

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT THE GREAT MUTATION?

By Elisabeth Grace

Seems like it was only yesterday that astrologers were abuzz over the series of seven Uranus-Pluto squares that were to take place in 2011-2016. We knew that this years-long clash between formidable disruptors in the proactive cardinal signs of Aries and Capricorn would catalyze change and crisis around the globe, big time. And so it has. We are now living in the aftermath of a pattern more than one astrologer billed as the most significant of this century. But is it?

We stand at the beginning of a new decade, now past the monster mash-up of January's Saturn-Pluto conjunction. All eyes are now on December, which marks the beginning of three significant cycles of varying duration. Each relates to the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction at 0 degrees of Aquarius, exact at 10:21 AM ET on December 21st, just hours after the Winter Solstice. How long are these cycles? They are 20 years, (a little less than) 200 years and ... 800 years.

800 years? Wow.

Astrologers with various specialties (e.g., mundane, historical, financial, etc.) pay close attention to long-term cycles, and they see these Jupiter-Saturn cycles as game-changers. The ISAR Conference Planning Committee was inspired to make the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction in Aquarius the theme of ISAR 2020. "Reimagining the Future" we shall be – in Westminster, Colorado in September. But how does the theme "Reimagining the Future" reflect the awesome potential of these three Jupiter-Saturn cycles? Let's examine each one.

The Great Conjunction

The technical term for the time span between any planetary conjunction is a *synodic cycle*. The word "synod" comes from Greek words that mean "walking together."¹ Merriam-Webster defines "synod" as an ecclesiastical governing or advisory council. But the term "synodic cycle" is reserved expressly for celestial bodies. The synodic cycle of Jupiter and Saturn is 20 years. That's how often they meet up in the cosmos and embark on their celestial stroll.

To classical astrologers, Jupiter and Saturn were the outermost planets in the system. Jupiter is known as the Greater Benefic; Saturn as the Greater Malefic. Together they were dubbed *The Great Chronocrators*,

(literally, "time lords")² and thus the beginning of their 20 year³ synodic cycle is known as the Great Conjunction. It is still seen as a reliable bellwether of significant social, political and economic watersheds, and historical turning points⁴ over a 20-year span.

It's Elemental

The second cycle related to Jupiter-Saturn in Aquarius refers to the four elements. The last Great Conjunction was on May 28, 2000 – in the Earth sign of Taurus. In fact, between 1842 and 1961, the Great Conjunctions occurred only in Earth signs. Why? Because that is the pattern of the Jupiter-Saturn synodic cycle. It's a series of conjunctions over roughly 200 years in only one element. Take a look at this table of Great Conjunctions since 1802⁵ and you'll see how the cycle works:

Date	Jupiter	Saturn	Element
July 17, 1802	5 VI 08	5 VI 08	Earth
June 19, 1821	24 AR 39	24 AR 39	Fire
Jan 26 1842	08 CP 54	08 CP 54	Earth
Oct 21 1861	18 VI 22	18 VI 22	Earth
Apr 18 1881	01 TA 36	01 TA 36	Earth
Nov 28 1901	14 CP 00	14 CP 00	Earth
Sept 10 1921	26 VI 36	26 VI 36	Earth
Aug 8 1940	14 TA 27	14 TA 27	Earth
Oct 20 1940	12 TA 28R	12 TA 28R	Earth
Feb 15 1941	09 TA 07	09 TA 07	Earth
Feb 19 1961	25 CP 12	25 CP 12	Earth
Dec 31 1980	09 LI 30	09 LI 30	Air
March 4 1981	08 LI 06R	08 LI 06R	Air
May 28 2000	22 TA 43	22 TA 43	Earth
Dec 21 2020	00 AQ 29	00 AQ 29	Air

As you can see, the 1802 Great Conjunction in Earth sign Virgo broke a decades-long run of Great Conjunctions in Fire signs that began in 1663. The Virgo Great Conjunction of 1802 served as a “sneak peek” of the Earth cycle, followed by a last gasp of the ending Fire cycle in 1821, when the Great Conjunction was 24 Aries. After that, it was all Earth, all the time – until the last day of 1980, when we were given a “sneak peek” at the next elemental cycle: Air.

Remarkably, the “sneak peek” in Air was a heavy-hitting series of three Great Conjunctions in Libra within a seven-month period of 1981. This is when dynamics around relationships underwent profound changes⁶, from psychology, equal gender rights, birth control and sexual health, to a shifting balance in politics and world alliances. We also saw intellectual breakthroughs in technology benefitting society through *information access and communication*, and their value soared. Remember the dot.com bubble? Then, the Earth element returned for its May 2000 “last gasp” in Taurus. The dot.com bubble burst in the spring of 2000⁷. Fascinating.

Fun fact #1: of the 11 Great Conjunctions we have had in Earth during this 200 year cycle, FIVE have been in Taurus, including a series of three within a seven-month period that began in August 1940. Fun Fact #2: we’ve had two series of triple Great Conjunctions in the 20th century. The next triple Great Conjunction won’t happen until 2238 – in Cancer. Makes you think the 20th century was kind of special.

The Great Mutation

When the series of Great Conjunctions in one element changes to another element, it is called a Great Mutation. Some may squirm at the word “mutation,” believing it has a negative connotation. Perhaps they are thinking of the word “mutant,” which can refer to a freak, a monstrosity, a zombie or a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle. The word “mutation” was first noted in the late 14th century⁸. It simply means a change of form. The term “genetic mutation” appears to have been coined in 1894, meaning a “process whereby heritable changes in DNA arise”⁹. A mutation, genetic or otherwise, may be seen as a setback, but often it facilitates an advance. Without mutations, we could not evolve.

A mutation is a permanent change. There’s no turning back. That’s why the term “Great Mutation” only applies to the start of a series of Great Conjunctions

in an element. The 1980 Great Conjunction in Libra was not technically the beginning of a series, as the next Great Conjunction was in Earth sign Taurus.

Date	Jupiter	Saturn	Element
Jun 3 1146	17°Ta30′	17°Ta30′	Earth
Dec 11 1166	21°Cp42′	21°Cp42′	Earth
Nov 8 1186	12°Li03′	12°Li03′	Air
Apr 16 1206	25°Ta46′	25°Ta46′	Earth
Mar 4 1226	02°Aq58′	02°Aq58′	Air
Sep 21 1246	19°Li07′	19°Li07′	Air
Jul 25 1265	09°Ge41′	09°Ge41′	Air
Dec 31 1285	08°Aq01′	08°Aq01′	Air
Dec 25 1305	00°Sc49′	00°Sc49′	Water
Apr 20 1306	28°Li05′	28°Li05′	Air
Jul 19 1306	26°Li00′	26°Li00′	Air
Jun 1 1325	17°Ge52′	17°Ge52′	Air
Mar 24 1345	19°Aq01′	19°Aq01′	Air
Oct 25 1365	07°Sc00′	07°Sc00′	Water
Apr 8 1385	25°Ge53′	25°Ge53′	Air
Jan 16 1405	23°Aq46′	23°Aq46′	Air
Feb 14 1425	17°Sc18′	17°Sc18′	Water
Mar 18 1425	16°Sc33′	16°Sc33′	Water
Aug 26 1425	12°Sc40′	12°Sc40′	Water

Great Conjunctions from 1146 - 1425

Thus, the 1980 Great Conjunction in Libra was not a Great Mutation. The 2020 Great Conjunction in Aquarius is the first of a series in Air...

...which brings us to the third cycle connected to the December 2020 Great Conjunction at 0 degrees Aquarius. Yes, it is a Great Mutation, as it marks a permanent change in the Great Conjunctions from Earth to Air. It is also the first Great Mutation in Air since 1405 – roughly 800 years ago. The last Great Mutation in Air was preceded by a “sneak peek” in 1186, interrupting the series in Earth. The Great Mutation in Air officially started in 1226. Note that the single Great Conjunctions in Water during this timespan were *not* Great Mutations

Now that we’ve explained the technical part of these 20, 200 and 800-year Jupiter-Saturn cycles, what does it all mean? What is the significance of ending a 200-year focus in Earth and segueing into Air?

Why does it suggest a need to “reimagine the future.”

Reimagining The Future

We need to reimagine the future because the ways in which we've measured success and status over the past 200 years will no longer apply. It hardly seems a coincidence that the last Great Mutation in Earth has included the Industrial Age. Success has been defined as maximum productivity, efficiency and profit. The fruits of our collective labor have been material goods, powered by resources mined from the Earth. Success has been defined as "He who dies with the most toys wins." Higher education has been pursued for the sake of increased market value in a competitive job market, meaning far less PhDs in Philosophy other abstract fields, and way more MBAs and other quantitative pursuits. Shareholders (those who stand to profit) have been given greater consideration than stakeholders (everyone else).

After the December 2020 Great Mutation in Air, those who cling to the Earth paradigm may discover that they are out of their element. We can only re-imagine how priorities and behavior will change once success is not defined by the accumulation of material goods. Current trends suggest that ownership of goods is more likely to be shared. We may see greater value given to intellectual and creative processes, especially those that are collective. The sneak peek represented by the 1980-1 Great Conjunctions in Libra included technological breakthroughs that shattered boundaries and sped up our experience of time. Electronic devices, cell phones, personal computers, and the Internet connected us through the airwaves. Information became a highly-prized commodity, which will likely continue to increase in value.¹⁰

Air turns Earth into dust. It seems reasonable to "reimagine" that the current Gilded Age – with its soaring stock market and concentration of material resources in the hands of the very few – may be having some turbulence as Jupiter and Saturn exit Earthy Capricorn and take flight in Aquarius. Cue "Dust in the Wind" – performed by the progressive rock band Kansas on its 1978 album, *Point of Know Return* – now, please.

The last Great Mutation in Air coincided with the birth of the Renaissance. It is fascinating to glance at Wikipedia and see what developed during that time: humanism, linear thinking, educational reform, diplomacy and inductive reasoning¹¹ With inductive reasoning (says Wikipedia), the premises of an argument may supply some evidence for the conclusion reached, and the conclusion may not be certain, only probable. This was quite a leap from the old paradigm of deductive reasoning, which

demanded that the premise of an argument must supply evidence for a conclusion that was absolutely, totally certain. Think about this for a minute.

(A brief pause, while you think).

If the 2020 Great Mutation in Air sparks a modern-day Renaissance, in which concepts and conclusions that are supported by inductive reasoning become more universally accepted again, this would seem to bode well for... astrologers! Skeptics who dismiss astrology because "it's not scientific" may find themselves out of fashion – and yes, out of their element. And what is defined as "scientific" may be redefined to fit the intangible reality of Air – as opposed to tangible Earth.

Conjunct In Colorado!

One thing is absolutely and totally for sure. We will have a lot to talk about at ISAR 2020. Don't miss this opportunity to expand your mind and hone your skills with a stellar international faculty of 100 astrologers. Their unique and innovative insights will be presented in six days, with 130 classes and 12 workshops to choose from.

ISAR speakers will cover Great Conjunctions and Great Mutations from a myriad of angles. On the historical front, Turkey's **Hakan Kirkoglu** will address their significance from the time of Christopher Columbus to the rise of socialism in the 19th century. Russia's **Karine Dilanian** will focus on how Johannes Kepler interpreted the Great Conjunctions in the court of Emperor Rudolph II.

A broader historical review and a forecast for the future will be offered in separate presentations by Canada's **Chris McRae** and U.S. astrologer **Frank Piechoski**. Meanwhile, **Gloria Star**'s talk will focus on "The Mythos of Jupiter Conjunct Saturn," as it relates to the mortality of U.S. presidents – a.k.a. the Curse of Tecumseh¹².

Meanwhile, in the world of finance, India's **Nitin Bhandari** will focus on the Great Conjunction's impact on crude oil and the British pound – with a dash of Neptune. **Ray Merriman** will offer a big picture forecast for the financial markets, making a "cosmic case for a modern-day Renaissance and a brave new economic/political world."

Speaking of the Renaissance, German astrologer **Klemens Ludwig** will cover it in what is sure to be a standing room only talk about astrology during this time of humankind's embrace of "individuality, freedom and boundlessness of the spirit." Impatient Aries that I am, I reached out to Klemens for a

sneak peek of his research. "Astrology played a very important role during that period – taught at the universities and discussed among intellectuals. The great artists integrated astrological symbols into the work," Klemens revealed. Does he feel history will repeat itself? "We are already experiencing the harbingers," Klemens said, noting his recent interviews with one of Germany's leading political magazines and one of the two big public TV stations. "It's not that they have "converted" to astrology, but I am experiencing a new kind of respect and openness...without any kind of condemnation or arrogance."

Finally, two astrologers will address the impact of Great Conjunctions in a natal chart. **Georgia Stathis** is taking a broad approach on the seed potential suggested by the start of any synodic cycle between two planets. She'll also look beyond the 2020 Great Conjunction to the major conjunctions of 2022 and 2024. **Lee Lehman** is taking a narrower approach, offering guidance on how this particular Great Conjunction may be used in planning – not for the next twenty years, but for the rest of your life!

I asked Lee to elaborate on why she sees this Great Conjunction as a weightier event than January's undeniably heavy conjunction of Saturn and Pluto. She replied that a Great Mutation – a change over a long period of time from one element to another – is "a generation gap with an extra punch," adding, "When you live, as we do, in one of these transitional periods, then the clash of priorities is much more evident. The older and younger generations clash more obviously, not necessarily in a Mars-type argument, but because there are genuine differences in values, not simply style. Because these periods last longer than an individual lifetime, it can be difficult to see the process, except at these transitional times."

The Chinese might call these transitional times "interesting."

Mission Affirmed

There are no coincidences in life, especially if you're an astrologer. The Sabian Symbol for the Great Mutation at 0 Aquarius is "An old adobe mission." An adobe building is more commonly found in the Southwest part of the United States, e.g. Arizona and New Mexico. It occurred to a member of the ISAR Planning Committee back in April of 2018 that the Westminster Westin was recently renovated in Southwestern décor. It seems to be an affirmation that we found the right place.

Now that we have explained the significance of the conference theme, we hope you will join us as we "Reimagine the Future". Sabian Symbol Sage Blain Bovee¹³ eloquently interprets the spirit of 0 Aquarius as having "a mind to focused enthusiasm eager to broadcast self-evident, universal truths."

We look forward to good times ahead.

Endnotes:

1. <https://concordianc.org/61-what-does-synod-mean/>
2. <http://theastrologydictionary.com/c/chronocrator/>
3. thanks to retrograde motion, sometimes Jupiter and Saturn meet up more than once within a one-year span in their synodic cycle, as they did in 1980 and 1981.
4. <http://astropro.com/features/tables/geo/ju-sa/ju000sa.html>
5. Solar Fire software
6. Arguably assisted by the 1982 Saturn-Pluto conjunction, which was also in Libra
7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dot-com_bubble
8. <https://www.etymonline.com/word/mutation>
9. "Ibid"
10. For a thoughtful analysis, see *Astrology News Service's* 2015 article by Adrian Ross Duncan <http://astrologynewsservice.com/opinion/astrology-and-the-system/>
11. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renaissance>
12. <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/the-curse-of-tecumseh/>
13. Bovee, Blain. *The Sabian Symbols & Astrological Analysis*. Llewellyn Worldwide: 2004 p. 188

Biography:



Elisabeth Grace, ISAR-CAP, B.A. in Philosophy from Wellesley College. She is a consulting (modern psychological) astrologer and highest-honors graduate of Noel Tyl's masters course for professional astrologers. She is also an STA-certified horary practitioner. Freelancing at WNBC and CNBC inspired her must-read forecast on

the astonishing synchronicity of headlines and planetary patterns. Her "Charts in the News" commentary can be found in the student section of every Mountain Astrologer. Book her for a consultation or a speaking engagement at: <https://www.elisabethgrace.com>

