



## The True Mirror

Somewhere In Between for Leo

By Eric Francis

**T**ERENCE MCKENNA ONCE SAID that people have become so alienated from their souls that when they meet it, they think it's from another star system. I love this seeming explanation for space aliens, not necessarily because it's true but because it's so observant of a facet of human nature.

The "mirror of your soul" that you're in the process of meeting is represented by Pluto in Aquarius. This will make two ingresses into your polar-opposite sign Aquarius this year, with the second taking up

residence for the next two decades. So in every way, you are at the beginning of a new era.

Pluto in Aquarius will be in the background of your life all of that time, and occasionally move to the forefront — and this year counts, as beginnings are so important. Pluto will be calling your attention to many things about the world that you live in, including your relationships, your social bonds, and your experience of living in whatever version of the planetary environment.

It's the biggest world-changing story that will never make the news. But you will be witness, participant and recipient of the influence. And in truth, nobody really knows what this is about. We may speculate based on the last time Pluto was here, which was at the very dawn of electricity.

Way back then — in 1777 — Benjamin Franklin was playing with anodes and cathodes and came up with the terms "battery" and "electrician." Today, we are swimming in this Aquarian thing known as electricity. We would not know life without it. Our social patterns are defined by electricity.

There is no relationship on Earth that is not electrified, except maybe (temporarily) for the few kids born without use of an MRI or fetal heart monitor. Even they are exposed to electric fields, which permeate mother and baby.

There is no escaping electricity, and with Leo counter-balanced by and always looking right at Aquarius, this is an essential fact of your environment.

## **A Hot Rock in the Digital Pond**

Pluto's arrival in Aquarius will disrupt many things, because it's going to drop a hot rock in the pond of digital consciousness, which in our time has become consciousness itself.

It's also arriving in your main house associated with relationships (the 7th place), a zone in the chart that also describes the environment you

experience when you look out at the world. From this point of view, the two are folded into one idea astrologically: relationships, your total environment, and your relationship to that environment. This is about all you see when you look at the world at eye-level.

The intensity and presence of that environment are about to increase exponentially, calling you to have special awareness and to pay attention to what you're witnessing and experiencing. There is little that you can take for granted under a powerful Pluto transit. The whole exercise seems to be taking nothing at all for granted, and making each assessment and decision as it presents itself.

There are going to be changes in your relationships; you will need to be much more focused in the moment in order to determine whether someone is right for you, and whether the situation is right for you. The stakes go up considerably; it's no longer possible to let things unfold forever and see maybe how they work out. You are going to get direct information, and much that was concealed will be revealed.

Pluto is an alien presence, yet it's within us, driving growth and awareness. Some time ago a book was written about the visitors known as the "greys." The basic concept was that the greys manifest on our level of consciousness; if we are violent, we experience them as such. If we are peaceful, we experience them as such. This may not be an absolute, though it's an idea worth working with: where your mindset is makes a big difference to your experience of life — probably the most significant.

In the widest sense, Pluto in Aquarius provides humanity with a choice between two primary options: digital fascism or group initiation. We are good at one and not the other. Digital consciousness leaves nearly everyone hung out on the line, strung out and alone, allegedly connected but disconnected — walking around with arms and legs, but with their awareness located somewhere other than in their body.

Our groups tend not to evolve; they tend to turn on their members and on themselves. We will learn a lot about how this works, and get to make some choices about whether this is really preferable.

Humanity does not recognize its peril. Some individuals do. Others see the vast opportunity to exploit the situation; there is a billionaire born every day. And the money to fund their lifestyle comes directly from your bank account.

Pluto in Aquarius will deliver a series of shocks to all of this. But for you, the effect is personal, and you will experience many manifestations that others do not notice. And people will notice you. But it's important that you understand the perhaps subtle distinction between electronic tyranny and group initiation. You will be choosing sides in everything that you do.

The ground to explore in this choice is where the individual meets the group. This intersection is an extremely narrow ledge for most people; they either submit to group will without thinking, or they take charge. To distinguish oneself from the group and its various purposes — and its psychology — is way too much for most people; it takes awareness, motivation and guts.

It's usually easier to go along to get along and it seems way too dangerous to stand up. Yet there is a greater danger in the lack of action. We have personally witnessed the horrendous effects of the "do nothing" approach over the last four years.

In your choices, you will set an example to all around you: mainly, of how to set yourself apart, or of submitting, or of exploiting. The setting apart is the very basic unit of true leadership, what you might call leadership from behind. As in, not marching out front, but conducting yourself impeccably in the midst of intellectual and social chaos — and cynicism.

For reasons you will discover and that I'll do my best to explain, your example counts. It counts down to the thoughts that you think and the words that you say, as well as the decisions that you make and the creative product that you share with the world.

## **The Jupiter-Uranus Conjunction in Taurus**

The 10th place in astrology is where individual lives intersect with the public realm. It's also an important place to look for information about family, and there is a connection between the two. I'm mostly going to stick to the topics of reputation, responsibility and examples set for others.

The 10th is an excellent indicator of both opportunity and success, and to say the least, your stock is rising in value. It's doing so in one of the most structured signs, Taurus. Without considering any planets, the placement of Taurus at the top of your chart says you value tangible achievement. You value being, and being seen, as impeccable.

You know your reputation is a thing of value — the most valuable thing you possess. And you know you only have one, despite the schizophrenic nature of the digital environment, where people identity hop and split their existence. This is not your style, though you've been under some stress to adapt your old-school ways to the new school of society seeming to crumble.

There is one other thing that deserves mention before we add any planets to this discussion. You are intent on being known and regarded for who you are and what you actually hold to be true. Doing anything for the sake of image that violates your values is dangerous territory, but mostly, you're not interested. It's not just that you have integrity; deceit is not appealing to you.

That said, I could have begun this section by saying you will have some incredible opportunities this year, and projects you've been working on will very likely come to fruition. While I cannot make promises from here, I can do everything but.

The astonishing meeting of Jupiter and Uranus in your 10th house says you will be visible, you will be known for what you do, and your horizons will expand. While Leo has a reputation for liking to be seen, this is a special kind of visibility, and given the fragile nature of the whole environment you must handle yourself with a high degree of caution.

It will be easy to get lost in some of the excitement and adventure. Stop yourself and stay focused. You are not arriving at a destination; this astrology is a point of commencement, the beginning of a new cycle, and there will be a series of developments following any breakthrough. You will have the opportunity not just to succeed, but also to sell out your principles — and they are more important than anything.

Different people work on different scales. Some work within a corporate structure. Others are more independent, whether you're an artist, or part of the gig economy, or have your own business. In any situation, whatever form of success, you want an actual piece of the action.

For example, in a corporate setting, that would mean some kind of ownership or partnership stake.

If you are the talent working in someone else's framework, you want an ownership stake in your own success as much as the creative freedom to go as far forward as possible.

If you are on your own, then focus your goals, in a world of what may seem like infinite possibilities. Know, long before any major developments, what you want from life and about how much. Jupiter conjunct Uranus in Taurus is convertible into any kind of value or commodity, social or material. So have a tangible idea in advance, and then be ready to adapt to your situation and to take advantage of the unexpected.

That is always a surprise factor where Uranus is concerned, and often the best one. You can plan, and then something else will happen. So rather than planning carefully, know your desires. Set some goals, and let them be a little higher than usual. Then go about your life and see what develops as you do.

Take the steps you think you should take. Invest yourself into your affairs and your creative process, and do not worry about setbacks. Manage your costs carefully; do not be cheap, and do not be a spendthrift. There are things you need, and things you don't need. Having quality, up-to-date tools of your trade is important; you know

you need an upgrade when the tool gets in the way of your work rather than facilitates it.

## **Aries, Chiron and Your Spiritual Quest**

Leo does not need religion; you know that your spiritual path is to self-actualize, not to connect yourself to someone's idea of God. You have your own, and you seek and find your connection inwardly. This places a high value on your growth, as opposed to the religious trip of being a good person on the terms of a group, organization or authority. Self-knowledge is the root of all of your wisdom.

You have therefore probably appreciated the fact that Chiron has been transiting your house of spiritual endeavors, as he is the ultimate teacher of self-awareness — particularly in Aries. This comes to a peak with a series of events starting this year, including a solar eclipse conjunct Chiron.

During these years, you've been weaving together what may have felt like strands of yourself. Self-concept as a cultural thing differs from decade to decade, and ours is under the influence of digital technology — which has the tendency to turn the whole into less than the sum of its parts. Chiron is about seeking wholeness; it is the embodiment of the holistic principle, and this, in turn, is the essence of your spiritual life.

The April 8 eclipse is calling you to focus on your inner life and respond to your spiritual calling. This often feels like an intense need or desire to figure out who you are. In the starkest terms, the eclipse and all that surrounds it describe your opportunity to heal your relationship with Source, your higher self or God (however you think of it).

You've made many small and a few large discoveries along the Chiron in Aries journey (2018-2027), though there is something unusual coming. And it's going to be important that you not get lost in the sauce of outer world success, and keep your focus inward on your own self-understanding as if it's your single most important priority. One way or another it will be.

True inner focus is all-but-nonexistent right now, in our world blown inside out. The concept of interior awareness has nearly been vanquished, though currently it's very strong in your chart. This may be a source of some tension and discomfort, and yet is another thing that distinguishes you from peers and colleagues. Don't worry about this — the example you set as someone who lives from the inside out is a necessary one for everyone, though you're the main beneficiary.

As discussed in the previous section, your chart indicates some kind of unusual recognition for your accomplishments and an opportunity to carry your work forward. There are people who handle this kind of thing poorly; they may crave fame or notoriety which then has a way of defining them. You are fortunate that you have equally strong aspects drawing you into yourself as you have projecting yourself into the world. This is much better for your sanity, peace of mind and overall ability to thrive.

The Aries story continues over the next few years — you seem to be going through some kind of initiation as you get ready for yet another advancement or promotion associated with Chiron's move into Taurus in 2027 — though it is likely to have the feeling of something finally falling into place. Questions you have about yourself may find a point of settling in. While that may seem to be in the distant future, the events of the coming year seem to present a hologram of your life to come.

To the extent you are an influential figure in the world around you, you must be grounded and strongly rooted in yourself. Who knows — maybe that will become a thing in the world, and maybe you will have something to do with its advancement.

## **Address Any False Lack of Confidence**

Before I get into the best of your astrology — developing the stunning events in your 10th place, Taurus, let's cover some seemingly smaller issues that could end up making a difference in your life.



First, there is a hint in your chart that you may have a confidence issue. But don't worry, it's not really true. It just seems that way. I call it the "false lack of confidence."

Nobody would ever guess this, of course. Few put together that what many describe as confidence is really just the courage or tenacity to do what you might be reluctant to do. Confidence is refusing to be embarrassed, which means to be *barred* by your own feelings.

Many people you've heard of 100 times have significant accomplishments to their name, yet did not commence with the idea they would ever succeed. They did something because it was the thing to do.

Others get where they are out of raw determination, which is a form of confidence — or ignoring its absence. They're simply driven, and stop at nothing, and demand their recognition and rightful place whether they deserve it or not.

Others have personal assurance and that they might "fail" never occurs to them. And frequently you will hear people say, after some significant accomplishment, they never would have gotten involved if they knew what it entailed, but they're glad they did it anyway.

You've probably experienced bits of all of these at times.

However, it's often true that you've good reason to trust your abilities, leadership and resourcefulness, though you doubt yourself anyway. Maybe you've done something five times and doubt yourself the sixth. Or you get most of the way somewhere and then wonder if you can get the rest of the way there.

False lack of confidence can have nothing to do with ability or prior accomplishment and describes what Plato calls gumption traps — incidents or states of mind that consume your willingness to try.

If you find yourself hesitating, it may be a good idea to make sure there is not some material reason you may be feeling that way; do a check of your communications systems and make sure you packed your toothbrush. And if you didn't, have confidence that you can improvise when you have to.

## **The Power of Disclosure**

Society seems to be obsessed with secrecy; at times, it seems like everything that succeeds is based on it — secret formulas, sauces and other trade secrets, black budgets, plans within the plan and so forth.

While for practical reasons there are things you don't want to talk about (such as your crypto key phrase), generally it would be wise of you to live without secrets. By this I mean being transparent with the people you care about and being free of withholds. It's fair to estimate that anything concealed today will be revealed at some point, so it's a temporary state of affairs.

You may need some form of clearing session with an intimate partner. However, you don't want to be backed into a corner or pressured to "come clean" about anything.

This is the best way to start, in all of your relationships. It requires less courage than it seems. But what is necessary is a restructuring of your personality such that you're not building little compartments into every relationship.

It's safest to assume people see exactly who you are, therefore there is nothing to hide. Your ideal state is to be approximately the same person with everyone; that is, to be yourself all the time. What this exercise will do is show you the ways you may conceal certain facts of your reality. You gain a certain kind of power in doing so, though you lose another. And there is actual liberation in not living your life based on withholds and compartments.

Note that there are some situations calling for information to be shared on a "need to know" basis, and because actual timing and competition are factors. Obviously honor any NDAs you have signed. Your basic level of communication allows for honesty with people like your immediate family, your partner, or your closest friend. If you're in a situation where this is not possible, it's good to inquire why that might be.

Speaking of confidence: there is nothing that builds self-assurance more than being exactly who you are at all times. No pretenses, pretexts, scirms, schemes or Chinese Walls. You are you, and that's the full plot summary of the book of your life.

## **More Capricorn: Learn (and Respect) the Old Ways**

Even as Pluto leaves Capricorn, there continues to be very strong emphasis on the sign of all things old. A direct line has been opened to the wisdom of the past, and at the moment it's thundering with information.

It's likely that for most things, old approaches and methods usually work better than new ones.

Do as much as you can in physical form: see people in person, use paper documents, read actual books, and generally keep it real — the old-fashioned way. Meetings make better impressions than digital encounters, and your abundant star quality shows in person much better than it does on a glowing rectangle.

The influence of the past is very strong right now, and it's up to you to make the most of it — not be confused by it. It might be enough to say that your immediate ancestors more than survived on less money and with none of the conveniences that you have.

If you think you're disadvantaged or having a hard time, consider what they put up with and what they went through. Note some of the traditions that they honored. Experiment with doing things the way they did, just to see how it feels, and to maybe discover something about them and yourself.

It's a good time to honor the purpose of traditions. They exist for a reason.

## **Food is in the Crosshairs**

You are what you eat, and how you eat is influential in how you feel. Therefore, pay attention to how you feel when you eat whatever you eat, and also how you feel where you eat. If you eat out, notice how every restaurant smells.

In all matters of wellbeing — physical and mental health — food is the one topic for you on which all else pivots. This is an important year to get this part of your life together.

One challenge here is that nearly all foods for which people have their preferences (and habits and “addictions”) — are available. If you transported today’s supermarket back to 1970, it would seem like the Boutique of Exotica. And nobody would think you could touch your Star Trek communicator and a pizza would show up at your door.

The air you breathe is important. So is the water you drink. However, food is in focus: what it’s made of, where it comes from and whether you’re eating what is right for you. The thing to remember about food is that it’s a unique experience for everyone, and no trend or un-customized approach is worth taking too seriously. You probably know by now what works for you and what does not.

Included in this topic is the ancestral material pouring in from Capricorn. Your body is probably talking to you; this kind of information flows in through the physical realm of feelings. However, you’re likely to have a mental fixation on the importance of food and what you need to do about it.

There are a lot of theories of diet. Two of my favorites are, eat local food grown in the ground near where you live (or as much of it as possible); and eat what your grandparents and great-grandparents ate. Many refinements of these theories exist. There are blood type theories, advice on how to handle the changing seasons, latitude-based theories, and so forth.

Local is a good idea generally, if it’s the right food for you. As for ancestral eating habits, the natural question is, does your grandparents’ diet really work for you?

People were a lot less inclined to get fat 75 to 100 years ago and even more recently (study photos of people in New York City in the mid-20th century to prove this). They could eat quite a bit more in the way of carbs than we can handle. They moved around a lot more than we do. A ride on the sweltering subway in 1950 was as good as an hour at the gym and in a sauna in 2024. Nobody paid for that; “the gym” is a relatively new development for mainstream culture.

There was also better quality food. There was no corn syrup and very little in the way of additives until fairly recently (the past 50 to 60 years or so). Food had to be fresh; frozen food is a relatively new invention.

So if you’re going to do something from the past, make sure that you get the details right and have a good match — and whatever you eat, make sure that it’s actually food, meaning, minimal chemical invasion. Many traditional foods have been soaked in preservatives and are being sold as the real thing.

However, there are also many “artisans” doing things the old way — at the outset of Pluto in Capricorn, I proposed that everything old would be new again. It’s worth cutting out the restaurants and investing in the actual food (the costs are similar).

There are wise traditions in every ethnicity. If my grandparents ever heard of kimchi, it was from me, finding the stuff in Chinatown for a buck a quart. So I would suggest that with such tremendous emphasis on your ancestors as a source of information about both food and wellness, that you look to other old traditions, and evaluate them. Then strive to keep their point of view in the conversation.

Know what they did and why, and know what was different then and now. The chances are they had to walk a lot more than you do, and they ate a lot less sugar.

## **File a Flight Plan When You Fly**

This year, and more so over the next few years, you're likely to have many opportunities to travel. Most of these will be for personal reasons rather than business; with Jupiter glowing on top of your chart, many of the trips will be mixed purpose. Travel will help you succeed. When possible, get to places in person, meet people and get to know them.

Not everything is predictable; travel requires keeping your options open. The most important thing that will happen on any journey is you will get to know yourself in a new way. For this reason, make sure you take trips alone, without anyone else who might encumber your personal intentions for a trip.

It's worth planning your trajectories, and filing a flight plan with the control tower. But only schedule what you have to. Good plans are flexible, they leave wiggle room, and extra time.

Plans are often exercises in considering the contingencies. Over-planning is oppressive, but a good sketch gets you a long way toward your potential destination. Let the story and discovery process of any trip unfold. This argues against tight itineraries. But knowledge is useful.

For example, studying maps is a helpful thing. GPS might get you somewhere, but it lacks context and does not show much in the way of options. You need an overview when any travel opportunity arises — that means a large picture, and maps that show context.

Address matters related to food sourcing in advance rather than upon arrival. These days, food is one of the trickiest aspects of going anywhere, especially if you're focused on the issue and have dietary restrictions.

## **Jupiter - Uranus: Preparation Meets Opportunity**

It will be worth keeping your life in order and your priorities aligned with your truth. A series of events describe a major shift in your visibility and social standing. Primarily these occur in the signs Taurus and Gemini, the 10th and 11th places of your chart.

The first event is a conjunction that happens every 13 years or so. But it's never happened like this before. In fact you're likely to have experienced Uranus transiting this angle of your chart as a destabilizing influence. That's because Taurus is home to what is dependable and solid — and Uranus is not. Your professional ambitions are usually steady and focused; but under the influence of Uranus you've had to learn how to adapt quickly.

And generally, you are a traditionalist, while Uranus wants you to catapult yourself into the future or have it spring itself upon you. If you want to use some caution around matters of advancement, you're correct. You are on an accelerated path already, so there is no rush. The underlying energy is that of Taurus, which honors what has already been done — and also rewards the sincere adherence to one's values and principles.

But meanwhile Uranus is insisting on looking at things a new way. So work with your viewpoint first — your line of sight.

Then comes Jupiter (already in Taurus, though forming a conjunction to Uranus on April 20). Jupiter magnifies whatever it touches, and right now that is your potential. It also plays up the international angle of anything and contains an abundance of experience and maybe wisdom. Certainly there is knowledge implied, and the urgency to use what you know.

Put the two together and something interesting and unexpected is going to develop in how you are known and how you serve the world around you. Note that this is already underway during the April 8 eclipse. So there is an inner calling and an outer one that will both be booming, and it's up to you to put the two together and do something interesting with them.

Given the unusual nature of the astrology, the first thing I would suggest is keeping your expectations modest and taking it as it comes day by day. There is no way to specifically plan for what develops; you simply must be open and ready, listening to your intuition and paying attention to the world around you.

The opportunities will arrive. One way you can prepare is to get your CV, portfolio, website and business cards in basic order. They don't need to be top-flight professional; they need to be correct, up to date, and look pretty good. None of this will close the deal, though you will want to have it ready. You are the selling point, not these objects. But the objects are necessary.

Facilitate ease of communication and have some of your work product readily available. Always have something in your pocket that you can pass to someone so they can conveniently find their way back to you.

Events develop into the 11th house in May, as Jupiter enters Gemini. This house as well is the scene of an infusion of new energy from Jupiter and also from Eris, which has not changed signs since the mid-1960s. The combination is about public recognition but this time it comes with the question of what you do with it. The primary events are in Taurus, and the expression is in Gemini. Stay close to yourself and what you hold true.

## **Chiron and Pluto are Driving the Story**

The underlying confrontations of your chart come from Aries and Aquarius: Chiron and Pluto respectively. These are important spiritualizing forces that insist you focus on core matters of growth and life purpose.

Whatever happens in the outer world is drawing on them both as a power source, and also as a point of alignment. And both place significant personal responsibility on you for how you handle yourself in the world.

This theme runs through your chart: your power is increasing as a result of all you've done and all you've learned; and you are being



guided to keep learning and to maintain your integrity at all costs — it's your most important asset.

Pluto is going to confront you with the power of groups, and instruct you what you must do to stand up for yourself. Study group dynamics VERY carefully and make sure that you're the one calling the shots in your own life, taking leadership within your family and circle of friends. The leadership I am talking about is mostly by example.

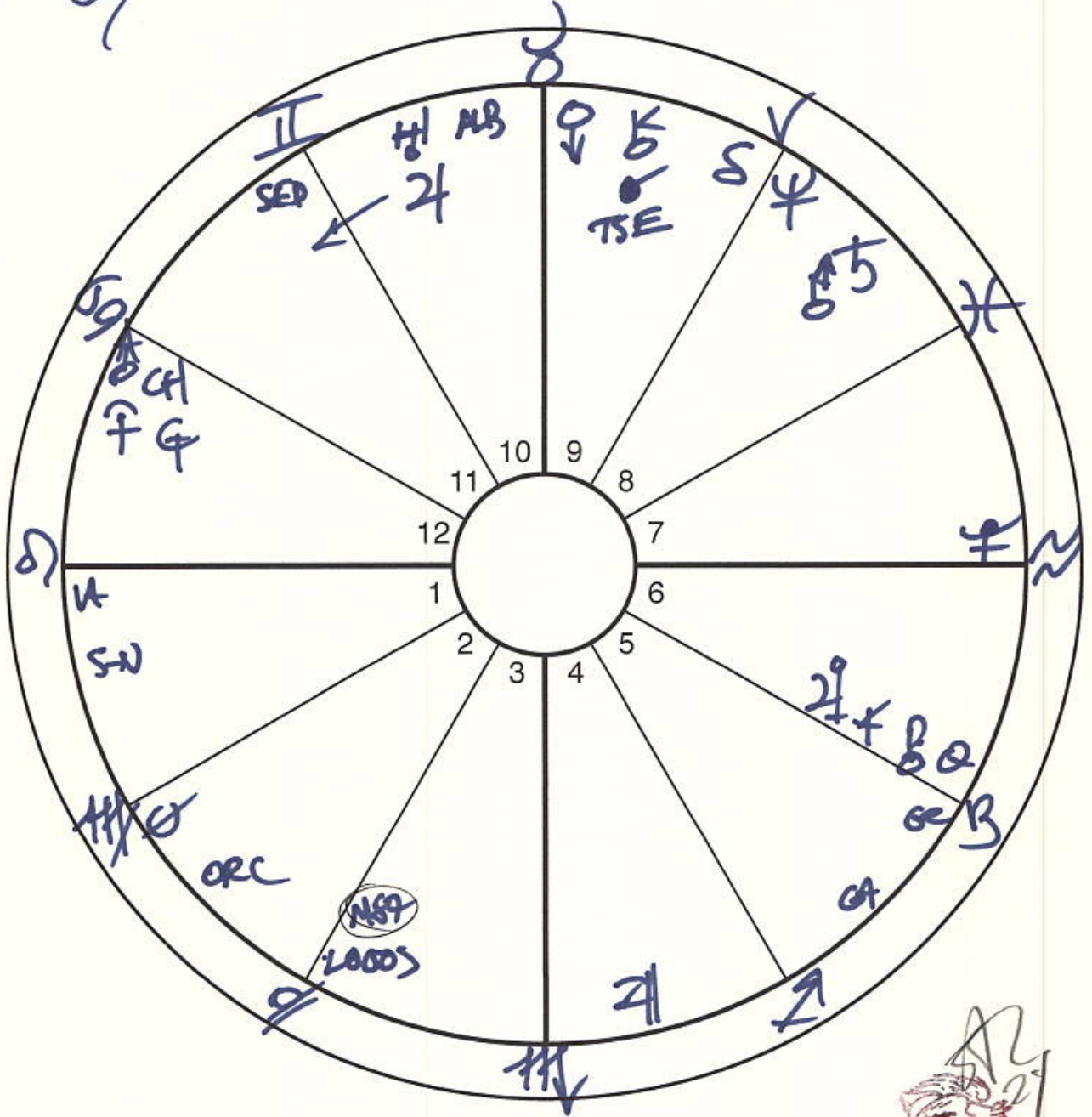
Pluto in Aquarius is also the living embodiment of "the medium is the message," meaning that the entire communications and media environment delivers the message — not any particular program or idea. It's this total message that you must respond to, not the little parts that can be translated into memes and icons. What is the total vibe? What is the conditioning force programming you to do?

Therefore, *study what the environment itself is saying to you*, and respond on those terms. You will have such a sense of coherence and alignment with "the times" that others will be wondering how you are handling yourself so deftly.

Meanwhile, Chiron is thundering through your most spiritual house, the house of self-awakening, calling you to focus on your soul's purpose — and if you're not there, to find out what it is. Circumstances will conspire to ensure that you do.

2024+

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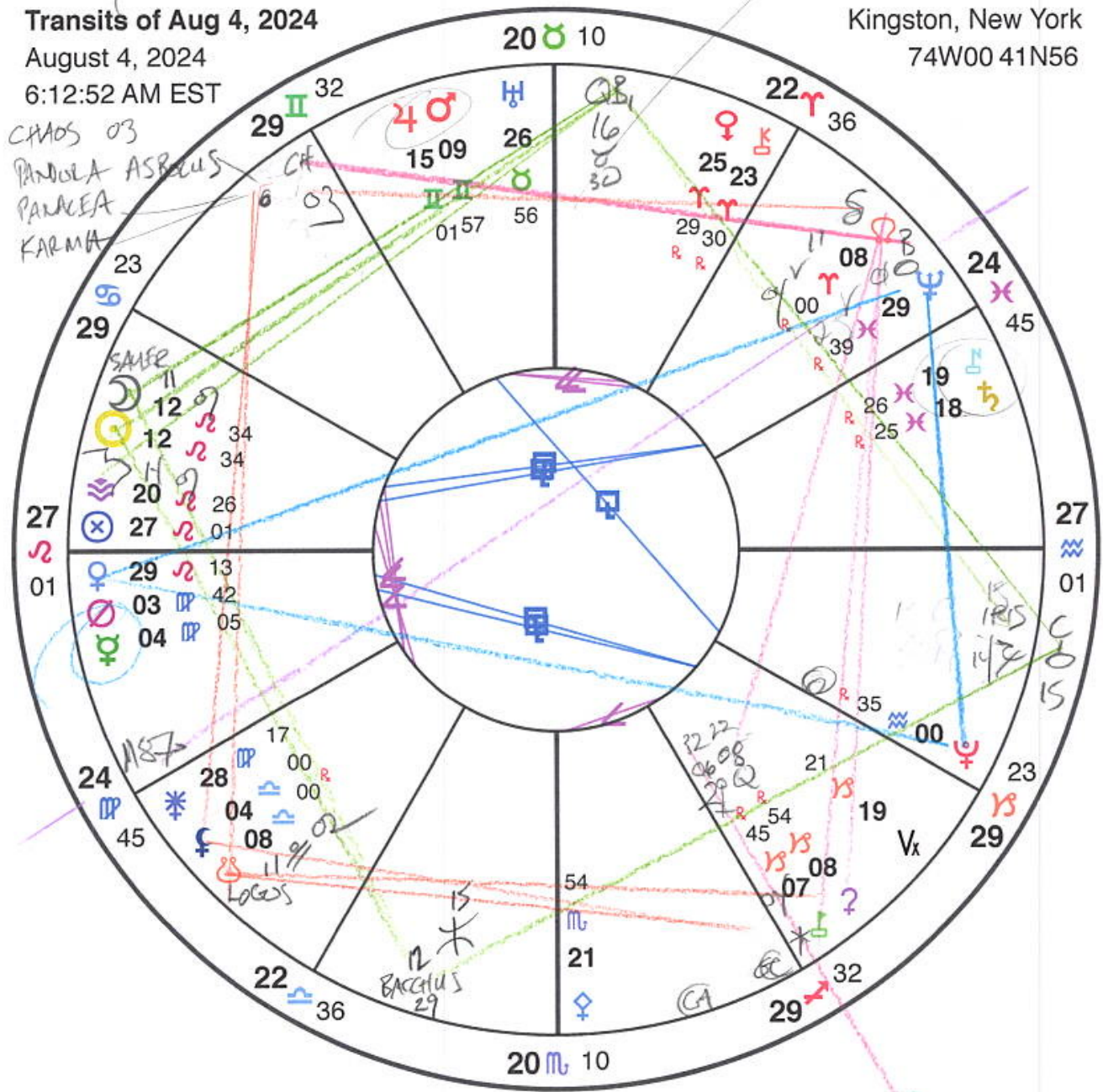
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### Transits of Aug 4, 2024

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