

The Starfire Messenger



A Free Weekly Newsletter

From Esoteric Astrologer Maureen Richmond, M.A.

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Mars in Aries vs Saturn and Pluto in Capricorn

As has been discussed in previous issues, the second half of the year 2020 is overwhelmingly conditioned by a transiting astrological configuration involving Mars in Aries in a tense relationship with Saturn and Pluto in Capricorn. At the most fundamental level, this relationship intensifies the influences of the signs Aries and Capricorn, focalized as they are by virtue of planetary bodies positioned in their fields of emanation. At present therefore, the planets Mars, Saturn, and Pluto serve to conduct into Earth experience a massive impact from Aries and Capricorn.

Although Aries and Capricorn stand 90 degrees distant from each other in the zodiac and hence in square relationship, these two signs share much in common. They are both cardinal signs distributing Rays 1 and 7, a common footprint which provides a key in understanding the nature of their combined influence as present in the second half of 2020.

Cardinal Signs

Cardinal signs concern the power to initiate or to set things in motion. There are four such in the zodiac: Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn. These four cardinal signs of the zodiacal year mark the starting points of the seasons, with Aries signifying the onset of spring in the northern hemisphere and fall in the southern, Cancer marking the onset of summer in the northern hemisphere and winter in the southern, Libra signifying the onset of fall in the northern hemisphere and spring in the southern, and Capricorn marking the onset of winter in the northern hemisphere and summer in the southern. As this pattern demonstrates, the cardinal signs provide impetus for a change or new state of being. They kick things off and get the ball rolling. Cardinal signs are likewise signs which connote the capacity to originate ideas and actions, and to overcome existing conditions with new initiative.

For this reason, the cardinal signs concern leadership in the human community. As is apparent to all, the second half of 2020 is focused on just this very concept, with the spotlight of public attention shining brightly on the nature of political leadership. Political leaders for their own part seem to be reveling in the power which rests in their hands. At the same time, a powerful new wave of thought leadership has arisen from citizen ranks in the form of free speech platforms featuring independent broadcast journalists rising rapidly to the status of planetary influencer, such as Brian Rose of *London Real*, Alex Jones of *Info Wars*, Del Bigtree of *The Highwire*, and many others like them. These highly individualistic, gutsy individuals are enacting the bravery and initiative of the cardinal signs, Aries in particular with its emphasis on self-reliance and outspoken style.

Entrepreneurialism is yet another manifestation of cardinal qualities, and with the current emphasis flowing through two cardinal signs, a wave of new business start-ups has emerged, focused in the internet, injecting fresh vitality into the world economy even as the individuals in conventional world leadership positions seem hell-bent to destroy that very same world economy. The drive to destroy comes from the Saturn-Pluto conjunction of 2020, which was exact in January 2020 and is now returning to as close a repeat conjunction as it will ever attain to in this Saturn-Pluto cycle. Saturn brings endings and terminations, while Pluto refers to the necessary obliterations and decimations which must come from time to time under cosmic law. This is the case right now, as retrograde Saturn stations at 25 degrees of Capricorn on September 29, 2020, just two degrees of zodiacal longitude distant from Pluto at 23 degrees of Capricorn. The mere 2-degree difference is quite close enough to sound the note of the conjunction all over again, making September of 2020 yet another passage through the Shadows of the Valley of Death. Endings and terminations abound, with prominent public figures such as the American Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg taking their leave of planetary affairs for a time. Yet, even in the midst of economic destruction and numerous other forms of loss, the spirit of entrepreneurialism rises anyway, powered by the prevalence of cardinal sign influence.

Also characteristic of the cardinal signs is the power or capacity to make significant strides forward on the spiritual path. Connected firmly in the esoteric astrology of Alice Bailey with the matter of spiritual initiations, cardinal signs connote the drive and fearlessness required to face down one's own failures, set the performance bar higher, and put forth the effort to conquer new worlds of subjective perception and objective demonstration of usefulness under the Divine Plan. Aries and Capricorn are particularly implicated in this development, with fire sign Aries esoterically symbolic of the electrical fires emanating from Heaven or the Monad, and earth sign Capricorn symbolic of the rough and daunting

Mount of Initiation, over the perilous obstacles and dangers of which the successful seeker must clamber to triumph. Both Aries and Capricorn are signs which draw out of the human soul its greatest capacities. Neither of these signs is content with the business of resting within a zone of comfort. Both goad forward to greater challenges, no matter the surrounding discomforts and inconveniences. This fact is a key to much that transpires today, for the forces of evolution are incessantly and impetuously propelling forward those units in the Human Kingdom who are capable of accepting the challenge.

Rays 1 and 7

Both Aries and Capricorn distribute Ray 1, the Ray of Will and Power, and Ray 7, the Ray of Order and Ceremonial Magic. According to the esoteric philosophy given by Djwhal Khul the Tibetan Teacher through Alice Bailey, Rays 1 and 7 are much like mirror images of one another, with Ray 1 expressing the intentions and purposes of Deity at the highest formless levels, and Ray 7 embodying that intention in specific forms on the physical plane, often through carefully orchestrated actions and movements of individuals and groups. Both Rays 1 and 7 are thus involved with the reception and expression of power. Hence, in the world today as these two rays are brought into expression through Aries and Capricorn, there is to be seen so much emphasis on enforced conditions and ruthless management of nations and peoples. Rays 1 and 7 are not known for their sensitive treatment of others. Instead, these energy frequencies are concerned with other matters. They are both highly impersonal if not downright inhuman in their actions. They seek alignment with a greater purpose and carefully coordinated action toward that objective. But even this can be misinterpreted and misused by those of small minds and willful selfish intent. Rays 1 and 7 are in fact readily picked up and applied in a self-interested way by tyrants and corporate entities. Thus, the current world situation.

Mars and Saturn Potent for Initiation into Hierarchy

However, all is not lost in the smoke and din of battle between Mars in Aries and Saturn and Pluto in Capricorn, for a portion of this configuration promises distinct spiritual advantages to those ready to accept it. Why so? As the Tibetan Teacher states in *Esoteric Astrology* by Alice Bailey, Mars and Saturn are directly connected with the process of initiation into Hierarchy.¹



About Mars and Saturn, the Tibetan stated, “Both these planets are exceedingly potent in connection with initiation into the life of the Hierarchy; Mars is potent in relation to Scorpio and Saturn in relation to Capricorn.”² In interpreting this statement, it may be helpful to know that Mars is the esoteric ruler of Scorpio, just as Saturn is the esoteric ruler of Capricorn. The implication is that the purification processes of Scorpio and the testing processes of Capricorn are aided and abetted by their respective esoteric rulers. This is undoubtedly true and deeply relevant to individual and group progress on the initiatory path.

Yet there may be other ways of applying this concept. For example, pronounced connections between Mars and Saturn appear in the astrologies of three individuals undoubtedly initiated into Hierarchy. These three individuals are famed occultist and founder of Theosophy H. P. Blavatsky, Russian mystic and author of the Agni Yoga books Helena

¹ Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, 199.

² Ibid.

Roerich, and Roberto Assagioli, F.C.D. in the DINA letters written to disciples by The Tibetan through Alice Bailey.

Born August 12, 1831, Blavatsky had Mars precisely conjunct Saturn, with both planets located exactly at 3 degrees of Virgo. Born February 13, 1879, Helena Roerich had Mars widely square Saturn, with Mars at 6 degrees of Capricorn and Saturn at 1 degree of Aries (which is, by the way, an interesting and intriguing reversal of today's sign positions for Mars and Saturn). Born February 27, 1888, Roberto Assagioli had Mars tightly square Saturn, with Mars located at 0 degrees Scorpio and Saturn at 1 degree Leo. Thus, these three individuals all had Mars and Saturn in what is called in astrology the hard-angle relationship. The hard-angle relationships are conjunction, square, and opposition. In mainstream astrology, these geometrical relationships (or aspects) are known to produce the most pronounced effects of all the possible geometrical connections within the circle of the zodiac.

Thus, using this small but convincing sample of three charts, the implication is clear: Mars and Saturn in hard-angle relationship to each other in the chart of the spiritual seeker signify the presence of the will and stability of nerve and determination required in order to deal with failings decisively, pass exacting tests of character, and demonstrate occult sensitivity. This is yet another way in which might be applied the Tibetan Teacher's statement that Mars and Saturn are potent for initiation into Hierarchy. The stunning thing of the moment is that everyone on this planet is now experiencing this condition, for Mars in retrograde motion is now approaching the square to Saturn, which will be exact on September 29. On that very same day, Saturn shall make a direct station at 25 degrees Capricorn, thus massively intensifying the energies of both Capricorn and its esoteric ruler. Thus, on September 29, 2020, there are collective astrological happenings which mirror and restate the combination of energies said by the Tibetan to be potent for initiation into Hierarchy, these being specifically the energies of Mars and Saturn.

But it gets better. During this upcoming configuration, retrograde Mars returns to the square of Saturn which it initially made under direct motion on August 24. This means that the period of August 2020 through September 2020 essentially never escapes from the impact of the Mars-Saturn square. Many are experiencing this energetic condition as apparent impediments to action, deep fears and frustrations with the world covid situation, dread, trepidation, and immobilization in the face of apparently insurmountable odds. Yet at the same time, we are all being presented with a two-month door of opportunity, one in which the energies of Mars and Saturn permeate the atmosphere of our planet and generate a spiritual climate which might perhaps be characterized as potent for initiation into Hierarchy. Now is thus the time to identify our shortcomings, deal with them decisively, face up to our present character challenges, and put an extra measure of effort into our studies, meditations, and service offerings.

One individual on the world scene who seems to be doing precisely that is American vaccination injury and water pollution attorney Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Born January 17, 1954, Kennedy has Mars at 17 degrees of water sign Scorpio and Saturn at 9 degrees Scorpio. While these two positions are a bit wide to be considered a true conjunction, they both nonetheless sit right in one of the signs indicated by the Tibetan to be potent in regard to the work of Mars and Saturn toward initiation. That's Scorpio, water sign symbolic of the storms and turbulences of the astral body which must be calmed, subdued, and eradicated if initiation is to be taken. Interestingly, Kennedy Jr.'s work in and for the world has focused on the identification and prevention of ecosystem damage from industrial water pollution through his *Riverkeepers* organization, and upon identifying and preventing physical damage to children as a result of pharmaceutical substances through his *Children's Health Defense* organization, one having to do with the fluid component of the planet, the other having to do with fluid components to be injected into the fluid and Mars-ruled blood stream of the human body. Kennedy has recently emerged as a leading world

voice questioning the safety of ingredients in vaccines intended for mandatory use on the public, the lead figure addressing more than a million Europeans at a health freedom rally in Berlin. He is a spiritual warrior with the astrology to prove it, with Mars and Saturn in Scorpio, repeating the general theme indicated by the Tibetan. Kennedy stands as a good example for us all: an individual who has the courage of his convictions and the power to act upon them in the name of the greater planetary good, acting in fields directly tied to his astrological symbolism.

Thus, as the cardinal signs of Aries and Capricorn in 2020 ask us to do more than we ever have before, and as Rays 1 and 7 challenge us to find our personal power and to organize ourselves and efforts for success, a terrific moment of opportunity comes upon us. It may not look that way, with terrifying, punitive edicts thrown in our faces from misguided national and local politicians, but there it is anyway. No matter how hopeless the situation appears on the outside, from the astrological and esoteric view, it's another matter. Mars and Saturn in square currently bring us not only chilling enactments of cruel statist rule, but also a potent opportunity to demonstrate to the Elder Watchers our fitness for initiation. Neither of these conditions will last forever. When the Aries-Capricorn tension disappears, so will the extreme and uncalled for intrusions into civil liberties. Where on the Path of Light will we stand then? Will we be able to say we used our opportunity well? Now is the time to decide.

Daily Analysis and Prediction

The week of **September 28 – October 4** contains the run-up to the Full Moon of Libra, which takes place on **Thursday October 1** at 4:05 pm CDT with the Sun at 9 degrees of Libra and the Moon at 9 degrees of Aries. Thus, the first part of this week is full of the rising tides of emotion, intention, mentation, and comprehension always characteristic of the approach to Full Moon. Within that period of intensity, major astrological

action takes place on **Tuesday September 29**, when transiting Saturn goes stationary direct at 25 degrees of Capricorn, and only a few hours later, the exact square of Aries at 25 degrees Aries to the Saturn position in Capricorn occurs. This indicates that the Full Moon period is certain to be even more potent than usual. Mass Humanity is likely to therefore feel under terrific pressure. Such circumstances easily generate outbursts of repressed energies. Further, transiting Pluto makes a stationary direct station as well this week, turning direct on Sunday October 4 at 23 degrees Capricorn, thus adding to the intensity of bottled-up forces.

The two direct stations in Capricorn this week are certain to amplify the presence of everything connected with the sign of the Mountain Goat. The sense of obstacles to be met is great, but also is the growing power within. Determination rises to meet challenges. At the same time, governmental figures will see the spotlight cast on their actions. They may respond with even more repressive measures, but soon it will become evident that there is no place to hide when one is under the scrutiny of the entire population of the Earth. As a result, turning points manifest this week, as the light of the Full Moon shines in unlit places and reveals previously camouflaged truths. Within this context, the Mars-Saturn square early in the week serves to bring many situations to confrontation.

Monday September 28 opens the week with the waxing Moon in aloof Aquarius. With the effect of the Mars-Saturn square blanketing everything as background, the foreground Aquarius Moon signifies a tendency to seek meaning somewhere other than the main battle ground of the moment. Tomorrow is a big day astrologically, and we are feeling it already. Fortunately, the Moon enters detached Pisces at 10:34 am CDT, gently diverting attention from major troubles and into more pleasant fields of reflection. A light social moment that actually means something unfolds 7 – 9 pm CDT when affectional Venus in romantic Leo makes the exact trine to emotionally impulsive and pent-up retrograde Mars in forthright Aries. Declarations of passion and affinity therefore emerge, even in the midst of

intense planetary tension. Friendships and collaborations are favored as well. Soul mates are found in the fray of battle and valued therefore all the more. Like spirits cleave to one another against the trials of the day.

Tuesday September 29 brings the big action involving Lord of Karma Saturn, which planet goes stationary direct at 12:11 am CDT, thus intensifying the power of Father Time, the goal setter, task master, and karmic agent of the gods. We feel the importance of living according to high standards and making the absolute most of our minutes, even while all around us are the signs and evidences of severe societal stress, decay, and collapse. Then Mars adds to the tension and potency, making the exact square to Saturn at 4:50 pm CDT. Today is thus likely to be one of inner and outer tensions, upheavals and disruptions at all levels, including the physical, emotional, mental, social, and international, as energies and patterns seeking to come to full expression do so pointedly. Decisions call to be made, for as it is said in esoteric philosophy *Saturn demands a decision*.

Wednesday September 30 is still colored by the harsh and demanding energies of Mars and Saturn from yesterday's exact aspects. Even so, the unassuming Pisces Moon reduces the trouble a notch or two, conjuncting otherworldly Neptune and then sextiling both of the power brokers Pluto and Saturn, 00 hours – 1 pm CDT, providing an extended opportunity to step back and take the long view generated by eternity. Then the Moon enters spirited Aries at 9:47 pm CDT, injecting the body and soul with the fire and enthusiasm of the headstrong yet magical Golden Ram.

The Full Moon consumes **Thursday October 1**, the exact opposition of the Sun and Moon taking place at 4:05 pm CDT, with the Sun at 9 degrees of Libra and the Moon at 9 degrees of Aries. The tension between Libran cooperation and Arian competition is palpable, but at the same time, a line of lighted energy breaks forth into the human world from above and beyond, illumining all things and raising the general vibratory level of the planet. Inflow from the distant stars of space increases as the lunar body

makes its way to the opposite side of the Earth from the Sun. The resulting stellar telepathy takes us up and out of ourselves for a while.

Friday October 2 presents a mild repeat of the energies from earlier in the week, as the cardinal Aries Moon hard-angles the whole cardinal construction of the moment, making squares to Jupiter, Pluto, and Saturn in Capricorn, and conjuncting Mars in Aries, 9 am CDT on Friday through 1 am CDT on Saturday, making for a bit of a rambunctious ride through the issues presented on Monday and Tuesday. We are reminded of the major impediments to living presented by covid and its economic restrictions. Venus enters sensible Virgo at 3:48 pm CDT for a three week stay, inviting all to indulge in the joys and satisfactions of careful, scholarly study. This will help with analyzing the statistics associated with the covid situation. Females will come forth to aid in the work of scientific analysis. Everyone migrates toward facts, figures, and detailed investigations.

Saturday October 3 sees us still feeling the Saturnian impact of the week, as the Moon squares Saturn during the overnight. Then, relief comes in the form of the Taurus Moon, which comes into effect at 10:12 am CDT, thus calming the atmosphere. Noon to 9 pm CDT brings the Moon trine Venus newly in Virgo and opposite Mercury newly in perceptive Scorpio, thus settling the atmosphere somewhat and encouraging depth intellectual activity. Profundity has a certain appeal just now, for transiting Pluto in Capricorn is set to make its direct station shortly, and we feel its power.

Sunday October 4 opens with the Moon conjunct Uranus in Taurus, 5 – 7 am CDT, thus jangling our nerves, but also alerting us to novel approaches. Then the Pluto direct station takes place at 8:32 am CDT, drawing us deeper into parapsychological realities. Finally, the peaceful Taurus Moon trines reassuring and jolly Jupiter 10 – midnight CDT, quietly closing out a week of tremendous impacts. Our contemplations turn confident and hopeful under the impress of regal Jupiter, at least for the moment.