

GREETINGS;

I hope you have felt the warmth of the Sun entering its home sign of Leo this past Saturday. Everywhere I have been I have seen men and women wearing orange to reflect the Sun's glow. I took a short vacation weekend to Rockport and enjoyed the slow pace, which was possible, in part, to finding a wonderful pet/house sitter so I could relax on both counts. I can heartily recommend Yasmine Cooper, (713/240-7322) if you want to get away and come to happy healthy pets.

I am sending the August astrological outlook early because in August and September we are entering a powerful time of transition and completion of a cycle which began in November, 2015. In August and September, we will be integrating the lessons and challenges associated with the planets Saturn and Neptune on September 10. Saturn, which rules the material world and the realities of time and space that impel us to honor limits and boundaries, commitments and consequences is coming to a turning point with Neptune, ruler of the world of spirit, intuition, imagination, compassion and all elements that operate beyond the five senses and scientific instrumentation. This aspect summons us to trust our own, inner authority, and move beyond fear instilled in our families of origin, gender programming, rejecting all ideas and habits which stem from martyrdom and victimhood.

In the meantime, the fire and earth planets of August give us creativity, energy and passion for this task. August begins with a New Moon in Leo on August 2, a powerful Full Moon in Aquarius on August 18, Saturn moving back into action on 8/13, Mars moving into fiery Sagittarius on 8/2 at the New Moon, and that is just the beginning of the possibilities. With most of the planets in fire and earth, the steamroller of change is moving and we should all be on board. Only Neptune remains in watery Pisces, reminding us to dream big and reach for more than we can imagine, going beyond our previous limits.

LANDSCAPING: Even though it is hot as blazes, I am still doing projects and my subcontractors are available for your irrigation, drainage and tree pruning needs. Let me know if you want to schedule any landscaping services in August. I am staying in town since we are so air conditioned and it is hotter other places.

AUGUST ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK

As mentioned above, August and September are joined together as one continuous change cycle. Both August and September begin with powerful New Moons: 8/2 and 9/1, with the New Moon in September occurring at an annual Solar Eclipse. This occurs every 6 months and marks major endings and beginnings. This eclipse contacts Saturn and Neptune, the planets creating so much of the change of the past 12 months, a cycle which ends on 9/10. More about that next month. This pattern will remain strongest from mid-August through mid-September.

The New Moon starts August out with a bang as the Sun and Moon in Leo bring a new wave of creative fire through its emerging light. Venus is also in Leo expanding the light, love and creative forces. As Mars enters fiery Sagittarius on 8/2 at the New Moon, we have abundant bravery and passion to act on our desires and opportunities. Saturn is also in fiery Sagittarius getting ready to return to action on 8/13. Since Saturn forms a powerful supportive triangle to the Sun and Moon, we will find that discipline is the key to realizing our heart's desires. With Neptune, the only water planet, also combining forces with this pattern, the winds of change pick up in unexpected and unimagined ways. This combination is an invitation to enjoy life with greater enthusiasm and "follow your bliss", as the late Joseph Campbell urged us all. This is a great time to read or re-read Julia Cameron's fabulous book *The Artist's Way*.

Venus leaves Leo on 8/5 and enters Virgo on her way to join Mercury at month's end (8/29) and we all may experience a flurry of organizing and purging, making way for the change which is coming. On 8/6 Venus and Mars cause some fireworks, so avoid conflict with those you love and do not overspend, or spend impulsively at this time., particularly since Mercury in Virgo is struggling with Mars in Sagittarius and temptation is overwhelming, as is self-doubt. On 8/7 Mercury and Neptune are pulling us between intuition and reason, and one of those values will prevail. Whatever decision we make or direction we take, Mercury

and Pluto will combine to bring truth into the picture on 8/10, just prior to Saturn, the planet of reality going forward on 8/13. On 8/14 Venus and Neptune stretch the boundaries of the reason and imagination. Somewhere in between those two extremes is the better way. Again, on 8/17, Pluto sets us straight as Venus and Pluto form a truce.

The Full Moon in Aquarius on 8/18 invites us to remember that as we enter the Age of Aquarius, which occurs every 26,000 years, we are invited, and in some cases, compelled, to make a radical shift in consciousness, letting go of ideas that separate us from our deeper selves and our perceived differences with others. The goal is reunification within ourselves and unity with all mankind. The challenge is to integrate your unprocessed Shadow material. Years ago, I taught a class at the Jung Center entitled: In and Out of the Shadowland with your Archetypes in a Bag. The period between mid-August and mid-September provides an opportunity to take this task to another level of understanding, acceptance and integration. With the Sun in Leo, the sign of the heart and the Moon in Aquarius, the sign of consciousness of our oneness with everyone and everything, we are entering the doorway to a period of the possible integration of the heart and mind. The planet Uranus which rules Aquarius makes a supportive pattern with the Sun and Moon, urging us to widen our circle of friends and supportive people and groups. Make the time to find your tribe.

On 8/22 as the Sun enters Virgo, its ruling planet Mercury joins Jupiter in Virgo and this is the beginning of a period of unlimited energy for awareness and problem solving. On 8/27 Venus joins Jupiter in Virgo and then Mercury on 8/28, bringing a natural combining of heart and mind. Our desire to align with what is most meaningful and true intensifies as Mars and Saturn join on 8/24 and stretch beyond the borders of Neptune on 8/26. This is a time where reception of the human spirit is possible, no matter what the outer world presents us with. It is a time to aim high and believe in miracles. When Mars and Saturn join forces on 8/24 we will be best served by using Saturn's keep power of observation to where we are spreading ourselves too thin and operating from an attitude of guilt and fear, rather than desire and courage. The Mars/Neptune meeting on 8/26 may bring some confusion about what we really want and need, and with Mercury going into its 3-week retrograde period on 8/30, we are well advised to make no long term plans from 8/24 to 9/21. For those whom Mercury retrograde brings exceptional challenges, the period of chaos will be over on 10/6, at which Mercury retraces his path and moves into new territory.

On 8/29 Venus enters her home port of Libra, asking each of us to be kind, fair and choose beauty and love, rather than conflict. For the next 3-1/2 weeks Venus is determined to create harmony and beauty for all of us to enjoy. More next month on the Virgo Solar Eclipse which occurs on September 1, just before the Labor Day holiday.

Enjoy these wonderful change energies. If I can help you with cleaning out old thoughts or patterns and/or make plans for your future, please let me know how I can help.

HAVE A GREAT AND POSITIVE AUGUST EXPERIENCE.

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