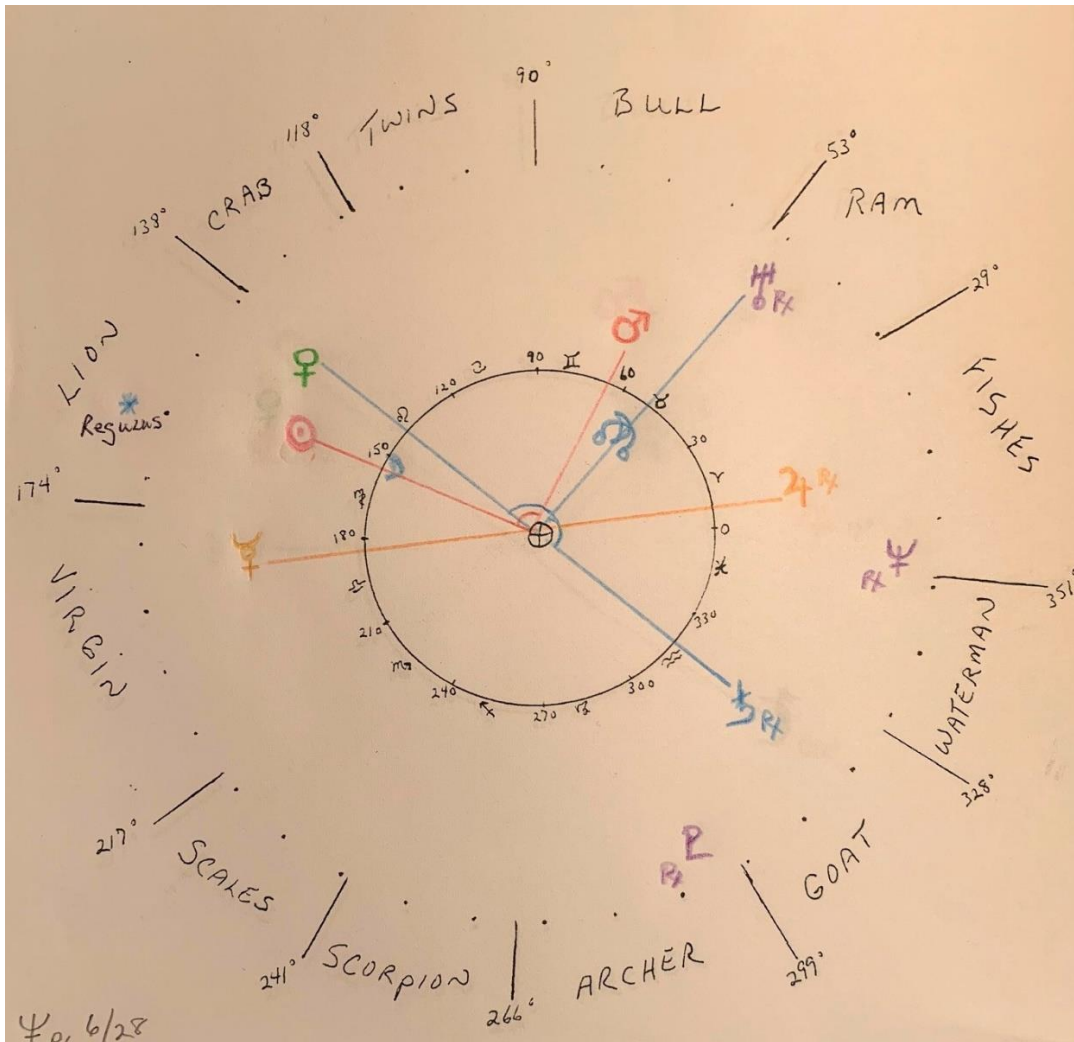


Current Stars: Squares and Oppositions August 22-28, 2022



The above image shows the various oppositions and squares during the next days. As you can see, the tropical zodiac used in the ephemeris and current astrology is drawn as the smaller inner circle showing the "signs". However, one can clearly then also see the actual constellations in which are the planets in the larger outer circle. It is through these actual constellations that the zodiacal forces stream through and color the planetary positions. Each of these relationships is worthy of deep contemplation, but in this article, I will give only some suggestions of how one might take up a consideration of the questions they pose. In general, one can view oppositions and squares (right angles) not so much negatively but as opportunities to meet challenges and to evaluate ways to balance and bring contrasts into harmony. In the square aspect it is as if the planetary beings of those spheres are working out relationships that need resolution, just as human beings in our confrontations and rough edges hopefully learn to resolve

differences and become more harmonious in relationship. In oppositions the spheres are looking across to each other, weighing, evaluating how to bring together their qualities of being in a balanced way.

Mars in Taurus will be square the Sun (and the Moon on new moon on Aug. 27th) as the Sun is just passing the star Regulus, the heart of the Lion, in exact longitudinal conjunction with Regulus on Aug. 23rd (see the red angle lines). The Sun meeting Regulus each year at this time can be a special contemplation in preparing for the work of the season of Micha-el. The Perseid meteors in mid-August have already heralded the Micha-el time, a call to prepare as the cosmic iron permeates the summer dream atmosphere. As the Sun meets Regulus, I am reminded of Steiner's description of the call of Michael as a time when "hearts being to think". Regulus is the heart of Leo and Leo is the heart of the starry zodiac. The Sun is the image of our true solar I in the cosmos. The constellation of Leo then also carries an imagination of the I in community/communion with the surrounding world of human and divine beings. Both the heart and the Sun are human and divine representatives of the flowing interchange between center and periphery, between I and Thou. They both carry the mystery of the ego in us and in the cosmos. As the Sun comes now into square relation with Mars, we can perhaps experience the challenges of concretely realizing this community/communion impulse, this thinking with the heart, in the material physical world in our time. Mars has gifted us with the capacity to confront and make "real" in the earth our expression of independent selfhood. It has in a way filled our center with matter, made our self experience truly centric...it is about "Me". Thus it has over time devolved into materialism and egoism in ways that now threaten our re-ascent to our true humanity and our capacity for cosmic communion. So, this square of Mars in Taurus (the becoming flesh) with the Sun in Regulus (the new heart thinking and spiritual communion) can make us very conscious of the challenges of this task and even appear as a frustration, a being "at right angles" to this relationship of the Mars forces in us and the Sun forces of the heart. How do we work out the true activity of the Sun-Heart-I in relation to our well developed, perhaps overly developed, earthly sense of our centric self. Yet the challenge can lead to a capacity of using the Mars courage to meet the external world and incarnating force of Taurus to realize in practical ways the new spiritual community of the heart and transforming work of Micha-el.

Fast moving Mercury has entered the stars of Virgo and is entering opposition with Jupiter in Pisces, with exact opposition on Sept. 2nd, (yellow line in image). Here we have this great sphere of Jupiter, which now in retrograde, which we wrote about last month, in the stars of Pisces, calling for humanity to take up the true tasks of our Age, and draw on the great ideals and cosmic thoughts of Jupiter to realize our spiritual freedom and work to build a world brother/sisterhood. Mercury, which wants to realize in action and in a working intelligence, enters Virgo, the constellation of Divine Wisdom, and now looks across to Jupiter and its call to humanity. It perhaps ponders the question, how can this cosmic wisdom be applied in earthly intelligence? Mercury is of course deeply connected with Micha-el in its relation to the work of the redemption of earthly intelligence to cosmic intelligence. For me, the relations of planets now to Jupiter and Saturn are significant in the further unfolding of the initial world theme expressed in their Great Conjunction of January 2020 as it unfolds.

Of particular note during this time is **the T-square (see blue angles in image) created by Venus just stepping into the stars of Leo in opposition to Saturn, still in Capricorn, with both in square to Uranus, which has been for some time in the ascending Lunar node.** This can become an inspirational vehicle for our speaking to the stars, so let us spend some time here.

Uranus has been in the Ascending Moon node since early summer. It goes retrograde, calling for our attention, on August 24th, so will turn and remain again within the orb of the Ascending Moon node for

about five months, through the Holy Nights of this year, into January. It turns Direct on January 22nd and will continue then to move away from the Moon node. So we have a season with Uranus special relation to us. A student of astrology you will recognize that the Lunar nodes hold a special opportunity for our starry communion as they are open portals, so to speak, between the Earth sphere and the planetary sphere that enters this portal. The planetary material body is of course only a kind of needed material object for our current consciousness to be able to grasp the activity of an entire unmanifest sphere of spiritual activity. So the planetary body of Uranus in the Moon node tells us that the spiritual potentialities and challenges of the Uranus sphere are quite near and accessible in this open portal of the Moon Node. The retrograde movement of Uranus also indicates a "nearness" of this potentiality now through January. So, what is this potentiality? Those who have listened to my video course or read the book will know that Uranus (and the other two outer planets, Neptune and Pluto) are newcomers to our cosmos and are related to our spiritual freedom in the time of the consciousness soul with its potential for taking up out of ourselves our own development. They carry both the potential of our new spiritual capacities if we develop them, as well as the darker aspects of that potentiality which will be taken by the adversarial forces if not taken up consciously by humanity. With the consciousness soul we are given over into our own hands by the divine world. Yet we have the seed forces necessary to take up our transformation through the power of the Christ I AM in us. With Uranus this is expressed in the potential to attain imaginative consciousness of the divine world. The Uranus sphere carries the potential for transformational experience through enlightenment. Uranus is also historically connected with the development of the esoteric Christian stream, which is carried now particularly in anthroposophy, the Rosicrucian Grail stream. So, we can become conscious now, with Uranus retrograde in the Moon node, of our ability to unite with this stream out of our spiritual activity to bring new "imaginings" into the world regarding our humanity and our future. Uranus and the Moon node are in the stars of Aries, the Ram...the constellation of the I AM, the ram of God; the constellation of the orientation to uprightness which is the work of the ego in us; the constellation of thinking which has descended into brain bound intellect but which now must be raised to a new living thinking. The development of Imagination, or Enlightenment, is the transformation of thinking into this new living picture thinking as opposed to dead abstract reflections of the sense world in concepts. One also knows from a study of astrology, that the fallen side of Uranus is expressed in the Luciferic tendencies, which are on the outer side, the seduction of the senses and the thinking bound to the senses and the desire nature of the astral body and on the inner side the illusion of personal fantasy, or egoistic imaginings/pictures which lead one away from spiritual truths. So, we can consciously try to take up the potentiality of Uranus in the Moon Node as an opportunity over the next months through our path of the transformation of thinking. The dawning of enlightenment and transformative change may emerge during this opportune season of Uranus.

We now add to this, happening during this week and exactly on Aug. 28th, the opposition of Venus and Saturn forming a T-square with Uranus at its retrograde transition moment. What is the challenge/opportunity in this? As we know from previous articles all the way back to the 2020 Great Conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter, the great sphere of world Karma, Saturn, continues its slow progress in Capricorn, a time of karmic catharsis in humanity, a great reset and purification process. Now the faster moving Venus comes to opposition, looking across to Saturn. I find Venus one of the more deeply complex of the spheres of planets holding the great trajectory and transformation of the Mysteries in human evolution. It carries the journey of Lucifer as both the light bringer and the tempter as well as his redemption by the event of Golgotha. Venus carries the cosmic memories of the founding of the new Christian mysteries by the Christ during the Three Years, which you can read about further in the Course section on Venus and the Christ events in my book or the online videos. In this great mystery of Venus is contained also the transformation of the Soul in these new mysteries and the deep relation of Lucifer to

the Holy Spirit, as presented by Steiner in his lectures on the Gospel of John. So, it is not so simple, as you can imagine, to give a two-sentence summary of what this Venus/Saturn opposition carries. However, we can imagine that Venus, now in the stars of Leo, as is the Sun, looks across to Saturn and the karma of our times, with the question of how can this difficult karmic season in humanity be healed through the new Christic mysteries and the transformation of the middle, the feeling heart life of soul. A cosmic weighing and evaluating of this balance between the karmic catharsis and the new forces of the Christ center lives in this opposition. This then stands in a T-square to the potentialities of Uranus in the Moon Node described above. We have a complex imagination now of a kind of world revolution or new enlightenment potential out of the working out of this karmic catharsis due to our past and the healing role of the Christ heart center as a force for the future.

These are perhaps challenging pictures and ideas to hold and work through in one's own thinking and then apply to one's own life tasks and situation. But I am convinced over years of work that even to simply carry the cosmic starry picture in one's thoughts, perhaps at night before joining the starry world in sleep, can work constructively and perhaps give illumination in unforeseen ways as we walk the paths of our individual karma within our own world situation. In a new star wisdom appropriate for our times we can strive to know the being of the stars through the new cognition and in this communion and knowing they can reveal themselves to us.

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