



Moai found in Ruby, New York, reproduced by David Zawistowski. Photo by Eric Francis.

The Awakening for Libra

The Medium is the Message

"When a system is far from equilibrium, small islands of coherence have the capacity to shift the entire system." — Ilya Prigogine

BY Eric Francis

WERE THIS A CONVENTIONAL astrology reading in some other era of history, I would begin by telling you there is all kinds of exciting activity on your partnership angle — in your opposite sign Aries: things that have either never happened in the history of astrology (going back 2,000 years), or that have never happened when anyone was conscious of them. But I might not go much further; that would be enough. Get ready: this is going to be exciting, and anything is possible.

However, this is a reading in 2025, when digital, artificial intelligence, generative AI and deep fake technology have taken over not just society but consciousness (going forward, I will usually refer to all of those things as “digital”). By that I mean we now define who we are and what a person is, and what a relationship is, and what a society is, as a direct product of total infusion of our minds in digital technology.

Aries, the sign most associated with ‘sense of self’, and also your relationship area, is the scene of that sense of being lost in the sauce of the electronic revolution that is still rising with the tide of electrons, gradually bleaching our humanity away.

We no longer have relationships as we once did; we have relationships that are shaped, filtered and processed through new generations of technology that nobody really understands, which has formed our minds and feelings in ways nobody understands. And a great deal of the progress of this technology is documented in your opposite sign Aries, which is really one and the same as Libra since they are on the same axis.

So this is about you as much as it’s about anyone you relate to. Yet so much of our lives are lived through relationships, partnerships, and who and what we encounter walking around the world that it’s essential you know about this.

The Arrival of the New ‘God’

As a reporter focused on spiritual matters (which is what I am as your astrologer), if I had some evidence that an actual new god had arrived from another planet and descended on us and taken over, you would expect me to tell you about it. However, over the past several decades — increasing exponentially every year since 2007 or so — this is what has happened.

We are inundated by a semi-sentient, all-seeing, all-knowing, ominous and omnipresent creature that did not exist when we were children. I mean all those screens, and all that artificial memory, and all those algos, and more than anything, the mindset they create. That mindset is a spiritual crisis induced by reverence to the new god.

You may think I’m exaggerating this point, but far from it. And while it’s somewhat metaphorical, that’s not really true either. Most people grant to the digital environment far more influence than they grant to any spiritual agency; it seems to know more, have more power, and track us to the point where we are never out of its reach. That is a “god” and that is an issue.

Environments Shape Experience and Existence

We are all familiar with the bullshit “nurture versus nature” debate that probably took a whole week of your life in Psychology 101, and the issue was left unresolved. But that discussion is rendered irrelevant by the basic fact that environments shape experience.

All communications and technical environments shape how we see, feel, and experience the world and our relationships. The effects of those environments spill over into physical existence. They soak into unexpected places, just like everything by the sea collects a little salt even if it doesn't get wet. Please do not be distracted by how we can trace the computer and the concept of an algorithm to a guy in England in the 1930s.

We have experienced an alien invasion and it has largely taken over our minds, and our relationships, and our sense of what our bodies are and are for. And if anybody is talking about it, it's in the context of “addictive online content” and “porno” and “I hate all these ads.” It never gets to the core issue. Even the media analysts I read seem to miss the point just about all the time.

Astrology's comment on these matters is especially important for you, since it's coming through the zone that describes your relationships and also your general sense of how and what the world is. This is the 7th place or house.

Before we go there, generally, the effect of the digital environment is to make people irritable, impatient, aggressive and detached. When I say digital is disembodiment, what I am trying to say is that it is slowly driving the fortunate among us to the brink of sanity, and the less fortunate into genuine insanity.

Simply put, digital consciousness is about cold pricklies rather than warm fuzzies, borrowing an idea from Transactional Analysis. And if you get enough cold pricklies and not enough warmth and affection, you will start to get depressed and eventually collapse on yourself. Humans need contact. Digital denies contact.

You are in the crucial role of mediator between the human realm and the digital realm. And by several separate metrics, the intensity is rising. Those include the storm coming in Aries, as well as Pluto in Aquarius and Uranus in Gemini. You are a mediator not just because you're a Libra, which helps. Rather, your opportunity comes from the way that these transits enter your chart — which I would describe as the best possible way.

A Few More Details of the Digital Effect

Digital is an environment of both emotional paucity and intellectual instability. With a lot of awareness and creativity, these issues can be subverted, but that's a special occasion. But as I cannot say enough times, this is not about technology: it's about what the technology does to us.

With digital consciousness dominating our perception of reality, options seem limited because both the view and the experience of the physical world are cut off. There is an evaporating desire to go deep, partly because deep no longer seems to exist; and when it does, it's perceived as risky.

Here is an easy way to think of this: We now live in a world where it's often difficult or impossible to get someone at a business on the phone. You keep getting prompts and being asked questions in weird intonations by Electric Susie. That is a fact. But *how you feel* when you want or need to speak with someone to solve the problem, but cannot — that is the effect. And then you may wonder where the world went.



More Moai in Ruby, NY, guarding the recycling.

Everyone is sick of digital “opportunities” and digital billionaires and ongoing fake digital disease outbreaks, but the effect runs far deeper, of course. It all comes down to emotional connection and the sense that one actually exists. And if we want to keep our humanity, or even remember what it is, we must handle this situation carefully. This is especially crucial for you, since you're looking right at it nearly all the time, and because it has a larger-than-usual influence on your relationships.

Fortunately your astrology describes not just a strong shift in the scenario but also a diversity of approaches that you may find helpful: different angles

from which to experience the world, to experience things a little more gently, and to develop and deepen your human experiences.

In case you're wondering why you don't see other people commenting about this in a meaningful way, it's because they are not. The problem is below the level of perception, and is so vast that it defies being recognized or understood.

Developments Described from April 2024 Eclipse

There is an overwhelming bout of astrology coming to Aries. We've had quite a lot already, including a total solar eclipse conjunct Chiron last April. That was just the warmup act, and it provided you with useful information.

The eclipse also presented you with a kind of keyhole you could see through, a portal to another dimension of your life. The stunning conjunction to Chiron served as a reminder that ultimately all relationships must be devoted to your healing process. Through 2025 and into 2026, the concentration of forces ramps up considerably, but the purpose remains the same. And the opportunities are more tangible.

Chiron and Eris form a conjunction close to where the eclipse occurred. This event is essentially a repeat of the most recent 1971-1972 Chiron-Eris conjunction, lasting well into 2026. Then both Saturn and Neptune begin their transition into Aries, walking back and forth over your highly sensitive 7th cusp. Both of these stretch into mid-2026 but also represent a series of before and after moments.

Chiron-Eris is the official aspect that represents the most stunning awakening that many will be going through. You will have no doubt what you are seeing in the world. Just remember that people are often cranky right after they wake up; some are disoriented; others want to go back to sleep. We will be seeing all of those act out.

There is likely to be a revolutionary spirit going around. The question to ask yourself at every turn is whether it's your revolution.

In an important sense, one of the essential goals or strategies of Libra is to maintain equilibrium. That may be challenging, though you will discover not only new ways to do it but also the cosmic reasoning why this is so. Remember that you set an important example by moderating your responses and striving to live in a way that balances your interests with those of the people around you.

Aries is Your Relationship House

By the 7th being the relationship house, I mean that traditionally it is associated with “romantic partners,” marital partners, business partners, and, in a little joke thrown in from back at the dawn of time, open enemies. (Hidden enemies are about the 12th house, the mirror of the 7th.)

However, I take the 7th to have a wider meaning: your relationship to existence. It describes the visible (and often taken for granted) environment generally as it enters your perception, what you experience and see when you walk around the world and look at who and what you meet at eye level. If the universe is made up of relationships, many of them show up — at least initially — right on your event horizon, the 7th.

And this spot is the focal point of change. I have no idea specifically how this is going to develop, for you or for anyone. Though there is a lot of mojo and concentrated, focused experience described, which amounts to a series of shifts in how you perceive and experience the world and your relationships.

Many things that have long been in development are likely to come to fruition for you, as Saturn and Neptune emerge from the slow-acting 6th house and Pisces into the faster-acting 7th house and Aries.

The way this particular transit works, the effect will come in a series of graduated stages beginning in the spring, and then reach full focus in the spring of 2026. This will give you time to adapt.

However, the Chiron-Eris conjunction reaches its first of three peaks this coming May. That one has been developing for a while, though the first hint as to its action was in April 2024. If I had to put words to this image, the first one that comes to mind is honesty, of a kind that is gradually becoming alien to people.

Another involves seeing through the bright, shiny surface of the technology that surrounds us and considering what it’s doing to all of us, using a more complex approach. The facade is likely to come off. And with Chiron, there is a healing process involved, and if we connect that to Eris, it’s about doing what you can to consciously regain your wholeness.

I know this is a lot to consider in one thought form. It’s not especially easy to interpret. But I would suggest that one of the best things you can do is to

focus on the process of simplifying your life in thoughtful ways. There will be a distinct advantage to a “less is more” approach.

By that I mean proceeding gently, being gentle on yourself and on your partners. Everyone is going through changes and experiencing things that they don't understand. You may be in one of the best positions of anyone around you to actually process reality in a meaningful way.

But as part of this, definitely take as much time listening to what others perceive as possible. Valuable clues will come from people you are close to.

The Deeper Challenge: Inner Influences Outer

The deeper challenge is to see what is developing in the world around you as a representation of not something external to you but rather an expression of your own growth process. This is not necessarily something you have created, but your opportunity to respond is both important and will offer you something that you can only get from yourself.

Environments are powerful influences, in a sense the ground of experience, not just the stage on which life is set but also the filter through which we process all perception.

Most of what we experience every day is our surroundings, though the other thing we experience is our response to them. The combination of environments and our responses determines what is possible.

Yet much of the time, the environment prevails. A seed that may thrive in one climate will not germinate or survive in another. And many brilliant developments have emerged and thrived under adversity.

As humans we have the power to choose our response — if we are aware of the environment, and also self-aware. Usually, it's invisible. It exists below the level of perception and therefore the ability to evaluate developments and respond consciously. This will call on your self-creative abilities as well as your relational abilities. You will have invitations and then options for what to do with them. The question that few people ask is, “What is happening in the world and how does it affect me?” To answer this requires a creative response to one's perceptions.

I recognize that there are some people who must be initiators, or feel that they must. They make the world, and do a good job of convincing us that it's true. You may be one of them. My reading of your astrology says that this is

a time for you to learn how to respond appropriately to your environment: to see it for what it is, and to take circumstances, developments and events as both qualities that arise from your evolutionary process and also that challenge you to be your highest creative self.

You will not be able to stand up to this in a confrontational manner. No person has enough energy. Therefore, it would be wise not to allow yourself to be confronted, for example, by those proffering only worst-case scenarios without solutions — and promises of how bad it's going to get.

However, you have options and lines of approach you can use. To that end, let's check out some of the other developmental processes that are described by your astrology, including what is leading up to the Saturn-Neptune conjunction in Aries.

Logos and Makemake In Libra: Response Options

I've said a lot about your opposite region, the integration zone of Aries 7th. Let's consider what is happening in Libra and what clues it offers you. There are two relatively recent outer-planet discoveries; I say recent but that means Logos, which was discovered in 1997 (one of the earliest objects found beyond Pluto) and Makemake, discovered in 2005 (also in an orbit beyond Pluto). Logos orbits in 307 years and Makemake orbits in 305 years.

These are not asteroids; their discoveries have opened up new ideas in astrology for those who are curious and interested. They are in a long conjunction in Libra that was very close in 2018-2022 and is still within a few degrees today. So they are starting to distinguish themselves as different options.

Here is my take: Logos is the rational and reasoning mind. It's the ability of people to commune in language and get closer to understanding one another. I think of Logos as "the dream of a common language" that could manifest in reality. This requires developing listening and speaking skills. It must be engaged intentionally. And this is your greatest asset right now.

Logos is an ancient principle that in many ways distinguishes the Greek thought forms that have been inherited throughout the western world. For those who love language, it's their guiding spirit. It survives today in the form of the word "logo," though with diminished meaning. The risk of Logos is trying to make rational sense out of everything. That is unlikely to work; perceiving reality is ultimately intuitive and may be impervious to reason or argumentation — though ideas can get us further along the trail.

There is a deeper perspective on Logos that I feel is worth sharing, since this world will be transiting through your sphere of consciousness until 2039. Philip K. Dick, a scholar of philosophy, described it in his 1978 essay How to Build a Universe that Doesn't Fall Apart Two Days Later. He wrote that in pre-Socratic thought, the Logos was both that which thought, and the thing which it thought: thinker and thought together. The universe, then, is thinker and thought. And since we are part of it, we as humans are, in the final analysis, thoughts of and thinkers of those thoughts.

Or as A Course in Miracles puts it, "You are an idea."

The other planet in your sign is Makemake, as mentioned, traveling in a long conjunction to Logos. This one is named for a deity associated with Easter Island, properly known as Rapa Nui. Makemake is the chief god of the race of people who descended from the originals (the Moai), those who came after the old ones (who created the well-known massive statues).

The "next generation" race held Makemake as a fertility god. He was the chief god of the Tangata Manu or Bird Man sect. They probably spent a lot of time wondering, "How did those big statues get here?" And they may have knocked them down, because they were mostly found toppled over.

I have always found Makemake puzzling to the point of annoyance, though I am starting to understand it better. We can start by saying it has something to do with the demotion or toppling of the old gods.

The Bird Man cult's religious practice involved an annual competition where the competitors would swim a long distance, scale a cliff, find and retrieve an egg from a particular kind of bird, and then swim back across ocean water with the egg, and return it to the island intact. For his big prize, the winner got to spend a year doing nothing.

I have come back to this theme repeatedly over the years, wondering what the holy heck it's about. One day it dawned on me that this is a perfect metaphor for our times: a pointless, extremely dangerous game, to appease a "replacement" god. And the great reward is a kind of tropical vacation. That certainly is one way to view life.

Another is as a thought experiment, and a communication experiment. It's a reasoning process where you can think in whole thoughts (rather than the 'fragments and ruins' described by T. S. Eliot). To reason and express ideas

as coherent thoughts is definitely the less popular of the two. Awareness rather than gamesmanship is required.

So you might consider those as your two primary options for how to conceive of existence.

A Third Approach: Zeus in Libra

There is a third approach that you should know about, that you may need to use from time to time: a martial arts type of response, of controlled, directed energy. This is embodied in the special point Zeus, which will be exactly opposite the conjunction of Chiron and Eris.

The existence of this ultra-slow point is now known to only a few astrologers, and its expression in the world is reserved for those who do the mental or physical work to manifest its power. It has been in Libra for many years, and will be a significant element in any effect that the Chiron-Eris conjunction has.

To put it mildly, this is a confrontational setup. But it will include options for how to act in subtle ways rather than overt, blow-for-blow open confrontation. And that is not really your style anyway — though we will be seeing plenty of it.

What exactly is subtle confrontation? Well, something more like chess and less like Mixed Martial Arts. Or more like acupuncture and less like surgery. If you focus your mind, you will do very well in the more ritualized forms of confrontation. These will require you to use precise strategies and to exert minimal energy. I would say the question of the Chiron-Eris-Zeus setup is: how little energy can you exert and get a good result?

So this gives you three major categories of response: the ability to reason your way through a situation, including framing it in the form of story and language as a conscious act; as a pointless, dangerous game where the reward is you get to do nothing; and finally, the potential to respond in a way that matches the energy but which must be aimed with extreme care.

I would propose that of the three, the one you want to keep available at all times is the option of being a reasonable, communicative person who is willing to reason with others — despite the prevailing insanity of our time. Yet your options continue to make themselves known through an assortment of other helpful transits that I'll go through in the rest of this essay and also in your audio reading.

Saturn and Neptune Completing Work in Pisces

Pisces is your 6th place, which is associated with work and wellness. Houses all involve seemingly strange confluences of themes, and the 6th pivots around service, which includes military service, and therefore medical care. So when we bring that into a modern context, themes of healers and healing spaces emerge, as well as one's general state of health. This overlays with the workplace theme, and one important relationship is the influence of your work on your state of health.

With a few exceptions since 2011, this has been shrouded in some fog, due to the presence of Neptune. Part of the fog has involved gaining an understanding of where you stand with your own health. Libra problems are difficult to diagnose due to Pisces being located here; that creates ambiguity, and it creates delays. But Neptune's presence has made this even more difficult, coming with the perception of problems that did not exist, and solutions that could not be found where there were real problems.

Saturn's arrival in early 2023 started to clear the fog, but this has been a layering process. At least your focused efforts got better results. There is a positive side to delays: most diagnosis is wrong. And many attempts to solve problems medically cause more problems than they solve.

Now, as for the work angle: I trust that one thing you've gained is the knowledge that your workspace must be compatible with who you are spiritually. This includes the mission of whatever company you've involved yourself with, and also the physical space where you do the work. You are ideally suited for home employment, so you have total control over your working space in a way that few employers even think about.

However, it's probable that the lockdown era of 2020 to 2021 presented you with many puzzles regarding where health- and work- related matters intersect and overlay; going forward you would be wise to remember them and put that information to good use.

Taking care of yourself is simpler than it seems, though most people face the obstacle of changing a few emotionally ingrained habits. As Neptune departs Pisces, you will have a clearer view of your options, and the feeling of swimming against the tide is likely to gradually give way to a sense of progress.

Pluto from Capricorn to Aquarius

1. The Solid Ground of Your Soul

Some of the strongest astrology I've described so far seems to be coming at you: the 7th often has an 'incoming' feeling, regardless of the sign or the transits. But make that sign Aries and make those transits the most distinctive on a lifetime scale, and you may feel like you're playing the biggest game of planetary dodgeball ever.

That said, you have some excellent options for how to stand away from the direct inbound energies. The first of these is described by Pluto in Aquarius, your most creative and expressive area — the art studio of your chart.

But first, let's review the past 14 years of Pluto in Capricorn, your 4th place, which began in 2008 and just ended in November. The 4th is your security angle. It's the ground you stand on, and that ground is described as family, time-honored traditions, stable institutions, and a solid, safe and dependable place to live. Pluto has come through this territory aggressively, shaking up everything.

Last night, I rewatched the 2015 film *The Big Short*. You may find it personally moving. It documents what occurred during the 2008 financial crisis. Essentially, the entire economy was revealed to be a mountain that had been drilled out of all of its structural integrity. It looked strong, but it was revealed to lack any integrity, and collapsed under its own weight. The details are stunning, and I won't get into them here, but you may be interested in the levels of financial fraud involved. The root of the crisis, however, was securities that were made of bad residential mortgages — a fitting picture of Pluto/4th/Capricorn.

The 2008 crisis was followed by a series of banking disasters ending with the non-publicized, as in all-but-secret, repo market collapse of 2019 and 2020, which was cleverly disguised as a pandemic.

By the end of Pluto in Capricorn, families could exclude members from the dinner table, marriage had been completely redefined, illness was redefined as being "infected" with computer code, there is no such thing as "sex" or "gender" in a recognizable sense, the terms "liberal" and "conservative" had taken a trip through the blender, freedom of religion meant being able to control someone else based on one's own religious preferences, and so on.

At least you can still mail a letter using a postage stamp. At the current price of 73 cents for fairly prompt door-to-door delivery, that's the best bargain going. You lived through all of this with Pluto burrowing and chopping and blasting its way through your highly sensitive 4th house of grounding and security.

There has been a distinct benefit: you have learned how to feel secure not thanks to society's institutions but based on your own emotional grounding. The lesson has been that there is not very much you can count on in the world, and that you live on shifting ground. The only solid ground is that of your own soul. You know that your security must come from you.

2. Pluto in Aquarius: Individual Creative Risk

Pluto in Capricorn is over, for the most part; outer-planet transits leave a legacy that takes time to work through and settle down, though you are moving into new territory. That is the territory of creative risk. The 5th always involves a gamble, whether an actual bet (gaming is covered here) or creating a child (risky) or delving into a creative project. Pluto is going to be opening up this territory for you.

With Pluto now in this area of your chart for the next 19 years, you are going to feel compelled and seduced and drawn into creative and self-creative experiences. This is a vastly different environment from the 7th (incoming) or even the 6th (which is almost always collaborative, due to clients and colleagues).

The 5th is your art studio, and you do what you want in your studio. Many artists work in their studios alone for days or months on end. Others never take a single visitor. There's just one thing. You have Aquarius here, and that translates to the potential for a kind of consensus reality. You may have the sense that you can only take creative (or sexual) risks that have been approved by a kind of committee.

And it's not like this committee does not exist. The Woke Police and the PC Squad make their presence known. We've all met people who have been canceled or deplatformed. Yet Pluto is about your personal evolution of consciousness, and the 5th puts this in the context of your personal creative development — yours, not that of other people. Yes, there are times the 5th is collaborative; some art projects are. Sex, a 5th house thing, is definitely collaborative when it involves another person. But I'm talking about something else: the feeling that you must conform to the values of others to have your creativity be acceptable.

And testing that theory, and digging into its validity, are what your Pluto journey through this house will be about. However, in any historical era, creative people are always coming up against some version of the Woke Police. The world is not especially friendly to artists or creative endeavors. The whole purpose of art is to challenge the status quo.

However: Aquarius in digital times is quite the status quo, deeply entrenched in consciousness, enforced by nonstop censorship, and thrusting everyone into a quasi-public life. While this equates to the potential to be judged in virtual space, it translates into a state of mind of being nervous, fearful, or terrified of offending people with one's creative endeavors. Everything is offensive to someone, and that someone is now lurking everywhere.

This transit points to a vast creative opportunity — and also a profound occasion to develop your individuality in the face of a cold and unforgiving status quo. The thing about Pluto is that it must be addressed, one way or the other. It is so potent and so pervasive that it will penetrate through anything, and the thing that it's now working its way through is your need to express yourself — in the context of digital consciousness, because that's pretty much all there is.

Let's put it this way: Anything pretending to be art but avoiding offending someone is really just public relations, or decorative "arts and crafts." This is not about risk for its own sake. Rather, art is about avoiding not taking risks for its own sake. The antidote to any overbearing environment is to stay alive and creative within it. That means alive and creative in all the ways you know are important to you, and some of the ways you've denied are important to you. They will all come up along the way.

Legacy Material: Family Hunger Game Pattern in Capricorn

I mentioned legacy material after a major transit. As Pluto has worked its way out of Capricorn, several planets have worked their way in. I've been taking every opportunity to discuss this. It's not just about legacy in the psychological sense of leftover residue but about actual legacy in the sense of family lineage.

Without going into a long discourse, my interpretation of this long-lasting, slow-moving pattern is to stay in contact with the facts of your ancestry. I don't just mean your DNA profile. I know it's thrilling to find out that you're 4% Icelandic and 2% Etruscan (which explains everything), but rather the

influences you can trace to your great-grandparents. Among these influences, the presence of alcohol issues is very important to track. Alcoholism in its many forms usually describes emotional unavailability and the avoidance of dealing with problems. Direct effects will go back three generations, for our purposes.

I know it's difficult to have much information about your great-grandparents; most people cannot even name them. But you know something about some of them, and you almost surely know a good bit about your grandparents. The more you organize into tangible form, the better. There is valuable information for you here. The way these issues work is they tend to lurk just out of sight, as if in the wings off to the sides of the stage.

They are the kind of thing you think about without really thinking about them; it's like you know something is bothering you but you don't know what. The information is available, and you can tap into it. There is a lot more but of the four points involved, the alcohol themes of centaur Pholus are the most salient.

Also, you might take an inventory of your known ancestors who seemed to lack a moral framework. Right and wrong were irrelevant to them. This lack of moral framework was taken for granted. It's just the way things were; and it was used to justify or at least account for all kinds of harm that was done, and which spread into the family network. Who was that person? Can you account for their influence on you?

Uranus in Gemini: Spiritual Awakening

Gemini is your 9th place, which covers one's spiritual life. The 9th is also one's relationship to education, to philosophy and to long-distance travel. Travel in the style of the 9th house is not tourism. It's either a spiritual journey or a trip taken specifically to learn something. This could be about your ancestry or about history; you might travel specifically to learn about yourself or, as many discover, to stay young.

You have Gemini here, and that describes a personal religion of humanity. Gemini is a fantastic 9th house. I say that because it's so human. If you have an idea of God, it's someone you can have a conversation with. (Neale Donald Walsch, author of the *Conversations With God* series, has very strong Gemini and Libra.) You might say that with Gemini 9th, you view God as your twin sibling.

Beginning in July, Uranus is going to be passing into the territory. Uranus, which should be called Prometheus, is about the fire of the gods being stolen and given to humanity. The feeling of Uranus 9th is more like direct revelation rather than reading something in a book. If you have the experience while reading a book, it will probably burst into flames in your hands, so keep a pitcher of water handy.

It's reasonable to expect yourself to have some kind of breakthrough in thought under this transit, and it could come soon. At a minimum we are talking about a feeling of restlessness setting in, which is likely to involve the need and the desire to travel. Given the property of Uranus being about rapid developments, you might be going places on short notice. So keep your passport up to date.

Mars Retrograde Between Leo and Cancer

Retrogrades of Venus and Mars take place in 2025; Mars retrograde began Dec. 5 and extends through Feb. 23. Mars represents your opposite sign Aries, to which much of this reading has been devoted.

In addition to representing partners, Mars represents a diversity of emotions, from desire to aggression to motivation to passion. Without Mars, nothing happens. One take on Mars is that it describes, well, something about everything I've written about Aries: relationships and relationship to existence. The kinds of relationships that are emphasized are social and professional (the 10th place, Cancer and the 11th place, Leo).

This transit will have the feeling of figuring out who your friends really are. I think it's probably true that friends are not just people you socialize with but rather those who are solidly behind your professional aspirations. They are likely to be collaborators, but — at minimum — advisors and supporters. This may not be true at all times in your life, though it's certainly true now.

The retrograde, though, has a solitary quality, and you will want to keep quality high and the number low. You don't need a lot of hype men on the stage with you; you need one or two trusted confidants, and you need to know who has your back.

In addition to ruling Aries, it also rules Scorpio, which is about your values and skills with money. You have good survival skills, that's for sure, and you are instinctual about your finances. My summary of Mars retrograde is that it describes a process of investigating public sentiment (the 11th place, Leo)

so that you can apply that to specific goals and actions (10th house, Cancer).

Venus Retrograde Between Aries and Pisces

Venus, which rules your sign or rising sign, will be retrograde from Aries to Pisces between March 1 and April 12. Oh no! More Aries! It never ends, does it? And now it's your ruling planet that's stopping in your opposite sign, so you can get a good look at it and what it represents.

The retrograde tracks back into Pisces, forming retrograde conjunctions to both Saturn and Neptune. This is the big send-off party. Venus retrograde is where you will get your bearing on what their transits into Aries are about. You will get a map of the territory of the first few years of those planets in Aries. Then, incredibly, Venus meets up with Chiron and Eris exactly in the moment they are conjunct, on June 1, 2025.

Pay attention: in the first half of 2025 you will figure out what your life is about. You may not remember, but you will know. You will be entering directly into this territory, the ground of being, the context of your life, which is where meaning exists. And that ground of being is saying something to you. Aries is in your opposite sign: the sign of other. Yet wherever it may be, Aries contains the spark of creation, and that ignites the quest for being. The illusion is that you will find it in others, but you will only find it in yourself.

You are about to experience astrology that does not "lock into place" or cause an effect. Rather, you're likely to experience a kind of layer by layer series of changes, though they will all have something in common. You will change somewhat, your world will change, your relationships will change — many times over for about 18 months in concentrated form.

Each of these changes will have something in common with the previous one, and the next one, and after a little while you can get the knack of moving with the flow. Take care of yourself in the present, and look for the next adventure as you think toward the future.

