

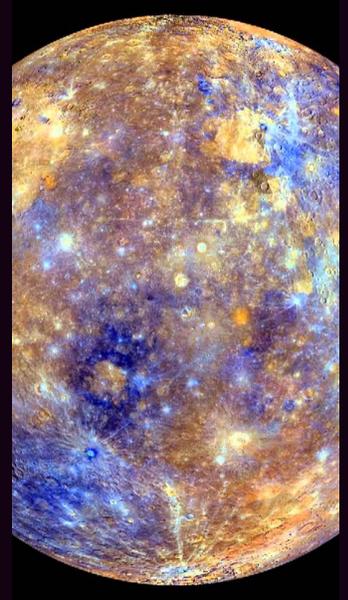


B R I A N A  
S A U S S Y

*May - June 2022*

Mercury RX Survival Kit

# Mercury RX: the Basics



Hola Miracle!

The premise of the Mercury Retrograde Survival Kit is simple: Mercury Retrograde (or Mercury RX) can be an AWESOME experience, if you know how to work it.

And working it is exactly what this Survival Kit is going to help you do.

Let's start at the beginning:

Wondering what Mercury Retrograde is, how it works, and why it matters?

If you are here you probably are **not** wondering (you know) but just in case, let me assist.

Mercury Retrograde (known as Mercury RX for short) is a time when the speedy planet Mercury *\*appears\** to go backwards in its elliptical orbit. (It doesn't actually go backwards, it just looks like it does).

Traditionally this is a time when people freak out over all kinds of things - from disrupted conversations to tech meltdowns. The reason why is because Mercury is the ancient God of communication, connection, and, of especial interest to Sacred Artists, magic too!

Some astrologers and others have leveraged the potential disruptions that Mercury RX can signify to create a lot of fear mongering that in turn yields significant cash (for them). But within the Fixed Stars Society we know that while you can be what I call Mercury sensitive (ie, easily affected by a Mercury RX period in not always the most pleasant ways) you can also work *with* this energy to create a much deeper, satisfying, retrograde experience. That's what this Survival Kit will help you do.

## Your Survival Kit includes:

- A ***devotional candle*** that is dressed with my personal Mercury RX blend of ritual oils, herbs, and roots. (*please note that no report is issued with this candle*).
- The Mercury RX ritual that will begin at the EXACT time that Mercury goes retrograde on January 14th at 5:41 AM central time.

- The **petition** that you write. These are your personal intentions for this Mercury Retrograde: what do you want to get out of it, how do you want to feel before, during, and after, what are you hoping to learn or re-visit, and what would you like to not have happen? **\*Please send in your petition [here](#). If you need help on writing a petition go [here](#). All petitions must be received no later than January 13th 3:00pm cdt.**

## Every Retrograde is Different...

Now that you have the lay of the land, let's drill down into this particular Mercury Retrograde because each one is different, bringing its own gifts and challenges. This Mercury Retrograde occurs from May 10th - June 3rd, and occurs in the signs of **Gemini** and **Taurus**.

The good news/bad news about this particular retrograde is that, because it occurs in Gemini - one of the two Star Signs ruled by Mercury (the other is Virgo) it is going to be TEXTBOOK Mercury Retrograde. That means that all of the things you would normally expect to see during a retrograde period are in play. Think: travel delays, tech glitches, communication break downs, scattered thoughts, and a general feeling of being "ungrounded". This is a retrograde where you will definitely want to read this article beforehand.

It is also a good idea to be aware that, when Mercury retrogrades into Taurus on May 22nd, finances can get weird. This retrograde flavor can include unexpected bills piling up, windfalls that are delayed or don't come through, and bank statements that don't add up. So it is really important during this RX period to watch your finances and of course I will do protective work around your money and finances to make sure that everything is A-OK!

Like all Mercury retrogrades, this one will challenge you in certain areas and delight you in others. I recommend going into this period with a plan of action: what do you want to accomplish during this RX period? If you are busy already doing the work (and play) that you

need to do, then the skies usually take note and bring on the blessings!

**Themes that I will be emphasizing in the ceremony I perform for all participants include:**

- Protection on money and all financial endeavors.
- Re-committing to friendships that have languished.
- Realizing what communications, writings, and connections are most needed now.
- Reconnecting to ideas and teachings that are meaningful to you
- Revisiting brilliant insights and thoughts
- Returning to a deep sense of play and joy
- Reviewing what your tech needs are
- Re-inventing the way you work and play
- Revealing what message you are ready to share with the world
- Reconciling with siblings/those who are like siblings
- Remembering to honor Mercury as a holy helper.
- Re-structuring the way that you connect to others.
- Protecting your work in the world.
- Re-considering what brings you pleasure NOW
- Repairing any damaging thoughts or behaviors around your creativity
- Re-emphasizing the role that excellence plays in your life.
- Restoring foundations.
- Remembering to honor Venus as a Holy Helper.

Now, to be clear, while those are **my** focal points, you may have other stuff going on in your

life that you want to address, for instance: you might be having issues with your romantic partner and so you want to bless the relationship extra hard during this time, or your daughter might be an Aquarius and so you might want to make this especially easy for her. Don't worry, the **petition** that I use for both the Mercury RX ritual and the devotional candle allows you to customize your request, intention, and focus for this Mercury RX period.

## How to use this guide



Use this guidebook to inspire and enliven your Mercury RX experience. I recommend that you print it out, scrawl and scribble, let Mercury in Retrograde be a time when you actually do go deeper, review, and reassess what is happening, what is working, and also what is not working.

The more active you are in working with Mercury RX, the easier it will flow. My recommendation is that you work with two prompts a week. Begin by looking over your Natal Chart and my remarks about how this Mercury RX will affect you personally. Be sure to read **this post** on the things to do BEFORE Mercury goes RX so that you are all prepared and ready to rock. Then, start with the Pre-Game show prompt.

From there, you can begin the first prompt on the day that Mercury goes retrograde, and complete the final prompt the day or day before Mercury goes direct.

And on that note, this is a popular report that I tweak every time I offer it. Those of you who have worked with one or more of these prompts before, make like a Virgo, and go over your answers from the *last* retrograde period. What has changed? What has remained the same? Work with them again and you will be shocked at the ways in which you have grown. The next page contains my take on how this Mercury RX will affect you. Read on!

# Mercury Retrograde Through the Houses + Planets + Points

Mercury will be retrograde in Gemini and Taurus during this particular tour. I recommend that you locate where both of these signs are in your chart - the glyph for Gemini looks like this:



The glyph for Taurus looks like this:



Once you have determined what houses Gemini and Taurus are located in, in your chart, then you can refer to my glosses below and get a sense of what to expect over the next few weeks. We have already talked about Mercury Retrograde in Gemini and Taurus generally above, so keep those points as you look at where Mercury is going to retrograde in your chart.

## Mercury through the Houses

### First House:

**Here is what you need to know:** The 1st house speaks to our appearance, identity, sense of self, the projects that have been half-started and left to languish, and in general the first impressions that we make.

### Details:

**Appearance:** The first area that we have to talk about when it comes to the 1st house is appearance. Now appearance can mean all kinds of things - it can mean anything from your personal appearance to the way that your home looks, your resume, your portfolio - I mean anything. Most likely you will find that your focus does go to the personal appearance spectrum of things and so remember my advice here: make observations, plot changes, but NO IMPLEMENTATION until Mercury goes direct! That way, if you decide to go forward with the new (purple) hair-do you will be clear-headed and clear eyed about it and not live to regret it :-) You can thank me later!

**Identity:** A deeper aspect of the 1st house deals with our overarching sense of identity and sense of self. This area covers a lot of ground: from how you see yourself in the world, and the various roles that you play, to your own sense of self, self-esteem, and self-worth. Depending on how deeply you want to go with this, you can take it pretty far. The retrograde period might show you some areas where you want to revise your understanding of yourself (or the ways that other people perceive you) or it might have you feeling like your core sense of self is shifting in some dramatic way. At best the changes in appearance that you consider during this time are in alignment with the developing and unfolding sense of self that might also be occurring at this time. It is important to note that during the RX period some of this might feel less clear and lucid and more fuzzy and vague - that's ok, it will become clearer over time and as the planet goes direct once more.

**Projects:** Another thing to be aware of during this RX period is starting a bunch of projects that you are then not able or not interested in finishing. This RX period might have you

feeling inspired to start a half dozen projects and if that is the case you should definitely slow down and think carefully about committing to any new venture or project. On the flip side, this is a great period to review old projects that are half-finished and decide what you want to do with them - do you want to keep them or release them once and for all. In the case of the former, if you do decide to keep them you should work with the RX period to finish them up!

**Bottom line:** Go into this Mercury Rx period with the understanding that the absolute most effective thing you can do is assess any half-finished projects (of any kind) and commit to either finishing them or eliminating them completely. Elimination means removing them from your space. Bonus points if you finish up anything while Mercury is in retrograde. Be prepared for new ideas around style and appearance and remember the Mercury RX golden rule: dream and observe now, implement after Mercury is direct.

**The Gifts of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Re-structuring projects so that anything that needs to be finished can be finished and the things that need to be wrapped can be wrapped.

Re-discovering your dream life and all that it holds.

Reviewing your physical appearance - including clothes, hair, make up, etc and deciding if it is still in point or not.

Revising the way that you enter a room, shake a hand, and make your first impressions and/or also revising the first impressions that others have left YOU with.

Reinterpreting your core sense of identity and self esteem.

**The Challenges of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Discovering how many half-finished projects and ideas you have floating around.

Finding that you need to refine your physical appearance and/or the way you make a first impression.

Being overly sensitive, emotional, and weepy.

Dealing with shifts around your core sense of self.

## **Recommended Rituals and Magical Tips:**

### ***Sacred Bathing.***

#### **Second House:**

**Here is what you need to know:** The 2nd house is the house of FLOW. When things are going well here we feel the reverberations throughout the rest of our lives - money, sex and intimacy, beauty, art, and good food are all available and great sources of support. When things are full of static or interrupted in this area of our charts we feel that too. It might be subtle; we may feel off our game, or it may be more dramatic feeling like everything is going wrong.

#### **Details:**

**Money and Finances:** The biggest areas that people get concerned about when something is happening in their 2nd house are those of money and finances. This sector of the chart rules our money - the way we make it, save it, and spend it. When Mercury goes retrograde through this area of the chart we often get messages related to our overall financial health. Sometimes this comes in the form of an unexpected bill or windfall of money. Sometimes it occurs when fraudulent charges are made and we have to start hawk-eyeing our accounts. Sometimes we discover that we need to have a second stream of revenue or that we need to move to a high interest savings account - all of these are examples of Mercury RX through the 2nd house. Just remember to see the lesson clearly and respond swiftly. Steer clear of any schemes around money/finances that sound too good to be true.

**Art and Beauty:** Art is another area represented by the 2nd house. Specifically we are looking at our artistic and creative skills. If you need to gain new or brush up on existing skills in order to do your artistic work then this RX period will reveal that to you. If you have not been making enough time to do your artistic work then that will be shown to you clearly. And likewise if the role of art and your creative work has gotten too big or powerful that too will be brought to your attention.

**Food:** The 2nd house is not as strongly associated with food as the 4th house is but food still plays a role here, especially in the pleasure that you take or that you do not take in food. Mercury RX might find you wanting to brush off your gourmand skills and start taking food more seriously or it might show you that there are some habits around menu planning, food prep, and eating that you need to adjust.

**Sex:** Alongside money, one of the biggest issues that the 2nd house deals with is that of sex and intimacy. This is an area that Mercury RX will definitely shed some light on. It might mean that you need to have more or less sex but it usually means that what really needs to happen is that there needs to be a conversation about sex and intimacy with your partner and/or with yourself. If you do not have a partner then think about what your needs are right now around sex and intimacy. If you do then at the very least take this time to get closer together with them and if needed notice what needs to be discussed and then make a plan to have said discussion AFTER Mercury goes direct!

**Bottom line:** Go into this Mercury RX period with your eyes wide open with respect to the possible distractions and temptations. Keep things moderate and moderated and do not give into binging/purging or excesses of any kind. If you can remain temperate throughout this RX period then you will find a great deal of rest, relaxation, and restoration is yours for the taking!

**The Gifts of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Re-structuring your money - from becoming more aware of how your money is spent to creating new possibilities around investments and/or cashflow.

Re-discovering the spiritual and artistic practices that best support you.

Reviewing your habits around food, drink, and pleasurable activities. Making sure that you are making room for pleasure in your life.

Revising your artistic and creative vision and making note of the skills needed to implement said vision.

Releasing the need to overly explain yourself.

Repairing any wounds around sex and intimacy.

Resurrecting old creative projects that are ready to flourish once more.

Removing any obstacles that don't work for you.

**The Challenges of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Financial stresses.

Finding that your relationship to pleasurable activities like eating and drinking is not in balance..

Feeling a lack of flow.

Dealing with a tired, stressed out, overactive, or non-existent libido.

Feeling fatalistic or negative about money, pleasure, and art.

Weight-gain or weight loss that causes concern.

Exhaustion.

Depression.

**Recommended Rituals and Magical Tips:**

***Money Altar***

### **Third House:**

**Here is what you need to know:** The 3rd house is the house of Thought and Connection. When Mercury retrogrades over this area of the chart it is an especially traditional Mercury RX because Mercury naturally rules the 3rd house. Communication, Technology, and Learning are all prone to be disrupted.

### **Details:**

**Communication and Connection:** The biggest areas affected by Mercury Retrograde are communication and connection. This is the time where we put our foots in our mouths, tell secrets that we are supposed to keep hidden, and any gossip comes back to bite us! Watch your words, be deliberate and kind with what you say. Relationships and especially familial relationships and friendships are also tough during this period and can experience a lot of stress. Work with the energy to get back into touch with friends that you haven't connected with in a long time. Going along with this, thoughts may be especially unclear or foggy during this transit.

**Learning and Education:** The 3rd house rules the ways we learn and also systems of education. Schools can be disrupted at this time both face to face and virtual versions. You may find that school drama becomes a theme at your house during this RX period. If you are in school or learning you may discover that you lose assignments or misunderstand something fundamental about the program. Make sure you dot those i's, and cross those t's. **Technology:** This is one of the areas of the chart where the retrograde really can melt your computer down. So make sure that you have everything backed up. If you have a piece of tech hardware that you know is on its last leg, have a back up ready to go or just go ahead and replace it before the RX period begins.

**Travel:** Give yourself plenty of time to get from point A to point B during this RX period. Amp up the protection of your car or the vehicle(s) you use on a daily basis. Do not be in a rush and expect delays and travel snags. This is not a good time to book travel or make travel plans.

**Bottom line:** Go into this Mercury RX period expecting miscommunications, delays, and tech melt downs. When in doubt, stay quiet. Give yourself extra time to do whatever you need to do and back up those computer files! Get in touch with old friends and work to repair any damage to relationships you care about!

**The Gifts of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Recognizing when you are given valuable information and knowing how to keep it quiet.

Re-discovering friendships and relationships that need to be care for.

Reviewing your habits around learning, school, education, and teachers - deciding what still is relevant and what may no longer serve.

Revising your ways of writing, speaking, and communicating with the world.

Releasing the need to be present at every event.

Repairing any wounds around voice, speech, and thought.

Resurrecting old ideas that may be resonant now.

Removing any obstacles that are closing your road.

**The Challenges of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Saying the wrong thing at the wrong time to the wrong person.

Spilling secrets.

Anxiety.

Dealing with relationships that have lots of drama or require special handling.

Feeling trapped, stuff, or unable to have freedom and movement.

Unhappiness in the areas of learning and intellectual stimulation

Tech breakdowns.

Travel Delays.

**Recommended Rituals and Magical Tips:**

***Cultivating Calmness***

**Fourth House:**

**Here is what you need to know:** The 4th house is the house of Family and Dreams. When Mercury retrogrades over this part of the chart we become very concerned with matters of hearth and home, family, food, security, dreams and intuition.

**Details:**

**Hearth and Home:** Mercury RX in the 4th house often presages some family drama or issues with house and home. This is an excellent time to do any repairs on your home or living place, but it is traditionally not a great time to buy or sell a home. It is a period where family upsets and difficulties may take the spotlight, and where children and parents are more likely to get into disagreements. If there is a major repair that needs to happen in the home putting aside the resources to support that work prior to the RX period is a good idea. Also, keep things sweet in the family with peaceful home work.

**Dreams and Intuition:** When Mercury retrogrades through the 4th house we often have powerful dreams and intuitive hits. However, because Mercury is retrograde the meaning of those dreams and intuitions is not always clear. Make sure that you write everything down and then go over it and maybe even talk to a trusted intuitive advisor before putting anything into action.

**Security and Privacy:** The 4th house deals with the concerns around privacy. This retrograde can see you becoming more aware of what is private and what is shared when it comes to your personal information. It is an excellent time to research home security systems and decide which one might be best for you. Do watch out and banish feelings of xenophobia and paranoia.

**Food and Nourishment:** Food allergies and sensitivities may come up during this time requiring some dietary changes. You may feel the need to review what you have in your kitchen and make some changes. Or, you simply might want to re-evaluate your food and dietary plans.

**Bottom line:** Go into this Mercury RX period expecting drama around house, home, and family. If you have home repairs to do this is a great time to do them. Work to keep things peaceful and happy at home. Pay attention to dreams and intuitive hits but also remember that they may need to be unscrambled and look at how the food you eat affects you.

**The Gifts of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Recognizing the gifts of family and home and celebrating them.

Re-discovering your dreams and dream life.

Reviewing what needs to happen with our homes and home spaces.

Revising out attitudes around privacy and security.

Releasing any anger we feel towards parents or children.

Repairing our homes.

Resurrecting questions about food and nourishment.

Removing any obstacles that keep you from seeing your home as a sanctuary.

**The Challenges of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Getting into dramas and fights with your family.

Dealing with home repairs that need to happen.

Sadness.

Confusion around intuition, what is valid and what is not.

Feeling stifled by your home and the people in it.

Fear around issues of security and privacy.

Insomnia.

Sloth.

Recommended Rituals and Magical Tips:

***Peaceful Home Magic***

### **Fifth House:**

**Here is What You Need to Know:** When Mercury retrogrades the 5th house you will feel the need to revise, review, and overhaul your artistic and creative work. Love affairs, and children, including your inner child may also come up as will issues of style and luxury.

### **Details:**

**Art and Creativity:** During this Mercury RX You might feel during this period that you are not doing enough creatively or that you are stymied artistically. You might also feel like you are not seen or appreciated, especially when it comes to your creative efforts. Whatever the specific challenges may be in this arena: work with the RX en energy to get clear on them and also to get a sense of what needs to happen or change in order for this area of your life to take its proper place among everything else!

**Love Affairs:** If you are engaged in an affair of the heart then expect this RX period to put some stress and pressure on that situation. It doesn't mean that the romance won't last but it may enter a period where the focus is more on work and less on having fun.

**Luxury and Style:** During Mercury RX 5th house transits our focus turns to luxury and style and looking at where we do or do not make room for those things in our lives. Make sure that you account for your changes in taste and preferences. Challenge yourself to redefine luxury on your own terms as opposed to some vague industry standard.

**Bottom line:** Go into this Mercury RX period with the intention of really getting clear around your creative work. Look at what projects need to be wrapped up or recommitted to and also consider what projects are now truly finished or are not going to be redone any time soon. Expect to feel the need to shift things around in terms of style and appearance. This RX period might show you where you are not being seen or appreciated enough and you may have some brilliant ideas on how to change those things. Be willing to experiment and try new things but stay away from novelty just for the sake of novelty.

**The Gifts of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Re-structuring your creative work and artistic endeavors in the ways that best suit you now.

Re-discovering your creative vision and finding the energy to cultivate it.

Reviewing your surroundings and the physical environment of home and family to make sure that everything is supportive.

Revising the way you spend your energy and will power.

Reinterpreting situations so that you are less likely to be touchy and aggressive.

Repairing any wounds in the family, especially concerning children/home that might come up for you.

Resurrecting your sense of style, visibility, and luxury.

Removing any obstacles that don't work for you.

**The Challenges of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Discovering that some of your current systems and approaches are not really supporting you artistically in the way that you thought they would.

Finding that your daily practices and spiritual practices feed your energy/making room for them.

Using words in too harsh a manner.

Dealing with drama around the house and with kids.

Feeling fatalistic or negative about your creative work and art.

Sensing that you are not seen or appreciated.

Drained from creative projects.

**Recommended Rituals and Magical Tips:**

***Fast Action Fire Power***

### **Sixth House:**

**Here is what you need to Know:** The 6th house is the area of your chart and the areas of life where you feel this RX period the most powerfully. The 6th house speaks to our daily work and tasks, details, finances, purity and cleanliness, physical health, spiritual devotion, and, to a lesser extent communication.

### **Details:**

**Daily Work:** Mercury RX moving through the 6th house can mess with the area of daily work. It might look like your daily work patterns are changing or that they need to change. You might find that you are all of a sudden engaged in a task that you are really uncertain about, or you may experience work colleagues being extra difficult. Sometimes this energy really makes the day in and day out just feel like more of a grind and if that is the case then a good self-care routine will be your BFF.

**Finances:** Finances can get wonky when Mercury retrogrades through the 6th house. You may find that there is a book keeping error that you did not account for or that there is a surprise windfall that changes your year end taxes. Your discovery might be more basic - you might find that the way you are doing your finances is not as accurate for you anymore and that you need to switch to another system. One thing I always recommend when Mercury moves through this area of the chart - keep an eagle eye on all bank accounts and checkbooks because the opportunity for fraud and funny money business grows during this time.

**Physical Health:** Another area that you will want to keep a close eye on is your physical health as the 6th house rules our physical health. If you have any health concerns then now is the time to make a plan of action for dealing with them. This house also supports getting fit and/or any beneficial changes in your diet/nutrition regime. Some people consider this the house of “cleansing” physically but I just think of it as more coming into good general health. If there is a health issue that you have wanted to get a second opinion on then this is a REALLY good time to get that second opinion.

**Devotion:** Spiritual practices and your daily devotions will also come into play during this transit. You might find that your spiritual practice has flagged or that you want to get back into it and are not quite sure of the first step. You may also discover that some elements of your spiritual practice are no longer supporting you as they once were and feel the need to change them out.

**Bottom line:** Go into this Mercury Rx period with a willingness to meet up with any details that have been eluding you generally speaking and specifically when it comes to work in the world, finances, and the overarching structures in your life. Be prepared to take care of any physical health issues that may crop up during this time and if you need a second opinion on something, now is the time to get it. Refining is always a theme for Mercury RX but that is especially true when it is in this sector of the chart. Control freak the details and you will be fine!

**The Gifts of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Re-structuring any patterns or routines in behavior that are no longer in alignment with who you are.

Re-discovering details, especially regarding work and spiritual devotion, that may have alluded you.

Reviewing your physical health and dealing with any areas that are hot spots.

Revising ALL THE THINGS. Seriously, this can be everything from your resume to your online profiles, to that last email that you sent.

Reinterpreting the crappy things other people say, especially around issues concerning health, finances, daily work, and/or spiritual devotions in their most favorable light.

Repairing any physical ailments on the one hand and any financial snags on the other.

Resurrecting on methods of planning and old spiritual practices that seem like they may be supportive once again.

Removing any obstacles that don't work for you.

**The Challenges of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Discovering that some of your current systems and approaches are not really supporting you the way that you thought they would.

Finding that you need to refine your daily practice.

Using words in too harsh a manner.

Dealing with drama around work.

Feeling fatalistic or negative about your daily work and tasks.

Hen-pecked, like everybody wants a piece of you!

Drained from work.

Concerns around physical health.

**Recommended Rituals and Magical Tips:**

*Spiritual Cleaning*

### **Seventh House:**

**Here is what you need to know:** For this retrograde period the place to focus on is your 7th house. This section of the chart speaks to our relationships - especially our romantic relationships, close partnerships and marriages. It also speaks to legal issues and court cases. The 7th house emphasizes partnerships of all kinds including business partnerships. Beauty, culture, and diplomacy are also all highlighted in this area of the chart.

### **Details:**

**Marriages:** If you are married then expect this retrograde to create some fuzzy communication around that union. It may mean that you and your spouse are not connecting as well as you normally do or that you are having a hard time articulating something you need them to understand (or vice versa). This RX period brings up the theme of marriage and it is useful to reflect on it during this period. Not just how you feel about marriage but also, on a deeper level - what are you married to? What are you committed to? What or who is really committed to you? And, does anything about those commitments need to change?

**Partnerships:** No matter your romantic situation, the 7th house speaks to partnerships of all kinds including non-romantic ones. Now is an excellent time to review any and all partnerships and partners. Make sure that the workload is being fairly distributed and that all partners/potential partners are giving as much as they are receiving. Expect there to be miscommunications in partnerships during this period and be ready to patiently and diplomatically work through them.

**Law and Order:** The other area of life that can be affected by this RX period in the 7th house concerns our ideas around justice and law. This period might find you itching to get into political conversations and disputes with friends (and partners). Resist the urge until the RX period is over. Instead, write your thoughts down, notice where they have changed and where they haven't, and read reliable news articles that both agree and don't agree with your preferred stance. That's a GREAT Mercury RX activity! If you are dealing with a court case or legal issue then expect this period to bring delays and/or set backs. The good

news? You know about it way far in advance and can do something like a court case honey jar!

**Bottom line:** Go into this Mercury Rx period with a willingness to assess partnerships, an attitude of patience and kindness with your spouse, and an eye to keeping out of hot political discussions until after the RX period is over.

**The Gifts of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Revising partnerships and strong commitments to make sure they are relevant and fair.  
Reinterpreting your S.O. so that when they say or do something during this period that strikes you as particularly thoughtless or stupid you do not zap them with your mind power!

Removing yourself from going nowhere political discourse.

Re-engaging with any court or legal issues that you have been dealing with and looking at them from a fresh perspective (and preferably) with magical support!

Re-structuring any patterns or routines in behavior that are no longer in alignment with the future you wish to call in.

Reviewing your technology - both hardware and software and making sure that everything is backed up.

Repairing any issues around house, home, and family.

**The Challenges of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Using words in too harsh a manner, especially with partners/S.O.

Coming face to face with a lack of or sloppy boundaries around partnerships that may allow others to take advantage of you.

Stressed out about politics.

Concerned with an ongoing legal issue.

Discovering that some of your current systems and approaches are not really supporting your vision of the future.

Finding that you need to repair/fix tech items.

Dealing with drama around house, home, and family.

Feeling fatalistic about the future.  
Concerns around not being heard.

**Recommended Rituals and Magical Tips:**

***Altar building*** and focusing on your ***daily practice***. If you are in a relationship (romantic or not) that needs a reset then work with a salt jar.

### **Eighth House:**

**Here is what you need to know:** When Mercury moves through your 8th house the focus is on spirituality, sacred arts, money, and old wounds.

### **Details:**

**Sacred Arts and Spirituality:** When Mercury moves through the 8th house these two areas are especially highlighted. Pay attention to how they both show up in your life right now. During this period you might find that certain Sacred Arts activities are no longer speaking to you and you might also find at the same time that you have a need to explore other kinds of Sacred Arts activities more in depth. This is also a time to review your magic practices and look at what you need to focus on right now.

**Money and Investments:** Keep a careful eye on money and your bank accounts. Make sure that there is nothing funny and no fraud occurring. You should be able to account for all charges. Also be willing to look at and revise your investment portfolio as needed. Expect some weird money stuff to happen and be proactive in working with your money and blessing it.

**Sex and Intimacy:** Another area that is likely to be emphasized during this RX period is that of sex and love. You may feel that your sexual needs and sexual cycles are changing or you may find yourself really longing for a love relationship - even a Platonic love relationship. Be open to meeting new people at this time. If there is someone that you have been talking with or been in an on again/off again relationship with do make sure that you do not make any big decisions with them during this RX period.

**Bottomline:** Go into this Mercury RX ready and willing to look deep and into the places that feel uncomfortable. Be prepared for some tension especially in the areas of love and money. Also recognize that this is a brilliant time to clear and clean out any issues in both of these areas - Mercury RX can be your best friend in this work! Keep a sharp eye on finances and especially investments and be open to looking for love and partnership.

**The Gifts of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Re-structuring any patterns or routines in your spiritual practices that are no longer relevant.

Re-discovering spiritual/magical practices that might be really beneficial for you at this time.

Reviewing your finances and dealing with any concerns you have around them.

Revising your relationships.

Reinterpreting the roles that love and romance play in your life.

Repairing any relationships that need repair.

Resurrecting old partnerships and friendships that don't feel quite done.

Removing any obstacles that don't work for you.

**The Challenges of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Discovering that there are some challenges you have to deal with that you did not see coming.

Finding that you need to refine your daily practice.

Using words in too harsh a manner/taking things too personally.

Dealing with drama around relationships.

Feeling fatalistic or negative about your health and overall well-being.

Drained from trying to get along with other people.

**Recommended Rituals and Magical Tips:**

***A Ceremony for Healing***

### **Ninth House:**

**Here is what you need to know:** The 9th house is the area of our chart where we delve into deep learning and in some cases teaching. This area deals with information exchanges at a higher level and also speaks to the issues of travel and learning from other, unfamiliar, places and peoples.

**Philosophy and Faith:** The 9th house is where we develop our overarching life philosophy - the set of ideas and values that we look to when trying to explain why we do what we do, feel the way we feel, and experience the world the way we experience. It is also a section of spiritual growth and matters of faith. During this transit you may find that your overarching vision and view of things is different than it has been in the past. You may be reviewing and revising your stance on various issues as well.

**Travel and Exploration:** The 9th house rules travel and exploration. When Mercury is retrograde in this house it is almost a guarantee that if we have any travel planned for this time we are going to experience snags and delays. If we don't have travel planned for this time then we get to breathe a sigh of relief! But, this is still a good period to go over travels - including any trips you already have on the books as well as travels you'd like to do!

**Learning and Teaching:** Another area that the 9th house deals with is teaching and learning. If you are in school or thinking about going back to school then working with this RX period to get super clear on what you are doing scholastically and why is a really good idea. It is also a good idea to consider what you have learned and been engaged in learning up until this point. What lessons are extremely timely and relevant for you right now and which ones are not? Are there teachings (and perhaps teachers) that you need to release and let go of at this time?

**Spirituality:** This is a great time to consider yours. How is your daily practice feeling? Are the rituals that you are engaged with feeling good to you? Does something need to shift around this area? These are the types of questions you are especially primed to answer during this RX period.

**Bottom line:** Go into this Mercury Rx period with a willingness to reconsider your overarching life philosophy – why you do the things you do, what works for you and what doesn't work for you, what learnings and teachings you have subscribed to that are relevant as well as which ones are NOT relevant. You will also want to pay attention to travel plans that are occurring during this time but also all of your travel for the year should be reviewed. Pay attention to signs and omens you receive about your career and work in the world, and be willing to recommit to the things that matter most.

**The Gifts of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Recommitting to the things that matter most.

Re-establishing your skills.

Re-engaging with your work and career.

Re-thinking the big questions and your overarching philosophy of life - what you value and what matters Re-discovering learnings and teachings that are now deeply relevant and putting them into practice.

Reviewing travel plans not only for this period but for the entire year.

**The Challenges of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Dealing with drama around work.

Drained from work.

Concerns around lack of skill.

Feeling uncommitted/uninspired.

Delays and complications with travel and journeys.

Miscommunications with teachers/classmates/learning opportunities.

Finding that you need to refine your daily practice.

Difficulties in integrating lessons learned in the past/discovering what teachings you have taken on that are still relevant.

**Recommended Rituals and Magical Tips:**

***Making a salt jar.***

## **Tenth House:**

**Here is what you need to know:** This is the sector of the chart that deals with our jobs, careers, and vocations in the world and it is also the area of our chart where we tend to our public personal and reputation. Finally, we think about Mastery during this RX period.

### **Details:**

**Career and Vocation:** Thoughts and feelings around career/vocation are often aroused during this period. You may need to play with certain ideas that you thought you had released completely or you may need to return to the subject with fresh eyes and listen to what your intuition and instinct has been telling you about it recently. Freshening up resumes, making a list of places to apply to or work from, or setting up a website for yourself are all good ways of working with this energy. If you are not happy in work then now is the time to start making a plan - not implementing but planning - on how to get happier.

**Reputation:** The 10th house deals with public perception and the management of your reputation. This is where it really pays off to be moderate and pay attention to the way that you present yourself publicly, making sure that it is aligned with how you want to be seen and known by your peers and colleagues. This can be a great time to go through places like LinkedIn and make sure that everything is scrubbed and clean, ditto for facebook and other social media outlets.

**Mastery:** The 10th house is naturally associated with the planet Saturn and this is a time to get clear on what areas of life you want to have deep mastery in. Now is not the time to create a new course of training or make a new commitment but it is a time to research and consider what is available to you that supports your goals so that once Mercury turns direct you can commit.

**Bottom line:** Go into this Mercury RX period with the understanding that your fundamental sense of self may shift and that you are going to have an intense period with Mercury RX! Go into it also being willing to look at job and career in order to assess what is

not working and make plans that will allow you to make whatever changes you want to make to get things working the right way.

**The Gifts of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Re-structuring your relationship to and roles within the world of work and career.

Re-discovering the parts of yourself that are able and willing to lead.

Reviewing your words - both what you say and how you say it so that they deliver maximum impact with minimal harm.

Revising your ideas around work, career, and vocation.

Reinterpreting leadership and understanding it in a new light.

Repairing any wounds around your sense of visibility and work.

Resurrecting the daily practices that best help you lead.

Removing any issues around the ways in which the public perceives you.

**The Challenges of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Discovering that certain aspects of your work are simply not fulfilling you.

Finding that you need to refine your daily practice in order to lead effectively.

Using words in too harsh a manner.

Dealing with drama around work and family.

Feeling fatalistic or negative about your work and career.

Dealing with a feeling of lack of belonging.

Drained from trying to be someone that you just are not.

Concerns around work and career.

**Recommended Rituals and Magical Tips:**

***Making a Prayer Bundle***

**Eleventh House:**

**Here is what you need to know:** The focus on this RX period is going to be in the areas of community, technology, career/vocation, and public perception. This is a classic RX in the sense that your tech gear will be more likely than most to break down in some way. It is also an RX period where the major shifts may occur in your communities - both online and off but especially online, and you may start to feel called vocationally in a specific direction.

**Details:**

**Community:** The first area to focus on for this RX period is the area of community and leadership within your communities. This is an area that will definitely be pinged by this RX period and I would expect to see most of the drama occurring in various online communities that you are a part of. Be aware that hidden agendas, secrets, and messages may be coming out into the open in different groups you are a part of at this time. Certain bits of information might be so intense that they cause groups to fracture or be in deep conflict with each other. At the very least miscommunication and drama is going to occur so be ready for that. At the same time there is a call during this RX period to look at your role in the different groups you are a part of. I believe this will be especially potent if you consider how you might bring clarity, accountability, and good leadership into some of these groups. You may well be called on to take more of a leadership role in these groups at this time, be ready for that.

**Technical Woes:** Because this RX period is moving through your 11th house technical snafus are more likely to affect you than others this time around. Follow the usual protocols: make sure everything is backed up and protected. Consider getting a password manager and working with that to keep your passwords lined up so that you don't have to worry about getting locked out of various accounts. Take extra care with your hardware too and be aware that accidents are more likely to happen. Finally, because transportation can also be affected make sure that you leave for appointments a bit earlier than usual and be more careful than usual when driving.

**Bottom line:** The call for this Mercury RX period is for you to look carefully at your choices and identify where it is time for you to lead. I know that this is not comfortable for you but both with respect to your communities and with respect to your work and career in the world the time is now to take on that leadership position. This RX period will show you where you might be trying to run away or escape from the call and it will also give you some useful ways to work with it.

**The Gifts of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Re-structuring your relationship to and roles within the various communities that you are a part of.

Re-discovering the parts of yourself that are able and willing to lead.

Reviewing your words - both what you say and how you say it so that they deliver maximum impact with minimal harm.

Revising your ideas around work, career, and vocation.

Reinterpreting leadership and understanding it in a new light.

Repairing any wounds within the groups that you are a part of.

Resurrecting the daily practices that best help you lead.

Removing any issues around the ways in which the public perceives you.

**The Challenges of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Discovering that some of your current communities are not as tight, ethical, and/or fulfilling as you hoped they would be.

Finding that you need to refine your daily practice in order to lead effectively.

Using words in too harsh a manner.

Dealing with drama around communities and social media.

Feeling fatalistic or negative about your work and career.

Dealing with a feeling of lack of belonging.

Drained from social media exchanges and group dynamics.

Concerns around work and career.

**Recommended Rituals and Magical Tips:**

*Sugar Jar*

### **Twelfth House:**

**Here is what you need to know:** The focus on this RX period is going to be in the areas of inheritance, Ancestors, lineage, addictions and secrets. This is a deep RX period where you may be visited by your Beloved Dead, have deep insight into patterns around your lineage, discover secrets, and/or come face to face with addictive behaviors.

### **Details:**

**Ancestors and Lineage:** The 12th house has a strong affiliation with our Ancestors and lineage so these themes often come up during Mercury RX. You may receive powerful communications from your Beloved Dead and/or have power insights into your lineage. Often during this time we become aware of habits, stories, and attitudes we have passed down to our children/Descendants, and we also may have to deal with practical issues around inheritance.

**Addictions and Escapism:** Whatever it is in life that we try to escape from, the 12th house brings it out in living color. As a result this house also puts our habits around trying to scape or get out of hard stuff into focus. The habits and actions that we turn to as crutches, and any addictive behaviors, are highlighted in this area. When Mercury retrogrades through the 12th house we have a unique opportunity to see these issues and put a final stop to them!

**Secrets:** Often when Mercury retrogrades through the 12th house we find out secrets that are surprising to us. Sometimes we are entrusted with someone else's secret and sometimes we accidentally share secrets. This RX period is a good time to reevaluate your attitude about secrets and secret keeping.

**Bottom line:** The call for this Mercury RX period is for you to look carefully at your lineage, Ancestry, and inheritances. It is an excellent time to identify and eliminate any addictive behaviors and a good time to get clear on what your attitudes about secrets and secret keepers really are.

**The Gifts of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Re-structuring your relationship to your Ancestors and Beloved Dead.

Re-discovering aspects of your lineage that you had not noticed until now.

Reviewing your inheritance - what you have received as well as what you have passed down.

Revising your ideas around secrets and secret keeping.

Reinterpreting stories and patterns from your lineage in a new light.

Repairing any wounds within your lineage.

Resurrecting a commitment to stop any addictive cycles.

Removing any issues around dependency and addiction.

**The Challenges of this Retrograde period for you are:**

Discovering that some aspects of your lineage are problematic.

Finding that you need to refine your attitudes around inheritance and legacy.

Telling secrets you shouldn't tell.

Keeping secrets you shouldn't keep.

Feeling fatalistic about cycles of dependency and addiction.

**Recommended Rituals and Magical Tips:**

***Sacred Bathing***

Mercury can also retrograde over planets and other important points of our charts. Here is a guide on what to look for with respect to that.

**Sun:** When Mercury moves across our sun we are definitely going to FEEL the RX period because it will be on such an important planet. This is definitely NOT a time you want to sign a contract or go into business with someone. You may feel that some aspects of your basic identity start to shift during this period - you may feel the need to see or define yourself in a new way, Mercury RX can be a great support to you in the endeavor as long as you do not try to run away from any tough stuff.

**Moon:** This alignment is not a bad thing - you have the opportunity to really get to know your feelings, to dive in and receive clarity around them. However, this is also a time when your feelings are much more likely to be intense and require some careful navigating. Things will be close to the surface and you will be easily triggered. Nutrition, diet, and overarching needs around nourishment are all represented by the moon in our charts. So when Mercury goes retrograde over your Moon these are themes that are ripe to be worked with. Look at your current habits around eating, diet, and nourishment. Are you getting enough? Not enough? Too much of one thing and not enough of something else? This is a great time to revise this area of your life. Finally, pay attention to your dreams.

**Mercury:** When Mercury retrogrades over your natal Mercury expect more technology woes and communication break downs. Everything you try to say may very well just come out wrong and that is part of this process. Improve your chances by exercising extreme discernment around how you speak, listening more than speaking, and writing. This is a good time to review old writings/ideas and to pick a few people to reconnect with.

**Venus:** When Mercury retrogrades over Venus it is a call to reexamine our love relationships and to look anew at the role that romance plays in our lives. Often exes come out of the woodwork with this astrology - feeling the need to just “get in touch” with you, OR you might feel the need to get in touch with your ex (which you should ignore). Miscommunications with your significant other are likely to occur during this RX period.

This is NOT a good time to do a break up because often Mercury RX break ups aren't clean and do not last. Also watch out for spending sprees.

**Mars:** When Mercury transits over Mars we need to need to watch our words - both what we say and how we say it because they may come out as more aggressive or critical than we mean for them to be. It also means that we are going to have a front row seat to the way that our energy flows and the ways that we manage our energy. On the one hand we will see clearly what has the ability to give us more energy. On the other hand we will also see clearly all of the things we do that make it easy for ourselves to lose energy or not have enough energy. The key here is focus. We will be best rewarded by this period if we choose to deliberately focus our energy. Its also a grea time to review exercise, fitness, and health.

**Jupiter:** When Mercury retrogrades over Jupiter we find that we need to pay attention to money and finances. Watch your bank accounts for funny stuff, make sure that everything is in order. If there are bills that haven't been paid or debts that need to be addressed now is a good time to do those things. Also, on a deeper level, look at your sovereignty. Where are you fully in your sovereignty and where are you not?

**Saturn:** When Mercury retrogrades over our natal Saturn we can begin to feel like we are running out of time, or become really conscious of our age and start feeling fatalistic about how much there is left to do. This transit can also leave us feeling anxious about dying and/or worried about work and career. Work with it to identify anything that is keeping you from being a fully functioning adult and banish that.

**Uranus:** When Mercury retrogrades over Uranus I would like you to exercise extra caution across the board. Bonus points if you can get your loved ones to do the same. It's not that this is BAD astrology but Uranus is a Trickster planet full of surprises - those surprises can be anything from an unforeseen windfall of money to a traffic jam that causes you to be late to an important meeting. Tech things WILL go wrong on this day so it is especially crucial for you to back up everything before Mercury goes retrograde. Also, take care in traveling as Uranus in this aspect can cause delays, jams, and other unforeseen situations. This is a

great time to review any technology that you have, to go over old ideas/journals/writing and to think about your future and decide how your current actions support or do not support that vision.

**Neptune:** When Mercury transits over our natal Neptune we often have dreams and psychic hits that feel very portentous and important but also somewhat scrambled. We need to be careful and discerning when it comes to these experiences, not acting on them but using them as springboards to ask questions.

**Pluto:** When Mercury retrogrades over Pluto we often dream of or have communication with our Beloved Dead and one way to align with or honor this energy is to do Ancestor work. This is also astrology that can reveal power dynamics that we need to know and/or manipulations that we no longer wish to be a part of. This transit can also bring up old wounds and give us new insights that foster healing.

**Midheaven:** When this transit occurs we focus on our careers and professions and begin reviewing the choices we have made in this department. This is a great time to redo a resume or LinkedIn profile and make sure that your social media stuff is up to date and relevant. It is not a good time to start a new job but a great time to reach out to new leads and possibilities.

**Ascendant:** When Mercury retrograde transits our Ascendant we are poised to receive deep and clear messages about the future and may also want to take some time out to revise our future plans and get clear on what our next steps are.

**North Node:** When Mercury retrogrades over your North Node expect messages about your future or insights into gifts and talents that need to be explored and developed today.

**South Node:** When Mercury transits the South Node we have the chance to review our debts. This is both in terms of debts owed to us and debts we owe to others and while financial debts should certainly be considered, I encourage you to take the concept of

“debt” in the widest sense possible. Align with this energy by paying off any debt you can and/or consolidating debt so that it is easier to manage.

## Making Mercury RX Work for you ~

Below you will find a number of prompts to help you get started getting your most out of the Mercury RX period. Before we get into those though, I wanted to answer a question that I get a lot which is...is there magic that YOU can do on your own at home to honor the RX period? The answer is YES! One very traditional thing you can do is burn some **black storax** each day of the RX period and as you do so recite the Orphic Hymn to Terrestrial Hermes:

*Hermes I call, whom Fate decrees to dwell in the dire path which leads to deepest hell  
O Bacchic [Bakkheios] Hermes, progeny divine of Dionysius [Dionysos], parent of the vine,  
And of celestial Venus [Aphrodite] Paphian queen, dark eye-lash'd Goddess of a lovely mien:  
Who constant wand'rest thro' the sacred feats  
where hell's dread empress, Proserpine [Persephone], retreats;  
To wretched souls the leader of the way when Fate decrees, to regions void of day:  
Thine is the wand which causes sleep to fly, or lulls to slumb'rous rest the weary eye;  
For Proserpine [Persephone's] thro' Tart'rus dark and wide gave thee forever flowing souls to  
guide.  
Come, blessed pow'r the sacrifice attend, and grant our mystic works a happy end.*

— Translation by Thomas Tyler

## First we start with the Pre-Game show:

It is an old truism that any retrograde invites "re" activity. Concepts like: re-do, re-design, re-assess, re-collect, re-member, re-visit, review, recount, re-work, re-organize.

So your pre-game prompt is...***what RE activity do you want to focus on during this Mercury Retrograde?***

Hint: if you get stuck here go back up and look at the points of focus I gave you for this particular retrograde cycle. You can also check in by asking yourself where in your life do things feel free and easy and where in your life do things feel really stuck?

Write, Sing, Paint, Dance, Shout it out. If you want to share with me feel free to do so!

And in the meantime, check out the extensive ***Mercury RX archives*** on my site for lots of inspiration and information.

## Prompt 1: Opening the Roads

So as most of you know, in classic mythology Mercury, also known as Hermes to the ancient Greeks, is the God of messages, crossroads, speech, communication, and intellect.

One of Mercury's primary tasks was as a go-between from the realm of mortals to the realm of Gods -- so as you might imagine, communication and everything that goes along with it is front and center whenever we talk Mercury. In astrology the planet Mercury possesses all of these same characteristics.

When we work WITH Mercury's unique energies we find that we become more comfortable with our voices (both written and verbal) and we also feel more clear, more "put together", and more decisive in our actions. That in turn leads to clearer communication and smoother relationships.

So as we begin to really embrace and work with the retrograde let's consider our first prompt:

*How is my communication impacting my relationships, right now?*

Note the present tense. That is not a mistake. I do not want you to spend time reviewing communication styles, trials, and victories from the past. I want you to hone in on how you communicate right here and right now in your relationships.

*What is working?*

*What might be improved?*

*What practical actions are you inspired to take from this point?*

## Prompt 2: Relationships that Rock

Today's prompt is all about relationships. Love relationships. Friendships. Professional relationships. Relationships with land and trees, wind and water. And most fundamentally, right relationship.

Above the Delphic Oracle's cave was the famous inscription: "Know Thyself". The second part of that inscription, much less quoted, reads: "And none too much." *Know thyself, and none too much...* what could that possibly mean? I think that the Oracle was giving advice on how to be in right relationship - not as in, I'm right and you are wrong, but as in right-fitting, well placed, appropriate.

There is no real trick to being in right relationship, there is only this: learn how to pay attention. When we pay attention we see what is needed, what is desired and what is feared. When we pay attention we are able to feel into what is possible and what is best avoided. I also think that paying attention makes you a **great lover**, so there's that. With these thoughts in mind consider the following:

***The idea of relationship makes me feel:***

***My best relationship ever was with \_\_\_\_\_, what made it so great was:***

***My worst relationship ever was with \_\_\_\_\_, it sucked because:***

***My relationship with \_\_\_\_\_, is a relationship that I would really like to focus on right now.***

***What can I do or say, how can I act, to be more present and pay attention to that relationship starting today?***

***Am I willing to share the best of myself in that relationship? Why or why not? What would it look like if I did?***

## Prompt 3: Breathing it In

First off, how ARE you doing?

How are you all feeling?

How have your days been?

Any big stories to share?

Today I invite you to think about the ways in which we all physically embody Mercury. This potent planet is connected to the ways in which we think and communicate, yes, but it is also connected to the way that we breathe.

I researched the topic of breath for a class I taught a few of years ago and I was amazed to learn that most of us do not breathe correctly. Take a moment to assess how you are sitting...affirming and acknowledging that this is not about shame or judgement, rather this is about bringing awareness to your ability to create a clear channel for your breath.

I often hear people say that their road in life feels closed and full of obstacles and so we begin from the question of: how is the condition of the inner road through your body that your breath travels upon? Is wide open or a bit blocked? Let's work with that channel and then see what happens throughout the rest of your life. This is easy to do:

Straighten the spine.

Shoulders back and down.

Allow your inhale to begin in the low belly, let the ribs open and expand, let the breath fill your entire body, remembering that to take in breath is to take in life.

Allow your exhale to be complete and full too, allowing your body to fully release what is no

longer needed, perhaps asking as you do so, what in life right now might be released so that it can be a boon to someone or something else, just as our exhaled breath is vital nourishment for our green plant friends.

As you practice this exercise, invite yourself to consider:

***What does my breath tell me?***

## Prompt 4: Immortal Ideas

Most people know that Mercury rules communication and it doesn't take much imagination to see that our ability to communicate in turn effects our relationships. Less people realize that Mercury is also the planet the resonates most strongly (along with Uranus) with our ideas and our mental acuity, and in turn guides us as we relate to (and communicate) those ideas.

As JFK reminds us, ideas are powerful things:

***"A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on. Ideas have endurance without death."***

Our prompt for today is simple:

*What would happen if you saw your ideas as your only legacy, what is left behind and endured long after your death?*

***What ideas would you have?***

***How would you nurture them?***

***What kind of time and space would you allow for them?***

I'll close with another quote, this one from the ancient Greek slave Epictetus:

***"Do not tell others about your philosophy; live it so that all may see."***

## Prompt 5: Inviting Vision

By this point in time you have aligned yourself with the power of Mercury in Retrograde. You have considered themes as varied as communication, relationships, breath, and ideas. Now it is time to put it all into context. What is context exactly? Why does it matter? Let's look to Toni Morrison for an answer:

***"Is there no context for our lives? No song, no literature, no poem full of vitamins, no history connected to experience that you can pass along to help us start strong? You are an adult. The old one, the wise one. Stop thinking about saving your face. Think of our lives and tell us your particularized world."***

In my years of working with Mercury what I have found is that ultimately it can lead us to and inform us through an overarching, comprehensive vision. This can be a vision of life lived in a certain way, of work achieving a specific goal, of relationships laying claim to unique intimacies...but whatever your vision is, own it. As Ms. Morrison says, tell us about your particularized world, your experiences, your context.

*What is the weave and weft that you and only you emerged from?*

*How does it inform where you are now?*

*How does it inform where you are headed?*

*What practical actions can you take, starting today, to support and strengthen it?*

## Prompt 6: Conjuring at the Crossroads

On Friday, June 3rd, at 3am cdt, Mercury goes direct once more. And so we end our journey with Mercury Retrograde by taking it a bit deeper.

I do a lot of work with **Ancestors**. In ancient Rome, Mercury was not only the God of messages, he was, as we have noted, also the God of the crossroads as was his ancient Greek counterpart, Hermes.

The crossroads is the traditional place where the spirits of the dead could commune with the living. The crossroads was also a place where magical acts were performed and offerings were left. They were seen metaphorically and literally as the intersection between the world of Spirit and the world of Matter. Considering that, contemplate the following:

***How does my lineage, the ancestors of blood and spirit who have gone before me, inform my life at this point in time?***

***What is the legacy that springs forth from that lineage?***

***What do my ancestors and allies in the Otherworld want me to know as I go forward?***

## In Closing ~

Miracles,

I hope that this experience of Mercury in Retrograde has opened up the possibility that this is a time of year to, as weird as it sounds, look forward to and not dread. Every prompt and piece of work I include in the Mercury RX Survival Kit comes from my own experience and practice - I never up anything unless I have tested it for myself numerous times.

My hope is that spending time with your personal retrograde information and these questions allow your roots to sink deeper and your transcendent vision to grow ever sharper. May it be so!

## Notes ~