



Welcome! to the February 2008 issue of

THE RETURN

Newsletter for Aquarius Rising Astrological Consulting

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AQUARIUS

The Serpents of Knowledge

The Water Bearer



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***Positive Archetypes for Aquarius:**

The... Truth-sayer/Cassandra; Maverick/Nonconformist; Revolutionary;
Social Reformer; Genius/Inventor/Scientific Experimenter; Iconoclast;
Insurgent/Freedom Fighter/Rebel; Ally; Exile/Expatriate;
Scapegoat/Heathen/Heretic; Activist/Whistle-blower

***Negative Archetypes for Aquarius:**

The... Kook/Crank/Misfit; Iceberg; Flake; Pretender/"Missing Person"/Phony;
Sociopath; Criminal; Revenge Seeker; Antagonist; Anarchist/
Rabble-rouser; Mad Scientist/Inventor



AQUARIUS

Question Authority!

By Lark Bowerman

La verdad padece pero no perce.
Truth suffers, but it does not perish. Truth will endure.
— Latino proverb

ACCORDING TO THE CHINESE LUNAR CALENDAR

the New Year is now approaching. As the days slowly get longer, deep within the earth, forces of nature are beginning to activate, preparing for the springtime and a new beginning. According to the Pagan Calendar, the Witches' Sabbat - Candlemas on the Christian calendar - will soon be upon us with its powerful forces of inspiration opening the doorway for prophecy. To others this will just be Ground Hog Day, and let's hope to God s/he doesn't see its shadow. Anybody being born at this time of year, or with a strong Aquarian influence in their chart, is going to have a sense of identity infused with a knowing of something just beyond the grasp of what we presently perceive as a group. They may be like Cassandra, the prophetess who always foretold future events accurately but was never believed.

CAPRICORN HAS BUILT A POWER STRUCTURE —

Let's hope it was based on integrity. Let's hope they got it right. But even if they didn't, power is meant to flow, like water. Damns and blockages eventually silt up and water breaks out. It won't be stopped. Enter the Waterbearer. Fresh energy, new blood, the first hints of spring time. Are you beginning to get the picture? If change was something we were prepared for then probably it wouldn't be change.

With the Capricorn phase behind us and its reality testing, down-to-earth problem solving and stoic perseverance, we should by now have a sense of what the rules are and a clear understanding of what happens when we break them too.

RULES WERE MADE TO BE BROKEN

As a kid in missionary boarding school, I remember, as yet one more lapse of good behaviour happened, adults would shake their heads and say "Rules were made to be broken!" This, sarcasm, along with the Fundamentalist teaching that we are all born sinners, led me at that time to believe that I should believe that human beings were incapable of following rules and so had to be punished into it. Also, that all rules provided at the boarding school were not just good rules but perfect rules, ultimately reliable and never to be questioned for any reason.

A terrible split began to form inside of me, knowing that "perfection" and I were somehow never be going to be one and the same. Hearing that "God is love," only seemed to settle on the top of this feeling like an oil slick on a raging sea. By the time I got to my 13th Birthday, I had already begun to learn my first Aquarian lesson: In order to be able to survive with the slightest shred of self esteem, I was going to have to question the authority that had laid down these rules.

Time passed. My understanding of myself and the world began to change. I got to know as many different kinds of people as possible. I explored as many "isms" and religions

as I could “get my hands on.” Gradually, it began to dawn on me that every tribe has its rules. Every religion has its god/s who cannot be questioned. Authorities disagreed with authorities who disagreed with other authorities in an endless hall of shattered mirrors — rule followers breaking other rule followers’ rules... There was no source of “ultimate” knowledge any more reliable than my own direct experience. There seemed to be a better chance of finding some truth among those who could at least form their own questions.

seeker of truth

*follow no path
all paths lead where*

truth is here

— E. E. Cummings

TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU

Doesn’t it seem that humans have much more difficulty *breaking* rules they’ve been taught from a young age than they do following them? Upside-down. That’s truth. It comes from where you least expect it. It comes from the weirdos hanging out on the fringes of society, from the rule-breakers. Awe, come on, I don’t expect you to believe that. No, of course not; but it still could be true. It’s not aboriginals or animals causing traffic jams, oil spills, air, light and water pollution, World Wars, or species extinctions, is it?

No, it’s the civilized rule-followers. You know, the people living in square houses who, when they want to say that you don’t fit in, will call you a “square.”

Of course, not every rule is bad. You can’t build something, however unconventional, without some form of structure. Conformity is quite often a very useful behavior. “Look both ways before you cross the street” is not a bad idea. But there are a lot of rules that may not even have a sound practical reason behind them that we follow religiously just because it’s what everyone else is doing.

Keeping up appearances is not something that Aquarians do well.

In fact, there may be a problem if they do...

I heard a story about Queen Victoria of England. I don’t know if it’s true or not but it seems, from what I hear that period was like, it could be. The maxim, “Children should be seen and not heard,” was the order of that time. Anyway, there was an important royal dinner. Apparently, just as the Queen was about to take a bite of royal lettuce, one of her children broke the rule of silence by speaking out loudly suddenly. After being hushed up and staying quiet for the rest of the meal, they were finally asked what they had to say. Too late. There had been a royal worm on that royal piece of lettuce.

BUT I THINK IT’S THE UNSPOKEN RULES THAT ARE THE HARDEST ON FREE THINKERS

Try breaking this one: Everyone should own an automobile. Ai yai yai!!!! I have tried. (I'm an Aquarian Ascendant.) Here was my list of pros and cons. See if it's unreasonable?

PRO

- Get places faster (convenience)
- Be able to travel to outlying places
- Be able to carry musical equipment
- Easier to get to gigs/work

CON

- less exercise, fresh air, sunshine
- more bills for gas, oil, and repairs
- more pollution
- more destruction to environment caused by mining for metals
- greater impact of wars being fought for oil
- less support for local economy

After a year and a half in the outlying suburbs of Delta, BC, Canada without a car, "Get places faster (convenience)" won out. Speed, sheer speed. To do things in a way which, most of the time, makes my blood pressure soar; nevertheless, in civilized countries, this rule of owning an automobile is very difficult to break.

I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST CLOCKS AND WATCHES...

Or getting to places on time when it's really needed. We tell time from the stars. I'm an astrologer. Without an accurate birth time I can't do a chart for you. But it just seems that there's something about the *way we use time* that "has us by the balls" so to speak.

When I lived in Europe, I was very happy to see an ad in the newspaper by an activist group trying to "end the automobile age." They cited examples of cities which did not have automobiles that had a better economy because of it. They pointed out many instances of local economies and environments degrading miserably where automobiles had increased in numbers. Complete kooks, aren't they? Should we take this seriously at the moment? I mean we have time on this, right? Or will it be, "Oops, too late! The royal poisons on our royal lifestyle..." Or should we consider thinking for ourselves on this issue?

If everyone demanded peace instead of another television set, then there'd be peace.

— John Lennon 1940 -1980

NOT ONLY DOES AQUARIUS FOLLOW CAPRICORN IN THE ZODIAC,

it orbits opposite — placing tension against, and balancing — the sign of Leo, the monarch and performer. Aquarius will take center stage for the reasons quite different from the ones that either Capricorn or Leo do.

Read history. Do you know of one civilization yet that has lasted? I don't believe one Prime Minister, Monarch or Diva has yet proved to be immortal. There are hundreds of thousands of their bones lying in graves scattered across the planet.

Somehow, though, while the monarch holds sway, we have a very difficult time wiping the illusion of their immortality out of our vision as we vie for positions near them and all the favors that royalty and political power confers. Aquarius is here to remind us that this is not the whole picture. Aquarius is the one who sees the handwriting on the wall. Aquarius is the one who knows that the kingdom will inevitably fall and what will be the truth of that moment? Should you sacrifice all of your free time for a monarch who will one day be just

as dead as you will be? Should you give up your own precious life experience to think what someone else asks you to in return for a bit of approval? Couldn't you just as easily approve of yourself just the way you are?

You don't need anybody to tell you who you are or what you are. You are what you are!
— John Lennon

THOSE TWO WAVY LINES REPRESENTING AQUARIUS ARE NOT WATER

or lightning bolts as I used to think. They're snakes! Yeah, slithery, scaly snakes. Like the Horrible Creature who tricked the First Woman into disobedience in the Garden of Eden. That's right! But that's not all. They represent human freedom as well. They represent the part of us that can see clearly and choose for ourselves what is true and right for us. They're the part of us that is the will of God/Goddess or whatever you want to call it. Does it matter?

A Rose by any other name would smell as sweet.
— William Shakespeare

I believe in God, but not as one thing, not as an old man in the sky. I believe that what people call God is something in all of us. I believe that what Jesus and Mohammed and Buddha and all the rest said was right. It's just that the translations have gone wrong.
— John Lennon

INSTINCT TELLS US TO STAY CLOSE TO THE PACK

We ***are*** a pack animal, after all. Hunter-Gatherers have generally had a much better chance at survival when hanging out as a group. There's a much better chance of surviving a Tiger attack when there are others with you — but when's the last time you were hunting and gathering? Seen many Tigers around? Bears? I mean, not behind bars.

Seen many humans around lately? They seem to be surviving quite well! No, it's the ***tribe*** you'd better watch out for! The ***human*** tribe. They've made all other predators more or less obsolete.

THE TROUBLE IS THIS:

Usually when we even so much as think the thought of what our personal freedom might be, the shrieking of our own minds, trained to think of ourselves as the tribe's "good children," so pierces our ears that we have to stop and wonder if we just committed some unspeakable crime.

The even worse trouble is: this leaves us incapable of adapting to any situation never before faced by the tribe.

Try getting past your Mom and Dad with your thought, maybe even your sister or brother, your teachers???? Dare to speak your rebellious thought out in the open and you could risk imprisonment, beheading, being burned at the stake, banished — or maybe even the worst of all, you and your ideas could be trivialized into something of absolutely no importance — not even worth considering. You could have a very hard time finding work. Depending on how far outside the mainstream you are, you could end up on the street, homeless.

When I was a kid I remember reading the story of John Huss. The poor man was burned at the stake merely for saying that communion wine was not actually the blood of

Jesus Christ and the wafer was not actually, in physical fact, a piece of his flesh. Isn't that a stumper!

And poor Galileo Galilei! It's taken a few centuries for the church to agree that he wasn't wrong for having the nerve to suggest that the Earth travels around the Sun and not the other way around.

And John Lennon? What was his "crime?" He fought for peace. Worse yet, he was in love with (God forbid!) a Japanese woman. Worst of all, the two decided to put a nude photo of themselves as a couple on the cover of their music album. Can someone please tell me how this hurt anyone?

I'm not going to change the way I look or the way I feel to conform to anything. I've always been a freak. So I've been a freak all my life and I have to live with that, you know.

I'm one of those people.

— John Lennon

THE AQUARIAN MOTTO IS, "I'M NOT CRAZY, THEY ARE!"

The Aquarian has to dig their heels in. They have to *deliberately* be as stubborn as is humanly possible. After all, it's them against the tribe.

It's not all that long ago that we freaked out at the mention that the earth was round not flat... Do you think that these Aquarian types with their breakthrough information and ideas do us any good? You don't suppose there are new ideas, never before considered that could improve our understanding and our lives in some way. Or have we already seen and heard it all on TV.? Or on You-tube?

You gotta let your freak flag fly.

— Jimi Hendrix

We are born charming, fresh and spontaneous and must be civilized before we are fit to participate in society.

Judith Martin, (Miss Manners)

DIONYSUS, GOD OF WINE

Of course, Aquarians are human too and just as likely to get their lesson messed up as Capricorn or any other sign, for that matter. Where can this go wrong?

In Greek mythology, when things had gotten too uptight, when the boot of the dominator was coming down on the innocent, it was Dionysus who came with his intoxicating wine, to remind people of their personal freedom. ("Dionysus" would have actually made a better name for the planet associated with Aquarius, Uranus, who is actually a very conservative god. But then, astronomers are not so likely to consult astrologers or ask for their advice on these things.) In any case, the way it always went with Dionysus, was that once he came and liberated everyone from the shackles of rigid thinking, he was made the next ruler. Guess what! He inevitably turned out to be just as controlling as the last one had been. Yes, water that doesn't flow gets stagnant. It's back out to the fringes of society to find the free thinkers again.

THIS IS THE MUCH TOUTED AQUARIAN AGE...

There was the hit song, *Dawning of the Age of Aquarius*, made famous in the musical, *Hair*, in the 60's.

*When the Moon is in the Seventh House
And Jupiter aligns with Mars
Then peace will guide the planets
And love will rule the stars.*

— Words: James Rado & Gerome Hagni — Music: Galt McDermot

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THAT LOVE AND LIGHT???

The fact is, “shit happens.” We have free will. Astrology is not about predicting the future. It's about having some very good practical tools to make choices with — **BUT** — we're free to make all the bad choices we want. And we do. Some of us do. Some of us don't. You have to figure it out for yourself where you're at. Do you have a conscience or not? Astrology will never provide that for you.

If someone thinks that love and peace is a cliché that must have been left behind in the Sixties, that's his problem. Love and peace are eternal.

— John Lennon

The thing the sixties did was to show us the possibilities and the responsibility that we all had. It wasn't the answer. It just gave us a glimpse of the possibility.

— John Lennon

LIFE IS NOT A DRESS REHEARSAL

— as the saying goes. Waking up to that fact and choosing in the moment what is right for us, being willing to rebel against the tribe for our precious freedom to live our own life — that's what Aquarius is all about.

It's a tough road to travel. It can be far easier to seek revenge than to rebel and accept being looked at forever as a freak or accepting the role of the exile. It can be far easier to do what so many teen-agers do — stage a ritualized rebellion, going along with the current fad of their age group — be it wearing all black, chains, purple hair, listening to louder than loud music, having pierced ears, noses, belly buttons, whatever, tattooed anything — just to antagonize their parents, but then proceed to live day to day life in much the same rut they criticized their parents for. What about quitting eating sugar? What about having the courage to do something for the environment? Couldn't do *that!* That would mean actually changing...

Or it can be easy to take that well-established and smooth-trodden route of the avante garde. Same cop-out.

Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.

— George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)

To know what you prefer instead of humbly saying 'Amen' to what the world tells

you you ought to prefer, is to have kept your soul alive.

— Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 - 1894)

IF CHANGE WAS SOMETHING WE WERE PREPARED FOR, THEN WE WOULDN'T NEED...
TO CHANGE

*As soon as you're born they make you feel small
By giving you no time instead of it all
Till the pain is so big you feel nothing at all.*

— John Lennon

The truth is, because “the pain is so big we feel nothing at all,” is exactly why we often don't have any idea who we really are. It tends to come as a shock, as something welling up inside of us from the depths of our subconscious. Something that some “weird freak” tells us about. It takes being *really astute*. It takes really **noticing our feelings**. If we just avoid them and suppress them, we end up as an emotional iceberg that nobody can ever really get close to; just a pleasant “nanny” who just goes along with everything, occasionally betraying ourselves with a strange quirk or two when our real colors show through by mistake. I think of US president, and Aquarian, Ronald Reagan as one of the great nannies of all time. His colors showed through briefly when the press discovered that his wife was into astrology, but beyond that, he was for the most part, the perfect puppet of special interests. Just another empty American figurehead.

Then there's the seriously opposite extreme of the “pleasant nanny,” the sociopath and the criminal. Here the anger against the established order has been suppressed for so long that all conscience is gone. There's no remorse for crimes against those dominators whom we have come to hate with full, unbridled passion.

If you want peace, you won't get it with violence. Please tell me one militant revolution that worked. Sure, a few of them took over, but what happened? Status quo. And if they smash it down, who do they think is going to build it up again, who do they think is going to run it? And how are they going to run it? They don't look any further than their noses.

If someone showed me one that worked, then it might turn me a bit. I'd say 'All right, that's the way to do it, then turn the place upside-down.' But there isn't one.

— John Lennon

*You can't separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace
unless he has his freedom.*

— Malcolm X (1925 - 1965), *Malcolm X Speaks*, 1965

And in the scientist/inventor category of this archetype, there's America to think about with its Aquarian archetype Moon. (Yes, countries can have an astrological chart.) Is there any other country more full of inventions? Some of them good, or at least astonishing, many of them absolutely useless — junk food, for example. Just because the ads scream at us that a product is “NEW!” doesn't mean that it's good. Mad scientists program “planned obsolescence” into our products every day and advertisers pursue us relentlessly with absolutely confident advertising, convincing us that they are truly “top quality!”

Crazy, that's all you can say about it. Seriously **BAD** craziness — because this sign has **GOOD** craziness too. Many of the witches burned at the stake during Renaissance times in Europe were quite likely just good old herbalists and midwives serving their communities well. They just happened to be in the way of corrupt political forces grabbing up land and power. Do you think that true witches who can actually *heal* people are ugly old women with a wart on the nose (always the wart, eh?), wearing pointed black hats — or do you suppose this image of them is the product of propaganda. **Think twice!**

Our society is run by insane people for insane objectives. I think we're being run by maniacs for maniacal ends and I think I'm liable to be put away as insane for expressing that. That's what's insane about it.

— John Lennon

THINK TWICE

is what Aquarius always asks us to do. Perceive what the tribe has taught you. Take from it what is good and useful. But then, think again. Consider what is just useless, memorized routine. Ask yourself if it is true, or necessary or even kind.

THINK FOR YOURSELF.

JOHN LENNON DID NOT HAVE AN AQUARIUS SUN SIGN

His Sun was in Libra the sign of the Lover and the Peacemaker. He did, however, have his **Moon in Aquarius**. The Moon represents the deep inner self and emotion. Lennon's brash Aries ascendant, his personal style, was always letting the cat — his rebellious Aquarian feelings — out of the bag. **Yoko Ono**, the love of his life, whom he found so emotionally satisfying to be with, is an **Aquarian Sun** sign with a Libra ascendant and Sagittarian Moon. The idea and some of the words of one of Lennon's most famous songs, *Imagine*, were, by his own admission, plagiarized from Yoko. Together, as you likely already know, they fought for peace in the most unlikely and creative and original ways imaginable.

Yeah, we all shine on, like the moon, and the stars, and the sun.

— John Lennon





Imagine

Imagine there's no Heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace

You may say that I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world

You may say that I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one

— John Lennon (and Yoko Ono)





IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW THIS

Forget about those one-size-fits-all horoscopes. Your unique chart is constructed from your personal birth data: **Exact time, date and place of birth.**

In the method of Evolutionary astrology that I use, the **Sun** sign represents our basic *sense of Identity*. The **Moon** sign represents our *inner, emotional nature* and the **Ascendant**, or **Rising** sign tells about our *personal style and how we interface with the world*. Sun, Moon and Ascendant are called the Primal Triad and are the foundation for understanding **your personal themes**. I consider the chart as a **WHOLE**. I also very carefully study the way the symbols are arranged in order to make **your personal life themes** clear.

You can find more information about Evolutionary astrology on my web site or email me and I'll happily answer your questions.

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SOME MORE WELL-KNOWN AQUARIANS

Roberta Flack 1937
(Sun, Moon, Asc.)

Oprah Winfrey 1954
(Sun)

Bob Marley 1945
(Sun)

Angela Davis 1944
(Sun)

Mozart 1756
(Sun)

Gene Hackman 1930
(Sun, Moon, Asc.)

Gertrude Stein 1874
(Sun)

Jules Verne 1828
(Sun)

Lewis Carroll 1832
(Sun)

John D. Rockefeller Jr. 1874
(Sun)

Jennifer Aniston 1969
(Sun)

Justin Timberlake 1981
(Sun)

Germaine Greer 1939
(Sun)

Shakira 1977
(Sun)

Paris Hilton 1981
(Sun)



*Many of the astrological archetypes in this newsletter are drawn from the book, *The Inner Sky* by Steven Forrest or from *Skymates I*, by Jodie Forrest and Steven Forrest. These books come highly recommended by me as well as many others. They are also available from Amazon or from www.sevenpawspress.com.

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