



FORECAST JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

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Well, here we are in the early days of 2012, the year that promises exhilaration and challenges alike. More correctly, it's the '2012 era' because it's not only this year that has the tumultuous astrology unfolding. We started to feel the effects of this era in 2008 when Pluto went into Capricorn, then the next phase was in 2010 when Uranus went into Aries. **This year, 2012, those two planets, Pluto and Uranus**, have their first exact 'waxing square' alignment in June, but really the effect is already here.

On a world level since the GFC in 2008 we've seen clashes growing stronger and stronger between old ways and new ways; between innovative actions and stuck attitudes. **By the end of 2015**, once Pluto and Uranus have finished their seven exact alignments, we'll know how all this will pan out, but in the meantime we have the astrology to guide us. Pluto will help us reclaim our power and *be all that we can be* and Uranus will throw spanners in the works so that the system cannot work in the old ways any more.

More on 'the 2012 effect' later because first I want to say just **how relieved I am that there are no eclipses in January or February!** In fact, there are no eclipses until late May. May and June bring lots of powerful astrology, which means we have between now and then to integrate the eclipses we experienced at the end of 2011 and work through the significant Mars Retrograde that happens from January to April.

November and December were pretty intense because not only did we have two eclipses, but Mercury was also Retrograde and **the North Node was aligned with the Great Attractor**. Eclipses act like wild cards, as if their arrival is the cosmos's window of opportunity to go 'surprise!' Whether it felt like sparklers going off, balloons popping in your face or stepping on a landmine, life was most probably more eventful than usual.

With the potential for communication stresses while Mercury was Retro, many of us **had our heads spinning** trying to keep up with the intensity, and the North Node alignment to the Great Attractor gave a sense of being pulled toward the inevitable. This could have been wonderful or devastating or an odd mix of both.

A number of clients reported doing or saying what had been building up inside of them for a long time. Some described finding their inner passion and being amazed they hadn't known it earlier because it was **so incredibly obvious and true**, yet somehow previously unseen. There was a lot of volatile energy about. Some connections ended, while others ignited. Some deals fell through, while others took off. Some people moved through deep fears into a whole new experience of life.

This year began with **Mercury finally coming out of its 'shadow phase' on 2 January** by passing the degree it went Retrograde at (20 degrees Sagittarius). If your year has begun with a continuation of some of the stresses of November and December, this is necessary completion energy playing out. We can soon dust ourselves off and move forward with fresh insights and intentions. We can especially do this after 8 January when Mercury moves out of Sagittarius and into Capricorn.

With Mercury in earthy practical Capricorn for most of January, we're able to ground and stabilise. The challenge will be to not sink into depression (as Capricorn can be prone to depression) but to set our minds toward goals that are genuinely realistic. That's easier said than done in this day and age when we're encouraged to think we can easily buy wonderful lifestyles on credit and pay later without too much trouble.

But since 2008 when Pluto went into Capricorn, all that has been changing. It's harder to believe that we're safe to buy now and pay later, especially as instability to our earthly ways (Capricorn) is likely to increase and escalate from June when Pluto and Uranus have their first official clash.

Royal Fixed Star Regulus moved into Virgo in November, after more than two thousand years in Leo, powerfully symbolising that it's time to come down to earth and look at what's going on around us. It's as if Regulus is showing it's time for himself, the king, to get off his throne and see what the workers in the kingdom are up to. Perhaps he could even chip in a bit, or at the very least show some appreciation, rather than snap his fingers and say 'More champagne or off with your head'.

Where in our own lives do we think others should do our bidding or 'off with their heads'? **Human history has a vexed relationship with routine tasks.** Of course, slavery is now frowned upon, but the old attitudes stay. What if those 'boring' daily tasks are actually the source of our power and we've been pushing them away?

Have you noticed for example how while washing the dishes, we perform an energy cleanse on ourselves? The grime of old thoughts, emotions and jagged energy remnants flows out through our hands and down the sink with the rest of the dirty dishwater. **When we weed the garden, as our hands connect with the earth**, again we release a backlog of feelings and energy fragments, and the earth sends revitalising energy up into us for fresh creativity. In so many ways we miss out when we don't participate in the Virgo-type activities.

As if to help Regulus get its message across, Mars also moved into Virgo in November and will stay there until 3 July. **From 24 January until 4 April Mars will slow down and Retrograde in Virgo** drawing heightened attention to life's basics. We are called back home to our bodies, eating habits, health and wellbeing, our behind-the-scenes needs, our pets, plants, carers and helpers.

There are many astrological indications that the '2012 era' is about implementing sustainable living, but this doesn't have to be boring. In fact, Mars will do its best to make this task vibrant while in Virgo. Mars loves to move quickly. So with Mars in Virgo **we've got a wonderful opportunity** to work out how we can keep up the fast, fun pace of modern living and become super-efficient without leaving a toxic wasteland behind us.

A huge amount can be achieved during the first six months of the year with Mars in Virgo. It's possible to plan, prepare, work behind the scenes and get a whole production in process. It's like a theatre group coming together to practice, test out a script, debate finer points, get comfortable

in the costumes and so on before the show opens. **This whole Mars in Virgo period prepares us for the mid-year eclipses** and the first Uranus-Pluto contact in June. We have a chance to 'get our act together' before then.

Introducing **even just one new small positive daily practice now** guarantees growth by mid-year. For example, meditating for five minutes each day, or taking a genuine health supplement suited to your particular body type. But if we continue to splurge and live a high life beyond our means, even in just small ways, then we might not flow so well through the seven contacts of Pluto and Uranus between mid-this year and March 2015.

There's another special astrological event we're preparing for mid-year and that's the **Venus Occultation on 6 June**. This is when the shadow of Venus's disc can be seen passing across the face of the Sun. Venus Occultations happen in pairs about once every 120 years. The first of this pair was in 2004.

Venus is the planet associated with nature, beauty and kindness. She brings a big message of living within our means and treating as sacred all life on the planet, whether big or small, pleasant or unpleasant. This year's Occultation emphasises the 2012 theme of sustainable living with reverence to the Earth.

Not all the astrology in the first six months of the year has us scrubbing up, polishing our shoes or practising our scales! **On 4 February we receive the beautiful gift of Neptune finally settling into its home-sign Pisces**. Neptune, the planet of the divine and the sublime, is strong in its own sign, where it can only be once every 140-150 years. We have until 2025 to enjoy Neptune's time in Pisces.

First and foremost this means it'll be easier than usual to connect with our sixth senses or psychic sides. We'll develop a greater appreciation for what is usually unseen – our energy fields, the soft golden light of angelic presence, auras around trees – you name it. **This is a time for reconnecting with our spirituality**, our spiritual guides, our soul/higher selves, nature, 'elementals', animals, departed loved ones and 'Source'. The endless flow of unconditional love and creative sustenance will become more obvious and easily accessible.

Being in a human body has challenges that totally suck sometimes. Love from the other realms can be unconditional and stream endlessly into us if we just reach out and receive it. **We are being helped more than we could possibly imagine** through this 2012 era, but to receive the help we must tap into the spiritual and 'other worldly' energy that is all around us and within us as our birthright.

Neptune in Pisces promises to teach us more about love than we've ever known before. While Pluto and Uranus push everyone's buttons and bring up the dark, damaged, inner past outrage in all of us, Neptune in Pisces **will help us crack the code to the depths of love** within our hearts. Will we find that we hold the solutions we are seeking? It is said throughout many spiritual texts that the answers come from within.

It's far harder to love when people are behaving destructively. Yet it seems this is the Rubik's Cube for us to nut out. If we can work out how to be loving while also applying strong boundaries against harmful, dangerous behaviour, we'll be working well with the energies of these times. Over the coming years, **Pluto and Uranus will 'out' the dark from every corner of our outsides**

and insides, while Neptune in Pisces will inspire us with different ways to love; in a gutsy human sense, not in a saviour sense.

We understand Neptune in Pisces when we immerse ourselves in the splendour of a sunset, melt into the smile of a baby, lose ourselves in the scent of an exquisite flower or get swept up in the wave of an amazing singer's voice. Yet more than that, **this gift of life's soul sustenance is available in every breath of every moment of every day**. It's always there inside each of us. We don't need to believe in spirituality to access it. Every time we deeply relax and allow more space into the fibre of our beings, we open wider to the natural joy of life.

Neptune in Pisces reminds us we simply need to relax into our breath and allow the sweetness and softness to flow into any part of ourselves that needs unfurling and opening and stretching and loving. Of course it would be idealistic to think we could, at this stage in our human evolution, achieve this in every single moment **but to keep practising this art even when we are under fire in this 2012 era** could help us find our peace among the rapid growth opportunities. Neptune in Pisces says 'Please use me as a resource. I know I look invisible and you might forget about me, but I'm one of your greatest allies'.

On 8 February Saturn goes Retro in Libra intensifying themes of justice, balance and **a longing for beauty and peace in relationships**. What's fair and what's not fair will be hotly debated. Terms and conditions of contracts will be reassessed. Marriages will be put under the microscope, business deals will be scrutinised, the retail sector will be taking a good hard look at what the world has turned into, and we'll grapple with the difference between the human justice system and 'divine justice'.

Saturn's in the last months of its three year journey through Libra and will shift into Scorpio on 6 October. Until then Saturn will continue to give us many reality checks about the ways we relate to others, and help us discern fantasy from reality and neediness from genuine connection.

January's Full Moon falls in Cancer on the 9th. Under this Full Moon we have awareness breakthroughs about the gap between how we truly experience family and how we want to experience family. As we reflect on Christmas and any dynamics that played out, whether externally at family events or internally through memories and feelings, we get clearer on what the truth of family is for ourselves. We all need to belong and feel safe, nurtured and loved. At this Full Moon we realise how we can create more belonging in our lives and take steps to become as supported as we possibly can be.

January's New Moon is in Aquarius on the 23rd, just one day before Mars turns Retro. Under this New Moon we become concerned with how we fit within the human family. Do we feel alienated and isolated and wonder what life is all about or do we feel a part of the stream of life and connected to deeper meaning and purpose? This New Moon provides the chance to seek out like-minded people, care more for the environment, begin a course, start or join a group, get into some social networking or get activist. Our social and planetary conscience is awoken, and world events are likely to be strong in our minds.

February's Full Moon is in Leo on the 8th. Even though Regulus and Mars have moved away from Leo to emphasise Virgo, Leo remains an important energy. This Full Moon reminds us that we must still enjoy our creativity and work towards our moments in the limelight. We're not to feel guilty for reaching for success or enjoying life while there's stress going on around the planet.

Laughter, play, humour, games, joy, silliness and good times are essential to our wellbeing. This Full Moon reboosts our confidence and vitality and reminds us to get out and have fun.

February's New Moon in Pisces happens on the 22nd. Neptune will be in its early days in Pisces so this is a New Moon to celebrate the easier access to creative and spiritual flow on the planet. New Moons are great for starting things. Under this particular new moon, it's time to let go of daydreams about how you'd like to meet the love or your life, fulfil an artistic dream, have blissful meditation experiences or enjoy more spontaneous free-flow. This New Moon says just be what you long to be. Just be the artistic, creative, loving, spiritual being that you already are. Start drawing, painting, dancing, singing, meditating, talking to your spirit guides, hugging trees, floating in the sea and reaching out to others. Just do it!

So here we are in 2012, a turning point year of creating sustainable living and respecting the sacredness in all things. Yet it's a bit hard to create nice new sustainable futures if we haven't cleaned up the mess from the past. So 2012 is likely to be a year of both clearing out toxic build up and diving into the excitement of building a new future on the planet.

It's also a year of more truths being revealed as more illusion is cleared away, just as the curtain was pulled back in the *Wizard of Oz*. Where is the real power? Over millennia we've learnt to give a lot of our power away. But like the characters in the *Wizard of Oz*, **this year we deeply understand that the power is within us and always has been.** The Lion finds his courage, the Tin Man finds his heart and so on. Of course those qualities were always already inside them as they are inside us. Like the *Wizard of Oz* characters, it's our time to face some hefty challenges to get our power to shine.

Happy New Year!

Michelle

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0411 264 753

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