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Special Issue

The 2020 Jupiter-Pluto Conjunction in Capricorn:

Authoritarianism Written Large

There can be no doubt that stunning authoritarian actions are the weapon of choice as governments worldwide respond to the corona virus crisis of 2020. On every continent and in many countries, sudden and sweeping policies have terminated normal life and have thrown the masses of Humanity into disorder and uncertainty. The situation is even grave in some places, where plans for the supply of food and necessities are either not in play or not yet even conceptualized. As transportation modes have been closed and shut down, some have been left stranded in conditions hard to imagine as any kind of improvement over contraction of the virus itself. At least two governments have instituted actual shoot-to-kill policies, instructing police and armed forces patrolling and controlling the population to exterminate violators of isolation regulations. This breathtaking invasion of civil liberties has shaken everyone throughout the planet and has thrown many into a deep despair for the future of life on the Earth.

At the same time, a large worldwide movement of metaphysical believers has leapt into action, through vast collective meditation projects invoking higher energies for the spiritual and physical health and healing of the people and the planet, and for the manifestation of a world economic and social system that will honor the dignity of the human person and meet the actual needs of all, not just that of the few as in centuries past.

These are two starkly contrasting responses to the same challenge. The one expresses the dark face of Capricorn, the other the light face of Capricorn, the esoteric seed thought for which runs thus: *Lost am I in Light Supernal, yet on that light I turn my back and serve my fellowmen*. The one solves problems through severe restriction; the other through altruistic invocation.

The draconian nature of governmental response to the corona virus crisis most definitely has its roots in transiting Pluto's passage through the sign of Capricorn, which takes place from 2008 through 2024. When transiting Saturn also entered Capricorn in late December 2017, this added even more power to the clout of Capricorn, an earth sign which deals with the material world, money, financial flows, and in its worst face, greed and predatory financial practices, as well as the drive for power over others. The Saturn-Pluto conjunction of early January 2020 vastly intensified the impact of Capricornian and Saturnian energies, stimulating negative traits in those who have not yet mastered right self-control. Though this conjunction is past, it is still important to know about as background to this present moment, and because Saturn will return to within 2 degrees of Pluto in late 2020, thus extending the life of the Saturn-Pluto conjunction right to the end of 2020.

This conjunction combined the powers of Capricorn, Saturn, and Pluto, so let's look at what each of these three connotes.

As an earth sign and symbolized by the grit, soil, and jagged rocks which make up the boulder-strewn mountain, Capricorn connotes harsh and inhospitable material reality, the time, space, and particular place to

which infinite unlimited Spirit willingly and temporarily submits as it comes into incarnation. Hence Capricorn embodies the cosmic Principle of Limitation. Saturn is much the same, emblematic of time as a method of sequencing in orderly form the infinite potential of Spirit. Now currently in Saturn's sign of Capricorn, Pluto always draws its implications from the mythological figure for which it is named, god of the underworld to which the deceased repaired in their time of self-facing in between incarnations. Combining Capricorn, Saturn, and Pluto results in a potent impact, bringing into tangible form within the flow of time whatever hides in the Plutonian hidden recesses of ancient karmic memory.

This mix of Capricorn, Saturn, and Pluto precipitates into material manifestation any existing internal conflicts or imperfections in human consciousness, and forces such issues into a protracted moment of required recognition and consequent decision-making. This is essentially the domain of Capricorn, the earth sign which brings ideas, beliefs, and priorities into direct tangible manifestation so that they may be seen and evaluated for their inherent value, or lack thereof. As energies are thus crystallized in the Capricornian process, the infinite potential of the Great All is temporarily confined in a specific manifestation. This is the restrictive and confining power of Capricorn at work. In essence, Capricorn is the Divine Principle of Limitation, a necessary component of the Divine Creative Process. Distorted when it passes through imperfect human agency, this principle of limitation may, most unfortunately, show up as the limitation of human liberty through the imposition of force, and sometimes, imposition of force without sufficient justification. This has been an issue to one degree or another since Pluto entered Capricorn in early 2008.

Now in early April of 2020, the potentially restrictive Capricornian presence is undergoing yet another intensification as the planets Jupiter and Pluto conjoin astrologically at the 25th degree of Capricorn on April 4, 2020. This Jupiter-Pluto conjunction is therefore the specific astrological

influence which is behind the current intensity of authoritarian responses to the corona virus crisis. The fact that draconian authoritarian measures are coming into play just at the same time as the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction forms is the evidence that indeed, this particular astrological influence is the driver of the current trend toward authoritarian solutions for the present crisis. It serves to focus whatever is implied by the long-term presence of Pluto in Capricorn, which lasts from 2008 – 2024. Inside that entire 17-year period, the potentially unwelcome impact of government upon the individual is a continuing theme. Now as Jupiter joins Pluto in Capricorn, this hidden theme comes out for all to see.

Jupiter as the largest planet in the solar system connotes that which is big, abundant, excessive, monumental even. Pluto as the god of the underworld connotes power derived from within the Earth itself as the material globe holding incarnate spirits in form as well as ancient acts and karmas buried long ago in the archaic past, but residing even today in the hidden inner worlds of karma and planetary destiny. Earth sign Capricorn intensifies all these matters, bringing its ruler, Saturn, the Lord of Karma, to bear on the situation with unrelenting insistence. Adding all this together begets outsized manifestations of ancient problems concerning the right uses of power, and especially in the areas of right governance or self-control.

This fact is both good and bad, both hopeful and disturbing, because the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction presents power that can be used for good on the one hand, or for ill on the other. Some may view the restrictions on travel and social interactions as primarily good, limiting the potential contagion factor and simultaneously reducing air and water pollution. This is some of the good which the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction may bring. Yet, there remains the nagging problem of the serious sacrifices of personal liberty and constitutional principles arising at the same time. Many ask how much must be relinquished to governmental authority in the name of the survival of the species. At the same time, governments play the all-

knowing and powerful parent by saying, *you will do such and such because I say so*, not always sharing their full processes of reasoning or honestly explaining the statistical analyses which have driven their decisions. Many trust that governments have the best interests of society at heart. Yet, it could also be said that in what would appear to be an attempt to safeguard the greater good and to express the benign face of Capricorn as responsible stewardship, governments around the world have gone overboard and completely usurped the power of the people to think for themselves. This is a manifestation of the patriarchal, dominating, and ruling tendency inherent in the executive and leadership-oriented sign of Capricorn, and one which flies in the face of the values of the Aquarian Age, during which time it is the objective for Humanity to learn the uses of the mental body, to experience mental freedom, and to exercise the right to think independently of mental pressure from crushing external forces such as governmental propaganda and the dominant scientific paradigm, both of which are deeply enmeshed with vested business interests – another dark face of Capricornian tendency.

Despite this tangled yarn of philosophical contradictions pitting the good face versus the bad face of Capricorn one against the other, there is one undeniable bright spot in this whole scenario, one key factor, once known, that can help everyone adjust to the moment and see a way out to a less pressured set of circumstances that will come eventually, though not immediately. It's this: the intensive impact of the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction in Capricorn is without a doubt temporary. Its overwhelming emphasis on authoritarian measures is certain to be contained to a period of time clustered right around the conjunction. So that's the good news.

The not so good news is that the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction will form three times in 2020: 1) April 4 at 25 degrees Capricorn, 2) June 29 at 24 degrees Capricorn, and 3) November 12 at 23 degrees Capricorn. Thus, just about the entirety of 2020 is conditioned by the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction in Capricorn. A bit of relief may come in mid-May of 2020 when Jupiter

reaches 2 degrees of separation from Pluto, but then its right back to the dominance of the Jupiter-Pluto influence on the scene of planetary affairs. Each time this influence forms, the most intense manifestations of authoritarianism will last about a month, centered right on the date of exactitude. This pattern suggests that there will be three periods of imposed authoritarian restrictions, 1) mid-March to mid-April, 2) mid-June to mid-July, and 3) the entire month of November. These periods are also likely to be deeply conditioned by economic and commercial stress, disruption, and eventual reconstruction along new lines. After this, the imposition of authoritarian restrictions on personal liberty and business process will become less of a concern, though as long as Pluto remains in Capricorn, which is through November of 2024, some will remain.

Throughout this entire scenario of 2020, the emphasis remains on the sign of Capricorn. This sign contains serious challenges to serenity and comfort as well as meaningful spiritual promise. The problems fall on the side of social hardship, losses of freedoms, impositions of harsh conditions, and difficult material circumstances. A worldwide economic contraction is thus implied. At the same time, all conjunctions such as the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction of 2020 signify intensive inspiration of society and of the human psyche, bringing with it new visions, solutions, and enterprises which promise to generate goodness for many years yet to come.

The positive spiritual promise in Capricorn manifests as much greater clarity of thought on all matters, enhanced expertise in chosen fields, and as strength of character to do what is right and to follow a higher path – a higher path that leads directly to the mountain top of spiritual initiation in fact. Thus, for many, this year of 2020 can represent a turning point on the spiritual path, a point in time at which the path of ascent takes a sharp turn leading up a much steeper grade, both literally and metaphorically. Spiritually we grow by exercising our muscles made of talents, abilities, interests, and passions. The year of 2020 is certain to provide opportunities to strengthen ourselves in this fashion.

Thus, even in the midst of what may be described as worldwide economic collapse, something new arises out of the ashes of the past. Each time the conjunction forms, this will be the case. Inventors, visionaries, and leaders in thought will be the first to feel the impact. Those who are pioneers in any area of human living will intuit better ways of being and living. From their inspirations will flow many initiatives which can create right livelihood for many - a livelihood not characterized by the injustice, stultification of creativity, regimentation, and planetary plunder characteristic of the previous economic order. Pluto is even now using its Death Ray to break up and destroy an old system which no longer serves the highest good of Humanity. Pluto's action is rarely fun to watch, as it is ruthless in disintegrating that which impedes the higher evolution. Even so, once all the rock and detritus are blasted away, an entrance into a new world is likely to be revealed. It is a distinct possibility within the range of influences coming at us today.

The outlook is thus somber, but not hopeless. While it is likely that the whole calendar year of 2020 will be affected by government policies, restrictions on the people, and economic upheaval, there is potential for rebirth and rejuvenation as well. Everything points to a period of death and dying, not only for some individual persons, but also for forms of society. This is the purview of Pluto, god of death and rebirth. He's having a heyday just now, aided and abetted by Jupiter. Anciently, Jupiter was Zeus, ego-inflated ruler of Olympus and self-styled moral authority to all on Earth. His purview was the heavens, his financial assets unlimited. Wherever he goes, he brings aplenty. For the moment, he brings us a plenty of certain things we think we do not want. Eventually, he will help Pluto as the god of buried wealth to bring forth assets we did not know we had. This will be the process over 2020. Wealth buried deep in the psyche of Humanity will be released for divine expression.