



*Ulster County Office Building under a glorious early morning sky. Photo by Eric.*

## The Awakening for Capricorn **That Was Then. This Is Now.**

By Eric Francis

**P**LUTO IN CAPRICORN. Holy mother of God.

What an experience, for the world, for everyone — and especially for you. Nothing is the same as it was — or so it seems. Life hasn't been the same five different times over since this journey began in 2008 (with its precursor in September 2001).

However you did, be grateful you did as well as you did. How do I know you did well? It could have been worse. Pluto is a potentially destructive force, and to endure it, you must grow and change in ways that are appropriate to you. And given that, you may have done very well, despite the rapidly

mounting influence of the digital world infusing, infiltrating and corrupting the physical. By the physical I mean our experience of our bodies, and how when that changes, society changes.

The theme of Pluto through your Sun or rising sign is the fundamental reconstruction of self. You have taken yourself apart and put yourself back together repeatedly, and you're probably done with it. You do not like change for its own sake; no earthy sign does, and the rest of them should be even more sick of it than we are.

Not everyone goes through this type of change. It's not easy. One must question everything about oneself. Nothing can be left out of the inquiry. Pluto will do that, cracking into every room and space and compartment, hidden or otherwise. And then you have to rebuild. Usually the demolition happens without any thought of what might come next. It might be a process driven by internal emotional or psychological events, or by wrenching changes to your environment, your health situation or your relationships.

You might be an artist whose technique is to reinvent yourself at every stage of your creative development. This is actually worth considering, whether you hold yourself as an artist or not. The past seven years of Uranus in Taurus have also driven a similar kind of self-reinvention and may have represented the most productive phase of the Pluto in Capricorn era.

While Pluto granted you a real measure of *freedom from*, Uranus in Taurus granted you the *freedom to*. I will recap this in the section on Uranus entering Gemini a little further down in this reading.

## **The Known Reality of the World**

Pluto through Capricorn has also been the sign of the dismantling of the known reality of the world, which has been reassembled into something unrecognizable — unless you use some kind of guidebook. Let's call them overhauls, to be polite.

Now, this is a defining feature of modern society. On the day that I am writing this, I've encountered my obsession with the dismantling of the original Pennsylvania Station in New York City, which occurred in the mid-1960s. The station, which opened in 1911, was one of the largest and most beautiful indoor spaces on Earth, constructed with care, craftsmanship and materials that were no longer possible to access in later decades.

And businessmen decided to demolish it just like that. It could have easily been repurposed, which would have precluded the skyward growth of midtown Manhattan. What is now Madison Square Garden was put on part of the property, and every few years that too comes up for demolition.

I am not railing against disregard for the past as a concept; my issue is with the disregard for human achievement. We keep ripping at the foundations and can never seem to build on our old gains. Yet even as the tides of digital technology will continue to rise, you, personally, must build on your accomplishments.

I think there is something else going on here. There are elements of the past that humans do not want to deal with — particularly the United States and other colonial powers. So they wage war on their own past as a kind of psychological outlet. It's the equivalent of burning all of their diaries, except that usually the accomplishment being destroyed is much greater than that.

Many changes in wider society through Pluto in Capricorn have involved banking, which is another way to say the collective effects of power and greed. It was a serious enough situation when all wealth came from the Earth. Now we live in a world of largely in silico billionaires, whose unbelievable, cosmic-scale wealth has largely come from concepts that exist in digital realms.

Yet the Earth keeps the score — and takes the hits. According to news reports, Bill Gates has purchased the notorious Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, reviving it from having been decommissioned to power his artificial "intelligence" operations.

As the Pluto in Capricorn phase developed, it's likely that you became more determined to be less dependent on large institutions. Pluto within certain contexts drives self-sufficiency and the willingness to go it alone. While we cannot do this 100%, it's possible to make changes that facilitate your independence. There are many other factors driving this right now; the process is not over (these especially included developments in Aries and Aquarius.)

Ultimately, everything comes back to the body we inhabit and the ground we stand on — while we are incarnated. Yes, there are other realms. But our journey in our bodies on our planet at this time is rooted in bodies and the planet. It helps to forget those things consciously from time to time, though the key concept is consciously.

Under the effects of Pluto in Capricorn and several other transits, humanity has been lulled into an existence that is unthinkable without our complete co-mingling with digital technology, in every facet of our lives. How did that look in collective life? Besides a lot of shiny new gadgets and 10 different iterations of the USB cable, consider these events (which I distilled and wrote down for the Sagittarius reading, which was heavily influenced by events in Capricorn:

There were two total banking meltdowns (2008 and an unpublicized one in 2019, claimed to be a pandemic); there was a mass uprising against the corporate system, Occupy Wall Street (2011); Arabs rose up in protest against oppressive governments the same year; there was the worst nuclear meltdown in history (Fukushima, in 2011); the Russo-Ukrainian war (2014-present); the *Charlie Hebdo* attack in Paris (2015); the *Obergefell v Hodges* Supreme Court decision, radically changing the definition of marriage; the first election of Donald Trump (2016); random assaults on men and the normalization of publicly expressed raw misogyny, disguised as "activism" (2017-2019, or to present depending on how you look at it); the world getting shut down allegedly because of a virus that no country anywhere ever found a sample of (2019-2020); a global "vaccine" campaign that was really a genetic modification shot known as mRNA technology (2021-2022); the Israel-Palestine war (2023-present); mass campus protest arrests related to that war (2024); the second election of Trump (2024); and a seemingly nonstop series of mass shooting events and police killings that span the era, to name but a few items on a very long list.

These are collective events, absorbed by a whole society, and they all have at least one load-bearing pillar in Capricorn. Now, imagine how you responded as an individual. Pluto leaving your sign represents an important era changing for you, and I suggest you account for your time and your direction of travel. That could mean making a timeline of your major shifts in the 21st century. Pay special attention to certain eras where you seem to have no recollection of what occurred.

## **An Evaluation of the Past Will be Helpful**

Capricorn is the sign of accumulated history and achievement. Pluto's transit through your sign has radically altered your concept of yourself and also of your personal history. We now live in a world similar to a scene in *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Marquez where the town is placed under a spell of amnesia, and the local tarot card reader tells people about their past rather than about their future.

That is what I'm suggesting you do. First, start with an assessment of how you felt, where you were, what you were doing and who you were with on

Jan. 1, 2008. And contrast that with a description of who and where you are now. You may find the transition to be shocking; though you may also sense that you are closer to your core being — which has not changed but only grown stronger.

Think of this as a soul-retrieval project. Go back through all the major turns of your life during this long era, determine if you left any parts of yourself behind, and go back and collect yourself. By parts of yourself, I mean intentions, traditions, desires, commitments to yourself, and people that you decide are still meaningful to you. Those are the things you may want to bring into the brave new future of Pluto in Aquarius.

And you also want to carefully evaluate what you have learned during this time. You may chart your spiritual and emotional progress by considering where you stand with anger, depression, resentment and forgiveness. Using 2008 as a starting point, where did you stand in relation to today?

There is important, long-term activity remaining in Capricorn — a cluster of four points all of which have involvement with family matters (as does Capricorn itself). Yet I think we need additional context to be able to understand those transits properly, and make the most of them. It will be very helpful, though, if you fully assimilate your experiences of the past 16 years. Context is essential.

When we say “meaning,” we mean knowledge placed into context. So if you want your life to be meaningful, consider what you experienced and what you learned within the framework of what you were going through, and as part of the longer and wider story of your life. Then it will make a lot more sense.

## **The Sign of the Future**

Aquarius is in many ways the sign of the future, and it will be important in yours. It now meets you in your 2nd place of your values, your possessions and your sense of your own worth.

Pluto has important work to do here, which will drive you even further into your sense of your own independence. Pluto will also drive you to update your files and bring yourself into the contemporary world, even as you honor the past and what it means to you.

The Achilles heel of Capricorn is thinking that your decisions about yourself have to be made on a consensus basis. You think you need to call a board of

directors meeting and get approval before you buy a concert ticket or go out for a fancy meal. The concept of your sign — more than most (tied only with Scorpio) — is heavily driven by early family conditions pressing on your development as an independent self.

This is not necessarily conscious, though I use that term guardedly. I mean that may exist as a background condition, which was born of the necessity to think relationally. It also shows up in your 10th place of executive function, which is covered by Libra. I know Capricorn has a reputation of being the bossiest sign, but you and I know there is something else going on. The success of Capricorn is always driven powerfully by your ability to conduct yourself politically, in the best sense of that: you know how to get others on board and build consensus.

This is not about being bossy. It's about being relational, and understanding the laws of exchange: of offering and of receiving; of asking, and knowing how to field a request for support. However, the overwhelming message coming from your astrology is learning how to make your own decisions.

If you have previous decisions that serve as precedents (for example, having gotten married), honor those first. That really means being upfront with people you've chosen to collaborate with, and using your human skills to work out solutions with others — and not merely breaking what you have collaborated in creating.

There is a fine line here, I know: for example, if you decide that a relationship is not working for you, you're unlikely to change your mind or your heart about that. The question is what you do once you've had that revelation. Do you honor your past commitments, or not? Well, you can work out a solution collectively (to the extent possible), or you can take a more destructive approach. I'll come back to this when I discuss Mars retrograde in your opposite sign Cancer.

The essence of Pluto in Aquarius is your independence of thought. That's a good place to start, as thought precedes action, and it should precede discussion. This is about having a fully-aware decision-making process. It's also about recognizing the pressure that other people put you under — in reality, and in your mind. You drag around a lot of preconditioning and the need for approval. You did not create this; it was passed down to you, and is the result of much conditioning. The more you see that in action, the better.

Pluto seems poised to demolish these thought patterns. But it's going to drive a much more important question: What are your priorities? What do

you value? What is truly important to you and why? And then there is the next stage: gaining the power to stand up not just to your internal conditioning, but also to either engage or withdraw from the people around you who would try to pressure you into doing what you do not think is right for you or for your family.

As the years of Pluto in Aquarius (and Uranus in Gemini) develop, that pressure will only increase. This will be due to the tightening web of technology and also the tribal state of mind that it induces. If these air sign placements indicate anything for you, it's your increasing capacity to make your own choices even in the face of overwhelming pressure. That is called having your own ethics, but these also take guts to put into use — especially under threat.

How you handled yourself during the 2020+ crisis will give you a baseline reading of how you tend to respond. The crisis blindsided nearly everyone and the 24x7x365 media barrage was too much for most people to resist. How did you do? What did you do? What I am suggesting is that you know exactly what it was that pressured you to act a certain way, or what it was inside you that prevented you from doing so.

Those same factors will be at play during the forthcoming 19 years of Pluto in Aquarius. This can represent increasing tribal pressure — or a newly focused independence from such pressures.

One last question: If you disagreed with people at the time, have you reached out to them to make amends in any way?

## **Saturn and Neptune: Wrapping up in Pisces**

Yet another factor in your solar chart that defies commonly held perceptions of who you are is that your decision process and your mental framework are run through the filter of Pisces, the most creative and potentially the most spiritual of all the signs. Pisces has its roots in the cosmos, outside of time and oriented toward what may to most seem impossible.

Creativity means an intuitive process of bringing into form what does not already exist. If you think this doesn't describe you, you may not be giving yourself enough credit. If you have a gift for pattern recognition — the ultimate artistic talent — this is likely to be where it comes from. If you can think not just outside the bounds of the puzzle but also in multiple frames of reference, that is Pisces on your 3rd place.

However, starting in 2011 and finally beginning to wrap up this spring, Pisces has been the home of Neptune. While there have been a number of stages of this journey, it amounts to a LOT of water. And that can make it difficult to think lucidly. It can also represent overwhelming pressure on you to accept deception as truth; and maybe playing a little fast and loose with reality yourself. We could do the forensics here; I will unpack this transit more in the Pisces readings.

You have enough going for you in other areas of your chart dedicated to mental function that you probably caught most of the big errors before they happened. Still, there are mental distortions that you must account for, many of them perceptual. If you pushed the habit of "thinking with your gut," you might want to reevaluate some of those scenarios.

Over the past two years, Saturn has insisted on a more disciplined thought process and has given you some dry land to stand up on. Saturn can have a sobering effect even in the presence of Neptune (when it's needed the most) and may even be a literal thing. Because Neptune can represent substances, it's important to account for any of those that might have influenced you, or might be doing so now. This includes prescription meds, most of which alter one's mental state. This includes even antibiotics, which can have a nasty influence on one's emotions (the fact of a poison coupled with mass murder of gut flora is probably the problem there).

The thing with Neptune influences is that they are difficult to identify and they are often self-concealing. Saturn has come along and added the reality principle. It's at least focused you on matters of substance while there was time to take action. Did you change your decision-making style in early 2023? That is when Saturn showed up in Pisces and started to mop up the flood. You may have had a noticeable, immediate shift in your state of mind and attitude toward yourself.

Before we track Saturn and Neptune into Aries, there are two more points involving Pisces. First: what is your relationship to your local community? I would include your neighbors, and local businesses out to maybe 15 miles away *where you know the merchant by name*. Also what is up with your relationships to your siblings?

## **The Saturn-Nessus Factor: July 2024; February 2025**

One last factor in Pisces before we look into the most intriguing situation developing in Aries. Saturn has one big aspect left to make before the sign change begins, and that is a conjunction to Nessus in Pisces (2014-2033).



Nessus is a centaur, neither asteroid nor planet. Nessus is a strange one, that describes consequences, the fear of consequences, and the return of karma to its source. One dependable key phrase is “the buck stops here,” which is about accountability.

The presence of Neptune has clouded this; it has presented you with a diversity of plausible deniability options that have allowed you to sidestep matters of accountability. And I think that Nessus may be lurking around as a kind of phobia of taking responsibility, which you always end up doing — whether you planned for it or not.

However, a near-miss conjunction in early July 2024 may have gotten your attention enough to spark you into action on a particular matter calling for you to make some decisions. The exact conjunction is Feb. 8, 2025, and if this represents some matter where someone else has the opportunity to make a move first, you might want to preempt that and settle the matter before anyone gets a chance to make a decision for you.

I reckon that no matter what, what you do or propose in your own interests will be better for you than what anyone else does. To my ear, the conjunction represents a situation you want to address yourself. For more details, go back to late June or early July 2024 and assess what was going on then, and what has developed since.

Note, if you’re one of us old folks, this conjunction last happened in Gemini in 1973. What was going on in your life or in your family at that time? There may be a forensic clue there.

## **Aries and the 4th Place: Let’s Get Physical**

Big action is coming in Aries. It started in April 2024 with the total solar eclipse conjunct Chiron, but that was the warmup (and look at the ripple — such as the campus protests that were sparked within weeks). There are two major, extremely rare events spanning 2025-2026. The first is Chiron conjunct Eris. This is the first meetup of Chiron and Eris since the two were discovered. The most recent, also in Aries because Eris is there forever, was in 1971-1972: that set the tone and character of the pre-Disco 1970s.

The second is Saturn conjunct Neptune on the Aries Point, meaning, right in the first degree of Aries. If I recall, we found four previous Saturn-Neptune-in-Aries events since 1 B.C. and none of them were near the Aries Point. So this is a first-of-its-kind event in the researchable history of astrology. I don’t think we need to go further into B.C., and this represents the first time

in the annals of horoscope writing that the research for an aspect goes back more than two millennia.

Aries is your 4th place: one's security base. With so much astrology happening there, obviously we have matters of top-shelf importance to consider. The 4th is also one's father's estate (the 'ancient house of fathers'), early childhood conditions (with the 3rd also factored in), the building you live in, and what helps you feel safe and secure.

While I've been reading activity in this house for you for quite a while (Uranus was recently here, and Chiron arrived in 2018), I must say that considering the combination of factors (Aries + 4th with dominant Capricorn in the chart), I was feeling stuck on placing the whole matter of self-actualization in this house of your chart.

So I did a little research, and went to someone I consider a trustworthy source: Isabel Hickey. She has a whole section of her book on where signs and houses overlay (very few people write about this; it takes more experience than most astrologers have and there are at least 144 possible combinations).

She said: these people must rule the roost. It makes domestic relationships challenging. They MUST have a solid home. That is the place where they feel free to be themselves, and this is essential. OK, that's a clue. Hickey surmised that such people might not be home a lot, which could make domestic relationships easier.

She also suggested that real estate would be an excellent career choice. (If you happen to be an estate agent and are not easily offended, or like being offended, here is the *South Park* [takedown](#), featuring Eric Cartman and his newly-minted realtor mom). However, Hickey's point is taken: "real" means what exists on the ground. Aries is the root of your ability to establish yourself strongly in the material world. Your home is a direct extension of your body.

Then I went searching in my database for people who have the signature of Capricorn Sun or rising, plus Aries on the 4th. I learned that nearly everyone with Aries on the 4th is Sagittarius rising; Cap rising is the exception. But I found a collection with the Capricorn Sun or AC signature. I'm not putting their names into alphabetical order (if this was the Virgo reading, I would have had to; but since you have Pisces on the 3rd, you probably wouldn't have noticed if I hadn't said anything).

These are the names I recognized and knew a little about the person's contribution: Lucille Ball, John Belushi, Alan Alda, Robert Anton Wilson, Tiger Woods, Malcom X, Buddy Holly, J. Edgar Hoover, Jim Jones, Linda Lovelace, Willie Mays, Mao Tse Tung, Alan Watts, Joe Frazier and Nicholas Cage.

These were all talented people — who developed cult followings. While you might not consider Jim Jones or Ed Hoover or Chairman Mao worthy of aspiration, it's always good to learn from the notorious people who share astrological features with you. What they had was the ability to get a lot of people to do what THEY wanted. And this puts you in a position of public trust whether you like it or not.

Two of my favorite comedians are at the top of the list: *I Love Lucy*, and *I Love Belushi*. One of my sub-hobbies is studying why comedy is funny. And one of the reasons is that the best comedy is physical. And nobody threw their bodies into their act like these two. This is their example: self-expression has a physical component. Communication is a physical thing.

If you've never seen **Belushi's SNL audition video** (it's so famous that people do satires on it), it's worth studying. He just shows up and he's funny: mostly from what he physically does. ("All the mistakes you see happening on this show are real.") Lucy was the same way; she crushes you with facial expressions and body movements. In one scene, she's standing in her apartment with her husband and neighbors and out of nowhere breaks into a kick-line step (technically, a strut kick) just like that (think: the Rockettes). Here are some of **her best dance moves**.

This is what I mean by physical comedy. And two of its masters have something in common with you. And what we are losing is the physicality of communication. Right now, there is a massive crisis of incarnation and embodiment that is (historically, and today) centered in Aries. So get your body into whatever you do, even if it's typing. This physical element of relating to others — body language, honest facial expressions, and allowing yourself to feel — are all that digital technology strives to blot out.

By the way — a PS on Lucille Ball: she proved herself to be a brilliant businesswoman who had the vision to allow the original *Star Trek* series to come through Desilu Productions, her studio. Think of it: without *I Love Lucy* — and Lucille herself — there would be no Mr. Spock. No Kirk. No Captain Picard. Never venture far from your potentially genius business acumen, which finds its power in bringing your body into whatever you do.

## **Chiron in Aries Meets Eris in Aries**

Chiron in Aries (since 2018) has created a crisis of grounding, and chances are you've done quite a bit of it under its influence. As I have said many times, Aries is the crime scene of digital disembodiment, by which I mean insanity. I've published a quote from an email Eric McLuhan sent me no fewer than 20 times; it's worth memorizing:

"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."

OK, so that means two things. One is to do whatever you can to understand how exposure to the digital environment has changed you.

Another is general guidance to get real; get into your body and into your sane mind and fully occupy the physical space you live in. Digital is pushing us all into a version of our "minds." And it's chilly there, and there can be incomprehensible bouts with aggression and depression; with resentment and with guilt. A lot of this is driven by not getting the physical contact with others that we need.

The disembodiment issue is not about your downward dog. It's about living your whole life as if you have a body; and that means not acting like a crazy person. So how do you know if you're acting like a crazy person? You can use your environment for some feedback: if you get into a lot of situations that could be described as "antisocial," then you have got a clue. I don't mean being reclusive; I mean controversy that you don't understand and have difficulty getting out of. That means you're missing something.

I have been studying the ways that girls and young women are raised, the history of this matter, and the expectations that it creates. Especially in any situation other than poverty, they are taught they can get away with a lot; indeed, often with anything. However, I think there exists a significant question of whether you want any such privilege or anything that vaguely approximates it. If you think of your life as a matter of what you can get away with, you're living like a fugitive. If people trust you, take that as a sacred honor.

Measure your depth of incarnation by your consistency in keeping commitments — especially the ones you don't have to keep (such as those

that won't affect your credit score if you avoid them). In this I include the most casual statements of intent, such as to assist another.

This holds for everyone: sanity means, in part, having an excellent track record keeping your promises. These should never be given lightly. Measure and account for everything you say that is not true. You know that people trust you and give you credibility without you having to do much. To what extent do you take advantage of that?

I also suggest you track your concept of fairness, no matter who is involved — yourself or any third party. Make sure that you're fair to everyone and lean into being a little extra fair when in doubt. The conjunction may stir up some old issues for you. It's vital to approach those issues from the standpoint of an adult and not the child you once were.

There is an art to this; it used to be called therapy, though today you're getting your information from astrology. You have plenty of power, if you would only use it. Part of that power will include restraint, meaning the ability to regulate yourself from being overwhelmed by events, by your feelings about them, and by your own inwardly-created feelings.

## **Saturn and Neptune Will Warm Up in Aries**

Between spring 2025 and spring 2026, Saturn and Neptune will dance around over the 4th house cusp and finally make a conjunction in the first degree of Aries. This is the thing that has not happened going as far back as we can check, which is 1 B.C. It's fair to say: unprecedented. Therefore, not really predictable, but somewhat readable.

This is an opportunity to reshape your life from the inside out. There is a theme of facing fear with both Saturn and Neptune moving over an angle (your solar 4th place counts).

Yet that's merely a kind of by-product of such a potentially self-creative transit. Saturn-Neptune describes the potential for synthesis of a kind you've never experienced before.

Remember that Saturn rules your sign; so imagine it going deep into the core of who you are at your roots, and there meeting Neptune, which brings with it all the power of the rivers, the seas and the geological fault lines of the Earth (Neptune rules all three).

This transit will affect everyone around you. So it's vital that you be real with them — and gentle with them — not in the spirit of ruling the roost, but of being responsible for your life, and also responsible to them. Be aware of your responsibilities to others at all times; it's up to you to negotiate terms of your relationships that protect the interests of others. It will be very easy, under the combined influence of these two conjunctions in Aries to say, "Fuck everything! I'm doing what I need to do." And you surely can do that, though how you handle yourself will determine whether you're churning out new karmic debt, or resolving it. It's important to think of your actions on a very long-term arc with this transit.

There may also be public implications. For many decades before today, indeed, as long as astrologers have talked to clients, there have been public figures, private figures, and a scant few making the transition from private to public. Suddenly everyone is thrust into the public domain and is a pseudo public figure at minimum. It is an odd coincidence of Aries that the sign most associated with the individual person is also a portal into the realm of public influence. So you may feel like you're living in a fish bowl.

Given that the 4th house is inadvertently associated with the 4th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution — the right to be secure in your dwelling, your person and your papers — this is a matter for genuine consideration.

Privacy is an extremely complicated idea in our age. It's arguable whether it exists in any sense that even our grandparents would recognize. But it was our great grandparents or older who were suddenly thrust into a world of "party line" telephones where everyone in the neighborhood, including the operators, was suddenly in on their business. The shock of this was somewhat dulled by the extreme power of electrical communication, but this was a Faustian bargain if there ever was one.

The privacy situation is often interpreted as a good reason to play hide-and-seek with the world. However, I suggest you take the opposite approach, and assume that you live in a glass house, and that's how it is. Any notion of privacy that we have today is wholly an illusion. There is nowhere and nothing to hide — least of all from yourself. And I think this is the crux of the biscuit: your relationship to you. If you ever pause to wonder why it seems that nearly all the world is wholly obsessed with lying, consider that this is at its root about issues with one's willingness to be truthful with oneself.

We could point to a lot of environmental factors that set up this situation. But ultimately the choice to be real is one's own. Yet I would remind you

how little this takes, and what a potent effect it may have. There is no part of who you are that you must ever exaggerate or even emphasize.

## **This is an Alchemical Moment**

The astrology of 2025 and 2026 will not last long. This brief phase is defined by Saturn's presence in Aries, by the Saturn-Neptune conjunction, by Chiron aligning with Eris and finally, by the Saturn-Eris conjunction of June 24, 2027 (the final peak of these aspects and events).

That sounds like a lot, over a long time; but it's really a short time, and it's going to go by quickly. We will all be swept up in the changes in society and massive, unprecedented events. And that, in turn, will be propelled by sweeping technological, unimaginable changes that will begin to flood society noticeably in mid-2025. For you this phase is an opportunity to create something within yourself and with your life.

The planetary positions describe a rare, temporary opportunity, not a permanent condition. Rare means unprecedented; temporary means between now and the spring of 2026. So this is very much your moment, though in the meantime, always remember the ways in which the events in your life spill over into the lives of others; this counts for anyone who depends on you. You have enough resources to take care of them.

## **The Mars Retrograde Factor**

The matter of commitments is crucial to you and to society right now. Let's briefly touch on the Mars retrograde factor, germane to this discussion because Mars rules Aries — the scene of all these conjunctions.

It also rules Scorpio, a kind of public house for you — the 11th — where there is a contradiction: Scorpio tends to keep its secrets whereas the 11th tends to reveal them. Similarly, Aries tends to reveal, while the 4th tends to conceal. This transit is a kind of barometer that will tell you where you stand on honesty and transparency in your relationships.

So the situations you are in now will tell you how you are doing in terms of managing the flow of information between you and close partners. It takes two to have a real relationship; this includes the factor of you asking honest questions when you have a sincere query, and considering the responses carefully. Those things that psychologists call "withholds" are very important to spot right now.

My read on Mars retrograde is that it's all about discovering, exposing and discussing any "covert contracts" you may have with others. Contracts are agreements that set the terms of the relationship. None of them should be concealed from anyone. Eventually, they come to light; so take control and have that be a product of your own decisions and your own creativity.

## **Legacy in Capricorn: Back Then as Right Now**

Let's wrap up this portion of your reading with a discussion of the points still remaining in Capricorn and how to put them to best use. Remember that you've experienced all of the outer planets passing through your sign over the past 35 years or so (assuming you're that old) — Uranus, Chiron, Neptune and Pluto have all been through your territory.

Now there is what I am calling the **Family Hunger Game** cluster hanging out between 5 and 10 degrees. Part of your Capricorn inheritance is honoring the past, and this cluster (consisting of Pholus, Quaoar, Ixion and Cupido) is giving you direct access to history. It's almost as if you have a living library at your disposal that can give you access to a wide diversity of states of mind of your ancestors — and can help you travel back in time to understand what went on in past generations.

If you know about this influence, it will be less likely to control you unconsciously. I believe that nearly everyone is a kind of puppet to the karma left to them by their ancestors. And that this is mostly because they have no clue that the influence could be so powerful. If you can tell the difference between the past and the present, the past can be an excellent teacher. So when you get the information you need, make the most of it, and remember: that was then, and this is now.

What you can get here is the very best that Capricorn has to offer, which is wisdom, tradition and honoring the trust ways of the past. Those ways always must adapt to future conditions, though they contain something that is essential and that humanity cannot be itself without. There is an underlying form, an idea, an understanding — and you have access to this. It's helpful, and you don't need to be reminded much, that it's not "all good." And when you know the good from the not good, the helpful from the not helpful, then you have the basis for making decisions now.



B287

