

May I urge upon all to live more continuously in the world of meaning and less in the world of appearances? It is a truer world and less full of illusion. When the understanding is developed, when men have learnt to see below the surface and have cultivated true vision, then we shall have the steady emergence of the quality of the soul in all forms and the relative subsiding into the background of the power of the form nature. It is this world of meaning which it is the privilege of humanity to reveal, and all true esoteric students should be pioneers in this field.

*My pass out of film of the*

*Section from Esoteric Psychology by Alice A. Bailey encouraging students to look deeper than appearances. In other passages, she describes this problem as the "world glamour," which is a distraction or diversion from spiritual growth. The entire digital sphere of life is obsessed with glamour and appearances, and drawing people into its illusion.*

## **Inner Space for Capricorn**

# **Your Words Make a Difference**

Dear Capricorn Sun, Moon or Rising:

The big news this year (especially for you) is that Pluto is beginning its exit from your sign. It's been there since 2008, a year of much mischief in society, and describes many of the astonishing changes in the world we have witnessed since that time, and many of the transformations that have shaped your life.

Yet a crop of small, potent planets, the kind you rarely get to read about (including the centaur Pholus), has taken up the journey early in your sign. They are providing a new energy source that will help you take advantage of the clearing that Pluto in

Capricorn has left — particularly the one connected to ancestral reality. I'll come back to that in the audio section, and call it the "early Capricorn alignment."

In other centaur news — the planets of healing and transformation — the combination of Jupiter and Chiron will remind you of your rich inner life, the one that existed before digital. If there was a time to ground yourself in a home, and to discover yourself there, this is it. One of the most pressing spiritual crises of our time is the way in which living under digital conditions makes people feel irrelevant. This is not my original idea, but I seem to be the only one talking about it.

The feeling of irrelevance is what is driving the callousness that we see in the world, not only coming from global leaders, but also from the people we know and care about. The place you will be able to heal this is at home, rather than in the business world or your social environment.

The better you feel inwardly, and the more connected you are to yourself, the more success you will have in endeavors outside of your home. Of course, this may take some work, particularly simplification and also recognizing who is helpful and who is not.

Other developing factors will provide you with something to aim for, serving as a kind of passport into the world, or back into it. This can bring a combination of recognition and opportunity, though it also speaks of commitment.

Yet the factors that are inviting you to reach higher and be known for what you're good at also confer the responsibility of leadership. This is always by example, though you are also entering a time when your words count more than ever. Leadership is always by example, but at this time in your life, your words, especially written, matter more than ever.

Other factors indicate that you are emerging as a reference point on certain ethical matters, such as the difference between right and wrong that so few people seem capable of recognizing today. This goes far beyond discerning the difference; it's that the concept of ethics is being removed from our ideas about life.

Having a conscience can be a pest; though even if it's annoying, it's an essential part of your makeup. You have seen, felt and experienced what happens when that power is abused.

Given what you've been through during the Pluto-in-Capricorn phase of your life, I would guess that you've had enough. If it is time for humans to learn how to conduct themselves righteously, that begins with each of us as individuals. Yet for that to

happen, people require exemplars — and the planets in their courses are describing you as someone who can set the example.

This comes down to three things mainly: your home as a sanctuary for you and whomever you choose; the integrity of the words you speak, and write; and the way you conduct business.

### **Words: Logos in Libra**

Here is something to keep in mind, and which I may come back to: In terms of slow-moving outer planets, there is not so much going on in the upper portion of your chart, where you relate to the world in business and socially.

But one factor there is Logos in Libra, your 10th house or place — the house and sign that for Capricorn (itself the 10th of the zodiac) resembles you (this works a little like the musical modes). Libra is your probe into the world, and it also represents the way that you work with authority and manage the matters of reputation.

The Logos/Zoe planetary system (discovered in 1997 and orbiting the Sun in 301 years), is a mighty presence in this house, and it is saying that your words and your ideas matter. Use them with exacting care, because they carry power, which will be enhanced by the movement of Pluto (which I will discuss a few sections down).

Practice cohesion in how you express yourself. In the style of Libra, think on behalf of the recipient of your message. That means thinking in terms of presentation, style and taking a balanced approach to what you say. The semi-automatic weapon problem that some countries are facing actually pertains to words, which in digital life tend to go unmeasured, and are rarely aimed with precision.

Your most influential resource is your ability to be diplomatic, and that would include negotiation, reasoning skills and generally offering your respect to whatever situation you find yourself in.

### **More Words: Saturn Enters Pisces**

The emphasis on verbal communication, meaning written and oral, continues with Saturn in Pisces. Saturn is a moderately slow-mover; it will visit any sign two or three times in the average lifetime. Saturn is about to enter Pisces, where it has not been since the early 1990s.

First, though, a comment about what it means to have Pisces as your 3rd solar house. While the nature of Capricorn is Saturn, there is something softer about your mental

processes. These are not so cut-and-dried or logical as you may at times believe. Rather, you are far more intuitive than I've ever seen an astrology book make you out to be.

At times, this dreamy quality about your chart can make it seem like you cannot focus. Yet Pisces in your 3rd house calls for morphing intuition and reasoning. As intuitive as Pisces can be, it's also capable of an Annie Oakley style (extremely precise) use of logic; no matter how true something may be, by the numbers and the facts, you will never accept it as such unless it feels right. So you would be wise to know what that feeling is.

However, for a good few years, Neptune has been overwhelming this house, making it difficult to see through the intense fog. It has not been easy to trust in your reasoning process or your ability to follow hunches and sniff out the truth. Not easy does not mean impossible, though you have to do extra work. Neptune will be around for a while, though Saturn is about to arrive, and pull focus.

Saturn is the planet that rules your sign, and will be spending about three years in Pisces. This is about clearing your head, sorting out your thought process, and fine-tuning the way you do business. You may discover that you need to adjust or refine certain matters, once you can see them clearly. One thing I can tell you is that where the 3rd place is concerned, writing is the single most helpful activity. It is how you will get to know yourself, and get an understanding of what you're thinking.

Saturn slowly approaching a conjunction to Neptune may seem like a taskmaster or harsh mistress. It will present you with a "get real" state of mind, or circumstances demanding that. But we are talking about your planet — Saturn — so this is territory that it's time to enter. The challenge of writing, of course, is that it implies commitment to your own thought process. This is a kind of developmental task.

I can personally vouch for the extent to which writing helps clear one's mind-fog and focus one's ideas. For you, this would not necessarily be professional writing; the 3rd has a personal feeling to it. However, the way is open to turning your writing ability — which is probably considerable — into a professional commodity.

That would be different from your more self-therapy-oriented writing. But speaking as an astrologer who has vowed to never make a promise I cannot keep, writing — the real thing, done with care and preparation — will yield many dividends and help fulfill your desire to make the world a better place.

## **The Long Arm of the Revolution**

It has been an enormously stressful few years for nearly everyone on the planet. Some of the very remote places of the Earth have felt the long arm of the revolution we are going through, as have all of us who live in ordinary cities and towns.

This is made more complicated by the fact that most people (in their desire to get “back to normal”) do not seem to be noticing the profound changes that have come through society. Either that, or to notice them would be to notice something much larger and more significant that is happening other than what is immediately apparent.

One’s personal life may be more or less different, or difficult, yet it is the impact on society that calls for attention, and which affects each and every one of us. Much of this has been instigated by Pluto in Capricorn, which has demolished many of the reliable structures and forms that people depend on.

As one with a strong Capricorn component in your chart, you have been feeling the full strength of these transits, which have probably arrived in the usual “grow or die” style of Pluto. Obviously, you chose to grow, and to keep growing. Pluto demands that you stand up to your circumstances, to the people around you, and to those who claim authority over you.

While Pluto is about to make its gradual exit from your sign, you may notice that you miss it when it’s gone. Pluto does such a good job of pushing people and situations forward that it can become a depended-upon teacher, ally and even a friend.

Through all its changes, Pluto’s presence has put you in deeper contact with the elusive thing known as the soul. And while it has taken many things apart, this has given you the opportunity to rebuild them in your own way.

You will continue to have resources available for this reconstruction process, which will help you focus your priorities, clear the fog from your mind, and determine where exactly you stand in your personal and professional relationships.

## **The Challenge and Legacy of Pluto**

The challenge with a long Pluto transit is that it can leave people feeling shaken up or traumatized, and uncertain who or what to trust. And so it will take conscious effort to move past the stage of life to which you’ve grown accustomed for the past decade-and-a-half. Pluto moves on of course, and toward the end of this reading I will leave you with my thoughts about Pluto in Aquarius.

Though it may not seem like it, Pluto has a revitalizing energy. Working on an individual, it will always put you in contact with something close to an inner source within yourself. This self-contact may have come at a personal cost, such as the trials and tribulations that Pluto can bring. Yet there is no doubt that you are closer to your humanity than you were when this transit began. The only thing that might obscure that fact is a measure of resentment for what has been taken from you. That is a spiritual matter, best addressed directly.

Capricorn usually holds the energy of stability. It's the thing you can come back to 20 years or two generations later and it bears some resemblance to what it was in the past. Capricorn is a tremendously important influence on families, as it provides the structure that holds them together. People need reference points; it is not human to spend one's life on the cutting edge of "progress" and constant, ever-accelerating change. Most of us don't realize it, but we are going mad from too much change, too fast.

Under the influence of Pluto, all things represented by Capricorn have been dismantled, demolished or damaged. Toward the end of Pluto's run through Capricorn, families were being divided and controlled by local, state and federal policies, which made it difficult to see that society was suddenly under a new global jurisdiction. The ongoing question is where you fit into this new world order.

The elderly (in mundane astrology, covered by Capricorn) were being abandoned in care homes, isolated from their families and over-medicated, all "for their own good."

Harvard and every other university started holding classes on Zoom, reducing higher education to Amazon Prime Video (for a lot more money; Harvard goes for about \$50,000 a year and Amazon is still about \$14 a month). This kind of transformation could only have happened under Pluto in Capricorn.

We have many examples of how traditions that protect the structure of society were abandoned or demolished. This is not how you like to live, and you are likely to have understood that something was seriously wrong. Most people have no idea what any of this means, or the depth of transformation that the world has been through in just a few years.

The question is: what transformation have you experienced, exactly? It's important to review. I would use 2008, 2012, 2016 and 2020 as your markers (all give or take a year). Perhaps make a chronology of how events around those dates have led to your situation now. A relevant bellwether is how you felt about events of the world at each of those junctures. This is more influential on private life than people realize.

We do not just tuck into our coat collar and keep trooping along; and you in particular are affected by global developments.

We are now left to put our lives back together; to see where there are possibilities, no matter how slim they may seem; and to muster up the optimism to envision a future different from the past.

## **Wrapping Up Mars Retrograde in Gemini**

While we're on old business, Mars retrograde in Gemini is worth some discussion. Mars is Capricorn's exalted planet, so it's an astrological stand-in for you (and provides you an alternate to Saturn when you need one). If you're curious about astrology, it will help you to study Mars, so let's have a go.

Mars has been in Gemini since August. It's been retrograde since October, and it stations direct in January. It finally leaves Gemini in March and enters your opposite sign Cancer — which is itself significant.

The main theme of Mars in Gemini has been matters of health and wellness. Because Mars has made a series of squares to Neptune, this is a matter of getting it right: that is, figuring out the true nature of any challenge you may be facing. This is occurring in a world where doctors are clueless, medicine is poison and most people have little to no concept of how to take care of themselves.

Simply put, you must be your own doctor. You may need to consult with members of the criminal cabal known as MDs, though you must make your own decisions and never trust what they say without triple-verifying it.

The people we call "doctors" have little reason and even less ability to actually understand their patients, particularly if they have subtle or complex situations. Most of the time, they "doctor things up." And most patients are happy to be handed a slip of paper and fill a prescription or three or maybe five, grateful to live in the wonderful modern world. However, I suggest you do your own research and not take anyone's word for anything.

By that I don't mean scan WebMD for five minutes. I mean that you must know the nature of every drug or substance that you put in your body. This includes understanding dosages, drug interactions, long-term effects, "side" effects and every other effect. We are past the time when grandma happily takes her "little purple pills," clueless what they are. Not knowing exactly what those are and why they are in your hands is more than adequate reason to not ingest something. However, don't expect someone to tell you.

The other side of this involves the food that you eat. Most medical problems will respond at least somewhat to food, and many can be resolved by dietary corrections. Mars has one more square to Neptune to make, and about three more months in Gemini; you can learn a lot in that time, and keep on learning.

The world has just been dragged through what it was told was a health crisis. Among the reasons this worked so well is that most people are completely confused about how to take care of themselves. They can therefore be sent into a state of terror by news reports, which themselves amount to *terrorism* rather than health advice. To whatever extent you fell for this, you might resolve to make your own choices next time, and to do a real calculation of the risks you're willing to take, just because someone said something scary.

On March 25, 2023, Mars, still slow and powerful from its recent retrograde, arrives in your opposite sign Cancer. This is a moment of clarity for you, when you will be able to see who is who and what is what. Looking back, you might wonder how, exactly, you were ever so doubtful or confused.

### **Home Body: Jupiter and Chiron in Aries**

One feature in all of the Capricorn charts for 2023 is that you have Jupiter going through your 4th place, which is about your connection to your home, the land you live on, and your sense of belonging on the planet. The 4th is where you determine whether you feel safe and secure both in your four walls and on the planet generally. There is a close relationship between the two.

The location of Aries in any natal or solar chart, will tell you a lot about where people feel the most comfortable and where they seek to discover themselves. For you, this is your home, and also in family tradition — of which you are one of the keepers. Aries in the 4th house suggests that you have a respectful relationship with your father and/or his memory.

This inverts the notion that Capricorn is inherently about climbing the mountain and conquering the world. I think that secretly, all Capricorns are home bodies, who take their show out into the world mostly because on some level they have to — such as to work and participate in society. It's true that there are some Capricorn workaholics, and some are conquerors, but I don't think it's your thing.

Even those Capricorns who embody what is usually said of your opposite sign Cancer have your special way of having an impact on the wider world, confronting matters of injustice, and aspiring to something greater. Capricorn is happiest when it holds itself to a high personal standard. Should you ever stop doing so, it's time for a personal check-in. Any event of lowering your standards deserves a mention in the ship's log.



That said, Jupiter in Aries will be a beautiful thing. Jupiter describes points of expansion and also for natural attraction. This is a reminder to keep your focus on your home life, including the focus of your professional activities.

Chiron has been in Aries since 2018. Chiron brings high focus with it wherever it goes. It can also show up as a point of crisis, as Chiron crystallizes attention and energy and can shake things up. In Aries and your 4th, Chiron has been calling you to learn how to take care of yourself. This can create a real crisis in our times, where nearly every influence is conditioning us to do just the opposite — to neglect ourselves.

Where Chiron is present, there will always be a healing process, or healing crisis. This has gone on for a while. Jupiter's presence from late December through early May will see how you're making progress on matters related to authority — both dealing with it from others, and taking command in your own life.

Regardless of what house it transits, Jupiter brings the occasion to do something useful, productive and fun. It may be more than that: with the involvement of Chiron, you may find yourself in a position where your services and assistance are called for.

Remember that while Aries is a very personal sign and you have it in an especially private sector of your chart, it has a way of plugging into the wider world. Rather than being about a private matter, this is something that would have public influence or impact. And that, generally, is the direction you will be called upon to travel, as predestined by Chiron and as you are summoned by Jupiter.

## **Jupiter into Taurus, Through May 2024**

Between mid-May 2023 and late May 2024, Jupiter will be in your fellow earth sign Taurus. This takes you deeper into the inner space of your creative process. By creative, I mean staying awake, solving problems, and making something new and beautiful in the world.

The concept of creativity is so degraded in the world that it's only seen as applying to Andy Warhol or Mick Jagger. But creative is a state of mind and of awareness. It's a space of alive-attention, which may result in a Broadway show, but may also result in an interesting way to organize the garage. Creative means you bring your full awareness to whatever you do; it means not falling asleep on the job.

Jupiter's presence here also suggests you will have collaboration available. Uranus has been transiting your 5th house, Taurus, since 2018. This has been stirring the pot of your imagination, perhaps making you a little restless, or longing for the time

when you thought you might do sculpture or woodworking or music. You will have abundant inspiration to do something; to get your ideas moving.

The combination of Jupiter and Uranus is fantastic for meeting the deeper kinds of partners that can be part of creative, lifelong partnerships. I think this will come through a combination of getting out and also inviting people into your workspace. Take any opportunity to meet the “greater makers,” show them what you can do, and look for opportunities to work together.

### **Venus Retrograde in Leo (July 22-Sept. 3, 2023)**

Speaking of working together, one helpful event will be Venus retrograde in Leo, your 8th place. The 8th is where relationships are consummated legally, financially and sexually. This house is the essential difference between “boyfriend” and “husband.”

It contains the difference between an inheritance and no inheritance. It is the difference between financing and no financing; between a successful investment and one that does not perform.

Venus making an extended visit to the 8th is a positive development, particularly in the sign of gold, Leo. However, one thing you don't want to do is push your luck. The combination of Uranus in Taurus (impulse to speculate) and Venus in Leo (thinking you cannot lose) is potentially risky, which is why I suggest you take a balanced and conservative approach to business. Limit your exposure and make sure that you are conducting your business with trusted people.

However, where there is trust, and where you are working with knowledge and perhaps some assurances, good investments are possible. One of them might be in yourself. Should someone offer their support, remember that it would be a gesture of love, of trust and an endorsement.

The key to this transit will be the conscious and ongoing quest for mutual benefit: the win/win, synergy, biophilia or some other form of plus-plus symbiosis: this is the basis of life, and of your life.

### **Pluto Enters Aquarius**

Beginning in March 2023 through November 2024, Pluto will make a series of ingresses into Aquarius, finally arriving to stay on Nov. 19, 2024. This transit lasts 20 years, by far the longest Pluto transit of our lifetimes (they have been growing increasingly long since the 1980s, after Pluto reached its closest point to the Sun).

I can sum up the message of this transit in three words: Preserve. Your. Humanity.

From what? From the rising tide of *transhumanism*: the global movement to merge people and technology, and to make us think like machines, without feeling in any form.

I have **covered this in a previous reading** in some detail, of which I now have much more than I did at the time of this writing more than 18 months ago. (I was just told about, and verified, the incident in Canada where a Paralympics athlete requested a stair lift as part of her disability, and was told by the government that she had the option to be euthanized. This is transhumanism, and it will take many other forms.) I reckon the basic message will come across in my writing from mid-2021; I was pretty concerned then.

Aquarius has many important resonances with you and with Capricorn. First, it is a Saturn-ruled sign, so you harmonize there. Next, your 2nd place is a direct extension of your sign. It is where you express your values, priorities and necessities. The 2nd is the basic metric of how you feel about yourself. And it is the house associated with your resources, available cash, talents and tools of the trade.

In modern psychological astrology, it's how you feel about yourself. Yet with Aquarius here, this is a crowded house. Many other people have an influence unless you make every effort to recognize that influence and stand apart. Moreover, you are highly subject to what I will call thought trends.

This was not such a big deal 25 years ago because there was not so much pressure on all of us, all the time, to adopt the latest way of thinking — which is now pumped through the electronic realm.

The soul-level of growth with Pluto in Aquarius for you will be the constant reflection on what you find yourself prioritizing and believing. Pluto will be giving you the power to take the extreme contrarian position that is so rare for Aquarius. It tends to be far more conformist than inclined to resist the currents of the world; it is the original sign of “group think,” which is not thinking at all.

For you, Pluto in Aquarius must be the continuation of your journey to true individuation, as it was through Capricorn. This is not easy for most people, because to be an individual means to go against the whole grain of society and all the things that it pushes people to do.

So the journey toward standing up for yourself and your values continues. If you find yourself agreeing with a majority position or even a wide minority position, I suggest mulling that over carefully. If you are actually thinking for yourself, you're not likely to

find many people who agree with you or with whom you agree — that is, on careful examination of the facts.

You are your own person. That actually means something.

With love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Francis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.