

The Starfire Messenger



A Free Weekly Newsletter

From Esoteric Astrologer Maureen Richmond, M.A.

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Signs of the Times: Capricorn, Pluto, and Jupiter Once Again

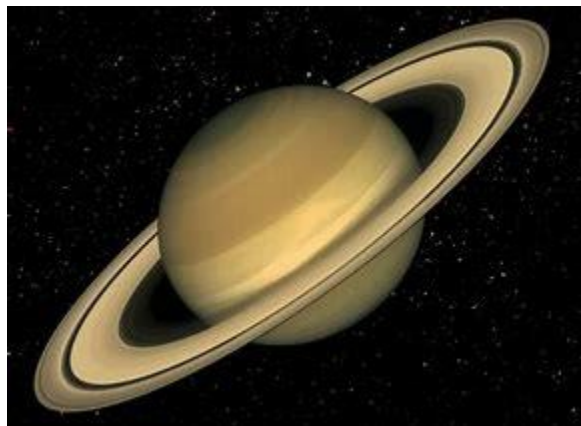
Analysis and Prediction for the Week of June 29 – July 5, 2020

Capricorn, Pluto, and Jupiter Once Again

June 29 – 30 brings the second of three exact conjunctions of Jupiter and Pluto in Capricorn for the year 2020. Occurring at the 24th degree of Capricorn, the June conjunction takes place with both Jupiter and Pluto in retrograde motion. To understand and work with the energies of this powerful configuration, we must understand the nature of all four components of the conjunction: Capricorn, Pluto, Jupiter, and retrogradation.



The sign of Capricorn derives its meaning from the archetype of Saturn, its exoteric ruler. For many long centuries, the planet Saturn defined the outer limit of the solar system to a nascent Humanity which knew nothing of the three outer planets. Saturn thus became symbolic of edges, endings, finalities, limits, boundaries, containments, walls, borders, and all arrangements which keep some things in and some things out. The Saturn archetype is thus emblematic of the principle of definition by right of inclusion of some things and exclusion of others. The Saturn archetype thus symbolizes that which separates some things from others, dividing by type, and preventing free mix and mingling. Saturn is thus an archetype of discrimination, in both the positive and negative senses.



At the same time, the Saturn principle is that which imposes a state of temporary contraction on the limitlessness of infinity. As such, it signifies form as the first differentiation and limitation on infinite space, and time as the first differentiation and fundamental limitation of eternity. The Saturn archetype is therefore a necessity in the process of evolution in time and space. Without it, we are nothing or perhaps everything. With it, we are something particular. We may not like its grip upon us, but the Saturn principle seems to be an integral factor in existence.

At the personality level, the Saturn archetype manifests as the laws, rules, regulations, prohibitions, commandments, and mandatory practices generated by human society. Some laws generated in this manner make sense and prevent chaos, such as speed limits and rules of the road. Other laws created by human agency serve only to brutally enforce unjust social and economic systems, such as in the case of laws promoting apartheid formerly in South Africa, or laws promoting segregation in the early to mid-twentieth century southern American states. At this level, the Saturn archetype expresses as the power of the ruling elite to command and domineer over those less powerful, becoming an agency of self-centered motive.

At the soul level, the Saturn archetype manifests quite differently. Here, the Saturn archetype expresses as the principle of voluntary self-discipline pursued under the guidance of wise spiritual tradition. The Ten Commandments of Christianity, the Seven Laws of Noah in Judaism, the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism, and the Seven Laws for Inducing Soul Control of the Bailey writings are examples. These are codes of morality and spiritual guidance which point the individual away from harming self or others, and toward right choice and right living. Such codes advocate harmlessness, right speech, and right livelihood. The Saturn principle is distinctly active in this arena, acting to inhibit wrong inclination and limit the individual to a specific set of attitudes and behaviors designed to bring about alignment with the higher or ideal self.

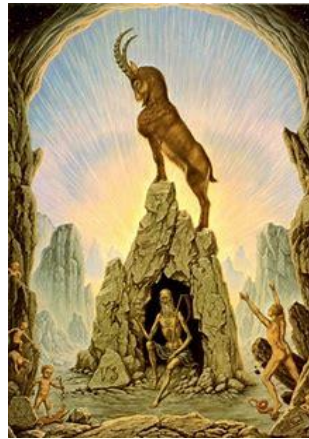
At the monadic level, the Saturn archetype manifests as the working of spiritual law in the solar system and in the cosmos. In the writings of Alice Bailey, it is stated that these laws fall into three groups. These are 1) the three Cosmic Laws of Synthesis, Attraction, and Economy, 2) the mediating Law of Karma, and 3) the Seven Laws of the Solar System (enumerated as the Laws of Vibration, Cohesion, Disintegration, Magnetic Control, Fixation, Love, and Sacrifice).¹ Study and comprehension of these laws is an enactment of the Saturn archetype in its higher manifestation, aiding the human unit to perceive its place in the greater scheme, willingly adjust its consciousness, and adapt to the principles active in the greater cosmic whole.

Because the sign of Capricorn is so deeply imbued with the Saturnian archetype, all that is true of Saturn is also true of Capricorn. Thus, as Jupiter and Pluto converge at the 24th degree of that sign in late June 2020 and thereby powerfully draw attention to Capricorn, all the Saturn themes apply. Thus, in late June of 2020, we see at the level of the personality a world full of commanding presences intent on limiting the actions of each and all. At the soul level, we see groups and individuals turning every more intently toward inspired codes for spiritual living, seeking to make of themselves the most fit instruments for doing the greater good. At the monadic level, we see groups and individuals turning ever more intently toward a study of cosmic law, so as to better comprehend our place within the greater scheme of universal existence.

At the same time, the archetypes of Jupiter and Pluto exert considerable influence. As the largest physical planet of our solar system, Jupiter connotes expansion. As the smallest planet in our solar system, Pluto connotes extreme contraction, density, and compaction. Thus, the fight is on. Jupiter strains toward release from limitations, while Pluto digs

¹ Alice A. Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, 569 – 570. Each law characterizes the function of one of the seven planes of the solar system.

in deeper. Jupiter as excess conflicts with Saturn and Pluto as containment. Values are thus in serious contention, with pushes and pulls going in all directions as they work on the collective human psyche. Some in Humanity hear the call of Jupiter: abundant production is the solution for our economic problems. Others harken unto Pluto: let it all collapse in a heap of ash. Meanwhile Capricorn glowers from its high perch: the rabble shall have no say in the nature of my kingdom. Let them eat rocks, for all I care, says the crystallized mind of the greedy and insensitive.



It's not exactly a pretty picture. Add to it the incessant finger-wagging of the moralistic, rule-making Capricorn archetype, and there we have a formula for intense psychological tension both in self and in society, as guilt and shame are heaped on those perceived to be the causes of various societal problems. Further, the specter of deprivation frightens.

To this complexity of influences, there must be added the factor of retrogradation. As planets appear to move backward in the zodiac, this motion begets and connotes an act in consciousness in which former steps and stages are re-visited and re-evaluated. Thus, a tremendous trend toward examining the attitudes and practices of the past is upon us, as is seen in the current world-wide social movement to understand and eradicate unconscious racism and its manifestations in policies and practices. This has been needed for centuries, but the stringency of the Saturn and Capricorn archetypes has finally forced it into urgency. Here is

an example of the Saturnian-Capricornian archetype operating at the soul level, as processes of inner psychological examination put a halt to actions of the personality not in alignment with spiritual principle.



Tradition has a positive role to play here, as unexpected as that might be in a world often dismissive of anything not immersed in digital nowness. But the astrology of the moment says differently. As the archetypes and even the originators of time, Saturn and Capricorn contain within themselves a reference to eonic time and the deep past, as well as the reverence which might be evoked by the presence of wisdom in the form of ancient teachings and philosophies. Indeed, the current Jupiter-Pluto conjunction in Capricorn might be construed as a gigantic cosmic sign pointing precisely in the direction of increased respect and reverence for doctrines and wisdoms coming down to us from an ancient past. Certainly the Ageless Wisdom Tradition is one such. Drawing on timeless initiatory teachings embodied in *The Secret Doctrine, A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, and related works, the Ageless Wisdom connects us with spiritual laws and principles relevant throughout the entirety of our solar system, and well beyond. In this field, the Jupiterian demand for expansion of consciousness, the Saturnian demand for acknowledgement and study of law, and the Plutonian demand for greater depth all quite fortuitously converge.

Whatever may be our choices for thought and concentration at present, they must constructively respond to the complex call issued by the current Jupiter-Pluto conjunction in Capricorn. In many ways, Pluto is the core of this conundrum, for its long-term presence in Capricorn (2008 – 2024) is vastly enhanced and amplified by Jupiter in late June and early July 2020. As the archetype of death and generation, Pluto will be satisfied with nothing short of total renovation on the spiritual level. Much must die back in order that much may be resurrected. What we thought we had lost shall be found in the process, for as God of the Underworld, Pluto claims as his specialty the power to detect the unseen and draw it up to visibility on the surface of the Earth. Buried spiritual treasure thus emerges.

There's no holding back the process now. The retrograde Jupiter-Pluto conjunction in Capricorn stubbornly insists on our cooperation in a tour through the values and issues connected to all the astrological factors involved. Yet, we do have a choice. In this process, we can dwell at the level of the personality, the soul, or the monad. It's up to us. If we linger at the personality level, we'll be quite saturated with the inhibiting efforts of governments and groups, and pretty well totally dominated by Saturn-generated psychological contractions manifesting as the need to protect ourselves from an unseen enemy; if at the soul level, we'll be quite occupied with identifying better thoughts and behaviors by which to live; if at the monad, we just might be elevated well beyond our daily concerns for long stretches at a time, caught up in the big vision of cosmic process. The choice is ours and awaits our sign. Shall we spend our hours lecturing each other over the perceived civic virtue of mask-wearing, or shall we invest our time organizing our minds for the great adventure of consciousness in the Unlimited Universe? It's up to us.

Analysis and Prediction for the Week of June 29 – July 5, 2020

The week ahead contains a number of compelling themes. The emphasis throughout falls on the **Cancer-Capricorn axis**, an important binary situated at the core of incarnated existence. According to the esoteric teachings, the Cancer-Capricorn axis is fundamental, for Cancer connotes the **process of incarnation**, or coming into form, while Capricorn connotes the **process of initiation**, or staged release from entrapment in form. That these two archetypes are in such powerful interaction at this time shows that all of Humanity is under a strong dual influence, one pressing down further into involution, the other pressing up into evolution. A separation of the ways will thus be evident in some situations, as those who emphasize the life of the form and those who emphasize the life of the spirit will pursue different objectives.

Adding to the potency of the period June 29 – July 5 is the waxing lunar phase. The Moon will be increasing in light throughout the week, arriving at **Full Moon on July 4, 11:44 pm CDT**. As is always the case, the approach to the Full Moon moment will be palpable, as all energies begin to rise to the high point of the lunar cycle. **The Moon reaches its Full Phase at 14 degrees Capricorn, in opposition to the Sun at 14 degrees Cancer**, doing so on July 4 in the western portion of the Americas, and on July 5 in the Eastern Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and Pacifica. In Humanity generally, emotional tension will reach a high level. At the same time, marked opportunity for spiritual communion with supernal sources will unfold, as the Moon is positioned on the side of the Earth away from the Sun, and **stellar telepathy flowing from cosmic sources** through the Sun beams in without the usual impediment from the form nature, as symbolized by the Moon.

At the same time, **the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction is exact on June 29 – 30**, bringing to the forefront all the issues connected with that ponderous influence. Worldwide, worry about the seemingly unrestrained expansion of governmental authoritarianism emerges, just as it has been doing over the past few months. Widespread citizen unrest is likely, with government policies in economics sharply questioned. **Statues will continue to topple, both literally and metaphorically, as the whole notion of power and who is allowed to wield it comes under intense public scrutiny.** Full Moon will tend to intensify this trend noticeably.

June 29 – July 1, however, contains a slightly different theme which arises from the position of Sun and Mercury in Cancer as they arrive at the sextile arrangement with Uranus in Taurus. The themes of both Cancer and Taurus concern material security. Cancer connotes food and shelter, while Taurus connotes money, cash, and finances (as well as foodstuffs). Bound together in the harmonious sextile, these two zodiacal powers promise to provide **glimmerings of solutions to many stubborn problems of provision** and distribution of necessities and opportunities on the world stage. In our personal spheres, the Sun and Mercury sextile Uranus will bring moments of sudden progress in intellectual and educational efforts, as well as viable solutions for life plans. Bright ideas come into focus.

This is so, but the matter is a tad more complex than that, for at the same time all this goodness appears, the **Sun is also conjunct retrograde Mercury.** Exact on **June 30, the Sun-Mercury** conjunction occurs at 10 degrees Cancer, thereby affecting the domestic realm as well as group conditions of a broader nature. Since Sun conjunct retrograde Mercury emphasizes the retrograde nature of Mercury, alterations of perspective and changing points of view within groups and families are likely. Plans as well are likely to be affected, as scheduling is shifted around for various reasons. Flexibility is the only rational response at this time. Serendipity may happen while we are waiting or otherwise dealing with unforeseen circumstances. Even so, much discussion of who said what way back when,

and what that means now will arise, and how come the map was wrong, while we're at it. Confusion may reign for a few days. Good humor helps.

As if this weren't enough for one week already, **Saturn** gets into the action, at **6:37 pm CDT on July 1**, retrograding into Capricorn, in which sign it will remain through December 16, 2020. This constitutes Saturn's last fling with Capricorn this time around, so the Lord of Time and Karma is sure to have serious plans for making his necessary points while the opportunity presents itself. A sense of inner psychological pressure may be felt by many. It will be the voice of Saturn urging us all to mind carefully our responsibilities, duties, and commitments. Time management will emerge as a key factor for success and peace of mind for many during this week, which will be strongly affected for the entire duration with the presence of Saturn. The Cosmic Judge is not known for mirth and light-hearted banter. No, for him it is the voice of conscience, which will speak to all according to circumstance and positioning on the path. Government figures are likely to discover that their over-reach and exaggerated claims find no resonance with the public. Politicians are likely to respond with grim faces and more attempts to restrict the will of the people. This will not go over entirely well, for by this time, Mars will be in pugilistic Aries, resulting in more than just a nominal push-back.

For those with a strong psychological constitution who want to understand the nature of the current Jupiter-Pluto conjunction and all that it reveals about the inner workings of the Capricorn archetype, a prime time for observing will be **Sunday July 5, 4 – 7 pm CDT**, when the **Moon in Capricorn passes over the existing Jupiter-Pluto conjunction**. Here's a power moment to glimpse with clarity our personal connections with the meaning and purpose of this history-making astrological activation. Given the prevalence of both tradition-oriented Capricorn and custom-oriented Cancer at this same time, we could arrive at a much greater grasp of our personal heritages, ancestries, lineages, and traditions at this time.