



GOOD TIME OATMEAL ASTROLOGY

Month of July

Cancer is the fourth sign of the zodiac and the first water sign. It is ruled by the Moon, and the similarities between the qualities of the sign and its ruling planet are many. Cancer is the nurturing, mothering principle. It is much about *feeling*. Specifically, Cancer represents the feeling of belonging to something, of coming from some source. The home (especially the kitchen), the mother, one's ancestry, one's country, one's tribe or clan, are Cancer issues. All these anchor one in the sense of security which represents, on its most fundamental level, our connection with the roots of the Self.

Socially, Cancer represents the patterns that support others, nurturing children, caring for the needy. Without Cancer the world would be coldly functional, rational, but dead. People with planets in Cancer are usually empathic, gentle, and a bit hypersensitive to criticism, with moods which change as often as the waxing and waning Moon. It's an excellent sign for chefs, antique dealers, genealogists, and psychic sensitives. I know a number of Cancer men, and a few women, who are especially appreciative of the full busted feminine form. This correlates to Cancer's association with the pleasure and security the infant derives from the nurturing breast of the mother. Cancer is indeed a fertile, rich sign which fits well the archetype of the life-giving Mother Goddess.

The nourishing breast of Gaia swells in the ripening squash and melons and raspberries and strawberries and grains and oh what wonders Her green blood provides! The round belly of summer births us each anew to the warm dewy dawns of July.

Here is the Life and here is the Meaning. Here the sweet smell of clover hay with the whistle of ground hogs perching erect, while the lark explodes singing from the willow thicket to the Sun. Here is the reason I came to walk this sweet earth, one more time. Here is the Grace and the good wind and the speckled trout leaping as diamonds into the

light from dark shady pools. Here is the singing of the body lambent from creation's forge. Seeker, you need search no more. It is here, under your feet.

Love that green rich plump belly of High Summer bearing autumn's child! Love those white oaks and maples that stand shining. Love the white berry blossom and the black, black crow. Get intoxicated sucking into your lungs the rich syrup of this Blue Ridge. We swim in the fertile sea of one of the worlds only remaining temperate cloud forests! OK, I'll calm down now. Just kicking up my cloven hooves a bit.

Welcome to the hot dog days of summer, friends. One good thing about life here up in the Appalachians is that we are about 10 degrees cooler than the folks in the flatlands.

Last month the changing sky was fairly active with all of the inner, or personal, planets moving rapidly and changing sign. The same continues during this month of July. This is due to a complex but not uncommon astronomical phenomenon. When the inner planets are on the same side of the Sun as the Earth, their relative motion is increased. When the outer planets are on the same side of the Sun as we gaze down at our little Solar System, their relative motion sometimes appears to stop or move in the opposite (retrograde) direction as we view them from the standpoint of the little blue-green planet we live on. Astrology and astronomy are not two separate things. Astrology simply places a humanistic meaning or a grand design into the picture. Throughout the duration of history, the mathematical science of astronomy and the personal art of astrological interpretation stewed together in the same pot. It was only in the mid-eighteenth century that scientism became a sort of fundamentalist religion with its unproved primary assumptions not open to question. Since then astrology has been, unfortunately, seen as a sort of superstitious nonsense by many empiricists while fundamentalist religions have grown in stature despite the difficulties inherent within dogma. This has been largely due to the fact that the study of astrology (without the artifice of computer technology) demands a keen mind capable of such things as logorhythmic math with the ability to grasp planetary patterns from a three dimensional perception. This is evidenced in the fact that throughout human history, virtually all of the "paradigm changers" were avid practitioners of astrology. Pythagoras, Copernicus, father of the Copernican revolution in science, Johannes Kepler, with his new physics, were some of the greatest minds of western culture. Sir Isaac Newton was the next astrologer in line. It is said that he once responded to the Earl of Salisbury at a dinner for the queen when berated for his astrological essays, "Sir, I have studied the matter. You obviously have not." Albert Einstein kept his astrology studies discreet due to the climate of the times, but when questioned about them responded by saying, "I wanted to know what God was thinking when he made the universe." As I have devoted my life to the study of astrology, I dare not presume to stand on the shoulders of giants, however all serious astrologers today do walk in their footsteps.

So much for the past. Let's take a look at the coming month. Mercury continues to live up to his fleet-footed reputation by completing his transit of the sign of Cancer and entering Leo on July 9th. Mercury has to do with the way that we categorize our sensory perceptions by labeling and compartmentalizing the various elements of our sensory

experience. It's a very natural process, but we all do this in our own unique ways. Mercury is commonly associated with the basics of commerce. A rapidly moving Mercury can indicate highly solvent markets changing on a global scale. In its transit of Cancer, Mercury is often concerned with the security of our families. This can be expanded to the idea of national identity, as we perceive ourselves as "the family of the USA" for example. A strong sense of patriotism, for better or ill, can follow. An obvious example of this is the fact that most of the people involved in the Second World War had the planet Pluto in Cancer. Most of the fighting of this war occurred in Europe on the Eastern Front, called by the Soviet Union, The Great Patriotic War. Mercury in Leo is more involved in the individual expression of the will to create. There is also a tendency to take more chances and to seek prestige. On a more basic level, Mercury in Leo favors the performing arts and popular sports as well as other recreational activities. This can be a generous time, as Leo really wants the appreciation of others, and will go some distance to gain it.

Venus has been in Leo for most of June as we described last month. Born of sea foam and rising from the ocean of the collective unconsciousness to become the affectionate friend and romantic artist in each of us, she now begins to strive for perfection in pleasing the people we love as she enters Virgo on the 10th of July. Virgo is excellent at the application of specific techniques with the intention of blending beauty with utility. This is the mark of the artisan, the craftsman, the healer who attends a class to learn how to do their job better, while just perhaps being surprised by a romantic encounter. The simplest interpretation of Venus in Virgo is to say that people born under this sign will be more inclined towards peace, harmony, pleasure and romance.

The New Moon occurs at 3:41 PM EDT on the 11th. Solar Eclipses always occur on the day of the New Moon. There is a total Solar Eclipse, with the duration of several hours, peaking at 3:33 PM. This eclipse will be visible in the extreme Southeastern Pacific Ocean. The effects of eclipses have always been difficult for me to predict with any accuracy even though I've kept notes and studied them for more than 30 years. We can say that an eclipse intensifies events in the lives of people whom have any planets or angles of their chart, i.e., the Ascendant or Midheaven, near the degree of the eclipse. This occurs in the 20th degree of Cancer. If you were born between the 5th and the 15th of July of any year, this eclipse may be conjunct your Sun. The nature of all Dark Moon changes involves the symbolic process of death and rebirth. Something may be concluded at this time. It is an excellent time to put new ideas into action.

The Sun leaves Cancer and enters its home sign of Leo on July 22nd at 6:22 PM EDT. Leo is known for its extravagance, its dramatic actions, its thirst for the joyful and creative expression of the ego, its generosity, its need for respect and frequently its arrogance. It isn't difficult to enjoy the good side of fun-loving Leo as long as we consider them basically good dogs and let each dog have its day. The reward is measured in the Leonine desire to please and safeguard those who afford this sign an element of tolerance and respect. Not only members of this sign but anyone with the ascendant or planets in Leo can become a bit imperious. If needs be, just slap them down and you'll

see a wounded little child who was engaged in an inappropriate attempt to acquire your approval.

The Full Moon of July occurs at 9:37 PM EDT on July 25th and will be preceded by a striking blood red Moonrise over the ridge to the east. The Moon is in Aquarius while the Sun is in Leo. This Full Moon will stimulate activity in the Middle East and the Third World as the pressure cooker builds.

Saturn changes sign once only every two years or more. Saturn's recent transit through Virgo, with the attendant opposition to the planet Uranus, has coincided with a belt tightening economy worldwide as the emergence of new technologies (Uranus) struggles against the financial limitations of big business and the large segment of people on Earth who simply resist change (Saturn). The ringed planet enters Libra on the 21st and its effects will become stronger, more tangible, and easier to deal with.

If we apply our imaginations to the relative perspective from the Earth as we gaze out at the distant outer planets, we find that these planets tend to move forward, increasing in celestial longitude when our relatively fast moving Earth is on the opposite side of the Sun from them as seen from a bird's eye view of our solar system. Conversely, when the Earth passes through the area of its smaller concentric circle which is closer to the outer planets, we find that we are moving through the sky at a faster rate than these distant planets. This relative perspective is what presents us with the ostensibly confusing statement that such and such a planet is "in retrograde". The outer planet hasn't changed its direction or velocity at all. We are simply experiencing the same perceptions we have as we speed up to pass a slow moving truck on an interstate highway. The truck appears to be moving progressively behind us even though it remains at a constant rate of speed. For the past two years, the rare (every thirty odd years or so) opposition between Saturn in Virgo and Uranus in the last degrees of Pisces, has presented us with a series of multiple oppositions. Many well researched articles in reputable astrological journals have appeared speculating on the synchronistic effects of this phenomenon. From a global viewpoint, this alignment has been associated with at least two major events each time it has occurred. For example, about 35 years ago we signed the final peace treaty ending the war in Vietnam. Before that, there was the Second World War, and before that the First World War. As an aside, I've always wondered why they called it World War I unless they knew that there would be another similar conflict in the future. The occurrences of global conflict are always attended by volatile economic markets. Note that the Great Depression began roughly 35 years before the Second World War. The point is, we do live in interesting times. The fifth (!) and final opposition between these two planets is mathematically exact in the exact celestial longitude degree of the spring and fall Equinoxes (the prime degree of Libra and Aries, respectively) on July 26th. I've written at some length about this in my previous columns. Uranus, here, represents the need for change so that new ways of doing things on a grand scale can bring about a greater freedom of expression and lead to a more evolved level of global awareness. Uranus is transpersonal in its transactions and heeds not our petty egos. The French Revolution and the Bolshevik Revolution are examples of this. We witnessed humanity's inhumanity towards itself as a precedent to changes on a global scale. National

boundaries can change along with the boundaries of what society deems to be acceptable. Take for example, the end of the Victorian period, the Renaissance, and the possible legalization of the use of hemp as a global industry as it once was in the days of the old sailing clipper ships when all the sails, ropes and bundles of world trade were made of hemp. Saturn's nature is to prevent Uranian change and to maintain the existing status quo because people holding power believe, rightly or wrongly, that their security will be challenged by the disrupting effects of Uranus. It seems very difficult to harmonize these two drives as they express themselves in the global consciousness. I predict a higher degree of pressure in the Middle East driven by the imperialistic needs of multi-national corporations. We can count on the fact that people all over the world who are feeling oppressed will oppose these needs in possibly ruthless actions. According to Einstein's theory of relativity, we are all approaching the future at the speed of light; which is the only speed there is. The problems of the Third World are at the gates of our gated communities and on our doorsteps, whether we have the eyes to see them or not. The story of the cyclic up and down events of civilization goes on with little regard for the mob that is Rome.

Since the above is a more critical astrological alignment, I'll pass over the milder aspects of this month in order to address how we as individuals can successfully embrace the demands in our day-to-day lives. People under 30 may be inclined to cast off the old rules which society imposes. There is a need to embrace the unknown so that we may express ourselves in uniquely creative and authentic ways. However, there is also the demand that some basic structural bastions remain in order to consolidate a newly emerging consciousness which will be melded with technological advances and will surprise most of us while shocking many. Part of the problem to which solutions will appear is the fact that our technology is rapidly outstripping our humanity. Some leading physicists have speculated that this increasing gap is a direct coefficient to the rate at which we are approaching entropy. One example of this is the sad fact that the proper use of our English language is being replaced by anagrams and other colloquially convenient substitutions. OMG WTF is going on with u? LMAO!

For those of us who have navigated the first Saturn return, which completes itself around the age of 30, the issues will be slightly different. We will also need to embrace the unknown in order to survive in the New World. By the time we reach adulthood or our mid-life we have usually accumulated lots of stuff including strong bridge beliefs which supported us in the past but which now limit us in our ability to express our true selves with free and joyful spontaneity. We become more aware of the fact that death is ahead of us and nobody gets out of here alive. It is human to fear the unknown. This fear is being unfortunately grossly manipulated by the Plutocracy as the common folk are taught to fear that their next-door neighbor may be a terrorist, that the religion of Islam or perhaps the religion of Christianity is evil and "wrong." If we follow our impulses which lead to and coincide with a sense of joy and synchronicity, we are on the right track. It is indeed a frustration that youth is wasted on the young; for the young must become wiser while we of middle age and beyond must guard against crystallization and welcome the youth of a thousand summers that dances in our heart.

Next month, another bit of astrology history followed by risky speculations on the situation developing in the Middle and Far East. Also, some neat fly-fishing tips.

Key words for Cancer are nurturing, empathic, sympathetic, industrious, sociable, thrifty and protective.

New Moon, Solar Eclipse is on July 11th at 3:41 PM EDT @ 19 degrees of Cancer
Full Moon is on July 25th at 9:37 PM EDT @ 3 degrees of Aquarius