

Sunrise over New Paltz. Photo by Eric Francis.

The Radical Re-Discovery of Yourself

Somewhere In Between for Virgo

By Eric Francis

HIS IS A MOMENT of awakening to yourself, in the most radical sense: getting to your roots. Awakening implies sleep; you may have been dreaming about something that seemed extremely realistic, yet going from one dream to the next. Much of this involves relationships, which are often like a dream right before it turns lucid — right before you figure out you were dreaming.

In this sense, you are on a forefront of growing awareness for a society that is struggling with its attitudes and values. From what I can

read in your aspects, you're holding yourself to a high standard. This will serve you in a time when you are rising in the world, and entering a phase of what is likely to be unprecedented success.

That calls for heightened awareness. Your actions will teach more loudly than ever. Your example, to yourself and to others, has never been more valuable.

We have some ground to cover before getting there in this reading, and that suggests a measure of effort and consciousness-raising in your daily life. Should the question arise, "What rules am I under?" the answer is, your own, or that is the first and most probable assumption.

It will be worth the focus, the effort and exercising your power of decision. This begins where it must, in your most personal relationships. The consistent failure of nearly all social activism, progressive philosophy and attempts to change history is omitting the need for everything to extend from the personal to the political and not vice versa.

An aspect of relationships is your experience of your environment. I'm talking about Neptune in Pisces, which is your 7th house or place. This is the area that covers a diversity of relationships and partnerships.

It also describes your living environment generally: all that you see and experience in front of you. This angle of your chart has been under the influence of Neptune for more than 10 years. Neptune, the plants of dreams, fantasy and inspiration, is a subtle influence, and it is also difficult to see what's happening when it's having a negative influence. You might call this the fantasy principle: one can be unrealistic and not know it.

What has changed (among a few other factors) is that Saturn is now the dominant force in your relationships and your environment. As the reality principle, it's calling on you to focus your awareness and to get real about your life, your relationships and your experience of the world you live in. Saturn always does this to some extent, but it's the combination of its directness (it's right in front of you) and the contrast with Neptune.

You will thrive on this support. You may feel at times like you're losing something, but if that is true, it probably was not serving your best interests. And Saturn always gives more than it takes away. Its primary gift will be relief from illusions, and the power to do something about certain bad decisions of the past.

Saturn's role is to help you establish boundaries; to teach you tune up your yes and no; and to put a protective wall between yourself and that which might infiltrate. That protective wall might arrive in the form of keeping potentially harmful people away, situations that don't work out, delays, and seeming obstacles.

Pay attention to those, and perhaps ease off on trying to break through them. Consider, in the first instance, that any such condition is likely to be helpful. I am someone who generally teaches my clients to be self-determined but this is an instance when you would benefit from considering that some things are "not meant to be" for a good reason.

There is more to this transit, a third factor called Nessus, which (in combination with Saturn) has a specific message. I'll come back to that toward the end. In some ways it's the crux of the matter.

Noticing the Lucid Dream

Most of the time when one is dreaming, it's not clear that's happening. Things just seem a little weird.

In the film *Waking Life* — a rare masterpiece, about lucid dreaming — a character who is a kind of spokesperson for the dream world itself suggests that you can tell you're dreaming when the light switches don't work. You flip the light on and off and the lights stay on.

Clocks are difficult to read. Fine print becomes unstable; that's how most people feel about it — it's not understandable and not worth reading anyway. You look at a package and the type is point size one, printed in gray ink on gray paper. There is the sense of not knowing what's true, and not knowing whether to believe something that might be true.

Saturn entering your awareness in this way describes you awakening from a kind of astral journey you did not know you were on.

Under the influence of Neptune, objects in the mirror of life are closer than they appear. Neptune might make them seem invisible; its influence has a way of vanishing. If you remember how you felt, you might look back years later and wonder how it was possible you responded that way.

Therefore, the presence of Neptune is cautionary: reality checks are required. If you are serious about living in the actual world, it's preferable if you check your perceptions three times, and then keep paying attention to see if there are any new facts. This means staying up with people you consider intimate partners and make sure that you both see the relationship in a similar enough way that you have a real meeting.

There are events developing that are going to raise your self-awareness radically — to a degree that would be uncomfortable for most people, and that would put any relationship to the test. This is especially true for relationships where you have invested your identity. Saturn is here to help, and events involving Saturn's presence come to a peak this year. This may involve a confrontation of some kind, and propose that it will be a meeting with yourself and your perceptions, something far more important than a reckoning in a relationship.

Aries: Finding Yourself in your Relationships

There is another relationship influence at work right now, much more personal. Chiron, a planet intimately related to Virgo, is moving through the sign Aries. In its Virgo expression, Chiron is about healing. It's on a long trip through the place in your chart where you merge with others to the point of losing yourself in them. Virgo tends to seek self-actualization in relationships. This can be true for anyone but it's an important factor to consider when seeking to understand yourself and how your life flows.

The essential process, as it may go, is some version of this: You engage in a relationship, and what starts as merging with another person includes both connecting and finding your true self. This morphs into losing yourself in the identity of another person. Then you might realize you feel constrained, or wake up and realize the relationship must change, or you must move on.

I would note that much of what you're looking for is your masculine expression. Whether you're a man or a woman, Virgo is one of the two most feminine signs (the other is Pisces). Aries is ruled by Mars, which is the planet of self-assertion. I reckon that is what you're searching for, in yourself by way of your contacts with others.

For a while, this was a pretty good idea. However, it's become less effectual as the years of our lifetimes have unfolded, and in many ways it's a total fail. What you want is to be respected by another person as yourself, though for that experience, you must do so first. You want others to respect what you want, and for that to happen, you must be honest about what you want. For that to happen, you must know what you want and be honest about it. There are no shortcuts. Nobody can figure it out for you.

One central issue — not yet identified by society, and don't even think therapists see this yet — is that the concept of "self" has collapsed under digital conditions. At best it has become destabilized, difficult to grasp, and turned inside out. There is very little of the private self left to assert into relationships or wider situations. It's not merely that people who don't know who they are; the idea that one might know barely even registers.

Let me try this another way. In our time, one is unlikely to ever "go on the road in search of oneself" because the search implies understanding that something is known to be missing or incomplete; and if that understanding is not there, the search would never commence. But it might be triggered "accidentally."

Now extend this situation into intimate relationships. They are supposed to be about one self relating to another self; or one self merging with another; but if we remove the notion of self, and don't

have something else to replace it with, the result will be confusion and misunderstanding.

The problem I'm describing here is the overwhelming assault of digital conditions on consciousness. I don't really know how to express this in a way that is compelling enough that anyone will understand, but I will do my best. The philosopher Eric McLuhan describes digital conditions as an assault on the integrity of the body, which is driving people out of their body (and therefore out of their sanity).

He describes the "deep disorientation of intellect and destabilization of culture throughout the world" as a consequence of overexposure to new media. In other words, the same influence that is driving the world crazy is making it especially difficult for you to connect with yourself and with others. He continues, "In the age of disembodied communication, the meaning and significance and experience of the body is utterly transformed and distorted."

Many are wondering why the world is so insane; what has happened to common sense; why nothing seems to be true; why everyone seems so unstable and so many are unhappy. Look no further than digital conditions, if you can focus your mind and senses on the issue. It's not easy, but the problem is looking right at us. It's everywhere you go.

The solution is not as simple as "getting away from your phone" or "going offline for a few days" (as if that is even possible) — any more than that would reassemble a broken vase. But unlike a vase, you have the power to heal and grow. You have the power to be guided by your awareness. You have a natural need to integrate yourself and seek your own wholeness. You are alive and not broken. Yet you may have some work to do in order to gain a sense of being, and to respond to your calling as a healer.

Chiron's Presence: Agent of Transformation

Chiron's presence in Aries, starting in 2018, has begun to address this situation. Often Chiron first getting one's attention is painful or uncomfortable. It can be a crisis or a rude awakening. But it works. Chiron represents you, probing into a place in your chart where you

have potentially lost contact with something — and it's here to help you get it back. If you sense *something missing*, you're on the right brainwave. That is the feeling you want.

Chiron's presence is a reminder that more than ever, your self-discovery needs to be a process that is not dependent on your relationships or dependencies on others. And it also means that your relationships must be sufficiently flexible to accommodate your growth.

What happens when they are not is "disillusionment," or the experience of the relationship not being right for who you are becoming. And one must take precedent. As you know, there is only so much you can stifle your growth.

The assumption that you will remain exactly who you are and also grow at the same time contains a contradiction.

You may be awakening to a new depth of sexual desire, unsure what to do with it. You may be challenging your concept of your "sexual identity," including seeing the whole idea is a ruse. There is no such thing as sexual identity, only what you do, who and what you want, and how you feel about it. A great many people are covering for this basic reality by tagging a label onto their forehead. This is like drinking a cool, satisfying glass of air on a hot day. But really it is worse.

Society is in a sex panic right now. There's a moral drama every 30 seconds. People are terrified and triggered about one of the natural elements of life that could bring them closer to themselves and one another than much else. Even talking honestly about sex now verges on a criminal act, in people's minds. Expressing desire is an affront.

Observing beauty is considered sexist. This all makes it difficult to explain how you feel or what you want; there might be considerable guilt or fear in doing so. The pressure on individuals and on society is driving people insane. Something has to give — and it will. It's just a matter of how and when.

We might look to the total eclipse of April 8, 2024 as a clue and a cue. Chiron has been in Aries for a while, though the experience has yet to

reach a peak. This extraordinary event will light up everything about your idea of who you are and who you may be to others. You will, through events this year, have a whole new sense of context: of where you fit the scene of your existence.

It may take some squirming, like taking off a tight shoe.

Here is the bottom line with all of this Aries. Get your relationships off of the internet and into the real world. You want fire, passion and heat. No amount of megapixels or gigabytes can make up for a wet pussy, a hard cock, sweat, moaning and a meaningful orgasm. You want and need the real thing. Anything else will just slowly torture you.

Pluto from Capricorn to Aquarius

This year you graduate from one of the most important and transformative transits of your life — something related to all of the above. This involves Pluto moving through Capricorn. You have Capricorn in the 5th place of your solar chart, and this is a defining feature of Virgo. The 5th is about fun, pleasure, creativity and games.

Capricorn here is a little stuffy; the 5th wants room to explore and play, and Capricorn takes a grown-up attitude. One result is Virgo children who end up taking on the responsibilities of their parents. You may have grown up young. One result is feeling guilt about fun and play. And along those lines, feeling guilt about sexual pleasure and play may have been something you've had to contend with.

Pluto entered Capricorn in 2008, and began to rework the underlying material leading to this situation. A transit means that a life circumstance changes, by way of an event, or you start to feel differently and choose to have new experiences.

Usually it's both. Pluto represents a deep growth process (what some call an evolutionary process), which has been about setting yourself free from whatever emotional baggage or karma has kept you constrained. Pluto also facilitates deep desire, the kind that can move

your soul, so you've likely had some new feelings bubbling to the surface.

The challenge is that Capricorn is Guilt Central. It's like a storage battery for the stuff. And so the pleasure-seeking instinct of Pluto has burst open a few of those compartments. This can be confusing if you think that pleasure is causing the guilt rather than allowing it to escape. With feelings, you experience them as they are released.

This same movement is likely to have released some of your creative passion. Richard Tarnas, author of *Cosmos and Psyche*, describes Pluto as akin to the god Dionysus. He gives as human examples Jim Morrison and Mick Jagger. Pleasure seeking, passionate, and expressive, Pluto is a liberating force. If you respond to the inner drives that Pluto is opening up in you, you will generally be happier, if only for letting go of resistance.

The thing to remember about the 5th place is that it's not really interested in the trappings of commitment and fidelity. That quality comes from other places in the chart. Capricorn, however, can add a sense of duty or responsibility, so there is a potential contradiction. One way to resolve that is with something like a Pluto transit. It's not always neat and tidy and you have to live through the exploration of your contradictions in a way that may be unnerving. But then you end up with a superpower.

In the end you learn to make friends with all of your feelings, which necessary to be a whole, integrated and fulfilled being. For that to happen, you really do need to pop the compartments and clean the closets and crawl spaces.

This has left you changed — with a new psychic structure. Your Capricorn 5th place will never be the same. If any new clutter accumulates, it will be a lot easier to clear out.

Now, Pluto moves onto Aquarius. This will be a similar process, influencing a whole other aspect of your life: the work that you do, the service you perform, and your general wellbeing.

Virgo's Supposed Obsession with Service

From the 20th century astrology books, we know that Virgo is famous for its orientation on service. Older books tell us that it's about food production and storage. It may be helpful to see how this developed.

The 6th place in you chart is Aquarius. As Virgo is itself the 6th sign overall, there is a special connection for you, and I think this is where we get the orientation on serving others. For all of its associations with health, wellness, medicine, learning, and work generally, it's interesting that the origins of the 6th house involve the military.

That's where the service theme comes from, and it's likely where the medical theme comes from, as there is a lot of tending to the injured in combat situations. Military service is often compulsory; even if you volunteered, you cannot really quit.

However, from here, we end up with the contemporary view of the 6th being a massage room, therapy space or doctor's office.

It's also one place where people orient on work. There are two houses where you "do your job." One is the 10th house, which is about action, reputation and leaving your mark on the world — that is where this whole reading is going. The 6th is the other, which is about doing things for their own sake, not caring much who knows (the 5th is similar in this respect).

With Jupiter and Sedna entering your 10th in the spring, that house will be activated too. There is likely to be both good and unusual news on the career/professional front. See this as being something you've never even considered doing before. Jupiter has come through several times in your life, though Sedna never has. I will get to that a few sections down.

Having Aquarius here places you under social pressure to be of service to people, whether you want to or not. You may love it; at times it may drive you crazy, but you still go back to it. But you don't want to

be pressured — even if you respond to pressure. To be selfdetermined is to respond to your own inner guidance on every issue, and not to some form of peer pressure.

Such is always a theme of Aquarius. This works for you as a stabilizing force; it can at times seem that many of your decisions are made for you, and you know what to do every day. It makes you extremely dependable — until anger or resentment build up, and you rebel.

With Pluto entering Aquarius, the underlying social patterns associated with this experience are all going to shift. You get a "wildcard" moment where you can do a total reassessment of this whole situation. It's likely to involve what you consider your job, as well as your social situation, and organizational involvements. It's also worth checking in with family-of-origin themes any time Aquarius is in the picture, as that is the first group you experienced.

This can be a liberating moment for you. You may suddenly find your voice when it comes to standing up to people who feel you owe them something (such as your time or talent). You get to dissent — and when you do that well, you love it.

But there is another concern, which is that Pluto in Aquarius signifies a cult-like mentality that could incarnate in any collection of people, especially if there are five of more. This seems to be the number where individuality is suppressed unless there are measures taken to ensure everyone's participation and influence.

Here in the digital age, the cult seems to be the new fundamental social unit. Cults always have a charismatic leader; make sure that you don't get ensnared with one (Neptune in Pisces cautions against this as well; Saturn in Pisces will provide you the necessary spine and mental armament to stand up to someone, or end the relationship.)

In any situation that fits this description even somewhat, remember you have something they want, and they are unlikely to have anything that you want — even though it may seem like they do.

You may also be feeing some restlessness at work. Many people tolerate insults and abuses in work environments because they need

their job, or in some way are attached to stability. You are the one who must honor your sense of ethics. In any discussion of this nature, remember that you have more influence than you may think. You do not need to speak loudly, or in any way threaten. All you need to do is present the facts — and then see what happens.

Pluto is very small and has great potency. It also has many facets. In a dualistic approach, they are a dark force of yielding to compulsion, and a light force of seeking wisdom.

We now know that the Pluto system is actually six points orbiting a common center-of-gravity (called a barycenter). None of the other objects are properly a moon, though some astronomers believe they are (including the guy who discovered two of them).

From the standpoint of astrology, the fact of the barycenter says that the real power of Pluto comes from emphasizing the common idea that all the different expressions orbit around. That common idea may not be stated out loud, and it's up to you to figure out what it is. It's something that all matters of the 6th have in common, expressed as care for the world with a warrior spirit.

With Pluto, what you walk away from prematurely is likely to follow you. So, should there be some kind of struggle, make sure that you exhaust your options and persist long enough for people to get sick of the fight — if you value what you're doing.

Health-Related Matters

The 6th is also about health-related matters. The most important thing to remember — and it is very important — is that you be the one making your own medical choices. You decide what goes into your body, and not on the basis of what is so popular. The popular thing is almost always wrong, and besides, you are an individual. Your health, wellness and medical needs have nothing to do with those of anyone else.

Nearly all health fads are useless to you. Aquarius is a challenging position to nurture, though what is mostly likely needed is water —

actual water, to soak in, drink and play with. Water is the first place to look if you are not feeling up to standard.

The next thing to check is electrical fields. Minimize, eliminate, and avoid EMFs at all costs, and please avoid carrying your phone near your body.

Next is your mental state. There are certain signs where state of mind is the underlying cause of nearly all health disturbances. Part of managing your commitments and making sure that you are your own leader is about maintaining a calm environment. So take careful stock of stresses from work — and recognize that most of them are coming from the "collective" atmosphere or some group dynamic that is wearing you out.

You may need more downtime and you will certainly need to work alone more than you are accustomed to. Being alone may be the cure for must of what stresses you out, and then ensuring that you are working with collaborators where there is actual mutual respect. That may narrow down the possibilities quite a bit, though you can be sure that there are certain people around you who qualify.

Return to the 7th House: The Nessus Factor

A few sections up, I described the entry of Saturn into your relationship house, which has been under the influence of Neptune. This is the reality principle closing in on the fantasy principle; the boundary principle cleaning up all that has spilled from the overflow principle; and any other metaphor you like following that syllogism.

There is another factor in your Pisces 7th place, which is Nessus. This is a centaur (akin to Chiron, which makes you especially sensitive planets in that class).

Now, trying to negotiate relationships with others under the influence of Neptune is difficult enough, because you don't really know where people stand with you. The firm, solid influence of Saturn may not fully answer that concern, though it will provide you with a handle. You want and need to know — and that will be helpful.

The two will eventually form a conjunction — in Aries, your 8th house that I've discussed above. This develops into 2025 and 2026 and represents a whole new level of alchemy in your relationships, something brilliant developing that you can aspire to now. And that aspiration means taking no bullshit and accepting nothing but honesty as your spiritual standard.

Getting to the point here, Nessus as a relationship influence is both interesting and challenging. You can see much that was veiled, and make use of it. Depending on how you look at it, Nessus is the victim principle, or the bearer of the message "The Buck Stops Here." It's about taking responsibility, mostly for yourself, though that always expands in the 7th.

With Nessus, the theme of clear boundaries and being accountable for your decisions is the bottom line. There is a sexual encounter in the Nessus myth, though it's unclear whether the exchange was voluntary for its own sake, a fee paid for a service, or a violation. This hazy state of understanding desire and consent is endemic in our culture right now. In true Pisces fashion, what happened can even morph or change. This gives the seeming 'advantage' of not taking responsibility for one's actions — if that is the kind of thing that interests you. I presume that it does not.

The upshot is, if you want someone, then want them. And if you feel it's right for you, act on that desire, and take ownership of the results.

Nessus will settle for nothing more or less than total accountability; there can be no excuses, no projection, no game. Yet those things are the story of our culture right now, which still sustains the game of victim chic. Many feel that being victim is the only way to get attention these days, which is ridiculous. It is unwholesome, and spreads guilt and shame. It's the lard in the delicious vegan dinner.

Saturn will close in on Nessus this year, coming within one degree in July. This is going to cool off the victim trip our society is on. There may be some kicking, screaming and ranting, though the die is cast. This is one situation when the chilling effect of Saturn will be welcome.

What Saturn teaches is merit: the real thing, such as work hard, gain skills, succeed in life. If you seem to fail, try again a few more times. "Do your best" is a real principle, and you are free to hold yourself and others to it.

The suggestion for you here is to be cautious in your dealings with anyone who identifies as a victim. This is different from someone to whom painful, unpleasant or unjust things have happened — to some extent, that is all of us. The *identity* is something else entirely. Also, for anyone who has been injured, one of the distinctions that they are a serious person is that they get help with their problems rather than brag about them.

The 7th serves as a mirror, at the center of what is called by some the "zone of projection" in the chart. Look for ways such may be mirroring any values that you have, or showing you what you don't want.

Remember that a distinctive feature of relationships is that another person's happiness becomes your happiness and another person's problems become your problems. Saturn says it's time for a careful evaluation of how this has worked in your life over the past decade, and how things have changed the past year. Society and many individuals are at a breaking point, and awakening point, where enough is enough. To be righteous is to be true.

The emphasis belongs on sincerity and self-reflectiveness. And of course, you will help where you can — for its own sake.

Your Star is Rising

One of my favorite quotes from the Bible is, "By their deeds you will know them." Deeds is sometimes translated as "works" or "fruits." Note that this is part of a larger teaching about false prophets. These days, they abound.

We have come to the two houses in your chart where the most is happening, though where much preparation has been asked of you to get there. We've been through the houses that influence your relationships, your agreements and your relationship to your feelings and your creative process.

There are two houses at the 'top' of an astrological chart: to the top right, the 9th place, and the top left, the 10th place. The relationship is between theory (9th) and action (10th). Personal ethics are in the 9th and actions in the world are the 10th. It's a great combination to have working together — and much of what we see in the world involves when they are not.

For example, there is this idea that success counts for far more than the consequences of success. Science is not philosophy, so whatever technology does is OK. The teachings of an action or development get a little footnote at the end of the story, and on the scale of our society, it usually looks like a toxic waste dump. Looked at one way, this is the 10th (action) disconnected from the 9th (ethics).

Your chart proceeds this year from the 9th to the 10th. This is a peak of many years of experience and learning. Your fellow earth sign Taurus is on your 9th place of spiritual endeavor, and your relationship to what some call your higher self and others call God. (From a theological standpoint, the two are expressions of the same thing.)

Taurus means you have an earthy spirituality. You don't need a priest or a cathedral. A forest or a meadow will suit you just fine. So, too, will living well, having enough of what you need and some of what you want. And there is something here about building your spiritual house on rock and not on sand. Taurus is skeptical, convinced only by what is both demonstrated and time-honored.

The 9th also describes potential, and the extent that your horizons spread out into the world — beyond your smaller world. It's been an exciting place, with Uranus transiting her (radical awakenings) and Jupiter (dependable expansions).

This is a year of great conjunctions, and one of them happens in Taurus — your 9th place. The meeting of Jupiter and Uranus is a burst or your own potential being revealed to you: a radical awakening to what you're capable of. (This is nipping the heels of the solar eclipse in Aries from just 12 days earlier. Things move VERY fast in April and

into May.) The potential issue here is knowing what is possible and feeling your horizons expand — and not knowing what to do. So my suggestion is that you be specific in what you choose and not worry about what you are not doing at this time.

Some potentials might seem too obvious to pass up. You will just know what to do — and I propose this be based on what you want. Taurus is specific in its preferences. You will get to experience many things based on this astrology, though to maximize it you may need to take what seems like a minimalist approach.



The two planets involved, working together, are challenging to even visualize much less predict.

Uranus is always the advisor of expecting the unexpected. Jupiter describes the scale. It is the expansion principle. The planets involved are so large, their gravity influences the Sun.

Both Jupiter and the 9th say look for an international theme. There are moments in the life of every person where their destiny calls them far from home to a country they have never been to, and this may be one of them. How is this for a synchronicity? Just as I am writing this paragraph, an article about the true color of Uranus appears on the front of *The New York Times*. It was not there 15 minutes ago.

Uranus is the element of spontaneity. It can also bring people together, which modifies the group theme of Pluto in Aquarius. In this context, you are the spiritual or ideological leader.

Into the 10th: Reputation, Praxis and Action

Continuing a year of extraordinary astrology is another conjunction. Jupiter, having spent a year in Taurus, moves into Gemini in May. That happens every 12 years, and it's great for you when it does. However, before that happens, a planet named Sedna enters Gemini. This has never happened, or at least not for the past 11,400 years.

When something happens that has never happened before, that's a good time to pay attention. If we knew nothing else about Sedna, its unusual, slow orbit tells us plenty.

What I can tell you about Sedna from a practical standpoint is that it's associated with the environment — in Taurus, that of the planet, and in Gemini, that of them mental sphere. Sedna contains potential that is revealed by its parts: you could say that the individual elements are greater than the whole. Said another way, each part contains a world of its own.

This is happening in your 10th place. Modern astrologers think of this as the house that addresses reputation. Really, it's about the action we take in the world — the fruits by which others know you.

Sedna enters Gemini on April 27. Soon after, Jupiter enters Gemini, and the two form a conjunction on May 27, 2007 — exactly one month later. Jupiter enlarges what it touches. You will know much more about what Sedna in your house of action is about around that time.

Speaking generally, what I can tell you about Virgo having Gemini in the 10th place is that you're a polymath. It's true that these days, everyone has to do three things to get by. That's not what I'm talking about here. Rather, I'm saying that you have two or more areas of true professional mastery. I don't know how Sedna describes this developing, though I reckon it's about the integration of these multiple fields rather than giving anything up.

I think it's good practice to take what you learn in one place and express it in another. One of the issues many people have is forgetting

what they learned three years ago because they don't seem to be doing those things today. But if you worked in a deli when you were 16, you learned things that are applicable today. (People who have served in the military seem to understand quite well that they can apply what they learned to many aspects of life, principal among them being focus and discipline.)

Sedna's presence encourages you to pay attention to ground rather than figure. The figure, the alleged topic of importance, the thing everyone is focusing on, is always given great emphasis, though this usually misses the point, and causes a lot of confusion. It's one thing to say this in theory and another to see it in practice.

In practice, it's making a discovery from asking the question: what conditions have led to this thing we see happening today? Where is the energy coming from that supports this development? What is the larger context?

You may be amazed at the power of these observations, which will help you see the world a whole new way — every time you look.

Signing off from Somewhere In Between written readings, the 26th Planet Waves annual, Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, Kingston, NY, 11:17 a





