

Fall 2005

By Kenneth Bowser

The salient features of the last two months of 2005 are earthquakes in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Tokyo-Yokohama metropolitan area, terrorism against Western interests, and strong improvement in the U.S. stock markets.

In November and December 2005 there are seven aspect relationships between the five slow moving planets, Jupiter out to Pluto.

In November:

- 1) Jupiter will be mundane square Saturn (Saturn will culminate as Jupiter rises).
- 2) Uranus will be mundane square Pluto (Uranus will culminate as Pluto sets).
- 3) Jupiter will trine Uranus.
- 4) Jupiter will be mundane square Neptune (Neptune will set when Jupiter transits the lower meridian).

In December:

- 5) Jupiter will be mundane square Neptune again from different angles (Jupiter will rise when Neptune transits the lower meridian).
- 6) Jupiter will be semi-square Pluto.
- 7) Jupiter will square Saturn in zodiaco.

All of those things are good for a substantial improvement in the stock markets of the world but especially the U.S. markets as these mundane squares are strongest through U.S. parallels. It could be argued that Jupiter square Saturn is never good for a burgeoning market, but in the simultaneous presence of Saturn in high-powered relationships with the outer planets, Jupiter square Saturn will stabilize market forces. Jupiter configured with the outer planets in quick succession for sixty days would otherwise symbolize markets running wild with exuberance as they will in the coming Winter and Spring of 2006 when Jupiter from its station will square Neptune — without limitation from Saturn. The Saturn–Neptune opposition, however, that will be in play in the late summer of 2006 through the early summer of 2007, symbolizes a very substantial business downturn. In 2005 each time the American markets have lost a couple hundred points, those losses have been quickly made good. The second half of 2006 will see the beginning of sustained losses.

The 2005 Christmas season, the *sine qua non* of the retail world, is likely to prove disappointing to executives hoping for record profits, but they will be sufficient to prevent the stock prices of most retailers from being shredded. After all, Jupiter is square

Saturn exactly on December 17th. Sales are likely to be average at best until then, but will pick up after that date.

In addition to the slow planet combinations above, Mars acts like a slow planet during much of 2005 because it will be within an arc of 30° for more than six months between August 2005 and January 2006. The most worrisome period is the five weeks from November 27th to December 31st when Mars will be within 1° of the sesquiquadrate aspect to Pluto. The sesquiquadrate (135°: a square and half a square) has been recognized for centuries by serious students of astrology as a combination of first rank status in terms of power. Mars and Pluto in combination symbolize deadly force at worst and access to great power at best. It often relates to things military, threats acted upon, or extraordinary courage in combat and record-breaking feats of strength and athleticism. It also frequently relates to buried or sublimated power — sometimes rage — that suddenly explodes into manifestation for good or ill depending on what else is in play at the same time. People who have this natively are relentless in the pursuit of their aims. It can be quite fanatical in effect or unswerving in alliance with virtuous ends.

Mars will twice make exact sesquiquadrate aspects to Pluto in December: on the 1st and Christmas Day, the 25th. In addition, Mars will square Saturn exactly on December 28th. This combination is the nexus of wild, often ungovernable forces juxtaposed traditional, established positions. Neither side is interested in debate. The strength of both positions are tested when they come into square. The stock market responds very badly to this combination which is why the last week of 2005 is likely to be a down week. Finally, the last piece of a disturbing three-way malefic combination comes into play during the last third of December. Saturn comes to within 1° of the sesquiquadrate aspect to Pluto on December 22, 2005; the relationship becomes exact on New Year's Day 2006. Dark forces whose fervent aim is to turn all of Christendom against Islam may well find the 2005 Christmas season irresistible. A double sesquiquadrate from Mars and Saturn with Pluto as the focal point and with Mars and Saturn simultaneously configured with each other, is violent and bellicose in the extreme.

With the exception of the current U.S. political leadership, none of the world's first tier states either wants war or can afford its ruinous expense. This is also true of the second tier states that could be bludgeoned out of existence by a modern conflict on a large scale. States like Iran that engage in saber-rattling surely do so for internal consumption; all the world knows that if Iran were to launch an attack against Israel or any Western power she would become a smoking, glowing ruin. In the absence then of a conventional big state-sponsored military enterprise, that leaves only a small state-sponsored or terrorist action as the likely source of the trouble. When Saturn was sesquiquadrate Pluto in September, the aspect barely produced a ripple because of other factors in play that tended to mitigate the classically undesirable effect of Saturn with Pluto. Typically this contact rearranges the fixtures of one's life through loss or separation, or realigns political strengths as when one nation improves its position at another's expense. Saturn was within 1° of the sesquiquadrate to Pluto for twenty days from last August 31st to September 19th. This time the aspect will be within 1° for twenty-one days from December 22, 2005 until January 11, 2006. The second of a

three-contact direct-retrograde-direct passage between two bodies is usually harder than the first, and especially here because of factors described above, which now do not mitigate, but rather exacerbate the effect of Saturn sesquiquadrate Pluto. The Christmas season has greater significance in the West than any other, save perhaps Easter: a fact not lost on our enemies who delight in the symbolic value of their acts against the West.

But before the end of the year, the most significant events of the last two months of the year are likely to be centered on parallels between 34° and 38° North latitude. When planets are in and near their stations they are enormously powerful for good or ill depending on their intrinsic natures. Mars is stationary on December 10th. Neptune transits the lower meridian when Mars sets at 36°, 37° and 38° North during the first three weeks of December. All locations on those parallels are subject to that unwelcome combination during that time. Two malefics that combine in one area for weeks cock a trigger for that band of latitude. Mars and Neptune together are cruel, violent, often virulent and together signify vulnerability or weakness exploited. Sometimes the weakness is in granite and basalt.

During the first three weeks of December Mars culminates in the meridian as Neptune sets through the parallels 34°, 35° and 36° North. San Francisco, California is at 37° N 47' and Tokyo, Japan at 35°N 42' pick up the two Mars – Neptune mundo squares. They both have horrific Capricorn Lunar Ingresses that begin on December 4th in California and December 5th in Japan. Both locales are very prone to earthquakes. The Caplunar for San Francisco is worse because it has three malefics on angles: Neptune is in the ascendant, Saturn is on the descendant and Mars is at the nadir. Saturn sets on December 6 in this chart; Neptune rises on December 9th and the transiting Sun will also be mundane square transiting Uranus on December 9th. The Sun and or the Moon often act as chronocrators in earthquakes.

San Francisco is already primed for serious problems due to the presence of Mars almost precisely on the horizon (at the ascendant) in both the Cancer Solar Ingress of July 17, 2005 and the Libra Solar Ingress of October 17, 2005. Mars was less than a degree in mundo above the descendant of the 2005 Cancer Solar Ingress equated to the epicenter of the 7.6 Richter magnitude earthquake that struck Pakistan near Islamabad on October 8, 2005. At this writing, (November 1, 2005) 79,000 people are confirmed dead from this quake.

At Tokyo, the same planets that confound San Francisco are angular but on different angles. Saturn is near the zenith and will arrive there exactly on New Year's Eve; Neptune is near the lower meridian and will transit that place exactly also on New Year's Eve; Mars is on the descendant and will transit that place exactly on December 25 in mundo and on December 26 in zodiaco. Like San Francisco, Tokyo is underscored in a solar ingress as a place where violence or destruction may manifest on a big scale: the Cancer Solar Ingress for 2005 equated to Tokyo has Pluto nearly five degrees below the ascendant in longitude but in terms of its true position in mundo, Pluto is actually a degree above the horizon at Tokyo and therefore exceedingly strong.

Except for the latitude of the October earthquake in Pakistan (34° N 24'), there are no other locations on the parallels affected by the Mars – Neptune parans in December that are near earthquake prone regions and that have a Capricorn lunar ingress as bad as the ones for San Francisco Bay Area and the Tokyo-Yokohama metropolitan area. Accordingly, it is reasonable to predict severe seismic disturbances for both places in December 2005, especially on the 6th and the 9th in California and especially on the 25th and 31st in Japan. The symbolism for the California quake easily exceeds that of the last big quake there in October 1989 and may rival the last great California earthquake of April 1906. I doubt that the December 2005 situation in Japan could equal the stupendous earthquake of 1923 that leveled Tokyo, but the situation in Japan is likely to be extreme nonetheless.