

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HOUSTONIANS;

When the Allen brothers landed in Houston on the banks of Buffalo Bayou in late August 1836, they could never have imagined what would result 181 years later: the most multi-ethnic city in the United States, occupied by brave, resilient, hardworking, helpful people who will rise like the Phoenix from the waters that brought us the largest natural disaster in US history. You may have read the poem below composed by former Houston resident Jeremy Rutledge, who is a Methodist minister:

to pray for Houston you have to pray in her way
pray like Beyoncé when she was at HSPVA
or Billy and Dusty shooting pool at Ruyard's
pray like you're sitting over soup at Spanish Flowers
or pho at Mai's steaming your glasses
pray like the kids playing soccer on the east side
or mutton busting at the livestock show
pray like the runners in Memorial Park lacing them up
or the researchers in the medical center looking into microscopes
if you want to pray for Houston
you have to pray as quietly as the Rothko Chapel or Houston Zen Center
and
you have to pray as loudly as the old scoreboard at the Astrodome after a José Cruz home run
you have to pray sitting under a live oak tree
or standing next to an azalea bloom while your skin clams in the heat
if you want to pray for Houston
you have to pray without pretense this ain't Dallas
and in a neighborly way as friends come out to check on each other in the rain
and those who are far away watch screens and wipe our eyes
if you want to pray for Houston
raise a bottle of Shiner to the gray sky
and say that 130 mile an hour winds and 9 trillion gallons of rain
are no match for a city of such life and diversity
you can fill up our bayou but you will never rain on our parade

I cry every time I read it because as a native Houstonian who left to see the world and came back to begin my career and raise my family, I feel it's truth with all my heart. Fortunately, I did not suffer for myself in this weather catastrophe, but I cry the ocean of people who are without homes, but not without hope. They will need all of our prayers and help for a long time to come. BRAVO to them for their tenacity and courage. The whole world has watched the optimism and bravery of our city on television. That is our birthday gift to them: the triumph of the human spirit of love and generosity which lives within us and is shared so willingly with others. Like the song by Gloria Gaynor: WE WILL SURVIVE, and thrive.

Now, for the astrological outlook for September.

SEPTEMBER ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK

As August ends, the effects of the 2 eclipses in August, as well as the bonfire of fire energy which expands all experiences, seemed to land on Texas. Fortunately, the energy of September starts off strong with the influence of 4 planets in Virgo, the go to work and get it done well sign. Finally, Mercury goes direct on 9/5 and will totally straighten itself out this month on 9/19, followed by a New Moon in Virgo on 9/20 and the beginning of fall and the end of summer on 9/22. On 9/28 we have Jupiter at the end of balancing sign Libra moving opposite Uranus in Aries for the final time and later that day Pluto moves back into forward movement in Capricorn.

FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9/1-8:

With Mars occupying the degree of the American Eclipse of 8/21 and finding balance with the planet Uranus we have the promise of strong creative energy and the ability to exceed our creative expectations: start visualizing now. We have the power to exceed our expectations. Mental Mercury joins Mars, also on the degree of the 8/21 eclipse with our minds actively energized toward new possibilities of thought and action. On 9/4 the Moon in Aquarius joins the South Node of the Moon, bringing with it the reminder that old patterns of aloofness and compulsive self-sufficiency and isolation will no longer bring us any satisfaction. We now need to fully engage in life. On 9/5 two important shifts occur, fiery Mars moves out of Leo into functional engine of ingenuity Virgo to get us grounded in the practical application of our passions to the real world. Secondly, Mercury, the planet that rules Virgo and keeps our minds moving forward with reason resumes its forward motion after 3 weeks of helter skelter confusion. On 9/19, all the mess of August will be rearranged, at least mentally. The Pisces Full Moon in the early hours of 9/6 will open our psychic sensors and increase our sensitivity to the collective nature of our being: all are one and not separate from one another. Pay attention to your dreams at this time. The Sun in Virgo at this time is part of an earth balancing energy field which keeps us grounded while we stretch toward the cosmos with energy of the stars we are made of. Just before this Full Moon, Mercury moves direct at the same degree of the Total Eclipse of 8/21 and joins Mars and the Fixed Star Regulus, intensifying the power to lead us to creative and collective action in service to healing. This coincides with the opportunities we all have to help in the recovery efforts in Texas.

SECOND WEEK OF SEPTEMBER (9/9-16)

Mercury moves quickly back into Virgo (9/9) putting the mental energies back into practical problem solving mode. This pattern is amplified as Venus in Leo forms a strong support pattern with Saturn in Sagittarius (9/12) drawing us into reflection on how our plans have unfolded over the past 3 weeks. This is the time for completion and release, enabling us to move forward to the energy unfolding at the New Moon cycle (9/20). On 9/14 Venus in Leo joins the North Node for the first time in 2017 (and the first time in 18 years) inviting us to pursue our heart's desires and become clearer about what they are for the first time in 18 years. This is especially true in personal relationships and career goals. The following day (9/15) Venus in Leo and Jupiter in Libra expand our awareness of our heart's needs ever further. Pay attention to your feelings. On 9/16 Mars joins Mercury in Virgo making this an ideal day for planning and implementing home improvement projects.

THIRD WEEK OF SEPTEMBER (9/17-23)

Lots of change energy occurs during this week with a New Moon in Virgo (9/20) and the beginning of Fall (9/22). On Monday 9/18 Venus in Leo is in a supportive pattern with Saturn in Sagittarius, which brings about a return of creative fire to practical matters. This is an optimistic, productive time. On 9/19 Venus enters Virgo just prior to the New Moon in Virgo which occurs just after midnight on 9/20. It is time to be practical, productive and accomplish some goals. Mercury is now out of its retrograde degrees and fully present with the Sun, Moon, Mars and Venus- a virtual Virgo army of practicality and hard work paying off. There is a dose of Neptune imagination in this combo so let the intuition offer suggestions to this practical force of high functionality. The Virgo New Moon invites us to call forth the power of our bodies and get focused on the here and now reality so we can heal what is necessary for a more peaceful, functional life. It is time to simplify, refine and improve any areas of our life which have fallen into chaos. On 9/22 Mercury in Virgo is enhanced with its relatedness to Pluto in Capricorn, as we all have an opportunity to transform like the Phoenix Bird which symbolizes the task of 2017. On 9/22 the Sun takes flight from earth as it enters air sign of balance and fairness Libra and the transitional season of Autumn 2017 begins.

FINAL WEEK OF SEPTEMBER (9/24-30)

As we move to the end of September, it is truly the faster moving cardinal energy of Libra which brings us the lightness of being with the Sun and Jupiter and finally Mercury occupying the space of this social, kind, helpful, fair and peaceful energy symbolized by Libra and its ruling planet Venus. On 9/24 Mars in Virgo opposes Neptune in Pisces, commanding that we become accepting the tension of opposites in ourselves and in others, as well as allowing us to live beautifully with uncertainty and change. On 9/25 Mercury and Saturn dance with the rhythm of mental ups and downs as we attempt to find our optimistic self. On 9/28

Pluto begins its forward movement in cautious, fearful earth sign Capricorn, urging us to dive deep for answers once again. This is preceded by the last pass of jovial, expansive Jupiter in its trapeze work with original, rebellious Uranus. Since Jupiter is in relational sign Libra and Uranus is in sign of self Aries, all of our relationship changes in the past year should be clear. On 9/29 Venus and Neptune create new possibilities, or possibly illusions in our relationship life as Mercury moves into air sign Libra for the month of October. Lots of dealings with relationships are coming with the combination of the Sun, Mercury and Jupiter and later Venus in Libra in October (10/14).

Hopefully your life evolves into a more peaceful pace in September as change becomes more manageable. With much of the energy in earth and air signs (Virgo and Libra), rationality will prevail. All the fire and water energy of Summer 2017 (non-rational energy) caused quite a memorable adventure in this year of beginnings symbolized by the Fire Rooster (Phoenix) and a one year in numerology (like 2008), which seems to be beyond challenging for all of us.

I am returning to my office tomorrow, 8/31 so I will be available to help you with any confusion or decisions you need to make. As always, the combination of astrology and behavioral science help to make sense out of the nonsense we are given the opportunity to move through.

Have a happy, safe and productive Labor Day holiday if you can and get ready to move forward in September.

NAN