



Saturn/Pluto Finale, Solar Eclipse, Uranus on U.S. Moon

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

The next month should be momentous, with three dates especially worth discussing. Two of them introduce the finale of the long-running Saturn/Pluto opposition. Let's review this aspect before discussing what these dates might portend.

The initial Saturn/Pluto opposition at 12-14° Gemini/Sagittarius crisscrossed the 13° Sagittarius/Gemini U.S. Ascendant/Descendant axis from late July through November of 2001. This outer planet situation framed the 9/11 event, and ushered in an era of chauvinistic jingoism, fear and intimidation, media brainwashing, vastly expanded governmental control, surveillance, and erosion of citizens' rights—including barely veiled threats to the right of free speech—and huge increases in military expenditures. This was all done in the name of “national security” and “fighting the War on Terror”—defined so broadly as to mandate war without end.

A few commentators recognized that the World Trade Center attacks were like suitcase bombs, in that they flew under the radar of high-tech military defenses, and rendered plans for “Missile Defense” to protect against terrorism ridiculous. However, most people were so numbed that they didn't notice this implication. Thus the U.S. could and did use the occasion of these attacks to stoke people's fears to the point where we hunger for a military umbrella over the U.S. to protect from foreign threats.

So presto, that old Reaganesque Star Wars technology has not only rebirthed itself, but now seems inevitable. This most ambitious military/corporate boondoggle the world has ever seen is driven by the same men who fed the notion to Reagan—Cheney and Rumsfeld. These very clever and patient people have now been able to ram “National Missile Defense—plus other “futuristic” expenditures through Congress and the Senate as our elected representatives scurried like lemmings to fall in behind a president who believes God is guiding him.

If God is guiding Bush, does that mean he can do no wrong? It appears that not only the Pope speaks “ex cathedra.” The template for “infallible” truth used by the Pope is that of anyone caught in fundamentalist extremes of any religion. If both George W. Bush and Osama bin Laden say God is guiding them, then, since their aims are opposed, either God contradicts himself or there are many gods.

If God contradicts himself, setting parts of himself against other parts to wantonly kill off chunks of his creation just for fun, then it is time for us to look again at the human penchant for “believing” in one sort of superworld or another, and then using that “belief” to justify killing our brothers and sisters. Let go of these beliefs, and that psychotic God dies. We would all be way better off.

We are creators. We have imagined such a God; therefore He exists.

More likely, we have imagined—and thus created—many mutually exclusive territorial gods who use people as puppets in their drive for dominance. And if so, we are now finally playing out the end game of what we claim our civilization is founded upon, the “Golden Age” of Greece, with its pantheon of jealous and vindictive deities who lie and scheme and betray one another in the heavens to mirror human behavior on earth.

We have a clear choice, and it must be made soon: either we destroy each other or we transform our imaginations, including not only our competing “true beliefs” in “God”(s) but our understanding of the fundamental origins of western civilization.

Feminism shows the way: we must rewrite his-story to view it as a 2000-year period in which the ego was born, flourished, and then took over, overwhelming the subtle voice of the divine inner directive which, when followed, yields harmonious relations with both inner and outer worlds.

Our challenge is to release ideas of God and sink into feeling; to allow memory to take us back, back, back into the world before all those armed and walled cities, to a time when earth was a heavenly body, one among other planets circling the sun, bathed in mysterious starry silence. To a time when humans—like all creatures, blessed with bodies—were nourished by nature, embedded within natural laws. Our bodies follow the interconnected and self-sustaining laws of Earth, which itself is embedded within the mysterious laws of limitless space within which Earth floats as a beautiful blue globe in a diamond-studded sky.

Not surprisingly, since the current Saturn/Pluto opposition occurred exactly on the U.S. Ascendant/Descendant axis, it also brought to light the arrogant, imperialistic, unilateralist attitude of the current U.S. Government to-

wards other nations, and its abrogation or refusal to sign environmental, military, human rights and other treaties which the entire world with the exception of the U.S. is desperate to enact, knowing our common earthly future depends on our common recognition of the blessed abundance of our delicately balanced ecosystem.

So now Saturn and Pluto are due to make their final exact opposition on May 26, 2002. They say that the third time is charmed. Let us hope so. Let us pray that we recognize just how far we have strayed from the founding ideals of the world's first democracy in these last nine months. Let us transform (Pluto) our way of seeing (Pluto in Sagittarius) both our own fear (Saturn), and what we have unthinkingly (Saturn in Gemini) allowed our government to do by cynically manipulating that fear.

This third exact opposition will occur at $16^{\circ}34$ Gemini/Sagittarius—not quite so precisely upon the U.S. Ascendant. This imprecision may offer us some relief, in that we may not be working with another massive destructive event in the U.S. so much as with a deepening perception of what the original event did to us. If so (and, despite everything, as a Sagittarian, I am a perennial optimist), then the window of opportunity for reflection will be narrow, through the end of June—the duration of that aspect's influence. Since the opposition between Saturn and Pluto occurs only once every 36 years, and given the relentless drift towards the right that this government has taken since the aspect began (since 9/11), we would be wise to heed the call of this rare opportunity for larger perspective.

The opposition aspect is the aspect of perspective. When two planets are 180° apart, they stand directly across from one another; for a brief while, we see their opposition clearly and objectively.

The second important Saturn/Pluto date is June 10, when this summer's solar eclipse occurs at $19^{\circ}55$ Gemini and thus highlights the final Saturn/Pluto opposition! On that day, Saturn will be at 18° Gemini, within one degree of exact conjunction with the 19° Gemini Sun and Moon, and Pluto will be only two degrees from the exact opposition, at 16° Sagittarius.

Eclipses are particularly powerful new moons; as with all new moons, they carry the significance of new beginnings. Solar eclipses occur when, over a several-hour period, the Sun disappears (or almost disappears) behind the Moon. Symbolically, we can view solar eclipses as periods when emotions cover reason; so that the fluctuations of our feelings overwhelm our rational faculties. This is the patriarchal interpretation. From a feminine point of view, eclipses are times when we attune more sensitively than usual to the daily flux, when our bodymind, like the skin of a sensitive drum, feels the most minute perturbations of its surface. For a brief while, we reconnect with the surround, we drop our usual effort to skew reality into a myopic rational construct.

In view of the currently hemorrhaging wounds in the

Mideast and elsewhere, hopefully the world's peoples will sense this eclipse as an opportunity to feel both their own and each other's emotional pain deeply enough so that we may recognize that pain always feels terrible, no matter who is going through it. That indeed, we are all brothers and sisters, united, first, in our suffering.

Since we in the U.S. rarely suffer as other peoples do, it's difficult for us to imagine walking in the shoes of those who, for example, having lost their homes and most of their family to war or pestilence or disease, are forced to migrate long distances over snowy passes with starving children in their arms. Yet we must! — And it's not that difficult after all. Just remember back to a time when you scraped a knee as a child; feel yourself back into that searing burning sensation which blotted out all reason and made you cry for your mother. Remember it. Then know: we are all crying for our mothers. We have left our Mother Nature behind and we need her, as She needs us.

More likely, this eclipse may usher in an era where the feelings of violence (as a cover for pain, as a cover for the frustration of not being heard, not being seen, not being felt) reach a crescendo where a torrent of suicide bombers so desperate that they prefer death to this death-in-life will leap like lemmings into the sea of oblivion. And, note now the border between India and Pakistan, where, amidst increasing tensions, each side has amassed one million soldiers.

The influence of a solar eclipse is generally thought to last until the next eclipse, or about six months. So, whatever begins during this two week period between May 26 and June 10, its implications are likely to continue to unfold for six months after that.

This summer's eclipse highlights the Saturn/Pluto opposition in the signs of Gemini and Sagittarius. I have discussed this opposition in previous CNs. Let me summarize again here, keeping in mind that planetary symbolism is not singular but multivalent.

Both Saturn and Pluto have to do with laws. Saturn reflects manmade laws and Pluto the laws of nature. Saturn symbolizes the social, political and economic structures society puts in place to regulate the extreme Plutonian power of the life force. The best laws do not repress or deny the life force but rather help channel it in natural and productive directions. Saturn is the structure within which social intercourse takes place, it reflects historically agreed-upon conventions to keep the peace and do no harm. When these conventions are too strict, rigid, unnatural or oppressive, then the life force seeks to go around the laws or to bend them, or—if all else fails, to destroy them. The power of Pluto is a mighty river; any dam on this river will be breached when the river flows high and fast enough.

In this context, look at the current unrest in the world. Peoples oppressed by corporate globalism and their own dictatorial governments now blindly rise as one to break free of their oppression, no matter what the method and

no matter what the cost. The early colonists of our great nation were once in the same position—in Patrick Henry’s immortal words: “Give me liberty or give me death!” Suicide bombings are the last drastic method the poor and downtrodden use to protest their lack of fundamental human rights.

And when you put the opposition between these two planets in their signs of Gemini (Saturn) and Sagittarius (Pluto), the meaning of this profound and tragic time truly comes alive. Both Gemini and Sagittarius are mental signs, dealing with ideas. Gemini represents facts, figures, information, the daily streaming glut of constantly changing opinion, factoids, propaganda and advertising disgorged by media worldwide. Sagittarius represents the meaning that we give to “facts” which, Sagittarius knows, are infinite, and open to various descriptions. Thus part of what we mean by the “meaning” of events is the particular selection of facts which we choose to recognize, see in patterns, and act upon.

Such Sagittarian meaning is based on mostly unconscious assumptions about the world which, if we are not careful, lock us into certain ways of seeing. So that only “my” way of seeing counts. Counts for what? For the “truth,” we think. Not so. What we call reality is always selection and interpretation.

Our “highest” (deepest, and often, most unconscious) assumptions are religious in nature, having to do our way of framing “this world” into a larger—albeit invisible—one. I find it astonishing, in the light of current events, to notice how we are the playthings of our creative imaginations which people the unseen realms with gods of all kinds. Religions differ in the divinities—and their stories and attributes—they call “real.” And over the centuries, with robotic repetitive intensity, religious wars are fought over whose God-figure is the “right” one. So silly! So astonishingly stupid! And we call ourselves rational?

A more enlightened version of religion holds that all roads lead to the same place, that different religions have different names and creation myths for what is essentially the same reality. But what we seldom notice is the root reality that created all these realities: our extraordinary imaginations which are microcosms of the cosmos and which manifest whatever they create. “If you build it, they will come.”

The meaning of the Gemini/Sagittarius context for the current battleground between Saturn and Pluto is obvious. It is religious, and we are all inside it. And, as usual, sex rears its phallic head, despite all our attempts to keep our pants zipped, our legs crossed, our heads on straight and our nose to the grindstone. For sex is the life force, and the more Saturnine — Puritanical, life-denying, patriarchal — the culture, the more afraid of the life force it is, the more sex will be oppressed, and then, because sex is infinitely more powerful than any manmade law, it will breach the dam and flow, often in perverted ways, to the sea. We

are all lemmings. None of us is immune. So we have the Roman Catholic Church, and its Cardinal “Law”(!) and others, trying to cover up pedophilia among its priests. We have suicide bombers blowing themselves up for the promise of 40 virgins in heaven. We have constant disrespect and rape of children and women and earth, and, not content with that, our phallic missiles now penetrate the heavens themselves. Indeed, the U.S. will circle the earth with its new military Space Command. If all goes as planned, and U.S. citizens continue to cower in fear, not noticing what our “leaders” are putting over on us, then the U.S. military will dominate the whole earth through control of the heavens. As Oppenheimer remarked, upon watching the atomic bomb mushroom into incandescence: “We have become as gods,” and now, over 50 years later, our constantly mushrooming war technology constitutes a new religion—of America the Great. America the new Imperial Rome. Kamikazi Amerika.

In between the third and final exact Saturn/Pluto opposition of May 26 and the solar eclipse of June 10 which features the Saturn/Pluto opposition is the third date of current importance, namely June 4, when the planet Uranus turns, to go retrograde (this occurs once each year). The aura of this “Uranus stationary retrograde” period will surround the June 4th intensity point for about ten days.

Uranus carries the symbolism of revolution, explosion, violence, unpredictability, lightning like strikes, curve-balls out of nowhere, inventions, new discoveries, etc. Uranus passes through one sign for approximately seven years. It has been traveling through Aquarius since January 1996, and will cross in and out of the next sign, Pisces, starting in early 2003. This will signal a gradual shift in the zeitgeist, from ideas to feelings, from air to water. Viewed purely negatively, this may signal fewer airplane collisions, wind-driven fires and air-borne diseases, and more floods, water-wars and water-borne diseases. Viewed positively, let us pray that Uranus’s passage through Pisces will shift us from our minds into our hearts.

Meanwhile, on June 4th, Uranus turns to go retrograde at 28° Aquarius, within one degree of the 27° U.S. Aquarian Moon. When a planet turns to go either direct (forward) or retrograde (backwards) it appears, for a brief while, to be stopped; like somebody who sits on your chest and refuses to get off, its meaning bears down, more intensely, without motion.

Notice that we just had young Uranian maverick with an “anti-government message” who desperately tried to get the attention of the U.S. citizenry (oops! pardon: no longer citizens; we’re consumers) by planting pipe bombs in western rural mailboxes. His plan was to place enough pipe-bombs to create the pattern of a smiley-face, one of the most ubiquitous and inane symbols for U.S. complacency and smugness.

In several CNs early last year I mentioned that in October 2001 the U.S. would undergo a Progressed New

Moon, meaning that the Progressed Sun of the U.S. chart, which moves at the rate of one degree per year, would be exactly upon the U.S. 27°13 Aquarian Moon during October 2001. That Progressed New Moon took place a few weeks after 9/11. This means that our tragic and stunning wake-up call was enacted during the darkest heart of the old moon phase, and in this context, can be viewed as our swan song as a nation which forgot to include Universal Human Rights in its one-sided zeal for Corporate World Trade.

Now the New Moon, and the new cycle, has begun: either we re-member ourselves as nation, as truly the “light of the world,” with compassion for all the world’s “huddled masses,” or we die as a nation during the cycle now beginning.

As the cycle commences, the natal U.S. Moon is still obscured by the light of the Progressed Sun which, even now, six months later, has only moved a fraction of one degree. We grope about, unknowing, in the fertile dark; and we incubate ideas. These next few years are the seminal years of a new 360 year process for the U.S, times when our individual and collective imaginations are being seeded with new ways of being and seeing and doing. Breaking us out of the old patterns and breaking us into new ideas, inventions, discoveries which will impact humanity (Aquarius) as a whole.

Wake up! This is the New Moon! Now is the time to dream new dreams, to re-member the original mission of these United States of America, and to reincorporate that remembrance into our collective psyche, so that we may go forth—not to conquer new worlds, but rather to connect and cooperate with those we already know as well as those we have yet to acknowledge. Yes, to “form a more perfect union,” not just here in the U.S., but within our own divided selves and with all of creation, so that no one is excluded, so that all creatures are honored participants in the divine mystery of life.

Given the current mainstream media brainwashing and numbness to the subtle and insidious shifts in the U.S. government towards fascism and dictatorship of the right, this Progressed New Moon, the first in the history of the U.S., does not look promising so far. Is this then, what we are to turn into? A terrorist state, a banana republic, a reincarnation of Imperial Rome?

But appearances are deceptive. Look a little deeper, and you will see that there have been new books lately which address subjects connected to the founding vision of the United States, for example, the two new biographies of John Adams; and Louis Menand’s *The Metaphysical Club*, which details the expansive radical ideas of late 19th and early 20th century American philosophers. And now, just out, *The American Soul*, by Jacob Needleman, which addresses exactly what, in our souls, we are looking for, in order to see our way through this dark moon period into the new 360 year cycle of America. Needleman hearkens us back to

the philosophical and spiritual principles upon which this nation was founded.

Finally, these new intellectual seeds are embodied in the person of U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Democrat from Ohio, a tiny, bird-like, steady-hearted man whose consistent courage and eloquence are inspiring people so much that they begin to imagine him as the next president of the United States. In a February 25 speech in Los Angeles he became the first member of the U.S. Congress to openly repudiate President Bush’s war rationale. Here is an excerpt: “I offer these brief remarks today as a prayer for our country. With love for our country. With hope for our country... With the understanding that there is a deeper truth expressed in the unity of the United States. That implicate in the union of our country is the union of all people. That all people are essentially one. That the world is interconnected not only on the material level of economics, trade, communication, and transportation, but interconnected through human consciousness, through the human heart, through the heart of the world, through the simply expressed impulse and yearning to be and to breathe free....”

Kucinich is the visionary architect of H.R. #3616, which seeks to create a Department of Peace and to ensure the peaceful use of space. Kucinich creates, from his imagination, “a universe free of fear, where we can look up at God’s creation in the stars and imagine infinite wisdom, infinite peace, infinite possibilities, not infinite war, because we are taught that the kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven.”

Like lemmings to the sea? Or do we wake up our imaginations in time. It is our choice. The finale for the Saturn/Pluto opposition operates within our souls. Each of us must weigh the competing interests of man-made law and the natural law of the life force as it seeks to express through us, to break out (Uranus) of our restrictive patterning and to announce to the world that we are alive; that we are kicking the traces of all that blinds and binds us to think we are less than we really are. The spirit of creation (Pluto) is within us. Let us channel (Saturn) that magnificent energy.

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