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# THE HERBST NEWSLETTER

*astrological-cultural-spiritual-political views & opinions*

--- Thoughts, dates, and reminders about our lives as members of the craziest species on this lovely planet. Like a message in a bottle washing up on the sandy shores of consciousness ---

*Issue #123 – June 2010*

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Dear friends,

Over the coming months of summer, two astrological configurations stand out in bold relief — one in late June, the other in early August. Both are cardinal Grand Crosses (enlargements or “completions” of the Saturn-Uranus-Pluto T-square that is the dominant alignment in our heavens through 2011), both are of relatively brief duration, and both are likely to provoke considerable buzz within the astrological community (especially online). The first of these two configurations is the subject of this month’s newsletter.

--Bill Herbst

## Commentary: **June’s Lunar Eclipse and Grand Cross**

On Saturday, 26 June 2010, at 11:30 a.m. GMT, a partial lunar eclipse occurs in the heavens. Like all full Moons, this is an alignment of Sol (the sun), Terra (the earth), and Luna (our moon), where the sun and moon line up on opposite sides of the earth. A lunar *eclipse* occurs when the three bodies are aligned not only in longitude, but in declination as well, so that they form momentarily a straight line, with the shadow of the sun cast by the earth passing directly over the face of the Moon, literally blacking it out for a number of minutes. When the alignment is exact, the eclipse is called *total*. The entire face of the Moon’s disk is covered by the Sun’s shadow. A *partial* eclipse, such as the one coming up this month, occurs when the alignment among the three bodies is almost but not quite straight, in which the Sun’s shadow cast by the earth darkens only a part of the Moon’s surface.

Eclipses usually come in pairs, with a solar and lunar eclipse separated by two weeks. The stronger symbolically of the two pairings is when the solar eclipse occurs first, at the beginning of the lunar month, to be followed by the lunar eclipse two weeks later, at the halfway or fulfillment point of that cycle. When the order is reversed, as is the case with this June lunar eclipse and the July 11th solar eclipse that will follow, the eclipses are spread over two lunar months,

diluting their meaning to some extent. On the other hand, meaning is made more emphatic when the two eclipses occur on one sign axis, as in this case, where the solar eclipse aligns the Sun and Moon in Cancer, while the Moon is in Capricorn for the lunar eclipse. That carries a certain natural sensibility.

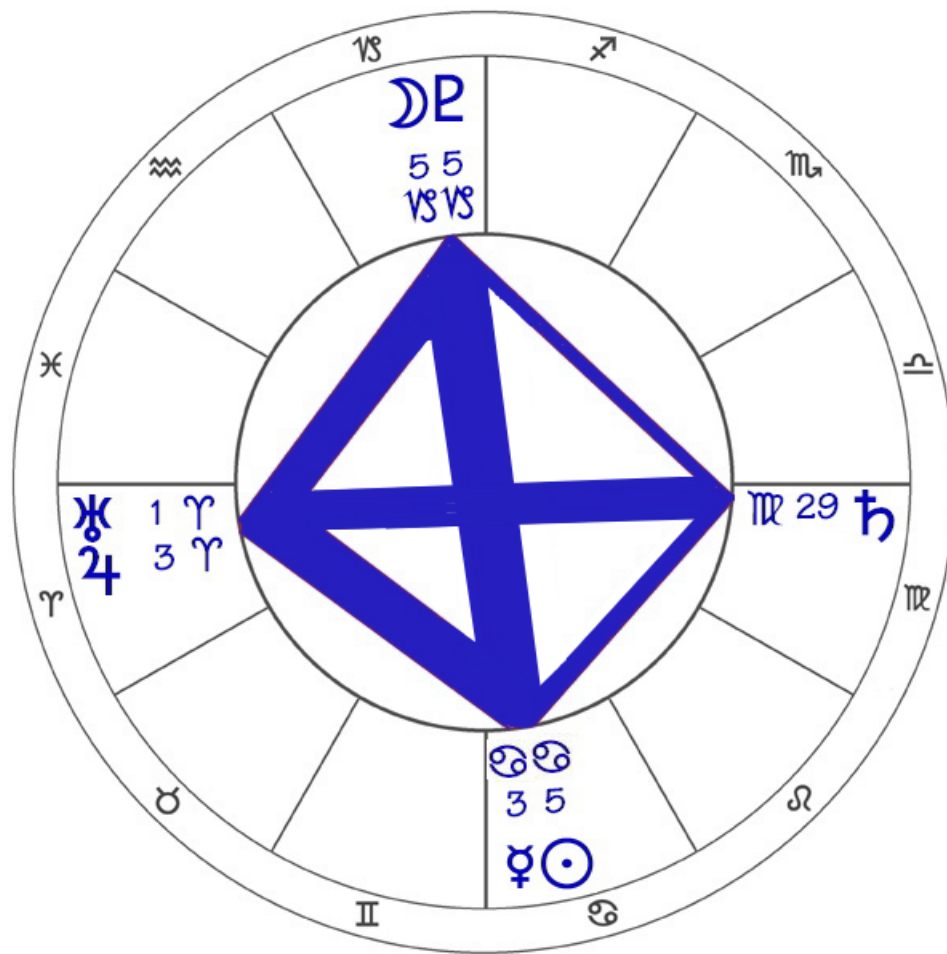
Every month contains a new and full moon, since that's what a "month" is: one lunar revolution around the earth, where our moon waxes and wanes in relation to the sun, both visually and in arc of separation. Months are the natural measure of fertility periods in menstrual cycles. The rhythm of eclipses is generally two pairs per year, with the pairs occurring every six months. As a result, the effective period of expression for the symbolic significance of a given eclipse pair is about two seasons. Astrologers differ as to when to define these effective periods: Do the eclipses themselves mark the beginning or the middle of their effective periods? Personally, I like the idea of the eclipse being the point of greatest significance, so I regard the effective period as one season before the eclipse pair through one season after. That would mean that the June-July pair of eclipses have an effective period from spring through summer 2010.

June's partial lunar eclipse occurs at 4° 46' of the Cancer-Capricorn axis (with the Sun in early Cancer and the full Moon opposite in early Capricorn). The Sun's position happens to be precisely at the "missing" or "fill" point of the already formed Saturn-Uranus-Pluto T-square, which has now been joined by Jupiter in early Aries (an addition to this archetypal matrix that will remain through much of 2010).

What makes this configuration noteworthy? It unifies two otherwise separate events: The axis of a lunar eclipse (a significant occurrence) is integrated into the geometry of a slow-moving outer-planet T-square (a profoundly meaningful long-term event). The Grand Cross is also significant for the number of major bodies involved: seven in all — Sun, Moon, Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Pluto. The only factor that detracts slightly from the symbolic importance is the fact that Saturn as one corner of the Grand Cross is *dissociate*, meaning at the last degrees of mutable Virgo rather than the early degrees of cardinal Libra. This is a relatively minor quibble, however, for Saturn is still within tight orb (2°) to Uranus in the first degree of Aries, and relatively tight orb (4°) to both Jupiter at 3 Aries and Mercury at 3 Cancer. One could even make the case that Saturn's position at the end of Virgo gives it a special emphasis by making it the "weak link" in the Cross. I don't know if that's true or not, but it logically factors into any scenario of meaning for the Eclipse/Grand Cross.

All these distinctions may seem arcane to some readers (men more than women, given that the biological connection to lunar cycles is less obvious for us than for the fairer sex), but they are part of the fundamental way astrology confers meaning on events. There are good reasons why some astrological configurations are considered more important than others, and *coherence* is a major factor in those equations. This particular coming together of a long-term event (the outer-planet T-square) and a short event (the lunar eclipse) has a greater astrological significance because its various components form an extremely coherent pattern.

Here is a customized chart of the event, showing only the planets involved:



26 June 2010  
11:30 a.m. GMT

OK. Enough abstraction. What the heck does this thing mean? What is the chart telling us?

Meaning itself comes in two varieties here: collective and individual. The collective meanings are, by definition, shared and apply to all of us together. The individual meanings vary widely and wildly; they are quite different from one person to another.

Collectively, the meaning of this Eclipse/Grand Cross alignment reaches back three years to 2007, when the outer-planet T-square began to form between Saturn, Uranus, and Pluto. That right triangle, which will remain in the heavens through much of 2011, gives us the basic *context* of meaning: Sudden breakdown in the economic, social, and political institutions that govern social organization and structure commerce, with an accompanying denial through refusal to face reality.

During the T-square, and even after Humpty Dumpty's great fall in the financial meltdown of 2008, the powers-that-be preferred to imagine that they could put Humpty back together again just like before. Despite unimaginable loss of wealth and unfolding revelations of rot at the core of our failing institutions, few if any efforts will be made to reform the system. Instead, the fantasy of "business-as-usual" continues, with no one taking responsibility. The deluded fantasies of endless economic growth and easy wealth creation through massive debt hold sway, as does the continuing theft of the commons by the morally criminal (but technically legal) transfer of wealth upward from the base of the population into fewer and fewer hands, namely, those of the super-rich who own the banks, run Wall Street, and have taken control of the government.

Those among us who are horrified at the elite corruption, public malaise, and lack of active revolt against such depredations need to better understand the timing here. The Saturn-Uranus-Pluto T-square tells us in no uncertain terms that calls for reform or revolution are currently premature. Make no mistake, however: Financial, economic, social, and even political revolutions are indeed coming, but not until *after* Pluto and Uranus begin their seven-pass first-quarter square from Capricorn to Aries. *That* starts in 2012, continues through 2015, and carries repercussions that ripple out through the rest of the decade and far beyond. What we are seeing before then, in 2008-2011, is the sporadic unraveling of toxic beliefs, some of which date back 40 years (financial schemes), others of which have been with us since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution (predatory capitalism). These are the sacred cows of American mythology, and their ruin challenges the great edifice of propaganda and hubris that took 200 years to build. In that context, four years of denial represent a relatively brief period. Shaking off our delusions (the American Dream) is not accomplished overnight.

To this basic context, we add the meaning of the eclipse. Solar eclipses symbolize beginnings, while lunar eclipses imply culminations. The alignment of this lunar eclipse with the outer-planet T-square reveals a peak period of six months within the four years of the T-square where the "Ah-Ha!" of what's happening flowers into realization. Does this mean that the ruling elites will recognize the folly of their efforts to restore the status quo? Hardly. They will remain in stubborn denial until circumstances of mounting collapse finally make it impossible to continue the illusion.

As oppositions, lunar eclipses represent awareness through polarity. The sign axis of the full moon shows us the subject of concern and the mirror that awakens. The Sun is in Cancer, which is also the "bull's eye" of the T-square. That tells us the personal security is the heart of the matter in this event. The Moon is in Capricorn (conjuncting Pluto), which reveals that what is bringing the awakening into awareness is the institutional and financial meltdown.

With regard to the public consciousness, most of what's happened so far has been detached from our lives. Bank failures, trillions of new debt in bailouts, markets imploding — all this makes headlines, but doesn't necessarily impact the day-to-day reality of ordinary people. This Eclipse/Grand Cross is the astrological indicator of a change in that status. No longer will the concern and occasional panic be confined only to Wall Street. From now on, Main Street feels the pinch,

and the fear. Quality of life for individuals and families is indeed threatened by the institutional breakdown now underway. From this point on, personal security is impacted by collective insecurity.

Does this mean that we can expect earth-shaking events over the next months? Not necessarily. This shift in the archetype field is not a radical shift (as 2012 will be), but instead is a culmination of existing symbolic forces. This is the meaning of events hitting home, which could take place intangibly, through a psychological-emotional shift in perception.

We might start to see the repercussions of financial bailouts playing out through rising inflation and a higher cost of living. Prices for food and fuel may begin an upward spiral as the dollar is intentionally diluted by the bankers and the government. Such a policy amounts to slow death, and the politicians and bankers know this all too well, but it is the only option to keep our massive debt at bay for awhile longer. The stock market's downward spiral is already underway, as are the bond markets, and the dollar has held up only because of crises in the European Union. As the dollar depreciates, however, price inflation for goods and services will soar.

The Eclipse/Grand Cross suggests that a significantly enlarged percentage of the public is starting to feel the pinch in their own and their families' lives. In short, the repercussions of where we're headed are sinking in. Over the summer, I think we can expect to see a greater outpouring of public concern and outrage over the cascade of breakdown events now unfolding, both in the media and in our day-to-day interactions with others.

At the personal level, generalizations about meaning are impossible to focus. The people most impacted by the Eclipse/Grand Cross are those whose natal charts contain significant symbols in the early degrees of cardinal signs, namely, 0-6° of Aries, Cancer, Libra, or Capricorn. These are the same people — about 40% of the total human population — who are already being bombarded by a triptych of very personal and powerful outer-planet transits.

Though impossible to specify a single meaning for so many individuals with uniquely custom-tailored lives and a radically different circumstances, we can at least narrow the seemingly infinite range of possibilities by noting that early Cancer is the small section of the zodiac that represents the target bull's-eye of this event. Whether or not you have one or more natal symbols early in cardinal signs, the house associated with the initial six degrees of Cancer in your chart will give a clue as to where in your life you might be emerging from denial or unconsciousness and into the "Ah-Ha!" of new awareness. Also, since the Moon is the natural ruler of Cancer, look to the Moon's position by sign and house in your chart to see secondary but associated meanings.

Especially for individuals who do have one or more early cardinal natal symbols, I think we need not anticipate new, unexpected, or unpredictable crises to accompany this alignment. Instead, my feeling is that we will more likely come to awareness and new understanding about existing issues in our lives that have been ongoing as difficult problems (either chronic or acute) over the past couple

of years. This new awareness may have been begun blooming in early spring of this year and will continue to expand through the summer.

Pay close attention to your feelings. Paddle back up the river of emotion all the way to the source, then use your mind to understand the accumulated habits and unconscious expectations that produced those feelings, and let go of the past.

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*Next month's newsletter will discuss the second of the two summer Grand Crosses, which occurs in early August.*

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