

Rob Brezsnys's Astrology Newsletter

September 24, 2014

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See a pretty version of this newsletter: <http://bit.ly/1C7MXyL>

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My book

PRONOA IS THE ANTIDOTE FOR PARANOIA
is available at Amazon: <http://bit.ly/Pronoia>
or Powells: <http://bit.ly/PronoiaPowells>

Below is an excerpt.

To hear it as a spoken-word piece, go here: <http://bit.ly/yBmWBg>

GLORY IN THE HIGHEST

Thousands of things go right for you every day, beginning the moment you wake up. Through some magic you don't fully understand, you're still breathing and your heart is beating, even though you've been unconscious for many hours. The air is a mix of gases that's just right for your body's needs, as it was before you fell asleep.

You can see! Light of many colors floods into your eyes, registered by nerves that took God or evolution or some process millions of years to perfect.

The interesting gift of these vivid hues is furthermore made possible by an unimaginably immense globe of fire, the sun, which continually detonates nuclear explosions in order to convert its own body into light and heat and energy for your personal use.

Your hands work wonderfully well. Your heart circulates your blood all the way out to replenish the energy of the muscles and nerves in your fingers and palms and wrists. And after your blood has delivered its blessings, it finds its way back to your heart to be refreshed. This wondrous mystery recurs over and over again without stopping every minute of your life.

You can smell intoxicating aromas. You can hear provocative and soothing sounds. You can taste a thousand different tastes. How is any of this possible? You can think thoughts any time you want -- big, wide, colorful thoughts or tiny dark burrowing thoughts. You can revel and wallow in great oceans of emotion. What colossal secret intelligence or improbable series of fabulous accidents conspired to bestow these superpowers upon you?

TO READ AND HEAR THE REST OF THIS PIECE, go here:
<http://bit.ly/yBmWBg>

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Thoughts on true skepticism versus pseudo-skepticism:

True skepticism does not carry an undertone of anger, ridicule, and derision. It is even-tempered, clear-minded, and full of equanimity, satisfied with showing what's illogical or incorrect in the argument it critiques.

A true skeptic does not use emotionally charged language in an effort to portray the person whose argument he's critiquing as a stupid fool.

A true skeptic has no attachment to proving that she is smarter than and superior to the person whose argument she is critiquing, but rather is content to have her argument win the day purely on the strength of its elegant reasoning.

A true skeptic is willing to consider the possibility that there is some merit, however small, in the argument of the person he's critiquing. He is not afraid that acknowledging this merit will undermine the absolute truth he purports to possess.

A true skeptic is not consumed with the certainty that she is always right. In other words, she resists the temptation to become a fundamentalist.

A true skeptic has a respect for the fact that many questions don't have final answers. She recognizes how much about the world is mysterious.

A true skeptic is skeptical of his own skepticism.

A true skeptic is as likely to be a woman as a man. (97 percent of the pseudo-skeptics are men.)

A true skeptic shows humility, in the spirit that Carl Sagan demonstrated when he said this: "An atheist is someone who is certain that God does not exist, someone who has compelling evidence against the existence of God. I know of no such compelling evidence.

"Because God can be relegated to remote times and places and to ultimate causes, we would have to know a great deal more about the universe than we do now to be sure that no God exists.

"To be certain of the existence of God and to be certain of the nonexistence of God seem to me to be the confident extremes in a subject so riddled with doubt and uncertainty as to inspire very little confidence indeed.

"A wide range of intermediate positions seems admissable.

"Considering the enormous emotional energies with which the subject is invested, a questing, courageous, and open mind is, I think, the essential tool for narrowing the range of our collective ignorance on the subject of the existence of God."

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Homework: Write essays on one or more of these topics:

1. "How I Used My Nightmares to Become Smart and Strong"
2. "How I Exploited My Problems to Become a Spiritual Freedom Fighter"
3. "How I Fed and Fed and Fed My Monsters Until They Ate Themselves to Death"
4. "How I Turned Envy, Frustration, and Smoldering Anger into Generosity, Compassion, and Fiery Success"
5. "Why Perfection Sux"

-from my book "The Televisionary Oracle,"<http://bit.ly/Televisionary>

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Some people put their faith in religion or science or political ideologies. English novelist J. G. Ballard placed his faith elsewhere: in the imagination. "I believe in the power of the imagination to remake the world," he wrote, "to release the truth within us, to hold back the night, to transcend death, to charm motorways, to ingratiate ourselves with birds, to enlist the confidences of madmen."

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MORE PRONOIA RESOURCES:

"In a stunning example of how a political movement can actually change lives, the Strike Debt project has raised over \$100 thousand to purchase and abolish student loans for a group of recent grads with a punishing amount of debt. They hope to turn this into a national movement."
<http://tinyurl.com/o6ktao9>

Top 10 Solutions to Cut Poverty and Grow the Middle Class
<http://tinyurl.com/phvhy5q>

Rockefellers, Heirs to an Oil Fortune, Divest Charity From Fossil Fuels
<http://tinyurl.com/lvohqw3>

A compendium of pronoia news.
<http://PronoiaResources.com>

(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 September 25

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<http://FreeWillAstrology.com>

Grammar key: Asterisks equal *italics*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "I am a seed about to break," wrote Sylvia Plath in her poem "Three Women." That's how I see you right now, Libra. You are teeming with the buoyant energy that throbs when a seed is ready to sprout. You have been biding your time, gathering the nourishment you need, waiting for the right circumstances to burst open with your new flavor. And now that nervous, hopeful, ecstatic moment is about to arrive. Be brave!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The English verb "cicurate" is defined as "to tame or domesticate" or "to make mild or innocuous." But it once had an additional sense: "to reclaim from wildness." It was derived from the Latin word **cicurare,** which meant "to bring back from madness, to draw out of the wilderness." For your purposes, Scorpio, we will make cicurate your theme, but concentrate on these definitions: "to reclaim from wildness, to bring back from madness, to draw out of the wilderness." In the coming weeks, you will be exploring rough, luxuriant areas of unknown territory. You will be wrangling with primitive, sometimes turbulent energy. I urge you to extract the raw vitality you find there, and harness it to serve your daily rhythm and your long-term goals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "You can exert no influence if you are not susceptible to influence," said psychologist Carl Jung. Extrapolating from that idea, we can hypothesize that the more willing and able you are to be influenced, the greater your influence might be. Let's make this your key theme in the coming weeks. It will be an excellent time to increase your clout, wield more authority, and claim more of a say in the creation of your shared environments. For best results, you should open your mind, be very receptive, and listen well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Congratulations, Capricorn. Your current dilemmas are more useful and interesting than any that you have had for a long time. If you can even partially solve them, the changes you set in motion will improve your entire life, not just the circumstances they immediately affect. Of the several dividends you may reap, one of my favorites is this: You could liberate yourself from a messed-up kind of beauty and become available for a more soothing and delightful kind. Here's another potential benefit: You may transform yourself in ways that will help you attract more useful and interesting dilemmas in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Alan Moore is the British author who wrote the graphic novels **Watchmen** and **V for Vendetta.** He is now nearing completion of **Jerusalem,** a novel he has been working on for six years. It will be more than a million words long, almost double the size of Tolstoy's **War and Peace,** and 200,000 words bigger than the Bible. "Any editor worth their salt would tell me to cut two-thirds of this book," Moore told the **New Statesman,** "but that's not going to happen." Referring to the author of **Moby Dick,** Moore adds, "I doubt that Herman Melville had an editor. If he had, that editor would have told him to get rid of all that boring stuff about whaling: 'Cut to the chase, Herman.'" Let's make Moore and Melville your role models in the coming week, Aquarius. You have permission to sprawl, ramble, and expand. Do NOT cut to the chase.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): For a long time, an Illinois writer named ArLynn Leiber Presser didn't go out much. She had 325 friends on Facebook and was content to get her social needs met in the virtual realm. But then she embarked on a year-long project in which she sought face-to-face meetings with all of her online buddies. The experiment yielded sometimes complicated but mostly interesting results. It took her to 51 cities around the world. I suggest we make her your inspirational role model for the coming weeks, Pisces. In at least one way, it's time for you to move out of your imagination and into the real world. You're primed to turn fantasies into actions, dreams into practical pursuits.

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FEELING JOY STIMULATES YOUR COMPASSION?

Assume that your drive to experience pleasure isn't a barrier to your spiritual growth, but is in fact essential to it. Proceed on the hypothesis that cultivating joy can make you a more ethical and compassionate person. Imagine that feeling good has something important to teach you every day.

For inspiration in practicing this approach, tune in to your Expanded Audio Horoscopes. They're four-to-five-minute meditations on the current state of your destiny. The cost is \$6 per reading, with a discount for multiple purchases.

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"I always feel like I know myself better after listening to your audio 'scopes."
-June R., Austin, TX

"Your audio horoscopes calm me down when I'm too manic and pep me up when I'm down."
-Arthur T., Cleveland, OH

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ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's no secret. The wealthy one percent of the population has been getting progressively wealthier. Meanwhile, the poor are becoming steadily poorer. I'm worried there is a metaphorically similar trend in your life. Am I right? If so, please do all you can to reverse it. Borrow energy from the rich and abundant parts of your life so as to lift up the neglected and underendowed parts. Here's one example of how you could proceed: For a while, be less concerned with people who think you're a star, and give more attention to those who accept and love your shadow side.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "I choose a lazy person to do a hard job," says Bill Gates, the world's second-richest man, "because a lazy person will find an easy way to do it." That's good counsel for you right now, Taurus. You'd be wise to get in touch with your inner lazy bum. Let the slacker within you uncover the least stressful way to accomplish your difficult task. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, there is no need for you to suffer and strain as you deal with your dilemma.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you don't identify and express your conscious desires, your unconscious desires will dominate your life. I will say that again in different language, because it's crucial you understand the principle. You've got to be very clear about what you really want, and install a shining vision of what you really want at the core of your everyday life. If you don't do that, you will end up being controlled by your habits and old programming. So be imperious, Gemini. Define your dearest, strongest longing, and be ruthlessly devoted to it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Henri Cartier-Bresson (1908-2004) was an influential French photographer, a pioneer of photojournalism who helped transform photography into an art form. In 1986 he was invited to Palermo, Sicily to accept a prize for his work. The hotel he stayed in seemed oddly familiar to him, although he didn't understand why. It was only later he discovered that the hotel had been the place at which his mother and father stayed on their honeymoon. It was where he was conceived. I foresee a comparable development on the horizon for you, Cancerian: a return to origins, perhaps inadvertent; an evocative encounter with your roots; a reunification with an influence that helped make you who you are today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): With expert execution, musician Ben Lee can play 15 notes per second on his violin. Superstar eater Pete Czerwinski needs just 34 seconds to devour a 12-inch pizza. When Jerry Miculek is holding his rifle, he can get off eight crack shots at four targets in a little more than one second. While upside-down, Aichi Ono is capable of doing 135 perfect head spins in a minute. I don't expect you to be quite so lightning

fast and utterly flawless as these people in the coming weeks, Leo, but I do think you will be unusually quick and skillful. For the foreseeable future, speed and efficiency are your specialties.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): As the makeup artist for the film *Dallas Buyers Club,* Robin Mathews had a daunting task. During the 23 days of shooting, she had to constantly transform lead actors Matthew McConaughey and Jared Leto so that they appeared either deathly ill or relatively healthy. Sometimes she had to switch them back and forth five times a day. She was so skillful in accomplishing this feat that she won the Academy Award for Best Makeup and Hairstyling. Her budget? A meager \$250. The film was a shoestring indie production. I'm naming her your inspirational role model for the next few weeks, Virgo. I believe that you, too, can create magic without a wealth of resources.

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Homework: What's your favorite excuse? Try not to say it or think it during the coming week. Report results to Truthrooster@gmail.com.

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NEED TO CHANGE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

To join or leave the email list for this newsletter, or to change the address where you receive it, go to:
<http://www.freewillastrology.com/newsletter/>

Once you do join, check all the below points to make sure you'll actually receive the newsletter:

1. Add my address, televisionary@comcast.net, to your address book so that the newsletter won't be treated as spam and filtered out.
2. Adjust your spam filter so it doesn't treat my address as a source of spam.
3. Tell your company's IT group to allow my address to pass through any filtering software they may have set up.
4. If my newsletters don't reach your inbox, look in your "Bulk Mail" or "Junk Mail" folder.
5. The problems may not have to do with anything you do, but may originate with your email provider. It may be using a "content filter" that prevents my newsletter from ever reaching you at all. If you suspect that's the case, complain. Tell your email provider to stop blocking my newsletter from reaching you.

P.S. I totally respect your privacy. I'll never sell or give away your address to anyone.

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