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6					2			
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	7		1			4		3
4					5			
1		3			6		5	

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BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): My Aries friend David's acupuncture-
 ist diagnosed his current condition as an "encroachment of
 phlegm in his triple heater." That's also an apt metaphorical
 description of what's going on in your psyche. Your internal
 engine – the fire in your belly – is a bit clogged by a sluggish
 stream of swampy, snotty feelings. I suggest you take action to
 purge this creeping effluvia. A good way to start would be to do
 what Gestalt dream workers do: Imagine that the effluvia can
 speak, and ask it to tell you what it wants.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Borrowing some words of poet
 Eliza Acton and mixing them with mine, I've prepared a love note
 for you to use as your own. Feel free to give these words to the
 person whose destiny needs to be woven more closely together
 with yours. "I love you as a glad bird loves the freedom of its
 wings. I love you as I love the first lily of spring exploding with
 clear fragrance in the moonlight. I love you as I love the swell and
 hush of a low melody that brings the past to life again. I love you
 as I love the tone of a soft-breathing dawn whose soul has awoken
 for me alone."

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In Greek mythology, the Procrustean
 bed was a torture device. Anyone foolish enough to lie down on it
 would be forcibly modified in order to fit its exact dimensions. A
 person who was smaller than the bed would be painfully stretched
 and those who were too big would have their body parts amputat-
 ed. I beg you not to climb into any situation that resembles that
 bed, Gemini. You need an adaptable niche that will adjust to your
 unique needs and talents, not a rigid pigeonhole that squeezes
 and bullies you into assuming its shape.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): *Dear Rob the Astrologer: I recently
 discovered your column, and I like it. But I'm wondering if I'm
 approaching it in the right way. Although I'm a Crab, all 12 of your
 horoscopes seem to make sense to me and describe how I feel. Is
 this OK? - Curious in Austin.* Dear Curious: You Cancerians are very
 versatile and empathetic these days. Given how open you are to
 being taught from every angle, you have my blessing to glean use-
 ful information from the horoscopes for all of the signs. This phe-
 nomenon will probably run its course by Sept. 23, and after that
 you may find that only the Cancer horoscope really works for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I'm not so interested in predicting the
 future as I am in creating the future. Why waste even a minute
 worrying about how things will turn out when you can devote your
 energy to making things turn out the way you want? It's true that
 in the horoscopes I offer you, I speculate about what may be com-
 ing. But my purpose in doing so is to describe favorable scenarios
 that you can use your willpower to manifest. Right now, for
 instance, I won't prophesy, "You may soon be blessed with a valu-
 able new resource." Rather, I'll say, "Get out there, Leo, and

acquire a tool or fuel or asset that will help you become more
 practical about fulfilling one of your dreams."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "I have dreamed in my life dreams
 that have stayed with me ever after, and changed my ideas,"
 wrote Emily Bronte in *Wuthering Heights*. "They have gone
 through and through me, like wine through water, and altered the
 color of my mind." One of your main assignments in the coming
 week, Virgo, is to identify a dream that can work that kind of
 magic on you. If there is no such dream currently seeded in your
 imagination, find a new one to plant there.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "The apocalypse won't be all that
 bad," Bible scholar Parker Creaston told the *Weekly World News*.
 There'll be a "brief period of mild to moderate disorder," after
 which will come an extended period of "worldwide peace and har-
 mony." Similarly, Libra, your fear of impending chaos in your per-
 sonal sphere will turn out to be overblown. Yes, you may suffer
 temporary shortages and inconveniences, as well as what we
 might call a metaphorical "traffic jam." But you can forget about
 mountains of fire, seas of blood, and hordes of locusts from the
 bottomless pit. They will definitely *not* be showing up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You've reached a phase in your
 astrological cycle when you have special power to expand, deepen,
 and enhance your web of allies. My advice? Don't just schmooze
 and party, but rather schmooze and party with an evangelical
 sense of purpose, taking advantage of the fact that people are
 more likely than usual to see you as attractive, be sympathetic to
 your cause, and lend you their support. The connections you forge
 and the synergetic collaborations you ignite in the next three
 weeks could be major factors in your success in 2009.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): According to the Guinness
 website, the world record for opera singers receiving curtain calls
 is Luciano Pavarotti, who got 165 after his 1988 show at the
 Deutsche Opera in Berlin. If that mark is ever broken, it may soon
 be accomplished by a Sagittarian performer. That's because you
 people will be at the peak of your potential to garner acknowl-
 edgement, recognition, and rewards in your chosen field. Here's a
 secret about how you can take maximum advantage of that poten-
 tial: Imagine that there is a higher, finer level of excellence that's
 beyond what you've understood as excellence up until now. Then
 figure out what you'd have to do to rise to that higher, finer level.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Below is an excerpt from a
 Charles Baudelaire poem, as translated by Louis Simpson. "Ask
 the wind, the wave, the star, the bird, the clock, everything that is
 flying, everything that is groaning, everything that is rolling,
 everything that is singing, everything that is speaking ... ask what
 time it is, and wind, wave, star, bird, clock will answer you: 'It is

time to be drunk! So as not to be the martyred slaves of time, be
 drunk, be continually drunk! On wine, on poetry or on virtue as
 you wish.'" It is a perfect time in your astrological cycle to draw
 inspiration from that counsel, Capricorn. In addition to wine, poet-
 ry, and virtue, consider trying anything else that might work to
 achieve the desired exaltation, like meditation, dancing, sex,
 dream work, or a vision quest.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Thanks for the entertainment
 you've provided so far in 2008, Aquarius. Since last January, you
 have sent a nagging demon packing and corrected a kink in your
 integrity. You've paid off a load of karmic debt left over from the
 old days and have even begun to dissolve an outdated psychosex-
 ual imprint. Before I announce your reward for all this good work,
 though, I'd like you to make more progress on tempering your
 obsessive side. See what you can do to convert it from a part-time
 liability into a full-time asset.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "The real secret of magic is that
 the world is made of words," said the sage Terence McKenna, "and
 that if you know the words that the world is made of, you can
 make of it whatever you wish." I'd go even further and say that
 you can actually shape your world through your use of language.
 Do you really want to live amidst infertile chaos where nothing
 makes sense and no one really loves anyone? Then speak with
 unconscious carelessness, expressing yourself lazily. Or would you
 prefer to live in a realm that's rich with meaning and beauty and
 interesting mystery? Then be discerning and creative in how you
 speak, primed to name the novel truths that are always being
 born right in front of your eyes. Of course you always have the
 power to create heaven or hell through the words you choose,
 Pisces, but right now is a potential turning point when you could
 form good new habits.

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