

Hello, Astrology Friends, so how did the February 22 Mercury-Mars trine work out for you? Did you experience any breakthroughs, downloads, or fresh starts? I would love to hear about your experiences with this aspect, and will include them (anonymously) in our next issue. Write to me at [sallyjducharme@gmail.com](mailto:sallyjducharme@gmail.com) .

In the news on February 22 was a report (Mercury) from astronomers (Aquarius) telling us that the James Webb Space Telescope (Mars in Gemini) has helped them to see massive galaxies dating back to the time of the Big Bang, something they describe as “mind-blowing” (Jupiter is in Aries now, ruling Mars in Gemini). Read more about it at <https://www.npr.org/2023/02/22/1158793897/webb-telescope-huge-early-galaxies-big-bang>

For this Pisces edition of *Highlights*, we are looking at what could be the month’s most challenging square and relating it to something which began back in October of 2021. We also explore a classic astrology text, *The Principles of Astrology* by Charles E.O. Carter, and I answer a question from a mom struggling with the decision to have a second child.

And good news – our “Concerned Capricorn Moon” from the January issue reports that her mother did find good housing. As we predicted, the Saturn trine indicating success brought her more what she needed than what she necessarily wanted. She found a nice apartment, rather than a house with a garden, but she is happy with it. We also suggested she may receive some beneficial assistance to get her house since the benefic, Venus, was joining the Saturn trine. One of her daughters is moving in to share the apartment and the expenses with her. It’s very satisfying to see astrology paint such a clear picture of the situation – but it’s even more gratifying to know our reader’s mother is safely housed.

Thank you so much for the time you take to explore with me our beautiful and magical astrology. Wishing you a star-studded month!



Sally  
DuCharme



# Highlighted Aspect

The Sun,  
 Mercury, and  
 Neptune at  
 25 Degrees Pisces  
**SQUARE**  
 Mars 25 Degrees  
 Gemini

**MARCH 16, 2023**

**Sun Square Mars**  
 Natal Chart  
 Mar 16 2023, Thu  
 11:58 am PST (-7:00)  
 Seattle, Washington  
 47°38'27" 122°16'19" W  
 Astrologer:  
 Tasha  
 House Sign:  
 Placetide

Where were you on October 7, 2021? On this day, we began a new cycle as the Sun and Mars conjoined at 15 degrees of Libra. Some astrologers call this the beginning of “the hero’s journey,” as our actions, energy, and assertiveness get plugged in and supercharged by the source of our divine mission, the Sun. How have you grown and learned from relationships since then? Mars was in detriment in Libra, and the Sun was in its fall, so both entities set their course to bring “the other” into our consciousness and strengthen our path through this world.

On March 16, 2023, the Sun and Mars are in this cycles’ waning square, and we face the final test in this journey. The Sun in Pisces is now in the superior position, calling on our empathy and willingness to relinquish our egos for the greater good. Adding to the power of this placing are Mercury and Neptune, both sharing the 26<sup>th</sup> degree of Pisces with the Sun, suggesting some true spiritual downloads or powerful, life-altering dreams.

Mars, however, in Gemini mentality, has the crucial job in this planetary configuration. Let’s ask some questions, he snaps at us. Is what we are feeling based on actual reality? Or are we falling into wishful thinking that we are helping others by giving up ourselves? Are those we are sacrificing for in real need, or are we enabling them? Putting what we are thinking, feeling, and hoping for on this day through the sieve of Mercurial fact-checking will help us emerge with true insight and an amazing ability to relate to and make a difference for others.

And this brings us back to the cycle which began as our strongly individualized heroes struggled to make their way through Venus's sign of connection and relationships. The final lesson of this journey lies in this powerful square, reminding us that genuine relationships are formed when we marry our understanding of and compassion for "the other" with our own sense of our uniqueness and self-worth. So, where will the Sun, Mercury, and Neptune in Pisces be in your chart? And from which house will Mars challenge them?

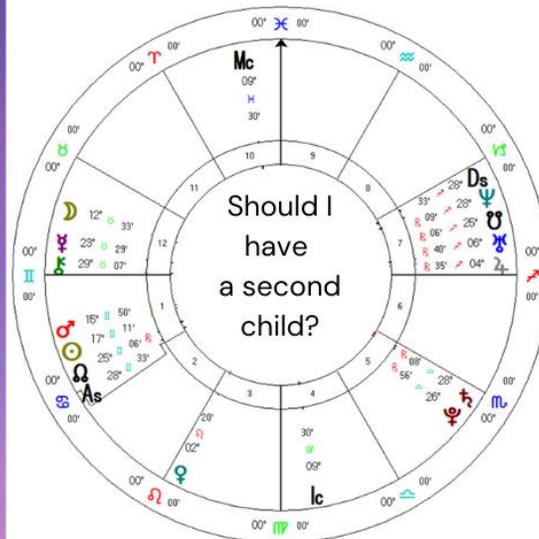
Sun in Pisces: Where are we exercising our empathy and longing to relate?	Mars in Gemini: How shall we challenge and fact-check our assumptions?
1 <sup>st</sup> House – Our sense of self as a compassionate human being	4 <sup>th</sup> – Are my charitable actions building my security and are they good for my family?
2 <sup>nd</sup> House – Our money and possessions	5 <sup>th</sup> – Will my sacrifices still allow me enough for my own enjoyment of life?
3 <sup>rd</sup> House – Communication, our daily environment and those we encounter	6 <sup>th</sup> – Am I taking care of my own health when I am giving so much to those around me?
4 <sup>th</sup> House – Home and family	7 <sup>th</sup> – In doing for my family, I allowing enough space in my life for relationships I enjoy?
5 <sup>th</sup> House – Pleasures, creativity, children	8 <sup>th</sup> – Am I emotionally dependent on my children? Or on the approval of others for my creative pursuits?
6 <sup>th</sup> House – Work, Health, Service	9 <sup>th</sup> – Is my hard work helping me to expand my own learning and horizons? Am I challenging myself to grow in my service and skills?
7 <sup>th</sup> House – partners, one-on-one relationships	10 <sup>th</sup> – Am I partnering with those who share my goals, or who can help reach what I am hoping to accomplish? Is my marriage supporting my career?
8 <sup>th</sup> House - shared resources, emotional needs, endings and beginnings	11 <sup>th</sup> – Are my friends a support, or are they a psychic drain? Do the groups I engage with share my core values? Are some changes or adjustments needed with friends or groups?
9 <sup>th</sup> House – higher learning, long-distance travel, our world view	12 <sup>th</sup> – Am I giving myself the time and space I need away from responsibilities to explore what I am longing to know? Am I vacationing to fulfill a need for rest and regeneration, or to do what others have told me will be cool?
10 <sup>th</sup> House – Career, role in society, authorities	1 <sup>st</sup> – Am I giving away too much of my independence in serving a boss or career? Is what I am doing in the world aligned with what I believe are my gifts and mission?
11 <sup>th</sup> House – Friends, Groups, Aspirations	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Do my friends and the groups I serve value me and what I contribute? Am I happy with my income, or do I need to make a practical plan to reach the financial future I am imagining?
12 <sup>th</sup> House – Retreat, Subconscious, Mental Health, "hidden enemies"	3 <sup>rd</sup> – Are the people or things around me which drive me crazy really my subconscious response to something rooted in my past? Can I explore that feeling of unease or distress I may experience with others through inner work?

## Highlighted Q and A

Dear Highlights,

I am wondering if I should have another child. My only child is in school now, and I am feeling the desire for another baby to nurture. I also think it is better for children to have siblings. The window is closing on my ability to have children, and I have in this past year developed some health concerns which give me pause when I think of putting my body through another pregnancy. What do my transits say about the possibility of having another child?

Questioning Mom.



Dear Questioning Mom:

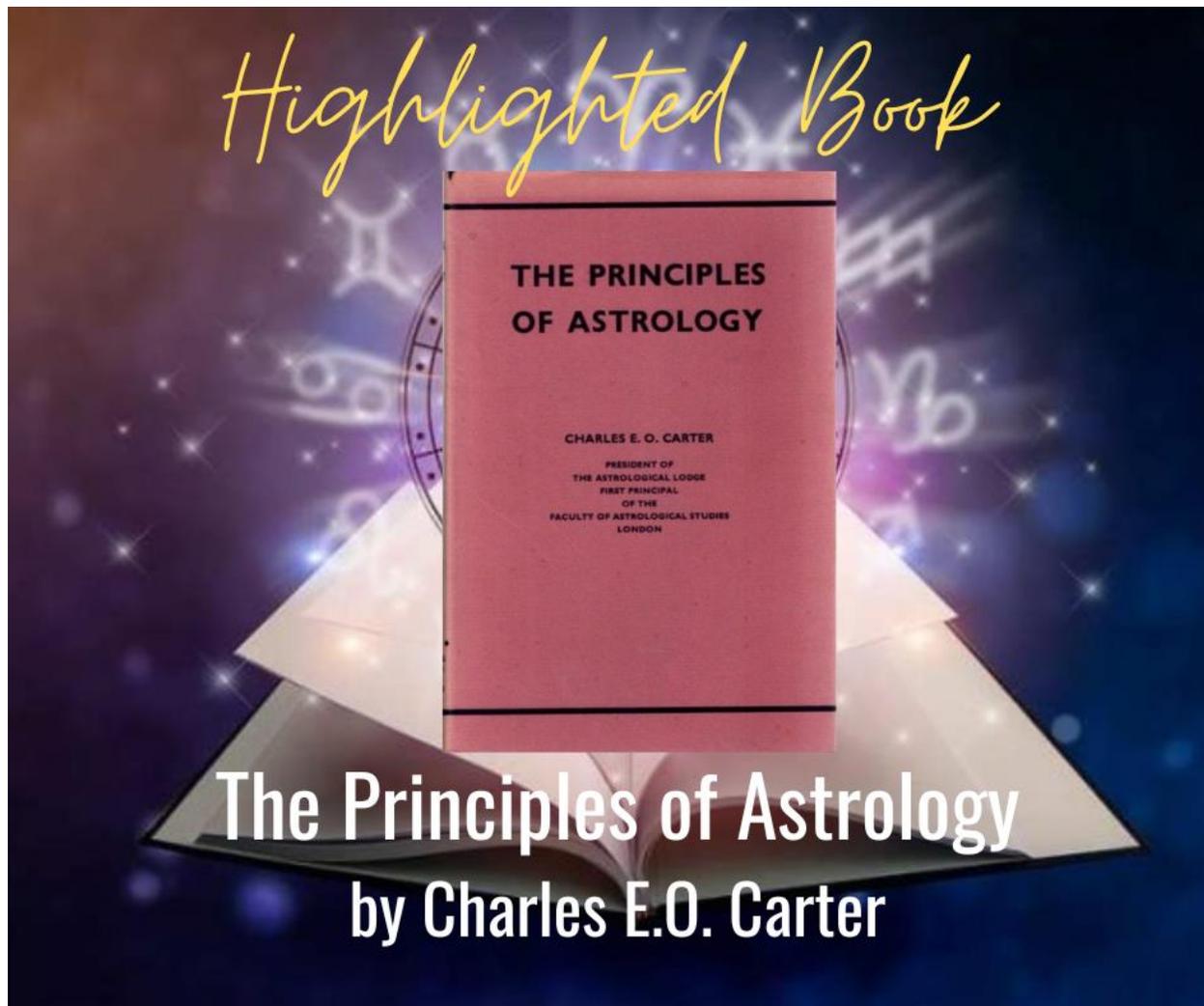
I can understand your feelings. Taurus Moons love to nurture and grow a family, and your Venus in Leo, ruler of your fifth house of children, enjoys children. Also, that pleasure loving Venus in Leo is in your third house shows that you had fun growing up with siblings, and you would want this for your child. Traditionally, the fifth house shows your first child, and the seventh house signifies your second child (third from the third). You can see that this house is packed full, ruled by Jupiter in its own sign of Sagittarius, conjunct unusual Uranus. This suggests the promise of a second child; however, with Uranus here, the method of having the child might not follow the conventional path. Also, Neptune and the South Node here suggest a disappointment in the attempt to have a second child, or it could tell us that you are uncertain of your body's ability to carry a child to term. Mercury, your Ascendant ruler, is in Taurus in your twelfth house, showing some concerns for your body, and it is also applying to a conjunction to Chiron, telling us of a wounding to your health.

Let's look at the transits to see whether this very Jupiterian promise of a second child can come to fruition. Because the eclipses are so lunar-based, paying attention to where they fall in your chart over the next year is important. We have recently had North

Node eclipses (the tide coming in) around your Taurus Moon in the twelfth, awakening a subconscious yearning for another baby. In April, we will have our first North Node solar eclipse in Aries, opposite your fifth house Saturn-Pluto at the South Node in your fifth house, telling me that you will most likely decide against another pregnancy. But, the tide coming in is in your eleventh house, ruling, among other things, other people's children. This could suggest you will explore the idea of fostering and/or adopting another child. Jupiter in Aries is also transiting this house until May 17, with the suggestion that you could be thinking of bold new alternate ways to grow your family. Jupiter will eventually trine that Neptune-Descendant conjunction in your seventh house, making me wonder if you may consider partnering with someone to have a child (perhaps a surrogate).

Additionally, Jupiter, the ruler of your second child, is crossing your fertile Taurus Moon three times over the next year – in July, October, and March of 2024. Jupiter brings expansion and growth, and the Moon signifies a child. Saturn in Pisces will also make a sextile to your Moon in March of 2024, helping with manifestation. Saturn will also, however, through 2023, be squaring your Jupiter-Uranus in the seventh house, requiring you to be patient and understanding of the ups and downs this process will require.

Wishing you all the best Questioning Mom – I truly believe that if your heart is yearning for a second child, the Universe will help you find him or her.



Charles Carter was a young man in comfortable circumstances beginning his promising career as an attorney when he was thrown into a nightmare as a soldier in the trenches in World War I. Seeking answers which would help him cope with the devastation of the world around him, he wrote to astrologer Alan Leo. Leo sent Carter an explanation of his chart, and Carter experienced an instant connection with the language of astrology. He studied astrology zealously after he returned from the war, pursuing it first as a hobby and later as a profession. Carter did much to “legitimize” what was by this time considered a fringe topic, co-founding The Astrology Lodge in London and founding *The Astrology Magazine* – both with the mission of promoting and teaching astrology to new generations of astrologers.

Carter also wrote many books, including his basic primer for beginning astrology students, *The Principles of Astrology*. First published in 1925, the book would be updated and republished five times before Carter’s death in 1968. Today, the book does seem a bit dated but still provides a succinct description of planets, signs, houses, and aspects. A fun aspect of the book is that he describes how to set up a chart – at a time

when computer generated charts were not even imagined. It is not a bad idea for astrologers to learn to do this and see the chart come into being as a result of their own calculations. He also gives some useful instructions on how to calculate primary directions, an often-forgotten technique. All in all, this slim but fully loaded volume is a valuable addition to an astrologer's library.

In my blog this past month, I used Carter's explanation of the planets, signs, and houses to delineate the charts of people who were his contemporaries, including:

Frances Perkins (FDR's Secretary of Labor) and the first female cabinet member)  
<https://www.sallyducharme.com/post/charles-e-o-carter-and-frances-perkins-mid-century-movers-and-shakers>

Billie Holiday  
<https://www.sallyducharme.com/post/billie-holiday-a-bold-aries-sun-piscean-gifts-and-the-fated-dark-moon>

Adolf Hitler  
<https://www.sallyducharme.com/post/charles-e-o-carter-meets-the-chart-of-adolf-hitler>

And Charles E.O. Carter himself:  
<https://www.sallyducharme.com/post/charles-e-o-carter-modern-astrology-s-benefactor>