

rise up.



The astrology of 2018: A personal and collective call to consciousness.

If you look hard enough, every problem contains its own solution.

I've been studying the astrology of 2018 for awhile now, and at first it seemed pretty bleak. The global transformation initiated during the long Uranus-Pluto square of 2012-2015 will be reactivated by transit in the new year, which means we'll have another round of life-changing crises and drama.

Then the remedy – the transformative facilitators – in this next phase emerged. Jupiter, Venus and Chiron show the way to our ultimate healing and transformation.

Planetary transits and eclipses in 2018 paint a hopeful image of transcendent evolution...if we participate.

Deep and lasting changes are in process within every aspect of society. Our environmental, social, cultural, academic, economic, scientific and spiritual values are at stake. This period of purification, the Great Awakening, has been prophesied since ancient times.

The way this struggle ultimately resolves is up to us. 2018 will be a big year for making important decisions and taking action. Astrology can be a guide.

By studying the cosmos and our place in it, astrology tracks the rhythms of natural cycles, revealing the timings and focus of evolutionary processes. Through astrology, we can understand these processes, align with evolutionary forces, and move with the rhythm of this cosmic dance.

The period of high alert is late March through mid-April.

Although the exact alignment wrapped up in 2015, we're still in the midst of a global transformation heralded by the long Uranus-Pluto square a few years ago. That alignment will be reactivated in 2018 with Saturn, Mars, Venus and Mercury transiting the sensitive degrees of the exact squares (8-16 degrees Aries/Capricorn). The most intense period will be late March through mid-April.

Slowly and steadily, Pluto relates to necessary and deep changes that further our evolution both personally and collectively. Revolutionary Uranus heralds sudden, unexpected events (or people) that bring about the needed transformation.

Shakedown. Breakdown. Think about all that's happened in your life and in the world since 2012, or even 2015.

The long square marked the completion of the first quarter of a cycle that began with the conjunction of Uranus and Pluto in the early 1960s. Fast-forward 40+ years and the same themes are up today: The Love-and-Peacers are going head-to-head with The Establishment. Leaders of the old school are hanging on tight to outdated ways as the inevitable forces of social change press forward to reshape humanity's experience in more egalitarian ways.

Some are tuning out with drugs, but there's also an escalation of spiritual energies available for healing and transformation that can lead to the re-empowerment of those who have been disenfranchised. We see all of this playing out in the world today.

For a detailed look at the correspondences between today's political climate and historic events related to Uranus-Pluto, please see Rick Levine's excellent article in *The Mountain Astrologer* (December/January issue). You can order a [free copy of the current issue here](#).

On top of the Uranus-Pluto reactivation, there's a rather ominous-sounding astronomical event in late October.

On October 31, Pluto will cross the ecliptic (the band of the celestial sphere where the sun travels during the course of a year). When the Moon crosses the ecliptic, we get solar and lunar eclipses, which are super-charged new and full moons long considered portents of change.

The last time Pluto crossed the ecliptic from north to south (as it will in 2018) was in 1770, at the height of the American Revolution. The last time Pluto traversed the ecliptic in the other direction was 1930 during the Great Depression.

Within the current crisis lies a golden opportunity: Reform. Reconfiguration. Resolution.

Throughout the year, transiting Jupiter, Chiron and Venus inspire us to action fueled by purpose.

Jupiter

Planetary heavyweight Jupiter – now transiting Scorpio through November 8, 2018 – takes on the shaman's cloak to effect needed changes. Ruled by Pluto, Scorpio is about power. Its method is the profound transformation and healing possible through the process of death and rebirth. The shaman walks the death spiral, mediating between spiritual and material realms to bring healing to individuals and the tribe.

As the highest expression of Scorpio, the phoenix represents the power inherent in self-annihilation to achieve transfiguration. In mythology, the phoenix rises from the ashes of its former self to achieve new heights of power. While Jupiter, the great teacher, transits this shamanic sign, we learn the shaman's secrets. We, too, rise from the ashes of chaos and destruction.

In November, Jupiter crosses into anything-is-possible, truth-seeking Sagittarius for the balance of the year. Getting there

requires dedication and hard work, but the payoffs in terms of personal growth and consciousness are immeasurable.

For those who resonate with the “13th sign” of the zodiac, note that Jupiter travels through [Ophiuchus – the serpent bearer](#) – beginning December 7 and into early 2019. As an overlay to Sagittarius, Ophiuchus fulfills the promise of transcendent healing that carries us to the next world age.

Donning the armor of Aries, Chiron asks: What are you willing to fight for?

Chiron

Chiron, representing the archetype of the wounded healer, completes a trip around the zodiac soon, leaving mystical Pisces for the exciting new horizons of Aries. Aries brings fire, energy and passion to the process of healing and transformation. Medical advances are likely. Rapid healing is possible.

Donning the armor of warrior Aries, healing Chiron asks: What’s your passion? What brings you joy? What are you willing to fight for? In terms of the societal challenges we face, Chiron in Aries leads the charge: “Let’s fix this already!”

Shamanic Venus reminds us that love is the way to healing and wholeness.

Venus

Love goddess Venus is traveling the underworld as the new year begins, meeting with the sun away from our view on January 19 before rising as the evening star in Pisces on February 19. Venus' cyclical transfiguration from morning star in the east to evening star in the west epitomizes the shamanic process of death and rebirth we seek on our own evolutionary journey.

Presiding in the western sky after sunset, Venus represents the priestess in the temple, the feminine aspect of healing through the power of love.

Detailed astro highlights of 2018 are included below.

Ancient prophecies warn that this period in human history will be marked by great turmoil and upheaval.

The prophecies of spiritual traditions around the world tell us we live in the “between times.” Vast cycles of cosmic time are ending, with new and potentially wondrous cycles just beginning.

This shift of the ages is encoded in the sacred calendars of the Maya, Aztec, Vedic and other spiritual traditions. They tell of great Earth changes and how we must come together in unity to heal ourselves, each other and Mother Earth if we are to survive, and thrive, in the next cycle.

The prophecies also warn that this period will be marked by great turmoil as an outdated paradigm gives way to the new. We see this in our world every day.

What does your astrology look like for 2018?

Your natal astrological chart represents the wheel of your life. The areas of your chart where the Uranus-Pluto square happened, where Uranus and Pluto are transiting now, where the eclipses fall, and the houses Jupiter, Chiron and Venus are crossing tell us which areas of your life are ripe for accelerated change in 2018.

Imagery to guide and inspire the evolutionary journey in 2018: The phoenix, consumed in the flames of purification, rises

from the ashes, newly empowered, stronger, more courageous. This is the human spirit yearning to be free.

If you're not fully in your power, you'll find out soon. Enter the shadow. Confront your demons. Heal. Transform. Rise up.

Each of us has a part to play in this process of death and rebirth. Are you a leader, a teacher, a healer, a visionary? Are you the parent or grandparent, aunt or uncle of any of these? This dramatic turning point in humanity's history requires and deserves our absolute best, the cultivation and offering of our gifts. I highly recommend reading (or re-reading) Angeles Arrien's excellent book, *The Four-Fold Way: Walking the Paths of the Warrior, Teacher, Healer, and Visionary*, for a deeper look into these archetypes.

Practices that enhance our spiritual journey and evolutionary process include meditation, prayer, ritual, yoga, conscious breathwork, time in nature, inspired writing, transformational bodywork, acupuncture, sound therapy, aromatherapy, flower essences, energy healing, shamanism and other modalities that connect body, mind, spirit and soul.

Throughout the new year, listen to the voice of your soul.

During the peak times mentioned in this forecast, it's important to practice radical self-care and stay vigilant.

Throughout the new year, listen to the voice of your soul. If you're reading this, you probably have something important to do at this critical juncture in Earth's history. Spend more time in silence, more time in nature, more time unplugged. Dip into essential oils, get a massage or acupuncture treatment. Meditate. Journal. Pray. The soul speaks in whispers. Listen.

~ Allison Rae, Joshua Tree, California December 2017

See the detailed timeline of the 2018 astro highlights below.

the line-up.

A month-by-month astro guide to 2018.

Following is a rundown of the most important astrological events of 2018.

December/January/February

This period sets the stage for the dramatic transits of March and April.

December 19 Saturn enters its home sign of Capricorn (through December 17, 2020). Expect accomplishment over the next two years to require work and perseverance. Restructuring our society and our lives takes time. Appreciate incremental advances.

December 21 Capricorn Solstice. The shortest day of the solar year when darkness is greatest. Passage through this three-day gateway leads into the waxing portion of the solar cycle as light returns to Earth, culminating at the Cancer Solstice in June. This is the solar new year. (The solstices are reversed in the southern hemisphere.)

Late December through January 6 The Sun and Venus in Capricorn move through the zone activating the Uranus-Pluto square (8-16 degrees Aries/Capricorn).

January 1 Full Moon at 12 Cancer. The year begins with a luscious full moon in Cancer, a so-called supermoon because of the moon's proximity to Earth. Cancer - sign of mother, home

and family - is ruled by the Moon, so this is a chance to nurture ourselves and each other physically, spiritually and emotionally, ensuring we have all we need at the start of another volatile year.

January 2 Uranus stations direct

January 31 Full Moon Lunar Eclipse at 12 Leo/Aquarius. Eclipses are super-charged new and full moons. The first eclipse of the year is a total eclipse of another “super” full moon alignment with the Moon opposing the Sun and Venus on the Leo-Aquarius axis. All full moons illuminate what’s been held in the subconscious. With a powerful water trine between Jupiter in Scorpio and Chiron in Pisces at this lunation and the upcoming solar eclipse, deep spiritual and emotional healing is possible. We’re likely to learn through dreams and meditation about the issues we’ll be working on through this eclipse gateway. The eclipse will be visible in northwestern South America, western North America, Asia, Australia, the middle East, eastern Africa, eastern Europe, the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean.

February 15 New Moon Solar Eclipse at 27 Aquarius. This amplified new moon alignment features a tight conjunction between the Sun, Moon and Mercury in late Aquarius, the sign of the next world age. This is a visionary time, an opportunity for scientific or technological breakthroughs and success online. Create a vision for how you want the next six months to go and work diligently to make it happen. This partial eclipse of the sun will be visible in parts of South America, Antarctica, the South Pacific Ocean and the South Atlantic Ocean.

February 16 Chinese Year of the Dog begins

February 19 Venus rises as evening star in the west after sunset at 11 Pisces. She presides as shamanic priestess in the temple until her next Underworld journey in October.

February 23 Saturn enters the sensitive Uranus-Pluto square activation zone (through June 13)

March/April

March 8 Jupiter retrograde (through July 10)

March 10-20 Mercury and Venus cross the Uranus-Pluto square activation zone

March 22 Aries Equinox - The zodiacal new year. At the same time, Mercury goes retrograde (through April 15) There's nothing like kicking off the astrological new year with the planet of communication transiting in reverse!

March 27 Sun in Aries crosses the Uranus-Pluto square activation zone (through April 6)

March 28 Mars in Capricorn moves into the Uranus-Pluto activation zone (through April 17)

April 2 Mars and Saturn conjunct in Capricorn, opposing the Sun, Venus and Mercury in Aries within the Uranus-Pluto square activation zone

April 15 Mercury stations direct

April 17 Chiron enters Aries (through September 25, when retrograde Chiron re-enters Pisces through the end of the year); also, Saturn turns retrograde (through September 6)

April 26/27 Mars conjunct Pluto at 21 Capricorn

May

May 15 Uranus moves into Taurus (through November 6 when retrograde Uranus returns to the late degrees of Aries until March 7, 2019) When the planet of revolution and chaos enters the slow,

laborious sign of Taurus, we can actually start getting things accomplished beyond the chaos and destruction of recent years. Taurus, ruled by loving and lovely Venus, is all about values. What do you hold dear? How will we reconstruct our lives and our society based on shared ideals and common values?

May 16 Mars in Aquarius square Uranus in Taurus during Mars' closest approach to Earth in 15 years. Not as close as 2003, but closer than it's been in awhile. The proximity of the planet to Earth increases the energy we perceive from our neighboring planets. Mars will also appear brighter in the sky than it has in while. [Find out why here.](#)

June

June 21 Cancer Solstice

June 26 Mars retrograde (through August 27)

July/August

It's eclipse season again. This time we have a series of three.

July 10 Jupiter stations direct

July 12 New Moon Solar Eclipse at 21 Cancer. This alignment is another partial eclipse of the sun with the Sun and Moon meeting in Cancer opposite Pluto in Capricorn. Saturn and Uranus are trine in Earth signs Capricorn and Taurus at this lunation, suggesting a time of profound reconfiguration in our personal lives and the outer world. Neptune in Pisces trines the Sun-Moon conjunction, offering spiritual energy to fuel needed changes. This is another southern hemisphere eclipse, visible in parts of Australia, New Zealand and the Antarctic, the South Pacific Ocean, southern Indian Ocean and Tasmania.

July 25 Mercury retrograde (through August 18)

July 27 Full Moon Lunar Eclipse at 5 Aquarius/Leo. In the middle lunation of this series, we have another total eclipse of the moon on the Aquarius/Leo axis. This time Mars is tightly conjunct the Moon. Issues around the needs of the many vs. the needs of the few (or the one) will be punctuated by a square to the Sun-Moon opposition from Uranus in Taurus. This fixed t-square spells volatility and confrontation on a personal and planetary level. A trine between Venus in Virgo and Pluto in Capricorn hints that the way to true power is through love. But the battle for that high ground will be fierce. The eclipse will be visible in Australia, Antarctica, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, South America, Europe and the South Pacific, Indian and Atlantic oceans.

August 1 Mars retrograde in Aquarius square Uranus in Taurus during Mars' closest approach to Earth in 15 years

August 7 Uranus stations retrograde (through the end of the year)

August 10/11 New Moon Solar Eclipse at 19 Leo. The planetary volatility of the July 27 eclipse resolves a bit at this final eclipse in the series. In its highest expression, Leo is the heart-centered ruler. With Mercury conjunct the meeting of the Sun and Moon in Leo, communication is the key to benevolent relations. Saturn in Capricorn, Venus in Libra and Chiron in early Aries form a cardinal t-square of new beginnings. Jupiter in Scorpio's long trine with Neptune in Pisces offers the opportunity for deep transformation. This partial eclipse of the Sun will be visible in parts of Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Scotland, Scandinavia, Russia, Mongolia, China, Korea and the North Atlantic Ocean. The path of this eclipse crosses northern Russia, which means this country will be in the news....bigly.

August 18 Mercury stations direct

August 27 Mars stations direct

September

September 6 Saturn stations direct at 2 Capricorn and begins a long trine with Uranus at 2 Taurus.

September 23 Libra Equinox

September 19 Mars in Aquarius square Uranus in Taurus during Mars' closest approach to Earth in 15 years

October

October 5 Venus retrograde (through November 16)

October 22 Venus ends her reign as evening star and enters the Underworld.

October 31 Pluto crosses the ecliptic. The last time Pluto crossed the ecliptic from north to south (as it will in 2018) was in July 1770, at the height of the American Revolution. The last time Pluto traversed the ecliptic going the other direction was 1930 during the Great Depression. That was the year Pluto was discovered.

November/December

November 1 Venus returns to the sky as morning star in the east before sunrise with heliacal rise at 29 Libra, beginning an eight-year cycle in a new archetype of the feminine. Venus shines as the goddess in her home sign of Libra. Both Lady Liberty and the Scales of Justice are symbols. This might mean equality not only between the sexes, but for all. These will at least be themes throughout the next eight years. Venus in Libra is also the great

artist and muse, inviting us to pour ourselves into creative pursuits.

November 6 Retrograde Uranus re-enters Aries (through the end of the year)

November 8 Jupiter enters its home sign of Sagittarius. This year-long transit bodes well for happier times. In some ways, it seems a weight has been lifted. Yet, with Saturn transiting Capricorn, our buoyancy will know limits.

November 16 Venus stations direct; Mercury goes retrograde (through December 6)

December 6 Mercury stations direct

December 18 Sun conjunct Galactic Center

December 21 Capricorn Solstice

Here's what I perceive as the bottom line: The astrology of 2018 suggests a year of challenges, but hard-won gains are possible. We wouldn't be here now if our souls didn't want maximum accelerated growth through the cycle shift. I also believe we're here to serve. There's certainly no shortage of ways to get involved and make a difference. As a friend commented to me the other day, what an exciting time to be alive!

Wondering what all of this means for you? 2018 Astro Readings are now available. Details below.



2018 Astro Preview Readings

Since 1999 it's been my honor to interpret the personal astrology of hundreds of individuals, couples and families to aid in self-awareness, spiritual development, relationship dynamics, creative expression and soul alignment.

2018 Astro Preview Readings are now available. Find out how the transits and eclipses of 2018 relate to you and which areas of your life are ripe for change. Align with your purpose and access your unique gifts.

My readings blend elements of esoteric, intuitive and shamanic astrology. Each session includes a comprehensive review of your natal chart and major planetary passages as well as an outlook for the next 12-18 months.

Readings are done via phone or Skype, and you'll receive a digital recording of the session so you can listen again at your convenience. The rate for a 90-minute 2018 Astro Preview Reading is \$225 US. Rates vary for relationship readings, locational or other specialized astrology. Gift certificates are always available. Please [email me](#) to schedule for yourself or create a gift for a loved one.

[Order your 2018 Astro Preview Reading here.](#)

"Thank you! I feel more inspired now than I have in a long time." ~ Jessica

"Thank you for your wisdom and guidance. This confirms a lot of things I've been feeling and questioning, and it's removed some fears." ~ Robin

Additional resources

Here are some of my favorite sources for astrology and related information.

Astrology

[The Mountain Astrologer](#)

[Jim Maynard's Pocket Astrologer](#)

[Venus' Underworld Journey](#)

Eclipses

[Shadow and Substance](#)

[MrEclipse.com](#)

[Time and Date Eclipses](#)

[NASA](#)