

EMERGENCY 9.11. EMERGENCE

Saturn/Pluto, Sun/Moon, Mercury/Saturn

Celestial Navigations #15
October, 2001

My first reaction was of stunned awe. The demonic genius of targeting the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, sacred symbols of American economic and military might! David snuck up on this sleeping high-tech Goliath, stabbed him in the heart with a knife.

Though I was in as much shock as anyone, my belief that the U.S. was an arrogant, ignorant, brutal, self-serving bully, its karma long overdue, was buttressed by the attack. For if terrorism is terrible, so are its roots in injustice and oppression. “Finally,” I thought, “the day has arrived when the weak serve justice to the strong. Our 3000 dead are nothing compared to millions of people starved of their birthrights and put into low-wage slavery by corporate national policies which enslave the third world to serve America’s metastasizing greed.”

That was my first response. But then, as those early days crawled by, and especially the nights — oh those nights! — when my ideological guard was down, I was catapulted into the maelstrom of fear, grief, terror, fury, confusion, and chaos crowding the mass mind. I too grew afraid and confused. I could feel myself being sucked into the collective vortex, life force ebbing away.

Instinctively, I did the only thing I knew how to do, when threatened with extinction: I moved to center myself, to ground myself into Mother Earth. I practiced QiGong and Tai Ch’i daily, I climbed mountains, I rubbed the bellies of my kitties; I sat in silent witness to the sun and moon and stars as they rise and set in their courses, oblivious.

Within a day or so, rather than desperately fending off chaos with the armor of belief, I was able to invite a tiny bit of the chaos into awareness, and, while remaining centered, work to transform chaotic energy into loving kindness. I began to direct this compassion towards my “enemies,” the leaders of the U.S. — *my* scapegoats — the very ones who had made Obama bin Laden *their* scapegoat.

For weeks I made this my regular nighttime meditation: to notice where I was in judgment, where I felt separate, where I held hate in my heart, and to bring those who were the objects of my judgments into awareness, and surround them with compassion transformed from chaos. This helped. I could be of service. I no longer felt crazy.

Over the past few nights my nighttime meditation has been mutating. At first, I noticed that I was able to take in more negativity without overwhelm. That my capacity for transforming chaos into compassion had increased. One night I noticed that with each breath my chest was expanding, that in my breathing in and out I was opening and holding a space for all peoples.

At first, I was on the outside of that space, tangent to it, as if I were mothering the world, my arms around her. Then, gradually I found myself moving to the center of that space and sensing other people, hidden in the corners of ordinary life, also standing in their own center points, all of

us collectively opening a vast space to include all living beings, their ancestors, their descendants.

This space which we are opening is alive. It shimmers with energy, its vibrations traveling at warp speed to bathe us all in divine light.

During the time when we are bombarded with news of hatred and fear and destruction, it feels to me that this work on the invisible causal planes is important. That there is nothing more vital. That we who hold all of humanity in our heart's embrace are seeding love in place of fear.

Think of it. We are finally here. The day has arrived when our long training in metaphysics is put to the test. Those of us who have been working to clear our personal auras of negativity for decades are being called into action. Thirty years ago Carlos Casteneda taught us that "Death walks by our left side," and all humans feel Death now, breathing down our necks. There is no avoiding Death. We can only embrace Death. Daily we die to our small selves, our petty concerns, and re-center ourselves inside what matters, what makes a difference.

Imagine it! Finally, all of us sharing the same experience, having the same temptation to lapse into fear, and the same challenge to convert fear to love. Imagine! Never before have we had such an extraordinary image as the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, that perfect symbol of polarity, of the projection out upon the Other of that which we cannot accept within, falling. The twin towers of ego, crashing to the ground.

I sense that we are in the initial stages of a massive and still largely undetected collective mutational process. Our minds, made up beforehand, have been blown out. Our hearts, closed to strangers, have been blown open. Our personalities, asleep to our soul's contract with this life, have made contact. Contact which turns the key to the unfoldment of our unique natures and opens us to de Chardin's Omega Point: Oneness, the Soul of humanity.

Not everyone is choosing love. But many more than I would have expected. Certainly many many more than during the Gulf War. What we are calling our "wake-up call" did exactly that. And, as a result, the world has changed. We breathe a different air. As those high-fallutin' towers melted to the ground, so did this event ground us into reality. We are no longer frivolous, no longer see the world through the lens of irony, no longer seek thrills to enliven a humdrum existence. Reality TV and action movies are suddenly irrelevant. As are many of our projects, plans, our views of ourselves and our work. We now know what counts: life, family, friends, food, shelter, health, work that matters, and service to those who suffer. Period. All the rest is froth.

And if we need reminding, we need only recall the ash, millions of bits and pieces of paper documenting the trading of money and things, silently floating down like snow; what we used to think was so important swirling around our feet, blown into corners, littering streets.

So, as the leaders of this nation begin yet another war, a divide has opened up between this old way of settling disputes and the new authority we now feel through the meaning we rediscover in our own lives. This new authority seeps into our leaders as well. They too, have been touched by

the divine, and it shows in the fact that we did not immediately respond to the event with overwhelming force, that we have at least begun to listen to other nations and their concerns, that this nation is now considering the possibility of a Palestinian state, that we are providing humanitarian aid to refugees who are leaving the country we are striking. The two impulses, war and compassion, paradoxically now exist side by side.

The two, becoming one. The two, America and the rest of the world, becoming one. The two, public outer world and private inner world, becoming one. The two World Trade Towers, in their collapse, becoming one. Those in doomed United Flight 93 becoming one in their decision to serve a greater life in their dying.

The stories of unity which came out of New York City set the example for the world. The calm, orderly lines leading down the 90 stories of the towers, with openings provided for those who were badly hurt, some carrying or leaning on others. The spontaneous rituals springing up in Union Square park, channeling grief into compassion. One story the *New York Times* told of two Armenian immigrants, hauling a six-foot-tall handmade "tower" with an "eagle" sculpture fashioned out of wire into the park. Within minutes, this icon served as a centerpiece for flowers, notes, other mementos of grief in death. "In the morning it seemed ridiculous," said the reporter. "By evening, it was simply necessary."

The Walls of Prayers with thousands upon thousands of flyers, documenting the disappeared, personal vignettes memorializing them, in the *New York Times*. The woman who said that when she watched TV in her apartment she felt lonely; "I feel better when I go outside," she said, to join others in the street.

I just returned from a flight to Boston, and noticed a distinct difference in the way we passengers treated each other, worked with each other, spoke kindly, laughed.

Some pilots tell their passengers to take charge of any would-be hijackers by throwing pillows and blankets at them, and tackling them. These pilots ask their passengers to greet their seatmates, and to tell each other something about their lives.

With a few words, a bunch of nervous strangers coalesces into a flying community And where there is community, there cannot be hijackers. The two are incompatible. Terrorism thrives on anonymity. When we acknowledge each other, and unite in common purpose, terrorism cannot survive.

Many of us view terrorism as a virus, and we seek to build the immune system of civilization so that terrorism will no longer be able to feed on fear. The fear which comes when we feel alone, vulnerable, unprotected. As formerly self-centered New Yorkers discovered, none of us is alone in an anonymous crowd. We are unique individuals, we are legion, and we are united in a common purpose, to co-create community. Prompted by the invigorating spectre of Death, we shed our distractions to follow the Soul's purpose.

Many astrologers. Have commented on the astrology of this event and, using many techniques, have found an unusual number of interesting planetary configurations.

Rather than focusing on details, I will look at the simple stark architecture of the September 11 catastrophe. First, I will consider the chart for the event itself and its links to the U.S. Chart. And secondly, I will once again consider two critical longer-term transits and progressions to the U.S. chart.

The Ascendant of the event chart was 14° Libra, with the transit of Mercury *exactly* upon it. The Ascendant/Mercury combination hooks up to the U.S. natal Saturn, again, *exactly*, at 14° Libra. It also squares the U.S. Sun at 13° Cancer, which itself was conjunct transit Jupiter! The U.S. Sun is exactly the Sun of George W. Bush, who was born on our nation's birthday. This may account for *the enormous (Jupiter) national pride (Sun) and national discussion (Mercury) streaming forth in the wake of this historic tragedy.*

Mercury rules transportation, and is in Libra, an air sign; the outer planets Neptune and Uranus are crossing through the air sign Aquarius, ruling aeronautics.

I attribute the fact that we did not immediately “bomb the hell out of them” to Saturn, which slows us down, asks us to take responsibility for our actions and to recognize consequences. Of course, the issue of civil liberties is up, and its opposite, control, another Saturn theme. And of course, this attack made us feel vulnerable (Cancer), and we seek to secure (Saturn) our Cancer Sun homeland.

There were also an unusual number of trines and sextiles (geometrical aspects of ease and harmony) in the heavens on and around September 11. At first I puzzled over this, wondering how to connect it to a terrorist attack!?! But we can certainly say that it made that attack operate smoothly, almost perfectly, with three of four targets hit. Let us also remember that this same smoothness can be ours; those flowing aspects indicate that whatever course of action taken will offer a natural continuous flow.

This may account for my sense that the collective is undergoing a mutational process, that anyone whose heart is opening as a result of the shock of this event is unfolding like a flower, easily, naturally.

Thus it is well to remember that flowing aspects in the heavens can be utilized by either fear or love. It depends on our perspective. Choose fear, and things inexorably (and easily) fall apart. Choose love, and things inexorably (and easily) come together. This stark choice appears to be the case both individually and collectively.

In several previous CN bulletins I mentioned that the U.S. was nearing the first New Moon phase in its history; that the Progressed Sun was about to cross the Natal Moon for the very first time. That this conjunction signifies a death and rebirth of this nation.

This first Progressed New Moon for the U.S. chart is exact this month, October 2001, though its influence lasts for years: the years preceding it, when old ways are dying, and the years succeeding it, when new ways seed themselves into the collective.

I want to discuss this extremely significant aspect in the life of this nation further, as it can throw new light on what is going on.

The Sun crosses the Moon: the male principle unites with the female principle: the need for action and the need for feeling are equal, and they fuse. Whatever actions this nation takes during this time are based on the collective feelings of its people, and every action taken will result in feelings. We are a long way from the Gulf War, a sanitized media event, watched with detachment from afar.

The union between male and female principles is illustrated on a deeper level with the original placements of the Sun and Moon in the U.S. Chart. The Sun, a male principle, is in Cancer, a female sign. The Moon, a female principle, is in Aquarius, a male sign.

The Sun, in crossing through Aquarius and conjuncting the natal Aquarian Moon, carries its original Cancerian qualities. In order for this next 360-year Sun/Moon cycle to unfold creatively, there must be a fusion of the principles of Cancer and Aquarius. These two signs are in a 150° relationship to each other across the zodiac. This aspect, the “inconjunct,” carries the meaning of stress, strain, continuous adjustment. It is difficult to fuse the qualities of home-bound, clannish, vulnerable, nurturing, hyper-sensitive, defensive, personal Cancer with the qualities of detached, objective, far-seeing, impersonal, individualistic, humanitarian but personally insensitive Aquarius! Yet that is exactly what is happening now, in some way. If we become aware of the disparate qualities of Cancer and Aquarius, and learn how to honor both simultaneously, we will create a world which will respect and honor the birthrights and homeland of all peoples, not just those within our national borders.

So far, what the U.S. seems to be doing is identifying with Cancer (the homeland, feeling vulnerable, needing security and safety), and projecting out Aquarius (which, in low form, can produce terrorists, those who are so individualistic that they ignore the rule of law and have no feelings for others). And, no doubt, the Others whom we despise also see themselves in a Cancerian manner, seeking a homeland, or having a homeland which has been devastated by what they view as the long-term (Aquarian) terrorism of the United States against them.

The U.S. is the leader of the world, and in order to lead it must inspire. Let us surrender to the natural unfoldment of this once-every 360-year conjoining of the Sun and Moon. Let us allow the (Aquarian) nervous system of our country to re-configure its (Cancerian) emotional system so that we extend our ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of. Happiness to all humanity.

We need to unite these two principles in our own nation, taking back the projections onto the Other as at fault for what has happened, and recognize how America has terrorized the rest of the world. But we cannot expect our nation to do this until we as individual citizens model what that means. This is why I personally consider it my duty to seek to identify those against whom I am in judgment and surround them with compassion.

This crucial unfoldment of the soul of our great nation is utilizing the aspect I have been focusing on all year, transit Pluto opposite transit Saturn as it affects the Ascendant/Descendant axis of the U.S. chart. Let us once again look at these two planets:

Pluto. Pluto has a 248-year cycle, so long that we can never complete it, and therefore never comprehend its full meaning. We can only surrender to its inexorable power. Pluto brings down what has reached too high, destroying in order to renew. Pluto governs the eternal cycle of life and death, releasing us from attachment to what we thought and had been taught was so important, and in killing some of us off, leaves the rest of us grateful for simply being alive. Pluto unmasks our carefully constructed personas to reveal the life force underneath which is ruthless and impersonal; which gives and takes away; which leaves us empty and depleted, depressed. Dead. No, alive! Because breathing, and now moving, from our center rather than our periphery. If we honor this new life, then Pluto fills us with the energy of creation. When we accept the gift of Pluto we center ourselves in the path that is ours alone, that no one else can fill; that were we not to fill it, there would be a hole in the fabric of the universe.

Saturn. Saturn has a 28-30 year cycle. Its quarter cycles of 7+ years show up as the “7-year itch.” Unlike Pluto, we *can* understand Saturn, and one of the marks of maturity is being able to correctly utilize this most important ally. Saturn helps us take responsibility for our own lives, setting goals and doing the long hard disciplined work of practicing the skills we will need to achieve them.

Pluto opposite Saturn signifies that our personal goals may have to be subsumed into the exigencies of Pluto’s power of destruction and creation. Or, Pluto opposite Saturn can signify that those personal goals must be aligned with Pluto’s power in order to be meaningful during times of death and rebirth. Trivial pursuits mean nothing now. Only what matters counts. And everything meaningful matters.

During this Pluto/Saturn time, long-term patterns are breaking, fracturing into bits and pieces, ash. Whether these patterns be in the geo-political realm, or in our personal habits of belief and feeling and action, or in family and tribal dynamics centuries old; all patterns which have held energy in forms which are no longer viable are shattering. It takes energy to hold energy in form; as things fall apart energy is released. More and more energy is circulating around the world, attempting to move through us. Those whose energy has been cemented into thick-set forms which stubbornly hold out for more of the same may die. Many others, who have been clearing their emotional bodies for decades now, recognize that more and more chi is going to be seeking to move through them, and that they will need to practice disciplines which help contain and move chi.

Much power (Pluto) is available to those whose discipline (Saturn) has created forms flexible enough to direct and move vast amounts of life energy.

I am speaking about the right use of the Pluto/Saturn energy. It can also be used for destruction. We should not be surprised that the U.S. attack on Afghanistan, which began on October 7th, around 12:30 P.M. EDT, Washington, D.C., put Pluto on the Ascendant and Saturn on the Descendant of the U.S. chart. For Kabul, Afghanistan, about 10 hours away, the Pluto/Saturn axis was reversed, Saturn near the Ascendant and Pluto on the Descendant.

October 7th was notable for the position of the transiting Sun. On September 11, the Sun of the event chart was hidden away, in the 12th house. Moving at the rate of one degree per day, on October. 7th it hit the Ascendant of the event chart, lighting up both Mercury, and the natal U.S. Saturn. (The timing is so uncanny that I wonder if, like Hitler, U.S. war-planners utilize astrology.)

Finally, let's remember that this war is as much "psy-ops" (military code for psychological operations) as literal death and destruction. The war is being fought on many fronts, they tell us, and one of them is for our hearts and minds. Both Osama bin Laden and our corporate media (the propaganda arm of our government) fill the airwaves with fear. We can choose to allow that fear to paralyze us, or we can choose to transform fear into compassion.

For what may be the first time in history, we are all focused on the same experience, and how we interpret and work with this experience will determine how the destiny of humanity unfolds. As corporate media usually looks for the bad and amplifies it, so it is our task to look for the good and amplify it. Let us remember: there are so many more of us little people than there are of them! Let us use the circulation of the primal life force energy filling our common space to sow seeds of compassion which will bloom into a garden of peace.

*The holiest of all the spots on
Earth is where an ancient hatred
Has become a present love.*

— Key 522, Course in Miracles