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free will astrology

BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): What do you typically do just before you fall asleep and right after you wake up? Those rituals are important for your mental health. Without exaggeration, you could say they are sacred times when you're poised in the threshold between the two great dimensions of your life. I'll ask you to give special care and attention to those transitions in the coming week. As much as possible, avoid watching TV or surfing the internet right up to the moment you turn off the light, and don't leap out of bed the instant an alarm clock detonates. The astrological omens suggest you are primed to receive special revelations, even ringing epiphanies, while in those in-between states.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Have you ever gazed into the eyes of goats? If you have, you know that their pupils are rectangular when dilated. This quirk allows them to have a field of vision that extends as far as 340 degrees, as opposed to humans' puny 160-210 degrees. They can also see better at night than we can. Goats are your power animal in the coming week, Taurus. Metaphorically speaking, you will have an excellent chance to expand your breadth and depth of vision. Do you have any blind spots that need to be illuminated? Now's the time to make that happen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In the animated film *The Lion King*, two of the central characters are a talking meerkat named Timon and a talking warthog named Pumbaa. Their actions are often heroic. They help the star of the tale, Simba, rise to his rightful role as king. The human actors who provided the voices for Timon and Pumbaa, Nathan Lane and Ernie Sabella, originally auditioned for the lesser roles of hyenas. They set their sights too low. Fortunately fate conspired to give them more than what they asked for. Don't start out as they did, Gemini. Aim high right from the beginning -- not for the bit part or the minor role but rather for the catalyst who actually gets things done.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "He who is outside his door already has a hard part of his journey behind him," says a Dutch proverb. Ancient Roman writer Marcus Terentius Varro articulated a similar idea: "The longest part of the journey is the passing of the gate." I hope these serve as words of encouragement for you, Cancerian. You've got a quest ahead of you. At its best, it will involve freewheeling exploration and unpredictable discoveries. If you can get started in a timely manner, you'll set an excellent tone for the adventures. Don't procrastinate.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You're so close to finding a fresh perspective that would allow you to outmaneuver an old torment, Leo. You're on the verge of breaking through a wall of illusion that has sealed you off

from some very interesting truths. In the hope of providing you with the last little push that will take you the rest of the way, I offer two related insights from creativity specialist Roger von Oech: 1. If you get too fixated on solving a certain problem, you may fail to notice a new opportunity that arises outside the context of that problem. 2. If you intensify your focus by looking twice as hard at a situation that's right in front of you, you will be less likely to see a good idea that's right behind you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Thirty-two carrier pigeons were awarded medals by the United Kingdom for their meritorious service in the World Wars. Of course, they probably would have preferred sunflower seeds and peanuts as their prize. Let that lesson guide you as you bestow blessings on the people and animals that have done so much for you, Virgo. Give them goodies they would actually love to receive, not meaningless gold stars or abstract accolades. It's time to honor and reward your supporters with practical actions that suit them well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The caterpillar-to-butterfly transformation is such an iconic symbol of metamorphosis that it has become a cliché. And yet I'd like to point out that when the graceful winged creature emerges from its chrysalis, it never grows any further. We human beings, on the other hand, are asked to be in a lifelong state of metamorphosis, continually adjusting and shifting to meet our changing circumstances. I'll go so far as to say that having a readiness to be in continual transformation is one of the most beautiful qualities a person can have. Are you interested in cultivating more of that capacity, Libra? Now would be an excellent time to do so. Remember that line by Bob Dylan: "He who is not busy being born is busy dying."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This would be an excellent time to round up a slew of new role models. In my astrological opinion, you need to feel far more than your usual levels of admiration for exceptional human beings. You're in a phase when you could derive tremendous inspiration by closely observing masters and virtuosos and pros who are doing what you would like to do. For that matter, your mental and spiritual health would be profoundly enhanced by studying anyone who has found what he or she was born to do and is doing it with liberated flair.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): WD-40 is a spray product that prevents corrosion, loosens stuck hinges, removes hard-to-get-at dirt, and has several other uses. Its inventor, Norm Larsen, tried 39 different formulas before finding the precisely right combination of ingredients on his 40th attempt. The way I understand your life right

now, Sagittarius, is that you are like Larsen when he was working with version number 37. You're getting closer to creating a viable method for achieving your next success. That's why I urge you to be patient and determined as you continue to tinker and experiment. Don't keep trying the same formula that didn't quite work before. Open your mind to the possibility that you have not yet discovered at least one of the integral components.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A person who emits a huge angry shout produces just .001 watt of energy. Even if he or she yelled continuously 24/7, it would still take a year and nine months to produce enough energy to heat a cup of coffee. That's one way to metaphorically illustrate my bigger point, which is that making a dramatic show of emotional agitation may feel powerful but is often a sign of weakness. Please take this to heart in the coming week, Capricorn. If you do fall prey to a frothy eruption of tumultuous feelings, use all of your considerable willpower to maintain your poise. Better yet, abort the tumult before it detonates. This is one time when repressing negative feelings will be healthy, wealthy, and wise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Jeep vehicles always feature seven slots on their front grills. Why? For the manufacturer, it's a symbolic statement proclaiming the fact that Jeep was the first vehicle driven on all seven continents. Let's take that as your cue, Aquarius. Your assignment is to pick an accomplishment you're really proud of and turn it into an emblem, image, glyph or talisman that you can wear or express. If nothing else, draw it on dusty car windows, write it on bathroom walls, or add it to a Facebook status update. The key thing is that you use a public forum to celebrate yourself for a significant success, even if it's in a modest or mysterious way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A sign outside the Apostolic Bible Church in Bathurst, New Brunswick invited worshipers to meditate on a conundrum: "Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?" After all, if the builder of the Ark had refused to help the pesky insects survive the flood, we'd be free of their torment today. (Or so the allegorical argument goes.) Please apply this lesson to a situation in your own sphere, Pisces. As you journey to your new world, leave the vexatious elements behind.

HOMEWORK: Exhausted by the ceaseless barrage of depressing stories you absorb from the news media? Here's an antidote: <http://PronoiaResources>.

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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

MAKE IT INTERESTING
Intelligent, good conversationalist, and never boring. Friends tell me I'm attractive and I don't like being bored or boring. Looking for a friend first then who knows. Must like dogs. **nicklynwely**, 53, 📧

OPENING THE DOOR
Aries and Chinese Dragon; gentle, honest, practical, 20 + years sober, with kind morals, dry humor and joy. Relaxed, sometimes colorful, evolving, strong sense connections, love of outdoors seeks same. **3Josey90**, 59, 📧, 📧



WOMEN SEEKING WOMEN

DES
I change everyday. Like a chameleon, i adapt to whats around me. I'm also a Libra, and very true to it :). **Des**, 20, 📧



MEN SEEKING WOMEN

DOWN TO EARTH
Im a hard working man that likes to have fun and be eventured shy to a point but never scared to do most things fun exciting free birdd freinds. **shyflirt**, 37

URBAN-RURAL GREEN MAN
I was tasked with finding the love of my life; my turnon: deep connection with my lover, friends& family. Most important: growing, music, food, nature, building, exploring. Looking for allies/colaborators. **theotterguy**, 60, 📧

TO MY VALENTINE
exceeded the word limit. an excerpt; ...kiss you softly... ..feel my heart scream... ..soulful existence... ..overtaken by desire... .. love freely and completely... .. my heart is on fire... **adventurehound**, 49, 📧

LOOKING FOR LOVE
I'm a steady, hard working, leagaly blind nice guy who's done with games and wants Love. REAL LOVE. If you're ready to Love and be Loved, here I am. **Weavesabout**, 51, 📧

SIMPLE QUIET RIDER
looking for steady stable loving relationship with "us" the key-word and "me" not heard. Please, if it's about you don't call me. Had enough of that. ready for love. **longryder**, 56, 📧

ATTRACTIVE, INTELLIGENT, WITTY.

I am a pretty wonderful combination of hippie and non-hippie (meaning I don't smell, but I try to be a good person with minimal-ish negative impact on things and people). **albanym63**, 30, 📧



MEN SEEKING MEN

FUN AND QUIRKY
Love to laugh. Bit of a tech geek, but very much enjoy being social. looking for someone to grow with. living consciously, braininess, and being adorable are a plus :). **dehgeek**, 25, 📧



I-Love-you

MY DEAR SUPRIMA LATINA
I'm so thankful I've gotten to fall in love you. You are everything my heart was missing. Love, HWM

AUDRA
I LOVE YOU MORE AND MORE EVERY DAY! XOXO LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR FUTURE. LOVE DEEZEEY

MIDGET FEET
would walk a million baby steps through a forest of self serving hammers, and slide across miles of ice on my emperor penguin belly with a savory papaya on my back just to be with you. My lover, my best friend, my cornrow. Happy Valentines Day.



I SAW YOU

ONLY YOU
even after a year together my love for you continues to grow you are the best b-day present ever! i love you **When: Saturday, December 24, 2011. Where: in bed. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902382**

YVONNE, MY MOOSHKA
You're my tropical paradise. Your energy is the refreshing breeze, your eyes; the tropical water. Being there with you, my wife and our sweet girls will be magical! Love, Christa **When: Tuesday, February 14, 2012. Where: in paradise. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #902386**

STUDENT INSURGENT PHILOSOPHER
Sandy hair, light brown eyes. Think think think, but don't stop being Orlando, ridiculous and romantic if that is as you like it. See you at some such great height **When: Monday, February 13, 2012. Where: there. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902385**

I'VE BEEN AROUND
Letter here from the U.S. Marshal's office in Cheyenne, Wyoming. It contains eight essay questions I have yet to answer. Although, "Are you gay?" isn't one of them. Surprise surprise. **When: Friday, February 10, 2012. Where: Brownsville. You: Man. Me: Man. #902384**

SWEETLY AT LAST?
I may have been your singer in the bulk section of the Kiva. Sweetly... At Last was my tune...I'm happy people like you notice :-)
When: Wednesday, February 8, 2012. Where: Kiva. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902383MY

KIWI KUTIE
Your beauty astounds me, to feel you next to me completes me, your love in this life transforms me; you amaze me, my wife, my best friend, my everything. Always. **When: Saturday, January 28, 2012. Where: In the bush. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902381**

HOPEFULLY ROMANTIC
To all my post petroleum romantics, be fearless in your desires and make moments happen. Your making my dreams come true. **When: Thursday, February 9, 2012. Where: under my walnut tree. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902380**

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