

GREETINGS;

I hope you had a joyous Thanksgiving celebration with carries over into the holiday season we celebrate in December. December begins on a high note with the Moon in Leo in balance with Mercury and Uranus in fire signs Sagittarius and Aries. This should give us all a feeling of relief and optimism and a creative burst of energy to begin the month with. This is certainly a departure from the first 11 months of 2015 and a hint of times to come.

I begin my 45th year as a professional astrologer and my 35th year as a marriage and family therapist. How fortunate I feel to have been chosen to be part of the helping and healing profession. This month has a New Moon in Sagittarius on 12/11, the beginning of the return to light at the Winter Solstice on 12/21 and a dynamic Full Moon in Cancer on 12/25, the day that trickster planet Uranus bolts forward with electrical brilliance.

As many of you know, I celebrate the Winter Solstice by offering an opportunity for those who want to ritualize their life in a group setting to meet with me and share our symbols of aspiration and release. I will send a separate email on how to prepare for this powerful time, and I urge all of you to take some of the suggestions and give them a try. This year we will meet on Sunday, 12/20 at 7:30 PM for the group ritual on what is known as the longest night in the Northern Hemisphere, when our ancestors danced around large fires, symbolizing the power of the return of the light (Sun).

I plan to work all of December, and offer gift certificates for you, your friends and family. I find that in December it is very helpful to plan your goals for the New Year as you chart your progress in 2016. Let me know if I can be of help in this endeavor.

DECEMBER ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK

As mentioned above, December begins with an optimistic tone, which is not surprising with the Sun and Mercury moving through the most optimistic sign in the Zodiac. Sagittarius is symbolic of the reliance we all have if we retain an optimistic attitude about life and its many challenges. Looking for the lesson and knowing that everything is temporary is a habit that serves people with planets in Sagittarius well. Since we all have the sign Sagittarius somewhere on our astrological chart, we can imagine improving our attitudes and looking forward with an understanding that life has a deeper meaning than we can comprehend. With the Sun and Mercury traveling together in Sagittarius the first 3 weeks of December, we are all lead to seek a greater understanding of life and our part in our own destiny.

The first week of December is shaped by the creative optimism mentioned above and the expansive Moon Jupiter conjunction on 12/3, a pattern which allows us to see practical solutions to our challenges and pay attention to the details of our life in a way that leads to new solutions. On 12/4 the relational planet of pleasure Venus leaves its home in Libra and enters deeply felt Scorpio for 25 days, compelling us to explore relationship issues more deeply. With a Mercury/Jupiter square preceding this change, we may experience the need to overthink and over-verbalize with Jupiterian gusto.

Two volatile patterns emerge as Mars and Pluto square off on 12/6 and Mars and Uranus oppose each other on 12/10. With Mars in Libra all of December, the potential for conflict with others is highly likely, especially as we rush around and practice impatience. Mark your calendar for those days and find a Zen moment as often as possible. Avoid those who agitate you so your life will remain peaceful. At both of these times it is wise to be exceptionally cautious and avoid dangerous situations.

The second week of December brings a New Moon in Sagittarius on 12/11, the Mars/Uranus opposition mentioned above on 12/10, preceded by the movement of mental Mercury into grounded Capricorn for the next 23 days, encouraging serious, practical thinking. It is truly a mixed bag. The New Moon in Sagittarius squares Jupiter, the ruler of Sagittarius. This provides extra energy for new ways of thinking about old problems and may offer practical ideas for implementing change, as well as an expanded awareness of our destiny and true desires and needs. Since Sagittarius is the sign most concerned with meaning, purpose and truth, this could well be a turning point allowing us to see life with greater clarity, and work more

successfully toward new solutions to old challenges. At this time Venus in Scorpio makes a trine to Neptune in Pisces, supporting opening our hearts and minds to new spiritual awareness. Just prior to the New Moon Mars makes its exact opposition to Uranus, galvanizing us to use our courage to think and act boldly and explore new directions. On 12/13, three powerful patterns emerge which keep the ball rolling forward. First, the Moon's entry into earthy Capricorn activates the Mars energy in Libra, the energy of Uranus in Aries and the intensive truth of Pluto in Capricorn. This turns the wheel of change actively and we can roll forward or resist at our own peril. It is tempting to use impulsive Mars to resist and be overcome by a sense of urgency and rebellion. Later in the day the Moon and Jupiter create greater feelings of acceptance of change and to see the benefit of the changes as growth.

The third week of December begins with the Sagittarian Sun squaring its ruling planet Jupiter in Virgo, not a time for stillness or keeping quiet. If you are in conflict with anyone, avoid them as you will feel self-righteous about your position and there will be consequences you may not see easily. On 12/19 Mercury joins Pluto in Capricorn. These two planets can work together, helping us to communicate with greater honesty and get to the heart of our critical issues. On 12/20, however Mercury and uber-expressive Uranus square off, causing minor and major eruptions of thought and speech. Find an objective person to talk to before you erupt. This is a time bomb of thought and speech which does not need to explode, or even worse, implode. On 12/21 the Sun enters Capricorn, marking the change of season into winter, the day of the Winter Solstice. This Winter Solstice provides a supportive Grand Trine in earth with the Moon in Taurus and the planet Jupiter in Virgo, as well as Pluto in Capricorn. This pattern provides us access to an inner calm which allows us to create new, more substantive plans for the next phase of our lives.

The final week of December has a dynamic Full Moon in Cancer, the sign which the moon rules on 12/25. This is also the day that rebellious Uranus moves back into action, increasing the intensity of the game of life and our need to be leaders instead of followers. This Full Moon, with its extra charge of lightning energy, highlights where we must balance our needs for home, family and nurturance with our needs for accomplishment, autonomy and maturity. The charge from Uranus encourages us to be bold, think for ourselves and not be so dependent on external validation. It may no longer be possible to hold onto people, situations and objects that no longer serve our highest self. Since this powerful Full Moon follows the Winter Solstice there is increased electromagnetic energy for growing our awareness of life and our place in it. We are urged to trust our intuition in these matters and associate with those on the same frequency going in the same direction. On 12/29 Mars and Mercury square off, giving life an edge that may not be helpful for our peace and tranquility. It may be hard to take personal responsibilities for our mental habits and seek to blame others rather than enlarge our understanding. On 12/30 Venus moves into Sagittarius, the sign of optimism and gratitude, and the following day 12/31 Jupiter and the Moon join together in Virgo in a pattern of expanded opportunity and optimism. With the Moon and Mercury in a positive earth trine, we are encouraged to plan for our future, keep our goals reasonable, and see our ambitions through to completion in the New Year. This is a great day to welcome the New Year with loved ones and friends.

As you can see, we have dialed down the trauma of 2015 in the month of December. It is time to rest, recreate and regenerate, and reflect on the changes which occurred in 2015, which for most of us were MAJOR. This is the largest change year for the past 36 years, 30 years and the most upheaval since 1968. Give yourself a pat on the back for getting through it alive and looking forward to easier times and better days.

I wish you a Happy Holiday season and a fabulous 2016. Let me know if you need gift certificates or if I can help you process the deeper meanings in all the changes you have experienced.

WITH GREAT APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE

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