



ASTROLOGICAL CONSULTING

# THE RETURN

Issue # 33, Winter Solstice 2011



***TWO THOUSAND TWELVE...***

by Lark Bowerman

Winter Solstice 2011

Sun enters Capricorn 9:30 pm, Wednesday, December 21, Pacific time

New Moon 2° Capricorn, 10:06 am, Saturday, Dec. 24

Full Moon, 18° Cancer, 11:31 pm, Saturday, January 8, 2012

## TWO THOUSAND TWELVE...

“Not only is reality stranger than we suppose. It's stranger than we *can* suppose.”

—*Terence McKenna*

### WHAT IS IT WITH 2012?

It's a funny thing...but somehow there seems to be this general agreement that This Is The Year We've Been Waiting For.

Astrologically speaking, this June will be the first of seven exact squares between Uranus and Pluto. But there will be six more of them up through March 2015. We've been feeling the effect for quite some time now, like maybe beginning in the summer of 2007.

Neptune will be re-entering Pisces, but it's done that before...

So why 2012?

And the opinions about what will happen really run the gamut—all the way from instant world enlightenment to Armageddon.

### So once again the world ends...

The Mountain Astrologer magazine's December 2011-January 2012 issue carried an Astrologers' Forum on 2012. I found it very informative and highly entertaining.

So I'll try to give you some very brief summaries of the opinions presented.

**The first one that caught my eye was titled *Is There a Mayan Prophecy for 2012?***

Bob Makransky, a systems analyst, programmer, and professional astrologer, wrote from Guatemala, where he lives and where he's had the opportunity to become acquainted with a number of Mayan priests. He says they've asked him at times, "What is all this about a Mayan prophecy for 2012?"

Bob says, "I explain that a lot of the hype comes from people exploiting the Mayan cachet to make money; it's not anything to take seriously. They understand that one pretty well."

He then proceeds to give a brief explanation of how Mayan astrology works. It's quite fascinatingly different from Western astrology. Much more intuitive, I think.

A footnote at the bottom of the page reads: "There apparently is an obscure and equivocal reference to the nine Mayan gods of the lower world returning on this date in one of the books of Chilam Balam, but actually the whole 'Mayan Prophecy for 2012' was invented by the same person who brought us the 'Harmonic Convergence' some years back."

### **The next article I read was**

*2012, Uranus, and Pluto: The Planetary and Technological Triggers*  
by Rick Levine

Rick Levine is co-founder of StarIQ.com. He also writes the daily horoscope column on Google; with Jeff Jawer he co-authors Barnes & Nobles' annual, *Your Astrology Guide*, now in its seventh year; was a founding Trustee of Kepler College; past President of the Washington State Astrology Association, etc....

He says "...although the media frenzy is increasing at a fevered pace, projecting fear onto the winter solstice of 2012...I would like to go on the record as stating that the world will not end in 2012."

Rick proceeds to point out that "...we can compare Gutenberg's printing press that appeared in 1455 with IBM's System/360 that was introduced in 1964. Both were technological innovations (Uranus) that brought about profound cultural evolution (Pluto) — and both occurred at the time of a Uranus-Pluto conjunction."

He goes on to say: "It is my contention that the ubiquity of mass media, mobile telephones, and social networking platforms has introduced a wild card into the mix, which changes the nature of our individual and collective response to slow-moving planetary transits. We had glimpses of the power of the media the 1960's when music played a significant role in the rise of the counterculture in the U.S.

... The electronic media created a sense of instantaneity that amplified the impact of the Uranus-Pluto conjunction."

...The Beatles, Bob Dylan, the Grateful Dead, and others, created their art while the masses waited for the current news in the form of a new record album.”

He quotes musician Michel Franti:

**Yell Fire!**

*A revolution never come with a warning*

*A revolution never sends you an omen*

*A revolution just arrived like the morning*

*Ring the alarm, we come to wake up the snoring.*

And goes on to say: Now as we move into the first hard Uranus-Pluto aspect since the 1960's, technology has taken us to a new level of interconnectivity that is minimizing the effects of a top-down hierarchy. The widespread proliferation of social networks has, to a large extent, flattened the playing field so that no one is in charge. Perhaps it's more accurate to say that we're all in charge...”

The basic gist of the rest of Rick's article is along the lines that he believes a revolution is definitely underway. But he says, “The astrology that I practice is not about predicting fated events. ... every single one of us adds to the total picture when we live our individual lives responsibly and authentically. ...This is surely a time to think cosmically and act locally.”

**Next I read Alan R. Wheatcroft's article**

*A Timeless Love Story: The Grand Trine of March 2012*

In about a page and a half Alan explains that he feels there could be a huge awakening, a second Summer of Love like in the 60's.

He says, “on March 13, 2012, there is a harmonious grand trine which involves not three but *four* planets, each representing the earth element. Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Pluto are joined in spectacular formation.” (Usually there are only three in such a formation.)

He talks about the end of the age as per the Mayan calendar and concludes by asking “Do we possess the wisdom and the belief to embrace and harness the miracle that awaits us on and after the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, 2012? Who knows? But one thing is certain, the potential is there, and as always, the choice will be ours!”

Alan has studied traditional Western astrology “since the age of 30” (although he didn't mention

how old he is) and has also studied Vedic, karmic and medical astrology. He has developed and teaches astrology according to his own model: Quantumology — a combination of depth psychology, quantum physics and evolutionary astrology.

**After this I worked my way through Kushal Kumar's pithy article**  
*Vedic Astrology Forecast for 2012*

Kushal's conclusion after explaining some Vedic astrology basics and presenting a detailed chart of planetary movements: “During the period of about three weeks from March 22 to April 14, 1012, the planetary indications for the world point to the possibility of devastating earthquakes, epidemics, wars, the shortage of or lack of all the amenities that strengthen life, harm through the medium of fire or air, which also means tornadoes, storms, and even tsunamis of the kind scientists are expecting during 2013. Eruptions of volcanoes leading to widespread volcanic ash and the disruption of communications systems cannot be ruled out. Whether the adversity encompasses the entire world, or one or more regions of it, remains to be seen.”

Kushal Kumar is from the Hill State of India, Himachal Pradesh. He was employed in New Delhi in 1970 where he continued, for a long period to study Vedic Astrology. He retired from service in 2008 and “found his astrological work to be rewarding.” His articles have been published in India and outside the country as well.

**Next I encountered the perspective on...**  
*Sustainability Issues in 2012 and Beyond* presented by  
**J. Lee Lehman**

Lehman's point of view stems from her training as a Botanist. She holds a Ph. D. in the subject from Rutgers University, is the author of 6 books on Astrology, has been a professor and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Kepler College, and was the recipient of the 1995 Marc Edmund Jones Award and the 2008 Regulus Award for Education.

Lee is obviously a very brainy person. She included several very long tables of Planetary Aspects from 2010-2019, with in depth explanations as to which are moving slowly enough to build longstanding themes. Then she relates the themes to what has happened in previous similar cycles and to what's happening now.

Lee feels that with Pluto entering Capricorn, the bottom has already fallen out of the power structure but the ruling elite are still in denial about it. She talks about the fact that the environmental issues are not the ones that politicians want to talk about now but asserts that when those issues do hit us they "...will dwarf all other political considerations, because these are the issues that can and have destroyed civilizations. The difference between then and now is that these problems are global instead of regional. But further, the science and anthropology of the problem had been largely worked out by the time that Pluto was in Virgo (1956/57/58 —1971/72). Thus, we cannot claim ignorance — only denial and disbelief."

She goes on to say, "I don't believe that we can currently create an exact timetable for when these problems will become unavoidable, but I cannot imagine how we could get past Neptune in Pisces without a major challenge to survival — and most likely, these issues will be painfully obvious during the last third of Pluto's stay in Capricorn."

It is within this scale that I look to 2012 as a year when we can hope for a larger nucleus of people to become aware of the consequences of these issues. While [those] individual[s] actions will not be sufficient to solve these problems, the people who move forward with personal and family solutions will find themselves positioned to cushion the eventual societal difficulties. I don't expect radical societal change anytime soon. At least I would hope that individuals begin to seriously consider these matters and their response to them. Nor do I expect 2012 to be the pivotal year — it's still too early."

Timelines for Neptune and Pluto...

*Neptune entered Pisces on April 4, 2011*

*Went retrograde into Aquarius on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

*Will re-enter Pisces on February 3, 2012 and will stay until 2026*

*Pluto entered Virgo October 20, 1956, retrograding and re-entering several times in 1957 and '58*

*Exited on October 5, 1971*

*Pluto entered Capricorn in January, 26, 2008*

*Went retrograde into Sagittarius on June 14, 2008*

*Re-entered on November 27, 2008 and will stay there until March 23, 2023*

I'd been reading through the magazine in random order, put it down, and came back later to discover one more article:

***2012 and Beyond: Clarifying the Timeline of Change, by Bill Herbst***

Bill has been a full-time astrologer in private practice since 1973. In a footnote he explains what he calls “Civilizational Astrology.” He gives a technical explanation of exactly what he means in astrological terms and then explains, “Cultural changes are much more custom-tailored than mathematically formulaic, and history appears to be a better guide to the flow of collective change than simplistic and rigid technical indicators. Dates of exact alignments provide the fundamental astrological benchmarks, but the timing of overall periods of influence is less straightforward. That may not satisfy students of astrology who want absolute certainty within the mathematics of the system, but it seems to me a more accurate reflection of real life.” Bill's primary focus, is however, personal sessions with clients.

Bill goes back to what he considers the beginning of this cycle of events: “Starting with the summer of 2007, Saturn, Uranus and Pluto began moving into position toward formation of their critical t-square... The years 2007 and 2008 represented an initial phase of “pre-shocks” foreshadowing what will emerge full-blown later. From 2009 through 2011, the t-square between those three bodies signaled a period of denial within the bulk of the public and especially the ruling elites.. Why denial? Because while Saturn formed five exact passes to Uranus three to Pluto during that period, Uranus and Pluto had not yet arrived at partile square [the exact aspect] to each other.”

“...we are in transition from the first alignment to the second: Denial is no longer possible and is giving way, but revolution has not yet arrived.

My take on the astrology of 2012 and beyond is that the remainder of this current decade will be marked by a series of sporadic but ever-more-frequent shocks. The collective breakdowns/awakenings/cosmic cattle prods/whatever will most likely unfold in increments. Each new development in the accelerating cascade of collapse/breakdown events will most likely unfold in increments. Each new development in the accelerating cascade of collapse/breakdown events will cause another small percentage of former sleepers to be jolted awake. No single event or time period in the years ahead is likely to do more than that. Though the pace of change does accelerate, the overview is still little by little rather than all at once.”

Bill talks about the first exact square between Uranus and Pluto in June 2012 as not representing any “great awakening.” (There are six more.) He talks about “...the Iraqi Insurgency (2004), Hurricane Katrina (2005), the first salvo of global financial collapse (2008), and now the earthquake/tsunami/nuclear meltdown in Japan (2011), all occurring before the critical mass point. And the full ramifications of critical mass will not occur until well after the fulcrum of 2012 is crossed.”

So to him, mid 2012 doesn't represent a peak, but rather “a point of no return” the point when he believes denial about the problems will no longer be possible.

He believes that, “Pragmatism is a hallmark of this decade, because Uranus and Pluto are in First Quarter square. The initial 90° relationship in any cycle — symbolizing the transitions from spring planting to summer tending — is inherently about addressing crises forced on us from the outer environment.

Morality? Justice? Truth? Forget all those in the decade ahead. What counts will be pragmatic responses to forced change: Doing what is necessary to survive....

Think of 2012 as the tipping point past which a Brave New World awaits and will unfold.”

Bill is very humble, not at all dogmatic about this prediction. He says he could quite possibly be wrong about much of what he says and that he hopes he's still around to find out what happens.

### **So is astrology a good predictive tool?**

As always, there are both sides of the issue represented in the astrological community; but truth be told, there are an increasing number of reputable astrologers speaking out that it is *not completely reliable* — for the simple reasons that people are affected by others and also are capable of making choices that influence the unfolding of events in their lives (both for better and for worse).

Vedic astrologer, Linda Johnsen wrote in the June/July issue of the Mountain Astrologer, “Adepts in [Vedic Astrology] teach that the best Indian astrologers are rarely more than 70% accurate — maybe 80% on a really good day. Group karma, planetary karma (e.g. earthquakes, tsunamis), and an individual's acts of will, and God's grace all contribute effects that do not necessarily appear in the birth chart. In my experience though, 70% is higher than the average American physician's rate of correct diagnosis. Scientists forcefully reject astrology in part because it's not always on target. As far as I know, they're not ready to jettison modern Western medicine for the same reason.”

### **So what is astrology good for?**

Well, many things! There are many different branches of astrology: Financial, Medical, Horary (for finding anything that's been lost), Electional (for timing events), Psychological, Predictive, Evolutionary, and the list goes on and on.

I personally feel that astrology works best on an individual level to help us understand ourselves as unique individuals and how to most effectively direct/follow the course of our lives.

Consider any one of these events “...the Iraqi Insurgency (2004), Hurricane Katrina (2005), the first salvo of global financial collapse (2008), and now the earthquake/tsunami/nuclear meltdown in Japan (2011)...” as what is happening for individuals rather than the whole world. It only takes one of these events to have a totally life altering experience — and what is the best way for you — if it's happening to you — to handle it? Astrology can open and provide a structure for discussion that can help with that.

It makes sense to me to say that the Aquarian Age began at the onset of the Industrial Revolution. And it also seems to me that it's going to be a time when humanity's strength as a species is going to be tested through the strength of its individuals.

Aquarius is considered to be the sign of the individual, and of human freedom—the freedom that comes through living according to inner guidance and from self-evident truth.

### **A chain is only as strong as its weakest link**

Will we, as individuals be able to wake up, come up against the tyrannical forces that are sentencing the majority of us to life as wage slaves and take control of our destinies? I think we'll have the chance if we want to take it. We can free ourselves from the pitiful dependence on meaningless popular opinions and corrupt authority for approval and economic stability.

It may or may not be easy. It's quite true that history is littered with records of martyrs who have stood up to repressive authority. Galileo, for example, was only just recently acquitted.

Of course corrupt authorities also have the opportunity to abdicate; although they tend not to do that...

I made a chart for myself for June 12, 2012. I'm right in the crosshairs of the Uranus-Pluto square; all the same though, there's an even bigger theme unfolding in my chart relative to my particular birth time. I'm going to for sure be affected by these energies but not in exactly the same way another person is. And furthermore, I do have choices to make — just like you do — as to how I'm going to respond and react to these events.

### **Astrological Timing**

Each month the Moon — being the fastest of the faster moving inner planets — passes through the part of the sky or through angles related to the parts of the sky where the slower-moving planets are

forming long-standing themes. The faster moving planets channel the energies of those outer planets inward to us, catalyzing events in our daily lives. So I believe that the view of smaller shock waves over time setting off the main changes makes a lot of sense. But I think the changes *will* arrive with suddenness and intensity all the same because that's the nature of Uranus and Pluto in combination. I think it will be very revealing of our true characters as deeply buried Plutonian feelings are exposed in sudden flashes of Uranian lighting.

But sometimes, maybe even many times, we choose to take a pass on dealing with something in our lives out of fear or ignorance. That's when change finally arrives with a *really* huge wallop and we're not prepared. But it doesn't have to be that way.

In any case, 2012 has already become a marking point in time just through all of the talk about it. We shall see what we shall see!

**If you want to read any of the Mountain Astrologer articles I've mentioned for yourself, you can purchase the December-January issue of the Mountain Astrologer Magazine online.**

<http://www.mountainastrologer.com/order.html>

### **One more thing...**

If you'd like to challenge yourself on thinking for yourself, check out this movie:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OibqdwHyZxk>

Okay, that's all for now,  
Happy Solstice!  
Lark

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