



Photo by Eric Francis.

Cleanup Time

Somewhere In Between for Pisces

By Eric Francis

THE LARGELY SILENT and invisible influence behind much of what is happening in the world, and your world, is Neptune in Pisces. Neptune always has to be somewhere, though in Pisces, its influence is vastly magnified, even if it is difficult to observe or pin down. It's the feeling you don't notice, the inspiration you might overlook, the beauty in the background, and the fog you did not notice rolling in.

You have lived with Neptune in your sign or ascendant since 2011. Astrologers don't make the kind of big deal over Neptune sign changes that they make over those of Pluto. Perhaps this is due to the invisible property that Neptune has. It can also render invisible anything it touches — and you may have felt this way in recent years, or been feeling this way now.

There is more to this transit, which is starting to wrap up and will be over in a few years; I will have additional thoughts later in this reading.

Now Saturn has arrived in your sign. As solid as Neptune is vaporous, you are finally getting some relief from an intangible quality that has influenced you. As a result, you're in a much better position to take decisive action on your own behalf. Neptune has a way of spilling over the boundaries, and Saturn has a way of shoring them up.

Saturn's presence is a significant turning point in your life; it's a rare blessing, spending just 30 months out of every 29 years in each sign. While in the past astrologers have taken a distinctly negative view of Saturn (especially in the Jupiter-ruled signs such as your own), their perspective is improving. Still, be cautious about any description of your Saturn transit that does not offer you something practical, necessary and utilitarian.

In addition to placing metes and bounds where they are necessary, Saturn clears space wherever it goes. One of its roles will be to help you winnow down unhelpful self-concepts and define yourself in a way that makes sense to you at this time in your personal history. You have probably already noticed the theme "less is more," which has been developing for a while.

Saturn also offers the motivation to get a handle on your affairs, and a more mature approach to making decisions. Saturn at its best represents the internalization of the authority principle. Under Saturn's influence, you become your own authority, or some external factor intervenes. It's much easier, more convenient and more profitable to be your own boss.

Life gets messy when other people are too involved in your affairs, and the whole point of Saturn's presence is to set a limit on that very issue. You're being called to be more independent, less dependent, and not codependent at all.

Saturn will take you through the paces on a number of other issues, which all come back to catching up with your own growth, and having a much more solid sense of who you are.

Pluto Out of the 11th and into the 12th

Meanwhile, Pluto is on its way into Aquarius, which is the 12th place from Pisces. The 12th is the strangest of the houses, representing all that is concealed, all that can be subjected to denial, and much that has collected over the years. Pluto, too, has a way of clearing space.

It's been working a much more overt part of your chart, Capricorn, which is the 11th place — all that is social and associated with community and friendship. This has not been an easy transit. It's taken place during the surge of digital conditions, which have been extremely challenging for everyone socially.

Humans like to be around one another, and are not made for communicating using electric telepathy. Further, Pluto in Capricorn has broken down many of the structures you depended on to fulfill your social needs. Traditions have crumbled, public spaces are dwindling, and people are less inclined to take the formal approach to friendship that you prefer.

The 11th is the house of friends, and this is a concept that has become watered down to meaningless under the influence of developments like social media and the "device" intervening in every last human transaction. Both the phone and social media had their most rapid developments under Pluto in Capricorn (for example, the iPhone was introduced by Apple with Pluto at the very end of Sagittarius, but took hold and did all of its damage during Pluto in Capricorn).

Capricorn wants solid ground for connection, and Pluto working through this region has crumbled many facets of society that were

taken for granted for generations. Though you're generally an easygoing and informal person, you prefer to have some structure around you in social affairs, you prefer relationships to develop over time, and you're something of a traditionalist. Nearly all of that has given way to Pluto's demolition derby in Capricorn, and it's unclear whether something more helpful will emerge.

As this has gone on, your tendency has been to retreat to the past rather than embracing a techno approach to everyone and everything. But get ready, because with Pluto in Aquarius, that factor is going to ramp up significantly. You must plan for this, part of which means being aware of what's going to happen.

It's not easy to have Capricorn on the 11th house of "hopes and dreams," which also includes friendships and organizations. It places a limiting filter on your semi-public life, and leans in the direction of the very traditional approaches to life that are being demolished. Yet you still have this basic need. And fortunately, Saturn is here to help you shape your character and take on the forms of relating that work the best for you; give it some time — you will find your way. I'll come back to Saturn in a moment — let's keep deciphering Pluto in Aquarius.

Pluto in the 12th: An Inner Journey

The 12th place is the most private part of any chart. It's the place where people try to keep secrets from themselves; where denial is a factor; and where people and issues seem to disappear. It also represents a kind of internal scheme and model of your personality that influences your outer being. Reading a chart, it's often possible to find the "real person" somewhere in the 12th, or described by it.

Notably, Aquarius is also ruled by Saturn, and Saturn will serve to guide and regulate Pluto's movement through this innermost and sensitive region of your psyche. Pluto's purpose would seem to be about gaining a new level of profound inner knowledge — and then working with it consciously. If Saturn clears space, Pluto brings matters to the surface.

If the 12th represents the zone where one finds a structure that holds a person up or defines them from the inside, it's noteworthy that for you, that structure is about Aquarius — perhaps the most fixed of the four fixed signs.

Pluto is here to help you let go of some of the mental patterning that has defined your personality. It's true that over the past 20 years, all of the other (commonly used) outer planets have come through this territory, particularly Chiron, Uranus and Neptune. So you're accustomed to having this particular pot stirred. But nothing will go quite as deep as Pluto.

That said, considering events during the years 2005 through 2010 (when Chiron was in Aquarius) will be informative. Such a review will offer you a map of the territory and a look at the possibilities that Pluto will be offering you. It's likely that '05 through '10 were a highly creative time, and you may be feeling a yearning to go back into that territory and express yourself from an even deeper place.

One thing we can say for sure about the era of Chiron in Aquarius is that the world was not dominated by devices. In those years, you would not walk into a restaurant and see 20 people on their phones. It was still impolite to fiddle with a device during dinner, for example — but that faded away fast.

And you noticed the change in the world, and in people, and in their social patterns. It's important that you keep noticing and remain clear with yourself what works for you and what does not.

Aquarius in the 12th provides you with a kind of microcosm of society within you. Pluto will push a diversity of themes, including individuals distinguishing themselves from the influence of groups. This may be a time in your life when you experience a degree of individuality that is both profound and urgent to honor.

You alone know who you are. Others may have an approximate concept, but it's not the same as your own sense of your inner reality. Yet the more you understand your inner existence, the easier it will be to find others who are at least compatible. It is however likely that you will want more time to yourself and less time with others. If that is

true, make sure the time you spend with people and in social situations truly meets your needs. Otherwise, it will be far better to keep your own company and your own counsel.

Let's develop that theme and look more closely at events in your own sign, Pisces.

Saturn, The Reality Principle

Saturn entered your sign in March 2023, helping with the unrealistic, strange and overflowing nature of Neptune. Saturn is the reality principle and it often works by providing some kind of boundary, limit or structure — and this is helpful. Saturn gets a bad rap in astrology, when it's the most useful energy there is: that associated with taking responsibility for yourself.

This transit also comes with a drive for achievement, particularly in professional and financial matters. Saturn is an important success indicator. If you can handle honoring the necessities that it insists upon, and take your goals seriously (making sure that you have a few), this is an excellent transit.

There are some who resist the Reality Principle that Saturn represents. Unlike Neptune, which has all kinds of blurry edges and priorities that do not necessarily add up to progress, Saturn is a taskmaster — and while it's with you, you should be one as well.

You can do it; it's in your nature to accomplish large things in physical reality. Pisces has the second highest number of billionaires (Libra has a few more, Taurus just a few less — note that the top three signs for billionaires are all Venus-ruled; Venus is exalted in Pisces). I'm not advocating being a billionaire; I am advocating for having confidence in your power to shape your destiny in some meaningful ways.

With Saturn, the way to achieve great things is to do a little every day, and a little more the next. Focus and discipline are learned in steps. The lubrication here seems to be keeping your sense of humor even under adversity (especially so) and making sure that you honor your Pisces nature, which insists that you cut loose every now and then.

Pisces must indulge itself as a kind of spiritual necessity — not merely for diversion or because you're entitled.

For those who think that Saturn does not know how to have fun, consider that Saturnalia was the most debauched festival in the Roman calendar. The public offering to the god Saturn during his festival was not discipline but rather some indulgence. Social norms were overturned, gambling was permitted, and masters served meals for their slaves. (Saturnalia also seems to be one basis for the concept of Christmas, with gift-giving around the winter solstice; less family-friendly but still famous for alcohol consumption.)

Saturn in astrology is the principle of structure and containment. Its arrival in your sign or ascendant this past March 7 has guided you to set limits, patrol your borders and clean up your act generally. I reckon the past year came with lots of reduction: scaling back, cutting costs, limiting your involvements, freeing up your time and bandwidth, and committing to making better decisions. This influence arrived not a minute too late, and if you have not caught up with the planets, there is still time, as 2024 is the peak year of Saturn in Pisces.

Astute observers will note that with both Saturn and Neptune in Pisces, a conjunction is coming. This will occur in the first degree of Aries on Feb. 20, 2026, notably during another important conjunction in Aries: that of Chiron and Eris. And 2024 is a major year for events in Aries as well; I will devote a whole section of this reading to what's happening in Aries, as this is the angle of your chart most closely associated with your personal finances and resources. A bit further down I will address all matters related to Aries.

Saturn will be in your sign for as long as Neptune is. It will gradually close in on Neptune and that is designed to motivate you to play an ever-better game; to strive for impeccability; and to curtail any negative tendencies or habits. There is such a thing as enough. There is such a thing as not enough. Make sure you are sensitive to both of those conditions, and respond appropriately.

Saturn conjunct Nessus: Diss the Victim

Since 2014, there has been an important influence in Pisces, which is the third centaur Nessus. Victim chic has been a dominant social theme of Nessus in Pisces, and you want no part of this. You do not want to identify with it; it's one of the factors that will be worked out over the next year or so, as Saturn is here to help.

Pisces is famous for victim consciousness, which spans from "poor me" to full-on survivor mode. It is true that bad things happen on our planet. They happen to all of us. I am not suggesting that you play the 'victim' card more than other people; however, there is a hint that you might feel that way, and Saturn is offering strong guidance to find a better approach.

There is a caution as well about believing those who claim to be victims without thoroughly vetting the claims with absolute objectivity. Be on guard when someone seeks your sympathy. You are quick to give it, and have been fooled enough times to know that you must be cautious.

The problem is that in our society right now, being a victim is the last remaining source of clout. There are so many millionaires, billionaires, influencers and people notorious and revered for absolutely nothing, being a publicly acclaimed victim is the last bastion of 15 minutes of world fame. Remember: this is not what healing looks like. People actually seeking to work out painful personal experiences do not hold press conferences.

Beware of all this — anywhere in your environment, or in your consciousness. It is a trap.

Saturn forms a one-degree conjunction to Nessus in July, which is going to have a chilling effect on victim chic. There may be a last-gasp healing crisis that comes with this, as people figure out that this magical spell no longer works as well as it used to. Most people agree that it's getting old, and the number of fake victims is making it difficult to take seriously. There is a message here about taking your problems to the therapy room rather than the chat room. Beware of

those who tweet or post on Instagram about their allegedly deepest problems.

There are several other Nessus factors to keep in mind. The most important is foreseeing consequences. That means the consequences of actions you take going forward, and also of actions taken in the past. Both lend themselves to proactive response. Pay attention to what you're planning and what you're doing and size up any potential blowback or boomerang effect.

You are in a "heightened karma" situation where you're responsible for understanding the effects of your actions. This includes what you do and what you allow to occur. It can involve what you are near and what you witness. It does involve what you know and do not know; due diligence is your responsibility and yours alone.

The Issue of Consent

One last matter: the notion of "sexual consent." Nessus cautions against all forms of hazy agreements, especially where sexual sharing is involved. Know where you stand with yourself and others before you take any action sexually. I know this is not romantic; it argues against being spontaneous. But so, too, does Saturn. The result will be fewer, more fulfilling experiences.

The Nessus myth, according to the best translations available from ancient Greek, includes a sexual encounter where it is not clear whether the experience was by agreement, a fee paid for a service, or rape. That's a wide diversity of possibilities.

Nessus warns you to stay out of any and all foggy zones and do only what you are personally willing to take responsibility for, even if it goes badly. This includes taking special care in any situation where the ethics are shady or sketchy. Under the influence of Nessus, you must conduct yourself impeccably, and Saturn is coming to make sure that you hold yourself to this.

In any situation, especially a sexual one, the determining factor cannot be "consent." That is a legalistic notion, not a loving or spiritual one. Consent is for lawyers and gender studies majors.

Desire and appropriateness are what will actually determine whether you are where you belong. This is much simpler and more dependable. Do I want to be here? Is this the right person or situation for me?

And how do you know?

Of Values and Resources: Astonishing Events in Aries

Despite all else going on in the planets, the center of focus in our era is Aries. The sign associated with self-identity, Aries is the ignition system of the zodiac, and it's where people often seek and find their true meaning and purpose.

You have Aries in the 2nd place, which is about your values, your resources, your talents and your ability to make money. There are significant events in Aries over each of the next four years; they are going to stoke your potential. They will combine with other factors to make you hungry for self-discovery, and to express who you actually are to the world.

The 2nd place provides a basis in principles and values. It's like a personal constitution that you must follow if your choices and actions are to be valid. You are fortunate to have Aries here, because it provides you with motivation to take action (Aries is ruled by Mars) and also rewards you when you align who you really are with what you do.

You may have figured out by now that it's much more productive to be yourself than it is to try to be anyone or anything else, and this includes financial matters. Whatever makes that real for you is about to reach a series of peaks.

The first is the total eclipse conjunct Chiron on April 8. Chiron started moving into Aries in early 2018, though this eclipse is the first of two

peaks that happen relatively late in this cycle. (Chiron is famous for being a late-bloomer, so the best is saved for last.)

What makes this eclipse so rare is that the Moon and Sun align with Chiron not just to the degree but to the smallest fraction of one — between 1/30th and 1/60th of a tiny little slice of the heavens. I keep wondering how this is possible, but it's right there in the charts, and it represents something that is both highly unusual, and meaningful to you personally. What is under the microscope is something like "self-esteem," though multiply that concept by about a thousand for the real meaning. This is a moment of genuinely making peace with who you are, who you are becoming, and the meaning of your life — despite the challenges.

Under the influence of Chiron, weaknesses, injuries and other matters of legacy become your spiritual fuel. If you focus on what Chiron points out, what you may consider the worst about you becomes the most positive. And all of this comes back to how you feel about yourself, and whether you give yourself permission to express who you are. Some development or inner discovery is going to help you thread the needle here, and go right through the layers of who you are. The result will be integrity that you can use as a kind of power tool.

But this is the first of three events, which occur in subsequent years but which are coming up to strength now. The second is the conjunction of Chiron and Eris in 2025 and 2026. This represents, for you, coming to terms with and healing from the most difficult elements of the digital crisis we are in — and what it's done to you.

This aspect, too, is about bringing yourself back together in a state of wholeness and integrity. This aspect is close in 2024 — often within two degrees, enough to be in effect without being overpowering. It forms the basis of an important value: what makes you feel whole.

Notice how you feel *about yourself* when you're in different situations and with different people — rather than how you feel *about them*. If you're in a situation or with a person where you're doubting yourself, feel insecure, hate yourself, or anything inwardly negative, you're probably in the wrong place.

Finally, Saturn and Neptune form a conjunction not in Pisces but in Aries. This happens around your birthday in 2026. That sounds like it's in the future, though the elements are forming now; you contain them; they are moving through your psyche and your experience. Then the final alchemy happens in Aries.

All of this speaks to one theme: if you can align with and express only your actual self, you will open up your potential, including your talents, your ability to make money, and most of all, the greatest superpower of them all: feeling good about yourself.

Jupiter and Uranus: Of Commerce and Communications

Notice that I never mentioned that Neptune rules Pisces. It's certainly very Piscean. Very watery, misty, foggy, dreamy and visionary — it's very 12th-houseish. But it's not the ruler of Pisces — that distinction goes to Jupiter. And Jupiter is in rare form this year, as it makes a conjunction to Uranus in one of its best signs.

This occurs in Taurus, which for you is the house of your state of mind, as well as language, communications, commerce, and your local community. This is a tangible event that is going to get results. All of the factors are solid and dependable, and the fact of Jupiter's involvement in the solid, fruitful sign Taurus will work in your favor.

The 3rd is accessible and many of us are in it all day and all night: constantly buying, selling, and corresponding on the internet. Now we suddenly all live in the gig economy, whatever side(s) of it we are on.

Without putting too much expectation on this once-in-a-lifetime event, it could be a boon in several ways. One is that it's about an abundance of ideas — entirely new concepts, approaches and viewpoints, plus the words to express them. So that means stick to your creative tools and work the territory and don't be afraid to be bold and even radical.

Plus, the 3rd is about commerce: buying and selling. Some of these ideas will be about what to create, and others will be about how to sell them. This is a little like the marketing genie coming out of a bottle.

Remember that you have Taurus here, another placement that speaks to your traditional and somewhat formal approach to what you do. Make sure you recognize your personal traditions and stay connected to what is old and time-honored. All you do that is revolutionary will be the development of something classical. Taurus also demands quality, and a natural approach to whatever you are doing.

If we do some astrological arithmetic here, Jupiter — the activating agent — rules two signs and is exalted in a third. First, Jupiter rules Pisces, your own sign, so this is about you having some kind of personal emergence within yourself. Second, Jupiter rules Sagittarius, which is your 10th place — of action, of reputation and of the willingness to take on responsibility. So we see the potential to greatly expand in this area.

Finally, Jupiter is exalted in Cancer, which is your 5th place of creativity, risk, pleasure and play. So put all these things together in one place. I suggest you keep your schedule as free as possible around your birthday and into April; you will need the space to be spontaneous, including the potential for spur-of-the-moment travel for both business and pleasure. This looks like an international opportunity (or more than one) that addresses all of the topics that Jupiter is about for you personally.

Stop waiting and get your affairs in order and ready to go on the road. Make sure you have everything you need to present yourself impeccably, whatever form that portfolio might take.

The Group or Collaboration Factor

In several aspects of your astrology, the group collaboration factor appears. We see it with Jupiter conjunct Uranus in Taurus (Uranus always implies at least three or more people), though these could be customers or clients. Uranus can also indicate a kind of business network you are part of.

Another message comes from Pallas and Sappho at the top of your chart, in Sagittarius, at your solar return. This describes the attraction

of people who are on the same spiritual and political wavelength who may be helpful.

There is an indicator to work with authority figures rather than against them. In other words, take care of all matters of compliance, and make sure you have someone advising you about the ones you might have missed. Also, the Sappho-Pallas conjunction may describe the people who keep you visible. You're not necessarily going to be so interested in the public relations angle. This is one other area where I see outside assistance being helpful.

I think in all, the key to successful collaboration will be choosing very few people who have a high work ethic. The "help" getting in the way can be discouraging, and you need less assistance than you think. So be realistic about this, and choose from among the loving and the reliable. You are the winning ticket these days, and that will start to become obvious as Jupiter and Uranus station direct.

It is probable that any new relationship interests will be those you meet through your productive and creative activities.

Speaking of Business and Compliance

Be on the lookout for financial errors you made in the past, so that you may ensure you're not making the same mistake again. Be sure to know exactly who has access to your bank accounts, financial instruments and other access points to your resources.

Make sure you have qualified help if you are using accounting or bookkeeping contractors. If you can, make sure they work in-hours rather than remotely. You want as much oversight as you can have, and you want to understand the issues and technicalities that most people prefer to leave to professionals.

Ultimately, you are responsible for their conduct — which of course they don't tell you when you hire them. Also note that unlike with attorneys, accountants do not have privileged relationships with their clients. What you say to them is not necessarily confidential.

You will feel and in fact be much more in control of your affairs when you understand the terminology and the logic of what financial professionals are doing for you.

Keep an eye on deadlines and make sure that the work gets done. If your business is big enough to have such reporting, be sure to check out your profit and loss statements (P&Ls) and come up with at least three questions based on each new one. You're beginning to understand something when you can formulate a question.

The South Node's passage through Libra, an important financial house, is encouraging you to leave behind some bad habits and to not assume that they are "just the way things are." The South Node is a lot like Saturn in that it's excellent at clearing space — physical or psychic — and is going deep doing so.

One Last Reminder about Saturn and Neptune

Saturn in your sign all year is quite a contrast to Neptune the past decade. True, Saturn showed up last year, though 2024 is the year that Saturn goes deep into Pisces, and when there are likely to be many more transits to your personal chart.

Saturn (or some force) may seem to be encroaching on various comfort zones that you had settled into over the years, particularly since Chiron left your sign in 2018-2019. Chiron at least presented you with a lens you could use to focus some of the blur and see through the fog and mists.

Then there was a four-year gap (marked by some of the most astounding episodes of public deception in world history) — and then finally Saturn showed up in early 2023.

Saturn will ensure that you don't live on hope (which Neptune would easily allow). You must have faith either in your own abilities, or your spiritual connection; the two are related.

Both Saturn and Neptune can come with a sense of isolation and alienation. They get this effect differently, and it would be helpful if

you would look out for it, and question whether it's real. It may be, though if that is true today, it's likely to change over the next few months due to events that will help you gather and focus your community.

Your new friends are more likely to feel like family than casual social acquaintances. When that happens, map out who reminds you of who, that is, which people in your current life remind you of someone from the past. It's a frequent occurrence that non-relatives who enter your life will fit a familiar family configuration, until that is potentially shifted through your awareness and deepening communication.

Be sure you respond as the adult that you are today and not the child that you once were.

The Delta of Venus

Pisces is where the river of the zodiac ends. It's the delta into which all the other signs drain. This is a lot of responsibility and it's not easy. You're often the place where karma collects, and where it must be resolved and returned to the cosmic ocean.

There's a lot of karma on the planet right now — the constant, nonstop creation of actions that are rarely ever reconciled, accounted, or taken responsibility for. Neptune in Pisces is making this difficult for everyone to see and recognize. The theme of our time is how much we are passing forward to the future, living not as if there is no tomorrow but as if tomorrow is someone else's problem.

Saturn is giving you a profound sense of responsibility and of the need for action. You are among those who can have a wide and long view of time; covering your eyes or staring at your feet is not enough. Nessus is enhancing this feeling; its primary key phrase is, "The buck stops here." That implies "with you," taking personal responsibility for the state of the world. Proceed with caution here, in all matters external to your personal existence. I am not suggesting that you stand back from your calling to service, but rather that you do so in a way that has some resiliency and that works for everyone.

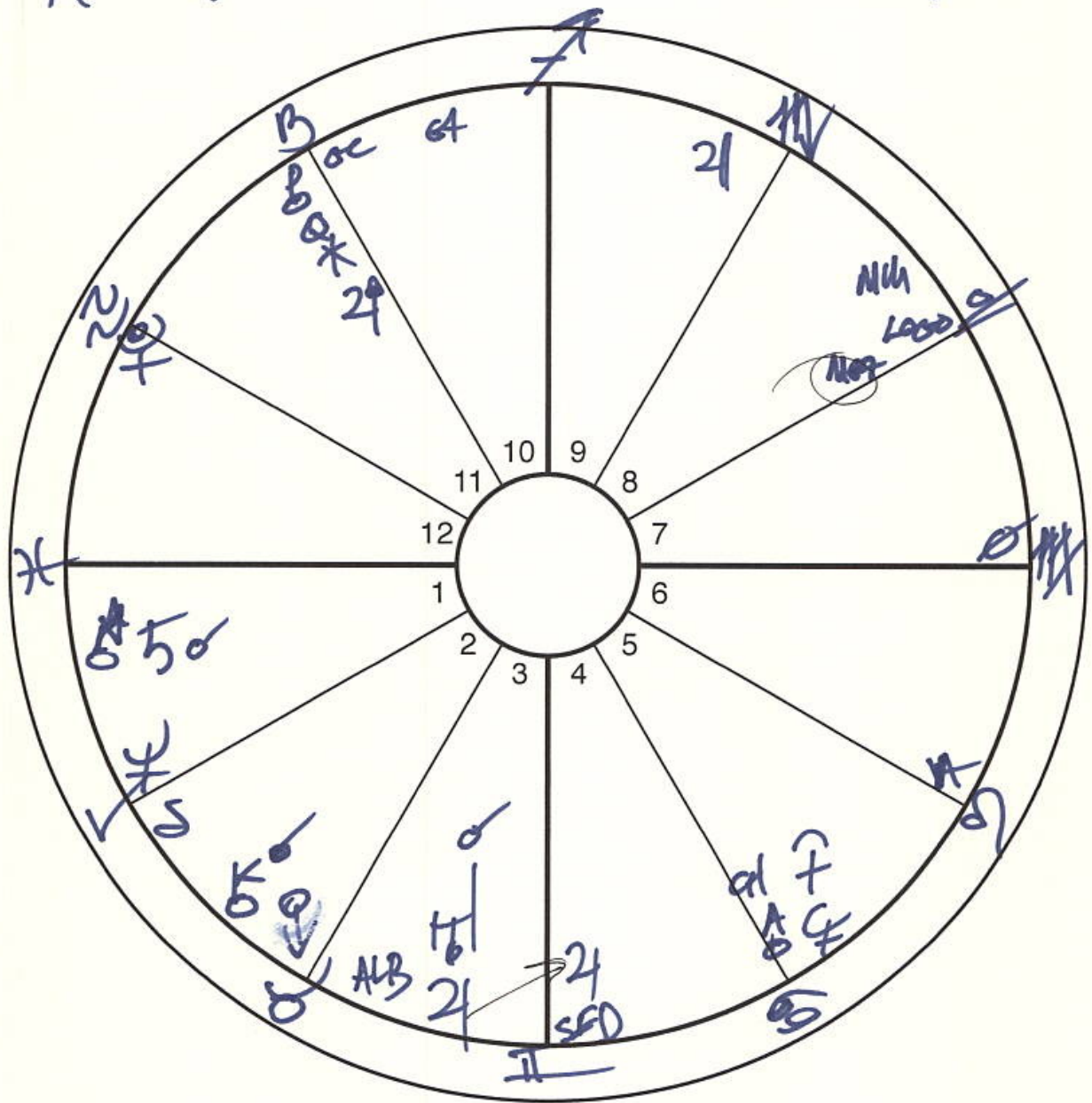
It's essential that you use the power of Saturn to set a boundary between you and all else. Use Saturn to help you structure time and space around what you know you want and need to do.

Part of the adult characteristics indicated by Saturn include the ability to sort out what is your property and your duty, and what is not. In no case can you take any external responsibility until you have fulfilled some of your commitments to yourself, including to your healing processes, to your self-care, and to having a handle on your private affairs, whether business or personal.

Under the current astrology, close to yourself is the place to start, working within your means and gradually stretching them. Reduce rather than enlarge, so that when the moment of expansion comes, you will be ready and have fewer encumbrances.

H 2024+

Pisces



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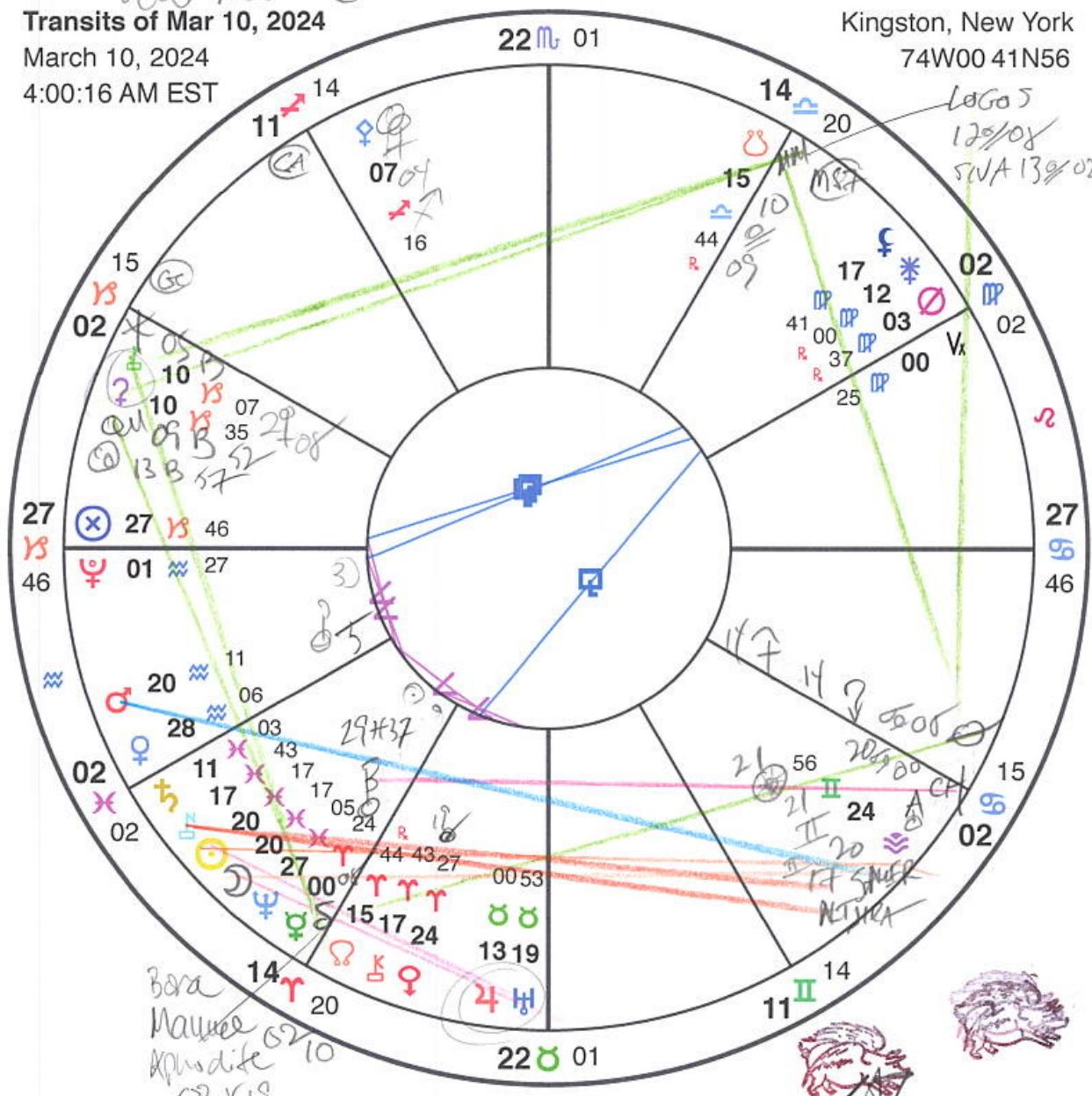
Transits of Mar 10, 2024

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