

GREETINGS;

As we end the madness of March, take a breath as we enter April. We are entering an especially topsy turvy month which may be life changing for many of us. My advice, which I hope I can take, is to ride the wave, twist and shout, and rock and roll. We are all being rearranged to see things very differently. We are being kicked up to another level and things won't settle down until late May.

With Saturn at the Galactic Center for the first time in 30 years, the source of universal intelligence is changing our alignment with truth. Since we are in a major period of review, release and revision in April, it is time to use inner resources and the wise counsel of others to navigate the twists and turns of events, thoughts and feelings. The energy of fate is intensified as Saturn moves backward for 20 weeks, beginning on 4/5 and ending on 8/25. Going slow and breathing deep is the best strategy during this time. We should take life one day at a time, one transaction at a time, allowing ourselves to see the light in darkness clearly before we decide and move forward.

Mercury takes a three week backwards move from 4/9 - 5/3. This is not the time for decision making or trying out new ideas. Wait until May, when Mercury gets back to the move forward point on 5/20 if you want certainty. On 4/20 powerful Pluto moves backward in Capricorn, emphasizing the role of self-examination in our ultimate success. Jupiter is also retrograde in Libra, and Venus remains retrograde in Pisces until 4/15. With so much inward motion, the question becomes: what do we need to leave behind? This is a time to reflect, remember, release and repair our inner selves. These will be some of the most intense days in a long time. The effects of the Jupiter/Pluto combination which occurred on 3/30 is still strong and we need to guard against the illusion that others have power over us and therefore to blame for our pain. This is a powerful birthing of our authentic selves, with true knowing of our wants and needs. It is time to find our voice as Mars, the ruler of Aries, moves stealthily through the earthy, fixed energy of Taurus until 4/21. Extra determination is needed for the first 3 weeks of April.

The Venus retrograde period ends on 4/15, after 6 weeks winding backward from Aries to Pisces (4/2). During the time that Venus vibrates to the Pisces mantra, our hearts are wide open to the feeling function and more vulnerable than most of us will be comfortable with. This is a great time to meditate, up your spiritual practice, go to yoga and enjoy culture and nature. For some of us it will feel like we are being asked to walk the plank in a deep ocean of feeling. Our values and attachments with others are being radically revised and with 20/20 hindsight we will eventually come to peace with this often confusing and overwhelming process.

LANDSCAPING: I am taking my own advice and getting outside creating beauty and order for others as much as possible. If I can help you with your outdoor projects, in any way, please let me know. This is the ideal time to recreate beauty outside your home, what I refer to as exterior decorating. I can consult with you on your projects for an hourly rate of \$95. I have subcontractors I can supervise on any job you require.

APRIL ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK

If you can still breathe after reading the introductory paragraphs describing the overview of April, here is a more in depth look at the twists and turns of life. There is no way out, so enjoy the ride:

April is the month which has 2 symbols: the ram and the bull, the former fire, and the latter earth. When you combine the best of these two energies together, you get a steam roller, and this April is a steam roller of change. The first 10 days of the month are exceptionally active, ending with the Full Moon the evening of 4/10. On 4/2 Venus backs out of fiery Aries into watery Pisces. During the period from 4/2-28, there is no escape from the effects of the feeling function. Even if you have something to cry about, remember feeling leads to healing. Find someone to hold you if you cry, and someone to talk it through with thereafter. There will be no lack of ability to relate to others and hopefully ourselves during this period. Venus moves back into forward motion on 4/15 and quickly picks up speed and moves into courageous, decisive, determined Aries on 4/28.

On 4/5 there are two powerful energy patterns for us to experience. The first is a strong connection between Mars in earthy Taurus and Pluto in earthy Capricorn. This is a stabilizing influence for most of us. Saturn also begins its 20-week slow, backward motion during this time. We will be able to develop detachment, strength, patience and discipline during this period. Get ready to hurry and wait. We get a break in the tension on 4/7 as the Sun in Aries is opposite Jupiter in Libra. This will be an interesting time in our relationship lives and a day to celebrate joy and being alive. Find something wonderful to enjoy with others. On 4/8, Venus comes into contact with Saturn, which can be a recipe for doubt and disappointment. Spend some time in affirmation and optimistic thoughts as an antidote. Unfortunately, we may feel overwhelmed by circumstances and feel helpless. As with all of life's challenges, it passes and things work out anyway. The Sun and Pluto square off as well and reality enters the equation and we realize that we have limits.

On 4/9, as mentioned before, Mercury begins a 3-week re-visitation of old thoughts and deeds and may come to a new conclusion. This is the time to clean closets, get rid of everything you don't experience with joy, and observe more than you speak. In May, it will all make sense in a new way. Check and recheck your commitments to others and be flexible with time for the next 3 weeks. Develop and use your sense of humor. Since Mercury reviews the issues associated with Taurus and Aries, we will have an opportunity to access a deeper understanding of our values and what actions we are willing to take going forward. The Full Moon of 4/10 brings greater light to the situations we find ourselves in. The Sun is in assertive Aries, and close enough to be influenced by the energy of Uranus, the planet of awareness and rebellion, and the Moon is in Libra, close to Jupiter and squared off by Pluto in Capricorn. This powerful action configuration may speed up our lives and create new opportunity and clarity. It also may be hard to sleep.

We have a break in the tension for 3 days thereafter, a time to catch our breath before the Sun joins high energy Uranus in Aries and we feel once again, that our finger is in an electric outlet. This is a time of unlimited creativity and thinking outside the box energy, so use it wisely, since you probably cannot relax easily. On 4/15 Venus ends her 6-week review of our values, desires and needs. This period has provided opportunities for us to re-appraise our relationships and our material possessions to see if they are still benefiting our lives. After this period of soul searching, we can move forward with greater certainty that our choices are in alignment with our true values. Mark your calendar for 4/17 as the Sun and Saturn move into supportive alignment, giving us another break in the tension of our rebirth with its growing pains.

On 4/19, the Sun moves into Taurus which is the beginning of a period of greater stability. On 4/20 the Sun joins Mercury in Taurus for a short time of temporary sanity and peacefulness. Pluto moves backward thereafter and Mercury moves backward into Aries, which increases the tension for all of us. On 4/21 Mars moves into Gemini and our active minds can run away with us for the next month. The up side of this is that we may be thinking more clearly again, but this does not mean it is wise to speak all our thoughts and feelings out loud. Venus and Saturn reconnect again to allow review of whatever was occurring earlier this month (4/21). This is a two-act play, and we may have greater clarity or more information at this time. Venus and Saturn face reality and disappointment pragmatically when they meet. This is a time for compromise and adjustment in your relationship and financial decisions. On 4/24 Mercury and Saturn support one another and clear thinking and great problem solving are the result. This is the beginning of a better planning time for each of us. May will move us forward with greater clarity.

Fortunately, a New Moon in Taurus arrives on 4/26, as well as a powerful conjunction of Mercury and Uranus in Aries. This is a steam roller of creative thinking and practical action united. There are exciting possibilities as this combination encourages advanced and innovative solutions and a new understanding that can shift our awareness in profound ways. This influence will be felt for the next 2 weeks, until the Full Moon of 5/10. Additionally, Mercury and Uranus will be stabilized by Saturn in Sagittarius which adds an extra charge of optimism and flash of genius to our mental processes. The conjunctions that occur at the New Moon represent the ending of cycles and the opportunity to shift gears and move forward with greater enthusiasm. On 4/28 Venus moves back into active, optimistic, courageous Aries, as the benefit of the Mercury /Uranus conjunction becomes complete. Time to get ready to get back on the road to progress and opportunity in May.

As you can see if you finished reading this map of change, this will be a powerful month. It feels like a crazy quilt to me, like a game of 52-pick up, a test in resilience, optimism and courage. We all may feel more than a little bit overwhelmed and off balance at times. Take good care of yourself and practice the three "r's" of emotional intelligent living: rest, recreation and regeneration. If I can help you move through this powerful time of change, please let me know.

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