

# Musings on Starlight

"Author of many books, farmer, soldier, prisoner of war, political adviser to British heads of state, educator, humanitarian, philosopher, explorer, and conservationist are titles that barely indicate the depth and breadth of this rare individual. Laurens Van der Post dedicated his life to teaching the meaning and value of indigenous cultures in the modern world, a world he felt was in danger of losing its spiritual identity to technology, prejudice, empty values, and a lack of understanding of the interconnectedness of all life on earth." Dave Ratcliffe

Prevailing cosmic influences remind me of Laurens Van der Post and his writing about the mystery of life and what it means to be human. We are living in a time when his concerns about the world appear in our individual lives. The continuing revelations about misdeeds and malice in corporations, the media and government give us pause - and give us the opportunity to rethink what kind of world we aspire to create and how that vision measures up against the world in which we live.

Many of the aspects in play now are similar to the tumultuous era of the sixties when issues of war, racism, sexism and environmental degradation exploded into mainstream consciousness. The status quo was challenged by the dramatic Pluto in Leo generation's desire for peace and a return to a more harmonious vision and practice of living in harmony with the earth.

One of my favorite books of that era was **Passages, a Guide for Pilgrims of the Mind\*** which uses meditations and visualizations to explore the power and wonder of different dimensions of consciousness. The sixties also gave birth to visionary communities like Findhorn whose founding and flourishing was inspired by meditation and contact with higher realms. These kinds of endeavors remind us of the vast untapped potentials of what life on earth could be like if our orientation were more inspired.

During these remarkable times, the opportunity to move in a more evolved direction presents itself again in the midst of polarized forces. But the ante has been upped in terms of the world's economic pressures and dwindling natural resources.

Uranus and Jupiter are together in the sky now. This visionary duo can contribute to flashes of brilliance - innovative thinking that leads to solutions. With their placement in Aries the tendency towards impulsive or behavior is strong. Saturn and Pluto simultaneously warn that rash behavior will be met with appropriate consequences. Make sure to think through any new plans and objectives before acting.

Irritability and hostile feelings can arise under these aspects. If so use it as an opportunity for self growth and evolving awareness.

If old fears surface examine the flaws involved and make affirmations to move in a new direction. Courage and innovation are the keys to making progress now. When in doubt, be brave and innovative.

The New Moon in Leo is August 9. This is a heart based New Moon which reminds us of the power of love. Under this influence set intentions related to self love, self respect and moving through life in a more loving way.

August 16 Jupiter opposes Saturn. Jupiter governs expansion and Saturn governs restriction. Use this influence to revisit goals and objectives and identify where there may have been overreach or where pruning needs to be done. Strike a more pragmatic balance if need be.

From August 20 - September 13 Mercury will travel retrograde. As with all Mercury retrograde periods, it is best to make an extra effort to be clear with communications. Leave extra time to provide for delays or complications in travel. Make sure all important information is stored securely as computers, phones etc are prone to snafus and malfunctions under this influence. If any repairs need to be made, try to get this type of work done before 8/20 to avoid confusion or the need to go back and redo.

On August 21 Saturn will square Pluto. Use this influence to rethink what needs to go in your life - a job, a way of relating, a way of dealing with finances etc that may have served you well up to this point but now impedes your development.

Influences indicate that resisting necessary change will be more difficult than consciously committing to and moving towards a more evolved direction.

The Sun moves into Virgo on 8/23 and the Full Moon in Pisces is 8/24.

All times mentioned is EDT.

\* by Andersen and Savary

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