

Virgo Solar Eclipse: September 22, 2006
By Barbara Hand Clow

Last month, the New Moon was in the first degree of Virgo, and this month's New Moon is a solar eclipse at the last degree of Virgo. Virgo in its first degree inspired us to clarify our intentions and purify our thoughts, and now Virgo's last degree-the critical degree-enables us to achieve an entirely new level of clarity about how our thoughts create reality out in the world. Furthermore, this New Moon in the last degree of Virgo is extremely auspicious because it eclipses the Sun (Moon passes between the Earth and Sun close to the lunar nodes) while Pluto squares the lunar nodes, and the Fall Equinox arrives a day later when our newly discovered clarity vibrates into Libran harmony. The most significant aspect in play during the eclipse is Jupiter square Neptune, which culminates exactly just after the Fall Equinox; this square establishes the central themes for many months to follow.

During a solar eclipse, the normal light from the Sun is blocked, and we have intensified intuitional powers and greater potential for personal change. Using our consciousness intentionally, we can reorganize patterns in our nerves, muscles, and bones by meditating at this time. Then as the Fall Equinox energy arrives, we can balance our mind into new patterns and confirm these new orders for our consciousness. During this eclipse, the Sun and Moon are close to the South Node of the Moon, which means we can free ourselves from the past as we seek new directions. Pluto squares the nodes (and therefore the New Moon), so the ability to transform is greatly intensified; and the issues are spiritual because Pluto is in Sagittarius. In this case, freeing ourselves from negative Virgo tendencies-compulsiveness, bad feelings about our selves, and working too hard-is easy to accomplish, and these changes will hold because of the nearly-instant Equinox harmonics. It's like that moment when swirls of color form in taffy and then the swirls become permanent when the candy hardens. It seems to me this opportunity is quite striking in light of two Virgo New Moons, the eclipse, Pluto's square to the nodes, Jupiter square Neptune, and the potential to dump a whole new form into the harmonics of the Fall Equinox.

Adding Calleman's hypothesis of a 20X time acceleration during the Galactic Underworld (1999-2011), this New Moon could really help you to master the key tool that we all need the most now: slowing down while speeding up. The weird thing about the Galactic is that we are learning how to slow down while we are speeding up! I'm sure that many of you have noticed that finding a way to slow down really helps you a lot with time acceleration, yet you probably manage to do that only about once a month? Well, meditation during the New Moon and any time leading up to the Fall Equinox harmonic is an ideal way to master this dynamic. How? Take a few minutes during the New Moon to survey all your own compulsive, needy patterns that you know don't accomplish much and get in the way of using simpler new methods; you cling to these inefficient patterns because you're used to them. Just decide to drop them and invent a new process for accomplishing whatever it is you do. Then on the day of the Fall Equinox, do things in the new way. This can be very transformative work because every one of those old patterns started during an emotional charge; for example, while you were pleasing a parent or teacher. And when you drop these patterns, you go right into the now.

To help you imagine how to do this, I am going to analyze the qualities of the New Moon chart looking for keys to help you drop old patterns. As I said above, we have been experiencing major astrological patterns that have been teaching us to drop old patterns and slow down while using new processes to speed up. This New Moon and Fall Equinox "telescope" these influences so we can see them better. Therefore, by necessity, much of this reading will be about the big patterns that are playing out now. Since August, Saturn has been opposite Neptune with Jupiter squaring both planets, and this T-square is still influential all the way through October. This T-square is also reviving the growth and transformation that began during the fixed grand square during November/December 2005-Saturn in Leo opposite Neptune in Aquarius, squared by Mars in Taurus opposite Jupiter in Scorpio. You are being forced to transform the structural aspects of your lives and the patterns you use to get things done because everything is shifting, transforming, and loosening in the larger world. It is time to intentionally align your consciousness with these forces or you will be like a body thrown into a food processor. This late Virgo New Moon solar eclipse is a gift from the gods to help you align with these forces.

The New Moon in 29 Virgo is close to the South Node and in a wide conjunction with Venus in 20 Virgo; thus feminine harmony and allurements adds charm to learning how to be more in the flow. Jupiter's square to Neptune is very close and is exact on September 24, so its influence is very potent. Saturn is opposite Neptune and in square to Jupiter, and the third and final Saturn square Jupiter will occur October 25, 2006. Jupiter square Neptune is the last of three squares-the first one was January 27 and the second one was March 15, 2006. These squares seem to be creating realizations that spirituality is really important, and the ability to see that religion may or may not enhance spirituality. Specifically, both Jupiter and Saturn rule religions because religions exist to expand, control, and direct our patterns of belief. Neptune, however, enables us to feel and know cosmic spirituality, which frees us and allows us to either leave religions or just pay them lip service in order to get along in cultures that have adopted certain beliefs. Without spirituality, we are trapped on Earth. Since January of this year, most of us have become much more decisive about what we really believe in and how we want the world to reflect our beliefs.

We've all been experiencing Neptune in Aquarius since 1998, and the resulting desire for spirituality has increased religious fanaticism; yet, it has also increased the desire for truth and meaning in life. All those engaged in killing people for God are exposing the shadow side of the three great religions that were invented during the National Underworld (3115 BC-2011 AD). Even the Pope had to jump into the fray and insult Muhammad this week just for good measure, showing that the plans of Vatican astrologers are truly aimed at inciting the rabble since the time for Ramadan is coming. This year, Ramadan begins on September 24, the day of the Jupiter/Neptune square. Ramadan is a time for peace and meditation, and the Vatican obviously chose to inflame the Islamic world and take away their yearly communion with God. Ironically, the harmonics of this New Moon flowing into the Fall Equinox should make it possible for the Islamic world to observe Ramadan, yet the tension between East and West is so intense this may not be possible. Regarding using Virgo's clarity for your own peace, I advise you to clear your mind on these issues and be intentional about how far you think religion should go in the world.

Remember, your spirituality has great impact in the nonphysical planes, and most religions work to distract you from using these powers. I will be in meditation asking for peace and reflection during Ramadan, and if this peaceful field can descend on the Middle East, I will pray that it spreads throughout the world.

Pluto squares the lunar nodes, as it was during the last New Moon, which causes larger conflicts to be felt through personal karma; meanwhile, the eclipsed Sun will cause a deep cleansing of old wounds. It would be wise to examine any inner anger that you still hold onto. You must strive for personal clarity and inner peace during this time so that you can remove your personal charge on the larger conflicts. Mars conjuncts Mercury in Libra near the rising of the chart cast for Washington, DC, while Mercury trines Neptune in Aquarius, and this aspect could encourage reasonable members of Congress to slow down the neo-cons, the Bushites. This aspect might also seriously curtail plans to attack Iran, and the forces in Congress struggling to block Bush's plans to water down the Geneva sanctions (protection for prisoners of war) could actually win. After all, the Supreme Court ruled in June that the Bush administration must abide by Article Three of the Geneva Accords. However, because the Supreme Court did not serve his interests this time, Bush is attempting to bully Congress into rewriting international law. This is such a barbaric and fearsome turn in the American journey that resistance is building. I find it interesting that my old friend Jeff Jawer said in the September issue of Mountain Astrologer that during this eclipse, "Tyrants who torture others to hold onto their power may find that actions turn against them now." The Saturn/Neptune opposition was exact on August 31, 2006, the date the Bushites set for imposing Iranian nuclear sanctions. This challenge did not work and the US had to back down, so if Congress can stand up to Bush now, this will be the second wing-clipping in six years of the Bush regime.

I think the personal challenge for us is to find more ways to remove ourselves from religion altogether or from the aspects of it that fuel violence and cruelty in the world. The conflict between East and West is the result of 5,125 years of warfare between organized religions, yet this does not have to be processed so violently during the Galactic Underworld (1999-2011). We need to demand that our religious affiliations contribute to peace, harmony, and love. As an ex-Catholic, I am deeply offended by Ratzinger's comments in Bavaria, where he was born just a few miles from where Hitler was born. The neo-cons have no right to cause WWII by judging the religious beliefs and political choices of any person or country, and they may collapse under the influence of this eclipse unless they stop it. However this all works out, this solar eclipse and the Fall Equinox balancing will be the big turning point. I predict that people will realize America has caused the civil war in Iraq, and that the jihad is the result of American aggression in the Middle East and its slavish support for Israel. None of this needed to happen in the first place, and it could end instantaneously. The world can be safer for every person, and true spirituality could descend into the fields of Earth; it is a choice to be made within the heart of each person.