

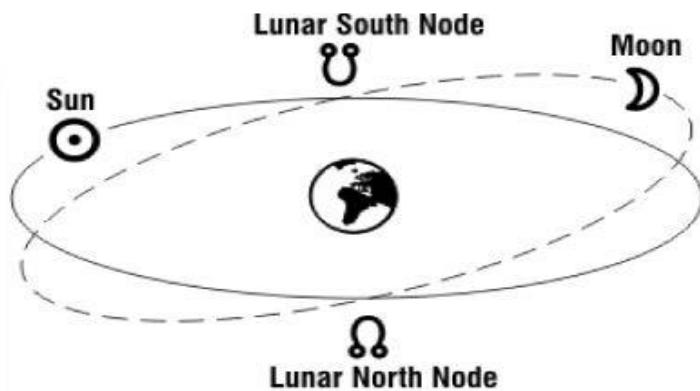
February 2025 Stars

Neptune and the Moon Node



For this month let us focus on the Moon Node taking a significant role in the cosmic activity. Of special significance is that Neptune is now in the Ascending Moon node and Saturn (which we will speak about next month) will be entering this Moon Node in late March (exact in mid-April this year). Neptune and the Moon Nodes move slowly, so Neptune in the Ascending Moon Node will spread out over about ten months. However, Neptune will be exactly in the Ascending Moon Node in mid-February. On February 3rd, Venus also entered this Moon Node conjunct Neptune. Neptune moves very slowly forward along the ecliptic, taking about 165 years to complete one orbit, so it has only completed one orbit since its discovery in 1846. The Moon Nodes move backward along the ecliptic, completing one full revolution in 18.6 years. So, these meetings with Neptune occur about every 17 years. The Descending Node is opposite, so Neptune has another cycle of entering the Descending Node, also about every 17 years. This means Neptune enters one or the other Moon Node about every 8+ years.

Before attempting to understand this event astrosophically, let us review the nature of the Moon Nodes. Below is a diagram of the path of the Moon intersecting the ecliptic plane (zodiac) where one can see two points of intersection. The Ascending or North Node is the point where the Moon ascends above the ecliptic plane and the Descending or South Node is where the Moon descends below the ecliptic in its orbit. Each node has a different quality, with the Ascending node more connected to the constellations above the ecliptic and the Descending Node to the constellations below the ecliptic. You could also consider that the Ascending Node is like a kind of spring equinox point for the Moon where the Moon rises above the ecliptic plane every month, as the Sun does every year, and the Descending Node like a kind of lunar autumnal threshold. So, in this sense one can consider the Ascending Node more related to becoming, ascending, expanding, blooming and the Descending Node more akin to descending, withdrawing inwardly, dying away, entering the darker aspect of its sphere. In this way, one can perhaps see the traditional astrological interpretation of the Lunar Nodes: The North node more connected with our purpose and direction towards growth and realization of potentials in life and the South Node more connected with what lives in the darker, unconscious part of our lives, in what perhaps we bring unresolved from our karmic past in need of balance and transformation, even as hindrances and challenges.

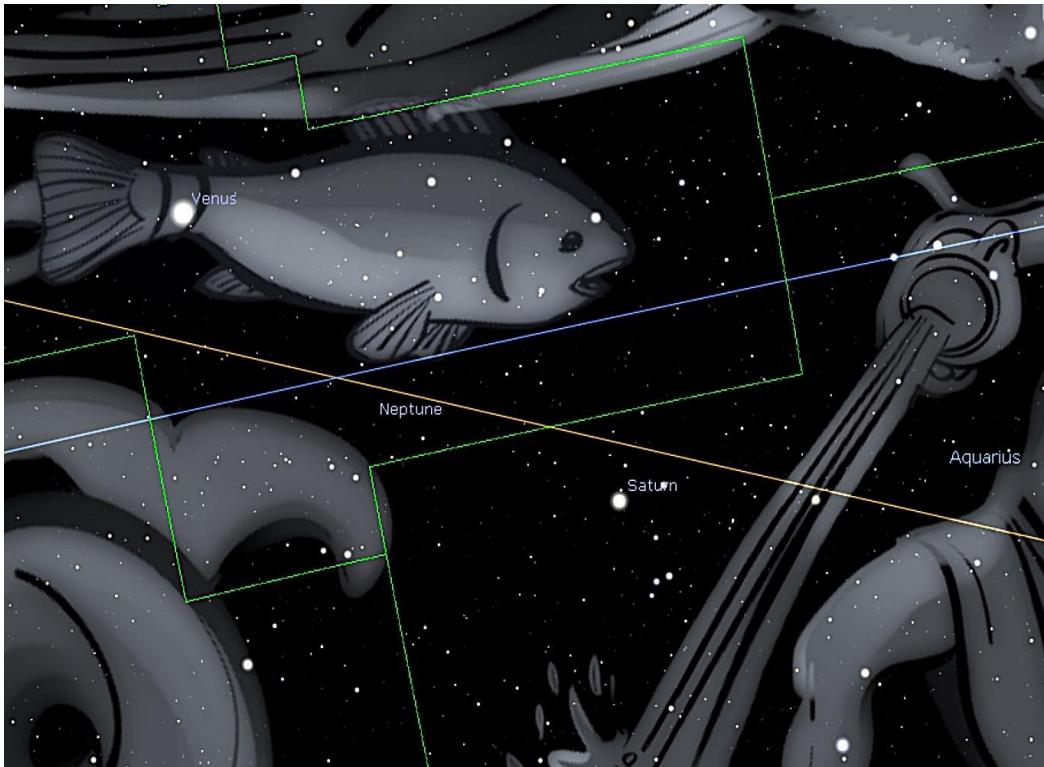


How else might we understand the Moon Nodes? In astrosophy, there is a whole chart connected to human incarnation that can be worked out in relation to the Moon Nodes, which is called the Spiritual Nativity, though this cannot be gone into here. However, the basic premise of this chart is that the Lunar Nodes act as a kind of portal or doorway to the Solar Spere through which can stream higher impulses from this realm, even from our higher self. How? We can consider the path of the Moon as an indicator for us spatially of the whole “sphere” of the Moon, like a kind of cosmic equator of the Moon sphere enveloping our Earth, and tilted at an angle so that the plane of this “sphere equator/orbit” intersects the other plane of the Sun/Earth, the ecliptic plane. The path of the Sun likewise indicates a kind of cosmic equator of the Sun sphere, but is not limited to the apparent circling of the Sun body (which in reality is the path of our Earth from the Sun centered Copernican system). It takes us even out to the zodiac, to the true greater solar sphere which is our solar cosmos itself, bounded by the zodiac along this ecliptic path of the greater Sun, the peripheral Sun sphere. The ecliptic path is the central cosmic Earth/Sun path to which all the planet paths align themselves at varying angles, each with their nodal intersections with the ecliptic as well. The greater Sun bears and orders this planetary cosmos. This is the basis for heliocentric astrosophy. But we can say in relation to the Lunar Nodes that these points are intersections, entry points, portals between worlds – between the Moon Sphere and the Earth/Sun sphere. They are a doorway for direct raying in so to speak of the higher Sun sphere to the Earth and for events strongly connected with our Earth/Sun relationship. One can see this in the fact that eclipses (partial and total) with their special spiritual activity, occur when the full moon or new moon take place in these nodes. We also know that in human development, significant biographical moments occur when the Moon nodes return to the place where they stood at the moment of our birth. They represent a kind of instreaming of the higher Sun element into our biography in terms of personal realization. With these lunar nodes as open doors between the greater Sun sphere and the Earth, without the “filtering” of the Moon sphere, we can imagine that they offer clear moments of intersectionality also when other planets enter these portals by longitudinally aligning with them. This is what takes place in February with first Venus and then for a long period of time Neptune in the Ascending Moon Node, the node of potential and growth and becoming.

Now if we focus on the activity of Neptune as having a special portal of entry into the Earth sphere as it is passing through this Node, we can begin to try to speak to this cosmic situation out of spiritual science and a new understanding of the task of the human being in relation to the cosmic intelligences of the planetary spheres. In my book, I go into the three outer planets in more detail, but for this article, we shall explore how might Neptune be presenting humanity an opportunity and a challenge. Each planetary sphere has its higher and lower elements, but in these outer planets particularly we are meeting spheres which belong to the future potentiality for humanity, each with their own activity. In Neptune we can say its primary area for harm as well as for potential lies in the etheric realm. It is in its higher element the potentiality for humanity to elevate its consciousness to the realm of life, to even the development of *Budhi* or *Life Spirit*, the higher sphere of knowing out of a transformed feeling, or a new thinking of the heart. One could even say it points towards a new realization of the Christ in the etheric realm. In this sense perhaps we can imagine that Neptune now calls humanity to a new dimension of spiritual growth and transformation through deep-seated change and evolutionary shifts. It can be an intense time of lifting the veil over what has been unseen and face the specters of the past as well as Inspiration for the future in order to heal and move forward into a new consciousness.

But one can also say that since Neptune is a new sphere in our consciousness, in which we are free to rise, it also has its shadow nature. This would then be the forces of anti-life and of deadening in the feeling realm (feeling in the deeper element, not astral emotionality). Its fallen side is in service of all that is Ahriman which manifests in materialism, the cold deadness of the feeling, and a mechanistic intellectualism which sees only physical matter as reality. In fact, Neptune's discovery in 1846 is associated with the rise of the purely materialistic view of the human being. It was during this time that dialectical materialism was expressed in Marx's Communist Manifesto, of publication of Darwin's *Origin of the Species*, from which Huxley soon presented his theory that humans had evolved from apes. Humans are just animals. So, we can perhaps see in this configuration, and the further meeting of Saturn with Neptune approaching, a time of major challenges and opportunities for humanity. A real battle of Ahriman for the elimination of spirituality in humanity yet at the same time, a real opportunity to rise to a new perspective on our humanity and its spiritual mission. These will take place simultaneously and I firmly believe that the spiritual world and the Christ presence or Parousia is breaking into human consciousness in new ways as an aid to our progress.

This meeting as well as Saturn approaching are all taking place in the end of the stars of Pisces, the stars of our Age, which can also bring us to a deeper realization not only of the culminating tasks of our Age of the consciousness soul development, but also pre-inspire the values of the coming 6th Age. So, we can even see in this configuration a kind of early call to prepare for the coming New Age of Aquarius, as each Age has a transitional time. What is breaking into humanity now I see as a time to lay the groundwork for what is to come as a new spiritual unfolding of our humanity. The astronomical Aquarian Age will transition in about 2300-2400 AD. In the image below you can see the location of Neptune and Saturn in this area “between,” at the end of Pisces and the flow of the waters from Aquarius. The yellow lines are the boundaries between the constellations. The reddish and blue lines show the intersection of the celestial equator and the ecliptic which is the Vernal Point, which shifts backward to define the cultural ages as it transitions from one constellation to the other. In fact, the conjunction of Saturn and Neptune in February, 2026 will take place exactly at the vernal point, which is a potent nexus point in the cosmos.



This configuration must also be viewed in the context of Saturn’s proximity and its meeting with Neptune and the Moon Node which is approaching and will begin in orb already this March, when the Sun will also meet Saturn. During Holy Week this April, Saturn will then be exact in the Ascending Moon Node, just 4 degrees away from Neptune. A time of karmic reckoning. It will slowly approach Neptune and because of retrograde movements, will come into exact conjunction first in August, 2025, while both are in retrograde and then again exact conjunct Neptune in February, 2026. These Saturn and Neptune conjunctions take place about every 36 years, but now we also have it along with the connection to the Lunar Node. So, we can see here a long period of this relationship of Neptune and Saturn, as well as the Moon Node, which we will explore in the future.

I think it is unnecessary to point out what many people experience as a real sea of upheaval and radical change in the world order. The challenge is to be fully conscious of the efforts of the opposition of the Ahrimanic activity of further materialization, of hate and lies, of the mechanization of the human being. However, the breakdown is also the activity of the evolutionary beings to open the way for a new consciousness and new social forms for the future which serve the spiritual dignity of our becoming human. Out of catharsis and apparent chaos the new will arise. In the context of Neptune and its relation to the etheric realm and Life Spirit, or Budhi, I refer the lecture on *Faith, Love and Hope*, given by Steiner on Dec 2, 1911 in which he describes the etheric body as the love body. He also goes into the task of the 6th Age and the nature of the Second Coming in this lecture. These are all being foreshadowed now in these configurations. He says there: *The forces that first rise up out of the etheric body from the depths of our being are those forces that allow human beings to love, to love at every stage of their existence...The shriveling of the forces of love can also be called a*

shriveling of the etheric forces, for the etheric body is simultaneously the love-body. Let us consider not only the human etheric body in this context, but the world etheric body, in which now the Christ is present as a force of love and resurrection. Pisces stars can also be viewed as the constellation of love, as our relational life to others and to the Earth. Virgo, opposite, is the constellation of Wisdom. These two constellations are the horizontal plane of the great world cross, just as Gemini and Sagittarius are the vertical beam. These have been discussed quite extensively in relation to the Great Conjunction of 2020 and the activity of Pluto to this axis. Now we come into this activity in Pisces in relation to Neptune and Saturn. It is time now for love as a life force in the world to take its place through Christ in us.

Jonathan Hilton
February, 2025
Astrosophy.com