

America's Pluto Return

Part Four: Manifestations

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Finally, we've arrived. After weeks and weeks of setup, the payoff is here at last. Good Old Bill, our trusty astrological wizard, will now reveal what's going to happen in America over the coming three years. Uh, no. That particular wizardry is, shall we say, above my pay grade. Turns out that I'm just a garden-variety, minor-league wizard. Shades of Toto pulling back the curtain to expose for Dorothy and her crew the reality behind the fire-and-brimstone show. *"Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain."*

I'm as clueless as everyone else. Just another partially crazy human watching the melodrama unfold. But, like the fake Wizard in the movie, I'll still try to help Dorothy get back home to Kansas.

Below is a list of categories that we know to be difficult or conflicted and relevant to the symbolism of America's Pluto Return. They're all intertwined, as are the many issues associated with each category.

- the Pandemic
- Politics and Government
- Race, Gender, and Class
- Economics and Finance
- Nuclear or Cyber War
- Climate Change

The COVID-19 Pandemic that began in January of 2021 and ramped up in America from March on synchronizes with the beginning of the Pluto Return's effective period (using a $\pm 3^\circ$ orb). We can think of this continuing spectacle as the opening salvo or first powerful manifestation of the Return. Over the past decade, doctors and medical scientists had attempted to warn us about the near-certainty of deadly biological outbreaks, For most of the public, though, arrival of the COVID-19 virus was a complete surprise that struck out of the blue. Many Americans didn't believe it. Too many still don't.

The Pandemic is inherently Plutonian in its invisibility and deadly nature. Since it's a global phenomenon, however, not everything about the scourge is linked to America's Pluto Return. Rather, America's reaction and how we dealt with the virus institutionally and as a population are the symbolic linkages to the Return.

To boil down a complex story to its simplest terms, we didn't take it seriously, we're paying the price for that with half a million dead Americans already, and despite vaccines, there's no clear end in sight.

The most direct connection of the Pandemic to the Return is through Pluto's rulership of the 12th house, where reality and dreams intertwine. The 6th/12th axis is also about illness and hospitalization, so there's that too. But the more important and relevant meaning of the Pandemic in the context of the Pluto Return is through its impact on institutions and the economy.

The core of the Pluto Return operates through Capricorn and the 2nd house. Capricorn represents the authoritative structures of society in government, business, and institutions. The 2nd house is about money, but also work itself (i.e., the day-to-day effort of producing value). The Pandemic has kicked both of those in the pants. Over the past year, our government failed spectacularly to address the pandemic. Millions of Americans were thrown out of work, and not just from lost jobs. Entire businesses shut down, many never to reopen.

Eroding trust in authority and faith in institutions was a big part of the Uranus-Pluto square, and the Pluto Return intensifies that fall from grace. In the mid-20th century — the 1930s, '40s, and '50s — Americans' trust in government rose to an all-time high. Dutiful obedience and social conformity was a hallmark of the 1950s. The Uranus-Pluto conjunction of the 1960s put a significant dent in that trust, and the Reagan 1980s stabbed it in the heart. Trump was master of ceremonies at the funeral (which was more like a drunken Irish wake). A bottom line of the Biden Administration is restoration of faith in government, institutions, and authority. Will that effort succeed? Despite early returns looking hopeful, the Pluto Return says probably not. Destruction first, then rebirth.

Maybe I'm wrong about this. Perhaps the Biden Administration does indeed signal the germination of a new seed for a better, more efficient, and more equitable social structure in America. But it faces almost insurmountable obstacles of wealth inequality, corporate hegemony, and ancient attitudes toward race, gender, and class. The master-slave pecking order isn't dead by a long shot, even though some slaves are getting damned tired of it.

Central in all of this is the looming cataclysm of climate change. I'm inclined to think of that as the ultimate wild-card, the joker in the deck. Anthropogenic climate disruption — essentially the ruin of our earthly environment caused by humans — affects everything else on my list of challenges, right down to agriculture and the food we eat. This is the elephant in the room, a problem so vast and systemic that the piecemeal solutions currently proposed are laughable. The idea that electric cars and wind farms will save us is downright ludicrous.

The core challenge of the Pluto Return is to transform greed, selfishness, and domination into qualities more harmonious and life-affirming. Getting down to the bottom of that cesspool won't be pretty as it wells up and is expunged

through expression, like a cat coughing up a hairball. We're seeing it now in the endless examples of hatred and violence. But that's how Pluto works. It dredges up from the unconscious the absolute worst of what and who we are, vomiting up that toxic stew, in order to clean out the basement.

My best guess is that the accelerating disruption of civilization through bad weather caused by environmental decay may provide at least some, and perhaps many of the triggers for destruction of our current economic system. Some of that may occur dramatically over the next three years, but more is unavoidably on the way in the latter part of this decade and beyond. Basically, the jig is up from here on out. Sustainability is no longer the watchword; now it's resilience.

Our existing financial system, which amounts to socialism for the rich and as little as possible for everyone else, may collapse again as it did in 2008. That screw-up had far-reaching effects, but almost nothing changed. Not likely this time. Where money is concerned, the butcher's bill is coming due. Our compulsive extraction of wealth is not only about messing with nature, but also in lining the pockets of the ultra-wealthy by stealing from everyone else. The Pluto Return will definitely have something to say about that, as it may about the value of money in general.

Then there's war and violence. The constant skirmishing of small-scale local conflicts aggravated by the military intervention of major powers is certainly Plutonian. War itself is a product of civilization and an insult to our humanity. But America's Pluto Return casts an even bigger shadow, that of apocalyptic war — nuclear, biological, or cyber-based. I won't predict that any of those will occur, but they're all factors within the astrological symbolism.

Agri-business is a screamingly obvious element of America's 2nd house Pluto, and it's primed for a death-rebirth. The way we eat and produce food in this country is untenable, not to mention poisonous, cruel, and stupid. From the get-go back in the 19th century, industrialized farming in America — achieved by ramping it up to massive scale — was and continues to be a huge mistake. But hey, that's where the Big Money is, right? Yeah, right. Let's concentrate the wealth in as few hands as possible. The Pluto Return says, "*Since you're not willing to rethink that, I'll take care of it for you.*"

For decades, I've been asking a question: *What if there's no food in the grocery stores?* So far, that hasn't come to pass. But climate change and economic uncertainty bring it closer every year. Local, small-scale farming has always been the answer. The problem is that re-localized, organic farming is just another of those obvious solutions that many Americans (and corporate oligarchs) don't want to hear. But it's coming, and the Pluto Return could be a turning point.

You want to do something to restore a little sanity, promote healthier, quite possibly happier lives, and maybe, just maybe even contribute to saving humanity? *Plant a garden.* Get your hands in the dirt and grow some food.