

A POSITIVE LOOK AT

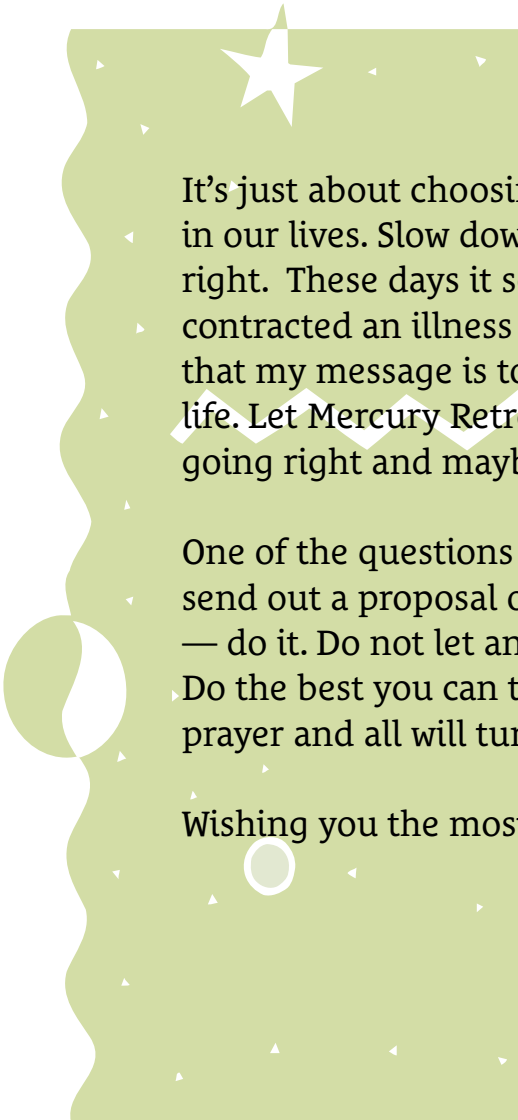
MERCURY RETROGRADE *by Alice Inoue*

As we enter this Mercury Retrograde period, I'm prompted to write you and share with you some thoughts I've been having about this planetary movement that has those of us who know about it almost "expecting" something to get messed up. It seems that we always blame everything that's not going smoothly on Mercury Retrograde.

Briefly, for those of you who don't know what Mercury Retrograde is — every four months or so, for three weeks, the planet Mercury (the one "in charge" of communication) appears to move backwards in the sky and during this time period, things associated with any type of communication seem to go "backwards" as well. Astrologers usually advise their clients to avoid signing documents and contracts, and everything from traffic jams and accidents, to lost phone messages and misjudgments, to quarrels and just about everything else are blamed on this planetary movement.

Now, what if we go into this period with a different attitude? What if we go into this period with the attitude that IF anything does not go accordingly, that it is just a guidepost, a sign or a message to look at an annoyance in a different way. Maybe these incidences are trying to tell us something. For example, when I'm trying to call someone and the call is not going through, maybe I shouldn't be phoning that person now. When I've been carefully planning out a certain chain of events but then that situation fails to materialize, maybe I need to determine how my plans themselves are flawed and how to fix them. Maybe I get into a tiff with my co-worker and I need to look at what I did to enable that scenario. If I place an order and it arrived mixed up, how important was the order in the scheme of things? What I'm trying to say is that there may be messages for us in these incidences that can help us to place our focus on a new area instead of always just blaming Mercury Retrograde when things go wrong.

Mercury not only is in charge of communication, it's also in charge of our minds. So when Mercury starts to go retrograde then it's also a good time for mental reorganization. Seeing things from a new perspective, determining what is important and what isn't. If we stubbornly refuse to change our thought patterns, even though the circumstances show that our manner of thinking is causing us aggravation, we are not learning anything and therefore we are not really evolving.



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It's just about choosing to be open to the message and not getting so caught up in our lives. Slow down, note what's important. Be appreciative of what is going right. These days it seems every other day I'm hearing about someone that has contracted an illness or is going through a hard time, and through this I realize that my message is to be grateful for EVERYTHING that is going RIGHT in my life. Let Mercury Retrograde help us to remember and give thanks for all that is going right and maybe we'll all have a smoother time of it!

One of the questions I get asked the most is: "What if I HAVE to sign a contract or send out a proposal or buy a computer etc?" My answer is, "If you have to do it — do it. Do not let any planet control your life, just allow it to create awareness. Do the best you can to research, read the fine print, and once that is done, say a prayer and all will turn out exactly as it should be."

Wishing you the most positive and enlightening of Mercury Retrogrades!