



Call it What it Is

Somewhere In Between for Scorpio

By Eric Francis

AMONG THE NEARLY INFINITE supply of memorable Bob Dylan lines is, "Let us not talk falsely now / the hour is getting late." As Pluto makes its final moves from Capricorn into Aquarius, the theme of dropping all pretenses, pretexts and excuses rises to the surface throughout your astrology.

You are in an important time of completion and resolution of a lot of past history. Those are sensitive and even potentially dangerous times. You are on notice to proceed with awareness and gentleness in

all that you do as Pluto, deeply associated with Scorpio, makes its way into new territory.

If you take care to be complete prior to this transition, and to not leave unfinished business behind or carry it over into the new era of your life, such would be a significant departure from the karma of humanity itself.

Humans seem to reside on a mountain of unresolved and unacknowledged material. Any time astrology says, "Now is the time," you can be sure that you will have assistance, including knowing what to do at the appropriate moment.

Walking Along a Narrow Ledge

If, looking at your charts, we imagine you to be a character in a fictional scenario, you are presented in a delicate situation, such as walking along a ledge in the dark — but determined to get to the next place. The way is narrow, and there may seem to be nothing special to encourage you or assure your success — but you keep going, because it's the thing to do.

There is an incredible image in the Scorpio New Moon chart with the two rulers of Scorpio, Mars and Pluto, face to face in the last degree of their respective signs — Mars in Cancer, Pluto in Capricorn. At 90 degrees to them both is Juno, the planet of partnership and marriage. You and your relationships are shown at a point of radical transformation, connected, though at the brink of something.

This is a reminder that when you go through a transformation, your partnerships are going to take some impact. This is one reason why people tend not to change: their relationships are agreements to remain static. I have seen this over and over again serving my clients as an astrologer. There is often the fear — particularly in women — that by growing, one's partner will be threatened. Often, that assumption is never tested, and then the frustration builds to the point of near-suffocation; but the advertising point is fidelity. Really, the problem is insecurity. Foot-binding is not a way of life, and Pluto stops at nothing to get the necessary result.

Maybe now you're close to the point of a breakthrough. Maybe you've woken up to the idea that what you decide, and what you do, matters more than you ever believed. It's likely you've reached the point where you know you must make decisions and act on them; and you have the feeling that a lot is at stake. And the only basis for a decision is being truthful with yourself about what you want and do not want; and how you feel (not how you're supposed to feel).

Yet on the other side of this narrow ledge of deciding and acting, you may sense that a whole other life is possible. It's there waiting for you, calling you, expecting you and even helping you prepare to get there. And you know that this will require in some way that you defy the laws of nature — that is, your human nature — in order to get there.

One thing it's fair to say about Scorpio is that you form strong attachments. Whether intellectual, sexual or other, these bonds are dominated by the emotional element. That includes care, concern and some deep need for security and stability.

Your world is held together by the structure of your bonds. This is inherent in who you are. And when those bonds are in some way threatened, or if you think they are, your entire identity shakes, and you may fear it will collapse. Fortunately, you've learned a few times that you are not your identity. Still, it does an impressive impersonation of being you.

The Upshot of Your Pluto Transit

Though I will develop these ideas later in this essay, the nutshell version of Pluto entering Aquarius goes like this: for the past 16 years, Pluto has moved through the house that combines your mental state and important elements of your family's deep conditioning of your identity. That is the combination of Pluto overlapping your 3rd place (or house).

This has been a reclaiming process, and has come with many revelations of how dependent your own thought forms were on those of your family. This commenced in 2008 or so and is just wrapping up. Your experience may have been one breakthrough, challenge and test after the next.

Scorpios are among the people most attached to their family of origin. This is a product of Capricorn (family structure) and 3rd place (mental state, communication style, local community). If you've done some of the work, Pluto has guided you to think for yourself. Well, "guided" is polite. I mean all-but demolished any way you did not think for yourself; taught you to go deep; and hopefully set you free of something a little dark.

Yet the real point of attachment is having Aquarius on the 4th place (the sign of groups, in the house of the family of origin). This is all about stability, and grounding — and more than anything — your sense of belonging. Now, in order to grow, you will find yourself needing to risk these things.

This placement translates into a need for group cohesion around you, and a need to be part of a consensus. The presence of Pluto in Aquarius is likely to change all that. One result may be a kind of reversal: under one scenario, in order to feel safe and stable, you must assert your independence of thought.

Pluto in Aquarius has many expressions for you. I'll return to it.

An Era of Personal Shakeups

Something similar has been going on in other angles of your chart. It's as if the universe is pushing you to be independent by challenging what makes you feel secure.

If we go back to 2018-2019, that's likely when you first noticed that something was shifting. There may have been a sudden shakeup, or a series of tremors, to an intimate partnership (or potentially a business partnership). They seemed to come from outside of you, entering through a partner, who may have been initiating changes or acting flaky.

There was also something "in the air," meaning a factor of your wider environment. You may have noticed something similar happening with others as well.

This was, and is, about Uranus in Taurus, your 7th place of relationships. Here is another area where you want and need something solid and consistent, even more than most people. Yet under the influence of Uranus, the changes can happen fast and be unexpected. And they are not necessarily improvements.

You're likely to have experienced this ongoing transit as two-edged: one side threatening the stability of important relationships (or one in particular) and the other holding the potential to be set free from something; to be liberated from all that is familiar and potentially that has overstayed its potential. Too much consistency gets same-y and even oppressive for you.

However, with the world in the condition it's in, that may feel like a better option than not having the kinds of attachments that you need. But Uranus is second only to Pluto in its ability to shake things up or change a situation.

And others may have acted in support of your own unexpressed need for more space. However, generally, your emotional bonds prevail, at least for a while. About six years have passed, and you've accumulated a lot of experience and had time to consider your various situations. At this stage, you know that your need for freedom is past the tipping point and has a life of its own. So what exactly do you do?

This is the nature of the narrow place you find yourself in.

As of this writing, in January 2024, it's too early to feel the actual potential — as in stored-up energy — that you will liberate if you are honest with yourself and make honest choices. What started as a disruption or disturbance has at times developed into a boon; you might not know what to do with so much possibility. Yet this is what is drawing you forward, working your way along that ledge. You know there is something better there.

Yet this big green planet shaking up your relationships can give you the feeling of all-or-nothing. And speaking of green, jealousy is one of the most potent bonding emotions of them all. Yet even jealousy reveals the seeds of its own liberation. That is its propulsive force.

Often in your life, push has to come to shove in order for something to give. You may soon discover that it's worth acting on the basis of what you know in your body — or what your circumstances tell you — rather than being compelled to react, respond or take action. Please remember that, as it will come in handy during the years of Pluto in Aquarius.

Then Came Jupiter, or Rather, Next Comes Jupiter

Meanwhile the positive potential side of this equation is described by Jupiter, which arrived in your relationship house last year, joining Uranus. This has been a new influence, compared to something that has been around for five years, but you have not yet seen its full potential; you're about to.

You may have noticed an improvement, or a stabilization, however. That may have stood out quite a bit because it was so different from what you have previously experienced.

Jupiter provides a fine counterweight to your own presence, and it also describes potential — at 1,200 times the size of the Earth, with 79 known natural moons, it's a massive force of nature that runs and shapes the whole solar system.

It's been lurking in Taurus since Spring 2023 — adding presence and gravity to your relationship house — but lingering around some distance from Uranus. To sum up its influence, you may be getting clues to what is possible beyond the shakeups (and the associated growth pangs) that you've experienced.

More importantly, you may be starting to believe that something else is possible. This is very important. You are one of those people whose feelings are so strong, they are an obvious force for manifestation. Not everyone has this ability (which can be a disability when you're feeling negative).

The two are lining up for a conjunction on April 20. It's difficult to overstate the potential of this conjunction. It may reverse your perception of much that has happened over a long period of time —

and demonstrate to you that your life can change for the better in a short time, seemingly unexpectedly.

This has the potential to change everything, and open up a vast new dimension of existence. Your relationships are involved; this is not just an invitation beyond what you know but also the promise of far better, more creative circumstances. Yet to make the most of this, you must be willing; you cannot be dragged, pushed or coaxed. And the more creativity you bring, the better. There is so much energy coming from this aspect that you simply must meet it with focus, intention and the willingness to dance.

The catch is that you are facing the unfamiliar, the unpredictable and the unknown. And while you may think you can pass up whatever possibilities this is offering, it's such a powerful attractor that under any circumstances, you will be in a whole new reality. That part is not optional. How you handle it is.

It describes going beyond a world dominated by one-to-one relationships and opens up a whole realm of social possibilities. The momentum at that time will be so strong, you may not think that what you're experiencing is connected to anything that has ever happened before. Yet the roots go back to those strange days in the late twenties when you may have had the sense that your life was going out of control or falling apart.

The partnerships implied in this conjunction are not merely sexual or romantic; business partnerships and collaborations are heavily favored by this astrology. Get ready; your world is opening up.

The Aries Connection: Chiron and the Eclipse

Scorpio is synonymous with intensity, and one of the things that you throw your life into is your work. Somehow this is just as important as your relationships, and that fact is essential to understanding your true nature.

If I had to propose which is more important to you, I would say that your identity is more deeply seated in your professional activities. I

would refine that to be about more than your career trajectory or choice of trades. This is more practical: it's about what you do every day; what you're engaged with five or six or seven days a week; what you make with your hands; who you talk to; and most significantly, the purpose of that work.

In my theory of the Sun signs, where Aries stands in relation to one's own sign reveals something about one's search for themselves. Aries is the sign of "I am," and we all have it somewhere. And around that somewhere, there is a lot of attention focused and a sense of purpose bubbling up, or rather, burning like a nice hot fire.

For this reason, it's my assessment that of all the signs, Scorpio must involve themselves in work they value. There is no getting around this, and if you're ever in a place where you're contemplating why you might not be feeling content, it's a good place to start. Work must be a place where you can be yourself.

No shoehorns of persuasion, no perks, no bonus pay, and no alleged prestige can change this basic fact. While it's true that your solar chart describes your work as the place where you "shine like the Sun at noon," recognition and reputation are far less important to you than being able to express yourself in an honest and natural way, or just keep busy with something that allows you to grow.

Your sanity depends on this, as does your health. The environment you work in must be supportive of both your mental state and also your physical state. There is no special description of the physical environment that would suit you best; it is — it must be — where you feel the best. Then you can accomplish anything, whether you're working behind the scenes in the middle of the night, or are standing in the spotlight at 8:05 pm.

Of Work and Health

Around the time Uranus entered your 7th house in 2018, Chiron entered Aries. And this called into question what is good for you and what is not. Chiron will often provoke a crisis, and it may have been overwhelming to have work-related stuff going on at the same time as personal, though now you have a sense why.

Along the way of Chiron moving through Aries, we had that little blip in 2020 and 2021 that seemed to impact everyone's relationship to their work and workplace. You may have been asked, coerced or forced to do things you knew were not good for you. You may have refused; you may have complied.

And now you get to do an honest, critical review of the whole scenario and size up the lessons learned. It's more important than ever that you take those lessons under advisement and never, ever do anything that compromises your health or integrity for the sake of a job; such directly violates the law of Dharma.

Chiron comes into bold prominence this April, just as Jupiter and Uranus do. Once again, all the important factors are up at the same time, though this time around, there is a sense of liberation and actualized potential in the air.

The nature of the moment is to make bold decisions, and this time, you will be choosing from options. You can afford to hold out for the better possibilities.

Astronomically, what happens is a total eclipse of the Sun conjunct Chiron. Chiron represents the holistic principle, and is directly involved with all matters of wellness. An eclipse is a lot of mojo pouring through Chiron, coming into your house associated with both health and work. Under this influence, your health must come first — so do not be afraid to leave behind anything that is compromising you or stressing you out beyond easy recovery.

But, moreover, this exceedingly rare event is calling on you to thread the needle of your life purpose. Whatever happens, allow it to focus you on this central theme of your life. While you may fancy the idea of "work-life balance," that's not your approach. Your work is integral to your life; make sure you do it well enough to allow time and bandwidth for other experiences you want.

And as something so central, you want partners (both friends and lovers) who are not threatened, daunted or put off by your commitment. To the contrary: your dream relationships directly

support and encourage you at your most engaged and productive. If your spouse, lover, cat or dog wants you to come to bed, remember, it's always good to leave some work for tomorrow.

The Digital Environment is a Health Threat

I realize this is like saying "air is a health threat," however, over-exposure to digital technology is destabilizing for you. You must have some relief, which is admittedly difficult to get in the age when everything from your phone directory to the travel agent to the pizzeria fits in your pocket.

I mention this due to your having Aries in the 6th place. In my analysis, much of the damage done by digital conditions can be described by events in Aries, and this is connected to your health. Yes this issue affects everyone, though I'm talking about a personal connection. And I do suggest you keep an eye on this one, as the effects are sly.

The primary issue is mental fragmentation, which is another way of saying that when you're exposed to digital environments, it's difficult for you to feel like a whole person, or to remember what it was like to be one. Therefore, I suggest you have your ways of "putting yourself back together," or said another way, seeking and exploring your wholeness.

To begin with, you're not your digital identity. This is getting confusing. The offline world is becoming more difficult to reach the more immersive the online world becomes. You probably already know to get into the real world as much as you can, and to defragment yourself there.

Some of this might actually be within the digital environment (such as organizing your photos into essays or albums, or some other such project that involves developing and integrating actual ideas, rather than having everything be random). You might consider getting a good printer and making physical albums of your photos and see how that feels, and notice how others respond.

You are a physical and emotional being, so some major aspect of your wholeness-seeking process must be in the physical world. You usually find in-person social events to be grounding, especially with close friends and family. Homemaking generally is grounding, especially if there is a social angle (making your place ready for guests, including preparing food for them). Really, anything social works — as long as you keep it in person.

Any form of art or music will work as well, the more hands-on the better. Live environments work well for you; movie theaters are better than home viewing (but the content in theaters is far more limited, so home-viewing events would be a good alternative).

The Sex Question: Pisces, the 5th Place

As you are a Scorpio, we must mention the importance of sex as your best friend when it comes to physical, emotional and social pleasure, and growth. There is no getting around this basic fact — though there are obstacles.

Your sex-for-pleasure 5th house is covered by Pisces. The 5th is also the house of art, games, financial speculation and risky sports activities. At the moment this zone in your chart is a little complicated, with three wildly diverse, slow-moving planets: Saturn, Neptune and Nessus.

It would be a bit much to parse out the details here, except to say that the overall trend is you taking command of your life in any such area where you participate. For most people the trouble spot is sex, though there are some with a gambling situation too. You now have some help reining in whatever is of concern to you. Gentle, persistent discipline is going to be the path, however you go about it. The planets involved, and the sign and house, make it difficult for me to even speculate or create a model for some worldly expression of them.

However, it looks like it might be the most challenging spot in your life right now. I can tell you two things for sure. You now have some new ability to focus and take action. Second, should you have some fear or deep concern that things might get out of hand, you have an opening

in time, fairly short, to evade or avoid any worst-case scenarios. So take the first step.

Meanwhile, the Great Stage is set for a diversity of kinky activities, if that's your thing. Kink is what you think it is, usually some kind of inner sexual fringe you can get to and explore. The psychological element is its essence; garden variety sex gets its zest from the emotional and mental exchange.

Specialized stuff that gets categorized as kink or fetish can play in the physical, though also usually enhances some such element. Therefore, previously shunned emotions such as guilt, shame, embarrassment, 'inappropriate' lust, wanting to watch or be watched (and so on) are available as sources of fun and pleasure, and as release points.

The 5th above all is the house of fun, as well as of sex play. Saturn and Nessus mixed in with the fantasy world of Neptune in the 5th mean these are going to be a factor where you seek your adventures. I'm not here to say what you're into, only what the chart looks like. Astrologers are trained by the books to say that Saturn 5th means something like "no sex at all" or perhaps less; or to make warnings about pregnancy — none of which I have found to be true. Saturn 5th can easily be described as being ready for the responsibility of becoming a parent, or some extra responsibility associated with your children. That is common in our time, when so far as I can tell, parenting has never been more complex. And as a sexual creature, Saturn 5th combined with Neptune and Nessus can describe making friends with your submissive side. All of this is described.

Regarding Nessus and Saturn, should you be someone who has the burden of a sexual injury (from transgression to rejection, or an attitude passed to you through a parent), it's time to get help and grow through this. Of course it's always time, but Saturn is saying let's get the process underway in earnest, and other facts (such as Jupiter-Uranus and eclipse-Chiron) describe the energy ramping up (energy that will have to go somewhere).

That can describe how you will have opportunities you want to pursue, or it can just mean more throughput of feeling, and a tropism toward

positive experiences like you have not felt in a long time. You want as many obstacles as possible out of the way.

What is help and where do you find it? It depends on your situation, though I suggest keeping an open mind, and not “going public” with your issues — that is not helpful, and it’s become a cultural game. It’s possible that even one honest conversation can shift your viewpoint and set you in a new direction. If you are looking for a therapist, you must find the unicorn who is conversant in sex and does not think that it’s a moral issue, and will not condition you to be a nice, normal person.

The goal of therapy is not that you be happy with your prior life that was driving you nuts, or become acceptable to your parents. The goal of therapy is that you be yourself.

But here is something to consider:

We all must be cautious of the seemingly ubiquitous idea that sex must always have a victim, and with this combination of planets, that alarm is going off for you.

Even though you despise this notion, you could still fall for it, through some trap door into the paradox. One may simply be that if you unabashedly enjoy sex and appreciate people of the opposite sex (the new “queer”), you could be cast as some form of a victim or victimizer. This is an outgrowth of the notion that sex is a moral issue of some kind. That is nothing more than the setup for endless control drama.

It’s important that you think this through for yourself, and work out the puzzle to a degree that is satisfactory to you. You will have a series of such opportunities, particularly over the summer. As with food, have your own personal guidelines and rules of travel where your sexuality is concerned.

This is especially true given that your horizons are widening in every aspect of relating to others — and sex will be included (that is Jupiter-Uranus in Taurus). You will have more opportunities for unusual experiences. None of this is about morality. Just know a spiritual or ethical issue when you see one.

One final trap into victim consciousness is any form of double-standard or hypocrisy. The rules you set for yourself must apply to others. If you are in a relationship, there is only one way to set guidelines, which is by mutual agreement.

If you have a jealousy issue, that is your problem, and not the result of anyone's behavior. Dishonesty is an entirely separate issue from jealousy, and you might set as a goal never lying or allowing yourself to be the subject of a lie.

Pluto Entering Aquarius: Shaking Your Foundation

Let's consider two last places, one we have begun — Pluto through Aquarius, your 4th — followed by Jupiter and Sedna through your 8th, Gemini. Both involve air signs; both involve matters of privacy; both touch on familiar matters, though the emphasis of the 8th is more about relationships in which there is some combination of sex and money.

Part of why your life is so socially oriented, especially on family, is the location of Aquarius in your solar chart: it's the foundation you stand on. This is called the 4th place, which is about home (the physical building, and your sense of belonging), as well as matters of security (not the Secret Service but whether you feel secure within yourself), as well as your emotional body and your sense of privacy.

Privacy is a problem right now. Or better said, it's questionable whether it exists anymore, except as a fig leaf. Young people have no concept of privacy and older people are forgetting what it was like to not have 10 cameras trained on you at every moment; to not have every word you write enter the public domain and end up in a database (unless you're using 256-bit encryption).

As Pluto enters Aquarius, it's essential that you have your concept of privacy: your idea of what works for you in this environment. I don't just mean covering the camera on their computer. Everyone who does that forgets about the microphone. OK, nobody will be able to see you in your curlers without makeup on, but someone spying on you can

hear you. This demonstrates the misunderstanding and folly of our ideas about privacy.

Such has never been an absolute; there have always been keyholes and eavesdroppers (which literally means people who stand by windows listening to what others say). And now, everything seems to be a potential window.

Therefore, you must define your boundaries — and I suggest you do so in a way that is clear to you. There will be certain things you don't want to commit to writing, which are more appropriate for a call. There are conversations that must be in person, for a diversity of reasons (for confidence and intimacy, not just security).

While in your personal life, Aquarius represents your home and interior space, Aquarius is also the wider social realm, as well as the electronic realm, subject to all those properties. This is difficult to manage, and it's likely that you've always had concerns about privacy. Often, this translates into secrecy, which is different from privacy and is always doomed.

Though it may sound like a contradiction, a useful policy in the times we're living in is to have no secrets. This does not mean telling everyone everything. It means being transparent with the people you care about. And it means making sure that the relationships you're committed to can withstand the actual truth of who you are, instead of demanding that you be some kind of fictional character.

The biggest threat to your personal security and your peace of mind are the secrets that you keep. To shift this will involve a complete rethinking of your concept of intimacy, and this may be unnerving. However, it will be better if you rearrange your approach voluntarily than it will be to have your sanctity breached. All of this comes down to living truthfully; it's arguable that any other way is not living at all.

The idea here is to get what you need, as honestly as you can. The larger idea is to resolve old karma rather than churn up new karma.

Jupiter and Sedna into the 8th

The 8th place is one place in the chart where people tend to sweep their issues and keep them in a box at the top of the closet. The nexus is sex, death and money — all that is taboo. Many of the themes I've described about the 4th, above, also apply to the 8th.

The territory of the 8th, though, centers around relationships in which sex and money are a factor, which is my definition of marriage: sharing bills, bank accounts and gonads. There are some states that require separate bank accounts when couples are co-habiting or the relationship is considered a marriage.

You have Gemini here. There is something about this for Scorpio that I am reluctant to say, but it's growing slightly less taboo, which is that this placement implies the potential for multiple intimate relationships. Now, most people who are into marriage remarry at some point, though this placement hints at the potential for simultaneous situations. That, too, is commonplace.

Jupiter is going to arrive here in May, and magnify whatever is already in your 8th house (of life — all the topics that the 8th embraces). Jupiter here can be a boon, and it can also mean that the truth comes out because suddenly it's more visible. The boon part could be a windfall, inheritance, or a return on an investment.

Note that other factors in your chart suggest this is not a good time to speculate financially, but that legitimate investments could do well. In other words, by my read, this is not a good year for cryptocurrency for you, but it could be a good year for stock investments. Stick to what is well-established and what you have experience in, and also where you can access liquid cash if you need it (by which I do not mean 20-year bonds).

Meanwhile, Gemini implies the potential for some kind of double life. People do this a LOT. I am stunned to hear about it, even in my rural community where the *National Enquirer* or paparazzi are not usually hanging around. People get into all kinds of intrigue. I am suggesting this would be a very good time to get out of it.

Whatever the double nature of your private life, should you have such a thing, this is the time to start dismantling the Chinese wall that separates them. And if you want to have any kind of double life, the best way to do so is entirely out in the open. It may work better in the short-run but it definitely will in the long-run.

The added factor is not just Jupiter, who will be something of a temporary guest, moving on in a year to more of a “your star is rising” position in your chart. (Therefore it is currently rising, though the phase you’re in now is to work out personal ethical matters and get your relationship and financial house in order on the way to an expansion in other areas of living.)

Sedna enters Gemini right about when Jupiter does, and it will be in your 8th until 2066. Whatever it may be, Sedna is deep, and it is calling for high sensitivity to the mental environment of your relationships. Think of them all as *one* environment, one scenario, rather than as separate things. Then listen to the information that your environment is providing to you. This is a matter of both figure and ground. Keep your ear to the ground — and keep your ears on.

Your Desires, Feelings and Emotions Cannot Conform to the Expectations of Others

When we follow the common thread of the factors in your chart this year, your reading comes down to one thing, really. You cannot conform to the expectations of others. Many people try in earnest, and find that it does not work. Your life is all you have, and to honestly call it that, it must include space for your desires, needs, what you want to express, how you feel, and who you truly are.

*This could be just another highway, coiled up in the night
You could be just another white-tail, baby, stranded on my brights,
There's a tingling recognition
Like the sound of distant thunder
And I begin to wonder
If the love I've driven under
Won't ignite.*

— John Perry Bar

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SCORPIO



