

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Actress Blythe Baird writes about the problem that arises when her dog sees her eating a peanut butter and chocolate chip bagel. Her beloved pet begs for a piece and becomes miserable when it's not forthcoming. Baird is merely demonstrating her love, of course, because she knows that eating chocolate can make canines ill. I suspect that life is bestowing a comparable blessing on you. You may feel mad and sad about being deprived of something you want. But the likely truth is that you will be lucky not to get it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "I do not literally paint that table, but rather the emotion it produces upon me," French artist Henri Matisse told an interviewer. "But what if you don't always have emotion?" she asked him. This is how Matisse replied: "Then I do not paint. This morning, when I came to work, I had no emotion. So I took a horseback ride. When I returned, I felt like painting, and had all the emotion I wanted." This is excellent advice for you to keep in mind, Taurus. Even more than usual, it's crucial that you imbue every important thing you do with pure, strong emotions. If they're not immediately available, go in quest of them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Some night soon, I predict you'll dream of being an enlightened sovereign who presides over an ecologically sustainable paradise. You're a visionary leader who is committed to peace and high culture, so you've never gone to war. You share your wealth with the people in your kingdom. You revere scientists and shamans alike, providing them with what they need to do their good work for the enhancement of the realm. Have fun imagining further details of this dream, Gemini, or else make up your own. Now is an excellent time to visualize a fairy tale version of yourself at the height of your powers, living your dreams and sharing your gifts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It's not always necessary to have an expansive view of where you have been and where you are going, but it's crucial right now. So I suggest that you take an inventory of the big picture. For guidance, study this advice from philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche: "What have you truly loved? What has uplifted your soul, what has dominated and delighted it at the same time? Assemble these revered objects in a row before you and they may reveal a law by their nature and their order: the fundamental law of your very self."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Sportswear manufacturer Adidas is looking for ways to repurpose trash that humans dump in the oceans. One of its creations is a type of shoe made from illegal deep-sea nets that have been confiscated from poachers. I invite you to get inspired by Adidas's work. From an astrological perspective, now is a good time to expand and refine your personal approach to recycling. Brainstorm about how you could convert waste and refuse into useful, beautiful resources — not just literally, but also metaphorically. For example, is there a ruined or used-up dream that could be transformed into raw material for a shiny new dream?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "There isn't enough of anything as long as we live," wrote Raymond Carver. "But at intervals a sweetness appears and, given a chance, prevails." According to my analysis of the astrological omens, Virgo, you'll soon be gliding through one of these intervals. Now and then you may even experience the strange sensation of being completely satisfied with the quality and amount of sweetness that arrives. To ensure optimal results, be as free from greed as you can possibly be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "For a wound to heal, you have to clean it out," says author Yasmin Mogahed. "Again, and again and again. And this cleaning process stings. The cleaning of a wound hurts. Yes. Healing takes so much work. So much persistence. And so much patience." According to my analysis, Libra, you should be attending to this tough but glorious task. Although the work might be hard, it won't be anywhere near as hard as it usually is. And you are likely to make more progress than you would be able to at other times.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "The other day, lying in bed," writes poet Rodger Kamenetz, "I felt my heart beating for the first time in a long while. I realized how little I live in my body, how much in my mind." He speaks for the majority of us. We spend much of our lives entranced by the relentless jabber that unfolds between our ears. But I want to let you know, Scorpio, that the moment is ripe to rebel against this tendency in yourself. In the coming weeks, you will have a natural talent for celebrating your body. You'll be able to commune deeply with its sensations, to learn more about how it works, and to exult in the pleasure it gives you and the wisdom it provides.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In his "Dream Song 67," poet John Berryman confesses, "I am obliged to perform in complete darkness operations of great delicacy on my self." I hope you will consider embarking on similar heroics, Sagittarius. It's not an especially favorable time to overhaul your environment or try to get people to change in accordance with your wishes. But it's a perfect moment to spruce up your inner world — to tinker with and refine it so that everything in there works with more grace. And unlike Berryman, you won't have to proceed in darkness. The light might not be bright, but there'll be enough of a glow to see what you're doing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Here's the dictionary's definition of the word "indelible": "having the quality of being difficult to remove, wash away, blot out, or efface; incapable of being canceled, lost or forgotten." The word is often used in reference to unpleasant matters: stains on clothes, biases that distort the truth, superstitions held with unshakable conviction, or painful memories of romantic break-ups. I am happy to let you know that you now have more power than usual to dissolve seemingly indelible stuff like that. Here's a trick that might help you: Find a new teacher or teaching that uplifts you with indelible epiphanies.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): According to poet Tony Hoagland, most of us rarely "manage to finish a thought or a feeling; we usually get lazy or distracted and quit halfway through." Why? Hoagland theorizes that we "don't have the time to complete the process, and we dislike the difficulty and discomfort of the task." There's a cost for this negligence: "We walk around full of half-finished experiences." That's why Hoagland became a poet. He says that "poems model the possibility of feeling all the way through an emotional process" and "thinking all the way through a thought." The coming weeks will be a favorable time to get more in the habit of finishing your own feelings and thoughts, Aquarius. It will also be more important than usual that you do so! (Hoagland's comments appeared in *Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Arts*.)

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Unless you work at night and sleep by day, you experience the morning on a regular basis. You may have a love-hate relationship with it, because on the one hand you don't like to leave your comfortable bed so early, and on the other hand you enjoy anticipating the interesting events ahead of you. But aside from your personal associations with the morning, this time of day has always been a potent symbol of awakenings and beginnings. Throughout history, poets have invoked it to signify purity and promise. In myth and legend, it often represents the chance to see things afresh, to be free of the past's burdens, to love life unconditionally. Dream interpreters might suggest that a dream of morning indicates a renewed capacity to trust oneself. All of these meanings are especially apropos for you right now, Pisces.

HOMEWORK: Imagine gazing into the eyes of the person you were 10 years ago. What do you want to say to the Old You? Freewillastrology.com



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I SAW YOU

HEATHER

I should have bought another beer for myself and one for you. There's one easy and sure way to see me again. Ed The Weekly will provide you with my number.

MOTHER EARTH CAN'T WAIT WHILE WE HATE

SONOROUS

Awakening in the dark of night. Where I've grown solemn and struck to silence. Slowly slowly dawns a comprehension. Gentle and tender this effect on my own being. The task of what is realized from cataclysmic shatter. Fishbowl to canyon, you know? An utter complexity and/or simple elegance. In my hand I sense a warmth of heartbeat. A feathery light flutter of wing. Can I let myself, let your soul rest here, as if it must fly?

TO ME IT'S NOT

'Everything we touch turns to gold' but 'Everyone we touch shows their soul'. (Often a gift, though we don't need to go far to find ill will/despair.) Hollies-'If I'm leanin' at all/I'm leanin' with sadness/That e very-one's heart isn't filled with a gladness/Of love/ For one another

WELL, I DON'T MEAN TO BE THE WHITE RABBIT

every time we meet...i'll work on that. My time hasn't been my own, lately. Looking forward to running into you again, with a little less haste on my part.

WINDOW SHOPPING

I see you on the rack, so enticing You were only meant to be window shopping Oh you dirrty dirrty clothes, you Oh how I love shopping

EXPOSURE

a photo sharing space

by @lamoch



You are the endless waterfall that flows through my soul. // Thank you, @nokavo, for finding a gem for me to explore in. #CreateStatic #expLauren #PacificNorthWest #PNW #PNWCollective #PNWLife #PNWonderland #ThatPNWLife #NorthWestIsBest #EWExposure #RealOregon #TravelOregon #explOregon #ExploreOregon #jj_Oregon #OregonExplored

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