

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

Henry Seltzer

The Astrology of February and March features Venus and Mars with Neptune, Chiron and Uranus. Mars, still retrograde until March 10, remains a powerful factor in this period's astrology, made more so by slowing to nearly a halt in the first degree of Leo by the end of February as he prepares to station. A retrograde Mars means that we will have more time for reflection than for action. Or to put it another way, that to undertake any action now means that we will do so with greater difficulty than usual, and with an introspective flair, so that it is a better time for journaling than for accomplishments.

The most exciting news coming our way in each of these months takes place once again during the powerful mid-month time of the New Moon. In February the Aquarius lineup includes Neptune and Chiron in close conjunction and only a degree away from the New Moon degree, along with Mercury in the early degrees of Aquarius where it opposes Mars. The connection with Neptune/Chiron, and with Uranus by semi-sextile, brings the numinous and otherworldly experience of our highest imaginings and also of our deepest internal wounding much closer to the surface of our personalities. In addition, relationship concepts are stimulated and invoked, including the sex relation, since Mars in his retrograde is fully implicated in this powerful configuration.

A lighter side of this mid-February period emerges as Venus enters Pisces to join Jupiter, giving us an exalted vision of what beauty and love could really be were the simple and soulful desires of our deepest nature to be fulfilled. By month's end, when the Full Moon conjuncts Jupiter, a sense of optimism might prevail, if only for a little while, and encourage us to remain calm in the center of the storm of circumstance that is shaking up our entire culture.

The mid-month time of the March 15th New Moon is also powerful, and is accompanied by a Pisces lineup of five planets including the Sun, Moon, Mercury and Uranus in close conjunction, within a little more than one degree in all. Uranus, of course, represents the surprising enlightenment that can come in an instant when conditions suddenly alter and an "aha experience" changes our thinking in unexpected ways, and forever. Venus has also entered Mars' own sign of Aries by March 7th, just before Mars turns direct on the 10th, so that relationship is emphasized throughout this bi-monthly period of time.

Venus, with Jupiter in conjunction in early Pisces, is also involved with Mars at the time of the February 13th New Moon, when in a double-Yod forms to Mars and Venus. The New Moon accompanies an almost perfect inconjunct of both Mars and Saturn to Venus/Jupiter. Mars also forms an inconjunct to Pluto, creating two Yods or finger-of-God formations focused on Mars and Venus. What is therefore emphasized at this mid-month time is the concept of right relationship between men and women, and indeed for all of us between each other. This New Moon therefore represents an amalgam of both physical and non-physical energies, bringing in considerations from beyond this earthly plane. This is a powerful statement of the interaction of the numinous with the everyday life of the soul and the body - and within relationship.

Meanwhile, the new planet Eris, symbolizing a fierce feminine warrior energy, and residing in Aries, is almost exactly square the nodal axis. This New Moon, therefore, has its dark side, even though it takes place just a day before the Valentine's Day holiday. This mid-month period represents not a Hallmark greeting card view of love but something deeper and more mysterious - and ultimately more meaningful for our continued growth as individuals. Only when we get in touch with the darker sides of our own natures will we begin to heal the wounds of our modern separation from the instinctual part of ourselves.

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