

Planet Waves for Sep. 17, by Eric Francis

ARIES

Usually things make more sense for you when the Sun enters your opposite sign Libra. However, the first thing that happens after the equinox is the Moon and Sun mix it up with a lot of Neptune. That is a formula for both fantasy and insecurity. Then if you go into “question reality” mode, that can lead you to some paranoia. Therefore, I suggest that for the next few days you observe yourself and the world, without much questioning — just pay attention to what you notice. That includes noticing what changes over time, including how you feel and how people seem to you. This kind of observation is not a usual thing in the extreme mental conditions we are living under. Usually life is about survival, and most perception is unvarnished prejudice. What you learn the next week or so will help you see through your own illusions.

TAURUS

Chiron has retrograded back into Aries after spending the past months in Taurus. This was an important test-run for a transit that will last seven years. The ultimate message of Chiron in Taurus will be about reconnecting with the physical world. Even you who are so attuned to rocks, trees and water have been driven to the point of instability by the digital environment. We know this because the past seven years of Uranus in your sign have been transformative, shocking and have likely led you to have some insecurity about your body. Your opportunity now will be to rebuild trust. Yet Chiron's final visit to Aries, which lasts until your next birthday, is encouraging you to reveal certain secrets you seem to be keeping from yourself. This is your basic coming out of denial about some essential facts of who you are and who you are not.

GEMINI

The Sun in Libra is a creative and liberating time for Gemini, and it's about to begin. However, most people are not vaguely into anything that is creative or liberating; the usual goals are survival, entertainment and sugar. You could say that the distinction is between creator and consumer. The choices are all yours. You are here on this planet with the full complement of senses, intelligence and expressive potential. The digital environment seems to vacuum in everyone and everything, and offers little in the way of inspiration. You must provide your own motivation, which will not be in short supply. The action is in the 5th house, which is about creativity — and it's also about courage. To express anything sincere or real takes some guts these days. But less than bungee jumping, so you are fine.

CANCER

Over the next few days, the Moon and the Sun will enter cardinal signs Aries and Libra. You will have significant power to create the image of yourself that you want others to see. You have a lot of options for how to weave your image in the public consciousness, so pick what will suit your plans and agenda best. Next week, the Aries Full Moon happens in your solar 10th house. Among other things, this is the place in your chart that represents how you want to be known. You have to do what is called the “10th house work,” though what I’m suggesting here is that you’re in a zone where this will be especially easy to accomplish. The most important element is knowing how you want to be presented and how you want to be recognized. Meanwhile, spiff up your resume or LinkedIn.

LEO

There is bold emphasis on the fire signs right now — with no less than Jupiter in your birth sign leading the way. In a few days, the Sun enters Libra, your sign of collaboration, business, brethren, neighbors and neighborhood. This can be a spectacular season for you, a time of both investment in your community and of local adventure. Take full advantage of it. Even if you live in a city, do your best to get to harvest celebrations of any kind. The farmer’s market will do, and vendors there will be able to point you further. We live in a time when it’s essential that we know our neighbors, and keep business close to home and off the internet. I know people walk around with 25 cents in their pockets and Venmo everything. I propose cash and local transactions are your best friends.

VIRGO

It's vital that you remain focused on your inner motivations rather than allowing someone, or some circumstance outside yourself, to provoke action. This is easier said than done, because most of what people respond to are outer conditions. The most important thing to not let sway you are what you perceive as social rules, the opinions of your friends, or anything involved with popularity. You have to do what is right for you. And if you don't have a lot of experience with that, then you will need to get some practice. Such often involves proceeding with your life plans even when others seem to be against you or have a different viewpoint than you do. It does not matter. There comes a day in the life of every person when they recognize that "this is my life." Usually it takes far longer than necessary.

LIBRA

The Sun's arrival in your sign next week will come as a relief, as it always does. You were born in a new season and the world is always reborn when the season changes, if only a little. You may discover that as people and things are going in 2026, you're doing pretty good. The key to success for you right now is filtering out the propaganda noise and haze that is inbound from the world in such great abundance. I would caution you that the worst form of delusion are the things that people believe about themselves, which they then get you to believe because they are so convinced. Here at the dawn of a new solar year, I would impart this message: never believe something because someone else believes it. Better still, don't believe anything. Do the work and figure out what is true.

SCORPIO

Many of the most interesting secrets of Scorpio are contained in the sign Libra, and the Sun will soon arrive there. It's as if you have two personalities: One that the world sees, and one that only you know about. The difference is as great as that between Venus and Mars. The outer world in which you live, where there is so much strife and drama, is more the personality thought of as Scorpio. Inwardly, you are much more balanced and trusting; and if you don't feel or experience that, take the opportunity of Libra season to get to know yourself in a new way. Your inner being has a distinct property that will tap you into something important, which is the ability to relate to yourself in a language that only you understand. Do this and you will slowly develop an unusual degree of trust in yourself, and in the world.

SAGITTARIUS

The Sun is heading to Libra, the social angle of the horoscope for Sagittarius. This is the source of your charming presentation and talent for community organizing. Beneath the surface you have a prickly side, which one of your most important growth tasks is to groom and tame. The source of this is your wild streak; Chiron was a civilized centaur, but with one other exception, the rest of them were not so gracious. But you are human, and a natural-born socialite. It can be exhausting and irritating dealing with all these people who are constantly putting on airs, though you're good at it. Still, you have to honor the animal within you if you're going to be happy. That animal side is the thing that most people deny — hence, all the pretense and pretext. Especially this month, it will be worth putting up with in order for your social side to flourish.

CAPRICORN

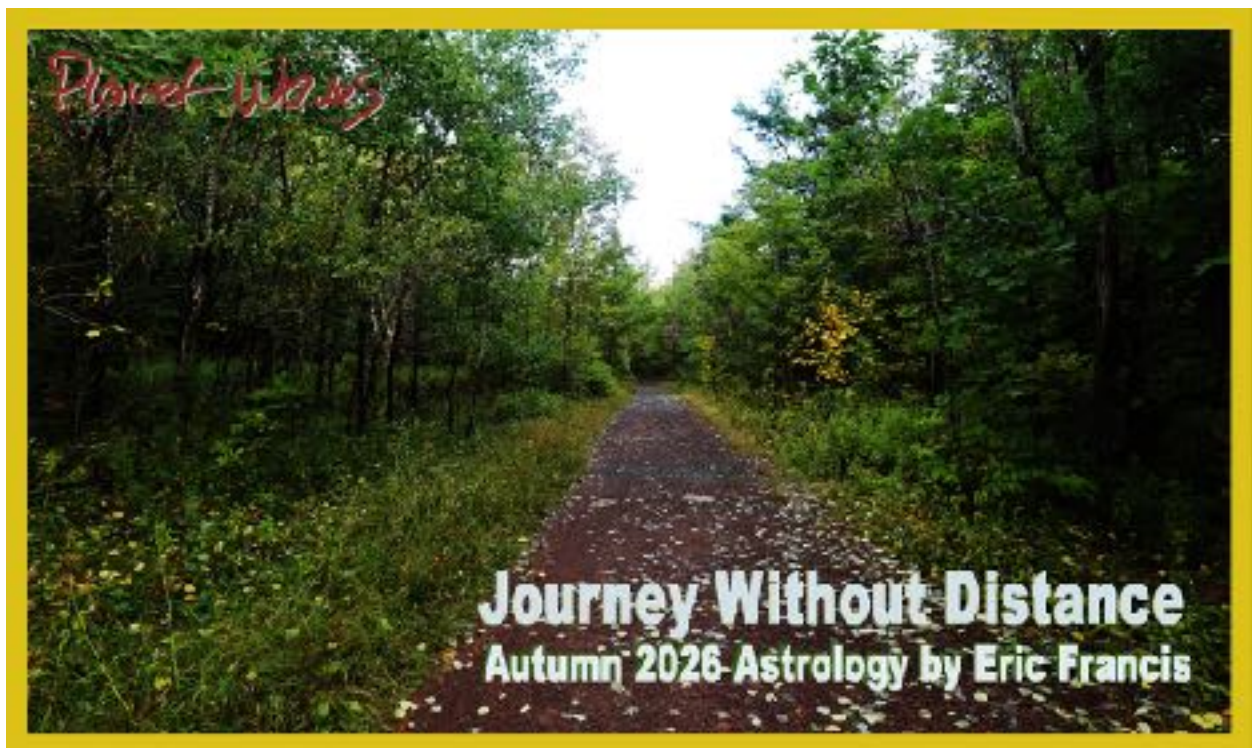
Marriage-style partnerships have been in a pinch, whether this is about an actual relationship or your concept of one. The astrological marker here is Juno in your sign square Eris, squeezed by Mars, amplified by a strange point called Zeus. It's a regular crossfire. And most of it is in your mind. Still, if you have a partner, you might want to check in and ask about their experience. The issue here is that polarity between the masculine and the feminine is being erased by exposure to the digital environment. We spend most of our time as sexless, discarnate entities floating around the astral plane (the internet). This is behind the obsession with men gendermaxxing in online photos. In humans, this is about the diminishing of male and female, and in the wider environment, it's about experiences like active and receptive. What is a man and what is a woman? I suggest you stick to biological and not political definitions.

AQUARIUS

Your natural religion is relationships. Yet you are something of a contrarian, and potentially self-aware enough to be a distinct individual. And that can make it challenging to find peace and harmony with others. So you might say your religion is really about finding the sense of balance and equanimity necessary to have a mutually fulfilling relationship. This is usually thought of in material terms; relationships are often considered things or possessions. If you think of your relationships as a spiritual path, your experiences will make much more sense. The essence of that path is not communication with other but rather a commitment to practicing honesty with yourself. That is the necessary precursor for an actual conversation with another person. This is the starting point, though ultimately it leads back to itself.

PISCES

The Sun is about to enter the sensitive 8th house of your solar chart, the one that addresses joint financial arrangements. You will need to negotiate this territory carefully for the next few weeks, and make sure that the agreements that you're in, or ones that you might get into, actually work for you. As a Pisces, you are often so tuned into what serves others that you have difficulty pinning down matters of what serves your best interest. With your financial axis involved (the 2nd house and the 8th house), this has to come down to the numbers. Stick to the facts and figures and it will be obvious what to do. That means cash in and cash out; and who contributes to what, and what they get. A serious, seemingly cold analysis is called for.



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