

GREETINGS:

The month of August 2020 continues the theme of 20/20 vision emerging from the tension of life events and the inner awareness we receive as the planetary influences point us to increased awareness of our true self and our deepest needs. One of the most important factors in this transformation process is the presence of the planet Mars in its home sign of Aries beginning June 28, 2020 and ending on January 6, 2021. This is an unusually long period for Mars to remain in the fiery cardinal home of the warrior archetype Aries. I have gotten permission from my friend, Astrologer Kimberly McSherry to excerpt information from her brilliant essay entitled "Mars in Aries: Return to Authentic Self". Obviously, this is our mission over the next 5+ months. The essay contains many quotes which pinpoint the essence of this task: "Be yourself, everyone else is already taken" (Oscar Wilde). "The art of being a warrior is to balance the wonder and terror of being alive" (Carlos Castaneda) and finally, "Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself" (George Bernard Shaw).

Mars is active in August as the Sun occupies the fire sign Leo. Mercury joins the Sun in Leo from 8/6 – 8/20 and is combust the Sun on 8/17 a day after the Sun and Mars creative a highly supportive pattern and the day before the powerful New Moon in Leo on 8/18. What is our assignment in August as Mars is at its greatest intensity, along with the Sun in Leo? Expect frustration, anger, passion and action, perhaps courage and the urge to change without hesitation. Mars is the archetype of the warrior in each of us, allowing us to survive and protect ourselves, as well as to define our boundaries, develop physical prowess and strength, allowing us to know who we are and to enjoy being ourselves. Between 8/4 – 8/24 we will have 3 days when Mars is challenged by the three planets in earthy Capricorn which is a bit like having your foot on the gas and the brake at the same time. On 8/4 Mars and Jupiter expand their energies of optimism and excess; on 8/13 Mars and Pluto create friction and aggression within ourselves as well as from outside forces; and finally on 8/24 Mars and Saturn square off and this is a good day to hide out and chill out as it may feel like we are being pulled apart like my sons' favorite toy "Stretch Armstrong", and I can tell you with full authority when they pulled him apart he was filled with pink goo.

I personally feel that the long period of Mars in Aries is an infusion of courage, determination and decisiveness for each of us to become a better version of ourselves. It will test our temperament and our conflict resolutions skills but that should increase our passion and patience and lead us to right action.

August begins with a Full Moon in Aquarius on 8/3, giving greater intensity by the connection with the planet of change and creative genius, Uranus, soon to slow down and become one more retrograde planet from 8/15/2020 - 1/14/2021. This is one of the energy sources of the unexpected chaos of 2020, which started the year with a bang on 1/11/20. Hopefully we will find creative solutions to this source of chaos in the upcoming 6 months.

On August 18 there will be a New Moon in Leo which is the best time in August to celebrate and become clear on what your unmet needs are and make plans to move toward developing a plan

for integrating your desires into your growth plans for 2020. This year is the year of inner unmasking as we find out what we are made of. Mars in Aries will give us the will and determination to survive and thrive and the New Moon brings a sliver of light into the process.

Stay cool and keep a cool attitude as the friction of change develops us from the inside out. If I can help you unravel the mysteries within yourself or make a plan for moving forward, I am available for appointments in my office and/or on the telephone.

WISHING YOU AMAZING GROWTH, PEACE, JOY AND ABUNDANCE IN AUGUST!

NAN