

Monthly Astrocast

August 2013



Key Events:

New Moon (14:35 Leo): August 6, 2013

Full Moon (28:11 Aquarius): August 20, 2013

Grand Square: August 25, 2013

Retrograde Planets:

Saturn: February 18 - July 7, 2013
(11:32 - 04:49 Scorpio)

Shadow until October 15, 2013

Pluto: April 12 - September 19, 2013
(11:35 - 8:59 Capricorn)

Neptune: June 7 - November 13, 2013
(05:22 - 02:34 Pisces)

Mercury: June 26 - July 19, 2013
(23:06 - 13:30 Cancer)

Shadow until August 4, 2013

Uranus: July 17 - December 17, 2013
(12:31 - 8:35 Aries)

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--Whobeda

Lunations and Long-term Aspects

This is another busy month astrologically with planets scattered in as many as eight of the twelve signs of the zodiac. This brings a tremendous variety of energies which should keep things livened up again plus we have a Grand Square/Cross coming up that can also be considered another Grand Sextile if you use medieval orbs, which are more generous than what are typically used today since we have more accurate astrological data. I, for one, am quite grateful I don't have to go outside and measure the position of every planet in the sky or even calculate its position by hand using my trusty ephemeris, for that matter. Astrology is one thing that's a whole lot easier with a computer, needless to say.

The New Moon on August 6 is in Leo, your 8th house of transformations, sex, death and rebirth, debt, shared resources, intense experiences and things you suppress. Obviously, this is not exactly a "fun" house, which would be the 5th. The 4th, 8th and 12th are referred to as the "Endings" houses, which of course also implies a new beginnings since they go together. Most new cycles begin in the 4th but the 8th can start a new cycle with a life-changing experience and the 12th, house of spirituality, insights and enlightenment also suggests new beginnings. This could be something like taking on a significant debt such as a home mortgage or new car. It could also indicate a venture that involves investors, since this is the house of other people's money. It can also relate to inheritances. I had some significant 8th house activity when the Space Shuttle, Columbia, crashed in 2003 and as a NASA contractor employee helped pick up debris in East Texas, which was certainly an intense experience as well as related to death. Think back to past Augusts and whether any such experiences have come your way at that time.

The lunation trines Uranus, planet of surprises, the unexpected, freedom, rebellion, breakthroughs and innovation which is in Aries, your 4th house of home environment, cultural roots, memories and beginnings and endings, which thus involves another one of the "endings" houses. Finances could be involved since Uranus rules your 2nd house of finances, income and possessions and a relationship could also be involved given the Moon rules your 7th house of relationships and partnerships. Whatever it is, it is likely to be unexpected.

That Grand Water Trine is still in effect but gradually fading away. Now is as good of time as any to ponder what it's message was for you. It involved your 3rd, 7th and 11th houses, considered the "Social" houses where you interact with others. The 3rd includes siblings and neighbors, the 7th close and professional relationships and the 11th includes friends and organizations. With the involvement of Water Signs there was a strong emotional element to it. Planets involved included Neptune in Pisces, your 3rd house; Jupiter in Cancer, your 7th house; and Saturn, your sign ruler, in Scorpio, your 11th house. Neptune rules Pisces so is comfortable and functional there. The 3rd is also your house of thoughts, ideas and local travel. This is good for your imagination but Neptune can also be delusional or idealistic. Jupiter is exalted in Cancer where his expansive and inclusive energy knows few bounds. Saturn, which just came out of several months of retrograde in July, is all about restructuring something which could be group interactions or perhaps your goals, hopes and wishes.

In a Grand Trine the energy of the planets and signs blends in a harmonious manner which flows easily between them. Generally, this aspect should have brought a comfortable interaction with those around you. Jupiter in Cancer is good for chilling out, especially after bouncing through Gemini for approximately a year. That easily equated to too many ideas, too much to do, and a feeling of not having enough time for everything. This could be a time of setting relationship goals and interacting with friends and relatives in a friendly, non-stressful manner. It could also relate to business endeavors which involve a high degree of imagination as you put together a business plan. If this is the case, this lunation could bring investors your way.

There's also a T-square out there which is quite a bit less relaxed. These bring tension which is not necessarily a bad thing since it can be very motivating. The square between Pluto, who is transiting your sign, and Uranus has been ongoing and will continue to wander in and out for a few more years to come. If your birthday is right around December 31 Pluto is currently sitting on your natal Sun, which is not usually an overly pleasant transit. However, you will have a greater sense of your personal power when you get on the other side. It has been said that few if any die during a Pluto transit but sometimes you would like to. As a fellow Cappy who has been through this transit a few years ago I can tell you that my entire life changed but ultimately for the better, after making some hard decisions and a lot of work. But it was worth it, so hang in there. Jupiter is opposing Pluto which suggests you may need to let go of something in order to improve or expand a relationship. Uranus in your 4th of home environment indicates disruptions and disturbances, perhaps a plethora of home repairs or other issues. You may also feel a need for some solitude which you are not getting, your personal time continually impinged upon by family or others in your life.

Venus is in Virgo, your 9th house of higher learning, long-distance travel, other cultures, legal matters, beliefs, expectations, politics, religion and relocation which has the potential to bring pleasant things your way in this part of your life. She is sextile Mars in your 7th house which makes it a favorable time to get away with your significant other. Visiting close friends or relatives who live a substantial distance away is another possibility.

The Full Moon on August 6 is in nextdoor neighboring sign, Aquarius. This may sound familiar, which is because last month's Full Moon was also in Aquarius, something that doesn't happen that often. This is your 2nd house of income, possessions, finances, needs and pleasures which suggests a culmination, ending or shift to a new phase in this part of your life. The Sun and Mercury are in the 8th, tying in that influence by opposition as well. This could thus also relate to debt, investors or anything else associated with this house. The Grand Trine is gone but the trine between Neptune and Saturn remains. Saturn builds up and Neptune dissolves, which is an interesting combination. On the more positive side, it's favorable for manifesting your thoughts and ideas into reality. Venus is quincunx Neptune which suggests a change of direction that could involve your career or status. This won't be handed to you on the proverbial silver platter, but could represent an important step forward toward a goal. The T-square described for the New Moon is still in effect.

On August 25 there is a Cardinal Grand Square/Cross as well as a somewhat sloppy but viable encore for a Grand Sextile if you use generous medieval orbs to tie the aspects together. The bottom line is that the planets are scattered throughout the zodiac which creates a blast of differing energy with it all tied together in one way or another. The Grand Square involves planets which are all in Cardinal Signs and comprises Pluto in Capricorn, Uranus in Aries, Jupiter in Cancer and Venus in Libra. This represents a lot of tension all placed in your angular houses, i.e. 1st, 4th, 7th and 10th. These are the cornerstones of your life with their cusps defined by astronomical Great Circles which create strong energy points. The 1st house is your personality, the 4th your home environment, 7th your close relationships and 10th career, reputation and public image. This could be no more than a hectic time at home and work where there is too much going on to keep up with everything. It's not necessarily bad but could be challenging. It could even be something like a promotion at work that demands extra time or perhaps even a transfer or relocation.

This time there's a Grand Earth Trine involving Pluto, the Moon and a conjunction between the Sun and Mercury. This can have a grounding effect with regard to your beliefs and expectations, where you integrate them into your personality and ego in a manner stronger and more decisive than they were before. Nonetheless, the Sun and Mercury are opposing Neptune in your house of thoughts which implies the need for balance between what's real and what's imagined. A sense of vision for what you want is favorable as you balance it with the needed research to back it up and define a general path. This can help you make decisions related to whatever that Grand Square is up to.

There are some tight oppositions involved in addition to the Sun/Mercury/Neptune one noted earlier. The Moon - Saturn suggests you may have to make some personal sacrifices to pursue your goals and the opposition between Venus and Uranus indicates a need to balance career and home, an ongoing battle which is nothing new. Jupiter and Pluto are opposing each other as well, again suggesting balance between self and others. Your sign ruler, Saturn, is involved in several aspects which has a strong bearing on goals, hopes and wishes and what it will take to get there. Those most likely to feel the effects of this configuration are those with birthdays between December 24 - January 4, based on the degree spread of the planets. If anything of note happened during the Grand Sextile on July 29 there may be further developments at this time. Also keep an eye on the mundane scene for interesting developments while this cosmic energy is definitely stirring things up.

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