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 delivered via a New Moon that is about as complex as it can get. Not only is it partners with your modern sign ruler, Pluto, as well as Mercury but also the focal point of an aspect pattern known as a Cardinal Grand Square which combines the energy from seven astrological entities, *i.e.* the Sun, Moon and five planets distributed amongst four different houses which as you probably know represent areas of your life. This is a rather dramatic looking chart (which you can view using the New Moon link near the top of the page) which would have definitely scared me if it had been in force a year ago when everyone was holding their breath regarding whether the Mayans were right. As it is, certain Cardinal signs which include Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn will be most affected, especially with those with birthdays near the end or right at the beginning of the month. Scorpio is in a zodiacal position that mitigates the harshness of the lunation aspects such that you'll be able to use some of them to advantage, something that you folks usually know how to do as a matter of course.

The lunation quartet comprising the Sun, Moon, Pluto and Mercury is in Capricorn, your 3rd house of thoughts, ideas, siblings, neighbors and local travel. Venus is also in that sign and retrograde, as discussed last month. If you missed it you can find more information about Venus retrograde here. Generally speaking Venus RX brings attention to what you value and need the most and given that she also becomes the warrior goddess in this mode she will go after what she wants with a vengeance. Venus rules your 12th house which includes your subconscious and inspiration as well as your polar sign, Taurus, your house of relationships. So bear in mind that energy is providing background music for everything else going on. That lunation quartet is going to provide a significant boost to your already strong Scorpio sense of discernment. Mercury is the natural ruler of thoughts and ideas and is accidentally dignified in your 3rd house which includes those things while Pluto excels at exposing the truth, especially where corruption is involved, and also promotes eliminating things you no longer need as well as cleansing and healing. Thus, this has the potential for providing considerable help in seeing things clearly, gathering relevant facts, and making sound decisions. If your birthday is right around November 4 these effects will be strongest.

However, there are other forces involved that bring even more energies to bear. These include Uranus in Aries, Jupiter in Cancer and Mars, your traditional sign ruler, in Libra which are the planets involved in forming that Cardinal Grand Square. Uranus is in your 6th house of work, health, daily activities and pets where he has probably been stirring things up for quite a while now. A hectic pace, all sorts of unexpected events and surprises, and perhaps an increased need to work independently as well as increased involvement with technology are all possible manifestations of this placement. Tie this in with the New Moon and you could get a tremendous amount of frustration. You may be at wits end and your thoughts are occupied with figuring out what to do. Since Scorpios can be obsessive it could be even more intense. However, if your birthday is right around November 1st you may find a means for dealing with it that is virtually handed to you.

Opposing Uranus is Mars in Libra, your 12th house of spirituality, enlightenment, inspiration, your subconscious, institutions, confinement, seclusion, hidden enemies and self-undoing. Mars in this house usually suggests it's a good idea to watch your back and your decisions. In Libra his energy is softened a bit, making him more diplomatic, but that simply means to include wolves in sheep's clothing to your list. Mars is also the planet that pushes you to action so if there is anything bothering you at the subconscious level this can be useful in dealing with it. Balance is advised, however, as you deal with that hectic pace or urge to rebel or break away from work. Uranus in the 6th can also affect your health, which in this case could have its roots in your subconscious to some degree. Likewise your thoughts. If you're stressed out it's going to show up physically as well as mentally and emotionally.

The final member of the Grand Square is Jupiter in fellow Water sign, Cancer, sign of his exaltation where his expansive nature is unrestricted. He's retrograde, however, which gives him philosophical vibes, especially in your 9th house which contains such things as your beliefs, expectations, philosophy of life, higher learning, long-distance travel, other cultures and relocation. Ponderings related to these matters are highly likely and will also come into play with everything else going on, especially remembering Venus' mission to identify what you value most. If your birthday is right around November 9 then Jupiter is trine your Natal Sun and will have an even stronger influence. In the lunation he's trining Saturn in your sign, which can bring interesting effects as well. Saturn is conjunct your natal Sun if your birthday is right around November 13. This can be a difficult time, especially considering that Saturn is the Lord of Karma, hard lessons, discipline, responsibility and so forth. He is also ruler of your 3rd house of thoughts and such. However, his discipline and sense of responsibility is quite useful and can be harnessed to pursue your ambitions.

The Full Moon on January 15 is in fellow Water sign, Cancer, and forms an aspect pattern known as a Triangle of Potential with your natal Sun if your birthday is right around November 18. Cancer is your 9th house of beliefs as noted earlier and a Full Moon typically indicates an ending, culmination or shift to a new phase and thus implies those ruminations may have reached a conclusion of some sort. Saturn's influence can also assist with organizing and disciplining yourself to do whatever needs to be done. Mercury has moved into Aquarius, your 4th house of home environment, memories, cultural roots, new beginnings and endings, suggesting thoughts or information related to one of those areas with the sextile with Uranus suggesting opportunities to make some job-related changes. Venus is still retrograde and squaring Mars, suggesting some conflict between what you think you value and your subconscious or perhaps someone trying to undermine you. Use that Scorpio discernment to identify which it is.

The second New Moon this month thanks to our goofed up Gregorian calendar which is based on the ego of ancient Roman emperors instead of common sense is in Aquarius, your 4th house which includes new beginnings as noted earlier. The lunation is quincunx Jupiter which suggests changes of direction with some influence from your ruminations in the philosophy of life department. Venus and Pluto are conjunct, further emphasizing examining what you value the most and need to obtain with the two of them opposing

Jupiter. An opposition usually requires balance, so while you may be figuring out a few things, being obsessive with making immediate changes is likely to cause a few problems unless you proceed in a sensible manner. In other words, don't burn your bridges and make sure you know where you want to go as well as what it will bring.

A new year is an excellent time to sit back and consider what you accomplished the year before as well as what you hope to do in the coming twelve months. It's a time to assess your lessons-learned and perhaps chart a new course. There are numerous astrological influences out there this month to help you do just that so take advantage of them while they last.

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