

## NEPTUNE AND OUR COLLECTIVE ENCHANTMENTS (part 1 of 2)

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In one of my recent comments I alluded to the fact that the planets have been preparing us for a big change for quite a long time now. How long, you ask? Well, for starters, we could go back in time to 2008 when **Pluto**, which is still considered a real planet in western astrology, entered the sign of **Capricorn** and began its journey through Capricorn's familiar terrain which includes all forms of national and local authority including governments, ministries, their offices and institutions as well as the basic foundations for the more complex structure of our modern societies and communities where a certain amount of organization and control is necessary for functionality and for running the province, the state and the country. For most of us this could simply translate into US - the working crowd of taxpayers and law-abiding citizens, versus THEM - the system, the structure, the world of lawmakers and those who are responsible in one way or another to create and uphold the law and order.

However, if we roll back the clock to early 1984 and look at the world around us in that decade, we could begin to notice the early signs of a worldwide change that has continued somewhat unnoticed for the remaining 15-16 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and entered its second phase of transformation closer to 2008-2010. The 80's decade opened up with a beginning of a brand-new **Jupiter-Saturn** cycle in the sign of Libra in the closing hours of 1980. While this cycle was still in its early stages of development, Saturn and Pluto began to join hands in the skies towards the end of 1981, to finally get together in late degrees of Libra in November 1982. They remained in close contact at least until August 1983 when Saturn finally left Libra and entered the sign of Scorpio. On the social scene we could have observed the early signs of a movement towards equality and fairness (Libra) between man and women. While we still lived in a male-dominated world the role and the portrayal of women had to change and adapt to reflect their growing role in our societies. Women were not only leaving the kitchen territory behind and marching towards executive desks and becoming political figures. They also began demanding more respect for their bodies and fighting for the right to have workplaces free of sexual harassment.

Meanwhile, the balance of political power between the mostly capitalist, western side of the world and the communist eastern block was still being maintained despite the social unrests in the Soviet-controlled countries and the communist economy struggling to keep up with the changes, while trying to extend its lifeline and its right to exist mainly through borrowed money. The fear of communism influence spreading into the western world and the potential for the working masses in the capitalist states demanding more radical changes kept things in balance. An employee, back then, was regarded as a valuable asset to a company and often seduced by another employer with promises of better pay, greater benefits and more attractive working conditions. On the other hand, a loyal long-term worker could look forward to annual pay increases, additional vacation time, sick days, medical and dental benefits, bonuses, small gifts and other forms of rewards for his or her long stay with the same

employer. This was still a long way before an employee was starting to be viewed by the rising army of the bean counters as a necessary but financially painful cost of doing and maintaining business.

Enter **Neptune**, a planet representing our shared beliefs, dream, visions and enchantments with what we collectively consider as “sacred” or what we jointly believe to be true, based more on its presumed face value than its real worth. Neptune in Libra in the 50’s was instrumental in creating an illusion of a perfect marriage and the marital bliss which could have been gained and enjoyed by many by simply entering into a long-term partnership with our idealized mate. Neptune in Scorpio in the 60’s wooed us with sexual revolution, the forbidden fruits, the highly glamorized lifestyles of our rock and pop music icons, and the darker aspects of using sex as a weapon or as an effective marketing tool. Neptune moved forward from there and into a much wider territory of Sagittarius in the 70’s with international travel and exotic destinations becoming more desirable and fashionable. The rise and the growing popularity of many religious movements and sects with lots of people seeking peace and comfort in the idea of getting closer to a deity of their choice could be cited here as an example of how we choose to capitalize on these trends, how we can win groups or even masses of human beings to support our dreamed-up causes and how we can blindly follow one fake vision followed by another, only to realize a couple of decades later that we were following false prophets most of that time.

When Neptune finally stopped deluding us with the wild, the exotic and the religious awakenings, it made its way into Capricorn’s territory in 1984. How many of us, throughout the late 80’s and even in early 90’s, believed that we were living in an utterly amazing western world where freedom, democracy and opportunities for growth and for creation of a better, richer and fulfilling lifestyle were all there for the taking, being freely dished out and strongly supported by the powers that be? The “system” or perhaps the “matrix” was surely created and maintained (or so we thought) to ensure our collective stability, our continuous financial growth, the betterment of our lives, with rounds of drinks on the house and the blissful illusion of the modern capitalist society, which had no choice but to continue investing in and supporting its middle class as the essential ingredient in a much larger scheme involving politics, economy and finance.

The opening of the world, the destruction of the Berlin wall, the ensuing death of the communist regimes and the collapse of the balance of power paved the way for what started to take shape in early 90’s and beyond. Neptune remained a solitary player in Capricorn for at least a couple of years and so remained relatively undetected and unnoticed by many while greatly succeeding in deceiving us that all was well with the world at large. Many of us got seduced by practical offerings and pursuits of material gains through promotions to a higher position at work or through leaving the old job behind for a better paying role at a competitor. Working 9 to 5 to maintain our lifestyle slowly gave way to work becoming our daily preoccupation and a way of life for many.

The winds of political change blowing strongly in late 80’s, as **Saturn** and **Uranus** also moved into Capricorn in 1988, were perhaps viewed by many as an end to the communist Soviet empire and the resounding victory for the western democratic world. The old and fearful enemy has been defeated but there was no one else available at that time to take its place. The image of a terrifying and dreadful state of life in the Eastern block of countries, controlled thus far by the former Soviet Union, was gone and could not have been successfully perpetuated any longer. The need to continue seducing the working masses by convincing them that the capitalist lifestyle is much better than what workers were used to under the communist rule has outlived its usefulness. The strong presence of the trio of the outer planets (Saturn, Uranus, Neptune) touring through Capricorn was like a spark that helped ignite the movement towards the greater capitalization and the emergence of the giant corporations which slowly

gained ground and continued their expansion at the expense of smaller companies and businesses which found it difficult to compete and to maintain their presence. The battle for power, for influence, for money, for possessions and for control ensued and continued well after Saturn, Uranus and eventually Neptune left the sign of Capricorn, changing forever the structures of society and the working world during that time.

It is true that the tech revolution which began slowly in late 80's was fuelled mainly by the same trio of planets through the creation of a new desirable technology and relatively easy access to personal computers - far less simple and very limited in their scope as compared to what is available to us today. Portable video games playable on our TV screens were already popular and affordable. This early tech boom helped pave the way for our new enchantment and gradually evolving infatuation with modern technology which got us nearly totally dependent on it today. There are many areas of our lives where computer technology and our ease of communication over Internet are helpful and instrumental in shaping and improving the quality of our lives. At the same time, we are nowhere near as free and as unrestricted in our lifestyles and our ability to move around undetected or to spend money freely on anything we desire, as we realize or are led to believe.

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