

Cosmic Views

Virgo Ingress August 23, 2006

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September Eclipses

By Carole Devine

September will be a busy month. There are two eclipses, which is normal, of course, since eclipses usually come in pairs, but these are significant. Pluto is transiting square the nodes and will continue to do so for many weeks, and this configuration is within range of the eclipse points—or at least one of them. Plus, Mars is going to go over these places during the next month, as well. It's a testy time when Mars and Pluto combine forces in the best of circumstances, but when they are also passing over an eclipse point, whether just before or just after, it's more potent.

But, let's start with the ingress of the Sun into Virgo, which is today. There is a new moon also (not an eclipse) at 0 degrees 31 minutes Virgo at 3:10 p.m. This alerts us that this sojourn of the Sun in Virgo as an important one. You might notice renewed energy after a few days of being a little fatigued. The last couple days the Moon was in Leo going over the Saturn/Neptune opposition and those two are not noted for robust energy.

Uranus and Jupiter are coming into a trine formation on August 29th, and that day the Moon is in aspect with them nicely, as well. In fact the few days before August 29th are great for the most part, except Mars will square Pluto in the evening of that day. This can give us previews of coming attractions with the subsequent eclipses.

Just after that, on the 30th and 31st, the Moon activates the Neptune/Saturn opposition again, and then those two are exactly opposite each other on the 31st at 5:55 a.m. I mentioned in past newsletters that we had a lull when Saturn retrograded out of range, and the T square these two made with Jupiter was broken for awhile. Well, now they are reforming the T square, and in fact, have been in range for a month. We saw immediately the upsurge of action in the Middle East involving Israel and Lebanon. During the next thirty days, these three become closely connected again for the last time at the same time we have two eclipses, with one being in range of squaring Pluto, which itself is stationary having gone direct the evening of September 4th while still in range of squaring Mars! There should be plenty of drama to hold our attention.

The first eclipse is on September 7th at 2:42 p.m. edt at 15:00 Pisces. This is a lunar eclipse so it is also a full moon. If you know your chart and know that you have any point or planet at that degree or 15 degrees of any mutable sign (Pisces, Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius), then this eclipse is important to you. Life changing events usually happen when your chart is affected by eclipses. The houses that would be involved would tell you what area of your life is involved. This is also a Moon Wobble time (detailed in a previous newsletter a few years ago) and more powerful than usual.

Sabian Symbol for the first eclipse

The degree of this eclipse is the Sabian Symbol, "*In the zoo, children are brought face to face with an Orangutang.*" It means "A direct confrontation with the 'wild' power of the primordial nature within oneself." This can also be a confrontation with the wildness of nature, itself (storms and hurricanes), or our projection of it onto others who seem to be showing us to ourselves like a mirror of our baser natures.

Mars is at 29 Virgo on the day of the first eclipse, which is the degree of the next one! That doubly reinforces the volatile nature of this eclipse period.

Sabian Symbol for the next eclipse

The stronger eclipse is the solar one on September 22, 7:45 a.m. eastern time at 29:20 Virgo. The last degree of each mutable sign is said to be “fated.” It carries an element of sacrifice in its meaning. The Sabian symbol for this degree is: *“Totally intent upon completing an immediate task, a man is deaf to any allurements.”* It symbolizes total discipline and focus on the task at hand—a sacrifice of one’s own desires. Sure sounds like fanatic zeal to complete something—an attack? a war? a mission? On many mundane levels each global citizen is affected by this, and will act it out in his or her own personal way. The final line describing this in Rudhyar’s *An Astrological Mandala* is fascinating in the way it also could describe the current Saturn/Neptune opposition: *“The outer doors of perception and thought must be closed, so the soul can complete its conquest of illusion.”*

Neptune symbolizes illusion as well as addiction and all kinds of escapism. Saturn symbolizes discipline, structure, duty and responsibility. Therefore, you will see instances of taking responsibility for one’s addictions, illusions, etc. all around you. It is even now in the news (see Mel Gibson article), in your family—everywhere. I’m not saying it will be successful, because Jupiter is involved here. That involvement adds the quality of exaggerated judgment, or faulty judgment, because when it is square Neptune, we tend to justify or to inflate the issue with excuses. If it is connected with money (by house position or rulership), it can be a very difficult time stemming expenses, but also a blissful disinterest in taking responsibility for change in habits. Saturn is knocking at the door, though, reminding of duty.

How does Saturn do the “reminding?” One way is feelings of guilt. Another is depression. Why do you think you feel so badly about what is not right in your life? Another is that things just don’t seem to end or work out the way you want, such as the Iraq war. The way to grow through this reminder of our weaknesses is to “conquer illusion.” *A Course in Miracles* tells us that the only realities are love and fear. (Saturn, by the way, is fear, too.) Therefore, everything else is a product of illusion. If all is an illusion except those two, then the answer is to choose to look at everything in your life as either coming from love or fear. Addictions are a result of fear. By substituting love—choosing to involve oneself in loving life instead of fearing it—then addictions can be overcome. This is not really simplistic. Jungian psychology is a breakthrough in discovering the alternative “selves” that live within us and bringing unity to them. It isn’t a deep, dark mystery that is unfathomable.

The opposition aspect, in itself, tells us something. It is the aspect of “awareness.” In other words, we are collectively becoming aware of our illusions and the need to take responsibility for them. One such illusion is that our government is right all the time. Another is that the Bible is absolutely correct, no matter how each of us interprets it. Why do we have so many religions? Because no one agrees about the interpretations of scripture! Never before have we had so many divergent messages coming from individuals who say God is talking to them. And the ultimate result is killing whole groups of people out of religious zeal. One way to exaggerate one’s responsibility for one’s illusions is to feel that it is “God’s will” to attack and eradicate anyone who does not agree with our own spiritual “truth.” Neptune is also spirituality.

This is also the last degree before the all important first degree of Libra which divides the zodiac in half. The first half of the zodiac from Aries through Virgo is concerned with personal pursuits and individuality. The second half is concerned with co-operation and interaction with others. An eclipse here could be a reminder that no man is an island, and sacrifice, completion of a task, or intent on reaching goals is not done merely for oneself, but for the good of the collective or a higher ideal.

The days ahead are important. We need to be vigilant and alert to our own tendencies to cling to our illusions even when reality is right before us. If you’re one of those who doesn’t read what the “other side” writes, it might be a good idea to balance your views with both sides of the story. If you are depressed or guilt-ridden, why not break your daily routine, go out into your neighborhood, and discover how you can express love in an altruistic manner? I spent a couple years recently volunteering rides to those who could not drive. It was an eye-opening and humbling experience. It eradicated any fears I’d had about growing old and put my life into a new perspective.

Saturn/Neptune, Alcoholism and Mel Gibson

There are so many symbolic events of this opposition to choose from, it's like observing a groaning buffet table offering an endless variety of examples. One case that is multi-faceted is Mel Gibson. Neptune represents spirituality (Gibson is noted for his religious zeal) and it has often been singled out as the planet ruling alcoholism. It is actually not so much that as it is addictions. I was amazed, however, when my teacher, Gina Ceaglio, brought out some other patterns to watch.

She said that Neptune *does* show escapist tendencies, but it, in itself, does not fully describe alcoholism. There also needs to be a strong Saturn/Mars or Pluto combination, as well, because the alcoholic is the ultimate "controller." How much more control can anyone have than to have everyone re-arranging their lives to live around the alcoholic who might not be dependable for anything? It is also a cry for help that does not leave any doubt that the addicted person needs attention.

Does Mel Gibson have a strong Neptune *and* the other prerequisites? Absolutely. Born January 3, 1956 at 4:45 pm in Peekskill, NY, he has several dramatic patterns. Neptune is part of a T square with Mercury, ruler of the 12th and 3rd, and with Uranus, ruler of the 8th. More than escapist tendencies, this speaks of deception (or confusion). His Uranus opposition to Mercury is genius, to be sure, but it is also a kind of "license unto himself" to think whatever he wishes. It has often been called the "know it all" aspect. The Neptune involvement can indicate that one cannot always know when he's actually telling the truth—but to be fair, it's also incredible imagination. Since Neptune rules his Pisces MC (films), this will be best expressed through his career. But, left unfulfilled or thwarted, he might also turn to escapist mechanisms with this configuration.

The most dramatic pattern is Mars conjunct Saturn in Scorpio (fifth house) square Pluto in late Leo which is conjunct Jupiter in early Virgo (second house). Saturn in Scorpio alone can indicate unresolved forgiveness issues regarding maltreatment from authority figures, whether in this life or a previous one. But with it square Pluto in fixed signs within a degree of orb, it is deeply imbedded in the subconscious, and even he may not know how much resentment and rage he is carrying around.

As most of you know, he was arrested in the early morning hours of July 28th for drunk driving during which he spouted out racial slurs against Jews. Amazing things were active in his chart.

Are There Really Any "Accidents"?

For openers, Pluto is transiting square his MC and it was within 5 minutes of a degree from being exact at the time of his arrest. Given that his time of birth could be off by half a minute or so, it could have been exact. His MC/IC axis is going to be affected by the coming eclipse and next week Mars goes over it. He's extremely annoyed. The Pluto square, however, is powerful. His career is definitely affected by this. Two years from now, look for another surprising development when solar arc Uranus opposes his MC.

The progressed Moon was approaching a conjunction with the progressed Uranus when he was arrested, and he was emotionally very upset over the next month when it completed this contact. The progressed moon changes signs and conjoins natal Uranus three months after the arrest, so there are further developments with this event yet to come, mostly involving other people's power over him and their judgments—Uranus rules the 8th.

The progressed ascendant was square his natal Mars on July 28th within 2 minutes of arc!! Talk about angry! Plus, solar arc Mars was within 20 minutes of opposing his natal ascendant, and transiting Mars was within 24 minutes of opposing his progressed Sun! For the next six years the progressed ascendant will be going over his Mars/Pluto/Saturn/Jupiter configuration which is the source of his need to be in control and to express his will. But, closer to now, the Saturn/Neptune configuration we've been watching, although not exact on these planets while in opposition, will affect these each in their own time. Interestingly, Saturn was opposing his natal Venus at the arrest time, as well. That shows repercussions at home in his marriage.

Remember the all important zero degree of Libra mentioned in the previous article? That's where his Moon is—00:01 of Libra. The coming eclipse at 29 Virgo is less than a

degree from his Moon, which is in his fourth house. This event is shaking him to a primordial core. After all, alcohol releases inhibitions, and we usually say what we *really* think when “under the influence.” The Moon is one’s habits, but also the subconscious, and placed in the fourth, it is even more subconscious. In Libra, he’d see himself as absolutely fair and able to see all sides of a question. But, is that really true?

The Moon is directly on the Saturn/Uranus midpoint, the Jupiter/Neptune midpoint and the Neptune/Pluto midpoint. It is a powerful component of the planetary patterns representing willfulness and control issues as well as illusionary idealism.

Plus, the Moon is sesqui-quadrate Venus in the 8th, which, itself, is involved in midpoint patterns involving Mars/Uranus and Mercury/Pluto. Mars and Uranus together can be independent and abrupt, plus Mercury and Pluto represent obsessive ideas. Saturn was opposing Venus at the arrest and set off this pattern, “knocking at the door” about taking responsibility to heal what is really going on in the unconscious of his psyche.

“You are not responsible for the programming you picked up in childhood. However, as an adult, you are one hundred percent responsible for fixing it.”

~Ken Keyes, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. I’ve just been ordained a Holistic Theologian after getting a degree from the *American Institute of Holistic Theology*. That took a few years, but I learned a quite a bit about prayer, healing and even Feng Shui!
2. I’ll be speaking in Virginia Beach at the *For Purpose* conference and will be taking appointments at the Surfside Inn from Oct. 11th to Oct. 20th. Please call the phone number below to make an appointment or to reach me while I’m there. Go to www.followthemoon.org and click on “2006 conference” in menu.
3. I’ll be in St. Catherine’s, Ontario speaking at the SOTA conference in late October. A brochure about this is either attached, if by email, or enclosed if you’re receiving this by regular mail. Or go to www.donnavantoen.com for info.

If you can attend, you’ll find it to be a marvelous experience. It’s a small, intimate conference, so you get to know people better. If any of you can attend,

I’d love to meet you in person.

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