



Starlight Message from Gloria Star

Sun in Virgo 2016 Issue *Testing the Dream*

Have you felt a little flat lately? For some, it may seem to arise from the oppressive summer heat. For others, it's a sense of impending (if not present) apathy that sucks the joy out of the room. However, it may all be an illusion. As you might surmise, the cosmic cycles are sending problematic signals. There's a hunger for something new to shine light on a path leading to inspiration.

But is there an appetite for what must be done to follow that path? In the language of astrology, there's an excess of mutability shaping the cosmic waves, resulting in a maze with plenty of blind alleys and dead ends. And it looked so pretty from the aerial photograph...

Emerging from the **Aquarius Lunar Eclipse on August 18th** (the full Moon in Aquarius), we are challenged to balance individual needs with those of the Collective. It's been a time to celebrate excellence and ingenuity, but there have been a few problems bringing expectations in line with ever-changing situations. In fact, the Eclipses provide the theme for the astrological cycles occurring now. Always keep in mind that Eclipses represent a process, and that it's not always about a particular day. Effects involving eclipses can vary, although often the themes are most prominent for about 18 months.

When the **Sun shifts into Virgo on August 22nd** (12:39 PM EDT), that brilliant solar light is focused upon attention to detail, when powers of discernment are more readily applied to almost any situation. Getting organized may be a higher priority for the next 30 days -- perfect for students getting back to school! Other cycles shaping up during the Sun's passage through Virgo can both amplify and frustrate attempts to be more methodical and practical. Careful: the fine line between offering positive critique and judgmental criticism may seem to move without permission.

From **August 22nd- 28th**, Mercury, Venus and Jupiter all travel in close proximity to one another, marking **a time when coalitions can be especially effective**. These three planets work well together, and this points to an excellent time to galvanize efforts and to be very clear about the message you wish to send. It can be an excellent period for launching a project, marketing a product, or getting the word out.

Virgo is closely associated with the energy of Mercury -- the planet representing communication, connection, travel and technology. And, for the entire cycle of the Sun in Virgo, Mercury will also be traveling in Virgo. In fact, **Mercury travels through Virgo from July 30th - October 7th, marking this as a positive time to analyze, dissect, and be more precise.** Trouble is, **Mercury will be Retrograde from August 30th (9:04 AM EDT) until September 22nd,** and so a great deal of that analysis may be applied to making repairs, trouble-shooting, re-routing travel, or redesigning plans. Still, this can be an excellent and working out the kinks. Very and to sketch a potential new budget into effect in October. but the retrograde signifies that necessary before the final deal is the details -- after all, it's Mercury you can, since it's almost always finalizing long-term agreements



period for reviewing, editing, good for analyzing finances budget, putting that new Negotiation may work well, more deliberation is complete. Look carefully at in Virgo! Wait to finalize if best to avoid signing or during Mercury Retrograde.

The **Solar Annular Eclipse in Virgo peaks on September 1st** at 5:03 AM EDT. The Sun & Moon are tied into a tense pattern with Mars, Saturn and Neptune, suggesting an escalation in ideological friction, which will certainly intensify over the weeks ahead. On a personal level, this cycle challenges each of us to honor our own Truth, while maintaining an awareness of our potential vulnerabilities. You may also feel disappointed, or may feel that your dreams and hopes are far from realization. That's the test from Saturn talking. Perhaps there's more work to do? It's also a time to become aware of individual responsibility to live up to those personal truths. This is especially so when it comes to relationships, and also to your most cherished goals. Since Mars is caught up in the tangle, anger and hostility are activated, too. Honesty about such feelings goes a long way to allowing them to vent and release. Righteous anger does exist, but it's how such feelings are directed that determines the end result.

In the world around us, we can also see how the Eclipse cycle is manifesting. Here in the USA, the election cycle heats up, and those seeking positions of leadership face an uphill climb. One of the most significant commodities will be clarity and transparency.

Attempts to distract, divert and misdirect seem to be the order of the day (that's not new, of course!), although the direct approach is also subject to misinterpretation. The problem stems from the undercurrent of stodgy Saturn in a tight tangle with elusive Neptune. This difficult pairing has been in play for most of 2016, and we've seen scores of examples of this disagreeable situation surfacing often in terrible ways. The cosmos seems to have a lesson in mind that may sound like a timeless proverb, reminding us that *we can allow our cultural and ideological differences divide us, or we can seek common ground and work together toward solutions to the many problems plaguing our lives.* Ah, but it's so much easier



to just be judgmental or to choose to believe something we know is not true, but it lets us off the hook. Or does it?

The climax of the square between Saturn and Neptune occurs on September 10th, after which time the power of this cycle begins to wane. But the seeds sown are still growing, and can manifest for years. Saturn signifies responsibility, accountability, commitment, testing and reality. Those are generally concepts that people do not readily embrace because it might be too hard to deal with the ramifications, or there may be a very real fear of failure. However, it is through applying oneself to the challenges presented by Saturn that we develop integrity, strength, and respect. By contrast, Neptune takes us into the realm of imagination and spirit. Neptune facilitates letting go, and opens the way for acceptance and forgiveness. Significantly, it is also the vehicle for escape. Yet Neptune also transports us to the heart of compassion. With these two planets in conflict, there's plenty of room to create illusions easily fed by fear. Yet there is potential to apply the clarifying qualities of Saturn to the more illusory qualities of Neptune to determine positive ways to foster a climate of trust and cooperation. It is important to listen to the true tone and intention of those seeking to be the leaders in our world. In other words: Are those real or empty promises? Demand accountability!

But wait ... Have you heard? Expansive, generous and inspired **Jupiter leaves its year-long cycle in Virgo, and glides into Libra's zone of equality, balance, and harmony on September 9th**, where it will continue for the upcoming 13 months. We experience Jupiter when we're filled with hope and enthusiasm. It's also frequently the thrust behind pushing past limits and can be a trouble-maker. While Jupiter cycles through Libra, fields such as the arts will gain momentum. It's also a significant time for the Courts, when the fairness (or lack thereof) of the legal system is called into question and can be more readily restored. It can be an excellent time to be attentive to partnerships and relationships, especially if everyone involved is clear about expectations. This shift of Jupiter into Libra, along with the diminishing of the intensity of Saturn-square-Neptune suggests that the issues in the USA elections in November will change course.



Finally, the **Appulse Lunar Eclipse in Pisces peaks on September 16th** at 3:05:02 PM EDT. Mars, speeding through Sagittarius, once again shows up in the planetary pattern for the Lunar Eclipse, as it falls in a tense aspect to the Sun in Virgo and Moon and Chiron in Pisces. Frustrations can run high, and anger may be easily sparked, although the Pisces Moon may be helpful in quelling hostility in favor of seeking a more peaceful solution. Plus, from September 15th-18th, Mars transits in a positive trine contact with innovative Uranus, signifying a time when experimenting with a different approach can yield constructive results. Romantic and other close relationships may take a surprising turn from September 15th - 20th while Venus travels in opposition to Uranus. It could manifest as an unexpected meeting, a juicy flirtation, or even a quick break-up. Heads up! You may not know what (or who) is around the corner.

Where the eclipses fall in your natal chart shows you where you need to be more aware, reflective and objective about the changes taking place in your life. If you wish to explore these and other cycles, please do get in touch and we'll arrange a consultation time that works for you.

Joy and Blessings,

Gloria



EVENT Notice:

October 13-17, 2016: The International Society for Astrological Research (ISAR) sponsors a Symposium in Costa Mesa, CA. *The Power of Forecasting: Change, Choices, Vision*, offering a comprehensive array of classes and workshops. In addition to teaching a class during the symposium, I will present a post-conference *Workshop: The Nodes Know, The Eclipses Show: Destiny, Opportunity & Renewal*. To learn more about the conference and to **reserve your place in**

my workshop on October 17th, contact me. Or, check the ISAR website: www.isarastrology.org/2016-conference

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