MARS in AQUARIUS RETROGRADE and the FIXED CROSS ECLIPSE
Welcome!

OPA’s new term began on June 17 as the vote of confidence came to a close. We are excited to begin a new cycle and take OPA to its next developmental process, with you, for you, and for astrology.

We hope to fulfill the creative promise of this new chart and shine our Venus, North Node, and Moon in Leo to warm hearts and ignite brains.

Our focus for the next term 2018-2020:

- Further solidify OPA’s certification process which includes the Peer Group process, Integrative Consulting Skills, Astronomy for Astrologers, and forthcoming, an overview of the History and Development of Astrology.
- 2019 - lead a complete OPA certification program in the UK (including PG, ICS, Astronomy for Astrologers) in the UK.
- Translate more Astrology articles and OPA related content in all foreign languages of our Satellite countries.
- Organize medium scale OPA events outside the United States.
- Organize the next OPA Retreat end of 2019, early 2020.
- Fundraise for scholarships for promising students and practitioners in astrology.
- Increase awareness for Evidence based astrology.
- Increase cooperation between OPA and other astrology organizations.
- And much more…

Thank you for being part of this movement and helping us in our goal to make a difference for Astrology.

Maurice Fernandez
President, OPA

MARS RETROGRADE (AQUARIUS) AND GRAND CROSS ECLIPSES

An extraordinary Mars retrograde cycle conjuncts the lunar South Node and the Total Lunar Eclipse (July 27) – With Mars’s rare proximity to the earth and being out of bound, we can expect strong currents and swift changes in the coming weeks. OPA collected a number of articles on the subject, with each author offering a different perspective on these powerful cycles.

With better understanding of these planetary alignments, we can better navigate the currents. Enjoy and blessings for all!
A truly fiery cycle is upon us. While Mars retrogrades every two years, this time Mars will retrograde in Aquarius the first time in 47 years and will conjunct the Nodes and the Total Lunar Eclipse of July 27.

**WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT THIS MARS RETROGRADE CYCLE:**

- **The rarest retrograde in Aquarius:** every 47, or 32 years... The last time was in 1971. The next time will be in 2050.

- **Mars Retrograde will conjunct the nodal axis and the July 27 Total Lunar Eclipse**

- **Mars will be the closest to the Earth:** the same as it was in 2003, roughly 35 million miles distance (compared to an average of 140 million miles). This will make Mars’s red glow particularly bright.

If we could role-play the planets, we would imagine Venus in Leo yearning for romance, generosity, and creative sensual expression, while Mars in Aquarius in a doubting, cynical, and bored mindset, yearning to get out of a “same old, same old” repetition of relationships and engagement. The separatists and defensive qualities of a retrograde Mars in Aquarius challenge the opportunity that Venus offers – “I don’t do tanned and platinum hair” would say Mars retrograde in Aquarius, “please surprise me with more wit and better taste.”

We already see the effect of relationship tensions within groups, with Donald Trump polarized from G7 allies. At worst, this...
opposition can bring a spike in cost of living (Venus in Leo) because of the broken treaties (Mars in Aquarius retrograde).

On a personal level, our intimate relationship may also suffer setbacks and challenges, and even lead to a spike in the divorce curb. We may feel rejected with wounded self-esteem.

At best, new connections or ways of relating may take our relationships to new heights. A time when we may meet people who open completely new doors to our lives, and elevate the value (Venus in Leo) of what we have or who we are.

Mars retrograde in Aquarius can intensify our feeling of alienation and therefore the urge to break away.

**WHAT IS MARS RETROGRADE IN AQUARIUS ABOUT**

Life begins as a battle—whether it is in a baby pushing through the birth canal to separate and become, or a baby turtle hatching the egg and rushing toward the ocean, hoping to dodge predators, Mars activates our self-preservation instincts right from the start—it reminds us, our success is in our hands, with enough determination, it is up to us! Mars ignites the spark of life, and we need to fight to preserve it. Generally speaking, Mars reflects what we do, the need to succeed doing, and where we are headed in this process.

**Mars in Aquarius** conquers challenges and obstacles through mental sharpness and speed of action—there is a need to try new methods and perhaps new equipment that will get us where we need to go much faster—sometimes this also means going higher, for heights decrease gravity and density to increase speed. That turtle hatching from the egg during Mars in Aquarius, will use ingenuity, mental sharpness, and speed of action to dodge the birds and get to the ocean. Perhaps it will first look from above the pile of sand and get a vantage point to strategize the best and fastest way to reach the waters; perhaps it will brainstorm with fellow turtles about ways to confuse predators and succeed in team work.

**Flying kites on fire** – An interesting Mars in Aquarius symbolism is captured in the Gaza and Israel conflict where Gazaens fought back the Israeli regime by setting kites on fire that eventually set dry fields on fire on the other side of the dividing fences. Mars is the weapon, the fire, while Aquarius is the heights and the flight.

**When Mars turns retrograde, it is far away from the Sun, in other words, the knight is far from the king**—at such distance, he or she becomes more reflective and can doubt the original intentions of their mission.

In our lives, this is a time when we may not resonate anymore with what we have been doing and can feel a sense of depletion or loss of interest. In more extreme cases, life may divert the course of our trajectory and throw us off to completely new pathways.

In other words, Mars retrograde is a time when we are inspired, or compelled, to reinvent ourselves—we start anew: new place, new job, new relationships, new direction.

In the sign of Aquarius, we may feel a need to completely upgrade our lives. This can take the form of buying new equipment that can better serve our personal or professional needs, or change the direction of our lifestyle altogether.

Mars retrograde in Aquarius can intensify our feeling of alienation and therefore the urge to break away.

Such a change can affect our social association, we may break away from friends and

make new ones, or feel the need to revamp the dynamics of a group or an organization we belong to.

We all need to look at the house in our chart where Mars will retrograde between 9 degrees Aquarius and 28 degrees Capricorn, as this will be the house most activated by this sense of restlessness, disassociation, and transformation. This is where we may most strongly feel the urge to reinvent ourselves.

**MARS AND THE TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE – July 27**

Mars will reach the peak of its retrograde cycle on July 26, when it opposes the Sun—this is when the knight will be in direct opposition to his or her king, and the greatest time for both inflammation, separation, volatility, or completely new realizations for a breakthrough.

The next day, the Total Lunar Eclipse occurs as the Moon joins the Mars/Sun opposition on the Nodes. Eclipses can bring “larger than life” and unexpected events in our lives. Everything is intensified and accelerated during this time, and this can mean that many things we have been waiting for can occur. Add rapid moving Mars in Aquarius to the mix—There is no more waiting, it is happening! But be careful what you wish for...

The change of job you have been yearning for or the new project you always dreamt to start can indeed be activated during this time. From one week to the next, your life may look quite different.

This is a time where the strongest rebellious urges can emerge and we will
not tolerate any feeling of limitation or inauthenticity. We need to be careful not to act out too abruptly and later regret our swift decisions, but otherwise, this can be a breaking point when we decide to separate because we want things to be different.

The opposition to the Sun can bring confrontations with parents and children, or a need to separate from an authority. In some cases, people will leave without a confrontation.

HEALTH MATTERS
Because Mars reflects inflammation, as it is so activated through this cycle, we need to be careful about over-activating our nervous system. Our brain may process much faster than our bodies can follow causing a feeling of being overstimulated and wired. The need to balance that through body work and relaxation is essential.

Mars in Aquarius is also associated with blood circulation, particularly to the extremities of the feet, hands, and brain. Therefore, our cardio-vascular system may be vulnerable. This is a good time to check our blood pressure, run cardio-tests, and prevent related incidents.

DONALD TRUMP – Saros 129
Donald Trump was born on an exact Lunar Eclipse which belongs to the Saros Series 129. Synchronistically, the upcoming July 27 Total Lunar Eclipse is also part of the 129 Series.

The last times that occurred, 18 and 36 years ago he went through dramatic changes in his life, both crises and opportunities:

1981-1982
Building of New York Trump Tower
Loss of brother
Birth of daughter Ivanka

1999-2000
Divorce from 2nd wife Marla
Loss of father
1st Presidential Campaign

CONCLUSION
We are already driving this fast car, the Mars in Aquarius latest multi-cylinder model. But remember, you can stop and take a break! Be careful not to let the fast car control you.

Maurice Fernandez
mauricefernandez.com
The July-August 2018 Eclipses
by Sandra-Leigh Serio

In this summer of 2018, we have three eclipses, two are Partial Solar Eclipses and one is a Total Lunar Eclipse. Eclipses are like New or Full Moons on steroids, however their influence is not necessarily felt at the actual time of the eclipse, but months before or after the actual eclipse date. Solar Eclipses often bring lifestyle changes depending on what planet and house position is being activated. Lunar Eclipses often bring things to culmination or a crisis so action has to be taken and this action will often bring an ending to a situation that has been brewing for months and in dire need of change.

I allow an orb of 3 - 4 degrees for all eclipses. Eclipses that are conjunct, opposite or square to a natal planet or significant point in the chart tend to be the most potent. When an Eclipse trines or sextiles a natal planet, the effect is minimal and sometimes, non-existent. Quincunx aspects can also activate change or a new direction but one that is often forced; the quincunx aspect is not as strong as the conjunction, square or opposition but is much stronger than a sextile or trine.

A Word about Saros Cycles
The Chaldeans, by the 4th century BCE, came to the realization that eclipses occurred in a series or in cycles. By 747 BCE they were adept enough that they could predict the timing of an eclipse. These recurring cycles were later named Saros cycles and were found to repeat every 18 years, 11 days and 8 hours, though they did not repeat in the same sign and degree. There are 71-72 eclipses in a series and these cycles can last for 1200-1400 years. They begin either at the North Pole or the South Pole and thus have a birth chart for their beginning. Subsequent eclipses in the same series reflect the planets and aspects of the chart where it originated.

For this is Bernadette Brady’s book Predictive Astrology: The Eagle and the Lark.¹

1st Eclipse
The first eclipse of the summer is a Partial Solar Eclipse, July 13 at 2:49 AM UT and occurs at 20 degrees Cancer 41 minutes and is opposite Pluto at 20 degrees Capricorn 00 minutes (see chart following page). It is in the Saros Series 2 Old North, and is described by Bernadette Brady in her book Predictive Astrology, The Eagle and the Lark², as being especially separative to relationships and friendships.

Donald Trump’s Venus/Saturn conjunction at 24 Cancer is within a few degrees of this eclipse so we may witness more estrangement on his part with both his personal and professional relationships. His wife, Melania, who had what was reported as kidney surgery May 14, 2018, has her Solar Arc Mars at 21 degrees of Cancer. Often an eclipse connected to Mars will bring surgery or an injury of some kind.

The chart for the July 13 eclipse also has a grand trine with Saturn, Venus and Uranus in 17 – 23 degrees Cancer. Often an eclipse activates change or a new direction but will be most affected if you also have a personal planet at these degrees and are born in these years.

In August and September of 1954, and February through May of 1955, Jupiter joined with Uranus in Cancer within orb of the eclipse degree. If you were born during these times, the eclipse could bring a lucky windfall for you as Jupiter adds an element of luck, opportunity and good fortune when activated by an eclipse.

Saturn in 17 – 23 degrees Cancer
July 1945 – October 1945
December 1945 - June of 1946
September 1974 - December 1974
June 1975 - July 1975
July 2004 - September 2004
January 2005 - May 2005

Uranus in 17 – 23 degrees Cancer
August 1952 - December 1952
June 1953 – July 1954
March 1955 - May 1955

Pluto in 17 – 23 degrees Cancer
September 1927 - November 1927
July 1928 – January 1929
June 1929 - August 1933
January 1934 – July 1934
March 1935 - May 1935

The opposition to Pluto with this eclipse is most likely to bring disruption with families and countries as Pluto in Capricorn is representative of corporations and governments.

2nd Eclipse
The second eclipse of the summer is July 27, at 8:21 PM, UT, and is a Total Lunar Eclipse at 4 degrees Aquarius 45 minutes. This eclipse is most intense because it is also conjunct a retrograde Mars at 4 degrees of Aquarius and square to Uranus at 2 degrees of Taurus, an ominous foreboding that can bring terror acts, war, destruction, and rioting (see chart following page.) The path of this eclipse covers parts of Australia, Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America. Australia’s birth chart, January 26, 1788, Sydney, Australia (when the British Colonization took place) has the Sun at 4 degrees Aquarius 36. When an eclipse is visible in a country, that country often is highlighted in the news. For Australia, the eclipse is not only visible, it is also conjunct its Sun.

India is also in the path of this eclipse and the chart for the proclamation of the republic is set for January 26, 1950 in Delhi, India. Once again we have the Sun at 5 degrees Aquarius 40 minutes conjunct the July 27 eclipse point and square the Moon in India’s chart at 5 Taurus 43. This potentially brings unrest with the people of India and clashes with their leaders.
People born with planets within a three degree orb of 4 Aquarius or planets from 1 – 7 Aquarius and Leo will likely feel the impact of this eclipse the most. Below are the years when Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto were within the orb of the eclipse. The list below covers these planets in Leo and/or Aquarius. Those most impacted by this Total Lunar Eclipse will have a personal planet or significant point in their chart within three degrees of this eclipse and will be born in one of the time frames listed below.

**Saturn in 1 – 7 degrees Aquarius**
- March 1932 – July 1932
- December 1932 - February 1933
- January 1962 - March 1962
- August 1962 - December 1962
- February 1991 - September 1991
- November 1991 - January 1992

**Saturn in 1 – 7 degrees Leo**
- August 1946 - July 1947
- September 1975 - December 1975
- June 1976 - August 1976
- July 2005 - September 2005
- January 2006 - June 2006

**Uranus In 1 – 7 degrees Leo**
- September 1955- January 1956
- June 1956 - August 1957
- March 1958 - May 1958

**Uranus in 1 – 7 degrees Aquarius**
- January 1996 - September 1996
- November 1996 - April 1997
- June 1997 - January 1998

**Neptune in 1 – 7 degrees Aquarius**
- December 1998 - March 2001
- July 2001 - January 2002

**Pluto in 1 – 7 degrees Leo**
- September 1938 – December 1938
- July 1939 – March 1940
- May 1940 - September 1943
- January 1944 - July 1944
- April 1945 - May 1945

**3rd Eclipse**

The third eclipse of the summer is August 11 and is a Partial Solar Eclipse at 18 Leo 42 minutes, 9:59 AM, UT. It is in the Saros Series 2 New North and as described by Bernadette Brady she will change and collapse structures allowing for a new direction to unfold.

In Queen Elizabeth’s chart, she has Neptune at 22 Leo on the cusp of the 8th house quincunx her S. Node on the Ascendant at 20 degrees of Capricorn (being impacted by the Partial Solar Eclipse on July 13 at 20 degrees Cancer). Her Natal Neptune also opposes her Mars/Jupiter conjunction in Aquarius. Her Solar Arc Mars/Jupiter conjunction, now at 19 and 20 Taurus is moving to form a grand fixed cross in her chart within a year. Her 0 degree Taurus Sun is also being bombarded by transiting Uranus, which will conjoin it three times until it completes its passage in March of 2019.

These two eclipses and Uranus’ conjunction with her sun are foreshadowing important relationship changes and with the
The eclipses so close to her Neptune, important factors previously hidden will come to light. People born with planets within a three degree orb of the 18 Leo Eclipse will experience a shifting in their lifestyles. Below are the years when Saturn, Uranus, and Pluto were within 15 - 21 degrees of Leo. The presence of a personal planet at these degrees further intensifies the experience. **Saturn in 15 – 21 Leo**
- August 1947 – November 1947
- January 1948 – July 1948
- October 1976 – January 1977
- July 1977 – August 1977
- August 2006 – October 2006
- February 2007 – June 2007

**Uranus in 15 – 21 Leo**
- September 1958 – January 1959
- July 1959 – August 1960
- April 1961 – May 1961

**Pluto in 15 – 21 Leo**
- August 1948 – February 1949
- June 1949 – September 1952
- February 1953 – July 1953

In summary, these summer eclipses will bring necessary changes to relationships, especially those of well-known people, and can upset the structure of certain countries. Eclipses, like most transits in astrology, are designed to bring awareness to us that life is an impermanent state and that change is necessary for growth, fluidity and advancement of our consciousness.

**REFERENCES**
2. Ibid, P. 309
3. Ibid, P. 310

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Mars with the Lunar Nodes 2018

by Adam Gainsburg

This article offers a thorough description of the Mars-Lunar Nodes dynamic in light of their four-month transit in 2018. It does not emphasize the sign positions of their conjunctions in light of other authors in this series addressing that factor.

Introduction

From June through September 2018, Mars and the Moon’s nodal axis will be aligning for three conjunctions (see table 2 below). This triple alignment between Mars and the nodes of the Moon is rare, only occurring when Mars is near his retrograde and direct stations. The Mars-Lunar Node dynamic is a catalyst for exposing and maturing how our actions and underlying motivations, conscious and otherwise, are in or out of alignment with our dharma and wiring for deep transformation, and potential to contribute meaningfully to the world.

Here is a list of triple transits of Mars and the lunar nodes in the 20th and 21st century:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NODE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>North Node</td>
<td>mid Libra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>South Node</td>
<td>mid Leo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>South Node</td>
<td>late Aquarius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>South Node</td>
<td>early/mid Virgo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>South Node</td>
<td>early Libra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>South Node</td>
<td>mid Aquarius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>North Node</td>
<td>early Virgo, late Leo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>North Node</td>
<td>early Libra, late Virgo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>North Node</td>
<td>late Libra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>South Node</td>
<td>early Aquarius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2027</td>
<td>South Node</td>
<td>early Virgo, late Leo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2044</td>
<td>South Node</td>
<td>early Virgo, late Leo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2061</td>
<td>South Node</td>
<td>mid/late Libra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2065</td>
<td>North Node</td>
<td>late Capricorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2091</td>
<td>North Node</td>
<td>early/mid Virgo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mars & the Masculine

In Soulsign Astrology, each planet possesses multiple meanings and ways of expressing within us and in the world which may at times appear on the surface to contrast with another application of the same planet. Yet each astrological planet in fact represents an entire spectrum of human experience, potentials and functions. A single planet can be delineated in a very large number of ways depending on the astrological specialty being employed by the astrologer. Mars, for example, would be utilized and interpreted differently, whether for electoral, natal, medical, horary, predictive, financial, psychological or evolutionary techniques.

In the broadest terms, Mars in astrology correlates with the fundamental Masculine Principle, which is the primordial, animating impulse of the life force in all things. In this broad-brush view, Mars correlates with externalizing through our actions an inner drive or desire for something, be it conscious or instinctual, metaphysical or creative.

Inside each of us, our awareness and conscious integration of this “will energy” is an accurate litmus test for our alignment with this dimension of our inner Masculine. It is the Masculine in each of us that seeds any activity in which we “act upon” our environment in some way. The Masculine aspect of humanity can be:

“…individualistic, inconsistent, eruptive, violent, solipsistic, competitive, hierarchical, and alienating, but also progressively idealistic, non-violent, entrepreneurial, visionary, emotionally powerful, detached, and deeply committed through a service-oriented vision.”

Without the Masculine, “there is no activating principle to ignite life to begin. When we lose touch with our Masculine, we lose our energizing, intrinsic motivation, eventually forgetting what our authentic Desire feels like.”

Within our deepest self or Soul, Mars represents how we are wired to act on, express and materialize our eternal Desire for Wholeness or Self which is always toward greater realization of who we are and what we are here for. Our Desire, imbedded in each of us, includes both realization within higher states of consciousness as well as awakening within deeper states of embodiment. The Soul’s Desire is our deepest level of understanding “why we are who we are and what we are here to be and do.”

Within our personal psycho-emotional make-up, it is important to clarify that astrological Mars is not the one doing the pushing towards what we want or against any obstacle to it. Mars is the pushing itself; he is our individuating, defending, fighting for, instigating and even liberating self. It is in this light that we most closely relate with archetypal Mars throughout history as the consummate warrior/fighter/defender/killer/progenitor of divine-will-as-personal-will.

Mars in the Chart

In more practical terms, Mars on our charts signifies how we move toward what we want and acquire what we need, in whatever manner(s) we define that for ourselves:

1. Fertilizing goals or desires
2. Preparing for actions to be taken
3. Meeting obstacles and resistance through overcoming them
4. Staying the course
5. Improving effectiveness or performance of the tasks
6. Real-time adjusting to unforeseen factors
7. Exceeding expectations
8. Accomplishing or completing

Mars in the Sky

To round out this investigation of Mars in context of his impending triple alignment with the Moon’s South Node, Mars’ cycle with the Sun is a two-year cycle. Why is this important? The period of each visible planet with the Sun – its heliacal cycle – shows us when the planet is at its brightest and most demonstrative in our skies. It marks the precise moment when Mars is closest to the Earth than at any other time throughout the cycle. This is Mars at maximum Earth Proximity, when he is closest to the Earth. Earth Proximity exaggerates, strengthens or extends the influence of a planet beyond...
what would otherwise be expected from it in its sign, house or aspects. In prior articles, I have suggested that a planet’s Earth Proximity exceeds the utility of essential dignity in that maximum Proximity can occur at any degree of any sign.

Mars will always achieve closest Earth Proximity at his exact opposition with the Sun and always when he is retrograde. At these times, his inherent qualities become undeniably expressed, illuminated, acted upon. The effect is similar to standing very close to someone on a crowded bus or train. The longer both remain physically close, the more effect they will have on each other. The sign of Mars at these times tells us which areas of consciousness will become not only highlighted but outwardly, blatantly demonstrated, like turning on a light in a darkened room.

Lunar Nodes

In Soulsign Astrology, the lunar nodes occupy a fundamental seat of importance when working with any natal chart. This is because the nodes of the Moon have proven themselves across many cultures and thousands of years to indicate to the astrologer the trajectory of deep growth out of the past and into a kind of personal destiny or embodiment of new potential. In this context, “out of the past” quite literally means out from the unconscious self-suppression of our innate light, joy, love, creativity, passion and intelligence.

The lunar nodes by sign, house and aspects together with their dispositors indicate the deepest level of personal fulfillment throughout one’s life. For this reason, they also represent the strongest challenges or blockages to this fulfillment. Together, the lunar nodes can be pictured as a large garden urn or pot, tipped to one side just enough to allow its contents to continually pour out. And in each of our most challenging and rewarding life experiences, including traumas, huge achievements and even spiritual revelations, we will find ourselves either trying to return the urn back upright so that it is more stable and contained or tip it further over so that it delivers its contents more rapidly. This metaphor is particularly apropos for this summer’s events in tropical Aquarius, the origin of which is the celestial Water-Bearer.

A stable, upright urn symbolizes the South Node of the Moon as it signifies those aspects of ourselves so deeply familiar as to be psychosomatically ingrained in us. It is the South Node of the Moon which in fact represents the deepest repository of our individual habits, patterns and addictions.

The lunar nodes by sign, house and aspects together with their dispositors indicate the deepest level of personal fulfillment throughout one’s life. For this reason, they also represent the strongest challenges or blockages to this fulfillment.
An urn ceaselessly releasing its contents into the world symbolizes the North Node of the Moon as our increasing evolution or cellular transformation. It is the North Node of the Moon which reveals our internal wiring for becoming who we are meant to become to greater and greater degrees. There is, cellularly, no end to how much of our truest nature we can embody and live into the world. There is only how much we want to.

Mars & the Lunar Nodes

For any astrologer or astrolyte legitimately interested in what makes each of us tick toward or away from our innate blueprint, the Mars-Lunar Nodes complex is a fascinating study.

The Mars-Nodes alchemical function is to evolve our participation in our own evolution. Baked into this combination is the potential to greatly expand our understanding of just how co-reliant and co-affected our evolution is with that of others, both individually and collectively. This becomes its own learning and may result in significant healing. Realizing that one’s unique evolutionary journey is closely related and dependent on that of others will expose arrogance about or suppression of one’s uniqueness.

This combination may also uncover a fear of not knowing what will happen to us as we grow past our familiar reference points; hubris about being right, better or superior; an insensitivity to the welfare of others, the underlying veracity or agenda of apparently-righteous actions. Further, it will create opportunities to either embody more of one’s power or contort oneself to maintain power over. We may discover our ingrained patterns of thought and behavior continue to drive our choices in life, preventing genuine solutions.

2018 Conjunctions

Mars and the South Node conjoin three times this summer:

Mars-South Node conjunction in Aquarius
1. June 8 @ 7 AQ 09
2. July 20 @ 5 AQ 56 (chart attached)
3. September 26 @ 4 AQ 10

Mars-Sun opposition
• July 27 @ 4 AQ-Leo 09

With the Mars-Nodes conjunctions as our horoscopic frame, Mars will reach his exact opposition to the Sun on July 27 at the same or adjacent degrees of the conjunctions with the South Node (see chart following page). Specifically, Mars forms exact opposition to the Sun – again when he is brightest in our skies, closest to the Earth and at his fastest retrograde velocity – after the second conjunction with the south node and before the third and final conjunction (see table 2 following page).

This schedule of celestial events is a complex catalyst for exposing how our actions and underlying motivations for them, conscious or otherwise, are either in or out of alignment.
with our purpose. It will expose how aligned we are with our greater life plan and to what lengths we are willing to go to maintain our current position or image to others.

On a mundane level, there could be a prominent exposure of a previously secret agenda to keep one’s own group — party or country — in power amidst the changing economic and political landscape. Examples include China’s One Belt One Road Initiative which relies strongly on Russia and to a lesser degree India; the threat of escalating military action between Iran and Israel (and related allies to both); the US China trade war situation; the US North Korea negotiations for nuclear peace; among other candidates. Together, these international events paint a picture of potential here for continued violence in order to maintain their position (early Aquarius). There is potential here for continued violence in order to maintain the secret agenda.

Reconciliation or new agreement/understanding between the parties is unlikely this summer. Yet in Aquarian fashion may surprise many should it occur. Such an event or events may result:

- If the parties put aside or transform the Aquarian shadow of self-superiority – this requires a new disposition of transparency and honesty.
- Through an unforeseen agent or event interrupting any games of one-upmanship or feigned apathy.
- If there is an earnest examination of past actions and their results.

## Conclusion

The Mars-Nodes complex potentiates a courageous leap deeper into more vitality and meeting any challenges or need for healing which results. It drives us to realize where we are choosing from (head, heart, emotion, mind, etc.) rather than what we are choosing (goals, visions, etc.) is the more important factor if we want to evolve as conscious creators. The nature of Mars celestially aligned with the nodal axis is a profound opportunity to activate our Soul-level Desire for what we want to achieve and experience which is always deeper fullness of our being in our doings. Mars-Nodes signifies our authentic Masculinity (in both men and women) fueling all our activities towards achieving our dharma and vitally contributing toward a better world.

### NOTES
3. “Realization” is not only in the mind, but in the living intelligence of the body, the heart and the feelings (rather than emotions).
4. The Mars-Sun synod’s period ranges from 24.8 to 26.2 months. It is the least consistent synod in our solar system.
5. The principle of a planet’s essential dignity functions is similar to its Earth Proximity yet it is limited to one degree of one sign for each of the four dignities (rulership, exaltation, fall and detriment).
6. Also known as perigee, maximum Earth Proximity equates to the planet being astronomically closest to Earth than it ever achieves. Earth Proximity is an essential consideration of a planet’s strength, not only in natal work but in mundane applications as well. It is one of six sky factors, or those facets of a planet’s influence which derive from its position in the Sky rather than on the Chart. Other sky factors include brightness, speed and the area of our sky it appears to us from. For comparison, a planet’s chart factors include its sign, house and aspects. See www.SkyAstrology.us and www.SoulsignAstrology.com

**Adam Gainsburg** is an author, teacher and consulting astrologer. His Soulsign Astrology illuminates the sentient interface of astrology and astronomy through his private practice and leading-edge classes. He emphasizes our direct experience of our natal Sky and natal Chart to make astrology accessible, vital and profoundly liberating. His counseling work is rooted in the liberating potential of kindness and courage working intimately together. He’s authored four books, the latest of which, The Light of Venus, delivers a complete system for delineating the 13 Venus Phases. He also hosts a monthly podcast and runs Intrepid Astrology Software as its owner-operator. [www.SoulsignAstrology.com](http://www.SoulsignAstrology.com) [www.IntrepidAstrologySoftware.com](http://www.IntrepidAstrologySoftware.com)

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### Table 2

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Mars square Uranus and the Fixed Cross "Freedom From Attachment"

by Maggie Kerr

The synchronization between the arrival of revolutionary Uranus into Taurus for the first time since 1934 plus Mars into Aquarius on May 16th triggered an unprecedented new era in our collective evolutionary process. Sky God Uranus is famous for his maverick rule-breaking eccentricities, so as we enter this new 7-year period we have SKY coming down to EARTH in Taurus to upset and energize our financial and environmental models into startling and exciting new dimensions. As Ouroanos and Gaia are our ‘primordial parents’, mythologically, I am personally fascinated to see what their meeting will give birth to this time.

Activator Mars in the sign of revolution & change…Aquarius…is particularly significant, as he spends SIX months here until November due to his rare retrograde phase this year! When we add these ingredients together a picture forms of a host of sudden and unexpected shifts and developments coming into play starting in mid-May. These forces offer the radical solutions needed to begin to heal our Earth with a completely new set of values underpinning our relationship to HER.

They also ignite the urge to revolt against restrictive authority…sudden expression of anger…explosive change. On the upside, it awakens fabulous new freedom to take action into brand new directions allowing us to break free of the past and invent marvelous new realities. I am going for this option!

Mars/Uranus squares
17th & 18th May
1st to 4th August (Retrograde Mars)
16th to 19th Sept

These alignments can cause shocks and surprises at every level with the usual caution to expect the unexpected. We have already seen just how quickly situations can change with the recent sudden North & South Korea Détente, so these shocks don’t have to be a bad thing! As Aquarius rules ‘politics & leaders’ get set for instant about faces and re-alignments of parties and alliances as we’ve seen with the on again off again Trump & Kim meeting on June 12th.

In the News…

We have a few immediate examples that reflect the extremely polarized nature of our times. A Royal wedding that breaks all the rules, as the ‘wounded enlightened prince’ marries a beautiful mixed race foreign divorcée who takes herself down the aisle and instantly ‘re-brands’ the Monarchy. QEII has the Sun at Zero Taurus and Prince Charles the Moon at the same degree. Both are ignited by this Uranus/Mars combo…classic stuff that finally acknowledges the true melting pot of our global reality.

On the downside of Mars/Uranus we have the unbelievable provocation between Israel and their Arab neighbors which happened when the USA opened their embassy in Jerusalem. There is major volcanic activity in Hawaii and Guatemala. And this is just the first pass!

Mars in Aquarius highlights ‘activism’, and with Taurus associated with money we could be in for a wild ride with global financial markets, plus the next phase of the Blockchain technology revolution (developed with Uranus in Aries through Bitcoin) that will completely transform our financial world over the next 7 years! On the 19th of May, banking giant HSBC completed the world’s first commercially viable trade-finance transaction using blockchain, beginning a global monetary reset bigger than we have ever seen, as every industry will use this for their financial transactions very soon. There are now regular global Blockchain & Bitcoin Summits and a Global Blockchain Business Council.

On a positive note, we have a Royal Commission looking into the ‘Banking Sector’ in Australia, with stunning revelations of illegal financial services in all four major banks and big insurance companies. What a surprise! This accords with Saturn in Capricorn this year bringing the need for accountability and healthy regulation of our global Ponzi scheme banking model. It will be interesting to see what punishments will come to pass. After the 2008 GFC not a single individual was ever charged or jailed! This highlights the essence of current corporate culture demanding profit at the expense of moral obligation to clients and the health of our world.

Sudden changes are also in the cards for Taurean environmental systems, and I am heartened by the re-cycling issue coming onto the front burner here in Oz, plus the EU moves to ban the 10 Most Harmful...
Single-Use Plastics. Even though our rivers and oceans have been drowning in plastic for decades, people are finally starting to wake up! Ask yourself how you would operate without plastic in your life, and then start implementing easy changes, such as BYO cloth bags to buy your veggies that you place straight into your fridge!

Uranus in Aries over the past 7 years has brought the techno revolution loaded with all the inventions and solutions we need to deal with the decimation of our earth. Uranus in Taurus with Mars in Aquarius now demands ACTION.

So how do we manage these fast-paced evolutionary forces?

Enjoy the exciting urge to upgrade into fresh possibilities and stay open to rad ideas and opportunities. You also may need to manage and heal your ‘fear voice’ with safe messages that it is ok to risk new options or you will risk remaining stale and uninspired... and that’s no fun at all! Remain flexible when sudden shifts upset your old systems and constructs.

Uranus reflects our higher intelligence so stay alert for sudden flashes of insight or ideas that spin you into fabulous new possibilities.

Use the influence of Saturn in Capricorn for a reality check and create a ‘practical plan’. If we are aware of the need for innovation and change this allows ‘the Universe’ to support our growth, whereas if we resist, our unconscious mind will create it anyway... sometimes in the form of upsetting things.

When Uranus asks us to break free of past conditions our core self-worth needs to be in very good condition. Whenever you get a bit wobbly as things start morphing in your life or the outer world close your eyes and say “I am safe and secure as I grow and change”. “I am prosperous!”

Uranus AND Mars also connect exactly with Chiron freshly in Aries. His new 50-year cycle brings HEROIC new characters who represent the true will of ‘the people’ who are thoroughly disillusioned with, and OVER the current iniquitous system! How much longer will we permit the wanton refusal by current leaders to acknowledge what they know to be true for the sake of greed and profit?

This prophetic description is from Aldous Huxley, one of the fathers of the Human Potential Movement. Huxley wrote “Brave New World” in 1932, a novel which describes the subsequent rise of the extreme right wing Nazi movement that came to a head during the last Mars in Aquarius square Uranus in Taurus period in 1939.

It appears that the Eugenics Movement grew into a new phase after WWII, as pharmaceutical companies were free to develop to the point of current global control. Between over vaccination that allegedly weakens natural immunity, both legal and illegal narcotic addiction, and over prescription of antidepressants that make people numb, millions of people may either be asleep or unwell!

“Aldous Huxley (1894-1963)"

“There will be, in the next generation or so, a pharmacological method of making people love their servitude, and producing dictatorship without tears, so to speak, producing a kind of painless concentration camp for entire societies, so that people will in fact have their liberties taken away from them, but will rather enjoy it, because they will be distracted from any desire to rebel by propaganda or brainwashing, or brainwashing enhanced by pharmacological methods. And this seems to be the final revolution”

Mars in Aquarius
square Uranus in Taurus

May 16 2019, Wed
08:34 am, BST – 10:00
01:34 am, EST
01:00 am, UTC
00:00 am,UT
0:01 am, UT
01:00 am,UTC
0:01 am, UT
0:00 am,UTC

Uranus Taurus May 15 up to 2 degrees then retrograde back to Aries from Nov. 7, then Taurus to stay from March 7, 2019

Mars Aquarius May 16 up to 9 degrees then retrograde back to Capricorn from Aug 14 then Aquarius Sept. 13 until Nov 11.

Mars square Uranus
• May 17 & 18
• August 1 to 4 Rx
• Sept 16 to 19
KERR

We can also see current extreme right wing authoritarian activity continuing to erode individual human rights as the rich get richer and the working class struggles to pay for privately owned essential services. It seems that if we are headed toward the egalitarian Aquarian Age we must pass through this ‘dark night of the collective Soul’ as the Doomsday Clock reaches two minutes to midnight. The Chiron cycle takes us back to 1968 to 1975 when extreme activism was the disorder of the day!

As zero Aries is the beginning of the Zodiac wheel. . . or the ‘World Degree’ on the Cardinal Cross, our wounded healer entered a pioneering period on May 18th 2018 that will complete in May 2068. When a major player like Chiron triggers this degree, it can bring about an ‘Initiation’ or new beginning – a psychological re-birth that challenges us to transform our concept of reality.

The Aries influence contains our confident ‘healthy will’ so we can be brave and courageous and say yes to new adventures. At best, it opens our questing spirit that inspires us to dare letting go of the familiar (even if this familiar isn’t too great)! Mars in Aquarius can complement Chiron in Aries very well – they can be so original and creative together as they go about the business of further activating our paradigm shift!

Mars in Aquarius Retrograde periods are quite rare.

1924 - 25th April to 19th October – with Uranus in Pisces

Uranus in Aries has already brought us ‘the rise of robots’, Artificial Intelligence, Genetic modification, Big Data, sustainable power sources, a fresh phase of nuclear and rocket propulsion and Nano-technology. On these bases, it will be fascinating to see what’s in store.


1971 – 4th May to 6th November – with Uranus in Libra

16th May to 14th November 2018 – with Uranus in Taurus

This timeline is fascinating as we see in 1939, Jupiter in Aries trine Pluto in Leo + Saturn in Taurus square Pluto. Then in comes Mars in Aquarius to trigger Saturn/Pluto square on the Fixed Cross.

Chiron is now (2018) on the Saturn position of 1939.

The period from December 1935 created the alliances between the Fascist dictators Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin that eventuated in WWII in September 1939 and began the genocide by Hitler of Jewish and marginalized groups.

In terms of technology, we had the beginning of rocket propulsion and atomic research that led to the battle between Germany & USA to develop the first hydrogen bomb, with subsequent developments into 1941 of sonar and radar systems. And let’s not forget Alan Turing inventing the ‘computer’ at the time!

Based on this history we can expect further major technological developments or release of products during this 2018 phase. Uranus in Aries has already brought us ‘the rise of robots’, Artificial Intelligence, Genetic modification, Big Data, sustainable power sources, a fresh phase of nuclear and rocket propulsion and Nano-technology. On these bases, it will be fascinating to see what’s in store.

The last cycle (1930’s) gave us the first animal conceived by artificial insemination and just last week we have news that Dutch scientists have created the first Synthetic embryo: no egg, no sperm, no problem!

From the perspective of our current global activity, we have Saturn in Capricorn trine Uranus in Taurus compared to the hard square between Saturn and Pluto in 1939 and as far as I can find, there are currently no

MAY TO NOV 1939

- May: Jupiter into Aries (Chiron now)—Mars into Aquarius, Rome-Berlin Axis, Hitler proclaims he wants to move into Poland
- June: Pluto into Leo—Test flight of 1st rocket, Jewish refugees denied entry into USA, 1st African American female judge
- July: Saturn into Taurus (Uranus now)—NB. Hitler’s Sun is 0 deg Taurus & Mars retro into Capricorn
- Aug: Sat square Pluto 1deg, N. Node 0 Scorpio—“The Wizard of Oz”; Hitler “T4 Euthanasia Program”, Holland & Poland mobilize
- Sept: Mars in Capricorn Rx—Hitler invades Poland & 1st WWII begins, Soviet Union invades Eastern Poland, Mars into Aquarius
- Oct: Mars Aquarius 2 deg opposite Pluto Leo, Jupiter 3 deg Aries—Hitler deports Jews, Einstein informs FDR of potential of atomic bomb, first animal conceived by artificial insemination
- Nov: Exact square to Uranus Taurus 20 degrees Nov 4th and 5th—Nazis begin mass murder of Warsaw Jews

THE THREE CROSSES

The 3 Crosses contain the three basic qualities in all of life: creation (cardinal) - preservation (fixed) - destruction (mutable) Expressed through the 4 Elements – one of each on each cross

THE CARDINAL CROSS  Duty and Relations with Others
- Aries/Libra & Cancer/Cap – all ‘active’ and make things happen

THE FIXED CROSS  Devotion and Will
- Taurus/Scorpio & Leo/Aqua – build form & develop substance
- Values drive creative power to serve & uplift humanity

THE MUTABLE CROSS  Wisdom and Balance
- Gemini/Sag & Virgo/Pisces – knowledge via mind/intuition
Aquarius ing in 2020 when Jupiter & Saturn enter consciousness, with further stimulus required to ignite the Aquarian collective phase of the massive transformational process. Mars in Aquarius period as opening phase of Aquarius. Alice Bailey Esoteric Astrology

Our current global paradigm operates through the worst of the Fixed Cross components as the narcissistic leaders who rape planetary resources in the desire for wealth at the expense of human and animal rights. Jupiter in Scorpio is doing a fine job of revealing the hidden abuses and corruption that currently run this feature of the Fixed Cross, and in union with Uranus in Taurus & Mars in Aquarius, we will see many notable heads topple over coming months. Harking back to the 1939 period, we may also experience a heightening of the authoritarian systems and further distractions from the real and vital issues.

Uranus square Mars offers freedom from attachment as our primary mechanism for inner security. It is not until we move beyond the entrapment of the ‘material world consumption paradigm’ which drives debt slavery that freedom can arise. As an import-

I am seeing this current Uranus in Taurus square Mars in Aquarius period as opening phase of the massive transformational process required to ignite the Aquarian collective consciousness.

ant advice: get out of debt, and re-orient your investment strategies to include “quality essential goods and services, recycling and repair, but also something from the high-tech (Aquarius) sector.” Christeen Skinner

We must invest our energy in ‘active civil disobedience’ as we build parallel, popular institutions to protect ourselves via community development organizations, local currencies, alternative political parties, and food cooperatives in our local communities. We are now in a vital six-month period when we need to awaken and activate ‘the masses’ out of their unconscious controlled state!

To complete this little narrative, I’m keen to lighten the mood with the good news of Jupiter in Scorpio this year. Bountiful Jupiter sliding through Scorpio since late 2017 is expanding our relationship to the ‘feminine’ through the #metoo movement, to counteract the toxic abuse of the masculine power and control that has been considered the norm for thousands of years! These feminine qualities are often in short supply in our political discourse, religious institutions, and even our most intimate relationships — these qualities include mercy, wisdom, and deep compassion. We need to reclaim these personally and collectively.

We must connect to our ‘parasympathetic nervous system,’ the source where we heal our bodies, balance our emotions and awaken our consciousness. By bringing our attention inwards and trusting our energies, we are able to recalibrate our bodies, our minds, our emotions and our Spirit.

If you’d like an in-depth overview of Uranus in Taurus including a rundown on the unfolding Petro$ war AND Crypto currency revolution AND the possible scenarios around financial meltdown, you can click on my 150 Page 2018 Global Report & Horoscopes for US$12.

Blessings to you all as we participate in these exciting revolutionary times!

Maggie Kerr Bio (AAT, APA, Dip. Couns.) is a Professional Astrologer who has offered her services as a Counsellor, Teacher, Author and Presenter for over 30 years. She is an accredited teacher with the FAA, APA member, past member of the FAA exam board and the Australian Vice-President for ISAR. Maggie has trained in the fields of Metaphysics, Philosophy, Astrology, Humanism, Ancient Teachings, Psychology and Psychotherapy. Her unique blend of these subjects offers in-depth understanding of our life purpose and challenges to our empowerment. She has been a pioneer in developing tools and techniques to identify and change limiting unconscious patterns, so we may heal and connect with our Soul’s purpose. In her ‘spare time’ she researches historical global and cosmic cycles to offer her insights as a social commentator. www.universalastrology.com.au for free newsletters and to book personal sessions.

Download her 150 page 2018 Global Report & Horoscopes here She lives on the Gold Coast in Australia.
Ritual Suggestions for the Eclipses

Eclipses are powerful moments that affect a whole period of time. Some people perceive them as portals through which important changes occur and where we can gain access to higher dimensions. Some also say that kings are born or die around eclipse times.

As Mars retrograde will conjunct the upcoming total Lunar Eclipse, it will be the closest it has been to the Earth in a very long time. While we understand how meaningful these alignments are through our printed charts and computers, we can also step out in nature and connect viscerally with them. It is an opportunity to honor Mars as he comes so close to us, and honor the Moon and the Sun in perfect position and red glow during the eclipse.

When to do it:

- Either during the actual eclipse, or within 24 hours.
- Sometimes during the eclipse season, from July 12 to August 11.

You can do it in a place in your house or outside in nature.

Since it is in Aquarius, find an elevated place where you can feel the breeze – open windows.

Consider that both Mars and the Lunar Eclipse emit a strong red glow. Perhaps it is appropriate to bring that redness to the ritual… red foods, red wine, a red shirt, or sitting on a red cloth can capture that.

Bring Mars related objects—iron, long and pointy crystals, hot spices, a candle (with extreme caution for fire hazards during this season)

Both the eclipse and Mars will be in Aquarius—this shows the need to rise, elevate, and the element of AIR. Maybe red painted feathers.

For the Sun bring gold, for the Moon bring white or silver, and for Mars bring red.

Make an offering—something organic that can easily and safely be left behind: flowers, herbs, plants. Create a mandala that represent the eclipse.

Red fruits and vegetables—Passion fruit for abundance, watermelon for sweetness and flow (hydration), a tomato for senses and passion.

What is the event about; what are your intentions to these alignments.

Do you need to heal, or receive blessings for a new project, or courage for your new journey?

Write your intention and voice them openly. If you are with other people, take turn to voice your intentions and blessings.

Drink, make your offering, bless!

That's it… you are a lunatic astrologer.
**SANDRA LEIGH SERIO**

The best way to counteract the negative effects of Mars is to examine and deal with your own anger issues. One way to do this is to observe your driving. Are you patient with drivers who cut you off and do you allow other drivers to get in front of you when they are waiting to get into your lane? Another way to deal with Mars energy is to exercise, even if it means taking a long walk 4 or 5 times a week. This helps to positively disperse the Mars energy. If you feel you do not have anger issues, then to ward off any negative Mars energy, wear Red Coral and the color red. These are emanations of Mars and by doing this you connect to Mars energy in a most compatible, friendly and peaceful way. This serves to welcome Mars energy into your life, the more positive side of Mars.

**GEMINI BRETT**

How can we connect ceremoniously to the evolutionary potential of this triple eclipse season? Let us honor the Cancer, Aquarius, and Leo archetypes in our play with shadow and light. Among other themes, we are engaging with nurturing connection through family and tribe, the desire to bring a revolutionary new way, and the quest for inner, radiance. We are called to focus our attention on the ways we were asked to dim or falsify our personal light to obey the expectations and traditions of lineage and culture. In the end, we will find that ‘being full of ourselves’ is a most beautiful thing indeed.

These will be the last eclipses that align courtesy of the Lunar Nodes’ current passage through the Leo-Aquarius Axis of Creation through Inspiration and Imagination. The three archetype suggest the greatest way we can engage to seed greatest change is through artistic group shadow play. Honor the light you chose to bring into the world through the magical act of artistic collage or ‘vision board,’ but first honor the shadow you choose to transmute through the creation of a ‘compost board.’

At the time of the Cancer Solar Eclipse, assemble a collective crew to create individual expressions of release through collage. Burn this compost board during the Blood Moon and save some ashes to seal within a vessel on your altar. “Burn it and urn it” as I like to say. Spend some time to grieve that which you are choosing to release then mix the ashes into glue you will use to create a vision board that invokes the new you. The same strong energies that have held you back have now been transmuted to support your grow. During the Leo Solar Eclipse, get together again with your team and act, dance, sing, or otherwise artistically express the process you’ve been through during the previous lunation. Be playful!

**ADAM GAINSBURG**

This summer is a fantastic opportunity to connect somatically with your inner Mars, the authentic Masculine within you (in both men and women equally). Here’s a simple meditation and visualization you can do to energize that relationship:

1. Go outside after the Sun has set and find Mars in the sky. He’ll be in the eastern sky after sunset, overhead (facing south in the northern hemisphere) around the middle of the night and in the western sky before sunrise.
2. Facing Mars and in a comfortable seated or standing position, allow your breathing to be natural - not forcing or elongating either the inhalation or exhalation. Take your time with this. Go at your own natural pace.
3. Imagine on your next breath, you are inhaling from the space in front of your body into the center of you. Do this for 2-4 breaths.
4. Next inhale from behind your body into the center of you. 2-4 breaths.
5. Inhaling from the left of your body into the center of you. 2-4 breaths.
6. Inhale from the right of your body into the center of you. 2-4 breaths.
7. Inhaling from above your body into the center of you. 2-4 breaths.
8. Inhale from below your body (in the Earth) into the center of you. 2-4 breaths.
9. Return to regular breathing, remaining silent, present and openly available for any experience that results.
**MARS Rx IN AQUARIUS and the ECLIPSES 2018**

**Mars Retrograde in Aquarius**

by Kaypacha

I am sure you are already feeling the tense uncertainty with a dash of excitement that is in the air these days. Since Mars came into square with Uranus and entered Aquarius in May, the pace, extent, and unpredictability of change has radically increased. This deep process of deconditioning our Selves (including relationships, beliefs, employment, and more) will continue through November with peak moments occurring from mid-July through mid-August. Let us take a moment to ponder the evolutionary forces at play during this period from an astrological point of view with a focus on the Mars retrograde period extending from June 25 to August 27.

**MARS IN AQUARIUS**

The mystery school of Aquarius is where/when we evolve through detaching from our existing reality to gain a less personal, more "cosmic" or "heightened" perception of it. Like the view from a helicopter as it takes off from the forest, our view extends beyond the trees to include the valley, the rivers and streams, the mountains, and perhaps the ocean beyond. If we take our identity in place of the forest, we might imagine getting a broader understanding of the past conditioning that has guided our choices to create the life we are now living. By stepping outside our ego and into our spiritual "observer" or "witness" with the intention of improving ourselves and our lives, we will immediately note, and desire to change, fears, beliefs, and relationships that are inhibiting the full expression and manifestation of our potential. Hence, Aquarius is associated with rebellion from the norm, revolution, and liberation from the past.

Mars in Aquarius heightens our impulsive, instinctive, will to forge ahead into that cockpit of our helicopter, to heat up and speed up this process. It conjuncting the South node of the Moon June 8, July 20, and September 26th reflects the cutting of past emotional and karmic cords for the sake of greater freedom of choice, independence, and innovation. It squaring Uranus virtually from mid-May to mid-September intensifies the soul’s unconscious need within all of us to differentiate and individuate. This process of individualization can take many forms on many levels from changes within our most intimate sexual relationships to countries declaring war on a global scale. One thing is certain, the extent, depth, and radical nature of these changes will be sudden, perhaps shocking, and bring in new realities that replace outmoded, perhaps secure and cherished realities, never to return.

The fixed nature of Aquarius combined with the fiery nature of Mars can lead to inflexible, stubborn, and self-righteous acts of rebellion leading to accidents, trauma, problems with friends and associates, violent situations, and of course, stress. The desire to experiment with new forms of self-expression of an unconventional nature will lead many to challenge their current modes of sexual expression and relationships. These can range anywhere from being asexual/celibate to open marriage arrangements, group sex, pan-sexual and experimental forms of "detached," or observational sex through magazines, clubs, devices, and technological means of "connecting." This experimentation can have us descending to the lowest, profane forms of sexual expression or result in the highest spiritual awakenings of sacred sexuality.

In general, this time period is excellent for meeting new people and creating new means of self-expression liberated from previous inhibitions, fears, and limitations. It affords each of us the opportunity to re-forge our lives to reflect a heightened awareness and balance of our masculine and feminine natures. Specifically, the house position of transiting Mars will indicate the area of life most undergoing "remodeling." For example, these new relationships can lead to new sources of income (2nd house), new artistic creations (5th), relationships (7th), beliefs (9th), careers (10th) etc. Technology affording us the means by which we can reach others globally can expand our limited perception of "reality" to include vast new realms of expression and understanding.

On a world scale, the mass movement demanding freedom of personal choice may lead anywhere from governmental/institutional crackdowns to revolutionary reformation/creation of new communities, means of economic exchange, and artistic, "enlightened," therapies to reduce stress.

Mars, symbolic of the masculine principle, is naturally extroverted. Acting out from the center it brings our desires, rooted in the Soul, to consciousness in order to be acted upon. While direct then, we can expect our personal will to be activated toward reaching out, manifesting, and change in the outer world. We will feel the inner urges to detach from existing outer realities and conditions to free ourselves and move forward toward the as yet unknown, but "envisioned," possibilities.

**RETROGRADE MOTION**

However, during Mars’s two months retrograde period (late June to late August),

By stepping outside our ego and into our spiritual "observer" or "witness" with the intention of improving ourselves and our lives, we will immediately note, and desire to change, fears, beliefs, and relationships that are inhibiting the full expression and manifestation of our potential.
the extroverted natural action of Mars will be inverted and turned inward to reflect on, and modify the changes initiated during the direct motion. It is a time period cosmically designed to “rebel against ourselves,” more than external conditions. This gives us the opportunity to explore our inner psyches, which are fundamental in creating our external realities. We may deal with the reactions from others, the bursting of our illusions, or the karmic results of actions taken that are not in alignment with the evolution of our soul, the other, our personal partnerships, groups, or nations. These are designed to expand our awareness outside our subjective reality, that we may take into account the needs, feelings, and positions/beliefs of others, who, in turn will stimulate our own inner awakening.

As we can see, this is a 6 month stretch of time infused with uncertainty and instability that can lead to increased stress, desire to escape, and sudden impulsive actions causing ourselves and others great trauma. It is a time when our repressed anger can turn destructive and needs to be calmed, soothed, and guided by higher principles, truth, and responsibility. The shadow side of Aquarius is assuming that it is already in a higher state of consciousness than others, which can result in cold, arrogant, unfeeling, and cruel acts of destruction.

The intellect, acting independently from the heart, at a much more rapid pace, can lead to restlessness, accidents, ill health, and the breakdown of the nervous system. It is more important than ever to slow ourselves down and take time out between the impulse and the action to feel into our heart space and check the “love level,” of our words and deeds. Our feelings provide us with a moral compass with which we can direct our consciousness to create a better world for all. The unconscious tendency that will prevail within the collective consciousness will be one of speed, distraction, and use all forms of temporary means to avoid negative feelings, which may be giving us information about ourselves, our weaknesses and/or, immature behaviors. Our peer group, the “in crowd,” or the latest “thing that everyone is doing,” may or may not be in alignment with our own personal evolutionary process and it is our emotions, with their sense of empathy, sympathy, and compassion that need to be activated, recognized, honored, and heard by the sped up and overstimulated ego mind. Without the awareness, the heart gives us we may change everything in our lives without learning, growing, or really changing at all!

This makes the Mars retrograde period ever more an opportunity for achieving not only temporary, elevated states of consciousness, which can be achieved through the use of substances, but true evolution toward a responsible, awakened, loving, human being. If there are surprises or upsets during this time it will be helpful to remember “Life,” as a reflection of our personal unconscious, (Uranus) is truly on our side and seeking to awaken us from past life, and this life’s unhealthy patterns that are no longer serving our future growth. Rather than overreacting with an “all or nothing,” extreme attitude, it is a time to re-lax, re-flect, re-form, and re-invent ourselves, knowing Mars will go direct offering us more new opportunities to expand. By the end of November, we all will be living in a very different world as the results of this transit culminate and finalize. Knowing that nervous tension, restless excitement, and instability are both purposeful and temporary, can, in itself, help us to calm ourselves and meditate on the highest possible future for ourselves and the world.

In addition to calming down, reflecting on our emotions, and meditating, the need for open, honest, deep, and inquiring communication is of utmost importance. Mercury is the lower octave of Uranus, the ruler of Aquarius and represents the “lower mind,” left-brain, which connects us to our immediate reality through communication and networking. When we instantly take actions, block friends, break relationships, sleep around, or “experiment” without having heart to heart conversations with our most intimate lovers, friends, and family members, we cause tremendous wounding, hurt, pain, and suffering. Bringing our instincts into the light of consciousness is one of the great aspects this time affords. The best means of doing so include journal writing, intentional dialogue, counseling, group work, and other forms of communication.

During the Mars retrograde period, you may also experience others wanting to communicate with you! Another measure of your heart connection, openness, and emotional
maturity will be your ability to stand and not run for “freedom,” but hold space for the “other.” It is the role of the healthy masculine (Mars) to create and maintain the container within which relationship lives. As mentioned, the tendency in these times will be to “fight” for the right to be yourself and not conform to anyone else standards, demands, or what you may feel are infringements upon your right for self-determination. When we slow down and listen to others, we may receive invaluable information about the workings of our shadow and other unconscious patterns that are the actual source of the blocks and limitations we are revolting against.

No matter what, we can all be assured that the next six months of Mars motion through Aquarius will not be dull! Perhaps the worst approach would be to remain stuck, resist experimentation, and seek old forms and sources of security. May you take full advantage of these aspects and times to unlock and creatively express yourself more wholly, fully and completely than ever before. Moreover, may we together, form groups, communities, and nations of people dedicated, in tolerance of each other, that allow every person that same freedom we wish for ourselves. Namaste, Aloha, So Much Love!

Kaypacha has more than 40 years of experience as an astrologer and spiritual practitioner. His approach to healing spirit, mind, and body through emotional release and Kundalini yoga utilizes astrology as a healing art. In addition to personal readings, he brings astrology to everyone through international lectures, experiential workshops, writing and teaching. He is the author of “The Pele Report,” a weekly astrological YouTube forecast and numerous magazine and online articles. Using yoga, meditation and nature for self-renewal and natural law as his guide, his work brings balance, love, and joy to others and the planet. NewParadigmAstrology.com

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**STAR*TOONZ**  
**MARS vs URANUS**

**WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?**

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Mars Retrograde 2018

by Khatuna Noel

When you observe planets against the background of stars, their movement takes place in one direction. Sometimes the planets seem to slow their movement, stop, and then move in the opposite direction. This does not really happen; it is an optical illusion. Astronomically, a planet cannot change its trajectory. Retrograde planets only occur from our angle of view on the earth.

All planets except the Sun and the Moon turn retrograde. Mars happens to be retrograde only once every 2 years for about 55 to 80 days.

From June 26 to August 26, Mars will be retrograde and travel back from Aquarius to Capricorn. The hot temper of Mars will unravel during his time in Aquarius, accumulating strong emotions that could erupt in a violent explosion of chaotic emotions. In Capricorn, Mars will act more purposefully, calling for order.

The degree of Mars station retrograde is 9 degrees of Aquarius, while the station direct will be at 28 degrees Capricorn. The first station forms a strained square aspect with Jupiter and then Uranus. The second station forms a square with Uranus in Taurus. These influences can generate scandals and intrigues. We can expect possible physical injuries caused by negligence, and a rise in anxiety and fears.

In ancient Roman religion, Mars who was the son of Jupiter and Juno, is the god of war, the son of Jupiter and Juno; and the god of war who brought death and destruction. Despite his militant temper, Mars was also capable of tender feelings.

In astrology, Mars represents both a person’s and society’s activity, the implementation of plans, competitive actions, risk-taking, and strategic abilities. It also reflects metallurgy, mechanisms, warfare, and sports. All these processes may be held back during its retrograde period. This is a time when the external expression of these dynamics is turned inwards, and there is no visible outlet.

The retrograde planet may not properly generate adequate velocity for action, and so actions may stall. Everything may consequently slow down significantly, since an imbalance arises between the internal state and the external one.

Mars represents potentially destructive actions, crisis, and armed uprisings, as well as an increased crime rate and wildfires. A great deal of intensity around these matters may be triggered during this period.

Mars also represents our libido. When it turns retrograde, old flames may reappear in your life and possibly upset existing relationships. However, unless you are born with Mars retrograde in your natal chart, when Mars turns direct again, these old flames are likely to disappear as quickly as they emerged.

This is also a period when one must be extra careful handling fire and sharp objects, and requires greater vigilance on the road. The probability of injury increases during this time. People’s tempers may also be hotter than usual, and it is harder to find immediate outlets for their frustrations. Avoid unecessary disputes and conflicts.

Mars conjuncts the South Node of the Moon, until August 2nd. The South Node is often associated with a loss in the material world, and with Mars involved, these losses may result from confrontations, ruptures, or crisis situations. This can be a time of karmic retribution, a purification process that requires release. We will need to find the courage to let go of what no longer serves us.

The most important aspects Mars will make during the retrograde phase are squares to Jupiter and then Uranus. With Jupiter from June 10th to July 8th and with Uranus, from July 14th to August 20th.

The only time retrograde Mars made a direct square to Uranus in the last 100 years was in December of 1977 (in Leo and Scorpio respectively).

1977 December 13 – an aircraft carrying the University of Evansville basketball team to Nashville, Tennessee, crashed in rain and dense fog about 90 seconds after takeoff; 29 people died in the crash.

1977 December 18 – Flight of SA de Transport Aérien, an international charter service from Zurich to Funchal Airport (Madeira), hit the sea during a landing attempt. 36 passengers drowned, trapped inside the sinking aircraft.

Those who have planets at the end of Cardinal signs and beginning of Fixed signs will be most directly affected.

Exercising caution does not mean remaining inactive during this time. The energy has to find an outlet, so it is recommended to continue creative projects. This is a good time to complete old projects and unfinished business and to venture into new territory and explore new options, not with goals of great achievement, but more for the sake of learning new things and gaining new experience.

A retrograde planet does not necessarily bring misfortune. Rather, it gives a chance to recognize, understand, and correct past mistakes. It may be an opportunity to reflect on everything you have done and accomplished and to correct possible mistakes, while considering taking a new course of action.

Good luck to all of us in this process, whether or not we are born with Mars retrograde.

Khatuna Noel is a full-time astrologer living in Georgia (Caucasus) and presents a weekly astrological report on television. She continues learning, as she considers that learning is developing. Contact her at: xatunanoel@gmail.com
A Hot Summer Season

by Öner Döşer

Eclipses in Cancer, Aquarius and Leo and squares of Mars, which will be out of bounds and highly active in eclipse charts, with Uranus and Jupiter indicate we will have a hot agenda during summer months!

Out of Bounds

When the declination of a planet exceeds the Sun’s declaration which is 23°27' from the South or North, it is considered Out of Bounds and the energies of this planet are exacerbated. This commonly occurs when planets are in the vicinity of the Solstice points of 0 Cancer or 0 Capricorn.

If Mercury is out of bounds, we may observe statements that are excessive, indiscretions, extreme opinions and an increase in arguments.

If Venus is out of bounds, we may observe unexpected or rapid developments in relations, or intolerance and unexpected development in creativity and artistic matters.

If Mars is out of bounds, we may observe aggressive actions and a restless or extreme determination. Accidents, injuries and fights may increase and a war atmosphere may be likely.

Mars, the planet of action, will be out of bounds between July 7 and September 24. As we all know, there will be three important eclipses simultaneously.

Between August 14 and 19, Mars will be in its maximum declination, very close to the Solar Eclipse of August 11.

War Atmosphere

By Declination, Mars will also be Parallel to the fixed star Antares, the star of war, between August 8 and 25. It will also conjoin the fixed star Altair between July 30 and August 25 which is the star associated with fights and a reckless courage.

To better understand these dynamics, let’s reiterate what Antares represents:

According to Robson “Antares makes people tough, belligerent and pugnacious. This is an important star for military personnel, it is said to convey mental alertness, strategic ability and courage to make daredevils.”

According to Ebertin “Antares makes people tough, belligerent and pugnacious. This is an important star for military personnel, it is said to convey mental alertness, strategic ability and courage to make daredevils.”

According to Robson “It confers a bold, confident, valiant, unyielding, ambitious and liberal nature, great and sudden but ephemeral wealth, and a position of command, makes its natives guilty of bloodshed, and gives danger from reptiles.”

According to Brady “Altair is a star of boldness and action. The ability to achieve through risk-taking or through dogged determination.”

Consequently, as Mars will be Parallel with Antares and in conjunction with Altair, summer months will be characterized with a desire for victory at, possibly, all costs and reckless decisions, particularly as Mars will be out of bounds!

As Mars will be Parallel with Antares and in conjunction with Altair, summer months will be characterized with a desire for victory at, possibly, all costs and reckless decisions, particularly as Mars will be out of bounds!

Mars will be playing one of the leading roles during the Total Lunar eclipse on July 27. I think this eclipse is the most remarkable eclipse of 2018. So I will focus on this eclipse more than the others.

Rising Tension in Middle East

Last year 2017, Sun-Mars conjunction occurred at 4 degrees Leo on July 27. This year, (nearly fifteen hours before the Total Lunar Eclipse), Sun-Mars opposition will reach the same exact degree on the same date. Sun-Mars opposition in this cycle indicates the desire for victory at all costs and a demonstration of force. People in authority may be pulled into challenges, fights and even wars during such fiery times. By observing the charts when Mars will be on the angles of the eclipse charts, we may assess where this Martian energy may be most strongly expressed.

We see that Mars and the Lunar Eclipse conjunction on July 27 will be positioned on the MC/IC axis on Middle East as seen in the Astro-locality chart (following page).

These charts are erected in order to determine which parts of the world will be affected, not the countries. So, we need to erect eclipse charts for the capitals of certain countries.

Iran (April 1, 1979, 15:00; Tehran).

As the Moon-Mars conjunction is on the MC of the eclipse chart (eclipse of July 27) of Iran, we may conclude that Iran will be one of the places where Martian energy will peak. Following this eclipse, the degree of the Solar Eclipse of August 11 will be on the Ascendant of Iran’s natal chart. Additionally, Iran is ruled by Taurus which is the sign that Uranus, the planet of unexpected developments, entered recently. Uranus in Taurus indicates that significant developments in terms of political and military issues and shocking events will be seen in Iran. As “nuclear” is something associated with Uranus and Iran is ruled by Taurus, Uranus in Taurus may also indicate Iran will be involved in some nuclear programs during its repeating squares with Mars.

Israel (May 14, 1948, 4pm, Tel Aviv).

The Mars – Lunar Eclipse conjunctions the MC of the state of Israel. As you may see from the chart (following page), the degree of the Lunar Eclipse activates the Moon in the 10th house of Israel’s natal chart. The days around the eclipse on July 27 will probably be a critical period for Israel in terms of security and public issues when the authority figures...
Palestine (November 15, 1988, 02:40am; Jerusalem)

Mars-Saturn square in Palestine's chart is triggered by Saturn and this impact will be more prominent during the eclipse of July 27. The Moon, which represents the public, in the 4th house of Palestine's chart was triggered between May 12 and 14. On May 14, USA moved its Israel embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and during the protests held by Palestinians and Israeli soldiers killed nearly 60 Palestinians during the conflict. Mars which will retrograde in Aquarius will get back to the last degree of Capricorn around August 13 and the Moon in Palestine's chart will be triggered again. As Mars will be around this degree for a long time, August and September will be difficult months for Palestinian people.

Syria (1 January 1944, 00:00, Damascus, Syria)

In Mundane Astrology, in addition to the countries some cities and regions are ruled by certain signs. Damascus is ruled by Leo, the sign where the Solar Eclipse will occur on August 11. In the chart erected for Damascus, Moon-Mars conjunction during the eclipse of July 27 will be on the MC of the country as well as the Solar Eclipse on August 11. Coming summer months will also be hot and aggressive considering the issues related to Syria.

Russia (24 December 1991, 17:45, Moscow, Russia)

The Soviet Union dissolved during Saturn's previous transit in Capricorn (1989-1991). Modern Russia is ruled by Aquarius and the Lunar Eclipse on July 27 will trigger Russia's Saturn. Transiting Saturn will also be on the Sun of the Russia chart. The Partial Solar Eclipse on August 11 will occur close to Pluto.
and the MC in Vladimir Putin’s chart. So, the Russian government may possibly make some critical decisions and take some important actions during the summer months.

Turkey (October 29, 1923, 20:30; Ankara)
The eclipse will also occur on Turkey’s MC. This may indicate important developments about the future of the country, including matters related to leadership and governance. According to Abu Mashar8, Turkey is ruled by Leo. It indicates that Turkey will want to show its power in the region. The authority figures will manifest an active and entrepreneurial attitude. Uranus transiting from the 11th house of Turkey’s natal chart (indicating the changes in the National Assembly) and its extraordinary practices or decisions made by the Assembly, activated its opposition with the Sun in the 5th house of the chart. It may indicate changes in the governmental system. The authority figures may make unexpected decisions and some surprising developments may be seen regarding its allies. Turkey may possibly take part in some new organizations, treaties and groups.

In summary, the coming months will be volatile and stressful for international relations. The storms will be brewing in the Middle East and important developments may likely bring a war atmosphere.

A Critical Period for USA (July 4, 1776, 5:10pm, Philadelphia, PA)
When we have a look at USA’s natal chart, we see that they are in a challenging cycle. Transiting Saturn is in the 1st house (as well as using Whole Sign houses) of the USA chart. The Moon in Secondary Progressed chart will enter Capricorn on July 27. These configurations point to important and difficult decisions to make. The USA will be at a critical point where the government will
need to take careful steps with regards to the economy (as the eclipse is in the 2nd house of material assets). These indicators show that USA will take all precautions to preserve its position as a world leader. Previously, the USA experienced a recession in 1991 during Saturn’s earlier transit in Capricorn. As transiting Saturn and progressed Moon in Capricorn will oppose the natal planets in Cancer, making a square with natal Saturn in Libra in the 10th house, we may consider USA will be isolated on the international arena.

The Solar Eclipse of July 13 (at 20 degrees Cancer) will trigger the USA’s natal Mercury. In July, important agreements or statements may be made regarding economics.

**Increase in Natural Disasters**

According to 20th century English astrologer H.S. Green, certain signs are more closely associated with earthquakes than the others. The four fixed signs are very important in this respect; and of these Taurus and Scorpio are more often related to great shocks of earthquake than any other signs.

During the coming summer months, Uranus will be transiting in Taurus and Jupiter will be in Scorpio. Mars will be in Aquarius for a long period of time and Lunar and Solar eclipses will be in Aquarius-Leo family of signs. As the Sun-Mars opposition on July 27 will activate a powerful energy, we may expect some natural disasters, especially earthquakes. In the chart of this eclipse, Mars and Uranus form a T-square with Uranus at the apex. As Uranus, which represents earthquakes, will be in a square with the eclipse and Mars, we may expect sudden and shocking events and developments. Uranus will be receiving Mars in Aquarius and Uranus is in detriment in Taurus. So, it is a stressful square that brings unexpected events. Volcanic eruptions occurred in Hawaii and Guatemala, and perhaps more events of this nature may occur.

**Below, you may see the eclipse chart of July 27, 2018 projected on the chart of Sun-Mars conjunction in 2017.**

The partial Solar Eclipse on August 11 will occur on the same day and same degree of the eclipse in 1999. That year, this eclipse was observed in Turkey and just six days later a huge earthquake occurred. The same eclipse will not be observed from Turkey this year however the planetary positions during this eclipse match with the planetary positions during the Solar Eclipse in 1999. So, I want to draw ATTENTION to possible earthquakes during the days around this eclipse!

**REFERENCES AND NOTES**

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5. Fixed Stars and Constellations in Astrology, Vivian E. Robson, 1923
8. Abu Mashar is a famous Persian astrologer who lived in the 9th century. He is thought to be the greatest astrologer of the Abbasid court in Bagdat and had a profound effect on Western astrology.

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OPA Turkey on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/16283256541511225/
Neptune, The 12th House, and Pisces
The Timelessness of Truth
2nd edition
BY MAURICE FERNANDEZ

Maurice states in his preface that the purpose of the book is to "shed light on the foggy corners of the Pisces archetype". He achieves his goal. Maurice Fernandez writes about our fall from the universal oneness symbolized by Pisces that happens as we take birth and how we can best handle the fact that we are now alive in a world of duality.

"Timelessness is life's eternal Truth, while time and space is where learning of the Truth occurs."

Maurice takes the reader through a thorough understanding of one's personal challenge to do this, as described by the sign and house placement of Neptune in the natal chart. And yet this book is more than a cookbook of Neptune in the signs and houses, it is a guide to recognizing one's stage in the process and tools on how to proceed along the path.

Chapter 1 describes the seven evolutionary phases of development. It is important to read this section first before skipping ahead to read about your particular signature so that you will understand the deep meaning of the book. The developmental phases of the Pisces archetype are:

- Innocence in the Miracle of life
- Losing innocence
- Strengthening Immunity
- Public function, Vocation, and Potential Fame: Becoming the instrument of life
- Defying Fear
- Humbling the Ego
- Innocence, Disillusionment, and Maturity in Spirituality
- Timelessness is life's eternal Truth, while time and space is where learning of the Truth occurs.

In a lifetime one focuses on the tasks of mastering a couple of these phases. Because he is talking about Neptune and Pisces, the sequence of these stages may not progress in a linear way.

After explaining these stages so that one can understand their meanings, Maurice goes on to Section 2 which brings in the specifics of the signatures of Pisces with each sign and in each house. He is scarcely incorrect in these descriptions. You recognize yourself and your friends and family and feel that Maurice is talking to YOU. You realize that this is accurate information and therefore safe to use when working with clients. At the end of each sign description he tells you the things that you must Forgive and Accept, gives you an affirmation, a challenge, a gift, and the path to happiness. There are a couple of chart examples for each sign.

The third section is called Neptune in Transit. It teaches about Neptune's transits through the houses. Maurice describes the current transit of Neptune in Pisces, which is happening while the book was being written and rewritten. He then looks back to the previous transit of Neptune in Pisces (1847-1862) and draws parallels to the present transit (2011-2025). He gives suggestions of what we might expect in the coming years as Neptune proceeds towards his entry into Aries. He steers your thinking in the right direction so that you may become a force towards the positive outcome of the transit.

Neptune and Pisces and the 12th house teach surrender, and this is a good way to read this book. Trust that you can absorb this material and be influenced by it with good results. Your left brain will be happy that the writing is well organized with good summaries of each segment, making it easy to refer back to and also to get the gist of the meaning so that you can remember it. Maurice is a good writer who writes with clarity and gives images and specific details. This is a big book with a wealth of information. He uses many words yet there are no excess words so that it is a pleasure to read. It is not redundant with the other books on Neptune as it has its unique slant, that of Evolutionary Astrology, making it spiritual yet realistic. Maurice is talking to your soul about its journey in this incarnation.

This book takes a place among the classics of astrological literature. It belongs on your bookshelf. It's a 5 star - A+ book.

INCLUDED IN THE BOOK
- Neptune in each house and sign
- Planets and signs in the 12th house
- Planets in Pisces
- Neptune in Transit
Neptune, the 12th house, and Pisces sailing to new horizons.

Order your copy at mauricefernandez.com
(available soon on Amazon)
THE TURNING OF THE LIGHT

Shadow Works
Obelisks and totem poles, ancient straight roads, circles of stone, and other ruins found around the globe display techniques our elders utilized to keep the days. The first clocks did not tick tock, but rather tracked time by shadow line. The simplest type of sundial is a vertical pole whose shadow stretches towards the west at sunrise and towards the east at sunset. Northern Hemisphere eyes see daily shadows move clockwise. The shadow is shortest and points North* when the midday Sun culminates at the MidHeaven due South. Southern Hemisphere shadows move counterclockwise from west to South to east.**

Altitude
The daily spin of shadow connects us to Earth’s Primary Motion (diurnal rotation). We can also track the Secondary Motion (annual revolution) by observing the midday shadow, which is longest at Winter Solstice when Sun culminates at lowest annual altitude and shortest at Summer Solstice when Sun culminates at highest annual altitude. Would you believe St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican hosts an Egyptian obelisk that serves as an astrological calendar? The Sun’s annual movement is tracked by measuring the length of the obelisk’s midday shadow against plaques of the Zodiacal Signs set on a meridian line. Scorpio and Pisces share a plaque. Why?

Antiscia
The midday shadow is the same length twice a year. For example, Sun at 10 degrees Tropical Scorpio casts a midday shadow equal in length to that cast by Sun at 20 degrees Tropical Cancer. This reflection about the Solstice axis relates Zodiacal Degrees by Antiscion, a term derived from the Greek skia, which means “shadow.” Midday shadow length is the same for Sun’s Tropical Scorpio Ingress (60 degrees before December Solstice) as it is for Sun’s Tropical Pisces Ingress (60 degrees after).

Azimuth
Sun’s annual dance can be tracked by azimuth as well as by altitude. The latter is a vertical angular measure from the horizon (0 degrees) to the Zenith directly overhead (90 degrees) and the former is a horizontal angular measure clockwise from North (0 degrees) so East is 90 degrees azimuth, South is 180, and West is 270. Ancient sites around the world, from Stonehenge to Machu Picchu, keep the calendar through azimuthal alignments. I propose the Tropical Zodiac is not Seasonal, but rather Directional because daily change in midday solar altitude and, therefore, in length of day is inverse for Earth’s Northern and Southern Hemispheres while change in azimuth is not. (See illustration below.)

The Sideways Crab
Every Earthly location sees Sun rise due East and set due West at March Equinox. Tropical Aries, Taurus, and Gemini are Northern Signs that respectively find sunrise further north of East and sunset further north of West. Sun reaches northern azimuthal extreme with Tropical Cancer ingress at June Solstice (Latin for “Sun Stops”) where it turns around and begins a six-month journey southward on the horizons. This sideways, crablike motion, is codified in the Cancer Glyph (♋). The Mountain Goat
Tropical Cancer, Leo, and Virgo are Northern Signs that carry Sun south back to Cardinal Rise and Rest at September Equinox. Tropical Libra, Scorpio, and Sagittarius are Southern Signs that carry Sun to southern extreme at December Solstice when Northern Hemisphere shadows are longest because midday Sun is at lowest annual altitude. Then, like a Goat, Sun begins a six-month climb. Of course, this same Solstice initiates Sun’s semi-annual descent in Southern Hemisphere skies, but everywhere on Earth, Tropical Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces are Southern Signs that carry Sun north back to Cardinal Rise and Rest at March Equinox where the astrological year begins again.

I propose the Tropical Zodiac is not Seasonal, but rather Directional because daily change in midday solar altitude and, therefore, in length of day is inverse for Earth’s Northern and Southern Hemispheres while change in azimuth is not.
Horns of the Ram and Sunset Scales

Why start with March Equinox? Why does the so-called Natural House System place 00 Tropical Aries on the left of the chart wheel where the Ascendant of a nativity is found? The common assumption that this placement results from the bias of Northern Hemisphere observers who witness resurrection as light overcomes night at Sun’s Tropical Aries ingress is incorrect. If you sit facing East at the Equator, you will find that stars which rise north of East climb towards the north and that stars which rise south of East climb towards the south. The Equinox star trails draw the Aries Glyph (♈) in the eastern sky and, like the horns of a Ram, they curl around to set in the west. The Equinox points rise due East, culminate directly overhead at the Zenith (no midday shadows on Equinox for the Equator!) and set vertically into the horizon due West, a sight codified by the Libra Glyph (♎).

The Directional Zodiac***

The Equinox and Solstice points result from the tilt of Earth’s rotational plane (Celestial Equator) in respect to Earth’s orbital plane (Ecliptic) and are fixed to the Cardinal Directions. The cusp of Tropical Gemini and Cancer is always due North of Earth’s Center and has a declination (angular separation from the Celestial Equator) equal to Earth’s axial tilt, which is currently about 23.5 degrees. The Celestial Equator and Ecliptic intersect at the Equinox points, which, therefore, have a declination of zero degrees. The Tropical Aries point is always due East of Earth’s Center, which is why we begin the

Natural Zodiac with this Sign. (See illustration above.)

The Rudder

An ancient Greek term for the Ascendant is Oiax (pronounced Oy-Ox), which means “rudder” because every day the Ascendant

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DON’T MISS GEMINI BRETT AT
i-ASTROLOGER

Gemini Brett will be presenting at the 2018 I-Astrologer conference in Tucson AZ – Oct 4-10, 2018. HIS PRESENTATIONS:

3 DAY Astronomy for Astrologers Workshop
(Oct 7-10)

Night Sky Introduction into Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn
The Precession of the Equinoxes and the Astrological Ages
Heliacal Rising and Setting of Fixed Stars
And much more...

THE ASTRONOMY FOR ASTROLOGER WORKSHOP CAN BE UTILIZED AS PART OF OPA’S CERTIFICATION PROCESS.
Astronomy for Astrologers

angles north and south of East between the azimuthal extremes. The Solstice Points rise 23.5 degrees from East at the Equator, but this Cardinal separation increases with Earthly latitude. In Oslo, Norway (60N), the Cancer Solstice Point rises at an azimuth of 37 degrees, closer to North (0deg) than East (90deg)!

The Leaning Tower
This is why the MidHeaven of a Quadrant House Chart is only Vertical when an Equinox Point is on the Ascendant. The Meridian Midheaven (culminating degree of the Zodiac) is always due South for locations north of the Tropic of Cancer so when a Northern Sign rises, the MidHeaven is closer to the Southern Sign at the Descendant, resulting in a larger 4th Quadrant than 3rd. The opposite is true when a Southern Sign Rises. Conversely Northern Ascendants expand the 3rd Quadrant and Southern Ascendants expand the 4th Quadrant for locations south of the Tropic of Capricorn where the Meridian Midheaven is always due North.*** (See chart previous page and illustration at right.)

Days Without Shadow
Tropical locations experience (mid)days without shadow twice a year when Sun’s declination is equal to their latitude. The Tropic of Cancer experiences about three (mid)days without shadow when Sun ingresses Tropical Cancer at June Solstice because “Sun stops” at its northern extreme, pausing for a short time before traveling south. Earth’s Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn derive their names, as does the Tropical Zodiac, from Tropikos, a Greek term for Solstice, which means “turn around.”

A Tale of Two Hemispheres
Whether this Solstice brings your longest night or longest day, may the tale of two sides ever remind us to find the middle way. And may this article have confirmed what you already know, opened new windows of wonder, and brought more questions than answers.

Love and Turnings,
Gemini Brett
MoreThanAstrology.com

Illustrations by Arts of the Chart * ScorpiAna & Gemini Brett

NOTES
* Capitalization is used to differentiate north from due North, east from due East, etc.
** Daily shadows for tropical locations move clockwise for part of the year and counterclockwise for the rest.
*** Watch an 80-second animation of the Directional Zodiac in action at MoreThanAstrology.com/SacredAstro
**** Between the Tropics, some Zodiacal Degrees culminate due South and others due North. Discover the keys to this mystery by contemplating a tropical location’s “Day Without Shadow” degrees
Astrology, Mindfulness and Humility
by Kathryn Zumstein

As astrologers we experience the thrill of mental expansion when we see our lives, our clients’ lives and actual events aligning with the galactic symbols. Deciphering and decoding this ancient language is a skill that commands a reverent expression, honorable as well as humble. We are Messengers of Light and our duties in this realm carry a responsibility both ways: to the divine symbology itself and also to the consciousness of those we serve. This exercise in bridging worlds is no small task. Our language is so powerful that its fire can either enlighten or burn; its incisive wit can penetrate or confuse; its soothing rhythms can nurture or smother; its gravity can sink us or ground us. Our words, our voice, like the cosmos we interpret, contain the elements of fire, air, water and earth; all are powerful tools.

Maintaining humility is an important trait in our profession; just as we affect our client’s path with our guidance, we may be blind to the fact that their choices are part of their karmic path. Their soul may need to pause to integrate a certain experience fully before manifesting externally. Just as planets shift forward and retrograde, we have lifetimes, or periods within our lifetimes, that may appear stagnant and unproductive from the outside, but are powerful and meaningful in their unseen process.

Just as planets shift forward and retrograde, we have lifetimes, or periods within our lifetimes, that may appear stagnant and unproductive from the outside, but are powerful and meaningful in their unseen process.

We must remember that we are in the play which we are reading; our role in the play is valuable but the play is still being written, the unfolding of our consciousness vastly inter-woven in this dynamic process. And so although our preconceptions are valid, we do not see the production from the cosmic view. Our ideas, thoughts and opinions are truthful but not the Whole Truth, which expands far beyond our limited consciousness.

However, even with just a glimpse of the truth, we have been entrusted with the transmission of this ancient language, reviving and renewing it for modern times. This sacred practice has the power to expand and enlighten humanity, so greatly needed at this juncture. We are the harbingers of a new era! May our words embody the grace, beauty and power of the heavenly cosmos itself.

Kathryn Zumstein has been an avid astrologer since 1979. She was employed by The Astrology Company from 1987-2000, teaching, editing, and consulting. She has continued her studies with Maurice Fernandez and Steven Forrest, incorporating the principles of Evolutionary Astrology into her private consulting practice.
It is always great to try out new techniques and see what might work best in your personal practice. You might not be able to try them all out, but whichever option you choose, stick with it, giving it a chance to sprout before ditching it and going on to the next one. Consistency and dedication is the key here. Having the right attitude is important.

1. **Create a blog and/or website.**
   As a professional, it is important to have a place on the Internet where others can find information about you, the services you offer, or the articles you enjoy sharing. Blogger, which is a part of your Google account, is a free resource you can use to set up your blog, the first step in owning your space on the Internet where you can share all your astrological discoveries, thoughts and opinions. If you are ready for something more professional, creating your own website might be a better option. Wix and Squarespace are the options to consider when hiring a website designer is not feasible.

2. **Create a unique and memorable business card.**
   Getting creative with your business cards will let you stand out when you are giving them away at various networking events, business meetings or even family gatherings. Your design can be simple as long as you provide contact information, or you can aim at sophisticated design if you really want to stand out. But in any case, try not to be cliché and have yet another business card with an astrology wheel—stand out!

3. **Mention your Astrological practice on Yelp, Yahoo Local, and Google+.**
   Creating a new profile on the aforementioned websites is free and easy to set up. Not only will that let your local audience be aware of the services you provide, it can generate some internet traffic to your existing website or blog and increase the chance of being found by the potential clients in your area.

4. **Announce your business to all your friends and relatives.**
   **Come out of the closet – tell people about your study and practice of astrology.**
   This sounds simple, but it is often overlooked. Not only would you make every member of the event aware of your brand and services, you could also tap on the benefits of the word-of-mouth marketing, the most successful kind of marketing. Even if donating your time and resources won’t benefit you right away, it will surely be profitable in the long run.

5. **Build a mailing list**
   At every event where you present, ask attendees to write their contact information (email in particular). A mailing list is an opportunity to keep your client base informed and notify them of new offerings, discounts, and other astrology-related updates.

6. **Visit nearby bookstores and libraries.**
   This is the prime opportunity to reach your target audience in a direct way. Simply slip your unique business cards inside the books that “talk” to your audience and your niche. If they are interested enough in the subject of that book, they will most likely be interested in the services you are offering.

7. **Consider donating your services and resources.**
   While donating your time might seem like a waste of your valuable time, it is actually a wonderful opportunity to get yourself known in the local community. Most charity events that happen around you throughout the year require some sort of a prize. And whether it is an auction, contest, sweepstake, or a fundraiser, it is always useful to offer to donate your service as a possible prize. You can offer various kinds of astrological consultations, personalized astrological reports, or even a recording of your lectures and webinars that suits the interest of the event participants.

8. **Capitalize on Testimonials.**
   The number of clients you see might not be high right at the start, therefore it is smart to capitalize on your happy customers by asking them to write a testimonial. You might also want to extend an additional discount for them, thanking them for taking the time in preparing the testimonial that should go directly on your website. That would help in establishing trust and the credibility of
your services - something that is essential for when you are just starting your practice.

9. Advertise your services on Craigslist.

Operating in over 70 countries (available in 13 languages), this site has become the ‘new’ classified e-newspaper with over 60 million active users posting millions of postings each day. This makes it a perfect e-place to advertise your offerings, to talk about your qualifications and place your benefit-enriched messages. However, do consider that people from Craigslist may be looking for fortune-tellers, so it is important to say that astrology is not fortune telling and list details about the nature of your service on your website.

10. Utilize QR codes.

QR (Quick Response) code is a bar code you would typically see on grocery items and price tags. Each code is unique and it contains information that can be easily read by just pointing your smart phone’s camera at it. This is why it is great to use them - QR codes let you format any link into a nifty barcode that can be used on your business cards, promotional fliers, or in your emails. It is easy to format them. All the recipient needs to do is to point their device camera at the QR code and it will automatically redirect them to the desired web page, whether they receive a discounted offer, go to a page that lets them sign up for your next event, workshop, or any other page that is relevant to your promotional activity. Have I mentioned that the use of QR codes is also trendy marketing technique too?

11. Branding: Consistent use of personal information and promotional messages.

While you might want to diversify your offerings and your personal brand, it is crucially important to stay consistent with how you present yourself across all mediums: social media accounts, website, business cards, etc. Not only does it make you look professional by staying consistent with your brand, it also helps with keeping your image credible and trustworthy. Your clients can be sure to see you in the same light, whether it’s your Facebook account, your Twitter profile, or your business card. It communicates your expertise, consistency and reliability.

12. Volunteer at local events in the neighboring communities.

Getting involved in the community is an easy way to expand your existing network by connecting with people who chose to volunteer for the same cause. Be sure to offer them your business card. Attaching a coupon or a referral to it might give them an additional incentive to look up your website and read about the offering you are proposing.

STAY TUNED FOR PART II IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE CAREER ASTROLOGER!

Alex (Sasha) Zolotov is a career adviser at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Along with his work in the field of professional development and career education, he is completing his second bachelor degree in marketing management, focusing on social media marketing and digital analytics. His background includes managing social media accounts and the content distribution for an independent student newspaper The Mass Media and Spoon University UMB – a digital publication for a foodie club he has founded on campus. Sasha Zolotov has obtained multiple marketing certifications from the leading marketing agencies, along with his astrology certifications from the Kepler College where he is finishing up his Diploma in Professional Astrology. He is a proud board member at the Association for Young Astrologers, where he is honored to serve as a Member Engagement Coordinator.
OPA will grant scholarships to promising astrologers who attend the I-Astrologer event in Tucson, Arizona (October 4-7, 2018).

**SCHOLARSHIPS CONSIST OF**

- **$2500 grant** for most promising astrologers to invest in their business and education.
- **$1500 grant** for most promising astrologers to invest in their business and education.
- **Public Speaking positions at major conferences**, including:
  - **Norwac** – 2019 Northwest Astrology Conference - Seattle
  - **AA Great Britain** – 2019 UK international astrology conference
  - **IVC** – 2020 Astrology conference (one of the largest in the world)
    – Calcutta, India
  - **NCGR** – Possibly a slot at the NCGR conference in 2019 – Baltimore, Maryland.

On October 7, 2018 at I-Astrologer, a panel of judges will receive the submissions and deliberate who will be the most promising astrologers who will be granted these grants and public speaking positions.

**YOUR SUBMISSION CAN BE**

- your website
- a written article or blog
- a 15 min public speaking presentation a video about your services or blog
- a research you are conducting
- a flier that describes your service

You can submit more than one item.

Any submission that demonstrate you are serious about becoming a practicing astrologer and that you have what it takes to succeed will be considered.

**THE JUDGES WILL BE LOOKING FOR...**

**ARLAN WISE**

**AUTHENTICITY**

- Is there substance behind any of the submissions, or is it just showy and sparkly.
- Is there a true understanding of astrology that is presented in an interesting and creative way?
- Does it show originality of thought in how the material is explained?
- Does the person have a relationship with his/her Saturn?
- Am I seeing the result of hard work?
- Are they willing to accept advice and rework the piece.
- Has the presentation been EDITED so that there is nothing excess?

I look forward to seeing your work.

**ROY GILLETT**

**All submissions**

Content clear, immediate, informed, informative and inspiring, creating the feeling either ‘I never knew that before how amazing’, or ‘I know that but really admire the way it is presented’.

**Videos**

Arresting impact from the very beginning, sustained through the middle, with an ending that will stay with the viewer. The visual, commentary and any background music need to complement each other.

**Website**

Basic impact to be arresting. the sub-menu structure very easy to understand. Items accessed from these not over-wordy, or gratuitously over-flashy. Does it do the job intended and make the viewer want to respond as the creator wished?

**Articles**

Must have an impactful opening that interests and so draws people immediately into the main thrust of the article. The middle should be relevant and in clear, proper sequence, the ending ideally briefly bring together the message of the piece, leaving the reader convinced, informed, even enlightened by what has been read.

**Short Public Speaking Presentation**

Similar line of thought as described earlier.

**RUSSELL OHLHAUSEN**

**PASSION...** I look for passion in the voice and in a person’s path. Not merely ‘enthusiasm’ or technical skill acquired but what drives you to learn and profess ‘the divine science’. Having been on other selection committees in the past, I look for those select individuals who are creative, open, willing and their life’s intention is driven by the higher knowledge.
MAURICE FERNANDEZ

QUALITY and PERSONALITY
Quality and personality in your work, and in particular in your scholarship submission, will take you far. I will not be looking for anything necessarily fancy and glamorous, but would like to see that you know what you are doing and that you demonstrate focus, balance, and taste.

- Articles
Write clearly and do not take for granted that your readers already know the terms you are using. Choose an attractive and timely topic.

- Public Speaking
Choice of topic is paramount – why will I choose to go to your lecture when other speakers are also presenting. Your presentation must be organized. You can read from your notes, but must maintain eye contact with your audience. Show emotion, credibility, and authenticity.

- Video Blogs
Make sure you are not in the dark or the middle of the day shooting. Add slides and illustrations (including charts). Avoid ehh, and “like” in your speech. Make it impactful and concise. Max: 10 – 15 min.

- Website
  - Show us your personality and make sure it is focused – not too much information scattered.
  - Avoid overwhelming readers with too much text right away. Make sure to have an option to “click for more” when listing your content.
  - Use good quality pictures – pixelated, blurry, misaligned pictures will disqualify you.

- Flier
Put yourself in the place of someone receiving your flier – what will prevent them from throwing it away before they even read it.

- Research
If you plan on conducting research, explain clearly what you are researching and how you plan to go about it. Make sure it is relevant and can be done practically.

ALEX ZOLOTOV

While astrological knowledge and experience are important, the professional image of an applicant is something I will personally put strong focus on. Many elements can contribute towards one's professional image. I'm referring to one's personal brand, the ability to effectively convey personal offers and values to the public, and one's ability to represent astrology as a valid occupation in our society. These are the qualities I will be looking for in the work of the I-Astrologer scholarship applicants.

LAURA NALBANDIAN

As a judge for the I-Astrologer Scholarship, I'll be looking for those that can demonstrate their knowledge of the subject matter, and present and/or write with personality and humor. To be able to speak to the audience in an accessible way, not just reading a script, notes, or PowerPoint slides. I'll be looking for websites that are intuitive to navigate, creative and simple in design.

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### PART I

**October 4-7, 2018**

- **How to Make your Practice Lucrative**
- **Strategies to Attract New Clients**
- **Website and Branding Dos and Don’ts**
- **Software Training Solar Fire and Cosmic Patterns**
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- **Being Published** in The Mountain Astrologer and other major publications

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3 day program for Consulting Astrologers (Groups of 5)

- **DAY 1:** Discuss the challenges of your practice
- **DAY 2:** Analyze each other’s charts
- **DAY 3:** Discuss your next steps of your professional practice

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A new workshop by OPA to enhance your Astrology reading sessions.
Led by Kay Taylor and Alexandra Karacostas.

**ASTRONOMY FOR ASTROLOGERS**

With Gemini Brett

All three programs are steps to OPA CERTIFICATION

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Maurice F., Anne Ortelee, Laura Nalbandian, Sasha Zlotnik, Ray Gillett, Russell Ohlhausen, Moon Zlotnick, Victoria Smoot, Arlan & Julian Wise, Kay Taylor, Alexandra Karacostas, Gemini Brett

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Find Full Program Details at OPAastrology.org
The Secret Lord Of The Chart of James Joyce
by Eda Ocak Zakaria

We know there is a significant difference between a retrograde planet and one that is direct in the natal chart. But how do we interpret a planet that is stationary?

When we say stationary we actually mean that the planet doesn’t move, as it’s about to change direction from Direct to Retrograde or vice versa. This is not an actual astronomical phenomenon since the retrograde motion is but an optical illusion, from our perspective on earth.

In Classical Astrology being retrograde is considered a weakness. On the other hand, stationary planets were not considered as ominous as Retrograde planets but they were not interpreted as a strong indicator either. It was important to know whether the planet goes direct or retrograde at the time it is stationary. For example, in Horary astrology, if the planet goes direct from the stationary point, then it’s a sign that the matters in question may finally move forward.

In the natal chart, a stationary planet does not suggest that things will go fast but that related matters need more attention. The stationary status stabilizes the planet and emphasizes its symbolism. Any planet that stays in the stationary point becomes stubborn, so to speak, and says: “I am here and I am not going anywhere!” That’s why it’s maybe not easy to work on that planet if you are not aware of its power. It is a compulsion that one can’t resist its effect in one’s life.

When Mars is stationary, it shows insistence affecting one’s actions. One can work on the same subject with full concentration for a long time. The symbolism of Mars becomes more dominant in one’s life regarding matters related to sexuality, goals, vitality, or passion. It is as if the Stationary planet stays always “on.” If that Mars has difficult aspects in the chart, the station can exacerbate the difficulty in the aspects.

Mars is retrograde every 2 years (775 days) for roughly 70 days and it only stays stationary for 2-3 days before changing motion. So it is a total of 5-6 days every two years, making it rare to see a chart with stationary Mars. But when we encounter stationary Mars in the natal chart we must focus on it more than other planets. We can see why in James Joyce’s natal chart.

James Joyce’s Mars Stationary Direct is a great example of how it can act in stubborn ways. James Joyce is one of the most prominent authors in postmodern literature. What made him unique was the experimental language he used in his novels and stories. Apart from speaking many languages, he knew how to play with the words. He used to pick some words from mythology and history and he reinvented them. His most famous book Ulysses was all about a single day in Dublin. It’s considered a complex fiction linguistically. Multiple narrative voices and extravagant wordplay made Ulysses a source book for 20th-century literature.

When we analyze his stationary Mars, we find it in the sign of communication. Gemini is about language, speech, writing and the wide spectrum of mental activities. Mars is the only planet in Gemini (not counting the South Node), in the 6th house. All Joyce’s books were the product of patient work and we can see this in Mars’ placement in his chart. The 6th house gives the ability to work hard especially when Mars or Saturn are involved.

The dispositor of Mars, in this case Mercury, shows why he is also extremely creative, being in Pisces—the only planet that makes a major aspect with Mars. Pisces energy brings inspiration to Mars and gives a flavor of Neptune. The trine between Mars...
and Mercury connects 2nd and 6th houses together, which means that he makes money from this Mars and Mercury cooperation. Stationary Mars also rules the communication (3rd house Aries) and the career (Scorpio 10th house) houses.

Another one of his books *Finnegans Wake* equally reflects the influences of his Mars – Mercury aspect in his chart. "He spent 17 years working on Finnegans Wake, a book intended to portray Dublin's sleeping life as thoroughly as Ulysses had explored the wide-awake city. This task, Joyce decided, required the invention of a new language that would mime the experience of dreaming." (Paul Gray, *The Writer James Joyce*) Dreams, nights and sleeping are Neptune and Pisces matters. His Mercury being in Pisces reflects the association with these subjects, while his stationary Mars in 6th house made him obsessed and persistent about writing about it for 17 years. In addition, two fixed stars that conjuncted his Mars contributed to his writing skills: Betelgeuse and Polaris at 28 Gemini.

When *Ulysses* was being published in an American magazine, the magazine banned the parts containing sexual contents. There was a strong erotism in the letters that he sent to his wife as well. This writing about sexual themes can also be referred to his stationary Mars in Gemini.

In this example, we can see how a stationary planet can serve as the lord of the chart and affect the dynamics of the chart more strongly than other planets. Here are some other celebrities who have stationary Mars in their charts:

- **Benjamin Disraeli**: Disraeli’s Mars in Leo in his 9th house. He studied law and then entered politics. He was one of the important leaders in the 19th century of Britain politics. He was a prime minister between 1870 – 1880.

- **Carl Jung**: His stationary Mars in Sagittarius corresponds to his philosophical studies that expand our collective consciousness. Stationary Mars trines his Uranus which tells that his studies are radical and unique.

- **Eric Stanton**: While the majority of his later work depicted subversive gender role reversal and female dominance scenarios, his personal lifelong passion was for drawing Amazon fetish, femme-on-femme fighting scenarios, and wrestling comics. His stationary Mars was in Taurus which is linked to sex.

- **Marcel Petiot**: Petiot was a French doctor and serial killer. He was convicted of multiple murders after the discovery of the remains of 23 people in the basement of his home in Paris during World War II. He is suspected of the murder of around 60 victims during his lifetime, although the true number remains unknown. His stationary Mars is in Gemini and makes partile conjunction to Pluto in the 7th house.

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Join OPA’s Community Board Group on Facebook
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Divination and Science

The Particle/Wave Duality

by Innessa Wuzyk

Every astrologer has his or her own intuitive feel about the essential nature of astrology. As we all know, astrology is very personal. In this article I am sharing my point of view, which you are entirely free to agree or disagree with.

I am making a case for astrology being dual in its nature, embodying the polarity of Divination and Science. A common symbol for duality is the yin yang. This symbol is a graphic representation of the principle that within everything is contained the germ of its opposite. Duality is the stuff that consciousness is made of. In physics light is a particle, but when looked at closely it becomes a wave. When one looks closely at a wave, it becomes a particle. The astrophysical analogy is that planets are particles, but when looked at closely they become waves, and vice versa. The case I am making is that, when astrologers treat planets as particles, they are practicing divination. When they treat them as waves, astrology becomes a quantitative and universally demonstrable science. And that when one tries to pin down this pair of dichotomous variables, and one wants to know, when am I practicing divination, or when am I practicing a science, one discovers that it is not possible. There is uncertainty, as has been defined in the Heisenberg’s Uncertainty Principle. Here is Wiki’s definition of it:

“In quantum mechanics, the uncertainty principle (also known as Heisenberg’s uncertainty principle) is any of a variety of mathematical inequalities asserting a fundamental limit to the precision with which certain pairs of physical properties of a particle, known as complementary variables, such as position x and momentum p, can be known …..the uncertainty principle is inherent in the properties of all wave-like systems.” [1]

In other words, Divination and Science are dichotomous, there is a paradox. Like in the yin yang. This is an approach where astrology is a wave-like system. Nadia Smirnova-Mierau has presented this perspective in a recent OPA talk, where she talked about astrology in terms of gravitational waves [2]. Rick Levine has an interesting take on the dichotomy of fate and free will [3], also using the analogy of Heisenberg’s Uncertainty Principle. This article will be an expansion on some of these ideas.

PLANETS ARE PARTICLES: Astrology is Divination

When astrologers approach planets as giant particles, they are practicing divination. The stars are markers. The stars create pictures in the sky, which are drawn up by astrologers as charts. These charts tell a story, the pictures never repeat exactly. Astrologers access these stories through an ancient language that they have learnt, the language of astrology. The language is symbolic, it is poetic, and it employs metaphor. It speaks to the heart because it is about life and time is always unique, and can never repeat. In the words of Carl Jung: “Whatever is born, or done, in this moment of time, has the qualities of this moment of time.” [5]

There are several approaches to Divination, the most common ones being the unconscious, synchronistic, and spiritualist approaches [6]. All of these are totally valid. Yet the common denominator in all divinatory technique is the presence of that something which we call “random”, or “chance”, or “something outside of our control”. The divinatory event happens with total spontaneity. Examples may be: entrails falling from a sacrificed animal, oil poured on water, the planetary picture at the time of birth, cards drawn from a tarot pack, the moment of a horary question. The divinatory act incites wonder, awe, and respect.

To the approaches to divination listed above I would like to add the “fractal” approach. Fractals are visual images created by computers out of long strings of random numbers. They give us a feel of what “random” actually looks like. It transpires that “random” is in actual fact all but random. Life is all but random. The more knowledge we have of a system the less “random” that something actually is. “Flow” or something “outside of our control” is not without structure. Division is not without deep embedded structure. A fractal is a graph of a chaotic process. Fractal images are holographic, or self-similar. They contain many repeats of the same information, in different places, and on different scales. Astrology is holographic. Divisions of the circle are holograms of the whole.

The system of houses is a self-similar to the zodiac. Secondary Progressions and Solar Arc are holographic. Divination accesses the chaotic process, life is a chaotic process. Never can we know what tomorrow will bring. Astrologers have often observed that the stars are markers. The stars create pictures in the sky, which are drawn up by astrologers as charts. These charts tell a story, the pictures never repeat exactly.
someone brings a particular problem to different astrologers, who then apply different techniques, but the result that comes out is often the same. That something like this can happen should be really surprising, yet we take it for granted. I think this is due to the fractal nature of the divinatory experience, where different routes can lead one toward similar spaces.

Just like the card reader the astrologer will have a favorite “deck” that he or she uses. The “deck” may be called something like Medieval Astrology, Evolutionary Astrology, Jyotish Astrology, or Modern Astrology. For divinatory purposes all that matters is that the “deck” that one uses is exhaustive, it has to contain material describing the totality of the human condition and human experience.

I want to conclude the section on Divination with a discussion about its relation to statistics, because there is a common misperception that divination can be disproved by statistics. Divination can be neither proved nor disproved with statistics. Statistics is a branch of Mathematics and is very clear in defining its boundary conditions. At its heart lies Probability Theory, with at its core the Law of Large Numbers. Large numbers never occur in the divinatory act. There is ever only one unique event. This is illustrated in this quote: “Suppose that someone has followed ‘the advice of the stars’ and taken one course of action as opposed to another. Is there any way at all he or she could go back to the point in his or her life preceding that course of action, and compare the outcome of following the advice with that of ignoring it or doing the opposite? Of course not.” [4]. Divination is holy. Holism comes from the Greek holos meaning “all, whole, or entire.” [7]

WAVES, OR PROBABILITY:
Astrology is a Quantitative Science

If Divination is the “yang” side of astrology, there is also a “yin”. Out of the One flows the Many. Planets, which are giant particles, are also waves. These waves have actual measurable effects on earth which manifest in the very small sample given above: earthquakes, the gold price, athletic ability, and spelling errors. So my answer would be, the wave effect of planets creates consciousness itself.

For a visual analogy of the wavelike quality of the planets I still like the old image of waves on a bowl of water. Imagine the plane of the solar system as the surface of a bowl of water. Now drop small pebbles into the water - these are the planets. Each pebble sets off a series of waves. The resulting waves “interfere” with each other, just like planets “interfere” with each other in astronomical lore. The resulting patterns can become very complex.

To conclude, we astrologers testify that our craft “works”, but not one of us truly knows the detail of why and how. In this article I hypothesize an astrology that has two very different modes to it, analogous to planets acting as particles and planets acting as waves. This is a paradox, a dichotomy. Astrology is both Divination and it is a Science.

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Innessa is also involved in astrology research. She is a trained scientist, holding a masters degree in Chemistry. Her interests range far and wide in the realm of the esoteric and mystical. She does yoga and is a musician. Email: Innessawuzyk@gmail.com
You never tried…
R: I can honestly say there isn’t much in the world I have not tried! I was deprived in my upbringing of a number of temptations & vices that others my age were exposed to. That being said, once I reached my early 30’s, I decided ‘what the heck’ and indulged in various forbidden fruits. Basically, I let my Sagittarius Ascendant loose on the world. With the exception of man-made hard drugs I have sampled most all of the buffet of life.

You can’t refuse…
R: With Moon & Saturn in Taurus in the 5th, I have a fairly well-disciplined ability to refuse most of the earthly delights… except Skittles….the original flavored ones. I can never say no to Skittles…

What is playtime for you?
R: Of all of the questions, this is probably the most difficult one for me to answer. So much of what I do has been tied to conscious-raising work. My pleasure comes from sharing pieces of astrological knowledge with others; in the ancient lore of many cultures, actually an old French term for ‘red fox’. The foxes qualities are desire, passion, intensity, clever & sly fox. My given name of Russell is quite early, around the age of 3. Though not taking a formatted scholastic route. My personal belief is that many, if not most, astrologers are far-removed from the physical connections of the ‘nature of being’. My passion is ontology. I call myself an ‘ontologist’, someone who probes the metaphysical connections of the ‘nature of being’. My personal belief is that many, if not most, astrologers are far-removed from the physical connections of the ‘nature of being’. My personal belief is that many, if not most, astrologers are far-removed from the physical connections of the ‘nature of being’.

What is your Astrology teachers?
R: I sometimes jokingly say, ‘I am not really an astrologer.’ I do periodic horoscope readings and counseling with others in many of the typical areas in which astrology gives guidance. The term “astrologer” generally carries the connotation of giving horoscope readings to clients, whereas in the past it was synonymous with the term “natural philosopher”. I prefer the latter. My passion is ontology, I call myself an ‘ontologist’, someone who probes the metaphysical connections of the ‘nature of being’.

Your animal totem?
Fox… I have always been fond of the keen, clever & sly fox. My given name of Russell is actually an old French term for ‘red fox’. The foxes qualities are desire, passion, intensity, expression, adaptably, quick-thinking, among others; in the ancient lore of many cultures,
the bulk of my childhood was steeped in these kinds of studies of nature, myth and the heavens, for which I am eternally grateful. In the formative years of my early teens, again I was influenced by general mythology found in the character-driven role playing games where the occult was very much a part of the craft, (in fact, at 13, my role-playing character name was ‘Zodiac’). My natal chart is rather autodidactic, and my astrological path reflects that. Julia & Derek Parker, Michael Erlewine, Rob Hand, Alan Leo, Dane Rudyar were the authors who were most influential. The most direct guidance on the choices of my focus within astrology came from astrologers Anne Beversdorf and Laura Waldman, with the right wisdom at the right time.

Your Astrology hero?
Michel Gauquelin – as a researcher, his struggle has inspired me the most.

3 favorite Astrology books?
Oedipus Judiacus By William Drummond published 1811
Secret Teachings of All Ages by Manly P. Hall published 1928
The Bible by God, (though I am fairly certain there was a holy ghost-writer) published in installments over 4,000 years, compiled as an anthology in 382AD

Tell us about your presentations at I-Astrologer.
R: This year at OPA’s I-Astrologer event in Tucson, I will be presenting information on the essentials of streamlining your online presence and easy ways of mastering the skills needed for the setup of your website and maintaining the flow of information in the public domain. I will also be sharing various options for video production and a hands-on experience of creating an informational video with images, graphics, annotating, screen-capture, effects editing, and much more for the astrologers who want to promote themselves like a pro.

As one of the panelists to select scholarship recipients, what will you specifically be looking for?
R: Passion… I look for passion in the voice and in a person’s path. Not merely ‘enthusiasm’ or technical skill acquired, but what drives you to learn and profess ‘the divine science’. Having been on other selection committees in the past, I look for those select individuals who are creative, open, willing, and their life’s intention is driven by the higher knowledge.

I see OPA as one of the more progressive organizations within astrology and I hope that drive that OPA has developed can become a bridge to the other communities in this country and throughout the world.

Any advice for those who would like to become professional astrologers?
R: The path of astrology is “a calling.” When I was young and I heard that term, I did not understand what it truly meant. When choosing to follow an astrological path as a profession, one really needs to hone critical thinking skills, refine discernment and the subtleties of language in order to be as skilled as a surgeon with getting to the heart of an issue when helping others. I also believe that the best astrologers integrate a spiritual practice within their astrological work. I feel like that is almost required to become a well-rounded astrologer. There is ‘a source’ behind the celestial influence, call it ‘god’, call it energy, call it ‘the fire within’ – it guides us to the calling on our path, as we guide others to theirs.

What do you hope to achieve as a new OPA board member?
R: First, I must say that I am honored to be participating on the OPA board. In my position with publications, I hope to find a few fresh perspectives & emerging topics within our field to better reach the growing professional audience within our discipline. Through my position as a board member, I also wish to strive towards expanding the core principles of OPA to other communities. I see OPA as one of the more progressive organizations within astrology and I hope that drive that OPA has developed can become a bridge to the other communities in this country and throughout the world.

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• Question of the Month: With every New Moon we explore a thought provoking question about astrology.

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Transits of the Season
By LINEA VAN HORN

THEMES OF THE SEASON
Summer 2018

JUNE
• *June 21: Summer Solstice: Sun ☉ enters Cancer ♋
• *June 26: Mars ♃ RX @ 9 Aquarius ☊
• *June 27: Full Moon @ 6° Capricorn ♒, Sun ☉ opposite Saturn ♒
• June 28: Mercury ♊ enters Leo ♋

JULY
• *July 5–8: Sun ☉ Grand trine with Jupiter ♃ and Neptune ♆
• July 9: Venus ♉ enters Virgo ♎
• *July 10: Jupiter ♃ Direct @ 13° Scorpio ♏
• *July 12: Solar Eclipse opposing Pluto ♒ @ 20° Cancer ♋
• July 22: Sun ☉ enters Leo ♋
• July 25: Mercury ♊ SR @ 23° Leo ♋
• *July 26: Sun ☉ opposite Mars ♃ RX
• July 27: Lunar Eclipse @ 4° Aquarius ⇑ (conjunct Mars)

AUGUST
• *Aug 1: Mars ♃ square Uranus ♉ @ 2° Fixed Signs
• Aug 6: Venus ♉ enters Libra ♍
• *Aug 7: Uranus ♉ RX @ 2° Taurus ♍
• *Aug 11: Partial Solar Eclipse @ 18° Leo ♋
• Aug 12: Mars ♃ RX into Capricorn ♒
• Aug 18: Mercury ♊ SD @ 11° Leo ♋
• Aug 19: Jupiter ♃ trine Neptune ♆
• Aug 22: Sun ☉ enters Virgo ♎
• Aug 26: Full Moon @ 3° Pisces ☊
• *Aug 27: Mars ♃ SD @ 28° Capricorn ♒

SEPTEMBER
• Sept. 5: Mercury ♊ enters Virgo ♎
• *Sept. 6: Saturn ♒ SD @ 2° Capricorn ♒
• Sept. 7: Sun ☉ opposite Neptune ♆
• Sept. 9: Venus ♉ enters Scorpio ♏
• *Sept. 9: New Moon @ 17° Virgo ♎
• *Sept. 10: Mars ♃ enters Aquarius ♒
• Sept. 12: Jupiter ♃ sextile Pluto ♒
• *Sept. 18: Mars ♃ square Uranus ♉
• Sept. 21: Mercury ♊ enters Libra ♍

June 21 Solstice: Sun 0 Cancer
On June 21, the Sun moves into the Cardinal sign of Cancer. This is one of the turnaround points of the zodiac, when the Sun reaches its extreme northerly rising and setting spots (check your local horizon at dawn and dusk). Now, it will begin its southward journey. Being a seasonal chart, the themes seen here describe conditions over the next 3 months and add nuance to the Aries ingress. The chart for this Cancer ingress repeats, confirms, and validates themes we’ve already seen in previous charts for this year.

The Sun is nearing opposition to Saturn a few days hence, and when set in Washington D.C., these planets are right on the horizontal angle (Ascendant/Descendant line – see chart 1). The Sun-Saturn opposition shows the continued contention between the governor and the governed.

Additionally, Neptune is directly on the Midheaven, the same place it was in the 2018 Aries Equinox ingress. Neptune forms a Water Grand Trine with Mercury and Jupiter, a sure indication of the continued (or even expanded, thanks to Jupiter) proliferation of untrustworthy information emanating from the highest levels of government. Finally, this chart contains a complex T-square involving a Venus-Mars opposition with the nodes all square to Jupiter in Scorpio. Dissention between the sexes, old allegations surfacing anew, “he says versus she says”, and the continuing amplification of the #MeToo movement can all be expected or anticipated.

Mars/Venus opposition on the nodes can indicate a need to reflect on our relationships. While Mars in Aquarius detaches in order to objectify, Venus in Leo reflects our need to be seen and validated. Will we be able to unite heart and brain? We can expect couple counseling services to peak thereabouts or soon after!

June 26: Mars RX @ 9 Aquarius
The red planet Mars turns retrograde for nine weeks starting June 26. It stations at 9° of Aquarius and will actually move backwards up to 28 Capricorn before turning direct at the end of August. Mars is retrograde 9% of the time, second only to Venus (7%). Research by astrologer Gary Caton has demonstrated that the most infrequent signs for Mars retrograde are Sagittarius and Aquarius.

The last time Mars retrograded in Aquarius was in 1971. Interestingly, our last Mars retrograde in 2016 was in Sagittarius, and our current episode of Mars retrograde occurs in Aquarius. Since Mars is associated with initiation, action, and getting things rolling, it’s not surprising that Mars retrograde disrupts this process. It can be a “sticky” time...
when you try to finish things you've already launched but can't seem to complete them. Be on the lookout for deep unresolved anger, depression, or health difficulties. Know that there could be a sudden end to ideas and projects. Because Mars is still involved in its weeks-long square with Uranus, truly disruptive events can occur. Check the house placements of these transiting planets in your own chart to determine what aspects of your life could be most affected by this unsettled energy. Previous errors often come into view sometime during the cycle, so the idea of "re-doing" seems fairly obvious. This is a chance to correct, improve, and develop things you are already working on. But don't force things, and clearly Mars retrograde is not the best time to initiate a new project.

June 27: Full Moon @ 6 Capricorn, Sun opposite Saturn
The annual Sun-Saturn opposition is given extra weight this year by occurring directly on the Full Moon of June 27. Moon is just separating from Saturn in Capricorn, and when set in Washington DC, they conjoin the Midheaven exactly (see chart). At this location the Sun is on the IC, hinting that the leader is "in the dark." This is a powerful combination of symbols, bringing into stark view the distance between luminaries. The Moon rules the people, and it's not particularly happy in Capricorn, which does in fact match the condition of the general public right now – poor and getting poorer despite booming corporate success. But Moon is received by Saturn, which is strongly placed in Capricorn, increasing its ability to do good. And it's in plain sight for all to see (conjunct MC), in the arena of government and its instruments. For various reasons, I am an eternal optimist, and I hope that the general populace could be strengthened with the Moon supported by Saturn in Capricorn. At best, regulations that guarantee public health will be instituted. I am forced to be a realist too, however, and I fear that they will instead be removed.

• June 28: Mercury Leo

JULY
July 5 – 10: Sun Grand trine with Jupiter and Neptune; Jupiter Direct @ 13 Scorpio
From July 5-8 the Sun creates a grand water trine with Jupiter and Neptune. Because the Sun brings consciousness and awareness, this is an outstanding time for a spiritual retreat, for developing your spiritual awareness and practice of any type, a good time for philanthropy, donating to the food bank, your church, or any other type of service-related activity. Good deeds now ripple out far beyond your expectations, thanks to the Jupiter station on July 10 at 13° of Scorpio. This captures the energy, so to speak, and permits it to be distributed slowly over a long period of time. Check your own chart to see which houses are activated by this delicious watery transformative flow.

• July 9: Venus Virgo

July 12: Solar Eclipse opposing Pluto: 20 Cancer - Capricorn
The second eclipse season of 2018 commences on July 12 with a Solar Eclipse at 20° of Cancer. This is a number that should catch your attention because it is very close to the degree of transiting Pluto, and sure enough, Pluto is highly implicated in this chart, exactly opposing both Sun and Moon. Such a potent showdown will have vast implications both personally and globally as deeply unconscious attachments to power are eclipsed, percolate up and subsequently revealed as the solar light returns. As of this writing, a proposed mid-June meeting between the governments of the United States and North Korea has yet to occur. Indeed, it has already been canceled and rescheduled once, so
the chance it could be eclipsed altogether is fairly high. However, since Pluto is the planet of nuclear energy and weaponry, and North Korea's nuclear capability is of worldwide concern, the standoff suggested by this eclipse, the first since the meeting, is rather stark. Mars conjunct the South Node increases cause for worry, as this is a known factor for war. Let us put our attention towards conscious activation of the Grand Trine between the Sun and Moon, Jupiter, and Neptune with the potential peace and healing it represents. The orb might be a little large, but if ever there was a time to widen the net, it is now.

**July 25: Mercury SR @ 23 Leo**

July 26: Sun opposite Mars (halfway through Mars RX)

Mars is still retrograde, and on July 26 it makes its opposition to the Sun, the peak of its solar synodic cycle. Astrologer Adam Gainsburg has coined this the “midnight phase” of a planet, and it’s quite exciting. Any planet opposing the Sun will command the night sky. It will rise as the Sun sets just like the Full Moon does every single month. It will climb in the sky, and at midnight it will shine brightly overhead everywhere on our planet. The planet’s influence will rain down on us as it marches across the night sky, sinking into the West as the Sun rises into the East. This particular Mars midnight phase is even stronger than usual because it happens to coincide with the eclipses, which introduces the nodes into the picture. This month, the Sun is with the North Node in Leo, and Mars is conjunct the South Node in the early degrees of Aquarius. Mars-South Node can be a real loose cannon, especially in an independent sign. For example, they straddled the Aquarius ascendant of comedian and actress Roseanne Barr on May 29 when she made a racist tweet that resulted in the cancellation of her hit network show within 12 hours. Don’t let this happen to you!

**July 27: Lunar Eclipse @ 4 Aquarius**

The penultimate eclipse for this year is a lunar eclipse and a Super Moon, a term was coined by astrologer Richard Nolle and now used worldwide to describe a full moon that occurs when the moon is at perigee, or closest to the Earth. The disc of the moon appears slightly larger than usual to us earthlings under these conditions, so its influence is similarly enhanced. Presumably, people will be more emotive, responsive and unconsciously reactive than normal. At the current eclipse, luminaries, Mars and the nodes are all exactly square to Uranus at 2° of Taurus (see chart). At best, this combination is over-sensitive, jumpy and irritable. At worst could be very volatile. Moon and Mars together is emotionally reactive, a tendency increased by the South Node, and irritated by Uranus. People are primed to take offense for several days around this eclipse, good to know as you move through your life.

**August**

- **Aug 1: Mars square Uranus @ 2 Fixed (2 of 3 passes)**
- **Aug 6: Venus Libra**
- **Aug 7: Uranus RX @ 2 Taurus**

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**Total Lunar Eclipse**

4 AQUARIUS/LEO

CONJUNCT MARS RETROGRADE

JULY 27, 2018

WASHINGTON, DC

**1999 Solar Eclipse**

18 LEO

METONIC CYCLE TO THE 2018 SOLAR ECLIPSE (Aug 11)

AUGUST 11, 1999

12:00PM

LONDON, UK

PORPHYRY HOUSES

People are primed to take offense for several days around this eclipse (July 27), good to know as you move through your life.
Aug 11: Partial Solar Eclipse @ 18 Leo
This eclipse will catch the attention of any longtime astrologer, because it occurs at 18° of Leo. This was the precise degree of a dramatic eclipse that occurred on August 11, 1999. The path of totality of that eclipse swept over England, Europe, and the Middle East. A huge gathering of 500 astrologers met in Plymouth, Cornwall to celebrate and hopefully to mediate the energy of the eclipse which was quite intense (see chart) – the summer of 1999 also saw a dramatic earthquake in Istanbul, Turkey, causing significant damage and casualties. It involved a grand square with the luminaries, nodes, Mars, Saturn, and Uranus.

This month’s eclipse is a good example of the Metonic cycle, in which the lunar phases repeat themselves to the day every 19 years. This was an important cycle in Greek calendar making. One hopes that the difficulties demonstrated and carried forward by the 1999 chart (e.g. Venus in the Sept. 11, 2001 attack was at 18 Leo) can be mitigated and replaced by the current more hospitable one.

Reflect back on the summer of 1999 and try to see if issues activated then in your life could resurface in the current day context to bring new insights and development.

- Aug 12: Mars RX into Capricorn
- Aug 18: Mercury SD @ 11 Leo
- Aug 19: Jupiter trine Neptune (3 of 3)
- Aug 22: Sun Virgo
- Aug 26: Full Moon @ 3 Pisces

Aug 27: Mars SD @ 28 Capricorn
After being retrograde since June 26, Mars now pauses before establishing forward motion on August 27. Things feel congested and engorged when Mars is not moving. It has backpedaled from Aquarius to Capricorn, reaching 28° Capricorn at this station. The Red Planet is exalted in this effective Cardinal Earth sign, remember, and this hopefully will bring out its best, despite some difficult conditions. You’ll have this tool in your back pocket until September 10. On a practical level, we can use this pragmatic and muscular energy to work hard on something that’s meant to last. Improve your physical conditioning or tackle a big project you’ve been avoiding. Within a couple weeks Mars will begin to pick up speed, and all your efforts that have been on the back burner or in stagnant water will once again be heating up or floating down the stream in the areas related to the house in your chart where Mars will be going forward.

SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 5: Mercury Virgo
- Sept. 6: Saturn SD @ 2 Capricorn trine Uranus @ 2 Taurus
Back to school time! Sage Saturn is comfortable in Capricorn, so he likes this direct station at 2° Cappie that occurs on September 6. This enables him to get the most out of an Earth Grand Trine occurring at this time, which is full of potential. Mercury at 0° of Virgo, ever so happy in the sign he rules, trines both Saturn in Capricorn and Uranus in early Taurus and will swiftly translate light between them. Uranus is known to provide quick flashes of breathtaking insight. Saturn would appreciate it if Mercury would please write it down, and under trine energy, he does. Innovation and practical improvements are the handy results, as you re-purpose or find new applications for old processes.

- Sept. 7: Sun opposite Neptune
- Sept. 9: Venus Scorpio

Sept. 9: New Moon @ 17 Virgo
This lovely new Moon in Virgo features many helpful aspects and a lot of coordination. The Sun-Moon conjunction creates a powerful alignment with Jupiter, Pluto, and Neptune (see chart). Jupiter and Pluto involved in this configuration represent the accumulation of wealth and power, so if that’s on your personal agenda, this New Moon would be a sensible time to activate them. Remember that aspects are neither good nor bad, they simply facilitate or impede the flow of energy between two planets. Sextiles are often a two-step, and trines follow the path of least resistance. Earth signs want to produce, and Jupiter in Scorpio will full-on support the venture, as shown by the small orb of these aspects. Sun and Moon oppose Neptune also, introducing both the spiritual and healing element, as long as illusion and delusion are avoided.

- Aug 18: Mercury SD @ 11 Leo
- Aug 19: Jupiter trine Neptune (3 of 3)
- Aug 22: Sun Virgo
- Aug 26: Full Moon @ 3 Pisces

New Moon 17 Virgo
September 9, 2018
2:41PM
Washington, DC

Jupiter and Pluto
Involved in this configuration represent the accumulation of wealth and power; so if that’s on your personal agenda, this New Moon would be a sensible time to activate them.
Transits of the Season

Mars through this Fixed Air sign. Not until mid-November will he move on to the next chapter, into Pisces. So how might we best utilize this opportunity? Alan Oken labels this placement “an independent organ.” Most folks are revolving in their own orbits, and are not particularly concerned with yours, unless, as can sometimes happen here, you encounter an ideologue who places mental constructs above people. Aquarius can be remote and superior in its expression, and the passion of Mars is cooled by its icy cloak. Often passion gets transferred to the mental realm where it can get quite fixated. Alternatively, Mars in Aquarius can be the freedom fighter, one who places his life on the line for his mental principles. More generally, we can all anticipate a time of mental activity, an urge to liberate and express your ideas, perhaps even the emergence of an intellectual project that could take up to two years to develop and complete.

Sept. 12: Jupiter sextile Pluto

Sept. 18: Mars square Uranus (3 of 3)

At long last, we’re seeing the final pass of this Mars-Uranus square. It has persisted for months, ever since mid-May, when these two self-driven planets both entered fixed signs within hours of each other. The aspect has been picked up by eclipses and donations since then, ensuring that its effects will be carried forward. We’ve endured the lightning bolts that it represents, watching the news nervously, wondering what else could possibly burn up, blow up, or erupt. The third and final shot in mid-September may bring more shocking news, but after that, this aspect will quickly diminish as Mars separates from Uranus. Then it will be over, although the effects are sure to live long in our memories.

Sept. 21: Mercury enters Libra

Linea Van Horn, C.A., NCGR, is the Astrologer at Large. Linea is Founder and President Emeritus of the San Francisco Astrological Society (1992-2014) and has served on three NCGR boards, including the Board of Examiners. Formerly employed in the astrology Internet industry, Linea is a respected teacher, published author, and popular, lively presenter. She now devotes herself to client work, teaching, writing, and community building in the San Francisco Bay Area. Visit her at www.AstrologerAtLarge.com.

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STAR*TOONZ MARS RETRO in AQUARIUS

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RECOMMENDATION

- Fabulous newsletter Maggie. You really are a breath of fresh air! WENDY
- You’ve helped me already and have given me the boost and tools to deal with my shit and improve not only my life but my children’s lives as well. I can’t thank you enough for all you’ve done. JANET
- Bless you for all your time, wisdom, and heart. SUSAN
- Thank you so much for your time and insights today. I really enjoyed connecting with you – you are a lovely lady! AMANDA
- Definitely want to say that everything I have learnt from you has been of the highest value and I am putting it to great use...you are very cool Maggie! MARTIN

maggie.kerr@universalastrology.com.au
OPA’s Certification process is becoming a leading reference to add credence that astrologers are competent and effectively provide quality service.

- The certification is open to any type of astrology orientation.
- Applying astrologer must have a professional practice for at least 6 mos.

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- Participate in the Integrative Consulting Skills program (OPA or ISAR’s Programs valid)
- Join the In-person or Online Astronomy for Astrologers training.

*Next opportunity for Programs: I-Astrologer 2018 (Tucson, Oct 4-10)*

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- **Competence in Analysis**: Astrologer can fluently and accurately analyze charts in their own system of choice.
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- Management of practice – the astrologer can show vulnerability, humility, and admit mistakes.
- Astrologer has a vision for their practice and for astrology as a whole. They aspire to grow and take practical steps to manage and balance ambition and self-care.
- **Astronomy for Astrologers** - astrologer demonstrates an understanding of fundamental planetary mechanisms, the Precession of the Equinoxes, the difference between the three zodiacs, among other Astronomy references.

OPA endorses and promotes certified astrologers

*Clients can better trust OPA Certified Astrologers.*

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- Must maintain ethical standards of practice.
- Certification will be reassessed if any formal complaints have been filed against the astrologer.
- Astrologer must renew their certification after 7 years by participating in a Peer Group within that time frame.
PEER GROUP PROCESS
the first step in being OPA CERTIFIED!

It doesn’t matter where you studied astrology or what type of astrology you practice, OPA Certification evaluates if you are professional and provide quality service.

The Peer Group is the core experience of the Certification process – this is a powerful experience in itself and an opportunity to see how your colleague manage their practice and learn from the exchange.

DAY 1
DISCUSS CLIENT WORK
How to improve the dynamics and performance, and speak about clients you had difficulties with and what were the issues. The group will look at the chart of a client you may have had struggles with and provide valuable perspective on possible solutions.

DAY 2
SHARE YOUR STYLE OF CHART READING WITH YOUR GROUP
Each participant is invited to analyze the chart of another participant. This is a perfect way to learn about different techniques and see how astrologers draw different themes from the same chart.

DAY 3
YOUR VISION, YOUR BUSINESS PLAN, YOUR FUTURE
Put numbers to your dreams! This is a time to discuss and write down how to make your dreams come true, how to practically make your practice successful, fulfilling and enjoyable. This is a time to discuss how to take things higher, or perhaps scale it down...whatever is in line for your astrology practice and yourself to thrive!

Next Peer Group
October 7-10, 2018 (at I-Astrologer), Tucson, AZ

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Happy June, Happy Pride! This letter is mostly made of reflections on the United Astrology Conference last month in Chicago. As a queer person, my view on the proceedings is always scanning for queer spaces. While the conference was outstanding, it nonetheless (and not surprisingly) repeated many patterns of hierarchy and power that I suggest we might do better with. I surveyed my colleagues to inquire about whether/where we found signs of queer folx, queer ways of living, relating, and committed. But before moving to quotes from UAC participants, an invocation.

The month we call June is sacred to Juno. As I see it, as we better articulate our common ground - the spaces we pay attention to and gather - the more hope it offers that these violations not repeat. If we remain fixed in a conversation where a straight married couple is the default and end of legality and legitimacy, queer folks continue to suffer. Here’s to us all enacting protection, for one another and especially those who remain targeted.

The following reports from UAC are quoted from a group of folk I know live with queer sensibilities, and queer beings.

Typically: “there was so little content explicitly on queer topics; Ian, your workshop, and Christopher Renstrom’s aside; and Jessica Lanyadoo’s in content and attitude, if not subject. Historically, these subjects have been neglected [...] not solely [...] within astrology, and I was really hoping to fill in some blanks. Also, astrologers in general could use a more comprehensive understanding of how these systems - especially gender identity, sexual behaviors/styles, and family roles - interact with the astrology symbols.”

“I saw this in a session on the precession of the equinoxes. The speaker’s lens for world history was colored by white, male privilege.”

“Or a presenter who said, ‘Mars represents a young woman’s beauty’... seriously? In 2018?! Gah. It’s maddening. Especially from people who are otherwise so clear and effective as presenters.”

“One speaker relayed that she wanted to do a talk about trans people - I don’t know in what astrological context - and the proposal was rejected.”

“Why did all but one of the Regulus awards go to men? Why were all the nominees white and almost all male? Disappointing.”

Reading more, we can illuminate more practical than anything else. If I want to learn from the speaker’s example of Saturn and Mars as representative of older and younger ‘fathers’ - how can I apply this to my clients with same gender parents? Does the presenter not know how this principle applies outside of traditional family structures? Does she assume it’s obvious?”

“I felt very confused by the conference. The topics didn’t seem to address the zeitgeist of our current times. Often it felt it was purposefully avoiding any political or societal stance at all. All of the lectures I attended utilized what I would consider outdated language around astrology and relational dynamics with clients. I didn’t sense anything that acknowledged that the field of astrology was changing, besides a conversation around younger generations being interested in it. What about marginalized voices and the impact of communities of color and a different lens on astrology? That astrology is becoming more accessible at all would have been an important conversation. Besides [one] lunch offering, that was all I saw of that vein being offered.”

“I was chatting with Chris Renstrom, and in our conversation, he admitted that when he was invited to speak at the first QA, he said something to the effect of “Oooo! A Gay astrology conference.” and he was corrected. “No, a QUEER Astrology Conference.” He confessed to having to update his mindset from gay/guy/gal to something different.”

“Greatly admire one speaker, but I was disappointed when she even admitted that she didn’t understand how the roles of Mars and Venus worked for people who were gay or transgender. In one sense, it was brave of...”
her to admit it, but I also think astrologers are not serving their clients when they don't understand even simple things like non-binary gender and sexuality."

Another person was “surprised and disappointed to find little mention of race or class (excepting perhaps [one speaker’s] financial talk) or systemic oppression in any of the talks, especially in regards to interpretation.”

As readers, counsellors, and healers, I invite us to challenge the assumption that <<a relationship>> has an ideal form of two people, one man and one woman. I had several respondents identify as bisexual, while in the same breath minimizing whether this truth somehow disqualified them from a properly queer analysis.

"Per usual, I worry I am not ‘queer’ or ‘outsider’ enough to be a strong voice for what you are doing. I identify as a Jewish and a witch. The former feels most important to me right now. While I identify strongly with being female, my sexual expression has gone in and out of queer identity and I lean the most towards bisexuality, and I question the importance of this aspect of my identity the most."

"The queerness was at UAC. People seemed open to us/it. And even wanting a bit more of it. Not sure they were ready, though. Our presence seemed mild, though not muted. I sorta kinda feel like a number of Pluto in Leos and Cancers acknowledged and appreciated seeing youngers step forward, out, and up."

More than their critiques, though, I was grateful that folks offered suggestions, vision, hope. Rather than a culture of Calling Out, which often lays blame with nothing following, our voices together invoke a Calling In.

"I don't want to call out these astrologers, but I think their perspectives could have been so much more nuanced and interesting if they had reflected on where their assumptions were coming from. I think we need queer astrology and People-of-Color-centered astrology to challenge our norms and expand what is possible for our field."

"I’m eager to see how astrology evolves as a practice and my hope is that it offers more and more opportunities for new voices to be heard. The conversations around the language of astrology itself are fascinating to me...how can we address archetypal dimensions from a non-binary perspective? How can we understand that the history of astrology is from a particular point of view and be curious about how that view can change with differing experiences and conversations about privilege and oppression on the macro, micro, and meso levels."

"My sense is it’ll be a good decade or so before we are more in 21st century’s push for humans to better deal with our emotions, spectrums vs. binaries. I mean that in various ways, black and white, good and evil, yes and no, etc. etc."

"I think UAC and the many conferences will be nudged, pushed for drawing in more queer and/or PoCs. Or it will be shunned, sloughed, ignored."

"From other community experience, I know it is helpful for people to tell others about their identities. We often start our circles sharing pronouns or writing our pronouns on our name badges. This could shake things up at an astrology conference. Perhaps we could have more discussions and fewer lectures. Or at least more panels to discuss gender, colonization in astrology, and other juicy topics. We become better astrologers when we examine our assumptions. We do better for all our clients when we seek to understand how they experience themselves and the world. I think we will see astrology not centered on white heteronormative values. People of color and queers will lead in the innovation and evolution of culture. It is exciting!"

"I have noticed a kind of old-school idea of binary on the part of cis men, both straight and gay (especially those over a certain age). This binary thinking may, consciously or subconsciously, drive administrative decisions. This concept of binary is both in regards to gender and gender identity. Or, to quote a drag queen friend of mine, ‘You know how misogynist we are.’ This is less of a criticism as it is an observation. As a cis-woman, I noticed what may be unconscious sexism. From a broader perspective, I suspect there may be a deeply ingrained binary that goes beyond misogyny per se. I’ve certainly noticed it out in the world, and I think some of that may have been at play at UAC."

"As someone over 50, I do understand how quickly the world has changed, in even ten years, and the need to adapt quickly is paramount. That’s not an easy thing to do all the time. Especially when one may have been at the pinnacle of progressive thought 25 years ago, but what was progressive then is regressive or narrow-minded now."

It is in an effort to be in conversation with the astrological ‘mainstream’ that Queer Astrology Conferences were first imagined. The ongoing work of telling stories, updating our assumptions, and supporting one another as we unlearn the violations built into our cultures is likely to be ongoing with the heavy Plutonic years incoming.

Some resources from the conference held in Portland, February 2018, offer a beautiful complement to the feed forward above. Feed forward is different from feedback, as it has a shaping intent for the future. The Panel: “40 Years of Queer Astrology” relays how these concerns have been voiced for decades, and “Fishbowl” offers an example of what listening to the participant’s voices adds to the mix.

Enjoy.

Ian Waisler practices in San Francisco, offering consultations and group classes in Integral Yoga, and Astrology, since 2004. He’s a regular collaborator on Queer Astrology projects, with archives of past events on queerastrology.com. His personal web presence is at ianwaisler.com.
Welcome to the New OPA Board!

We are excited to begin a new cycle and take OPA to its next developmental process, with you, for you, and for astrology.

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OPA, The Organization for Professional Astrology, is dedicated to promoting excellence for astrologers. Incorporated on October 4, 2000 at 1:45 pm EDT in Tallahassee, Florida, OPA provides members with tools to establish or improve their astrological practice. Membership is open to aspiring and current astrologers. Benefits include subscription to the Career Astrologer and E-news, free monthly talks by top-notch astrologers and members registration fees at OPA retreats and conferences. Annual dues are $60.00.
OPA’s Peer Group Process in Chicago

14 astrologers got together to discuss their practice and client work. The peer group consists of groups of 5 for an intimate sharing process. This is one of the components to be an OPA Certified Astrologer.

Joanne Damours shares her chart notes

Peer Grouping

La Donna group

It’s a Pluto transit!

Before and After: Instant OPA Transformation

OPA Transformation process
OPA at UAC

It was wonderful to meet old time and new friends at the UAC conference. OPA Board members and Satellites got together to spread the OPA gospel, and to brainstorm on the next steps for the organization.
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- Kari Norin-Hoshal, astrologer
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MAURICE FERNANDEZ (AZ)
Saturn and Karma - The laws that set us free

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4
URSULA STOCKDER (Mexico)
The Spiritual Dimension of the ZOOdac

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18
MARGARET GRAY (Ireland) and ARMAND DIAZ (NY)
Relationship Transitions: Understanding the Process of Change

SUNDAY, MARCH 4
NADIA SMIRNOVA-MIERAU (NY)
Music of the Spheres, Physics of Astrology

SUNDAY, MARCH 18
SHERI HORN HASSAN (NJ)
Chiron Ingress into Aries: Wound to the Right to Exist

SUNDAY, APRIL 15
CHRISTINA CAUDILL (FL)
Maximize Your Profitability as an Astrologer

SUNDAY, JUNE 24
DAVID COCHRANE (FL)
Making Breakthrough Discoveries in Astrology

SUNDAY, JULY 7
RUSSELL OHLHAUSEN (TX)
Celestial Mathematica: The Presence of the Fundamental Force

SUNDAY, JULY 22
THEODORE NAICKER
Tropical & Vedic Astrology: Toward a Shared Perspective

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
ALEXANDRA KARACOSTAS (CA)
Uranus In Taurus

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
GALI SAT PURAN LIVNEH (Israel)
Spiritual Leadership in the 21st Century

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21
NAOMI BENNETT (TX)
What are Moon Wobbles and Why They Are Important

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3
SHANNON JONES & RUSSELL OHLHAUSEN (TX)
Sexuality in the Aquarian Age: Merging the Opposites Within

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18
KATE RUSKO (Canada)
Topic TBD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2
IAN WAISLER (CA)
Topic TBD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
SOL JONASSEN (Norway)
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