

Recently, I spent a week in the Florida Keys. We fished off of "No Name Bridge" using shrimp as bait. The world of fishing seems romantic and peaceful until you have to shove the hook into the poor shrimp.

Raised wooden window shutters on so many houses shading the sun seem so perfect to allow those tropical breezes to filter into the Caribbean and French architecture everywhere. I couldn't help but feel so much history has taken place there where all roads lead to some part of an ocean or bay. I imagined all sorts of sailing ships running aground in the shallow water and coral. I could see how Ernest Hemingway was inspired by the liquid landscape. Or maybe it was the liquid in his glass but either way, he must have been seduced by this same feeling. It is magically surreal where a person could get lost physically and lost in inspiration. A vast ocean is just a few feet from either side of Highway 1, which connects all the Keys until it ends at the United States' most southern point, Key West.

As I watched the water continue into the horizon as far as I could see, I thought of Neptune, the mythological God that rules the ocean. The same ocean has been supporting life here on Earth for the ancients and now us. **The Planet Neptune in the sky is named after the Father of the deep since the planet itself is made mostly of water and ice and is termed the "blue" planet.**

Looking past the rooted clumps of Mangrove trees into the ocean it was easy to lose my bearings and to fall into a trance,

unable to determine what is real above or below the surface. That boundary-less feeling is seductive and slippery just like water. As an artist, I can see how it triggers all manner of creative possibilities for that perfect magical idea to appear. Without boundaries or limits made in our mind or from literal structures we are free to imagine the impossible as real. We can use inspired thought to formulate and allow amazing things to enter our psyche and when the spirit has finished his work within, a new entity, way or invention can then rise out of the watery depths to meet the element of earth so it can be made manifest into the tangible.

This inspired process is what Planet Neptune can activate in us. It is in our astrological chart and the house it rules teaches us where creativity and magical thinking can raise us to new heights or pull us down, dissolving us into unhealthy seductions. **On the high side, Neptune can inspire us so we get closer to God, serve others, or create beautiful art with a direct knowing of our soul's intentions.** An example of this is Ernest Hemingway, who aptly straddled himself between watery imaginings and manifesting them in the real world of his Key West studio. But at its worst, Neptune represents the area where escapism and confusion can lead to addictions or also where we can lose track of reality. A seduction, Hemingway also could not resist as he found escapism at the bottom of each bottle.

Everyone has Neptune in his or her chart somewhere. Some people have aspects of Neptune that may increase tendencies for confusion and escapism but *fortunately*, these **SAME** aspects can be used at their highest expression of creativity or spirituality or

service. **You can change patterns at any time.** Once you find the house in which your natal chart that Neptune sits and its aspects to other planets, this awareness can guide you and possibly explain a few things! And when you understand it is part of your soul's journey to experience these things, you can use Neptune's lessons wisely. A spiritual connection, unconditional service, all mystical areas and perhaps some sort of creative endeavor such as writing, art, music, dance or any other non-traditional invention. These are some of the best ways to get around challenges that may show up repeatedly in our lives. Neptune's watery placement brings wisdom in its depths.