

GREETINGS;

Finally, Spring has come and we can all celebrate coming through the past 3 years in one piece. After such a long, wet winter, April brings the promise of gentle growth and opportunity to move in a new direction. It always amazes me that everything we think was dead comes back to life in a new and stronger way. The first half of April is a fiery rebirth of possibilities and the second half of April offers a more peaceful time of accomplishment and enjoyment. After the insanity and chaos of March, April will appear mild in comparison. We do have another eclipse (lunar) at the Full Moon on 4/4 marking another turn in the road of life, and the first New Moon of the astrological year occurs on 4/18 as the Sun and Moon in Aries strengthen our resolve for a courageous, determined approach to life.

Lots of changes in energy occur this month. The signs Aries (fire) and Taurus (earth) are the first 2 signs of the natural zodiac, and are therefore primal energies, ruled by Mars and Venus (respectively). Together they represent the spark of Eros, leading to creative connections with ourselves and others. Fire and earth combine to have a steamroller effect, which after 3 years of pressure and false starts, will be more than welcome. The forward movement of giant Jupiter in Leo on 4/8 is more than welcome as the flow of life returns with a solar flare of energy 4 days after the Full Moon in Libra.

On 4/16, two days before the New Moon in Aries, Pluto begins the pattern of reverse energy for several months (until 9/25), a period when some of the tension of life will lessen, especially for those with planets in Capricorn, Libra, Aries and Cancer. On 4/20 the Sun enters earth sign Taurus, with Mercury and Mars in Taurus as well. This will be a period of pleasure seeking, as well as a time to clarify what we truly value.

LANDSCAPING: If your allergies are bothering you, it is time to plant, prune and clean up if you have a yard or patio to enjoy. I can help you with your plans, either by bringing a crew to do the work with me, or helping you to create a plan to implement on your own. After many years of education in horticulture and landscape design, and completing the Texas Master Gardener requirements and the Urban Harvest organic courses and education in native plants, I have enjoyed my 14 years as a landscape designer. I have great subcontractors who have been with me all of these years and I welcome the opportunity to help you, your friends, family and neighbors in creating a fabulous landscape. You can view my designs in the Landscape section of my website www.nanhallinke.com. Let me know if I can help you.

APRIL ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK:

We are finally starting over with a burst of energy from the fire planets in Aries (Sun and Mercury), Leo (Jupiter) and Sagittarius (Saturn). On 4/2 Mercury and Saturn form a pattern of creative optimism, so find some time to make and review your plans and put them into motion this day. On the same day the Sun and Jupiter support courage and expansion so we can make things happen with ease at this time. On 4/4 we will feel the intensity of a Full Moon/Lunar Eclipse with the Moon in Libra, the 3rd of 4 total lunar eclipses in a row. This is the first time we have had 3 total lunar eclipses in a row since 2003-04. The last time we had total lunar eclipse in Libra was April 3, 1996, 19 years ago. Review your recent history and you may find a theme that will re-emerge at this time. Full Moons allow the fullness of our feeling function in general, and when the Moon is in Libra and the Sun is in Aries it always highlights the balance between our personal needs in relationship to our time and energy commitments to others. This eclipse is intensified by the connection to the Sun, Mercury and Uranus, activating a strong awareness of our personal needs. For those in relationships which feel burdensome, this is a time of rebellion. On April 5 Pluto and the Sun square off just before the Sun joins Uranus in Aries on 4/6. These are patterns of struggle resolved and decisions clearly made. Additionally Mercury in Aries squares off with Pluto on 4/7 and joins Uranus on 4/8. This is a very decisive period for all of us. We will want what we want when we want it by 4/8. On that day Jupiter, the granter of wishes and expander of desires will offer us the opportunity to put the releasing of limiting beliefs about ourselves into action. We are encouraged to share our unique gifts in a new, more original manner. This is a period of creative collaboration. The circular appearance of a Full Moon represents the circle (cycle) of life in its fullness.

The first 8 days of April have a bit of the effect of falling dominoes, easily the most dramatic period of the month. Be ready to move forward at a moment's notice. This is not a period for the timid or those who are not resilient. Take a deep breath and fly. This is a time that may change your perspective on your abilities and limits. In the second half of April Mars in Taurus sets the mood from the expansive square to Jupiter on 4/17 which encourages us to get out of our comfort zone and stretch in new ways to the productive pattern of Mars and Pluto on 4/21, shortly after the New Moon in Aries on 4/18 and the entrance of the Sun into Taurus. This is a time of extreme focus on our desires and goals and directing ourselves toward success in all we aspire to. On 4/14 as Venus and Saturn face one another on the same line in Gemini and Sagittarius; we will align our thoughts, desires, intentions and goals in a manner to honor our commitment to look after ourselves, which for many is a change in perspective. We must be ready to adapt as our circumstances continue to change.

The Aries New Moon on 4/18 initiates a new level of consciousness in which we live in the present, trust our instincts, and operate from an active acceptance of confidence in all our endeavors. This is the sign of initiative, passion and courage. With Mars, the ruling planet of Aries in Taurus, we are urged to slow down and focus on quality rather than quantity of experience. With Mars and Jupiter having formed their expansive pattern on 4/17, our confidence, ingenuity and readiness to move forward has been amplified. On 4/22 Mars joins Mercury in Taurus for the first of 3 conjunctions in the next 2 months. This makes it easier to say "No" to what is not in alignment with our true values and our heart's desires. The New Moon at the last degree of Aries increases our courage and decreases our fear. It should turn us all into "Leaping Beauties".

Mercury, the planet of mental energies is very active in April, racing through 3 signs (Aries, Taurus and Gemini). This always happens the month before we review life with a 3-week Mercury retrograde period (May 18-June 11). Between April 2-8 Mercury merges with Jupiter, Pluto and Uranus, a time of many ideas and much discussion of options. When Jupiter goes direct on 4/8, we will have thought of everything, and then some. On 4/14 Mercury moves into Taurus and joins Jupiter on 4/21 and Pluto and then Mars on 4/22. It will be a challenge to think straight on these two days. On 4/30 Mercury moves into Gemini until 7/8. Mercury is generally in a sign for 30 days. This is more than double the usual time, so expect to have lots of curiosity about everything and everyone, and have a greater than average need to communicate and learn.

Venus leaves its home in Taurus on 4/11 and enters Gemini for a month, which invites us all to laugh experiment and learn from one another. This is an active mental pattern for all of us to enjoy or be tortured by, depending upon your nature and circumstances. On 4/15 Venus and Saturn take a hard look at money, values and responsibilities (probably income tax issues) and on 4/19 Venus and Neptune create a cloud of desire and/or deception about love and money.

As you can see, April is a relief from the energy of the past few months, as well as the past 3 years. It is time to pick ourselves up, dust off our dreams, and start over. If you need encouragement, planning, timing, or just a compassionate therapist, please call for an appointment. I am available by appointment when I don't have landscaping jobs.

See you soon and enjoy this season of change and growth and plant seeds for an abundant harvest.

MANY BLESSINGS,

NAN