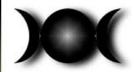
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ALLORAH'S INSIGHTS
September 28, 2008

My original intention was to write about the importance of not judging a book by its cover. However, the intensity over the last few days compels me to chat again about the influence of a Mercury retrograde. Each retrograde

is unique and energizes movement specific to the placement of the celestial bodies in the heavens.

This retrograde partners Mercury, Mars and the sun in Libra. Libra loves justice, balance and (because Libra is ruled by Venus) partnership. This retrograde will make us a bit more "in our heads" than usual as Mercury and Libra are linked to the mental element of air. Venus is the love planet so be willing to feel your feelings rather than thinking your feelings. Mars, the red planet has more warlike energies and as such may stimulate our more volatile emotions. As gods, Mars and Venus are married so this retrograde is all about balancing opposition in our nature.

Saturn continues its trek in the sign of Virgo. Virgo is ruled by Mercury; so, this particular retrograde is going to make us take stock of what's going on in our personal world. Virgo is extremely detail oriented and tells more truth now because she is paying extraordinary attention to the lessons of Father Saturn. My advice is to listen to your intuition, less you make Lady Virgo speak above a whisper. If you need clarity, by all means ask for more information from Spirit. Virgo and Saturn delight in our enthusiasm to grow and move forward. These energies are like the wise mother and wise grandfather conspiring to redirect their wayward charge back on course.

Flamboyant Mercury rarely gets the recognition he is due. His trickster nature tends to garner a lot more moaning and groaning than praise with regard to the impact we feel as he carries out his duties. His sole purpose is to remind us to pay attention and we shoot the messenger far too often.

The best way to benefit and grow during this time of chaos is to look within and respond (rather than react) accordingly. Admittedly, there are times when that's easier said than done. Slow down, breathe deeply. Then it is possible to take stock of how you feel about what's going on for you and you can take active steps to change what's going on in your personal world and the world at large. Responsibility is not about being at fault or assigning blame but about being able to respond. Look deeper because what we think we see on the surface may be misleading.

Namaste, Allorah