

# *The Starfire Messenger*



**A Free Weekly Newsletter**

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

**Issue #130: August 31 – September 6, 2020**

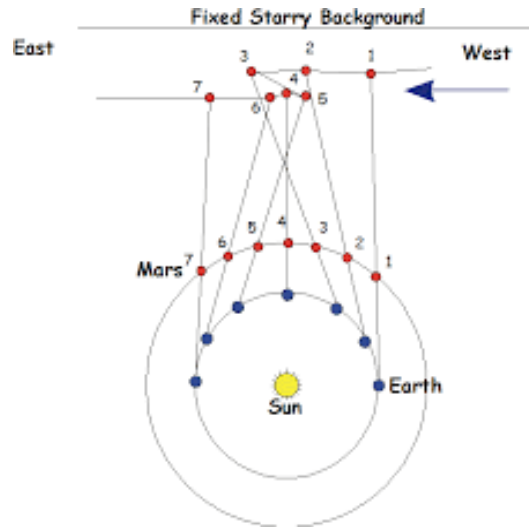
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### **Retrograde Mars Straight Ahead**

Once every two years, the planet Mars appears in retrograde zodiacal motion. Retrograde Mars is a natural phenomenon resulting from the concentric arrangement of the solar system and the relative speeds of Earth and Mars in their respective orbits around the Sun. The diagram below demonstrates the arrangement in space which astrologers call retrograde Mars.



### Retrograde Mars

As can be seen from the diagram, retrogradation is all about the angle of view or perspective on space. Follow the progress of Earth around its orbits from positions numbered 1 – 7, and observe the line of sight to Mars. The whole retrograde development begins at position number 4 with the retrograde station, when Mars appears to cease its normal forward motion in the zodiac. Then, the apparent retrogradation becomes visible at Earth position number 5. From the perspective of Earth at that point, Mars in regard to the backdrop of space appears to move in backward zodiacal motion. Ultimately, the line of sight relationship will again reveal Mars in normal forward motion in the zodiac.

Each period of retrograde Mars lasts for only a couple of months. This time around, Mars will be retrograde from September 9 through November 13, 2020, making the retrograde station on September 9 at 28 degrees of Aries. Then Mars will move into retrograde mode for a bit over two months. A key point within this period will occur on October 13, when the Sun at 21 degrees Libra makes the exact opposition to retrograde Mars at 21 Aries. On the same day, Mercury turns retrograde at 12 degrees Scorpio, further intensifying concerns and throwing much into doubt. In the two weeks leading up to this date, transiting retrograde Mars shall have squared both Saturn and Pluto, making the first half of October 2020

an outstandingly turbulent period, filled with the same kinds of harsh governmental and social conditions and intolerance for individuality and diversity which have already characterized the present calendar year. Persons who question the official narrative in any fashion are likely to be treated with particular disdain and outright oppression during this time. Aries-ruled freedoms (such as freedom of speech) are likely to come under severe attack. All the same, resistance to political tyranny throughout the world will erupt, pitting the everyday person against the brutal power of heavily militarized police states.

Retrograde Mars periods are not always as threatening as this. The difference is made by the existing transiting stellium in Capricorn, sign of restriction, control, impositions, inhibitions, and prohibitions. In its dark face, Capricorn is obsessed with shaming, blaming, lecturing, judging, dominating, controlling, punishing, and penalizing. With Jupiter, Saturn, and Pluto now in this sign, the human psyche is all too tempted to play the role of the overly strict parent, ever dissatisfied and driven to infliction of ever more severe pain in order to bludgeon the disobedient child into submission. Truly, negative Capricorn is the abusive parent, the powerful figure who allows that power to go to its head. Disregard for the humanity of others results, and the Capricornian indulgence of unrestricted power over others manifests as an orgy of bondage imposed and submission commanded. It's the wrong way to build human community, no matter the challenge.

Previous Mars retrograde periods have not always been so intolerable, though often, they've been tumultuous, if not violent. From June 26 through August 26, 2018, transiting Mars was retrograde in Aquarius and Capricorn. Notable events during this period included the Trump-Putin Summit and shootings in the U.S. at a church and a health food store. From April 17 through June 29, 2016, transiting Mars was retrograde in Sagittarius and Scorpio. Notable events during that period included Trump's announcement of his bid for the American presidency, a

bloody Islamist-inspired massacre in an American nightclub for gays, and the vote of the U.K to depart the European Union. From March 1 through May 20, 2014, transiting Mars was retrograde in Libra. During this period, there arose the water pollution crisis in Flint, MI, sanctions against Putin's Russia imposed by then-American president Barack Obama, and the grisly Islamist-inspired kidnapping of hundreds of school-girls in Nigeria. From January 24 through April 14, 2012, transiting Mars was retrograde in Virgo. During this period, the *Encyclopedia Britannica* stopped its print edition after 246 years of publication, a North Korean intelligence satellite mysteriously exploded on launch, and the government of Greece announced a stunning debt crisis.

As is apparent from these examples, retrograde Mars periods tend to bring to a head any trends which are simmering beneath the surface of events. The upcoming retrograde Mars period can be no different, pitting individualistic, independent Mars in Aries against statist, power-hungry Capricorn. People everywhere should therefore be warned to observe the greatest caution in dealing with corporatocracies, bureaucracies, and government agencies. The temptation to rule with an iron fist will be all too great for them during this period. Stamping out individualism, free-thinking, and independent action will seem to those holding power like the ultimate good for society. They shall have no idea of the slippery slope down which they slide, perfectly obsessed with the notion of forcing obedience, complicity, and conformity. The authoritarians among us should find much in which to take gratification, though they may forget that they, too, once upon a time belonged to diversities. However, the pendulum will some day in the not far future swing in the opposite direction, but for the moment, Goliath stalks the land and little David quivers behind a boulder for protection.

## Daily Analysis and Prediction for August 31 – September 6, 2020

This week, we prepare for the retrograde station of Mars, coming up on September 9. **Full Moon on Tuesday September 1** shines light on the Virgo matters of health and education, plus the Pisces matters of spirituality and mysticism.

**Monday August 31** opens the week with the rapidly waxing Moon in intellectual Aquarius. Clear thoughts help us see a safe path ahead 11 pm to midnight CDT while the Moon makes the sextile to Mars.

**Tuesday September 1** sees the Moon enter Pisces at 4:34 am CDT, gearing up for Full Moon moment, which takes place at 12:22 pm CDT with the Sun at 10 degrees Virgo and the Moon at 10 degrees Pisces. Mercury at 23 degrees of Virgo trines Pluto at 23 degrees of Capricorn, helping to find peaceable solutions for all. It's time to listen to the higher call.

**Wednesday September 2** brings an opposition between Venus and Saturn, never a cheery influence. This one occurs from 26 Cancer to 26 Capricorn, emphasizing the dynamic between the masses and the elites, drawing a hard line between the in crowd and the out, and chilling social connections. The Sun at 11 Virgo trines Uranus at 11 Taurus, promising productivity and relatively settled conditions all the same. Then the Moon in adaptable Pisces makes a conjunction to dreamy Neptune and sextiles to Jupiter and Pluto, 2 pm – midnight CDT, improving the atmosphere and dropping the stress level for the moment.

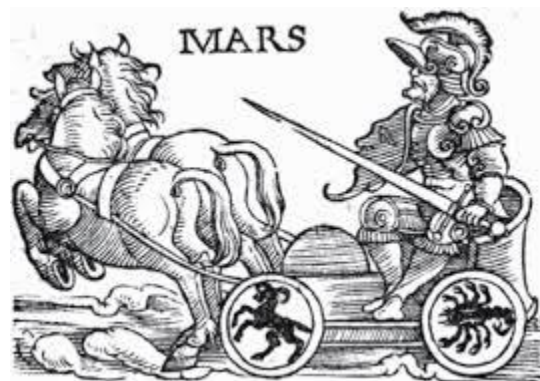
**Thursday September 3** arrives with Mercury at 26 Virgo trine Pluto at 26 Capricorn, again settling the atmosphere and bringing needed information into focus. Business connections thrive. The now waning Moon enters spunky Aries at 3:22 pm CDT, raising energies and hopes for success.

**Friday September 4** ratchets the social stress factor right back up to high as Venus at 28 Cancer squares Mars at 28 Aries, highlighting differences of approach to social issues. At the same time, however, Mercury at 28

degrees Virgo makes the sextile to Venus at 28 degrees Cancer, assisting all forms of information flow and communication. It's a grand time to listen much and speak little.

**Saturday September 5** sees Mercury enter Libra at 2:46 pm CDT, altering the mental climate away from the details and fretting native to Virgo and toward the impartiality and neutral stance of Libra. Even so, bugaboos prowl. The Moon in irritable Aries gets caught in a square with cold Saturn and a conjunction with hot Mars. Frustration with recent dismissive treatment explodes into rage if one is not careful, 7 pm – midnight CDT.

**Sunday September 6** brings a shift in feeling as Venus leaves worrisome Virgo where she was all twisted up inside about matters of health, education, and daily domestic routine, and eases into detached and intellectually cool Libra. The waning Moon enters relaxed Taurus at 3:43 am CDT, further subtracting tension and worry. But then, the Moon conjuncts wild-card Uranus late Sunday – early Monday CDT, speeding up the pace and introducing unanticipated matters. Mars is soon to go retrograde, and much waits in the wings.



Antique Mars, God of War and Ancient Ruler of Aries and Scorpio