



Starlight Message from Gloria Star

*Spring Equinox 2016
Sun in Aries 2016 Issue*

It's time to welcome Spring! Astrologically, it's the season of new beginnings and the time when fresh ideas and independent action take the lead. But you may be asking yourself why you might not really feel particularly inspired to rush out into the world with your hopeful heart lighting the

way. Such courage may be more difficult to muster at the moment. Simple solutions seem rare now, and we may all be wondering if we're stuck in negotiations with unsavory forces. You know what I'm talking about: It's called making a deal with the devil! Surely there's a better way.

When **the Vernal Equinox occurs on March 20th at 12:31 AM EDT (March 19th at 9:31 PM PDT)**, the cosmic picture does offer a smidgen of confidence that healing change is possible. It's an excellent time to continue building trust, especially if progress has occurred over the past few weeks. As the Equinox occurs, we reach a balance between the hours of light and the hours of darkness, and in the Northern Hemisphere, greet a time when light is on the increase. Yet, this cycle begins when the astrological indicators show very real ideological conflicts that may undermine this period of breakthrough. Where's this coming from? It's that continuation of the tension between Jupiter and Saturn -- a cycle that's recurring until late May. This conflict is peaking now, showing that we are deep in the throes of the dynamic tension between idealized hope and biting realism. It may seem impossible to reach a sense of satisfaction.

This is the time when the Sun moves into Aries, and until April 18th there's a flavor of brash assertiveness and adventure in the atmosphere. And, with mental Mercury traveling through Aries from March 21st - April 5th, jumping to conclusions can be problematic. Once Mercury enters Taurus on April 5th, a more conservative and stubborn attitude dominates in decision-making.

Astrology 101: Aries is ruled by the energy of the planet Mars, and so we'll be paying extra attention to what's happening with Mars as we explore what's going on in the cosmos when this action planet turns retrograde. More about this later!

Of course we cannot ignore the fact that the **Lunar Eclipse in Libra** is just around the corner on **March 23rd** (8:00:46 AM EDT), adding extra drama and intensity to whatever is going on. It seems fitting that there's political conflict all over the planet. Pick a nation. Find a conflict ... like some weird game being played by the Universe designed to illustrate the myriad ways we humans can get ourselves into trouble. In fact, that square aspect between **Jupiter and Saturn** noted above reaches a **peak on the day of the Lunar Eclipse**, bringing a quality of exaggerated frustration to situations. Expect to see and hear a fair amount of truth-stretching. Personally, try to avoid getting in over your head. Look for those details that might help define your real obligations when you make promises. Plus, honesty can work very nicely now to help diffuse issues or resolve problems. Deception is likely to lead to very real upset.

The Sabian Symbol for the zodiac degree of the Moon during the eclipse is: **"A GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE SIT IN SPIRITUAL COMMUNION AROUND A CAMPFIRE."**

This image suggests a powerful bonding, and the need to come together with others whose ideals and beliefs harmonize with your own. It's a reminder that we are not alone ... there are others in the world like you! As is so often the case, this special image arrives at a time when we certainly see like-minded individuals coming together, but when there is also a great divide. Perhaps this is the time to seek out what we have in common, even with those we may have thought were entirely too different from ourselves, or who may have gone unnoticed.



From March 21st - 31st, the planets Mercury and Venus are highly activated by their connections to other planetary bodies. Direct communication adds momentum to important discussion and debate, while Mercury gets an extra charge of energy from Mars, Saturn and Uranus. But watch for undermining and disarming commentary on March 29th & 30th when Pluto's connection to Mercury suggests an atmosphere of manipulation, and when touching a raw nerve is more likely! Additionally, Venus -- the energy signifying love, values, money, artistry and beauty -- experiences a tight, uncomfortable squeeze involving Jupiter and Saturn from March 22nd - 25th. For these three days, finances may be more difficult to manage, with a tendency toward a loss of something valuable, or paying too much for a desired item. Consider postponing final financial decisions if possible during these three days, and take another look. There are other cycles emerging at this time indicating an opportunity to step back, take extra time for stress-relief, and avoid trying to push the river.

Just to add an extra boost to what may seem to be a process of continual reconsideration, **Saturn enters its retrograde cycle on March 25th**. Saturn's Retrograde in Sagittarius continues until August 13th, marking a period when it's helpful to reconsider our obligations and commitments. The infrastructure elements in our lives are likely to undergo extra scrutiny and revision, too. Consider the current focus on lead pipes, or our aging bridges in the USA. Businesses, government, and academia are in the crosshairs for change, especially within the hierarchy. It's also a time when retail businesses will be more likely to downsize in some way. On an individual level, the period of Saturn retrograde can be the best time to say, "No," or to leave behind an outworn promise. Before you simply give in to an action or an attitude because, "that's the way I've always done it," explore the origin of such inner messages. Is that really your voice, or is it coming from someone else?

If you've been waiting for the right time to initiate a project or reach out to someone or something new, **the Aries New Moon on April 7th (7:24 AM EDT) helps to open the door to progress**. Showcasing unique and groundbreaking products and ideas can be especially successful from April 7th-10th, while the Sun travels united with innovative and revolutionary Uranus in Aries. These few days may also spark breakthrough changes, and could give rise to a more experimental attitude. New friendships or alliances formed may give rise to something truly amazing. A more accepting and forgiving attitude emerges April 10th-13th while Mercury's intellect is supported by intuitive Neptune. At the least, it can be a nice time to reach out to make a positive difference in the world. Artistic expressions and actions from the heart can create a turning point in a relationship or circumstance, since Venus and Mars travel in harmony, too.



Speaking of Mars, the fiery planet Retrogrades beginning April 17th. Mars has been traveling through Sagittarius since March 5th. The retrograde has Mars traveling back over territory already crossed, extending its time in Sagittarius, lasting until May 27th, when it backs into Scorpio for the last month of the retrograde cycle. While the force of this powerful energy takes on the attitude of Sagittarius, more independent actions gain strength, and a sense of limitless possibility expands confidence. It's a time when anger is more easily fueled by righteous indignation, which can be a good thing ... or not so much. However, expressions of anger may misfire, and repressed anger can become more problematic. Once Mars begins its retrograde on April 17th, difficulties may emerge from previous actions, or there may be a need to reactivate an old issue to clear up something that was not done properly or completely at an earlier time. It's a good time to do the work required to make repairs, and might actually be helpful when addressing issues connected to rebuilding infrastructure (with Saturn also retrograde). However, the cycle of Mars Retrograde suggests complications when attempting to break new ground or build new structure. Mars will leave its retrograde on June 29th.

Despite the retrogrades of Mars and Saturn, the period from April 13th - 18th has the signature of a time when unity of ideas and clarity of intention bring strength. Mercury, the communication planet, is fortified by a harmonious support from confident Jupiter and transformational Pluto. These days have the potential for success in forging agreements, and also can be excellent for delivering a clear and inspiring message. Pluto joins the pack of retrograde planets on April 19th, although its shift may go relatively unnoticed. More in the next issue of *Starlight Messages!*

As you move through the opportunities and challenges of the season ahead, may the path forward be filled with perfect opportunities to manifest your hopes and dreams. Do contact me if you're ready to schedule a personal consultation to explore how to make the best use of these cycles in your own life.

Bright 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*, offers a comprehensive array of classes and workshops. In addition to teaching a class during the symposium, I will be presenting a post-conference Workshop: *The Nodes Know, The Eclipses Show: Destiny, Opportunity & Renewal*. To learn more about the conference and how to reserve your place in my workshop on October 17th, contact me. Or, check the ISAR website: www.isarastrology.com

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