



*Atlantic Ocean from Camp Hero, Montauk. Photo by Eric.*

## The Awakening for Pisces

# **Tales from Topographic Oceans**

By Eric Francis

**T**HERE ARE A LOT OF PLANETS — more than a million objects are known to orbit our Sun in our little solar system. Astronomers and their students know something about these places, and it's my sincere understanding that we've spent sophisticated probes to several of them. They're all interesting and unusual and beautiful, but all of them lack the one thing that we have on our home planet Earth: liquid water.

And that is what Pisces represents, in abundance — though under ongoing threat by industrial processes. But there can be no doubt that this is, at least for now, your home planet, and that you're able to adapt to being here. That adaptability is another Pisces property, and your most important one.

Maybe there are other kinds of life that can swim around in liquid hydrogen in Jupiter, or go surfing in the molten lava on Jupiter's moon Io, or thrive at nearly 900 degrees under the thick clouds of sulfuric acid on Venus.

We on Earth are made of water and need water to live, and when we get near the stuff we feel better — especially you. We give water to our plants and our critters. We soak in many forms: from oceans to streams to hot mineral springs, Throughout human history rivers, lakes and oceans have provided much of the food we eat. Most of the population of the planet is concentrated around shorelines and cities always grow up along rivers.

And incredibly, we have no idea where all the water on our planet came from, nor how the mere 3% that is not salt water got to be the way it is. Most of that fresh water is stored in the ice caps, glaciers and snowy mountain ranges, making your pitcher full of pure H<sub>2</sub>O a rare compound.

The best theory I've heard is that a great big hunk of ice in the form of a massive comet collided with the planet, and delivered water to us — but then where did that come from? Still, we are here; and our lives are intimately intertwined with this simple molecule in its various stages — liquid, gas, solid and plasma.

## **A River Refuses No Stream. The Ocean Refuses No River.**

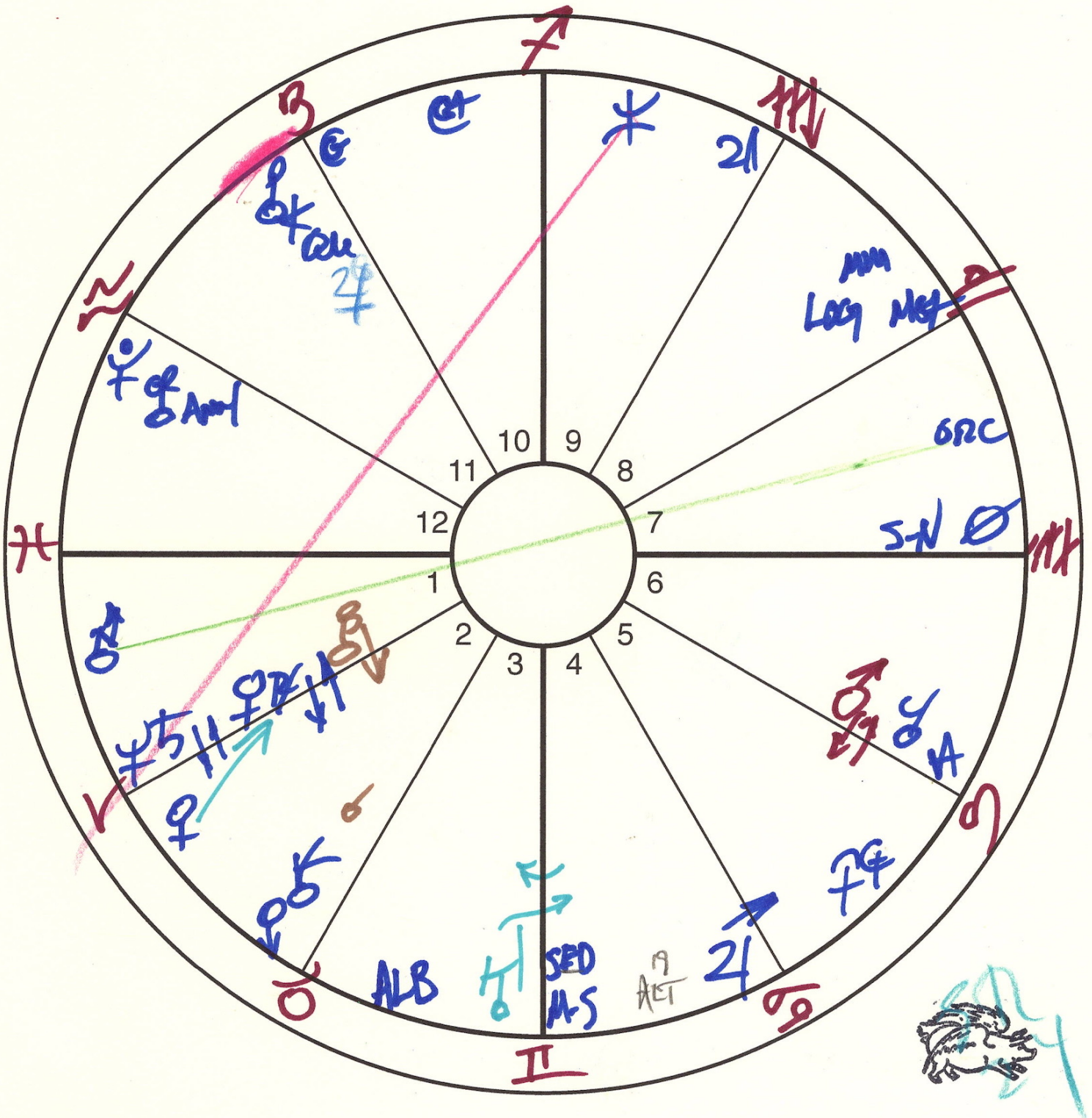
And in the case of your astrology, water comes in the form of Pisces and Neptune. Pisces is watery enough any day or any lifetime. The ocean refuses no river. It's difficult being so receptive, so porous and so sensitive on a planet where there seems to be an invasion every second.

Yet for the past 14 years, you've had Neptune moving through your Sun sign or ascendant, which we might surmise totally submerged you. Because of your Pisces orientation, you may not have noticed for a while. Neptune has a way of sneaking up on people.

And way at the beginning when Neptune left Aquarius and entered Pisces in 2011, that certainly came as a relief, kind of like your ears popping on a cosmic scale. And then, year-by-year, you experienced the great mystery of Neptune — by far the strangest planet in its effects.

One of those effects is often a sense of isolation that may or may not be true — but the feeling is there. You can feel like you're the only person, or the only one of your kind. Sometimes that comes across as a sense of isolation.

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Another can be boundary issues. The typical porous quality of Pisces, and its tendency to draw in everything in its watershed, is often enhanced by Neptune, and sometimes the water overflows and floods the land.

Another Neptune effect can be distorted emotions, whether subtle or not. The condition of one's Neptune in a natal chart is a good metric for one's sanity or lack thereof; for one's ability to respond to life's situations appropriately. Its presence by transit adds invisible pressure, and you've had quite a bit of that.

Another effect is denial, which often finds its match in paranoia. Neptune requires what I call "equilibrium of truth," or what Pisces Lou Reed summed up as not counting on the worst always happening (and he added, it takes a busload of faith to get by, which is the perfect Pisces credo). You at least are swimming in water. Most of the world is swimming in zeros and ones.

And at least for the past two years, Saturn has been helping shore up your boundaries, so you have some preparation for what's about to happen over the next two years — when you will need those Saturnian qualities of discipline, and of knowing where the edge is.

## **Nessus in Pisces, Transpluto in Virgo**

Briefly, I would like to get two points background up top. These are not everyday themes, or maybe you want to consider them just once a day.

Among many exciting factors describing a phase of both liberation and achievement, centaur Nessus in your sign may be troubling you. This spans 2014 through 2033. Nessus is subtle and this deserves a whole article; though I'm putting this information up to so that you can keep it in mind.

In short, Nessus is about the fear of consequences. That is its mental state. It can also represent the actual consequences of misdirected action, which will eventually return to its source. Your chart suggests you will be taking quite bit of action this year: in many ways, a bold adventure is described.

Yet if you're always worrying about what might happen, you're not going to have any fun. However, it's essential to have different kinds of boundaries, and Nessus is presenting you with a psychological one: a reminder to be aware of all times that actions get reactions, that karma returns to its source, and to always be mindful of the law of unintended consequences.

