

# Goodtime Oatmeal Astrology

## Month of January 2011

*by Joseph Banks*

Tradition, material wealth, and status are Capricorn concerns. The mountain goat climbs the rocky crags with careful attention to each stepping-stone. Bravery is a response to fear. Capricorn courage conquers feelings of inadequacy and works to carefully extend personal limitations by the studious application of limited resources. It is a deeply spiritual thing to achieve practical life goals by conquering the fear that we may not be quite good enough.

The qualities of each sign balance each other out. The mystic may frown on Capricorn's earthy pragmatism and its reputation for being stern. However, the successful life often demands discipline, hard work, and a realistic assessment of our failures as well as our victories.

Capricorn rules the skeleton, which supports the sinews and sets limits to the body's expansion. Capricorn also governs the knees, which bend and work to propel us up the ladder of personal growth. This is an action oriented earth sign with a rich sensual nature. The sensuality is frequently held in reserve, however, for "Work before pleasure," is the Capricorn rule.

Of my two incorrigible Spirit guys, Roi and Le Roi, Roi is the Capricorn. Yesterday he was helping me rewire an old ceiling fan while I stood on the floor playing hold the ladder and hand up the tools man. Roi is a grumpy old goat, and after several minutes of silence I chatted up to him, "Hey; how many Capricorns does it take to change a ceiling fan?" "This is no time for silly jokes." He grunted, "Hand me that screwdriver." Later that evening, Le Roi seduced Roi into riotous Tequila drunk with a couple of my transsexual friends from Puerto Rico. They put my old VW van into an icy ditch just a half mile from my house.

How Capricorn, I thought. There's a definitely serious side to the Sea Goat. No other sign is more aware of the value of time. The Capricorn nature is closely tied to its ruling planet, Saturn, known to the Greeks as Chronos, or Father Time. It is no accident that Capricorn rules the turning of the New Year. Intimately aware of the march of the mortal self towards death, Capricorn strives to achieve much in this lifetime.

No other sign strives so much, for no other sign is as sharply aware of the march of the mortal self toward the eventual dissolution of the body and the rebirth which follows.

While Scorpio focuses on death's mystery and the transformation beyond, Capricorn looks more to the present life and what may be achieved.

The Saturn/Capricorn qualities within each of us must be employed for the positive changes to manifest. Persistence, patience, diligence, courage, and discipline lead to success now. Hasty actions and an undisciplined lack of endurance go unrewarded. We must go deep and pull up our blockages to personal growth by the very roots.

Well, I guess I should say Happy New Year; but then I said that last year and look what happened. To quote Aragorn, son of Arathorn before the battle of Helm's Deep, "There is always hope."

If you're looking for an ordinary astrological column with nice platitudinous descriptions giving each person by their astrological sign pleasant and hopeful images of the future, go pick up a newspaper or some fluffy new age rag with pictures of angels on the cover. There is an easily overlooked astrological alignment happening on January 4<sup>th</sup> which will effect us all strongly in the coming year and will indeed be the harbinger of a new 15 year cycle of unexpected changes.

There is a Solar Eclipse at 4:03 AM EST on January 4<sup>th</sup> and on the same day Jupiter forms an exact conjunction to the planet Uranus in the watery depths of Pisces. A number of other minor aspects occur on this day. In order to avoid information overload, I'll pass over them, except to say that the planet Venus is highlighted in a duplicitous manner while transiting the sign where she is the most debilitated, Scorpio. The Solar Eclipse coincides with the New Moon at 13 degrees of Capricorn. All New Moons initiate new beginnings.

The combination of these several alignments is really very hard to predict. It is likely that both fortunate and not so fortunate events will occur in the first week of January. On a personal level there will be a strong urge to change our lives for the better. These changes will require that we be bold enough to embrace new ideas. The ideas will be structured into belief systems according to the predisposition of our various personalities.

Some of us will experience spurts of personal growth where our higher sensory perceptions become clearer. Synchronicity will be popping off all around us and if we follow our hunches, we will be guided to a higher broader perspective. However, this new growth may require that we release some old beliefs or relationships which have been limiting us.

This complex alignment will coincide with a number of significant advances in modern science. Many of us will be attracted to new philosophies that we hope will bring us greater understanding. There will be strong feelings of optimism. The idea of personal freedom, not only for ourselves but for the global community, will be paramount. The

world's populace will fragment into various splinter groups, each expressing their own particular ideas of how this freedom may be achieved. Religion will be a formative factor in many of these groups and there may be a surprising increase in strongly held fundamentalist attitudes. New and alternative spiritual beliefs, identifying themselves as being the cutting edge of a "New Emerging Paradigm" will make great optimistic claims.

Conjunctions and Solar Eclipses always indicate new beginnings. This new beginning will initiate itself with much confusion and will take more highly structured, various forms throughout the entire year and even into the year 2012 and beyond. Many well-intentioned but poorly informed people will proclaim the rise of a new level of planetary consciousness. Those movements and charismatic individuals whom freely promote ideas of a "Critical Mass" of conscious evolution being reached, or those who proclaim a new sense of galactic community will be the most easily detected frauds or simply well-intentioned but misguided people.

Throughout the year, unforeseen changes effecting global economics and the balance of power on our little blue/green planet will occur in unexpected spasmodic bursts. The prevailing intention, although frequently misguided, will be to bring a new sense of freedom, peace and prosperity to all. We are coming upon a time when we will soon see how the mighty have fallen. Individuals who live simply and close to the land will have not far to fall and will be the least affected.

This is a time of great opportunity for change. However, there are a few bugs in the butter, and perhaps a mysterious "Ghost in the machine." Changes that arise from the murky depths of the water of Pisces are often associated with strongly felt but dimly perceived changes in the emotional tone of the collective unconscious. Being human, we all have our misperceptions. For example, ask 100 people on the street at random how we should go about fixing the current difficult state of affairs involving the unstable global economy and the disastrous effects of environmental rape wherein about 50 unique species of life become extinct every day. The resulting ignorance and or plethora of solutions presented to you are a good representation of the type of confusion we find in the collective unconscious.

Lets briefly describe a few more of the possible effects of this very difficult to predict but powerful alignment. The global stock markets may go wildly haywire. The Dollar may be drastically devalued. A sudden lurch in the tectonic plates may occur; I don't know where, but the Pacific Rim, or "Ring of Fire" is a good guess. Tsunamis. A shift in global power, involving coalitions of European, Asian, Opec, and South American nations, with the USA uninvited. Extreme weather patterns will continue. These are just possibilities in the year ahead. This is getting dark and troubling for me. Lets leave this subject, although there is much more to say.

January's Full Moon occurs on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:21 PM EST @ 29 degrees Cancer. Full moons are a time of culmination and a focusing of forces already set in motion. Decisions will be forced upon us involving financial and relationship issues. The focus will be on relationships.

The Sun enters Aquarius on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Aquarius is usually, but not always, less conservative than Capricorn. We find a compelling drive to do something to make our lives seem socially relevant.

Jupiter strides boldly into Aries on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will be after this date that most of what I have "guessed" about the Jupiter/Uranus/Solar Eclipse alignment will begin to come to light.

Key words for Capricorn are: ambitious, responsible, practical, efficient, patient.

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