

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): I hope that everything doesn't come too easily for you in the coming weeks. I'm worried you will meet with no obstructions and face no challenges. And that wouldn't be good. It might weaken your willpower and cause your puzzle-solving skills to atrophy. Let me add a small caveat, however. It's also true that right about now you deserve a whoosh of slack. I'd love for you to be able to relax and enjoy your well-deserved rewards. But on the other hand, I know you will soon receive an opportunity to boost yourself up to an even higher level of excellence and accomplishment. I want to be sure that when it comes, you are at peak strength and alertness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You were born with the potential to give the world specific gifts — benefits and blessings that are unique to you. One of those gifts has been slow in developing. You've never been ready to confidently offer it in its fullness. In fact, if you have tried to bestow it in the past, it may have caused problems. But the good news is that in the coming months, this gift will finally be ripe. You'll know how to deal crisply with the interesting responsibilities it asks you to take on. Here's your homework: Get clear about what this gift is and what you will have to do to offer it in its fullness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Happy Unbirthday, Gemini! You're halfway between your last birthday and your next. That means you're free to experiment with being different from who you have imagined yourself to be and who other people expect you to be. Here are inspirational quotes to help you celebrate. 1. "Those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything." — George Bernard Shaw. 2. "Like all weak men he laid an exaggerated stress on not changing one's mind." — W. Somerset Maugham. 3. "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds. With consistency a great soul has simply nothing to do." — Ralph Waldo Emerson. 4. "The snake which cannot cast its skin has to die. As well the minds which are prevented from changing their opinions; they cease to be mind." — Friedrich Nietzsche.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I suggest that you take a piece of paper and write down a list of your biggest fears. Then call on the magical force within you that is bigger and smarter than your fears. Ask your deep sources of wisdom for the poised courage you need to keep those scary fantasies in their proper place. And what is their proper place? Not as the masters of your destiny, not as controlling agents that prevent you from living lustily, but rather as helpful guides that keep you from taking foolish risks.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In his book *Life: The Odds,* Gregory Baer says that the odds you will marry a millionaire are not good: 215-to-1. They're 60,000-to-1 that you'll wed royalty and 88,000-to-1 that you'll date a model. After analyzing your astrological omens for the coming months, I suspect your chances of achieving these feats will be even lower than usual. That's because you're far more likely to cultivate synergetic and symbiotic relationships with people who enrich your soul and stimulate your imagination, but don't necessarily pump up your ego. Instead of models and millionaires, you're likely to connect with practical idealists, energetic creators and emotionally intelligent people who've done work to transmute their own darkness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): What might you do to take better care of yourself in 2018, Virgo? According to my reading of the astrological omens, this will be a fertile meditation for you to keep revisiting. Here's a good place to start: Consider the possibility that you have a lot to learn about what makes your body operate at peak efficiency and what keeps your soul humming along with the sense that your life is interesting. Here's another crucial task: Intensify your love for yourself. With that as a driving force, you'll be led to discover the actions necessary to supercharge your health. P.S. Now is an ideal time to get this project underway.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Here are themes I suggest you specialize in during the coming weeks. 1. How to gossip in ways that don't diminish and damage your social network, but rather foster and enhance it. 2. How to be in three places at once without committing the mistake of being nowhere at all. 3. How to express precisely what you mean without losing your attractive mysteriousness. 4. How to be nosy and brash for fun and profit. 5. How to unite and harmonize the parts of yourself and your life that have been at odds with each other.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): I predict that in the coming months you won't feel compulsions to set your adversaries' hair on fire. You won't fantasize about robbing banks to raise the funds you need, nor will you be tempted to worship the devil. And the news just gets better. I expect that the amount of self-sabotage you commit will be close to zero. The monsters under your bed will go on a long sabbatical. Any lame excuses you have used in the past to justify bad behavior will melt away. And you'll mostly avoid indulging in bouts of irrational and unwarranted anger. In conclusion, Scorpio, your life should be pretty evil-free for quite some time. What will you do with this prolonged outburst of grace? Use it wisely!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "What is love?" asks philosopher Richard Smoley. "It's come to have a greeting-card quality," he mourns. "Half the time 'loving' someone is taken to mean nurturing a warmish feeling in the heart for them, which mysteriously evaporates the moment the person has some concrete need or irritates us." One of your key assignments in the next ten months will be to purge any aspects of this shrunken and shriveled kind of love that may still be lurking in your beautiful soul. You are primed to cultivate an unprecedented new embodiment of mature, robust love.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You know that unfinished task you have half-avoided, allowing it to stagnate? Soon you'll be able to summon the gritty determination required to complete it. I suspect you'll also be able to carry out the glorious rebirth you've been shy about climaxing. To gather the energy you need, reframe your perspective so that you can feel gratitude for the failure or demise that has made your glorious rebirth necessary and inevitable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In an ideal world, your work and your character would speak for themselves. You'd receive exactly the amount of recognition and appreciation you deserve. You wouldn't have to devote as much intelligence to selling yourself as you did to developing your skills in the first place. But now forget everything I just said. During the next ten months, I predict that packaging and promoting yourself won't be so #\$\$@&#! important. Your work and character WILL speak for themselves with more vigor and clarity than they have before.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): There used to be a booth at a Santa Cruz flea market called "Joseph Campbell's Love Child." It was named after the mythological scholar who wrote the book *The Hero with a Thousand Faces.* The booth's proprietor sold items that spurred one's "heroic journey," like talismans made to order and herbs that stimulated courage and mini-books with personalized advice based on one's horoscope. "Chaos-Tamers" were also for sale. They were magic spells designed to help people manage the messes that crop up in one's everyday routine while pursuing a heroic quest. Given the current astrological omens, Pisces, you would benefit from a place that sold items like these. Since none exists, do the next best thing: Aggressively drum up all the help and inspiration you need. You can and should be well-supported as you follow your dreams on your hero's journey.

HOMEWORK: What change have you prepared yourself to embrace? What lesson are you ripe to master? Write: FreeWillAstrology.com



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