

2006 Fall Equinox: September 23, 2006

By Barbara Hand Clow

The Fall Equinox has arrived less than a day after a Virgo solar eclipse. This equinox and the solar eclipse are a fitting ending for the 2006 Summer Solstice season, which was a very profound and intense three months. The Sun went into Cancer during a dramatic fixed grand square involving five planets (see below). Now the Sun goes into Libra, which is a time of balancing the creations of the last six months. The Fall Equinox is always a field of grace and harmony amidst the social pleasures of returning to school and fall projects necessitated by winter coming. New possibilities emerge during the Spring Equinox season; the resulting creations deepen during the summer; and when fall comes, it is time to appraise the qualities of the field we live in and throw some things away while putting energy into others.

The shift this fall is unusually significant because the extremely long-lasting grand square configurations since November 2005 have exposed many long-hidden truths about our selves and our societies. This grand-square transformational process was telescoped into the summer season because the Summer Solstice opened with a fixed grand square of five planets within less than one degree: Mars was conjunct Saturn opposing Chiron in Aquarius, squaring the Moon in Taurus opposite Jupiter in Scorpio. This grand square set up the world's field for aggressive battles over structural control (Mars/Saturn in Leo) by means of chaotic wounding (Chiron in Aquarius) in tension with human need for safety, comfort, and resources (Moon in Taurus) by means of deep expansion of religious beliefs (Jupiter in Scorpio). To top that off, Saturn's second square to Jupiter was triggering all the agendas selected during the May 2000 trigon (Jupiter conjunct Saturn), which I call the "Bushite trigon" because that was when Bush seized the global agenda by fostering America as an empire. When the waxing square between Jupiter and Saturn forms, the truth can be seen about the entity that seized the power of the trigon, and the final revelation comes October 25, 2006, with the third and final square. The Roman emperors used trigons and their subsequent squares and oppositions for many years to rule the empire, and the Bushite astrologers are doing the same old thing, but it is all speeded up by the 20X time acceleration of the Galactic Underworld.

In my readings this summer (as well as Marianne Carroll's excellent interpretation of the Summer Solstice), I predicted that the grand square and Jupiter square Saturn would mean that terrible conflict would break out throughout the Middle East all summer as the tenacious Bush administration pushed conflict to the brink. Iraq has fallen into a totally predictable and hideous civil war; the Israelis leveled Lebanon and trashed it with American cluster bombs; and the US jostled with Iran all summer, prodding them to react. As we move into the fall balancing time, Iraqi civilians are leaving their country if they can; the situation in Lebanon is very tense; and Iran is standing firm that they intend to pursue nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. The suffering in the world is rising to incomprehensible levels, yet many people are changing and learning about life in the middle of these fast-acting transformations. At the Summer Solstice, the Sun in Cancer exactly squared the lunar nodes, which meant many of us have learned to watch old patterns transmute as new possibilities emerge. It is amazing to me how many people discovered Carl Calleman's 20X time-acceleration model this summer and have learned how to use it to interpret the global transformational patterns of history.

Many people are realizing that truly new things are happening in the world. For example, for the first time in 5000 years, the majority of people realize that religions are the cause of war, and that religions use guilt, mind control, and cruelty to control events. A rising desire for spirituality initially has been causing a rise in fanaticism, yet new abilities to see truth are revealing old and long-hidden patterns that have caused humanity to respond to the world like sheep; these realizations will sweep the planet this fall. It is not that people will yet be free from the hideous violence, but they will attain the keen eye of knowledge, which can deflate religious fanatics.

There is only one path now-to follow what we value and believe in as we draw inward to prepare for winter. Never has it been more important to clarify your own special intentions; the planetary fields are ripe for new growth and people are exhausted by the sick and useless old patterns. Creative potential is at an all-time high, and I will read the Fall Equinox chart with this idea in mind as well as looking to see how reality may deconstruct. After all, Day Five of the Galactic Underworld opens November 24, the "Breakthrough Celebration", when the advanced unifying synthesis of the Galactic will precipitate into reality. The world is not going to continue grinding stupidly along, new vibrations are flowing, and the Fall Equinox yields clues as to how this might proceed.

As the Sun goes into Libra, the Moon in Libra is only a few degrees away and also close to Mars in Libra. Chiron in Aquarius trines the Sun/Moon/Mars stellium, hinting that the deep wounding of our times is meaningful and effective. This placement of Mars is quite fascinating because Ramadan (the Islamic holy period) begins on September 24 when the crescent Moon is visible, and the Moon will be closer to Mars than Venus. This may be a sign that the jihad will continue during Ramadan, which would be a very difficult problem for Muslims. If such a sad thing happens, Ratzinger's inflammatory remarks will be remembered as the match that lit the flame. So, from a personal point of view, what does this say about harmony and peace for Christians? The key may be Mercury, which is also in Libra in the middle degrees exactly trining Neptune in Aquarius. This means people can see beyond religions as the only source for spirituality. Perhaps there will be a reckoning for the Pope right in the heart of Christianity?

Looking for a Christian reckoning, Venus in Virgo squares Pluto, which is squaring the lunar nodes. Venus is close to the South Node in this squaring pattern, which suggests old energies of the great goddess will well up within the planetary mind. The senseless violence and intractable fanaticism does not sit well with the goddess mentality at all, especially since Jupiter's square to Neptune is exact on the day after the equinox. The great goddess abhors the male tendency to create violence that murders women and children. This is the last square of Jupiter to Neptune (the maturation of the issue), and a great wave of violence, movement of people, or an incredible water-related weather event may occur that is totally out of control. This is because it is so difficult to express the deep needs of Jupiter in Scorpio squared by Neptune in Aquarius, which tends toward chaos. Whatever happens, it will be a great balancing because the planet is groaning for peace.

One thing I think may come is a lot of impatience with the day-to-day killing and maiming, a clear realization of all the pain and suffering being endured by so many hapless people. The first Jupiter-square-Neptune was January 27 and the second was March 15, and in my opinion, that was when the social fabric of Iraq was rendered and torn to pieces by the American occupation. How many daily deaths and incessant maiming between opposing religious factions are required to declare the situation a civil war? Yet, new energy may come in via something very positive.

For example, the Islamic world could manage to observe Ramadan peacefully and then the world would be swept by a wave of blissful heart opening. Or, perhaps some great mass event will occur like the Asian tsunami less than two years ago that made it obvious to so many people that human leaders are failing the people. I dislike having to consider negative possibilities, yet there is great power in seeing the balancing that is going on. After all, regarding events like the tsunami, the real reason the suffering is so monumental is over-population and lack of concern for the real meaning of each person's life.

If I were to pick one issue we must master in our times, it would be to overcome fear. This Jupiter-square-Neptune can trigger outrageous levels of fear because it pushes us to manifest our real secret desires, yet we tend to back off rather than fail, and then we feel fear over our outcome in life. During this fall season, if you can progress in going beyond fear, your life could be joyful and ecstatic during these times, especially during the first half of Day Five of the Galactic. So, I would suggest you attentively tune into events the day of the Fall Equinox, see how the happenings (patterns to teach us about ourselves) make you feel and go after your own nasty edge of fear. For example, I always felt like I would feel alienated in my own house if I was robbed. When I finally did get robbed a few years ago to teach me a lesson, I didn't feel anything like that about my house! Some guy just got into the house because we left a window open, and he helped himself.

Regarding new awareness from this Libra harmonic, Uranus in Pisces quincunxes Mercury in Libra, which suggests that the continuing process of religious transformation will offer us revelations-radical new insights about humankind's search for God, the presence that makes all of life meaningful. What might this be? In writing my next book, *The Mayan Code: Time Acceleration and Awakening the World Mind* (May 2007), I explored a new Christ coming forth during the Galactic Underworld and what I uncovered is a gold mine. Did you know that Jesus is one of the prophets of Islamic religion? If that is so, then why is Christianity attacking them? Some Islamic scholars believe that Issa (Jesus) survived the Crucifixion and made his way to Persia and India and was a teacher in the East until he was 125 years old! We are truly on the verge of seeing the world in an entirely new way as we learn to perceive things from what we feel and not because a religion tells us how it is. I believe the understanding that all three major religions share Christ's light will be the biggest cause of a reduction in the violence, and I think this sharing of Christ's love and kindness will emerge during Day Five; hints about how this might happen will come forth during this fall season.

Looking at the Fall Equinox chart cast for Washington, DC, some striking elements emerge once we can add a reading for house positions. The rising sign (the soul of the chart) is 5 Cancer, which is combust Jupiter in the 1776 USA Founding Chart (see the "background charts"). The USA Jupiter right on the rising as the Sun goes into Libra suggests that the deeper quest of America-life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness-may emerge during this fall. Many Americans may realize that our founding triad of meaning is not what the neo-cons value. Venus in Virgo, the lunar South Node in Virgo and the Sun/Moon/Mars/Mercury in Libra are in the fourth house (4), which is intercepted in Libra. This is really interesting because it means the US feminine self, past identity, current self, emotions, force, and mind will not be functional, as if the nation's capitol will be a ghost town. Then, since the North Node in Pisces is intercepted in 10, the quest for a spiritual path will be disempowered. Uranus in Pisces in 9 suggests surprises and strange transformations of this spiritual quest, and Neptune and Chiron in Aquarius in 8 suggest that the nation's quest for healing and spirituality will die in some way, as some kind of letting go. You can add the aspects between all these planets by looking back to the earlier part of this reading.

Saturn in Leo in 2 opposing Neptune in Aquarius in 8 says that will power and control will ground this transmutation of spiritual direction. I have been astounded by the lack of a spiritual voice on the part of America's respected religious spokespersons. For example, where was the moral outrage when Israel dumped more than 100,000 American cluster bombs on Lebanon during the last three days of the war, when a ceasefire was in sight? Now, children at play and adults in Lebanon trying to clean up the rubble are being killed and maimed by American bombs! Saturn in Leo in 2 opposite Neptune in Aquarius could inspire a moral reckoning, even though American religious leaders unilaterally support whatever Israel does. The key to this strange absence of morality is Pluto in Sagittarius squaring the lunar nodes, an aspect that will be in place through November 2006. In this placement, Pluto is creating a karmic crisis over the current need to access true spirituality (North Node in Pisces) and leave behind clinging to old order (South Node in Virgo). I think Pluto's long square to the lunar nodes, the USA Jupiter on the Fall Equinox rising, and the Aries/Libra interception in 10 and 4 suggests the neo-cons will lose their way this fall and more true American values will be remembered. And, I call for American Jewish rabbis to question the Israeli behavior.

As you know, Jupiter square Neptune is the signature aspect this fall because it is exact for the last time a day after the equinox. As I said, these three squares have been forcing people to see that spirituality and religion are not necessarily the same thing, and a movement is building to demand that religions foster true spirituality or else. Soon, a great majority of Americans will become painfully aware that causing wars that result in civil wars and hideous societal stress is the antithesis of true spirituality. Indeed, America deserves to be chastised, and that is exactly what the Iranian and Venezuelan presidents are doing; the Bushites can't believe it, and the American public is watching. Jupiter in Scorpio is in 5, and the expansion to another level should come through play and creativity this fall. Possibly American comedians will start making fun of the Blue Meanies?

Some may say such ideas are far-fetched and silly, but the Fall Equinox chart is indeed strange and propitious. One thing I can assure: this fall will be full of surprises, so get some popcorn, take a front row seat, and keep track of what is going on in your head as the movie rolls along! As the fall comes to a close at the Winter Solstice, you will be amazed at how much your understanding of the world scene has matured.