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 out with a cosmic bang with a New Moon on January 1 that includes a Cardinal Grand Square that comprises the Sun, Moon and five other planets. You can see the chart at the New Moon link near the top of the page. If this had been the chart for the December 2012 solstice when the Mayans prognosticated the world would end I would have been seriously concerned. As it is, this is simply a lunation, NOT an eclipse which would have increased its staying power, and January 1 really has no cosmic significance since it's the product of our honked up calendar based on the ego and whims of ancient Roman emperors and not the relationship of the Earth to the cosmos. Nonetheless, it does have some punch, especially for those with their natal Sun in Cardinal signs such as Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn, even more so if your birthday is right around October 5.

First of all let's look at the lunation itself which occurs in Capricorn, your 4th house of home environment, cultural roots, memories, endings and new beginnings, suggesting something new coming into that part of your life. This lunation has two planetary companions, however, which colors the energy since they are both conjunct the Sun/Moon pair. These two planets are Mercury, ruler of your 12th house of spirituality, enlightenment, subconscious, institutions, seclusion, confinement, hidden enemies and self-undoing, and Pluto, modern ruler of your 2nd house of finances, possessions, income, things you value, needs, comforts and pleasures. Mercury rules communications, thoughts, ideas and transportation contributing mental energy while Pluto is a bit darker as the natural ruler of transformations, sex, death and regeneration, elimination, corruption, power and control. You might want to pause for a moment and simply ponder Pluto and his influence over the past few years in this particular house. Not also that he can rejuvenate and heal by eliminating corruption in all forms. At the least, he exposes it, which has been evident in the world when you consider that Capricorn rules corporations and governments. Thus, whatever comes into your life as a result of this lunation is going to relate to Pluto in some way.

Now things get more complicated. This lunation quartet is only the beginning since three other planets are also tied in through squares or an opposition, aspects that indicate tension. First of all, Uranus is in Aries, your polar sign and 7th house of close relationships. This includes your significant other, close friends and relatives, business partners, competitors and business professionals. Uranus' energy tends to be disruptive, full of surprises, rebellious, innovative or even explosive. If there have been a variety of upsets in your relationships over the last few years then Uranus probably had something to do with it. He is also the planet of breakthroughs, freedom and independence, implying you may have encountered people in your close circle who represent those qualities as well. Tie that into the Plutonian flavor of the New Moon and you could have some interesting dynamics, whether it affects your home environment or perhaps an ending or new beginning of some sort.

Now add Mars, opposing Uranus, in your sign and conjunct the natal Sun of those born around October 5. Mars is in debility in Libra where he may be a bit more polite albeit passive-aggressive, such as smiling sweetly as you stab someone in the back. This could represent dealing with the individual in your house of relationships. You may be trying to break away from someone yet find multiple complications involved. Also note that during this time Venus, your sign ruler, is retrograde in Capricorn but unaspected, making her a bit of a wildcard. This energy often emphasizes what you value though in this state Venus also becomes the warrior goddess and can go after what she wants or needs with a vengeance. Consider that this is providing background music for everything else going on which could simply be an exercise in defining what's most important to you and what you really need.

The final planet in the Grand Square is Jupiter, though he's not tied in as tightly as the others. He's also retrograde which internalizes his energy and makes him quite philosophical and often focused on topics such as ethics. He's in your 10th house of status, career, public image and reputation. Jupiter's opposition to the lunation quartet and squares with your own ambitions and someone unique or rebellious within your relationships has a variety of interpretations. One possibility could be that to progress in your career may involve something you really don't agree with in some way. Jupiter is trining Saturn in Scorpio, your 2nd house of income, possessions, needs and pleasures which may provide the answer to how to deal with what's going on. Saturn is all about wisdom, experience, responsibility, hard lessons and karma but also structure and organization. Perhaps this is the answer, if your motivation to advance is based on increased income, for example. Perhaps more discipline in your spending is what really needs to be done as opposed to bringing in more money that you might squander, anyway. Give it some thought and see how it applies to your situation.

The Full Moon on January 15 is in fellow Cardinal Sign, Cancer, your 10th house of career and such as noted above. A Full Moon usually brings an ending, culmination or shift to a new phase and implies that the situation emphasized by the New Moon is progressing, like it or not. Saturn is tied into the lunation in a favorable way, further emphasizing his potential role in solving the dilemma. Mercury has moved into Aquarius, your 5th house of creativity and ego definition, which suggests a creative solution that could actually hail from the unique relationship situation. Venus is still retrograde so the examination of what you value most continues. Remember this is in your 4th house that includes not only your present family but your birth family, cultural roots and memories besides simply some sort of new beginning or ending. Your sign ruler, Venus, is still retrograde and squaring Mars, suggesting taking action on what you're discovering about your values is not easy.

The second New Moon on January 30 is in Aquarius, your 5th house of ego definition, creativity, children, romance, entertainment and speculation or what is sometimes called the "fun house." This lunation is quincunx Jupiter, suggesting a change of course relative to your status that perhaps relates to seeing yourself in a new way which could also help you see others in a new way as well. Venus and Pluto are conjunct, providing insights into old memories and experiences that may need to be transformed if they're negative in

some way. These two are opposing Jupiter so require balance with your status, reputation or career. If deep in your heart of heart you have a problem with your career, this could have a strong bearing on how you handle it.

It's always interesting to take some time at the start of a new year and ponder what you accomplished during the one just past. This, in turn, helps determine what your goals should be during the coming twelve months. With the Sun in Capricorn responsibility, planning and ambition are emphasized, making it astrologically friendly toward setting new goals and making any adjustments to get where you really want to go.

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