

# *The Starfire Messenger*



**A Free Weekly Newsletter**

**From Esoteric Astrologer Maureen Richmond, M.A.**

**Issue #122: July 6 - 12, 2020**

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### **The Voice of Saturn**

On July 1, Saturn returned by retrograde motion to the sign of Capricorn, in which sign it will remain through mid-December 2020. Ahead of us are therefore almost six months of a powerful astrological signature composed not only of Saturn in Capricorn, but also of Jupiter and Pluto in the same sign for the entirety of the nearly six months ahead. With three major planets in Capricorn July through mid-December 2020, the Capricornian archetype will hold front and center stage. To navigate this period of time in a manner which will prove spiritually productive and

meaningful is therefore our quest. To reach that goal, we must understand the Capricorn archetype.

The Capricorn archetype functions on many levels all at once. This archetype is symbolized by the Mountain Goat atop a rocky prominence, perching victoriously over the inhospitable environment below. This symbolism has many levels of implication.



At the personality level, earth sign Capricorn deals with matters of material provision and security, as well as with the question of secular authority and who has the power to exert it. These themes are depicted in the image above, in which we see a hard and rocky environment bereft of comforts and lacking in the soft, friable soil required for the production of food. Instead, we have rocks, and the suggestion that some hold the power, while others are subjugated and trapped in inferior conditions. Indeed, Capricorn can be a symbol for stringent and impoverished conditions, the shrunken and starved human in the black cave indicative of penury and discomfort. In our world today, too many are in precisely this condition, living in substandard housing and in want for food and other basic requirements for life. Even so, a babe hides in the left corner, and from the

right exults a hopeful human, gesturing jubilantly toward higher matters. New life emerges, and all is not lost, though greed and stinginess have wrought their ugly results. Compounding the concern are twin threats of time and age, as depicted by the skinny old man in the cave. Mortality thus looms large and seems to rule the day. The skeletal man holds an hour-glass, contemplating the passage of time. The fear of death is implied. The import of Capricorn at the personality life is thus constellated around the struggle for survival, competition for scarce resources, and a seemingly cruel existence.

Interpreted at the soul level, the Capricorn archetype pictured in the image above speaks very differently, however. Seen through the eyes of the immortal soul, the craggy mountain surmounted by the hardy goat symbolizes the tests, trials, and challenges of life, including the temptations and weaknesses inherent in the body or form nature, as grippingly portrayed in the skeletal figure in the cave. Over this, promises the symbolic image, the determined and committed soul eventually attains ascendancy, as symbolized by the recollected Goat of Light surmounting the terrain of travail. Over hardship and the limitations of existence in form, the soul eventually rises, undismayed and even strengthened in the quest, as the sturdy Goat with chest thrust forward and perched on high connotes. Capricorn at this level concerns the articulation of high and exacting standards for personal and social conduct. These are the rules and regulations of spiritual life, defining right thought, speech, and action. The Divine Goat is aware of these imperatives; he knows he must elevate his performance if he is to express his full potential. At the same time, the Divine Goat knows he is accountable to both his peers and higher spiritual authority for his thoughts, words, and deeds, as well as for his use of resources and of time. Self-responsibility therefore becomes the keynote of Capricorn at the soul level.

At the monadic level, the Capricorn archetype concerns the spiritual laws and principles which operate throughout the solar system and

beyond, the understandings of which form the basis for the expansions of consciousness referred to as initiations in the literature of esotericism. In the image above, these laws and principles are hinted at under the symbols of the hour-glass and the sickle held by the skeletal man, who might be taken as a version of Old Man Time, or even The Grim Reaper, figures which have terrified Humanity as images of death since time immemorial. Yet in this context, the Old Man and the Reaper speak differently. Here, these two tell a story about the development of deep wisdom. Their tools are the hourglass and the sickle.

Time as a portion of eternity is thus suggested by the hourglass as a device used for the measurement of time, and by the sickle, a farming implement used to harvest crops when the growing season has reached the end of its time. The shape of the sickle itself may be the origin for the symbol of Saturn, exoteric and esoteric ruler of Capricorn, the sickle being a blade meant for cutting down and hence ending the life cycle of vegetation.



The chopping or cutting of eternity into discrete segments of time is thus indicated. The study of defined units of time and undivided eternity opens the door into the dark cave of infinity, a realm which to the unprepared mind might seem profoundly terrifying. Yet, as all dedicated students of esotericism know, study of eternal cyclicity is a central component of initiatory teachings. The initiate learns to understand the uses of time and temporary incarnation in form, while also understanding existence beyond time and space.

In this sense, the emaciated man in the dark cave holding implements by which time is measured is as much the attained initiate as is the Divine Goat above. In fact, the emaciated man is the inner self of the sturdy Goat, for he is the one who has dropped off all unnecessary weight and worldly distractions in order to focus on the essential, which he holds before him in the form of esoteric teachings on time, eternal cyclicity, and the infinite beyond. At the same time, he is serious about the present time and its proper uses. Capricorn at the monadic level thus connotes the transcendence of form and time through self-discipline and study of cosmic law.

All three levels of Capricorn can be seen as reflected in the archetype of Saturn, the planet which rules in this sign both exoterically and esoterically. As with all astrological influences, Saturn can be experienced at the level of the personality, the soul, and the monad. These three levels of experience were discussed in the previous issue. Readers will recall that Saturn at the personality level concerns secular law; at the soul level, Saturn expresses as the rules for enhanced spiritual consciousness and conduct; and at the monadic level, Saturn manifests as the working of cosmic law and principle.

As Saturn, Jupiter, and Pluto all converge in Capricorn from July through mid-December 2020, the voice of Saturn as the fundamental root of the Capricorn archetype is certain to be heard with stark clarity by all. What is the voice of Saturn, then? The answer to that question depends on the level from which one is listening; it is up to us to determine which level on which we will attend to the voice of Saturn. But listen at one frequency or the other, we must, so prevalent is the Capricornian and hence Saturnian influence for the next nearly six months.

Thus, let us consider the nature of our listening. Indeed, the quality of spiritual listening itself just might be key to managing the upcoming period from July through mid-December 2020. To assist in that process,

here are a number of passages on the nature of Saturnian influence, as depicted in the esoteric astrology and cosmology of the Alice Bailey writings. As we journey through the next few months, let us take these considerations into our times of listening to the voice of Saturn.

**Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Psychology II*, 292**

The activity of **Saturn produces “a dividing of the ways and a proffering of opportunity** to those who can avail themselves of it. We shall have, therefore, a **period of discipline** and a cycle wherein choices will be made, and through these discriminating decisions humanity will enter into its birthright. This influence is now being strongly felt.”

**Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, 148**

“...**Saturn**, having offered **opportunity** and proffered us a **choice** to bring about the needed changes and to destroy that which holds back the free expression of the soul...”

**Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, 440 – 441**

“**Saturn...is primarily concerned with presenting opportunity to the Hierarchy and its affiliated disciples.** The phrase that *Saturn is the planet of discipleship* is basically true because ordinary average man, except in group formation, does not come so potently under its influence.”

**Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, 249**

**“In this sign [Libra], Saturn is exalted for—at the point of balance—opportunity comes and a situation is staged which makes a choice and a determination inevitable. It is a choice which has to be made intelligently and upon the physical plane, in the waking brain consciousness.”**

**Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, 164**

**“Saturn is one of the most potent of the four Lords of Karma and forces man to face up to the past, and in the present to prepare for the future. Such is the intention and purpose of karmic opportunity. From certain angles, Saturn can be regarded as the planetary Dweller on the Threshold, for humanity as a whole has to face that Dweller as well as the Angel of the Presence, and in so doing discover that both the Dweller and the Angel are that complex duality which is the human family.”**

**Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, 310 – 311**

**“Saturn [is] therefore, the Lord of Karma.”**

**Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, 549 – 550**

**“Saturn...applies the tests.”**





In sum, what does the voice of Saturn convey? Saturn from July through mid-December 2020 says that we have reached:

1. A dividing of the ways and a proffering of opportunities
2. A period of discipline
3. An opportunity to make a choice
4. An inevitable choice to be made in full waking consciousness
5. A period of karmic opportunity to face the Dweller on the Threshold
6. A point of karmic reckoning
7. A time of testing.



The Opportunity of Decision

Photograph by Maureen Richmond



## Analysis and Prediction for the Week of July 6 - 12, 2020

The big zodiacal action for the week clusters around **Mercury**, which goes **direct on July 12 at 6 degrees of Cancer**. That sounds tame enough, but not so fast! Before the direct station of Mercury can take place, there's something else Mercury will be up to it. **Retrograde Mercury will square Mars at 5:42 am CDT Wednesday July 8**, urgently highlighting the Rx condition of Mercury, and kicking up Martian sparks on the way. The resulting tangle of equipment malfunction, miscommunications, and misinformed judgements is likely to create quite a ruckus. Indeed, this single aspect is volatile and potent enough to condition the majority of the week. Good thing the Moon will be in waning phase, helping to hold a lid on the Human Kingdom, which is sure to be activated intensively by this week's dominant influence.

**Monday July 6** sees the Moon enter Aquarius at 5:08 am CDT, shifting attention to group interactions and the need to cooperate. The vibes support precisely that 7 – 8 pm CDT when the friendly Aquarius Moon trines Venus in interactive Gemini. Later, we are forcefully taken with compelling ideas all of a sudden when the Moon squares Uranus at 11:37 pm CDT. We begin to feel the impulsivity of the forming Mercury-Mars square in earnest. Rays 4 (via Mercury) and 6 (via Mars) are thus activated in the extreme. Agitation of the mental bodies of Humanity emerges. Many will impulsively jump to conclusions. Word fights and abrupt responses are all too likely. Ability to control one's speech helps greatly at this time.

**Tuesday July 7** continues the Moon in Aquarius theme, with many persons active in group contexts. The Mercury-Mars square grows in potency just now, inflaming minds and leading to verbal jousts. Many will feel a pressured urgency to spit out thoughts they've been nursing for quite some time. That's the nature of retrograde Mercury in the emotionally-oriented water sign of Cancer. Hurts sustained some time ago are still stinging. Today and tomorrow, that fact is likely to suddenly leap into play. Much

irrational conversational content is likely, given the involvement of retrograde Mercury. Spite, revenge, animosity, and taunts litter the landscape. At the same time, highly symbolic and therefore meaningful material may emerge in language, metaphors, and images used at this time. Lovers of Humanity should listen at this level, for the need to be heard and understood will be great for many. Cancer rules the masses, so in fact, the masses need to be heard at this time. They will make that fact known with spirited and even violent protestations to the imposition of silence.

**On Wednesday July 8**, intense conflict continues, with the square of retrograde Mercury and Mars exact at 5:42 am CDT. The Moon enters Pisces just after 1 pm CDT, calming the roiling astral waters somewhat. Then the Moon trines Mercury just after midnight CDT, bringing clarity and logic where only emotional reactions had held sway.

**Thursday July 9** sees a degree of calm fall into place, as the cosmically-attuned Pisces Moon trines Mercury, sextiles Uranus, and trines the Sun over the course of the day. A little bit of emotional ruffling enters the picture just after 6 am CDT when the Moon squares Venus and minor disagreements emerge.

**Friday July 10** brings genuine calm to the previously torrid terrain, as the Moon in mystical Pisces trines the Sun in Cancer, conjuncts Neptune in Pisces, and then makes sextiles to the Capricornian stellium of Jupiter, Saturn, and Pluto. This fortunate string of aspects develops throughout the entire day, making for an interlude of peace, understanding, and remarkable cessation from urgent concern. But matters are still brewing, for Mercury is set to turn direct on Sunday July 12, which means that conditions are in flux even now. Weather reflects that instability, with much rain likely under the Moon-Neptune conjunction today.

**Saturday July 11** arrives, and we're smelling the hay at the end of the retrograde Mercury day. Yes, we can just tell it. Mercury is just about to go direct. This means the mental tensions, missing data, and confused

impressions of the last three weeks are quite soon to be less concerning. The Moon enters spunky Aries just after 00 hours CDT, setting up the day for an active agenda. That fact becomes abundantly clear around 4 pm CDT as the Moon conjuncts action-loving Mars in restless Aries. Pacing oneself is a fine contribution to sanity and safety this day. Impulsiveness wants to rule, but it should not be allowed to do so. Arguments from earlier in the week may try to resurface; choose carefully as to whether or not to indulge.

And then Mercury in water sign Cancer goes direct on **Sunday July 12** at 3:26 am CDT, just before the Sun in Cancer makes a trine to oceanic Neptune in underwater Pisces, indicating that time in and beside bodies of water is possible. The mood shifts abruptly. Vacations and day trips postponed earlier in the season will now get the green go ahead signal. A surprising day of peace and rejuvenation unfolds, even though the Moon in Aries squares the Capricorn stellium from 6 pm – midnight CDT, and we can't forget we have responsibilities waiting for us in the wings. For right now, it's good enough to know that clarity and straightforward productivity are on the way. We can work with that.

