

The Starfire Messenger

A Free Weekly Newsletter

From Astrologer Maureen Richmond, M.A.

Issue #111: April 20 - 26, 2020

Contents

Signs of the Times: Key Points Ahead for 2020

Analysis and Prediction for the Week Ahead

Key Points Ahead for 2020

As world leaders begin to discuss the lifting of isolation orders in the near future, a change in the collective mood of planet Earth has arisen. A quiet collective sigh of relief has passed from zone to zone as the world population slowly perceives that imposition of extreme authoritarian measures may not be the new norm. Recently, European leaders floated the idea of breaking restrictions, governors of the American states carried on their own discussions to plan for gradual return to full operative status, and then American president Donald Trump did the same even more forcefully in the last couple of days.

For many, the key development in the last few days has been what would appear to be a decision on the part of Donald Trump to reject the plans and policies recommended by multi-billionaire Bill Gates, who several times in recent weeks has advocated complete planetary lockdown until a covid vaccine meeting his specifications could be developed and brought to market through his various vaccine-manufacturing business

entities. If Trump is willing to re-start the American economy in absence of such a vaccine, the reasoning goes, it would appear that Trump is not intimidated by either Gates or the covid virus. There's a good reason why this might be so: the numbers. Actual deaths in the U.S. have proven to be significantly less than what was originally projected. Ever the political strategist and image-maker, Trump could not allow himself to be responsible for destroying the American economy without justification.

With transiting Pluto in results-demanding Capricorn positioned in long-term and relentless opposition to Trump's natal Saturn in parental Cancer, Trump is under immense pressure coming from multiple directions, both inside and out. This is the kind of jack-hammer tectonic stress that can actually pulverize the hard shell of ego and self-hood. We all know better than to expect miracles of spiritual unfoldment from the hard-nosed Trump, but in his recent decision to reinstate operation of the American economy, he may well have made a decision which serves the purposes of freedom for the masses. Of course, he probably didn't conceptualize the situation that way. Instead, Trump was confronted with this question: Is it more to my advantage to risk additional covid deaths by terminating the social-distancing order, or more to my advantage to risk literally devastating the American nation through enforced non-productivity? This is the sort of devil's choice which is often faced under a Pluto transit. In all likelihood, Trump eyed the numbers and saw the obvious implication: although there have been approximately 36,000 American deaths attributed to covid since December 2019, this number is actually a very small fraction of the entire American population.¹ Pragmatist that he is, Trump would have perceived this bottom line rather starkly, whether he states such from the presidential podium or not. In plain terms, then, the loss of life from covids simply did not merit the

¹ At newsletter production time, the number of covids-assigned deaths having occurred in 2020 in the U.S. is equivalent to approximately 1 in every 10,000 persons.

complete dismantling of the American economy and the inevitable political backlash from taking such a course.

As a result, Trump's announcements of Thursday April 16 and Friday April 17 represent a key point indicating a definite shift in the outlook for the American nation and for the world as a whole. Here's what *Starfire Messenger* predicted for this same period in the previous issue.

Matters calm down Thursday April 16 through Saturday April 18 as Mercury in Aries makes the sextile to Venus in Gemini, bringing positive information to our attention. A degree of relief is felt.

Astrology proves its usefulness as a tool for understanding the energies of existence once again.

What, one might ask, are these astrological energies? The answer is that astrological energies represent the flows of life and vitalization taking place within the great cosmic entity embodied in our solar system. These flows of vitalization are then passed on to the entity of whom planet Earth is the physical representation, and from thence on to the Human Kingdom, where we experience these energies as the coming and going of soul groups into and out of incarnation, ups and downs in personal health and well-being, changes of life and times in society, tensions and relaxations in international relations, and trends in the world economy. These flows of life energies and electrical vitalization take place in the solar systemic body constantly; they are much like the multiple rhythms which define and drive the human body, such as the frequencies of brain waves, the regular tempo of the heartbeat, or the great manvantara and pralaya of daily human existence called wakefulness and sleep. In the same way that multiple rhythms course through the human frame, multiple rhythms course through the body of the solar system as an expression of the Great Life which inhabits the solar ring-pass-not as its body of manifestation. In the terms used by Alice

Bailey and the Tibetan Master in *Esoteric Astrology* and *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, this being is the Solar Logos. The astrological energies signified by the geometrical interactions of the planets in our solar system signify, mark, and measure these flows of systemic vitalization within the body of the Solar Logos.²

There are several such activations to note in 2020. We here on Earth will experience these energies in many forms, some entirely mental and having to do with great ideas, concepts, cosmic understandings, and comprehensive plans, others to do with soul group connections as expressed through human relations, organizations, and international affairs, and others to do with the physical world in terms of the built environment, nature, and tangible objects. Here are the times of their expression and the likely characteristics of each.

Mid-May through Mid-June, 2020

Transiting Mars in Pisces makes the sixty-degree or sextile aspect to Uranus in Taurus, Pluto in Capricorn, and Jupiter in Capricorn, and then transiting Mars in Aries makes the sextile to Saturn in Aquarius. This sequence of sixty-degree relations among the circle of the solar system (as perceived from Earth) signifies a period of harmonious interactions and relief from recent tensions. Understandings across disciplines and teams arise. Mental solutions to physical problems appear in mind. Aha moments abound. A greater mental horizon opens up. Individual enterprise (symbolized

² Additional astrological energies exist as well, coming from well beyond our own solar system. These originate in or pass through great galactic constellational entities and arrive into our realm of experience through zodiacal constellations, signs, and planets, which serve to distribute these energies generated and circulated from much deeper within galactic space, delivering them in stepped-down form to our planet.

by Mars) gets power and acceptance from resource managers and higher authorities. A period of cooperation, recovery, and pleasant stabilization takes place. Included in this interval is a conjunction between transiting Mars and Neptune in Pisces on June 13, 2020. Pisces is a sign of spiritual longing, and with Mars of desire and Neptune of mysticism involved, the indication is that spiritual faith and expression of divine communion will be much in evidence. Faith communities and meditation centers will be highly active. Other forms of aesthetic enjoyment such as music, dance, and theatre will thrive. At the same time, however, the gullible side of dreamy Pisces is stimulated, setting up the condition wherein the masses may be falsely lulled into euphoria. Times will be good, but vigilance for civil liberties must remain in force. In the background, pharmaceutical manufacturers are active and planning.

Late June 2020

Transiting Jupiter and transiting Pluto again form the conjunction, just as they did in early April 2020. Again the sign involved is authoritative, commanding, regulatory Capricorn. Many of the issues of early April 2020 come up for revision and reconsideration, resurrecting the specter of restrictions and isolations. However, the effect is not as intense as that in early April, due to other factors. Even so, public discussion will again center around extreme wealth, privilege, undue influence of moneyed persons and organizations on government, and the nature of political power. At the same time, potential for new stimulus to commerce, professionalism, and spiritual or initiatory striving remains high and good. The question of right use of power in all areas of life activates the planetary mind to consider issues of relative philosophical depth. Powerful introspection leads to deeper understandings and the tapping of

transcendent motivations. Those ready for advanced initiations my take them.

August 2020

Mars in direct motion and in the pugilistic and independent sign of Aries makes 90-degree arcs, or squares, to transiting Pluto and Saturn, both now in rule-bound Capricorn. Individual effort clashes with and conflicts with authoritarian structures world-wide. Disruption and upheaval again claim the news. Conflict and controversy erupt continually over the cause of the covid crisis, the discrepancies between projections and demonstrated behaviors of the organism, the assignation of blame and responsibility for the use of inaccurate figures and projections, the correct way for governments to correct problems created by lock-down and isolation, and the explosive issue of mandatory vaccines. Weather and natural acts of the planetary lithosphere figure in as agents of sudden change and portentous developments. The little self knows itself to be much positioned within the context of greater lives and affairs. Spiritual seekers bend their efforts toward specific achievements and fulfillments of plans.

Early September 2020

Mars turns stationary retrograde at 28 degrees of incendiary, argumentative, rebellious, and irrepressible Aries, setting off a two-month period of protests and confrontations, small and large, local and global, personal and organizational. The individual person finds power and confirmation in self-reliance. This becomes a cultural theme for the duration. Individuals seeking personal authority in

matters of health and other areas of life rise up and vociferously voice opposition to imposition of force and rule upon autonomy.

Mid-September through Mid-October 2020

This is one of the astrological centers of gravity for the entire year. Transiting Saturn now in retrograde motion will return to within 3 degrees of exact conjunction with Pluto, as close as it will ever get to exactitude again in this period, thus echoing the themes of early January 2020, though more mildly. Further, transiting Saturn turns direct at 25 degrees of Capricorn in late September, massively enhancing Saturn energies and making for decisive shifts in trends as the period of Saturn's transit through Capricorn comes to a close, not to repeat for another nearly 30 years. As a result, the public focus returns to the question of the world economy and how it shall best be structured. Issues of accountability and responsibility emerge. Again the image of scarcity is presented to the public in an attempt to subdue protest. At the same time, however, retrograde Mars in insistent Aries squares Saturn and Pluto in resistant, controlling, unresponsive Capricorn. Frustration with slow-moving governmental programs grows and erupts into fury. Indefinite delays are not tolerated or accepted gracefully. Impetuous demands fly forth from empowered, motivated persons. The political arena sees much unsheathed argumentation. Upstarts appear out of nowhere. The usual rules and regulations of the political system are broken and ignored. Libertarians and Independents speak up in the U.S. Average persons refuse to put up with invasion of civil liberties.

November 2020

Transiting Jupiter and Pluto again make the exact conjunction in late Capricorn, once again drawing attention to the question of immense political and financial power, and its right and wrong uses. Within individuals, resolve to persist and thrive becomes strong, and the will to overcome obstacles rises obstinately. Power cabals continue their overt and covert attempts to garner control over world markets. The death rate from covids continues to be an issue of public concern and debate, though the actual numbers of persons passing away from covids will be on the decline, as the astrological causes of this situation complete their activations and begin to dissipate.

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Thus, as is apparent, the year of 2020 contains numerous key points. Perhaps the most significant of all is the period from **mid-September through mid-October**. This is the point in time in which retrograde Mars will interact by hard-angle geometry with the transiting Saturn-Pluto conjunction, which conjunction is basically in effect for much the year. The Mars involvement will highlight the hidden components of this influence, forcing a surprising degree of clarity into the world political and financial situation. This period is sure to be contentious and disturbing by some standards, but it is also likely to be a time of necessary truth-telling.

Analysis and Prediction for the Week Ahead

The Moon is in waning phase until Wednesday April 22.

Monday and Tuesday April 20 and 21 are conditioned by the Old Moon and the Sun square Saturn, both influences making for an atmosphere of exhaustion, emptiness, and deflation. We do best if we let go of that which is in excess of our comfort levels, turn within,

seek spiritual alignment, and stay focused on just what is essential in our lives. The principle of limitation is at work just now. Sometimes this can be a good thing, showing us exactly where it would be best if we would cut back or reduce, let go, eliminate, terminate, stop, quit, and do not do. Energies are good for completing projects previously initiated, if we go at a reasonable pace.

Wednesday April 22 and Thursday April 23 are conditioned by the arrival of the New Moon on Wednesday in the 3rd degree of Taurus just before 9:30 pm CDT. A new life wave of energy rises at that time, setting us on a month-long course toward new objectives in the Taurean areas of interaction with nature, growing and cultivating plants, appreciating nature, beautifying the environment, creating a sense of sustainability, and applying determination. Late Thursday night and early Friday morning see sudden action and stirring passions when the newborn Moon squares irritable Mars at 12:30 am CDT on Friday April 24, sparking tensions and temporary discomforts.

Friday April 24 through Sunday April 26 promises big drama on many fronts as Mercury in Aries squares both Pluto and Jupiter, the Sun conjuncts Uranus in Taurus, and transiting Pluto goes stationary retrograde at 25 degrees Capricorn. The involvement of Mercury with Pluto suggests that circumstances of this period will force mental recognition of unwanted subconscious material, or other information of an undesirable nature. At the same time, Mercury's involvement with Jupiter indicates that the drive to expand awareness and to take in vastly increased stores of information is in the picture. The Sun's conjunction to Uranus ensures a radical acceleration of all energies, processes, and revelations at this time. The Pluto retrograde station signifies deep purificatory work in process, dredging up from the hidden and repressed depths those truths which must come forth for the self and the system of society to

heal itself. Communion with the realms of the deceased or other dimensions of the occult spirit world unfolds also under the touch of Pluto. The Destroyer Ray associated with Ray 1 Pluto goes to work disintegrating much that must pass from the form world now, bring endings and conclusions on the physical level for many, but soul life goes on. Weather and other expressions of nature are intense at this time, symbolizing and embodying the processes of revelation, breakthrough, and insight. Significant steps upward in evolutionary status may be made by those with intention and self-discipline.



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 and counsels spiritual seekers world-wide via phone and Zoom. She can be reached at starsong1208@gmail.com for astrological consultations, presentations, and instruction.