



Planet Waves by Eric Francis for July 16, 2026

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ARIES

JULY 16 — Let's talk about creativity — that elusive thing. Jupiter is moving through Leo, your 5th place, and you might be overflowing with the stuff. Yet a lot of people think they have none. A good few think they have more than they really do (the geniuses who bake emoji cookies). Jupiter is now opposing Pluto and making aspects to Uranus and Neptune. These are conditioning forces. By that, I mean they may be both conditioning you, and setting limits or parameters. Pluto can represent inspiration or fear. In the current pattern it describes how you perceive the expectations that others have on you, or the seeming power they hold over you. There are many things you cannot say, write or show certain places unless you want a confrontation. Neptune in your sign is creating a fog over your faith in yourself, and your self-perception. Uranus, for its part, is describing how the technology environment influences your mind and the language that you use. Then there is creativity, which is inert without at least one other factor. That would be courage: the imaginative power to dare. Courage also means coming from the heart. It's what you must have in order to take the risk, by which I mean the action, that ignites creative potential. Otherwise it's just a theory or concept. So the question is, if you had all the courage you needed, what would you do? What risk would you take that you've avoided so far? What about yourself would you reveal?

TAURUS

JULY 16 — The Jupiter-Pluto pattern describes your challenges feeling safe in a world that is increasingly dominated by technological forces. By that, I mean the way that the digital environment we live in is shaping every relationship and social pattern faster than people know what is happening. The social facet of your nature requires some stability. You find freedom and security in having reasonable expectations. And put bluntly, the world has become way too flaky for your comfort. I would not be surprised if you're only interested in being social with people you feel are worthy of being inside your home. There are likely to be only a few of those. Work is more complex, however. You are just not interested in the welding of raw power that has become the world economy. Humans were not made for all this trillionaire data center BS. We were not made for the automation of false thought and creativity that is turning people into automatons: cute little robots who have to read a script from their screens. People were made to be together, to create with our hands, to make and eat our own food, and to spend a lot of time outside. The way we're being pushed into living is presenting you with significant challenges. I can offer you the one action that seems to work better than most: be true to yourself. Stay close to the center of who you are, as something you focus on consciously from hour-to-hour.

GEMINI

JULY 16 — Uranus in your sign is presenting you with an advantage when it comes to responding to the Jupiter-Pluto pattern, though the energy may be a little much for you. You value stability more than any description of your sign claims, and you're being compelled to reinvent yourself every day. And while Gemini is considered among the most mind-oriented of the signs, what's happening in our era is a little too much. This is complicated by your sense that there's no turning back, made worse by the feeling that the future is being thrust upon us. That all is true, and the only way through the rising onslaught of intensity is to come up with a new idea of who you are every day. This will be easier than trying to cling to who you are. One thing you can be sure of is that you have far higher mental capacity than you may believe. There are a lot of days when it's all too much, though you can handle it. Your best approach would be to turn up the energy rather than retreat in any way, and tap into reserves that you didn't know you have. And though many people are having weird reactions to influences they don't

understand, keep looking for the gems, the keepers, the people you trust and the places you are welcome. More than anything, your ministry or activism or dharma is in the area of putting people together and weaving community.

CANCER

JULY 16 — The Jupiter-Pluto pattern strides across the financial angle of your solar chart, from Leo to Aquarius (places 2 and 8). You bring a lot of mojo to your own success, and just based purely on the astrology, this is the picture of boom and boon. Astrology shows a picture or schematic; there are several important requirements or conditions involved in this setup. One is collaboration with the right people. In truth, anything financial or creative requires such; and this is true whether the partners are customers, co-workers or on the money side of things. There are always two or more parties to any transaction. Another requirement is a balance of power. That means only entering arrangements where you understand what is expected of you and what you can expect of others, which includes not having your boundless energy be taken advantage of. Though we live in wildly unreasonable times, aspiring to reasonable agreements is a basic level of foundation. What's most important is that you resist any temptation to be anything other than entirely true to your values and ethics. This is often not a simple matter, and it requires much gritty effort over a long period of time to figure out. It's no casual affair, and comes close to describing the things you would live or die for; where you would never sell out or cave in. This precludes anyone who thinks that 'everyone has a price'. That's a much easier life than the one I'm talking about.

LEO

JULY 16 — With Jupiter, Vulcanus and other factors working together in your favor, you should be unstoppable. The question is what might stop you, and first I would say, jealousy in any form. 'Any form' could take a lot of forms, from the feelings of an individual to a situation within a community (physical or online). It might come in the form of negative expectations. Jealousy (and its various cousins such as envy and resentment) is considered so normal that we barely register its existence except as a fact of life. I consider this range of emotions to be one of the most serious pitfalls of humanity, blocking progress and stoking creative regression. Worse yet, people give themselves license to say or do anything if they are jealous; it's the self-justifying emotion. The first thing to do is to work this out within yourself.

Few people understand the depth of existential fear that jealousy is rooted in, though you can — for yourself. Stop taking it for granted. While you're doing that, it would be wise to avoid business and personal relationships with anyone who thinks that it's an acceptable way to relate to people. Notice who throws in the bone of contention or the red herring, and anyone who speaks with a forked tongue. The opposite of jealousy is respect, consistency of character and honoring the accomplishments of others. When you practice doing these things, it will be easier to see who does not.

VIRGO

JULY 16 — Given all that you have going for you, the best thing you can do for yourself is to get out of your own way. Your chart has the feeling of looking at yourself, and into yourself, backwards through binoculars. You often seem further away from yourself than you are, smaller, and as if you're peering into a narrowing tunnel. Deep psychic forces are conspiring to set you free from yourself. This will be done not by planning or by thought but by making decisions and taking action. In order to get out of overthinking, it will be necessary to under-think and make moves with far less contemplation than you're accustomed to. None of that works too well anyway and most of the time you reach a conclusion and then do the opposite of what you were planning. The idea here is to spare you from the rumination and emphasize action that is based on pattern recognition. That's different than thinking things through. Pattern recognition is seeing a light turn green, looking around in a few directions to make sure there are no oncoming cars, bikes, or pedestrians, and going forward. Some things are not that simple but many things are. So part of this plan would involve knowing your predetermined objectives and planned destinations, and moving toward them without hesitation. All of this comes down to the difference between thought and action, which seems like it should be obvious — and it can be, once you consciously determine what the difference really is.

LIBRA

JULY 16 — You have a mighty presence in the world at the moment; the question is whether you feel it. What would prevent you actually noticing is fear. On the one hand, you cannot help but boom out into the world, and on the other, you may be reticent to say anything, or to take any chances. The problem is the disparity of extremes: a certain kind of worry that you can't put words to, matched by the sense that anything is possible. This must be tense, and I suggest that you not confront the matter head-on. Whatever hangups are getting in your way will most likely be resolved by

making emotional and not material adjustments. And there is some lingering energy of a past relationship that seems to be the source or subject of the emotional material. The best thing you can do for yourself is to expand your horizons in some tangible way. This could mean traveling somewhere or it could mean shocking your senses with a visit to a modern art gallery. Even a trip to a university library will work. The essence of what I'm describing is an expanded mental and creative space, and the potential for random encounters with new ideas. Digital space is extremely crowded right now, and that means consciousness is confined in ways that are worse than a 19th century schoolhouse on a beautiful June day. One last thing: honesty. Hold yourself to no less of a standard, but also do something more difficult. And that is to act immediately when someone deceives you or does not keep their word.

SCORPIO

JULY 16 — We live in a world of influencers. It's actually a job kids say they want; I use the word 'actually' because it's so ridiculous. Jupiter at full power in your mighty 10th place of visibility and reputation is suggesting that you dial it back on the influence thing and allow your presence to speak for itself. The word is attenuate. Step down your broadcast power by an order of magnitude or two. It will be tempting to sound off, to advertise, and to accept corporate sponsorship. What you have going for you first and best is the power of attraction. It is knowledge both general and also in a few specialized fields. This, you are free to share and also to encourage the value of. You have the ability to facilitate commerce and exchange in your environment. Your presence can be a net gain for everyone. Yet you must keep your ego out of anyplace it might want a role. Strive to have no undue sway over the affairs of others besides making something possible that might not otherwise have been so. The Jupiter-Pluto opposition that's happening now and exact on July 20 is revealing dynamics that have come into place gradually over the past three years. Jupiter will enlarge and magnify them, so you will get a good look at what they are. Once Jupiter moves on, the underlying psychic structure will remain, and you will need to think back to this time when you are experiencing something that you don't understand. So remember well what you experience now.

SAGITTARIUS

JULY 16 — There is more to life than figuring out who you are. If you live consciously, it's not necessary as a defined project. But consciously is the

question and not the answer. It's a big question in our time, because the thing being manipulated the most intensely is awareness itself. And it's difficult to measure awareness from within awareness. It's necessary to cultivate a form of the inner witness, and to have external references that serve as reality checks. You might want to allocate more of your attention to those things, which will mean slowing down enough to communicate meaningfully with others even when it's not your thing. It's easy to be self-obsessed with the current state of the digital environment, inner and outer. And it's not so easy to offer yourself to others — especially if they seem to believe something different than you do. Sagittarius is famously driven by both belief and a certain kind of self-referenced faith. So there is the question of how much the beliefs of others matter to you. By matter, I mean how much they sway you and the decisions you make. How, exactly, do you integrate the priorities of others into your life flow? If you had to characterize your viewpoint, would it be, "Say yes to yourself and no to everyone else," or would it be "Take care of yourself so you can take care of others"? The world is on the edge right now, and the difference between these two viewpoints matters.

CAPRICORN

JULY 16 — While your sign has a serious cast, you are at least able to maintain your center while everything and everyone else are running wild or losing their minds. That would be right around now. The presence of the Family Constellation pattern originating in your sign should be keeping you grounded and reminded that there are important matters of healing that you need to attend to. It's worth giving up the idea of having certain kinds of fun, that end up being not so much fun. Most of the whoop-de-doo types are actually faking it. Then a large segment of the population is wearing a thumb-rut into the glass of their phone scrolling through shorts. This is all one protracted sugar high commingled with cortisol addiction tempered by vaping. And alcohol has never seemed more toxic, especially if you count the emotional and spiritual cost spiraling down the generations. While it takes some adaptation, everyone is happier without these things — and better able to manage. You are the old-fashioned type, and you know you don't need any of that. I would say that the more you invest yourself in that which is ordinary and traditional and plain old useful, the better you will feel. Spend your money on what is useful and what you can share with others to help them. And please pay special attention to children, who are currently getting lost in the sauce of society — but who are, indeed, the future.

AQUARIUS

JULY 16 — The dramatic Jupiter-Pluto pattern associated with your sign is calling you to be at your very best right now. This is the time to respond and not react. And admittedly there is a lot in your world that is calling on you to do one or the other. A third option is to hold off making all decisions until the end of the month, when nearly everything will be a lot more comprehensible. I will say this, since I have to say something and there's a message coming through. You never want to be envious of someone else's life or circumstances. There are a lot of reasons for this, though the bottom line is you have no idea who or what they really are, and your situation is known to you, and manageable to you, and is within the realm of your own karma. Second, what's being revealed right now is the underlying power dynamic between you and others that you might not see without the magnification of Jupiter. The idea is to see it for what it is, and promptly get about the important work of correcting what you can correct, adapting where you can adapt, and getting out of what does not work and will not change. This does not need to happen quickly but it does need to happen steadily. The power of others must be an asset to you, not something that you have to deal with or resist; and your power can be allocated to those who are helpful and worthy of your support.

PISCES

JULY 16 — I have not mentioned this since your annual reading in the Inner Peace series, though a strange (very strange) centaur planet called Damocles is in your sign. I've been watching this one since my days of studying astrology in Munich; it is highly eccentric, even erratic. It has a 40-year orbit, most of which it spends in Aquarius. Like the name implies, there's an air of uncertainty and danger that seems to have entered your life lately. It may feel like an actual sword of Damocles is hanging over your head. You will need to get used to this, and invest your mental ability, intuition and wisdom in addressing real situations and not perceived threats. This is not easy. It's become extremely difficult to tell one thing from another as wave after wave of digital madness crashes over society. Damocles was last in Pisces between 1986 and 1989. How was that time for you? What did you do and what did you learn? As a Pisces those years resonate for me: they were challenging and edgy but I went right into circumstances and learned many important things that I continue to use to this day. Those years are, in a sense, the foundation of my life. So it's time to revisit this cycle of experience and inspect the underpinnings of your

existence. Nobody in 1986 could have predicted the world we would land in 40 years later (with the exception of one prescient science fiction writer). And yet here we are, on this strange frontier, where Damocles is demanding that you live for the day, every single day.

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