

The Emergence of Pluto in Capricorn: 2008-2024

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Abstract

The purpose of this article is to explore the significance of Pluto in Capricorn over the next sixteen years. It begins with an overview of the movement of Pluto through the signs from the time of its discovery in 1930, and explains the quality and dynamic of Pluto in affecting transformational change. It goes on to discuss the essential nature of the sign Capricorn and highlights the opportunities, challenges and emerging trends specific to this historic passage. The article concludes with the relevance of Pluto in Capricorn in the ongoing preparatory work for the Reappearance of the Christ and the incoming Age of Aquarius.

Overview

Capricorn, the “birthplace of the Christ,” the place of the “second birth” and the scene for the emergence of the fifth kingdom in nature when the right time comes.¹

Pluto's recent entrance into Capricorn is a consummation and a turning point; a heightened spiritual opportunity and a planetary crisis.

This is somewhat true whenever Pluto changes signs but it is particularly true whenever Pluto is positioned at the beginning of a cardinal sign since 0° of the cardinal signs corresponds to the seasonal equinox and solstice points which are the natural vertical and horizontal axes of the zodiacal wheel.

The cardinal points divide the wheel into four sub-cycles or phases within an overarching evolutionary cycle similar to the phases of the Moon. Each sub-cycle brings about an overall shift in direction related to the cardinal sign involved, while the passage from sign to sign brings about a more specific focus on the energies of each sign; each one seeding the next in the evolutionary progression.

Another consideration is that every larger cycle, sub-cycle and sign have a waxing and waning influence similar to the phases of the Moon. Hence there is constant interplay of in-breath, interlude and out-breath within the greater and lesser cycles. A waxing cycle relates to growth and expansion while a waning cycle extracts, integrates and essentializes meaning from the growth cycle.

Since its discovery in 1930 Pluto has been in its waxing cycle ascending through the signs Cancer to Sagittarius. As Pluto enters Capricorn it is positioned at the winter solstice point in the northern latitudes, characterized by death and rebirth. It is a time when the sun ‘stands still’; nature is dormant and spirit is most pronounced. It is introspective and distinguished by withdrawal from outer activity toward inner spiritual realities.

Like the last quarter Moon phase, the last quarter sub-cycle that Pluto is entering is a time of culmination—the ending of the previous cycle and birth into a new cycle. The results of the previous cycle are examined, essentialized and integrated into the larger whole.

Capricorn is ever the sign of conclusion... is, therefore, the sign of what has been called esoterically “periodic arresting.” Progress

About the Author

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becomes impossible under the existing forms, and there has to be the descent into the valley of pain, despair and death before a fresh attempt to scale the heights takes place.²

Pluto was accidentally discovered on February 18, 1930, midway in the sign of Cancer. Pluto had entered Cancer in 1913 just before the World Wars. At the time the world was in financial turmoil due to the Wall Street crash and there was extreme political unrest due to the rise of Fascism in Europe. Secretly the atomic bomb was being developed and the Nazis were gaining a foothold in Europe.

Pluto's passage through Cancer initiated a mass awakening and sensitive response to world conditions. This was the first time humanity en masse had left home and tribe to fight a world war on foreign soil. It was the very first time that humanity had banded together in reaction to a global cause.

During Pluto's passage through Cancer and early Leo, millions of individual lives were sacrificed. Humanity was later regenerated by a huge population explosion (the baby-boomer generation) while Pluto was in Leo (1938-56).

This stage of death and of birth (for the two are proceeding simultaneously) can be easily grasped by the esotericist as he studies the world war in its two distinctive periods: 1914 to 1918, and 1939 until 1942. The first stage (if you could see the situation as it truly is) was most definitely the death stage; the second stage, in which we now find ourselves, is literally the stage of birth—the birth pangs of the new order and of the new civilisation through which humanity's sense of life can express itself. The mother dies in order that the child may live; the form is sacrificed to the life. But today, the form aspect, the Mother or matter aspect, is dying consciously, and just as consciously the child, the infant civilisation, is coming into being. This is the new thing and it is in this that we are all participating. It is the death of the personality of humanity and the coming in of the soul.³

The 0° Libra cycle (1971-2008)—when Pluto was moving through the Libra to Capricorn-

quadrant of the Cardinal Cross (paralleling the full moon phase)—was a time of fullness and openness yet reorientation toward deeper understanding and meaning. This era brought an end to the Viet Nam War and inaugurated the Information Age—a new era of global exchange and bridging between the East and West. The digital and ICT revolution and the invention of the world wide web (1989) powerfully opened the door to interdependence and wider interconnection, initiating communities not bound by space or proximity, which continues through the present day.

More recently, Pluto in Sagittarius (1995–2008) highlighted religious extremes and inflationary tendencies, yet opened the door to wider multi-cultural experience, travel, diversity and exposed the truth in many areas—even ‘inconvenient truths’ such as global warming. This period also brought a widespread expansion in consciousness and an intense optimism and idealism. With Pluto now entering Capricorn there is bound to be a battle between this optimism and idealism and the need for realism.

The current 0° Capricorn sub-cycle continues through 2066. The focus during this time will be on gaining a larger-scale picture of how the world works, what our collective relationship to the universe is, and what lessons or conclusions we are able to draw upon from our experiences thus far.

...a great and new movement is proceeding and a tremendously increased interplay and interaction is taking place. This will go on until A.D. 2025. During the years intervening between now and then very great changes will be seen taking place, and at the great General Assembly of the Hierarchy—held as usual every century—in 2025 the date in all probability will be set for the first stage of the externalisation of the Hierarchy. The present cycle (from now until that date) is called technically “The Stage of the Forerunner.”⁴

This intensification of the light will continue until A.D. 2025, when there will come a cycle of relative stability and of steady shining without much augmentation.⁵

The inner structure of the World Federation of Nations will eventually be equally well organised, with its outer form taking rapid shape by 2025.⁶

Pluto

Pluto brings powerful and far-reaching change and transformation. As the most distant planet from the Sun, it is by nature obscure. Astronomers know less about this planet than any other in our system. Thus Pluto represents that which is hidden or concealed—the mysteries, life and death, inner psychological processes, and infrastructures. Its process is gradual and grand; overarching all other planetary cycles in scope and longevity.

Although Pluto is the smallest planet, and now has even been reduced to the status of a ‘dwarf planet,’⁷¹ its impact is powerful and mighty. Pluto is generational, affecting millions of people and presenting those tests and challenges that transform and rebirth whole societies and civilizations.

A key principle of Pluto is that something small can have an enormous impact disproportionate to its size. This is also a principle of the Big Bang theory, according to which everything came from nothing. It is exemplified by the micro-chip and in fact by the micro-and-nano-everything world we live in. It is the principle behind the atomic bomb about the size of a baseball which produces an explosion equal to 20,000 tons of TNT. It is also the principle behind the powerful effect one person can have on the entire world.

The glyph or symbol for Pluto ♇ is similar to the glyph for Neptune ♆ indicating the close relationship between these two planets. Their alliance is evident in the fact that Neptune and Pluto are the exoteric and esoteric rulers of Pisces, and in Greek mythology Neptune and Pluto are brothers: Poseidon, God of the Sea, and Hades, God of the Underworld. The third brother is Zeus, God of Air—Uranus.

Astronomically, during Pluto's 248 year irregular orbit around the Sun, it intersects with Neptune for a period of 20 years, assuming a position closer to the Sun than Neptune during that time. The last time this happened was from 1979 to 1999, and the next time it will occur will be in two hundred years (2226).

Pluto's glyph (symbol) shows the circle (spirit) over the crescent (receptivity) and the cross (matter). This bears resemblance to a human being with arms outstretched toward the heavens in praise or invocation. The symbol indicates that Pluto is fueled by a higher

power although, as a non-sacred planet, its vital work is focused in the lower realms, bringing the death of personality limitations by destroying all that hinders progress and reorienting the life toward the higher. This is particularly true with Pluto in Capricorn, for Pluto represents the depths and Capricorn the heights of the material world.

Esoterically, Pluto, one of the rulers of Pisces, must work, bringing in the death of the personality influence.⁸

[W]ith the activation of the Capricorn/Cancer axis with the entry of Pluto into Capricorn, the actions of ordinary people and groups can and will have a potent impact in the coming cycle. Individual and grass-root efforts will create extraordinary solutions to global problems. We will have the opportunity to make a “world of difference” in very simple, practical and profound ways; and the actions of the few will have a profound and regenerative effect upon the masses.

Two of the other non-sacred planets—Mars and Pluto—function in connection with the sacral centre (Mars) and the solar plexus (Pluto). This latter planet becomes active in the life of the man who is “becoming alive in the higher sense, his lower nature passes into the smoke and darkness of Pluto, who governs the lesser burning ground, in order that the man may live in truth in the higher land of light.”⁹

Pluto's process is metamorphic, initially involving a breaking down or dismantling phase, followed by a rest period or interlude, and then a reconstructive or re-birthing phase. Its passage through a sign causes an intense and protracted focus, examination and transformation of the issues denoted by that sign.

Pluto and Capricorn powerfully express the First Ray and both are associated with initiation. Pluto and Vulcan are known to co-rule the first initiation while Capricorn is the paramount sign of initiation. Consequently, during the current “Stage of the Forerunner”¹⁰ Pluto in Capricorn seems a potent combination to augment preparations for the first planetary initiation.

...a disciple who is upon the path is strongly influenced by Mercury and by Saturn, but when he begins his training for the first initiation he has to contend with the influences of Pluto and Vulcan...¹¹

At the first initiation, the disciple has to contend with the crystallising and destroying forces of Vulcan and Pluto. The influence of Vulcan reaches to the very depths of his nature, whilst Pluto drags to the surface and destroys all that hinders in these lower regions.¹²

Capricorn

Lost am I in Light Supernal, yet on that light I turn my back.

CAPRICORN—This is the constellation by means of which comes the conquering will which releases from form life and initiates the man into the kingdom wherein the will aspect (not the soul aspect) of divinity ex-

presses itself. You will remember that there is a close connection between the Earth and Capricorn. The reason for this is that the Earth provides ideal conditions for this particular type of achievement because it is in process of transforming from the stage of a “non-sacred planet” into that of a “sacred planet.” This is why Saturn is so powerful a ruler and transmitter to the Earth of the dynamic quality of the first ray of power. This inpouring of first ray energy will be greatly accelerated from now on.¹³

Capricorn, exoterically and esoterically ruled by Saturn, represents the three stages of humanity's unfoldment: Deep crystallization, concretization and material ambition are symbolized by the crocodile. The ascent out of matter, the surmounting of the tests and trials of earth, are symbolized by the goat. The great spiritual heights of the initiate are represented by the unicorn.

Esoterically, all world Saviours and Sun Gods are born in Capricorn but also the very worst type of man—hard, materialistic, cruel, proud, selfishly ambitious and egoistic.¹⁴

Capricorn is a sign of extremes, expressing the best and worst that humanity is capable of. Through the First Ray Capricorn is associated with power, politics, leadership and the use of will. Through the Third Ray it is linked to humanity and the planetary throat centre, the Earth, commerce, economics, and mental and physical resources. Through the Seventh Ray Capricorn is associated with the power of manifestation and with skill and agility in the affairs of the physical plane.

Both esoterically and exoterically Capricorn is ambitious, oriented toward achievement, goal-driven, focused, hardworking, responsible, practical, earthy, and frugal. Capricorn rules the knees and the back, symbolically representing pride and humility, the shouldering of burdens and responsibilities, and the process of ‘bending of the will without breaking the spirit.’

Will works downwards into form, bending form consciously to divine purpose.¹⁵

When crystallisation has reached a certain degree of density and so-called "hardness," it is easily shattered and destroyed and man, born in Capricorn, then brings about his own destruction; this is due to his fundamentally materialistic nature, plus the "blows of fate" which are the enactments of the law of karma. Again and again, a certain measure of concreteness is achieved, only again to undergo destruction, prior to the release of the life and the rebuilding of the form.¹⁶

...Capricorn is...the sign in which is inaugurated a new cycle of effort, whether this effort is in connection with the individual man or with the initiate. Effort, strain, struggle, the fight with the forces native to the underworld, or the strenuous conditions entailed by the tests of discipleship or initiation—these are distinctive of experience in Capricorn.¹⁷

(Laws of group work) Law 5: The symbol for this is the mountain with a goat standing on the summit, and again an astrological sign, that of Capricorn, can be noted. All hard places can be surmounted, and the summit reached by the "Divine Goat," symbol of the group, viewed as a unit.¹⁸

Pluto in Capricorn

Things fall apart; the center cannot hold.
(*The Second Coming* by William Butler Yeats.)

...as man translates his ideals into words and acts, he brings about transformation, transmutation and eventually translation upon the mountain top of Initiation.¹⁹

Pluto's recent entrance into Capricorn was preceded by its conjunction with the Galactic Centre which has occurred several times over the past two years. This could be called a *planetary course correction*. Past Pluto conjunctions to the Galactic Center brought far-reaching changes, the impacts of which were unknown until many years later. For example between 1510 and 1512 Pluto was conjunct the Galactic Centre at 23° Sagittarius, and during this time Copernicus discovered that the Earth revolved around the Sun. During the last conjunction between 1758 and 1760 at 24° Sagit-

tarius, the first treatise on atomic theory was published, and was considered to be one of the most important discoveries in the history of science.²⁰

With Pluto entering Capricorn "the tide has turned." There is about to be a major reality check in the affairs of planet Earth. In fact it will be a time to 'get real' like no other in recent history. Pluto faces us with the ultimate realities of life and Capricorn is a powerful earth sign, oriented to practicality and realism.

The power of Pluto in Capricorn at this time will be strengthened by the fact that First Ray impulses arise in the first quarter of each century. Also the year 2008 is a '10' year numerologically ($2 + 0 + 0 + 8 = 10$) and '10' becomes '1' ($1 + 0 = 1$). The number 1 corresponds to birth and new beginnings and Pluto in Capricorn, the tenth sign in a 10 year instigates cyclic activity and the process of becoming. This is a time when things come to pass or eventuate according to divine Plan.

Great united strength can be brought to the service of the Plan, and the occult significance of the words: "My strength is as the strength of ten, because my heart is pure" can be grasped. The perfected strength of the Ashram (symbolised by the number 10) becomes available to the disciple whose purity of heart has enabled him to penetrate into the Ashram...²¹

By means of this augmentation—during the coming Aquarian zodiacal cycle—groups on earth can avail themselves of the tide of Capricornian influences which will flow into our radius of registration every seven years.²²

Over the next seventeen years Pluto in Capricorn will cause many changes in the way we "do business." Although this will occur over time, the scope and dynamism of Pluto in relation to world affairs will be dramatic and far-reaching. A sorely needed housecleaning will occur. We recall the technique of the First Ray, "Ever destruction goes before the rule of beauty. Ruin precedes the real. The garden and the gardener must awake! The work proceeds."²³

The goal of Pluto in Capricorn will involve a rather large agenda of world reconstruction, given that so many forms have built up over such a long time since Pluto began its larger cycle in Aries in 1822. A huge laundry list of crystallized structures will need to be confronted in this emerging world period, and many changes are already underway because Pluto's net is very broad and never sudden. Signs of its entry into Capricorn have been arising substantially over the past several years, laying a rough framework for what is to come. There are numerous examples and issues related to this period, including:

- An economic shift in power from the West to the East.
- A shift away from expansion toward simplicity.
- An interest in ageing and changes in the way we inter our dead.
- Globalization.
- Global concerns; global warming.
- Shared use of world resources.
- Sustainability.
- Ecology and the Earth.
- Earth stewardship.
- Changes in the monetary system.
- Building and construction techniques.
- Corporate responsibility.
- Leadership.
- World governance.
- Conscious consumerism.
- Issues related to mega-wealth (plutocrats).
- Philanthropy.
- Career versus vocation.
- Focus on purpose and purposefully driven lives.
- Anarchy.
- Relocalization.
- Infrastructures

Certainly plenty of work needs to be done, however the rather lofty and overarching goal of this world period will be to confront existing limitations; to destroy the outworn political, governmental, business, economic, medical, religious and other institutional structures

that impede the flow of greater life—and ultimately emerge a more vibrant, living organism.

Clearly this will be a “global” period, emphasizing global issues, global responsibility, and focusing on broad-based issues such as ecology and the right use of world resources. But another striking and somewhat hidden feature of this period will be the shift from feeling to action, so characteristic of the First Ray.

This impulse to act and to initiate, coupled with Pluto's innate principle of having a huge impact disproportionate to its size, creates a dynamic potential. Cancer—the opposite sign to Capricorn—rules mass consciousness, and so with the activation of the Capricorn/Cancer axis with the entry of Pluto into Capricorn, the actions of ordinary people and groups can and will have a potent impact in the coming cycle. Individual and grass-root efforts will create extraordinary solutions to global problems. We will have the opportunity to make a “world of difference” in very simple, practical and profound ways; and the actions of the few will have a profound and regenerative effect upon the masses.

This world period will be about coming down to earth and getting back to basics—in the words of Gandhi, “Living simply so that others may simply live.” While Pluto is in Capricorn it will be a time for putting the awareness gained in Sagittarius into action and usefulness. It will be a time when individual freedoms will not be exercised at the expense of others; a time when we stop living in the future (Sagittarius) and begin to live in the “now;” a time when we will ask ourselves what really works and what is real; a time of tightening our belts with greater natural austerity. No more will life be about excess, grand plans and schemes without exacting usefulness and purpose. Increasingly there will be a tendency toward simplicity and a Zen-like approach.

The new era of simplicity must come in. The new world order will inaugurate this simpler life based on adequate food, right thought, creative activity and happiness. These essentials are only possible under a right economic rule. This simplification and

this wise distribution of the world's resources must embrace the high and the low, the rich and the poor, thus serving all men alike.²⁴

The chart of Pluto's ingress into Capricorn carries the seeds of the emerging civilization and significantly underscores efforts toward a new world order with Pluto, Venus and Jupiter in Capricorn positioned at the fourth house cusp.

Although Jupiter in Capricorn is placed in the sign of its detriment, it is exalted in the fourth house, articulating a deeper descent of spirit into matter and the uprising of spirit from deep within matter, which will undoubtedly characterize this period.

Venus in Capricorn, in its hierarchical (monadic) position, opens the door not only to greater spiritual heights but to increased fusion within the global heart and mind.

The prominent grouping of Sun, Chiron, Neptune, Mercury and North Node in Aquarius in the fifth house conveys the collective power of Humanity, altruism, brotherhood and group consciousness, which will be at the heart of this new cycle.

The unfoldment of the Christ life—as a result of the presence and activities of the second divine aspect of love—will result in the ending of economic fear, and the “house of bread” will become the “house of plenty.” Bread—as the symbol of material human need—will eventually be controlled by a vast group of initiates of the first initiation—by those whose lives are beginning to be controlled by the Christ-consciousness, which is the consciousness of responsibility and service. These initiates exist in their thousands today; they will be present in their millions by the time the year 2025 arrives. All this re-orientation and unfoldment will be the result of the activity of the seventh ray and of the impact of its radiation upon humanity.²⁵

The Libra ascendant of the ingress chart emphasizes equipoise between spirit and matter, a reorientation toward right relations, reciprocity, mutual tolerance, shared stewardship, co-

operation, and the bridging of differences in the light of commonalities; and increased desire for true peace, based on right human relations and implemented by goodwill.

This year Pluto is relatively stationary, in a holding pattern until the end of the current calendar year when Pluto progresses further into Capricorn. When Uranus enters Aries (2010-11) and Neptune enters Pisces (2012) the shattering of forms and the dismantling process will intensify. Uranus square Pluto at that time will create a point of critical mass that will spur a paradigm shift, further breakthroughs and revolutionary changes.

2012 is said to be the “end of time” in Mayan and other prophecies, and surely this year will mark the beginning of the end of the world as we have known it, and a critical point of transition onto higher ground. It is a time when we will move more deeply into the Aquarian Age and deepen our dedication to the preparatory work for the reappearance of the Christ through our actions.

The larger Capricorn-Pisces Pluto cycle that we are in will conclude in Pisces in 2044-2066; clearing away the final vestiges and remnants of the Piscean Age and setting the stage for a whole new cycle—the long awaited Age of Aquarius.

¹ Alice A. Bailey. *Esoteric Astrology*. Lucis, 1951, p. 102.

² *Ibid.*, p. 158.

³ Alice A. Bailey. *Esoteric Healing*. Lucis, 1953, p. 116.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 530.

⁵ Alice A. Bailey. *Esoteric Psychology*, I. Lucis, 1936, p. 1103.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 1177.

⁷ On 24 August 2006 the General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) agreed that a “planet” is to be defined as “a celestial body that (a) is in orbit around the Sun, (b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape, and (c) has cleared the neighborhood around its orbit.” Therefore Pluto was reclassified as a

- “dwarf planet”.
<http://www.iau.org/iau0603.414.0.html>.
- ⁸ Alice A. Bailey. *The Destiny of the Nations*. Lucis, 1949, p. 73.
- ⁹ Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 78.
- ¹⁰ Alice A. Bailey. *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*. Lucis, 1957, p.530.
- ¹¹ Bailey, *Esoteric Psychology*, I, p. 246.
- ¹² Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 70.
- ¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 620.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 169.
- ¹⁵ Bailey, *Esoteric Healing*, p. 344.
- ¹⁶ Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 158.
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 159.
- ¹⁸ Alice A. Bailey. *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*. Lucis, 1925, p. 1221.
- ¹⁹ Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 398.
- ²⁰ In Vienna in 1758 Ruđer Bošković published *Theoria philosophiae naturalis redacta ad unicam legem virium in natura existentium* (Theory of Natural philosophy derived to the single Law of forces, which exist in Nature), containing his atomic theory and his theory of forces. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boscovich>)
- ²¹ Alice A. Bailey. *Discipleship in the New Age*, II. Lucis, 1955, p. 330
- ²² Alice A. Bailey. *Esoteric Psychology*, II. Lucis, 1942, p. 196.
- ²³ *Ibid.*, p.167.
- ²⁴ Bailey, *Esoteric Healing*, p. 198.
- ²⁵ Alice A. Bailey. *The Rays and the Initiations*. Lucis, 1960, p. 571.