

GREETINGS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR;

As we end this challenging, ever changing year, a year of endings symbolized by the number 9, it is time to look forward to a new beginning with opportunities to bring our unique qualities into alignment with our goals and dreams. The year ending, 2016, had the same change dynamic energy as 1968, and in the remaining days of this dramatic 9 year, we have major planetary changes which usher in the begin again year of 2017.

On 12/28, at the Mercury retrograde midpoint, the Sun and Mercury meet, shedding light on what we need to do to get organized in the new year. It is time to take the time to make plans for our lives to be lived with freedom, authenticity and order in 2017. I hope you made time to do some type of a ritual to honor the return to light at the Winter Solstice, as it was the first burst of hope as we leave the hard lessons of 2016. The New Moon on 12/29 is the first alignment of light following the Solstice and the last New Moon of 2016. As this New Moon in practical Capricorn, it is wise to ask what we can accomplish if we use our gifts and unique talents in new ways. It is time to release everyone and everything that no longer serves our needs and our soul growth. It is a time to send light, love and healing to those persons and circumstances we no longer need to be shaped by. The New Moon is joining the Sun, Mercury and Pluto in Capricorn, bringing deep, serious and profound thought about what path we take in 2017, i.e. what really matters most.

As we wind down, the planet Uranus will move forward and wind us up toward freedom, authenticity and radical transformation, creating new solutions to old situations, as well as brilliant ideas that will move us toward a better life. In a 1 year, we can begin again. From 7/29-12/29 the planet Uranus was moving out of the picture, and to many of us it made life seem stale and limited. On 12/29 the forward movement of this original planet, combined with the New Moon and a starting over year, there is hope for unexpected opportunity, awareness and movement. With our hearts and minds opening to new insights, it is time to activate a new light on our path, and in some cases, change paths dramatically. This begins a new cycle of transformation and redefinition for the first time in 84 years.

On 12/31 the Moon moves forward into Aquarius, bringing additional encouragement for inventiveness and saying "yes" to the unexpected. As Mars in Pisces joins with Neptune in its own sign of Pisces this day we have an opportunity to align our action with our imagination and dream our biggest dreams coming from our deepest self. If you have not done a release of the struggles you experienced in 2016, now is the time. I burned a 2016 calendar and claimed the gifts of the suffering I did in that year. I put the list of my gifts in a holiday gift bag and put in on my path, imaging my gifts can be used in new ways in 2017. Hope you come up with a great idea for yourself. If you need help with this task, I will be in the office tomorrow afternoon 12/29.

Most everyone I know had trauma in 2016, the gift of which brought awareness to old pain that moved to the surface to be released. Since 2017 is a time of starting over with passion and courage, it is good not to be dragged backwards by the pain of the past.

I will be in the office again on January 2 if you want to make sense of the patterns which January provides. As I researched the patterns of 2017 and January in particular, I am reminded of how helpful it is to be able to understand the energy patterns beyond the personal level. Since January focuses on collective and social issues, we need to expand our understanding of others and find a way to connect to their reality and keep ourselves balanced.

JANUARY 2017 ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK

Not only do we move from a 9 year of completion energy in 2017, we will leave the Chinese symbol of the red fire monkey, exchanging it for the red fire rooster, also symbolized by the Phoenix which is resurrected from the ashes of the fire it dives into each year. This is a Karmic Firebird which represents karmic justice, independence and equality. The lessons of 2017 emphasize balance and order, common sense and most of all, strategic planning. Success requires sharp precision with competent execution of our plans. The Rooster Year, which begins on 1/28/2017, symbolizes a striving for balance between order and disunity: a

rude awakening is promised. One of the major themes of 2017 is the opposition between Jupiter in Libra and Uranus in Aries, which first occurred the day after Christmas (12/26). This pattern, which occurs again on 3/2/2017 and 9/27/2017 pits compromise against disruption, the middle ground vs. extremes. The choice to take the middle way is the goal, but impulse will be seductive.

January begins with a strong energy pattern of cardinal signs, which urges action and planning and learning by doing. The year of 2017 is also a fiery year and with Saturn in Sagittarius and Uranus in Aries there is a message to be resilient in your planning, incorporating the unexpected. Our goals may remain the same, but the benefit of remaining flexible and adaptive will increase the probability of success. This is also a time for collaborative success. Jupiter in Libra emphasizes the benefits of cooperation replacing compulsive self-sufficiency and arrogance. The ongoing presence of Uranus in Aries sends a signal to us that we become weak if we collaborate and ask for help. The biology of our species says otherwise: we are primates and need to live in a 50 person support community for best results.

As January begins we feel the energy of the Sun in Capricorn coming into frictional alignment with Uranus in Aries on 1/10. We may feel rebellious and impulsive, especially with Mercury retrograde in Capricorn and Sagittarius. This is a breakdown or breakthrough energy. Sometimes things have to fall apart to come together in a new way. If possible find a way to contain yourself so you can operate from strategy, not impulse. On 1/8 Mercury moves backward into fire sign Sagittarius, goes direct on 12/8 and back into Capricorn on 1/12 at the powerful Full Moon in Cancer.

Venus begins the month in Aquarius and moves into Pisces on 1/3, urging us all to dream big and seek means to connect to our spiritual source. At the Full Moon on 1/12 Venus joins Neptune in Pisces, so plan the most creative activity you can find and be around beauty for the most inspiring day of 2017. This pattern opens our hearts and increases our sensitivity and creativity.

The dynamic Full Moon in Cancer which occurs on 1/12 is part of a pattern called a Grand Cross, involving the Sun and Pluto in Capricorn, the Moon in Cancer, Jupiter in Libra and Uranus in Aries. We will all be moved toward increased impatience and a desire for action. It is time for patience, not risk. The action necessary is to see and feel with greater clarity. The challenge is to harness the power of this unlimited energy and allow it to flow in a disciplined, purposeful, strategic direction. We need to exhibit patience and cooperation, applying deliberate and intelligent thought concerning our current situations. As Mercury enters Capricorn it allows a more detached perception of our options.

On 1/19 Mars and Saturn struggle over the goals and projects established in 8/2016. The question is: do we want to work harder on everything or select the most important goals and not spread ourselves so thin. It is best to re-prioritize at this time. We need to discern what is real and what is imagined and deal realistically with our limits and if necessary, our disappointments. This is not a time to have an argument with anyone. The Sun enters Aquarius on 1/19, bringing the desire for freedom and cooperation, as well of release and struggle.

On 1/27 Venus in Pisces and Saturn in Sagittarius square off in order to gain clarity in relationships and issues with money. It is time to be more realistic, but not to give up. This is a time for clarification and thinking clearly, as this is the day when Mercury moves past the point where it went retrograde in December. All systems are go, as the New Moon in Aquarius arrives thereafter emitting light once more to clarify our needs and desires as it spreads its light sabre across our life path. We are well equipped for this task as Mars, the energy of action enters his ruling sign of Aries an hour after the New Moon, offering courage, enthusiasm and endurance for what we are moved toward, stirring up our passion and creativity with boldness. Mars is at home in fiery Aries, not treading water in Pisces where it stirs up all our neuroses. The fire power of Mars has been added to the mix just in time for the Chinese New Year on 1/28. As mentioned before we are now in the 2nd of 2 fire years, shifting from monkey to rooster. On 1/29 Mercury and Pluto conjoin in Capricorn helping us to be more mentally focused. The only danger is to be so focused on results that it is difficult to understand the emotional needs of others moving forward. The last pattern involving Mercury occurs on 1/31 as Mercury in Capricorn opens up to Uranus in Aries for some revolutionary thought which comes quickly and with brilliance and without much effort.

As you can see, we are on the precipice of dramatic change once again. This time we have more fuel and can choose the direction we move forward in. For those with knowledge of astrological language this will be apparent. For those without knowledge of astrological language, let me know if I can help you translate it for you on the path to progress. This is a year of beginnings and opportunity for unlimited growth if you follow your inner guidance and allow your gifts to guide you toward a better than imagined result. The fact that most of us survived 2016, says we are ready to thrive in 2017. Don't hold back. Be bold and be a successful gardener of your destiny!

ENJOY THE END OF 2016 AND LOOK FORWARD INTO 2017!

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