

GREETINGS AND HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND!

I hope you are planning some wonderful times to celebrate and rest this weekend. July is jumping with possibilities, opportunities and challenges. You will need your wits, courage and consciousness to allow the current of change to take you through this adventuresome month.

LANDSCAPING: Since it is now too hot to prune and plant, below is a picture of a lovely patio with walkways which we built this week. Hope it stimulates you to enjoy the early mornings and late evenings when it is pleasant to be outside. Let me know if I can help you plan your outdoor area.

ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK FOR JULY:

When I look at the energy picture for July with all of the personal planets Sun, Mercury, Venus and Mars in the personal signs Gemini and Cancer, and later social Leo, and see all of the planets of the collective (Jupiter, Saturn, Pluto and Neptune) on the other side of the circle, it reminds me of my favorite childhood game: Red Rover, let someone come over. This is the most powerful tension of opposites period of the year. Power struggles are possible as the differences in people will be very visible and polarizing. Since the engine of action Mars is traveling with the Sun in Cancer and later Leo, it will be impossible not to know where you stand, and nearly impossible to remain neutral. For most of the next 3 weeks Pluto is the headliner in the astrological game of life and the instigator of all power struggles. This is a month at the crossroads in a year of new beginnings as symbolized by the rising Phoenix bird which appears to be burned alive, but rises in spite of the heat.

The major patterns of July are as follows:

MARS PULLS THE TRIGGER;

Militant fiery Mars occupies watery, home loving, feeling sign Cancer until 7/20 when it moves with the Sun into Leo. During this period the warrior archetype symbolized by Mars forms a furious opposition to power driven Pluto in Capricorn, activating every angry feeling we are capable of feeling in our struggle to be authentic and become free of the influence of those who would limit our self-expression. Find your inner warrior and remain strong, and perhaps silent, even if your feelings are boiling over. It is difficult to think straight in this type of thunderstorm, so summon your inner courage.

Thereafter, on 7/17 Mars and Uranus form a combat pattern sending bullets of anger, restlessness and frustration in all directions. Find your mature warrior, the peacemaker and avoid confrontation with all who lack self-control.

Mars moves out of the watery boiling pot of Cancer feeling energy on 7/20 and enters Leo, the site of the heart center and joins the New Moon in Leo on 7/23 powering up the Sun in Leo as well. This triple joining of Sun, Moon and Mars in Leo completes on 7/26 and symbolizes the beginning of a 2-year reboot of masculine energy, necessary for vitality, motivation, passion and assertiveness. This is the period spoken about by the late Fraser Boa (the brother of Jungian genius Marion Woodman) as the "Man of the New Heartbeat". This shift in consciousness is alchemical, allowing hatred and selfishness to transform into consistent self-discipline and courageous action. Mars travels close to the Sun until early September, so we have all the time we need to make this transition.

SUPER POWERFUL FULL MOON IN CAPRICORN JULY 8-9

The Full Moon is the emotional and energetic peak of the month, and this one is sure to stir up feelings of fear, anger, depression and grief. Mars in Cancer joins the Sun and opposes the Moon and Pluto in Capricorn. This is a classic power struggle test of your courage and resolve. This volatile combination brings a strong potential for emotional reactivity and attempts by others to control us are met with resistance. Since Jupiter is also in this mix, things can be blown out of proportion. Taking responsibility for awareness of our feelings will bring us through the storm of feelings as we navigate this emotional minefield. It is necessary to respond with maturity and an open heart. This is a great time to spend time in

nature, take a meditation and/or yoga class, or seek support from those who are wise listeners. The effects of this intense period will lessen by August 4, as the long time square of Jupiter and Pluto, active for the past 9 months comes to an end. The activation of these powerful planets in Cardinal signs of action brings us all to a crossroads and a choice point. The Full Moon makes it obvious what is not working, what needs to be released and grieved in order to make a brave step in a new direction. As we move through the emotional charge of the Full Moon we open a channel of passion, creativity, courage and joy. The dark light of this Full Moon is according to Andrew Harvey: the greatest darkness constellates the most powerful answering light: the greatest threat constellates the most impassioned energy of creativity". MAY IT BE SO FOR ALL OF US.

PLANETS MOVE INTO LEO; FINALLY!

Mars, always wanting to be first, enters Leo on 7/20 so we can dry out our emotions and open our hearts to creativity, courage and loving kindness, which we will need as the Moon enters Cancer before it becomes a New Moon on 7/23, and reactivates the Plutonian dark feeling energy one more time on 7/22 for a last unwelcome visit. This is not the time for someone to try to strong arm you so avoid those whose actions might bring up feelings of vulnerability and wait for the Moon to enter Leo on the evening of 7/22 as it leaps into Leo and joins brave Mars and the Sun causing a roar of the cosmic Lion. New starts made under this pattern are boosted by motivation and drive. The New Moon in Leo occurs on 7/23 and invites us to feed, nurture and tend to our inner light, to fire up our vitality, passion and creativity. This New Moon brings the Sun, Moon and Mars into the first degree of Leo signaling an opportunity to rebirth ourselves and our radiance. Since Leo is ruled by the Sun, the center of our Solar System, it represents our heart center, the center of our will and identity. At this New Moon the planet Mercury joins the North Node in Leo, encouraging us to speak our truth and to filter all information through our heart's wisdom. We should all ask ourselves how we have disconnected from our true self out of a fear of rejection. We are in the final phase of liberating our unique genius. On 7/31 Venus enters Cancer, the center of our feelings. It is time to spend making arrangements to be with those we love and support and feel safe with after a month of strong feelings.

MERCURY IS MOVING SWIFTLY THROUGH 3 SIGNS;

As the month begins, Mercury occupies feeling water sign Cancer, moving into Leo on 7/5 and arriving in Virgo on 7/25. This fast pace always precedes a period of Mercury slowing down and going retrograde (8/12-9/5). With Mercury in Virgo until 9/29, we have the option to clear up all our mental messes and up our game of being organized. This is a great period to purge unnecessary items, do work which requires manual dexterity and think more about our health and take steps to clear up our habits relating to our health so we can have improvement in our relationship with our bodies. This is also the day that Mars joins the Sun challenging us to use our strengths wisely as we call forth our inner warrior with his/her strength of spirit and clarity of purpose, fueled by a never-ending supply of courage.

As you can see if you made it to the end of the email, July is a bonfire of possibilities for change, challenge and growth. If I can help you untangle any of your issues, I would be happy to help you. After 50 years of collecting knowledge and tools for transformation and actualization, I would be honored to share.

Have a safe, happy holiday.

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