

Initial Update After Surgery And Intention to Resume Posting

by Bill Herbst

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This is my first update after the major and emergency surgery I underwent to repair my left carotid artery on 14 August 2023. The good news is that I survived the fairly dangerous procedure of the surgery itself, which was technically a success. Debris from the disintegration of the left carotid artery's dissecting (delaminating) layers that was threatening my brain with possible (and perhaps inevitable) ischemic strokes was cleaned out by being scraped away and neutralized from within the artery. Then the artery itself was repaired by the insertion of a fabric stent to stabilize it and restore full blood flow to my brain.

My initial reaction upon awakening from surgery was that I'd been hit by a truck. That afternoon and the subsequent night I spent in a hospital room before being released to go home on Tuesday, 15 August, were as bad a single day as I can remember ever having for the sheer awfulness of suffering.

Having survived the surgery itself, I now face a new challenge — that of surviving the long-term recovery from the trauma of surgery, which will be slow and lengthy. Healing from the surgery will require many months, perhaps as long as a year or more, during which I will no doubt experience many good days and many not-so-good days.

My intention is to resume occasional posting as soon as possible, although I can't yet predict when nor how often that might happen. I won't resume the weekly posting schedule to which I'd adhered for the past five years. I apologize for the inconvenience of readers having to check to see if anything new has been posted.

The first post I'd like to write is about my own chart. I am a textbook example of someone whose entire life has been shaped by the often harsh but always extraordinary impact of the two most dramatic outer planets — Uranus and Pluto. I've still got two more years to go of an amazing three-year alignment involving both my natal Angles, where Pluto is passing my Ascendant while Uranus passes my Lower Heaven opposite my natal Sun. I'm not surprised at having yet another health crisis. Given my chart, I've been worried about that and watching it approach, along with the unexpected and unwanted possibility

of a forced relocation (Uranus on the I.C.). Time will tell on that. The lesson my life seems to illustrate (at least from where I sit today) is that for many of us in whose natal charts the outer planets are potent and potentially disruptive, we have effectively no other choice but to roll with the punches and necessarily go with whatever the gods decree — whether or not our egos like what happens to us, and even though we'll probably never know why life had to be the way it turned out, for better or worse.