



View of the Milky Way from California.

The Awakening for Sagittarius **How to Touch the Earth**

By Eric Francis

SAGITTARIUS IS NOT ONLY the most cosmic of the signs; it's the one where the properties of its natives are matched by actual physical realities that are located there. Your little band of space contains two of the most prodigious things known to astronomy: the core of our own galaxy, and the gravitational vortex that holds the nearest 100,000 galaxies in place, called the Great Attractor.

Sadly, there is no bull in Taurus, nor twins in Gemini. These are figments of the ancient imagination, suggestive though they may be. Personally, I have a hard time seeing these stellar dot patterns, but I'm willing to go along with the mythology because it's old and interesting and full of little gems; plus the signs and the constellations work pretty well. Taurus people can be bull-

headed and I've hardly met a Gemini for whom the "twin" thing was not real.

Sagittarius is a different creature. There are actual measurable cosmic objects right there, which your Sun or rising sign is directly involved with. They describe the "visitor from far away" theme of your sign and of your life.

Long before these objects were known, Sagittarius had as its themes long-distance travel, all matters spiritual and religious, the higher courts, as well as libraries and advanced education. All large, even grandiose stuff; we never meet the pope or take a case to the Supreme Court.

The ruling planet of Sagittarius is Jupiter, the big boss of the solar system — it is itself called the Jovian System and has 95 moons, the largest of which is bigger than Mercury. Jupiter is so massive that it makes the Sun wobble as it orbits.

While I was pulling together this reading, Melanie Reinhart answered an email I sent about Alice A. Bailey's *Esoteric Astrology* and cheerfully reminded me that in that system, the Earth is the "esoteric ruling planet" of Sagittarius.

So for all that size and scale and deep-space intrigue, the esoteric teachers associate Sagittarius with our home world, the Earth.

That's a good thing because the astrology that is rapidly approaching is going to require grounding. There are major moves being made by all of the classical planets. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune all change signs within a few weeks of one another. Venus and Mars both have retrogrades that span two signs. Mercury, your friend and nemesis, is doing its usual back and forth dance around the zodiac. This is a lot of movement in a very short time.

And then we are finally done with Pluto's transition into Aquarius, a supremely important sign for you because it describes and governs your state of mind.

And Then There is Chiron

Some descriptions of Sagittarius associate it with "the hunter." Others associate it with "the centaur," the first of whom was Chiron. He was, or is, the fusion of man and horse. A demigod, son of Kronos and stepson of

Apollo, we know from mythology that he was among the best friends to humanity, teaching healing and medicine and many other arts.

One thing about Chiron is that he has four feet planted on the ground. His animal nature makes him much more adept to life on the planet than this weird thing humans do, which is walk around all wobbly on two feet, tripping over their own shoes.

When a strange little planet was discovered in 1977, the astronomer who spotted it named it Chiron because it was a hybrid of planet, asteroid and comet. Charlie Kowal also gave Chiron its first key word, when he said: "This thing is a maverick."

As an astrological force, he drives both crisis and healing. Early on, Chiron was associated with Virgo and Sagittarius. Think of Virgo as the healing aspect of Chiron, and Sagittarius as the questing aspect. You tend to emphasize the quest, and de-emphasize healing — but eventually, the need to be whole gets your attention.

This is something to keep in the background. Chiron in Aries factored prominently in your 2024 astrology and is going to get a promotion for your 2025-26 astrology. Let's work up to that: there are many factors involved, and it will be good to have some background information before we go there.

Pluto From Sagittarius Through Capricorn

Through the 1990s and up until 2007, Pluto in Sagittarius was the big news. Much of that was in the prior century and the prior millennium. Suddenly with the internet we seemed to live in one world.

At first there was a more optimistic time than we have lived through recently, though that started to change radically with the Sept. 11, 2001 incident — which was at a time of profound change for you. Toward the end of Pluto in your sign, this odd little planetary system at the edge of the solar system made its way across the Galactic Core, and once again, all things seemed possible.

But Pluto's arrival in Capricorn in 2008 came with a series of massive shocks to all of society. Finally, Pluto has now completed its 18-month transition from Capricorn to Aquarius. While I've been writing about this for years, we still have a news item. Pluto will be in Aquarius until it begins to transition into Pisces in 2043.

2025

of mind & matter

