

**10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11:
How Has the World Changed Since Then?**

By Judi Thomases

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Word count: 9,534

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September 11, 2011 will be the 10-year anniversary of 9/11. What has changed in the world since then? What are some of the major developments since that fateful day? The speed of change is exponential, and is increasing even as this article is being written.

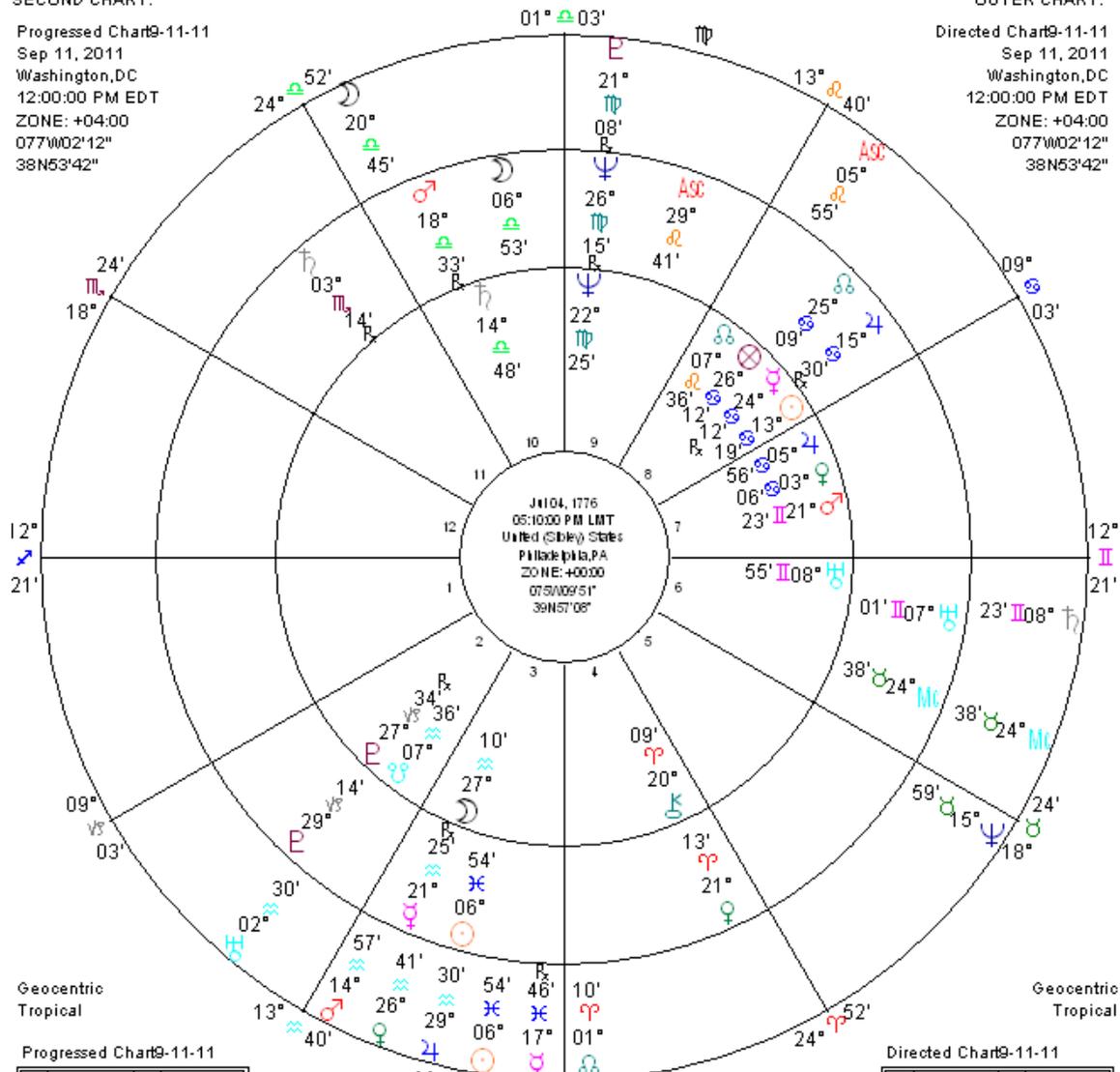
As I see it, the main trends include polarization, shifting power, the continuing liberation of the disenfranchised, economic stress, pressure from nature, and pervasive anxiety. With an eye to astrology, let's look at each and see especially the echoes of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, plus Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn and Aquarius.

SECOND CHART:

Progressed Chart9-11-11
 Sep 11, 2011
 Washington, DC
 12:00:00 PM EDT
 ZONE: +04:00
 077W02'12"
 38N53'42"

OUTER CHART:

Directed Chart9-11-11
 Sep 11, 2011
 Washington, DC
 12:00:00 PM EDT
 ZONE: +04:00
 077W02'12"
 38N53'42"



Progressed Chart9-11-11

Pl	Geo Lon	Rx	Decl.
☉	06° 53'		+01° 44'
☽	06° 54'		-08° 59'
☿	21° 25'	Rx	-11° 41'
♁	21° 13'		+09° 11'
♂	18° 33'	Rx	-04° 22'
♃	15° 30'	Rx	+22° 59'
♄	03° 14'	Rx	-10° 07'
♅	07° 10'		+21° 28'
♆	26° 15'	Rx	+02° 43'
♇	29° 14'		-23° 33'
♈	25° 09'		+21° 08'
♉	24° 38'		+18° 57'
♊	29° 41'		+11° 36'

United (Sibley) States			
☉	27° 10'		-14° 12'
☽	13° 19'		+22° 48'
☿	24° 12'	Rx	+17° 29'
♁	03° 06'		+23° 32'
♂	21° 23'		+23° 34'
♃	05° 56'		+23° 16'
♄	14° 48'		-03° 31'
♅	08° 55'		+21° 44'
♆	22° 25'		+04° 10'
♇	27° 34'	Rx	-23° 43'
♈	07° 36'		+18° 24'
♉	26° 12'		+20° 56'
♊	20° 09'		+09° 05'

01° 03'
 United (Sibley) States
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Koch Houses

Chart Compliments of
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Directed Chart9-11-11

Pl	Geo Lon	Rx	Decl.
☉	20° 45'		-14° 12'
☽	06° 54'		+22° 48'
☿	17° 46'	Rx	+17° 29'
♁	26° 41'		+23° 32'
♂	14° 57'		+23° 34'
♃	29° 30'		+23° 16'
♄	08° 23'		-03° 31'
♅	02° 30'		+21° 44'
♆	15° 59'		+04° 10'
♇	21° 08'	Rx	-23° 43'
♈	01° 10'		+18° 24'
♉	24° 38'		-00° 25'
♊	05° 45'		-22° 18'

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Tri-Small Wheel

FROM UNITY TO POLARIZATION

Right after 9/11 (an event that occurred with Saturn in the Sibley 7th retrograding back onto the Descendant and opposite Pluto which had just stationed direct on the Sibley Ascendant), because of the great shock to the immediate area, to the nation, and to humanity as a whole, and because of the magnitude of the disaster and the diversity of the victims, it was as though the world came together for a brief golden period. Hard-

boiled residents of New York City, usually accustomed to not making eye contact and being wary of one's neighbors, embraced each other, sacrificed for each other, and in general felt as one. *We're all in this together; we're all human being*, we were saying; *Suffering knows no boundaries; compassion and service are the mandate*. Similarly, many people from distant places within the nation and far beyond its borders also transcended differences and offered help in the face of such a world-shaking event. (This type of joining was also seen in the aftermath of other great tragedies such as the Indonesian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, and the Haitian earthquake and Japan's catastrophe, but here we are talking about a man-made catastrophe, a Plutonic attack. Mass murder, really.) For a brief moment, mankind united against evil.

War or Peace? Solar Arc Mars Retrograde in Libra 10th

However, that ideal state did not remain for long. Divisions escalated. Saturn, after all, continued to retrograde over the U.S. Descendant, continued to oppose Pluto in the first house, and by July 2002 reached our natal Mars in the seventh, triggering the natal square to Neptune in the ninth house of foreign matters (especially connected to oil). We went to war against Iraq in 2003, a war for which there was great dissent and differing attitudes, as some wanted a surge while others felt a distaste for the whole idea of warfare. Was this a war for democracy and against the threat to it, or was it for our oil interests? Transiting Pluto opposite transiting Saturn brought strain, not release. We saw the second term of a president, George W. Bush, whose style and choices added to the polarization of values, wherein began a long campaign waged primarily through the media and continuing to this day in which greatly opposing points of view were aired even to the degree at which journalism became slanted and journalists themselves exposed their biases.

In the past, when America went to war the country was united against the perceived enemy. But as Solar Arc Mars slowed down and then turned retrograde in the peace-loving sign of Libra in the U.S. Sibley's tenth house, a large percentage of citizens beginning as early as the Vietnam War in the '60s began to lose their appetite for warfare. The generation born with Pluto in Libra especially (1972-1984, basically today's Thirty-Somethings), with their love for music, dance, and fashion, and perhaps marriage, would certainly opt for peace. This in turn brought an additional ideological split in the era that followed the 9/11 event. Those who wanted a world without war sought to frame the event as fringe extremism and leaned towards multicultural acceptance, tolerance, and diplomatic politesse, while those who saw the event as an ideological attack against an entire culture sought aggressive action, at the very least as pre-emptive containment if not outright revenge. The former quibbled even over the word "terrorist" while ignoring such egregious matters as massacres, suicide bombings, and the ill treatment of women, while the latter ignored costs in men and money incurred in pursuing war. This schism of appeasement versus aggression in turn led to a burgeoning political division between The Left and The Right – a division that featured many other value differences too.

Reader: Can you continue reading this article with an open mind, not assuming that this author is of either persuasion but simply seeking neutral astrological reportage? Thanks for doing so! Although everyone naturally sees through their own filter, this article is my attempt to use astrology to view truths, not a partisan agenda. I welcome simple astrological discussion of the points I'm making herein.

Here is another astrologer's view of the pattern:

"On July 19th, 2006 the MARS function of the USA came to a standstill as it turned RETROGRADE by Progression at 18 degrees and 42 minutes of Libra in America's 10th house. This area of America's chart symbolizes both the Office of the President and all those public figures upon whom the reputation, honor, and international standing of America rest. It's the area of America's birth chart signifying the Nation's power, culture, ideals and achievements. Mars, of course, is the Nation's energy, its power, force, and ability to take action. So, what is symbolized by this event is *a critical shift of gears as the force of American power turns inward upon itself*. Never before in the Nation's short life has its power ever been in such a Retrograde situation, a situation which will last until March 27, 2086. *America is due for an 80 year period of self-examination regarding the nature of Mars, its power, force, and potential aggression*. Since this event is focused in the Nation's 10th House the Whole World will stand witness, will watch as America undergoes this

process. In a very real sense, America's Mars function is and will continue to be turned *against* itself. Hence, the title of this essay: *America Attacks Itself*. –STARPATHVISIONS.COM, Francis Donald Grabau

The News Media

With a stellium of secondary and solar arc progressed planets in the nation's third house, the news media itself plays a huge role in the history of this era. The U.S.'s natal Moon is in that third house; transiting Neptune, Uranus, Jupiter and Chiron are there; progressed Mercury retrograde, progressed Sun, solar arc Venus, solar arc Jupiter, solar arc Mercury, and solar arc Node are all there; and now so is solar arc Mars. The news media *becomes* the news! Since 2008 when Saturn opposed Uranus, Mars transited the U.S. third house twice, in February 2009 and in February 2011, bringing agitation into this arena. For much of the last 10 years, transiting Uranus has opposed Neptune from the third to the ninth (the lower and higher levels of communication), while Saturn sat upon Neptune (forcing reality upon myth).

How events are reported (or not reported, i.e., *s piked*), how they are named, and how they are framed decide what is occurring and how people should feel about it. Emotions are stoked (U.S. Moon in H3), and outrage is inflamed. Objectivity is lost (Neptune on the Moon). The old newspaper adage, *If it bleeds, it leads*, means that it's to the media's advantage to create sensationalism. It sells! There is a loss of impartiality. People on both sides become addicted to their respective fury at their opponents.

There is a similarity of patterns between current times and those of our Civil War. Here's what I wrote in "Destiny in the Balance: America's Role in the Great Cosmic Plan" Dell Horoscope, January 2010):

"Abraham Lincoln's birth chart shows Saturn conjunct Neptune, the effort to make a dream real, while the Civil War itself took place when Uranus returned to its natal position in our nation's horoscope. Current transits show Uranus opposite Saturn, a pulling apart, and later Uranus square Pluto, the release of hidden tensions through the drastic restructuring indicative of revolutionary change."

In that epoch, friends couldn't talk to each other; families were split down the middle; neighbor railed against neighbor; and marriages broke up because of the ideological differences. The current aspects are like a new Civil War being conducted in the media rather than on the battleground.¹

Meanwhile, there is reluctance to describe events truthfully if that description would compromise either side's agenda. Even the usage of the terms "terrorism" or "terrorist" becomes a hot potato, deemed offensive by those who wish to portray all religious paths as equally deserving of understanding and tolerance. As in the case of the Fort Hood Massacre, with its infiltration of a dangerous person hidden in plain sight, so to speak, this type of news reportage stance becomes weakening and perilous. The news consumer (us) is the confused victim of it all (Neptune on the Moon).

The failure to report news with neutrality, or in many ways even to face up to it, is a Neptunian effect. Delusion, over-idealism, or outright gullibility and denial can all be attributed to Neptune causation.

Saturn Opposite Uranus

The period of the greatest polarization can be traced to the Saturn-Uranus opposition from Virgo to Pisces which formed during the last presidential campaign in Fall 2008 and continued throughout 2009. Fanned by talk radio and cable news wars, the media has played a large role in sustaining the intense confrontational pattern, so that one of the great challenges faced in the world as well as in our nation is a lingering sense of *You Versus Me* rather than *We're All in This Together*. The notion of oneness has unfortunately been eclipsed by a different sort of conflict than outright war – the conflict of heated emotionality and entrenched unyielding opposition. In many countries this "Us Versus Them" mentality can be seen very obviously, such as in Greece's political/financial riots, or in the law versus lawlessness of our southern neighbor Mexico, or in some European parliamentary battles; in other places the great divisions are repressed but

seething, and, as we are seeing in today's news, many of these in the Mideast are boiling up to the surface in outright revolt and uprising.

The legacy of polarization from the Saturn-Uranus opposition will not easily or quickly dissipate because Uranus is now entering an even more intense battleground in its square to Pluto – a pattern that will last five years, through early 2016, with Jupiter in Taurus mitigating it a bit in 2012.

Epic Ideological Clash

Furthermore, the basis for the 9/11 terrorist attack was the imposition of a certain ideology that desired to be expressed in a worldwide form of government that would override existing forms (in other words, Islamic fundamentalism promoting Sharia law) in a direct attack against egalitarian self-determination and personal freedom (in other words, the Western democratic lifestyle). *If you don't do it my way, I have the right to kill you.* So we're talking about an epic ideological struggle pitting different forms of government against one another for the soul of humanity. 9/11 represented a statement to that effect, and the first volley in the war of that kind. It intensified hatred and division, and was the antithesis of the desire for spiritual evolution and brotherly love. A dream of a worldwide Caliphate² versus the spread of democracy is the subtext of much that's going on now. So the fallout from 9/11, in regards to the spiritualization of mankind and of planet Earth, seems a distant dream.

Yin Rising – Female Empowerment

One of the top clues to the ideological clash between cultures regards the treatment of women. In societies in which male dominated theocracy rules, the key elements, even more important than beliefs and values (!), can be reduced to the most basic facets of human nature: sex and money. The tools that are used by any male dominated institution or structure tend to be those of owning the roles that control wealth, money and property, and also maintaining dominance or power in the bedroom.

Throughout history, an institution that sought to sustain its power base would usually remove choices about sex, bodily freedom, and ownership of property, especially as passed down through familial lines. In contrast, freedom of choice is liberation.

Sex and money are very eighth house matters, and we are dealing with a different generation of people born with Pluto in Scorpio, the eighth house's ruler (1984-95, basically the late teens to twenty-year-olds). This is a generation born to confront sexuality, power, and dark often hidden human acts such as sadism and murder. When the forces of transformation arise (Pluto), those who control power and wealth/property tend to feel extremely threatened as their domains or power bases begin to be dismantled. It is so throughout history (and the same would hold true if there were matriarchal societies in which males started clamoring for free will choices about their partnerships and their ability to own and pass down family properties... as has happened in mankind's early matriarchal history). But we are in an era where large institutions, especially in regards to entrenched belief systems, are male dominated. And we are in a flux or transition period when women, by economic necessity, even in the poorest countries need to start earning money for the family, need to start making different choices about their roles within the family, get involved in protest for liberation (if not personally, than more abstractly and politically), and above all resist a cloistered confined role as determined by their male relatives.

The force at work has a name: it's called the rising of Yin energy (as opposed to Yang, or male, energy), and is an intrinsic part of the cycles called the Yugas that are in effect concurrent with the emerging Age of Aquarius, both cycles being tied in with the Precession of the Equinoxes. According to this system of reckoning, we are leaving the Kali Yuga (Dark Age) and entering the Dwapara (more enlightened) Yuga³. The effect of the ascendancy of feminine energy will quite naturally produce more egalitarian societies; this will in turn demand a change in the treatment of women in all male dominated societies, and will be seen as a huge internal ideological struggle in governments and societies that are strongly resistant to the loss of the male power base.

In the West, this clash has more or less been resolved (except in very *macho* cultures). Beginning in the Renaissance, the individual became the focus of importance, and continued into the Industrial Revolution when women went to work because of economic forces. In many Western religions, women became ordained. In Western society, women got the vote and then protested for Women's Lib. In Western democracy, we're no longer a male dominated society but are fairly evened out. There is still a glass ceiling but it's got cracks in it. Women run corporations, are in the highest offices of government; within the family it's just a question of personality as to who is in ascendancy – who keeps the books, who owns the property, who gets the better paying job, who's the boss, etc. In the West, the clashes are more along the lines of Gay Rights now, and perhaps moral issues such as abortion rights. However, we have not seen such sweeping change in many nations in the Mideast as yet. We are instead seeing a male dominated theocracy in its fanatical form trying to impose its will on the entire world – a will that seeks to retain the power base of male supremacy and is very threatened by the voices of protest and reform when they are in the guise of female cries for freedom and for financial control and control of their bodies.

In the worst of these societies, as reported by Iranian bloggers and dissenters now based in London, the ill treatment of women includes: that girls as young as 9 years old can be married off by their father or grandfather to a man of any age without the child's consent; that a husband has the right to control his wife's freedom of movement and behavior, and can forbid her from accepting a job; that a man who finds out his wife has been unfaithful may execute her whereas the reverse cannot occur; that women cannot wear cosmetics and must cover their body with the right type of garment or can be punished by 74 lashes with a whip or imprisoned for up to a year; that women can be stoned to death for sexual misconduct, and are banned from pursuing higher education in 91 of 169 fields of study and must attend segregated classrooms; and so forth⁴. In Afghanistan, men are now allowed to rape their wives, and women are immolating themselves in protest, saying that they'd rather burn to death than face the horrors that their lives have become.⁵ It's obvious that a Western style of society would be a major peril to such male-dominated institutions, and would radically unseat males' power base. Those who fear the empowerment of females will fight the strongest to hold on to existing ways.

SHIFTING POWER – URANUS SQUARE PLUTO

But what will happen in nations whose voices – as yet primarily male – even now are rising in protest against tyranny, and demanding liberation and reform? How will this sweeping change actually affect them? More egalitarian forms of government require a change in the treatment of women in many nations. What will happen to the infrastructure of such governments when women gain voting rights and hold office? What will happen to ideologies that have hitherto paid homage to male rule? Or male control of money and of sex? Fundamental changes must and will take place. What will that mean in the upcoming era and how will it affect us here in America where we have pretty much succeeded in reaching equality between the sexes (well, at least as it's being portrayed in movies that show butt-kicking gutsy independent females who no longer shriek for rescue but go after the bad guys with gusto)? Uranus is freedom, rebellion, and individuality; Pluto is power and manipulation as well as reform.

A recent editorial cartoon⁶ brilliantly encapsulated this notion by portraying Lady Liberty, with her garments spelling out the word "Democracy", being attacked by a group of Islamic fundamentalists (labeled "The Muslim Brotherhood"), carrying guns and bombs, ready to throw their shoes at her while demanding that she be veiled or covered up. Make no mistake in thinking that the clash of our age is about religion alone. In this sense, it is about the rise of Yin energy, the equalization of the sexes, which is of course the meaning of Aquarius – man and woman revealed in their godlike qualities, dispassionate, equalized, and ready to reach their potential in a new type of egalitarian society, ready to embrace their creative and inventive abilities, moving away from the over-emotionality of Pisces and towards the full development of the intuitive, scientific, and logical brain.

"In this age, man will raise from reason to intuition". – Meher Baba

So the rising of Yin energy is the true basis of the ideological struggle between civilizations – Western versus Mideastern, or democracy versus patriarchy – and the whole world is moving towards democracy because that is the name of the age, the implication of the sign of Aquarius, and the connection with Yin rising.

Besides the rise of the feminine – which, by the way, will also see an increase in sensitivity and compassion as well as a diminishment or transformation of the power bases of all male -dominated institutions where ever applicable including those of a religious nature – there is simultaneously a rise of the individual, especially in the form of groups. Whether online or collectively, people will feel a new empowerment that their individual intent be made known and acknowledged. No more blind acceptance of oppression!

Aquarius: Power to the People!

Another trend since the 9/11 fallout can be seen as the struggle of an individual's rights and desires versus those of his/her own government's. Anything that promotes self-determination, especially with a rebellious flavor, smacks of Uranus and Aquarius. We're on the cusp of The Age of Aquarius. Hitting the world point and square to Pluto, Uranus is a major player. Aquarius elevates the individual to the potential of his or her transcendent nature. *Power to the people!* The individual as king, hero, on the pedestal, has the echo of Aquarius right there. What's going on in the Mideast – a sweeping cry for liberation and self-rule, fueled by masses of people (individuals) protesting their government, even when that government can use great force against them – is a clear display of people power, and of the individual's use of personal power, especially when joined in groups or community, to effect change.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS – THE CONTINUING LIBERATION OF THE DISENFRANCHISED

The notion of an individual having power in this world is a relatively new thing. In the past, there were forms of government in which a king, pharaoh, dictator, or other such leader, whether competent or not, via patriarchal lineage or coup d'état was the unchallenged head, surrounded by an entourage of aristocratic figures by birth, or cronies who benefitted from this setup. The average person was merely a subject of the realm or a downtrodden worker-bee in the hive. Some experiments arose (ancient Greece and the Roman Republic come to mind) which sought to give the average person a voice. Even then, however, the common man was often mute, invisible if he/she didn't have wealth, important birth, or good connections. There was slavery even in these rare golden societies, and there was just plain economic invisibility – no vote, no chance to make things different. The only opposition to the ruler's power usually came from the priestly class – and whether we're talking about ancient Egypt or medieval Europe, priests and ministers (or similar figures in the East) were the only ones capable of mounting a power threat to the throne or ruler. In modern times, some nations sought to completely remove that potential threat by disowning religion altogether (such as in the Soviet Union). But what's happened now is the rise of the common man. Since the Industrial Revolution – and in fact, the revolutionary period in general of the 1700s – a merchant class developed that gained equal if not more power than the ruler. People were able to make tons of money in trade, and in large conglomerates, and finally in corporations. Thus the ordinary person became empowered, and gained dignity as well as liberty.

The ability to make and keep money, to not have it taxed away, to not have it constrained or limited by over-regulation is a major avenue to self-realization and human liberation. Here is part of the great shift. For instance, there are backwards areas ("third world" countries) where charities and progressives are teaching women how to develop cottage industries. Modern technology, such as the computer and the cell phone, are giving industry to all yearning hands in non-industrialized places. And a squeezed economy – fairly rampant worldwide – is pushing both entrepreneurialism (Pluto, Node in Capricorn) and innovation (Uranus and Jupiter in Aries). So we may be looking at an evolutionary trend here that is giving a new form of empowerment to the everyday person, everywhere on the globe. Certainly, countries with vast populations of ordinary folk such as China and India can be empowered in this way as people enjoy new purchasing power, voting rights, tastes in fashion or entertainment as well as new forms of government more to their liking. (It's said that rock n' roll brought down the Soviet Union.)

The Technological Revolution – Next Evolutionary Step?

What will happen when Facebook reaches the African bush? What will happen when all the information in the world, and all the potential entrepreneurial avenues that are possible through the internet and wireless networks, are brought together and gloriously manifested? More big corporations? Maybe. Many small businesses? Yup! Individuals, most likely, selling right out of their homes. This trend is clearly seen since 9/11. It's not called "networking" (such an Aquarian word!) for nothing!

The realization and recognition of the individual's power fulfills the universe's design for a self-aware, self-realized creature.

Economic Stress – Pluto from Sagittarius to Capricorn, Opposite the U.S. Venus/Jupiter

Another factor in effect since the 9/11 event is economic stress and weakness. This can be attributed to a changeover from Pluto leaving the sign of Sagittarius, during which an optimistic bubble was expanded to maximum potential, the date of which can be tagged as 2008, after which that planet entered the sign of Capricorn, a sign that demands accountability, responsibility, efficiency, organization and good management causing the profound need for national and world economies to take a hard (Saturnian) look at debt and fiscal irresponsibility. The world was met by the sudden reality of enormous arrears, untenable entitlements, the consequences of unbridled greed, and the foolishness of limitless largesse. Pluto always pressurizes a situation, bringing things to light that have been hidden, buried, and underground for years. It brings to view things that look disgusting, and cry out for reform.

Many Areas of Exposure

When Pluto hit 0° Capricorn by December 2008, there was a heart-stopping shutdown of the economy – people lost jobs overnight, saw themselves become economically fragile, and saw the glory days of unrealistic expansion dissolve before their eyes. As the last administration left office during Pluto's transition between signs, banks failed, large automotive companies failed, some governments in parts of the world saw rioting, and big con artists were exposed. Nothing was really sudden but had been brewing; however, a cloud prevented clear seeing. And hidden factors such as collusion masked that which was fermenting. Not only did Pluto enter Capricorn but Pluto opposed Venus, the ruler of the U.S.'s Midheaven. People saw their homes lose value or go into foreclosure (especially in October 2010 when Pluto was in its final opposition to the U.S. Venus). A new administration took office, and as a temporary corrective measure, okayed a Stimulus Package, a two-year extension of Unemployment Insurance, takeovers of banks and large corporations to prevent the outright collapse of the entire economy, and then, with perhaps good intentions but a display of awful political machinations passed an enormous and very expensive healthcare bill. Taxes began to rise; the national debt went astronomically through the roof; the job market tanked as unemployment skyrocketed; and Americans saw their expenses go up, their wages go down (or cease), their Social Security income lose its yearly increases; their banks giving almost no return on their savings; and a great panoply of factors that are frightening as well as sobering. No longer was the Good Life assured. No longer was the American Dream a given.

During some of these years, especially in 2006, Saturn was opposite Neptune from Leo to Aquarius. Thus depressed, Hollywood, the quintessential American industry (almost its very image), lost its spark. It was a low time for movies. And even the music industry produced a type of sound that was more plaintive and yearning than rhythmic and upbeat, reflective of the era's pain.

In the U.S. chart, Pluto began squaring Neptune in its placement at 22° Virgo in the ninth house by early 2004, and has recently squared the U.S. Sibley Midheaven at 1° Libra, and opposed the U.S. natal Venus at 3° Cancer within the last two years of this writing. Our economic imbalance with China certainly did not go into positive territory under this aspect, nor did the initiatives of the first part of President Obama's term in office such as the Stimulus Package, nor the last part of President George W. Bush's term in office such as military expenses and bank bailouts. Pluto, therefore, in my opinion has contributed to world insecurity and the pressures to reform many economies at home and abroad. Major world economic players, such as the U.S. and China, are in unbalanced circumstances, whether debt is too great or loans are too large or growth is overly rapid, and so forth. People don't feel good about the future.

Pluto into Capricorn naturally brings a conservative trend, and many countries besides ours alone are replacing government that is seen as excessive with an effort to bring efficiency, responsibility and accountability into reform measures.

Schism in U.S. Government

Before we move on from the topic of polarization, it's important to talk about the schism occurring in our government. On the home front, the split in ideologies has taken another form. Rather than pan-Arabic-style revolts, here we are facing practical budgetary woes that have caused almost as extreme conflicts between levels of government as those going on in the Mideast. (Ironically, it's been focused in our Midwest!) We could call it **Fiscal Responsibility** (Pluto in Capricorn = insistence on fiscal responsibility, conservative trends, efficiency and no waste) **versus Collective Power** (Uranus in Aries = rebels ready to fight, the voice of the group, unions). In other words, on top of the pressures of Pluto opposed to a major personal planet in the U.S. chart comes a square from Uranus, another outer planet, also hitting the world point. Behind the current clash between unions and state governments is the basis of fiscal responsibility versus collective power of a mass of individuals, i.e., individual rights. Working people feel threatened by the loss of their power to bargain collectively through their unions. A mighty cry has gone out to retain this power in the face of legal reforms. But the states' coffers are dry, and many entitlements simply can no longer be afforded.

With Pluto in Capricorn in the nation's first house, we must become accountable for our behavior. With Pluto ruling our second, opposing Venus which is the ruler of our tenth, we must deal with profligate spending. With a Saturn return in our tenth square our Cancerian Sun, we must face the hard facts that we are stretched too thin to care for people as they need, but must act wisely and maturely with the resources we still have.

The Obamacare legislation that was signed into law under the polarizing Saturn-Uranus aspect certainly includes Virgo (health), Pisces (compassion), ninth house (legislation, legalities), and Pluto opposite the nation's Cancerian planets (reform of caring and nurturing). This legislative process highlighted ugly methods of political dealings hitherto not made obvious, and contains mandates to purchase private insurance – a commodity or product – that are of questionable constitutional legality. Meanwhile, in Wisconsin the extreme political game-playing of both parties undermined many givens of the democratic process. Watching legislators playing awful manipulative tricks with the system, and observing some legislators behaving in what many feel is unseemly conduct bothers many Americans. Many Americans are troubled that, not only is their national media biased, but that their elected legislators are undignified or not playing fair...and this, as much as distress about overspending, has generated the Tea Party phenomenon, named for the first rebellion against excessive spending, overtaxation and immoderate government intrusion – actually, another manifestation of the conservative urge of Pluto in Capricorn.

Pluto in Capricorn versus Uranus in Aries

As the Wisconsin teachers' strike with its emphasis on collective bargaining is illustrating, and as the Federal Government's lawsuit against Arizona is demonstrating, we are in a period now not only of ideological conflict but of a battle between states' rights versus the federal government. As much as the Mideast is in violent turmoil as people protest their government, so are Americans in as passionate a struggle (only – so far, at least – without guns). Obamacare represents one of several threats – or legal challenges – to the American system that has been, or will, be mounted, forcing the Supreme Court to determine what is correct vis-à-vis our Constitution. Other legal challenges are taking place between different government branches too. Americans are witnessing threats to the very cohesion of the Union, as states' rights and individual rights clash with federal laws. As mentioned earlier, the symbolism of Uranus into independent Aries in the Age of Aquarius is specifically related to individual rights. But this internal clash has directly affected the anxiety level of many Americans.

In certain ways, the Uranus patterns echo those of our original Civil War, being divisive even down to our core relationships. In some cases, this has been evident since the last presidential campaign and throughout this administration, and now, post-Midterm Elections, we see the split in people to people. And it's driving huge wedges into the normal functioning of government and the courts. It is a challenge to the fabric of America.

The Cardinal T-Square

While Uranus blasts old structures apart, Pluto (reform) and Saturn (constraint) always "win" these bouts. The god of the underworld and the lord of karma are not about to cave in and relent just because rebels are throwing monkey wrenches! That means that reform, in the direction of fiscal responsibility, hard as it is to swallow, must come foremost. But as long as Uranus (freedom) squares this combo, the wrenching struggle between individuals' power versus fiscal reality will go on, increasing in force. *"We ain't seen nothin' yet!"* It will get uglier for years to come.

The Irrepressible Power of One

As Uranus has hit the world axis of 0° Aries, ever-newer technology is being invented at lightening speed in order to ensure a new day of freedom. A device called The Freedom Box has been featured in the news lately; it can hook up any two computers to network and be able to talk to each other, thereby creating an information grid that can bypass the internet, and thus further eliminate the possibility of any large entity such as a government or a corporation being able to control information. This is an ultimate image of the power residing in the hands of individuals, and not in overlords or institutions.

Although we've grown far from the ideal of oneness, we have learned more about the power of an individual when massed physically in a group of many individuals, or when collectively connected through a technological avenue such as the internet (Aquarius), to accomplish momentous results. To overthrow repressive tyrants. To overcome limiting barriers towards free speech or the dissemination of information, as the internet has given us. To demand its rights!

Uranus and Neptune Leaving Mutual Reception

Uranus, having completing its travel through Neptune's sign of Pisces, and Neptune now completing its travel through Uranus' sign of Aquarius, have brought the flourishing and dissemination of dreams and ideals across the globe through amazing new technology. During their mutual reception, our psyches were awakened to new possibilities and great potential while our souls were stirred to innovate and to consciously evolve. With humanitarianism blended well with spiritual awareness, the Green Movement to cleanse the environment and use technology wisely gained momentum. With Uranus and Neptune in long mutual reception during this stressful and challenging era, we now have the means to televise, talk, share, and spread our visions, our spiritual recognition, and our improved intuitive forces. So, hidden from sight or not as obvious during this period of conflict, a transformation has been occurring benefitting our spiritual evolution and our technological prowess, and in fact this is the key to the sweeping democratic movement that we've been witnessing on parts of the globe that has been called **The Facebook Movement**, or **The Google Revolution**.

It remains to be seen what new government structures arise after this turmoil, and whether the power of the individual collected into groups and associations, and with full ability to access information and overcome the limits of controlling entities such as governments or tyrants, or even corporations, will be sufficient to create and sustain beneficial forms of government for the human race, based upon different cultures. But we don't see it yet.

What we see instead here in America especially is a growing sense of vulnerability.

UNRELENTING WORLDWIDE PRESSURE RAMPING UP – GRAND CARDINAL SQUARE

We are moving from crisis to crisis now. The pressures aren't resolved; nothing ever really gets fixed when yet another crisis is presented to distract us, often with even greater magnitude, and the stress just keeps

ramping up. Here's what I wrote in "Destiny in the Balance" about our newly named dwarf planets, Eris and Dysnomia:

When I heard that the dwarf planet formerly known as Xena (the "warrior princess") was now to be called Eris, and that her own Moon, formerly known as Gabrielle (Xena's sidekick), had been renamed Dysnomia, I couldn't believe it! Eris is the Greek goddess of strife and discord; Eris's daughter, Dysnomia, is the goddess of lawlessness. Together, they represent aspects of chaos.

Other Plutonic pressures include tyrannical madmen (Iran, North Korea) gaining access to nuclear power and weapons of mass destruction; terrorists, especially those in our very midst such as at Fort Hood, the would-be shoe bomber, would-be underwear bomber, would-be Times Square bomber, and many other home-grown misanthropes; the viciousness of the Mexican drug wars spilling over into our borders; and pirates on the high seas; all of which has changed the very way we travel, the loss of a sense of safety within our borders, on our trains and planes, and even in hotels, none of which is beneficial for the major travel and hospitality industries. Nor has the mushrooming of China's economy and the imbalance between America's debt and China's loans helped our collective state of mind. And finally the enormous pressure upon the average American who sees underhanded machinations by government officials or manipulative actions to pass unpopular legislation, and who sees threats from every corner.

Nature's Fury

Even nature seems to be collaborating by showing its destructive side. As predicted by Edgar Cayce and his ilk, foretelling the End Times through volcanoes (Iceland), earthquakes (Haiti, New Zealand), floods (Midwest), hurricanes (Katrina), tsunamis (Indonesia), and other weird weather patterns, we have been unremittingly battered. The most recent event in Japan has been like a quadruple blow of earthquake, tsunamis, and whirlpools followed by nuclear power plant radiation leakage and explosions. Even a resurgence of bedbugs and measles come at us like Biblical plagues. Is there global warming, or is this just a Neptunian concept? Regardless, it adds to the mercilessly distressing climate. Around every corner we see new tension, new perils, new destruction of comfortable traditional forms (Capricorn), and new forces at work pushing us into chaos (Uranus). Where, we wonder, will chaos strike next?

The level of anxiety is metastasizing even as I write this!

NATIONAL VULNERABILITY - NEPTUNE CONJUNCT U.S. MOON

There has certainly been an awareness of vulnerability. Previously, the United States had been, by virtue of its geography, pretty secure and insulated. Even Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) were relatively constrained by the factor of distance, and we had two friendly neighbors to our North and to our South.

Neptune - Porous Borders

9/11 represented a breach of the walls. In an analogy to ancient Rome, it could be seen as "barbarians at the gates". So, by virtue of suicidal air attacks turned against us with our own equipment and our own myopia to danger, we have been blindsided and are feeling much apprehension. This can be attributed, in my opinion, to Neptune transiting the U.S. (Sibley) Moon at 27° Aquarius, representing an aspect of confusion, exposure, self-deceit, and deceit through foreigners (Neptune from the 9th). It occurred in an air sign so our vulnerability was shown through the air - airplanes.

Neptune - Drugs

Another area of great vulnerability and breaching of our stronghold is through our southern neighbor, Mexico, regarding drugs (also a Neptune factor). The escalation of that country's drug wars has created an instance where our border states are not felt as being safely secured. Political battles are raging regarding lax immigration laws and the need for greater containment, either through border patrols or fences. Whatever side of that issue the reader may be on, it's still representative of security and vulnerability through a Neptune factor, i.e., drugs. A porous border is the epitome of Neptunian symbolism! In January 2010, I predicted a clash between federal versus states' rights, which we see now where the Justice

Department is suing Arizona over its new policy to enforce immigration law⁷, and where many states are suing the federal government over the legality of the new healthcare law. That, in turn, is making Americans question their expectations and rights in the new landscape, and wonder if their national identity and ideals are still intact.

Neptune – Energy Dependency and Questionable Alliances

Also, Neptune ruling oil, fuel, and gasoline showed us to be weak yet again in our energy needs and fuel supplies. Although we have been at the mercy of oil-rich Mideast states before, this situation was brought into sharp relief during the BP oil spill disaster, which not only put foreign interests into clear focus, reminding us of our great dependency on other powers, but compromised our environment. Political choices about off-shore drilling, nuclear power plants, wind farms (that's air again), tapping shale deposits, and so forth, remain key ideological battle fronts as the shutdown of some American oil production continues and prices at the pump fluctuate wildly but steadily increase. Overseas, there is instability about oil production and the entire oil industry as nations in turmoil grapple with toppled governments and destroyed economies.

Neptune – Legal Uncertainty and Vulnerable Structures of Government

Along these lines, lawsuits (ninth house, government, courts) have been filed by many states' governors against the federal government's new health care legislation, otherwise known as Obamacare (Neptune from Virgo, the sign representative of health), calling it unconstitutional for its mandate that Americans purchase a commercial product (insurance). As judges rule against this law, and as it makes its way inevitably to the Supreme Court, Americans must witness two components of their own government wrestle one another for power and control, leaving concern for the nation's cohesion in its wake. Such qualms have not been felt since Lincoln's time when the War Between the States created the real possibility of dissolution (good Neptune word!) of the Union. Today's deep fear similarly brings up the genuine prospect of the United States being broken apart as individual Americans fight with each other, as groups of individuals (unions) fight with their state government, as state governors fight with the federal government, and of course as the federal government buckles under financial strain, an over-stretched military, and intense media clashes. Rather than geography alone, this current clash is even scarier since it might produce disbanding (Neptune) of the very structure of our government.

Neptune – Misplaced Idealism

Another Neptune factor of vulnerability during this long transit of Neptune to the U.S. Moon since 9/11 is via idealism. Misplaced idealism is thought to have been a factor in the Fort Hood massacre when a psychiatrist, under treatment for mental disorders and obvious insubordinations, was misdiagnosed or not seen clearly as a threat. "Political correctness" may have been what contributed to the resistance to identifying a terrorist within the ranks as just such. Many Americans feel a great defenselessness in seeing this weakness eating at us from within. Meantime, in Europe too, the stirrings of resistance against the dilemma of excessive "multiculturalism" (i.e., when there is so much accommodation to immigrant culture that the intrinsic flavor of national identity starts to get eclipsed) has begun rearing its head.

A Tough Transit

Neptune, then, as it continues to transit the U.S. Moon⁸, leaves us feeling unprotected, unsafe, and nervous. We feel distrustful of elected officials and compromises to our legal system, democratic process, and rule of law; anxious about potential terrorists in our midst; chary about porous borders and suspicious immigrants; frightened about profligate government spending, huge national debt, and the prospect of higher taxes, weaker dollar, and rising living costs; worried about environmental damage from fossil fuels and man-made disasters; apprehensive about powerful madmen with nuclear capability; fretful about the poor job market and high unemployment; concerned about the overextension of our military costs and manpower as we fight wars on several fronts including Homeland Security; and fearful about our fragility and dependency regarding our energy needs while energy costs rise precipitously.

This, then, is the state of the world ten years after 9/11. Is there anything good to be found in the future?

AHEAD

There has been a release of the Saturn-Uranus difficult tensions but that's being replaced with tensions of a more revolutionary sort. And so we see, in Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, and in country after country in that region of the world, a sweeping and often chaotic thrust towards self-determination and overthrow, with the forces of resistance in direct conflict with the forces of freedom being played out on our daily news broadcasts. We also saw stirrings of this in the U.S. Tea Party movement, and we see some glimmers in European countries rejecting the negative results of what is perceived as excessive multiculturalism.

The historic sweep of these pressures, the howl for individual freedom, and the clash of entrenched powers against global humanitarian self-discovery is epic. We await the escalating struggle between opposing ideologies as democracy in the guise of individuals wanting to pursue personal choice makes inroads into repressive patriarchal theocracy. For the average person, living with the threats of uncertainty, economic squeeze, nature's disruption (e.g., flooding, a Neptune symbol), and risk of nuclear war (e.g., Iran, a Pluto symbol), the world no longer seems safe. All this can be seen as a direct and inevitable sequence from 9/11.

U.S. Saturn Return

The U.S. is now undergoing a Saturn return in the tenth house. If ever there were a time to grow up and take responsibility upon the world stage and within its national borders, this would be it! Saturn's return is in the peace-loving sign of Libra; and progressed Mars, having gone retrograde also in Libra, prefers not to wage war. For financial reasons and philosophical beliefs we are trying to extract ourselves from occupations, battlefields, and other unnecessary military endeavors. But with Saturn returning to its own place in the tenth, it's certainly not a time to pass off the mantle of responsibility. The challenge is how to step into the role we must play on the world stage during such threatening and challenging times without missteps or unnecessary costs in lives and dollars. Patience and wisdom are required.

Some Good News!

Happily, after this Neptune-Moon transit, which will complete itself by early February 2012 (the last time Neptune is in the late degrees of Aquarius), many people will become more sensitive, more compassionate, and more spiritual. As the world remains uncertain, we will tread more carefully through the fog until the miasma lifts and we can see more clearly. We will hearken to our intuition; we will search inwardly for connection to higher sources or clearly meanings; we will seek our soul purpose, and in finding it, we will dedicate ourselves to that aspiration. As Neptune enters Pisces, its own sign, it begins to trine our national Venus in Cancer in the 7th house – that describes America's role as the nurturer, the idealistic caretaker to the legions of suffering humanity. Here can be idealism in its better form – not blinded or foolish, but clear-eyed and pro-active. As Neptune trines our Jupiter and Sun, we will clean up our oceans, eliminate over-fishing, solve the oil/fuel problem (IMHO, not with electric cars but with technology that produces bacterial diesel and ethanol rather than reliance on fossil fuels). The imagination will bring wisdom and different values to the arts, and a better (less trashy) point of view. Sloughing off its recent malaise, the movie industry will offer wonderful science fiction movies exploring deep themes such as recent entries that look at themes like free will (e.g., "The Adjustment Bureau") and full creative potential (e.g., "Limitless"), or dark new possibilities regarding hostile alien invasion, and even a fun mixture by Spielberg ("Cowboys and Aliens").

A documentary about earliest matter on Earth showed the formation of proteins from the primeval soup of amino acids, and emphasized that all cells first had to define themselves as separate things by developing some type of skin or surface. Cell walls, then, represent Saturn: both limitation and structured individuality. Neptune, however, was the undifferentiated soup. It drove home to my mind at that instant how necessary a good Saturn is, and how risky an amorphous Neptune can be. On the other hand, one must remember that too much Saturn (restriction, "reality") can be onerous to creative possibility whereas the blessing of a new Neptunian approach can move one's essential core Being past its limits and into its divine potentiality.

PLUTO'S REFORM... OF WHAT?

Meanwhile, Pluto, if effective, forces reform and demands change⁹. Pluto in one's first house square one's Midheaven (which thankfully has already occurred and will not repeat according to the Sibley chart) and opposing Venus, the ruler of the Midheaven, brooks no excuses. Pluto's current aspect is a sextile to our progressed Sun ruling the ninth house of foreign affairs as well as wisdom, in the third house of media (the news). Meantime, our progressed Ascendant at 29° Leo, having quinquexed progressed Pluto in a money house, is moving on into Virgo, a frugal sign, thus getting down to business and tackling the dirty job of cleaning up. This progressed change occurs in the ninth house, too, so it is our dealings with foreign powers and other cultural beliefs that can be improved. Also, legal matters can get tidied up with new laws that protect, cleanse, and eliminate dirty dealings.

Furthermore, a nice aspect of Uranus clicking with our fourth house cusp is its ability to use technology to turn homeland into a place of invention, innovation, and free-thinking unfettered individualism. Maybe the spirit of American Know-How will return, activated through the internet, robotics, scientific breakthroughs, radical new understanding, and the spread of ideas.

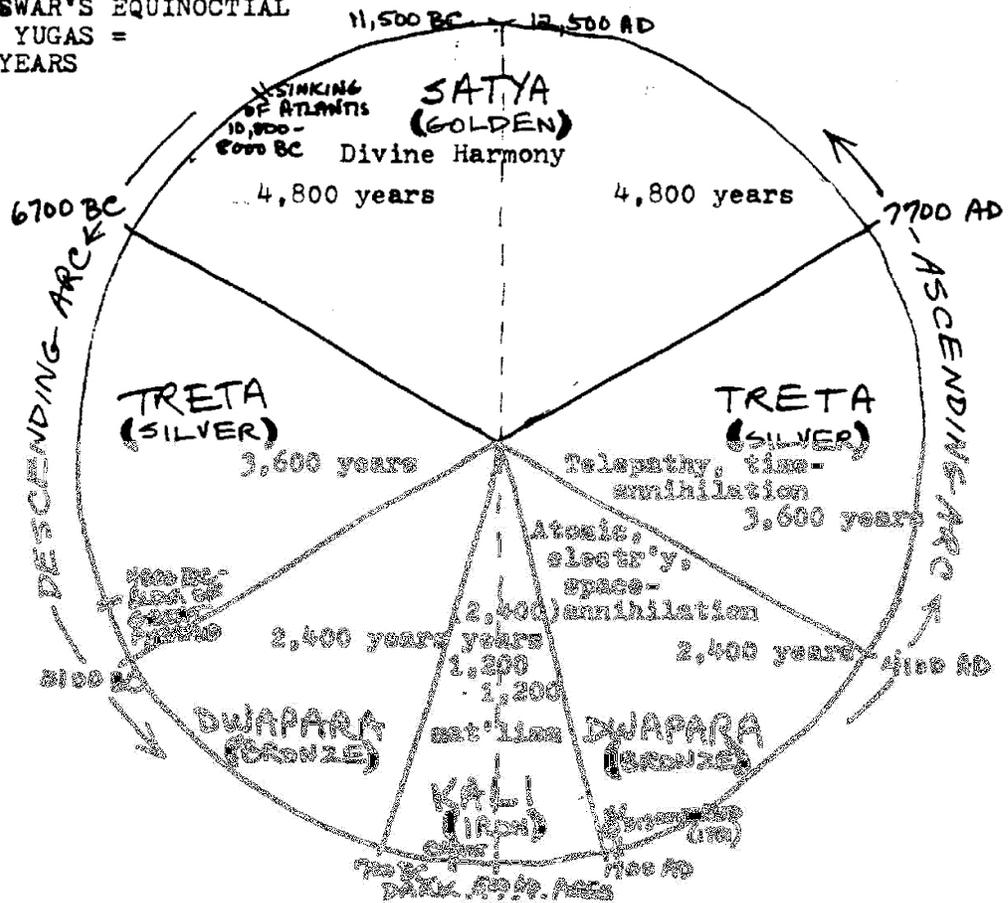
An Upwards Evolutionary Trend Pushed by the Stresses

It has not been easy to live through these critical years, this powerful decade... nor will it be over in the blink of an eye since the clashing aspects of the outer planets are still doing their dance, and entangling our national horoscope. We must ask: is 2012 the much-prophesied and fearful "End", or is it just the beginning of severe challenges for years, if not decades, to come? Yet we may see the end result of 9/11's ultimate outcome in the form of a newer, more evolved humanity that sees the world as itself, that sees individuals (self-realization) as its highest goal, and that overcomes the violent behavior of individuals as well as nature. This is a highly idealistic statement, indeed! But it is not past the possibilities of potential outcome and promise. It may even be said, eventually, that 9/11 was the catalyst for a new humanity, and was the beginning of an intensive struggle in that direction.

We don't always like it when evolutionary forces are at work. I read an interesting story about "from the hunted to the hunter". In earliest times, an ice age forced early hominids to live in caves which unfortunately had been previously inhabited by saber toothed big cats. This coexistence worked in the favor of the big cat who had a lair at its door, but it pressured the hominids to learn how to hunt and kill their predator, thereby pushing evolution forward. From being the hunted one, the weak helpless victim of the stresses just to survive, came the necessary push to create a creature that had to use its brain, its opposable thumb, and its cunning to move that needle up a notch on the evolutionary scale and turn the tables on its oppressor. It must have worked because the big cats with saber teeth are extinct while the hominids have evolved into us - the creature who mastered the entire world and yet finds itself now the victim of nature, of each other, and of the structures it has designed to live under. And the great question is, will these pressures cause us to implode as a race, as a society, and even as a habitable planet, or will these great pressures produce the next evolutionary design of the human being?

As early as the 1980s, prophetic voices foretold *belt-tightening, crazy weather, earthquakes, oceans rising* and *the Lady eclipsed* (weakness of America/Lady Liberty: Nostradamus). The dire "End Times"-type predictions were to foreshadow the beautiful and spiritual future ahead. Well, these dire predictions are all happening, along with the foretold signs and omens appearing on cue, so we must take heart that it's all part of a cosmic design to push our species forward into a more glorious epoch. The Hindu sages tell of this coming age - the 2,400-year cycle called the Dwapara Yuga, or Bronze Age, wherein we will learn to overcome space.

SRI YUKTESWAR'S EQUINOCTIAL
CYCLES OF YUGAS =
24,000 YEARS



Maybe that's when we invent machines to "beam up" or go through wormholes or otherwise conquer physical limitations. And far ahead, it's told of another Yuga (the Treta Yuga, or Silver Age) in which we'll learn to overcome time¹⁰. (Whoa, that's like meeting your reincarnational past, and shaking hands with your former selves!) If the immediate prophecies are falling into place right on schedule, then why not these brighter, long-term ones? This stage, then, is the gestation in the womb; the birth, which may be violent, is not far ahead. What will the new day look like?

Here are some immediate patterns to consider:

What will happen when Neptune, in its own sign of Pisces, trines the U.S. personal planets? Will it mean that groups of people get together to pray or meditate to envision a higher goal? To realize the mystical truth of the power of the Law of Attraction, and of the spiritual intention built into the mission statement (Great Seal) of America to create an everlasting structure, strong, undiminished, and lasting through eternity, that gives humans the ideal (archetype) of beneficent self-government and divine spiritual connection? I believe Neptune's long transit of Pisces can begin to achieve just that, and it will be the particularly important mission of lightworkers to teach and guide (Sagittarius) their fellow citizens towards this type of effort - to meditate and visualize (positive Neptune) world-changing ways of creating peace and harmony (Libra) on the mental level first (Aquarius), and then next by drawing the visions (Pisces) down to the grounding level (Capricorn) and making them manifest (Saturn, cardinal). Especially after the current clash of ideologies, the new generation born 1995-2008 with Pluto in Sagittarius will have as part of its soul task the deep debate over religious values and a universal notion of God.

Jupiter moves into Cancer in June 2013, the same month that Saturn stations retrograde at 5 Scorpio, and Neptune stations retrograde at 5 Pisces, both forming a perfect Grand Water Trine to the U.S. Jupiter, with Pluto adding the spine of the Kite! What a wonderfully supportive period for real reform and grace! Exalted Jupiter in Cancer will bless this country even as spiritual energy re-infuses it. *Roll up your sleeves, Americans! There's work to be done!*

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¹ Oddly, this year is the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War.

² The territory over which a caliph's (religious ruler) rule extends, or the time for which it lasts .

³ For more information on Yugas and Hindu philosophy, refer to Sri Yukteswar's spiritual mathematics as discussed in *Autobiography of a Yogi*, Yogananda Paramahansa

⁴ *Iran & Rights: Another UN Farce*, by Mehrtash Rastegar & Nir Boms, New York Post, 2/24/2011

⁵ CBS News, covering a women's protest march over the Brooklyn Bridge in solidarity with Afghani women's rights movements , 3/8/11.

⁶ "Cover her!!! She needs to be veiled!!!", New York Post, 2/13/2011

⁷ The central issue here is: Does Arizona have the right to secure its borders without federal government interference, or is the Justice Department just doing its part to protect people's civil rights?

⁸ If the feeling of great national anxiety subsides once Neptune leaves 27° Aquarius permanently, that would make an additional rectification proof of the Sibley chart.

⁹ Such as, after the Japanese nuclear disaster, a clean up or improvement of the nuclear power industry.

¹⁰ *Physics of the Impossible*, Michio Kaku (Anchor Books). Physicist Kaku considers the science of impossibilities, and deduces that some science-fiction-y concepts (such as predicted via Sri Yukteswar's interpretation of the Yugas) might be possible someday.

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