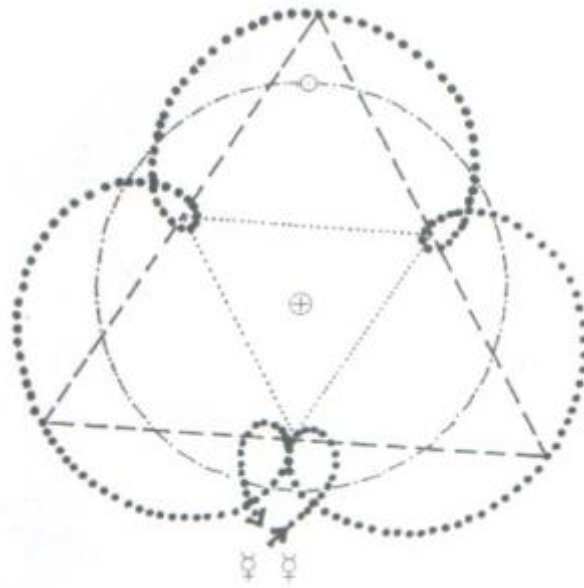




## Mercury and Uranus in Aries: New Thinking for the New Normal

As I begin this article on April 30th, I do so conscious of the fact that Mercury is conjunct Uranus in the stars of Aries, the Ram, at 36 degrees of the ecliptic, aligned with the star Hamal which is the forehead of the Ram. One could even say the “third eye” position in the Ram. In a few days, on May 4th, Mercury comes into exact superior conjunction with the Sun (behind the Sun from the Earth). Essentially these few days bring us this superior conjunction of Mercury with the Sun with Uranus. Mercury picks up, so to speak, that which is offered from the sphere of Uranus and the stars of the Ram, even specifically the fixed star Hamal in the Ram. But to fully understand this event, we must now follow Mercury in its process when it will hand over to the Earth what it now takes up.

In astrosophy, the momentary events in the heavens must be considered in the context of the flow of time as a process in which we can partake consciously and even answer out of our human higher consciousness. This is the new speaking to the stars. So, this event is only part of the full gesture of Mercury. It culminates on July 1st in the stars of the Twins when Mercury completes this cycle/gesture begun today, by coming around between the Sun and the Earth in inferior conjunction and then handing over to the Earth in the stars of Twins, what it has picked up in the superior conjunction with Uranus in the Ram. This will happen when Jupiter will be in exact conjunction with Pluto in Archer. These looping gestures of Mercury over time create the great six-pointed star or double hexagram in the heavens.



For those who want to further understand this Mercury time form created out of these loops, please see my video, specifically Course II The Planetary Spheres, Session 2 The Mercury Sphere at <https://www.astrosophy.com/registration> (registration for password access is required).

How can we understand this gesture in the context of the current world events, particularly since the culmination and the call to realization of this gesture occurs in the Twins, in which we have already so much significant activity (in Archer opposite Twins, but in this zodiacal axis). This activity has been written about already in my previous articles in relation to the Twins/Archer line and the movements now of Saturn, Jupiter and Pluto. For more about this, see my two previous articles, The Corona World I and II, <https://sway.office.com/tMfV3nk32HtLhb7P?ref=Link> and <https://sway.office.com/bGzCOg0rc6dVlzqN?ref=Link>.

It does not suffice, as we progress in our desire for true understanding, to simply state this conjunction means this and this constellation means that and combined together as ingredients we can bake a cake. For real knowledge it is important to have a thorough picture of events and the forces that work behind and through them, and out of this, one can on one's own arrive at a sense for its truth. So, let us look now at these various planetary events together as a whole: the Uranus, Mercury, Sun conjunction in Aries, followed in July with Mercury conjunct Sun in Twins, across from Pluto conjunct Jupiter in Archer. How can we consciously meet this configuration?

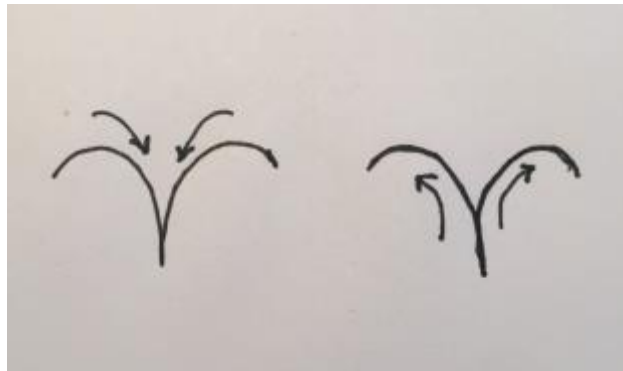
In these starry imaginations we have particularly to consider thinking. Mercury, Uranus and Jupiter are all especially related to thought and consciousness. One of the great gifts of Rudolf Steiner is the light he sheds on this evolution of human consciousness, which helps us to understand the world - past, present and future - and our place in this evolutionary process over time. (This is a vast and wondrous area of study, which Rudolf Steiner elaborates in numerous books and lecture cycles.) We have progressed or regressed, depending on one's point of view, from ancient times when thought was not a personal experience but a dream-like picture experience of the divine guidance of life. The human being felt "at one" with the surrounding world but experienced this at-oneness with a consciousness that was

not separate but intimately united with a world of being which lived in nature, in clouds and weather, in moon and stars. We still see glimpses of this earlier consciousness in many current indigenous tribal communities. Thoughts streamed into humans as pictures, not as concepts, as the language of the gods, who lived and revealed themselves in the world. As evolution moved on, particularly in western consciousness, the human being more and more experienced a dimming of this participatory consciousness as the experience of the separate self developed and with it a growing independence from the gods. Thinking became a more personal, inner experience. We began to experience thought as created by us out of ourselves, not as existing outside us and brought into our thoughts. This culminated in modern times, which particularly began in the 15th century, with our emerging onlooker consciousness. We experience the self as a kind of centric point within, which looks out onto the world of nature as something separate, objectively observable as an "other". From this egocentric experience, we have gained our individual freedom from the gods but at a cost. The world is bereft of spiritual realities. Nature became no more than physical/material processes which we analyze and use to serve our needs. Humans became higher animals living in little more than a Darwinian struggle for existence. Our cosmology, rather than reflecting a world of divine activity described by the ancients in tremendous mythologies of the stars, led us to the Big Bang and the vast empty void of dark matter space, where we are no more than meaningless specks of dust. It is no wonder that depression and emptiness are a serious mental health crisis in today's world. It is out of this emptiness that polarization and division arise as humans desperately seek a sense of meaning within group identities, finding those "like me". Identitarianism seems to be the new social form. This of course manifests in opposition against other identity groups who are not "like me". There is no need to list the polarities of group identities that divide us. Within this crisis of existence, this crisis of egotism, of me-ness, we have achieved the freedom of the separated independent self and yet out of that separation perhaps also there arises a deep yearning for meaning, for belonging to something greater. In spite of all the materialistic scientific "truths" stating otherwise, we want to understand who we are and why we are here on some transcendent level. We are each a voice crying in the wilderness of our aloneness. Where do we go from here? Out of the consequences of this covid-19 pandemic we have been blessed with forced isolation and separation. I say blessed because out of this shut down, and perhaps only because of this forced isolation, are emerging many voices with a sense of urgency, asking the questions that need to be asked now. Who are we as human beings? What have we lost in our rush to consume and distract and feed the emptiness inside? Has our consumer society taken the Earth to the brink of sustainable life? What is our human community and our shared responsibility to each other? Why are we so divided? And perhaps most importantly, how do we change our thinking in order to build a better world, or as one thinker, Charles Eisenstein, calls it, a more beautiful world?

So now let us return to this starry picture and attempt an understanding out of a new cosmology which does not further the current experience of separation, but unites our consciousness with the world consciousness expressed in the stars, out of a modern renewed experience of the ancient hermetic axiom: *As above so below*. The full statement given by the great initiate Hermes Trismegistus, is: *That which is Below corresponds to that which is Above, and that which is Above corresponds to that which is Below, to accomplish the miracle of the One Thing*. As stated earlier, over the next three days we have this conjunction of Mercury with Uranus and the conjunction with the Sun in the stars of Aries and the culminating gesture with a Mercury conjunction with the Sun, between Sun and Earth, on July 1 in the stars of Twins, along the zodiacal axis with Archer at the time of the exact Jupiter conjunction with Pluto in Archer. The new outer planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, based on the spiritual scientific research

of Willi Sucher out of indications given by Rudolf Steiner, are connected with the higher (and lower) spiritual realms of consciousness, which extend beyond the bodily organization of the human being in which are built the classical planets (though of course they also carry spiritual realities). In his research Willi found a relationship of Uranus with the light ether, as well as with the fallen light ether, electricity. He also brought these planetary spheres into a relationship with the new faculties of supersensible development as well as to their shadow counterparts. Uranus then is connected to the first stage of higher knowing or initiation, called by Rudolf Steiner, Imagination, and its fallen nature, just as fallen light is electricity, is connected with the realm of the Luciferic using the terminology of Steiner. To go further, this realm of Uranus is also then connected to what is called Manas, or Spirit Self, the transformed human astral nature. We can think of this on many levels but for this article, we can think about Uranus in Aries, even in the forehead star of Aries, particularly in relation to thinking itself. The transformation which facilitates imaginative consciousness is the transformation of the consciousness (astral) body which begins with the transformation of thinking, elevating it to spiritual seeing, or en-light-ened thinking (in light). Proceeding outward then, we can relate Neptune to the Budhi, or Life Spirit stage of consciousness in which the etheric nature is transformed, and Pluto to Atman or Spirit Man, in which the physical nature is transformed. This is the path into the distant future if we truly seek to unite ourselves with our evolutionary goals. It is the path which starts in our time and for which we owe deep gratitude to Rudolf Steiner for articulating in a form appropriate and understandable for the modern human being. But because of our freedom, it is a path of choice. In all our relationships to the stars now, it is a matter of our conscious efforts to raise our awareness and choose to bring something to the stars out of the free development of spiritual faculties. In this sense does Uranus (as well as Neptune and Pluto) carry great challenges. If we do not consciously choose the path towards spiritual development, then those evolutionary beings who are obstacles to human progress will work actively in our unconsciousness and perpetuate old forms that will chain us to the past. With Uranus this can go into the Luciferic direction which would lead us into the realm of fantasy, illusion and the attraction to older forms of clairvoyance that do not include the use of thinking as it has been developed. This would include trance-like consciousness or channeled consciousness or drug facilitated awakenings which bypass conscious thought guided by the ego. It also includes that which would pull us away from engagement with the earth into a spirituality of blissful transcendence. But this Luciferic thinking also manifests in another form. As described in the story of creation, it was Lucifer who "opened our eyes" and through our desire nature in the consciousness body, we were drawn to the world of the senses and sensation. Thus out of this original impulse arose the thinking that united itself with sensation, and the illusion of the maya of the senses. Uranus in Aries (entered May, 2018 until May 2024) brings us especially into this relationship to thinking and the great challenge to humanity. Aries is that region of the zodiac especially connected with the head, perception and thinking. It is also deeply connected with the "I am" experience of self, both the earthly sense of self as well as the higher spiritual Selfhood. It was during the age when the vernal point was in the stars of Aries, the age preceding ours, known as the Greek and Roman times, that thinking, as we understand it, developed, beginning with the glory of the great philosophers culminating in Aristotle. It is also when in Rome a particular evolution of the sense of selfhood developed, as reflected in the Roman concept of citizen and the law, which was the early move out of the group sense of self (I am an Athenian) into the independent self with individual rights as opposed to the group. Aries with its curved ram horns is an image itself of the brain and the thinking that developed as brain bound reflective thinking. Thus with Uranus in Aries, we have a choice. It can be depicted in the image below. The old symbol for Aries is the curving downward thrust,

leading us into the world of selfhood and reflective brain thinking. The new symbol can be seen as the same yet with the direction of the thrust from the bottom point outward and up again to a new thinking out of the spiritual self which penetrates behind the veil of the senses to the logos of the world.



So now we have Mercury conjunct Uranus in Aries. Mercury too is connected with thinking, with intelligence, but it is connected as the messenger, as the bearer of cosmic intelligence to humanity. Mercury is also called Hermes, and its name is related also to Michael or Marduk of ancient Persian mythology. Mercury now serves the impulse of Michael/Marduk, the young Sun being, which is described in mythologies as the being who battles against the dragon/Tiamet to rescue humanity. It is Mercury/Michael who now seeks to redeem the intelligence which has fallen into the dragon and restore it to its cosmic Sophia/Ea home, through the human being. Just as a side note, the starry story that stretches above the zodiacal constellations of Taurus, Aries and Pisces is that of Perseus, with his sword and the head of Medusa, slaying Cetus the monster of the depths who would devour Andromeda, the human soul. It is out of the forehead of Andromeda that Pegasus the winged intelligence arises. Here we have the story of Michael in another format. So as we strive to take up our relationship to the “above” and unite it with the “below”, we can be called to awareness of this challenge which Mercury is picking up now beyond the Sun in its meeting with Uranus in Aries. And now Mercury carries this question/challenge as it comes around the Sun and on July 1st when it comes again into conjunction with the Sun, between Earth and Sun, in the Twins. It then hands off this question/challenge to humanity. It is up to us now to meet the question in the right way. Shall we raise our thinking to a new spiritual thinking, which Uranus carries, which is capable of addressing the world crisis? Or shall we succumb to the old sense/brain bound thinking of the past and the old centric self consciousness that keeps us bound to the past in our thinking and cannot lead us into the new? What does it mean that Mercury hands off the question just in the stars of the Twins, conjunct the Sun, looking across to the stars of the Archer and the conjunction of Jupiter and Pluto? As has been elaborated in my previous articles, these great planetary meetings of Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto in Archer as we approach the Great Conjunction in December, are bringing us world-sized challenges and questions about what it means to be a human being and our struggle between the old forms held onto by our lower nature from the past and the human being arising aiming towards a future goal (Archer); about the destruction of the old rigid forms of the past created out of world karma which keep us from aligning ourselves with the true plan of evolution (Saturn and Pluto); about the vision of our humanity into the future and the no less than revolution in our thinking needed and the will forces to be taken up to build the new vision (Jupiter and Pluto). Jupiter is also connected to thinking...but to the truly future thinking, which Willi Sucher calls clair-thinking, not clairvoyance out of the past. Jupiter is that sphere in which the beings of living creative wisdom are working to build already the next far

distant stage of our existence, as the apocalypse describes it, *the new heaven and the new earth for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away*. So on July 1st, with this culminating conjunction of the Mercury loop in which the challenge/question of Uranus in Aries is handed off to us below, in our own individual ways, we can take up this Michael challenge to transform our thinking into the new. It is only in this way that truly new answers will come to address the human and social issues of the present and future. If we seek using our old thinking, our old social forms, our old concept of the self, then we will not succeed. In closing I wish to add one more picture/thought which is relevant to this Mercury-Sun conjunction in the Twins on the same day that Jupiter conjuncts Pluto in the opposite stars of Archer. As mentioned before and as gone into more thoroughly in my previous articles, this axis of Twins/Archer is the vertical axis of the solstices, in our great seasonal cross of equinoxes and solstices. Unlike the horizontal axis of Virgin/Fishes at equinoxes which carries a different impulse, this vertical axis is connected to our ego experience. It is like the I (ee) gesture in eurythmy. It is the vertical line uniting above and below, thinking and willing, the heavens and the earth through a strong center, or I. In it we can discover our relation to self. In ancient times, the self was experienced in the periphery of the greater Sun and in summer solstice humans felt that they received the Self from the greater expanse of the heights where it dwelled with the Sun. That has all changed since the incarnation of the Sun Logos and His union with the Earth realm. The light (the Sun) has entered the darkness (the Earth) and is now in process, with those who unite with the light, of transforming the Earth into Sun. In this sense the old polarity and separation of above and below is overcome. To apply this to our current situation, I see in this the great challenge of moving from a world system based on duality to a triune view of the world, in all areas of existence. This has been developed by Rudolf Steiner in practical ways in his presentation of the threefold social order. It is beyond the scope of this article but it leads us into a deep probing of the origins of our current thinking, out of which all technology and our relationship to nature and the Earth has developed. And that is binary thinking! Francis Bacon first developed it and it permeates our technological, social, scientific, religious, and personal lives now. It is in this context that we must see these constellations with their inherent polarity and the current great planetary activity in them. In the middle of the polarity now stands the unifying force of the true I AM which we can ever strive to realize in ourselves. And what is this true I AM? It is the very Being and transformative power of love. If this new reality of the triune does not come to replace the world system of duality then no new social forms will develop that can address what is needed now. In many ways perhaps this momentary three day conjunction of Mercury and Sun with Uranus in Aries might seem a passing event. Mercury makes a full orbit every 88 days. It will frequently pass Uranus in Aries, but the superior conjunction with the Sun with Uranus is not a frequent event. Then we also include the full Mercury gesture with its inferior conjunction with the Sun, in the Twins, on the day that Jupiter conjuncts Pluto in Archer. And now we let rise a full imagination of these planetary events and their call for a new thinking to heal the inherent polaric nature of the old image of Twins and Archer. This can bring us to a holy awe if we consider the great language of the cosmos of the stars and the beings working within the physically manifest. But it is now a time that they do not compel or guide, but leave us in freedom, awaiting our conscious uniting with them. Then they readily help us as brothers and sisters in fulfilling the evolutionary goals.

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