

The Starfire Messenger

A Free Weekly Newsletter

From Esoteric Astrologer Maureen Richmond, M.A.

Issue #120: June 22 - 28, 2020

Signs of the Times: The Mechanism of the Astrological Ages

Analysis and Predictions for the Week of June 22 – 28, 2020

- **Enhanced Spiritual Receptivity with Neptune Retrograde**



- **Intellectual Answers with Venus Direct in Gemini**



- **Newfound Initiative with Mars into Aries**



- Opportunities for Collaboration with Mars Sextile Saturn



For Analysis and Predictions for the Week Ahead, see page 6.

Signs of the Times: The Mechanism of the Astrological Ages

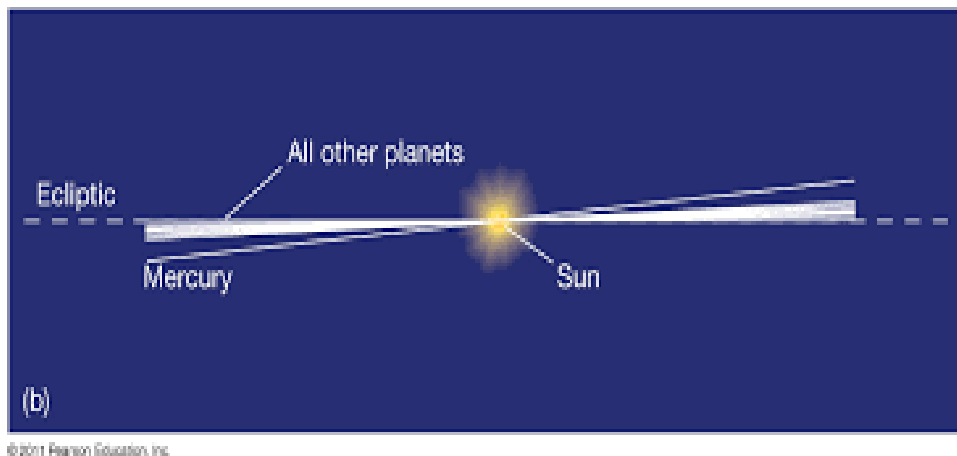


The astrological ages are a hot topic of conversation these days in the metaphysical and esoteric communities. Yet, how many people understand the astronomical basis for the astrological ages? The truth is that there is one. Astrological ages are determined not by psychic impressions and feelings, but by celestial movements. These movements result from astronomical fundamentals which can be diagrammed and understood by everyone, even non-astronomers. In this sense, the astrological ages are periods of time marked off by definite motions occurring on the celestial sphere. By contrast, the popular conception of the astrological ages, when described, sounds more like a mysterious mood

which come over our planetary life, inexplicably broods over its affairs for twenty-six centuries or so, and then vanishes into the cosmic night.

The real reason for the astrological ages is a celestial motion called the precession of the equinoxes. Well-known to conventional science and contemporary astronomy,¹ the precession of the equinoxes is a time cycle of approximately 26,000 years, during which the Sun at the time of the Aries Equinox is seen to very slowly move all the way around the Earth's field of view. This field of view is called the ecliptic. The ecliptic is the slice or band of the celestial sphere where we on Earth see the Sun, Moon, and planets. It's equivalent to the plane of our solar system.

The Ecliptic as the Plane of the Solar System



Below is a diagram showing the line of sight relationship from the Earth, to the Sun, pointing to the background star groupings or constellations. The ecliptic in this diagram is signified by the outer circle. The black arrow pointing to the left is the precessional axis. Due to

¹ "Precession of the Equinoxes," *Universe Today: Space and Astronomy News*. Accessed June 19, 2020.

<https://www.universetoday.com/77640/precession-of-the-equinoxes/>

celestial motions affecting our planet, this axis moves very slowly backward through the constellations. The diagram here shows the Sun at the Aries Equinox (or Vernal Equinox in the Northern Hemisphere) as seen against the very edge of the constellation Pisces. This placement signifies the end of the Age of Pisces. The axis will move clockwise to point at stars in the constellation of Aquarius, thus signifying the dawn of the Age of Aquarius.



This diagram shows the same thing in a close-up.



The exact point in time when the processional axis begins to point at stars in any constellation is determined by the size and shape of the constellations. The placement of imaginary lines defining constellations has been the subject of endless debate and mental anxiety, and as a result,

throughout time, astronomers have come up with many ways to divide the sky into star groupings. Below is a diagram showing one such, a section of the celestial globe, as seen from Earth, with the ecliptic shown in red, and the constellations beyond it. That big V-shaped outline on the right is the constellation of Pisces. Just beyond it to the right would be the constellation of Aquarius. Here, the red line with arrow symbolizes the precessional axis, pointing toward the stars on the eastern edge of Pisces. In time, that axis will shift to the right, eventually to point toward the stars on the very western edge of the constellation Aquarius. According to the esoteric astrology of Alice Bailey and the Tibetan, this has already happened, which is to say, the equinoctial axis is already pointing at the stars on the western edge of the constellation Aquarius. According to the published works of Alice Bailey, the shift of the equinoctial axis from the easternmost star in the constellation Pisces to the westernmost stars of the constellation Aquarius occurred in the year 1945.²



² Alice A. Bailey, *Problems of Humanity*, 81; *The Reappearance of the Christ*, 82 – 83; *Discipleship in the New Age II*, 425. Bailey gives the information in the form of dates. The astronomical fundamentals supporting those dates have been compiled here.

1. Enhanced Spiritual Receptivity with Neptune Retrograde



Neptune makes a retrograde station on **June 22 – 23** at 21 degrees of Pisces, thus intensifying its impact for several days before and after these dates. As an outer planet and as a planet accorded sacred status the esoteric astrology of Alice Bailey, Neptune represents transcendent states of consciousness based on the unity of cosmic existence. Thus, **June 20 – 25** constitutes an interval in which attunement to higher planes and dimensions is likely to come more readily to those who make the effort through meditation and daily vigilance over personality reactions. Subtle impressions from the buddhis plane and beyond are likely to precipitate into awareness, along with symbolic dreams and inspired visions. At the same time, a different effect is likely to be seen in the masses of Humanity, who are likely to register the lower aspects of the Sixth Ray, as distributed by Neptune. This will cause intensification of astral or emotional reactions, feelings of persecution and victimization, tendencies to register insults and offenses, and acute attachment to ideologies and belief systems. Emotional agitation and hyper-sensitivity may overwhelm many, though the power of forgiveness and forms of higher and divine healing are imminently available at this time as well. The Christ paradigm grows in appeal, and many are able to sense the presence of the Guides of the Race as they radiate wisdom and beneficence from the buddhic plane.

2. Intellectual Answers with Venus Direct in Gemini



Venus makes a direct station on **June 25** at 5 degrees of Gemini, reversing social complications and misunderstandings which had their genesis when Venus turned retrograde in early May. At the same time, the benefits of the transit of Venus through the sign of its esoteric rulership will emerge ever more clearly in the form of universal and group telepathic connections, providing needed answers. The attractive power of Venus and of Gemini as distributor of the Second Ray will serve to potently draw the attention of willing seekers upward to planes beyond the usual point of focus. Thoughtforms will take on greater brilliance and definition. The capacity for reading symbols and extracting information from abstract forms grows. Intellectual effort brings its own rewards and fulfillments.

3. Newfound Initiative with Mars into Aries



Aggressive Mars enters the impetuous sign of Aries on **June 27** at 8:45 pm CDT, bringing to a close the six-week transit of Mars through gentle and accommodating Pisces. Pisces symbolizes bondage and confinement, as represented by the two fishes tied together at their tails, the glyph for this zodiacal sign. Linked with phases of relinquishment, sacrifice, and

isolation, Pisces is a sign of physical, psychic, emotional, and spiritual cleansing and purification through letting go and letting bygones be just that. It is also a sign connected with lowered vitality and departure of the spirit from the form. The Mars transit through this sign has brought a public emphasis on and disturbed fretting about low physical energy, illness, death, and has consequently generated much emotionally-based fear. The movement of Mars into Aries indicates a major change in this condition. Mars in Aries will shift the focus from passivity and submission to what seems inevitable under Pisces, to a vital surge forward into new enterprise and confidence under fearless Aries. Mars in Aries is further likely to energize the physical body of Humanity with life-restoring powers, such as resilient immunity and ability to bounce back after serious challenges. Still, the potential belligerence of Mars in Aries will show up as well, as the contentiousness of the Martian archetype inevitably rises into prominence. The masses will cast off submission and obedience, vehemently rising in protest over any chafing condition. This change of trend will prove dominant, as Mars will be in Aries for many months instead of the usual two. In fact, Mars will turn retrograde in Aries during September 2020, making the entire period of Mars in Aries a very big astrological deal lasting well into the early portion of January 2021. That's a whopping six-month period with Mars in Aries, a time sure to be characterized by dramatic demonstrations of political will advocating for liberty, freedom, and autonomy. On the personal level, individual efforts to overcome obstacles and achieve important objectives will leap into the fray, dramatically altering the social context. This will contrast sharply with the meandering uncertainty which characterized the last two months and which plagued many while Mars transited in Pisces.

4. Opportunities for Collaboration with Mars Sextile Saturn



On Sunday **June 28**, transiting Mars newly in enterprising Aries will make the intellectually-inclined sextile to prudent Saturn in group-oriented Aquarius. This influence will be palpable for at least two days before and after exactitude, providing an interlude from **June 26 through June 30** in which it will be readily feasible to find collaborators and co-workers, to organize in functional forms, and to immediately generate productive results. Mental harmony between associates will come to the forefront, as teamwork sparks positive synergy and makes the way for previously unrealized solutions to manifest. Animosity of the past few weeks will die down remarkably, and civil discourse will emerge in its place, at least for a while, with positive self-control formulated as a living priority for many. The bruised egos, ruffled emotions, and informational tangles driven in June by Venus square Mars, Venus retrograde, Sun square Mars, Mars conjunct Neptune, and Mercury turning retrograde will begin to be allayed as reason and relaxation of tensions fall into place under the harmonious aspect between Mars and Saturn, tempering zeal with sobriety. Matters may not be perfect, but they will be better.

Maureen Richmond, Esoteric Astrologer: starsong1208@gmail.com