

BLAME IT ON THE STARS



ARIES: If ambition was one of the seven deadly sins, you'd be in deep doodoo. The trick is to be clear-eyed about what you want and willing to take what you get. Get your ducks in a row and knit loose ends into something more substantial than verbal agreements. Expect glitches, jealousies, misunderstandings and inappropriate competition. Refuse to participate in any process that divides in order to conquer. A lover may confuse you with someone you're not. Unravel emotional knots with loving care.



LIBRA: Progress on all fronts. Roads closed by circumstance are reopened and your greatest challenge is deciding where to go. The answer is everywhere. Much of the journey will be spent at home. The paths of many pleasant visitors lead to the balanced exuberance and warm harmony you display. Turn life into art and art into life. Ignore small misconnections and pesky randomness. Beware of judging elements of your life that aren't competing, bask at every opportunity, and hum bossa novas.



TAURUS: Your old friends, boredom and dissatisfaction, come bearing gifts you should leave unopened. Resist the urge to whine and gossip. New wine is seldom as good as old bottles and the grass on your side of the fence is still green if you take the time to look. Avoid opportunities to travel unless you enjoy misadventure punctuated by annoyance. Hole up and contemplate truth. If there's a high road, and there is, take it. Climb slowly, say 'excuse me', and dream patient dreams.



SCORPIO: Throw from your mind any thoughts of hibernation. The month will be filled with people, most of them pleasant. Much scurrying about, little wasted motion. Money has been a lot on your mind. Matters resolve. Remove the cork from the bottle and loose the wild-eyed ponies of spring. The game is afoot and change taps at your window and leaves messages on your E-mail. Breathe deeply and expand horizons past the limits of ego. What flows to you, flows through you. Pass it on.



GEMINI: Bear in mind the winter solstice marks the return of the light. Use it to look at who you are and where you're going. The final constant is change and all transformation regenerates. To live forever, be born daily. Imagine yourself to be no smarter than you are and avoid betting on hunches. If you weren't on the right path, people would stop rewarding you. The universe helps those who help others. Explore the roots of virtue and embrace the high mysteries of the mundane.



SAGITTARIUS: Your image this month: perched on the slick edge of change, laughing in the wind. The changes aren't small ones, boobla. If not momentous, they're at least substantial and, in all but small matters, positive. In the physical world, expect the spigots of cash to rise above the recent trickle. The mundane, always and forever, reflects what your spirit brings to the table. The world we warm cannot help to warm us back. Open doors, cook large pots of spaghetti, and celebrate love.



CANCER: No matter what happens, keep telling yourself it's a good month. Aside from hysterical bouts with short circuits and garbled information (Mercury's in retrograde for all of us late in the month), energy flows toward rather than away from you. Nurture close partnerships. This is not a time of solitude. We can only be defined by object/events external to us. Islands exist only if you don't count the sea. Go swimming at every opportunity. Play seriously and well.



CAPRICORN: Welcome to the first month of a real peach of a year. Jupiter (the cosmic sugar daddy) moves in with suitcases full of gifts. Your tide, as they say, is coming in. No, this doesn't mean throw caution to the winds. Deal with shortfalls gracefully, pat them on the head and send them on their way. Don't doubt for a minute that the wheels of positive change are turning. Oil them with faith born of knowing who you are and what you're not willing to settle for. Suffer no fools.



LEO: In the poker game of life, the cards keep coming your way. So does, in its own way, the spotlight. Resist the urge to retreat from daily life. Shine quietly, whistle while you work, and elevate the humdrum to the sublime. There'll be spurts of snapping and snarling. Deal quickly and plainly with malcontents and whiners and move on. Recognize concerns that are beneath you and elevate them. The closest bonds are tested. Your mantra: for every action, a reaction and response.



AQUARIUS: It's a good year for Aquarians and the forces that will shape it are building now. Floodgates lifted, gates unlatched. Change under substance, pushing upward. In the freewheeling jazz of your life, all the players are finally on the same page. Comely people gather to listen and stay for breakfast. On a good day, you remind others what it means to be a full-blown human. Love is a social drug. Share it.



VIRGO: The new year's first message is there are many lessons to be learned. The lessons are blunt but not hard. Sniff the winds of change, listen to the genie of your soul, and focus your energies on appropriate action. The most appropriate act is to have fun. Take your good intentions out for a walk, mix it up with friends and interesting strangers, and celebrate simple pleasures. Be mindful of loose ends and, when the sirens call, invoke the unbearable lightness of romance very seriously.



PISCES: Your voyage on the sea of drab continues. Nothing worth opening a vein over, but enough to make you write very bad and very self-indulgent poetry. Don't. Be meticulously where you are. Low tides are not disasters, they're opportunities to find truths dropped overboard. The bright fish of your soul shines and flashes in the shallows. Those with eyes to see are gently dazzled. Dream romantic dreams and watch them come true. Say yes to those who woo you with reality.

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