



Workshop area in Mirabai Books, Woodstock, New York.

Inner Space for Aquarius

The One and the Many

Dear Aquarius Sun, Moon or Rising:

If it is any consolation, you are wrapping up one of the most challenging transits in all of astrology: Pluto through the 12th house or place, which for you is Capricorn. And at the same time, it is entering your sign and will be focusing a new phase of your personal transformation process.

For years, Pluto has been compelling you to confront what is normally invisible, concealed behind the veil of the most unusual of the houses. The 12th, the sign before your own, is one place where old karma is swept, where things go when we

deny them, and is often the zone where all rationality is suspended. It is also the house of dreams and any experience of “non-ordinary consciousness.”

When that box is opened, there can be a lot of unexpected stuff in there, and this is one way to describe what’s been going on for you. One thing about the 12th house is that it’s associated with anxiety. While we live in times of constantly creeping reasons to be fearful, the spiritual dimension of this is a little different, because it involves addressing so much of the mind’s background fear.

As we move into Pluto in Aquarius, we will be confronting the fear factor in the wider world and the community around us. By that, I mean confronting it in a whole new way. This is unlikely to be an easy transit for a society that seems so determined to ignore people’s spiritual needs, whether individual or collective.

The challenge we face is going to be engaging the wisdom aspect of Pluto rather than the raw power aspect. This is largely a choice, though it’s one that most do not recognize exists. Pluto can manifest as a spiritualizing influence, or as a life-or-death confrontation. It can be both, though usually the wisdom aspect is ignored in the present and addressed only in hindsight. We have the ability to engage Pluto now, as a teacher and as an evolutionary force.

Before We Go Forward — A Review

Pluto’s movement over the past decade-and-a-half has served to remind you that there is a world within you made of memory, ancestral memory, imagination and psychic infiltration. All of this is an accumulation of history, much of which is not your property inherently, but which you have inherited. I’ve been writing about this in your annual readings every year since 2008. Here is what I wrote at that time:

“Waking up also means keeping an internal focus of awareness. Pluto is about to venture into your 12th solar house, Capricorn. There are few things that will guide you inwardly better than a 12th house Pluto transit, though few astrologers would put it so politely.

What this is likely to do is burst open all the little (or not so little) compartments in your mind where you hold energy, information and issues. What you are being called to do is pop open all those little packets of self-concealment and vow to never keep a secret from yourself. To the extent that you’ve gotten by using denial in the past, that is changing in the present and the immediate future.”

The opening of these compartments should be more interesting than it is; most people hide so much from themselves that it rarely is. And what has been hidden by previous generations and passed along in these little trunks kept in the attics of our

psyches is often considered worse. The imagery I used was that of ascending into a secret attic that you didn't know existed, and finding yourself in a corridor of many rooms, each of which is occupied by two of your progenitors/ancestors.

My assessment was that through the duration of this transit, you would get to open some of those doors, and encounter the ghosts of the past, and the material that they left unresolved (and which you inherited). In the 2009 annual edition, with Pluto fully underway in your 12th house or place, Capricorn, I offered these ideas:

I have suggested that the pool of your anonymous ancestors would be enough to fill a stadium. Just to give you an idea, counting a mere 13 generations back, you have 10,000 ancestors, all of whose DNA you possess (data which includes genetic instructions, memories and future potentials).

Now for a moment think of these ancestors not as people in a stadium, but skeletons in the ground, of which your life is the primary result. I would propose we are all carrying on our backs the enormous legacy of the past, and the place we tend to keep that material stashed away is the 12th house.

Primary among the psychological baggage of history is fear. Next on the list is guilt, most of this the product of institutionalized religion, a distinctly Capricorn item. And last on the short list of Capricorn-in-the-12th products is the sense of being a prisoner of existence, which could take many forms: the fear of insanity, the fear of abandonment and isolation, the fear of having your entire life dictated to you by your ancestors.

Pluto moving through this house represents a gradual confrontation with all of this material. You can think of it as a vast hotel with thousands of rooms. You will walk the corridors, looking for open rooms, trying out different master keys, and sometimes breaking down the door when you think you need to. Bear in mind that this is lonely, potentially scary work. You don't know who is going to be behind those doors; whose fears; whose dead dreams; but I suggest you open a few of them every day.

If this process is working, each space you open will free a little more energy, a little more potential, and help you work your way a little closer into the present.

So here we are, approaching the moment of breakthrough from this process, when Pluto enters your sign, beginning in March. Think back to 2008: what was your relationship to the past, and to your ancestors then? What was the nature of your inner life? What are these things today?

One of the most serious losses of existence under digital conditions is the inner life. With television, the internal sense known as the imagination was placed outside of ourselves. With digital, the rest of inner life, including memory and one's sense of

privacy, have been turned inside-out. For many people, nearly all of their private existence has been broadcast (negating the meaning of the concept) or grafted onto external influences.

To have the ability to inwardly reflect taken over by digital technology is a greater loss than most people imagine. My question for you is, have you maintained or even deepened this ability during the years of Pluto in Capricorn? In the years to come, this is a capacity that you will want to have available. In the last section of this written reading, I'll have more news about what is currently happening in your 12th, since this is going to be a helpful orientation for you to access.

The Next Adventure

Pluto is now about to enter your birth sign. There will be an approximately 18-month phase in, spanning from March 2023 through November 2024. Pluto will remain in Aquarius through 2044, the longest transit of Pluto through one sign in our lifetimes.

What is this about? Well, Pluto in one's sign can signify a "special sense of destiny." Whether true or not that you have a special destiny, the *sense* is what counts the most.

The presence of Saturn through your sign the past three years has provided you with some preparation. Saturn and Pluto are the two planets associated with *enforced growth*. Saturn has pushed you into a place where you had to find some grounding, make up for any neglected aspects of maturity, and focus yourself on your priorities. While little can prepare you for a Pluto transit, Saturn is the closest that one could hope to get.

What will the influence of this transit be? Since nobody has ever lived through Pluto in Aquarius (which last happened in 1778), that is a matter of speculation. But in my view, this has everything to do with the spiritual implications of living under full digital conditions — I know, a topic about which few people care or know what to do with — though I am here to get your attention about something that should be plainly obvious. We are being transformed by our technological environment in a way never before seen or experienced.

By transformed, I mean our whole notion of what it means to be human has been up-ended, though one would only notice if they pay attention to meaning (which in the current environment is unlikely). So the very sense and tools that we would use to detect this transformation (inner sense, sense of meaning, privacy, imagination and others) are not accessible to most people. It will help you to get a handle on what is happening, which I have described in this essay from the **[Aquarian Era set of readings](#)**.

Ultimately, the challenge we will be facing for the 20 years of Pluto in Aquarius is the struggle to remain human. Because of your Aquarius connection, you will feel this the most poignantly. By “remain human,” I mean to have access to your feelings, your senses, your ethics, and your ability to make your own decisions.

Most of all, I mean your ability to love and respect people, and to feel empathy for them, all of which is quickly being snuffed out by our technological environment.

The Nature of Aquarius

To understand the influence of Pluto on you, let’s briefly consider the nature of Aquarius. It is commonly described as the sign of peace and love, signifying the groovy new Aquarian Age. By now, we were all supposed to be frolicking around naked, collecting flowers on an eternal summer day. We would not need lawyers, and hospitals would be replaced by Reiki healing centers where you would be greeted by an attractive barefoot person handing you a spirulina smoothie. And life would have an awesome bass line.

Since none of that worked out, let’s consult with astrology itself. Aquarius, said to be the sign of groups, is really the sign of the relationship *between the individual and the group*. It is the sign where we are either bowled over by pressure from others, or where we stand up to others and assert our existence. The summary of this is one version of the story of your life.

Second, Aquarius is the sign of pattern crystallization. Mostly this is about social patterns, though the frosting of the entire planet with electrical technology over the past 160 or so years (starting with telegraph, and then electric light, telephones, radio, television and the internet) counts as such. Anything under the influence of Aquarius is likely to have a challenge with flexibility, as if there is the expectation that to bend is to break.

Whatever patterns have been established in this way, Pluto is going to come through and rearrange things. There are several broad possibilities. One is that the existing patterns will be completely up-ended (probable in any event).

Another is that they will be intensified, and Pluto will in a sense embody the power of Aquarius over the individual. Yet it’s also about the individual standing up to the potentially endless indoctrination of what you’re supposed to do in our time of nonstop manufactured crisis.

While I recognize that most people think this was just fine, the overbearing pressure to cover your face while walking around on the street is a classic example of this kind of insanity. The specific action is not the thing I am talking about; it is the social pressure to behave a certain way, *or be cast out of society*.

Those six words are the essence of shadow Aquarius. That is why people comply. It is why you must learn to act wholly and solely as your own individual — which means confronting the fear of being thrown out of the tribe. And in facing that fear, you will have the strength and power to start your own group — not a tribe. A group is made of individuals. A tribe is made of people who are not allowed to express their individuality.

In case you're wondering where you are, say something mildly controversial or "socially unacceptable," and you will find out in about 30 seconds.

Uranus in Taurus

With that, let's take the discussion to the 4th house, where we find information about matters related to tribe, to family, to the household generally, and to personal security. The 4th is the house of emotional containment, which includes having a dry roof and a place to keep your collection of disk drives, flashlights, vintage toy robots and electric frying pans.

Taurus says you are accustomed to having a strong foundation. In astrology, there is nothing more solid than Taurus, the only fixed sign in the earthy element. Uranus is now more than halfway through its seven-year trek through this region of your chart, which has the approximate flavor of living in an emotional earthquake zone.

Uranus is associated with both groups and weirdos. The weirdo part assures that when people collect (which they tend to do when Uranus is present) you are working with a group, not with a tribe, a mass, or a false collective. Individuality is essential to self-awareness and commitment to reality. However, under the influence of Uranus, you cannot count on tradition to support this; the past does not hold much sway, and this can be weird when Taurus is involved.

Or perhaps something my dear friend and teacher Arthur Joseph Kushner (himself not a rabbi, but the consultant to one) once said to me will help: tradition must evolve and change, or it dies. You have seen plenty of this with Pluto moving through your house of ancestors, which in the style of Capricorn is also about their customs, their legacy and what remains of all of their old possessions.

So, in all ways, you are on shifting ground, and you are accustomed to it. We could say that “reality forever changes,” or that the only constant is change. While this has always been true, it is really under the advent of electrical and then digital conditions that it comes on fast and furious pretty much around the clock, every day. There were always days when we were reminded that we didn’t know what the next day would bring — though usually fewer than 365 of them a year.

I recognize that it can be exhausting (and is no longer so exhilarating). Under this influence, it is still possible to stay grounded in reality. Yet that will mean maintaining your inner sanctuary and connecting this inner space to your abode. Fortunately, you will have help keeping your focus inward, as it’s likely to be a lot more interesting than what is going on in the world.

Saturn and Pisces: Interior Side of Your Chart

Among the influences that will continue to focus your awareness inwardly are Jupiter and Saturn. In astrology, size is not everything (just ask Chiron). But it is something, especially for planets that combined are 2,000 times the size of the Earth.

And these are both tucked into the interior houses of your chart, as are most of the planets right now. My assessment is that given the “inside out” state of the world, this will prove to be helpful, providing some ballast to keep your ship upright.

Let’s consider the details. Jupiter averages one year per sign. Saturn averages about 30 months per sign. Both are on the move.

Saturn, the traditional planet that rules Aquarius, is completing three years in your sign. Normally it would be easy to pick out the influence of such a transit. But since the world has been put through sheer hell since March 2020 (when Saturn first entered Aquarius), it may be difficult to see how this transit has changed you as apart from the same worldly influences that everyone else was confronted by.

What Saturn has given you is added stability and structure during an extremely high-pressure few years, and a measure of extra maturity that is necessary for conditions that call for leadership. That said, Saturn has pushed you to take care of certain matters requiring all of those qualities, and has provided some strength to make needed corrections in your life.

Now Saturn is moving into the angle of your chart where you evaluate your priorities, the 2nd place or house — Pisces. While Pisces is ruled by Jupiter, at the moment, it needs Saturn. For the past 10+ years, Neptune has been in Pisces, which has been central to the increasingly delusional state of the world. Neptune, amplified and broadcast through Pisces, can make it seem like denying the reality of all the bullshit

being hurled at us (and why it exists) is some kind of viable path. However, what we really need are ongoing moments of clarity, concern and commitment to taking a realistic view of life.

I cannot overstate the importance of being in a conscious relationship with your priorities, which means, *what comes first and why*. Neptune moving through this house has made that seemingly simple task much more difficult than it might be — or rather, potentially making it vanish. Add to that the idealistic approach of both Neptune and Pisces and you may decide that this Saturn transit is the greatest thing that ever happened to you.

Some may say “we see the world as we are,” though I propose that we truly need to see the world as it is, and ourselves for who we are, and decide what to do about both as part of the same thought process. You do not need inspiration or flowery philosophy right now. Saturn is saying that you need a plan of action based on your actual values.

Values are the underlying constitution that your priorities and choices stand on. For a better idea what those are, look at what you do rather than what you say. People tend to speak about their ideals, and then act on their values. They may discuss financial plans but you know what matters based on where the money actually goes. Please study the relationship between your words, your deeds and the numbers.

Jupiter Through Aries and Then Taurus

Jupiter is moving from Pisces to Aries as I write. Aries is your 3rd place, planted in your sign of ideas. That’s pretty funny. The signs tend to remind people of things, and Aquarius has a reputation for ideas. One place we see that in your solar chart is having Aries in this region of your chart, connected with your words, communication style and — ideas.

One of my astrology theories is where Aries lands in the chart, you find out what someone identifies with, and for you, it’s your brain, and how it flashes and comes up with stuff and communicates using gadgets. I don’t mean to imply that you’re not sexy. Aquarians are the sapiosexuals of the cosmic zoo, tend to be somewhat kinky, and think bisexuality is normal even if it’s not your cup of tea (but you’ve probably considered it).

Aries in the 3rd is a kind of concept factory. This is because you like to hang out in that department and skate around in the marketplace of ideas, which is lavishly abundant right now. The solution to three TV networks seems to be having several hundred million of them, plus everything else that is orbiting in the buzz of what to tap on.

Lately you've had Chiron here. This has been a lens that works as a microscope, telescope, binoculars, magnifying glass or jeweler's loop. It has been triggering your questions about yourself and your intelligence. With Chiron there is room for some mental stress or diagnosis; the message of Chiron is usually some form of "you are your best doctor." This could also be a time of gaining knowledge of healing, or working with a teacher of a specific art.

Jupiter sweeping through this region of your chart through mid-May says get a nice notebook and write everything down. I suggest paper and pen or pencil to get your mind out of the digital realm for a minute, while you record the original flashes of concept or insight. Just about everything ends up online but it does not need to start there. Analog is your friend and will help teach you who you are.

Aries is self-oriented to an extreme, but has an odd way of implying public contact. Jupiter + the Aries Point + Chiron will have a way of magnifying your words, so make sure you edit and refine them and work with a game plan. Jupiter wants to gain gradual, steady momentum and go through a full cycle of experience in your 3rd house. I think this might be about completing a project that you began in the second half of 2022 that you thought might be promising but had to put down. One probable description of this is something you want to do but don't have to do.

Resolve to give that the closest thing to your full attention that is possible here in the 21st century. This will take some focus, though Chiron makes that available. Ideally you will get swept up into your project, though you may need to repeatedly bring yourself back to focus, as you will have a lot of seemingly good options.

Jupiter into the 4th Place or Taurus

I mentioned that Uranus is trekking your 4th house, which will take another three years or so. This is the wave machine that is shocking through eminently stately Taurus. Think of this as the mahogany-paneled room with the laser disco ball.

Or people showing up in your house in the middle of the night, whom you discover sleeping on the couch. There is also some kind of gathering that seems to happen intermittently — the book guild, wine tasting night, the psychedelic mushroom grower's club, something.

Jupiter says bring up the keg (so keep beverages on hand). The party is at your house. From mid-May 2023 through May 2024, Jupiter will be dancing about near Uranus, in close enough range to inspire brilliance, and some truly unusual groups. Occasionally they might be somewhat large (that's Jupiter) though small events will have a special quality due to the distinction of who shows up. Uranus says go with the spontaneous

factor, and try to squirm out of rigid planning. “What are you doing now?” is always a fair question.

You might consider planning some type of larger event, such as in April 2024, at the time of the Jupiter-Uranus conjunction. That astrology would still be fresh at Beltane in early May.

This is “take care of your home” astrology, though there is a caution about thinking that involves the use of a lot of money. Many of the most important improvements are not that costly; be efficient in your pricing of contractors and supplies. Your tendency will be to overspend, so be mindful of that. Cut your plans in half and build them back up a little at a time.

Venus and Mars Retrogrades

We have a Mars retrograde ending now, and a Venus retrograde mid-year. Both of these have special relevance for you. Let’s take them in the order in which they occur.

Normally, the ending of Mars retrograde would not be especially noteworthy. But this one is unusual for a few reasons, one of which being that it takes place in an air sign, Gemini, and you will resonate with this. Second, the timing is crucial. The retrograde ends Jan. 12, and then Mars slowly comes up to speed and recrosses all the degrees in direct motion where it was previously seeming to go backwards.

On March 14, Mars makes its third square to Neptune, in an extraordinary chart that brings together an alignment of the Moon, Mercury, the Sun, Mars, Neptune and the Galactic Core. This is in the shape of a T-cross — high energy, and reactive because one side of the cross is missing, wanting to be filled.

This alignment is the sendoff for Pluto from Capricorn into its first Aquarius foray. When Pluto first manifests in an energy field, the results can be dramatic. The pattern is missing a point in Virgo. It is looking for something to do; looking for a mental solution to a seeming problem. This is one of those aspect patterns that will push you to make some decisions about your priorities and seeing things you may have missed, denied or been wrong about.

The message of Pluto in Aquarius is: keep checking yourself, and the Mars pattern I’m describing here emphasizes that point. There were similar, though less pronounced, events in October and November.

As for Venus retrograde in Leo: this takes place midyear. Venus is retrograde from July 22-Sept. 3, 2023; however, Venus in Leo spans from June 5 through Oct. 8, and that is what I consider the whole duration of the transit. This takes place in your opposite

sign, which is your 7th place or house. So it's about personal and professional relationships.

You will want to take this one slow, and not assume anything that happens toward the beginning represents the conditions at the end. With retrogrades, it's often difficult to make predictions — especially where human exchanges are concerned.

With Venus retrograde, there are more typical events such as past relationship partners showing up for a reprise, or for some kind of resolution of past events. So when someone from the past appears on your radar, ask yourself quietly what you think the matter coming up for clearing or reconciliation is, and do your best to fulfill that.

As this transit approaches and develops, I will cover it by sign in the monthly horoscope. It will be a little easier to read in proximity to the event, though I will say this — Venus retrograde has some surprises that will be more fun if you allow yourself to be spontaneous.

Aquarius and Pluto: Of Field and Particle

Lately I am on my 4th or so dive into quantum theory, which is the study of energy fields and particles. The current state of the science seems to be the understanding that what we live among are energy fields, and when we look at them, we see particles. The particles do not exist as such; they are more like wave formations that manifest when we observe the field. Then when we stop observing, they go back to being energy fields without particles, or rather, where the particles exist as a kind of potential.

The energy field— the background — produces the seeming particle as a kind of illusion. Like most matters of figure and ground, the real action and the best information come from the ground rather than the figure. But the figure tells us about the ground.

Let's borrow this idea from physics and consider its relevance for Pluto (the particle) in Aquarius (the field). While we could not say that Aquarius will produce Pluto — it does exist — it will produce *the effect of Pluto that we get*. It will produce the specific manifestation of Pluto that we get. Remember that nobody has ever lived through Pluto in Aquarius consciously. It was last in Aquarius in 1778 and it was discovered in 1930. From the historical record, we know this was the era of the American and French revolutions, the American constitution, and an age of remarkable advances in science and technology.

I am more concerned about the human realm, and its influence on you. Pluto is going to activate Aquarius to full strength (and that does include you). And that is about the two main points of focus that I addressed: patterns (and where you fit into them) and the relationship between the one and the many (and whether you stand up to the people who are pressuring you into doing something).

This is likely to play out as an endless series of dramas that — just like in 2020 and 2021 — there is one drama after the next over getting people to comply. Comply with what? Well, gosh golly, you name it. It could be anything, and more likely will be everything.

But what you do is not predicated, destined or presaged. You remain your own quantum of awareness making your own decisions, to the extent that this interests you. You can always allow yourself to be assimilated by the Borg and you will be told over and over again that resistance is futile.

In this case, though, resistance means *being yourself*. It means retaining and developing your individual awareness within the context of the group. This contextual relationship is essential. You do not stand alone. No group with you in it stands alone. When you walk into the room, the room changes you, and you change the room. We know about the first bit somewhat; what we more often miss is the influence of our presence on the dynamics of the collection of people around us.

We are well conditioned to feel powerless and not notice our influence, but it exists. And we all know there are people who dominate groups (including families) and who try to roll over those they perceive as seemingly less powerful, or who possess better-managed egos.

When I say that these 20 years of Pluto in Aquarius are the tipping point between humanity and transhumanism, I mean it. We are past our technological adolescence and entering a phase of full commitment to what we do and what we believe about our technology, and how it should be used. But there are two different “we” entities here: there are the ones who order their pizza from a profile and experience the convenience of this, and the ones who think you should be tracked by GPS 24 hours a day to the far reaches of the Earth.

Your role in this is not only to remain human. It’s to understand what that means, and why it is so important.

With love,

