

# The Stars Are Out: Being With Gemini



After a month of life in the slow lane with the earth-ly and fixed Taurus, along come the Twins – and they are ready for action (this could actually be the original embodiment of the term “bi-curious”). Hello Gemini – and the energy is truly Gem-like, all shiny, new and bright. Gemini is mutable air, full of motion, curiosity and a desire to connect twin to twin. The urge is now here to see it all.

From Native American astrology, Gemini is seen as the butterfly, colorful and playful, eager and light with a wish to taste the nectar from every flower in the field. For Gemini the nectar is information. Gather it and then gather more.

We may feel energized at this time but stamina is another

forte of this butterfly, but avoiding the resulting physical mental and emotional exhaustion makes it worth the effort. The trip around the zodiac has just begun and our curiosity demands that we be there at the end of the flight – albeit with slightly frayed wings. Training our minds to be patient at this time will help insure that we can continue to be avid students of life.

Rest and relaxation have their place but for now there is so much information to be gathered and so little time. Yes, a long hot bath would be divine but isn't there a cool event downtown? In other words, Gemini's primary prayer to the universe is, “Please, anything but boredom!”

Now our perceptions are heightened and our curiosity can become an even more potent gift. We are able to use this gift during this time to detach a bit from our unwanted emotions, to see them with an interest that is both kind and light.

We are able to be friendlier and less harsh toward ourselves and others when the gritty stuff comes up: the anger, jealousy and resentment of every day life. Now we can bring humor and a lighter heart to these situations. Instead of trashing ourselves and others, we are supported by the Gemini atmosphere to

react with a simple “Wow!” rather than a habitual “What a jerk!”

Another possible animal kingdom role model for this time is the deer. Gentle, eyes open, big ears like antennae taking it all in, the deer can then move on, bounding off with grace and agility. We don't have to analyze it, control it, or manipulate it. Perceiving it is now enough. We are able to become more comfortable with ambiguity and uncertainty. We may not have answers. No solutions are in sight. We are able to abide with this. We can be with what is. We can be present, perceiving what is happening now. Out of this ability to be comfortable with uncertainty we notice that we our suffering decreases.

The endpoint to all this information gathering is that we must now communicate. We can “blah, blah, blah” and “whatever” or we can work at understanding and being understood. Toward this end I recommend Marshall Rosenberg's book, *Non-violent Communication: The Language of Compassion*. His work is presently being used internationally to help us connect with compassion on all levels – personal, family, community, and global.

The Twins want to heal what has become separate, to speak so that others will listen and to listen so that others will speak, to connect heart to heart. We are now supported to bring the creativity, brilliance and playfulness of Gemini to this end. ▼

*Glo Daley is an astrologer living on women's land in Huntington.*

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story, and we'll have to remember or be reminded to rest periodically. Pacing oneself is not the

## Tomboy

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she wrote and received as well as the times she “slept with Rose.” She noted in her diary, “‘R.’ Saturday July 6th ‘married.’” In 1844 Charlotte sailed to England. She captivated her English audiences as thoroughly as she had the American, and did not return to America until 1849, two years after Rosalie died at the age of twenty-five.

Photographs of Charlotte Cushman show an imposing, large boned, square-face, ugly woman, yet everywhere she went audiences filled the seats and cheered for her, and women fell in love with her. She had a powerful intellect and must have had a charismatic presence. She had several ‘female marriages’ as her friend Elisabeth Barrett Browning put it, as well as lovers on the side.

Emma Stebbins was the

longest-enduring companion. She was a sculptor best known for *Angel of the Waters*, the fountain at Bethesda Terrace in Central Park. They were both vibrant women in their 40s when they met in Rome. Charlotte had gone to Italy with her partner at the time, Matilda Hays (who had played Juliet to Charlotte's Romeo) and some other female friends, all artists or writers, a group of “jolly female bachelors.”

Emma Stebbins' family strongly disapproved of her relationship with Charlotte and Charlotte's mother never liked Charlotte's friends. And Charlotte herself was careful to remain in the closet, so to speak, as far as the public was concerned.

Charlotte Cushman died in February of 1876 of breast cancer, still a much loved celebrity. Emma Stebbins took on the task of organizing her papers into a memoir of the famous actress.

Interestingly enough, neither Matilda nor Rosalie is mentioned in the memoir.

Earlier this spring, Theater for the New City in New York City produced a play based on Charlotte's life, *The Lady was a Gentleman* by Barbara Kahn. Certainly so forceful a personality as Charlotte Cushman could not remain off the stage forever! ▼

### Further Reading:

*Bright Particular Star*, by Joseph Leach, Yale University Press, 1970.

*When Romeo was a Woman*, by Lisa Merrill, The University of Michigan Press, 1999.

*Charlotte Cushman: Her Letters and Memories of her Life* by Emma Stebbins, Houghton, Osgood and Company, 1878.

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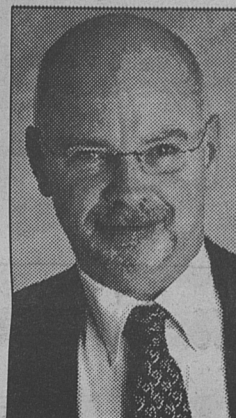


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