

The Transformative Energies & Hidden Wisdom of Current Planetary Transits into Aquarius by Dr. Rachel Fashano

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In astrology, the term transit describes how a planet moves around the wheel of the Zodiac. Planets are transiting constantly, all at different speeds based on their relative distances to the Sun. Aspects are the relationships formed between planets relative to each other. A planet forming an aspect with another is said to “bear witness.” I have always thought it was so lovely to consider that the planets have meaning in their heavenly placements because they form relationships with each other.

At the present time, we have 4 planets - Venus, Mercury, the Sun and Mars - which are transiting through a specific place in the Zodiac, the sign of Aquarius. As they travel, they form an aspect, called a conjunction or a joining, to one planet, Pluto that remains relatively stationary. In mid-February two more planets, Saturn and Neptune, will transit into a different sign, that of Aries, and form a historic conjunction of their own. Due to the speed of travel of each of Neptune and Saturn, they only meet every 36 years, which makes their meeting special.

Saturn and Neptune, after a long revisitation of the late degrees of Pisces over this past summer, have begun their slow waltz towards Aries. Aries embodies the element of Fire and is action-oriented while Pisces embodies the element of Water and is reflective. Where Pisces wants to dissolve into the void beyond, understanding every drop in the ocean is a part of the larger whole of the ocean itself, Aries wants to create a new and individual reality. Aries is said to be the first sign of the Zodiacal year. When Aries season hits on the first day of Spring, the energy of this year being a year 1 in Numerology, will become very apparent. Aries, with all its youthful energy of initiation, calls for action on the visions glimpsed as the zodiacal seasons have passed from Sagittarius (in November) into Capricorn (at the Winter Solstice).

The four planets in transit from Capricorn into Aquarius are Venus, Mercury, the Sun and Mars. Last week, Venus traveled into Aquarius first. She was followed closely behind by the Sun and Mercury. Saturn is said to have its domicile or home temple, a place of great strength and dignity, in the signs of Capricorn and Aquarius. Planets traveling through any sign must look to their host, in this case Saturn, for resources. This is much the same way that you would provide your houseguests with meals, fresh linens, etc. when they visit you. Saturn is endurance, structures, boundaries, and the separation of things into their binary “black & white” opposites, so these themes are also reflected in the meaning of both Capricorn and Aquarius.

Planetary cycles are reset when a planet, based on its relative speed to the Sun, either pass under Sun's rays (under the beams of the Sun) or are surpassed by the Sun's faster apparent motion through the wheel of the Zodiac. Planets passing close to the Sun are not visible in the sky, and so the ancients believed these to be moments when a planet quite literally traveled down into the Underworld as it passed through a cycle of death only to be reborn when it becomes visible on the other side of the Sun. Planets were also believed to receive hidden knowledge, secret missions and special energies during this moment, which often would not become apparent again until the planet resurfaced.

The moment when that planet is conjoined to the Sun is called cazimi. While planets were said to be "burnt up" and debilitated by their close proximity to the Sun, there was a special kind of dignity offered the planet at the cazimi moment. Imagine walking down a hot sidewalk in Miami in August at noon, carrying heavy bags. That's what being "under the beams" must feel like for a planet. Contrast that with the cazimi moment. Now imagine an air-conditioned limousine picked you up to run all your errands and dropped you back at home with your packages. For one day, you traveled in comfort and style.

Cazimi is the important moment of rebirth that provides the planet with a brief period when it becomes empowered to speak loudly, as though it was an ambassador with the seal of the king in a foreign land. One planetary cycle involves all the time a planet spends between one cazimi moment until the next, and varies by each planet's speed. Each cycle represents the unending circle of death and rebirth each planet goes through during its journey around the zodiac.

New cycles bring exactly what you might suspect, new themes. They are the seeding point of new periods of change, change that might feel like seeds planted below the dirt now but that will sprout and bear fruit later on. Venus already made her way into Aquarius last week after her cazimi moment and rebirth with the Sun. But she, and the other planets traveling right behind her, will also start a new cycle with another planet as they move into Aquarius. Pluto appears almost stationary in Aquarius because he moves so slowly. The faster moving Venus, Mercury, the Sun and Mars will all overtake him and pass by quickly. But first, they must reset their cycles relative to Pluto by traveling towards him, forming the conjunction and then passing by.

Venus started her new cycle with Pluto as she passed by him and formed the conjunction on January 19th. Since she's starting a new cycle, she would have gained some of Pluto's transformative force relative to her themes of love, beauty, harmony, feminine or Yin energy, and relationships. She might ask, for example, how relationships do or do not live up to the imagined ideal, and what might need to be transformed so that they do. Consider where a relationship, any relationship; romantic, plutonic, business, to Self, etc. may need to change to make room for something else. It doesn't need to end, and it doesn't need to go away. It just needs fundamental change to create space. If nothing changes...nothing changes.

Pluto seeks depth and transformation. Pluto plays a big role in the cycle of death and rebirth, as well as in transformation that can be almost nuclear in its depth and effects. If we're stuck, Pluto feels like it will create opportunities for change. Those opportunities might feel like endings, but Pluto also has the power to finish the cycle and midwife something new in the place of what was destroyed.

Aquarius is a visionary sign of the structures and functions of humanity itself, and how the ideal vision of these things differs from the status quo. Sometimes that vision looks to an imagined future that seems brighter. Sometimes it looks back to what it believes was something better from the past. But it seeks progress for the sake of bringing humanity away from the status quo and towards that ideal. The force of that will for progress, combined with Pluto's intense transformative powers, can be quite volatile. Since Pluto is in Saturn's sign of Aquarius, there is a very binary quality to what makes up that ideal, and conflict between what is believed to be right or wrong.

On January 21st, Mercury conjoined the Sun in its cazimi moment, and these two planets are just close enough to Pluto to feel his influence. Pluto – Mercury contacts bring up themes of sudden revelations from the deep, such as information or sudden knowledge of unseen things that becomes apparent. These hidden truths or gems of wisdom feel as though they pack more of a punch because of the force of Pluto's energy. They can also bring up new innovations, new technologies, or anything that will help spur on the progress towards the ideal that Aquarius is seeking. The Sun here can add nuance, as themes of identity and ambition are also highlighted. Answers may suddenly be revealed, as though out of the blue. Synchronicities are common, and are often subtle, which calls for us to pay attention to the smaller details. Use your discernment to know what has meaning and what's nothing more than smoke and mirrors.

These are complex and richly interwoven energies. We'll likely feel them and understand intuitively that the present moment feels different and charged somehow, even if we don't understand the energetic planetary influences. In next week's update, we'll discuss the movements of both Mars into Aquarius and Neptune into Aries. It remains our hope that the wisdom and knowledge of these astrologic events can help us to understand our own paths and that of humanity more deeply, as well as to provide tools for empowerment in navigating them.

In gratitude & with love,

Rachel