



Photo by Eric Francis

Oneself Among the Many

Somewhere In Between for Aries

By Eric Francis

WHO AM I?

This is always the essential question of the artist, the lover and the spiritual seeker. It's the essential question for the soldier, the prisoner or anyone forced by circumstances beyond their control to confront who they are.

It's also the perfect question for you to be asking at this time, as Chiron the awakener enters the peak of its journey through your sign, and as Pluto the evolver and transformer moves into Aquarius. This astrology is all about personhood: what it means to be yourself, within your own awareness (Aries), and what it means to be yourself within the context of others (Aquarius).

I cannot emphasize this point enough: our society is in a digital trance that seems to be getting deeper. You are being summoned to awaken from this walking coma, clear the fog, wipe the windows and free your mind from this strange entrapment. This mission will develop over the next two years as Chiron holds this peak of energy and forms a conjunction to Eris in your sign in 2025 and 2026.

As that happens, even more mojo comes to Aries in the form of Saturn and Neptune, which form a conjunction right on the Aries Point. So Aries is the hotspot of the astrology for the foreseeable future, pointing to many events that are not quite foreseeable.

Yet we do not need to look so far ahead for news of change and progress. There is a truly astonishing event in your sign this year — a total eclipse of the Sun in Aries conjunct Chiron. By conjunct, I mean to 1/32nd of a degree. When an event is this exact, the first key word is "precision." Yes, all aspects have a moment of being exact, but it's nearly impossible to get three moving objects in the same place at the same time. And the precision has something to do with you.

The larger metaphor is the filtering out of the ego (the Sun, blocked by the Moon) and the revelation of the force for growth and healing that is right beneath it, that being Chiron. There are likely to be events this year that help you see and experience yourself a whole different way — now and long into the future. It may be that you somehow become a different person. But it's really about something deep emerging.

Seen one way, the Moon and the Sun are levels of the personality, and when they both disappear (a total solar eclipse), it's as if a veil is pulled back that simultaneously reveals and introduces you to something about yourself that you may have never known about.

And this deepening experience, in turn, is going to shift all your outer relationships – whether with individuals or with seeming groups (which are made of individuals). The entire direction of your astrology this year is to give you the courage to stand out and be exactly who you are all the time and under all circumstances. This is very difficult for most people — often, unspeakably so, and is a cause of much struggle in the world. It's fair to say that you won't have much of a choice, or that there will be only one logical way to proceed.

There is a dual relationship between Aries and Aquarius, one of which represents individuality and the other the intersection of the individual and the group.

They are speaking about the same issue. You may have noticed the many opportunities you've had to distinguish yourself in the years that Chiron has been in Aries (since Spring 2018). These may have been events where there was some personal crisis, and these years have certainly been a time when the very personal and intimate is politicized.

Personally, inwardly, Chiron in Aries is a compelling force, prompting you to ask questions about your existence that you might have brushed off. And situations similar to those in the past where you might have blended in were now your occasion to stand out, and master the art of openly being different.

It's pretty easy to be different quietly — which is why so many people do it. But in our time, as in other volatile times, merely to distinguish yourself is to provoke controversy. Yet in truth this question has little to do with how people feel about you and everything to do with whether you are willing to thread the needle and be honest with yourself at all times — and that means being sincere with others.

Chiron has been pushing you to awaken to yourself since it arrived in your sign in 2018. This has involved a deep healing process that you know was long overdue.

Chiron may seem to push things to a crisis point, though it often does so before the underlying issue causes a major breakdown. If further

delayed, then things can fall apart – though there were always early cautionary signs.

Its influence has been mostly to assist in your process of putting yourself back together from a diversity of influences that have gradually (but fortunately, not entirely successfully) separated you from who you are. This is a society-wide problem. It affects everyone and everything. The issue is people being shocked out of their minds and bodies under the influence of electrical mass communications (radio and TV), and in our time, digital conditions.

I realize I am one of a very few people in the self-help, healing or astrological fields talking about this issue. The problem is mostly being cast as political: various shades of tyranny, one-world government and so on. It's none of these things so much as it is the fact that we live inside of an enormous computer.

The Last Gasp of Pluto in Capricorn

For its part, Pluto in Capricorn has spent the past 15+ years taking you on a tour of where your life meets the structures of the world. Starting with your family and extending into all forms of corporate and governmental existence, this has been a demolition derby — and one that has taught you to be independent of systems, and how to effectively use your personal authority within them.

Capricorn, as the 10th sign, is your solar 10th place — where you must take action. That can be proactive, a response, or reactive. You've had a good bit of all three, though Pluto tends to put people into respond/react mode. (A different approach will be helpful with Pluto in Aquarius.)

You may have experienced wrenching changes to both your professional and family life that have compelled you to find your own way, free of the previous structures that contained you in the past. Not everything worked out in the short run, but I feel confident saying that most things did in the long run.

Pluto breaks things down, and is also handy when it comes to building them back up. In the end, most of what has happened is that both physical and psychological obstacles have been moved out of the way, so that you have the energy and the space to take action in new ways.

One of the lessons here has been tempering any desire for power over others. Rather, the theme of nearly any Pluto transit is some form of self-mastery. The planets represent facets of ourselves, not something outside of ourselves. So you can thank yourself for the progress you made and the way that you responded to them.

Along the way you've learned many skills. You will need them as you and the rest of the human race cross a narrow isthmus to a new continent of experience.

It would be good to give a name to the destructive force that has emptied out downtown areas, malls and shopping districts, and gradually sequestered people in their homes — the internet. It may have looked like financial collapses, corporate consolidation and downsizing, terrorism or a pandemic. Those were just the enabling events that have placed us in a digital world.

And you may be more keenly aware of collective issues than anyone around you and are therefore more likely to take them personally and respond in ways that are actually relevant and helpful, rather than reactionary.

There is still a little Pluto in Capricorn work for you to do, and not so much time left with Pluto in this sign. The major move is Jan. 20 and then for about eight weeks in the autumn, Pluto is back in Capricorn. Residual work may mean coming to completion with some members of your family about matters that are calling for resolution or at least radical honesty.

Pluto in Aquarius: The Struggle to Maintain Your/Our Humanity

Pluto never sleeps, and now it's moving onto Aquarius. This is the most social angle of your chart, the 11th place. It's bound to reshape your entire experience of friends, groups, and associations of all kinds. And this may come with a wild struggle for people to stay human.

Some years ago, few would have known what I was talking about when I say the struggle to maintain our humanity. Today, some pretend to not know, or to not be affected by the world situation, which is driven 100% by the domination of digital technology.

However, after what we've been through the past four years, you may have a sense that this is a serious, imminent issue. Forget the damage done by social media. The three-year-olds obsessed with their iPad are merely training wheels. Twitter is like chewing gum compared to the fentanyl buffet being prepared for us.

As Pluto reached the end of Capricorn, we witnessed 4.4 billion people ordered to stay home over the course of *just three weeks*; 10 billion needless, toxic injections put into the bodies of adults and children; the rise of the all-powerful tech and pharma industries to the stature of gods; and the violation of all personal and national sovereignty.

Add the active movements to eliminate cash, to revive "vaccine" passports and hook them into central-bank digital currency (no vaccine, no pizza/gas/groceries), and many trial runs with health security zones, and it could be long under this influence until the entire planet is a prison.

Before any of that happens, people give up on what makes them human, as individuals – if they ever knew. And my concern is that it will be the last trace of soul in those about to be subsumed that will say, "I wish I had not consented to any of this."

While there is good news in that people are awakening and questioning these and other events, I am not convinced that there is much commitment or critical mass for meaningful action — in the

world around us. Yet in your life, you have many options, and ways to go with the plan or to go your own way.

The world was still facing the digital frontier in 2000, though the effects were taking hold. Today we — most people, and all of society — are lost in a technological wilderness that few understand, much less can use effectively. What that really means is that the already groggy state of human consciousness has been digitally drugged into a deeper robotic trance.

At the same time, there are signs of a rebound. Every media environment, when pushed to its extreme, has the potential to flip into its opposite. This principle was introduced to the public by Dr. Carl Jung in the term “enantiodromia.”

Here is where you enter the scene: as the potential point of rebound and awakening. We cannot count on this happening in the wider society, but you can be the scene of a personal rebound. That you may not have much support in this endeavor comports with your astrology: the radical independence of Chiron in your sign; and the need to stand up to groups that is the essence of Pluto in Aquarius.

You have help — primarily Chiron in your birth sign, which under any circumstances is going to give you the tools and the motivation to stand out. With Chiron, this is not always a choice or an option; it’s something that happens as a result of where your circumstances intersect with your growth needs. For example, you may have been under circumstances in the past similar to what you encounter now, but you choose to handle them differently — more self-assertively, or more thoroughly.

Formal and Informal Power: You Want the Second

When my father was a communications consultant, he explained to me the difference between formal and informal power and how important it is to understand the difference.

Formal power is what the president of a college has, or the chief of police or the CEO of a corporation.

Informal power (for example) is held by the charismatic chairman of the most popular fraternity, who can sway student opinion and mobilize energy. All the budgets, secretaries and vice presidents in the world cannot rival the influence of a well-regarded social influencer. Everywhere in society, you find both formal and informal leaders.

Welcome to the 21st century, and in particular, to Pluto in Aquarius. And welcome to your new life, where formal power means very little, and where your interactions with groups of all kinds are the thing that will get results. Informal power comes through persuasion, organizing and focusing on important issues — and you are a likely spearhead of these modes of being.

As part of your journey through this long era in history, you will be learning how to both influence others — and how *not* to be influenced by them. This exchange of sway and domination will be present, in ways large or small. The questions are how, why and how you may avoid the pitfalls.

Pluto in Aquarius will make you highly susceptible to group dynamics — more so than ever. This is not merely about astrology; it's about *astrology reminding us where we are in history*. And where we are is the digital age. Characteristics of the digital age are extreme tribalism and polarization that require great strength to resist. You have that strength, if you will use it.

We saw this tribalism seize the world in 2020 and 2021. It should be the stuff of horror movies — friendships ending, blood relatives excluded from the holiday table, and many other travesties that most people took for granted and would rather pretend did not happen.

Yet you are in a special position to benefit from the strange quality of our extended moment, and to mitigate some of its worst effects on this strange environment. And it is strange. Few can account for why, in 2023, there is a “debate” about whether the Earth is a sphere. Well, it's pretty flat if you upload it to the internet — and so is the human spirit.

Uploaded we are when every facet of our lives, and of our society, is processed through digital technology. Yet who is really talking about the influence this has on our lives? It seems to me, nearly everyone is just going with it, come what may — without much reflection. To stay human, to stay influential, to retain the power of decision — stay here on Earth. Stay in your body, which really means stay in your right mind. Focus your energy on the ground at least as much as you do online. Strive to meet people in person every day.

Guide meetings away from Zoom and into an actual room. Conduct conversations outside when possible, so the trees may eavesdrop.

Jupiter-Uranus Meet in Taurus: A Burst of Resources

One of the highlights of 2024 is the conjunction of Jupiter and Uranus. Unlike most aspects, it's difficult to say anything negative about it except it's good to temper your expectations and use it as a resource.

It is a statement of your potential, which is about to be activated by the planet of spontaneous revolution (Uranus), and the planet of expansion and gifts (Jupiter). This is happening in your house of personal resources, Taurus, your 2nd place. So it embraces the full spectrum from self-esteem to cashflow; and includes your potentials, your talents, all that you have learned and the tools of your trade.

Let's start with the first. A lavishly rich old man in a cherry wood-paneled office once said to me that "all wealth comes from the Earth." I would add that all wealth comes from self-esteem, or the lack thereof. The lack may work even better, because there can be a tremendous need to compensate for something missing, such as the love of one's parents. You may have encountered shades of this during the Pluto transit through Capricorn: the drive to succeed, to make up for a lack of some kind.

However, your astrology is on the upswing so let's take the positive side of the self-esteem equation — wealth and abundance as the result of self-respect, and honoring what is right and true for you.

It's possible to teach this, but it works better through example. Part of self-respect is admitting and acting upon your values and your priorities. Respect is action, not just an idea, and it means honoring the viewpoint on life and that certain thing about you that makes you who you are, which you then get to express in the world as a conscious act.

I dare say most people don't get here. They are so smothered under civilizing forces that they don't know whether "the real them" is an angel, a savage or a dullard (and may suspect the worst). But Chiron transiting your sign for five years now has pulled you through some loops and ringers. You've probably experienced some of the best and some of the worst that you can be — and with any luck, you've defined your specific healing needs.

However, getting to the point of this incredible transit through your money house, it will exist mostly in potential until you do something about it. You may experience a boon of some kind. Stocks or crypto may surge, if you have any, and still those are potential earnings until they are converted to cash.

That's only part of the picture. What this conjunction is really about is your earning potential. That is connected to your commitment to and development of your talent. Talent, too, is merely potential until you do something with it; you are moving toward some of the great opportunities of your life to find out how much you're worth — in value, not just dollars.

The caveat with Taurus is that you must honor your values and your principles, or the effect is spoiled — that effect being the synergy of where talent and business acumen meet integrity. Most people only pretend to do this, and make all kinds of exceptions.

Jupiter and Sedna in Gemini: Stay Local

There is about to be a strong emphasis on Gemini, with the biggest of all planets arriving in the Spring, and the most distant of all (known) planets showing up at about the same time. Jupiter is about abundance, expansion and opportunity.

Gemini is your 3rd place, and represents two general areas of life. One is everything related to communications (usually local, which is becoming difficult to define), as well as your style of thought, your state of mind and your manner of speaking.

It also represents your local community. This began with the 3rd being the "house of brethren," meaning siblings, who usually lived close to one another. This became associated with neighborhoods, towns and villages. And as an extension, the third covers all matters related to (usually local) commerce.

Jupiter's arrival here will be good for business. While you must make an effort, it represents people and opportunities coming to you rather than you going to them. Because Jupiter rules Sagittarius, it is a picture of running an international business from your home (which suddenly a lot of people do).

You will not need to invest heavily in any expansion of a business. I think a modest investment will be enough to get you to the next level. If you're doing something new, choose something you find engaging, for which there is natural interest. It may be idea-based, as that is described by both Gemini and Jupiter. Jupiter also describes luxuries.

Wherever Jupiter goes describes the fashion and decorating trends for that phase of time. You are likely to have a good instinct about this.

Then there is Sedna, which was discovered in Taurus 20 years ago, and which has been in that sign since 1966. Nobody has ever lived through Sedna in Gemini, and there is no historical record to consider, since it was last in this position 11,400 years ago. For that, we go to the geological record (which is not a bad key phrase for Sedna).

In the past two decades, Sedna has become associated with the environment and particularly things related to the ice caps. That earthy theme is fitting for Taurus. The emphasis in Gemini shifts concern to the mental environment — by far the most important one, as it colors perception of all other environments.

We should get an idea what this will describe in more detail at the time of the Jupiter-Sedna conjunction. (Note, I am checking the transit history here, and this seems to be a thing that usually happens in a Dragon year [from Chinese astrology]).

The most recent ones were 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000 and 2012. This is remarkable. Dragon energy favors courage, bravado and the willingness to take risks, though 2024 is a year of the Wood Dragon. This is the less egotistical, mellow dragon.

There is a theme developing for 2024: speak sincerely.

Family Affairs: The Capricorn Cluster

This carries into another angle of your chart, which pivots around events in Capricorn (a complicated conjunction). This may be calling your attention to important family matters that need attention now.

You may have determined that they were resolved a few times in the past, though this grouping is offering you an unusual opportunity to go back deeper than you ever have, and to come back with useful information that can inform your life today.

The benefit will be a sense of freedom from constraints that you didn't know you were under — both ideological and lurking out of normal perception. You may get to unravel fears that have trickled down through the generations, and discover that the thing reacted to was not so bad after all.

The question about these matters is, how do they affect the relationships that you're in right now? Are you being guided by your own impressions and choices, or are there ghosts haunting you?

Family dramas are usually a coverup for something else. You might consider that the dramas in your family are a coverup not for a scandal but rather for some advanced spiritual learning or power. Rethink some of the bigger controversies you've seen or been involved in and consider that they are potentially a reaction to a deep and loving truth.

Why would people have that kind of response to something positive? Well, that's the question, isn't it? If you look around, you will see how this has a way of manifesting in many different ways.

Anyway — family history is important, and this is a great time for you to make some real progress understanding the story of your bloodline, particularly on the maternal side. If you start gathering photos, artifacts and family stories, the project will take on a life of its own.

Be on the lookout for a few topics. One is stories of the origin of the family or the tribe, whether some kind of cosmic idea or an immigration story. Second, listen for the influence of alcohol moving down the generations.

With that, pay attention for hints about any karmic situation passed down from one generation to the next. See if you can pick up on some idea of "evil" as even immediate ancestors (parents, grandparents) can frame it.

Finally, what is it that the people older than you think holds the family together? There are a lot of possibilities here.

As we will get to in the next section, there are things that seem totally chaotic and mysterious that will yield to reason and logic. For people new to investigative work, I suggest a three-column approach: One containing the list of what you have documented and know for sure, including what is disproven; the second being your suspicions; and the third being open and clearly defined questions.

As you see these things in context, much will come into focus.

The Matter of Appropriateness: Salacia Meets Logos

Salacia in your sign since 2016 has represented a gradual awakening to what is truly appropriate for you in the sexual sense. While there are endless judgments about sex, sexuality and relationships, you hardly ever hear the phrase, "what is appropriate for you."

That is what Salacia is about. Yet Salacia is making contact with a cluster of planets in Capricorn related to family (as is Capricorn itself) and so the discussion may go to “what other people such as relatives say should be appropriate for you” — or what you think they might think.

This is also mixed up with matters of authority, including tradition. But it has nothing to do with those things; what matters is what you decide is correct for you, and what any partner and you decide is the right thing for both of you.

The topic of sexuality and actual appropriateness is avoided by nearly everyone and everything (except for blanket definitions of what is wrong, immoral, offensive, etc.). And the discussion rarely goes to actual sexual feelings rather than morality.

Most of what we get from self-help, media, politics and social movements are commentaries of romance, morality, legal rights and “empowerment” that all dance around the fringes of this most central question: what is right for you, personally?

You are constantly being told what is supposed to upset you, what is supposed to offend you, and therefore, how you’re supposed to feel. Salacia (with the help of Chiron) is saying that you must determine these things for yourself. The contact with Logos is saying: use some logic here. Reason your way through the issues. Do not be afraid; these are great tools, and there are times when they are applicable to the emotional spheres.

Then figure out how to convey or translate this into what is right for you AND the people you’re involved with, or interested in. This is a matter of knowing yourself as part of your dharma, and then of establishing communication.

One of the things you’re grappling with is some elements of family history that are attempting to condition how you feel, what you believe and what you do. This may seem to be coming from corporate and government sources as well, though the underlying influence and earliest conditioning is familial.

These are not easy topics to talk about, or to think about clearly, especially under the oppressive social mores of our times.

This is all further complexified by prohibition piled on top of misunderstanding on top of shame, plus rooms and rooms full of secrets back to the dawn of civilization. Any discussion of sex threatens to pop that whole infinite pimple.

I find that it gets more difficult every year to write in any public forum about sex and sexuality. My sense is that people are waiting to be offended, though others are eagerly wanting any real material on the subject. And I don't think it's any easier in private situations; all the same issues apply, and others.

All of this strongly suggests there is something important not just to talk about, but to work out. Who is going to start the discussion? The lack of conversation and the cloud of reticence weighs on intimate relationships, friendships and relationships in formation, where we need to offer up some information about ourselves. Instead, everyone seems to just guess what people have going on under the hood.

What I would suggest is, the time is here; learn the words, don't worry about embarrassing yourself, say what is on your mind — and be a safe place for others to bring their personal truth.

Saturn Conjunct Nessus in Pisces: Catharsis of Karma

We live in an age obsessed with victimhood. So many people are rich and famous, being a victim is the only remaining symbol of status. Move over, sex appeal! Get out of the way, original achievement! Creativity, get lost! There's a certified victim in the house!

We see this illustrated by Nessus in Pisces. This is a presence in your 12th place — considered by many astrologers to be a gathering place of karma (as is Pisces); a kind of attic of all that people want to deny. Yet this is also a lavishly rich house for exploration and experiencing the fulfillment of life. It's essential to having what some call "an imagination."

Nessus is a centaur, a mighty-potent slow-mover, crossing many orbits and influencing many spheres of life. The bottom line of Nessus is “the return of karma” for events that someone set in motion themselves — though along the way, many people will be turned into seemingly hapless victims.

The story of Nessus is boomerang shaped, and it comes back — until one sees what is happening, acknowledges the process and stands out of the way.

Yet Nessus also contains the keys to be liberated from the cycles of victimhood, which take many forms. Nessus teaches that the victim posture is a spiritual trap. All traps have bait. The bait of Nessus is some form of righteous indignation, or the certainty that one was done wrong. Look, there is even proof! Yet in our time, there is the additional bait of legitimacy and social standing, which are right near the top of Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs.

Saturn is the reality principle and will make two conjunctions to Nessus — a near miss in July, and an exact conjunction in February 2025. It’s moving through Pisces, your 12th place. This is worth knowing. Saturn is trying to empty the trash from a house where it tends to collect. (Saturn is almost always on the cleanup squad.)

Part of what Saturn is here to clean up are what I will politely call “untrue beliefs” and less politely call “delusions.” These are being powered by Neptune in Pisces, which everyone is experiencing — though you have it in your 12th place, which is especially susceptible to their influence. It’s difficult to see these ideas for what they are, since they seem to be “the thing to believe.”

Our society is running on delusions more than ever, but you may be at the point of having had enough. However, Saturn should be interrupting certain thought processes that are driven by untrue beliefs (of whatever magnitude). You may be experiencing this as some form of disillusionment. Eventually this will catch up with everyone, though you’re getting the first wave.

Currently one manifestation of this is the idea running wild that “everything is a lie.” The list includes everything from “questioning the

shape of the Earth” to “Paul McCartney is not really Paul McCartney” to “there is no such thing as a nuclear bomb” and so on. These seem to be increasing in intensity, and it would seem to be in response to the shock and destabilizing influence of what happened between 2020 and the present. Massive deceptions were heaped on the public, and as that was happening, the world continued to discarnate and reincarnate on the digital plane. All of this was shocking to both personal sanity and the stability of society.

Saturn in your 12th place is encouraging you to ask questions with real meaning in your life, and to do so in a sincere and structured way — not merely by pondering, but by seeking understanding and sorting out your own personal understanding of truth — identified from among options that you actually understand.

Developing Story

Convergence in Aries: An Artist is a Probe

For the next five years or so, the astrology is moving rapidly in the direction of Aries, with many events developing. These include Chiron conjunct Eris, as well as Saturn conjunct Neptune. While this is in 2025 and 2026, it’s developing now, and influencing you.

I think there are two messages here: One is to use this time well, and recognize that you have time to make important changes. It would be difficult for you to envision today what your life will become as this era unfolds.

The second is to be an artist. By that I don’t mean someone who paints or sculpts. I mean someone whose consciousness is a probe into reality. As you develop your awareness, you’re going to evolve into someone extremely sensitive — and wake up from the foggy dream that digital life is becoming.

This is true on account of Chiron’s developments in Aries, and those of Pluto in Aquarius. No matter what, you’re going to be responding to your environment and it will be responding to you. I propose that what would be the most helpful is to turn this into useful observations that will guide your experiment over these next few incredible years.

PS — And One Afterthought

Aries has a kind of twin sign these days, which is Aquarius. It's been a while, so I'm not sure I unpacked this adequately above. It's worth studying all things Aquarius to understand your astrological situation better.

Aries represents the individual and her/his development. But Aries also has an unusual connection to the public via the Aries Point, the first degree of your sign, which acts like a repeating station to the public. So Aries has this unusual and very strong connection of the individual to the public. This can pop up in any chart wither early Aries, or any cardinal sign, are activated.

Aquarius represents groups in the first instance, and social patterns, and the formation of patterns generally. But it also represents a kind of quirky need to stand up to the group. This makes it a sign of individuality. There's a kind of anti-authoritarian streak to Aquarius, which is what saves us from getting swallowed by group domination. It contains a little of its antidote.

So these two energy fields have an unusual resonance, though of the two, Aries in its will power and determination definitely has more individual assertiveness than Aquarius. You are more likely to influence groups rather than just stand up to them (though that standing up is an important example others may follow).

If you're curious, I do the most detailed analysis of this in the article for Aquarian Era, Aquarian age for the sign Cancer.

It will be on the Cancer page, or you can write to me and I'll send it. Send that to office@planetwaves.net. Ok here are your charts!

Total Ecl - All American Aries

Natal Chart
Monday, April 8, 2024
2:20:40 PM EDT ✓
Burlington, Vermont
Tropical Equal True Node

