



DECEMBER - JANUARY 2012

Be alert to compulsive behavior as December begins, as Venus and Pluto align in conjunction in 07° Capricorn on the 1st. Powerful energies now exist for healing, while for some, a new love interest or fascination may develop. This planetary pairing is also favorable for corporate business interests and joint financial concerns.

Under normal circumstances, the conjunction of the sun and Mercury on the 4th (in 12° Sagittarius) would be a clarion call to act on your bright ideas. But because the messenger of the gods is currently in retrograde, some very careful fact checking might be called for before communicating your thoughts and views. Nevertheless, this is a good time to attend to backlogged correspondence and messages. Be alert to educational opportunities, or highly valued information. Important announcements or decisions could also be forthcoming.

When Venus trines Mars, early on the 5th, it could be thrills galore, and a day tailor-made for romance. This planetary pairing also favors most forms of creative self-expression.

After five months in retrograde, Uranus, planet of innovation, *stations* direct late on the 9th (early 10th, EST), in 01° Aries. Ambition is powerfully kindled at this time, and goal setting is favored, while the spirit of revolution abounds. There is also heightened potential for seismic activity and unstable weather for several days around this potent planetary station.

A total lunar eclipse occurs as the full moon culminates on the 10th, in 19° Gemini. One's everyday physical circumstances may in some way come into focus in the days around this lunation. Some may be contemplating a change of surroundings, while it could even be forced upon others. Release whatever or whomever no longer serves you now, particularly in regard to

associations that may no longer have relevance. Observe how you communicate around this juncture for ways in which you may improve interpersonal relations.

After three tongue twisting, logically challenged weeks, Mercury *stations* direct on the 13th. Communications are now more reliable, while mental processes quicken. Move ahead with plans now, but with caution. Avoid making snap decisions, as there'll be a tendency towards impatience for a few days.

On the 19th the sun sextiles Saturn, when constructive progress can be made towards career goals. Being both practical and creative achieves best results now. Seek career or educational advice from an elder or authority figure, as it could prove most helpful.

The sun sextiles Neptune and then forms a jarring square to Uranus either side of the winter solstice, propagating two widely divergent cosmic influences. With the former, imagination is inspired and instincts sharpen. But the sun's square to unpredictable Uranus is potentially a real shaker! By all means flow with any changes in circumstances beyond your control, but this is not the time to initiate change based solely upon a desire for greater personal freedom. Nonetheless, creative inspiration abounds, making this a great time to brainstorm.

The **winter solstice** arrives late on the 21st (early 22nd, EST) as the sun leaves outgoing Sagittarius and enters the cool, calculating domain of Capricorn, where the creative energies of the sun are constrained, disciplined and focused on achievement in this Saturn-ruled sign. Try to get a handle on where you're going, career-wise, over the next four weeks.

Pursue business, educational, or creative goals with renewed fervor now as the solstice sun also trines expansive Jupiter, promising much growth potential during the winter

season. Seek favors from those in authority, as they may be more conciliatory now.

December's new moon arrives on Christmas Eve, the 24th, in 03° Capricorn. Review or upgrade professional objectives, and expand your occupational horizons. Acknowledge and release any deep-rooted fears of failure that may have been holding you back from realizing your full potential and move forward with renewed confidence. With the lunation conjunct Pluto and in trine to Jupiter, connect with influential people or groups with whom you share common professional goals, philosophies or objectives during the next four weeks.

After four months in retrograde, giant Jupiter *stations* direct on Christmas Day, the 25th, in 01° Taurus. Jupiter's resumption of forward motion through the zodiac could bring sudden growth opportunities that can quickly propel one way beyond one's preconceived limitations.

When the sun conjuncts distant Pluto on the 28th in 08° Capricorn, willpower and assertiveness are greatly intensified. Watch out for ego clashes, or attempts at coercion now. A glimpse of the darker side of life, or of oneself, could be revealed as a result of this potent planetary union.

A nerve-jangling square between Mercury and Mars perfects late on New Year's Eve, when excitable, impulsive tendencies will be rampant. Be careful not to betray confidences, or in some way "let the cat out of the bag". Remain alert and aware while traveling. If you're heading out to a party or for dinner, allow plenty of time so there's no need to rush. The same applies afterwards when you're heading home—it will help to ensure a happy beginning to 2012.

Mercury sextiles Neptune on the 7th then squares Uranus on the 8th, a two-day period when mechanical or systems failures are possible. Therefore, be sure to back-up computer

files or get your vehicle checked out *before-hand*. Postpone important decisions or signings for a few days, as mental processes may tend to be somewhat erratic. This is a great time to brainstorm, though. Under the Mercury-Neptune alignment, a moment of awareness could provide the solution to a problem, while spiritual or metaphysical study can bring both inspiration and enlightenment.

Also on the 7th, Mercury leaves the expansive realm of Sagittarius and enters Capricorn, when thoughts turn toward business, career and practical considerations. Ambition is fueled, while patience and discipline are easier to come by during the next three weeks.

Catch up on correspondence, messages and email when Mercury trines Jupiter on the 8th. This is a great time to reorganize your office, and to improve filing and data management systems. Travel can be enjoyable and rewarding now. This is also a favorable time to begin a study course, or to sign up for a workshop.

January's full moon culminates late on the 8th (early 9th, EST) in 19° Cancer, when domestic responsibilities may be pressing, and yet the need to take care of work or business interests could also be strong. If possible, strike a healthy, practical balance between home and your professional or career needs around this juncture.

An abundance of physical energy may take some sublimating when the sun trines Mars on the 12th, so be sure to get plenty of exercise! Creative self-expression now can bring both enjoyment and satisfaction. Have faith in your ability to achieve.

Artistic Venus conjuncts dreamy Neptune in the last degree of Aquarius on the 13th, before entering Pisces later the same day. Judgment in business or partnership matters may be below par just now. However, aesthetic sensitivity is heightened and intuition is enhanced. Creative inspiration abounds, while love can take on a more spiritual, idealistic quality.

On the 14th, when Venus sextiles Jupiter, make time to consider the future, and to review your hopes and wishes. Financial enterprise, foreign investments, and travel is favored now.

When the sun squares off with Saturn on the 19th, the natural vitality and flow of creativity derived from the sun is constrained by Saturn's limiting influence, portending delays and minor frustrations, while duties and

responsibilities may seem especially onerous. Do persevere, however, as progress can be made through disciplined work and focused effort. Meditate on something cheerful that brings you joy, it will lift your spirits.

The sun enters forward-looking Aquarius on January 20th, a time to assess whether you're "up to speed" with the techniques or technologies that can keep you at or get you to the head of the pack in your chosen field. If not, now's the time to do it. Consider your goals and ambitions over the next four weeks. Are you on target? Align with organizations, groups or friends who share your objectives.

On the 21st the sun moves into a precise square to Jupiter, a cosmic augury to avoid impulsiveness or squandering valuable resources. Act only after careful deliberation, as you may be inspired to tackle projects that you normally wouldn't consider. This planetary aspect seldom bodes well for real estate interests, or for the stock market; wait till after the new moon to make your move.

The first new moon of 2012 arrives late on the 22nd (early 23rd, EST) in 03° Aquarius. While all new moons are imbued with the energy and attributes of Aries—initiation, new beginnings—this Aquarius new moon may inspire bold new objectives in some, while others could feel the need for more personal freedom.

The **Chinese New Year of the Dragon** becomes official at sunrise on January 23rd, following last evening's Aquarius new moon. In a Dragon year, we are galvanized to think and act big, and throw caution to the wind in pursuit of ambitious goals. However, it would be prudent to temper one's enthusiasm and plan carefully before leaping into the unknown, as successes and failures can both be magnified in this potentially volatile year of extremes. An increase in natural disasters, violent acts of nature, and wild and erratic weather are also hallmarks of a Dragon year. In traditional Chinese astrology, this is an auspicious year in which to "tie the knot", begin a new business enterprise, or to start a family. If you can maintain a sense of proportion in the highly charged atmosphere a Dragon year portends, you stand an excellent chance of success in whatever you strive for.

Celestial warrior, Mars, officially beats the retreat by stationing retrograde in 24° Virgo on January 23rd, commencing a rare backward trek through the zodiac till April 13th, 2012, temporarily diminishing the traditional

Martian assertiveness factor. In this reverse mode, Mars is more reluctant to act, instead, holding back energies that might actually be better off expressed. Thus, hostilities can erupt as pent up energies accumulate, evolve into acute frustrations, attain a critical mass and go ballistic. This is, in fact, a most appropriate time to seek a compromise with an antagonist, as people may be more conciliatory, or especially patient. Nevertheless, impulsive tendencies exist, and motivations need to be questioned—your own, as well as those of others. This is not the ideal launch window for a new venture, or for making a major purchase, as the motive force required to get a project off the ground may be insufficient to overcome the inertia. Instead, check your moral compass, your game plan and, most importantly, your motivations, and focus on tasks requiring patience in the meantime.

Mercury squares Saturn early on the 27th, which can be particularly helpful if you need to deal with tasks requiring great concentration. Banish fleeting worries or petty frustrations; just keep your mind focused on the job in hand and you may actually accomplish quite a lot. It may be prudent, though, to avoid signing binding contracts or making deals today.

Mercury quickly moves on from Capricorn's realm of rules and tradition and enters revolutionary Aquarius later on the 27th (till Feb 13), a transit that is especially favorable for creative writing, conceiving progressive ideas, and for the study of metaphysics, science, and astrology.

Mercury's mentally stimulating influence continues through the remaining days of January by making contacts with Uranus, then Jupiter, on the 28th, when intuition or simply inspired imagination could provide an innovative solution to an old problem. However, with Mercury, the trickster, so active, we must also expect the unexpected and sudden developments could necessitate a change in plans, while communication frustrations are also possible. Remain skeptical of proposals or offers that come your way now—make sure you have all the facts. Even though you may be feeling quite hopeful and optimistic, try not to promise more than you can deliver!

Following is a *general* overview of how the planetary trends for **December/January, 2012** apply to each sun sign. If you know your *rising sign* (Ascendant), read that, too, for additional insights.



ARIES (March 20—April 19)

December promises to be particularly busy, as you find yourself in the midst of one of the most stimulating and expansive periods you've experienced for quite some time. You may have more work on your plate than you care to handle, not that you're complaining though, as you may be glad of some extra money with the Holidays approaching. Indeed, your finances are poised to improve considerably before this forecast period is over, as lucky Jupiter turns direct on Christmas Day (25th) in your solar second house of personal income, where it will remain till mid June. New career possibilities could materialize during January that may completely transform your prospects for the future, prompting you to set lofty new goals for yourself. Just make sure that your ambitions are practical, and that you do not dissipate any financial gains you may have already made unnecessarily in pursuit of your latest quest.



TAURUS (April 19—May 20)

You're ready to get your life back on track and moving forward, after a protracted period of change and instability. While the process of personal transformation will continue for quite some time, during which your outlook on life and your philosophies are considerably broadened, you feel more in control of your destiny than at any time you can recall, and keen to make bold new plans for the future. You're keen to make the Holidays a happy and joyful time for your family, and yet there may be a sense of tension in the background that may leave something more to be desired, despite the festivities. However, this feeling will quickly pass, with lucky Jupiter turning direct on Christmas Day (25th), conjunct your solar ascendant. As 2012 arrives and gathers momentum, you're filled with hope and optimism, and ready to take on whatever challenges may lie before you.



GEMINI (May 20—June 21)

Your home base is a hive of activity these days, and a likely focal point for many of your current ventures. Those you regularly interact with seem to be many and varied these days. The diversity of input you receive may be both stimulating and, at times, overwhelming. And yet it is your colleagues, associates, and the significant others in your life from whom you receive the most inspiration and thoughtful feedback these days. Your emotional world is also highly active now, with Mars holding court in your solar fourth house through early July, stirring up feelings about your family, your past, and your own deepest needs with what appears like alarming frequency. The rhyme and reason behind this process is that it is time to release whatever burdensome baggage you still carry that now serves only to hinder your progress in life. It's time to lighten your load!



CANCER (June 21—July 22)

The challenges you've been experiencing in regard to home and family matters have brought opportunities to closely examine and to heal some old wounds

from the past that continue to haunt you even now. You are forming new philosophies about what your freedom and self determination mean to you, particularly in regard to your career direction, and how to balance and reconcile this with your obligations and responsibilities to your family. Fear not, for a breakthrough is coming, one that will have you enthusiastically setting bold new goals for the future in 2012. It might also be possible to take a significant relationship to a whole new level, bringing you much joy, happiness and satisfaction.



LEO (July 22—August 23)

There's an abundance of creative impetus to tap into as the Holidays approach, when the more ambitious members of your sign will be keen to add to their income. However, the impulse to have fun with friends will also be strong, and with some astute planning you should be able to accomplish everything on your "to do" list, including your holiday shopping. Where work is concerned, you may find that your services are much in demand, with the possibility of an important and lucrative new assignment. Indeed, advances in your career may be in store early in 2012, so be alert to the opportunity should it come knocking. Be sure to appear professional and on top of your game, and banish any hesitation or fears about your competency. With lucky Jupiter in your solar tenth house of worldly success through early July, your prospects for the future look bright.



VIRGO (August 23—September 23)

A new and expansive cycle of growth and development is underway that will positively impact your domestic situation in the coming weeks. You are more in touch with your deepest needs and what it takes for you to feel emotionally fulfilled these days, which will influence some key decisions that it may now be time to make. Ambitious Virgo natives will be keen to move forward with some personal projects or aspirations now, and may form creative alliances with individuals that can help you in your quest. The holiday season could be especially enjoyable, filling you with hope and optimism for 2012. You are inspired and prepared to make a sustained effort to expand your horizons, sensing unlimited possibilities before you.



LIBRA (September 23—October 23)

Information or news you receive in early December could lift your spirits and put your mind at ease. Perhaps a confirmation that something you had feared may not now come to pass, or a personal challenge is overcome. Your subconscious mind has been working overtime for several weeks, but now you feel more inspired to apply your inner resources in more creative, practical ways. Indeed, it may also be possible to eliminate a few skeletons from your emotional closet in the weeks and months ahead, as you discover hidden depths to your psyche that you had not previously plumbed. Your dreams might be

more frequent and colorful these days, and may inspire constructive action towards a cherished goal or objective in 2012. Make time to play and have some fun with friends, as it's possible that you may learn of a new work opportunity through networking or by participating in a social function.



SCORPIO (October 23—November 22)

You are in hot pursuit of a goal or key objective in December that, you feel, could unlock the door to a bright new future. And it's likely that the acquisition of adequate financial resources is fueling the fire of desire in your belly. You're certainly not short of creative ideas and novel notions to inspire you in your quest, so be sure to make note of your thoughtful musings so that you can later mine them for valuable gems. You have lofty ambitions and professional aspirations that you know you are capable of attaining, and there may well be influential individuals or social connections that could be most helpful to you if you were to approach them. Don't allow fears or doubts about your capabilities to undermine your self-confidence. Indeed, you can make great strides forward in your life in 2012 by reinforcing your faith, and self-belief.



SAGITTARIUS (November 21—December 21)

You are pumped up and energized to pursue a coveted personal or career objective and determined to have things your way. You may feel like you've already waited long enough to see a highly valued ambition become a reality, and now it's time for affirmative action. Even the Holidays can take a back seat if it means spending more time in furthering your quest, particularly where the acquisition of necessary resources or additional money is concerned. Indeed, it may be possible now, and in early 2012, to substantially increase your cash flow. And you won't be shy about asking for what you want, as you well know your worth. Just be sure that you can honor any promises you make.



CAPRICORN (December 21—January 19)

It may be possible now to finally begin to check off some items that may have long been on your priority wish list and make at least one of your dreams come true. Now, you feel, you can move forward with a coveted personal ambition, and that your patience and persistence is soon to be rewarded. It may not be easy for you to ask for help, references, or to call in favors, but if it means that you can expedite your progress by doing so you will do it now. However, that may not be a necessary recourse, as

you have the ability to almost magically attract exactly what you need with little effort on your part, by simply being yourself—composed, confident, and self-assured.



AQUARIUS (January 19—February 18)

In early December, many progressive Aquarius natives will be making ambitious new plans and readying projects for implementation in 2012, and chief among them will likely be improvements within your domestic environment. For some it will be making home improvements or remodeling to give you more space in which to function, while others may decide that it's time to move to a location that has more to offer. In either case, it's the impulse to effect a radical though positive change in your environment that motivates you now. Some form of personal makeover may also be on your agenda, in order to present a new *you* to the world in 2012.



PISCES (February 18—March 20)

Could it possibly be that one of your fondest dreams is shortly to become a reality? It certainly may seem so as the Holidays approach, and you're keen to enlist the help of willing friends or partners to make it so. You're also feeling ambitious now and inspired to get ahead in the world, perhaps by embracing a new career path, or by sharing your knowledge or experience in some creative and innovative way. Begin formulating your master plan for the future, combining foresight, logic and practicality as key elements of your strategy. Your instincts and intuition will become noticeably sharper once Neptune crosses your solar ascendant and enters your sign on Feb 3rd. Seek ways in which you can incorporate these abilities into both your personal and professional activities.



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