

GREETINGS:

I hope after the chaotic energy of January, you are ready to dig out of the rubble of your life, which needs to be swept away so reconstruction can begin. As in the last week of January, all 5 of the visible planets are visible preceding Sunrise, indicating a time of greater power and light. On 2/3 we reach the midpoint between the Solstice and the Equinox, a powerful time which precedes the New Moon in Aquarius on 2/8 and the beginning of the Chinese New Year. This year is the year of the Red Fire Monkey which brings a year of quick moving, somewhat naughty energy into our lives, indicating we need to be vigilant and be wise enough to outsmart the events the monkey brings quickly into our lives. Change and challenge are the constant forces of this 12-month period. If you have a need to have a predictable life with little change and challenge, this will not be your favorite year. For others, this is a time of opportunity and growth. Just as 2015 had a strong energetic connection with 1968 and all the structural changes to our world, 2016 will feature the pattern of reconstruction we experienced in 1969. The theme of this period is the friction between security and freedom, stability and evolution.

LANDSCAPING: For those of us in Houston who have noticed all the blooming plants in our area, it is time to plan and plant so we can enjoy the Spring and Summer in our outdoor landscape, even if, as many of us do, we look from the inside out during the summer months. It is time to work on our trees, plant shrubs and get the flowers in the ground. If you need help with any of these tasks, or need design work or irrigation and drainage, please let me know how I can assist you.

FEBRUARY ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK

As we reboot from the false starts and chaos of January, February 2016 begins a year symbolized by a turning point, an energy threshold, a shifting of frequencies, a year of reclamation, inventiveness and resourcefulness, i.e. a paradigm shift--both frustrating and full of opportunity where constant change, instability and flux develop our resilience and creativity. On 2/5 Mars and Uranus create friction in the signs of Scorpio and Aries, making it hard to resist impulsive, aggressive actions and speech. Take a breath before you act or speak. Venus joins with Pluto later that day and there will be more consequences through a volcanic feeling response if we cannot restrain ourselves. Thereafter, Mercury in Capricorn joins with Jupiter in Virgo in a happy, healing, generous mood. This is worth waiting for. Thereafter Venus seeks the excitement of the new and different with its meeting with Uranus in Aries, a time when relationships will take on new life and new forms, leading to greater feeling of freedom and self-expression.

The second week of February begins with a New Moon in Aquarius, the beginning of the Chinese New Year of the Red Fire Monkey and a great time to begin new projects with new awareness and enthusiasm. With the Sun and Moon in Aquarius, the power of community, friends and groups of kindred spirits draw us closer together, and with Mars in Scorpio, farther apart, as we become very aware of our differences from others, as well as our common beliefs. The monkey symbolizes intelligence and creativity, as well as impulsiveness and opportunism. The fire element expresses as courage and dynamism, and the yang element conveys assertion and strength, making 2016 an auspicious year for learning, innovation and boldly following our dreams, a time to reject fear and just go for it. With Mars in Scorpio at this New Moon, we are all aware of our passions and aspirations and what it will take tactically to get what we desire and feel deserving of. We need to track our progress and notice the green lights that tell us we are on the right path to success.

On 2/10 Venus and Jupiter form a very supportive pattern in earth signs Capricorn and Virgo. This is a great day to plant seeds and make helpful connections with others. On 2/13 Mercury moves into Aquarius following the Moon and Sun, and on 2/16 Venus moves into Aquarius as well. This is a great time for connection with others and renewing old friendships and making new ones. It is also great for pleasure travel. On 2/18 the Sun enters the waters of cosmic Pisces where it joins with Neptune on 2/28. This 10 day period is one of great imagination and creativity and unlocking the secrets of the deeper layers of ourselves and others. Make time for self-reflection and sharing your dreams with those you trust.

The Full Moon in Pisces on 2/22 illuminates where we need to balance intellect with intuition, effort with surrender, and judgment with compassion. The Sun in Pisces urges us to dive deeply into our spiritual nature and possibilities and the Moon in Virgo reminds us that our bodies represent our consciousness and are inseparable from our thoughts and feelings. The blood that goes through our brain goes through all our body parts, including our feeling heart. This Full Moon and the joining of the Sun with Neptune on 2/28 invokes what Jung called the Transcendent Function, the non-rational energy which when it flows takes us past all our fears and limits into a greater realization of our possibilities. Make some time for quiet contemplation during this powerful period. It is a time for letting go of illusions and embracing fully our true potential, without having to live up to an impossible ego ideal. The last day of February has a powerful joining of the Moon and Mars in Scorpio which urges us all to act on our deepest instincts with courage and confidence. In other words, LEAP.

As you can see, this is a month to begin the recovery process from the previous 12 months. If we are still breathing, it must be that we are planning to move forward and begin again. If I can help you in any way with your understanding and/or planning, please let me know. This is tricky business and we have to learn to Trick the Trickster, and this is the year to perfect it.

NAN