



Photo by Eric Francis.

Are You Experienced?

Somewhere In Between for Sagittarius

By Eric Francis

ONE THING I'VE NOTICED about those born under the most cosmic sign of the zodiac is their caution. Sagittarius is the home of the Galactic Core and the deep space watershed called the Great Attractor, the focal point of 100,000 local galaxies (the entire structure is called Laniakea, or "Great Heaven").

Those born under its influence have an otherworldly quality, as if you're a visitor here on Earth. Almost all those born with a strong Sagittarius signature feel like they are here but not from here — and

are unsure whether they really belong. It's like you drove a long way and got out of your car in a really, really weird town.

And yet despite your deep knowledge and broad perspective, there is a reserved quality to nearly every Sagittarius person I know — and my life is populated with them. The old astrology books have, since the beginning, associated your sign with concepts like “long-distance travel” and “international.” Then early in the 20th century the Galactic Core was discovered (when engineers were laying telephone lines under the Atlantic Ocean, which became an antenna) and then in the 1980s, the Great Attractor manifested. Both points are located in Sagittarius; no wonder the early astrologers picked up the feeling of “far away” from studying your sign.

There is an astrological metaphor for your extremely careful approach. If we think of yours as the sign of the visitor from afar, you are here on a kind of camping expedition. I don't blame you for being cautious. The Earth is a dangerous place. There seems to be peril lurking around every turn. Most of the problem involves the widespread lack of ethics.

When you put people together in one place, such as a society, there must be some shared concept of right and wrong. It's not enough that sometimes (extremely rarely) a few people get in trouble for making life difficult for everyone else. It rarely happens. Despite the existence of enough law books to sink an aircraft carrier, the law is generally ignored, and the higher courts (another domain of Sagittarius) are practically useless.

You know this. You see what people get away with, and you're not interested in getting mixed up with it — except maybe as a lawyer defending the innocent.

In your astrological chart, the concept of a careful approach shows up as having Capricorn in your 2nd place, the one that addresses values. That describes your structured approach to existence (and to money). Its orientation is inherently conservative. The reputation of Sagittarius as a freewheeling sign is ridiculous. Sure, there are some who meet this description (and that can be extremely messy) but they are by far the minority. I would describe your sign as the one that sets the example of getting a grip and thinking of the future.

It's also true that you think of yourself as a kind of outlaw, which seems to be a contradiction. However, as Sagittarius rising Bob Dylan wrote, "To live outside the law, you must be honest." So you follow a strict code, which is guided by Capricorn, and Capricorn is just ending a 16-year transit by Pluto.

This has cultivated within you a steely, determined sense of autonomy. Pluto moving through houses 2 (ending now) and 4 (does not happen until 2043) has this property: an extreme of independence, whether emotional, financial or related to your personal ethics and values. And now you get to put this quality to use as the world plunges into a whole new age — the age of virtual and enhanced "reality," and artificial intelligence — Pluto in Aquarius.

Aquarius and the 3rd: Mind Meets Community

Here in the 21st century metaverse of "artificial and enhanced reality," we do way too much "living by thinking about it." You can do anything whatsoever "virtually" and in effect not do it all, but think you might have. This is one condition you will be rapidly leaving behind if you want to — and, really, even if you don't.

Pluto now moves into Aquarius, the sign of group associations, in your house of local community (the 3rd). The 3rd is also the sign of state of mind, intelligence and communication style.

And Pluto is coming, which is going to change your relationship to your own awareness and the people around you.

Before we add any planets, let's consider Aquarius on the 3rd. This is an interesting placement — as independent as you strive to be, you have probably figured out to some extent you must blend in. And the most important way to blend in is to do so on the mental level. However, Aquarius 3rd has a strong tendency to go a little too far accepting consensus reality. Thankfully, you have a strong contrarian nature, and you're able to either remain silent or pretend to accept something you totally disagree with.

However, with Pluto on its way, you may not be able to remain quiet for long. While you know that it's necessary to guard against falling for consensus reality, the time is arriving where you will likely be openly breaking consensus. If Aquarius is about "thinking together," Pluto in Aquarius is about standing apart from groups and making sure that you are known to be using your mind, your way — and not privately.

Pluto moving from a dense earthy sign to an air sign is an invitation for us all to lighten the fuck up. The situation on the planet is extremely serious, and at the same time nobody is taking it seriously — that's a farce. The result is a situation where nothing is funny (unless you run a laugh track or post a notice that says THIS IS A JOKE). That, sadly, is part of another problem — life is so absurd and over the top right now, anything anyone comes up with seems possible, and any time you make fun of something, it could be real.

Another situation with Aquarius on the 3rd house is the need for mental flexibility. Aquarius is a fixed sign, which works in the language of crystallized patterns. This is another description of caution — like Capricorn, Aquarius is ruled by Saturn. Both have a serious cast, yet Saturn calls for having a sense of humor, which is a form of humility. It's also a way to keep your mind limber. That which does not flex tends to break, and you will need your mental flexibility and adaptability set to maximum.

This is no longer a luxury for any of us. The world is changing at the speed of light. By that I mean we now live in a digital web where information moves at close to 186,000 miles per second. That digital web has a lack of distinction between "true" and "false." The term "fake news" is irrelevant because not only is the news fake, many events are as well. And so the only thing you can do is flex and use your discernment.

If Aquarius makes mental patterns, Pluto will disrupt them. If Aquarius thinks it knows, Pluto will remind you of what you do not know. If Aquarius tends to think without feeling, Pluto will add the deep sensation and sense of instinct. In the digital environment, which is closely related to your mental environment due to the Aquarius overlay, there is a near-total lack of instinct, because instinct is physical, and the digital realm is nonphysical.

This means that to think, you must stay in your body. When you are not in your body, you will have difficulty thinking; and when you find your mind running amok, that's the time to settle back into your mind-body seat and take a few breaths.

Instinct is not enough, however. Intuition is necessary in the digital environment, because it's so chaotic; and in that sense, so is the use of logic. One thing digital does is suspend logic, because everything is already simultaneously true and not true. How do you reason through that? Well, you start somewhere. That somewhere would ideally be raising your level of attentiveness way above that of the crowd, while noticing what they are saying and how they are responding.

There is something I've been wanting to write for the past 10 years, and I finally just remembered it here at the perfect moment. Way too much emphasis is placed on the concepts of "agree" and "disagree." These are treated as the most important things in all of modern philosophy. However, now "agree" translates to "true" and "disagree" translates as "false," and of course this is dangerous.

It's spiritually dangerous and it can be physically dangerous such as if someone says you must inject this toxic mystery substance into your body, and you agree that they might have a good reason — and then you can't get it out, no matter how much you decide you disagree.

Pluto in Aquarius, among other factors, will encourage you to stand at your full Sagittarian height, and to keep your wits with you at all times, in all places. Pro tip: Consider the idea that nothing anyone says is offensive.

Your Relationship To Your Community

This transit will affect your relationship to your community. It will also teach you what a community is, and why you want one. The 3rd is local and Aquarius can be local and is also about any of your relationships or arrangements you may have online.

In our time it's easy to forget how important actual, local community is. And with the presence of Pluto in this area of your chart, you are likely to wind up with a leadership role, if only by default. This does not need to be outward leadership; you can lead from behind, by example, or with a single idea.

Most significantly, you will frequently be the person asking the questions and willing to go against the trends in thought and opinion. But this is a bigger deal than most people make it. To think for yourself is to grow up. It's to assert your authority over yourself and affirm your autonomy from the world around you.

Peer pressure is not going to cut it; and at the same time, you will have some unusual persuasive abilities and be able to get others to see things your way. Just make sure you get any logs out of your eye before you help others with their twig.

Often, we do not notice the existence of something until it has shifted. The electrical environment is invisible, in the background or taken for granted until the power goes out. You take getting around for granted until your car is not working correctly. It's the same with any environment. And the environment that is likely to shift the most radically is your human environment.

Pluto can represent obsessive forces of many different kinds. In Aquarius, this will always involve a group. Under digital conditions, the nature of social existence has become increasingly cult-like. This is something I suggest you avoid at any cost, because the cost of getting involved will be greater. You may not be able to do much about these situations except move and think in another direction, and be open to those who want to have a real conversation.

Pluto in your 3rd emphasizes the power of your mind, and you need somewhere to direct that energy. This would most likely be serious investigation writing of some kind. I would say, speaking as an investigative editor and having many ideas and articles come my way, that 99% of what I see does not qualify as such. Any time you hear yourself or anyone else use the phrase "rabbit hole," there is unlikely to be a sincere process.

Genuine investigation is conservative and good writing is both well-supported and understated. There must be real and relevant questions involved. Questions are evocative and lead to some form of resolution of the problem they pose. When they do not, it's necessary to be patient.

And generally, it's necessary to work close to your own existence and experience rather than taking on global issues in the style that is so popular these days — often by those with no experience of looking into much of anything, who suddenly think they are going to solve the JFK murder. I say this all because you are likely to be driven to look more deeply into things, and it must be done with discipline and genuine purpose.

It is important to remember that we live in a time when anyone can assert anything on any grounds or none at all, and be taken seriously by some number of people — and this is considered thrilling. However, it should make you nervous to think that anyone might believe what you say whether it's true or not — and that in turn would translate to making sure you get it right. Few people will care, but this is not about them. Your intellectual standards are for you.

There is no room for intellectual arrogance under this transit; it's about as safe as playing with a loaded gun. It's better to think in terms of possibilities and probabilities instead of certainties, or even seeking something certain.

Meanwhile, note carefully those who show up in your face or your inbox with the attitude, "I know everything, and you are an idiot." These people are the new Valley Girls.

One last thought: sales. The 3rd place is the house of buying, selling, communication and marketing.

This is the ideal astrological situation if you are selling something. You may discover you can sell anything at all; stick to what you make, and what you truly have faith in. You may find yourself with offers to get into marketing schemes. I don't recommend anything even close to this and instead suggest that you keep your interests close to home, and close to your community. Trust matters — in a community.

On the internet, it's an illusion, since just about anything else is available anywhere else. The more that what you do is unusual, special or truly unique, the more you must value trust and sincerity as the basis for community. And that means the more you must ensure that your words are not only true, but also supportable. Your instincts will guide you what to say and how to connect with others with words. And then, I suggest you connect in person whenever you can — as soon as you can.

Chiron in Aries: The Artist as Probe

The philosopher Marshall McLuhan was aware of the problems associated with the mental environment under the thrall of electricity. He said many times that artists are the only people who have a clue what is going on.

By artist, he did not mean "talented painter" or "good with a hammer and chisel" or "master basket weaver." He meant people who use their mind as a probe into consciousness; those who remain sensitive and do not numb out or fall for the digital/electronic haze. Digital technology extends our nervous system around the globe. That means you have nerve endings everywhere, connected to everyone, in every society.

Being sensitive means being open to both beauty and pain. This is why it's not popular. Being vulnerable seems like the least sensible thing to do right now; the prevailing attitude is to hunker down and not make any new friends or do anything especially different.

Here is where your chart is made for the moment we are living in, and where the transits of 2024+ are going to be extremely helpful. You are a living probe into consciousness, and not only that, you rely on being that for most of your growth and self-actualization.

In my theory of the solar chart, the location of Aries describes the place where we find ourselves. It's different for every sign and rising sign. Aries is about self, initiative, and actualizing the person who is

you. It turns the key to existence. Without Aries, nothing goes anywhere.

You have Aries covering the 5th place. The 5th is the art studio of the chart. It's one of the places you are the most at home within your own existence. It's where you go to find yourself, and in those times, there's no need for there to be anyplace else in the world. There is a couch there, well-worn, in its fourth incarnation, spattered with years of paint, slept on by dozens of visitors, and the scene of all kinds of playful activity over the years.

Your sign is represented by the centaur, and he has a name. Chiron has been transiting this house since 2018. That's a while; it's been trying to get your attention. And the peak of this transit begins in 2024 and spans through 2026, so we are in a radical moment. Chiron has been shaking you to wake up and have fun.

Chiron is the very incarnation of a probe into consciousness. It is the most sensitive planet; where it moves, awareness follows, and this is not always easy. It is also an agent of healing, always through opening one's mind and embracing reality. What it means to be a probe is to take a risk and try something, then see how people respond or react. Test the energy by doing something real. Put people on. Experiment like the mad scientist you truly are.

Fuck 'em if they can't take a joke. (Or maybe fuck someone more fun.)

In the style of Sagittarius, Chiron represents the quest. And now this is the quest to find, discover, become, actualize and wake up to who you are.

The peak of the transit involves two events, both of them extraordinary. First, there will be a total solar eclipse conjunct Chiron. By conjunct, I mean to the arc minute: exact to 1/60th of one degree of resolution. For reference, the Full Moon measures one-half of a degree across, so divide that in 30 and you will get an idea how close this is. It is a moment of full activation.

This is an actual (not metaphorical) multidimensional experience, involving cycles of time converting into space *and* time, in a way that

will happen only once over many millennia. This is a personal calling to you: anything with Chiron is personal for you, as is Aries, and an eclipse is the intersection of all that is public and private. This is a moment for you to cast off much that you are not and embrace much that you are.

Yes, there is a risk involved: the risk of standing apart. There is also the risk of doing or being something entirely unfamiliar. And then there is the daring quality of standing out.

Chiron is about distinction; doing things one's own way; refusing to conform; learning through direct experience; and most significantly the journey toward healing and wholeness. Chiron is an integrative factor: getting the parts talking to one another. Even the questing aspect of Chiron (expressed through Sagittarius) honors the healing aspect (expressed through Virgo).

In this scenario, the risks, experiments and boldness are all about going deeper into the question of who you are and what you're doing here, and then expressing that in a tangible way that some might describe as your soul's calling.

Even if you are wondering what I mean, it becomes inescapable under the astrological conditions of 2024, and the result will be a radical expansion of your potential, your abilities, and your desire to experience life directly — led by curiosity. The only question is what you do about it.

Remember that the 5th place is about experience. Chiron is about experience. Put them together and the effect is doubled. Add an eclipse and there is no escaping the potential for you to embark on a phase of your life in a whole new way.

You are being given a vial of spiritual stem cells, and these will be available for you to grow into whatever you need. Be creative. This is not just about healing and self-discovery and being creative — it's about having fun.

Jupiter and Sedna in your House of Relationships

In astrology, the four signs (which means whole sign houses or places) on your cross (cardinal, fixed or mutable) serve as probes into your environment. The 1st house (or place, as I prefer) is you. The 4th place is your security base and your home — that's Pisces. The 7th place is your immediate one-to-one relationships, whether business or personal — that's Gemini. The 10th place represents your professional actions and aspirations, and relationship to authority — that's Virgo. Places 4 and 10 also pertain to familial bonds, father, mother, etc. (Siblings are the 3rd place; cousins are the 6th place, and in my experience, close cousins sometimes may be referenced by the 3rd.)

Gemini, your 7th, brings big news this year, on top of all the other big news. The 7th place is a vitally important extension of your awareness into your experience of the people and situations that surround you. It's also about partnerships, romantic interests and suitors; and also about open (rather than secret) enemies. You don't have to go anywhere to get there, just like the 1st place. You're always there. You carry it around with you. If a person is represented, obviously they roam around on their own sometimes.

Gemini in this region of your chart says you like and need diversity. It's the sign of the twins. Two can become four. Gemini likes to keep things moving. It's conversant and adaptable — you like people who fit that description. Why you sometimes end up with introverted taciturn types is a mystery, though it's good to follow your preferences. It's helpful for you to go places where you can have a friendly conversation, and where you don't feel judged.

Realize that one partner or best friend might be less than you really need. You might be polyamorous. You might think cheating is an easy way to avoid that discussion. It's better for you to be honest; it works better. This is not a prescription, it's a suggestion to follow what is right for you, and not pretend something else is.

Now let's add two planets. The first is Sedna, which will enter Gemini in April. April is a busy month!

Jupiter would be a simpler transit to explain without the ingress of Sedna. The slowest-moving of all known planets in our solar system, Sedna takes 11,400 years to orbit the Sun. Pluto has an orbit of 248 years, so it completes 46 cycles for every one cycle of Sedna. This is pretty mind-bending, considering that until fairly recently, the planet with the longest-known cycle was Saturn, at just 29 years.

Discovered in 2003, Sedna has been in Taurus since 1966. It is now transitioning into Gemini, where it will be until 2066. So we are at the transition point into a new era of our society. And for you, this is especially meaningful because Sedna will be transiting into your relationship house. And just as it does so, it will take a conjunction from Jupiter, which tends to amplify and magnify whatever it contacts — especially by conjunction.

In terms of classical astrology, Jupiter looking back at you from across the wheel is like meeting your match. It's a friendly, bold harbinger for relationships. There is the suggestion of opportunity, abundance, and a real meeting of like minds or twin souls.

The Sedna Myth

Yet Sedna deepens this situation. First, though, it's important to recognize that a planet is about more than the mythological figure that it's named for. The mythography is part of the picture, though other things must be considered, including from direct experience, and events around the time of the discovery.

Any point that moves so slowly will have a deep effect, sometimes difficult to perceive. Sedna is changing signs at the same time as Pluto; the two will be working in harmony through the air signs. As I'm about to describe, Sedna is in part considered an environmental factor. Moving into Gemini changes the emphasis from the physical environment to the mental one; the same is true for Pluto moving from Capricorn to Aquarius.

The mental environment is in rough shape right now. And as your sign faces Gemini, you get the problems in a very direct way. In a sense, you live more fully in the mental environment than most people do.

The influence coming from Aquarius shows up for you as a community factor and for everyone as an influence related to groups of all kinds.

The influence coming from Gemini pertains more to one-to-one relationships. Both show up in sensitive spots in your chart where you're unlikely to miss their influence.

Let's take a look at Sedna and consider what its influence might be. Sedna the mythological figure is a creation goddess of the Inuit people, accounting for their sources of food — cetaceans, such as whales, dolphins and porpoises — as well as seals, sea lions and other creatures used by the indigenous people of the Arctic region as sources of food and clothing.

It's a demanding, dangerous environment and keeping fed and warm are challenges. There is no farming; you cannot keep sheep to make wool. Everything comes out of the ocean, or from right near it. Therefore, you may imagine that the goddess credited with providing for those needs is held in great reverence.

Sedna's life as a beautiful young girl is sacrificed to make this possible. The short version of a very long story is that when she comes of age, she is married off by her father after she has refused all of her suitors as unacceptable. She prefers to stay at home and brush her luxurious, long hair.

But he gives her to a demon disguised as a person. In the process of being taken away by this entity, she resists, and ends up in the ocean, where her fingers, toes, hands, feet, arms and legs break off and transform into sea creatures. Her father hears her cries, which sound like the howling Arctic winds, and tries to rescue her, but it's too late.

What is left of her ends up at the bottom of the ocean looking like a Weeble with a curved underside and no appendages. She cannot brush her hair anymore; hair brushing is a kind of ritual worship of Sedna. Due to her sacrifice, the people are fed and kept warm.

This is obviously a complex myth with meaning on many levels. There is the situation of being cast off or abandoned by her father, who is not able to save her when he realizes what he has committed her to.

Over the 20 years that Sedna has been read in charts by astrologers, a consensus has built that considers her a sigil of environmental change, including the thawing of the ice caps. The last time Sedna entered Gemini, the glaciers were retreating from North America at the end of the last ice age.

The team that discovered her (Brown, Rabinowitz and Trujillo) tends to name planets to call attention to the issues of both indigenous people and also the locales involved.

For Sedna, who goes through so much, Melanie Reinhart offers the key phrase, "Keep your heart open in hell." For many people, borrowing a line from Matt Groening, relationships are hell. They do not have to be, but most of the problem involves struggles with independence, maturity and issues with opposite-sex parents. Sedna's presence says be thoughtful about such influences and consider them carefully.

Sedna is not here to give you problems. In the spirit of the strange new planets, Sedna is here to help you heal from whatever you may be struggling with. It's important that you be grateful for what people do for you — and they do plenty. Jupiter suggests that partners are likely to be more willing than ever to support your needs and desires. Please be gracious toward them.

Saturn 4th: Your House in Order

You have Pisces in your 4th place, that of personal security (as in feeling secure), grounding and your emotional body. The 4th is your foundation, associated with your father and his estate.

With Pisces here, you only have one dependable way to create a sense of safe belonging, which is spiritual. It also represents your home, which must be a kind of ashram.

Pisces is oceanic. It is noteworthy that your relationships will come under the influence of a factor said to live at the bottom of the sea, Sedna, while Saturn is in its peak year moving through the ocean of your feelings. Pisces in this place is rather worldly, as this is a planet

with much of its surface covered by oceans. Much like Capricorn connects you to the grounded concept of Earth, Pisces connects you to the watery concept of Earth.

Thanks to these qualities, you feel more at home here than you might otherwise; you can be in this world even if not of it.

One of Saturn's classical roles is to clear space. Another is to contain something. Saturn in the 4th is prompting you to contain your emotional boundaries and concentrate your psychic energy while purging what you do not need. This may include decluttering physical space, basements and closets. And Saturn 4th is classic astrology for getting the yen to move, though this may be more influential for Sagittarius rising.

Neptune's presence here for the past decade or so has been rather over-watery, and finally Saturn is here to help you get a handle on your emotional life, and also your home life. If alcohol or overuse of any substance has been a complication in your life, you may find this is the time you've got the resolve to handle the situation.

Due to the presence of Neptune and also centaur Nessus in this house, there is quite a lot more to say, which I think is best left for the audio reading. The bottom line is that the buck stops with you. The theme is to take responsibility rather than blame for your life, and use the discipline that Saturn implies.

If you can do this, you will find tremendous creative freedom. The current direction of all factors is Aries — in particular, Saturn and Neptune headed there in 2025, along with the Chiron-Eris conjunction (in addition to the total solar eclipse conjunct Chiron in April 2024). If you have any aspirations to a creative life, it does not really get better than this.

Sagittarius: Jupiter Conjunct Uranus in Taurus

I was going to talk about the 10th house (career oriented; for you, Virgo) but then remembered I have not written about the best thing happening in your chart this year (as far as I'm concerned anyway),

an event that will propel you into the future and open up your potential like few others could ever do. This is Jupiter conjunct Uranus in Taurus.

There are two houses associated with what we think of as work, meaning one's occupation — 6 and 10. For you Taurus is the 6th place and Virgo is the 10th (lots of Earth energy so our little extraterrestrial has something productive to do). The difference is that the 10th is more about reputation and the 6th is more about activity for its own sake.

Quite a lot is about to happen: bold, enormous Jupiter meets the spark plug known as Uranus, and it's as if suddenly your whole mode of expression is powered up all at once. And the foundation is Taurus, solid and resourceful — fertile ground in which to grow your reality.

You do not need to be well known for what you do. You only need to do what you do, and you will be as known as you need to be. Whatever idea or breakthrough is coming, take the ride. If you've been working toward quitting your day job, this may signify being able to reach escape velocity.

The thing about any major (or even minor) event involving Uranus is that events may move fast. Your fortunes could turn on very little notice. Be prepared to make a move on short notice, including being ready to travel (passport in order ASAP, etc.)

The cautionary note here is to take care of yourself. The 6th is about health and wellness. You may feel like you have completely boundless energy, though I suggest not pushing it. Pace yourself whenever you can, and if you're moving fast, eat slow food. Taurus calls for grounding and some luxury, and has a way of keeping a modest tempo — except when it does not.

Events around the Chiron eclipse in Aries earlier in April will feed the Jupiter-Uranus meetup later that month. And in the midst of all of this, Sedna takes over Gemini, followed by Jupiter.

All of these things are related, and yet in an orderly way that is easy to express. So don't convince yourself you're going off the rails in any

way. You can handle this kind of adventure and I imagine you've been waiting quite a while for something interesting to happen.

I don't think you'll be waiting much longer, so get your affairs in some semblance of order, sharpen your pencils and charge your batteries. Some wild and outrageous turns of your adventure are coming.



