

PRESENTATION BY PHYLLIS FIRAK-MITZ

On October 19-20, 2001, Phyllis Firak-Mitz joined us for our monthly lecture and workshop. Following is the write-up by Penny Willer:

FRIDAY LECTURE

The Friday night talk was about Mars as the inner and outer hero. Mars gives us courage to do what we have not done before, sometimes inch by inch. This is the year we can do more than we ever expected to be able to do. A scared Mars feels threatened, that the world is out of control. We need to take dominion of our own consciousness, learn to direct our own energy. We can go to the next step in overcoming limitations. We all have the aloneness or lack of trust. If there is disappointment or disillusionment, one must dig deeper.

Mars in square aspects experiences frustration. In opposition aspect, it feels like someone else is in the way. These aspects, along with the quincunx, call upon us to learn to deal with the energy. The destiny is in learning that how we handle conflict is important. What do we really need to do? What can I cut through? All aspects require a quality of cooperation. Transits provide opportunities for course corrections. Stuckness and frustration can be transformed into fluid movement. There might be something better than what we want. We can tap into the part of the self where even though we didn't know we knew how to deal with it, we do deal with it. Phyllis encourages people to do the opposite of what their Mars sign is in order to complete the action.

With Mars in Libra, the activity must be balanced and harmonious. He wants everyone to want what he wants — peace, beauty, relationship. This placement is

perfect Mars placement for what we need to accomplish in this life.

Mars in Aries is self-reliant with self-motivated energy. The higher expression is to tap into the Higher Self. If there is a sense of againstness or dominance in any action, it is the lower frequency coming out. The challenge is that Mars in Aries always wants something new. The inner hero puts 100% of his individuality in even the most mundane action. When he is totally present, it is an opportunity to find the Self. Mars takes care of us in areas of sexuality, protection, and in helping us get what we want. From a spiritual perspective, what we do on this planet can either lift us or just keep us busy. Sexually, Mars in Aries is extremely direct and assertive. There can be a challenge if there is a sense of good for musicians, negotiators, brokers, anyone crossing a bridge. It must take action to bring people together, to make things fairer or more just. The challenge is to allow things not to be fair or balanced, to cut through preference for peace. The inner hero needs to be able to be balanced with self no matter what. If indecisive, the learning is that any decision is the right decision, that commitment and intention is the right choice. Just to connect is the right choice.

The destiny of Mars in Taurus is to act in such a way as to create security. The "farmer Mars" cultivates and plants seeds. He has long-term patience and endurance. The challenge is that this energy can flip into lack overnight. When is it enough? One of the lessons is to learn to receive. Feeling gratitude with the intention to receive creates a spiritual opening. Mars trines have a quality of grace with the ability not to have to confront. The challenge may be in fearing confrontation. The antidote is to get with the Divine Flow.

What motivates Mars in Virgo is the same as for the other earth signs. They like to get things done, be producers, help, fix, be assistful. Discernment as to what to do is the unique challenge of Mars in Virgo. They need to learn cooperation with the perfection of what is present, to realize the process is perfect. The lower nature can be so busy and distracted.

Mars in Pisces is driven to know the Self. They are service-oriented, motivated to surrender, and understand they are part of something greater in their transpersonal urge. This Mars placement is good for healing or assisting others or doing. There is liveliness and enjoyment of variety.

Mars in Scorpio is the most penetrating, with a very intense emotional motivation. It can go extremely deep to the bottom line is at its best when others are at their worst. The challenge is to be an alchemist, to take lower nature and transform it into the higher nature, to slay through limitations of jealousy, envy, and a desire for revenge. The main question is "What is the intention?" They can be the most manipulative, conniving, and strategic. The energy is seductive and enjoys the sexual dance as much as the act. The challenge is that they can use sex as a hook to tease others.

Mars in Leo is magnanimous, a hero working with heart and courage. There is playfulness in its highest form. With no need to strategize, there are natural leadership qualities. Pride is the Achilles Heel, the need to be the best. A heart-based respect for people is the higher expression. There is generosity and showmanship on lovemaking.

Mars in Cancer has an inner hero who nurtures the self. His is an emotional motivator who knows how to be a good parent. Sexually, they are extremely

something creative. Their challenge is that life is ordinary. They must surrender to the present, Practicing compassion uplifts them.

Mars in Gemini has the ability to multi-task and follows all interests. The inner hero key is to be 100% present, and focused in the moment. There is a tendency to get off track, to become so scattered that one is not transformed by anything. The lower nature expresses aggression through communication. The higher nature can teach and uplift. Their sexuality has a quality of junior high school, with kissing and handholding. tender. There is a challenge that they may exchange sex for security. They are learning about the power of femininity.

Mars in Aquarius has a transpersonal motivation. They are good toolmakers. In its lower expression, there is separation, no contribution to the greater whole, and a reaction against people. He can be a loyal lover, but may objectify the body. There is a need to see spirit on the other person.

Mars in Sagittarius is motivated to go after an ideal. They are moral, ethical, spiritual, and principled. There is a need to recognize they are both teacher and student all the time. If they see themselves only as the teacher, they may be contemptuous of other's ideas. If only as the student, they may forget they have their own wisdom. Dancers express God through movement. Mars in Sag or Gemini love to stir up things; they are motivated to uplift and inspire.

Mars in Capricorn is the executive Mars. He likes action that is practical, tangible, and useful. The inner hero is working on self-mastery. He needs to give himself recognition, to be kind and nurturing to him. The outer hero needs to do something meaningful to them.

SATURDAY WORKSHOP

The Saturday workshop was about transits. There is an estimate that the division between fate and free will is about 50/50. In early childhood a lot of karma is seeded in experiences we have. As we get older and transits unfold, we have opportunities to work on those issues throughout our lives. When we were young, we may have made limiting judgments and decision. As we mature, we can make new choices. Karma is loosely defined as something we have to learn, which is neither good nor bad, but a balancing of something we have to deal with. One of the ways to shift from negative limitations is the act of forgiveness. It is the opportunity to free up an enormous amount of energy. It is not about forgiving and being doormats, but about releasing the judgments which keep karma stuck.

Saturn transiting in Gemini challenges us to be accountable, disciplined, and inner masters of our consciousness. We need to be aware of a sense of contraction, lack, or fear. Don't make decisions in this frame of mind. The question is "How do I hold a sense that I can take care of myself?" Saturn is like a personal trainer, adding resistance to help us to grow. He demands patience and endurance.

Pluto destroys, undermines, and makes us feel powerless. The karma is to find where the Greater Power is. There is an opportunity for spiritual power, to push lower self aside and channel greater Essence. It is important to watch our intentions, look out for manipulation, competition, negativity, desire for revenge, or creepiness. With a Pluto transit, we are asked to choose the high road over and over again every minute. It relentlessly wears down the ego so there is nothing left to do but let go and

surrender to Divine Will. In monitoring intention, seek the Highest Good for all concerned. Wherever you see Pluto, do forgiveness. Teach by example; don't try to transform anyone.

Transiting Uranus provides an opportunity for a course correction. There may be an overnight transition. It brings us freedom, the ability to be true to ourselves and trust ourselves whatever is going on.

Transiting Neptune allows us to learn to surrender our ego structure. We find out where we have never been clear and where we can get conned and where our ego things it knows.

Transiting Jupiter teaches ethics and morals. He promotes expansion in career, money, the experience of loving, addictions, and debts. Jupiter/Saturn can do more. There is a sense of being ordained, being loved by God. Jupiter/Neptune gives a holy or divine experience. Jupiter/Venus is a marriage combination. Jupiter/Pluto is good for study, healing work, and forgiveness work. Jupiter/Uranus is the Awakening aspect. They all provide us with opportunities, and we can use these gifts to make the most of our lives.

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