

Pluto in Sagittarius:
Rebirth of Culture, Religion & the Human Spirit
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Yesterday morning, I awoke to find snow blanketing the Durango/southern Colorado area wherein I thankfully reside, creating an aura of soft beauty and wondrous magic and filling me with gratitude for being alive and for participating in the mysteries of human and planetary life.

Per usual, I soon found my way to the various news websites and was once again confronted with the national and international conflicts centering around religious and secular fundamentalism in Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, the United States, Palestine, Israel, Africa and seemingly everywhere else, that has dominated the news for the past several years and has divided the human family for centuries. These sectarian, national and international conflicts seemingly have no end in sight and now with the existence of WMD's available courtesy of your local weapons manufacturer, they pose a threat of wide scale destruction and violence to human and planetary life that knows no bounds.

As an astrologer, my thoughts immediately gravitated toward the planet Pluto currently in the last degrees of the sign of Sagittarius. From an astrological perspective, the combination of the planet Pluto signifying mass destruction (WMD's) transiting the sign of Sagittarius, signifying religion and foreign cultures, perfectly explains this unfortunate and destabilizing phenomena, with fanatics and lunatics of all persuasions willing to kill as many enemies as possible in defense of their God, their homeland, their people, their beliefs.

One could never imagine Jesus the Christ aka The Messiah in a fight to the death with his mortal or in this case his immortal rival, the Prophet Muhammad aka The Praised One. Yet millions of their followers are only too willing to rain down death and destruction upon the other? What the effing hell is going on here? A crazy solution that popped into my mind would be to have Osama Bin Laden square off against George Dubya in a gladiators pit in a fight to the death on Pay TV, with Rush Limbaugh and Howard Stern providing color commentary. Sadly that will not happen but I ask you, would you be that surprised if it did?

As an antidote, I felt guided, inspired or otherwise compelled to offer an astrological perspective on this phenomenon (Pluto in Sagittarius), which has been in effect since 1996 and will remain so until November of 2008.

Bear in mind that in ancient Hermetic philosophy, which (along with Pythagorean and Hellenistic world views) is one of the main foundations of the ancient western astrological

system, there is a direct connection between celestial and terrestrial events, as suggested by the statement “As it is above, so it is below, as within so without, as the soul so the universe”.

To simplify the language of astrology, we can view a planet as a person or an actor and the zodiacal sign we can see as a script the actor/planet will perform or as a home the person will inhabit or territory it will traverse. When a planet enters or exits a sign it exerts an enormous influence on the sign similar to a person moving into your home, sharing your space and then leaving. Naturally the quality of the relationship established would depend on whoever that person was and so forth.

Now imagine this person to be far beyond the normal everyday awareness, so far beyond the consensus reality that he or she has an profound and powerful effect and as much you adjust your energies to this person (s)he remains an formidable mystery, one that brings both awe, terror and ultimately respect bordering on reverence. This is Pluto, bringing the energy of destruction and regeneration, of death and rebirth, of loss and gain, always extreme, always a mystery to be lived, never one that can be solved. Pluto is Shiva and Kali rolled into one.

Pluto is the cosmic rotor rooter planet. Anything old, corrupt or decayed, any outworn defensive patterns that were put in place for your survival, that do not serve the purposes of the emerging soul, will all be ruthlessly (from the stand point of the entrenched ego) annihilated. Resistance is futile. Pluto is the destroyer, the Siva and Kali of the solar system. Everything that it contacts undergoes an alchemical process of transmutation. It does this through descent into the underworld and through facing and ultimately embracing our disowned, shadowy selves.

And it is the last person any normal person (the only normal people I know are the ones I don't know very well) would invite into their home. “Sorry but you're creeping me out and besides there's this really great fight on pay TV between George W and Osama Bin Laden. I paid beaucoup bucks for this so maybe some other time. Bin Laden just pinned Dubya and Rush Limbaugh is just about to eat Howard Stern's shorts. But I do dig the Darth Vader look you got going on. Try the Mafia or the CIA. They're always looking for guys like you”.

In my own natal horoscope Pluto is (fortunately or unfortunately depending on my perspective) dominating most of the important functions (i.e. the Sun, the Moon and the Ascendant). I have heard some people talk about Pluto in a somewhat dismissive way, explaining it (as if you could ever explain Pluto) as a process of change and transformation. I can assure you, dear reader, based on personal experience, that Pluto is anything but explainable and anything but knowable. It is a mystery that will always defeat you and humble you until you are on bended knee, not because a submissive posture is a strategy that you haven't yet tried but because in the face of such a terrifying and awesome mystery you fall to the ground, having no strength to stand. Once the alchemical processes of Pluto are in full operation only then does the white flag of humility and purity begin to fly.

On the physical level Pluto presides over cellular transmutation ranging in the extreme from diseases such as cancer and aids to the activation of the serpentine Kundalini, the mastery

of the life force and the transmutation of the carbon-based physical body into the Diamond Light body. On the psychological level it ranges from homicidal and suicidal impulses to that of ego death and rebirth of soul identity. It is the caterpillar metamorphosing into the butterfly; the mythological phoenix destroying itself in a ring of fire only to rise again from the ashes of its old life, regenerate and resplendent.

As a sign Sagittarius symbolizes the quest for identity through the exploration of foreign culture and the development of the higher mind. Sagittarius is the archer with a quiver full of arrows. The challenge for the Archer is to actually hit the target and not waste the arrows by shooting them wherever.

The negative side of Pluto in Sagittarius includes foreign conquest, religious fanaticism, reckless expansion, and cultural destruction, as we have been witness to. It also signifies the massive sexual abuse and cover up (Pluto) by the Catholic clergy (Sagittarius) that has come into the light of day. The good news is that the latter negative expression, which has been in full sway since 1996 will run its course and the more positive aspect of Pluto in Sagittarius, will be effect beginning Dec 2006 until December 2007. Pluto in Sagittarius, in its highest expression, signifies the regeneration and renewal of all human cultures including their philosophical systems and their legal, religious and educational institutions. I'll talk more about this later but first an astrological analysis.

Please bear with me here and let the astrospeak roll lightly through your mind. I do this to show the reader that I am not making predictions out of thin air. This is not channeling or reading tealeaves, not that I have anything against them per se. Astrology is based on centuries of observation and I would again like to remind the reader "As above, so below, as within so without, as the soul so the universe. I do believe that divination is a path of wisdom in life and would not be surprised if that will be the next article that I write.

To begin, in astrology, the matter of what we are dealing with is determined by the planets occupying the sign in this case Pluto in Sagittarius. The outcome or future is determined by the location of the ruler, in this case Jupiter, the planet most associated with expansion, tolerance, education and beneficence.

When the Iraq war started, Jupiter was retrograde (moving backwards in the heavens from a geocentric perspective) in Leo and opposing (an aspect signifying a conflictual relationship) Neptune in Aquarius. (Neptune by the way rules oil). The negative side of Jupiter in Leo is most associated with entitlement, plutocracy, and self-aggrandizement. As far as determining outcomes or fates, we already have two negative or weakened conditions.

1) a retrograde planet is weak and therefore not able to govern the affair of its sign

2) Neptune is a planet that rules confusion, deception and illusion. In contrast, Pluto is diabolically deceptive while Neptune doesn't have a clue. Here it is in close relationship with Jupiter.

Curious and dangerous combination of signifiers don't you think? In the Kings English, this is a really, really bad omen. Only an idiot would start a war under such cosmic conditions (as in

the bumper sticker somewhere in Texas, a village is missing its idiot). These two cosmic conditions greatly weaken Jupiter's ability to effectively rule its sign, wherein resides Pluto. This is a really dangerous situation as the ruler is completely and possibly permanently out to lunch. Thus the global situation has exploded with violent conflicts and wars on almost every continent.

Let's look at a third signifier i.e. the position of Jupiter with regard to its sign or natural home. This very confused, weakened and afflicted planet finds itself nine signs removed from its home. To find a ruler in the ninth position means it is concerned with foreign affairs as well as acting from religious motives. The planet Jupiter, the sign Sagittarius and the ninth position all have an affinity with one another, meaning they signify the same things. For right or wrong they are in alignment with one another.

In summary, this is not only a weakened and deceptive and confused ruler, it is one believing in his own cause as mandated by God. This too rings a bell as our own misguided President and his cronies believe they are in the right and worse that God has sanctioned their actions.

Since the start of the war Jupiter moved through Virgo, a sign in which Jupiter is at its weakest and where we learned that the management of the war was not exactly what it should have been. Jupiter then moved into Libra where there was an effort to establish democracy through diplomacy. Jupiter then moved into Scorpio, a sign that likes to operate in the dark, where we learned all about the torture and abuse of prisoners that had and still is taking place, as well as exposing the administrations secret spying and attacks on those who disagreed with their plans.

Right now Jupiter is retrograde, again a weakened position and it is also in the 12th position, in the 12th place from its home of Sagittarius, which is a hidden place. This would indicate that the war is out of control and the situation is now in the hands of fate, which corresponds to the very real possibility that civil war will break out in Iraq. From the perspective of astrology this does not look very good at all. Worse Jupiter will be in Scorpio in the 12th place until the end of the year so the situation is likely to degenerate further.

The good news is that Jupiter will return to its home sign of Sagittarius in Dec of 2006 where it will be for an entire year. This is both a favorable and a fortunate position celestially as well as terrestrially. This is a cosmic event that has never taken place before (unless you count the Sumerian civilization who apparently knew about the outer planets).

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article whenever a planet enters or exits a sign it stirs everything up. With Pluto in Sagittarius we have seen the worst but now with Jupiter, the ruler has returned and is entirely capable of governing the affairs not only of Sagittarius but of Pisces as well, wherein dwells Uranus the planet of radical awakening and transformation. The outer planets act as agents bringing in information from the galaxy through the agencies of the inner planets. While Pluto in Sagittarius signifies the rebirth and regeneration of culture, Uranus in Pisces signifies the awakening and realization of spiritual vision. From the perspective of astrology, the ancient and time-honored art and practice of divination, this is a most excellent event. So hang loose and keep the faith.

There will be a potential for true leaders to emerge, not bullies or fanatics or the neoconservative horde that currently dictates national and foreign policy, but ones that represent the highest and best vision that Jupiter in Sagittarius offers. Who are these individuals? Go look in the mirror. The biggest lie is that you are disempowered and unable to effect meaningful change. The truth is that those who walk the earth with their feet on the ground and the heads in the heavens, inspired from their own contact with God/Goddess are the seeds of a new humanity, truly Phoenixed (Pluto) and Christed (Uranus) from their own contact with the cosmic, eternal truth that humanity (Sagittarius & Pisces). Individuals as well as local, national and global institutions, who carry this message, will come into their true power. In the meanwhile that which is old, outworn, decayed and corrupt will continue unchecked in its destructive ways.

Earlier I mentioned that I would like to write an article about Divination as Path to Wisdom. For thousands of years astrology was held in high regard in by kingships, governments and universities. We live in a narcissistic culture that has lost its way. We have gone in the complete opposite direction from divination and from a sense of the sacred and embraced a materialistic way of life that has resulted in the degradation and destruction of the earth and her cultures. We have gone as far as we can without completely destroying the earth and one another. Indeed our lives and those of future generations hang in the balance.

Jupiter in Sagittarius offers us an opportunity to right the wrongs of our age. Sagittarius of all the signs represents the Vision Quest. The call of the time is to open ourselves so that we may receive guidance from the above and the below and the four directions and from the celestial agencies that act as guardians on our earth walk. In doing so we will be initiated into the mysteries of the Sacred Round of Existence. Then we will discover our true voice and speak our wisdom gleaned from a lifetime of soul experience. Together we can turn the tide of madness, greed and hatred toward that of love, compassion, courage and empowerment. Let this message go out from the depths of your being to the four corners of the earth. This is the purpose of our birth as well as our birthright.

Francis X Caulfield, a life-long student and practitioner of Astrology, offers a **holistic vision to astrological divination and counseling**. He reads the natal chart as a **transformational blueprint** of the **Self**, impeccably informed with **celestial guidance and insight**. He eloquently blends intuition with modern and ancient astrological expertise forming a multi-layered, comprehensive understanding of each client's distinct **life purpose, potential, and direction**.

Francis is a talented **vibrational healer/bodyworker** with over 15 years experience in private practice and 30 plus years of meditation practice. His work is an intuitive blend of **Somatic, Energetic, and Shamanic** bodyworks for **Spiritual Awakening, Personal Transformation, and Holistic Healing**.

Francis also conducts group and individual **Remote Healings, Sacred Sound Ceremonies, Toning Workshops**, and programs in **Energy Medicine Circles**, and the **Illumination of the Body**.

In Spirit,
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