

Neptune Transits... Transcendence or confusion?

Have you ever felt as if you were experiencing an identity crisis or a vague, ill-defined loss of self? Perhaps at some point in your life you have asked a poignant question such as "What is my true purpose in life...or 'Who am I...really?...I feel so tired, depleted and confused." Maybe some of you have struggled with some form of addiction until the stark face of disillusionment stared you in the face. Possibly, the "love of your life" turned out to be a drug addict who has been deceiving you for years...the rose colored glasses so painfully removed. Maybe some of you woke up one morning and came to the realization that your life was too fast paced. Suddenly, you decided to take a few weeks hiatus from work and commune with nature...long walks on the beach...hikes in the mountains...solo bike trips exploring uncharted territory, thoroughly enjoying your solitude.

On the other hand, maybe you have experienced the excitement and joy of discovering artistic gifts that had lay dormant within the depths of your soul. Feelings of deep inspiration and creativity welled forth from your fertile imagination. Possibly, your deepest dreams really did come true...you really did find that soul mate who truly understands you and revels in your uniqueness. Maybe you have felt an overwhelming need to give of your time and energies to a charitable cause or organization. Some of you may have felt compelled to learn meditation or passionately pursue your spiritual development through various metaphysical studies such as the tarot, I Ching, the Kabbala and so on. Perhaps spirituality became a necessary part of your daily routine. Surely many of you have had to make a significant sacrifice to help a parent, a child or friend in need...feeling loss and confusion yet deep compassion and empathy at the same time.

If you have experienced any of the above, chances are you were having a Neptune transit. The planet Neptune was discovered in 1846 which was a time in our history when film, photography and artistic expression were burgeoning forth from the collective. The archetype of Neptune involves transcendence...from pain and suffering in the lower nature to joy and inspiration once we are connected to our higher or soul centered self. Neptune rules all things spiritual, religious, artistic, creative and mystical as well as neurotic, addictive, ill-defined, subconscious and martyristic. Astrologer Maggie Kerr describes the Neptunian vibration so eloquently..."there exists a fine line between such high inspiration and madness itself which is contained in the astrological dilemma presented by Neptune."

By transit, Neptune takes 164 years to circle around our birthcharts spending an average of 14 years in each sign. Neptune transits provide opportunities to awaken spiritually to our compassionate, sensitive and imaginative selves. We yearn to either escape or transcend everyday reality and connect with a more spiritual purpose. Neptune transits ask us to envision our dreams and experience greater awareness of our psyche, as well as face up to any illusions in our lives. Those of us with the planet Neptune prominent in our birthcharts struggle with these themes all our lives. If Neptune is angular or closely aspected to the Sun, Moon or Ascendant, we will be closely attuned to its energies. It is not until we become a vessel for our higher selves that we become free of illusion and addiction. Collectively, the Neptune vibration inspires us to have compassion for a troubled planet...to carry on with our lives and do what we can to heal this planet. Neptune seeks no rewards for its good deeds...It's compassion is unconditional.