

NCGR GEOCOSMIC

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RECYCLING URANUS-PLUTO:

Chaos, Crisis and
Transformation





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RECYCLING URANUS-PLUTO: Chaos, Crisis and Transformation

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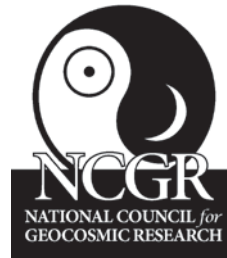
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NCGR Statement of Purpose

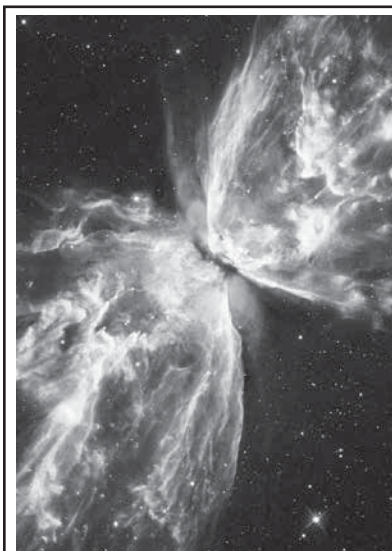
The purpose of NCGR shall be to provide an environment to foster and publish research of a geocosmic nature and to pursue educational programs in various interdisciplinary fields related to geocosmic studies. The term "geocosmic" is defined as "of or pertaining to the study of correspondences and cycles involving earthly phenomena and cosmic (celestial) events." This purpose is implemented by: disseminating information through NCGR publications, including journals, newsletters, books or monographs; providing financial and technical assistance, guidance, or professional help to individuals or groups for approved research projects, sponsoring interdisciplinary educational programs, chartering regional, semi-autonomous chapters of NCGR having the same goals and purposes; promoting and encouraging the highest professional standard and ethical behavior among astrologers.

Acknowledgements

Many, many thanks go out to Sheri Hartstein who did a fabulous job editing this issue of *Geocosmic Journal*: picking great articles, tirelessly editing and proofreading, and helping me to find just the right images to work with each one. I'd also like to acknowledge the authors who shared their work, insight and perspectives on this outer planetary transit we are all currently enjoying *so very much*. I would also like to thank John Marchesella, our Chair person, and all the members of the NCGR Board and advisory staff — Liane, Ronnie, Ken and Arlene — for their work on behalf of NCGR and their moral support during the process of putting this Journal together. Of course, special thanks go out to Leigh Westin, the "Captain" Editor of the Geocosmic Journal, who was always there when I had a question, needed guidance, or just needed someone to listen.

Aside from the actual physical printing and mailing process, this magazine is entirely the result of volunteer efforts, and as such, a labor of love. We really hope you enjoy it! Peace, love and happy transformations!

~Loretta Lopez
Publications Director



ON THE COVER

A butterfly emerging from the ashes of a dying star

NGC 6302 may look like a delicate, picturesque butterfly, but the "wings" of this planetary nebula are actually gas at about 36,000 degrees Fahrenheit hurtling across space at more than 600,000 miles an hour. At the center is a dying star, which started out five times more massive than our sun, unleashing a stream of ultraviolet radiation. It's taken about 2,200 years for the glowing gas to expand as far as it has — a distance of about two light-years across outer regions where the gas is coolest.*

*<http://www.spacetelescope.org/news/heic0407/>

Public Domain image credit NASA, ESA, and the Hubble SM4 ERO Team

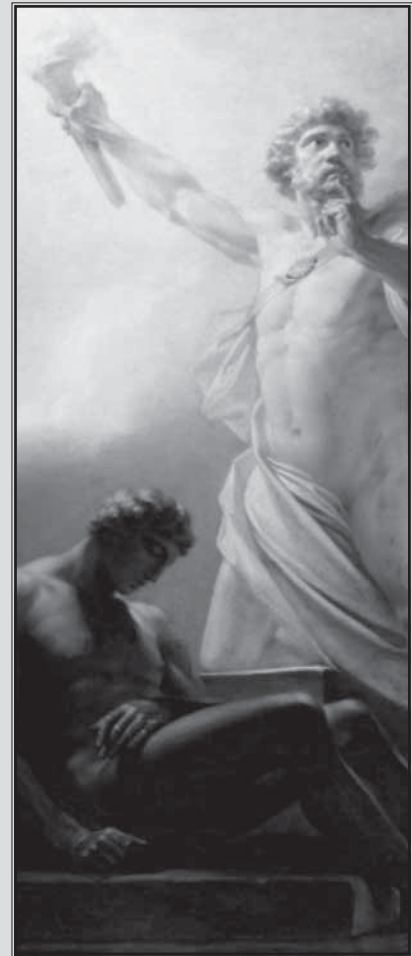
Letter from the Editor

Every once in a rare Uranus-Pluto cycle, the plot of humanity's history appears to dramatically thicken and our lives invariably quicken with unprecedented change—extraordinary change akin to the process of metamorphosis, which entails a radical transformation of the core essence of being. Inherent in the waxing square between Pluto in Capricorn and Uranus in Aries are the elements of the intolerable “cold and darkness of winter” awaiting the breakthrough of spring. A time of necessary endings and of new beginnings. It's the caterpillar's mindset decomposing in the chrysalis, believing its life is over...while its cells are coalescing anew from earth-bound to winged creature – with heightened mobility and brand new eyes to envision the world. The Greeks personified Psyche (soul) in the image of a butterfly, and the Uranus-Pluto combo often induces an ego-identity death, or actual confrontation with one's physical mortality, that leads to deep soul-searching and the most extreme makeovers. These are the cosmic muses of life's major turning points, for better or for worse: crises and cataclysms, breakdowns and/or breakthroughs, ego deaths and paradigm shifts – all are integral facets of the Uranus-Pluto cycle. Thus, the celestial butterfly image that graces this issue's cover.

So much has already been written about this momentous cycle of change – indeed, a “google-able” feast is served up on the internet, tracking history-in-the-making with planetary correlations. We've very consciously witnessed and tracked the pressure-cooker of the Saturn-Uranus-Pluto T-square – a recycling of the past two centuries' prior T-square alignments that coincided with the Depression eras of the early 1930s and mid-1870s. The stage is now set for Uranus and Pluto to enact their solo square dance – Act Two of the drama that opened with their conjunction during the turbulent decade of the 1960s. We know by the nature of the square that conflict will heighten the drama, and we stand teetering on the threshold, waiting for more to be revealed. And as we gaze into the future, we also reflect back on the past.

The articles featured in this issue offer clues and insights – many gleaned from hindsight – that serve to enhance our understanding of our present moment in time and potential future trajectory. Some essays offer insights that inform our personal lives, while others travel back in time to connect the Uranus-Pluto dots between previous cycles and their manifestations in history – some also factoring Capricorn and Aries into the mix. And scattered throughout this issue you'll find tidbits of my own research: portraits of social reformers who ignited cultural movements during Uranus-Pluto eras, who were themselves marching to the tune of these cosmic muses, more often than not by challenging aspects made to their Sun or Moon. (Agents of change whose lives inspire courage in challenging times, because they themselves were conduits of the Uranus-Pluto energy.)¹

One of those cultural revolutionaries was Dane Rudhyar, who in 1968 wrote *Birth Patterns for a New Humanity*, a book on the outer planet cycles and their significance. His words are even more relevant now than they were 44 years ago:



“When the cold and darkness of winter becomes intolerable, it is this which brings the Spring. When medieval doctrine grows unbearably rigid, it is this which brings the Renaissance. And when it rightly seems to man that nothing he can devise can save him from the folly of his own destructiveness, it is this which assures him that the heavens themselves must in time awaken another side of his nature, and bring him some fresh and unimaginable choice.”

– Rodney Collin,
The Theory of Celestial Influence

¹“Prometheus Brings Fire to Mankind” by Heinrich Friedrich Füger, c. 1817 Public Domain. Courtesy of Wikipedia

"What is essential is not the correlation of the start or culmination of a planetary cycle and some historical event, but the fact that these cycles enable us to understand more deeply the nature of historical processes and to ascertain more objectively our present place in the evolution of mankind. . . .When we deal with the cyclic movements of the planets beyond Saturn we are no longer taking in consideration the development of individuals **in themselves**, but rather of individuals as participants in the larger rhythms of human society and of the evolution of the earth and the biosphere."²

Rudhyar's words are a touchstone for recollecting astrology's gift: the vision it affords us of our collective and individual lives embedded in the cosmos. Through astrology's unique lens, we can broaden our vision to see ourselves as "planetary beings." And never before has this planetary revisioning been so crucial.

This issue serves to affirm how far we've come and astrology's worth – more a touchstone of recollection than crystal ball foretelling fate. It affirms that as astrologers we ourselves are living through an unprecedented passage – as active participants in the recycling Uranus-Pluto square. In the wake of nearly half a century's learning curve in the field, we've arrived at the point where we now possess a vast recorded knowledge of the ways the macrocosm and microcosm intersect: both of the correlations of outer planets with mundane events, and with events in our personal lives and innermost psyches. Astrology bridges the abyss and binds the two together. We've never before been so conscious of our collective co-creation and our capacity for navigating the outer planet transits.



As the Uranus-Pluto plot thickens in days to come, "Let us be on the side of deep change and disruptive awakenings," as Darby Costello writes in her article, while we undergo Pluto's demise of defunct Capricorn systems, and new Neptune in Pisces "dreams and visions emerge through the cracks." Let us muster the courage, as Gandhi once said, to become the change we wish to see in the world. For that is surely the battle cry of Uranus in Aries.

Sheri Robin Hartstein

Guest Editor
NCGR Geocosmic Journal

Endnotes:

1. The portraits of cultural revolutionaries throughout this issue are based on birth data from Lois Rodden's Astrodata-bank, listed below in the order of their appearance:
 - Rachel Carson: May 27, 1907, 2:00 am, Springdale, PA. RR: C (page 5)
 - Mohandas Gandhi: October 2, 1869, 7:11 am, Porbandar, India. RR: A (page 12)
 - Dane Rudhyar: March 23, 1895, 12:42 am, Paris, France. RR: A (page 21)
 - Henry David Thoreau: July 12, 1817, 9:00 pm, Concord, MA. RR: DD (page 31)

- Carl Gustav Jung: July 26, 1875, 7:29 pm, Kesswil, Switzerland. RR: C (page 58)
 - Martin Luther King, Jr.: January 15, 1929, 12:00 noon, Atlanta, GA. RR: A (page 69)
2. *Birth Patterns for a New Humanity* was reissued online with the title *ASTROLOGICAL TIMING: The Transition to the New Age* (2001). For the quote see http://www.khaldea.com/rudhyar/at/at_c2_pp7.shtml.

Note: For extensive historical research on Uranus-Pluto cycles, see Richard Tarnas' book *Cosmos and Psyche: Intimations of a New World View* (New York: Viking, 2006), pp. 139-205. Also, www.archaijournal.org (Volume 2, Fall 2010) pp. 147-210.

"I used to believe that much of nature was forever beyond the tampering reach of man. He might level the forest and dam the streams, but the clouds, the rain, the wind and the oceans were God's... But then my eyes and my mind were opened to the truth as it now appears to be and that was the book I began to write – about the power man now had to change the world and my hope that, as he takes on this new role, man does so with humility rather than arrogance."

— Rachel Carson 1958

"The 'control of nature' is a phrase conceived in arrogance, born of the Neanderthal age of biology and philosophy, when it was supposed that nature exists for the convenience of man. The concepts and practices of applied entomology for the most part date from that Stone Age of science. It is our alarming misfortune that so primitive a science has armed itself with the most modern and terrible weapons, and that in turning them against the insects it has also turned them against the earth."

— Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter. . . What will sustain me in my final moments is an infinite curiosity as to what wonders will follow."

— Rachel Carson, *A Sense of Wonder*



When *Silent Spring* was published in September 1962 (fifty years ago), it quickly became a bestseller and launched an unprecedented uproar over pesticide use and pollution, unleashing a backlash of vitriolic attack from the pesticide industry. U.S. Supreme Court Justice William A. Douglas dubbed the book “the most important chronicle of this century for the human race...a wake-up call for *“effective control of all merchants of poison.”* In June 1963, Rachel Carson testified on behalf of nature at Congressional Hearings on environmental hazards. All the nationwide publicity had the effect of transforming her public image from benign nature writer to impassioned ecology advocate—a *“champion of nature and environmental sanity.”*

The will to power and power struggles are quintessential Pluto, and Pluto is also linked with the shadow side of whatever it aspects. In connection with Uranus, this is the hidden shadow of scientific invention and technology, as well as the shadow side of individual free will. It recalls Prometheus's hubris in stealing fire from the heavens in order to benefit mankind, but without taking into account how man will utilize this gift.

During the critical period of September 1962 through Rachel's untimely death from cancer on April 14, 1964, the dynamic Uranus-Pluto duo were widely conjunct in Virgo, squaring her natal Sun/Mercury conjunction in Gemini (at 5° and 8°, respectively). Transiting Pluto also trined her natal Uranus (12° Capricorn) while Uranus also trined her natal Venus (5° Taurus)—perfectly epitomizing the marriage of science and nature, both within herself and through her work and legacy to the world. With transiting Pluto trine her Uranus and transiting Uranus square her Sun, she felt compelled and driven (Pluto) to enact the Uranian archetype in its most conspicuous garb: as harbinger of consciousness and unprecedented insight (the new idea that will serve to revolutionize society) and social reformer who challenges the Establishment's status quo. The latent rebel in Rachel had found her long-awaited cause (natal Mars/Uranus opposite Jupiter/Neptune).

"If you think of this quiet woman as a revolutionary it's rather startling, but in the way she changed our thinking, Rachel Carson was a revolutionary."

— Stuart Udall, Secretary of the Interior under President John F. Kennedy



The Uranus-Pluto Cycle: A Revolutionary Timeline

by Lauren Howard Coleman

In September, when the Autumnal Equinox was in attendance with the current Uranus-Pluto square, I decided to dedicate my weekly website update to activist, comedian and erstwhile presidential candidate, Dick Gregory¹. A Libra with his Sun opposing Uranus in Aries, square Pluto in Cancer, Dick Gregory was born during the Uranus-Pluto square in the early 1930s. He embodied the impulse for revolutionary change, and during the Uranus-Pluto conjunction in Virgo in the 1960s, he brought it into action. He was at the forefront of the civil rights and anti-war movements, and spoke out about drug issues in African-American communities. He even ran for President in 1968.

On September 21st, as I was composing my update, the news was abuzz in the background with the scheduled execution of Troy Davis in Georgia. Thousands protested this young man's execution, and were disheartened when it was ultimately carried out. As I was writing, I glanced up because I heard the name "Dick Gregory". At first astounded and elated as only an astrologer can

be at these times of synchronicity, I was also inspired by the sentiment he was expressing.

Dick Gregory was not at the Troy Davis demonstration. He was in Texas protesting another execution: the execution of a white supremacist who dragged a man to his death behind his truck. This was a man for whom no one had sympathy. But Dick Gregory was there because he believes that all executions are unjust, even for the guilty; and that murder cannot be justified, ever. At 79, this vegetarian, diet guru, activist, comedian, and now anti-death penalty activist is still going strong, riding the wave of the Uranus-Pluto cycle.

When Uranus, the planet of freedom and independence, meets authoritarian and transformational Pluto in the active 4th harmonic aspects, the key words are: **revolution, financial readjustment, social activism, rebellion against the establishment, reformation, freedom from oppression and rebuild-**

ing. These are times in history when it becomes apparent that unjust circumstances that had previously been tolerated will not just go away if we ignore it, and will instead appear to be getting worse. This is often accompanied by the sense that one is being disenfranchised and disempowered, with a universal urge to make much needed changes and reforms — even revolutions. The precipitating factors for this change usually come through a series of events that reveal a stark inequality, and some sort of corrupt or dark underbelly in the society.

One of the elements at the basis of this cycle is **power**. And so we see the abuse of power or an apparent inequality of power that becomes too overwhelming to ignore, and is often the impetus for change. It is also often accompanied by some sort of economic collapse or crisis that exacerbates the disparity between classes or opposing parties. The other element at the basis of this cycle is **freedom**. As a result, unwieldy monopolies and empires, and the consequences of concentrated power, are the stuff of which rebellions are made. Where there is oppression, there will be a desire to be free; where there is an excess of greed and power, there will be a need for adjustment; and where structures are outdated or unstable, they will need to be rebuilt. These upheavals can overthrow governments and transform societies.

Events can move in either direction. Often these rebellions are justified and represent an effort to restore freedom, equality and justice. As a result, positive reforms can take place addressing civil rights, social justice and environmental concerns. Sometimes, however, a grass roots movement, or an element of social disenchantment, is expropriated by a powerful figure or authoritarian political group, and used to usurp power and control for its own benefit. This was particularly evident in the rise of the Nazi Party in the 1930s.

The Uranus-Pluto cycle has also correlated with huge mass migrations. Some of these are the result of war, others of hunger and tyranny. Both have resulted in huge uprooting and have had transformational effects on society as a whole.

As we are embarking on the current Uranus-Pluto square with all of its attending denizens of discontent, I was inspired to look at some of the most salient events that had occurred during previous Uranus-Pluto hard aspects. By exploring the historical events coinciding with past Uranus-Pluto cycles, we can broaden our context of understanding the current cycle and the consequences of the choices we are making now.

The following timeline offers a sample of major events with a very brief overview. It could definitely be argued that more could be added and/or expounded upon. But even as it stands, the

synchronicity with current events will give pause for reflection. The time frames provided for each Uranus-Pluto cycle designate the years when the aspect was within an orb of 3 degrees applying and separating. Except for a few noteworthy events that could not be ignored, which occurred somewhat outside the range of these orbs, I primarily focused on historical events occurring within those degree parameters.

1755-60 Uranus in Pisces square Pluto in Sagittarius: New Horizons to Conquer

The Seven Years War was a global conflict that involved North and Central America, Europe, the West African coast, India and the Philippines. It is sometimes divided between four separate areas: the French and Indian War (1754-63); the Pomeranian War (1757-62); the Third Carnatic War (1757-63); and the Third Silesian War (1756-63). These wars were driven by a race for empirical control of colonies and trade throughout the world. Over a million people would die for the sake of Empirical power and control.



It was also during this time that the lower classes in the American Colonies began to mobilize. Cash-strapped Great Britain sought to fill their coffers at the expense of the colonists. However, Great Britain was more in need of the colonists'

wealth than the colonists were of Great Britain's rule. Although the Revolution would not take place until the 1770s, the seeds were already being sown under the Uranus-Pluto square. According to John Adams², by 1761, Boston legislator James Otis, Jr. was already speaking out against the "*tyranny of taxation without representation*," a phrase that alluded to the discontent in the colonies and would eventually spearhead the American Revolution.

1791-1795 Uranus in Leo opposite Pluto in Aquarius: Revolt against the Monarchy

The French Revolution and the New Enlightenment: principles such as democracy and 'inalienable rights' would be built from the ashes of a hereditary monarchy embedded in tradition. The traditional elements of the Uranus-Pluto cycle are in play here. As the result of its participation in the American Revolution and its losses during the Seven Years War, France was near bankruptcy. Heavy taxes were levied on the lower classes, while numerous exemptions existed for the nobility and clerics. Mass hunger among the poor, and apparent indifference on the part of the wealthy and ruling classes, were the primary ingredients for a particularly volatile Uranus-Pluto revolutionary reaction. A new

²"The Storming of the Bastille" Painting by Jean-Pierre Houel (public domain).

Republic was proclaimed in 1792. The former King was beheaded in 1793. Robespierre, a revolutionary leader steeped in the vernacular of the Enlightenment philosophy declared: "Any law which violates the inalienable rights of man is essentially unjust and tyrannical; it is not a law at all." As the leader of the Committee of Public Safety, however, he would play an active role in the **Reign of Terror**. According to public records, 16,594 people were executed from 1793-94. (Some historians claim as many as 40,000 executions — including that of Marie Antoinette — were carried out during Robespierre's tenure.)

Also occurring during this opposition was the **Haitian Revolution** in St. Domingue. This was a slave revolt which led to the elimination of slavery and the establishment of Haiti as the first republic ruled by people of African ancestry. Although they gained their independence, it would be an uphill struggle for this society which had deeply entrenched hierarchical traditions imposed by French rule. They also were subjected to an unconscionable debt, which required them to pay reparations to the French slaveholders. These burdens would undermine the stability of the country for much of its existence.

1819-1822 Uranus in Sagittarius square Pluto in Pisces: Massive Global Revolution

During this Uranus-Pluto square in Central and South America, there were a cascading number of revolutions and declarations of independence: in Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Santo Domingo, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru. Europe experienced a good deal of revolutionary activity as well, with the Greek War of Independence from the Ottoman Empire, and revolts in Spain, Portugal, Italy and France.

Many revolutionary figures that would later be prominent in the Uranus-Pluto in Aries conjunction of the 1850s were born during this time, including Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, as well as women's rights activist and abolitionist, Susan B. Anthony.

1849-1852 Uranus conjunct Pluto in Aries: Freedom and Civil Rights

Slavery would be the primary source of rising tension in the U.S. during the 1850s and would eventually lead to Civil War in 1861. In 1850, the Fugitive Slave Act³ was passed, forcing law officials to recapture fugitive slaves--even in states that outlawed slavery--and punish those who aided and abetted their escape. Also in 1850, **Harriet Tubman** escaped her own slavery and joined the **Underground Railroad**, leading family members and friends and more than 300 slaves to freedom. Tubman, who became known as Moses for her brave exploits, explained: "I was a stranger in a strange land, my father, my mother, my brothers, and sisters, and friends were (in Maryland). But I was free, and they should be free."⁴

Famous orator, writer and abolitionist **Frederick Douglass** would later write in a letter to Tubman: "*The midnight sky and the silent stars have been the witnesses of your devotion to freedom and of your heroism. Excepting John Brown – of sacred memory – I know of no one who has willingly encountered more perils and hardships to serve our enslaved people than you have.*"⁵

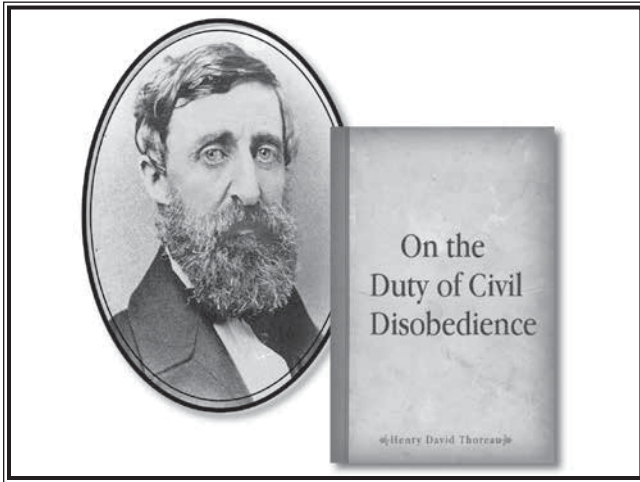
Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, **Uncle Tom's Cabin**, published in 1852, brought to worldwide attention the conditions that African Americans were subject to under slavery. An immediate runaway bestseller, its popularity was instrumental in inspiring and widening support for the abolitionist movement in the northern United States, and laying the groundwork for the American Civil War.

The Communist Manifesto, published in 1848, was written by Karl Marx based on the theories of Marx and Friedrich Engels. An economic and sociological theory with a revolutionary view of social change, Marxist theories have since influenced political movements throughout the world. Presented as a backlash to emerging capitalism, Marx and Engels envisioned an egalitarian society where workers would no longer be subjected to wage-slave serfdom in order to create profits for the capitalist "owners" who theoretically would only maintain profits by driving down wages, cutting social benefits and pursuing military aggression. It was believed that socialism would succeed capitalism as a historical necessity through a worker's revolution. "*You are horrified at our intending to do away with private property. But in your existing society, private property is already done away with for nine-tenths of the population; its existence for the few is solely due to its non-existence in the hands of those nine-tenths. You reproach us, therefore, with intending to do away with a form of property, the necessary condition for whose existence is the non-existence of any property for the immense majority of society.*" ~ Karl Marx⁶

The first **Women's Rights Convention** was held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848, followed by the first National Women's Rights Convention which took place in Worcester, Mass., in 1850, attracting over 1,000 participants. A Declaration of Sentiments, a suffrage clause which they hoped would be included in the Bill of Rights, was drafted by Elizabeth Cady Stanton. It stated: "*The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations*



Photograph by William Cheney; Harriet Tubman portrait collection. Harriet Tubman and family; Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture / Photographs and Prints Division - Public Domain.



on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her.”⁷⁷

Henry David Thoreau’s essay “**On the Duty of Civil Disobedience**” (written in 1849) has influenced and inspired leaders of campaigns and resistance movements in later Uranus-Pluto cycles. Gandhi spoke highly of him and Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote: “I became convinced that non-cooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good. No other person has been more eloquent and passionate in getting this idea across than Henry David Thoreau. As a result of his writings and personal witness, we are the heirs of a legacy of creative protest.”⁷⁸ This essay was written after the outbreak of the Mexican-American war and protested both slavery and war. Thoreau felt that if people did not support the war, and did not support slavery, they should not finance it by paying taxes. “There are thousands who are in opinion opposed to slavery and to the war who in effect do nothing to put an end to them.”

In January of 1848, gold was discovered on a ranch in northern California. This initiated a massive **gold rush**, which reached its peak in 1849 (hence the name ‘49ers for these new gold-seeking immigrants). Between 1848-49, the population in San Francisco increased from under 1,000 to over 50,000 people. The discovery of gold made California that much more valuable to the ever-expanding Union, and so was admitted as the 31st state in 1850, reinforcing the assumption of **Manifest Destiny**. Many in the growing United States believed that it was their purpose or ‘destiny’ to occupy all of the territory between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and spurred on by gold fever, European Americans quickly took over these vast western territories, often at the expense and demise of the existing indigenous people.

In **China**, the **Taiping Rebellion** (1851-64) ushered in a widespread civil war led by a Christian convert, Hong, whose goal was religious and social reform, replacing traditional Buddhism, Confucianism and Chinese folk religion with a form of Christianity--with Hong as the declared messiah. Usurping the general disenchantment of the peasant classes with what was seen to be a corrupt and ineffective government, the Taiping Rebellion is considered one of the deadliest of conflicts resulting in anywhere

between 20 million to 100 million deaths. (Ironically, Taiping translates to “The Kingdom of Heavenly Peace.”)

In 1848, Uranus and Pluto were still just approaching their conjunction, and Neptune had just entered the humanistic sign of Pisces, when Europe broke out in a series of revolutions. Waves of agitation and discontent culminated in the “**Springtime of the Peoples**”: scattered uprisings that lacked cohesion, but were evidence of a strong growth of nationalism and a surge for democracy that spread through Italy, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Austria and Ireland.

The **Irish Potato famine**⁹, which the Irish refer to as “the Great Hunger,” was the cause of a great deal of embittered anger between the disenfranchised Irish and the British. Huge quantities of Ireland’s food exported to England throughout the period of the famine left the people of Ireland starving. In fact, exportation actually *increased* during this time. Food riots erupted in ports. In the most famine-stricken parts of Ireland, food was shipped under guard, and the poor were left with nothing at all other than rocks and stones to throw at the British soldiers. A financially strapped England that depended on the Irish to bolster its economy, and starving masses dying along Ireland’s roadsides, incited acts of rebellion, which only increased the military presence in the region. Without food, weapons or the ability to organize, this movement would eventually falter. Poor Law Commissioner, Edward Twisleton, resigned his post in Ireland stating: “The destitution here is so horrible and the indifference of the House of Commons to it so manifest...” The famine seeded a huge exodus. Instead of lying down and dying, thousands made their way to America where they hoped to find the freedom to make a new start.

1875-1878 Uranus in Leo square Pluto in Taurus: The Empire Wars

In 1877 the **Russian Empire** declared war on the **Ottoman Empire**¹⁰. From 1873 onwards, the Ottoman government was brought to its knees by widespread drought and famine in Anatolia, which led to a cascade of events. People were hungry and unable to pay taxes to the Imperial Treasury. As a result, the Ottoman government was forced to declare bankruptcy in 1875. The high tax burdens imposed on Bosnia and Herzegovina led to uprisings, and these in turn inspired the Bulgarian uprising in 1876. The Ottomans retaliated against the Bulgarians, during which untold atrocities were committed against the people. This led to a strong public outcry against the Ottoman Empire. Russia saw all of this as an opportunity to regain territories lost during the Uranus-Pluto conjunction in 1850, which coincided with the Crimean War. They intervened, waving the Bulgarian cause as a banner. Buoyed by a huge national wave of patriotism and sympathy for the Bulgarians, the Russian Empire declared war on the Ottoman Empire.

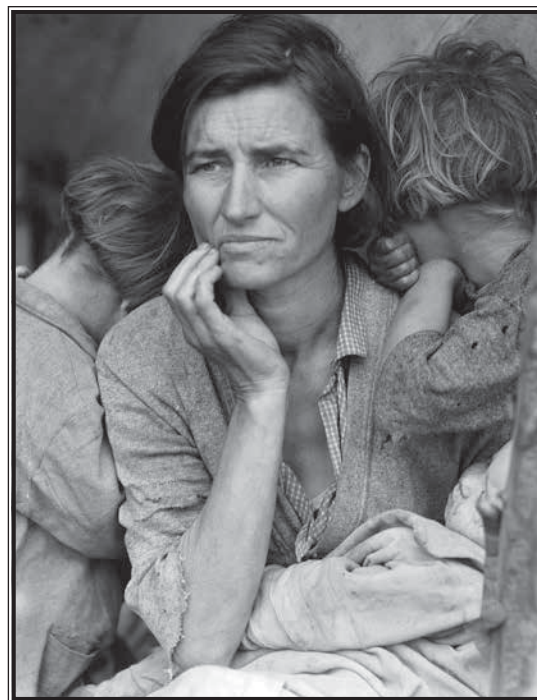
My lands are where my dead lay buried: Native Americans were staging one of their last successful rebellions in the **Great Sioux**

War of 1876-77. With the gold rush pushing Americans further West into Indian territories, many of the Sioux were being denied hunting privileges that belonged to them according to their treaty rights. **Chief Crazy Horse**, who helped lead the famous battle against General Custer and his troops, explained: *"A very great vision is needed and the man who has it must follow it as the eagle seeks the deepest blue of the sky. I was hostile to the white man... we preferred hunting to a life of idleness on our reservations. At times we did not get enough to eat and we were not allowed to hunt. All we wanted was peace and to be left alone. Soldiers came and destroyed our villages. Then Long Hair (Custer) came... They say we massacred him, but he would have done the same to us. Our first impulse was to escape, but we were so hemmed in, we had to fight."*¹¹

The Theosophical Society was founded on November 17, 1875 in New York City, by Mme. H. P. Blavatsky, Colonel H. S. Olcott and William Q. Judge, among others. Revolutionary in its attempts to explain metaphysical concepts, the intent of the society was to reconcile science, philosophy and religion into one unified world view. The second object of the Society was to "encourage the study of comparative religion, philosophy and science." Blavatsky and Olcott, who had traveled to the East and studied Buddhism and Hindu texts, were the first Westerners to introduce Eastern philosophical and metaphysical concepts into common Western thought. Ideas such as karma, reincarnation, and the evolution of the soul would eventually infiltrate the common vernacular and belief systems everywhere. They espoused another new and revolutionary concept: that there are no real miracles or magic, but that all these could eventually be explained through as yet unrecognized laws of nature, and the unrealized powers latent in all individuals. (Blavatsky's claim, for instance, that the atom was divisible drew harsh criticism from some of the authorities of her day, but would later be proven to be true.)

1900-1903 Uranus in Sagittarius opposite Pluto in Gemini: Railroad Plutocracy

The first crash on the New York Stock Exchange resulted in the **Panic of 1901**. This was the direct result of the concentration of power in the hands of a few industrialists, which created unwieldy monopolies. J.P. Morgan bought up mines and steel mills in the U.S., creating the first billion dollar deal. Along with other financial moguls, he was also intent on taking control of the Northern Pacific Railway. Because they had cornered the market, they managed to turn the market on its head, ruining thousands of small investors. As a result of this,



Theodore Roosevelt would later ask Congress to limit the power of trusts to monopolize businesses.

Booker T. Washington was the leading figure in the African American community from 1890 to 1915. When Washington's autobiography *Up from Slavery* was published in 1901, it became a bestseller and made a major impact, boosting the cause for **civil rights**. As a result of the popularity of his book, Theodore Roosevelt invited Washington to dinner at the White House¹², which caused a stir among certain Southern politicians, including the governor of Mississippi and a South Carolina senator. Their racial rhetoric prompted extreme hostility and violence. Ironically, Washington had written in his book: *"I learned the lesson that great men cultivate love, and that only little men cherish a spirit of hatred."*¹³

The year 1901 was visited by a number of deadly natural disasters: the Great Fire of 1901 in Florida that ravaged most of Jacksonville, leaving over 10,000 people homeless; a hurricane in Texas that killed 8,000; an earthquake in Guatemala that killed 2,000; and the eruption of Mt. Pelée in Martinique that killed 30,000.

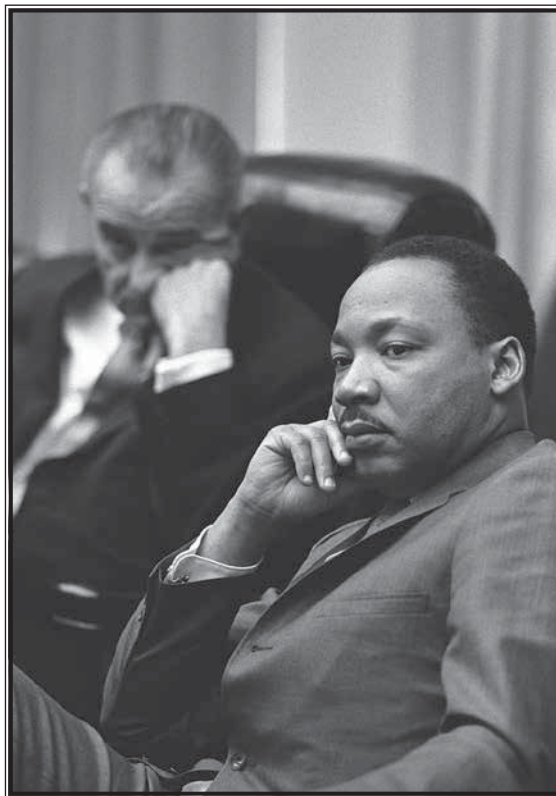
1930-35 Uranus in Aries square Pluto in Cancer: The Great Depression and Nationalism

The onset of the **Great Depression** was brought on due to the collapse of the Stock Market in October of 1929, just prior to the Uranus-Pluto square. This was the largest stock market crash in American history, causing devastating effects worldwide. In response, Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated **The New Deal**, which created a widespread social safety net implemented through a

series of economic programs. As a result of these programs, the Federal Government in the U.S. insured people's deposits in banks, allowing them to regain confidence in the banking system. A public works program was established which employed millions of people. Codes of work outlawed child labor, limited work hours and established a minimum wage. Trade unions were granted the legal right to collectively bargain with employers, and they flourished as workers were allowed to form and join them. Despite much resistance, the Social Security Act was established which set up the first national old age pension.

*"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it."*¹⁴ ~ Joseph Goebbels, Minister of Propaganda of the Third

Reich. Hitler and the Nazi Party were able to rise to power following the failure of the German Banks in 1931. Hijacking the country on a wave of public disenchantment, the Nazis instilled a strong nationalist fervor. Committed to repudiating the Treaty of Versailles, villainizing, murdering and removing Jews and other minorities from Germany, opposing Communism, and expanding Germany's territories, their actions eventually led to the Second World War. Hitler's deceptiveness coupled with the brutal actions of his private army of brown-shirts financed by wealthy industrialists and bankers contributed to the ability of this party to strong-arm and manipulate the elections and take power. It is noteworthy that in exchange for the financial support that Hitler received from these wealthy industrialists, trade unions were abolished on May 2, 1933. This was the beginning of the fascist regime's ability to usurp power by eliminating the opposition, starting with unions, liberals, socialists and communists.¹⁵



Severe dust storms caused major ecological damage to prairies in the U.S. and Canada during the so-called **Dust Bowl** from 1930-36. These were caused by a combination of extreme droughts, as well as poor farming techniques that led to erosion. As a result, there were mass migrations, food shortages, many deaths, and a severe decrease in wages. Fearing that the disaster could recur, the Soil Conservation Service was established in 1935. This would help to improve soil conservation methods throughout the Great Plains.

In March of 1930 **Mohandas Gandhi** led his 240-mile-long **Salt March**¹⁶, which was part of his non-violent Declaration of Indian Independence campaign. This march was a show of resistance against the British-owned salt monopoly in colonial India. The British-imposed Salt Tax not only made it illegal to sell or produce salt, but forced Indians to buy salt they couldn't afford. By symbolically bending down and gathering up a pinch of salt in his fingers, Gandhi was willing to flaunt the law and go to jail for what he perceived to be a much higher, more righteous cause. The Salt March inspired a series of year-long protests that received worldwide publicity and put unprecedented pressure on the British government. This event would later have a very significant influence on Martin Luther King, Jr. and his own non-violent marches and protests during the Uranus-Pluto conjunction of the 1960s.

1964-1967 Uranus conjunct Pluto in Virgo: A Social Revolution

During the Americanization of the **Viet Nam War** and the **Peace Movement** in 1965, U.S. combat troops would be deployed to Viet Nam, their numbers peaking in 1968. A series of atrocities committed by troops, along with the role played by photojournalism, brought the war home to Americans, resulting in public outcry. Beginning with a few dozen loosely organized students on college campuses, discontented with what they perceived to be capitalist and imperialist exploitation at home and abroad, a movement swiftly grew. Huge peace demonstrations soon swept across the nation, putting pressure on the government to end the U.S. involvement in the war.

The **Six Day War**, also known as the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict, resulted in Israel gaining control of the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. Although there continues to be controversy over the events leading up to the war, as well as the U.S. role in this region, the overall ramifications of this war cannot be denied. About 400,000 Palestinians and Syrians were displaced from these areas, changing the complexion of the society, while the political stability of the region continues to be affected up until this day.

In 1963, as the Uranus-Pluto conjunction was approaching, **Martin Luther King, Jr.** gave his inspiring and groundbreaking **"I Have a Dream"** speech¹⁷ on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. This speech prompted the passing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. And it was in 1965, at the peak of the civil rights movement, that King led three historical marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. They were initiated by a movement for voting rights, which began in Selma. The first march, referred to as "Bloody Sunday", took place on March 7th. The marchers were attacked by police with billy clubs and tear gas. The second march happened two days later. It was not until the third march, which took place on March 21st and lasted five days, that they were able to make it all the way to Montgomery, Alabama, 51 miles away. Inspired by Mohandas Gandhi's non-violent movement, Martin Luther King, Jr. stated: *"Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love."*¹⁸ King would be assassinated in April of 1968 when Uranus and Pluto were separating by about 6 degrees.

The **Feminist Movement** gained its greatest momentum during the 1960s, when there was a strong campaign against the

inequality of women. In addition to campaigning for a more equal work place, women began to address certain aspects of their personal lives as also being political in nature and contributing to the inequality of women in society. Betty Friedan's book *The Feminine Mystique* (1963)¹⁹ set the tone for the feminist wave that would follow by questioning why, despite relative prosperity, women were dissatisfied with their status in society. The National Organization for Women's statement of purpose adopted at its first National Conference in 1966 proclaimed: "We... believe that the time has come for a new movement toward true equality for all women in America, and toward a fully equal partnership of the sexes, as part of the world-wide revolution of human rights now taking place within and beyond our national borders."²⁰

The landmark publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* in September, 1962 would become a major catalyst of the environmental movement. In June, 1963 Carson gave testimony before Kennedy's Science Advisory Committee, which submitted a scientific report backing her claims that pesticides were radically impacting the environment. As a result, a number of federal and state laws were enacted governing protection of the environment from pesticide usage.

In January of 1964, Mao Tse-Tung compiled an inspirational booklet entitled, "Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung", more commonly known in the West as *The Little Red Book*. One of the most widely distributed books in history, it became an iconic symbol of the Cultural Revolution in the People's Republic of China.

The 1960s also saw a massive **de-colonization of Africa**. Many African countries gained their independence, including Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, The Gambia, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Swaziland, and Equatorial Guinea.

Assassinations took place in and around this period, including: Medgar Evers of the NAACP and John F. Kennedy in 1963, Malcolm X in 1965, and Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy in 1968.

2011-15 Uranus in Aries square Pluto in Capricorn: The Inverted Power Pyramid

The current Uranus-Pluto square has not even perfected, and yet we already see its shade revisiting us along eerily similar themes. A massive global recession has resulted in food shortages and austerity measures imposed on the poor and working classes of the world. Governments are threatening bankruptcy and collapse. The Arab Spring uprising in the Middle East began in Tunisia and spread to Egypt and Libya, with echoes of unrest in surrounding nations as well. Union busting in the U.S. resulted in massive protests in the state of Wisconsin. The summer of 2011 saw riots in London, and hundreds of thousands of Israelis and Europeans thronging the city squares in protest against these austerity measures.

And as we stand bewildered with what to do about the encroaching effects of climate change and its destructive aftermath, an earthquake and tsunami resulted in an additional ecological and economic crisis with the implosion of Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant.

Inspired by the Arab Spring, and the Wisconsin protests, Occupy Wall Street was born on the wings of discontent with what is perceived to be a small minority controlling an inordinate amount of wealth, social and political power.

Last summer, Thomas L. Friedman wrote in the New York Times: "Surely one of the iconic images of this time is the picture of Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak – for three decades a modern pharaoh – being hauled into court, held in a cage with his two sons and tried for attempting to crush his peaceful demonstrations. Every leader and C.E.O. should reflect on that photo." Friedman then quoted Yaron Ezrahi, an Israeli political theorist as saying: "The power pyramid is being turned upside down." Indeed, an image truly emblematic of our current Uranus in Aries square Pluto in Capricorn era.



On the morning of April 6, 1930, at the conclusion of his 24-day 240 mile Salt March, Gandhi bent down for a pinch of salt as depicted in this photo, and raising his fist in the air declared: "With this, I am shaking the foundations of the British Empire."^[18] He proceeded to boil it in seawater, thereby producing illegal salt. At this crucial turning point, transiting Uranus in Aries was opposing Gandhi's Libra Sun, while transiting Pluto was moving towards conjunction (4° orb) with his natal Uranus near his MC, exactly trine his 1st house Mars/Venus conjunction in Scorpio.

Endnotes

1. Dick Gregory was born October 12, 1932, 5:42 PM (CST), St. Louis, MO. Rodden rating: AA
2. For more info check out "Who we Are": <http://www.nhinet.org/ccs/docs/writs.htm>
3. The Fugitive Slave Act was part of a group of laws referred to as the "Compromise of 1850" which can be viewed here: <http://www.nationalcenter.org/FugitiveSlaveAct.html>
4. "Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman", as narrated by Sarah H. Bradford (North American Slave Narratives) <http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/bradford/bradford.html#bradf20>
5. Excerpt from a letter written to Tubman in 1868 can be found here: <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USASubman.htm>
6. The Communist Manifesto: chapt. II (Proletarians and Communists). Can be read on line: <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/ch02.htm>.
7. For a history and background of the Women's Movement, including a summary of the "Declaration" see: <http://www.legacy98.org/move-hist.html>
8. Clayborne Carson, ed. The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr. (New York: Warner Books, 1998); for more on Thoreau's essay see <http://thoreau.eserver.org/theory.html>
9. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Famine_\(Ireland\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Famine_(Ireland))
10. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russo-Turkish_War_\(1877-1878\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russo-Turkish_War_(1877-1878))
11. <http://www.indigenouspeople.net/crazyhor.htm>
12. For a well-documented account of the dinner and its aftermath see James Stripes' "History Notebook": <http://historynotebook.blogspot.com/2008/11/booker-t-washingtons-white-house-dinner.html>
13. "Up From Slavery", 1901 autobiography by Booker T. Washington; Chapter XI: Making Their Beds Before They Could Lie on Them: http://www.gutenberg.org/catalog/world/readfile?fk_files=2176950&pageno=64
14. The full quote reads: "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State." http://thinkexist.com/quotation/-if_you_tell_a_lie_big_enough_and_keep_repeating/345877.html
15. See this Wiki article for some sources and further reading: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gleichschaltung> as well as: <http://investmentwatchblog.com/1933-hitler-abolishes-unions/>
16. The Salt March transpired over a 24 day period from March 12-April 6, 1930 with the approaching Uranus-Pluto square at 7° orb (Uranus at 10° Aries, Pluto at 17° Cancer).
17. This speech was delivered on August 28, 1963 when transiting Sun was exactly conjunct Uranus, highlighting the upcoming Uranus-Pluto conjunction (at 5 and 11 degrees of Virgo, respectively).
18. From Martin Luther King, Jr.'s acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize on December 10, 1964. The full speech can be seen here: http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1964/king-acceptance.html
19. It should be noted that the publication dates of Silent Spring and The Feminine Mystique occurred outside the 3 degree orb range I used for this article's timeline, but because the popularity of these books grew and peaked during the period of the conjunction, and because they helped to lay the significant groundwork for the modern environmental and feminist movements, I felt they were both noteworthy of inclusion here.



Lauren Howard Coleman

began her study of Astrology at the age of 16. Inspired by a book her mother gave to her, she became a student of Zoltan Mason in his legendary upstairs bookshop on Lexington Avenue in New York City. A mother of three, Lauren initiated a part-time astrological practice in 1993. She has since completed her Level IV certification with NCGR-PAA and is currently developing her astrological consulting practice in NYC. Lauren posts essays regularly on her website astrologybylauren.com, and also on her blog page: astroiyaiya.blogspot.com. There you will find additional essays on the current Uranus-Pluto square ("Mother of Liberation", "Uranus-Pluto ~ the Underbelly Revealed" and "The Libra Equinox and the Revolution").

Martin Luther King, on Thoreau's influence on him:

"During my student days I read Henry David Thoreau's essay On Civil Disobedience for the first time. Here, in this courageous New Englander's refusal to pay his taxes and his choice of jail rather than support a war that would spread slavery's territory into Mexico, I made my first contact with the theory of nonviolent resistance. Fascinated by the idea of refusing to cooperate with an evil system, I was so deeply moved that I reread the work several times."

NAVIGATING BY THE OUTER PLANETS IN THE ASTROLOGICAL CHART

IN PARTICULAR THE URANUS-PLUTO SQUARE

by Darby Costello

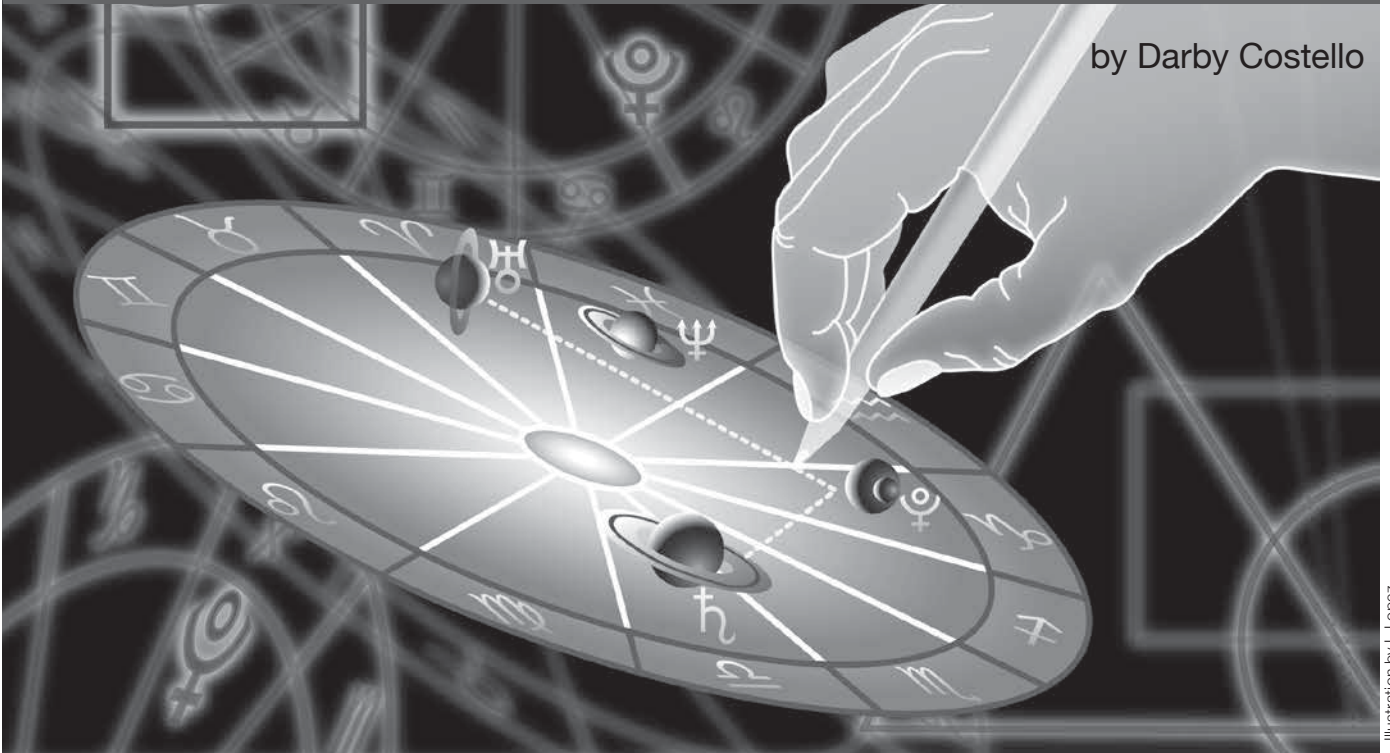


Illustration by L. Lopez

My fascination with the outer planets as mirrors of collective change began when Pluto went into Scorpio in November of 1983. This ingress coincided with a seemingly sudden and rather startling crisis between the US and Russia involving cruise missiles and potential world war. I had just come from South Africa to live in London and within weeks many of my friends wrote, urging me to come back quickly – it was not safe in Europe! Over the next few years, as the AIDS crisis became public and grew in proportion, I became increasingly aware of the dark mirror of Pluto in Scorpio working collectively.

Up to this point Uranus, Neptune and Pluto had simply seemed like triggers in the natal chart describing a dimension beyond the personal. I had read Dane Rudhyar and his thoughts about their connection with world events, but somehow had still not registered them as connected to events that were happening around me. By 1988, I was working at the Centre for Psychological Astrology with Liz Greene and Howard Sasportas and our conversations tended to include these planets in their larger context, mostly because they were part of Liz's thinking. Her book *The Outer Planets & Their Cycles: The Astrology of the Collective* had been published in 1983 (a transcript of a seminar given in 1980),

and her acute insights into how they reflected our sociopolitical world and its changes, our collective perceptions and developments, seeped into my thinking.

During the Saturn-Uranus-Neptune conjunction in Capricorn in 1989, Jim Lewis came to London and spoke about the previous three conjunctions of these planets (in 1307, 625, and 56 B.C.E.). As an amateur historian, I was fascinated by the parallels he drew between these periods, describing how each correlated with huge changes in our current collective development. This was the final catalyst – I was hooked and began my own research. Conversations with others apart from Liz and Howard, and less frequently but significantly with Rick Tarnas and Rob Hand during the next few years, deepened my fascination with the patterns of cycles. By the time Pluto went into Sagittarius in 1994, this outer-planet tracking was part of my life as an astrologer.

By then, many astrologers were becoming increasingly articulate about Uranus, Neptune and Pluto and their relationship with the intellectual, spiritual, social, political and material developments in our collective humanity. The Arabs had used the Jupiter-Saturn cycle in a similar way centuries ago, but now we were a global

world community and new dimensions of perceptions were continuously opening up through our ever-advancing technologies. We became aware, through Uranus, how ideas and technologies change the world. We became sensitive, through Neptune, that our yearnings were not just personal, and how they could be manipulated, as well as how powerful collective beliefs can be. And we became aware, through Pluto, of our capacity for destruction on a scale previously unimaginable – and our capacity for regeneration too.

PRESENT TIMES:

Those of us with a consultation practice at the heart of our astrological lives and who use the outer planets as collective mirrors, navigate our lives within the changes that we see and experience in the increasingly larger communities we inhabit. As we watch these planets inch their way through our charts, we are not only observers of the changing patterns, but also participants in the events and changes they describe. We are deeply involved. Living in London, my clients come from most walks of life and cultures. They bring news of the world more directly than our sensation-hungry media, which leaps from disaster to disaster, keeping our anxiety levels up and running. As a consulting astrologer, it is part of my work to help those I serve navigate the waves of energy represented by outer planet transits. It is not my work to predict events – but to navigate by the stars.

In 2008 Pluto went into Capricorn and in early 2011 Uranus went into Aries. For more than a year now, this ongoing square of Uranus in Aries and Pluto in Capricorn has gripped our attention. We first became aware of its energy through the t-square with Saturn in Libra in the summer of 2011.¹ Between June of this year and March of 2015, we shall have experienced seven exact squares of these two planets:²

24 June 2012	8° Capricorn/Aries
19 September 2012	7° Capricorn/Aries
20 May 2013	11° Capricorn/Aries
1 November 2013	9° Capricorn/Aries
21 April 2014	13° Capricorn/Aries
15 December 2014	12° Capricorn/Aries
16-17 March 2015	15° Capricorn/Aries

Since early 2009, I have noticed that the sign and position of transiting Saturn is as essential in understanding how to work with Pluto in Capricorn, as is the house position of that weighty placement. And since the spring of 2011, it has become clear that our ability to handle our own Mars energy is crucial to dealing with Uranus in Aries and its aspects. But before exploring these facets of the Uranus-Pluto square, I would like to consider what seems to me the background against which these ongoing squares will take place: the sextile between Pluto in Capricorn and Neptune in Pisces.

PLUTO IN CAPRICORN

During times of Pluto in Capricorn, we might expect the destruction and reformation of the way we interact with and react to the structures of the world that hold us together. We may consider Capricorn to represent everything that is ‘the world’. By this, we mean the structures of the systems that anchor us in place: the inherited, formalized systems that contain us. It seems that whenever a group of people are joined together for a period of time, nature seems to dictate that they become an entity in themselves, with boundary markers and hierarchies of some kind, whether implicit or explicit. When Pluto goes into Capricorn, all such containing systems, with their customs, laws and hierarchies, are threatened with death. They respond by collapsing completely and/or reforming, reshaping themselves in relation to other systems they interact with. Every collapse or transformation of a system has an effect on those around it.

A year or so before Pluto left Sagittarius and entered Capricorn in 2008, I began investigating earlier ingresses, dating as far back as the 8th century B.C.E. when an extraordinary man named Numa had become the first human king of Rome (the previous king, Romulus, was partly divine). Numa brought peace to the warring factions in the area during his reign of 43 years (Pluto was in Capricorn 694 – 675 B.C.E; Numa died in 673), and instituted ‘customs’ that became the basis of the underlying principles of our Western civilization.

Every 248 years or so after that, Pluto in Capricorn signaled periods of reformation of governing hierarchies – some more dramatic than others.³ Pluto in Sagittarius reflected periods of intense and often apparent destructive expansion (to those who were being expanded into), both physically and intellectually. Subsequently, the Capricorn time ushered in a reshaping of the governing systems, providing new containers for that which had opened up. Outworn systems and traditions were gravely challenged, ultimately being eliminated or reformed.

We are witnessing a version of that recurring cycle today. But this time, it is global. The Sagittarius expansions have been mainly technologically fueled and we are now all webbed up across the globe. The large systems that ‘contain’ us – for example, the corporations and banks – have spread across the earth. While Pluto was in Sagittarius, the so-called multinationals – with their pervasive belief in secular power and the visible material world – expanded beyond measure. Since 2008, banks and financial systems have been crashing. And of course, this brings into our awareness the dark work of Pluto’s domain as the governments that contain (or are contained by) the powerful financial systems fight for their lives.

PREVIOUS TIMES:

During the last 3000 years, Pluto was in Capricorn twelve times. During six of those times, Neptune was in Pisces dur-

PLUTO IN CAPRICORN with NEPTUNE IN PISCES		
939–918 B.C.E.	⇒	937–923 B.C.E.
449–429 B.C.E.	⇒	444–431 B.C.E.
42–61	⇒	47–61
532–551	⇒	538–552
1024–1041	⇒	1029–1043
1516–1532	⇒	1520–1534
2008–2024	⇒	2011–2026

ing much of the transit. As we know, we are in one of those times now. Pluto went into Capricorn in 2008, but from this year, 2012, it will be accompanied by Neptune in Pisces for the next decade and more. Thinking about this duo, we might expect to see that while the systems that contain us are disintegrating, new dreams and visions emerge through the cracks. As the social structures that contain us transform or die, that which we are losing becomes something for which we long. In our lost moments, we feel the need for something that will redeem our losses; something misplaced, neglected, might seep into our collective and individual souls, creating dreams, new visions.

While looking at the previous periods where this sextile occurred in Capricorn and Pisces, I began noticing that they weren't only about a Neptunian longing for what had been lost. Something else – something very subtle and hardly noticeable at the time – came into being during the Neptune in Pisces times; something that only later would be understood to have had enormous impact and consequence. For example:

- During the sextile in the 5th century B.C.E., there was a period of intense creativity in the Western world through the pre-Socratic philosophers who opened up a new dimension in our perceptions of the universe. Empedocles conceived of the universe as fashioned out of Fire, Earth, Air and Water, blended and separated in various measures by Love (φιλία [*philia*]) and Strife (νεῖκος [*neikos*]). The gods were part of, but not central to this vision.
- During the first century C.E. sextile, large cracks in the Roman Empire coincided with the new vision that eventually evolved into Christianity. During the Council of Jerusalem in around 50 C.E. Paul of Tarsus insisted on bringing non-Jews into the burgeoning movement set off by Jesus Christ and his death.⁴
- During the 16th century sextile, Copernicus' heliocentric theory began to seep into the collective mind, undermining the commonly held Earth-centered cosmos. The Reformation slipped into every corner of the Christian world, while the absolute hierarchical power of the Church became undermined by Henry VIII's increasing secular power.

PRESENT TIMES:

Since the 2008 ingress of Pluto into Capricorn, we find ourselves in the midst of the destruction and reformation of the way we interact with, and react to, the systems and structures of the worlds we inhabit. This time the overriding systems that enclose us seem to be the big corporations and banks, and the governments that contain or are contained by them. We continuously witness these systems undergoing threats and power struggles, fighting to survive. And through our involvement with the activities of these systems, we are all implicated in the degradation of our social communities and the natural world, as well as the potential ruin of the ecosystems that sustain our very lives.

As these structures and systems are pressured into changing their form, as the very world seems on the point of collapse, Neptune in Pisces washes through us with new visions, images and dreams that are already seeping through the cracks in the old structures. We have had three years of watching Pluto in Capricorn direct us to systems everywhere being pulled down into the underworld, where they will either transform or die. We have had a touch of Neptune at the threshold of Pisces. Now, as it makes its way through this sign of its own modern rulership, we can notice new visions emerging, though we may not know how they will inform the future. Even our general belief in science as the arbitrator of what is ultimately true and false in our world is up for re-vision. If we keep our awareness open, we may intuit traces of nascent possibilities. This is the backdrop on which the Uranus-Pluto square plays out.

URANUS in ARIES – ATTENTION on MARS

Rebellion in the Blood

When Uranus went into Aries in early 2011, revolutions, rebellions and uprisings flared up around the world. It struck me then that if people were coming together inflamed with a 'new' courage, and taking to the streets for it, it must be that it was the Mars energy in each of those human beings that had suddenly been ignited.⁵

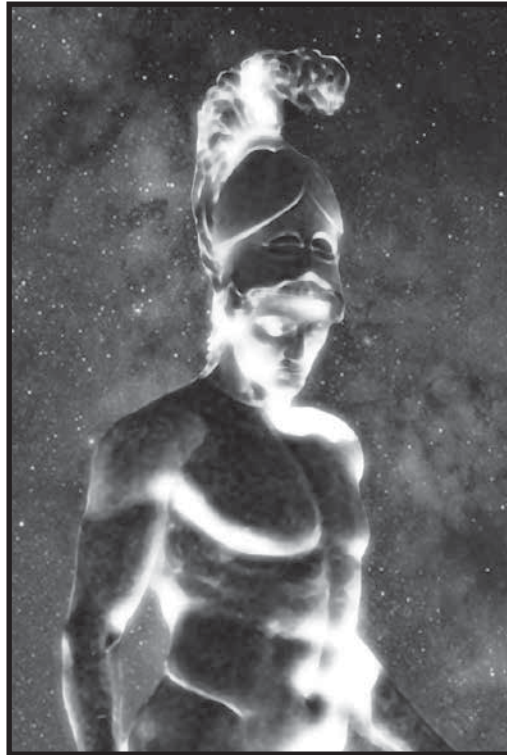
Compared to some of the other planets, Mars seems quite a simple energy. He is our warrior – the one who is there to defend and protect our kingdom. Either he does this crudely without conscience, or he does it with some sort of code of conduct and awareness of consequences. Mars describes our survival instinct, and it acts either crudely or within a value system, depending on which part of ourselves is in charge.

With Uranus in Aries, and squared to Pluto, the Mars energy is activated in every one of us. If our Mars energy is weak – expressing itself in depressive passivity, or outrage and anger at every obstacle we encounter – then we are prone to being swept up in collective rebellions without any consciousness of the consequences to others or ourselves. Passivity, outrage and anger may be appropriate some of the time, but navigating these states with

deliberate attention is obviously more effective and satisfying in the long run. While Uranus is in Aries, we can easily be swept away by collective forces as it is harder to stay conscious of our individual martial reactions (according to Mars' sign and position).

Let me give some background to this way of thinking. To the early Greeks, the god Ares was hardly anything but a bloodthirsty killing machine with a love of slaughter and an air of menace in his lighter moments. He was necessary, but hated. Interestingly, it was the Greeks who introduced another potential to his nature: the word *aretê* was used to denote the essence of something, its essential virtue, its excellence. More than that, it was its 'fitness' – so that the *aretê* of a horse was to run fast; the *aretê* of a bird to sing; the *aretê* of a man to use his reason. *Aretê* was translated into *virtue* by the Romans with *vir* as the word for 'man'. But man was not any old male person – it was a term of dignity. A man was one who used his reason and therefore had virtue. It is the sense of being the best of what one can be. The word 'aristocrat' was connected to *aretê* by the ancient Greeks, though we no longer necessarily think of virtue when we think of people who have long ancestries! But we still do recognize the early meaning: we feel a pull to be our best when in the presence of certain people who have an air about them, an air of excellence in their character.⁶

Carl Jung spoke of *Ares* as the 'principle of individuation', and by *Ares*, he meant Mars: "Astrologically Mars characterises the instinctual and affective nature of man. The subjugation and transformation of this nature seems to be the theme of the alchemical opus."⁷ The alchemical work, the development of consciousness we might say, is partly about subduing and transforming the raw survival instinct into something that is fine and true. As our inner warrior, Mars' role is to defend and protect our kingdom. He can do this crudely, without consciousness, or he can do this with reason and good judgment. In ancient Greece and Rome, the discussion of whether one was born with *aretê*, or whether it was something that could be cultivated, was a discussion that went on for centuries. Homer thought it was inborn (in the *Iliad*, Ajax didn't have it, Hector did. Achilles seemed to lose it for a time, but got it back in the end). Some hundred years later, Hesiod thought it could be cultivated. After that, Socrates thought it was inborn. A bit later Aristotle thought of it as something *to be* cultivated – it was the middle point, the golden mean, between two opposite instincts, such as 'ambition' (a good thing) being the midway between sloth and greed, or 'modesty' being the midpoint between self-abasement and arrogance, or 'courage' being between cowardice and rashness. I don't know if Aristotle thought it was



something that could be attained by anyone – probably not. In the 13th century, St. Thomas Aquinas drew on Aristotle to begin with. For him *aretê* was certainly something that could be cultivated – at least in principle. He attached this notion of being excellent, or cultivating one's moral potential, to the reach for God. He said the golden mean could only be achieved with maturity; it was a quality of right action of the rational soul, and the direct ancestor of the concept of virtue. And this is an ancestor of what we call "free will."⁸

Today we tend to believe that nearly everyone has the ability to act with free will. In traditional societies, there were (still are) initiation schools for boys that foster courage and right action. Without good warriors, a tribe was in trouble. Losing their hunger for excellence in defending and protecting their own, they were taken over by invading

hoards. Many people believe we are in danger of that today, though manifesting differently from the way it did in ancient cultures or in contemporary traditional cultures. During Uranus' passage through Aries, we must stay awake to our raw, impulsive reactions whenever we feel threatened. Forfeiting the power to navigate this dynamic energy means losing touch with our individuality and free will.

IN THE KINGDOM OF THE SELF

Each person is a kingdom unto themselves, with hierarchies of priorities and values, private and public spaces, imaginal, practical, intellectual and emotional dimensions. And yet we all live in wider kingdoms – communities with their hierarchies and priorities, and all the interconnected dimensions. Let us now look at how we might proceed with bringing the collective mirror into the personal realm – how to weave together the microcosm and macrocosm.

PLUTO in CAPRICORN – ATTENDING to SATURN

When Pluto goes through a house, we expect the things that are contained by that house to be destroyed in their old version, broken down, rendered into dust; and then we look for something to be born out of that dust, out of the nutrients left in that dust. With Pluto moving through Capricorn, we look to the house where Capricorn has influence – the house where it is transiting – and watch for the demise of ways we interact with the world through the matters intrinsically related to that house.

Capricorn informs us where we are influenced by the hierarchies and order of our society. As Saturn⁹ is ruler of Capricorn, its natal sign and placement reveals what qualities will be required, and where we will be sensitive to the humiliations as well as rewards of our endeavors. It tells us the kind of work we must do on ourselves to keep our world in order. Too much attention to our Saturn enslaves us to its demands, while too little attention subjects us to being humiliated in its place and sign. That, in turn, affects our feeling of security in the world. We look to transiting Saturn to see where our attention is being directed, usually through discomfort, but not always. By 'listening' to what transiting Saturn is demanding, we stay attuned to what is now required of us to keep in shape, so to speak. We cannot do much about the remote and collective energy of Pluto in Capricorn, but we can pay more attention to and navigate with its ruler Saturn.

When Pluto entered Capricorn, Saturn was in Virgo. My clients were constantly speaking about their need to simplify, to 'clear out the clutter'. So I began to look at habits that needed to be cleared out or turned into rituals, noticing the clutter in the psyche. I thought that if we looked at our habits that could not be turned into ritual, then they were unhealthy habits. This Saturn transit seemed to be indicating a way to begin acclimatizing to the new and demanding Pluto in Capricorn world.

When Saturn went into Libra, attention naturally turned to how people negotiated relationships with others, and their relationship with their own stated values. This became the work that would keep us attuned to the changing shape of our collective structures. Attention to Plato's notion of 'the good, the true and the beautiful' has been my way of saying it. At its most basic, it is about reworking relationships that are not in right proportion. At its best, this is the time for the work of love. Doing this work brings our Venusian nature into the foreground – and our capacity to draw beauty gets refined.

Saturn in Libra is a time to learn to dance in our relationships. Each requires a different way of engagement. The work of this placement demands that we recognize where relationships work and where they don't; to re-negotiate those that don't and to cherish those that do. With Pluto in Capricorn, we are called to develop a certain grace in this, both for ourselves and for the communities we inhabit. This is a way to keep ourselves well for the demands of our newly re-organizing, harsher world. Then when Saturn moves into Scorpio at the end of the year, the work will go deeper, into the realms of our personal commitments and core values. The point is to keep paying attention to Saturn, paying homage to its demands as it moves through the chart.

PLUTO IN CAPRICORN and URANUS IN ARIES

Pulling it together, we look to the house where the collective is reshaping our lives – the house where Pluto is transiting. We look to where transiting Saturn is for the work that is demanded of us (and we try to do it willingly). We see where our instinct for rebellion and for freedom from old patterns lights up – the house, or houses, transited by Uranus. And we keep a careful eye on Mars each time we are faced with obstacles to our freedom or to opening up something new.

When doing a chart I watch for the wild energy that comes in sporadically to challenge the Capricorn Pluto connection to the world. I am continually made aware of how easy it is to be a fundamentalist in our attachment to our own version of how the world *should* be working. Each time this judgment gets too strong, the Uranian rebellion is activated. I see it in the world, and I see it in myself. We are still at the beginning of reshaping our globally

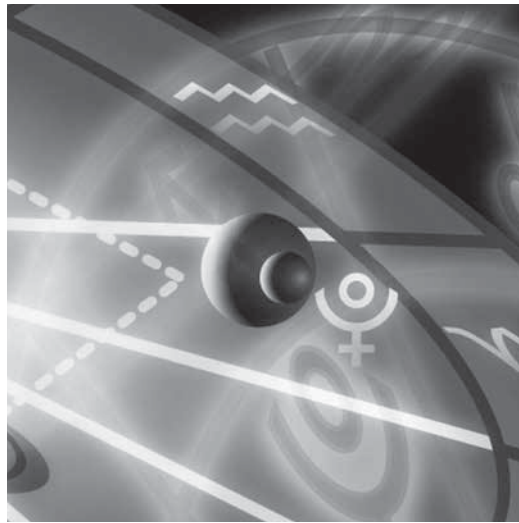
interwoven world, each community with its particular traditions and needs, and every attempt at creating security will have its disruption until we finally find structures that hold us together and apart, in vaguely working alliances. We are each cells within organs within the body of humanity, in the world within the cosmos. We each have our piece of the work and the disruption of it. And the Uranus-Pluto square shows us where that is.

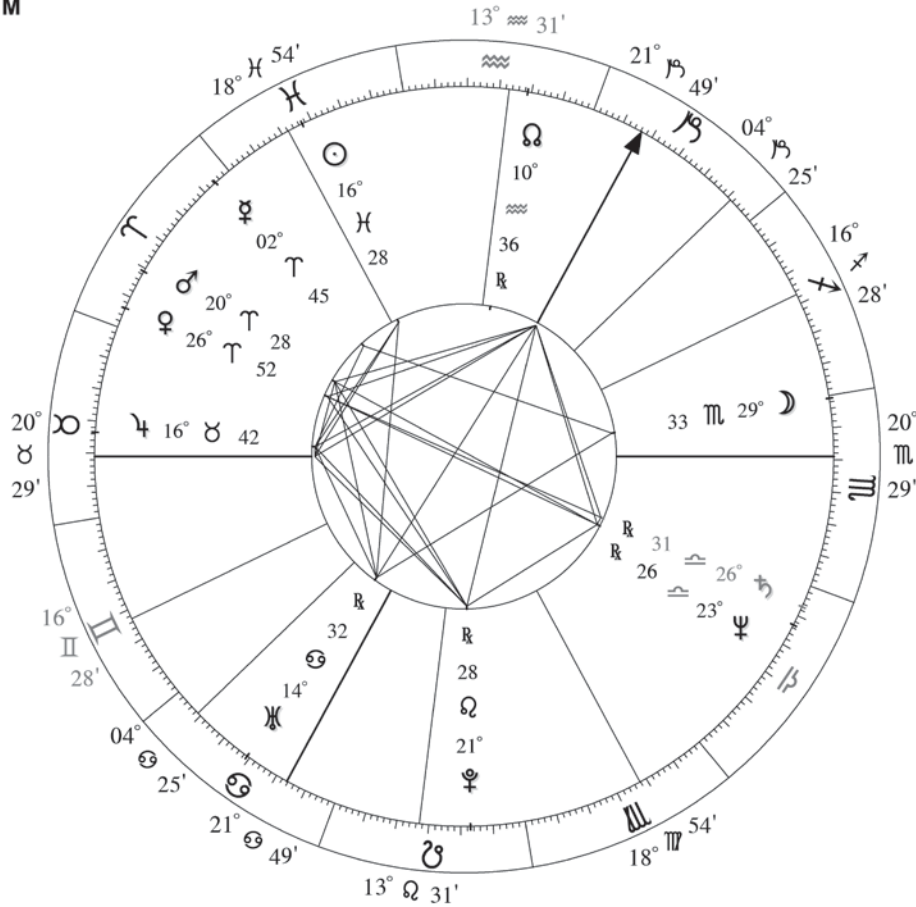
Recently I had two clients with natal Moon at 2 degrees of Aries. They were both born in the early 1980s, and both had other planets in early cardinal signs as well. In their cases, I began with Uranus,

giving words to how they might be feeling, and in which area of their lives. Later I spoke about Pluto in Capricorn and the connection to the breaking and forming of structures. Both were passionately engaged in movements that were aiming to bring new awareness to the conventional world. Both were overwhelmed with exhaustion, unable to rest. I was able to describe their current circumstances, pressure and work through looking at these planets, but I offered little advice. My admiration was great for both of these young people and my advice simple: remember to breathe and remember to dance. They both knew what I meant and said they were doing different versions of just that.

CHART OF M:

This is the chart of a woman I will call M, who is a professor at two universities. She took her first degree in physics and then trained as an organizational development consultant. She later got a Ph.D. that investigated organizational development through the lens of chaos and complexity theory. She now works





with groups as widely diverse as governmental departments, the boards of big businesses and small theatre groups. She describes herself as “working with professional communities to help them develop, using processes of group enquiry informed by complexity thinking.” She gets people to ask questions of themselves and each other that move their collective perceptions into new territory.

The Uranus-Pluto square has been very active in her life, as you can see from her chart. Within a month of Pluto entering Capricorn in November 2008, it was squaring her 11th house Mercury from the 8th house. Her work with organizations intensified and there was a shift from contracts with mainly English companies to working more with international groups and organizations. (Capricorn rules her 9th house, though it begins in the 8th and her progressed Moon went into Capricorn there in January 2010!) Since Pluto entered her 9th house, and Uranus went into Aries and conjoined her Mercury, her work style is changing due to the changing needs of the communities in which she works. It is exciting but the constant travel is demanding. In England at a college far from her home, she trains people in attention to new ways of enquiry and communication within communities, large and small. All of this befits Pluto in Capricorn work as it impacts her natal Mercury.

Through this time, her personal communities and friendships have shifted and rearranged themselves. She is often on Skype

with people all over the world sharing insights into reshaping international community discourse. Of course, the Pisces Sun and Taurus rising take more pleasure in live human encounters, but the 11th house Mercury in Aries can do discourse through the techno windows, and under these transits (especially as Uranus conjoins her Mercury), she works as experimentally as she can in this medium.

While the Uranus-Pluto square has been interesting in terms of her work, privately it has been extremely complex. Mercury is ruled by Mars, which is conjunct Venus in the 12th – both in Aries – in a particularly complex t-square.¹⁰ Her private life, her love life, has transformed completely. Shortly after Pluto went into Capricorn (in her 8th house), her beloved father died. He had been ill for some years. A powerful love relationship intensified, but as they were often apart, much of it was conducted by phone, Skype and email. With Saturn in Virgo, she began to focus on a rigorous practice of attention to detail in developing a daily ritual of creative endeavour in both love and work¹¹. She was shocked into discovering a need to be

particularly attentive to the communication with her lover, but through her attentiveness, she subsequently developed a precision in her creative work with groups. She also began writing poetry. Though she suffered the self-criticism and feeling of being blocked during Saturn’s passage through Virgo opposite her Sun, she concentrated on developing rituals – she said ‘presence’ – in all her creative work.

Pluto was squaring her Mercury from the end of 2008 until nearly the end of 2010 (with Saturn going into Libra and opposing it too), and the ritual of ‘presence’ saved her, to some extent, from the damage of intense obsession that such an aspect can bring. She *was* obsessed, but was also paying attention, being careful and critical of her own behavior, communication, and her reactions. Her love affair burned into an intensity, and then as Uranus entered Aries last year and conjoined her Mercury, her relationship took a sudden turn and changed gear. By the second conjunction of Uranus on Mercury (with Pluto just past the square), it had broken apart. She felt as if ground to dust during the 18-month process. Perhaps because of her care and attention to navigating by Saturn, and her attention to her naturally leaping Mars, her love affair then transformed itself into a deep, but melancholy friendship.

When Saturn entered Libra, it began its slow tread to M’s Saturn Return. Love has always been central to her life, but now it was *the work of love* that became central. With the ingress of Uranus

into Aries in early 2011, her complicated relationship had burst to the fore and with the conjunction to her Mercury, she broke into a new dimension of thinking, in her work as well as in her personal relationships. She suffered the burning demand to let go and to negotiate each encounter with clarity and wisdom, revealing parts of herself she had previously kept hidden. She longs to be free of the old fear pattern of fight or flight, but it takes so much courage to face a new freedom with its sense of emptiness (albeit temporary). It feels so powerful, partly because it is her Saturn Return time, but also because her Venus has just gone direct after 40 years of retrogradation. With her chart's t-square and 7th house Scorpio Moon, her love life has never been simple or bland. With the long transit from Neptune in Aquarius square her Moon (and in the wake of transiting Uranus' trine to her Moon), there has been a new spiritual dimension to this time of emotional trial and a sense of surrender, alternating with her natural instinct to fight for what she believes in. Her inner world is expanding, but she feels the cost of it

Because she is a person who feels able to take responsibility for her life, she is working to stay present within the complexity of her relationships – present to herself, as well as to others. There are many complex negotiations to be made with property, houses, work arrangements and family disruptions. She is devoted to a practice of attention to the present, not hiding from painful feelings, as Pluto reforms the structural nature of her 9th house. I ask her, 'what are you serving?' (6th house Saturn/Neptune opposite Venus/Mars in Aries), and she listens to herself and waits to hear what her soul might say. She is aware that her work, her teaching, is informed by the complex layers of action and reaction in her private life. She has explored the psychological dimensions of these aspects over the last 30 years and is now living their complexity. Throughout the Pluto in Capricorn, Neptune in Pisces sextile, she will be living a microcosm of the reshaping macrocosm, tending the reforming structures within and without, watching as they rise and fall from internal and external moments of reversal and flashes of insight, listening for the emerging stories that will signal new vision.

CONCLUSION

Most of the people who come to me are engaged with the reformation of their personal worlds within their various communities, and that is true for my friends as well as for myself. Powerful changes in our relationship lives, disappointment and disillusionment, awakening insights and emerging visions and dreams are all part of this. As I said earlier, I do not see it as my work to predict events, either personal or collective. My work is to assist people to navigate by the stars: to look at their charts – progressions and transits – to see how 'the weather' is looking. Together we explore possible ways through which they might work with the energies, as challenging and disruptive as they

Each person is a kingdom unto themselves, with hierarchies of priorities and values, private and public spaces, imaginal, practical, intellectual and emotional dimensions. And yet we all live in wider kingdoms - communities with their hierarchies and priorities, and all the interconnected dimensions.

may be. These years, with these aspects, seem to demand a heightened attention to our own needs and desires, but within and considering our communities, which are within larger communities, all struggling to survive. We are in the midst of reshaping our worlds, and as things fall apart, so new dimensions are emerging into our consciousness by which we might be guided. We must be willing to question our assumptions about reality. The Uranus-Pluto square is part of this. Each time we think we may have 'got it', something comes along to jar us, awaken us, and disrupt our desire to sink into safety or security. After the last exact square in March of 2015, we might find we have new ways of understanding, and thus

experiencing reality – that the ground of our being has shifted and we are working from a more secure base within the larger, still transforming world.

Let us be on the side of deep change and disruptive awakenings. Those of us who are willing to engage with the world as it is, within and without, are probably in a better position to endure the difficulties and continue to find and create beauty and joy from within it. No matter what we think we know, it is ever a mystery. And even if we astrologers are often good at helping others navigate the tides of change, we are still mostly doing it in the dark. And yet, the stars appear only in the dark, and for those who look, there is much beauty to be found in the dark as it constantly alternates with the light.

Endnotes

1. With this t-square, we were all taken back to the early 1930s with its transit of Pluto in Cancer opposite Saturn in Capricorn and both square Uranus in Aries. The news media has since joined us in that memory with so many references to that harsh period.
2. This phenomenon pulls our attention back to the mid-60s, and the conjunction of those two planets in Virgo during that powerful time of awakening. The current square reflects the strengths and weaknesses of the system and ideas that were brought forth during that period.
3. See Rick Tarnas' books *The Passion of the Western Mind* and *Cosmos and Psyche*. A short-hand of the cycle is provided on my website: www.darbycostello.co.uk (click on Other).
4. We don't have Christ's birth data but it does seem he was born with Neptune in Scorpio and Pluto in Virgo. His followers then spread his message during Pluto in Sagittarius and Neptune in Capricorn. And then with Pluto in Capricorn and Neptune in Pisces his words took a shape that seeped in and slowly took over a lot of the world.
5. The year 1848 is a particularly good example of the Uranus in Aries transit (famously conjunct Pluto in Aries), with its sudden

and rolling revolutions, *and* it is the only time in thousands of years when Neptune was simultaneously in Pisces. Most of the 1848 revolutions were considered 'failures.' However, those revolutions and the significant characters of that time - in particular, Karl Marx with the publication of his *Communist Manifesto* that year - did light a spark. This spark then fired an idea that grew into our collective imagination and pushed our modern notion of human beings as both communal organisms and individuals to the next stage of development.

6. I have heard many times that this is true of the Dalai Lama. With most people, pretensions and postures fall away in his presence.
7. C.G. Jung, *Collected Works*, Vol. 13, *Alchemical Studies*, Routledge, 1976. p 140-142.
8. There is a branch of philosophy called Aretology, which is a field of study concerning ethics and the moral good – you could say the study of virtue. Current evidence holds that the actual notion of 'free will' did not emerge until the first century C.E. with the Stoic Epictetus, who, coincidentally, was born in 55 C.E. – when Pluto was in Capricorn and Neptune in Pisces.
9. Saturn is often associated with the father, because traditionally, Father was the one that brought the world into our awareness. He went out into the world and then came home with the traces of it on his shoulders. Today that is not the case – in many homes it is the mother who goes out into the world, and brings security to the home through her abilities to engage with it 'out there'. So let us remove gender from Capricorn for the moment, and say it is where we are touched by the hierarchies and order of our society. And where we need to earn respect from the hierarchies we are brought up to recognize.
10. You can just bring in that Uranus in Cancer in the 3rd to square Mars, and I do, as I hear her so often say, "I suddenly jumped up and took action; there was barely a breath between my feeling and my action."

11. With the long present transit of Mars in Virgo, we noticed a return to the memory of the Saturn in Virgo attention to rigor and ritual. The excellence of Mars in Virgo is its fight for a fine discrimination and its work for a precision in crafting action according to the house it tenants; its weakness, an endless complaint.



Darby Costello

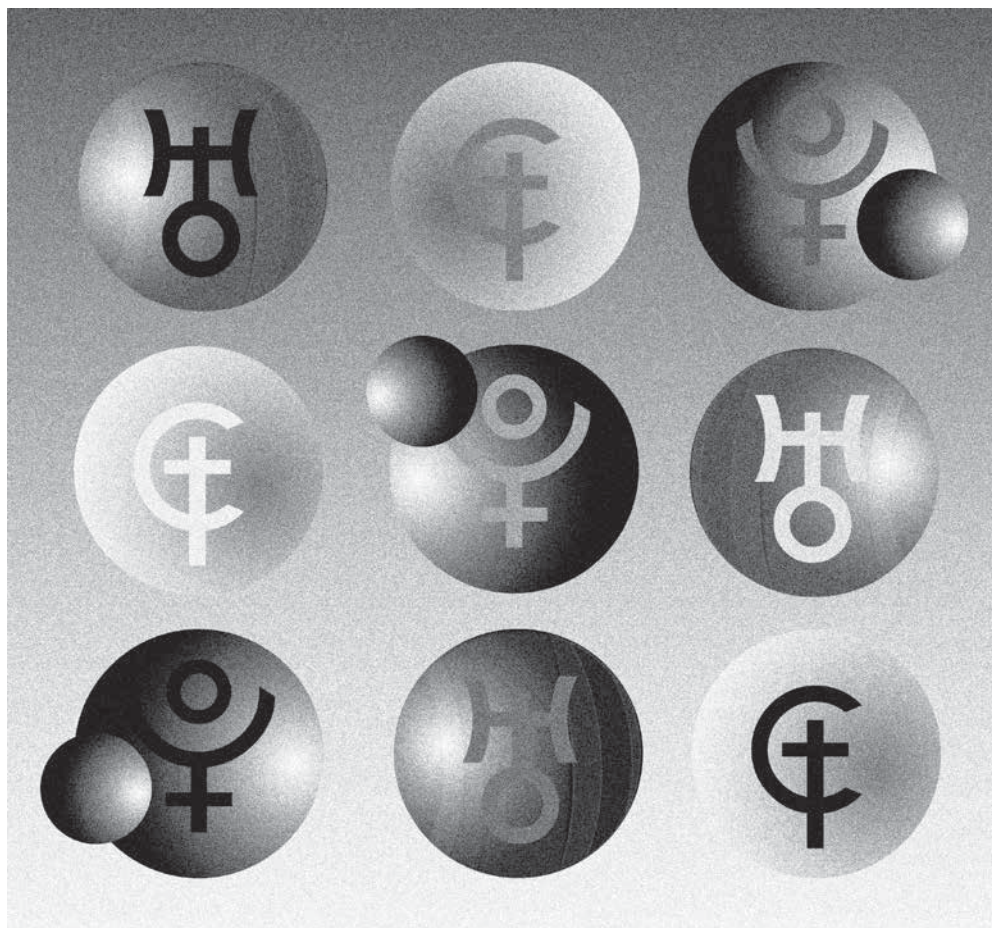
has been an astrologer for more than half her life. She was born in America and studied psychology, philosophy and theology in New York, and astrology in Boston in the 1960s. She then went to Africa and worked in a small museum preserving the practices of tribal healers and diviners, while building her astrological practice. Based in London since the early 1980s, she teaches for the Centre for Psychological Astrology, as well as other schools in London and Europe, and lectures around the world. She is author of several CPA books including *The Astrological Moon*, *Water and Fire*, *Earth and Air*, and co-author of *The Mars Quartet*. Darby received her M.A. in 'Cultural Astronomy and Astrology' in 2006. She loves her work and has recently begun offering workshops and seminars for select groups of non-astrologers who are interested in looking at planetary cycles for insight into navigating the times in which we are living. Darby's website is www.darbycostello.co.uk

"Today, as mankind is at long last compelled by its own inventions and its abstract intellectual development to think in terms of its global destiny and its all-human unity, this sense of participation in our entire planet's evolution — and indeed of responsibility for what we now can do, for better or for worse, to this evolution — must be developed by all significant human beings. . . . The knowledge of these cycles can situate our present historical situation — helping us therefore both to understand in a deeper, somewhat "archetypal" sense the meaning and importance of the great turning points of mankind's past, and to orient ourselves toward more or less imminent and inevitable changes. As, I repeat, it has always been extremely difficult for most people (especially for privileged classes or groups in society) to accept the inevitability of such periodical upheavals, the knowledge that they are indeed structurally inevitable (as much as puberty is inevitable in the child's process of growth) and that the time is at hand may help many confused and frightened persons to willingly accept the revolutionary changes.

If such a knowing acceptance based on a conscious realization of the direction, meaning and value of the change is sufficiently spread through large enough sections of the population of the world, it is indeed possible that the inevitable transformation will be much smoother and less marked by wholesale violence and catastrophic events."

Dane Rudhyar, ASTROLOGICAL TIMING: *The Transition to the New Age*

Editor's Note: Originally written and published as "Birth Patterns for a New Humanity" in 1968, this seminal work was the harbinger of Rudhyar's humanistic astrology revolution which he formally launched in February 1969. During this period of revisioning and transforming the field of astrology—and being transformed himself through new social contacts and counter-cultural influences in California—Uranus and Pluto were transiting Rudhyar's 9th house: Uranus opposing his Aries Sun, Pluto quincunx his Aquarius Moon.



CYCLES OF URANUS, PLUTO, AND HADES

By Joyce Levine

"History never exactly repeats itself, but rather it rhymes" - Mark Twain

Current Cycles – the Conditions

As we watch what's going on in the world and try to make sense of it, we look to planetary cycles. The transits of the outer planets show us how social, political, and economic trends are likely to both recur and change over the years. We predict what's likely to happen during particular planetary cycles by understanding the meanings of the planets in the signs and the aspects among them. A look back at history shows us what happened in the past during particular planetary configurations. We recognize that the socio-economic conditions of the current times will be different from those of the past and that the entire previous planetary picture cannot be repeated.

The Chinese saying "May you live in interesting times" applies to the current planetary cycles. From 2012 through 2015, transiting Uranus in Aries will form seven exact squares to transiting Pluto in Capricorn. This follows, and coincides with, transiting Uranus forming five exact squares to the transiting TransNeptunian planet Hades in Cancer during 2010 and 2011.

To understand the implications of these planetary configurations, let's look at each of them individually, examine what has happened in the past during these cycles, and then examine the likely present repercussions of these aspects cumulatively.

Uranus is the planet that represents individuality, truth, and

rebellion. Its positive urgings help to break through barriers (likely to be Saturn's creations). In a societal context, these urgings challenge the social structure and ideally help to create new realities that are more just than those they destroy. Its negative urgings incite freedom at the expense of responsibility. It can bring forth radical behavior and cold detachment. The aftermath of revolutions such as Stalin's purges in Russia represents Uranus gone amuck.

By nature, Uranus fits well in Aries. An individualistic sign, Aries is associated with a "me first" attitude in what's not always a complimentary way. But that can also mean being the first to take up what might be unpopular positions, to have the courage to veer from the crowd, to follow a personal sense of right and wrong regardless of potential consequences. Aries is sign of the warrior, the bravery of the individual soldier who despite peril is willing to be the first soldier over the hill. With Uranus here, the trend is for people to want the freedom to direct the course of their lives. Pioneering ideas flourish. Previously held definitions of the way things are supposed to be would, at a minimum, be questioned. Uranus has an 84-year cycle and remains in a sign for 7 years. It entered Aries in May 2010.

Pluto in mythology was the god of the underworld. It represents hidden power, the force of will, and focused attention. Its positive urgings are to understand through depth of insight and to seek wisdom and transformation. Its negative expression represents the destructive side of power and control, including death and annihilation. Atomic energy, discovered at the same time as Pluto, provides a perfect metaphor: it can provide heat and warmth or it can utterly destroy the earth. Pluto represents the cycles of nature: birth, growth, decay, and death, and ultimately, rebirth or transformation. It also symbolizes our personal underworld – that which is hidden from our individual consciousness – as well as the underworld of society at large. During its trek through each sign, the dark sides of that sign surface so that they can be transformed.

Capricorn is the sign associated with hard work, duty, responsibility, conservatism and tradition. It represents doing what is correct, as defined by the past rather than the future. It signifies the status quo, government, and big business. Pluto, as the ruler of Scorpio and the eighth house, has to do with banks and other people's money. It takes 248 years to travel around the Zodiac and, due to its erratic orbit, spends an unequal amount of time in each sign. Pluto's trek through Capricorn began in 2008 and remains until 2024. Its last trek through Capricorn coincided with the beginning of the Revolutionary War and the end of Great Britain's authority over the colonies. This placement has special meaning for the United States as Pluto was in Capricorn in the founding chart. Pluto in Capricorn highlights the destructive power of governments and big business and the links between them.



Hades is the TransNeptunian planet that most closely resembles Pluto's symbolism. Hades represents the principle of disintegration and is associated with breakdown and loss, ruins, slums, the seamy side of life, as well as with those "less fortunate."

Hades is outside the orbit of Pluto and spends approximately 30 years in each sign. It first entered Cancer on August 1, 2010, and remains there until July, 2041. Cancer is the sign associated with home, family, and motherhood. The ideas of home and family can be expanded to include clan, ethnic group, or country.

So currently Uranus (revolution and rebellion) is triggering Hades (those less fortunate), and Pluto (death and rebirth).

THE PAST

Uranus-Pluto

First, let's consider aspects between Uranus and Pluto. This combination relates to unconventional behavior, fanaticism, anarchy, and freedom from oppression. Social unrest and conflict between the "haves" and "have nots" increases. Shifts in consciousness become more likely as do rebellions and revolutions.

Uranus-Pluto Square of the 1930s

The last time Uranus and Pluto formed transiting squares was from 1932 to 1934. Uranus was in Aries and Pluto in Cancer, both cardinal signs. Cancer on a societal level represents one's country. Differing responses of the U.S. and Germany to this planetary configuration show the possibility of extremely varied manifestations. Financial crises and social unrest in the U.S. resulted in reforms that benefited society and protected future generations. Crises in Germany brought about state-inflicted genocide, during which more than 6,000,000 Jews were killed.

The years 1932 to 1934 marked the depths of the Great Depression. After Black Tuesday, October 29, 1929, the U.S. stock market declined 89%. Unemployment rose from 3.2% in 1929 to 24.9% in 1933. Bank failures wiped out savings for millions of Americans. (Bank deposits were not insured.) Homes and farms were foreclosed. Homeless people built shacks and formed shantytowns, which were called "Hoovervilles" out of bitterness toward President Herbert Hoover's policies against direct intervention in the economy.

The 1932 election of Franklin D. Roosevelt provided a change in the status quo and new direction for the country. The New Deal produced programs designed to reduce unemployment by providing public works jobs; to assist agriculture by raising farm prices and paying farmers not to grow surplus crops; and to regulate banking and the stock market. Important legislation was passed to prevent future speculation. The Glass Steagall Act of 1933 set

up a firewall between commercial and investment banking activities. Only 10% of a commercial bank's total income could stem from securities, with the exception of government bonds. This, in essence, meant that banks could not speculate with depositor money. Excessive risk by commercial banks had been a major cause of the stock market crash. Banks had not only invested their own assets, but sold new issues to the public, as well as issuing unsound loans to companies in which they had invested. Bank clients were encouraged to invest in those same companies. (Sound familiar?)¹

Adolph Hitler's rise to power in Germany shows the extremely detrimental possibilities of the Uranus-Pluto square. Germany was devastated by sanctions placed on it by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. Pre-war Germany was broken up, and Germany was forced to make reparation payments for all civilian damages of World War I. This created economic chaos, which led to Hitler's rise.

The collapse of the Weimar Republic during the Great Depression of the 1930s gave Hitler the opportunity to build the Nazi Party. *Mein Kampf*, written in the 1920s, had targeted democrats, communists, internationalists, and especially Jews, whom he portrayed as responsible for all the problems of the world, particularly Germany's defeat in World War I. He portrayed the German people as one of racial purity, destined to be the master race. By eliminating the Jews, Germany could take its natural place as a superior culture.

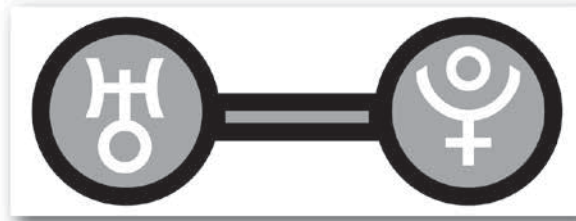
In 1933, Hitler became the Führer of all of Germany. The first to be sent to the Buchenwald Concentration Camp were political enemies and the intelligentsia. Disabled and mentally retarded were sent to hospitals, sterilized, and later killed. Jewish businesses were boycotted and Jews were removed from civil service positions. Then anyone with a Jewish parent or grandparent was removed from practicing law, banking, medicine, and journalism. All non-Nazi organizations were banned. Manufacturing conglomerates supported the Nazis as they advocated rearmament. Some bankers supported the Nazis, believing they would gain the freedom to trade. Without the union of capitalism and Nazism, the Nazi party could never have controlled Germany. Hitler then turned to conquering Europe and exterminating Jews.

Economic chaos can lead seemingly ordinary people into unthinkable acts. In Germany, the Uranus-Pluto square manifested as "us versus them." "Us" was first defined as the purity of the German race and ultimately the Nazi Party. "Them" was any other group. Pluto's placement in Cancer intensified the idea of "us."

Uranus-Pluto Conjunction of the 1960s

Transiting Uranus and Pluto formed exact conjunctions in Virgo from 1965-1966. The conjunction of two planets indicates a new beginning for their energy. Uranus, the rebellious planet of change, conjoining Pluto, the planet of transformation, brought forth many cultural revolutions. Uranus stands for freedom. Pluto rules, among other things, sexual drive. Virgo is the sign that represents, among other things, work and day-to-day activities.

Termed the "consciousness revolution," the Sixties were a time of political and social upheaval. Young people challenged traditional values of older generations. Baby boomers, termed "mystical militants" by writer Michael Harrington, sought to purify institutions by "righteous fire." The hippie subculture of sex, drugs, and rock and roll took root. (Neptune was in Scorpio at this time.) Members of the counterculture movement initially were primarily white upper class youth. They were the first American generation who had sufficient leisure time to be concerned about social issues—civil rights, the Viet Nam War, women's rights, sexual liberation. They rejected the materialistic view of the American dream in favor of more spiritual ideals.



Communal living communities and experimentation with psychedelic drugs spread across college campuses. Greenwich Village in New York and Haight-Ashbury in San Francisco became centers for those dropping acid and dropping out. "You can't

trust anyone over 30" became the mantra of the day.

The New Left was formed as counterculture and anti-establishment. Speaking for the New Left were the Students for Democratic Society (SDS) which attacked racial bigotry, poverty, and nuclear weapons. SDS supported Lyndon Johnson in his run for presidency as his Great Society program embodied their beliefs. But as the Viet Nam War escalated, SDS changed its focus. The Free Speech Movement, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Anti-War Movement joined forces. Protests on college campuses and marches on Washington ensued. Civil disobedience became the order of the day.

The Civil Rights Movement occurred simultaneously. Civil rights had begun to make headway in the 1950s with the Supreme Court decision of *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka* regarding school desegregation, but the movement began in earnest in the 1960s. College students and feminists began supporting civil rights. Race riots spread throughout the U.S. Backlash came from groups like the Klu Klux Klan, who fought back, targeting civil rights workers. Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Robert Kennedy were assassinated.

The Feminist Movement came into its own around the same time.

Betty Friedan published *The Feminine Mystique*. The National Organization for Women was founded. Women demanded gender equality: equal pay for equal work (the Virgo emphasis). The most profound societal change was in the perception of sexually differentiated roles. In the early 1960s a commonly held perception of what was called “natural differences” existed. Males, as heads of households, went to work and supported the family. The female stayed home, took care of the household, and cared for the children. This was seen as the natural order of things and legitimized divisions of labor between the sexes. Women, for all practical purposes, were powerless. Divorce was not an option as women could not support themselves. By the 1970s, an unprecedented number of women were working. This gave women greater freedom and allowed them to leave abusive spouses.

As with any cultural change, there are always those who resist, and what may be less remembered about this period is that there was also a New Right. Conservatives were against affirmative action, busing, big government and taxes, and mourned the loss of traditional family values

On the scientific front, this time-frame coincided with breakthroughs in technology and the expanded use of computers. The Uranus-Pluto conjunction took place in Virgo, the sign of workers. There was fear that technology would replace human workers. The realization of this fear came years later, particularly as transiting Pluto in Sagittarius formed squares to the original conjunction in Virgo, and now as transiting Uranus and Pluto form squares once again.

Uranus square Hades

Aspects between Uranus and Hades also signal social unrest: Uranus, the rebellious forces, and Hades, the underprivileged.

The last square of Uranus to Hades occurred during 1956 and 1957 with Uranus in Leo and Hades in Taurus. This coincided with the Polish and Hungarian Revolts against the Soviet Union. The background for these revolts began at the end of World War II. The Red Army militarily occupied the Eastern European countries where they had defeated the Germans. During World War II Stalin trained Eastern European communists in Russia. After the war these Eastern European communists returned to their own countries, became government ministers, packed the army and police with communists, and discredited and arrested non-communists. Property taken away from the families who had supported the Nazis was redistributed to the peasants. The Soviet Union extracted harsh war reparations from these countries.

Repressive regimes in Eastern Europe were dictatorships modeled after Joseph Stalin’s Russia. Following Stalin’s death in 1953,

there was a relaxation of terror in Russia and Eastern Europe. Countries wanted to modernize their economic system to be able to compete with the West.

In June of 1956, Polish factory workers went on strike. Groups demonstrated demanding bread and freedom. Unfortunately for the Poles, Russia easily quelled the uprising. Diplomacy prevailed on October 19, 1956. Nikita Khrushchev accepted reform leader Wladyslaw Gomulka’s assurance that the communist system would not be endangered by workers’ struggles.

Then came the Hungarian uprising on October 23, 1956. This uprising was originally launched by intellectuals and students, but joined by workers. Demonstrators demanded the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops, the formation of a new government, recognition of workers’ right to strike, and general amnesty for all insurgents. Initially it looked as if the rebels had won. The Pravda promised greater equality between the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The Hungarian Prime Minister publicly rejected the Warsaw Pact and appealed to the United Nations for help. Radio Free Europe encouraged the rebels to fight. Yet no help from the West was forthcoming and by November 7, 1956, the Soviet Union had crushed the rebellion.



Interestingly enough, the European Revolution of 1848 also occurred under the Uranus-Hades square, from 1846 to 1848. Uranus was in Aries and Hades in Capricorn. It should be noted that difficult planetary aspects, particularly those from

Uranus to Hades or Pluto, generally coincide with severe weather patterns, which in turn cause problems in harvest. In 1846 there was a severe famine, which led to higher food prices. High food prices reduced consumer demand and led to plummeting profits, which in turn led to high unemployment accompanied by higher prices. This set off the revolt. (You’ll note that higher food prices in the Mideast in the 2000s were a contributing factor to the Arab Spring.)

In 1848, the spark came from Paris when officials cancelled a banquet of liberal doctors, lawyers, and merchants who were pushing for the extension of voting rights. They took to the streets and were joined by workers. The citizen militia defected and the army garrison stationed in Paris joined the protestors. The king fled. Demonstrators proclaimed the Second Republic on February 24. Ultimately, the disparity of aims between the bourgeois and those more radical led to the failure of the revolution. The government headed by Louis-Napoleon (the nephew of Napoleon I) returned France to a monarchy four years later.

France’s revolution set off a wave of protests throughout Europe. German uprisings followed in February and March. This led to the dismissal of unpopular ministers. A national parliament was called for, but the rulers of the German states recovered their

authority. Revolutions in Austria, Hungary, Bohemia, and Italy fared less well as armies loyal to the Austrian Empire put down the rebellions.

Reasons for failure of the revolts are attributed to a number of causes. Lack of communication among the revolting countries allowed the Austrian army to fight each uprising in isolation from the others. The moderate liberals' distrust of what was considered radicalism of the workers prevented any long term alliances. Yet although the results of these revolts under Uranus–Hades came to naught immediately, they had the impact of planting the seeds of future revolutions. Also, as in the Uranus–Pluto aspects, the precipitating causes for the revolts were the economic conditions of the general populace. The few controlled the wealth while the majority suffered.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

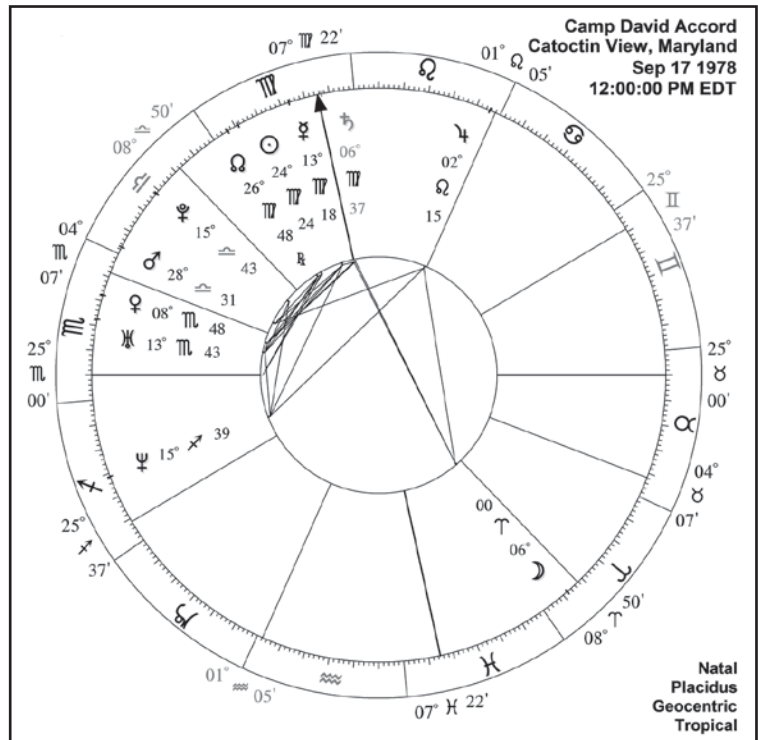
As of the time of this writing, January 2012, transiting Uranus and Hades have just completed their last exact square and the Uranus–Pluto squares have years to go. Once again the world is in the midst of chaos. Uprisings that began in the Middle East continue and have spread across the globe. The financial crises brought about by real estate and stock market crashes of 2007 and 2008 are far from over. The fate of the Euro and the European Union as a whole hangs by a thread as defaults by debtor nations loom. Populist movements worldwide are demanding change in social, economic, and political conditions.

The Mideast

Uprisings against governments began in the Middle East. Tunisia's uprising began in December 2010, Egypt's in January 2011, and Libya's in February 2011. Abidine Ben Ali was out of power in Tunisia on January 26, 2011. President Hosni Mubarak's fall in Egypt came on February 11, 2011. Mubarak's fall occurred just before the exact square of Uranus to Hades on February 18, 2011. Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in Libya was killed on October 20, 2011, just before the next exact square of Uranus to Hades on October 24, 2011.

These countries were all ruled by despotic leaders. In most, wealth remained in the hands of the few, while the multitudes lived in poverty with little hope for the future. There were few jobs, even for the educated middle class. Perhaps what ignited the powder keg was the dramatic rise in the cost of food, which had the effect of sinking the poor further into poverty.

As in the past, the Uranus-Hades harsh aspects that began in April 2010 ushered in more violent uprisings, the revolts of the "have-nots" against those that "have." (It should be pointed out that Saturn was opposite Uranus in late 2009 and 2010.) Empowered by social media, these uprisings began without leaders.



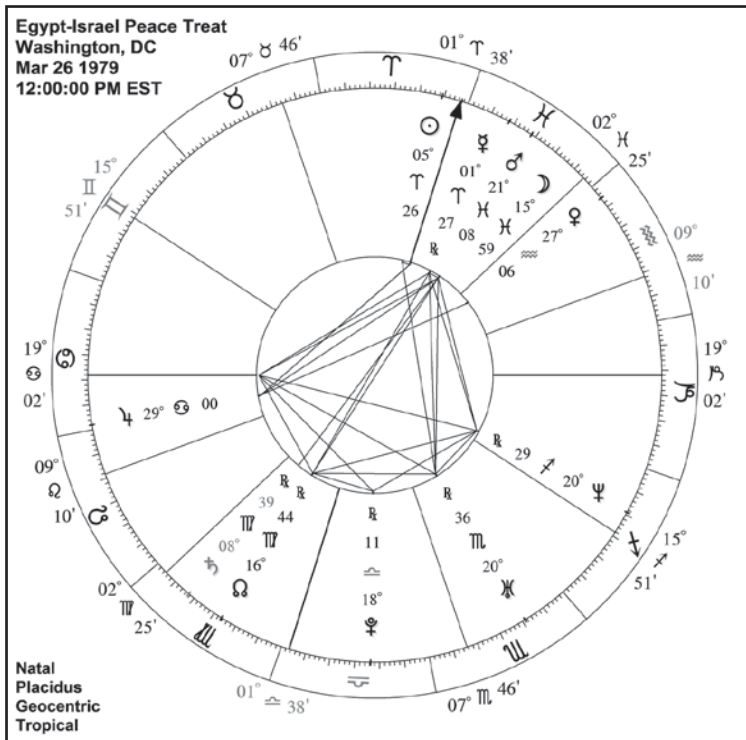
Protestors showed solidarity, overcoming traditional prejudices of Catholics versus Muslims, Shiites versus Sunnis, capitalists versus socialists. But once the battle against the outgoing governments was won, deeply endowed prejudices quickly surfaced. In Egypt, attacks against Christians intensified.

As of this writing, the Muslim Brotherhood (an Islamic party) appears to have taken 40% of the vote in Egyptian elections, and the ultraconservative Salafis, 20%. The Salafis, who reject popular entertainment and women's right to vote, are particularly popular outside of large cities. Preacher Mustafa al-Adawi has issued a fatwa prohibiting Muslim women from wearing high heels as they are a source of seduction for men. Cleric Sheikh Mahmoud Amer issued a fatwa prohibiting Muslims from voting for Coptic candidates and Muslims who do not regularly pray.

It remains to be seen how much power the ruling military will transfer to elected officials and whether the voices of more liberal protestors who sought greater freedom will be heard or squashed.

With another Uranus–Hades aspect yet to come, and many Uranus–Pluto squares to follow, it's unlikely that these issues will subside. The question is whether the Arab countries will follow the U.S. precedent in the 1930s and make their countries more just, or follow the example of Hitler's Germany and scapegoat intellectuals and minorities. (During World War II the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husseni, openly encouraged Muslims to join Nazi units.)

Looking at the charts of the **Camp David Accord** and the **Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty**, it seems likely that the long-term alliance between Egypt and Israel will be among the first casualties of



Uranus in its square to Hades at the time of the Egyptian elections. The Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty, also drawn for noon, has a Mercury-Sun conjunction at the Midheaven in Aries, with Mercury at 1° and the Sun at 5°. Transiting Uranus will be at 5° three more times before the end of 2013. The natal Sun in the Peace Treaty chart opposes natal Pluto at 12° Libra. Three of the seven upcoming Uranus-Pluto squares fall within a degree of this Pluto. Also, the natal positions of Ceres, the Moon, and Mars in Pisces and Saturn and the North Node in Virgo will all be triggered by transiting Mars Retrograde during 2012. Given all this, it appears as if power struggles and turmoil between Egypt and Israel are inevitable.

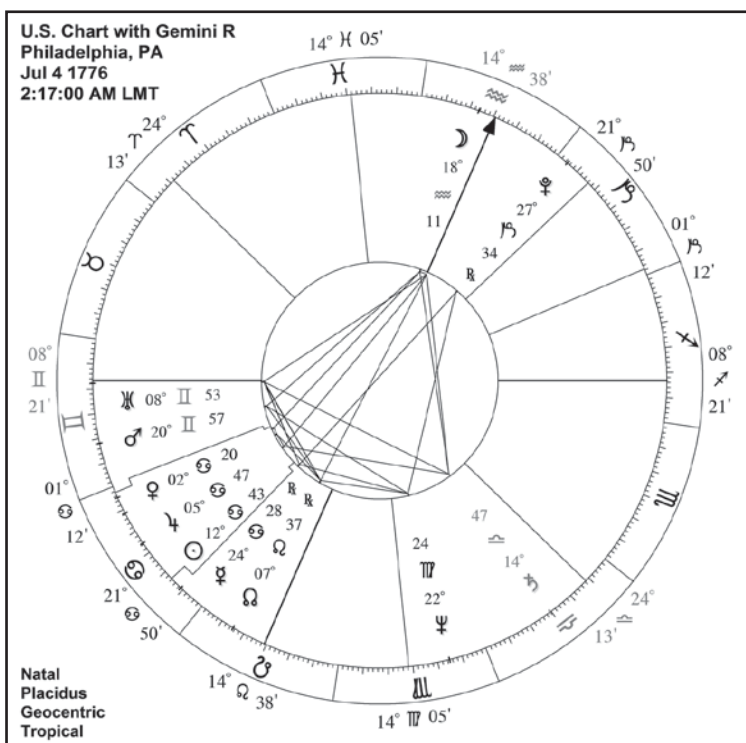
The United States

In the United States, both the Tea Party and the Occupy Wall Street protestors are clamoring for change. The Tea Party people want to limit big government and taxes. Occupy Wall Street protestors' attention is focused on Wall Street. They call for an end to corporate entitlements and for the top 1% to pay their fair share. The Occupy Wall Street protests started in Manhattan, but quickly spread throughout the country.

Egypt's Arab Spring. These charts (the Camp David Accord, September 17, 1978, in Catoctin View, MD and the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty, March 26, 1979, Washington, DC) are significantly triggered by both the Uranus-Hades square and the upcoming Uranus-Pluto square.

Drawing a noon chart for the Camp David Accord puts its Moon at 1° Aries, approximately the same placement as transiting

As different as these movements are (and the ones in the Mid-east), they share the rejection of traditional political elites--those who have become wealthy at the expense of everyone else. They recognize that globalization benefits the rich while the middle class and the poor lose economic ground. The main difference between conservatives and liberals is where they place the blame for the financial mess of the U.S. economy. Occupy Wall Street protestors blame large corporations and the Tea Party people blame big government. Yet both share anger against what is seen as a corrupt political system that intertwines the interests of Washington and Wall Street at the expense of Main Street. They both represent the astrological symbolism of Uranus in Aries square Pluto in Capricorn: the little guys standing up against the power structures.



The Tea Party movement started in 2009 when transiting Saturn in Virgo was opposite transiting Uranus in Pisces triggering the Mars-Neptune square in the U.S. chart (July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia). Occupy Wall Street began on September 17, 2011 at noon in New York City. Transiting Uranus was square Pluto within two degrees, having formed an almost exact square in July. This square encompasses the Venus-Jupiter conjunction in the U.S. chart. Venus and Jupiter, called benefics by the ancients, are the planets that signify wealth, abundance, and well-being. This same planetary configuration also signifies extravagance. Malfeasance by the banking industry, as well as overspending by the government and households, worked to create the current financial crisis.²

Currently, the government tells the populace that they

need not worry, that the economy is growing (albeit slowly), and that it will grow its way out of debt. It touts low inflation and slowing unemployment. More prudent voices express extremely different views.³ The transiting Uranus–Pluto squares have not yet become exact. When they do, they will move from triggering the U.S. Venus–Jupiter conjunction to its Sun. More chaos can be expected for years to come. It's likely that society's conditions will continue to deteriorate. This will further the causes of both the Occupy Wall Street and the Tea Party movements. As transiting Mars in January 2012 turns retrograde conjoining the U.S. Neptune in Virgo, which squares the U.S. Mars, the likelihood of increased social unrest and violence is immediate and ongoing.

In addition, Jupiter represents values as well as wealth. While not all Tea Party members are religious conservatives, the Tea Party members elected to Congress are. This may stem from the Tea Party's emergence during the Saturn–Uranus opposition – traditional versus more liberal values. It is hoped that the Tea Party and Occupy Wall protestors can get together to make economic changes needed to transform the country. Yet at the extreme ends, social values divide them.

Meanwhile, on December 3, 2011, just before the last Uranus–Hades square, the U.S. Senate first passed the National Defense Authorization Act. This law allows for the military to detain American citizens suspected of being involved in terrorism. The final version of the bill passed the Senate on December 16th: 86 for, 13 against, 1 abstention. Among those opposing the bill were Tea Party libertarian Ron Paul and Independent Socialist Bernie Sanders. This legislation denies terrorist suspects—including U.S. citizens apprehended within national borders--the right to trial and subjects them to indefinite detention.

President Obama initially threatened a veto, but signed the bill

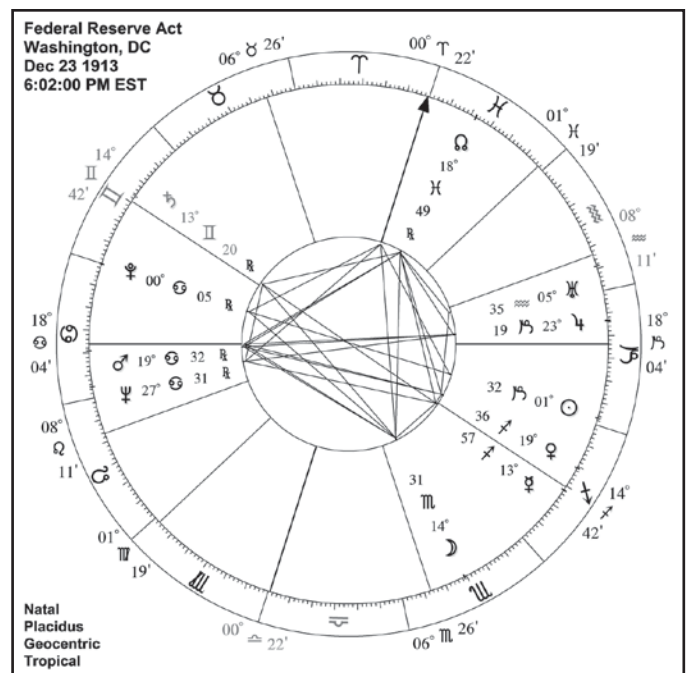
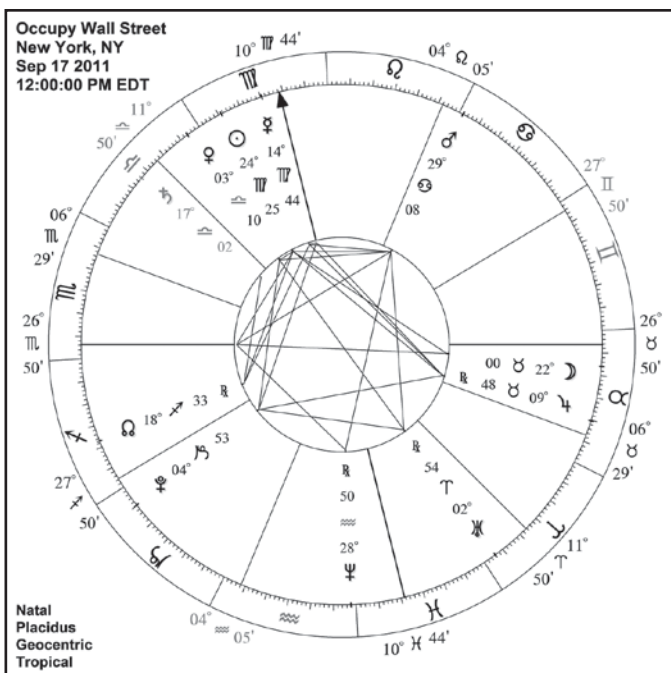
into law on December 31, 2011. A December 5th post of the Washington's Blog, quoting Paul Craig Roberts, suggested that President Obama's real reason for opposing this bill is that under it military detention would make these alleged offenders prisoners of war. Prisoners of war are subject to the protections of the Geneva Conventions, which "enemy combats" are not. The practice of rendition has not changed under the Obama administration, and enemy combats are still sent overseas for torture.

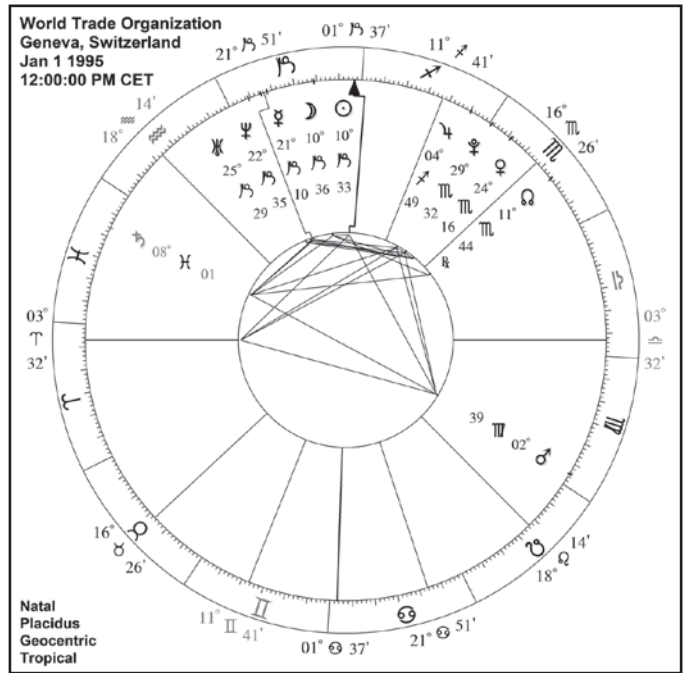
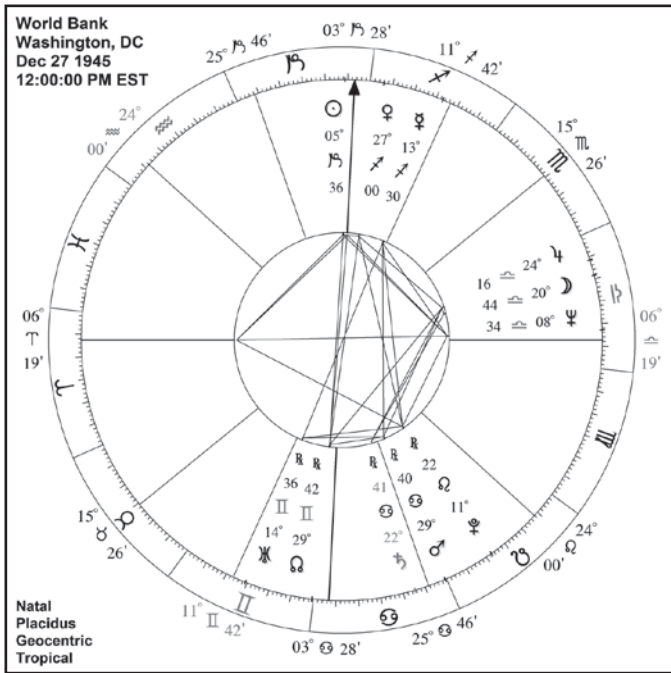
Pluto in Capricorn warns of those in authority becoming more oppressive. The practice of rendition, the NDAA bill and some of the reasons against it, eerily follow the tenets of the rise of fascism detailed in Naomi Wolf's *The End of America: Letter of Warning to A Young Patriot*.⁴ Let us hope that this is not the cycle under which the U.S. becomes more like Germany during World War II.

WORLDWIDE ISSUES

Charts of the Federal Reserve, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, and the Euro all point to continuing financial crises worldwide.

The **Federal Reserve** came into being by a law passed by Congress on December 23, 1913, at 6:02 pm in Washington, DC. This chart has a 0° Aries Midheaven, with the Sun, Ceres, and Jupiter in Capricorn at 1°, 7°, and 23° respectively, and Cancer Rising. Pluto, Mars, and Neptune in Cancer at 18°, 0°, 19°, and 27° respectively. In Uranian astrology, 0° Aries is the world point. With the dollar as the world reserve currency, the actions of the Federal Reserve affect the rest of the world. The Sun–Pluto opposition in this chart shows the opposition to the Federal Reserve from the start and its own secrecy.





The transiting Uranus–Hades square sits firmly on this Sun–Pluto opposition. Calls for an investigation of the Federal Reserve united Tea Party favorite, Senator Rand Paul, and liberal Senator Bernie Sanders, the only Socialist sitting in Congress. The audit of the Federal Reserve revealed \$16 trillion in secret bailouts between December 2007 and June 2010. These bailouts went to U.S. banks, corporations, and foreign banks. To put this in perspective, the gross domestic product of the U.S. is only \$14.5 trillion. This means that the Federal Reserve lent out more money, at 0% interest, than the total U.S. economy earns in one year. In the period to come, it's unlikely that the Federal Reserve will be allowed to return to its veil of secrecy.

The **World Trade Organization's** purpose is to supervise international trade. It came into being on January 1, 1995, in Geneva, Switzerland (chart shown is drawn up for noon in the absence of a precise time). This chart has the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Neptune, and Uranus all in Capricorn. Pluto's trek through Capricorn alone would indicate dramatic changes to come in world trade. The Sun and Moon at 10° Capricorn put these celestial bodies right in the middle of the upcoming Uranus–Pluto squares, with Pluto conjoining them. This indicates not only changes in world trade, but significant conflict to come. The likelihood of trade wars heats up over the next few years as the economic climate deteriorates worldwide.

The **World Bank** is another institution that is likely to come under fire under upcoming transits. The World Bank came into being on December 27, 1945 in Washington, DC. for the purpose of providing loans to developing countries. It has the Sun at 5° Capricorn, again right in the middle of the transiting Uranus–Pluto aspects. This portends more banking crises to come, although at this time it is the developed countries that need aid, not the developing ones.

The **Euro** may prove another casualty of the current economic climate. The official signing of the contract that brought the Euro into being was December 31, 1998, at 1:51 pm in Brussels, Belgium. The Euro as a currency came into being on January 1, 1999, at 0:01 am, Brussels, Belgium. These charts have the Sun at 9° and 10° Capricorn, once again the focal point of the Uranus–Pluto square, with Pluto conjoining them. If the Euro survives, it's not likely to be with the current group of countries.

While the European Union (November 1, 1993, Brussels, Belgium) is not being triggered by these transits, transiting Saturn in Libra and Scorpio will conjoin the EU chart's Venus, Jupiter, Sun, Mercury, Mars, and Pluto between 2011 and late 2014. The current economic crises are the first that the European Union has had to face since its inception. Only time will tell whether it can survive the coming challenges.

Resource wars are another possibility. While the U.S. and the rest of the developed world languish in debt, China is using its accumulated reserves to buy up natural resources in the rest of the world. And it's not just oil that is likely to cause battles. Conflict over water rights has already begun. This is not just a problem in drought-ridden Africa or in the Mideast desert. As an example, Texas ranchers are concerned that drought has made ranching more difficult and oil wells being drilled by hydraulic fracturing are using up this valuable and limited resource. This pits the oil companies against the ranchers, who are typically conservative business allies.

Other likely hot spots include Iran, China, India, and Russia, all of which are being triggered by the Uranus–Pluto square in some fashion. The combined worldwide global debt has never been as high as it is now. It has only approximated this amount during wartime. The coming cycles warn of the possibility of wars. Given today's world, it's hard to know whether wars

will take the form of troops on the ground, trade wars, economic wars, cyber wars, or a combination of all or some of these.

My attempt with this article is to show the link between the past and the likelihood of varied outcomes based on planetary cycles. This article focuses primarily on financial and political circumstances. This is by no means to say that nothing else can happen during this timeframe. I make no claim that these are the only outcomes possible, just those I find most likely. One of the limits of astrologers (not astrology) is that we are all limited by what we are able to imagine will happen. And to paraphrase Nissim Taleb, what is a Black Swan to one person is a White Swan to another.

Endnotes

1. At the behest of Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin during President Bill Clinton's administration, Glass Steagall was dramatically gutted by Congress under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999. Upon leaving Clinton's administration, Rubin went to work for Citigroup, a bank that directly benefited from this repeal. Rubin's compensation from Citigroup was reported as over \$17,000,000 and \$33,000,000 in stock options as of 2008.
2. The causes of the crisis are too many to enumerate here. Those interested may want to read *All the Devils Are Here* by Bethany McLean and Joe Nocera.
3. John Williams of Shadow Government Statistics (www.shadowstats.com) compares the way the current unemployment numbers are calculated to the way they were calculated in the 1980s. Rather than having under 10% unemployment, the figure jumps to approximately 23%. In the same manner, Williams compares inflation as calculated today to the way it was calculated in the 1980s. Instead of inflation being around 4%, it goes up over 10%. This is not news to those out of work or to anyone who buys groceries, pays for health insurance, or has tuition bills to pay. And with regard to growing our way out of debt, a recent interview with Hayman Capital hedge fund manager, Kyle Bass, put the current debt in context. Paraphrasing Bass: "If Warren Buffett and Bill Gates turned over all their net worth (approximately \$100 billion) to pay off United States debt, their entire worth would amount to one month's debt." Bass, who earned enormous amounts of money for his investors (he refuses to say how much) betting on the housing crisis and Greece's likely default, predicts a larger financial crisis in the U.S. in the next three to five years. This timeframe coincides with the coming Uranus-Pluto squares, and its triggers to the U.S. chart.
4. From Naomi Wolf's *The End of America: Letter of Warning to A Young Patriot*. The tenets are: (1) invoke a terrifying internal and external enemy (September 11, 2001); (2) create a gulag (Guantanamo Bay); (3) develop a thug caste (security contractors); (4) set up internal surveillance (wiretaps and cyber surveillance); (5) harass citizen groups; (6) engage in arbitrary detention and release (currently Occupy Wall

Street arrests); (7) target key individuals; (8) control the press (a few major corporations control most media outlets); (9) dissent equals treason; and (10) suspend the rule of law (The National Defense Authorization Act).

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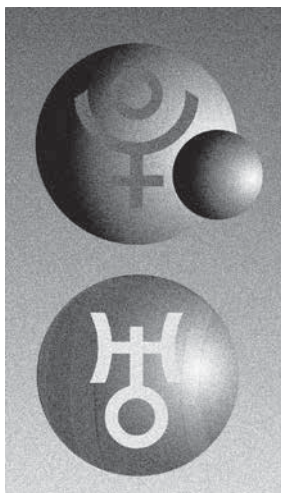
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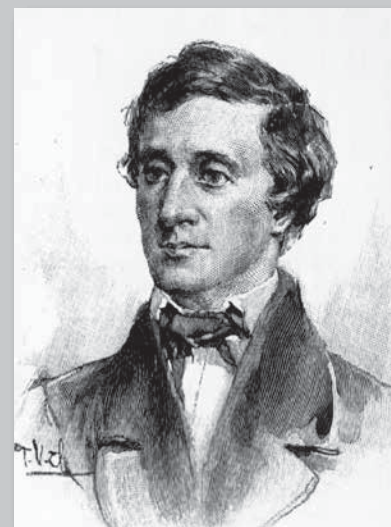
Joyce Levine

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Editor's Note:

It was during Thoreau's 18 - month residence at Walden Pond that he was jailed for non-payment of taxes on July 24, 1846, and released (with purported reluctance) on the following day after his aunt paid his bail. The tax protest incident was finally parlayed into a literary protest in the form of public lectures in early 1848, and the following year revised into an essay entitled "Resistance to Civil Government" which was formally published in May 1849. At this critical juncture, transiting Uranus and Pluto were at 14-15° and 25-26° Aries, respectively, within 12° of conjunction. The midpoint of that conjunction at 20° Aries was exactly square Thoreau's natal Sun at 20° Cancer.

"All machines have their friction; and possibly this does enough good to counterbalance the evil. At any rate, it is a great evil to make a stir about it. But when the friction comes to have its machine, and oppression and robbery are organized, I say, let us not have such a machine any longer. In other words, when a sixth of the population of a nation which has undertaken to be the refuge of liberty are slaves, and a whole country is unjustly overrun and conquered by a foreign army, and subjected to military law, I think that it is not too soon for honest men to rebel and revolutionize. What makes this duty the more urgent is the fact that the country so overrun is not our own, but ours is the invading army."





Transits and the Chance for Change

By Adrian Duncan Ross

When a tree is planted, eased carefully into the earth, watered and nurtured, you can look at it one day, and then the next, but you will not see it grow. But as you watch it each spring, you will notice that, yes, it has grown and the trunk is thicker, the branches longer. When the first hard green apple appears, it may feel that it takes forever. But one day, there it hangs, ripe and juicy, and the tree is ready to be harvested.

It's like that with progressions. They creep up on you without you noticing. But suddenly you realize their effect has been growing and blossoming, and you are already acting them out. As John Lennon says: "Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans." Mercury progressed may for example catch up with Venus by progression, and for years and years they move on together in tandem. Could that be your new partner's sister who is always visiting and involved, or have you started a 5-year study of French, or is a sibling born who will be a part of the family inventory for years to come? Progressions can encompass everything, and you may still not realize their importance.

But transits are different. They do not creep up, they hit like a storm, like rolling thunder, like a wave, like a shock, like a force of nature. Transits are not the unfolding of your inner life as progressions are. Transits are what life throws at you and at everyone else, and the test of character is how you react. As the Bible says: He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous (Matthew 5.45). Nobody is going to escape the challenges that human life entails from birth to death, and attitude is all-important when these challenges come along.

Transits reflect the current positions of all the planets, and we are all sensitive to the same transits at any given time. They are a collective force to which we individually react according to our nature. The imminent series of seven squares between Uranus in Aries and Pluto in Capricorn will affect every individual through the collective response of society, and some individuals more than others if personal planets or angles are touched. Some people will be the lightning rod through which this planetary energy

is expressed, whilst others will just be witnesses to change.

But people are nervous about change. Even if they are in a situation which is not ideal, it is very common to prefer the devil you know to the devil you don't. Most of the problems that arise with transits occur because of resistance to change. Consider this: People who have undergone a Pluto transit, and have inevitably transformed their lives accordingly, are almost always happy that their life is not as it was before. They prefer the new situation that has arisen. As a general rule people are richer for the changes they have undertaken as a response to the states evoked by transits. This is the key to counseling clients who come at a time of change. They may feel uncomfortable now, but if you were to ask them in two years' time whether they would like to turn the clock back – they would not.

The trick then is to identify the change that the client secretly wants, which is going to take place anyway, and which is going to make them happier and more fulfilled. Get it? Once this has been done, it is just a question of planning.

Pluto Transits

Pluto transits work because a situation which seems impossible to change becomes more and more intolerable. You are cornered; the tiger has you backed up against the abyss. It is dark; you have to jump, but you know not how far and where you will land. You will jump, because you have to; it is just a question of when. Here is another thing: the situation you have been in has for several years been far from ideal. You are not living your life

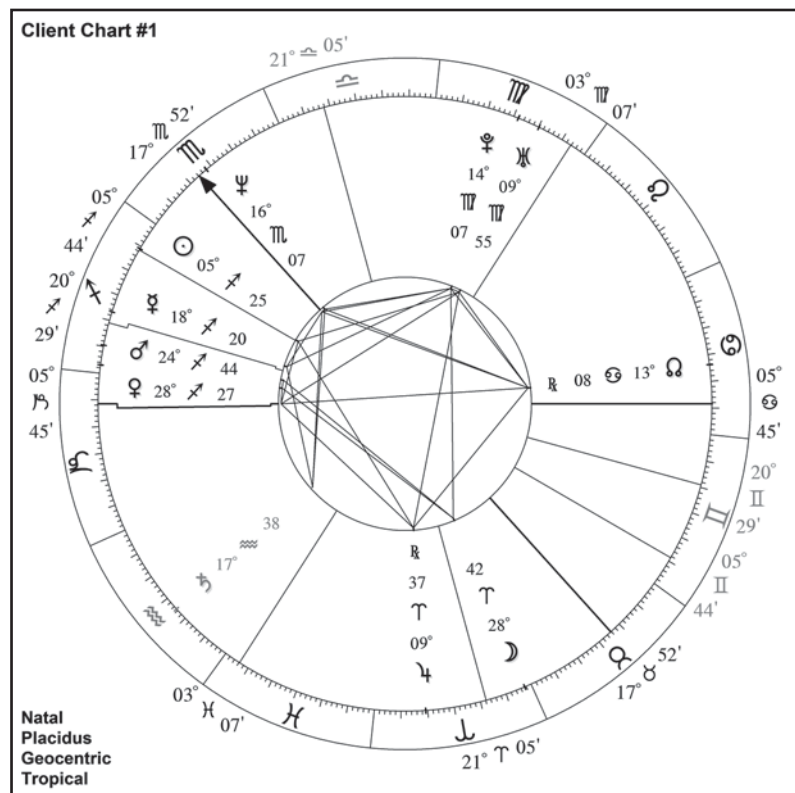
optimally or even authentically. Pluto is not satisfied. He wants to rip the mask of deceit or falsity from your life. He would like to strip you down to the essentials, and from those bare bones rebuild a new, authentic you. This is going to be a real relief for you, because you will be forced to drop something you want to drop, but do not drop out of consideration for others, or because of attachment in another form.

For example, a Pluto transit over the MC will build up slowly over a year or so, during which time your relations to an authority may become more and more untenable. Perhaps a new boss arrives and there is an immediate power battle, which mobilizes all your resources. Or perhaps, if you work independently, the economy simply worsens. Or, a parent continues to dominate in your life. As the months go by and you obsess about the clash of wills, or about bankruptcy, or about family consequences, you reach the point of exhaustion. You cannot give up the job, because it pays well. But, on closer examination, you were tired of the work. The bad boss may be doing you a favor, forcing your hand. If you don't go, the company is downsized, and off you go anyway. And you are free to pursue what you really wanted to do all along: passionately engage yourself in work that is meaningful and enriching.

What the astrologer needs to do in this scenario – when the client asks how to improve the situation at work – is to identify what the client is dead tired of, completely finished with. It may be necessary to demilitarize the situation if there is a battle of wills with demonized others; ultimately the client may exhaust himself to no avail. As a rule the client has no idea what will replace the existing situation, and does not believe anything can. Something will, and it is good to explore what this might be, bearing in mind that first the client needs to jump into the abyss of unknowing to discover the invisible treasure. Clients need to know that the world will not end if they act. In fact they will be reborn, with a new appetite for life. They also need to know that the longer they draw it out, the worse it is going to be.

Of course, if a transit activates a natal pattern involving the transiting planet, there are deeper issues involved. The following client came to me just after having had a medical examination where concerns were raised that he might have a serious ailment. For those into the consultation chart (Dec. 18, 2003 9.55 CET Copenhagen, Denmark), the fact that Mercury, the horary 6th house ruler, was stationary retrograde, had opposed Saturn in Cancer in the 6th once, and would do so twice more, amongst other things, indicated a serious illness would be revealed.

To underline the seriousness of the situation, my client's progressed Descendant was precisely conjuncting Pluto, and transiting Pluto was conjuncting his natal 6th house ruler, Mercury, and would go on to conjoin Mars and ultimately Venus over the next five years. He was very grateful for the prediction at the time, that there



would be radiotherapy (Uranus), surgery (Pluto) and five long years of survival struggles which would end positively through an extremely fortunate development. So through radiotherapy and the constant recurrence of the disease over these many years, he had a timeline for cure, which proved to be correct when he was fortunate enough to find a bone marrow donor, which occurred when Pluto transited his very beautiful Venus/Moon trine.

It could be asked how this dire series of events could possibly have a positive slant. But it was the client himself, who informed me that studies have shown that cancer survivors have a better quality and enjoyment of life than people who have not had a life-threatening disease. What the transit did for him was to eliminate the victimhood he had felt in relation to partners and parents. The birth patterns reflected an obsession with the injustices he had experienced. And yes, he had experienced terrible injustices, but the survival battle put this in a quite different perspective. This person has been free of illness for about four years now.

Neptune Transits

Do you know the feeling of waking up in the morning fresh and alive, and then it hits you? The same old situation is going on and on. You want to stay in bed. A mood of sadness envelops your soul, sorrow catches in your throat. The sacrifice must go on and it will never end. You can't fight it; you have lost the battle before you begin. A good film may take you away from it; a good wine may make you forget... for a while. You know what you don't want to do, but you don't know what you do want to do. Also, you may be grieving for something you have lost or cannot have.

Neptune wants to tell you that whatever you have, you will lose it... if not now, then later, and certainly when you die. What you are attached to now is a false friend. It will let you down. What you think is real, is temporary and transient. Tune in! There are new ways of doing what you are doing that will be meaningful and that will bring a higher level of satisfaction, a greater depth of insight, and ultimately joy that cannot be taken away. To learn this you may be asked to give up what you have, and to surrender to forces beyond your control.

The challenge for the astrologer in this scenario is to motivate someone who has lost motivation, and whose energy is low. The undermining of willpower is particularly noticeable when Neptune transits Mars, an influence that profoundly affects work motivation. The trick here is to get the client to identify what he or she does not want to do first. If you have been working for several years behind a counter at a video store, for example, you will begin to wonder if the rest of life is going to be like this, and if it is, what is the point? Discontent is the method Neptune uses to remind you that time is short and must not be wasted. Discontent is a signal, and a signal in this situation is exactly what the client needs. The discontent will grow until you make a move. Any addictions – even excessive TV or gaming – which may be indulged

in at this point are merely ways of putting off the inevitable. They will leave you empty. Neptune to Mars demands a more refined use of energy... a rise to a higher level especially physically, through swimming, yoga, Tai Chi and subtle sports. Or moving from selling video to making video, learning Photoshop or something creative.

Neptune reaches the parts of body, mind and soul other planets don't reach. People emerge from Neptune transits immeasurably richer. Their tree blossoms more fully, their fruit is sweeter. Neptune is all about quality of life, about getting much more out of the moment. Neptune is not about dissatisfaction – you were dissatisfied before, you had just not noticed – it is about being content and satisfied. So clients in despair about love, confused about education, disillusioned about work, isolated from family, or in existential pain, are about to discover the missing ingredient which will make them happy. They will learn that the anchor in stormy seas is in their heart, and that change can come and go, but the heart center will remain.

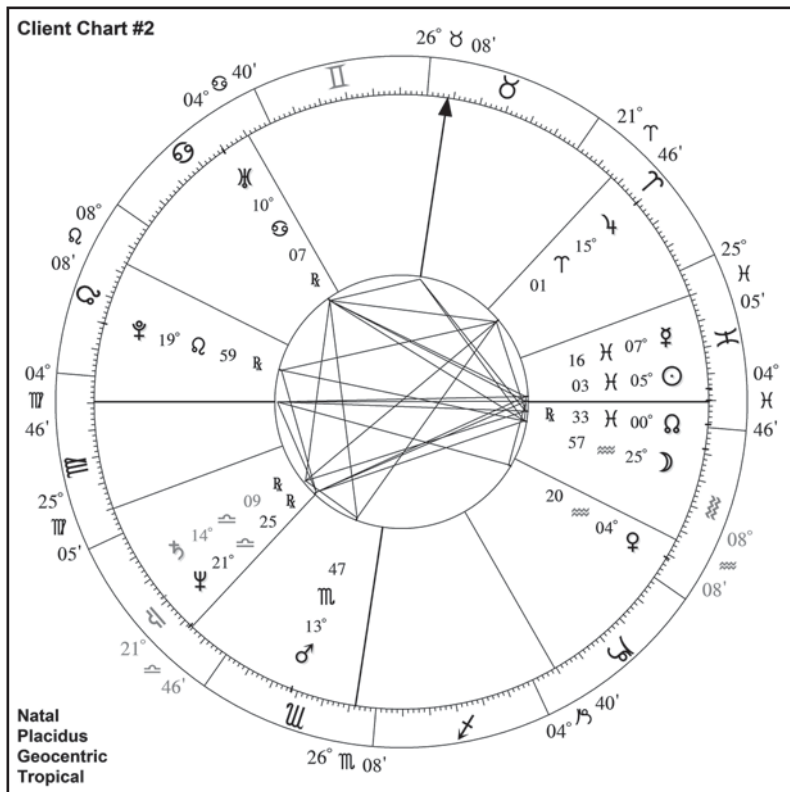
To help a client with a Neptune transit, the astrologer needs to evoke the existential pain and empathize with it. Empathy is the key; logic and advice are counterproductive. Only when the client feels understood – when the pain is shared – will an opening arise to tentatively explore possibilities. As addiction groups recommend with the serenity prayer:

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
And wisdom to know the difference.*

Being alone is often a key ingredient of a Neptune transit, which tends to evoke situations when you are removed from your normal environment and left to vegetate, forcing you - even if it is the last thing you want – to feel, feel, feel what is going on within. Rendered passive in this way, you simply have to let go and surrender. And you have to find something to do with your time which, in the absence of practical tasks, will involve something emotionally and spiritually meaningful.

The following client (Client chart #2) is a photographer who travels extensively in India, and has very close bonds to the Tibetan community, with spiritual teachers both in Sufism and Buddhism, and to top it off a rather uncommitted relationship to an Indian boyfriend. All very appropriate for the Sun conjoining the Pisces Descendant.

The recent Neptune transit of the Moon in Aquarius in the 6th house related to a debilitating sickness connected with arthritis of the ankle. Friends and doctors had made her aware that it was now possible to get an ankle replacement, which had a 50% chance of working, though it might not last for more than a few years. Should she get it? My response was that she is the only one who can make this type of decision but, with Neptune affecting the 6th, the likelihood of a successful operation is slight, and the chance of medical complications considerable. Her Tibetan



advisor suggested that she not do anything, which I certainly concurred with. It was something she would have to tough out.

But what did it really mean? Is not the Moon in the 6th opposite Pluto rather suspect? Someone actively involved in groups and helping to the point of exhaustion? Sure enough, she was involved in charity work, which involved traveling around her home country. This of course was difficult with the ankle problem, so perhaps she should stop that. Interestingly, with the emphasis in Pisces, she was brought up in her parent's pub. Her mother naturally worked all hours, as pubs close late in the evening. This work, which is the equivalent of inviting a lot of drunks into your living room, is also reflected by the Moon/Pluto opposition – the occupation – and my client has almost certainly inherited a similar tendency to invite groups in, even if it is not in her best interests. Neptune is encouraging her to discover how she can do her best work, and this will be more photography and video, as Neptune moves to conjoin her Sun/Mercury trine Uranus over the next few years.

Uranus Transits

Are you feeling comfortable? Oh dear. That may not be such a good sign, if a Uranus transit comes along. These transits are sometimes said to come out of the blue, like a bolt from heaven. But actually they probably come when your development appears to have come to a standstill. There is reason to be nervous in a relationship if transiting Uranus opposes your Venus, and you sit in front of the TV each night with your partner, visit the family at the weekend, and amiably chat about how cohesive your relation-

ship is. Inertia is no friend of Uranus, whose cure for a no-growth situation is disruption and change. Of course, these days (2010–2016) a Uranus transit does not come along without a corresponding Pluto transit, which is like opening Pandora's Box.

Clients in the midst of a Uranus transit tend to be stressed out; this may be having serious consequences for their work, where new technology and networking demands tend to overload the nervous system. Others make radical decisions which bring serious social disruption in their wake. But at least they are making changes. Those people who strive to cling to the status quo – who “don't know and don't want to know” – are in for a rude surprise. If relocated because of their work, or ejected by their partner, or alienated from their social circle, they are going to have to find new coping strategies fast.

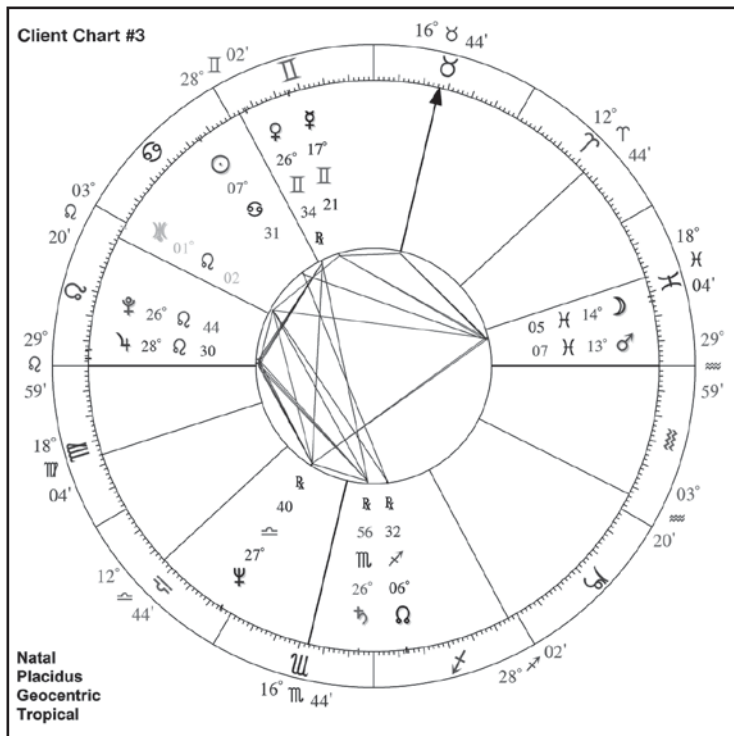
One of the strategies people under the influence of Uranus adopt is dissociation; they live in their head and are estranged from their bodies and the feelings that reside within. Moving constantly from one scene to another, they feel excited perhaps, but they are not in touch. So an important counseling strategy is to cre-

ate some islands of calm. Often breathing takes place high up in the chest and throat, and it needs to be centered and controlled. Still, there is a purpose to being plugged in, if it means that the person gets shaken out of complacency. The electric excitement of meeting new people is perhaps just what the client needs to get reinvigorated by life and to find new energy and purpose.

People undergoing a Uranus transit seek circumstances where there is more freedom and space, more cultural diversity, more international or interstate connectivity, more technology and more city lights. The key issue is how to handle these powerful urges without disrupting relationships to partners and family. This generally means having the patience to persuade others of the urgency of the need for change, and how that change will be mutually beneficial. It is no use trying to put the cork back into the bottle... change will come, and everyone can benefit.

A client of mine with Mercury/Venus in Gemini in the 10th house (denoting a multi-talented and multilingual person), had been in a very dissatisfying marriage for many years., probably relating to her Moon/Mars conjunction in Pisces in the 7th house. When transiting Uranus conjoined her Descendant, her husband announced that he had found a job in Greenland, and without further discussion, took the job leaving his wife alone for months at a time. (Pisces is often connected with islands, and Uranus with repeated separations and returns – an on/off relationship.)

As Uranus traveled through my client's 7th house, it went on to conjoin Mars and the Moon, at which time her husband exchanged Greenland for Afghanistan. On Christmas Day 2007, on one of his few visits home, he walked out and my client has simply



Adrian Ross Duncan

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not seen him since. Uranus was conjuncting her Moon exactly at this time. (But disappearance is a Pluto theme: Pluto at 28 Sagittarius was exactly opposite Venus at 28 Gemini. Goodbye.) How can this kind of event be interpreted in a positive light? Well, firstly, who wants a husband who makes moves without consultation or consideration, leaving the partner alone for long periods over the years? Only someone with the Moon in Pisces in the 7th could tolerate that. Here the husband made the decision, but the decision favored the wife. The epilogue to this story is rather good. My client made contact with a person who had always been interested in her, and they fell in love. This person is famous locally for his homemade schnapps. (Neptune conjoined the Descendant. How about that for a happy relationship?)

No transit in and of itself need necessarily invoke drastic and unwelcome change. People who value stability can weather transits and stay on course, whilst people who welcome change are far more likely to use the opportunities brought by transits to set a new course. People react to transits according to their individual values and convictions.

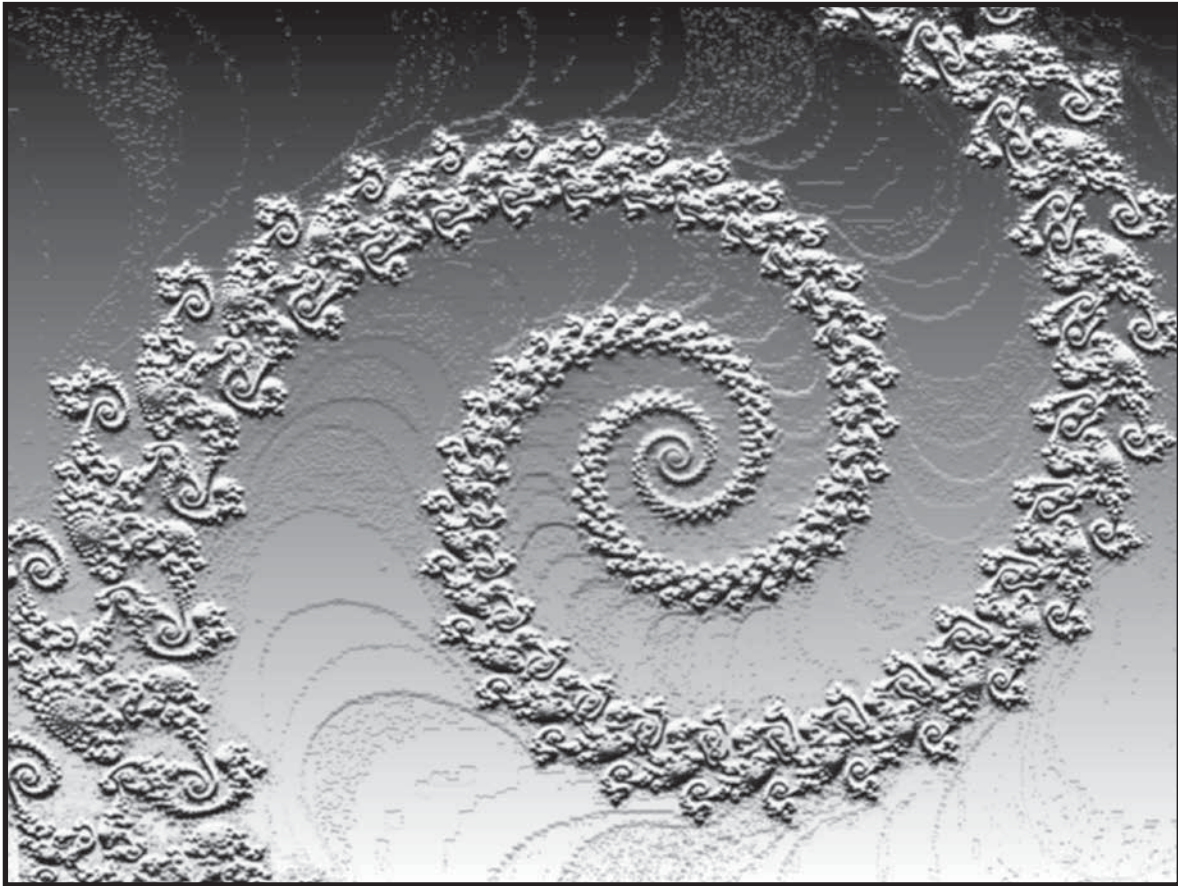
Also, transits rarely come alone. For example, when Saturn enters Scorpio in October 2012, it will trine Neptune and sextile Pluto, which might make for a very disciplined psychological and spiritual transformation. In 2006 Saturn in Leo opposed Neptune in Aquarius, and this planetary combination tends to be unrelentingly disheartening. Whereas the conjunction of Jupiter and Uranus in June 2010 would have brought far more excitement and exhilaration. So some transit combinations are more difficult than others. Dealing with transits is a question of attitude. Going with the flow, rolling with the punches and surfing the wave will bring more opportunities than problems, leading to the kind of life you have been wanting all along.

(Editor's Note: This article forms the basis of a lecture on counseling techniques that Adrian will offer at UAC on May 25, 2012.)



"One of the ways to understand a progression or transit is that it's time for a certain something to come to life. The experience of the outer planet transits is like being thrown into a myth; afterwards, it's hard to return to ordinary reality. They unearth new depths; open new vistas... It's as though you encounter a God during the outer planet transits."

Liz Greene, *Relating*



Astrology's Orderly Chaos

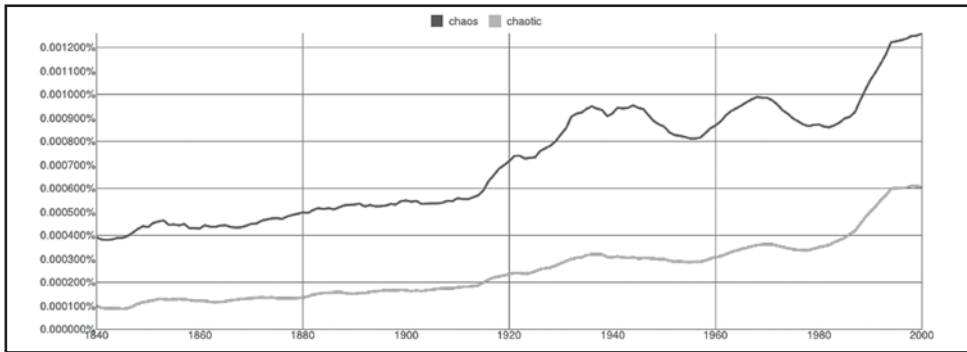
By Joseph Crane

Over the past few decades, “chaos theory” and “complexity theory” have emerged as new scientific models for understanding chaotic and/or complex systems. Chaos theory has grown out of physics and mathematics. Complexity theory has developed mainly from studying biological and human systems. These theories share a natural alignment with the spirit and practice of astrology, more so than other attempts to use astrology with the concepts of modern science. The current configuration of Uranus and Pluto makes this an auspicious time to discuss chaos and complexity theory with astrologers.

Among the many resources available to the general reader on the subjects, I am particularly indebted to Bernadette Brady's *Astrology: A Place in Chaos* (2006).¹ She has helped open up chaos theory to astrologers and has inspired much of the study I have done in this area. Although my ideas differ from hers in some ways, I suggest that anybody who wishes to study this material further begin with Ms. Brady's book – but don't stop there. At the end of this article I include additional resources for the interested reader.

This essay is divided into three parts. First, we look at chaos from our own understanding and experience and briefly trace its history in cosmology and philosophy. The second part provides a brief history of the development of modern chaos theory, some of its methods and findings, and possible applications to astrology. Modern chaos theory examines disorder, or randomness, while seeking to find its underlying hidden structures – as we do as astrologers. Finally, we will look briefly at the idea of complexity, which provides an understanding of states that move toward chaos, or move from the more chaotic to the more orderly.

The title of this article is taken from a book by the Buddhist teacher, Chögyam Trungpa, entitled *Orderly Chaos* (1991).² Chögyam Trungpa tells us that the mandala principle (a view of the structure of the world and life around us) is orderly chaos: it comes in a pattern, but working with this pattern is chaotic, confusing. As astrologers, we are along a similar path, applying the ordered world of astrological delineation to the seemingly random events in the lives of our clients.



chaos": feminine, maternal, and the dark primeval ocean. Her husband Apsu was the fresh water. They gave rise to generations of gods whose exuberant activity irritated the steady but inert Tiamat and Apsu. Then things got even worse when Apsu was killed and the situation descended into warfare. The god-children had brought chaos to their beleaguered parents.

The Word "Chaos" and Its Modern Use

Google's NGram Viewer tracks the frequency of words in publications in English since the 1800's. Applying this graph to "chaos" and "chaotic" shows how common these words are in our language at various points in time.

Their frequency of use grew during the more difficult times of the last century, but increased even more within the past twenty years. Interestingly, their usage increased dramatically in the mid-1960's at the peak of the Uranus/Pluto conjunction and the world events signaled by that conjunction.

What is the meaning of "chaos" and "chaotic" in our daily lives? It often refers to a flurry of disorganized activity around us when everything seems to be coming at us at once. We lose our sense of centrality and the world becomes temporarily disordered. Chaos is disorienting and overwhelming, requiring a great amount of energy from us.

But some chaos can be good. In a work of music or art, a moment of chaos can have a spontaneous feel to it, and we enjoy the chaos of five-year-old children engaged in boisterous activity – until we have to get them to sit still. Even if we sometimes experience chaos in our lives as unpleasant, at other times we long for things to get interesting once again. Chaos brings many people to their astrologers. Our clients may experience their current life situations as overwhelming and unpleasant, or they may feel stuck and long to have things stirred up. Much of our work as consulting astrologers is to help people navigate life's movements toward chaos, or the re-emergence of new order from chaos.

Chaos as Ante-Archetype

The concept of "chaos" has a long and interesting history, beginning with stories of the world's creation. In many traditions the world spontaneously arose from chaos in stages. In the Book of Genesis, creation also happens that way, but under the direction of a conscious, intentional Creator.

An earlier Babylonian tale begins with Tiamat, the "mother of

The leader of the upstart gods was the princely, heroic Marduk, who is the planet Jupiter in Babylonian astrology. Moving against his primal ancestor, Marduk caused storms and havoc, and he eventually shot an arrow through Tiamat, killing her. He then cut up her dead body, and from her remains formed our world. Relief sculptures of this great battle cast Tiamat as monstrous or amphibian. The result of this destructive chaos is the ordered, hierarchical universe governed by Marduk, yet formed from the body of Tiamat, the deity who represents nature as originally vast but inert and unformed.

The motif of chaos and creation as generational conflict is echoed in Hesiod, a Greek poet of the 7th century CE. According to Hesiod, Chaos is not a god but a dark void from which the first parts of creation come forth: Gaia, Tartarus of the underground Earth, and Eros. Then day arises, followed by the first generations of Titans and later the Olympian Gods. This sequence culminated in Zeus's triumph over his father, the titan Chronos. Again, we have creation happening in steps from formlessness.

Ovid, the Roman poet writing seven centuries after Hesiod, tells us that originally there was just Chaos, described as "a shapeless, unwrought mass of inert bulk/and nothing more, with the discordant seeds/of disconnected elements all heaped/together in anarchic disarray." (*Metamorphosis: Book 1:10-13*)³ Everything is a jumble, a hurly-burly that makes no sense. Ovid's rendition of chaos seems closest to the word that has come down to us today.

In the oriental traditions, chaos is cast differently. In the *Tao Te Ching*, chaos is the ongoing activity of creation: things are brought about darkly and chaotically and unfathomably. This parallels the concept of the Feminine Principle from the Indo-Tibetan traditions: the ongoing background of space and emptiness that continually gives rise to our world.

This concept of chaos as primordial parallels our modern psychological concept of the "fertile void" – the open-ended psychic space that gives rise to new understanding and creative solutions. Is this the same "chaos" that we experience in our lives? I think not.

In its original formulations, chaos is previous to, and more basic than, ordered time and the creation of the stars and planets with our ordered universe. Thus, we are *before astrology* – no stars or

planets can symbolically represent this background to the created world. This is not the “chaos” of everyday discourse, but rather ante-archetype (perhaps anti-archetype).

Chaos as a Value

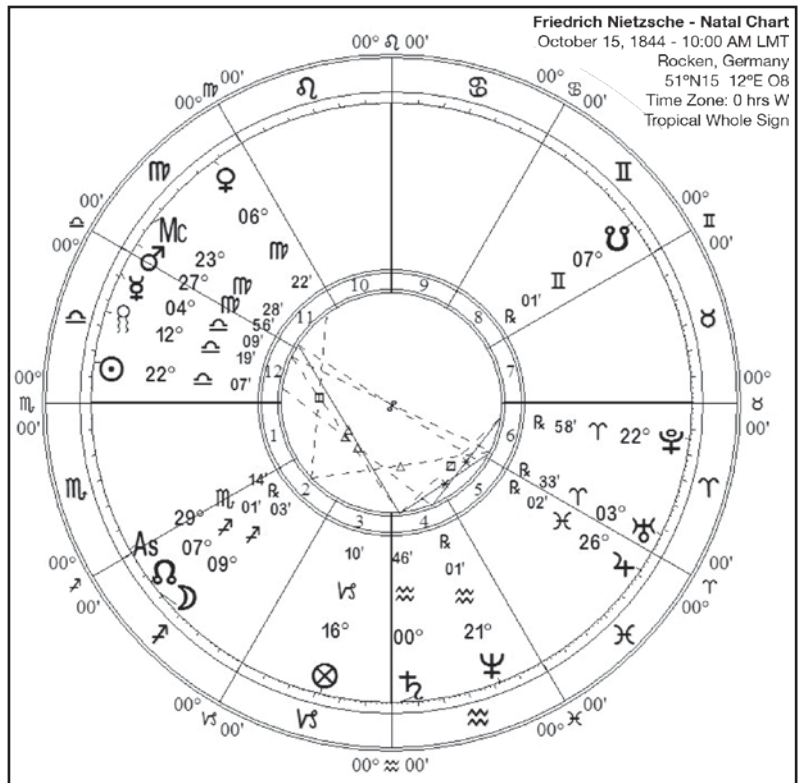
In the literature of ancient Greece there was an important role for chaos. In the Iliad, Homer exalted the carnage and glory of warfare. He presented the heroic (though short and violent) life of Achilles as being superior to a long but ordinary life. For the later poet Sophocles, life itself is not subject to the ordering activity of reason, but always veers toward the chaotic. We need to accept the fact that the world does not make sense, yet we can act within that world with dignity and heroism.

This contrasts with Greco-Roman philosophy and psychology that emphasized using our intelligence to control the inherent disorder of our bodily senses and passions. Our rational faculty is like the chariot driver driving the horses of our unruly appetites and emotions. A successful outcome is a good person and a good citizen. This also has a metaphysical dimension: the material world requires in-forming activity from above and beyond to become intelligible. This flourished in Neoplatonic traditions of late antiquity.

Neoplatonism profoundly influenced the medieval Christian doctrine, but there were three divergences that are important here. Theological doctrines of the Incarnation, the Creation of the Material World, and the Resurrection of the Body legitimized a new interest in the natural material world. This helped give rise to Western science, beginning in the 1200’s with the rediscovery of Aristotle. The goal became to discover the hidden order of the world: to find the footprints of an ordering God within the disorder of the material world. A couple of hundred years later, the theological doctrines fell away and the “scientific revolution” could begin.

We skip ahead a few centuries and discuss the life of a modern prophet of chaos, someone who loved Homer and Sophocles, and considered most ancient and medieval philosophy to be decadent. This is the nineteenth century European philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. His writings called into question the main principles of Christian ethics and modern democracy, and considered his contemporary culture to be sick. In his personal life, Nietzsche was a lonely and emotionally tortured man. Today he is considered one of the most interesting modern philosophers.

In *The Birth of Tragedy*, which Nietzsche wrote in his twenties, he posited an opposition of the Apollonian and Dionysian, an opposition between a longing for order and a longing for disorder. The Apollonian was represented by nostalgia for form and by



the visual arts. The Dionysian was allied with music, for music stimulates us to sing and dance and get carried away. The Dionysian ideal was to give rise to the chaos within. Nietzsche tended toward the transformative qualities of chaos. As he expressed it in his literary opus *Also Sprach Zarathustra*: "You must be ready to burn yourself in your own flame: how could you become new, if you had not first become ashes?"

Friedrich Nietzsche’s chart has some eye-popping components and a particular emphasis on oppositions that involve Uranus and Pluto.⁴

Nobody could be surprised that Nietzsche had a Scorpio Ascendant. The fiery red planet Mars, governing Scorpio, is in a strong position in the Eleventh House, the ancient place of the “Good Spirit.” This Mars, signifying Nietzsche’s fiery disposition, has a close opposition to a dignified Jupiter that adds a philosophical outlook. Jupiter makes an important contact to Uranus: they are contra-antiscia, symmetrical to the 0° Aries – Libra axis. This placement contributed to making Nietzsche an unusual philosopher, somebody with a bit of the renegade in him. In discussions of Nietzsche’s writings, we read frequent assertions that his life and ideas are “untimely”, ahead of his time.

In this context we can see more clearly the close opposition from Uranus to Mercury. These two planets figure prominently in the story of the development of the field of chaos. Nietzsche wedded excellent prose with a desire to be philosophically provocative. Many of Nietzsche’s writings are left open-ended as if he was conversing directly with his reader. “Conventional wisdom” was something to be dismantled and dialogue is how to do that. For

this, we can thank the configuration of Mercury opposite Uranus, and Uranus symmetrical to a dignified Jupiter.

This brings us to Nietzsche's other major opposition: Sun opposite Pluto. Consider his Sun in Libra in the Twelfth House that appears rather weak. Yet this is mitigated by the Lot of Daimon being nearby,⁵ and the Sun conjunct and co-rising with the fixed star Spica.⁶ He was a dynamic and creatively fertile individual in his writings, but not very self-expressive in person. When we factor in the opposition from Pluto, we see somebody who can articulate philosophical principles based on will and power, as well as the creative intensity of the passions.

The oppositions of Mercury with Uranus and Sun with Pluto are both in the cadent Sixth and Twelfth Places. Although Nietzsche's writings have an abundance of the heroic, and even a defense of life's cruelties, in person he was reserved, even kind and compassionate.

With such strong placements of Uranus and Pluto in his natal chart, we would expect Nietzsche's life to be sensitive to their transits. In 1879, he resigned his decade-long post as professor of philology at Basel University and began a decade of wandering as an independent author. Chaos suddenly intruded in late 1882 when he was co-habiting with his writer friend, Paul Reé, and the young Lou Andreas Salomé, whom Nietzsche had fallen in love with. While transiting Pluto was opposing his Ascendant, his two friends ran off together, leaving Nietzsche alone in despair. Yet a few months later, in January 1883, Nietzsche completed the first part of his *Also Sprach Zarathustra* in a white heat of productivity while transiting Uranus moved over his Midheaven. During the completion of this masterwork over the next two years, Uranus moved over his Mars and Mercury opposite his Jupiter and Uranus.

Unfortunately, Nietzsche's life ended in his becoming insane and increasingly physically incapacitated, spending his last ten years in the care of his family. His mental breakdown happened in the early days of 1889 with transiting Uranus making its first pass over his Sun in opposition to Pluto. (Transiting Neptune was also approaching an opposition to his Ascendant.)

As we will see later, Nietzsche's heartbreak was an indication of *complexity*--a radical shift toward chaos that can give rise to a creative response; his breakdown, however, was closer to chaos in a most tragic and irreversible form.

Closer to our lifetimes was Chögyam Trungpa, who fled Tibet and taught Buddhism in the West. Like Nietzsche, Trungpa also espoused a philosophy we could call chaotic, taking delight in disorder as a great way to wake people up.

Very beautiful situations have developed using chaos as part of the enlightened approach. There is chaos of all kinds developing all the time: psychological disorder, social disorder, metaphysical disorder, what have you, constantly

happening. If you are trying to stop those situations, you are looking for external means of liberating yourself, another answer. But if we are able to look into the basic situation, then chaos is the inspiration, confusion is the inspiration.⁷

Nietzsche's and Chögyam Trungpa's views are also reflected within different schools of psychotherapy in the twentieth century that have strongly influenced current astrological counseling. From this glimpse of chaos, we now go to the "hard sciences" to continue the story.

Chaos as Scientific Study

I will focus on three occasions that help us understand the new science of chaos: the non-solution to the three body debate that gave us a first glimpse of weird order behind disorder; the discovery of Sensitive Dependency to Initial Conditions ("the Butterfly Effect") and "strange attractors"; and the research of paths from order to chaos and the discovery of self-similarity and scale invariance.

We begin with an ideal of all the physical sciences: accurate prediction. In a dynamic system using Newtonian physics, if you knew all the factors involved and could apply those fixed laws that are relevant to the interaction, you could predict future conditions accurately. From this point of view, the enterprise of science aims to curb the unpredictable nature of future time.

The physics of Isaac Newton and the "age of enlightenment" achieved much, but only up to a point, and from the beginning there was a worm in the apple. Although its crowning success was in predicting the location and movements of planets around the Sun, they could not predict location and movement of three planetary bodies whose gravitational forces influenced each other.

In the late 1800's there was a contest to award the scientist who could come closest to solving the three-body problem. The young French physicist, Jules Henri Poincaré, one of the greatest scientists of his time, decided to tackle this difficulty.

To find a solution, Poincaré devised a concept called "*state space*" and an instrument later called the "Poincaré map" wherein all the possible states of a system are displayed as a discrete shape. He conjectured that by placing all the information on one graph, patterns previously undetected could be discerned. He was making good progress, but then he discovered he had made a mistake. Redoing his computations, he came up with a startling result: a curved pattern formed by the permutations of three bodies influencing one another. A pair of curves looped back on themselves, crossing to form an infinity of intersections. No two curves could ever cross themselves, but they would cross the web an infinite number of times.

Here we have an example of orderly chaos: finding qualities, characteristics and rules, but not the anticipated coherent pat-

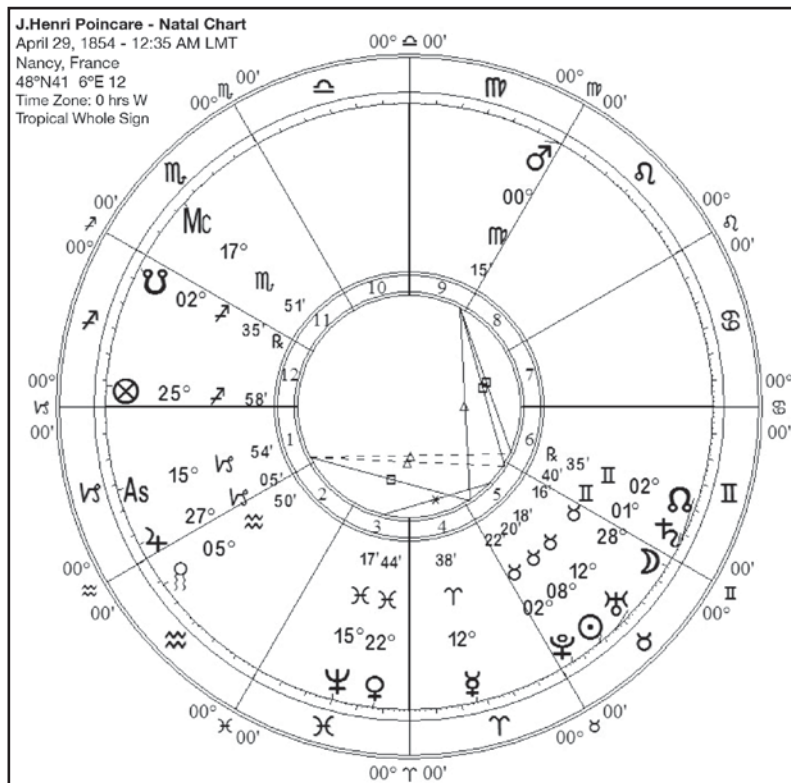
tern. Poincaré determined that the planets' changing positions and velocities could not be calculated accurately. He found this simple interaction between three planets to have unpredictable characteristics. There was a pattern inherent within, but none that he could understand.

(There is an important difference between the scientific study "chaos" and quantum physics and Heisenberg's principle of indeterminacy. Here we are working with a fully *deterministic* system, whereby present conditions give rise to future conditions. Instead, quantum theory uses indices of *probability*.)

Below is Poincaré's natal chart.⁸ We first notice many planets in the earth element, but with Mercury particularly strong, angular in Aries and oriental. Mercury is also the midpoint of Sun and Neptune. Poincaré was a plodding person who could stick to one thing well, yet he had a wiry and supple mind.

Once again, we find Uranus and Pluto to be prominent. We first notice the Sun applying towards Uranus, but then we see that the Sun is at the Uranus/Pluto midpoint. Poincaré was a pioneering physicist and mathematician who helped develop the new field of topology: the mathematical study of strange forms such as the Mobius strip.

In early 1887, the year he had completed his project and won the scientific prize, transiting Uranus was opposing his natal Mercury. In the best expression of this transit, Poincaré had produced a wonderful feat of intellectual imagination and thereby established the methodology and outcome of scientific chaos.



Yet he and the world of science moved on from his odd "solution" to the three-body problem. It wasn't until the early 1960's that the science of chaos picked up again. It resumed through an investigation into a different chaotic system – the weather. Here we meet Ed Lorenz, a mathematician who became a meteorologist and devoted himself to finding a mathematical means to predict weather. Lorenz devised an elaborate set of equations to model the weather, and with a room filled up with the early computers, he got to work. On one famous evening, he tried to short-cut the data entry process for the start-up conditions and entered rounded off values while re-running a particular model. He rounded his numbers to three decimal places whereas the original model had run with numbers to six decimal places. When he returned, he discovered that this small difference made for vastly different weather!

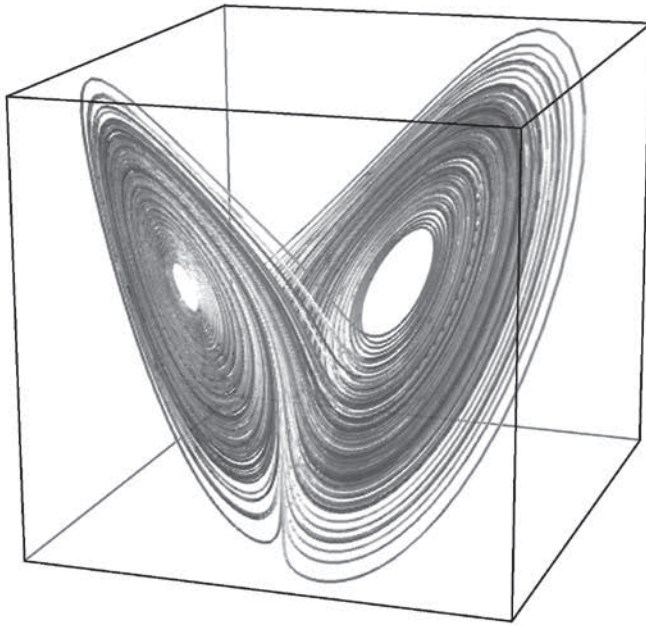
Most scientists might have blamed the problem on bad equipment or faulty inputting (both checked out fine), or attributed the result to having had a tough day, but Lorenz investigated further. Later this phenomenon would be called "Sensitive Dependence on Initial Conditions" (SDIC). This shows the effect of our weather system as *nonlinear*: a small change can give rise to disproportionately large effects. This turns out to be the case with all interactive systems.

Lorenz's discoveries and his first publications occurred before the famous Uranus-Pluto conjunction of the mid-60s, yet ten years afterwards SDIC became known as "the Butterfly Effect" to the scientific community and in the popular imagination.

Does a natal astrology chart also exhibit Sensitive Dependence of Initial Conditions? Not in the same way as Lorenz's "Butterfly Effect." Changing an Ascendant from 29° Scorpio to 00° Sagittarius would have helped Friedrich Nietzsche be a more socially and emotionally secure person, but this would have been the case from birth. Strictly speaking, the "Butterfly Effect" displays increasing divergences over time. It is similar to the 1998 movie "Sliding Doors" where a woman missing the subway or not would have consequences that increasingly diverged throughout the movie.

Lorenz moved from complex weather equations to simpler ones using convection: the patterns of water rising and falling from a heated surface below and a cooler surface above. This is also illustrated with moving water wheels. As the wheel fills with water, the wheel will stay still, or oscillation will occur periodically or haphazardly, depending on the amount of tamping of the wheel's motion. (Do a search on YouTube for "Lorenz Water Wheel" for a video demonstration.) Our interest here is in the haphazard back-and-forth movements of the water wheel.

Lorenz found that the seemingly random movements of the wheel did settle into a form, but what a



weird form it was! It was three-dimensional, non-returning and a-periodic. This became known as the “Lorenz Attractor”, one of many such shapes that were later called strange attractors. (His definitely looks like a butterfly’s wings.) A strange attractor is different from a *point attractor* or *basin*, where things converge at one point, or a periodic attractor that resolves into a regular oscillation. Because the system is a-periodic and the foci are irregular, this attractor certainly qualifies as “strange”.

All three kinds of attractors are found in astrology. The stars, planets and angles move around a *fixed point* that is the Earth in a geocentric chart, or the Sun in a heliocentric chart. Additionally, the planets are *periodically* “attracted” to its conjunctions with the Sun and other planets. This is because the positions of the angles and planets are deterministic and also linear.

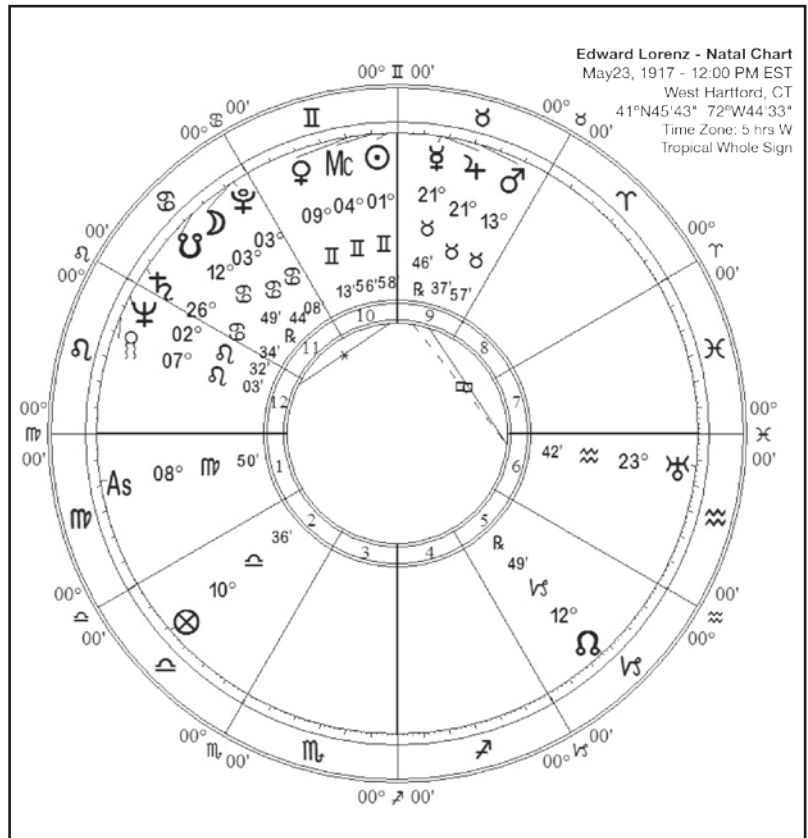
According to the art of astrology, the always-changing and never-repeating configurations of the skies give rise to the patterned but unpredictable circumstances in our lives. These circumstances may have their own repeating situations, coincidences, and omen-like occurrences with hidden meaning.⁹ Astrology gives a conceptual framework for this to occur. The applications of astrology help us understand these occasions – they provide context. Although the configurations of the sky are linear, we use them as *strange attractors* in their ability to signify people and events on Earth.

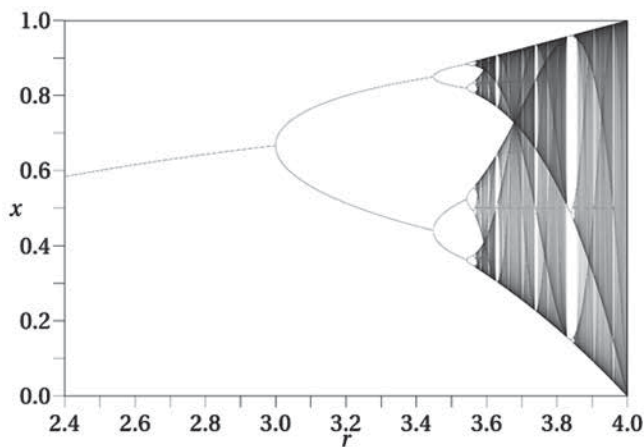
Let’s take a brief look at Lorenz’s natal chart. Unfortunately, we only have a date of birth. Although it appears that Lorenz has a close Moon-Pluto conjunction, this is not trustworthy because of the unknown birth time.

Lorenz’s Sun in Gemini sextile to Neptune qualifies him as a bright and unusually imaginative person. As with Poincaré, Uranus figures prominently: it is in close applying square to both Mercury and Jupiter in Taurus. We see the doggedness of the sign Taurus, and the brilliance and eccentricity associated with Uranus. During the time of his research into the chaotic nature of weather prediction, transiting Uranus was in opposition to his natal Mercury; his initial article was published in 1963 when transiting Uranus was in opposition to his natal Sun. Lorenz’s trailblazing work was practically unnoticed when it was first published in the 1960’s. Today he is considered a pioneer of the study of chaos.

Our next development takes us into systems and patterns that reveal themselves on the way into chaos. The foremost name associated with this development is Robert May, a theoretical biologist working in the mid-1970’s.

At that time May was working with the mathematics of insect population growth. This is also an example of a nonlinear system of interacting components: a growing population will compete for limited resources, variable predator populations, etc. As a result, population will decrease and increase again, and so on. According to the mathematical model used, if the growth rate is too small the species dies out; if the growth rate is a little higher, the population resolves into a continuous oscillation; larger rates of growth, however, result in population swings that are irregular and seemingly random.





The diagram above shows the results of increases of population growth from what's called a "logistic map." It gives a different version of the "state space" discussed previously. The vertical "x" stands for the population; the "r" horizontal axis is the rate of growth. The map begins simply and then things start to get weird.

The single line to the left (rate of growth (r) = 2.4 to about 3.0) is an example of a point attractor – there is a steady population growth. We first see *bifurcations* into two paths at $r = 3.0$ to about 3.45. Here, the population is oscillating between a high and low population level. This would be a periodic attractor if they lead to a regular oscillation but they do not. Instead they lead to another bifurcation into four values (two different highs and two different lows) and then another one into eight and this can continue. Then we reach the "accumulation point", an amount a shade less than $r = 3.6$, where things seem to go out of control.

However, when we look to the right of the accumulation point, we see a darkened area but one not without some form. If we could look closer at the white areas, we would find further bifurcations that look quite like the visible ones. This is not the mess that it appears to be; instead, it obeys principles of *self-similarity* – we get the same general shape of horseshoe, though they are not quite the same. They are not quantitative *identities* but quantitative *similarities*.

There is another strange factor to the shape: its rate of decrease of the horseshoe shapes that are the bifurcations. A mathematician named Mitchell Feigenbaum discovered that the rate of decrease horizontally, and the difference in values horizontally between "period doublings" was 4.6692016091. These same numbers would show up in other chaotic systems, from iterating a function on a hand calculator to chemical and physical systems of values or qualities that interact with each other. The scientific study of chaos leads not to an affirmation of randomness, but rather to the discovery of a kind of order that is very hard for us to comprehend. Can anybody find a rationale for Feigenbaum's number?

In our lives, do we encounter *bifurcations* and *period doublings*? When do we not encounter them? Any moment in which we

are not acting out of habit we meet bifurcations. Indeed, when we examine our responses to specific situations in our lives, we always encounter a moment to go one way or the other. Tomorrow's route is based on the one we take today, and so bifurcations and period doublings lead to unpredictable but deterministic outcomes. Perhaps this is what free will is.

As astrologers working with clients, we can spot times of new possibilities for the client, but not know what direction he or she will choose. From knowing astrological symbolism and having some understanding of the circumstances and issues our client is facing, we can make some good conjectures, but the outcomes are unpredictable. The client may be influenced by our advice, but the actions always belong to him or her.

In astrology do we encounter self-similarity? We certainly encounter self-similarity in time. Consider the range of sensitive points in a natal chart: every day the Ascendant and Midheaven transit the same sensitive points; each month the Moon and each year the Sun will transit these points; Saturn will take almost thirty years. This is also the case with directions, many ancient chronocrator systems proficiencies of 30° a year, and the movement of the age point according to the Huber method of progression.¹⁰

Moving on to the next development in Chaos Theory, we will now look at fractals. The person most associated with this is Benoit Mandelbrot, who coined the term from the Latin word for "irregular". It turns out that fractals are far more prevalent in nature than are the standard geometrical shapes. Their presence ranges from the twisting shapes of many jagged shorelines, to the intricate surfaces of our lungs and brains, to the distribution to leaves on a tree, to the contours of geological formations. They also are found in various art forms. Fractals obey principles of self-similarity and scale *invariance* – the same shapes appear regardless of larger or smaller scales.

Certain mathematical equations that use "complex" numbers (merging real and imaginary numbers) can give rise to stunning forms. The best known is the "Mandelbrot set" that contains forms that continue infinitely. I trust that interested readers will pursue the story further on their own. An animation of the Mandelbrot set is a great place to begin and is easily found on the internet.

To summarize, the study of chaos is the study of systems of *apparent* chaos. "Chaotic" phenomena may be non-periodic and unpredictable, but they are not random. Instead, they show evidence of peculiar kinds of order. There are many other systems that also appear random that are not yet understood by the science of chaos. For example, we cannot quite determine highly complex interactive systems like the general economy, although we can perceive patterns of self-similarity and scale invariance in the stock market. Social trends among highly interactive beings like ourselves are at the high end of seeming randomness.

As a *logos*, astrology is not about chaos but order. Certainly the sky and earth we look at as astrologers have an order to it. Otherwise we couldn't predict planets' positions in the sky and would have nothing to base our predictions upon. This is the case whether we use earth maps or star maps, geocentric or heliocentric positions, or a Hellenistic or Vedic chart. Yet its relationship with chaos and complexity gives astrology its relevance and importance in peoples' lives. People seek the advice of astrologers (among others), not because their lives proceed randomly, but because there is unknown order behind these seemingly random happenings of life.

Uranus and Pluto, Chaos and Complexity

Now we engage the so-called "soft sciences," particularly sociology, anthropology, and psychology. How do systems – individuals and families, species of living things, cultures and fashions – change? All these are dynamic, nonlinear systems made of interacting components. Here, instead of being called "Chaos Theory", it is called "Complexity Theory."

What is Complexity? It is the transitional stage between chaos and order and back again. When the direction is from order on its way to chaos, this a path of *entropy*. Closed systems that do not interact well with their environments may move into entropy. If so, the loss of internal energy and the growing influence of outside forces will eventually overwhelm a system's capacity to adapt and maintain its form.

Complexity also occurs in relatively chaotic systems on their way toward order as *self-organization* occurs. There is a strong tendency in nature for different units to coalesce to create one larger unit, whether it's the development of more complex life forms in evolution, the unconscious synchronization of rhythms between people, or the tendency of people, families, and cultures to create new forms out of disarray. The astrologer's job is to help identify and support this process as it occurs.

As we know from our own lives and those of others, we do not have the ability to endure chaos for very long. If chaos can grow into complexity, however, new creative "self-organizing" possibilities occur.

Chaos is not the "fertile void" after all. Instead, the richness of new possibility is the activity of *complexity*--the movement from fixed order toward chaos and then back toward order. This provides us with our greatest creative possibilities.

From an astrological viewpoint, this movement that results in either entropy or self-organization is correlated to our interpretations of Pluto and Uranus: Uranus because its nature is turbulence; Pluto because it undermines fixed patterns. (Neptune may compromise the core

structure from the inside, as we've seen with Friedrich Nietzsche's breakdown.)

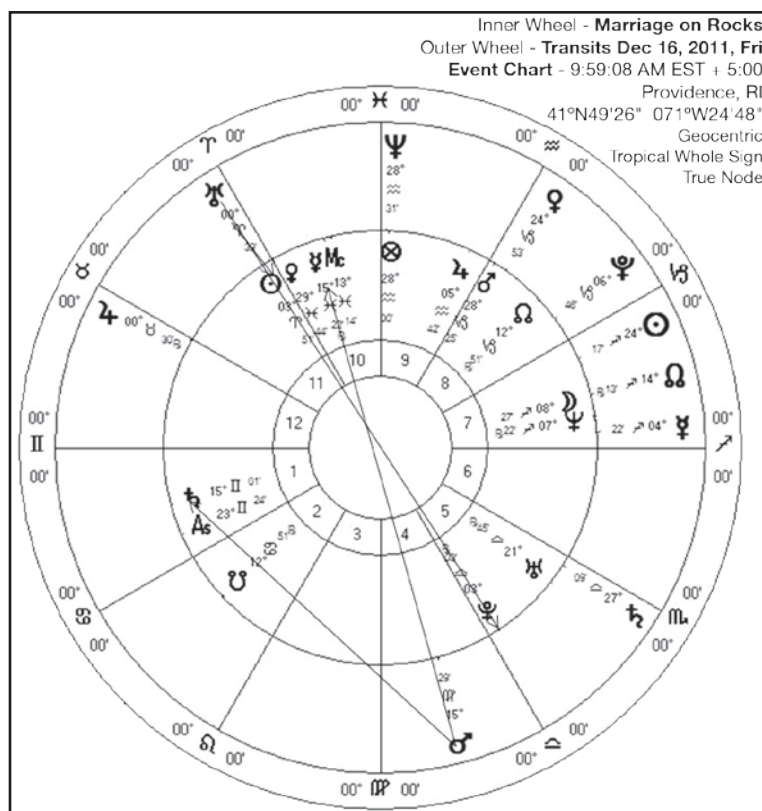
From the natal placements of Uranus and Pluto, we may see what areas of our lives are most likely to move to and from chaos; their transits show when movements toward chaos will happen. They may signal those times when our lives can be shaken up by external events or by our own subjective choices.

Eventually nature's tendencies toward synchronization and self-organization take over and new creative possibilities emerge. Neither transiting Uranus nor Pluto can govern these possibilities: when these planets have finished their work of transition, the newer structures of life take over.

CASE STUDY

End with Uranus and Pluto and chaos in the life of one of my clients. She has been married for ten years and has two children, yet is determined that her marriage end. At this time her husband is resisting and has refused to leave their house. It is likely that the result will be a contested divorce suit and a bitter custody battle, especially since she wants to live overseas with her children. She may also decide to stay with him after all. Her chart and transits clearly depict her difficult situation.

My client's natal chart displays a strong Sun opposite Pluto with its implications of power struggles in relationships. This is made more complicated by her conservative Saturn in the First House and an enabling Neptune-Moon conjunction in the



Seventh. Also, Mercury in Pisces in the Tenth, although strongly positioned as ruler of her Ascendant, may show a tendency to minimize difficulties or put off dealing with them – until Mercury’s square from Saturn kicks in. At this time, however, she has chosen to face all her difficulties at once.

Pluto began her marital drama in 2009 when, from Capricorn, it formed a square to Sun in Aries and Pluto in Libra. This began a process of increasing discontent. In the period from May through September 2011, with Uranus dwelling on her natal Sun and opposing Pluto, my client resolved to end the marriage and began the separation and divorce process. At the time of this writing (December 2011), Mars has entered the sign Virgo where it will remain for the entire first half of 2012. Mars is in her Fourth House of home and family, and is right now transiting Saturn, Mercury, and her Midheaven.

Of course she wants to know what is going to happen! We can look at the timing of these transits as peaks and valleys in the process. We also know that she has begun a course of events – a temporary descent toward chaos – that she cannot undo and that will have ramifications for her own life as well as all her family members. Even if she stays married to her husband, it would be a very different marriage that would need to emerge.

The future course of events will be dictated by her own actions and those of her husband, their respective lawyers, their children, and the legal system. Although she has initiated these events, she cannot control their outcome. Specific outcomes are based on shifting contexts. An astrologer cannot predict exactly who will do what, any more than the physicist can figure out the exact locations and velocities of three planets that influence each other’s gravitational fields.

However, based on the relevant astrological symbolism, knowing the client, and an application of intuition, the astrologer may come up with some pretty good ideas. Yet they will be only approximations. In this case I do know that a week after Mars leaves Virgo and her Fourth House, she has a progressed New Moon. Things are indeed “chaotic” in the ordinary use of the word, but there is order within the maelstrom from which new order and a new life will emerge.

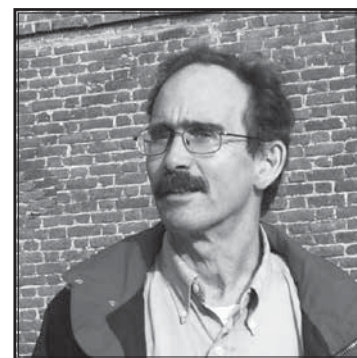
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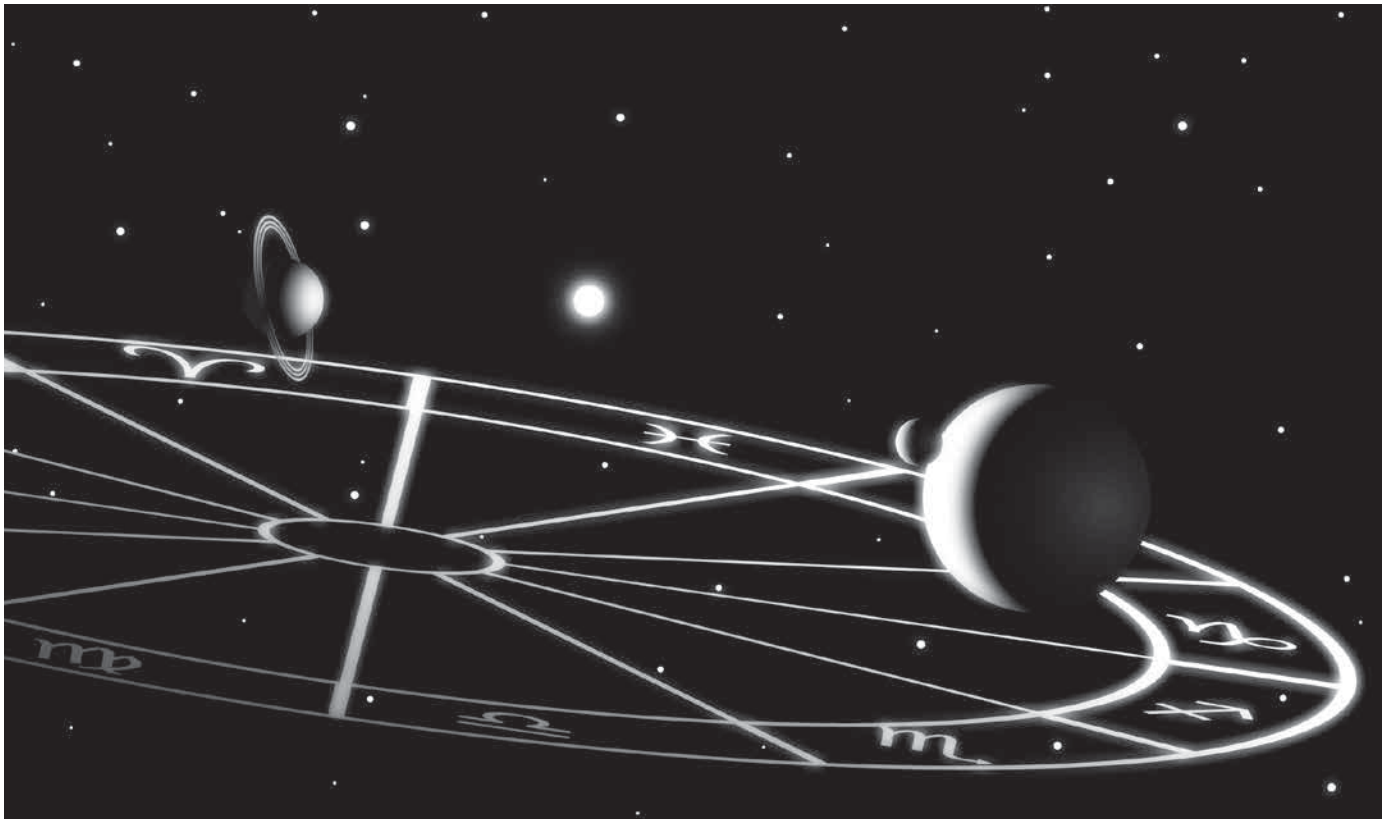
Endnotes

1. Bournemouth, UK: Wessex Astrologer
2. From Shambhala Publications. *Orderly Chaos* also appears in *The Collected Works of Chögyam Trungpa*, Vol. 6, pp. 301-425 Boston Ma: Shambhala Publications, 2004
3. Translation by Charles Martin. (2004) New York, W.W.Norton
4. Chart reliability is “B” according to Astrodatbank: derived from biographical sources.
5. Otherwise known as the “Lot of Spirit”, this Lot is symmetrical to the Ascendant of the Lot of Fortune. If the Lot of Fortune represents outer circumstances and circumstances we cannot directly control, the Lot of Daimon signifies areas of deliberation and conscious choice.
6. Spica is the largest star of the constellation Virgo and is associated with good fortune, fertility and creativity. This is one of the most positive stars used by astrologers.
7. *Ocean of Dharma: The Everyday Wisdom of Chögyam Trungpa*. #12. (2008) Boston, Ma. Shambhala Publications
8. Chart reliability is “AA”: from birth records.
9. Brady (2006) pp.65-67
10. <http://www.astrologicalpsychology.org/articleageprogression.html> Accessed Dec. 12, 2011.



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The First Quarter Square of Uranus and Pluto: *An Odyssey of Phases*

by Georgia Stathis

This article approaches the upcoming first quarter square between transiting Uranus and Pluto from the perspective of potential financial and economic changes. In order to do so, we must first examine the difference between a first quarter square and a last quarter square. Then we must review the basic natures and reactive states of both Uranus and Pluto as they engage in an historic confrontation rare in history. These two titans have been approaching each other for quite some time, and are currently in the final crescent phase of their relationship. They will not reach their *official* exact square until June 24, 2012, which continues through March 16, 2015.

The key thing to remember is that, in our lifetimes, we haven't experienced a Uranus-Pluto first quarter square. The last time they were in first quarter square to each other was between 1876 and 1877, just after a nasty Saturn-Uranus opposition that began in 1873. The following excerpt from a 1932 article by James Mars Langham vividly depicts the economic climate of those times:

Herschel [Uranus] completed its first very evil major aspect opposition 180° to Saturn in April of 1873 and remained in opposi-

tion (progressing and then coming back by retrograde movement) until November of 1876. *[This is very similar to what just happened between 2008 and 2009 when Saturn in Virgo opposed Uranus in Pisces.]* This of course was a very evil indication and to quote from the same book [Langham] read: 'In 1873 occurred a panic which affected every operation of finance and commerce. It was more than a panic. It was the beginning of a long period of financial and industrial depression, in many ways the logical outcome of ill adjusted production and credit. *[Sound familiar?]* A total of over 25,000 miles of new railway construction had been made in four years from 1868 to 1872 *[interesting that the idea of the Super Train is all over the news right now and is an evolving industry at this writing]*, which in turn created a demand for iron which led to over-investment in this industry and prices of all commodities, were unduly inflated. The political consequences of the panic were seen in the fall of 1874, when the congressional elections for the first time since 1860 went against the Republican Party. *[When President Obama won the election of 2008 in the midst of the crisis, the Democratic Party took away the eight year run of the Republicans.]* In 1876 dissatisfaction with the financial policy of the government was so bitter that it crystallized in a separate

political organization known as the 'Greenback Party,' which in 1878 polled a million votes. [Does the 'Tea Party' ring any bells?]¹

This article excerpt, despite its archaic language, eerily describes conditions in the mid-to-late 1800s that resonate with financial and political conditions today. Many say that we can tell about the future by examining the past. So when we are asked to forecast what can potentially happen with this upcoming square, we can look at the past, but we can only assess the possibilities because we haven't had the experience in our contemporary lives. Just as we never had the 'experience' of foreign invasion on American soil when the airplanes crashed into the Twin Towers on 9/11, the present state of our world is at the great precipice of an unknown, financially-based planet. In the U.S. during the turbulent decade of the 60s, shocking new realities burst onto the horizon during the Uranus-Pluto conjunction in Virgo. It was a time of violence and anarchy throughout the country, with student uprisings (even student murders at Kent State University), as well as the deaths of President Kennedy, his brother Robert, and Martin Luther King. The times were a-changing, and explosions of consciousness (good words for Uranus-Pluto) led to social movements that changed life on many levels, both personal and economic. The U.S. went off the gold standard in 1971 and a floating currency became the norm, leading to the overprinting of money, which continues today in certain countries.

The end result was the devaluation and demise of many currency values throughout the world, eroding over time. The concept of credit became more common than rare as financial institutions and government treasuries began credit exchange programs for goods and services.

From the perspective of the U.S., it is important to understand that we are still a very young nation of 50 states (which are like 50 countries), with a population of 312,000,000 people run by only 545 individuals (100 Senators, 435 members of Congress, 9 Supreme Court Justices and 1 President). That comes out to 57,248 persons per elected official! Barely 236 years old, we are yet to experience our first Pluto return. But as we inch ever closer to that momentous period, through its current balsamic phase, huge shifts in our thinking and value systems are inevitable, although still imperceptible. The U.S. is much like a teenager with hormones raging: teenagers want what they want when they want it as they ally themselves against the 'old folks who don't know anything'. And like teens coming of age who gain new freedom and responsibility with the obtaining of their driver's license, their choices and actions have consequences if they should break the rules.

This youth mindset is often the consciousness-raising path of young governments with new leaders, as well as young economies and emerging markets, new wealth bases and new technologies. Some things work in this process while others don't. We have

the creativity of youth not yet jaded like much older countries. Innovation is one of America's key attributes, and this is a very Uranian gift. Just twenty years ago, cell phones were the size of a bag of flour, and now they are a palm-sized computer port of telecommunication – the modern version of the magic wand created by young wizards of time and technology. Many of these young wizards emerged from the U.S.

However, there are wizards and there are wizards. What about those financial wizards who created such things as derivatives, mortgage-backed securities, and many (not all) investment banks which, wanting to profit, created instant money and paper for those material things that so many people clamored for--and received by merely signing on the dotted line. No one looked at the 'shadow' side of these contractual agreements until it was too late. Unless one faces the shadow, things fall apart. Innovation, too, has its dark side like everything else.



The ever-present shadow is one of the faces of Pluto. If we (the collective we) conduct our financial lives with responsibility and forethought, then Pluto does not resort to extreme responses. As human beings, we are all too often masters of denial when frozen in fear, and thus more likely to push the shadow down deeper and deeper until there's no more room for it, at which point it explodes in frightening scenarios like fi-

financial meltdowns, great depressions, and civil wars. **This is what a head-to-head first quarter square pushing against Pluto is really about – the eruption of the shadow.** The remedy requires asking the questions that no one dares to ask, and a stalwart confrontation of hard truths followed by constructive actions, regardless of the pain and hardship this entails.

To get the result, we have to ask the same questions that a well-trained journalist asks devoid of editorial comment. "Why, what, where, who and when?" We need to ask why is there such a huge world debt? Is it because of the banks and investment houses alone? What about all the individuals who took those loans? The same is true with regard to the present crisis in Europe. When the European Union formed and countries clamored for entry, why did those that didn't qualify get in? Countries like Greece are now immersed in a mini-revolution as the European Bank continues to bail them out in hopes of saving them and themselves. Greece--along with Italy, Spain and Portugal--should never have been allowed into the EU in the first place as they didn't produce the correct GDP, balance their country's budgets or resolve their debts. But the vision for something bigger than themselves (Neptune-tainted) was so great that exceptions prevailed. And now as the square between Uranus and Pluto tightens, it is very possible that by the time 2015 arrives, the EU will disband and begin a major reorganization that is larger than the aforementioned Union! It is very possible that certain countries not qualified to remain in the EU will return to their own native

currencies. Perhaps that is the beginning of ‘shadow-facing’ and self-responsibility. This, of course, suggests an explosive financial crisis until the reorganization process is completed, probably not until late 2015 at the closure of the Uranus-Pluto square.

Coming home to the U.S. and the infamous bailouts of 2008-2009, the idea was right. Based on Keynesian economics, it worked in the past, but devoid of regulation and restriction when handing out large sums of money, it is catastrophic! We assume people and institutions are honorable and follow the rules of money, but we all know what assumption means. In any transaction, one must have collateral, plain and simple. You have to have rules and regulations (Saturn) when you contract with others (Libra). The borrower must know consequences are an absolute given if the agreement is to work. Pluto demands this awareness or he gets angry. After all, Pluto and Saturn were brothers who had to work together to make the ‘world’ work. Pluto, like the ferryman Charon, must be paid in order to be transported across the murky waters of the River Styx. If you don’t pay, you don’t go, remaining in the underworld forever.

Non-regulation of these bailouts clearly illustrates a no-rules policy gone terribly wrong. At the time of the emergency bailouts, certain individuals involved with the bailouts said, “Hold on... we have to think about what they have to do to pay us back.” But the parties expressing this concern were silenced, the crisis was immediate with threats of international panic, and money was doled out without any rules. Government got bigger and gained more control over several private industries. It even insisted that certain banks refusing the bailouts be forced to take them anyway! Certain lending institutions took the bailouts without any intention of pipelining the proceeds to their customers to ensure growth and increase employment numbers.

Subsequently, the escalating job losses and company bankruptcies fueled the climbing foreclosure rates, resulting in millions of homeless people: eight out of ten homes empty in many of the most affected states. The panic of the Saturn-Uranus opposition, intensified by the crescent phase between Uranus and Pluto at that same time, provided the basis of an economic meltdown beautifully described in Andrew Ross Sorkin’s book, *Too Big to Fail*, wherein he states: “The individuals who propelled this narrative genuinely believed they were – and may in fact have been – staring into the economic abyss.”² Galileo Galilei said, “All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them.”

Synodic Phases of Uranus-Pluto

The prelude to any first quarter square is the 45° to 90° angle called the crescent phase. (The phases are named after the same phases of the Moon.) Crescent phases are notorious for creating obstacles without any solutions. They are the phase in which red tape is the order of the day and nothing seems to get done. Much like the new moon phase, the crescent phase is at the

beginning of a 360° cycle. Similar to the 45° angle known as the semi-square, it is an aspect that creeps up on you and suddenly strikes when least expected. It triggers stress because it is a cycle reacting to change without any concrete experience for solutions. It marks the beginning phase of self-actualization--but self-actualization it ain’t! Causing nothing but trouble, creating adversity, ignoring any action that includes compromise, it just gripes about all the problems emerging as the result of the new phase (which for our current Uranus-Pluto square would refer back to the original Uranus-Pluto conjunction of the 1960s and the issues of civil rights, equal rights and rampant inflation). The crescent phase sets the tone for the first quarter square, which is the beginning of the ability to see both sides and begin working out solutions.

At the first quarter square, both planets face off with each other. The 90° angle, whose number adds up to the number 9, suggests that both planets must move to a higher level of communication and consciousness or else the completely new order fails. The seeds planted at the conjunction (similar to Aries energy) are now at the Cancer-themed phase, which is about caring for and cultivating the crop sown from the seedlings of the conjunction. At this phase we pull the weeds, eradicate the dead wood and fertilize the crop, because what we cultivate is what we reap in the following phases. We must tend our garden in order to survive when winter arrives. This is the power of a first quarter square position versus a last quarter square (270°), an angle of release, which last occurred in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

A last quarter square is very different. It is an ‘economic winter’ phase, close to the end of a cycle, three-quarters of the way around. For all intents and purposes, it has laid down its track and cannot go back. It aligns itself to the position of Capricorn in the zodiac while the conjunction aligns itself with the energy of Aries. In the northern hemisphere, the time of Capricorn is winter. What appears to be dead is really hanging on, frozen in a latent state of possibility. Likewise, last quarter squares appear to be without light but are the incubation phase of the future cycle. Survival measures and solutions are enacted to shore up the previous cycle’s unresolved problems while, at the same time, something inside is planted and incubating. Last quarter phases are cycles without light while first quarter phases have lots of light. One holds on for survival while the other moves forward.³

Following is a table with a series of dates that includes a sequence of last quarter, conjunction and first quarter phases of the Uranus-Pluto cycle. Note that the first three dates in the table

Last Quarter Phase	Conjunction	First Quarter Phase
1566 - 1567	1597 - 1598: 20° Aries	1623 - 1624
1678 - 1680	1710: 28° Leo	1755 - 1758
1820 - 1821	1850 - 1851: 29° Aries	1876 - 1877
1932 - 1934	1965 - 1966: 17° Virgo	2012 - 2015

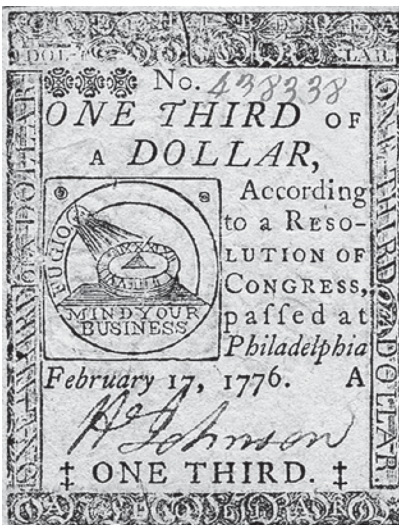
reflect fire sign conjunctions of Uranus and Pluto, while the most recent conjunction falls in the earth sign Virgo. The change of element is actually more compatible with the current transit of Pluto in Capricorn and bodes well for more positive change than in previous eras.

The basic difference between a last quarter square and a first quarter square is this: In a last quarter square things spin out of control, old systems are no longer viable, and quick and immediate measures are taken to shore things up in order to avoid collapse--i.e., tightened regulation to survive (Saturn and Capricorn energy). It's about damage control for survival. In a first quarter square, the innovations seeded during the prior conjunction now move forward with gusto and growth, gaining a foothold while old ways of doing things become obsolete. Populations increase and mass migrations begin, thus changing the face of culture and economies. World currencies and values change, and in the first quarter phase we often see inflation, sometimes hyperinflation, as well as higher taxes (regardless of what the politicians promise).

Uranus-Pluto Changes in Economics in U.S. History

Let's look at some examples. The Navigation Acts that began around 1660 approaching the last quarter phase between Uranus and Pluto were set into place to control trade, or at least the cost of trade. Their main objective was to protect English shipping and secure profits after the mass exodus of the colonists to the Americas. Things were spinning out of control and these laws were designed to rein in the colonies. They were the response to Mercantilism, which was originally designed to create a balance of trade as the new colonies were forming. The lack of regulation was built into this at the outset as the colonists were far away and could break the law with no one there to oversee what was really going on. The Navigation Acts were an extreme action that ultimately reaped the extreme response of revolution one century later.

For the colonists, this last quarter Uranus-Pluto phase was an experimental time as they tried on various currencies that might work. One such currency was wampum--white beads in six-foot strands made from clam shells--a currency accepted by the Indian communities that the colonists adopted. (In fact, wampum was used as part of a loan deal of over 5,000 guilders that Stuyvesant used to pay workers for constructing the New York Citadel!) As the colonists grew stronger over time, it became evident that they would need to create their own currencies. But how to establish a generally acceptable monetary system was a daunting challenge. According to economist Glyn Davies in his book *A History of Money*: "The chronic shortage of coin caused them to jump from



one expedient to another. Thus in 1715 [after the Uranus-Pluto conjunction of 1710], the authorities in North Carolina declared that as many as seventeen commodities including maize and wheat become legal tender."⁴

One can say that the 'underground economy' happening within the colonies was causing much consternation back home in Great Britain. As the first quarter square approached in 1755, taxation became pervasive as the English increased their tax revenues, a currency shortage developed, sterling became too difficult to maintain, and the colonists resorted to printing paper money. This was an exclusively American idea!⁵

Growth in the U.S. increased exponentially during the years leading up to the last quarter phase of Uranus-Pluto in 1820-21. Bills of exchange were being printed and there arose a desperate need for a uniform national currency as a result of all the growth. The establishment of the Second National Bank of the USA occurred just prior to this period, in January 1817, to provide some measure of central regulation. (*Indeed, providing some sort of regulation seems to be a recurring theme in last quarter phases.*) This, however, was soon to change when gold was discovered in California in 1848, just prior to the exact Uranus-Pluto conjunction of 1850. (Interestingly, Neptune was discovered in Pisces during that same time, and we are currently in the midst of Neptune's return to its home sign.)

Gold became the new base of currency at the conjunction and had rapid inflation. Between 1850 and 1860 the mint issued \$400 million in gold coins, setting the stage for a new gold standard. In 1860 the American Congress financed its first real war with out-of-control hyperinflation (a symptom of movements towards the first quarter). The railroads grew and grew, and it is often stated that Lincoln won the Civil War because of his use of the railroads. From 1870 to 1880, during the first quarter phase, the newly united nation had greater economic needs. Taxes were levied by the Union during the Civil War and money was increasingly printed in notes. Farm prices fell and there ensued a Great Depression at the first quarter square. Then came the so-called Reconstruction period when mass migrations, currency changes and value changes became epidemic. During the war, the railroads had been built up so much that it helped fuel the collapse. However, the railroads were instrumental in the movement of mass migrations heading West. In addition, mass world migrations occurred as climates changed, affecting food supply--such as in Ireland during the Potato Famine with the country losing 45% of its labor force between the late 1840s-1870.

The cycle continued with more and more money being printed, no regulations set in place, and wild speculation, all of which contributed to the 1901 stock market panic of railroad speculators. The remarkable planetary pile-up at the turn of the century in-

cluded *not only* an exact Uranus-Pluto opposition (in Gemini/Sagittarius), but also oppositions between Saturn-Neptune and Jupiter-Neptune. It was a collision course of events (perfect metaphor for a railroad panic!) illustrating the consequences of non-regulation beginning at the 1850 conjunction and culminating during the Great Depression of 1932-34. In the wake of the 1901 panic, new laws were established, but they eventually proved inadequate at the crux of the Great Depression, when even more stringent laws and reforms were set in place at the critical last-quarter survival juncture. This was particularly true around the time of the 1933 bank holidays when banks closed because they ran out of money! This contributed to the longer-term regulatory reform of the Glass Steagall Act of 1933, which was designed to shore up crisis and facilitate increases in the money supply. Since the U.S. was on a gold standard at this time (established during the previous conjunction), Glass Steagall allowed government bonds to supplement gold (to some extent) as backing for note issues. Security measures were established and limits placed on people borrowing money for wild speculation. The FDIC was also formed in 1934, designed to guarantee and insure certain percentages of bank deposits, thus assuring people that their finances would be safe. It seemed the right thing to do in light of the wildly speculative cycle that began with the discovery of gold which was now the basis of a new standard.

The gold standard continued up until July 25, 1944, when there was a meeting at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire that culminated in the signing of the Bretton Woods Agreement on December 17, 1945. This formed the 'new' International Monetary Fund (IMF) which based values on gold standards throughout the world, with the U.S. in the driver's seat. This helped grow the world economy and peaked around October 24, 1962, immediately preceding (balsamic phase) the upcoming Uranus-Pluto conjunction (which peaked at 16-17° Virgo in 1965-66). The formation of the Group of Ten in 1962 began when the governments of eight IMF member countries banded together (Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the UK and the U.S.), as well as the central banks of Germany and Sweden. The IMF developed a fixed exchange rate and reserve, initially defined as the measurement of 0.888671 grams fine gold = 1 U.S. dollar. But it was not to last. Since Bretton Woods left large money holdings in the hands of large foreign banks, Richard Nixon reneged on the convertibility promise of dollars into gold, thus devaluing the U.S. dollar. As he did this, Neptune was stationing to go direct at 0° of Sagittarius and in a first quarter phase to the 0° Pisces at which gold was discovered in the late 1840s. (It is interesting that gold seems to be sensitive to 0° Mutable.)

Since that time, the Berlin Wall came down and the Cold War ended. The financial engineers entrenched in the Cold War now had nothing to do and filled the void by designing a thing called *derivatives* in the 1970s. This worked beautifully with the new



floating exchange rate resulting from the breakdown of the Bretton Woods Agreement in 1971. In addition, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was established in 1993, and then followed by the Euro in 1999 (with legal tender in 2002). Many currency collapses occurred throughout the world during this Uranus-Pluto crescent phase, such as the Asian crisis in 1997, the Russian crisis in 1998, and the Brazilian crisis in 1999.

In July 2005, China separated the value of their yuan from the U.S. dollar. Currently, debt is rampant--not only between the U.S. and China but throughout the world--and at this writing

the debate continues regarding the survival of the Euro. Again, my thoughts are that by 2015 it will no longer exist in its current form, probably breaking up close to the end of the Uranus-Pluto first quarter square. New currencies will then emerge along with digital currencies adapting to a newer world structure of inventions and international business.

The pattern of the last quarter (breakdown and regulation for survival) and first quarter (build-up) cycles is as follows: Cycles break down because of non-regulation in the prior cycle and new regulations are put into place to keep the system in survival mode until the new direction shows itself in the conjunction period. Once this occurs, rapid change ensues, many difficulties arise because of so many changes (crescent phase), populations grow and mass migrations begin. Prices go down, values decrease, old currencies aren't working, taxes go up, hyperinflation enters the picture, and then a new order forms out of the prior cycle. Population amalgamations lead to new insights for creating new inventions that are the basis of a new economic framework. This *is* the cycle of the next three years.

Future Possibilities

Now let's look to the future to explore what positive changes may emerge from our current crisis. One key factor to keep in mind is that we have the capacity to work anywhere, anytime through the wizardry of modern technologies like GPS, community access internet, and virtual communications that travel so fast they allow revolutions throughout the world to begin and end with the mere push of a button. This technology offers greater efficiency in such large operations as farming and manufacturing, allowing for radical change. We see this shift occurring within old companies and new.⁶ (See endnote for chart data of those companies cited below.)

When Alan Mullaly took over Ford in the mid-2000s, he led the effort to take a \$23.6 billion loan against all of Ford's assets. There was a lot of debate about this loan, but that loan enabled the company to retool and create more efficient machines, to purchase and renovate such companies as Jaguar and build the

company back up. When the government bailouts came, Ford refused to take the money, faced its shadow, and revised its vehicle utilizing green technologies, making it both more efficient and cost-effective. The company now creates a reasonable and stable investment opportunity.

When large power-producing companies such as General Electric went through their own crisis, they too were forced to confront their shadow. This reality check fueled a push to change their approach to service and technology. Solar energy has become one of the hottest technologies as new ways of capturing the Sun's power through photovoltaic technology makes solar power far more efficient. The upshot is that GE is building one of the nation's largest solar power plants. Within three to five years, they claim they will be able to offer very affordable solar panels for generating electricity.⁷

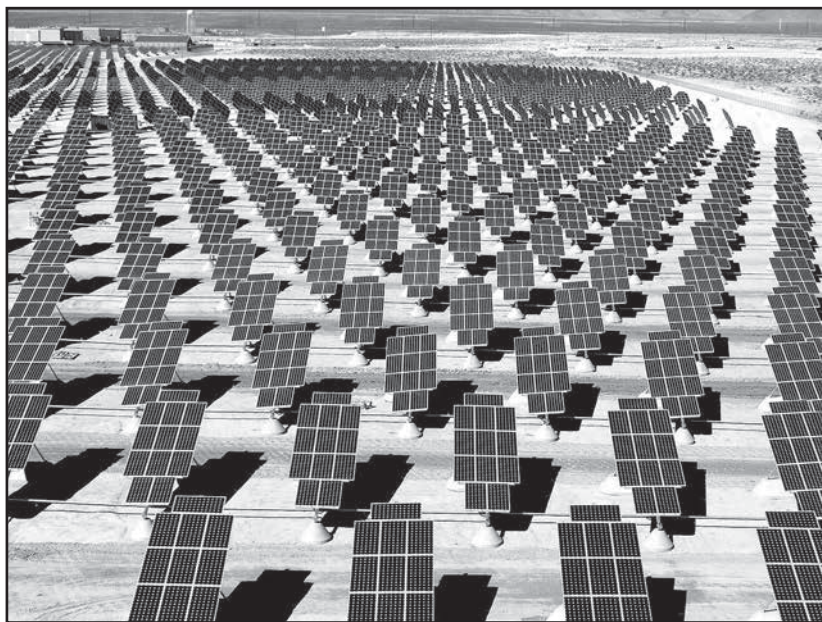
Last summer Google announced its investment of \$280 million to spur home solar systems. And even more recently, on December 21, 2011, Google, Inc. and KKR & Co. L.P. announced they are investing a combined \$189 million in U.S. solar facilities. Google said it would invest \$94 million in four California solar farms under construction near Sacramento, California, while KKR said it plans to invest \$95 million in U.S. solar facilities. This includes the Sacramento facilities and other projects it has not yet announced. The investments are the latest in a string of large solar-powered deals involving major U.S. energy companies, including Warren Buffett's Mid-American Energy Holdings Co. and NRG Energy, Inc. (NRG).⁸ This is exciting news as these two companies break away from the past and move into the future.

Now, to look at other less familiar Uranian technologies coming into the Pluto marketplace, let's travel to the farming center of the U.S. where corn and soybeans are the major food crops. Solar

panels and windmills are fast-becoming the power landscape of Midwestern farms. Solar panels (very Plutonian) and wind power (Uranian) work well together as they afford an excellent solution to those more remote large parcels of land which are suppliers of grain, but do not have access to the normal power grids. In addition, the recent advancement in technology with regard to smart phones has enhanced the ability to efficiently manage such things as water irrigation in isolated farming communities.⁸ (With the upcoming Neptune and Chiron transit through Pisces during the next ten to fourteen years, this will be of great importance.)

Out-of-the-box changes are taking place in materials used for the most basic of needs. For example, one of the most basic building materials is concrete. It is durable and cheap. In 2010 the world produced 3.6 billion tons of cement, which is a mixture of water, sand and other materials. The future estimates for concrete (a saturnine material) needs in 2050 are estimated to be about a billion tons. The problem with concrete is that it is responsible for 5% of the world's human-produced carbon dioxide emissions. However, there are engineers and scientists now exploring a new type of concrete – a 'green' concrete. One of the leaders in this field is Nikolaos Vlasopoulos, an environmental engineer at Imperial College in London, England. Along with fellow professors, he is exploring a new type of 'green' cement called Novacem, made by an Australian company. This is being refined for the marketplace to replace the old toxic concrete in the next three to five years.⁹

And finally, we continue to witness innovation in building homes more efficiently and affordably. There is no doubt of two things: more and more people are going to be in need of housing, and housing affordability is a key factor for growing populations. But the old model of home building technology is changing with Pluto in Capricorn and Uranus pushing it. One very unique business opened a branch in Mare Island, California, which for many years was the central shipbuilding city of northern California. With the economic downturn, the area surrounding this location came close to bankruptcy. Their empty buildings remain – particularly those designed specifically for shipbuilding. A company called Blu Homes¹⁰ designed a new template for manufactured homes. Their designs are comparable to some of the finest built homes using old building formats. However, they are different in that they build in a climate-controlled facility and engineer the designs for maximum efficiency, keeping construction costs low. Their unique design enables homes to fold up (complete with folding windows, fireplaces, kitchens and cabinets!), lowering transportation and installation costs. Similar to the concept of pop-up stores (found in retail fashion), these homes are durable, solid and beautiful. The buildings are environmentally friendly, and the merging of their construction requirements with the old shipyard facilities is a perfect example of compromise and practicality.



On 140 acres of unused land on Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., 70,000 solar panels are part of a solar photovoltaic array that will generate 15 megawatts of solar power for the base. 9 October 2007, U.S. Air Force photo/ by Airman 1st Class Nadine Y. Barclay; Public Domain Image

We face many challenges as we approach the Uranus-Pluto square in 2012--including escalating earthquakes, hurricanes and tornadoes in the most unlikely locations. The earthquakes in consciousness will continue as well. Stock markets will soar and plunge, the most unlikely of countries will prosper while the old stand-bys will not. All the elements of water, air, earth and fire will shift and be converted from one chemical formula to another. It is exciting and terrifying all at the same time. The key thing to remember is that within the dissension, new seeds of change and possibility *are* forming--though it may take another decade for us to really see the result of this time. Timing is everything in the evolutionary process. The maturity of an organism collides with fate and ability. The generation born during the last Uranus-Pluto conjunction--a conjunction of anarchy throughout history--in the earth sign Virgo, has the natal imprint of the “**environmental anarchist**”. Now coming of age, they are embedding their essence into the fabric of the world.



Endnotes

1. Langham, James Mars. *Business Cycles versus Planetary Movements, 1860 to 1935*. The Maghnal Publishing Co., Wolfer Printing Co., Los Angeles, CA 1935
2. Sorkin, Andrew Ross. *Too Big to Fail: The Inside Story of How Wall Street and Washington Fought to Save the Financial System—and Themselves*. Penguin Books, New York, N.Y. 2009.
3. Due to space constraints, the opposition and other aspects are not explored in this article, but are covered in my forthcoming book.
4. Davies, Glyn. *A History of Money: From Ancient Times To The Present Day*. University of Wales Press, Cardiff. 2002.
5. Ibid. pg. 462. A quote by Galbraith states that the Central Bank was exclusively British at that time, the commercial banks were exclusively Italian, and paper money became an American invention.
6. The following chart data is from Michael Munkasey’s Company Database: **Ford**: July 9, 1919, noon, Wilmington, DE. **General Electric**: April 15, 1892, noon, New York, NY and May 27, 1926, 10 am, New York, NY. **Google First Trade**: Aug. 19, 2004 11:55 am, New York, NY; and **Google, Inc.**: Oct. 22, 2002, 9am, Wilmington, DE.
7. According to Brian Wingfield of Bloomberg News: “Solar power

may be cheaper than electricity generated by fossil fuels and nuclear reactors within three to five years because of innovations,” said Mark M. Little, research director for General Electric Company...If we can get solar at 15 cents a kilowatt-hour lower, which I’m hopeful that we will do, you’re going to have a lot of people that are going to want to have solar at home...The 2009 average U.S. retail rate per kilowatt-hour for electricity ranges from 6.1 cents in Wyoming to 18.1 cents in Connecticut, according to Energy Information Administration data released in April (2011).” See Brian Wingfield. *GE Sees Solar Cheaper than Fossil Power in Five Years*. May 26, 2011. Bloomberg.com

8. Manito, Illinois is a case in point. One owner of one of these newly-enhanced farms has no less than 23 irrigation systems that he must manage. With new technologies from Zimmatic Field-PLUS and FieldNET, which control irrigation via cellular signals and GPS, he no longer has to drive the 250 miles to check on his pivots three times a day. With a few taps on his smart phone, he is able to check the status of all his systems, and if there is trouble, a text signals him a message regarding the problem!
9. Michael Rosenwald. *Green Cement*. Smithsonian Magazine. December 2011. Pg. 52. The challenge was to take the limestone out of the cement and replace it with a less toxic chemical to the environment (which was magnesium oxide); but when that failed they came up with alternatives such as magnesium silicates: carbon-free compounds derived from talc, serpentine, and olivine. With Pluto in Capricorn we see the natural transmutation of materials like cement, stone, and concrete into the same type of materials but with different bases. These scientists are the modern day alchemists, moving the construction industry into a more viable playing field that meets needs and honors the environment.
10. See <http://www.tinyhousedesign.com/2009/11/16/blu-homes-innovative-folding-homes/>

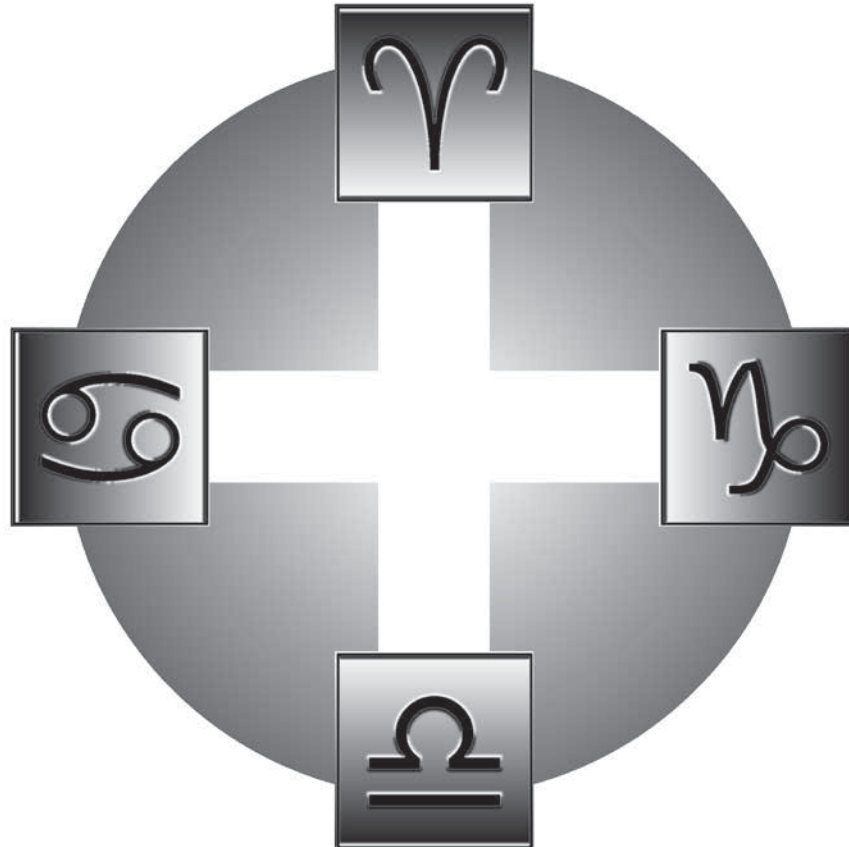


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The Age of Crossroads

by Jessica Murray



Editor's Note: This article is a slightly revised excerpt from a lengthier piece first published in the June/July 2008 issue of The Mountain Astrologer.

Astrology as Spiritual Constant

Troubled times have always been astrology's stock in trade. From the lunar calendars of Ice Age shamans¹ to the glossy magazine horoscopes at the grocery store, in one form or another people have looked to the sky to explain their distresses, large and small. Throughout human history astrology has provided a spiritual constant.

But let us take a moment to qualify the term spiritual, for it is a peculiarity of the times we live in that the word has taken on a newly controversial buzz. Pluto's entry into Sagittarius in the mid-90s made the topic of spiritual belief downright explosive, given that the function of the transit was to turn inside out stale, old ideological verities and the institutions that represented

them. Then Saturn opposed Pluto in the second year of the new millennium, contracting the issues of higher truth (Sagittarius) and karma (Saturn) with such violent pressure that something had to give.

The result was a new equation in the collective mind of religion with worldly power struggles. Humanity has struggled through a twelve-year catharsis during which all things spiritual began to smack of chicanery at best and wholesale destruction at worst. Believers and skeptics alike have been forced into new ways of thinking about the quest for higher meaning. It is this transit that established the background of mass malaise against which current transits must be understood.

It is noteworthy that astrology – which even if one doesn't view it as a spiritual system, still qualifies as a theoretical worldview (Sagittarius) – seems to have emerged unscathed from Pluto's eradication of philosophical nonessentials.² Perhaps this is because astrology is composed of essentials already. As a language of archetypes, it had no nonessentials to be eliminated.

Throughout the Plutonian rout, astrologers have continued to ply our ancient trade, decoding the firmament to make sense of turbulence in the world below. As part of the rebirth phase of the Pluto transit that has dealt faith such a blow, I propose that we astrologers not shy away from the notion that leaps of faith are still, and have always been, part of the workings of our craft. By faith in this context I refer to a confidence in that which is eternal and essential:³ for example, the cosmic principles that underlie the astrological alphabet. In order to be of significant use to the world in the critical times ahead, astrologers must recognize as axiomatic our commitment to these principles.

To confer a spiritual significance upon astrological symbols is to see in them not just a theoretical but a numinous meaning. Even a resolutely secular-minded student of astrology who picks up a book by a visionary such as Alice Bailey or Dane Rudhyar, for example, might find herself learning more than just a methodology of symbolic logic. She might feel herself taking on a kind of soul-mindfulness, a quality of openness that links her to a venerable tradition that was once evocatively referred to in European mystery schools as The Dark Mysteries. She might feel that what she is reading is not just informing her but inspiring her. To study astrology in this spirit is not merely to learn a craft. It is to unify the body-mind-soul intelligence. Cultivating this kind of intelligence does more than uplift us as individuals. Through the refinement of each person's awareness, consciousness is brought into the world.

No Atheists in Foxholes

It is said that there are no atheists in foxholes. As the epoch upon us presents us with geopolitical and environmental issues of almost surreal urgency, we need an astrology that is infused with not only intellectual rigor but with compassion for a world in distress. It becomes clearer with each new headline in the morning newspaper that what humanity needs right now is not just knowledge, but wisdom.

Wisdom demands perspective. Yet the partisanship, us-against-them factionalism, culture-war labeling and all the other small-picture models being tossed around by the media in contemporary society undermine perspective rather than promote it. What we need is a Big-Picture perspective, and not simply for the sake of being "spiritually correct." We need it because the world moment has come to feel too overwhelming for many of us to even look at, let alone to productively address, without it.

The Epochal Transits of 2012-2015

Much has been written about the daunting transits that signal the millennium's entry into its second decade. It is from the vast, slow-moving outer-planet cycles (Uranus, Neptune and Pluto) that we expect the most far-reaching effects; and when these make major aspects with the social planets (Jupiter and

Saturn) as well as with the personal planets (such as the Moon and Mars) at the same time, the rarity of the patterns that result puts them into a category that deserves a unique degree of awe, respect and attention.

The Grand Cross of June 2012 will feature the ongoing square between Uranus and Pluto now joined by the Quarter Moon; with Neptune in Pisces forming an exact mutable T-square with Jupiter, reinforced by the lunar nodes. By 2014 the two outer-planet overlords will have made their way to the middle degrees of the cardinal signs, paralleling a square between Mars and Jupiter in Libra and Cancer respectively; with a Moon-Pluto conjunction on April 20th again providing the grace note.

Students of the Mayan calendar may recognize this timing as lining up with the dates singled out at the Harmonic Convergence in 1987 by Jose Arguelles.⁴ The ancient Mezo-Americans numbered among many indigenous traditions that foresaw the period we are now in as the end of a great cycle in human evolution and the beginning of another. The visionaries of prehistoric India referred to this era as the Kali Yuga: the Dark Times.

It is not only informative but humbling to recognize that other prophetic traditions besides Western astrology have identified our epoch as a pivotal turning point. A little comparative cosmology will go a long way to universalize our understanding, which supports our goal as sky watchers: to respond – rather than react – with equanimity to the times ahead.

As Above, So Below

As the dramas in the sky are mirrored by real-time dramas down here on Earth, astrologers have stepped up to the plate. Particularly since the Saturn-Pluto opposition ten years ago, the times upon us have inspired an upsurge in astute astrological commentary, which is keeping pace every step of the way with the worldly events in the headlines. Synchronistic with the dystopian ecological and geopolitical scenarios with which these transits have been linked – among them, the scarcity of clean water, the extinction of many natural species and warfare with no end in sight – contemporary seers have been galvanized to respond with insights to match.

To hold the Big Picture is to remember that perilous times augur the appearance of planetary healers, as a wound galvanizes white blood cells. A given culture will generate the very souls who are necessary to meet that culture's demands. It should not surprise us that it happens this way in the human world, for this is obviously the way it works in the natural world: a pond will be inhabited by the very marine life exactly suited to its specific temperature, depth and degree of salinity; including just the right types of microflora and fauna to regenerate its detritus, turning dying into rebirth. Human societies follow the same laws. Right now, planet Earth sorely needs vision; and so we are getting visionaries.⁵

Global warming is at the forefront of the mass mind right now, and is of course being viewed – by those who have come to take it seriously – primarily as a terrifying catastrophe. But though fear is naturally part of our human response – what we might call in this context our “secular” response – I propose that when we back up from our everyday view of the world, deliberately seeking the distance that astrology provides, it becomes possible to conceive of global warming as the Goddess’ gift to this epoch. The sheer enormity of the situation is forcing humanity, in a gun-to-the-head kind of way, to completely shift gears. The fact that the fate of the Earth is at stake makes for a compelling incentive to connect dots that were not connected before: suddenly everybody from Arnold Schwarzenegger to the automotive industry is clambering onto the bandwagon, trying to be seen as going green. The dubious sincerity of many of these gestures notwithstanding, we can be sure that when even government and industry start paying attention to issues such as these, their cultural meaning can be said to be entering a new level of mass consciousness.

Less widely discussed but getting increasing media attention is the fact that the poorer countries of the world will suffer sooner and more severely from these climate changes than will the wealthier ones. What we must come to terms with here is more than an ecological issue. In the decades ahead, the societies who contributed most to the problem by burning fossil fuels too heavily will get off relatively easily compared to the millions of Earth dwellers who never saw the inside of an SUV.⁶

Informing ourselves of realities like resource depletion and social injustice through geopolitical awareness is a first step. But to maintain our sanity as well as to be of some use to the world, we need to then press into service our spiritual intelligence. It is unarguable that global scenarios both real (mass suffering in impoverished parts of the world) and imagined (terrorists on every street corner) will elicit in the years ahead no lack of collective worry and fear. What I am suggesting is that we astrologers, each in our own way, have the ability to offer a kind of dispassionate observation to replace the fear we see around us, as circumstances arise. For the sake of this discussion we will define “fear” as an acute awareness of the seriousness of the situation but without the requisite understanding. Astrology, as a vocabulary not of literalisms but of meaning, has the potential to stand back and be the calm, judgment-free observation point that offers perspective amidst the chaos. There is an epidemic lack of clarity afflicting the mass mind. But astrological archetypes, at their most essential, allow us to cut through the fog and look at mass feelings without being caught by them. They allow us to look at horrors without being horrified.

The times are ripe for a wide dissemination of the astrological viewpoint, though I am not speaking solely of foisting forecasts

upon a skeptical public. Even if we astrologers do not succeed in imparting to our society the data of what we see in the years ahead, if we are able to impart the scope inherent in the astrological way of seeing – the transcendent principles that underlie our worldview – I believe we will add tremendously to the clarity that will become more and more urgently needed.

The Uranus-Pluto Square

The square between Pluto and Uranus forms the backdrop of the planetary dramas of the first half of this decade. The relationship between Pluto and Uranus will function as a main plot does in a well-told story, anchoring the meaning of the subplots that surround it.

Uranus represents the unstoppable force of ideas whose time has come. Pluto represents the raw power and inevitability of breakdown and renewal. Together they force consciousness changes in the collective that are – relatively speaking – explosively sudden.

Uranus represents the unstoppable force of ideas whose time has come. Pluto represents the raw power and inevitability of breakdown and renewal. Together they force consciousness changes in the collective that are – relatively speaking – explosively sudden. Already we can see the accelerated speed that will characterize this next phase of human evolution. When we consider the normal snail-like pace of changes in entrenched collective consciousness, it is nothing short of astounding that a massive shift in popular awareness about global warming has happened in no more than several years’ time, thanks not just to Al Gore but to the previous Saturn-Neptune opposition and aspects between Jupiter (social reform) and Uranus (revelation).

The Progeny of the Counter-Culture

The meaning of outer-planet aspects derives from their roles in unfolding macrocycles.⁷ Thus the best way to begin to understand the upcoming Pluto-Uranus square is to consider the last time these two planets conjoined, forty-odd years ago. It was then that these two were in their New Moon phase and the seeds for the current transit were planted.

In the mid-1960s, Uranus and Pluto occupied the same location in the zodiac for a few mind-blowing years; a period that those who lived through them will never forget. This was the transit that made the sixties The Sixties: Uranus, governor of revolution, and Pluto, governor of social decay, conjoined in the sky while opposing Saturn: status quo thinking – and KABOOM: the counter-culture was born. Taboo-busting cultural ideas raced around the globe like an uncontained wildfire, changing the mores of the generations extant and the ones not yet born. The babies who drew their first breath under that epochal conjunction – which was in Virgo when it occurred: the sign of health, work and service – are in their prime productive years now. We

have seen some of the members of this intense generation create subcultures of skateboarder punk and nihilism, and others use their Virgoan genius to remodel health movements both personal (natural nutrition, alternative medicine) and global (radical ecology, sustainable agriculture).

From 2010-2015 Uranus and Pluto will take the next big step in their relationship, analogous to the First Quarter Moon. The heady revelations of the hippies and yuppies will be ready for post-millennial application. The winsome flower-child vision will have developed into a set of responses – or reactions, depending on the level of consciousness involved – to the crises the globe is facing at present.

Pluto in Capricorn

As was the case with religion when Pluto was in Sagittarius, the ultimate point of Pluto's transit through Capricorn will be to revive an aspect of human experience that has developed pockets of unsustainable decay. Governments, corporations and all other patriarchal hierarchies will be assiduously screened by Pluto to ascertain their viability. Capricorn's governance of governance suggests the exposure of corruption in persons and agencies that play the role of the authority figure, whether expressed on the family level (fathers), the village level (mayors, tribal elders), the company level (CEOs), the national level (presidents) or the deific level (patriarchal gods such as Allah, Yahweh and Jehovah). There may be a sea change in the global acceptance of women in positions of leadership as the paternal archetype is purged. The whole notion of federalism may be shaken to its very core, while regionalism and local authority begin a new ascendancy (clues of this trend are already in the air: consider the flurry of state challenges to Washington's environmental policies, and the slow food movement's emphasis on edibles being locally-grown).

To understand this sixteen-year transit in Big-Picture terms is to see that Plutonian change is neither about punishment nor about demonstrating right-and-wrong thinking. All Pluto wants is to rid the global organism of toxins in a certain arena so that the world body as a whole can survive.

The Dark Mysteries Revolutionized

If we agree that Uranus' job is to revolutionize whatever it touches, then its function here must be to drastically change the meaning of everything under Plutonian governance. In this confrontation between the planet of science and the planet of secrets, even death will face the Uranian challenge.

We can expect the notion of physical death to shift dramati-

cally when the Uranus square yanks Pluto into the 21st Century. Experimental life-extension technologies will very probably push and pull at mass assumptions about this most dreaded of human experiences, with existential quandaries and ethical questions coming along for the ride. The square will certainly jack up the tension that already exists in the human mind between the role of human intelligence (Uranus) and those Dark Mysteries which ordinary intelligence alone cannot fathom (Pluto). The secular societies of the West are not known for their acceptance of the role of mortality in the human condition; on the contrary, a fear-driven stagnation in the collective unconscious has stymied our understanding of death and shrouded the subject in denial.⁸ There is reason to hope that the blaring klieg light of Uranus will stimulate a new curiosity in the mass mind about this and other cultural taboos. Through the elegant balance of a perfect ninety-degree angle, Pluto – which represents scenarios that are often so viscerally disturbing that they are difficult to even think about clearly, let alone act upon – is going to be confronted by a planet that is, especially in warrior-like Aries, fearless in the face of taboo.



Another opportunity for breakthrough that the transit will bring not a moment too soon is a revolution (Uranus) in the world's approach to recycling detritus and waste (Pluto), now being generated at breakneck speed by the consumer cultures of the world – China being the latest contender for this sorry award. Radioactive waste in particular (Pluto) is one of those issues that is so troubling that most of us try to avoid thinking about it, unless, that is, a toxic dump were being proposed for our own neighborhood.⁹ Uranus, associated with ingenuity and pristine clarity of mind, is the antidote to mass unconsciousness around this Plutonian subject matter. Again, in Aries, the Great Awakener is likely to express itself through actions, not merely words and ideas.

Oil: More Pluto than Neptune

The operative principle that we must envision here is that of Uranus waking Pluto up to its regenerative power, shocking it into dropping its lethal, outmoded manifestations. To have faith in the ultimate benefit of this shake-up is to remember that, by Natural Law, it will not destroy anything except that which has grown toxic.

Another Plutonian arena that has become fatally distorted is the world's relationship with oil. Tem Tarriktar's prescient articles in *The Mountain Astrologer* magazine¹⁰ linking the peak oil years and 2010-12 anticipated what now seems to be a general consensus in the industrialized West: that our dependence upon fossil fuels is untenable. The pairing of the words "addiction" (Pluto) and "oil" has become a commonplace in American parlance. More and more of us have come to understand that the USA has

ignored its manufacturing base – as well as any serious search for clean energy solutions – like a drunk who has forgotten to eat. The oil-drunk First World has been in the driver’s seat of the globe for some time now. Uranus is coming along to slap that drunk sober before he drives us all over the cliff.

With every passing month, the meaning of oil in the collective consciousness – due to the geo-military patterns that have grown up around it and the ecological side effects of its use – segues into a new and complex transitional meaning, encompassing the hybrid symbolism of wealth and war, power and destruction. Now less Neptunian than Plutonian¹¹, oil is undergoing an iconic status change.

Uranus’ job is to jolt humanity into alertness, jettisoning stale material like a wet dog shaking its fur. The petro-politics of foreign policy, the grotesque profit disparities that accrue to the fossil fuel business, and all the other aspects of what oil represents will no longer remain the privileged information of political observers but will be pushed into the domain of received wisdom among the populace. The squaring-off between common knowledge, i.e. that of The People (Uranus) and the clandestine knowledge held by elite power groups (Pluto) will be a running theme during the peak oil period.

Uranus Plutonized

Uranus in Aries (2010-17) augurs a new phase in technology that will be fast and furious. While the Pluto square is active, science (Uranus) will be forced to confront Nature and its laws (Pluto); among them, decay and renewal. This suggests that the tech industry will have to come to grips with the pattern of planned obsolescence for which it is notorious.¹² Pluto eliminates excess, and has no patience for flash and superfluity; qualities which typify the current tech-gadgetry boom.

Uranian genius will be forced to apply itself to pursuits that match the needs of the times; e.g. the new engineering techniques that will become increasingly necessary to deal with the results of climate change. The way the world uses its technology and medicine (Uranus) will be rapidly updated as civilization turns to science to save itself.

Popular Dissent

Uranus in Aries is going to give the world a seven-year lesson in new ways to challenge authority, and its square with Pluto can be expected to raise this defiance to a fever pitch. Pluto pushes whatever planet it touches to extremes, and pumps it full

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of power. This presents a disturbing picture of social unrest unless we consider the powerful creative change that comes of spiritually informed dissent. Our work as conscious creators of the world we want must involve visualizing a fiery Uranus worth empowering.

When we imagine the sign Aries at its highest – not the ego-driven warmonger but the fearless pioneer – we have an appropriate archetype with which to characterize Uranus’ new model of leadership. This kind of leadership is not just irascible, but mindfully iconoclastic: Uranus has been linked with the myth of Prometheus, the divine outlaw who broke rank in order to bring fire to humanity. Optimally used, Uranus in Aries will provide the people of the world with the courage to shake off whatever political, economic and social circumstances that have grown oppressive. Many will feel the impulse to assert (Aries) their vision of democ-

racy (Uranus) rather than just talk and argue about it. Pluto will provide the life-or-death circumstances that make this a requirement.

Pluto’s pressure upon Uranus suggests the will of the citizenry to throw off its passivity and to become boldly pro-active. Forward-looking Uranian individuals will be prompted to perform from the core of their beings. The adolescent in-fighting that afflicts so many progressive movements has the chance, now, to change relatively suddenly, and be replaced by coalitions of mature and responsible social reformers.

Ultimately, the puerile arrogance of contemporary humanity itself – that aspect of the modern personality that imagines it should dominate Nature simply because it can – will be given a dose of Pluto’s cold, dark comeuppance when the square becomes activated.

Our Mission if We Choose to Accept it

When using astrology to look at the future, it must be remembered that we are accessing a mystical language that works not with specifics but with symbols – which must be decoded, like a dream. This astrologer’s view is that events are not immutably “written in the stars” or fated to happen in a precise form. Though the great themes of a given epoch are laid out in the sky, the particulars of the future are written with every moment. This is what makes our attitudes towards the upcoming transits so important.

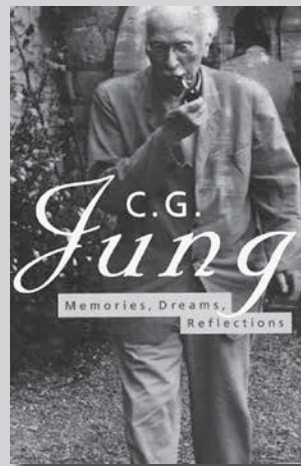
I have suggested that the spiritually oriented approach to the Cardinal Climax years is one that deliberately cultivates a viewpoint that goes beyond fear. Neither is passive incredulity an appropriate response at this point: none of the global challenges being

heatedly discussed right now – by the U.N., by the media, by concerned citizens amongst themselves – is new or surprising to anyone who has been paying attention. We are seeing conditions long in the making rendered obvious for the sake of wrenching the collective into a new consciousness. Our goal must be to get in touch, on a gut level, with the fact that the breakdowns we see around us are signals of incipient breakthrough.

As Rick Tarnas and others eloquently remind us, the modern Western mind itself, with its machines and weapons and power games, has grown so out-of-whack as to be needful of tough-love intervention, like a self-harming child.¹³ The transits up ahead are no more or less dramatic than they have to be, in order to apply the appropriate restorative treatment. And when our hearts are open to the task, we may find ourselves not only able but eager to

engage in the healing, as if a part of our being knew all along that we were born to the task.

As astrologers regarding these intimidating transits we walk a fine line. We must neither lapse into unrealism about their severity, nor forget that though the trends they suggest are immutable, their specific manifestations are not. The spiritually informed response to the upcoming Grand Crosses will be to name, confront and transform – as a collective, and as individuals each blessed with different gifts and proclivities – the transits’ potentials at as high a level of expression as possible. This is fundamentally what is meant by the much-touted truism that we create our own reality; whose corollary is that we each decided, on a soul level, to incarnate into this particular place at this particular time.



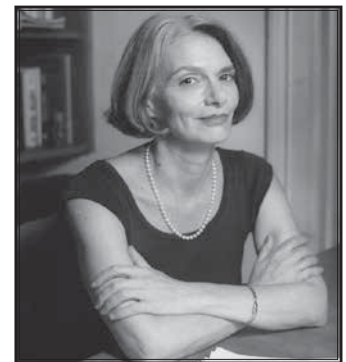
We are living in what the Greeks called the kairos—the right time—for a “metamorphosis of the gods,” i.e., of the fundamental principles and symbols. This peculiarity of our time, which is certainly not of our conscious choosing, is the expression of the unconscious human within us who is changing. Coming generations will have to take account of this momentous transformation if humanity is not to destroy itself through the might of its own technology and science.

—C.G. Jung, *The Undiscovered Self*

Editor’s Note: First written in the spring of 1956 and published the following year (when Jung was a fully ripe 81 years old). It was also during this period that Jung began recording his memoirs that would become the book “Memories, Dreams and Reflections.” From 1956-57, transiting Uranus was conjunct Jung’s Leo Sun. (He was born with Sun widely conjunct Uranus and square Neptune, with Uranus in T-square to both Saturn and Pluto.)

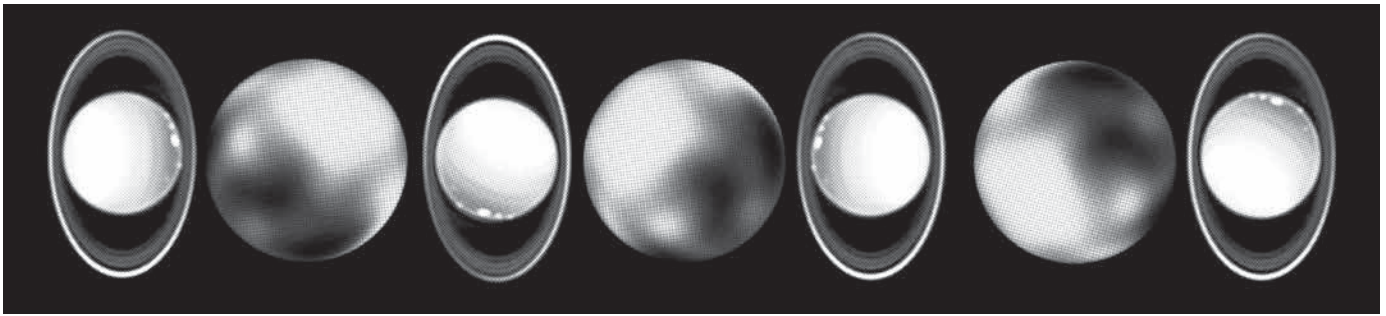
Endnotes

1. Archeologists have found bones from the Pleistocene period marked with what appear to be phases of the Moon.
2. And yet we did suffer a purge of a kind, when the astronomers demoted Pluto itself, in August of 2006, to “dwarf planet”.
3. To have faith is not the same thing as being optimistic. To lack faith is not the same thing as pessimism. The terms optimism and pessimism refer to character traits, not to the presence or absence of that transpersonal Neptunian phenomenon we are calling faith. This distinction becomes important when the words are used to shift and trivialize the terms of public debate. It is a misapplication of the term pessimistic to use it to refer, for example, to the observation that the world is running out of oil; or that fish populations are dying off. To characterize such discussions as “pessimistic” is to confuse the facts themselves with one’s emotional responses to the facts.
4. See, for example, www.wilsonsalmanac.com/converg.html
5. The work of Paul Hawken wonderfully illustrates how this Natural Law expresses itself in human society. Hawken has set up sort of a Wikipedia for Lightworkers: www.wiserearth.org, which lists and interconnects thousands of environmental and social justice movements and puts them into historical context. The project gives the lie to the illusion that consciousness workers so often labor under: that they are lone voices in the wilderness.
6. Early in 2007 the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel addressed the fact that despite a new plethora of recommendations about how to accommodate upcoming climate changes (diversifying crops, shoring up levees, etc.), poor countries – impoverished even further in recent years by globalization – simply do not possess the resources to take remedial action. The fact that several African states are expected to face starvation from the lack of freshwater supplies by 2020; and that the economies of Latin America are expected to suffer disproportionately when decreases in moisture trigger a shift from their tropical forests, are but two examples of a myriad potential humanitarian catastrophes scientists are beginning to catalog.
7. Bill Herbst’s article, “Empire of Community”, in *The Mountain Astrologer* of June/July 2007 provides a thorough documentation of this and other far-reaching outer-planet cycles.
8. For a historical overview on how the phenomenon of death changed in meaning over the millennia in the Western world, see my essay at <http://www.reclaimingquarterly.org/web/astrology/astrology-1-pluto.html>.
9. It is in the Third World that tens of millions of toxic consumer items have been piling up in dumps, where they are picked apart for reusable parts by, in many cases, the tiny fingers of children (see Giles Slade, *Made to Break: Technology and Obsolescence in America*, Harvard University Press, 2006).
10. Among them, the editorial “Saturn-Pluto and Peace” in the April/May 2003 issue and “The Neptune-Pluto Cycle and the Next Seven Years” from the June/July 2004 issue. Tarriktar has linked the recategorization of the physical planet Pluto with the global changes of the underground treasure which it symbolizes: oil (“The Years Ahead and the Oil Crisis”, op cit).
11. Neptune, governor of lubricants, is the traditional ruler of oil. But a joint rulership with Pluto is gaining in astrological logic. Because the stuff originates underground it has always borne the mark of Pluto; and its having become in recent centuries a coveted treasure (Pluto governs hidden wealth) argues further for the linkage. But there is a further consideration that argues for Plutonian rulership: the kind of wealth oil creates is peculiarly plutocratic. A miniscule proportion of the world’s population is awash in oil’s staggering profits. By contrast, most Americans, for example – ordinary gas and oil consumers – are seeing nothing but higher costs; and the denizens of those Third World countries where the oil companies have set up shop, such as Nigeria, are seeing destruction of their environments on a massive scale. Finally, the epitomical expression of the Pluto-oil linkage is the war in Iraq, which is believed – fairly universally among international observers and by an increasing number of Americans – to have originated from a plan to control (Pluto) the Middle Eastern oil fields. The fact that this war has lined the pockets of a very few military contractors to the tune of 27 billion dollars, all paid for with the tax money of millions of Americans, illustrates a baldly plutocratic state of affairs.
12. It is estimated that at least 90% of the 315 million still-functional personal computers discarded in North America in 2004 were trashed; along with, the following year, 200,000 tons of cell phones (see Slade, op cit).
13. See Rick Tarnas’ *The Passion of the Western Mind*, Harmony Books, 1991; and *Cosmos and Psyche: Intimations of a New World*, Viking Press, 2006.



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Shifting Patterns of Uranus-Pluto

Building a New Earth from the Ashes of Fire

By Michele Finey

Editor's Note: A fuller version of this article first appeared in the April–May 2010 issue of *The Mountain Astrologer*. Variations and additions have been made by the author.

The discovery of the outer planets has made it possible for us to examine historic events against the backdrop of their long cycles, revealing how the struggle to survive (Pluto), the freedom to create (Uranus), and the desire to belong (Neptune) have built civilization from the ground up.

For the past millennia, Uranus–Pluto conjunctions have been alternating between the fire signs Leo and Aries. Four conjunctions have occurred in Aries since the 11th century. These took place in the years 1090, 1343, 1597, and 1850. But by the time the next conjunction rolls around in the year 2104, the point of conjunction will have shifted into Taurus. (See Table 1.) The Aries influence is giving way to a Taurus theme that will characterize the next alternating cluster of these revolutionary conjunctions until the year 2611, while the Virgo conjunction of 1966 will give way to the influence of Libra in 2221 and then Scorpio.

The fiery influence of Aries and Leo upon the revolutionary cycle of Uranus–Pluto has been in play since 1090, but this ended in 1850. The earth element took the baton in 1966 and heralded a major period of transition.

Uranus–Pluto hard aspects highlight challenges for humanity as we try to work out how best to thrive and, at the same time, be free to create. To a large extent, civilization has been built on slavery. Individually and collectively we have sought to expand both our wealth (Pluto) and our freedom (Uranus). Throughout history, those with less have sought a larger share, often leading to revolution. But once we have what we want, we want still more. Will we ever have enough? And is there enough to go around?

Ideally, one's survival and prosperity should not be at the expense of another's freedom. Do we have to be a slave to the almighty dollar and, in the process, cut ourselves off from our unique creative essence? Does being free to create mean that we have to struggle to get by? Do Uranus and Pluto have to be mutually exclusive?

Table 1: Cycle of Uranus–Pluto Conjunctions

Sign & Degree	Year	Events
Aries 1°	1090	First Crusade, 1095–96.
Cancer 28°	1201	Magna Carta, 1215. Mongol Empire, 1206. 4th Crusade.
Aries 11°	1343–44	Black Death. Hundred Years' War.
Leo 13°	1455–56	Printing Press/Renaissance. Fall of Constantinople, 1453.
Aries 20°	1597–98	Era of Corporate Colonialism, British East India Co.
Leo 28°	1710	Steam Engine Starts Industrial Revolution. U.K. Act of Union, 1707.
Aries 29°	1850–51	Era of Political Rebellion. Gold Rush. Great Exhibition.
Virgo 16°	1965–66	Social & Cultural Revolution. Computer & Space Age.
Taurus 7°	2104	Financial and Resources Revolution?

With the past one thousand years of Uranus-Pluto conjunctions occurring in Aries and Leo, this yang, fiery influence has meant that on the whole we have been collectively pursuing our own interests without much regard to the effect that our actions have on others. Aries and Leo are highly creative signs, but tend to be self-centered. We have only been concerned with our own personal survival and

individual freedom, and largely unaware of the impact our actions have had on others and the planet as a whole. On the face of it, the upcoming shift of this conjunction into Taurus in 2104 would seem to be a positive step; further establishing the cycle of conjunctions in the earth element and building on the first conjunction in 1966 in earth sign Virgo, when a fresh awareness of the environment began to emerge.

When this new Taurus cycle begins in 2104, it may herald a new understanding of, and relationship with, the Earth and her resources. Under the influence of Venus, rather than Sun and Mars, we may come to more fully understand, to value and appreciate the connections and relationships that exist between all living things.

In this transition period, as we move from Aries to Taurus, we have to work through some big challenges. Let's take a look at some pivotal points in the past for clues as to how we might resolve some of our current problems.

The Uranus–Pluto Conjunction of 1090

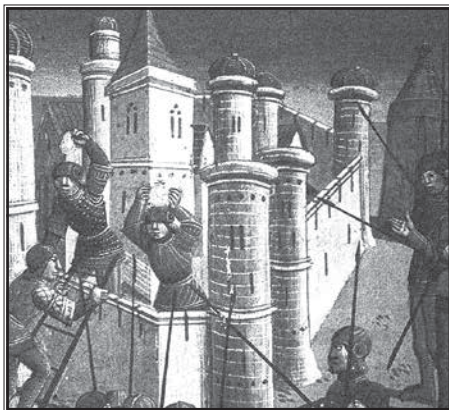
This Aries cycle had its genesis in the year 1090, shortly before the First Crusade. Muslim raids had led the Byzantine Emperor to appeal to the Pope for help. In 1095, Pope Urban II called the Council of Clermont, where it was decided to send a crusade to the Holy Land to restore Christian rule. Even before this got under way, an army of peasants set off for Jerusalem on their own. This was known as the People's Crusade, and many joined the march to Jerusalem, spurred on by poverty and the hardship of their present circumstances.

Since this Aries influence is waning, perhaps we will see a solution to the Middle East conflict, though the current waxing square may also mean that conflict will intensify before a settlement is reached. Uranus in Aries has indeed spurred revolutionary changes throughout the Middle East over the past few years.

The Uranus–Pluto Conjunction of 1343–44

The second conjunction in Aries came during one of the longest periods of conflict in European history: the Hundred Years' War, which began in 1337 and lasted until 1453, as successive English kings waged war on France in an attempt to seize power.¹

But even more devastating for Europe was the outbreak of the Black Death, or bubonic plague. The plague is thought to have started in China and Central Asia and spread throughout Europe along trade routes, carried by fleas and black rats. Reaching England in 1348, the plague killed between 30 and 50 percent of the population in only a few months.²



The Siege of Constantinople. Painted in 1499; Public Domain Image

The Uranus–Pluto Conjunction of 1597–98

This Uranus–Pluto conjunction in Aries took place at the end of the 16th century when European powers sought to extend their influence and power. This manifested with the creation of one of the first and most successful joint-stock companies, the East India Company, which was founded in 1600. The company was established by Queen Elizabeth I to develop commercial opportunities in the new Brit-

ish colonies. It had its own army and political administration. The company continued to expand its power and influence in many regions of the globe, notably in India, up until the 1850s, when another period of revolutionary change was ushered in.

The Uranus–Pluto Conjunction of 1850–51

Political revolutions swept through Europe in 1848, just prior to this Uranus–Pluto conjunction in Aries. The cause of many of these uprisings was a deep-seated anger within the lower classes towards the monarchy and the well-to-do. Naturally enough, the poor wanted more freedom and their fair share, but the ruling classes were content with the status quo.

Many people opted to start a new life in the U.S. and Australia, lured by the discovery of gold (Pluto) in both continents. Gold was the “carrot” which led thousands of people from Asia and Europe to undertake the long and dangerous sea voyage to the promise of a new and independent life (Uranus). This accelerated the widespread displacement, enslavement, and genocide of indigenous populations in both continents, though at the same time, the African slave trade was finally coming to a halt.

Two American activists, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, organized the first-ever conference of women's rights, which was held in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York.³ The conference came about because Mott had earlier been refused permission to speak at the world anti-slavery convention in London. Male and female delegates alike signed a declaration demanding that the rights of women be acknowledged and respected.⁴

During this time, free trade expanded rapidly. The English Parliament believed that the free market economy (Uranus–Pluto) would solve all the problems that had emerged as a result of the Industrial Revolution. Free trade was also a good way to cut costs — something which had become more critical because slavery was in the process of being abolished. Interestingly, it was also during this period that Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto arrived on the scene, offering an alternative socioeconomic model. Since this last conjunction of Uranus and Pluto in Aries, the corporation has become all-powerful, but this has exacted a huge cost.

Uranus-Pluto Squares

Looking back through 1,000 years of history, there have been two occasions when there have been nine hits of Uranus and Pluto in square. Both were waxing squares: one cardinal (1236–39) and one fixed (1496–1500). With the 2012–2015 waxing cardinal square now in play, it's interesting to note that there has not been a waxing cardinal square since 1236–39.

The waxing Uranus–Pluto Square of 1236–39

In 1236 around one million people in the Chengdu region of China were slaughtered by invading Mongols. China was conquered. The Mongol invasion of Russia began on December 21, 1237, and was soon followed by their conquest of vast regions of Asia and Eastern Europe. The Mongol Empire would eventually stretch from the Pacific to the Mediterranean. During this time Uranus was in Capricorn and Pluto in Libra.

The waxing Uranus–Pluto Square of 1496–1500

This fixed square coincided with the discovery of the New World and the start of the conquest and enslavement of numerous indigenous peoples by invading Europeans, paving the way for our modern global civilization. Not only were there nine exact hits of this square, but Pluto was in Scorpio and Uranus was in Aquarius, signs of their modern-day rulership, so it stands to reason that this was an especially tense struggle, as many communities fought for their survival and freedom. The whole world was forever and completely revolutionized.

During this time, the Roman Catholic Church was in turmoil, and corruption was rife. Rodrigo Borgia (Pope Alexander VI, 1492–1503) and his family were notorious for their corruption and greed. It was this corruption which spawned Martin Luther's theses of complaint in 1517 and the Reformation.

1760–68: Uranus in Aries, Pluto in Capricorn

Although Uranus and Pluto did not make an exact square during this Uranus in Aries transit, it is nonetheless worth examining events from this period as Pluto moved into Capricorn in 1762, making this period of history relevant to current events. The seeds of American independence were planted at this time, with the colonies' increasing opposition to British rule. This was largely due to the introduction of the Stamp Act in 1765. As opposition to the tax grew, Americans became determined to be free of British rule, resulting in the War of Independence. Protests and boycotts created financial problems for the East India Company, which was trying to maintain its monopoly on tea. This led to the Boston Tea Party in 1773. Colonial powers were fighting between themselves for control of many parts of the New World at this time. During the Seven Years War (1756–63), for example, France lost Canada to Great Britain.

Meanwhile, in 1763–65, James Watt made substantial improve-

ments to Newcomen's Steam Engine, thus accelerating the Industrial Revolution.⁵ Newcomen's original invention was developed in 1710–1712 just when Uranus and Pluto made their last conjunction in Leo.

The waxing Uranus–Pluto Square of 2012–15

The planetary picture today is eerily similar to the 1930s when Uranus was last in Aries. Pluto was then in Cancer and had only recently been discovered. But that square was a waning square, while the 2012–2015 seven hit cardinal square is a waxing square. Unlike the 1930s, Uranus is now waxing, or growing in influence, relative to Pluto. This means Uranus has the upper hand, unlike during the Great Depression when Pluto was dominant.

Although the seven exact squares of Uranus and Pluto from 2012–15 augur a tough road ahead, as Uranus grows in its ascendancy we are likely to see a reduction in the scope and influence of traditional Pluto institutions and seats of power. It also suggests a growth in consciousness and a rise in the individual's right to protest against intransigent states and military regimes as we have recently witnessed in the uprisings in the Middle East and the advent of democratic process in Burma.

One such seat of power that may be affected by the current square is the entity known as the Corporation.

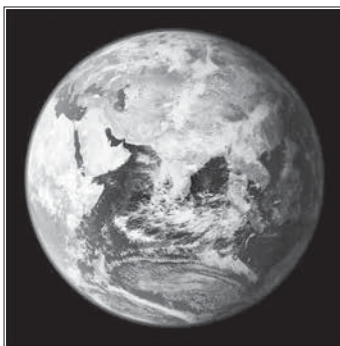
"History humbles dominant institutions. Great empires, the church, the monarchy, the Communist parties of Eastern Europe were all overthrown, diminished, or absorbed into new orders. It's unlikely that the corporation will be the first institution to defy history."

— Joel Bakan, *The Corporation*

The corporation, arguably the most powerful of all modern day organizations, is one institution whose days may be numbered. Under current corporate laws there is no accountability. Shareholders might own a company they have no say in its day-to-day operation. Meanwhile company executives are free to line their own pockets. Distance (Uranus) ownership (Pluto) means that no one takes any responsibility (Saturn).

With Pluto in Capricorn (ruled by Saturn which has been ploughing its way through Libra of late), it's clear that our financial systems need to become more fair and just. For years, corporations (Pluto) have been allowed to take incredible liberties (Uranus) and have laid waste planet Earth in the name of shareholder profits. Governments (Saturn) have aided and abetted this process by accepting political donations from big business and passing laws allowing corporations unlimited power, rather than acting as impartial (Uranus) regulators (Saturn). Multinational corporations have trampled on human rights in the name of free trade; they have enslaved people and sold weapons and toxic chemicals for profit, without the slightest regard for morality or ethics, let

alone the environment. And we have allowed this to happen — in fact, we have created it. But as Uranus and Pluto conjunctions are now establishing themselves in the earth element, a dramatic shift in how civilization organizes itself is set to unfold.



Saturn in Libra (2009–12) has helped to highlight and redress some of the imbalances in the system so that we can begin to establish fairer laws and regulations. This Saturn transit will be followed immediately by a mutual reception of Saturn and Pluto, when Saturn moves through Scorpio (2012–15); this coincides with the Uranus–Pluto square, which should assist in the rebuilding process. While Uranus–Pluto is tearing down some of the scaffolding that has been holding up our institutions, this period may herald a time when Uranus, Pluto, and Saturn can work together and help us integrate each planet’s dynamics within our lives and communities.

It’s clear that we urgently need to address widespread hardship and inequality, the impacts of climate change, and numerous other pressing humanitarian and environmental issues. Uranus in Aries will give us the impetus and energy to do this, but it won’t be easy. Instead of government (Saturn) bailing out big business (Pluto), maybe it would be better to give some power back to the individual (Uranus). This has already started to happen.

One way forward through the ongoing financial crisis is emerging: Co-ops are starting to boom. During the economic crisis in Argentina around 2001, hundreds of businesses and factories shut down. The whole country was virtually bankrupt. Not long afterward, workers occupied the premises of these bankrupt businesses and began to run them as worker-owned cooperatives. The courts have since upheld their right to do so, and they have proved to be highly successful. In a cooperative arrangement, each member/owner/worker has an equal vote and shares in the responsibilities, reaping benefits according to one’s individual input. Uranus, Pluto, and Saturn cooperate. Co-ops may yet provide a solution to the current economic woes in Greece and elsewhere.⁶

It’s noteworthy that in 2073–74 we will have another cardinal Uranus–Pluto square to work through; this will be a waning square like 1934 with Pluto in Aries and Uranus in Capricorn. The next few generations will evaluate how well we manage this current cycle when the consequences of our actions (and our inaction) become apparent. A new cycle of cooperation can be ushered in at the Uranus–Pluto conjunction transitions from Aries into Taurus, as we begin to realize that our Earth is a finite resource whose patience is wearing thin. Clearly we must start living within our means — there is no alternative.

By 2017, shortly after this current series of waxing squares comes to an end, Pluto will have traveled exactly 180 degrees from its 1930 discovery position, a journey taking just 87 years — only a

little longer than one cycle of Uranus. This suggests that we are awakening to a fresh understanding of our own collective shadow and are consequently less inclined to project Pluto by blaming others. The scene is set for a dramatic awakening in our collective consciousness as we begin to understand that we are all connected by the common thread of humanity and must learn to share planet Earth.

Endnotes

1. Judy Pearsall and Bill Trumble, eds., *Oxford English Reference Dictionary*, Oxford University Press, Inc., 2002, p. 691.
2. *Ibid*, p. 148.
3. Lucretia Mott was born on January 3, 1793 in Nantucket, Massachusetts. Astrotheme.com gives a time of 12:00 pm (no source), which likely means that the actual birth time is unknown. However, this noon chart looks convincing, with Saturn in Aries rising, Mott had Uranus in Leo opposing Pluto conjunct Venus in Aquarius—excellent cosmic credentials for an activist.
4. See www.fordham.edu/halsall/senecafalls.html (accessed December 2009).
5. John Ralston Saul, *The Collapse of Globalism*, Penguin Group, 2005, pp. 17-51.
6. Greece Democracy was established on July 24, 1974, 4:00 am in Athens.



Michele Finney

developed an interest in astrology in childhood and began formal studies in 1980. A practicing hypnotherapist and consulting astrologer with a passion for research, Michele writes for a number of international publications, and she is the author of *Solar Fire’s Health and Wellbeing Report*. Her 2009 book, *Secrets of the Zodiac*, was recently translated into Chinese. Michele’s next book, *The Sacred Dance of Venus and Mars*, will be published by The Wessex Astrologer in 2012. Michele can be contacted via e-mail at mfinney@cinsight.com.au, or via her Web site: www.celestialinsight.com.au.



In 2006, while George Bush was still President, the economy was booming and Pluto was still in the bubble of Sagittarius, Michael Lutin wrote an article on the soon-to-be effects of Pluto's journey through Capricorn, particularly tying it in to the chart of the US. We see now how prescient it was, and we thought it compliments our Journal topic of the square between Uranus and Pluto. The article first appeared in "Vanity Fair" in December, 2006.

— John Marchesella

Author's Preface

To all our Journal readers everywhere:

The following article was written logically (astro-logically, that is) in the spring of 2006, but magically published in *Vanity Fair* in December of that year for the January 2007 issue. I'd like to share the train of my thinking that led to the hypothesis proposed in this piece, and then describe how the publication of it had to be magical--or at least spiritually guided.

The basis of most of my clinical work relies on the theory of planetary recurrence. The mechanics of the whole process is beyond the scope of this introduction, so let me just state the most fundamental premise here. Like the Saturn return we all know and use, repetitions of planetary positions, aspects and arc openings by transit, progression and direction, never fail to trigger responses in behavior, most often unconscious, based on memories of previous transits, progressions and directions. In addition, experience has demonstrated to me that a dramatic shift in planetary dispositor can reveal monumental changes as well as monitor drastic upheavals in the life of any individual. When it comes to determining the "birth" of a mundane entity, it has proven most useful for me to use a solar chart and leave the hair-splitting aside for later. If the hypothesis for planetary recurrence holds, then I stick with that solar chart.

I'm not sure when I became interested in the political scene or when it began to dawn on me that the principles on which the United States had been founded were in jeopardy of falling completely apart. In any case, I decided to use the July 4th chart, even though I found the work of Julian Armistead and David Solte deeply compelling. I was driven to write what was on my mind, despite the fact that almost all the editors and publishers I was involved with at the time loathed the Bush administration and had super high hopes for Barack Obama to be nominated and elected, so he could whisk the country away toward a new and bright horizon. Because of the view I held with regard to the coming years, I never thought the piece would see the light of day. I went forward anyway, considering just a few simple factors, and ended up with an essay five times as long as the one that was indeed finally published, which you will see below.

I considered all the factors using whole sign houses: the Pluto return of the United States, Venus and Jupiter rising above the Sun at dawn, the progressed retrograde of Mars, the shift in dispositor from Jupiter to Saturn of the transiting Pluto, and Pluto's approach to the world axis and eventually its own South Node.

When I began extensive reading on the historical events of eighteenth century colonial politics, I was dumbstruck to behold the parallels between the plight of the Native Americans of that period and the disenfranchised and maligned ethnic groups of

today. Behind the ideological rhetoric about freedom, democracy and the right to pursue happiness lurked a philosophy of pure economics. Money was behind it all. If my thoughts on planetary recurrence and unconscious responses to memory were valid for individuals--and I had already witnessed it hundreds of times--it might also hold water for masses and countries. If so, maybe I could take a peek into 2008 and beyond.

It worked.

But how did the piece ever get published? Back in the spring of 2006, the world was in good shape. Markets were hot. Real estate was cooking. Everything was hunky dunky. Many people were eager to overthrow Cheney and his gang and get the country back on track. Nobody was going to heed a witch at the christening like me. (Though of course, as astrologers, we all saw it coming.) As for the publication of the piece, here comes the magic part.

That same spring I was invited to speak at the Lilydale Assembly outside of Buffalo. I didn't know exactly who they were but assumed they were an astrology group. Upon arriving, I saw that the little Sound-of-Music type village was actually filled with mediums sitting around on porches, smoking and talking to dead people. I had never been interested in contacting the dead, so I immediately decided to switch the topic of my talk from the Nodes to death anxiety. Up until that point, I was sure that mediums--the legit ones--were probably psychics gifted with the ability to tap into a person's memory or grief over loss. Was I ever in for a surprise.

After my talk, as I was about to leave, the President of the Assembly at the time--an absolutely beautiful soul named Ellen Bourn--stopped me abruptly and said, 'Someone wants to talk to you.' I rolled my eyes, but ok, I thought, let's see--maybe she was honing in on my feelings of loss for my literary agent and friend who had died shortly before my visit to Lilydale.

She told me she thought it was a client of mine who had worked for NASA on the Mars project.

Huh?

I searched my memory but made not a single connection. She said maybe it was a colleague. Still didn't ring a bell. She then said I had been very kind to this man before he passed and he wanted to let me know he was grateful. She added a few more personal things about him, but I still drew a complete blank. Then out of the blue she asked if I had any connection with St. Michael. Startled, I showed her a medal I have been wearing around my neck since I was a kid living in France. It wasn't St. Michael, I told her, it was the French version--St. Michel.

"That's it!" she exclaimed. "That's the confirmation. He's French."

I almost fainted right in front of her on the spot. Of course, Gauquelin. Michel Gauquelin. The Mars project. A colleague. I was blown away. It had been so many years since he had passed. Besides, she didn't know him. She didn't know I knew him. She had no clue about what had passed between us before he died. And the medal, it turned out — O mystery of Life and Circumstances — had been purchased at the Church of St. Sulpice: Michel Gauquelin's parish. What the hell was happening?

Before I could even recover, she added: "By any chance are you working on writing something about Capricorn? Neptune or something?" I nodded, by this time completely speechless.

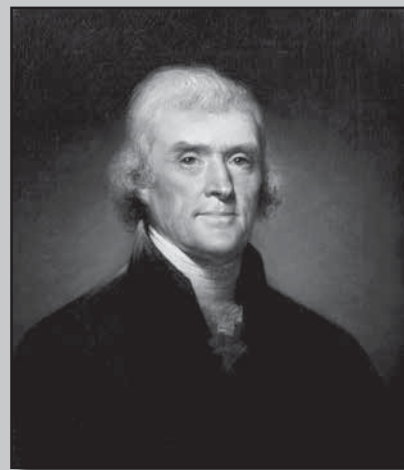
"Well," she said thoughtfully, "he thinks it's an important message for you to get out. He'd like to help you with that."

Two weeks later, despite all their misgivings about the content, Vanity Fair bought the piece.

I dedicate this piece to our beloved colleague Michel Gauquelin. I thank him for all his selfless dedication and devotion to his work, and his kind help that has allowed our community to grow stronger and regain the respect it deserves throughout the world.

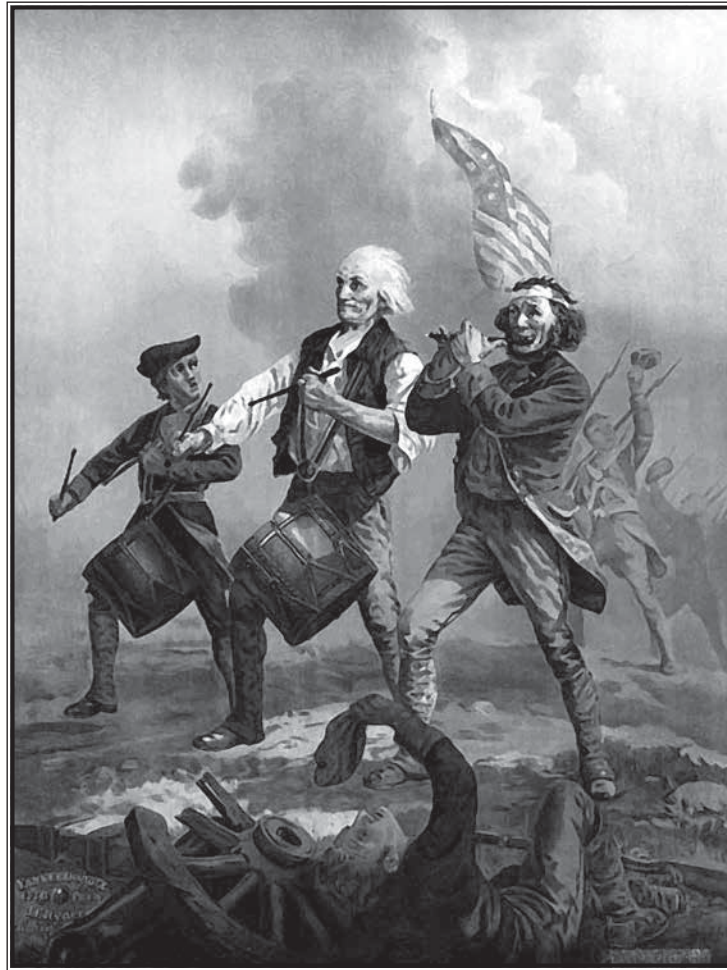
Live long and prosper, everybody.
Peace and long life.

Michael Lutin
February 1, 2012



I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial by strength, and bid defiance to the laws of our country.

– *Thomas Jefferson*



HOROSCOPE USA: *Back to the Future with Planetary Recurrence*

By Michael Lutin

All alone and more paranoid by the day, President George Bush is getting it from all sides, and despite his bravado, which some people call a defensive, adolescent swagger, he can't trust anybody, not even his mother, especially his mother. His detractors blame him for the state the world is in. Extremists go one further and say the world is coming to an end. Most of us in this country just want gas prices to go down, the dollar to go up, and America to go back to the good old days.

Astrologers can tell you that that's not going to happen. They also say that no matter what happens, we'll never go broke either. They can also explain George Bush's state by saying that he's a Cancer, and that in coming years Cancers are going to be challenged to expand their whole world view. Astrologers insist that in order to understand what is happening politically, culturally,

and socially in America we all have to gain greater perspective and learn to think long term, and to do that we have to turn to the zodiac, especially the signs of Cancer and Capricorn. For nations, like people, have horoscopes.

America was born on July 4, 1776, when the Founding Fathers decided it was time to separate from England and become an independent entity. That makes America a Cancer nation. Cancer is the sign of fertility, and America sees herself as the world's nurturing mother. Because of the hostile presence of Mars and Uranus in our solar 12th house, we're the kind of nurturer that can bomb the hell out of a country one day and then send over sandwiches and coffee the next. That makes the rest of the world love us and hate us. We're like the rich relative everybody is jealous of but still we'll go to her house for the holidays because there's

always plenty of food loaded with carbs. It is the sincere and conscious wish of every Cancer, however, including the U.S.A., to make sure that all those under its wing are safe, and if you mess with them, you must be ready to face the Special Forces.



Security and home are primal drives of this sign, sometimes to the point of clannishness and even xenophobia. America is and has always been about property, taxes, and land ownership. Of course we conveniently forget the fact that when the early settlers arrived they took one look around and said to the Indians, "What a gorgeous place you've got here! Get out!" Territory is everything, and if anyone tells you that the essence of the American dream is just about liberty and freedom, don't kid yourself. It's about mortgage rates. It's a fabulous place to live, though, mainly because you can come here, think up something you want to do and be successful at it.

But are we, in the end, ruthless imperialists doomed to be brought down by our degenerate culture? That is what Pluto's transit through the sign of Capricorn over the next 19 years will reveal. It will challenge us as we have never been challenged before--until it will seem that the whole world is against us--but it will also reveal the secret of how we need to change.

Though we're a Cancer nation, the sign of Capricorn has always been strong in our horoscope, and it's going to get a lot stronger. We were born with Pluto in Capricorn, and now, after 250 years, Pluto is coming back to the same place. The seeds that were sown back in the 1770s are sprouting at last. That's how Pluto works, over hundreds of years.

Though Pluto has recently been demoted by astronomers to a not-quite-planet, try telling that to any Sagittarian who's been to hell and back over the last 10 years, thanks to the passage of Pluto through their sign. The power of the little dwarf is so profound and catastrophic that it doesn't matter if you call it a planet or not. It's a killer. But, oddly, it's also a healer. When Pluto moves into your sign, it first threatens to wipe you out totally and devastate you emotionally and physically, letting you know along the way that you must stop whatever you are doing. However you were conducting business or your personal life is over. Finito. Kaput.

When you come out of a Pluto transit, however, you are transformed forever. In another state. But in the process you don't realize what's happening. Life can get pretty dark. With Pluto, you can't look ahead. You can't be impatient. Most of all, you shouldn't be afraid, because in the end there is nothing to fear but the fear of permanent change. You just have to surrender to the mysterious process of complete and total transformation. This is about to happen to the United States as we all deal with an opposition of Pluto in the sign of Capricorn to our Cancer Sun. And while Cancers and Capricorns will be most strongly affected by this planetary motion, we will all be touched in business as well as

in our personal lives, no matter what sign we were born under. Because of Pluto's slow motion through the heavens--it takes nearly 250 years to go through the twelve signs of the Zodiac--it rules over mass movements and great political and social changes. So it might be useful to look at what happened the last time Pluto passed over the position it holds now and will hold for the next 20 years.

Sometime in the 1760s, various papers and pamphlets began to circulate in the colonies, exploring new ideologies and belief systems concerning individual liberty and personal freedom. Harmless enough. Just philosophers spouting off rehashed versions of ancient Greek and Roman notions. Nothing threatening. But the Crown over in England looked upon such doings as seditious. Mother England, once the great protector, was beginning to be the great drag. She wanted payback for all the protection she'd provided. That was when the colonists, starting to exhibit the collective traits of a Cancer nation, came to resent their mother's hold on them. She was getting a little too bossy. And greedy.

Clearly, something was happening up in the heavens. Pluto was just about leaving the sign of Sagittarius and entering Capricorn. A transformation was taking place. And so the United States of America was born.

Something similar is happening again, 230 years later, as Pluto is coming around to the same spot. This time, however, it's the American government that is putting the squeeze on the people. A Pluto-style transformation doesn't happen overnight, and events that seem at first random and explosive don't come out of nowhere. They have been brewing and simmering for years. While many people will probably be nervous wrecks during the two turbulent decades ahead, many old hippies will come joyfully out of retirement, thankful that the revolution they quit their jobs for 40 years ago may finally be happening. And their kids, born in the 60s and 70s, who grew up embarrassed by their hippie parents, will be shocked to see how right their parents may have been.

When Pluto goes direct in September of this year, the religious zeal, or madness, that has taken hold since it entered Sagittarius in 1994 will reach a giant crescendo, ushering in a 20 year period dominated by the sign of Capricorn. Over the next 19 years or so, America as a Cancer nation will have to deal with troubling confrontations and competition such as it has never known, as well as an internal political struggle, which will shake us to our very core.

Capricorn can be pictured as the moustache-twirling landlord in a black cloak pointing outside toward the blizzard while a poor pregnant wretch begs for mercy. Capricorn forces one to grow up, face life, recognize it's a tough world. It lends you a dime and asks for a dollar in return. It can be the sign of an inspired leader or controlling, dominating fascist. It can support your existence

or threaten it completely. It is not only the conservative element in all of us, but also a necessary component of any business. The presence of Capricorn always indicates big business. And what else is America about?

Capricorn represents the supremacy of power. And if Capricorn is not the most humanitarian sign of the Zodiac, it always means stability. It supports organized society, not rabble-rousing anarchy. It is often perceived as uptight and reactionary, mainly because its function is to uphold existing law. It is not progressive or forward-thinking in its attitudes and measures. It clearly represents the streak of deep conservatism that has always existed in the United States, but that seems to be taking over at the moment. This is the backbone of the American spirit. If Capricorn protects the status quo, how did it help sow the seeds of revolution for the United States? There's the problem. And the answer? It was not just the presence of Capricorn in America's horoscope; it was the presence of Pluto in that sign that sparked the fight for freedom.

If you think that things are tough and tight now, and that privacy and personal liberties are being infringed upon, just wait. During the next 19 years, things are going to get much tighter. Controls and laws will become more stringent. Pluto in Capricorn will demand conformity, born out of fear that different is dangerous. The words "patriot" and "treason" will lose their meaning, and in some cases they will become interchangeable--mainly because what is treason to one person will be patriotism to another--just as they did back in the 1760s and 70s. The country's mood will become darker and much more conservative. It's not going to be a matter of Democrat or Republican anymore, because the new ideologies will bleed across party lines.

Fortunately, something else is going on at the same time. While Pluto is in Capricorn, Uranus will be leaving the sign of Pisces, and sometime between 2009 and 2011, the dam is going to break. When Uranus is in the sign of Pisces, it will reach the end of the Zodiac. The last time it was there was at the end of the 1920s. When Uranus comes to the last degrees of Pisces, it will spell the end of an era. People will figure, "Aw the hell with it. The end is coming anyway, so to hell with my liver. Give me a double martini."

As we get closer to that time, people put all their chips on the table. Stakes will get higher. (Incidentally, America began the war in Iraq when the Sun was at the end of Pisces--a perfectly moronic time to start anything.) Metaphorically, culturally, and sometimes even literally, Uranus at the end of Pisces can seem like a torrential flood that comes out of nowhere. Everything that has been piled up and swept under the rug comes spilling out. To the apocalyptic, it will seem like the wrath of God, because lots of people are going to be headed toward self-indulgence, turning up



the music and dancing, even hurrying the end, much as they did in America during the 1920s.

When Uranus hits the 29th degree of Pisces, before it pops into Aries, even the Pope could have a stroke over the upheaval the world will find itself in. Uranus in Pisces washes everything away--every hope, every prayer--and the only thing that saves you is the ability to surrender to the inevitable shift and change. When Uranus hits Aries, people aren't go to lie down and let the government take over. When the government becomes business and business becomes government, the people

will fight back, and the ensuing struggle will lead to the eventual transformation and rebirth of America.

Pluto in Capricorn is going to change America from the inside out, threaten our very existence, challenge our economy, and divide the country politically. The government is going to be so paranoid during those years that it doesn't really matter who gets into office in 2008. When Uranus enters Aries after coming out of Pisces, it's going to be the 1960s in America all over again. But right through the mid-teens of this century, the square of Uranus in Aries to Pluto in Capricorn will create the seeds of revolution everywhere. Forces of repression are going to try to clamp down even harder on those who want to speak their minds. The most compelling and trying time will be while this square is at its fullest, in the middle of the coming decade.

Pluto in Capricorn means the ascendance into overt power of the corporations in relation to the government. But that situation will change when Pluto enters Aquarius, at the end of the 2020s.

Don't expect the 1950s to return anytime soon. The period of turbulence that lies before us all in America is not God's wrath or the work of radical Muslims, and it has nothing to do with the hole in the ozone layer. It is a necessary and inevitable step in the evolution of this country, which will result in a reworking of the Constitution in the last half of the 2020s. The greatest time of upheaval will be in the mid-to-late teens, between 2015 and 2019, when the Uranus-Pluto square is most active.

Pluto in Capricorn, which produces conformity, will create the need on the part of the government to maintain order in a time of what they perceive to be disruptive chaos. People, however, will resist. The more resistance to government protection, the more protection the government will try to provide. Uranus in Aries is the symbol of rebellion against such protection, and it will make people ferociously dedicated to fighting anything and everything that impede unbridled, personal liberty. This is going to be a period of civil unrest to the max.

Then, in the years 2023-25, the final stages of the Pluto return and the Capricorn effect will reach a climax. Some astrologers believe that an empire lasts no longer than one Pluto cycle, and by 2025,

ours will be played out, and no matter how you look at it, the USA is an empire.

Just as England had to face its decline when the fledgling colonies took over, our turn may be coming. The Pluto return of 2025 will demand a redefinition of the United States and create the ultimate identity crisis. We will have to put ourselves on the line as we did 250 years ago.

What is about to happen amounts to a permanent political, social, cultural and economic change, which will mark the rebirth of the United States as a more global nation and a member of the world, if not the leader of the world. This is a very threatening challenge to all the notions of land ownership, security, wealth and supremacy our Cancer nation has enjoyed for more than two centuries. The dollar will not likely go back to its post-WWII strength. The euro and other international currencies will reject our exploitation and demand instead our cooperation. Luckily for us, the horoscope of the U.S.A. contains a strong influence of Venus and Jupiter, so we'll never go totally broke or hungry. We will, however, have to play ball with the rest of planet Earth as we have never had to do before. From now on we will have to cooperate, or else.

No one is really to blame. We've brought ourselves to this crisis, through a combination of individual freedom and economic gain, as well as a blind, isolating grandiosity. We've gotten fat and we've gotten lazy. So don't blame George Bush or Bill Clinton who came before him or any of the elected people in Washington. A country always gets the leaders it deserves, and when we're ready to rise from the ashes of a fallen empire, we will find the leaders to help us do so. It will happen, but not in 2008. We have to go through the Pluto transit first.



Michael Lutin

currently practices astrology and speaks in several Earth cities before astrology groups, most recently at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. He writes for Vogue Germany, FEM Germany, VOGUE Korea, and the Huffington Post. His most recent project is "OMG THE MAYANS WERE RIGHT", an apocalyptic musical evening for UAC 2012.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important. If you are cut down in a movement that is designed to save the soul of a nation, then no other death could be more redemptive."

— Martin Luther King (1963)



"We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!"

— Martin Luther King (April 3, 1968)

Editor's Note: Coincident with the peak of the Uranus-Pluto conjunction in Virgo, society grew more militant in the mid-1960s, and Martin Luther King became more vehemently engaged in his protest against the Viet Nam War and plight of the underprivileged. On April 3, 1968, on the eve of his assassination, he gave his final impassioned and ultimately prophetic speech to supporters at the Mason Street Temple in Memphis, TN; with transiting Uranus exactly trine his Sun (25° Capricorn) and transiting Pluto (21° Virgo) T-square his natal Moon and Mars (19° Pisces and 22° Gemini, respectively).

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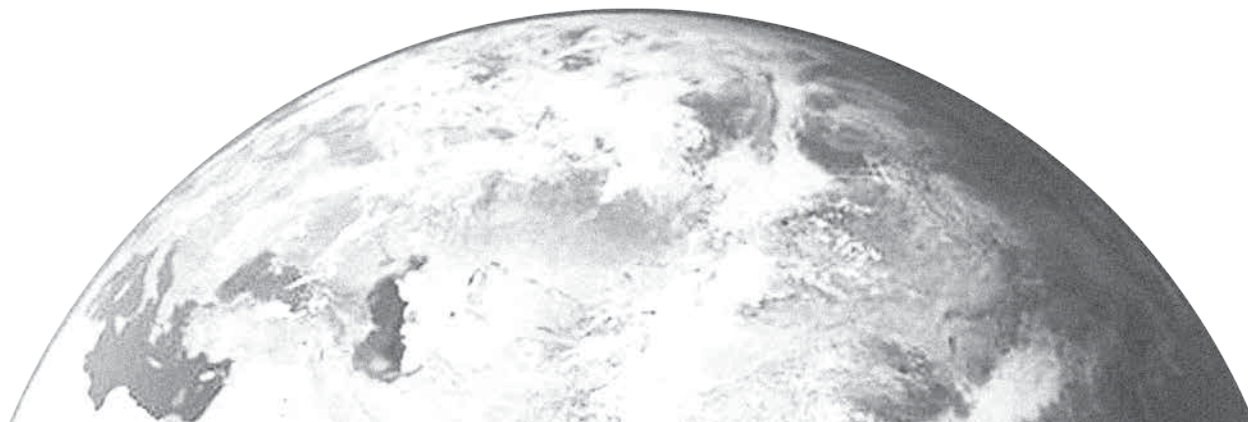
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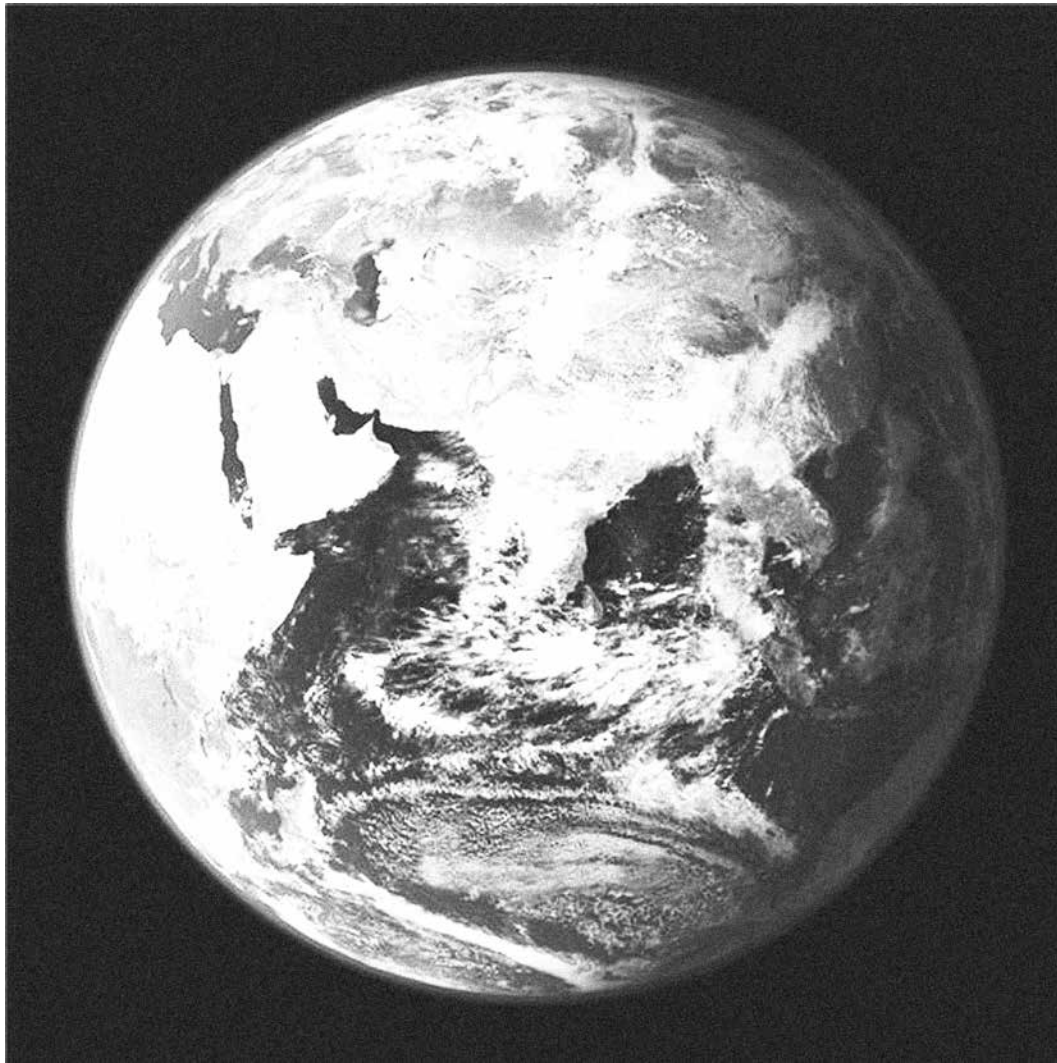
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