

Sky and Underworld: *The Jupiter/Pluto Conjunctions of 2020*

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On December 11, 2007 Jupiter and Pluto last conjoined at 28♄34, close to the galactic centre; hence the 29th degree of Sagittarius marked the commencement of the cycle that now cedes to the new cycle seeded this year in 2020. Thirteen years before their Sagittarian summit occurred, Jupiter and Pluto convened exactly thirty zodiacal degrees earlier during their 29th degree of Scorpio. This time both meet up in the last decan of Capricorn between 22♑52 and 24♑53. This Jupiter ó Pluto cycle, which began late in 2007, is winding down, reviewing and amending its policies, especially those concerned with more authentic and truthful interest in cross cultural issues, gender concerns and religious questions, testing the fervent prejudices and intolerances which pollute our social environment.

While the conjunction brings the hopeful expectation of a deeper, more authentic and truthful concern over governmental procedures, visionary leadership, climate change, the economy, fiscal policy and wealth creation, the unintegrated shadow aspect of this pairing suggests fervent prejudice and a toxic intolerance of differences. This, combined with the misuse of power and influence, can spill over into cultural hatred, ill-advised courses of action, power struggles and rigid ways of knowing and being. This is a cautionary conjunction.

To conceptualize what this planetary conjunction could mean, imagine a high powered summit amongst two influential leaders. In this case the board meeting brings Jupiter, the CEO responsible for moral and ethical concerns, certainty, faith, religion, education, law, publishing and the dissemination of information, together with Pluto, the trustee who rarely attends meetings, and if so, only when they are crucial. When Pluto appears in the controller's chair at this high-level meeting, his agenda brings what is hidden to the surface, bursting the boil to let the toxins free. His attendance marks a critical juncture in trying to bring past wounds, broken promises and severed relationships into the open. While on a humane level the intention is for healing, Pluto's objective to eliminate deep-seated problems and bring repressed issues and taboos to the surface is often acutely distressing.

However, Pluto is also concerned with power and powerlessness, and his meeting with Jupiter exposes some of the scandal and deceit in the affairs of those invested with worldly power, especially political and financial. During the previous cycle Jupiter was in a powerful position as the seed point of the cycle was in Sagittarius, but with this conjunction in Capricorn, Jupiter is in its sign of depression or fall. The past holds the future hostage; Pluto's agenda for reformation and decontamination is the priority. Both planets in the last decan of Capricorn marry the spheres of economics and ethics together, bringing governmental policy, organizations and systems in general to task. Corporations and directors that have failed must be held accountable or there is no scope to move forward, remaining held hostage by the past. Hence the cycle heralds an in depth probe into the fundamental structures, doctrines and values that support the syndicates of control, such as the government, economy and corporate business.

The Jupiter – Pluto Cycle of 12/13 years

Pluto's movement through the zodiac is irregular; however each successive conjunction generally occurs in the following sign. For instance the last conjunction in 2007 was at 28 ♄ whereas the previous conjunction in 1994 was at 28 ♋. Following is a table of all the conjunctions starting in 1771 when the conjunction was previously in ♑. Note that when Pluto is travelling its slowest through Taurus, the conjunctions are 10 - 12 degrees apart, but when in Scorpio, when Pluto travels the fastest, the conjunction is 33 degrees from the last one.

Date of Jupiter – Pluto Conjunction	Number in Series	Zodiacal Degree of Conjunction	Time Elapsed between Conjunctions	Degree of Separation in Conjunctions
November 12, 2020 June 30, 2020 April 5, 2020	3	22♃52 24♃06 24♃53	12 years 11 months	24°28′
December 11, 2007	1	28♂24	13 years	29°58′
December 2, 1994	1	28♍26	13 years 1 month	33°33′
November 2, 1981	1	24♌53	13 years 1 month	30°13′
October 13, 1968	1	23♍40	12 years 4 months	27°12′
June 16, 1956 February 8, 1956 November 2, 1955	3	26♈28 27♈36 28♈25	12 years 10.5 months	19°35′
August 1, 1943	1	6♈53	12 years 2 months	17°37′
May 27, 1931	1	19♉16	12 years 9.5 months	13°13′
Aug 10, 1918	1	6♉03	12 years 1.5 months	13°32′
June 26, 1906	1	22♊31	12 years 1 month	12°32′
May 18, 1894	1	9♊59	12 years 1 month	12°00′
April 12, 1882	1	27♈59	12 years 1 month	11°45′
March 4, 1870 October 29, 1869 July 27, 1869	3	16♉14 17♉12 17♉55	12 years 9 months	10°08′
June 12, 1857	1	6♉08	12 years 1 month	12°11′
May 6, 1845	1	23♊57	12 years 1 month	12°47′
March 30, 1833	1	11♊10	12 years 1.5 months	13°39′
February 18, 1821	1	27♋31	12 years 2 months	14°50′
December 27, 1808 August 31, 1808 May 20, 1808	3	12♋41 13♋41 14♋33	12 years 9.5 months	14°38′
March 14, 1796	1	28♋03	12 years 2 months	12°32′
January 10, 1784	1	9♋02	12 years 11.5 months	20°14′
February 25, 1771	1	18♃48	12 years 3.5 months	27°10′

The Mythology of the Conjunction

Nearly three thousand years ago the poet Homer told how Jupiter overthrew Saturn, his father, with the help of his brothers Neptune and Pluto. A new order came into being and the brothers divided the world, drawing lots to choose who would inherit the various spheres once governed by their Titan father. Pluto drew the lot of the underworld and Jupiter the heavens.

Pluto was allotted the realm of darkness and dominion over of the shades residing under the earth. As regent of the underworld kingdom, lord of death and rebirth, he is the silent and invisible brother who removes himself from worldly affairs, yet ironically senses and governs collective life at its deepest levels. As the guardian of the shades, Pluto is given the care-taking role of what lies underground - secrets, shame, buried passions, monstrous feelings, unexpressed grief and loss, negative reactions, simmering rivalries and rage, revenge, betrayal, as well critical issues that remain incomplete and unfinished between both allies and enemies. He is the custodian of what has been buried alive in the collective family; the complexes and patterns not adequately interred.

Even though he is to share the world, Pluto seldom ventures aboveground, choosing to remain in his underworld sphere. His nature is intense and intentional. After Pluto claimed the underworld, he relinquished his place on the Olympian pantheon for the world below. Rarely would Pluto come to the surface - mythology tells us of three times he ventured above the surface of the earth: the first time was to ask permission of Jupiter, Persephone's father, to take the young maiden below into his

realm; the second time was to snatch Persephone away from her home and drag her underground. The last time he ventured into the daylight was when he was injured by Heracles at the gate to the underworld and then ventured to high Olympus to be healed by Paeon, the divine healer. Pluto goes public for generally only two reasons: one to dominate and claim power over weakness, or alternatively, to heal and transform the current crisis. Either way his surfacing shakes the status quo and in 2020 his attendance at the summit with Jupiter heralds a change of power.

Jupiter was proclaimed the new sky god whose realm was heaven and light, unlike his elder brother Pluto who preferred the dark. As the younger brother he became the elder, ascending to the role of the supreme deity, founder of a new order insuring the dominance of the sky gods. Jupiter as the personification of the law became the ruler of Olympus, eclipsing the authority of his brothers. He is the overt carrier of cultural traditions, upholding the order of the state and the sanctity of the church, leaving his two brothers Neptune and Pluto to be carriers of human chaos and drama. Jupiter is the social visionary, the overseer of cultural progress, the ideal of the future, while his brothers hold onto the past and its legacy. Neptune and Pluto were named for the slowest moving planets that record the ethos of each generation and co-rule the depths of the unconscious. The ancient sanctuary of the sky animated by the personification of these mythic deities once again witnesses the brothers' reunion in 2020.

In Greek myth Zeus was the prototype for Jupiter. One of the epithets for Zeus aligns him with Pluto. Zeus Chthonian was one of Zeus' appellations which meant 'Subterranean Zeus' or 'Zeus of the Underworld' referring to Zeus of the lower world, acknowledging the darker aspect of the sky god. Chthon suggests a god of the earth as distinct from a god of the heaven. In this epithet the two gods of heaven and underworld become one, suggesting a more holistic and all-encompassing divine attitude. This union suggests tolerance of what is different, respect for what is unknown, and acknowledgment of what is unseen.

An amalgam of light and dark become possible in their union, without one overshadowing or obliterating the other. In the mythic past when Zeus became the bright god of Olympus, his dark shadow was cast on Hades. As brothers their relationship represents the polarity of dark and light and the rivalry between heaven and underworld. Zeus became triumphant and heavenly, while Pluto was invisible and subterranean. When the two deities are polarized the underbelly of faith and vision are exposed through dogmatism and righteousness. Integrity and honesty is veiled giving rise to inflation and prejudice. Yet this epithet reminds us of the familial relationship and sibling nature of Jupiter and Pluto, the light and dark aspects of the same human genealogy. The divine encompasses heroes and monsters, gods and devils. The epithet is a fitting metaphor for the ideals and potentialities of the upcoming conjunction. In this face we are reminded of the ancient link between both the god of heaven and the god of the underworld and the possible integration of light and shadow and acceptance of what is both visible and not visible. When separated, fanaticism, intolerance and dishonesty fester, yet when allowed to co-exist, integrity, collective vision and faith prosper.

In Greek myth Pluto was devoured by his father, Saturn, whereas Jupiter had not. Each experienced a different way of knowing and being in the cosmic family. Jupiter continued this legacy by swallowing Metis, the mother of Athena and the embodiment of feminine wisdom, suggesting that Jupiter's way of knowing things is to conquer and be triumphant. Jupiter is the archetypal way of knowing through conviction and intellectual superiority; that is, the wisdom of the goddess is interred in the gut. Surety leaves no room for doubt or instinctual knowing. Jupiterian knowledge overcomes and needs to be right; there is an authoritative assurance and righteousness about it. Jupiter is future orientated being in the ideal or the possibility, rather than the reality of the present. Endowed with far sightedness Jupiter is often ignorant of what needs to be healed in the moment.

Plutonic knowing is more instinctual and primal. While Pluto is familiar with not knowing and being engulfed in the darkness of uncertainty, he dwells in the past, holding onto grudges that are no longer appropriate. Pluto feels the incompleteness of what has past, blinded to the possibility of what could be by the untreated wounds of the past. When separate and unconscious, the two gods

unconsciously collude, which erupts in prejudice, xenophobia, lawlessness, terrorism and cultural separatism. Yet with a conscious collusion Jupiter and Pluto evoke a tolerant acceptance of social, racial, religious and cultural differences. Any categorisation that breeds prejudice can be potentially reconstructed in a life affirming way when these two archetypes are consciously blended.

The complex relationship of Jupiter and Pluto is evident in their various mythic encounters. While Jupiter and Pluto can combine to overthrow the old order to constellate healing we must be cognizant of not allowing the innocent to be abducted or violated in the process.

The Astronomy of the Conjunction

Pluto's orbit through the zodiac is fairly elliptical and at one point crosses over the orbit of Neptune for nearly 20 years in its 248 year orbit. Therefore its stay in each sign varies from 12 to 32 years endowing each generation with a unique experience of its cycle. Each Pluto generation as governed by its sign has its own distinct relationship with Plutonic initiations.

SIGN	TIME IN SIGN (current cycle)	SIGN	TIME IN SIGN (current cycle)	SIGN	TIME IN SIGN (current cycle)
♍	29 years 3 months	♏	19 years	♏	13 years 11 months
♎	31 years 6 months	♐	14 years 5 months	♑	16 years 7 months
♏	30 years 1 month	♑	12 years 1 months	♒	19 years 5 months
♐	25 years	♒	12 years 4 months	♓	24 years 1 months

Pluto crossed into the orbit of Neptune in January 1979 while in the tropical sign of Libra and crossed back outside Neptune's orbit in March 1999, in the sign of Sagittarius, being closest to the Earth and the Sun while transiting its own sign of Scorpio. When Pluto is internal to Neptune's orbit it is moving faster than Neptune and therefore takes less than 14 years per sign, no longer being the outermost planet.

On the other hand Jupiter's cycle through the zodiac is more regular, completing its orbit in just under 12 years spending on average one year in each sign. Due to their rates of speed Jupiter will catch up with Pluto on the zodiacal circuit in about 12 years when Pluto is moving slowly and 13 years when it has picked up speed. Jupiter was known to the ancients, but Pluto is a recent newcomer to the planetary pantheon. Its existence was confirmed in 1930 in the sign of Cancer. Therefore the Jupiter-Pluto grand cycle is a new phenomenon that mundane astrologers have studied only for the past nine decades.

In the signs that Pluto moves slowest through there will be two, sometimes three conjunctions of Pluto and Jupiter in that sign. In the faster signs where Pluto moves swiftly there will only be one. Hence as Pluto is moving above average speed now, the conjunctions take place at a greater zodiacal elongation. Of interest is also that Jupiter and Pluto are also very close in southerly declination; that is the same distance south of the Celestial Equator. Therefore both planets are conjunct and parallel emphasizing their union. In many ways the planet Pluto has also been reiterating its ancient relationship to its heavenly sibling Jupiter. Their conjunction is an alchemical amalgam of heaven and underworld and a herald of new reactions and manifestations of the mix of light and shadow.

The Astrology of the Conjunction

Astrologically, specific mundane spheres are governed by these two planets and we look to these arenas to anticipate what developments are more likely to manifest. The conjunction suggests a renewed pattern of relationship is possible between these two archetypal forces. Since Pluto is the slower moving of the two it is seen as the impregnating force while Jupiter is the vehicle of its dissemination. The conjunction, as mentioned, takes place in the Capricornian realm where Jupiter's exuberance is tempered and contained, weighing down the cycle with the deep necessity to atone for past injustices, negate the misuse of power and eliminate greed and entitlements to restore

the integrity of human values. This is a big call, but metaphorically (literally in Jupiter's case) these are big planets that represent large forces of nature and spirit.

JUPITER – PLUTO: The Sky God encounters the Lord of the Netherworld

JUPITER: Concepts and Principles	PLUTO: Integrity and Shadows
<i>Spirits and Visions</i>	<i>Ghosts and Secrets</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shared beliefs, cultural customs, ethics, morals • human values, ideals and tolerance • the religious instinct and racial tolerance of the people, clergy, religious sects, cults • the beliefs and faith of the people • foreign policies • law and justice, the courts, judicial inquiries, human rights • education, colleges, university, changes in educational systems • publishing and dissemination of ideas • marketing and media • prosperity and increase • philosophy, classics and all vocations that deal with lofty ideals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what lies below the surface of the group, in essence the collective shadow, the systems' self-destructive impulses • power and the ability to transform the collective system; irrevocable changes, death and finality • ecological consciousness, recycling, re-growth, replanting, disposal of toxic wastes, awareness of nuclear contamination • political intrigue, espionage, secret police and agents, black market, spies, terrorism, prostitution, shamans, healers and therapists of the culture • research: cancer research etc.; the collective attitude towards death and dying, hospices, oncology research, caring for the terminally ill • archaeology, psychotherapy and all vocations that deal with the underworld
<p>When the far-seeing visionary and the in-depth therapist meet to forge a path together, we might imagine more insight about the issues of death and dying as well as more research into this area and more education about issues that have been difficult to manage or sustain. Awareness of what has been repressed, hidden and secretive in the culture brings inquests and reports into criminal activities. Revelations about abuse, power, secrets and crime in the religious and political culture arise since Pluto symbolises the cleansing of the residue and dregs of cultural systems like education, religion and the media.</p>	

Mundane astrologers in the past have seen this cycle representing the rise of international terrorist activities, political realignments as well as economic changes. Certainly the next thirteen years will have these issues high on the agenda. During this cycle many other important astrological phenomena will occur, such as the 2020 winter solstice conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Aquarius; Pluto's ingress into Aquarius in 2023; Uranus' ingress into Gemini in 2025 and the 2026 Saturn/Neptune conjunction in the first degree of the zodiac at 0°45'. In 2025 Neptune wavers on the cusp between Pisces and Aries; when it finally enters Aries in 2026 it is the midpoint between Uranus and Pluto – all three outers are now in masculine signs. Hopefully the reconstructive images of the times, along with honesty and justice forged from the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction, can bring innovative ideas for the collective. It is a period of climate change, not just ecologically but socially and spiritually as well.

Understanding the processes of life and death is evoked by this planetary merger. To what extent depends upon the level of consciousness that is brought to this union. Certainly we could look forward to profound medical breakthroughs that improve the quality of life for the masses. The debate on euthanasia may again surface in an ageing population who want more freedom of choice and dignity in death. Discussion concerning the attitudes towards death and dying will be on the schedule perhaps constellated by a famous person's death, such as a statesman, a respected leader or powerful academic. Being in Capricorn, the moral rights of the elderly, the ethics, judgments and

laws concerning ageing, such as pensions, aged care facilities etc., are in the news and under review.

Both Pluto and Jupiter concern wealth ó Pluto refers to the ÷richesø in the underworld and Jupiter suggests abundance. While on paper this bodes well for wealth creation, the underside of this conjunction reveals that the divide between the privileged and underprivileged is more visible than ever before, with corporate wealth reaching gargantuan proportions. With both planets in Capricorn, the blow out of corporate wealth is a reality. New directives and laws on the accumulation of resources and wealth are possible. Awakened in the collective is the question of human values regarding wealth and resources and their distribution. The shadow side of riches ó greed, hoarding, misuse of power ó is exposed and treated. However like all systems and governments there is always the possibility of endless commissions and enquiries without real change. That is up to the vision of the leaders and the community at large.

The planetary combination demands judicial integrity, therefore the exposing of those in power through moral and ethical scandal could also be a feature of the cycle. Secrets and shame is likely to be exposed in the governmental, financial and corporate business sectors. As the combination suggests, the disinfectant and the scouring brush will be applied to financial systems and governmental institutions of power. The interfacing of these two planetary energies suggests new coalitions of power nationally. Any alliance made under the last cycle will be re-examined and retested. Certainly the duo heralds renewed combinations of political power and fiscal alliances ó new business and trade policies. The global threat of terrorism remains one of the main agenda items for Pluto and Jupiter. Underlying the threat of course is the gradual movement towards integration that intimidates monotheistic and monocultural systems and institutions. As Jupiter and Pluto combine, a potential new level of tolerating the diversity of human laws and systems becomes available. However like all seeds this depends upon how well we nurture the potentiality of the next cycle, as well as the level of consciousness (Sunlight) applied to it.

Astrology offers us an imaginal insight into the times to come. But the outcome is in our hands and those we empower as our leaders, mentors and guides. Let us hope that we choose wisely.

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