

The Starfire Messenger

A Free Weekly Newsletter

From Astrologer Maureen Richmond, M.A.

Issue #118: June 8 - 14, 2020

Contents

Signs of the Times: Emphasis on Neptune

Analysis and Predictions for the Week Ahead: Mars Conjunct Neptune

Signs of the Times: Emphasis on Neptune

On June 13, 2020, transiting Mars and Neptune arrive at the 21st degree of Pisces, thus drawing down a powerful inundation of the energies associated with these two planets and the sign of Pisces. All three of these astrological factors are said in the esoteric astrology of Alice Bailey to distribute Ray Six, the Ray of Idealism and Devotion. This is the ray vibration which has characterized the now-departing Age of Pisces, with its emphasis on religious faith, dogmatic enthusiasm for creeds and ideologies, idealization of all-powerful leadership figures, and valorization of submissive deference to higher authorities. In many ways, the Age of Pisces has offered Humanity an opportunity to grow in consciousness and progress on the path of spiritual unfoldment, bringing to our attention the principles of divine love, forgiveness, authentic communion with spiritual realities through prayer and meditation, and admiration for individuals embodying values such as selflessness and community service. Yet, at the same time, the Ray 6 influence of the Age of Pisces inclined Humanity to imagine itself helpless and incompetent to solve its own problems, and has thereby encouraged a dynamic in which the masses were only too willing

to play the role of the gullible, positioned to rely upon anyone claiming competence to lead. The stage was thus set for opportunists and unethical poseurs to take advantage of the world population in business, politics, medicine, and even education. Thus, the impact of Ray 6 during the Age of Pisces has left Humanity with vulnerabilities now needing address.

These very issues are sure to be activated in the first half of June while transiting Mars and Neptune in Pisces form an exact conjunction. Once every two years, transiting Mars and Neptune arrive at the same degree of the same zodiacal sign, thus forming a conjunction. From 2011 through 2026, each time the Mars-Neptune conjunction occurs, it will do so in the sign of Pisces, thus reiterating the powerful Ray 6 signature at regular intervals.

The last time Mars and Neptune formed a conjunction was early December 2018, when the two planets both were located in the 14th degree of Pisces. In the news at that time was a salmonella outbreak, a widespread bomb scare in the U.S., and the resignation of James Mattis from his post as Secretary of Defense in the Trump administration. As the present Mars-Neptune conjunct approaches, Mattis is again in the news, this time for his outspoken rebuke of the Trump administration for threatening to use the U.S. military against American citizens protesting racial discrimination. Likewise, just as in the December 2018 conjunction of Mars and Neptune, threats to public health occupy headlines in June of 2020. Repeating patterns such as this are common with regularly occurring astrological impacts, for the same energies are at work from one episode to the next.

What is the meaning of the Mars-Neptune conjunction of June 2020? To answer that question, here are excerpts from previous *Starfire Messengers* which delve deeply into the archetypes and energies involved. We begin with an overview of the meaning for the passage of Neptune through the sign of Pisces, which is the long-term background indicator currently accentuated by the forming Mars-Neptune conjunction.

From Starfire Messenger #8: Neptune in Pisces 2011 – 2026

In a world often seemingly ruled by hard hearts and mercenary motives, it's critical to know that the kindly touch of divine spirit remains relevant. Ever is this true, but for a fifteen-year period from 2011 through 2026, it's especially so. The years 2011 through 2026 contain particular power for the channeling of the higher energies of love and spiritual grace into material manifestation, for during this period, the spiritual planet Neptune moves through the zodiacal sign of Pisces, a sign known for its cosmic or universal perspective, compassion, and mystical healing powers.

To understand the effect of Neptune's transit through Pisces, it's important to consider the natures of both the planet Neptune and the sign Pisces. Interestingly, these two astrological archetypes signify essentially the same thing, both drawing their themes from aquatic, marine, and fluidic imagery. The planet Neptune bears the Roman or Latin name for the original Greek god Poseidon, regent of the waters, including oceans, rivers, lakes, streams, and springs. Pointing in a similar direction, the sign of Pisces bears the Latin name for two porpoises or dolphins who attended the birth of Greek love goddess Aphrodite on the waves of the ocean, and who then escorted her to safety on a congenial nearby shore. Thus, Poseidon ruled the waters of life and Pisces lived therein, making of its home element an asset for the aid and support of those in need.

Many are the stories of dolphins and porpoises coming to the service of humans. Blessed with an uncanny and downright psychic capacity to sense need, these highly intelligent and gentle-natured aquatic vertebrates are known for everything from rescuing shipwrecked sailors at sea to providing ecstatic and therapeutic aquatic experiences for willing humans. Social, playful, and communicative, dolphins and porpoises express a natural joy that instantly attracts humans. Though often the targets of senseless and brutal fishing practices, these happy animals when left to their own devices seem to love making themselves available for the sharing of fun, beauty, and joy with all they contact. They embody a spirit of

harmlessness combined with active outgoing kindly care, a characteristically Pisces theme.

Dolphins and porpoises as the Divine Fishes of Pisces make their homes for the most part in the great salt waters of the planet. These are but some of the domains of Neptune, god of the planetary oceans. Also the domain of Neptune, the fresh waters of the planet are inhabited by other closely related fish species, which populate the rivers, lakes, streams, and ponds of the world. At an even smaller or microscopic level exist the simple organisms found in fresh and salt waters the world over, swimming in and one with the medium from which they have seemingly sprung. All rely upon the Neptunian waters of life for their sustenance and existence.

The same can be said of the dry land dwellers of Planet Earth, humans and animals of every stripe. All look to the waters of life for the maintenance of the body, mind, and spirit. In the human world, cures and healings have been brought about by the simple agent of water, whether dispensed in holy rites from sacred wells and springs or simply attained from adequate hydration. For example, the Water Cure in recent years has popularized the powerful healing potential of nothing more complicated than consuming adequate amounts of water.

Thus, Neptune as God of the Waters and Pisces as the Divine Fishes both connect to the element of water - universal solvent, healer, and sustainer of life. Just as water through erosion and dilution eventually dissolves distinctions and brings all things together into a common fluidic medium, so also do Neptune and Pisces stand for the unifying and universalizing power of spiritual vision and divine truth. These characteristics constitute the ideals of Neptune and Pisces, both symbols for those forces and powers of creation which unify, harmonize, and blend diversity into universality. To the extent that religion and spirituality accomplish these aims, they are the agents and manifestations of Neptune and Pisces. Closely related are international and local relief efforts, such as

those of the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders, organizations which reach out to all in need with unconditional love.

As many readers know, Neptune is said to rule or typify Pisces in modern mainstream astrology. Thus, with the planet Neptune in its home sign for fifteen years, the impacts of both Neptune and Pisces are amplified. This has been the case since April of 2011, when Neptune entered Pisces to stay there until January of 2026, a nearly fifteen-year period during which the notes of empathy and impetus to heal the hurts of Humanity are strongly sounded. The combination of Neptune and Pisces produces a pronounced effect in the human psyche, calling to its attention the suffering of others. The agency of water in this softening of the human heart has worked out in literal way, with floods and storms inundating populations, leaving behind ravaged lands which call out to the people of the Earth for help and succor. It could be said that in this flooding action, Neptune and Pisces are washing away the distinctions that seem to divide humanity by creating situations in which large swaths of Humanity come to empathize powerfully with those affected by water-borne disasters.

The word used to describe individuals and groups so affected is relevant here as one of the myriad themes associated with Neptune and Pisces, and hence their palpable combined effect from 2011 – 2026. The word is *victim*. As all speakers of English know, a victim is a person who is the recipient of unfortunate or undesired conditions. It's a notion which nearly controls popular media and public attention, but it's also one that flies in the face of the doctrine of karma. The doctrine of karma tells us that all developments are the results of causes set in motion at some prior time. It's a troubling thought to most of us, since we don't know the nature of the initiating cause, and hence can't quite get a grip on what went wrong and how to correctly compensate in present time. Still, there's an important distinction to be made between the popular victim philosophy and the less well-known esoteric philosophy. Popular philosophy portrays stressed individuals and groups as powerless pawns subject to a capricious, cruel

environment, while esoteric philosophy portrays all persons as endowed with the capacity to make choices and exert will in the desired direction. The first is the victim-based belief system, incarnated in myriad news reports about the victims of crime, the victims of disasters, the victims of political repressions, and so on, suggesting that modern media love and feast upon the word *victim*.

The notion of victimhood connects to both Neptune and Pisces. Like all astrological archetypes, these two symbols can be expressed following the high road or the low. The high road of Neptune and Pisces leads to responsible spirituality, empathy, and the sense of universal oneness. It opens into the world of inspired mystical consciousness arriving in the forms of spiritual seeking, high states of meditation, altered states of consciousness, revelatory dreams, connection with the Elder Guides and Guardian Angels of Humanity, positive psychic guidance, intuitions, visions, and enhanced artistic imagination.

By contrast, the low road of Neptune and Pisces takes that same gentility of spirit and cosmic or psychic receptivity characteristic of the Neptune-Pisces ideal and twists it, making passivity out of gentility and powerlessness out of receptivity. The result is an impotent state of existence in which the individual believes itself to be incapable of exerting meaningful effort. Thus, one of the negative undersides of the Neptune-Pisces archetype is the depressed belief in personal and collective victimhood, or the embrace of the notion that undesirable situations just fall out of the sky for no particular reason related to any human actions and therefore can't be responded to in any significant manner.

This is not to say that individuals and groups are not unjustly mistreated, brutally overpowered, and crassly abused, for as we know, indeed they are in myriad situations the world over. Nor is this to say that stressed persons are not to be understood and assisted. All possible help should of course be rendered. But, in the way we speak and think, shall we cast these groups and individuals as pitiful, helpless weaklings or shall we

think of these brothers and sisters as divine souls temporarily challenged by adverse circumstance yet containing all the powers they require to thrive?

Under the double influence of Neptune and Pisces, that's an important distinction to make, for there's yet another implication from the Neptune-Pisces influence about which we should know: *What you believe becomes your reality*. With its tie to water and hence the deep psyche, the Neptune-Pisces archetype bespeaks the power of the subconscious, the internal regions of self in which images and beliefs are formed and from which effects in the outer life are generated. The amplified Neptune-Pisces energy in the picture from 2011 through 2026 makes this New Age aphorism based on ancient metaphysics even more relevant. Neptune is the planet of belief and faith, often directed toward religious objectives but also operative in the personal sphere. And like the divine fish hidden beneath the waves, Pisces concerns hidden elements such as the subconscious mind. Thus, the combined effect of these two influences indicates that we are in a period of time in which our subconscious inner images exert a potent effect.

Thus, as a culture, we do no true service by conceptualizing challenged others as powerless victims, whether of floods, economic fluctuations, or demographic pressures. We would do better to intentionally hold in mind the desired positive outcome for all involved, also a constructive use of the Neptune-Pisces capacity for belief, faith, hope, imagination and positive expectancy. *Expect a miracle, and you shall have one* says the Neptune-Pisces combination.

All the same, it is true that the low road manifestation of Neptune-Pisces leads to a very different place. It winds downward into the state of going slack, weak, seemingly unable to act constructively, as is seen in debilitating depression, substance abuse, and all manner of self-sabotaging mind-sets. The temptation to go to those places of self-induced sleep is great under the intensified energies of Neptune-Pisces. Under the current

strong Neptune-Pisces influence, many are sure to feel the siren call toward declaring this very type of personal defeat.

Thus, the fifteen years from 2011 through 2026 constitute a test as much as an opportunity. An opportunity, yes, to attune to the cosmic mysticism, divine love, healing vibrations, and intuitive vision of Neptune-Pisces, but also a temptation to throw up hands, declare defeat in the face of seemingly incomprehensible fate, and “justifiably” collapse in a heap. Again, the choice is ours! Under the Neptune-Pisces activation of 2011 – 2026, this is the question: Shall we direct our steps along the low road by caving in and giving up, or shall we direct our steps along the high road by engaging in meaningful acts of compassion, pursuing constructive development of mystical and spiritual abilities, and cultivating a perception of universal oneness? *Starfire Messenger* says: that’s an easy choice the moment we know the terms of the decision.

From *Starfire Messenger* #13: The Power of Belief and Neptune in Pisces

As readers may recall from *Starfire Messenger* #8, the planet Neptune passes through the sign of Pisces from 2011 through 2026. Here is an important influence to know about when we’re thinking about today’s world conditions, many of which are strongly influenced by religious considerations. Indeed, the combination of Neptune and Pisces concerns the power of belief, and even of faith and religiosity. Thus, it is these very things which must be taken into consideration if we are to understand the forces at work during the period 2011 through 2026.

Neptune connotes the higher worlds of spiritual vision and inspiring ideals, and Pisces connotes mystical consciousness or the sense of universal unity. As is clear, Neptune and Pisces are closely related. In fact, in western mainstream astrology, Neptune is said to rule Pisces. This means that Neptune strongly typifies Pisces. Both of these archetypes refer to watery symbolism, with Neptune as God of the Waters and Pisces as the Divine

Fishes. Obviously, the fish of Pisces swim in the ocean of Neptune. In this way, Neptune and Pisces blend into one fluid medium. This fluid medium is made of the sacred waters of life, which nourish all life forms and which break down the barriers of apparent separation.

Conventional religion has always made much of symbolism connected with water. Christenings, baptisms, purifications, and sanctifications in many traditions feature holy water applied to the human body or the surroundings to wash away defilement and establish a new stage of spiritual vitality. In some cases, believers practice the complete immersion of the physical body in sacred waters. Certain sects of Christianity perform their baptismal rites in rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, swimming pools, or even indoor water tanks. The Hindu faithful gravitate in droves to the sacred Ganges River, where full body immersion is embraced as spiritual purification. Similarly, many spiritual traditions the world over feature the sharing of a common cup, which may hold symbolic fluids such as water, wine, grape juice, or other sacred beverages. All such rites based on contact with the water element provide the context in which a greater perception of spiritual unity may emerge.

To be in contact with and immersed in the element of water is a profoundly nurturing experience to many. Reminiscent of the fluid medium in which the fetus floats inside the mother, water can rock us gently into blissful relaxation and remind us that all is well. Water enthusiasts love to float in canoes and on inflatable rafts, drifting lazily down slow rivers and placid streams. Some like it swift and thrilling, as with whitewater rafting. Confident swimmers often find they can stay in safe waters almost endlessly, floating and cavorting with abandon. There's something distinctly calming and restorative about immersion in water. Even a warm bath will suffice for many.

What does the element of water give to the human spirit that makes it so? The speculations are many on this point, from the uplifting effect of negative ions to change of electrical polarity. Whatever it may be, as long

as we feel safe in water, we generally love it. Hot tubs, water parks, inflatable kiddie pools, and splash parks all constitute proof of this affection we humans have for water. After playing around in the stuff for a while, we feel relieved and more hopeful. Our tensions have been dispersed, our fears dissolved, and our hurts somehow eased.

So it is with the higher spiritual effects of Neptune and Pisces. This combination of energies symbolizes those features of existence which wash away our troubles and renew our spirits. For many, it's religion which fulfills this function. Thus, during the period of 2011 – 2016 while Neptune is in Pisces, religion and all that it connotes is sure to play a critical role in world affairs.

Within religion, the capacity to believe is often thought to be critical to faith. Both Neptune and Pisces involve the power of belief. As we all know, belief may be positive or negative. Often, beliefs operate at a very deep subconscious level, as symbolized by the ocean depths associated with Neptune. These deep subconscious beliefs can either help us or hurt us, depending on their nature and content. Blind faith is one of the most extreme manifestations of this capacity. Gullibility, naivete, and even unquestioning adherence all constitute the troubling underside of the power of belief.

This is where Neptune and Pisces come in. While these two powerful indicators of subconscious beliefs are blending their energies into one energy field from 2011 through 2026, there are two distinctly negative potentials for Humanity: 1) the tendency to sink into defeatist thinking and to assume that all hope is lost, thus undermining constructive efforts, and 2) the tendency to blindly embrace simplistic religious concepts as an escape from a world of uncertainty into a world of seeming certainty. The first of these two destructive tendencies is currently seen the world around in a wave of psychological depression gripping the masses and easily attributed to disturbing conditions in politics, economics, and environmental disaster. The second is just as visible, manifesting as

fundamentalist religiosity also the world around. In the United States, it is the force of Christian fundamentalism which is now largely responsible for the popularity of an otherwise extremely unpopular president.

The implication is that religious fundamentalism as a potent socio-political factor is certainly tied to the influence of Neptune in Pisces. Thus, the impact of religious fundamentalism on American politics is sure to be a major factor through 2026. At the same time, there's consolation in this realization, for it also means that the power of positive belief is also intensified while Neptune is in Pisces. This means that efforts directed toward positive visualization and living one's ideals during the years 2011 through 2026 are highly likely to bear fruit.

At the same time, the Neptune-Pisces combination enlarges the theme of seeming persecution in the world, for the planet Neptune is connected as it is with expiation, exhaustion of karma, and dissolution of ancient patterns. Indeed, the Neptune-Pisces combination has made us acutely aware of world suffering, and has brought home to us the widespread problems of injustice and brutality aimed at the most defenseless. Whether these horrors are decreed by Karmic Law does not matter, for in any case we feel the desperation of our brothers and sisters in all the kingdoms of Earth.

The net effect has been to sorely test the stability and composure of even the most spiritually-centered individuals. For all, the potent water themes associated with the Ocean God and the Fishes bespeak a definite tendency toward emotional sensitivity, withdrawal, depression, and feeling of powerlessness. Even while we hold on to our positive Piscean capacity for compassion, we must resist the negative Piscean invitation to collapse in spiritual inertia. Instead, it is our challenge to use the higher frequencies of the Neptune-Pisces influence for active service, healing, and right aspiration as we persist in seeking the greatest good

From Starfire Messenger # 14: Neptune Again!

Neptune helps us break down barriers to understanding, showing us how to reach into another person's psyche, read thoughts, and speak that word of consolation or encouragement which can lift a heavy burden and lighten the way. At the very core of itself, Neptune is a source of compassion, a well-spring of fellow-feeling, a fount of impersonal but appropriately tender care. Indeed, Neptune correlates to the desire to heal and to uplift, conferring the gentle touch and wise ways which can literally mend the physical body and restore hope to the broken heart. As God of the Sacred Waters, Neptune is surely the emblem of all forms of healing which work with the energies of the psyche and the subtle bodies to restore wholeness and ease.

At the same time, the down-side of Neptune manifests as the inability to make necessary distinctions and hence the failure to exercise good judgement. Good judgement is a characteristic we all need to cultivate, but New Age pop psychology has often downplayed the importance of this human attribute, if not outright repudiated its rightful role in spiritual consciousness. How many times have we heard it said that a person ought not to judge? If this admonition is taken to mean that we should not leap to unwarranted conclusions or evaluate the thoughts and deeds of others without consideration for extenuating circumstances, yes, it makes sense. But, if it's taken to mean that a truly spiritual person has no need of making any evaluations whatsoever, then here comes trouble. It's just this sort of sleeping at the wheel or abdication of all personal responsibility which constitutes the downside of the Neptune archetype. At this level, the individual expresses the otherwise beautiful flowing nature of Neptune in a distorted way as a sort of spineless moral collapse.

Total lack of good judgement leads many a person into a place we call *gullibility*. Gullibility is a naïve willingness to believe anything one is told. It's a state of mind which bypasses good common sense and heads instead for a child-like intellectual innocence which leaves the door open

for predators to rush in. In some cases, gullibility plays a key role in sustaining religious fundamentalism. The credibility accorded to televangelists might be a good example, allowing individuals of dubious moral character to prey upon those who open their minds willingly in the hopes of making divine contact. The willingness to see exemplary character where there resides compelling evidence to the contrary is a manifestation of the downside of Neptunian influence. That's why we ought to keep our wits about us whenever the powers of Neptune are at work.

But, you say, what about the benefits of a willing suspension of disbelief? Indeed this is a state of consciousness which is surely symbolized by Neptune. When we let go and allow ourselves to be in the moment without tension or stress, we make an open space for eternal truths to dawn in our minds. Similarly, in religious and faith-centered contexts, it's critical to lay aside the hard shell of the materialistic mind if we are to experience grace, peace, and healing. Likewise, when we read quality fiction or view worthwhile films, it's important to indulge participation mystique and place ourselves in the willing suspension of disbelief for a time. These are all excellent uses of the imaginative Neptune function, each of them proving that not always is it wrong to lower our mental defenses, stop the voice of the inner critic, and look with the simple openness of beginner's mind.

Still, there will come those moments when Neptune is at work and yet we must be intellectually keen to the situation. Yes, be open to spiritual guidance and spiritual leading, both of which are manifestations of the Neptune archetype, but don't forget to call on good old common sense. Neptune takes us into the world of inner images, of dreams, of intuitions, past life memories, pictures from the past, impressions, the vague and the ambiguous. These are rich stores for mining in the field of meaning, and we just might find treasures which, just like the Holy Grail, answer all our deepest inner questions.

Even so, we should hang on to elements of structure, reason, and discipline. This will prevent us from becoming lost in the mists of Neptune as they rise and swirl. With Neptune, there's always the potential for indulgence in delusions, astral over-reactions, unnamed anxieties, creeping suspicions, unfounded and exaggerated fears, and downright paranoia. Reality-checks are just the thing. Be sure to stock up on these handy little numbers, and keep some extras around for others who might go floating out to sea on the invisible rip-tides of Neptune.

From Starfire Messenger # 39: Mars-Neptune and the Power of Belief

Mars and Neptune form a conjunction once approximately every two years, so this is not an extremely rare influence. However, it is significant. On the positive side, it brings together the desire and drive for outer action associated with Mars and the idealism and inner or subconscious connection of Neptune. This combination therefore makes for a stellar opportunity apply the power of the subconscious to change the self in alignment with higher ideals, and to thereby achieve necessary actions in the outer world. On the negative side, the Mars-Neptune conjunction takes the aggressive, selfish face of Mars and mixes it with the disconnected, paranoid, falsifying face of Neptune, resulting in a fog of confusion. Thus, the downside of the Mars-Neptune conjunction is that it tends to stimulate in unevolved humanity the inclination to misrepresent, to evade, to avoid, to create false appearances, and to deliberately mislead others.

Perhaps one of the most important thoughts to hold in mind during this upcoming Mars-Neptune activation is the notion that whatever one believes at a deep level to be true tends to become the reality that one experiences. We can use this principle to advantage by conveying to our deep subconscious belief systems our best visions of self, life, and the universe. At all times, we can choose to believe that the worst is on its way or that the best is on its way. When we think about it this way, we see that we can change our lives by changing our focus, but then we immediately wonder whether we have the right to focus on positive thoughts when

there is so much suffering in the world. From the angle of creative mind power, it is precisely when outer appearances look most concerning that we should take to our inner worlds and envision the good, the true, and the beautiful.

Many great schools of esoteric training teach that thoughts are literally tangible things, though they exist at a higher level of vibration than does the dense physical plane. These schools teach their students to employ mind power as a service to the planet. Sending out constant streams of blessing, encouragement, right thinking, clarity, and goodwill then becomes a legitimate tool for the creation of a better world. From this perspective, the answer is most definitely yes, we have the right to focus on that which is uplifting. In fact, this is our duty if we are to be positive and constructive impellers of evolution.

The Mars-Neptune conjunction presents us with a potent energy field which can be put to good use for the purpose of populating the mental and psychic zones with thoughts of beauty, truth, goodness, eternal spirit, divine love, healing powers, admiration for spiritual teachers, and all things good and holy. Doing so is sure to help our own conditions as well as that of others. With the Mars-Neptune energies, we are presented with the perfect energy combination for visualizing the images of positive desired outcomes, and we are strengthened in our desire to be active on the higher planes. Neptune rules the world of the inner psyche, the zone of telepathy, and of connection with the Universal Spirit or Cosmic Mind. It symbolizes the oneness behind all appearances, and so describes the connection that each created unit has with the Infinite. From that unlimited source, we can draw forth our good at any time. The impetus to do so will be much enhanced by the Mars-Neptune conjunction, as will the conditions for manifestation of our true desires.

A good use of the upcoming Mars-Neptune energies will therefore be the practice of getting clear about hopes and dreams, and then vividly picturing them fully accomplished. This is the way to impress upon divine

universal substance the image of the desired objective. Whether our desire is for our own necessities or for the upliftment of the world, the process is the same. We get quiet, close eyes, go deeply within, and work with the higher energies to shape and sculpt the conditions we know are right. This can apply to healing of the body, healing of the nations, provision of needs for those we see on the television news or on the internet, or any other concern whatsoever. Instead of lamenting the undesired conditions, we can get right to work creating a better set of circumstances. The Mars-Neptune conjunction will surely give us a big nudge in this direction. It will remind us that we have inner powers which can and should be used for the good of ourselves and others.

Daily Predictions for the Week of June 8 – 14, 2020

General: The trend of upward spiritual alignment continues well after the Full Moon, for not long after, on **June 10 and 13**, Ray 6 Neptune will be emphasized, thus drawing forth a mystical and aspirational trend, as well as giving rise to notable attention in the direction of conventional religion. Bringing this trend into focus is the square of the Sun in Gemini to Neptune in Pisces on **June 10**, and then the conjunction of Mars and Neptune on **June 13**. Given that both Mars and Neptune distribute Ray 6, these two configurations operating **June 10 – 13** are sure to stir up a great deal of astral reaction in the mass population. Such reactions include intensive antipathy, agitation, blame-throwing, anxiety, and fear. Irrational assumptions may be made or promoted during this period, therefore.

At the same time, however, the more elevated component of Neptunian influence is also available, stimulating the development of the buddhic or intuitive function.¹ Thus, like the Full Moon period of June 4 - 6, the interval **June 10 – 13** promises marked evolutionary potential even in the midst of public upheaval and distress.

The **key period of the week** takes place on **Thursday June 11 through Saturday June 13**, when the Mars-Neptune conjunction in Pisces takes place. The **most important day to watch in this regard is Friday June 12**, when the waning Moon joins Mars and Neptune in Pisces, thus **powerfully activating the archetype of the World Saviors**. Miraculous developments are more than likely, as this period follows closely on the Three Linked Festivals, or the Full Moons of Aries, Taurus, and Gemini.

Monday June 8 features the now waning Moon in bureaucratic Capricorn conjunct Pluto and Jupiter from 9 am – 2 pm CDT, thus emphasizing the role of laws, rules, regulations, formal procedures, delays, and prohibitions. Then the Moon enters free-spirited Aquarius just before 8 pm CDT, shifting attention to higher ideas and possibilities for group collaboration. We find ways around recent blocks.

Tuesday June 9 continues the Moon in Aquarius theme, especially presenting pleasant opportunities for co-working and intellectual endeavor from noon – 4 pm CDT while the Moon trines sociable Venus in interactive Gemini. Social connections improve after last week's Venus-Mars square.

Wednesday June 10 sees the easy-going Aquarius Moon trine the Sun in intellectually-precocious Gemini from 7:30 – 10:30 am CDT, making for open minds, intriguing ideas, and flowing conversations. At the same time,

¹ In the esoteric cosmology and astrology of Alice Bailey and the Tibetan, the planet Neptune is associated with the level of consciousness denoted buddhic. As the Tibetan Teacher has written, "No man begins to coordinate the buddhic vehicle until he comes under the influence of Neptune.... When this happens, his personality horoscope will show this influence as dominant." Alice A. Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, 899.

we feel the Sun - Neptune square, exact tomorrow, activating spiritual longings for the higher worlds but also obscuring matters.

Thursday June 11 features the waning Moon moving into salvific Pisces just after 4:30 am CDT, bringing its mystical focus to combine with that of the Sun-Neptune square, exact today. Both the waning Moon and Pisces bespeak of final stages and relinquishments. Today we are called to let go. That process opens the way to good developments by 8 pm CDT when the accommodating Pisces Moon makes the sextile to imaginative and innovative Uranus, thus lighting a new way forward.

On Friday June 12, we feel the sensitivity and idealism brought on by the Mars-Neptune conjunction in Pisces, packing a powerful Sixth Ray punch. We get a view into the spiritual worlds 8 – 10 pm CDT while the Moon in forgiving and absolving Pisces makes the conjunction to devoted Mars and ethereal Neptune. The masses of Humanity seethe with intense feeling.

Saturday June 13 brings the exact conjunction of Mars and Neptune in Pisces, emphasizing all the Sixth Ray and deep psychological themes associated with these archetypes. Some may be willing to sacrifice themselves for their causes. Idealism runs high, as do confused emotions springing from feelings of persecution and victimization. Fortunately, the calming aspect of Pisces comes forth markedly throughout the day, as the Pisces Moon makes soothing sextiles to both Pluto and Jupiter in security-conscious Capricorn. Religious leaders urge peace and restraint. Later, the Moon newly in volatile Aries makes the sextile to sober Saturn in objective Aquarius, also helping to calm passions and point out reason.

Sunday June 14 sees the confrontational Aries Moon continue to wane, thus decelerating the intensity of antagonism felt earlier in the month. Minor questions of scheduling and logistics emerge around 9 pm CDT when the impatient Aries Moon squares Mercury in hesitant Cancer.