

## Spring Equinox: March 20, 2008

By Barbara Hand-Clow

Spring is here! The Sun has just gone into Aries, the most potent time of the year to make big changes in your life. This is the time to work with three clear intentions that reflect your desires for the next stage of your growth. Then when summer comes, you can deepen and fully develop these desires, and during the fall, you can balance your creations with the other aspects of your life. When winter comes, it is time to contemplate your creations and to reflect on how they influence the fabric of all life. If you rearrange your life so that your new creativity comes in with the Spring Equinox every year, you will be amazed by how much more successful you are; you will love this powerful and easy flow with nature.

I've never written about the creative potency of the Spring Equinox in any of my books. Now, after using this technique for many years, I see that it is an essential part of our preparation for the coming evolutionary leap during the end of the Mayan Calendar. We are coded with consciousness that responds to the cues in natural light. Until about 400 years ago, people arranged their lives around the seasons, and then the rise of industrialization in 1755 during the Planetary Underworld pulled people away from the land and their villages. [See *The Mayan Code* (2007) by Barbara Hand Clow, and *The Mayan Calendar* (2001 and 2004) by Carl Johan Calleman.] The beginning of the year shifted to January 1, and then more than a hundred years ago, electricity dulled our responses to natural and seasonal light even more.

The worst thing about losing the flow with nature and the light is that just when people feel like going into deep contemplation during the Winter Solstice, Christmas and New Year's distracts them from deep attunement. They've made their New Year's resolutions, which usually fail, and then they get depressed in the winter! Then they miss the great potential of the Spring Equinox, when we are coded to co-create with god/nature. This loss of attunement with seasonality restricts our lives even more than not having enough money. After all, those with nothing can manifest very successfully just by knowing how to do this simple technique. Nature is organic, we are her children, and we have everything we need if we flow with her.

This Spring Equinox reading offers you an overall sense of what will be going on for the next three months, which can enhance your ability to manifest. Of course, the New Moon in Aries always follows the Spring Equinox (the Sun's ingress into Aries), which is usually when the spring potential really takes off. This year things are different and quite fascinating. A really wild Full Moon in early Libra occurs a day and a half after this equinox, which will jump-shift its subtle balancing power. The Moon in Libra directly opposite the equinoctial Sun in early Aries will form a grand square to Mars in Cancer opposite Pluto in Capricorn. Whew!

The Mars/Pluto opposition has been reflected in great financial tension during March, and the Full Moon forming a grand square to this opposition will tend to set off financial detonations that will play out all spring. What can you or I do? We can take advantage of the Sun going into Aries by aligning our creativity with it, and the intense Mars/Pluto opposition forming a T-square to the Sun can empower and deepen our work. Then during the Full Moon, on the day after the equinox, watch the fireworks!

Even if you pay little attention to these astrological patterns, *please* list the three things you want to create during 2008, and consider visualizing these intentions to take advantage of the spring potential. How? In *Alchemy of Nine Dimensions* on pages 131-331, I described the most powerful manifestation technique I've ever found. Ideally, you can learn this technique and use it on your three spring intentions. Then just forget about them, put them away somewhere, and go about your business. I usually take my list of intentions out of our little manifestation box in the fall or winter. When we reviewed our 2007 intentions in January this year, Gerry and I were stunned to see that three seemingly impossible intentions had definitely manifested exactly as we described them.

To be truthful, I am still testing and evaluating this technique. If you decide to use the manifestation technique described in *Alchemy* this spring, be very careful about deciding exactly what you want to create because these things will happen. Are you sure you'd really want these things if you could have them? George Bush invaded Iraq right during the 2003 Spring Equinox, and now we are going into the sixth year of this ugly occupation, which is draining the US Treasury and assets of Americans. He chose that moment because he knew it would create a long-lasting occupation. Since then, Bush's cronies have been lining their pockets with money from weaponry and contractors while controlling a major source of oil. Considering what the US might be creating this spring, the chart is cast for Washington, DC. You will have to adjust the exact time of the Spring Equinox according to your local time.

The first thing in the chart that pops out for me is Pluto in Capricorn opposite Mars in Cancer forming a tight square to the equinoctial Sun, and the tight trine from Saturn in early Virgo to Pluto. During this spring and nearly to the fall, Pluto has a very special ally, Saturn in Virgo-responsibility par excellence-trining Pluto in Capricorn-total restructuring of all systems. Pluto completed its conjunctions to the Galactic Center in November 2007, which opened our galactic consciousness. Then Pluto moved into Capricorn late January 2008, where it will be until 2024, except for a brief dip back into Sagittarius in 2008. Pluto in Capricorn is already inspiring deep transformations of cultural and monetary systems, which is a much-needed process for the radical evolutionary shift that is called for during the end of the Mayan Calendar. It is significant that the beginnings of this intense shifting are so greatly influenced by the trine from Saturn in pristine, picky Virgo. For example, this trine makes people feel good about rooting out the destructive male-dominant patterns that are being transmuted during the Galactic and Universal Underworlds.

Saturn is fruitful and feminine in Virgo, and this long-lasting trine (lengthened by Saturn's retrograde and Pluto's 240-year orbit) fully releases Pluto's legendary chthonic transformational powers. Pluto remakes worlds by holding the goddess Persephone in the underworld as his consort for half the year, and then she returns to her mother Demeter in the spring. This year, a few days after the last Mars/Pluto opposition on March 7, Eliot Spitzer released the goddess, which is why his trysts with prostitutes attracted so much attention. When Saturn is in Virgo every 29 to 30 years, orderly and simple ways to live become the main focus, and the crazy ways of living that were admired during Saturn in Leo look tawdry and risky. Saturn transiting Virgo allows us to heal our families and communities; I forecast that piercing and tattoos will not be so commonplace now.

Saturn's trine to Pluto offers the ideal support (through June 2008 when Pluto briefly dips back into Sagittarius) for the structural transformations of outmoded systems at the end of the industrial age. Radical changes will really kick into gear in November 2008 when the painful Night Five cleansing is finally over. [See *The Mayan Code* and *The Mayan Calendar*.] Careful and respectful ways to change the world are favored by this firm and earthy trine. More women will emerge as leaders, since it is in their nature to be respectful of Earth and to protect future generations. As in the case of Spitzer, the war in Iraq, and financial decay, more and more people will see that the root of current societal degradation is deeply endemic patriarchal control patterns, and nature's resonance with the goddess will emerge as they are released.

The Calleman/Clow cosmic view of the Mayan Calendar helps us to see that the enlightenment of the human species is coming very rapidly now, which is why there is so much chaos. Yet, I will not mince words and avoid speaking the truth about what we face right now: *Night Five-late 2007 through most of 2008-is the darkest hour of all the Nine Underworlds*. To comprehend what this might mean for us, we need to look at two recent Night Fives during previous Underworlds. During the 5125-year National Underworld, Night Five was AD 434-829: the infamous "Dark Ages" in the West. Culture collapsed and people struggled to survive. During the 256-year Planetary Underworld, Night Five was 1932-1952: the Great Depression, Hitler, and WW II. This was one of the darkest and most insecure periods in recent times. Due to the rapid time acceleration of the Galactic Underworld since 1999, we are transmuting the events of 434-829 and 1932-52 during only 360 days (November 19, 2007, through November 12, 2008). It is the darkest hour of the Galactic Underworld, yet it lasts for less than one year and it is already one third over.

By the grace of the goddess of the grain, Virgo, this beautiful grounded and sensible trine between Saturn and Pluto is really helping us with the hard times by making us *feel* like being practical and even gentle. Jupiter is in Capricorn-encouraging practicality, wisdom, and frugality-until early 2009, and it will retrograde in early May 2008. Jupiter and Pluto together in Capricorn are really inspiring us during this darkest hour at the end of the Mayan Calendar.

Honest and philosophical folks are discovering unknown strength in themselves, while the liars and shallow folks are getting a big wakeup call. During December 2007, Jupiter and Pluto joyously came together in Sagittarius, right on the Galactic Center, while the blue Comet Holmes streaked toward the Sun. Some people felt hopeful about a new future, which could be seen in the new political possibilities in the US presidential primaries; cosmic evolution was awakening Earth. The old destructive ways of life are crashing and burning, new paths are opening, and it is hard to be alive now. The collapse of a large construction tower in New York City was a stunning symbol for the radical levels of change we are experiencing, and the Spring Equinox chart offers us hints of how things may be going.

The Sun in Aries forms a T-square to Mars in Cancer opposite Pluto, a tense and aggressive configuration. As we seize the agenda and create new ways with the Sun in Aries, Pluto in Capricorn pushes for deep restructuring of civilization during the end of the Mayan Calendar, and Mars in Cancer pushes for security and comfort at any cost. In the US, some politicians fight to change the direction of the country, while others cry out for the same old thing. People struggle to hold onto their homes and pay the rising energy costs; they are pulled back and forth by knowing change must come but they feel safer with the same old ways. The Spring Equinox chart suggests the housing and financial crisis will explode this spring. Jupiter in the USA 1776 chart is exactly conjunct Mars in the Spring Equinox chart. With Jupiter/Venus in Cancer in the 7th house of the 1776 chart, the US always seeks its own security first. Americans seek home ownership while their government is destroying homes in other countries. Then with Mars in Gemini also in 7 and square to Neptune in Virgo in 9, the US is fantasy-ridden and does not see the harm it causes for almost everybody else.

America claims the right to attack anybody in the world to defend its own interests, and *this stance will be severely challenged this spring*. This equinox is going to expose the extent of American aggression. As the US begins year six of the War in Iraq, the difficult Mars-in-Cancer transit is all tied up with the 1776 chart; the US will be very aggressive and destructive in the Middle East while a financial collapse spreads. Saturn in Virgo quincunxes the Sun moving into Aries, which will strengthen factions in the US that object to this policy, especially women. And, as already explained, Saturn's trine to Pluto enhances the potential for people who object to these worn-out patterns. The period from the equinox through early April is going to be especially tense because Mars comes to the Sun in Cancer in the 1776 and George W. Bush's charts. As I've said many times, a financial collapse in the US may be the only thing that can stop American aggression overseas, and I think the Spring Equinox chart predicts just such a great challenge to American power in the world and at home. From radio shows and from talking to individuals, I hear great concern about this situation. My answer is, What if the US continued to get away with these abuses? What if the US did become the global empire?

Some of the other placements in the chart indicate how we will feel in the middle of this great crisis. Mercury is conjunct Venus in Pisces opposing Saturn and the Moon in 12 Virgo, which suggests we will be feeling vulnerable and frustrated, yet also compassionate towards others. Please rest as much as you can. There is not a lot anybody can do when Humpty Dumpty falls off the wall, and the cute little Humpty Dumpty from Texas with pointed ears never even realized he was on a wall-nor how tall it was! It is time to focus on your personal reality and change things right at home. That is why the spring manifestations are so important this year. Chiron and Neptune are approaching the North Node of the Moon in Aquarius, and so idealism and healing will be valued and emphasized, even though the overall scene will be very tense and distracting all spring. The Moon in Virgo trines Jupiter in Capricorn, and so practical measures feel very natural and soothing this spring. Go chop some wood and dig in the garden! Jupiter closely sextiles Uranus in Pisces, which suggests the changes that do come will be grounded and practical and will reflect our ideals. This sextile may suggest some shifting in the world religions that could be positive. On the day after the equinox, the Aries/Libra Full Moon will tend to detonate a lot of the tensions we can see in the Spring Equinox chart. At this point we can be grateful for the Jupiter/Uranus sextile to help us flow with change, even changes we do not like. It would be smart to watch what is going on very closely on March 20/21 as the harbingers for the whole spring.

During this spring and summer, some remarkable and long-lasting transits to the lunar North Node will be our karmic guides. The more that individuals and societies follow the North Node's agenda day by day, the easier it is to change and transform. *The agenda of the North Node in Aquarius is to choose altruism and let go of ego*, to think of others first instead of always trying to get what you want. During this spring equinox, Chiron (healing issues) and Neptune (awakening spirituality) are both in Aquarius and approaching the North Node, the soul's path. During the spring New Moons, Neptune and Chiron get closer to the North Node and eventually conjunct it. Chiron and Neptune are still close to the North Node during the summer solstice and afterwards.

What could this mean? The North Node in Aquarius is an eighteen-month period (December 2007-August 2009) when people seek the highest ideals for the world. With Chiron on the North Node in Aquarius, we *can* heal trauma from past lives and early childhood, even old unprocessed wounds from the Dark Ages, Great Depression, and Hitler's Germany. That is, we are being challenged this spring to heal the deepest levels of pain that we have ever experienced. Neptune in Aquarius transiting the North Node suggests that our personal healing will come out of a newly awakened global spirituality, the new era of enlightenment prophesized to come with the end of the Mayan Calendar. I believe we will do this.

Whew! What a way to spend the spring! Make good and strong intentions during the equinox, and you will be so busy seeding them and nurturing them into new little plants that you won't even notice what is going on in the big world out there.

Your spring work is the time to make reality be what you want it to be. On this sixth anniversary of Bush attacking Iraq, nothing you can come up with will be as bad as that, so create new things with great heart and a humble mind!