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**FREE WILL Astrology** WEEK OF AUGUST 21

BY ROB BREZSNY

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): When glassmakers want to cool a newly blown piece, they don't simply leave it out to harden. That would cause it to shatter from the inside. Instead, they place it in an annealing oven, where the temperature drops in measured increments over many hours. This careful cooling aligns the internal structure and strengthens the whole. Let's invoke this as a useful metaphor, Aries. I absolutely love the heat and radiance you've expressed recently. But now it's wise for you to gradually cool down: to allow your fervor to coalesce into an enduring new reservoir of power and vitality. Transform sheer intensity into vibrant clarity and cohesion.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): To paraphrase Sufi mystic poet Rumi: "Don't get lost in your pain. Know that one day your pain will become your cure." In my astrological opinion, Taurus, you have arrived at this pivotal moment. A wound you've had to bear for a long spell is on the verge of maturing into a gift, even a blessing. A burdensome ache is ready to reveal its teachings. You may have assumed you would be forever cursed by this hurt, but that's not true! Now it's your sacred duty to shed that assumption and open your heart so you can harvest the healing.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): As you enter a Tibetan Buddhist temple, you may encounter statues and paintings of fierce spirits. They are guardian figures who serve as protectors, scaring away negative and destructive forces so they can't enter the holy precincts. In accordance with astrological omens, Gemini, I invite you to be your own threshold guardian. Authorize a wise and strict part of you to defend and safeguard what truly matters. This staunch action doesn't have to be aggressive, but it should be informed with fierce clarity. You can't afford to let the blithe aspect of your personality compromise your overall interests by being too accommodating. Assign your protective self to stand at your gate and say: "I protect this. I cherish this. I won't dilute this."

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): "Dear Dr. Feelgood: Lately, you seem to be extra nice to us hypersensitive Crabs. Almost *too* kind. Why? Are you in love with a Cancerian woman, and you're trying to woo her? Did you hurt a Cancerian friend's feelings, and now you're atoning? Please tell me you're not just coddling us. — Permanently Drunk on a Million Feelings." Dear Drunk: You use your imagination to generate visions of things that don't exist yet. It's your main resource for creating your future. This is especially crucial right now. The coming months will be a fertile time for shaping the life you want to live for the next 10 years. If I can help you keep your imagination filled with positive expectations, you are more likely to devise marvelous self-fulfilling prophecies.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): In traditional Chinese medicine, the heart is the seat of joy. It's also the sovereign that listens to the wisdom of the other organs before acting. Dear Leo, as you cross the threshold from attracting novelty to building stability, I encourage you to cultivate extra heart-centered leadership, both for yourself and for those who look to you for inspiration. What does that mean? Make decisions based on love and compassion more than on rational analysis. Be in service to wholeness rather than to whatever might bring temporary advantage.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In Mesoamerican myth, the god Quetzalcoatl journeys to the underworld not to escape death, but to recover old bones needed to create new life. I propose you draw inspiration from this story, Virgo. In recent weeks, you have been gathering pieces of the past, not out of a sense of burdensome obligation, but as a source of raw material. Now comes the time for reassembly. You won't rebuild the same old thing. You will sculpt visionary gifts for yourself from what was lost. You will use your history to design your future. Be alert for the revelations that the bones sing.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In the Hebrew language, the word for "face" is plural. There is no singular form for *panim*. I love that fact! For me, it implies that each of us has a variety of faces. Our identity is multifaceted. I think you should make a special point of celebrating this truth in the coming weeks, Libra. Now is an excellent time to explore and honor all of your many selves. Take full advantage of your inner diversity, and enjoy yourself to the max as you express and reveal the full array of truths you contain.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In the ancient Hindu holy text known as the Upanishads, *ananda* means bliss, though not so much in the sense of physical or psychological pleasure as of deep, ecstatic knowing. I believe you are close to attracting this glorious experience into your soul, Scorpio — not just fleetingly, but for a while. I predict you will glide into alignments that feel like coming home to your eternal and perfect self. Treasure these moments as divine gifts. Immerse yourself with total welcome and gratitude. Let *ananda* inform your next steps.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In Daoist cosmology, the nature of life is characterized by cyclical, flowing patterns rather than linear, static motions. In my study of its gorgeous teachings, I exult in how it inspires me to honor both contraction and expansion, the power of circling inward and reaching outward. With this in mind, Sagittarius, I invite you to make the spiral your symbol of power. Yes, it may sometimes feel like you're revisiting old ground. Perhaps an ex will resurface, or an old goal will seek your attention. But I guarantee it's not mere repetition. An interesting form of evolution is underway. You're returning to longstanding challenges armed with fresh wisdom. Ask yourself: What do I know now that I didn't before? How can I meet these interesting questions from a higher point of the spiral?

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Inuit artworks are often made from materials available in their environment, like driftwood, stones, walrus ivory, whale bones, and caribou bones and antlers. Even their tools are crafted from that stuff. In part, this is evidence of their resourcefulness, and in part, a reflection of how lovingly they engage with their environment. I recommend you borrow their approach, Capricorn. Create your practical magic by relying on what's already available. Be enterprising as you generate usefulness and fun out of scraps and leftovers. Your raw material is probably better if it's not perfect.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The medieval alchemists had a central principle, rendered in Latin as follows: *Visita interiora terrae, rectificando invenies occultum lapidem*. Translated, it means, "Seek out the lower reaches of the earth, perfect them, and you will find the hidden stone." I invite you to go on a similar underground quest, Aquarius. The purpose is not to wallow in worry or sadness, but rather to retrieve a treasure. Some magnificence beneath your surface life is buried — an emotional truth, a creative impulse, a spiritual inheritance. And it's time you went and got it. Think of it as a quest and a pilgrimage. The "hidden stone," an emblem of spiritual riches, wants you to find it.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): In ancient Greece, the god Janus presided over doorways. He had two faces, one looking outward and forward, one gazing inward and backward. I believe this is your Janus phase, Pisces. Before you launch into your next fluidic quest, pause and take inventory. Peer behind you, not with regret but with curiosity and compassion. What cycle has fully ended? What wisdom has settled into your bones? Then face the future, not with shyness or foreboding, but with eager intention and confidence. What goals, rooted in who you are becoming, can inspire an exciting new plot thread?

Homework: What spoiled part of your life could you rehabilitate?  
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**Jonesin' Crossword** BY MATT JONES

"There's a Catch" — you may scramble to get there.

**Across**

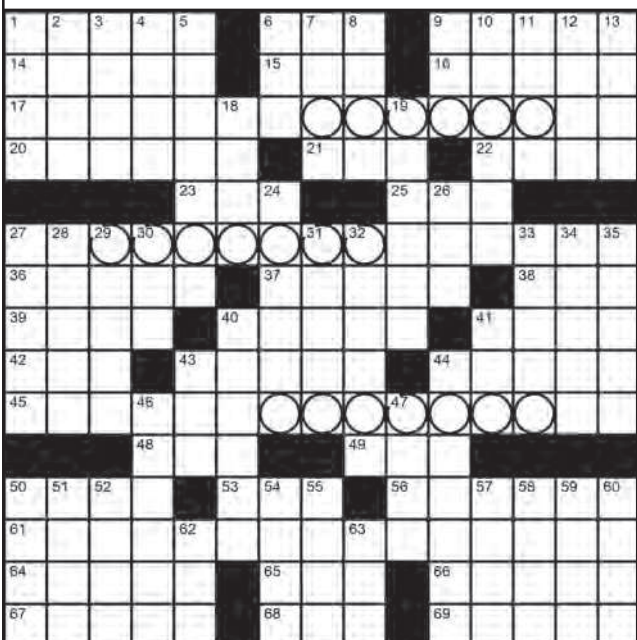
- 1. Enewetak, e.g.
- 6. "Super" interest group
- 9. Assumed a role
- 14. TV chef Bastianich
- 15. Web address, familiarly
- 16. Flying waterfowl
- 17. Determining direction
- 20. "Death Becomes Her" costar
- 21. Big-eyed barn bird
- 22. Richards played by Pedro Pascal in "The Fantastic Four: First Steps"
- 23. Air travel delayer
- 25. Nice reply?
- 27. Underwater projectile system
- 36. Outwit, in a way
- 37. Bachelorette party, in the U.K.

- 38. Soccer stadium shout
- 39. Supposing
- 40. Jason of the "American Pie" films
- 41. Additions
- 42. Magritte's "The \_\_\_ of Man"
- 43. Night watch
- 44. "All good here"
- 45. Their syllabi may involve a reading list
- 48. Abbr. after an attorney's name
- 49. \_\_\_ Lanka
- 50. Be boastful
- 53. "Cocoon" transport
- 56. Burdens
- 61. Difficult (and a hint to the challenge of interpreting the circles in the grid)
- 64. More than apologize
- 65. Painting medium

**Down**

- 1. "The Sound of Music" backdrop
- 2. Pinball fail
- 3. Funk
- 4. Low-cal, on a label
- 5. Library penalty
- 6. Bit of "Bob's Burgers" menu humor
- 7. 2012 Oscar winner for Best Picture
- 8. Crab's grabber
- 9. Some time \_\_\_
- 10. Former "Today" host Katie
- 11. Went really fast
- 12. "To be" in Latin

- 13. Monopoly card
- 18. Obsolete music holder
- 19. Storm warnings
- 24. Be graceful, per a Michelle Obama quote
- 26. Game with 108 cards
- 27. Poke fun at
- 28. "Come on down!" announcer Johnny
- 29. Feeling regret
- 30. Adobe file ext.
- 31. Aboveboard
- 32. Trigonometry measurements
- 33. Provide with quarters?
- 34. "I'm hunting wabbits" speaker
- 35. Sits for a bit
- 40. Lobster soup
- 41. ["I can't believe it"]
- 43. "\_\_\_ for Vengeance" (Grafton book)
- 44. Freezing over
- 46. All-time great
- 47. Elvis's middle name
- 50. Say too much
- 51. "The \_\_\_ of Spring"
- 52. "Don't Matter" singer
- 54. Lily pad occupant
- 55. "Garfield" dog
- 57. Home of the Bruins
- 58. \_\_\_ serif fonts
- 59. State of plié?
- 60. Former political divs.
- 62. "Over here!"
- 63. Under the weather



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ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S