

The Traveler's Well

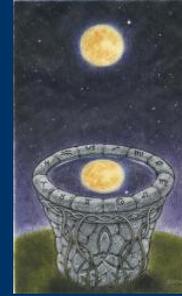
With Scott Wolfram

*"Move In Harmony With The
Sun, Moon and Stars!"*

scott@travelerswell.com -or- stwolfram@yahoo.com

805.409.4605

www.travelerswell.com



March 4, 2012

Dear Friends, this Mars Retrograde period has been felt quite intensely by many. Since we have over a month left with Mars Retrograde, I wanted to revisit this transit from the perspective of reviewing the purpose of Mars Retrograde and identifying what we can do during this time to honor what our birth chart is asking of us.

Also, in the next week, Mars will combine with Jupiter, Venus and Pluto to form a **Grand Earth Trine** that will provide a great opportunity to enact change in our life from a confident, energetic perspective. This is an unusual and fortunate transit to have during Mars Retrograde and can provide some relief and much needed energy.

Also, we have listed our [new services](#) for a 2012 and a bit on [Soul Mates!](#)

First, I want to explore Mars Retrograde in greater depth. As a refresher, starting on January 23, 2012, transiting Mars turned retrograde at 23 degrees of Virgo and travel backward to 3 degrees of Virgo from where he will turn direct again on April 14, 2012.

I wrote a full article about this transit in my last newsletter and will not be repeating certain aspects of that article. So, if you want to read that article, here is a [link](#) to it.

When transiting Mars turns retrograde, Mars' natural habit of expressing energy outward is suddenly turned inward. This dramatic change in perspective is important, because Mars is one of the most subjective, personal energies in our birth chart. Mars is considered subjective because, not only most often is he *not* aware of the needs and desires of others, he is most often not aware of the impact that his efforts have on others. During Mars retrograde, however, our experiences reveal the impact of our actions on the lives of others and become conscious to our own awareness.

Mars Retrograde provides us with an awareness of how we use our energy. What does it mean to use energy? We use energy each day at work, we use energy each day when we prepare our meals, we use energy each day when we chose how to react to situations of conflict, etc. So, we are referring to energy use at all levels of our being.



Since Mars Retrograde is in Virgo, how does Virgo use energy? Virgo can express the energy of Mars in a positive manner or in a negative manner.

- **When expressed positively**, Virgo uses energy to be warm, to help others, to be kind, to be willing to move one step at a time to maintain an environment supportive of warmth and kindness, and is aware of one's own spirituality and that this spirituality takes place on a human level.
- **When expressed negatively**, Virgo uses energy to reinforce guilt, to be petty, to be nit-picky, to be overly critical and to be too busy doing all the wrong things to recognize any of it.

This awareness from the energy turning inward serves a purpose as demonstrated by the 4 stages of Mars Retrograde.

Expanded Four Stages of Mars Retrograde

Stage 1 = Retreat & Introspect

Since Mars turned retrograde on January 23, 2012, the energy of Mars has reverted inward, which often feels like a loss of energy, focus and interest - especially, when considering Mars. As a result, you may find that you are suddenly reacting to the experiences of life, rather than taking action as you normally would. If you have goals to achieve or deadlines to meet, you may find that you are not your usual effective self. This can lead to retreating inward, during which time you may be asking yourself, "What is going on?" as if you have been "unplugged" from your power source.

The situations that arise during this time, often in the form of either subtle or direct conflict, serve to make us aware of aspects of our energy usage that need to undergo slight or dramatic change. Some conflict can merely be in the form of a "gut feel" about a situation. Why am I receiving this feedback now? Why did that person have that response? Why doesn't this feel right? Why do I feel like this no longer suits me? Why am I angry again? Why did I have that reaction (again)? Should I consider changing some aspect of my business based on this?

It is important to ask questions during this stage in acknowledgement of what you are feeling.

Stage 2 = Repeat and Relive

Circumstances may seem to contain feelings and emotions that you have not been aware of. If you have been suppressing any feelings of frustration, anger, or hostility, they will likely be brought to the surface by external events. This can sometimes feel like we are reliving and repeating circumstances from the past. In fact, Mars is attempting to remind you of unresolved karmic issues from the past, by recreating them in the present. If your world is disrupted by unexpected events and explosions of emotions, these are issues that Mars wants you to resolve.

These emotions are often emotions we thought we had overcome and/or that we do not want to see frequently repeated. So, by being aware of these emotions, we find encouragement to answer the questions we asked in Stage 1 so that we can move with full awareness into Stage 3.

During this Mars retrograde period, watch for the period when the transiting Sun opposes transiting Mars on March 3, 2012, which often triggers the experiences that reveal our suppressed energy in circumstances of confrontation or emotional crisis.

Stage 3 = Reconsider

One way to resolve karmic issues that arise during Mars retrograde is to reconsider the manner in which we use the energy of Mars in our lives. In your birth chart, consider how your Mars can be appropriately embraced (the positive representation of Mars) and then ask if any changes are appropriate and if you are ready to embrace those changes. In this process, we are meant to consciously reconsider our motives and the ways in which we have been wounded in life. Wounds from our childhood might be expressed out of context as an adult.

Another important way to resolve karmic issues is that we will all have different experiences because we have different planets involved. If your birth chart has a stressed point between 3 and 23 degrees of Virgo, or in the same degrees in the other mutable signs of Sagittarius, Pisces or Gemini, that point of stress will be activated more strongly and you will experience Mars Retrograde in a more powerful way. So, this Mars Retrograde period is felt most strongly by anyone with planets or birth chart angles in Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius and Pisces.

We need to address what our impacted planets are asking of us. So, for example, those with Mars Retrograde transiting over their South Node (roughly years 1969 and 1970), are you aware of the old patterns that may have been operating unconsciously in you. If so, ask if this old pattern is serving you well or if your responses now need to be transformed. In particular, this transit is very much about moving from reacting to situations (less aware and more unconscious of actions) to responding (much more aware and conscious of actions). For this group of people, you are also experiencing the classic mid-life crisis set of transits, which adds some intensity.

For those with Mars Retrograde oppose Saturn in Pisces (roughly 1965 and 1966), you may experience tension between Mars' need for the freedom to act and Saturn's tendency to reveal our natural limitations. The question here is that natal Saturn in Pisces might feel as though it is fated to outcomes that are beyond its control and Mars could avoid action all together or feel victimized. Mars is not exalted when he is unable to take action or feels the victim. However, in reality the potential is to learn how to use our energies within the context of what we are able to influence and what we are meant to be in control of (and letting go of that which we are not). Letting go of what we are not in control of and embracing that which we are able to influence is a powerful new habit pattern to form. For this group of people, you also have Mars Retrograde conjunct your Pluto and Uranus natal conjunction.

Once again, if your birth chart has a stressed point between 3 and 23 degrees of Virgo, or in the same degrees in the other mutable signs of Sagittarius, Pisces or Gemini, that point of stress will be activated more strongly and you will experience Mars Retrograde in a more powerful way.

During this Mars Retrograde period, it is important to be open to reconsidering any aspect of our life, our business, our relationships, etc. that are asking us to take a different approach. Be open to all that comes your way.

Stage 4 = Resolve

On the journey of the soul, we have opportunities to learn from life's experiences, so that we can choose new responses to re-occurring circumstances. In the process, we have the potential to resolve unhelpful karmic patterns (habits, reaction patterns, emotional responses, etc.) and release challenging karmic circumstances. Discovering and developing new patterns of expressing our desires and needs during Mars Retrograde leads us forward on the path and to greater success and personal fulfillment.

So, this is a time of finding new ways to approach the inevitable "battles" we must take in our daily life and simply how we use our energy. To use Mars terms, we shall refer to battle. Consider if this battle is really necessary or if it is simply an old habit we are unable to avoid. Alternatively, you may find that circumstances are asking you to step up and confidently assert your needs. We are not meant to give in with each and every conflict, but to know which battles we are meant to take part in. Battles in our life can take place at work, in our home, when returning items to a retailer, etc.

In the final analysis, Mars is about taking action. As Mars turns direct on April 14, 2012, and in the weeks that follow, we have a powerful opportunity to take action in new ways that leads to us embracing "enlightened self-interest" where we assert the right to fulfill our own legitimate needs in a manner that is harmonious with others and the world around us.

On April 14, 2012, Mars will turn direct. The energy of Mars will again be directed externally AND it will transit all the planets it hit during the Retrograde period. **All of you who have had Mars Retrograde transiting important aspects of your chart, once Mars turns direct, he will go over all of these planets one final time between April 14th and June 19th. Thus, Mars will reform any aspects it has made since January 24, 2012, providing one final chance for taking action in a new and more effective manner. This is like the last pass of the iron where we remove the final remnants of the wrinkles.**

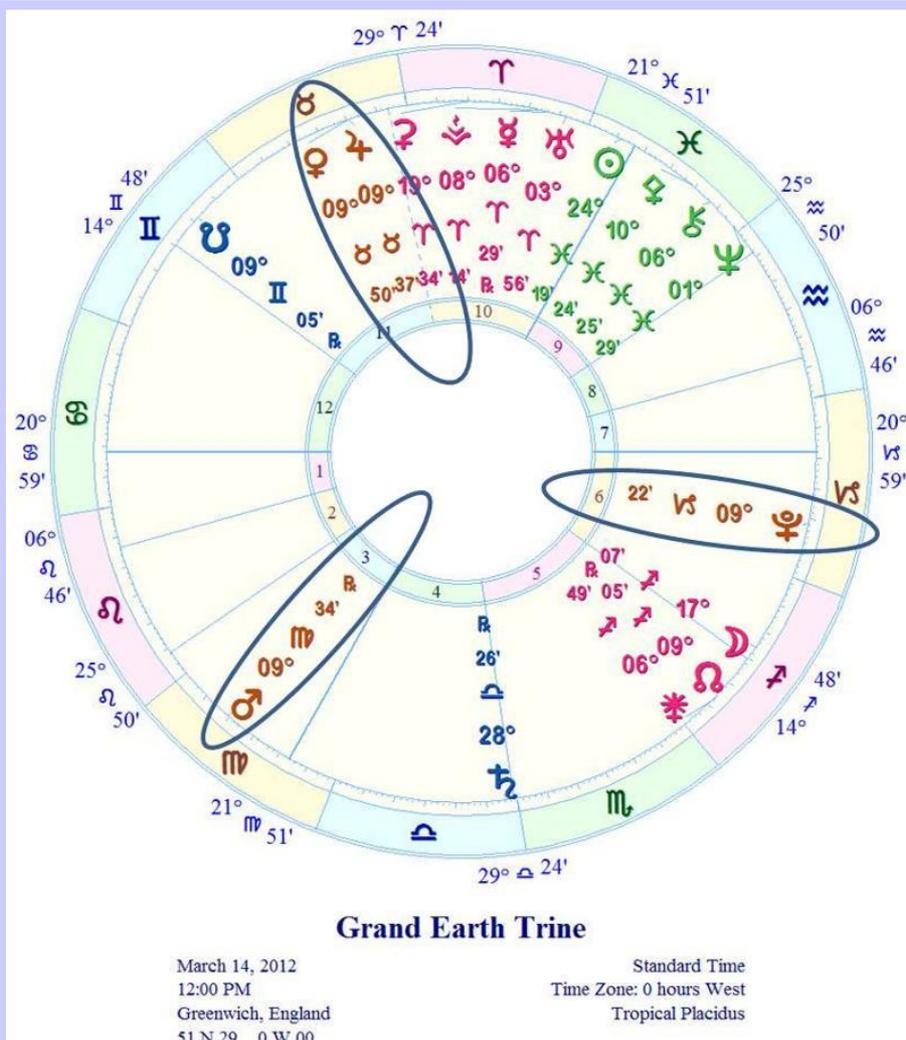
When Mars goes direct, be ready to take action!

Move in harmony with the Sun, Moon and stars!

***Blessings and peace,
Scott Wolfram***

Grand Earth Trine

A very interesting transit will take place roughly at the center point of the 80 day Mars Retrograde period. There will be a Grand Earth Trine combining four planets: Mars will be retrograde in Virgo, Pluto will be in Capricorn and Jupiter and Venus will be in Taurus (see chart below).



For those of you who have found this Mars Retrograde period to be a bit of a constant challenge, this Grand Earth Trine will provide some relief. This trine will be exact on March 14, 2012, but it will be felt for one week beginning on March 11 and ending on March 17.

During this week, this Grand Earth Trine marks an important time to understand Mars Retrograde in a different way. So, to think about this, let us break the trine down into its component pieces.

First, let's begin with Mars, which is retrograde in the sign of Virgo. This transit reveals the degree to which the display of our own energies (Mars) are being used in warm and practical ways that have positive results (positive side of Virgo); or, in ways that promote feelings of guilt, crisis and events not having practical outcomes (negative side of Virgo).

Second, when Jupiter and Venus in Taurus are in a trine with Mars, the use of energy begins to flow in a more harmonious way than what has been experienced thus far during Mars Retrograde. So, when we add Jupiter and Venus in a trine, they bring a sense of optimism, confidence, good humor and grace that will give us a more comfortable place from which we can see things as they really are (a big goal of the Mars Retrograde period). Because we feel more confident and strong, we will be aware that we have the ability to take action and accomplish more during this week, but also the potential to understand ourselves better. So, this trine will give us a greater degree of strength and the ability to use our efforts well. Here we have the optimism and confidence allowing

us to take a look at ourselves more freely and **the Jupiter and Venus should make this time less of a crisis (Virgo) and more of an opportunity.**

Finally, we have Pluto in Capricorn, which will trine all three of the other planets: Mars, Jupiter and Venus. Pluto wants to push the process of transformation and change forward. Together, the connection with Pluto gives us the passion and power to move forward. Now, naturally, Pluto can also relate to a strong quality to resist change, which you want to try and avoid so that the trine can give you the ability to take action and move forward.

Two Possible Expressions Of This Transit

One of the interesting keys with this is that Grand Trines bring two different kinds of qualities. In all cases, they help us to feel better because the energies are flowing more harmoniously (the grace of a triangle versus the rigidity of a square). In this way, we naturally feel more comfortable with the way our life is flowing. So, if Mars Retrograde has been a time in which you felt that energies have not been working well (as many of us have), you will find this to be a nice period of time. There are two outcomes that can result from this "flow".

First, when we use the energy positively, we say "I got it" and we understand how to use our energies to make the changes we need to make and we want to make those changes because we feel more confident. We understand that things are OK and we can move forward and start taking actions in order to use the energies of Mars in a more effective manner. We can be more open to changing some habits and to see ourselves more clearly. **In this way, the Grand Earth Trine becomes a tool of transformation and the ability to apply our energies more effectively than any other time during this Mars Retrograde period.** So, one of the keys here is that, if you feel the need to make changes during this time, make sure you do it. This is a one week window and you want to do everything you can to sort of pick up and move in harmony with this transit.

Second, when we use the energy of this transit in a negative way, we waste or lose the opportunity to embrace change. We can become so comfortable from the feeling of harmony that comes along with the trine that we say "Whew!" and we are grateful that the negative aspects have passed and we say we don't have to worry about things anymore (or, at least, for the next week). This is a false sense of security. Yes, the energies will work better for a week, but ultimately, the underlining habits still remain and we don't want to let our temporary feelings of comfort become an excuse not to make the changes that Mars wants us to make. Remember, we are still in this retrograde phase until April 14, 2012. Meaning, we have one whole month with Mars remaining retrograde. This one week period is a great opportunity and it gives us the ability to see more clearly, become more confident, get our feet underneath us and make the little changes that will allow us to be more successful as we move forward.

One Final Month Before Mars Direct

The real time for taking action and reasserting our natural energies will start to take place when Mars turns direct on April 14, 2012. But, until then, enjoy this one week, become confident, have a good laugh, smile a lot and make the changes that will allow you to start using your energies more wonderfully.

Also, please do know that your birth chart wants only the best for you. Any time of growth needs to be honored in some way. To leave this Mars Retrograde period without making some significant, personal change is to miss an opportunity to understand your chart and become more effective in

the process. In two years, when Mars goes retrograde again, similar themes will take place.

Let growth build in your life one transit after the other!

This way we avoid the falling of small stones that often turns into an avalanche!

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New Services For 2012

Each birth chart contains so many wonderful messages for us about all facets of our life! These messages have great meaning and in order to communicate the fullest extent of their meaning we simply need time. So often in an astrology consultation, we simply do not have adequate time to dive deeply enough into the messages of the birth chart. The three new services I am introducing address the need for either more time or greater focus of subject matter.

For 2012, I have two new services that narrow the subject matter so that we have adequate time to discuss each topic. And one new service that expands the amount of time we meet so that we can simply cover more information.

First, I am most often asked by clients questions related to **career** and **relationships**. What is my right work? When will I find true love? Our birth chart has much to say about these two topics. So, I decided to create two new services to focus solely on these topics so that they can be explored in adequate detail.

Career Consultation - Explore what your birth chart says about your skills and the career options that support the journey of your soul in this lifetime.

I am offering a Career Consultation, where we take a close look at the symbols in your birth chart that illuminate and deepen your understanding of the career you are meant to have in this lifetime. We often start out life doing what is familiar to us (most often from skills we have learned in past lifetimes). However, we are not meant to do the same work lifetime after lifetime and slowly over time we begin to question if another path would be more fulfilling.

Click here [for additional details](#) and please do let me know any questions you might have.

For existing clients, I am offering a \$15 discount on this service until March 31, 2012.

True Love Reading - Explore what your birth chart says about your path to finding true love in this lifetime.

Meaningful relationships are so essential! I am often asked, "When will I meet my Soul Mate/Prince Charming/Cinderella?". However, there is a more important question to ask. "What must I do to attract love in my life?".

As with any aspect of life, to find true love, we need to apply effort to achieve our goals. Fabulous relationships do not simply fall into our lap. So, we need to be open and honest with ourselves about the qualities of ourselves that support healthy and vital relationships and those that sabotage us. We need to hear what our chart says our partner or Soul Mate will want to see in us and so we can embrace this message and attract love into our life.

Click here [for additional details](#) and please do let me know any questions you might have.

For existing clients, I am offering a \$15 discount on this service until March 31, 2012.

Deep Soul Journey

Second, I am now offering two versions of my **Soul Journey Natal Chart Analysis**. One is the standard service I currently offer that is 75 minutes. The new service is a 2 hour service dedicated entirely to the birth chart so that we can simply cover more information and in greater detail:

- Core Approach to Life - aspects of your personality that you must honor
- Journey of the Soul - Deep exploration of Karma and past life dynamics
- Journey of the Soul - Deep exploration of Dharma and new themes for this lifetime
- Journey of the Soul - Deep exploration of Karmic fruition and the stressful aspects in your chart that must be re-experienced and seek resolution in this lifetime.
- Deeper exploration of each planet, plus the asteroids Chiron, Pallas, Vesta, Ceres and Juno
- Sabian Symbols - key Sabian Symbols, images clarify the journey of the soul
- Additional Minor Asteroids that fill in the missing pieces of both karma and dharma.

For existing clients, I am offering a \$25 discount on this service until March 31, 2012.

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Soul Mates

What is a Soul Mate? Well, simply, a Soul Mate is a partner whom you feel an overwhelming connection to and with upon first sighting. The strength of the connection comes from experiences gained in past life times.

Soul Mates have a joy of being together and a love of growing together.

Soul Mates do not assign roles as they live as a partnership, they don't ask the other what they plan to do today because they 'do' life together, they don't 'expect' because the main goal is to give, and the purpose is to continue the journey with joy and love!

Soul Mates in nature can instruct us about Soul Mates in human form where there is a perfect symmetry and balance between the two. However, they are not identical.

Most importantly, they grow together!



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Relocation Checklist & Tips

We gathered our thoughts about the process of checking out a location and the things to consider before you go, while you are there and after you return. Then, also thoughts about the actual relocation.

This will grow and change over time. Anyone who uses this and has feedback or suggestions, please do pass those along!

Check it out!

[Relocation Checklist](#)

Transformational Planetary Transits

Sappho wanted to share an article about Transformation related to the powerful transits of Pluto and Uranus!

Feel free to check it out if you wish!

Here is a link to the article on her "Sister Moon, Brother Sun" web-site:

[Transformation - Inside Out Change!](#)