



Ulster County Office Building under a glorious early morning sky. Photo by Eric.

The Awakening for Capricorn **That Was Then. This Is Now.**

By Eric Francis

PLUTO IN CAPRICORN. Holy mother of God.

What an experience, for the world, for everyone — and especially for you. Nothing is the same as it was — or so it seems. Life hasn't been the same five different times over since this journey began in 2008 (with its precursor in September 2001).

However you did, be grateful you did as well as you did. How do I know you did well? It could have been worse. Pluto is a potentially destructive force, and to endure it, you must grow and change in ways that are appropriate to you. And given that, you may have done very well, despite the rapidly

mounting influence of the digital world infusing, infiltrating and corrupting the physical. By the physical I mean our experience of our bodies, and how when that changes, society changes.

The theme of Pluto through your Sun or rising sign is the fundamental reconstruction of self. You have taken yourself apart and put yourself back together repeatedly, and you're probably done with it. You do not like change for its own sake; no earthy sign does, and the rest of them should be even more sick of it than we are.

Not everyone goes through this type of change. It's not easy. One must question everything about oneself. Nothing can be left out of the inquiry. Pluto will do that, cracking into every room and space and compartment, hidden or otherwise. And then you have to rebuild. Usually the demolition happens without any thought of what might come next. It might be a process driven by internal emotional or psychological events, or by wrenching changes to your environment, your health situation or your relationships.

You might be an artist whose technique is to reinvent yourself at every stage of your creative development. This is actually worth considering, whether you hold yourself as an artist or not. The past seven years of Uranus in Taurus have also driven a similar kind of self-reinvention and may have represented the most productive phase of the Pluto in Capricorn era.

While Pluto granted you a real measure of *freedom from*, Uranus in Taurus granted you the *freedom to*. I will recap this in the section on Uranus entering Gemini a little further down in this reading.

The Known Reality of the World

Pluto through Capricorn has also been the sign of the dismantling of the known reality of the world, which has been reassembled into something unrecognizable — unless you use some kind of guidebook. Let's call them overhauls, to be polite.

Now, this is a defining feature of modern society. On the day that I am writing this, I've encountered my obsession with the dismantling of the original Pennsylvania Station in New York City, which occurred in the mid-1960s. The station, which opened in 1911, was one of the largest and most beautiful indoor spaces on Earth, constructed with care, craftsmanship and materials that were no longer possible to access in later decades.

And businessmen decided to demolish it just like that. It could have easily been repurposed, which would have precluded the skyward growth of midtown Manhattan. What is now Madison Square Garden was put on part of the property, and every few years that too comes up for demolition.

I am not railing against disregard for the past as a concept; my issue is with the disregard for human achievement. We keep ripping at the foundations and can never seem to build on our old gains. Yet even as the tides of digital technology will continue to rise, you, personally, must build on your accomplishments.

I think there is something else going on here. There are elements of the past that humans do not want to deal with — particularly the United States and other colonial powers. So they wage war on their own past as a kind of psychological outlet. It's the equivalent of burning all of their diaries, except that usually the accomplishment being destroyed is much greater than that.

Many changes in wider society through Pluto in Capricorn have involved banking, which is another way to say the collective effects of power and greed. It was a serious enough situation when all wealth came from the Earth. Now we live in a world of largely in silico billionaires, whose unbelievable, cosmic-scale wealth has largely come from concepts that exist in digital realms.

Yet the Earth keeps the score — and takes the hits. According to news reports, Bill Gates has purchased the notorious Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, reviving it from having been decommissioned to power his artificial "intelligence" operations.

As the Pluto in Capricorn phase developed, it's likely that you became more determined to be less dependent on large institutions. Pluto within certain contexts drives self-sufficiency and the willingness to go it alone. While we cannot do this 100%, it's possible to make changes that facilitate your independence. There are many other factors driving this right now; the process is not over (these especially included developments in Aries and Aquarius.)

Ultimately, everything comes back to the body we inhabit and the ground we stand on — while we are incarnated. Yes, there are other realms. But our journey in our bodies on our planet at this time is rooted in bodies and the planet. It helps to forget those things consciously from time to time, though the key concept is consciously.

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