

Working with Pluto Transits

Over the years of my working as an astrologer I have asked people who do not want anything to do with astrology why they feel so strongly against astrology. The three most common answers that I continue to receive are: It's superstitious idiocy. My church doesn't allow it. I don't want you to tell me anything bad about myself.

Over those same years I asked people who are somewhat knowledgeable about astrology what they were most comfortable, and most uncomfortable, discovering in a reading. The Good news: Venus crossing the ascendant. Jupiter transiting almost any significant point. Wonderful synesty with one's partner. On the other hand. Anticipating imagined restrictions imposed by an impending Saturn transit. Anticipating feeling mired in a Neptune transit. Learning that Mercury is retrograde and the Moon is void of course. But the worst news of all is a soon to be experienced, lingering, Pluto transit.

So. What exactly is going on? Are claims about being superstitious real?

In the case of a Saturn transit a demand is generally made to restructure something. It may be about restructuring personal boundaries. It may be about restructuring the physical work-space, or rearranging the work day schedule, or restructuring the client contact list. It may be about restructuring communication strategies in order to be more clearly heard in various settings. In any event, some kind of restructuring is called for. It doesn't last forever. But while it is happening it helps to go with the energies being put on offer by the universe, and to use them in a purposeful way. Then the energies described by the transit act to provide an amazingly strong support for personal efforts made. If these same energies are ignored, or resisted, it can be somewhat like swimming against a current, or dealing with a rip tide -- and we are tempted to label the entire transit and its associated energies BAD.

Neptune transits are focused on dealing with personal fears in a more direct manner than most people are comfortable with. In my experience there is almost always a specific illusion involved that is held very tightly by the person undergoing the Neptune transit. The targeted illusion feels like a security blanket, or one of them, to that person. Choosing to cooperate with an energy that helps to make conscious something that I do not want to see is very, very difficult. And letting go of anything (illusion or anything else) that is so close to me is equally difficult. But going with the experience can produce amazing results.

Every transit is a cycle with a beginning and an end. In general the further away from the Sun the transiting planet is, the longer the cycle will last. Pluto, being furthest away from the Sun, hangs out in the same place in the chart longer than any other planet. Pluto transits are not quick. But that also gives us more time to take advantage of the energies on offer.

The usual demands being made during a Pluto transit focus on letting go of something that has outlived its usefulness. It may be a coping strategy aimed at smoothing over differences with a sibling or coworker. It may be my grandmother's steak knives, which are in daily use, even though their cutting ability deserted them years ago. It may be an addiction to video games or social networking sites or shopping. It may be a stance taken, or a way of habitually viewing a given situation. It can be almost anything, or a group of anythings. Examining the chart will yield more specific information about the demands being made during this transit.

So what makes a Pluto transit such a threatening event for so many people?

- First, the mythology surrounding Pluto is so often about death. Does that mean that someone close to me is going to die? Does it mean I am going to die -- or feel like I'm dying? The short answer is 'not likely' -- certainly not because of this transit.
- The second reason for possible angst in the face of a Pluto transit is because of all the emotional attachments built up over time. Plutonic energy asks that we give up whatever is not essential. But whatever is demanding to be released, no matter what it is, is mine. And in ordinary life the laws of civilization provide rights and protections so that I get to keep what is mine.
- The third reason is because of an anticipated feeling of becoming so totally lost, a kind of profound confusion, if I successfully release what I am being asked to release. Am I still me if I release a part of myself, or what feels like a part of myself?

Why are these demands being made in the first place? How is this a necessary part of a person's path as a human being on planet Earth? I can't answer that. But I can point out that the demands made during any transit are closely

allied with the element associated with the transiting planet. Both Neptune and Pluto are associated with the element of water. So the work of the transit involves, at least partially, building bridges between the conscious and unconscious, and further involves tapping into those human faculties that do not depend on rational thinking, and that generally remain undeveloped in us. We need to develop these faculties, which is what this transit is all about. And then again, each person's path is unique. But the question remains.

As I write this article transiting Pluto is at 7 degrees of Capricorn. Because Pluto is in Capricorn a part of the demand being made by any Pluto transit is to develop a practical strategy, with well defined steps, facilitating the releasing of whatever needs to be released. As an example, suppose that the Sun in the chart we are studying is very close to 7 degrees of a cardinal sign. The Sun brings up issues of relationship with authority, and also issues around fully claiming whatever is available to be claimed as a human being on planet Earth. In other words, if I could realize the maximum potential available to me, what would that be like. The Sun in a cardinal sign tells us that this person would rather be the authority, as opposed to being subject to someone else's authority. Transiting Pluto brings an energy that can help clarify obstacles that this person puts in his or her own way, obstacles that prevent that person from claiming their natural authority. Working on releasing these obstacles, no matter how completely or incompletely accomplished, is a transformative process. (Of course, other events in the chart will add to the story.)

The following table discusses Pluto transiting through the signs of the zodiac. Pluto's motto is 'cut-to-the-chase'. There are twelve different styles of 'cutting-to-the-chase'. Both the process of 'cutting-to-the-chase', and its results, are transformative in a person's life.

Pluto transiting planets in Aires	One of the best ways to use this transit is to focus on risks that are being taken foolishly, and risks that are necessary but are being avoided. What elements can we identify, and begin to release, in our lives that create this out of balance attitude towards risk?
Pluto transiting planets in Taurus	This is the 12 th rerun of the same episode of NCIS. But the Lazy Boy chair and corn chips know my name. And I am wearing my family plaid. (The kilt is hanging in the closet.) A Pluto transit is about to visit. Scorpio is not the only sibling in this family. (The family being the Taurus / Scorpio axis) Transformation will happen anyway (says Taurus) -- its not up to me to make it happen. But maybe there is something I can do. (Thus the purpose of Pluto's visit.)
Pluto transiting planets in Gemini	Each person establishes a personal pattern for setting priorities. We are usually unaware of the specifics of this pattern, or of why other people do it differently. A Pluto transit is the perfect time to streamline the process of setting priorities.
Pluto transiting planets in Cancer	Safe haven (a restorative place to recharge the batteries) vs. hiding from the cruel world. How can the crab safely peek out from under its shell and comfortably look around -- and even interact in a socially graceful manner? Cardinal water – wants to be in charge, wants to be psychically understood and respected. But others don't always get it. Use transiting Pluto to work on seeing things from someone else's point of view, just for the experience of it. A difficult task.
Pluto transiting planets in Leo	Claiming my strength, my full humanity, is what it is all about. So much gets in the way. Will they like me? Will they respect me? Will they be loyal to me (the true test)? Am I 'safe'? Will I survive? Plutonic energy tells me there is no real 'security' on planet Earth -- only the power of transformation.
Pluto transiting planets in Virgo	Cut to the chase. How so? By chipping away at the clutter – bit by bit. Meticulously and completely. Each 'bit' of fluff needs to been identified and released. Pluto style – no procrastinating, no hedging, no frills.
Pluto transiting planets in Libra	Social awareness is acute. There is a fine line between working to bring peace and working to avoid confrontation, at any cost. Perhaps the cost is ignoring parts of myself that need to be explored and developed. Perhaps some other cost, out of my own pocket. Plutonic energy easily underscores any game being played, either with myself or with others. Using transiting Pluto to more clearly see patterns associated with emotional risk taking (a core issue here) can be transformative.
Pluto transiting	Everything is always in a state of transition and transformation. Believing that anything at all

planets in Scorpio	remains stationary, in reality, is the Taurus dilemma – not mine! Why was I created as fixed energy? How stressful is that? My knowledge and my stance at cross purposes, and hidden in the unconscious to boot. I claim Pluto as my own. So get me out of this.
Pluto transiting planets in Sagittarius	The arrow has landed -- in Afganistan. Whoops. Hawaii would be more fun. Barring earthquakes, tsunamis, I feel ready to settle for Panera Bread. A Pluto transit is sighted on the horizon. Survival time. What is it that I am wasting, and that I need to keep as a ready resource? Energy? Tell me more. Pluto will.
Pluto transiting planets in Capricorn	Cardinal earth. Taking charge with an eminently practical streak. And the job gets done. But which job is that? And what emotional turmoil is suffered in private? Do we really want to market a special purpose product (like a particular pharmaceutical) to the general public in exactly the same way that we market Coco-Puffs? A Pluto transit supports honesty with self -- and underlines clearly and emphatically dishonesty with self. A very useful tool.
Pluto transiting planets in Aquarius	Did you ever wonder why fixed air (Aquarius) is symbolized by a water-bearer? A human, carrying their unconscious around like a heavy weight. Or perhaps a friendly being bringing inroads into the invisible realms (water). Or both. The faculties of the mind (air) are many. Transiting Pluto can introduce new mental territories – and help us to adapt and grow.
Pluto transiting planets in Pisces	The core issue for the Pisces / Virgo axis is reaching the truth (that which can be trusted). Not my truth. The truth. The Virgo methodology starts with the multitude of perceptions, feelings, thoughts, and experiences, and then proceeds to weed out what is not useful to the search. The Pisces methodology starts with a deep meditative state where all words, images, and accumulated information fall away. As close to pure Being as the person can get. And then there is a stance of relaxed waiting. Waiting for the universe to clue us in. Pluto transits strongly support both of these methodologies.

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