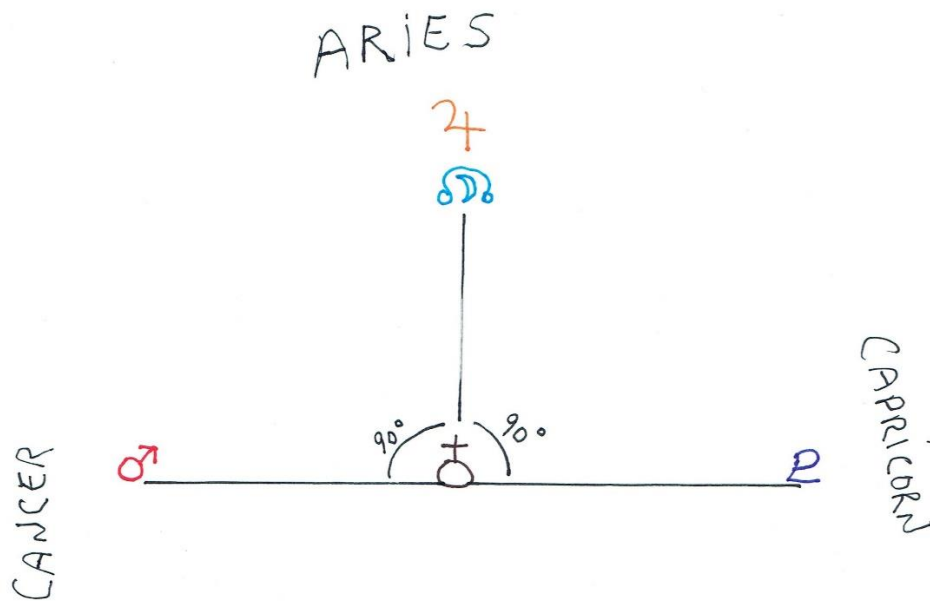


Standing Upright in the Storm Mars and Pluto in T-Square with Jupiter



During these ten days between Ascension (May 18) and Pentecost (May 28) a charged cosmological dynamic is unfolding as pictured statically above. Jupiter is passing through the ascending or north Moon Node as it enters the stars of Aries. The last time Jupiter was in the ascending node was June, 2016. Due to its slow movement, it will be in the orb of this node for several weeks (exact degree at about Pentecost). Mercury has preceded Jupiter in passing through the Moon Node as it turned from retrograde to direct on May 15th. During this Ascension to Pentecost time, Mars having just entered the stars of Cancer comes into opposition to Pluto, which is just at the entry into the stars of Capricorn. This opposition of 180 degrees (exact on May 21) forms a T-Square with Jupiter in the Moon Node.

A square is a "mars" aspect, usually meaning a confrontational or challenging relationship in need of resolution. A T-square then is like a double square, a more intensified challenge which can be highly volatile but can also lead to real progress if consciously grasped and resolved. Consciousness, and in this case a higher spiritual consciousness which Jupiter carries, is the key. In the T-square the one planet being double squared, Jupiter, is the focus of the challenge and the source of the resolution. Jupiter is the planet, not in opposition, but object of the double square, so in a sense you could say Jupiter can become the hero in this battle.

How can we penetrate into the deeper qualities and challenges of this configuration? Perhaps many of you who are taking up your own study of astrosophy can already have your own insights into this picture. There are of course many dimensions of understanding here, but we can focus on what seems outstanding in this particular dynamic.

Let us begin with the opposition of Mars in Cancer and Pluto in Capricorn. Mars is that sphere which has brought humanity into the world of matter and the development of the centric individual ego shaped by our experience in the world of matter and the senses. The first half of Earth evolution is the Mars evolution bringing us into separation and our capacity for grasping/working with the material world. Therefore, though the sphere of Mars has undergone significant healing through what Rudolf Steiner describes in relation to the Buddha, it continues predominantly to perpetuate the forces of materialism and an egotism that promulgates the sense of the self as one against the other self. It is the ego that defines itself by saying, I am not that. Thus it is commonly referred to as the god of war. Of course, the power to confront, to challenge, to separate into individuality serves a proper purpose. Yet in our times it has passed beyond its proper role serving now the deepening of materialistic cultural life. We have entered already the second half of Earth evolution when we must now find our way towards the peripheral self, the community of humanity and reunion with the spiritual realities of existence. Mars in Cancer accentuates this materialistic element. In *Human and Cosmic Thought*, Rudolf Steiner presents the cosmic thought orientations of the zodiac. Here he associates Cancer with the world philosophy of materialism, meaning the perspective that all events in the world are a product of material processes. It is the world view that stops short of any spiritual perspective and bases reality on what is known from matter, from tangible experience. Cancer is also related to the "house" of the body, the rib cage, the enclosure within, so its gesture is one of a kind of separating off and hardening around the inner life. In ancient times, Cancer was seen as the gateway in the cosmos into birth, into embodiment in matter. So, we can see in this region of the opposition the forces of materialism, of the holding on to matter as the defining reality of existence, as well as the separating tendencies within the earthly egoic self; even the resistance to change and the attempt to retain hardened forms from the past.

This Mars is in opposition to Pluto in Capricorn. Capricorn in world thought is the opposite of Cancer as its philosophy is spiritualism. Rudolf Steiner describes it as the cognition of spiritual beings working in the world, the highest of the twelve world philosophies. Yet it can become an extreme if not balanced, by only recognizing the spirit, but turning away from the laws and realities of matter, even to a negation of matter, which is where we must be fully conscious now of Pluto in this constellation. As Cancer was the gateway into embodiment, Capricorn was seen as the gateway to initiation into the spiritual realities. Indeed, this constellation carries the challenges of initiation, which includes the catharsis/purification necessary for this entry into spiritual awakening. In his lecture on the *Mystical Lamb*, Steiner associates Capricorn with the astral body, the seat of transformative struggles. In occult evolution, Capricorn is connected to the cycle in Ancient Moon described as the "War in Heaven" which resulted in the reunion of the Sun and Earth. So, we also have in Capricorn both the potentiality of the highest spiritual awakening but also the destruction and suffering process of catharsis/purification which is necessary for that initiation. Capricorn was the portal through which Hercules ascended to the gods after his trials along the path of initiation, depicted imaginatively in his twelve labors.

Now Pluto has stepped into Capricorn where it will travel until 2041. Pluto, that deep mystery of a planetary sphere and the newest planet in our human awareness, carries extremes in two directions. It is associated with powerful sub-earthly will forces of destruction and annihilation and often is associated with world revolutions. Yet it also carries potentialities for the highest transformation, the spiritualization of the will, all dependent on how humanity works with it. Unlike the planets from Saturn inward, these outer planets are not "built in" to our constitution, our karma, our history, so in that sense there is a kind of freedom in how we work with them. Yet, they must be taken up consciously. They have come into our sphere of awareness only since the beginning of the modern era and are associated the development of various technologies. Either they are not taken up in a spiritually conscious way and then serve the forces opposed to evolution, or they can become tools of transformative activity in the world. In this

sense, does the philosophy of spiritualism as a negation of matter takes on a dark possibility with Pluto in Capricorn. As I have written about before, Pluto meeting Saturn and Jupiter during 2020, culminating in the Great Conjunction during the Holy Nights 2020, points to a new unfolding of the work of the asuras. Their attack is on the physical body and the development of the ego gained through physical life on Earth. In this way their relation to the “negation of matter” is a kind of counter image to potential spiritualism carried by Capricorn which is a transformation of matter into service to the spiritual/moral. Only through humanity’s uniting with the Christ I AM, the true spiritual I AM, are the asuric forces overcome and the great transformation of matter can begin, rather than the annihilation of matter. Pluto stands now in the location of the Great Conjunction of 2020 which was preceded by these great meetings of Saturn and then Jupiter (3 times) with Pluto before their conjunction. This means it is standing in the etheric memory place in the stars of that conjunction event. As written about at that time, this Great Conjunction called on humanity to take up a new annunciation, a new revelation of the Christ birth as it carries the memory of the initial annunciation to the magi of the birth of Christ.

So, to summarize this opposition, we have Mars and Pluto facing across from each other. The one asserting the continuation of materialism, the fixing of forms from the past and the strengthening of the earthly ego. It is in opposition, meaning in need of balance, with Pluto with its powerful revolutionary and destructive will forces that breaks up the old forms, the institutions of the past, the power of matter in human existence. This is the catharsis taking place now, which can lead to chaos and physical annihilation or can become the force of transformation that makes way for a new future vision out of spiritual knowledge.

This brings us to the “hero” of this challenge, to the third planet which is the focus of the double square aspect of Pluto and Mars. This is Jupiter in Aries in the ascending Moon node. Here let us take a moment to address the importance of living with the time element in a study of the stars. All of these planets have been in their time journeys coming into relation to each other with certain configurations, which are marked with particular moments, like hands on a clock, to express the workings in their sphere. But these clock hands exist within a complete time element, with each planet having its own cycle but also participating in the greater clock of the solar logos, the entire planetary system. In a recent article I mentioned how I am recently obsessed with Jupiter as it is expressing itself in time. It has in 2022 made a loop around the Vernal Point, going retrograde then direct again. This vernal point marks the dividing line of the earth’s equator along the ecliptic path of the zodiac. It marks the beginning of a planet’s ascending phase into the upper half of the sky. Jupiter has made a statement so to speak about this transition point with this looping gesture as it entered its ascending phase. During this looping it has encountered the star Alpheratz, the star which represents the birth of the winged intelligence of Pegasus arising from Andromeda, the human soul. It is an image of the “third eye or Jupiter chakra of Andromeda. Now it has passed out of Pisces and is stepping into Aries where it will pass for the next year. And now it comes into a square relationship with Pluto and the location of the Great Conjunction in which a certain new theme was inaugurated by Saturn and Jupiter. In this square relationship it is working out the challenges inherent in this new impulse of the Great Conjunction and the Pluto/Asuric activity as well as the challenges of materialism blocking the birth of the new intelligence, in the additional squaring with Mars. In July, 2026, it will have moved to be opposite this Great Conjunction point and opposite Pluto the same month. This will bring Jupiter into Cancer opposite Pluto in Capricorn. So it is important, I think particularly now, to follow this Jupiter cycle in relation to the Great Conjunction event is a path to understanding the call of Jupiter to humanity.

Now Jupiter enters Aries and significantly in this configuration it enters the ascending Moon node. These lunar nodes are important elements that serve as portals into the higher solar spheres so that

there can be a direct streaming of planetary forces. If one can imagine that the Earth is enveloped by the Moon sphere, a sphere potent with activity, which includes all the souls preparing for incarnation and all the souls recently died and living through kamaloka along with all of the angelic activity associated with these immense human experiences. It is also then a sphere which holds the untransformed elements of soul that cannot be taken up into the higher spheres. So, this enveloping Moon sphere around the Earth is, you could say, quite dense with soul substance and the human and angelic activity at both times of transition. The Moon node then is like an open door to the higher cosmic forces without the soul cloud of the lunar sphere activity. It opens a direct line and, in this case, a direct line between Jupiter and the Earth. Traditionally the ascending or north node points to future karmic potentialities. Jupiter is loud and clear now about its entreaty to human beings. Change your thinking! Awaken the powers of spiritual cognition in your soul so that you may develop the new living thinking, the new clair-thinking, that can bring into the world the truly new impulses for human evolution out of the Christ power. Jupiter in the north moon node is a special opportunity to heed the call for realizing the future goals of humanity and unite our spiritual thoughts with the creative life-filled wisdom of the Jupiter sphere. It is that sphere of the Spirits of Wisdom or Kryiotetes, who's whole being consists of living wisdom. They are the beings Rudolf Steiner describes thus:

*How is that which comes to us revealed **when we have prepared ourselves sufficiently**? It reveals itself as the feeling of being endowed with grace through the gifts that come to meet us from the spiritual world...Let us grasp the nature of such a being whose chief characteristic is the showering of grace, the shedding forth of grace from itself...If we wish to find a title for them, we must say: These are the Spirits of Wisdom, the great Bestowers, the great Givers of the Universe...We may describe the nature of such a capacity of giving by saying that productivity and creative activity is connected with it; this giving is self-creative.*

The Inner Realities of Evolution, Lecture 2, GA 132, Nov 7, 1911

We can now add to this picture the fact that Jupiter is entering the stars of Aries where it will be until next May, 2024. Aries is really a home for Jupiter, as Aries itself is also deeply connected to the Kyriotetes. The symbol for Aries is an image of the Ram's horns curving around the head, an image of the brain, the organ for thinking. But Aries also holds the new living Jupiter thinking potentiality. It is the first of the twelve constellations and is connected to a new beginning, and in fact it is the "region" which holds the primal work of the Kyriotetes in shaping the substance sacrificed by the Spirits of Will to inaugurate our cosmic evolution. Rudolf Steiner associates Aries in the world philosophy with idealism, which sees ideas as the working force behind world history. An ideal raises our ideas to a higher level of world meaning. But perhaps for me, the picture Rudolf Steiner gives in his lecture on the Mystical Lamb regarding Aries can bring us into the ideal of the role of Jupiter in this configuration as a transformative power, as the "hero" of this challenge to bring into balance and healing the Mars and Pluto opposition. Steiner builds an imagination of this Being, the Mystical Lamb/Ram from the zodiac, beginning with Pisces in relation to the physical body, ascending to Aries as the highest 12th member of that Being who sacrificed itself for humanity, even to becoming physical.

Just as man strives upwards into the Zodiac, so does this Being send us His sacrificial gift from Aries..., 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. Christ belongs to the cosmos as a whole. His I, his Ego, reaches to Aries and thus He becomes Himself the "Great Sacrifice," related with the whole of mankind...

The Influence of Spiritual Beings on Man, Lecture 2, GA 102

To conclude, we can hold this picture, as indicated above, in our heart and thoughts and fill it now with life and feeling that comes from our understanding of these spheres and the challenge now indicated in

this T Square: Mars and Pluto, egotistic individualism and the forms of the past in opposition to this realm of deep, potentially destructive, will forces and revolutionary change. Yet standing as the upright third element on which these forces are focused, stands Jupiter in the Moon Node in Aries through which is streaming to us the Grace of Jupiter, which offers our highest ideals for humanity's future realized through union with the great sacrifice and redemption of the Lamb of God. It is a cosmic question of choices to be made about our future vision for the world with the "ever present help of the spiritual world."

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