



Photo by Eric Francis

Your Home Within Yourself

Somewhere In Between for Taurus

By Eric Francis

SINCE 2014, A FACTOR has been influencing Taurus that allows you to stretch your limitations rather than have to push through them, or in some way be compelled to grow. The compulsion, the bottom line, the grow-or-die, is usually about Pluto (and sometimes about Chiron).

The provocation or spur is usually about Uranus. The offer that you figure out you cannot refuse is usually about Saturn.

The invitation comes from another source. For you, this is Albion, the first planet ever discovered orbiting our Sun beyond Pluto. Originally called 1992 QB1, Albion is the keeper of the threshold and the way-shower of the approach and the direction. Albion invites one into the territory rather than forcing the issue.

This is not the usual way of humanity, which seems to do its best when backed into a corner and given no other choice. However, more times than not in these years, your own growth has come as a voluntary choice and always stands available as an option. You prefer to stay put, though there are some invitations that are too good to pass up. Even then you might not be interested, though at least you're still exercising choice.

This is a special topic for Taurus. Most of you still live where you lived the day I met you. Perhaps the same objects are on the same shelves. Often contemplation of movement takes the place of the experience. You generally feel that you must take steps entirely on your own terms, and usually you can establish that agreement with your circumstances and the people in your environment.

Then, sometimes, the energy ramps up, utterly unique things emerge along the landscape of time, and you need a new approach. Think of Albion as the teacher of invitations and the gentle lure to new experiences. This is something you are learning about and perhaps acquiring. It's a way to approach your 'fixed' quality. Yet underneath your highly stable exterior, there's often a revolution brewing. The question is, does that energy break the surface?

Well, it's about to. This is coming from a diversity of directions, all of them bearing formidable power, all of them distinct forces of nature, and shaping you from both within and without. Your (typically) most useful tool — wait and see — is about to get hung up on a peg in your workshop.

In its place, you will be using the "adapt steadily and make conscious choices" set of utilities. Fortunately, the developments of the next two years — which come to a head rapidly in the months and weeks before your birthday — have been developing for a while. You have likely figured out that something is up, as if you're getting ready to give

birth to a new experience of who you are. This is only natural in a world changing faster than most people understand, where staying the course is not the option that it used to be.

Even your most deeply held principles are subject to evaluation, change and movement. However, when you get down to the place where grit meets wood, you will recognize that you've had many questions in recent years. But circumstances have not quite facilitated their full engagement. That is now likely to change.

Primarily, three processes are in motion; I reckon three others will come up in this reading as well. You may be aware that there is a conjunction between Jupiter and Uranus in your sign the day that the Sun enters Taurus. That is one, representing a radical expansion of your sense of your own potential.

Another is a total eclipse in Aries, a sign that in many ways describes the "real you" lurking behind the surface of your personality. These are both accurately described as being mainly inward and deeply personal to you. There is a profound healing process involved, what you might call a reckoning with yourself.

Pluto Enters Aquarius To Stay

And finally, there is the matter of Pluto completing its sign-change to Aquarius, your 10th solar house or place. This is the transit process that will have the most enduring and lasting effects. It will last the longest, and your Aquarius 10th describes qualities essential to who you are — which will now be under the sustained influence of Pluto.

On the way out to breakfast today, I was looking around for a book to slip your charts into, and spotted *Whole Sign Houses* by Rob Hand. This is a 50-page monograph that I sometimes think I'm the only person who's ever read. Sitting at the counter of Sunfrost in Woodstock, I flipped it open to a discussion of the 10th place. The Greek word associated with it is *praxis*: "what one does, not merely as profession."

Even the best modern astrologers mistake this house for “what one wants to be known for,” and there is some of that. But usually the being known is a vehicle to the opportunity for *praxis* — to do, with all of one’s being. The loose translation is “action.” And Pluto, the planet that you can experience on your level of consciousness but cannot refuse, is now going to merge with Aquarius in your 10th place.

Aquarius mainly serves as the energy that crystallizes patterns in human affairs. Often sold as groovy and progressive, it’s nothing of the kind. It’s one of the most effective preservers of the status quo in all of astrology. Maybe there’s another, but I have not discovered it. If we are looking for a clue as to the “fixed in action” nature of Taurus, we can find it right at the apex of your chart. Aquarius in this placement describes the essence of your habitual nature. While this extends into your professional life, the patterns are a blend of mental and social, and the crystals are of very high integrity. They are difficult to shift; when transits come, they tend to multiply.

One example of this was the global lockdowns happening under the transit Saturn in Aquarius. As soon as Saturn was there, the lockdowns and mandates began. The reason did not matter; most people thought it was the thing to do. When Saturn left Aquarius three years later, the lockdowns and mandates were gone and nearly forgotten. So too were the protest movements.

Also the oppressive social rules, which for a while altered family patterns, groups of friends, and public spaces. A great many people responded with authoritarian paranoia, becoming the very oppressors they had previously claimed to despise and decry. That’s the essence of Aquarian authority — let the people do the work, and call it the “common good.”

Today the stickers on the floor are an embarrassment to even see. Try standing on one the next time you notice it’s there, and ask yourself if it ever made sense — which will be a window into the lockstep ideology possible with Aquarius.

How does this manifest for you personally? I can only speculate and read the energies. What is crucial to remember is that your personal viewpoint or approach to life is invested in the larger social reality also

described by Aquarius. You often think you must move on a consensus basis, as if you need the approval of some invisible committee before you do anything.

This is the thing that's about to flip with Pluto in Aquarius.

The One and the Many

You are a distinct individual, though you don't always feel that way. You have opportunities to step out, though they are not usually so appealing. Forgive me if I'm wrong, but you carry around a good bit of "what would the neighbors/my boyfriend/my mother think if I do this?"

And by "do this," I mainly mean distinguish yourself; stand out; stand apart; be visible. It does not matter what. What would they think if I wore white slacks after Memorial Day?

Here is a basic rundown, which I will repeat in some of the other signs; it originated in Taurus. Pluto in Aquarius will push the relationship between the individual and the group. There are several possibilities here. The whole issue is mixed up in what is probably not your favorite topic, technology.

- 1.** The obvious one is that Pluto + Aquarius = the tyranny of the collective. Collectives are almost always tyrannical; put five or more people together and they want to run the world.
- 2.** The less likely possibility is that the individual will be called upon to stand up to the collective and groups of all forms. This will be a form of leadership through expressing independence. Given what we learned from 2020 through 2022, this is the rare gem.
- 3.** Another possibility is that of group initiation and evolution. This is of course an outcome controlled by the group itself. Any one person in any group can and often does hold back the whole. Societies seem more willing to pander to the most fearful and the least ready than to follow the lead of the courageous and willing.

Also, within most groups, there is jockeying for power. All of this must be set aside or transcended if there is to be some form of group evolution. The concept barely exists in society. I never hear it discussed. It was implied during the New Age of the 1980s, and written about during the earlier New Age of the late 19th / early 20th century East-Meets-West spiritual revival; I am sure I could dig it out of an old book.

Here is what I mean: people choose to grow together for a purpose, and there is an established means of handling those who decide to throw down and resist progress for everyone. I assure you that this is a standard maneuver in situations where group initiation and group evolution are possible.

It does not apply so much in survival situations, where common sense and practicality dictate that the person intent on not surviving does not get to take out everyone else. But this is an evolution of a different kind: voluntary, though driven by an underlying necessity, a less obvious situation than where survival is the bottom line. There is something here about learning how to cooperate. And this always implies knowing how to deal with those who refuse to do so.

We are going to see all of these, and various combinations. Western society has fallen for "every man for himself" and the whole notion that everything must be private all the time. There is no notion of "the commons." Even parks are being privatized.

There is exceedingly little shared space anywhere. The idea of "the commons" in the digital space disappeared years ago; the idea of "equal time" for viewpoints on TV went out with black and white sets; and it seems we all tacitly agree that you can buy yourself into anywhere or anything and that's just fine.

The philosopher kings coming up with this are all aristocrats, billionaires or their equivalent. This is a Hunger Games strategy. If only their endless fear of people waking up and rising up matched the reality.

Anyway — you will be at the intersection of these three general possibilities. You stand at the intersection because they all apply to

you; and because the 10th place has as a major theme leadership. It's the intersection of individual and group authority in any chart, and with Aquarius there, the effect is multiplied.

I suggest you take the situations where you have the option to speak up and stand apart voluntarily. At least they will give you practice and experience. The situations that you don't want are certain to arrive. And when they do, you will benefit greatly from knowing how to handle them effectively, and from being a ninja where group dynamics are concerned.

Jupiter conjunct Uranus in Your Sign

One of the main events of 2024 is a conjunction in Taurus, that of Jupiter and Uranus. The short history is that Uranus showed up in 2018, and describes all manner of financial insecurity. It also describes a constant shock to the notion of values and principles, which these days seem to have the value of a Bazooka Joe bubble gum comic.

However, they are still extremely important factors to consider — if only because your integrity matters. Let me repeat that. Your integrity matters. However, for it to be an effective tool, you are going to need to bend and sway in a strong wind so that you don't fall over. The excuse of integrity is often used to forestall change or unusual possibilities — or that is what it might feel like.

I mean the real thing: being truthful with yourself and with others; and allowing for a modicum of generosity with yourself — and with others.

You have plenty, and plenty to spare. Jupiter arrived in 2023, which is the sigil of expansion, potential, opportunity and something to offer. Jupiter has kept a safe distance from Uranus for a while; as of this writing, the two were recently retrograde and 14 degrees apart. They are fast approaching one another; with the Sun in earthy Capricorn, the Earth sign planets will station direct, and begin to converge on one another.

That the conjunction happens the day the Sun enters your sign adds personal emphasis. Jupiter conjunct Uranus belongs to everyone and it's one of those rising tides that will lift all ships. It describes a radical expansion of your potential. You will feel that way. The sensation of the necessary elements combining and reacting into a new compound will be impossible to miss.

You may experience it as your fear level rising in response to something positive. Note that carefully. You may have the tendency to resist change due to the potential for loss. However, it will not be long before there is no status quo to rely upon. The concept is already extremely tenuous.

Besides which, the possibilities are incredible — the more so if you open your mind. And the more so if you are willing to take charge of your own life, and understand the power you have to set an example for others, and attract people to you who you may mutually support.

Uranus is about groups; Jupiter is about expansion. Make sure you choose the right people from among the many possibilities.

And in my reading of your charts, you will have a kind of wildcard, where you get to do, be or become just about anyone you want. Clear the small ambitions off the slate and go for the big ones. Pluto in Aquarius should serve to give you a burst of ambition, and also remind you that cooperation is a good thing.

Remember that Jupiter conjunct Uranus is a one-time conjunction; however, it's also the beginning of a cycle. It represents a point of commencement, and leaves you lots of room to grow. However, once Jupiter leaves your sign, you will need to use what you've learned about the expansion principle and put it to work for yourself.

Gemini: The Money Angle

There is a financial aspect to all of this, which I will begin by saying involves having an actual financial plan. Soon after the conjunction, Jupiter moves into Gemini. This is your financial angle; no complaints

there. Jupiter is almost always helpful except in matters of speculation, where bets must be hedged.

However, Jupiter in Gemini famously lacks direction. It can get caught in little debates (of which you already have plenty). As regards Gemini covering your most important financial angle, your cash flow is sensitive to Mercury retrograde. Therefore, I suggest you learn to work with it like a sailor uses a tidal chart.

Without speculating how, this would primarily include a monetization plan. Set up all those accounts, like Stripe and Buy Me Coffee and the rest of them. Connect them to your bank account — now. Get it done. You want the vehicles for the money to come in, when it's there.

Then you need a marketing plan, which is not the "all about you" advertisement but rather putting your two or three most valuable commodities into a presentation or format where they can reach others. You simply must up your game here, no matter how good it is today. I realize the competition for ideas is brutal and everyone thinks they're a genius.

Learn to emphasize the meeting point of what is unique about you and therefore how you can uniquely serve others. The value is what matters; perceived value is not solid enough for you, though the notion of marketing is to work with the perception.

Sedna is also transiting into Gemini. I am not sure what to make of this, though its qualities are closely related to Pluto in Aquarius.

Humanity seems to be driven by dualism — and in the human realm, that finds its home in Gemini. This manifests as "us against them" but also as "me against myself." If you are too busy fighting yourself, you will not be able to take on the necessities of your growth, nor the challenges and the responsibilities of the world around you.

What I will call the "Gemini work" involves resolving those inner debates and deliberations you have with yourself, and which tend to be the most paralyzing elements in your psyche. You must think from the standpoint of abundance — it's all over your chart right now and

for the foreseeable future. Sadly, Taurus is famously cheap, and this does not serve you.

An example was Fritz Perls, co-founder of Gestalt Therapy. One reason we don't hear much about his incredible, effective, no-bullshit method today is he was too frugal to invest in its future (such as a properly equipped office), though he could certainly afford to do so.

Your Relationship to Technology Evolves

Every Taurus likes old, handmade things. You probably think of new technology as a cross between ugly, convenient and a necessary evil. However, all of the important assets in your chart are connected to the use of technology — anything in Gemini or Aquarius, for instance, and anything involving Uranus.

I suggest you aim high here — equipment better than you think you need. You must leave yourself room to grow, and also not be frustrated when your tools get in the way. The difference between chintzy equipment and good stuff is about double. Do the research, make the investment, and have some allowance for redundancy.

Part of what you've been working through the past decade or so is the poverty consciousness of your family, particularly on your mom's side. You must make the determination that you are worth the investment; and take it out of the category of luxury. Anything that is a tax write-off falls in a different category.

This would be a good time to make friends with technological developments. I'm not saying sign up for the Metaverse with the latest Oculus visor; I'm saying take some advantage of what the technical environment is offering you so that you get some of the benefits rather than just the detriments. In some real sense, your professional experience and development depends on it.

Events in Aries: Self-Revelation

One of the most unusual things about Taurus is the location of the sign Aries, which for every sign is an indicator of where and how one seeks

self-realization. As the sign before your own, Aries is in your 12th place, where it has a way of disappearing.

This is one reason why you are such a private person, or feel like you need to be. However, you may feel like you live in a house without a roof, because the whole notion of privacy has been eliminated from our society. Most people who knew about it barely remember it, and young people were never properly introduced to it. By privacy I don't mean an envelope nobody opens. I mean a sanctuary within your own mind.

Such is very important to you now, and you're unlikely to have much external support. And these days most people cannot contain themselves from broadcasting their thoughts to the digital world, and therefore Google, Bing, ChatGPT and the rest of them. You might consider carefully the appropriateness of anything you share with anyone, and never seek "therapy" or "advice" in any public forum unless it involves a recipe.

Aries, wherever placed, is essential as a vehicle for finding yourself and your place in the world. So if what Aries represents seems to be missing, you may be on a constant quest for who you are and what you want. There is no easy way to lock into a worldly activity and automatically feel like you're at home. For example, Scorpio's Aries is in the 6th place, so work is an easy way for it to find self-actualization, identity and meaning.

Leo has Aries in the 9th place, which describes an approach to spirituality that does not require formal religion but rather thrives on travel, spiritual approaches, and education as a means of finding themselves.

To place Aries into the 12th might have the feeling of having gone missing in some way — or that you're somehow everywhere. This can create a helpful spiritual effect, if you're aware of it. Among the things that can be found in the 12th are all sorts of transcendent and dreamy experiences; anything involving an altered state of mind; meditation; and sex.

Though Western astrology does not account for this, Vedic astrology says that the 12th contains “the pleasures of the bed,” and I reckon that includes more than a new comforter (which will always make you happy). So do not think of sex as anything less than one of your most important spiritual approaches to life, and an important means of finding yourself.

The issues that may come up along your sexual and relational journey have the potential to present you with special challenges, and you may seem to be carrying some weight that is not your own.

Plus, there is the taboo of being a sexual person in any way other than someone who might march fully clothed at a pride parade.

An idea from my Book of Blue project might make a helpful meditation: Self-awareness is inherently erotic. And that which is inherently erotic is a celebration of all of life and existence.

There is more: the 12th is a connection to “the world beyond the world.” It’s one of the houses in the chart that contains various entrances, exits and dwelling places of the past. You access these places via your dream body, which to you is as real as your physical body. Yet the Aries 12th can also come with the sense that you’re trapped in something— potentially your own existence and your physical body.

Add Chiron to the picture over the past few years and your experience of spiritual questing, self-seeking, and inner journeying may be greatly accentuated. Many questions associated with this placement have been pushed to the surface.

And now Chiron is going to experience a total eclipse of the Sun in April. This is going to push many hidden factors up to your awareness.

Note that the eclipse conjunct Chiron is just the warmup to a series of events that mark the peak of Chiron in Aries, which includes the conjunction to Eris in 2025 (very close now), and then Saturn and Neptune arriving there. You are going to have a lot of support in your self-discovery process.

All the work you've done up until now will make sense, and if you feel like you've missed this dimension of experience, this is an excellent time to begin. The exact Moon/Sun conjunction to Chiron will help you drop a kind of anchor into your own depths. You will be reminded not only that you exist, but how important it is to stay connected with your sense of your own being.

The more you remember yourself, the more available you can be to others — and the less you will need them to remind you who you are. Your inner awareness can become so strong that you need no external reminders. Yet for this to develop, it's essential that you do the "inner work." Part of that is ensuring that no portion of your personality or your psyche is taboo. This includes everything that you feel, all you've done, your desire nature, and any way you may feel injured.

There is no better metaphor for "healing your relationship to existence" than the full activation of Chiron in Aries in your 12th house (the eclipse, a few weeks or a month before your birthday). Activation events will come on strong as Chiron approaches the conjunction to Eris.

The result of all of this may be a very strong sense of who you are; though I would propose that it's always good to have a little doubt and to keep the quest going.

The End of Pluto in Capricorn — Though There's More

A major chapter in the story of this lifetime is the way you've experienced Pluto in Capricorn — as a 9th place event, which is another expression of your spiritual life. The 9th was originally about the church and anything "foreign." Today it pertains to the whole of one's spiritual quest, education and international travel.

To have Capricorn in this house is not an easy situation, as it's difficult to feel free. Capricorn is a containment structure and the 9th is about expanding your horizons. Cap 9th can be given to "spiritual materialism" and a kind of moralism that does not leave you free to make genuine ethical evaluations.

However: Pluto is now finishing working this territory, and it transforms everything it touches. There is a diversity of results possible. One is that you're no longer under the influence of predecessors — such as parents and great grandparents — whose orientation was on structured religion (even if they didn't call it that; there are many clones of the religious model, especially the "corporate mentality").

It's likely that you were compelled in some way to make contact with the deeper levels of your life purpose and develop a philosophy suited to your life and not a bygone era. You must still be careful about falling for viewpoints that are self-serving, by which I mean various programs and cultural games.

Be vigilant about religiosity. And remember that those with a connection to God are usually humble and have nothing to prove.

As I wrote about above, Pluto is moving from your 9th place (Capricorn) to your 10th (Aquarius). The 10th is about action and your relationship to power. With Pluto there, it's important to carry with you the lessons of the 9th house (spiritual connection, ethics, learning, worldly experience) so that these may guide you on the next stage of your journey.

The 10th demands respect: for yourself, for others, for authority, and for your own sense of mission. It'll be important to subvert the sometimes petty rebellious nature of Aquarius. Instead, be thoughtful about what you want to change, what you want to do, and how you want to be known.

The Aries-Libra-Capricorn Nexus

There is a somewhat complex pattern in your chart that spans from Aries (private inner space) to Capricorn (spiritual and ethical considerations) to Libra (your sense of your wellness, which influences your relationships).

A lot of planets are involved and I draw them into a chart at least once a day, considering their influence and what story they are trying to tell

me, so that I can tell you. What I can say is this: if you are concerned about something that is deeply personal, put it into words. In that way you will understand it (meaning yourself) better, and be able to bring it into a dialog with the appropriate person or people.

The keys are: in language (beginning with written), followed by appropriateness of setting and discussion partner, and connecting several matters that do not seem related. Some of them come from the distant past, and they relate to what you perceive right now. This is often a key with good therapy or spiritual work.

A central theme is appropriateness: what is appropriate, and for whom? Or try this: to what extent is it appropriate for you to be who you are? As if you had a choice! But that's the question, and it presumes a measure of adapting to some expectation of someone else. But whom? And moreover, why?

Ultimately the equation boils down to what you can put into language, therefore, express in a coherent way. If this was about "art therapy" I would tell you, and who knows, maybe an intuitive mode will help you find the words. Yet you want to get out of the amorphous, undefined concept without a center, and plant a pin in the map — using language: words, of which you know the specific meaning and inflection.

You will see what I mean when you get there. By the way — events, discussions and developments around the solstice, then again around Jan. 20 (give or take a few days) will provide insight into what I'm talking about here — whatever it is.

Beyond the Core Delusion

One last item for your written reading. A theme has developed woven into the previous 4,900 words, and that is the boundary between private and public, individual and collective.

The center of that theme for you is in Pisces, your 11th place: groups, your circle of friends, and organizational experiences; which relates to

the revenue from professional activities (astrology key: the 2nd and the 10th).

Neptune in Pisces since 2011 or so has been an influence driving the utterly unrealistic, seemingly drug-addled development of digital consciousness. It's the very sigil of, "If I believe it, it's true," and, "My personal truth is THE truth." In fact, that's way too nuanced; Neptune in Pisces for many people removes the boundary that would distinguish personal from absolute.

So we find ourselves here in 2024 where the idea translates to, "The world is flat and if you don't think so, you're an idiot." The inconvenient distinction between belief, knowledge and absolute truth has been removed, in the minds of what I wished was a cult or subculture but which is really the dominant frame of reference.

Why this involves you is because the 11th place is so crucial in any chart. Humans are social; the 11th should be given two or three times the emphasis of many other houses.

Having Pisces here makes you a master of the social realm. While Pisces can be retreating and seeking solitude, that does not affect you when you want to be out and part of the social world. You are a genuine adept. But Neptune's presence here has made it very difficult for you to have a realistic sense of who you are, in the company of others, especially when outside your home.

This same property makes it easy for you to shapeshift within social environments, though that places a potential compromise on sincerity. And it's also difficult to see who is being sincere in social and organizational situations; you may have certain people all wrong.

Additionally, wherever Neptune goes, it can create a sense of isolation. That would be on par with the past few years, though in Neptune style, it's more the feeling of invisibility, or being the boy in the plastic bubble. It's never as bad as it seems.

Another factor is Nessus in Pisces, extant since around 2014-15 and seemingly growing stronger by the hour. This is the woke factor, that is soaking into everything. Nobody is ever anti-racist (or whatever)

enough for this latest moralistic purity campaign. And this may be warping your perceptions of yourself and others.

Nessus in Pisces is also victim chic, and you have it in your most social house. Most actual survivors are not into any kind of stylish claiming of social cachet (these days, there are few others).

Beware of anyone who attempts to make themselves special in this way, and quickly nip any tendency you may find to make yourself so. It is a trap, in all directions.

Cleaning Up, Clearing Out

Saturn is now in Pisces, and is your best friend there in the house of friendship. Where Saturn goes there is the cosmic squeegee or clutter buster; it's the ultimate defogger, now in the space where there was so much fog from Neptune, and Neptune-like Nessus.

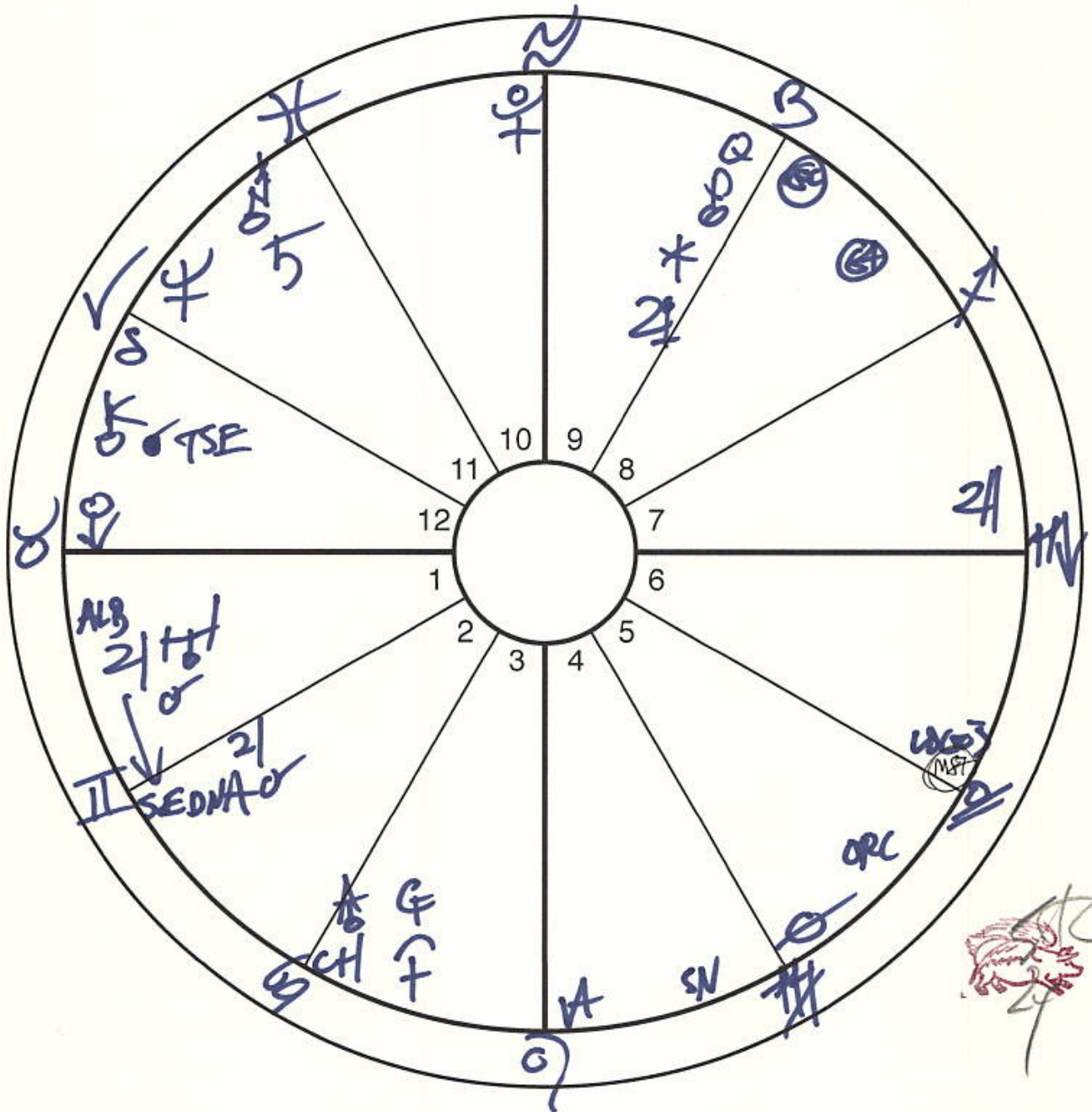
Be eager to clear out of your life those who are not truly your friends; to qualify as such, they would need to be friendly, loyal and helpful — pretty much following the Boy Scout law. Anyone else is something else.

Saturn will set limits on all that Nessus or Neptune might do. It will help you maintain definitions where there might otherwise be few, in Pisces. And this, in turn, will help you socially and professionally. Recall that Saturn is the traditional ruler of Aquarius, which is your house of action and profession. There is nothing better, if you're a serious person.

Saturn's advice for situations where there are challenges is to do your part, and laugh off what you have no control over. In the game of life, whoever has the most fun wins.

2024 +

Taurus



Overman

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Transits of May 7, 2024

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