

GREETINGS;

As the last week of July ends with a New Moon in Leo on 7/30, we have the first clues as to the turbulence and high energy of August. With Venus joining the Sun and Moon and Leo, we have a fiery start to the next 30 days. Try to stay cool, calm and balanced. It will be a challenge.

LANDSCAPING: Please mulch your plants and water as much as you can afford to before the rains come. Mars moves into Cancer on 8/3 and that usually brings a month of rain. My big concern is the condition of your trees. I see tree limbs fallen in my neighborhood every day on my way to and from work. Please get your trees looked at and properly trimmed. If they have mushrooms and other things growing around or on them and you see woodpeckers feasting, you need an arborist. I have a great arborist and tree subcontractor that I can recommend, as well as a great irrigator if you have leaks or need an installation. My plants got so big this summer that I had to have new higher heads to properly irrigate. Either email me or call me at 713/520-1551 if I can help you in any way. If you are selling, I know personally how fast sales occur when the outside is properly staged and cleaned up in a cost effective way.

AUGUST ASTROLOGICAL OUTLOOK;

As mentioned above, the Leo energy pattern for August begins on 7/30 with a New Moon in Leo combining with Venus. This is a very wonderful energy so plan something enjoyable with people you are in harmony with. The Full Moon in August is also on a Saturday 8/13, so plan another fun activity for that day as well. The strong Leo energy of the first three weeks of August intensifies our need for social connection, particularly with family and friends who are our family of choice. Since we have a long period of Mercury being retrograde in August (8/2-26), it is a good time to stay home, clean up and out, get more organized, and make plans for a productive and prosperous Fall. The last week of August begins with a New Moon in Virgo on 8/28 so put off all important actions and travel till that week. The fast moving planet Jupiter slows down and turns retrograde on 8/30, further urging a time of rest and reflection. With Uranus, Neptune and Pluto already retrograde and Mercury moving backward out of sync for most of the month, it is a time for peaceful contemplation and not to begin new projects and push forward.

Mercury begins its out of sync period in Virgo on 8/2. This tends to make us all a bit worried and agitated, and since that is the day our government may shut down, we have a place to focus our irritation and anger. Additionally Mars is in the last degrees of Gemini till it enters watery Cancer 8/3. You are forewarned so practice some deep breathing and let the troublesome thoughts that do not serve you go. Everything changes with time.

On 8/8 Mercury moves into Leo with Venus and the Sun and the promise of a peaceful, joyful time is briefly disturbed by the positioning of Neptune which has moved backwards from Pisces into Aquarius on 8/4. For those who are paranoid and self doubting, you may have an unexpected bout of fear and doubt. Remember Fear is false events appearing real, so turn your imagination to optimism and write down your new thoughts in case you forget and regress. On 8/16 Mercury joins Venus in Leo for a magical day of great ideas and social warmth. Don't fail to plan something wonderful on this day. As you can see, mental Mercury, our trickster of the mind, is moving slowly, without much contact with the other planets, so a period of introspection and introversion is its natural rhythm. For those who prepare their life and mind for a period of calm, this will be a wonderful month. If you are pushing and struggling, you are going against the current. I want to remind you not to buy cars, houses, sign contracts and limit your decision making, or you will come to regret it within the next 3 months. It is very easy to make mistakes with Mercury retrograde, even if you are a clear thinker. When Mercury is retrograde, not all the facts are on the table. It is a good time to get organized.

As mentioned already, Venus is in the sign of Leo, the open heart till 8/21 when it moves on to Virgo. On 8/1 Venus is balanced by Uranus in Aries, which is a great pattern of creativity and personal interaction, so plan accordingly. On 8/5 Jupiter sends energy from Taurus which is a strong action pattern. On 8/21 as Venus leaves Leo, there is another day of self doubt as Neptune clouds our thinking. Thankfully, on 8/25 Venus is stabilized by Pluto in Capricorn and on 8/30 by Jupiter in Taurus, which is a base loaded

metaphor for progress and success, especially for those with planets in Capricorn, Virgo and Taurus. The rest of us will have good opportunities as well.

Mars is the troublemaker this month, spending the first two days of the month in Gemini, driving our minds mad with too many thoughts and fears, and then moving into Cancer, where it makes us more neurotic than we knew we were. This usually happens for one month a year and we get to review where we are still crazy so we can make a development plan. This is particularly true on 8/9 as Mars and Uranus square off. Please be careful driving and don't get on ladders or move too fast this day. Again on 8/11, there is the possibility of power struggles with those we are not in harmony with, so pass on this as well. Finally, on 8/25 Mars and Saturn stir up relationship battles as we feel differently than some of those close to us. Keep it to yourself and you will come from a place of proactivity rather than reactivity, which is a power vs. force position.

I have chosen to take my own advice this month and stay in Houston so I plan to work Monday-Friday and take a vacation in September and October. If you need help planning your life, or dealing with life's challenges, call my office to schedule an appointment.

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