

OF RUSHING MAGMA AND STIFLING BOULDERS: Saturn Square Pluto and You

By Judi Vitale

DATES FOR SATURN SQUARE PLUTO 2009-2010

On Nov 15, 2009 it will be 1 degree, 42 min of Libra and Capricorn.

On Jan 31 2010, 4 degrees, 20 minutes.

On Aug 21 2010, 2 degrees, 56 min.

Who could possibly get bent out of shape by a little Saturn-Pluto square? With one coming at us now, most of us probably can, and will. Is it even possible to reconcile the transformative power of the most potent astrology-type force in the solar system and the nasty-tempered taskmaster of structure and discipline when they declare a war that involves your life? The answer may surprise you. Let's explore the meaning of this square, where we are in the Saturn-Pluto cycle, and what the Saturn Pluto square will be asking of each of the signs. Most important, we can examine how to best manage this astral struggle based on what houses it affects in your chart.

My first and most influential astrology teacher, Joanna Shannon, used to liken the combination of Pluto and Saturn to a volcano rumbling, about to erupt, only to be blocked by a gigantic boulder. To make matters worse, the harder Saturn tries to block the eruption and keep things the way they are, the harder Pluto will push until that hot ash and magma explodes into a plume of transformative change.

If you have Saturn and Pluto configured as a conjunction, opposition, or especially a square, in your chart – you know what she meant by that. Even if you don't have these energies in your birth chart, you might feel it over the next year or so, as Saturn and Pluto form an exact square on November 15th, 2009 and January 31st and August 21st, 2010. Before you burn those dates into memory and believe that's all you have to worry about, remember you'll feel and observe the effects of the Saturn-Pluto struggle for this entire time period.

Here's how it might take shape. While you have a driving ambition or obsession to do one thing, responsibilities and restrictions in another area of your life will force you to deal with details that seem too small to concern yourself with. Or, while you try to establish order, chaos will take over, seemingly more and more as you try to control certain outcomes.

Before delving into the "what's in it for me?" portion of this article, let's point out a few things about this Saturn-Pluto cycle. It began in 1982 with both planets in late Libra. The first square took place in 1993 with Saturn in Aquarius and Pluto in Scorpio, and the opposition occurred in 2001-02 with Pluto in Sagittarius and Saturn in Gemini. This square, in cardinal signs, has a few good attributes that are worth considering.

First, the fact the square is in cardinal signs shows more of a tendency toward change, so you might not feel as much of a struggle as there would be if they were in fixed signs or as bewildered as you might if they were in mutable ones. In cardinal signs, the planets will be direct and out in the open. In addition, Pluto will be the one "casting rays" back at Saturn, at least giving Saturn a chance to see what's coming before the rumbling begins. Furthermore, Saturn in Libra will be exalted. Whenever a planet is in rulership or exaltation, it is less likely to show its very worst traits.

If Saturn and Pluto aspect your chart by transit during this same time, the effect will be more noticeable than if you don't have any dynamic events unfolding at the moment. Still, even without direct contact with elements of your natal chart, the Saturn-Pluto square will make its presence known to you! Check out what houses each of these powerhouse planets occupies, and you'll get a hint about the dynamic that will be at work.

Here's the run-down for the possible places and combinations for this year's Saturn-Pluto square, with some suggestions on how to handle the dynamics that reveal themselves:

ARIES RISING

Saturn in the 7th house, Pluto in the 10th. OK, so you thought you could get away without dealing with the classing work-relationship balance. While it's fine to be gung-ho about your position and reputation in the outside world, a serious calling to grow through relationship will leave you longing for companionship, unless you do something about it.

TAURUS RISING

Saturn in the 6th house, Pluto in the 9th. You know the importance of hard work, but this is ridiculous. While on one hand you might feel somewhat physically drained, on the other there's a part of you that just won't stop looking for more facts, excitement and adventure. The key is to set priorities and limit yourself to doing the things that will foster your personal growth.

GEMINI RISING

Saturn in the 5th house, Pluto in the 8th. You're rather famous for being a flirt – but Saturn is going to tame that side of you down for now. Pluto's strong desires for sex and intimacy dictate that you allow your partner(s) to get a little closer than arms-length away. In fact, one of those "sweep me off my feet" romances could be in order. You'll learn, you'll grow.

CANCER RISING

Saturn in the 4th house, Pluto in the 7th. If you're not settled down with a partner and living in a happy family situation, you know you're not doing what your core nature seems to dictate. You don't have to do it like everybody else does, but you must have a strong sense that someone cares about you enough to attach for the long term. Be open to possibilities and work to deepen existing commitments.

LEO RISING

Saturn in the 3rd house, Pluto in the 6th. Serious pressures involving the way machines work in your life might provoke thoughts about taking better care of your body. It is, after all, a receptacle for your soul and spirit, as well as the vehicle you need to absorb this life's experiences. You have a fighting chance of keeping a disciplined fitness routine now.

VIRGO RISING

Saturn in the 2nd house, Pluto in the 5th. "If you can't play, it won't pay," is one way you can look at your life now. While it seems harder every minute to create a positive cash flow, a chance to do something new, creative or speculative could tempt you to blow your wad on one chance for the big time. Care must be taken to leave enough reserves for that inevitable rainy day.

LIBRA RISING

Saturn in the 1st house, Pluto in the 4th. You might feel overworked, but resisting the need to spend more time on home and family will only make that worse. A move or a major renovation could be a good way to create the kind of environment that allows you to feel appreciated and supported by your partner, roommate or family.

SCORPIO RISING

Saturn in the 12th house, Pluto in the 3rd. While you feel compelled to share your thoughts and ideas with any and all who will listen, a nagging voice could be asking if you really want to divulge your secrets. Opening your life will bring new people into it. Don't keep your genius to yourself.

SAGITTARIUS RISING

Saturn in the 11th house, Pluto in the 2nd. A tendency to give everything you've got to a cause or group you identify with could be hazardous to your financial health. While it's a good idea to avoid becoming strictly materialistic and selfish, pay attention to your own interests and how you can further them.

CAPRICORN RISING

Saturn in the 10th house, Pluto in the 1st. Your dreams have just come true. Not only will you have a tremendous amount of personal power now, you might receive the status responsibility that reflects your capabilities. Avoid using a bulldozer when a gentle elbow in the ribs would do.

AQUARIUS RISING

Saturn in the 9th house, Pluto in the 12th. Your imagination will run wild, and in your head you'll rule the world. Meanwhile, moral, ethical and/or academic concerns will seem to tie you down. Be willing to give up at least one of your ideas for the sake of striking out into new territory.

PISCES RISING

Saturn in the 8th house, Pluto in the 11th. On one hand, you feel totally committed to carrying a group project through to completion, but you also have some reservations about sharing everything you know. You know that things don't always come that easy, but developing trust through camaraderie could take you far.

***Judi Vitale** was born with a very tight Saturn-Pluto square in her chart – and isn't afraid to use it. As astrologer, writer and teacher, she has her eye on the sky as much as possible. People say she has a knack for making the mystifying seem comprehensible – but you'll have to judge that for yourself. Find Judi on Facebook, or summon her by e mail: judivitale@att.net*