empowering the franchise’s coherent, captivating fantasies. These Piscean inceptions root Pokémon in an ever-growing imaginal world.

When the first Pokémon video games hit Japanese stores on February 27, 1996, they were an instant craze — fantasy was for sale, and people were buying. This chart will be referred to as “Pokémon’s birth chart.” (See **Chart 1**, top right.)

With global markets on the horizon, the game’s creators founded the Pokémon Company (henceforth “TPC”) on April 23, 1998 to manage the international Pokémon brand. (See **Chart 2**, bottom right.) While Nintendo, Game Freak, and Creatures, Inc. shared management within Japan, TPC as a separate corporation is the primary entity responsible for Pokémon’s global proliferation.





Pokémon's birth chart gives us a foundation for understanding TPC's inception, which in turn helps us understand Pokémon on the world stage. In Pokémon's birth chart, Pisces hosts the Sun, Mars, and Saturn, while TPC's chart highlights the Sign of the Fishes with a stunning conjunction of the Moon, Venus, and Jupiter. All essentially dignified for TPC, these planets make the play product as comforting as it is charming and epic.

With ruling Jupiter presiding, the Pokémon world is ever-expanding. Since its initial release, Pokémon has created a new "generation" every few years, with an entirely new fictional region and, of course, new creatures. From the first generation's 151 species, there are now over 1,000, echoing the Shinto *kami*, spirits said to be "constantly increasing in numbers."<sup>3</sup> The promise of ever-more Pokémon offers seemingly endless imaginative horizons for fans, rooting their emotional investment in the captivating promise of "more."

### Of Gods and Monsters: Pluto in Sagittarius

Pokémon was born weeks after Pluto's final ingress into Sagittarius in 1996, just a month before me. From the start, my life was filled with these centaurian oddities.

Like centaurs, Pokémon unite seeming opposites in one body. They are hybrids, fusing nature and culture, spirit and science, myth and modernity. To play Pokémon is to enter a world of coherence, above dogma and beyond the moral crises of spiritual war. The franchise emerged at a time of intense concern over the role of science in society. Pluto's early days in Sagittarius saw landmark developments in cloning and computing, raising deep questions about the morality of scientific advances. Were we abusing the power of our knowledge? Were we creating monsters, severing our connection to God?

When Dolly the Sheep was cloned in 1996, media outlets feared science was "playing God" like Dr. Frankenstein. (Interestingly, both Mary Shelley's opus and Dolly have a Jupiter-ruled Pluto.) The moralistic fallout of Dolly's birth even surfaced in politics. In 1998, US President Bill Clinton signed a law banning human cloning, stating that "scientific advances do not occur in a moral vacuum."<sup>4</sup>

Fears quickened over computer intelligence too. The same month Pokémon debuted in Japan, World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov played against IBM chess program Deep Blue in a widely publicized match. The computer lost, but then beat Kasparov in a re-match the following year. Since many doubted a computer could defeat a human chess master due to the artistry and creativity inherent in the game, Kasparov's loss called into question humankind's aesthetic supremacy — did our connection to beauty even matter in a world filled by our monstrous creations? Pluto in Sagittarius incited fears about the loss of soul.



Image 1: Pokémon-branded Welch's jelly jars.

In this context, Pokémon was a balm and escape. In its alternate reality, humans, nature, and science work together in harmony. Science operates not as a threat to moral, spiritual life, but as its ally, the scientific study of Pokémon symbolizing the deepening of human intimacy with the spirit world.

The first character we meet as players in the Pokémon games is a scientist, the wise Professor Oak, who entrusts us with a quest: help gather data on every Pokémon species in the world. When players capture a Pokémon, its data registers for Oak to study. Capturing Pokémon becomes a quasi-religious activity, full of meaning and purpose. Pluto in Sagittarius squares the Pokémon inceptions' stelliums in Pisces, elevating Hadean capture to the level of prayer. As much as Pokémon are objects of study, they are also a sacrament, and Oak a priest. (Interestingly, oak trees are ruled by Jupiter.)<sup>5</sup>

The religious themes of Sagittarius and Pisces appear in Pokémon's embodiment of the Shinto *kami*, which may be "... everything from the divine spirits who realized the production of heaven and earth, the great ancestors of men, to all things in the universe, even plants, rocks, birds, beasts, and fish."<sup>6</sup> Diverse beings, Pokémon span flora and fauna, gods and guardians, and figures from indigenous Japanese myth. Exeggutor, for instance, is modeled on the Jinmenju, a legendary tree said to bloom into smiling, human faces.

What makes Pokémon so soothing is how these traditional elements synchronize with modern ones. Alongside the stuff of legends, we find creatures based on industrial substances and modern materials: Grimer and Muk are made of purple sludge and modeled on toxic runoff, while the magnetic Magnemite and Magnetron assist electrical power plants. In this enchanted aftermath of modernization, even industrial debris vibrates with mythic potency. Here, modernity and science stand not in opposition to traditional lore, but as parts of it.

Pokémon gave us a world where we didn't have to choose between science and spirit, offering an atmosphere of oneness in a time when scientific progress was widely deemed a threat to spiritual integrity. Playing Pokémon conjured a Piscean magic, bathing stubborn contradictions in the ocean of unifying truth.

### **“I Choose You”: Sol, Mars, and the Aesthetics of Agency**

Sun–Mars conjunctions feature in both Pokémon's birth chart and the TPC chart. These hot, fiery planets share rulership of action and agency. In the former chart, they align in Pisces; in the latter, in Taurus. These alignments bring the Sun–Mars archetype into the domains of Venus, with Taurus as her domicile, and Pisces her exaltation. In Pokémon, solar and martial energy attune to the Venusian sphere. Choices center on beauty and relationships. We act to be together.

This orientation allows players to explore what philosopher C. Thi Nguyen calls the “aesthetics of agency.”<sup>7</sup> What makes playing Pokémon fun is not simply progressing through the story, but doing so in the style or aesthetic we value, which we express through the Pokémon we choose to fight for us. The appeal of the game lies in the diversity of ways it allows players to aestheticize our movement through it. Winning the game is easy. The real challenge is finding a beautiful way to win.

When afflicting the Sun, Mars can indicate separation from the father. With this pairing in both charts, Pokémon canonizes fatherlessness. In initial video game plots, players leave their mother at home to start their journey (no father is mentioned). Not until Pokémon's third generation do players get a father. This release (November 11, 2002) is striking astrologically, with Jupiter in Leo and the Sun in Scorpio. This “overcoming” square from Jupiter to the Sun amounts to the Sun's “bonification,” representing a subjective improvement in paternal themes.<sup>8</sup> While players in this generation indeed have an important relationship with their father, the relationship is martial. The father is a “Gym Leader” — one of the boss fights standing between the player and beating the game. You and your chosen Pokémon must defeat your dad in his gym. Can it get more Sun–Mars?

Fights between players are called “Pokémon battles,” a core activity in Pokémon. However, the mentality of battling is not just about winning, but winning in an aesthetically appealing way. Players acquire tastes in the kinds of Pokémon they like to use: for instance, battling with only a single “type” of Pokémon (e.g., water, fire, or rock). Other options come with massive limitations

## **POKÉMON CONJURED A PISCAN MAGIC, BATHING STUBBORN CONTRADICTIONS IN THE OCEAN OF UNIFYING TRUTH.**

on how players proceed through the game (a notoriously difficult restriction is “Nuzlocking,” where Pokémon defeated in battle cannot be used again). By constraining their choices, players' stylistic preferences and self-imposed challenges create different aesthetics of play, allowing them to explore novel forms of agency in the pursuit of elegant execution.

Venus shapes the emotional valence of these battles, which are not bloody or warlike, but stylized and dramatic. We learn this aesthetic mostly from the anime and films. Here, we follow the journey of Satoshi (in the English versions, Ash Ketchum). This protagonist's personality and approach to Pokémon become archetypal for the franchise, creating a model not only for how to play, but also how to feel.

Satoshi is known for his ambition. His mission “to become a Pokémon master” is summed up in the first line of the anime theme song: “I wanna be the very best, like no one ever was.” In the original Japanese, Satoshi's motto is *Saigo made akirameru na* (“Never give up until it's over”). Dogged determination and unrelenting spirit are foundational traits of a Pokémon battler. Satoshi does not always win. He experiences the highs and lows of egoic transformation. His desire to be the best is tested repeatedly by fire (“ash”), reforging his will in the crucible of defeat.

Satoshi always rises from defeat with the love of his Pokémon. In battle, Satoshi is affected and impassioned, striving for a fluid connection with his Pokémon, seeking mutual understanding and inspiration on the path to victory. The anime represents emotional connection as battle's deepest purpose, which in turn shapes the aesthetic of agency we inhabit in the game. The point of playing Pokémon is to love them.

Battles in the Pokémon universe are full of beauty and connection, drama and grace, inspiring us to pursue choices that express our unique values. The Pokémon themselves mediate the relationship we have with our own decision-making, helping us become intimate



with our own Mars, our own Sol. This is the pleasure of the game. In representing our aesthetic preferences, Pokémon allows us to fashion and stylize our ways of moving through the games, and in turn the world. Play becomes an exercise in exploring the beauty of our choices — how we choose, and what we love.

## Pisces and Taurus: Fantasy and the Market of Love

As much as Pokémon's iconic video games, anime, and feature films fuel the cultural imagination of the franchise, they only amount to about 20% of its all-time revenue. The other 80%? Merchandise — toys, trading cards, *stuff*.

The Pisces–Taurus combination in Pokémon's inceptions highlights how the franchise has converted virtual fantasies into marketable commodities. These commodities give the game world a Taurean tactility that draws young audiences into the franchise's particular consumption culture, in which “love” for Pokémon drives sales.

The commercial appeal of Pokémon has been studied in terms of Japanese pop culture aesthetic *kawaii*. Various translated as “cute,” “loveable,” or “adorable,” cultural commentators connect *kawaii* with youthfulness, innocence, and desirability. It is most recognizable as an anime aesthetic: young characters with Venusian, feminine characteristics like large, glistening eyes, delicate features, and high-pitched voices.<sup>9</sup>

How has this particularly Japanese aesthetic been able to touch audiences around the world? Often cited as quintessentially *kawaii*, Pikachu gave the style global recognition. TPC's Venus–Jupiter conjunction in Pisces explains this expansive reach. Pokémon's Venusian magnetism, charm, and cuteness traveled on the wings of Jupiter, who elevated the creatures to global celebrity.

Collectibles were a key global marketing strategy of TPC. As a kid, I collected Pokémon action figures, stuffed animals, even food. My favorite drinking glass was a Bulbasaur Pokémon-branded Welch's jelly jar, part of a collectible series of nine, each featuring a different Pokémon. (See **Image 1**, p. 26.) With the jelly gone, the jar was the perfect size for my small hand, a reasonable serving of orange juice with breakfast.

Pokémon images were licensed across various Taurean domains, from cozy stuffed animals to sweet and fatty foods. McDonald's Happy Meals included collectible Pokémon toys; Pokémon stickers appeared inside Wonder Ball candy, replacing Disney characters. This physical-world ubiquity made the fantasy of acquiring the Pokémon you love an everyday reality for kids, thinning the veil of the virtual. Following the franchise motto “Gotta Catch ‘Em All,”

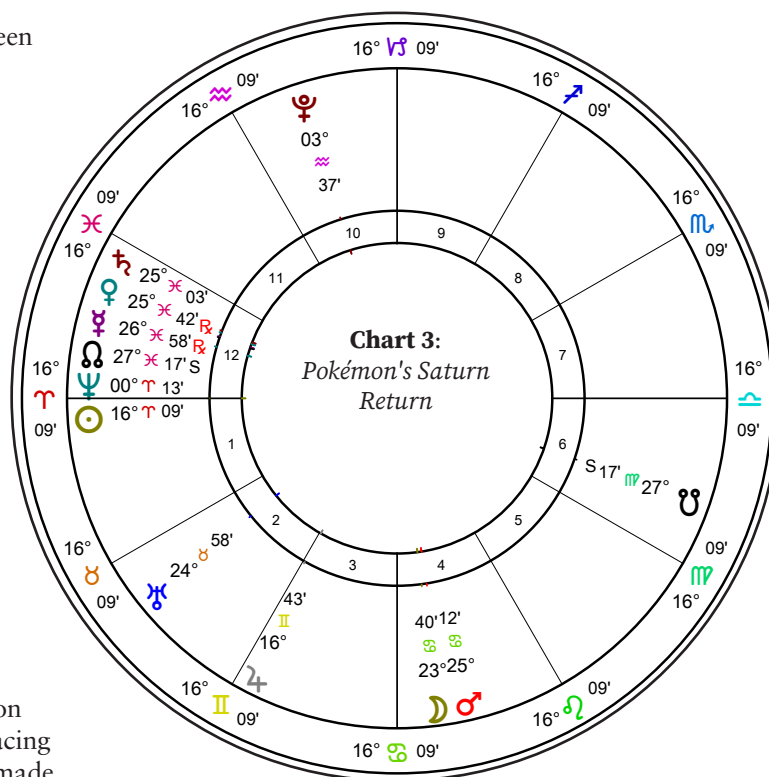
Pokémon were everywhere to buy and own. However, merely acquiring Pokémon was not the full point.

Building on the fusion of Taurean and Piscean archetypes, Pokémon emphasizes the meaningfulness of acquisition, embodied in a caring relationship with the acquired. Players are constantly reminded: “Treat your Pokémon with love and respect.” This made Pokémon merchandise feel special, like a real incarnation of an animated creature. The watery fantasy of Pokémon was something you could touch, hold, and cherish. Getting rid of my Bulbasaur glass would have been like throwing away a Pokémon — like discarding a living thing.

Pokémon created a world of “things” that felt lovably alive. Materials vibrated with imagination and intimacy. The virtual world was always on the brink of breaking through. Pokémon is a fantasy with grip, a dream with body.

## Infrastructures of Imagination: Saturn and Neptune

More than a feather-light fantasy, Pokémon is grounded in material culture. This extends to gaming devices. Giving form to its imaginative content, the everyday technologies that make Pokémon possible have proliferated throughout the Saturn–Neptune cycle. Across Saturn–Neptune alignments, we find pivotal



developments in what I'll call infrastructures of imagination. This refers to gaming devices and visual tech, and how they allow players to travel to alternate worlds.

Saturn–Neptune signatures transport us through vivid visual experiences. Saturn undergirds the visual realm, arranging and configuring not only time, but light. It draws down the abstract power of Neptune into seemingly concrete form, embedding fantastical realms in the visible world. Historically we have witnessed these alignments bring enhanced visual tech, allowing dreams like Pokémon to surface in vivid color. Fantasies flow upon these infrastructures of imagination, circuits of feeling and play.

As a kid, while my mom taught dance classes, I'd sit off to the side playing Pokémon on my teal Game Boy Color. This portable gaming console is the most iconic device connected to Pokémon. Nintendo synchronized its 1998 release with the launch of the Pokémon games in Europe and North America, and Game Boy Color's chart features a 1° Saturn–Neptune square.<sup>10</sup> This was the second edition of the Nintendo device. The original Game Boy had been released nine years earlier, with a Saturn–Neptune conjunction within 2°.

The closing square of the cycle initiated in 1989 saw the launch of *Pokémon Go* in 2016, the first Pokémon smartphone app. Smartphones themselves bear the Saturn–Neptune signature as well: both iPhone and Blackberry were released in 2007, during the exact Saturn–Neptune opposition.

A GPS-based app, *Pokémon Go* allows players to discover virtual Pokémon in their actual, physical locations using augmented reality. Pokémon appear on the screen as if they were standing in front of you. Like in the original games, certain creatures can only be found in certain locations, only now they are real locations, like the park, the library, or participating businesses.

The inception of *Pokémon Go* features a near-exact Saturn–Neptune square at 10° Sagittarius–Pisces, lighting up Pokémon's birth chart and TPC's inception chart, both with prominent Pisces placements in or near these degrees. The intense resurgence of Pokémon in summer 2016 reflected this Saturn–Neptune transit to Pokémon's birth charts; Saturn in Pisces from 2023–25 will reactivate this energy, suggesting a similar boom.

## Pokémon's Saturn Return: Consolidating the Dream

In November 2022, a new Pokémon release changed the face of the games by introducing an open-world concept. Previously, players progressed through a set storyline in a linear sequence; accessing new parts of the game depended on completing objectives in previous areas. In this mode, the only choices available to players were which Pokémon they might choose. In the new open-world games, however, players decide the directions they explore, freeing player choice like never before.

This upgrade is remarkable because it finally aligns game-play with the lore of the Pokémon world established across other media like anime, films, and manga. This alignment can be seen as a mark of maturity, foreshadowing the franchise's coming Saturn return. When Saturn conjoins Neptune in Pisces, we may witness the consolidation of Pokémon's fantastical vision into new styles of play, technological interfaces, and infrastructures of imagination.

Unfortunately, the chart of Pokémon's Saturn return is not promising for the franchise's future: it looks like failed money grabs and uninspiring appeals to nostalgia. (See **Chart 3**, p. 28.) The chart features Saturn in Pisces conjunct two retrograde planets, Mercury and Venus, all tightly conjunct the Dragon's Head. This combination reeks of bad business decisions, with the ruler of commerce, Mercury, afflicted on all sides: by Saturn, by Rahu, and in the sign of its fall. To top it all off, Jupiter rules this stellium from a place of its detriment, Gemini.

Combined with a retrograde Venus, one potential that comes to mind is issues with the appeal of Pokémon's voices. Notoriously in 2017, the 20th Pokémon film, *I Choose You*, featured Ash's Pikachu speaking in human language for the first time, to the intense derision of many fans. Long-term, more talking Pokémon would likely be a total bust, but may be proposed to drive profits in an ill-conceived money grab, per Mercury's atrocious condition in the Saturn return.

Other features of the Saturn return chart aren't much better: we find the Moon conjunct Mars in Cancer. Signifying the body, the Moon's combination with Mars can represent a range of adverse physical and emotional experiences, from exertion and strain to pain and injury, as well as general irritation and restlessness. Within the next 30 years, might we enter a future in which playing Pokémon could involve sensory experiences up to and including physical pain?

There is actually growing precedent in the franchise for this kind of move. In a 2013 anime *Pokémon: Origins*, players are shown experiencing physical effects during their Pokémon battles. When their Pokémon takes a hit, the protagonist exclaims, "It's like I'm taking damage!" pointing not only to an intuitive bond, but parallel visceral experiences.

One possibility for a virtual reality future of empathic and embodied connection could lie in neurotechnology: direct interfaces between artificial intelligence and the brain. The most popular example of neurotechnology is Elon Musk's Neuralink, founded the same month as Pokémon Go in 2016, in the thick of the Saturn–Neptune square. (Natally, Musk has a Saturn–Neptune opposition). If successful, Neuralink game-play could enable players to communicate telepathically, or receive sensory input as part of gaming experiences. We might imagine, then, telepathically telling our Pokémon which attacks to use, and the Pokémon talking back, or the Pokémon's declining energy being felt by the player.



Pokémon's Saturn return chart also features a troubled Venus. Though in her exaltation, Venus is retrograde, and tightly configured to four malefic influences: Mars, Saturn, Rahu, and a retrograde fallen Mercury. The extreme affliction of Venus indicates not only difficulty having a good time, but much more dramatic experiences like betrayal and persecution. Retrograde Venus and Mercury in the signature sign of Pokémon's inceptions suggest numerous failures of the very nostalgia on which the franchise banks. Will the franchise sell out our love of the past — or survive to see further intimate futures?

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(All URLs accessed December 2022.)

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10. See Nintendo fact sheet for Game Boy Color, <https://www.nintendo.co.jp/n02/dmg/hardware/color>.

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# JUPITER'S JOURNEY THROUGH TAURUS

by Sue Tompkins

Jupiter enters Taurus on May 16, 2023 for a year on its twelve-year cycle through the signs. The importance of what zodiacal sign Jupiter occupies pales in significance in proportion to wherever the outer planets and even Saturn are situated and what they are doing by aspect to each other. Nevertheless, Jupiter in a sign (and especially making major aspects to the outer planets) does play its part.

For example, Jupiter in Aries in 2022 surely was a signifier behind the prolonged and exceptionally hot weather experienced by many countries around the world. Europe saw the highest temperatures on record, as did parts of China. The floods in Pakistan, routinely described as the worst in the country's history, affecting in excess of 33 million people and killing 1,400+, were, according to the news, caused by heavier-than-usual monsoon rains and melting glaciers following a severe heat wave. And floods following intense heat waves occurred in other places, too. These examples are, of course, linked to climate change, but such happenings don't occur every year, and I suggest that Jupiter being in Aries is a signifier.

Political unrest and competition were also rife in many places. Of course, political turmoil will always be happening somewhere on the planet, but for different astrological reasons. In the UK, following the displacement of Prime Minister Boris Johnson, there was fierce competition between possible replacements. There were similar phenomena in other countries, too, notably Italy and Sri Lanka. Jupiter in Aries seemed to describe Trouble at the Top. With Aries ruling the head, the transit saw tensions quite literally coming to a head. Sometimes for the better — when things get bad enough, governments will act, as they did in the US and elsewhere, in terms of taking action about global warming, the war in Ukraine, the energy crisis, and so on. In the same week, two “heads” of state in the UK, Queen Elizabeth II and the Prime Minister, were replaced. There was also a new “head” of the Metropolitan police, the previous incumbent having been forced out. Writing in September 2022, I am wondering what other heads will roll across the world, which other heads of state may be displaced. The point being, though, that the sign Jupiter occupies does have some relevance.



One might hope that Jupiter in Taurus will embrace a period of time more economically stable than we have been experiencing, though if this happens, it will surely be a very slow process. Jupiter in Taurus might add patience, stability, and realism to whatever else is going on in the astrological pantheon. It is a placement that feels well grounded, inclined to slow but steady growth, and averse to unfettered risk-taking. But Jupiter's advance into Taurus is not likely to cure the current problems with inflation and the so-called cost-of-living crisis. Jupiter's propensity for enlargement and exaggeration might perhaps make financial matters feel even worse.

I note, for instance, that in 1965, when Jupiter was in Gemini, the then-British Labour Government froze wages, salaries, and prices in an effort to stem inflation and to improve the nation's worsening trade deficit. Jupiter's previous passage through Taurus seemingly hadn't cured the economic fortunes of those years. However, the possibility of freezing prices and wages was much discussed in 1964 when Jupiter *was* in Taurus. So the forthcoming transit may help to foster a keener awareness about economic matters and the need for fiscal responsibility and practical thinking on the parts of both individuals and governments.

Facing hard times, as so many are, we may see a return to the use of cash by the more impoverished members of society. In the last few years, with the pandemic particularly, many people have been *only* using cards, spending their money digitally, but this might slightly go into reverse, as people have no choice but to be in tighter control of their money. Physical cash makes that easier. For some, cash will once again be King. If times are hard, then this placement will be a good time for pawnbrokers, and I note that the film *The Pawnbroker* came out in 1964!

At best, Jupiter in Taurus might incline people to a certain stoicism, to the view that God will provide, and perhaps to a greater appreciation of nature's bounty. Basically, to those things that are free.

Jupiter falling in Taurus may slightly tend to favour political parties more to the left than to the right. Previous periods of Jupiter in Taurus could suggest this. I am mostly judging this having watched UK elections. For example, Britain's Labour Party won the UK election in October 1964 (when, significantly, Uranus and Pluto were also conjunct). This next happened with a landslide victory on May 2, 1997, when Jupiter was in Aquarius but the personal planets were in Taurus. The last five times that Jupiter has been in Taurus have seen Democrats in power in the US. Of course, given Jupiter's twelve-year cycle and the long periods of time that political parties may be in power, any such assertions are somewhat speculative without further research.

**Table 1: Jupiter in Taurus**

*June 4, 1928 – June 12, 1929*  
*May 16, 1940 – May 26, 1941*  
*April 28, 1952 – May 9, 1953*  
*April 12, 1964 – April 22, 1965*  
*March 26, 1976 – August 23, 1976*  
*October 16, 1976 – April 3, 1977*  
*March 8, 1988 – July 22, 1988*  
*November 30, 1988 – March 11, 1989*  
*June 28, 1999 – 23 October 23, 1999*  
*February 4, 2000 – June 30, 2000*  
*June 4, 2011 – June 11, 2012*  
*May 16, 2023 – May 25, 2024*

*Exact dates Jupiter was in Taurus over the last century. Bear in mind that quite large orbs can be used in mundane work; one can often feel a planet in a sign sometime before.*

### **Taurus, the Body, Nutrition, and Taste**

Taurus is perhaps *the* sign to associate with the body. The Taurus-Scorpio polarity is also the duo to associate with all things sexual; however, for Scorpio, the sexual act is more of an emotional or spiritual issue, and for self-indulgent Taurus, it's much more nakedly physical. With this Jupiter placement, sexual exploration and perhaps pornography may be in the news even more than is usually the case. There will be a focus on the physical enjoyment of the body and permission to enjoy it in various contexts.

D. H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* was first published in 1928. It was considered risqué or even obscene at the time, and was banned for years in many countries. A later example can be found in the case of topless dancers being introduced in a bar called the Condor Club in San Francisco in June 1964, around the time younger women started not to wear bras. This coincided with the topless bathing suit being introduced by Californian designer Rudi Gernreich. Enjoyment, the glorification and adornment of the body through clothes, for example, go with this placement.

Jupiter in Taurus could advance ways of exploring the body in other areas, too. This may include medical breakthroughs, especially in terms of the endocrine glands and hormones and any of those parts of the body with which we associate Taurus. These include not only

neck-related areas, such as the vocal cords and organs, the thyroid and blood vessels in the neck, but also the cerebellum in the brain — namely, the part of the brain that coordinates movements and balance. Perhaps we can hope that this Jupiter placement will contribute to breakthroughs in the understanding of such diseases as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, which to some extent correlate with the cerebellum.

Taurus governs the palate and has much to do with eating and food generally. Jupiter here might affect taste in a number of ways, but whether it's in fabrics, clothing, or foodstuffs, the emphasis is likely to be on texture: how something physically feels.

In terms of food, previous transits have seen stories about rice. According to James Trager, the Asian rice crop fell significantly in 1952, and in 1964 a high-yielding “miracle” strain of rice started to be developed by Chinese agricultural scientist Yuan Longping, who created the first hybrid-rice strain by crossing ordinary indica rice with Japan's high-yielding japonica variety.\* This was to hugely increase rice production and feed millions more people in the decades that followed. Even the breakfast cereal, Rice Krispies, made with rice, malt, and sugar, was introduced by Kellogg's (then the W. K. Kellogg company) in 1928! Venus-ruled Taurus must have a major role in all aspects of the sugar industry and all issues to do with sweetening generally, including artificial sweetening. The year 1965 saw the introduction of Diet Pepsi. Prior to that, apparently the first diet soda drink was “No Cal” Ginger Ale, created by Hyman Kirsch in 1952.

Obesity has been an increasing issue in Western culture for some time; perhaps this placement could draw politicians' attention to the economic cost of obesity sufficiently for them to do something about it. Jupiter in Taurus square Pluto in Aquarius would surely be a time conducive to the implementation of a sugar tax in more nations than is currently the case. Or, in countries where these taxes exist, they might be increased or changed in some other way. This has to be a transit that favours exploring the effects of sugar and other high-carbohydrate foodstuffs. Food manufacturers will be on the case, hopefully also exploring the dangers of some artificial sweeteners.

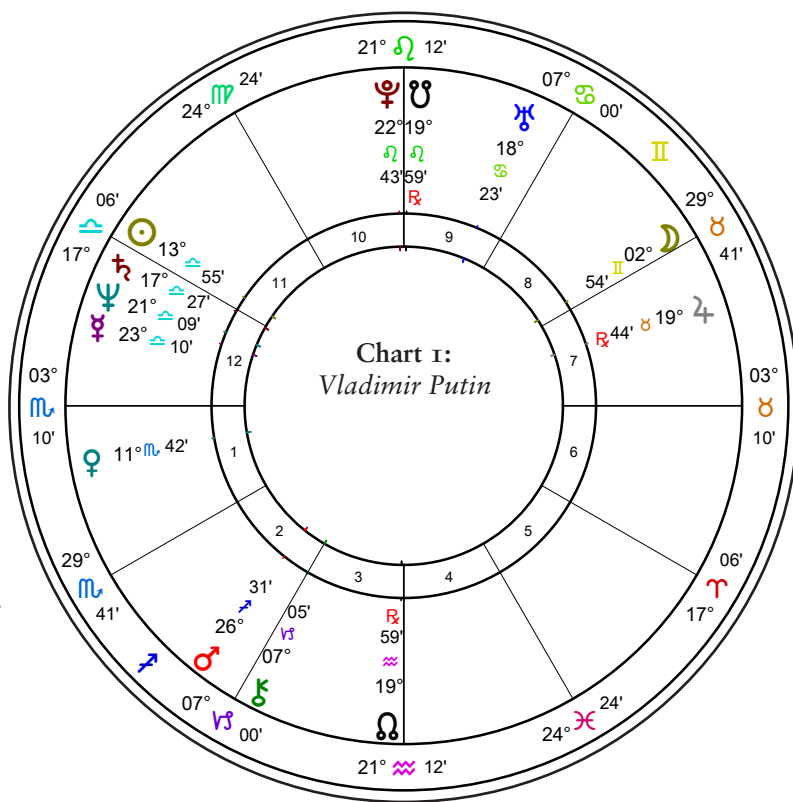
Unfortunately, one of the major food stories may have more to do with difficult economic times caused by the increased cost of energy and rising food prices, as seen, for example, in the closure of many restaurants and other food outlets. The greatest time of risk would be, in northern latitudes, in late spring/early summer 2023 when Jupiter squares Pluto.

When planets change sign, I find that looking at the films, books, and sometimes song titles of the time can be fun and informative. I note that the book *Chocolat* by Joanne Harris — later turned into a film — was published in 1999. Whether Jupiter in Taurus will manifest itself with major books or films about

foodstuffs or sexually explicit themes remains to be seen. Surely we have seen everything? If we consider where other planets are situated, perhaps not. Neptune in Pisces has, to my mind, been the major significator in breaking down boundaries around gender and even between animal species (e.g., the COVID virus). Neptune in Pisces is a friend of all things “hybrid” and also a significator behind the growing awareness of trans realities. The boundary separating gender into a binary has liquified. Thus, if Jupiter in Taurus does manifest itself through a major book title or via a sexually explicit film, then perhaps it is likely to be of a straight boy-meets-girl or even same-sex variety.

Building and farming are preoccupations of Taurus, and Jupiter here will focus our attention on land usage and questions, such as: Should farmland be given over to wildlife and funded by the State? What should farmers grow? and How much meat should we eat? I was watching a TV programme recently (*Simon Reeve's South America* on BBC) which featured extensive illegal gold mining across the top of some South American countries (affecting Venezuela, Guyana, French Guiana, and Surinam) — mining which is stripping virgin rainforest. This is the kind of subject area that this transit might help governments to pay more attention to, especially when Jupiter squares Pluto. The question of land use is a permanent one in different ways around the globe. This transit may sharpen the debate.

Charts use Placidus houses and the True Node.





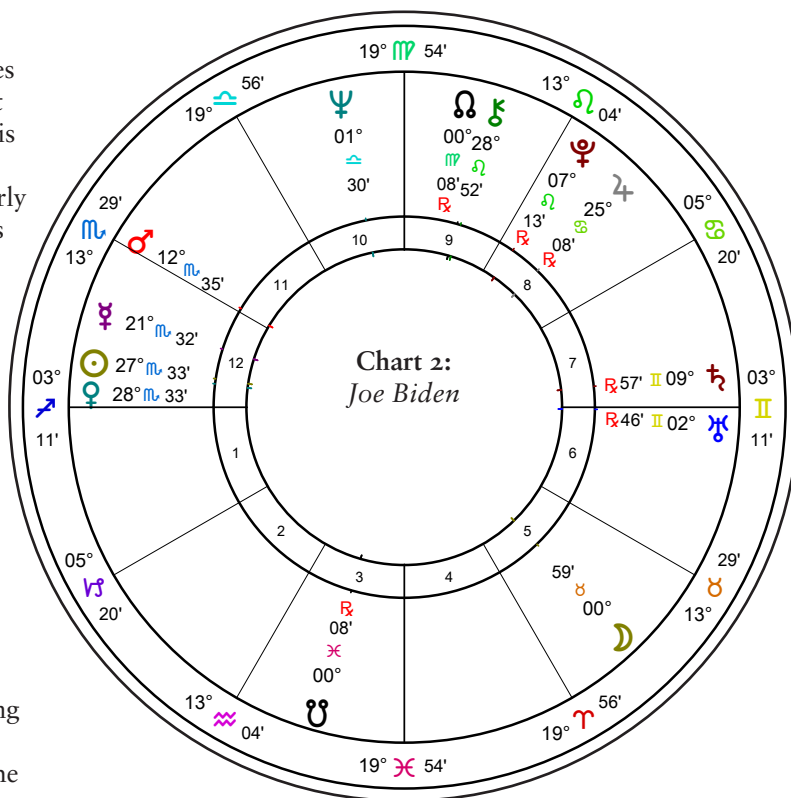
## What Aspects and Cycles Can Tell Us

Of course, more telling than the sign a planet resides in are the aspects it makes. As Jupiter enters Taurus, it squares Pluto which is briefly in Aquarius (the square is exact on May 18). The Jupiter–Pluto cycle is a twelve-year one, so squares between these two planets are fairly common; however, squares between Pluto in Aquarius and Jupiter in Taurus last happened in 1786–87. This combination can be associated with tremendous faith when it occurs in the charts of individuals who believe in the notion of mind over matter and who take the view that anything is possible. There is often a huge ambition to do Great Things. And sometimes there are strong religious convictions, too. Vladimir Putin, a man never lacking in ambition, it seems, has a natal square between these planets, with Pluto possibly on his Midheaven (see **Chart 1**, p. 33).

In more general mundane terms, the Jupiter–Pluto cycle, like most other cycles, often has economic significance. It can be a major signifier at times of changes in taxation, for example. Or changes in gaming laws and legislation that make compulsive gambling either more difficult or much easier. For example, in the UK these have included fairly benign measures like the introduction of a weekly national lottery (November 1994, when the two planets were conjunct in Scorpio) or, decades before, Premium Bonds, which are on a larger scale but similar and were launched in April 1956, when there was a conjunction in Leo. A square is perhaps less likely to bring about a growth in gambling, but the issue of compulsive gambling or changes to gambling laws could be on the table.

Jupiter–Pluto is a combination to associate with huge hidden power, so we can expect stories concerning great wealth, whether sought, collected, or hoarded. This duo is also associated with plutocracy. The whole issue of government being managed by or for the wealthier looms large in the minds of the public, as well as stories, films, and books highlighting this. Stories centring on various underground groups and power struggles could all be in the news. Unscrupulous bids for power are not likely to go unnoticed, nor are Ponzi schemes or any arrangements where individuals, perhaps motivated by greed, are coerced into acting against their economic good sense. Deep political, religious, or philosophical views and disagreements all go with the territory of this square.

The square can also sometimes be linked to a rise in oil prices. Travel traumas of one sort or another seem likely, especially when Uranus, the Sky God, is involved by midpoint. We could see major land movement, thus possibly earthquakes (what is underground becoming over-ground). With Jupiter being in Taurus, issues of land, who owns it, and what they do with it, for good or ill, are surely bound to feature. Taurus being the sign of building, when linked with Pluto the spotlight is likely



to be on ambitions to restore, regenerate, repair, and rebuild important structures. It could also be on bulldozing!

This writer has long tried to work out the signifiers of various animal species, and whilst I can't remember why, I associate Jupiter–Pluto with elephants. The reader may think me mad in this respect, but do listen out for elephant news. Elephants are a species much affected by expanding human presence and the resultant habitat loss. Aquarius is the sign to associate, in a general sense, with birds. Saturn in Aquarius, in my view, is one of the signifiers behind the devastation that is happening to seabird populations due to avian flu. One can only hope that Jupiter squaring Pluto in Aquarius doesn't add to this destruction.

I note that US President Joe Biden has his Moon at 1° Taurus, so the square will form a major transit and point to a challenging time for him (see **Chart 2**, above). With his Sun and Venus at the end of Scorpio, he will also be affected by the Jupiter–Uranus conjunction in 2024.

Jupiter enters Gemini on May 25, 2024, but before it does so, it conjoins Uranus, exact on April 21. Jupiter–Uranus conjunctions happen every 14 years and can herald times of exploration, innovation, and discovery. Generally, and especially with the conjunction falling in Taurus, one can expect major stories concerning capitalism and the free market economy. The two planets have much in common, of course, including the urge towards liberty, space, and freedom and the corresponding aversion to responsibilities, boundaries,

and restrictions. The psychology of each planet inclines toward a lack of ties and involvement generally. The qualities of these planets incline toward change, while Taurus dislikes change, so it will be interesting to see how this conjunction manifests.

Change or not, both planets in their differing ways urge humanity to go further and farther. Thus, this conjunction has to be good for exploration to the furthest reaches of science. Good for scientific breakthroughs and space travel, perhaps. The conjunction falling in Taurus may limit the fanaticism, extremism, and risk-taking that can be associated with this duo when aligned together.

Hard aspects between Jupiter and Uranus inevitably bring stories involving extreme views for or against religion, for or against the notion of God, and whilst this might not happen with the conjunction, issues of religious freedom are bound to be brought to the fore: secularism versus faith. Perhaps in the US and elsewhere, the whole issue of abortion will be at its height. If so, the freedom to choose will always win out with this conjunction. This is an ideal placement for reversing capital punishment in places where that still occurs. Freedom to do things with one's body in other ways may be at the forefront of some news stories, such as whether one should be able to sell bodily parts legally, or whether individuals should be free to choose to end their life.

Things we might hope for with these planets together might include the introduction of innovative ways of building. One can imagine buildings that are more practical, cheaper, easier to construct and less harmful to the planet. New farming methods could come to the fore, too, particularly ways in which both farmers and farm animals can have greater independence, as in self-milking machinery for cows.

As previously noted, Vladimir Putin has a natal square between Jupiter and Pluto, especially if Pluto does fall on his Midheaven. In 2023–24, transiting Uranus will conjoin his Jupiter and square the Pluto–MC. Sudden, radical change looks to be on the horizon for Mr. Putin, particularly in terms of his career, public role, and relationships.

Jupiter semi-squares Neptune at various times in 2023–24, too (exact dates being July 22, November 5, and March 4, 2024). It is difficult to gauge how much a semi-square will manifest itself, but this combination can be associated with rescue packages, major charitable events, and other idealistic practises. At best, it can relate to stories of sea exploration and the magic of whales, dolphins, and other sea creatures. To the magic of meditation, perhaps. Both Taurus and Neptune incline towards music, so these would be good times for musical endeavour, possibly to launch a major musical. It is also a combination I have found to be linked to media and pharmaceutical takeovers and, more especially, to major scandals and stories of fraud.

# JUPITER IN TAURUS URGES US TO BE MORE REALISTIC, PRAGMATIC, AND STOICAL.

For all of us, perhaps Jupiter in Taurus urges us to be more realistic, pragmatic, and stoical. To try and cultivate patience. To appreciate the pleasures provided by the senses, such as taste and touch, and to enjoy the natural world whilst remembering never to take it for granted. This is vitally important in these times of climate change and accompanying weather extremes.

## Chart Data and Sources

**Joseph R. Biden**, November 20, 1942; 8:30 a.m. EWT; Scranton, PA, USA (41°N25', 75°W40'); A: from memory.

**Vladimir Putin**, October 7, 1952; 9:30 a.m. MSK; St. Petersburg, Russia (59°N55', 30°E18'); DD: conflicting/unverified data.

## Acknowledgments

Recent climate-related news comes from Wikipedia. \*Historical facts and events about rice are taken from James Trager, *The People's Chronology*, Holt, 1994. All planetary data are from Neil F. Michelsen, *Tables of Planetary Phenomena*, 2nd Edition, ACS Publications, 1990.

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## EXPLORING RACE AND ASTROLOGY ALONG THE TAURUS–SCORPIO AXIS

by Samuel F. Reynolds  
and Gina Piccalo

### Prologue by Sam Reynolds

When I was less than a year old, my family purchased a home in an historically White neighborhood in Buffalo, New York, and became the first Black family to move there. I played wonderfully with my White neighbors' children with no apparent color barriers.

But as more Black people arrived in the area, many long-standing White residents moved to suburbia or exurbia, converting their homes into rentals and becoming absentee landlords. “White Flight” was in full effect. The newly minted White landlords came around less and paid even less attention to their properties as their new Black tenants became equally negligent. By the time I was 13, our once halcyon community had become what many would designate a ghetto.

Even with two degrees in African American Studies from two universities, I've only come across some of the pat answers for what happened to my childhood neighborhood. Analyses like White supremacy/imperialism, victimhood, laziness from all sides, economic racism, etc., aren't wholly wrong, but they still seem insufficient.

I'm grateful to explore how astrology can make different sense of critical racially charged moments in American history with Gina Piccalo. Her expertise as an astrologer and journalist has been invaluable in our collaboration. Unearthing together that many significant events in Black history had strong overtures along the Taurus–Scorpio axis was doubly intriguing,

especially since we started working together as the transiting lunar nodes were along that same axis. The net result is this article.

### Prologue by Gina Piccalo

Like so many White Americans, after George Floyd's murder, I wanted to understand why a Black man's life still meant so little. I wasn't naïve. I grew up in the South. When I was born, people still stood when the Confederate flag was raised. As a young reporter for small-town Southern newspapers, I was berated by racist publishers for covering Black communities. After the horrific dehumanization of Floyd, though, I had to confront my own complicity in the oppression of Black people. I needed to unwind the history of this event, using the best tool I had: a journalistic approach to astrology. This wouldn't have been possible if African American studies expert and master astrologer Sam Reynolds hadn't answered my out-of-the-clear-blue DM and generously agreed to collaborate. His open-mindedness and kindness are an inspiration.

### Introduction

Race in America is rooted in a Taurus–Scorpio loop. That's what we discovered after reviewing more than 40 astrological charts important in the African American experience. From the arrival of the first Africans in 1619 to the first moment police confronted George Floyd in 2020,<sup>1</sup> Taurus–Scorpio stakes a claim.

In some events, such as the **inauguration of Barack Obama**<sup>2</sup> and the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr., this alignment was loud and clear. In others, like the first battle of the Civil War and the pre-Revolutionary War killing of **Crispus Attucks**<sup>3</sup> in 1770, it echoed like thunder reverberating through the centuries in American history. (See **Chart 1.**) The more charts of historical significance we uncovered, the more undeniable we found a recurrent Taurus–Scorpio signature.

When we dug deeper, we discovered 15 charts that emphasized 8–9° Taurus–Scorpio, which in the Elsie Wheeler Sabian tradition stresses resilience, faith, suffering, and sustenance.

This remarkable consistency called us to deep dive into the literal and archetypal themes of Taurus–Scorpio. Rather than explore with strictly Scorpionic curiosity, we wanted to get to the Taurean roots of the alignment in this context.

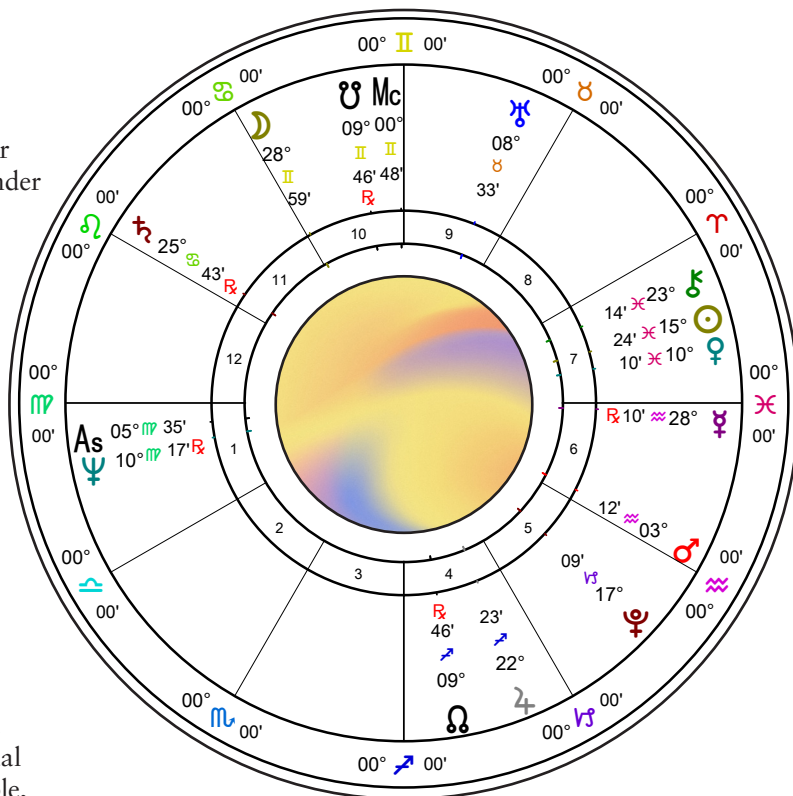
### The History of Desire and Spite

Our research shows that the Scorpionic horror of the modern system of enslavement was used to slake a near unquenchable Taurean desire. Before the genocidal dehumanization of African and other indigenous people, there was simply an entitlement to luxury.

In the story of the Americas, this begins with a Christianized European quest for the Taurean good life, led largely by the Spanish and Portuguese. We see a dangerous yearning that was itself a response to centuries of perceived subjugation by the Moors, who had melanated skin and a Muslim faith.

Before the European nations emerged as stately powers in the 15th century, the Moors were the arbiters of taste, known for their culturally rich, aesthetically harmonious, and elegant lifestyle. Many parts of Europe were cesspools of disease and depravity, and the stench of failure permeated life like a Scorpionic nightmare. That is, until Europe threw off its own shackles of destitution and oppression. One emblematic representation of this shift, as reflected along the Taurus–Scorpio axis, can be seen in the birth chart of the Portuguese prince, **Henry the Navigator**, the architect of the Atlantic slave trade.<sup>4</sup> (See **Chart 2.**)

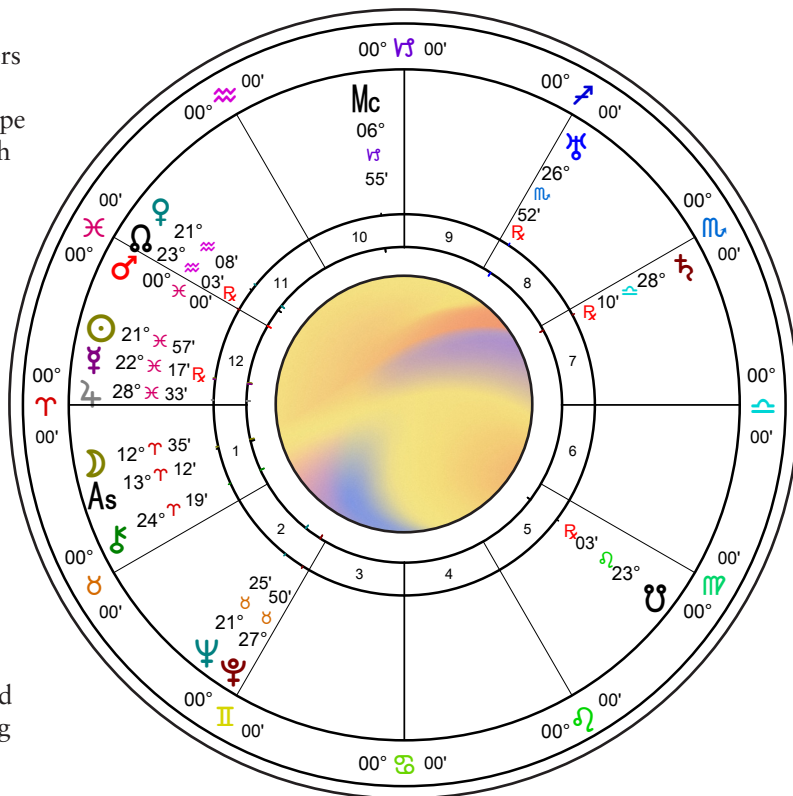
He was born during a Neptune–Pluto conjunction in Taurus opposite Uranus in Scorpio, all square his Venus–North Node in Aquarius. Prince Henry’s own life path was to play a key role in the cultural impulse to merge religion and power in extreme and destructive ways, all to preserve access to the good life. While he’s not singularly responsible for this shift, his life embodies a zeitgeist. We can see the dream of earthly riches in the Neptune–Pluto conjunction in Taurus. Similarly, we see how he played a role in the systematic innovation of the long-standing institution of slavery.



*Chart 1: Crispus Attucks's murder*

*Charts use Whole Sign houses and the True Node.*

*Chart 2: Henry the Navigator*





Slavery has existed in many cultures globally throughout documented human history. Yet, many of those cultures offered enslaved people the possibility of emancipation or even assimilation. Prince Henry, along with other European powers, though, changed the scope and nature of enslavement. Spite played a role. Prince Henry sponsored voyages to West Africa, specifically to circumvent Islamic enslavers, Ibram X. Kendi writes.<sup>5</sup> Unlike them, the Portuguese aimed to exclusively trade Africans, and in so doing, invented a racial hierarchy that persists today.

With the New World came new markets to sate Europe's taste for spices, gold, cotton, and other luxuries. As a result, the capture, enslavement, shipping, and selling of African people became a global industry. It started with newly captured Africans forced to work sugar fields on islands and plantations off the coast of Africa and expanded to the Caribbean, South America, and eventually North America.

When we examine the charts and the details surrounding the late August 1619 arrival of a ship carrying enslaved Africans,<sup>6</sup> the Taurus–Scorpio details are literal and cruel. It's all there in one rectified chart of the arrival of these first “indentured” Africans as presented by astrologer Vernon Robinson at NORWAC 2016.<sup>7</sup>

While the precise date in August is unknown, we do know the ship was named the *White Lion*, docked at Virginia's Point Comfort, and the ship's captain traded people for food, emphasizing the Taurus element of this chart. The comfort and luxury of one people relied upon the torture, enslavement, and dehumanization of another.

A Scorpio Ascendant with Mars in Scorpio opposite Pluto in Taurus, squared to Venus in Leo at the top of the rectified chart, testifies to the abduction and profound violation (Mars–Pluto) that these people must have experienced for someone else's pleasure and consumption (Venus). In fact, by the 1720s, Europe was so bewitched by its insatiable appetite for the Venusian “white gold” of sugar and other delights that they institutionalized a form of enslavement that spanned three continents and nearly three centuries.<sup>8</sup>

The whole notion of Europe, as we know it today, grew around the slave trade and colonization. This new global economy unified sundry nations as a continent with a shared sense of entitlement to the Earth's riches.

The Taurus–Scorpio themes are even evident in the myth that gave Europe its name. In the myth of Europa, Greek god Zeus takes the form of a white bull (Taurus) to seduce, abduct, and rape the Phoenician princess Europa. He takes her into the land of the setting Sun, which would be western Europe. Phoenicia, historically, included parts of Africa.

In the myth, as in real life, the dark side of an insatiable lust leads to a loss of proportion. Enslavers, like Zeus, weren't necessarily only anti-Black as much as they were bewitched by their own senses. Ultimately, they didn't care who or what had to suffer to fulfill their desires.

The more Taurean sweetness and luxury the Europeans craved, the more Africans born in the Americas suffered Scorpionic horrors. However, this pattern of punching down didn't stop with emancipation. It arguably became a template for the system that endures today. The richest Americans continue to accrue more wealth as the poorest among us — many of whom come from places colonized by

Europeans for their delight and consumption — have grown more desperate. In fact, many places heavily populated by African descendants, whether in the Caribbean, South America, or Africa, can't even consume resources grown on their own lands without penalties from external institutions.<sup>9</sup>

### A Life-and-Death Signature

The Taurus–Scorpio line is one of embodiment and ensoulment, thriving or surviving, living or dying. In the context of African American history, we've established that it represents the commodification of African bodies for the material wealth of Europeans and in some cases Africans who benefitted from the trade. Likewise, we can find evidence of this in the unrelenting, life-or-death struggle of African Americans to reclaim body sovereignty.

This battle shows up consistently in the charts of African Americans whose murders or assaults became the catalysts for violent cultural awakenings. These

## THE TAURUS-SCORPIO LINE IS ONE OF EMBODIMENT AND ENSOULMENT, THRIVING OR SURVIVING, LIVING OR DYING.

manifested as eruptions of destruction of property, disruptions to commerce, and physical violence between authority figures and communities fed up with injustice. Most recently, the Taurus–Scorpio signature is undeniable in the charts of the George Floyd murder.

When police handcuffed George Floyd, 29° Scorpio was rising, with Mars at 8° Pisces sextile Uranus at 8° Taurus. This is a fitting signature for the Scorpionic horror and abuse of power that followed, but also the Piscean way Floyd became a martyr for a cause and the Uranian uprising his death inspired.

Floyd himself was born with Mercury in Scorpio opposite a retrograde Mars in Taurus and the Moon most likely in Taurus.<sup>10</sup> The murder took place three days after the Gemini North Node eclipse and just as Saturn in Aquarius began its long square to Uranus in Taurus. News of his suffocation led to the largest protests in US history<sup>11</sup> and instigated an historic reckoning with Black oppression in America around the world.

Interestingly, the last time Saturn was in Aquarius, **Rodney King's** beating was broadcast around the world, resulting in another moment of reckoning.<sup>12</sup> (See **Chart 3**, right). The night the video of the beating first aired, the Moon transited through 8° Scorpio.<sup>13</sup> At the start of the uprising after his attackers were acquitted, the Sun was at 9° Taurus.<sup>14</sup> King himself was born with 8° Taurus rising.<sup>15</sup>

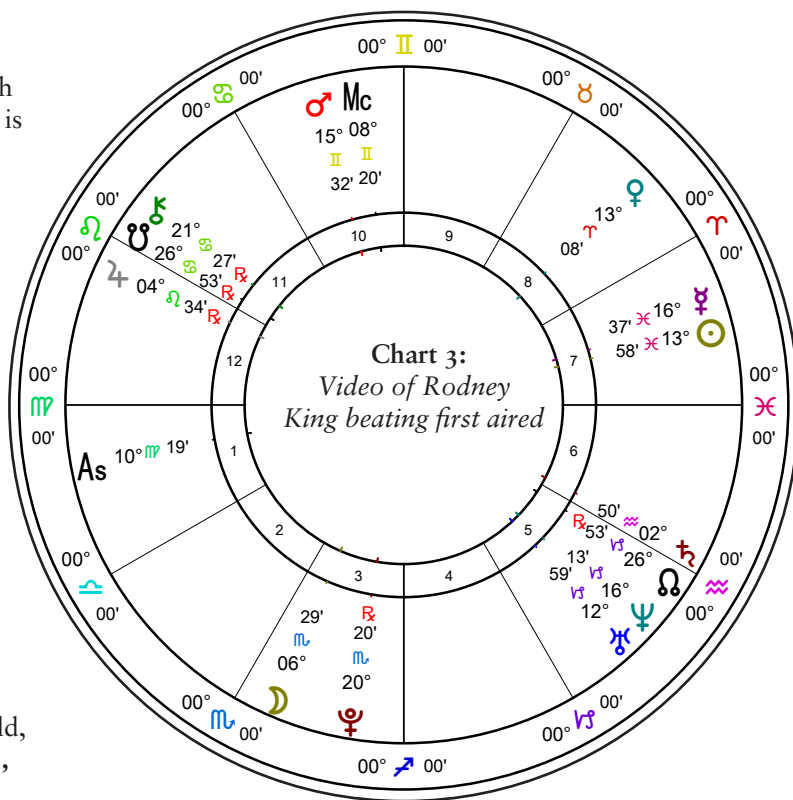
### The Significance of 8–9° Taurus–Scorpio

The 8–9° Taurus–Scorpio range appeared repeatedly in the mundane charts of events in American history that challenged our shared understanding of freedom. Uranus was at 8° Taurus when British soldiers killed African Native American Crispus Attucks, fomenting tensions that led to the Revolutionary War. Chiron was at 8° Taurus conjunct the North Node in Taurus when *Brom & Bett v. Ashley* was filed in 1781, a case that ultimately led to the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts.<sup>16</sup>

The first mortar fired in the Civil War launched just after the Moon and Pluto conjoined at 8° Taurus.<sup>17</sup> Harriet Beecher Stowe's 1852 novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a blockbuster that galvanized support for abolition among White Americans, was published when Venus was at 9° Taurus.<sup>18</sup> The Emancipation Proclamation was signed with Pluto at 9° Taurus.<sup>19</sup>

Activists were invited to join Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on Washington, in which he delivered his famous "I Have A Dream" speech when 9° Scorpio was ascending.<sup>20</sup> The Moon moved through 8–9° Taurus just hours before Alabama state troopers were televised beating civil rights protestors as they tried to cross a bridge in Selma, Alabama.<sup>21</sup> That event energized American support for the movement.

Around the time of Trayvon Martin's murder,<sup>22</sup> which inspired the Black Lives Matter movement, the



Moon was passing through 8–9° Taurus. When Michael Brown was killed by a police officer, Mars was at 8° Scorpio.<sup>23</sup>

It also appears in the natal charts of Malcolm X, who had Saturn at 9° Scorpio near his 0° Scorpio Midheaven,<sup>24</sup> and of Barack Obama, who has Neptune at 8° Scorpio in the 10th house, co-present with a 28° Scorpio Midheaven.<sup>25</sup>

We explored these degrees using the Sabian Symbols, a 360-phrase system developed by astrologer Marc Edmund Jones and medium Elsie Wheeler in 1925 and re-interpreted in 1974 by astrologer Dane Rudhyar.<sup>26</sup> In both works, the Sabian Symbols for 8–9° Taurus–Scorpio emphasize stamina and resilience, moving from darkness into the light, and the herculean effort and the strong community ties required to transform pain and cynicism into optimism and joy.

Dane Rudhyar describes 8–9° Taurus as “a fully decorated Christmas tree” or as [sabian.org](http://sabian.org) describes it, “confidence in a new dawn.” Rudhyar’s description for 9–10° Taurus is “a Red Cross nurse,” and [sabian.org](http://sabian.org) describes it as “compassion.”

“A dentist at work” describes 8° Scorpio, suggesting a process of overcoming negative consequences and cultivating an inventive approach to removing, repairing, and rebuilding what’s rotten in society. The Sabian meaning behind 9° Scorpio is “a fellowship supper reunites old comrades,” emphasizing the importance of strengthening ties with those who share your experiences.





## To Keep on Keepin' On

Perhaps, for African Americans, the Taurus–Scorpio axis represents more than just hardship, toil, and trouble. It grants the grit and determination to use given conditions as the *prima materia* for a deep alchemy for changing the world. The turbulent passion of Scorpio becomes the catalyst for moral rectitude and the social change of economic disparity among all human beings, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, class, or education.

For instance, many cite Dr. King's 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech, but few seem to recall his 1968 push to end war and economic disparity just before he was assassinated. Indeed, the vanguard nature of various civil rights movements in African American history inspired others to claim their own bodily sovereignty, from the American suffragists to pioneers of the LGBTQIA+ movement.

And then, there are the cultural contributions of African Americans to consider along this Taurus–Scorpio axis. The intensity of Scorpionic conditions gave birth to American life as we know it, enriching agriculture, art, literature, fashion, dance, music, and cuisine. American pop music, for one, wouldn't exist if it weren't for the African American innovations in blues, jazz, rock-n-roll, gospel, and hip-hop.

This journey from Scorpionic trauma to Taurean fecundity is plainly evident in the so-called Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."<sup>27</sup>

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come, over a way that with tears has been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood  
of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
'Til now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

These words emphasize hope and the need to draw meaning from pain and gloom, to keep on going when it seems like you can't, because a future with hope gleams brighter than a past limned by darkness and death.

## Conclusion

While we've explored some plausible historical and astrological reasons for the prevalence of Taurus–Scorpio in African American history, questions remain. We may have to live through more history to fully realize its significance.

As we explained in our prologue, we approached our discovery from different life trajectories and experiences. But we agree that the fixed nature of Taurus–Scorpio, at its best, invites us to stand in our power, both physically and spiritually, and to share the wealth.

The difficulty is with how this happens. For Europeans during the last millennium, they stood in their power and the overwhelm of wealth and sensuality at the bodily cost of enslaved Africans. For those enslaved Africans and their descendants, it has meant an ongoing struggle to bridge lasting economic disparities while seeking to achieve bodily autonomy and self-determination in often hostile environments. Of course, these challenges arise starkly in charts with a strong emphasis on the Taurus–Scorpio axis, but this by no means signifies that it's only those times when that axis is most salient.

As we prepare to shift from the Taurus–Scorpio to the Aries–Libra lunar nodal axis, consider how one Mars–Venus polarity differs from the other. This latest chapter of Taurus–Scorpio eclipses has forced (another) reckoning with economic disparity between the folks doing the work and the folks consuming the goods, between the historically oppressed and the historically privileged. The return of labor unions is a hopeful example of how this series is changing the balance of power. But there's clearly more work to be done on an individual level.

As we move into the Aries–Libra axis, we must consider how we're relating to one another, human to human. Issues of fairness, equality, and interdependence need to be addressed to explore racial tensions, much like we authors have done with each other. The success of the collective, this axis suggests, requires the courage

(Aries) to forge new alliances that can lead to fairness and compromise (Libra). There's no doubt this is a worthy pursuit.

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# BRINGING SHAPE TO WATER

## Saturn in Pisces: 2023–2026

*by Alexandra Karacostas*

**S**aturn will enter Pisces on March 7, 2023, where it will remain through February 13, 2026.<sup>1</sup> Saturn has an important relationship to Pisces, bringing structure and order to the boundaryless oneness of Pisces. The interests of the whole need to be reorganized and guardrails established against extremes. Saturn's power is being able to walk into a room and respectfully command attention, requiring that its issues be addressed. It will be very interesting to see how the organizing principles of Saturn play out in the Piscean arena of infinite possibility and compassion.

In this article, we will discuss Saturn's archetype in Greek mythology, its astrological and psychological applications, and how its characteristics can be expressed in the sign of Pisces. We'll conclude with a discussion of the implications of this transit.

### Saturn in Myth and Metaphor

In the heavens, Saturn is the sixth, second-largest, and furthestmost planet visible to the naked eye in our solar system. It has three major rings, with several dustier rings surrounding them. Viewed through a telescope, Saturn is beautiful. The rings serve metaphorically as the boundaries, restrictions, and structures this giant planet is known for in astrology. Its visibility in the sky and its ringed equator portray life within the bounds of nature, and reflect the pragmatic limits of unaided vision. Saturn hosts a diverse community of more than 80 moons, some larger than Mercury or Pluto, the largest and most famous one being Titan. Our star, the Sun, and the planets extending from it out to Saturn articulate the subjective journey. From Chiron outward, we incorporate the collective ethos. Saturn's glyph is comprised of the cross over the semi-circle or scythe/sickle, representing matter over soul/spirit.

In mythology, Saturn was the youngest of the seven Titans. He was a child of Ouranos (Father Sky) and Gaia (Mother Earth). Gaia was born out of chaos, and as the story goes, Ouranos was unhappy with Gaia's unruly offspring. Being the tyrant he was, he shoved them back into her, not allowing them to emerge into their own light. Not appreciating the gesture, Gaia asked her son Saturn to castrate and kill his father, offering him a sickle. Saturn obliged, becoming king of the Titans and replacing his father. It is the authority figure taking action that is important; Saturn's concerns cannot be avoided.

Saturn married his sister, Rhea. Conscious of the pattern in his family system, Saturn was aware that one of his children would overthrow him. So, as soon as Rhea gave birth to each of his offspring — first Hestia (Vesta), then Demeter (Ceres), Hades (Pluto), and lastly Poseidon (Neptune) — Saturn ate them one by one. When Jupiter was born, Rhea tricked Saturn by wrapping a stone in a blanket instead, to replace Jupiter and keep him safe. When he

was older, he became a cupbearer for Saturn. One day, Jupiter gave Saturn a potion to drink that made him vomit out his children. With the help of his siblings, Jupiter fought against the Titans and Saturn, and won after ten years of war.

Saturn and his siblings were exiled and sent to prison at the far corners of the Earth, to Tartarus, a dark, inverted dome beneath the Earth. This dismal, depressing hole became the last home of the defeated Titans. With Jupiter now promoted as king, the triumphant gods and goddesses assumed their places on Mount Olympus, embodying all the qualities of the human spirit. As the story continues, it reveals that, consistent with the inherited family complex, Jupiter was (rightfully) suspicious that he, too, would be overthrown by one of his children.

Psychologically, the isolation and exile that Saturn is subject to is significant, and it plays out inside Saturn's sphere of influence. Recollections and chains to the past can shroud the present with feelings of guilt, shame,

## **THE PISCES SYMBOL IS TWO FISH SWIMMING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS. ONE OF THE FISH SWIMS TOWARD THE MUNDANE EXISTENCE OF LIFE, WHILE THE OTHER SWIMS TOWARD SPIRIT AND THE COSMIC COLLECTIVE.**

and inferiority, imprisoning us within, compelling us to struggle against the constraints in finding a way to rise up and into the Sun's spirit. Saturn is often referred to as the lord of "karma," the consequences of our past actions. Saturn's contacts, natally, by transit, or progression, can summon painful feelings and remorse from long ago, affording opportunities to review, revise, and craft practical, prudent approaches to old patterns and predicaments.

On the path to growing into the wise mentor from the insecure tormenter — both reflections of Saturn — we grapple with our shortcomings. Perceived weaknesses percolate to the surface, generating causes that force one

to grow up, take responsibility, and heal. We discover that the only way to overcome our internal and external fears and failures, to climb out from our own Tartarus, is through humility, vigilance, and accountability. This is part of the precious Saturnian curriculum.

Ouranos and Saturn were both swallowed up by an external authority "father figure," and eventually became kings/authorities themselves. But their success was ultimately hollow, subject to the repeat of the family pattern. Ideally, we discover and cultivate the inner authority that we all possess somewhere within, emerging empowered, no longer subject to the domination of another person(s) or social dictate.

In astrology, Saturn's archetype is that of the Wise Old Man. It rules Capricorn, but remains associated with the signs of both Capricorn and Aquarius. Prior to the discovery of Uranus, Saturn also ruled Aquarius. Both sides of Saturn's nature are represented by the attributes of these signs: the conservative, practical, and traditional disposition of Capricorn, alongside the intuitive and intellectual nature of Aquarius, which can be woven together to improve social structure and organization; together they can be woven to improve social structure and organization. There are many keywords for Saturn, including maturity, diligence, discipline, contraction, limitations, boundaries, conservation, the cycle of time, and our responsibilities. Saturn can be also described as the teacher, the "father figure," one's inner guide, ultimately, one's authority in one's life. The process of developing into that sober, judicious adult often brings us to our knees, the part of the skeletal body ruled by Saturn. Saturn's rulership includes the skin, bones, and teeth, and the entire skeleton of the body.

As the overlord of limits and boundaries, Saturn rules the skin, encases and defines the bones and structure of the physical body. Whenever we overextend ourselves emotionally, psychologically, physically, or psychically, the body informs us through the sensations of pain, anxiety, and discomfort that something is amiss. An effective teacher, pain brings attention to the injured area, the attention necessary to facilitate repair and healing. Saturn instructs us to create things that are solid and lasting, like the bones, which remain long after we are buried.

The most fundamental limitation we confront in life is "time," a phenomenon of perception that correlates with the universal cycle of birth and death. In accord with the concept of time, Saturn signifies endings. Saturn in Greek is Kronos, *chronos*, which literally means "time." Mark Twain once quipped, "Time is the way that we keep everything from happening at once." Against the backdrop of time, Saturn achieves goals through sensible organization. Through the process of reevaluation and reorganization, Saturn invites



resolution and closure, creating a sense of self-assurance, completion, and freedom.

Saturn in a specific house in the natal horoscope indicates where we may lack confidence, have doubts about our competency, and/or suffer from anxiety. This is where we may experience disappointments, obstacles, and difficulties. Saturn bids us to dive deeper, looking within, to explore the challenges/issues associated with that specific area of life. By nature, fear and feelings of incapacitation slow down progress. It is as if Saturn has explicit lessons to teach us, and wants to make sure we get them. The Saturnian experience frequently elicits anxiety, because Saturn asks us to improve the foundations upon which we stand. Ultimately, with lesson learned, the energy transforms into contentment and serenity.

Like the mountain goat, one of the symbols of Saturn, we slowly climb to the top of our mountain with perseverance, ownership, diligence, and concentration. Along the way, we acquire wisdom and expertise. Reaching the mountaintop feels well deserved and deeply rewarding, both materially and spiritually. The “no pain, no gain” principle applies here. It is about the harvest we reap from the seeds we have sown. As the saying goes, liberty is the luxury of discipline.

Every 29.5 years, the period of Saturn’s orbit around the Sun, we experience a return of Saturn to its natal position at the time of our birth. This is called a “Saturn Return.” The year before the exact conjunction, or return, life begins to significantly change. Frequently, we become aware that the time has come to let something(s) go, an ending. Or it may be a period of expansion and increased responsibility, often professionally. Usually, it is a bit of both. Either way, we mature and gain greater confidence, self-knowledge, and respect during the culmination of these milestone cycles.

## The Dimensions of Pisces

At its ingress into Pisces in March 2023, Saturn will be accompanied by an entourage of planets. The particular cast of planets creates a distinctive backdrop, where the players join the act and express their traits, often taking turns as they orbit the Sun and shift relative positions. This time, the ingress chart shows Saturn sandwiched between Pluto at 29° Capricorn and Neptune at 24° Pisces. (See **Chart 1**, p. 45.) Symbolically, these are powerful agents of transformation and change, especially as they are found in the latter degrees of their respective signs, signifying endings. The t-square made by the Sun and Neptune in Pisces opposing the Virgo Full Moon and squaring Mars in Gemini advocates for resolution, though ignited perhaps by ideological conflict.

The Pisces symbol is two fish swimming in opposite directions. One of the fish swims toward the mundane existence of life, while the other swims toward spirit and the cosmic collective. Pisces is more practical than is

often credited, but equally otherworldly. There are three manifestations that offer insight into this last sign of the zodiac: that of the artist/dancer/poet, the mystic, and the substance abuser/addict. What all three have in common is that they involve, consciously or not, unification with the sacred and divine.

Every sign offers gifts, its own lessons. Pisces is about the establishment of healthy boundaries, connection with the divine, and the wholeness of life shared by all sentient beings. Piscean energy is ultra-sensitive, acutely influenced by the subconscious, feeling everything in its surrounds. Dreams, imagination, spirituality, compassion, delusion, film/images, mind-intoxicating substances, and escape all belong to the Piscean domain. There exists a close relationship to Christianity, sharing the same symbol of the fish, the Age of Pisces, the messages of martyrdom, unconditional love, suffering, and self-sacrifice. Understanding and acceptance are key to alignment. Pisces rules the feet, which support the entire mass of the body. Seeing the suffering of others, somehow feeling responsible, and desiring to be of greater service are elements of the theme. As the last sign of the natural zodiac, Pisces embodies endings in preparation for a new cycle of experience, articulating the Alpha and Omega of existence.

When a planet first enters a sign, we experience a jolt as the quality of energy morphs and emerges. During the middle degrees, we learn to constructively cope. In the last degrees, there is a peak and a measure of resolve.

So, how might Saturn’s qualities manifest in Pisces? Because of the inherent lack of structure in Pisces, Saturn may initially fear loss of control, like it is tripping into some chaotic abyss. It is a time for reexamination of religion and spirituality, a time of greater conflict regarding beliefs, morals, and associated behaviors and concerns. Courage, effort, and discipline will be necessary to ground the situation, to counter the irrational fears, confusion, and disillusion arising from the oceans of our collective psyche and anguish. My colleague and friend, Jacqueline Janes, describes the big picture as “getting our sea legs on,” as if we’re in the vast ocean on an oil rig anchored to the sea floor, working to gain balance in the deep currents of the turbulent environment.

Speaking of water, Saturn’s passage through Pisces will likely bring even greater attention on the issue of clean water. The pharmaceutical industry may also feature prominently. We will strive to collectively address mental health, addiction, and spiritual purpose. We could reach a broader understanding and acceptance of our common experience and needs, compelling us toward behaviors and actions that reflect our hopes and dreams.

Saturn demands concrete, visible results. Our natural environment, the global and social conditions that bind us together, help us to recognize our wholeness, part of Piscean territories. Pisces seeks unity and connection

above all. Faith is vital as we navigate the path forward. With Saturn in Pisces, it may well be stormy and precarious in the powerful, deep currents of life's oceans.

In January 2026, Saturn catches up to Neptune in the 29th degree of Pisces. Our collective suffering and pain are intended to encourage a willingness to try remedies we have yet to imagine.

Saturn in Pisces endeavors to make order out of the unfolding, unruly circumstances of the times. There is a longing for common ground and a reliance on faith, in an environment conducive to the sharing of dreams, hopes, and fears. New social structures, material and spiritual reorganization, and accountability feature prominently in achieving the objective of this placement. It is a collective journey that we take together.

As we confront climate change, globalization, and issues that affect humanity across the planet, the Saturn in Pisces backdrop empowers the intentional planting of seeds that can benefit everyone, not just the few. Religion and spirituality can sync more closely, addressing the common pain, instead of exacerbating conditions that cause suffering. Saturn in Pisces can help us to heal spiritually, fostering faith instead of fear. We recognize our commonality as members of the human race. We all have need for shelter, clean water, air, food, safety, and love. It is with an attitude of humility, responsibility, self-respect, and faith, carried out in conscious intention, that we find the path to growth and fruition.

## History in Brief

The last three dates of Saturn's tenure in Pisces are:

**February 1935 – January 1938**

**March 1964 – March 1967**

**May 1993 – April 1996**

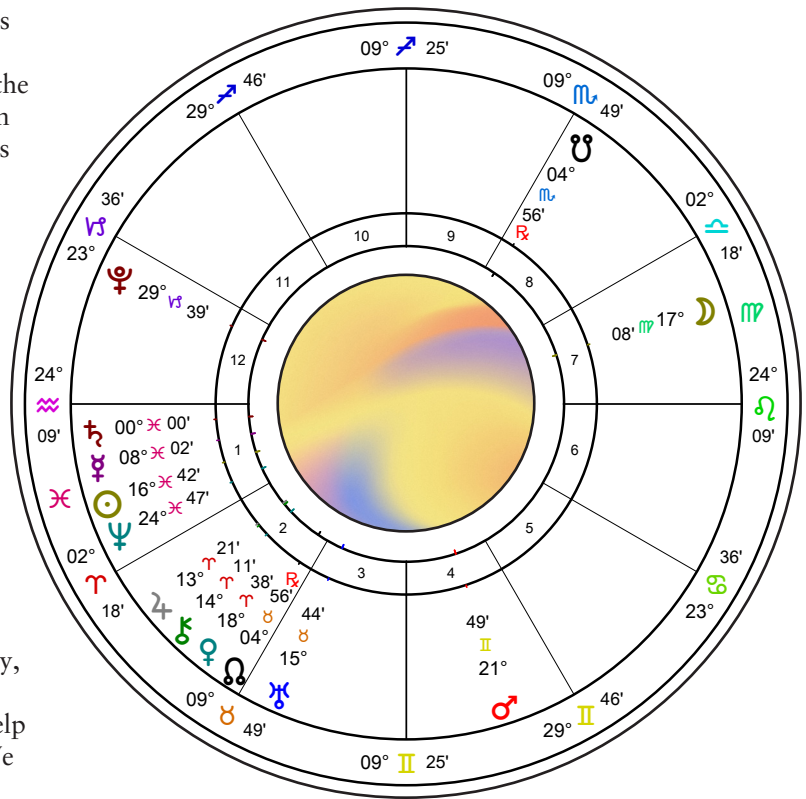
Following are a few interesting examples illustrating how Saturn's limits can be stretched, venturing into cosmic, uncharted, unmapped, and imaginative territory, Piscean-style — results be damned.

### 1935–1937

These astonishing times are still remembered by some. Dogma and belief systems had gone astray. Waters were constrained, boundaries were splintered, imagination, flight, and fantasy were embraced. Fear colored the landscape.

In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws were enacted. These were anti-Semitic, racist laws forbidding marriage between Jewish and German people, later including the Romani and Black populations. These populations were referred to as “enemies of the state.”

Chart 1: Saturn Pisces ingress



River dams have been around since Mesopotamian times. In 1936, the “engineering marvel” of the Hoover Dam was completed, harnessing the waters of the Colorado River basin. This was the beginning of an era marked by increased energy demands and hydroelectric power. Today, almost 70% of the world's rivers are choked by dams.

In 1937, Amelia Earhart disappeared, Howard Hughes broke his own flight speed record, and the German airship, the *Hindenburg*, burst into flames.

Disney premiered the animated film *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, and J.R.R. Tolkien published *The Hobbit*.

### 1964–1967

These remarkable times are also remembered by many of us. Out of a plethora of momentous events, a few are listed below. One of the important and unique features about the 1960s was the rare occurrence of Uranus and Pluto conjoining in Virgo and making a series of oppositions to Saturn in Pisces. The push against authority added impetus to pass some groundbreaking legislation in the United States. In the US in 1964, the “War on Poverty,” the Civil Rights Act, and the “Great Society” anti-poverty bill were passed, along with numerous other social movements, including the Free Speech student protests in an effort to create greater equality and unity.



**“IF YOU HAVE BEEN BRUTALLY BROKEN, BUT STILL HAVE THE COURAGE TO BE GENTLE TO OTHER HUMAN BEINGS, THEN YOU ARE A BAD-ASS WITH THE HEART OF AN ANGEL.”**

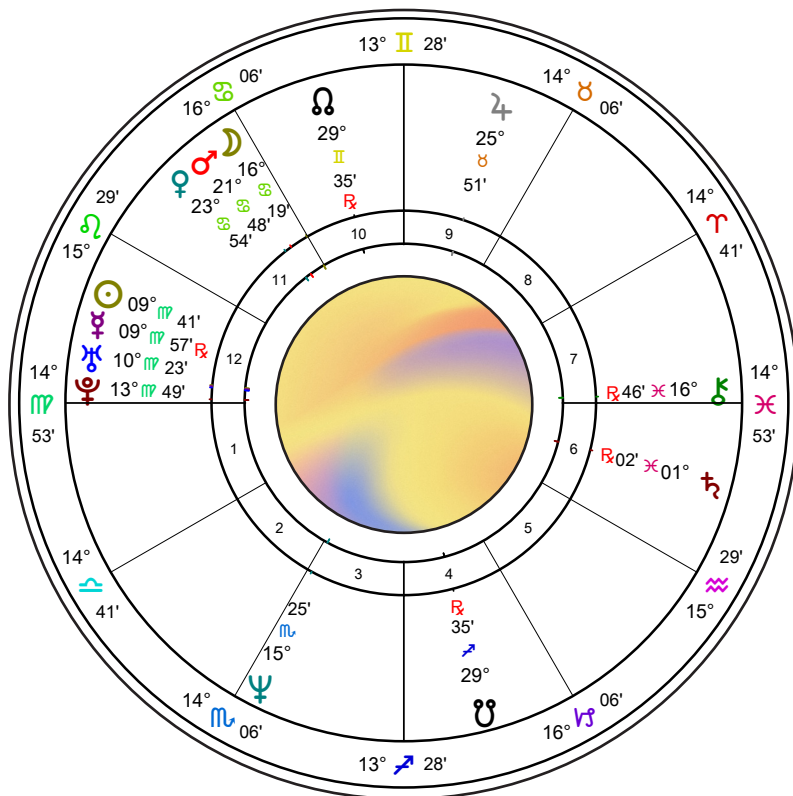


Chart 2: Keanu Reeves

*Charts use Koch houses and the True Node.*

The Beatles arrived in America and appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. For some of a certain age, this turned on the lights in an otherwise dark and dismal world. In 1965, almost 800 people were arrested, many injured by police, in Selma, Alabama during “Bloody Sunday” protests organized by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Voting Rights Act was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, making it easier for Black people in the southern US to vote. The violent Watts riots in Los Angeles left many dead. Racism, poverty, neglect, and division within the predominantly Black communities led to the riots.

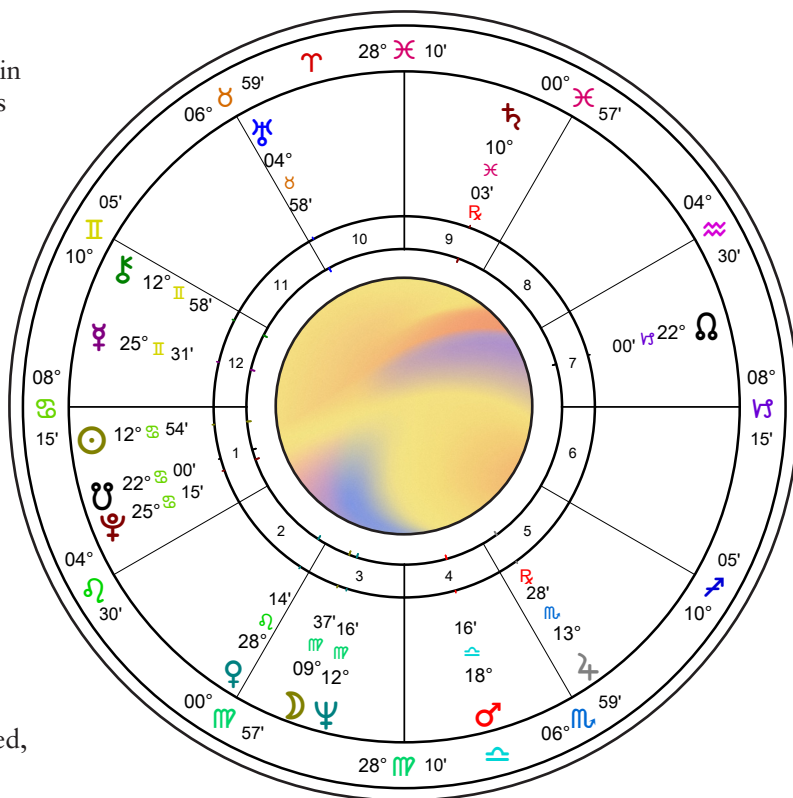
Large quantities of LSD became available when Stanley Owsley started the first LSD factory. The term “hippie” became official in San Francisco and described the counterculture. Free love, sex, drugs, and rock ’n’ roll were embraced by the younger generation.

In 1965, Timothy Leary held a press conference announcing formation of a psychedelic religion, the “League of Spiritual Discovery.” LSD got bad press when the FBI released government files. The great “Human Be-In” took place in Haight-Ashbury as Timothy Leary asserted, “Turn on, tune in, drop out,” which became the catchphrase and call of the counterculture movement.

1993–1996

We saw the European Economic Community created, eliminating trade barriers within the European Union. The EU was formalized, and the Schengen Agreement

Chart 3: Dalai Lama XIV



became effective, allowing EU citizens to cross easily between participating countries.

DreamWorks Animation was founded by Steven Spielberg, David Geffen, and Jeffrey Katzenberg.

The first conference devoted to the World Wide Web commenced in San Francisco. Rupert Murdoch launched Fox News. The Hubble Space Telescope took the first photographs of Pluto. South Africa adopted a permanent post-apartheid constitution.

The Bosnian conflict between the Serbians, Croats, and the Bosniak Muslims resulted in a devastating religious war between 1992 and 1996. Members of the UFO-based religious cult, Heaven's Gate, took part in a mass suicide near San Diego. Federal agents raided the Branch Davidian religious cult of Waco, Texas. California announced the end of affirmative action, ending discrimination based on religion, sex, race, or national origin.

Let's look at the charts of two famous people who beautifully reflect the strengths of Saturn in Pisces.

#### **Keanu Reeves**

The Saturn in Pisces qualities are well illustrated in the natal chart of Keanu Reeves. (See **Chart 2**, p. 46.) With Saturn opposing his Virgo Sun, Mercury, and Uranus, this Canadian actor and deeply spiritual philanthropist has expressed his philosophy through numerous quotes, such as, "If you have been brutally broken, but still have the courage to be gentle to other human beings, then you are a bad-ass with the heart of an angel." And, "Energy can't be created or destroyed. Energy flows. It must be in a direction, with some internal, emotive, spiritual direction. It must have some effect somewhere."

#### **The 14th Dalai Lama**

Saturn's placement in Pisces is highlighted in the birth chart of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, born in Tibet in 1935. (See **Chart 3**, p. 46.)

His natal Saturn opposes Neptune and likely the Moon in Virgo. At the age of 15, he became the spiritual leader of the Tibetan Buddhist traditions, and the temporal head of the Tibetan people. He is a universal symbol of wisdom, compassion, peace, and social and political leadership. As an activist, he founded many institutions promoting educational, cultural, economic, and spiritual advancement.

In summary, Saturn's entry into Pisces invites a welcome breath of order; welcomed discipline will be brought to the playground. The challenge to social constructs that Saturn brought in moving through Aquarius, now resolves into a more deeply ordered, spiritually oriented norm. Love, forgiveness and surrender will play a part. Our concepts of community will evolve to a more collective orientation, better addressing the needs of the many. The possibilities are limited only by our imagination in this last of the zodiac signs.

#### **Chart Data and Sources**

**Keanu Reeves**, September 2, 1964; 5:41 a.m. EET; Beirut, Lebanon (33°N53', 35°E30'); C: rectified from approximate time.

**Tenzin Gyatso, Dalai Lama XIV**, July 6, 1935; 4:38 a.m. LMT; Takster, China (36°N23', 101°E52'); C: rectified from approximate time.

#### **Note**

1. Saturn will briefly visit Aries from May 24 until September 1, 2025 before returning to Pisces to finish his tenure there.

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*Alexandra Karacostas is a professional astrologer based in northern California and Greece. Avid student since 1975, she has been practicing astrology professionally since 1984. Alexandra teaches, lectures, serves clientele around the world. Since 2007, Alexandra has served on the board of directors of the Organization for Professional Astrology, as President (2010–14), and continues to serve on their educational board. As OPA faculty, she facilitates Peer and Consulting Skills groups. Her work has appeared in many astrological publications, including TMA, and OPA's books, The Professional Astrologer and the forthcoming Essential Astrology. Alexandra also leads sacred site tours in her beloved Greece.*







## ARIES & ARIES ASCENDANT

Sluggish tactical inertia advances. Take considered time with slow, sloshing, circuitous wades through anomalous incidents — dawdle disguises gestation. Visions need initial incubation because what's hatching is enormous. Grand, ideal reality conceptions manifest in no uncertain terms just ahead of the next solstice — do not waste effort on effete sureties. Crazy big ambitions reap colossal rewards. Seek validation, share ideas — communal investment in quixotic notions bring them to life with rapidity. Prioritize an operations base, a solid sanctuary, a totally safe, secure cocoon where you can dissolve in peace. You'll be happy you anchored before, during, and after the masterplan harvests. The equinox ends exhilarated, enraptured, an enamored whirl of passion, whimsy, and *joie de vivre*.



## TAURUS & TAURUS ASCENDANT

Autonomic reformation, settling into novel expressive form, occurs amid effervescent soul-glow and denouements. Endings evoke ingenuity, fantasy is luscious beyond reason and essential in its transmission of vital vivacity. Cradle quirks, aberrations, eccentricities, and laughter through transitions. Zing scuds Taurus and a balance must be sought. Surprise becomes customary, and jolt management requires edifying routine with health, work, and money. Take on all therapeutic remedies necessary to maintain equilibrium. Hire salubrious specialists — work with only prophylactic agents, literal and figurative, professional and personal. Empathy is synchronous with powerful cosmic self-projection energy. While you know where to aim, sympathetic sways are compelling. Maintain equity with crowd control, do not get caught in a social submergence sinkhole.



## GEMINI & GEMINI ASCENDANT

This epoch is a divine governance immersion. Surreal reality, emotional dissolution, can be riling or replete with raptness, but the regulatory through-line is tuning in as a receptor versus identity enforcement. Opine and divine as a selfless agent, a guided unit. So very social, factions of beings continue to clamor for your attention. Remaining a nameless, faceless, celestial apparatus becomes complicated with communal demands. Be a conduit, divulge downloads, throw cryptic cosmic messages in the pool, and remain formless. Mercurial as always, "action" is redefined in the months ahead in more exploratory terms — strategization, invention, organization, analysis, stage-setting. Seek ultimate truths and optimum information. Mine providential perspicacity — veracity is clarion, the overarching picture is clear.



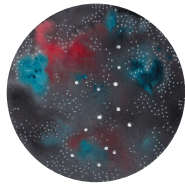
## CANCER & CANCER ASCENDANT

Welcome to immense popularity. Going dynamite, a seminal inspiration, your essence is infectious. Acclaim uncovers novel existence dimensions — the public versus private, who to trust, the fans, the fawns, and the familiars. In demand, you are not a trend. Credible contractual alliances are crucial. Create an intimacy buffer zone. Do not shirk non-disclosure agreements, and seek specialists. Precautionary maneuvers are excellent, but don't fear support, backing bounds. The perfect actors, peak players, show up at sublime times. Multidimensional allies are on standby. Cancer moves with velocity, leaving hot tracks of fire. Visionary fulfillment moves so fast, it's almost dizzying. Excitement intoxicates with frequency. When possible, rest, find a repose, nest, feed fundamental needs.



## LEO & LEO ASCENDANT

Prepare for passage. Journeys proliferate and odysseys are everywhere. Passports and border-crossing identification should be up-to-date, ready, but documentation is the most banal facet due for renewal. As specialized savvy is sought by wider networks, press for psyche-spirit-soul reset. Power is at play; professional prestige is a potent phenomenon. Worlds compound — as expertise is chiseled with more dedicated craft development, core lesions emerge. Heed biography with masterful observance. Learn a new language, in literal linguistics, but also discover how to speak again, enhancing core expression, your true, new voice on a fresh stage before contemporary crowds. Draw power from heritage — find solace and resilience in legacy. Relationships thrive in depth. Love vitalized, create electric, project dynamic.



## VIRGO & VIRGO ASCENDANT

Vacuous propriety is out. Inauthentic deferential dynamics disappear, supplanted with uncultivated ardor. Tameless utterances reflect core biorhythmic transformation, where zest, lust, untempered fierceness drive impulse. Instinct is the higher self. Fever-pitched vehemence might rustle internal expectations, but it comes across hot in public. Take expressive liberties. Talk is teeming, there are conversations everywhere, from basic prosaic to full-out broadcasts, complete media campaigns. Across all platforms, veritable Virgo fervor has an unmistakable flavor. Publishing, schooling, higher learning, live-air transmission are auspicious. Virgoan feral expression busts ruts. Relationships transform, polarity balances are disrupted, and fresh agreements are laid based on contemporary dynamics, not how it was before and how it always had been.

# H O R O S C O P E S



## **LIBRA & LIBRA ASCENDANT**

Value assessment, asset evaluation, are critical and nigh. Fiscal matters, budgeting, spreadsheets, debt are all involved, but appraisal extends beyond economic business into allied energy. Void, incommensurate relationships dissipate. Stark, false reciprocal alliances reveal their nothingness and stagnant toxicity is excreted. With partnership and karmic energetic output dispensations, pay attention to health maintenance, mental and spiritual salubrity in particular. Cosmic corrosion is purposeful. Crap expulsion creates space for true lightness of being, creativity, love, core joy. An epic season for entrepreneurial exploits, ally high — hiring prime candidates and being hired by the best is standard modus operandi. Honor exclusivity, dismiss commodification — privileged, private, and special is the way to go.



## **SCORPIO & SCORPIO ASCENDANT**

Stop-go, ebb-flow, wax-wane can rile Scorpionic total immersion instinct. Many areas need attention, and vexatious disruptions at the base, with home, family, occur such that intentional focus is not impervious to outside distraction. Transitory annoyances heighten resolve and broaden the scope of principal ambitions. Ride waves knowing undulations flesh out, adding juice, luscious substance to eminent intentions. Paying attention to other people, however irksome, reaps monumental benefit. Connections are invaluable and at points represent total salvation. Witness how much you are cherished as others exhibit extraordinary effort, showing up in full commitment to the amplification of your endeavors and wellbeing. Schooling, qualifications, higher education, knowledge dissemination are bounteous too. Oddly, so is privacy. Read and rest.



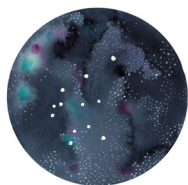
## **SAGITTARIUS & SAGITTARIUS ASCENDANT**

A glorious attainment epoch; congratulations, what an incredible time to be alive. Consume all rewards and realizations with absolution. Rejoice, but don't be willy-nilly on how to proceed. Innovative project expansion continues forth. Creative feats borne from authentic love, a totally uncontrived, ebullient space, are out there and the public wants more and more. This has your signature stamp on it, your face, and popular demand adds a unique, unexpected element to the original expression of this undertaking — its prominence requires bolstering. Optimize organization, routine diurnal systems, get details in order, and find allies (supernatural and mortal) who help maintain checks and balances. Embrace rote health grooves, seek medical and nutritional attention, regulate wellness.



## **CAPRICORN & CAPRICORN ASCENDANT**

The equinox begins with customary efficiency, but normality framework decreases in relevance by the Cancer solstice. Errands abound and it may be time to purchase new equipment or service computers, machines, electronic devices, and vehicles. Busyness and basicness belie profound transformation resonating in the background. You know it and can feel it — the calling. The impetus to hallow an incarnation obligation. In humdrum happenings, finite and infinity converge, mortality sheds its stable guise to reveal eternity in the illusion of time. Create and invent amid regularity dissolution. You are not a monolith. Embrace the disappearance of rigid stability frameworks that no longer serve. Change revives soul. Alliances are onside to help — you don't have to do this alone.



## **AQUARIUS & AQUARIUS ASCENDANT**

If something lacks substantive energetic merit, anticipate providence to enforce a severance. Friendships, business, and pecuniary alliances may meet interactive demise — sycophantic enterprise drops like flies. Value was met in the past, but now it's excrement. Allow discharge to fertilize whole new harvests in finances, investments, employment, and career. While flourishing fields blossom amid simultaneous refuse disposal in resources and occupational endeavors, domestic renovation also beckons. Space beautification is crucial — infuse home base with resonant cosmic energy. Add sound waves into the mix with bells or revolving theta waves, arrange rooms such that cardinal ley line meridians course through with vitalizing dynamism. Frequency attunement helps ally extrasensory empathetic-telepathic Aquarian vibes too, which crest. Zone out through pulsation.



## **PISCES & PISCES ASCENDANT**

Reverie is charity — be the dream. Glowing with visionary radiance, you emit like an empyreal galactic center, thronged with orbital admirers. This vibe magnetizes high-tier professional opportunities fast. Corporations, institutions, organizations, governing bodies seek a slice of you, but you won't be bodied by bogged down, breathless policies. Maintaining a singular, beloved, and inspirational groove, your voice invigorates culture, fluid and obstinate. Inordinately convincing, don't ad lib all the time — come prepared to drop serious knowledge, and work on elocution. Some of these messages are worthy of publication in book, thesis, song, tome forms. Forgo total frivolity with transmissions. Romance gets dreamy, superstellar shamanic unions that lead to exploratory mating realms. Leave space to explore amorous unknowns.

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See p. 81 for bio.



# MAGICAL ELECTIONS

by Nina Gryphon

**M**agically, spring brings an opportunity to restore and energize our practice and spirit, thanks to the Sun's entry into Aries, the sign of his exaltation. This season's magical election aims to channel the life force itself for personal growth and magical development.

In this issue, we also introduce a key writer on astrological magic and theurgy, the late Platonist, Iamblichus. For readers interested in the philosophy of this ancient art, Iamblichus is a profound and logical guide.

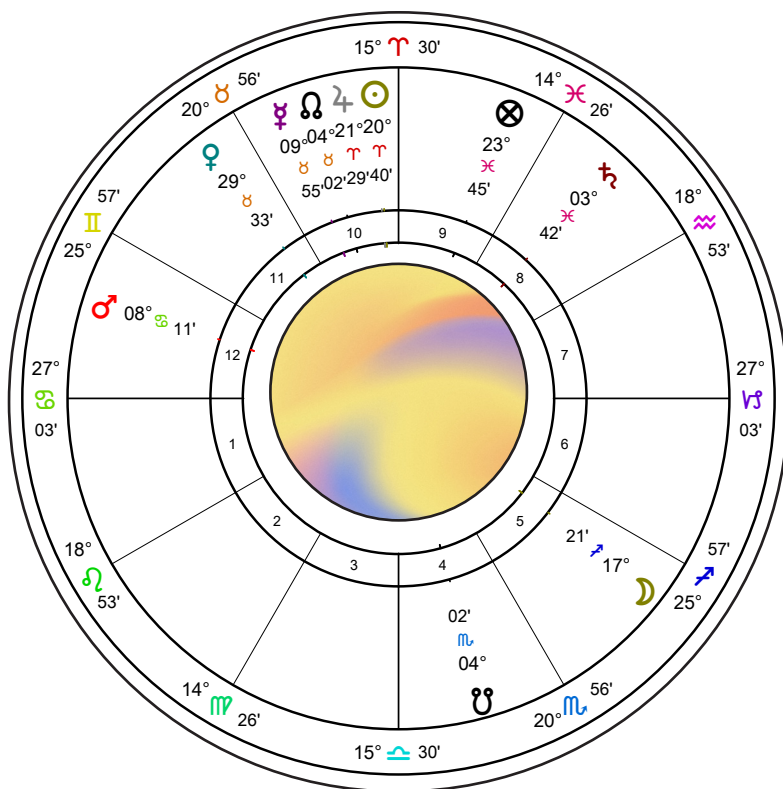
## How to Use Magical Elections

Astrological magic seeks to identify the most auspicious celestial alignments to fix their energies in our world through a physical object (such as a talisman) or through an action, namely ritual. The astrological magician identifies a goal — for example, improving their love life — and searches for a time when Venus is well placed in their location. At the appointed time, they perform a Venus-themed ritual or create a talisman using Venusian symbolism. Not every magical election must result in a physical talisman; sometimes, a prayer at the elected time is enough.

We always want to ensure that our ritual and talisman (if we choose to create one) are aligned symbolically with the chosen planet, based on traditional attributions. Creating the right physical environment helps the effects of the planet or other celestial body to manifest in our terrestrial sphere.

For this issue's Solar election, the attributions are as follows: the Sun's colors are yellow, gold, and scarlet; the Sun's metal is gold; his gems are jacinth (also known as hyacinth), yellowish chrysolite, diamond, and red garnet. His angels and spirits, which should be invoked during the ritual, are Michael, Nakhiel, and Sorath, while herbs and spices used for the Sun's incense include saffron, rosemary, citrus, and laurel (bay leaf).

If we make a physical talisman, we will need a magical image of the appropriate planet. A key source of planetary images is the pseudonymous medieval magical book *Picatrix*. One image of the Sun is "a man standing as though wanting to salute, holding in his left hand a



round shield and under his feet the image of a dragon.”<sup>1</sup> The image can be drawn on a paper talisman, or engraved on a metal or stone. The use of magical images is essential in astrological magic, as invisible celestial rays were thought to act upon the soul of the talisman wearer and their surroundings through the embodied image.

## Sun in Aries

April 10, 2023, 12:35 – 1:13 p.m. PDT; Los Angeles, California, USA

*Truth, wisdom, and spiritual enlightenment, vitality, magnetism*

The Sun is the source of all life on Earth, but spiritually, the Sun is the visible symbol of truth, and its brilliance is a metaphor for wisdom and spiritual insight. For this reason, properly elected talismans of the Sun are extraordinary at opening the mind's "doors of perception," as William Blake has said. To know the truth is to be wise, and the talisman of the Sun can help us to perceive reality more fully and directly, with the ultimate goal of gaining wisdom.

This election has the Sun in his exaltation, Aries, conjoining Jupiter, the planet of wisdom. (See **Chart**, above.) Both planets are powerfully placed on the Midheaven (MC). The Moon, which is the translator of other planets' powers into a form useable by those of us in the earthly realm, is strong in the auspicious 5th house, and applies to trine the Sun.

During the election timespan, the ruler of the Ascendant, which stands for the magician or the person for whom the talisman is intended, is the Moon, and then changes to the Sun, as the Ascendant shifts from Cancer to Leo. Both the Moon and the Sun are powerful and vital in this chart, and are suited as the Ascendant ruler for that reason.

To relocate this chart, set it for your location, but use the same time and date given above. Then adjust the chart forward or backward in time as needed to get the same degree on the MC as the chart in this column (15° Aries). Be sure to confirm that your relocated chart has the trine to the Sun as the Moon's next major aspect.

### Iamblichus: The Philosopher of Magic

One of the earliest philosophers engaging with magic was Iamblichus (3rd/4th c. CE), a late Platonist and head of the ancient Platonic academy. His most famous work is *On the Mysteries of the Egyptians, Chaldeans, and Assyrians*, an epistolary treatise styled as an Egyptian high priest's answer to a seeker's many questions. *On the Mysteries* explores and explains the various facets of theurgy ("divine working" in Greek), the practice of invoking or worshipping gods ritually to elevate and purify the practitioner's soul.

Iamblichus frequently alludes to the worship of gods and the heavenly bodies, leading subsequent readers to believe that he and other late Platonists practiced astrological ritual propitiation. Though Iamblichus firmly rejects the idea of ritual practice for worldly aims, he embraces theurgy as a superior technique allowing the practitioner to achieve eventual liberation from the cycle of human births.

*On the Mysteries* was immensely influential since antiquity, inspiring astrological magicians like Marsilio Ficino, whose translations and exploration of Iamblichus and other Platonist authors brought this ancient discipline to Renaissance thinkers and those that followed.

Iamblichus's work is required reading in my Magical Elections course so that students understand the reasons and deep structure behind astrological magic, as well as the historical lineage of the tradition they are practicing. The edition that I recommend is the 1821 translation by the brilliant philosopher and linguist, Thomas Taylor, known to his contemporaries as the English Pagan.<sup>2</sup> Taylor was a devoted Platonist, and he translated Iamblichus in a high-flown, elevated style that can take getting used to. By doing so, he wished to communicate to his audience the rarefied nature of the material he was teaching.

### References

1. *Picatrix: A Medieval Treatise on Astral Magic*, trans. Dan Attrell and David Porreca, The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2019, p. 104.
2. Iamblichus, *On the Mysteries of the Egyptians, Chaldeans, and Assyrians*, trans. T. Taylor, B. Dobell, 1985. Available to download at [https://books.google.com/books/download/Lamblichus\\_on\\_the\\_Mysteries\\_of\\_the\\_Egypt.pdf?id=OqbXAAAAMAAJ&output=pdf](https://books.google.com/books/download/Lamblichus_on_the_Mysteries_of_the_Egypt.pdf?id=OqbXAAAAMAAJ&output=pdf).

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# PLANETARY STOCK TRADING

March, April & May 2023

by Bill Meridian

*Publisher's Note:* The Mountain Astrologer does not accept any liability for the advice or stock recommendations offered in this column.

The market is likely to rise in March and top in mid-April and then decline through May. This projection is derived by adding the one-, four-, and ten-year cycles. The first cycle is that of the Sun through the signs in any year. The four-year cycle is often called the election cycle because it is thought that the Federal Reserve aids the economy to support the incumbent president. This is the theory, but the cycle existed prior to the establishment of the Fed in 1913. It also exists in countries in which there is a four-year election cycle, six years, or no elections at all. The ten-year cycle was developed in the 1930s at AmeriTrust Bank. In 2022, this composite cycle was a dependable guide to the bear market.

The Saturn–Uranus squares of 2022 are past. I had noted that this square would pressure technology stocks as well as any others that have planets in line with the square. The reason is that most big tech stocks in the NASDAQ have the angles of their horoscopes in fixed signs, especially Scorpio and Aquarius. Thus, when earnings were reported last year, many of those stocks were afflicted. One was Bed, Bath & Beyond (June 5, 1992) with Saturn at 18° Aquarius. Another was Federal Express (FDX, December 28, 1978) with Saturn at 19° Scorpio. This bearish square has passed like a tough storm.

## March

In this month:

- 3/2: Venus conjunct Jupiter at 12° Aries
- 3/12: Vesta–Chiron–Jupiter conjunction at 14° Aries
- 3/20: Venus conjunct the North Node at 4° Taurus
- 3/30: Venus conjunct Uranus at 17° Taurus



*Adobe Systems (ADBE); August 13, 1986; 9:30 a.m. EDT;* is a diversified software company worldwide. ADBE is due to report earnings near March 22. In 2022 at this time, this column read, “... prospects are mixed. The stock may fall somewhat at the announcement.” The stock fell from \$466 to \$423 in one day. On March 25, 2023, Mars passes over the MC and squares the Ascendant. On March 16–18, Mars squares the Sun, and Pluto squares the Ascendant in the progressed chart. (See **Chart 1**, p. 53.) These hard hits are likely to drop the stock by 3% or more.

*Nike (NKE); October 17, 1990; 9:30 a.m. EDT;* designs, develops, markets, and sells athletic footwear, apparel, equipment, and accessories for men, women, and kids worldwide. NKE is due to report in the third or fourth week of March. One year ago, as written here, the stock did rise moderately, due to some light but beneficial contacts. This quarter is not so favorable. Saturn exactly opposes the MC on March 28. This aspect will be in orb whenever the report is released and is likely to be met with selling.

*Oracle Corporation (ORCL); March 12, 1986; 9:30 a.m. EST;* develops, manufactures, markets, sells, hosts, and supports database and middleware software, application software, cloud infrastructure, hardware systems, and related services worldwide. ORCL is due to report near the 10th. One year ago, Jupiter transited over the progressed MC at 16°36' Pisces, and the stock did rise. Let us look at the coming report. Mars afflicts four natal planets — the Sun, Mars, Uranus, and Pluto — from March 7–9th. In planetary stock trading, Mars is a malefic and is likely to drop the share price by a few percentage points.

## April

There are many more companies, especially large ones, reporting this month.

Here are the phenomena for the month:

- 4/11: Venus trine Pluto
- 4/20: Solar eclipse at 29°50' Aries

**Apple Computer (AAPL); December 12, 1980; 10:00 a.m. EST;** is due to report in the last week of the month. There are not many contacts that yield a clear indication. The stock appears unlikely to fall much. The closer that earnings are announced to the 29th, the higher the likelihood of a rise in price.

**Amazon (AMZN); May 15, 1997; 9:30 a.m. EDT;** is an online retailer. AMZN reports on the last days of the month. In 2022, I reported, "There are several Mars aspects to the natal and the converse-progressed chart, such as Mars 45° to the progressed MC and a contraparallel to natal Mercury on the 29th. On the 25th, Mars is conjunct the converse-progressed MC. Hard Mars aspects are usually slightly bearish, so this combination is likely to sink the shares." This combination began a 30% slide over two weeks.

Let us look at the 2023 prospects. On the 27th, Jupiter is parallel to Mercury. An earnings announcement is a Mercury-related event. Over the years, I have found that contacts to natal Mercury are important in the determination of share price movement. On May 2, Jupiter, a benefic, will also transit over the progressed MC. On April 25–26, there is bullish support from the converse-progressed chart. Uranus squares Jupiter, and the Greater Benefic is contraparallel the MC. The April solar eclipse is only three degrees from the progressed MC, thus drawing attention to this earnings announcement. AMZN stock is likely to rise.

**Citigroup (C); October 8, 1998; 9:30 a.m. EDT;** a diversified financial service company, provides various financial products and services for consumers, corporations, governments, and institutions worldwide. C will likely report near the 14th. Very bearish hits did not sink the stock as much as projected one year ago. The stock is likely to rally due to a Uranus trine to the progressed MC on the 14th. Jupiter trines the natal MC on the 15th. This will likely provide sufficient energy to raise the share price.

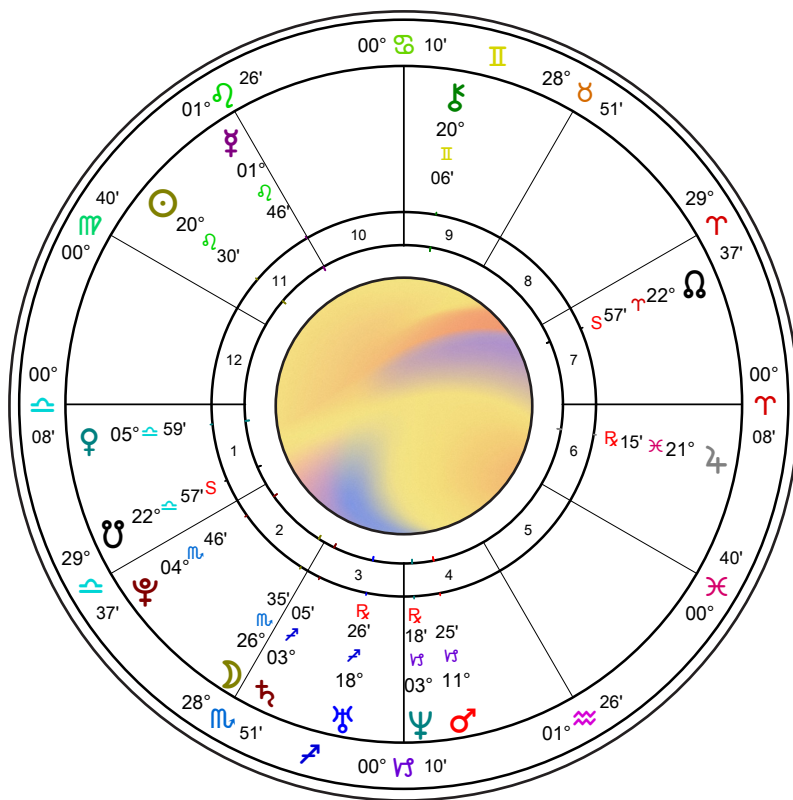
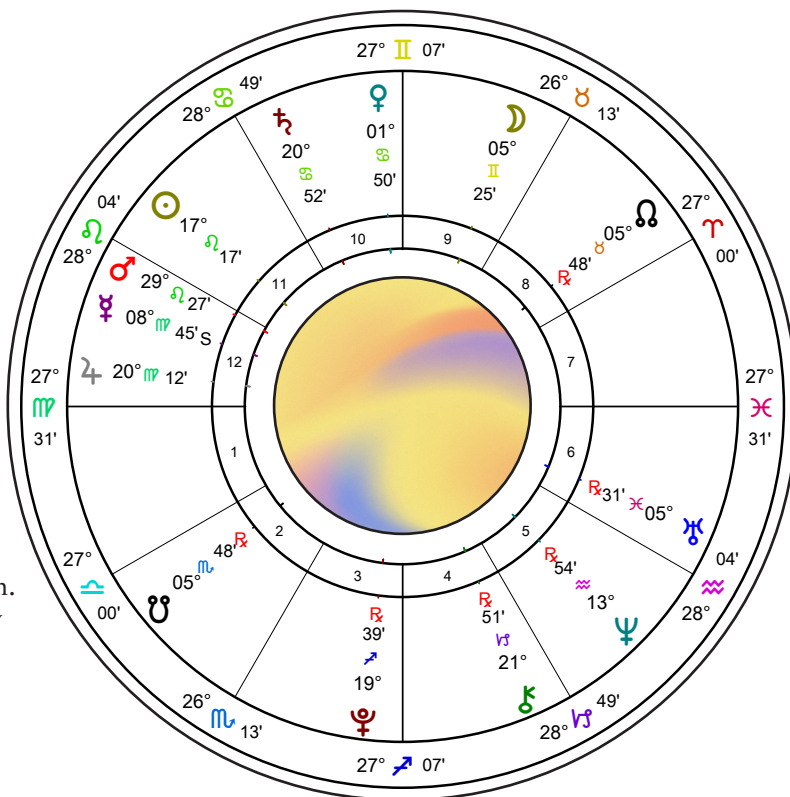


Chart 1: Adobe Systems (ADBE)

All stock charts are calculated for New York, NY, USA.  
Charts use Koch houses and the True Node.

Chart 2: Google (GOOG)





**International Business Machines (IBM); February 14, 1924; 10:00 a.m. EST;** will report near the 18th. These shares did not fall as expected one year ago. The only notable contact is the solar eclipse conjunct the progressed MC within minutes. This MC is opposite Saturn by 3° in the progressed chart. That may not send the stock lower at this moment, but will likely suppress any share strength in this quarter. Mars makes hits to the converse-progressed horoscopes in the reporting week, so the stock is likely to retreat by 2% to 3% over the short term.

**AutoNation (AN); June 20, 1997; 9:30 a.m. EDT;** operates as an automotive retailer in the United States. The chart has a 9° Taurus MC which is natively square Uranus at 8° Aquarius and is 135° to the Moon and the North Node. The company is due to report in the third week of April. If they report near the 21st, the stock is likely to fall due to Saturn and Mars hits to the converse-progressed horoscope.

**Google (GOOG); August 9, 2004; 9:30 a.m. EDT;** builds products and provides services to organize internet information and make it universally accessible and useful. The company may report in the last week of the month. Saturn afflicts the Sun and Mercury all month, but there is a saving grace on March 26. (See **Chart 2**, p. 53.) Transiting Jupiter will parallel the progressed Sun on that day, which is a weekend. If GOOG reports late in the prior week or near the 27–28, the stock is likely to rally briefly.

**Netflix (NFLX); May 23, 2002; 9:30 a.m. EDT;** an internet television network, engages in the internet delivery of TV shows and movies directly on TVs, computers, and mobile devices in the US and internationally. The company will likely report in the third week of the month. There are some mildly favorable contacts, so the shares may rise.

## May

The significant planetary activity in May:

- 5/1: Pluto retrograde at 0°21' Aquarius
- 5/5: Lunar eclipse at 14°58' Scorpio
- 5/17–20: Mars–Pluto–Jupiter t-square

**Starbucks (SBUX); June 26, 1992; 9:30 a.m. EDT;** operates as a roaster, marketer, and retailer of specialty coffee worldwide. The company is due to report in the first week of May. Last year, Saturn opposed the Ascendant, and SBUX underperformed. Due to afflictions to the converse-progressed chart from

transiting Uranus and Saturn, the stock price will fall when earnings are released.

**TripAdvisor (TRIP); December 7, 2011; 9:30 a.m. EST;** operates as an online travel company. The company is due to report near the 8th. The Pluto station on the 1st will square the MC in the converse-progressed chart. Pluto usually represents problems or challenges that are beyond one's control. TRIP is set to decline.

**DISH Network Corporation (DISH); June 21, 1995; 9:30 a.m. EDT;** provides pay TV services in the US. Last year, this column stated, "The Uranus station and eclipse degree of 10° Taurus is significant in this chart. This degree is on the MC. Natal Saturn is closely 45° to the MC, so Uranus and the eclipse will activate this semi-square. The company reports in the first week of May, and the shares are likely to fall under the weight." The stock fell by over 35%. Those degrees are no longer stressed, so let us look at this May 2023 report. Management is likely to report in the first week of May. Pluto and Uranus hits are likely to send the stock down again.

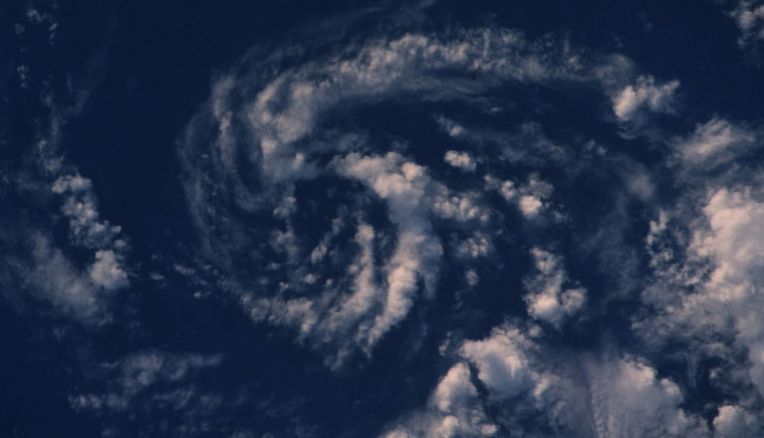
**PayPal (PYPL); July 20, 2015; 9:30 a.m. EDT;** operates as a technology platform company that enables digital and mobile payments on behalf of consumers and merchants worldwide. PYPL reports in late April or in early May. (They reported at the latter date last year.) Due to hits from transiting Saturn on April 28 and on May 1, PYPL is likely to fall.

**Walt Disney (DIS); November 12, 1957; 10:00 a.m. EST;** operates as an entertainment company worldwide. DIS is slotted to report near May 11. If DIS reports near that date, expect a small pullback. Mars squares the MC on the 10th.

These horoscopes and screening techniques are available at AstroApp.com.

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*Charts use Whole Sign Houses and the True Node.*

# CHARTING THE WEATHER

## Out of Bounds

by Peter Doughty

The spring of 2023 continues the run of high times of Martian influence and impact. As the season begins in March, Mars has just passed the degree at which the planet began its retrograde phase, back at the end of October 2022. A period noted for extreme and freakishly shifting patterns is abating, as Mars is increasing the distance beyond the exact square angle to Neptune.

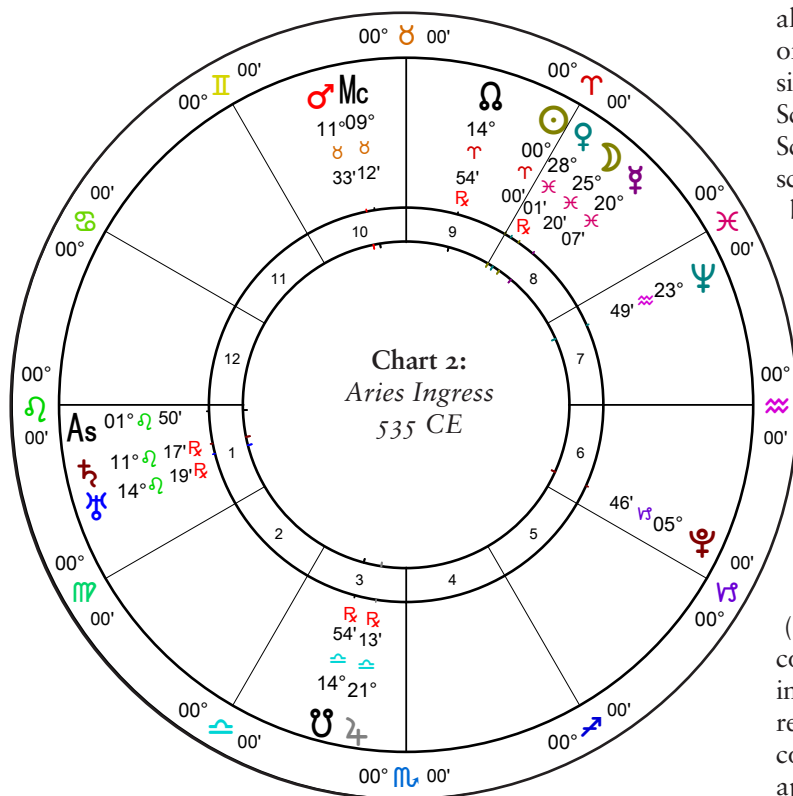
Mars continues, however, to be a wilder-than-usual force: The planet is still out of bounds, beyond the maximum degree of declination of the Sun at the Cancer ingress, three months hence. That's what usually happens when Mars approaches that zodiacal degree. Thus, all things Martian are beyond the pale, bursting with more than usual juju and caprice.

In the season chart cast for Washington, DC, Mars appears 23 degrees away from the MC: 23 degrees ahead of it in longitude. (See **Chart 1**, p. 3.) That distance, toward the east, is where the influence of Mars is at its peak for this extraordinary season. That brings attention to the western side of Greenland (see **Astromap**, p.56), whose melting ice sheet is already of grave concern among climate watchers. Many brows have furrowed over the past year-and-a-half, thanks to reports of the day of rain at the summit of that ice sheet — unprecedented in industrial times.<sup>1</sup>

While eastern North America may at first glance seem to have been spared the more problematic effects of Mars (typically, increases in temperature and dryness), note that fire sign Sagittarius occupies the season chart's IC, the greatest single zone of significance in astrometeorology. Better figure on a warm and dry, though largely pleasant, season. Even so, problematic localized storms can still occur, and there can be too much of the usually welcome conditions.

The central regions, from the longitude of Cleveland almost to Salt Lake City, come under the sway primarily of Scorpio on the IC, which, like Aries, is a Mars-ruled sign. Regardless of Mars's astrological "condition," Scorpio influence runs to extremes. Bear in mind that Scorpio is the driest of the three water signs — the scorpion is a desert-dweller. Deserts are occasionally beset with brief downpours. (Recall the sudden rainfalls that notably affected Las Vegas and Death Valley in July–August 2022.)<sup>2</sup> Long story short, this justifies continuing concern over agricultural prospects. Drought-affected regions are attaining critical stages in which portions of land must be drastically downgraded in level of use, or even abandoned. Crucial and major cutoff decisions have likely been made in the course of the winter, during the last months of Saturn's stay in engineering-oriented Aquarius.

The world is newly entered upon a different realm. Yes, Saturn has very lately entered water sign Pisces (until February 2026). This, together with Neptune's continuing presence in Pisces, signals a sharp increase in the intensity and long-lasting scope of water-related crises. Key Saturnian principles are those of concentration and duration: begin to notice how that applies to prominent patterns over the next few years.





Back to the sequence of signs on the IC: the West Coast gets mostly moderate Libra. Jupiter's influence from across the zodiac in Aries makes its significance felt most strongly right along the coast from British Columbia through northern California. That means mostly fair weather with rising temperatures. In view of this drying effect, the amount of last winter's recharge is more than usually crucial.

Further west, the Mars-AS line slices across the Pacific Ocean near the Hawai'ian Island chain. Late March, just after the Aries ingress, is likely to be a particularly challenging time, as Mars crosses into Cancer: another of the four points on the World Axis. An unprecedented level of ocean warming — a "hot blob" is a common term — seems well within the realm of possibility. Remember that the Aries ingress will be a particularly challenging time, as Mars crosses into Cancer: another of the four points on the World Axis. An unprecedented level of ocean warming — a "hot blob" is a common term — seems well within the realm of possibility. Remember that the Aries ingress is associated with the annual shift of the direct-overhead solar rays across the equator and into the Northern Hemisphere: the one with the bulk of Earth's land area.

The Pluto-DS line cuts across the main part of Alaska, indicating somewhat greater probability of significant earthquake and volcanic activity. The entire Ring of Fire<sup>3</sup> is ever-volatile, and this season may mark an uptick in tremors and spewings for this section of it.

The Moon's passage across Mars's zodiacal position in the season chart — on March 28, April 24, May 21, and June 18 — is apt to signal conditions carrying a high level of impact. Venus's arrival May 5 at Mars's place indicates

addition of more moisture to the atmospheric situation, with greater turbulence resulting.

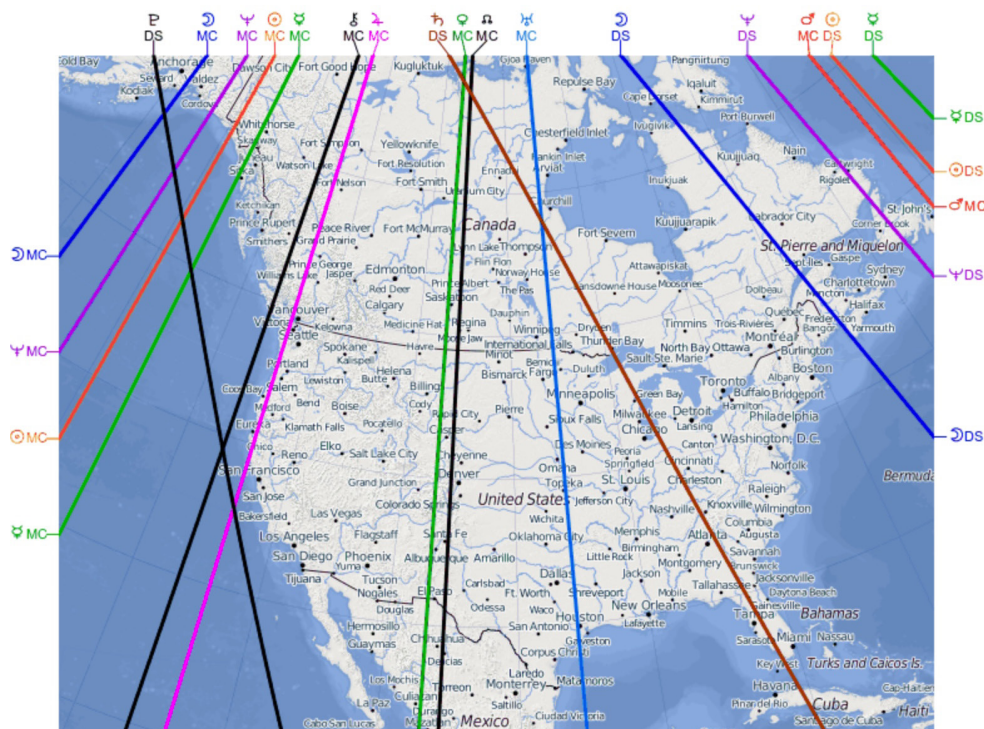
After each of these passages, the Moon must go more than halfway around the zodiac — to Pluto in very late Capricorn — before encountering another planetary body. That suggests an extended buildup of force until eruptive release. Thus, the dates of the Moon's crossing of Pluto's position — April 13, May 10, and June 7 — are when extra vigilance will likely be needed through the world's various Pluto zones.

Dry patterns predominate from when the Moon crosses Mars's position until the Moon reaches that of Saturn: about three weeks, three times through the season. This is apt to be most pronounced in the Northeast, where Saturn was setting at the ingress moment.

The applying Moon-Neptune conjunction in watery Pisces is an astrological alarm bell for deluges and inundations, especially for, but not limited to, those regions where they appear on the IC of the season chart. Those include the contested border between Russia to the east and Ukraine and the Baltic states to the west. A bogged-down war situation seems likely, imposed largely by soggy conditions. Prime periods of flooding as well as fogs would be when the Moon returns to that zodiacal area: April 16, May 13 and June 10, especially the latter. The Full Moon on June 3 lights up the IC-MC axis, signaling major heat before the major moisture arrives a week later.

The curiously exact conjunction of Venus and the North Lunar Node serves as a reminder that Venus (along with Uranus) is involved in the current eclipse axis. This suggests a stop-and-start character to the arrival of much-needed agricultural moisture — not what vast

## Astromap



regions need at this point. Their high-potency joint IC line passes through western India, where the spring season is typically a dry one, preceding the summer monsoon.

Beyond strictly weather-related issues, this conjunction portends some highly significant developments in areas of biological research and experimentation. Noting that Venus and the North Node oppose the position of the previous solar eclipse (in October 2022) one can get some sense of the great importance of both efforts and programs whose guiding visions are to let Nature be: definitely non-engineering, mycelial, embedded in distinct locales. One more Mars bit: that planet's presence in Leo from May 20 through June and into July marks a peak in the fire season. The prior passage of Mars through Cancer — beginning March 25 — also qualifies as a hot period with high humidity; Mars in Leo signals the most intense dry heat. One might compare this time to 2021, when Mars entered Leo on June 11. The incidence of western wildfires jumped considerably.<sup>4</sup>

There seems to be no getting around the representations that spring in North America in 2023 will continue in the veins of great trials and tribulations. And yet far greater challenges seem determined to visit other regions, for now.

### “Dark Age Herald”

With that set of astrological patterns in mind, it may be helpful to investigate the one that marked a truly great calamity. The mystery of 535 CE definitely qualifies.

The year may not immediately seem a prominent one in the world's annals, yet from it came many of the kernels of the modern world.<sup>5</sup> The most extensive climate disaster in recorded history precipitated a vast array of economic, social, political, and theological crises, breakdown and rearrangement.

The event, based on an assemblage of historical shards, was probably an extremely potent volcanic eruption in the same general area as the one that yielded “the year without summer” (see *The Mountain Astrologer*, “Charting the Weather,” Aries Nox 2022 issue). Records from 1,500 years ago are rather sketchy, but among them are Chinese mentions of a thunderous noise that seemed to emanate from far beyond the realm, in the south. Tree ring, ice core, and volcanic deposit analyses also appear to point toward the year 535 for the precipitating event.

A core astrological principle for such an inflection point is that it must be represented by an unusual and concentrated configuration of the large planets: Not only do they together symbolize the various evolutionary forces, they also comprise the bulk of the non-solar mass of the solar system.

The Full Moon in Leo in February 535 would appear to be the culmination of an extreme-tension period within an era of grand upheaval. The latter is shown in the chart by Saturn and Uranus in Leo opposite Neptune in Aquarius, linking up closely with Sun–Moon. Biggest-planet Jupiter was not part of the axis. Note that, then as now, Pluto was moving through Capricorn.

The chart for the Aries solar ingress 535 CE (see **Chart 2**, p. 55) in the following month offers confirmation that immense disruptive forces and events were likely in play. The ingress occurred hours before a New Moon that was also a solar eclipse in the first degree of Aries, and less than two days after Venus's inferior conjunction at the end of Pisces. The ingress moment calculated for the eruption area also included another very potent and exact planetary combination: Mars and Saturn 90° apart, each planet debilitated by sign. Mars in the earth element (Taurus) and Saturn in fire (Leo) aptly represented the primary forces that shattered whatever sense of stability remained a century after the sack of Rome (August 24, 410 CE). Civilizations around the world were thrown into deep crisis conditions.

The Full Moon following the Aries ingress was a total lunar eclipse — in itself a harbinger of notable disruptions in established patterns — and was now aligned with Jupiter, another high-gravitational-force moment.

The crowning factor in the ingress was Mars exactly at the MC: the triumph of molten earth bursting from the underworld. Oh, and Pluto was out of bounds.

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(All URLs accessed November 2022.)

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# Where's That Moon?

## 2023

PST/PDT

GMT

### Lunar Ingresses & Void Moons

Ingresses		Void Times		Last Aspect
Day	Time			
28	6:40 PM	3	6:23 AM	☾ ☽
3	7:16 AM	5	7:18 PM	☾ ☽
5	7:38 PM	8	6:07 AM	☾ ☽
8	6:44 AM	10	3:37 PM	☾ ☽
10	4:06 PM	12	10:59 PM	☾ ☽
12	11:21 PM	15	12:50 AM	☾ ☽
15	4:06 AM	17	6:14 AM	☾ ☽
17	6:25 AM	19	2:33 AM	☾ ☽
19	7:12 AM	21	7:58 AM	☾ ☽
21	8:00 AM	23	9:13 AM	☾ ☽
23	10:41 AM	25	8:19 AM	☾ ☽
25	4:42 PM	27	5:39 PM	☾ ☽
28	2:22 AM	30	5:46 AM	☾ ☽
30	2:30 PM			

PACIFIC STANDARD TIME

MARCH

### Lunar Ingresses & Void Moons

Ingresses		Void Times		Last Aspect
Day	Time			
26	3:47 PM	1	1:06 AM	☾ ☽
1	2:40 AM	3	2:23 PM	☾ ☽
3	3:16 PM	6	3:18 AM	☾ ☽
6	3:38 AM	8	2:07 PM	☾ ☽
8	2:44 PM	10	11:37 PM	☾ ☽
11	12:06 AM	13	6:59 AM	☾ ☽
13	7:21 AM	15	8:50 AM	☾ ☽
15	12:06 PM	17	2:14 PM	☾ ☽
17	2:25 PM	19	10:33 AM	☾ ☽
19	3:12 PM	21	3:58 PM	☾ ☽
21	4:00 PM	23	5:13 PM	☾ ☽
23	6:41 PM	25	4:19 PM	☾ ☽
26	12:42 AM	28	1:39 AM	☾ ☽
28	10:22 AM	30	1:46 PM	☾ ☽
30	10:30 PM			

GREENWICH MEAN TIME

### Lunar Ingresses & Void Moons

Ingresses		Void Times		Last Aspect
Day	Time			
30	3:30 PM	1	11:03 PM	☾ ☽
2	3:57 AM	4	6:50 AM	☾ ☽
4	2:51 PM	6	5:43 AM	☾ ☽
6	11:29 PM	9	2:09 AM	☾ ☽
9	5:56 AM	11	3:48 AM	☾ ☽
11	10:32 AM	13	7:13 AM	☾ ☽
13	1:42 PM	15	8:16 AM	☾ ☽
15	3:57 PM	17	11:56 AM	☾ ☽
17	6:09 PM	19	9:13 PM	☾ ☽
19	9:30 PM	21	8:41 PM	☾ ☽
22	3:11 AM	24	5:15 AM	☾ ☽
24	11:59 AM	26	4:41 PM	☾ ☽
26	11:30 PM	29	3:53 AM	☾ ☽
29	11:59 AM			

PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME

APRIL

### Lunar Ingresses & Void Moons

Ingresses		Void Times		Last Aspect
Day	Time			
30	10:30 PM	2	6:03 AM	☾ ☽
2	10:57 AM	4	1:50 PM	☾ ☽
4	9:51 PM	6	12:43 PM	☾ ☽
7	6:29 AM	9	9:09 AM	☾ ☽
9	12:56 PM	11	10:48 AM	☾ ☽
11	5:32 PM	13	2:13 PM	☾ ☽
13	8:42 PM	15	3:16 PM	☾ ☽
15	10:57 PM	17	6:56 PM	☾ ☽
18	1:09 AM	20	4:13 AM	☾ ☽
20	4:30 AM	22	3:41 AM	☾ ☽
22	10:11 AM	24	12:15 PM	☾ ☽
24	6:59 PM	26	11:41 PM	☾ ☽
27	6:30 AM	29	10:53 AM	☾ ☽
29	6:59 PM			

GREENWICH MEAN TIME

### Lunar Ingresses & Void Moons

Ingresses		Void Times		Last Aspect
Day	Time			
29	11:59 AM	1	4:53 PM	☾ ☽
1	11:09 PM	4	2:17 AM	☾ ☽
4	7:32 AM	6	7:37 AM	☾ ☽
6	1:03 PM	8	1:28 PM	☾ ☽
8	4:33 PM	10	4:51 PM	☾ ☽
10	7:04 PM	12	8:15 PM	☾ ☽
12	9:38 PM	14	7:56 PM	☾ ☽
15	12:56 AM	17	2:10 AM	☾ ☽
17	5:28 AM	19	10:50 AM	☾ ☽
19	11:48 AM	21	3:11 PM	☾ ☽
21	8:29 PM	24	2:12 AM	☾ ☽
24	7:35 AM	25	11:38 PM	☾ ☽
26	8:04 PM	29	2:46 AM	☾ ☽
29	7:51 AM	31	7:54 AM	☾ ☽
31	4:45 PM			

PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME

MAY

### Lunar Ingresses & Void Moons

Ingresses		Void Times		Last Aspect
Day	Time			
29	6:59 PM	1	11:53 PM	☾ ☽
2	6:09 AM	4	9:17 AM	☾ ☽
4	2:32 PM	6	2:37 PM	☾ ☽
6	8:03 PM	8	8:28 PM	☾ ☽
8	11:33 PM	10	11:51 PM	☾ ☽
11	2:04 AM	13	3:15 AM	☾ ☽
13	4:38 AM	15	2:56 AM	☾ ☽
15	7:56 AM	17	9:10 AM	☾ ☽
17	12:28 PM	19	5:50 PM	☾ ☽
19	6:48 PM	21	10:11 PM	☾ ☽
22	3:29 AM	24	9:12 AM	☾ ☽
24	2:35 PM	26	6:38 AM	☾ ☽
27	3:04 AM	29	9:46 AM	☾ ☽
29	2:51 PM	31	2:54 PM	☾ ☽
31	11:45 PM			

GREENWICH MEAN TIME

Add or subtract hours to convert the times listed above to your time zone: [www.dateful.com](http://www.dateful.com).

# Phases of the Moon

<b>GB</b>	Mar 3 2023	2:19a	☾	☾	☾	27° 33' D	12° 34' D
<b>FL</b>	Mar 7 2023	4:40a	☾	☾	☾	16° 40' D	16° 40' D
<b>DS</b>	Mar 11 2023	2:32a	☾	☾	☾	05° 34' D	20° 34' D
<b>LQ</b>	Mar 14 2023	7:08p	☾	☾	☾	24° 13' D	24° 13' D
<b>BL</b>	Mar 18 2023	3:58a	☾	☾	☾	12° 34' D	27° 34' D
<b>NW</b>	Mar 21 2023	10:22a	☾	☾	☾	00° 49' D	00° 49' D
<b>CR</b>	Mar 24 2023	9:58p	☾	☾	☾	19° 17' D	04° 17' D
<b>FQ</b>	Mar 28 2023	7:32p	☾	☾	☾	08° 08' D	08° 08' D
<b>GB</b>	Apr 1 2023	10:23p	☾	☾	☾	27° 12' D	12° 12' D
<b>FL</b>	Apr 5 2023	9:34p	☾	☾	☾	16° 07' D	16° 07' D
<b>DS</b>	Apr 9 2023	2:24p	☾	☾	☾	04° 45' D	19° 45' D
<b>LQ</b>	Apr 13 2023	2:11a	☾	☾	☾	23° 11' D	23° 11' D
<b>BL</b>	Apr 16 2023	11:07a	☾	☾	☾	11° 29' D	26° 29' D
<b>NW</b>	Apr 19 2023	9:12p	☾	☾	☾	29° 50' D	29° 50' D
<b>CR</b>	Apr 23 2023	1:42p	☾	☾	☾	18° 26' D	03° 26' D
<b>FQ</b>	Apr 27 2023	2:19p	☾	☾	☾	07° 21' D	07° 21' D
<b>GB</b>	May 1 2023	4:00p	☾	☾	☾	26° 18' D	11° 18' D
<b>FL</b>	May 5 2023	10:33a	☾	☾	☾	14° 58' D	14° 58' D
<b>DS</b>	May 8 2023	10:12p	☾	☾	☾	03° 20' D	18° 20' D
<b>LQ</b>	May 12 2023	7:28a	☾	☾	☾	21° 36' D	21° 36' D
<b>BL</b>	May 15 2023	6:10p	☾	☾	☾	09° 56' D	24° 56' D
<b>NW</b>	May 19 2023	8:53a	☾	☾	☾	28° 25' D	28° 25' D
<b>CR</b>	May 23 2023	6:00a	☾	☾	☾	17° 09' D	02° 09' D
<b>FQ</b>	May 27 2023	8:22a	☾	☾	☾	06° 05' D	06° 05' D
<b>GB</b>	May 31 2023	7:18a	☾	☾	☾	24° 53' D	09° 53' D

NW = New, CR = Crescent, FQ = First Quarter, GB = Gibbous, FL = Full, DS = Diseminating, LQ = Last Quarter, BL = Balsamic

## KEY TO ASTROLOGICAL SYMBOLS

### Signs

♈	Aries
♉	Taurus
♊	Gemini
♋	Cancer
♌	Leo
♍	Virgo
♎	Libra
♏	Scorpio
♐	Sagittarius
♑	Capricorn
♒	Aquarius
♓	Pisces

**BEGINNERS:** Planets occupy signs and form exact aspects to one another when separated by the designated number of degrees. The **midpoint** between any two planets is determined by finding the place in the zodiac equally distant from those two planets. The **North Node** and **South Node** are astronomical points (not physical objects) determined by the intersection of the Moon's orbit around the Earth with the Earth's orbit around the Sun.

### Planets

☉	Sun	☾	Moon	☿	Mercury
♀	Venus	♂	Mars	♃	Jupiter
♄	Saturn	♅	Uranus	♆	Neptune
♇	Pluto	♁	North Node	♂	South Node
♁	Chiron	♀	Pallas	♁	Juno
♂	Ceres	♁	Vesta	♁	Eris

### Aspects

0°	☿	Conjunction
180°	♈	Opposition
120°	♊	Trine
90°	☐	Square
30°	♊	Semi-Sextile
60°	♊	Sextile
150°	♊	Quincunx
45°	♊	Semi-Square
135°	☐	Sesquiquadrate
72°	♊	Quintile
51°26'	♊	Septile
144°	♊ <sup>2</sup>	Bi-Quintile
		Parallel
	#	Contra-Parallel



# FORECAST CALENDAR

**March 1 to May 31, 2023**

*by Pam Youngmans*

*All times given are in Pacific Standard Time through March 12, 2023.*

*Starting on March 13, times given are in Pacific Daylight Time.*

*For Eastern Time, add 3 hours; Central Time, add 2 hours; Mountain Time, add 1 hour.*

*For Greenwich Mean Time, add 8 hours through March 12; thereafter, add 7 hours.*



## Overview for March 1 through May 31, 2023

In the beginning of March, memorable opportunities are highlighted when Venus conjoins expansive Jupiter on **March 1**, and Mercury and Saturn are at the anaretic degree of Aquarius; their exact conjunction on **March 2** occurs less than nine hours before Mercury enters Pisces. This Mercury–Saturn rendezvous represents a strong reality check, making us aware of the social progress (or lack thereof) that has been achieved over the past two years while Saturn has moved through the sign of the Water Bearer. The analytical Virgo Full Moon on **March 7** likewise increases the tendency to judge situations with a critical eye. This is the same day that practical Saturn enters the sign of the Fishes for a two-year transit. Arguably the most significant astrological event in the first quarter of 2023, this ingress offers a counterbalance to last year's idealistic Jupiter–Neptune conjunction in Pisces. Saturn's task, as always, is to help us become more objective about the activities associated with the sign it is transiting. While in Pisces, the Ringed Planet will be asking us to invest in our ideals in concrete ways, rather than merely wishing for our dreams to come true. Under Saturn's watch, it is no longer acceptable to

merely espouse spiritual values; we must now implement them, to see whether they can live up to the tests of practical application. This is a time to demonstrate how spiritual maturity can truly change the world. Those who are involved in projects that utilize the Piscean qualities of imagination and intuition may give form to their creative aspirations while Saturn is in Pisces.

With its approximately 30-year orbit of the Sun, Saturn was previously in the sign of the Fishes from late May 1993 until late June 1993, and then from late January 1994 until early April 1996. Relevant historical events during those months, which embody both the patience and discipline represented by Saturn and Pisces' watery motif, include the opening of the Channel Tunnel in 1994. The completion of this underwater project brought a dream into reality, that of providing a railway link between Britain and France. As Pisces is considered a feminine sign but Saturn represents patriarchal authority, we also see examples of "the weaker sex" taking on typically male-dominated roles during Saturn's last journey through Pisces. Headlines of the day announced that the first women were assigned to serve aboard a US Navy combatant ship, that the

first 33 female priests were ordained by the Church of England, and that British mountain climber Alison Hargreaves had scaled Mount Everest without support. Piscean imagination took on tangible form with the launch of the PlayStation game system, as well as the release of two groundbreaking movies: *Jurassic Park*, the first computer-generated imagery (CGI) production, and *Toy Story*, the first full-length computer-animated feature film. In keeping with other Saturn in Pisces themes, the mid-1990s also saw a resurgence in the use of psychedelic substances and an increase in the mainstream news referring to people who claimed to be “spiritual but not religious.”

It will be an interesting astrological exercise to track how these themes play out over the next two years. Saturn will move through the twelfth sign from early March 2023 until it enters Aries in late May 2025; the Ringed Planet will then go retrograde and revisit Pisces from early September 2025 to mid-February 2026.

Hopeful Jupiter may either inspire wishful thinking or exaggerate insecurities when it conjoins Chiron in Aries on **March 11**; if the latter, this alignment also provides an opportunity to heal wounds that have undermined faith and self-confidence. With the Great Planet then conjunct dedicated Vesta on **March 12**, the embers of sacred fires are stirred into flame, and we are inspired to seek spiritual answers to life's questions. However, “real world” directions are unclear as Mars squares Neptune on **March 14**; a foggy state of mind is also likely, due to Mercury's conjunction with Neptune and square to Mars on **March 16**.

The astrological New Year begins at 2:24 p.m. on **March 20**, when the Sun makes ingress into Aries. The equinox chart, which reveals cosmic intentions for the next three months, is highlighted by the Sun's conjunction with Mercury at 3°24' Aries, its out-of-sign conjunction with Neptune at 25°18' Pisces, and its out-of-sign square to Mars at 27°48' Gemini. Based on these aspects, it looks like we can expect significant information sharing in the second quarter of 2023, no doubt inspiring a fair amount of debate (Mars in Gemini), but also asking us to communicate with new levels of compassion and understanding (Neptune). In effect at the equinox but exact the next day, Jupiter in Aries is semi-square Saturn in Pisces, indicating a confusing mix of optimism and pessimism about the future. An Aries New Moon is on the calendar for **March 21**, further emphasizing the themes established in the equinox chart and anchoring them into the new lunar cycle.

As spring gets underway in the Northern Hemisphere and fall is welcomed south of the equator, all eyes are on dwarf planet Pluto, destined to enter socially conscious Aquarius on **March 23**, for the first time in 225 years. In many ways, Pluto's transit through the sign of the Water Bearer will be reminiscent of the mid-1960s, when Pluto was conjunct Uranus, the planetary ruler of

Aquarius. One theme that was prevalent in the turbulent '60s, which will repeat in Pluto's 20-year journey of the eleventh sign, is the drive to transform society through returning the “power to the people.” Under this influence, in contrast to centralized governments establishing rules that all must follow, individuals who share similar goals and ideals will seek to form new, self-sufficient communities. These co-ops are likely to be based on progressive ideals such as renewable energy and shared responsibility. However, some of these groups may be fanatical in their expression as their members rebel against previous controls and trigger reactions from the powers-that-were. Our use of technology will certainly go through a metamorphosis during the Pluto in Aquarius years. We are also likely to see breakthroughs in physics, in our understanding of “dark matter” and “junk DNA,” and changes in how we comprehend the human psyche and handle death and dying.

The last time Pluto transited Aquarius was from 1778 to 1798. Pertinent events during those years included the ratification of the United States Constitution and the creation of the Bill of Rights; the Industrial Revolution, when steam power revolutionized transport and textiles; and John Mitchell's presentation of his theory of black holes (1784). Representing a profound shift in the understanding of individual rights, the state of Virginia was the first US state to abolish slave trade (1778), and Denmark became the first nation to likewise make the sale of humans illegal (1792). The ideals of individualism and rationalism were expressed through publications such as Immanuel Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781), Thomas Paine's *Rights of Man* (1791) and *The Age of Reason* (1794), and Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792). The French Revolution that began in 1789 was built upon the concepts of *liberté, égalité, et fraternité*, and an atheist religion called the Cult of Reason was founded in 1794. All of these events contributed to these two decades being called the Age of Reason, also known as the Age of Enlightenment.

Pluto makes only a very brief first foray into airy Aquarius in 2023; the God of the Underworld stations retrograde on **May 1** at 0°21' Aquarius and returns to Capricorn on June 11. After going direct on October 10, it then re-enters Aquarius on January 21, 2024, but dips back into Capricorn one more time in 2024 before settling into Aquarius “for good.”

The Full Moon on **April 5** occurs at 16°07' Libra and begins the countdown to the first eclipse season of 2023. When the Lights align on **April 19**, at 29°50' Aries, an annular solar eclipse will occur. The theme of endings and beginnings, always woven into the energies of a New Moon, is heightened at this lunation, due to its falling in the final, anaretic degree of the sign. Adding to the intensity of this lunation, the two Lights are in tight aspect to transformational Pluto, only 30 arc minutes



shy of being exactly square. With Pluto at 00°20' Aquarius, this is an out-of-sign square, which may somewhat ameliorate its combative tendencies, since fire (Aries) and air (Aquarius) signs are innately compatible. The next day, **April 20**, the Sun enters Taurus and exactly squares Pluto, fully activating the tension of a hard aspect between planets in fixed signs.

Situations become even more complex on **April 21** as Mercury stations retrograde at 15°37' Taurus, coming to a standstill while conjunct both the Moon (15°53' Taurus) and Uranus (17°52' Taurus). With these aspects dominating the “birth chart” for Mercury’s retrograde phase, erratic emotions and the urgent need to communicate feelings will be an ongoing theme throughout the next three weeks. Instinctive reflexes are especially strong as Jupiter conjoins tactless Eris in Aries on **April 23**; this reactivity is deepened by Pluto’s retrograde station on **May 1**.

A penumbral (appluse) lunar eclipse occurs on **May 5** when the Scorpio Moon opposes the Taurus Sun, each at 14°58' of their respective signs. With unpredictable Uranus in Taurus less than four degrees away from the Sun, this event represents another wave of deep change and may evoke surprisingly volatile emotional responses. Empathy for others is enhanced beginning on **May 7**, the day that Venus makes ingress into caring Cancer for a month-long transit of the sign. On **May 14**, Mercury stations direct at 5°50' Taurus, once again turning our attention to the future and supporting steady progress in practical endeavors. Giant planet Jupiter makes ingress into earthy Taurus on **May 16**; over the next twelve months, we find renewed hope and faith through a

deepening connection with nature and by choosing to live more simply. During this time, we are less likely to take uncalculated risks, preferring to enjoy that which is familiar and comforting.

However, Jupiter squares Pluto in Aquarius on **May 17**, challenging us to look beyond immediate gratification and to continue to push for social change. This powerful theme is also anchored into the new lunar cycle that begins on **May 19**; the Moon is at 28°25' Taurus for the lunation, in close aspect to Jupiter and Pluto at 0° Taurus and Aquarius, respectively. Further activation of the tension occurs over the next few days as Mars enters Leo and opposes Pluto on **May 20**, then squares Jupiter on **May 22**, forming a fixed t-square.

**Wednesday, March 1 – Friday, March 3:** In an ideal world, everyone would take a holiday on **Wednesday**, the first day of March. The strongest influence in effect today is tonight’s somewhat hedonistic Venus–Jupiter conjunction (12°08' Aries) that encourages very active pleasure-seeking. A Moon–Sun trine (120°) at 5:10 p.m. helps us to express some of our nurturing instinct, but with the Cancer Moon then square (90°) Venus (6:50 p.m.) and square Jupiter (7:04 p.m.), motherly overtures may feel like a wet blanket thrown on the fires of passion. Misunderstandings lead to late-night hurt feelings, with the Moon square Chiron at 10:41 p.m. and Mercury semi-square (45°) the Wounded Healer at 11:29 p.m.

Serious conversations are the first item on the agenda on **Thursday** morning. Mercury is conjunct Saturn to start the day (29°24' Aquarius), leading to a discussion of the meaning of true and equal friendship. Know-it-all attitudes ease this afternoon when the Messenger Planet enters adaptable Pisces (2:51 p.m.) and we start to communicate more from our hearts than from our minds. Tonight’s empathetic trine between the Cancer Moon and Neptune (8:23 p.m.) helps us to become more sensitive to the unspoken needs of loved ones.

Emotions are easily triggered on **Friday** morning, with a Moon–Pluto opposition (180°) at 6:23 a.m. Luna’s ingress into good-natured Leo at 7:16 a.m. could ease the tension, but some may also become more theatrical in expressing their feelings. With Venus conjunct sensitive Chiron in impatient Aries this morning, old relationship scars are revealed, giving us the opportunity for some personal healing — if we can sit still long enough. Issues we don’t address early in the day will return to haunt us this evening as a discouraging Venus–Saturn semi-square perfects at 10:00 p.m.

**Saturday, March 4 – Monday, March 6:** The sun seems to shine more brightly on **Saturday**, assisted by trines from the romantic Leo Moon to generous Jupiter (8:56 a.m.), to healer Chiron (11:38 a.m.), and to loving Venus (2:28 p.m.). However, a Moon–Uranus square at 2:53 p.m. could break the spell, if we have taken on a role that isn’t truly authentic for us. Mercury is

## GEOCENTRIC ASPECTS, INGRESSES, AND STATIONS

Pacific Time

Mar 1 2023	4:39a	♀	♂	♂	11°T17' D	11°♊17' D
Mar 1 2023	9:10a	♀	♂	♂	11°T30' D	29°♊30' D
Mar 1 2023	4:42p	♂	♂	♂	24°♊35' D	24°T35' D
Mar 1 2023	5:54p	♂	♂	♂	28°♊31' D	04°♊31' R
Mar 1 2023	9:35p	♀	♂	♂	12°T08' D	12°T08' D
Mar 1 2023	9:51p	♂	♂	♂	11°♊22' D	11°♊22' D
Mar 1 2023	11:29p	♂	♂	♂	28°♊54' D	13°T54' D
Mar 2 2023	4:46a	♂	♂	♂	+13°25'	+13°25'
Mar 2 2023	6:34a	♂	♂	♂	29°♊24' D	29°♊24' D
Mar 2 2023	8:20a	♂	♂	♂	29°♊32' D	29°♊32' D
Mar 2 2023	8:58a	♂	♂	♂	-00°54'	-00°54'
Mar 2 2023	2:51p	♂	♂	♂	00°♊00' D	00°♊00' D
Mar 2 2023	3:23p	♂	♂	♂	-13°28'	+13°28'
Mar 2 2023	4:48p	♂	♂	♂	-06°59'	+06°59'
Mar 2 2023	6:16p	♂	♂	♂	-13°24'	+13°24'
Mar 2 2023	9:39p	♂	♂	♂	12°♊22' D	12°T22' D
Mar 3 2023	9:47a	♀	♂	♂	13°T59' D	13°T59' D
Mar 3 2023	2:26p	♂	♂	♂	29°♊34' D	29°♊34' D
Mar 3 2023	5:35p	♂	♂	♂	-12°48'	-12°48'
Mar 3 2023	10:00p	♀	♂	♂	14°T36' D	29°♊36' D
Mar 4 2023	0:04a	♂	♂	♂	20°T27' D	05°♊27' R
Mar 4 2023	4:59a	♂	♂	♂	02°♊43' D	24°T09' D

## VIRGO FULL MOON — MARCH 7, 2023

**March 7, 2023 — 4:40 a.m. PST**  
**March 7, 2023 — 12:40 p.m. GMT**

by Diana McMahon Collis

The Virgo Full Moon prompts us to find balance between practical, down-to-earth tasks and emotional, spiritual connections. Sometimes it's difficult to access the deeper, subtler sides of life experiences, but when we become attuned — working from feelings and intuition — we can find the handling of ordinary, mundane affairs distressing! The focus on the Virgo/Pisces axis during this lunation challenges our sense of reality and urges us to work out our true priorities. Examples include: someone fighting through a difficult divorce for economic reasons, staying in an unsatisfying job, or remaining in a less-than-ideal domestic situation. But ultimately, an untenable point could be reached and prompt us to step away for mental health reasons. Managing such extreme situations can be trying — but it doesn't have to be that way!

This lunation shows the Sun in between Neptune and Mercury and the Moon in direct opposition to them all. These aspects are slightly wide for a typical “allowed orb” of eight degrees — but when the Lights are concerned, we may allow a few extra degrees for major aspects. With the Moon in Virgo, a range of options are offered through Neptune, the Sun, and Mercury. Some physical, mundane actions or connections, informed by choices related to Mercury and Neptune, could be important. Mercury typically plays devil's advocate, which means that even where we think we have no choice, our thoughts present another option! With Neptune, we may need a temporary escape: our job has to be

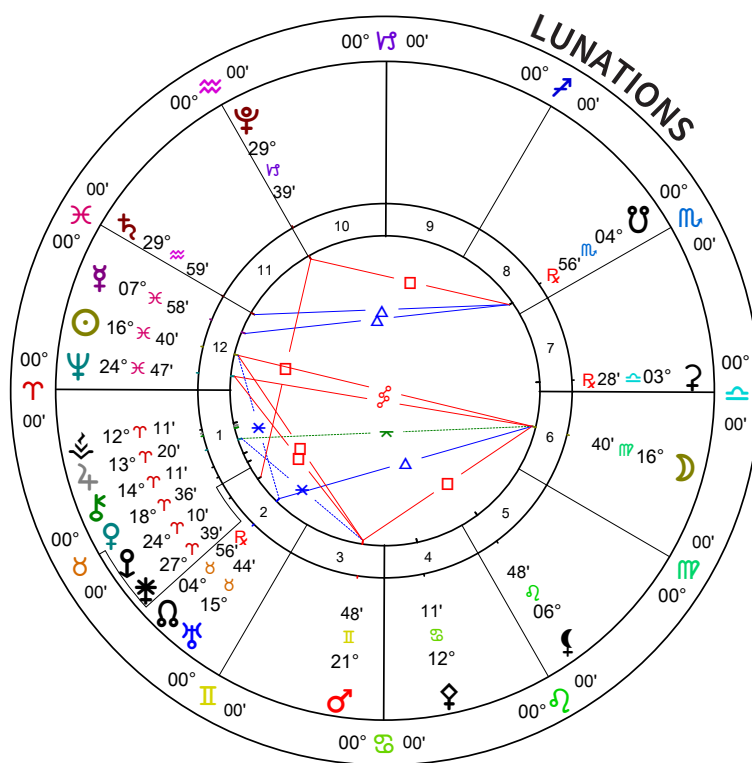
done, so we build in a break with a walk through the park or woods, or by the stream or sea. Or we connect with music, poetry, fluid physical movements in exercise or dance — or any other activity with a flowing, freeing Neptunian quality that raises our sense of consciousness above the harsh moment of “now.”

Mercury has the upper hand in some ways, since this planet disposes the Moon, as well as Mars, which the Moon squares. Thus, we may be able to talk or write our way through something: anything from plotting out dialogue between characters in a novel to a straightforward text conversation with a friend — even in short-form and symbols! Or maybe we journal our thoughts — “I feel ‘X’ about what happened with ‘Y’ ...” and, before we know it, we connect with feelings that reveal how a recent incident is rooted in memories of a more distant event. Instead of feeling stuck in a loop or

flummoxed by too many choices, we find clarity — and some sort of release.

The closest aspect of the Moon is a trine to Uranus in Taurus, helping us connect afresh with the real world. Often, when Uranus plays a part in our affairs, the universe has our back and sweeps us forward with little effort of our own! We may hit snags or get messy here and there, but surely we'll have something up and running quickly under this transit, and we'll be supported by other people's efforts. Jagged edges can be smoothed later.

As Taurus is Venus-ruled, a new opportunity promises pleasure, or at least basic satisfaction and fulfillment. Even if we experience slight shocks or over-excitement dealing with the unknown and quick developments, we can trust that something good is coming!



*Charts are all set on the natural wheel  
with 0° Aries rising & True Nodes*



quincunx (150°) Ceres this evening (3°56' Pisces–Libra), indicating that we may have hurt feelings due to the expectation that others will magically know what we need, even if we don't speak our wishes out loud.

An early-morning Sun–Pluto semi-square on *Sunday* draws out deeper fears that some have kept hidden until now, perhaps causing them to try to control or manipulate the situation or other people. Fortunately, Mercury in understanding Pisces is sextile (60°) the Taurus North Node True position this afternoon, helping us to choose calm words instead of being reactive. However, as the Leo Moon opposes critical Saturn at 7:18 p.m. this evening and then enters perfectionist Virgo twenty minutes later, we are less apt to take lightly what we perceive as “faults.”

The Pisces Sun sextiles Uranus at dawn on *Monday* (15°42' Pisces–Taurus); this aspect may help us to intuit new, creative solutions to problems, or it may encourage us to take the day off to let flying dust settle. It is unwise to try to clear the air this morning, with an opposition between the Virgo Moon and Mercury at 8:32 a.m.

**Tuesday, March 7 – Thursday, March 9:** The current lunar cycle reaches its climax with a Virgo Full Moon at 4:40 a.m. on *Tuesday*. Almost exactly an hour later,

Saturn makes ingress into Pisces for the first time since 1996, initiating a test of faith but also, ultimately, an opportunity to strengthen our spiritual foundation over the next two years. Emotions run high this afternoon, when an irritating Moon–Mars square (3:06 p.m.) unleashes unkind criticisms. Later, a confusing Moon–Neptune opposition (8:39 p.m.) could compel us to blame others for our problems. Adding to the likelihood of arguments that lead nowhere this evening, Mercury in circuitous Pisces is semi-square spirited Eris.

The ground feels more solid beneath our feet first thing on *Wednesday* morning, with an earthy Moon–Pluto trine at 6:07 a.m. While this aspect reminds us of what we want to accomplish at work today, Luna is soon distracted by other concerns, entering relationship-centered Libra at 6:44 a.m. The only other aspect of note on today's calendar is a nurturing Moon–Ceres conjunction during the noon hour that provides an amiable setting for lunch with a friend.

The Libra Moon is again the center of activity on *Thursday*, but Luna does not keep her balance very well this morning. An overly optimistic Moon–Jupiter opposition at 9:27 a.m. could inspire grand dreams about the future, but a Moon–Chiron opposition less than an hour later indicates that a lack of attention to the present may be hurtful to a companion. The other lunar aspects in effect today are all minor but also challenging: a cold-shouldered sesquiquadrate (135°) to Saturn at 12:09 p.m., an equivocating quincunx to Uranus at 1:14 p.m., and a discouraging quincunx to the Sun at 7:52 p.m.

**Friday, March 10 – Saturday, March 11:** While predawn Luna seems to be contented enough, finding balance as she opposes Venus (1:06 a.m.) and feeling energized by a trine to Mars (3:00 a.m.), the light of day on *Friday* tells a different story. Irritations rise along with the Sun, due to a Moon–Eris opposition at 5:10 a.m., while a Moon–Pluto square this afternoon (3:37 p.m.) triggers a cascade of long-suppressed feelings. Staying on the track of emotional honesty, Luna then enters truth-seeking Scorpio at 4:06 p.m., but is somewhat contained in her self-revelations as she trines Saturn within the hour. A passive-aggressive Mercury–Pluto semi-square that perfects late tonight is a sign that discussions are far from productive this evening.

Consensus should be easier to reach during the morning hours on *Saturday*, bolstered by an agreeable Venus–Mars sextile at daybreak (23°34' Aries–Gemini) and a tolerant Mercury–Uranus sextile just after lunch. There is less support for a meeting of the minds as the day wears on, however; Venus is conjunct contrary Eris early this evening, and the Scorpio Moon opposes undisciplined Uranus at 9:42 p.m. Tonight's Jupiter–Chiron conjunction (14°26' Aries) is the main complicating factor, exaggerating old wounds and making it difficult to see beyond our own fears. Under these conditions, the best opportunity for reasonable

Mar 4 2023	11:34a	☉	S	♈	13°36'57"	D	05°8'23"	♈
Mar 4 2023	1:48p	☉	♋	♈	14°36'02"	D	14°1'02"	D
Mar 4 2023	5:56p	☿	Q	♋	03°36'39"	D	15°8'39"	D
Mar 4 2023	6:45p	♀	♋	♋	15°1'39"	D	15°8'39"	D
Mar 4 2023	9:42p	☿	♋	♋	03°36'56"	D	03°36'56"	♈
Mar 4 2023	10:15p	♀	#	♋	-13°43'		+13°43'	
Mar 5 2023	3:14a	☉	♋	♋	14°36'36"	D	29°13'36"	D
Mar 5 2023	7:33a	☉	#	♀	-05°59'		+05°59'	
Mar 5 2023	2:57p	☿	♋	♈	05°36'11"	D	05°8'11"	♈
Mar 5 2023	6:09p	☿	S	♋	05°36'25"	D	26°1'51"	D
Mar 5 2023	10:21p	☿	Q	♋	29°13'37"	D	11°1'37"	D
Mar 6 2023	5:30a	♀	#	♈	-13°13'		+13°13'	
Mar 6 2023	5:41a	☉	♋	♋	15°36'42"	D	15°8'42"	D
Mar 7 2023	4:19a	♋	☐	♀	12°1'11"	D	12°8'11"	D
Mar 7 2023	5:34a	♈	♈	♋	00°36'00"	D	00°36'00"	D
Mar 7 2023	11:11a	♀	//	♈	+07°05'		+07°05'	
Mar 7 2023	4:14p	♈	//	♀	-12°39'		-12°39'	
Mar 7 2023	8:56p	☿	♋	♀	09°36'11"	D	24°1'11"	D
Mar 8 2023	11:29a	☿	#	♋	-03°07'		+03°07'	
Mar 9 2023	6:51a	☉	#	♋	-04°26'		+04°26'	
Mar 9 2023	6:23p	♀	S	♈	21°1'43"	D	00°36'11"	D
Mar 9 2023	7:08p	☿	♋	♀	12°36'40"	D	12°8'40"	D
Mar 10 2023	2:58a	☿	S	♈	13°36'16"	D	04°8'42"	♈
Mar 10 2023	3:12a	☿	#	♀	-08°25'		+08°25'	
Mar 10 2023	5:27a	☉	♋	♋	19°36'42"	D	04°8'42"	♈
Mar 10 2023	7:15a	☿	♋	♋	13°36'36"	D	13°1'36"	D
Mar 10 2023	2:03p	☿	♋	♋	14°36'07"	D	14°1'07"	D
Mar 10 2023	5:18p	☿	♋	♋	14°36'22"	D	14°1'22"	D
Mar 10 2023	9:31p	☿	♋	♋	29°13'44"	D	29°1'44"	D
Mar 10 2023	10:05p	☿	♋	♋	14°36'44"	D	29°13'44"	D
Mar 10 2023	10:20p	☿	♋	♋	14°36'45"	D	29°1'45"	D
Mar 11 2023	0:52a	♈	SD		04°8'41"	D		
Mar 11 2023	7:04a	♀	♋	♈	23°1'34"	D	23°1'34"	D
Mar 11 2023	8:05a	☉	#	♋	-03°38'		+03°38'	
Mar 11 2023	8:15a	♋	♈	♈	00°8'00"	D	00°8'00"	D
Mar 11 2023	1:04p	☿	♋	♋	15°36'54"	D	15°8'54"	D
Mar 11 2023	5:14p	♈	Q	♀	23°1'45"	D	29°13'45"	D
Mar 11 2023	5:17p	☉	S	♀	21°36'11"	D	29°13'45"	D
Mar 11 2023	6:28p	☿	#	♈	-07°10'		+07°10'	
Mar 11 2023	7:48p	♀	♈	♀	24°1'13"	D	24°1'13"	D
Mar 11 2023	10:53p	♋	♈	♈	14°1'26"	D	14°1'26"	D
Mar 11 2023	11:03p	♋	#	♀	+00°52'		-00°52'	

## ARIES NEW MOON — MARCH 21, 2023

**March 21, 2023 — 10:22 a.m. PDT**  
**March 21, 2023 — 5:22 p.m. GMT**

by *Diana McMahon Collis*

The Aries New Moon has a decidedly fidgety feel — initiating projects and inspiring growth. After all, it is the vernal equinox, and new life vigorously emerges after winter dormancy. Besides, this lunation isn't just the Sun and Moon in Aries. Mercury and Jupiter are also here, alongside Eris, Chiron, and Vesta — a stellium concentrating impatient, potent Aries energy across a range of themes and focuses.

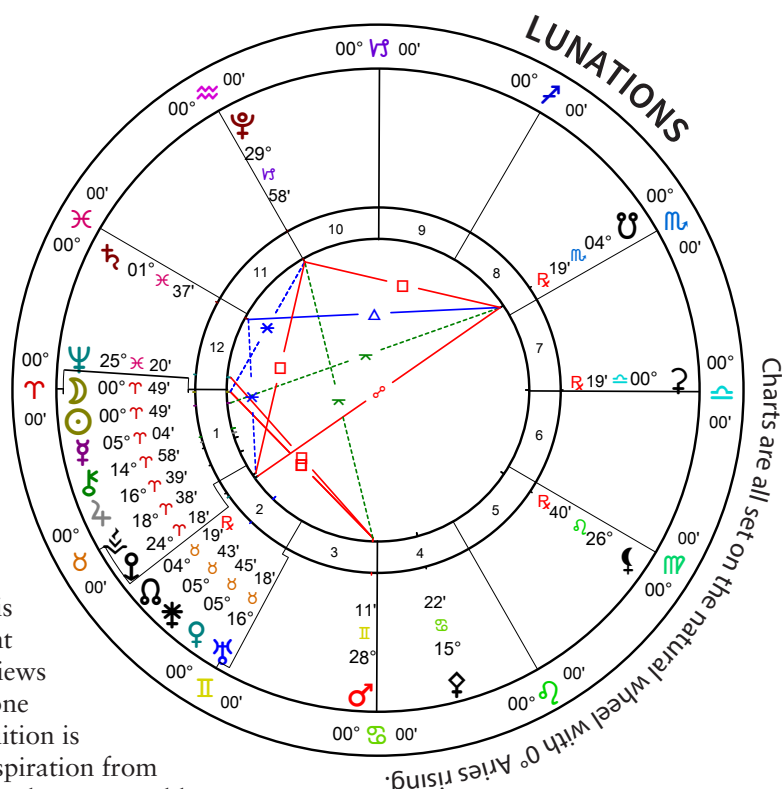
The momentum behind this cluster has potential to inspire innovation and advancement, surely stronger than we've experienced in a while! Yet, we can't ignore the Aries Moon and Ceres in Libra opposition, pointing to how others are fed and nourished. We might see this opposition as pitting needs based on emotion and instinct (represented by the Moon) against those of physical and dietary requirements necessary for overall bodily functioning.

Our gut instincts often flag us to something important, and the “animal,” survival impulse within us may react differently in response to information received from outside sources, such as that addressing specific health and nutritional needs prescribed by a medical professional. And given the Libra focus, this might mean we also consider others' needs! Here, we try to balance the pendulum so we're neither swinging between extremes nor ignoring a vital component or person in the process.

Whilst the Aries stellium is hard to miss, we must also account for an out-of-sign conjunction between the Aries Moon and Neptune in Pisces. This adds intuition and the drive to sift through a web of information

to get to the essence of what is needed. How is intuition different from instinct? Views may differ, but one angle is that intuition is like a flash of inspiration from nowhere in particular — it could be linked with the past or future, but is experienced in the present and may or may not be related to anything repeating. It's possible it's not especially personal but simply linking into something universal — psychologists Freud and C.G. Jung termed it the universal unconscious. Whereas instinct, a shared faculty among humans and animals, tends to have a more personal focus to it — and often relates to very basic drives, such as hunger and a fear of being attacked, or even killed. Hence, we may receive insight that will matter more personally to some and more generally to others, and we must rely upon our intelligence and judgement to discern its usefulness in our decision-making process!

Planets in out-of-sign aspects are a little like dealing with someone or something sidling up to you whilst you're busy doing something else. It's not exactly like being an athlete in a competitive race, because you would expect there to be other competitors trying to overtake you at some point. This is more like embarking on a mission or journey alone, without interruption, only to find that your attention ends up



a bit divided by other needs and priorities — whether your own or other people's. It may also relate to something missed or left behind that you meant to deal with and now need to take into account.

Anomalies in this lunation include a dissociate square of Moon to Mars in Gemini — which at first looks more like a sextile, until we consider the extreme difference of degrees involved (Moon, 0° Aries; Mars, 28° Gemini). And similarly, Moon sextile Pluto in Capricorn, which we might have expected to be a square had Pluto been earlier than 29° Capricorn. These aspects suggest that something we thought was going to go one way, or have a particular flavour is going to turn out rather differently. We needn't worry about it, but also shouldn't fall into complacency. It's very much a time for careful judgement, whilst accepting that a lot might not go to plan!



conversation is very late tonight, when Luna is trine Mercury (11:07 p.m.).

**Sunday, March 12 – Tuesday, March 14:** The Scorpio Moon trines the Pisces Sun at 9:31 a.m. on *Sunday*, helping to loosen some of our tight grip on unresolved resentments. Another wave of forgiveness washes over us mid-afternoon as a Moon–Neptune trine takes effect (3:18 p.m.). Even the mostly self-oriented duo, Mars and Eris, can contribute to communication efforts today through their sextile this evening. Meanwhile, a late-night Moon–Pluto sextile (11:59 p.m.) encourages new levels of honesty and intimacy.

Eager to be free of the intensity of the last couple of days, Luna enters restless Sagittarius at 12:21 a.m. on *Monday* — but her square to restrictive Saturn in Pisces an hour later stops her in her tracks, at least for the time being. With no other aspects of note today, we have plenty of time to consider — and reconsider — which direction we want to take.

Inspiration strikes very early on *Tuesday* morning, with the Sagittarius Moon trine Jupiter at 2:56 a.m. Still, we may meander more than we'd like today; Mars is square uncommitted Neptune this afternoon (2:50' Gemini–Pisces), causing us to question our desires and intentions. The Last Quarter Moon at 7:08 p.m. applies more pressure, reminding us of the projects that need to be completed before we start anything new. Luna then squares Neptune and opposes Mars tonight (8:38 p.m. and 8:45 p.m., respectively), forming a short-lived mutable t-square that leaves us feeling uncertain about where the road will lead us next.

**Wednesday, March 15 – Friday, March 17:** Luna establishes a businesslike tone to begin the day on *Wednesday* as she enters ambitious Capricorn at 5:06 a.m.; her sextile to responsible Saturn at 6:41 a.m. adds an extra shot of self-discipline to our morning brew. However, the major aspect today is a visionary Sun–Neptune conjunction (2:50'06' Pisces) that has a

much more fluid agenda. As this influence strengthens over the day, we may drift off course, perhaps following the wispy trail of an afternoon daydream.

Fault-finding eyes are especially critical early on *Thursday* morning as the judgmental Capricorn Moon squares Chiron (5:59 a.m.) and Jupiter (7:16 a.m.). It will be easier to shake off the nagging feeling of having done something wrong when the Moon–Uranus trine takes effect, exact at 8:21 a.m. It may be hard to focus on practical matters with Mercury conjunct Neptune mid-morning; the mind's tendency to wander could be the cause of some angry discussions, due to this morning's square between the ambivalent Pisces Sun and forthright Mars in Gemini. Power struggles could be more intense than anticipated with a Venus–Pluto square also in effect (29°52' Aries–Capricorn). We find some relief from the drama when the Goddess of Love enters her natural sign, peace-loving Taurus, at 3:33 p.m., but arguments are again likely this evening with a Mercury–Mars square perfecting at 9:48 p.m. An aggravating Moon–Eris square at about the same time accentuates tonight's contentious mood.

The Sun and Mercury conjoin early on *Friday*, their predawn rendezvous at 26°34' Pisces encouraging us to gently open the lines of communication. But Luna's conjunction with Pluto at 7:14 a.m. triggers a new round of emotional one-upmanship, making true détente unlikely. Relationship troubles continue when the Moon enters independent-minded Aquarius at 7:25 a.m. and then squares Venus in unyielding Taurus at 8:50 a.m. Thankfully, loyalty to loved ones is a priority, with a Venus–Saturn sextile in effect today (1°11' Taurus–Pisces). And yet, a commitment to someone who is not part of the “family circle” could complicate home life, with Ceres quincunx Saturn and sesquiquadrate Uranus tonight.

**Saturday, March 18 – Monday, March 20:** The Aquarius Moon leads the street parade on *Saturday* morning, starting off with energizing sextiles to healer Chiron (7:35 a.m.) and to confident Jupiter (9:26 a.m.) in Aries. The crowd soon gets unruly, however, overstimulated by a Moon–Uranus square at 9:49 a.m. After the hubbub settles, we are drawn to reflect on the purpose of life, these musings encouraged by a Mercury–Pluto sextile (29°55' Pisces–Capricorn) that perfects this evening. Once the Messenger Planet enters Aries at 9:23 p.m., our thoughts turn to the new frontiers that are stretching out before us, beckoning us to take a risk.

Our enthusiasm for new ventures may receive pushback from loved ones early on *Sunday* morning; a Mercury–Ceres opposition indicates that some family members may not support the risks we want to take. Although Luna's ingress into understanding Pisces at 8:12 a.m. could help to ease tensions, a responsible Moon–Saturn conjunction at 10:27 a.m. could alter our plans, at least for a few hours. As that influence fades and a noncompliant Mercury–Uranus semi-square takes

Pacific Daylight Time

Mar 12 2023	5:27a	♂	♂	♂	14° 12' 27" D	14° 12' 27" D
Mar 12 2023	9:55a	♂	♂	♂	14° 12' 32" D	14° 12' 32" D
Mar 12 2023	10:51a	♂	♂	♂	00° 36' 36" D	00° 36' 36" D
Mar 12 2023	12:08p	♀	♂	♂	24° 15' 59" D	24° 15' 59" D
Mar 12 2023	7:21p	♂	♂	♂	24° 11' 13" D	24° 11' 13" D
Mar 12 2023	8:48p	♂	♂	♂	-03° 03'	-03° 03'
Mar 13 2023	2:54p	♀	♂	♂	19° 36' 44" D	04° 8' 44" D
Mar 13 2023	10:28p	♀	♂	♂	+10° 16'	-10° 16'
Mar 14 2023	4:38a	♀	♂	♂	13° 33' 35" D	01° 8' 35" D
Mar 14 2023	9:55a	♀	♂	♂	21° 36' 15" D	29° 34' 49" D
Mar 14 2023	1:54p	♀	♂	♂	-04° 55'	+04° 55'
Mar 14 2023	4:38p	♂	♂	♂	25° 11' 04" D	25° 11' 04" D
Mar 14 2023	4:38p	♂	♂	♂	01° 8' 52" D	01° 8' 52" D
Mar 14 2023	7:17p	♂	♂	♂	04° 8' 45" D	04° 8' 45" D
Mar 14 2023	7:46p	♂	♂	♂	24° 11' 14" D	24° 11' 14" D
Mar 15 2023	4:44a	♂	♂	♂	24° 36' 37" D	16° 8' 03" D
Mar 15 2023	6:27a	♀	♂	♂	-04° 20'	+04° 20'
Mar 15 2023	12:46p	♂	♂	♂	00° 36' 57" D	15° 15' 57" D
Mar 15 2023	4:38p	♂	♂	♂	25° 36' 06" D	25° 36' 06" D
Mar 15 2023	6:56p	♂	♂	♂	16° 8' 04" D	16° 11' 04" D
Mar 15 2023	11:19p	♀	♂	♂	24° 36' 15" D	24° 11' 15" D

hold this afternoon, some may follow the urge of the moment, despite the opinions of others.

A Venus–North Node conjunction in Taurus at daybreak on **Monday** strengthens personal loyalties, perhaps enabling us to forge healthier bonds with loved ones. Today’s strongest aspect, a sextile between the Pisces Sun and Pluto in Capricorn perfects early this afternoon, supporting our resolve to be a role model of spiritual leadership. At 2:24 p.m., the Sun makes ingress into Aries, marking the equinox and the start of a new astrological year. But the independent spirit indicated by this event may be hampered due to the Sun’s tight opposition to collaborative Ceres in Libra (exact at 12:40 a.m. on Tuesday).

**Tuesday, March 21 – Thursday, March 23:** The Pisces Moon conjoins Neptune in the wee hours of **Tuesday** morning (1:19 a.m.), adding mystical overtones to the dreams of sleepers. This is the day that Jupiter is exactly semi-square Saturn, an unsettling aspect that reveals a conflict between our desire for new experiences and our wish for continuity. Starting the morning off on unsteady footing, Luna’s square to Mars in Gemini at 5:54 a.m. may bring up frustrations or confusion about our options for the day. However, a Moon–Pluto sextile that perfects three hours later could help us to know intuitively what goals offer the most chance for success. Shortly thereafter, at 9:00 a.m., the Moon enters Aries, giving us a sense that the day is finally underway. The urge to start anew becomes even stronger when the Sun and Moon align at 10:22 a.m. (0°49’ Aries), marking the start of a new lunar cycle. This evening, Luna conjoins Mercury at 6:33 p.m., sparking conversations that

could last for a few hours; but with a Sun–Uranus semi-square in effect tonight, misunderstandings can lead to frustration.

**Wednesday** morning’s activities are driven by a Moon–Chiron conjunction in Aries (10:04 a.m.) that could inspire some much-needed self-care, based on an acute awareness of latent insecurities. By this afternoon, especially if we’ve done our inner work, Luna’s conjunction with Jupiter (1:16 p.m.) should help us to feel more confident and excited about the possibilities before us. Tonight, as retrograde Ceres re-enters efficient Virgo at 8:50 p.m. and trines Pluto at 9:27 p.m., we gain a sense of competency as we address practical concerns.

It’s an historic day on **Thursday**, the day that Pluto makes its first ingress into Aquarius (5:13 a.m.). We begin today feeling energized by a Moon–Mars sextile at 10:13 a.m., but Luna enters earthy Taurus at 11:41 a.m. and then immediately squares newly-minted Pluto in Aquarius. This lunar aspect could provide a first clue as to how the God of the Underworld’s transit through the sign of the Water Bearer may affect us on very personal levels. This afternoon, we welcome the subtle energies of a Moon–Saturn sextile (2:56 p.m.) that can provide some objectivity to an otherwise emotional day.

**Friday, March 24 – Sunday, March 26:** A comfort-seeking Moon–Venus conjunction in Taurus before dawn on **Friday** (3:30 a.m.) tempts us to drowse cozily beneath the covers even after the alarm goes off. If we do delay getting up, a Mars–Ceres square this morning (29°38’ Gemini–Virgo) indicates that family members, who are relying on us to be prompt, may be more than a little irritated. Surprises are in store at the end of the workday as the Taurus Moon conjoins radical Uranus at 4:51 p.m. — or perhaps this rendezvous merely reflects an excitement about having free time over the weekend.

Despite other plans we may have made, once Mars enters domestic Cancer at 4:45 a.m. on **Saturday** and makes a quincunx to Pluto, pressure builds to attend to projects on the home front. Throughout the morning, it can be hard to hold strong boundaries, with a self-sacrificing Venus–Neptune semi-square also in effect. Luna’s ingress into social Gemini late afternoon (5:42 p.m.) sets us to contemplating the many interesting ways we might fill the evening hours, but social activities could be cut short with a responsibility-laden Moon–Saturn square occurring at 9:37 p.m.

Conversations on **Sunday** are inspired by the need to express hurt feelings, with a Mercury–Chiron conjunction in Aries perfecting just before noon. Some may find it hard to rein in anger with this alignment; it may help to remember that hostility is often motivated by unacknowledged fear. Providing a late-hour opportunity to heal the wounds that divide, the Gemini Moon sextiles Chiron at 10:40 p.m.

**Monday, March 27 – Wednesday, March 29:** Narrow-mindedness can be a problem on **Monday** morning, with a Mercury–Saturn semi-square

Mar 16 2023	4:16a	♂	S	♈	24°39' D	16°8'05' D
Mar 16 2023	8:59a	☉	#	♈	-01°40'	+01°40'
Mar 16 2023	10:12a	♂	♂	♈	25°30' D	25°30' D
Mar 16 2023	11:09a	☉	☐	♈	25°53' D	25°53' D
Mar 16 2023	12:58p	♀	☐	♈	29°15' D	29°15' D
Mar 16 2023	3:33p	♀	♂	♈	00°8'00' D	00°8'00' D
Mar 16 2023	7:54p	♂	//	♈	-02°59'	-02°59'
Mar 16 2023	9:48p	♂	☐	♈	26°05' D	26°05' D
Mar 16 2023	11:25p	♂	S	♈	26°10' D	04°8'41' R
Mar 17 2023	3:44a	☉	♂	♈	26°34' D	26°34' D
Mar 17 2023	3:25p	♀	♂	♈	01°8'11' D	01°8'11' D
Mar 17 2023	3:33p	♀	♂	♈	01°8'12' D	01°8'12' R
Mar 17 2023	4:01p	♂	♂	♈	01°12' D	01°12' R
Mar 17 2023	8:13p	♂	♂	♈	16°8'09' D	01°09' R
Mar 17 2023	11:51p	♂	#	♈	-01°58'	+01°58'
Mar 18 2023	1:30a	♀	#	♈	+12°14'	-12°14'
Mar 18 2023	11:13a	♂	Q	♈	26°14' D	14°14' D
Mar 18 2023	11:37a	☉	//	♈	-00°50'	-00°50'
Mar 18 2023	8:23p	♂	♂	♈	29°55' D	29°55' D
Mar 18 2023	9:23p	♂	♂	♈	00°10'00' D	00°10'00' D
Mar 18 2023	9:45p	♀	Q	♈	02°8'43' D	14°8'43' D
Mar 19 2023	6:02a	♂	//	♈	-00°49'	-00°50'
Mar 19 2023	6:57a	♂	♂	♈	04°8'30' D	04°8'30' R
Mar 19 2023	7:20a	♂	♂	♈	00°14'49' D	00°14'49' R
Mar 19 2023	11:32a	♂	☐	♈	14°15'11' D	14°15'11' D
Mar 19 2023	12:15p	♂	♂	♈	01°13' D	16°8'13' D
Mar 19 2023	2:30p	♂	♂	♈	01°13'25' D	01°13'25' D
Mar 19 2023	3:05p	♂	♂	♈	16°14' D	16°8'14' D
Mar 19 2023	4:45p	♂	//	♈	+13°00'	+13°00'
Mar 19 2023	7:55p	☉	//	♈	-00°18'	-00°18'

perfecting during the noon hour. We can also feel more pessimistic than usual with this aspect, or have trouble communicating our needs to others. A mentally confusing square between the Gemini Moon and Neptune at 6:39 p.m. adds to these difficulties. However, none of this may stop us from impulsively saying whatever comes into our heads tonight as Mercury conjoints Jupiter just before midnight (18°13' Aries).

Luna enters Cancer at 3:22 a.m. on **Tuesday**; her natural protectiveness while in this sign could escalate as she aligns with Mars at 6:19 a.m., revealing the claws of the Crab. Thankfully, this morning's Moon-Saturn trine (8:03 a.m.) should help us take a more reasonable approach to perceived threats. Still, with Mars semi-square Uranus today, we are on edge due to an excess of nervous energy. The First Quarter Moon, which occurs this evening at 7:32 p.m., adds to overall emotional sensitivity, making it easy to go into "fight or flight" mode once again.

It's a day of mood swings on **Wednesday**. At first, we may feel a subtle contentment, with the Cancer Moon sextile Venus in Taurus in effect (9:49 a.m.); however, a Moon-Chiron square twenty minutes later means that insecurities are riding just beneath the calm surface. By lunchtime, it's easier to shake off the morning's upsets as Luna sextiles Uranus at 12:39 p.m. The emotional rollercoaster continues this afternoon as the Moon squares Jupiter (4:34 p.m.), exaggerating feelings of vulnerability. Discussions about what went wrong and who is to blame may last late into the night, with a Moon-Mercury square perfecting at 11:29 p.m.

**Thursday, March 30 – Friday, March 31:** Although tension may still be elevated early on **Thursday** morning, fueled by a defensive Moon-Eris square at 4:12 a.m., Luna's trine to sympathetic Neptune at 6:46 a.m. encourages us to put down any weapons we may have been brandishing. Of greater impact today are two aspects that perfect this afternoon; the first, a Mars-Saturn trine (2°36' Cancer-Pisces), assists us in focusing on longer-term goals, while also providing the energy needed to take initial steps in that direction. With the annual rendezvous between Venus and Uranus (16°44' Taurus) also occurring today, we may surprise ourselves (or significant others) by our attitude of independence and the need to free ourselves from outdated loyalties. The Moon's ingress into dramatic Leo at 3:30 p.m. and its immediate opposition to Pluto in Aquarius lend a sense of urgency to decisions that are made this afternoon.

Mercury aligns with Eris (24°24' Aries) just before dawn on **Friday**, strengthening our resolve to dance to the rhythm of our inner drumbeat. Explaining our actions to loved ones is far from straightforward, with a quarrelsome Venus-Mars semi-square perfecting late tonight.

**Saturday, April 1 – Monday, April 3:** The Leo Moon sets the pace on **Saturday**, April Fool's Day, starting off with a very early-morning square to surprising Uranus (1:29 a.m.). Whether sleeping or awake, we may suddenly startle around the time of this dynamic aspect. Just before dawn, a Moon-Venus square (5:06 a.m.) reignites relationship dramas that have been smoldering over the past few days, but Luna's trine to Jupiter at 6:24 a.m. helps us bring some humor to the proceedings. Late afternoon is a good time to get out and play soccer or engage in some other physical activity, with a Moon-Eris trine in effect (4:48 p.m.). Animated conversations could last late tonight, with the Moon trine Mercury at 11:03 p.m.

The change of mood between Saturday and **Sunday** could make it feel as though we've somehow stepped onto a different timeline. Luna discards her Leo play gear and dons her Virgo work scrubs at 3:57 a.m.; her opposition to taskmaster Saturn at 9:44 a.m. means that she wastes no time in taking on the day's chores, although she most likely runs into some frustrations along the way. We feel more energized and productive this afternoon, supported by a Moon-Mars sextile (12:07 p.m.) and a sextile between Mars and the lunar North Node. This latter aspect is the most significant of the day, enabling us to align personal will with a sense of greater purpose.

Mar 20 2023	7:02a	☉	#	♈	-00°07'	+00°07'
Mar 20 2023	7:30a	♀	♈	♈	04° 8'24" D	04° 8'24" R
Mar 20 2023	1:12p	☉	♈	♈	29° 36'57" D	29° 36'57" D
Mar 20 2023	2:24p	☉	♈	♈	00° 1'00" D	00° 1'00" D
Mar 21 2023	0:40a	☉	♈	♈	00° 1'25" D	00° 1'25" R
Mar 21 2023	1:17a	♀	#	♈	+00°49'	-00°49'
Mar 21 2023	1:39a	♀	♈	♈	04° 1'21" D	04° 8'21" R
Mar 21 2023	2:26a	♂	♈	♈	16° 1'35" D	01° 36'35" D
Mar 21 2023	9:30a	♀	♈	♈	05° 8'42" D	05° 8'42" D
Mar 21 2023	8:03p	♀	♈	♈	06° 8'14" D	00° 1'14" R
Mar 21 2023	9:14p	♀	♈	♈	05° 1'59" D	05° 8'59" D
Mar 21 2023	9:46p	♂	#	♈	+07°22'	-07°22'
Mar 21 2023	10:43p	☉	♈	♈	01° 1'20" D	16° 8'20" D
Mar 22 2023	4:14a	♈	♈	♈	06° 8'09" D	00° 1'09" R
Mar 22 2023	6:13a	♀	♈	♈	06° 1'44" D	06° 8'44" D
Mar 22 2023	7:59a	☉	♈	♈	01° 1'43" D	01° 36'43" D
Mar 22 2023	4:01p	☉	#	♈	+00°49'	-00°49'
Mar 22 2023	8:03p	♀	♈	♈	07° 8'26" D	28° 1'51" D
Mar 22 2023	8:50p	♂	♈	♈	00° 1'00" R	00° 1'00" D
Mar 22 2023	9:26p	♂	♈	♈	+05°41'	+05°41'
Mar 22 2023	9:27p	♂	♈	♈	29° 36'59" D	29° 36'59" R
Mar 23 2023	3:55a	♂	#	♈	-02°54'	+02°54'
Mar 23 2023	5:13a	♂	♈	♈	00° 1'00" D	00° 1'00" D
Mar 23 2023	6:26a	♀	♈	♈	+02°54'	-02°54'
Mar 23 2023	7:04a	♀	♈	♈	+02°55'	+02°55'
Mar 23 2023	9:17a	♈	♈	♈	29° 1'07" D	17° 1'07" D
Mar 23 2023	7:06p	♈	SD	♈	04° 8'15" D	
Mar 24 2023	10:42a	♈	♈	♈	29° 1'38" D	29° 36'38" R
Mar 24 2023	3:17p	♀	♈	♈	16° 8'15" D	04° 8'15" D
Mar 24 2023	9:08p	♀	♈	♈	12° 1'01" D	00° 1'01" D
Mar 24 2023	9:32p	☉	♈	♈	04° 1'16" D	04° 8'16" D
Mar 25 2023	4:45a	♈	♈	♈	00° 1'00" D	00° 1'00" D
Mar 25 2023	6:33a	♈	♈	♈	00° 1'02" D	00° 1'02" D



## LIBRA FULL MOON — APRIL 5–6, 2023

**April 5, 2023 — 9:34 p.m. PDT**  
**April 6, 2023 — 4:34 a.m. GMT**

by *Diana McMahon Collis*

The Libra Moon seeks balance, peace, and harmony with others and their needs. Yet, the Sun and Moon in opposition may not easily allow this. If anything, this phase shows where we're more different than similar — literally, total opposites, which both attract and repel. But this may be for reasons other than seeking harmony. One theory is that we are inescapably drawn to what we are not or that which we do not possess within ourselves. The other person provides a tempting fascination, and we want to know that person — the same applies with a new experience or situation where we get just a surface view, and the proverbial grass seems greener. Yet, dabbling with opposite energy can also seem a bit dangerous, like playing with fire.

Some of these ideas come from the earliest astrology, where positioning of planets was fundamental to understanding what was familiar and what was “other,” or unfamiliar — and the latter might well have been deemed as the enemy! In the horoscope, this is the 1st- and 7th-house axis; though, with modern astrology, we've come to equate the 7th house with “partners.” However, in branches of astrology other than natal, such as Contest astrology, the 7th house represents an opponent, as in a legal trial, for example.

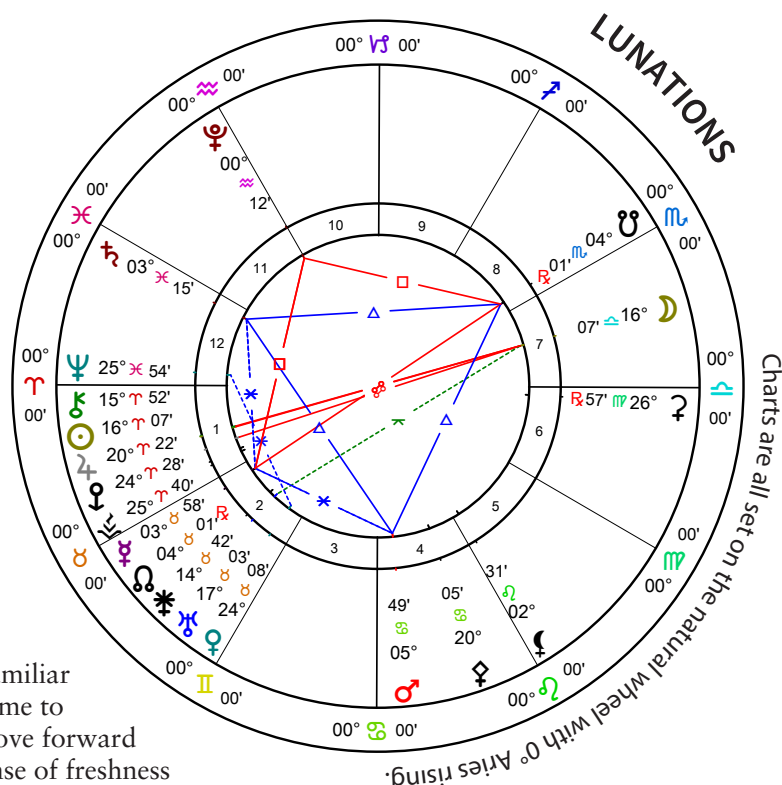
In ordinary circumstances, we deal with the unknown, often including people and situations we aren't on intimate terms with. Yet, when we get to know the unknown, it often stops being so

threatening. We may find a new friend or interest with which we feel an unexpected connection.

Navigating unfamiliar territory from time to time helps us move forward in life with a sense of freshness and growth — it can be worth persevering! Besides, the “other” in this lunation — the Sun in Aries — is conjunct Jupiter, the planet associated with goodness, blessings, and opportunities. If we shut the door on fresh experiences or fail to pick up the cues to connect with new people, we might close down golden opportunities.

Planets in Aries can sometimes carry a combative energy. And we might be forgiven for viewing someone or something as overly challenging or irritating when, in reality, there's something good on offer! With the opposition, we may need to appreciate that the delivery or presentation style could be different from expected or simply less than ideal. This is reminiscent of movie scenes where someone bumps into someone accidentally in a public setting — like a store — only to realise, as they turn to express shock, apology, or irritation, that there's actually a strong attraction to that person! So, we're alerted to not judge prematurely and to adopt a wider perspective overall.

The Moon is disposed by Venus, close to Uranus in Taurus, underlining that sense of something



taking us by surprise. A close encounter of a special kind! It might be romantic, business-oriented, or otherwise significant — but clearly represents some sort of interesting opportunity. As always, it's up to us whether we take up what's on offer and act on it.

Sometimes, a Uranus connection of this nature is disruptive in a less welcome way. Perhaps someone makes a pass at us and it's a bit awkward. Maybe we find our thoughts drifting to fantasy about an old love or prospective new one, when our focus ought really to be elsewhere — if we're to feel aligned with our priorities, at least. But, with the Full Moon squaring Pallas, we know where our moral compass is and might remind ourselves when we last connected with it meaningfully! This Moon's message is to keep seeking out balance and harmony, whilst ignoring needless distractions and observing opportunities that could move life forward in a positive way. Venus trines Ceres, adding a cue to focus on nurturing and nourishment.

The peace and calm we were hoping for with Mercury's ingress into placid Taurus at 9:22 a.m. on **Monday** are denied as the Messenger Planet then squares Pluto right before noon (0°10' Taurus–Aquarius). A disruption in plans is to be expected with this aspect, as well as verbal disagreements in which both sides stubbornly dig in their heels and refuse to budge. The circumspect Virgo Moon might be able to restore some modicum of civility in the last half of the day as Luna trines both open-minded Uranus (1:28 p.m.) and caring Venus (11:04 p.m.).

**Tuesday, April 4 – Thursday, April 6:** With the Virgo Moon opposing otherworldly Neptune at dawn on **Tuesday** (6:50 a.m.), it may be hard to focus on the practical tasks of the day. We finally kick into a more productive gear with the help of a capable Moon–Ceres conjunction at 9:33 a.m.; our willingness to selflessly serve is enhanced with this collaboration, especially if we have an emotional bond with those who will benefit from our work. Luna changes out of her work clothes when she enters sociable Libra at 2:51 p.m., preferring now to interact with other people instead of with a vacuum cleaner or dust cloth. A psychically perceptive Moon–Pluto trine at 3:13 p.m. sheds light on what is motivating a loved one.

Mar 25 2023	9:10a	♀	♂	♂	10° 8'28" D	25° 38'28" D
Mar 25 2023	11:06a	♂	♂	♀	16° 8'29" D	16° 38'29" D
Mar 25 2023	11:52a	♀	♂	♂	-06° 08'	+06° 08'
Mar 25 2023	3:48p	♀	♂	♂	+15° 39'	+15° 39'
Mar 25 2023	11:29p	♂	♂	♀	+05° 58'	-05° 58'
Mar 26 2023	9:01a	♂	♂	♀	+05° 50'	-05° 50'
Mar 26 2023	11:57a	♂	♂	♂	15° 11'16" D	15° 11'16" D
Mar 26 2023	1:50p	♂	♂	♂	+06° 01'	+06° 01'
Mar 26 2023	11:00p	♂	♂	♂	+06° 22'	+06° 22'
Mar 27 2023	3:44a	♂	♂	♂	16° 8'34" D	16° 8'34" D
Mar 27 2023	5:00a	♀	♂	♂	17° 38'00" D	29° 17'00" R
Mar 27 2023	9:40a	♂	♂	♀	17° 11'04" D	17° 38'04" D
Mar 27 2023	12:19p	♂	♂	♂	17° 11'17" D	02° 38'17" D
Mar 27 2023	3:23p	♀	♂	♂	+16° 29'	+16° 29'
Mar 27 2023	7:10p	♂	♂	♂	+02° 50'	-02° 50'
Mar 27 2023	11:50p	♂	♂	♂	18° 11'13" D	18° 11'13" D
Mar 28 2023	3:51a	♀	♂	♂	13° 8'47" D	28° 17'47" R
Mar 28 2023	4:03a	♂	♂	♂	+07° 30'	+07° 30'
Mar 28 2023	11:08a	♂	♂	♀	02° 38'23" D	17° 38'23" D
Mar 28 2023	1:40p	♂	♂	♂	01° 38'38" D	16° 8'38" D
Mar 28 2023	4:11p	♀	♂	♂	14° 8'24" D	02° 38'24" D
Mar 28 2023	6:26p	♂	♂	♂	19° 11'44" D	01° 38'44" D
Mar 28 2023	7:23p	♂	♂	♂	04° 8'20" R	
Mar 29 2023	1:12p	♀	♂	♂	15° 8'26" D	15° 11'26" D
Mar 29 2023	10:47p	♂	♂	♂	25° 38'39" D	10° 8'39" D
Mar 30 2023	6:52a	♂	♂	♂	28° 17'19" R	04° 8'19" R
Mar 30 2023	7:07a	♂	♂	♂	22° 11'40" D	22° 11'40" D
Mar 30 2023	12:03p	♂	♂	♂	02° 38'36" D	02° 38'36" D
Mar 30 2023	3:25p	♀	♂	♂	16° 8'44" D	16° 8'44" D
Mar 30 2023	10:59p	♀	♂	♂	17° 8'07" D	25° 38'41" D
Mar 31 2023	1:12a	♂	♂	♂	24° 11'05" D	02° 38'39" D
Mar 31 2023	1:16a	♂	♂	♂	+04° 18'	-04° 18'
Mar 31 2023	5:29a	♂	♂	♂	24° 11'24" D	24° 11'24" D
Mar 31 2023	8:07a	♂	♂	♂	+04° 12'	-04° 12'
Mar 31 2023	10:39p	♂	♂	♂	25° 11'43" D	25° 38'43" D
Mar 31 2023	11:43p	♀	♂	♂	18° 8'20" D	03° 38'20" D

A disruptive square between the Libra Moon and Mars in Cancer occurs at 1:11 a.m. on **Wednesday**, temporarily breaking bonds of trust. But Mercury is sextile Saturn this morning (3°12' Taurus–Pisces), clarifying our thinking and encouraging rational dialogue. The theme of rehabilitation is strong throughout the day, with the Sun conjunct Wounded Healer Chiron this afternoon (15°51' Aries). The Full Moon in Libra perfects at 9:34 p.m., illuminating that which requires reparation, both internally and with significant others. A Mercury–North Node conjunction in Taurus late tonight encourages us to communicate our values simply and authentically.

Luna continues her journey through harmony-seeking Libra on **Thursday**, but she goes overboard this morning in her attempts to adapt to everyone's needs, thanks to an opposition to Jupiter at 5:43 a.m. If this influence causes us to disregard our own emotional compass, a reactionary Moon–Eris opposition at 1:14 p.m. could tip the seesaw in the “me-first” direction for a while. Personal power struggles may ensue late tonight as the Moon enters intimacy-seeking Scorpio at 11:29 p.m. and then squares Pluto in aloof Aquarius just before midnight.

**Friday, April 7 – Sunday, April 9:** A Moon–Saturn trine at 5:43 a.m. on **Friday** provides a more rational perspective on issues that arose last night, but with Luna opposing Mercury mid-morning, it is still hard to find a meeting of the minds. Thankfully, Venus is sextile Neptune this morning (25°57' Taurus–Pisces) and trine nurturing Ceres in Virgo tonight; these aspects contribute to our ability to sympathize and to find common ground with loved ones. This evening's conversations potentially enable a deeper trust to take root, assisted by a late-night sextile between Mercury in loyal Taurus and Mars in sensitive Cancer.

Despite plans for a laid-back **Saturday**, we could be startled awake at dawn by an electrifying Moon–Uranus opposition (6:55 a.m.). With a discouraging Sun–Saturn semi-square also in effect this morning, some may be plagued by a guilty conscience as they consider how they'd like to spend the day versus what their responsible self is calling them to do. Whatever choices are made in this regard, a trine between the sensuous Scorpio Moon and mellifluous Neptune late tonight (10:49 p.m.) gives us permission to let down our hair and dance to the music.

A Moon–Venus opposition very early on **Sunday** (2:09 a.m.) could create a short-term feeling of distance from a loved one. But Luna's ingress into carefree Sagittarius at 5:56 a.m. lifts us out of the doldrums, and her sextile to passionate Pluto a half hour later reawakens a sense of possibility. Unfortunately, free-wheeling expeditions may be interrupted midday as the Moon squares disciplined Saturn at 12:21 p.m.

## ARIES SOLAR ECLIPSE — APRIL 19–20, 2023

**April 19, 2023 — 9:12 p.m. PDT**  
**April 20, 2023 — 4:12 a.m. GMT**

by *Diana McMahon Collis*

The Aries solar eclipse is a total eclipse, meaning that the Sun is entirely obscured by the Moon for a while. It'll be as though someone put the light out in the sky! The eclipse won't be viewable in all parts of the world, either partially or entirely, due to location or visibility, but eclipse symbolism remains relevant astrologically. (Location details can be checked at <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/solar/2023-april-20>.) Unlike a lunar eclipse when the Sun and Moon oppose one another, during a solar eclipse, the Sun and Moon appear aligned in the same spot. This means there's a jostling of position in Aries alone, showing a concentration of energy. What does it mean when the Moon seems to have the upper hand over the Sun for a moment in time? It could be that emotional factors rule the day, with normal logic cast to one side — or just literally, not visible within our consciousness.

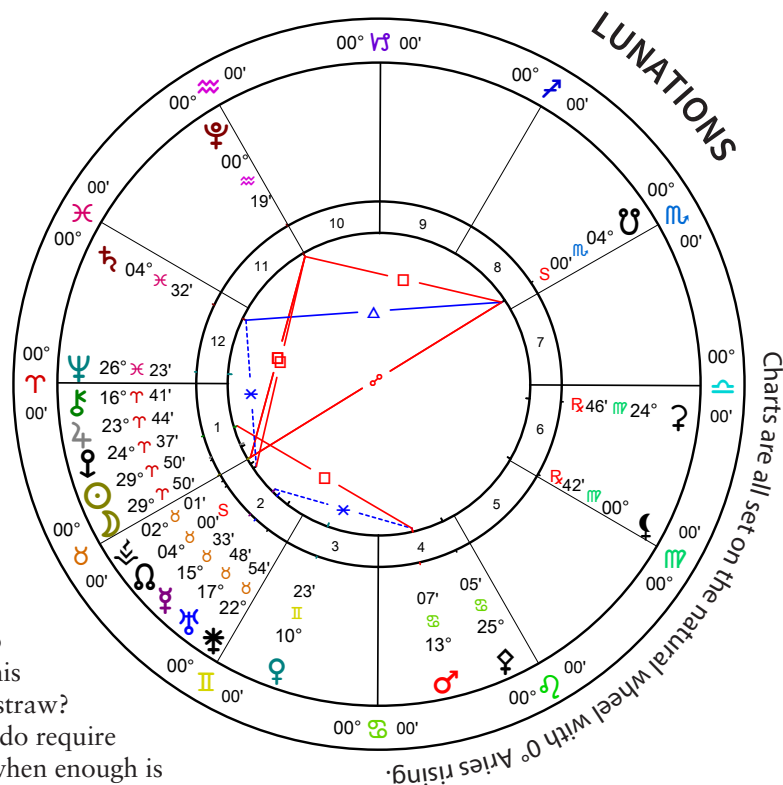
Aries is known for immediate and, sometimes, volatile responses, given rulership by fiery Mars. Decisions made from an emotional stance may be particularly extreme under an eclipse. Normally, we tend not to react from this place. But something may be revealed that triggers an intense response. Whether we view it as a “good” or “bad” response may depend on the situation. For example, when our response is quick and we overreact to a relationship issue, are we in touch with all the information needed to make a wise decision and take the best action? Would it be better to step back for a moment and gather more facts before acting

impulsively? Or contrarily, have we steadily waited for certain results, only to find another scenario unfolding and this is now the final straw? Some situations do require decisive action when enough is enough.

A sense of urgency prompted by this eclipse may cause a project to feel deeply important, underlined by the Sun and Moon in the anaretic degree of Aries — like a “last-minute” situation and we feel strongly motivated to get on the boat/plane/waiting list before it's too late! Forewarned is forearmed during eclipse season. Remember, we do have choices. And if we need an extra push for the chance to make something positive happen, the eclipse energy could support our initiative.

The current lunation doesn't just show hidden or overlooked factors through the eclipse itself, however. Several important planetary aspects are out-of-sign, making them easily overlooked. For example, Saturn at 4° Pisces sextiles the eclipse, whilst Pluto squares it from 0° Aquarius. It's easier to notice aspects such as this if we think about what it would be like if the Sun and Moon were just one degree further on, placed at 0° Taurus, instead of 29° Aries. But the dissociate connections cannot be ignored and have their own symbolic significance.

For instance, it may be that someone seems to be presenting



themselves one way whilst we saw them behave differently in another light. Perhaps we have to decide which version is genuine — or most meaningful to us. This aspect may also coincide with somebody turning out to be less solid and helpful than we imagined, or more stuck in their ways than we thought could be possible. As such, this appears to be a turning point in time, and we adjust our focus to see things as they really are. Once we do, making choices for the future will almost certainly seem easier! That said, dealing with the stark reality of things that we imagined to be otherwise, might feel quite painful. The dissociate Moon–Pluto aspect suggests a wrangling process, where we need to handle internal arguments before we reach a point of peace. But it will be worth it, as a much deeper understanding of ourselves, others, and the situations we face is likely to emerge.



**Monday, April 10 – Wednesday, April 12:** The Sagittarius Moon trines Chiron at 10:27 a.m. on *Monday*, strengthening our intuition with regard to our healing journey. The most significant aspect today is a late-afternoon opposition between altruistic Neptune and nurturing Ceres (26°04' Pisces–Virgo) that blurs the boundary between selfless service and self-sacrifice; higher wisdom tells us that trying to rescue others may not be the most appropriate — nor the most loving — response to a problem. Boisterous Luna is in good humor this evening, forming trines to the Sun and Jupiter in risk-taking Aries (6:48 p.m. and 7:54 p.m., respectively); these lunar aspects invite us to head out for a late adventure, even if reason might caution otherwise. Venus makes ingress into versatile Gemini at 9:46 p.m., stimulating conversations with good friends on a wide variety of topics. The Goddess of Love will journey through the sign of the Twins for four weeks, until she enters Cancer on May 7.

A predawn Venus–Pluto trine on *Tuesday* (0°15' Gemini–Aquarius) provides the setting for an honest and self-revelatory discussion, adding to a sense of connection and intimacy in a love relationship. However, with the Moon square Neptune at 3:48 a.m., be wary of an overly idealistic frame of reference at this time. We are more motivated to get work done once Luna enters ambitious Capricorn at 10:32 a.m., but with a restless, independent Sun–Jupiter conjunction (21°45' Aries) dominating the rest of the day, it may be hard to sit behind a desk for very long. The exception to this is if our chosen task contributes to a cause we believe in, thus providing great personal satisfaction. Even so, the mind is not as focused as usual, due to a Mercury–Neptune semi-square late this afternoon, leading some to drift off on a mental flight of fancy. There may be hurt feelings to deal with late tonight as Venus semi-squares Chiron, and the Moon nears its opposition to Mars in moody Cancer (exact at 2:02 a.m. on Wednesday).

Discussions are more productive early on *Wednesday* morning, with assist from an earthy Moon–Mercury trine at 6:35 a.m. But unresolved issues from last night may resurface this afternoon when the Capricorn Moon squares Chiron (2:26 p.m.). Perhaps these concerns will be quickly dispatched, with Luna moving on to trine future-oriented Uranus at 4:23 p.m. It will be best to handle personal matters before late evening, when a Moon–Jupiter square that perfects just after midnight (12:19 a.m. on Thursday) could interfere with our attempts to satisfy our own or another's emotional needs.

**Thursday, April 13 – Saturday, April 15:** The Last Quarter lunar phase begins early on *Thursday* when the Capricorn Moon squares the Aries Sun at 2:11 a.m. With Sol close to conjoining audacious Eris and Luna exactly square the Goddess of Discontent at 4:30 a.m., subjects of great controversy are likely to be bold headlines in today's news. Nevertheless, the day

begins fairly gently with Luna trine Ceres in dependable Virgo (6:23 a.m.) and sextile idealistic Neptune (7:13 a.m.). The emotional landscape changes significantly and perhaps dramatically this afternoon: the Moon enters progressive Aquarius at 1:42 p.m. and is conjunct compulsive Pluto just thirty minutes later. No matter what is revealed through this rendezvous, this evening supports social activities, with the Moon trine Venus in Gemini at 7:22 p.m.

Solemn decisions in financial or relationship matters may need to be made on *Friday*, with Venus square Saturn (4°03' Gemini–Pisces). Once concrete steps are taken, we feel more assured about the direction we are headed, assisted by Saturn's sextile to the North Node in Taurus. Independent action is a strong theme throughout the day, due to the Sun's conjunction with Eris at noon (24°34' Aries); a square between the Aquarius Moon and Mercury in Taurus, which also perfects during the lunch hour, means that our choices are not readily supported by more conservative minds. A Moon–Uranus square at 7:07 p.m. keeps a rebellious attitude alive this evening.

Luna is sextile the Sun and Eris just before dawn on *Saturday*, inspiring new proclamations of autonomy. This Arian fire in the belly may moderate once the Moon makes ingress into compassionate Pisces at 3:57 p.m.; the Moon–Saturn conjunction tonight (10:57 p.m.) makes us acutely aware of how our recent actions may have affected others.

**Sunday, April 16 – Tuesday, April 18:** Luna is supported by harmonious aspects throughout the day on *Sunday*, enabling us likewise to enjoy a Piscean flow. A Moon–Mars trine at 10:48 a.m. inspires compassionate action, perhaps to assist those who are less fortunate than we are. Luna then sextiles Mercury late this

Apr 1 2023	0:04a	☉	//	♊	+04°28'	+04°28'
Apr 1 2023	3:33a	♀	✳	♀	18° 8'31" D	18° 8'31" D
Apr 1 2023	8:56p	☉	Q	♊	12° 1'09" D	00° 0'09" D
Apr 1 2023	9:18p	♀	✳	♊	19° 8'24" D	19° 1'24" D
Apr 1 2023	9:36p	♂	S	♊	03° 8'47" D	12° 8'22" D
Apr 1 2023	10:46p	♀	#	♊	+11°41'	-11°41'
Apr 2 2023	1:38a	♀	✳	♊	27° 1'44" D	27° 1'44" R
Apr 2 2023	8:40a	☉	✳	♊	12° 1'38" D	12° 8'38" D
Apr 2 2023	9:46a	♂	Q	♊	12° 8'39" D	27° 1'39" R
Apr 2 2023	2:59p	♂	S	♊	04° 8'09" D	04° 8'09" R
Apr 3 2023	2:07a	♊	S	♊	02° 8'58" D	24° 1'23" D
Apr 3 2023	4:43a	♊	♂	♊	24° 1'26" D	24° 1'26" D
Apr 3 2023	9:22a	♀	♂	♊	00° 8'00" D	00° 8'00" D
Apr 3 2023	10:51a	♀	//	♊	+12°53'	+12°53'
Apr 3 2023	11:55a	♀	☐	♊	00° 8'10" D	00° 0'10" D
Apr 3 2023	2:32p	♊	//	♊	+07°38'	+07°38'
Apr 3 2023	2:51p	♊	S	♊	03° 8'01" D	24° 1'27" D
Apr 5 2023	4:46a	♊	//	♀	-02°42'	-02°42'
Apr 5 2023	7:24a	♀	Q²	♊	03° 8'04" D	27° 1'04" R
Apr 5 2023	9:20a	♀	✳	♊	03° 8'12" D	03° 8'12" D
Apr 5 2023	3:18p	☉	♂	♊	15° 1'51" D	15° 1'51" D
Apr 5 2023	10:18p	♀	♂	♊	04° 8'00" D	04° 8'00" R
Apr 6 2023	4:38a	♀	✳	♊	24° 8'28" D	24° 1'28" D
Apr 6 2023	10:49a	♊	✳	♊	25° 8'55" D	25° 1'55" D
Apr 6 2023	9:42p	☉	✳	♊	17° 1'06" D	17° 8'06" D
Apr 7 2023	0:52a	♊	Q	♊	03° 8'21" D	15° 8'21" D

afternoon (4:23 p.m.), encouraging gentle conversations or a few hours spent writing poetry. Tonight, an intuitive Moon–Uranus sextile (9:24 p.m.) lends mystical overtones to the evening’s activities.

The Pisces Moon opposes Ceres at 9:52 a.m. on **Monday**; this influence indicates confusing family dynamics, as some can feel separation anxiety or a fear of rejection. A Moon–Neptune conjunction two hours later may quell some of the uncertainty, but some will still feel extra-sensitive for much of the day. The mood shifts early evening as Luna steps out of Piscean waters and into fiery Aries (6:09 p.m.), inspiring confident and independent action. A self-assured Moon–Pluto sextile at 6:41 p.m. adds to a renewed sense of possibility, and an idealistic Venus–Jupiter semi-square (exact at 1:45 a.m. on Tuesday) inspires an optimistic perspective, whether or not it is based in reality.

Conversations with friends and lovers flow easily on **Tuesday** morning, with an affectionate Moon–Venus sextile at 8:46 a.m. It’s a much different story this afternoon when the Aries Moon forms a square to Mars in Cancer (3:16 p.m.), triggering defensive reactions to perceived affronts. A Moon–Chiron conjunction late tonight (10:24 p.m.) exposes unhealed insecurities, requiring proactive self-care.

**Wednesday, April 19 – Friday, April 21:** Apparently, issues that arose yesterday did not magically resolve overnight; a Venus–Eris semi-square just before dawn

on **Wednesday** describes an uncomfortable scene where harsh words are spoken. The Aries Moon, being conjunct both Jupiter (10:26 a.m.) and Eris (12:09 p.m.), goes over the top in expressing its needs today, perhaps due to feeling ignored for too long. The first eclipse of 2023 occurs tonight when the Sun and Moon align at 29°50' Aries (9:12 p.m.). Although an annular solar eclipse is sometimes considered less intense than a total eclipse, this lunation occurs in the critical anaretic degree of Aries, pushing us to address issues related to the misuse of assertiveness. Adding to the pressure tonight and for many weeks to follow, this New Moon is in a very tight out-of-sign square to coercive Pluto. 18 minutes after aligning with the Sun, Luna enters Taurus, forming an exact square to Pluto at 10:04 p.m.

Sol enters pacific Taurus at 1:13 a.m. on **Thursday**, but this day is not likely to be serene. The Moon attempts to keep some semblance of order this morning as it conjoins the North Node (4:30 a.m.) and sextiles Saturn (5:30 a.m.). Nevertheless, with the Sun exactly square Pluto at 9:26 a.m. (0°20' Taurus–Aquarius), power struggles and suspicions are rampant today, amping up the intensity of this eclipse season. Tonight, Luna makes another attempt at stabilizing the emotional landscape, being sextile Mars in Cancer at 9:36 p.m.

The Taurus Moon conjoins Mercury at 1:04 a.m. on **Friday**, just 30 minutes before the Messenger Planet stations retrograde (15°37' Taurus). Due to this lunar emphasis at the onset of Mercury’s retrograde period, the review process we are embarking upon is likely to be more emotional than expected. Luna moves on to conjoin eccentric Uranus at 5:09 a.m., starting the day off with a few surprises and a strong need to be free of restrictions. We’re better able to give and receive nurturing later in the day, with assist from the Moon’s trine to caring Ceres (5:15 p.m.) and sextile to compassionate Neptune (8:41 p.m.)

**Saturday, April 22 – Monday, April 24:** Bored with the routines of Taurus, Luna enters mentally agile Gemini at 3:11 a.m. on **Saturday**. A lunar trine to Pluto in progressive Aquarius occurs soon after this ingress (3:48 a.m.), supporting the sharing of new ideas with friends. However, authority figures or work responsibilities dampen enthusiastic conversations midday as the Moon squares restrictive Saturn just before noon.

The air feels fresh and new on **Sunday** morning, thanks to a Moon–Venus conjunction in Gemini at 5:43 a.m. Perfecting this evening, two aspects inspire new levels of directness and personal courage: The longer-term Jupiter–Eris conjunction comes to fruition this evening, amplifying the self-oriented behaviors of “I’ll do it my way” Eris as the two planets conjoin at 24°40' Aries. Also in effect, a Mercury–Mars sextile (15°15' Taurus–Cancer) contributes its influence to forthright conversations and decisiveness tonight.

Apr 7 2023	5:04a	♂	Q	♀	06°329' D	24°T29' D
Apr 7 2023	6:50a	♂	SD		04°800' D	
Apr 7 2023	10:57a	♀	✳	♂	25°857' D	25°857' D
Apr 7 2023	9:34p	♂	♂	♀	26°T35' D	26°T35' R
Apr 7 2023	11:24p	♀	♂	♂	26°834' D	26°T34' R
Apr 7 2023	11:28p	♀	✳	♂	06°853' D	06°853' D
Apr 8 2023	1:03a	♀	✳	♂	26°839' D	26°T39' D
Apr 8 2023	2:29a	♂	//	♂	+07°10'	+07°10'
Apr 8 2023	3:26a	♂	✳	♂	16°T00' D	16°800' D
Apr 8 2023	7:19a	♂	♂	♂	18°T29' D	03°829' D
Apr 8 2023	11:24a	♀	//	♂	+16°13'	+16°13'
Apr 8 2023	6:21p	♂	♂	♀	21°T03' D	21°803' D
Apr 9 2023	7:38a	♀	♂	♂	+16°40'	+16°40'
Apr 9 2023	5:46p	♂	//	♂	+07°46'	+07°46'
Apr 10 2023	4:21a	♀	Q	♀	09°833' D	21°833' D
Apr 10 2023	7:51a	♂	♂	♂	17°817' D	17°817' D
Apr 10 2023	4:43p	♀	♂	♂	26°804' D	17°830' D
Apr 10 2023	6:05p	♀	♂	♂	26°804' D	26°T04' R
Apr 10 2023	9:46p	♀	♂	♂	00°II00' D	00°II00' D
Apr 11 2023	3:14a	♀	♂	♂	00°II15' D	00°815' D
Apr 11 2023	9:04a	♀	♂	♀	00°II32' D	21°858' D
Apr 11 2023	12:27p	♀	♂	♂	10°857' D	25°T57' R
Apr 11 2023	3:06p	♂	♂	♂	21°T45' D	21°T45' D
Apr 11 2023	3:53p	♂	S	♂	08°847' D	17°821' D
Apr 11 2023	4:26p	♀	♂	♂	11°806' D	26°806' D
Apr 11 2023	11:15p	♀	♂	♂	01°II14' D	16°T14' D
Apr 12 2023	3:06a	♂	♂	♀	22°T14' D	22°814' D
Apr 12 2023	5:11a	♀	//	♀	-00°43'	-00°43'
Apr 13 2023	2:19a	♂	SR		04°804' R	
Apr 13 2023	1:55p	♂	♂	♂	+09°11'	+09°11'
Apr 13 2023	8:49p	♀	#	♂	+22°29'	-22°29'
Apr 14 2023	9:38a	♀	♂	♂	04°II03' D	04°803' D
Apr 14 2023	9:42a	♀	✳	♂	04°II04' D	04°804' R
Apr 14 2023	10:30a	♂	♂	♂	04°804' D	04°804' R
Apr 14 2023	12:04p	♂	♂	♂	24°T34' D	24°T34' D
Apr 15 2023	7:31a	♂	♂	♀	25°T21' D	25°T21' R
Apr 15 2023	9:58a	♂	♂	♂	00°800' D	00°800' D
Apr 15 2023	1:11p	♂	S	♂	25°T35' D	04°810' D

An early-morning alignment between the Sun and Vesta strengthens our dedication to a spiritual practice or another higher ideal on **Monday**. Sol is also conjunct the North Node before sunrise (4°01' Taurus), encouraging us to focus on inner peace as the most dependable route to spiritual growth. But relationships are a thorn hidden in the rose today, as a suspicious Venus–Pluto sesquiquadrate raises questions of fidelity and freedom. Given this backdrop, Luna’s ingress into protective Cancer at 11:59 a.m. might elevate defensiveness as trust issues come to the surface. The Moon’s sextile to the loyal Taurus Sun (9:10 p.m.) and trine to wise Saturn in Pisces (9:39 p.m.) may help to ease some of the tension tonight.

**Tuesday, April 25 – Thursday, April 27:** A calming Sun–Saturn sextile before dawn on **Tuesday** paints the landscape in comforting earthy hues, bringing focus to practical concerns this morning. A Venus–Chiron sextile that perfects late this afternoon (17°11' Gemini–Aries) encourages us to share our hearts, potentially opening the door to relationship healing. But, perhaps as a result of too much self-revelation, some may feel vulnerable and defensive tonight, with the Cancer Moon conjunct Mars (8:07 p.m.) and square Chiron (9:31 p.m.). A Moon–Uranus sextile just before midnight could help us to shrug off the doldrums just a bit.

Conflicts are hard to avoid on **Wednesday** afternoon as the sensitive Cancer Moon squares both self-serving Eris (12:50 p.m.) and judgmental Jupiter (2:08 p.m.). Maybe today’s dedicated Saturn–Vesta sextile (5°06' Pisces–Taurus) and a sympathetic Moon–Neptune trine at 4:41 p.m. can help to establish a baseline of understanding. Luna’s ingress into heart-centered Leo at 11:30 p.m. provides another opportunity to shift the mood, but the Moon–Pluto opposition that perfects within the hour (12:13 a.m. on Thursday) warns of dramatic and emotional exchanges.

The tension is palpable on **Thursday** as Mars in self-protective Cancer squares Chiron at dawn. This aspect can manifest as passive-aggressive actions, fueled by the fear of directly expressing anger. The First Quarter phase of the Moon begins at 2:19 p.m. when the Leo Moon squares the Taurus Sun; the need for others’ approval reveals deeper insecurities that must be addressed if we are to achieve our goals for this lunar cycle.

**Friday, April 28 – Sunday, April 30:** Leonine Luna is square Mercury in Taurus at 2:43 a.m. on **Friday**, causing short-term disruptions in communications due to impatience with alternate viewpoints. A Moon–Chiron trine at 10:10 a.m. encourages us to remove false masks, revealing who we really are beneath the façade, and a Moon–Uranus square during the noon hour underscores our need to be fully authentic. A late-afternoon sextile between the Moon and Venus in Gemini (4:41 p.m.) may draw us into an animated conversation with a close friend.

Creative impulses inspire new risks early on **Saturday** as the Leo Moon trines both audacious Eris (1:23 a.m.) and adventurous Jupiter (3:53 a.m.). But with the Taurus Sun sesquiquadrate domestic Ceres in Virgo at daybreak, our choices today may disappoint family members who expect us to focus on household concerns. Luna’s ingress into Virgo at 11:59 a.m. could awaken a sense of duty, inspiring some to interrupt their independent plans; however, the strongest aspect today, a self-determined Mars–Uranus sextile (18°21' Cancer–Taurus), indicates an overriding emphasis on autonomy. The repercussions of our “selfishness” are apparent tonight when a judgmental Moon–Saturn opposition takes effect (10:41 p.m.).

Harmony gains as stronger foothold on **Sunday** morning as the Virgo Moon and the Taurus Sun trine each other at 7:59 a.m. The only other aspect of note today, a Moon–Mercury trine at 12:05 p.m., helps us to convey our thoughts in very practical, simple terms.

**Monday, May 1 – Wednesday, May 3:** With Mercury semi-square Neptune very early on **Monday**, it may be hard to differentiate dream from reality at first light. However, this is the day that Pluto stations retrograde (0°21' Aquarius), which means the influence of this powerful agent of transformation is especially strong now. And nothing works to clear the sleep from our eyes like a semi truck at a dead stop in the middle of the road in front of us! Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the Virgo Moon squares Venus and conjoins Ceres mid-morning, bringing up disagreements with family members. This afternoon’s conjunction between the Sun and Mercury (11°19' Taurus) might usually be considered a green “go-ahead” light for starting a project, but with Mercury now retrograde, the more reasoned advice is to use this alignment for reviewing rather than implementing a plan. A confusing Moon–Neptune opposition at 4:53 p.m. is another sign that decisions are

Apr 16 2023	5:42a	☉	♊	♊	26°11'16" D	26°11'16" D
Apr 16 2023	11:42a	♋	♊	♋	+07°55'	+07°55'
Apr 17 2023	4:43p	♌	♊	♌	+00°41'	-00°41'
Apr 17 2023	4:58p	♀	♋	♋	01°08'02" D	25°17'02" R
Apr 17 2023	7:28p	♀	♌	♌	08°11'00" D	16°11'34" D
Apr 18 2023	1:45a	♀	♍	♍	08°11'18" D	23°11'18" D
Apr 18 2023	2:16a	♀	♎	♎	08°11'19" D	26°11'19" D
Apr 18 2023	2:45p	♀	♏	♏	24°13'36" D	24°13'36" D
Apr 19 2023	2:50a	☉	♏	♏	+11°08'	-11°08'
Apr 19 2023	5:10a	♀	♏	♏	09°11'37" D	24°11'37" D
Apr 19 2023	5:41a	♀	♏	♏	24°13'50" D	24°13'50" R
Apr 19 2023	8:07a	♂	♏	♏	12°13'50" D	24°13'50" R
Apr 19 2023	11:58a	♀	♏	♏	09°11'56" D	24°13'56" D
Apr 20 2023	1:13a	☉	♏	♏	00°08'00" D	00°08'00" D
Apr 20 2023	4:22a	♏	SD		04°08'00" D	
Apr 20 2023	6:42a	♏	♏	♏	17°08'50" D	26°11'24" D
Apr 20 2023	9:26a	☉	♏	♏	00°08'20" D	00°08'20" D
Apr 20 2023	5:52p	☉	♏	♏	00°08'40" D	24°13'40" R
Apr 21 2023	1:34a	♀	♏	♏	15°08'37" R	
Apr 21 2023	1:38a	♀	♏	♏	24°13'38" R	24°13'38" D
Apr 22 2023	6:48a	♋	♏	♏	24°11'19" D	24°08'19" D
Apr 22 2023	11:43a	♌	♏	♏	+08°03'	+08°03'
Apr 22 2023	12:00p	♀	♏	♏	+24°28'	+24°28'
Apr 22 2023	1:43p	♏	♏	♏	24°08'29" D	24°13'29" R



## SCORPIO LUNAR ECLIPSE — MAY 5, 2023

**May 5, 2023 — 10:33 a.m. PDT**  
**May 5, 2023 — 5:33 p.m. GMT**

by *Diana McMahon Collis*

The Scorpio lunation is a penumbral lunar eclipse, meaning the Earth blocks out just some of the Sun's light from the Moon. The penumbra is described as the edge of the Earth's shadow, and being outermost, it's actually a lighter part of the shadow. The long and the short of this is that something in our lives might be somewhat obscured but not completely so. Therefore, we likely have some information that's useful or valuable, and anything that comes to light now might not be such a shock because of it. It might be that we find a few missing puzzle pieces, but still don't quite have them all — something that time itself could resolve.

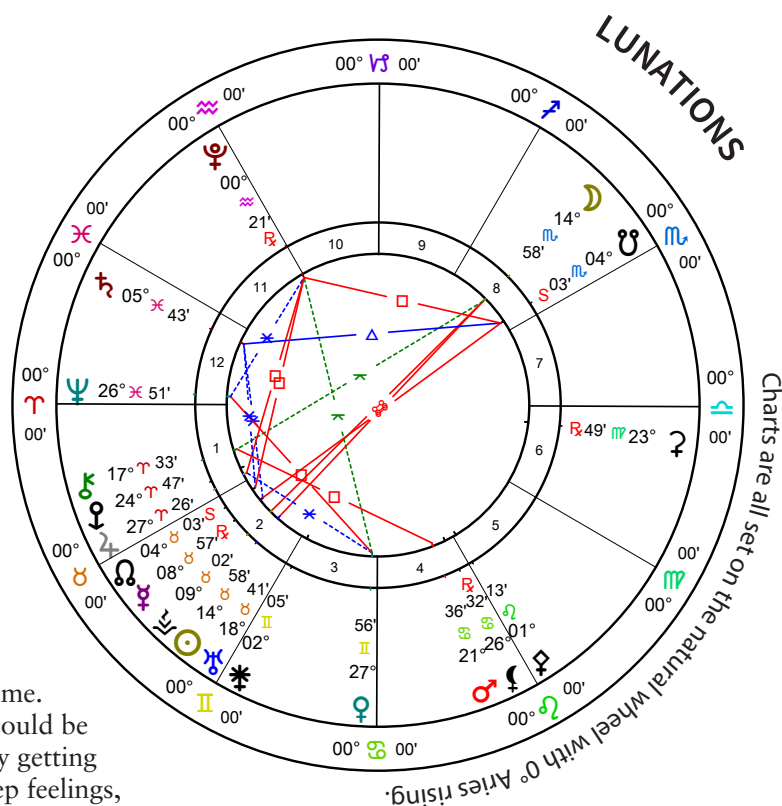
Scorpio is a sign associated with a certain amount of secrecy or hidden factors. So maybe we're trying to keep something covered up — but it's not that easy! The cloth wants to slip a little. It might be worth double-checking how details are tethered down or simply realise that we don't have complete control over the matter. Alternatively, maybe we realise that it's OK to allow just a little bit more information to see the light of day.

This situation can be especially relevant to how we now feel about a set of past actions or decisions which, at the time, we really didn't feel so great about. Perhaps we were judged harshly, either by ourselves or others. But with hindsight, we can adopt a new understanding and adjust our stance — maybe also finding that others don't view us quite as severely as we once imagined!

The Scorpio Moon is opposed by retrograde Mercury, indicating a desire to put feelings and needs

into words, yet struggling to do so fully at this time. Internally, this could be due to habitually getting caught up in deep feelings, causing distance and making it difficult to describe them. Or externally, because a situation somehow prohibits full expression — maybe we don't risk saying something to prevent a flare-up, for example. This dynamic could also apply to restricted movement or travel. Remember, Mercury won't always be retrograde, and our moment for greater flexibility is just ahead.

Also noticeable in this lunation is the collection of planets in water signs — Moon at 14° Scorpio, Mars at 21° Cancer, and Saturn at 5° Pisces. As we can see from the range of degrees, the planets are not close enough to be in a degree-based trine. If they were, we might be looking at the unique gifts and blessings of a water grand trine. But in late-March 2023, the Mars-Saturn trine offered an opportunity towards harmony and cooperation, and distant echoes of this continue to prompt us to remember past attempts to manage a relationship or situation in a smoother way so everyone could benefit. As Mars and Saturn are termed the “malefics” in traditional astrology, it's easy to view or even experience them as cosmic villains when



they show up in our lives. Yet, there are times when we need the brusqueness of Mars, alongside the insistence of by-the-book Saturn. And whilst a certain development or initiative may initially seem a bit harsh, perhaps we'll be glad for such decisiveness and certainty at some level!

What we really can't ignore, though, is the way that Uranus conjoins the Sun and opposes the Moon at this time, indicating that a breath of fresh air really is needed somewhere in our lives. Uranus has a way of delivering this as a short, sharp shock, like a lightning flash. In that moment, something is irrevocably changed. And once the dust settles and we get a chance to see the change, we may well sense relief as we survey a whole new vista ahead! The Moon's co-dispositor is dwarf, outer planet Pluto, in a dissociate square with Jupiter — signalling disruption and awkwardness. Sticking to our own truth and integrity may necessitate a messy ending.

best delayed for another day. The Venus–Ceres square that Luna activated this morning (23°53' Gemini–Virgo) perfects early this evening, unearthing self-worth issues based on feeling inadequate or ineffective. Hopefully easing tensions, Luna chooses harmony over perfection once she enters Libra at 11:09 p.m., and her trine to Pluto at 11:50 p.m. supports honesty and intimacy in personal relationships.

It's another foggy morning with the Sun semi-square Neptune before daybreak on *Tuesday*. The Libra Moon is very quiet today, letting other planets take the stage. Venus, the Goddess of Love and Beauty, is glad to step into the spotlight, courageously expressing her opinions as she sextiles Eris this afternoon (24°46' Gemini–Aries).

After surprising ourselves (and others) by our forthrightness yesterday, we may be a bit more tongue-tied on *Wednesday* morning, with Venus semi-square retrograde Mercury before dawn. Insecurity is especially noticeable around the time of a Moon–Chiron opposition (8:19 a.m.). This afternoon, tempers flare with a Moon–Mars square at 2:10 p.m., but with Mars also sesquiquadrate restrictive Saturn today, either our own conscience or pressure from others suppresses a full expression of our needs. Fisticuffs are possible late tonight when Luna opposes combative Eris (9:56 p.m.).

**Thursday, May 4 – Saturday, May 6:** A trine between the Libra Moon and Venus in chatty Gemini encourages affectionate conversations in the very early hours of *Thursday* morning (12:54 a.m.), but with a self-righteous Moon–Jupiter opposition waiting in the wings (exact at 2:17 a.m.), opinions we share may not sit well with a loved one. An emotional crisis could erupt at breakfast as Luna makes ingress into possessive Scorpio at 7:32 a.m. and then squares controlling Pluto within the hour. Disillusionment in relationships is a major theme this morning, with an overly idealistic Venus–Neptune square in effect (26°50' Gemini–Pisces). There are opportunities to rebuild trust later in the day, thanks to a tolerant Moon–Saturn trine at 5:53 p.m. This evening's Venus–Jupiter sextile likewise encourages a more open-minded exchange of ideas. However, with the Moon and retrograde Mercury both in fixed signs and opposing each other just after midnight (12:15 a.m. on Friday), our ability to accept differing viewpoints may only go so far.

A penumbral lunar eclipse is on the cosmic agenda for *Friday*. This event, which coincides with the Full Moon in Scorpio at 10:33 a.m., is likely to bring surprises due to unpredictable Uranus being within four degrees of the Taurus Sun. The power of intention when chasing freedom is especially notable late this afternoon when Luna is exactly opposite the sideways-spinning planet (5:13 p.m.). A late-night Moon–Mars trine (10:50 p.m.) inspires decisive action based on instinct.

Passion and compassion work well together as the Scorpio Moon trines Neptune at 7:37 a.m. on *Saturday*. We feel more free to follow wherever the lilting tones of the Pied Piper's flute lead us this afternoon, after Luna enters venturesome Sagittarius at 1:03 p.m. and then quickly sextiles confident Pluto. If any of our intuitive choices are ill-advised, we'll be sure to get feedback late tonight when the Moon squares disciplinarian Saturn (11:11 p.m.).

**Sunday, May 7 – Tuesday, May 9:** We're deeply aware of a need for comfort and connection when Venus enters security-seeking Cancer at 7:24 a.m. on *Sunday*. Today, and until the Goddess of Love moves into Leo on June 5, "home is where the heart is," and the heart is most happy at home. Unfortunately, we sense that Mom forgot to put enough sweetening in her tart apple pie, thanks to a distrustful Venus–Pluto quincunx that perfects mid-afternoon. A philosophical Moon–Chiron trine this evening (7:36 p.m.) may help us to see today's interactions from a more hopeful perspective.

The restless Sagittarius Moon is especially eager to get out the door early on *Monday*, inspired by a trine to self-absorbed Eris at 7:45 a.m. There is some uncertainty about the best road to travel late morning, due to a confusing Moon–Neptune square (11:22 a.m.). Not to be deterred for long, the wanderlust again takes over early afternoon as the Moon trines risk-taking Jupiter at 1:28 p.m. Three hours later, we suddenly remember the

Apr 22 2023	7:43p	☉	Q	♂	02° 8' 42" D	14° 32' 42" D
Apr 22 2023	8:44p	✳	♂	♀	24° 8' 39" D	24° 7' 39" D
Apr 22 2023	8:55p	♂	♂	♀	24° 7' 27" D	24° 7' 27" R
Apr 23 2023	2:17p	♀	♂	♀	26° 30' 30" D	26° 30' 30" D
Apr 23 2023	6:01p	♂	♂	♀	24° 7' 40" D	24° 7' 40" D
Apr 23 2023	8:19p	♀	✳	♂	15° 8' 15" R	15° 3' 15" D
Apr 24 2023	1:32a	☉	♂	♂	03° 8' 55" D	03° 8' 55" D
Apr 24 2023	2:04a	♀	♂	♀	15° 8' 11" R	15° 11' 11" D
Apr 24 2023	3:59a	☉	//	♀	+12° 51'	+12° 51'
Apr 24 2023	4:00a	☉	♂	♂	04° 8' 01" D	04° 8' 01" D
Apr 24 2023	4:11a	♂	SR	♂	04° 8' 01" R	
Apr 24 2023	5:22a	♀	♂	♂	15° 11' 21" D	00° 21' 21" D
Apr 24 2023	6:51a	♂	♂	♂	04° 8' 01" D	04° 8' 01" R
Apr 24 2023	9:50a	♀	♂	♀	15° 11' 33" D	15° 33' 33" D
Apr 24 2023	7:08p	♀	Q	♂	14° 8' 58" R	26° 35' 58" D
Apr 24 2023	9:27p	♀	S	♀	16° 11' 06" D	24° 7' 41" D
Apr 25 2023	3:47a	☉	✳	♂	04° 8' 58" D	04° 35' 58" D
Apr 25 2023	4:27a	♀	S	♂	16° 11' 26" D	25° 7' 00" D
Apr 25 2023	5:54a	♂	Q	♂	16° 30' 00" D	04° 8' 00" R
Apr 25 2023	7:12a	♂	#	♂	-02° 27'	+02° 27'
Apr 25 2023	4:49p	♀	✳	♂	17° 11' 01" D	17° 7' 01" D
Apr 26 2023	3:15a	♂	✳	♂	26° 35' 35" D	26° 35' 35" D
Apr 26 2023	9:44a	♂	#	♂	-10° 56'	+10° 56'
Apr 26 2023	4:36p	♀	✳	♂	05° 30' 06" D	05° 8' 06" D
Apr 26 2023	5:35p	♂	♂	♂	18° 11' 11" D	18° 8' 11" D
Apr 27 2023	6:34a	♂	♂	♂	17° 30' 07" D	17° 7' 07" D
Apr 27 2023	10:52a	♀	♂	♂	19° 11' 00" D	04° 8' 00" R
Apr 27 2023	2:09p	♂	SD	♂	04° 8' 00" D	
Apr 28 2023	8:35a	♀	♂	♂	+08° 58'	+08° 58'
Apr 29 2023	6:06a	♀	//	♂	+16° 58'	+16° 59'
Apr 29 2023	6:48a	☉	♂	♀	08° 8' 59" D	23° 7' 59" R
Apr 29 2023	1:04p	♂	✳	♂	18° 32' 21" D	18° 8' 21" D
Apr 29 2023	1:47p	♀	♂	♂	21° 11' 24" D	06° 8' 24" D
Apr 29 2023	8:25p	♂	Q	♂	18° 33' 31" D	06° 8' 31" D
Apr 30 2023	7:55p	♀	✳	♂	29° 32' 21" D	29° 8' 21" D
Apr 30 2023	11:37p	♂	Q	♀	05° 32' 25" D	29° 32' 25" D

long list of chores we need to finish as Luna dismounts from her steed and discovers she is now standing in Capricorn territory. We sense a cool distance in personal relationships this evening, perhaps in response to earlier gallivanting ways, with a Moon–Venus opposition at 7:19 p.m.

Early **Tuesday** morning may be a good time for a heart-to-heart, given the conscientious Capricorn Moon's trine to Mercury in plainspoken Taurus at 4:27 a.m. The strongest influence today likewise supports mending broken fences; a Mars–Ceres sextile that perfects mid-morning (23°50' Cancer–Virgo) enables us to channel our energy into caring for loved ones, especially family members. Even so, residual hurt feelings may need to be addressed this evening as Luna squares bristly Chiron (10:35 p.m.). Lunar trines to Uranus and the Sun in Taurus after midnight (12:32 a.m. and 1:19 a.m., respectively, on Wednesday) indicate an opportunity for us both to express our true needs and to reprioritize our loyalties late tonight.

**Wednesday, May 10 – Friday, May 12:** Despite progress made last night in stabilizing the bonds of love, some may still lash out defensively on **Wednesday** morning. The fight-or-flight instinct is strong with an easily irritated Moon–Mars opposition at 9:38 a.m. and an overly reactive Moon–Eris square 10:25 a.m. A subtle Moon–Neptune sextile this afternoon (2:03 p.m.) could ease some of the tension, but with Luna square Jupiter in Aries just three hours later, self-righteous attitudes prevail. Emotions are unstable and probably quite intense this evening as the Moon enters unpredictable Aquarius at 7:04 p.m. and then conjoins demanding Pluto a half hour later. Venus, currently in sensitive Cancer, supports a rebuilding of broken bonds through tonight's sextile to the Taurus North Node, but the Goddess of Love is also semi-square rebellious Uranus just before midnight, so we are not inclined to commit to anything that could limit our freedoms.

Tension is palpable on **Thursday** morning. Attempts to settle differences by discussing the issues only drive wedges deeper, with the Aquarius Moon square retrograde Mercury at 5:44 a.m. A hot-headed Mars–Eris square, which pits the God of War against the Goddess of Discord, is also exact this morning, increasing the fervor of current conflicts. With Mars in protective Cancer, we benefit by remembering that the Crab can sidle; if we quietly distance ourselves from a situation that feels threatening today, we can gain a more objective perspective, which then allows us to address the issue more rationally.

Negotiations are more productive but still move slowly as Mercury sextiles cautious Saturn (6°08' Taurus–Pisces) early on **Friday**. And yet, with the Aquarius Moon square erratic Uranus (3:12 a.m.) and the stubborn Taurus Sun (7:28 a.m.), the road to peaceful resolution is far from straightforward. Thankfully, tonight's planetary aspects indicate a

possible lifting of tensions: Mercury, in sextile to Venus early evening, finds it easier to discuss uncomfortable issues and is finally willing to compromise. Luna's ingress into sympathetic Pisces at 9:38 p.m. increases our sensitivity to another's feelings, and a Venus–Saturn trine (6°11' Cancer–Pisces) helps us to find diplomatic solutions.

**Saturday, May 13 – Monday, May 15:** The Pisces Moon is the common factor in notable aspects on **Saturday**, and these aspects all occur early in the day. The morning starts off with serious philosophical conversations as Luna sextiles Mercury (7:43 a.m.) and conjoins Saturn (8:11 a.m.). Hopefully, with assistance from a Moon–Venus trine within the hour, these talks help to forge a stronger, more harmonious relationship with a loved one.

Luna starts the day **Sunday** with a sextile to Uranus (6:21 a.m.) that helps us to tap into our intuition about the day ahead. This afternoon, a Moon–Sun sextile at 2:16 p.m. inspires an imaginative approach to practical matters, but a Moon–Ceres opposition just 20 minutes later means that family members may not fully appreciate our whimsy. This evening, the Moon is trine Mars (7:29 p.m.) and conjunct Neptune (7:56 p.m.), promoting creative or spiritual endeavors that bring comfort to oneself or others. The Taurus Sun's trine to nurturing Ceres at about the same time helps us to bridge any gaps that were felt earlier in the day, as all can agree on the need to create a mutually supportive environment. Mercury, having completed its retrograde phase, stations direct at 8:16 p.m. (5°50' Taurus), finally ready to put revised plans into action.

May 1 2023	1:06a	♂	♂	♂	11° 8'44" R	26° 44' D
May 1 2023	10:08a	♂	♂	♂	00° 21' R	
May 1 2023	4:27p	♂	♂	♂	11° 8'19" D	11° 8'19" R
May 1 2023	7:09p	♂	♂	♂	23° 11'53" D	23° 11'53" R
May 1 2023	9:50p	♂	♂	♂	00° 11'00" D	00° 11'00" R
May 2 2023	3:23a	♂	♂	♂	11° 8'46" D	26° 46' D
May 2 2023	5:16a	♂	♂	♂	24° 11'21" D	00° 21' R
May 2 2023	9:56a	♂	♂	♂	00° 11'00" D	00° 11'00" D
May 2 2023	9:56a	♂	♂	♂	+15°26'	+15°26'
May 2 2023	12:38p	♂	♂	♂	00° 21' R	00° 11'21" D
May 2 2023	1:16p	♂	♂	♂	+15°29'	+15°29'
May 2 2023	1:57p	♂	♂	♂	24° 11'46" D	24° 11'46" D
May 2 2023	3:03p	♂	♂	♂	26° 11'47" D	26° 11'47" D
May 2 2023	4:23p	♂	♂	♂	+15°25'	+15°25'
May 3 2023	3:21a	♂	♂	♂	10° 8'23" R	25° 11'23" D
May 3 2023	5:29a	♂	♂	♂	25° 11'29" D	04° 8'03" D
May 3 2023	7:30a	♂	♂	♂	00° 21' R	00° 11'21" D
May 3 2023	3:19p	♂	♂	♂	20° 11'36" D	05° 11'36" D
May 3 2023	5:28p	♂	♂	♂	27° 11'02" D	05° 11'37" D
May 3 2023	10:10p	♂	♂	♂	18° 8'36" D	00° 11'36" D
May 4 2023	10:39a	♂	♂	♂	26° 11'50" D	26° 11'50" D
May 4 2023	3:00p	♂	♂	♂	04° 8'03" R	
May 4 2023	9:00p	♂	♂	♂	09° 8'17" R	21° 11'17" D
May 4 2023	9:02p	♂	♂	♂	27° 11'19" D	27° 11'19" D
May 4 2023	11:10p	♂	♂	♂	08° 8'49" D	23° 11'49" R
May 5 2023	8:40a	♂	♂	♂	09° 8'00" R	09° 8'00" D



Luna laces up her running shoes very early on **Monday**, making ingress into athletic Aries at 12:56 a.m. Her sextile to Pluto a half hour later only amplifies the urgent need to follow the instincts of the moment. With Mars trine trusting Neptune at dawn (27°07' Cancer–Pisces), it's easy to take a leap of faith today, surrendering to wherever intuition may lead. Late this afternoon, as a Moon–Venus square takes effect (4:41 p.m.), some may confuse sympathy with a deeper affection.

**Tuesday, May 16 – Thursday, May 18:** The Aries Moon conjoins healer Chiron at 8:29 a.m. on **Tuesday**, asking us to pause for some much-needed self-care before heading off to work or school. But the astrological headline today, scripted in large bold letters, exclaims: “Largest Planet Enters Taurus!” With great Jupiter entering the sign of the Bull at 10:19 a.m., some of us might imagine that the “Santa Claus” planet will soon bring us everything on our wish list. However, it's important not to ignore the subheading beneath this exuberant announcement, which reads: “Battles Over Resources as Jupiter

Squares Pluto Tomorrow.” Tonight, Luna has her monthly rendezvous with instigator Eris at 8:26 p.m., painting a backdrop for some of the discord to come.

With the stage now set, the curtain rises on **Wednesday** to reveal an emotionally tense scene. A Moon–Mars square at 2:10 a.m. triggers a strong belligerence in some, but it's Luna's ingress into bullish Taurus (5:28 a.m.) and her immediate aspects to indulgent Jupiter (conjunction at 5:47 a.m.) and opinionated Pluto (square at 6:00 a.m.) that fully activate the influence of today's headstrong Jupiter–Pluto square. Although we usually feel the effects of a strong aspect between slower-moving planets for at least a few weeks before the exact date, the greatest impact of this square may manifest more suddenly, having waited until Jupiter stepped into Taurus yesterday. This afternoon, a self-serving Moon–Mercury conjunction in Aries (4:26 p.m.) inspires ardent expression of personal needs, but the Moon's sextile to Saturn a half hour later tones down the rhetoric somewhat. The Jupiter–Pluto square perfects at 6:10 p.m., at 0°18' Taurus–Aquarius.

Although not strong enough to fully counteract the powerful effects of the Jupiter–Pluto square, a sextile between the pragmatic Taurus Sun and charitable Neptune in the wee hours of **Thursday** morning may help to ease some of the tension. As the workday draws to a close, however, a radical Moon–Uranus conjunction (4:28 p.m.) adds to the contradictory mood. Late tonight, assisted by a logical Mercury–Saturn sextile, more rational conversations are possible.

**Friday, May 19 – Sunday, May 21:** The Sun and Moon align at 28°25' Taurus to begin a new lunar cycle at 8:53 a.m. on **Friday**. This lunation, occurring at the midpoint between Mars in Cancer and Neptune in Pisces, highlights a capacity to act intuitively and with compassion. Luna then shifts gears at 11:48 a.m., entering social Gemini and inspiring us to communicate our thoughts and feelings. A Moon–Pluto trine shortly after the noon hour energizes a need to know more, and may also encourage some to divulge personal secrets. Tonight's Moon–Saturn square (11:57 p.m.) could mean concerns about having revealed too much.

Assertive Mars enters self-confident Leo at 8:31 a.m. on **Saturday**, the beginning of a two-month journey that completes on July 10. Most times, we would interpret this transit as a time to act spontaneously, to enjoy life, and to be more playful. However, this ingress unleashes the influence of a dynamic Mars–Pluto opposition that perfects tonight (0°16' Leo–Aquarius); this polarizing aspect often manifests as an excessive need for control, high drama, power struggles, and even aggressiveness. The ripple effects of this opposition will likely play out for the next week at least, exacerbated by Mars's square to Jupiter, which perfects on Monday, May 22.

Offering a cooling breeze to lower some of the emotional heat, the Sun enters airy Gemini at 12:08 a.m. on **Sunday**. For the next month, we are

May 5 2023	4:07p	♈	♈	♈	08° 8'49" R	23° 17'49" R
May 6 2023	8:09a	♈	♈	♈	17° 17'36" D	02° 11'36" D
May 6 2023	12:27p	♈	SD	♈	23° 17'48" D	
May 6 2023	9:42p	♈	♈	♈	08° 8'07" R	29° 11'33" D
May 6 2023	11:45p	♈	♈	♈	29° 11'38" D	17° 17'38" D
May 7 2023	7:24a	♈	♈	♈	00° 8'00" D	00° 8'00" D
May 7 2023	3:10p	♈	♈	♈	00° 8'21" D	00° 8'21" R
May 8 2023	6:40a	♈	♈	♈	17° 8'43" D	17° 8'43" D
May 8 2023	6:56a	♈	♈	♈	02° 8'23" D	23° 17'49" D
May 8 2023	8:15a	♈	♈	♈	+17° 07'	+17° 07'
May 8 2023	8:41a	♈	♈	♈	+12° 51'	+12° 51'
May 8 2023	11:57a	♈	♈	♈	17° 8'55" D	05° 8'55" D
May 8 2023	4:17p	♈	♈	♈	03° 8'59" D	03° 8'59" R
May 8 2023	11:22p	♈	♈	♈	18° 8'23" D	26° 8'57" D
May 9 2023	7:37a	♈	♈	♈	02° 8'12" D	10° 8'46" D
May 9 2023	10:11a	♈	♈	♈	+12° 26'	+12° 26'
May 9 2023	10:57a	♈	♈	♈	23° 8'50" D	23° 17'50" D
May 9 2023	12:55p	♈	♈	♈	18° 8'56" D	18° 8'56" D
May 9 2023	5:40p	♈	♈	♈	-10° 38'	+10° 38'
May 10 2023	5:44a	♈	♈	♈	03° 8'12" D	03° 8'12" D
May 10 2023	9:50p	♈	♈	♈	03° 8'56" D	03° 8'56" R
May 10 2023	11:41p	♈	♈	♈	04° 8'01" D	19° 8'01" D
May 11 2023	6:16a	♈	♈	♈	24° 8'51" D	24° 8'51" D
May 11 2023	11:05p	♈	♈	♈	03° 8'55" D	03° 8'55" R
May 12 2023	1:41a	♈	♈	♈	06° 8'08" R	06° 8'08" D
May 12 2023	3:57a	♈	♈	♈	27° 8'02" D	12° 8'02" D
May 12 2023	6:10a	♈	♈	♈	06° 8'06" R	06° 11'06" D
May 12 2023	7:35a	♈	SD	♈	03° 8'55" D	
May 12 2023	8:21a	♈	♈	♈	06° 8'09" D	06° 11'09" D
May 12 2023	7:43p	♈	♈	♈	06° 8'00" R	06° 8'00" D
May 12 2023	11:56p	♈	♈	♈	06° 8'11" D	06° 8'11" D
May 13 2023	3:25a	♈	♈	♈	22° 8'25" D	04° 8'25" D
May 13 2023	8:14a	♈	♈	♈	+12° 49'	+12° 49'
May 13 2023	8:38a	♈	♈	♈	+22° 33'	-22° 33'
May 13 2023	3:10p	♈	♈	♈	06° 8'52" D	24° 8'52" D
May 13 2023	3:40p	♈	♈	♈	+11° 11'	+11° 11'
May 13 2023	4:59p	♈	♈	♈	06° 8'57" D	06° 8'57" D
May 14 2023	7:57p	♈	♈	♈	24° 8'02" D	24° 8'02" D
May 14 2023	8:16p	♈	SD	♈	05° 8'50" D	
May 15 2023	6:44a	♈	♈	♈	27° 8'07" D	27° 8'07" D
May 15 2023	5:08p	♈	♈	♈	24° 8'54" D	24° 8'54" D
May 16 2023	10:19a	♈	♈	♈	00° 8'00" D	00° 8'00" D
May 16 2023	10:28p	♈	♈	♈	06° 8'01" D	06° 8'01" D
May 17 2023	2:05a	♈	♈	♈	+10° 31'	-10° 31'
May 17 2023	7:30a	♈	♈	♈	10° 8'48" D	19° 8'23" D
May 17 2023	8:03a	♈	♈	♈	00° 8'12" D	24° 8'12" D
May 17 2023	10:55a	♈	♈	♈	27° 8'10" D	09° 8'10" D
May 17 2023	12:37p	♈	SD	♈	04° 8'00" R	
May 17 2023	6:10p	♈	♈	♈	00° 8'18" D	00° 8'18" R
May 17 2023	11:15p	♈	♈	♈	06° 8'27" D	06° 8'27" D

## TAURUS NEW MOON — MAY 19, 2023

**May 19, 2023 — 8:53 a.m. PDT**  
**May 19, 2023 — 3:53 p.m. GMT**

by *Diana McMahon Collis*

The Taurus New Moon helps us stand firm and make concrete plans, particularly in areas where we've formerly fumbled. Unlike in common story lines, most of the time we aren't heroes on a mission, able to plunge forward with clear-cut plans, motivations, or intentions. Sometimes, our wants may be hazy or there are obstacles in life obstructing progress. But like true heroes, we may also find ways to circumvent impediments. Many people may, however, have had to reconcile with challenges that are not easy to resolve and with barriers, whether personal or external, that seem impossible to counter. Until now, that is! It might well be under the revitalising energy of the Taurus New Moon that a new avenue opens before us or we find fresh energy to put behind a project.

This New Moon is especially well-supported through close aspects to three other planets — including sextiles to Mars in Cancer and Neptune in Pisces, and an out-of-sign trine to Pluto in Aquarius. Something about the watery energy of Cancer and Pisces allows for an easier flow of both physical energy and inspired action. Suddenly, we mobilise where we were previously stuck. Or answers to our problems drop in, where there was just a void earlier. As a result, depleted vitality and former frustrations are quickly replaced with verve and hope.

The trine to Pluto in Aquarius adds clarity and speed of development, like switching on a fan to clear the air so the atmosphere itself becomes more inviting toward positive thought and activity. Pluto's reputation for blowing things up can translate into issues becoming magnified and experiencing physical or material

destruction. Difficult aspects might present us with problems, but the trine crystallises the picture and clears the way for new creations. Taurus is very much about building something solid, after all. Since Pluto is an outer, dwarf planet, external developments, such as ground-clearing for new-build construction, could personally benefit us or the community at large. And maybe provide new, needed facilities or homes to people who will assist us in ways we can't yet imagine — perhaps we are some of those people! Either way, we could see more benefits of Pluto-themed developments coming to light soon, or at least beginning to take shape now.

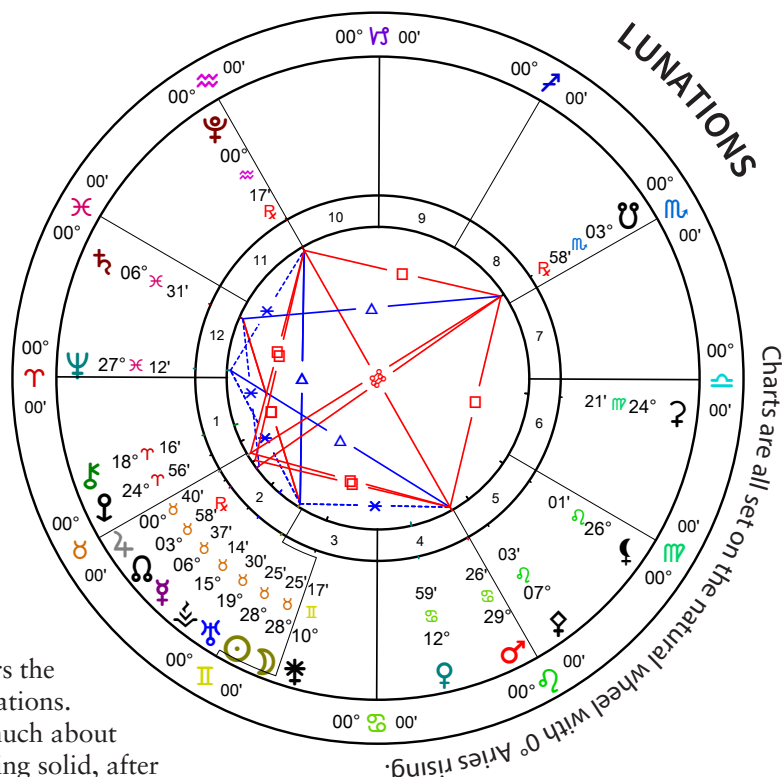
The Moon's dispositor, Venus in Cancer, underlines the strength of support in the shape of water, however it functions. That is, we might be talking about physical water features or facilities, which provide us with opportunities for sport, refreshment, or basic sustenance. Or we could experience caring, empathic, compassionate qualities in relationships. Cancer is the water sign arguably with the most initiative, since this is a cardinal sign by quality, supporting especially effective, decisive action. Since Venus is emphasised in this case, we may experience this process in a softer, but still significant way. Maybe those around us with more feminine energies help commence action or

intervene to rescue a situation. The kindness associated with Venus in Cancer partners well with the hospitality of Taurus — as well as its love of the good life. A finer level of comfort, normally unattainable, might well be within reach at this time — or simply, we allow ourselves more contentment and serenity — either in attitude or because of financial easing.

Venus trines Saturn in Pisces and sextiles Uranus in Taurus, suggesting that both old and new ways are useful to us. Whilst we may habitually reach for well-worn methods and routes, the sextile stirs us to open up to a bit more risk-taking here and there. Innovation ushers in fresh energy to get things moving and developing. It's time to say "yes" to the challenge!

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See p. 81 for bio.



encouraged to be more open-minded, to socialize, and to speak our truth while also being willing to listen to others' opinions. Empowered by a solar trine to Pluto at daybreak, we may be drawn to pursue a higher purpose today. Our ability to think and plan strategically, though strong in the morning hours, is less reliable this afternoon as the Gemini Moon squares otherworldly Neptune (3:11 p.m.). Luna's ingress into home-loving Cancer at 8:29 p.m. shifts the mood, as we wind down from so much mental activity and recognize our need for emotional nourishment. Even so, with the Sun sextile Mars in Leo late tonight, creative new ideas may inspire conversations or journaling long past midnight.

**Monday, May 22 – Wednesday, May 24:** The Cancer Moon feels protected and safe as it trines Saturn in compassionate Pisces at 9:23 a.m. on *Monday*. However, this subtly supportive influence is no match for the high energies of the excitable Mars–Jupiter square that perfects tonight (1°28' Leo–Taurus). This competitive aspect could invigorate some to fight for a moral or ethical cause, become embroiled in a philosophical or legal battle, or act grandly and impulsively.

Our hopes are for a cozy morning at home on *Tuesday* as the Cancer Moon conjoins Venus at 5:44 a.m. But a Moon–Chiron square three hours later rudely nudges us out of our comfort zone and, perhaps, out the door in a foul mood. Luna's sextile to liberating Uranus at 11:07 a.m. could help to free us from the doldrums for a while. And yet, as a Moon–Eris square comes into effect tonight (9:32 p.m.), the pot of Discontent Stew is again heated and served. For the night owls, an inspirational Moon–Neptune trine that perfects early tomorrow (2:12 a.m. on Wednesday) provides a much-needed spiritual perspective.

Luna enters spontaneous Leo at 7:35 a.m. on *Wednesday*, an ingress that would usually inspire us to take new creative risks; however, a Moon–Pluto opposition a half hour later quickly pours salt on the flames of our desires. Nevertheless, we may take an impetuous leap of faith around the noon hour, due to the combined effects of a Moon–Jupiter square (11:12 a.m.) and a Moon–Mars conjunction (12:20 p.m.). And yet, residual insecurities may pose problems today, as Wounded Healer Chiron is semi-square the Sun and square Venus late afternoon. We do not necessarily trust others, nor ourselves, with these challenging aspects.

**Thursday, May 25 – Saturday, May 27:** Relationship issues raise concerns on *Thursday* as the variety-seeking Gemini Sun semi-squares Venus in sensitive Cancer in the early-morning hours; trouble brews when words are taken more personally than they were intended or when a loved one's attention is drawn elsewhere. A mid-morning Mercury–Ceres sesquiquadrate also disrupts clear communications, fueled by an underlying lack of self-worth; negative self-talk causes some to question their truth and undermines the ability to express their thoughts. Tonight, although the Leo Moon is trine healer Chiron (8:59 p.m.), which encourages confidence in self-expression, a Moon–Uranus square at 11:38 p.m. can leave us feeling estranged from those we most want to impress. The saving grace appears in the form of an empathic Venus–Uranus sextile (19°53' Cancer–Taurus) that perfects not long after midnight (12:36 a.m. on Friday); this aspect can help us to reconnect with a loved one while also accepting that no one person can meet all our needs all the time.

Independent initiatives are supported on *Friday* morning as the Leo Moon trines Eris at 9:58 a.m. But Mars in dramatic Leo is square the nodal axis midday; we may have regrets about our actions or realize that an aggressive attitude has not served us well. This evening, after Luna enters analytical Virgo at 8:04 p.m., we are compelled to assess what went down or came up earlier in the day. A Moon–Jupiter trine after midnight (12:52 a.m. on Saturday) helps to put a positive spin on the day's "growth opportunities."

Reality paints a less than rosy picture on *Saturday* morning as the critical Virgo Moon squares the Gemini Sun (8:22 a.m.) and opposes unsympathetic Saturn in Pisces (9:52 a.m.). This short-lived mutable t-square may overload the nervous system, causing anxiety and indecisiveness for a few hours. An earthy Moon–Mercury trine this evening (8:07 p.m.) helps us to feel more grounded; this will come in handy as we process the relationship issues churned up by a demanding but aloof Venus–Saturn sesquiquadrate that perfects shortly before midnight.

**Sunday, May 28 – Monday, May 29:** The Gemini Sun, always eager for new experiences that stimulate the mind, finds its enthusiasm dampened by a square to restrictive Saturn in Pisces early on *Sunday* morning. Adding to discomfort today, a confusing Mercury–Neptune semi-square can lead us to misinterpret signals from others or even misunderstand messages from the cosmos. Luna, armed with her Virgo ability to discern fact from fiction, steps in this afternoon to assist; an intuitive Moon–Uranus trine at 12:11 p.m. promotes an inner knowing of what steps to take. This evening, we may enjoy helping Mom make dinner or perhaps want to be of service to those in need, as the Moon and Ceres conjoin (10:54 p.m.).

May 18 2023	1:59a	☉	✳	♊	27° 8' 11" D	27° 8' 11" D
May 18 2023	6:31a	☿	♊	♊	18° 1' 13" D	09° 11' 39" D
May 18 2023	1:42p	♀	//	♋	+10° 38'	+10° 38'
May 18 2023	5:28p	♀	Q	♋	12° 38' 18" D	24° 17' 18" D
May 18 2023	5:51p	♂	♋	♋	09° 11' 55" D	24° 17' 55" D
May 18 2023	11:36p	♀	Q	♋	12° 38' 34" D	00° 8' 34" D
May 18 2023	11:39p	♀	✳	♋	06° 8' 30" D	06° 8' 30" D
May 20 2023	8:31a	♂	♊	♋	00° 0' 00" D	00° 0' 00" D
May 20 2023	8:11p	♂	♊	♊	00° 0' 16" D	00° 0' 16" R
May 21 2023	0:08a	☉	♊	♋	00° 0' 00" D	00° 0' 00" D
May 21 2023	6:58a	☉	♊	♊	00° 0' 16" D	00° 0' 16" R
May 21 2023	8:52a	♂	//	♋	+13° 30'	+13° 30'
May 21 2023	10:26a	♂	Q	♋	00° 0' 36" D	06° 8' 36" D



An early-morning Moon–Neptune opposition (2:46 a.m.) may go by unnoticed by some, but for others, dream images may be especially fantastic early on **Monday**. Luna’s ingress into cordial Libra at 7:51 a.m. could inspire us to stop for a chat with a friend before going to the office; what begins as a casual conversation may soon turn to deeper subjects with a psychologically astute Moon–Pluto trine in effect (8:12 a.m.). Early this evening, Luna’s sextile to Mars in Leo (6:20 p.m.) encourages us to be more spontaneous in our approach to relationships. An airy Moon–Sun trine that perfects after midnight (12:38 a.m. on Tuesday) leads to late-night conversations, with favorable outcomes.

**Tuesday, May 30 – Wednesday, May 31:** Uranus conjoins dedicated Vesta on **Tuesday** (20°08' Taurus); this pairing can encourage us to commit effort and resources to manifesting a new vision for planet Earth and for humanity. This evening, an opposition between the Libra Moon and Chiron in Aries (7:53 p.m.) reveals where we have sublimated personal needs in our desire to please another.

A predawn Venus–Eris square (25°02' Cancer–Aries) breaks down codependent tendencies on **Wednesday**, with Luna’s opposition to Eris (7:35 a.m.) and square to Venus (7:54 a.m.) bringing issues to a climax early in the day. The Gemini Sun sheds further light on the issues as it semi-squares Eris midday. Emotions intensify this afternoon when the Moon enters crisis-oriented Scorpio (4:45 p.m.) and immediately squares disruptive Pluto (5:02 p.m.). A self-righteous Moon–Jupiter opposition late tonight (11:03 p.m.) makes for a long and dramatic evening, since everyone feels compelled to make their opinions known.

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#### Forecast Calendar:

**Pam Younghans** is a professional astrologer, writer, and editor living in the Pacific Northwest. She offers individual and relationship readings by phone or Zoom. Pam also writes a weekly astrology e-forecast, the *NorthPoint Journal*, offered free by subscription. Visit <http://www.northpointastrology.com> to subscribe and to learn more about Pam’s work. To schedule a personal reading, please send an email to [pam@northpointastrology.com](mailto:pam@northpointastrology.com).

#### Lunations:

British writer **Diana McMahon Collis** studied traditional and modern astrology at the Company of Astrologers in Bloomsbury, London, practicing professionally since 1990. In 2001, she co-founded Tarot Association of the British Isles. She has a BA Honours degree in Film, Drama, and English from Reading University and has written many columns and features. She works as an editor and mentor in mind, body, and spirit nonfiction with Oxford-based <https://jerichowriters.com>; see also <https://mindbliss.co.uk> and <https://celestialspot.blogspot.com>.

#### Horoscopes:

**Clarissa Dolphin** is a certified astrologer, writer and active researcher. She earned two BAs from the University of Pittsburgh and a Masters from University of the Arts London. She writes horoscopes for The Mountain Astrologer and is a Mystic Medusa locum. Clarissa has also been featured in The New York Times, The Career Astrologer, Dirty Laundry, Notion, award-winning art magazine FAINTE and more. She’s conducted breakthrough research on the Lunar Nodes, the Quincunx, Arabic Parts and Chiron. Clarissa lectures, serves clients and the astrology community on the ISAR Board. You can reach her at [SiderealSoul.com](http://SiderealSoul.com) and @clarissadolphins on socials.

May 21 2023	10:56p	☉	✳	♂	00° 11' 54" D	00° 11' 54" D
May 22 2023	1:31a	♀	☿	♂	15° 34' 48" D	03° 34' 48" R
May 22 2023	9:55a	☉	✳	♂	01° 11' 21" D	01° 11' 21" D
May 22 2023	10:12p	♂	☿	♂	01° 11' 28" D	01° 11' 28" D
May 23 2023	2:50a	♀	✳	♂	16° 35' 53" D	16° 35' 53" D
May 23 2023	9:19a	♂	☿	♂	01° 11' 44" D	19° 34' 44" D
May 23 2023	11:07a	♀		♂	+11° 01'	+11° 00'
May 24 2023	7:28a	♀	☿	♀	09° 34' 10" D	09° 34' 10" D
May 24 2023	3:59p	☉	☿	♂	03° 11' 31" D	18° 11' 31" D
May 24 2023	4:39p	♀	☿	♂	18° 33' 31" D	18° 33' 31" D
May 24 2023	6:18p	☉	✳	♂	03° 11' 36" D	03° 33' 36" R
May 25 2023	2:05a	☉	☿	♀	03° 11' 55" D	18° 35' 55" D
May 25 2023	4:48a	☿		♂	+12° 42'	+12° 42'
May 25 2023	10:31a	☉		♂	+20° 59'	+20° 59'
May 25 2023	10:43a	♀	☿	♂	09° 34' 59" D	24° 11' 59" D
May 25 2023	11:17a	♂	✳	♀	24° 11' 59" D	24° 11' 59" D
May 26 2023	0:36a	♀	✳	♂	19° 35' 53" D	19° 35' 53" D
May 26 2023	9:55a	☿		♂	+12° 51'	+12° 51'
May 26 2023	11:36a	♀	☿	♂	10° 34' 06" D	25° 11' 06" D
May 26 2023	1:05p	♂	☿	♂	03° 34' 32" D	03° 34' 32" R
May 26 2023	8:57p	♂	☿	♂	03° 34' 44" D	25° 11' 09" D
May 27 2023	1:08a	♂	☿	♂	18° 11' 37" D	18° 33' 37" D
May 27 2023	8:12a	♂	SD	♂	03° 34' 32" D	
May 27 2023	10:47a	♀	☿	♂	27° 34' 22" D	18° 34' 48" D
May 27 2023	1:34p	♂	☿	♂	06° 34' 51" D	18° 35' 51" D
May 27 2023	3:33p	♂		♂	+12° 41'	+12° 41'
May 27 2023	5:24p	♀	☿	♂	00° 34' 12" R	15° 11' 12" D
May 27 2023	11:37p	♀	☿	♂	21° 35' 52" D	06° 34' 52" D
May 28 2023	3:45a	☉	☿	♂	06° 11' 52" D	06° 34' 52" D
May 28 2023	7:40a	♀	☿	♂	12° 34' 23" D	27° 34' 23" D
May 29 2023	6:41a	♀		♂	+12° 28'	+12° 28'
May 29 2023	8:33p	♂	☿	♂	16° 11' 27" D	25° 11' 01" D
May 29 2023	11:56p	♀		♂	+12° 42'	+12° 42'
May 30 2023	11:50a	♂	☿	♂	20° 34' 08" D	20° 34' 08" D
May 30 2023	7:47p	☉	☿	♂	09° 11' 25" D	27° 34' 25" D
May 31 2023	3:54a	♀	☿	♂	25° 34' 02" D	25° 11' 02" D
May 31 2023	11:00a	☉	☿	♂	10° 11' 02" D	25° 11' 02" D
May 31 2023	4:17p	☉	☿	♂	10° 11' 15" D	18° 11' 49" D
May 31 2023	8:04p	♀	☿	♂	27° 34' 26" D	12° 34' 26" D
May 31 2023	11:24p	♂	SR	♂	03° 34' 37" R	

# SKY WATCH

March, April & May 2023

by *Julene Louis*

**V**enus and Mars are visible in the evening during March, April, and May. Saturn becomes visible in the morning in mid-March. Jupiter is visible in the evening until late March and becomes visible in the morning in mid-May. Mercury is visible in the evening from late March through mid-April and becomes visible in the morning in late May. A hybrid solar eclipse, a penumbral lunar eclipse, and two meteor showers occur in April and May. Rise and set times in this article are noted in local standard time until March 12 and local daylight time thereafter.

## The Evening Sky

As sunset darkens the sky on March 1, look for **Mars** to pop into view high above the southern horizon. **Venus** and **Jupiter** will peek through the twilight above the western horizon. They will be in a tight conjunction by both celestial longitude and celestial latitude and may appear as one bright planet. The following evening, Venus will appear above Jupiter. The distance between these planets will increase each night as Venus pulls farther east (left) of Jupiter. At the beginning of March, Venus and Jupiter set around 8:30 p.m., and Mars sets around 2:15 a.m.

The Moon joins the evening planets in late March. On March 22, locate Jupiter slightly west (right) of the Moon. On March 23, locate Venus above and east of the Moon. The following evening, Venus will be below and west of the Moon. The star in the constellation Aries above and west of Venus will be Hamal, marking the end of Ashwini nakshatra, and the star below and east of Venus will be Menkar, marking the beginning of Bharani nakshatra. On March 27, locate Mars below and east of the Moon. The following evening, Mars will be below and west of the Moon. The bright red star below Mars is Betelgeuse of Orion, marking Ardra nakshatra.

At the end of March, Jupiter leaves the evening's stellar stage, and **Mercury** makes its evening debut. On March 27, Jupiter and Mercury conjoin in the evening sky. If you have dark skies and a clear view of the western horizon, locate Mercury very slightly west of Jupiter. The following evening, Mercury will appear directly above Jupiter.

As the sky darkens on April 1, locate Mercury low to the western horizon, below and west of Venus. Mars will appear in the southwest at sunset. At the beginning of April, Mercury sets around 8:45 p.m., followed by



Venus around 10:45 p.m. and Mars around 2:15 a.m. Mercury will be below Sheratan and Hamal of Aries, marking Ashwini nakshatra. On April 9 and 10, Venus passes below the Pleiades cluster in the constellation Taurus, marking Krittika nakshatra.

The Moon joins these planets toward the end of April. On April 21, locate a dim Mercury low to the horizon below and west of the Moon. This will be one of the last evenings to locate Mercury as the planet heads toward inferior conjunction with the Sun and then reappears in the morning sky in late May. On April 22, locate Venus above and east of the Moon. The following evening, Venus will be below and west of the Moon. The reddish star below Venus is Aldebaran of Taurus, which marks Rohini nakshatra. On April 25, locate Mars slightly below the Moon. The stars above Mars, Castor and Pollux that form the heads of the Gemini Twins, mark Punarvasu nakshatra. At the end of April, Venus sets around 11:30 p.m., and Mars sets around 1:30 a.m.

On May 1, Venus passes between Elnath (above and right) and Zeta Tauri (below and left), the stars marking the horns of Taurus the Bull. A brighter star below, Bellatrix of Orion, marks Mrigashira nakshatra. On May 11, locate Betelgeuse of Orion below Venus, marking Ardra nakshatra. Begin watching Venus move closer to Mars, the red planet appearing to the east of Castor and Pollux as it nears the end of Punarvasu nakshatra.

On May 22, locate Venus directly east of the Moon and below Castor and Pollux, which mark Punarvasu nakshatra. The following evening, the Moon will be between Venus and Mars. On May 24, locate Mars slightly below and west of the Moon. Mars will be among the dim stars of the constellation Cancer, nearing North and South Asellus that mark Pushya nakshatra. At the end of May, Venus sets around midnight, and Mars sets around 12:30 a.m.





## The Morning Sky

**Saturn** makes his morning phasis, or heliacal rise, in mid-March. Try to locate Saturn slightly above and east of the Moon as it rises in the east-southeast amid the glow of dawn on March 19. Saturn will be easier to locate over the next week. By the end of March, Saturn will rise before the dawn, around 6:00 a.m. The star above **Mars** will be Sadalmelik of Aquarius that marks Shatabishak nakshatra.

On the morning of April 15, Saturn will be east of the Moon. On April 16, locate Saturn above the Moon. The ringed planet rises around 5:00 a.m. in mid-April. Saturn will be joined in the morning sky by **Jupiter** in mid-May and **Mercury** in late May. Start watching for Jupiter to rise amid the glow of dawn around May 10.

The Moon joins the morning planets in mid-May. On May 13, locate Saturn slightly above and east of the Moon. Saturn rises around 3:00 a.m. in mid-May. On the morning of May 15, locate Jupiter slightly east of the Moon as they rise around 5:00 a.m. Mercury will not get very high above the eastern horizon and can only be located through the early light of dawn. Thus, it will be difficult to spot Mercury during this morning appearance. Start watching around May 25 for Mercury to rise around 5:15 a.m. below and east of Jupiter. Each morning, Mercury will appear a bit farther east of Jupiter. At the end of May, Saturn rises around 2:30 a.m., Jupiter rises around 4:30 a.m., and Mercury rises around 5:00 a.m.

## Meteor Showers and Eclipses

There are two major **meteor showers** during April and May: the Lyrids and the Eta Aquarids. Meteors can streak across the sky in any direction but appear to originate from a particular location called the radiant. Typically, the shower is named after the constellation containing its radiant.

The **Lyrids** are active April 13–29 as Earth orbits through the dust and debris left behind by comet C/1861 Thatcher. These meteors enter Earth's atmosphere at 29

miles per second near the bright star Vega in the constellation Lyra. The Lyrids peak between 2:00 a.m. and dawn on April 23, when 29 meteors per hour are expected.

The **Eta Aquarids** occur simultaneously with the Lyrids but last longer: from April 15 to May 27. This shower comes to us compliments of parent comet 1P/Halley. Fifty meteors per hour are expected to enter Earth's atmosphere at 40.7 miles per second on their peak morning of May 6. However, light from the Full Moon will reduce the number of visible meteors. Look to the east above Saturn between 3:00 a.m. and dawn to find the radiant.

A **solar eclipse** occurs on April 20 (in UT). This is a hybrid eclipse, meaning that it is observed partially as a total eclipse and partially as an annular eclipse. The Moon passes in front of the Sun from 2:37 to 5:56 UT, with the greatest eclipse occurring at 4:17 UT. The "ring of fire" of the annular eclipse can be observed in southeast Asia, New Zealand, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Parts of Australia will see the total eclipse, and parts will see the annular eclipse.

A **lunar eclipse** lasting 4 hours and 17 minutes occurs on May 5. This is a penumbral eclipse, where the Moon passes through the penumbral shadow of the Earth, causing the Moon to dim rather than disappear. The eclipse begins at 15:14 UT and ends at 19:31 UT, with the greatest eclipse occurring at 17:24 UT. Observers in Australia, Asia, Africa, and most of Europe can witness the dimming of the Moon.

For visual aids that help you to locate the planets, visit "The Mountain Astrologer Sky Maps" tab at Julene's website: <http://julene.louis.com>.

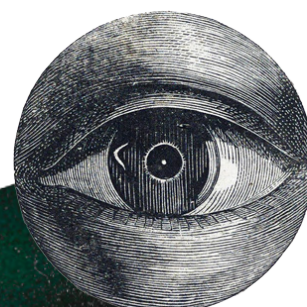
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*Julene Louis, ISAR-CAP, Jyotish Visharada-CVA, is a co-founder of the Sky Astrology Conference (<http://skyastrologyconference.com>) and a full-time consulting and teaching astrologer. She lectures at conferences and local groups throughout North America and is a member of the leadership committee at ACVA. Julene is available for consultation, group lectures, and tutoring toward CVA Jyotish Visharada certification. She can be reached via her website (<http://julene.louis.com>) or email: [julene.louis@gmail.com](mailto:julene.louis@gmail.com).*



# CELESTIAL CALENDAR

March 2023	April 2023	May 2023
<b>March 3</b> at 2:01 p.m. EST: Moon at apogee <sup>1</sup> (405,890 km / 252,208 mi)	<b>April 11</b> at 5:00 p.m. EDT: Mercury at greatest elongation (19.5° east of Sun)	<b>May 1</b> at 7:27 p.m. EDT: Mercury at inferior conjunction (between Sun & Earth)
<b>March 17</b> at 6:44 a.m. EDT: Mercury at superior conjunction (Sun between Mercury & Earth)	<b>April 11</b> at 6:06 p.m. EDT: Sun conjunct Jupiter	<b>May 5</b> at 12:24 p.m. EDT: penumbral lunar eclipse
<b>March 19</b> at 10:16 a.m. EDT: Moon at perigee <sup>2</sup> (362,698 km / 225,371 mi)	<b>April 15</b> at 9:22 p.m. EDT: Moon at perigee <sup>2</sup> (367,967 km / 228,644 mi)	<b>May 6</b> (before dawn): Eta Aquarid meteor shower peaks
<b>March 21</b> at 5:24 p.m. EDT: vernal equinox (Sun at 0° N declination)	<b>April 17</b> at 11:00 a.m. EDT: Venus at perihelion <sup>3</sup> (107,480,000 km / 66,784,976 mi)	<b>May 10</b> at 11:57 p.m. EDT: Moon at perigee <sup>2</sup> (369,345 km / 229,500 mi)
<b>March 31</b> at 6:18 a.m. EDT: Moon at apogee <sup>1</sup> (404,921 km / 251,606 mi)	<b>April 19</b> at 11:17 p.m. EDT: hybrid solar eclipse	<b>May 14</b> at 2:10 p.m. EDT: Mercury at aphelion <sup>4</sup> (69,818,000 km / 43,382,894 mi)
<b>March 31</b> at 3:32 p.m. EDT: Mercury at perihelion <sup>3</sup> (46,001,200 km / 28,583,820 mi)	<b>April 21</b> at 4:34 a.m. EDT: Mercury stations retrograde	<b>May 14</b> at 11:16 p.m. EDT: Mercury stations direct
	<b>April 23</b> (before dawn): Lyrid meteor shower peaks	<b>May 25</b> at 9:39 p.m. EDT: Moon at apogee <sup>1</sup> (404,510 km / 251,351 mi)
1. Apogee: Moon farthest from Earth 2. Perigee: Moon closest to Earth 3. Perihelion: planet closest to Sun 4. Aphelion: planet farthest from Sun	<b>April 28</b> at 9:22 p.m. EDT: Moon at apogee <sup>1</sup> (404,300 km / 251,220 mi)	<b>May 29</b> at 12:00 a.m. EDT: Mercury at greatest elongation (24.9° west of Sun)
		<b>May 30</b> at 4:00 p.m. EDT Mars at aphelion <sup>4</sup>



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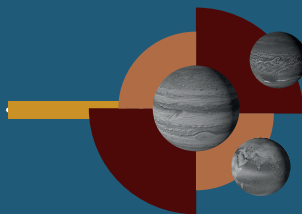
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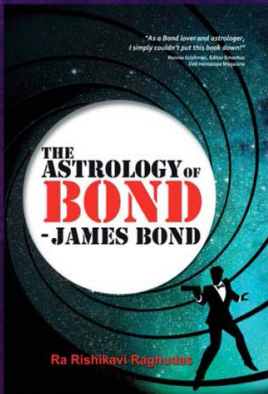
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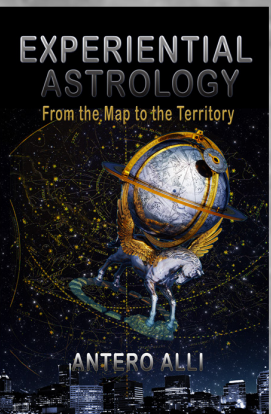


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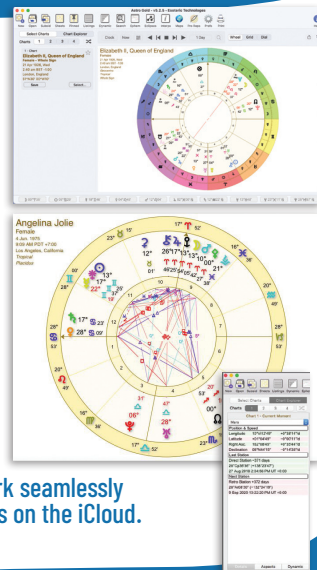
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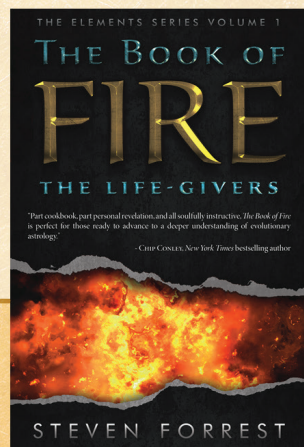
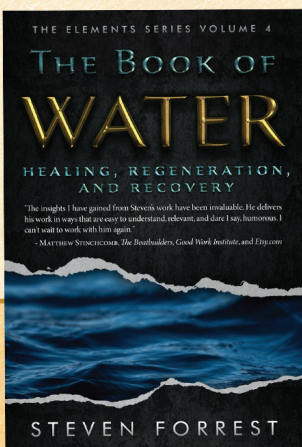
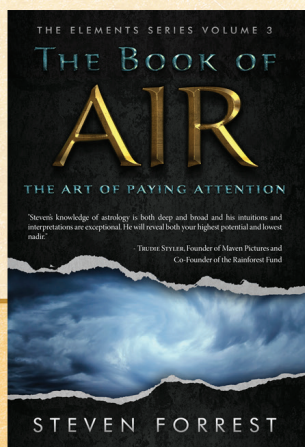
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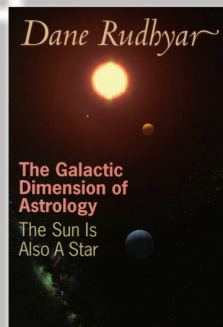
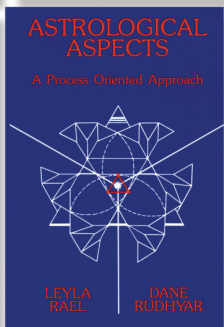
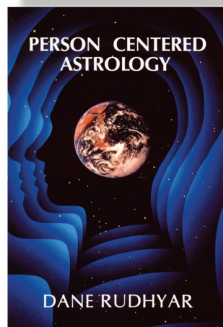
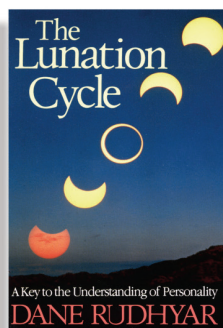
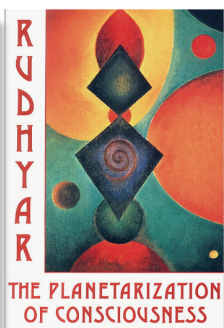
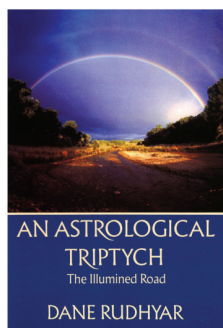
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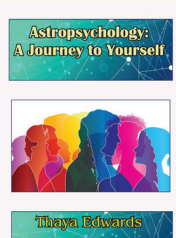
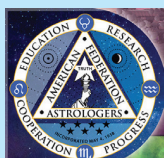




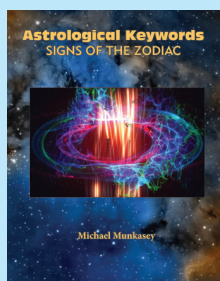
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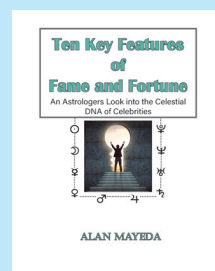
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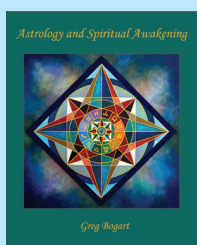
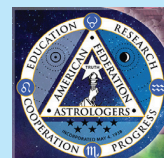
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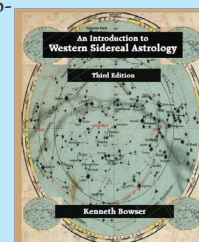
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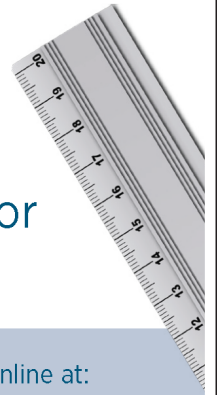
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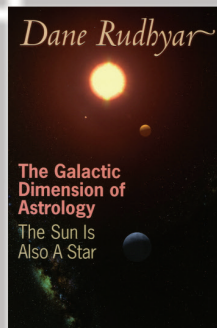
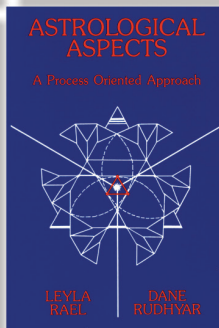
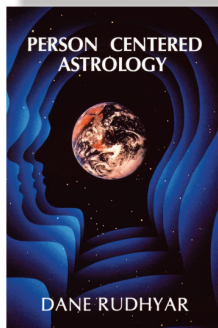
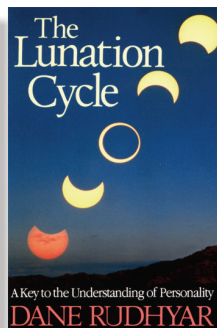
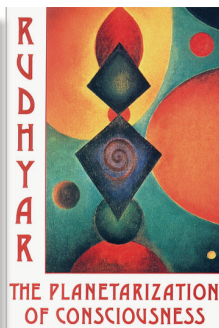
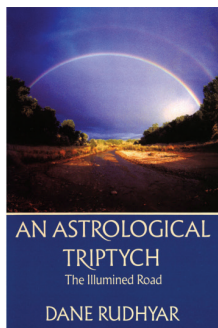
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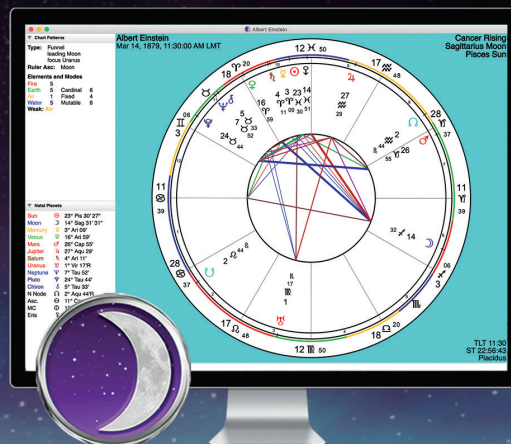
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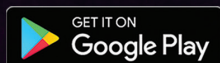
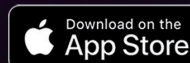
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