



The Awa

An introduction to 2025 astrology
by Éric Francis

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An Introduction to The Awakening Sign Chapters and the Astrology of 2025

By Eric Francis

We are no longer somewhere in between. We are at the moment of arrival to a new shore of history. This is the place where the family of humanity struggles for its collective soul in the face of the rapidly increasing merger of humans and digital technology.

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Message from the Before Times —

In one of those lovely coincidences, I flipped open an Alice Bailey book on my desk right after writing the Virgo horoscope (above). The subject selected personally for me by the universe was "advice from beyond," and the text offered some startling prospects as to the source of certain spiritual messages. For your information, I'll summarize two. One is that some messages from spirits originate from people vibing in with advanced souls now on the cusp of incarnation. (Usually we think of ghosts as 'dead people'). Two is that memories and skills we carry from past lives suddenly spring into memory as seemingly new skills or revelations. These are often viewed as teachings from the spirit world, when they are in fact current personal attributes.

— Libra Planet Waves for April 16, 1999

Introduction to the Introduction

YOU ARE ABOUT TO READ a lot about the astrology of the past 30 years, and the next few years. And you will read a few things about where the digital environment meets physical existence meets the human condition, and where they all meet astrology.

A new god has descended upon the Earth, and we are all swimming in its omnipotence, omniscience and its cold, mechanical way of thinking. Humanity is in a struggle to hold its sanity and its body heat under the influence of the refrigerant of zeros and ones.

Marshall McLuhan, my philosopher-guide, once said that the computing environment was the equivalent of LSD, which as you probably know is a powerful hallucinogen. I doubt McLuhan tripped, but he was a full-on member of the Intelligentsia and was invited to all the right parties. And at those parties, he saw what happened to lots of posh people when they dropped acid. I imagine his cool, reflective demeanor made him the perfect trip guide under those circumstances.

He made this comparison to living in a euphoric la la land in the 1970s, when computers were starting to appear in the business environment. They are now everywhere. When you think of the influence of digital technology, it's not about your daughter clinging to her telephone 24/7 or your son strapped into his gaming console.

It's about all of society being on an acid trip. It's just that they don't know the punch was spiked. The difference is that when you're at a party and someone added LSD to the sangria, you will notice pretty soon that something feels a little weird. And you will eventually figure out that you're tripping.

Here in society, tripping on computing devices, we don't know what's happening. Everyone now and then someone says, "Gee things are really weird. Why is everyone acting like this?" And that's about as far as the discussion goes.

The digital world where "artificial intelligence" (meaning *artificial mental capacity*) is taken for granted is the world of the deep fake. And the deepest and fakest thing in the world can only be oneself. Surrounded and infused by all that is not real, the question rubs off on one's own being.

The influence of the technology environment is the most important spiritual question of our times. It's the issue that defines and should inform every other issue. Astrology, which is the study of self and society, has a lot to say about how we got where we are, and when various points of no return happened. In the introduction that follows, I'll be describing quite a bit of what happened, so that you know about it — and so that I only have to do it once.

With this background established, in the sign readings I can describe what is happening and what is about to happen. Aries will serve as a kind of reference reading, though most of the material that would have gone into the reference reading will be in this essay.

The Signs are the Great Houses

Both the signs and houses of astrology represent realms of experience in our lives on Earth. Both can include subject matter, human activity,

physical spaces and substances such as food or water. Houses are more of a factor in the charts of individual people and specific events; a chart with houses is cast with a date, a time and a place.

Signs tend to represent large swaths of society and energetic concepts (such as watery or fiery). They are more like background fields of energy. Signs are innately ruled by planets. The two are closely related. Houses then suggest how this whole business of astrology expresses itself in lived reality.

When tracking the curve of history over decades and centuries, the most helpful frame of reference is slow-moving planets moving through the familiar 12 signs that constitute directions in the space of the solar year. And it's the relationships that planets make to one another in the process (called aspects) that describe movements and events we will be responding to.

Every chart draws influence from all the signs. Normally we think of our Sun, Moon and rising signs as being the most prominent. Yet astrology is holographic: the part and the whole contain one another, and events influence our chart from every direction.

In this introduction to the signs, I will cover events of recent decades and how they have led to today. I don't include all of the signs in this section; additional information about recent historic events in the signs will be included with the individual readings.

This section will consider events in the signs where major events take place in 2025-26 and what has led up to them.

A Note About the Solar House System

The kind of public astrology that I do involves the solar house system — used in newspaper and magazine horoscopes, and the same system I use for my annual and seasonal readings. I learned this house system first, by studying the astonishing Patric Walker's horoscope.

The solar house system uses the Sun as the reference point, placing it in the first house, and then counting the houses from there. It uses the whole sign as a house; hence, for Sagittarius, your 2nd house is

Capricorn (and so on). Using the Sun sign as the reference is why it's called "solar." This is helpful because most people don't know their rising sign.

Think of the solar chart as representing signs as opposed to your timed natal chart, which is the horoscope for you.

You would think that such a system could not get personal results. However, I've been all the way into astrology since 1994. I follow both my solar chart (Pisces Sun) and my natal chart (Cancer rising) and I can report that the solar houses work very well.

Among the reasons it works is that your Sun's position is a genuine reference point; the relationships to the signs is VERY important (that gives us the solar houses); transits through the signs are revealing; and mutual aspects (Jupiter square Saturn, Chiron conjunct Eris), are influential no matter what kind of astrology you are using.

From studying the signs, we know that for Leo, Taurus says something about career. We know that for Scorpio, Aries says something about your health and wellbeing. For Pisces, Cancer describes your creative flow. I could make hundreds of these statements; they would all make excellent astrological kindling.

When I do your sign reading, I am reading the whole solar chart as it pertains to any one sign.

That said, my readings are written for both the solar houses and also for those who know their rising sign. In the case of the latter, use the whole signs as houses and do not worry about house cusps drawn into your natal chart. They are useful but we don't need them for this type of astrology.

Reading for your rising sign will give you a workable idea of how the transits I am describing influence your personal, timed natal chart.

I highly recommend considering the ideas in readings for two or more signs that apply to you, and focusing on what seems to contradict between them. There will not be much; seeming differences of opinion will likely be minor (I am interpreting with a light hand). However, if

you notice any, they will be gold mines. Look for a video about the solar houses somewhere else in The Awakening project. I've done many in the past and it's not as complicated as it may seem.

Astrology, which is read in circular format, uses different logic and syntax than the linear written words you are reading. In astrology, every element relates to every other element. This is how it's possible to talk for 12 hours about the contents of one sheet of paper with fewer symbols in total than are in this paragraph.

History Made Personal: Introduction to Collective Events in the Signs

We are no longer somewhere in between. We are at the moment of arrival to a new shore of human history. This is the place where the family of humanity struggles for its collective soul in the face of the rapidly increasing merger of humans and digital technology.

Humans have always become the product of our technology. That is much of our story on this planet. We invent knives and everything changes. We invent spears and everything changes. We make fire and everything changes. Invent paper and suddenly there are roads to deliver the mail. The paper runs out and the roads go to waste.

What is different today is that the technology we use is so omnipresent as to affect every facet of life and consciousness — it is everywhere, and intervenes in everything. And it emulates thought, with its purveyors claiming it is a form of "intelligence." Today, not a single social event, financial transaction or work-related activity evades direct contact with the digital environment.

This is often discussed in terms of the content (social media harming children) and not the effects of all of society stewing in the environment. It's often discussed as a sociological issue when really it's the most significant spiritual and existential issue of our times.

By that I mean it not only shapes the consciousness of every person, but also every person's notion of their existence and the greater collective existence. We are seeing the destiny of the world shaped more rapidly by a single field of technology than ever before. When

you look at the chaos of the world and wonder what is happening, the answer is digital.

The Rise of Digital in a Flash of History

The rise of digital and its conquering of humanity has happened in a flash of history. The first digital computer, called ENIAC, was put to work on Dec. 10, 1945. In a mere 80 years, approximately three generations, digital computing has gone from the ultrahigh security centers of the military to an ordinary device carried around by nearly everyone, all the time.

Yet this would seem to be the least of our problems. Digital is now synthesis: artificial creation of any voice, image, works of art, and entire events. The message of the digital environment is that you can no longer tell what is real, which translates to not being able to determine whether you are real.

This may seem ridiculous, but people have long had a difficult time experiencing their existence and the validity of their thoughts and ideas. Now we are swamped in a synthetic imaginal realm which is leading people to question their most basic grounding in existence. The illusion that the world is a stationary plane sitting at the center of the universe is a digital fantasy — and many people can conceive of no other concept of where the world fits into the cosmos.

I have quoted Eric McLuhan many times, and will do so again. This is about you:

“The body is everywhere assaulted by all of our new media, a state which has resulted in deep disorientation of intellect and destabilization of culture throughout the world. In the age of disembodied communication, the meaning and significance and experience of the body is utterly transformed and distorted.”

“Utterly transformed and distorted” is another way of saying the demolition and remaking of every individual person’s relationship to their body, the collapse of the prior society as we knew it, and the relationship between the two.

There have been transformations to individual people, to society and to humanity for every subsequent technology environment, but none have been so fast and so total. And while the computing environment once seemed to promise a kind of total recall — the exact precision of memory — this has flipped into the total overwhelm of legacy data, the problem of data loss and the environment functioning as a memory hole.

It's easy for the central nodes to control the flow of information to the degree where many events are erased from living memory. And when something surfaces, it can easily be seen or accused of being a contrivance of the environment itself.

Yet if astrology begins anywhere, it's with the idea that you are real; you are a unique and distinct being; you have the potential to discover and express your inner purpose on Earth. This is true regardless of the prevailing conditions of any one time in history. You always have the ability to develop and express your potential.

As an astrologer, I mostly depend on your conscious desire and need to do so. In other people, I am speaking to your dormant need or desire that is looking for cues that it's still time to live and take action.

Self-Actualization: The Driving Force

This year the emphasis continues to be on Aries, with increasing power. In 2024 we experienced a total solar eclipse conjunct Chiron, a sigil of both healing and a radical call to awakening. By awakening I mean the core awareness that is self-awareness and allowing the process of maturity. I think of this as self-actualization. We will also see this described by events in Gemini and Aquarius.

Kurt Goldstein, who created the term, defined self-actualization as "the driving force that maximizes and determines the path of an individual." Note the two key words that describe this driving force: *maximize* and *determine*. It's an innate magnetism, similar to how the leaves of plants reach for the light (phototropism) and their roots reach for water (aquotropism). What humans reach for is the experience of their being in accordance with an innate "true purpose."

You could say this is a hypothetical concept. You could also say it exists only in potential. You could say that only some people express its potential, while many others do not.

And you could propose that everyone has access to this force if they choose to acknowledge and work with it, and to do the inner work to bring it to fruition. I'm taking the last of these propositions: that we all have access to self-actualization, as an innate orientating and motivating ability. The only variable is whether we allow it into our lives as a kind of collaborator and teacher.

Buddhism and Hinduism refer to this as the Dharma. Translated directly, Dharma is "acting as if to hold the world together." Yet it exists as a force or impetus in an objective sense as well. There is something larger that you can tap into.

The potential issue with self-actualization (as we think of it) as a psychological influence is that it's a concept that emerged during the print era, when mental conditions were much different than they are today. True, it was named in the first half of the 20th century — well into the broadcast era — though by a man born in 1878. He was probably around age 45 or 50 when he heard a radio for the first time.

This is an important distinction if we want to understand what is happening to humanity now. Book technology drove forward the experience of an interior self and the actualization of that self. Books cultivate a strong inner focus and teach the difference between you and the world.

Electronic Technology Blurs All Boundaries (especially between you and your true-self)

Electronic communication seemed to unravel this overnight. It did so first with its tribalizing effect: of transforming an individual inner sense of being to a kind of false collective, one that is easy to manipulate. In this way it pushed people outside of themselves, bringing the dominant locus of awareness into the outer world.

Individuality was never a strong suit of humanity, but under typographic conditions it was starting to get a hold when it was flooded

by the global-village-inducing environment of radio. Telephone also played a role in eviscerating any notion of privacy or a private identity. Electric light made it possible to see into the dark and therefore reveal the most intimate details of people's lives.

Remember, this is happening "in the world" but mainly it is happening to consciousness and how people decide, define and determine who they are. Then after these developments came television. Then came all-seeing, all-knowing digital technology.

Each of these technology environments has served to transform humans and humanity out of our inward focus and self-awareness into beings that are not only tribal, and not only being created by their technology, but also being merged with it.

This has a word: we are in the age of transhumanism. Once thought to be an expression of enhanced human potential, it's now clear that the merging of humans with the digital environment is to surrender the things that make us human: the sensitivity, the natural thought, the sense of intimacy and empathy. Computers do not feel, and they teach us not to feel. And this is happening faster than we realize.

So you might think of the digital environment as a force that is working against self-actualization and is instead driving people out of inner awareness and out of body, which means out of mind; another word for that is insane. There would seem to be just one solution: to devote oneself to connecting to the Dharma, which in Western psychological terms is expressed through self-actualization.

Where We Find This History in Astrology

In the world as in astrology we see forces working both for and against self-actualization: the *dharmic* and the *adharmic*. You might say that the role of the astrologer is to turn every factor of the chart in service of Dharma. Meanwhile, the issues we see in the world today have legacies; they have points of origin and long stories.

However, in recent times we can look at several signs that pick up the story in our lifetimes — and in one case, somewhat before. In this

preview monograph, my plan is to focus on Capricorn through Gemini: about six of the signs.

I could write something about each of the signs and how activity there contributed to today's full digital conditions, though I am going to touch on the high points in this summary introduction to the topic and add additional details in the individual readings.

From this discussion, you will get the idea how to work with the concept of collective events manifesting through the energy field of a sign, activated by an aspect pattern.

I Am, and I Am Electrified: Human to Transhuman, and Back

As the sign of "I am," Aries is central to the matter of astrology in every form. It is central to self-concept and therefore, to how technology influences self and self-concept.

Eris, with a 556 year orbit of our Sun, returned to Aries in 1922 and took five years to fully make the transition out of Pisces. The transition era of 1922-1927 coincides with the dawn of radio, the first mass-scale, light-speed, disembodied communication. You can think of this as a profound not-self influence, taking people out of themselves and creating a false sense of "we." Marshall McLuhan comments somewhere that while nobody likes this fact, radio created Gandhi, Hitler and Roosevelt at the same time.

Eris takes 130 years to move through Aries (about a quarter of its total orbit), and we are now a century into this journey. This is the century that contains the "deep disorientation of intellect and destabilization of culture" that Eric McLuhan wrote about. Closer to the point, Eris in Aries describes how, "In the age of disembodied communication, the meaning and significance and experience of the body is utterly transformed and distorted."

And in this transformation and disorientation, some wider potential is made available. However, it may be challenging to perceive, much less access under prevailing conditions of mental and cultural chaos. That is what we will see surging from the spring of 2025 into 2026 as two major conjunctions take form in Aries.

Yet the individual level is very, very important to apprehend: your life begins and ends with you, and how you relate to yourself describes your relationship to larger circumstances and conditions.

Aries Events Bring Massive Technology Shifts

Somewhat recently (on a grand scale), there was another wild moment in Aries, which was at the dawn of the telegraph. This began around 1837 — when Pluto was last in Aries. The telegraph was the first electrical technology, the first electrical communication technology which transmitted human thought across the Earth at the speed of light. Humans are meant to travel at about three to five miles per hour, not 186,000 miles per second.

Note that the first electrical communication system was also the first digital one: although it was translated over analog wires, telegraphy is based on a binary code of dots and dashes, similar to the zeros and ones of computing technology.

Western Union said in a 1956 propaganda film that the telegraph kept pace with the nation's expanding frontiers. But you could as easily say that by allowing instant communication over very long distances, it made that expansion feasible.

Saturn, Uranus and Pluto in Aries (that was in 1850)

Let's make one last visit to the 18th century for now. In 1850, there was a stunning triple conjunction of Saturn, Uranus and Pluto, describing some kind of massive transformation of humanity. This eventually manifested as the electrical age.

Notably, what was called "feminism" was born in this time, and that is (by its own words), what appears (in Aries style) to be a declaration of war between the sexes. In reality, it was a declaration of war between and among women, and upon womanhood.

Said another way, the battle cries of early feminism described a crisis among women about the nature and purpose of the female body that has had implications for all of humanity, to the current moment. It was

an early example of the disembodied influence of light-speed electrical communication.

This pattern fits with all of the current Aries themes, and the disembodied and tribalizing effects of electricity that spill into the digital age and proliferate here. Among those effects are a neutering of the sexes. In light-speed electrical space — on the phone, online, on television, etc. — people do not have male or female sex because they do not have bodies.

This is how it's possible for recording artist Billie Eilish to say this and be taken seriously: "I've never felt like a woman, to be honest with you. I've never felt desirable. I've never felt feminine. I have to convince myself that I'm, like, a pretty girl. I identify as 'she/her' and things like that, but I've never really felt like a girl."

If she's never felt like a girl, how does she know what it feels like not to be one? What she's saying is, "I don't feel like my projection or expectation of what I am supposed to think a girl feels like."

This is like Flat Earthers saying, "If the Earth was really going around the Sun at 67,000 mph, I would feel it." And when they say that to me, I respond, "Yes, you do. This is exactly what it feels like." We have nothing to compare it to, except maybe being asleep and dreaming. And that, too, is happening on a world moving 67,000 miles per hour. All of consciousness and all of physicality is based on being on a planet moving in multiple frames of reference.

The Gender Crisis = the Flat Earth = Digital

Both the current gender crisis and the seemingly-laughable "Flat Earth Movement" are secondary effects of the digital environment. They are part of the same problem, which is also affecting everything else.

While the 1850 triple conjunction in Aries seems long-past history, I propose that this chart is still active. And it will serve as a template for what is possible under powerful Aries astrology and also the burgeoning influence of a new technology environment. A massive new wave of this began with the first entry of Eris into Aries in 1922 (in the era of radio, women's suffrage and prohibition).

Message from the Before Times —

If you've learned something crucial in the past three months, I would say it's how to look after your own interests, or maybe it's to get out of the way when you sense something is amiss. However, the potential risk now is thinking that something is weird when it's really not. You know that the theme of these hours, days, weeks and years is change. Just about all change is within you. Upcoming aspects reveal that before long, you'll have a lot better insight as to what you want to have faith in, and what you clearly cannot.

— Capricorn for Nov. 1, 2001

The Capricorn Factor: The 'Before Times'

Capricorn represents the structures of society, of family and all associated concepts that we depend upon to have a sense of security in life. We count on Capricorn institutions to be there when we need them. While Cancer is often thought of as the sign of security, a sense of safety is more associated with the stability of Capricorn, which extends to the household and the influences of both parents.

And if astrology is any measure, in our lifetimes, particularly starting in the late 1980s, we have had next to none of that. The family has been destabilized. In many places, motherhood is seen as a form of victimhood and fathers are routinely counted as negligent or perpetrators. To say "the patriarchy" is a slur or an accusation.

Capricorn also represents the accumulated past. It's the great attic in the sky, and in your life. Placing too much emphasis on the past is not helpful, though we need its reference points, its context and physical reminders of times gone by.

The digital age was starting to take off in the early 1990s, where Capricorn was the sign at center-stage. Computers had been around for a while, but this is when they begin to invade people's homes. A company formerly called Quantum was given the name America Online

in 1989. This was the first true consumer-accessible internet service. (CompuServe was for hobbyists and geeks.)

And at this time, interesting things were happening in Capricorn, which, as the sign of material reality, the structure of society and tradition was coming under intensive changes, locally and globally. The family, a Capricorn idea, has undergone profound changes during the digital revolution. All technology throughout the ages has shaped the family, though digital seems to have done the most damage to human bonds and a sense of belonging. This is part of why society feels so unstable. For many people, there is nowhere to turn.

The Uranus-Neptune Conjunctions of 1993 (and surrounds)

The early 1990s were a crucial time in digital history and also in the resulting shaping of society. Yet few people knew what was happening. Given the planets involved, this makes sense.

In particular, a conjunction between the outer planets Uranus and Neptune was forming, which was exact throughout 1993, and very close in 1992 and 1994. We have all had a lot to say about Pluto in Capricorn, though it seems that many astrologers have forgotten that one of the great conjunctions of our lifetimes occurred in 1993, preparing the way. (Uranus-Neptune of the 1990s happened about one century after Neptune-Pluto of the 1890s, another world-shaping event. These kinds of outer planet events don't grow on trees. They represent a new world arising and kudos to the astrologer who is paying attention while they are happening.)

The series of Uranus-Neptune conjunctions of the 1990s is one of the most significant astrological events in all of living memory. It's the demarcation point when the "before times" started melting away. On its face, it would be associated with a degree of spiritual confusion, and also the sense that anything is possible.

People born in this era have a strange relationship to the past: it's as if it does not really exist. On one level this is true, though what I mean is that it's difficult for them to see the context that the past can provide, and to understand the importance of seeking an understanding of history. Digital experience is a kind of eternal now,

and everything else (the entire past, for example) gets relegated to being inside a “rabbit hole.”

Natives of the early to mid 1990s often feel like they are building their lives on quicksand, that nothing is trustworthy and that nothing will ever last. This condition exists in the physical realm; we have no idea how many phases of history were lost to various ice ages (or to the constant redevelopment of New York City). In digital time, the feeling is reduced to weeks or months.

Yet the great benefit of the Uranus-Neptune conjunction is not being constrained by the dictates of the past. There may be the feeling that anything is possible, including what was said or believed to be impossible before. So this aspect carries great potential. However, the confusion factor must be acknowledged, and it will help to know history and have reference points of time-honored traditions — even if you think you’re going to change them.

In all ages and times of history, artifacts of the past are delicate, and often overlooked either as old junk, out of style, obsolete, or maybe some kind of museum item. This includes the vanishing properties of what it means to be human.

It’s a property of the digital realm that it’s the place where things, feelings, desires and ideas disappear as if they never existed. Yet with those disappearances, and the melting away of context, many forms of false history arise in their place. Often this is cast as “alternative” or “corrected” history when in truth it’s just as fraudulent (or worse) than the original. I am therefore cautious of these alternatives or corrected versions, which call for deep personal investigation rather than just swallowing them whole.

The Seven Year Orb of Neptune Events

Neptune events have a wide orb in time — several years warming up and then seven years from the exact event to see the results. Uranus and Neptune in Capricorn were exploding, erasing, and melting their way through all that remained of the before times.

This concludes with the demolition of the World Trade Center, which I consider the beginning of life under “full digital conditions.” It occurred under the influence of Saturn in Gemini (twin structures) opposite Pluto in Sagittarius (demolished by the unstoppable force and blamed on a foreign adversary).

Then in late 2001, Chiron arrived in Capricorn for a four-year run. My assertion then was, we will be given an opportunity to see the future under Chiron in Capricorn and what we do not fix will become a way of life. That was the era of Enron (film reference: *The Smartest Guys in the Room*). And behold, society and its economy turned into Enron.

Pluto arrived in Capricorn in 2008 and gets all the credit for demolishing the once-familiar world, but it had been shocked, dynamited out and washed out of existence long before then. Pluto was a kind of final act. However, this was an important contributing factor to the world we now have, as Pluto’s results were considered normal and what I would call “environmental,” meaning ubiquitous as they occurred; after 9/11 nothing was especially shocking.

For those curious, the action that surrounded “covid” was a conjunction of Saturn and Pluto in Capricorn, clashing with Eris in Aries. This was the pattern that resulted in the final seizure of known reality by Big Tech and Big Pharma. Notably, during this time, Saturn was in Aquarius (having ingressed two months after the conjunction in Capricorn) — so there was a lot of pressure there without having Pluto in place yet.

Saturn brought plenty of pressure; think of it as a kind of stress test on society so we can measure how we react when something like an emergency is declared. Is anyone allowed to care whether it’s real or not?

Message from the Before Times —

There continues to be a great deal that defies ordinary comprehension in your life, but it appears that circumstances have reached a point where they are fully comprehensible in their total strangeness. In handling all questions that arise over the next week, remember, there are three viewpoints that will work effectively. One is to look straight at any question or the person asking it. There is a great benefit in doing this. Another is to look to either side of where you stand, to widen your viewpoint. A third perspective is to look in the direction of the Sun when it's just past noon. There, you're likely to feel the strength and discipline that will allow you to take your life, gradually and with an extreme care, to the next place.

— Aquarius, Sept. 13, 2002

Aquarius is Important, Especially Now

Aries is the sign of the individual; Aquarius takes us into the collective realm of shared spaces and purposes. It's said to be the sign of groups, though it's really the sign of social patterns. It's the sign of *where the individual meets the group*, and where one may influence the other.

Aquarius, closely associated with inventions, is the sign of electricity and electrical technology. It's also the sign of broadcast waves and waves generally. It is a conducting vector. Socially, Aquarius is about select audiences, such as the tribe that follows one particular TV show, or a group or an organization.

After Uranus and Neptune finished their run through Capricorn, they entered Aquarius. Uranus was there 1995-2003. Neptune was there from 1998-2011. The time of Uranus in Aquarius seemed like a rapid frosting of the world in digital technology. It was there before; by 1995 the takeover was moving at full speed and by 2003 high-speed internet was widespread. During this era we are living through the highly idealized notion of the digital dream — digital will save everyone and everything.

Rick Levine shared with me his theory that the internet was an entity that manifested on Earth, taking up shape in electrical and communication wires and manipulating human consciousness to do its bidding. He called this thing "Aquarion." If you ask me, it's a plausible and creative idea. It's also potentially helpful to consider the electrical realm as a kind of invading species unnatural to our planet and our bodies, gradually merging with us.

Note that in my various media histories, I leave out gaming. I just noticed this. I am not a gamer; I have no interest. However, I am aware that the gamers were way ahead of hobbyists and most people wanting to use computers for business purposes. Here is a basic chronology with the salient points.

Aquarius is the sign of our relationship to what we think of as society: modest to large groups, and how they interact and organize themselves. By the late 1990s, the "email list serve" had taken over as the primary means of organizing groups, beginning the process of replacing things like meetings.

It's difficult to overstate the revision to the order of society by taking something as basic as a meeting into the spaceless void of digital. Around this time, Kurt Cobain does his biting mockery of the Youngbloods song "Get Together."

Message from the Before Times —

Towards the end of the evolutionary process, the disciple begins to respond consciously to the fourth indirect influence — that of Pluto, producing the death of the hindering factors and of all that prevents synthesis. Pluto, as it affects Gemini, brings about the death or the finish of the separative, instinctual nature, for this is the factor which lies behind all dualism; it is inherent in what The Secret Doctrine calls the principle of ahankara or the awareness of the separative, isolated ego; it is inimical for aeons to the aspiration of the imprisoned soul, focused within or identified with some aspect of the personality, and, in a later stage, with the personality itself.

— Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*

Pluto in Aquarius: The Individual and the Group

Pluto in Aquarius will draw a bold contrast between the individual and the group. We learned a lot during the 2020+ crisis, where people thought nothing of throwing people with dissenting opinions out of the family holiday meal.

We saw a lot of individual people trying to speak up against various forms of oppression of both society and individuals. Many people lost what they thought were “friends” through this experience. Many people revealed themselves to be reactionary clueless assholes and NOT friends based on the way that they were revealed to have treated people formerly close to them.

And that drama developed under Pluto in Capricorn conditions. This is part of why it was so tough on the family structure and traditions like holiday meals. This was a warmup for Pluto in Aquarius. (By the way, the Aquarius connection was the Saturn-Pluto conjunction in Capricorn. Saturn rules two signs, Cap and Aqua, and so that brought group situations — also represented by Capricorn — into the mix.)

The conditions of 2020+ brought out the true nature of many people who were merely using the condition of society as an excuse for their

otherwise unacceptable personal behavior. Make a note in your diary that this is possible. And note that we may be seeing more of it.

Pluto is about power, and in Aquarius, it will represent the power of the group. This especially includes means of influence and control that are based on technology — or based on how technology has conditioned human behavior.

The Social Conditions of Tyranny May Be Invisible

Pluto represents what is going on behind the scenes. Many have described its deeper action as invisible. It is more like Neptune than people think. Aquarius describes patterns that are often visible and available to direct and immediate experience, though they too often drop below perception and are not seen for what they are until they change.

Pluto will shape the entire field of Aquarius and push the dynamics of power into all group interactions. This will result in many shades of both petty and grand tyranny, *but mostly in social conditions where the tyranny may be invisible*. So you must know what to look for. Tyranny is always sold as wholesome goodness. Nobody would buy it otherwise.

There will be many instances of groups trying to silence individual, meekly dissenting views. This is in real social life, not just social media. We are looking at things like “social credit systems” being taken seriously. If you want a look at how bad this can get, or maybe how bad it already is but we don’t know it, watch this preview of *The Orville* episode “Majority Rule.”

We are already living in times where every other Substacker thinks what they type into their keyboard is going to change the world and make them a big hero. Three-hour webcam discussions among “influencers” will allegedly topple the capitalist power structure.

However, it’s also true that society is often changed by the thought forms of individuals, which then seem to crystallize and form patterns in a very Aquarian way. And often, the most determined people win that game to the detriment of many: truly destructive and sick thought

forms can propagate just because someone is better at manipulating technology or people or both.

We still think that something popular is right. Pluto in Aquarius will drive plenty of “popularity” and also provide some extra determination to question that notion, even as it makes possible greater proliferation of the destructive social forces.

The thing to remember about Aquarius is that it’s a fixed sign. There is nothing flexible about it. Pluto has a tendency to smash things. And so we are going to need to be inwardly and socially flexible with the kinds of changes that occur. Many people are already entirely under the thrall of the robot and are functionally transhuman, no matter how nice their six-pack or how curvy their ass. Without recognizing it, people are transforming themselves into androids.

Other people are wholly committed to keeping their humanity, which is a choice made consciously; many others are struggling to do so. It will be important to recognize know who is who.

My summer reading project this year was Philip K. Dick, who was onto the problem with robots taking over society fifty years ago. Nearly all of his books contain some reference to the problem, or are based on it. Today we call this transhumanism, though few understand the idea. In his landmark work, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*, the only way to tell an android from a human is by testing its empathy. This is done through a conversation and then taking biometric readings.

PKD also describes the problem of humans developing empathy for androids, and essentially projecting their humanity onto programmed mechanical devices. We do plenty of this. The inventor of the term “algorithm,” Alan Turing, understood this. Computers used to be called Turing machines; he came up with them. And he knew that people would develop relational attachments to them.

The empathy tests in *Electric Sheep* are also known as the “Turing test.” This concept was conceived by Turing as a kind of examination of an android by a human to see if the human could tell that it was not a natural being. But the problem of our age is not actual androids. Remember: it’s about people who have become just like them, including the attendant lack of empathy. For many others, empathy

will seem painful or foolish. However, never forget, your empathy is your golden tether to your humanity. So too are your sexual feelings, your need and desire to trust people, and your relationships with critters and plants.

Message from the Before Times —

I would encourage you to be more curious about yourself. I am going to remind you of this at least five more times between now and your birthday when you will need the information that deep personal inquiry yields. I don't know you and therefore I cannot comment on the actual state of your relationship to your inner being but I can tell you that your solar chart says go deeper and to do it with help if necessary. How do you judge necessity? Success in this project would likely feel scary or intimidating and not be entirely pleasant. This is why I suggest taking many small steps over an entire season and working with a seasoned guide.

— Gemini, March 28, 2002

Digital Delusion: Neptune In Pisces

No discussion of digital delusion's astrological legacy would be complete without including **Neptune in Pisces**. This transit spans approximately 2011 through 2025 — a 14-year phase of history that, in modern terms, is so long we forgot what it was like back when it began, and so short it went by in an hour.

Neptune is associated with Pisces and often said to be its ruler. However, I stick to the traditional rulerships (mostly for consistency in doing technical work) and prefer the concept of affinity where the modern planets are concerned. When you put Pisces and Neptune together, the result is exponential and very watery, and with too much Pisces in one place, it's difficult to tell if you're making sense.

Both Neptune and Pisces are easily corrupted by the kinds of influences that our society has in abundance, so you need some check-stops, like a bit of logic, factual analysis — and looking at a few sides of every question. (In all things Pisces, a circumspect view is helpful; try seeing matters from 12 different angles and you'll figure out what's going on pretty quick.)

The crucial thing to understand about Neptune is that its effects are often concealed, working below the obvious level. They typically reveal themselves years or decades after the fact — or when the flood waters start to rise. The invisibility factor should be the first concept on the list of Neptune delineations. Since the rest of the list involves some form of delusion, denial or deception, we need to take heed when Neptune shows up. Remember that fraud, which is intentional deception, is a self-concealing crime.

But the signs are almost always there, often missed because we want to be “good natured” and “forgiving.” These states of mind are life-hacks for those who seek to abuse the Pisces side of human nature.

Introducing Fiery Neptune

As you will read below, a newly-minted fiery Neptune will have a tremendous role in the events of 2025+. This involves a combination of multiple factors: Saturn, Neptune, Aries and the Aries Point. With this we have the description of a mass-scale shift in attitudes and values.

In this section I would like to account for some of what has occurred over the past decade and a half of Neptune in Pisces. Mostly this involves the near-total commitment to fantasy that is easy to miss in the all-fantasy digital environment. This is the near-total detachment from documented, relevant reality.

Before we get there, though, let’s flash back to the last time Neptune was in a fire sign — and the only mutable one. That began Jan. 4, 1970, when Neptune entered Sagittarius. Until now, I have not considered this in context of events of the 1970s, though Neptune in Sagittarius presents a distinct idealism that is easily seen in that era.

It specializes in seeming matters of faith, religiosity and moralism — and was fantastic for the televangelists known as advertisers (and all others). Neptune’s Sagittarius run lasted through 1984 and coincided with the rise of the phony religion-infused neoconservatism full-conversion of every church in America as a Republican clubhouse.

This era contains the birth of identity politics, the revival of the New Age movement, lots of groovy astrology and a back-to-the-land ethos that lasted approximately as long as the Yippies. It was followed by an even bigger back-to-the-lawn movement, the exalted supremacy of the suburbs and the rise of the Yuppies.

We have just lived through Sagittarius in another mutable sign, Pisces, and the influence is just as palpable.

Oh Fantasy Take Me

The Neptune in Pisces environment produced endless games, TV series, an onslaught of horrific news (much of which was itself generated by digital conditions, to the extent that it's real), endless chatter and gossip, untold trillions of useless photographs and videos, gigabytes of what passes for music, a few interesting specimens of this or that and lots and lots of what some call "porno."

The over abundant fantasy of Neptune in Pisces spilled over into the physical, gradually taking over (invisibly, in Neptune style). But more salient than the fantasy is the question, "Is anything real?" More than anything, that is the message of the digital medium.

In this new dimension, there is no such thing as a man, a woman, a child, a fetus, or a family. Anything can be anything; anyone can be anyone. (You still get in trouble if you claim to be black and someone claims you are not.) Currently Overton's Window is focused on the acceptability of men and women impersonating one another, and children thinking they were born into the wrong body (before they have fully experienced the one they have).

However, if you're bisexual and want (or have) a boyfriend and a girlfriend, you will still be counted as a weirdo. If your idea of a good time is a masturbation salon every Sunday afternoon, that will seem rather odd. But if you want to lop off your dick or your tits, that's considered a human right.

Note that the current frame of what is normal involves aspects of eroticism *that don't turn most people on*. In fact it's fair to say that the actual biological mechanics of surgical transsexuality would horrify

most people. Only *South Park* had the guts to put scenes from the surgery onto television for everyone to see, way back in 2005.

And they nearly all involve other people. This is the same basic gossip approach to sex that has long dominated existence. In my perfect world, nobody can talk about sex unless they make a series of what are called “I statements” first, admitting directly what they want and what they do. People would have a lot less to say about sex, and it would be a lot more meaningful.

In the spirit of Neptune and Pisces, it will be necessary to sort out the real from the unreal; reality from fantasy; and perhaps to figure out what your decisions of the past 15 years were based on. There sure are lots and lots of great TV shows. Too bad about the world.

PS — What Passes for Love: Neptune and Woke Philosophy

One last issue related to Neptune in Pisces, here in the age of the deep fake and the attempted takeover of the deep fake self. One of the fakest among them is the notion of “doing the right thing,” especially if it seems easy and does not challenge you.

Neptune is largely about distortions to perception: illusions, delusions and deceptions (with a touch of inspiration on a good day). Pisces is where most people would look for sensitivity and compassion (and inspiration on a good day).

During Neptune in Pisces, we have seen the emergence and now finally the gradual decline of the concept of “woke.” To my eye as a social observer, this pattern slips into the post-Occupy world. It takes a radical upswing around the time of the murder of Trayvon Martin and the founding of Black Lives Matter. The word was not used so much then; it was more the feeling.

The use of the term “woke” in the current era by white folk (which seems to date back to around the mid 1990s) is an appropriation of a Jazz-age (early 20c) term that meant “aware of the racism that surrounds us.” I first picked it up with the 1994 Rusted Root album *When I Woke*, though I took it to mean a more general awareness of injustice on many levels — especially corporate.

Once referred to as “political correctness,” the notion of woke as we’ve experienced it the past few years rises to the level of full-on social tyranny, publicly sanctioned bigotry, and a bunch of true believers convinced they are doing the right thing to people they are convinced are doing the wrong one. If you are not anti-racist enough, you’re a racist. Only question the dictates of feminism, no matter how toxic, and you’re counted as a misogynist. This is not helpful.

You can see the Neptune in Pisces distortions here, though there is something else. Neptune is often accompanied by a sense of isolation, and in Pisces, that would likely be spiritual isolation. There is desperation mixed in with woke, and I think a longing for companionship with others who hold similar values.

And as long as any hatred washed as politically correct has the “right” targets, it can pass for love. (As the frequently-seen poster says, “Love is Love,” and that does not give one much to go by.) The “right” targets are whoever has been made unpopular that week in the global village. There always has to be someone, because that is the nature of the environment. It must create scapegoats. This is a lonely way of life. It’s isolated and painful and only leads to more alienation.

I don’t recall mass-scale woke movements and constant media pandering to their issues being a thing in 2011. Think back to the pre-Trayvon social climate when Neptune entered Pisces: that was the year of Arab Spring, the Wisconsin public union movements, and Occupy Wall Street. There was sincere idealism in the air. It was possible to have a concept of doing the right thing without making everyone else wrong.

We are in different times today; to my perception, our crisis is an outgrowth of the underlying, hotly polarized denial of reality that is the result of human consciousness soaked in a kind of machine language of digital conditions. When people are disembodied and cut off from themselves, they will often seek themselves through some violent act.

So this is a cheap means of phony self-actualization. Nothing is made real; what is real is denied. And I would propose that the spiritual isolation issue is central to this whole cluster of issues and

experiences. We're now entering another major phase of astrological history — including Saturn and Neptune in Aries — where we will have a chance to create something better. Yet with Saturn and Neptune hovering around the Aries Point for a year, be cautious what you believe. Just because everyone else is on board does not make it right — as we have seen so many times before.

Message from the Before Times —

If you're not careful, you could get caught in someone else's web of emotional confusion just as you're finding your own sense of stability. The main thing you need to not do is get lost in any apparent complexity, yours or anyone's. You might want to say less, and be your truth rather than speak it. Saying things that may only be true from one emotional perspective (but not from the rest of them) has become a problem recently. This has led you to wonder whether there is such a thing as the truth, which would drive anyone mad. There is a truth, and you're well on the way to discovering it. Whether you have the confidence to act on it is another question.

— Planet Waves for Cancer, Oct. 3, 2008

Events of 2025-2026

First, Aries in Your Solar Chart

There is a mighty presence of Aries in the sky in our times. It's been building for a while, but we ain't seen nothing yet. It reached its first peak with the April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse, and will continue into 2025 and 2026. This extreme emphasis on Aries is calling for a special understanding of the role of Aries in any chart for a person.

So let's start our discussion there. This will lend itself naturally to discussions of collective events because they are always magnified by events in Aries. So remember this: Aries is at once the most personal sign and also the one most involved with collective events. (Aquarius comes in close second on this overlay.) Right now, most people are obsessed with their relationship to "the public," in the form of everything from their YouTube channel to Instagram to X.

Aries is unlike any other sign in that the entire zodiacal system is reckoned from its first degree, 01 Aries — also called the Aries Point or the Sidereal Vernal Point. This is the location of the Sun (against the backdrop of stars) at the vernal equinox, which slowly moves over the centuries. It is now in the *constellation* Pisces; eventually, in hundreds of years it will be in the *constellation* Aquarius.

The Aries Point is at 01 Aries, and reaches into the first degree of all of the other cardinal signs (Cancer, Libra and Capricorn). It is also sensitive at the midpoints of all of the fixed signs (middle degree of Taurus, Leo, Scorpio and Aquarius). And then at about 7.5 of the mutable signs you also can have an effect, though few mention this.

When another sign is involved, I'll use the language, "Makes contact with the Aries Point via Cancer" (or some other sign). The other hot spot this year happens to be the first degree of Cancer, where Jupiter will be having a round.

Aries as a concept was particularly important in times when people were actively looking for themselves (1950s-1970s in various shades of the New Age and Human Potential movements). It's more important in times such as our own, when many are losing themselves and their inner orientation. We are heading for a massive upsurge in Aries influence in a time when so many are lost in the sauce of the digital realm and have little clue about this fact.

"Identity politics," an idea which has its origins during another intense Aries era much like our own, is a poor substitute for self-awareness — and a careful reading of Aries can provide some clues about what to do. Identity politics is aggressive, pitting groups and individuals against one another in all kinds of patterns. It pits the pattern of aggression as a poor substitute for self-actualization.

This is not an issue for everyone; not everyone filters their existence this way. Some people just know who they are and live their lives without a big search or having to change their name and affiliation 20 times.

The placement of Aries in any chart — solar chart, a rising sign chart (the solar chart read for rising sign), or a proper natal chart, will show something of a personal orientation that is somewhat unavoidable.

It will help answer questions such as “what should I be doing?” or “where will I find happiness?” or “who is the real me?” It’s about the field of activity where you’re likely to make contact with yourself.

To give a few examples, someone with Aries on the 9th house will find themselves through travel and study. Someone with Aries on the 6th must have work they can relate to. Someone with Aries on the 2nd needs to act at all times in accord with their values. I will cover these in each of the sign readings.

Events in Aries for 2025-2026

1. Chiron Conjunct Eris in Aries

We are now in the era of Chiron in Aries (which began in 2018), and in 2025 and 2026, Chiron will make a series of conjunctions to Eris in Aries (1922 through about 2044), stirring the pot on this influence. This conjunction represents a surge of chaos, with potential awareness and awakening. A lot can go wrong.

Not much is written about Eris and much of it is speculative. Eris is a transformative force, though it gets its results through revolutions in the media environment. This spans from the invention of the printing press through radio and into digital. Most people don’t think about this, though the modern history of humanity is told in the development and proliferation of communication devices.

In our times, meaning the past century or so, the effect of Eris is to shock people out of their identity construct and reorient one’s relationship with the body and the senses. The result is to push people out of their interior sense of self and the experience of being an individual, and shock them into a false collectivism.

Chiron is the principle of whole-making, deeply concerned with interior awareness. It is pretty much the opposite principle of Eris, guiding people in the long work of self-reconciliation, and gathering the

seemingly separate parts of ourselves. Eris tends to cast away; Chiron tends to invite those cast-off elements back into our sense and experience of being.

Understanding the Chiron-Eris Conjunction

All conjunctions blend two different energies. To understand the conjunction, the distinct identities of each planet involved need to be teased out. And sometimes it's good to check the past history of such meetings, if that can be sussed out.

Chiron is an awakening principle. Eris is a chaos principle. Chiron individuates; Eris tribalizes. Their meeting could have a wide diversity of effects for whoever experiences it, and will have noticeable collective effects that feel like a mass uprising of some kind, whether helpful or not.

We do have some experience with this one within living memory. Because Eris takes so long to go through Aries, this will be the second Chiron-Eris conjunction in Aries in our epoch. The first was in 1971-1972, which spawned a kind of "second 1960s" that is often confused with the first. We witnessed the tension between these two qualities. There was at once a rise of individualism and also of the tribal, faux individualism called "identity politics" that we are still dealing with today. Confusion between true-self and group identity created quite a bit of confusion.

However, the problem of this happening under the kind of disembodied conditions that we have today is that violence would be a natural go-to. When people feel like they don't know who they are, and experience being out of body and out of mind, they often set out to make some discoveries by attacking someone. This is true of individual people and of nations. It's true of the wars on Twitter and the current wars in West Asia and Eastern Europe.

Chiron has been in Aries since 2018. Chiron is distinctly individualistic, contrasted with Eris, which seems to have a tribalizing effect — taking people out of their inner sense of being and making it seem more comfortable to be surrounded by a supposed affinity group. This is often a demonstration of false self-confidence.

The combination of Chiron and Eris in Aries offers the opportunity to push back against the power of the psychic digital envelope for the first time. The power of individual consciousness meets the power of mass consciousness with the alignment of these two forces. In 2016 and 2017 there were a series of conjunctions between Uranus, which often represents groups, and Eris — this only seems to have made matters worse.

While I have commented much about Eris in Aries standing for electrical and digital conditions, it is interesting to note that at the time the Gutenberg printing press was invented, said to be around 1440, not only was Eris in Aries but there was also a conjunction of Chiron and Eris that very year. Until electricity took over, there was no more profound impact on intellect and culture than the Gutenberg press. It is fair to say that where humanity meets technology, keep your eye on Aries.

2. Saturn and Neptune Enter Aries

We have an idealism problem right now: people who are drugged on digital are not really optimistic about anything (except something else within digital, which is fleeting).

There is nothing interesting, cool, exciting, or intriguing *in the world*. Everywhere you go there is just more technology, and maybe some creature comfort or luxury. If you can't afford a third home, sucking down a frothy, six-ingredient, 1,000-calorie cup of Starbucks is the only escape from the torture of one's phone.

It seems an extreme rarity that someone has a vision for anything other than...more digital, or more luxury (unless they are busy trying to survive). So we have some things to talk about if there is going to be a conjunction of Saturn and Neptune: a conjunction whose theme is *synthesis*. The Aries Point represents where the personal meets the collective (sorry if I keep saying this). To see this property in action you just need to observe the world.

Through 2025 and 2026, we will have a rarefied conjunction of Saturn and Neptune dancing around the Aries Point. Whatever "the

awakening” is, this is part of it. Conjunctions of Saturn and Neptune rarely occur in Aries and none have happened on the Aries Point in the past 2,000 years.

According to Kirsti Melto, who did the research for me, searching for all Saturn-Neptune conjunctions in Aries back to the year 1 BC, they happened in the years 232, 555, 1380 and 1703. Kirsti used two unrelated software programs (Riyal and Solar Fire) and got the same results.

Do any of those years ring a bell? The conjunctions occurred in Aries, but none of them were close to the Aries Point. So we are getting something unprecedented on a vast historical scale — through the whole of the “common era” or AD.

There has not been a single Saturn-Neptune conjunction on the Aries Point since the days of astrologers in togas and probably long before. The closest Saturn-Neptune conjunction to 1 Aries was at 28 degrees of Pisces in 878 AD*. So we are about to get something special, which will illuminate the personal-political junction like never before.

Other planetary events make contact with the Aries Point of course. Checking my appointment diary, we had something that was probably more exciting on Jan. 25, 1928 — a triple conjunction of Jupiter, Uranus and Eris in the very first degree of Aries. Boy howdy did things get exciting fast from that moment forward.

The forthcoming intersection of the personal and the transpersonal that stands at the first degree of Aries takes place at a special time. We already have everyone walking around with the perma-Aries Point personal portal into the collective astral plane, known as their “phone.”

*Led by their king, Alfred, the West Saxons defeated the Viking leader Guthrum at Edington in Wiltshire in 878. Alfred later negotiated a peace settlement with the Vikings, which gave them control of all the land in England north and east of an imaginary line running from east London to Chester.

Solid and Tangible vs. Dissolving and Nebulous

Saturn makes things solid, or clears solid things like a bulldozer. Neptune dissolves or washes things away. When I was a young

astrology student back in the 20th century, many of my clients had Saturn conjunct Neptune in Taurus, and it was difficult for them. The aspect seemed to be associated with difficulty making anything solid. Neptune would wash away what Saturn would build; Saturn would bring a dull quality to the ideals of Neptune.

For the past two years, Saturn has been pursuing slower-moving Neptune in Pisces, trying to mop up the slushy mess. This has some positive effect: things that went unquestioned before Saturn reached Pisces are slowly being examined.

But the two form their conjunction in Aries, not Pisces; and on the Aries Point, no less. So we have some mixing up of the reality of Saturn with the fantasy of Neptune. And to make things even more interesting, there is a slow-moving object called Borasisi that will join the conjunction. (Here is a classic [**article about Borasisi**](#) from 2011.)

This relatively new discovery is about *the odd intersections of lies and truths*. It is the first planet named for a fictional god — who appears in the novel *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut (a short, wicked-funny narrative of our times, from 1963). So Borasisi, who is a Sun-god in the fictional religion of Bokonoism, by the way, is a reference to that particular work in total, which assesses matters of “the end of the world” due to human stupidity leading to environmental devastation.

And all of this is cued up at degree 1 Aries. What could this possibly be about? Hmm...let's try this on: a massive and mass confrontation about the nature of fantasy versus reality that in some way touches every person? A confrontation with the persistent problem of belief?

Note, I've spoken to all the astronomers involved in the Borasisi discovery and nobody can tell me how it got that name. They were supposed to be the ones who named it.

3. Related: Mars Retrograde in Leo and Cancer

Note — in two different readings, I've got this wrong and said it was Mars retrograde in Virgo and Leo. The proofreader caught this error yesterday (it went to her late; nobody else said anything). Apologies for the error — and now for the forensics. It occurred to me overnight that I was talking about a

different Mars retrograde. I've cast these charts so many times, for so many readings, there is no way I could reasonably get it wrong (even though it was wrong). So I went on a hunt for the last Mars retrograde that began in Virgo and landed in Leo, as I have described in these readings.

And the most recent was the winter of 1995 — that is, early 1995 — when I was going deeper into astrology, about four months before I started my horoscope. I had a trance experience where I felt the sense of 3-D perspective of the retrograde from the viewpoint of being on Earth — it was strange! We are now at the Saturn return of that Mars retrograde, just shy of 30 years ago.

In those months I was also greeted by a large, beautiful planet outside my east-facing window every morning, which turned out to be Venus in its incarnation as the morning star (conjunct Nessus and Pluto — an intense Venus).

Now for your rewrite:

Aries is ruled by Mars. With so much activity in Aries it's a good idea to keep track of what Mars is doing, and it turns out we have some news.

Mars will be retrograde between Dec. 6, 2024 and Feb. 23, 2025. This is a useful period of reevaluation on matters of desire, drive, motivation and intention. Mars is retrograde only about 9% of the time, so it's pretty rare. (Only Venus is retrograde less, about 8% of the time.)

The retrograde of Mars begins in early Leo and winds up in mid-Cancer. There is some significant tension between these two Mars placements. However, the distinctive thing about this Mars retrograde is that it's opposite Pluto, first from Cancer to Capricorn in early December and then from Leo to

Mars is retrograde second least of all the planets, about 9.48 percent of all days, in total. The retrograde happens every two years. (Venus is retrograde 7.22 percent of the time; the much shorter Venus retrograde happens every 18 months. How do I know this? Clue: not from the internet, but now it's here.)

For this retrograde, Mars is opposite Pluto. Those are two extremely potent forces, meeting face-to-face, with one of them turned inward. This cycle includes three Mars-Pluto oppositions: with Mars in Cancer and Pluto in Capricorn from Nov. 3; and then with Mars retrograde in Leo and Pluto in Aquarius on Jan. 3; and then with Mars direct to Pluto in Aquarius on April 26.

This is a long process and it stretches out for a while. Mars will not be clear of its retrograde degrees until May 2, 2025 — amidst much other fanfare. Mars retrograde happens every two years. Mars opposite Pluto happens every two years. They don't usually happen at the same time. This week writing the Scorpio reading for The Awakening (called "We are Equal Beings"), I guessed this happened two or three times per century, and by golly I was right. Last night I did the work and found something similar in 2008, 1939, 1924, 1841 and 1841 (so, about two and a half times per century).

However, none of these come in the midst of a Pluto sign change. And none has ever happened in recent centuries with Pluto in Capricorn or Aquarius. So this is a new thing; a proof of concept.

This Mars retrograde is a setup for alienation in relationships, including partnerships of all kinds. It will be easy to turn men against themselves, and to turn friendships, partnerships and marriages into adversarial situations. If that is not what you want, then the key is to slow down and be more reflective.

Aggressive action of any kind is likely to backfire. The opposition to Pluto is a little like the relationship between the detonator (Mars) and the bomb (Pluto). So be cool, and defuse situations early. Your pride or getting "dug in" could cost you a lot.

Message from the Before Times —

There was a time when we thought "pictures don't lie." They started lying some time before King Kong climbed up the Empire State Building. Images can also tell the truth, but in doing so they teach us that every statement of the truth is a symbol. A photograph is the symbol of an actuality, not the real thing. In other words, we look at a photo, no matter how doctored up or authentic it may be, and we presume it's real because that's the implied message of all photographs.

There is some element of this idea that informs your existence in the coming weeks, as you sort out your self-image from the image you project from the real person you actually are. Once you become aware of what I'll call your imaging process, you may find you're disturbed by what you discover. You may have one of those psychedelic-like moments of feeling completely disingenuous; you may decide everything that is projected or perceived is a kind of illusion.

Yet at the core of all of this imaging and mirroring and perceiving is reality, and through this process you are gradually learning to project an image to the world that is in tune with the truth of who you are at your core. One clue I can offer: one aspect of that truth changes; one aspect remains the same.

— Planet Waves for Scorpio, Sept. 23, 2008

Pluto in Aquarius: The One and the Many

The big news of 2025 is supposed to be that this is the first year of All Pluto, All Aquarius. The prospect of Pluto's 20-year run through Aquarius is concerning to anyone aware of what an instrument of tyranny the digital environment is. Pluto is about power; Aquarius describes both social conditions and the technology environment, which have merged into one thing, swallowing humanity whole in the process.

Aquarius is the sign of groups, which are supposed to be *collectives of individuals*. That is why it describes social patterns. Pluto is the force of irrevocable change, of concentrated power, of death and devastation, or rejuvenation, of Dionysian revelry (think Mick Jagger or Jim Morrison) and on a very good day, of spiritual evolution.

What happens when we put Pluto and Aquarius together? Well, they have been in and out of contact since March 2023. So we have plenty of samples we're not likely to notice because they fade to the background so quickly. Consider how little time any emerging technology is considered new. It goes from the Next Great Thing to the electronic recycling bin at the transfer station faster than you can read the product manual. So you might say it's a revolutionary time for the people who are always chasing the next great military-grade flashlight.

While Pluto was in Capricorn at the writing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, much of the Revolutionary War was fought and the Constitution ratified with Pluto in Aquarius. The U.S. Pluto return is another topic that I've covered elsewhere, but it's good to remember that it's associated with the foundational era of the United States.

While Pluto was in Capricorn for the 2020 crisis (spurred by the Saturn-Pluto conjunction of late 2019), we got a sense of the group dynamics of society under full digital conditions. Whether Pluto was in Aquarius is far less important than that; it sure looked and felt like Pluto in Aquarius, just as we were moving into that stage. And as mentioned, Saturn rules Aquarius as well as Capricorn. So that was quite a bit of social upheaval, then an immediate contraction into fear.

Just like Saturn opposite Pluto in Sagittarius (that was 9/11) predicted Pluto in Capricorn, Saturn conjunct Pluto in Capricorn may be a comment on what to watch for when Pluto is in Aquarius. We certainly have plenty of events and human responses to consider.

Pluto in Aquarius: Three Main Potentials

I am working with three sets of potentials for Pluto in Aquarius. I'm open to others. These are easy to remember, and they all have a basis in observation. They are all involved with the digital phenomenon and what it has done to social existence and self-concept.

The first scenario is the group trying to assert its power over the individual. That was the primary theme of the 2020+ crisis. Various groups, whether families, circles of friends, companies, governments, social media platforms, etc., tried to make people do and believe things that contradicted their values and their intelligence — causing tremendous harm to the social fabric everywhere. What happens next time? How brutal will it be? Are we really talking about 100% digital currency? Do we allow a false majority to crush all dissent, or does the group reconsider its position and allow for a minority viewpoint? As the digital mesh gets tighter and tighter, it gets more difficult to resist.

The second scenario is the individual standing up to the group. We saw some of this in 2020+ — including some truly admirable resistance by individuals who were working without a budget, without much experience and under extreme duress. People did resist; many willingly lost their long-held and cherished jobs or careers for refusing to get jabbed, or to follow other mitigation measures. There will be many other situations where it will be up to individuals to stand up to tyranny, whether exercised by a large institution or by someone in their household. This type of resistance is an important driver of personal evolution and growth.

The third scenario is the potential evolution of the group itself. I have no examples of how this might look or whether it even exists. Alice Bailey talks about it as an essential ingredient in the Aquarian Age. But she is clear that a group is comprised of individuals, doing the work of individuation — not of a mass that does not contain self-aware members who hold their center. Note that when I say “group” I sometimes mean “mass.” I will do my best to be clear about what an actual group is. We have so few examples.

The opposite of the third scenario is an added source of tribal emphasis — mass consciousness instead of group consciousness. You can be sure Pluto in Aquarius will be describing plenty of this.

We will see plenty of faux tribal emergence under the combination of events in Aries and Aquarius. It will be difficult for many people to tell the real thing (group evolution) from the fake one (the next little mob to rise up and get attention).

Here is the thing: People are aching for a moment of group evolution; of some sense of being together. But there is the real thing, and there is mockery. What most are not putting together is that a group is comprised of individuals — which means people who have done the work of individuation, or who have embarked on that path in earnest. Many think they have; many of them have never gone to a therapy session. Why would they need to? According to Wikipedia (or is it ChatGPT?), they're already perfect.

Message from the Before Times —

It appears the gloves have come off in one or more areas of your life, all of them connected to your place in the community, and your finances. You simply must assert your truth in ways large and small, and ignore the sound of so many sheep content to wander around eating grass.

— Pisces, March 20, 2018

Events in Capricorn, Past and Present

Let's take a moment and briefly consider the full story-arc of Pluto in Capricorn, if in miniature. Pluto transits have effects on a sphere of reality long after it has moved into new territory.

We saw a wide diversity of manifestations of Pluto in Capricorn, from the banking collapse and bailout in early 2008 (Pluto entering Cap), to the Occupy movement in 2011 (Uranus square Pluto in Capricorn) to the lockdown crisis in 2020 (Saturn conjunct Pluto in Capricorn). There were forgotten issues like the revocation of the "internet commons." By the end of Pluto in Capricorn, the large majority of social and business transactions were removed from physical existence and uploaded to the digital sphere.

One thing that happened under Pluto in Capricorn is we got a lot of new plutocrats. Billionaires are suddenly growing on trees. Everything but your stocking drawer is now owned by a hedge fund. Every news scenario under this influence comes back to either the military or banking. You would think there was nothing else going on.

Meanwhile, the traditional structures of society are no longer anything like they used to be, and most are hollowed out. The long history of the disintegration of the family reached a peak at Thanksgiving and Christmas 2020, when the holidays were shattered, gatherings made illegal and people were afraid to be with loved ones.

The theme evolved in 2021 to families assuming the right to ban non-injected people to gatherings. So it's fair to say that by the end of 2021, the concept of "family" bore no vague resemblance to what it was in previous generations, during which it has suffered greatly. Making it socially acceptable to throw people out of a family over a medical procedure is just as sick as not allowing someone to a holiday because they're gay. We just didn't see it that way.

The legacy crisis of Pluto in Capricorn will be not trusting physical reality, and trusting the institutions of society. Everything that had a structure and a traditional purpose — and was something we depended upon. It's possible that we will see some renewal, though Pluto in Aquarius is going to empower many things that would block the nascent efforts of those trying to recolonize the physical plane.

The Hunger Games (or the Grape and the Grain)

Pluto leaves behind an unusual and I think exciting legacy event in Capricorn. I have written one article about it called **The Family Hunger Games**, and I'll also do a summary here.

Four slow-moving influences are involved in an early-Capricorn cluster. The principal one is Pholus, the second centaur planet (after Chiron). Pholus entered Capricorn in 2019. Both Capricorn and Pholus involve matters of family: Capricorn generally, and Pholus relating to matters that date back to the generation of one's great-grandparents. So in any matter of Pholus, check back that far.

Pholus also involves the multigenerational impact of alcohol, in this case upon the family and its emotional legacy. In the story of Pholus, the lid comes off a vat of wine that is collective property and has been sealed for three generations. Then suddenly it's opened and all that suppressed material is exposed.

Pholus can also represent seemingly minor incidents that have cascading effects (the small cause with the big effect). Once things are set in motion under a Pholus scenario, they can take a long time to settle down again.

Pholus is joined in this pattern by Quaoar, another family reference but this time going back to the early origins or creation mythology of the tribe or family. It's helpful to consider both angles of family matters, especially if the alternative is just thinking about your parents. Family issues have VERY long histories and the more you know, the more you will be able to understand.

Quaoar: The Conditions at Birth, Taken for Granted

Quaoar represents one concept that's fairly easy to delineate: the conditions at the time of your birth that you took for granted, thinking that's just the way things always were. It's as if you were born and there was music playing and people were doing a certain dance in time with the music; so the thing to do was learn that dance.

Work around Quaoar involves seeing these family patterns and deciding if they work for you.

In the language of neurological psychology, Quaoar could represent the patterns in the limbic system impressed during pregnancy and early childhood. This is covered in the book *A General Theory of Love*, and it's an important topic because it tends to set the limits on what we are able to feel and perceive — until we see those limits and do something them.

Among the senses, Quaoar is about sound, particularly the sound of music. What music was playing in your early childhood household? How do you feel about that music today? What was your relationship to your parents record or CD collection?

Next is Cupido, one of those strange planets without a body. This is a point of gathering, and the gatherings it represents often involve the family. They can also include ideas like "family of choice." For a while, there was a movement where people were saying that their true family were the people they had gathered. Under digital conditions I don't

know if that's a thing any more; I am sure it is in some places, but I mean as something known to be available, and meaningful.

So we have four elements in one place associated with familial matters: Pholus, Quaoar, and Cupido, in the energy field of Capricorn. We can be sure there is something available here. With Pholus as the most potent of these energies, you can recognize events associated with this group because they will appear suddenly, have a long history and seem to go out of control (or verge on doing so).

What is this about? We all carry around unresolved family business. Many people live it out unconsciously over and over, generation after generation. So far as I can tell, you really need to want to stop this process to have that be a possibility. And then considerable work is needed: awareness raising, understanding history, and communicating with those who will partake.

Ixion: Amoral Squanderer of Second Chances

There is one other influence in this group, which is Ixion. This is a little planet with an orbit similar to that of Pluto. Getting right to the delineation, you will recognize Ixion because the person squanders their second chances; they throw rehabilitation or forgiveness back into the face of those who offer it.

There is an unrepentant quality of living in a world where morality does not exist. It's difficult to negotiate right and wrong with someone who does not understand that these concepts are meaningful.

Through the summer of 2024, there were two additional factors present. First, asteroid Ceres moved into the pattern and was retrograde there, giving it a presence for months. Ceres, the goddess of grain and agriculture, is another alcohol-related factor, being associated with distilled liquors and beers (which are made from grain). This was another reminder about the influence of alcohol, particularly on women via the mother-daughter relationship — that cryptic affair, to which nobody is witness except maybe the little brother fly on the wall listening from the next room.

Ceres describes the territory where food and emotional material merge and overlap. And there is plenty. Ceres represents any mass-produced food rather than handcrafted; this would count for the emotional responses that are programmed into factory food by mere dint of its ingredients.

So here we are in the territory of agribusiness, factory farming of any variety, fast food, grab-and-go, Starbucks and its 340 billion varieties of “coffee,” and the rest of what poses for food. Most of it is designed to be addictive and unsatisfying, so one is constantly chasing the dragon.

The final factor here was how this whole little cluster met the lunar nodes at 90 degrees. I’ve been describing this over and over but I’m never sure anyone is hearing me. The square to the nodes tells you how important this group of factors is; how much depends upon it; and what a rare opportunity for healing this has been. Anything square the nodes is what hangs in the balance.

If you are reading this some time in the future and wondering what is really going on in your family, study the events of the summer of 2024. And note that while the lunar nodes move on, the Capricorn cluster remains in full effect for years, since these are all slow-moving points and will drift through Capricorn more or less together for a while, covering the territory where Pluto has been.

Salacia in Aries, Square All of This: The Sex Factor

The Family Hunger Games cluster is also at 90-degrees to a point called **Salacia**. Located in the Kuiper Belt (somewhat near Pluto), I delineate Salacia as being about “the sexual relating that is appropriate for you.”

Not what other people think is right or wrong, preferable or not, socially acceptable or not, what they need or not — but rather, your experience of your sexuality and what it means; and the sex and relating that you would choose if you could choose anything.

Here is the distinction: I am talking about physical relating, the actual experience, with all of its emotional content, lust, risk factors, mixed emotions and reverberations.

Now, consider the setup where this is being influenced mainly by the mishegoss of your family and all their hangups. How does anyone have a chance? How does anyone figure out that they have the potential or the ability to choose what they want, or even know? The influence is usually so strong that you think that it's some kind of permanent installation, if you notice the boundaries and restrictions at all.

To discover your personal truth about your own sexuality is an essential element in the process of becoming who you are, and that has the Aries element of what Salacia is doing now. Note that there are no prefab sexual orientations. There is no "Kinsey Scale" that vaguely approximates reality. Sexual orientation is a 360 by 360 matter, not seven little bumps on a linear model.

There is no alphabet soup that matches reality, except for maybe the Q, if it stands for Questioning. That implies curiosity. And curiosity implies action taken based on wanting to know, to learn and to feel, followed by learning something.

Right now there is tremendous social pressure that the only appropriate sex is with people of the "same sex." We are very close to defining all heterosexual sexual contact outside of marriage as being a crime scene.

While we are questioning, this needs to become a priority. The goal of holistic sexuality must be that nobody is left out simply because of who they are or what they like. This includes you.

I suggest you be generous with your curiosity. And then notice where you run into the hooks, snags and fetters. Ask yourself why your relationships have the sexual rules, regulations and boundaries that they do. Ask yourself where exactly is the free space to explore. Ask yourself the extent to which your feelings are your autonomous property. Ask yourself what you resonate with in others and what they resonate with in you.

Where is the giving, the receiving and the exchange? What form does it take, in the relationships that you experience today and have in the past? Is it what you really want and what you really need? What is right for you? That's the starting point with Salacia.

Intomese: Your Sexual Experiences With Yourself

Salacia in Aries describes sexual experiences you have with yourself that nobody else is aware of. Your sexual relationship with yourself is where all appropriateness begins. We have yet to recognize that selfsex is the most vulnerable to judgment and attack when we are children. There is a reason most religious movements go after this path of experience so harshly: it contains the roots of self-awareness.

People who take an antisex position would not agree. Those who accept the notion that all sex must have political content would not agree. Anyone who believes that the only real sex is what you might share with another person would not agree. Anyone who defines masturbation as inherently selfish would not agree.

I think it's a good idea to be aware of these objections and to track your relationship with them. They have all been imprinted into us. These objections will come up in your journey, along with guilt, shame and embarrassment. Handled in a creative and loving way, these emotions become potentials rather than limits or barriers. In essence, the barrier describes where to find the potential.

Most sexual relationships between two people have many codependent elements, which is another way of saying that "self" and "other" are mixed up. How exactly do you address the problem of projection? It would seem, at first, by experimenting with the idea that all you see and all you feel involving others is a form of projection. All these "others" are elements of yourself seen as outside yourself.

There exists the idea, famous in religious contexts, that selfsex is the gateway drug to all other sex. Perhaps that's true, though I would prefer to think of it as proto-sexuality: the fertile seed of sexual consciousness and growth, which can go in many creative directions.

There is also the idea that selfsexuality is narcissistic or vain. The problem that Narcissus had was he didn't know the person he was looking at in the reflection was himself. He was also not interested in the women around him who loved him. This is all something to experiment with: to treat the person in the mirror as yourself, and then experiment with it as other.

Be aware that love brings up everything unlike itself. This is why the journey to loving yourself can be so challenging. You will need patience and kindness toward yourself. You will have many opportunities for forgiveness of yourself and of others.

As you explore the mystery of your self-given orgasm, you may discover that it contains tremendous potential for forgiveness, and may really be made of the direct experience of forgiveness of yourself.

You Bring Yourself Into Every Relationship

You bring with you into any relationship situation all the feelings that you have for yourself. If your relationship with yourself is fraught, you will bring that into your partnerships. If your relationship with yourself is loving, that is what you bring along.

If you know how to see and work out your differences with yourself, you will bring a much more easygoing way of being into your relationships. And yet these things are rarely innate; they are learned through practice. Personally I think it's a good idea to dedicate all relationships to the cultivation of selflove. Relationships need community support, and your relationship to yourself will benefit from having the affirmation of the people around you.

In intimate partnerships, this implies being open about your inner sexual life, what you do with yourself, what you feel, imagine and desire. Often this is considered too personal to share with others, though I propose it's really the next stage after you have learned how to share and be honest with yourself.

Because Salacia is moving in a long, slow dance with the Capricorn cluster, which is so enmeshed with family crisis, there is going to be some sorting out to do. You contain both legs of the square: the

Capricorn side and the Aries side. When you pause to wonder what exactly has been driving the story line of your family, including any rolling disasters you witness across the generations, be sure to add questions about the role of sexual misinformation, mishaps, guilt, shame and the influence of alcohol on all of it.

Remember as you proceed that guilt, shame and embarrassment are not merely obstacles. They are points of entry into your true desires. I consider this to be one of the very most important concepts I have learned from my tantric studies and practice. If you treat these feelings as a veil, consider that they are an invitation to go beyond the veil and gradually experience your deepest pleasures and self-knowledge.

Can this ever be a matter of morality? Some consider self-knowledge to be dangerous, because it contains the freedom of who you are. It's important to go slowly with yourself; you contain vast internal territory that has been declared a forbidden zone from your own awareness. All kinds of blocks have been thrown in your way (especially guilt, embarrassment and shame).

These things are taken as evidence for judgment that you're "doing the wrong thing," when all you're doing is getting to know yourself. Of all experiences in the universe, you have a cosmic entitlement to developing your self-awareness.

That is why these emotions will become dependable guides and useful tools — and essential psychic fuel — along the way.

Message from the Before Times —

The combination of Mars and Uranus in new signs may leave you restless, as if a storm is about to break out. Yet, in such conditions, the thing to do is to remain calm and introspective. Maintain peace as best you can, and listen to the viewpoints you disagree with the most.

— Aquarius for May 18, 2018

Jupiter square Saturn: The Last Chance

About once every decade, the two largest planets meet at 90 degrees. Jupiter moves faster than Saturn, so it leads the way. Since mid-2024, Jupiter and Saturn have been in this pattern, which will hold (depending on how you measure) well into the spring and summer of 2025. This is the first-quarter from the “new” phase conjunction that occurred in Aquarius on Dec. 21, 2020.

The dates of this aspect are Aug. 19, 2024, Dec. 24, 2024 and June 15, 2025. This follows the frequently-seen nine-month duration of major aspects.

Jupiter represents the principles of potential and expansion. Saturn represents structure, purpose and working within limitations. The concept of this aspect is getting both principles to work together. Accomplishing anything requires both. Goals need deadlines. Projects need parameters. Work calls for a scope of work.

And at the same time these things cannot be absolute laws.

This is a significant chart: it contains another pattern, Pluto square the conjunction of Mars and Eris. Because 2020 was such a formative year, the current Jupiter-Saturn cycle can be seen as an unfolding story of what we experienced during the lockdown and compulsory genetic injection phase of world history.

Meetings between the two largest planets — really, miniature solar systems in their own right — are always significant. If you're learning your natal chart, their relationship is worth studying even if there does not seem to be an aspect between them.

However, we now have a big one. And first, it's worth considering the nature of the square. Squares join two planets on the same cross, in this case (for now) the mutable cross. Saturn is in Pisces and Jupiter is in Gemini. This pattern demands integration, though the quest is experiencing the planets one at a time rather than at the same time. In a natal chart, there is a tendency to emphasize one leg of the square, then reach a limit and move to the other.

This process goes back and forth for a while until the influences from the planets in their signs is gradually integrated into one idea. Squares call for action rather than contemplation. Their tension is often so powerful that it's projected outward and blamed on someone else — but not when they have integrity, which is exactly what this aspect calls for and offers the potential for.

Jupiter square Saturn calls for — and offers — dedication to the task at hand, and working with both the need to grow and expand and the need to work within constraints. In a sense, it's the perfect aspect, because it compels the involvement of both planets without exactly pitting them against one another (as in the opposition). With the square, there is the potential for cooperation.

Jupiter-Saturn Pattern: Get Over Yourself

I know via Isabel Hickey that Rev. Dr. Marc Edmund Jones (of Sabian Symbols fame) had some ideas about Jupiter-Saturn contacts and reincarnation. He described the square, in a natal chart, as feeling like a "last chance lifetime." I think this sense of urgency — and even some

desperation — translates over to the transiting square (also called a mutual aspect, between two moving planets).

We are living in times when everyone and everything feels stretched. To my ear, this pattern is calling for generosity and a good bit of “getting over yourself.” Withholding your love or other resources, or practicing a spiritual path of subtle hostility, are signs of desperation. This is only resolved by opening up and being generous with yourself.

For this cycle, the square forms three times, as mentioned: Aug. 19, 2024, Dec. 24, 2024 and June 15, 2025. However, the first two of these involve Gemini and Pisces. Then the pattern moves into Aries and Cancer. So it’s a whole new pattern — and this time, Neptune is involved, as is the Aries Point.

Any dramas associated with Jupiter square Saturn will transform themselves into something entirely different in the spring.

— First, Neptune moves into Aries on March 30, 2025. (It will retrograde back into Pisces later in the year).

— Saturn moves into Aries on May 24, 2025. (It too will retrograde back into Pisces later in the year.)

— Jupiter moves into Cancer on June 9, 2025 (in a conjunction with Mercury; there is also no retrograde back into Gemini).

So the Jupiter-Saturn square in the mutable signs turns into the Jupiter-Saturn-Neptune square, and it moves into the action-oriented cardinal cross and that brings in the Aries Point. So we don’t really know what this aspect pattern is about, since we are still in the first iteration (on the slow-acting and somewhat cryptic mutable cross).

The peak of the action seems to be June 15, 2025, the third of the Jupiter-Saturn squares, which directly involves Neptune. This is all right in the pocket of the first exact Chiron-Eris conjunction.

So these will be extraordinary months.

Setting a Narrative to This: Wild Spring

These aspects all describe personal awakening and social unrest. The two usually arrive together. However, one is an individual activity and one is a tribal activity. I'm going to keep sorting this out as we go along; there will be plenty in the individual readings that will give some guidance on how to know what you're experiencing.

In short, you know you're experiencing individuality when you dissent from group (which is usually mass) consciousness. The background of our astrology is now painted with Pluto in Aquarius, which is going to push group vs. individual scenarios.

It will be easy to feel left out and left behind, though that's usually a hint that you are experiencing events from an individual rather than tribal point of view.

There are two ways to work with the square setup. One is to project the tension outward, as some form of civic action, protest, or project to improve society. The other is to work with it inwardly, developing oneself and one's creative or business projects, which are also about cultivating and experiencing your sense of purpose. Social movement and civic action are often experienced as a substitute for doing inner work. It can be an important rite of passage. You can see issues with meaning demonstrated in the often immature and even ridiculous positions that social movements take.

Unfortunately these are not usually about solutions in any form, just blowing off steam — and there will be plenty of heat and moisture to vent (think of the rulers of Pisces mixed up with the heat of Aries). And it's important to see that activism is not what it used to be; much of it is staged and funded. However, what we are looking at starting in the spring of 2025 could have elements that are relatively real. Still, it's important to know what you're getting involved with if you do plan to get involved.

This aspect pattern is a personal development bonanza: rich with creative potential, motivation, and all the elements you need to move your life forward in ways you've wanted to for a long time, and even thought you never might.

Message from the Before Times

You have everything going for you at the moment, though it -- something important -- may have yet to materialize. One thing I would remind you of is that the physical reality of an idea is sometimes not quite as vivid as the imagined notion. Or at least not at first. The building process can take a long time. And it often needs to start on a modest level, and slowly draw the resources that will help you build. But you're well situated for your plans to move into the sphere of actual existence, and to experience this as a seed moment for the next stage of your life.

— Planet Waves for Gemini, July 8, 2005

A Little About Sedna, Gemini and Dualism

One of the major developments of 2024 was Sedna (with its 11,400 year orbit) moving into Gemini. It had been in Taurus since around 1966. It's finally not the Sixties anymore. [Here is an [article about Sedna from 2024](#).] Sedna is about environments: in Taurus, it described the growing awakening to the global warming crisis.

In Gemini, I think it will call attention to the perils of the digital crisis and its impact on consciousness. I'll develop these ideas about environment later in this chapter. Let's stick to Gemini for now.

Jupiter was also in Gemini (it departs for Cancer on June 9, 2025). And now Uranus is about to enter Gemini for the first time since 1942. That begins on July 7, 2025. Uranus will then dance around the Taurus-Gemini line for a few seasons and then settle into Gemini to stay on April 25, 2026. Along the way, it makes a series of conjunctions to Sedna, so we get a proving moment here. We will find out more of what Sedna is about.

Gemini is the first human sign in the zodiac — the first to depict a person. And the joke is, where there is one, there are two. (This multiple personality is only true of one other sign, Pisces, with its two fishes swimming in opposite directions.)

This property is called dualism. Every religion, every spiritual tradition and many artists and writers have something to say about this idea, though it's difficult to define. And it may be an intellectual construct rather than a natural reality.

In the history of language, it's a modern construction, tracked to 1755. From philosophy, dualism is "a way of thinking which explains phenomena by the assumption of two independent and absolute elements." In the theological sense, dualism is a "doctrine of two independent divine beings or eternal principles," tracked to 1847. The general sense of "division into two" is by 1831.

So wherever we may find a notion of dualism from Eastern philosophy, it's called something else. And more often, we see the three-fold expression of maiden, mother and crone; father, son and holy spirit; mother, father and baby; three primary colors; three meals a day; the three wise men; the beginning, middle and end (and so on).

Astrology works in complex patterns, though it seems that underneath everything is the resolution of seeming opposites. And Alice Bailey suggests in *Esoteric Astrology* that Gemini is the home base of this idea. At one point she writes:

It thus becomes apparent again to what an extent the "principle of duality" enters into everything. It is a shifting dualism, according to where the emphasis may be placed, but this dualism is present until the last and final initiation—present in the later stages of the evolutionary process, in the adjustment of form relations but not present in the consciousness of the disciple of advanced degree. That is the major point to be grasped.

It is helpful, when doing astrology, to see things in terms of their seeming opposites: opposite signs and the planets that rule them; opposite houses; opposite hemispheres; opposition of motion (retrograde motion), and other factors. In modern times we struggle with dualistic concepts: rich/poor, mind/body, body/soul, male/female,

love/hate, war/peace, subject/object, credit/debit, paper/plastic, and so on.

When addressing any of these ideas, it's good to ask whether you're dealing with a false dichotomy: things said to be opposites where there is really a gray area, gradation, or spectrum between them.

We are now under a major infusion of Gemini energy, including the very strange slow-mover Sedna, the fast-mover Jupiter, and the forthcoming arrival of somewhat slow-moving Uranus. This is a switch from many past years; there has not been a lot of activity in Gemini for ages.

Gemini offers wit, humor, dexterity of language, a love of ideas, and emphasis on the mental plane. Gemini is conversant and social. This emphasis in our era is, of course, closely associated with digital technology, which finds its way into consciousness via the mental level, then takes root in the emotional and the physical. At the moment, mental consciousness is fully under the thrall of digital, and it's holding a grip on the emotions of many people.

And way, deep down at the bottom of digital exist nothing but zeros and ones that drive all computing technology: a property of extreme polarization and no gray area. Analog technology feels so good because it's not made of zeros and ones. It's much closer to human experience, which has no natural experience of binary code.

We must see this in the context of Pluto in Aquarius. Uranus and Sedna in Gemini will be dancing around in a trine with Pluto for a couple of years. And there are other influences in early Gemini: centaur Pelion (named for a mountain in Greece where centaurs lived), hypothetical Admetos (steadfast, stable, dependable, focused), and a Kuiper object (out by Pluto) called Mors-Somnus (is it dead or just sleeping?).

Sedna from Taurus to Gemini

As mentioned elsewhere, Sedna is a member of what is called the Scattered Disk (an SDO) and orbits our Sun in 11,400 years. As such, this chapter will address deep environmental factors and historical

trends, though I'll bring it around to the personal influence of Sedna entering Gemini. Then I'll wrap up with Uranus in Gemini.

Most planets beyond Neptune are what are called Kuiper Belt objects (KBOs, also called trans-Neptunian objects or TNOs), of which Pluto was the first known. They usually have orbits of about 250 to 300 years and there are quite a few of them, several of which I've discussed in this essay (Quaoar, Ixion, Salacia, Mors-Somnus and others).

Eris is unusual with a 557-year orbit (this number is constantly being recalculated and tends to change by a few years every now and then). It has dual designation as a Kuiper object and as a scattered disk object. When we get into thousands of years, those are all solidly SDOs, and Sedna is the most famous of them.

Sedna Return of the End of the Ice Age

In the history of astrology, it's unprecedented to have any factor that describes a cycle that could encompass geological time (such as the glaciers). Until the discovery of Uranus in 1781, the longest planetary cycle back to antiquity, in Western astrology, was that of Saturn, a mere 29 years. Then came the rest of the outer planets, and now, a diversity of planets beyond Neptune.

Sedna in Taurus, which began in 1966 and ended in 2024, pointed to the physical environment of the Earth. It was named by its discoverers for a creation goddess of the polar region, who provided the Inuit people with food and fur. She lives beneath the Arctic Ocean.

Sedna entered the water in human form, that of a young woman, and as her appendages froze off, they transformed into various creatures that sustained life for the Inuit people, such as penguins, seals and whales.

It was during the Sedna in Taurus phase — a transit through an earthy sign — that we figured out what "global warming" is and also started experiencing the effects directly. Today, when we think about the polar regions, it's difficult not to consider that they appear to be melting faster than ever. The loss of glaciers can be seen in photos.

We are now at the Sedna return of the retreat of the most recent glaciers that covered large parts of the Northern Hemisphere (for reference, as far south as what is now New York City, and in the western United States, the northern states with small glaciers extending as far south as Nevada). Alaska and Canada were entirely under the ice, as were countries on the other side of the globe at similar latitudes.

Sedna and the Proliferation of the Internet

The physical planet was not the only environment that was changing during this time. We also experienced the proliferation of digital technology during Sedna in Taurus. ARPANET, the prototype of the internet, commenced in October 1967, one year after Sedna entered Taurus.

I would posit that changes to the psychic, communications and information environments during Sedna in Taurus are arguably more profound than those to the physical environment. They also have a deeper impact on consciousness and perception, and it's more difficult to account for.

The entire Earth, once free of all technology, was surrounded in analog electrical and communications technology from around 1860 to 1960. Then it emerged from Sedna in Taurus submerged in the digital environment. Every thought, relationship, financial transaction and creative act was drawn into this transition.

We could add a delineation to Sedna's short list: What is happening in the deep background that people fail to notice until it's already happened — if they notice at all.

Much of the electrical and digital effect is about disembodiment. The ultimate disembodiment is being a ghost, and most people who can communicate with spirits will tell you that there's an issue with a good few 'dead' people not knowing they are dead. They may be perpetually looking for the parking lot to go home when in fact they fell off of a cliff and died. This is what's meant by encouraging spirits to go to the light.

Gemini Brings Thoughts to Awareness

One thing about Gemini is that it contains the idea of awareness: that which you can describe, talk about, think about and debate. Taurus has this as one of its subconscious processes (its endless inner chatter). Plenty was going on out of perception or buried in the deep background with Sedna in Taurus.

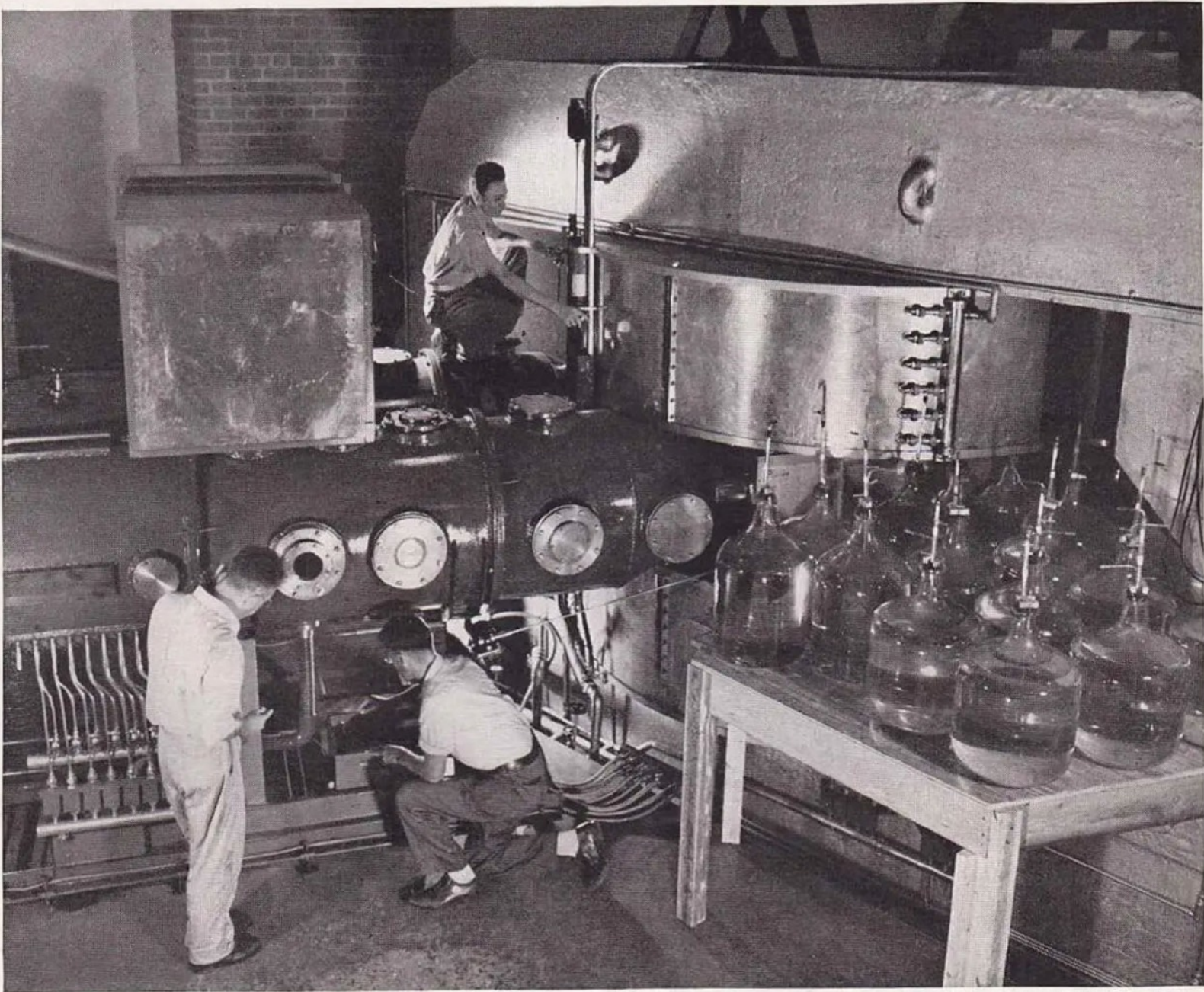
I propose that during Sedna in Gemini, we will see many previously invisible environmental factors percolate to consciousness. Yet as this happens, there is wave after wave of digital technology to get lost in, the latest (on the consumer level) being the emergence of products like ChatGPT.

The best possible effects of Sedna in Gemini could include actually becoming aware of what immersion in digital and AI has done to consciousness, society, how we feel about one another, how we relate to one another and how we relate to existence.

These are big topics — though the transformation has been so total that it's easy to miss. It's worth the experiment of delineating Sedna as a factor describing sensitivity to the otherwise invisible environment, and the property of making things conscious generally.

When we think of Gemini as the astrological seat of dualism, it will be interesting to see what happens to all our notions of oppositions and binaries under the influence of Sedna.

However, there's a lot more energy on its way and it may not be easy to pick out the influence of Sedna with Uranus entering the picture.



Staff Photographer Willard R. Culver

Giant Cyclotron, Atom-smashing Machine, Unlocks Secrets of the "Atomic Age"

Scientists of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, D. C., check their apparatus before turning on the tremendous power that breaks up atoms. Such machines, used in experiments prior to 1941, led to the development of the atomic bomb. A beam of atomic particles is built up to terrific velocity inside the drum-shaped chamber at right and through a chain of reactions is fired at other atoms in liquids in the glass jars.

This is like the home version of today's atom smasher. For contrast, consider the Large Hadron Collider.

Note from the Before Times —

You are now in the thick of the first of two major shifts of energy that will redefine your life in the remainder of 2003. We could say that you're slowly being drawn into the pool of your own feelings. It's not so bad after all. You'll notice that you're under a lot less pressure. But that's not quite an accurate description. The way major planetary changes work, in this case of Uranus and Saturn, their movement can create the feeling that we are living on a totally new planet. There is often a period of major reorientation, as if someone moved around every object in your house and every thought in your mind and you have to go looking for all of it, which in turn compels you to live your life thoroughly differently.

— Aquarius, March 14, 2003

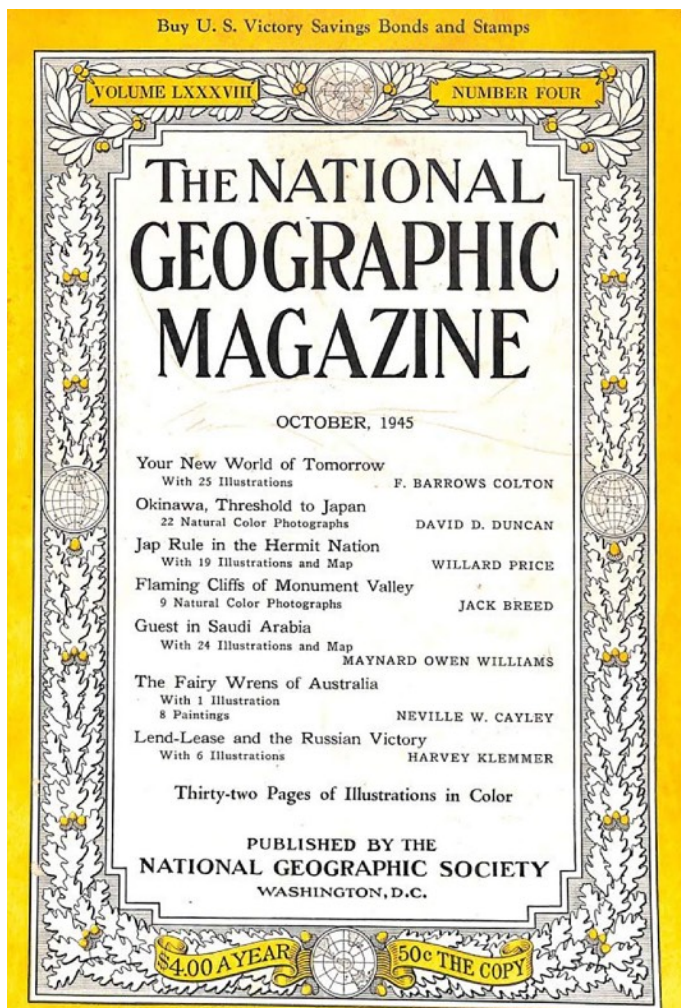
Uranus in Gemini: News of the Weird

Business first, then pleasure.

In 1945, at the height of the last go-around of Uranus in Gemini, the first edition of *National Geographic* after World War II was published. Due to the print publishing lag time, the August and September issues were written and published during the war.

I reckon that October had some fresh viewpoints, at least written with the end of the war in sight.

The lead article in that edition was "Your New World of Tomorrow," by F. Barrows Colton. This was his



introduction to post-war technology in all its glory and splendor. Remember that *Nat Geo* was the publication so wise as to know everything about the world, and science.

One learns that there will be high-speed train travel and mankind will smash atoms in cyclotrons and there will be waterproof matches and we will fly around in airplanes and so on. But there is not *one single mention* in this 26-page feature of computers, in any form.

And you might think, of course not! The crude PC doesn't come out till the early 1970s. Except for one thing: the seven years of Uranus in Gemini, from 1942 through 1949, arrived with the birth of modern computer science. Official history records that computers were used to defeat the Nazis. Computers were used *by* the Nazis.

The development of computer science, including breakthroughs in memory, programming, algorithms, and everything else, fits with other qualities of Uranus in Gemini, including innovations of language and an acceleration of all events on the mental plane.

I think that it's astounding that this was not included in the discussion of your new world of tomorrow — so much that it had to be an intentional omission. The author could not have been that ignorant. He was a *Nat Geo* regular who had previously written "The Miracle of Talking by Telephone."

Perhaps there was an editorial decision to omit computing because it was not thought of as something that would reach public or consumer awareness. I don't know. But let's look at the story arc of Uranus in Gemini from the standpoint of computer history:

In 1941, the Bombe is designed by Alan Turing as a means of decrypting Nazi communications that use the ENIGMA encryption device. His "Turing machine" had been invented five years earlier.

In 1942, the Bell Labs Relay Interpolator is completed for the purpose of aiming large guns at their targets. Mathematician George Stibitz recommends using a relay-based calculator for the project

In 1944, the First Colossus was operational at Bletchley Park. Designed by British engineer Tommy Flowers, the Colossus is designed to break the complex Lorenz ciphers used by the Nazis during World War II.

This is the same year (1944) the Harvard Mark One was created. Conceived by Harvard physics professor Howard Aiken, and designed and built by IBM, the Harvard Mark 1 is a room-sized, relay-based calculator.

In 1945, mathematician John von Neumann outlines the architecture of a stored-program computer, including electronic storage of programming information and data — which eliminates the need for more clumsy methods of programming such as plugboards and punched cards.

In 1946, an inspiring summer school on computing at the University of Pennsylvania's Moore School of Electrical Engineering stimulates construction of stored-program computers at universities and research institutions in the US, France, the UK, and Germany.

In 1948, the “app” is born: the first computer program was run on a computer. University of Manchester researchers Frederic Williams, Tom Kilburn, and Geoff Toothill develop the Small-Scale Experimental Machine (SSEM), better known as the Manchester “Baby.” Two Saturn cycles left till the iPhone.

In 1949, the CSIRAC runs its first program. While many early digital computers were based on similar designs, such as the IAS and its copies, others are unique designs, like the CSIRAC. CSIRAC was designed by British-born Trevor Pearcey, and used unusual 12-hole paper tape. It was transferred to the University of Melbourne in 1955 and remained in service until 1964.

So let’s imagine that the true advances in computing technology (quantum computing, the technology needed to create ‘advanced’ artificial thought and where the body meets the computing device) are still kept away from ordinary plebes. Someone studiously reading *Nat Geo* in 1945 would have had no clue of the history, much less of what was coming.

It is a safe prediction to say that there will be massive leaps forward in all of these technologies: the made inventor, the robot himself, the prankster, and the Prometheus who stole the fire of the gods, arrives in the human sign Gemini in the form of Uranus. This will further transform our relationships and social patterns.

OK, an Ordinary Reading of Uranus in Gemini

You know you live in interesting times when many outer planets change signs in close proximity. Saturn, Neptune, Pluto and Sedna are all doing so.

And finally, Uranus is about to enter Gemini after seven years in physical, sensory, amorous, sexual Taurus. Uranus in Taurus has been one of those uncomfortable transits that it's difficult to talk about. Walt Whitman celebrated "the body electric," by which he did not mean "the body electrocuted." Uranus in Taurus has been disorienting to the mind-body relationship and seen the rapid proliferation of artificial mental capacity.

Given the digital transformations of Sedna in Taurus (1966-2024) and Uranus in Taurus (2018-2025), it's time for closer study of the history of Taurus as a factor in the mental environment. Taurus is physical, and what we call "consciousness" specifically means awareness rooted on the physical plane by virtue of having bodies.

The most gifted trance channeler, clairvoyant or medium is using his or her body as the conducting vector for any information received from the subtle planes. They would not be there doing the reading, dressed in gold lamé and a wizard's cap, otherwise.

Due to the retrograde, Uranus enters Gemini twice: Once on July 7, 2025 and again on April 25, 2026. This would be interesting at any time, by which I mean a little shocking and arriving with the world-changing events you could specifically connect to that particular transit.

However, it's set in the context of numerous other sign changes, and all those planets set early in their signs means they are all talking to one another. And then any of the quick-movers that are visiting the

early degrees (Mars or Jupiter, for example) will be connecting to the energy circuit.

Nothing says weird like Uranus. The planet of inventions and revolutions, it's also about odd events, things that defy explanation, and breakthroughs of thought and technology. Gemini is social. It's conversant and seems to contain the seeds of language, both spoken and written.

Uranus entered Gemini last in 1941-42, with a particularly grand second entrance in May 1942, accompanied by Saturn. This was happening right at the beginning of World War II, which we still refer to as "the war" and still say things like pre-war and post-war, as if everyone knows just which of the hundreds of wars you're talking about. Usually they do. So at least in this one sense, Uranus entering Gemini was a point of historical demarcation — at least for Americans. The war in Europe had been heating up since 1933.

A Phase of Even More Anything Goes

Digital technology has resulted in a rather wild condition of "anything might be true." This passes for open-minded when really, it's mostly about being untethered from verifiable reality.

The condition of *living in one's separate reality* is stronger than ever. Uranus in Gemini is likely to come with an actual sense of considering the possibilities and allowing one's mind to go unusual places.

Uranus brings invention and innovation. We will be able to fill a modest dictionary with the evolutions to language that manifest during this era (even set against the background of all kinds of new words that have come along with the current technology environment).

Uranus is a bit of a punk and a prankster. So in addition to many advances and breakthroughs in actual human language, we will likely see a flood of fake writing entering the environment via artificial mental devices.

I would imagine this transit will come with a loosening up of social mores and the obsession that people appear to conform in their

mental patterns, attitudes and values. Under Uranus in Taurus, being normal was mandatory. Under Uranus in Gemini, you will lose social credit points for being or even seeming normal.

Gemini is inherently kinky; you can often find people's odd preferences and needs where they have Gemini in their chart. With Uranus here, I propose this will shift culturally to language — rather than the usual obsession with imagery. Anyone who has a way with words will have the seductive advantage.

Speaking of social credit systems: this is the ghoul to beware of — the invention in the human realm of technology that throws everything into digital algorithms, including what a good or evil person you allegedly are, and what privileges you allegedly do or do not deserve. Social credit systems are a morph of your credit score and social media gone macro. Here is what **that might look like**.

While science fiction writers are not known for their optimism, they are known for their accuracy.

Wrapping Up Two Weeks Later

I started this two weeks ago, as an outline of the sign readings — amazing that it now exists as a thing of its own. There will be additional versions (including a couple to correct typing problems), so look for those ahead of the release of The Awakening, your 2025 annual readings from Planet Waves. Oct. 14, 2024, 10:41 am, K.N.Y.

With love,

— efc

