

New Moon: July 25, 2006
By Barbara Hand-Clow

The New Moon is in Leo and now the fireworks begin! Your Spring Equinox intentions were blossoming during the Summer Solstice, and now they are in the spotlight. What is your heart's desire right now? Identify what you really want at this time; manifesting anything during this lunation will be tricky because the potential in the July New Moon is strongly overshadowed by forces that have been unleashed in the collective since the Summer Solstice (SS). Normally, the Leo New Moon feels irrepressibly joyful and creative, but the potent Cancerian forces unleashed during the SS will tend to turn that energy into ego, bravado, and willfulness.

During the Summer Solstice, Saturn was conjunct Mars opposite Chiron in Aquarius in a tense grand square with the Moon in Taurus opposite Jupiter in Scorpio. Saturn-square-Jupiter [exact Dec. 17, 2005; June 22, 2006; Oct. 24, 2006] has been triggering the agendas of the May 2000 Trigon (Saturn conjunct Jupiter in Taurus). These agendas are great desires for financial and structural power, which strongly influenced the election of the Bush administration in late 2000. Because the retrograde Jupiter/Saturn square 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 because they have become the Judeo-Christian base in the middle of Middle Eastern conflict. The first square to a Trigon is when we can really see the nature of the twenty-year pattern, which in this case is "America As Empire during Peak Oil", run by the rogue Bushite regime.

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 insists on pursuing 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 has 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. The solar 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! It is hard to imagine life being creative and joyful during this New Moon, as the Israelis and Hezbollah continue to process 5,000 years of warrior codes from the National and Planetary Underworlds. [For more information on these Underworlds, read *The Mayan Calendar* by Carl Johan Calleman.]

Looking at the July New Moon, the New Moon is somewhat unsuspected. I keep on getting questions about the kind of orbs I use because people have noticed they are quite tight. It is true: I just have not noticed there is a lot of energy between most planets when their aspects are much over 5 degrees, except for aspects to the Sun. In this case, Jupiter in Scorpio squares the New Moon, but Jupiter is more than 7 degrees out of the square.

Meanwhile, Chiron in Aquarius is in a close square to Jupiter, while Chiron is 5 degrees out of opposition to the New Moon. Thus, Jupiter is at the top of a T-square coming from Saturn opposite Chiron, but Chiron square Jupiter-expansion of deep levels of yourself by healing your frequencies-is the strongest influence, while the New Moon in Leo rather floats on its own. This means Leo's need for admiration, approval, and total commitment will not be strongly met, and you may not seem to be getting what you think you need. Therefore, at the personal level, it would be a good idea to assess what you do care about during this lunation and take some time to honor your rights and strong desires to pursue your needs. If you don't, you may just find yourself sitting on the sidelines this month. With the world scene exploding and degenerating into mindless violence, it might seem that small things are not the point, but they are! And the energy in this configuration could bring some people in need to your doorstep; responding could be very rewarding. There will be many refugees from Lebanon, and many people will grow by taking care of them.

The real power of this lunation lies in a series of very interesting quincunxes. Mercury is retrograde until a few days after the New Moon, and then Mercury doesn't go into Leo until August 10, when it will tend to activate the Leo New Moon's energy. Mercury retrograde in Cancer is very subtle yet strong-like a crab drawing backwards-and then Neptune retrograde in Aquarius quincunxes Mercury. This pushes our minds to detect and identify spiritual guidance and to consider the world conflicts in light of higher ethics. Many will ask this month: Is all this killing for God really worth it? Pluto retrograde in Sagittarius also quincunxes Mercury, which means our minds will be boiling the hideous soup of archaic archetypes. These gripping obsessions will release during the August 9th Full Moon, when Saturn conjuncts the Sun in Leo and opposes the Moon in Aquarius conjunct Neptune; truly world events will be of biblical proportion. And, Pluto will exact square the lunar nodes so that karmic attributes of events will be very obvious.

Mercury is most interesting in the NM chart, and I think it will strip away boundaries, forcing people to feel what others are experiencing and thinking; you may feel connected to things you can't even identify. This boundary-piercing will be quite intense until Mercury goes into Leo, so I'd suggest more attention be paid to what you really think about what is going on in the world. More and more the collective wave of the Galactic Underworld is washing over us all, we are not really separate, and it is time to release old enmities and judgments from the Planetary and National Underworlds.

Mars needs watching because this god of war played such a role in the SS grand square. Mars has just gone into Virgo before the New Moon. You can make a lot of progress in your work and career now, but only if you are processing the deeper messages. A grand story is unfolding, and violence is way out of control because of people's unprocessed emotions. People have been culled into sitting on the benches of the Middle East football game, so observe yourself if you are cheering when the bombs land on one side or the other. During this lunation, if you can truly be in your heart while focusing on things with unflinching mental attention, you can move through scenes smoothly while being largely unseen.

If you allow yourself to get stuck and then fester on details, life may seem to be falling apart. The world stage is deteriorating rapidly now, and our personal share in the universal karma is up for review. We have to think differently about supporting violence, and we must learn to function in the now instead of being sucked into the patriarchal martial pattern. We are supposed to use our Mars power by moving like a fish swimming quickly upstream, aware of everything that is around us.

Now, back to the quincunxes. Uranus retrograde in Pisces closely quincunxes Saturn in Leo, so just when you think you've got things in order, they will break apart like soap bubbles popping in the air. Uranus exactly quincunxes Saturn on July 31, when all the bubbles could pop in a second, and some great surprises might happen in the world scene. Just exactly what are you structuring right now? Keep an eye on whatever it is and all of its aspects, because Uranus in Pisces is transmuting material reality in the spiritual planes. More than ever are you noticing that the only thing that works is guidance? Well, you are right, and how you move along works according to how adept you are at reading the subtle signals. Also, Uranus is in a wide water-sign trine with Jupiter, which facilitates following subtle signals.

The lunar North Node has moved into Pisces, so spiritual cues are very potent; 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, while the Western powers maximized the power of the North Node in Aries. With the North Node in Pisces, the aggressive Western powers may find they've forgotten what they're doing, while the Eastern powers sense which way to go. Pluto in Sagittarius squares the lunar nodes, which tends to inflame fundamentalists. Pluto will square the lunar nodes for the rest of 2006, thus fanatics will push their agendas while everyone else decides how much they will put up with the consequences.

Regarding the larger scene, violence broke out between Israel and Lebanon just after the Cancer/Capricorn Full Moon on July 10, and the Israelis have been bombing Gaza during the whole June lunar cycle. This is not surprising because the SS chart suggests warrior tendencies. The US can't respond to these situations 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; the people in these regions are drawing closer together because they have been attacked and invaded for so long. During the July lunation, this shift in balance will accelerate, and there will be a lot of violence until the Fall Equinox. Frankly speaking, both sides just seem to want to shoot off their fireworks, while the arms manufacturers smile all the way to the bank. Avoid taking sides if you can while you process your own inner conflicts and dualities. This is how you can be detached from pain and chaos that has little to do with yourself, yet still stay honest. It is sick to look the other way when this much death is going on.

As for the New Moon cast for Washington, DC, looking at house positions reveals the implications of the wars in the Middle East. Newly direct Jupiter in Scorpio is right on the descendent as it squares Chiron in Aquarius in 10, and so oil interests with partners tend to need healing.

Mercury, the New Moon, and Saturn in 4 inform us that deep feelings are coming forth in the administration in some way. Because Judeo-Christian fundamentalists dominate the administration, there may be great excitement as the Middle East explodes. But, the aspects to Mercury from Neptune in 10 and Pluto in 8 suggest idealistic confusion and righteous responses.

It is up to the American public to see these tendencies more clearly this month, and go into their hearts to question the consequences. Mars in Virgo in 5 means clarity can be found. Venus in Cancer in 3 quincunxing Chiron in Aquarius in 10 informs us that the great work of balancing is coming through in women's hearts and words. Watch out for who is speaking out, and remember that nothing is coming through the media. Aries is intercepted in 12 and Libra in 6, so the Bushites will be inept and George will be relaxing at the ranch. It won't be hard for the public to see that the Bushites are perfectly happy that the bombs are falling while Iraq is helpless amidst a civil war. What you think about this is more important than you may realize this month, so be sure to "vote in Platonia" now. [For on Platonia, see chapter six of *Alchemy of Nine Dimensions*.] See you next month!