

Astrology for April 2024



Overview of April 2024

April is a pivotal month, a culmination and also provides a big catalyst for moving forward and spiritual and planetary growth. We had a Lunar Eclipse on 25th March and the pairing Solar Eclipse which is exactly on Chiron, is on 8th and in the background we have one of the biggest astrological connections of the year growing to its peak on 21st April, although it could bring changes beforehand. To add to the mix, Mercury goes retrograde on 1st to 25th, the day after the Full Moon at which it is virtually at a standstill.

Other significant days include 17th when three planets are at 15° and 28th when another three including the masculine and feminine archetypes Mars and Venus, reach 28°. And to add to the energies of balancing masculine and feminine, Mars and Venus have a niggly connection on 27th then both reach the last degree of their relative signs then move into their own signs on 29th and 30th.

Towards the end of the month, the tension will build as Pluto slows, preparing to go retrograde on 2nd May as the first planet, other than Mercury, to go retrograde for several months.

Daily astrology for April 2024

April starts with Mercury going retrograde on 1st at 27° Aries and it stays in this sign for the three weeks of its retrograde, turning direct on 25th at 15°, very close to the North Node and it is no coincidence that this time of mental review also encompasses the powerful eclipse on 8th and the Jupiter and Uranus conjunction on 21st. Mercury in Aries is quick-minded, can speak what comes into their head without thinking, can be rash, impatient and can get angry seemingly from nowhere. Fire warms but can also burn and scorch and these are energies to be aware of. Don't allow frustration to take a hold as it will most likely build and explode out in some way.

Aries, ruled by Mars, shows us our basic impulses and instincts, the most primal and powerful of which is survival and this is where its challenging, warrior energy can come from and obviously has its roots in fear. One of the energies of the year that we are being urged to cultivate now is internal peace. If we want peace in the world, we need to start with ourselves.

Human life can be challenging and we can get caught in what is perceived to be wrong, not working, not as we hoped it would be etc. and it is easy to lose connection to our heart and Source. We came to enjoy our incarnation, not just to grow from our challenges, and love, joy and peace are always available to tap into, they lie within our heart as a spark of Divine light. If we are going through challenging times, we can disconnect from those and it is almost human programming that we need to feel bad, whereas if we have a choice of reaction, of how we feel, why wouldn't we choose a more positive one? Things can be tough AND, we can still access and feel peace, if not love or joy.

This month's astrology brings powerful energies and times of great potential, but like all opportunities, it does need to be tapped into. Jupiter is the planet of growth and expansion and so it increases, enlarges and multiplies whatever it is connecting with or whatever we are presenting it with. So, if we start off with a small pile of the smelly stuff, you'll get a bucket full or even a very large pile of smelly stuff!

And, if we start off with a rose, we will end up with a bunch of roses, which would you prefer?

The waning half Moon, the mid-way point between the two eclipses, is early on 2nd as Venus and Mercury, barely moving having just gone retrograde, have a niggly connection and the Sun is close to the North Node, therefore opposing the South Node. All this emphasises the need to be aware of our internal and external dialogue and to filter out idealism and disappointment that might arise from expectations that we probably didn't verbalise, but had a presumption about. It can feel like a harsh lesson to find out that others aren't on the same page as us or even think like us, when we had a presumption that they did, based on our connection, but this provides a good opportunity to learn from.

If we can look back and see where that presumption came from and why we might not have verbalised our thoughts, or asked a simple question to test the waters, we can work towards changing the outcome in the future and putting an end to our cycle of disappointment.

Venus and Neptune meet in Pisces on 3rd as Saturn and the Sun have a niggly connection. Saturn is also in Pisces and the Sun is very close to the North Node, opposing the South Node, so there are going to be karmic over or under-tones to what we are experiencing. Rose-coloured glasses will need to be removed if we really want to see the truth, but we are more likely to fall into escapist tendencies as we feel the harshness of our mundane life not living up to our ideals.

Impatience is another energy to look out for as we feel the pull and have a vision of the future but are experiencing delays, limitations or rules and regulations that frustrate us. Are we putting our own needs on hold and falling into old people-pleasing habits?

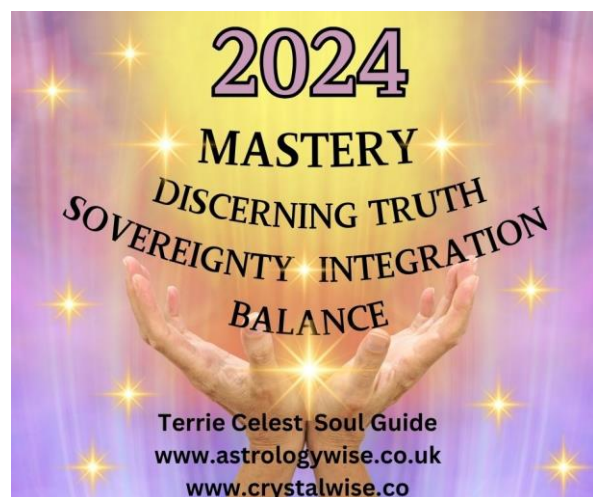
Venus changes signs on 5th, leaving Pisces and joining the Sun, North Node, Chiron and Mercury in Aries, helping to build the energies for the New Moon in Aries on 8th which is also a potent eclipse. Venus is the feminine archetype of the chart and Aries is ruled by Mars, the masculine archetype, so Venus is not really comfortable here, almost as if she can feel overwhelmed by too much testosterone! But, if our masculine energy is weak and needs a boost, this can help whilst conversely, Venus can show the masculine nature how to express itself more gently, to be less confrontational or direct and more emotional and empathetic. Overall, this placement can show us the contrast between masculine and feminine and also help us to find a better balance.

Also on 5th, the Sun meets the North Node, opposing the South Node and this will help to show us some old karmic patterns and also help us to release them. When planets meet, we have

the best opportunity to blend their energies and today's can help us to rebalance masculine and feminine and to find the courage to stop people-pleasing and over-compromising and to put our needs first. It is not selfish, but self-care.

Having just changed signs, Venus has a potentially helpful connection with Pluto on 6th and is the type that we need to tap into. At first, we might be aware of the differences between their natures and what isn't working well but we can then make the decision to focus on solutions instead.

Venus's realms are partnerships, finances, self-worth, values and resources and any of these areas could be highlighted for us. Pluto offers the gift of transformation and it's new home of Aquarius can help us to think outside of the box and be more authentic, so we can release old patterns and see things from a completely different perspective, we could even try something that would never have come into our train of thinking before.



Any New Moon and Solar Eclipse is potent and brings much potential; add in Chiron the planet that represents karmic wounds and that potency ranks up significantly. Then add in the factor that this is the first New Moon of the astrological year and

that we have one of the biggest astrological events of the year building to 21st April and you can feel the potency and potential.

Both this eclipse and 21st are significant but I would encourage you not to see them as days or separate events, but as big milestones and significant points on our accelerated path of spiritual growth and ascension. All the 'work' we have done to date, all the clearing, healing, self-examining, awareness, laughter, joy, sorrow and tears have brought us to these points in time. They are opportunities that we need to take advantage of, to tap into to seed the future that we want or more accurately, to water and tend the seeds that we have already planted and are beginning to poke through the soil. They bring promise and hope and give a glimpse of the future.

The Jupiter/Uranus conjunction on 21st can be a major catalyst to move us forward with Jupiter's energies of growth and expansion but we have to also be aware as I have already mentioned this month, that Jupiter increases, enlarges and multiplies whatever it is connecting with or whatever we are presenting it with. So, if we start off with a small pile of the smelly stuff, you'll get a bucket full or even a very large pile of smelly stuff!

And, if we start off with a rose, we will end up with a bunch of roses, and it is vital that we therefore present it with roses, or to go back to my other gardening analogy, our already sprouting plants. We need to use this time from the New Moon and Eclipse up to 21st to focus on a positive future, what we want in it, and to focus our minds on how we want that future to look and feel.

My key words for this year are:-

- MASTERY
- SOVEREIGNTY
- BALANCE, esp. Masc & Fem
- INTEGRATION
- DISCERNING TRUTH

It would be worth journalling and meditating on each of these phrases to see how we resonate with them, any releasing that we feel is needed and how they fit into our future.

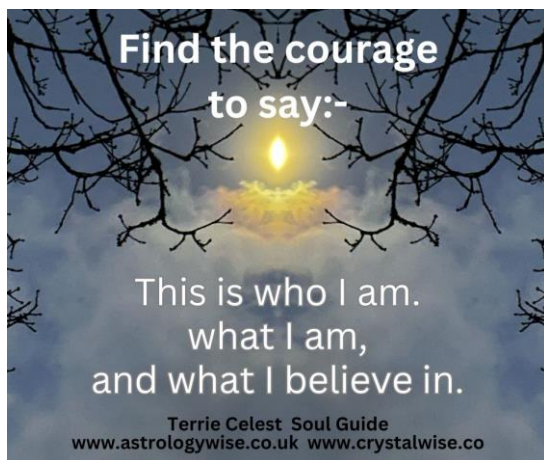
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On 10th, Mars and Saturn meet in Pisces, not a natural home for either of these planets, so what can their combined energy bring us?

Mars is the masculine archetype of the chart, the planet of action, motivation, physical and sexual drive, courage and passion and in watery Pisces that natural Fire is dampened and can lose its spontaneity and instinct. However, it can show us the feminine side of Fire, that of surrender and transformation that Fire brings and its masculine nature ties perfectly with Saturn in Pisces (read my blog on this combination here <https://www.crystalwise.co/blog/saturn-in-pisces>) which is helping us to access and embrace Divine masculine.

The energies are building in the background towards the Jupiter/Uranus conjunction on 21st and there are a few niggly connections to these two occurring beforehand, helping to clear and prepare the way so it is important to notice old patterns arising, old energies that we don't want to take into our future with us and to focus on what we do want instead.

If you feel an inner frustration, restlessness or even a fed-up-with-this-ness developing, this is probably Uranus's energy building, helping us to spot what is no longer in alignment with us. A breakthrough is coming. Keep looking forwards.

In the evening of 10th, Jupiter can be seen alongside the Moon and will be perfect to tune into and absorb the energies of Jupiter's expansive nature as it prepares to meet Uranus.



Mercury retrogrades back over the Sun early on 12th April as a natural part of its retrograde cycle and this is when we begin to feel these energies most as they become more internal and our unconscious, rather than conscious mind dominates more and more. There are also a couple of niggly connections involving Uranus and the Nodes and Mercury moves back to niggle first with Jupiter and then Uranus on 13th and as part of the clearing before the conjunction between Jupiter and Uranus it is important to notice the old mental patterns that arise and look towards clearing those. There is a strong possibility that many of these could be inherited, ancestral patterns that we have unconsciously taken on as our own.

We need to ask ourselves if we really resonate with these thought patterns, these opinions that we took on as our own as

children. Finding our independent beliefs, acknowledging, embracing and celebrating our uniqueness and individual train of thought is vital as part of being authentic and embracing our sovereignty.

Let go of old fears of being seen or heard and find the courage to say, *'This is who I am, what I am and what I believe in.'*

The waxing half Moon is on 15th marking the midway point between the previous New Moon (8th) and the upcoming Full Moon on 24th. The Jupiter/Uranus conjunction closes to just one degree between them and is very powerfully building in the background. A very significant factor of the day is that retrograde Mercury traverses back over Chiron which represents karmic wounds and was sandwiched between the Sun and Moon at the New Moon, which was also a Solar Eclipse (8th).

This very firmly points us to looking at old patterns of thinking and communication and emotionally we may be feeling abandonment, frustration or anger and be blaming others for how they are making us feel, rather than taking responsibility for our responses. Chiron and Mercury first connected on 20th March when Mercury was direct so this is the second, retrograde connection and looking back to the earlier meeting will reveal clues as to what is evolving and what we are being encouraged to review and rewrite. Their third and final connection is on 6th May when we will either get resolution, be able to put our plans into action or what we now instigate will be tested to show us how we have changed.

16th and 17th need to be considered together and are another key days in the run up to the conjunction on 21st. Mercury, Chiron and Mars are all at 19°; Mercury and Chiron connected on 15th and then Mars and Mercury connect on 16th and Mars and Chiron on 17th.

In addition, on 17th, Saturn, Venus and the Nodes all reach 15° with Venus meeting the South Node in Aries and opposing the North Node in Libra, otherwise all the other connections are niggly ones, with all the planets other than Pluto in the three consecutive signs of Pisces, Aries and Taurus. Consecutive signs have nothing in common, being in different elements, modes and polarities whilst each is an evolvement of the previous sign with the energy of one giving rise to the need for the next, so we are most likely to initially notice differences and what isn't cohesive, and then we have to find how we can blend the energies and appreciate the strengths and gifts of each.

The key to this is to notice initially and apparently incompatible energies within ourselves but we might well be presented with them through coming into contact with others whose opinions and beliefs are at odds with our own, offering us the opportunity to fully embrace uniqueness and acceptance.

The Sun reaches the last degree of Aries on 18th and it feels very significant that it enters Taurus before we have the big conjunction further on in that sign. We won't completely lose an Aries influence as the North Node, Venus, Mercury and Chiron will remain there and as they are currently within a range of four degrees their influence is quite strong. Today we will feel the force of Aries driving us, our instincts will be strong, we will probably have lots of energy and drive but will need to channel

that positively and not make rash decisions or take rash actions. A need to keep moving quickly can cause frustration and then anger to erupt if people or things get in our way or slow us down. This is the first sign of the zodiac, and is a primal energy where we learn about ourselves and are driven by our instincts so follow any positive urges to be spontaneous and make sure that any Fire that you emit, warms and comforts and doesn't scold or scorch.

The Sun leaves Aries and enters Taurus on 19th as Venus, its ruler, meets retrograding Mercury and Mars and Jupiter connect. Jupiter and Uranus are now very close and therefore Mars moves on to have the same connection with Uranus on 20th as Saturn makes niggly connections with the karmic Nodes. These are the last connections before Jupiter and Uranus meet early on 21st so the peak is likely to come on 20th, if not before, as the build up of energy that Uranus evokes can feel like a pressure cooker that can erupt and break out when maximum pressure is reached. However, in Taurus, it's explosive energies are more grounded and the nature of this connection with Jupiter means that it has been gradually growing and building, so we should have been aware of something brewing!

There are two other smaller but significant connections on 21st after the conjunction, with Venus and Chiron meeting in Aries and the Taurean Sun squaring Pluto. On a collective level, the themes of eruptions, war and peace are likely to dominate and after the recent eclipses, this could be the beginning of the point at which we say, enough is enough and the scales of power tip as the voice of the peoples rises and we feel empowered to stand up and be counted. There might not be a revolution in the old war-type sense of doing physical battle,

hopefully not, but that energetic shift of power and consciousness towards peace begins.

On a personal level, it is time to finally, finally, discard those outdated, deeply buried, instinctual fears of not being safe to be seen or heard. This is our time, this is a culmination of years of spiritual, personal growth and there is huge potential going forwards. If there should be big disruption, Uranus-style, know that this is all part of the reset, the re-ordering, the throwing of things up into the air in order to see what lands or what we want to keep, moving forward. And when Uranus does this, it is a sign that we have resisted its urges to make changes, and so it sort of says, *OK, this is where you need to be, I'll pick you up and put you there, now you need to accept the change and leave behind what hasn't come with you!*

Whether the 20th and 21st were full of excitement or unexpected surprises, if the skies are clear, take some time to go outside at night and spot the peak of the Lyrid's meteor shower. The connection to the cosmos can remind us of the bigger picture and also fill us with its awe and joy at just being alive to witness such happenings. And of course, we can make some wishes too!

Venus and Uranus have a fleeting niggle that could continue on relationship and financial issues that came to our attention recently and offer us the opportunity to re-evaluate where we stand. *What about me?*, could be the cry, *What about my needs?* and this can point us to how we have been neglecting our own needs and we need to take steps to address the imbalance. Others are no more responsible for our happiness than we are for theirs, so what steps can we take to practise

more self-care and show the world that we value ourselves and know that we are important. Then the world will reflect that back to us.



April's Full Moon is just past midnight, BST, on 24th so we will consider it as 23rd, when Venus and Jupiter have a niggly connection earlier on. Key energy is of Mercury coming to a standstill before changing directions and this will add to the tension of the Fixed nature of the opposite signs of Taurus and Scorpio, where the Sun and Moon form the Full Moon. Jupiter and Uranus are still close but separating and their influence can't be ignored but should be past its peak.

Looking at the energies that are building in the coming few days, when Mercury does turn direct on 25th it will be right on the North Node, opposing the South Node and Mars is building to a conjunction with Neptune in Pisces on 29th. Mars and Venus, the masculine and feminine archetypes of the chart are coming to the end of their signs and both reach 29° for a few hours on 29th before Venus leaves Aries, Mars' home for Taurus, one of the signs it rules, and Mars then leaves Pisces for Aries, its own sign on 30th. So from then they will both be in their home signs.

There is no doubt that the energies of both April and May are contributing majorly to a rebalancing of masculine and feminine, yin and yang and the move towards peace is growing, even if it might not be apparent outwardly. There will by now have been a change of tide that cannot be reversed and major changes and rebalancing will be possible in the coming months and years.

Whilst these changes cannot completely happen overnight, we will begin to notice small, ever-growing swell tides within the populus that will ripple outwards. The more deeply entrenched these energies, the harder they will be to shift, but shift they will do, eventually.

For now, we can no longer sit back and wish that change would happen, or that this authority or that government would change. In order for the ripples to spread more quickly and also for them to be sustainable, we have to take personal responsibility and start with ourselves.

Scorpio, the Moon's placement at this Full Moon, is in the deep water sign of the zodiac and we might feel some old, deep emotions, even grief arising and these are needing to be released now. Why are we holding onto old hurts?

If we want peace, we have to be peace.

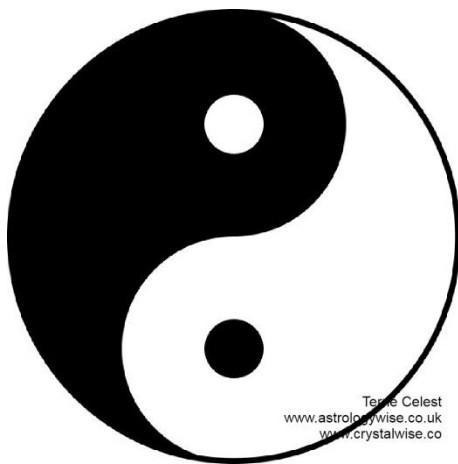
If we want consistency, we have to be consistent.

If we want acceptance, we have to accept.

If we want fairness, we have to be fair.

If we want tolerance, we have to be tolerant.

If we want appreciation, we have to appreciate others.



As I mentioned at the Full Moon, Venus and Mars, the feminine and masculine archetypes in the chart have a niggly connection on 27th and then move towards the ends of their current signs before entering their home signs on 29th and 30th, having both been at 29° for a few hours on 29th. This really throws a strong focus on these energies and the contrasts and need for rebalancing our inner masculine and feminine. We may well see examples in the wider world and they will undoubtedly reflect imbalances in our internal masculine and feminine. War and peace are key energies associated with these and on a finer scale, can be reflected in how easily we can assertive ourselves and our needs or how passive we are. Masculine and feminine does not relate to sexuality and the body our Soul inhabits and if you find it difficult to relate to these sides of yourself, I would suggest looking up the characteristics and qualities of yin and yang instead.

On the 28th, sandwiched in between the above, Saturn and Mercurry have a niggly connection, as do Neptune and Venus and these will highlight idealism, escapism and may challenge our belief systems and jar with what we feel the world should be like. It is important that we don't get disheartened, feel that

the world is too harsh, there is too much suffering or that true balance can never happen, as it can. Becoming hopeless or helpless is the old currency and we need to refocus on trust and hope and what we can do, not what isn't.

Keep the faith, is the phrase that comes to mind, and keep also, a close eye on how you see these energies playing out for yourself, look deeper into them and do what you can to bring your own world into greater balance. Just imagine, if just a thousand people in the world, practised, lived and therefore spread more peace and harmony to those they connect with on a daily basis, how that would ripple outwards.

Now imagine, if this happens en masse.....

Namaste

Tension is likely to be felt building over the last few days of the month as Pluto slows, preparing to go retrograde on 2nd May. In its current sign of Aquarius, the Fixed Air sign of the zodiac, this is most likely to be felt in our minds and entrenched viewpoints could cause problems, whilst the Uranian influence of this could build frustration at what we have outgrown and we know, no longer aligns with us, but we might feel unable to change.

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