

**Virgo New Moon August 23, 2006**  
**By Barbara Hand-Clow**

The New Moon is in one degree Virgo; the time has come for clarity of thought and intention. Regarding the previous New Moon in Leo, it was the time to identify your heart's desire. Yet as I mentioned, manifesting anything during this Leo lunation would be very tricky because the personal potential of the July New Moon was very overshadowed by forces that have been unleashed in the collective since the Summer Solstice (SS). I hope the previous month was joyful and creative for you, and as you prepare for the New Moon in Virgo, it would be wise to think about where you are in your personal desires. The release of collective forces-the lifting of the lid of Pandora's box-amidst the intensity of the Galactic Underworld is almost too much. Much of my analysis of the August New Moon will be on collective issues because the grand square during the SS locked in really strong patterns. To top things off, we will be having the first Saturn opposite Neptune on August 31, 2006, which is a major transit that always shifts the collective field in significant ways. First we will look at the lingering effects of the Solstice.

During the Solstice, Saturn conjuncted Mars in Leo, Chiron was in Aquarius, the Moon in Taurus, and Jupiter in Scorpio-creating a tense grand square that triggered the agendas that first came forth during the May 2000 Trigon (Saturn conjunct Jupiter in 23 Taurus). These agendas reflect great desires for financial and structural power, especially by the Bushites, who seized the global powers of the twenty-year Trigon's influence (America as Empire). Isn't it fascinating that Israel's Sun is 24 Taurus, meaning it is the creative expression of the Trigon? Because the second Jupiter/Saturn square (first one was in December 2005) was exact right after the SS (and in the middle of a grand square that also involved Mars conjunct Saturn), aggressive and tense conflicts in the Middle East are breaking out all over. The Israelis are the main actors on the stage as a Judeo-Christian base in the Middle East; and because their foundation chart was intensely activated by the SS grand square, they are on center stage now.

Israel has Sun in Taurus (conjunct the 2000 Trigon) opposite Chiron in Scorpio square Pluto/Saturn/Mars, so the SS fixed grand square involving Mars was intense for them. And, the upcoming exact Saturn in Leo opposite Neptune in Aquarius aspects this fixed T-Square in Israel's chart. [May 14, 1948; 4:00 p.m. EET; Tel Aviv] The final square to the 2000 Trigon (Jupiter square Saturn in late October 2006) is when we will really see the point of the twenty-year Trigon pattern. I have already named this Trigon the "Bushite Trigon" because they seized the agenda so successfully in America. Well, we have to add Israel as the expression of the pattern in the Middle East; Israel basically flattened Lebanon in one month under the influence of the SS grand square.

As I said last month, "throughout the spring, tensions in the Middle East have been rising to the boiling point with Iraq degenerating into a hideous civil war, while Iran pursues its own ends regarding its future energy plans. With nearly every country in the Middle East complaining that Israel is pushing tensions to the brink, the grand square during the solstice with Mars conjunct Saturn caused the tensions to get out of control. Also during the Solstice, the SS Sun in Cancer exactly squared the lunar nodes, which made everybody deeply insecure. This Solstice Sun's square to the nodes makes the people in conflict feel like fighting for what they believe is theirs, even onto death. I begin with stressing this SS influence during the July New Moon because its Leonine potential will probably function in the negative zone-gimmee what's mine, get out of my space, and if you don't I will shoot you!" I went on to say last month, "The Israelis are processing 5,000 years of warrior codes from the National and Planetary Underworlds, and the process must be very carefully watched as Saturn approaches its opposition to Neptune, as you will see." Carl Johan Calleman just wrote a very important piece about this issue, which you can find on my new "Mayan Calendar Updates" at the opening of this website.

The lunar north node moved into Pisces right after the SS, and spiritual desires strengthened in our consciousness, yet the warmongers are acting like the north node is still in Aries! Generally speaking, the Eastern forces know how to work with the North Node in Pisces, once the Western powers maximized the power of the north node in Aries starting in December 2004. With the North Node in Pisces until December 2007, the aggressive Western powers may find they've forgotten what they're doing. The Eastern powers sense cannily which way to go, especially since Iran's Moon is right on the Sun in the 2000 Trigon chart! [Iran (Islamic Republic), April 1, 1979; 3:00 p.m. IRD (-4:30); Teheran]. Pluto in Sagittarius squares the lunar nodes exactly during the August New Moon and for the rest of 2006. This aspect inflames fundamentalists, thus fanatics will push their agendas while everyone else is deciding how much they will put up with the consequences. As far as I am concerned, all parties in this situation-US, Israel, Iran, and Lebanon-are fanatics. It is incredible to me that Peak Oil has arrived, yet Iraq is being torn to pieces and Lebanon was flattened in a month. I look at all those ruined homes and think about all the energy it will take to rebuild them. And I see the anger building in the faces of innocent people caught in war.

Continuing with the larger scene because it is impacting everyone so much, the US could not respond much to the dire situation in Lebanon because it is stuck in Iraq and Afghanistan while arguing with Iran and Syria. The balance of power is rapidly shifting in the Middle East because the people in these regions are drawing closer together because they have been divided up, attacked, and invaded for so long. This shift in balances has been accelerating since the Solstice, and I expect a lot of violence until the Fall Equinox. As I said last month, "Frankly speaking, both sides just seem to want to shoot off their fireworks, while the arms manufacturers smile all the way to the bank." Meanwhile, the outer conflict is actually causing all of us to process our own inner conflicts and dualities, and many are seeing that religious differences are the cause of the killing; this factor of the National Underworld-wars for God-is what's next on the stage, and Saturn opposite Neptune is the key, so let's look at it.

To understand Saturn opposite Neptune, we first must examine Saturn conjunct Neptune because the opposition is the fruition of the conjunction. Saturn conjunct Neptune results in pressure to access the spiritual dimensions of structures and laws. This began with the Saturn/Neptune conjunction in 1989, when the Berlin Wall fell and Eastern Germany was liberated. Nobody ever thought that was possible, people were shocked when it happened, yet also Uranus had conjuncted Saturn in 1988, which eroded a lot of heavy control patterns. Previously, Saturn was conjunct Neptune in 1916-18 during WWI and the flu pandemic. Then, the opposition came in 1935/36, when the world was in a depression and the seeds for WWII were being sown. In other words, as we look at the upcoming Saturn/Neptune opposition, we need to realize that hard aspects between Saturn/Neptune tear up old worlds and bring on new possibilities, because people aspire to greater wisdom about life.

Maurice Fernandez studied Iran's chart and believes that "Around the time of the Saturn-Neptune opposition at the end of August 2006, it is possible that Iran will intensify its threatening position." ("Crazy Wisdom," Mountain Astrologer, Aug/Sept, p. 34; and I used his chart data for Israel and Iran.) As I write this on August 21, Fernandez has already been proven correct because Iran is refusing to allow nuclear inspections and they have announced that Hezbollah is the victor in the recent war. Meanwhile, Fernandez also sees the potential for "huge destabilization for Israel due to leadership crises or hostilities." Then he goes on to note that, "the bottom line for the latter half of 2006 is that anarchy may be necessary; Neptune is such an overwhelming and humbling force that it often paralyzes egocentric control." He sees this as a process that is a "fantastic opportunity to clear out many obsolete concepts and restrictive approaches." And he notes that in this case, "Creation will occur through chaos." I quote Fernandez extensively and refer you to Calleman's thoughts about the shifting sands in the Middle East because I don't want it to look like I'm the only one who is seeing such huge changes. To put it simply, Israel may fall just like the Berlin Wall did! But, don't quote just that sentence because the change may be that Israel will have to go it alone after 58 years of heavy British and American financial and military support.

Now that I've used an inordinate amount of attention on the greater collective-since it involves the very basis of recent Judeo-Christian commitments-let's look at the New Moon from a personal perspective. The August New Moon is very subtle and special. The New Moon in Virgo is relatively unaspected, which gives it special clarity like a diamond, yet the quincunx from Chiron is close enough to take seriously since Virgo is Chiron's home sign (regardless of the latest removal of Pluto as a planet and all the other astronomical games). So, the lunation right in the earliest degree of Virgo is a clarion call to examine your intentions, to look deeply into what's in your head. It is a great time to realize that your thoughts create everything around you just by what your head is broadcasting by frequencies. Because of the Chiron quincunx-which means the New Moon pushes us to heal ourselves by the deepest wounds we carry inside-we could say this is the "What the Bleep" New Moon! If you haven't seen "What the Bleep is Going On?" you should because it really shows how our neuronal systems color reality. That will be the theme of this lunation, so imagine applying that concept to Israel, the US, and Iran!

Venus, Saturn, and Mercury are prominent in Leo, and they push along last month's desire to have things our own way, but by means of feminine energy and ideals this time. What do you really want as far as pleasure goes? Are you using your mind to structure reality? And, if you think you are, is it manifesting out there in a way you want? The stellium of Venus, Saturn, and Mercury moving toward the New Moon in Virgo is a really nice focusing force that will teach you a lot this month, that is if you can face the healing changes going on inside. Chiron in Aquarius is bent on getting you to allow radical levels of transformation by healing yourself; if you don't, Chiron will create chaos in your life!

The real action in this lunation is coming from Uranus quincunx Venus/Saturn, which allows the knowingness of the feminine to tear up old structures that just don't work anymore. It is a tricky setup because Uranus is in Pisces, which means changes percolate in the spiritual dimensions before becoming visible in the solid world. That is why change and transformation has been so odd since early 2003. It's like the time when you look over the back fence and see that your neighbor has built a mosque in his back yard, and you realize you never listened to what he was trying to tell you for years. That is, by using spiritual energies, you can manifest easily; therefore, realizing what is in your brain would be a very good idea this month. Also, watch out for Mars, which has moved past the opposition to Uranus and now is moving to square Pluto on August 29. It will be quite remarkable if the ceasefire in Lebanon holds with Mars square Pluto two days before Saturn opposes Neptune on August 31. I think Maurice Fernandez is right about upcoming anarchy.

If there is any doubt about the crazy times, Pluto exactly squares the nodes, causing the larger conflicts to be an issue of personal karma for the participants. So, everybody's past lives during the National and Planetary underworlds are duking it out on stage. This is a good month to remember that you live where you live for a reason, and your soul actually chose not to be in the middle of some things at this time. Thus, from a personal point of view, this New Moon is a time to do some deep emotional processing; to clarify what you are really intending to be; and to look at whether what is going on around you fits what you think you are intending to create. I can assure you, your frequencies are making up your drama; this New Moon is a great time to see that differential more clearly. If you don't like what you see, surely that is easier than standing on the sidewalk next to a ten-story apartment in Beirut that you used to live in. We have some good friends in Lebanon. It was one of the sophisticated jewels of the Middle East until six weeks ago. Think about rebuilding it all as you pump gas for your car next time.

Last but not least, as Saturn opposes Neptune on August 31, Jupiter in Scorpio squares the opposition-creating a fixed T-square. First of all, this revives the intense emotional processing and personal stress we all felt during the November/ December grand square with Saturn in Leo, Jupiter in Scorpio, Neptune in Aquarius, and Mars in Taurus. Remember that? We were all challenged to use our creativity and power in new ways, which is one of the reasons the collective became so violent. For you personally, a great deal has changed since that grand square, and when this T-square is the closest from late August through late October, you will find yourself understanding more about the ways you are changing on deep levels. I will be decoding all of this during the next few months of course. Meanwhile, with the August New Moon, as you find ways to bring higher powers into all the aspects of your lives with Saturn opposite Neptune, Jupiter in Scorpio is going to clarify what is really true in your life; it will collapse beliefs that don't work for you anymore. You will find yourself and the people around you changing in profound ways that you cannot yet image, so watch yourself, but please also observe your neighbors. Of course, for many of us this T-square might make us feel like everything is meaningless. Well, if you don't really believe something that is important to you, what do you expect?

As for analyzing the chart as it is cast for Washington, DC, forget it this month because the show is in the Middle East. What America does (if anything) will be largely determined by how things go. Things are now out of America's control, since they underestimated the enemy that they created for the rest of the Galactic Underworld.