

The Traveler's Well

With Scott Wolfram

*"Move In Harmony With The
Sun, Moon and Stars!"*

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Dear Friends, as the days grow longer again, I wish you well as we begin our slide into Spring! For many of us, it is like Winter never made an appearance this year.

I have received a few questions about the upcoming [Mars Retrograde cycle](#) so I wanted to share some thoughts on this transit, which will be with us for close to 3 months.

Also, I am introducing [three new services](#) this year and wanted to take a moment to tell you about these services and to offer a discount on these new services to existing clients between now and March 31, 2012.

Move in harmony with the Sun, Moon and stars!

***Blessings and peace,
Scott Wolfram***



Mars Retrograde

Retrograde activity for the year 2012 begins with the least common retrograde movement of any planet: Mars Retrograde. While each companion of Mars in the solar system, from Mercury to Pluto, turn retrograde at least once each year, Mars is unique turning retrograde for about 80 days only once every two plus years! Starting on January 23, 2012 (on January 24 for anyone living from Europe to Asia and New Zealand), transiting Mars will turn retrograde at 23 degrees of Virgo and travel backward to 3 degrees of Virgo from where he will turn direct again on April 14, 2012.

In this article, we will explore:

- Mars in the Birth Chart = Energy Applied
- Mars Retrograde on the Journey of the Soul
- Four stages of Mars Retrograde
- Who will be most impacted?
- How you can make the best of Mars Retrograde

Mars in the Birth Chart = Energy Applied

At a most fundamental level, Mars is the planet that demands we assert ourselves and take action to express our needs and desires. His goal is to assure that our needs are met in life and that what is important to each of us as individuals has its appropriate place in our life.

In myth, Mars is the warrior god. Yet, images of the warrior (in myth and art) vary *from* the noble hero taking courageous action to achieve his goals and/or protecting those he loves *to* brutal expressions of aggression with a total lack of concern for the legitimate rights, needs and feelings of others. Therefore, like every planet, the qualities of Mars can be applied in either a positive or negative manner.

When the energy of Mars is applied in a noble manner, he embodies the notion of "enlightened self-interest". Thus, when Mars takes action to accomplish what he feels is important, but also is aware of the impact to others, then his "self-interest" is "enlightened". Enlightened self-interest means that for us to "win", the other does not necessarily have to "lose".

When Mars is applied in a negative manner, his actions are brutal and he cares not the impact on others in carrying out his acts of war. In daily life, the negative side of Mars results in more conflict, less cooperation and ultimately less success and happiness. In retrospect, as you consider situations where you take action to achieve your goals, take actions to protect others or go to battle, consider how you express Mars in your daily life.

Finally, the house position of Mars in your birth chart identifies the aspect of life impacted by Mars and how you are meant to express your own desires and make progress toward achieving your personal goals and happiness. Here is a link to a [Cheat Sheet](#) I have created for the Houses and Planets. Using the Summary of Planets on this sheet, you can locate the symbol for Mars so that you can find Mars in your own chart. When you have located the symbol for the planet Mars, you can determine the house where Mars is located in your birth chart. Then, you can use the Summary of Houses on the sheet to determine the qualities of the house where your Mars is located.



"Noble Mars"



Mars Taking Action (Not Being Phased By Venus)

Mars Retrograde - Inversion of Energy

When transiting Mars turns retrograde, Mars natural habit of expressing energy outward is suddenly turned inward. This dramatic change in perspective is important, because Mars is one of the most subjective energies in our birth chart. Mars is considered subjective because, not only most often is he *not* aware of the needs and desires of others, he is most often not aware of the impact that his efforts have on others. During Mars retrograde, however, our experiences reveal the impact of our actions on the lives of others and become conscious to our own awareness.

Mars wants us to be courageous, to know the "enlightened" course of action and then actually to take "enlightened" action. If you generally are both courageous and considerate, then you will likely have no difficulties during Mars retrograde. When things go "wrong" during Mars retrograde, it is because we have been unaware of the ways in which our actions, guided by our desires and compulsions, have not embraced "enlightened self-interest". If you have developed the habit of taking overly aggressive action and unconsciously created enemies by not being fully aware or considerate of others, or if you have avoided taking action to assert your legitimate needs, you will be made aware of this during the 80 days of Mars retrograde.

This awareness from the energy turning inward serves a purpose as demonstrated by the 4 stages of Mars Retrograde.

Four Stages Or Aspects of Mars Retrograde

Stage 1 = Retreat

As Mars turns retrograde on January 23, 2012, the energy of Mars turns inward, which often feels like a loss of energy, focus and interest. As a result, you may find that you are suddenly reacting to the experiences of life, rather than taking action as you normally would. If you have goals to achieve or deadlines to meet, you may find that you are not your usual effective self. This can lead to retreating inward, during which time you may be asking yourself, "What is going on?" as if you have been "unplugged" from your power source.

Stage 2 = Repeat and Relive

Circumstances may seem to contain feelings and emotions that you have not been aware of. If you have been suppressing any feelings of frustration, anger, or hostility, they will likely be brought to the surface by external events. This can sometimes feel like we are reliving and repeating circumstances from the past. In fact, Mars is attempting to remind you of unresolved karmic issues from the past, by recreating them in the present. If your world is disrupted by unexpected events and explosions of emotions, these are issues that Mars wants you to resolve.

During this Mars retrograde period, watch for the period when the transiting Sun opposes transiting Mars on March 3, 2012, which often triggers the experiences that reveal our suppressed energy in circumstances of confrontation or emotional crisis.

Stage 3 = Reconsider

One way to resolve karmic issues that arise during Mars retrograde is to reconsider the manner in which we use the energy of Mars in our lives. In your birth chart, consider how your Mars can be appropriately embraced (the positive representation of Mars) and then ask if any changes are appropriate and if you are ready to embrace those changes. In this process, we are meant to consciously reconsider our motives and the ways in which we have been wounded in life. Wounds from our childhood might be expressed out of context as an adult.

Stage 4 = Resolve

On the journey of the soul, we have opportunities to learn from life's experiences, so that we can choose new responses to re-occurring circumstances. In the process, we have the potential to resolve unhelpful karmic patterns and release challenging karmic circumstances. Discovering and developing new patterns of expressing our desires and needs during Mars retrograde leads us forward on the path and to greater success and personal fulfillment.

So, this is a time of finding new ways to approach the inevitable battles we must take in our daily life. Consider if this battle is really necessary or if it is simply an old habit we are unable to avoid. Alternatively, you may find that circumstances are asking you to step up and confidently assert your needs. We are not meant to give in with each and every conflict, but to know which "battles" we are meant to take part in. Battles in our life can take place at work, in our home, when returning items to a retailer, etc.

In the final analysis, Mars is about taking action. As Mars turns direct on April 14, 2012, and in the weeks that follow, we have a powerful opportunity to take action in new ways that leads to us embracing "enlightened self-interest" where we assert the right to fulfill our own legitimate needs in a manner that is harmonious with others and the world around us.

Who Is Most Impacted By Mars Retrograde in 2012

While each of us will be impacted by Mars Retrograde based on the fact that this transit will occur in a house of our birth chart, as with most astrological events, not everyone is impacted to the same degree. During this 2012 retrograde period, transiting Mars will move between 23 degrees of Virgo and 3 degrees of Virgo. Each of us will experience the inversion of energy in the house or houses in which 3 to 23 degrees of Virgo fall. To locate the house where this transit will take place locate these degrees in your birth chart.

However, if your birth chart has a stressed point between 3 and 23 degrees of Virgo, or in the same degrees in the other mutable signs of Sagittarius, Pisces or Gemini, that point of stress will be activated more strongly and you will experience Mars Retrograde in a more powerful way.

If you were born during the periods listed below, you likely had two or more outer planets in your birth chart that will be impacted by Mars retrograde in early 2012.

- 1936 - 1937: Saturn in Pisces oppose Neptune in Virgo
- 1964 - 1968: Saturn in Pisces oppose Uranus and Pluto in Virgo
- 1971 - 1973: Saturn in Gemini oppose Neptune in Sagittarius

Summary - Embracing Mars Retrograde

Mars wants us to apply energy to achieve our goals. Mars retrograde is a time of re-visiting and resolving old wounds by developing new and more effective ways to take action and achieve our goals. During the 80 days when Mars is retrograde, consider the following actions:

- Spend some quiet time reviewing experiences of conflict during the Mars retrograde period.
- Ask if your responses to situations were conscious and measured, or if they were based on methods you have used to protect yourself that you (re)learned in childhood.
- Ask if there is a different way you could express your energies that would be more conscious, more considerate and more effective.
- Look back to the previous Mars Retrograde. The last time transiting Mars was retrograde was between December 20, 2009 and March 10, 2010. While the triggering events may have taken place in a different part of your life, look for any repeating themes in the manner of your responses to those circumstances.

Be prepared to take action when Mars turns direct!

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New Services For 2012

Each birth chart contains so many wonderful messages for us about all facets of our life! These messages have great meaning and in order to communicate the fullest extent of their meaning we simply need time. So often in an astrology consultation, we simply do not have adequate time to dive deeply enough into the messages of the birth chart. The three new services I am introducing address the need for either more time or greater focus of subject matter.

For 2012, I have two new services that narrow the subject matter so that we have adequate time to discuss each topic. And one new service that expands the amount of time we meet so that we can simply cover more information.

First, I am most often asked by clients questions related to **career** and **relationships**. What is my right work? When will I find true love? Our birth chart has much to say about these two topics. So, I decided to create two new services to focus solely on these topics so that they can be explored in adequate detail.

Career Consultation - Explore what your birth chart says about your skills and the career options that support the journey of your soul in this lifetime.

I am offering a Career Consultation, where we take a close look at the symbols in your birth chart that illuminate and deepen your understanding of the career you are meant to have in this lifetime. We often start out life doing what is familiar to us (most often from skills we have learned in past lifetimes). However, we are not meant to do the same work lifetime after lifetime and slowly over time we begin to question if another path would be more fulfilling.

Click here [for additional details](#) and please do let me know any questions you might have.

For existing clients, I am offering a \$15 discount on this service until March 31, 2012.

True Love Reading - Explore what your birth chart says about your path to finding true love in this lifetime.

Meaningful relationships are so essential! I am often asked, "When will I meet my Soul Mate/Prince Charming/Cinderella?". However, there is a more important question to ask. "What must I do to attract love in my life?".

As with any aspect of life, to find true love, we need to apply effort to achieve our goals. Fabulous relationships do not simply fall into our lap. So, we need to be open and honest with ourselves about the qualities of ourselves that support healthy and vital relationships and those that sabotage us. We need to hear what our chart says our partner or Soul Mate will want to see in us and so we can embrace this message and attract love into our life.

Click here [for additional details](#) and please do let me know any questions you might have.

For existing clients, I am offering a \$15 discount on this service until March 31, 2012.

Deep Soul Journey

Second, I am now offering two versions of my **Soul Journey Natal Chart Analysis**. One is the standard service I currently offer that is 75 minutes. The new service is a 2 hour service dedicated entirely to the birth chart so that we can simply cover more information and in greater detail:

- Core Approach to Life - aspects of your personality that you must honor
- Journey of the Soul - Deep exploration of Karma and past life dynamics
- Journey of the Soul - Deep exploration of Dharma and new themes for this lifetime
- Journey of the Soul - Deep exploration of Karmic fruition and the stressful aspects in your chart that must be re-experienced and seek resolution in this lifetime.
- Deeper exploration of each planet, plus the asteroids Chiron, Pallas, Vesta, Ceres and Juno
- Sabian Symbols - key Sabian Symbols, images clarify the journey of the soul
- Additional Minor Asteroids that fill in the missing pieces of both karma and dharma.

For existing clients, I am offering a \$25 discount on this service until March 31, 2012.

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Photos from Travels Around Germany

Alphorns really do help to make the season bright
(at least it does if you love Bavarian Folk Music)!



Members of The Tegernseer Alphorn Musikanten!



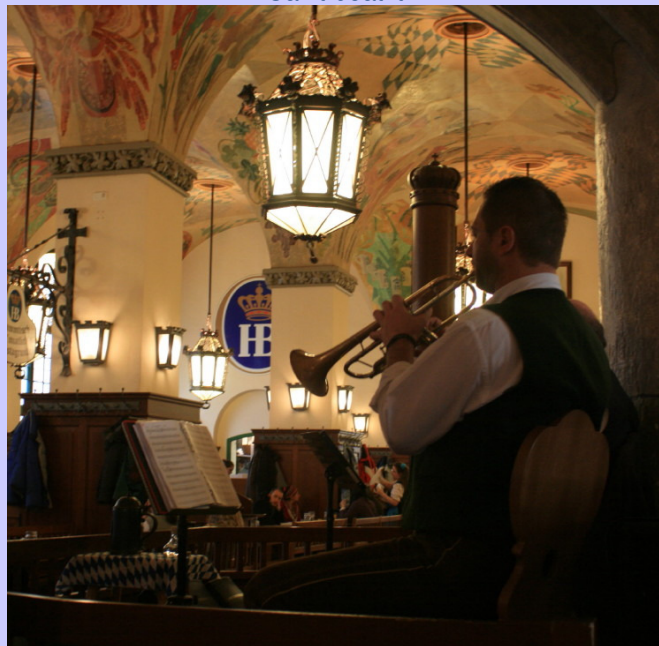
This guy loves Bavarian Folk Music!



Don't know the origin of these horns, but they made a lovely sound!



The World Famous Hofbraeuhaus Munich!
Early in the day, they have live music and no crowds!
Can't beat it!



Relocation Checklist & Tips

We gathered our thoughts about the process of checking out a location and the things to consider before you go, while you are there and after you return. Then, also thoughts about the actual relocation. This will grow and change over time. Anyone who uses this and has feedback or suggestions, please do pass those along!
Check it out!

[Relocation Checklist](#)

Transformational Planetary Transits

Sappho wanted to share an article about Transformation related to the powerful transits of Pluto and Uranus!

Feel free to check it out if you wish!

Here is a link to the article on her "Sister Moon, Brother Sun" web-site:

[Transformation - Inside Out Change!](#)