



Fire dancer outside Notre Dame, winter 2005. Photo by Eric Francis.

ARIES :: Within You, Without You

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

WHERE DO WE BEGIN a personal reading when the most outstanding astrology in many decades is taking place right in your sign? And affecting every living person, and our entire society? The twin conjunctions are happening in Aries — Chiron conjunct Eris, and Saturn conjunct Neptune.

Processing this consciously is a tall order. It is almost impossible to sort out, but sort it out you will. For the sake of simplicity, I defer for a moment to my senior colleague Sally Brompton at *The*

New York Post. Here is what she had to say on the day I'm writing this:

You may feel inspired to do something out of the ordinary today but make sure friends and loved ones know what you are up to or they may think you are losing your mind. Not everyone is as naturally adventurous as you!

You are experiencing something that nobody else around you is, at least not in quite the same way. The changes you're going through may confound friends, partners, colleagues...the heat is boiling out of you and long-delayed or long-concealed changes within you are boiling to the surface. Being the naturally adventurous type, I feel like it's safe to take you on a kind of natural adventure. And no, you are not losing your mind — but some days you might feel like you are.

Where Digital Meets Reality

Society is in a massive upheaval right now. Not everyone can see it but everyone can feel it. This is being provoked by the meeting of Chiron and Eris in your sign. These represent vast collective forces that are also personal to you. They are working within you and also as a factor in your environment.

This conjunction is the place where Chiron, the highly focused awakener and agent of healing, meets the collective sleepwalking society that has been all but drowned in its own technology. That is Eris, the harbinger of the mass communication dream — radio, television and now digital. These have laid on humanity one distortion of self and other after the next.

Chiron is here to pierce through this fog, and restore a more useful idea of the body. Its presence can guide you from "identity" to your actual sense of self and awareness of your existence. Part of what can correctly be called a crisis of identity

is reclaiming the idea of who you are from some collective notion of who you are supposed to be.

Pressure from Inside and Outside

So to start off, I think the initial point of contact is to tell you that you're under a lot of pressure. Some of it is coming from inside of you and some of it is external or environmental. The interior influences are driving your growth, evolution and individuation. The environmental influences are driving you to transform in ways that you might not like.

Your inner teacher — your inner light — is your most dependable source of orientation. As your astrologer, I can only give you some sketchy notes and tell you a potentially interesting story you might relate to. I can talk about factors influencing certain areas of your life. I might remind you that you can know who you are, without telling you who you are. Your actual tropism toward truth comes from inside of you.

If I suggest (for example) that the theme of your relationships is finding people who make sense to you, who speak a language and tone you understand, that's an idea; it's up to you to try that on and see what happens.

The collective forces are pushing you with every bit, byte and pixel to become what the people around you think you're supposed to be. Nearly everyone is under the same digital brainwashing spell, and that is where the real pressure is coming from: from people, to believe certain things, to make certain choices, and to conform to what you may have no interest in accepting. And these influences have never come at us so fast and so furiously, leaving so many people in the dust.

For all these reasons, we live in perfectly outrageous times — so unusual that nobody seems to be noticing. It's just like, this is the way it is, and everyone seems to keep going as long as they can.

And part of that situation involves who we are becoming under the influence of digital technology.

As for the relative strangeness of our moment, there is not any basis for comparison in living memory. Nothing like this has ever happened before, except maybe for the first tool used by a proto-human, or when someone learned to control fire and then taught someone else. That development made us completely different people and altered our relationship to existence.

But this is nearly impossible to perceive. It is difficult to see contrasts, or much of anything, in the midst of the infinite psychedelic haze of everything all at once everywhere all the time. And it's in this state of being that each of us and all of us are being reshaped and reformed into something not of our own making. The astrology of our moment reflects this — and the most unusual developments are happening in Aries.

Direct Your Awareness Inward

There is a practical matter of how to read these most unusual and outstanding public charts in a personal context. The challenge of our times is having any inner experience at all. The world is now designed such that everything is projected outward instantly. I now understand why the idea of posting a picture of your tacos to Instagram (“gramming your food”) made me nauseous. Maybe I'm old-fashioned, but this has an obscene quality. And yet this is the world we live in: a world of exhibition and voyeurism.

Where do you draw the personal boundary between the astrology that is driving the world, and the astrology that influences or informs you about your life? I suggest you think about this all the time, or at least 23 hours a day and six days a week.

Because your particular sign stands at the very intersection of public and private, we face one of the most basic questions of Aries in any year, but especially now. In the paragraphs that follow, I'll be doing some transposing — between you and the

world; between the individual and the collective; between who you are and who you are expected to be.

The Tribal Problem

In a nutshell, the tribal problem is the digital trip that you're not someone until you're just like everyone else. And that is not going to work for you, but the pressure is still on.

With the prevailing power of the the various tribal obsessions of our society — the “woke” religion, MAGA, and the worship of A.I. and tech as religions — as well as a digital life that guts privacy, self-actualization and self-awareness — you must pay attention. One way is to observe your anger level. Your sign is ruled by Mars, which is your primary tool. Mars can be assertive, aggressive or angry in various combinations. Anger points to something that's necessary to track. It's a sign that you're cut off from who you are.

If you find yourself being aggressive (whether passive or active, online or in physical space), that is a further indication that you're losing touch with yourself. Anger is a sign of something, but aggression is a poor substitute for self-actualization. Nothing but true self-discovery will satisfy you now. So therefore, I suggest you focus your efforts there. This is not about becoming a “better person” or “self-improvement.” I am talking about the most rudimentary expression of inner awareness and simply being real.

You might observe the ways in which “simply being real” has its own way of being aggressive. It often provokes various individuals, entities and forces that are themselves products of digital zombie tribal conditioning. The dead envy the living, not the other way around. This social and environmental resistance always seems to be pushing back at your creative and expressive efforts. Fortunately, potent forces in your soul are compelling you to true awakening and self-awareness. And yet this is a vulnerable state. Most people are neither confident nor

courageous. They tend to back down at the least pressure to conform, which is usually packaged in fear.

Yet you have many influences working in your favor. Let's start with the ones developing in Aries.

Developments in the sign Aries (and elsewhere) describe you emerging as an entirely new person — right now, in this time, in the life you are living. Of course, you're not really new. You're being compelled to make deep changes, and to express different facets of yourself to a world you do not really understand.

For many, this is a time of personal crisis. You may be feeling this. The transformational fires are burning hot right now. This cannot be brushed off as "just some other transit." It's multifaceted and focused in Aries, which makes it personal and real. Peaking in 2025 and 2026 (with a wider window of influence), there is nothing we could compare this to any time in recent centuries.

Therefore, I suggest you take special care to maintain your self-awareness, by which I mean inner awareness. This astrology has provoked a global crisis that's unfolding before our eyes. This is all being precipitated by the same astrology; so it's imperative that you not be taken outside yourself. It's also imperative that you not contaminate your consciousness with the use or over-use of a digital "tool" that is really a trojan horse.

Therefore, slow down, pull back and turn your attention within. Everything you decide and everything you do must be made on the basis of self-knowledge and self-awareness as one concept. If one thing is lacking in our current world — as an idea and as a reality — that is the one. The very best thing you can do for yourself is to focus your inner awareness. I know that's difficult. It's not just that there is so much distraction. It's that for the duration of the digital age, we have had our inner awareness flushed out of our minds.

Without it, there is no self, and no sense of self. Without those things, you're likely to be feeling angry, depressed, detached or despondent. Yet these problems are within your reach to solve, and more than that, you stand in one of the greatest opportunities for breakthrough of all your days.

Note to Self

Anger is a sign that you're cut off from who you are. So too is aggression. But you want to feel the anger before resorting to aggression, and get back in contact with yourself. This is not intuitive; the belief is that anger is caused by "something angering." The prevailing belief is that anger is really it is a reaction caused by losing your sense of your own existence. Anger and attack are the attempt to retrieve self-awareness. Yes, this is not helpful and it's not really a terrible idea because it's not an idea at all. It's an unconscious reaction from being deprived of the oxygen you need to survive. If you know what is happening it will be much easier to work with.

INVENTORY OF YOUR 1st HOUSE

In many ways the story of our times is the story of Aries. And I would say this has been true for about 100 years.

As I mentioned at the outset, there are two extremely rare conjunctions happening in Aries. No doubt you've heard of them. One is the **Chiron-Eris conjunction** in late Aries; and the other is the **Saturn-Neptune conjunction** in the first degree of Aries. A conjunction is two or more planets meeting up in the same narrow area of space. They combine their power, and also with each conjunction, an old cycle ends and a new one begins.

Both conjunctions have been active for many months and both come to a peak in the early part of 2026; they will have influences lasting many years. These forces are shaping all of society but they are especially shaping you.

The First Conjunction: Chiron Meets Eris

Let's take the conjunctions one at a time, starting with Chiron and Eris. Technically these are "minor planets" but they are certainly not any kind of minor influence.

Chiron and Eris are new arrivals on the scientific scene, showing up in 1977 and 2005 respectively. Nobody knew about the last conjunction (also in Aries) that took place in the early 1970s. The early 1970s were an extraordinary time, distinct from the 1960s — and the astrology was not available to analyze it.

Those planets had yet to "exist." But the events they symbolized certainly did, and looking back, it all makes sense — the intensity of it all, the radical sense of cultural transformation, and the people who were born at the time.

Yet had the planets been known, we would have had metaphors for things like the birth of identity politics, the intense tribalism of the era, and also the response of a significant few people to make a deep inquiry into themselves. That seems to be the thing missing today.

This conjunction is provoking you on a deep level. It is insisting that you awaken fully to who you are. An essential part of this is about resisting people projecting onto you who they think you are.

Eris represents the trance of electronic hypnosis. It's difficult to perceive this, as nobody living has memory before any such state, which dates to the advent of commercial radio in the 1920s. Chiron represents the awakening from this hypnotic trance and coming into the full awareness of who you are. Chiron is the

maverick and sometimes the pariah. It is much more productive in one-to-one environments than it is in group environments.

Eris, meanwhile, is only masquerading as a group influence. It's no more about groups than the crowd at a football game, where the people are really individuals and have nothing in common except for being in the approximately same place and time.

The Second Conjunction: Saturn Connects with Neptune

This is a brand new influence for you, teasing in mid-2025 and coming to full force in early 2026. Here, the planet of forms will meet with the planet that dissolves forms.

Unlike Chiron-Eris, which has been building for years, and is a kind of repeat of the cycle that happened in the early 1970s (also in Aries), Saturn conjunct Neptune is an entirely new dynamic.

For perspective, any of these influences on their own would be significant of an essential life change. For example, Chiron with Eris on its own; or Saturn in Aries; or Neptune in Aries. Now they are all happening at once.

I realize this is a lot to sort out, whether you think of it as astrology or experience it as developments in your life. But let's try.

The Chiron-Eris element is awakening you from the digital dream of fake tribalism into your own true state of personal awareness.

This is the attempt to reverse the effects of decades of exposure to digital conditions. It describes the awakening of true individuation in a world where this is not supported because it's not said to exist. The kind of individuality we get is the equivalent of Pepsi "quenching thirst" — which it does not.

The Saturn-Neptune element serves another function. It describes the inner resources to make the changes that you learn

are necessary. It describes the elements of what I will call character formation. So while Chiron-Eris awakens you to your individual nature and sense of purpose, Saturn-Neptune is about the materials necessary to grow into who and what you determine yourself to be.

Saturn-Neptune is not an easy combination in any pattern, but it describes serious business: the work of synthesis, of reconciling your dreams with reality, and having the vision to make something tangible of your ideals. As long as you have both elements present in your thought forms, you will do fine.

Saturn and Neptune — as processes in the mind — long for one another and are not easily reconciled. Together, they always describe the creation of something new.

And yet at the same time they describe a frustrating state of affairs because your dreams may seem to get rained on. I have found that working mostly within practical reality and then reaching for a vision are usually the way to go. If you are going to put your vision first, you must be willing to do the groundwork...the footwork...the planning...the timing...and the budgeting.

Saturn demands that you work within constraints. Neptune invites you to go beyond them. Work with this polarity consciously and you're doing a lot better than running around in reactive mode.

If you slow down a little, you will be able to tap into new resources. By resources, I mean the psychic and emotional material that you will use to form the emergent being that you are becoming. I cannot say exactly what these planets represent in terms of their real-world equivalents, but they represent what is necessary. They are like the shell, the albumen and the yolk of the egg that contains you.

If you reach for resources, you will find them. Yet you must do so starting from the standpoint of being an autonomous individual,

not a member of a tribe. The compromise cannot be, “we will help you if you become like us.” That’s the stuff that cults are made of. You neither belong to a cult nor have any interest in being a cult figure (a common attribute of digital life).

Note to Self

Saturn is about to enter your sign, and this planet rules houses 10 and 11, which represent external forces you are now bringing into yourself and taking responsibility for. The 10th place is about family and authority; the 11th place is social. They are both represented by the same planet, which you will be embodying by having it right with you in Aries. This will be helpful, as you tune into the new waves of change in the external environment. The lesson is that you contain much of what you perceive in the world around you. You can experiment with the idea that reality proceeds from the inside out.

Salacia in Aries

Besides these two conjunctions, there is another important factor in Aries — the slow-mover Salacia. This has an influence of its own but is more relevant in the context of the Family Hunger Game ([Part One](#), [Part Two](#)). I will give more detail about that topic in the next section, which addresses your 10th place Capricorn.

First, let’s get a working understanding of Salacia, still fairly close to the beginning of its run through Aries (approx. 2017-2041). This is an essential point of inner self-development associated with your sexual, effectual and emotional orientation. These topics have been captured and seized from us by political culture. I am not talking about LGBTQ. I am not talking about feminist versus Red Pill.

I am talking about who you are, essentially, apart from anyone’s concept of who you are — especially if that concept is rooted in some political issue. Salacia represents the inner reality of the

real person, not the “identity” imposed by tribal politics. This is another one of those inner vs. outer issues of Aries.

In this discussion, I am talking about your inner reality; your inner existence. I want to reiterate how fragile this is; and how in many people’s experience this does not exist. What I’m saying here is that even in many older people, the pressures imposed by digital technology, the culture of the internet, and the ways “transformed” people put pressure on us...well, there is no such thing as interior existence.

Said another way, I suspect that a great many people have an extremely limited sense of their own existence. Especially their inner, private sexual and emotional existence. This expresses through you as an individual and of course you bring this into relationships.

Except that it’s highly conditioned by powerful forces, and while this may affect your behavior, it does not change who you are. You may have been jammed into a relationship that you didn’t really fit because you have been told who you are rather than expressing who you are. One of my delineations for Salacia is the sex (including the sexual relationships) that is right for you. Yet sadly, most people do not figure this out.

For several years, you have done much of this figuring out in the form of experiencing the contrast between who you feel you are and what your family of origin told you about yourself, or expected from you. I’m not even talking about “fringe” social and sexual material here. I have been the astrologer to many people getting divorced. Most of them had no idea who they were at the time of marriage, nor who their partner was, nor any real concept of what they were getting into.

However the development this year is that Salacia is guiding you into new territory. You no longer need the friction of your family environment to teach you about yourself. You have learned most of what you can learn. Your new mission is to learn through

experimentation; to have the challenging conversations; and ultimately to define yourself on your own terms.

Social forces are still at work. Digital exposure is pulling people out of their bodies and out of their minds. To stay in your truth is to stay in your body, in your senses and in your awareness. That means staying close to your innate desires and your need to connect with yourself and with others.

Note to Self

Sex is more important than most people admit, and sexual self-awareness is integral to your growth at this time. Much of this is likely to happen outside the context of relationships, as you get to know yourself in a whole new way and review your past carefully.

MATTERS OF THE 10th PLACE: AUTHORITY ISSUES

Society has authority issues right now. Yes, it always did, but we are living in the time of the ungovernable. The billionaires are ungovernable, and so is the president, and so are many individuals who've decided that there is to be no framework of ethical and social existence to which they are subject.

You do not need to look far to see this. Much of politics is now operating on a "by any means necessary" basis. You would think parents were reading their children stories from Machiavelli at bedtime.

A moment ago I was reading about Pei "Lu" Chung, a food "influencer" who does a super posh dine-and-dash routine, dressed in fur, racking up big checks and Instagram followers. She orders food she does not pay for, and does not care if she gets arrested. She does not care if she eats it; why should she? After all, it's free.

“The cops also don’t want to put in the effort of writing the report, taking her to jail and all this other stuff – and she knows that. The more the cops come here, the more content she can create,” a waiter at one restaurant claimed. “It’s Gen Z, TikTok bullshit. She’s totally normal.”

Haha!!! Wow! Now I understand something about the world that I didn’t understand yesterday. Totally normal!

Well, totally normal for the digital age, when most forms of authority have broken down — except of course for the most extreme. A few minutes ago, the president called for the execution of six congressional representatives who said that members of the National Guard should disobey unlawful orders (which most people know is part of the Nuremberg principles, established after World War II).

Note that the National Guard is being deployed to American cities that are not experiencing an emergency contrary to the very fabric of what was once uncontested law. But the law, it turns out, is mostly an agreement — especially for people with absolute power who know that it does not apply to them.

Part of “digital conditions” means “life after Pluto in Capricorn.” That is, life after the internal support structures of ethics, morality, and tangible agreements have been demolished and replaced either by nothing or by technological control mechanisms.

Family Systems: The Capricorn Cluster

You have Capricorn as your 10th place. The 10th addresses matters of authority, family, government, profession and reputation. It’s a busy house, for those who engage it. Not everyone does; you would seem to have little choice. First, Pluto came through the territory between 2008 and 2024. That changed your relationship to all of these things, in one long series of before-and-after moments.

While that was happening, planets entered your sign and began to cluster up early in your 10th house. The 10th represents a diversity of themes but family is one of the most important. The same is true for Capricorn. And the same is true for all of the planets that have gathered in Capricorn, which all address family matters.

And so the theme is emphasized, and you may see it expressing itself in other facets of the 10th — such as in your professional life. I would rather not rewrite all that I've already covered in the Family Hunger Game series ([Part One](#), [Part Two](#)). But I would like to place it into context for you, and also advocate for doing some form of family constellation work.

What I want to call attention to for you, with an Aries-oriented chart, is that there is a vast intersection between your family experience and your professional experience. It seems that you're often trying to go beyond the limits and expectations that your family put on you in terms of your career — and most people experience this. Most of us were told what we could never be; nearly everyone was told to extinguish and surrender our aspirations. Some fell for it and some did not.

The 10th Governs Professional Activities

Now, this Family Hunger Game alignment in Capricorn is challenging for everyone and I suspect it's behind much of the madness in the world. Much of that involves Capricorn-ruled government and corporate institutions.

For you the 10th and Capricorn are personal. In this realm, you experience your parents as authority figures; your relationship to the government and corporate structure is described; and then it's where you seek your highest achievements and aspirations — and how you are known in the world. Let's call that "the intersection."

That is fucking complicated, even without any planets, and there are a good few there, representing the good, the bad and the ugly. It will help if you read or reread the first Hunger Game article and ask yourself what this says about the intersection as you experience it.

What matters the most is that, when working the 10th place, you take authority over yourself; that you take responsibility for your life; that you become your own best parent and not delegate that role to others until you have some significant ownership of it yourself.

With Saturn (the ruler of Capricorn) entering Aries, the chances of that are as good as they've ever been (even though most people never really get around to dealing with their parental issues, it's imperative that you do).

I would also point out that while you have a lot going on in your 1st place Aries, the 10th is what you're more likely to seek expression of in what you're becoming. The 10th is an essential place of participation in the world. And now, the world is in chaos, especially those things traditionally ruled by Capricorn.

Drawing from my Hunger Games articles, I can distill how this might apply to you in the most concrete terms possible.

1. Notice the ways that the life you are living now mimics family patterns. Does your boss remind you of someone from the past? Does a colleague remind you of someone? Rather than "indulge" that, or allow it to run your life unconsciously, go back to the source relative and do some work around that relationship. See if you can get to a point of resolution or at least understanding of where the other person was coming from and how you were influenced.

2. Avoid alcohol and people who depend on it in both family and professional settings. I'm not saying "be a teetotaler" but you may decide that's the right thing. The notion of professional implies a high degree of *professionalism* by pilots on the flight

deck. It's the same thing in any field. Neither the leaders nor the flight crew have any business being drunk or hung over when so much responsibility is being wielded. And that is very much a key concept of the 10th.

3. Watch for the people who appear to have no ethics or morals, or for whom the concepts are irrelevant. We are seeing so much of that in the world that it's truly insane. They are everywhere and they want company; they require minions and people who play along. Rather, in all areas of life, identify and focus on people who have strong internal governing principles. This is a sign of character.

4. Avoid rather than engage with professional and family dramas. This may be easier said than done because the triggering influences are usually so deep that you could be involved before you realize it. The truth is you can see these situations coming. The deeper truth is you can never work out the past or get revenge on it by acting it out with people who are in your life now.

5. Notice what happens when you have power and authority. The first thing is observe how you respond, who you feel like, and who your actions remind you of. Then, consider who are your best role models for power and authority and why. What is it that you emulate?

In my experience as an astrologer, many, even most, people are dragging around the baggage of their parents and their family of origin into old age.

Note to Self

This concept used to be better understood but family patterns tend to repeat in many aspects of life. Most astrologers believe that with Pluto's egress the action in Capricorn is over, but it's really gone to a subtler level. And since you know that, you have an advantage. You have a context for understanding life that is

not easily available. Yet you need to see the patterns without reacting to them; that is the key. Most people, no matter how old, are still highly reactionary to family triggers. Pay attention to how far back the patterns go and know that you have inherited this karma; you did not make it up yourself. You still have to deal with it one way or another, hopefully creatively.

Massive Changes in the Structured World

During the Pluto in Capricorn years (2008-2024) there were massive changes in the world of structured business, government and finances, including a series of controlled demolitions that make the World Trade Center seem like a freak accident.

You are now making your way through the wreckage of the prior world, looking for what is new, and trying to find your way to a better place. Remember that the world is not, nor will it ever be, what it once was. The principles that you depended on have largely evaporated. Yet there are some people who hold to them, and you must recognize them when you see them.

These changes have not only affected the business and government institutions we live with and rely on. They have also profoundly affected the structure of families. And this for you contains an invitation to step up to a leadership role — as long as you remember that the only meaningful leadership is by example.

This is especially true when all of our “cherished and trusted institutions” have dissolved or been revealed as criminal enterprises.

THE EMPHASIS IS ON SOCIAL, REAL OR SYNTHETIC

The Air Signs Part One: Uranus and Sedna in Gemini

All three air signs — Gemini, Libra and Aquarius — have interesting and helpful stories to tell. Let’s save Libra for last. The

air signs all describe the mind and for you they are especially social.

We now live in a massive artificial social environment: one without bodies. Every now and then you read about the damage of "social media" but those descriptions do not account for the real issue, which is attempting to be social without the physical body as a reference point.

The digital environment is also *calcifying*. It makes people stiff and stuck in their mental patterns. You are growing and growing fast. To grow and to adapt requires mental flexibility. Time, events and technology are moving fast — too fast for anyone to actually keep up with. Humans are not quantum computers. We are not computers at all. We are not wired or programmed. We do not "reboot." We don't get software and memory upgrades. We are biological beings that take time to process our experiences.

There are two essential skills to possess right now: pattern recognition and environmental sensitivity. They are closely related. The three air signs are closely related for you in that for Aries they all land in social houses, but social in different contexts. Gemini is local and immediate, people you are the closest to. Aquarius is about wider groups, and what you might think of as friends of friends. Libra is the most intimate, describing your most personal relationships.

One key to understanding these social houses is to understand when you are in a formal relationship structure and when you are in an informal one.

Uranus is now making its final ingress into Gemini, which represents your state of mind and your ideas. Uranus in Gemini suggests that you are in the process of a mental revolution. It's about breaking patterns rather than seeing them. Ultra slow-mover Sedna is about observing patterns and having an uncanny sense of your total surroundings.

One would think that thought is the most flexible substance on Earth. But for most it turns out to be more durable than reinforced concrete. And most people suffer for the lack of ability to change their minds, even a little. Generally this comes from mental fixations. One I've noticed is thinking that what terrifies you is more informative than what does not.

Another is mental laziness: the refusal to think. Most people are mental couch potatoes. Hand them the TV flipper and a bowl of macaroni and cheese and they think they're happy. Yet you have much to take in and important decisions to make. And lately, such an astounding number of people spend their lives with their minds stuck inside of ChatGPT that I cannot believe it.

You are under such important transits that the ability to think for yourself and to change your mind is the most important resource you have. And this is not merely about your mind; quietly over the past seven years, you have experienced a gradual upheaval of your values, and this is expressing itself now.

Uranus is associated with radical and revolutionary ideas, thought forms and changes; and Sedna is associated with the long arc of planetary evolution and environmental changes. Sedna describes the total environment and your awareness of it. The most important environment is the collective mental environment because everything else we perceive is filtered through it. No observation or decision happens outside of *your* mental environment.

Account for your inner environment and you can account for almost anything.

Note to Self

The first thing to attend to every moment of the day and night is your state of mind. If something affects your ability to be lucid, cut it out of your life. (Speaking personally, I love cannabis. It's the perfect substance for the Pisces musician/artist/fiction writer.

However, it makes it very difficult for me to produce clear astrology writing and to manage the many people and activities that cross my desk every day. So to cut it out is a small sacrifice.)

What is called “mindfulness” is not reserved for meditation or yoga and I don’t think it does any good in that context. (I was surprised to learn that most people think that being “mindful” is merely about when you’re meditating or some similar activity.) Actual mindfulness is the ongoing monitoring of your mental state, your emotional state and your situational awareness, all the time.

Pluto in Aquarius, Your 11th Place

For Aries, Aquarius lands in your 11th place. This is the social house of “friends and friends of friends,” as well as organizations and groups. It is ruled by Saturn, which implies structure. Saturn is now in Aries, so you are embodying all things Saturnian. (Note, the 12th is the house of crowds and unfamiliar populations; for you this is Pisces. It probably feels good for you to be around a lot of people that you don’t know personally, to explore cities late at night, or to stay in huge hotels.)

Currently Aquarius is home to Pluto, which lasts until 2043. Pluto in Aquarius reveals the essential social dynamics of the digital age. We saw those dynamics play out at the end of Pluto in Capricorn (but with Saturn in Aquarius) in 2020 and 2021. These events seem like a hazy memory now. Perhaps for the better; I had never been called a liar and a criminal, and punished for it, until I did what I’m supposed to do as a journalist and asked questions about the lockdowns. And if you are reading me in 2026, then you probably had similar experiences.

To sum up, Pluto in Aquarius has several modes of action, and you’re likely to experience each of them at some point. Try to think of examples of each that you’ve personally experienced. These kinds of events will happen online or offline; the effect is

digital mentality and behavior spilling into the physical world. Multiply Aquarius by the power of Pluto.

1. The group tries to get an individual to abandon his values and conform to something, usually for the purpose of “the greater good.” Anyone selling “the greater good” requiring you to sacrifice your principles is full of shit — but they will try. Make a list of everything you regret having been pressured into doing, make 20 copies and put one everywhere.

2. The individual tries to influence a group to do the right thing. This is nearly impossible but it can happen (though about once or twice per decade, somewhere in the world). Group dynamics are extremely tough on individuals. People will agree that they see things that are plainly not there and believe things they know are not true when pressured by a group (such as in psychological experiments.) Not many people can look at the room and say, “you’re all a bunch of morons or assholes” — even to preserve their personal integrity. Then there are times when an individual tries to persuade a group of something they don’t want to accept. See the film 12 Angry Men.

3. A group evolves on its own, and becomes more enlightened. It could happen. But I strain to think of examples that have any persistence. It must have happened — maybe outside of Western society. The problem I have with groups is that they can turn several otherwise honest and friendly people into a corrupt little mob. However, I must hold open the potential that a group of some kind can in fact evolve in a meaningful way.

People tend to walk around in a hazy trance. That is the thing from which you are being shocked into awakening. Part of the tribal game is that large groups of people walk around in the same hazy half-dream, bolstered by the advantage of suspended personal responsibility. As long as you’re in the same fog, you are welcome; as soon as you see the clear light, you are a kind of alien.

Get used to that and take it as a small price to pay for actually being alert. Be grateful that you have a basis to be counted out of any false affinity group — what Kurt Vonnegut called a *granfalloon*. These are meaningless and illusory connections, such as “the community of nurses” rather than those nurses who are willing to lose their jobs by not taking a poisonous, useless injection.

Pluto in Aquarius warns that you could easily be susceptible to 2020-style pressures, threats and brainwashing. Yet it can also be read as standing up to these very things — for yourself, not necessarily on behalf of others unless they are personally relying on you.

For now, be happy that you’re an affinity group of one. And take it easy on people who are not so willing to change as you are. And if you’re finding changing your mind to be a struggle, that’s the place to start. That’s the most important element of your transformation.

Note to Self

Ask yourself if you really belong in any group that you find yourself part of. Notice how you feel and how others respond when you speak honestly. If there is always some aftermath to you speaking up, you’re probably not in the right place.

Logos in Libra, Your 7th Place

Relationships are important, but more significant is your connection to the world in which you walk around every day. Both are described by the 7th place, which for you is Libra. The slow-moving point Logos is a longtime presence, calling for your attention.

This is your reminder to seek people who make sense to you and who speak your language. To do this well means to go beneath the usual level of tribal politics and political issues nobody really cares about. I mean this in the most intuitive sense. How can you tell the difference? As soon as a subject goes to an abstract group or ethical question, it becomes irrelevant.

Your points of communication must be deeply personal and involve real people that you personally know and care about. You must be cautious of your own blind spots and prejudices, and of the notion that "If I believe it, it's true."

It is easy for you to get entrenched in or caught in the vortex of the emotional turbulence that others experience, and you probably want to help them. The best thing you can do for either of you is to see if you can follow their reasoning. I cannot emphasize this point enough though you likely know what I'm talking about. You are not in safe territory when you cannot follow a person's reasoning, which is likely to be a factor that disrupts your ability to think rationally and reason your way through a situation.

With Logos as your relationship guide, you want to study people's thought process and not just their conclusions. You want people around you with whom you can reason and not just go right to the conclusion. If they express a belief, ask them how they got there — whether you agree or disagree with the conclusion.

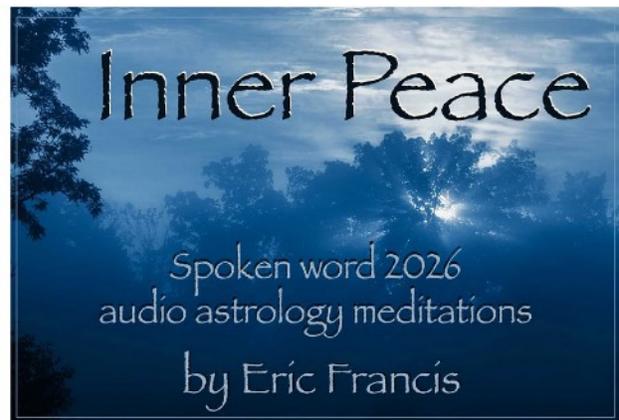
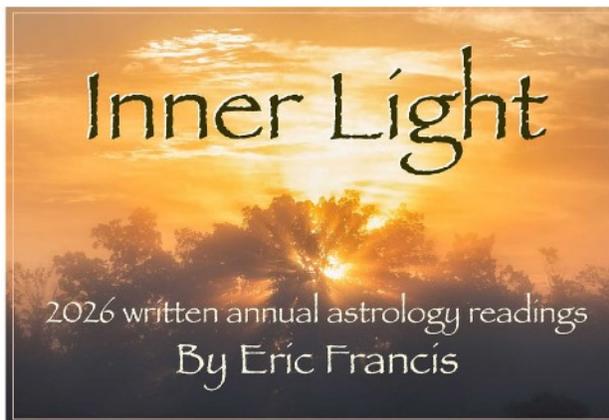
With intimate relationships, this is the most important thing you need to know. Right now the overwhelming influence is on group situations rather than one-on-one. Yet your personally intimate partnerships will either grow out of a group situation or be somehow subject to it.

Again and again, the group will *seem* to be the context — but *your personal inner experience* must become your most important reference point. Keep guiding yourself back to this and you will eventually get the hang of it. Quite probably, one-to-one

intimacy will not be the highest priority for you, or you can make it less of one. Your growth, your personal orientation, your state of mind, are what matter the most.

The individual versus tribal struggle is one of the most important unnamed crises of our time. To not name it means to avoid it. You want to name this one for yourself, and fully engage it. There will be tremendous profit for you if you do. You will have advantages — spiritual and material — that make you the beneficiary of this most unusual, rare, historical and utterly wild astrology of our profound and unusual time in history.

To access additional signs of Inner Light or Inner Peace, please visit our shelf in the **Astrology Boutique**. If you have been passed this reading by a friend or found it by accident, you are invited to become a customer.



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