



*Photo by Eric Francis.*

## **The Fundamental Reconstruction of Self, the Reclaiming of Tradition and Gathering the Weirdos**

Somewhere In Between for Capricorn

By Eric Francis

**A**T LONG LAST, Pluto in Capricorn is coming to an end. It's been a while, and you have probably been through a little more than everything since your life was first touched by this transit in January 2008. While there have been many twists to the plot over these years, it's been one long phase; one idea.

We could describe this a few ways: one is to say that Pluto has taken you apart, and you have put yourself back together. Pluto has guided

you through every room of your psyche, shown you what is there, and invited you to sort out your stuff.

Seen one way, you are a completely different person than you were then. Seen another, something deep and unchangeable has been revealed through the gradual and sometimes sudden removal of all that was not you. This can be a painful process, but then in the end you're unlikely to miss most of what you cast off or what was stripped away.

That's because you've gained so much, and allowed so much that was previously concealed to come through. It's typical that people go through life gradually smothering the person they really are. It's usually for a good reason — employment, family, or growing older — though Pluto has had the opposite effect. It is said in the old astrology books that Capricorns are the people who are old when they're young and young when they're old. Pluto has accelerated this process.

Through these years, there have been a diversity of opportunities to reckon with the influence of your family and to remove the features that you do not want from your energy field. At the same time, you may feel closer to your familial origins than ever, because those too provide you with a strong core that helps you orient who you are.

If Pluto does anything at all, it gets to the heart of the matter, though it can take a long time. And as of right about now, you've done that time, made the investment in effort and going through changes, and have made many adaptations as the times have moved along. Imagine who you were in 2008 and recall what you were doing. Is there anything in your life that has not been subject to intensive review and rebuilding?

It can take time to settle down from a transit like this, and there is plenty else to keep you busy — though now you are reaching the point of expression of what is new rather than the removal of what is old. Pluto has left you with a kind of "open plan," with more interior space in your mind and feelings. Finally, the light can shine all the way through you.

Pluto now moves onto Aquarius, a tremendously significant sign in your chart because it represents your values and your principles, as well as your sense of self-worth, your movable assets (anything portable, and tools of your trade) and your available personal wealth. The shift of Pluto from 1st to 2nd place shifts the emphasis from you personally (1st place) to how you conduct yourself and what you do with your resources (2nd place).

You have a special mission here; the essence is distinguishing yourself from the people around you, and claiming the space to stand in your personal truth no matter what other people may think, do or say. It's also about claiming responsibility for a portion of the community and its priorities.

Though for a while you may seem to be the only person who holds the values that you do, what's really happening is that you're breaking new ground. It's as if you are founding your own family or community.

This will be part of a much wider sea-change in society. Many things that have persisted for the past half-generation or so will give way to something new — and you will be among the first to notice and potentially help establish new customs.

There is one thing I think you might find does not fit your principles, though you would know better than an astrology reading: the gradual conversion of humans to something other than humans through over-immersion in digital and AI technology.

I suspect you will be on the forefront of a rebellion against a technological concept of what a person is. You know you're not a robot, and you know the rest of us are not robots. I think for you, this is a matter of principle, and basic reality. Here, you must first be willing to hold the line on how you are defined, and how you define yourself.

When Pluto in Aquarius is over, we will not recognize the world we live in compared to today. I trust that through this time, you will remain steady in your connection to your soul.

## **The Light Shining Through is the Galaxy**

There is a spiritual process described. The sign before one's own is tremendously influential in that it describes what is behind the scenes. Sagittarius is a spiritual watershed, and the location of what for many feels like God or vastly large and powerful forces. But this lurks in a quiet spot, usually out of the way of normal consciousness.

Pluto's journey has been from Sagittarius through Capricorn into Aquarius, as if you've cleared a space through yourself to bring the light first to yourself, and then to others.

It's worth noting at this juncture that this has not been an easy lifetime for you. Capricorn is made of dense, high-integrity material. Yet for more than 30 years, there's been one outer planet after the next coming through the territory that is you.

Between 1984 and 1998, Neptune passed through Capricorn. This dates back to before some of my readers were born.

Between 1988 and 1996, Uranus passed through Capricorn.

In 1993, there were a series of world-altering, generational conjunctions in Capricorn, centered around Uranus conjunct Neptune (itself an extremely rare aspect — the next one happens in 2165).

Between late 2001 and 2005, Chiron passed through Capricorn. This was an especially important time because it revealed to you many of the scenarios and situations you would be addressing during Pluto in Capricorn (2008-2023). You will learn a lot going back and reviewing the events of '01 through '05.

Another stand-out event was the Saturn-Pluto conjunction of January 2020. While this was followed by a world crisis, this aspect had personal meaning to you — and it's probable that what you were going through personally at that time was overshadowed by world events that began to unfold two months later.

What was that about? What were you ready for or emerging from at that time that was eclipsed by the 2020 crisis?

All of these outer planets (including Saturn) are "the gods of change." Capricorn is the sign of stability (for you, and for the rest of us). It's usually the most dependable rock on which to build something that might last a while. Capricorn also represents the past and what has been created there, and it would seem that the past itself (or our perception of it) is being rearranged (that is polite; digital technology can retrieve anything, but it usually acts as a "memory hole" where things/events disappear into a kind of ocean of data). The gods of change have not left you resting much.

This has been an unusual lifetime, and all prior ideas of Capricorn must be updated due to the concentrated activity in your sign. (While all of these planets have obviously moved onto other signs, Capricorn is particularly sensitive to such high pressure because it represents stability and established forms.)

You will know what 1993 and that approximate era were about for you. For the world, this was the entryway to a new level of globalism and the commencement of the radical changes that divide the prior analog world from the digital world. It's also about the dissolution of tradition and the structures that described post-World War II society as we thought of it, including family structure. Today, very little is left of the extended family or "nuclear family." These have all been replaced by what I call "electric tribes" or various nonexistent "communities."

But the need for family, extended family and true community is no less than it was at any time in history.

All of this describes an extended but still concentrated series of outer-planet transits through your sign that has gone on pretty much nonstop for four decades, or at best, with short periods of recovery. It is as if during this time you have done what you can to hold your family together; to hold tradition together; to hold your idea of society together; and to maintain some semblance of the world as we knew it.

It's likely that to some degree you have succeeded in this, though each of these transits has radically altered your sense of yourself and your relationship to your surroundings. You inherently place great

importance on respecting tradition and the role of family, which is difficult these days as they are under such stress.

In order to survive, tradition must adapt. But that is not easy, and it has not been easy for you to be confronted with constant change, instability and blatant disrespect for both history and the fragile bonds that humans may share.

## **I Do Not Fully Understand this Aspect...**

...but I have a clue — there is one more aspect in Capricorn to describe, happening currently. Pluto leaving Capricorn will take a lot of stress and pressure off of you. You may miss the constant drive to grow and change, though honestly I don't think that you will. You've had quite enough growth and change of this sort for a while.

However, there is a little something extra in Capricorn, and you should know about it. One way to see it is as the result of all that you've been through in the past — you have gained access to something in yourself, something directly related to the deep sense of tradition and ancestry that is natural to your sign.

As you may know, there are a lot of newly discovered planets. I mostly track the ones that move very slowly, and that are similar to Chiron and Pluto (so I am not talking about asteroids, which tend to move fast, and describe topical and more immediate situations).

After all of this nonstop pressure on Capricorn, going back some 40 years, here's what is left: early in your sign is a cluster of planets that are all associated with family, the tribe, and the quality of gathering in the spirit of love. This is something that you've embodied through the journey of a lifetime that you've been on.

It would be fair to describe this as something ancient, with a direct connection to the past, and also a product of the material, three-dimensional, ordinary world. And yet it's tremendously important to you and to those around you; the people near you are grateful that someone actually understands.

This set of planets will take about 20 years to move through your sign, so it's a kind of permanent feature; a full embodiment — and it's on the heels of all of this history you've lived through. While I don't fully understand this pattern, I draw it into every chart that I cast, and I figure that soon, or eventually, it will reveal more of its meaning and intent. For now, I put it in the "respect for a mystery" column.

There is a cautionary (and complicating) factor in this mix — a slow-mover named Ixion, located close to Pluto's orbit. Ixion represents the darkest instincts in human nature, and shows no respect for any structure of society, or any authority. It is the absence of the morality and ethics that are necessary to make a community or family what it is; there must be a moral structure of some kind, and Ixion is not interested. It's a direct counterpoint.

This anti-social influence has a way of showing up anywhere, often from within, and you will need to be aware of it. The thing to notice is anyone who squanders a second chance. That means be careful when someone has done something serious and is given a second chance. And it means use your own second chances well.

If you have any personal insight as to the nature of this early Capricorn grouping, I am very interested in hearing about it.

## **Emphasis on Community as a Personal Value**

The 2nd place or house in astrology is that of your personal values, priorities and principles, as well as your assets and personal wealth. It also represents various shades of self-respect and self-esteem. And you have Aquarius here — in a time when Aquarius is coming into focus and we are going to find out what it's really about.

Most of how humans maintain and develop their humanity is through being around one another for social purposes. Crisis, warfare, mob scenes, floods and famines are all forms of "togetherness," but what people need is to be social.

I'm not understanding how people are surviving psychologically without this. And it's true enough that not everyone is without; but we

are all without modes of conviviality that were present for centuries or millennia — all of which have been swallowed or vanquished first by the fake tribalism of radio and TV, and then nearly eliminated by digital. If you want to see a core sample of the damage, check out this documentary on [the history of Tower Records](#).

On one level, it's the story of a record chain (of individually created stores, directly connected to their local community) being dissolved and evaporated by Napster and iTunes. But that's just the surface level. The stores grew out of a highly social environment and were thriving focal points of musical culture and many subcultures; the employees were a vast human network of people who knew one another in person. It was an actual society, and a microcosm of a larger one.

Digital did not just kill the LP, and online did not just kill the CD. What happened was that the social aspects of this whole universe of experience, art, commerce, and genuine liberty were vacuumed into digital space — a space which is cold, impersonal and where there is no human contact. We just think there is. And this is part of the problem: the illusion is convincing but in no way spiritually satisfying, and this, in turn, creates what I will reluctantly call addictions.

And this keeps happening. It's like digital consciousness is coming for every last vestige of human interrelationship — we are given a substitute, and everyone thinks it's great — while secretly languishing and longing for contact. Now, do not be deceived by all the people who think they don't care, and for whom the idea of hanging out in a record store is as appealing as a gay bathhouse (expert tip, they are different).

It's easy to not miss what you have not experienced, and the question is: where exactly to find a social scene without making one yourself? Well, you may need to make one, or at least collaborate on doing so.

If nothing else, Pluto in Aquarius is going to raise the value of the friends in your life. This may come on with unexpected urgency. And you will have a direct invitation to recognize your friends for what they offer you, and know who they are, and to contribute in some way. You will feel the instinct to be part of their lives, and to invite them into



yours. That desire to experience a mutual contribution is an important element of friendship. Though you may have to be the one who reaches out, and see who responds.

The idea of a "friend" has been greatly watered down since Facebook took over the concept and made it a proprietary trademark. We all know this but few choose to recognize it. And the number of people who (according to surveys) say they have nobody they trust is disheartening. If you have one person you trust, and can depend on, you're doing very well these days.

So really I mean two things by "friend." One is the kind of friend you may only have a few of in a lifetime. And the other is a participant in meaningful social bonds where nobody charges an admission fee or sends a Venmo invoice for dinner.

The digital realm is represented in astrology by Aquarius. The previous analog world is (in part) represented by Capricorn, and the impact on individuals and their personal self-concept is represented by Aries (where we are soon headed in this reading). For now, let's consider your new Pluto transit — in Aquarius.

This transit will be as personal for you as it will be for Aquarius Sun and rising, though it's a little less direct. You have already taken the brunt of Pluto and it's more on the level of what you might call a "teachable moment." You will be doing the learning, and you will also be doing the teaching. It will be one process, and part of the teaching is demonstrating your experience of learning.

It's also about demonstrating your priorities and how you put them into action. After a while, it will become clear to you that you have something that others do not; and for that something to be useful or real, it must be extended.

I am not suggesting you become a social secretary, though you may want to declare yourself a point of gathering for the weirdos.

The challenge wherever Aquarius is present involves peer pressure and a kind of oppressive consensus view. Aquarius gravitates there first, and you may during this transit discover the ways in which you were

not thinking for yourself or honoring your own priorities, but rather letting others set the agenda.

Now, all these years of outer planets coming through these personal angles of your chart have cultivated a degree of independence. However, digital consciousness has created an extremely durable tendency for nearly everything to go tribal in a matter of hours, and so in this environment, thinking for yourself becomes a moment-to-moment exercise. And so too does sidestepping or standing up to those who would try to cancel you for your views.

As we all know, this is not just happening on the internet. The values may crystallize there, but they then spill into ordinary waking life. Pluto is going to begin a series of disruptions to this whole arrangement. And it will be up to those who are paying attention to respond and do something about it.

## **Local and Inward Focus — Aquarius through Taurus**

The distinction of your current astrology is its inward focus. Most of the action in the planets this year spans from Aquarius to Taurus — the houses on the lower side of your solar chart, all of which have an interior orientation.

Note that in our time, the opposite of “inward” is not “outward” as in social or “into the real world.” Rather, the issue is the involvement of electronic media that consumes the concept of inward, without ever allowing it to be expressed in human terms. The result is a loss of privacy with no corresponding social expression.

You need privacy PLUS social expression, and that means a reversal from the main environment.

The order of operations proceeds from inward to outward — and therefore I suggest that you feed your most introverted, introspective side, no matter what is happening in your life or in the world around you. This is a necessity for you in a time when most people are living their whole lives exploded into the digital realm, and as a result, there is no such thing as privacy.

And this lack of personal sanctity is terrifying to many; I don't think you are vaguely interested in living without it. Text messages, the modern equivalent of pillow talk, can and often do go viral on Facebook, Instagram and/or appear in *The New York Post*.

I don't think this is the kind of world that you want to live in, and I suggest you find people who share this value with you.

We do not really have a privacy problem; we are not merely being invaded or breached; rather, the concept is no longer part of culture. This has been both by accident, by design, by assault, and by wholly voluntary choice. People are not merely hapless victims of the invasion of their private space, or their innermost thoughts.

Many seem to be demanding this invasion, and are quite uncomfortable without it. This is not just about the security of financial data; it's about the sanctity of your thoughts, your mind and your emotions. In the current environment, you may have to do some work, claiming yourself back and changing your habits to remind yourself that interior space still exists. As you have an affinity for all that is old and antiquated, you will be a natural.

Then there is the matter of "local," which is essential to your astrology this year and for the foreseeable future. Local has been consumed by the eminently nonlocal digital sphere. Let's consider how you might start to claim that back.

## **Saturn, Neptune, Nessus in the 3rd Place — Pisces**

We have already covered Aquarius, though we will come back to it either later in this reading or in the audio edition. Let's take the next house. Pisces covers your 3rd place.

The concepts of this house span from mental activity, state of mind, communication skills and intellectual style, to what neighborhood you live in and how you feel about it. The 3rd is also about buying and selling locally — garden variety commerce. (You may also find

information about your siblings there, and a few cousins might get mixed in.)

With Neptune transiting here since 2011, it may seem like you live in one of those Chinese housing complexes with 10,000 apartments and 300 residents. The easiest place to “find company” is online, and you may have even succeeded in some ways.

That said, Saturn has arrived in Pisces, and this is calling attention to both your local environment and your mental environment. Not only that, Saturn, the ruler of Capricorn, is the most important significator in the chart for you. And Saturn seems to be exploring the neighborhood. Admittedly, under the dual thrall of digital and uber-woke hipsterism, it may not seem like there is much to explore. But as Jerry would sing, even if it seems like nothing’s shakin’ on Shakedown Street, you just gotta poke around.

The question is, do you have the patience? You might — if you start to get some benefits. Wherever you see the sign Pisces in a chart, remember to consider the concept “pleasure seeking.” Then there is the creative factor. So the way to explore your local area starts with those two concepts.

Now, given that you have Pisces in this place, you’re probably something of an idealist, and have a Neighborhood of Make Believe in your mind. With Neptune visiting this house in the long-run, no real neighborhood will stand up to the idea of Tower Records.

There is another issue you will need to work around: one of the core ideas of community in our time involves commiseration. And that usually involves some fraternity of “social justice.” But these are not friendly spaces; they tend to be themed around self-condemnation.

You need warm and friendly. You need people interested in looking after one another rather than correcting one another, or fixing society. If we want to fix society, we can start right in our own neighborhood.

Saturn’s presence might imply a phobia about getting out and around close to where you live. Saturn often indicates a place where you

might be fearful to go; yet Saturn is your planet and will lead the way, if you will follow.

## **Of Thinking and Writing**

The 3rd place is about thinking and writing. Pisces here says you want this to be imaginative, and also may present you with difficulty focusing your ideas.

Neptune has made that especially challenging, and presents the added puzzle of knowing whether what you are saying is really true for you. It's almost as if you can write something and know you have it correct, then you might doubt it or re-read it and wonder if you came close.

Nessus adds the factor of someone looking over your shoulder and making sure you have all your pronouns right and have not offended anyone — a situation that makes creativity or even basic clarity nearly impossible.

Saturn will help you, by adding some discipline, and helping you with focus. By today's mental standards, writing is hard work, but it pays you back in the ability to think in whole thoughts. It also lends a purpose to why you might want to read. It's not just for entertainment or for "information," but rather to provide support for your writing.

There are good reasons to write, and one of them is to learn. There are few better ways to learn about a topic than to write about it, which is another way of saying to explain it. When you're writing, you figure out what you know and what you don't know. From this, you develop the skill of finding ideas you can attribute. You can show it to someone else, and considering their ideas creates a learning process.

There are times when Neptune in Pisces has come with the feeling of having fog on the brain. Saturn is here to clear the air and ground you in tangible ideas that you will be able to exchange with others.

## **Aries: You Are Your Home**

The location of Aries in your chart is where someone will usually seek self-actualization and also feel at home. This happens to be your 4th place, which is associated with home and security. With Aries in this placement, the location where you live is very important: your sense of place must comport with where you live.

There is significant emphasis on Aries in 2024 and it only increases over the next few years. Most of the emphasis is now (and has been since 2018). If you've felt like there's been something stirring up insecurity, that's probably Chiron getting your attention. And it will continue to do so as a total eclipse of the Sun forms in April.

If this astrology is having its effect, one result will be to get you to question where you are situated on the planet. You may decide you're in the right place, though it's the thought process that counts.

When Saturn reaches Aries in 2025, you may get another round of questioning where you live, though you will get information from this eclipse in April. The question is the extent to which the home you currently live in supports your sense of self, your quest to be part of the planetary adventure, and provides a place for your healing needs (that's essential with Chiron).

And there is the question of who you may live with.

## **Jupiter Meets Uranus in Taurus**

The most exciting area of your growth this year takes place in Taurus, your 5th place — the realm of risk-taking, creative expression, competition, and fun generally. The 5th is where we live a bit like a child, and with the curiosity of one. In the life of an adult, though, there is the added sexual dimension of the 5th place.

Kids between two years and pre-adolescence experience plenty of sexuality, though nobody is allowed to talk about it. The whole topic was covered up by Sigmund Freud, who posited the nonexistent

“latency phase.” He was not especially curious and the closest he got to a pussy was probably when he was being born.

The topic of how we experienced our own childhood and adolescent sexuality is the subject of another article, though I will say at least that you will be reconnecting with some of those feelings under forthcoming aspects; by which I mean, the sexuality of the much younger you. There is a youthful feeling about this kind of event in the 5th house.

Do you remember the very first attractions you had? Can you connect with how you felt at the time? What were your first sexual experiences and how did you feel about them?

There is a spring-like quality to both your sexual awareness and your creativity this year. Much of the expression of the 5th is either through some kind of action sports, or making art.

It’s clear that you need change, and you’re going to get it. You need companionship, and it’s likely to arrive — though all of this will very likely be in ways that you were not expecting, and that were better than you could have envisioned.

Pluto through your sign has taught you a few things. One of them is to hang loose. Another is that you must make friends with the wide diversity of feelings that you are capable of, whether passionate, shadowy, or frightening; including and especially the ones that seem to threaten your ego.

You now have this capability, and it’s very good for your sense of experimentation and self-expression. You have very likely sorted out what belongs to you and what does not, in the sense of what you inherited from your ancestors, especially your parents and grandparents. I trust that you have claimed what is rightfully yours and what you want to keep.

Now the question is, who do you want to be among? Where do you want to be on the planet? What is your relationship to where you are right now? And what do you want to express? It would seem that right

now and through 2024, you will have more options available to you than you've had in a long time.

## **Debriefing Pluto in Capricorn**

You have been through a lot during Pluto in Capricorn; there is no way for another person to understand fully just how much. It's important to debrief and get a sense of the past and understand something of what you've been through.

After Pluto transits there can be a time of settling down into the new reality that they have created. It's important to affirm that the transit is over — which this one mostly is.

In September, Pluto will retrograde back into Capricorn for about 10 weeks. It will only cover about one-third of one-degree of your sign — essentially grazing the edge. Were the timing slightly different, it might not do this at all, instead, stationing direct at the very beginning of Aquarius.

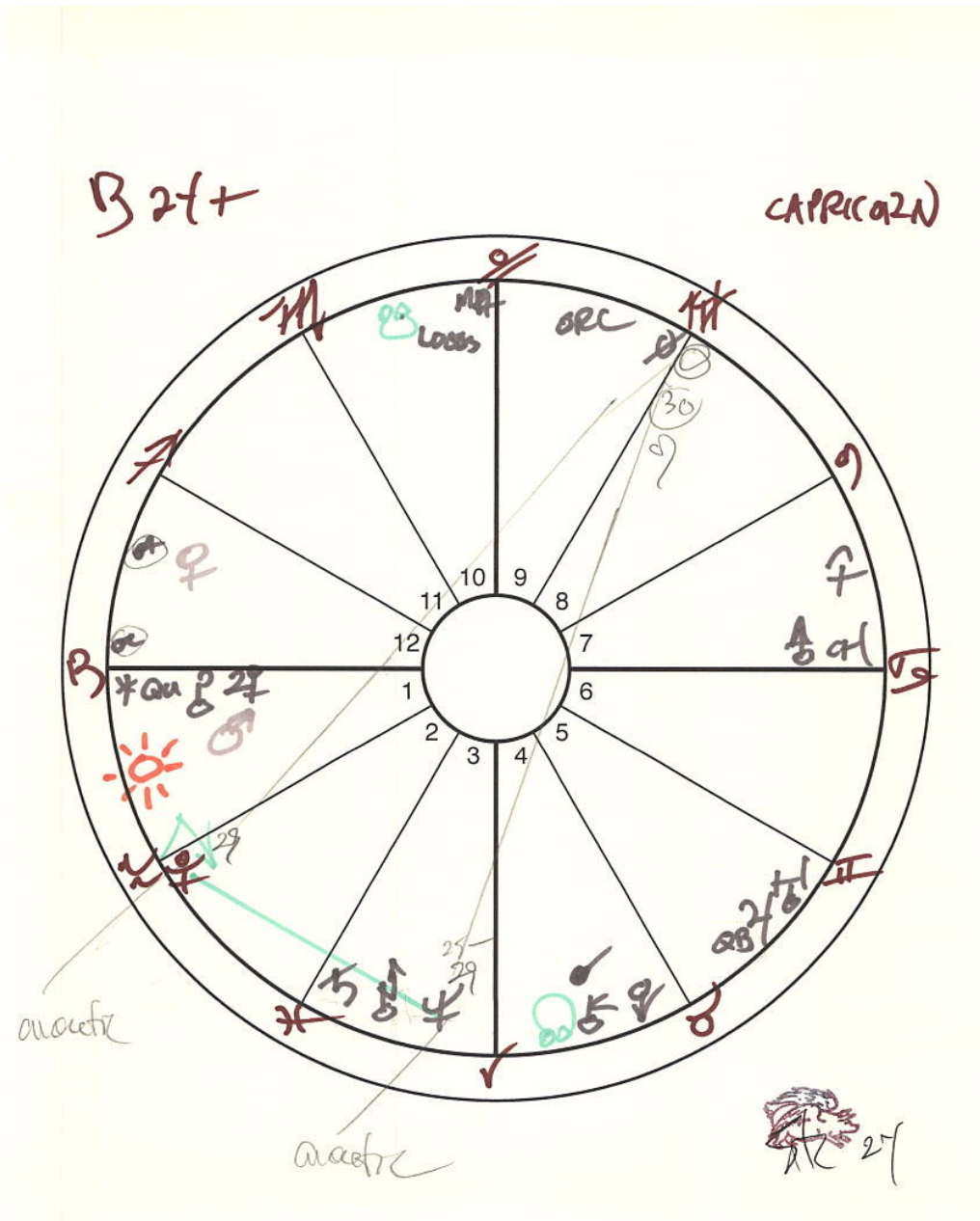
The result will be a kind of prompting of what you learned during Pluto in Capricorn and an opportunity to complete any unresolved business. This might be some kind of technical work (filing papers); it might be personal recollection of some kind; and it could be interpersonal, doing some kind of completion process around the issues that have come to the surface during Pluto in your sign.

If you notice anything that is calling to be done, or calling for completion, you will have your opportunity with relative ease. There could be something truly significant that is asking for closure or that you know you must do in order to feel whole or like you resolved something important.

Meanwhile, give yourself credit for what you've been through in these years, and claim the knowledge that you've gained through so much experience. And while your current astrology is inviting you to live in a much younger way than you have in many years, your Pluto-in-Capricorn experience has given you grounded maturity that you could not have gained any other way.



This will serve to your benefit, and also be a community asset. One way or another, there will be people gathering near you, and around you — and they will be counting on your level head, your sense of ethics, and your knowledge that what is truly good is good for all of us.



Lunar New Year - Dracon

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Transits of Jan 11, 2024

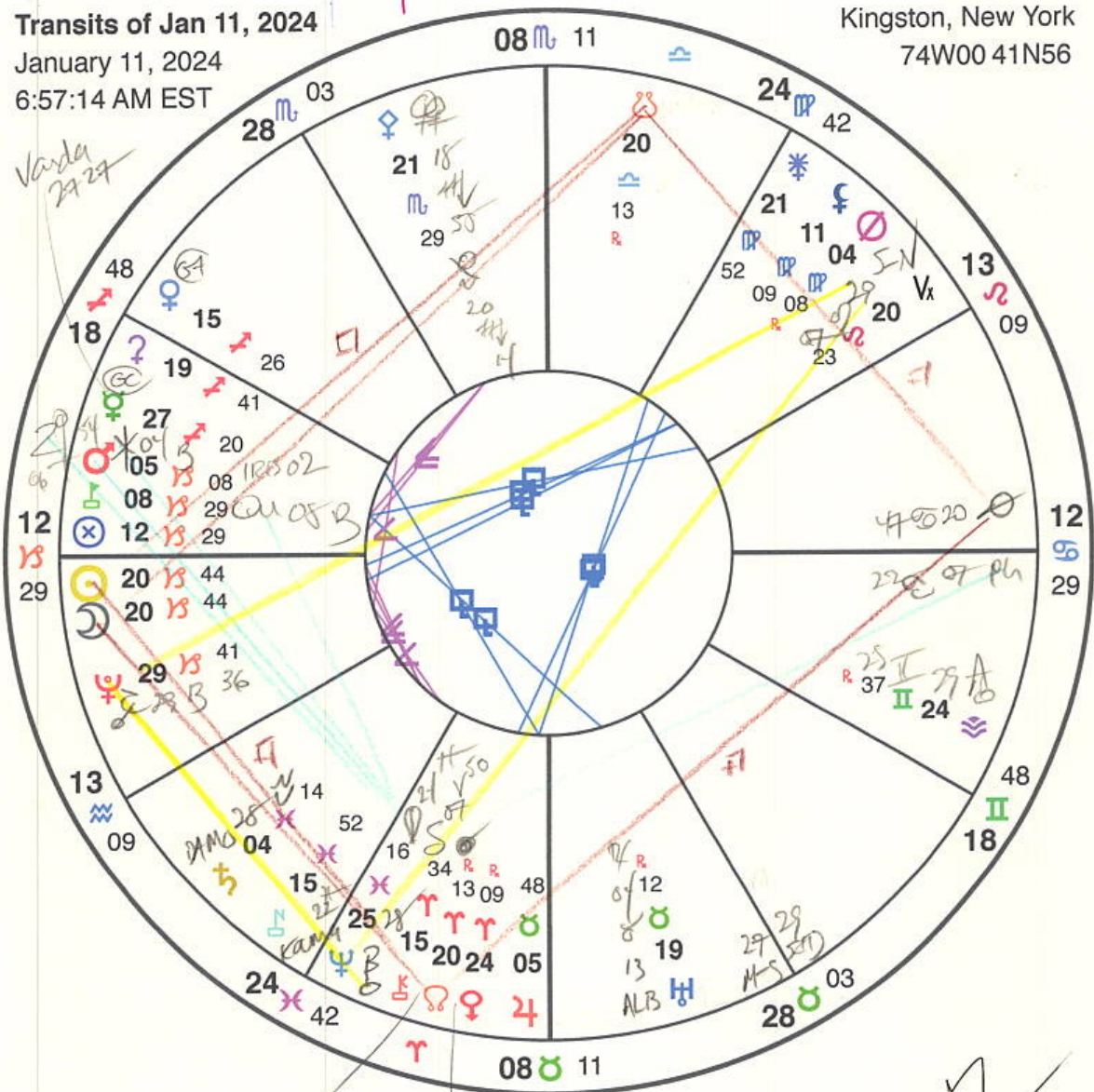
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NOTE - LUNAR NEW YEAR IS THE AQUARIUS NEW MOON!