

GREETINGS;

I hope you had a peaceful holiday after the tumultuous challenges and opportunities of 2015. The energetics of 2015 are a mirror of those in 1968, which were, for those of us who were adults at that time, life changing. The optimist in me remembers 1969 as a year of remarkable opportunity and new beginnings which brought unimaginable gifts. On Christmas Day, the revolutionary planet Uranus moved forward in fiery Aries and gave us a unique period from 12/25-1/5/2016 when all of the personal and outer planets were moving forward together like a flowing cosmic river of energy, bringing us to the beginning of the future. What began with Uranus ends on 1/5/2016 when Mercury makes its first retrograde motion of 2016. This pattern can create an awesome breakthrough and extra energy to benefit what improves our lives.

From 12/29-1/3 three planets change signs as well. First Venus the planet which symbolizes what we value moves out of watery Scorpio into the unlimited optimistic fire of Sagittarius, urging us to lighten up and play more. Second Mercury, the mental messenger, moves from uber practical and realistic Capricorn for a brief shift (1/1-1/8) into Aquarius, the air sign, symbolizing the humanity and altruism we are all capable of, as well as stimulating our mental and intellectual pursuits, particularly with those we consider kindred spirits. Finally, on 1/2 Mars leaves relationship oriented Libra for a long stay in passionate Scorpio, giving us to know for sure what is important to us on a primal level. These shifts should affect our thoughts, values and physical drives and passions in new ways, bringing the gift of a new awareness which informs our action plans.

With the Sun in Capricorn coming to a meeting with Pluto on 1/5, the day Mercury goes retrograde after being pushed by reactive Mars in Scorpio, a most interesting time will begin, a proverbial wild ride into the new year of 2016. The last day of 2015 provides an optimistic combining of Moon/Jupiter energies as the day begins. The evening of 12/31 begins with the Moon in Virgo balancing Mercury in Capricorn, followed by the Moon moving into Libra for a peaceful New Year's Eve celebration.

On January 1, Mercury leaves Capricorn for a brief few days of progressive thought while occupying the sign of Aquarius. Enjoy these days and try to rest, recreate and regenerate yourself, as Mercury goes retrograde from 1/5-25, and we know what a wild ride that can be. Not only can communication difficulties occur, but machines and electronics become unreliable as well. Check and recheck your schedule during this 3 week period, and think before you speak. This is a period to review and revise your plans and do research on your options. The time for deciding and communicating openly occurs thereafter.

Between 1/5-10 none of us will be able to be static, as a host of energetic patterns precedes the New Moon in Capricorn on 1/9-10. The morning of 1/5 Mercury and Mars irritate one another and increase our agitation, so find some peace within and keep your schedule more flexible than usual. Thereafter Venus and Neptune cloud our ability to see relationships clearly. This is definitely a time when our blind spots are amplified. Later on 1/5 we may come back to reality as the Sun joins Pluto in Capricorn, removing the rose colored glasses. On 1/7 Jupiter stops and moves backward in Virgo until 5/9, urging us to have an inner review of our goals and possibilities so we can realize our potential before Jupiter leaves hard working Virgo on 9/9/2016. This is a strong business cycle so look for new solutions to old problems with optimism. On 1/8 Mercury moves backward into Capricorn as Venus and Saturn join together, asking us to be realistic about our situations so we can find new solutions to old problems.

The New Moon in Capricorn urges us to master life on the physical plane. The Capricorn mountain goat represents the strength and self-reliance that results from dealing successfully with difficult circumstances. It refers to the statement in the classic book *The Road Less Travelled*: "Life is difficult", or the success formula of removing choice and "just doing it". As mentioned, the day before the New Moon on 1/9-10 Venus and Saturn join together giving us the opportunity to clarify our values, commitments and priorities, advising us to choose wisely so we don't experience regret. The 2 planets that turn retrograde before the New Moon intensify this period. Mercury urges us to make time to rethink, retool and release what is not working for us. Jupiter moves backwards in Virgo, asking us to release our inner critic and transform this inner voice into a helpful editor, improve our skills and deal with lingering issues around health, clutter or efficiency.

On 1/12 Venus and Uranus make a supportive triangle, followed by an expansive Jupiter pattern on 1/18. This is a nice break from the challenges we have moved through. Also on 1/18 Mars and Neptune support our passionate imagination and creativity so find something wonderful to experience at this time.

On 1/22 Mercury moves into the same space in Capricorn where Pluto holds the spot. This is a day of powerful awareness and insight, and it will be repeated again on 1/30 as we review our thoughts, decisions and insights with unvarnished truth.

The Full Moon of 1/23-24 has the Sun in air sign Aquarius, the sign of the collective and the Moon in Leo, the sign of our heart's desires on a personal level. Shortly after the Moon enters Leo in the morning, Venus enters Capricorn, ushering in a period of extreme productivity. This is a particularly creative period urging risk taking and sharing. All Full Moon periods are best enjoyed with others, so make plans accordingly.

Although it may seem otherwise, we are blessed to live in interesting times of immense challenge and opportunity. As we embrace the chaos of the emerging Aquarian Age, this Full Moon reminds us of the power of the individual (Leo), joined with the collective (Aquarius). The vibrancy and speed of change is an opportunity to break free and break open our hearts and minds.

On 1/25 Mercury goes forward and the Moon moves into practical Virgo, urging us to get back to work and move forward. With Mercury making 3 conjunctions with Pluto between 12/15-2015 and 1/29/2016 in earthy Capricorn, we are reminded of the importance of being mindful of our thoughts and speech. As my great teacher instructed me: "Don't use words that don't serve you, even in your own mind". In addition, Mercury makes 3 squares to Uranus from 12/20/2015-1/31/2016, urging us to be more open to new ideas and new ways of doing things, as well as to be more honest with ourselves. This is our opportunity to function on a higher mental frequency so we limit our emotional pain as we grow.

Finally, the great disruption we experienced in 2015 was brought forth through the pattern of Uranus in Aries struggling with Pluto in Capricorn, which thankfully will ease in March 2016, leaving us to process the energy of Saturn and Neptune, the eruptive pattern which last visited our lives in 1968.

If you are needing help to process these interesting times and the changes which have occurred within yourself and in your life in 2015, I am available to help you forge a new understanding and create a new path to a more peaceful future. Other than January 1, 2016, I plan to be at work all of January.

Have a happy, peaceful, safe and prosperous 2016.

May the force be with you!

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