

Musings on Starlight

"The Saturn-Neptune opposition is not about producing answers or assuaging doubts. It is about stimulating questions. It is a nudge to detach ourselves from fashionable but arbitrary verities, and to replace them with understandings that come from a deeper place.

This is the only way to achieve peace of mind during this transit. We must get our bearings in essential truths if we are not to be swamped by collective lies."...Jessica Murray

"That millions of people share in the same forms of mental pathology does not make those people sane..." Erich Fromm

When I think about the ongoing planetary aspects it reminds me of the lyrics to John Lennon's song "Nobody Told Me, "

"Nobody told me there would be days like these
Nobody told me there would be days like these
Strange days indeed, strange days indeed "

And indeed in many ways the US is finding itself in similar straits to the late sixties and early seventies when there was widespread distrust in political leaders and an unpopular war. Saturn and Neptune were at odds during that time also. This opposition is one of the strongest astrological influences this year. It was exact at the stock market's recent downturn and will be exact again in mid June.

Neptune is the planet of spiritual vision. At its most evolved it reminds us of the unity underlying all of existence- the interconnectedness of all life. It is at odds now with Saturn the planet of form and boundaries – some call it the planet of "reality." When these two planets oppose each other we have trouble discerning exactly what reality is and can find ourselves adrift in a sea of misconceptions, illusions or downright lies.

Nowhere is this more visible than in our political arena with leaders like Scooter Libby and Alberto Gonzalez unable to recall critical information leaving a fog (Neptune rules mists and fog) around important ethical questions.

All of this type of activity is taking place in conjunction with Pluto's transit through the late degrees of Sagittarius near the Galactic Center. It is under this influence that we have seen the uncovering of religious abuse. And religious wars.

These long term transits and aspects of Saturn, Neptune and Pluto dominate the skies throughout May overshadowing many of the temporary aspects.

For much of early May Uranus is conjunct Mars making this a time to watch for impulsive behavior. In the old texts, astrologers warn to use care with gunfire and explosives under this aspect. It is best to avoid situations where anger can turn into violence. Jupiter is squaring Mars and Uranus and can add to the fray.

The Sun entered Taurus on April 20* and was joined by Mercury on April 27. The sign of Taurus rules values and valuables. In conjunction with the Saturn Neptune opposition this is excellent timing for accessing our personal values – what we really believe – and how much of that is influenced by tradition or the status quo. Although living in tune with the status quo can be comforting at times this is not likely to be one of them. More appropriately it is a time to strive for our highest aspirations personally, spiritually and planetarily. In this process inevitably we encounter personal flaws and what better time to grow than the spring!

Neptune squares Mercury and the Sun this month . This can cloud thinking and add doubt. Best to stay focused and rely on the mental clarity available with Mercury's entrance into Gemini on the 11th . Mercury will travel through Gemini until the 28th.

Venus enters Cancer on May 8 and remains there through the end of the month – a good time for home improvements and domestic activities.

Mars is in Pisces until the 15th. Mars is not a great placement for Pisces and can lead to feelings of discouragement or repressed anger. The key is compassion for self and others.

Mars enters Aries on May 15. This helps free up any energy that has felt stalled out . It boosts self confidence, determination and focus. Mars will remain in Aries through the end of the month making this excellent timing for taking on challenges in your life. Mars in Aries loves an adventure.

The Sun enters Gemini on May 21 ushering in a time that is good for communication and social activity. It's good to plan well and not take on too much.

Neptune stations retrograde on May 24. With Mars in Aries there's a strong desire to move forward and Neptune's retrograde may make that process feel murky or unclear. Best to trust in divine forces and keep intentions strong. Neptune rules spirituality and its retrograde period through the end of October is an excellent time to strengthen ties to the spiritual world.

“Though the spring is late and cold

Though the uproar of greed

and malice shudders in the sky

pond, stream and treetop raise

their ancient songs:

the robin molds her mud nest
with her breast; the air
is bright with breath
of bloom, wise loveliness that asks
nothing of the season but to be."..Wendell Berry

**All times mentioned are EDT.*

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