

2020

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As many astrologers are aware, in the year 2020 we will experience a powerful stellium – Jupiter conjunct Saturn and Pluto in Capricorn. This is creating quite a bit of concern in the astrological community for good reason. It is a rare aspect that may create a difficult period, but as with all transits it also has the potential to help us change and aim our society in a new direction. What does this configuration imply, and how can we best prepare for it?

We have been in a period of stagnation, politically and financially, for some time. Over the past few years we have become bogged down in a frustrating era when change seems to be particularly difficult to achieve. This is obvious when you look at the doldrums of the world financial markets and in America with the endless tug-of-war in our government between the two parties. 2020 will be a pivotal moment in human history that, while it could result in any number of harsh situations, it offers us an opportunity to shake free from this inaction and institute some much needed changes in our attitude and direction. America will be very vulnerable at that time because of where this stellium will occur, and we will certainly experience some difficult moments of fear and doubt. But I am cautiously optimistic that we are currently learning some valuable lessons about the world and our place in it. And I believe that no matter what circumstances result from this coming conjunction we have the capacity to move beyond them into a new era of compromise and humanism that will finally break America free from the limitations of our two-party system and the financial inequality that has stifled our growth and

our ability to truly move into the twenty-first century. Let's look at the aspects we will experience in 2020 separately.

Jupiter conjunct Saturn:

Jupiter conjuncts Saturn every twenty years. During this conjunction Jupiter's desire to expand is restrained by Saturn's need for limitations, while Saturn's normally restrictive nature is challenged by Jupiter's need for growth. These two compete for domination, with each planet trying to balance the other's nature. In the stock markets it's usually displayed as sideways movement with the equities in a holding pattern. One of the historical reactions to this aspect is that each conjunction from 1840-1960 coincided with the death of the president of the United States, either through assassination or illness. The presidents elected in 1840, 1860, 1880, 1900, 1920, 1940 & 1960 while this aspect was active died in office. For those seven consecutive cycles this conjunction occurred in an earth sign. In 1980 the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction was in an air sign, and Ronald Reagan was shot in the shoulder (ruled by Gemini, an air sign), and survived. In 2000 the conjunction returned to Taurus, an earth sign, but G.W. Bush did not die. So perhaps the pattern has been broken, but we really don't know.

In 2020 this aspect once again takes place in Capricorn, an earth sign. This in itself is enough to give pause. Will the cycle begin again and will it result in the death of the person elected in 2020? With the addition of Pluto in this conjunction the stakes will be even higher. We will not just be dealing with Jupiter conjunct Saturn, but will have the added influence of Pluto. The energy this stellium produces will most certainly be felt throughout the world and could potentially create some extreme situations.

Generally when the outer planets are in aspect to each other it is usually an inner planet that acts as the trigger to events. For example, during the massive Cardinal Grand Cross of 2014 it was the presence of Mars added to the Pluto-Uranus-Jupiter squares that acted as the stimulus setting off that intense transit and putting our society on the violent path it is now experiencing. A great deal of anger has been released from the collective unconscious over the past two years. In 2020, Mars once again adds its influence as it enters Capricorn in mid-February and begins to apply to the Jupiter-Saturn-Pluto stellium. In March 2020 Mars begins to conjunct that stellium adding more power and could unleash a deep-rooted anger to that already dangerous aspect. We have seen a serious rise in violence over the past decade with more mass shootings, terrorist attacks, and escalation in wars, especially in Syria. The tensions between China and the U.S. over sovereignty in the Pacific are heating up. North Korea has increased its violent rhetoric and continues to expand its nuclear arsenal. So what can we expect from this coming period? And how will it affect our society financially and culturally?

Chart of the New York Stock Exchange:

The two charts that I am focusing my attention on are the chart of America and the chart of the New York Stock Exchange. I use the NYSE chart for predicting financial events. That stock exchange began under the so-called “buttonwood agreement” which took place beneath a buttonwood tree outside 68 Wall Street on May 17, 1792 when 24 stock brokers drafted a trading constitution and the American stock markets came into existence. That began our financial institutions that have since grown into the NYSE, DOW, and NASDAQ. The NYSE is the granddaddy of the American stock markets, and thus the birth chart that I find most effective in predicting the movements of the markets. My rectification of that chart gives it a 10:00 A.M.

birth time, creating a Leo ascendant with Uranus near the rising sign. It is the most effective chart and has proven remarkably accurate in my predictions over the past three decades. In 2008 we experienced the Saturn-Uranus opposition at 18 degrees Virgo-Pisces. This was exactly on the NYSE Mars, which my rectification gives rulership to the 10th house of career and worldly status. I was able to predict the crash within a week of its occurrence about eighteen months in advance.

The chart of the NYSE is an interesting one. Jupiter is conjunct Neptune in opposition to a Saturn-Moon conjunction. When Saturn and Neptune work well together in any chart, the combination can be very successful as long as certain precautions are observed. Saturn has the ability to create a strong foundation upon which Neptune's talents and intuition are able to produce some powerfully constructive effects. Saturn will create reality out of Neptune's illusions. There are many successful and talented artists, business people and medical professionals with these two seemingly opposing forces in hard aspect. The NYSE chart is a good example of how this aspect can produce positive results. Our stock markets rise about 80% of the time and have created great wealth in this country. However, this opposition also shows the potential to create confusion and at times a problem of imbalance, which periodically leads to stock market crashes and intermittent instability.

In 2020 the Capricorn stellium sets off some serious aspects in the NYSE chart. In February 2020 transiting Saturn is in exact square to natal Saturn and very close to the square to natal Neptune. Pluto is within a degree of the square to natal Jupiter as it too applies to the square to natal Saturn and Neptune. Transiting Jupiter is in square to natal Moon and is also about to square Saturn and Neptune. Effectively the transiting stellium will create squares to all four

planets in the NYSE chart. These squares will continue throughout 2020 and once again be in close orb in September. This will create much fear and instability in the markets all year, and may result in a serious downturn, or possibly even a crash.

As I said above, it is often an inner planet that will act as the trigger to outer planet transits. We see this in client's charts and it is the same in mundane or world event astrology. In September 2020 Mars will be exactly conjunct NYSE natal Saturn, and in opposition to Neptune, as Saturn and Pluto are in orb of squares to Saturn and Jupiter. This will most likely be the button that has the greatest potential to unravel the financial markets. I believe that September into October 2020 will be the most likely time for a crash. As many of you know, October is our favorite month for stock market fiascoes. More crashes have occurred in October than in any other month. Everything will be primed and ready to go, but these things do not happen in a vacuum. We will be able to see the dominoes falling years in advance. Will we have a stock market crash in 2020? That depends upon what our society does between now and then. If we are able to shore up the underlying foundation, and put protective boundaries in place, we may be able to avoid another crash similar to 2008. I am optimistic that we can avoid such a catastrophe. However, with the European Union in such disarray, China's continued irresponsible financial actions, and our own national debt it may be impossible to circumvent a worldwide collapse. If it does occur, we will then require another restructuring of our markets and financial goals. So will America be thrown into a recession? Probably. Or even a depression? Probably not. And here's why.

During the collapse of 2008, while the rest of the world was panicking to find ways to protect their wealth, most invested in America. During normal times, our government pays

people and other governments interest for investing in our country by buying our bonds. In 2008, others were paying us a small fee just to put their money where they knew it was safest – in America. I don't believe this country will go bankrupt, nor will the world's economy completely fall apart. If you look at the history of the markets, every time there is a crash the smartest thing to do is buy the stocks. After the devastating crash of 1929-1931, in the midst of the worst economic collapse in modern history the American stock markets went up for seven years. Those with the money and faith to invest made a fortune. It was only the so-called Roosevelt recession of 1938, the result of the Republican congress demanding a balanced budget that led to a serious dip in the equities. But it was such a powerful reversal following the previous seven years of growth that it took the Second World War and the manufacturing boom the war effort created to finally bring us out of that recession. This is still the most stable and richest nation on the planet.

Pluto rules oil futures. It also rules trading markets. Saturn conjunct Pluto in 2020 will suppress the oil markets and the equities severely. Fossil fuels are a dying industry, although it will take another generation before its hold on our society is seriously lessened and we are able to move onto more sustainable energy sources. With Jupiter in the mix we should see serious ups and downs in the price of oil and the equities similar to what the stocks experienced in the 70s when there were violent swings in the markets. We are essentially still in an extended period following the Saturn – Uranus opposition of 2008-10. The last time that unstable configuration occurred was from 1965-7. It was followed by a 16-year period of sideways motion in the stocks. The markets made new highs several times only to fail at each point. It wasn't until 1982 when the stocks were exactly where they had been in 1967 that a new bull market began. Since the Saturn opposition Uranus in 2008-10 the stocks have recovered their losses but stagnated every

time they try to make new highs. We are not in a bull market, but in a recovering one. Since recouping the losses of the 2008-10 crash the equities have moved sideways. I expect that to continue for several more years with new highs followed by a failure to generate serious growth. However with Jupiter & Saturn conjunct Pluto in 2019-20 we could see a severe drop in the markets.

Now let's look at America's chart.

America's Chart:

In 2020 America will begin its Pluto return, an event no individual will ever experience, as it takes approximately 250 years to complete. In February 2020 transiting Saturn will conjunct America's Pluto while transiting Pluto is in opposition to our Mercury. That month Mars will enter Capricorn and begin to oppose our Venus. This combination will create a very powerful energy that America must be filter somehow. It is the beginning of an extended period that will last until the end of 2023 when Pluto will finally leave the orb of our Pluto and begin its entrance into Aquarius.

In September 2020 Mars will join Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto and conjunct America's Pluto. The interaction of America's chart and the NYSE chart is quite fascinating. America's Pluto, which as I said above rules all trading markets, is in square to the NYSE Saturn-Neptune opposition. This shows just how much our nation is reliant on the stock markets for its growth and how tied we are to the markets for our stability. With the transiting Capricorn stellium sitting exactly on America's Pluto and in square to the NYSE Saturn-Neptune opposition, the nation and the markets will be equally affected. The results will be intense, and likely bring about a

financial crisis that we will not be able to ignore or push away. If our government takes measures in advance to secure our markets, by strengthening the underbelly and restraining dangerous banking practices we will be able to limit the negative results and once again avoid a depression. If we do not take precautions it could be a very bad period. But I seriously doubt that we can sidestep all of the issues that will come up. Because of globalization and the interaction of all the world's markets, the responsibility rests not just with America, but with all of the nations and groups of nations we deal with on a daily basis.

The period of 2019-23 will be fraught with potential dangers. That seems obvious. But just how dangerous will it be, and what can we expect? Pluto rules Plutonium and nuclear material of all sorts. It is a transformative planet that demands deep changes, and when an individual experiences a powerful Pluto transit there is that sense of stripping away all of the layers to get down to the heart of the matter. This is also true when a marriage, company, or nation experiences Pluto. One way to look at this coming era is in a positive light. There are many issues in our society that demand change and transformation. Our species does not easily accept alterations until it has gone through some form of pain or discomfort. This is true of the individual and the collective. The combination of transiting Saturn, Jupiter, Pluto and Mars will certainly bring up some hidden concerns and put us through some degree of distress. With so many nations now holding nuclear weapons, including very unstable countries like North Korea and Pakistan, it can be argued that this coming stellium will result in our greatest fears being realized. That is a possibility. And perhaps there will be some sort of accident or attack involving nuclear energy or a nuclear weapon. But that is not an absolute by any means. We have had these weapons for more than 70 years, and so far have been able to avoid their use. No nation is

willing to suffer what would be an unimaginable result of firing off such a device, not even North Korea, which would most likely cease to exist if it ever launched one. But it is more the prospect of a rogue or terrorist group acquiring this horrible potential that is more frightening. Tom Clancy's book, *The Sum of All Fears* addressed such an event in a powerful and intelligent manner. Because expansive Jupiter is involved in this coming transit, something of great magnitude could occur. If so, what will be the aftereffects? Will the world finally realize the futility of war and forever ban such devices? Or will it result in an all-out cataclysm? Probably something in the middle.

Because America's chart is so involved in this coming stellium and because of the increase in terrorism, both home-grown and of foreign origin, we can expect that this potent configuration will result in more incidences of terrorism and possibly escalation in international conflicts. When Mars becomes activated in this alignment in early 2020 the violence and anger associated with the planet of war will push the collective towards confrontation.

The Hard aspects of Saturn and Pluto:

It is the conjunction of Saturn and Pluto that is the most difficult underlying energy. The relationship between Saturn and Pluto is a complex and intense one that often coincides with conflict. Here's the history for the last century of the hard aspects (conjunct, opposition and square) between these two planets.

*Saturn was conjunct Pluto in Cancer in 1914 - 15 at the beginning of the First World War.

*Saturn was in Libra in square to Pluto in Cancer in 1922 when Mussolini and Stalin came to power.

*Saturn was in Capricorn in opposition to Pluto in Cancer in 1931 as Hitler came to power.

*Saturn was in Taurus once again in square to Pluto in Leo in 1939 – 1940 as the Second World War began.

*The next conjunction was in Leo in 1948-49 when Mao Zedong's communist party defeated the Chinese Nationalists and took control of China.

*In 1955-56 the square occurred once again with Saturn in Scorpio and Pluto in Leo. In February 1955 Eisenhower sent the first U.S. advisors to South Vietnam.

*In 1965-66 the opposition took place with Saturn in Pisces and Pluto in Virgo. In March 1965 3,500 American marines arrived in Vietnam becoming the first combat troops in that country. In July 1965 President Johnson increased the number of troops in Vietnam to 125,000, and doubled the number of men drafted. The war's escalation was in full bloom. Anti-war protests also escalated drawing hundreds of thousands of demonstrators around the country.

*In 1973-74 Saturn in Cancer was in square to Pluto in Libra. The Paris Peace Accord was signed in January 1973, but the fighting continued. The Vietnam War officially ended with the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975 as the square between Saturn and Pluto pulls out of orb, finally bringing to an end this long war that had begun under conflicting aspects between these two planets. While Saturn (restriction) was in square to Pluto (ruler of oil) in 1972-73 we also experienced the OPEC oil embargo against the United States, Europe and Japan.

*In 1982-83 Saturn and Pluto once again were conjunct. The Falklands Island War took place pitting England against Argentina from April 2 – June 14, 1982. While it wasn't a major world war, it did have the potential to escalate beyond its regional borders. The Lebanon War began in June 1982 with Israel invading southern Lebanon and eventually reaching Beirut. In August 1982 the Lebanese Civil War escalated followed by the landing of a multinational force including American troops.

*In 1993-94 Saturn in Aquarius was in square to Pluto in Scorpio. Russia begins its war in Chechnya. In 2002-3 Saturn in Gemini was in opposition to Pluto in Sagittarius.

*In March 2003 the Second Gulf War began with the bombing and invasion of Iraq by U.S. led coalition forces.

*In 2009-10 Saturn in Libra was in square to Pluto in Capricorn. The war in Afghanistan saw the bloodiest year since the beginning of the campaign in 2001.

So historically there is reason to be concerned about potential wars and violence in the coming conjunction in 2020. The Saturn – Pluto aspects often lead to military situations, but sometimes they bring about the end of a violent time as we saw at the end of the Vietnam War. Because of the influence of Jupiter, which tends to blow things out of proportion, and Mars, the planet that rules war, it would be foolish to ignore the possibility of some major world event. And because this stellium conjuncts America's Pluto there is even more concern than usual. While I don't think it is possible to avoid all conflicts, especially in this era of lone-wolf attacks and disassociated groups, I believe we have the capacity to avoid major conflicts. The Internet has shortened the time it takes to share information, making most happenings simultaneously

current to all corners of the globe. World events become viral almost instantaneously. We are more aware of what's happening around us than we ever dreamed of in the past. Our reaction time has been shortened, and if we can move beyond the obstructionism that has become a part of our daily governing we might be able to use this period to make some serious and potentially extremely positive decisions that could expand our culture and finally deal with the dangerous issues we are confronting.

As I said at the beginning there are many potential problems that we will face over the coming years. The most pressing issues are the environment, climate change, and the limitations of resources including food, fuel, natural habitats and even sand, a most valuable and limited resource which we use to build everything from concrete for our buildings and roads, to glass for our windows. If we do not address these situations sufficiently and timely, we will leave our children a declining world that may not be fixable. But I am optimistic that we have been learning some valuable lessons over the past few decades that will help us deal with these problems. There is a good chance that it will result in the creation of the new political party bent on finding compromise to finally end the stagnation and move our society forward. It takes serious energy to make us alter our world. We can be a very lazy species. The coming stellium of 2020 may create some hard and painful moments, but it has the potential to finally force us to see the world and our place in it with a clearer and more honest perspective.