Monthly Astrocast

January 2014



Key Events:

New Moon (10:57 Capricorn): January 1, 2014

Full Moon (25:58 Cancer): January 15, 2014

New Moon (10:55 Aquarius): January 30, 2014

Retrograde Planets:

Venus: December 21, 2013 – January 30, 2014
(28:58 – 13:37 Capricorn)
Shadow until March 5, 2014
Neptune: June 7 – November 13, 2013
(05:22 – 02:34 Pisces)
Shadow until March 5, 2014
Uranus: July 17 – December 17, 2013
(12:31 - 8:35 Aries)
Shadow until April 3, 2014
Jupiter: November 7, 2013 – March 6, 2014
(20:30 – 10:26 Cancer)
Shadow until June 2, 2014
Pluto: April 12 – September 19, 2013
(11:35 – 8:59 Capricorn)
Shadow until January 11, 2014

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--Whobeda

Lunations and Long-term Aspects

The New Year starts with a cosmic bang with a New Moon on January 1 that is loaded with aspects that involve the Sun, Moon and five planets in an aspect pattern known as a Cardinal Grand Square. This is likely to be most troublesome for those born under Cardinal signs, i.e. Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn, particularly those born either the last day or so of the month or the first few of the next. Other signs are in a position that softens it somewhat and can even turn it to your advantage. If this chart were the one for the 2012 December solstice which the Mayans indicated would be the end of the world I would have been seriously worried. However, this is simply a lunation, NOT an eclipse that would have longer staying power, and therefore this one could pass unnoticed for most.

The lunation comes with a planetary escort in the form of Mercury and Pluto, both of which are conjunct the Sun/Moon pair, lending their energy to its effects. All are in Capricorn, your 6th house of work, health, daily activities and pets. Mercury rules your 2nd house of income, possessions, needs, comforts and pleasures as well as what you value and Pluto is the modern ruler of your 4th house of home environment, cultural roots, memories, endings and new beginnings, so these matters are likely to show some of the effects as well. Mercury is the natural ruler of thoughts, information and communications and Pluto excels at eliminating things you no longer need, transformations in general, and revitalizing something you thought was dead and gone. If your birthday is right around August 4th this lunation quartet will quincunx your natal Sun which suggests a change of direction of some sort is even more likely.

Also note that Venus is in Capricorn as well and still retrograde, as explained last month. More information, if you missed it, can be found here. Generally speaking, Venus RX calls attention to what you value and since during this time she's also the warrior goddess as opposed to the love goddess can go after what she wants and needs with a vengeance. Bear in mind that energy is running in the background suggesting that identifying what means the most to you and examining your priorities are possibly driving what else is going on.

Uranus in Aries, Mars in Libra and Jupiter in Cancer are also tied into the lunation to form that Cardinal Grand Square. Thus, their energies are also contributed from their respective houses. Uranus, planet of surprises, rebellion, breakthroughs, innovation and the unexpected, is in fellow Fire sign, Aries, your 9th house of thoughts, beliefs, philosophy of life, higher learning, other cultures, legal matters, long-distance travel and relocation. This placement suggests some changes in your attitude or view of life that could come out of the blue, like a flash of lightning, actually, which Uranus also rules. Give that some thought for a moment, specifically how much of that you may have already seen the last year or so. That energy is in conflict with the lunation, however, which suggests your expectations of your job have possibly been shattered or will be. Pluto's involvement implies this could relate to the past though new repercussions are another possibility. On the positive side to some degree is the fact that if your birthday is

right around August 1 then Uranus is trine your Sun, making this even stronger. Trines from potentially malefic planets like Uranus, Mars, Saturn and Pluto are not always favorable though it's nice to think they will be. However, the Universe is pretty neutral and a trine simply indicates an easy energy flow. Much of how it manifests is up to you.

Opposing Uranus is Mars in your 3rd house of thoughts, ideas, siblings, neighbors and local travel and ruler of your 9th house of beliefs. Mars is toned down a bit in Libra where he tends to be a bit more polite and less aggressive, though that could also manifest as being passive aggressive. Since your thoughts are what eventually accumulate and become your belief system, there is something going on here. Oppositions often only require balance. There's a fairly big caution flag here, however, since taking action on your ideas could be in a tug-o-war with your beliefs or some other 9th house matter. Whatever is going on here is potentially volatile and should be monitored closely, particularly as it conflicts with your work or health. Being rebellious could bring consequences. However, there could also be an opportunity there, especially those of your born around August 2,

The final member of the Grand Square is Jupiter in Cancer, your 12th house of inspiration, spirituality, enlightenment, institutions, seclusion, confinement, your subconscious, hidden enemies and self-undoing. Jupiter is retrograde, internalizing his expansive energy and making it more philosophical. He's in a degree somewhat removed from the others and thus his influence is likely to be less noticeable. Jupiter rules your 5th house of ego definition, creativity, romance, children, entertainment and speculation which suggests this placement is doing some work on your self-identity and being your authentic self. All the conflict represented by the Grand Square could indicate that your circumstances are holding you back in some way, like it or not. On the positive side, Jupiter is trining Saturn in your 4th house of home environment, memories, cultural roots and new beginnings and endings. Saturn is the Lord of Karma and author of hard lessons but can also be a useful mentor in setting out a new path. He's about responsibility, organization, structure and maturity. Working with your subconscious through Jupiter, he can thus help you take steps in a new direction based on experience.

The Full Moon on January 15 is in nextdoor neighboring sign, Cancer, your 12th house of enlightenment, subconscious and such as noted above. A Full Moon often indicates an ending, culmination or shift to a new phase which implies moving on. The lunation is in favorable aspect with Saturn, yielding further help in pursuing something new. Mercury has moved into Aquarius, your 7th house of close relationships, which suggests information from someone close to you may be useful, particularly with regard to your beliefs and expectations. This relationship house includes not only your significant other but close friends and relatives, business partners and business professionals with whom you have a one-on-one relationship.

There's a second New Moon this month on January 30 thanks to our honked up calendar which is based on the ego and whims of ancient Roman emperors as opposed to the relationship between the Earth, Sun and Moon. This one occurs in Aquarius, your 7th house as defined above, and suggests someone new coming into your life who may

facilitate a change of direction at the spiritual or subconscious level and also provide more input to your belief system. Pluto and Venus are conjunct in your house of work which implies you should be able to determine what you value the most about your job, based on the past but this will need to be balanced out with that new self that is quietly evolving. Some effort is going to be required to bring things to fruition but it looks as if a slow but steady progression is operating, which of course is how the Universe works.

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