

Hey there –

9/10/2005

I have had a lot of people ask about or comment on the end of the Mercury Retrograde echo this week. I know a lot of you had really been counting the days on this one. For those of you who maybe weren't, I thought I should let you know that the last echo effects of the Mercury Retrograde are now officially over. This means you are now free to think and speak again, thank you God. Especially you Gemini's, Virgo's and Leo's.

I have to say, I have heard from so many of you about how tough this one was, and I don't want to minimize anyone's experience or emotion. But more than the tragedy (this time), I have been struck by the stories of heroism, clarity and courage. I am thrilled that on the anniversary of September 11th, when it was not our leaders but everyday people who redefined selflessness, patriotism and heroism for us, we are seeing that once again. I remain amazed, impressed and inspired by this. And grateful.

down power and then restoring it to one grid after another, in an attempt to make the lack of electrical power more fair. During the last days of the Mercury Retrograde echo, it seemed like there were random and independent groups of people doing a variation of this. I was amazed by the sheer number of groups of folks having what seemed to be rolling meltdowns, taking turns alternately breaking down and then being the strong one (or, for you baseball fans, the Angel's rally monkey) for someone else while *they* had their puddle-of-warm-jello moment. Conserving emotional energy and sharing the load – what a concept. Very good, guys. I needed to see that. But bigger than that, we as a species needed to know we could do that – we can be that human. Remember this moment and this idea. You might need these newfound skills later, for I am quite sure the tragedies of the last few weeks are not the last disasters we will experience in our lifetimes.

In America, this Mercury Retrograde and its echo brought us two very independent yet related things that will change our national dialogue forever: a kick start to the peace movement and a national disaster of Biblical proportions in Hurricane Katrina.

aftermath of such events, I think it is important to look to the stars for clues as to the most appropriate solutions.

Right now, I think one of the most fascinating aspects is that the echo was over as the new moon began to blossom. Official endings and new beginnings – how appropriate is that? Today the moon is still fairly new and in the sign of Sagittarius, which is ruled by the planet Jupiter. Jupiter and Sagittarius energies are some of my favorites, as they somehow manage to get the job done and still have a good time. They also embody a deep commitment to optimism and diversity, as well as intellectual and philosophical freedom. When the young moon is in its crescent, as it is now, it is called by some the Ashen Moon.

Based on the moon alone, now is a good time to start something new, or to pick up where you left off on things, or to actually take action and do something you have been thinking about for a while but hadn't moved on yet. But don't just do anything, do something that is truly meaningful to you. Do something authentic. Do something that reflects your actions and your core

Now Libra works very hard to be a hero – to make things more beautiful, more fair, and to make people happier. I find it wonderfully appropriate that there is so much energy in Libra right now, when we are trying to figure out what went wrong on so many levels for so many people and how to help set those things right. Particularly Jupiter – Libra is probably the most righteous place Jupiter can be. Jupiter in Libra has a strong concern for justice and for making things right. It also has an absolute preoccupation with living (or attempting to, at least) from the inside out, living your spiritual values.

Another factor to be considered in finding solutions right now is Saturn. The ruler of age and of the wisdom that comes from it, Saturn transits bring maturity and build skills. I am fascinated that Saturn left Cancer and moved into Leo at the beginning of this last Mercury Retrograde, right before all hell broke loose. Saturn in Leo gives strength of will and a sense of honor; it provides self assurance and stronger organizational abilities. Just when we need it the most - how cool is that?

Virgo is just what we need right now. Virgo is very practical, discriminating and detail oriented. Virgo is the systems analyst of the universe. And Virgo is absolutely obsessed with accurate information and facts, a stance that is going to be really important not only in figuring out what went wrong, but also in figuring out what to do next and how to best help those who have lost so much.

In summary, the energy now collected in Libra and Virgo is evoking the best in all of us. But a few words about heroism. Firstly, I am consistently taken by interviews with those who ended up being heroes of a crisis, and how to a man they all say they did not start out with the intention of doing something stellar. They just ended up being in the right place at the right time with a sincere desire to help another human being. With that said, be sure to keep your eyes open so that you do not miss your opportunity (or opportunities) to save the day. And imagine what could happen if more of us set our intention to be a bright light.

Along those lines, I am seeing a major trend among the affluent right now towards leaving the country and taking up the life of an expatriate. While for some there

have the most power and the most access to it. Your resources and your opinions determine public policies and now more than ever we need your voices and your leadership. More than any other demographic, you can determine how quickly or slowly solutions are found and true change happens.

Secondly, for those of us born in and after Camelot (the Kennedy years), protesting is great but it is another generation's vehicle for change. Volunteering is great but it is a band-aid rather than a permanent solution. We can do these things but we must not stop here, we can no longer be satisfied with these alone for they are no longer enough. Our solutions must be these and more. We have to be informed and educated; we have to participate, we have to vote, and we have to serve. Now is a good time to gain a greater understanding of how those things work, fit and look in our individual lives. How will/are we simply showing up and doing the right thing in the right way from the right place?

## **Do:**

Have a sense of humor.

Step up to the plate.

Do a good deed. Then another.

Be fearless and selfless.

Adapt and overcome.

Give yourself permission to be brilliant.

Get back to the proverbial Garden, even if it is only in your head.

Talk to your God (or dog, or whoever...).

Listen.

Understand.

Care.

Nag, oppress, judge or violate anyone else.

Pass the buck.

Run away.

Let your fears dominate you.

Leave a mess for anyone else to clean up – literally or figuratively – on any level.

Wander for too long in your own private Idaho, try to visit reality every now and again.

Stand there and bitch – do something, take positive action.

Be fake, phony or insincere.

In the words of William S. Burroughs, “Sometimes, in these matters, it is best to take a broad, general view.” In that context, I want to remind those of you who are new to astrology and especially those of you who are new to me that I do things a little differently than many astrologers. Most people think of astrology as only being a divination method that tells you what the future

effectively. It is in that spirit that I offer this now.

Since he has walked upright, man has looked to the stars to guide him safely over land and sea. There is no reason to stop doing so now. If you have any questions, need any further information, or want support in finding the hero in you, please don't hesitate to call.

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