

Planet Waves for Oct. 8, by Eric Francis

ARIES

There may be no fathoming what a close partner or loved one is going through, though you may sense their vulnerability. I suggest you stay back and keep a respectful distance. Keep your ears, your heart and your mind open to listening. Do what you can to be supportive in ordinary ways, such as caring for the household, and needs like basic food and rest. This is not the time to go deep, nor is it the time to discuss any seemingly important issues. It will be easy to take advantage of someone now, and the damage will be profound. Therefore, resist any and all temptation to impose your will or get your way; and any temptation to dig into their affairs. This same astrology cautions that you have plenty going on for yourself, and urges you to keep your focus inward, on matters that you, too, cannot describe in words.

TAURUS

Venus retrograde in your opposite sign Scorpio presents the possibility that you will make your personal material about other people. Perhaps this will be one person in particular, or others generally. Living as we are in the hall of mirrors, it's easy to project and it's easy to get lost in all of the distortions and illusions of the allegedly Fun House. Scorpio may not be so much fun, as it tends to contain the secrets you're the most uncomfortable considering. And then it's easy to make those about other people. I suggest you keep close to you a couple of mantras, for example, "It's not about them, it's about me." Another could be, "I am never upset for the reason I think," and one more: "Let me see the problem if it can be solved." While it's not easy to call back your projections and recognize their source, there are significant benefits to even trying.

GEMINI

The question remains: who or what is your life in service of? You have many options for how to dedicate your energy and your purpose; most people never make the decision. And they never ask the question. The prevailing cultural norm is, in theory, that one works in service of oneself. But this is rarely true. Either it's more complicated, it's explicitly false, or something else happens. What seems to be self-service can (and usually is) covertly captured by other interests. They could be corporate in some way (an employer, a spouse). That might be voluntary, or, again, more complicated. Or there is an energetic capture (the feeling that someone is running your life). This is why it's crucial for you to decide who and what you work for. Quoting Bob: it may be the devil, or it may be the lord, but you have to serve somebody. The good thing is, you decide.

CANCER

Every now and then you have to get your ya-yas out. This is an interesting Jazz-age expression, sometimes written *yas-yas* (yes-yes), packed with risqué meaning — and that is how I intend it. In common talk it means to dance, cut loose or vent steam; in the back room, the connotation is sexual. As is the inflection of Mercury and Venus in Scorpio, which are dancing around in a conjunction; one might say, doing the tango. Venus retrograde will be taking you into deep territory; most people in the digital age are not prepared to go there. It's easier to do things "digitally," which is not what I'm talking about. Yet the physical, which is the emotional, which is the real, can feel exceedingly dangerous — more dangerous than it really is, especially if you're sober. I suggest you figure out (or admit) what you need, and plan the evening or the weekend.

LEO

The more you assert yourself, the more insecure you're likely to feel. However, the assertive part is about attempting to dominate yourself (not others). Despite the temptation to externalize your personality, I suggest you work from the inside out. Start with how you feel, and present yourself that way. It's true that cats tend to conceal their difficulty and their pain; you must be observant to know your kitty is having a problem. So observe yourself carefully and see if you can tune into what exactly is rumbling or bubbling within you. And it may take some time to get to the bottom of it — though you probably have a clue what it's about. Follow that down and go deeper. You're likely to be entering territory that is sensitive, taboo, and that most people will avoid. You probably have kept back, but now is the time to approach this subject matter with commitment.

VIRGO

There is only so much stability you want; only so much that will work. You may be annoyed by our culture of disruption: of change for its own sake, or the instinct many have to mess things up and see what happens. However, there seems to be something you want to do, or experiment with, and that will require a change of mental orientation. That includes the flexibility to make different decisions. You are, understandably, concerned that one thing will lead to another and suddenly everything familiar will be gone or modified beyond recognition. But how much that you're experiencing is working for you? How many small adjustments have you tried to make that have not added up to anything real? Remember to be guided by your own desire for action; your own creative instinct. This comes with a strong inventive power, including to solve any problem. Tapping into that will be your greatest strength.

LIBRA

You seem to be in an intractable situation, where you cannot easily move in any direction. Yet you have more options than you think, including for how to expand your business and earning potential. However, the solution will be something unconventional that others will not have thought of. So don't look to them for suggestions. The ideas need to be your own, and then you have the option to seek the collaboration or support of others. The mistake you're most likely to make is underestimating your potential for success. The world is swirling in chaos and seems to be crumbling from the center outward. But in such times, potential is released, and few have the perceptiveness or the courage to notice it. Your job is to notice, but more than anything, stay solidly connected to your capacity for success, and your ability to be shrewd with your resources.

SCORPIO

You will be tempted by situations where you can take power over people, though that's not going to help you or anyone else. We could read the same aspect — Mars in Leo — as you being in a position to set a positive example. This should take some wrestling with your conscience, as you understand your motives. In truth, your agenda has very little to do with other people. You have your personal goals; leave others out of them to the greatest extent possible. You can do your thing and they can do theirs. There is an especially strong temptation to use sexual instincts and desires as a source of power over others. This would be a distortion and misuse of your creative energy. There are much more wholesome ways to use your personal appeal.

SAGITTARIUS

You may feel like a lot is going on deep inside you, and yet you have no idea what it is. That's actually a good start. You know, a question. What am I really feeling? How do I feel about this situation? Don't assume you're right, and allow yourself some room to maneuver. You're looking into a blind spot, and you will have revelations in little ripples on the shore, and each will change the preceding one. It's important that you remain fluid and not dig in. You try to not be someone who is driven by their irrational emotions and it's never easy for you when they surface. That can lead to all kinds of drive and intensity and blaming others for how you feel. You will find your freedom in backing off from that, and patiently seeking your own understanding and peace within yourself. These things are possible.

CAPRICORN

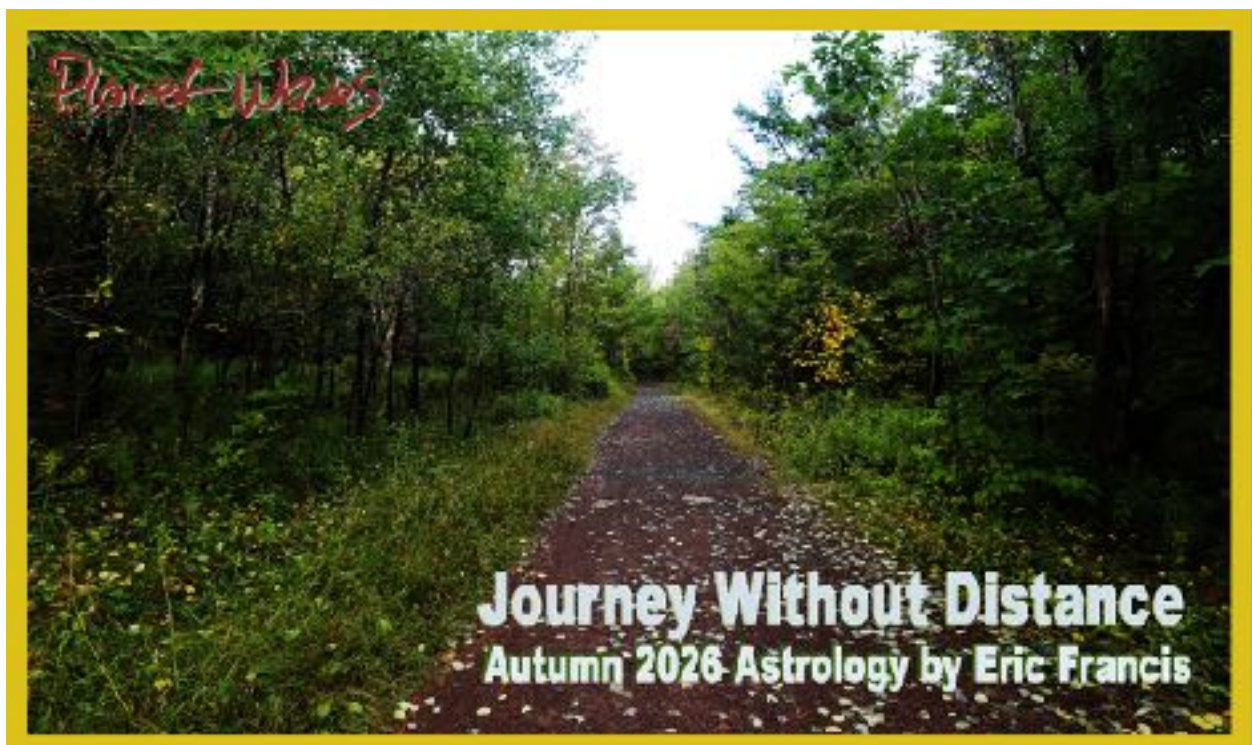
There are people who post their private material to public websites and there are those who do not. Please, be one who doesn't. Private means anything that occurs within the four walls of your home, or your car, or anything involving your close friends, your family, or your critters, or what you had for dinner. We need a movement to keep what is private, private, and to think of it that way. And this movement can begin with you right now, despite all the various lures to let things hang out. The part about how you think of your life is an important element here. Your choices are approximately: you are in a reality show, or you're in your reality which is not a show. There are good reasons for privacy and containment right now, and you will discover them when you pull the curtains, dim the lights and turn off all the devices.

AQUARIUS

If you're discovering that your career goals are elusive, ask yourself what you really want. You're in a review phase on many different levels, and that means deducing the secrets that you've kept from yourself. Mostly, those cryptical envelopments contain information about what you want to accomplish in the world. The signs may seem to be in a language that you don't understand, but this is a topic where your instincts can take over. That includes learning from the past choices you've made and the actions you've taken. There is also the mystery of how your parents treated you, and what about you and your existence threatened them. It's difficult to think of a baby threatening an adult, until you tune into the emotional level and the jealousy that some parents feel for their child's potential. The question to start with is: what about who you were and what you wanted did you hide from them, to protect yourself?

PISCES

Venus, a planet with close associations to Pisces, is now retrograde in Scorpio. Scorpio has the distinction of being your angle associated with spirituality and mysticism (the 9th place) connected directly with the mysteries of death, transformation and sexuality (Scorpio). What this does for you is remove all of the baggage, packaging and theorizing of religion, all of which is designed to clutter the fundamental truths of existence. You go straight to the place where the cosmos meets biology; and where existence is propelled by your relationship to both sex and death. Until that is reckoned with, everything else is a diversion, and you have direct access. This potentially sets you beyond the reach of dogma, myths, metaphors and tall tales as a means of learning about existence. Not everyone can handle being so directly connected to truth. As a great philosopher once wrote, "To live outside the law, you must be honest."



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