



*Tide sweeps into the Bay of Fundy, a channel located between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. This is a bucket list thing — and I was able to hitch a ride on an airplane, at an airport that had officially closed.*

## **Inside, Outside: The Keeper of Tradition**

Somewhere In Between for Cancer

By Eric Francis

**W**HERE TO BEGIN? After much thought: Let's move from the general to the specific.

Every sign is largely defined by its opposite sign. The two work together, and to understand one it's essential to understand the other. Really, what is called 'opposite' is not — the concept is more like another facet of oneself, or two aspects of the same idea.

The sign Cancer is a water sign defined by the Moon, which has the shortest cycle of all non-Earth objects. It's constantly shifting positions and changing signs about every 60 hours. It's visually different from day-to-day. It's associated with the tides, ever ebbing and flowing. There are 29.5 days between New Moons.

Opposite Cancer is Capricorn. The hardest of the earthy signs, Capricorn represents what is stable, solid, well-established and all that does not change quickly. It is said to be ruled by Saturn, whose cycle is 29.4 years. This temporal relationship obviously was not missed by the people in togas who made up the astrological system; the two signs face one another. There are many day-to-year relationships in astrology and they likely emerge from the day-to-year relationship of Cancer and Capricorn.

Both signs are closely associated with family.

The two interplay like the sea meeting the shore. The ocean is shaped by the land in the immediate sense, and changes the land in the long-run. In my photo of the Bay of Fundy above, where there are some of the most extreme and rapid tides in the world, you can see how the rising and falling waters have shaped the rock formations they embrace.

You depend on the solidity, structure and stability of Capricorn to define your intimate relationships — and your relationship to existence. You rely on and value structure and tradition. You want stable experiences of people that last a long time. Others depend on you to constantly keep things moving, to refresh the waters and to make sure that the fixed structures always change enough to be moving and alive.

## **Then Came Pluto in Capricorn**

Since 2008, Pluto has been in Capricorn. The ultimate agent of change, the unstoppable force, Pluto has made its mark on the world as we have lived through its presence in your opposite sign. This began with a banking collapse and recapitalization, which included

major insurance industry players. And every day since, we have withstood some new radical alteration to the structure of the world.

Pluto in Capricorn culminated with the conjunction from Saturn on Jan. 12, 2020 — and within weeks, 4.4 billion people were under lockdown. Saturn-Pluto events come with a contraction of human activity, increased fear and loss of liberty. They also produce a few gritty individuals who dare to rise to the occasion and do what they can.

Translated into personal terms, Pluto opposite your Sun or ascendant has come with radical alterations to your concept of relationships. It may have seemed that suddenly, there was nothing and nobody you could count on.

At times, perhaps all the time, this was profoundly destabilizing. You had to be the one to hold the center of your world together. You could no longer rely on external factors to do so. It was not just people who were changing. It was your entire experience relationships. When you think of what that was like 16 years ago and what it is today, you may decide there is little resemblance, except for one thing.

It is possible that through the action of Pluto, you have come closer to making contact with a certain essence of relationship — the soul essence. Pluto has also stripped away all that was not true, which has cleared much ego clutter from your life, and moved you closer to the surface and forefront of your potential.

It's likely that there were days when love was a word for nothing left to lose, and that is painful when it happens. Yet it also brings freedom. It's important to gratefully part with what you do not need and do not want. And finally, your Pluto transit has left you in a place where, without your known emotional structures, you have had to form new ones — that means being open and vulnerable.

Also likely is that much of what you have parted with, including some long-held ideas, has left you feeling your potential. You have been freed from many past structures, and this may include corporate ones, and family ties. Liberated from many external structures, and moreover, from certain elements of the past that were only constraining you, you're now much freer to live on your own terms.

Let's consider how that might look — because there is big news coming.

## **The World is Waiting For You**

Let's go from the general to the specific again. Another property of the sign Cancer is that while you are an inwardly oriented person, you are often called to be an active participant in some facet of public life. You may be an introvert, but you are social.

You strive to find yourself in the world, through the actions you take, and what you become known for; and you must be yourself when you're at home.

Because your work — represented by Aries on the 10th place of motivation, drive and ambition — is your most important place of self-actualization, your work is therefore a spiritual path. We see this a second time in the house associated with your day-to-day work activities, which is covered by Sagittarius. In all respects, what you do must have personal and worldly meaning, or it is not worth doing.

Most people do not relate to work in this way. For this reason, you must care personally about whatever you do — it must be relevant. And you thrive on that elusive thing known as respect.

You will experience this as a marked new phase of your life, when your most tangible relationship to existence shifts in a way that you've never experienced before. This will happen repeatedly through 2024 and into '25 and '26.

As much as you were confronted by what was falling apart, crumbling or being removed, you are now going to be confronted by opportunities to shine, and to make your mark on the world. But this is not about you: there is something it seems you have to do, and are being called to do, though ultimately it's about something much larger than yourself. And that is the way you like it.

## The Chiron Eclipse in Aries

Understanding that one fundamental element of tension for the sign Cancer is that you are inherently focused on your home, family and immediate surroundings, and at the same time, so drawn into the world as a participant; this is going to be an exciting year. I don't want to raise your hopes without justification, but the energy is moving, and it's moving you into some kind of new position of contact with your mission.

Your qualities of personal integrity, growth and self-discovery will be essential to your success. Many people feel a calling to public life because they want authority, or want to make an impact. Others want to be famous, often to compensate for a feeling of inadequacy. And the lowest among them want to use the public trust.

This is why being naturally introspective and even introverted makes you so adept at participation in things larger than yourself. The first place this is likely to have taken hold is family leadership, even when you were very young. And this is the spirit that carries forward, even into the corporate and civic aspects of life. If it does, you will still be responsible for any home-based leadership that you have.

Two major events in Aries occur in 2024, calling you to the next stage of your life. The first is a total eclipse on April 8, and second is the 2025 Chiron-Eris conjunction coming into close range. While the latter event is exact in 2025 and 2026, it will make itself known this year and is already an active part of your life.

Let's take these one at a time. While Chiron has been moving through Aries for several years, it comes to a peak this year at the time of the eclipse. Eclipses are major events that have personal influence, that 'activate' part of your chart, and that weave together the public and private realms. A total solar eclipse conjunct Chiron is not a transient event; it's a rite of passage as important as your Saturn return(s) are/were.

With the help of Chiron, the 10th is where you put on the mantle of your true power. There may be the feeling of "that was true all along."

At the same time, it may feel a little like a kind of veil being lifted, allowing people to recognize who you are. The recognition most likely follows years of effort and self-development, and you will be ready for it even if you're not quite certain that you are. There is always a slightly awkward moment of emergence into a new level or role in life, though you've been through this a good few times. Being visible is uncomfortable for most people.

Chiron stands out as a maverick, and often does so boldly, because it's the only thing to do at the time. This will not be like wanting to work in a certain field or in a certain company, but more like being identified by a recruiter or search committee as the right person for a highly specific role for which you are ideally suited. You may or may not feel that way, though there is an element of external validation and a touch of providence to this experience. It will help if you trust that you are in the right place at the right time.

The presence of Chiron accentuates the holistic principle: the whole and the seeming parts all contain one another. Integrity is experienced as integration: the facets of yourself working in harmony toward a world in harmony. Both Chiron and Eris seek wholeness and its expression within a dangerously fragmented world. Setting an example of personally healing from this global collapse of personal integrity is essential to your wellbeing and that of everyone around you.

You are more visible than you think, your role is more integral than you think, and you are setting an example for many more people than you may imagine. The only teaching is by example. Your words matter, but only to the extent that your actions are consistent with them.

## **Chiron and Power Wounding**

There is one other aspect of Chiron that it's essential to mention. Chiron has a relationship to the healing process, which implies wounding. It may be that you're reconnecting to past injuries, whether with your family (particularly your dominant parent), or previously in your professional life.

Perhaps someone (such as a parent or boss) told you that you could not do the one thing that you want to do the most. That may have had a way of damaging your confidence or holding you back.

Chiron can also represent the shock that changes everything, such as the car accident that Brian Eno was in that led him to be a founder and innovator in the field of ambient music; Chiron was transiting his Aries ascendant at the time.

It was a total rebirth and he emerged to become one of the most influential record producers in history. I'm not saying car accidents are good; I'm saying that he made the best use of his and turned the experience into a superpower.

The essential maneuver of Chiron is that the healing process is about the accumulation of talent, ability and a form of personal power — none of which you would have without the original situation. This happens whether one likes it or not, though it can go wrong if not handled consciously.

That would mean, for example, repeated re-injury rather than learning to focus and ascend. If you are someone who has experienced this, I suggest moving slowly, and being reflective. While it's true that the past is gone, Chiron transits benefit from a careful review of events. Without seeing your chart, one timeframe I would recommend looking at is between 2002 and 2004 (all three years and possibly late 2001). Another is 1995 and 1996.

Chiron was last in Aries in the late 1960s through the mid-1970s, with a major peak around 1971. If you're a Baby Boomer you might even remember that; it was a very different time, though there may have been events that shaped your entire concept of yourself and your mission. It was a much more idealistic time — I would ask if there is some sense of injury to your ideals that may be involved. I know that had I lived through that time and all of its promise, I might be disappointed at what is happening today.

## **And as for Chiron conjunct Eris**

Eris is a longterm visitor to Aries, and unless you are 94 to 100 years old, it's been in Aries since you were born (the transit started in 1922). Astrologers have a diversity of theories for Eris, but most of them are not students of media history and the associated environmental theory.

At one end of this transit, the world was being electrified, telephones were being installed in homes and offices, and radio was happening. You may think we live in disruptive, intense times now where the impact of digital conditions is concerned. However, the impact of these devices completely changed society and how people relate to one another and think of themselves, just like we are being warped and transformed by digital communication.

Chiron conjunct Eris, which happens between May 2025 and March 2026, will bring our digital experience to a head — and you are personally involved due to the 10th house professional connection. There is no way to avoid involvement with digital technology and no way to duck out of its effects.

But there is one thing you can do, which is to insist on being human in all of your work, and in all of your leadership capacities. This conjunction is ALL about the preservation of your humanity in the world where you are called to be a leader. That, specifically, is your leadership role.

And it may be especially bold. Whatever develops around the time of the April 8 eclipse, it is going to be preparation for what develops the following two years. Please use these opportunities well.

## **Jupiter Conjunct Uranus: The Social Realm**

There will be a similar broadening of your horizons, and your fortunes, in the social spheres of life. The two form a relatively rare conjunction, also in April, that can set the tone for many years of your life to come. Take full advantage of this aspect.



For some years, Uranus in Taurus (your 11th place, the most social) has been largely a disruptive influence, but one that has added some excitement. For many, these past few were dismal years, and there were many upheavals generally starting in the 2017-2018 era.

The world is not usually very adventurous, though this is a bold placement. One of the main effects of the 2020 crisis was a disruption of social and cultural life, which has been returning in a miniaturized format.

When Jupiter arrived in 2023, that signaled a turning of the tide. Particularly with Taurus covering your most social house, you prefer a scene that evolves slowly and tends to be stable. Yet there have been times when your social experience bursts into a whole new reality just like that (often in the springtime), and this appears to be what is going to happen. Uranus indicates groups, and the speed of events. Jupiter represents the expansion principle and also a global, or at least international, flavor.

The solid ground of Taurus represents principles and values. Your true friends are the people with whom you have important things in common, and not merely having a good time. Taurus in this house also describes wanting to build stable, solid situations that develop over time. Yet there are rare moments when you are able to refresh your life with the presence of those who share actual common ground, and this year is one of them.

You will be visible and carry an aura of relevance, if not authority. This will be an attractive force that you can use to your advantage and for the common good. Put yourself in the best possible places to be: where you feel called, where you feel welcome, and where people are doing something that you determine is pertinent.

It's more likely to be something odd or unusual that defies easy description, though the essential factor is a sense of purpose. If you get among people and you determine that they are not your scene, move along quickly. If you're not into the scene, you do not need to announce your departure; an Irish good-bye will suffice.

Another element of the 11th place is revenue from your profession. (In classical astrology terms, it's the 2nd of the 10th. The 2nd of anything is the money that's involved.) Taurus is a good sign to have here, because it represents something valuable and steady.

The conjunction of revolutionary Uranus and expansive Jupiter could blow some limits out of your life. Both of these planets have been retrograde for quite a while and recently turned to direct motion — you may have noticed the improvement already. But do not stop here. Stay in the game; be on the lookout for opportunities and offers, and make sure you take some risks with what you do and what you offer.

Under this transit, particularly backed by the Chiron eclipse in the 10th, your fortunes could turn very quickly and rather boldly. Given that this is happening in the 11th place, it's not such a big financial risk. For Capricorn, for example, it's happening in the 5th house of financial speculation, which calls for more care and caution; more losses are possible, as are tremendous gains. For Capricorn this transit has the aura of quit while you're ahead. For Cancer, it says keep on going. The difference is that 11th house earnings are just that; 5th house earnings are more about your skill in gaming.

## **Jupiter and Sedna in Gemini, Your 12th Place**

We have arrived at three really interesting transits, all of which probe deep into the future, and deep into your consciousness. Each has a touch of mystery to it, and of making contact with deep secrets, your imagination and your spiritual life.

Since we know something about Jupiter and Uranus in your 11th place, let's continue that story into the 12th. The turn here is that while the 11th is highly social, the 12th is something that exists deep in your awareness, and much is concealed there.

There is a scrim covering this house, such as when you can only remember a dream in a sketchy way. Maybe if you approach it right, more details will percolate through.

It's associated with matters of your ancestors, so in that sense it's a portal to the distant past. And from Vedic astrology, we learn that the 12th is the house of the "pleasures of the bed." That too can feel dreamy and, if we recall that sex makes new generations, it has an ancestral feeling.

Gemini here in the 12th conceals the dualistic side of your nature. You hide it well, though it comes out when your 12th is in some way activated. So, too, can the holistic instinct — to be a unified person, which can happen through a dialog with yourself. And now the 12th is about to light up your inner mysteries. (It is, for sure, the most unusual house from a worldly standpoint, the least understood and the most mystical of the lot.)

Two planets are entering at about the same time: Jupiter, a familiar presence (and Cancer's exalted planet, so one of your co-rulers) and Sedna, the most distant planet known to astrology. I will not say much that is conclusive about this, though I can delineate some themes. We will learn much from the conjunction of Jupiter and Sedna on May 27, 2024.

What makes this all so special is that Sedna has been in Taurus since 1966. Discovered in 2003, we have never known anything else. And since it orbits the Sun only once every 11,400 years, we have no idea what was going on the last time Sedna was in Gemini except to say that the glaciers were retreating in the Northern Hemisphere.

So this is about something very old, and staying in contact with your ancestral past. One pattern to your astrology that I am seeing is that you're in the role of being a keeper of tradition. As this house and Sedna take you to the distant past, this is an invitation to use its properties as a passport into areas of your psyche that are not usually accessible.

There is a shamanic quality to these movements, by which I mean a quality of walking between the worlds. And there is a reminder to hold the contradictions you find within yourself and not try to resolve them a minute later. Don't worry if it's uncomfortable; that is where your real strength is.

The 12th has a way of magnifying what touches it. The houses get progressively larger as you move through them, and the 12th is the largest of all — vast in dimension, with the ability to expand anything to such proportions. And now Jupiter will be involved, and this strange world Sedna. I tell the myth in other places, though the essence is what's happening in the background, in the environment, which might ordinarily be invisible.

In Gemini, we have a comment on the mental environment — which in this case for you would be deeply personal and introspective. For other signs with this event in more worldly houses, it will have a more mundane expression. For you, there is an urgency around maintaining an inner psychic hygiene. Sedna is deep, and you must move differently in a deep element.

Whatever this is about will serve as a reminder that your interior mind is like a hall of mirrors. Within that space, you must be reflective if you're to know what you really think, feel or believe. There is an important message of not rushing to conclusions. The 12th is imaginative, and that's saying use your imagination without letting it run away with you.

I think if I had to sum up this complex transit through a complex house, the ultimate message is: know thyself. And see if you can get some sense of how the dominant mental environment is affecting you; how it's shaping your state of being, and your approach to yourself and the world that surrounds you.

There will be clues available by studying the activity of Mercury, whether in your natal chart or in transits as it moves through the sky.

## **Pluto Entering Aquarius, Your 8th Place**

Today I checked Pluto in the 8th house in the oldest book written about Pluto, from 1934 (four years after the discovery) by Fritz Brunhubner. It's a scientifically and spiritually literate work, far better than many things that followed it. It was published in German and I can't quite tell when the American Federation of Astrologers (AFA) translated it, typed it and printed it on what looks like mimeograph.

What old Fritz said: Pluto associated with the 8th house is about mediumship, by which he means he found it in the charts of many clairvoyants, occultists and spiritualists. (He does not comment on the signs involved.) The 8th is the house of the affairs of the dead, so this makes sense.

Because it moves so slowly, transits of Pluto are similar to the natal positions. Cancer has Aquarius in the 8th place, so you carry a society around in your house associated with the departed. Here, we have yet another inference of ancestry and contact with the distant past (there are others, and it's a bit much to get into in this forum.)

He suggests, speaking from 90 years ago, that you be cautious of the mental and spiritual stresses associated with this kind of activity. One reason I prefer astrology as my primary approach is that it's so structured. It's also intellectually grounded.

You may, with this transit (which lasts 20 years) feel not just a calling to be in contact with those who are on the other side, but have the direct experience. Cancer is already predisposed to a kind of clairvoyant power, and certainly an openness to the topics involved.

Pluto 8th suggests you be highly conscious of who you give your power to, and learn from the ways you've surrendered it in the past. This involves both individuals and groups, as that is always implied by Aquarius. The 8th is primarily about financial and contractual agreements with others (marriage contracts, prenups, wills, trusts, etc.). You want to be careful who you make agreements with and what you sign.

Contracts without an escape clause are reason for concern. We all give our power away in a diversity of ways, and it can take a lifetime of discipline to learn how that happens and how not to do it. Aquarius on the 8th crystallizes patterns, and Pluto is going to shake them up.

During this transit, there will be an art to not energizing that which you might at some point be resisting. And if this transit is about knowing your power and using it, that is not in some New Age sense of the idea, but rather in the legal, moral and spiritual sense of the idea.

Such calls for absolute sincerity — and having as few secrets as possible so that they cannot ever be used against you. And, at times, you will need to use confidentiality, such as not describing the terms of a business agreement. Being sincere also means that you mind your own interests, and protect the interests of your friends, allies and partners.

Never deal yourself a disadvantage. This is a skill that many need to learn, and that you will find yourself benefitting from. Carlos Castaneda tells the story of when don Juan was going to town to meet up with important men of the village, and wore a suit.

Castaneda is surprised by this, and asks his teacher if he's being insincere by dressing up for the occasion of doing business with the honchos in town. Why not just 'be yourself'? And he says no, of course I am not being insincere. I am expected to dress appropriately for the situation, and I'm not going to deal myself a disadvantage.

You can morph that lesson into countless other forms and apply it to different situations.

Please be aware that we live in extremely stressed-out times and many people are living in a state of constant fear. This is exhausting for them and for those who must deal with them.

Many will have a hard time adapting to Pluto in Aquarius because it's going to shock them out of their sleep. To work with this transit in a productive way, you will need to keep a clean house, in the ever-complex 8th house.

All the most challenging issues of human nature come home to roost here — everything that pertains to sex, death, power, jealousy, contracts, taxes and anything that is transactional. This is one of the zones of life that few bother attending to. You will see soon enough that you have little choice but to attend to your most important business and engage only in honest transactions.

Due to events in Aries and Taurus (places 10 and 11) you will be highly visible for years to come. You will be seen as a person of

influence, and this must be handled carefully — that is, with extraordinary care, but not fear or paranoia. It is imperative that you handle yourself with dexterity and lightness in every situation where you find yourself, and that will include a measure of understatement even as you offer yourself as you are.

As you may know from some of your 7th house experiences, Pluto does not mess around. It's possible for there to be significant power waged over you with Pluto transiting your 8th, whether your solar chart, or natal chart if you are Cancer rising. Therefore, no part of this transit can be left to an unconscious approach if you are to learn, grow and love your way through it.

In a single word, this is about integrity.

## **Matters of Authority: Deep Family Influences**

There is a current factor in Capricorn, your relationship house, that is influencing you in a number of ways. It's difficult to pin down in a definitive way, and I'm going to keep developing it over the next few months. It involves the presence of a Chiron-like body called Pholus, and a diversity of other influences that bring in your family and old relatives, all clustered at about 8 degrees Capricorn.

I suggest you weed through the different ways that your predecessors, including your parents, handled authority and what some call "authority issues." This seems like a general topic, though there are likely to be specifics. You may know of certain individuals who just wanted to rebel. Others were more diplomatic. Others may have verged on tyrants. All of these people were conscious or unconscious influences on you.

Without writing the book that this alignment deserves, the message is that you need to have an extraordinary sense of what is appropriate in any given situation. It's important to recognize that this will involve 'topping' people at certain times, and being a little more submissive at others. You need to know when which approach would be more suited to your situation and the personalities involved.

There is also a poignant caution about the influence of drugs and alcohol anywhere in your environment. I'm not suggesting that you go straight-edge, but rather that you have a sense of what the influence is, and recognize that it can be subtle and work over time.

Alcohol and prescription medications fall the most precisely into this category, because they are all socially acceptable. That acceptability does not suspend consequences, and often hides the potential for them.

If you keep coming back to the question of what is appropriate for you, in your current situation, that will be a helpful key to inquiry. These placements may connect matters of partnership to matters of your relationship with superiors or subordinates. It's always helpful to remember who is who, and not let anything imaginary or that comes out of a bottle level the field inappropriately.

In effect, the bottom line is that we need to respect both the authority figures in our environment, as well as honoring the responsibility to take authority.

## **Saturn and Nessus in Pisces, Your 9th place**

There is one last angle to cover, and I think we've got the basics down, and some of the subtle points. Let's end with your fellow water sign Pisces, which for you is the 9th place — the one associated with spirituality, your relationship to what some would call your 'higher self', and what others would call God.

It's also the house of scholarship and learning, and all things international, including travel. The 9th is an important house if you don't want to be a block, a stone or a tree stump. Pisces is an excellent sign to have here, due to the spiritual nature of both. It's a vision of a world with wide oceans and distant expanses. You have room here.

For about 12 years, you've had Pisces-oriented planet Neptune transiting here. Normally, Neptune in Pisces would be considered unrealistic (see how I've interpreted it for the other signs). The 9th



house is a good place to have Neptune, as they come, because at least we're talking about spiritual influences in all cases: Neptune, 9th, Pisces. It grants a presence to your spiritual consciousness; if treated well and not contaminated with drugs and drink, Neptune is an inspiration. And it has very likely served that way for you, signifying faith in the unseen.

Saturn arrived here about a year ago, for a three-year run. Now, it's entering the peak of its Pisces journey. Saturn is here to clean up the edges of Neptune, and contain that mystical energy within a thought structure. This is an image of discipline, and taking a serious approach to all that the 9th house represents.

One example of doing this is to stop believing things. Belief is the lazy substitute for knowledge. It's an even worse substitute for 'truth', such as, "I believe this, therefore it's true," but nobody gets that detailed about it. In digital terms, belief = truth, but Saturn in Pisces chasing up Neptune is not having it.

Save belief for, "Look at those pretty brown birds in the water. I believe they're ducks." But that's it. Then you check.

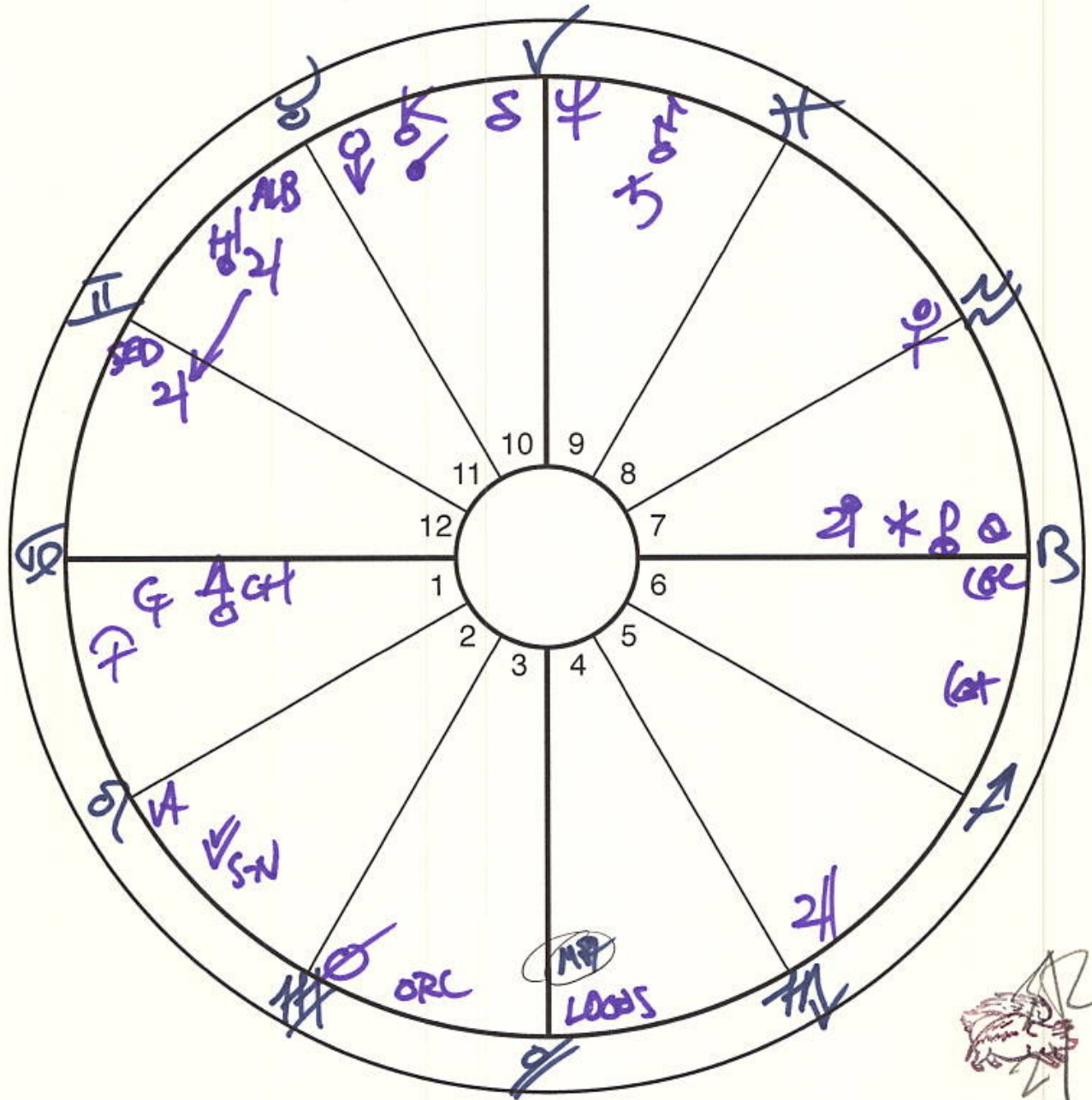
Next and next-to-last is the concept 'agree'. People say, "I don't agree with that," therefore, "I am a rabbi, you are a ham and cheese sandwich, therefore you are not kosher." That is kind of like, "I don't agree with you, therefore you're wrong."

Who fucking cares if anyone *agrees* with someone or something? And who cares how sanctimonious they are about it? In digital terms, the more sanctimonious anyone is about *not agreeing*, the more wrong someone else is. Try this: "I don't agree, but you may be right. I don't know." Any time you hear yourself or anyone, but especially yourself say the words "agree" or "believe," that's a good time to know when you may not know. That's from the *Pocket Guide to Epistemology*, one of my books. That's it — the whole thing.

Finally, Saturn conjunct Nessus in Pisces (taking effect now, into the summer and into 2025), has two mantras. One is: The buck stops with me. Two is swiped from A Course in Miracles: "I am not the victim of the world I see."

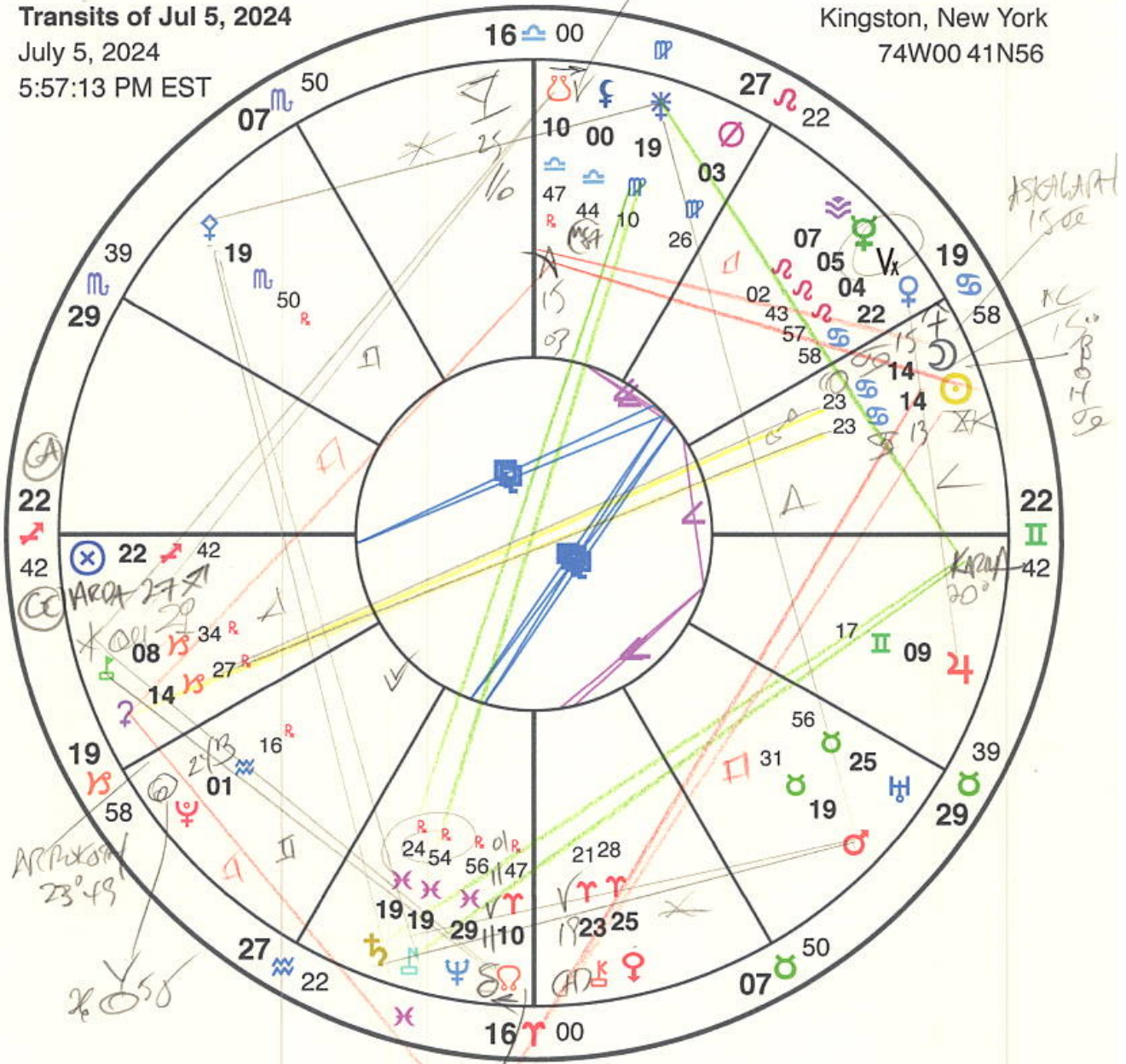
2024+

CANCER



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*Neptune is closely up to Pluto*

