

Musings on Starlight

An Astrological Forecast for January '06 by Amelia Shea

January 6 in the Christian world marks the feast of the Epiphany. This holy day celebrates the arrival of the Magi at the stable where Christ was born revealing Christ as the one who would fulfill the words of prophets and become the spiritual leader of the Gentiles. Many historians believe the Magi were astrologers and were following the very bright light of the Jupiter Venus conjunction which symbolized the growth of love and wisdom on the earth.

T.S Eliot wrote about the Epiphany in his poem *Journey of the Magi*,

“A cold coming we had of it
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey and such a long journey
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.
And the camels, sore footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melted snow,
There were times that we regretted
The summer palaces on the slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.....
At the end we preferred to travel all night
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly...”

Although we tend to romanticize the arrival of the Magi, it in fact portended a time when the old forms, old securities and world views would dissipate, leaving many more questions than the ones it appeared to solve. TS Eliot talks about this further in the poem when he describes the thoughts of one of the Magi,

“All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,

But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our Death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods,
I should be glad of another death.”

This poem is intriguing not only because it challenges the trivialized version of Christmas so prevalent in this culture, but because it also addresses the difficulties of spiritual growth and revelation in the context of a journey.

We are now in the season of Capricorn and the journey through this sign this year may feel a little like the journey of the Magi. The mountain goat's long and difficult journey to the top of the mountain is the symbol of Capricorn. The sign is known for its endurance through struggle to attain its goals, its perseverance, its comfort with established tradition, its ability to rest and relax only when work has been accomplished and goals have been met. Capricorns are the hard and disciplined workers of the zodiac. When the established forms of security start to shake and rumble it is disquieting for the sign of Capricorn.

There are several quincunxes in January the most notable being the one between Saturn and Uranus. This indicates more revelations about the breakdown of established authority. This is being reflected in the ongoing revelations in the political scandals in the US which challenge the right use of authority. It is also seen in the ongoing religious warring and in the fear, greed and lack of good will which motivates much of it.

Venus is retrograde in Capricorn for much of the month. This encourages a rethinking of the way our lives are structured, what our goals are, how we commit to them and how we attain them. Chiron, the wounded healer now newly in Aquarius will continue to shake up the status quo in order to create new forms and paradigms that are more appropriate not only in our individual lives but in the life of the planet and humanity. Chiron in Aquarius will continue to foster the development of individual consciousness and the desire for social justice.

The Jupiter Neptune square will be in effect for January. This indicates that it is not a good time for risk taking. It is an aspect which can create illusion and deception so remember to read between the lines particularly in those news stories! On the positive side it is a time that fosters spiritual and artistic growth through the process of overcoming a sense of adversity or challenge. My brother used to say, "It's time to put lead in your shoes." Good advice for January! No flying off into wild adventures without meeting the consequences painfully head on.

That pesky Mars Saturn square which has been in effect on and off will be waning as Saturn moves retrograde and Mars moves direct. So some of the sense of pressure and gridlock for the past month or so will be easing.

The image of the Star which guided the Magi is a reminder of the power of spiritual guidance and inspiration on life's journey. The Star in the Tarot deck is a symbol of revelation and universal consciousness. Visionary poet, peace activist and musician John Lennon wrote about universal consciousness in his song *Instant Karma*,

“Instant karma’s going to get you
Going to knock you off your feet
Better recognize your brothers
Everyone you meet
Why in the world are we here
Surely not to live in pain and fear
Why on earth are you there
When you’re everywhere
Come and get your share

Well we all shine on
Like the moon and the stars and the sun
Well we all shine on
Everyone come on.”

Good words to remember this January.

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