

# *The Starfire Messenger*

**A Free Weekly Newsletter**

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**Issue #107: March 23 - 29, 2020**

**Prepared in Little Rock, Arkansas, USA**

**Circulated Globally**

## **Contents**

**Signs of the Times: Numbers Tell A Story**

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

### **Signs of the Times: Numbers Tell A Story**

At newsletter press-time, Reuters news agency reports on its website the following significant numbers summing up the course of the corona virus since its emergence in early December 2019. Based on information obtained from the World Health Organization as well as from local and national public health agencies, the numbers rounded up for ease of consideration and covering the worldwide situation are:

Total number of persons confirmed as infected by cv.....	255,000
Total number of persons confirmed as deceased from cv.....	11,000
Total number of persons with ongoing diagnosed cv.....	155,000
Total number of persons recovered from cv.....	90,000

Resulting mortality rate.....4.1%

Only a little bit of quick figuring with basic math reveals another important statistic: the survival rate, which is apparently 95.9%. Thus, to the Reuters figure can be added:

Resulting survival rate.....95.9%

A bit of interpretation is in order. The figure 95.9 can be rounded up to 96, giving a survival rate of approximately 96%. With a survival rate of 96%, the implication is that 9.6 times out of 10, a person who contracts the corona virus will survive. A more conservative formula would state that 95.9 times out of 10, a person who contracts the virus will survive, if statistics available at press-time are considered reliable.

Also significant is the number of persons worldwide now confirmed to have contracted the virus. That number at press-time stood just under 255,000. To put this number into perspective, it's important to consider total world population. That magic number is currently 7.8 billion. Again, a little bit of basic math figuring reveals the fact that the total number of persons infected by the corona virus from the time of its emergence in early December 2019 until the present moment in late March 2020 is a very small portion of humanity. In fact, it's about .003% of humanity which has at this time been known to have been infected. That's three one-thousandths of a per cent.

For purposes of thinking about what all this means, it might be meaningful to view the available statistics (as listed above) as the results of a scientific experiment. In this experiment, it could be said that a sample of 255,000 cases of diagnosed infection by corona virus occurring throughout the world over a period of just less than four months was used. In this sample, it was found that only 4% of persons infected by corona virus died as a result of the virus, while 96% survived and recovered. The results of the experiment thus suggest that as demonstrated in actual experience, the corona virus is not as deadly as many may have feared. The nearly four-

month empirical experiment also reveals that inside of the time during which the experiment ran, the corona virus only managed to make its way to a very small segment of humanity. This portion of the experiment is encouraging, but also difficult to evaluate because different protocols for control of infection were in effect in various localities during the time period concerned. Nonetheless, it can cautiously be gathered that the rate by which corona virus can spread itself is somewhat limited. This could be considered the behavior of the corona virus as demonstrated empirically.

With all this as background, it is now possible to consider recent and upcoming astrological influences from an informed position. It's important to recall that the emergence of the corona virus in early December 2019 would have been driven by the Saturn-Pluto conjunction of early January 2020. At the time the corona virus emerged in early December of 2019, the Saturn-Pluto cycle was rapidly closing down toward conjunction, and hence driving processes related to closure, completion, endings, letting go, submission, collapse, and decease. With the exact conjunction of Saturn and Pluto in early January, however, a new life wave came forth. Thus, the moment of the emergence of the corona virus and the moment of now differ in an important regard. The now moment is nowhere near as imbued with the need to sacrifice the form in order to liberate the indwelling light. Indeed, that was the case in late December, but not quite so much is it the case now.

It's still partially the case, however, for the current Jupiter-Pluto cycle is now rapidly closing, set to make its precise conjunction on April 4. Even so, the Jupiter-Pluto cycle, which lasts 12 years, is nowhere near as powerful as the Saturn-Pluto cycle, which lasts about three times that long. The now moment thus contains the downward spiraling effect of a cyclic closing, but only through April 4, 2020, as regards the Jupiter-Pluto cycle. The situation is complicated by the fact that the Jupiter-Saturn cycle is also rapidly closing, to make exact conjunction in December of 2020. Thus, two important Jupiter cycles are quickly closing now. One will restart shortly,

the other at the end of the year. Thus, new life waves will begin in early April 2020 and in December 2020.

It's the dying back character of closing cycles which brings the themes of death and epidemic into the picture. The important thing to know is that these cyclic phases are in no way permanent. As the planets continue to move in their orbits around the Sun, they change in their phase relationships to each other, as considered in planetary pairs. Thus, the current situation has a time limit on it. As above, so below, says the Hermetic maxim. In this case, that means as with the planetary pair cycles, so with societal trends. Importantly, though, matters in the above are always changing. Some change slowly, others quickly, but change they do.

An important date to keep in mind for a meaningful shift in the direction of world trends is April 4, 2020, with the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction. This conjunction will occur at 25 degrees Capricorn, thus engaging the themes of authority, force, power, government, and business all over again, just as did the Saturn-Pluto conjunction in Capricorn back in early January of 2020. Yet, at the same time, this conjunction will hearken to and call up the higher dimension of the Capricorn archetype, which is the capacity to rise above the norm, to render excellence of service and performance, and to embody the values of accountability, responsibility, and reliability. On April 4, society will therefore receive a high-powered positive impact of spiritual energies meant to raise the bar of human standards with the conjunction of Jupiter and Pluto. This could lead to any number of surprising developments, such as dramatic shifts in the policies of government and business toward greater ethical integrity. Already, such measures are being discussed as necessary responses to the economic stresses brought on by restrictions on travel and commerce during the corona virus crisis.

The important thing to know is that all is not lost. The numbers as reported by world health agencies can be read in such a way as to suggest that humanity will survive and that extreme fears and panic are not

merited in response to the corona virus. Even so, it is evident that the world is being changed by this crisis. Some of this is good, pointing in the direction of greater empathy for all, more equitable national policies in health care and finances, and a more sober recognition of human responsibility in matters of the environment.

Almost immediately now, astrological energies are coming which can help nudge world thinking and leadership actions toward a more just planetary society. With the Aries Equinox of March 19, the Sun moved into assertive Aries, shifting the collective willingness to submit to authority (which is part of the water sign Piscean malleability) into a different gear. As the sign of Aries unfolds and the Mars conjunction to Pluto on March 22-23 comes into play, it is likely that the instinct to fight back or counter authority and perceived obstacles will replace the widespread resignation and bewildered docility seen lately. It is probable that persons around the globe will, under the incoming Aries influence, begin to question the necessity of restrictions on movement, travel, and commerce.

At the same time, the clearing of the recent retrograde Mercury influence will go a very long way toward improving both planning and logistics in response to the crisis. The date for that clearing is March 30, when Mercury completes its passage through the degrees of the zodiac originally affected by retrogradation back in February. Thus, the dates March 22, 23, 30 and April 4 are worth watching for meaningful positive developments which will move the world toward a resolution of the corona virus crisis. As always with humanity's reception of astrological energies, some persons will try to use them for their own egoistic, separative, pecuniary purposes, but not all will. There is a spiritual core in the heart of humanity which is sound, and it will respond to the influx of vital new cosmic and astrological energies with vision, insight, and good will. Initiatives are now arising all over the world to spearhead the way toward just that.

## Daily Analysis and Prediction for the Week Ahead

**Monday March 23** is conditioned by the powerful Mars-Pluto conjunction. This two-year cyclic pair is related to drive, determination, the desire for personal and collective power, and the need to transform self and society. Its energies are hard to contain, tend to erupt organically, and will assert themselves in various ways. Personality-centered leaders are likely to attempt the seizing of authority under this configuration, but unsheathed self-aggrandizement will encounter massive push-back from both the people and the law. The Mars-Pluto energies stimulate in all the drive for autonomy. Collective power constructed of individuals allied in common purpose around the worth of the individual is likely to make a big impact in contrast to privilege and traditional forms of power today. Still, it is a day of disruptions – natural, psychological, and social. We do best if we save back some pieces of ourselves and do not let the uproar claim us entirely. Energies for creative endeavor are good 6 am to 10 am CDT in spite of everything. This is set to be a big day in the world of political leadership. Astounding things happen and bold declarations are made.

**Tuesday March 24** sees the New Moon, occurring at 4 degrees Aries just before 4:30 am CDT. A new life-wave of energy emerges and we get the ability to fight back against or counter whatever is perceived to have held us down. Physical energy picks up. We feel equal to whatever challenge may come along. Immune systems kick into gear.

**Wednesday March 25** extends the theme of courage, personal power, and enhanced vitality under the now-waxing Aries Moon. Conflict becomes evident at leadership levels 7 – 10 pm CDT as the pugilistic Aries Moon squares Jupiter and Pluto in stuffy Capricorn. David goes up against Goliath and wins. Questions are asked of those in power. The overnight is restless, as the Moon moves to square Mars.

**Thursday March 26** starts off with the Moon-Mars square, exact just after 2 am CDT. Physical, emotional, relational, and intellectual discomfort agitates the world for a moment. Then the Moon enters much more settled Taurus just after 8:30 am CDT, and then cools things way down as it squares Saturn just after 9 am CDT. Whatever impulsive things we were thinking of doing earlier, we suddenly decide we shall not do. Then the urgency returns 6 – 7 pm CDT while the Moon in Taurus conjuncts changemaker Uranus, urging all to break out of previous ruts and strike out for authentic self-expression.

**Friday March 27** brings a palpable positive change as concerns and worries are dramatically lessened. Comforting Venus trines generous Jupiter today and tomorrow, making for nice feelings and pleasant experiences. This is especially the case 4 am to 8 pm CDT while the Moon in artsy Taurus makes sextiles to Mercury and Neptune in romantic Pisces. Relief from recent fear fills the frame of the moment. Hearts and flowers abound.

**Saturday March 28** carries forward the trend toward relief from recent depression and anxiety as Venus trines Jupiter and then Pluto, making for a day in which much that was thought to have been lost comes back into hand. Excellent conditions emerge from 0 hours midnight through 6 pm CDT as the pleasing Taurus Moon makes the sextile to Neptune, the trine to Jupiter, the conjunction to Venus, and then trines to Pluto and Mars. One could hardly ask for more. Goodness abounds on all sides. Restitution is made for things lost, destroyed, or stolen. We get back our lives in terms that make perfect sense. The Moon enters chatty Gemini just after 8:30 pm CDT, and we talk about it happily.

**Sunday March 29** sees the relational and conversational Gemini Moon sextile to the Sun in perky Aries, signifying that the vibes of life buzz along in a most agreeable manner, with not too terribly much to interfere with the natural way. Mars is set to enter Aquarius on Monday March 30 and then conjunct Saturn on Tuesday March 31, thus shifting the emphasis from governmental and executive Capricorn to diversity and group-

conscious Aquarius; we start to sense this even today. A groundswell of popular sentiment is just about to erupt. Plus, Mercury is now clearing out of the degrees associated with recent retrogradation, into new territory tomorrow. Hence, we're catching a new fragrance on the breeze, and we find it good. There's work to be done, of course, but the hints of necessary global and local cooperation are on the horizon.



AQUARIUS

*Maureen Temple Richmond* is a professional astrologer and metaphysical author with more than 40 years of experience in observing astrological conditions and correlating celestial influence with human psychology and behavior, world events, weather, financial markets, and politics. She is a life-long student of the Ageless Wisdom, including the works of H.P. Blavatsky and Alice Bailey, and has studied with the Arcane School, the Theosophical Society in America, and the Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis. In addition, Maureen is the author of *Sirius*, a scholarly study of the world mythology connected with the star Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, and of numerous essays on the Alice Bailey writings, many of which can be found and read free online at *Esoteric Quarterly*. Maureen holds the B.A. in English and Professional Writing and the M.A. in English and Creative Writing. At present, Maureen pursues the Ph.D. in Heritage Studies at Arkansas State University. She resides in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she continues her esoteric studies, counsels spiritual seekers world-wide via phone and Zoom, follows her artistic passion for heritage photography, and is an active member at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. She can be reached at [starsong1208@gmail.com](mailto:starsong1208@gmail.com) for astrological consultations, presentations, and instruction.