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## Examining Our Spiritual Journeys

by *Beth Wilson*

February and March are exciting months in the skies above! How does this effect us here below on our own spiritual journeys? At the beginning of February, the Sun has already entered Aquarius (the sign of the collective unconscious manifesting in this new millennium) to join hands and hearts with the outer planets of Neptune (spirituality) and Uranus (Aquarius' own ruler, the great transformer). This initial sextile (stimulation) invigorates Venus in Aries all month and we enjoy "pursuing." Mercury turns retrograde 0° Pisces immediately on February 3 through February 25 and snaps us to attention; we recheck our position in communicating with others. This Mercurial retrograde period helps to refine our "interfacing" styles and techniques as it traverses backward 15° of Aquarius, just to make sure we are "functioning properly!" This is especially helpful since Jupiter is revving up in Gemini, with "more and faster, thank you very much!" as the name of the game.

Valentine's Day packs some powerful punches and emotional twists and turns with the Sun (ego) and Moon (emotions) being squared (challenged) by both Uranus (the unexpected) and Mercury (ruling the best laid plans!). All of this is opposite Saturn (timing), so we are guaranteed some drama midmonth. February 12, however, boosts a communicative Grand Air Trine of the Moon, Sun and Uranus, especially important if communiqués or proposals are "in the air!"

The path of the Sun enters Pisces on February 18, marking the Solar "homestretch" along the annual sojourn through the 12 zodiacal passages. We must go "inward" to prepare for the unfolding of the next annual cycle. As travelers along this sacred spiral, astrology helps us to earmark these passages. Each of the Signs is polarized by masculine/positive/ yang or feminine/negative/yin qualities. Aries, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Sagittarius and Aquarius are masculine. Complementary and alternating throughout the zodiacal cycle, Taurus, Cancer, Virgo, Scorpio, Capricorn and Pisces contain the opposite feminine polarity balance-not unlike the patterning of our breathing!

With the passage of each calendar month, we enter a new solar sign. These do not correspond with the first of each month anymore. Previous calendars were based upon lunar/solar revolutions-not imposed mathematical calculations. However, we can still use astrological transits to aid and balance us in our own spiritual journeys. We will need this especially to assist us with the Sagittarian Mars to Geminian Jupiter opposition on March 18, where allegiances will be tested.

When the Sun is in Pisces, we reflect upon and assess our own spiritual paths. (Yes, you have it! This is an inward breath.) Pisces is the third water sign. It is psychic, emotional and mutable by nature, mythically ruled by the planet Neptune, god of the Earthly Waters. Dive into the depths of your subconscious and uncover personal pearls of power. Through prayers, meditations and introspective personal discernment, opportunity abounds in exploring the connection with Spirit. This Piscean time is one of creative reflection; use it to dispel disillusionment. We may now learn from the past, gain elasticity in this process and springboard towards our future! Carl Jung eloquently named this Piscean realm "the Collective Unconscious;" it is analogous to spiritual, primordial wetlands where we connect, change and merge together along our personal journeys.

Reaffirm your connections while navigating the depths of this Piscean passage. Use compassion, faith and communion, reflected in the Jupiter and Neptune harmonious trine. Let Neptunian-ruled dreams help you process and heal in preparation for the coming astrological year. As the sun has moved through the other 11 zodiacal signs, we too have symbolically journeyed and enter the final sign of the zodiac. Pisces is where Neptune (spiritual love) rules. Neptune is considered the higher octave of Venus (personal love.) We move from personal empowerment, to empowerment for all.

Aid personal growth and transformation by using the water element to cleanse and purify during this Piscean passage- employ a good old-fashioned "spring cleaning!" Where is your natal house placement for Neptune? Examine this natal blueprint image to provide inspirational focus in realizing your lifelong dreams. Neptune is an outer generational planet.



It takes about 14 years to move through a sign so we often hold similar ideals as our peers. Currently, Neptune in Aquarius finely tunes how we can merge with the collective of humanity while upholding our ideals.

On March 18, Venus retrogrades in Aries (through April 10) close to the Full Moon (Virgo-heightened attention to details) on the following day. This Venusian two-step re-harmonizes our loving natures as it traverses backwards; we reflect upon whom we are placing first these days. Pluto also goes retro March 17 in Sagittarius, while Mercury moves back direct into Pisces and it completes the point where it first turned retrograde. This combination indicates power struggles when our faith and abilities will be tested. But with Mars joining Pluto in Sagittarius on March 18, we have extra energy to persevere. The Piscean introspective, cleansing, chrysalis stage prepares us for the next solar year, when the Sun moves into the adventurous, fiery pioneering sign of Aries on March 20 at 8:31am. With the fresh winds of the first day of Spring, we can stretch and take wing under the Aquarian Moon conjunct (affiliated) with Neptune (idealism.) Emotional enthusiasm and intellectual pursuits are possible and supported through group dynamics--our own personal Web! 0 degrees Aries is the Vernal Equinox, where the length of day and night is equal. So remember Spring is just around the corner!

Breathe!!

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