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The week's astrological activity reminds me of my favourite song by the legendary comedian Spike Milligan. It's called *I'm Walking Backwards For Christmas*. Now, although the festive reference may not be relevant, as Mercury turns retrograde this week it joins Venus, Jupiter and Saturn, who are all reversing across our horizons. Does that bode ill for our collective futures? No! The full moon conjunct 2017's great T-square this week suggests there's still plenty that can be achieved, no matter which way we're facing.

Aries Mar21-Apr20

The heart is always much quicker than the head. Our minds trail behind our gut reactions like tortoises following hares. And, because they go so much more slowly, they have more time to mull things over; to question instinctive responses and come up with complicated caveats to explain away what ought to be obvious. As Mercury turns retrograde you can get into long discussions about the relative merits of an idea or a suggestion. But the full moon implies that if you really want to make progress, you'll just go with what you feel.
Pick up the phone for a reading that could change your life: **1900 957 223**.

Taurus Apr21-May21

When I was a kid, one of the games I loved was when someone declared it to be Opposite Day. From that moment, a whole heap of fun could be had misleading grown-ups and getting other people to guess what we were talking about. I'm not going to declare this "opposite week" for Taureans. But, there's a sense that issues centering on communication could get a little muddled. Luckily enough, you're sharp enough to cut through much of the confusion. It's just that it might be your heart, and not your head, that does the cutting.
There's exceptionally good news in your in-depth forecast: **1900 957 223**.

Gemini May22-Jun22

Your life is not your own. It belongs to ..... (insert name here). In fact, don't fill in the name. Ask your "owner" whether you have their permission. And make sure that you don't upset anyone else who now feels they have a claim on you! Er... or fill in your own name. Take your life (and your future) back into your own hands. While it's important to be aware of and respectful towards other people's feelings, with Saturn retrograde, and your ruler turning retrograde too, it's even more important to honour your relationship with yourself.
Your in-depth forecast is ready now. You need to hear it. Call **1900 957 223**.

Cancer Jun23-Jul23

You're no criminal mastermind, but from time to time, even you've engaged in a little extortion. It's just that instead of raiding savings, the manipulation has been of the emotional kind. Nearly everyone on the planet has resorted to, and suffered from this. It's not such a heinous crime. This week brings someone into your life who can enable and liberate you from a situation you feel stuck in. You may be tempted to make them do so "by hook or by crook". If you can avoid being the crook, your freedom will be all the more sweet.
In just four minutes, gain the key to your future. Call **1900 957 223**.

Leo Jul24-Aug23

When circumstances don't seem to let us do what we thought we wanted to, we can either sink into a trough of disappointment, or seize the opportunity to become creative and adapt our plans. Well, I suppose there's a third way too. We have the option to fight fate: to come out guns blazing and refuse to accept defeat, striving to get everything back on the original track. But with all the retrograde activity now, is that really what you should be doing? The full moon suggests that you might, instead, be glad of the chance for change.
There's deeper insight in your in-depth forecast. Call **1900 957 223**.

Virgo Aug24-Sep23

A few years ago I worked with the most wonderful folk-fiddle player. When asked how long he'd been playing, he told me that he'd had lessons when he was a kid and gone on to study classical violin at a top European conservatoire. It was only later that he discovered folk music and its unique style of playing. Then, in order to master this new technique, he had to "un-learn" much of what he'd been trained to accomplish. This week, what can you "un-learn" that will open your mind to a world of untapped understanding?
Hear how your life could change for the better soon. Call **1900 957 223**.

Libra Sep24-Oct23

What if a relationship counsellor is married to another relationship counsellor? Who will they go to if they have problems with their marriage? What if a judge is accused of breaking the law and has to be tried by another judge? I'm not asking these awkward questions just for the sake of it, there are difficult discussions to be held now. Mercury and your ruler are retrograde, suggesting that a perplexing conundrum is arising. There's no "best" way to resolve this. Yet the full moon suggests you can trust your own intuition to do so.
A special forecast is waiting for you. Become inspired. Call **1900 957 223**.

Scorpio Oct24-Nov22

Whose opinion do you trust? Whose judgement do you turn to when deliberating on important decisions? Many of us have a 'go-to' person when figuring out the intricacies of life's great turning points. And being an individual with depth to your character, it's more than likely you've been called on to help navigate people through crises. But what if the individual whose counsel you usually seek can't help? How will you cope without relying on someone else's compass? You needn't fear negotiating your environment solo this week.
Need to know more? Listen to your in-depth forecast. Call **1900 957 223**.

Sagittarius Nov23-Dec21

With Saturn retrograde in your sign, not everything will be easy. You should, though, also experience real success. You're being helped by the full moon's conjunction with Jupiter. It's tempting to imagine that the cosmos wants you to do well now, and pave the way for further important changes. Just remember, it's one thing to take encouragement from a hopeful situation, another to assume that something is not "meant to be" if it starts to look difficult. Don't give up too soon, or too easily this week. Not when so much is possible.
You really should hear your in-depth forecast. It's powerful: **1900 957 223**.

Capricorn Dec22-Jan20

When John Proctor, in the play *The Crucible*, succumbs to pressure and confesses to witchcraft, the prospect of a public admission is too much for him to bear. He cries, "I have given you my soul; leave me my name!" It illustrates the stock we put in our stature. How we are seen sometimes feels more important than who we are. Yet, it's only when our public face represents our core values that our standing undergoes sustained growth. This week, play the part of who you'd like to be. It may initiate a powerful transformation.
Learn how you can make your week really great. Call **1900 957 223**.

Aquarius Jan21-Feb19

Strength and Weakness have an interesting relationship. Like identical twins teasing their playmates, they sometimes dress up in each other's clothes. "Hello," says Weakness, "I'm Strength! Look how brave I am, and how many clear decisions I've made." 'Hello," says Strength, "I'm Weakness. Look at how I'm hedging my bets and keeping options open." With your traditional ruler retrograde, don't perceive pausing for thought as lacking authority. Insecurity leads to greater haste than confidence. Take your time and get it right.
You need to hear your in-depth forecast. (It's good). Call **1900 957 223**.

Pisces Feb20-Mar20

Whose affairs are you trying to court? What deal are you trying to strike? This week, the wisest, most convincing form of persuasion might not necessarily drop easily from the tip of your tongue. But, we're emotional creatures and using reason and statistics might never be the best way to communicate. When our brains are presented with lots of options, and factors, we tend to go with what "feels" right. Don't worry if you can't find the right words. If you concentrate on winning hearts more than minds, you can still get what you desire.
Deep insight is available to you this week. Find out more. Call **1900 957 223**.

Teletopia. Max call cost $1.32 per minute, including GST. Higher charges from mobiles/payphones may apply. Customer care: 1300 366 702.

Test your knowledge

1 Which type of cloud produces rain?
2 Which video game series features the protagonist Ash Ketchum?
3 *The Ghan* runs between which two Australian capital cities?
4 Which rural town boasts The Pink Roadhouse as a tourist attraction?
5 Which writer published the poem *Don Juan* (1819)?
6 In which city is the headquarters of the NZX stock exchange?
7 *Gracetown* is a 2015 album by which Australian band?
8 How old was Kate Bush when she wrote *Wuthering Heights*?
9 Japanese fried takoyaki are filled with minced what?
10 Sales of which cheese were boosted by its mention in the animation series Wallace and Gromit?
11 What was the number of the last Apollo mission?
12 What is the last name of Jodie Foster's character in *The Silence of the Lambs*?
13 Aurora, Chandler, Legacy and Reka are all varieties of which fruit?
14 Who starred opposite Bruce Dern in the 2013 film *Nebraska*?
15 What was the name of WWII Germany's air force?
16 Which fruit is traditionally used in a Liverpool Tart?
17 Who had a hit with the 1987 single *Never Gonna Give You Up*?
18 What fraction of a second is a nanosecond?
19 In which Australian capital city is AC/DC Lane?
20 The Scoville scale is used to measure what?
21 Who challenged George Foreman in the 1974 "Rumble in the Jungle"?
22 Which sport is the subject of The Mighty Ducks film series?
23 Anna Sewell is best known for writing what classic novel?
24 In which Australian state are Mount Beauty and Happy Valley?
25 Where in the human body is the soleus muscle located?
26 Which is the world's largest potato-producing country?
27 What kind of animal was Laika, the first animal to orbit Earth?
28 How many times in a calendar year does an equinox occur?
29 What is the currency of Puerto Rico?
30 Which name is singer Patricia Louise Holte better known by?

Answers, this page

Today's Solutions

Quiz Solution

1. Nimbus; 2. Pokémon; 3. Adelaide and Darwin; 4. Oondaatta; 5. Lord Byron; 6. Wellington; 7. San Cisco; 8. 18; 9. Octopus; 10. Wensleydale; 11. 17; 12. Starling; 13. Blueberry; 14. Will Forte; 15. Luftwaffe; 16. Lemon; 17. Rick Astley; 18. One billionth; 19. Melbourne; 20. Heat of chilli; 21. Muhammad Ali; 22. Ice hockey; 23. *Black Beauty*; 24. Victoria; 25. Leg; 26. China; 27. Dog; 28. Two; 29. US dollar; 30. Patti LaBelle.

Regular Crossword Solution

Across: 1 Henceforth, 6 Space bar, 12 Scarf, 13 Earlier on, 14 Gut, 15 Avenues, 16 Burlap, 18 Kelp, 19 Inspired, 20 Ashamedly, 24 Flambeau, 28 Guest star, 30 Civil, 31 In concert, 32 Slippers, 35 Styleless, 37 Retrieve, 41 Fold, 43 Sponge, 45 Banquet, 47 Icy, 48 Australia, 49 Awake, 50 Expenses, 51 Antecedent.
Down: 1 Hispanic, 2 Neatens, 3 Effluvium, 4 Oversee, 5 Throbs, 7 Parka, 8 Cane, 9 Bogie, 10 Ratepayers, 11 Sierra, 17 Plays up, 21 Scull, 22 Doter, 23 Suit, 25 Lucky, 26 Buckles, 27 Acres, 28 Gist, 29 Kiss of life, 33 Parentage, 34 Seat belt, 36 Sundry, 38 Embrace, 39 Emulate, 40 Fell in, 42 Lay-up, 44 Passe, 46 Sawn.

Cryptic Crossword Solution

S	L	A	N	D	E	R	■	E	■	E	■	■	■	Y
E	■	L	■	R	■	I	N	V	A	L	■	E	■	D
S	U	■	L	■	T	A	N	A	■	I	■	B	■	I
O	■	E	■	E	■	P	A	T	R	O	N	■	■	S
D	I	S	A	B	L	E	■	S	■	N	■	■	■	B
■	■	■	O	■	■	R	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	U
E	N	R	O	L	S	■	O	R	D	E	R	S	■	■
N	■	■	■	A	■	R	■	■	■	G	■	■	■	■
I	■	D	■	R	■	O	Y	S	T	E	R	S	■	■
T	R	I	D	E	N	T	■	E	■	L	■	T	■	■
S	■	M	■	B	■	N	O	V	E	L	L	A	■	■
E	D	I	F	I	C	E	■	O	■	O	■	O	■	■
D	■	T	■	L	■	M	O	D	I	C	U	M	■	■

Today's Sudoku Solution

7	8	1	3	6	2	5	9	4
2	5	3	9	4	1	8	6	7
9	6	4	8	5	7	2	3	1
8	2	9	1	7	5	3	4	6
1	4	7	6	2	8	3	5	9
3	7	6	4	8	9	1	2	5
5	1	9	2	7	4	6	8	3
6	3	8	7	9	5	4	1	2
4	9	2	5	3	6	7	1	8

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