



Monthly Astro Terrain Extended Article by Daniel Sowelu

JANUARY 2012

Welcome to this very first extension of my monthly column in Nova, which will be a monthly feature on our new website. I have long wished for more space and room than any column, however generous, can offer, as there is always so much more to share about our current astrological terrain and about astrology in general.

My thanks go to my friend James Harvey for first suggesting this idea, to the lovely Miss Mandie who has made it real in this brilliant new version of our website and for the generous encouragement of Nova editor Margaret Caulfield.

And my thanks go out to all my readers over the last 14 years who have made the monthly column so integral to my work and who have watched it evolve over this time.

And so, to begin with, read the main astrology article in the January edition of [Nova Magazine](#), and then continue on reading the following insights.

Enjoy!

Love Daniel

Image in header by [Eddi Van. W](#)

Already I'm feeling so much of the potential for this year; excitement, trepidation, awe at the immensity of what we are facing as a civilisation and, a surging passion for encouraging everyone to make a difference, however big or small, at this time of great change.

Inner and Outer Transformation

The Uranus/Pluto square is about as tough as it can get in terms of transits, like two giants wrestling in the sky above us mere mortals. In their ruthlessness, there is little room for appreciating the gentler aspects of human emotion. However exciting the potential for real change gets, and especially us astrologers, we need to be reminded that with every transformation comes the death of the old. There will be pain, as we are forced to let go. But there is a great difference between stuck pain and growing pains. It's always best to go for growth, especially on the inner levels, which is one of the places where we can make a difference, which in turn will effect how we respond to the challenges of this time.

Even though we have these big collective processes that are, on some levels, beyond our efforts to change, manipulate or resist, we do have the possibilities of being able to contribute. Uranus is an energy of the highest expression of individual freedom and is found in any revolutionary, activist or innovator. Uranus in Aries reminds us that this is found in every single one of us and the urge to act is strong! When millions of empowered individuals act then things happen, change is possible. Witness the Arab Spring, Russia, the Occupy movement, Lock the Gate, all different levels of the same urge, however disparate and chaotic some of them may be.

And the "old" powers, governments, plutocracies, corporations, multinationals will protect the status quo at all costs. The most appalling thing about the GFC is that nothing really fundamentally changed in our financial systems and its dovetailing with the notion of growth at all costs, appalling not just because of the obvious but

because something like a Pluto/Uranus square has to then hit the system even harder. We are not out of the woods yet, even though Australia is relatively cushioned by the resource boom (don't get me started there!).

These are the outer forms of this titanic (yes, I know, the Titans are part of Saturn's crew but it's such a great word!) wrestling match but for those on the healing and spiritual path the question is how much are old control dynamics (distorted Pluto aided and abetted by Saturnian conditioning) resisting the need for real inner revolution and transformation. As Pluto and Uranus are also parts of ourselves the same demands are found within, to go deeper, to stop tinkering at the edges, to get help in the scarier, more painful places.

One of the greatest opportunities of this time is that we have not just the awakening of ancient wounds we haven't been able to get to but also access to our greatest places of real personal and spiritual empowerment.

Reconnection with the Sacred Feminine

The placements of the Dark Goddesses reflect this in the year's chart. The Black Moon, that mysterious energy point reflecting the hidden side of the Great Mother, is travelling with Jupiter in Taurus for the first five months of the year. Part of the growth potential of this period then is intricately connected with the recovery of the sacred feminine, her power and her grace. This is a fabulous transit for questing into the mysteries of the unconscious, of the Dreaming, for honouring the Earth as Mother and for healing rifts with the masculine and between the upper and lower chakras, the Underworld and Olympus.

Hekate on the Midheaven, the highest point of the chart, touches on similar themes. The Queen of the Witches is most found in shamanic practices, women's business, clinical and spiritual midwifery, in conscious dying and hospice work and in all contemporary forms of magic, ritual and ceremony (including experiential astrology). If you hold visions or desires in any of these directions, this is the year for you and Australia is the place at this time. We are incredibly fortunate to live in a country

when the Hekate traditions are still very much alive in the oldest spiritual culture on the planet and to have the privilege to sit with senior aboriginal women is something to aspire to in your life.

Even in male aboriginal traditions, any man on the journey towards becoming what we would call a shaman was required to spend considerable time training with a “witch”. In Australia, it’s time for all medicine women, and their male counterparts, to step up more and take the lead, much like the senior women are holding many aboriginal communities together and spearheading real change.

Hekate on the Midheaven also affirms the psychic necessity of the constitutional changes currently in process to honour the rightful place of the traditional caretakers of our land. And to empower the spiritual relationship to the land in ways that enhance greater environmental and cultural protection, whatever our colour.

Medusa and Saturn together in Libra is also a tough call, as the two are traditional adversaries, the Wise Women versus the Inquisition being one version of their history together. Shackling the two together is an interesting experiment, one way of forcing a new accommodation between them, however uncomfortable. Ultimately though, they are great foils for each other, Saturn challenging Medusa around her unhealed rage and antagonism towards the masculine, Medusa demanding that Saturn let go of his fear and resistance to allowing her to claim her rightful place in the scheme of things, as a pure embodiment of the fiercely protective feminine warrior. (If you’d like an example of this check out [Marianne Williamson’s searing and sassy talk to Occupy L.A.](#) on YouTube!)

The Saturn/Medusa conjunction also encapsulates a fundamental challenge of this time, of taking absolute responsibility for the use of power. At a time in human history when we are most empowered to make real changes in the world, we are equally empowered to perpetrate the maximum use of destructive power. And history is the best educator on how an individual’s wounding badly entangled with great power, makes for perfect disaster. Similarly if we wish to be an agent of change, a sacred activist or true spiritual warrior, then part of the preparation is our

own shadow work. Carl Jung once said the only truly powerful people are those who know their own shadow, their own darkness, as they are not as seduced by it when they act in the world. And this applies to distortions of both the masculine and the feminine within us and including those from our past life records.

Relationships: Work in Progress

Relationships wise this an important year in creating new masculine/feminine balances, a process equally chaotic and transformative. With Uranus in Aries, as I've said in earlier columns, there's a lot of movement towards reclaiming our individual essence against past tendencies towards co-dependency in relationship.

With the Moon, who rules all emotionally based connections, conjunct Uranus in the years chart, it seems this will be an ongoing challenge to all our relationships and will be especially hard on any relationship that has gotten badly stuck or has lost its Shakti, or spiritual purpose for being. Uranus either creates more room and vitality in a relationship or pushes for freedom and independence, depending on its status.

Venus starts the year in Aquarius who, ruled by Uranus, is conjunct Shiva and Pallas Athena and opposed by Persephone in Leo. Getting stuck between a virgin warrior goddess and a tantric yogi is a tough gig for the goddess of love, let alone the target of some intense and often unpleasant awakenings from Persephone, who's intent on dropping bombs on our denial, naivety or unconsciousness. Not much of this is a recipe for stability, unless of course you go celibate and even then, you'll still get challenged, Shiva will come looking for you! It is designed to get a better sense of our own autonomy, hence the virgin tag, in our relating, and to go for depth in our sexual expression, along with much greater psychological acuity and awareness.

For Mars there's an equally unusual and contradictory picture. In his long trawl through Virgo (not the easiest place for red-blooded, phallic warriors! too controlled, contained, refined, prissy even) he's travelling most of the time with the very subtle Psyche asteroid. This goddess is a higher octave of Venus, representing an exquisite level of emotional and psychic sensitivity to others, particularly partners. She's the part of us that maintains a wordless connection with the beloved, even if he or she is

the other side of the planet. She is so different to Mars and yet they are bonded for the duration, a journey that sensitises the warrior in his relating to others, while giving her ethereal nature more direct, earthy expression.

The best expression of this recently in popular culture is the relationship between Harry Potter and Luna Lovegood. Here's Harry, almost classically Virgoan now I think about it, full of angst and constantly trying to work it all out, while the waif-like Luna, who would be easy to write off as insubstantial, simply pulls answers out of the ether. She embodies a natural unforced faith and trust that accesses other sources of truth, and is a source of unconditional love. Lovely stuff.

Soul Work and Manifestation

In the midst of all this high drama and contradictory energies, there is also much that will emerge in terms of refining our sense of where we are heading, as individuals and as a culture.

Firstly Mercury is conjunct the North Node of the Moon in the sign of Sagittarius. The Nodes are also mysterious points rather than physical bodies that, depending on your orientation, represent the soul's journey through this life or simply the transition from past to the future, South Node representing the past, North Node the future.

Mercury in Sag on the North Node is a calling to get clearer, to refine and develop our knowledge bases so we can act powerfully on the basis of what we know to be true. It says that in the chaos and massive shifts this year there will be moments for all of us, when some doorway within opens to reveal some deeper truth or vision, that is a culmination of all that we know, that we've gathered, even from earlier lives. From this place, we are called to act, to be the leaders of our own lives, to forge ahead on what we may come to know as our soul's calling.

This can come in the form of traditional meditation experiences, in dreams of abnormal luminosity, even in spontaneous daytime fantasies, those "light bulb"

experiences where some great realisation just blazes through our normal mental operations. It can also come in the forms of teachers, guides, formal and informal, who just seem to appear at auspicious times, who act as role models or who have come into your world to awaken us in some way.

Now, if this is sounding a little too “New Age” don’t worry. Our old mate Saturn, that tough old bugger who helps sort the truth from the bullshit, who shoots our delusional fantasies down with just a look, is trining the planet Neptune, along with Chiron in this year’s chart. And he’s got that ferocious Medusa next to him; she’s not messing about either. But whatever emerges, what is true, real and appropriate for this time will get validated, supported and empowered. This is indeed one of the best line-ups for manifesting our visions.

Did you enjoy this extended insight into the year ahead?

This month’s astro terrain is a free offering to all of Daniel’s readers and is particularly long because it’s the whole year’s chart and a hugely significant one.

January special - subscribe to Daniel’s future monthly astro terrain articles for the special price of \$42 for the remainder of 2012 (that is one month’s free in addition to this month’s article!).

Buy Now

Yearly Subscription - \$42 for 11 articles

Individual monthly articles will be available to download from the website for \$4.20 each month.

Want to receive Daniel’s hot tips for the month ahead, along with his latest offers?

Sign up for his newsletter at www.sacredlawfirm.com.au.