

A Brief Look at Neptune

Neptune's influence on our lives, similar to Pluto's influence, is all about facing up to the illusions that we hold most dear, naming those illusions, and doing the work of seeking beyond the known and comfortable. Neptune is currently transiting from Aquarius into Pisces. Neptune's demands, and supports, are most direct when Neptune is in its own sign, Pisces. In order to accept Neptune's gift, let's take a closer look at the role that illusion plays in our lives.

Illusion is initially presented to us as an entertainment, as something to feel good about -- Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy. We play Let's-Pretend, if not continuously then very frequently, as children. The assumption is that, even as children, we somehow keep in mind the difference between what is Real and what is Imaginary. But there are major problems with this assumption. Society's definition of Real and Imaginary does not always match personal experience. Until age 7 or 8 children have psychic abilities that are available to be developed and are sometimes quite active. These experiences are often interpreted by adults as 'imagination', and ways are sought to correct these children's outlook. Also, society doesn't always play fair. We are sometimes told illusions are real (You are the smartest, most beautiful child that ever lived on planet Earth); and we are sometimes told that what is real is not actually real (Grandpa didn't die, he is on a trip). And the list goes on.

The most serious, and damaging, and hard to release, of all these illusions are the lies that we tell to ourselves (I am better than you because Or. Only what I believe is correct. When you grow up, no matter your chronological age, you will come to believe it too. Or. 'Primitive' cultures are all less civilized and less spiritually advanced than we are. Etc.) Possibly even more damaging than the examples given so far are the small lies we tell ourselves -- simply because they are small and so easy to gloss over. (My choice of TV show is so much more high-class than yours that I demand respect, and you don't.) Often we bury these thoughts and feelings so deeply that we perceive only the lie itself and accept that lie as truth. Whenever we feel the need to 'prove' these supposed truths, untold cruelties are perpetrated. Thus the first task is always identifying the illusions that we, individually and collectively, accept as truth. This is where Neptune comes in.

Neptune entered the sign of Pisces in April 2011. Neptune briefly returned to Aquarius in August 2011, and will move back into Pisces in February 2012, where it will remain until 2025. With Neptune in a water sign there is an extra boost helping us to open and use our psychic faculties and receptors in addition to hearing, seeing, touching, smelling, tasting, and intellect. We are entering a period in history where the burning question of the day is: How can I, as an individual, grow beyond my own illusions? How can we, as a community and a nation, grow beyond our own illusions? How can we, as a global community, grow beyond our own illusions?

We have recently exited from a cycle (2003 - 2010) in which Neptune and Uranus were in mutual reception (mutual reception means each planet is in the sign naturally associated with the other planet). The hallmark of a Uranian experience is a clear delineation between what existed before that experience and the conditions that exist after that experience. With Uranus in Pisces it is more difficult to identify and use fixed time lines. (eg: remember the shifting dates associated with planned troop withdrawals from the Middle East, etc.)

The hallmark of a Neptunian experience is a glimpse of what it is like to be totally present in the current moment. With Neptune in Aquarius it is easy for us to escape back into our heads, into rational thinking, without fully using, or even noticing, our other faculties. Our society has always valued rational thinking above intuition, body awareness, etc. Thus we are very comfortable in a mental place where we analyze things, rather than 'just' experiencing them. During this cycle we built up an outlook of winners and losers, instead of an outlook of all things being connected. We seemed to have continuous opportunities to think about, and argue about, 'I am right and you are wrong'. Recall the many debates, and non-debates, about bail-outs, energy policies, the economy, etc. Endless talk and finger pointing. There was actually a move away from consensus and solving our problems as a unified whole.

Also, during this same mutual reception, there were many major events with qualities only imagined in dreams (access to satellite internet information uniting the entire planet into a single neighborhood, for example), as well as many other major events more aligned with a nightmare (Hurricane Katrina. Fannie May and Freddie Mac. The Lehman Bros fiasco. What seemed like never ending earthquakes, tsunamis and devastation.) It's very hard to look at all this as wake-up calls. The human suffering is over the top. But Neptune in Pisces will be so much more useful to us if we start to look at anything and everything that happens as, at least in part, a wake-up call.

Uranus is now solidly in Aires. Pluto (in Capricorn) will continue to square Uranus (in Aires) for quite a while yet. Using the charts below we can see that, at this time, Saturn is also in a cardinal sign -- Libra. Lots and lots of heavy-duty energy to support the quest to grow beyond personal illusion, no matter the nature of the person or group.

It is interesting to note (again referencing the charts below) that beginning in October 2012, and continuing into December 2014, Pluto and Saturn will be in mutual reception. And, of course, Neptune will remain in Pisces. What will our best supports from the universe be at that time? Right now strong cardinal energy is supporting our efforts to take first steps – shining the light of consciousness onto our illusions, no matter how deeply buried and hidden they are. Pluto wants to unearth truth at any cost. Saturn wants to do it in an orderly fashion. This is hard work for people individually, and for humanity overall. Next October, when the mutual reception of Pluto and Saturn begins, it should feel easier to sustain the work, of demanding greater honesty with self and others, that we have begun.

This really is the first step, in the opinion of this writer, towards healing our planet.

Usually, when a planet enters a new sign (the next part of the sky) it zigs and zags between the old sign and the new sign a little. The following tables ignore the zigging and zagging.

Pluto in each of the following signs:

♁	1912 - 1937
♈	1937 - 1956
♉	1956 - 1971
♊	1971 - 1983
♋	1983 - 1995
♌	1995 - 2008
♍	2008 - 2023

Neptune in each of the following signs:

♈	1914 - 1928
♉	1928 - 1942
♊	1942 - 1955
♋	1955 - 1970
♌	1970 - 1984
♍	1984 - 1998
♎	1998 - 2011
♏	2011 - 2025

Uranus in each of the following signs:

♍	1904 - 1912
♎	1912 - 1919
♏	1919 - 1927
♐	1927 - 1934
♑	1934 - 1941
♒	1941 - 1948
♓	1948 - 1955
♈	1955 - 1961
♉	1961 - 1968
♊	1968 - 1974
♋	1974 - 1981
♌	1981 - 1988
♍	1988 - 1995
♎	1995 - 2003
♏	2003 - 2010
♐	2010 - 2018

Saturn in each of the following signs:

♁	6/2003 – 7/2005
♈	7/2005 - 9/2007
♉	9/2007 – 10/2009
♊	10/2009 – 10/2012
♋	10/2012 - 12/2014
♌	12/2014 – 12/2017
♍	12/2017 -

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