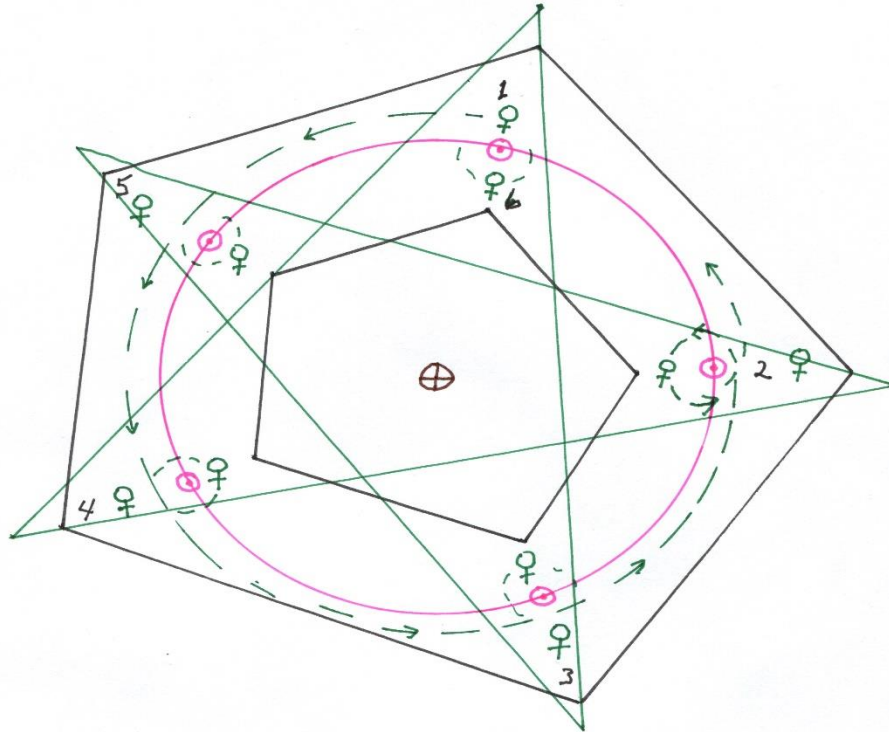


VENUS-SUN CONJUNCTION IN VIRGO SQUARE PLUTO IN ARCHER THE NEW MYSTERIES AND THE POWER OF MAMMON



On October 22nd, Venus will come into exact superior conjunction with the Sun, meaning behind the Sun as seen from Earth. This marks its transitioning from morning to evening star, though not visible now behind the Sun. But when we look up to the Sun during these days, we can imagine Venus there in the stars of Virgo/Isis/Sophia, a few degrees from the star Spica. Spica is the sheaf of grain that She holds in Her hand, the “bread” for humanity. For the entire season of Micha-el, the Sun journeys through this largest of constellations, Virgo, entering it on September 17th and descending into the stars of Libra, the threshold into the lower zodiac, on October 31st. This date is of course connected with the communion with the dead, the cross-quarter day of Samhain in ancient Celtic culture and now, with the festivals of the Day of the Dead and All Hallows’ Eve. We will go further into this in relation to Libra in a future article. Thus, in late September and October we can see the cosmic significance of the Sun’s long passage through Virgo, the image of Sophia-Divine Wisdom, with the activity of Micha-el, who beckons to humanity to raise fallen thinking, rescuing it from the dragon forces of Ahriman/Mammon and raising it again to spiritualized thinking, to divine wisdom.

Venus conjuncts the Sun about every nine months. However, it only conjuncts the Sun in five locations, equidistant from each other. The conjunctions alternate between superior (behind the Sun) and inferior (between Sun and Earth) conjunctions in just these five points two times in each corner, over a cycle of eight years, forming in the heavens a perfect double pentagram, or five-pointed star, in its weaving pattern around the Earth. This star slowly rotates through the zodiac, remaining intact, completing a full zodiacal revolution in about 1200 years. In four years, it creates the first pentagram form, alternating superior and inferior conjunctions in the five points. Then over the next four years each conjunction comes back to the same locations, but where it previously was a superior conjunction, it now is an inferior conjunction and likewise where it previously was an inferior conjunction it now is a superior conjunction. So, after the eight years we have this perfect double pentagram star. Venus envelopes us in a cosmic living rose form over time as it traverses the zodiac. It is the living proper picture of the “planet” Venus as opposed to the material mineral body astronomy studies.



Rudolf Steiner speaks of this pentagram form in the Esoteric Lessons, October 29, 1906. (These lessons are published as unrevised notes taken by various participants.)

This is the sign of the esoteric script, the sign of the human being. This sign is not made up; it is not arbitrary, but rather it is read from the cosmos. Everything is correspondence, correspondence of the microcosm with the macrocosm.

Sub rosa = under the rose, the pentagram.

With the point of the pentagram pointed upward, it is the sign of white magic; it expresses within itself the evolution of the forces of the Sun. With the point directed downward it is the sign of black magic, expressing the influence of the evil forces of the Earth.

We will return to this thought shortly in relation to the meaning of this current conjunction of Venus and Sun and the clearly emerging battle between these two pentagram streams in the world today.

This rose pentagram form can also become a personal exercise for etheric healing. In the lesson from November 6, Steiner speaks of the pentagram form as “a firm framework for the etheric body” and in the following lesson of November 14th, he describes the exercise with the five etheric streams and how one can stand in the pentagram form with the body, with the stream flowing into the head (the base of the nose) down to the right foot, up across the body to the left hand, across the chest to the right hand, down across the body to the left foot and from there back to the head, creating this flow of etheric Venus force. This can become a kind of standing in the macrocosmic Venus rose form and uniting oneself with this macrocosmic sphere of activity. As he states: *These five streams are constantly circulating in human beings and bring them into connection with the entire cosmos.*

On October 21st, Venus will conjunct the Sun in one of these pentagram points. A significant added element is that this conjunction will be in a square (90 degree) relationship to Pluto, which continues as it has for the past few years in the lower animal body region of the Archer. Pluto has been in the Archer since 2008, so, much could be considered about its traversing these stars of the vertical “egoity” solstice axis of the great cosmic cross, which I have written about in earlier articles during the covid outbreak in 2020. In these times, Pluto is an instrumental player in what we see emerging in the world. Now this Venus conjunction point engages with Pluto in a “martian” relationship. It engages also with the history of Pluto in world karma over the past few years. In my Outer Planets course on astrosophy.com, the third session, I go into detail about this. It is my conviction that the activity of Pluto in relation to Saturn and Jupiter throughout 2020 culminating in their conjunction during the Holy Nights of 2020 is integral to the emergent problems, including Covid 19. As I live with following the stars, I find that relations of the other planets with the outer planets is telling a story now, a story of revolution, of destruction and transformation, a Pluto story. With these outer planets we truly are tested to raise our spiritual perspective out of newfound inner development to meet their challenges. If they are not taken up consciously, they are in service of the forces of opposition to our evolution. Pluto carries the highest and lowest, true revolutionary change and breakthrough to the new, or harsh destruction, even down into the physical body and the ego. It is that sphere which wants to become Spirit Man, the transformation even of the physical...but also is the sphere of activity of the Asuras. I would include as partners with the Asuras, the activity of Mammon. Mammon is often used in relation to the forces of money in the world, and one can see more and more the role of world economic forces and the subjugation of human value to the value of money. But Rudolf Steiner expands its meaning: *The restraining forces are called Mammon, and only in a secondary sense has money been given this name; Mammon is the god of the restraint of progress.* (GA 91) He goes on to elaborate on Mammon in GA104a in *Pictures of the Apocalypse*:

Looking over the development of our earth, it has been shown to us that the earth is again spiritualizing itself, that men can take part in this development and that they will again be able to return to the sun... All those beings who are too much stuck in their

materialization cannot take part in this spiritual earth. But the gross material elements of humanity and the bad substances in the lower realms enter with the human beings into a kind of lower astral world, which one could call the sub physical astral world. This lower astral world is also the one that opposes our development today. It is ruled by the spirit Mammon, that is, the spirit of obstacles. It is a power of the lower astral world.

In other places Steiner even describes Mammon as the “god of bacilli”. *Mammon, the spirit of obstacles and darkness, has innumerable helpers, much embodied in the bacteria and bacilli. The fear of bacilli and their combating by physicians is something quite justified.* (Esoteric Lessons notes, Oct. 18, 1907)

In the collapse and breaking apart of so much in our world today, as well as in the efforts being used to control humanity by powerful forces in this time of fear and chaos, I see the ongoing effects of Pluto’s encounters with Saturn and Jupiter all in the “lower body” or one could even say the “lower astral” region of the Archer. So, now we have this Venus/Sun pentagram point in a square (a challenging martian relationship) to Pluto. A few days after this star event, on October 25th, there will be a partial solar eclipse which means that the Sun is in the region of the Lunar node and its light blocked. Another element that would add to the cosmic picture in this time is the fact that Uranus is and has been passing through the opposite ascending Lunar Node, but this would be far too much to elaborate on here. There is much to ponder during these days of this conjunction.

So, the question is, how can we meet this conjunction consciously out of a new relationship to the stars? Here, one must try to hold in a living imagination the threads of these relationships and the cosmic themes expressed. We have Sun/Venus in Virgo at the star of the “bread” for humanity, leading to the question of what is our “bread”, our life, in relation to the economic realm and the economic issues facing us today. This then comes into square relation to Pluto in the lower astral region of the Archer and the activity of Mammon in the economic life and the dark forces behind the scenes in this activity. All of this is remembered in the context of the recent historical activity of Pluto with Saturn and Jupiter and the Great Conjunction question to humanity. That question out of this activity was the question of the Archer: What is the human being? The Great Conjunction was calling for a new annunciation, a new birth into the world, for humans to give birth to a new definition of what it means to be a human being to counter the overwhelming materialism defining who we are and the animalization of our humanity out of a lower astrality. This is the overarching theme for the coming years. Now with this pentagram point in Virgo in square to Pluto in the Archer body, we can see the clear battle between those forces working towards the pointing down pentagram and those for the pointing up pentagram.

But there is a deeper meaning to this Venus/Sun conjunction or this particular corner of the pentagram out of a new star wisdom united with the Christ impulse in the Earth. It also tells a story of the battle between the old forces of the inverted pentagram and how these were healed out of the new Christ force.

Central to the work of a new star wisdom, astrosophy, is the changed relation of the human being to the cosmos because of the union of Christ with the Earth. This is the foundation for a new star wisdom. To understand this change in our relation to the stars, Willi Sucher spent years researching the planetary activity during the time of the incarnation of the Christ and related it to specific healing deeds and signs, which are archetypes for our own current activity. His research led him to the conviction that the Venus conjunctions are deeply related to a healing and transformation of the old mysteries and the inauguration of the new Christic mysteries of the I AM. One can read more about these five healings of the mysteries in relation to these Venus conjunctions with the Sun in Willi Sucher's book *Cosmic Christianity* and my book and video course, chapter Christ and the Stars, all available for free at astrosophy.com.

Venus has a deeply esoteric history with Lucifer, the Light Bringer, who fell through pride and desire. Thus is Venus associated with the ancient Mysteries, gnosis, enlightenment through initiation. Many of the ancient mystery schools represented the mysteries of the Divine Mother, Isis/Ishtar, and, one could say, the "daughters" of Ishtar, variously represented in the middle eastern/semitic mysteries of Astarte, Ashtoreth, Asherah and her son Baal as well as other mystery streams. This particular conjunction on October 21st of Venus with the Sun can be traced back to the story in the gospels of the healing of the daughter of the Syro-Phoenician woman from the region of Tyre and Sidon. The daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit, a demon (Mark 7: 24-30), a dark creation of the decadent mystery initiation. This healing is both an earthly and cosmic event. The Phoenician mysteries, like all the ancient mysteries, had become decadent in various ways. These mysteries were especially victims of the use of black magic, the inversion of the pentagram, which arose out of an arrogant lust for spiritual power and even the misuse of the sexual forces, to obtain spiritual power. In the story told by Mark, when the woman asks Christ to heal her daughter from the demon, He tells her that he cannot heal her daughter but must first "feed the children". The woman then says to Him, "even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the children's table". Then Christ says to her, "for saying this, go, the demon is gone from your daughter". This can at first appear a bit strange, but taken in the context of the redemption of a mystery stream, it is her humility in recognition of Christ which is the healing of her spiritual arrogance and lust for spiritual power, the demon possessing the "daughter", meaning the offspring of the dark mystery initiation. It represents one could even say the full redemption of these mysteries and their use of black magic, through devotion and humility to the true Light Bringer, the true Sun, Christ. In *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*, Rudolf Steiner makes it clear: *The heights of the spirit can only be climbed by passing through the portals of humility*. In this deed and all the deeds of Christ, the entire history of the mysteries is inverted. The path of ascent, of special training to become a Master, of hierarchical rank to obtain enlightenment, was replaced by sacrifice, humility and devotion.

During the days around this Sun/Venus conjunction one can read and contemplate the deep meaning contained in the story of this healing of the old mysteries of Syria-Phoenicia and the Christ's founding of the new relationship to Divine Wisdom out of the new force of the I AM. The crumbs from the table became for this woman the new bread of life. This Venus/Sun conjunction near the bread-star Spica speaks to us of the new bread of spiritual life. In fact, altogether during these days of Micha-el, Venus and Sun are joined by Mercury, all passing

through the great stars of Virgo/Sophia/Divine Wisdom. As I contemplate this healing event inscribed and “remembered” in this corner of the pentagram and bring it into relationship to this square with Pluto, it can become a real thought about the arrogance and lust for power in today’s world, even the working of black magic behind the scenes which is permeating our world. It can also become a spiritual force within me of the true power of the Christ I AM in meeting this power of Mammon as we strive to carry the true “Image” of our humanity within a world gone mad in so many ways because of materialism. As we each walk the path of inner spiritual development, perhaps we can all find something of the Syro-Phoenician woman in ourselves, in need of healing of spiritual pride and coming to true spiritual humility before Christ.

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Astrosophy.com

As a little travelogue gift, I include a photo taken this October 13th. I am currently on an Alaska adventure. I was completely blessed (some call it lucky) to be able to gaze up to an astounding aurora display near Dinali National Park, which felt like a communion with angelic beings. Truly a gift to experience.

