

PLUTO ENTERS ASTRONOMICAL CAPRICORN

World Catharsis and the Will to Power



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On January 20th, the Sun conjuncts Pluto as it just steps into the constellation of Capricorn. This marks a significant transition for our times beginning this January, which is that Pluto fully transitions out of Sagittarius stars and into the fixed stars of Capricorn, meaning the actual stars of the constellation, not the traditional “signs” used in astrology. Since Pluto takes 248 years for one revolution, one cannot speak of a day or even week for this transition. The transition began in March, 2023 until January, 2024, before fully entering Capricorn from Sagittarius, where it was since 2007. It will continue in Capricorn until 2042. This time of Pluto in Capricorn is a generational event, almost coinciding with the 20 year theme of the great annunciation event of the Great Conjunction of 2020 which will also carry on for 20 years until 2040.

Why is Pluto of such significance for our times and what does this transition into a new constellation represent? Upon Pluto’s entry into Capricorn it will step into the place where the Great Conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter occurred on winter solstice 2020, which was a generational call and challenge to humanity for the next twenty years, from the highest regions of the planetary intelligences. In this “memory” location, Pluto is then met by the Sun on January 20th, followed by Mercury, then Mars and

finally Venus on February 17th (Sun 1/20; Mercury 2/5; Mars 2/14; Venus 2/17). By February 16th all five planets will be in the stars of Capricorn emphasizing the planetary consciousness around this challenge. Pluto was integrally involved in all events of 2020. During 2020 Saturn and then Jupiter, three times, encountered Pluto, all as preparation for the Great Conjunction, inaugurating world changing events. Pluto was then opposite the constellation where it was at its discovery in 1930. It was at that time conjunct Jupiter and opposite Saturn, which were themselves in an opposition. This opposition was an ancestor of the 2020 Great Conjunction. Thus, Pluto in our times is important to address in relation to this Great Conjunction and world events.

Out of a new astrosophy, as developed by Willi Sucher based on the initiation science of Rudolf Steiner, we can attempt to address these cosmic events. Central to astrosophy is the perspective that the times for humanity to be guided or determined by the stars has passed. In our age of freedom and individuality, we are developing towards a future of becoming co-workers with the cosmic intelligences of the stars. This means we are left free to choose how to respond to the questions and opportunities posed by these higher planetary spheres of consciousness.

Pluto entered humanity's awareness in 1930, meaning it emerged as a force to be dealt with consciously. World events at that time, as well as the mythologies around Pluto, can help us understand its nature. Also, though Rudolf Steiner had no direct indications about Pluto since it was discovered after his death, there are indications in his work researched by Willi Sucher that are significant. Pluto as the King of Hades, the ruler of the underworld, is an imagination of this planetary sphere. It is connected to the deepest unconscious realm of the will and of the forces of the deepest interior of the Earth which can work with great destruction. Rudolf Steiner's indications point to Pluto as associated with the highly destructive "third force" below magnetism and electricity. Events around its discovery illuminate its nature. In 1932 the first cyclotron, or "atom smasher" was invented and in 1934 induced radioactivity was first developed. Particularly connected to Pluto was the rise of Nazism in Germany with Hitler becoming Chancellor in 1933 as well as the Great Terror of Stalin in 1934. In philosophy, existentialism became prominent, which claims that humans have no essence because there is no God, thus we must find purpose and meaning out of nothing. Yet, Rudolf Steiner spoke of the emergence of a significant new spiritual experience for humanity in the early 1930's: the new Christ experience in the etheric realm. Perhaps we can see in all of this Pluto's connection to the most destructive forces of annihilation, of emptiness, and to the dark forces of power, as well as to the highest spiritual potentialities for humanity. As evolution progresses human beings can become capable, if they consciously develop, of great transformation, even the transformation of Hades, the deepest realms of the will, even down to the physical body. Pluto also carries the challenges associated with the center, the human ego and its task as a transformative power. Alternatively, humans can devolve into bringers of total destruction and annihilation of the physical world through the dark will to power, even to nothingness, thus ending human spiritual evolution. Pluto is connected to these extremes.

Pluto now enters Capricorn which has many levels of meaning and can be studied based on the mythologies associated with this constellation as well as the research of Willi Sucher based on the insights of Rudolf Steiner. For our purposes, there is one clear picture which can illuminate Capricorn. The ancients considered it the "gateway to the gods," the portal to initiation into the spiritual worlds. Capricorn is the constellation through which Hercules ascended to the realm of the gods after his 12th and final Labor, overcoming Cerberus, the horrible guardian of the threshold to Hades, the underworld. Out of the insights of spiritual science, Capricorn is also associated with great spiritual battles that bring about a transitional stage of development for humanity, both in the far distant past of evolution, specifically during what is called in spiritual science, Ancient Moon evolution (see Isis Sophia II, Willi

Sucher), as well as in the distant future, when the vernal point will enter Capricorn in the age following the Age of Aquarius. This will be a time of tremendous tumult and catharsis on a grand scale in human evolution, called the War of All Against All, marking the end of one long evolutionary stage. The stars of Capricorn are associated with these past and future times.

The planetary events of 2020 and the Great Conjunction initiated a cosmic question of annunciation to humanity. As Saturn and Jupiter met Pluto progressing through Sagittarius, they asked: What is the human being? An animal, a biotech machine, or a spiritual being? It brought humanity to a threshold question about our true nature, the answer to which will determine our future. This challenge of Sagittarius which these outer planets were asking of us, was the challenge of polarities and the task of the role of the center in keeping the polarities from overcoming humanity. This is the question of the “I am” and the true nature of the human being. The adversarial forces of Lucifer and Ahriman would pull apart humanity in these polarities unless we can come to the true awareness of the power of the center, the middle, the true I AM in us. Without coming to a true spiritual knowledge of our humanness, the polarities will prevail. This was the theme leading up to the Great Conjunction just in the stars of Capricorn and now Pluto also enters Capricorn. The Great Conjunction announced a time of catharsis which can lead, as with Hercules, to initiation into a spiritual awakening. Pluto now in the memory place of this conjunction in Capricorn, suggests humanity’s encounter with our own Cerberus, our own guardian of the gates of hell, who is the accumulation of our own karmic past in materialism. Catharsis is a process of painful purification yet can lead to a new awakening. In our times, this process is not guided by wise initiates as in the past, but is a self-guided process in which we can fail. This has begun in our world. For the next years we will be facing tremendous challenges around purification, catharsis, and the work of the Asuric forces to destroy the center, the I am, in us. We are called to strive towards the potentialities for transformation and renewal in how we meet these deep destructive forces in our world and ourselves.

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January 18th, 2024