



Place de la Contrescarpe, Paris, one of my favorite places to write.

TAURUS :: In a World Transformed

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

I have become another child / I wake to see the world go wild
— Allan Ginsberg

A MIDST SO MUCH movement and change, one thing stands out for Taurus as we move into this next phase of life and astrology: Chiron enters your sign. It is always meaningful to have Chiron arrive in your sign or ascendant. We have not had a sign change of Chiron since the before times in 2018-2019

when it entered Aries, where it is now reaching the end of its nine-year transit (the longest time it spends in any sign).

Chiron's presence will be your cue to fully take up your purpose for living. It's about being real and true to who you are. And there is always the underlying theme of healing, and of making contact with yourself.

We haven't seen the end of Chiron in Aries; the grand finale is Chiron's third and last conjunction to Eris at the vernal equinox on March 19, which will shake up the world and remind you to focus your awareness inward. The disembodied chaos continues, and you must be your own remedy. The crisis is the result of being soaked to the bone and to the last brain cell by digital technology, leading to the current supremacy of A.I. insanity.

Because of its placement in Aries, which represents your inner being and your hidden identity, this has been disturbing to you in many ways, most significantly because you were usually happy to have the world as it was and could do without constant change all the time. You have no use for the menagerie of trillionaires who aspire to be science fiction villains and escape to Mars if things get rough. You just want real. Chiron is real.

Chiron has a special place in Taurus, the sign of its 1977 discovery. I consider this an exalted position because it speaks so directly to the essential nature of being human. It's especially relevant to you because it represents the potential for healing from having your relationship to your body raided and rearranged by digital technology. Its presence in Taurus is significant because of its potential to reconnect consciousness to physical existence; to rejoin identity to the body.

I'm not saying that the body is the bottom line of existence, but rather a daily meeting place where you encounter yourself, and from which you can go anywhere.

Chiron transits are always before and after moments. They are times of radical awakening and reorientation. While other factors in your astrology hint that this is happening, none will focus your awareness or provide more coherent guidance than Chiron. Feel it coming: a moment when you can relax and connect with yourself.

The Past Matters Right Now

Your astrology describes the importance of connecting with and understanding your past. I don't mean going back in time or obsessing over history but rather honoring your existence so you can move forward unencumbered by it. It's also crucial to preserve what you have learned and honor what you've accomplished.

If people had more respect for the past, they would be less inclined to repeat it and less inclined to make the same mistakes over and over. You have learned many things through your experiences and I suggest you recognize and accept their value.

For comparable times in your life, I suggest you study other times when Chiron was active. These include 1991-1992; 1997-1998; and then 2006 through 2010. Chiron transits often rhyme and bring up similar material. But there will be nothing you've experienced like Chiron in your sign — unless you were born with Chiron in Taurus (approximately 1977 through 1983). If you consider carefully the events in these date ranges, the theme of this time in your life will make much more sense.

In times of profound changes, Chiron is often present in some bold way. Chiron entering your sign offers something better: a tool for adapting and translating your outer environment into your internal awareness. If one symbol in astrology represents the Inner Light, that is Chiron (in the early days, considered a stand-in for Christ consciousness in astrology).

Note to Self

Chiron is a spiritual influence not in the sense of theory but rather of lived experience. The digital age has created a division within all of us between one's real self and many fictional ones. In the months before Chiron makes its first visit to your sign, see if you can sort that out. Notice what is true for you and what is not; what matters more and what matters less — or not at all.

The Welcome End of Uranus in Taurus

A planet called Uranus has been in your sign for the past seven years, and I suspect it's been an irritant for you. We now live in a world transformed, yet again, from the one that was the product of so-called social media seven or eight years ago.

Where Taurus is a factor, it's worthwhile to look at the ways that cultural attitudes and values are changing and how this has affected you. This is also difficult to see because it happens incrementally and every change is presented as normal.

Yet there are things you just cannot abide — and I suggest you know exactly what they are and what the issue is. For one thing, here in this new age, there seems to be no value other than money. And you know that's not true.

Chiron represents the healing and reintegration of consciousness with the body. Uranus in Taurus — beginning in 2018, settling in during 2019 and now phasing out — has done the opposite, which is create many divisions. And for you especially, this is difficult to make sense of. Though this was written by Eric McLuhan a few years ahead of Uranus entering Taurus, it's the perfect delineation of the transit:

“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.”

If anyone is going to feel this distortion, you’re the one. You have your points of grounding. You have your ways to stay connected, whether yoga, your garden, your grandchildren or taking care of goats. Yet the disruptions and the destabilization may have crept up on you slowly and changed your attitudes and values more than you recognize.

This is not about what technology you like, use, avoid or despise. It’s about how your mind works, and how you feel. The thing to observe is mental stiffness, the potential polarization of your views (such as intense partisanship), and a rising level of impatience, which is a way of cutting off and shutting down.

As Uranus in Taurus ends and Chiron in Taurus begins, hundreds of millions of people use a computer application for fake relationships, fake therapy, fake medical advice, fake homework, fake pictures, fake songs and a fake relationship to what they think is some kind of omniscient deity. Chiron in Taurus will have the power to reverse this faster than it happened.

Chiron’s entry into Taurus will come as a shock to some and I think as great relief to you. It represents a calling to reclaim yourself, focus on healing any damage and inner separation you’ve experienced, and an understanding that you need and thrive on a kind of stability that you can only give yourself. Yet as difficult as it may be, it’s important to notice what has changed in the world around you and also within you. Then, healing becomes possible.

Note to Self

Chiron in Taurus represents a new phase of reorientation and healing after a stretch of time that has likely been unsettling and disruptive. Healing is a discipline and a devotion. This will call for bringing your awareness back into your body even as the digital

assault continues. Most of the issues enter not directly through the body but through the mind. The ultimate lesson here is to be aware of what you do with your awareness.

Document Your Own History

As part of your healing journey, encourage documentation of the past so you have an idea where you've been and how you got to where you are today. Major shakeups were underway when Uranus first touched Taurus on May 15, 2018 — the day of a New Moon in your sign.

Where were you, what were you doing and who was in your world? What were your expectations of the future and of existence generally? Look at date books, diaries, emails, photos and other artifacts, and do what you can to place yourself back into the position you were in then.

Then trace the story forward until today. You might start with identifying several of the seemingly more significant points of movement during that time, and then fill in the ones that you missed. If you have access to the physical spaces and places that were important to you at that fulcrum point — again, 2018 — maybe go back and see if you can remember who you were. I suggest starting the project on paper, in a notebook, and then organizing it on a computer if you want to.

Then, considering all factors, notice who and what you are today. I promise you will make unexpected discoveries and also begin to get a sense of what this spell of accelerated technical progress — focused on your sign — has done to you and the people around you. You will have to be bold here and consider any change that you cannot account for in some other way.

If you find that satisfying, go back to 2011 and trace that forward seven years. This is not about writing a memoir. It's about knowing yourself and understanding in a new way how you learn, grow and change.

Meanwhile, I suggest you gather and safeguard any and all family artifacts. Scanning the family album and stashing it in the cloud is not the same as the real thing. It will be flattened and denatured. The real thing is much more beautiful and real. What do you do with these materials? Maybe look for someone younger than you who might be interested and who treats history with respect.

Digital technology has a way of swallowing the personal past and devouring acquired knowledge. Therefore I suggest you not only preserve the history and the memory of your path through life but also what you have learned. I mean this in the sense of both your personal wisdom and life skills. There are a lot of things you know how to do that are more important today than ever. Maybe there is someone who wants to learn.

FOCUS ON YOUR 1st HOUSE, TAURUS

I've already mentioned Chiron in Taurus and may come back to it later. It will be a major focus of the 2027 annual edition. For now let's look at some of the other influences in your sign. These will provide resources, personal assets and cautionary information that will help you process the many other changes in your astrology.

Venus — Hebe — Ophelia Conjunct in Taurus

When the Sun enters your sign on April 19, there's a triple conjunction of Venus, Hebe and Ophelia. Venus is the astrological significator for you, and it's in your sign. This is the first of two rather bold cautions pertaining to alcoholics, environments where alcohol is served, and the use of alcohol as a mind-altering substance.

At the risk of sounding puritanical, you have reason to pay attention to this subject matter. As a social, family and cultural influence, alcohol is insidious. It binds together and obscures shame and denial. This includes a profound impact on those who

do not directly imbibe. Alcohol is an environmental influence. Its mere presence anywhere changes just about everything. Notice the potential action of alcohol when you *overreact to any situation*.

There is what you might think of as a not-so-secret cult of closet alcoholics who have their own code of conduct. That code in effect holds that anything threatening the fragile egos of those who mask their feelings in drink must be kept out of the conversation. As a result, there are many conversations that do not get to happen. Within those conversations, many facets of shame, guilt, injury and shadow material are concealed. This “distills” down to three main ideas; you may come up with others.

The first is that you must be sensitive when others are trying to define your reality. They do so with guilt, silent consensus, concealing information, and other modes of manipulation. Insist on a real conversation, on your own terms. Notice if you seem to overreact to something; that’s a clue something in the situation is not working for you.

Second, it’s essential to notice when you are acting as an enabler. This will often be veiled in “trying to help” or providing assistance to seek the favor of others. It usually hangs around the realm of “unconscious behavior,” which must all be brought to full awareness. Beware of your own attempts to counter-manipulate a situation where you may be the one others are trying to control. Beware of thinking you understand people’s motives.

Third, you may have questions about your own use of alcohol or substances. There are two elements to working this through. The first is the chemical aspect, which is probably the easiest (if you can call it that). This could involve breaking habits or addictions to alcohol — or a variety of other commonly prescribed substances.

The more complex element of changing your use of consciousness-altering materials is the spiritual and social. Use of

these substances serves one or more purposes, and that is the more difficult thing to address. It emerges from a culture, which is itself considered normal. And that is generally a culture of denial. You don't know what is going to surface when you decide it's time to wean off. That's the thing to plan for and the real substance of a healing or recovery project.

And the thing healed in such a process is always the guilt and shame that undermine self-esteem.

Note to Self

Every family to some degree, greater or lesser, has been impacted by alcoholism. There is always someone, and that person can create a significant distortion around which all else bends. See if you can identify who that was. There is also the issue of those who abuse the power of religion and essentially do the same thing, and this also has an alcohol or drug connection. These influences are easier to sort out once you see them for what they are — or once you even have a clue. The bottom line is how you feel about yourself, which is always shaped by the coping mechanisms of early caregivers.

Albion — The Archetypal Human and the Sleeping Spirit

We all hear many say, "When are people going to wake up?" There is an old expression, "You can wake up a person who is sleeping, but you cannot awaken someone who is pretending to be asleep." This has been attributed to a Navajo proverb, the Bhagavad Gita and the Islamic scholar Al-Khalil Bin Ahmed. It's a good one and it describes the willful ignorance of our times — which apparently is part of a renowned tradition.

A planet called Albion is now in your sign. What is Albion? If you've read me for a while you've heard of it, but not by that name. In a phrase, it represents essential humanity, even if that humanity is sleeping. In 1992, the first planet beyond the orbit of Pluto was discovered. This was the most important discovery in

planetary science since the discovery of Pluto in 1930 and Chiron in 1977. It manifested in the first degree of Aries, the intersection of the personal and the collective. It's now in Taurus.

Originally called 1992 QB1, it was finally given the name Albion by its discoverers in 2018. The discovery of 1992 QB1 opened up the whole realm of our solar system beyond Pluto. It describes an option for growth that is not enforced, and does not involve a death threat or confrontation with mortality.

My initial keyword for 1992 QB1 was "thresholder" — the person who assists others at the cusp of some new phase of existence. Pluto does this too, but usually a lot less gently. Pluto can put a gun to your head and say, "Grow or die!" QB1 does not do that. It gradually takes you to the edge and gives you the ability to go beyond your limits. Yet to get there, you have to go through a series of seeming passages through the illusion of the ego and toward the deeper core of your personal truth. For many people that is too much to ask.

It was named Albion, after a figure in the work of visionary poet William Blake (1757-1827). It now bears something of his mark as well.

Painter Ben Edge writes, "Blake saw the island [of England] as a vast, sleeping spirit — a giant shaped from hills, rivers, and human imagination. In his mythology, Albion rises when creativity rises. He falls into a deep sleep when imagination is chained by fear, conformity, empire, oppression or the grinding weight of everyday life. Blake called these chains the 'mind-forged manacles,' and believed they could be broken only through the poetic imagination, vision and art."

What Blake is saying is that human potential lies in accessing the imaginary and visionary qualities of what a person potentially is. And what I'm suggesting is that awakening to that person is a voluntary act. It's a choice you make.

Note to Self

When you hear yourself ask, “When are people going to wake up?” that means you want to wake up. It’s not about them; it’s about you. You are the transformative element in your own awareness, in your relationships and in your world.

Lempo: Humanity Vilified or Vindicated

Lempo is also in Taurus. Discovered on the edge of the solar system in 1999, Lempo is in an orbit very similar to that of Pluto, about 248 years. If Albion is about human potential, Lempo is about the diminishing of human potential and deeming as evil what is true and beautiful. I am sure you have noticed this as a “fact of life.” It’s part of the same business plan of the church authorities to turn sex, love and fertility into something evil or commodified.

The question is, what side of this do you want to embody? You can ask in the abstract, and you can ask when you’re confronted with a decision or a situation. In many instances, the answer will be some form of a choice: love and fertility versus life as a commodity.

There’s also a jealousy issue. People tend not to like anyone who is better, more beautiful, more talented or more fertile than they are. This cannot feel good. It does not feel good. There are much better alternatives.

Alicanto: The Bird Eating So Much Gold That It Cannot Fly

Alicanto is the myth of a bird who has eaten so much gold that it cannot fly. Why does this sound so familiar? Where have I seen this before? Damn, this reminds me of someone but I cannot place who it is exactly. If you’re going to eat, I suggest you stick to food. Oxygen and light are also good for you. We live in a time when people either don’t know where next month’s rent is coming

from, or they hoard cash as if they are immortal. There is a balance possible here. If you have extra money, I suggest you look around and see who would benefit from your help.

Note to Self

Taurus seems to contain a microcosm of the human condition. Of the different assets you have, Albion is the one to focus on. It represents your true potential, and many gifts that will help you help yourself, and be a positive force in the lives of the people close to you.

AROUND THE HOUSES

Power Dynamic: Pluto in Aquarius, your 10th Place

Pluto in Aquarius is another transit that I have difficulty seeing in the context of the many Taurus people I know and love. It is a transit of bold expression in the outer world. Most Taurus-oriented people are content to mind their own business, make their art, live well and attend to their families. They do things like teach school or have a therapy practice or take photographs.

None that I know personally are people who aspire to be powerful members of society, or take a public leadership role. I cannot think of any who want to be a more influential person. And I know of none who want influence in what Aquarius often represents, which is the realm of organizations and also of technology. I do not expect to see you sitting on the stage with Jeff Bezos and Mark Zuckerberg.

Yet at first blush, this is what Pluto moving through your 10th solar house seems to describe. If you happen to be one of the few highly aspirational Taurus people, this transit is your passport to conquering the world. And you have a while — it will last until finally trailing off in 2044. Apart from some type of executive power or global domination, Pluto in Aquarius can be tapped into as a driving force for making your visions into reality.

No matter what, Pluto in Aquarius represents taking leadership over your life and setting an example for the people around you. We live in strange times, and this transit is going to last a while. It's not really possible to see what it will mean in 2028 or 2030. The world is changing very fast and the context of this transit will also change.

But outside of any specific context, it's calling on you to be aware that your example is looked to all the time by everyone who knows you and many who do not. Therefore, the calling of this transit is about impeccability. No matter what you do, you will have an impact on more people than you're aware of.

There may be a clue in the way that Chiron in Taurus will be gently leaning against Pluto in Aquarius until they finally make contact in 2028. This would put a "personal development" or "personal power" spin on the transit. This will develop slowly, and blend into your new sense of who you are under both transits, Chiron in Taurus and Pluto in Aquarius. Gradually they will integrate into one idea that will seem to form yet another emergence of your inner self. So who is this self? What do you see yourself becoming?

It's important to remember that the 10th place is closely related to matters of family; and that Aquarius can represent that particular select group. Yet rather than distributing water (in the sense of Aquarius, the water-bearer), this is about the distribution of influence and personal strength. You will focus these qualities as you grow and evolve, and become more inclined to express them.

Uranus Enters Gemini, your 2nd Place

The 2nd place describes attitudes, values, your talents, your tools and your available cash. One of the central dramas in the life of any Taurus is likely to involve conflicting or competing values. These can show up in small yet meaningful ways, like needing

your beauty rest, loving staying up late *and* wanting to get up early to get a start on the day.

In my many journeys with Taurus folk, I've seen this conflict manifest as wanting to live in two countries at once, wanting to be a smoker and a nonsmoker, wanting to live simply and be a full-fledged member of the middle class...and so on.

Assuming this manifests for you, you might experience the result as frustration. Yet the cause of the frustration is not always obvious, which is a conflict on the values level. And you might not recognize it as a problem to be solved. The underlying matter might not involve the topics it seems to describe, though they will serve as a map if you want to get beneath it.

However, the most difficult manifestation would be experiencing the situation, being in conflict over it, and feeling powerless to do anything. Sometimes, it's a matter of not having conscious priorities. If you decide that getting enough sleep is the most important factor, that would provide some guidance. You would do that at all costs.

If you have a specific reason to wake up early any given day, that would provide guidance.

If there is a situation interrupting your sleep, such as small children, or noise in the house or building, that might provide a practical problem to solve. Yet I have seen resistance even to defining this in clear terms. That is the first step to solving a problem: defining it in a way that it can be solved.

And it's amazing how long we can live with these issues. (For many years, I had a bedroom with a skylight; it was never dark. While I realized this was a problem, I was not fully aware how serious of an issue it was until I moved out of that place — which was the only solution possible.) And so on. There are likely to be many places in your life where this kind of thing has gone along forever and now will be jolted into your awareness.

However, maybe there is something else going on. If you are experiencing a sense of frustration, are you being honest with yourself? Being caught in a paradox is a good way to avoid that.

You might not want to own up to being in denial or some form of self-deception. Conflict is almost always a scrim or deflection. It serves that purpose well. The question is, what's going on below the seeming split? Is there something you're not allowing yourself to admit?

Discovering Yourself is Inevitable: Saturn-Neptune-Borasisi in Aries; Chiron-Eris in Aries

There is powerful astrology provoking you to wake up from the inside out. The ultimate paradox of Taurus is having Aries as your 12th place. This is the I exist/I do not exist hall of mirrors. It's not usually so overt, but at times it can be.

It's more likely to come up as the question, "Am I really real?" or "Is this person I present to the world really me, or is it an illusion?"

This confusion or chaos about whether you are real is the bottom-line message of the digital medium. If you relax into your awareness, discovering who you are will be inevitable.

You have planetary help. There is so much going on in Aries it would take an entire lecture series to describe it. But let's say that while at times Aries might not be the most prominent sign in your chart, now, suddenly, it's making itself known, by many different factors. One is the Chiron-Borasisi-Eris connection, which could awaken even those who are pretending to be asleep.

But awaken from what?

Here is what to look for:

- Realizing that you are very different from many people around you and that you cannot ignore that fact, pretend or play along
- Discovering that there is an “inner you” who you did not know
- Needing to learn about and honor the needs, awareness and desire of your inner being
- Feeling like you are finally starting to understand yourself in ways you never have before
- You are more than your identity; you are actually someone with a distinct being that cannot in any way be described by labels, and in fact may reject all labels
- A panicky sense of not knowing who you are and therefore feeling unstable and frightened
- Feeling you might have been acting in vain or in narcissistic ways that you can no longer stand, and wanting to be more humble toward others
- Deciding that you can no longer be at war with yourself
- Realizing you’re done being angry
- Sizing up the damage that the digital environment has done to your sense of wellbeing and stability
- Deciding that you no longer wish to live in denial

If you suppress your growing awareness you will just feel lost and maybe a form of ‘lost’ known as angry. The sensation of being lost can transform into the instinct to find yourself. You may feel like you do not know; you may feel in the dark about your inner reality. But the truth is that you are now in a position to turn your attention inward, and not only see and discover, but create your inner world.

You possess the necessary chemical agents from your own psyche to experience a highly unusual sense of self-creation. What you must overcome is a sense that “this is impossible.” This is done through a process of engaging belief — in yourself — as a conscious act rather than as a passive one.

Much of this is about the Chiron-Eris conjunction in Aries. There is one last conjunction before Chiron enters Taurus, which happens in March. For the past century of Eris in Aries — it’s been there that long — it has been stirring up a particular kind of chaos and fragmentation in humanity. This has driven people to live tribally when we are at a point of evolution when we must live as individuals. Then, individuals can relate to others honestly in groups.

The role of Chiron in this equation is to help you distinguish yourself and your sense of existence from that of the people around you, and the wider society around you. You will know it’s working when you feel the tension between what you hold to be true and what others hold to be true. You know what is right for you. In recent years, I have seen very strong people pushed and manipulated into making self-destructive decisions by the people closest to them. This is always the result of a mix of fear and conformity.

Jupiter in Cancer: The Wisdom Piece

In your ideal state, your emotional life and your mental life exist as a fusion, and this is part of why you are so mentally active. Your thought patterns move with the currents and the tides. Yet what you really want to do is feel. When you feel your mind run away with you, this is the thing to do. By feel, I don’t mean “opine”, but rather tune into the unspoken messages of your body and soul.

Here, Jupiter will be your companion through the first half of the year — moving into Leo just after Chiron arrives in your sign.

Jupiter in Cancer is providing you with a form of substance known as wisdom. In our disjointed world, this is barely recognizable.

You might think of wisdom as being a sense of slow, flowing understanding that is born of experience. Many factors in your solar chart are offering this quality. Jupiter in Cancer says you have the opportunity to receive it. It's a reminder that you have the power to quiet your mind and to answer your own questions.

Jupiter in Leo: Your Emotional Gold Mine

The Taurus people I know like to stay put. They don't like to move around and they don't like to "redecorate." Most of the ones I know still live in the same place as when I met them. This is a skill and it's also a matter of longterm security. And it's about honoring real value rather than something virtual or fleeting. It's your birthright as a Taurus to feel safe on the planet, and to have a strong sense of place. Jupiter in Leo will help you cultivate this.

This transit happens in your 4th place, which is the ancient house of fathers. You also have Leo here, which is a paternal influence. And the 4th is one of those places where important elements of the past can be found. Both Leo and Jupiter's presence here say that you have a lot to be grateful for. Know that among all the possibilities for life on this planet, you are riding on the high end of the spectrum.

Note to Self

You can afford to be emotionally generous and to make people feel welcome in your home. You can afford to help others when they ask for your help. You lose nothing for what others gain through their association with you. You only make the world a better place.

SIDE TRIP OR MAIN ATTRACTION?

Venus Retrograde in Scorpio and Libra, Oct. 3 - Nov. 13

This is going to be an interesting study and review of your relationships. It's more important than "memory lane", though people from your past are likely to show up. It's a culmination point of your year and also going to be a very helpful transition into the new era of your life — the Chiron in Taurus era.

Venus, your ruling planet, is retrograde the least of all the planets (about 8% of the time), and we have a retrograde coming up at the end of 2026. It spans between early Scorpio (your relationship house) and late Libra (for you, related to work and healing). Planetary transits can be worked with long before they happen. And in a way all of 2026 leads up to this.

Because of the planet and the signs involved, we are talking about sexual themes here. Yes, those are also relational but use of the concepts "relationship" and "romantic" are how astrologers either avoid sex entirely or discuss it in allegedly polite company hoping nobody knows what they mean.

Remember that all discussions of sex tend to land in three main contexts. The first is political, which is about control; the second relates to money, which seems to infuse every discussion of sex; and the third is that once we go beyond tax returns and pillow talk, many object to the possibility that anyone might be having more fun than they are.

These evade the necessity of deep discussion that precedes both honest sharing and healing. The pleasure of intimacy either comes at a financial cost, or is the product of honest growth. Neither of those have been nominated for a Daytime Emmy. Yet the rolling disaster that is sex stems from various control dramas (all of them rooted in money, religion and politics) that shock and shame most people from the capacity to be real with one another. This, in turn, prevents men and women from having much

knowledge of their own true essence or that of their partners. To say this plainly, we are buried under so much wreckage of history that we hardly ever get to experience the truth of our partners or of ourselves.

But it's important that we reconcile this. No matter how old you are, I would ask: When was the last time you had an honest and detailed conversation about sex — with anyone? With a peer, or someone younger than you? Or with a healer? Not about relationships and not romance and not trauma and not rights and politics and prenup agreements and all of those head trips. I mean actual sex, per se, itself. This is dependably the one thing that everyone will take any opportunity to avoid. Yet for you, engaging the topic is essential.

Note to Self

Retrogrades are review periods. They are a time of reflecting, and doing your part to resolve the past. An important element of forgiveness is implied. Condemnation, blame and resentment serve no spiritual purpose; they only serve the ego by instilling fear and guilt into consciousness. They bind you to the self that you do not want to be. Forgiveness is never about the other person; it's always about you, and yet you cannot do it alone. It's essential to ask inwardly for help.

The Retrograde Pattern: A Plot of Pluto, Chiron and Eris

Part of why this retrograde can be so enlightening is that it connects to the dominant astrological patterns of our time. In the process of this retrograde, Venus will make a series of three squares to Pluto in Aquarius, and a series of three oppositions to the Chiron-Eris hot spot in Aries. This is amazing. It may be challenging but I promise you will make discoveries that help you live better and happier.

This pattern and the signs and planets involved tell us a lot about the nature of sex and sexuality in our times. Let's take these one

at a time; and this is a developing story I'll have more to say about when the retrograde is nearer.

Venus in Scorpio square Pluto in Aquarius

Venus in Scorpio square Pluto in Aquarius seems to describe a clash between honest physical and hormonal attraction and the digital world. Because it's happening with Venus in your opposite sign, either a close partner is involved, or how you perceive your own attractiveness to partners is involved.

I hope that you are one of the people who is truly disturbed not only by dating apps, social media and porno taking over sex, and the lack of in-person places to socialize, but also the sheer insanity of "A.I. companions." All of this is about fake "intimacy" with robots, and the vacuous feeling of the human race evaporating into a data center somewhere is your warning about how problematic this is.

The fact is that many people are lonely right now. And it's not just old folks. People of all ages report having very few friends, especially in the United States where there is less of a value placed on longterm social bonding.

Venus square Pluto pushes (it may indeed feel like that) human contact back to the physical realm, though this comes with an inner confrontation. It also implies confronting the loneliness problem that is currently tormenting society. With the Square to Pluto, there is the need to confront sexuality as an inner rather than relational phenomenon.

To do this, all forms of desire — whether expressed or not, whether imagined or explored — count as sex. All forms of masturbation count as sex. There is way too much emphasis on sexuality as a thing that exists only in relationships and not in individual people.

One last thing. Venus square Pluto can be associated with the drive for sexual power. Right now, speaking as a devoted observer, it seems like nearly all sex outside of marriage is either a power trip or a form of prostitution; and much sex within marriage is challenged either by power dynamics or lack of honesty and repression. Power and pleasure are opposite ends of the spectrum. When sex is used to manipulate and control, it cannot be about sharing.

Venus in Libra opposite Chiron/Eris in Aries

This is something of the ultimate wakeup call. Of course, in collective existence there is no such thing. An actual alien invasion on Sunday would no longer be a story on Wednesday. With Venus out of its square to Pluto and into an opposition to Chiron-Eris, we move from inner dynamics to those exchanged between people.

The wakeup call is to get back into real relationships. Technology is not the only place relationships get lost. Another serious problem is the need for perfection (the perfect person), ungrounded expectations, and one other thing. That thing being many people have decided they are done giving and it's their turn to get. Hmm. If you're "done giving," that sounds like cashing in. So beware of the thought form, "I've given all my life, enough of this." That is bitterness and a kind of avarice.

Woke politics has convinced many people that their relationship should come with a Bill of Rights that only applies to them and not their partner. Can we wake up from this, and learn to admit our basic human needs? And our desire to help others fulfill their basic human needs?

This aspect pattern is a reckoning. It is also a point of contact. It is a call to *being a whole person and not a fragmentary 21st century transhuman entity*. Transhuman is this new kind of synthetic person that the tech giants and many political movements are pushing. It is exactly who you are not.

I propose that this pattern will flush out all of the social, relational and sexual dynamics of the digital and A.I. era and guide you into being real and helping others be real. It's a very important precursor to Chiron in Taurus. What is the most interesting is that it happens in your house of healing, Libra, the 6th. The 6th is also about service. It is about work to do. If you're still alive, you have some of that.

Love does not seek to get. Love seeks to honor, give and receive.

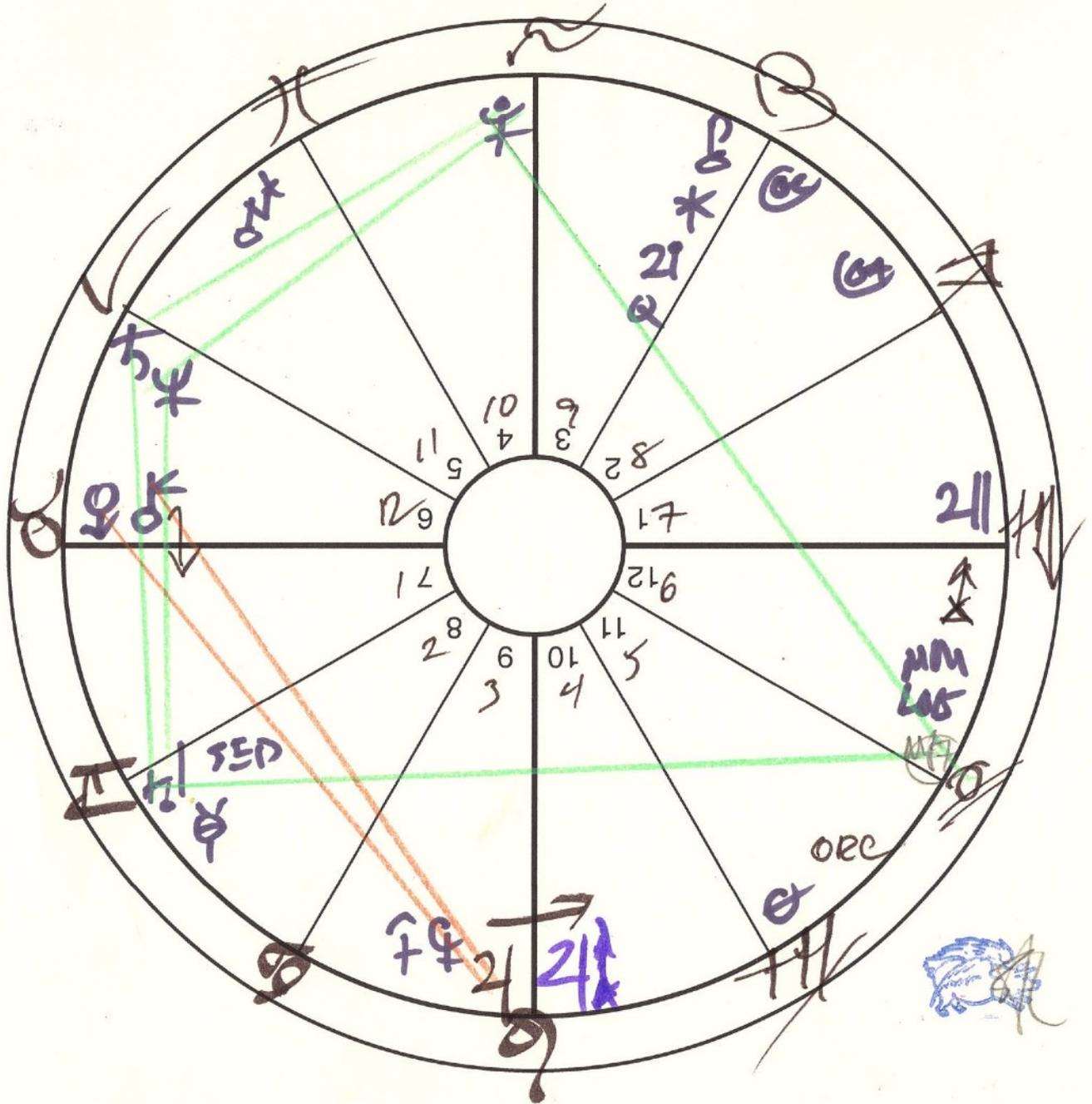
Taurus, the Past and the Future

We read over and over again in spiritual texts and self-help books that the past is over. It's possible to get there, but in my experience it takes a lot of training, understanding the ways that the past ties us down, and then ultimately understanding what forgiveness is.

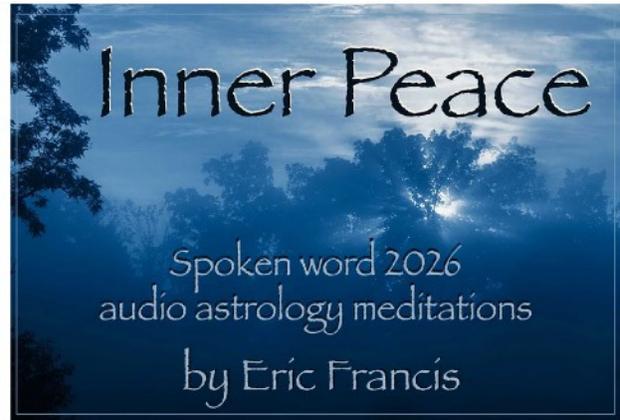
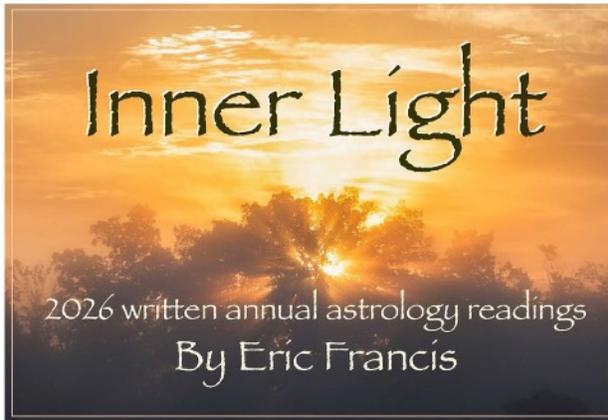
Yet before Chiron, the master teacher, arrives, I suggest you do some sorting out of what was and what was not helpful. You are being taken to a potentially amazing future, where you can express your true potential. With any path of growth, there is the question of readiness.

One thing about Taurus is that you require preparation and that you must feel ready to take the next step. So therefore, prepare; and know what readiness means. Know that it's different from being willing. Readiness is something you recognize; willingness is something that you do as a conscious act.

Drum



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