

2009 Summer Solstice: June 21, 2009

By Barbara Hand-Clow

The Sun moves into Cancer, bringing summer to the Northern latitudes and winter to the Southern latitudes. In the North, the time has arrived for nurturance, for remembering that our mother, Earth, supports our desires and wants us to thrive. For you readers who created spring intentions during the Spring Equinox, have you been seeing aspects of these intentions materialize in your life, or maybe you have first been planting these possibilities in your fertile mind? With the arrival of summer, the time has come to fertilize and water these seedlings, to flesh them out by adding new possibilities, facets, and perspectives. The 2009 Summer Solstice is really going to facilitate the deepening of these creative processes, with the New Moon in Cancer arriving only a day and a half after the Solstice. This combination of summer awakening followed so soon by the New Moon offers us two concentrated days in which to model and envision our creations.

Saturn recently went direct in Virgo on May 16, when the material world really began cooking after a time of repose since early February. This forward motion is a welcome relief; during late winter/early spring, many of us were strangely tied up in knots under the influence of Saturn and Venus retrograde while Mars was wallowing in Pisces. Thankfully, now, action is the game. Amidst the unrelenting influence of this spring's frustrating Venus/Mars transits, many people were all wound up in severe relationship stress. Since the time to get moving is normally in the spring, these transits have very disconcerting; even the plants in my garden were very late this spring. Did the cosmic master set it up this way during this spring to encourage us to pop and process unresolved and limiting emotional patterns? Surely, removing such blocks would better allow us to handle the Triple Conjunction of Jupiter, Chiron, and Neptune in Aquarius. Like clearing out a dusty, cluttered attic, many of you did a lot of deep work on useless old patterns this spring, which will serve you well this summer. Now the time has come for action based on what this subtle and mind-boggling Triple Conjunction is pushing us to do- heal ourselves of primary catastrophobia. [See Clow, *Catastrophobia: The Truth About Earth Changes in the Coming Age of Light.*] This stunning dance in the sky is pushing us to balance and activate all four bodies of consciousness-physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual-since we need to achieve total balance during the last few years of the Mayan Calendar.

Before I interpret the Summer Solstice chart, please refresh your mind on your spring intentions. This year-in light of all the wreckage caused by the spring's Venus/Mars transits during Saturn retrograde-how did your creative intentions hold up while you were handling severe relationship stress? These days, many people have learned how to create things alone rather than in tandem with their partners, except for those rare partners who create well together.

So, if you had a partner (lover, child, friend, parent, associate) who made it almost impossible for you to create your new intentions this spring, take just a moment to analyze how this person sabotages or blocks your heart's desire. Is this person limiting you because he or she feels blocked? Can you reassure this person about his/her own special value so that you can be liberated? If you can, you are in for a big treat: *Sensuality and luscious passion will rule our nests this summer with Venus and Mars in Taurus.* You will love it!

Turning to the chart for the Summer Solstice, as you contemplate this reading, think of this chart as a spring or lock that will release its potency over more than a day, and then its power will release during the Cancer New Moon. (I will discuss the New Moon release in the reading for the Cancer New Moon.) The last three days of any lunar cycle are the balsamic phase when the real wisdom of the previous lunation is distilled and perfected. The Gemini lunar cycle was the quickening of life, which was strong this year because Saturn had just gone direct while the Triple Conjunction in 26 degrees Aquarius was tight. Then Chiron and Neptune intensified the Triple Conjunction by going retrograde right after the Gemini New Moon. I did my best to prepare you for this alchemical fusion in last month's reading, yet I suspect that most of you had a very hard month; you may even have questioned the value of your own existence. The Triple Conjunction is thrusting us into our deepest layers of "chirotic" wounding while Neptune is melting our boundaries to spirit and Jupiter expands the process. *This planetary dance is decimating our resistance to feeling the full potency of life itself; as we move through old pain, we often feel like we are dying.*

The Summer Solstice chart is really enigmatic with two combust (conjunct within one degree) pairs of inner planets-Venus combust Mars in middle Taurus, and the balsamic Moon in Gemini combust Mercury. The Triple Conjunction is still very tight and, outrageously, it is about to intensify more! Jupiter turned retrograde June 15, and it will exactly re-conjunct Neptune on July 10, and then Chiron on July 22 right during a solar eclipse. What does all this suggest? It means that the pressure to penetrate encapsulated inner wounds amidst flashes of astonishing enlightenment continues on full bore! The magic degree is still 26 Aquarius, which is just fascinating because the 1776 USA Moon is 27 degrees Aquarius-exactly conjunct Barack Obama's lunar South Node. This indicates that the US is the central processor of global wounding, with Obama here as the conductor. Thus, just before the Sun in Gemini squared newly direct Saturn in Virgo, Obama went to Egypt to offer his "New Beginning" lecture, which very clearly addressed East/West tension. On June 5, as the Sun squared formative Saturn, the media was awash with the speech and the global response to it. Obama changed the rules of the game during Sun square Saturn, setting up a new game board that will shift realities while Saturn moves forward into its third opposition to Uranus in mid-September. Regardless of what you think about the building rapprochement between East and West, Benjamin Franklin, that sly Masonic master, once said, "There never was a good war or a bad peace." Maybe the US should take this founding father more seriously?

Returning to the Summer Solstice chart, there are multiple aspects to the Sun moving into Cancer, which means our annual enjoyment of nurturance will be deepened by all these complex, multi-faceted, and expressive aspects. Sun in Cancer closely opposes Pluto retrograde in Capricorn bringing hidden shadows into the light this summer. The Sun/Pluto axis in early Cancer/Capricorn is closely aligned to the Galactic Center/anti-Center axis in 27 Sagittarius/27 Gemini. Thus, attention to the influence of the coming end of the Mayan Calendar in 2011/12-as well as to Exopolitics-will build through the summer. The Triple Conjunction trines the Solstice Sun, so we will feel our individual healing processes as facets of the collective healing. More and more you will find yourself flowing within the evolutionary critical leap that is building up; *you may feel your own nervous system growing as Earth grows.*

The lunar North Node in Aquarius exactly quincunxes the Solstice Sun. Mature Aquarian themes are germinating new structures that will be born while the North Node is in Capricorn from late August 2009 through March 2011. The North Node went into Aquarius in December 2007 just after the opening of Night Five of the Galactic Underworld, and the transformative power of Uranus has released the financial collapse that is breaking down the structures of the Planetary and National Underworlds. [See Clow, *The Mayan Code: Time Acceleration and Awakening the World Mind.*] This breakdown of the old structures will be supported by almost everybody when the North Node moves into Capricorn in late August 2009. *As things that nobody wants anymore crumble, people will start to actively participate in throwing out the old and seeking new paths.*

Uranus in late Pisces squares the Solstice Sun opposite Pluto in Capricorn, a very potent T-square. Uranus has been in Pisces since 2003, and he will go into Aries briefly in 2010 and then permanently in March 2011. Uranus rules the transformation process itself; and when Uranus is in Pisces, we transform our spiritual processes as the world adopts new spiritual perspectives. Individually, many people are formulating a new Christology by envisioning the deity as a sexual partner with the goddess; and globally, there is a building distrust of scientific materialism. As much as everybody enjoys all the gadgets and comforts, many people are realizing that they don't even want to live without spiritual communion and respect for Earth. This T-square signals life-changing spiritual realizations this summer, which is also the agenda of the Triple Conjunction. All that sounds fine and dandy, but how? This is where these tight Venus/Mars, Moon/Mercury planetary pairs come in.

When planets are conjunct less than one degree (combust), the forces that these planets rule are fused, and they work together to accomplish big things. When an individual has a natal planetary pair, often they cannot distinguish between the feeling and demands of each planet. Collectively, the two planets are like a couple in which two people become the equivalent of three. Venus combust Mars in Taurus is the ultimate passionate androgyny: Nobody cares what sex you are or whether you switch it back and forth; everything is sexual.

Then with Venus/Mars in Taurus exactly trine Saturn newly direct in Virgo, people will be locked into creating new worlds and patterns, and they will love doing it. What a hot combination for summer 2009! It will also tend to favor economies, even make people feel greedy and throw caution to the winds. So, this summer is the last period to get your financial house in order before Saturn moves into cardinal Libra in late October after opposing Uranus again in mid-September. These transits will combine with the evolutionary flowering of Day Six to topple old systems, especially those supporting war and financial hierarchies.

The balsamic Moon in 8 Gemini is combust Mercury in 8 Gemini, a really hot trigger in the Solstice chart. Like Venus/Mars in Taurus, it pulls our attention down into small details and gets us going. The Moon rules our emotions and Mercury rules our computing mind (Uranus rules the higher mind), and they are really active in Gemini; we will really feel like taking action. This combination will inspire us to experience the world as our oyster, a very nice way to enjoy summer. Moon/Mercury in Gemini is in a wide closing quincunx to Pluto in Capricorn, making us want to end old patterns, like that moment when you are cleaning out the attic and you just throw all the crap out. This summer, you might feel like a master of fencing as you carry out your work-swish, take this, swoop, cut that. With Venus/Mars in Taurus trine Saturn inspiring us to have fun while creating things, and Moon/Mercury in Gemini making reality move and flow, expect unique and fun activities this summer for sure!

With all that said, how do we integrate the highly spiritual quality of the Triple Conjunction; the Sun in Cancer stimulated by so many aspects; and the practical aspects of the two combust pairs? I think the answer is to intentionally connect the more subtle aspects of life with the mundane. Great spiritual teachers often stress that God is in the garden or in the eyes of a little child. The divine is interwoven into ordinary reality, and most often that is where we find it. This is a summer to bless life, find joy in small things, and have a great time creating and living. The New Moon reading follows shortly, which offers more tools for releasing the potency of this wonderful summer, the Flowering Phase of Day Six of the Galactic Underworld.