

# Standing at the Crossroads: The Cardinal Squares of 2009-2020

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## Abstract

This is the fourth in a series of astrological commentaries on the current world period. This article touches upon the Cardinal Cross and examines the nature of cardinal energies against the backdrop of a series of potent cardinal squares over the coming decade. It explores the revelatory nature of Uranus-Pluto cycles and enlarges upon seven squares between Uranus and Pluto over the next five years. The article concludes with a few clues for navigating the new terrain.

## Overview

*The unfoldment of the Plan is thus carried forward through a progressed series of beginnings, of manifestations, and of consummations—all relative in nature but leading to an absolute consummation.*<sup>1</sup>

Humanity is in the midst of a monumental turning point in history considering the advent of the Aquarian Age, the imminent externalization of Hierarchy and reappearance of the Christ, a major shift in ray cycles, and a long anticipated galactic shift as prophesied in the Mayan calendar and numerous other traditions. The coming decade pales in comparison. However, cardinal energies and particularly a protracted cardinal phase of this magnitude, will undoubtedly be pivotal in shaping these broader events.

As the word “cardinal” suggests, cardinal energies are of paramount importance. They are related to the Will aspect, divine purpose and cosmic unfoldments that are “responsible for bringing about certain great points of synthesis, as a consequence of both change and crisis.”<sup>2</sup> Not only do the cardinal signs denote seasonal turning points in the annual

cycle, but, more broadly and substantially, they earmark pivotal moments in history. The word “cardinal” comes from the Latin word *cardo* meaning “hinge” or “that on which something turns or depends,”<sup>3</sup> which suggests that a cardinal phase such as this not only *hinges* upon certain factors, but it may also *be the factor* on which the future depends.

Decidedly, this phase of cardinal energies will be a source of infusing, life-giving energy that will invigorate, strengthen and vitalize spiritual activity and fortify Hierarchical effort. Astrologically, the coming decade bears the signature of a decisive moment in history that, in retrospect, may very well be viewed as a time when humanity begins to turn a corner and rights itself.

Over the past year, Pluto’s ingress into Capricorn, Saturn’s position opposite Uranus, and an unparalleled conjunction between Jupiter, Chiron and Neptune have been staging and preparing the way for significant change by dissolving and dismantling forms that do not serve the new order. As a result, humanity is now more aware of global issues than ever, but despite increased awareness, world conditions remain largely unchanged. The same difficult and complex problems still loom over us: world hunger, extreme poverty, global warming, economic challenges, religious conflict, war and unrest.

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## About the Author

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We know the present course is unsustainable, we know change is inevitable, but despite areas of growth and progress, the more substantial work of world reconstruction has not even begun.

Over the coming decade, the incoming tide of cardinal squares will do much to bring about the needed changes. Historically powerful surges of cardinal energies like this are the driving force and impetus behind *revelation* and revolutionary change. They galvanize action, seed new beginnings, and initiate new cycles for humanity. They intensify the relationship between Spirit and Matter and bring the world into alignment with the directional impulses that set entire new eras into motion. “It is through the squares or the quaternial relation that the form aspect is brought into relation and adequacy to the will of Deity,”<sup>4</sup> and this is the hope and promise of the next ten years.

## History

*Tomorrow's flowers bloom from yesterday's seeds.*<sup>5</sup>

Planets orbit around the Sun at different rates, creating unique, rhythmic, energetic points of intersection and alignment with Earth and each other. These cyclical alignments between planets are called Planetary Synodic Cycles,<sup>6</sup> which together form “The Harmony of the Spheres,”<sup>7</sup> that inaudible universal symphony that is created by the seamlessly ordered movement of the planets around the Sun.

Like the four phases of a lunar cycle, the four seasons in an annual cycle, and the four periods of day, there are four distinct phases within planetary synodic cycles, which are *cardinal points* of heightened awareness, opportunity, and accelerated activity. They are archetypal turning points that expand upon the preceding quarter and set the tone for the following quarter. These quadratures are inherent in nature and are encoded in life in a myriad of ways. They are represented in the cross—the Holy Cross,<sup>8</sup> the Four Directions of ancient and indigenous cultures, and in the cardinal directions of North, South, East and West in geography. They correspond to the

Cardinal Cross, the horizontal and vertical axes, the angular houses, the equinox-solstice points in the astrological wheel, and they form the core geometrical points that shape the nature and temperament of the “hard” aspects in astrology—the conjunction, square and opposition.

What makes the coming decade, and particularly the next five years, so compelling is a chain of challenging squares between major planets in cardinal signs. From 2010-2012 there are eight important cardinal squares followed by a series of seven exact squares between Uranus and Pluto over the next three years and two major Saturn-Pluto-Uranus configurations, one at the beginning and one toward the end of the coming decade.

When multiple planets constellate in cardinal signs like this, profound moments in history occur. The last time a cycle came even close to the magnitude of this period was during the 15<sup>th</sup> century with nine activations of Uranus-Pluto from 1492-1506 which coincided with Columbus' discovery of the New World, the very early stages of the Renaissance Period, and the transitional period between the New and Old Worlds, the Middle and Modern Ages.

## The Cardinal Squares and Oppositions of 2010-2012

A series of Saturn-Uranus oppositions<sup>9</sup> over the past year have created a proverbial tug of war between the old and new order, involutory and evolutionary forces, and the real and the unreal. These oppositions have tremendously upset the status quo and exposed a host of inconsistencies in our individual and collective psyches that somehow must be resolved in light of new understandings.

The fourth opposition, while Saturn is in Virgo and Uranus is in Pisces, takes place on April 26, 2010, and the fifth and final opposition in this series will occur on July 26, 2010 with the ingress of Saturn into Libra and Uranus into Aries. In this final opposition, both Saturn and Uranus will be positioned at 0 degrees of cardinal signs, which corre-

sponds to the seasonal equinox and solstice points, denoting new trends and a marked shift in focus, heightened energy and accelerated activity. Moreover, both Saturn and Uranus will be placed in their respective hierarchical positions initializing an enduring trend toward betterment that will almost immediately come under siege with a major T-square involving Saturn in Libra, Jupiter and Uranus conjunct in Aries, and Pluto in Capricorn in early August 2010. This T-square will create pressure, resistance, crisis and turbulence that will generally purge the environment at the time. In this volatile T-square Saturn (Earth) is at odds with Uranus (Heaven) and embroiled in a battle over its destiny (Pluto). This battle will be especially apparent mid-summer 2010 and again between the summer of 2011 and 2012.

A T-square takes place when two planets oppose one another and both are squared by a third planet. This configuration inherently creates tests, obstacles and challenges along with the instinctive drive and pressure to overcome and resolve them. The tension and awareness created by the planets in opposition (in this case Saturn opposes Jupiter-Uranus) are resolved either by the third planet receiving the double square (namely Pluto) or through the empty sign in the configuration (Cancer). Thus we can look to Pluto and the sign of Cancer for important clues to resolve this crisis.

Two similar, yet less dramatic Saturn-Uranus-Pluto episodes took place during the Great Depression of the 1930's and during the social unrest and turbulence of the mid-60's. Saturn-Uranus-Pluto contacts produce crisis between the old and new order, and the intervals immediately preceding these his-

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toric impacts "bring an external stimulus that challenges us to move into action,"<sup>10</sup> which was apparent in the Wall Street crash of 1929 and the civil rights movements preceding the mid-60's, and is now apparent in dozens of national stimulus packages resulting from the current crisis in the global economy.

As indicated, Pluto and Cancer provide important clues for resolving the coming crises. Pluto is "fueled by a higher power, although, as a non-sacred planet, its vital work is focused in the lower realms, bringing the death of personality limitations by destroying all that hinders progress and reorienting the life toward the higher. This is particularly true with Pluto in Capricorn, for Pluto represents the depths and Capricorn the heights of the material world."<sup>11</sup>

Pluto powerfully expresses the First Ray and therefore is equally creative and destructive, which is the reason that Pluto is associated with birth and death. Pluto is also closely related to all forms of power and specifically the primordial power to transform and regenerate.

Dominant, multiple squares to Pluto over the next five years connote a tremendous power struggle between existing power structures of unbridled capitalism, materialism, big business and politics and a newly emerging archetype. Pluto provokes change at a very deep level that shakes our foundations, creating chaos. The weight of these multiple Pluto squares over five years is unrelenting. Undoubtedly, they will weaken and destroy the fabric of old power structures while simultaneously and strenuously birthing a new paradigm. Cardinal periods can quite literally *change the face of Earth* and life as we know it.

The sign of Cancer represents this birthing and manifestation process. Cancer expresses and represents the Divine Mother—sustaining, nurturing and caring for the world and one another—as much as it symbolizes

the masses and mass consciousness as a body of latent potential. During this time, the actions and voices of ordinary people, local communities and grassroots efforts will probably carry far greater import than ever before. And given the Soul keyword for Cancer, “I build a lighted house and therein dwell,” the housing crisis and other “homeland security” issues in America—a Cancerian country—will add to the urgency.

Besides shelter, Cancer also governs a sense of security, safety and our source of supply, which also may be compromised under these difficult aspects. Cancer is a cardinal water sign, and as such our actions and activities related to world water supplies will undergo dramatic change, as will our attitudes about consumption and nurturance. Until we learn the lessons that water provides, vital basic needs such as food and water may be in great demand and distressed during these times, both due to chaotic wet-weather conditions like hurricanes and flooding, and as a result of our persistent misuse and disrespect of the vital waters of Earth.

There are many uncertainties and variables in the midst of these volatile conditions, and the outcome will ultimately depend upon public and political reaction to the forces at play. “Numerous unpredictable factors are at work in co-constituting the events to come: the long-developing and still shifting and pliable historical trends, the spontaneous social and political responses to newly emerging conditions, the state of the collective moral conscience, the extent to which the constellated energies are unconsciously and blindly acted out or consciously engaged and assimilated — and no doubt many other trans-empirical factors beyond our ken, such as perhaps karma and grace.”<sup>12</sup> But one thing is certain: change has already happened—the proverbial train has already left the station—and we must learn to navigate the new terrain. Additionally, old structures based on the love of power and “power over” are reluctantly giving way and conceding to a new power—the power of brotherly love, the power of the people, and the power of the interconnectedness of all Life.

## The Uranus-Pluto Squares

The current synodic cycle of Uranus and Pluto began with a conjunction of Uranus and Pluto in Virgo (opposite Saturn in Pisces) in 1965 and will conclude in 2104 with a conjunction of Uranus and Pluto in Taurus. The first quarter of the current cycle, from 1965 to the present, has merely involved the gestation period of a much grander scheme of evolutionary unfoldment, and the 60’s, while revolutionary and profound, were simply the first breath and initial impulse of latent possibility and potential to be realized later in the cycle.

The second-quarter phase of the overall Uranus-Pluto cycle we are currently in officially begins in 2010 and ends in 2047. It represents a seasonal change from spring to summer in the affairs of Earth. Uranus-Pluto squares involve defining moments in history, and this series of squares will entail seven partite (exact) squares between Uranus and Pluto over a period of five years, which is unusual and therefore highly significant.

A second-quarter phase is analogous to a second-quarter Moon in a lunar cycle, and summer in an annual cycle, which is a time of growth and expansion when the seedlings of spring regenerate. This is why Cancer and the summer solstice are keyed to *rebirth* and *manifestation*.<sup>13</sup> Second-quarter phases expand upon what was previously set in motion, manifesting that which has been percolating internally for a long time. These are times when youthful rebellion gives way to practicality, a time of reorientation, action and externalization where Life literally recreates Itself.

The Uranus-Pluto squares through 2015 bring an appointment with destiny that will exert great pressure and force radical change out of necessity. This combination runs counterculture and is revolutionary. In mythology, Pluto is thunder and Uranus is lightening and, like all thunderstorms, the impact can be alarming, exciting, devastating and cleansing at the same time. This square is known to be the most transformative and far-reaching of all planetary combinations, involving a

breakdown and a breakthrough in social institutions and massive corporations because Pluto intensifies and grounds Uranus' quest for liberation, and releases Uranus' spark of higher potential on a massive scale. A massive power shift is about to take place, and the ultimate goal is the realization of our divinity.

### Navigating the New Landscape

The day will come when, after harnessing the winds, the tides and gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of Love. And on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire.<sup>14</sup>

Earth is quite literally undergoing a complete transformation and reorganization. We are birthing a new mythology that is dramatically different than the past. It is not an easy or speedy process, and there are no quick fixes. Earthbound materialism has run its course and will reach critical mass in 2012, which will mark the end of the world as we now know it. It will take time and a massive effort to change the course of history, and the outcome of this period will not be fully realized until the mid 2040's. We are told that, "In the destruction of the old world order and in the chaos of these modern times, the work of the new creation is going forward; the task of reconstruction, leading to a complete reorganisation of human living and to a fresh re-orientation of human thinking, is taking place.... [The creative work involves] bringing order out of chaos and preparing the way for the reappearance of the Christ. There is much that must be done to change conditions, institute new values and produce the bringing in of an entirely new civilisation—a civilisation which will permit the externalisation of the Ashrams, or of the Hierarchy, and a restitution, therefore, of Hierarchical or spiritual control as it was known in old

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Atlantean days, only this time on a much higher turn of the spiral and with the intelligent cooperation also and the wise assistance of humanity, which was a factor lacking in the earlier civilisation."<sup>15</sup>

Perhaps the best indicator of a newly emerging mythology is the growing recognition of common purpose and *understandings* found in various examples of collaboration and cooperative leadership. We are merely at the fringes of realizing our fun-

damental oneness and "to the extent that this new realization—this emerging narrative of interconnectedness as opposed to dominance and exclusivity—takes hold, people will necessarily look at politics, nationalism, gender roles, economics, race, moral values, art, education, religion—at everything—in a new way."<sup>16</sup>

Besides the aforementioned, other trends to watch for that are shaping the emerging culture are:

- Globalization
- Conscious living
- The green economy
- Growing our own food
- Working co-creatively
- Taking greater responsibility for our own lives
- Being accountable for our actions
- Using holistic, alternative and self-healing modalities over standardized healthcare
- Freeing ourselves from old systemic dependencies
- Creating simpler and sounder solutions to complex problems
- Approaching education with integrative styles and forms of learning
- Awakening to a truer relationship between human and earth ecology
- Shifting the focus from outer forms to inner realities

- Exchanging consumerism for a more contribution-based society
- Shifting the attitude of getting to giving
- Living more purpose-driven lives
- Being authentic and “walking our talk”

Even though much of the world is in crisis and moving deeper into chaos, an even vaster spiritual renaissance is definitely underway, and this needs to be the primary focus of all true servers. Without a doubt, coherence will follow chaos—that is a law of nature. The old forms will not support the new civilization and must be built on new ground, with new tools and techniques. We need to look to innovators and be innovative. We cannot do things in the old way and expect a new result. In the words of Henry Miller, “Chaos is the score upon which reality is written.”<sup>17</sup> We need to replace a competitive spirit with the spirit of cooperative consciousness. This is the way forward. “Temporary discomforts, penury and vice may lead the unthinking into the depths of pessimism. But those who know and who sense the inner guiding hand of the Hierarchy are aware that the heart of humanity is sound and that from our present chaos, perhaps largely because of it, there will emerge those who are competent to deal with unification and synthesis. This period has been occultly called the “age of restoration of what has been broken by the fall.” The time has come when the separate parts can be reunited and the whole stand together again in its earlier perfection.”<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology* (New York: Lucis Publishing, 1951), 240.  
<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 350.  
<sup>3</sup> <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/cardinal>  
<sup>4</sup> Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology* (New York: Lucis Publishing), 478.  
<sup>5</sup> Helena Roerich, *Agni Yoga* (New York: Agni Yoga Society, 1929), 364.  
<sup>6</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synodic\\_cycle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synodic_cycle)  
<sup>7</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musica\\_universalis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musica_universalis)  
<sup>8</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Holy\\_Cross](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Holy_Cross)  
<sup>9</sup> [www.esotericstudies.net/quarterly/Files](http://www.esotericstudies.net/quarterly/Files)

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[EQ040409/--Detrich.pdf](http://www.esotericstudies.net/quarterly/Files/EQ040409/--Detrich.pdf)  
<sup>10</sup> <http://www.lunarplanner.com/Saturn-Opp-Uranus/index.html>  
<sup>11</sup> [www.esotericstudies.net/quarterly/Files040208/EQ040208--Detrich.pdf](http://www.esotericstudies.net/quarterly/Files040208/EQ040208--Detrich.pdf)  
<sup>12</sup> Richard Tarnas, *Cosmos and Psyche* (Plume Publishing: New York, 2007), 480.  
<sup>13</sup> Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology* (New York: Lucis Publishing, 1951), 239.  
<sup>14</sup> Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, February 1934, “The Evolution of Chastity” in *Toward the Future* (London: Collins, 1975), 86-87.  
<sup>15</sup> Alice A. Bailey, *Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. II* (New York: Lucis Publishing, 1955), 218.  
<sup>16</sup> David Leeming, *Myth: A Biography of Belief* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), iii.  
<sup>17</sup> Henry Miller, *Tropic of Cancer* (New York: Grove Press, 1961), 2.  
<sup>18</sup> Alice A. Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic* (New York: Lucis Publishing, 1951), 409.