

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "Many people go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after," observed Henry David Thoreau. The spirit of Thoreau's observation is true about every one of us to some extent. From time to time, we all try to satisfy our desires in the wrong location, with the wrong tools and with the wrong people. But I'm happy to announce that his epigram is less true for you now than it has ever been. In the coming months, you will have an unusually good chance to know exactly what you want, be in the right place at the right time to get it and still want it after you get it. And it all starts now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): I predict that during the next ten months, you will generate personal power and good fortune as you ripen your skills at creating interesting forms of intimacy. Get started! Here are some tips to keep in mind. 1. All relationships have problems. Every single one, no exceptions! So you should cultivate relationships that bring you useful and educational problems. 2. Be very clear about the qualities you do and don't want at the core of your most important alliances. 3. Were there past events that still obstruct you from weaving the kind of togetherness that's really good for you? Use your imagination to put those events behind you forever.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may be entertaining an internal dialogue that sounds something like this: "I need a clear yes or a definitive no ... a tender revelation or a radical revolution ... a lesson in love or a cleansing sex marathon — but I'm not sure which! Should I descend or ascend? Plunge deeper down, all the way to the bottom? Or zip higher up, in a heedless flight into the wide open spaces? Would I be happier in the poignant embrace of an intense commitment or in the wild frontier where none of the old rules can follow me? I can't decide! I don't know which part of my mind I should trust!" If you do hear past thoughts in your brain, Gemini, here's my advice: There's no rush to decide. What's healthiest for your soul is to bask in the uncertainty for a while.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): According to storyteller Michael Meade, ancient Celtic culture believed that "a person was born through three forces: the coming together of the mother and father, an ancestral spirit's wish to be reborn and the involvement of a god or goddess." Even if you don't think that's literally true, the coming weeks will be a favorable time to have fun fantasizing it is. That's because you're in a phase when contemplating your origins can invigorate your spiritual health and attract good fortune into your life. So start with the Celtic theory and go on from there. Which of your ancestors may have sought to live again through you? Which deity might have had a vested interest in you being born? What did you come to this earth to accomplish? Which of your innate potentials have you yet to fully develop, and what can you do to further develop them?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I predict that starting today and during the next ten months, you will learn more about treating yourself kindly and making yourself happy than you have in years. You will mostly steer clear of the mindset that regards life as a numbing struggle for mere survival. You will regularly dream up creative ideas about how to have more fun while attending to the mundane tasks in your daily rhythm. Here's the question I hope you will ask yourself every morning for the next 299 days: "How can I love myself with devotion and ingenuity?"

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This may be the most miscellaneous horoscope I've ever created for you. That's apropos, given the fact that you're a multifaceted quick-change artist these days. Here's your sweet mess of oracles. 1. If the triumph you seek isn't humbling, it's not the right triumph. 2. You may have an odd impulse to reclaim or recoup something that you have not in fact lost. 3. Before transmutation is possible, you must pay a debt. 4. Don't be held captive by your beliefs. 5. If you're given a choice between profane and sacred love, choose sacred.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The next ten months will be an ideal time to revise and revamp your approach to education. To take maximum advantage of the potentials, create a master plan to get the training and knowledge you'll need to thrive for years to come. At first, it may be a challenge to acknowledge that you have a lot more to learn. The comfort-loving part of your nature may be resistant to contemplating the hard work it will require to expand your worldview and enhance your skills. But once you get started, you'll quickly find the process becoming easier and more pleasurable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Everything that can be invented has been invented." — Charles H. Duell, Director of the U.S. Patent Office, 1899. "Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible." — Lord Kelvin, President, Royal Society, 1895. "All the music that can be written has already been written. We're just repeating the past." — 19th-century composer Tchaikovsky. "Video won't be able to hold on to any market it captures after the first six months. People will soon get tired of staring at a box every night." — filmmaker Darryl F. Zanuck commenting on television in 1946. I hope I've provided enough evidence to convince you to be faithful to your innovative ideas, Scorpio. Don't let skeptics or conventional thinkers waylay you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Of all the signs in the zodiac, you Sagittarians are most likely to buy a lottery ticket that has the winning numbers. But you're also more likely than everyone else to throw the ticket in a drawer and forget about it, or else leave it in your jeans when you do the laundry, rendering the ticket unreadable. Please don't be like that in the coming weeks. Make sure you do what's necessary to fully cash in on the good fortune that life will be making available.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In the game of basketball, if a player is fouled by a member of the opposing team, he is given a "free throw." While standing 15 feet away, he takes a leisurely shot at the basket without having to deal with any defenders. Studies show that a player is most likely to succeed at this task if he shoots the ball underhanded. Yet virtually no professionals ever do this. Why? Because it doesn't look cool. Everyone opts to shoot free throws overhand, even though it's not as effective a technique. Weird! Let's invoke this as a metaphor for your life in the coming weeks, Capricorn. In my astrological opinion, you'll be more likely to accomplish good and useful things if you're willing to look uncool.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In 1991, Aquarius rock star Axl Rose recorded the song "November Rain" with his band Guns N' Roses. It had taken him eight years to compose it. Before it was finally ready for prime time, he had to whittle it down from an 18-minute-long epic to a more succinct nine-minute ballad. I see the coming weeks as a time when you should strive to complete work on your personal equivalent of Axl's opus.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Thomas Edison was a prolific inventor whose work led to the creation of electric lights, recorded music, movies and much more. When he was 49 years old, he met Henry Ford, a younger innovator who was at the beginning of his illustrious career. Ford told Edison about his hopes to develop and manufacture low-cost automobiles and the older man responded with an emphatic endorsement. Ford later said this was the first time anyone had given him any encouragement. Edison's approval "was worth worlds" to him. I predict, Pisces, that you will receive comparable inspiration from a mentor or guide or teacher in the next nine months. Be on the lookout for that person.

HOMEWORK: Is there a belief you know you should live without, but don't yet have the courage to leave behind? FreeWillAstrology.com



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