

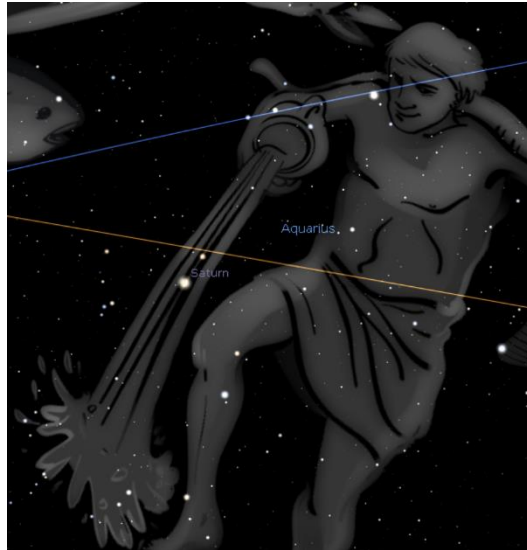
## Stars of November

November offers several important starry events. The above chart is for around November 17<sup>th</sup> but these events play out over many days during November and with Mars, continue through the Spring.

To begin with, Saturn turns Direct on November 16<sup>th</sup>, meaning it appears from the Earth point of view to stop moving backwards along the ecliptic path and starts progressing forward again in its journey through the zodiac. Saturn went retrograde on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. So, for about 4.5 months it has been moving in retrograde coming into opposition with the Sun on September 8<sup>th</sup>, which would be then when the Earth was between Saturn and Sun, at its closest to Saturn. Willi Sucher used to write that when these planets are in retrograde they are "leaning in towards the Earth", so to speak, meaning that they are calling on us to pay attention to them. For these past months, Saturn has been leaning in, making a kind of loop gesture in the stars of Aquarius, the Water Bearer. In fact, it is in that part of Aquarius

which are the stars of the cosmic waters being poured down towards the Earth from Aquarius (see image). During these months Saturn has especially been calling our attention to our current world karma and our challenges to raise our consciousness, our “gnosis” to a vision of the future tasks to prepare for the coming Aquarian Age. Can we receive the cosmic life forces of Aquarius into our shaping of world karma and in healing past karma? What foundations are we putting in place now on which to build for this coming age?

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, this leaning in gesture ends and Saturn begins its forward movement towards the stars of Pisces, so we can perhaps feel a sense of directional change karmically in our world situation,



even perhaps personally. I cannot help but think back to the end of June in the USA when the disastrous debate between Trump and Biden took place which first started the movement towards questioning Biden’s capabilities and around his need to step aside as the candidate. This culminated with his stepping down in late July. Since then, the whole surge of change in US politics has been swirling around the basic themes of a new path into the future or or a going back to the past. November 5<sup>th</sup> is the election in the USA when hopefully these questions will be answered (though of course there is doubt around how that will play out) and the USA will begin to move then in one direction or another. Are we laying the karmic foundations for a new future, with the Aquarian ideals of our shared common humanity, or are we turning to the old forms of the past out of fear and polarization?

Another starry imagination for this time of mid-November is the coming of the Sun into opposition to Uranus on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The Moon will be Full on November 15<sup>th</sup>, so we can say this opposition also occurs at the Full Moon, with the Moon at Uranus, opposite the Sun. By November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Moon will have moved on to be conjunct Jupiter in the Bull. The Sun of course will come into opposition with Uranus every year, as well as conjunct Uranus every year. (It was conjunct Uranus on May 14<sup>th</sup>.) Uranus has, for the past months, around the same time that Saturn went retrograde at the end of June, been hovering around the star Algol in the constellation of Perseus above Taurus and Aries cusp. So as Saturn has been making its gesture towards the Earth with its questions around world karmic decisions, so has Uranus been hovering with retrograde and direct movement, around the star Algol. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Sun stands opposite, as Uranus is in retrograde, leaning in towards us with Earth directly between Sun and Uranus. How might we understand this?

As students of astrosophy, can begin to work with our own cosmic thinking and knowledge of these planetary spheres to come to insights around these relationships. First, we can look at the star Algol. In the image below you can see Perseus holding the head of Medusa in his left hand, with the star Algol as the eye of Medusa. Directly below near the bottom of the image you see Uranus. The story of Perseus is a story of the changing human consciousness in the Greek times, when the hero, Perseus, a kind of Michaelic figure, conquers beasts of the past consciousness and comes to rescue the Princess Andromeda, representing the human soul, from the now-harmful forces of the past atavistic consciousness, represented by Cetus the Sea Monster who was about to devour Andromeda. He does this you could say by using Ahriman against Lucifer. Medusa’s gaze turned all creatures to stone, the cold

deadening intellect that had once been Medusa's hair of "serpents" of wisdom, now turned every living thing to stone. Perseus directed the gaze of the Medusa onto Cetus, who represented the old watery lunar atavistic consciousness, and turned him to stone, thus saving the Soul. From that rescue arises, as shown in the heavens above Pisces, the winged intelligence, the horse Pegasus. These constellations stretch from above Taurus to above Pisces. This is a powerful and beautiful imagination of the changing consciousness into the age of Aries which also points to the new "winged" consciousness, the spiritual consciousness, we are to develop in our Piscean time and on into the new age. Algol, which was called the Demon Star, or the Blinking Demon, comes from the Arabic name Ra's al Ghul, the Demon's Head. Al Ghul, from which we get our word ghoul, literally signifies a Mischief-maker. It is known in astronomy as an eclipsing binary, which means there are two stars which eclipse each other every few days, causing a kind of blinking effect. This Demon Star 'blinks' for about 8 hours as the dimmer star of the pair passes between the brighter star and the Earth.



How then do we understand Uranus conjunct this star Algol where it has hovered in these months since June, and is now opposite the Sun on this day, November 17<sup>th</sup>? The Sun is in the stars of Libra, which you could describe as the modern counterpoint to Perseus, because Libra is the stars of Michael and the new Michaelic battle for the redemption of cosmic intelligence, or the bringing of winged intelligence into humanity. One can even see in the Greek Perseus hero story, battling Cetus to rescue Andromeda, a kind of mirror of that time-consciousness to the image of Michael battling the Dragon (Scorpio) to save Sophia (Virgo) from being devoured. You might recall that every August we have the meteor shower from Perseus as a herald of the Michael season beginning. So, now the Sun stands in Libra looking across to Uranus conjunct Algol, the mischief maker demon star. Uranus, is that sphere which wants to be developed as the higher stage of consciousness, described by Rudolf Steiner as Imaginative Consciousness. It is the first step on the path to a new consciousness, which is developed as we transform our lower astral nature (the Cetus in each of us). Uranus also is that sphere representing the unfolding of what Rudolf Steiner calls the Spirit Self. (See my book, chapter on the Outer Planets.) But because this task for us is to be done in freedom, the higher beings stand back and leave us to choose the path to higher knowledge. Michael only stands "beckoning, follow me." However, those beings opposing evolution do not stand back but seek to divert and prevent our higher becoming. They work in our more pathological nature. So, the sphere of Uranus, with its potential for the transformation of the astral, the lower soul life, and the development of Imagination (picture thinking) and the new Spirit Self, is subject to the retarding efforts of Lucifer, who works primarily on the astral nature, and seeks to keep us bound to the illusions of maya and all that feeds our love of self (with a small s). Uranus can become a tool for illusions, false images of truth, that only bind us to the earthly senses and to our egotism, either through a return to a group consciousness of the past or to a spirituality that only feeds our own grandiose egotism. Now Uranus meets Algol, the eye of Medusa. We can perhaps see in this the efforts to kill and deaden a new awakening of a higher consciousness in humanity by all that wants to work out of the past consciousness that is no longer right for our evolution. With Uranus now

opposite the Sun in Libra, we gain strength for this battle. The Sun brings the balancing imagination raying across as the new Perseus sword of Michael, helping us to discern the truth and see the realities behind what is at play to deceive us.

To add to this picture, we have Mars coming into opposition with Pluto first on November 3<sup>rd</sup> (USA election on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>). It appears to be moving quite slowly now, crossing just into the stars of Cancer as it prepares to go into retrograde and start its looping movement, with an opposition to the Sun on January 16, 2025. During this loop Mars will come into opposition with Pluto over the next 6 months three times: Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, April 27<sup>th</sup>. This Pluto/Mars opposition takes place with Mars in the stars of Cancer and Pluto is now fully entered into Capricorn after its long journey through Sagittarius. This will be a time of great challenges. It has the potential to result in extreme conflict, even explosive disruptions and war, particularly with the planets in these constellations associated with the descent into materialism and separation from the divine in Cancer, which has also been the task of Mars in our evolution, and the catharsis of initiation or breakthrough with Capricorn, which is that constellation representing the ascent of Hercules after his labors, into initiation. Capricorn also remembers the Great War in Heaven in past evolution, which resulted in the eventual victory of the Sun over the separated Moon, and its reunion. Humanity will be faced with the challenge of not giving in to its pathological side, to its darker tendencies of aggression and destruction. The darker will to power will and the forces of aggression become a deep challenge for humanity to confront. Yet if taken up consciously it can become a source of courage to bring a deep force of transformation of our very foundations. One can draw on the fact that at the time of Golgotha and the Resurrection Saturn was in the stars of Cancer: the true archetype of redemption and transformation, even of matter, for the world and the healing seed for our humanity. The will of the Father, the sphere of world karma, was fulfilled.

We can add briefly to this picture a third starry event. Mercury is in Scorpion opposite to Jupiter in the horns of Taurus on November 17/18<sup>th</sup> as the Moon meets Jupiter. Here again we can explore the cosmic dimensions. Mercury is associated with the work of transforming earthly fallen intelligence in our actions, now in the sphere of Scorpion, the death perspective, into cosmic intelligence. It is the Michael planet and activity which now looks across to Jupiter, the sphere of cosmic wisdom and the true ideals of humanity for the future, in Taurus, the stars of the Cosmic Word. Can we work to bring the new intelligence of Mercury to overcome the death forces of Scorpio in union with the higher vision and ideals for our future carried by Jupiter? Here again we can see in the relationships of the planetary intelligences a representation of the battle underway in these crucial times, particularly expressed now in these weeks of November.

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