

The Starfire Messenger

A Free Weekly Newsletter

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Signs of the Times: Lunar North Node Departs the Sign of Cancer

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Lunar North Node Departs the Sign of Cancer

Since November 2018, the transiting north node of the Moon has been passing through the sign of Cancer. Symbolized by the sea crab which carries its house on its back, the sign of Cancer is emblematic of protective covering, home, family, dwelling place, locality, neighborhood, residence, and inner space. In a general way, the sign of Cancer attunes the individual and the collective to the principle of security and protection. Under its influence, individuals and groups tend to seek safety through closing ranks, excluding that which threatens, and hunkering down in cocoon mode. A water sign of feminine polarity, Cancer is introspective, inward drawing, and often reluctant to expose itself for fear of increasing any vulnerabilities.

With the lunar north node passing through this sign for the past year and a half, a background subconscious tendency toward retreat into

private space has sounded within collective and individual consciousness. In many ways, such a trend can be positive and nurturing, providing time and safe space for inner journeying, the examination of past events, and connection on a deep psychic level with relatives and family-like others of similar soul or karmic vibration. This can and does work out well for most persons in normal times. However, of late, this reliance on private space as a solution for stresses has played into the restrictive policies implemented worldwide as a method ostensibly intended to slow the spread of an infectious disease. The authorities, as represented by stern father Capricorn, have as much stated to the entirety of the planet, *go to your room and stay there until I say you can come out*. Everyone has been confined in the Cancerian home zone, just as the lunar north node completes its transit of Cancer. As so often occurs with astrological influences, as this factor nears the time of its expression, it seems to stage a grand overstatement of what it was trying to articulate all along. Thus, the confinement of individuals all over the planet to their home spaces has cast the issues related to the transit of the Moon's north node through Cancer right into our faces. Faces literally, as the Cancerian protective function has manifested as orders to cover the face with a mask, said by governments and authorities worldwide to be necessary to protect self and others.

In May of 2020, this recent pronounced trend toward the Cancerian hiding in the home and the covering up with protective gear is highly likely to weaken and then move out of the picture markedly. On May 6 – 7, 2020, the lunar north node will enter Gemini, a fidgety mutable air sign which thrives on diversity of environment, travel, and chatty interactions with as many other persons as can be managed. This upcoming change of archetypal background images suggests that in the first week of May 2020, some set of circumstances will arise which will reduce and even eventually erase the emphasis on home confinement now in place. This suggests that some of the draconic restrictions on citizen freedoms will begin to be lifted around the middle portion of May 2020. This will be a welcome

development for many and a helpful reassurance that confinement orders are not permanent. Subsequently, much more travel by foot and by conveyance will come into the picture as the lunar north node moves through Gemini for the next year and a half. Again, look to the dates May 6 – 7, 2020, for the earliest indications of this change.

[Note for those interested in the technical side of astrology: Yes, it is true that the lunar nodes retrograde through the zodiac, but this does not change the prediction.]

Who is Bill Gates?

Born on October 28, 1955 in Seattle, Washington, possibly around 10 pm, Bill Gates is a Sun sign Scorpio. Scorpio is a sign known for its shrewd analytical ability, as well as for its capacity to operate under cover of darkness and secrecy for long periods of time, rising like the scorpion at what it judges to be an opportune moment to strike suddenly and with force for the attainment of its objectives. As with all astrological archetypes, Scorpio may manifest as either the light face or the dark; it is always up to the individual as to which path will be taken in the uses of the talents and abilities conferred by a sign.

According to the esoteric astrology of Alice Bailey, the function of the sign Scorpio is to test the individual severely and to drive out from the hidden places in the subconscious any tendencies toward manipulation of others, cruelty, or abuses of power. Incarnation under this sign is therefore not an easy experience. Affecting all levels of the personality, Scorpio goes to work confronting the striving seeker with ingrained patterns operating at the three levels of personality functioning – the physical, emotional, and mental.¹ At the physical level, the Scorpio influence dredges up deep attachments to sexuality as gratification and manipulative power, exposes

¹ Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, 205.

the tendency toward laziness and sloth, and reveals the temptation to hoard money rather than circulate it for the good. At the emotional level, the Scorpio influence dramatizes the ways in which fear, hatred, and desire for power twist the psyche and lead the seeker along regressive paths. At the mental level, the Scorpio influence demonstrates the damaging nature of intellectual pride, dishonesty, and intentional cruelty.

Obviously, Bill Gates is presented this lifetime with all of these spiritual challenges. Most notably, as the Bailey material points out, hoarding of money, intellectual pride, and intentional cruelty are typical problems associated with the Scorpio influence. As the world's most wealthy private person, Gates surely qualifies as a hoarder of money, even though he does indeed spread some of it around. He still controls an outsized amount, thus keeping more than circulating. Further, he tends to project himself into the world as an unquestioned thought leader, intellectual light, and futurist. His appearances at TED talks and in televised interviews reveal an individual who is ready to take the role of planetary authority on whatever topic he chooses to engage. He shows no shame or hesitation whatsoever in projecting himself into a father-knows-best role over developing nations, and indeed, the entire planet. This might suggest that intellectual pride is indeed in the picture.

Gates also has Venus and Saturn in close conjunction, an aspect present in the astrological birth chart of Donald Trump as well. Gates has his Venus-Saturn conjunction in the early 20s of Scorpio, while Trump has his in the late 20s of Cancer. The important commonality here is that both of these very wealthy and influential individuals have comfort-oriented Venus conjunct ambitious Saturn. Saturn in its worst manifestations can be a skin-flint Scrooge; Venus in her worst can be cupidity, greed, and self-indulgence. With these two archetypes merged in the charts of both these privileged individuals, the suggestion is that they are similar in some regard, neither of them long on compassion for the other person, and both

of them given to getting theirs first, whatever the desired commodity may be.

Here are the positions for the Bill Gates birth chart:

Sun 5 degrees Scorpio

Moon 8 degrees Aries (based on approximate birth time of 10 pm)

Lunar North/South Node 18 Sagittarius/Gemini

Mercury 17 degrees Libra

Venus 20 degrees Scorpio

Mars 10 degrees Libra

Jupiter 28 degrees Leo

Saturn 22 degrees Scorpio

Uranus 2 degrees Leo

Neptune 28 degrees Libra

Pluto 28 degrees Leo

Ascendant 27 degrees Cancer (for approximate birth time of 10 pm)

Midheaven 5 degrees Aries (for approximate birth time of 10 pm)

Gates is in fact intensively competitive, as is revealed by his Moon in often confrontational Aries tightly opposite just as frequently pugilistic Mars. This configuration would shrink from no fight. True, pacific Neptune does square the Ascendant, giving Gates a softer, approachable projection. But under that, no. It's the domain of strategic Scorpio, aided and abetted by the aggressive Aries Moon and the steely Venus-Saturn conjunction. Yes, he is capable of great self-discipline as a result of all of these factors, but on the other side of it, much fellow-feeling is apt to be lacking. This is a

chart which would not mind taking charge of the lives of other persons and running rough-shod over the rights of others to think for themselves.

With Uranus, Jupiter, and Pluto in the wealth and celebrity sign of Leo, Gates is surely tempted this life to play the role of the special golden-boy who can do no wrong on account of charm and magical ability to get things done. However, the deeper meaning of these placements is that this lifetime, he is being tested on the issue of right management of talent and power. This test is marked definitely in his chart by the fact he has Jupiter conjunct Pluto, an arrangement signifying the amplification of the power principle. In the spring of 2020, Jupiter is conjunct Pluto in the sky, affecting everyone, including Gates. Thus, under the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction of Capricorn in 2020, Gates is being invited to see just how far he will let himself go with his own Jupiter-Pluto conjunction. Some would say he's already gone way too far, suggesting that his private foundation will assume the role of a world governing agency, dispensing vaccines and enforcing policies worldwide that will be expected to carry the force of authority.

Gates has almost always gotten his way in life. Will this continue? Currently, transiting Saturn at 1 degree of Aquarius opposes his natal Uranus, suggesting that 2020 will see him attempt radical leadership but will also throw him some obstacles to his personal wishes and insistences. In the next year, Saturn will square the natal Sun of the Gates chart. This suggests that even though Gates is already positioned by his purchase of power at the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control, matters may not go entirely as he wishes. Why or how could this be? Saturn in Aquarius: the power of the people and the imperative for the greater group process. Saturn in Aquarius says that the time is upon us to acknowledge the importance of inclusion and power-sharing. This is not a message particularly welcome in the chart of Bill Gates.

So who is Bill Gates? He's a stealthy Scorpio who has positioned himself on the world stage by dint of hard and unrelenting effort, yes, but also one who in a pinch is likely to do whatever is to his personal advantage. With his normally affective Venus function severely restrained by his ungiving Saturn function, he's like Trump in that. They speak each other's language a bit too much. Gates lives in Xanadu 2.0, an enclosed geodesic domestic system by a picturesque lake far from crowding and pollution; Trump in a gilded penthouse before he called the White House home. The symbolism speaks for itself. If these two fellows had been concerned about the homeless and disadvantaged before the Era of Corona, they had unusual methods for so saying. Now Gates wants to make sure all those at the bottom of the economic rung are brought into the world banking system, from where they can be monitored and checked for vaccinations. It's all for their own good, he would argue. And after all, he would have us understand, he knows what is better for them than they do. Saturn in Aquarius might have something to say to Gates about that.

Pluto in Capricorn 2008 – 2024

So far, Pluto's transit through Capricorn has proven to be the era of the ultra-wealthy and their effect on the world. God of the Underworld, Pluto often exposes what is wrong and rotten before it can resurrect and restore. Acting in Capricorn, it's been revealing what's wrong and rotten in high finance and the world of unimaginable mega-wealth. Examples: Wall Street investment firms and their willingness to first imperil the world financial system and then demand governmental funds for their support; credit and loan organizations which collateralized debt and pursued predatory lending practices, leading to the financial collapse of 2008; the Davos conclaves where the privileged come together to decide the fate of the world; Elon Musk and his claim to own the sky, which he thinks is rightly his to populate with thousands of satellites; Bill Gates with his

belief that it is his right to dictate the shape of health policies throughout the world; the Walton family and their movement to overtake the public education system and remake it into something other. The current Jupiter-Pluto conjunction in Capricorn has focalized this trend and has brought it harshly to light. It all runs profoundly contrary to the law of sharing which underlies the symbolism of the Aquarian archetype, the water-bearer who states, *Water of Life am I, poured forth for thirsty men*. The wavy lines of Aquarius symbolize the notion of free circulation, the unrestricted distribution of life's necessities to all. The fullness of the Age of Aquarius can't come a minute too soon. Transiting Saturn in Aquarius briefly in 2020 and then steadily in 2021 and 2022 will help in that direction.

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The Moon is in waning phase throughout the week. Emotional and intellectual intensity therefore decrease.

Sun in Aries is square Pluto in Capricorn **Monday and Tuesday April 13 – 14**, begetting a sense of effort made against considerable obstacles. This is particularly strong on **Tuesday April 14** as the Moon in Capricorn makes the conjunction to Pluto just before 6 pm CDT.

The Sun in Aries squares Jupiter in Capricorn on **Wednesday April 15**, begetting a trend to expand efforts. Governmental over-reach and over-reaction are on display.

Matters calm down **Thursday April 16** through **Saturday April 18** as Mercury in Aries makes the sextile to Venus in Gemini, bringing positive information to our attention. A degree of relief is felt.

Sunday April 19 brings the entry of the Sun into more settled and placid Taurus, while the Moon in Pisces makes sextiles to Pluto and Jupiter, thus soothing nerves and opening the way for better conditions in certain areas of life. We adjust somewhat more gracefully and feel we can carry on.