

August 2000 Celestial Timings

by Carolyn Sky Dancer

"When all the stars were ready to be placed in the sky First Woman said,
"I will use these to write the laws that are to govern mankind for all time.
These laws cannot be written on the water as that is always changing its form,
nor can they be written in the sand as the wind would soon erase them,
but if they are written in the stars they can be ready and remembered forever.

Trudy Griffin-Pierce

Earth is My Mother, Sky is My Father:
Space, Time, and Astronomy in Navajo Sandpainting

The stars not only inspire us with their beauty, but each star is also encoded with specific mysteries awaiting our remembrance of them. There are ancient shamanic practices described as Starwalking where those who were trained in this art gained access to these mysteries for the benefit of their communities. Page Bryant has written an inspiring book on this subject called *Starwalking, Shamanic Practices For Traveling Into the Night Sky*. This book describes ways one can begin to draw on "star power for personal use". It is important to begin with gratitude, reverence and a clear intent. Then tune in and consider your exchange with these magnificent starry beings. What gifts are you bringing them? Some possibilities to consider are love, appreciation, gratitude, acknowledgement, along with willingness and openness to receive their mysteries. Just as it is unwise to barge into someone's home uninvited, it is also unwise to intrude upon the stars and their mysteries without asking permission and honoring them with respect. Doing so helps to facilitate a conscious relationship. It is time for us to again remember how to engage conscious relationships with the stars, noting the Celestial Cycles that are designed to draw our attention to certain stars and star groups, as if we are being invited to connect more deeply with these star codes and pathways. It is an open house of sorts, giving us an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate their gifts and willingness to share with us.

August is a month that draws our attention once again to two bright and well-known stars. Antares, heart of the Scorpion and Aldebaran, eye of the Bull are spotlighted by planetary transits. These two stars form an axis or gateway to multi-dimensional realms. Antares is again feeling the close presence of Pluto and Chiron as they have retrograded back to this area of the sky, and both will be going direct within a few days of each other within about a degree from each other. Aldebaran is feeling the close presence of Jupiter as it passes by and then stations retrograde very close to this bright star. Jupiter in Gemini is moving towards opposition to Pluto (less than a degree by end of August, exact Oct 13) and Chiron (just over a degree, and not catching up to oppose Jupiter until sometime next year), forming an energetic link through these planetary energies drawing upon the star power of Antares and Aldebaran. Jupiter is shining brightly in the morning sky near Aldebaran. Antares is shining brightly in the evening sky, but Pluto and Chiron are not visible to the naked eye. Once every 248 years Pluto visits with Antares, once every 50 years Chiron visits with Antares, once every 60 years Pluto and Chiron visit with each other. The last time they made an exact conjunction was in July of 1941 at about 4 degrees Leo. Once every 12 years Jupiter visits with Aldebaran. In 1941, at the time of the Pluto Chiron conjunction, Jupiter was in Gemini near Aldebaran, but Pluto and Chiron were in Leo. This gives us a sense of how rare it is to have these three planets line up on this starry axis. We have a unique opportunity to work consciously with these star beings as they meet in council with these planets. It is up to us to be alert to how to engage these unfolding mysteries by following our inner guidance.

Some clues about these energies come from the Angelic realms. Aldebaran and Antares are two of the four royal stars linked with the archangels. Antares is linked with Archangel Uriel, guardian of the

mysteries of peace and inspiration and the "Watcher of the West." This fits when we realize Antares means the opposite of Ares or Aries the God of War. Aldebaran is linked with Archangel Michael, the protector of our spiritual destiny, and the "Watcher of the East." Michael also works with the power of transmutation, assisting us in remembering our divinity and releasing our small self or ego based identities. It is interesting to note that these two stars are gateway guardians to the east/west direction on the medicine wheel. This axis is linked with the dawning new awarenesses we are integrating in our inner realms. What is rising and what is setting? What is birthing into this reality and what is moving between the worlds?

Antares has often been connected to Isis who is sometimes depicted with Scorpions as her companions and allies. She is also known as "Lady of the Pyramids" and Antares is thought to have had a significant role in many of the initiation ceremonies held inside the Great Pyramid. As I stated in the *Antares, Chiron, Pluto* article I wrote last December, these transformative energies, are initiating Shamanic Death, Transformation, and Rebirth. The potency of their combined alchemy works at a deep cellular, atomic and sub-atomic level, much like the process of the caterpillar becoming the butterfly. The transformation is irreversible. The butterfly never returns to being a caterpillar. Indeed, as we surrender and trust the process - we are being invited to transform into our butterfly essence or divine essence.

Jupiter's move into opposition to the Chiron, Pluto, Antares line-up near Aldebaran adds the expansive power of Jupiter to the potent alchemy that is already occurring. This is all taking place on the heels of the planetary cauldron of alchemical transformation that was further activated by the three eclipses last month. All of these events point to a divine plan that is unfolding moment by moment expanding our sense of wonder and awe. This celestial momentum has been gaining for many years, with many notable recent events including the Winter Solstice alignment near Galactic Center (happening for only one time period every 26,000 years) the grand cross eclipses of 1999, the ongoing Pluto, Chiron, Antares connection, the May, 2000 planetary alignment, the Jupiter Saturn conjunction, and the three July Eclipses. There are dozens of recent events to numerous to name, yet when considering them all together we get a sense of the magnitude of these times.

August Timings

Aug 9, Wednesday, Saturn enters Gemini for the first since June of 1971. As I mentioned in the June Timings when Jupiter entered Gemini, this archetypal energy expresses through the eternal youth, free from the rules, the entertaining trickster reminding us not to take ourselves so seriously, to have fun, to play, and to creatively express who we are. When expressing as the shapeshifter Gemini reminds us things are not as real as they might appear, or not as true as we might believe.

Saturn has often been viewed as the planet of limitations, restrictions, and focused hard work. It is seen as a stern taskmaster, whose rewards come when we overcome the challenges and obstacles presented by this unbending Father type energy. When I tune into to Saturn's essence, penetrating beneath the overlaying beliefs of the

current culture, I feel a very different energy. First of all, Saturn rules structure and form. It does not make judgments about the structures or forms we create and sustain through our beliefs. Saturn simply allows us to experience the forms we choose by providing them for us. When we make changes in ourselves then Saturn is the energy that assists us in bringing these new choices, ideas, concepts and beliefs into form. However, first we must release the old forms that no longer serve the new concepts. This is not necessarily difficult unless we are in some way attached to these old forms. Then Saturn energy does feel difficult, dense, limiting and restrictive.

The feminine principle rules matter through earth and water, structure and form. The Masculine principle rules spirit through fire and air, inspiration and ideas. Thus, Saturn in essence is primarily a feminine energy that has been collectively usurped by the masculine principle. When we begin to remember the pure essence of Saturn as an energy that simply structures our beliefs into an experienceable reality, then we may begin to experience Saturn in a whole new way.

Saturn in Gemini is a wonderful opportunity for humanity to remember that our reality is only as real as we believe it to be, and when we change our beliefs we shapeshift our reality to reflect those beliefs.

Aug 12, Saturday, Chiron (11Sagittarius 03) goes direct at 9:02 pm MST/PST. Aug 20, Sunday Pluto (10Sagittarius10) goes direct at 3:42 pm MST/PST. These timings could very well produce a noticeable shift in our personal experience, especially for those undergoing a personal initiation by transit of these two planets (i.e. natal planets within 10-18 degrees of mutable signs *Sagittarius, Gemini, Virgo, Pisces*).

Aug 14, Monday, Aquarius Full Moon (23 degrees), 10:12 pm MST/PST. Moon, Juno and Uranus are lined up between 19 and 23 degrees of Aquarius and Sun, Mars, and Mercury are lined up in opposition between 8 and 23 degrees of Leo. This lineup adds to the potency of both the Sun and Moon in this window, providing us with another timing for breaking through the limiting beliefs that prevent the full, free expression of our divine essence in every moment.

Synchronistically, Mars is moving over the July 30th Solar Eclipse point during this Aquarius Full Moon. This is an important trigger activating another level of what was seeded at that time. From the perspective of Shamanic Astrology Mars represents the sacred masculine principle, which works through action, energizing or inseminating what we are creating with vital life force energy so it can express in Earthly form. Mars has the added benefit of drawing on the potency and power of the Full Moon as it crosses this important seed point.

The Aquarius Full Moon is occurring near the fixed stars Deneb Algeidi, in the tale of the Goatfish, and Sa'adalsu'ud, which means "luckiest of the lucky" in the Waterbearer. These two stars are only 10 minutes from each other. According to Eric Morse in his book [The Living Stars](#), he notes this as a "focal center of a very good area of the sky which was all about good things happening for people." The ancient perceptions of the sky are helpful and yet, it is also important to remember they come from a dualistic perspective. Ultimately, there is no good or bad, that is a human judgment. The only good or bad stars are directly related to how we perceive them or understand their mysteries. What we believe and know to be true changes from age to age. Our perceptions of truth and life change as we grow in consciousness. The creator does not judge anyone part of creation as any better or worse than any other part of creation, it simply just is! The Full Moon illumination of the night sky reminds us that the light is also contained within the dark, just as the Sun shining brightly casts shadows, reminding us the dark is also contained within the light.

The Sun is always opposite the Moon during a Full Moon and at this Full Moon is near the fixed star Al Ashfar, the eyebrows of the Lion. This suggests an illumination of power as expressed by the sovereign golden Lion in its psychic experiences. Lions have a keen

sense of the world around them when they are awake. They also spend a great deal of time in the dreamtime and this star connects to this dreaming power that we all possess. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with the mysteries of dreaming, consciously working with and choosing the ways we are dreaming our inner and outer reality.

The Aquarius Full Moon connects us with the grand cosmic perspective. How do we fit into the divine plan? How can we more consciously live and express our divine purpose in every moment? How can we let go of the beliefs that limit our freedom of expression and ability to experience life as fully and joyfully as possible?

August 20, Sunday, Mars (12 Leo) emerges from the underworld appearing in the morning sky before dawn. Mars is finally emerging from the underworld after about a four month journey with the Sun during three eclipses. Transformed by this potent underworld initiation, Mars is ready to complete his quest that he began last year.

August 28, Monday, Vesta (18 Capricorn) goes direct at 9:31 am. Please see the July, 2000 Capricorn Full Moon for details about Vesta and her current journey. Vesta going direct is happening in the Virgo New Moon window drawing on the power of the New Moon to take all she has learned in her retrograde journey, distilling the seeds of this wisdom for new expression particularly in the areas of healing the split between sexuality and spirituality.

August 29, Tuesday, Virgo New Moon (7 degrees) at 3:18 pm MST/PDT. Venus and Mercury are also in Virgo during this New Moon and are visible on the western horizon after Sunset. The Sun and Moon are connecting zodiacally with Ursa Major, near the fixed star Alioth. It is the first star in the handle of the big dipper and forms the beginning of the tail of the bear. Venus is zodiacally linked with Alkaid which is the tip of the tail of the bear. Ursa Major, which contains the constellation best known as the Big Dipper, is easy to find and assists us in locating the North Star. Thus, this constellation has a sense of guiding and directing our journey. It might be well worthwhile to spend some time tuning into this constellation during this New Moon and asking for guidance, or confirmation, for your journey. New Moon's are seed points, or conception points for new ideas, new concepts, new ways of experiencing life, and are also often a time when we feel called to a new adventure. The Virgo archetype works closely with Spider Woman in weaving the web, knowing the patterning of the manifest world and how to co-creatively reweave the old limiting patterns that no longer serve, into new patterns of sacred harmony with all life.

Here again it is worth noting that Mars is at 18 Leo opposite Uranus at 18 Aquarius. The August 11, 1999 New Moon Solar Eclipse took place at 18 Leo, so here again we have the potency of Mars activating a sensitive eclipse point. Mars and Uranus are two revolutionary energies helping to blast through the remaining limiting beliefs that prevent us from experiencing our radiant and shining divine essence. These energies may be intense and unpredictable as they will act in whatever ways necessary to create the breakthrough. It is wise to be carefully attentive to your world, and those in it, during this time. Following inner guidance, while also letting go and going with the flow of life will help to facilitate the changes that are seeking expression.

August 30, Wednesday, Venus and Moon (29 Virgo) conjunct in the evening sky at 6:21 pm MST/PDT. Occurring within the potency of the New Moon window, this marks the second Venus/Moon conjunction since Venus rose from the underworld last month. Inanna or Venus is passing through the second gate out of the underworld. Here she reclaims another vestment (hip belt, hip girdle, or anklets depending on what version you read) that symbolizes her self-worth and/or her ego and how she now is ready to express and experience new ways of valuing who she is and the gifts she has gained during her initiation.

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