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ROB BREZSNY'S

Week of May 1

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Are you the kind of Aries who pushes on doors that have "pull" signs? Do you think it's a thrill to open cartons from the end that reads "open other end"? Do you love to drive in the carpool lane when you're alone in your car? If so, I hope I can convince you to use your rebellious energy more constructively. You're now in possession of the finest insurrectionary energy I've seen in many moons. Your brilliant disobedience could overthrow a status quo that's sorely in need of being replaced.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A fresh fad has broken out among university students in China: drinking milk from baby bottles. Psychologists decry this as regressive behavior, claiming it represents a subliminal yearning to return to childhood and avoid adult responsibilities. I suppose that may be true if it becomes habitual. But I'm going to recommend that you take up the practice for just one week, Taurus. Make it a ritual that helps you reclaim your innocence and see the world with the eyes of an unspoiled kid.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "I'm too frustrated to do what it would take to get myself unfrustrated." Has a thought like that crossed your mind recently? I bet it has. Or how about this: "I'm too confused to figure out what questions I'd need to ask to clarify the issues." Again, I'd be surprised if you haven't felt that way in the last few days. What to do about it? Here's my solution: Stop the world. Drop out of your trance. Run away to a sanctuary where you can make time stand still for a few days. Empty your mind, relax your ambitions, and steep yourself in primal silence.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): From a psychological and spiritual perspective, Cancerian, it's harvest time. The moment has come to reap the fruits you've sown since last July. Judging from my astrological analysis, I believe your yield will include an abundance of ripe beauties and just a few ripe uglies. And even those uglies could serve you well if used as fertilizer for your next round of planting, which is scheduled for the weeks after your birthday. (P.S. Here's my guarantee: If you don't rake in emotional riches very soon, I'll eat your shoe. In the unlikely event your harvest is paltry, send your shoe to me at P.O. Box 150628, San Rafael, CA 94915.)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Sometimes the mountain is hidden from me in veils of cloud," Denise Levertov wrote in her poem called "Witness." "Sometimes I am hidden from the mountain in veils of inattention, apathy, fatigue, when I forget or refuse to go down to the shore or a few yards up the road, on a clear day, to reconfirm that witnessing presence." This week, Leo, you're more likely to be hidden from the mountain than vice versa. If it happens, though, it won't be due to inattention, apathy, or fatigue, but because of your intense attunement to your own magnificence. This is not a bad thing in itself, of course, but it will be if it keeps you from communing with the mountain. Therefore, see if you can do both: Be an alert witness full of self-love.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In New York last January, a talking carp began shouting religious advice in Hebrew to an Hispanic food preparer who was about to turn it into a meal. The restaurant owner came in to investigate the commotion and became a second witness to the event. The New York Times reported the story, and soon a local Hasidic sect was proclaiming the fish's message to be a direct communication from God. Though many people laugh with derision when they hear this tale, I retain an open mind. The Divine Trickster has appeared to me in equally unusual forms. No doubt you will share my perspective by the end of this week, Virgo. You're about to have a visitation that's maybe a little less mysterious than a talking fish, but not by much.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I never dreamed that one day I'd have a pet wasp. But here she is, buzzing tenderly around my head as I compose this horoscope. I call her Scheherazade. She has been here three weeks. I lost all fear she would sting me after the first day, when she landed on me

several times without incident. She seems content with the food and drink I leave out for her, and I swear that now and then she performs aerial tricks for my entertainment. I love having this whirring ally around. Her presence leads me to imagine that I really have learned to get along with wild forces of nature without having to control or hurt them. I encourage you, Libra, to seek your own version of a wasp companion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Some people refer to me as an astrologer, novelist, or musician. Others call me a shaman, magician, or teacher. I don't mind their attempts to sum me up, but I never refer to myself by those terms. My business card says I'm an "Aspiring Master of Curiosity, Apprentice to Crazy Wisdom, and Macho Feminist." Why? First, I don't want to get trapped in the elitist egotism that can arise from identifying with a label like "shaman." Second, careerism is anathema to me. I want the freedom to keep mutating and not be enslaved to my past accomplishments. Third, I never want my life to be defined by my job. Fourth, I claim the exclusive right to name and title myself. No one else can have that power. I recommend that you Scorpios experiment with a similar approach in the coming weeks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Like most county fairs held every summer in American communities, my hometown's three-day extravaganza hosts competitions in many categories, from quilt art to pickled vegetables to decorated bird houses. This July's fair will add an unusual new class: Prizes will be awarded to whomever grows the tallest weed. I predict the winner will be a Sagittarius who begins the project this week. The rest of you Centaurs are also primed to capitalize by exploiting things that are normally thought to lack value, and you won't have to wait till July to cash in. To get in the proper mood (which should include compassionate, humorous self-mockery), give yourself a blue ribbon for having the biggest pimple or worst bad hair day or crabbiest mood.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "If the wrong man uses the right means, the right means work in the wrong way," says the ancient Chinese book, *The Secret of the Golden Flower*. Conversely, "When the right man uses the wrong means, the wrong means work in the right way." These thoughts, Capricorn, are all you need to succeed this week. You're free to come up with your own interpretation of their implications, but here's mine: High integrity and a noble purpose sometimes count for more than cleverness or skill.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Literary critic Harold Bloom believes *Finnegans Wake* was James Joyce's masterpiece — the closest thing our age has come to the genius of Shakespeare and Dante. Novelist Anthony Burgess called it "a great comic vision that makes us laugh aloud on nearly every page." Yet when Joyce was writing the book, his wife Nora hated it, calling it "chop suey." She asked him why he didn't make "sensible books that people can understand." Joyce's patron, Harriet Weaver, also derided *Finnegans Wake*, saying it was a waste of his genius. Luckily, like many Aquarians, Joyce was mainly loyal to the little voices in his head, not the little voices outside of his head. Draw inspiration from his example in the coming week.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): To compensate for the fact that the amount of available time is steadily shrinking, I've intensified my multitasking. I now meditate while washing dishes. I pay bills and write poems and practice singing while stuck in traffic jams. I read the newspaper, surf the Web, make business calls, eat lunch, and organize my schedule while peddling my exercise bike. As a happy and unexpected result, my brain is definitely working better; I've gotten smarter. This regimen isn't for everyone, of course. But if you do have an interest in increasing your intelligence, Pisces, now is a perfect astrological moment to make it happen.

Homework: I dare you to feel love for someone you have disliked for a long time. Testify at www.freewillastrology.com

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Women seeking men

DON'T WANNA WAIT IN VAIN

Puppet on a string. Don't talk to me as if I'm dumb (I'm not). I need to know when you're gonna come (sooner than later?) Summer is near. Show me you want me. # 8361

PLAYFUL, PETITE pixie seeks NS intelligent communicative playmate 42-52 for hiking, biking, backpacking, skiing, spiritual encounters, cooking, dancing, quiet evenings, romance, growing together, soulmate? LTR? # 8352

SEEKING MY BEST FRIEND

DWF, 51, 5'3". Likes movies, dining out, TV, hanging, touching, dancing, computers, hot-tub, people. Not sports-minded. Seek stable, honest, funny, open-minded, considerate, communicative D/SWM, 41-59, under 200 lbs. # 8351

READY TO HAVE FUN Career, great. Children, grown. Marriage, over. Looking for healthy, mature playmate. # 8349

GET BACK IN THE GAME

Looking to stir it up this summer. If you're not too old, but not too young, for a good time of dance, outdoor adventures, good conversation & romance, call me. # 8348

ARE YOU up to par? Do you like the coast? New adventures, get along well with others? Let's call each other first. Take it from there. What do you say? # 8343

IN YOUR FACE

I'm looking for a face with: smile lines from belly laughs, crow's feet from compassion, forehead lines from deep thinking & lip creases from extraordinary amounts of kissing. Spirituality = extra points. I'm small, smart & sexy. # 8261

43 Y.O. WOMAN

Looking for a loving, compassionate, honest man for friendship & romance. ND, NS, light drink. Possible LTR or not. # 8253

SEEKING MALE COMPANIONSHIP

I want a Christian male companion with similar interests; a special someone in my life. # 8243

LOVE BECOMES YOU

So much the better to laugh, love, play together when one knows the Dharma, is NS, ND, spiritual, over 57. Movies, biking, walks, veggies, scrabble & so much more. # 8201

MID-LIFE CRISIS! Need someone to share my good life. Vibrant, soulful, down-to-earth intellectual seeks Mr. (Almost) Perfect. Please be left of center, 53-63 & seeking LTR. NS. # 8180

DINNER & A MOVIE?

Generic? Yes. But I'll sit across from you & dress you with my eyes. Let's find pleasure in the small things. Saturday Market, road trips, cooking, sleeping together, shopping, drinking wine. No commitments, but who knows? # 8173

SWF, 53, joyful and loving, seeks kind and good man to correspond with, then meet if all goes well. # 8076

CYNICAL?

Placing ads can be a waste of time, but what the hell? Me: not a waste of time, not immature, employed, sense of imagination, good camping gear. You: hopefully all the above? Let's make the glass half full. # 8259

BIG DRIVE & EQUIPMENT?

You're around 50 something, ready to live together with lots of servicing each other. I'm sexy, stocky, busty. I need you to be kind, funny & what's mentioned above. XOXO # 8185

I'M JUST WHAT

You never knew you always wanted. Low-key, quirky, stylish, mid-20s, employed non-breeder. Lots of "wants", not many "needs". No neurotic, uncultured, overcologed losers. NS. NMB!!! # 8171

WACKY COUNTRY DWCF

Attractive, blonde/blue, average, HWP, 52, healthy, loves travel, country living, cultural activities. ISO NS, 50-60s intelligent gentleman partner to share life's adventures. Nature/Animal Lover. # 8125

TRANSEXUAL LOOKING

For rich man, young to ISO man who wants to be my sugar daddy. # 8086

YOU'RE A quality person, intelligent, compassionate, attractive, affectionate, good communicator, Jewish, stable, w/integrity. I'm pretty, smart, gentle, loving, playful, creative, youthful, vegetarian, Friend or more? 40s to early 50s. # 8083

DANCE PARTNER WANTED

ISO companion, 50-60 y.o. 5'9"-6'2", SWM. Communication, honesty, financially secure, NS, ND, Light Drink. Me: SWF, 5'3", blonde/brown. Same + outdoors/indoors, movies, cooking, hugs, affectionate. # 8080

SHE IS (and being her friends, we would know) a lovely woman with a joyful sense of humor. She loves the sensuous things in life: good wine, good food. She has an ear for good conversation. Also, loves music from jazz to a bit of disco, 'cuz the girl can dance! Looking for SPM, 40-50, with similar likes. NS, ND. Flexibility and warm spirit a must. # 8263

LONELY EUROPEAN

Sincere, passionate, educated SWF. Loves dogs, horses, nature. 5'4", 115 lbs. ISO kind, warm, sincere 48-60 y.o. SWM. # 8077

men seeking women

HANDSOME WELL-GROOMED man, 30s, 6'0", 180 lbs. ISO very attractive Asian woman 20-30s for part time fun. Black hair & great body a +. D&D free please. # 8359

THERE ARE only two great places to eat in this town - your place & mine. Persistent but underconfident chef, 56, seeks easily pleased woman who looks good in maple syrup. # 8357

COME FLY with me. Amateur paraglider, 56, on love's flattest hill. All we need is a strong headwind & a couple of sturdy helmets. And maybe an ambulance on standby. # 8356

THE SHY YET FUNNY GUY

Who's right for you? I'm looking for a gal, 18-25, tall, slender, to hang out or date or whatever. I'm 6'1", 180 lb., average build, brown hair & hazel eyes. # 8350

SOBER??

Good man. Attractive, kind, financially secure, seeking LTR with softspoken, honest, intelligent, unpretentious, spiritual, monogamous, affectionate, environmental woman who does NOT use alcohol/drugs. Prefer slender, long hair, no makeup, not employed. # 8344

2 MUCH U, 2 LITTLE TIME

You need happy changes, new doors. Bright, free, cute, lively 5'5"-6", 150-190, 35-49, bodacious curvy, derriered, proud. Me: rich (kidding), nice, athletic, cute, 47, entertaining, unselfish. # 8249

SMART & FUNNY

SPM ISO bright, low-maintenance SPF who likes to laugh & go to the theatre. # 8246

SUBSTANCE & ADVENTURE

Eclectic, athletic man with a multitude of interests. Values humor, positive thinking & taking chances. ISO fit, intelligent 40-something woman with sense of adventure. # 8241

SUBMISSIVE WOMAN WANTED

Not seeking cook or maid. Me: attractive SWM, 6', nicely built, non-balding dark hair, financially independent, health conscious, non-smoker, experienced, safe, gentle, creative, good conversationalist. You: single, unattached, feminine, sensuous, healthy, childless. Write "Resident" POB 25160, Portland 97298. Include phone. # 8234

THE BACHELOR in real life - not TV glamour. You: sweet, petite, no gold diggers. SW farm boy, NS, ND, LTR. I care! Don't wait. # 8198

NO WEIRDOS PLEASE

SWM, 26, student, attractive, fun, slender, poor, happy, entertained. Seeks capable, fit, unmaterialistic, cute female confidant for major laughter, friendship, outdoor fun, adventure & kicking back. # 8194

ANTONIO BANDERAS type seeking educated, P, financially secure woman who enjoy hiking, biking, movies and international cuisine (under age 45). Possible LTR, NS, ND. # 8190

VEGETARIAN

DWM, 49, 5'7", dark hair, NS, fit, easygoing, humorous, open-minded. Enjoys hiking, biking, the Oregon Coast, the blues, exploring, Scrabble. Seeking similar SWF. Friends first, possible LTR. # 8187

BASIC GUY

DWM, 60, attractive, 5'8", 190 lbs. Grey beard, blue eyes. Secure, honest, spiritual, open, romantic, affectionate, casual, spontaneous, humorous. Like simple things; photography, music, reading, movies, short trips. Let's have fun. # 8183

EARTH-CENTERED SPIRITIST. Compassionate, attractive, camping, hiking, sailing, swimming, gardening kind of guy. Values dignity over status or wealth. Truth-seeker, desires honesty, trust and equality in relationship. Devoted 1/2-time dad, 38, very fit. Musician, athlete, creatively quirky. Good at follow-thru. Solid job. # 8181

I WANT an attractive SF age 26-36. I WANT her to have a reasonably flat tummy, but not be a toothpick. I WANT her to be affectionate, playful, passionate, open-minded & honest. A decent conversationalist with fair social skills who enjoys the outdoors & is herb friendly. A kinky side would also be appreciated. In return, I offer everything "I WANT" & more. LTR even possible. # 8175

THE SWEETNESS OF FRIENDSHIP

SWM, 39, 5'10", 240 lbs. Handsome, healthy, happy, strong, athletic, considerate, loving & balanced. Looking for darling companion. Smart, fun, loving, physical, affectionate, passionate, spiritual woman to explore, enjoy, experience, love. NS. # 8133

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

46 years young. Fun, loving, self-employed landscaper seeks a petite sweetie 35-49 to enjoy indoor/outdoor adventures. Enjoy music, dancing, camping, fishing... You might be the one baby! # 8124

ALISON

I am looking for Alison. Is this Alison Wonder? I wonder? You left armadillo duck message. I missed your number. If you call, I will repay. We can have coffee. # 8122

YOUR RED HAIR IS NOT Up for debate & you don't do debates/dye hair. You're 5'7" height is debatable because you're actually 5'7.1/2" & round down. You aren't preoccupied about hygiene. You're boot-wearing. # 8120

WAR RELIEF?

Good-natured fellow in need of female companionship for music shows, outdoor (& indoor) activities, or just a nice dinner. I'm 32, fit, open-minded, positive, attractive & green friendly. Corvallis. # 8119

ISO 40-55 companion w/similar interest. Me: DWM, uses a power wheelchair, body bad - mind good. Enjoys computers, music, outdoors, nature, movies. Has an attention for detail. # 8088

LONELY IN LEABURG

SWPM, 43, fit, attractive, intelligent, sensitive, loving, affectionate, outdoorsy type. Seeks SWF, 35-48, emotionally & financially stable, fit, attractive for LTR. NS, LD ok. # 8085

JANE MAGAZINE SAYS

Every woman owes herself a fling with an "older gentleman"; find out why! I'm 50ish, fit, sophisticated, experienced, easygoing, romantic & fun. # 8084

WM 42, 5'10", brown/blue, handsome. Likes outdoors, romantic dinners, funny movies, quiet evenings. Seeks romantic older female, very voluptuous, tall, large, funny, pretty. Be real, be honest. ND. # 8081

WIDOWER, WRITER, former professor, given to simple pleasures like baking bread, walking, reading aloud, & intimacy. 6'1", 150 lbs, seeks attractive woman in her 50s w/active mind, gentle heart & patience. # 7835

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