

# April, 1999 Celestial Timings

by Carolyn Brent

Hathor

Pleasure

When you come to me – I take your spirit from the stars- and clothe it  
in a body of sensation – to finely focus you on form – to benignly bask you in bliss.  
You are here to experience delight - enjoy gratification – know satisfaction – have pleasure -  
in all ways – in all modes – in all aspects. Pleasure makes you juicy- twinkles your eyes -  
enlivens your life force. - The exquisiteness of existence is pleasure.  
from The Goddess Oracle by Amy Sophia Marshinsky

This month two themes feel dominant, Pleasure and Passion. Saturn and Mars reach opposition again this month in pleasurable Taurus and passionate Scorpio. Discovering and living our passion surely assists us in experiencing pleasure. I am writing this on exactly one year to the day when my dear priestess sister To-Ree-Nee and I found ourselves spontaneously and quite unexpectedly calling forth and anchoring in our reality the pleasure paradigm. Since that time I am more aware of how I open to receive pleasure in my life, or not. I am learning pleasure is a high state of being. I am mindful of how I push pleasure away out of habit or old programming. I am shifting those old programs and opening to receive the abundance of pleasure the universe is offering daily. I am learning to consciously invite pleasure in as an ally. I am also remembering to express my gratitude for the abundance of pleasure life has to offer. Pleasure is an enchanting experience, magical, alchemical and alive. The intensity of the events we experience now will assist us in seeing where we are aligned with passionate pleasure or in fear or resistance to this natural state of being.

## Night Sky Viewing

Connecting with the night sky is a pleasurable experience for many. This month provides several pleasurable viewing experiences. Venus and Mars are both visible in the evening sky this month. As April begins Mars is rising about 2½ hours after sunset. By April 24, Mars reaches opposition to the Sun, meaning Mars is rising in the East while the Sun is setting in the West. When Mars reaches opposition to the Sun it is always retrograde from Earth's perspective and is at its brightest and closest proximity to the Earth. (Mars is closest to the Earth on the night of May 1.) When Mars reaches opposition to the Sun, it will be visible all night long, blazing brightly on the Midheaven around midnight. Mars has not been this bright since 1990. Venus is shining two magnitudes brighter than Mars or Jupiter and is about 34 to 39 degrees above the horizon after sunset. Venus is setting about 3½ hours after sunset. Venus passes within 3 degrees of the Pleiades on April 11 and 12 (see April 12). Jupiter is invisible when April begins due to its conjunction with the Sun, but rises as a morning star later in the month. April 22 is the Lyrids meteor shower. Beginning before midnight, best seen in the early morning hours. They are swift

and occasionally (about 20 to 25 percent) leave persistent trains. (This information from the 1999 Astronomical Calendar.)

## April Events

**April 1, Sun and Jupiter (10 degrees and 46 minutes of Aries or 10Aries46) reached conjunction last night at 11:10 pm MST.** When the visible planets move within 10 or 15 degrees of the Sun they disappear from view. In Shamanic Astrology this is seen as moving into the underworld. The underworld is a place of initiation and is not seen as good or bad, but an opportunity to move to a new awareness and understanding of who we are. One way of looking at this is as a death and rebirth experience. Jupiter is working with the archetypal energy of Aries during its meeting with the Sun. Jupiter in Aries expands the warrior/adventurer, who is independent, strong and courageous. Jupiter's quest here is for new fun adventures. Jupiter's meeting with the Sun in this Full Moon window (Full Moon windows last three days, the day before, the day of the Full Moon and the day after) indicates an illumination taking us beyond where we have previously believed ourselves to be with these mysteries.

**April 2, Mercury (20Pisces58) goes direct at 2:15 am MST.** Last month when Mercury stationed Retrograde in Aries these were the questions I felt this transit might help to answer. What beliefs prevent the warrior/adventure from exploring and experiencing life to its fullest? What beliefs prevent the fullest experience of trust, innocence and courage as we explore the inner realms of who we are? Mercury has retrograded back to intuitive, compassionate and empathic Pisces, diving deep into the feeling realms to assist in the process of answering these questions. When Mercury stations direct it represents the releasing of the arrow that has been moving backward these past three weeks gathering power and clearing the way for powerful forward movement to its target. How well we move forward collectively and individually depends on how well we have worked with the initiatory energies of Mercury Retrograde.

**April 3, Moon conjuncts Mars Retrograde (11 degrees Scorpio) at 10:15 pm MST.** This is the last Moon conjunction with Mars before Mars begins its new quest when it reaches opposition to the Sun on April 24. The question Mars is answering in the current quest is, "*what is the sacred work and*

how can we express it in harmony with the current time?" This Moon conjunction marks an important opportunity to deepen the answer by passionately connecting with your inner experience of how this is manifesting in your life. It is also a time to begin connecting with the energies of the incoming quest in the Scorpio mysteries that will be integrating for the next 26 months. Questions Mars in Scorpio might ask are: *What excites my passion? What really turns me on and feels alive in my life? What fears prevent me from expressing my passion?* These questions are applicable to every area of life.

**April 5, Moon conjuncts Pluto (10Sagittarius22) at 3:05 pm MST. Moon will be located 9 degrees north of Antares in the morning sky.** Noticing where the Moon is helps to point out in the sky where the bright red fixed star Antares is located. Antares is the heart of the Scorpion. Just above the Scorpion is the constellation of Ophiucus the serpent holder. Some argue that Ophiucus is the 13<sup>th</sup> constellation (not the 13<sup>th</sup> sign as the signs and constellations are *not* the same) and Pluto is more accurately found at this time in that constellation, but still in the sign of Sagittarius. The serpent and the scorpion both connect strongly with dragon energy and the imagery of powerful life force energy. I sense the message of Pluto is to empower this imagery in our awareness once again. The dragon priestesses worked with the ley lines and earth energies. The story of Tiamat, the dragon, tells how she gave birth to creation. More recent myths describe desperate quests to slay dragons because they were viewed as a threat. In essence this symbolizes slaying our own life force. Pluto helps us face our fears around this potent energy and to once again honor and acknowledge the dragon energy we all carry. Pluto's connection with Antares suggests it is through the love and compassion of the heart energy that we will successfully heal the wounds around our dragon essence, and wounded life force.

**April 6, Saturn (4 degrees Taurus) squares Neptune (4 degrees Aquarius) at 8:07 pm MST.** This is winding up a dance between Saturn and Neptune that has been taking place since last year. The highest intent of these two energies is to bring the visions and dreams of Neptune into a solid structure and form via Saturn. Square energy is often felt as a crisis in action where all that is not in alignment with the intent surfaces for examination and clearing. A good way to work with this energy is to let your imagination run free, remembering that imagination is our greatest creative tool for creating a new reality that supports who we truly are.

**April 7, Moon enters Capricorn at 6:39 am MST.** This is an important area of the sky to work with at this time. The waning Moon is crossing the area of the sky the Mayans referred to as Hanab Ku. It is very near the center of our galaxy and is the dreaming place of the ages. My sense is that it is the dreaming place of the ages within ages. Galactic center is located just beyond the tip of the arrow of the Archer, around 27 degrees of Sagittarius, within 3 degrees of the galactic alignment. The center of the Galaxy is below the ecliptic and to the right of the intersection of the Milky Way and the zodiacal constellations. Zero degrees Capricorn is marking the galactic alignment where the Winter Solstice is aligned with the intersection of the Milky Way Galaxy and the ecliptic (the path the planets follow). This alignment occurs once approximately every 26,000 years. (See *A Shamanic Look At The Turning Of The Ages* by Daniel Giamario on the Shamanic Astrology web

site [www.ShamanicAstrology.com](http://www.ShamanicAstrology.com) or in *The Shamanic Astrology Handbook* for more details) The Moon passes by this alignment once each month giving us an opportunity to visually connect with it and to ceremonially work with this activation. This is a potent dreaming point for consciously dreaming the dream onward.

**April 12, Venus enters Gemini at 6:17 am MST.** Venus (38 degrees from the Sun) is still quite spectacular to view in the evening sky. Today she is passing within 2.6 degrees of the Pleiadian star gate. Gemini is the coyote messenger, creatively telling the stories that expand our minds and our perceptions. I am sensing that accessing Venus and connecting with where she is in the sky at this time could provide intergalactic messages that are unexpectedly profound.

**April 15, Moon and Jupiter (14 degrees Aries) conjunct at 3:22 am MST. Aries New Moon (24 degrees Aries) at 9:22 pm MST.** New Moon's act as conception points. The Sun and Moon join together to conceive a new process, or seed new ideas and experiences with each of the mysteries they engage. Jupiter's conjunction with the Moon just prior to this exact New Moon continues to expand the Aries mysteries during this conception point. Aries reminds us to play and explore life as a new and exciting adventure. Some questions to ask at this time are, What does my life adventure look like now? How can I co-creatively have more fun in my personal adventure? What new territory can I explore that is fun and exciting?

**April 16, Moon conjuncts Saturn (5 degrees Taurus) at 12:40 pm MST.** The tiny crescent Moon may be visible with Saturn just after Sunset this evening. Each Moon conjunction with Saturn over the next two years acts to further anchor and establish the principles of the new emerging Taurus structure. I perceive these evolving mysteries as the conscious expression of an emerging paradigm based on the pleasure principle. This is pleasure as an ecstatic spiritual experience in the body and in the senses, an abundance of pleasurable experiences that enhance and harmonize with all life. Literally this translates as the experience of heaven on earth.

**April 18, Moon conjuncts Venus (6 degrees Gemini) at 3:37 pm MST.** First the Moon will pass within 9 degrees S. E. of the Pleiades before connecting with Venus as she symbolically moves through the fifth gate in her return journey from the underworld. Here she reclaims her ability to speak her truth and creatively express her essence. She now creatively expresses her feminine genius in whatever form she chooses. She may choose to dance, sing, drum, paint, write, sit still, laugh, tell stories, entertain, do nothing, do everything, dream, play, imagine. Whatever she chooses it is her unique creative expression in that moment, and it is completely unpredictable. It just is. (For more information and details about the Venus cycle see *A Shamanic Investigation Of Venus and Mars* by Daniel Giamario available through me at 520-744-0506. Also a new article on Venus by Daniel Giamario appears in the April/May 99 issue of Mountain Astrologer).

**April 19, Mars and Saturn (6 degrees Scorpio/Taurus) reach opposition again at 12:40 pm MST.** This happened in January in Libra/Aries. Mars remains retrograde in Scorpio moving closer to opposition to the Sun on April 24. The Mars Saturn opposition in January brought up many self-worth issues, and helped people to see where things

were not working for them. Saturn and Mars are also being squared by visionary Neptune indicating an intent to include new visions and new dreams in connection with how Mars and Saturn are activating and structuring passionate pleasure in daily life. The affects of this T-square will be felt for several days before and after today. This aspect may be experienced as challenging as we once again face the limiting structures of current belief systems that no longer serve. Remember to give yourself permission to feel whatever feelings are coming up with judgement and surrender to the process. This will help us move to a new understanding and experience, once we move through the fears and let go of the old structures that limit our ability to express who we truly are.

**April 20, Sun enters Taurus at 5:56 pm MST.** The Sun represents the fuel available to the planet for a given period of time. It acts like a big cosmic time clock marking the changing of the seasons. When the Sun reaches 15 Taurus we experience the cross quarter between Spring Equinox and Summer Solstice. This is seen as the season of Beltane. It is a time for celebration of the pleasure principle, fertility and growth.

**April 22, Earth Day.** The Moon enters Leo at 7:06 am and reaches its half way point between the New Moon and the Full Moon at 12:02 pm. Moon in Leo carries the ancient mysteries for living and expressing self-love and self-confidence in a healthy balanced way. Lyrids meteor shower peaks, see Night Sky Viewing.

**April 24, Mars (4 degrees Scorpio) reaches opposition to the Sun (4 degrees Taurus) at 10:37 am MST.** This marks the beginning of a new Mars quest integrating the Scorpio mysteries for the next 26 months. In Shamanic Astrology Mars is seen as the symbol for the masculine. In many cultures the Sun and Moon have had reverse roles with the Sun viewed as a feminine principle and the Moon viewed as a masculine principle. Mars, however, is always seen as a symbol for the masculine. Venus is always seen as a symbol for the feminine. This is due in part because Venus is tied to the Earth. She can never be more than 48 degrees above the horizon. Mars on the other hand can be seen in any area of the sky. This is especially noticeable when Mars reaches opposition to the Sun and is seen rising in the eastern sky as the Sun is setting in the west and setting in the west as the Sun rises next morning in the east. Mars dominates the sky all night long. Whatever sign Mars is in when it reaches opposition to the Sun represents the archetype of the masculine being integrated into the collective psyche of humanity for the next 26 months. Mars in Scorpio represents the quest for a passionate, orgasmic connection with life force energy. This is the king stag, the wild man in the woods, the green man who shows up at the oak grove every night to engage the sacred feminine in sacred union. Remember, Mars in Scorpio asks, “*What excites my passion?*” “*What really turns me on and feels alive in my life?*” “*How can I use my life force to create passionate, enlivening experiences?*” “*What are the fears that prevent me from living my passion?*” Scorpio is a master of manifestation and magic. The sorcerer connects to the source of life, to the source of life force energy. Therefore, Scorpio knows when they are on track and aligned with the great mystery by tuning into their passionate response or lack of one. The intent of the Scorpio mysteries is clear and whatever is out of alignment with Scorpio’s intent comes into awareness for

processing. Now is the time to begin tracking our passion. If you don’t know what you are passionate about that’s okay. Start with what interests you and go within to notice if you are feeling a passionate response. If not go on to the next thing that interests you. If you are feeling juiced, feeling your batteries are getting charged, feeling aliveness around what you are doing, you are on the right track. If you are feeling fear it could block the experience of life force. So, be sure to note if your response is fear based. When fear is present it is more challenging to connect with passion. A long detailed explanation of the Mars cycle and its mythic implications is available in *The Investigation of Venus and Mars* booklet available through the Shamanic Astrology web site or through me at 520-744-0506. A new article by Daniel Giamario is also available in the March/April 1999 issue of the Mountain Astrologer.

**April 27, Sun conjuncts Saturn (7 degrees Taurus) at 4:04 am MST.** The Sun represents the type of fuel available at any given time. Saturn represents structure and form. Saturn in the underworld takes us beyond who we previously thought we were. The intent as I see it is the Sun fuels Saturn’s quest to structure the Taurus mysteries in new ways that support the evolving mysteries. Taurus is now reclaiming pleasure as its sacred contribution, reminding us that we are also intended to receive beauty, love and joy. We all must learn how to be better receivers, to participate fully with these mysteries. *Where do we push away pleasure and the time to just be? Where do we push away the abundance life is offering us in each moment? How have we forgotten our divine birthright to enjoy this beautiful garden? Are we remembering to cherish and be grateful for all the love and gifts we experience each day? How can we more consciously participate in structuring pleasure into our daily lives?*

**April 29, Moon conjuncts Mars (3 degrees Scorpio) at 4:30 pm MST.** This is the first Moon conjunction with Mars since Mars began its new quest a few days ago. Each conjunction with the Moon, brings Mars a deeper experience of the meaning of the quest and illuminates it more fully in our awareness. This nearly Full Moon carries the lineage of all that Scorpio has represented for the past 26,000 years and brings a teaching to the newly born Scorpio Mars. Now is a good time to remember the questions of this quest. See April 24.

**April 30, Scorpio Full Moon (10 degrees Scorpio) at 7:55 am MST.** This is the Beltane Full Moon. It is the Full Moon closest to the astrological cross-quarter date between the Spring Equinox and Summer Solstice. In some traditions this marks the beginning of summer. In Arizona, we are well into summer like heat. The Scorpio Full Moon is opposed by Sun in Taurus reminding us to be open to receive our passion. Uranus and Neptune are both forming a T-square to the Sun and Moon bringing in unpredictable revolutionary and evolutionary events that expand our awareness. Uranus brings change by whatever means it takes. Scorpio works with death and rebirth. These aspects suggest the best way to consciously participate is to surrender to whatever is taking place and trust that these events are taking us where we really want to be, even if we can’t see how in the moment. The intent is to take us to greater place of empowerment in experiencing passionate pleasure, but first we must surrender to all the fear that prevents the full experience and expression of empowered passionate pleasure!

*Carolyn currently expresses as a practicing Shamanic Astrologer, Priestess, Visionary, and Mother of four. Carolyn and her beloved life partner, Jeffrey, are committed to conscious equal partnership and experiencing wholeness in sacred union. The Celestial Timings are Carolyn's way of offering a conscious connection to the As Above, So Below mysteries and the natural cycles of life. Carolyn is available for personal readings and can be reached through JCA Unlimited, L.L.C., PO Box 91498, Tucson, AZ 85752, (520) 744-0506 Fax (520) 744-6923, and e-mail: [carolyn@ShamanicAstrology.com](mailto:carolyn@ShamanicAstrology.com) If you have internet access you can also visit The Shamanic Astrology Web Site at: [www.ShamanicAstrology.com](http://www.ShamanicAstrology.com) and sign up to receive these timings via e-mail for no charge.*