

Cancer New Moon: July 14, 2007
By Barbara Hand-Clow

The New Moon in Cancer is one of the most potent moments of the year; it hatches the Summer Solstice egg that was laid when the Sun first moved into Cancer. Cancer rules the Moon and the fourth house in the natal chart, which emphasizes the importance of our feelings. Cancer is the strongest sign in the Zodiac because it inspires us to use feelings to access the powers of our whole body, rather than live as if the great thoughts in our minds are how we know what we know. I find that most people underestimate the power of Cancer, the sign that appreciates the value of security and encourages us to nurture new possibilities that come to us from our feelings. When Cancer rules a house or planet in our natal charts, that is the part of us that knows the laws of nature and can sense whether we are in tune or opposition with the planetary forces. This all-body knowingness is what enables us to act appropriately to manifest what we need; gaining all-body knowingness is available during this lunation.

Cancer encourages us to feel the meaning of our birthright, yet under "Homeland Security" in the Cancer-ruled USA, security has been redefined as attacking a far-away country to prevent danger from afar coming ashore. The disparity between what Americans feel individually about security, and the war-like larger forces controlling them, has never been greater. This is a global issue because the US is trying to suck the whole world into a great battle over God and freedom. But, what the country is creating in the world does not fit what its citizens want! I bring it up in the beginning because during this lunation, this disparity is going to make the people in the US volatile and stressed. For example, under Cancer, the looming housing crisis will become a big issue. People will finally object to the squandering of their resources in foreign countries when their real security-home-is threatened. Now that the Saturn/Neptune oppositions are complete, it is obvious that the neocon plan to rule the world is a total failure; now the pain for America begins.

First I must look back to the Summer Solstice (SS) to see how this lunation will crack open the shell of the SS egg. Because Pluto is on the Galactic Center (GC) during the SS and most of 2007, old ways of life are disintegrating and new ways of life are being considered by each one of us. This is such a universal group effort that finding a new path feels chaotic to many; everybody is moving and shifting all at once. There are so many people grasping for something meaningful in a world reduced to suspiciousness and violence by the small group of fools who have unleashed civil war in Iraq, a firestorm licking at the boundaries of all the countries in the Middle East. The incessant combat and terrorist bombings make it difficult to find a sense of direction. Regarding this problem, in the SS reading, I suggested that we pull our attention away from the big bloody movie and surrender to the intense galactic flow on the planet by focusing on our personal individuation. Many of you probably are doing just that and need no prompting from me, except for a bit of astrological analysis.

So, what is influencing Pluto during this lunation? Pluto trines Saturn/Venus during the New Moon, which could release some control over the feminine and encourage the return of sanity by means of intuition, Cancer's forte. The more conscious you are about your personal surrender at this point, the more you will be able to protect and nurture the budding new being, a little galactic homunculus.

The powers of the goddess are releasing now, and because of useless old patriarchal domination, she rages as Sekhmet, the goddess who destroys anything that inhibits Nature. I could see her need to rage in the SS reading, and I wondered what signature aspects would orchestrate the drama. Well, the goddess is raging mostly as the fire element this summer, at least in the United States, the country that most blatantly denigrates the goddess in the world. In the SS reading, aspects to Mercury suggest that this summer is when millions will remember how to read the mind of the weather again, a skill we all had for thousands of years. Many will feel that the intense firestorms are retribution for the death America is causing. We can see that Venus and Saturn are working together, since Venus and Saturn were conjunct July 1 when the firestorms were triggered, and they have been looming in the red night skies after sunset. This whole process will be very significant, since it will last all summer into early fall; Venus retrogrades in early Virgo on July 27, and we will experience three Venus/Saturn conjunctions. Venus is the goddess, Saturn is the father, and by meeting in the sky three times, we will be forced to become realistic about our resources and our relationships with all of humanity. Also, people will become increasingly negative about globalism, and they will begin to seek bioregional solutions.

The Venus/Saturn conjunctions are in Leo and Virgo, so you will feel like letting go of old patterns that deplete you so that you can easily grasp new ways of life. For example, this summer is an excellent time to eliminate moldy old addictions, which has been nearly impossible since the Saturn/Neptune oppositions began August 2006. The mass populace became incredibly over-medicated and drugged during this period. Thankfully, now you will notice using substances to avoid reality doesn't excite you anymore, and you may feel like opening new patterns to develop your will and creativity. Enough of the Summer Solstice; let's get onto the New Moon to imagine how the great big egg, Cancer, might hatch this year.

The New Moon in 22 Cancer is exactly quincunx Neptune retrograde in Aquarius, a tense, tricky, and exciting dynamic. I am constantly frustrated by how few astrologers put quincunxes on equal footing with conjunctions, sextiles, squares, trines, and oppositions. Quincunxes are the pushers in the chart, the power that develops your consciousness for the coming opposition. So, to understand quincunxes, it is best to first examine the nature of the future opposition, in this case Neptune opposite the Sun/Moon, the mystical and/or delusional understanding of our feelings (Moon) and sense of Self (Sun). When in opposition to the Sun/Moon, Neptune strips away the boundaries of our egos and feelings, just as it stripped away the boundaries of world political and religious structures during the Saturn oppositions.

Well, what would it take to strip away your egos and dysfunctional feelings? The quincunx occurs first, which pushes us into some kind of lesson about stripping away our boundaries while keeping intact our sense of self. The Neptunian quincunx to the New Moon encourages you to pursue your dreams and fantasize about what you'd really like, yet since Aquarius is pushing Cancer, you must value your security. This is not a good time to gamble, listen to hustlers, or leave your self wide-open for identity theft! Meanwhile, stripping away boundaries to find our greater self is the over-all agenda these days; Neptune in Aquarius is the sweet siren 1998-2012 during the whole Galactic Underworld. Use your good sense during this intriguing New Moon, yet also allow yourself to fly in higher worlds. And, Uranus in Pisces (radical change through spirituality) trines the New Moon in Cancer, so the urge to transform your self spiritually will be very strong; while doing this, beware of the trickster. This is actually a lovely configuration as long as the pushing quincunx doesn't send you to the casino for lunch or to a medicine man for a private ceremony. Notice on the day of this New Moon how big the lottery lines are!

Saturn opposes Neptune, but thankfully is moving away from the oppositions we experienced during 2006 and the first half of 2007. The Saturn/Neptune oppositions were really stressful; we were pushed and pulled between controlling ourselves and dissolving. When we tried to use our wills to create something new, Neptune stripped away the beliefs we've learned to live by and we had no workable tools; often we just survived day by day. But, a new vision is being crafted under the influence of Pluto on the Galactic Center, and it looks to me like the Venus/Saturn conjunctions are going to be the working tool now that the Saturn/Neptune oppositions are separating. The day after the last Saturn/Neptune opposition on June 25, I felt like I was coming out of a fog, and now Saturn conjunct Venus seems to want to burn it off. As I mentioned, the wildfires in the American West are the elemental expression of the first Venus/Saturn conjunction, and there may be some physical relief when Venus retrogrades at 2 degrees Virgo on July 27. The fires may come back and rage around the time of the August 13 conjunction at 27 Leo. Maybe half the country on fire could bring back the troops from Iraq, since the war has depleted the National Guard?

The Venus/Saturn conjunctions are a wake-up time to assess your priorities and to mature your inner female/father balance. What do you really want? Okay, but is this practical? You may have to let go of a lot of projects and future plans by the end of the summer. For example, these conjunctions do not bode well for the stressed American housing market, and interest rates will tend to rise especially after Jupiter in Sagittarius goes direct August 6 and heads for Pluto and the Galactic Center. During the last Venus/Saturn conjunction on October 14, the whole country will begin to realize that the main market in America is trading houses, while manufacturing real goods and services has almost disappeared.

Mercury in Cancer sextiles Venus in Leo, which means our thoughts and conclusions about personal resources are steady and strong. This is a time to use good clear thinking to reprioritize, especially since Pluto is right on the Galactic Center while it trines Venus conjunct Saturn in Leo. Take care of business because Jupiter is going to conjunct Pluto on the Galactic Center a week before the Winter Solstice this year! This is a wake-up call

that larger and cosmic realities are going to be the big issue during the winter; so are there financial and structural changes you've been putting off? When Pluto goes into Capricorn next winter, reality is going to take over. Let us recall that the survival of Nature is literally at stake now, and Sekhmet seems to be taking up the clarion call using the Venus/Saturn conjunctions. Nature is cosmic as well as the creator of vibrational fields on Earth. Surely, the coming reorganization of Nature at the cosmic level will totally supercede human ego and desires? Frequency emissions from the Galactic Center and the universe itself influence the Sun and shift Earth's electromagnetic fields. Ancient cultures have always known that the conditions in Nature are ruled by the Sun, and long ago, people were taught to develop their etheric bodies to respond to the Sun. With Pluto on the Galactic Center, we must remember these old survival ways. I will be thinking of this when Jupiter goes direct in Sagittarius this summer; in fact, I will be taking a sunbath!

Jupiter, home to the Masters of the solar system, squares the lunar nodes in Pisces/Virgo. This signals heavy participation in planetary direction by master teachers and spiritual schools coming this month. This begins a process that culminates when Jupiter conjuncts Pluto on the GC on December 12, and then new spiritual systems will manifest when Jupiter conjuncts the Winter Solstice Sun and Pluto goes into Capricorn in January. Right now, development of mastery is an inner process while Jupiter is retrograde, and action at visible levels in the world comes in early August when it turns direct. There are things that I can't say much about regarding what some master teachers are doing right now, but I can reveal that there is a congruency of agreement going on now between us that is a sign of wonderful things in our world in a few years. Remember, if you can understand this analysis and time acceleration too, you are a master! Also, Jupiter (because it went retrograde) is involved in a long sextile with Chiron all summer, so support for healing is very strong this summer.

Last but never least, Mars in Taurus is signaling trouble during this lunation: The old war dog (on the MC of the chart cast for Washington, DC) exactly squares Chiron in Aquarius and quincunxes Jupiter in Sagittarius. The square is fixed and very tight, which definitely suggests even greater violence in countries the US has invaded or manipulated. Many soldiers and civilians will be maimed or killed. The quincunx from Jupiter suggests that financial losses from war are going to be disastrous. This combination is so disturbing that I looked a little ahead and noticed that Mars opposes Jupiter during the August 28 lunar eclipse that is going to be visible in most of the US, yet Chiron exactly trines Mars during the eclipse. So, maybe some healing is going to come out of the pain. Meanwhile, I can say one thing for sure: Every person who opposes the carnage now is offering great service to our planet; every person who refuses to fight is a blessing for Earth. Earth showered by Cancer's nurturance asks only for peace, tranquility, and enjoyment of all the good things in life.