

## GREETINGS;

I hope you had a wonderful, thankful last week of November, in spite of Mercury going retrograde on Thanksgiving Day and a New Moon Solar Eclipse on 11/25. In these times of increasing turbulence and never ending uncertainty, we should all practice daily gratitude, slow down and take good care of our spiritual, mental and physical needs. With the holiday season bursting forth upon us with a vengeance, it is time to release the past year and plan for 2012. As in recent years, I will offer you an opportunity to participate in a Solstice Ritual with me on Wednesday, December 21 at 7 PM at my house. If you plan to attend, please follow the instructions below: If you are going to do a ritual of release and resetting your intentions for 2012, please use the suggestions as well.

**WINTER SOLSTICE RITUAL:** Don't forget to celebrate the Winter Solstice which occurs on 12/21 with a Full Moon and a Lunar Eclipse. This is a major change period and has been celebrated all over the world as we leave the longest night 12/20 and begin the period of longer days and shorter nights. This "return of the sun" celebration is the focus of the Revels, which are performed in Houston each year in mid-December. I will hold my annual solstice ritual on Monday night, December 20 at 7:00 PM at my house. The cost is \$25. I will send a separate email about how to prepare yourself to maximize this energy change. If you are interested, please email me so I can start the list.

**PARTIES;** I am available, along with my associate Becky Perry, for appearances at parties for the holidays. Rates will be based on individual needs. For more information, either email me at [nanlinke@aol.com](mailto:nanlinke@aol.com) or call me at 713/520-1551 to discuss your plans.

**JANUARY ASTROLOGICAL LECTURE AT AFTER HOURS NETWORK:** to be held on Tuesday, January 17 in the evening at 6445 Westheimer, Little Napoli Restaurant. Please contact Jon King for details at 713/255-5341.

**THANK YOU A MILLION** for all your kind well wishes and encouraging words for my 40 years in practice. I have saved them all and treasure your support. On to the next decade, my 5th.

**LANDSCAPING;** If you need any assistance getting your yard ready for the Fall/Winter season, please let me know. This is a great time to plant trees and do "treeage" on the sick and dying trees. If you want to install or repair an irrigation system, I have a great specialist for that task. For me, landscaping is exterior decorating, a way to create order and beauty around you.

## DECEMBER ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK;

As we move further into this ever increasing time of uncertainty, which resembles previous periods of dramatic change, it is time to slow down, be grateful for the blessings in life and remember nothing happens to us, but for us. Astrology can be helpful in understanding what the issues are and some of the parameters of timing, but it cannot predict the future with certainty, as the only certainty is uncertain.

As we know, Mercury went retrograde on Thanksgiving Day (11/24), which can make it difficult to travel, communicate, think straight and keep electronics and other machinery in good running order. We experience this phenomenon 3 times each year for a total of 9 weeks. The following day 11/24, the New Moon brought a Solar Eclipse with it. An eclipse is like a rip in the fabric of time, which always brings unexpected events, some of which are blessings. The Full Moon of 12/10 brings a Lunar Eclipse which will further rev up the engine of change. If that was not enough power, Uranus, the great revolutionary awakener, begins moving forward in Aries, the sign of the warrior, the decider, and the person who is more aware of their own needs than those of others. This occurs every 84 years and we had a sample earlier in the year between 3/11-7/9. This was a preview of the strong change events that will continue for the next 7 years. We are all experiencing this personally and collectively. On 12/13 Mercury gets back into forward motion and on 12/25 Jupiter moves forward in Taurus for a quick 6 month train ride in 2012. Fall ends and Winter begins on 12/21. The mutable energy pattern the first 3 weeks of December has the potential to send us all helter skelter, so prioritize and pay attention to your energy and do not

overdo it. One of the questions I have gotten lately is "Why are so many people sick and dying" As we enter this period of the "Great Unraveling" (a term inspired by my fellow astrologer Elexis Rice), comparisons to former times are inevitable. The last time we had the same planetary configurations we are now on the cusp on was 1932-34, when we had financial uncertainty, the rumblings of social and political unrest, and more change than was imaginable. These periods of chaos always change the old order and make way for new patterns. For those who have learned to rest, relax and take care of themselves and others, this is an upgrade. For those who have not learned the lessons, the body carries the shadow.

This Mercury retrograde period has almost no contact between Mercury and other planets Mercury is occupying Sagittarius, which may make optimism in short supply for some, excessive in others, increase impulsivity and/or daydreaming as well. On 12/4 Mercury and Mars square off with Mars in Virgo triggering a period of discontent, dissatisfaction, aggravation, irritation and angry outbursts that may affect any and all of us in some form Mars began a long period in Virgo on 11/10 and goes retrograde on 1/23 for several months. This placement makes it difficult to relax, turn off the monkey mind, ignore problems so they can heal themselves and in general create a period of fear, worry and agitation, flowing through the first half of 2012. Wherever your alarm point is in your body, you will need to reset it during this period. If you find yourself forgetful, daydreaming or generally not as sharp as usual, please keep your sense of humor and go with this flow.

Venus begins the month in Capricorn and joins with Pluto on 12/1. For many of us, especially those with planets in Capricorn, this begins a period of increased power and prosperity, especially as Mars stabilizes Venus on 12/5. Venus receiving energy from Capricorn asks us to be frugal, realistic, hard working and dependable. For some this is easier than others. On 12/18 Venus and Saturn square off, which can bring frustration and disappointment, and for some loss. Venus and Saturn are in each other's signs, so this can be a significant time for those with planets in Libra, Taurus and Capricorn. On 12/20 Venus moves into Aquarius which always brings the urge to socialize with friends and kindred spirits, to be part of a group, to reconnect with friends and share with others. On the evening of 12/20 Venus and Jupiter have a wonderful merging so plan something wonderful to do that evening and expect some of that energy to roll over to the Winter Solstice on 12/21. Jupiter starts forward motion in Taurus on 12/25, so for those with planets in Taurus, the celebration begins in earnest.

The most challenging actor in December's drama is Mars, which is a fiery planet that is at home in Cardinal signs. Unfortunately for all of us, Mars in Virgo is a nervous nitpicker which never stops. Whatever is eating you will drive you up the wall. Whoever is toxic for you will get banished from your life or you will kill them. We should all sleep, do yoga and meditate during this period. With planets in earth and fire in December, we are like steamrollers moving too fast. Some would think it is the holiday season, that that only adds to the challenge. As Uranus goes forward in Aries on 12/9, we begin a big shift as the cardinal signs contain Uranus (Aries), Saturn (Libra), and Pluto (Capricorn), which is a wobbly table that cannot help but fall over somewhere. This a time of fate which urges us to remain optimistic, seek the support of like minded people, take exquisite care of ourselves and be watchful, not fearful. In the outer world, social unrest, economic and political instability are guaranteed, especially in countries where dictators have been in charge. The earth may erupt as the frequency of our planet experiences permanent change. The period of Jupiter in Taurus increases the desire to maintain the status quo, but the way of change is never backward, only forward.

For those of you who want to process issues of confusion and distress so they don't affect you physically and mentally, or for those of you who want to plan 2012 early, I will be in the office most of December, and out of the office 12/27-29 but in on 12/16 and 12/30. We all should shout with Dora the Explorer "We did it", as this difficult year comes to an end. Best wishes for a prosperous and healthy 2012.

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