

December 1999 Celestial Timings

by Carolyn Brent

"This is the time of reawakening. It is the time of remembering that the Earth is our Temple.
Time to remember that the very ground we walk upon is the temple floor
and that the sky above is the temple roof...
It is time to acknowledge that each of us is Priest and Priestess, unto ourselves,
in ever refining attunement and collaboration with Creation.
There is no outside mediator between Heaven and Earth
that can possibly intervene on our behalf or interpret Truth that we somehow cannot access.
Heaven and Earth are one and we are one with Heaven and Earth."
Temple of the Living Earth by Nicole Christine

**What we see in the lights overhead is the itinerary of cosmic order.
Because it governs everything, it is reflected in the entire world.
It is the core of our consciousness.
It defines what is sacred and makes the sky the domain of the gods.
E.C. Krupp, *Echoes of the Ancient Skies***

This past October I experienced some of the most ancient temples on our planet in the magical, mystical land of Egypt. (I traveled with Nicki Scully and Jane Bell who facilitate Shamanic Journeys to Egypt. For anyone considering traveling to Egypt as a spiritual journey I recommend visiting Nicki and Jane's web site www.shamanicjourneys.com for details on future trips.) By day we ceremonially connected with these sacred sites and by night I found myself mysteriously awake and aware of how these temples were being structured within my physical body. Or was I simply remembering, through my outer experience of these sacred sites, the inner landscape of the temples within my own physical structure? Our Egyptian guide explained how these temples were purposely built to reflect the human physiology. The ancient Egyptians knew that the body is a sacred temple and the outer temples they built helped to remind them of this inner truth.

My first night home, I awoke suddenly from a sound asleep (I found later I had only been sleeping a couple of hours), sat bolt upright in bed wondering where I was. My first thought as I glanced around in the moonlit shadows was a crystal clear sense that I was in the Queen's Temple. As I awakened more fully, I remembered I was home in Tucson, in my own room, in my own bed. When I first awoke I was still in that space between the worlds, moving from the dreamtime into waking consciousness. Indeed, I had awakened in the Queen's temple and the dreaming space of my journey was reflecting in this experience. This helped me to know that the temples of Egypt are alive within me. Now more than ever I am certain that as we awaken the remembrance of the temple within and how it

reflects the Temple of the Living Earth where we live our mythic lives, we catalyze and actualize the golden age of Heaven on Earth.

The Temple of the Sky, keeper of the mysteries of the sacred celestial sky dance, reminds us to honor the timings of our own personal inner temple. Each moment is sacred, each step is sacred, each expression of Earth and Sky are sacred. Each moment has its own unique and powerful timing designed to assist us in remembering and reclaiming our wholeness in sacred union with Earth and Sky, Masculine and Feminine, Inner and Outer, Dark and Light. These December Timings reflect some of these sacred moments as I am remembering them. Hopefully they will help to inspire your own connection with these mysteries.

The Triune Line-up of Chiron, Pluto and Antares

On December 30, Pluto and Chiron conjoin in the sky at 11 degrees and 22 minutes of Sagittarius, within less than two degrees of the fixed star Antares, the heart of the Scorpion. The Celestial Timings Archives for 1999 has a lot of imagery connected with this star since Pluto has occupied this area of the sky for over a year. So far my favorite image of Antares is as the heart of the Dragon. According to Richard Allen Hinkley's book *Star Names, Their Lore and Meaning* the Chinese linked Antares with the Azure Dragon. I have recently connected with another image, and find it is confirmed both in Allen's book and De Traci Regula's book *The Mysteries of Isis*. "Among the stars named after Isis is Antares, which was associated with Selkit, the scorpion goddess who was sometimes depicted in the Isian headdress. Antares was associated with Isis in the ceremonies

conducted in conjunction with the great pyramid complex at Giza, where she bore the special title of 'Lady of the Pyramids'." When considering the great Pyramids are specially designed initiation chambers that are oriented to access the mysteries of the heavens and ground them on the Earth we get a deeper sense of the total transformational power of this rare alignment of Pluto, Chiron and Antares. These are transformative energies, initiating Shamanic Death, Transformation, and Rebirth. The potency of their combined alchemy works at a deep cellular, atomic and sub-atomic level. Once the caterpillar becomes the butterfly, the butterfly never returns to being a caterpillar. The transformation is irreversible and complete.

As we explore Chiron and Pluto remember they are linked in council with Antares and all the mysteries kept within this beautiful heart star temple of alchemical transformation. One way to view Chiron's essence is as the Shaman Centaur. In his myth he is a master healer and initiator into the mysteries. He practices and teaches the healing arts, astrology, divination, and the ways of the spiritual warrior. He is part Centaur and part Man, representing the animal and the human in integrated, balanced form. Chiron is accidentally wounded by a poisonous arrow that would be instant death to any mortal, but he is immortal and cannot die. For all his healing mastery he is not able to heal himself of this terrible wound. Chiron suffers greatly until he is granted death from his physical form and transformed into a constellation in the sky.

According to my research Centaurus is the constellation most associated with Chiron, and Centaurus has had other symbols linked with it from varying cultures. Interestingly, this constellation lies below the constellation of the Scales, the Scorpion, and Ophiucus, the serpent holder. All of these constellations are linked with important healing alchemical imagery. Chiron and Pluto are currently transiting near the heart of the Scorpion and the foot of Ophiucus, zodiacally locating the Scorpion and Ophiucus above Centaurus. Lupus the she-wolf (also seen by different cultures as either a Lioness, a hare or a wild beast) is beside Chiron. According to Allen in Star Names some artistic depictions of Chiron or Centaurus show him facing east with the wolf near his left hand pointing to a circular altar and a Thyrsus (a staff or wand with vines entwined around it) in his right hand. The thyrsus or staff is reminiscent of the staff Moses used to bring about the events that freed the Hebrews from Egypt. The thyrsus of Centaurus feels like a powerful symbol of alchemy that facilitates transformation.

For those who are in more Northern Latitudes this constellation is either not visible or only partially visible. In the book Star Names, Allen says that Centaurus in the latitude of New York City shows only the stars found in the right shoulder, and is visible in June about 12 degrees above the horizon. In the

southern latitudes around where I live in Tucson, Arizona Centaurus is fully visible on summer nights with a low horizon. Centaurus spans 60 degrees of the sky and has within it the star Alpha Centauri (a.k.a. Rigil Kentaurus, Hadar and Tolliman). Some may remember how this star was made famous by the Lost In Space TV series. Alpha Centauri or Rigil Kentaurus is located in the foot of the Centaur. (Remember Pluto and Chiron are currently transiting near the foot of Ophiucus. It seems there's something up with the foot imagery.) This star is the closest naked eye star to earth (only about 4.3 light years away) and is the third brightest fixed star in the sky. It is believed to have been important to the ancient Egyptians as indicated by Richard Allen in Star Names. Allen says at least nine temples in northern Egypt dating from 3800 to 2575 BC and several in southern Egypt from 3700 BC on, were aligned to capture the heliacal rise (rising just before the Sun as a morning star) of Rigil Kentaurus at autumnal equinox. The Egyptians may have called this star Serk-t. The Chinese called it Nan Mun, the South Gate. It is also known as Hadar in Arabic, which means ground.

I see Centaurus symbolizing the Sky Temple of Chiron, where by virtue of his myth we know Chiron resides as a guardian of the gateway to the celestial mysteries. Chiron inspires us with the sense that there are realms of knowing beyond our human understanding and that we can access and communicate with these realms when we choose to die to the wounds that keep us earthbound. When we experience the alchemy that transforms the wounds that have affected us so deeply, we see how these wounds act as catalysts for our desire to die to what does not serve our pure essence. Chiron chose death, rather than living with a wound he could not cure. This addresses a fear that may be at the root of our human dilemma, the fear that we will never be healed or whole, but that we may be wounded forever. Indeed this fear may say to us that we are not divine, but mere mortals doomed to suffer until we physically die. After all Chiron was an immortal and even he was affected by this fate. On another level Chiron reminds us to choose how we deal with what fate hands to us. Through his conscious choice to surrender to the transformational process of death, he is healed and returned to wholeness. He is transformed into a glory greater than we may fully comprehend. This death may not have to be a literal physical death, but a conscious choice to surrender ourselves to the alchemy of transformation and ascension similar to the caterpillar's metamorphosis into the butterfly or Chiron's metamorphosis into the stars.

Like Chiron, Pluto calls for shamanic death and rebirth. Pluto resides in the underworld. This is not hell, this is not necessarily a dark and terrible place. This is the place where we come face to face with our deepest fears, so in that sense we may feel like we are in hell. This includes the fear that we may

never be healed or whole. It also includes the beliefs and perceptions that prevent us from living our destiny authentically and powerfully. Pluto calls for us to die to who we think we are, to alchemically transform from our caterpillar consciousness into the radiant full glory of the magical butterfly. Just as the snake sheds its skin, Pluto calls for self-renewal and self-transformation penetrating to the core of our misconceptions of who we believe ourselves to be. If we are already living from our butterfly essence, then Pluto assists us in expressing who we already are more fully by shedding whatever has already fulfilled its purpose, creating the space for regeneration and a renewed connection with our divine destiny.

Pluto is named for a masculine Greek God a.k.a. Hades, whose name means "riches" according to *A Guide To the Gods* by Richard Carylon, "indicating the wealth of the earth in which Hades has his domain." His consort is Peresphone and he is feared as the god of death, but also seen as the "generous god of wealth." His domain is thought of as being under the earth, but in reality it may simply be anywhere we experience our inner depths, the void, the place of transformation. These are the mysteries of Pluto originally associated with the feminine mysteries of death, regeneration and rebirth presided over by Scorpio and the dark goddesses, Isis, Selkit, Erishikegal, Kali, Pele, Hecate, Cerridwen, and Peresphone to name just a few. The planet Pluto rules the sign of Scorpio and has a strong dark goddess, sorceress, enchantress energy. As Pluto and Chiron join together they are providing us with access to the gateways of their mysteries. These are the gateways to the great above, the celestial realms, and the gateways to the below deep within our core essence. Together, Chiron and Pluto create an alchemy that is balanced, whole and complete. They are already dancing within less than two degrees of each other as December begins, and they will remain in close proximity for most of 2000.

One way to consciously participate with this potent timing is to ask Antares, Chiron and Pluto what they are bringing us individually and collectively. This is a powerful gateway access point of alchemy designed to totally transform human consciousness into a whole new dimension of experience. These gateway guardians are asking us if we are ready to undertake this initiation and move beyond anything we have experienced or imagined thus far. In essence, we are being asked to consciously die to who we believe ourselves to be, to shed our skins, to undertake the metamorphic journey of the caterpillar as she mysteriously and magically becomes the butterfly. We can consciously choose to participate with this initiation or not. However, as death comes to those regardless of whether they are ready, this planetary initiation is coming for us all. Those who are ready to participate and those who are already participating will be in the flow of this natural process. We may find ourselves

at the gateway, too scared and terrified to let go of our beliefs and perceptions, and too scared to trust the process of transformation. That's when we find ourselves face to face with our deepest fears. This brings on events beyond our control that facilitate the transformation by whatever means it takes. We may find ourselves at the gateway feeling terrified and yet willing to embrace the initiation. We may find ourselves at the gateway easily choosing to jump into the unknown, trusting that whatever the result it is aligned with our divine purpose. In all cases, the process is fated. The caterpillar is programmed to undergo transformation into the butterfly. We choose how to participate.

The time is now. The gateways are open. We must pass by the guardians, Antares, Pluto and Chiron, and undergo their initiations, choosing to let go of life as we know it, leaping into the void, trusting that as we do we will be transformed beyond anything we have ever imagined. Does the caterpillar comprehend the glory of the butterfly? Does she even know that is where her journey is taking her? Has she even imagined anything beyond her known world of earth, plants and leaves that have fed, nourished and sustained her? Does she know she is leaving this world behind? Is she afraid to enter the unknown void of the cocoon? Does she question her inner guidance to create this cauldron of transformation? Does she even know what it is she is creating for herself? Once the process is complete is she afraid to leave her cocoon? Or does she simply trust and surrender to the unfolding process within herself? Once out of the cocoon does she simply know it is time to spread her wings and fly? Are we programmed like the caterpillar to undergo this transformational process, or can we fight it, resist it and miss it altogether? Is it our choice? If it is our choice, what will we choose? Are we already fated to a certain experience? If so, then how we choose to accept that fate may be the key to exercising our free will and experiencing our own personal transformation? Conscious choice with the intent to surrender may be a key ingredient to maximizing this timing. How that looks for each person will vary, and will most likely be guided from deep inside our own being. The images I have offered here are only a place to begin working with these unfolding mysteries. New images, new symbols, new stories, new myths are emerging through each of us as we consciously dream the dream onward.

Night Sky

Jupiter, and Saturn are still lighting up the eastern sky after sunset. Both are still retrograde and near their brightest phase of their overall cycle. Jupiter is turning direct on Dec 22 (Winter Solstice) at 25 degrees Aries. Mars continues to fade in brightness and sink closer to the western horizon after sunset. The Moon occults Mars (covers it) on Dec 12. This is occurring

during the day for much of the eastern US so the actual event is not visible to us. In the evening Mars will be visible to the lower right of the Moon, then on Dec 13 Mars is 14 degrees lower than the Moon. December features the Geminid meteor shower. This is best viewed on Dec 13 and 14 from late evening to dawn both nights. First quarter Moon is Dec 15 and then the Moon passes Jupiter, Saturn, Aldebaran (the eye of the Bull), Castor and Pollux (both bright stars in the Twins) and Regulus (the heart of the Lion), from Dec 16-26 covering about 14 or 15 degrees a day. The Moon is reaching its closest approach to the Earth this year and shines especially bright during the Full Moon Winter Solstice window on Dec 21 and 22.

Morning Sky

Venus remains the brightest star in the morning sky, still rising well before the Sun. Mercury joins Venus appearing 23 degrees to her lower left on Dec 3-7, remaining in excellent view the first half of December for those who rise well before sunrise. Venus is still near the fixed star Spica as the month begins and is moving towards the scales and the fixed stars Zuben Algenubi and Zuben Alshamali, where Mars began his Retrograde motion earlier this year and where Mercury stationed direct on Nov 24. These 2 stars form a gateway where the Sun rises at the astrological cross-quarter of Samhain. This is traditionally the time when the veils between the worlds is the thinnest and we have greater access to other realms and dimensions. This gateway has had a lot of activity with Mars and Mercury accessing it in their retrograde cycle, the Sun and Moon conjuncted here during the November New Moon and now Venus is making her way through, providing us with greater conscious access to multi-dimensional realms. Venus passes through this gateway Dec 17-25.

December Timings

Dec 2, Thu, Sun conjuncts Pluto (10 Sagittarius) at 4:37 pm. The Sun has already illuminated Chiron on Nov 30 and is now illuminating Pluto and Antares. From about Nov 28 to Dec 4 the solar mysteries carried by the Sun, linked with the Solar deities known around the world, are informing the celestial trio (Pluto, Chiron and Antares) about how to integrate the mysteries of illumination that fuel and inspire imagination, consciousness and creativity in new ways that are whole and complete.

Dec 3, Fri, Moon conjuncts Venus (27 Libra) at 4:04 pm MST. As Venus enacts Inanna's journey into the underworld this Moon conjunction relates to her passage through the 3rd gate where she releases any attachment to her throat chakra, her voice, how she speaks for herself and where she may have said things that weren't of her true pure essence. This is her opportunity to release and then purify the power of her voice. This is taking place within about three degrees of the fixed star

Spica in the constellation of the Virgin Priestess. (See the Shamanic Astrology Web Site for more about the Venus journey.)

Dec 7, Tue, Sagittarius New Moon (16 degrees Sagittarius) at 3:32 pm MST. Moon conjuncts Chiron (9 Sag) Antares (10 degrees Sag) and Pluto (11 Sag) earlier in the day activating and preparing them for their impending union on Dec 30. The Moon is imparting the wisdom of the ancestral lineage to assist in this alchemical process. This New Moon is an opportunity to seed our intention in connection with the Pluto, Chiron, Antares link now playing out in the sky.

Dec 12, Sun, Moon conjuncts Mars (12 degrees Aquarius) at 11:19 am. Uranus is currently at 14 degrees Aquarius and very much a part of this union of Moon and Mars. **Mars will conjunct Uranus on Dec 14 at 3:59 am MST.** On Dec 11 Mars squares Saturn at 2:23 pm MST. These energies will be felt for several days, maybe even as early as the New Moon on the 7th to as late as Dec 15 or 16. The only thing we know for sure about these energies is we have no control over our external circumstances, but we are being asked to trust that whatever is happening is in alignment with our divine destiny.

Dec 17, Fri, Mercury catches up to Chiron (10 Sagittarius) at 5:08 pm MST, Pluto (11 Sag) on Dec 18 at 10:27 pm MST. Mercury is bringing an important new message to the trio as Chiron is near his exact conjunction with Antares the magnificent red heart star. This message further confirms the powerful emergence of a new time, a new consciousness, a new way for us all to experience a new reality, a new way of being, and all new territory ready for us to explore.

Dec 22, Wed, Winter Solstice when the Sun enters zero Capricorn at 12:44 am MST. Cancer Full Moon at 10:31 AM MST. Daniel Giamario has shared with me information describing the rarity of having a Lunar Perigee Full Moon on Winter Solstice. The Lunar Perigee is when the Moon's orbit is closest to the earth, causing the Moon to look larger than other Full Moons. Due to the Earth's proximity to the Sun this Full Moon will also appear brighter. This is a rare event that last occurred on Winter Solstice 133 years ago in 1866. This amazing Winter Solstice Full Moon is aligned with the Summer Solstice point in the sky of zero Cancer. This is a potent symbol with the Sun and Moon accessing the areas of the sky marking the turning of the seasons and the turning of the year, illuminating these mysteries and transmitting knowledge from our ancient past and our ancient future into here and now. All the time lines converge into this moment and we choose how to weave the time lines of an emerging new reality. It is a dreaming moment that reminds us that it is neither past or future where our power resides, but it is right here, right now. As a beautiful, wise sister of mine so lovingly says, "the point of power is in the present." This has never been more true!

Dec 30 is the exact Pluto, Chiron conjunction near Antares, helping to usher us in the new year, a new century and by some calculations a new millenium. In an even yet larger picture we are currently at the center point of the turning of a 26,000-year age. (See the Shamanic Astrology Web Site and Articles page for more details.) Regardless of what time it really is, we do know it is time for a new way of being. The transformation is already underway and it is being assisted and guided by the Pluto, Chiron, Antares line-up occurring throughout most of the year 2000!

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You may also visit The Shamanic Astrology Web Site at: www.ShamanicAstrology.com and sign up to receive the Celestial Timings via e-mail for no charge.