

APOLLON GROUP REPORT UNDERSTANDING CYCLES

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PLUTO AND JUPITER CYCLES

Pluto in Sagittarius – 1995-2008

Pluto in Capricorn - 2008-2024

Jupiter in Capricorn for 2008

While astronomers demoted Pluto to a dwarf planet in August 2006, astrologers are not about to give up on Pluto. We recognize its effect on socio-economic and political trends. Pluto's erratic orbit takes 248 years to travel through the Zodiac, spending from 12 to 32 years in each sign, depending on where it is in its elliptical orbit. In mythology, Pluto is the god of the underworld. As such, astrologically, Pluto symbolizes death, rebirth, and transformation. What cannot be seen cannot be transformed. So, as Pluto moves through each sign, the dark issues of that sign come to light. This brings forth the possibility of transforming these issues. Typically the results of the transformation become visible once Pluto enters the next sign.

Pluto first entered Sagittarius in 1995. At the end of January 2008, Pluto enters Capricorn. It returns for its last phase in Sagittarius from mid June until late November and then moves back into Capricorn until 2024.

Sagittarius represents, among other things, foreign affairs, law, religion, philosophy, higher education, belief systems, and long-distance travel. In her book, *A Beginner's Guide to Astrological Interpretation*,ⁱ first published in 1992, Joyce Levine wrote, "*Since Pluto brings out the dark side of a sign before regenerating it, scandals involving financial misappropriations and sexual misconduct in religious organizations and colleges will be even more prevalent than*

they are today. Increased terrorist activity on airlines is another likely manifestation before the world changes its current religious. and philosophical tenets." ⁱⁱ

During Pluto's time in Sagittarius, the Catholic Church was unmasked as a haven for pedophiles. The Church paid out and continues to pay out millions of dollars in settlement claims for sexual misconduct by priests that took place over decades worldwide. The Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center in New York was engineered by Al Qaeda, a group of Muslim extremists who not only want the US (foreign infidels) out of the Middle East but want the Middle East to be ruled by Islamic law. The US invasion of Iraq instigated a civil war along religious lines with Iraqi Sunnis and Shiites fighting one another, and the ethnic Kurds attempting to carve out a place for themselves in the country. The Taliban continue fighting to regain Afghanistan and re-institute fundamental Islamic law, where women have no rights. The varied conflicts are conflicts in values, both within Iraq and between Mideast extremist and the United States.

First, there is conflict within Iraq itself between its three sects of religious belief. Then, on a larger scale, there is conflict between democracy and theocracy—two very different paths. The conflict is not between communism and democracy, or democracy and autocracy, which are social systems. In a theocracy, religion and belief (Sagittarius) rule. It creates an "us" and "them." Those who believe are seen as "fitting" and those who do not are, at a minimum, excluded. Democracy, on the other hand, ideally is an equalizer, giving the same rights to all. Democracy is inclusive of all religions, races and belief systems. The separation of church and state is tantamount.

In an eerie comparison, during this same time period with Pluto in Sagittarius, the Religious Right in the United States gained power (and some would say has hijacked the

Republican Party), putting into question the traditional democratic division between church and state. A new kind of philosophy emerges as factions take sides. The Religious Right attempts to repeal laws such as Roe vs. Wade and to incorporate family value themes that align with the Christian Bible as the 'new' cornerstone for the law of the land. Liberals see this as excluding other religions in the United States. The Constitution promises representation for all people and the freedom to practice religions of choice as well as belief systems.

There is fear that this continuing control could set the social agenda of the country back decades, possibly leading to subjugation of women and increased homophobia. Ironically, when John F. Kennedy ran for President in 1960, the fear was that his Catholic faith would interfere with his duties as President. With Pluto in Sagittarius religion serves as a primary litmus test for candidacy. The candidates wear their faith on their sleeves, fearful of losing voters if they do not proclaim their belief in God, or fearful of revealing their religion for fear of prejudice towards the specific religion they practice. Educated, intelligent Republican presidential candidates tout creationism over evolution, and schools in some communities teach creationism in science classes, along with or instead of, evolution.

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ⁱ Joyce Levine. *A Beginner's Guide to Astrological Interpretation*. Boston, MA. 1992.

ⁱⁱ Ibid, Page