

# *The Starfire Messenger*

**A Free Weekly Newsletter**

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## **Contents**

**Signs of the Times: Planetary Pair Cycles and the Certainty of Recovery**

**Daily Analysis and Prediction for the Week Ahead**

## **Planetary Pair Cycles and the Certainty of Recovery**

March of 2020 finds large segments of Humanity in the grip of the planetary scare concerning the coronavirus pandemic. Fearful images of contamination, disease, quarantine, and mass death presently haunt the minds of many. If it's not this, then it's overwhelming terror of societal and economic collapse, worsened by autocracy and imposition of martial law upon civilian populations. For some, it is all of the above, and much more as well. Many perceive the evidence of evil running rampant in the world, with no hope of delivery or salvation.

What has astrology to say in this regard? Much, and much of good counsel, depending upon where one looks. The right place to start in an astrological or metaphysical analysis of any situation is with the most

general and inclusive of forces and energies, for these form the background and persistent themes against which the episodes of any given moment play out. The most dominant and powerful of astrological energies are generated by long-term astrological influences which affect all persons on Earth, including groups and individuals living in both the northern and southern hemispheres of the planet, the economically developed and economically undeveloped nations, all races, nationalities, ethnicities, religions, philosophies, belief systems, genders, and orientations. Amongst these most powerful and inclusive astrological influences are the long-term planetary pair cycles. Ranging in duration from nearly 500 years in length on the high end to 12 years in length on the low end, planetary pair cycles exert a tremendous influence over the affairs of all humanity, affecting and driving public mood, politics, world and local financial trends, weather, health, relationships, and the natural world. These cycles activate and bring to life the archetypes lying deep within the subconscious of Humanity, outpicturing in time and circumstance the long collective journey of Humanity through strife and struggle to greater understanding of the universal principles on which life is based.

Planetary pair cycles operate much like the lunar cycle. If you understand the difference between New Moon and Full Moon, you will immediately grasp the mechanism by which planetary pair cycles operate. Every month right before New Moon, all of nature dies back and goes quiet. Humans are tired and cranky. Matters seem to be stalled or dissolving against human will. Then the New Moon moment arrives. Shortly after that, nature perks up. Humans feel rested, interested in their pursuits, and motivated all over again. This energy cooks right along as the Moon waxes toward full stage. Then, with Full Moon moment, everything comes to a highpoint. Thoughts and emotions are powerful and potent, developments flow swiftly, and all matters stand starkly revealed. A few days later, the intensity drops off, and matters spiral slowly down to the next New Moon moment. Thoughts and emotions gradually drop back to a baseline of rest and relative inactivity, soon to be resurrected at the next

New Moon. The key movement here is New Moon to Full Moon. It's a basic rhythm of life, quite readily observable for anyone with a calendar listing the days of New and Full Moons.

New Moon takes place with the Moon conjunct the Sun; Full Moon takes place with the Moon opposite the Sun. Thus, the basic movement is from the psychology and physiology of the conjunction to the psychology and physiology of the opposition. Right before the conjunction, there is collapse into seeming death and oblivion. Then the conjunction restores life. Life energies increase, accelerate, and swell with the waxing Moon, peaking at the opposition. Then the energies of that cycle gradually decrease toward the next conjunction. Planetary pair cycles operate precisely like this, though instead of working out their symbolism within the period of a month, they do so over a period of years.

Astrologers know that the factors moving most slowly in the zodiac generate the most powerful effects. Astrological influences that come and go inside a day, week, or month are palpable, but of nowhere near as significant an influence as those which operate over a period of many decades or even centuries. The slower moving planets as considered in the zodiac are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, respectively circling the Sun in 12, 29, 84, 165, and 248 earth years. These are all considered outer planets because they are positioned outside of the orbit of the Earth within our solar system. When these five major outer planets are examined in zodiacal motion and studied in pairs, they generate 10 planetary pair cycles. Here are the ten planetary pair cycles and their durations, counting from one conjunction of the two bodies involved to the next, stated in Earth years.

Neptune-Pluto.....494

Uranus-Neptune....172

Uranus-Pluto.....111- 143 on account of Pluto's highly elliptical orbit

Saturn-Uranus.....45

Saturn-Neptune.....36

Saturn-Pluto.....32 – 36 on account of Pluto’s highly elliptical orbit

Jupiter-Saturn.....20

Jupiter-Uranus.....14

Jupiter-Neptune.....13

Jupiter-Pluto.....12

The key to history and world events is found in these cycles. At conjunctions, major new trends are begun in civilization. Such trends gather power and grow in expression up to the next opposition of the two planetary pairs involved, and then slowly dissipate as they are understood in their eternal significance and place within evolution. This is a huge study, one that the editor of *Starfire Messenger* has been pursuing since her discovery of this facet of evolutionary impetus in the late 1980s. It’s too much to detail in one newsletter, but the bottom-line implication can and should be given here.

The primary concept to be gathered from the study of planetary pair analysis is that as go the planetary pair cycles, so goes society. The more planetary pair cycles there are in the opening phase from conjunction to opposition, the more vitality there is to be seen in terms of innovation and enthusiasm in the areas of art, technology, social relations, and productivity. Conversely, the more planetary pair cycles there are closing down from opposition to conjunction, the less vitality there is to be seen in terms of innovation, enthusiasm, and confidence in the future. This model for the analysis of time has immediate relevance for the circumstance in which Humanity finds itself in March of 2020 as the so-called coronavirus crisis unfolds.

Here is the good news. Planetary pair cycle analysis for this moment in time reveals that there is absolutely no doubt whatsoever that society will recover from this event and will continue to carry on with its

evolutionary journey. This is a certainty because the three absolutely most powerful planetary cycle pairs are all in their opening or waxing phases, have been for quite some time, and will be so through the middle of the current century.

The most powerful cycle of all is the nearly 500-year Neptune-Pluto cycle. Its last conjunction occurred in 1891 – 1892, taking place in the mental sign of Gemini and generating the Age of Knowledge which began in the late 1800s with the establishment of many world-class universities and libraries, and which has continued to manifest as the explosion and proliferation of available information via the technology wave. This cycle will not reach opposition until the year 2140. This means it will continue to power innovation and expansion of society and productivity for more than a century yet.

The second-most powerful cycle is the Uranus-Neptune cycle, which had its most recent conjunction in 1993 in the business-oriented sign of Capricorn, spawning the tremendous generation of capital around the internet and related activities. This profound life-wave will continue to generate innovation and productivity through the year 2080.

The third most powerful cycle is the Uranus-Pluto cycle, which had its most recent conjunction in 1965 in the working-class and health-oriented sign of Virgo, spawning tremendous societal upheaval against the cause of injustice and oppression, awakening the masses to the reality of environmental degradation, and igniting the landmark Civil Rights movement and general social revolution of the mid-1960s. This powerful influence will continue to generate enhanced social and environmental awareness through the year 2047.

Of the other seven planetary cycles, in March of 2020, one is opening and six are closing, making for a definite emphasis upon the theme of completion, dying back, disconnection, endings, disengagement, loss of faith and confidence, and profound exhaustion. However, the balance of opening to closing cycles is shortly to change. The 12-year Jupiter-Pluto

cycle will restart in early April of 2020, and the even more powerful 20-year Jupiter-Saturn cycle will restart in December of 2020. Thus, by the end of 2020, there will be six cycles in the waxing or acceleration phase, and only four in the waning or deceleration phase. Even now, however, a definite preponderance of opening cycle themes exists, for the three longest of the 10 planetary pair cycles exert greater influence than all the closing cycles combined, and they all point to sufficient power available to overcome the present physical and existential crisis. This is so for the masses, and equally so for the individual.

Note that all the major planetary disasters to which historians usually point as models for the present moment in time, such as the influenza epidemic of the early 1900s, the stock market collapse of 1929 and the Great Depression, the Holocaust, and the World Wars all fall within the period in which two of the three most powerful planetary pair cycles were closing down. This is NOT the case presently, and hence, those terrible conditions of societal collapse and demoralization are not likely to repeat in our lifetimes. Given that, you may ask, then what is the problem and what is causing this horrendous planetary disaster manifestation that we do not want and wish would go away immediately? That's the question of the moment. Here is the astrological answer.

The astrological cause of the present crisis lies in several influences which are more immediate and less profound than the three most powerful cycles just enumerated. At present, we are in the final days before a conjunction of Jupiter and Pluto, a planetary pair cycle of some importance, but not of grave implication. Its duration is only 12 earth years, but still, it counts. A conjunction of Jupiter and Pluto will occur on April 4, 2020. This means that in late March, we are in the very final days and hours preceding a New Moon for the Jupiter-Pluto cycle. What are the final days and hours of the lunar cycle like? Fatigue, loss of interest, loss of trust in others, uncertainty for the future, trepidation, loss of enthusiasm, desire to retreat and cocoon, and the like, that's what. So we are right there in regard to the

Jupiter-Pluto cycle, which is many more times more powerful than a lunar cycle. In fact it is around 156 times as powerful as the lunar cycle, given 13 lunar cycles per year over a 12 year period. So think about how you feel right before New Moon each month, and multiply that by 156. There you have the cause of the present malaise.

A further complication has been the recent period of retrograde Mercury, during which time some of the first bits of news about the spread of the virus emerged. Retrograde Mercury is notorious for causing combongulations in information transmission and processing. Yes, combongulation is a crazy made-up word, but it certainly drives home the point. Much gets scrambled under retrograde Mercury, and much must be redone or re-evaluated thereafter as a result. It is easy to see how the retrograde condition of Mercury found its way right into the conflicting reports issued by health authorities and into the confused pronouncements of the American president, serving only to enhance worry, anxiety, and disruption.

More intensification for the present situation also comes in the form of the Mars conjunctions to Jupiter, Pluto, and Saturn now forming. Due to take place on March 20, 22, and 31 respectively, these conjunctions mark New Moon points for these three cycles, which at a mere 2 years apiece, are not major influences, but still, they count in terms of human sentiment and experience. These three 2-year cycles are all, like the Jupiter-Pluto cycle, in the final days and hours of the waning phase, thus sounding the note of deceleration, dissipation, doubt, and desire to turn within to a secure center. Their energies will shift to newness of life and greater confidence in short order here, but for the moment, its downersville for these three.

By March 30, Mercury shall have passed the degree at which it originally went retrograde most recently, thus restoring sanity and dispelling the tendency to indulge in stubborn wrong-headedness with its consequent bungling of policies, as lately seen. By that time, the conjunctions of Mars to Jupiter and Pluto shall have occurred, restoring

vital energies to the physical body of Humanity, with which the planet Mars is specifically associated astrologically. Thus, much of the dread, terror, and despair now gripping planet Earth will dissipate by the end of March 2020. Of course the threat of virally-driven health epidemics will not disappear entirely at that time, but the extreme fear of the present circumstance will lift by March 30, and much that was said about the so-called coronavirus pandemic will have been proven exaggerated or erroneous by that time. On or shortly after March 30, schedules and patterns of daily activity will return to normal or near-normal. Then, the Jupiter-Pluto cycle will renew on April 4, 2020, and a new collective impetus will begin to take hold. The current grim outlook is thus not permanent. It may be a bit of rough ride to March 30, but that's when the tide is most certain to shift toward the certainty of recovery.

### **Daily Analysis and Predictions for the Week Ahead**

**Monday March 16** sees Mercury enter Pisces, the sign in which it went retrograde back in mid-February. We start to pick up the pieces of creative projects and regather our wits. The Moon enters reasonable and pragmatic Capricorn, and from there makes a sextile to Mercury and a trine to Uranus, noon to 8 pm CDT, delivering a period of emotional stability and productivity.

**Tuesday March 17** continues the down-to-earth Moon in Capricorn theme, with a trine from the Moon to Venus and a sextile to Neptune, making for a relatively serene interval in which to get centered from noon to 11 pm CDT.

**Wednesday March 18** throws a harsh spotlight on recent matters of government and business gone amok, with emphasis on draconian policies as the Moon makes conjunctions to Mars, Jupiter, Pluto, and Saturn in Capricorn. Big talk circulates, but matters are not as grim as may be said. Even in the midst of all this, we feel ourselves finding inner power through



connection with the ideals on which our lives are founded. Then, the Moon enters Aquarius just after 8 pm CDT, sucking all the oxygen right out of authoritarian stances.

The Sun in soothing Pisces makes a sextile to sedate Saturn in experienced Capricorn on **Thursday March 19**, exerting a definite calming and steadying influence on all circumstances. The practice of patience and understanding advance us many miles today. Then, it's Aries Equinox time, as the Sun enters Aries just before 11 pm CDT. We feel a shift of life forces pointing toward greater will, determination, and independence of thought. The more so is this true because Mars and Jupiter now conjoin in the 23<sup>rd</sup> degree of Capricorn, thus renewing the Mars-Jupiter cycle. Militaristic sabre-rattling and chest-pounding will come forth from those who can't think in terms of the greater good, that's for sure, but all will not be lost. Life energies revive anyway.

**Friday March 20** sees the exact conjunction of Mars and Jupiter, the resulting energies driving many a discussion of new projects for business and profit, as well as for attainment of important life goals. The sign of Capricorn is where the conjunction occurs, thus drawing to our attention the importance of history, heritage, custom, established forms, lasting values, the built environment, and principles of structure whether intellectual or physical. We feel ourselves getting organized and motivated.

**Saturday March 21** ushers in a truly new breeze when transiting Saturn enters the sign of Aquarius just minutes before 11 pm CDT. Throughout the day and leading up to that point, there are important discussions and meetings while the Moon, now in empathic Pisces, makes a conjunction with Mercury and a sextile with Uranus. Friendship, teamwork, and collaboration emerge as themes today as a result.

The big dramatic Mars-Pluto conjunction becomes exact on **Sunday March 22**, indicating that powerful happenings involving government, regulations, and business are forthcoming. However, this is not all bad. The day proceeds with definite signs of hope and encouragement, as Mercury,

now getting up a bit of zodiacal speed after its recent retrograde doldrums, makes the sextile to Uranus and Venus makes the sextile to Neptune. These are signs that persons will find agreement and ways to work together. Love circulates even though power figures thunder about their own importance. A new point of departure is shaping up even though the authoritarian structures and self-invested autocrats continue their old methods. Even so, old power-cabals are today busted and broken, lying in proverbial heaps on the ground. The collapse of the old way is more than evident as militant Mars joins forces with god of the afterlife Pluto to deal a deathblow to that which must go. It goes, but life does not end. Fevers and other maladies may figure prominently in the picture, but they are to be short-lived and fast-passing. Urgency is in the air, but even this daunts not the spirit. New life is in process of coming forth from the Infinite, and we feel it.

*Maureen Temple Richmond* is a professional astrologer and metaphysical author with more than 40 years of experience in observing astrological conditions and correlating celestial influence with human psychology and behavior, world events, weather, financial markets, and politics. She is a life-long student of the Ageless Wisdom, including the works of H.P. Blavatsky and Alice Bailey, and has studied with the Arcane School, the Theosophical Society in America, and the Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis. In addition, Maureen is the author of *Sirius*, a scholarly study of the world mythology connected with the star Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, and of numerous essays on the Alice Bailey writings, many of which can be found and read free online at *Esoteric Quarterly*. Maureen holds the B.A. in English and Professional Writing and the M.A. in English and Creative Writing. At present, Maureen pursues the Ph.D. in Heritage Studies at Arkansas State University. She resides in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she continues her esoteric studies, counsels spiritual seekers world-wide via phone and Zoom, follows her artistic passion for heritage photography, and is an active member at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. She can be reached at [starsong1208@gmail.com](mailto:starsong1208@gmail.com) for astrological consultations, presentations, and instruction.