



Photo by Eric Francis

The Awakening for Cancer

Synthesis: Of Self and Action

By Eric Francis

WHILE THE SIGN CANCER is said to be about the home and the brood, it's one of the boldest signs for those who want to have exciting and personally relevant careers. The ancient mythology of the zodiac is one thing; then there is the lived experience of how your chart expresses itself based on a full-wheel understanding.

Glowing at the top of your chart, whether you are Cancer Sun or rising, is Aries — the sign on your 10th place — calling on you to take action and make your mark on the world. This is the sign of self-actualization, and you have a lifetime where you can do that through your work, and offering your best efforts to the wider world. Not everyone gets to do this, and surely not

as boldly as you can. Not everyone wants to. For you, stepping up to the challenges of life verges on inevitable — especially now, by which I mean well into 2026 and even beyond. And these are likely to be brilliant, even incredible challenges, where you are likely to rise to the occasion in highly unusual and focused ways. This will require the fusion of discipline and imagination, and you will have the resources to go there fully.

Planets are moving into positions that will represent both opportunities you've never had, and a state of confidence and motivation that is entirely new for you. You are about to experience unprecedented activity in your Aries 10th, which represents not just the drive but the opportunity to establish yourself in ways you may have never imagined.

The 10th place is said to be about reputation, and what you want to be known for. That is only partly true and does not get at the essence of the matter. The 10th in my reading comes back to praxis — which translates to activity engaged in by free people. Actual doing, rather than dreaming. Aries stands for initiative, which adds the dimension of beginning things: activity that is original and risky for your place and time.

Aries on the 10th: Doing for Its Own Sake

In a straight reading of your solar chart — no planets involved, just signs describing tendencies and abilities, you have the ability to be a masterful player in the corporate realm, and in the world generally. 'Outer life' is not a mystery to you. You know how to take charge of your affairs.

But many years of transits through your 10th have pushed you into a state that is as rebellious as it is potentially original. You've been called, over and over, to make your own way, for both the experience and the benefits of doing so.

When the 10th place is lived freely, there is the beauty of doing things for their own sake. This has come in fits and starts going back to 2011 or so; the challenge has been sustaining your vision and blending the feeling of rebellion with originality with a practical approach. It's difficult to sustain all of these things in the long run. Life always presents challenges and distractions and things rarely go according to plan. Yet that's where sustained commitment comes in.

The sky — a model of your psyche and the timing of your life — is aligning in such a way to suggest that you will be able to combine the most necessary

elements to actually get something done. By this I mean something based both on a personal agenda as well as your drive to actualize yourself.

This is the essential bit. At your best, you self-actualize through taking action, and often this is in what is usually held to be the professional realm of experience. Many of the people we respect, admire or despise do this: their success emerges from being resolutely who they are and acting on that knowledge.

This has manifesting power of its own, and is commanding of respect and attention. The problem is fear, which also shows up as lack of confidence and lack of initiative: resistance to beginning what you want to do — or know must be done.

Closer to Home: Events in Cancer

What in astrology is in “one’s own sign” — the 1st house — represents internal events and developments that may be invisible to the outer world. They may describe what you’re feeling, or what you suspect — but are not sure — you’re feeling. You may express yourself in any of the 12 houses, though what you experience in the 1st house is much of what you express.

As with your 10th, there is one new event and one that has been developing over a long time. This is part of the setup for what will emerge over the next couple of years at the top of your chart, in Aries — let’s make sure we have a handle on what’s happening for you inwardly.

There are two developments, which I will sum up here. As with your 10th, one is old, and one is new. By old, I mean dating back about 15 to 20 years; and by new, I mean dating back about one year.

Kronos and Hades: Self-Respect and Depth

Old involves two of the hypothetical points that date to the late 19th century. One of them is Kronos, which describes your prolonged process of cultivating self-respect. In growth, therapy, spiritual training, relationships and profession, self-respect is your most important point of grounding. Kronos is a kind of super-Saturn. It represents your relationship to the authority principle in the form of cultivating your inner authority.

Kronos also represents “the best,” the highest degree attainable and also ideas like VIP. This is more often a pretense than a reality: you know, a

Gucci bag making someone seem important. Some people need that; you do not. So the working edge of Kronos is true self-respect rather than the show, or claiming your sense of importance through association with people or companies or that which has a good image. Kronos is about substance, and there is no substitute for that.

As any actual adult knows, the cultivation of true self-respect takes a long time and is fraught with difficulty and setbacks. Yet gradually, it happens, which you can tell because you're making better decisions. By that I mean decisions that actually work out for you. This placement is also a reminder that you may be the most intelligent person within your environment. While feedback from others is important, you have the final say, and you should. It's your life, but you also know best what is right for you.

Then there is Hades. This is a kind of super-Pluto, which is helping you with two factors. One is the ability to work through unpleasant internal material in your psyche. You don't have to run from yourself; you are capable of seeing yourself for who you are, going deep, and working out your problems. Depth is the gift of Hades, which grants you the kind of self-assurance you can only have from not being afraid of who you are.

This, too, is an old influence, going back about 15 years. It's a resource that you can use at any time and that is helping you deal with the abundant superficial bullshit in the world right now. Easy answers do not content you. You want real understanding.

Asbolus and Chaos: Syntheses

Now for two of the newer discoveries, recently arrived in your sign in the past year. The centaur Asbolus is the survivor. It represents what all life has in common, which is the drive to persist. Asbolus is about survival against long odds, and the gift of making your way through difficult situations, coming out intact or ahead of the game. Where others give in, Asbolus keeps on. It can see ahead in the dark and has a prophetic quality. It's like having a psychic headlight shining into the distance at all times.

This is moving in a conjunction with a point called Chaos. This is not the messy room or messy life kind of chaos but rather the fertile creativity kind of chaos. Its counterpoint in Greek myth is Gaia, the Earth. So we have the starry void and the lush green planet getting tighter in the Chaos-Gaia pairing.

Chaos is the fertilizing agent, and that is what you bring. And you bring it in conjunction with Asbolus, whose name means carbon dust. It's as if you possess both ends of the creative polarity and have the ability to synthesize any element you need.

This is a superpower. Yet you may need to remind yourself that you have it. I'm about to describe two conjunctions happening in your 10th place, Aries. The second conjunction in Aries that I get to (Saturn and Neptune) will be in direct contact with your Asbolus/Chaos pairing for more than a year. They both have in common the ability of synthesis: the making of new substances from elements that already exist.

By all indications, you will be doing quite a lot of this over the next two years. Remember this concept: Synthesis. I'm going to come back to it in a moment, and I bet we could find it in five places in your chart. Key words: the **synthesis pattern**, with a strong emphasis on creativity and survival instincts.

Plenty of people are creative, but many lack the gumption and persistence to survive as an artist. So this is a very important combination. On the Cancer side, Asbolus and Chaos, we could also call it the "use what you know" aspect. That is one of the most underrated survival skills of them all.

Dual Conjunctions in Your 10th: First, Chiron and Eris

Here is what's about to change, speaking from the standpoint of the planets that somehow mysteriously represent your circumstances (that is astrology).

First, two slow-moving elements that have been present in your 10th for a while are about to come into focus. The top line here is that you are about to experience a greatly enhanced ability to stand out and be different. So I am calling this the **standout pattern** — since we're tracking a few different configurations, let's give them names.

This is a rare event happening every 60 years or so. The planets involved are Chiron and Eris. They are both high-potency and, in their own way, inspiring of both rebellion and originality. They move slowly and influence whole generations and sometimes sub-generations in specific ways. Yet they work differently: Eris through stealth and disruptions, and Chiron through sustained effort and focus, usually out in the open.

Put them together and there is likely to be an unusual synergistic effect. In society, strange, unexpected things will develop — the protests of the spring

of 2024 among them. Within individuals, many are likely to be inspired or driven to attempt what they never would have dared otherwise. For you, this takes place where you express yourself to the world, as part of the world: your 10th place of action and reputation.

You could have this placed somewhere else, and you'll see how I am describing this differently for each of the signs. You have it happening in one of the very best possible places, if you're into accomplishing things. Not everyone is, though — even if you're someone who rarely gets off the couch, you're going to feel yourself driven to some form of achievement or leadership role.

Whatever the Chiron-Eris pairing represents for you, it's been developing slowly since around 2018 and recently (in the spring of 2024) picked up momentum. Yet it's unlikely to have manifested as what you could call obvious success.

It's more likely to have shown up as your repeated attempts to start something, advance yourself, or build on your accomplishments. Chiron can bring long delays, and it can be inconvenient. With Chiron there is often the sense of being so different that you don't fit in; conventional approaches don't work. So you have to keep trying the odd types of efforts — and sooner or later, you will break through. Just be patient and sincere.

Eris is the Digital Factor

Eris is a factor so slow, nearly everyone alive has it in Aries. To sum up succinctly, Eris is the digital factor: the chaos generator that has infused consciousness, self-awareness and identity all through the modern era of the "electric self."

Eris represents the most distinctive sign of the times we forget we are living with. You might say it's the elephant in the room that describes the digital problem that I don't shut up about: disembodiment, destabilization of self and society, and feeling scrambled and dissociated from one's own being. For you, Eris in the 10th can make it difficult to focus on a sense of purpose long enough to accomplish something.

Then Chiron entered the picture in 2018, which started to pull focus. Confusion was replaced by the sensation "this is not easy." Yet that was evidence that you were shifting your awareness and trying to bring some order to your sense of instability. Or, said another way: you may be feeling like you can actually accomplish something.

Above all else, Chiron is about healing. We must not lose sight of this as we enter one of the most exceptional phases of Chiron's action in quite a long time. And the thing being healed is your sense that you're effective, and have the potential to attain a goal. This translates to being able to handle yourself in the extremely chaotic digital environment. It translates to being able to focus yourself and work within our scrambled and confusing times. This is a tremendous asset to have, though it helps if you know what you want.

I strongly suggest you focus on that idea, so that you can make decisions that guide you closer to something that matters to you. The digital environment is constantly screaming, "One thing is like another. What you do doesn't matter." But it does.

One message of all the astrology I'm describing in Aries is that what you want, and what you want to accomplish, is very important to you. I cannot emphasize this strongly enough: your growth, your personal evolution, your development as an adult, your connection to the world and your professional success all land in the same place.

The Other Synthesis: Saturn and Neptune

Okay now let's return to the theme of synthesis. Planets gain power when they work in close concert. They are more influential when they have profoundly different natures that must somehow blend.

This shows up in bold form in your 10th house of action and reputation — the sign Aries. Remember there is another conjunction happening here, described above, way at the end of Aries: that of Chiron and Eris, about standing out. Keep that in your pocket as a separate idea from what I'm writing about. Let's call it the **standout pattern**. You will know it when you experience it. I'll keep referring to it by that name.

What I'm focusing on now is the **synthesis pattern** in early Aries and Cancer. This is breaking news, by which I mean you can't find anything like it searching back to 1 B.C. (Details are in The AWA eBook.)

As of this writing, Saturn and Neptune are in Pisces, your 9th place. They have been there for a while, and planets in the 9th can have the odd property of being inaccessible and not provoking action. This is especially true when misty, laidback Pisces is involved. Yet 9th house planets can inspire a vision, and stretch your sense of what is possible, and they're also associated with both learning and travel.

They can describe events that are slowly gestating, until something new happens — and it's about to.

In early 2025, both Saturn and Neptune move from Pisces to Aries; from your 9th place to your 10th; from a slow-moving and hidden realm of Pisces/9th to a place of tangible action in Aries/10th. They come out from behind the scenes and enter what is called an angular house — the 10th. Between Aries and angular, that's a lot of movement.

They are going to be hanging around the single most powerful degree of your chart, the first degree of Aries (which connects to the first degree of your own sign, Cancer).

Yet here is the unusual thing: the action of Saturn is to solidify. The action of Neptune is to dissolve. Saturn offers structure; Neptune offers fluid, whether liquid or gaseous. Seen one way, they are entirely incompatible. Many combinations of these two factors in natal charts describe extreme challenges in the people who have the pattern.

The combination, when it works, creates something like an emulsion — a blend of very different compounds. You could liken it to using the idea that oil and water don't mix to create offset printing. If the same poles in two different magnets repel one another, that is used for maglev rail travel, where the train floats on a magnetic field.

So the idea here is getting opposite types of factors to not only work together but to create something truly unusual and practical. And this is what's going to be developing in your 10th house of action and profession.

And while Saturn and Neptune are dancing back and forth in early Aries, they are making contact with Asbolus and Chaos early in your sign; it's one integrated energy pattern that you get to work with, harvest, develop and create with. (Stated in technical terms, the pattern is: Asbolus conjunct Chaos, square Saturn conjunct Neptune — on the Aries Point.)

The Aries Point part of this equation is significant because it could bring you into much closer contact with the public, or higher visibility, than you're accustomed to. And due to this seeming "surprise arrival" of Saturn and Neptune in Aries (everything emerging from Pisces seems like a surprise), this may manifest in your life with little warning.

So be ready, and practice conducting yourself a little more like a public figure whose words and example are scrutinized. And remember that while you may be able to explain your words and have that be relevant, explaining your actions means next to nothing. Your actions speak louder than any words.

The Role of Home

The direction of your life is headed outward and upward, into the 10th place. At times like this, it's vitally important to honor the opposite place, the 4th — your physical space, your sense of security, your emotional grounding, and your grounding through tradition and family lineage (particularly on your father's side).

The most important element of home for you is its beauty. You feel freedom when inhabiting your own aesthetic. If you live with someone else, maybe they will defer to your sense of beauty. The colors in your living space must speak to you in ways that are calming, and encouraging of communication. I suggest having one space that is free of any of the trappings of technology.

Home is where you conduct your most intimate relationships. By this I mean they are not public property. Many people insert their private experiences into the public sphere, such as posting details of their relationships and social lives on public media platforms.

I strongly suggest not doing this, and maintaining the sanctity of your private relationships within your four walls. There are many reasons for this, but the most significant of them is that what happens between you and your intimate partners, and between you and your relatives, is nobody's business. The fact that people famous for nothing have turned their family lives into public dramas is not a wholesome example for anyone. And while they can endure an exhibitionistic presentation of their existence, I don't think this is a good idea for you.

I suggest you curate your social media feeds meticulously, and (should you choose to be active in a time when you can be a lightning rod) make your public statements meaningful and apropos of public matters. That is dangerous enough; most people cannot conceive of the need to be sensitive to tone when making public statements.

It's not your opinion so much that you need to regulate but rather how you express yourself. To sum up, it's important that you present yourself as having balanced views.

That said, with Libra covering the 4th place of your inner sanctum, this overlays the concepts of intimate relationships with your private dwelling. This would seem like an obvious association, though it's not necessarily conscious.

Your home must be the place where you can have any conversation. If for some reason there are conversations you cannot have safely in your home, it would be a good idea to ask how you got there and what you're doing there.

What you are looking for is a common language. Not "thinking alike," but rather to speak and be understood, and for others to speak and be understood.

As regards sex: home is where you are free to be yourself sexually. Sadly, we think of this as a thing that should happen in the streets on Pride Week (fortunately there is no such thing for men and women who relate to one another). Relationships are personal matters, not political. This includes the sexual choices that people make, by which I mean what people actually do with one another.

Somewhere in *Esoteric Astrology*, Alice Bailey suggests that most astrologers think that Scorpio is the sign of sex, but really the most valuable information is contained in Libra. And you have this sign overlaying your home angle. If you are looking for a sense of safety and belonging around your sexual relating and exploration, then where you live is the place to create it. And whether you find it there is one of the most significant measures of whether that place really is home.

I would emphasize — before moving on to a related topic — that the ability to converse freely about any topic is the most important metric of this. Perhaps make a list of all the things you think you cannot say at your kitchen table, in your living room or in your bedroom and you will have a good measure of whether your house is truly a place you can abide.

There is good information coming from Scorpio, your 5th place (sex for fun, pleasure and procreation), though this wholly depends on the common language idea coming from the previous place, Libra/4th. I may get to that later, though the theme of openness continues into this area as well. Secrecy, though taken for granted, is not only toxic to intimacy and pleasure, but self-destructive and destructive to creativity.

Private Matters: The Other Air Signs

This reading has emphasized the connection between public and private matters, and your configuration suggests that a portal is opening into the public realm — one that you must guard carefully. There is also a beeping of what you might call “purely private” matters.

So far, I have not covered two of the most outstanding transits of the new era of your life and of the world. They are Uranus beginning its transition into air sign Gemini, and Pluto completing its transition into air sign Aquarius.

One is your 12th place (Gemini, the sign before yours) and the other is the 8th place (Aquarius, which is part of your relationship angle). As you are no doubt aware, I do not leave matters of sexuality out of the astrological discussion. It’s a ridiculous notion, particularly that we astrologers are supposed to be the underground therapists and rebellious hoodlums amidst so much suppression, repression and secrecy of the Christian world.

The 8th and the 12th both address specific matters that are not directly about sexuality but which influence it profoundly. And two wildly powerful planets are about to arrive in them. The subject matter of these two houses is first-class and interesting, particularly as it’s developing for you. Let’s work our way from the inside, interior and distinctly personal (Gemini/12th), out to the interpersonal (Aquarius/8th).

Both address what is commonly known as “the unconscious,” or what often lies concealed from normal awareness — and then bursts into everyday life.

Keep your eye on a common thread running through your astrology and very likely your whole existence, which is the relationship between private and public; between personal and collective. The influence runs in both directions and will deeply shape your character and your choices.

But there is one other relationship, even more significant. And this also involves Libra.

The Masculine and the Feminine

Libra is the polarity of Aries, where there will be more emphasis than we have seen at any time in the past century. This will lead to a massive influx of yang or masculine energy. Many women are already in revolt against the

masculine, thinking that somehow this will protect them from what they perceive as a predatory situation. One could see where it feels that way, especially if one is cut off from one's own yin or feminine energy. It is the cutting off that creates and perpetuates the entire sense of conflict.

Libra is the sign of balance, and what it's balancing is the masculine with the feminine. On the Aries-Libra axis (extremely active in your chart now and through 2026), this balancing is described as an active process rather than its equivalent from Taurus to Scorpio, which is more of a passive one.

What Libra is here to balance is yin and yang. It does this internally and through its relationship with Aries, the ultimate masculine sign.

As digital conditions persist and we become increasingly cut off from the flow of yin, or as yin is corrupted and becomes toxic, unstable and unreliable, the need for connection to women will increase; this will find some expression in the demand for "porno" and other substitute forms of intimate relationships and for the feminine in particular.

Yet this is like a bee clinging to colorful plastic wrap as winter approaches, hoping for some sustenance. The masculine and the feminine are here to nourish one another, and this creates the necessary alchemy for creativity, survival and prosperity.

To divide them, to cut them off from one another (as digital conditions do), is self-defeating, and will lead to a failure of the human species as we know it. But both conditions and technological engineers are doing a fine job of creating humans into something else that they pretend is new and better.

Over the next decade, digital and AI technologies will advance further than they have in their entire history. In the most basic physical terms, this manifests as "low birth rates," lack of interest and a bold hostility of the feminine toward the masculine, enhanced by digital conditions. It manifests as increasing war and hostility — and an unyielding quality.

Yet the spiritual expressions of this situation extend into every dimension, and throughout consciousness. It is a digital effect and is driving much of the conflict, desperation and political chaos we are witnessing in the world.

Just as a child is created through a mother and a father, existence is created by the synthesis of the masculine with the feminine. And Libra is the point where the balance must be emphasized. This manifests for you in your home, and as I've described above, the theme is communication — a

common language, and the willingness to understand more than to be understood.

Beware of The Game

Yet there is something else going on in Libra, which is the presence of an influence that creates an extremely dangerous, game-like quality. And this game, which involves fertility (an egg), is also pointless and cannot have a winner. It is the symbol of creativity turned into vicious competition rather than a cooperative endeavor.

For you, reversing these patterns will begin in your personal emotional space, which means in your body and your feelings — and where your body abides, which is your home. You must set the tone; you are the one responsible for establishing the conditions under which communication is possible.

Those conditions primarily involve the cultivation of trust, and it will be up to you to establish this, by being receptive, by setting aside grievances and resentment, and staying in the moment. Obviously, you must evaluate people on their past performance in your life. It's not wise to continue trusting those who squander their second chances, so I suggest that's about as much as anyone should get.

Your sense of threat is related the density of awareness. Fear is contraction and withdrawal. The more one withdraws, the more fear will seem to be appropriate. Density increases the perception of danger and makes threats seem more real. So it will take some advanced or enlightened thinking to open up this space, though cultivating the feeling of trust within your own home should be somewhat natural.

Note that the main disruption to this process will come not so much in the form of overt attack but rather gamesmanship. Every game has an antithesis. I strongly suggest a careful, cover-to-cover read of *Games People Play* by Eric Berne. It describes the concept of a game (which is always about subverting intimacy), the most common games, and ideas for how to unravel them.

Note that because of the astonishing degree of public contact that your chart will have, which will likely be reflected in your life, pay attention to what Berne calls "cultural games" as well as individual ones.

Shaking up the Unconscious: Uranus in Gemini

Uranus will graze the sign Gemini in 2025, and make its full ingress in 2026. Gemini is your 12th place, which in psychology is often described as “the unconscious.” It contains, among other things, the dream plane: a vast interconnected cosmos that joins the different dimensions of time. Hence, in addition to containing the individual unconscious, it contains the connection to your ancestors.

As I describe in *The AWA*, the last time Uranus was in Gemini (1942-1949), it arrived with massive leaps forward in digital technology, including the inventions of memory, the application program, and many innovations of computing that we take for granted today. Yet this was preceded by Uranus in Taurus, where many more developments happened.

As this relates to you personally: the difference between “artificial intelligence” and human consciousness is that people have access to an unmapped, wholly organic (meaning natural) realm of creative potential that resides below normal waking awareness. This realm connects people from the past with those in the present, and it also connects people today without the need for wires, wifi, bluetooth or any other kind of signal. The connection is interior to consciousness, not a wave or wire connecting people’s heads. Being aware of it depends upon inner awareness, which some call “spirituality.”

This interior region is represented in your chart by Gemini; or at least that’s the most obvious place to look initially. The 12th is the sign before your Sun or rising sign, and its contents are “behind the scenes” or “in the wings” (such as of a theater, out of immediate view). The theatrical stage has many 12th house metaphors, including that of a scrim, or a screen that generally has one-way visibility. It’s transparent in one direction and opaque from another — though this is an illusion. The side that is visible is the one with more light than the other.

There is about to be quite a bit of light arriving in your 12th, in the form of Uranus. This is going to make your unconscious visible, and potentially stir the pot on much past material.

It’s unusual to have Gemini in the 12th, meaning the effect is unlike any other sign. Gemini here describes what you might call dualism, but also the potential for a complete relationship within yourself. The dualism of Gemini is that it contains both “halves” or hemispheres of consciousness. And the

Mercury rulership of this sign means that it's likely to be a more self-aware place than it would be under rulership of another sign.

But remember that generally the 12th and its contents disappear behind the veil nearly all the time; they emerge somewhat in dreams, psychedelic experiences, visions, and other forms of altered states of mind.

Uranus is going to stir the pot here. It's going to remind you who you are on the deepest levels of your human existence. The message is to resolve your inner dualism, and also to make friends with what emerges from your mind. This process will fade in over the course of a year, between the summer of 2025 and the spring of 2026. But you will be feeling it in different ways — and it will help to know what is happening in advance.

Pluto in Aquarius: Your Agreements With Others

Let's conclude with Pluto in Aquarius. This is now fully engaged, and will last until 2043-2044 when Pluto ingresses Pisces. You have Aquarius as your 8th place. This is a very important relationship house, as it describes the agreements we have with others. It also describes shared resources. And it's about profound transitions.

For you, the most important thing to be aware of with such an 8th house transit is to only enter agreements that you fully understand — and are committed to on a deep and instinctual level — as well as with your intelligence and power of decision.

The intimacy of this house expresses itself in unusual ways due to the group nature of Aquarius. Just by its subject matter, the 8th is a crowded house. It covers many issues, ranging from jealousy to financial bonding to death and transformation. And Aquarius brings in a lot of people with whom you may have encounters that are usually reserved for more intimate partners.

Both the 12th (described above) and the 8th have the property of veiled or secret information. Due to the ingresses of Uranus and Pluto, it's fair to say you won't have many secrets for much longer.

You have just been through 16 years of Pluto in Capricorn, which has done much to transform your intimate relationships, business partnerships and your relationship to existence. Think about where you were in 2008 and consider where you are today. It would be good to make a journal of all that you've learned and the major events you've been through.

The essence of Pluto in Aquarius is about holding your power in relationships. This will be about cultivating true individuality, in the face of others who want you to conform to their point of view. Given the nature of Pluto, you must do this in a gentle, persistent way — and take the long view of your situations.

Pluto in Aquarius will have three main modes of action, described in detail in The AWA.

The first of these is groups attempting to pressure you into violating your values. With this coming from the 8th, such individuals are likely to be close to you.

The second is your need to stand up to others who would pressure you into decisions that are not correct for you. This is about cultivating authentic individuality. This always has a root in self-knowledge and self-understanding. To violate your own values could and likely would have very serious consequences, given how powerful Pluto and the 8th house are.

Finally, there is the potential for the group of people closest to you — such as intimate partners, in-laws and business partners — to go through a collective evolution of some kind, in which you will be directly involved.

But that involvement is really a call for your own personal growth. Remember at all times that groups are arrangements of individuals — they are not masses or crowds or collectives. Individuality is not about a label, badge or button. It's about your commitment to understanding yourself, lived as a daily devotion.

Exodus from the Feminine Signs: A Caution

I think it wise to conclude with a word of caution. Planets are now in the process of leaving Taurus, Capricorn and Pisces, important feminine signs. They are collecting in Aries, Gemini and Aquarius, highly influential masculine signs.

You are likely to be already feeling this. Your nature is receptive; Cancer is a feminine water sign. The increasing absence of planets in the water signs is going to put some pressure on you to take up some of that excess energy; to be an emotional grounding point. But you must be careful, because there is only so much energy you can handle.

You must evaluate every person and every situation carefully and thoughtfully and determine what to do. Begin with small experiments. Monitor your stress level. Monitor your most important relationship within the natural world: that between you and your gut. This is your essential boundary between you and the wider environment.

It will be more important than ever that you spend time near water and near trees. This is not for the purposes of “vacation” but rather for living in a way that honors the compatibility between the Earth and your body.

You are entering a highly unusual time in the course of your existence. There are likely to be demands on you that you’ve never experienced and therefore have no basis for comparison to anything else, though you can handle it. The world is entering dire straits, but you came here to serve and to participate at this time, and you are being called to rise to the occasion.

How you respond is to a great extent your choice, though whether you do is not an option. Therefore, exercise your freedom in the places that you find it, and accept collaboration only with those of the highest integrity, sensitivity and intelligence. You have greater resources available than you may imagine — human and otherwise.



Daybreak at the Ashokan Reservoir. Photo by Eric Francis.

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