

2016 – Navigating the Planetary Energies in the Year Ahead with Margaret Gray MSW D. Psych. Astrology

“You are what you do, not what you say you’ll do.”

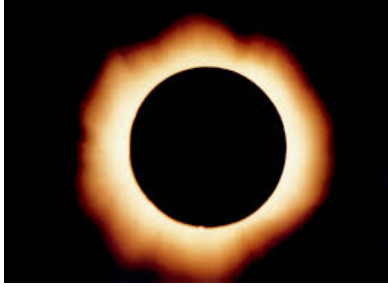
— C.G. Jung

Overall Theme for 2016: *Creating Core Structures based on Meaningful Service*



January – April:

As befits the end of one year and the start of the new one, January offers us a great opportunity to do some major clearing up of any residues from the past few years. What we are dealing with goes back to issues we were each faced with, within ourselves and on a collective basis in June 2012 when Uranus and Pluto first squared each other in the sky.^[i] In fact the deeper origins of all this stem back to when these two major planets sat next to each other in 1965. It is therefore well worthwhile taking a look at what was going on for you in 1965, particularly with Mercury retrograde in Capricorn until January 25,th lending itself to some thoughtful research! If you weren't born yet in '65, you can explore what was going on with your parent/s, family, community, home town etc. at this time. These energies continue until mid 2017 when Uranus and Pluto finally go their separate ways! In the meantime, this is an opportunity to review and regenerate whatever structures in your life are not working authentically on a soul level including your home, health, relationships, family, work etc. ^[ii] Total honesty and accountability, (not blame!), are warranted at this time, so that we all can step forward into the Spring, with far less unnecessary emotional baggage weighing us down.



March brings us the first Eclipse season of the year with a total Solar Eclipse in Pisces on March 9th. With 5 planets, plus the south node in the watery, emotional, imaginative sign of Pisces during March, the energies invite us to dissolve and release old patterns related with being 'a victim' so that we can embrace practical ways of being 'of service'. Interestingly this Eclipse falls exactly on Enda Kenny's North Node. The North Node in all our Birth Charts describes the key soul theme we are here to learn in this lifetime. The South Node at the opposite end, describes the skills and resources we bring with us from a previous lifetime. The Eclipse falling on this point for Enda, is a strong reminder to him to follow his Pisces North Node message of letting go and trusting, rather than trying to work things out in a logical analytical way for fear that chaos will descend! It is not surprising that his natal Pluto – the planet related to power – is also aspected in his chart by the Eclipse, as this is the last day the Dáil must be dissolved in line with coming elections that have to take place no later than April 8th! This is clearly going to be a significant time for the Taoiseach![iii]

May – August:

May also starts with Mercury Retrograde – this time in Taurus, inviting us to focus on our 'values', particularly our self-value. On June 17th Saturn the god of time and manifestation, squares Neptune the god of the oceans, for the second time. The energies of these two planetary deities have been dominating the skies since their first exact square on November 26th 2015 and will continue to do so until their last encounter in September. For more information on the full meaning of this transit and how to relate it to your life, feel free to read the free blog on my website at <https://astrologypsychological.com/blog-2/>

The invitation of these two planets is for us to manifest Heaven on Earth by grounding the reality of our oneness, on this planet of matter. At its most limited this configuration can manifest as divisiveness, between rigid intransigent belief systems. At its most expansive, it can manifest as heart centred actions on an individual and collective basis. The choice is always ours. The seeding moment for these energies was in 1989 when the Berlin Wall came down.



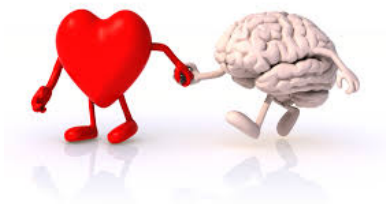
From March until the end of June 2016, these energies are further expanded by Jupiter in Virgo joining the configuration and reminding us of the importance of being of service. June 4th and 5th are particularly important dates as the light of the Sun and Venus in Gemini, link up with Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune. Forming a Grand Cross configuration in the sky, our attention is drawn to the creative power of our thoughts and how we communicate. From mid-April until December 2016, we will get a break from the harshness and somewhat erratic quality of the Uranus Pluto square.

On August 30th Mercury goes Retrograde once more, in analytical Virgo as we assess the past few months.

September – December:

September 1st brings the second Eclipse Season, starting with an Annular Solar Eclipse in Virgo, followed on the 16th by an annular Lunar Eclipse in Pisces – the latter will be visible in Ireland. Hence we are likely to resonate with it as a country.

On September 10th Saturn squares Neptune for the 3rd and last time. This last transit also involves the Sun, Mercury, Pluto, Mars Venus, Neptune and the North Node! Our invitation is to be of service to humanity and to the planet in our thoughts, speech and actions. Note that if you have planets and/or angles between 6' and 14' Pisces, Virgo, Sagittarius and/or Gemini, you will particularly resonate with this transit. The theme of 'service' continues to be emphasized in October when Saturn squares the Nodes, putting increasing pressure on us to create solid foundations for structures on the planet that are based on a heart and mind connection.



Some questions to explore in 2016:

1. What issues are coming to the surface from your current life, your childhood and possibly past lives that are demanding your attention? How might you heal and integrate these issues so that you can free any stuck energies within you and move forward in your life?
2. What unfulfilled dreams are surfacing and what initial foundations might you construct to fulfill them?
3. Where in your life and in what way are you of service to yourself, the rest of humanity and the planet?
4. What beliefs do you hold that you are ready to change?

Some tools that may be useful:

- Keeping a dream journal, particularly during the weeks before, during and after the exact Saturn Square Neptune Transit – June 17th and September 10th 2016
- Keeping grounded at all times – walking, gardening, dancing...
- Connecting with your soul family/tribe to feel supported in creating new structures in the world
- Being creative in whatever way brings you joy – writing, painting, knitting, drawing...
- Laughing!

Mercury Retrograde in 2016:

This year all the retrogrades are predominantly in Earth signs. This can cause some delays around the manifestation of thoughts and decisions which can be particularly frustrating if Mercury in your Birth Chart is in Air or Fire! Patience and attention to detail are very helpful at this time! It's best to wait until a week after the retrograde periods are over before signing any important documents!

- January 5th 2016 (Aquarius) – January 24th 2016 (Capricorn) – a good time to journal as you contemplate the core structures in your life.
- April 28th 2016 – May 21st 2016 (Taurus) – an excellent time to focus on what you truly value, including self-value.
- August 30th 2016 – September 21st 2016 (Virgo) – an ideal time to pay attention to the mind-body connection as related to wellbeing.

December 19th 2016 (Sagittarius) – January 7th 2017 (Capricorn) – a great time to look at your beliefs, particularly in relation to authority.

Eclipses and Key Words:

- March 9, 2016 – Total Solar Eclipse 18' Pisces 56 – Oneness
- March 23, 2016 – Annular Lunar Eclipse 3' Libra 17 – Balance and Fairness
- September 1, 2016 – Annular Solar Eclipse 9' Virgo 21 – The Mind Body Connection
- September 16, 2015 – Annular Lunar Eclipse 24' Pisces 20 – Imagination versus Logical thinking – (Visible in Ireland)!

Bio:

Margaret Gray MSW. D. Psych. Astrology, Certified Family and Workplace Mediator

Margaret is based in Dublin, with a foot in Hawaii! She offers Birth Chart readings for Individuals, Couples and Children in person and online. Margaret runs the Astrology Ireland monthly Meetup group as well as teaching workshops and classes online and in person. Further information at graymgt@gmail.com Tel. 085 8144135

[i] Although the final exact square was in March 2015, they are back within a degree of each other from Dec 31st to February 24th 2016.

[ii] Notice where these transits have fallen in your chart – this will give you great insights into the areas that may benefit from some changes

[iii] The effects of Eclipses can be felt several months prior to the Eclipse and for at least 6 months after the Eclipse when it falls on a personal planet, angle or node in the natal chart – as in the case of Enda Kenny this year.