

Awakening to Cosmos: The Jupiter-Chiron-Neptune Conjunction in Aquarius 2009

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Abstract

This article explores the astrological significance and meaning of a current conjunction of Jupiter, Chiron and Neptune in Aquarius. It touches upon the growing influence of minor planets and examines the impact of the small planet Chiron on world culture since its discovery in 1977. The article concludes with a synopsis of current astrological trends that are setting the stage for a new world order.

Overview

“Only in striving for the interplanetary can we be assured of the evolution of humanity.”¹

Major planetary configurations convey vital elements of the unfolding cosmic narrative, just like the discovery of each new planet adds dimension and meaning to the revelation of Life and consciousness on Earth. All the major and minor planets in the solar system are living Gods who are “informed by a cosmic Entity under the influence of the Life impulses of the solar Logos.”² As they revolve around the Sun they form energetic relationships that enliven, impel and awaken us to new possibilities, fresh perspectives and to that which was, hitherto, unimaginable.

A number of grand, unprecedented, celestial events are concurrently underway that are bringing about a momentous turning point in the evolution of humanity. Pluto’s ingress into Capricorn and a legendary Saturn-Uranus opposition are in full force, and now an auspicious and unprecedented triple conjunction of Jupiter, Chiron and Neptune in Aquarius is emerging on the cosmic scene.

An astrological conjunction occurs when two or more planets are closely aligned, creating an amplification of their combined energy and

power. When multiple planets are involved (like the Jupiter-Chiron-Neptune conjunction) an astrological configuration called a *stellium* occurs, which is a dynamic constellation of energies that are powerfully synergistic. Whenever major planetary configurations involve transpersonal planets or signs, cosmos is unfolding and revealing new facets of the macrocosm that are always far-reaching, although initially somewhat obscure. For example, a Neptune-Uranus conjunction in 1993 coincided with the birth of *Mosaic*, the very first major public browser for the World Wide Web, now credited with popularizing the Internet.³ Who would have ever imagined the broad impact this technology would have on the world in the years that followed?

The triple conjunction of Jupiter, Chiron and Neptune in Aquarius is considered an auspicious alignment that will have a definite impact on the existing world culture and group consciousness. Planets positioned in Aquarius are intensified at this time because we are entering the Age of Aquarius, and this constellation’s “influence is gaining in momentum...and is largely responsible for the changes now being effected in our planetary life in all the kingdoms of nature.”⁴ Aquarius rules the circulatory system in the human body and, on a much larger scale, governs the distribution and flow of energy in the planetary

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etheric body and beyond. It is foremost a sign of “universal relationships, interplay and consciousness.”⁵ Thus this combination of planets in Aquarius will re-invigorate discoveries and exploration into inner and outer space, foster altruism, and encourage a more holistic world-view.

Although Chiron and Neptune have been in close proximity in Aquarius since last year, this ground-breaking conjunction of Jupiter, Chiron and Neptune in Aquarius recently began in May, will continue through August, and recur in December 2009. The lesser conjunction of just Chiron and Neptune will extend into 2010 with two exact conjunctions in February and December.

Historically, similar conjunctions of Jupiter, Chiron and Neptune were renewing and restorative, fueling scientific and technological discoveries and advancements in human welfare and philanthropy. For example, a triple conjunction in Libra in 1945 coincided with the end of World War II and marked a new era of relative peace in the world. It fueled a post-war period of healing and reconstruction, mass evacuation of concentration camps, the return of military personnel to their homelands, and resulted in the official founding of the United Nations on October 24, 1945. A paralleling triple conjunction in Taurus in 1881 coincided with the founding of the American Red Cross and the invention of the world’s first electrical power distribution system, which in time became the basis for electrical power transmission and electrical light grids all over the world.

Although Jupiter, Chiron and Neptune are in the fixed sign of Aquarius at this time, they have an easy and natural affinity with the mutable signs, which will support and complement the “constant movement... changing activity and recurrent mutations”⁶ that are so

characteristic of Aquarius. For example, Chiron is strongly linked with Virgo and Sagittarius; Jupiter is the exoteric ruler of Sagittarius and the hierarchical ruler of Virgo; and Jupiter and Neptune are the exoteric co-rulers of Pisces—all mutable placements.

The current triple conjunction of Jupiter, Chiron and Neptune in Aquarius is an opportunity for spiritual and global healing that will cause us to see the interconnectedness and Oneness of life more clearly. At the heart of the current triad is Jupiter, one of the seven sacred planets and the esoteric (soul) ruler of Aquarius. Jupiter expresses the Second Ray of Love-Wisdom, which will further global cooperation and collaboration, greater inclusivity, goodwill, and synthesis. Jupiter in Aquarius is “the outgoing expression of love, which attracts...the good of the whole,”⁷ and this placement has often coincided with expansions in group consciousness.

Since 1998 when Neptune first entered the sign Aquarius, areas of world glamour have come to light, and there has been a slow but steady dissolution and dissipation of some of the archaic boundaries that have separated humanity for eons. Neptune expresses the heart of the Sun and the light of wisdom. “It is a planet closely linked with the work of the Soul in manifestation and is thus the vehicle for the Christ Consciousness.”⁸ Neptune in Aquarius is fueling united aspiration, brotherhood, spiritual interplay, and a more enlightened social conscience. And likewise, the minor planet Chiron, considered the rainbow bridge between the material and spiritual worlds, is exposing our collective wounds and global challenges, and providing important keys to their integration and reconciliation. Undoubtedly, this confluence of planets has the potential to ameliorate and mitigate some of the sharp edges of the current global crises with elements of transcendence, healing and grace.

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Chiron and the Minor Planets

Planetoids are basically small planets that orbit the Sun and are part of the solar body. There are now over 65,000 of these orbiting objects and minor planets—asteroids, comets and dwarf planets—that have been categorized according to their size, makeup, and position within the solar system. Astronomers sort the location of these smaller planetary bodies by regions or zones situated inside the orbit of Jupiter, between Jupiter and Neptune, or in the vast region beyond Neptune.

The Ageless Wisdom teaches that there are numerous minor planets that “have an energy or attractive quality all their own.”⁹ However, “owing to their relative insignificance, they have not yet been considered factors of moment. This attitude of mind will change when etheric vision is a fact, and the reality of the existence of an etheric double of all that is in manifestation will be recognized by scientists. This fact will be demonstrated towards the close of the century and, during the early part of the next century a revolution in astronomical circles will occur that will result in the study of the etheric planets.”¹⁰

Centaur planets are a group of asteroids with comet-like bodies usually located in the region between Jupiter and Neptune. They have an unusual transient orbit that crosses over the orbital path of major planets, and are named after the centaurs in Greek mythology that were half man-half horse because likewise they are half asteroid-half comet, and are known for their somewhat eccentric nature. Chiron, discovered in 1977, was the first known member of this class of centaurs, and the only centaur planet to date to be designated as both an asteroid and a comet with known cometary activity.

The planet Chiron was named after the most renowned centaur in Greek mythology, commonly referred to as “the wounded healer.” Most centaurs were considered to be crude and amoral, with the exception of Chiron who taught all the children of the Gods including Hercules and Achilles, and was celebrated

as a wise teacher, healer and prophet. Chiron was the product of an unfortunate union between the God Kronus and the beautiful nymph Philyra, and upon seeing her newborn son Philyra was so revolted by his appearance as half-horse that she immediately fled, tragically leaving Chiron orphaned. Later, to his great fortune, he was found and adopted by the Greek sun god Apollo who raised him and taught him everything he knew, and Chiron went on to become a revered teacher, healer, astrologer and oracle.

Chiron earned his name as the “wounded healer” when, during the course of an altercation, he was accidentally shot in the leg by Hercules’ arrow that had the poisonous venom of a Hydra still on it. The wound caused Chiron agonizing and protracted pain but because he was the son of a God and immortal, he could not die. So he withdrew to the mountainside and spent the rest of his life deepening his knowledge of herbs and natural healing and administering to the sick and the poor.

In time, as an act of contrition, Hercules bargained with his father Zeus to exchange Chiron’s immortality for the life of Prometheus who had been chained to a rock and left to die for his transgressions. Zeus agreed and the exchange took place. After nine days in the underworld Chiron died and was released from his terrible suffering. Following his death Hercules asked Zeus to immortalize Chiron with a coveted place in heaven as the constellation Sagittarius. For this reason Hercules, who was the catalyst of Chiron’s wound, became the instrument of his supreme glorification.

However blessed and yet tragic Chiron’s story is, it is the perfect allegory for the stages of human evolutionary development from Virgo through Sagittarius. Beginning with the birth of the hidden Christ in Virgo, to Libra where an interlude of balance is achieved between the spiritual and human nature, to the arduous battle between personality and soul—death and immortality—in Scorpio, to the glorification of Self as an accepted disciple in Sagittarius—the

myth of Chiron characterizes the journey of Self-actualization and wholeness. Chiron was born half man and half God, achieved an interlude of harmony and peace as a revered public servant, went on to fight a fierce and painful psychological and physical battle, and later was immortalized and glorified with a place in heaven.

The myth of Chiron is humanity's story. We are both human and divine. We suffer from the daily challenges of being human and from a much deeper longing for our divine nature. There is a "mythic necessity in our particular wound"¹¹ because it takes us on an evolutionary quest for meaning and wholeness, which causes us not only to face and embrace our problems and challenges, but to undergo a psycho-spiritual process of transformation and atonement that draws forth our higher potential. The archetype of Chiron teaches us that there is a silver lining in the worst possible conditions, and that the grace that arises from our challenges is ultimately liberating. Due to its highly unusual orbit, Chiron is considered a "maverick" planet—a trait that is very much a part of its non-conforming nature. To be "chirotic" is to be an independent, creative thinker who lives outside the bounds of the establishment. Not surprisingly, Chiron's discovery occurred at the height of the human potential movement—when spirituality, psychology and physical healing began to merge into a variety of alternative and "holistic" approaches. The etymology of Chiron's name is derived from the root "chiro," meaning "one who is skilled with hands." Thus chiropractic, massage therapy, acupuncture, and other hands-on healing arts and modalities have grown in popularity since the time of Chiron's discovery.

The impact of the Chiron archetype on psychology, astrology, ecology, medicine, and human consciousness has been extraordinary over the past thirty years. In a relatively short span of time integrative and alternative approaches have become the norm in leadership, management, education, economy, communications, science, criminality, politics, health-care, and science. There is literally no depart-

ment of society that has not been impacted by this integrative trend. For example in Ken Wilbur's groundbreaking first book, *The Spectrum of Consciousness*, published in 1977 (the same year that Chiron was discovered), he introduced a new *integral* approach to psychology that details the stages of human development and consciousness. One of the stages he cites is the "centaur stage"—an existential phase of development where mind and body are united.¹²

Current Trends

"We understand how the great future is being prepared...beauty is born of tension."¹³

The current emphases of planets in Aquarius, and the overall astrological climate of this period, has broad implications given that the entire century leading up to 2025 is a crucial turning point in the history of humanity called "The Stage of the Forerunner." It is *preparatory* in nature, *testing* in its methods, and intended to be *revelatory* in its techniques and results.¹⁴ The Ancient Maya also knew this would be a time of great change in the world because in the Mayan calendar 2012 marks the end and the beginning of a 30,000 year galactic cycle that inaugurates a whole new era for humanity. Unquestionably this is an amazing and unparalleled time in history that carries very serious challenges, yet enormous opportunity.

The two most significant astrological aspects this year are a Saturn-Uranus opposition and the Jupiter-Chiron-Neptune conjunction in Aquarius, which are happening simultaneously and working in tandem. The Saturn-Uranus opposition, which began last November and triggered the crisis in the global economy, is having a huge impact on the entire planet. Historically this opposition involves critical times of reckoning and turning points that mark the end of an era and the birth of a new order. Saturn represents the status quo, the material world and the conventional order of things, and Uranus represents evolutionary progress and change. Within this opposition there is a tug-of-war between ancient material forces and an outworn system of greed and divisiveness, as well as a new incoming era of enlightened

social conscience based on higher values of unity, right human relations, global consciousness, sharing, cooperation and equality.

As an expression of the Second Ray, the energies of Jupiter-Chiron-Neptune in Aquarius are vitalizing and strengthening this new paradigm. We can see this

emerging and manifesting in a number of ways. Most recently in President Obama's speech in Cairo, entitled "A New Beginning," he gave voice to the collective longings of humanity for greater diplomacy, global unity and world peace. He outlined various points of tension and conflict in the world, yet demanded an end to the long cycle of separation and dissension. He said, "So long as our relationship is defined by our differences, we will empower those who sow hatred rather than peace, and who promote conflict rather than the cooperation that can help all of our people achieve justice and prosperity. *This cycle of suspicion and discord must end.*" In his summation he appealed to all of humanity by saying, "We have the power to make the world we seek, but only if we have the courage to make *a new beginning.*" And he closed with the proclamation, "The people of the world can live together in peace. We know that is God's vision. Now that must be our work here on Earth."¹⁵ As a prominent world leader with Aquarius rising, President Obama is emerging right along with the influx of Aquarian energies as a universal guide and agent of change, not only in America but throughout the world. He is acting as a channel for a higher frequency of what the triple conjunction has to offer—world unity, commonality of spiritual ideals and aspirations, and greater coherence in a world long divided.

Another intriguing manifestation of these triadic energies in Aquarius is in science. Since Neptune entered Aquarius in 1993, increas-

ingly science and religion have been merging in profound ways. Science has shifted from simply trying to understand the mechanics of the material world to attempting to understand the world of subtle energies and the interconnectedness of all life. On May 14, 2009, with the triple conjunction in close

proximity, Europe's Herschel and Planck telescopes were launched in an effort to probe deeper into outer space than has ever been possible.¹⁶ What's more, just five days later, on May 19, 2009, the Americans released an updated version of the Hubble Space Telescope back into space that will repair and upgrade the aging observatory, making it 90 times more powerful than it originally was.¹⁷ Clearly the incoming Aquarian energies are furthering exploration into outer space and placing a spotlight on our connection to cosmos.

Another demonstration of Chiron and Neptune in Aquarius

over the past several years, which is growing at lightning speed, is the revolution in the communal aspects of digital culture. There are six billion videos shared on YouTube each month, three billion photos available on Flickr, and a mushrooming of collaborative sites such as Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Digg, StumbleUpon, Wikipedia and Wetpaint (to name just a few). There is a huge trend toward digital communities, communal efforts and engagement that is ultimately focusing our attention on our interconnections.

Although not as apparent as the current crisis in the global economy, the Jupiter-Chiron-Neptune energies are subtly infusing world culture with love and wisdom. For example, broad spiritual awareness and consciousness movements such as the "A New Earth Webcast" series, hosted by Oprah Winfrey and Eckhart Tolle last year, had over six million participants; in May 2009 the world's wealthiest philanthropists gathered in an unprecedented secret meeting in New York City to

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collaborate on meeting global need; and, as a positive result of the economic debacle, sociologists report a trend toward greater empathy and “people coming together” in their misfortune.

Astrologically the triple conjunction is not challenged by hard aspects. So there will be very few impediments to the infusion of added empathy, cooperation, compassion and wisdom this year. A semi-sextile with Uranus (the exoteric ruler of Aquarius) may create an air of uneasiness, but it is unlikely that events will reach another dramatic crisis point until the summer of 2010.

In an address to the graduating Class of 2009 at the University of Portland, Paul Hawken, a leading environmentalist and author, captures the gist of incoming Aquarian energies quite vividly. In his speech he said, “What I see everywhere in the world are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice and beauty to this world. The poet Adrienne Rich wrote, ‘So much has been destroyed, I have cast my lot with those who, age after age, perversely, with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world.’ There could be no better description. Humanity is coalescing. It is reconstituting the world, and the action is taking place in schoolrooms, farms, jungles, villages, campuses, companies, refugee camps, deserts, fisheries and slums. You join a multitude of caring people. No one knows how many groups and organizations are working on the most salient issues of our day: climate change, poverty, deforestation, peace, water, hunger, conservation, human rights, and more. This is the largest movement the world has ever seen. Rather than control, *it seeks connection*. Rather than dominance, it strives to *disperse concentrations of power*.”¹⁸

Humanity stands at the threshold of a great awakening where collective consciousness will increasingly demonstrate core Aquarian values of universality and synthesis in acts of cooperation and collaboration, fusion, sharing and goodwill. A new world and new order are coming into being, and the energies in Aquar-

ius this year are both a precursor and prelude to that event.

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- ¹ Helena Roerich, *Agni Yoga* (New York: Agni Yoga Society, 1929) 9.
 - ² Alice A. Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* (New York: Lucis Publishing, 1925), 1176.
 - ³ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosaic_\(web_browser\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosaic_(web_browser)).
 - ⁴ Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, (New York, Lucis Publishing, 1951) 134.
 - ⁵ *Ibid.*, 542.
 - ⁶ *Ibid.*, 141.
 - ⁷ *Ibid.*, 172.
 - ⁸ <http://www.btinternet.com/~seamaid/Esotericneptune.html>.
 - ⁹ Alice A. Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, (New York, Lucis Publishing, 1951) 1189.
 - ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 793-4.
 - ¹¹ Pierz Newton-John, *Chiron: The Poison and the Medicine of Essence*, The Mountain Astrologer, June/July 2000, 100.
 - ¹² Cathy Hillenbrand, *The Centaur Connection*, <http://www.aplaceinspace.net/Pages/ExpandingChiron.html>.
 - ¹³ Helena Roerich, *Heart* (New York: Agni Yoga Society, 1932) 447.
 - ¹⁴ Alice A. Bailey, *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy* (New York: Lucis Publishing, 1957) 530.
 - ¹⁵ http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-at-Cairo-University-6-04-09/.
 - ¹⁶ http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/8050708.stm.
 - ¹⁷ <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn17161-space-shuttle-releases-upgraded-hubble.html>.
 - ¹⁸ Paul Hawken, *Healing or Stealing*; <http://yesmagazine.org/article.asp?id=3559>.