



*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 sent sophisticated probes to several of them. They're all interesting and unusual and beautiful, but they 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 on Jupiter, 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 saltwater 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.

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.

Yet 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 background points 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 top 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 a 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 at all times that actions get reactions, that karma returns to its source, and to always be mindful of the law of unintended consequences.

If you keep up the habit of a “consequence analysis,” you will cover that base. There is also a necessity to bring your integrity and also your flexibility. Integrity has its limits; aspiring to being impeccable does not. So if you remember that you might get a different result than you’re planning, and that actions get reactions, you should be in pretty good shape. Mindfulness is key and that is different from paranoia.

Meanwhile there is another ultra slow-mover in your opposite sign Virgo, a point that it seems nobody but me cares about: Transpluto, one of the hypotheticals (imaginary planets without bodies) in a class different from the eight that I usually use. This point is more or less permanently in your relationship house, and I will briefly repeat a comment I’ve developed in many past annuals.

It’s important to know **why you are in any relationship**; and to assign every relationship a **specific purpose**. Or better, notice what that purpose is. Transpluto is, in my mind, about specificity, often quite narrow. If a relationship shows up as “general purpose,” look into that carefully and do what you can to narrow that down a little — and at least have a primary area of focus. Note whether a relationship is going from the general to the specific, or the specific to the general.

One other point about Transpluto. You don’t need to be surrounded by critics. You need to be surrounded by people who know how to work well, who know how to cooperate, and who support and protect your interests.

## **Nessus as it Relates to Chiron**

One last thought, before we move on into our exploration of the topography at the bottom of the sea: Nessus is perhaps one of the more challenging centaurs, as it addresses unpleasant subjects.

It looks like one of the potential points of difficulty at the moment. But all of the centaurs do this; they are all intense and concentrated, and their presence changes things. And they have one thing in common: they are a focused point of healing and transformation. As such, they can also describe the healing process.

Nessus has a lot to say about consequences, which can translate to fear of consequences — justified or not — and this can translate to a kind of paranoia. Yet this awareness is not here to vex you (though it might). It’s here to guide you, and to instruct you in the handling of fears that today in the age of the panopticon — the all-seeing eye — are more or less universal.

All centaurs have modes of action that can be traced to the healing crisis and healing process of Chiron, which at its best is about concentrating power around places of injury or mishap.

At worst, there is the experience of repeated injury. So the centaurs will either spiral up (healing and development of ability) or spiral down (one event worse than the next, with little taken in the way of a lesson).

| Year        | Chiron      | Nessus   |
|-------------|-------------|----------|
| 01 Jan 2010 | 23 aq 6     | 15 aq 38 |
| 01 Jan 2011 | 27 aq 37    | 18 aq 30 |
| 01 Jan 2012 | 1 pi 54     | 21 aq 13 |
| 01 Jan 2013 | 6 pi 2      | 23 aq 49 |
| 01 Jan 2014 | 9 pi 58     | 26 aq 15 |
| 01 Jan 2015 | 13 pi 46    | 28 aq 33 |
| 01 Jan 2016 | 17 pi 28    | 0 pi 46  |
| 01 Jan 2017 | 21 pi 6     | 2 pi 54  |
| 01 Jan 2018 | 24 pi 38    | 4 pi 55  |
| 01 Jan 2019 | 28 pi 8     | 6 pi 52  |
| 01 Jan 2020 | 1 ar 35     | 8 pi 44  |
| 01 Jan 2021 | 5 ar 3      | 10 pi 34 |
| 01 Jan 2022 | 8 ar 30     | 12 pi 19 |
| 01 Jan 2023 | 11 ar 58    | 14 pi 0  |
| 01 Jan 2024 | 15 ar 27    | 15 pi 39 |
| 01 Jan 2025 | 19 ar 0     | 17 pi 15 |
| 01 Jan 2026 | 22 ar 36 Rx | 18 pi 47 |
| 01 Jan 2027 | 26 ar 16 Rx | 20 pi 17 |
| 01 Jan 2028 | 0 ta 3 Rx   | 21 pi 44 |
| 01 Jan 2029 | 3 ta 57 Rx  | 23 pi 10 |
| 01 Jan 2030 | 8 ta 1 Rx   | 24 pi 34 |
| 01 Jan 2031 | 12 ta 17 Rx | 25 pi 55 |
| 01 Jan 2032 | 16 ta 46 Rx | 27 pi 15 |
| 01 Jan 2033 | 21 ta 31 Rx | 28 pi 34 |
| 01 Jan 2034 | 26 ta 38 Rx | 29 pi 51 |
| 01 Jan 2035 | 2 ge 10 Rx  | 1 ar 7   |

Chiron has been through Pisces in recent years, and it taught you a lot. But you need to remember. These years were approximately 2011 through 2019.

So if you feel like Nessus is getting the better of you, if you are feeling paralyzed to take action because you're afraid of the consequences, come back to the basic principles of Chiron: healing to become a healer; the need to stand out; one-to-one teaching (mentorship); the concentration of solutions around a problem; the bridging of different subjects or areas of life; and focus on growth and service.

Chiron is a bridge that connects Saturn (the reality principle) and Uranus (the flash of insight; disruption). Nessus is a bridge that connects Saturn (the reality principle) and Neptune (imagination, fantasy, denial). For the next two years, much that you experience will be under the influence of a conjunction of Saturn and Neptune — and Nessus is therefore the perfect utility to keep in your pocket.

*Yearly positions of Chiron and Nessus, 2010-35*

Melanie Reinhart adds that that the centaurs are all messengers or escapees from Pluto's realm with a sort of 'seeing in the dark' capacity; helping us to locate and meet with what obscures our inner light, and also what enlightens us in the realms we're not used to seeing into and bringing in what has been exiled (by our own lack of awareness, or our family, or the prevailing culture). OK with that said — onward.

## **Living on a Neptune Line — A Tale of Many Islands**

For a while a bit earlier in life, I went island hopping, an unplanned privilege and a kind of watery pilgrimage at the dawn of the “work from anywhere” days, especially as a traveling photojournalist. I posted the first edition of Planet Waves while living on a tiny little island of the Saddle River in northern New Jersey. A flood at that location sent me to Miami Beach, a giant sandbar, surrounded on all sides by salty seawater.

Then I headed west. I long knew I had a date with destiny on the West Coast, though I did not end up in the hills of San Francisco.

After visiting Camano Island, Washington, I went from there to Vancouver Island (spending the summer in the city of Van, not an island but right on the sea with those coastal mountains), followed by settling down for a while on Vashon Island, and then Maury Island (which are sort of the same place but not really, where I founded the Planet Waves corporation).

From there I went to the isle of England for a while, and then took a train through a tunnel under the English Channel to Paris and landed on Ile St Louis, an island on the Seine (the one next to Ile de la Cite, where Notre Dame sits). This all happened over about seven years, from 1998-2004. Doing this, I explored quite a bit of locational astrology, which is the study of how a natal chart feels in different places. I lived a full life everywhere, so I could make my assessment on a diversity of personal experiences.

Up and down the West Coast, I have a Neptune line. My relocated natal chart rearranges itself to place Neptune in Scorpio on the 7th house, which is the relationship angle, and also descriptive of the general environment. And that description said deep water.

I spent the longest time on Vashon and Maury. So when I made it to the West Coast, not only was I on this watery line but I was also living on an island surrounded by 600-foot-deep Puget Sound, where whales would come to visit and where I was told giant octopi — basically sea monsters — lived at the bottom. The only way off the island was by ferryboat or helicopter.

Living on Vashon, I distinctly remember feeling isolated; there was no bridge from the then very rural Vashon to the mainland, and it was not possible to go out very late in Seattle due to the ferry schedule. When I think back and read through my notes, I had many relational experiences — though not the deep pair bonding that I wanted. So between that and the “island mentality,” I can understand my sense of isolation. You were not “from

there” unless your grandparents were born there, hence, no invitations. Yet within that environment, many interesting and beautiful things happened.

That is Neptune — the morph of dreamy, fantasy-like, a bit removed or lonely feeling, and yet in its own way real and meaningful. It’s often difficult to characterize the experience of Neptune accurately while it’s happening, while the floodwaters are at their peak.

But there is something important in that oblique sense of isolation when Neptune is present, which is some dim sense that we are alone in the universe — and if we are not, then the only point of contact is spiritual. While this is not the most pleasant experience while you’re having it, it becomes very important when the floodwaters recede, which is about to happen.

### **(Walk Me Out in the) Morning Dew**

Or — Pluto in Capricorn: what the fuck happened? Where did the world go? Where did all the people go? You have Capricorn right where you can see it and feel it as a social expression, and also as a statement of your potential. Pluto has been here since 2008, and it has totally rearranged your world. There are times you may be wondering where everyone and everything went.

And while it’s important to take stock — to remember what is gone — it’s more important that you connect with who and what is here now. And it’s vital that you become the keeper of traditions that you feel are under threat. The point is not the tradition itself but rather the ways in which the practice of time-honored ritual connects you and the rest of us to our past.

By the past, I mean the one before we were the tsunami of algorithms; the deluge of zeros and ones; the time of natural intelligence and noticeable emotions. That’s what I mean by tradition, and you are one of its guardians.

For many, Neptune in Pisces has served as an anesthesia during a time of profound transformation not just of the world but of the idea of what a person is; and the related idea of what the world is. The program Black Mirror, describing the potential of a society that is totally controlled by digital and artificial intelligence, premiered in 2011, the first year of Neptune in Pisces. I find this program so disturbing in its accuracy that I have only been able to watch two or three episodes.

In 2012, one year into Neptune in Pisces, I could joke about how babies born right about now would not be issued a Social Security number but rather an IP address. Now, we are very close to that, though adults are being swept into the dragnet with tools like all-knowing central bank digital currency (CBDC) that connects your ability to spend money with your “vaccine” record and 60,000 surveillance cameras in New York City.

Two things have happened in this era, disguised as a lot of new gadgets. One is that the physical world has been totally rearranged — from below, from within. Two is that most humans no longer inhabit the physical world. The chaos, the polarization, the instability, the meanness, the bizarre tribalism — this is all about being disconnected from the physical world.

If you’re feeling lonely, that’s part of the situation. It’s not about you personally; it’s about you being sensitive to what is happening around you.

As I wrote in an article recently, and also quoted in Aquarius, imagine that life was proceeding as normal, and everyone was doing their thing. Then unexpectedly, a new kind of bomb was detonated and killed everyone on the planet instantly, simultaneously.

Nobody remembers the incident itself. It happened that fast, and made no sound. Yet instead of “going to heaven” or bardo or oblivion or whatever they were expecting, people were instantaneously transported to an astral replica of the life they recently lived, not knowing they no longer have a body. That is the digital plane; it’s basically created a replica world where consciousness has gone. (Note, this actually happens to many people when they die. They don’t know they’re dead.)

## **This Is the Ascension**

Many symbolists and theorists were hot and heavy on “the ascension” in 2012. Welcome to it. We are here. We have indeed ascended. And most people don’t know it. But you, with your sublime Pisces intuition, just might sense what is going on — if you can stand to notice — and it’s not easy. It is easier to see the situation and then deny it.

How you handle yourself in this new world with its very different consciousness is your most important question, whether spiritual, psychological, creative, relational or whatever. This question relates to your entire existence: the question of what to do in the wake of these ongoing and accelerating developments.



The world had plenty of problems before all of this; we now seem to be disjointed from any sense of logic or reason that could get us out of them.

Intuition has been taken over by a kind of intoxicant that you have to charge up by plugging it into some other device. Trust — the very trust we need the most — is at an all-time low. Neptune makes it difficult to know who and what to trust. You have made some mistakes over the past (more than) decade, and it's important that you size up those errors.

How did the people who got access to you get that access? At what point did you lose control over your affairs that you had to then regain control of?

Which leads us to Pluto.

The Pisces-Neptune era ran parallel to the recently ended Capricorn-Pluto era. Capricorn for you is your social house. Old books might say that "Capricorn is the friendship house of Pisces," and what that means is that Capricorn is your 11th place — friends, group associations, and "hopes and dreams": your vision for your life.

Capricorn located here in relation to your Sun or rising sign describes a structured and somewhat conservative personal landscape. You want commitment with, for and from your friends. You want your social associations to matter and be worth something real to everyone.

More significant still, the word "friend" actually means something to you, and I suspect it galls you to see the concept thrown around so casually. You need friends, though I suspect you do not really need to be popular — and you know the difference. You are probably of the school of thought that time-honored old friends are more important than new ones. I suggest you be good to them, and gracious toward them, and never take them for granted. Cook food for them and make them gifts.

All that and yes, remember that the 11th is about your hopes and dreams, which are often devoted to honest actual sustained commitment (which primarily must come from you). Capricorn in the 11th is about earning your place in society.

During the time of Pluto in Capricorn (2008-2024), you have seen the social landscape of the world remade by something, though it's not easy to say what it was or is. Things were looking good during the Occupy Wall Street movement of 2011, when people were willing to get together; there are other excellent examples from that year.



*This transformation occurred between 1963 and 1968.*

Yet as Pluto moved through Capricorn, the feet of clay of the physical world were washed away by the torrents of everything and everyone getting digitized. And it seems like nobody cares, or they are too busy being distracted and entertained. But this is how the world is shaped.

In the very days I am writing this, I've (again) become fascinated with the demolition of one of the most magnificent New York City landmarks — the old Penn Station in New York City.

It was completed in 1911 — when trains were very important and everything was built by artisans using real materials — but as the 1950s developed, interstate highways were appearing and passenger transportation became predominantly by car.



*What remained on Dec. 8, 1965.*

And as that happened, Pennsylvania Railroad, the station's owner, went into debt verging on bankruptcy, and the station fell into neglect and disrepair. Not only did nobody seem to care that it was going to be torn down; the demolition process was more a source of inconvenience than grief or regret.

And just like that, one of the largest indoor spaces in the world was dismantled and reduced to a heap of rubble, and then a building lot for an

office building and the fourth Madison Square Garden — which today is itself always on the brink of being demolished. This is what is happening to our world, and it's happening very fast — and next to nothing is exempt.

Between people not noticing much anyway, and the “out with the old, in with the new” philosophy particularly adored in the digital age, we have watched the world — and something fundamental to our humanity — be gutted.

Here is the problem with digital technology: it's about one's spiritual orientation more than it is about institutions or gadgets.

It's about what has happened to us and who we have become. We are the ones whose integrity has been compromised, replaced with the facade of bright, shiny (and seemingly tidy) digital consciousness, always ready for a software update — and when new software does not work, a new device. And always tracking who you are with greater precision.

Yet under this glossy edifice, the already tenuous condition of humanity has been profoundly weakened. We have gone mad with obsession over image. We have come to think of our bodies as wreckage and rebuildable — and they are not. The result is that people generally have become extremely easy to infiltrate. Yet only you can stand as the guardian of your own integrity. Other people may care, a little, but only you can make the decisions and take the actions that honor and protect your spiritual and biological core. This is good for you and for everyone around you.

How serious is this problem? In early 2020, when the world was put under “lockdown” — a term from the prison system and nowhere else — health authorities knew they only had a computer simulation of a virus and therefore a test that tested for nothing. The result was to turn the world into a prison, which alarmingly few people admitted to caring about. Pisces is (among other things) the sign that signifies prisons and other overwhelming institutions. You may have been highly sensitive to this; you may have adapted; you don't want to go through it again.

Authorities convinced billions of people to shut their businesses and give up their livelihoods, to close vast school systems and universities and downtown areas, and to stay home. Stage two was to convince people to be injected with an untested experimental gene therapy for a virus that had never been identified. Among the radical outlaws were Hasidic Jews in Brooklyn who refused to obey and held a wedding ceremony packed with 500 people. God bless them. Most of them don't own computers. They conduct business in cash. We cannot do that, but we can take the object lesson.

This nightmare could only happen to people under the total thrall of digital consciousness, by which I mean humanity systematically ground to powder. It was tried many times in the past, and only worked so well. But you are made of finer stuff than powder; one cannot really grind water. It's possible that you survived this with your spirit intact.

But you witnessed things that were tragic and traumatic. Most who called out the problem were subjected to a digital lynch mob or excommunication. People casually, self-righteously rejected friends and even family members, including their parents and children, on the wholly self-serving argument of saving their own ass — for the alleged good of others.

I would ask how much of this has happened to you — and what you would do if a similar scheme were attempted again. I am asking you to explain to yourself your relationship to fear by observing how you responded to what was sold as an external threat. What, exactly, did you do? What did you believe? What is your evidence that you trusted your own instincts? You will need these lessons.

So now that we are living in the wake of Pluto in Capricorn, it is vitally important to take stock of what is left; to assess the damage; and to document and remove what cannot be repaired.

However, what towers above all else is the urgency for you to conduct yourself with impeccability: to keep your promises, to monitor your expectations and make sure they are grounded in an agreement, to show up places on time, and to fulfill the definition of dharma — act as if to hold the world together.

It all starts with you, and you cannot expect more than you are not only *willing* to give, but *actually* give. Do not expect others to generally conduct themselves this way, but when you find people who do — those are keepers.

## **The Family Hunger Games Cluster Has Something For You**

There is a legacy remaining in Capricorn that I have not commented on much in these readings, but which calls for a mention here. I have referred to this as the Family Hunger Game. Capricorn is the sign of the past; while much of the past has been demolished like Penn Station, you have a direct personal line into many forms of genetic and cultural memory. This involves a cluster of planets remaining in Capricorn: Pholus, Quaoar, Ixion and Cupido.

The psychic landscape of the past has been mostly demolished. However, over the past few years, a tap has opened up in Capricorn that gives you access to history and to legacy material; to knowledge and wisdom. This source — which is in you — contains a diversity of what you may think of as utilities, which can offer you the ability to, well, travel back in time.

Capricorn on its own contains a morphogenetic field of the past. However, two slow-movers directly address the matter of family history. One goes back three generations, including many people you may have known personally (Pholus); another goes back to the origins of what you consider your tribe, family or nationality (Quaoar, which encompasses thousands of relatives you've never met).

You have the ability to access knowledge and history as a resource that you can share with others. Everyone has this pattern somewhere in their chart. But you have it specifically as a usable, accessible resource (it also shows up very strongly for Sagittarius in a similar way).

The resource is wisdom. This is not “new age” “wisdom” but rather the ability to tap into historical perspectives — whether in your family or in society — so that you can actually see and feel what is happening now, and how things were done in the past. You will know you're really doing this because you will not be cowed by authority. You might call this cluster of planets the new formation of your inner authority.

Saturn moving through your birth sign has also provided you with many growth opportunities to take over your inner command. This is a very serious issue under digital conditions and it's often difficult for Pisces. But right now you have considerable support. And as the energy rises over the next six months, I would implore you to accept that no outer authority will ever be able to help you get a handle on your life. The motivation and the decisions, and sticking to them, must come from you. And they will.

## **What the Environment Retrieves**

While digital seems to destroy everything in its path, for some it also retrieves what has been left behind in the distant past. This includes values about relationships and the leadership of organizations — including the family, the extended family and the family of choice. It would be reasonable of you to not merely succumb to the allegedly new and modern (which is always a remake), but to actually understand how and why things were done

the way they were done in the past. How and why means the methods and the reasons.

The element Cupido, a special point about family, reveals you as a place of gathering, even in our current barren social landscape. Gathering in the style of Capricorn and your 11th place means in person, without video cameras anywhere nearby. You would be the perfect host for the “check your device at the door” meeting of some kind. In the spirit of Pholus, these gatherings might also involve leaving alcohol at the door, which seems quite often to pry open the door where evil dwells.

The element of Ixion, yet another ultra slow-mover, encourages you to acknowledge and understand the element of evil that stalks humanity. Sometimes this is actual evil and more often it’s a concept that is inflicted on a gullible population. And often it is adopted like a child. Notice the people who violate their own claimed principles. Notice the people who demonstrate that they have none.

Figure out who the person or people in your family lineage were who had this property or anything resembling it — it can influence the entire family pattern. Get a fix on that so that you can keep it in your sights and learn what you can from it. As for what to do with people who display this tendency: I suggest avoiding them and not feeling like you owe them any form of participation or opportunity to disrupt your activities.

The Pholus factor in this cluster offers a suggestion: note the difference between environments where alcohol is a major factor, and those where it is a small or nonexistent factor.

One last thought: Reversal. All environments tend to reverse when they get overheated, and digital is getting there. You will be among the first to notice this is happening, and you will be in a good position to take advantage of it.

We’ve never experienced an environment that is so all-consuming and has advanced so rapidly as digital. Still, look and feel for signs of reversal. They will be there, though some of the people who are dropping off of the fringes of digital technology may be in rough shape. The first thing that must be embarked upon is the gradual cultivation of trust.

Without trust, we have nothing — and for that to be something you teach, you must be trustworthy, and you must take the risk of trusting others. There is no way around this. Capricorn in the 11th place holds trust as a necessary, time-honored element of true friendship and any social

environment. We have had enough of the power games. The people who think leadership is just an opportunity to concentrate power for themselves need to be given another job, such as doing the dishes or cleaning bathrooms.

## **Pluto in Aquarius: An Inner Society, Inner Authority**

There are theories that we carry a model or concept of the world within us and that is the world in which we really live. Without getting into metaphysics or depth psychology, we have ordinary words for this: preconceived notions, expectations, introjections, programming, and a diversity of others. A reasonable theory of consciousness is that we tend to live in this world more than we live in some objective real one.

It's this aspect of your consciousness that Pluto in Aquarius will be influencing, particularly on your concepts of social arrangements and your deepest sense of what has happened to society under the influence of digital life. You will therefore have a highly unusual perspective, because you have an understanding of how much of what we see outwardly is a picture of an inner arrangement.

Pluto has been hopping from port to port along the Capricorn coastline since early 2023, and now it is finally underway on its journey across Aquarius. This lasts into 2043-44 — what you might call the barely foreseeable future.

Aquarius is your 12th place, the strangest of the lot. I keep describing it, a little different each time — there's a fun description in Aquarius related to Pluto in Capricorn. The 12th is a dimension of consciousness that opens up to a deep space within the psyche, and then goes further into a collective space (Jung had names for these — the individual unconscious and the collective unconscious). These are not merely concepts.

We go to the 12th regularly in our dreams. There are a few different kinds of dreams, as most people have noticed. Sometimes they are weird and chaotic; sometimes they speak in impeccable, personally applicable symbols. Other times dreams have a lucid quality, where you know you're dreaming and can consciously travel in what seems like a realm beyond your own mind. Other kinds of dreams reveal the future or tap into concealed events.

Then there are various kinds of visionary experiences, which include the diversity of entheogens (previously, hallucinogens) that most of us have experimented with. Various trance states, past life regression, soul journeying and related experiences: 12th house.

Some movies and really good theater experiences have a 12th house quality — the term is ‘theater magic’ as it’s so compelling and convincing yet unreal. And we might consider the internet in its entirety a 12th house space: an “overwhelming institution” in the language of the 12th.

Aquarius is a picture of society, and of social patterns — and whatever that is is imprinted on your psyche. In a significant way, you not only contain your own model of society but you tend to live in the one that exists as a template or concept within you. Therefore, your sense of the world and your sense of yourself directly influence your quality of life and will control the opportunities you see and believe are real.

Pluto in Aquarius will shape society in ways that are objective and verifiable; what I’m saying here is that for you this expresses as an interior phenomenon. It will do most of its shaping through a series of disruptions, which have already begun (2020+ is an example).

The 12th place — which is somewhat familiar to you as a Pisces, since you already live by many of its rules — is a strange overlay between interior and exterior. It’s important to sort out what is happening *inside* you and what is happening *to* you — and what the two have in common.

Deep events in the 12th, of which you’ve had many in recent decades (Jupiter, Saturn, Chiron, Uranus and Neptune have all come through the territory fairly recently), can evoke existential fear. This may be happening to you when society is going through external experiences that shake people up. Your learning and teaching goal is to know how to sort out the difference.

Your most important tool will be your inner authority. I get that you’re not going to find many people who can tell you their experience of this, since most people have very little. However, there is going to be a lot of outer authority going on. By that I mean that the people around you may be responding to outer authority as if it’s totally real and the only thing there is.

But you do not need to conform to this, and Pluto — the seeming source of all this control drama — can be properly located as a force in your own consciousness. You get to decide how to respond and ultimately what that force is about; what it’s caused by; what it’s teaching you; and how to respond.



## Unprecedented Events in Aries

The most dramatic new astrology of the next two years occurs in Aries. In my theory of astrology, where Aries falls in one's chart — natal or solar — is where you seek self-actualization. You have Aries as a 2nd house factor. This is the place of self-value. From older times it relates to personal resources, available cash, movable assets and the tools of one's trade.

However, in modern psychological astrology, we get the theme of self-esteem. This is squarely a concept: "holding oneself in esteem." I prefer to think of Aries as the house of self-actualization: of becoming real to oneself; of growing into one's true potential.

With Aries this is often experienced as a tropism, like plants leaning toward the light. Then when the planets get going in Aries, one may be provoked and the tropism becomes either an obsession or some kind of inevitable series of developments.

There are three events I am tracking in Aries, all of which pertain to the general theme of self-actualization in ways that will be specific to you. The sequence goes a little like this:

First, Chiron and Eris will be forming a rare conjunction in Aries in 2025 and 2026; there will be three events, two of them in 2025.

While this is happening, Neptune moves into Aries; then Saturn follows, and the two dance around the ultra-sensitive first degree of Aries. In spring 2026, Saturn and Neptune form their first conjunction on the Aries Point going all the way back to 1 B.C., the furthest back astrology programs go. There have only been four Saturn-Neptune conjunctions in Aries in all 2,025 of those years, and this is the first ever on the Aries Point. That comes with tremendous magnifying power, and what it's magnifying is your development at the same time it connects you with a deep portal into public consciousness.

So there are two vastly different events in approximately the same space and the same time span. Chiron-Eris is a kind of awakening (this is The Awakening aspect) and Saturn-Neptune is a formation event. One is revelation; the other is synthesis. These two things will be happening in tandem. But it's four planets with two different conjunctions in one sign: that's a lot of variables.

And while it will seem to come on slowly, by March you will realize you are in wholly different territory, and by June you'll be wondering how that all even happened. But it's not over; that was merely the first round out of about four between now and mid-2027.

You're not going to feel like you have a lot of time to contemplate what you're doing, much less what you're becoming — yet it's essential that you do. It's essential that you regroup with yourself and any collaborators on a daily basis and tune into what needs to happen that day, and what you want to happen.

## **Hear Me Now!**

Based on a wide diversity of factors I'm probably writing too much about, there has never been a better time to engage your longterm and seemingly impossible goals. Yes, there is infinite potential in every moment, though the idea of astrology is about finding the season for the purpose.

Nothing is impossible under this astrology, though you must do what is so often difficult for you, which is to value yourself and your contribution. This is more about quiet, inwardly focused confidence — not the kind that comes from wearing big boots and a big hat.

**I am talking about the confidence that comes from having an understanding with yourself, and the maturity born of being tempered and educated by experience. But that does not mean cynical. Too often, experience translates to bitterness; you must take the benefits of every situation you've ever been in and put them to work for you.**

And the other essential piece is proceeding only in alignment with your values: what you hold to be true. We are all accustomed to making what seem like small compromises. They are not small; they are veers in the other direction than you want. They weaken your integrity and your resolve.

The necessary order of operations is from inner to outer; from yourself to the world. You may not be able to control this totally but you can make decisions that honor this principle. You are the fulcrum; you contain the connection that makes anything outside of yourself relevant or even safe.

However, be aware that even small decisions you make could have cascading effects. This is why you must have a definition of integrity and stick to it. For example, if you have an organization, have written

agreements and a charter. If you are publishing, have an editorial policy. I know this seems stupid. It's not.

The problem with people who publish who do not have an editorial policy — meaning a vetting policy for what they choose to report, and ethical guidelines — is they could decide that some utter bullshit is true, and then re-broadcast the problem to the world. And at the moment, nearly everyone is publishing. This would have been a ridiculous statement 25 years ago, though some might have seen it coming.

What I am getting at is that as this astrology develops, in ways you cannot foresee, you will increase your reach, your influence and your resources.

The developing astrology is VERY good for you financially. But you will need discipline and the judicious use of your resources, including your creative and intellectual ones. So you will need to invest in yourself at the same time you accumulate cash for future developments.

## **The Mars Retrograde Factor**

Apropos of Aries, Mars is retrograde at the moment, and that spans between Leo and Cancer. Without writing a full-length chapter, my interpretation is this: you are spanning the territory between creative ideas and the willingness to take risks (Cancer) and the mojo and dedication to getting the job done in a practical way (Leo).

This has been going on since late last year. Do not be intimidated by power struggles; you have the upper hand, and you contain the map you need to understand the social and economic territory you are in. That said, you do not want any power struggles whatsoever, especially in matters where you are the author — or when you are holding the bag.

Mars will carry this Cancer-Leo imprint for two full years, until the next retrograde, which takes place in Leo and Virgo starting in late 2026. (Note, that particular Mars retrograde last occurred in the winter of 1994-1995, as mentioned in the new edition of The AWA.)

Remember that everything I've said about Aries in the prior sections is dramatized by Mars, the ruler of Aries. Note that Mars is also the ruler of Scorpio — your 9th place, which does not factor too much into your reading except to say: Mars contains your vision. Mars is drive, but it's also the driver of your expansive force.

That is the 9th. And with Scorpio here, I'm going to add something that some may not be thrilled about, but this is the simple fact that to stay connected to your vision and your drive, you also must stay connected to your sexual desire and getting that fulfilled.

But this presents a simple equation: that's where to go first if you need energy; and if you have done the digital thing of pretending that sex does not matter, you can re-embody yourself by connecting to this most natural and basic element of your humanity. If healing is required, then so be it. That becomes a concentrated place where you can make contact with yourself in a way that will work out to be creative and a lot of fun.

## **The Venus Retrograde Factor**

Venus will be retrograde beginning in Aries and ending in Pisces. This spans between March 1 and April 14. It is noteworthy among other things because Venus will make contact with many of the planets involved in next year's festivities. And when the retrograde ends, Neptune will be in Aries.

The flight path of Venus takes it from Pisces, into Aries, back to Pisces, and then back to Aries. So it is probing the territory that Saturn and Neptune are about to enter — where they will in fact do the same thing, but over more than a year, in much slower motion. And while large, distant planets will offer information and experience, Venus is personal, and it's one of the Pisces planets (Venus represents Pisces by exaltation).

So what you will find out from Venus as this process unfolds is something directly about what you want, and how to attract it. Mars will teach you what you want to create and describes the energy necessary to manifest your vision. Venus is more receptive and will help you see what you want to attract — and help you do so.

It's easy to take these Venus and Mars retrogrades out of the context of what is happening in Aries, though my reading is that they are perfect forerunners for expanding your sense of what is possible, and working out the bugs and the challenges early in any plans that you may have.

## **Uranus from Taurus to Gemini**

This transit is largely about ideas, though there is more. This one is tempting to write a book about; I reckon that will be the Pisces chapter in the spring reading. But this deserves a comment, as Uranus mounts the mutable cross

for the first time since Uranus was in your own sign between March 2003 and March 2011. Prior to that, speaking to the mutable cross, Uranus was in Sagittarius between 1981 and 1988. Prior to that was Uranus in Virgo in the 1960s. These are always unusual times and we have yet another indication that we are entering one with full strength.

These eras share a sense of potential associated with Uranus being released into a flexible, variable mutable sign where it can fully express itself. (Mutable contains properties of both cardinal and fixed, and can also blend them. When the Sun is in a mutable sign, that means the season is about to change — think of late summer becoming autumn; that is the feeling of mutability. People tend to love it.)

Now, as for ideas. There was a time when we did not all need to be “idea people.” But now, everyone has this incredible expressive media studio to work in. A teenager today creating content on Instagram might have been doodling in her journal in 1990. An electric piano used to cost thousands of dollars. Today a MIDI controller costs fifty bucks, basic software is free, and the result is an orchestra in one’s hands. So the creative potential of our technology environment is stunning — and for many, it serves as an invitation. Other facts of the same environment facilitate getting your work into the mental environments of others. This is where we are, at its best.

With this as background, now for your transit. You have just lived through seven years of Uranus transiting Taurus, which is your 3rd place — ideas, communication style, your ideas about buying and selling, your experience of local commerce, your local community and potentially your siblings. These are all related by the general theme of immediate and proximate expression of ideas, goods and money.

Taurus is dense. It’s into things that are time-honored, of high quality, that feel good and that last a long time. This favors solid communication but also with an emphasis on beauty. And if you check out the work of Taurus artists, you will see that it has a tendency to retain its cultural and creative value far longer than all these trends that pop up.

So, what have you been thinking about all these years of Uranus in Taurus that you have not had the flexibility or opportunity to do? That is what’s likely to express itself in some bold ways during this transition, which lasts from mid-2025 into early 2026. I think this will be liberating.

Another crucial point of Uranus in Gemini is about reconsidering where you want to live, and how you want to live there. This is among other things

about designing your living space exactly as you want it. As I have said many times about Pisces, that might work out to be two places: for you, the home front is best expressed as a twin phenomenon. Uranus also implies many: being welcome anywhere. You always take your home with you. But speaking of home:

## **Jupiter Enters Cancer: Of Passion, Art and Luck**

One effect of the current astrology is planets moving from feminine signs into masculine ones. This is true of Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto — all profound influences. Jupiter is taking another approach, moving from airy Gemini to watery Cancer. This will be your primary water source for its one-year duration: get it while it's good. This will span from June 9, 2025 through June 20, 2026.

Cancer is your 5th place and your art studio. But it's a little like an art studio with a kitchen, a couch and a bed. No sleeping on the cold floor! This is the coziest artist's den of them all. And you will have Jupiter here, inviting you into your creative home and encouraging you to do bold things and take big risks. A year is short, though there's five months leading into it, and you will be plenty busy: just remember where you are headed.

The 5th is also about taking chances. Art is about self-exploration but there is also the factor of gambling. Sex is about self-exploration, exploration of others, and it too has an element of gambling. Jupiter in Cancer is about real passion, and your desire to take the chance to explore it.

Remember that your home concept is that of a creative space, not the usual suburban split ranch with a one-car garage. You are more of the "open concept" type as long as there is a small niche where you can crawl into yourself and listen to what your mind and your feelings are saying to you.

## **Speaking of Water: the Topographic Ocean**

The title of your reading comes from one of the most unusual rock albums ever, written and performed by Yes. The topographic ocean is the topography of the ocean floor. I suggest this as an image or a concept for how to think of your life: as the explorer of the mountains, valleys and great planes deep beneath the surface of the water.

It has been said many times that we know more about the details of outer space than we know about the topography of the ocean's layer of Earth

beneath the water. As a devoted student of astronomy, both planetary and deep space, I think this is very likely to be true.

So as you walk through life and make your journeys, imagine you're exploring a deeply concealed landscape, invisible to most, but fully accessible to you. Your curiosity will take you a long way. Your curiosity is your best friend. As I learned from the Pathwork teachings, this especially includes sexual curiosity. This is different from desire: curiosity is a precursor to healthy desire, and together these elements of thought are a very helpful and necessary part of your guidance system.

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## **Epilogue to The Awakening Written Readings**

It is a bit past 7 pm on a Tuesday night, Dec. 17. I seem to have just written a nearly 100,000-word astrology reading in 13 chapters since I started right at this desk on Sept. 30. It's true that I have plenty of my own ideas — though this year we are working with exceptional material coming in from every direction.

And this reaches you as both potential and motivation to take action in many interesting and open-ended ways; you have the full run of your possibilities, so in the spirit of Jupiter in Cancer, and a conjunction that has never happened, be bold — and remain human.

This same astrology will send shockwaves through the world. We are most likely to experience it on the density level where our various bodies are oriented. Fear will beget more fear; love will beget more love; expressing your creativity will lead to an abundance of expression.

Humanity stands at what could rightly be called a terrifying precipice: we are somewhere along the process of having the collective mind taken over by synthetic thought. This has never happened before.

The story of humanity is the story of technological revolutions and how they have shaped our lives, from the stone axe to the satellite. But nothing has come on so fast, so totally, and reached so many people all over the world — at the same time. There is no turning back, and there is very little looking back (which is why I have done so much contemplation of the past in this reading, and why I do so in my photography).

It's vitally important that we keep a sense of perspective: where we were, where we are, and where we are headed — until the past ceases to have any utility as a point of orientation. My sense is that because the human experience has so little sense of where it has been, it has a limited sense of the present.

Most of us have many facets of the past we would love to let go of. While it's not so simple as one hypnosis session or a "soul retrieval," it's also not so complex as a lifetime of therapy. Yes, therapy can help. Yes, astrology can help. Yet where the human psyche finds its home is in what it expresses. That expression is connecting to both the source of renewal and of healing.

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*Hudson River from Hutton Brickyard, for Melanie.*



H 2025+

