

Feel the Bern.

An astrological article by

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At this moment, 4/21/16 at 8:56 AM Pacific, in which I am starting to write this, our solar system is situated thusly: The Sun is in the 2nd degree of the sign of Taurus;

the Moon is in the 26th degree of Libra;

Mercury in the 22nd degree of Taurus;

Venus, Aries 20;

Mars Sagittarius 9, retrograde;

Jupiter, Virgo 14 retrograde;

Saturn, Sagittarius 16, retro;

Chiron, Pisces 24;

Uranus Aries 22;

Neptune, Pisces 12;

Pluto, Capricorn 18, retrograde.

The things that stand out (to me): Jupiter is very square Saturn; there are 4 retrograde planets; Venus is conjunct Uranus; Chiron is conjunct the south node.

Tonight, at 10:24 PM Pacific, there is a Full Moon (Sun opposite Moon). The Sun will be in the third degree of Taurus and the Moon will be in the third degree of Scorpio.

At 10:20 AM Pacific on April 28th, Mercury goes retrograde in the 24th degree of Taurus.

At 5:14 AM Pacific on May 9th, Jupiter goes direct in the 14th degree of Virgo. So between 4/28 and 5/9, we're going to have two planets – Mars and Saturn - retrograde in Sagittarius (Fire), and 3 planets – Mercury, Jupiter and Pluto – retrograde in Earth signs. Fire and Earth are not generally considered compatible, so whatever tensions might be ascribed to the various components we're discussing will be exacerbated by that incompatibility.

An interesting feature (I think) during those 12 days is that between 4/30 and 5/2, the Moon's nodes will be direct. They're normally retrograde but because of the way the Earth's poles wobble, they are occasionally direct. So basically, during this period when 5 planets are retro, there is also going to be a strong wobble in the Earth's rotation.

Really, just because I mention Earth and Fire incompatibility and a wobbly planet, it doesn't mean you should infer anything about earthquakes or volcanos or anything like that. Seriously!

Well. Anyway.

Many of you have noted that I haven't put an article out for awhile (the last one was in September). Here are some reasons why, loosely chronological relative to how I encountered them.

1) I am a degree astrologer. A lot of astrologers mention degrees but aren't degree astrologers. If you want to know about degree astrology, you can start with Rhudyar's "An Astrological Mandala." Basically, when you use degrees you round up (23 degrees 5 minutes is the 24th degree). Citing degrees sounds kind of intellectual or something, but for the most part, when they're mentioned, they're rounded down. I got really tired of seeing articles in which degrees were mentioned incorrectly. For awhile I tried to write about it, to help improve the situation, but I gave that up.

2) I got tired of writing regular articles (meeting deadlines) for free. I'm doing this today because the situation is so interesting.

3) I would guess that 90% of the astrological stuff you see online is written by astrologers seeking to build a clientele, who are following common marketing advice. My nature is averse to marketing, so for me, that motivation is contrary to my integrity. I am not a brand.

4) This is the biggest reason: each of us has our own charts, and they are very different. So the experience each of us has of a given astrological event is going to be very different. I can't tell you what a Full Moon in Scorpio will feel like to you, or mean to you. I can definitely help you figure it out, but I would need to know things like what house Scorpio is in in your birth chart, whether or not you have significant energies in fixed signs in your natal chart or progressed chart, and so on.

5) What reason number 4 actually means is that if I write an article that says, "this means that," or "that means this..." then what I'm really doing is telling you whatever I want to tell you.

6) Because people hear what they want to hear. If people who write astrological articles for marketing purposes are honest, they'll tell you that what they really do is write what they think you want to hear.

Do you get that? For the most part, astrology is an industry.

I had a reading from a very prominent astrologer one time who told me, "You are royalty in 5d." She sells a ton of readings and seminars. Because on average, that's the kind of thing people want to hear.

What people really really want to hear is that they are going through emotional discomfort but that it's cool because it's part of "awakening" and just "processing" the emotions is going to cause social and environmental change because of the positive vibrations. That things like anger and fear are "negative emotions" and that recognizing them and then not acting on them is some kind of "awakening," and that said awakening by itself will vibrationally take care of the uncomfortable things.

Here's every mainstream early 21st century astrology article in two sentences: "The shift is happening but it's uncomfortable and this (Full Moon or retrograde planet, etc) is asking you to transmute your negative emotions to love so that the Earth can be healed. This is a good time to (set intentions/manifest intentions/clear negativity)."

There's a cycle of clear negativity/set intentions/manifest intentions that the better writers pay attention to. Obviously you wouldn't want those out of order! (lolerwut).

This is a good time to once again mention a great book on astrology: "Cosmos and Psyche," by Richard Tarnas. In it, he correlates astrological aspects to social, political and spiritual changes. It attempts to overcome the "scientific" bias against astrology by correlating astrological cycles and human activities. I think it's very good and really a necessary read for anyone seeking to understand astrology.

And what I want to point out is that in that book he's taking documented periods of social upheaval and explaining them in the context of astrological aspects that were in play at those times. He's not talking about nice people making a few small changes in order to experience more joy and less discomfort. He's talking about bloody revolutions. The Reformation. The French revolution. That kind of thing.

What he's really talking about is the relationship between the 99% and the 1% through history and how astrological events correlate with changes in that relationship.

Real social change only happens when people are willing to get arrested and/or beaten and/or killed to achieve their goals. Relying on "vibration" to stop climate change and redistribute wealth to create social harmony has never worked and is not going to work. It's religion in its least compelling form. And I see that same religion all around me.

This word "awakening" that you see so much of... I hope you know that the concept of an awakened few is as old as religion itself. And that it has been used throughout history to justify hierarchies of all kinds. When the British nobility enclosed the commons, they talked of themselves as awake and the peasantry as

asleep. Enlightenment, same thing. Holiness, spirituality, nobility, all of it... any word that creates a hierarchy of any kind...

I was thinking of the term "mansplaining" the other day. Which has been called sexist, but which is not because obviously, gender doesn't restrict who does it. You know what it's like to be in a conversation with someone and all of a sudden you realize they're lecturing you? That's what the word "mansplain" is referring to. Obviously, there are people we pay to have lecture us, but there's not a conversational expectation in those circumstances.

It's "mansplaining" and not "genderless but uninvited lecturing" or something like that. Because we live in a distinctly patriarchal society. Capitalism itself is not possible in a matriarchy, because the hierarchies have so few levels and such fuzzy boundaries there. The psychology of capitalism is founded in the way our fathers have been emotionally violent to us and to everything around us in order to justify themselves and their violence against life itself.

And religions rely on hierarchies. Whoever gets to say who is awakened or asleep shall profit from that authority.

Right now, we've got a couple of major things happening that are intolerable. One is anthropogenic climate disruption, and the other is this transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich. These two things can't be separated, really. They're both expressions of a hierarchical society: climate change is how nature expresses itself when the concept of enough for all is overridden by the concept of more for a (supposedly) deserving (awakened) few.

As you may know, I think of myself as being devoted to Kali. I worship chaos as the true state of being. Which is certainly convenient at a time when social and environmental chaos are on the rise. Maybe you can join me in that religion? Awake/asleep, whatever. Alive for now. And celebrating the froth.

As I mentioned about 800 words ago, from 4/28 until 5/9, there will be 5 retrograde planets, including Jupiter and Saturn which are in a square to each other. Plus a wobble.

I invite you to throw out whatever notions of awakening, spirituality, and enlightenment you have. Your emotional discomfort is asking you to act. Not to subdue the emotion but to express it and all its jagged edges.

It is time to push back against the patriarchy, against the few. To listen to our gut feelings and to act on our impulses. That's my interpretation of all this.

If you are feeling angry about social injustice, about the ways nature is abused, about Monsanto and so on, please act on that and from that anger, at this time.

2012 came and went. One "portal" after another. I hope you remember all that crap. That was all marketing. "Awakening" is a (sacred) cash cow. There are so many ways we've been distracted by the comfortable path, and because of that we either have already pushed, or are about to push the Earth into destroying us as a species. And you should be scared of that, and pissed about that, and anyone who tells you different is only helping the patriarchy.

On the other hand, 5 retrograde planets and a Jupiter/Saturn retrograde square? Now that's what I call a portal.

Arise, chthonic deities, and serve the mother of us all!

With Love,

Jon

p.s. if you made it this far and want some more....

I do actually “believe in” astrology. I even think a body of empirical evidence for astrology could be compiled. But I think that is way off in the future, thousands of years hence, when all the transits to all the charts have been diarized and a searchable database of millions of subjective experiences has been written. Until such a time, I think astrological generalizations are primarily used to help maintain the status quo by distracting us from the issues at hand.

Here in the early years of the 21st century, I think astrology is a fantastic tool for psychological awareness at the individual level. To use the current situation as an example; the Mars/Saturn retrograde in Sag means that there is a lot of action in whatever house Sagittarius is in in your birth chart, and whatever planets you have in mutable signs are going to be “activated,” lit up, etc. We can talk about your experiences with these in such a way as to contextualize them within your process of individuation.

Transits to and progressions of the birth chart tell the story of your individuation process. They describe a series of experiences that you affect consciously and unconsciously. In the right hands, astrology helps you become more conscious of that process. For instance, I can imagine circumstances in which the Moon being Full in the 3rd degree of Scorpio could be significant for a person. But if I were going to help that person understand the significance, I think the way to do it would be to teach them to understand their felt experience each time the Moon goes through that degree of Scorpio. Meaning I would want them to work with a calendar of each of the 12-13 times a year that it went through that degree. At a certain point that awareness would grow to be able to differentiate between the qualities of the various phases the Moon would be in each time it transited that degree. To me, that’s beneficial astrology.

But to say that the Moon’s fullness in Scorpio tonight means something for everyone requires meaningless but comforting generalizations. And I could do that, trust me, in such a way that you would eat it up. Instead, I just want to ask you if you know what planets you have in Scorpio and what house Scorpio is in in your birth chart, and how frequently you track the Moon. That kind of thing.

One of the big scientific objections to mainstream astrology – which I agree with – is that people who don’t know about the signs don’t identify with the signs with any statistical significance. Meaning, if I went around the world and gave people a self-assessment test, their astrological signs would have no bearing on their answers UNLESS they were already adherents to sun sign astrology. Most particularly, there would be no birth month correlation in their results.

Right? So long to short, please take what you read out there with a BIG grain of salt. Confirmation bias is a huge thing.

Pps now it’s 1 PM. The Moon is in Libra 28.

XO,

J

