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- Promoting local and regional arts;
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ASTRO FORECASTS by Tina Mews

The Uranus/Pluto square that has dominated our evolutionary development over the last three years is slowly moving out of alignment. However, its ground-breaking influence will still be felt during the years to come. Uranus, planet of change, liberation and revolt, is now in a waning square to Pluto in Capricorn, (standing for institutionalised power, control and force). Uranus in Aries demands individual space, freedom and the right to self-determination, while Pluto in Capricorn's agenda has been to curtail exactly this. On a personal as well as collective level, we have been battling against the implementation of rules and regulations (Capricorn) that infringe on our personal autonomy (Aries) threatening to take away many liberties which we might have taken for granted until then. However, Uranus in Aries is legendary for brave and courageous individuals who speak out, even in the face of punishment and harassment (Pluto), and who plant the seeds of change for future generations!

The Mutable Conspiracy: Jupiter/Saturn/Neptune

"Know your path ahead, based on the experiences of the past"

Saturn in Sagittarius: September 17, 2015 - December 19, 2017

Saturn retrograde: March 25, 2016 - August 13, 2016 (16' - 9' Sagittarius)

The main players in the cosmic drama that keeps unfolding during 2016 are Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune. We could see Saturn in Sagittarius taking on the role of the choreographer, managing and overseeing the steps, phases and expressions of the other two planetary energies. Saturn is the controlling force of the visible universe and has the function to limit growth, inhibit new ideas and block creativity for the purpose of solidifying what has been built so far. However, Saturn also signifies the alchemical gold that has to be brought forth through persistence, hard labour and maturity. Saturn has the inbuilt fear of having given too much, that important boundaries have been overstepped and now things have to be put back into order. Saturn being in future orientated Sagittarius demands that we learn from the past, be accountable and make our long-term plans accordingly. During the Saturn in Sagittarius years we are challenged to test our beliefs, re-define our goals, build our vision for the future based on what we have learnt and experienced so far. We are challenged to work from a higher perspective, with a deeper understanding of the wider field of reality and its interrelatedness. Therefore, 2016 is a very important year for setting our priorities based on our collective and personal long-term goals. Saturn will be retrograde during March 25 until August 13. This is time of the year where projects, plans and ideas that were seeded during the end of 2015 will be tested, improved, corrected and adjusted.

"Getting the details right paves the way for good fortune"

Jupiter in Virgo: August 12, 2015 - September 10, 2016

Jupiter retrograde: January 8, 2016 - May 9 (23' - 13' Virgo)

Square Saturn: 23 March, 2016 (16' Virgo/Sagittarius)

26 May, 2016 (14' Virgo/Sagittarius)

Jupiter is the planet of vision that is brought into reality through Saturnian persistence. Normally, Jupiter's expansiveness takes us beyond daily concerns. However, Jupiter is in Virgo until September, and Virgo, the sign

ruling the 'little things' in life, likes to be of service and is in constant need of perfecting and improving whatever is in the process of being born at a later stage. Jupiter in Virgo gives lessons in applied vision; but he also protects the germinating and developing seed. Jupiter in Virgo is a great judge who knows that grand ideas need to be worked upon with diligence and accuracy before they are ready for being released to the world. Nevertheless, Saturn can dampen Jupiter's natural confidence and optimism, especially when both planets form a hard aspect. The two exact Jupiter/Saturn squares on March 23 and May 26 fit in with the Saturn retrograde period (Saturn turns stationary retrograde on March 25). Therefore the weeks from mid March until the end of May shall be taken with care because plans and projects might not move as easily as wished for and restrictions could curb our enthusiasm. This is not a great time for economic growth, because there are fewer resources available and we might have to adjust our goals while learning to do more with less. Those of us who have important placements in mutable signs (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, Pisces: 13' - 17') might be especially affected.

The total solar eclipse on March 9 falls on the Virgo/Pisces axis (19') with Jupiter being conjunct the North Node and opposite the eclipse. This eclipse in Pisces signifies important endings which lay the ground for new beginnings that might indeed be very positive, as Jupiter, planet of good fortune, is involved in the eclipse pattern. This is a fantastic moment in time for laying to rest things, people, beliefs, plans, projects or goals that are outdated and do not fit into our life anymore. Then new gates can open. The paradigm shift is happening. We only have to remain conscious of it, see it, feel it and move with it, even against all odds!

The full moon lunar eclipse takes place on March 23, 3 days after the Aries ingress, the Spring equinox on the Northern Hemisphere and our Autumn equinox. This coincides with the last Jupiter/Saturn square symbolising a very significant turning point. Dane Rudhyar named the last quarter square 'a crisis in consciousness', a phase of profound re-orientation and re-evaluation because the values of the past are not fitting anymore. A total re-organisation is necessary around new creative possibilities.

"The dissolution of whatever has become too rigid, inflexible and negatively crystallised"

Saturn square Neptune: 18 June, 2016 (12' Sagittarius/Pisces); 10 September, 2016 (10' Sagittarius/Pisces)

The most important and influential constellation for 2016 is the Saturn/Neptune square which had its first exact alignment November 26, 2015. Saturn is symbolic for security, firm structures and stability, while Neptune signifies inspiration, but also illusions and disappointment. Together they do not make for an easy pair because they function very differently. This planetary square signifies a 'crisis of re-orientation' and the need for a global shift onto a more inspiring and inclusive level. In many ways it symbolises our current global state of affairs of disenchantment, where millions of people are experiencing the loss (Neptune) of their roots and connection to land, being the victims (Neptune) of war, economic and political structures and schemes (Saturn). On the positive Saturn/Neptune inspires us to be practical about our dreams. With patience, love and persistence we can dissolve those inner and outer barriers

that have become too crystallised and do not allow anymore for new creative developments.

On the negative, Saturn/Neptune can manifest as betrayal and deception, as devastating rumours and the defamation of innocent people as well as the 'mobbing' together and looking for scapegoats to deter from the real issues. 2016 is a year where it is essential to know whom we can trust and whom not, and also where it is important to act ethically and trustworthy. Ultimately, Saturn/Neptune teaches us that our choices have consequences. We might be working with these issues especially during mid May until June 20.

Other important events of the year

Mars retrograde: April 17 - June 28, 9'

Sagittarius - 23' Scorpio

Mars is retrograde for about 10 weeks every two years. Mars is the principle of action and energy, but when retrograde, it depletes vitality. This is not a good time for initiating new projects. Similar to Mercury retrograde, it is a period for reviewing and correcting plans and incentives. However, with Mars we also will review the way we handle anger and conflict in our relationships with others.

Mercury retrograde

January 5-28, 1' Aquarius - 15' Capricorn

April 28 - May 22, 23' Taurus - 14' Taurus

August 30 - September 22, 29' Virgo - 15' Virgo

This year's Mercury retrograde periods happen while the messenger planet traverses the three earth signs. Like always, these are times when we experience blocked communication channels, break downs of electrical appliances and when we shall avoid signing contracts. Mercury retrograde in earth signs is also a signature for cleaning up our act in regards to the planet, when we have to rethink the ways we are using resources and how our lives can become more self-sufficient and ecologically sustainable.

Eclipses

Total Solar Eclipse: 9 March 2016, 19' Pisces

Lunar Eclipse: 23 March 2016, 3' Libra/Aries

Solar Eclipse: 1 September 2016, 9' Virgo

Lunar Eclipse: 16 September, 2016, 24' Virgo/Pisces.

Eclipses are 'gate openers'. During 2016 they predominantly take place on the Virgo/Pisces axis, emphasising a collective shift towards learning new methods, techniques and ways we do things through interaction with others. We gain clarity for our projects when we are open for new input, the sharing of ideas and allow ourselves to be inspired. Virgo and Pisces are mutable signs and with Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune also in mutable signs, the flavour of the year is about change, flexibility and learning through experiences. Stagnant energies will be dissolved so that new inspiring ideas can fall on fertile ground. Even though our visions and ideals will be tested, we can manifest our dreams if we persist.

Jupiter enters Libra

September 10, 2016 - October 11, 2017

Jupiter's entry into Libra signifies a shift from an eye for detailed perfection (Virgo) to creating opportunities through embracing new partnerships and alliances that support our ideas and vision. Opportunities come from our interactions with others and it is a great time for marketing our projects, products and ideas.

Personal astrology consultations, or 12 month forecasts with a detailed exploration of long-term plans and current concerns are available from Tina on 6689-7413 or 0457-903-957 or email: star-loom@hotmail.com

ASTRO FORECASTS by Tina Mews

2016 - the year ahead according to the stars

Aries

The year starts with a Mercury retrograde period (January 5 - 28), perfect for re-evaluating your goals for the year, but not a good moment for initiating something new. The movements of Mars, your ruling planet, are important to observe during the first half of the year. Mars, your motivational force, is retrograde during April 17 - June 28 and is functioning more indirectly. Keep a low profile during this time and conserve your energies. You will move forward again from July onwards. Get ready for a new impulse in regards to work and your career path after mid August. Your time of preparation and perfecting skills will come to an end in September when new opportunities will arrive through contact with others. The end of 2016 will be of particular interest, as you could rise to unexpected prominence and your opinion and views on things will be noticed. You might be able to make important changes that affect the greater whole.

Taurus

The year starts with a Mercury retrograde phase in your travel sector (January 5 - 28). Therefore, expect delays in regards to your travel plans and don't be surprised when you experience difficulties with any form of communication. This year relationship issues will be a major focus, at least until the beginning of August. You might want to re-define your jointly held beliefs and values and make sure that you and your partner(s) are supporting the same course of action. Creative projects and ideas that originated in the past can be revived now, as you have grown more confident and authentic about your own self-expression. It is important that you follow your heart, even though this could mean that you have to say good-bye to some cherished old ideas, or even friends for that matter. You have grown a lot on a personal level and your aspirations have evolved accordingly. Opportunities through new relationships or alliances will start presenting themselves from mid September onwards.

Gemini

The Mercury retrograde phase during January 5 - 28 might be useful for re-evaluating mutual goals and plans, because relationships and alliances with others are at the core of your attention during 2016. The task is no less than establishing a working balance between themes such as commitment and play, accountability and forgiveness, control and trust. It is very important that you maintain an open and flexible position because conditions and circumstances can change frequently. This means that you might experience situations which force you to change your current direction; or others might change their contracts. Either way, you may have to adjust to changed circumstances; the weeks from early May until the end of June are especially critical. Choose cooperation instead of conflict but do not allow others to dominate your view, instead be open for honest and truthful dialogues. Opportunities for further growth come from your home environment and healthy family connections. Strengthen family bonds and re-arrange your personal life so that everything starts running more smoothly.

Cancer

Working hard to manifest your dreams can bring great results in 2016 and beyond, especially if you know what to focus on. The act of prioritising might cause the greatest problem, because the vision is grand and there are many different ideas that seem to be worthwhile to follow. The first Mercury retrograde period of the year (January 5-28) is great for planning the next steps. This is a favourable year for learning, or improving your skills and techniques. Keep focused on your long-term goals and choose courses accordingly. You can get lots done especially during March until the end of May and again during most of August and September. Then from mid-September until early October 2017, Jupiter, the planet of opportunities will be in your home and family sector, triggering the desire to expand, relocate or re-decorate your home; or your family might grow. During this 13 month period you can focus on your home life and make it more comfortable and secure.

Leo

Creative blocks have to be overcome with humility and faith in your own talents. Working seriously on your creative projects will bring results, even though it might not satisfy your expectations. During the entire year, you might not read the intentions of others the right way and set yourself up for disappointment if you make yourself too dependent. Opportunities come through self-sufficiency and a firm belief in your own capabilities. The first half of the year is great for expanding and securing financial independence. These are changeable times which do not sit well with your fixed nature. Do not take anything for granted and clarify inconsistencies whenever they arrive. Your creative energy picks up from early March until mid April. Re-evaluate plans and projects from mid April until the end of June. August and September might be your most successful months in the year.

Virgo

This is a year filled with opportunities for new growth; however, you need to be aware about a few pitfalls. Firstly, your domestic life is of your greatest concern at the moment, as you have to face certain restrictions. You do have less control over things than you would like to have. Your partner might go through a phase of confusion, forcing you to take on greater responsibilities. Nevertheless, this is exactly your opportunity for steering the ship in the direction that you desire. A lot of your energy will be focused on your domestic affairs, especially during early March until late May and again during August and September. March and September might bring some important turning points. You might find it helpful to think back to the events of March and September in 1997 and their impacts on your life. This is a new cycle of evolutionary development and you should make the best possible use of it.

Libra

This is a year for learning new skills and working through any conceptual blocks that might hold you back from achieving your greatest goals. Your mental powers are tested and your field of expertise might be stretched to its limits. Reflect on the areas that need your special attention. Set extra time aside to refine your spiritual and emotional aspirations. You are getting ready for a new cycle of growth that will begin mid September. Therefore it is important that you complete old projects until then and prepare for new developments. Health and diet might also be of concern during this year. You are more sensitive than usual to different kinds of food and outer influences. Maybe a change of diet is required. March and April are great for increasing physical activities. The Mercury retrograde phase during January 5 - 28 might be useful for re-structuring domestic affairs, so that you get the space that you require for future growth processes.

Scorpio

The year starts for you with an increased amount of motivational energy. Use the Mercury retrograde phase from January 5 - 28 for developing your ideas and plans for the year. There is a good chance that you will re-visit them during mid April 'til the end of June. These 10 weeks are no good for starting new projects, but helpful for correcting plans and incentives. Opportunities come through positive associations with others, team work and group involvement, especially in the first half of the year. This is a great time for making new connections and expanding your field of aspirations. Financial back-up could be a problem and you might have to work hard getting all the resources together for fulfilling your goals. Therefore, be conservative with your spending and use your common sense. This is not a year for taking financial risks as you might over-idealise the situation and could be misinformed.

Sagittarius

Saturn, planet of limitations and restrictions is in your sun sign for the next two years. This can be a very soul-searching time where you are seeking more than ever the truth. At the same time, Jupiter, your ruler, and planet of good fortune is in your career sector until mid September, making 2016 a good year for expanding on your career goals and life direction. However, you are also going through immense inner changes making you feel less certain about the future and what path to take. Your ability to adapt and adjust to shifting circumstances is tested because to move forward you need to know the deeper purpose of your journey! In any case, maintain your integrity and authenticity but accept it as a phase in your life that will pass. It is best to be as realistic as possible about your goals and take a step-by-step approach to manifest your vision. Keep it simple, applicable and be of service to the greater whole. Your motivational energy is at its highest during March until mid April and again during August and September.

Capricorn

January starts with a Mercury retrograde phase (January 5 - 28). Events in this period set important impulses for the rest of the year, particularly in regards to structures and values in your life that are in the process of change. This is a fertile time for exploring new concepts or working on your long-range career direction. However, it is not the best year for important decision making or the start of a new time-consuming project. Communication might not be very clear and misunderstandings are a real possibility, especially if it is difficult for you to think out-of-the-box. Nevertheless, you are experiencing the end phase of a 29 year cycle. Try to finish off what has not yet been completed; observe what has worked and what has not worked. Reflect on the barriers that prevented you from achieving what you wanted. From mid September until October 2017 new ways and opportunities will present themselves and you will be better prepared to meet them with an open mind.

Aquarius

This is a great year for reflecting on your vision and taking responsibility for your life's goals. Focus on exploring whatever gives fulfilment and the greatest happiness. After the Mercury retrograde phase January 5 - 28 you might be able to draw important conclusions that will provide guidance to the events of the entire year. Your relationships with others have undergone important changes; you have become more involved with certain groups, while your interest in others who do not support your purpose anymore is waning. Your financial affairs are going through a period of flux as well, but you are likely to benefit from other people's ideas and resources. This could be a fortunate time for starting a business partnership. If this is the case, start any new project either before mid April or after the end of June. The particular period in between could prove critical for working out details and coordinating your needs. Be as open and honest in this process as possible but keep your mutual goals at heart.

Pisces

Key areas in your life have gone through conceptual changes and you are in the process of establishing a new perspective. This involves your role in society, your career path and life's purpose as well as inner security patterns. You experiencing the harvest time of a 29 year cycle. Be as realistic as possible about evaluating your achievements and analyse all the feedback that you get. On the other hand, it potentially is a great year for fruitful partnerships that bring new opportunities and fulfilling experiences. Emotionally, however, you might have to re-visit a deeper pattern of self-sabotage that is based on feelings of self-doubt and the habit to over-idealise others who will disappoint your too high expectations. If this is the case, you will attract people into your life which will assist you in the healing process. In either case, commit to create the future that you imagine with the resources at hand. You are in the position of taking on leadership, be accountable and responsible for the life that you have built so far and are going to build in the future.

