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The Uranus-Pluto square in 2012-2016

The current Uranus-Pluto cycle started with the meeting of both planets in the mid 60s; this is not only relevant in a broader context, but it is worth recalling how these years were in our personal lives too and what began for us at that time. It helps to have a closer look at the house in our own chart where the meeting of the planets took place at that time. For those who can read their birth chart a little: the conjunction took place in the middle of Virgo.

What began at that time takes a decisive turn now and will manifest in world events as well as in our personal lives. (Again in one's own birth chart the two affected houses – beginning of Aries and beginning of Capricorn – indicate the areas of life in which change is most likely to manifest).

What kind of decisive turn is this and whom does it concern?

Uranus forms a square (a 90° angle) to Pluto. This square will shape the next five years because it will recur – unusually – seven times. We enter a transformative process of several years, which will entirely renew our individual and collective lives. Collectively seen, such a renewal is less comprehensive and also less constructive because the collective degree of maturity of people is less high – at least compared to the people in this mailing (I can say this because as all are my clients I know everyone quite well). In other words, while things in the world can go violently topsy-turvy, with the individual being helplessly tossed around by the events, these very world events contain huge growth potential for the individual. (However, no-one depends on worldwide upheavals for the unfoldment of their growth potential.)

Everyone will be affected by the shift because it concerns a constellation in the sky that arches over all of us. For everyone, the areas of life that will be most affected relate to the two houses in which it falls.

If the constellation, projected on one's own birth chart, hits (directly or at an angle) one's planetary positions, the effect it has on one's life is especially strong. In general, one can say that Aries, Capricorns, Libras and Cancers are most affected by its influence, and secondly, Aquarius and Scorpios. This statement, however, is to be only understood in general since everybody who has some planetary positions in the sphere of influence of the constellation is strongly affected by it.

In this square the energies of Uranus hit the energies of Pluto, or vice versa. To start with we look at them separately.

Uranus

is the rebel among the planets. With him the pluses and minuses change in all areas of life that need restructuring. These changes often occur suddenly and precisely in the direction we could never have dreamt of. Uranus' concern is always to liberate us, and in order to do that virtually every means is right for him. He wants us to live our individuality, and radically question everything that has not grown on our own dung. He does not like dogma, hierarchy and rules forced on us. Rather, he demands that we find our own solutions and take a stand against established orders if they do not make sense to us.

Uranus is always accompanied by huge restlessness, at first internally because one senses that something new, which one cannot yet recognize, is about to occur. If at some point one of his typical upheavals has come about in an area of one's life, the internal restlessness becomes externalized. Now all kinds of things turn to their opposite – this can sometimes be external circumstances or one's own bodily condition, sometimes mental attitudes, ideas or values or our emotional life – and often all of these at the same time.

To handle Uranean energies properly 'experimentation' is the magic key. Handling them wrongly is by 'holding on'. Under Uranus' influences the more we stick to situations, attitudes, circumstances, the more forceful his changes have to be and the worse we feel. The more we experiment, the more alive and playful his expression becomes and the more we enjoy his influence. Under Uranus' influence turning one's whole life upside down straight away is as misguided as to sticking like crazy to the status quo. Best is an open, adaptable position and the readiness to try out new things. We should await with interest, or even curiosity, the changes that come with Uranus as certain as the Amen comes in a prayer, and attempt to find out how Uranus actually wants to liberate us. Most changes were long overdue and we can be grateful that things finally get going, even if the new situation may be uncomfortable at first.

Uranean areas of life:

Internet, technology, natural sciences, aviation and everything that deals with aviation, astronautics, astrology, philosophy, liberation movements, politics.

Other keywords: thinking, future, democracy, human rights, minorities, revolution, individuation, everything unconventional, the subtle realm.

Positively, Uranus manifests as: liberating, opening, intellectual curiosity, inspiration, unsuspected solutions, astonishing breakthroughs, sudden understanding, independence, intuition, equal rights, genuineness, individuality, creativity, the ability to dis-identify, ability to proceed in unconventional, unusual, unorthodox and unfamiliar ways.

Negatively, Uranus appears as: recklessness, egocentricity, unpredictability, inability to cooperate, eccentricity, high voltage which discharges suddenly and devastatingly, cold and analytic top-heaviness, inability to let oneself into the physical, sensuous level or to embrace the feeling side of life, intellectualization of senses and feelings, compulsive fixation on unconventional, unusual, unorthodox and unfamiliar ways.

Pluto

stands for metamorphosis and transformation. He transforms the person from top to bottom, turning his inside to the outside. This means that with Pluto we have to face those very inner worlds, which we have neglected, denied or even have fought against till now. They are the shadow areas of our soul. Indeed, these qualities need not be negative. Pluto is the Lord of the underworld, but the underworld is a treasury of humanity too. If we are ready to face the underworld with her demons, Pluto helps us to discover and to unearth her treasures.

If we refuse to encounter our inner world in this way, Pluto resorts to more forceful means: he manifests our inner shadows in the outside world. Then suppressed anger becomes fight and quarrel or even war. Suppressed sex becomes a relationship with extremely strong sexual overtones or even sexual assault. Suppressed fear becomes external menaces that make us look our fear in the eye. Suppressed negativity becomes an exceptionally negative situation around us. Suppressed sensitivity becomes a life situation that makes it impossible for us to ignore our own delicacy any longer. These are just a few possibilities.

As soon as we recognise what Pluto wants to bring home to us, we can consciously face these issues and involve ourselves willingly in his transformation process. This is the only way for Pluto's demonic expression to transmute and overwhelm us instead with his treasures.

Pluto's preferential subjects are power, control, anger and sex. Although mostly everything resonates in some way, at the individual level it is rather about anger or sex, at the collective level it is rather about power and control. Pluto's manifestation is most clear at a social level; this is not usually very pleasant because quite a lot of refuse lies rotting away in the collective unconscious, and Pluto in his usual uncompromising manner dumps it at our feet.

For most people on earth absolute power means power over life and death, death being an expression of absolute impotence. Therefore, Pluto often brings about experiences of death in the literal or transmuted sense. Pluto is the planet of death and rebirth. If we take this seriously, we can even in the most hopeless situation trust that kind of a rebirth will follow the death we experience. One cannot evade Plutonic processes, one has to go through them. The right manner with Pluto means 'facing up to them' and 'looking them in the eye'. The wrong way means 'avoidance' and 'denial'.

Positively, Pluto manifests as: change, real strength, authenticity, depth, totality, truth, genuineness, regeneration, comprehensive healing, courage, intensity, thorough understanding transformation – especially through tantra or shamanism.

Negatively, Pluto expresses as: absolutism, tyranny, compulsion, jealousy, sadism, obsession, emotional entanglements, violence, abuse of power, fixation, fanaticism.

Plutonic areas of life: medicine, psychotherapy, criminology, police, the military, spying, recycling, philosophy, natural resources, everything to do with death, everything to do with what is concealed and its disclosure, anything that brings about exhaustive transformation.

Other keywords:

Moving into border areas, transition, birth-sex-death, all or nothing,

Pluto and Uranus

From the above it becomes obvious that Pluto and Uranus have some common characteristics: with both it is about change. Both are uncompromising and do not shy away from extremes. Both confront us with something what we have avoided up to now. Without batting an eyelid both break taboos and lead us into uncharted border areas of life.

A meeting of these two forces will change the world radically, most of all, however, it will change our internal world radically. Changes come about quite suddenly, unexpectedly, and are astounding, fundamental, radical and ground breaking. It is about radically questioning ideas and concepts, about rigorously untying emotional entanglements, about cutting fixations, overthrowing tyrants (internal as external), about breaking taboos as well as about the readiness to stand up for our own truth without compromise.

The effects of both planets can reinforce each other negatively; they can, however, also reinforce each other positively. Besides, they are complementary in some regards. While Pluto unambiguously makes clear to us what internal patterns stand in the way of necessary change, Uranus makes it easier to actually tackle the changes that are due. While Pluto makes available the necessary strength, Uranus lends us determination.

Because Uranus is in Aries, he expresses as pioneering exploration of the unknown, the readiness to get involved in a basic paradigm change (*at least one*).

Because Pluto is in Capricorn, the entire basic structure of our thinking, feeling and action changes to finally become more true, and more stable.

What to expect?

A thrilling changeful time, full of surprises and mind-boggling turns. Whoever goes into it openly and flexibly will be richly rewarded. Security and consistency, however, will be available only for those who are ready to let go the known and search for what conforms to their very own insight – even if it contradicts all former experiences and understandings.

Whoever does not face up to necessary breakdowns, or resists necessary breakthroughs, is in for a

hard time since whatever we do to retain the status quo is condemned to failure. Change is on. We can try to make this change take a form that is as positive as possible for all concerned, but by no means can we prevent it. The greater our readiness to embrace change, the easier this time will be for us, and the less likely it will be for destructive change to be forced upon us. Pluto and Uranus do not have to use a sledgehammer to teach that times have changed to those who voluntarily modify their habits here and there, take an interest in new things, strike new paths, or welcome new people and situations into their lives.

In every area of our lives where we are dissatisfied for some time now, we should consider changes and actively deliberate about how these changes could look. Depending on one's own horoscope they may involve occupation, family, partnership, living situation, health, friendship, finances, creativity and/or spirituality. In the main we already have an inkling about what needs realignment. Yet Uranus and Pluto will also dish up some things that we have not expected. In fact quite often they open a barrel that has been gathered dust completely unnoticed in a concealed corner of our unconscious.

Only those who are not ready to face its challenges need to fear this constellation. All others can look forward to an adventure trip, which is breathing new life into their world and breaking open undreamed-of new horizons.