

Musings on Starlight

This December discovery and change are in the air. Sagittarius the sign which governs far journeys rules the sky most of this month. The Archer's travels have an inner as well as an outer nature which seeks an ever broader understanding of the universe.

Saturn widely opposes Uranus this month. This aspect which is in effect roughly every forty years escalates the tension between risk taking and old ways of being. Uranus encourages us to take the necessary risks to enter new territory in our lives. Saturn cautions about what has worked in the past. Old traditions, habits and patterns will be challenged by innovation. Be on the lookout for opportunities.

Saturn's transit through Virgo continues this month. This placement can contribute to a sense of overwhelm with details. It's best to break any task into small pieces and acknowledge accomplishment incrementally.

December 1 Mercury moves into Sagittarius. The pace of life picks up with this influence and mistakes can be made due to haste. Best to allow extra time with the details. Mars continues its retrograde motion so be flexible as appointments may need to be rescheduled and there can be delays with travel.

The Mars retrograde is in effect through the end of January. This aspect provides fertile ground for exploring how we use our power. It's also a good time to investigate how early childhood conditioning and family influences have impacted our personal sense of empowerment. Transformation is the key.

Venus moves into Scorpio on 12/5. It's best with this aspect to act with moderation as there is a tendency for overindulgence through the end of the month.

December 11 Jupiter conjuncts Pluto in late Sagittarius. This conjunction occurs roughly every 12- 13 years. Jupiter rules expansion and Pluto, transformation. In Sagittarius these planets have governed beliefs and philosophical systems. As both planets prepare to enter the sign of practical application Capricorn, this aspect provides good timing to examine the evolution of our soul lives since 1995 and how that has impacted on our place in the world.

Under the Pluto in Sagittarius influence we have seen revelations about the corruption of religion and religious wars. We are now moving into a time when perceiving the underlying unity of all existence will be an important step in the evolutionary process of humanity.

With this influence too it's best to adhere to moderation in speech and action.

On December 19 Jupiter moves into Capricorn and the Nodes of the Moon move into the signs of Aquarius and Leo. Focus on expanding your plans and goals. Plan for what it is you really want in the long term. Put the focus on personal authenticity. For most of next year Pluto, Saturn and Jupiter will all be in earth signs making this an excellent year for achievement by implementing plans and goals. Get them in place now.

With the Nodes newly in Aquarius and Leo, Saturn in Virgo and Pluto in Capricorn it's good to work in your own life in (however small) concrete ways to improve the world.

Saturn will turn retrograde December 20 at 8 degrees of Virgo providing good timing for the revision of areas related to discipline and structure in our lives. Saturn will station direct at 1 degree of Virgo in early May.

The Winter Solstice is on December 22nd this year.

Venus moves into Sagittarius this month on December 31. Best once again to adhere to moderation.

Many of the influences this month are evolutionary in nature and challenging for that reason. The ability to perceive life from an expanded perspective and evolve with its practical application can bring us into conflict with the false security of outmoded belief systems. TS Eliot wrote eloquently about this in his poem *Journey of The Magi*. Their Sagittarian quest to follow the Star and find the Christ child transformed their lives in ways they had not anticipated and made it difficult for them to return to their lives as they had previously defined them.

“And had we come 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....

We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,

But no longer at ease here in the old dispensation. ”

The spirit of Sagittarius is to face life as an adventure and to be energized by the personal challenges encountered on the road of personal evolution. Keep the fires burning bright this month.

Friends - People have been asking if I have gift certificates for the holidays and I do. If you'd like to purchase one I take MC/VISA over the phone and can mail them out to you. They are also available at the Renaissance Room. Also I will be doing brief (fifteen minute) readings about how the Uranus Saturn opposition is impacting individual charts. Give a call if you'd like to book and app't.

Amelia Shea has seen clients in her Astrology and Tarot practice since 1990. She does readings by phone, email or in person at the Renaissance Room in Peterborough, NH. She can be reached through her website at www.ameliashea.com by email at mail@ameliashea.com and by phone at 603 924 0056. * All times mentioned in this column are EST