



Midnight breakdancing below Les Halles, former site of Les Innocents, Paris 2005. Photo by Eric Francis.

AQUARIUS :: Know When You Don't Know

Inner Light by Eric Francis | [Planet Waves 2026 Annual Reading](#)

PLUTO IS NOW in Aquarius to stay, at least until 2043-44. You will be embodying Pluto and all of society will be learning something about Aquarius. Though there is much going on in the planets, Pluto in Aquarius will be the driving and defining force of a long era in history.

One of my favorite astrology writers, Aleister Crowley, would describe Pluto as the “prime mover,” the unchanging, stable and unstoppable power source of the psyche. In that sense, it’s like the locomotive on a train or the core of a nuclear reactor. The metal plutonium was devised to quadruple the force of the atomic

bomb. When you look at charts for the most influential events and eras in world history, or personal history, you will often find Pluto has shown up for the party.

Pluto's presence in Aquarius means that the world is changing, the technology environment is changing, you are changing and the entire concept of Aquarius is being revised, infused with energy and connected to its deeper nature.

As the prime mover, it's also a force driving the psyche. In many ways, Pluto represents if not the soul then the motivating drive to learn about yourself and get in contact with who you are — often because you have no choice. This “enforced changes” quality of Pluto is chilling out a little now that there are so many other planets in the realm of Pluto — who knew that there were thousands of them? — but it's still a force to reckon with.

We have just lived through Pluto in Capricorn (2008-2024), which took that power to the physical world, turning every physical shopping mall, Sears and J.C. Penney into Amazon and Temu. With it came a collapse of the banking system in 2008 (*The Big Short*), the conversion of social into social media, and a portable computer in everyone's pocket.

Pluto through Capricorn was your 12th house or solar house. It was not an easy transit. Pluto plus Capricorn plus 12th house can be a little dark, dredging up all kinds of ancestral baggage (which I've written about in every annual edition for the past 15 years or so.) And I would propose that its end came with a sense of relief that should really be a sense of accomplishment.

As Pluto was transitioning out of matter-based Capricorn and into energy-based Aquarius, the world was seized by these weird things called “large language models” — falsely termed “artificial intelligence” — which have further digitized, synthesized and electrified human thought and creativity. And this was at the beginning of Pluto in Aquarius. There's still 18 years to go; we could call that the foreseeable future.

The vast A.I. problem is your personal invitation to think for yourself — as are a hundred other collective effects of Pluto in Aquarius.

With time running in dog years these days — five to seven years per four-season cycle — that's a long time. And the beginning, where we still are, is the time to make sure that you're headed in the best possible direction. We cannot say much for society. You don't have a lot of influence there. But Pluto is calling on you to take up the power of decision and make it your own.

And it is calling on you not to succumb to those who would do something dark and shadowy with Pluto in Aquarius — concentrate power through technological means. That is a very dangerous theme of our era, and you may have the ability to sidestep, avoid, evade and get beyond that for yourself and for others.

Aquarius is About Patterns

In 1967, a musical show called *Hair* opened on Broadway. It features a song about the dawning of the Age of Aquarius. We have all heard it 100 times, oh, unless you're under age 40.

The movie version featured hippies dancing around Central Park and fake NYPD mounted cops riding horses that pranced around like ponies. This song and its fantastic bass line formed nearly everyone's concept of what Aquarius is about, including ideas held by many astrologers:

*Harmony and understanding
Sympathy and trust abounding
No more falsehoods or derisions
Golden living dreams of visions
Mystic crystal revelation
And the mind's true liberation, Aquarius
Aquarius*

Um, harmony, sympathy and trust? This sounds like Pisces, not Aquarius. Just edit those last two words to "Pisces, Pisces" and you would have a nice little groovy Sixties poem that the prancing ponies and fake cops would love. The opening lyrics reference the *Moon, Mars and Jupiter*, which have much more to do with Pisces and nothing whatsoever to do with Aquarius. The Moon's connection is intuitive: it moves the tides of the Pisces-ruled oceans.

However, this makes more sense when you know that the star constellations Pisces and Aquarius overlap significantly, that the water-bearer needs water, and that one vision of Aquarius has the Egyptian goddess Anuket holding a ruler in the Nile River to measure the flooding that will fertilize the land. (This association with Aquarius seems to be a modern construction.)

Aquarius per se is about something else: energy patterns. It's an air sign! Those waves in the glyph run through the air. This concept does not appear anywhere in classical astrology that I know of; classical astrology is only modestly helpful when it comes to describing the quality of signs, especially in the modern world.

Aquarius is about the underlying social patterns (and patterns of society) that lead to various expressions of human behavior.

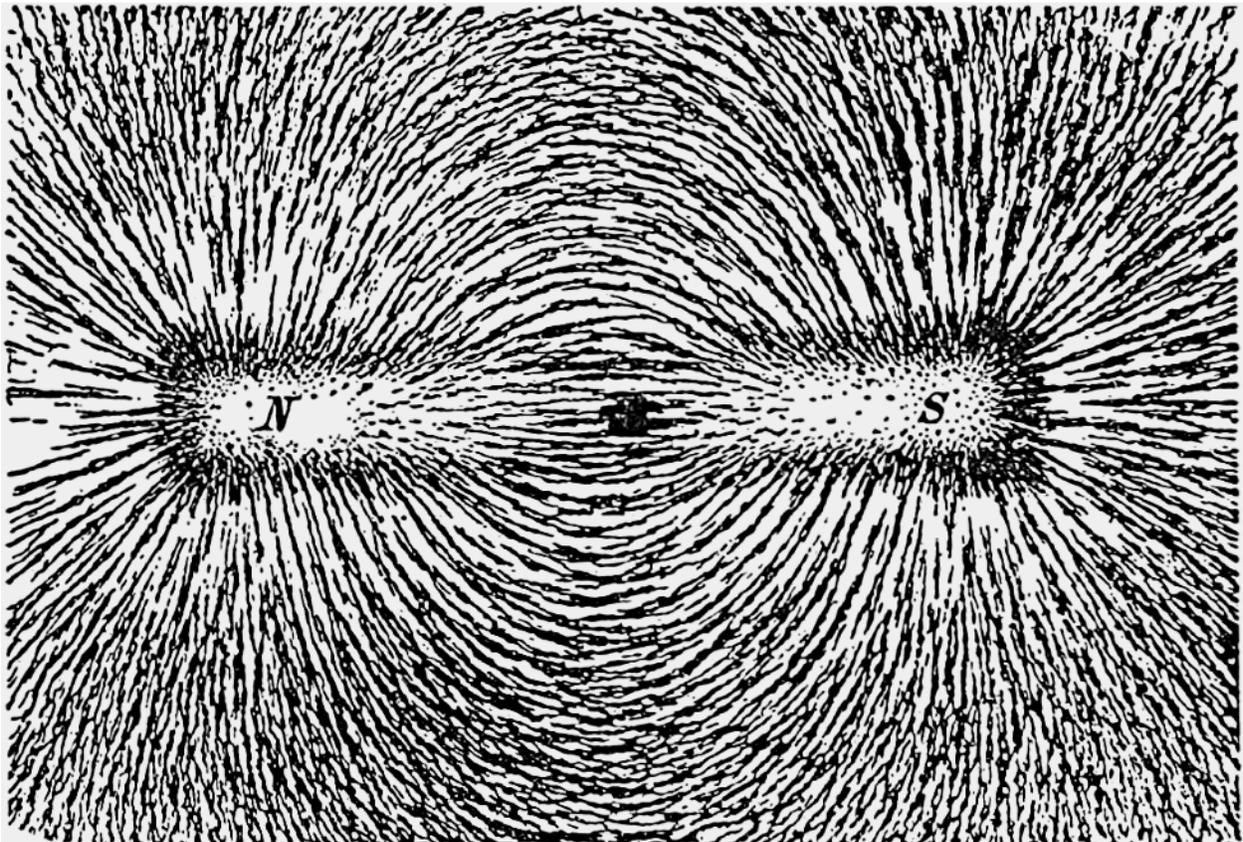
Those patterns can be extremely powerful and hold a tremendous amount of energy and invisible influence. Aquarius is a fixed sign. It is ruled by Saturn, the lord of structure (the proposed association of Uranus to Aquarius is another story; perhaps we will get to it below). Its symbol is energy waves — usually perceived to be electrical in some form (or waves of water). But Aquarius is not water; it is that which *measures* or *holds* water.

While officially an air sign, Aquarius is also an odd kind of fire sign. The harnessing of electricity by modern humanity has been every bit as important as the harnessing of fire by ancient humanity. It has changed us just as much. Electricity, now the

basis of civilization, is the modern equivalent of fire. But it has this weird, structured property and does all kinds of things that verge on metaphysical.

Electricity is closely related to magnetism, which is organized in domains. Think of those as the patterns of Aquarius. You cannot see the domains but you can see the shapes the iron filings make on top of them. In our era when everything is electrified, social patterns have also been taken over by electricity, and by extension, digital technology.

There is no division between the concepts of "social" and "human activity organized by electrical patterns." We cannot really recognize just how strange this is. It's been going on since before our grandparents were born, so it seems like existence has always been this way.



Iron filings follow the pattern of invisible magnetic domains. If you've never done this experiment, find a magnet and a little sheet of glass and get some iron filings.

The seemingly flexible internet is the perfect example of the Aquarian fixed nature rooted in electricity that drives social experience. Once social media took over social patterns, it seems like all that was flexible and fluid about human interrelations became calcified, ossified, petrified, solidified and electrified.

Nearly every relationship became transactional. Friends bill one another for dinner parties and who needs a girlfriend or boyfriend when you have ChatGPT or OnlyFans. One indicator of the power of digital technology is that before the internet, people met one another in public places. Today, few people meet by any means other than electronic. They feel safer. They are more easily deceived.

Now, the operative thing for you is that Aquarius represents the patterns of your existence, as well as the larger social body of society. And Pluto, the unstoppable force, has arrived here — and we are all feeling the shock.

This means you will need to become adaptable, flexible and independent of the pressure that is exerted on you by both groups and ideologies. This may be the very heart of the matter: your relationships to groups, collectives, committees and leaders.

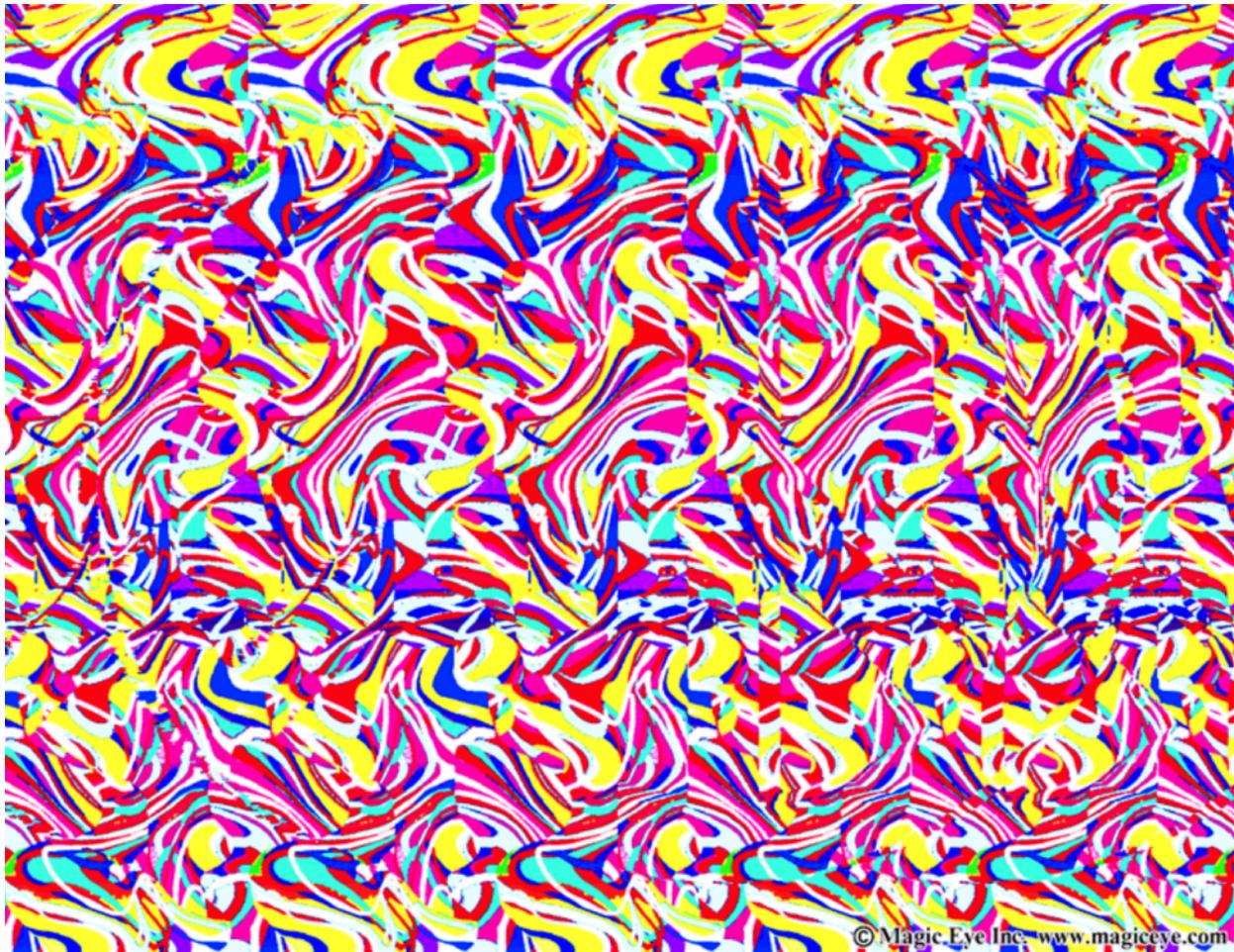
The Aquarius energy field has become toxic in that it is now all based on disinformation, social pressure, in-group/out-group dynamics and elitism. Pluto in your sign will give you the power to stand up to this, which essentially boils down to making your own decisions even if all your friends threaten to abandon you.

The two most important facets of Aquarius are:

1. The group/collective dynamic, now driven by digital consciousness; and how this dynamic pressures people into betraying themselves in exchange for a sense of “belonging.”

2. The ability to stand up and be an individual. This will be aided and abetted by Pluto. In the digital age, you could not want a better friend.

And fortunately you have a lot of support (from other areas of your chart) in fulfilling these necessities. This includes influences that will drive your originality and your ability to think.



Pattern Recognition

Where patterns are an issue, pattern recognition becomes crucial. It is the most important form of perception; the most important form of intelligence; and the basis of relationships. Pattern recognition is the basis of both art and of survival.

Patterns tend to be hidden. Like the magnetic domains illustrated above, visible only when you look a certain way — using glass

and iron filings — you need to get a view into the hidden world. *The Magic Eye* image above is similar. There's a way to look at the thing, focusing behind the page and letting your eyes kind of cross, and then this hidden thing comes out. Astrology works the same way. The pattern starts to emerge, but it usually happens by withholding evaluation; just state the facts and keep stating the facts and keep a little inventory of what you don't know.

Then after a while you might see a pattern forming. And then you just hang out with it. Smoke a bowl, put on Brian Eno and chill out. Pattern recognition requires an odd kind of passive thought but active awareness. But it's not so much active as it is using a kind of mental dream catcher. That includes using the awareness of what I would call negative space — various different voids and unknowns.

In times of overwhelming chaos, and more input than any five-year-old can stand, the only way to address the sheer volume and diversity of not-in-formation is to recognize patterns.

It is easy to pretend; to try to force this process. It is easy to abuse inductive logic, which is not really logic but the inferences drawn from observing patterns. For example, just because the CIA "can neither confirm nor deny" that Comet 3I/ATLAS is a spacecraft *does not make it one*.

You can draw an inference, but this would be wholly false and unsupported. And people love to do it! The incredible pattern of one irrelevant thing! The new standard of proof! Gotcha!

Therefore, take it easy doing this, and practice. What you're practicing really is being alert to your senses; tune into common sense, which is the *sensus communus* — the place in awareness that all of your senses feed. Staying with your inner senses, including memory and sense of humor, is as important as observing the world.

Pluto may drive a kind of monomania at times, and a determination to get to the bottom of things. Easy does it.

The Groupthink Thing

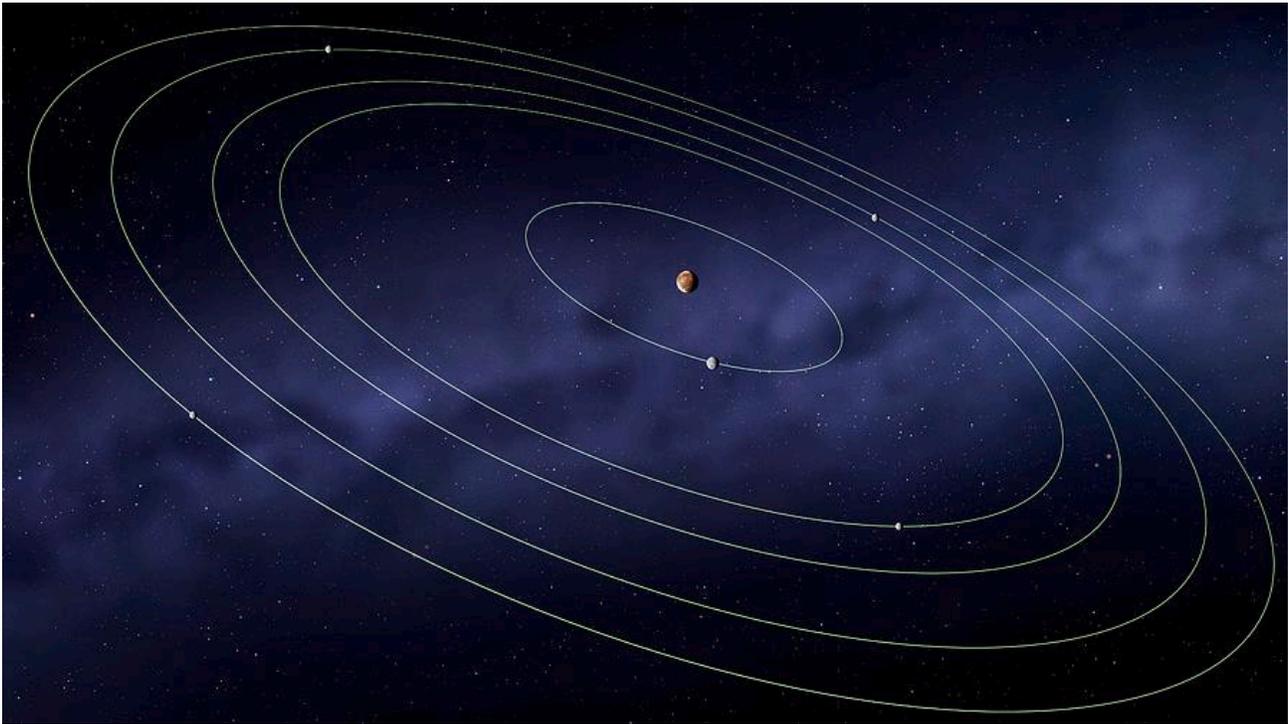
Brief comment on the “group” theme of Aquarius, which is something of a back-formation from the 11th house, but which works pretty well. This also holds true for Uranus, the supposed modern ruler of Aquarius; this too can represent groups and how they operate.

One way to think of Aquarius is the relationship between the individual and the group. It’s the sign of groupthink, a psychological term about group behavior where dissent is suppressed, conformity is emphasized and everyone seems to have the same opinion no matter how wrong. It’s also a sign associated with individuals who resist this kind of pressure.

And they are few in number, if we are to believe our experiences and also take notice of the many psychological studies which demonstrate that people will claim to believe anything to be accepted by a group.

The result we get is the suspension of individual accountability. Groups can be so douchebaggy and also get away with so much that is wrong and immoral because nobody is personally held accountable. After all, it was “the group” that did it. Yet that is not really true. It’s always individuals within the group that take action, while many others are passive, and then responsibility is diffused to this little collective which as such has no accountability.

With Pluto in Aquarius territory, no doubt groups will be getting the blame for all kinds of things, which then, at least most of the time, releases individuals from any responsibility or accountability. I am suggesting this is something to be aware of and to avoid, if you want to be a person of integrity and believe that you are truly an individual with your own agency.



The Pluto System. Rendering by Mark Garlick.

A Brief Comment About the Pluto System

Since you will be living with it for a while, here are a few things to keep in mind as we develop a reading that is centered around Pluto. This thought-history of Pluto deserves a full article; I will give it a short section and that future article is off to a good start. Keep this section as a Swiss Army knife for your new BFF, Pluto.

We already addressed Aleister Crowley writing that it was the prime mover. Think of it as the thing providing DRIVE. This by the way is from the indispensable *Book of Thoth*, wicked funny and fantastic for astrology and tarot as one skill.

Here are a few other perspectives:

After being discovered in 1930, heralding the rise of fascism in Europe, astrology pretty much ignored Pluto until the 1960s when it seems that only Dane Rudhyar cared much about it. After taking a leading role in the events of the 1960s even though most astrologers were not paying attention to it (it was a kind of novelty item for a long time), Pluto was "demoted" in 2006 and deemed "not a planet."

This was precipitated by the discovery of Eris in 2003/2005. Today Pluto is officially (134340) Pluto, technically a "minor planet" or "dwarf planet." This happened before there were even good photos of the Pluto system and the action was entirely political (within the astronomical establishment). "Demoting" Pluto was not based on a scientific determination.

By "Pluto system," I mean that Pluto is considered a binary pair with a "moon", Charon (not Chiron). Charon is technically not a moon, but it is definitely binary (in one sense).

Before Charon was discovered in 1978, Isabel Hickey (author of the first monograph about Pluto in English) had observed the dualistic nature of Pluto, essentially predicting the discovery of Charon the next year. She called the wisdom aspect of Pluto "Minerva," not to be confused with the asteroid bearing the same name. She was stating it as a principle in human nature.

Hickey (a voracious reader of Alice A. Bailey), in true New Age fashion, defined these aspects of Pluto as "higher nature" and "lower nature" (and said how you take it is your choice). I would rate this as true enough even though we could state it differently. References to the "lower nature" in esoteric studies usually mean sex. Without sex, often a Plutonic thing, there is no life and no existence. We need the libidinal drive of Pluto to create anything, unless you want to sound like ChatGPT (please, no).

The reality is that Pluto is a six-point system — one big plus five little objects, stuck together by gravity — consisting of the main binary pair Pluto and Charon (which orbit a common center of gravity mutually), and then four little guys orbiting slightly beyond them — Nix and Hydra, and much smaller Styx and Kerberos.

Yes, Eris is a little larger than Pluto — congratulations! Note, Eris is also a binary, with its partner being called Dysnomia. She is the offspring of Eris and the personification of lawlessness, anarchy and bad government. These are not new concepts.

What we call Pluto is an incredible, entirely unique, *six-pointed anti-planet* orbiting at the edge of consciousness. Really, it's amazing. And it can act in ways that are unpredictable and also very different from the way Pluto was perceived and experienced in earlier times. What you always have to remember is that it has many facets.

In the mid-1980s, Jeffrey Green emerged from the Seattle grunge astrology scene and declared that Pluto represented the "evolutionary journey of the soul" and even "the soul itself." That's a stretch; but it's fair to say that Pluto is a *driving force of growth*, which is "ensoulment." The soul is not a thing. It's a process or an experience. Soul is cultivated through learning and guided self-observation (Monty Python was right).

In astrology, the soul is most closely related to Chiron, who is also a stand-in for Christ-consciousness. Chiron is like a fully conscious version of Pluto, with the lights on. Pluto can dip beneath the surface and act as an unconscious or subliminal process (until it is not). Depending on your chart, Chiron is always right on the surface where you can see, feel and grab it. If you work with Chiron, you will understand Pluto.

Another take on Pluto comes from Richard Tarnas. He associates Pluto with Dionysus, the Greek god of revelry and transcendence (and other deep mysteries): think Mick Jagger, Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin or Grace Slick (who all rose to fame during the Uranus-Pluto conjunction). Right now the only famous Plutonian people are oligarchs. Entertainers all skim the surface of consciousness like water bugs.

I love the Dionysus analysis because it reveals an element of Pluto that everyone was looking right at and did not see. Finally, Martha Lang-Wescott offers the reminder that while Pluto transits are challenging, they become an important source of motivation, and we miss them when they're gone. So remember to be grateful that you're in possession of transformational drive

in a time when people don't want to write a sentence. (When we get to the Aries part of this reading, I will talk quite a bit about the importance of writing for you.) And follow the old adage: when you're going through hell, keep on going.

As we discuss the implications of Pluto, remember that it has many facets and its discovery is less than 100 years old (the centennial is in 2030, and the first book came out in German in 1934). As a student of the minor planets, my observation is that we still have a lot to learn about the Pluto system.

Let's see what I draw down from the cosmos and up from Hades as I develop this Pluto-centered reading — and then I promise you some juicy stuff about Jupiter, Saturn, Chiron, Uranus, Sedna and Neptune. OK, in the immortal words of *Twin Peaks*, let's rock.

1st HOUSE INVENTORY: WHAT ELSE IS IN AQUARIUS

Hybris-Venus-Pluto-Atlantis — and Vesta

In this inventory section, I've usually been avoiding asteroids, but there are exceptions and with Aquarius we have one of them. The first pattern that shows up is almost too rich for words, and in a way it encapsulates the era we are living in and some of the most important factors for you to take into consideration.

When the Sun enters your sign on Jan. 19, there's a very unusual (by that, I mean seemingly impossible) conjunction of four points packed into one little degree of your sign. This is degree 4, which is about *the disciplined use of spiritual powers for healing*. Such may be natural to some, but development and refinement always take place in the long run.

So the response to what I'm about to write below is: disciplined use of spiritual powers.

The conjunction includes Venus aligning with Pluto, as well as Atlantis and Hybris. While a four-planet conjunction is usually difficult to interpret, this is cautionary of at least two things, remembering that Hybris is the root of the word *hubris* — which is arrogance, the tragic flaw; and which may be a key ingredient in what some call romance.

Atlantis is about the abuse of technological power. It represents its own kind of hubris.

Venus and Pluto together represent a kind of intense lust, though this is driven through the mental and electrical field of Aquarius. It seems more mentally obsessive than emotional. This strongly argues for keeping technology out of your personal relationships, to the greatest degree possible in our times. And there are ways to do it, though this is a day-to-day and hour-to-hour thing.

First of all, please — forget ChatGPT or any other LLM as a “partner,” “friend,” “assistant” or “therapist.” This is not only useless, it’s just unfulfilling. In my opinion it causes psychic and emotional damage and stokes a kind of addiction that makes social media seem harmless in comparison. Far worse is the notion that “this chat thing is better than a real person.” That is the Hybris factor.

Any practical solution to this condition starts with meeting people in person, socializing in person and communicating about important things in person. When in-person is not possible, realtime voice and visual contact is a potential substitute.

When you are communicating through an electronic device, respect is essential; these modes of communication bestow power that is usually used in an arrogant and self-serving way (like stalking people, or ghosting them).

Power, in the form of control, and *love* have nothing to do with one another. They are spiritually opposite and opposing forces. As A Course in Miracles says, there are no victories of love; love

does not want to win. But the medium is the message, and technology (Atlantis and Pluto) translates to power, in this case the power of technology used irresponsibly. We are being dragged deeper and deeper into the digital trance. If there is any love in this particular dream, we bring it.

It is interesting to hear how many people are disillusioned with romance or what they call "dating." It's as if this is the only mode of people getting to know one another. Can men and women be friends? Well, not if all they think about is romantic love, which sadly contains very little respect or affection.

I will get to some proposed alternatives in the section on your 5th place, Gemini — the house of art and romance.

The Presence of Vesta

Roles of Vesta include devotion (tending the flame), and the defining of space (the organization of ceremonial, public or domestic space around the organizing principle of the hearth, the city fire, or the kitchen). So when you hear Vesta, remember: devotion and spatial organizing principle. In Aquarius, this will have a social role.

Vesta in the pattern is also cautionary, and urges you to define your space. Pay attention to all you have to lose by trying to relate to people through too much digital filtration. It's impossible to remove all of it — about as difficult as getting the plastic out of your kitchen, which is now in microscopic form. But you can move in a helpful direction, getting rid of your teflon pans and microwave oven and plastic containers, and sticking to real metal, ceramic and glass.

Vesta can indicate a sacrifice of some kind. It points to something that you are likely to feel you must give up. It also indicates celibacy; people with a prominent Vesta have different relationship patterns than others; they often go for long stretches without partners and without sex.

Here, we see a potential indicator of how and why this might be about you: if the human realm is missing, that accounts for the whole problem.

There is another side to Vesta, actually, several that could be helpful. One is that it involves deep devotion to a purpose. That's not devotion to a person; it's *to a purpose*. So if there is a person involved, make sure that your devotion is to the purpose they serve rather than exclusively to them personally.

But this form of devotion is about being submissive to existence, and then experiencing the privileges this brings.

Second, Vesta is about your home. Your home must be the center of what you want to create. Vesta also involves the organizing principle of physical space, like a home is often built around the kitchen or the hearth. For you, this means your home is that hearth, and that you are the social organizing principle around which people gather.

Last, Vesta has an element of giving up what you might think you want for what you might not know that you need. But with Vesta, there is always a rare privilege bestowed for devotion, dedication and service.

Of Amycus and Orius, Long Conjoint in Aquarius

These are two slow-moving centaurs (like Chiron, only less helpful) moving through Aquarius. Centaur planets are intense, meaning they have energy, focus and seemingly contradictory effects. Without going into the mythology, here's what I can tell you about this conjunction.

It involves the choice between thoughtful, peaceful action and violent, aggressive action. It's the difference between Donald Trump and Nelson Mandela.

We now live in digital life, and digital life is violent. This is driven by people being pushed out of their bodies, which also means out of their feelings and out of their sanity. My old friend Marshall McLuhan said over and over that violence is a quest for identity. As I say it, it's a cheap attempt at self-actualization. This includes the various forms of hostility and petty aggression that we see online, and that we see in physical space.

There is this constant temptation to be aggressive. Digital life is frustrating, such as taking 20 minutes to navigate a digital phone system to finally reach a customer service person. You're aware that the whole purpose of this game is to get rid of you. But you can translate that into the whole purpose of the game being to be friendly to the person you finally get on the phone.

Centaur planet Orius (read my detailed article from 2013) has a diversity of manifestations, though most of them involve being clever, artful, and socially conscious. Yes, it shows up in the charts of certain megalotypes like Bill Gates, but we also get it in Edward Snowden and Julian Assange.

So it has a diversity of modes of actions — and you get to choose. I think generally it would be very wholesome to monitor your frustration level at all times and pay attention to how much of that comes from digital overexposure. Then do something about it, which does not involve taking it out on other people. Orius encourages you to find solutions that benefit everyone, which will always involve some element of creativity or invention. This is always true of win-win approaches.

Amor-Chariklo: The Conditions on Unconditional Love

These days, the notion of "unconditional love" is a joke. It's hard to imagine that most people like one another that much. And yet we are often in situations that call for genuine devotion. Asteroid Amor is about the conditions placed on unconditional love. Chariklo is about the kind of devotion that could only come from

unconditional love. It is almost like the centaur planet version of Vesta, the example of total commitment.

The Amor presence skews this meaning into the conditional element. There is such a thing as unconditional love, but that is not about romantic love. It is more like the love that you feel for a beloved cat or a dog. In the case of a human being, the question is: what is the catch?

Okay, that sizes up what is going on in Aquarius — though we will come back to Pluto soon enough.

AROUND THE WHEEL

Events in Aries, your 3rd Place

One of the defining features of Aquarius is that you have Aries in the 3rd house. It's one of those placements where you could just read that and forget everything else and we would have a pretty good description of your basic orientation and thought process, which in a single word is...this will shock you, I'm sure: IDEAS.

The 3rd is the house of thinking, thought style, language, communication style, and what you do locally — especially neighbors and local commerce. For you it is a VERY important house. It's the place where all of your notions of who you are manifest in a tangible way. Because Aries is here, the 3rd place is where you grow and find yourself and discover who you are through the topics that the 3rd place defines: communication and local commerce.

We know about the Aquarian streak of genius — which holds up as long as *you know when you don't know*. That is the Achilles heel of Aquarius and it is easy enough to address.

Aries in the 3rd means you identify with your ideas. This is not merely "having ideas" or "thinking." This is more like the thought and the thinker are one. In some ways, you are over-reliant on

this, and in other ways it is not developed enough. You might ask: how do you know when it's not developed enough?

When your ideas are not considered "threatening" or when you are tailoring them for an audience. I am not suggesting you be unpopular or threatening. I am suggesting you focus on truthful expression rather than edit yourself for a desired effect.

Let's change the frame. Imagine that your mind is not designed for originality or entertainment, but rather for solving problems; and that when you solve problems, you grow.

I only mention the issue of hesitating to offend people because it's what most of the world is now trapped within. And much of what you need to understand this problem can be deduced by understanding Aries, which is kind of like your astrological brain; but everyone has Aries and experiences it differently.

Most astrologers would say that Aquarius is the sign of "group think" as the sign of groups and fixed patterns. However, what has occurred with Aries is the robotization of humanity, this brutal ironing out of individuality, and a trance that goes back to the early days of radio. That's when the fog started to roll in and began this thing we take for granted — everyone has to think like the people around them, or get ejected, rejected and possibly canceled — and it has created a conceptual prison.

And it's a conceptual prison that you don't want to be in, and if you do, then you're out of luck. The Chiron-Eris conjunction in Aries is the ultimate jolt out of phony collectivism. However, this will potentially register in your consciousness as a raw, exposed feeling rather than the satisfaction of being right or honest. In sum, the conjunction is the powerfully maverick, hyper-aware presence of Chiron meeting everything we despise about the digital world: from A.I. training on A.I. slop to the woke/MAGA philosophy (they are the same thing) to cynicism and withdrawal and free-floating rage: all of these are the qualities of the false tribalism of "cancel culture."

Eris is subversive. Chiron is honest. Eris wages its subversion by stealth and deception. Chaos is its best weapon. Chiron brings order, awareness and raises crucial, unpopular issues to the light of day. There is no compromise possible between these two positions; between these two states of mind and of being.

So this transit is not about “innovation” or “originality” or “dissenting.” It’s about being aware of how the pressures of the digital world, meaning *the world as hypnotized by overexposure to digital technology*, have influenced you to, well, stop thinking for yourself and shut TF up — even under private circumstances.

Unless of course that has not been the effect on you. But I ask you: how do you know? How do you really know? The cancellation police are the thought police, and the war being waged is for the mind. The issue is not what you write or broadcast, the assault is on the content of your mind. I would contend there is nobody who has not been affected. Nobody who has not at least partly fallen under the spell, and to not be under the spell (even a little) is not a calm or peaceful awakening to a purring cat and a cup of Earl Grey with honey.

It is more like waking up to commotion outside on the street. The feeling is more likely to be one of conscious puzzlement than of righteous truth. There will be plenty of reasons to disappear back into the fog, and if you want to be true to yourself, you must resist them and resist the pressure to deceive yourself.

The result will not make you a “truth teller” or an “original thinker.” The result will be that you become increasingly true to yourself. All lies begin with denial and self-deception. You can count on Chiron to keep applying the imperative that you must question yourself, to question what you see in society, to insist on answers to your questions, and connect your speech to what you have personally confirmed.

Saturn Conjunct Neptune in Aries

Chiron and Eris are providing the impulse to awaken and stay awake. Saturn and Neptune will be forming a conjunction in Aries, the other of the twin conjunctions. Without getting into the strange history of this event and how rare it is and why, let's cut to the chase and I will tell you what I think this means.

And that is: resources. New material. The ability to take things that might not normally go together and combine them in an original way. Without Saturn and Neptune, the Chiron-Eris conjunction might feel irritating and unsubstantial; with Saturn and Neptune, you have fuel and raw materials to work with.

There are many ways to think of this. Saturn provides discipline and structure; Neptune provides inspiration. The two are useless without one another. By "new material" I do not mean a movie script or novel something. I mean that you have new material to enrich your mind and your inner quest for truth. You are being guided to enrich yourself and to feel the benefits that brings.

Then that enrichment can be turned into anything you want to think, do or express — as long as you meet one condition: be true to yourself.

It seems simple. But that is the journey. The entirety of the spiritual trip and the therapy trip and the right livelihood trip is about one thing only: being real with yourself. And if you ever start to slack, you can be sure that Pluto will kick your ass.

Writing is Obsolete, but Not For You

Aries contains the effect of the electrical and digital environments on who you think you are and how you perceive yourself — and how you perceive your relationship to existence.

Digital technology is often compared to a drug, and that's because it is. It creates an inner trip. An inner trip is not inner awareness or contact with yourself; it is an artifice that you must plug into. This is why so many people panic without their phones. They become like dogs who have lost their master — and the master is the phone.

Digital effects disrupt and supplant your relationship to yourself. If you are younger, you may never figure this out. If you are older, you have a chance to see the changes that your psyche and personality have undergone over the past few decades as the digital tide has risen.

This has had many consequences, but one of them is that the world and the value of worldly experience have largely been erased — and so too has the true inner sense, interior existence and contact with who you are and are becoming.

The placement of the Aries events in your chart — in the 3rd place — describes what you can do to recover your true interior presence. And that is to write. Writing means thinking and then reading your thoughts back to you from an external model or reflection that you have created. The rewriting process is about making adjustments to your thoughts. Rewriting is rethinking. It is, for many, arduous labor, but more than that, you will get a sense of who you are and what you contain.

This is the thing lost when writing or any kind of creativity is automated. And it is lost when you look “at the world” and all you see is a reflection of chaos, pain, aggression, warfare, corruption and stupidity *that you can easily mistake for yourself*.

Your charge, therefore, is not to fix the world, but to understand that you are not all of that insanity and garbage, and that you have a true inner being. But you will need to mine it like gold. It does not just pop out at the touch of a button. It is not a magical thing. Your Self is something you develop, work with, refine, grow and experience.

And the single most important way you can do that is to write, every single day. This is a matter of mental health, not merely creativity. The pressure on your 3rd house is so high that you must have outlets. That means creating dependable outlets. If you want to make craft projects out of wood, you need a place to work and a project to work on.

Then you need to show up. That means showing up for yourself.

We are living under overwhelming, insane conditions right now, drugged out of our minds by substances more addictive and more psychoactive than any white powder. The only remedy, the only path to awakening, is connecting with yourself, your self-discovery process (which is falsely called 'creativity') and using your mind until you feel its existence.

Audio and video are nice but they don't count unless you are writing verbatim scripts (which is terrible for such presentations).

Writing can take many forms; morning pages per *The Artist's Way* are a good start — but they do not involve the thing that is the most important, which is revision, rewriting and rethinking.

Uranus and Sedna in Gemini — Your House of Art and Risk

The 5th place covers play, recreation, risk-taking and artistic activities. You have Gemini here, which is about communication of all kinds. It's about ideas. And it's another house under major transits, which are about to ramp up yet again. Gemini is the sign of the mental environment. All signs represent places; the place Gemini represents is your mind.

For our purposes here, there are two planets involved: Uranus and Sedna. If you want a deeper inventory, see the Gemini reading which includes a comprehensive inventory of Gemini that you can apply to your 5th house.

Sedna says tune in. Look for the invisible and listen for what you cannot normally hear. Sedna grants the gift of profound environmental sensitivity — to the mental environment, *within you and that surrounds you*. Under digital conditions, the world is sharing one enormous nervous system. You are sensitive to the weather conditions of that nervous system and you are able to make use of that information.

Uranus says be bold. It says be willing to shake up and disrupt the usual flow of your mind. Uranus cannot tune in. It expresses itself without planning or consideration of ethics. Uranus is about experimentation, which means not doing what everyone else is doing or what you have done in the past — and what might seem disruptive or destructive to the existing state of affairs. With Uranus in this placement, you cannot resist change; you must embody and become change.

Fortunately this message and this impulse is coming from every angle of your chart, in many different ways.

Jupiter in Cancer and Leo, and the July 20 Alignment

Jupiter is currently in your 6th place, Cancer, which is “good for work” but it’s not good for the kinds of movement I’ve described for the prior 20 pages. Cancer on your 6th place presents you with a challenge, which is a natural preference for what I will call cozy work. Cancer in this context does not want to break a sweat.

In other contexts, it will want to conquer the world, but not in the 6th place. It is perhaps a good “work at home” placement but not if you want to get anything done. It does not lend itself naturally to leadership except maybe over the office kitchenette.

I suggest it would be better not to work at home. You need the impersonal and slightly irritating office environment to keep you stimulated. If you work at home, it would be a fine idea to have a consistent starting time, and get dressed and ready to work like you’re working in an office.

I had a colleague who had to work at home sometimes, and what she said was she could only do it if she put her shoes on. That's the right idea. George Lucas, who hated writing, had several teams fail to produce a script for *The Empire Strikes Back*. He set up a writing desk in his attic, locked himself in for eight hours a day, and produced a blockbuster script.

On June 30, Jupiter moves into your opposite sign Leo and your 7th place. This is a whole different kind of transit. It represents a major turning point and shift of the plot for 2026. And it arrives concurrently with other transits that will fire you up.

You will notice the influence of this transit on July 20, when Jupiter in Leo opposes Pluto in your sign and also connects with Uranus, Neptune, Transpluto and other important points. This is one of the most unusual aspect patterns I've ever seen, though it grows out of the developments of the past year — that being many slow-moving planets in new signs.

Mid-July is a good timeframe for scheduling the culmination of major projects. You may not perfectly synchronize with them, but if you use that week as a reference point, you will gather momentum and either get close to your goal or exceed it. The time to get started is now, and then be ready to go into full swing as Jupiter stations direct in Cancer on March 10.

This will be an important culmination point both personally and professionally. If you are in a personal relationship that you're wondering about, give it until midyear and see where you're at. You will likely have a different opinion than you do today. If you are not in a relationship and want to be, be patient; this one is worth waiting for.

While I am reluctant to make predictions associated with this pattern, when I look at it I see connection, meaning contact, and opportunity. And I think if we treat it that way, that's the result we will get — despite the seeming state of the world (which seems to be increasingly chaotic and toxic).

Chiron in Taurus

In a word, for you, this is about *grounding*. With the exception of fast-moving Jupiter entering Leo, all of the transits I've described in this essay have been developing over the past year or so. Chiron in Taurus is a new development. Chiron was last in Taurus from mid-1976 through mid-1984.

Taurus is your 4th place, which is about grounding into the earth your home, and feeling like you belong on the planet. It's about relationship to your inner life and your interior spaces. And it is arguably the earthiest of the Earth signs. It is the antithesis of all this activity in Aries and the air signs.

Much of what the world is struggling with now is disembodiment. It looks, sounds and feels a little like this, as explained by Eric McLuhan, son of Marshall:

"The body is everywhere assaulted by all of our new media, a state which has resulted in deep disorientation of intellect and destabilization of culture throughout the world. In the age of disembodied communication, the meaning and significance and experience of the body is utterly transformed and distorted."

It is this very transformation and distortion that Chiron in Taurus will address. The body is the body; the energy bodies are the energy bodies; they can all be corrupted by exposure to not just digital technology but *the digital state of mind that people adopt*.

I am planning to develop the Chiron theme more in the Inner Peace audio reading. We could go to the heart of the matter by saying that your leadership learning process involves the gradual correction of these distortions.

I will say of all the transits this year, Chiron in Taurus has the most potential to give us a different experience, and you have it happening in an interior and personal position; you will have direct access no matter what anyone else is doing.

Know When You Don't Know

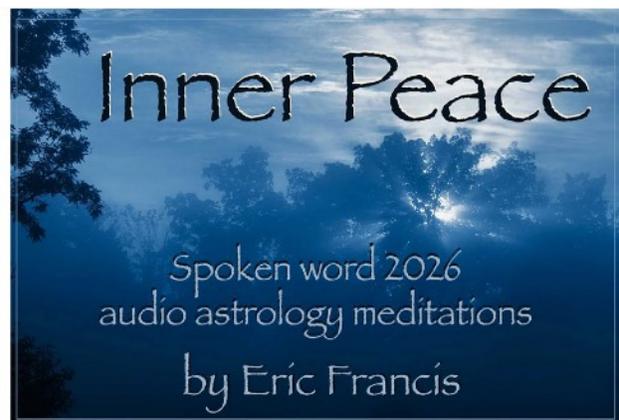
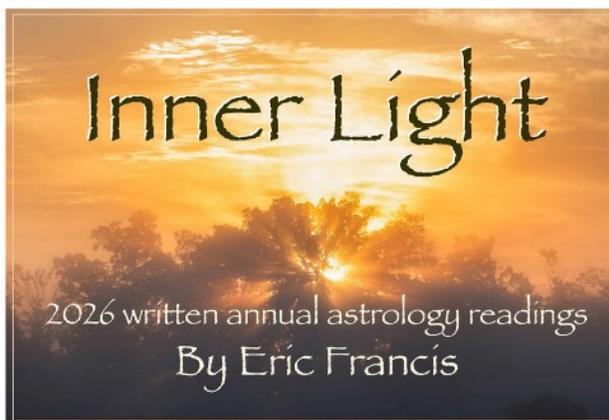
Let's close on a central idea. In my long years exploring astrology, with emphasis on Aquarius themes due to matters surrounding the "Age of Aquarius," I have observed something about your sign, which is that it needs above all to know when it does not know. This is not just for Aquarius Sun and rising but also related to any planets that happen to be in Aquarius.

To know when you don't know, you have to start by assuming you're either clueless or wrong and then gradually collect evidence and see where it leads.

And even when you're pretty sure and have done an honest evaluation of other viewpoints, and tried to prove yourself wrong and ruin your own theory but no matter how hard you try you can't get it to wilt — then you can say you probably know. As long as you leave a little room for doubt.

Pluto is with you. Handle with care.

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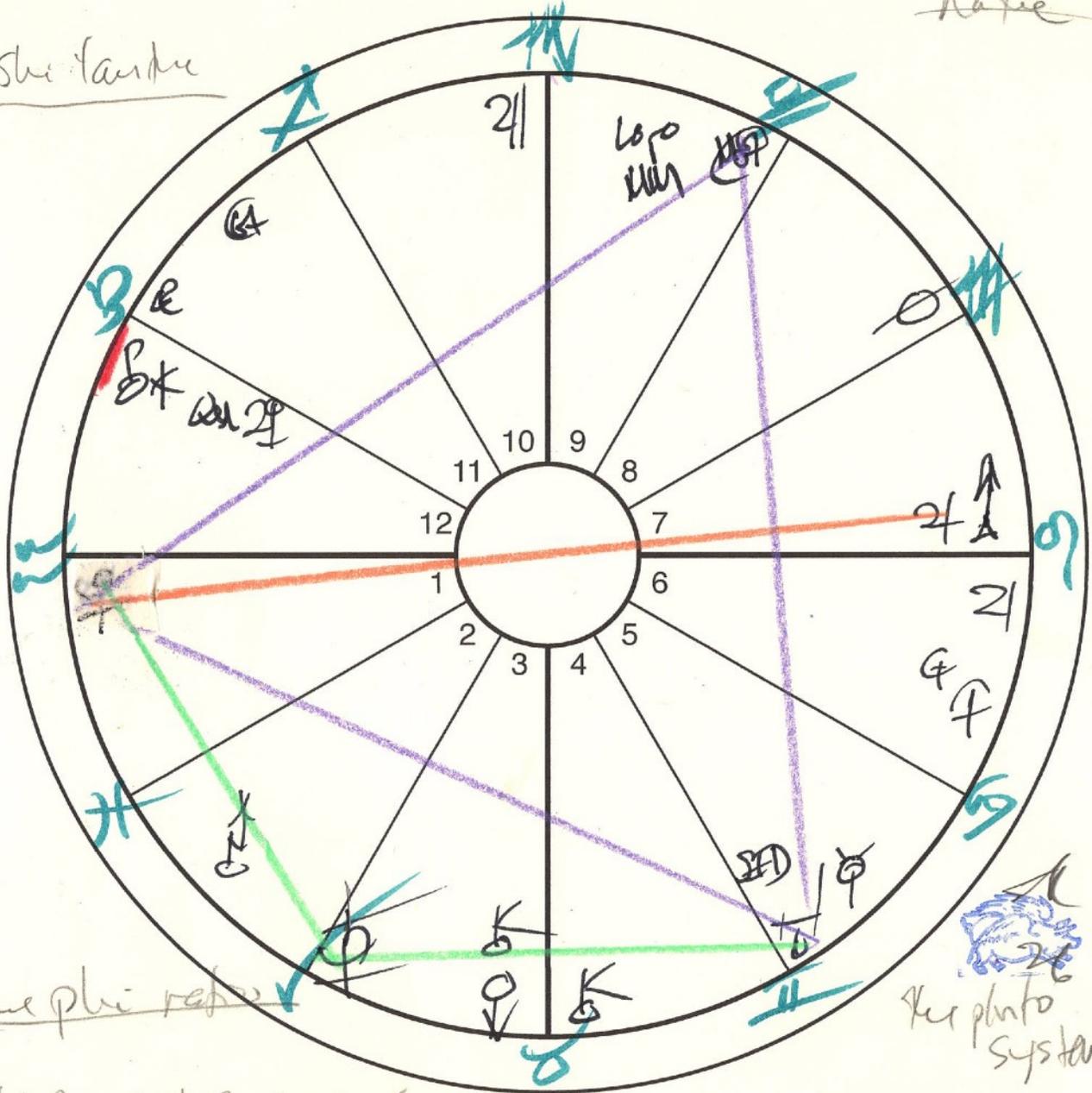


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Chomsky and the digital age.

Fractal's discussed any
computer code - exist in
nature

Shepherd



Per photo system

Per photo system

1+2 = 3 2+1 = 3 3+2 = 5

5+3 = 8 8+5 =

Five + Five = 10 years

