

Winter Solstice: December 21, 2009
by Barbara Hand-Clow

The Sun has moved into Capricorn, and we celebrate the Winter Solstice north of the equator, the time when the solar light returns. Since the dawn of human consciousness, the Winter Solstice is the most spiritual and contemplative time of the year. Regardless of the conditions in the collective world, this is always a time of deep renewal for each one of us. This year's Solstice chart describes a collective dark night of the soul. We need to clarify our personal perspectives to make our minds into perfect instruments for cutting new paths in the world during 2010.

We have all chosen to be here now. By choosing to live during such trying times, we can attain high levels of personal integrity. So far, the nine-dimensional model is the best tool I've discovered for achieving subtle states of consciousness. For example, if you want to avoid feeling totally stuck this winter amidst the wild slings of fate inspired by Mars retrograde in Leo, you can adopt an 8D viewpoint-true ethics and moral purity-regardless of what's going on "out there." By adopting this 8D stance, you will easily embody your 6D ideal self, and you can navigate 3D perfectly. Of course, 4D will vacillate back and forth between the dark and the light, the yin and the yang, while you will hold your power in 3D. I quote Cicero from *The Laws* to emphasize how this process works:

"Power and law are not synonymous. In truth, they are frequently in opposition and irreconcilable. There is god's Law from which all equitable laws of man emerge and by which men must live if they are not to die in oppression, chaos, and despair. Divorced from God's eternal and immutable Law, established before the founding of the suns, man's power is evil no matter the noble words with which it is employed or the motives urged when enforcing it. . . Men of good will, mindful therefore of the Law laid down by God, will oppose governments whose rule is by men, and, if they wish to survive as a nation, they will destroy that government which attempts to adjudicate by the whim or power of venal judges."

Translate: The Law is 8D and the power complexes are 4D, and these days the bankers can be substituted for the Roman governments of Cicero's time. Michael Moore deftly established in his film, *Capitalism: A Love Story*, that the bankers have carried out a coup d'etat in the US. Because 4D has almost totally subsumed 3D, your 8D value senses are being shredded right now, and the experience is very troubling. My reading for the Winter Solstice will analyze this dilemma and offer new ways to live in this distorted field; life was terrible during the Roman Empire and it is terrible now. The Solstice chart shows that this repeat of the world empire pattern will be tested this winter, even possibly undermined. As most of you know, we are now well into Night Six of the Galactic Underworld [see *The Mayan Code: Time Acceleration and Awakening the World Mind*], and the astrology for this Solstice is a clear and marvelous reflection of our world before the dawn.

The chart for the Winter Solstice sets up a field in the global collective that will be very influential all winter, especially since Mars goes retrograde a day before the Solstice and then goes direct close to the Spring Equinox. As usual, America has decided to play empire and try to rule the world, so I will give this country more attention than it deserves. Actually this is not to be avoided, since the first thing that stands out in the Solstice chart is the Moon in 27 Aquarius-which is conjunct the Moon in the 1776 USA Founding Chart in 27 Aquarius! And, the Moon is close to the Triple Conjunction-Jupiter/Neptune/Chiron-in Aquarius. Also, Barack Obama's lunar South Node is 27 Aquarius. These three combust placements in 27 Aquarius mean that this Winter Solstice period as a reckoning time for American values with Obama playing out a past-life role in the foundation of these values. As we look at national issues, we require a clear perspective on what this chart means to each one of us. It helps to think of 4D as the reading of the collective, and of 8D as a personal, ethical challenge. In that sense, the times ask us to seek the best in ourselves, and this winter will be a time when we will be forced to face some challenging truths.

Looking at the stellium in Aquarius, we are now in the last hot zone, the alchemical cauldron of Jupiter's expansion of Neptune's spiritual breakthroughs inspired by Chiron's healing of deep wounds. This process was intense from May through July of this year, and now it has returned for the last time. Jupiter exactly conjuncted Chiron on December 7, and Jupiter is conjunct Neptune right during this Solstice. What could be more mystical than Jupiter conjunct Neptune during the Winter Solstice, especially in Aquarius? Jupiter's conjunction to Neptune expands the personal healing that you experienced right around December 7 (when Jupiter was conjunct Chiron) into very high mystical access. This potential is why it is especially worth it to take the high road-8D-instead of being a reptile in the crowded 4D pit this winter. It is possible to be very content and blessed during the return of the light, but not if you are an old saurian playing survival-of-the-fittest. The healing and mystical fields activated by the Triple Conjunction are very emotional this winter because the Moon in 27 Aquarius has just moved over Chiron, Neptune, and Jupiter just before the return of the light. This winter, few of us will avoid being deeply changed by this last Triple Conjunction activation because it is coming through our feelings.

The Moon's conjunction to each planet in the Triple Conjunction just before the Winter Solstice triggers new information about our deepest wounds as our boundaries to the mystical realms melt away, while Jupiter expands us into the highest 8D states of mind. Jupiter rules the Law, the natural Law that Cicero speaks of, and accessing this 8D state of mind is the only way to be happy and joyful on this planet. This Solstice is a remarkable challenge to each one of us, and we are being asked to take our stand: What kind of partner, parent, lover, colleague, child, ecologist, artist, and cook are you? What were your intentions during the 2009 Spring Equinox and how are you doing with them? How do they fit into the collective, the greater field?

Viewing this stunning quadruple conjunction from the collective perspective, what pops right out is its opposition from Mars newly retrograde in 20 Leo. Mars went retrograde the day before the Sun went into Capricorn, a turn in the sky that is ominous for world events. When the world economies and political structures are moving forward in relatively positive ways, Mars retrograde can be an excellent time for reflection, the pause that refreshes. But, these days, world economies are struggling to avoid disaster, and the whole world is locked into an East/West struggle that is causing constant warfare and deep depression. Mars, which often increases male aggressive tendencies, went into in Leo in mid-October, just when the US was digging a deeper and deeper hole for itself in Afghanistan. The US will dig in even deeper as Mars retrogrades until March 10. With Mars in Leo for around seven months, the blind are forced to lead the blind with little thought about the consequences in the long run. With Mars opposite the Moon in Aquarius (as the Moon conjuncts the 1776 USA Moon, Obama's South Node, and the Triple Conjunction), the collective mind will be obsessed with war. This obsession could ultimately result in dire financial collapse caused by constant warfare. Sometimes we have to lose everything before we learn anything.

As the Sun goes into Capricorn and conjuncts Pluto three days later, this aspect sheds light on the real truths that haunt our minds; we are fed by the Underworld where we can find ultimate renewal. In the middle of this massive collective insanity, what are you dedicated to? What is the real meaning of your life? You must ask this now, or nothing is going to make much sense. After all, the Sun/Pluto conjunction closely squares Saturn in early Libra, the judge who demands you take your stance. We are now in the early stages of the 2010 cardinal transits-Uranus and Jupiter in Libra/Pluto in Capricorn/ and Saturn in Libra-that will force us to go beyond processes that we've been stuck in for a long time. For example, long protracted wars that are going nowhere will not work in 2010, and the rats that garroted the economy will be running out of the ship. 2010 will be a year of reckoning about resources and war, and Saturn-square-Pluto conjunct the Solstice Sun says the real truth will come out this winter. The skunks have released their scents, there is no time for them to refill their sacs, and so the black side of reality will be visible. Remember, you are in your integrity in your personal reality regardless of what is exposed-unless you are one of the boys at "Gold Man Sacks" or one of the other Wall Street firms.

Venus in 25 Sagittarius sextiles the Moon/Triple Conjunction in Aquarius, which suggests feminine wisdom is expanding our mystical access. I felt like calling this reading "Warrior Contemplations" when I noticed the Mars opposition to the stellium in Aquarius. Well, Mars also widely trines Venus in Sagittarius, the freedom key in this chart, so, I did some thinking about warriors. I am very anti-military when any military becomes a multi-generational system of mercenaries; the citizens are forced to pay for them while the politicians use these pawns to increase their own power. But, the warrior who truly protects and defends at the highest level is an agent of the Law, the natural law.

Perhaps this Venus placement means there will be deep thought about when war is justified? This possibility is reinforced because Venus widely trines Mars in Leo. Venus closely squares Uranus in Pisces that went direct December 1. Uranus in Pisces since 2004 has been causing deep and moving spiritual transformations in all of us. We have learned to consider the true basis of reality in new ways, and Carl Calleman leads the search for a more meaningful understanding of the universe and Earth's role in it. Just as Uranus went direct in Pisces and headed for its passage into Aries in May 2010, Carl gave us *The Purposeful Universe*, possibly the most brilliant book of all time. Carl makes it possible for us to see the spiritual basis of our lives, and to know that we matter.

Mercury in 20 Capricorn is closely conjunct the lunar North Node, which adds depth and seriousness to this winter. Many more of us will see how our personal gifts are part of the common good. When the North Node is in Capricorn, we search for practical and ethical ways to do things in life, and we let go of too much security for the greater good. Mercury on the North Node is exactly quincunx Mars, newly retrograde in Leo. This helps us to see that every action we take has far-reaching consequences; we think about our impact on others. Because Mars is in Leo and retrograde, we have strong wills and fortitude this winter. Many people will show their true colors, and this will be inspiring in some cases.

Mars is really going to be a complex factor this winter. While the god of war is retrograde, we will tend to think instead of act. Mars opposes the Moon/Triple Conjunction, quincunxes Mercury conjunct the North Node in Capricorn, and Mars trines Venus. These aspects to Mars are so subtle, complex, and intense that almost all action could be tied in knots until March 10, when Mars goes direct. All the planets (except Sun/Pluto square Saturn) are resonating with each other because they are located in the last 20-30 degrees of their signs. This will cause the winter to feel like a pin ball game in which everything is bouncing off everything else-yet Mars retrograde stops the action. When things are locked up, life can feel very frustrating, so this is a winter to start with philosophy and meaning and not to expect much action. In light of the influence of Night Six, this winter may see a series of falling dominoes-stocks, commodities, value of money, wars, and blocked legislation. It will be hard to create new things that will last.

Yet, Saturn in Libra squares Sun/Pluto, which makes us feel like the hammer is about to come down. Having things stop and get stuck is often what happens when a lot of things have been created too fast and irresponsibly-as they have since 1999 when the Galactic Underworld opened. The world is stuck in a series of quagmires, life feels stagnated, and an oppressive reckoning is building. Is there any way out of this mess? Can we see any light as the light returns?

The central thread in this exceedingly complex Solstice chart is visible if we focus on the lunar South Node in 21 Cancer. Suddenly what pops out is that the Moon conjunct the Triple Conjunction sextile Sun/Pluto/Venus forms a strong yod to the lunar South Node in Cancer. Yods are best understood by imaging them as a dowsing rod: The planets in the sextile are the rods we hold in our hands, and the placements opposite the sextile represent the power point of the rod seeking water, seeking nurturance. Yods always accomplish meaningful results, even though their actions are very internal and hard to observe. Yods represent inner changes in each person that shift reality on the surface. The yod from the Moon/Triple Conjunction sextile Venus/Sun/Pluto to the South Node in Cancer means the deepest healing and mystical access this winter is drawing power from nurturing experiences in the past-times when we got through hard times and found community again in spite of stupid politicians and power mongers. This yod exists because so many planets and the lunar nodes are in the last degrees of their signs (the pin ball affect), and amazingly, there is a second yod!

Uranus in 23 Pisces sextiles the lunar North Node conjunct Mercury in Capricorn, and this sextile shoots a yod to Mars retrograde in 20 Leo. This means that the current spiritual transformations that are pushing us to new evolutionary paths (Uranus) are in a powerful alliance with evolutionary agenda of becoming a new species (Pluto/Sun/Venus), and they are drawing power from transcending our identity as warriors (Mars). This is a really big deal because the wars we are struggling with are creations of the National and Planetary Underworlds during the last 5,125 years. Massive warfare did not exist before that, and during the 100,000-year-long Regional Underworld, we worked in community in different ways. The Regional Underworld imprint is longer and deeper than the National and Planetary Underworlds. During the Galactic Underworld since 1999, our consciousness has been evolving out of solving problems by using warfare, and a new global unity through communications is evolving within our species. This yod to Mars means we will experience great inner growth that will eventually make our species more peaceful-a movement will take over the collective field during 2011.

To summarize, this winter will be a time of the deepest and most formative transformation of our species. Many old ideas, communities, and individuals will not be visible when the spring arrives. This winter is a time of pruning, of removing old growth so that new shoots can come forth. I would advise you to work on these two yods by holding the planets in the sextiles in your left and right hands while you access the power of the dowsing rod-the lunar South Node in Cancer for accessing past nurturance, and Mars in Leo for finding ways to use power with positive actions.