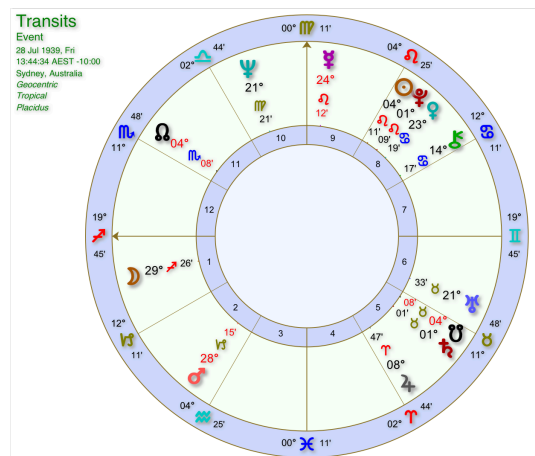
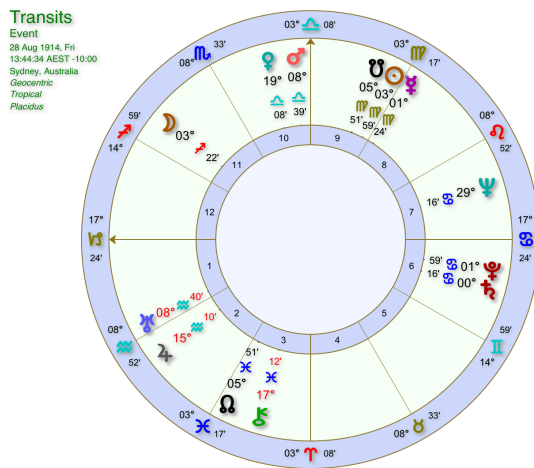
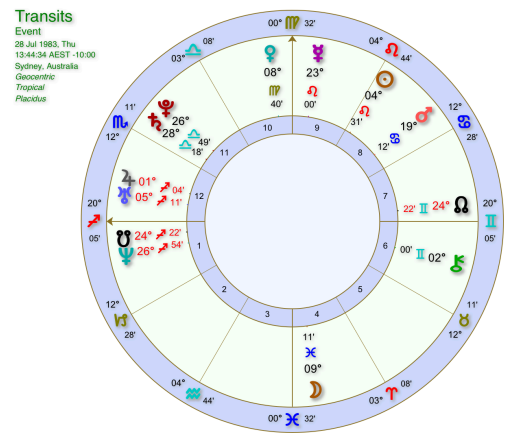
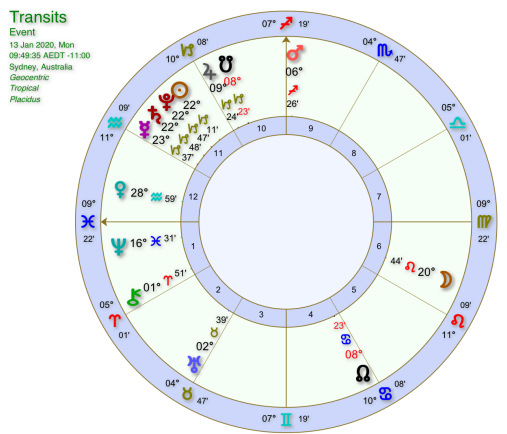


**Section 2 – Question 1 Cycles: The Pluto Saturn Cycle**

On January 13, 2020, AEST the Saturn Pluto conjunction became exact, marking the beginning of a new Saturn Pluto Cycle and coinciding with the coronavirus pandemic. Outline your understanding of the Saturn/Pluto Cycle and discuss the challenges and opportunities symbolized by the conjunction of these two planets occurring in the sign of Capricorn. Refer to past conjunctions to support your answer and refer to both the Saturn Pluto cycle in general as well as the last time this conjunction occurred in Capricorn. How has the coronavirus (COVID-19) become part of this scenario?



<sup>1</sup>Mann, A.T., (1979) The Round Art. The Astrology of Time and Space. Pg 96

Saturn and Pluto are two formidable planets suspended within the solar system. Saturn sits 6<sup>th</sup> out from the Sun, distinguished by its famed rings that are composed of thin layers of ice and rock particles reminiscent of a halo. Saturn's revolution of the Sun is approximately 29 years and its vast astrological portfolio oversees; the element of time and its effects, the principle of limitation and authority, structures of all kinds, mastery, responsibility, accountability, control and duty. Saturn is archetypically male and personified as being serious and Concerned with discipline and hard-work, Saturn's influence is inclined toward tangible achievement. Ambition, reserve, materialism, economy and strategy are related to Saturn aims and its personifications include older people, government bodies, teachers and person's imbued with influence. Saturn's qualities earn it the reputation of being a hard taskmaster, unremitting and even cold at times, like its astronomical atmosphere.

Pluto is the outermost planet (or recently demoted dwarf-planet) in the solar system. Sitting 9<sup>th</sup> out from the Sun this mysterious celestial body cannot be viewed by the naked eye, but telescope and exceptional photography. Pluto is a much smaller 'planet' in comparison to its universal friends and even smaller than Earth's Moon that would make it seem inconsequential. Yet this slow moving space body which takes approximately 248 years to orbit the Sun, has a phenomenal presence upon Earth's inhabitants through its mythological and astrological associations. Being Lord of the Underworld, Pluto is as dark as outer space and the disturbing location unruly souls go to suffer their mortal sins. The astrological correlations of Pluto's influence are; power, death and war, authoritarian rule, fluctuating economic situations, disease, dirt and control. As these processes name but few residing in the depths of Pluto's domain, in celestial cycle Pluto influences 'drastic changes in lifestyle and values which stem from the collective unconscious and percolate through to individuals'<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Mann, A.T., (1979) The Round Art. The Astrology of Time and Space. Pg 96

Together, these two players have a significant effect upon our lives, both individually and collectively as they track through the zodiac and converge approximately every 33years to establish a synodic cycle. As these two unite they form an unforgettable match, with quite extreme effects as we find this year when their cycle began and their former turn came to end.

On January 13, 2020 Pluto and Saturn met in the forbearing sign of Capricorn. The first time since 1518 which was five hundred and two years ago. During this historical time period the Protestant Reformation took storm, and the revolutionary Plutonic force inspired a drastic upheaval within European society as structures (Saturn) broke down (Pluto) to change the course of history. At this time, the impassioned scholar Martin Luther of Saxony bore the charge, with will-power (Saturn/Capricorn) to expose corruption (Pluto's purging process) within the Roman Catholic Church and long-held ideologies. With his staunch views that lead to a bloody revolution, centuries past the event; political, sociological and religious implications would continue. This period details the intensity that Pluto and Saturn produce, of a special magnitude that sweeps through mass consciousness and lingers on. Yet when social-governance structures come to an end (Saturn/Capricorn), the time also signals the birth of something new or different – marking the transformational element of Pluto and its renewing energy.

Prior to a climatic event like this, planetary cycles go through various phases and percolate before the delivery of their effects in accordance with the predominant consciousness on earth and its recipients. Pluto can destroy as much as it empowers, and Saturn bridge as much as it breaks - so when these two meet in strong aspect the experience isn't necessarily a bad thing.

<sup>1</sup>Mann, A.T., (1979) The Round Art. The Astrology of Time and Space. Pg 96

We can see at the last Saturn/Pluto opposition in 2001, the 9/11 terrorist attack occurred which shocked the world by the enormity of violent intent that literally tore down buildings. Yet from the rubble people arose and banded together, to rebuild the city of New York, the economy and a brighter future. The resilience that Pluto/Saturn both have is quite remarkable, particularly in the face of earth-shattering crisis when times get tough (Pluto) and serious action is required (Saturn). With fortitude and strategic vision (Saturn/Capricorn) something better can be established, as one learns from past experience, mistakes and outworn structures to accept change through fierce honesty (Pluto) and accountability (Saturn). Yet this can be more difficult to address on a collective scale, as the environment becomes awash with the destiny of everyone and the results from combined activities (karma) that produce a massive upheaval.

When the Pluto/Saturn Capricorn conjunction of 1518 occurred, the Reformation prompted a major turn in history from the governance structure of the time and subsequent entrenched beliefs to an entirely new paradigm. In 1982-3 the Pluto/Capricorn conjunction tracked through the sign of Libra, which facilitated a severe economic recession in America and enforced a change in fiscal handling and social austerity. Now in 2020 disruptive forces strike again, in the sign of Capricorn for almost a year Pluto and Saturn make waves. Yet this time we experience the onset of a disease, with COVID-19 (Pluto 8<sup>th</sup> house association) challenging society in additional ways and essentially forcing us to become more resilient in times of great illness and strain (Saturn). As the resulting destabilisation of economies, social structures and health are tested, a global level response has resulted to address the significant challenge (Pluto/Saturn/Jupiter Capricorn– Feb 2020).

<sup>1</sup>Mann, A.T., (1979) The Round Art. The Astrology of Time and Space. Pg 96

Pluto represents unconscious processes (8<sup>th</sup> house) and repressed material we hide away and coupled with a more conscious planet like Saturn, the energy of past and present combine to usher in significant change. As that occurs, the expulsion of underlying sickness can arise like the HIV Aids epidemic, of 1982-83 (Libra Pluto/Saturn conjunction) that sent shockwaves through society. Yet the disease needn't always be factual, as it's not always occurred in this pairings past. As we've found historically during a Saturn/Pluto cycle, the world wars of 1914 and 1939 reflected diseased ideologies, corrupted activities, improper governance and economic structures. These periods resulted in intense purges from within, as Pluto and Saturn's pressure filled synodic cycle (1914 conjunction in Cancer and 1939 Saturn/Taurus 1' square Pluto/Leo 1') provoked the onset of energetic dissolution of global empires and their unjust ways.

As we can see from periods of devastation, something even more severe can be removed. At the core (Pluto) we find the malady to uproot and then rebuild something new (Saturn/Capricorn). If we individually and collectively face the shadows and even our existential fears, we see the battle wounds can be healed on a physical and invisible (psychological, emotional etc.) level.

Saturn and Pluto have the habit of stripping things away. Yet prior to rebuilding with more stable material, one may seriously consider the philosophical aspects of life and query; who am I, what am I doing and where can I be safe? If handled carefully, such a crucial time can be quite revelatory. As the opportunity to move beneath the surface and introspectively face one's fears (Pluto), removes the uncertainty and opens up the mind and heart to new perspectives and release.

<sup>1</sup>Mann, A.T., (1979) The Round Art. The Astrology of Time and Space. Pg 96

Through laser focus (Pluto) one may realise at a personal level where to reinvest one's energy, in a more productive manner if required (Saturn) that's even revolutionary. Clues to this process are located within our natal charts via the placement of Pluto/Saturn and the aspects that they make.

As the ruler of time, Saturn reminds us of the brevity of life and our journey through space which is marked by a relentless series of ups and downs. Gaining insight into the collective energy and focus of society, Saturn/Pluto's tensions can shed harsh light through grave events that signal drastic endings. Yet as an end within the cycle of time marks the beginning of something new, we can learn that disordered events and disruptions to established traditions (Saturn) can also bring about a surge in the human spirit. As the authoritarian rule represented by Saturn and Pluto often tries to crush (Pluto) and control (Saturn), the fortitude and resilience that Pluto/Saturn can also yield is a gift within the troubles. Effectively being benign in nature the planets respond to the force of humanity, and should the group mind of the people live in higher consciousness their influence can be steered into a positive course of future outcomes.

So with the current turmoil that Pluto/Saturn brings to the forefront, the global health crisis we are experiencing can bring nations together collaboratively and tackle the difficulties in support of each other. The human spirit which is the most resilient can also be most compassionate in crisis times, as individuals harness the exceptional resources available through Pluto and Saturn power, that can be reliable, strong, focussed and helpful to people feeling vulnerable.

<sup>1</sup>Mann, A.T., (1979) The Round Art. The Astrology of Time and Space. Pg 96

This Pluto/Saturn cycle in Capricorn won't reoccur for many hundreds of years, so it goes without saying that 2020 is an incredibly powerful time in history of which we're only at the cusp of experiencing. As it remains within our individual and collective choices to steer the influence of this pair, their phenomenally transformative effects can be uplifting and conducive to our development if we harness them.

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<sup>1</sup>Mann, A.T., (1979) The Round Art. The Astrology of Time and Space. Pg 96