



Rob Brezsnys's Astrology Newsletter
August 19, 2015
FreeWillAstrology.com

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If you'd ever like to make a contribution to me via Paypal, here's where to do it: bit.ly/TipsforRob

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My book *PRONOIA IS THE ANTIDOTE FOR PARANOIA* is available at Amazon: bit.ly/Pronoia or Powells: bit.ly/PronoiaPowells

Below are excerpts.

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YOUR ADDICTION

Your addiction is obstructing you from your destiny, and yet it's also your ally.

What?! How can both be true?

On the downside, your addiction diverts your energy from a deeper desire that it superficially resembles. For instance, if you're an alcoholic, your urge to get loaded may be an inferior substitute for and a poor imitation of your buried longing to commune with spirit.

On the upside, your addiction is your ally, because it dares you to get strong and smart enough to wrestle free of its grip; it pushes you to summon the uncanny willpower necessary to defeat the darkness within you that saps your ability to follow the path with heart.

(P.S. Don't tell me you have no addictions. Each of us is addicted to some sensation, feeling, thought, or action, if not to an actual substance.)

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SHADOW BLESSINGS

Life is a vast and intricate conspiracy guaranteed to keep you well-supplied with blessings. What kind of blessings? A gorgeous physique, perfect marriage, luxurious home, high status, and \$10 million? Maybe.

But it's just as likely that the blessings will be interesting surprises, dizzying adventures, gifts you hardly know what to do with, & conundrums that dare you to get smarter.

Novelist William Vollman referred to these types of blessings when he said that "the most important and enjoyable thing in life is grappling with a complicated, tricky problem that you don't know how to solve."

Sculptor Henry Moore had a similar idea. He said, "The secret of life is to have a task, something you devote your entire life to, something you bring everything to, every minute of the day for your whole life. And the most important thing is -- it must be something you cannot possibly do."

So in other words, pronoia does not guarantee that you will forevermore be free of all difficult experiences . . .

Read or hear the rest of this: bit.ly/xE2QXg

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If you'd like to see a recent photo of me and my extra special good buddy, go here: on.fb.me/1Nwvll4

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"Problems that remain persistently insoluble should always be suspected as questions asked in the wrong way." - Alan Watts

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LOVE TIPS

Hypothesis: The exciting qualities that attract you to someone in the first place may make you half-crazy if you go on to develop a long-term relationship.

That doesn't mean you should avoid seeking connections with intriguing people who captivate

...that doesn't mean you create cross-seeking connections with mingling people into separate your imagination. It does suggest you should have no illusions about what you are getting yourself into.

It also implies you should cultivate a sense of humor about how the things that rouse our most intense love and passion often bring us the greatest tests and trials.

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MORE PRONOIA RESOURCES:

Netflix announced that it's allowing employees to take unlimited maternity or paternity leave during the first year after their child's birth or adoption.

tinyurl.com/p87wd84

Episcopal church votes to divest from fossil fuels: "This is a moral issue." Warning of threat to human life, a Christian denomination commits to re-investing in clean energy following the pope's pastoral letter on the environment.

tinyurl.com/paja517

A professor figured out a way to use art to clean up polluted streams.

tinyurl.com/nla663s

(Note: I endorse these because I like them. They are not advertisements, and I get no kickbacks.)

Please tell me your own personal nominations for PRONOIA RESOURCES.

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

Week beginning August 20

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VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

"On or about December 1910, human character changed," wrote English author Virginia Woolf in 1924. What prompted her to draw that conclusion? The rapidly increasing availability of electricity, cars, and indoor plumbing? The rise of the women's suffrage movement? Labor unrest and the death of the King? The growing prominence of experimental art by Cezanne, Gauguin, Matisse, and Picasso? The answer might be all of the above, plus the beginning of a breakdown in the British class system. Inspired by the current astrological omens, I'll borrow her brash spirit and make a new prediction: During the last 19 weeks of 2015, the destiny of the Virgo tribe will undergo a fundamental shift. Ten years from now, I bet you will look back at this time and say, "That was when everything got realigned, redeemed, and renewed."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

"The greatest and most important problems of life are all in a certain sense insoluble," said psychologist Carl Jung. "They can never be solved, but only outgrown." I subscribe to that model of dealing with dilemmas, and I hope you will consider it, too -- especially in light of the fact that from now until July 2016 you will have more power than ever before to outgrow two of your biggest problems. I don't guarantee that you will transcend them completely, but I'm confident you can render them at least 60 percent less pressing, less imposing, and less restricting. And 80 percent is quite possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

Hundreds of years ago, Hawaiians celebrated an annual holiday called Makahiki. It began in early November and lasted four months. No one worked very much for the duration. There were nonstop feasts and games and religious ceremonies. Community-building was a featured theme, and one taboo was strictly enforced: no war or bloodshed. I encourage you Scorpios to enjoy a similar break from your daily fuss. Now is an especially propitious time to ban conflict, contempt, revenge, and sabotage as you cultivate solidarity in the groups that are important for your future. You may not be able to make your own personal Makahiki last for four months, but could you at least manage three weeks?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

Located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the Museum of Failed Products is a warehouse full of consumer goods that companies created but no one wanted to buy. It includes caffeinated beer, yogurt shampoo, fortune cookies for dogs, and breath mints that resemble vials of crack cocaine. The most frequent visitors to the museum are executives seeking to educate themselves about what errors to avoid in their own companies' future product development. I encourage you to be inspired by this place, Sagittarius. Take an inventory of the wrong turns you've made in the past. Use what you learn to create a revised master plan.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

"Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result." Virtually all of us have been guilty of embodying that well-worn adage. And according to my analysis of the astrological omens, quite a few of you Capricorns are currently embroiled in this behavior pattern. But I am happy to report that the coming weeks will be a favorable time to quit your insanity cold turkey. In fact, the actions you take to escape this bad habit could empower you to be done with it forever. Are you ready to make a heroic effort? Here's a good way to begin: Undo your perverse attraction to the stressful provocation that has such a seductive hold on your imagination.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):

"Everything I've ever let go of has claw marks on it," confessed the late, great author David Foster Wallace. Does that describe your experience, too? If so, events in the coming months will help you break the pattern. More than at any other time in the last ten years, you will have the

power to liberate yourself through surrender. You will understand how to release yourself from overwrought attachment through love and grace rather than through stress and force.

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MY OTHER HOROSCOPES

Factual information and reasonable thinking alone are not sufficient to guide you through life's labyrinthine tests. You need and deserve regular deliveries of uncanny revelation.

One of your inalienable rights as a human being should therefore be to receive mysteriously useful omens on a regular basis. In this spirit, I offer you the free weekly horoscopes you read here.

If you ever want more, and think it's worth paying for, try my EXPANDED AUDIO HOROSCOPES. They're four-to-five-minute meditations on the current state of your destiny and where you're headed.

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The cost is \$6 per sign on the Web (discounts available for bulk purchases), or \$1.99 per minute by phone.

The Expanded Audio Horoscopes work on most smart phones and tablets.

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"Your expanded horoscopes get more personal and intimate with me than some of my closest friends. Thanks for the loving reflections."

- Ari S., Ann Arbor, MI

"When I listen to your audio 'scopes, my free will lights up." - Alex D., Los Angeles

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PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):

"Most people love in order to lose themselves," wrote Hermann Hesse in his novel *Demian*. But there are a few, he implied, who actually *find* themselves through love. In the coming months, Pisces, you are more likely to be one of those rare ones. In fact, I don't think it will even be possible for you to use love as a crutch. You won't allow it to sap your power or make you forget who you are. That's good news, right? Here's the caveat: You must be ready and willing to discover much more about the true nature of your deepest desires -- some of which may be hidden from you right now.

ARIES (March 21-April 19):

You'd probably prefer to stay in the romantic, carefree state of mind. But from what I can tell, you're ripe for a new phase of your long-term cycle. Your freestyle rambles and jaunty adventures should now make way for careful introspection and thoughtful adjustments. Instead of restless star-gazing, I suggest patient earth-gazing. Despite how it may initially appear, it's not a comedown. In fact, I see it as an unusual reward that will satisfy you in unexpected ways.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20):

In accordance with the current astrological omens, I recommend the following activities: Sing a love song at least once a day. Seek a message from an ancestor in a reverie or dream. Revisit your three favorite childhood memories. Give a gift or blessing to the wildest part of you. Swim naked in a river, stream, or lake. Change something about your home to make it more sacred and mysterious. Obtain a symbolic object or work of art that stimulates your courage to be true to yourself. Find relaxation and renewal in the deep darkness. Ruminant in unbridled detail about how you will someday fulfill a daring fantasy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20):

The ancient Greek epic poem the *Iliad* is one of the foundation works of Western literature. Written in the eighth century BCE, it tells the story of the ten-year-long Trojan War. The cause of the conflict was the kidnap of Helen of Troy, reputed to be the world's most beautiful woman. And yet nowhere in the *Iliad* is there a description of Helen's beauty. We hear no details about why she deserves to be at the center of the legendary saga. Don't be like the *Iliad* in the coming weeks, Gemini. Know everything you can about the goal at the center of your life. Be very clear and specific and precise about what you're fighting for and working towards.

CANCER (June 21-July 22):

The comedian puppets known as the Muppets have made eight movies. In *The Great Muppet Caper*, the muppets Kermit and Fozzie play brothers, even though one is a green frog and the other a brown bear. At one point in the story, we see a photo of their father, who has the coloring and eyes of Kermit, but a bear-like face. I bring up their unexpected relationship, Cancerian, because I suspect that a similar anomaly might be coming your way: a bond with a seemingly improbable ally. To prepare, stretch your ideas about what influences you might want to connect with.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):

English author Barbara Cartland published her first novel at age 21. By the time she died 77 years later, she had written more than 700 other books. Some sources say she sold 750 million copies, while others put the estimate at two billion. In 1983 alone, she churned out 23 novels. I foresee a Barbara Cartland-type period for you in the coming months, Leo. Between now and your birthday in 2016, I expect you to be as fruitful in your own field as you have ever been. And here's the weird thing: One of the secrets of your productivity will be an enhanced ability to chill

out. "Relaxed intensity" will be your calming battle cry.

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HOMEWORK:

Were you told there's a certain accomplishment you'll never be capable of? Ready to prove that curse wrong? Testify at FreeWillAstrology.com.

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