

# Musings on Starlight

One of the significant transits of February is Jupiter's recent entrance into Aries, the dynamic fire sign. This symbolism reminds me of Hephaestus the Greek god, blacksmith and patron of artists who work with metal. When Hephaestus was born his mother Juno was so repelled by his appearance she threw him off Mount Olympus causing him to fall for nine days. Later he built his blacksmith's shop under a volcano.

I have a visionary friend – a renowned environmental advocate. He too is a blacksmith. Sometimes when I think about his courage, his determination and his vision, I imagine him in his workshop like Hephaestus- forging iron with fire.

The planet Jupiter rules religion, philosophy and belief systems. With Jupiter in Aries the time is right to harness the power of fire – its courage, vision and passion – to expand our lives by implementing new or evolved beliefs that are important to us. Aries is a daring sign that prefers action. Acting now in bold new directions will be rewarded. If initiatives do not pan out as we plan there will be opportunities to understand why. Other alternatives may present themselves if we are open.

The downside of Jupiter is rigid dogma and self righteousness. The sign of Aries is ruled by the war god, Mars. In his evolved side Mars is a spiritual warrior and courageous in battle- both in the inner and outer landscape. In the less evolved side we see religious wars and uncompromising battles about dogma.

In the ancient story of Beowulf, the Martian hero is a spiritual warrior who has undertaken the task of fighting a monster who had been terrifying the local citizenry. Beowulf prepares for battle by carrying a magical sword deep into underwater den of the formidable monster. Once he arrives, however he discovers he cannot use the sword he carried with him, but instead finds a different sword hanging on the wall. This weapon allows him to slay the monster. But when he reaches the surface victorious, the sword melts away in the water.

This story is a reminder about Jupiter's hope and benevolence – that although we must be wise and prepare well for battle, we need to have faith that we will have the protection we need when facing difficult tasks in the inner or outer world. When the battle or challenge is over, we need to let the weapons dissolve so that we go forward with faith and humility as opposed to rigidly over defending ourselves with arrogance or self righteousness - Jupiter's negative side.

For the month specifically-

The first week of February Mars the war god conjuncts the Sun. This is a good time for assertion but can also create friction, anger and irritation. Best to look to the source rather than act on it. Confrontations are likely and it is best to disengage.

The New Moon this month is on the 2nd at 13 degrees of Aquarius. Use this Moon to reaffirm intentions set in January and to look for any seeds of those intentions that may have started to sprout.

The 17th through the 24 the Sun conjuncts Neptune. This aspect can cast a gossamer glow. It is good for artwork and spiritual work but can lead to illusion on the mundane level.

The Full Moon in Leo is on the 18th as Venus in Capricorn squares retrograde Saturn in Libra. This part of the month may feel Icarus like – flying too close to the Sun. Best to choose the path of moderation.

On the 20th Mars moves up to a conjunction to Neptune- another good aspect for artistic or spiritual work. Under this influence it is easy to feel that our power is illusive or eroding. It is a good time to strengthen the immune system and let illusions pass.

Jupiter moves up to a square with Pluto at the end of the month which can lead to power struggles and intolerance. Astrological aspects indicate that at this time in history there is the potential for a powerful global transformation in consciousness to occur. It is better to focus on that vision than worry about the fighting and backlash.

Long term aspects indicate that collaboration and cooperation will achieve success. Overly defending ourselves or holding rigid positions which alienate us from others will not serve us well.

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