

August Skies

The main event this month is the final cardinal grand cross on August 6-7th, the last of an evolution of crosses involving Jupiter/Uranus opposition Saturn and square Pluto, with the lunar opposition to Pluto filling out the cross. It's the final installment of the "shootout in the sky" and both Venus and Mars join with Saturn to accomplish it, bringing more than half the planets at one time into this final tangle. It would be nothing but bad news were Venus not adding its seductive sparkle with Mars into the mix. If "the big O" is indeed "la petite mort" then this could be an intriguing time to find out just how, in detail! For those enjoying risky romance, with a taste of self-obliteration at the end, August 7th has *got* to be the night for it.

Otherwise, it's a big relief that the viselike sky is finally going to open up as Saturn begins its flight to central Libra and Uranus and Jupiter head back to Pisces for some creative fun without the initial harshness of Aries. This summer's lockup both climaxes and then breaks up in a single week, which should be both exciting and encouraging as new options develop and life can again get underway with a little more flexibility than before. Mercury retrograde for the last ten days of the month and a last echo of the grand cross over Labor Day/Bank Holiday will be the time to reset all your gears, clocks, and other operant norms for a new reality that will blossom in the fall. After a harrowing heavenly harvest, it will be time to [clean the remainders](#) and make use of the shattered pieces of the old to creatively build a new set of structures personally and economically.

Important Mileposts

03 Aug ♃ ☐ ♁ 04:59 am EDT 03°♃13'♁

In the enthusiasm for a new cause or idea you can sometimes back it up with a little too much or ill-placed force and break the very thing that you want to sustain. Or, you can overestimate the effectiveness and reach of your powers and wind up going "a bridge too far." There is a general climate right now for making that judgment error, and once you have made it, there usually is no going back. You may equally find yourself the recipient of this kind of pressure, and should you see it happening, don't fight it and have it go to its logical hurtful conclusion, but don't give in, either. Just make yourself scarce until the situation blows over. In the survival game, the fittest often know to flee.

06 Aug ♀ enters ♎ 11:48 pm EDT

All things bright and beautiful are what everybody's asking for these next few weeks, and there's much competition to one-up each other in matters of taste and possessions. That drives prices up, both financially and emotionally, so you may want to think twice before going for that higher bid. It might be overpriced.

08 Aug ♀ ♂ ♃ 01:24 pm EDT 01°♁37'

Beauty on a budget takes its lessons from bygone days when folks were less wasteful and more resourceful. Clean lines, conservative colors, and classic sensibility paint the picture of what succeeds best right now. Love grows more intense when it is brought

into tight focus, and simple altars best praise the gods.

09 Aug ☽ ☿ ☾ 11:09 pm EDT 17° 25' New Moon in Leo

The blossom of creativity is intensely in the bud this month, and no matter how much pressure may be on to produce, there is always the opportunity to make it all a joyful expression of open possibilities. The key to the month is to throw off limitations and allow natural development to spread wherever it goes, even at the risk of transgressing the rules. It's one of those things you just have to let happen against your better judgment and discover later it was the right thing to do. That doesn't mean throw precaution to the winds, just recognize the unexpected fresh breeze and set your sail to take advantage of it.

13 Aug ♃ enters ♋ 11:25 pm EDT

Discoveries are made by forcing the issue increasingly over the next seven years. Breaks and discontinuities seem to come from out of the blue, even though they have been gestating for some time. Belief systems around you change radically at sudden shear points, revealing the obvious only after the fact, leaving the most aggressive in charge.

16 Aug ♃ ☿ ♃ 04:45 pm EDT 02° 27' ♃

This generational aspect, which happens only once every 20 years, marks a major social and economic struggle between the new and the old, the traditional and the radical, in which both sides spar and harden against each other. It is very much a time to choose one and leave the other behind in relation to the larger part all play in the big picture. Prejudices increase, along with paranoia and general fear of the unknown, leading many to cling to false idols and defend or advance them dangerously. Where you can find movement that leads both to what is right and also profitable, there you will become elevated above the fray.

20 Aug ♀ ☿ ♂ 02:49 pm EDT 13° 35'

It's sparkle plenty time, when love and desire are born and animal magnetism is instilled into every step you initiate. It's the perfect time for love, romance, and passion and it's also got star power written all over. If you want to start something with high profile public appeal, now's the time, so shake it, shake it!

20 Aug ♃ ♃ 03:53 pm EDT 19° 04' ♃ Mercury Stationary Retrograde

Sometimes painting life with a broad brush can cause you to miss messy details that then slow you down. The next three weeks are a great time to pause and make sure the rug rats and ankle biters are not in a position to sidetrack your whole operation because you ignored them. It's time to give the small things their due so they can serve your larger purpose. By doing so, you may discover a better version of your own vision as well. Don't hurry, you've got time, and you may find that in the end tapping resources you had ignored will trigger a rising tide that floats all boats, not just your own.

21 Aug ♃ ☾ ☾ 05:45 am EDT 02° 56'

This period of a year or so has marked a somewhat troubled time for society at large,

during which political and economic struggles arise and engage in conflicts that don't actually seem to get anywhere but take up a lot of news time. Unless you're part of the news, chances are this hasn't hurt you directly, but it does sow a certain unease all around that makes people more uncertain than usual about committing to long-range agreements. When the wind is shifting, everyone waits until it's changed before settling down to business. With that in mind, you may find you can make more headway in smaller affairs and short-term commitments, personal or financial, pending further advisories. Fortunately, this is the last pass as Saturn moves quickly into central Libra by the fall.

23 Aug ☾ enters ♍ 01:27 am EDT

You don't know how abundant your harvest is until you count all the sheaves in your granary, and that kind of attitude abounds in general for the next month or so. Life is grand in all its little details, but only if the details don't belittle it. Seeing the forest for the trees may be a challenge now, but enjoy each tree as you pass.

24 Aug ☽ ♉ ☾ 01:05 pm EDT 01° \times 26' Full Moon in Pisces

This "Harvest" Moon should be a time for reflection, but when your shoveling in the harvest, there usually isn't time for it. Or at least it seems that way now, as there's a lot of pressure to produce something tangible surrounded by the inclination to do nothing at all and just get lost in space. Your reward comes from striking a balance and letting the pace and timing of your task become your self-made soundtrack. Hum along with the rhythm of your own wheels and you'll find that at the end of the day everything got done and you had a dream time doing it. It's all a little bit surreal, so watch yourself in wonder. [Note: some call Harvest Moon the full Moon in September, regardless of its sign, while astrologically it is the full Moon in Pisces/Virgo, for obvious reasons, this year occurring early in those signs, therefore in late August.]