



The Saturn – Uranus Cycle:

in consideration of its 2021 series of waning squares

Over the last millennium the conjunction, or series of conjunctions, between Saturn and Uranus has occurred every 43 to 47 years. On average Saturn conjoins Uranus every 45 years, either once or three times; if three times, the second conjunction occurs when both planets are retrograde with the timing gap between the first and last conjunctions in the triple series being about 8 months. Each conjunction or series of conjunctions move forward between approximately 180 and 210 zodiacal degrees, an average of 195 degrees. This separation means that the conjunctions move through the zodiac in pairs of signs¹. Given the time span between each conjunction there are two each century. In the 20th Century these occurred in 1942 and 1988; in the 21st Century these occur in 2032 and 2079. In 2021 the current cycle seeded in 1988, in the last degrees of Sagittarius, reaches its waning square.

Dane Rudhyar coined the waning square a ‘crisis in consciousness’. In its last quarter, the cycle is fading, reflective, a contemplative time to consider how the seeds of the cycle have flourished or failed, so amendments can be made to improve the outcome. It is a time of looking back to support future developments. Charles Harvey suggested this cycle marked the ‘march of progress’ or the ‘myth of progress’ highlighting the cycle as symbolic of ‘the remorseless building up and breaking down of ideas, nations, cultures and civilisations.’² Today’s technological breakthroughs are tomorrow’s industrial dinosaurs; current gadgets end up in the op shop. At the waning square we are in the analytical phase of the cycle, digesting and reviewing its evolution.

Jung introduced us to the principle of enantiodromia from the philosophy of Heraclitus – ‘the view that everything that exists turns into its opposite’- using the term to suggest that the unconscious opposite of any process or practice emerges over the course of time, especially when a one-sided emphasis dominates its conscious life. This unconscious counterpart eventually bursts through its restraints, veering towards its opposite.³ At the waning square, the ever-present tension between innovative Uranus and conservative Saturn is taut. The possibility of extreme swings and blow ups between the two poles become heightened when the planetary archetypes remain entrenched, fixed in their viewpoint and unable to find middle ground.

Saturn and Uranus polarize conservative and liberal forces. Their cycle symbolizes the breakdown of authoritative regimes, boundaries and structures as well as the breakthrough of innovative and ground breaking policies. Depending on the context of the times, this could imply either a surge of capitalism or innovations for conservation. Given our predicament, grounding and implementing new reforms that benefit the stability and sustainability of the planet seem most crucial. Saturn represents structure, consolidation and tradition, while Uranus counters on the opposite pole of revolution, invention and technology. When the tension between the two is stretched, then traditional structures that govern give way to innovation, technological change and conversion. But these reforms are often accompanied by upheavals and mutinies.

Archetypally these two planetary gods have had a complex and antagonistic relationship since the dawn of time, so well described in the Greek myth of creation.

Order without liberty and liberty without order are equally destructive.

Theodore Roosevelt

The Mythology of the Conjunction

Both Uranus (Ouranus) and Saturn (Cronus)⁴ are sons of Gaia. Parthenogenically Gaia gives birth to Uranus, who then mates with her to father the twelve Titans, the youngest being Saturn. In this complex and primal family system, Saturn is both the brother and the son of his father. The original oedipal triangle enmeshes Saturn and Uranus in the triangular web with Gaia, the great mother Earth.

This myth reveals the structural human dynamic of rivalry and difference. This Saturn/Uranus instinctual and archetypal conflict between control and freedom, orthodoxy and innovation, conservation and liberation, obligations and options is inherent in all spheres of life. Whether racial, cultural, gender, generational, professional, political, social, economic or religious differences, the mythic conflict arises. When the disparity becomes extreme, the situation becomes volatile.

Gaia is one of the first five deities to emerge out of Chaos. As the temporal and grounding Earth, she gives birth to the Heavens, personified by Uranus, characterized as abstract, disembodied and perfectionistic. Saturn aligns with Gaia to overthrow Uranus. Saturn's weapon is the sickle; his method is castration. As the myth tells us, the severed genitals impregnate the ocean, the medium through which Aphrodite/Venus emerges. This complex results in Venus's appearance, the archetypal channel where mediation between Saturn and Uranus, responsibility and freedom, might be possible.

The myth, or at least this version of the myth, suggests Saturn and Uranus can come to some reconciliation through the Venusian way of mediation, relationship, compromise and choice. The Greeks saw the goddess as dual, aligning her with both heaven and earth in her epithets of Urania and Pandemos. Aphrodite's earthy appellation of Pandemos suggests 'for all people'. It is through the continuous suppression of and disengagement with Gaia that Ouranus is castrated by Cronus, which allows Aphrodite into the archetypal matrix.

Therefore, by Saturn consciously acknowledging and aligning with Gaia and in confronting Uranus's overwhelming abstract rationalizations, Venus comes to light. In context of the times, this conflict resonates with acknowledging, prioritizing and legislating climate change in the face of industrial protest, corporate justifications and governmental rationalizations. Also as Venus Pandemos surfaces, she mediates the prejudices, intolerances and disassociation on social, racial, gender and economic issues of inequality.

When we lose the right to be different, we lose the privilege to be free.
Charles Evans Hughes

The Astrology of the Conjunction

Our current cycle was seeded in 1988 in the last decan of Sagittarius. Let's follow the cycle through its 44 years:

1988	Date	Zodiacal Degree
Saturn Conjunction Uranus	13 Feb 1988	29♄55
	26 Jun 1988	28♄47
	18 Oct 1988	27♄49

1999/2000	Date	Saturn Zodiacal Degree	Uranus Zodiacal Degree
Saturn Waxing Square Uranus	18 Jul 1999	15♄36	15♃36♁
	14 Nov 1999	13♄04♁	13♃04
	13 May 2000	20♄45	20♃45

2008/2009/2010	Date	Saturn Zodiacal Degree	Uranus Zodiacal Degree
Saturn Opposite Uranus	5 Nov 2008	18♄57	18♃57♁
	5 Feb 2009	20♄39♁	20♃39
	15 Sep 2009	24♄42	24♃42♁
	27 Apr 2010	28♄46♁	28♃46
	27 Jul 2010	0♄25	0♃25♁

2021	Date	Saturn Zodiacal Degree	Uranus Zodiacal Degree
Saturn Waning Square Uranus	18 Feb 2021	7♄13	7♃13
	15 Jun 2021	13♄06♁	13♃06
	24 Dec 2021	11♄05	11♃05♁

2032	Date	Zodiacal Degree
Saturn Conjunct Uranus	28 Jun 2032	28 ^{II} 01

Within 24 hours of the 13 Feb 1988 conjunction, Saturn slipped into Capricorn. Uranus followed two days later, joining Neptune already in the sign. An age of Capricorn followed with the 1989 Saturn/Neptune conjunction and the 1993 Uranus/Neptune conjunction, both in Capricorn. Similarly, the waning square follows a time of Capricorn with Jupiter and Saturn having conjoined Pluto in this sign in 2020. After Jupiter and Saturn conjunct in Aquarius, they move to form squares with Uranus in Taurus. Jupiter forms the first square with Uranus on January 17, setting the stage for the Saturn-Uranus squares to follow.

Of interest, the Saturn/Uranus cycle repeats the waxing squares of Taurus and Aquarius in a mirror image; the fixed degrees of the 14 Nov 1999 square are now replicated in the waning square of 15 June 2021. The gap between the ideals and the reality is at its pressure point - the Earth can no longer bear the political maneuvering. This time in the cycle suggests new reforms and new visions must be more pandemic, that is, more for the people.

The period following the 1988 conjunction chronicled many events synchronous with the symbols of the times, such as the fall of the Berlin Wall and the unification of Germany (1989), the release of Nelson Mandela and the beginning of dismantling apartheid (1990), the fracture of the Soviet Union (1991) and the restructuring of many European borders, such as Yugoslavia (1992).

This combination suggests innovative, revolutionary, radical and activist impulses begin to infiltrate existing structures and boundaries. In 1988 the USSR began its restructuring process to break down its harsh regime. After the 1987 Wall Street crash the world turned to promoting global trade while pressure built between Islam and the West; rumblings that reverberate through the cycle. Both Saturn and Uranus can be inflexible in action and opinion, fuelling the flames of insurgency, opting for control materially or scientifically. Hence Andre Barbault suggested this cycle was right-wing, essentially conservative and authoritarian, leaning towards capitalism.⁵ In terms of the environment there can be a struggle between conservation and free enterprise. Gaia often roars her disapproval through earthquakes and natural disasters.

At the waxing square Nelson Mandela stepped down from office, while on the first day of the opposition Barack Obama won the American presidential election. A month after the waxing square a severe earthquake in Turkey killed over 17,000 while in the midst of the opposition the deadliest earthquake so far of the 21st Century occurred in Haiti. Many more events can be linked through the cycle, but it is not the event that repeats, it is the symbol. As astrologers, how can we best reflect on the symbol, given the outer events to date?

There is no easy walk to freedom anywhere, and many of us will have to pass through the valley of the shadow of death again and again before we reach the mountaintop of our desires
Nelson Mandela

The 2021 Waning Squares

To look forward we look back at the unfolding of the cycle, which is always a subjective exercise, no matter how objective or impartial we are. We each have our biases and ways of seeing. Not being a political specialist I rely on the astrological symbol. Symbols link images through time. Events are not only literal episodes, but symbolic images that reflect the archetypal dialogue and ambience of the times.

Both the old and new rulers of Aquarius are at right angles, evoking an image that these two landlords need to rewrite the lease on their Aquarian homeplace in order to assure democratic and egalitarian rights. Uranus in Taurus brings ecological issues like pollution, global warming, climate change, plant and animal extinction etc. to the fore. It also addresses the changes necessary in policies and attitudes

towards resources, monetary instability, economic equalities, tariffs, exchange and fiscal fairness. An overhaul of the political mindset with a systemic rather than a ruling approach to Gaia must be considered. The Earth, its resources and all living organisms on and in it are in the spotlight. The great mutation of the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction initiates a focus from Earth to Air; synchronously the squares of the Saturn/Uranus cycle also reiterates the earth/air theme. Time to consider new ways of thinking and actioning environmental and fiscal politics.

Following are some points to help us reflect on the potential interchange that the waning Saturn/Uranus squares may constellate:

SATURN / URANUS: <i>The Clash of the Titans</i>	
SATURN Tradition and Convention	URANUS Modernization and Innovation
<p style="text-align: center;">♄ <i>Authority and Conservatism</i></p> <p>Saturn symbolizes the governing body and the laws and structures that provide order, coherence, continuity, stability and security for the people and its elders, mentors and leaders. Saturn symbolizes the consensus reality of the group; therefore it is what the system not only dictates, but the values it accepts or rejects as being authentic and true for the organization.</p> <p>Saturn symbolizes the one who rules; in mundane astrology it is the ‘ruling class’ or the controlling body of an organization, whether that is a self-governing or elected administration, a dictator, supervisor or manager. Therefore Saturn also implies the quality of freedom and self-regulation that the community experiences. Saturn is the government and its institutions that provide order, stability and security for its citizens. In worldly concerns it is connected with law and enforcement, leaders in positions of authority, the executive branch of the government, outdated procedures and policies, the aged, issues concerning the elderly, the conservative element as well as the traditions of the culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The peoples’ attitude towards law and its enforcement; the need for law and order • The leaders in positions of authority such as corporate heads of large institutions and political parties • Law enforcement agencies • Police as law enforcers (also Mars) • Executive branch of the government • Outdated procedures and policies • The Administration, the Cabinet and Executive • Secretary of State and State officials • The aged and issues of the elderly • The conservative element in the society, the ‘old guard’, the hierarchy • Traditions of the culture 	<p style="text-align: center;">♅ <i>Rebellion and Free-thinking</i></p> <p>Uranus’ penchant for revolution, upheaval and change that breaks down outmoded, conservative structures also applies in mundane astrology. The planet’s discovery reflected its revolutionary theme, as its sighting by William Herschel synchronized with the time of the French, American and Industrial revolutions. Uranus propels the community forward, often through political unrest, technological innovations or a collective change of consciousness. Uranus is associated with community progress, free speech, political and economic upheaval, societal unrest, dissidence, volatility, strikes, riots, the collapse of the old order, technological advancements and their impact on society, medical discoveries, breakthroughs and experimentation, sub cultures, cults, sects, natural upheavals and technological disasters as noted below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need of the community to progress, to change • Political upheavals and revolutions, coups, societal unrest • Dissidence, economic disruption and volatility; protests, moratoriums, strikes, riots • The collapse of the old order, overthrow of the ruling party • Technology; technological advancements • The internet and social media and their impact on culture, education and society • Medical breakthroughs and experimentation • Those who represent the people: legislators, senators, representatives of parliament, the House of Commons, Congress • Sub cultures, counter culture movements, alternate societies, cults, sects and marginal others within the community

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conglomerates and big business • Severe extremes of weather - snowy cold winters, hot dry summers • Construction industry, the nation's buildings • Mining, landowners, farming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to be an individual in the group, free speech, the freedom in the society • Natural upheavals: typhoons, hurricanes, earthquakes, lightening and other major technological disasters (i.e. airplane crashes, Titanic, Three Mile Island)
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ENDNOTES

¹ For instance, the pairings of the Saturn-Uranus conjunctions since 1124 have been:

1124/5 in Virgo; 1172 in Pisces	1215/16 in Libra; 1262 in Aries
1306/7 in Scorpio; 1352 in Taurus	1398 in Sagittarius; 1442 in Gemini
1489 in Capricorn; 1533 in Cancer	1580 in Aquarius; 1623/4 in Leo
1671 in Pisces; 1714 in Virgo	1761/2 in Aries; 1805 in Libra
1852 in Taurus; 1897 in Scorpio	
1942 in Taurus (at last degree of Taurus and pattern breaks here but continues with next conjunction)	
1988 in Sagittarius; 2032 in Gemini	

² Charles Harvey, "Anima Mundi: The Saturn-Uranus Duet" from *Apollon*, Issue 3, August 1999, The CPA, London: 1999.

³ Jung, Carl (1990), *The Collected Work of CG Jung, Volume 6*, translated by H.G. Baynes, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ: 1971, ¶ 708 -9.

⁴ Greek and Roman names are interchanged: Ouranus and Uranus; Cronus and Saturn; Aphrodite and Venus.

⁵ See Baigent, Campion and Harvey, *Mundane Astrology*, The Aquarian Press, London: 1984, p. 181.