

## Full Moon October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Art of Seeing Beauty.

To really capture the essence of this one I need to start with an astrological foundation for you, and then just kind of explode it. And you're going to have to kind of really want the foundation because it takes a while to build.

So, here we go:

The Full Moon is really an astrological "aspect." And when we talk about aspects what we're talking about is the angular relationship between planets. Planets, by the way, being the word we use when we're talking about the beings in astrological charts – unless we're talking about stars outside the solar system, in which case we'll say "fixed stars," meaning the stars that don't (seem to) move relative to the Earth.

So anyway, I may refer to the Sun and the Moon and the asteroids all as planets because I'm needing to talk about aspects. Of course to really understand aspects you have to get into the characteristics of the various "planets" but there you are... we can just use the word "planets" for now because otherwise we'd be mired in paragraph after paragraph like this one which is essentially destabilizing if are too mental to say words like God, for instance.

So, aspects:

Aspects have to do with the angular relationship between planets and in that sense are descriptive of how planetary energies meet each other, merge with each other, counteract each other, and so on. I know you've heard the names we use for them: conjunction, square, trine, etc.

And maybe you even have a kind of notion of them, on the order of "trines good, squares bad" – or maybe not. Hopefully not, because if you do then you are mired in some 20<sup>th</sup> century version of astrology and may or may not be able to get unstuck from it.

For now, I want to give you a picture of the physical nature of aspects and the way I do it is like this: imagine you are standing on the Earth (try it, it's cool) when the Sun and Moon are both visible in the sky, and your left hand is pointing to the Sun and your right hand is pointing to the Moon, and the angle between your arms is about 90 degrees. Well, at that moment, what you've got is a square between the Sun and the Moon.

Does that make sense? Like, you've got a framing square like carpenters use but it's like 3 feet on a side and your arms as they point to the two planets are just squeezing the sides of it. That's a square – the planets are 90 degrees apart from each other.

And let's just say that your right arm is extra-limber and it can go all the way around your body like the "hands" of clocks do, and you just stand there for a long time, keeping your left arm pointing at the Sun and your right arm pointing at the Moon the whole time. Every 29.5 days or so, your arms will be pointing in the same direction, like noon on the clock – that's the conjunction, both planets in the same slice of the sky.

Well, three o'clock is a square, and nine o'clock is a square, and 6 o'clock is the opposition – the Sun and the Moon are on opposite sides of the Earth.

Maybe we should use a compass with a 360 degree dial instead of a clock. Keep zero pointing at the Sun the whole time and well, the Moon being the Moon, it would go backwards from 360 to zero. So when it's at 270 you have the waxing square and at 90 the waning square. The opposition is 180 degrees.

At 240 and 120 you have trines, at 300 degrees and then later at 60 degrees you have sextiles. It's like that – when an astrologer talks about an aspect in a chart (maybe yours) what they're talking about is the angular relationship between planets.

And interestingly, all planetary relationships can be looked at as being either “waxing” or “waning.” Like, the quality of a waxing square is somewhat different from a waning square.

But either way, the next step is to “feel” the energies from the two planets in question as you are standing there. As they beam their light (or whatever version of electromagnetic energy it is) at you, you are the meeting point between their energies. It's sort of like billiards, but you're on the table and the planets are shooting balls at you at the same time, and what happens when they meet has to do with where each planet is around the table.

So when they are conjunct, their energies are coming from the same place – big double shot. When they are square, it's a harder smack than when they are in trine or sextile. And the opposition is kind of just like it sounds.... The basic idea is that when we talk about aspects, we're talking about how the planets are working together on you, in you.

Like for instance, yesterday I called my friend Doug and I said, “Doug, where's my Mars? I can't find my Mars. I'm like a gummy bear or something, I can't get anything done.” Doug is an artist, not an astrologer ([www.radiantarts.com](http://www.radiantarts.com) – awesome mandalas), but he is the kind of friend you ask that kind of question of.

And then this morning I looked at “the chart” of this moment and saw that Mars in Virgo is directly opposite Neptune in Pisces.

And in a basic, classical astrology sense, it makes sense that I can't find my Mars. I mean, Neptune is the “Ruler” of Pisces – it's stronger in that sign than in other signs, whereas Mars in Virgo is in mutual reception to Mercury in Scorpio, meaning the current Mars energy, rather than being decisive or actional, is given to mentalizing emotional responses in strangely dark ways.

Not that that has anything to do with the current political situation or anything.

Like that.

You know, the overarching story of the early part of the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is the ongoing square between Pluto and Uranus, and especially how that square relates to the birth chart of the United States. Which I'm not going to go into right now except to say this: Pluto and Uranus formed the first of a series of seven exact (90 degree) waxing squares on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and the seventh one forms on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. There are a total of 995 days between those dates and on November 1<sup>st</sup> of this year the fourth square is formed, at which point we'll be 495 days, or just short of half way, through that stretch.

If you're really interested in the historical significance of this period, and you're a reader (and if you've made it this far through this article, you are a reader ☺), then read “*Cosmos and Psyche*,” by Richard Tarnas.

But yeah, Pluto/Uranus square, Mars opposite Neptune does sound like the government shutdown of 2013. Not to mention the Mars/Pluto/Uranus/Jupiter grand cross with Saturn septile Pluto that forms in April of 2014. Wouldn't want to, not ready. Yet.

Because you see, what I've discussed so far is a way to look at astrology, and is maybe a way to talk about astrology, but it is not the high art of astrology. It's like an introduction to "painting by numbers with astrology," but it is not Van Gogh.

Or rather, put it this way: it's like looking at a Van Gogh and going on and on about the brushwork. Because any astrological chart is a painting, a masterwork created by a spirit in soul-form who has chosen a human journey for the purpose of developing and spreading fresh awareness of Love and Beauty through the ecstasy and tragedy of being alive.

The high art of astrology is in seeing what that master wanted to learn when she painted the picture of her lifetime, and then putting yourself into service to evoke that beautifully for the *person-in-their-moment* you're reading for, if you're doing a reading.

Outside of the giving-readings-kind-of-astrology, like for instance if you're writing about the collective experience, then it is about sensing and describing those things in the charts which touch everyone. And though you would like to think that all here is verging on remembering the beauty of being alive, the truth is that sometimes a lifetime is about a death experience to crystalize a kind of ignorance that will crack in a future life. And there are soul contracts... things like that.

And maybe it is not ours to understand how a journey goes, but rather just to try to see it as beautiful.

And no, it's not easy to sense the poignancy of these white Pluto-in-Leo males struggling with the obsolescence of all they've held dear. But if I am honest about my own journey, then I must try to find the beauty in it.

Because remember, your existence is simply because you are seen by others. So, by seeing the beauty in all others you are in service to Beauty. And you can choose to do that.

Maybe this way:

At 7:38 PM Eastern Time on October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Moon is Full once again. As the light of the Sun casts shadows behind all physical form it meets, so on the Full Moon is that shadow filled with Silvery Moonlight. On this night, the Sun is in the 26<sup>th</sup> degree of the sign of Libra, and the Chandra symbol for that degree is, "***A gypsy cart with a campfire nearby.***" The Moon, meantime, is in the 26<sup>th</sup> degree of the sign of Aries. For which, the Chandra symbol is, "***The man in the Moon smiling.***"

May you welcome all strangers into your camp with an offer of refreshment. Let the isolating circle of darkness beyond the campfire light be filled with a Moonlight which none shall fear. For this is piety.

And may you offer all a sense of that goodness for which you wish to be remembered. Though you may encounter a reactive, hostile, hysterical, obstreperous, self-interested, fearful, incoherent patriarchal dingleberry from time to time, what you can do is the energy work of shaping their self-perception with your perception of them. Somehow, their lives do serve Beauty.

So the Sun and Moon meet in you, in a place where light would otherwise change to darkness.

Though it may be all you have to give, may you choose to see Beauty, and to share Love, on this Full Moon.

I thank you for being one who will at least try, as I ask for this strength myself.

May this Moon save us all!

Love, Jon

*Now is the time, and you are the one.*

Thank you,

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