

The Traveler's Well Newsletter

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Four Planets Changing Gears

March 1, 2014

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Dear Friends, we are using a new format for this newsletter that will hopefully make it easier to read on a mobile device.

Having said that, we always use a lot of images and we don't want to cut back on that. These images will likely not be visible to mobile users.

We would appreciate feedback regarding usability of this e-mail on all devices (including good old PC's).

In this newsletter, we are writing mainly about four planets changing gears and how we can best use these transits over the next four months.

Blessings and Peace,

Scott & Sappho Wolfram



Four Planets Changing Gears

In the span of seven days, starting on February 28, 2014, four planets will change direction and in a sense, the zodiac will change gears. Here are the dates:

- Mercury Turns Direct - February 28, 2014 at 18 degrees of Aquarius
- Mars Turns Retrograde - March 1, 2014 at 27 degrees of Libra
- Saturn Turns Retrograde - March 2, 2014 at 23 degrees of Scorpio
- Jupiter Turns Direct - March 6, 2014 at 10 degrees of Cancer

With all of these changes going on, how are we impacted and what are we supposed to do? The good news is that this theme of changing gears will be with us for roughly four months until the middle of July. So, we have time. Why four months?

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- First, Mars will turn retrograde on March 1 and will remain in the sign of Libra until July 26, which is four months from now.
- Second, Saturn will turn retrograde on March 2 for four and a half months until turning direct on July 20, 2014.
- Third, Jupiter will turn direct on March 6 and then he will speed up and rocket through the sign of Cancer and move into Leo on July 16, 2014, which is four months from now.

So, we have four planets changing direction or changing gears in, essentially, the first week of March 2014. They will remain in this 'gear' until the middle of July 2014. So, we could say that we have four and a half months during which the themes that are a part of this time are all focused. So, let's look at Jupiter and Mercury and then Saturn and Mars.

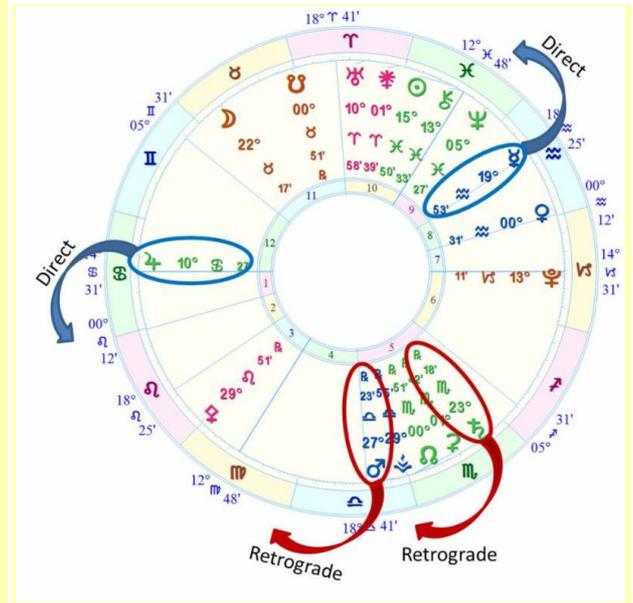


Chart of Planets Changing Gears

Direct Energy and Making Plans - Jupiter and Mercury

Jupiter and Mercury are changing gears and turning direct within seven days of one another. Both Jupiter and Mercury are benefic planets. So, while all planets have a positive and a negative expression, these two planets tend toward the positive. These two 'planning' planets help us formulate our plans, our visions for life. Jupiter has the vision and Mercury has the tactics to execute the plan associated with that vision.

Recently, we have been experiencing these planets in retrograde motion. While Jupiter and Mercury have been retrograde, we have been rethinking things. All the 're' words come into play when thinking of a retrograde planet - time to re-think, re-visit, re-view, etc. So, during this time, we have been exploring our options, adjusting our plans, making changes, and working to view our world and our path differently.

It is always good to remember that Jupiter provides only the vision, but if we don't take tactical action (Mercury), our dreams and plans will wither. This is a common misuse of our Jupiter archetype. To avoid this, it is a good time to look at alternative ways of executing your vision. One great tip for Jupiter is not to allow the vision to get so big that you can't execute it. If you say, I don't have enough time, energy or resources to do this, then the plan is too big and Mercury sits idle (he can't help with the tactical side of things if he is idle). So, be sure to make your vision something you can execute. Make phases of your plans if you need to.

When both of these planets turn direct, it is a great time to make a decision about our new direction and set an intention (incorporating all of the rethinking we have been doing). So, in a sense, the rethinking of our plans is now complete and it is time to trust the vision, move forward with our thinking, and clarify and initiate our plans.

Mercury and Jupiter are two planets that work quite well together. Why? Jupiter is the ruler of Sagittarius and the ninth house, which means that he represents our future oriented visions and embracing that vision that leads us to accomplishing our goals. Mercury rules Gemini and the third house and Virgo and the sixth house:

- The third house Gemini connection (the third house and the ninth house oppose one another and that supports this synergy) will take the individual ideas that support Jupiter's vision and begin to ask "How can I put these ideas and words together in a way that will complete and clarify the vision".
- Then, Virgo says, "I will then work one step at a time towards bringing the vision into reality". Remember, one step at a time, making priorities is essential to avoid Virgo's tendency toward creating a crisis by trying to do it all at once.

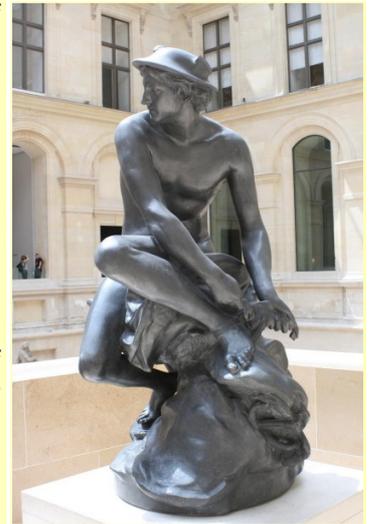
So, we have this wonderful energizing period where our thoughts can now begin to move forward after a period of rethinking. This is a time that will last until the middle of July, which is the period that Jupiter remains in the sign of Cancer.

Retrograde Energy and Revising Our Efforts - Mars and Saturn

Mars and Saturn are both changing gears and moving retrograde within one day of each other. Both Saturn and Mars are malefic planets. So, while all planets have a positive and a negative expression, these two planets tend toward the negative. But, both planets do have a positive side, which basically wants us to be persistent, mature and structured in our approach (Saturn) and to take action (Mars). We speak of Saturn being the lord of karma and the architect. Saturn is all about reality. So, his role is to be 'The Manager' and to take the vision of Jupiter and to build it into a practical blueprint. Using this blueprint, we can build a solid foundation and bring our vision into reality.

Mars provides the effort to get things done, to take action. He is quite prepared to do the heavy work and exert himself so that we can achieve our goals. We could call Mars our personal 'Action Hero'. Together, they are persistent (Saturn) effort (Mars).

***What I like about these two planets,
is when we need to get something done,
'The Manager' and the 'Action Hero', Saturn and Mars,
make a great team.***



Mercury ready to take action

Since both of these planets are turning retrograde, their intention together is to ask "how we can re-examine our blueprint and the way we use our energies so that our efforts can become more effective". For the next four months, this is a great aspect of life to focus on. Together, Mars and Saturn also become effective effort, effective action. So, the goal is to explore these aspects over the next four and a half months until the middle of July. Every year, as Sappho and I are doing our planning, we make a list of 'time wasters', which are those things that get us off track from our blueprint and cause us to use our energy in the wrong way. Becoming aware of your 'time wasters' and working to limit them, is a great way to work with this Saturn.

Retrograde Saturn in Scorpio

During this retrograde period, Saturn will be in the sign of Scorpio, which gives us the opportunity to revisit (retrograde) and to understand, explore and heal the wounds that we have experienced in the past (Scorpio). We all have karmic elements to our world (Saturn) where we have been wounded and betrayed (Scorpio). These are areas of life where we have been let down or hurt in some regard. We often don't want to be aware of these things and we suppress or ignore them (after all, wouldn't we rather be having fun).



Saturn



Scorpio

Astrological Symbols

So, when Saturn is retrograde in Scorpio, it is a great time to say "this is the truth of where I have been wounded, but I have the choice to change the direction". Instead of remaining stuck in old wounds from the past, we can work toward healing these wounds and leave the past behind. So, when we think about our 'blueprint', we want to look at our plans from the perspective of healing. In other words, we are not dealing with the wound, but the healing of the wound - moving forward.

Retrograde Mars in Libra

Mars retrograde in Libra is a fabulous energy. Over time, as I work with clients, I find that Libra is often one of the most challenging signs to work with. On one hand, it is a lovely, beautiful energy where everybody wants everybody to be happy all the time and to do wonderful things and to have a nice time. Everybody should be able to just get along and the world should be harmonious. At the same time, this doesn't happen very often for people with a lot of Libra because, while they seek that beauty and happiness, they often give away true balance. So, they do not have the real harmony and joy they are seeking.

So, enter Mars. He brings energy that can bring true balance to Libra through the opposition in the natural zodiac between the first and the seventh houses. So, when Mars is retrograde in Libra, it gives us a unique ability to reconsider the way that we act. Of course, Libra wants us to create harmony. But, Mars demands that we take action in order to create harmony. Very often, Libra has a difficult time saying "this is what I want, this is what I need". But, Mars retrograde in Libra is asking us to explore how to define the idea of enlightened self-interest. Mars by itself is naturally a planet that is interested in itself. Mars supports self-interest and is about the individual, what I want, what are my needs, what is my desire. It is a very ME oriented energy.

The enlightened part comes from Libra, which is a WE energy. Mars in Libra is about US - blending me with the other. How do WE get along. So, enlightened self-interest is all about asking how should I take action so that we all get along in a way that we actually accomplish more balance, more harmony, more peace in a way that allows us to be really truly vibrant and effective. Mars is looking to understand how to take action on our own goals and rethinking that process while he is retrograde.

So, think of new ways of taking action and asserting your own needs, where in the past you might not have. Borrowing the language of Stephen Covey in his Fourth Habit, "Think Win-Win", Mars retrograde is a great time to explore how to create solutions that benefit both people in a relationship. That is the path to real harmony and true joy.

Four Months To Shift Gears

If Saturn in Scorpio is trying to heal our wounds and hurts so that we can be more effective as the architect of our own life, what does that have to do with Jupiter and Mercury? Because Jupiter and Mercury have the vision and planning aspects relatively complete, if we trust our vision, we now have the ability to rethink how we make effort. When we heal our own wounds, we have a better chance to trust our vision and ourselves!

When we embrace both Mars and Saturn, we can actually get much more done. So, we will find that the next four and a half months are about combining our vision with an adjustment of our effort. The vision of Mercury and Jupiter and the effort of Mars and Saturn and bring those together.

So, let the gears change and Mercury and Jupiter move forward with our vision and let Mars and Saturn move in reverse allowing us to reexamine the efforts we make so that we can heal our wounds and create real balance and harmony. We have four and a half months to work on this. So, this is something that we can enjoy as we run through the Spring and into the early parts of Summer.

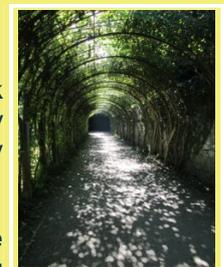


Spring Flowers

Bob Segar, Jane Fonda & Astrology

So, the other day, I decided to sample Bob Segar's inventory in iTunes. This made Sappho ask 'why are you listening to him, isn't he just like Ted Nugent'? Well, time for a bit of rock history schooling with the short answer being that 'No, Bob Segar is not like Ted Nugent'. This lengthy answer spilled into Bob Segar's support of 'Hanoi Jane', aka Jane Fonda.

Naturally, one thing led to another and we were researching the astrology to answer the question: What role did astrology play in Jane Fonda's interest in North Vietnam? Asking questions like this often result in the birth of an article for us.



Pathway

So, let's take a look at Jane Fonda related to her being known as 'Hanoi Jane'.

In July of 1972, Jane Fonda visited the city of Hanoi in North Vietnam associated with her activities as an opponent of the Vietnam War. After the visit, she became known as 'Hanoi Jane'. You can read the history on Wikipedia.

First, we consider astrology of location. In Jane's Astro*Carto*Graphy map, her Moon is exactly over the city of Hanoi and, in her Geodetic map, Mercury IC is exactly over Hanoi. The Moon would indicate that she would be drawn to this location via emotions, to understand and to nurture (which potentially was part of her motivation).

But, the real key is in her Mercury, which is the planet that rules her South Node. The South Node represents our karma and as the ruler of her South North, Mercury contains content of her karma. In short, Jane has a past life connection with Vietnam through this signature. Also, Mercury seeks information and that was the purpose of her visit.

Second, Jane's Jupiter is the first planet to rise in her first house tightly conjunct her ascendant. The ascendant represents how we are known to the world. So, with Jupiter on the ascendant we can say that she would travel to another country (Jupiter) and she will be known in this regard for being unique and speaking her mind (Aquarius).

But, where will she travel?

In this case, the answer lies in a minor asteroid. The minor asteroid named Hanoi is at 0 degrees of Aquarius in her birth chart exactly conjunct her Jupiter. So, she picks up the identity and becomes known (for a period of time in the media) as 'Hanoi Jane'.

From her birth chart to her Astro*Carto*Graphy and Geodetic maps and the minor asteroids each makes a unique contribution to understanding a bit of Jane Fonda's life journey.

Celebrating Four Years In Munich

On February 15, 2014, we celebrated our fourth anniversary living in Munich, Germany. In some ways, it feels like only 4 months and, in other ways, it feels like 40 years.



With a relocation to a new country, there is so much more than the physical move to consider: you need to learn a language, obtain visas, figure new tax codes, adjust to a new currency, sign up for new health insurance, find a place to live, discover everything is more expensive than you thought, make a few mistakes while learning local customs, discover you can't get good Mexican food anywhere, etc.

Then, also in our case, refurnish your home, learn to live without a car (and a freezer and clothes drier), adjust your cooking to your new kitchen and the availability of ingredients, set up our business and office, etc. In each of these, there is a complete story and, while we were very prepared, some of these events were more stressful than others. It has been a journey!

For those of you who were not with us in the beginning, Sappho and I are both Americans who decided that we wanted to live in Europe and we spent the better part of six years planning for this move. I was born in Wisconsin and Sappho in Iowa. I say that because lately we find that people assume one or the other of us is German. We are proud to say we made this move as self-employed American citizens, which is not at all an easy thing to do!

Over the past four years, thanks to all of our wonderful clients, our business has grown tremendously. In this there is a great sense of satisfaction and gratitude. It has been both a joy and an honor to know and be of service to so many wonderful souls around the world!

Thank you one and all!

This time also marks the completion of our second 12 year Jupiter cycle together as a couple. About this time 24 years ago, transiting Jupiter was conjunct Wolfram's Sun and Sappho's Ascendant when we first met and began to share our life together with a move to Los Angeles. Then, about 12 years ago, at the beginning of our second Jupiter cycle together, we first visited Munich and began the transition from from the corporate life to the world of full time astrology.

So, at this time right now, we are beginning our third 12 year Jupiter cycle together. We are working to complete our plans for the beginning of this cycle and are looking forward to sharing them with you in the months and years to come! I know many of you are also beginning a new cycle of Jupiter and recognize that a new chapter of life is ready to begin.

We have discovered a passion for the mountains and look to move 90 miles south of Munich within the next 18 months so that we can live in the heart of the mountains (in a town called Garmisch-Partenkirchen)! For the next cycle of our journey, we are looking to go more inward and a life in the mountains supports this quite nicely (the locational energies do not change with this move)!

The night we arrived in Munich 4 years ago in 2010, as Sappho caught a glimpse of herself in a full-length mirror she asked 'what will I look like in 5 years'. After 24 years together, we look forward to our next anniversary in Germany to see what we look like after 5 years (figuratively, speaking of course) as so much has already changed!

Thank you for being a part of our journey!



Bavarian Alps