

Planet Waves for Sep. 10, by Eric Francis

ARIES

What do you notice you're doing when you don't think about what you're supposed to do? Most of the time, that's what you want to be doing in some greater sense. This will be true unless it involves a digital addiction of some kind. Playing with devices in a passive way is not 'doing'. Alternately, using the digital environment to create something new, and something with a creative result, counts for productive activity, though there are many other possibilities. Your power of imagination is the most potent it's ever been, though it's also easy to drown in foggy notions of what is possible. Go quickly from idea to substance and you will shift your direction in a positive and life-affirming way.

TAURUS

The way to resolve any creative frustration is to take action rather than to hesitate. Don't concern yourself with whether you're doing perfect work or good work or even whether what you're doing is useful; just get busy. One action-based step will lead to another and you will find yourself engaged in something productive, if unexpected, and that will settle your mind. Venus, your guiding planet, is about to form an opposition to Chiron in your sign. This has been described as catastrophobia — the fear of disaster. But it can also count for catastrophilia, or an attraction or expectation of everything going wrong. Whether they amount to the same thing depends on how you rise above your fear; and as Lou Reed said, you can't count on the worst always happening.

GEMINI

The New Moon in Virgo may be arriving with a crisis of self-confidence, or more accurately, insecurity. There's no point getting stuck worrying about anything. Both Mercury and Venus have moved into much more creative, expressive and collaborative positions, and have a lot to offer you. These are placements that favor aesthetics and strong emotions rather than mental festering. As the days go by, both of those planets will be resonating with the intensity of the outer worlds Uranus, Neptune, Pluto and others — and you're going to need an outlet for your passions. You have every right to sit in your house and worry, but that won't be as much fun as making beauty in some form. You have many options, from welding to flower arranging to cooking. It's all good.

CANCER

The New Moon in Virgo represents the birth of an idea, or an existing idea picking up momentum and gaining a life of its own. In our world of distractions, you must devote yourself if you want a result and the satisfaction of creative growth. There is something terrible happening to the world right now, and many think it's old news: that people are farming out thought and writing to water-gobbling guessing machines. They are giving up their minds to computer programs that more resemble the Borg than someone writing a postcard. Thinking is work; writing is work; and they can both be work of the very best kind: the kind that helps you sort out, iron out and determine what you think and how you feel. You want this form of direct and honest growth, and you can have it now.

LEO

The current New Moon in Virgo will have a grounding effect and help you settle your life into some productive routines. Yet part of that productivity is being flexible; that will offer you efficiency. Quickly rearrange your priorities when you feel you have to. That can mean shuffling the order in which you do things on any given day, dropping or setting aside what seems like a major project, or shifting activities to what feels good (whether work-related, personal or preferably both at the same time). Mercury and Venus grant both emotional depth and the ability to express yourself in words. Most people would say this is impossible and experience it as such. But fortunately you are not most people.

VIRGO

The New Moon in your birth sign will get you past certain limitations you've been dragging around since childhood — more consciously than ever. You tend to encounter them when you want to do something for fun, creativity or pleasure. It's that nagging sense of guilt that you're supposed to be doing something else. You can confront that head on, or you can step over it like a fence that is knee-high. The only problem is when you don't see the barrier and trip over it. You cannot do much about the attitudes and values that were stamped into you as a child and that seem to have origins before your first conscious memories. But you can use them as a source of power, and you can be happy you didn't need to go through the unfortunate things that your parents and ancestors endured.

LIBRA

Some colors go better together than others. Is this just a matter of opinion, or is it a natural truth? Anyway, the combination of Chiron in Taurus, Mercury in Libra and Venus in Scorpio are making a beautiful color scheme, all in the very first degree of their respective signs. This seems to describe a connection to truth that is available to you now but that is not usually so easy to perceive. Is what you see objectively real? Is it something revealed by your point of view? Is it the changing of the seasons showing you something that stands just behind the boundaries of linear time? It could be any of those things, though beauty is never an illusion; and respect for beauty is reverence for existence. No matter at all if you're the only witness.

SCORPIO

You're fussy about who you accept into your life, though sometimes you take this too far. What exactly is the risk? Yes, it makes sense to carefully consider who you take your clothes off with; you should never drive drunk or on drugs; and don't eat food you're allergic to. But ordinary socializing? You're safe talking to pretty much anyone. There is no risk in getting to know someone. If you sense malice, back off; otherwise, proceed consciously. We live in a time when everything is considered in terms of its (usually unstated) risks not in terms of its potential rewards. After a while, avoidance of risk becomes avoidance of life — and this is the situation much of the world finds itself in right now. You are free to lead the way and bring people together. Be bold; it will work out well for everyone.

SAGITTARIUS

The Virgo New Moon at the top of your solar chart is your reminder that you need to focus on specific goals rather than strive generally for success. The broad brush of Sagittarius at times must focus into the one-pointed arrow of intention. This often feels like a sacrifice or loss; you have to give up so many other potentials in order to focus on the project or task at hand. This can seem like the Achilles' heel of being born under your sign; but in fact it is your superpower. There is no point having bold visions without also having the ability to manifest them — and that always comes through getting down to business. What you forget is that eventually you reach a point of completion of one thing and can move onto another.

CAPRICORN

Jupiter trine Saturn suggests that the more you think about money, the less confident you will be; the more insecure you will feel. This is true regardless of your financial situation. It's important to work on sources of income, which is likely to be met with success. It's important to make decisions about spending and financial commitments consciously and based on your scale. However, it's not helpful to have general concerns or to focus on finances as your external source of security. There are many others that are more important, and for you, principal among them is community. You are only as safe as you feel, and that feeling is invested and reflected in the people you love. Notice who is a continuous and consistent presence in your life; notice who is supportive and most of all, who is honest.

AQUARIUS

Twenty years ago, Pluto was "downgraded" to minor planet (134340) Pluto. But in truth this was a blend of a political move (for personal gain and notoriety by one astronomer) and scientific fraud by people who should know better. The truth dimension is that there are many known planets in Pluto's realm; and yet none of them has the strange property of being six separate bodies orbiting on a common center of gravity. Pluto is now understood to be a many-faceted process that contemporary astrology has not caught up with. It's important that you discern that process for what it is, and study the trends in your life that date back about three years. You have time to make adjustments — and you will have certain specific opportunities for choice and correction over the next week or so. The key with Pluto is making your own decisions long before some seeming external force makes them for you.

PISCES

There is a confrontation implied in your solar chart, described by the New Moon in Virgo opposite a strange, slow-moving planet called Nessus (in your sign, Pisces). I think astrologers have missed the mark on Nessus, which is often ascribed to toxic relationships. That is true, but what is the real issue? What's the underlying energy? I would say that it's the quality of gray areas: anything nondescript, where responsibility for choice is unclear. Nessus says it's vital that you maintain your power of decision in all matters for as long as you can. You must be highly sensitive to when a situation seems to be neither that, nor that, nor that. Well, what is it? Sorting it out must be on the basis of what helps you and what hinders you, and you must have a way to make those determinations. Your yes and your no mean more than ever.