

URANUS SQUARE PLUTO: What's In It for You?

By Elisabeth Grace

It's finally here...the start of a series of seven exact squares between ruthless, transformational Pluto in patriarchal, institutional Capricorn and rebel Uranus, disruptor of the status quo in me-me-me Aries. Some say it's the end of the world; others say it's the end of the world as we know it. Breakdowns in governments and financial institutions. Declarations of independence around the globe. Coping with crises we haven't even imagined. That's the big picture. But what does it suggest for *you*?

A planet or horoscope angle in the first half of the cardinal signs (Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn) that is challenged by a hard aspect from Pluto-Uranus suggests the potential for a turning point in one's life, usually experienced as upheavals and breakdowns and/or opportunities for emancipation and empowerment. If you're an astrologer with a thriving practice, clients with planets or angles at 0-8 Cardinal have already knocked on your door, needing insight and guidance in personal crises of change.

Here are a few cases from my files:

Pluto and Uranus in hard aspect to the Ascendant and/or Midheaven suggest dramatic changes of perspective in identity and relationships; major changes of direction in profession; break-outs and break-ups; a reach for power; new starts, including geographic relocation. Case in point: in 2010, a client asked if her lover was likely to file for divorce that year. While I was not convinced that the lover would leave his wife for my client, I did feel a change of status in his marital relationship was highly probable in mid-2011. Why? His Ascendant is at 5 Libra; his Sun is at 7 Cancer conjunct the MC at 6 Cancer. When Pluto and Uranus both hit 5-6 cardinal in the summer, it was his wife who filed for divorce -- and not because she had discovered the affair. She had her own reasons, which presumably came as quite a Uranian surprise to the man in question.

Another client with MC at 6 Capricorn felt driven to leave her job overseas and move back to the United States; she is currently fielding offers. Ultimately she wants to change professions entirely, marry and start a family. How long might this process take? My client's Ascendant is 11 Aries. Uranus and Pluto will complete transits to the angles of her horoscope at the end of 2014. Her exciting, transformational journey has just begun.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn (April 25, 1949 at 11:10 am in Neuilly-sur-Seine, FR) has MC at 8 Aries and Moon at 2 Aries, ruling the 12th house of self-undoing. **Uranus in hard aspect to the Moon** suggests an intensely focused (ego) need for emotional fulfillment. **Pluto to Moon** adds even greater emotional intensity and the potential for upheavals, often with women. Pluto rules DSK's 5th house, which is key to the sexual profile of a horoscope. Apparently no headlines were made on Pluto's squares to the Moon in 2010; however, on the first conjunction of Uranus to DSK's Moon in May 2011, the world was riveted by his arrest on charges of sexually assaulting a New York chambermaid. He resigned as chief of the IMF; the scandal derailed any chance of him being a serious candidate for higher office in France. Even though criminal charges in this case were dropped, upcoming transits of Pluto-Uranus suggested the drama was far from over.

Pluto made the first of three exact squares to DSK's MC in January; Uranus is making its 3rd conjunction to the Moon as I type this on February 21, 2012. Just minutes ago, headlines blared that DSK is being held by French police in an investigation involving prostitutes and orgies. He is regularly lampooned as a skirt-chasing Lothario on a national television program and his wife, Anne Sinclair, is resuming her career as a journalist. Do you think we will see more changes in the status of that relationship (Uranus rules the 7th and 8th) by the time Uranus and Pluto complete their respective hits to DSK's MC by March of 2013 and December of 2012?

Uranus and Pluto in hard aspect to the Sun suggest feelings of intense ego aggrandizement; a break-up or excitable break-out in relationship; prominence and powerful forces creating major change in identity. Matt Lauer (December 30, 1957 in Manhattan -- time unknown) and Meredith Vieira (December 30, 1953 in East Providence, RI -- time unknown) both have Sun at 8 Capricorn. In May 2011, both announced they would be leaving the *Today* show. Vieira departed in June; Uranus had made the first of three hard aspects to her natal Mercury and Venus in March and April. Lauer was set to leave when his contract expires at the end of 2012; with Pluto and Uranus on his Sun in 2012, we would expect to see him move to a new level.

Vieira's Moon in Scorpio suggests a need for control and to be seen as a person of substance. Lauer's Moon in Aries suggests a need for importance, or as Noel Tyl succinctly says, to be "*numero uno*". In February of 2012, transiting Pluto reached 8 Capricorn, conjoining both Suns. What happened? Matt Lauer made headlines by reportedly asking for \$30 million a year to stay on at *Today* (he currently makes \$17 million). Prominence? Ego aggrandizement? Will we see headlines in June, when Pluto and Uranus are *both* at 8 Cardinal, confirming that when it comes to the success of *Today*, Matt Lauer is Number One?

At the same time, Vieira made headlines as a guest panelist in a presentation at the 92nd Street Y. She discussed how *Today* had been taking more time away from her family than she was comfortable giving. She now presumably has more *control* in her life and will start a new phase of her career as a correspondent on *Rock Center with Brian Williams*. Vieira expressed a desire to "do something meaningful" with her life -- not surprising to hear as she approaches the first pass of her second Saturn return at the end of 2012. By the time Uranus and Pluto complete this cycle of transits to the Sun in March of 2013, the flashes of genius that will inspire and empower that "something meaningful" will likely occur.

With Uranus and Pluto in hard aspect to Mercury, mindset and communication are energized, empowered and transformed. A client has Mercury in the 1st at 4 Capricorn, ruling the 6th house of work/service and the 9th of publishing/broadcasting. She is a writer. With Uranus-Pluto stimulating Mercury she acquired an agent, with whom she is developing her first book. In her area of expertise, she has expanded from print journalism into appearances as a television commentator. Her rise in career status was also suggested by transiting Saturn to her 9 Libra MC in 2011, with more empowered breakthroughs and/or major changes of status suggested as Uranus and Pluto hit 9 degrees of Aries and Capricorn in 2012-2013.

With Uranus and Pluto in hard aspect to Venus we anticipate intense individuation and empowering transformation in social expression, sometimes accompanied by an exciting and/or “resistance is futile” relationship. A friend of mine has Venus-Neptune conjunct at 4 Libra, suggesting, among other things, a need for refined and beautiful social expression and aesthetic sensibility. In 2010, with Pluto's first square to the Venus-Neptune conjunction, this man, whose earlier career involved radio and audio post-production, "suddenly" became obsessed with photography, transforming unremarkable objects in the urban jungle into intense, ethereal works of art. Take a look at Venus-Neptune in Libra, super-charged by Pluto-Uranus – www.jbbermanphotoart.com – and marvel that these works were created in just eighteen months.

Pluto-Uranus to Mars suggests forceful application of will and effort. A client of mine has Mars in the 8th ruling the 12th at 4 Capricorn. Pluto rules the 6th, referring to work and the body. Uranus rules the MC. My client spent 2011 tearing down and rebuilding his work situation. Up until then he was proudly self-employed, with his own business. He is now an employee at a much larger company. This has freed him from many responsibilities, allowing him to study alternative healing modalities. Empowering! Emancipating! With this caveat: the increased stress to the rulers of the 12th (Mars) and the 6th (Pluto) suggests being mindful of potential health issues. When asked if he was current on his own regular check-ups, he confessed his was years overdue. This gentleman also has the Moon at 5 Libra. Would you be surprised to learn that this man's relationship with his significant other is under high stress at this time?

Pluto-Uranus to Jupiter can be spectacular. Uranus suggests a potential windfall opportunity or other sudden break; Pluto suggests resourcefulness and/or a bid for power or leadership. One of my clients has Jupiter at 10 Aries in the 7th. With transiting Neptune ruling the 7th and opposing Venus at 2 Virgo in the 12th, she plan to start a program of study in art therapy (Venus rules the 2nd and 9th). She will finish at the same time Pluto (ruling the 3rd of mindset and communication) and Uranus (ruling the 6th of work and service) complete their transits to her Jupiter. Art therapy is a dream job for her. Her mindset and work will likely be empowered and emancipated; her need for reward through personal recognition will be fulfilled by the clients she will serve (Jupiter in Aries in the 7th).

This woman has also been experiencing **Pluto and Uranus to Saturn** at 4 Libra, suggesting intensely hard work, the potential for self-destruction and/or threat of loss, combined with a need to “re-invent the wheel” with great innovation and excitement. In her horoscope, Saturn is in the 1st house, conjunct the Sun (ruling the 12th) at 1 Libra. What pressing need for independence and/or transformation in matters of ego-identification coincided with transits to the Sun from Pluto and Uranus (at the Aries Point)? She changed her name!

Uranus-Pluto to Uranus will be experienced collectively by those born between 1949 and 1953 with Uranus in the first half of Cancer. If you live in the United States, you are about to turn 65 and are likely thinking of retirement. Can the Social Security, health care and pension benefits you counted on during your working years provide you with enough to retire comfortably – or has your sense of security been disrupted? Born between late 1968 and 1972? With your Uranus in the first half of Libra, your midlife crisis is likely to be especially intense, with similar beliefs about the long-term security and employment being challenged. Add to this pool those born between 1973 and 1978; they have Pluto in the early half of Libra. **Pluto-Uranus to natal Pluto** suggests they will be wrestling with similar issues, as beliefs about

the security and reliability of society's governments and corporations are challenged – and in many cases, torn down. **Uranus-Pluto to Neptune** will be a collective experience for those born 1943-1951 with Neptune in the first half of Libra. Keywords suggest disorientation and bewilderment if one's socio-economic status is in jeopardy; heightened sensitivity and/or irritability; a spiritual awakening.

Just as I'm wrapping this piece up, a new client has emailed to book a consultation. She has Saturn at 3 Aries conjunct the Sun at 8 Aries, square a 4 Capricorn Ascendant. Her career is up in the air; her relationship is in jeopardy. So much has changed for her over the past two years (with transiting Pluto conjunct her Ascendant). I am confident that awareness of the transits of Uranus and Pluto in her horoscope will enable her to appreciate the powerful personal potential suggested by these transpersonal planets. When a client understands that this period of development will take a few years, patience for managing the challenges it brings comes more easily. I know this from personal experience. My Mercury is at 6 Aries conjunct the Sun at 8 Aries, square a 4 Capricorn Ascendant.

See you at UAC!

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***Elisabeth Grace** writes a daily Astrological Forecast, which you can find on her website www.graceastrology.com*