

SAGITTARIUS

November 23 - December 21

Monthly Astrocast

January 2009

Key Events:
Full Moon : January 11, 2009
New Moon: January 26, 2009
Retrograde Planets:
Saturn: December 31 - May 16, 2009
Mercury: January 11 - February 1, 2009

Long-term Aspects

The astrological community with the most traffic for Sagittarius this month is your 3rd House of thoughts, ideas, neighborhood activities, and short journeys. Before I get into that, however, let's start with an overview of what's going on out there with the slow moving, outer planets, which include Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto and the slower moving asteroids such as Chiron and Sedna. These are the ones that dictate the trends and overall themes of our lives over the course of months and years, often even decades, as they traverse the Houses of our natal chart.

I know that the "House" concept is one of the hardest ones to grasp for those who don't know a lot of where all this astrological hoopla comes from. Some don't care, they're only interested in what it means, but I suspect that most Sagittarians are interested in knowing a little bit more of where it comes from. First of all, there is a plethora of House systems. Fundamentally, it's a means of dividing the twelve astrological signs on a horoscope into the twelve different areas of our lives and involves a lot of fancy celestial three-dimensional geometry. I had trig and seven quarters of calculus in college and I must say the actual calculations largely boggled my mind, so I'm definitely not going there.

Since Sagittarians tend to be deep thinkers, you're probably already wondering why there are so many. And that's a good question. Oddly enough, they all work in one way or another, so there is no end-all, be-all house system on which all astrologers agree; each one has their favorites. Part of this is because certain systems seem to work better for

different types of astrology. For example, there's the typical astrology that tells you about your personality; there's the one that addresses relationships, there's the one that looks at the transits and what types of events they're likely to trigger for individuals (which is a lot of what I do here); there's mundane astrology that looks at world trends and events; financial astrology; karmic astrology; medical astrology; weather astrology, horary astrology, and on and on. It's also as much an art as it is a science.

The Houses on your individual chart are ideally defined by your Ascendant, which is the astrological sign that was on the eastern horizon when you were born and marks the beginning of your 1st House, with the others following from there. Since I obviously can't possibly know the Ascendant for everyone reading these horoscopes, for these purposes I use your Sun Sign for your 1st House. If you were born between approximately 6:00 – 8:00 AM there's a fairly good chance that your Ascendant is the same as your Sun Sign. If you know your birth time but don't know what your Ascendant is, email Whobeda for a complimentary copy of your birth chart, which will contain that information as well as where the Moon and other planets were when you were born. If you know your Ascendant, it doesn't hurt to read the horoscope for that as well.

The interesting part is that both house systems will work in one way or another. The Sun Sign 1st House will identify many of the larger trends while your individual chart will get into the nitty-gritty details. For many astrological techniques the birth time is a must. But it's apparent that the Universe wants us to have this information because it comes out just about any way you look at it.

Thus, the outer planets, or "outies", determine the overall themes and the inner planets, or "innies", i.e. Mercury, Venus, Mars, and of course the Sun and Moon, trigger daily events and occurrences that contribute to them. You're probably wondering what happened to Jupiter, your Sign Ruler. Well, he's right in the middle and also seems to be a trigger, largely for the big, significant events that tie in very specifically with the current theme. So let's take a look at who's where and what they may be up to as we begin a new year.

Pluto left Sagittarius and moved into Capricorn for the long-haul at the end of last November so he's now in your 2nd House of possessions, finances and pleasures where he'll be until November 2024. Yes, the year twenty-twenty-four. This transit will be most noticeable when Pluto connects with one of your natal planets, but his presence will still be felt at the 10,000 foot level. Since Pluto is the great astrological roto-rooter, hidden problems related to this part of your life will be exposed in a variety of ways. It may seem as if everything you own has a hidden flaw of some description. Plumbing and electrical problems, or any other "hidden" element, may surface regarding your home. If your finances are honked up, they will also get your attention. On the "pleasures" side, this may actually be a good thing as it will deepen your awareness of what you like and why. If you have any particular indulgences that need to be exposed for what they are, that will happen, too. So you get the idea.

Neptune is associated with dreams, inspiration, transcendence, and deception, among other things. He's currently in Aquarius, your 3rd House of thoughts, ideas, neighborhood activities, and short journeys. He's been there since the late 1990s and won't be gone until March 2012. His presence in this house is very good for your imagination and has also increased your interest in spiritual subjects. This location reminds me of Einstein's "thought experiments" where he would let his imagination take him somewhere that he would later try to capture mathematically. It's not particularly good for recognizing reality and being too much of an idealist is another possibility. If you were born between December 13 – 16, this month Neptune will sextile your natal Sun, which will increase the opportunity for inspirational ideas, dreams that connect you to another dimension, and cool stuff like that. Otherwise, his influence is out there like background music for you to tune into and enjoy at will.

Uranus, planet of sudden change, disruptions, unexpected events, and rebellion, is currently in Pisces, your 4th House of home environment. If you're having an "Aha!" moment right now, you've been experiencing this, which is very likely to be less than enchanting, unless you happen to like these kinds of surprises. In other words, your home life has probably been chaotic lately. Uranus has been in Pisces since March 2003 and will be there until March 2011, so there's a while to go for this one as well. If your birthday is between December 10 – 13, this activity is going to increase this month. In addition, he's in opposition to Saturn through January and February, so those two are going to be stirring things up a bit, but I'll go into that a bit more after talking about Saturn.

Saturn is about discipline, responsibility, obligations, authority, structure, and delays. He's a stern taskmaster who will slap you upside the head like an old-time school master if you're out of line. He is currently hanging out in Virgo, your 10th House of career and reputation. If you've been working harder but enjoying it less, have had at least one micro-managing boss from hell, or are distinctly bummed out by your current direction in life, then you have already met Saturn. On top of that, with his typical dry sense of humor, he went retrograde on New Years Eve, putting his joyful spin on the incoming new year. When he's retrograde he'll especially be shoving your nose in your career situation. If there's anything there that needs to be restructured he'll be there with the wrecking crew. If you're dissatisfied in any way with your current career, now is the time to figure out how to fix it. Saturn wants you to be successful and he knows this will only happen if you enjoy your work, so in many respects he's really your friend if he helps you identify what needs to be done to make this area of your life more enjoyable and satisfying.

Now back to that opposition he's in with Uranus. These two planets aren't exactly what you would call fishing buddies. Saturn is usually about stability and responsibility while Uranus is about disruptions and sudden change. Uranus is in your 4th House of home environment and Saturn in your 10th of career and reputation. Obviously it's not uncommon for these two areas of your life to be in a tug-o-war, but this will be accentuated even more during this transit. I can't possibly cover all the scenarios of how this will play out here, but at this point I should have given you enough information to

work with. You know what your current situation is in these two areas and can take it from there. The primary message is that changes are in order and if you don't direct them yourself, the Universe will do it for you. Think about what needs to be changed and what steps are required to make it happen.

Between January 11 – February 1 Mercury will be retrograde. This isn't a super-long-term aspect, but it covers nearly three weeks, so qualifies for mention here, though it will also be picked up in a variety of aspects in the section below. Remember not to buy anything electronic or mechanical during that time. Mercury rules communications and movement of all sorts and when he's retrograde he's on vacation and these things don't proceed in the usual manner. He's in the station house for maintenance right now, so while he's parked in your 3rd House of thoughts and so forth, then backs into your 2nd House of possessions around January 21, this is a good time to rethink, re-plan, edit, and reconsider what you have going in those parts of your life. Moving forward isn't likely and trying to do so will be frustrating, so use this time to make sure all the i's are dotted and t's crossed. Mercury may be relatively small as planets go, but his influence is significant. And anyone who thinks that size matters astrologically obviously hasn't ever endured a Pluto transit. So go with the flow and use that time productively.

Short-term and Daily Aspects

[For missing dates, please refer to the Daily Astrocast. Also, please allow a window of a day either way for these aspects to manifest.]

The planets are currently lined up in a fairly tight configuration for most of the month with the majority of them concentrated between Capricorn and Aquarius with Uranus next door in Pisces. With them all bunched up like that, the faster "innies" are passing the slower "outies" on a regular basis. You could compare their interaction to cars in holiday traffic, creating a variety of irritating aspects to one another until they spread out a bit more. Thus, there will be a lot of frustrations, annoyances, and other irritations this month. At least this way forewarned is forearmed.

January 2: If you haven't given your finances any thought for a while, something will remind you of them today. It's likely to be annoying and something you hadn't thought about before. Maybe you just looked at your 401K balance or added up your receipts from Christmas shopping. No doubt the former is lower than expected and the latter higher. It's a favorable time to put together a budget and spending plan.

January 4: If you need something for your home, now is actually a favorable time to do some shopping for information and the best possible bargain. Better yet, it's a favorable time for simply chilling out at home and doing something you enjoy with family members.

January 5: Unexpected news or a disruption around your home or neighborhood is likely today.

January 6: Something is likely to go on the fritz today and identifying the problem will be illusive. An attack on your checkbook is likely to be part of the plan.

January 8: Something is going on at work that you don't like. It could be something someone says, something you read, or simply think of that is less than enchanting. This is the beginning of that Saturn retrograde remodeling project on this part of your life. You have until May 16 to figure out what needs to be done and develop a plan.

January 9: Emphasis today on finances or possessions relative to home with an unexpected twist. It's a good thing, however, that should prove beneficial.

January 10: There's a good chance that a bill is going to come in that you didn't expect or something else is going to turn up nonfunctional. Hurry and replace it today before Mercury goes retrograde tomorrow, or put it off until February 1.

January 11: Mercury goes retrograde today, so don't even think about buying something electronic or mechanical, especially a car or major appliance. Full Moon occurs today in Cancer, your 8th House of sex, death, other people's money, and transformations. Something is culminating in one of those areas or entering a new phase. Something is different than it was before, even if only in your mind. On the positive side, there should be benefits of some description out there regarding your career. It could be financial or simply some positive attention. If you've been thinking about asking for a raise, this may be the time. Be sure to incorporate whatever it is into your analysis of your career situation for future reference.

January 12: Any over-inflated ideas will not make it past the financial review today as a reality check sends you back to the drawing board. Either you forgot something or it was delusional to begin with. Remember that Mercury RX is not a favorable time to move forward with idea, but is good for reworking existing ones.

January 15: More unfavorable or annoying news or conversations today regarding your career. Consider whether a process change could alleviate similar problems in the future.

January 17: Unexpected and probably irritating news/conversations from the home front today.

January 18: Finding a solution that could work on a big scale is likely today. Either that or maybe you'll finally identify the problem. Big news is out there somewhere, so pay attention.

January 19: More irritating financial news crawls out of the woodwork like cockroaches. Friction at home is likely, either as a result of the unexpected expense or perhaps something else of equal charm.

January 20: Any ideas you come up with today to rectify existing problems will bring you positive attention. Exploit it for all its worth without being pompous.

January 21: Those big ideas aren't going over too well at home, are they? Try adjusting your approach more so than the idea. Maybe you're just not selling it properly. Look out for more financial cockroaches you missed the first time.

January 22: Your checkbook, possessions, or plans to relax tonight are under attack again. Try not to overreact.

January 23: A big surprise on the home front is out there today, but it should be of a positive nature. Maybe you got your Publisher's Clearinghouse letter or your significant other is in a loving mood.

January 24: There's a bunch of astrological things going on today so expect a busy, hectic day. Another big idea or important news will kick things off. Financial benefits are out there as well, that are tied into your career in some manner. This is going to stir up that tug-o-war between your career and homelife, but the financial situation will be favorable.

January 26: Another busy day with a lot going on. New Moon today in Aquarius, your 3rd House of thoughts, ideas, and so forth, which implies something new is definitely brewing in this area. Your ideas regarding those career issues are gathering, but you may be accused of being unrealistic by those at home or vice versa. Opportunities for improving the home situation, either financially or through beautifying it in some manner are there, but make darn sure you don't push too hard for something that's an illusion. Don't believe everything you hear without verifying it in some way.

January 27: More delusions are out there, so don't believe everything you hear or see today, either. Something mechanical is very likely to break down or be damaged in some way, so be extra careful. Don't take any unnecessary risks of any variety. Expect the unexpected.

January 30: Your ideas about those career issues will be expanding further today. Use this time to review what's been accumulating all month on this issue and think about if you've missed anything. Remember that rethinking things is still favored rather than moving forward until February 1st when Mercury goes direct. However, you'll still be dealing with that Saturn RX, so the data-gathering stage is still in effect for that, though your review of existing data could be complete with it time to explore possibilities to move in a different direction between February 1 – May 16.