

January 2000 Celestial Timings by Carolyn Brent

Earth, the beautiful, rose up,
Broad-bosomed, she that is the steadfast base
Of all things. And fair Earth first bore
The starry Heaven, equal to herself,
To cover her on all sides and to be
A home forever for the blessed gods.
~ Hesiod

What time is it really? Some say the year 2000 is not the new millennium and that it really begins 2001. Does it really matter when the millennium begins? What determines a new cycle or a new age of experience for humanity? Are the counting of years on man-made calendars a reliable method for determining a new major cycle? Certainly the collective awareness around the year 2000 is carrying a sizeable intent for a new cycle to begin, and this just happens to synchronistically align with many important cosmological events in the Great Above. The opening line of the Emerald Tablets of Hermes begins "As Above, So Below," reminding us that Celestial Events are the best indicators for what time it really is. The grand cross total solar eclipse of August 11, the recent Winter Solstice Full Moon Lunar Perigee that last occurred 133 years ago, the rare alignment of Pluto, Chiron and Antares that was exact on December 30 and remains active throughout most of 2000, the impending conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn that occurs every 20 years, and the rare alignment of the seven visible planets in May 2000 are just some of the potent symbols indicating we are at the Turning Of An Age. An even yet larger cycle is now occurring in the Great Above signaling the turning of the Great Year, or the turning of an entire 26,000 year cycle. The Winter Solstice point in the sky has aligned with the intersection point of the Milky Way Galaxy and the Ecliptic near Galactic Center. The solstice points move one degree about every 72 years. 1998 marked the exact center point of this alignment according to astronomer John Mues. That means the Winter Solstice point moved into one degree of the intersection point about 74 years ago, and will be within one degree for at least another 70 years. We are currently at the center point of this triple galactic alignment. (See www.ShamanicAstrology.com Articles page for details about this alignment.) In light of these events, the issue of when the new millennium, new century, or new decade really begins is not all that important in the big picture. The events occurring in the Great Above are signaling the beginning of a new Grand Cycle that is being drawn into form through our thoughts, intentions, and dreams. Now more than ever we are the dreamers of the new cycle, dreaming the dream onward.

Pluto, Chiron, Venus, Vesta and Antares

January begins with Pluto and Chiron still within eight minutes of their exact conjunction. This conjunction as described in the December Celestial Timings is drawing on the alchemical

magic of Antares the heart of the Scorpion. Antares is also being visited by Venus and Vesta in early January, who are adding their own magic and mystery to what is already occurring. Venus and Vesta move within one degree of each other during the **Capricorn New Moon (15 Capricorn at 11:14 am MST) on January 6**. They **conjoin each other on January 7** within one degree of Antares **then both move to conjoin Antares January 8**. Venus is the Queen of Heaven, the brightest wandering star. She is the Love Goddess illuminating beauty and inspiration as she journeys through the sky. Her current cycle is about developing the qualities of radical radiant self-love and self-confidence that are the foundation for true universal love. Vesta is the keeper of the sacred flame, the sacred flame within our hearts and our hearths within our homes and temples. This is the alchemical flame, the art of illumination and transformation. I have written about the importance of Antares in past Celestial Timings, but will summarize here by saying that Antares feels like a Star Gate portal accessing the mysteries of life force energy as they relate to the wisdom and compassion of the heart. The constellation of the Scorpion is often linked with the Phoenix that rises anew from its own ashes.

Venus and Vesta move on to conjoin Pluto and Chiron, the shamanic initiators of this new cycle. Venus conjuncts Pluto (12 Sagittarius a.k.a. Sag) on January 9 and Chiron (13 Sag) on January 10. **Vesta conjuncts Pluto on January 12 and Chiron on January 15**. Essentially the energies of these four Celestial beings are interlinked for most of January preparing the way for the Lunar Eclipse on January 20. This line up of Pluto, Chiron, Venus and Vesta assists in deepening the Shamanic Planetary Initiation currently underway. Whatever is not resonating with the intent of this cycle is now coming to the surface to be released and transmuted. Our willingness to surrender to the process helps to facilitate the transformation with greater ease and grace. (See the article on Pluto, Chiron and Antares on the Celestial Timings Page at www.ShamanicAstrology.com)

More on Venus

Venus continues to brilliantly light up the southeastern morning sky, beginning the month nearly conjunct the Moon and in the head of the constellation of the Scorpion. **Moon and Venus meet on January 2** marking the passage of Venus through the fourth gate into the underworld. This is where Venus (or Inanna) surrenders her breastplate, symbolizing how she guards her heart

from pain or wounding. In surrendering all of the ways she guards her heart, she sees where she has forgotten to love herself. As Venus passes through this gateway we are reminded the best way to participate with Inanna's journey is to be willing to surrender all of the ways we no longer love ourselves because of the defenses we have erected to guard our own hearts from the pain inflicted by others.

Venus begins the month at 1 degree Sagittarius very near the fixed star Dschubba or Isidis often referred to as the eye of the dragon, also associated with the Goddess Isis. In her book **Starwalking**, Page Bryant says this star's energy is helping to "propel us into the next millennium." It seems most fitting that the Queen of Heaven, representing the current expression of the Goddess energy (feminine principle), is accessing this area of the sky as this year, which is marking a new cycle for humanity, begins. The Venus/Moon conjunction on January 2 includes a two additional celestial elements Isidis and Vesta join with Moon and Venus to form a celestial council of the feminine principle in the sky temple of the Scorpion. Venus is preparing for another initiation in the underworld in May by surrendering all that no longer serves. Grandmother Moon provides the ancient wisdom of the mysteries she carries, assisting and guiding Venus in her preparation, while Isidis provides the power and potency of her own style of alchemy propelling us into the new cycle. Vesta begins the month within five degrees of Venus and lends her energy to this phase of Inanna's journey. Together these celestial elements are energizing the power of the heart and mind to transform our reality, while engaging a new cycle, a new way of being in the world. Venus spends most of January traveling through the constellation of the Scorpion and Ophiucus, the serpent holder, master of life force energy and healing, moving by Galactic Center, **reaching the Winter Solstice alignment of zero Capricorn on January 24 at 12:52 pm MST**. Vesta is also traveling through this same area, but at a slower pace and she does not reach the Winter Solstice alignment until Feb 18.

Jupiter and Saturn

Jupiter and Saturn continue to dominate the evening sky. Jupiter returned to direct motion last month and **Saturn turns direct on Tuesday, January 11 at 9:59 pm MST. The waxing Moon meets with Jupiter (26 Aries) on January 14 at 10:47 am MST and with Saturn (10 Taurus) on January 15 at 11:23 am MST. On the 16th the Moon is passing underneath the Pleiades and on January 17 is passing to the North of Aldebaran, the eye of the Bull. On the 18th the Moon is 12 degrees North of the fixed star Betelgeuse**, which is a bright red star marking the shoulder of the constellation Orion. Observing the Moon passing through this area of the sky, near these planets, is an excellent way to get a feel for the motion of the Moon and its movement through the sky from night to night. Plus, it is also a good way to prepare for the Total Lunar Eclipse on January 20. **On January 22 a still fairly full Moon is passing very close by the fixed star Regulus**, the heart of the Lion, about three hours after Sunset.

Jupiter and Saturn are moving towards their exact conjunction in May 2000. These two planets conjunct approximately every 20 years. There are myths that describe this

celestial event as the son (Jupiter) who dethrones his father (Saturn). Greek and Roman myth include the stories of Zues (Jupiter) dethroning his father Chronos (Saturn). In the sky, the planet Jupiter overtakes Saturn every 20 years. Egyptian myth describes Horus, who frequently represents light and expansion (Jupiter), and his battle with Set, who frequently represents darkness and limitation (Saturn). Horus eventually manages to bind or overtake Set, but for various reasons is never able to kill him. If Horus did kill Set the world of duality would cease to exist. So the Gods and Goddesses intervene, deciding to divide Egypt between them. These stories represent the division of Heaven and Earth, light and dark, spirit and matter, or the conquering of one element over another. However, at The Turning Of The Ages we have an opportunity to revision these myths, by consciously choosing to live and express new myths describing new ways of relating to these great cosmic beings.

Although the past several thousand years has described Saturn as a masculine energy, I personally experience Saturn as feminine. Saturn is said to rule Capricorn, which is a feminine sign. In Greek and Roman mythology, Chronos or Saturn is seen as the ruling God of the laws of man. Chronos is also known as Father Time. Indeed, Saturn does rule over structure and form, the rules, and how things work in third dimensional reality. Saturn provides the structure for how spirit comes into matter. Matter and matter are linked by the root word *mater*, which means mother. Matter relates to the feminine principle and spirit relates to the masculine principle. The sacred union of these two principles together, of spirit and matter, of masculine and feminine, is what gives rise to our reality. Thus, when Jupiter, representing the sacred masculine principle of spirit, joins with Saturn, representing the sacred feminine principle of matter in form, their union acts to expand spirit into matter producing a divine child or divine expression of their sacred union. The current Jupiter/Saturn conjunction occurs in May 2000 in the sign of Taurus. One way we might revision our understanding of this conjunction is by energizing the intent of this sacred union, which is to expand the spirit of the Sacred Pleasure Principle into concrete structure and form. First we must relinquish all the ways we are attached to the current structure that binds and restricts the full experience of pleasure as a sacred expression.

This Saturn/Jupiter conjunction is occurring during a rare line up of all the visible planets in May, 2000. This seven- planet alignment alerts us to a significant shift in the collective consciousness of humanity. The August 11 eclipse began a nine month gestation that culminates when all the visible planets are invisible except for the Sun. A recent e-mail from Sepp Rothwang of CalendeRsign reminded me of the ancient myths that speak about the gathering of the Gods and Goddesses to decide the fate of humanity. Probably the most familiar is the Greek myth that tells of a time when Zues becomes enraged by the actions of humans and calls a council meeting of the Gods and Goddesses on Mount Olympus to decide the fate of humanity.

Quoting Sepp Rothwang's article he says; *"It is an alignment just like many myths describe the beginning of the world. So e.g. the Greek myth tells of the Olympic symposium of Gods after creation of humans by Prometheus: All Gods (planets) gathered at the same place of the God's sky (Olymp), in order to*

advise upon the future fate of humans. Thus already for former humans this was obviously a cosmic moment, like if all hands of a clock are one above the other and a new cycle begins."

Once again, this coming May, 2000 the Celestial Sky Council is preparing to meet, signaling a shift in the consciousness, or fate, of humanity. How will the Great Above respond to and effect the events taking place in the Great Below and how will the Great Below respond to and effect the events taking place in the Great Above? Each informs the other and the more consciously we participate with these events the greater our influence in the co-creative process.

Total Lunar Leo Eclipse January 20

This total lunar eclipse is visible in all of North and South America. The Moon enters umbra (the first stage of the eclipse) at 8:01 pm MST and 10:01 pm EST. Totality begins at 9:04 pm MST and 11:04 pm EST. The deepest part of the eclipse is at 9:43 pm MST and 11:43 pm EST. Totality concludes at 10:23 pm MST and 12:23 am EST. The Moon leaves umbra (last stage of the eclipse) at 11:26 pm MST and 1:26 am EST.

From the perspective of an Earth-Based observer, a Lunar Eclipse occurs when the Earth passes between the Sun and the Moon casting the Earth's Shadow upon the face of the Full Moon. This means we have an opportunity to observe all the phases of the Moon in a few short hours. In the continental United States the Full Moon rises and then depending on where a person is, sometime later the Moon begins to disappear. The shadow across the face of the Moon reaches totality in about an hour, totality lasts for about an hour and half and then within about another hour the Moon is bright and full again. The full eclipse window last about 3 and ½ hours. In that 3 and ½ hours we can observe all the phases of the Moon. This gives us the feeling of a rapid acceleration of what is normally a 29 day process. This Leo eclipse is related to the Total Solar Eclipse that occurred in August, 1999, further accelerating the process that began then. Like last August, this is a North Node eclipse occurring at 1 degree Leo. In Shamanic Astrology the North Node of the Moon is an indicator of our destiny, and North Node eclipses act to quicken our collective destiny.

According to Abrams Sky Calendar the Moon's appearance during totality varies considerably from eclipse to eclipse. This eclipse may appear deep reddish-orange from sunlight which passes close to earth and is bent by our atmosphere into the shadow that is cast onto the Moon. The Moon is visible underneath and slightly to the left of the two brightest fixed stars of the twins (a.k.a. Gemini). These two stars are known as Castor and Pollux. The Moon is also near the Beehive cluster in the constellation of the Crab (a.k.a. Cancer). The Moon is to the right (or east) and slightly above this cluster. The Beehive cluster may appear as a faint smudge about 6 or 7 degrees to the east of the Moon. Binoculars add to viewing enjoyment by enhancing the colors of the Moon during the eclipse and enhancing the clarity of the stars of the Beehive cluster.

This cluster of stars conjures the imagery of a busy beehive. The beehive operates on the principle of cooperation and making one's contribution to the greater whole. Page Bryant in her book **Starwalking** says this cluster of stars "serves an extremely

important purpose for our planet—indeed for our entire neighborhood of the universe in that it maintains the physical laws that dictate and sustain order in our world and our dimension of time/space." The Moon acts as an amplifier and a wisdom teacher transmitting the wisdom of the entire lineage of the mysteries of Leo and of this area of the sky. The codes of radical, radiant self love and self confidence that were activated in August are being amplified and transmitted once again, now having shifted into the constellation of the Crab adding to and bringing through the mysteries contained within these starry codes. My sense is that the August Eclipse activated and accelerated the awakening of the cellular codes of the Radiant and Shining Ones within each individual on the planet. This Lunar Eclipse is further accelerating and amplifying this activation from a place in the sky that reminds us that as we awaken to our true, radiant and shining essence, we are also working together to co-create a golden age of peace and cooperation. This includes the stellar codes that access the physical laws designed to support the physical structure and continued growth of this new reality.

I leave you with these words written by Aristophanes a great playwright and comic poet that inspire important images for the emerging cycle. According to Edith Hamilton in her book **Mythology** the Greek's creation story begins with Chaos. Chaos is the "vast immeasurable abyss...shapeless nothingness." Erebus and Night are the two Children of Chaos. Erebus is "the unfathomable depth where death dwells." In the beginning this was all there was. There was no thing. All was "black, silent, empty, endless...And then a marvel of marvels came to pass, from this horror of blank boundless vacancy the best of all things came into being..."

...Black-winged-Night

**Into the bosom of Erebus dark and deep
Laid a wind-born egg, and as the seasons rolled
Forth sprang Love, the longed-for, shining, with
wings of gold. ~ Aristophanes**

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