

Aquarius 2020-21 Astrology Studio Transcript

by Eric Francis – edited by Victoria Emory

Hello Aquarius, and welcome to the 2020 astrology studio for your Sun sign or Aquarius rising. My name's Eric Francis, recording from Kyiv in Ukraine. Today is the 21st of January, 2020, and this may be my first birthday reading done from a foreign country. The Sun is now at about the second degree of Aquarius. Happy birthday, if I've missed it, and if I haven't -- in the future.

This is a special day in the astrology studio series, because Saturn is about to enter your sign. This is a very significant transit for everyone, and it is particularly significant for Aquarius because Saturn is the traditional ruler of your sign and Saturn in Aquarius is one of the, I think, very best placements in all of astrology. It's certainly the best placement for Saturn and you're about to experience all of the benefits and the challenges of the transit, which will last for about three years. 2020 is the phase-in and then there's two solid years and then 2023 is the phase-out.

However, that is not the only thing that is going on in your astrology. Jupiter is about to enter your sign. That happens at the end of the year; and then there's going to be a conjunction of the two biggest planets in your sign at the end of this year, which basically commences a whole new phase of your life. And that will lead to another whole new phase of your life beginning in about 2023, when Pluto begins to make its ingress into Aquarius; and that is one of those things that is high on the list of truly significant transits for our entire society. Though for you, it is particularly personal and I want to get into that, but the first thing I want to do is recap some of the themes and subject matter that have been dominant forces in your life for quite a few years.

We could count all the way back to 2008, when Pluto entered Capricorn, your 12th solar or whole sign house. This is a momentous placement for Pluto, to have Pluto going through the 12th house, which you still have couple of more years of though

you have endured the vast majority of this transit. And then since late 2017, there has been a, let's say a gathering amount of emphasis in Capricorn, which is the sign right before your own, which is one of one of those things you can really call the second sign. You know that one's own sign is important, but I think that particularly for the kind of astrology that we're doing here, without references to the natal chart, the two houses to watch the most carefully are the 12th and the second. So they surround you; and then then the one exactly opposite, which is Leo. And so with all of this, by now famous activity in Capricorn, which came to its peak with the Saturn Pluto conjunction of 2020, just a couple of weeks ago. Hard to believe that it's disappearing into the past. That, and many other things gathering in your 12th, indicate a high pressure inner situation; you know, deep within your inner life. I'm reluctant to call it unconscious or subconscious. Though those can be delineations of the 12th house, I don't like those or sub or prefixes because it's, it's, it's possible and indeed necessary to make this material and whatever it represents to be a fully conscious process. And it has gone on long enough for you to get many different messages from it, and to listen to them and hear them. And it is possible even probable that something came to a head over the past few weeks -- that something you have been experiencing reached its peak and that you have experienced some kind of a transition in your thinking, or a turn in the course of your existence, that has indicated that all this work you've been doing all this time, and potentially the struggles that you've endured on and off since 2008, all are in some way meaningful. Though from the standpoint of counseling astrology, the thing to remember is that these kinds of 12th house transits are not easy. They are difficult because the 12th has a way of being concealed, kind of like the secret room of the mind, or the activity going on in the apartment or office right beneath you that you're not really thinking of; that you're not really conscious of, but in this case it's part of you. It's among the many contents of your awareness and the, let's say, the basic material of your spiritual journey.

Activity in the 12th is always trying to push things up and get you to pay attention to them, and because the 12th tends to be concealed, that whole process itself can be veiled. It can be going on behind what I think of is a scrim. It's not a very thick divider, but it's a divider that can set a certain aspect of your thinking or

your feelings off into another zone and make it difficult to actually ascertain what's going on. A lot of things can happen in the 12th and get results in the world that don't specifically get connected to events in the world. You don't necessarily know or understand what a deep place stuff is coming from within you. And then the second part, which is directly related, is the 12th also has a way of becoming a kind of an accumulation bin for all of this stuff through one's whole life.

And when a planet starts to show up there, particularly things like Pluto and Saturn, they can have a kind of an activating effect, which tends to dredge up a lot of stuff from the past. And then the question is, well, how did this happen? Where, where did this all come from? How is it that I didn't know about this? How is it that I was not aware of it? The thing to remember is that this has a long history and the history of bringing it up goes back at least to 2008 when Pluto first entered Capricorn, which some astrologers regard as one of the very, if not the most, challenging transit. And that sang a lot because there are hundreds and hundreds of different transits, and in many different types of transits, and many different planet-through-house kinds of transits. And it's just that the combination of the, the compelling evolutionary drive of Pluto, combined with all that gets concealed in the 12th house can have profound effects that again don't necessarily reveal themselves for what they are.

This is the challenge. And if, if we want to go back even further, it may be instructional to think of the time between very late 2001 through early 2005, that's a bit of one, then '02, '03, '04 and a bit of '05. So it bands a few years, though the peak, I would say, would be from '02 to '04 as Chiron was going through this, this region. And what I was offering at the time of that Chiron transit was the idea, which you know has since then borne itself out in many ways, that Chiron was going to be a kind of a forerunner or harbinger of the kinds of material that would come out when Pluto arrived in Capricorn. At that time, Pluto was in Sagittarius, and Pluto and Capricorn was something of a mysterious dream, a thing that astrologers didn't really want to think about too much because it clearly was going to be, and has shown itself to be, a challenging transit. And my thought was, okay, well whatever Chiron brought up usually is brought to attention in a more gentle way than the way Pluto brings up the same material.

And so there may be clues in the early two thousands as to what exactly the nature of this was. And then in this long span of 2008, beginning of '08 till the present, there had been a number of peaks of activity here. A big one was '11 through '13: the square of Uranus and Pluto, which in many ways set the whole world on fire. If you recall, that was the time of the Occupy movement and Arab Spring Occupy Wall Street. And I say that yeah, awkward moment. And then the odd third one is this: a massive movement in Madison, Wisconsin. So it was at a time of really intense and radical activism and an idealism. But experienced from the standpoint of spiritual evolutionary or psychological astrology, it is likely that these things were stirring up very deep material.

And so the way to look back on all of this time is this kind of agitation of all this deep and concealed stuff. And the thing that makes it even more significant is that Capricorn, apart from any qualities of 12th house where it resides in your solar chart, where your whole sign chart, if you're Aquarius rising, Capricorn is a sign that is associated with all kinds of encrypted family material from the past. And so in addition to Capricorn representing all of this encrypted family material from the past, then there was the quality of the 12th which has a way of keeping things out of view and concealed from awareness. And then then there's all this pressure, it starts coming up and there can be family dramas, there can be personal psychological dramas. Some of this can manifest in a rather direct psychosomatic way in terms of the physical scenarios that are occurring, medical stuff related to pressure, medical stuff related to anything that has gone on, treated hereditary medical stuff and psychological material including that which is passed through the family.

And so as the astrology indicates, a challenging time, but also one that is profoundly meaningful and I think will reveal itself as such. When you look back on this time in some years as being a crucial time of clearing the karma of the past, clearing the residual hang-ups of the past and the struggles of the past and of coming to terms with yourself in a way that you never had before but, that you knew was essential either as it was happening, or you look back and think: wow, I mean I, I'm glad I went through that and I hope I don't have to go through it twice. And so now what you've got, before we contemplate what is coming to you

and what is coming into Aquarius, I want to briefly speak about the completion work of this very late Capricorn phase where Saturn is now and where Saturn is going to be hanging out on and off through the end of 2020; where Jupiter is going to get pretty soon and we're there is some rather spectacular activity in the spring and then for a few years.

The real completion work, the most, I think, beneficial and at the same time challenging completion work is going to come from the transition of Pluto from Capricorn into your sign. And so if you're a person who believes in spiritual process or in the power of growth, in the value of seeking self- understanding, these few years are going to be a time to pay very close attention to your life, and particularly to concentrate on completions on the whole, very often neglected, topic of completions and understanding what they are. And on your list of completions, what I suggest you do is inventory all of the most challenging events that have occurred since 2008, but this should be a list of maybe five things. I would say it might be longer, it might be shorter than only a couple, but whatever they are, whatever the most challenging events or experiences or things you were called upon to do, or things that happened to you, go back to 2008 and consider each one, and ask herself about whether the matter is really closed, and closure can mean you feel a peace with it.

You no longer have to push it down in any way. It can mean that it no longer pops up as an incomplete thing and no longer has any real power over you or, as the case may be, it disappeared safely into the past and did not resurface in some other form. Now we're talking about the 12th house here, and when doing 12th house work, it is very important to look for what you can't see. All of the houses represent environments and environments are oftentimes very difficult to observe, and to see the effects of what happens in them. The 12th, though, has a particular property of being the most invisible of the environments. It. It symbolically represents that which we can't see. It can be a big blind spot. And the thing is, occasionally you do find out what's going on in your blind spot. For example, you know, if you're driving you might not see it in the mirror, but then if you turn, you'll see it if you turn your head a little bit and use your peripheral vision. If you change lanes and somebody

happens to be hanging out in your blind spot they maybe honk their horn, or you'll bump into them.

So there's ways to see into blind spots and you want to use the most conscious and cautious ones, but also honest. And the way to work the 12th house is to give yourself time to set the agenda and to ask for the quote, unquote, unconscious. I'm again struggling with that term a little bit, but it works in a way. Kinda like this: you have a problem and maybe facing something, or going through a change of some kind and have a dream, and the dream sends you imagery and a feeling and some kind of message. And maybe you don't understand it. Maybe you get it, maybe you forget about it. But if you were to listen to the dream, not worry about so much about what it means in the intellectual sense, but what the images are and, most importantly, how you feel about it and begin to translate the language of the other part of the mind that can speak in these seemingly cryptic, but when understood truly profound, messages that work on a level much deeper than, you know, the basic level of consciousness than much deeper than, "Oh, I think I'll do that or all I'll do that."

It's really a, the dream world kind of delivers up something about the ultimate nature of your reality. And sadly, these messages go unnoticed most of the time. And what they are, I think, is the parts of the mind that we don't acknowledge trying to get through to the parts of the mind that we're aware of, and make contact with and seek some unification of consciousness rather than living in fragments; living in parts,, as we so often do. And that is one way to look at all that has been happening over these years in the main ways that the '08-'09 transit, and in the '11 through '13 square of Uranus and Pluto, which went on for a while. And then the ingress of Saturn in 2017, which began a closure and clearing process.

Right. The kind of final descent, your destination, begins when Saturn entered Capricorn in late 2017 and that was the time when all kinds of preparations and shifting and adjustments, when there was a real, I think, alteration of your experience of the 12th house. And you know, you can, would need to, journal this out. There's other dates you can journal that can be helpful, but for our purposes here, I would journal out: '02, '03,'04, with, I believe a margin of about a year. I would suggest 08, '09, then I would suggest, let's see the, the ingress

of Saturn into Capricorn in '17 and then the Saturn Pluto conjunction phase of late 2019 and then early 2020. And get yourself started. The way that I'd do this with my clients is that I suggest they'd journal the phases out independently.

Just describe where you were living. Start with your address, describe where you were living and journal out the basic facts. That's not to be long, can be longer, but you don't want to lose yourself in the sauce. You know you want to really focus on these transition points, and then see if you can see any obvious things they have in common or use your intuition and look for any less than obvious things that they have in common. They might involve family, they, they might involve a recurring psychological conditions that come back, kind of a state of mind that might take on different forms, but you might recognize that they are related, and see if you can gently, slowly and intuitively see if you can get the whole message of what all of this a 12th house has been about for you, what's been going on in there. And then there'll be some odd relationships to your family that are likely to be true and also workable.

All right. The point of this is to give you an idea of where to direct your thoughts and your process work in whatever form that takes on completion and closure. Remembering that you have time for this. You have a number of phases of this completion and closure process, and while you're doing it, you're going to start to lean into the future. Saturn not usually the harbinger of the future, but a Saturn in Aquarius, now that's a different story. And inquiry is the first harbinger of the future, as Saturn makes its first foray into your sign on March 21st, 2020 and then backs out. It's there for a while into the summer. Let's get a quick a look at the kind of scheduling of this window of events. We're going to look at Saturn in the very beginning of Aquarius.

Saturn enters Aquarius March 21st or 22nd depending on your time zone. So start paying attention well before the spring Equinox in the Northern hemisphere. And then Saturn retrogrades back into Capricorn on July 2nd. So there's this introduction phase of Saturn and Aquarius, where you're gonna get a taste of the energy, you're going to get to see and feel. Notice what is possible without having to let go completely of the past, nor go into any commitments for the future, and this state of ambiguity or ambivalence in the positive sense of that, right?

Ambi Vaillant. Usually ambivalence is like an insult of some kind, but actually to be Ambi Vaillant is little like being ambidextrous; ambidextrous -- working with both hands, a great gift for any form of musical instrument study. That musical instrument study is worth it for the music, but also for the training of, of dexterity in, your non-dominant hand.

And so if you can think of the two hands we're talking about here as being of the past and the future, you are getting to in a sense of the present moment: you're present consciousness going back and forth between where you're at, and where you've been, and where you're at, and where you're going, and not have the future come on all at once. Right? So there are times when you just wake up and like the future's arrived and you know, then you just have to leap in. But this is not going to be so much like this; in at every stage there is a gradual hand-off. The better you get at this, the better you're going to get at it. And if you think of the transition of Saturn into Aquarius as being a few years of warm-up for Pluto going into Aquarius.

And then if you think of the whole transit of Saturn in Aquarius being preparation for Pluto and Aquarius, ah. This is a way to work with this information in a structured and orderly way. Even though obviously the human process is not always so orderly, in fact it hardly ever is. But there are ways to take the work in, in degrees. And you know, one of the unfortunate spiritual habits of our world and of particularly Western culture, and particularly of American culture, is not to take the process of growth and change seriously. It's to not honor and respect the inevitability of change, the inevitability of death and the limitations that we have on time. And therefore we can become very confused about how to use time and how to not waste time. And you know, one of the things that we tend to waste time on is anxiety, guilt and hesitation, when we already know what we need and what we want.

There are all kinds of avoidance tactics that many people use and delay tactics and playing hide and seek with oneself. And people even say that's what they're doing. They're like, Oh, I'm just playing hide and seek with myself. Well, if you know how long you want to be off for, you don't need to do any of this. You can use the power of astrology in one of its most humane and delicate, gentle and productive ways, which is to set some limits

on, and therefore some goals within, your process of growth and evolution and of becoming. And so 2020 is a major transitional year where the idea is that you are going to study the past for the point of looking for what you have not yet come to closure on in the past, and then to consciously set about the process of coming to closure. And there are lots of concepts of that and definitions of that which usually involve relationships.

It involves coming to terms with yourself, it involves accepting what you've been through and recognizing that while there's no reversing what you've been through, you have the opportunity to use what you've been through to take full possession of your experiences. Now while we're on the subject of resolution, before we look more closely at Saturn in Aquarius and then Jupiter (they jump in right at the same time), one of the things that happens this year is that Jupiter is in your 12th house now. Jupiter is now in Capricorn. So that's your solar 12th if you're going by sun sign, and your whole sign 12th if you are going by Aquarius rising. And one of the smartest ideas you can sum up in one sentence from 20th century astrology is that it would seem that Pluto is something about the evolutionary journey of the soul. (That's the title of a book by a guy named Jeff and without, you know, going into detail or fully endorsing everything in the book.)

I think that one qualification about the nature of Pluto is really important, and the soul is a growth process. It's not a thing. It's not like a little puff of light or of energy. It's a process of becoming; it's a journey of an experience of becoming and the becoming can feel like a gradual awakening. It can feel like a gradually taking possession of yourself, or deepening your relationship to yourself and to the ground of your being. But this process has been very active with Pluto in Capricorn. It's not an easy transit, but it is a meaningful transit in that it is going to get results. It is has, it has gotten results and that can be difficult to see in the fray of all of this intensity in the world right now This time in history, and in the process of all this 12th house activity that you've had, built to this kind of wild crescendo in early January, where it just peaked, seemed like your life was like a, a complete cluster-fuck, or a you just couldn't comprehend what you were going through or, maybe as some people did, like just sailed right through. Like they went right down the rapids in a very efficient manner or, or were able to pass through a narrow

opening, in a way that worked. It's certainly possible that happened but it is more likely this came with some intensity, and some things you didn't really understand but that have cleared, now. And what you are mostly left with in Capricorn, in the 12th house, through much of 2020, is Jupiter and Pluto. And Jupiter and Pluto are a particularly wonderful combination, on the level of not attaining spiritual mastery but claiming, assessing and taking ownership of what you've learned all of these years. So it seems like that you're in the process of, and are about to awaken to, what you have learned from what you've been through and that this combination of Jupiter and Pluto will call your attention inwardly in a way that you may have never felt before.

Jupiter and Pluto have not made a conjunction in Capricorn in our lifetimes... So this is the only time this is happening in, in this 248- year orbit of Pluto. So it is much like everything else that's happened in Capricorn this year. Therefore, to you, on this deep level, this is a distinctive one of a kind, though it happens in three stages through 2020. And I would suggest that you let that enter your view process in the quiet, quietest and calmest way. And to remember, as Isabel Hickey said in the only time I've ever read this in astrology, and that other philosophers have said in different ways, that the combination of Jupiter and Pluto is the ability to draw wisdom from any spiritual tradition; to encounter the common ground of all of the spiritual traditions, right? That is there is something that at their best, they all have in common. We're accustomed to seeing the bad things that they have in common, but at their best, when you strip away all the window dressing and the crusades and dogma, you get to the essence of the tradition. It really is about there being one Lake with many shores.

And so there's something here about consolidating learning you've done within many different paths that you may have experimented with and been on. And giving yourself a time of reflection and consolidation and allowing this a brief, couple of degrees experiment of Saturn into your sign, to just wake you up to the ways you want to bring all that you've learned into the life that you're now living, and allow it to shape your idea of the future.

So let's taking a little break and contemplating the nature of this 12th house / first house thing, which I think is one of the brilliant things that astrology illustrates in a way that other spiritual

vocabularies don't quite have a picture for; an image map for. But really, especially when the transition line between the first and the 12th is being worked, that is a lot like reconciling two different concepts of yourself. And the way it works out now is that those two different concepts of yourself are a past concept and a future concept, with you hanging out right on the line between them. And it's just that the past concept may go far so back that you don't think of it as being about you. You know, you might think, well what does my grandparents' life really have to do with me? I mean their life is so different and they different types of people who have different kinds of experiences, in different places.

Maybe they were immigrants; great grandparents, great, great grandparents. Well, all of that is your past. All of that is what you carry into the world that's delivered to your life. In what we, a lot of... I guess I'll reluctantly use kind of some biblical language of paying for the sins of our forefathers and foremothers, right? The ecologically friendly brand Seventh Generation comes from a biblical reference that the sins of the father shall be passed on, even onto the seventh generation. So if we switched the word sin to karma perhaps, and this indicates that we are dealing with quite, quite a lot of residue and we tend to pass residue forward. And so that's one concept of who you are, then, that's -- this accumulation of past karma and all these generations that are giving it to you, and that you then are passing forward.

And the other model of the past is that you are reconciled with yourself and with your personal history and there is a new experience of yourself that you are bringing forward into your life. The two different selves; the reconciling two different selves thing. That can have other manifestations. For example, some people experience of a version of themselves when they're not with a partner than they experience when they're with a partner, and then experience a version of themselves when they're with a partner that they experience when they're not with a partner, as if there are two versions of themselves. For example, there might be the version without the partner where you are able to be inwardly oriented and write in your journal and do things you like to do, whatever they might be.

Maybe playing an instrument and maybe writing, maybe making art in some way and then there's a partner. This may not be your

experience, but I've certainly experienced it myself and met many who did that. That you become the partner person, and then all this other stuff that you really felt was you when you were doing it, is inaccessible. And there can be this constant going back and forth and it's a little like you wonder where one hemisphere is when the other hemispheres activated. There's a lot of metaphors for this. For example, a third one might be the deeply spiritually aware being that person is, and then the less spiritually aware being that person is take turns manifesting in awareness.

This is pretty well illustrated by the 12th and the first houses because they really do represent hemispheres of consciousness and they have a way of taking turns being normal, waking consciousness and -- using the relationship metaphor again -- one of the things I've noticed about contemporary existence is that many people go through their lives going from one partner to the next. Some have the next partner cued up before the previous relationship is over, and then there's no time to integrate the relationship before beginning a new one. And then habits and tendencies and unlearned lessons from the past can show up in the new relationship. And there's not that many partners who will help a person focus on resolving the past. It's a tall order to place on a partner. In any event though, there are those partners who do recognize, who get involved with someone that they're interested in and they recognize that this relationship isn't really going to go anywhere until they do some past reconciliation work.

And in what I think is most accurately described as integration work, this is one way to think of this transition time between your 12th house life and your first house life. And it was quite a 12 house life you've experienced, and it's going to be quite a kind of combination 12th house year, particularly beginning with the conjunction of Saturn and Pluto, which is momentous. You can go back and listen to last year's Aquarius reading and / or if you're interested in the Capricorn readings, we'll send them to you. This is a huge astrological development, and for you it's almost like, you know, passing a kidney stone bigger than your kidney. And now comes the time of integration and reconciliation and gathering the pieces of what you've learned and making

them your own and gaining the benefits of all that they've taught you and all that they represent.

Now in terms of how to envision the future going forward, it is probable that your vision for the future going forward is going to emerge as you do the closure work of this – well past over a decade. And that if there is anything that is preventing you from experiencing an idea of what you want to be, and what you want to experience, for what you are becoming and the direction that you're heading, it is the past obscuring you. It the past getting in the way. On this trip, I have brought a book that that has been very meaningful to me despite the fact that I haven't read the whole thing yet. So I had a major encounter with a teaching from this book called *Journey to Ixtlan*, by Carlos Castaneda; one of the don Juan Matus series of books.

His encounters a Yaqui Indian sorcerer named don Juan. Whether this person existed in this form remains something of a mystery, but as I'm reading, I'm reading carefully, and these teachings would come in from somewhere. This is not a fiction writer making them up and I don't think they're written about quite this way anywhere at all. One of the things that don Juan talks about, one of the first things that he drills pretty intensely on about is deconstructing, and clearing the past, because you can't be yourself if you or living in the constructions of the past. Well constructions of the past include many factors of identity, ego, identity, any notion of being attached to a concept of who you are, particularly if it's not a completely flexible concept of who you are, or one that is devoid of active curiosity. That can change you clinging to structures in your life, clinging to concepts of time, and being weighed down by historical details. What don Juan Matus explains happens when these past elements remain unresolved, is that it allows other people to define us for ourselves. It allows people to tell us who we are or to be able to anticipate or claim to know who we are, whether accurate or not, based on historical references, based on past reference points.

So I'm not sure how exactly it would feel to do this. And as I'm reading, I'm assessing, my relationship to the things in my past that have in many ways defined me, and that to some extent still do, and considering the wisdom of this. And it seems like a pretty important step to at least embark upon. To acknowledge the relevance of, so that you have your processes open in the

present. And it really looks as if all of this Capricorn activity that has just gone on so relentlessly all these years for you, and has had these major peaks of activity, is about deconstructing, dismantling and clearing elements that have kind of clunked yourself concept for a long time. Many or most of them came from your parents and your grandparents and their ancestors. Though you'll be able to see the whole drama is as an echo back only to your great grandparents' generation, you'll have a sufficient composite to understand the specific elements of the ways in which a sense your past was set into concrete as an unchanging thing.

And then that gave people the way to basically dictate your future.

And the adventure described in your charts is so beautiful. The self-discovery process is so bold, and the combination of Jupiter and Saturn forming a conjunction in your sign on the Winter Solstice of 2020 is, just from a standpoint of watching astrology for great many years, astounding to see. This blessing of the Jupiter/ Saturn conjunction right in the first degree of Aquarius, this degree of renewal, and of you might say of peaceful revolution. And so it is, therefore, I think of a very high level of importance that you be honest with yourself about the way that the past weighs on you. This includes your beliefs about the past and your beliefs about what people told you about the past, and really get a handle on that, and go through it. What A Course in Miracles calls a period of sorting out.

Now, there are going to be a couple of unusual events that aid and abet your process of sorting out, of integrating the facets of who you are, and going forward. And I think that the retrogrades of Venus and Mars are going to be very helpful for you. The retrograde Venus happens in the spring. It is the astrology that dominates the spring. And while the retrograde lasts for six weeks, Venus is going to spend quite a while in in Gemini.

Ok, let's get a date on this. I wanted to share a couple of rarely spoken astrological -- I guess secrets -- about this station. We want to know when Venus gets into Gemini, 'cause I'm going to count the whole retrograde as the entire duration of that time. Venus enters Gemini on April 4th and stations on May 12th. Then

the retrograde happens and then Venus direct on June 5th and enters Cancer on August 8th.

The retrograde happens in your fifth solar house, or whole sign fifth house for Aquarius rising. The fifth is one of those really remarkable houses in that it represents all of the most fun, exciting and adventurous things in life; a sense of adventure and play and pleasure and a certain kind of really appealing form of sex. And it therefore represents things that trigger a puritanical guilt complex, which has its way of kind of extending from the heartland of Kansas, straight through the Tibetan monasteries in the Far East, across the ocean, back to California. This puritanical notion of what it means to be spiritual is in defiance of everything that we experience in the fifth. I mean, I'm sure that Ram Dass has given a couple of talks on some similar subject. I kind of felt his presence enter the room as I have started to contemplate the of the true spiritual nature of the house. That includes gambling and fucking on the art studio couch. And I'm seeing what it would be like to throw a can of paint against the wall, and I'm going bungee jumping for its own sake or you know, getting yourself a six month pass to the rock wall. And I'm seeing if you can, you know, climb a cliff with one hand high behind your back or whatever the heck kind of fun adventure that you might find in the fifth house.

Gambling, any form of games of chance, it's all the fifth house and you have this big Venus retrograde in there. And the little joke there is, well, okay, if that doesn't match your concept of spiritual, then what does? Then what do we do with all these experiences that we love to have so much? We all have our way of playing. When, have you ever heard a Catholic priest tell you to skip church next weekend for a run around in a field. to have a good time, go fly a kite or have sex on the rec room couch while the kids are at little league or whatever. You'd fall over, right? This is completely defies our prepackaged concept of what comports with spiritual or, training. And yet it is the world we live in. It's the lives we have. It's what we want. Are we gonna say this is all temptation? We're going to just say that, oh, everything else is Holy except having a good time. Except, you know, going to the Yankee game or something like that. Where does that, you know, what's that about? Who, you know, who died and made that boss? Where does this come from? So I think we need to

remember is that part of what we're challenging. The activity of the fifth completely defies what we are told is spiritual, and you need to go there.

And do that, have the fun, have the experience and understand what it's teaching you. Now the fifth has this built in, odd property of things getting pulled to a deeper level, and it can involve getting into trouble; the Lost Weekend phenomenon. You go to Vegas, you don't come back. "Yeah, I'm going for the weekend." It turns out you're an alcoholic and a compulsive gambler and, you know, availing yourself of all the legal "Problems, what problems?" – whatever. Ok, that's one way to have fun. Sex gets one pregnant or risky activity gets one injured. The fifth has this other side to it, and that has to be watched and has to be noticed. The thing is, if you avoid that by saying well, I'll just skip the whole fifth house. Who fucking cares? I don't need to have any fun. And this is, you know, a curiously American kind of a thing. Never taking a vacation. (Now we all have to bring our phones on vacation, right.) I don't think avoiding the fifth not only doesn't help with the spiritual journey, I think it is rather detrimental to it. So meanwhile, you're going to have this big fifth house experience. It's gonna have a lot of time to explore the fifth house and to push the boundaries on any puritanical tendencies that you may have.

The other interesting thing I think is that this is going on in Gemini and I've got a new Gemini theory that I picked up from one of Castaneda's instructions, or rather don Juan's instructions, which is to see in a certain way. You cross your eyes and look at the world with cross eyes so that your eyes are basically picking up two different images and then you have to reassemble them in kind of a stereoscopic vision, and this is my newest, latest Gemini theory is that Gemini has a bit of a shallow tendency and I think the reason why Gemini has a bit of a shallow tendency is it tends to be an either or thing between this twin or that twin. But what if we were to see them both at the same time?

What if we were to attempt to, or we're using a tool or skill of some kind to reconcile, not, no, no. Not reconcile -- to see both halves of the Gemini equation simultaneously. So where there's a retrograde, there's going to be a reversal of valence of the planets. There's the direct motion phase, there's the direct

motion in shadow, then there's the station, there's the retrograde, then here's the direct station, next direct motion... and the valence keeps changing in subtle ways and obvious ways, especially around the time of the retrograde. And what I would propose is that as you're going through the retrograde, that you experience what you're experiencing, but find the other half and see them at the same time and see if you can get more, hm, perspective-oriented view, right?

What you need is to perceive in a different way and that's perspective. And often it takes three points to triangulate, three points to get perspectives. So you have one point, one side note, point, the other side. The third point is when you overlay them and you see them at the same time. All right.

Another one of the big event events of the of the year is the Mars retrograde. The Mars retrograde. It takes place in Aries. And it has a wide orb. Mars enters Aries on June 29, 2020. Mars enters Aries during one of the aforementioned Jupiter/ Pluto conjunctions, these Jupiter / Pluto conjunctions of the many shores, one lake, all this different learning from different, disparate spiritual paths and different teachers and different books and different concepts, different experiences, whatever you might've done; workshops, therapy, reading my stuff, whatever it might be, to start seeing the common ground in this. And what you get with the Mars retrograde in Aries is the challenging of this obsession that we have with identity and self-concept.

Our society is currently in a complete fucking tantrum over identity, and I'm amazed that I'm not hearing more people call this out, that identity is not beingness; identity is not existence. Identity is a concept layered on, a concept layered on kind of like having a tattoo, covers your skin and then you put a jacket on over the tattoo and then you stick a patch on over that. That's identity. It's like, "Oh, I identify as so-and-so." Okay, that's nice. What are you? And so the combination of Mars in Aries, Mars retrograde and Aries and then the conjunction to Chiron in Aries is testing this. It is challenging this, challenging you to get beyond self-concept and reach for self. And this is the nature of the 12th house / first house transition. It's the nature of the repeatedly sweeping valence of Venus in Gemini in your fifth.

And it is certain that Mars is going to have a bold experiment in Aries and push the limits of identity until we start to get an actual sense of who we are. For Aquarius, this takes place in a very interesting house, the 11th. There's a lot of another one of these triangulation of dualism, two perspectives. And then we're going to somehow line them up and see in stereoscopic vision. And this one is how you see yourself, how you think others see you, and how others see you. Cause it's the 11th house and it's in Aries and you're doing long-term work in this zone because Chiron's there. So there's a major healing project involving the reconciliation of, again, how you see yourself, how you think others see you and how they actually see you.

Mars enters Aries June 28th. Then, I think this is going to be unsung most exciting thing about this retrograde, which happens before the retrograde: Mars conjunct Chiron. I think that all the information that you need to know, including quite possibly the whole payoff, is July 14, Bastille Day. That's easy to see, easy to remember: Mars conjunct Chiron. This is a very exciting transit. It is an every two year or so event, but it has the potency of an outer planet transit. (Chiron is not a planet), Mars is this kind of working end of the desire nature. So note that. Mark July 14th, about six months from when I'm recording.

Then Mars goes retrograde on September 9th. This Mars retrograde stretches out for quite a while and it goes retrograde at the end of Aries. Then Mars goes direct November 13th. By the way, the U.S. presidential election takes place with Mars retrograde in Aries. And then the next major event of many, because Mars does a lot of things at the end of the year, from the end of the retrograde clear through to the planets entering Aquarius, Mars enters Taurus. I believe this is going to be around the first week of 2021. January 6th or 7th, 2021 and so this is like the grand culmination of 2020, combined with nearly simultaneous ingress of Jupiter and Saturn into your sign. The two largest planets.

I've written a blue streak about this in various annual additions, and if you're curious about it, look into it. I would most recommend the Intelligence readings, for Aries and Aquarius. If you get Aquarius, it'll come with Aries, because I thought it was so important to get this Aries reading out, on the true nature of where Aries meets Aquarius that it's given to anybody who

purchases any one of these signs. So to get a handle on this will help you, because this reconciliation of your inner concept, your public concept and then the reality as much as it can be ascertained, is so much in the nature of your most important spiritual work. It also happens to be one of the biggest things our entire society is going through, because suddenly everyone has been reborn as her own publicist and this is the thing you really want to watch.

You want to make sure that people are meeting you when they meet you, and they're not meeting your publicist when they meet you. You want to be presenting bonafide actual view, not who you are tied down by the past, not who you are in any way held back by the past, defined by others, making up their own story about you, but clearly established, firmly established in your actual present state of reality. This is no easy task, but you're better for trying, for doing it, for embarking on it rather than just being like, ah, meh, whatever. Because this is what's going to be going on. It's going to be going on this year in all the ways I've described. And then Chiron is going to be in Aries emphasizing this point and striving to have you align the two potentially remarkably different notions of who you are. Your self-concept, your public self-concept, what they all think would you think they all think -- and then your reality.

Mmm.

And that's what I have to say to you.

Thank you for tuning in and, and, and for listening. If you play this through a second time, you will hear all kinds of things that you didn't remember that I said. I try to go very slowly and meticulously and to repeat myself a lot. But then these things come out in layers. That's one of the greatest gifts of astrology available. If you would like to, write to me at efc@bookofblue.com

And bye for now.