

Cygnus the Swan: The Keystone of the Uranus-Pluto squares

by: Gary P Caton

The Full Moon which occurs Saturday August 13th in Aquarius is a very potent one, as it slices right down the middle of the Uranus-Pluto squares. In that sense it is a portent of the future, because these squares will be active for several years to come. We've already seen the energy ramping up this week, with the financial markets in turmoil and rioting in London. With the Uranus-Pluto squares now within one degree, and the Full Moon activating their mid-point we are clearly being initiated into what Rick Tarnas calls an "[Epoch of Revolution](#)." Speaking of previous Uranus-Pluto alignments Rick writes:

"Certainly at first glance there would seem to be no two eras more tumultuously alike in such a similarly sustained manner than the decade of the 1960s and the decade of the French Revolution... Innumerable allusions, explicit or otherwise, were made in the press and the popular culture of the Sixties that directly connected the spirit and violent revolutionary impulses of that era with those of the French Revolution, as in the lyrics to Street Fighting Man by the Rolling Stones:

*Hey! said my name is called Disturbance
I'll shout and scream, I'll kill the king, I'll rail at all his servants!*

The massive upsurge of the revolutionary impulse during these two eras was not only or even principally a political phenomenon, for it expressed itself in every aspect of cultural life."

Since the Full Moon is an opposition of Sun and Moon in Fire/Air signs, this is likely to be experienced most directly by Aries, Leo and Aquarius in particular. In general, this will manifest more directly, and perhaps in more easy, harmonious and flowing ways for the Fire and Air signs (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius & Gemini, Libra, Aquarius). Just be open to whatever comes your way and follow what moves you, while not abandoning common sense.

The Earth and Water signs (Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn & Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces) may experience this energy less directly and possibly more as something to uncover or solve, or perhaps something to cover up or hide from. Understand however that this is an opening in a long-term process, and with awareness and grace you may be able to keep from getting entangled in something you might otherwise experience as a sort of [Gordian Knot](#) in your life, if you resist it.



The Sabian Symbol for this Full Moon is **Aquarius 21: A disappointed and disillusioned woman courageously faces a seemingly empty life.**

I like [this interpretation](#) of the above symbol (click on link, scroll down and click on picture)

Certainly there is plenty to be discouraged about at the moment, from a bad economy to dysfunctional governments which make it worse to those who react by burning and looting. However, we can face this courageously if we understand that this is a long term process and sometimes things have to get worse before they can get better. If we can remain graceful in the face of chaos we have a much better chance to navigate through to the end of the Uranus-Pluto squares with a healthy sense of Self intact.

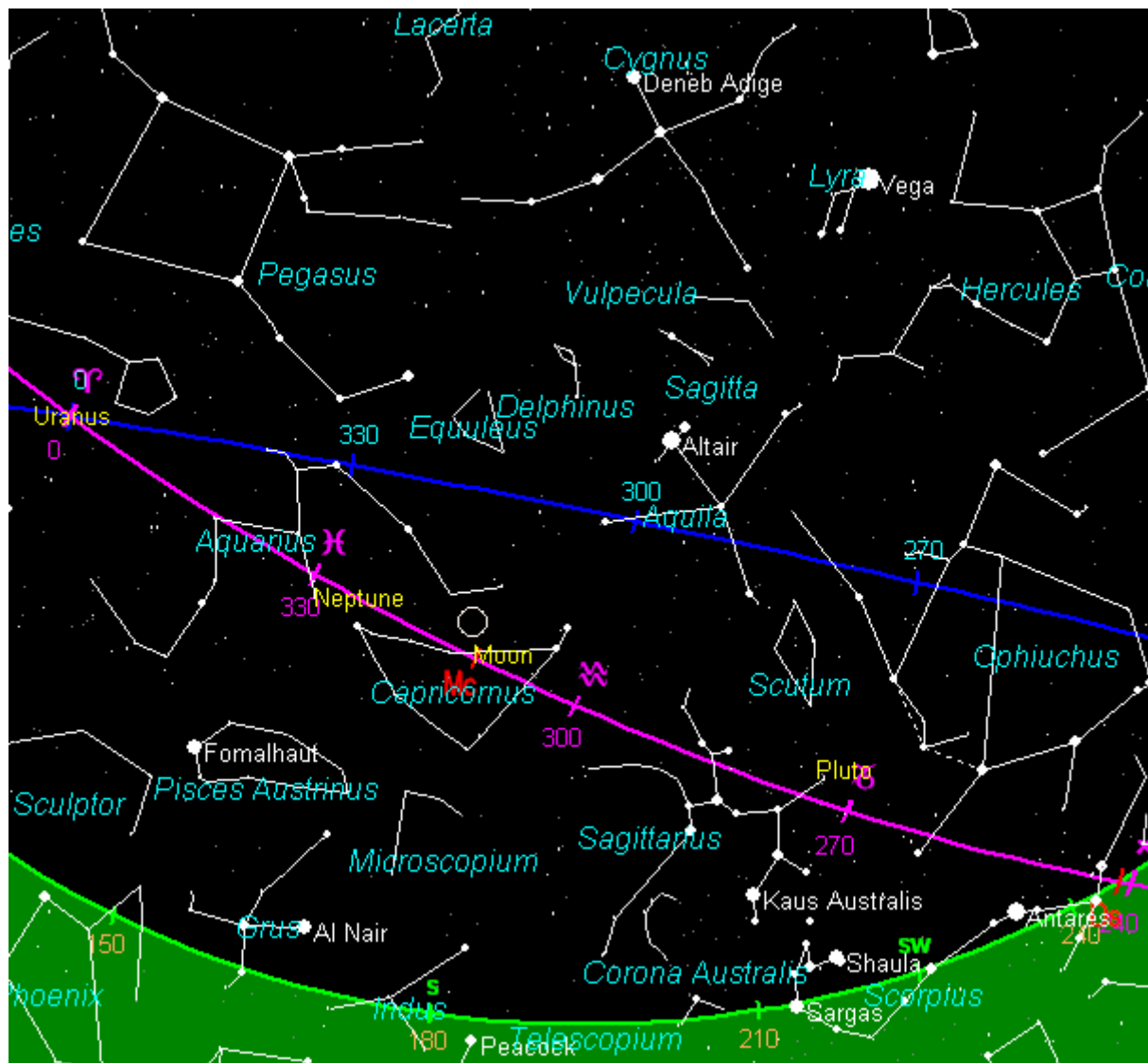
Still, there is in fact a very good reason to think that the current chaos is both necessary and perhaps even in the end, helpful. Uranus and Pluto are like polar opposites. Like powerful chemical agents, when they come into contact it produces a strong reaction. However, the nature of this reaction tells us something about what it is they are reacting with –both ourselves and our World. If we were perfectly balanced, there probably wouldn't be much of a reaction. Therefore the nature of the reaction shows us the nature of our imbalance, *by revealing its opposite.*

Tarnas notes that the Uranus-Pluto interactions often result in eruptions of chaotic forces, or what could be called Dionysian energies. The two concepts [Apollonian and Dionysian](#) comprise a dichotomy that serve as the basis of much of art and culture. Dionysian is dark and Chthonic - associated with the Feminine, having a wild/chaotic nature, and given to unconstrained sex/procreation; the Apollonian is associated with the Masculine, clarity/rationality/reason, and solidity, along with goal oriented “progress.” Anyone who has seen the wonderful movie *Avatar* is familiar with these themes, which also harken back to the civilizations of Atlantis and Lemuria.



In my opinion, one of the reasons transits between these two manifest the way they do is because for at least the last 500 years our world has been becoming more and more biased and unbalanced toward a rational-logical or Apollonian view of the World. Scientism is the notion that natural sciences comprises the most authoritative worldview, superior to all other interpretations of life, whereby the study and methods of natural science have risen to the level of an ideology. Like the RDA corporation in *Avatar*, the Corporations of Planet Earth –who now have all the rights of people, including the right to secretly buy politicians/governments (in the guise of free speech) are mercilessly destroying indigenous Dionysian cultures and the environment. In the face of such an unbalanced onslaught, is it any wonder that Dionysian erupt in chaotic and destructive forms?

While these unbalanced eruption of Dionysian forces are certainly understandable, and perhaps even necessary on a socio-political level, they are still not exactly what many of us wish to manifest in our personal lives. So what can we do? If we look to the sky there is a source of rich wisdom in navigating this transformation in the off-ecliptic constellation which this Full Moon is shining below.



During summer, the Moon is making her lowest appearances and is closer to the horizon when full. After midnight on Saturday, the Full Moon will be in the south, but only a little more than halfway up in the sky in between the horizon and zenith, or point directly overhead. Higher up, above the Full Moon and towards the zenith, can be seen the constellation Cygnus the Swan. This constellation is also known as the Northern Cross because of the large cross formed by the lines of stars representing the Swan's wings and body. If you haven't already, you can check out my article for [Planet Waves](#) for an outline of some of the classical mythology concerning Cygnus. This article is going to take a little more modern tack.

During a rocket flight in 1964, one of the strongest X-ray sources ever seen from Earth, **Cygnus X-1** was discovered in the constellation Cygnus, the Swan. Cygnus X-1 was the first X-ray source widely accepted to be a black hole candidate and it remains among the most studied astronomical objects in its class. It has been shown to be too compact to be any known kind of normal star or other likely object besides a black hole. Even Stephen Hawking seems to think it is a black hole. He conceded a friendly bet in 1990 after observational data had strengthened the case for a gravitational singularity in the system.

The idea of black holes is of course completely fascinating to us, because it is so Dionysian! Sci-Fi writers have had a field day with the idea of two connecting black holes forming a wormhole, which is fundamentally, a "shortcut" through spacetime. One such story, which also integrates the symbolism of Cygnus the Swan and the Apollonian/Dionysian dichotomy is the magnum opus called the [Cygnus X-1 duology](#), a duo of extended length songs organized into "books" by the Canadian progressive rock band **Rush**. The Cygnus X-1 duology consists of "**Book I: The Voyage**" and "**Book II: Hemispheres.**" Book I is the last song on the *A Farewell to Kings* album, while Book II is the first song on *Hemispheres*. Book I clocks in at ten minutes and twenty-five seconds (10:25), and Book II is eighteen minutes and eight seconds (18:08).

In the story, an explorer aboard the ship "Rocinante" is drawn in by the Cygnus X-1 black hole. As he moves closer, it becomes increasingly difficult to control the ship and he is eventually drawn in by the pull of gravity. The explorer re-enters the story midway through Book II. He has emerged into Olympus, where he witnesses the Gods Apollo and Dionysus caught up in the struggle between Mind and Heart. When he reflects on what he sees, he becomes tormented in the lack of balance of the people who insist on one extreme or the other. His silent scream of terror is felt by the warriors and causes them to rethink their struggle and unite together. The Gods recognize the explorer as a nascent new God and name him Cygnus, the God of Balance.

I'm including links to the [video](#) as well as the lyrics ([Book1](#) and [Book2](#)) of this piece because besides being an amazing piece of Art, I think it is a stunning and powerful metaphor for how to navigate the Uranus-Pluto squares. You can actually have a similar experience to the explorer aboard the "Rocinante." You see, the Cygnus X-1 duology is very reminiscent of experiences I've had while experiencing [shamanic journeying](#) or [holotropic breathwork](#). I wouldn't be surprised if it was inspired by a similar experience. Shamans often use the metaphor of traveling in a "spirit boat" for journeying.

Even if you are unable or not ready for the experience of shamanic journeying or holotropic breathwork, simply meditating on, visualizing and/or gazing at the symbol of the Swan (especially in the sky!) can be tremendously helpful in remaining balanced during the next several years. The stars of Cygnus, from Albireo in the beak to Deneb Adige in the tail, sit North or above the portion of the ecliptic ranging from 2 Aquarius to 6 Pisces. This means that Cygnus will be soaring above the mid-point of the Uranus-Pluto squares all the way through 2016! So it's time to get creative. You may want to find Swan items to use in Feng Shui, or to keep in a Medicine pouch. You may even want to create your own Swan items, or be near a Swan who is in a physical body.



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Your Host
 Gary P. Caton

Swan Sign Horoscopes: The Full Moon, and the mid-points of the Uranus-Pluto squares speak through a particular pair of Oracles -to a particular area of duality in your life. Consider the guidance above & below for your Sun Sign, your Moon Sign (or Soul Sign), and your Ascendant Sign.

Aries: The Full Moon is activating your houses of self expression vs. group expression. So it seems pertinent to examine where there is flow and where things are stagnant in terms of creativity/connections. Restoring/maintaining the balance of recreation/networking seems to be of the essence.

On and off, over the next few years, the mid-points of the Uranus-Pluto squares will continue to activate your house of groups and associations along with your house of creativity. This denotes a period of change and growth in your awareness of your peers and social networks, as well as releasing blockages in your awareness of the creative urge, and romantic partners. You may be wrestling with issues of being creative while also making social and romantic connections. Taking the time to share your creativity and the creative process with others will re-fuel the creative juices.

Taurus: The Full Moon is activating your houses of Career vs. Home. So it seems pertinent to examine where there is flow and where things are stagnant in terms of where you spend your time. Restoring/maintaining the balance of publicity/privacy seems to be of the essence.

On and off, over the next few years, the mid-points of the Uranus-Pluto squares will continue to activate your house of career along with your house of home. This denotes a period of change and growth in your awareness of the demands of your career or public life and building a solid reputation, as well as releasing blockages in your awareness of your roots and the foundations of your life. You may be struggling with issues of privacy versus recognition. Healthy boundaries are neither too rigid nor too permeable. The balance you need to attain is to remain open to stabilizing private relationships with others while not giving away your sense of freedom, autonomy and calling.

Gemini: The Full Moon is activating your houses of lower mind/local travel vs. higher mind/long distance connections. So it seems pertinent to examine where there is flow and where things are stagnant in terms of facts/philosophy in your life. Restoring/maintaining the balance of local/diverse culture seems to be of the essence.

On and off, over the next few years, the mid-points of the Uranus-Pluto squares will be activating your house of travel and higher learning along with your house of local travel and community. This denotes a period of change and growth in your awareness of your World-View and how it conditions your experiences as well as releasing blockages in your awareness of how you communicate with others, get around your local environment and engage in personal ritual. You may be struggling with issues of the everyday versus the future. The future does indeed arrive one day at a time, and so as you allow room into our day to meet it –you invite the synchronous language of life to speak to you. The only thing left is to recognize the future when you see it.

Cancer: The Full Moon is activating your houses of personal values/resources vs. values/resources of others. So it seems pertinent to examine where there is flow and where things are stagnant in terms of resource distribution in your life. Restoring/maintaining the balance of giving/receiving seems to be of the essence.

On and off, over the next few years, the mid-points of the Uranus-Pluto squares will be activating your house of merging with another along with your house of personal values. This denotes a period of change and growth in your awareness of your responsibilities to others: both physical and emotional. It could also be an indication of a time to explore what truly belongs to all of us, the collective unconscious, via occult activities as well as releasing blockages in your awareness of what your personal resources are and how you utilize them. You may be struggling with issues of personal versus social values.

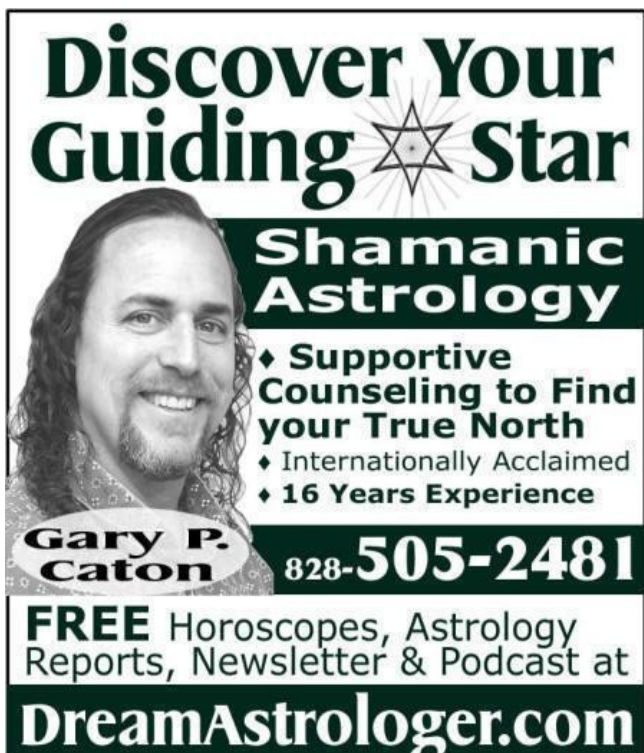
Sometimes we must surrender our values to others, or ask them to surrender to ours. If we do so consciously –that is: knowing the difference between what they believe and what we are asking them to do –then we can avoid the worst power struggles which arise due to resentment or lack of clarity.

Leo: The Full Moon is activating your houses of Self vs Others. So it seems pertinent to examine where there is flow and where things are stagnant in terms of how you spend your time. Restoring/maintaining the balance of alone time vs together time seems to be of the essence.

On and off, over the next few years, the mid-points of the Uranus-Pluto squares will be activating your house of partnerships along with your house of self. This denotes a period of change and growth in your awareness of others and how you meet your Shadow via other people as well as a period of change and releasing blockages in personal development in terms of the social masks you wear. This can be a time of personal expansion but realize others may be taking it personally and you are better off if spreading some good will and/or fortune around.

Virgo: The Full Moon is activating your houses of universal connection vs. work/daily routine. So it seems pertinent to examine where there is flow and where things are stagnant in terms of holistic understanding vs practical maintenance. Restoring/maintaining the balance of oneness/detachment also seems to be of the essence.

On and off, over the next few years, the mid-points of the Uranus-Pluto squares will be activating your house of work, health and chores along with your house of Universal connection. This denotes a period of change and growth in your awareness of your routines, skill sets, and your body's physical needs to avoid illness as well as releasing blockages in your awareness of needing to spend time alone, exploring your personal unconscious via meditation, journaling, breathwork, shamanic journeying or other spiritual exercise. You may be wrestling with issues of daydreaming your time away versus adding additional responsibilities. It is probable that a little dreamtime could actually vitalize and restore Vision to your work –so remember to occasionally take a day, or at least a morning off and then return to work with a gusto.



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Gary P. Caton 828-505-2481

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Libra: The Full Moon is activating your houses of self expression vs. group expression. So it seems pertinent to examine where there is flow and where things are stagnant in terms of creativity/connections. Restoring/maintaining the balance of recreation/networking seems to be of the essence.

On and off, over the next few years, the mid-points of the Uranus-Pluto squares will be activating your house of self expression along with your house of group associations. This denotes a period of change and growth in your awareness of the creative urge, and romantic partners as well as releasing blockages in your awareness of your peers and social networks. You may be wrestling with issues of being creative while also making social connections. Taking the time to share your creativity will re-fuel the bank account as well as the creative juices.

Scorpio: The Full Moon is activating your houses of Career vs. Home. So it seems pertinent to examine where there is flow and where things are stagnant in terms of where you spend your time. Restoring/maintaining the balance of publicity/privacy seems to be of the essence.

On and off, over the next few years, the mid-points of the Uranus-Pluto squares will be activating your house of family and clan, along with your house of career and reputation. This denotes a period of change and growth in your awareness of your roots and the foundations of your life as well as releasing blockages in your awareness of the demands of your career or public life and building a solid reputation. You may be struggling with issues of privacy versus recognition. Healthy boundaries are neither too rigid nor too permeable. The balance you need to attain is to remain open to others while not giving away your sense of freedom.

Sagittarius: The Full Moon is activating your houses of lower mind/local travel vs. higher mind/long distance connections. So it seems pertinent to examine where there is flow and where things are stagnant in terms of facts/philosophy in your life. Restoring/maintaining the balance of local/diverse culture seems to be of the essence.

On and off, over the next few years, the mid-points of the Uranus-Pluto squares will be activating your house of communications, along with your house of philosophy and higher mind. This denotes a period of change and growth in your awareness of how you communicate with others, get around your local environment and engage in personal ritual as well as releasing blockages in your awareness of your World-View and how it conditions your experiences. You may be struggling with issues of the everyday versus the future. The future does indeed arrive one day at a time, and so as you allow room into our day to meet it –you invite the synchronous language of life to speak to you. The only thing remaining is to recognize the future when you see it.

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Capricorn: The Full Moon is activating your houses of personal values/resources vs. values/resources of others. So it seems pertinent to examine where there is flow and where things are stagnant in terms of resource distribution in your life. Restoring/maintaining the balance of giving/receiving seems to be of the essence.

On and off, over the next few years, the mid-points of the Uranus-Pluto squares will be activating your house of values and possessions along with your house of surrender and occult knowledge. This denotes a period of change and growth in your awareness of what your personal resources are and how you utilize them as well as releasing blockages in your awareness of your responsibilities to others: both physical and emotional. It could also be an indication of a time to explore what truly belongs to all of us, the collective unconscious, via occult activities. You may be struggling with issues of personal versus social values. Sometimes we must surrender our values to those with power over us. If we do so consciously –that is: knowing the difference between what we believe and what we must do –then we can avoid the worst power struggles which arise due to resentment or lack of clarity.

Aquarius: The Full Moon is activating your houses of Self vs Others. So it seems pertinent to examine where there is flow and where things are stagnant in terms of how you spend your time. Restoring/maintaining the balance of alone time vs together time seems to be of the essence.

On and off, over the next few years, the mid-points of the Uranus-Pluto squares will be activating your house of Self and physical body along with the house of partnerships. This denotes a period of personal development and growth in terms of the social masks you wear as well as releasing blockages in your awareness of how you project your Shadow onto other people. This could be a juicy time to connect on a personal level and allow others to expand you. Be careful of becoming reactive by taking it too personally or emotionally, though –as this could result in your bubble being burst.

Pisces: The Full Moon is activating your houses of universal connection vs. work/daily routine. So it seems pertinent to examine where there is flow and where things are stagnant in terms of holistic understanding vs practical maintenance. Restoring/maintaining the balance of oneness/detachment also seems to be of the essence.

On and off, over the next few years, the mid-points of the Uranus-Pluto squares will be activating your house of Universal connections along with your house of work. This denotes a period of change and growth in your awareness of need to spend time alone, exploring your personal unconscious via meditation, journaling, breathwork, shamanic journeying or other spiritual exercise as well as releasing blockages in your awareness of your routines, skill sets, and your body's physical needs to avoid illness. You may be wrestling with issues of daydreaming your time away versus adding additional responsibilities. It is possible that a little dreamtime could actually vitalize you enough to handle more work –so don't be afraid to take a day off if the urge becomes irresistible.

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