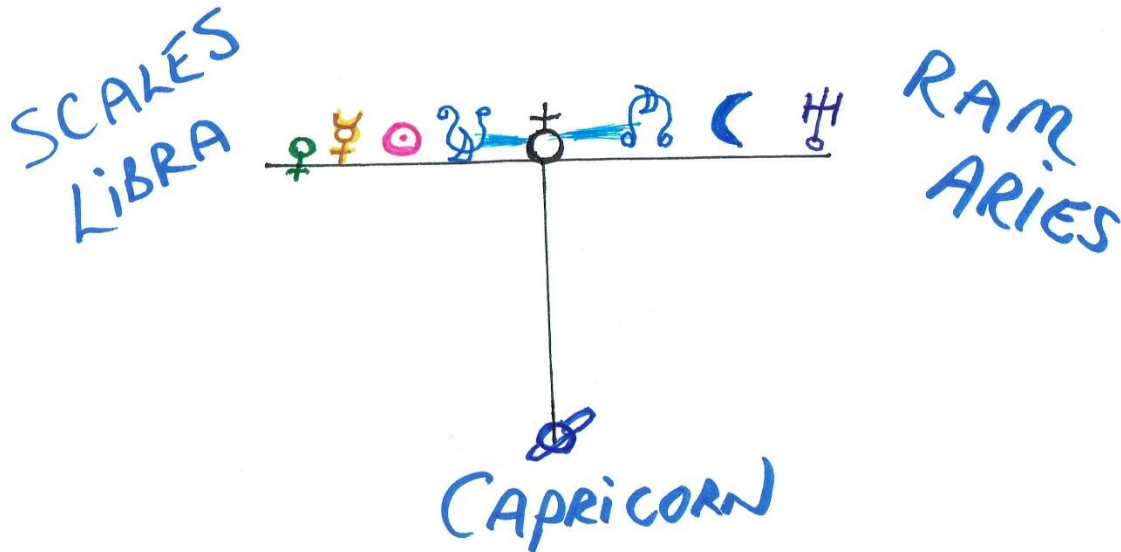


## USA ELECTION DAY AND A TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE THE SHADOW SHALL BE OUT AND ABOUT



The big event in the USA is the extremely pivotal elections for Congress on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Will the Republicans, with many Trumpist election deniers, take charge of US politics in the new Congress, or will the Democrats hold on to retain power? What, or perhaps who, will tip the scales on this important day? What will the consequences be for America in this volatile election? The cosmos presents us with powerful pictures on this day and the days around November 8<sup>th</sup>. Can we out of our inner freedom rise to answer these cosmic questions? Or shall our materialistic sleep dull human consciousness and allow the opposing powers to work unchallenged?

I use the phrase “tip the scales” purposely because during these days, and exactly on November 8<sup>th</sup>, the Sun, Mercury and Venus are all in the constellation of the Scales, Libra. Mercury will be in superior conjunction with the Sun (behind the Sun). This coming together of these inner planets with the Sun will take place in the descending Lunar Node and will stand opposite the Full Moon Total Eclipse conjunct Uranus in the ascending Lunar Node in the stars of the Ram, Aries. This potent configuration of planets will be in a T-square to the planet Saturn in Capricorn, meaning at 90-degree angles, a mars confrontational relationship. See the image above.

Rudolf Steiner says of the language of the stars, in *Macrocosm and Microcosm*, GA 119:  
*If we contemplate the planets in space and the zodiacal constellations of the zodiac, if we conceive the movements and relative positions of the planets in front of the various*

*constellations to be manifestations of the activities of the spiritual beings and the twelve constellations of the zodiac as the spiritual beings themselves, then it is possible to express by such an analogy what is happening in the world of the Spirit.*

And later in the same lecture cycle:

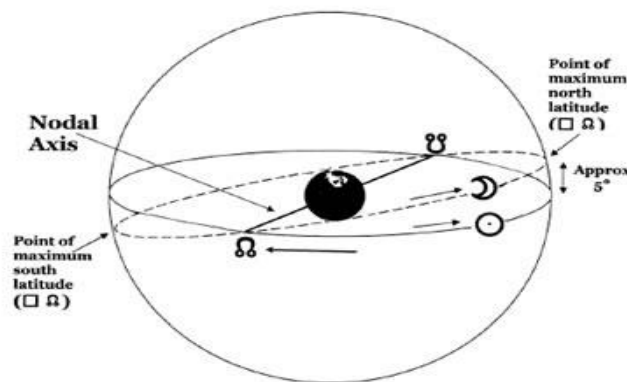
*We are now living in the epoch when it is essential for men to be conscious that they must not merely rely upon what flows into them from Cosmic Powers but must themselves co-operate in the process of world-evolution.*

*.... we are moving towards a future when too little would flow down from above if men did not themselves work at the development of their souls. Such is the epoch in which we are living.*

So, how can we *work at the development of our souls* to understand this configuration at this Lunar Eclipse as an expression of the activities of spiritual beings? And even more importantly, how can we speak to this configuration out of a higher consciousness? Rudolf Steiner has spoken often of the “silence” of the spiritual hierarchies in their relation to humanity. One could say that in a sense, they have “given up” on humanity as they can no longer find any connection to us in our current materialistic consciousness. Only Michael has retained his earnest offering of assistance to humans in this time. However, they do await our rising to them in our consciousness. This is the macro challenge we face – to raise our consciousness, to develop a new “clair-thinking” which can unite with the thoughts of the spiritual beings of the cosmos and thus answer their call and challenge to us out of our free choice.

Let us unpack this configuration bit by bit in order to attempt to meet it out of a spiritual understanding.

We are in eclipse season. What does this mean? The apparent orbit of the Sun, the ecliptic plane, is tilted at an angle to the orbital plane of the Moon. However, these two planes intersect at two points where the Sun path ascends above the lunar orbital plane and then descends below that plane. These intersection points are the lunar nodes, the ascending node and the descending node, sometimes called the head and tail of the dragon.

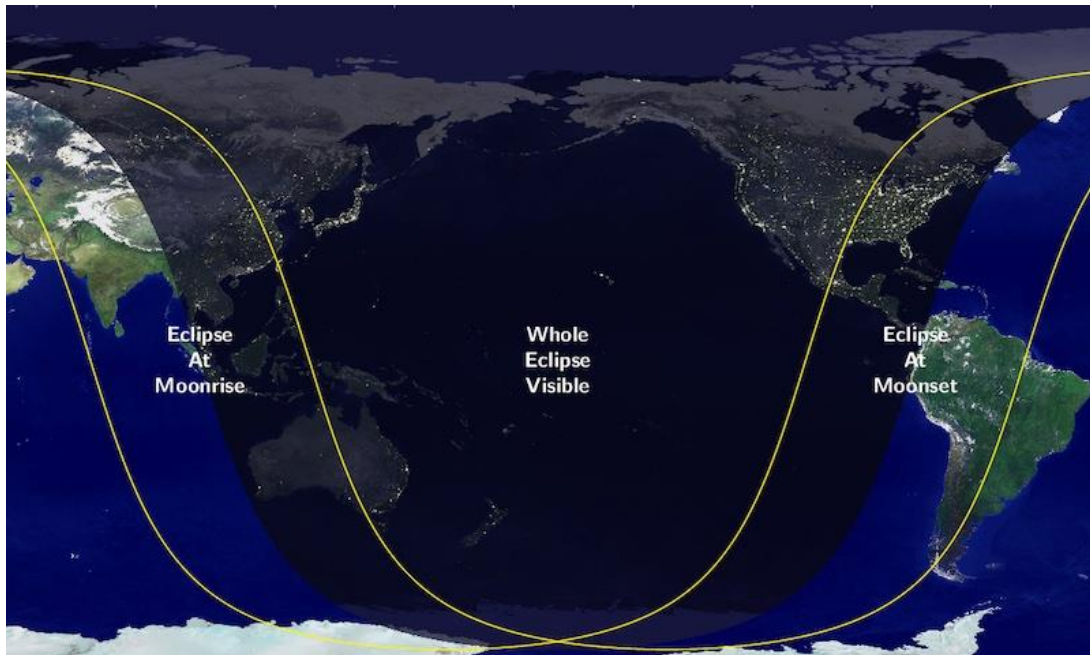


In general, in astrophysics, one can understand these lunar nodes as significant cosmic portals or gateways. They are, in a sense, open doors between the cosmic realm and the earthly realm where cosmic forces from the higher spiritual solar spheres may stream unobstructed by the envelope of the lunar sphere into the Earth sphere. Perhaps many of you are aware of the significance of the Moon Node returns in human biography, when the lunar nodes return after 18.6 years to their place at the human birth, thus, opening up the cosmic realm in human biography and bringing new developmental impulses into the human life. So, in a general sense when a planet is in a lunar node, one can say that its impulses are streaming more directly into the Earth sphere and are more accessible. We will return to this shortly.

These nodes are also the source of eclipses. The Sun passes through these intersection points annually on its orbit, but it does not always happen that the Moon is also in the nodes at the same time. On November 8<sup>th</sup> the Moon is in the opposite nodal point, in a Full Moon. Thus, an eclipse occurs. This means that because the Sun and Moon are along the same axis in these nodes at the same time, the Earth will stand directly between the Sun and Moon causing the Sun to be blocked from shining on the Moon while the Earth shadow passes across the Moon. In earlier times, these eclipses were seen as omens of evil and danger, for the Sun activity was blocked allowing the lower “shadow beings” of the Moon to be let loose upon the Earth. They were not held in check by the sunlight on the Moon. In Human Questions and Cosmic Answers, GA 213, Rudolf Steiner describes the Lunar Eclipse this way:

*He [the human being] knew that when there is an eclipse of the moon, thoughts stream through darkness down upon the earth; and that such thoughts have a closer relationship with the subconscious life than with the conscious life of the human being. The old initiates often made use of a certain simile when speaking to their pupils. It is; of course, necessary to translate their words into modern language, but this is the gist of what they said: “Visionaries and dreamers love to go for rambles by moonlight, when the moon is full. There are, however, certain people who have no wish to receive the good thoughts coming to them from the cosmos, but who, on the contrary, are desirous of getting hold of evil, diabolical thoughts. Such people will choose the moment of a lunar eclipse for their nocturnal wanderings. Here again we approach a spiritual reality in a physical event. Today we must not absorb such teaching in its old form. Were we to do so, we should be led into superstition. But it is very necessary to reach a point at which we are able once more to perceive the spiritual which permeates all cosmic processes... the lunar eclipse exists for the purpose of allowing the evil thoughts which are present in the cosmos to approach those human beings who are desirous of being possessed by them. In matters of this kind people do not, as a rule, act in full consciousness, but the facts are nevertheless real — just as real as the attraction of a magnet for small particles of iron. Such are the forces at work, in the cosmos — forces no less potent than the forces we analyse and investigate today in our chemical laboratories.*

This particular total eclipse will be visible across the USA during this election day evening. Below is an image of the eclipse path.



So here we have, on Election Day, this potential for the subconscious, lower astral forces, or “evil thoughts” to influence or “possess” human souls. We also have with the Moon in the ascending lunar node, the planet Uranus. Uranus, which moves quite slowly, has been in the orb of the lunar node since this past June and will continue within the orb of the lunar node into January, 2023. So, the call and challenge of Uranus has been actively streaming through this nodal point for some time, in the stars of Aries, the Ram. Uranus, the first of the “new” outer planets is connected to the potential to develop Manas, or Spirit Self, as Rudolf Steiner calls it, which is the transformation of the astral nature in the human being. It is also connected to the capacity for Imagination in the path of spiritual cognition, meaning the transformation of thinking into living picture consciousness, or enlightenment. (For more on these outer planets and Uranus, please see my video course or book on the Outer Planets.) Uranus is in the stars of the Ram, which are those stars deeply connected to thinking, indicated in the curling ram horns in the Ram image often used. The Ram is also connected to the I AM, the power of uprightness in the human being coming from the “I” activity and thus carries a deep relationship to the higher true I AM. So here we can see the potential for humanity to raise its thinking to a new clair-thinking, to imaginative consciousness as well as the transformation of the lower astral nature out of the power of the higher “I”. Uranus holds this potential. Yet like all the outer planets, if it is not taken up consciously in a new way, it becomes destructive, working through the lower astral nature and through illusory thinking serving the lower ego nature. It is particularly associated with Lucifer and the false light, the pull of the lower desire/instinct nature associated with the body. It thus would pull human beings back into the past, guided by forces that do not nurture the free individuality. With this eclipse then occurring with the Moon conjunct Uranus in the Dragon’s Head ascending node, Uranus can be used by the opposing forces to arouse the lower astral forces or, as Steiner says, to attract *the evil thoughts which are present in the cosmos to approach those human beings who are desirous of being*

*possessed by them.* It is for this reason all the more that we who can be conscious meet this event with the full presence of the Christic forces of the true I AM, the spiritual Sun and be awake to the working of subconscious forces.

If we continue to build this picture of the Lunar Eclipse Moon and Uranus we see, standing opposite, the Sun conjunct Mercury and nearby Venus in the stars of the Scales. Mercury and Venus are more of the nature of the Sun and can become real tools of transformation for human beings to consciously work with. They are more connected to our future development. Venus, as I have spoken of previously, is connected re-integration and re-harmonization with the divine world and to the development of the new Christian mysteries on Earth. Mercury is more connected to the astral realm and with intelligence, specifically cosmic intelligence uniting with earthly intelligence. With Mercury in superior conjunction, we can see the potential of working actively with Michael to realize the transformation of intelligence through earthly activity! Libra, the Scales, are those stars deeply associated with Michael, with truth and justice, with holding the balance between the upper and lower worlds. It is also the constellation of the Threshold, and thus the boundary where the Guardian stands to protect and defend divine wisdom, Sophia/Virgo, from the dragon forces of Scorpion, which is the work of Michael. Libra has in ancient Persian traditions also been depicted as a tomb/altar, another representation of this threshold constellation standing between the upper and lower realms. The Sun steps into Libra on the threshold day of the cross-quarter day, October 31<sup>st</sup>, the day of the All-Hallows' Eve where we remember the underworld and the dead or one could even say of the chthonic realm of the Mothers. So, with Mercury, Sun, and Venus in the Scales, the stars of Michael, the stars of the threshold, we can hear the cosmic beings speaking to us to address the challenge of this eclipse configuration with Uranus; to recognize the help of Michael in the battle in which we find ourselves on the threshold between the higher thinking and the lower dragon forces which want to drag humanity down into ever darker materialism and the old forms of the past. This configuration altogether can be taken up in contemplation on many levels as a picture of the need in humanity to raise our thinking, to stand on the threshold which we all are crossing, consciously and unconsciously, and employ the Christ ego force in our thinking and will to transform and heal in this time of transition.

An added element to this Mercury/Sun conjunction is that each superior conjunction is "fulfilled" you could say, in the inferior conjunction. In other words, what is "picked up" by Mercury from the stars of Libra, and also now from Venus, behind the Sun at superior conjunction is then at inferior conjunction handed off to us on Earth to realize in earthly deeds. The inferior "completion" of this Mercury loop will occur at Epiphany, 2023 in the stars of the Archer. What an imagination! For those who have followed my articles and are attempting to follow the starry movements, you will recognize that the Archer has been the scene of great cosmic events of 2020 with Saturn, Jupiter and Pluto all calling to humanity with a great voice to come to terms with the true nature of the human being, with identity, with the true Ego in order to meet the challenges of old forms in the process of collapse. The conjunction of Mercury now is asking us to take up what Michael/Libra offers us in this opposition to Uranus in Aries at the lunar eclipse and realize it with a new Epiphany event, a birth of the Christ I in the world on January 6th. Words cannot quite do justice to the living imagination formed out of

the cosmic speech of this configuration as a challenge to humanity. I am often in awe of the rhythms of the stars and how they weave in time to form moments of configurations the build upon a cosmic theme. But there is more.

As the image shows, this Eclipse configuration with Moon and Uranus in Aries opposite Sun, Mercury, Venus in Libra comes into a T-square with the planet Saturn in Capricorn. The meaning of this takes us again back to the events of 2020 and the Great Conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in Capricorn at solstice/Christmas 2020. The stars of Capricorn carry both a past and future vision of destruction, catharsis and initiation. They carry both the memory of the Great War in Heaven on Ancient Moon evolution as well as the vision of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cultural Age and the end of our Epoch which brings the War of All Against All. Thus, Capricorn bears this impulse both macrocosmically and microcosmically, so that the Great Conjunction of 2020 and Saturn continuing in Capricorn further reflect this impulse of change, catharsis, initiation. Capricorn was also seen by the Greeks as the gateway to the gods, the portal of initiation. Saturn is that great sphere which carries cosmic memory, the plan of evolution and the karmic consequences necessary to ensure the plan is followed. Saturn is an image of the Father ground of all being, the origins. The catharsis in humanity that Saturn brings is thus only the consequences of our own karma and the necessity to “re-align” humanity with the divine plan, to awaken us to our true calling through a great adjustment or re-configuration of our world. Thus, we are witnessing the collapse of many old forms in this catharsis - government, social, religious, economic. Saturn is that sphere of the forms of the past which must transform in evolution, often violently. Saturn in a square relationship to this eclipse configuration reveals the struggle, the confrontation and conflicts we carry within our humanity around our shared world karma. It wants to bring us back on track with the Divine Plan of evolution, through whatever karma must be taken up to do so. It also stands as a question, reminding us of who we are from our origins and asking us how we will meet this eclipse moment.

Despite my concern that I will load on too much to absorb with this article, particularly for those who are not students of the stars, I would like to add another dimension to this contemplation. It is a thought, which perhaps of all the thoughts brought here, is the one to contemplate during this lunar eclipse. There are many steps to the ladder of meaning in the starry cosmos and the journey into this meaning can be an overwhelming but also deeply moving voyage. For me, one of the most powerful lectures by Steiner is his lecture on the Mystic Lamb, from *The Influence of Spiritual Beings on Man*, GA 102. In it he develops a picture of the zodiac and the human being in evolution in relation to the Christ, which has a special meaning for this article, in particular the relation between Aries and Libra and the nature of the ego. He describes in this lecture how since the beginning of the ego's working in the human being, Libra has transitioned from a descending constellation to an ascending constellation, thus Libra is particularly connected to our human egoic striving.

*At the entry of the ego, the ascending and the descending forces were in balance and it rests with man to turn the scales in the right direction. That is why the occultists have called the constellation which was entered at the time when the ego itself began to operate, the 'Balance' (Libra)...The Being whose innermost nature belongs wholly to the Zodiac, whose forces belong*

*wholly to the Zodiac, who only manifests in planetary life through his lowest member, which corresponds to Libra (as man's lowest member corresponds to Pisces) [i.e. the physical body] — this is the Being who spreads life throughout the whole of our universe...Just as man strives upwards into the Zodiac, so does this Being send us His sacrificial gift from Aries — which is related to Him as Libra is related to man. And just as man turns his ego upwards to Libra, so does this Being radiate His very Self over our sphere in sacrifice. This Being is called the “Mystical Lamb,” for Lamb and Aries are the same; therefore, the description ‘Sacrificial Lamb’ or ‘Ram’ is given to Christ.*

So, as we contemplate this configuration, we can work with this thought of the “ego” and its significance in relation to Christ and our evolution. We can also work with the thought of the trinity formed by the three constellations activated by the planets within these constellations in this T-square form.

Libra – Sun, Mercury, Venus: Michael offering; Heart-thinking; Humanity on the Threshold between the dragon and the divine wisdom; standing between worlds holding the balance through the I AM.

Aries – Moon, Uranus: The new clair-thinking; Imaginative thinking and the Spirit Self; the true I AM; the Lamb of God who sacrificed for humanity

Capricorn – Saturn: the Father Will; World karma and the divine plan of evolution at work through catharsis; cosmic memory of our true nature and our evolutionary goals; the great division and War that will ultimately lead to reunion.

In this context of the significance of Saturn in this configuration and the karmic call of the Father memory for the I Am to become active and awakened in humanity, I am reminded of Steiner’s re-phrasing of the Prologue to John’s Gospel in Lecture 7 of *The Pre-Earthly Deeds of Christ*, GA 152. May we carry this thought into this eclipse configuration:

*In the Primal Beginning is Memory,  
And the Memory lives on further,  
And Divine is the Memory.  
And the Memory is Life.  
And this Life is the Ego of Man  
Which streams into Man himself,  
Not he alone, the Christ in him.  
When he remembers the Divine Life  
In his Memory is the Christ.  
And as the radiant Life of Memory  
Christ will pour Light  
Into every Darkness of the immediate present.*

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Astrosophy.com