

The Saturn / Uranus Opposition and You

By Dena DeCastro ©2009

The opposition of Saturn and Uranus, ongoing from September 2008 – September 2010¹, is the defining planetary event of this period. I've taken a look at this opposition from an archetypal perspective on the podcast with Ed Welsh ([The Saturn Uranus Opposition](#)). Many others have written about this transit from the mundane perspective, and/or in relation to the United States (for example, see Jessica Murray's excellent article in the Aug/Sep issue of [TMA](#)). As we near the third of 5 exact peaks of the opposition (September 15th 2009), the exact midpoint of the aspect, I'd like to focus upon the transit in relationship to the individual. The first part of this article considers the transiting opposition of Saturn and Uranus as it interacts with you by hard aspects your *personal planets* – Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Mars. Hard aspects (conjunctions, oppositions, or squares) to personal planets tend to reflect the most prominent and visible effects upon the structure of our daily lives. The second part of this article will address the opposition as it is interacting with specific age groups by aspects of Saturn and Uranus to natal Pluto, Uranus and the nodes. The outer planet connections speak more to the possibility of broader societal events in relation to a particular mini-generation: those born between October 1964 and September of 1973.

The Saturn / Uranus Opposition and Your Personal Planets

The following table lists the exact peak periods, signs, and degree ranges of influence for the transiting Saturn / Uranus opposition. To use this table, you will need your natal chart. Observe whether you have personal natal planets (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, or Mars) that fall anywhere within the beginning and ending degree range (Column 4) of the signs listed in Column 5²:

Peak Date of Opposition	Deg.	Transiting Planet in Signs	Degree Range of Influence	Natal Signs / Hard Aspects to Your Natal Planets
11/4/08	18°30'	Saturn in Virgo Uranus in Pisces	15° - 21°	Virgo and Pisces (conjunctions and oppositions) Gemini and Sagittarius (squares)
2/5/09	20°39'	Saturn in Virgo Uranus in Pisces	17° - 23°	Virgo and Pisces (conjunctions and oppositions) Gemini and Sagittarius (squares)
9/15/09	24°43'	Saturn in Virgo Uranus in Pisces	21° - 27°	Virgo and Pisces (conjunctions and oppositions) Gemini and Sagittarius (squares)
4/26/10	28°46'	Saturn in Virgo Uranus in Pisces	25° (Virgo/Pisces) - 01° (Aries/Libra)	Virgo and Pisces (conjunctions and oppositions) Gemini and Sagittarius (squares) Aries and Libra (conjunctions and oppositions) Cancer and Capricorn (squares)
7/26/10	0°25'	Saturn in Libra Uranus in Aries	27° (Virgo/Pisces) - 03°(Aries/Libra)	Virgo or Pisces (conjunctions and oppositions) Gemini or Sagittarius (squares) Aries or Libra (conjunctions and oppositions) Cancer and Capricorn (squares)

¹ This timeframe is calculated for a 6 degree orb between the two planets.

² The orb of influence of transiting Uranus or Saturn to your natal planet is calculated for 3 degrees.

[Example: if you have your Sun at 23° Pisces, you will have Uranus conjunct your Sun, and Saturn opposing it at some point during the period of the transiting opposition. In order to calculate exact timeframes, you'll need to have a basic understanding of your natal chart and the use of an ephemeris, or you will want to have a transits reading to find out the date range that this transit is in influence for you.]

Let's consider the general meaning separately of a Saturn transit and a Uranus transit for an individual. Saturn embodies foundation and structure, authority and discipline. A Saturn transit is a time in which we are asked to connect with our inner authority, to structure or restructure our lives, and to apply due diligence in the natal area(s) contacted by the transit. Uranus embodies forces of change, revolution, liberation, and the breakdown of worn out structures. A Uranus transit is a time in which we can revolutionize our lives, break free from limitation, and are asked to go with the flow of sudden, inevitable changes. The opportunity of the opposition is to bring these two forces into *balance*. Tradition, useful experience, and structure should not be discarded out of a knee-jerk desire for liberation. Conversely, a fresh perspective, combined with the ability to embrace sweeping changes, keeps us from becoming stagnant and trapped in an outmoded existence.

These principles should be applied to the natal area being contacted by the transit. If one of your natal personal planets is being engaged by the Saturn/Uranus opposition, you are being invited to balance these forces as they relate to that planet. If you do not have natal planets being affected by this transit, consider the natal house position of transiting Uranus and Saturn during this time.³ Here are some general recommendations if you are undergoing hard aspects of Saturn and Uranus to your natal personal planets:

The Sun:

The Sun is your essential self, your ego-identity, and your core. Saturn is inviting you to harness your energy, to become more focused and directed, and to step up as the true authority in your life. Uranus is inviting you to reinvent yourself, and to invigorate your life through becoming more authentic to your core essence.

The Moon:

The Moon is your emotional self, your means of finding happiness and security, your soul. Saturn is inviting you to mature some aspect of your emotional personality, and to spend some solitary "soul time" in reflection and contemplation. Uranus is inviting you to break free of old emotional patterns, and revolutionize some aspect of your physical home or family relationships.

Mercury:

Mercury is your way of learning, perceiving information, and your style of communicating. Saturn is inviting you to develop thoughts into action, to communicate your ideas with authority, and to honor your experience and learning. Uranus is inviting you to break out of old ways of thinking, and revise beliefs that no longer jive with your everyday reality.

Venus:

Venus is our inner lover, the part of us that wants to connect with the Other. Beyond partnership, our Venus can describe the nature of our creative drive. Saturn is inviting you to commit more deeply to a

³ If you do not know the house placement of this transit, you may want to get a transit reading to find out what area(s) of your chart are being contacted.

partnership, and/or to enact a more methodical and disciplined approach to a creative project. Uranus is inviting you to open up to new and inventive approaches to current partnerships, and to allow your “creative genius” to be born.

Mars:

Mars is our will and drive, how we pursue our goals and desires. Saturn is inviting you to apply your will in a focused, laser-beam fashion: pursue goals by giving your projects the time and energy they deserve on the physical level. Uranus is inviting you to be bold in your pursuit, to look at unusual avenues of pursuing your ambitions, and to break free of whatever constraints may be dampening your passion.

Outer Planets and The Nodes: Age Groups Affected by Saturn and Uranus

Outer planet to outer planet transits, such as transiting Uranus connecting with natal Pluto, embody a different message than transits to personal planet transits as described above. Transits to natal outer planets (Uranus, Neptune and Pluto) affect entire age groups at the same time, and connect the individual more closely with the collective experience. Saturn will be conjuncting natal Pluto and Uranus for the following age groups (see table below) while Uranus will be opposing these natal planets.

In addition to the transits to the outer planets, there is a smaller age group that will have the transit on their nodes: Saturn conjuncting the south node, and Uranus conjuncting the north node. According to Steven Forrest in *Yesterday's Sky*, transits to the lunar nodes are a time when the “karmic wave breaks”: “...each planet has a certain tone or quality that will bring forth a certain type of karmic manifestation when it contacts your nodal system.”⁴ Saturn and Uranus are both coloring your karmic experience if you have Saturn conjuncting the south node while Uranus sits on your north node.

Here are the age groups affected by the Saturn / Uranus transit⁵ by an aspect to Pluto, Uranus, or the nodes during this two year timeframe:

Birth Date	Natal Planet	Transiting Uranus	Transiting Saturn
10/64 – 9/73	Pluto	Opposes your Pluto	Conjuncts your Pluto
9/65 – 9/69	Uranus	Opposes your Uranus	Conjuncts your Uranus
1/69 – 1/70	Nodes (North And South)	Conjuncts North Node	Opposes South Node

The date range for each of these aspects within the total timeframe of the transiting Saturn / Uranus opposition varies, and will depend upon your exact natal placement. Look for overlaps among the three. For example, if you are born between 1/69 and 9/69, you will have all three transits. If you are born between 9/65 and 12/68, you will have your Pluto and Uranus transited.

For the age groups listed, the breakdown in existing social structures is directly affecting you at this time. You are invited to become part of the solution rather than just experiencing the problems.

⁴ See *Yesterday's Sky*, by Steven Forrest, p. 243.

⁵ If you are at the beginning or end of these date ranges, please consult an ephemeris for confirmation of the planetary placements on your date of birth, or consult with a professional astrologer.

Uranus points us toward bringing our uniqueness and inventiveness to the community. Saturn emphasizes stepping into leadership roles within the community. It is time to own your age, wisdom, and experience, and put them to use to solve some of the world's emerging problems. It is not a time of self-focus and introversion, but one to turn our focus outward, and ask what we can do. Those things that may have felt like liabilities in the past -- our wounds (Pluto), the eccentricities that make us different from others (Uranus), and our karmic burdens (south node) -- are the very forces that can be our strengths at this time.

Looking Ahead

As we sit in the middle of this two year period, roughly a year behind us and a year ahead, a useful meditation would be to reflect upon the themes of this past year. What unavoidable realities have become clear? What sudden events have shaken and awakened you? What new responsibilities have come your way, and how have you chosen to respond? Can you see areas of your life that are asking for liberation from old patterns? Have you been resisting that liberation, for fear of the change?

After you sit with those questions, looking backward, then put your focus on the year ahead. How can you use what you have learned in an inventive way? How can you be proactive in shouldering appropriate responsibility? How can you be proactive by engaging in constructive changes? How can you learn to embrace those sudden events and shakeups as your gurus, your highest teachers?

The year ahead can be a time of consciously creating our response to the Saturn/Uranus opposition, rather than perceiving ourselves to be at the mercy of its effects. As with any transit, the planets are not causing things to happen in our lives -- they are merely a reflection of what archetypal pattern we now need to integrate. If Saturn and Uranus are speaking to you, whether by contacting your personal planets or your outer planets, you can answer by considering these questions and facing them head on (Saturn), while opening up to previously unconsidered ideas, concepts, and realities (Uranus). Our own choices, coinciding with the forces of the cosmos, will determine the outcome.