

# *The Starfire Messenger*

**A Free Weekly Newsletter**

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## **Contents**

**Signs of the Times: Retrograde Mercury Reactions**

**Daily Analysis and Prediction for the Week Ahead**

## **Signs of the Times: Retrograde Mercury Reactions**

**T**his past week featured the conjunction of the Sun and retrograde Mercury, a configuration that inevitably intensifies all the themes of deviation from normal conditions related to retrograde Mercury. God of mind, thought, word, speech, and communication, Mercury rules perception, consciousness, reflection, analysis, and judgement. When Mercury is backtracking zodiacally, he seems to foment all manner of disruptions and disturbances, including miscommunications, misunderstandings, worrisome news, increasing anxiety and tension caused by the reception of upsetting information, and consequent wild reactions in every direction, including exaggerations and distortions of thought and perception, with all of this happening at once. This past week

saw it all. No matter where we were, we partook of and observed the effects of retrograde Mercury in human and planetary affairs. For example, amidst media announcements that a new form of flu is on the verge of ransacking the planet, the American stock market took a wild ride down a steep slope; in reaction, Trump came up with the perhaps rather imaginative analysis that talk about the new strain of flu originated with his political opposition as a means to destroy his presidency by undermining the stock market. Meanwhile, the media and medical establishments issued dire warnings that a planetary health disaster is imminent. Community services jumped on the bandwagon, advising everyone to stock up on food for the coming civil and economic disaster. The specter of mandatory vaccination was floated in some quarters, much to the dismay of some and the utter delight of others.

Now, the question on many minds is this: will this new strain of flu decimate the planet? Is it really as dire as predicted by some sources? The astrological wisdom on this would be as follows. As a general principle, anything emerging or appearing with retrograde Mercury (such as a flu scare) is without a doubt going to be revisited, reviewed, reconsidered, and reconceptualized when Mercury goes direct. Simply stated, this means that much of the talk, worry, and agitation circulating during retrograde Mercury always turns out to have been unnecessary, because it is based on a distorted perception. The astrological wisdom would thus counsel to be still and not go mad with worry, for conditions will revert to a more normal tone very soon, when Mercury turns direct. Thus, the astrological wisdom would say: do not allow yourself to go into extreme levels of catastrophic thinking during retrograde Mercury, no matter how compelling the temptation to do so. Instead, know that much of what you are currently hearing will soon prove to be either false or greatly exaggerated, for it is based on faulty information or a somehow skewed analysis. Reduced into the simplest language, the reply from astrological wisdom would be that by March 9, 2020, when Mercury goes direct, the surrounding circumstances throughout the world will begin to settle down

and normalize. The threat from the new strain of the flu will be seen to have proven nowhere near as monumental as is currently being entertained. By the end of March 2020 when transiting Mercury passes the degree in the zodiac at which it originally went retrograde in February, the outlook shall have cleared up dramatically. There is an end in sight for this particular worry, in other words.

Right now, however, everyone is dealing with the invitation to go to mental extremes. That's a well-known consequence of retrograde Mercury periods. The astrological wisdom would encourage everyone to stay calm, avoid slanted and one-sided information sources, stay free from panic, and hold on to basic sanity. The clouds of consciousness kicked up by retrograde Mercury are not long-lasting. They never are, though they can cause near-lethal anxiety when they gather. In other words, astrological wisdom would reply that no, the extreme planetary health disaster currently projected by many sources is not likely to come true.

Meanwhile, practical efforts for positive health and happiness are surely in order. Enhancing immunity through natural means is therefore a great idea now, and all the time. Nature's sure-fire remedy in this regard is raw organic garlic, which can be consumed minced on foods or made into juices, smoothies, dressings, and creams. It's got to be raw, as in uncooked, however, for the medicinal value. Many sources report that garlicin, the active chemical ingredient in raw garlic, has been proven to obliterate bacteria, viruses, and abnormal cells. In large daily doses, raw garlic has been known to reverse life-threatening conditions. It's nature's miracle worker, effective, inexpensive, and available over the grocery counter with no prescription – all good reasons to get right on the garlic wagon. Never you mind about the cloud of garlic aroma that will accompany you wherever you go, because no vampires will bother you, nor will anybody else. And you'll feel strong and confident, with Mother Nature's wonder worker supporting the natural immunity of the body.

## Daily Analysis and Prediction for the Week Ahead

**Monday March 2** we're feeling the vibes from Venus square Saturn, exact tomorrow, but palpable today. Seriousness of purpose thus permeates the atmosphere. Introspection seems to be the order of the day, with many indrawn and not so available for social interaction. Thus, today and tomorrow present us with a brief passage during which feelings of isolation, rejection, and loneliness may seem uppermost for many. This is not easy, so we must find our centers of strength within our inner selves. Now is a time for returning to the sources of eternal truth which have traditionally inspired us. We can use the Venus-Saturn square to ground ourselves in customs, ancestral practices, and time-honored rites that speak of time and eternity. Delays and slowdowns weigh on our minds, but this is not permanent. We are tempted to be downcast, but it's not required.

**Tuesday March 3** continues the themes associated with the Venus-Saturn square. We look within and seek for those elements of life which stand the test of time. We honor stability and continuity, looking both backward and forward to honor those who have lived the values we now hold. We think on our deeper purposes and accept that although human companionship comforts us in many ways, there are times when it's not available, and we must go to deeper sources at the very core of our beings. In this way, loneliness becomes productive solitude. We turn from empty interactions to the principles on which we can bank. Detachment is the thing.

**Wednesday March 4** changes the scene and provides an opportunity for sudden insights and valuable conversations as retrograde Mercury in late Aquarius makes the mentally stimulating sextile to Venus in late Aries. This combination will open doors for communications with pioneering types who can inspire us to greater achievements. Positive social connections show up in strange and serendipitous ways. We discover things we've always known, but could never quite formulate properly. Now is the moment for just that.

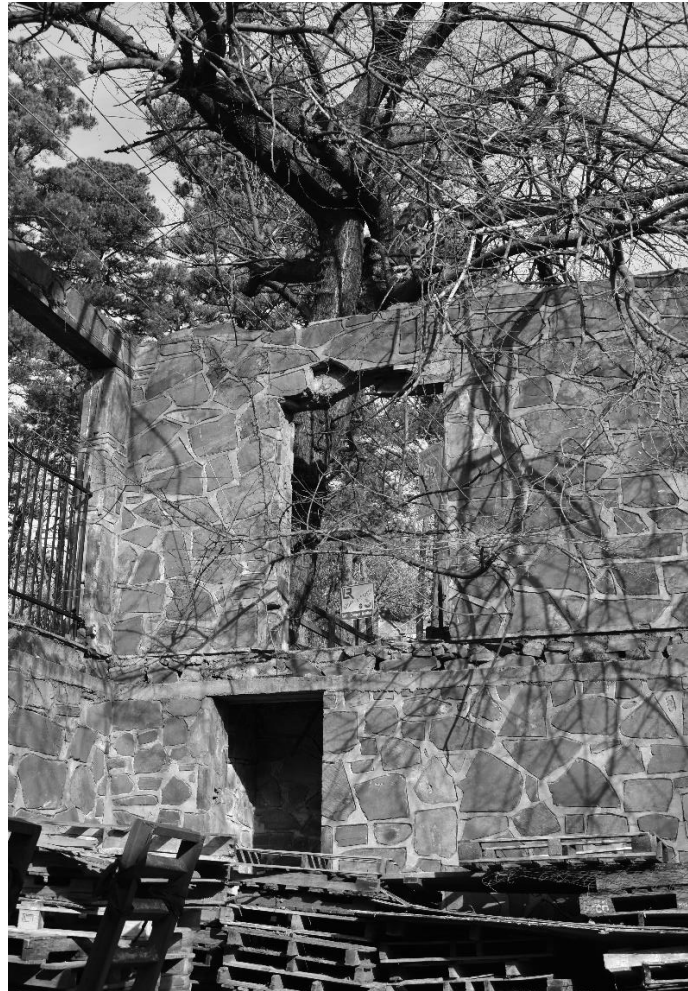
**Thursday March 5** is primarily conditioned by the waxing Moon in Cancer as it opposes Jupiter, Pluto, and Saturn in Capricorn. This arrangement will tend to emphasize major life commitments and responsibilities to family, group, region, and nation. We ask ourselves where we feel that we best fit in. Today, we receive clarity on that concept by virtue of the process of elimination. Closed doors and rock walls tell us where we are not to enter, but at the same time, they direct us to other paths which will eventually take us where we should go. The words NO, STOP, DO NOT DO are relevant today, and we are called to let that be ok. We are served even by those moments in life when certain paths are closed to us. It's like that today. Even so, we are able to work in our own ways on matters close at hand.

**Friday March 6** brings the Moon into outgoing, confident, and even blustery Leo. We break through fears and leap out into the world sure of our power to overcome obstacles.

The Leo drive to personal expression continues on **Saturday March 7**. The Moon is cranking up to Full, and Mercury is within a couple of days of going direct. We feel the change in the atmosphere and are ready to forge ahead. At the same time, the Sun moves toward conjunction with Neptune, drawing attention to the spirit side of life, and Venus moves rapidly toward conjunction with Uranus, accelerating and quickening our minds and emotions toward new discoveries and new possibilities. Everything seems interesting all at once.

**Sunday March 8** sees the exact conjunction of Sun and Neptune in mystical Pisces, making for a day saturated with sensitivity to the spirit realm and to the higher dimensions of existence. Intuition is strong, providing inner images and vivid impressions of eternal truths and higher worlds. Venus conjoins Uranus in early Taurus, making for breakthroughs of all kinds, including artistic, financial, and culinary experiments and discoveries. In addition, Mercury is set to go direct tomorrow, thus clearing up many of the worries and anxieties of the last few weeks. The atmosphere of life

shifts palpably toward fun, exciting, and even astounding developments. It seems miraculous, and it is. We've just come through a valley experience. Even if we feared evil, we've made it. The sun of life shines again and we gather vitality from the source.



Tree of Life and Death Amongst Ruins

Photo by Maureen Richmond

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