

Questions & Answers by Marva Boehm Mason

We are living in interesting times. With the mud slides in California and the Category 5 Hurricane Katrina, makes all of us stop and think about the times we are living in and what we can expect.

On September 3, the planet PLUTO went direct after a period of being of what is called Retrograde motion. While planets do not actually move in a backwards motion, they appear to do so from the perspective of earth. With Pluto now moving in a direct forward motion, we will all feel its movement in our personal lives as well as in the world in which we live. Pluto is a powerful force, to say the least. Pluto moves with a strong thrust of energy and is capable of leveling anything in its path. What needs to be kept in mind with Pluto is that Pluto desires to remove whatever is not working, whatever is not necessary, and it cleans and clears the pathway for rebuilding. Is that not what is happening in New Orleans right now? It is bringing to the attention of the world that the issue of levies have been neglected for a long time and New Orleans was a disaster waiting to happen. Now, with Pluto in direct motion, this area – Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama – can be built again knowing all too well the price they paid for neglect.

We, as individuals, can take this to heart as a lesson for our lives. Pluto will bring about destruction in our lives and remove what we have been cautioned about, what isn't working, so that our lives can be cleansed of the debris, and rebuild in a positive way. Pluto's desire is not to destruct our lives, but instead, to build on solid ground so that we can move forward with success, accomplishment, and prepare for a future.

Pluto is in Sagittarius, and the children born in this time are the ones who will make the changes that Pluto in Sagittarius calls for – change within the religions of the world, philosophical beliefs, the legal system, publishing, and other areas involving ethics. We are already seeing a manifestation of this with the popularity of tv programs like The Medium, and lots of movies about the existence of the beyond and the afterlife. But we haven't seen anything yet. Wait until this generation of children born now comes of age – that's when the changes will truly begin to manifest.

On October 2, the planet MARS will go retrograde. Mars is a planet which does not often go retrograde, so this will be an important time to watch. Mars will be in Taurus at this time, an earth sign. I would suggest watching for more elemental changes such as earthquakes, fires (because Mars is a fire element). Mars is energy and because it will be apparently moving in a Retrograde motion, it will be somewhat stifling to us because it will be like anger turned in, spiraling back in toward us. So, on a personal level, we may feel as though we aren't able to express our anger, or that many of our efforts are thwarted (because Mars is not direct in motion -- its like a boomerang right now).

How to handle the Mars retrograde period? Watch the daggers that you send out. Try to be more peaceful and calm. Try to be more productive. In the sign of Taurus, this Mars retrograde will allow us to focus on our security, especially our homes, livelihood, and money matters. Be more cautious in handling your financial affairs during this time,

and strive for more organization. What projects have you said you are going to do when you get time? This is the perfect time to get that organization project onto the calendar. Mars also represents our sexual lives so avoid unhealthy relationships, and, if you are entering a new relationship, void initial intimacy during Mars retrograde (Oct 2 – Dec 10) as the intimate portion of the relationship will get off to a negative start. Mars will return to direct motion on December 10.