

Through

The Shining Veil

Planetary Ingresses for Self-Reflection

By Joy Vernon



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Joy Vernon



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TO SELENE, THE MOON

The Fumigation from Aromatics.

*Hear, Goddess queen, diffusing silver light, bull-horn'd and wand'ring thro' the gloom of Night.
With stars surrounded, and with circuit wide Night's torch extending, thro' the heav'ns you ride:
Female and Male with borrow'd rays you shine, and now full-orb'd, now tending to decline.
Mother of ages, fruit-producing Moon, whose amber orb makes Night's reflected noon:
Lover of horses, splendid, queen of Night, all-seeing pow'r bedeck'd with starry light.
Lover of vigilance, the foe of strife, in peace rejoicing, and a prudent life:
Fair lamp of Night, its ornament and friend, who giv'st to Nature's works their destin'd end.
Queen of the stars, all-wife Diana hail! Deck'd with a graceful robe and shining veil;
Come, blessed Goddess, prudent, starry, bright, come moony-lamp with chaste and splendid light,
Shine on these sacred rites with prosp'rous rays, and pleas'd accept thy suppliant's mystic praise.*

Planetary Ingresses

At 7:09 p.m. Mountain time today, the Moon moves from Pisces to Aries. This is called an ingress, when a planet enters a new sign or house.

The most common use of ingresses is in mundane astrology, the branch that examines how planets affect a whole community or nation. In mundane astrology, solar ingresses, the quarterly ingresses of the Sun into the cardinal signs (Aries at the spring equinox, Cancer at the summer solstice, Libra at the fall equinox, and Capricorn at the winter solstice) define the qualities for the upcoming year (Sun at 0° Aries) or quarter (Sun at 0° of each of the seasonal signs). This is considered to affect communities, cities, states, nations, groups, or corporations.

But ingresses are relevant to each of us individually as well. When a planet moves into a new sign, that combination of energies is heightened for the course of the planet's journey through the sign. The period of time it takes that planet to transit, or move across, the first degree or two of the sign is a potent preview of how we experience these energies. If we have a planet or planets in that sign in our natal chart, then the energy is again heightened when the transiting planet comes near the positions of our natal planets. When a planet hits zero degrees of a sign, it gives us a taste of what we can expect during its sojourn in that portion of the zodiac, letting us anticipate and prepare for the future.

The faster planets, such as the Moon, Mercury, Venus, and the Sun, will ingress new signs regularly throughout the year. The Moon changes sign every two to three days, and the Sun ingresses a new sign each month. Mercury and Venus are never too far from the Sun. Mars spends roughly two months in a sign. Slower planets, such as Jupiter, Saturn, and the outer planets, change signs less frequently and stay longer in a sign, bringing more importance and a broader scope to their ingresses. In this paper we'll look at the Moon's ingress to Aries today, Mars's back-and-forth between Sagittarius and Scorpio, and Jupiter's ingress to Libra in the fall.

How Planetary Ingresses Affect Us

To understand ingresses, we need to keep in mind the distinction between the planet that can move from one sign to another and our natal planets, which are a snapshot of the time we were born and don't change. The moving planet in the sky today is the transiting planet. The planets in our birth chart

are called natal planets. Our natal planets are ours from birth throughout our whole life. The transiting planet is a temporary influence that activates or irritates our natal placements.

The first thing we look at is what natal planets are in the sign that the transiting planet is entering. For instance, if the Moon has entered Aries, do you have any planets in Aries? You may also consider significant points such as the Ascendant, Midheaven, or Lunar Nodes. Those planets or points will be the most affected by the transit.

But what if we don't have any planets in a sign? The transit still affects us in two ways: by aspect or by house placement.

First, it can stimulate the energies of our natal planets by aspect (the angle at which one planet faces another). There are two types of aspects: easy and difficult.

Easy aspects allow things to move smoothly and in a supported manner, but sometimes can cause laziness or lack of motivation or ambition. Easy aspects are those in which the transiting planet and natal planet are in signs of the same element or gender. For instance, if you were born with Sun in Leo (you're a Leo), a transiting planet will be in an easy aspect to your natal Sun if it is in a fire sign (Aries, Leo, or Sagittarius) or a masculine sign (air or fire signs). The exception to this is if the transiting planet is 180° opposite the natal planet—although the same gender, it can stimulate energies that are in many ways contrary to your natural way of thinking/doing/being.

Difficult aspects bring challenges, setbacks, or full on destruction, but allow for faster growth or create an empty lot perfect for rebuilding. The easiest way to identify difficult aspects is to observe when the transiting planet is in a sign of the opposite element or gender (for fiery Leo, this would be the feminine elements: water and earth signs). As mentioned above, the sign opposite the natal planet, although sharing a gender, will always be considered difficult.

If a transiting planet is in the same sign as your natal planet, the influence will be in some ways easy and in others difficult.

Sign Elements and Genders

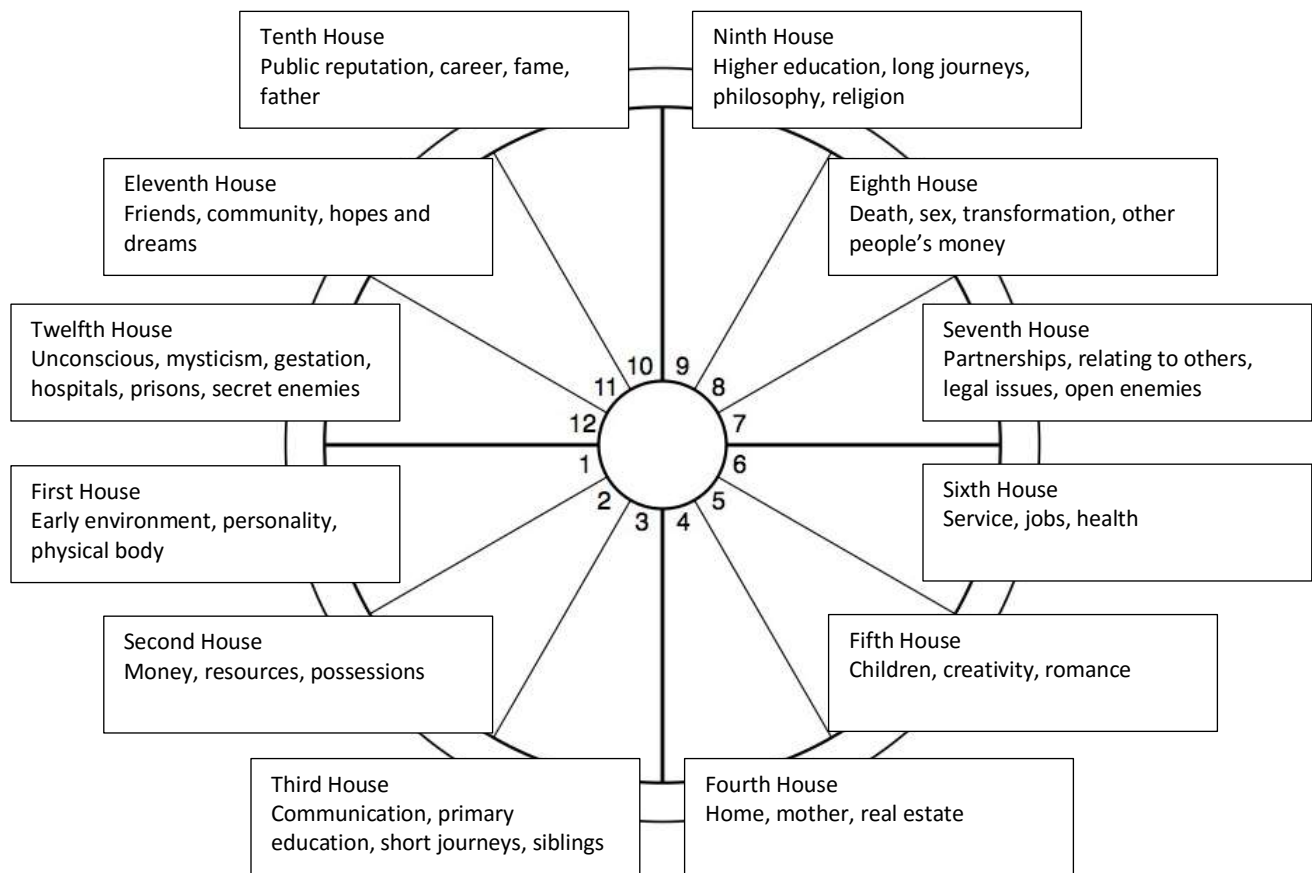
Fire Signs △ (masc., red)	Aries ♈	Leo ♌	Sagittarius ♐
Earth Signs ▽ (fem., green)	Taurus ♉	Virgo ♍	Capricorn ♑
Air Signs △ (masc., yellow)	Gemini ♊	Libra ♎	Aquarius ♒
Water Signs ▽ (fem., blue)	Cancer ♋	Scorpio ♏	Pisces ♓

The second way a transiting planet can affect us is through house placement. The astrological houses define the different areas of our self and life, such as resources, relationships, home, career, and friends, to name a few. The division of the chart into houses is based on the ascendant, or the ascendant and the midheaven. When using whole sign houses, where the house starts at 0° of the sign, then every time a planet enters a new sign, it enters a new house in our chart, bringing its energy to that area of our life. Using whole sign houses allows us to focus and concentrate the energy of the transiting planet's ingress. If you prefer to use a quadrant house system, consider letting the entry of the planet into the sign be a

preview of what's to come, and treat the quadrant house cusp as an intensifying of that energy, as when the transiting planet comes within orb of the natal planet.

The time of birth is needed to determine the ascendant, which is the basis of the house divisions. But what if you don't know your exact time of birth? You can use solar houses, which build from the Sun sign instead of the ascendant. In this system, your Sun sign (your sign) is the first house, the next sign in zodiacal order is your second house, and so on in progression. So, if your Sun sign is Leo, then Leo is your first house, Virgo is your second, Libra is your third, Scorpio is your fourth, Sagittarius is your fifth, Capricorn is your sixth, and so on through the signs of the zodiac.

House Keywords



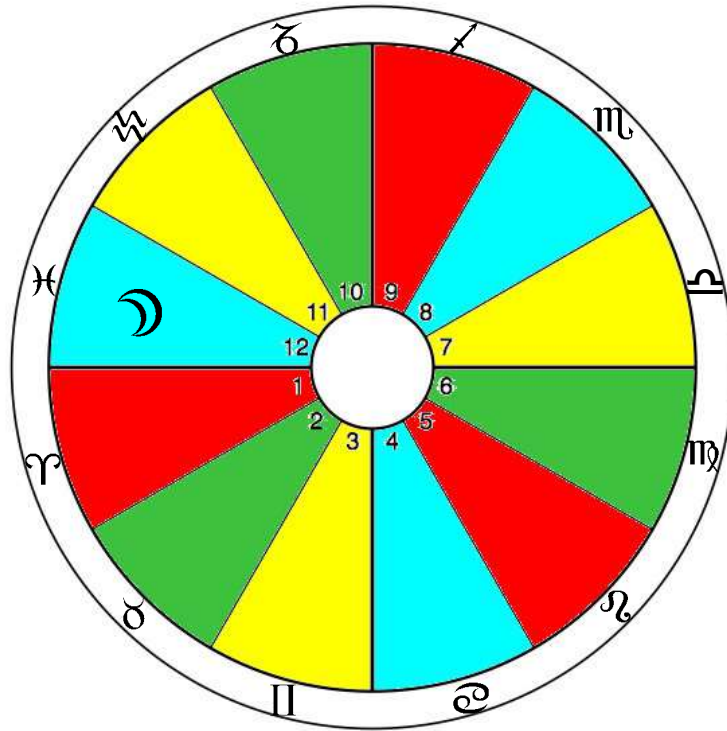
Tip for experienced practitioners: Look at the signs in your chart that are ruled by the transiting planet and observe how the qualities of the transit modify the natal energies.

The Moon

Let's take a look at the fastest moving planet, the Moon.

Planetary Keywords for the Moon

The Moon is the maternal archetype associated with emotion, intuition, the unconscious, and the soul. It is considered to generate moisture and cause relaxation.



Moon in Pisces

The Moon is in Pisces right now, a water sign. The element water is associated with emotions, intuition, nurturing, and relationships. Water signs are of the feminine gender. Pisces expresses intuitive, sensitive, dreamy, and spiritually-oriented qualities. These match quite well with the Moon's personality!

Around 7 p.m. this evening, the Moon will move into Aries. Aries is a fire sign. Fire is a masculine element and all about action, ambition, and passion. Aries is courageous, initiating, charismatic, and pioneering. The Moon in this sign is not feeling her normal self at all, but amped up and ready to try something new. Because she's sensitive, the Moon might be overwhelmed with these high energy emotions. For a Harry Potter metaphor, think of Luna Lovegood joining up for a time with a group of Gryffindors.

Time in the Sign

The Moon changes signs every two and a half days. If you track its ingresses to different signs, you can observe how it affects your moods and energy as it moves around the zodiac. This can help you understand yourself better by anticipating your emotional states and seeing them more objectively as reflections of the Moon's movement through your chart.

How the Moon Will Affect Me

Considering the qualities of the Moon and Aries and comparing them to your chart, how does this planet in this sign affect you?

Planets in the Sign

My planets or points in Aries are: _____.
(Refer to your birth chart.) The Moon brings out the sensitive side of the planets you have in Aries.

Aspects to Aries

Aries is a fire sign, so masculine in gender. My Sun is in a _____ (element) sign, so of the _____ gender. Same gender, except for an opposition, is an easy aspect, feeling comfortable and productive. Different gender is a difficult aspect, and feels challenging but growth oriented. (Use Sign Elements and Genders chart.)

Or, my Sun is in Libra, opposite Aries, creating a difficult aspect.

(This can be done for each planet or point in a chart, not just the Sun.)

Houses

Aries is in the _____ house of my birth chart, and so indicates areas of life such as _____, _____, and _____.
(Use House Keywords chart.)

The Moon brings a sense of _____ and _____ to these areas of life. (Use Planetary Keywords for the Moon section.)

Moon Ingress Dates

The Moon enters Aries at 7:09 p.m. today. The lunar ingress energy will last for about 2-4 hours. She will be in Aries until 8:46 p.m. on Wednesday, when she moves into Taurus.

Mars

TO MAR, THE GOD ARES

The Fumigation from Frankincense.

*Magnanimous, unconquer'd, boistrous Mars, in darts rejoicing, and in bloody wars
Fierce and untam'd, whose mighty pow'r can make the strongest walls from their foundations shake:
Mortal destroying king, defil'd with gore, pleas'd with war's dreadful and tumultuous roar:
Thee, human blood, and swords, and spears delight, and the dire ruin of mad savage fight.
Stay, furious contests, and avenging strife, whose works with woe, embitter human life;
To lovely Venus, and to Bacchus yield, to Ceres give the weapons of the field;
Encourage peace, to gentle works inclin'd, and give abundance, with benignant mind.*

Planetary Keywords for Mars

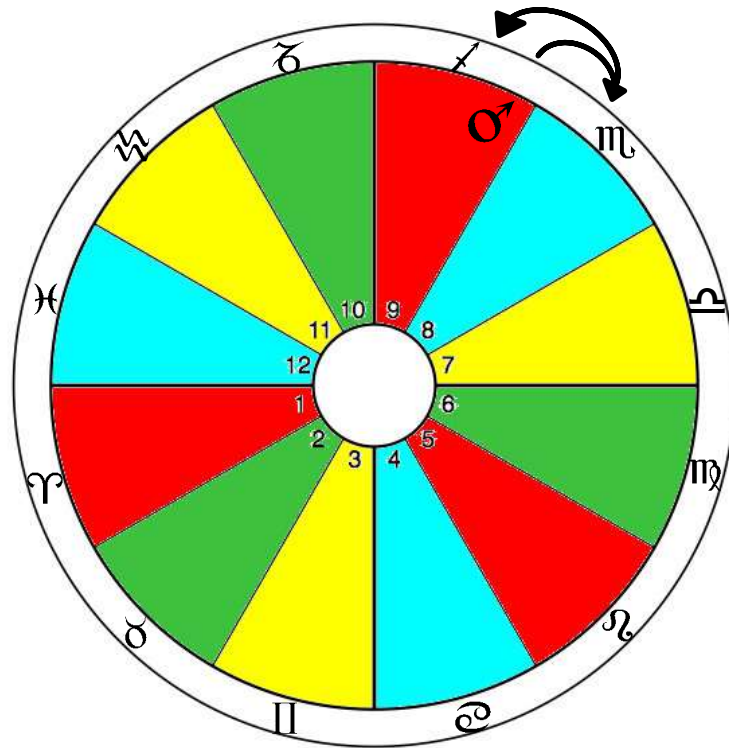
Mars, the fiery planet of the warrior, is associated with action, desire, drive, power, energy, aggression, sexuality, initiative, courage, and passion. It is dry and strongly heating, to the degree that is necessary for transformation from one form to another.

Mars in Sagittarius and Scorpio

Sagittarius is a fire sign and so of the masculine gender. Fire qualities include will, determination, desire, and passion. Keywords for Sagittarius include exploratory, enthusiastic, integrative, and philosophical.

Mars is reasonably happy in fire signs, but, as the ruler of separation and exile, if he succumbs to the wanderlust of Sagittarius, he is more than likely to head out and never come back. From Mars's perspective, Sagittarius, the Archer, feels flighty—archers fight from behind the lines, taking out attackers before they actually make contact with the front line. Mars thinks that's cheating, and craves hand-to-hand combat. Mars loves the battlefield, but in Sagittarius, the fight is over before he can show off his skill. Because archers are the first round of defense, Mars feels the pounding blood of anticipation when the barrage of arrows is loosed, but this sign is preparatory for him, not productive.

Scorpio is a water sign and is ruled by Mars, meaning that Mars is stronger and more industrious when in that sign. Scorpio is associated with characteristics such as intensity, transformation, secretive, sexuality, psychic, and death and rebirth. The usual water qualities are heated up under the leadership of Mars, so emotions ratchet up the intensity (or hide deep in the subconscious), gentle intuition becomes blazingly psychic, and relationships get hot and heavy.



Time in Each Sign

Mars entered Sagittarius in March, then went retrograde (appears from our point of view to move backward) in April, and moved back into Scorpio on May 27. It will be retrograde through June 29, then will change direction and head forward through Scorpio until August 2. When Mars is retrograde, he asks us to review the areas of life he governs, and the qualities represented by the sign he is in. Retrograde planets move more slowly than when they are direct (moving forward).

Mars enters Sagittarius on August 2, and for 3-5 days will give us the preview of his stay in that sign. He will be in Sagittarius until September 27, and then will move into Capricorn, where he is empowered in the sign of his exaltation. He then moves into Aquarius on November 9, 2016.

How Mars Will Affect Me

Taking into consideration the qualities of Mars, how will his pacing between Sagittarius and Scorpio affect you?

Planets in the Sign

My planets or points in Sagittarius are: _____.
Mars will overlay his warrior qualities onto these planets in my chart when in Sagittarius.

My planets or points in Scorpio are: _____.
(Refer to your birth chart.) Mars will overlay his warrior qualities onto these planets in my chart when in Scorpio.

Aspects to the Signs: Sagittarius

Sagittarius is a fire sign, so masculine in gender. My Sun is in a _____
(element) sign, so of the _____ gender. Same gender, except for an
opposition, is an easy aspect, feeling comfortable and productive. Different gender is a
difficult aspect, and feels challenging but growth oriented. (Use Sign Elements and Genders
chart.)

Or, my Sun is in Gemini, opposite Sagittarius, creating a difficult aspect.

Aspects to the Signs: Scorpio

Scorpio is a water sign, so feminine in gender. My Sun is in a _____
(element) sign, so of the _____ gender. Same gender, except for an
opposition, is an easy aspect, feeling comfortable and productive. Different gender is a
difficult aspect, and feels challenging but growth oriented. (Use Sign Elements and Genders
chart.)

Or, my Sun is in Taurus, opposite Scorpio, creating a difficult aspect.

(This can be done for each planet or point in a chart, not just the Sun.)

Houses

Sagittarius is in the _____ house of my birth chart, and so indicates areas
of life such as _____, _____, and
_____. (Use House Keywords chart.)

Scorpio is in the _____ house of my birth chart, and so indicates areas of
life such as _____, _____, and
_____. (Use House Keywords chart.)

Mars brings a sense of _____ and _____ to these areas of
life. (Use Planetary Keywords for Mars section.)

Mars Ingress Dates:

Enter Scorpio at 29°, retrograde, May 27, ingress energy lasts 3-6 days. In Scorpio for about ten weeks.

Enter Sagittarius at 0° on August 2, ingress energy lasts 3-5 days. In Sagittarius for about two months.

Jupiter

TO JUPITER, THE GOD ZEUS

The Fumigation from Storax.

*O Jove much-honor'd, Jove supremely great, to thee our holy rites we consecrate,
Our pray'rs and expiations, king divine, for all things round thy head exalted shine.
The earth is thine, and mountains swelling high, the sea profound, and all within the sky.
Saturnian king, descending from above, magnanimous, commanding, sceptred Jove;
All-parent, principle and end of all, whose pow'r almighty, shakes this earthly ball;
Ev'n Nature trembles at thy mighty nod, loud-sounding, arm'd with light'ning, thund'ring God.
Source of abundance, purifying king, O various-form'd from whom all natures spring;
Propitious hear my pray'r, give blameless health, with peace divine, and necessary wealth.*

Planetary Keywords for Jupiter

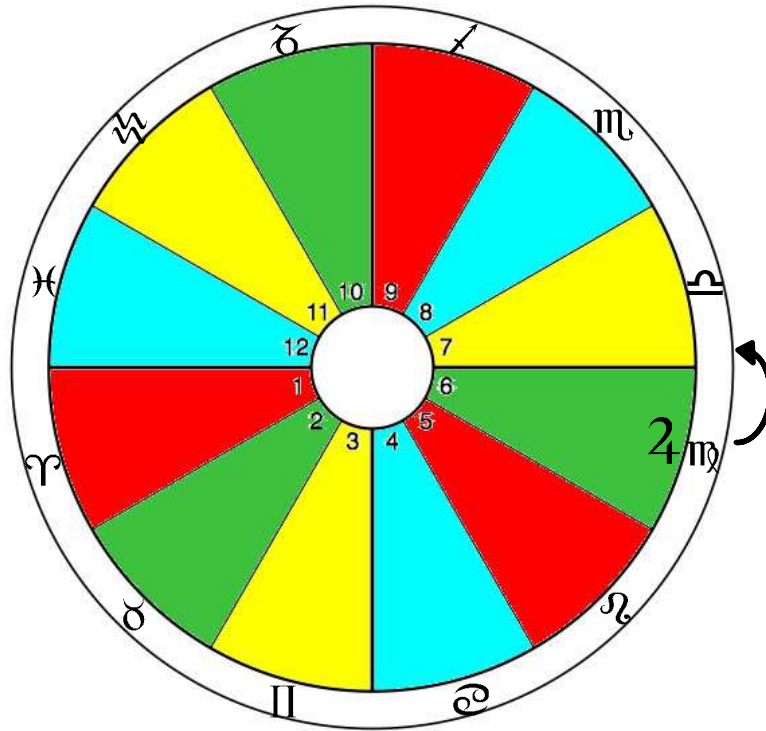
Jupiter is the teacher archetype and his qualities can include knowledge, greatness, authority, expansion, success, excess, joviality, and religion. The largest planet, Jupiter classically was described as promoting both warmth and moisture and as generating breezes that fertilize mind and body, literally and metaphorically.

Jupiter in Virgo and Libra

Jupiter is currently in Virgo, one of the signs of its detriment, and will move into Libra on September 9.

The earth sign Virgo is 180° opposite of watery Pisces, a sign ruled by Jupiter, so when in Virgo, Jupiter is about as far away from home as he can get. This is called being in detriment, and means that Jupiter can't act the way he would like to act. Earth keywords include stable, dependable, practical, and physical—the element earth tends to limit and bind. Jupiter is expansive and associated with knowledge and authority, so being stuck in perfectionist Virgo, featuring practical qualities like precision and detail orientation, getting caught up in facts rather than the wisdom that arises from them, happy to serve rather than being in charge, has Jupiter drumming his fingers in boredom.

Jupiter enters the air sign Libra on September 9. The element air is associated with the mind, intellect, thoughts, and words. Libra is represented by the symbol of the scales, and is known for weighing decisions with painstaking consideration. Its qualities include balance, partnership, and justice. Since one of magnanimous Jupiter's traditional significations is the arbitration of trials or disputes, in Libra he puts on a serious face, listens carefully to your suit, and then with a jovial twinkle in his eye, lets everyone win or dismisses the case.



Time in Libra

Jupiter takes about twelve years to go around the zodiac, and so spends generally one year per sign. He will be in Libra for thirteen months.

How Jupiter Will Affect Me

How will Jupiter's transition from Virgo to Libra affect you?

Planets in the Sign

My planets or points in Libra are: _____.
(Refer to your birth chart.) Jupiter will overlay his teacher qualities onto these planets in my chart when in Libra.

Aspects to the Signs

Libra is an air sign, so masculine in gender. My Sun is in a _____ (element) sign, so of the _____ gender. Same gender, except for an opposition, is an easy aspect, feeling comfortable and productive. Different gender is a difficult aspect, and feels challenging but growth oriented. (Use Sign Elements and Genders chart.)

Or, my Sun is in Aries, opposite Libra, creating a difficult aspect.

(This can be done for each planet or point in a chart, not just the Sun.)

Houses

Libra is in the _____ house of my birth chart, and so indicates areas of life such as _____, _____, and _____.
(Use House Keywords chart.)

Jupiter brings a sense of _____ and _____ to these areas of life. (Use Planetary Keywords for Jupiter section.)

Jupiter Ingress Dates:

Enter Libra at 0° September 9, ingress energy lasts 5-9 days. In Libra until October 10, 2017.

So What Do I Do About These Planetary Ingresses?

When to Work with the Planets

The period of the ingress is a great time to connect with the planetary energy and in particular to attune to how it works in that sign. Check the Ingress Dates section for each planet discussed to see the amount of time that the ingress energy lasts. Working with the planet for that duration—a couple of hours for the Moon, or, for Mars and Jupiter, once or twice daily for the requisite number of days, gives you the strongest connection to that planet and opens up the most insight for what its transit will bring. Working with a planet during its planetary hour helps fine-tune your connection to the planet. (See sites like [Lunarium](#) or [Astrolabe](#) for the timing; it's necessary to enter your location to get the correct time.)

Ways to Connect with the Planets

Working with the planets can be as spiritual or mundane as you like. Following is a list of techniques to experiment with. All are effective ways to connect with the planet's energies and invite them into your life in a beneficial and fruitful manner.

Ritual Methods for Connecting with Planetary Energies

Ritual and meditation, or a combination of the two, are commonly practiced and effective ways to connect with the planets.

Meditative techniques can include contemplating the planet or its correspondences (see Planetary Correspondences, below) to connect energetically and intuitively with the energy. Use or create a mala to chant the Divine Name of a planet (the qabalistic ones are listed below in the Planetary Correspondences chart, or do a web search on "Sanskrit mantras for the planets" to go down that rabbit hole). You can also create your own short affirmation for the planet to chant with a mala or hold in your mind during the course of the day. Another technique would be to use visualization and chanting to link the planet's energies to the appropriate energy center in your body.

Ritual work can include external trappings and props that bring physical reminders of its energy into your sphere of awareness, increasing your focus on the planet's energies. A ritual can include an invocation or calling in of the planetary energy. Calls can be traditional, such as the Orphic Hymn listed here, or one you write yourself based on the standard qualities and correspondences of the planet. A petition is a request for something that you want—make sure what you ask for is covered by the planet's correspondences. So asking Mars for peace might go against the grain for him (talk to Venus about that one because she loves harmony), but asking him to help you stand up for yourself and protect your boundaries would be appropriate. Offerings or sacrifices are standard ways of propitiating a god who doesn't seem to be jiving with your best interests—if Mars is giving you a hard time, offering him something that he likes will soothe his temper.

Practical Methods for Connecting with Planetary Energies

On the more practical side, doing everyday things that engage or reflect the potencies of the planet can assist you in connecting with the planet's energies. Try engaging in the pursuits governed by the planet you want to connect with. Mars is competitive and athletic, so exercising, playing sports, or playing games (it helps if you play to win) can invoke his qualities. For Jupiter, explore lofty philosophical discussions. Chase storms. Take a class or attend a formal religious service. Practicing the crafts of a planet can get you in the right planetary frame of mind. Mars likes working with his hands, blacksmithing or working with iron, and melting things down and reforming them. To connect with Jupiter, take a leadership role, learn and teach something, or travel and get to know new people. Another way of connecting is to speak with people who reflect the planet's qualities, for example, mothers for the Moon, soldiers for Mars, or teachers and priests for Jupiter.

A Sample Ritual

A simple ritual I like to do is to set up an altar for the planet, complete with an altar cloth and candle of the appropriate color and incense that the planet likes. This can become as elaborate as you like, but simple works too. I then say the Orphic hymn to the planet with reverence and perhaps letting my tone reflect a tinge of the energies of that planet—so the Moon invocation may be said dreamily, Mars would be recited fiercely, and Jupiter with magnanimous authority. I'll spend some time afterwards basking in the energy of the planet, or contemplating how I feel it affecting me or how I anticipate it interacting with my life. Feel free to ask the planet for what you need, keeping in mind the boundaries of its governance. This ritual doesn't take long, and I will probably do it every day that the ingress energy is acute (see the Ingress Dates section for each planet to get this timing). If possible, timing this ritual to the relevant planetary hour each day can be an additional way of reinforcing the energy. Journal insights and experiences to compare with and prepare yourself for the length of the planet's stay in this sign.

A Sample Meditation

An internal rite for a planet might include meditating on the tarot card associated with the planet. Visualize the card as a doorway and step through the doorway into the landscape of the card. Once there, engage your senses to clearly place yourself in and interact with the scene. You can converse with the tarot inhabitants and ask questions of anyone you meet. It can be helpful to request guidance for how best to put the planetary energy to use in your life. A more detailed description of this process is outlined in the "Entering a Card" section of the post [Tarot Meditations](#) on the Denver Tarot Convention blog. Or try out a pre-recorded [guided meditation](#) on my blog, Completely Joyous.

Planetary Correspondences

	Moon	Mercury	Venus	Sun	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn
Day	Monday	Wednesday	Friday	Sunday	Tuesday	Thursday	Saturday
Number	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
Color	Violet, silver	Orange, rainbow	Green	Yellow	Red	Blue	Black, indigo
Divine Name	Shaddai El Chai	Elohim Tzabaoth	YHVH Tzabaoth	YHVH Eloah v'Da'ath	Elohim Gibor	El	YHVH Elohim
Tarot Card	The High Priestess	The Magician	The Empress	The Sun	The Tower	The Wheel of Fortune	The World
Incense/Scent	Jasmine, sandalwood, violet	Storax, lavender, almond	Rose, orange blossom (neroli), vanilla	Acacia, frankincense, cinnamon	Tobacco, dragon's blood, clove	Pine, cedar, sage	Myrrh, cypress, patchouly
Metal	Silver	Mercury	Copper	Gold	Iron	Tin	Lead
Stone	Quartz	Fire opal	Emerald	Topaz	Ruby	Amethyst, sapphire	Star sapphire, pearl

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Joy Vernon is widely recognized as an expert tarot teacher and respected community leader. With over twenty years' experience teaching energetic and esoteric modalities, Joy brings expertise and practiced familiarity to her specialty of esoteric tarot, which layers astrological and qabalistic symbolism onto the traditional tarot structure. Under her leadership, the Denver Tarot Meetup has grown into the most active and one of the largest tarot-specific meetups in the world. Joy works as a tarot reader, astrologer, and teacher at Isis Books in Denver, Colorado. To learn more, please visit JoyVernon.com.

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