

Neptune's Toy Chest -- Playing with Illusion

Everyone enjoys their favorite illusions, especially in today's world of so much virtual reality. Daydreams are often, if not always, based upon exaggerating some aspect of ourselves, usually beyond the bounds of reality. We do this to create a virtual coping mechanism with which to meet life's challenges. We use our special powers (the guts of illusion) to insure events turn out perfectly.

Illusion #1: We are invincible.

Most people admit to not knowing what might be found on the other side of birth or death. Invincible means that this concern is irrelevant and harmless, no matter what we might find. The ability to meet ordinary challenges in a completely effective way is just an added bonus. The wish to be eternal, and altogether in perfect shape, is the most basic illusion in the toy chest. Now we need to take a look at some of the more special purpose illusions.

Illusion #2: We regularly perform heroic actions.

Fire energy and Air energy are especially attracted to death defying acts successfully completed. Climbing Mt. Everest, for example. We want to DO all things, and in our day-dreams we can DO them.

Illusion #3: We possess the call of the Siren.

In Greek mythology, the Siren's call can lure ships onto the rocks destroying them, and it can also infuse the spirit of a poet with divine energy resulting in the highest form of art, or sacred work. We want to be able to perform such feats also. Maybe a little scaled down. And in day-dreams we can get anyone to do anything.

There are some lesser illusions, possibly more insidious, in this toy chest. If an illusion is subtle enough it can be used without noticing it is an illusion, and not reality. Because of this we lie to ourselves, over and over again. Self-deception takes its toll. When we make choices based on what we assume is real in our life (even though it is not real) anything can happen -- it is like walking a high wire with a blindfold on and no safety net beneath us.

Illusion #4: Ownership, Progress, an inside track to God's ear.

Ownership. From civilization to civilization there are legal statutes about ownership of property, with all kinds of strings attached. But there is no 'just plain' ownership. We cannot own another living being. We cannot really own a tree, although we can care for it or cause it great harm. 'Things' cannot be kept across the boundary of death, although some ancient civilizations have tried to do just that.

Progress. During the past 150 years or so there has been amazing work done in the field of communications and information technology. Is that enough to label the ancient Greek, or Roman, or many other civilizations, primitive? The engineering accomplishments in ancient Rome, the pyramids in Egypt, the invention of complex language and writing in ancient times, to name just a few, are equally remarkable. At the present time the human instinct to choose peace over killing and looting is very far from disappearing. How do you measure progress?

An inside track to God's ear. It is not my intention to offend, or to mess with anyone's belief system. It is my personal opinion that God simply is, and access is equally available to all -- with or without any given ritual.

Sometimes (maybe often) we use day-dreams to convince ourselves that we really are invincible. Sometimes we dream that we are making progress instead of just filling our life with busyness. This is where Neptune's bad reputation comes from -- self-deceit. But illusion needs to be seen and explored and understood in order to continue the search for truth.

Neptune in the 1st house or Aries:

Know thy self (and know thy world) is basic stuff for every human being. With Neptune in the 1st house self-exploration uses the tools of imagination and dreams. We might day-dream about having and using super-powers -- ex. winning the Olympic gold, saving the baby from the burning house, solving a problem that has stumped the world for the last century. Of course there is more to our chart than Neptune in this house, but the power to explore the limits of human achievement, without restriction, is here.

Neptune in the 2nd house or Taurus:

Neptune in this house brings a strong imagination to finding practical solutions that convey a sense of rhythm and correctness and beauty. We might imagine planning the design a home with closets in exactly the right places. Or, we

might day-dream about creating new massage therapies or color therapies. The underlying concern is about survival; survival is enhanced by rapport with, and support from, the environment around us. The super-power being played with in this house is the ability to recognize and use whatever we find, always and everywhere.

Neptune in the 3rd house or Gemini:

The power of speech leads to action. Putting together the right words, the right emotional tone, the right images, the right pauses or places to rest, can motivate listeners to step out from their own comfort zones and produce miracles. Critical assessment, foreseeing an effect that has not yet happened, also requires the use of imagination, and sometimes dreaming -- Neptune's strong suites.

Neptune in the 4th house or Cancer:

The power of inheritance. The family estate, the wisdom of the ancestors, the accumulated debts, the kingdom of God. Imagination has free reign in this house. The central dream is about creating a safe space, far away from the consequences and pain of the misuse of human possibilities. Day-dreams of innocence being valued and protected are uppermost. (Innocence means the lack of corruption, and not weakness.) It is very easy, in this 4th house, to give insufficient attention to the small steps needed along the way.

Neptune in the 5th house or Leo:

The power to Rule and Command. Whether it be leading an army into battle, or commanding the rapt attention of a theater audience, or accepting the status of 'boss' in the office, or handing out schedules of house chores to teenagers around the kitchen table. Leo the king, in all of its ceremonial glory. And then the day-dream ends. But the creative juices keep flowing.

Neptune in the 6th house or Virgo:

The power of prophesy. Life is a jigsaw puzzle made up of 2000 pieces. Most people give up after the first 500 pieces are touched. With Neptune in the 6th house both sight and insight can place all of the pieces in their rightful place in both space and time, so that people everywhere can be fore-warned of what is to come. As the day-dream fades we can easily find ourselves in the hum-drum of mowing the lawn or changing dirty diapers.

Neptune in the 7th house or Libra:

We assume the power to inspire others to choose peace and harmony in all situations. This is the great dream, and the driving illusion (which is also a universal wish), that we find with Neptune in the 7th house. So, dear reader, illusions are not always completely awful. However, assuming powers that we want, but don't actually possess, usually leads to rude awakenings, ranging from unpleasant experiences to extremely painful events.

In general it's a good idea to look at the tools that are useful in the opposing house (the other side of the axis). The house opposing the 7th house is the 1st house. This entire axis focuses on relationship issues. Directly confronting the unknown is a 1st house way of looking at just about anything. Knowing this, in this 7th house we might be on the lookout for confrontation and aggression being offered by the universe as teaching tools for personal self-discovery.

Neptune in the 8th house or Scorpio:

Water is a demanding element. There are no cocktail parties here, or favorite mementoes from an earlier time -- just cutting to the chase and getting on with it. The dream is once again about climbing Mt Everest, although it may be an allegorical mountain, and it may exist on a different planet, or beneath the sea. Shortcuts to God's ear loom large with this placement of Neptune. Since we want the ultimate truth, we want immediate contact with the ultimate source of truth -- or as close as we can get.

Neptune in the 9th house or Sagittarius:

Wisdom, and the power to use it properly -- always and everywhere. (We ARE talking about super-powers and illusion.) The day-dreams / illusions here are about our being gifted with wisdom and the personal power that follows. On the up side, there is strong motivation to work out the kinks in the codes that we live by. On the down side, there is the tendency to rationalize the abuse of power, should we actually make our 'assumed' wisdom heard.

Neptune in the 10th house or Capricorn:

The power to organize human effort, both individually and collectively, and get the desired results. The perfect strategy, the perfect plan, the perfect outcome. Would that it were true. And for the benefit of all. Neptunian energy, the most elusive of mutable energies, in this powder-keg cardinal 10th house. But who can fight, and win, against the sea?

Neptune in the 11th house or Uranus:

Power to articulate the not-yet-known. A cure for every type of cancer. A cure for every disease. Cures that do not generate damaging side-effects. Technological solutions of every description. A world organization capable of administering peace processes that actually work. On a more personal level, idealized friendships may be effortlessly imagined, but very hard to live up to.

Neptune in the 12th house or Pisces:

Power to explore the other side of the veil, the reference systems, the sacred texts. In this house the invisible world takes on a sense of importance, and a sense of familiarity, not generally experienced in the other zodiac houses. This is the land of dreams – both night and day. For example, the Akashic records seems oh so much more important than the small print in a VISA statement foretelling the pain of financial debt. The upside is to use what is dreamed to help others to use these inner pathways -- the downside is to escape from the 'real world' into a perpetual dream.

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