



This is what Sagittarius looks like. The Milky Way, our home galaxy, as seen from England.

Inner Space for Sagittarius

You Are Stardust, Not an Algorithm

Dear Sagittarius Sun, Moon or Rising:

I write to you from the depths of the night, during one of the world's dark nights of the soul. Is anyone finding peace and fulfillment here on the planet? I hope so, though I know that many people are struggling: for any sense of purpose, of potential, of the future, and to survive.

You are fortunate in that you are an idea person. Not everyone has the ability to come up with a concept out of nothing but a paper napkin or the whispers of a dream. You are also bolstered by a measure of optimism — maybe quite a bit. Even if you don't think the glass is half full, you can do something with what you have. And you know how to

set a goal and take action. The arrow in the glyph for your sign is the ability to focus your mind on one goal, and then accomplish it.

And of all the signs, you may be best poised to do something constructive with the diversity of astrological factors that the universe is offering, and that I'm planning to read for you. Pluto, so recently in Sagittarius (1995-2008), is now exiting Capricorn and entering Aquarius. Mars retrograde will be wrapping up, having taught you quite a lot about relationships, spending seven months in your opposite sign.

Around the same time, Saturn will rejoin the mutable cross and enter Pisces, your 4th place of house and home, of emotional grounding and of security. It will remain there for more than two years.

Yet for you, the next year-and-a-half, or the next 18 months, will be described mostly by the movement of Jupiter through your fellow fire sign Aries through May 2023, then into Taurus until May of 2024. It then enters your opposite sign Gemini for a year (2024-2025); though it's well outside the scope of this reading, it deserves a preview.

Mostly, I am here to orient you on Jupiter in Aries and Taurus, which takes us through late May of 2024. There is some unusual connection between Sagittarius and Taurus that is not documented in astrology books, but shows up a lot in my life. The combination provides a kind of bridge between the cosmic and the worldly, but as John and Yoko once wrote, the sky comes right down to the ground. We are part of the cosmos. If I may offer you a moment of astrological philosophy, there are some very cool things about your sign that may reflect on you.

Sagittarius: Of the Exotic and the Ordinary

Your ruling planet Jupiter is a fast-mover. It orbits the Sun in a 12-year ellipse, so it takes about a year on average to move through a sign. This connects it to many human cycles, including the 12-sign zodiac, the 12-sign Chinese zodiac, every concept of Greek mathematical symmetry, and a dozen donuts.

Whatever your favorite color might be (according to astrology), Sagittarius is by far the most unusual and cosmic of the signs, being the home to the Galactic Core (a friendly, local 26,000 light years away) and the Great Attractor (around 250,000,000 light years away).

On one scale, that of Jupiter, Sagittarius is the sign of human affairs, beliefs and fashions (and in *Esoteric Astrology*, the Earth is its ruling planet). On another scale, Sagittarius describes the cosmic origins of humanity and our seemingly tiny place in the universe.

This is a crazy pair of contrasts, mirroring Gemini (the mortal and immortal twins). We find in Sagittarius matters of worldly affairs, traveling around the planet, getting oneself educated, matters of higher law (including spiritual and religious, which are not always so “higher”) and most significantly, the relationship between humans and the cosmos we are part of.

People may not think this is an important matter, as most suppose they spend their whole lives doing other things. Yet, many endlessly chase some concept of the truth, or do what they can to avoid, evade, elude or dodge it; or seek answers through spirituality and religion. People pray, they argue with God, and they are in some relationship to whatever it is that they don’t understand.

While everyone has the ability to seek the truth or to approach life with a philosophy instead of randomly, you are born with this gift, if you would only develop it.

Sagittarius is the sign of the quest, which can scale itself down to “what am I doing with my life? I need to do something meaningful.”

It is for this reason that Sagittarius is so well suited for life on our planet, which involves not only enduring the trials and tribulations of life on Earth and life in the Universe. Sagittarius goes one step more, inherently needing to exist in a relevant and thoughtful way. Or let’s say that you are a lot happier when you connect your existence to meaning. Your Sagittarius guitar teacher is the one who gets into the philosophy of music theory and makes it fun — and who is probably the best shredder on the block.

Mars Retrograde in Gemini

(August 2022-March 2023)

Since August and through March, you have been living with Mars moving slowly through your relationship house. This has happened in direct motion, then retrograde motion, and then between January and March, direct motion. Think of this as working through something in layers. The something relates to a primary relationship, and also to your experience and views toward such relationships.

This is a major phase of reorienting yourself on this matter, one that will not manifest (astrologically) in a similar way in this lifetime. While Mars retrograde is somewhat

routine, Mars retrograde in Gemini is less so. What is distinctive about this cycle in particular is its series of squares to Neptune, which have pushed several issues. One is emotional honesty. Another is gaining an understanding of the emotional effects that food and psychoactive substances of any kind can have, particularly on your relationships.

There may have been (and possibly, continue to be) situations where you experience deep insecurity or have questions about self-worth. This is coming up for healing, and pointing you to where you need to do some work on your self-confidence. You may be seeing a demonstration of what happens when you project your confidence, or your self-approval, outside of yourself onto other people.

Retrograde Mars square Neptune in Pisces is not so much a quest for truth as it is calling you to search for what is not true, and decide you no longer want or need that. This is rarely as easy as it seems. While this process ends in March 2023, I suggest you note carefully what you experienced between summer 2022 and then, what you learned and what choices you have made. If you do not preserve them in some tangible form, they could disappear with much of the beauty and relevance of what you have learned and committed to understanding.

Deep Background: Pluto from Capricorn to Aquarius

Pluto might be considered the prime mover — from the perspective of earthly life, the engine in the background that drives spiritual evolution and also sometimes facilitates progress on Earth. If Pluto is a manifestation of Shiva the Destroyer, then it seems to favor the super-rich and powerful (and I would not attribute that to Shiva).

What Pluto provides is drive, necessity, urgency, and some experience of raw power. It is not an easy influence to handle, though we can often miss it when it's moved on. It is a motivating factor, even if you don't get much choice whether you respond. You get to decide how you respond.

Since 2008, Pluto has been moving through your 2nd house or place, which is Capricorn — your house of values, resources and self-esteem.

This happens in the style of established protocol that goes back many generations, even to antiquity. The Roman emperor Augustus stamped the Capricorn symbol onto coins as a demonstration of the power of his personal constitution (potentially his Moon sign) and his official state power — pretty much one of those “says it all” moments of history.

And remember — Capricorn is exceedingly personal for you, and a place where you can draw considerable personal power.

Apropos of all the cosmic vs. worldly stuff that I described, the most cosmic sign (Sagittarius) has the most traditional sign (Capricorn) as its house of values. We really are in hot fudge sundae territory here.

This setup reminds me of the song “Tradition” from the classic film and Broadway show, *Fiddler on the Roof*. In this story of the Ukrainian Jews in the early 20th century, Russia was under the Tsar, and is an allegory for all Jews. The protagonist Reb Tevye says, “Without tradition, our lives would be as shaky as a fiddler on a roof.”

And so for you, tradition is a friend and the rock on which you find some stability. Yet Pluto has come plunging through the place of tradition, and this seems to represent some massive reorientation for you: potentially a deepening of your perspective. What is likely to happen is that you have had to make many decisions about what is right or wrong, going deeper than the tradition you were trained in.

This is a crucial evolutionary step in many people’s lives: working your way through your traditional upbringing, whatever that means, whether Eastern Orthodox, California Capitalism or anything in between. You have had to do something very Sagittarian, which is find your own meaning, within the context of your own values and choices.

It can take a lot of work and much grief to dig through the conditioning of society, as represented by Capricorn. But Pluto has made this inevitable, and you have had to dig all the way in and now you are about to break through to the other side with your own ideas about life. That would be Pluto in Aquarius, which starts in late March and will ultimately last 21 years, through 2044.

Aquarius: The Mental Environment + Pluto (2023-2044)

In the chart for Sagittarius (your solar chart), Aquarius is your 3rd house or place. This describes your personal mental environment: your thought patterns, your style of intelligence, your style of communication, your approach to writing, and where you like to shop. Commerce is essential to the 3rd house. This all comes across in the style of Aquarius.

Aquarius also qualifies as one of the most interesting signs, though it has some difficulties you should be aware of. First, Aquarius in this position makes it difficult to tell your own opinion from those of everyone else. It may not seem that way. Aquarius in

any form can be contrarian, and can be mistaken for having an idea, or being independent. Yet the deeper situation with Aquarius is that it crystallizes whatever it touches into patterns.

For you, those patterns are in your mind, and this calls for the constant practice of flexibility.

Here is perhaps an unpleasant metric to determine whether you're actually thinking for yourself: for most people, *it is terrifying, or at least would make you nervous in a way that threatens unacceptability.*

It's not a matter of, "Oh, I might agree with them, or I might agree with *them*, even though less people accept that."

Rather, actually thinking for yourself is where you find yourself when you suspect that nobody at all takes your view, and they might think you're crazy. I'm not saying this to be dramatic. I'm saying it to give you a psychic map of the territory, so you know when you've broken free from group think. The reason people do not usually allow themselves to think anything original or challenging is because it might not seem "acceptable."

Any time you find yourself in the majority on any position, I suggest you question your evaluation. Should you find yourself in the minority on any position, question your evaluation and ask if there are not other, even smaller and potentially more controversial, minority viewpoints that are being concealed by the "alternative narrative" that the minority accepts.

Why the drama? We are about to enter an era of Pluto in Aquarius. Beginning in March, this stretches until 2044, and represents a profound watershed for humanity. I have written about this in the **reference reading for another series**, An Aquarian Era.

Pluto in Aquarius represents humanity on the brink of what is called *transhumanism*. In my mind, this is about reaching a point of no return where humans have merged with their technological environment.

This is not merely about nanotech implants, graphene oxide and "the internet of people." Far more significantly, transhumanism is about human behavior being modified, conditioned and trained by the devices we use. *We are becoming like them faster than they are becoming like us. This is all happening on the level where thought meets personal and social behavior.*

This feels a few different ways. It chills and stiffens the human experience and makes people feel like they must behave in a less personal way. Also, we are trained to think in algorithms instead of creatively, which means to proceed without feeling and without vulnerability. In this state, arbitrary mental processes feel good because they suspend the need for actual thought.

There is a cafe in my neighborhood that refuses to put butter on scones. By that, I mean there is no butter in the restaurant, and when you ask for some, for your \$4.50 pastry (depending on who is working) you're made to feel like it was an unreasonable request: butter on a scone.

You might not think of this as an effect of the digital environment, but that's precisely what it is. The digital effect is on mentality and behavior. The algorithmic digital mindset consists of arbitrary rules, regulations and structures (particularly social structures); and getting accustomed to a groomed insensitivity to what humans want, need and feel. We are being trained in artificial intelligence, which means being trained out of natural intelligence.

As one result among many, often young people do not know how to carry on a conversation. Many cannot go off-script for 30 seconds, just like you will never have a real conversation with Alexa or Siri. Personally, I would rather interact with a robot than a person who acts like one.

My read is that Pluto in Aquarius will present us with an acceleration of this process, which has been underway for decades. Yet it will come with certain peak moments. They could concentrate around the times that Pluto ingresses Aquarius, on three dates: March 23, 2023; Jan. 20, 2024; Nov. 19, 2024. I don't necessarily mean on those days, but around those points in their respective years.

For you personally, any society-wide event would come with a higher sense of relevance because you can perceive it more clearly. It will also have a greater mental impact. And, regardless of any culture-wide or worldwide event (which will invariably involve the digital realm), you will find yourself in the position of: do I accept the prevailing view of what is being said, or do I question it?

The pressure that Pluto moving into Aquarius represents could manifest for you as external pressure on your thought process or belief system; it could manifest as resistance to that pressure; and in either event, there will be a soul-searching and growth process involved. Pluto usually involves a form of *enforced growth*.

There is an urgency about its presence; it is Pluto, the entity said to make himself invisible, kidnap people and take them down to the underworld. Pluto, one of two planets involved in the World Trade Center falling to the ground like a dropped marionette.

You have been experiencing this in the form of Pluto through your 2nd place, Capricorn, as the need to align your priorities with your values. In the 3rd place, Aquarius, this is about adjusting and updating your thought process. You may not recognize your need for flexibility of thought, though Pluto will reveal to you the extent you must take that into account.

During Saturn in Aquarius, which spans from March 2020 through March 2023, we experienced the first-ever lockdown of the entire industrialized world — 4.4 billion people ordered to stay home, work from home, and to shut their businesses — for no valid medical reason. We saw dark, creepy manifestations of toxic Aquarius when people refused to sit in the company of their own mother or child, believing them to be a threat to their life. We saw people cheer as first responders, who served valiantly and survived the events of 2020, refused to take injections in 2021 and lost their careers.

All of this has been normalized. Personally, I struggle to come up with visions of realistic positive manifestations of Pluto in Aquarius. You at least have the opportunity to experience it primarily as a thought process, thought experiment, teaching and learning process, and a re-evaluation of your mental posture. You may yet be in the best position to help others understand the problems with believing what is untested or yielding to the pressure of friends, the public or the media.

Saturn in Pisces (March 2023-February 2026)

Saturn has just covered all of the territory that I've described above, so you have a warm-up. And you have the ability to go back and consider the ways in which you were pressured to do things that you did not want to do; or pressured others to do things that they did not want to do. Did you let anyone make decisions for you, or did you make decisions for others?

Now Saturn is moving into Pisces. This initiates an emotional clearing process that will help you get underneath the discussion points of the previous section, which mostly relate to mental states rather than emotional. Saturn through Pisces, your solar 4th place, promises to be subtler. The 4th is about security in many different forms. Do your doors lock? Do the knobs work? Do you feel safe where you sleep every night? Do you

feel like you belong in your community? How do you feel about the people you may live with? How do you feel about the physical space?

Saturn in Pisces will focus many of these questions, and may come with a sensation of clarity and awakening. You may experience this as a contrast to the pre-existing (and clouding) presence of Neptune in Pisces, which dates back to around 2011. You may observe that you have a restless feeling that you did not identify before. You have time to act on this, and to get your thoughts and plans together. You may ultimately choose to stay where you are, though a discussion of one's physical location is essential when Saturn is in any way associated with the 4th house.

Venus Retrograde in Leo

(July 22-Sept. 3, 2023; Venus in Leo spans from June 5 through Oct. 8.)

Before we get into Jupiter — the highlight of your year — let's talk about Venus retrograde in your fellow fire sign Leo. This happens once every eight years, so it's a bit special. The retrograde takes place in your 9th house or place. If we regard Sagittarians as worldly people who want to see the world, we can attribute that gusto to Leo in your house of travel and education.

Leo in all forms wants to have the experience, not merely watch or read about it. And while there are some tempering factors, Leo also wants to **be** the experience. So for you, Leo in the 9th is all about the world being a stage, and you personally being on that stage. Planetary events are highly individual, but here are a few ways you can play with Venus retrograde in Leo.

One way is to go back through your spiritual training and conduct a review. Pick a few steps along your journey and remember how you got from one point to the next. You might also review any form of education you've experienced.

Another would be to visit a few distant places where you've been in the past, and see how they have changed, and how you have changed relative to them. Of all of the properties of the 9th house, I think the most important is direct learning through travel.

Reading is great; classes are great; but if you want to learn, go where it happened. Or in this case, go back to where you learned something or experienced something in the past that moved you forward in some way. Leo is all about doing this boldly, with courage, and with feeling.

Jupiter Sweeps Through Aries and Lands in Taurus

Jupiter arrived in Aries Dec. 20, 2022. After moving clear through Aries without another pause, Jupiter arrives in Taurus May 16, 2023. Jupiter in Aries is one distinct phase of your year; then comes part two, which is Jupiter in Taurus, which takes us through late May 2024.

One of the ways to follow astrology is to follow the planet associated with your sign. And for you, that is Fat and Happy Jove himself and all 80 known natural satellites. These include the first-ever observed planetary moons besides our own, seen in 1610 by Galileo himself. Jupiter is a kind of prototype mini-solar system.

Caltech professor Mike Brown, discoverer of Eris and many other planets, once emphasized to me that Jupiter is the boss of our solar system, controlling the orbits of all of the other planets. Jupiter is so massive that the Sun itself wobbles as it orbits.

So, the first part of the journey is through Aries, which is your 5th place of art, creativity, play, games and sex for fun. Where any sign has Aries, it will seek experiences of self-expression and self-becoming. Using the solar chart, we find that Sagittarius is a natural at taking creative risks, because they help you figure out who you are. Where you might lack a certain flexibility in your thought process (Aquarius in the 3rd) you can more than compensate for it by going directly to creativity, which by its nature (when it is real) must depart from the previously known, or what is considered safe and acceptable.

Just like having Leo in the 9th place describes the gusto with which you approach learning, travel and your relationship to the cosmos, Aries in the 5th place reveals something about the dauntless quality of Sagittarius. You do not “create for its own sake.” You create yourself, and that has the secondary result of (pick whatever form of beauty you offer to the world).

There is activity from slow-movers in Aries right now. One transit that lasts a few more years is Chiron. A holistic influence, Chiron’s role is to help clean up the identity chaos associated with ultra-slow-mover Eris-in-Aries since 1925 (with decades to go).

The process of Chiron in Aries is cleaning up the *fragmentation* and *tribalization* of humanity associated with the century that Eris has been transiting Aries — which began at the dawn of radio and as electricity and telephone technology were fully taking hold.

During the Eris-in-Aries phase, humans have gone from leaning toward individuality and inner awareness to being artificially “collectivized.” Admittedly, the inner awareness and

individuality were only so strong in many (and very strong in others), though the property of electrical and digital conditions has overwhelmed humanity.

Chiron in Aries is your invitation to recognize the problem and do what you can to get yourself together as one integrated, self-aware being. And Jupiter is here to help you with that, in a rapid-response kind of way. The entire quest of your chart — from Pluto in Aquarius to Chiron in Aries and other factors — is to stay in contact with your humanity, and anchor yourself there as fully as you can.

This, you do by engaging in what you know helps you feel human and express your humanity as a conscious act. And it's essential that you notice when you're being stolen from: when there is some kind of con game going on that seems strange. In our era, all such developments must be considered in terms of their impact on our natural humanity. At every turn, someone will be trying to merge you just a little more with the technological realm. Resisting is not about being a "luddite" or failing to adapt. Rather, it's about standing your ground on the matters most influential in the actual life you're living — not what some tech company or the government wants you to be.

The events around the time that Jupiter forms a conjunction to Chiron on March 12, 2023 will pull several important matters into focus for you. If your vocation or avocation is in any way connected to "the creative process," keep going. You are headed for some kind of rare discovery or personal breakthrough.

Meanwhile, Jupiter in Aries is also urging you to be bold with people and take chances you might not ordinarily take. You will be at the height of your charisma, creative ability and sexual prowess.

The Jupiter in Taurus Year (May 2023-May 2024)

Taurus is your 6th place, covering work and wellbeing. It is an extension of the 5th, the art studio. It's a more orderly energy that supports productivity in a concentrated and structured way. Taurus on the 6th is the perfect placement for having an outdoor office, or one with a mountain view. It's full of plants, there is good light, and it feels physically and emotionally good to be there.

This is a physical house for you — it's Taurus after all — and your ruling planet here will guide you into your body if you stay in contact with your senses. For Taurus, this is the dividing line between in-body and head trip: paying attention to your sensory data, and how you feel as a result of being in any particular environment.

Contained within Taurus is another kind of creative dynamo, which is concealed by the impeccability and grounding in tradition that this sign represents. While Taurus is an earth sign, deep in its core it is a fire sign: what Alice Bailey calls “the blacksmith shop of the soul.”

There is an important message for you here: whatever work you do must be creatively relevant, feed your growth, and not deplete your energy. You must work whenever you can in an environment that is both beautiful and practical.

Jupiter is going to spend a year here, which is a stabilizing influence that will be helpful to nearly every facet of your life. I say stabilizing because Uranus in Taurus (2018-2026) has been a bit agitating, but at the same time has been a source of breakthroughs and inspiration.

Yet the message of Uranus in Taurus includes this: preserve your humanity. Uranus wants to digitize and electrify everything. Many, many influences around you are trying to convince you that you’re an algorithm and would look fantastic with a QR code on your forehead. That is not true. Make sure, therefore, that you get your hands into dirt or clay, tend the plants, be close friends with critters and remember that all wealth and all beauty come from the Earth. As do you — except you know better than anyone that the Earth is made of stardust, and therefore, so are you.

With love,

