

♋ Roaring into the Age of Aquarius ♋

By Mark R. Reinhart

First, please allow me to apologize to all of my well established, long practicing astrologer friends. I am just delving into this art and appreciate all that you've given me in the way of assistance and encouragement and look forward to your comments, criticisms and suggestions.

For those new (as am I) to the discipline of astrology, there is far more depth than simply reading your daily horoscope. Regardless of your exposure, you have more than likely heard about 'The Age of Aquarius.' I'm pretty sure that I'm safe in asking, 'Who hasn't?'

Here's a brief summary of the whole 'Age of' thing in Astrology: In the same way we progress through the Twelve Signs of the Zodiac in a yearly cycle, there is also a cycle which spans a far greater period of time, approximately 26,000 years! This is referred to as 'The Great Year.' However, in this cycle of progression, we move through the signs in reverse order. Normally, Aries is considered as the first sign of the yearly progression (0° of Aries being the Vernal Equinox – First Day of Spring), Taurus being the second, Gemini the third, and so on. This order is reversed in the Great Year cycle of ages. The cycles of the Great Year therefore begin with Pisces and next moves to Aquarius, proceeding through the signs, ending at Aires. But what needs to be taken into consideration, as with our normal view of the signs of the zodiac, is each sign's polarity. This is the application of yin and yang when thinking of the energetics of the signs of the zodiac.

NOTE: If you're interested in a detailed, and in my opinion, very good explanation of The Great Year and astrology as a whole, look into "Alan Oaken's: Complete Astrology – The Classic Guide to Modern Astrology" available through the Three Pure Rivers Amazon Store. Look in the 'Chinese & Other Oracles' section.

The sign pairings are as follow: Aries/Libra, Taurus/Scorpio, Gemini/Sagittarius, Cancer/Capricorn, Leo/Aquarius and Virgo/Pisces. Trying to understand an individual sign without taking into consideration its polarity would be like trying to differentiate between yin and yang; each has its own individuality but form an interwoven pair. Just to give you a little perspective, here's a little history on a few of the previous ages so you can get the idea:

There is no specific day, date or time that we can say, "Okay, now it's officially the Age of Taurus," so these dates are rather general. The Taurean Age (whose polarity is Scorpio) is dated

4220 BC – 2160 BC. Taurus is a Fixed Earth sign and represents the establishment of civilization and the need to settle with a sense of community. Cultivating the soil, rising above the sense of individual tribal identities and merging natural resources with humanity is the energetic of Taurus. When combined with its polarity, Scorpio, a Fixed Water sign associated with death, secrecy and regeneration, we have the formula for the establishment of one of the greatest early civilizations - Egypt.

The next of the progression of the Ages of the Great Year was the Arian Age (2160 BC – 1 AD – the last in the Great Year cycle). Aries being a Cardinal Fire sign gave rise to a more war and conquest oriented approach to civilization. Think of the Roman Empire and the spreading of its civilization through the strength of its legions. The polarity of Aries is Libra, a Cardinal Air sign. This Libran influence initiated (Cardinal) the need for justice and the establishment of laws of social conduct and civil order.

We move next to the Piscean Age (1 – 2160 AD), and the beginning of the current Great Year cycle. (Remember, we are moving in reverse order of the signs of the zodiac). Traditionally, Pisces (Mutable Water) is the last sign of the twelve-sign cycle, Aries being the first. So here Pisces begins the next 26,000 Great Year cycle. The Piscean Age was linked to the birth and teaching of Jesus as an awakening of the Spiritual dynamics of life and humanity. Much of the groundwork for this awakening was put forth in the previous Arian Age with the presence of other 'children of light', Buddha, Lao Tzu, Confucius, etc.

The teachings of Jesus inspired a view of spirituality and an approach to the understanding of higher wisdom which propelled humanity into this new Great Year cycle. This heralded the awakening of 'higher truths' on the personal level (the Age of Aquarius to expand this awakening to humanity as a whole). It is not a surprise that the fish was emblematic of the teachings of Jesus, and references to fish are to be found throughout Christianity. Individual spiritual awakening was the gift of the opening of the next Great Year. The polarity of Pisces is Virgo (Mutable Earth). The Virgin (Virgo depicted as the virgin holding a stalk of wheat) birth of Jesus; Jesus feeding the multitudes with fishes and loaves. Possible parallel of the transition between the Arian and Piscean Ages via Jesus could be his representation as both the 'Lamb' and 'Fish?'

In considering the Virgo polarity to Pisces we see the organization of spirituality through religion as the church began to structure the newly presented teachings. Virgo's tendency is to organize, be of service and approach things meticulously.

So you can see that, as with everything that exists in this incarnation of ours, there is a polarity and nothing exists independently; which brings me to the Age of Aquarius and the energetics that are swirling around these days.

Time to examine the next step in our movement as eternally evolving beings: The Age of Aquarius. Have we moved into, quoting a song that probably the majority of you will be hearing the melody while reading the lyrics:

*“... harmony and understanding,
sympathy and trust abounding,
no more falsehoods or derisions,
golden living dreams of vision,
mystic crystal revelation,
and the mind’s true liberation...”*

Hmm, are we sensing this energetic in today’s society? Might be a little hard to see these days.

Let’s look at some of the cast members in this play of the ages:

- Aquarius, its ruler Uranus and co-ruler in some traditions, Saturn
- Leo and its ruler the Sun
- Saturn playing another role with Sagittarius
- The North and South Nodes of the Moon
- Generational Aspects

Aquarius, the 11th sign of the zodiac known as the water-bearer, displays the persistence of its Fixed nature combined with the intellect and communication of its Air quality. There is an unorthodox and unique avant-garde approach to this sign, although with a stubbornness that sometimes displays itself unexpectedly in views on the greater good and what is ‘best’ for all. This is a sign that is concerned for the greater community of humankind, but at the same time can express an inflexibility that appears contrary to that ‘greater good.’

The next actor in our drama is the ruling planet of Aquarius, Uranus (Saturn in older traditions).

Spontaneity, change (sometimes rather abrupt), unconventional originality, impulsive are some of the energetics of this outer, or transpersonal planet that was discovered by Sir William Herschel at Bath, England, in 1781. Uranus is one of the later additions to the ever evolving discipline of astrology. The other ‘new arrival’ planets (so far) are Neptune, whose discovery was accredited to John Couch Adams of Cambridge, England and Jean Joseph LeVerrier of Paris,

France in 1846, and Pluto discovered by Clyde W. Tombaugh 1936 giving the credit to Percival Lowell who began his work on what he referred to as 'Planet X' in 1914.

The ancient system of astrology used only what was visible: Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. This formed a rather convenient system of seven which could be applied more easily to daily life, e.g. seven days to the week.

What are referred to by some as the 'transpersonal planets', were incorporated into the system and, along with their own unique characteristics, interpreted as higher 'harmonics' of the known planets, i.e. Uranus being the higher harmonic of Mercury, Neptune the higher harmonic of Venus and Pluto the higher harmonic of Mars.

How appropriate that the first new arrival to shake up the long standing system would be Uranus with its energetic of being the destroyer of old ideologies, intuitive faculties and sixth sense. The bohemian, hippie, beatnik, revolutionary, anarchist and humanitarian help craft the Uranian image and depict the energetics of Uranus.

Now let's take a look at the Aquarian polarity, Leo. Self-assured, regal, a center of attention (or at least in their own minds), loyal and devoted are some of the aspects of the 6th Sign of the Zodiac. Some may view Leo as a leader with a rather large ego and a tad spoiled if things don't go their way. There may also be a tendency to over-play your role, be a little too expressive especially when it comes to emotional displays and reactions.

Which brings us to Leo's ruler, the Sun. The epitome of vitality and individuality and source of all life-giving energy, the Sun is undoubtedly the shining star (pun intended) of our universe. Shining light onto all things, nourishing all, denying none of its radiance, the Sun provides energy for growth, but this growth always needs to be tempered by the structure of our spirit. We all know the ramifications of uncontrolled growth, as in the case of cancer. It's no wonder that the brightest star in our universe was chosen to act as ruler for the most regal and stellar sign of the zodiac.

We now explore some of the supporting cast members in our celestial drama. This brings us to Saturn which is often referred to as 'The Great Malefic', a reference that can conjure up the concept of evil. The reference to evil, in my opinion, is one that needs to be reexamined from more of a polarity perspective. I rarely, if ever, use the terms 'positive' and 'negative' in my teachings, because, after all, what is the difference? What may seem like a negative experience

may, down the road, turn out to be one of the best things that ever happened, and vice versa. One of the lessons of Saturn is the understanding of the wisdom that can be acquired through the passage of time. Saturn represents discipline, limitations, discernment, concentration, severity, detachment and a self-discipline that can lead to the liberation of the soul and structure. Sometimes referred to as the Lord of Karma, Saturn can reinforce the lessons of accountability through this understanding of time. You reap what you have sown, 'he knows if you've been bad or good...' Saturn reminds you to examine and reexamine what you know, believe in and trust along with the way you approach your life.

The final actor in our play is Sagittarius, the Archer, the 9th Sign of the Zodiac. Sagittarius is Chiron (the wounded healer) the most cultured of the centaur race. Half-man, half-horse he was a teacher, healer and philosopher. Chiron was accidentally killed by a poison arrow from Hercules and placed in the sky as tribute. The philosopher, education, expansive (Sagittarius is ruled by Jupiter), travel in higher thought and wisdom are all aspects of Sagittarius.

Much of the stage had been set for our transition in the Age of Aquarius in the 60's and 70's as an entire generation was born under planetary alignments of the slower moving planets and the aspects, or angles of influence they created. I'm not going to elaborate on these at this point as there is plenty of info out there if you care to look into this further. The main generational influences occurred for people born in the early 50's through the late 60's and involved trines and squares of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. But enough astrology (for now)!

So putting this all together for you, bottom line is that I think we have already moved into the Age of Aquarius but are doing so via its polarity of Leo.

The individual spiritual awakening set into motion during the Piscean Age set the stage for the natural development of spirituality on the communal and global level through Aquarius. We are in the infancy of this stage, and growing pains are painfully evident. Aquarian/Uranian nature is for communal/societal change, sometimes radical, often times chaotic, but cerebral and intuitive nonetheless. The internet, telecommunications, and how technology has become so firmly entrenched in our society are natural manifestations of the influence of both Aquarius (a Fixed Air sign) and Uranus. The influence of Saturn plays a dual role as one of the original and now shared ruling energies of Aquarius and an additional role it is playing via its current position in Sagittarius – more on this shortly.

However, the influence of Leo and its insistence on things being how they want them to be, or in their minds, how they think things should be, combined with a stubbornness that often results in a stalemate potentially damaging the very things they are trying to protect. There is an aspect to Aquarius in this respect via Uranus and Saturn, but the dynamic of Aquarius is more external community oriented as Leo is more about the individual.

We have the polar dynamics of Aquarius and Leo tugging at each other as we make in inevitable transition into the next age. My contention is that we will not be able to evolve into the unified community as is the promise of the Age of Aquarius until we transcend the self-centered nature of Leo.

As mentioned earlier, Saturn is playing a role in our Play of the Ages. Currently (as of December 23, 2014 and until December 20 of 2017), Saturn resides in the Mutable Fire sign of Sagittarius (philosophy, education, religion, higher truths, etc.). Saturn, the “Great Malefic”, “Lord of Karma”, planet of limitations, testing, discipline and discernment and that which challenges your beliefs, is causing many things in our time to be examined and re-evaluated: religion, politics, personal beliefs. Do you really believe in the things you espouse? Is politics as it stands functional? Does religion provide the solace we’ve been told it does?

Look back over the past 2 years and see if you have gone through any personal ‘testing’ in different aspects of your life and beliefs. I know I have!

Saturn poses the question, but this does not necessarily mean that everything needs to be scrapped and started from scratch. This is a point that I feel is being missed during our time of extreme polarity. Softening of self for the greater good is our saving grace if we are to reap the promise of the Age of Aquarius.

Many of the people alive today were born under the generational influence of the outer planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. I don’t want to overload you with astrological info, but I do want to give you enough that, should you want to pursue this further, you will have the pertinent data to do so. The main influences were the generational aspects that occurred between Neptune, Uranus and Pluto that spanned roughly births from 1936 through 1959. Divided into three groups: The 1st group 1936-1942 had a trine (120° angle) between Neptune in Virgo and Uranus in Taurus; the 2nd group 1942-47 had the trine between Neptune this time in Libra and Uranus now in Gemini; and the 3rd group 1951-59 had a square (90° angle) between Neptune in Libra and Uranus in Cancer for the first part of the period and then

Neptune moved into Scorpio and Uranus moved in Leo. Enough Astrology! See the note below if you are intrigued to learn more.

Note: I once again encourage you to read Alan Oaken's description of the progression through the ages and his discussion on planetary aspects at the heart of our current societal state: (The Cusp of the Ages – pages 528-537 of "Alan Oaken's: Complete Astrology – The Classic Guide to Modern Astrology" available through the Three Pure Rivers Amazon Store. Look in the 'Chinese & Other Oracles' section)

A self-centered approach to just about everything permeates today's society. An insistence of being correct (Leo) at the exclusion of conversation (Aquarius) has paralyzed our world. The irony is that all sides of the discussion are concerned with humanity moving forward, but all sides are insistent on their view being correct. Stalemate! However, from the Chinese medical perspective, any form of stasis eventually produces heat and will build toward its eventual and necessary resolution.

There is one more factor to think about. This is from the Joytish (Hindu) tradition of Astrology and has to do with the North and South Nodes of the Moon. The Nodes are not planets but rather points of contact between the elliptic of the Sun and Moon. They have correspondences to two Hindu deities The North Node – Rahu and the South Node – Ketu. Referred to as the Dragon's Head (North Node) and the Dragon's Tail (South Node) these represent things you bring into this incarnation to develop (North Node) and the things you need to release (South Node). That is a very basic explanation, but the reason I added this to my discussion here is because the Nodes, always in opposition, 180° across from each other in the celestial circle, as of April 28, 2017 moved into, you guessed it, Aquarius (South Node) and Leo (North Node) and will be there for approximately 18 more months! I'll let you ponder the inclusion of the Nodal factor!

Note: For more on the Nodes read: "The Moon's Nodes: A Churning Process of the Soul by Agneta K. Borstein available through the Three Pure Rivers Amazon Store. Look in the 'Chinese & Other Oracles' section)

Saturn will be moving out of Sagittarius on December 20, 2017 ending the two year period of examination, assessment and reassessment (Saturn gave a few retrograde periods allowing us to review our tests). Have we learned anything during these two years? I know I have! More importantly, are we ready to act on what we have learned? I know I have.

In conclusion I just want to encourage everyone to understand the potential for growth and expansion we as a society, and humanity as a whole, have at this moment in time. Pay attention

to the compassionate universe that I think is rooting for our success, but is ready to hold us accountable for our actions. The Universe operates very predictably if you are astute enough to 'pay attention'. Take into consideration the vastness of the expanses of time that has brought us to this point and embrace the simultaneous significance and insignificance of humankind.

We can embrace the promise set forth by the divine energies that have propelled the wheel for countless eons and cycles long before there was any conscious awareness of eons and cycles, or we can opt to allow an ego-based self-centeredness to bring about the destruction of all that has gone before.

In retrospect, if the later is the selected option, sadly it won't be the first time, but hopefully it will be the last that humanity would have failed to expand on the precious gift it has been given.

'And life flows on within you and without you'

Blessings and be well

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