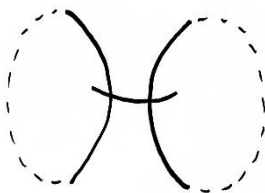


The Stars of March 2025

A Convergence in Pisces

March brings an intensive time of cosmic activity which offers us much to consider in planetary relationships. This month could represent pivotal changes and challenges in world events which hopefully can be met in a positive way. So how can we begin to unravel the multiple cosmic events during this month? Though we will approach them one by one, they should be viewed as one cloth, as one woven whole, spread out over this short period of a few weeks and all converging in the last constellation of the zodiac, Pisces.

This convergence all takes place very near to or at the 0 point of the tropical zodiac, meaning the Spring Equinox point, the intersection of the ecliptic plane of the Sun's apparent path and the celestial equator of the Earth. This is a special location as a major seasonal turning point and a major tropical zodiac transition point, which has brought many astrological predictions. However, as we know, this point in relation to the fixed stars is now in Pisces, due to its precession backwards along the fixed stars and is now only 9 degrees away from transitioning into the stars of Aquarius. With a movement of one degree every 72 years, this means the vernal point will cross into the constellation of Aquarius in about 2675 AD, thus inaugurating the start of the astronomical Aquarian Age. Rudolf Steiner points out that just as our Piscean Age has brought the development of the Consciousness or Spiritual Soul, the coming Sixth Age will bring about the unfolding of the Spirit Self more generally in humanity, the first higher member of the human being enabling our spiritual perception. One should distinguish between the astronomical age and the "cultural age" during which the faculties to be unfolded blossom. If we consider that each age lasts about 2160 years, we can see that we are indeed wrapping up the Piscean Age in preparation for the Aquarian Age in the grand scope of things. Thus, these events in March are of particular significance around what is carried by Pisces and the fulfillment of the tasks of this Age.



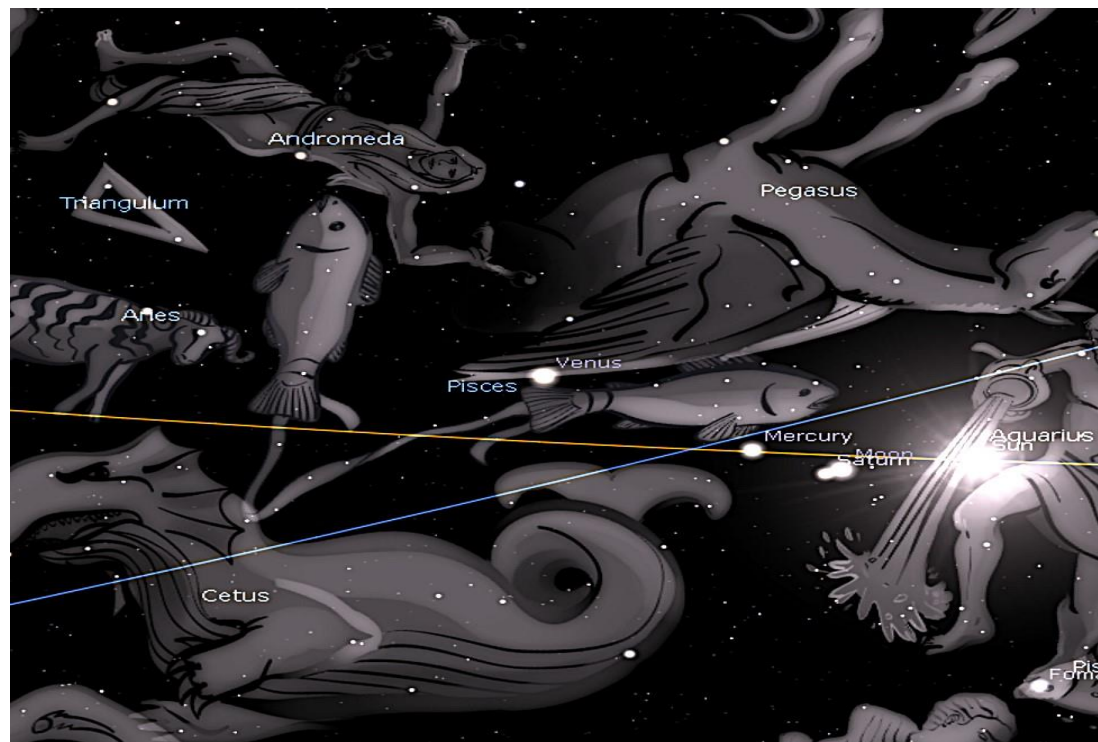
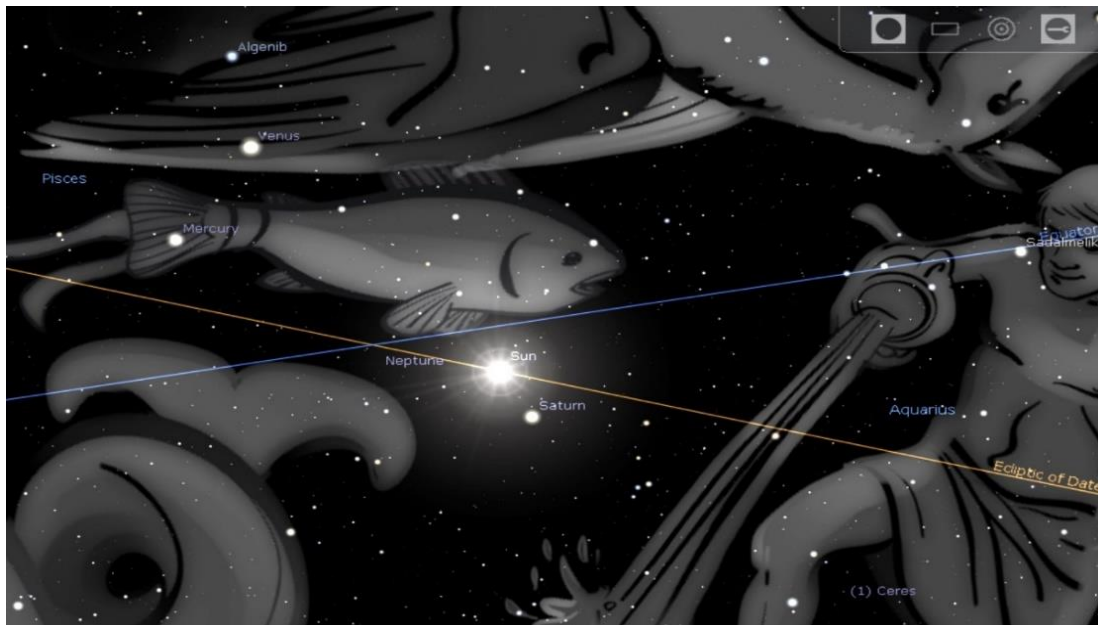
We understand Pisces out of astrosophy on many levels. However, for this article I want to focus on what is of significance for these specific cosmic events in March. If we start simply by looking at the traditional symbol for Pisces, we see two curves joined together, perhaps a hieroglyph of the two fishes of Pisces and the ribbon joining them. However, if we extend the curves to form two globes, we can see that Pisces represents something of two worlds side by side, or you could even say, hand in hand. In this sense and in that it stands at the

Spring Equinox point, opposite Virgo, Pisces also represents the "horizontal" element, the crossbeam of the World Cross of the equinoxes/solstices. This is connected to the relational element in humanity, rather than the vertical element, meaning how we live in relationship with our fellow human beings, with the Earth and with the divine world. This goal of brother/sisterhood comes about through the development of love expressed in our deeds in the world. So, one could say that as Virgo, opposite, represents the great realm of Wisdom, of Sophia, Pisces represents the embodiment of wisdom through the "I" to facilitate love. For certain, Pisces, as the constellation of the vernal point for our Fifth Cultural Age carries the central task of our Age, which is to mature into adulthood and out of the full ego forces develop our relationships to the world around us, both material and spiritual. It is also a turning point Age, marking what is the full descent into egoity, separation and independence from divine guidance.

However, we can go more deeply into this Piscean element. Pisces is the concluding constellation of the twelve, thus it represents a culmination or a stage of completion. However, as time is cyclical, all endings are also beginnings, the initiation of a new cycle. In this sense is Pisces, as is real love, deeply connected with sacrifice. Willi Sucher in his work with the zodiac and the great cycles of evolution, connects Pisces to the original "great sacrifice" of the Spirits of Will at the very start of our cosmic evolution. As a rank of Being of the highest hierarchy, connected to the Father Will, they sacrificed their very substance of will to inaugurate our cosmic beginnings, which then began in relation to Aries, a subtle but clear distinction

between the original deed of sacrifice and the actual beginning of our cosmic evolution. This theme of sacrifice; the ending of one existence to be reborn into a new existence, as we shall see, is the deeper theme of how we can meet what appears to be an intensely challenging convergence of planets in Pisces this March

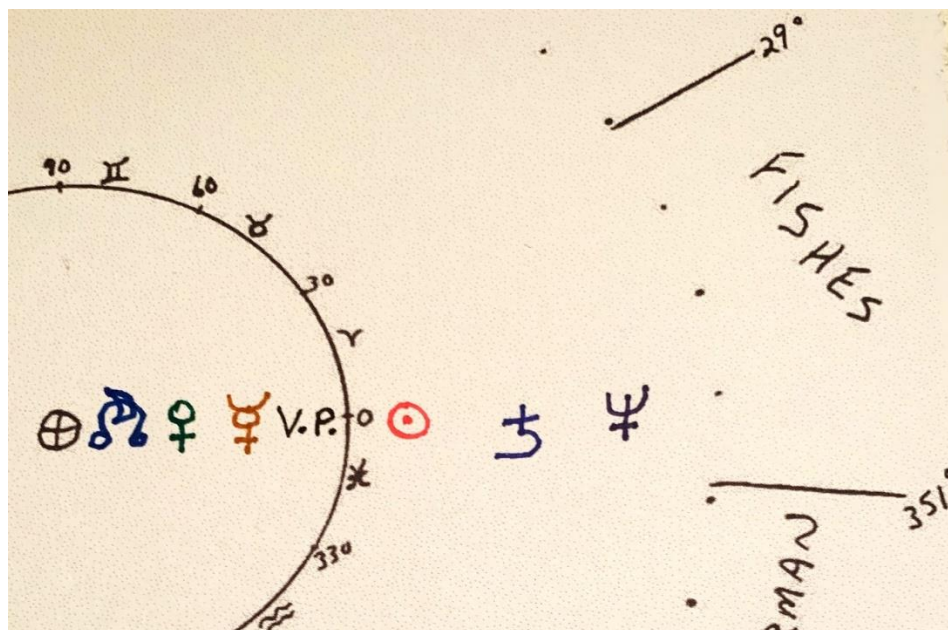
To expand our understanding, you can also notice that all these planets are below the wing of the great constellation of Pegasus that stretches above Pisces. It is a cosmic imagination of the new winged intelligence, the new thinking, arising from the head of Andromeda, the cosmic human soul imagination, as our ideal for this Age. This is the thinking that must be developed in our time to fulfill the tasks of the consciousness soul as preparation for our next Age. Under Pisces, below the ecliptic, is the constellation of the sea monster Cetus which seeks to devour Andromeda. It represents the unconscious lower instinctual forces which work from below to hinder our path to the new clair-thinking and to spiritual freedom.



Below is a simplified image of the stars and planets from mid to end of March in which you can see Neptune, Saturn, Sun, Mercury, and Venus all in Pisces in the North Moon Node. Venus and Mercury will both go retrograde and turn back towards the Vernal Point intersection as the Sun and Saturn move towards this point. The Moon Node (not visible) is at the location of Neptune, both just 2 degrees away from the vernal point intersection. Mercury already crosses this point at the beginning of March but will turn back towards the Sun on March 15th. It meets the Sun on March 24th. Venus turned retrograde on March 2nd and meets the Sun the day before, March 23rd. So, already in the fact that the two inner planets are both in retrograde, meaning leaning in close to the Earth, we see a special call to humanity to take up consciously what these spheres offer as healing tools. Picture this cosmic cluster, as shown in the image below, and feel your way into this focus of planetary intelligences around this important vernal point in the stars of Pisces. Between our Earth and the Sun are Mercury and Venus, and beyond the Sun, Saturn, and Neptune, all essentially gathering in the portal of the Ascending Moon Node, enhancing the intensity of their messages.

The time picture of events in March is as follows:

- March 1st: Mercury conjunct Neptune in the Ascending Moon Node
- March 2nd: Venus stops forward movement and turns retrograde back towards the Sun
- March 11th: Venus and Mercury conjunct and the Sun steps into the stars of Pisces
- March 12th: Sun conjuncts Saturn just into Pisces
- March 14th: Total Lunar eclipse
- March 15th: Mercury stops and turns retrograde back towards the Sun
- March 19th: Exact conjunction of Sun with Neptune in Pisces
- March 20th: Spring Equinox, Sun stands on the Vernal Point
- March 23rd: Venus in inferior conjunction with the Sun (between Earth and Sun)
- March 24th: Mercury in inferior conjunction with the Sun (between Earth and Sun)
- March 29th: Partial Solar Eclipse



In the beginning of March, Saturn takes a significant step, crossing from Aquarius into the stars of Pisces where it will remain for about 2.5 years. It was in Aquarius since February, 2023. So, this marks an important transition for Saturn, where it now works out of the forces streaming from Pisces and the dynamic of Pegasus/Cetus described above. World karma will be calling us to the challenges of this Age on many levels of existence over these next two plus years. This is enhanced by the fact that Saturn is

during this month in the orb of conjunction with Neptune in the Ascending Moon Node. This means particularly that the Neptune qualities, which offer the potential for higher spiritual inspirations, even revelatory change, will sound clearly through this open portal of the Moon Node. However, Neptune in its untransformed nature relates to the activity of Ahriman, the Father of Lies, in the world, and the attempts to mechanize and materialize the human soul and spirit, binding it to the earthly. In the external world, this great struggle for the soul of humanity will become quite evident. Saturn will stand exactly in the Moon Node on Palm Sunday for Easter week as a clear reminder of the great karmic revelation of sacrifice and redemption inaugurated by the Father for the sake of humanity in the event of Golgotha. Saturn will then progress to come into exact conjunction with Neptune in August. This meeting is approaching and is already in the orb of conjunction, just 5 degrees away in March. These conjunctions of Neptune and Saturn will be explored further in a future article, but are historically related to the history of Russia in this century, particularly of Bolshevism, a particularly Ahrimanic impulse, as well as its relationship to Ukraine.

So, here we have a larger contextual picture as cosmic background in which the inner planets of Mercury and Venus are also making specific gestures in inferior conjunctions with the Sun. How can astrosophy bring new insights to the activity of these inner planets which can offer tools for transformation? Both of these inferior conjunctions give us memory imaginations of this theme of sacrifice, with the ending of one cycle and the birth of a new higher one. Central to astrosophy, as a new wisdom of the stars, are the deeds of the Christ in the Earth which forever changed our relationship to the stars. Without a knowledge of this event and the deeds during Christ's embodiment on the Earth, one cannot truly raise a consciousness of the stars to its proper level for our times. Rudolf Steiner describes the relation of the Christ to the stars in this way:

Thus, in Palestine during the time that Jesus of Nazareth walked on the earth as Christ Jesus - during the three last years of his life, from his 30th to his 33rd year, the entire Being of the cosmic Christ was acting uninterruptedly upon Him and was working into Him. The Christ stood always under the influence of the entire cosmos - He made no step without this working of the cosmic forces into and in Him... Thus, in Palestine during the time that Jesus of Nazareth walked on the earth as Christ Jesus - during the three last years of his life, from his 30th to his 33rd year, the entire Being of the cosmic Christ was acting uninterruptedly upon Him and was working into Him. The Christ stood always under the influence of the entire cosmos - He made no step without this working of the cosmic forces into and in Him.

The Spiritual Guidance of Humanity, GA 15

How was this working of the cosmic forces in Christ realized during these Three Years? His deeds were inscribed into the Earth as well as into the planetary cosmos as permanent transformative forces and remain as living memory events, which are particularly carried by the planetary gestures of Venus and Mercury as archetypes for human beings to draw from. We step into these living memory events when these gestures repeat themselves. This month there are two such events in relation to Mercury and to Venus.

We begin with Venus, which in its retrograde movement comes into inferior conjunction with the Sun on March 23rd (see list of events above) just 2 degrees from the Vernal Point and in the orb of conjunction with Neptune in the Lunar Node. In his years of research, Willi Sucher charted these conjunctions of Venus and the Sun at the time of Christ to align them with particular healings based on the Gospels. These conjunctions repeat with complete regularity and can be traced back through time. The healings associated with the Venus/Sun conjunctions were not just earthly events, but are Mystery events, marking the transition from the old mysteries to the founding of the new Christic mysteries, a fulfillment of the new Christ activity in redeeming the Earth. The conjunction in March can be traced back to an event, before the Baptism in the life of Jesus, described by Steiner in his lectures under the title, *The Fifth Gospel*. To summarize, it is the story of the experience of Jesus while visiting the Essene community. Here he witnesses the old spiritual path of the monastic tradition, which isolated itself and through special rituals and a secluded community life, developed spiritually. However, he also witnessed that in

so doing, they saved themselves but unleashed the adversary forces on the rest of humanity. He witnessed Lucifer and Ahriman sitting on the gates to this community, unable to enter, but free to spread their activity among the rest of humanity. This caused him deep soul pain, and Steiner describes how he goes to his Mother and confides his pain to her, which also opens and transforms her soul. After this conversation with the Mother, Jesus is drawn to go down to the Jordan River, where he is baptized and in essence gives up his own being for the sake of the Christ to enter into his vessel. Then, immediately, as the Gospel of Mark states, he goes into the wilderness to take on the adversaries. This is a deep and complex story on many levels. But one can see that it begins with the old mystery monastic stream avoiding the adversaries; the Christ recognizing its error for humans, followed by a sacrifice, or a kind of death, by Jesus for the Christ to enter; then culminates with the new Way, the Christ "I AM" taking on the adversaries. This entire story of the Essene experience and its repercussions is carried in this conjunction of Venus with the Sun on March 23rd as both a memory and a living presence to be taken up by human beings. Below is an excerpt from this story. The complete story can be found in *The Fifth Gospel*, GA 148, Lectures 4 and 5

<https://rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA148/English/SCR2006/19131005p01.html>

I (Jesus speaking to his mother) knew that the Essenes protect themselves by means of their way of life and their occult teachings to the extent that Lucifer and Ahriman must flee from their gates. But they send Lucifer and Ahriman to others in order to be happy themselves. Those words greatly impressed the loving mother, and she felt herself transformed, and as one with him. And Jesus of Nazareth felt as though everything which burdened him had been lifted from him by this conversation. He saw it and his mother saw it... The Zarathustra-I was preparing to abandon that Jesus of Nazareth body. And his last resolve was to leave the house almost mechanically and go to John the Baptist, whom he already knew.

And then the event took place which I have often described: the baptism in the Jordan by John.

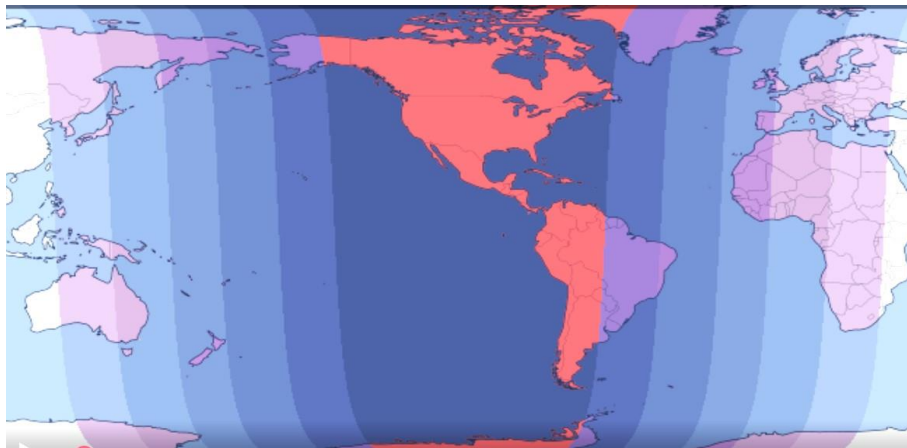
And the Christ-Being descended into that body at the baptism in the Jordan...

This Christ-Being was led at first into solitude...At first he was drawn to what was impressed most strongly in the astral body (of Jesus), like a remaining memory. Yes, he thought, that is the body which experienced Ahriman and Lucifer fleeing and realized that the striving Essenes pushed Ahriman and Lucifer off onto other people. He felt himself drawn to Ahriman and Lucifer, for it is against them that humanity must fight. Therefore, the Christ-Being, who had never existed in a human body, departed into solitude to do battle with Ahriman and Lucifer.

The second event associated with a Christic deed is the inferior conjunction of Mercury with the Sun. Whereas each Sun/Venus conjunction carries a memory of the deeds of Christ, it is not so with the Mercury/Sun conjunctions. Sometimes they align with the deeds of the Three Years, but most often they do not. This particular conjunction does and carries the memory of one of the deeds during the Three Years. This includes the entire gesture of Mercury, starting with the superior conjunction back on February 9th in the stars of Capricorn, on through the retrograde loop leading Mercury into the inferior conjunction on March 24. These superior to inferior conjunctions reflect the cosmic activity of Mercury in one gesture as messenger of the Gods, who picks up, in this case, from the stars of Capricorn (the constellation of initiation) the cosmic impulse to hand over to human beings for earthly deeds, in this case in Pisces. This takes place only one day after the Venus/Sun conjunction and just four degrees from the vernal point. This loop carries the memory of the Raising of Lazarus, described in the Gospels and revealed by Steiner to be the first Christian initiation and one performed openly in public, not in the secrecy of the temples. It was this deed that fully incited the Jewish priests to seek his death. From this, arose no longer Lazarus, but a newly raised human being who was the one who rested his head on the breast of Christ at the Last Supper and who wrote both the Gospel of John and the Revelation. As with the Venus event, in this event, we also have a kind of death of one, Lazarus, to be reborn spiritually, as John the Beloved. This is also of course a deep and complex spiritual event which I can only allude to here.

Perhaps we can see, in these memory events of the time of Christ, the deeper theme of Pisces that can be realized out of astrosophy, as deeds of true sacrifice; an ending so that the new can enter the world. In looking at the planetary events happening this month, one could become fearful in what seems to indicate powerful changes, even in the service of Ahriman in the world. However out of astrosophy and its knowledge of the cosmic nature of the planetary deeds in relation to the Christ, we can find tremendous inspiration for how one might understand and meet the events of this month. Without a sense of the new spiritual forces that can be raised out of the ending of the old, one might only feel the loss, the ending of meaning and the collapse of the foundations on which life is built. This can bring about the great fear which humanity might feel in the face of so much dissolution and change and which plays into Ahriman's hands. But from these inscribed Christ events can come a positive confidence in the potentiality of the new, when it arises out of the force of the true "I". One must more and more realize that the greatest activity of healing and transformation, though not outwardly recognized in the greater world, as was so during the life of Christ, works most powerfully as a force for the future.

To conclude March, we must now also consider the other chief protagonists this month: two eclipses. We are now in eclipse season, which occurs about every six months. These seasons, lasting a bit over a month, are caused when the Moon Nodes, the intersection point between the Moon's orbital plane and the Earth's orbital plane (see February article for image), align with the entry of the Sun and Earth in these nodal crossing points at full or new moon. This causes eclipses (partial or total): solar eclipses at New Moon and lunar eclipses at Full Moon. In March we have a total lunar eclipse and a partial solar eclipse. A total lunar eclipse occurs on March 13/14, with the full Moon just into the crown of the Virgin opposite the Sun in Pisces in line with Neptune and Saturn. This total lunar eclipse will be especially visible and active over all North America and most of South America except eastern Brazil (see image below).



On March 29th to wrap up the month, there is a partial solar eclipse, meaning a New Moon in the stars of Pisces. The area of the Earth where it is visible and most directly impacted can be seen in the image below.



These eclipses will play into the intensity of the changes taking place over this month and beyond, particularly in the sense that the formerly hidden could be revealed, perhaps shockingly, in relation to events in the USA and Europe. Rudolf Steiner offered some spiritual insights into the eclipses, which perhaps best serve to help us meet them in a proper balanced way:

When there is an eclipse of the moon, the man of today merely says: "Now the earth comes between the sun and the moon; hence we see the shadow cast upon the moon by the earth." That is the physical explanation. But in this case also the old initiate knew that a spiritual reality was behind the physical fact. He knew that when there is an eclipse of the moon, thoughts stream through darkness down upon the earth; and that such thoughts have a closer relationship with the subconscious life than with the conscious life of the human being. The old initiates often made use of a certain simile when speaking to their pupils. It is; of course, necessary to translate their words into modern language, but this is the gist of what they said: "Visionaries and dreamers love to go for rambles by moonlight, when the moon is full. There are, however, certain people who have no wish to receive the good thoughts coming to them from the cosmos, but who, on the contrary, are desirous of getting hold of evil, diabolical thoughts. Such people will choose the moment of a lunar eclipse for their nocturnal wanderings. Here again we approach a spiritual reality in a physical event...Eclipses of the sun and moon, recurring as they do in the course of every year, may really be looked upon as "safety-valves"..One of the safety-valves which makes its appearance in the cosmos and to which we give the name of a solar eclipse, serves the purpose of carrying out into space in a Luciferic way, the evil that spreads over the earth, in order that evil may work havoc in a wider, less concentrated sphere. The other safety-valve, the lunar eclipse, exists for the purpose of allowing the evil thoughts which are present in the cosmos to approach those human beings who are desirous of being possessed by them. Such are the forces at work, in the cosmos — forces no less potent than the forces we analyse and investigate today in our chemical laboratories.

Human Questions and Cosmic Answers, GA 213; June 25, 1922

Last month, as I began the preview of the March stars, I admit I was not prepared for the extensive convergence of planetary events, all within a narrow window of the zodiacal circumference and in relation to the Lunar Node – an overall potent picture. I am aware that this month carries cosmic meaning far beyond my capacity of understanding, but perhaps we can receive these events all together as a "letter" from the Gods to humanity; from those Gods who seek to help us in our becoming, yet do not coerce or interfere, but wait for us, out of our free striving, to become hearers and doers of this Word.

Jonathan Hilton
March, 2025