

Sun Storms

The Astrology of Solar Activity



By Michael Erlewine

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**This book is dedicated
to
Dr. Theodor Landscheidt**

*May any merit this book may
accrue, however small, be
dedicated to all the Buddhas and
Bodhisattvas that they may
benefit all sentient beings and
help to bring all to the realization
of the true nature of the mind.*

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Introduction to Solar Influx

This is a collection of articles on the astrology of intense solar activity, the inner or personal effect of solar flares, Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) events, and related phenomena. In my experience the active Sun provides astrological indicators of a different order of magnitude compared to traditional astrological techniques. When the Sun speaks, we listen. It is the harbinger of true change.

As they say “change is the only constant,” so we are all used to it, whether we like it or not. And there is external and internal change. If we get a flat tire or bump our head, that is external change. Since we focus on the external a lot, we are all familiar with this kind of change.

Internal change is a different matter. While internal change seems even more constant, not everyone is aware of what is going on inside their mind. With inner change, we tend not to know why or how. It just happens.

We can assign the cause of our internal change to sheer randomness and forget about it or we can attempt to sort it out. I don't want to even try and justify or explain all the kinds of change there are going on inside our heads, although it probably could be done. Instead, in this group of articles I will focus on inner change as seen through the lens of astrology and solar activity. Before I do that, let's define a few terms so that you know where I am coming from. Let's start with astrology.

What is Astrology?

I consider astrology as cultural astronomy. In other words, the astronomers define events like when the next New Moon will take place or when Venus will be conjunct Jupiter in the evening sky, and so on. That is the astronomy part of astrology. Then it is up to astrologers to provide the cultural part of astronomy, by telling us what all

this astronomy might mean. Astrologers have been doing this for millennia, but that does not guarantee that we know what every astronomical event means, in particular when it comes to intense solar activity. Solar interpretation is a work in progress.

It is much easier for astronomers to calculate *when* an astronomical event will occur than it is to explain what it means. Just ask them. Astrologers dare to interpret what these astronomical events mean to us personally, but astronomers don't go there, although four-hundred years ago or so, they did.

If we look beyond our day-to-day events here on Earth (like going to the grocery store), there are, by definition, only astronomical events happening out in the solar system and universe. These astronomical or cosmic events are how we measure and articulate time. Is it any wonder that we would want to know what these celestial events mean for us personally?

Astronomical events out in the heavens do not somehow just 'cause' things to happen down here on Earth. Whatever happens, out there or down here, happens in unison, simultaneously. We share these events. Astronomical events, like the Full Moon, are just a convenient clock or way to measure events in time. After all, we already use astronomical events to measure time, like hours, days, years, and so on.

Predictive Astrology

One more clarification. The popular idea that astrology can predict future events needs to be addressed. Astrology *can* predict future events, but probably not quite as you imagine. Here is how that works: Astronomers predict when astronomical events like planetary conjunctions, New Moons, etc. will occur. This is a science. And astrologers attempt to interpret these events and tell us what they might mean.

If the astronomical event is still in the future *and* astrologers can interpret it, then astrology can predict the future, but in no other way that I know of. Psychics and seers like Nostradamus may predict non-astronomical events, like catastrophes, the stock market, etc., but not astrologers. And some astrologers are psychic, so that can cloud the issue. Astrology is the interpretation of astronomical (scientific) events, plain and simple, and not psychism. I hope you understand the difference.

A Synchronous Dance

The endless patterns that the Sun, Moon, and planets make in the heavens are like a vast kaleidoscope, a cosmic dance, and those of us here on Earth play an integral part. We are dancing too and the astronomical events are just a way of describing our *own* experience. I say 'our own' experience because I don't accept the idea that humankind is an simply anomaly in the universe, a lonely singular planet orbiting a small star at the far edge of the Milky Way galaxy. Quite to the contrary; we are a full-fledged legitimate representative of the galaxy, the solar system, and Earth. We are *intelligent life* in the cosmos, so to speak.

It is not just that we are looking from Earth out at the Sun and the stars, but rather we (as the intelligence of the Sun and the stars) are looking at ourselves (and life) through Earthly eyes. We already are the intelligent life that we keep looking outside in the heavens to find.

I just flip the 20th-Century view of our being a lonely anomaly in a dark, cold universe. It seems to me that we 'are' the intelligent life, the spaceman or 'aliens' we have been craning our necks through telescopes for years hoping to find. We are already and have always been) out there in space, born of space, children of the galaxy, and especially children of the Sun -- *fait accompli*. That is my view. We are no stranger here in a strange universe, except maybe to our own self, but that can be remedied. 20th Century science has us looking through the wrong

end of the telescope, so to speak, so we seem so small, when in fact we are large or at least an equal of the universe. We are perfectly average representatives of the intelligent life in the universe, not some anomaly or accident. We are an equal partner in all this.

Levels of Interpretive Astrology

Within the study of astrology there are different levels of importance, traditionally speaking. For centuries the most important bodies have been what are called “The Lights,” being the Sun and Moon, and of course this includes the Earth we are on, so it is the Earth, Sun, and Moon that are key.

The next level of importance has been the planetary patterns and aspects formed by the planets to one another, as well as their relation to Earth, Sun and Moon. After the Sun/Earth and Moon are considered, it is these large planetary aspects, cycles, and patterns that make up the great bulk of the astrological tradition. However, there is one other kind of astronomical event that takes precedence over all of the above which has been mostly ignored and that is direct events like solar flares and CME (Coronal Mass Ejection) events, which is what we will be looking at in these here.

The Sun Speaks

When the Sun speaks, we listen. There is no more direct communication astronomically-speaking than the eruptions of solar flares and their effects. Of course the Sun shines all the time and bathes us in a constant stream of information as carried by the solar wind, not to mention through the electromagnetic spectrum as visible, ultraviolet, and x-ray radiation. This is the default or quiet Sun.

However, the Sun also communicates (and with much greater energy) through the eruption of intense solar flares and by ejecting large masses of solar plasma out into space, often aimed directly at Earth. It is my opinion that

these sudden bursts of intense energy and information interrupt the standard solar flow and communicate with Earth in another and very direct manner.

Inner Reality Changes

The astronomical physical (outer) effects of intense solar flux (auroras, geomagnetic storms, radio and power blackouts, etc.) are well documented and will only be touched on lightly here in a sidebar. Instead I will concentrate not on the outer effects, but how this solar flux affects our inner and psychological life, our mind and how we live and feel.

It is my understanding that information and energy from the Sun is at core who and what we are, and that any direct sudden solar update precipitates inner change in 'us', and not just change in our inner landscape and environment. The Sun changes our very self, who it is we are or think we are. In other words, *we change*.

This makes it much more difficult for us to monitor since there is not a subject and then an object, no 'we' gazing at our changing inner landscape. They are one and the same in this case. In other words the subject (we) who are seeing or experiencing our mindstream is itself altered by solar influx, and without warning or explanation. We change. And the 'change', the new solar information update is always 'true' or at least the current truth, leaving past images or ideas of our self in Limbo and relatively meaningless by comparison. As you can see, this can be a complex topic.

Since as a group we tend to ignore our inner changes or not be particularly aware of them, the shock of comparing the status quo of who we think we are (or have been up to the moment of a solar inundation) compared to the emerging solar-influx-induced changes of (in fact) who-we-now-are (or what we face) can be hard to take. Ignoring these changes only makes the adjustment to incoming solar change worse, and so on, a true case of Catch-22.

In other words, unlike the normal Sun shining on us in a relatively constant fashion, sudden solar bursts bring change in quantum leaps rather than as a gradual continuum. These leaps contrast with our status-quo, what we have going for ourselves and are used to, and in the comparison we can feel jerked around or at least confused.

We have each experienced change all our lives. Internal changes just come, and from who knows where? I am suggesting that one source of change that is very easy to monitor is the change coming from sudden intense Sun activity such as solar flares. It may require an attempt on our part to become more sensitive to these events, and to develop some awareness of the mind and how it changes.

What follows is a series of blogs written over time. I must point out that there is a lot of repetition, but I urge you to consider this helpful, not boring. In my own work, I have found repetition and re-wording of concepts very useful as a way to look at a topic from slightly different views. I suggest you read with this in mind.

Giant Sunspot Grows More Powerful

This newly formed sunspot group (AR1476) that scientists are calling a “monster sunspot” is so large that you can see it with the naked eye. Don’t try and do that without special sun filters, but it is easy to see. And the solar wind is rising.

The Sun throws a million tons of matter out into space each second. This matter is called the solar wind and this energetic flow extends out well beyond Pluto. The average solar wind speed is about 400 km/s. Right now it is at 600 km/s and rising.

This new sunspot group has thrown off more than a half dozen M-Class solar flares and many lesser bursts of plasma in the last couple of days. A strong solar flare of the M5.7 class erupted at around midnight EDT on Thursday morning. This sunspot’s beta-gamma-delta magnetic field is believed to have more than enough energy to emit strong X-Class flares, the most powerful kind known. Scientists believe they are coming soon.

As the sunspot turns toward Earth, radio operators all over the world are recording shortwave static. Listen to the shortwave radio bursts from the Monster Sunspot:

http://spaceweather.com/images2012/09may12/radio_burst.mp3?PHPSESSID=ua6v30hk3n1f4f1vgo70hqng20

Earth is now entering the direct line of fire for CME (coronal mass ejection) events, since the sunspot is rotating in our direction. I have written about this kind of solar activity many times before, and I posted a number of links yesterday in a short blog that you can

read to catch up on this stellar phenomenon, but here is a quick recap:

I will put aside for now what these large solar flares with their CME (coronal mass ejections) events can do to communications satellites. They are capable of bringing down the entire power grid if situations are right, so there are a lot of potential physical results to these energy bursts from the Sun. I have always been more interested in what they do to us energetically, psychologically, and spiritually, so I will briefly mention that today.

I have been studying this kind of astrophysics since the early 1970s. I published my book “Astrophysical Directions” in 1976, and it is still available as a free e-book under the name “The Astrology of Space” here:

<http://astrologysoftware.com/books/index.asp?orig=>

When it comes to astrology I am remarkably self-taught and although I have been privileged to have many of the great astrologers of my time as friends, I feel only one astrologer that I have known is in my particular astrological lineage, and that is Dr. Theodor Landscheidt. Landscheidt was a supreme court justice of Germany and was very aware of the influence of the Sun, not only physically but psychologically and spiritually.

I was able to send Dr. Landscheidt his first home computer in 1978, from which so much of his research emerged. Landscheidt was a complete inspiration to me and pointed the way to much of my own interest in the Sun, its energy, and heliocentric astrology in general.

However, most of my astrological techniques have come directly from within my own mind. I consider

them mind 'terma' as the Tibetans phrase it, and I have been trying to tell folks for years that it is easier to look in your own mind for insights than it is to get them from reading books written by others, etc.

The approximately 11-year sunspot cycle will peak in 2013 and we are in the final build-up to that peak now. This is a time of intense solar activity and we have no way of knowing just how strong that activity will eventually be, but if the activity of the last few months is any indication, this is going to be a very strong time. And solar activity affects our mind deeply.

I don't want to make the whole case here, but in a few words the Sun is more than just a ball of hot gas burning in the firmament. If 'we' have a spiritual nature and center, then so does the Sun. These bursts of information from the Sun infuse and inspire us at levels beneath our conscious radar. Info from the Sun is seminal. It impregnates our mindstream with inspiration that only gradually emerges consciously to our mind.

Times of intense solar activity are times when we can be enormously creative, each in our own way. These solar bursts of radiation we are experiencing now and the ones we will most-probably experience in the days to come are opportunities for inspiration that can eventually reshuffle the hand that fate has dealt us.

At the same time, these energy bursts can be confusing, befuddle the mind, and cloud clear thought with their influence, making it more difficult to do simple things. We have to relax and not try to push things at these times. Once I feel it happening (and I do now), I try to let the solar influx wash over me and wait for the inspiration it brings to take hold. Slowing

down and feeling my way is what I find best at these times.

Internalizing Solar Flares

Some of you are too shy to post comments, but I get messages and emails asking for more detail about how to handle these times of strong solar input in our lives.

Let's not confuse trying to grasp the meaning of the deep solar information we feel moving inside us and everyday normal conceptual or analytical thinking. When someone criticizes us or makes suggestions, comments, asides, etc., certainly we can spend a long time processing it. In particular a harsh comment can take up hours or even days at a low boil in the back of our mind. And following philosophical or spiritual arguments or any argument is pretty normal behavior. Response to solar influx is not like that.

Right now we happen to be talking about these current large solar flares and the CME (coronal mass ejections) that the Sun hurls at Earth, but the influx of cosmic or deep information can also come around the time of eclipses, New and Full Moons, planetary aspects and alignments, and who-knows-when? The important point is not so much the 'where' and 'when' of the cause of the information as it is to learn to become aware of it when it is there and happening to us. This kind of influx can also happen without any cause that we know of, but we can learn to be aware when this is happening.

As mentioned, solar and cosmic information goes in deep and stays embedded in our mindstream. I am sure there is stuff in there so hard to grasp that we won't ever be aware even of its edges, much less any message we might get out of it. These are the very

deep riders. We manage to ignore them because they are too difficult to bring to mind.

But there is solar information embedded in our consciousness that is only partially embedded, like a stone with a piece of fossil sticking out of it. It is natural to want to extract it and make sense of it.

And this cosmic (or whatever it is) information is not just inert or passive like a rock. By its nature, it is very active and seminal. It is energetic and it moves our mind around. We can feel it in there, like a mother feels a child in her womb, but it is not yet time for it to emerge and be understood. Deep cosmic imprints can take time to reach the surface of our awareness.

These imprints emerge slowly, becoming clear perhaps only partially and for brief moments, but not longer. I sometimes think of them as a time-release capsule that are effective only over a long period. Deep events take time to be known and understood by us. We can feel them in there. We can roll them around like those old Magic 8-Balls and some answers seem to come up, but they defy us to exhaust their meaning. It is like those all day suckers some of us had as kids. We have not yet reached the core.

Perhaps this is partly because the active ingredient of this cosmic info compels us to experience it (action), not to just mentally understand it. We need to have the experience it brings before we can draw any conclusions as to its meaning. It activates us. Or perhaps we dance like honeybees dance when they have information and the kind of dance or activity we do informs us and those around us. This is not a bad analogy. Solar influx puts us through a dance or something similar that gradually reveals its meaning

to us and to the world. In other words, solar influx is a life experience and not just a thought, something to be understood.

Let me summarize the signs of this deep intuitive kind of solar implant. We feel it inside us, but we can't just "get it" and know what it means. It moves us and has an active ingredient or activity component. It generates plenty of thoughts as we try to grasp it, but those thoughts, however illuminating, are transitory. We can't quite get to the bottom of it.

This deep info does not leave us until it we have exhausted its meaning by absorbing it, so we are able to bring it to mind, over and over again, like a favorite song. Each time we bring it to mind, we learn and retain a little more, but its active substance soon overwhelms us (overload) and we end up experiencing (feeling) it more than seeing its message. It is viscous and not easy to grasp conceptually, thus giving up its secrets slowly.

Try as we might to force it, we are quickly worn out trying, and whatever thoughts we have been able to gather about its meaning are soon scattered and we are left with but a another taste that does not entirely satisfy. This can go on for days, weeks, months, and longer. What to do at these times?

Above all, we have to learn to relax and let this cosmic oracle of information speak to us in its own good time. We can strain until our head aches trying to understand it, but it won't be pushed. We can cling to a fragment of understanding until sleep overcomes us and we are forced let it go. This is a natural process. These solar events must be savored. The contain our future.

Again: the key to handling solar influx is to relax and go with the flow. Let its meaning percolate up to consciousness in its own time. Don't try to rob the cradle, but remain receptive and let it birth itself. And don't worry about the first glimmerings of meaning and try to force or cling to them. They will, like waves, come again and again to consciousness until we wake to the meaning and join in the cosmic dance it brings.

He is a little poem I wrote years ago about not chasing after thoughts. It uses the metaphor of birds on a ship at sea in that they have nowhere to fly.

REST HOME

My thoughts,
Like birds aboard a ship,
I let go free,
As they fly away with me.

No need to follow on,
And here's the perfect test:

There is no place to go,
All thoughts come back to rest.

How to Experience Massive Solar Events

What happens to us at these times of solar inundation, whether it be experiencing the full power of a CME (coronal mass ejection), the time around an eclipse, or just the monthly New and Full Moon? While I am sure these events are to some degree personal, my guess is that because the Sun is shared by all of us, how we take these experience is more similar than not. By talking about it a bit here, perhaps more of us can recognize and become aware of what is happening to us at these important times.

Let me repeat something I have mentioned before in earlier blogs about solar events and that is I that have little to no idea of just how solar information works, but I know it does. We do know the effect of Sun's light on our eyes and bodies, that it allows the eyes to work and makes thing grow and bloom. Do we also bloom? My guess is yes, but that would be another blog.

What is it that moves us? We know that our brains and bodies are complex systems that the life force animates for a time and then abandons. But what about larger structures like the Sun or the galaxy? Is the Sun or Galaxy speaking to us? Astrophysicists speculate that in order to cohere (to remain coherent) even structures the size of the galaxy have somehow to be informed or updated.

In other words, information of some kind circulates like a bloodstream through these large celestial systems. How this is done is not known, other than it is a fact that light and gravity waves travel long distances and may serve as information carriers. I am not going to speculate here how that may work,

although I have written about this since the 1970s. I will however introduce one key concept for you to consider as you can.

We think about many kinds of things all the time. We entertain grand concepts like this one I am trying to lay out here, but we seldom examine the building blocks of our language. Take the concept of “identification,” and I don’t mean the identification of a butterfly or object. I am talking about self-identification.

What is it that happens when we personally identify with something or someone? What is the process and moment of identification, the spark that illuminates the mind when we identify? That is a rhetorical question which I will try to answer.

I have come to believe that the process of “identification” is circulation of information, perhaps cosmic information at that. After all, we are smack dab in the middle of the cosmos already, so all information is cosmic information, right? Every time we personally identify, something special happens. “Identification is circulation” is the concept I would have you consider. Identification is how the psyche or self knows itself. And what is knowing? What is it to “know” something or someone? As you can see, these basic language words themselves need refreshing through examination at least every once in a while.

I won’t push the concept here, but suffice it to say that I believe that the process of identification is how the universe circulates information and that we are not only gelatinous blobs but part of universal consciousness in circulation so that it can know itself, and continue to cohere and exist. So we can know

ourselves. It knows itself through us or to put it another way, we are universal consciousness knowing itself. As I like to say: we are the intelligent life we are looking for in the universe. We have been trying to find our self for.... ever. We are ourselves the being from space, and we are already out there in space. Enough of that for now.

Let's talk about what happens when these great solar tides wash over the planet Earth, like the solar mass ejections that are happening right now. How do we experience them and what kind of awareness is personally possible of these massive events?

I have described these experiences as 'core' events, ones that affect us very deeply, almost subliminal in nature. But just because they are deep does not mean we don't notice them or that they do not cause thoughts as we experience them. Perhaps "deep" is not the right word. I could say that these experiences are so great or seminal that we can't grasp or conceptualize them easily. They don't resolve into ideas that we can easily understand. But they do generate thoughts, all kinds of them.

In fact this solar information can generate so many thoughts that we are overwhelmed by them and just swept away in their stream. It is not that we are not aware of this torrent of thoughts but rather that we can't manage to hold them in mind or remember them for more than an instant. However, in that instant, like a flash of heat lightning on the summer horizon, our mental landscape is lit of up and we see clearly. We just can't keep what we saw in mind, which is not to say they it is not still there to be seen.

This new incoming solar information embeds itself in the firmament of our mind and remains there. We can

review or bring it to mind, and we do, again and again until we have extracted what we can from its virility, until we have fully absorbed the information it carries. It is not unlike what each of us experienced as a teenager when we first heard what would become one of our favorite songs on the radio. We were struck by the tune and found ourselves listening to it again and again and again, each time absorbing a little more of whatever message it carried. It is all about signs and messages. Solar flares are like that. They bring news, new information.

My point is that those popular songs we loved, like the solar inundations, were seminal or rich in meaning and required time for us to suck all the sense from them we could, like a piece of hard candy. That is what I mean by “deep,” a richness beyond words that takes time for us to absorb. We review and bring to mind these experiences over and over until we have extracted the very last bit (that we are able) of the information they carry.

In other words, at these times of great solar flow, when Earth is bathed in this influx from the Sun, information flows in and through us of which we catch only what we can of it at the time, the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. Then, as in the Tibetan teachings, this information (like a scroll) is placed in our minds to be read back by us again and again until we absorb all its meaning. This is what happens at the New and Full Moons, eclipses, and massive occurrences like solar flares and CME events.

Seminal or seed experiences from the galaxy channeled through the Sun are embedded deep within our mindstream but can't be grasped all at once. They require time to reveal their meaning. Their meaning lasts and shines in our mind like great stars

and the constellation of these mental stars light up our consciousness and life. We are informed.

At least this is my understanding after learning to experience and watch these vast solar events for many years.

Coronal Mass Ejection to Hit Earth

Thanks to those of you who emailed or messaged me with questions about this very strong major X5.4 solar flare (and the accompanying X1.3 solar flare following it) which peaked around Active Sunspot AR1429 on Wednesday March 7, 2012 at 7:02 EST.

X-Class flares are the strongest solar flares the Sun is capable of and this very large solar flare did in fact emit a CME (Coronal Mass Ejection), and that CME is Earth-bound and due to hit the Earth today, Thursday March 9, 2012 around 1:25 AM EST and will last until Friday morning. The charged particles of the CME will hit the earth at 4,000,000 miles per hour.

To impact Earth significantly a solar flare must be large and also directed at Earth, which this particular solar flare is. Of course scientists are concerned about the effect of the CME on Earth, the geomagnetic storms it brings, and the disruption of communications, and so on – physical effects.

My interest however is in the creative and spiritual aspects of these CME events that cause large magnetic storms here on Earth when they hit us directly like this one is. I quote from the brilliant work of Germany supreme-court justice (and astrologer) Theodor Landscheidt from his book “Children of the Sun,” which is only available in German at this time. These sections are translated into English by astrologer and Greek scholar Robert Schmidt:

“That these outbreaks of light in the cosmic light-core, the sun, also have a correlation to mystical experiences in the core of the Self testifies that the roots of this connection reach down to the mystic

ground. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe gave expression to this. In his final conversation with Eckermann, immediately before his death, he said, "If anyone asks me whether it is in my nature to worship the sun, then I say again: absolutely! For it is a revelation of that which is most high, and surely the most powerful revelation that is vouchsafed to us children of man to perceive. In it I adore the light and the creative power of God, through which alone we and with us all plants and animals live, move and are."

The exclusive focus of scientists on only the physical effects of the Sun and solar radiation of events such as recent X5.4 solar flare on Earth ignores the more important question of how these great solar storms affect human creativity. I am getting too old to waste my time trying to point out the obvious, that all life comes from the Sun and whatever animates us spiritually is also from the Sun. If you are a theist then the Sun and God are on the same team. It is past time to discard our materialistic blinders.

In other words, the Sun is not just our personal furnace, a hot ball of gas burning in the firmament for our earthly warmth and comfort. That is so materialistic as to be sad. How is it that we are spiritual beings in our own mind, but the Sun is not? This is pure materialism speaking and just a vestige of the arrogance of science from the last century. Here is another quote from Landscheidt's book "Children of the Sun.:

"Wise Hassidim have said:

"As the hand held before the eye conceals the largest mountain, so the little earthly life conceals from sight the tremendous lights and mysteries of which the

world is full. And he who can take it away from in front of his eye, as we can take away our hand, beholds the great illumination of the innermost world." May this transcendent light become living actuality for the reader, so that he may return the smile of the universe."

Our creative inner spirit comes from somewhere, and we are informed spiritually somehow. What animates us? All coherent structures depend on the circulation of information, like a bloodstream, to continue to cohere as opposed to disincorporation and dissolving. This is true for us, the Sun, the solar system, the galaxy, and so on. Without being informed, there is no coherence. Circulation is identification and identification is circulation. Think about it please: what happens when you identify with something or someone? That is circulation of information.

We know the Sun feeds us physically by its warmth and light to grow our food. Why is it so hard for some folks to understand that it also feeds us creatively, spiritually, not only through its stream of light each day, but by these huge quantum bursts of information like this current solar flare.

These sudden geomagnetic storms not only flood the earth with solar plasma but also inundate our consciousness with a surge of new information, submerging our current mind in a solar bath from which we emerge renewed with light. These are seed times, times from which ideas will gradually emerge over the weeks and months ahead allowing us to consciously participate in the creation of our own being.

The Sun is endless creation, creativity in which we all share, and to which we all respond and dance!

[I always find it important to eat more during these times of solar impulse]

Solar Events: Their Internal Effects

Scientists say that another even more powerful solar flare has emerged, but this one is not directed at Earth. Meanwhile the CME (coronal mass ejection) event from January 23rd is still working itself out. Some readers have asked me what are the internal signs we should look for in such an event. I can only share my own experiences with these “soul-ar” events.

There is nothing quite like an strong solar event to shuffle my options and offer me at least the opportunity for a new deal. The deep imprinting of a solar flux event has the ability to wipe out my short-term memory, at least as regards my current plans or direction, and leave me stranded in myself, standing there vacantly looking around for which way to go once again.

Luckily this only lasts for a day or so and then I pick up, not where I left off, but on some more-or-less obvious line or direction. And if that fails to happen, I then start sorting myself down to basics. For example, one common response at these times involves me cleaning out my office or one of the areas where I have stacked and stored too much stuff.

It is mindless work, but just what I need to be doing at these times of inner reorganization and change. No, I can't say I have a clearly defined path or direction, but I have learned not to worry about that, but just to be patient and let the inner forces work.

It all sorts itself out soon enough, and from the chaos a new (for me) view or take on things gradually emerges. And the view always seems to contain

some sort of a path, and once on any old sort of path (like a walk in the woods) I am content to go on with my life. Things fall into line.

Like a school of fish, all the signs eventually line up and appear to be going in the same direction once again. I find this comforting. So, what is this?

This, for me, is 'change', not the superficial change of an outward event or sign, but deeper, inner change that actually rearranges the basic rules of my life from the bottom up.

And yes, often I can remember having been here before, seen life as I now see it, but I can't quite remember just where or when. I tend to go with the flow, once a flow or direction actually appears. And pretty soon I am setting up shop all over again, making sense out of chaos, and rebuilding my world probably in my own image. My Humpty Dumpty self puts itself back together again and life goes on. This certainly is a dramatic image of Samsara – cyclic existence.

Does this sound a little crazy? Maybe so, but then: those of you paying attention to your own inner changes during this time, please share with me your view.

Major Solar Flare: Inner Change in Awareness

Some of you have messaged me for more information. Here is a diagram taken from my book "The Astrology of Space" of how the mass ejection works and how the atmosphere and magnetic shield of Earth prevents more direct contact with the emission. It funnels into through the poles.

Not the largest solar flare in history (Nov. 4. 2003), still this solar flare is the strongest since May of 2005 and (more important) has been termed "geo-effective" which means that it is located in the very center of the Sun and therefore coming directly at Earth. It is many times longer than the width of Earth so we will be bathed in its influence for some time.

What does this mean? Good question. In esoteric astrology, the Sun is the heart of our innermost self, not to mention that externally it provides all heat, light, warmth, growth, etc. Think about that for just a nanosecond please.

A flare is an eruption of mass and matter, this one central to us, so look inside and not outside for its effects. And inside means not just a little inside, but deep inside as in: who we are or feel we are or wonder-we-are. Such a deep shift or "touch" may slow us down a bit today or even for days, and our decisions, outer events, projects, may well go on hold for a while, while we reorient ourselves and take it all in.

These solar flares can be very strong events and I tend to just roll with them and not be too upset that whatever schedule I have going gets a little trampled

on or rearranged. It is all good, and awareness of these events on our part depends on how aware we are of any inner goings-on. This is why I study meditation because I want to witness these inner changes and be aware of them..

Nothing touches us more deeply than solar change. And there is absolutely nothing we can do about it, so time-out a bit and experience them if you can.

Large solar eruptions typically are equivalent to several hundred million hydrogen bombs, enough energy to supply Earth for the next 100 million years. More important, scientists have found that the Sun emits theta waves during very strong eruptions. Brain waves in the frequency of theta waves are what occur when meditators go into deep meditation. The Sun is communicating to us or properly put: we are speaking to ourselves deep beyond thought or thinking. Right now.

The key to understanding this is interdependency. All of the mechanistic parts scientists measure combine in a whole living entity that is knowing itself through us. Interdependency is key to holistic vision. We (our consciousness) are the eyeball of the universe looking at itself. I have written for decades now that “we” already are the spaceman we vainly search for. In other words, we are intelligent life... the intelligent life of the galaxy coming to know itself.

Large solar eruptions around the time of sunspot maximum (coming around July of 2013) are deeply, deeply creative and seminal, creative beyond anything else imaginable. So prepare for a very creative time now and in the next years or so to come. Work on your awareness so you can witness this creativity in real time.

Huge Coronal Mass Ejection Hits Today

A solar flare took place on the Sun late Sunday evening (11 PM), triggering a massive solar coronal-mass ejection into space and it has been traveling toward Earth ever since. It most certainly will cause some kind of disturbance in the Earth's magnetic field as it funnels in through the north pole. The Northern Lights should be very strong Tuesday night, reaching perhaps as far south as Idaho, Illinois, and Oregon. We shall see..

The coronal mass is hitting us Tuesday morning and on into the day. This is the most powerful such ejection of solar matter since May of 2005. It can affect satellites, cell phones, and communication of all kinds. Such is the physical effect, but what about its effect on the mind and psychology?

In his yet-to-be published book "Children of the Light," astrologer Theodor Landscheidt, who was a supreme court justice in Germany (and friend of mine), documented the effect of such massive solar events on the creativity of many great writers, scientists, and artists.

The takeaway from that book is that these huge messages from our Sun are seminal and imprint our mindstream to the core. They can be deeply creative and certainly this day should be set aside for observation of our mindstream by us all.

You can feel the solar impulse, if only through awareness of the disruption in normal mental activity and a sense of warmth and largeness. I don't want to say "confusion," because the confusion we might feel is a side effect, not a cause. We can be confused by

the disruption or pause in our regular train of thought, by distraction and the experience of suddenly being absorbed by this experience. We are in it now.

This kind of experience is not a call to activity and getting things done, but more like an imprinting, a taking things in, allowing this new information to enter and register deep within us. Later, we will (or can) read it back out as it affects us personally and make some kind of sense out of it. It is creative!

We are swimming in it now, bathed in solar fire and imprinting. Observe it.

SOLAR FLARE ALERT

A long-duration solar flare of the M1.8 class peaked at 1:15 PM EDT today, Tuesday July 17, 2012. It definitely released a bright CME (Coronal Mass Ejection) event off the southwest limb, but it is not headed in Earth's direction.

As we all can see, our Sun is very active just now, communicating to us in a very vivid and direct way, emanating huge clouds of information in various directions. CME events are material and energy, but they also probably contain some kind of information that updates us and allows our physical structures to be informed and continue to cohere.

Structures that are not continually informed cease to cohere or hang together and begin to atrophy. How such solar or cosmic information is communicated and shared scientists don't yet know. That there has to be such informing information seems quite clear.

When this kind of solar communication inundates us, as it does with these very strong solar storms, it quickly overflows our sense of direction and floods our plans with change. It is a quality of solar flares and other intense solar influx that it challenges the status quo, our existing plans and direction, and injects seeming chaos and change into our lives. This is pure creativity that does challenge what we currently have going for us and introduces alternative routes and conditions that we may not have 'planned' for.

These solar challenges are usually temporary and bring with them creative change that we ultimately benefit from. It is not like we have a choice. Not fighting these solar tides of change is recommended,

but relaxing and going with the flow is suggested. When the solar tide goes out again and dies down, familiar life and mental landmarks will reappear and life will take on more familiar directions once again. Right now, however, with flare after flare, in succession there is little time to get normal. We are in a time of change. Period.

Solar Flares: The Hits Just Keep on Coming

As for the effects of the current solar influx, I see them all around me. Many people I have spoken to are kind of in Limbo, with many things up in the air or hanging fire. Others I know are trying to work out their differences in this time of change, but now may not be the best time for that. Solar events are not noted for their clarity, but rather for their powerful sense of inner change.

As for me, I am kind of taking it all in and trying to surf the flux as best I can. Yes, I feel change and No, I don't know where it will lead yet. Also, I have to hit the road very soon and don't have a lot of time. I will be off-the-grid for a while, but hope to get an Internet connection later tonight or perhaps Sunday morning.

Keep in mind that in my opinion CMEs are events we kind of ride out, like we would a hurricane. They are actually solar storms sweeping past Earth and penetrating us where and as they can, funneling in through the geomagnetic poles. When these storms come, I tend to keep a low profile, take it easy, relax, and make no attempt to figure anything out just now or make important decisions. With CMEs, it is best to feed them, so I eat plenty at these times. It kind of keeps me grounded

Yes, I can feel the inner changes swirling and my attempts to make them out or line them up in some sort of direction (for my comfort) usually don't work. These flares bring change or are change, but it will take some time for the smoke to clear enough that I can see what the change has wrought. Right now, times they are a' changing, and what is changing is

me, or my idea of me, who I am, and where I am headed.

So I bid you farewell for now and good luck with the incoming CME.

The Solar Tides

I don't mean to be beating a dead horse with this solar-flare-influx material, and please feel free to ignore what follows. It has to do with how solar change comes over us, and for most of you this is probably more than the 'enough' you seek. I write it only for those of you who resonate to it, so that you don't worry when it comes. Or perhaps, finally, I am just talking to myself, if that is allowed.

Once again we are looking at deep solar change flooding our regular sense of our self and perhaps changing that self at a core level. And it may appear to be doing so without our knowledge or even asking our permission. Yet since this change IS our deeper self; it trumps who we thought we were. It is the new and updated 'us'.

One of the more difficult to detect (wake-up-to) signs of real change is the ennui or the dissatisfaction of assessing who I am and where I am at. One day I am just humming along in my little self-driven universe and the next I have somehow fallen out of it. There I sit once again, left high and dry while the tide of my current life apparently has decided to go out for a spell. What went wrong?

This then is where the gag reflex 'not-to-panic' comes in. My previous tendency was to madly try to cover up or over my emptiness, the nakedness I feel when I run out of satisfaction or happiness and come to a linear stop – the end of a line. How do I manage to forget each time that life is cyclical and not linear? Somehow it all just goes void and there I am, seemingly without a clue as to what has happened. When solar flares emerge, this experience of void-

ness is very likely to occur at some point in the cycle of change.

These empty or wasteland times are indeed challenging and the challenge is not some head-on opponent that I can take up arms against, but rather deflation, as the air runs out of the tires of my life and I am once again stranded in ennui with no direction forward and none home, either.

At these times, my day-to-day life seems to end, as T.S. Elliot pointed out, "Not with a bang but a whimper." My very full-and-busy life suddenly is gone empty, as far as I can see, and I don't even know how I got there. For me, these are times to tread most gently and carefully.

And it is this kind of wipe-out experience that the influx of intense solar energy can bring about. The flood of solar light simply overwrites whatever RAM we have so carefully gathered around us in the way of direction and self-satisfaction, and cancels or voids it - - nada. But I try to remember that these times are a prelude and not a conclusion, so please bear with me.

In every case, unless I panic and cloud my mindstream with unnecessary worry and fear, this feeling of emptiness will pass, and the tide of life will come back in, filling me once again with purpose and the linear sense of going somewhere, however ridiculous that is philosophically. Somehow the myth of linearity persists in me. Perhaps that is why I love to look down a long two-track road in the forest to where it vanishes in a point. It seems I always have to be going somewhere.

Solar influx is not linear. It is always an overwrite, and sometimes a total firmware upgrade that replaces what I know of me with what I am apparently about to

get to know. I am replacing myself, real-time.
Understand?

The saving grace (so I tell myself) is that solar influx or overwrite is always more germane, more up-to-date or real than whatever line of thought I imagined I had going for me. In effect this is a kindness that makes it easier for me to let go of what went before and not struggle to remember and compare what was (used-to-be) with what is now.

Letting go of who we were (or thought we were before we changed) is an art well worth acquiring. Allowing the waves of certain change to gently replace our best-guess-at-life, adding what needs to be added and removing what must be removed, is in order. But WE have to allow it to happen. If we struggle and fight this change, the noise of our struggle drowns out whatever clarity we might otherwise gain. And clarity amidst change is the only grace we are offered, so cherish it.

In summary: when we have a mental wipeout like solar influx can bring, when we come to a standstill, when all can appear empty and what we thought we had gathered into a direction is suddenly rendered meaningless, this is a GOOD sign, one that is best experienced calmly, and with no reaction or panic.

It is like our breath, in that it goes all the way out each cycle, pauses for a moment, and then gradually returns. But it is the pause that refreshes, although it may not at first appear to be so. The solar influx from flares, CME events, or what-have-you brings with it something new that we need, but that something new replaces or overwrites some of the old we knew as us, which must now be forgotten -- overwritten. In the end, we agree to forget what we find so hard to

remember and go with the flow. What is taken away is only what is no longer needed, and what is added on or replaces it is just what we most need.

Learning to let go and trust solar change (welcome it) is always to our advantage. The changes from the Sun are unavoidable; they are our life blood. Taking this change is like sailing a boat. It all depends how we set our sails and take the breeze, where it will take us.

Alert: More Solar Eruptions, What They Mean

[The Facts: We are once again experiencing a time of increased solar flares and CME (Coronal Mass Ejection) events. There was an M5.6 solar flare on July 2, 2012 at 7:52 AM EDT (and a CME) and this has been followed by another solar flare reaching M3.8 in magnitude since then. More and larger flares are predicted over the next few days. Since astrology is nothing other than cultural astronomy, let me remind you what these intense solar outbursts might mean. Hold on to your hats!]

As mentioned, we are experiencing massive solar flare eruptions on the surface of our Sun. And I did it again. I managed to forget about that lucky-old Sun and its intermittent messages to me in this peak time of the solar cycle. I was too busy arranging the deck chairs on my life and trying to get all my ducks in a row to remember that when the Sun speaks, I must listen. We all must. And it is an inside listening and message, one that we can't help but hear because it interrupts what we ignorantly think of as our life.

"We interrupt our regular programming to bring you the following special message."

I must admit that it is a little frustrating to have my regular life-flow just overridden and made temporarily obsolete, while I stop to absorb something even more important. But it is also a welcome relief over my own meandering plans. It would seem that the daily stream of astrological aspects from the Sun, Moon, and planets is interrupted by these intense solar outbursts which simply override the standard astro-aspects in significance. It is something like that.

And the saving grace of these powerful solar events is that they 'ARE' more important; they do short-circuit my well-manicured plans and life direction, cut to its core, and simply change the game without notifying me. Rather, they 'are' the notification of change. And what a blessing!

These intense solar events manage to overwrite my regular life with their priority message, one that I can't ignore because it is more real than the life I like to think I am living. And these solar impulses come from my center, from a deeper place than I normally know, and therefore I can't help but listen. It 'IS' life compared to the life I am living.

How can a message from deep within me come from something so distant as the center of the Sun? Perhaps real depth is not measured by space or distance, but rather by who is speaking, by the importance or size of the system, something the size of the solar system or even the entire galaxy? Is what is nearest and dearest to my heart actually a message from the Sun, which is so very far away? In other words, does distance not matter when it comes to the heart or core, to what is really important?

As mentioned, it seems to me (through my experience) that strong solar activity like solar flares and CME events trump the standard or more traditional astrological indicators. This is like saying that the Sun is bigger or more important than the planets that circle around it. Make sense? It does to me. I am gradually getting able to recognize these solar events, not by seeing them announced by scientists, but by feeling them happening inside me. For example, this morning:

I have not written any poetry for weeks, maybe months. And then I am driving the back-country roads to the grocery store and a poem starts to come into my mind. I write it down on the grocery list and when I get back home I can't resist checking a web site where they list solar activity and, sure enough, there was a strong solar flare (and corresponding CME event) that took place earlier that morning.

What's this all about? When the sun speaks, do I write poetry? Does some inner part of me dance to the inner life of the Sun? It would seem so.

Since we are reaching the peak of the eleven-year sunspot cycle, prepare to be interrupted a lot this year. And these solar interruptions really are special. They change us from the inside out, a change that wipes out who we thought we were and overwrites our memory with something new. It is like a firmware upgrade; we can't remember who we were before the overwrite, because 'WE' change.

It would appear in these months that just as we start to get into the groove of our normal life-flow, a solar outburst interrupts our mindstream and train of events. Only in this case the interruption IS the 'life', and not what it interrupts. It is perhaps similar to the process of meditation where our attempts to practice meditating are occasionally interrupted by actual meditation. In other words, the interruption is what is important, not what was going on up until then.

These solar eruptions distract us from our day-to-day distractions like the melody of a song is heard through the static noise of a bad radio. Our usual ramblings and distractions are punctuated by these intense solar events which override them by coming from a deeper source and center. It reminds me of the times when I

think I want to put on some music and then realize I am already listening to music. Something deeper wants to be heard and, with these solar events, we have no choice but to listen.

Double-Whammy Solar Ejection

While I was away for a couple days we had a double CME (Coronal Mass Ejection) on the Sun and the CME Event impacted the Earth's magnetic field on June 16, 2012, causing 24 hours of geomagnetic storms. The storms are still going on, with aurorae reaching down to Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas. Southern aurorae were also reported. The CME came from sunspot AR1504 and was moving so fast that it engulfed an earlier CME already on its way to create a double whammy for Earth's magnetic field.

I have written extensively about the effect of solar flares and CME events on us here on Earth and if you scroll down through this list of articles, you will find several.

<http://michaelerlewine.com/viewforum.php?f=235&sid=c34e5c05723537f1ed1afdcb6ee6549f>

This is more just a note to point out that we have New Moon tomorrow morning at 11:00 AM EDT, so that today we are in the dark of the moon, the dharma protector days in the Tibetan Buddhist calendar, and this observation.

Traditionally, the days just before a New Moon are days to kind of hunker down, keep your head low. If you are used to doing much, it is written that this is a time to conclude, finish projects, wrap things up, etc., not to start anything new, but rather to wait until the New Moon (and inspiration) to do that.

To have the New Moon so close AND to be receiving double-whammy CME events is a kind of odd combination: finishing up for the New Moon, but

receiving potentially new solar information from the CME event.

As mentioned above, I was away at an event where I had little access to the Internet and less time to use it, so I missed the warning of the incoming CMEs. Therefore I was not as observant as I otherwise might have been. I was in the stream of a hundred or so people and very busy at that.

So... you tell me what this combination brought to your life? For myself, it was kind of low-key, which is typical for the days before the New Moon, but at the same time I was making some resolves and finding out how I fit in or can best be of use in a crowd, which is doing astrology.

I am not much use in a large group, because there is too much input coming at me from all directions. I am better one-to-one, so spending time doing one-to-one readings was a better use of me than just trying to hang out, where the word "trying" (in several senses of the word) is operative.

I do feel like I set my life course at least just a little bit, which would be indicative of a solar event. The Sun is all powerful in my opinion especially on the outer day-to-day level.

A Solar-Influx Pause and What That Means

We are having a relatively quiet Sun these days, as the more-active sunspots have turned away from Earth and are now on the opposite side of the Sun from us. You might think we would get some relief, but not quite yet. Here is what I understand:

The solar influx from flares and CME events can be likened to the flood plain of a river after inundation, in this case by flooding our known and familiar internal landscape with change. When the Sun quiets down and the solar tides begin to recede, you might imagine things would begin to look normal again. Not so. If you have ever seen a river or stream flood, when it recedes, things are not as they were before. The flood tides remove things from one place and makes new deposits in another. Often the course of the streambed itself is altered and there is an entirely new channel. So it is with solar tides and their receding.

As the Sun quiets down for the moment and life begins to return to normal, what we see is not what we remember. Things have changed and often we can't even remember exactly how things were before the solar event began because we have changed too. We not only see new landmarks, but we probably see with new eyes, because (as often as not) it is 'we' who have changed, not just our inner landscape. The object and subject here are interdependent. In other words, both our life landscape and how we see it has changed, which makes it almost impossible to

compare or remember how things used to be. We have experienced some change at our core and that changes our periphery. Very few people are aware of this kind of change, yet it happens all the time. We struggle even to get a glance at it. Get the idea?

There is an upside to when the Solar tides recede, once we accept that we can't go back to where we once were or even be sure who it was we were and what we saw before all of this change. And the upside is a surge of what we could call creativity. Perhaps it is just the sense of discovery as we come back into our normal senses and can see more clearly again.

In other words, as the solar tides recede and our mind clears so that we can make out our inner landscape once again, we start to add up all the changes we see and form an impression of what has happened. Hopefully it is more than an impression or a simple knowing that we have been through an experience. Our analytical faculties come back into play as we kind of get our arms around the whole recent experience, and begin to put it into some perspective, to see it from a distance. We start to get a handle on what we went through and develop a view or opinion. This is where the 'creativity' comes in.

Of course, all of this is very subtle, and if some of you are shaking your heads at what I write, I understand and apologize. This is something that most of us have to learn to be sensitive to, and for that to happen, you have to first hear about it. Some of you are hearing

about it now, and may (upon hearing) develop some sensitivity down the road.

As for the creativity, at the very least we are forced to be creative as we try to patch together the Humpty-Dumpty sense of our self we find, some of which may have been shattered or scattered through all the changes that have been taking place. We gradually assume some semblance of a 'normal' self once again, but there are usually (if we don't blindly ignore them) gaps in our memory that belie the differences between what we were then and what we are now. As I like to say, we agree to forget what we find just too hard (or painful) to remember. We patch our self-image together as best we can and just move on.

If this sounds a little rough or down, it is nothing new. We are used to it. There is no explaining some of the anomalies we may come across or raw references to the past that we cannot totally resolve because what we see has changed, how we see it, and even who is seeing. It does not all add up, so we just forget it and move forward with what self-assemblage we can live with, something we can stand to see in the mirror, even if it is a patchwork affair. And it is.

My point here is that when the Sun speaks, we listen, and it is a little more personal than that. The injection of change into our life, in our self, is something we have no choice in. It just comes. The kicker is that this change is an internal change that affects us directly. We change, and here is what needs to be grasped by readers.

We have no choice but to identify with the change the Sun brings as opposed to continuing to identify with who we remember as ourselves before a solar influx, because the Sun 'IS' our inner life in reality. The Sun is the truth of us and unless we ignore the truth, we will find ourselves identifying with what the sun reveals as to who we are. Because of our ignorance (our tendency to ignore change and the truth), we can discover large gaps between what is being revealed by the Sun to us and who we remember we are from the past.

This is the age-old struggle between conservative and liberal, between the status quo and change. The Sun is most liberal. It always brings change and change changes what? The status quo, by definition. When we grasp it is our own identity that is changing, we are getting a handle on the problem. As I have written for decades, this process of identification is the circulation of cosmic information that allows our universe to cohere and continue to exist. Identification is circulation, whenever we identify with anything or anyone. This is a big deal, so please do ask questions if you have any.

The quiet Sun means a chance to start to gather something from this solar experience, perhaps some distance and perspective from what we have been so wrapped up in for quite some time. And this perspective is just a pause, because the solar flare season is not over and will not be over anytime soon. Yet we can come up for air, and pull ourselves together long enough to look around and take notes.

We can perhaps see something of what is happening with us, if we will look.

We are getting a break right now. And, depending on what we can see (again: if we will look), this can be a very creative time. We can be aware of change as it happens, but we have to be aware enough to look.

Cosmic Fireworks

8:44 AM EDT-- Another Strong Solar Flare -- M6.1

The real fireworks are taking place on the surface of the Sun and we have volley after volley of solar flares yesterday and continuing into today, Thursday July 5, 2012. And the forecast is for more and potentially larger bursts, including perhaps the most powerful X-Class flares.

Here is a list of the recent flares for those interested:

2012-07-04 at 6:55 AM EDT Solar Flare M5.3 CME Event

2012-07-04 at 9:24 AM EDT Solar Flare M2.3

2012-07-04 at 1:39 PM EDT Solar Flare M1.8 CME Event

2012-07-04 at 19:09 AM EDT Solar Flare M4.6

2012-07-04 at 10:10 AM EDT Solar Flare M2.4

2012-07-04 at 11:42 AM EDT Solar Flare M2.2

2012-07-05 at 12:36 AM EDT Solar Flare M4.7

I have written ad-nauseum by now about these flares, CMEs, solar wind, and so forth, so I won't repeat myself here. Suffice it to say that there is enough new inner material emerging to keep us all busy for some time sorting it out.

I guess the main take-away from all this solar activity is to have patience as far as looking for direction or ascertaining what direction you are on or should be taking. This is a good time to practice taking things a day at a time, rather than guessing where things are at or should be. Things are not 'at' where they will be, so relax in this suspended time. The other shoe has not yet fallen.

And when there is this much solar disturbance, part of the creativity of it all depends on our taking these changes “to the path” as the Buddhists say. We can’t step back and observe yet, so every doubt, condition, or thought needs to be included in the solution.

By “taking things to the path,” I mean: when we have fears, doubts, projections, and concerns this early in the game, and when they weigh upon us and therefore actually affect our experience before it has even finished happening, that is the time to understand that these doubts, etc. themselves need to be recognized as just another part of the experience, and folded-in or included.

In other words, embrace the doubts too, include them and realize they are not definitive of anything. They mean nothing, but are just part of the aura of the experience itself. Accept all this and flip the experience more positively or at least suspend any judgment of it. In other words, realize you are in panic, and extend that awareness to include the doubts, thus setting them to rest and resetting the experience from one of ‘concluding’ to one of “still experiencing.” It is still too early to say anything about it.

If we are looking to get a handle on what is happening and where we are at, we are jumping the gun. We can’t objectify (much less analyze) anything that has not finished appearing. We have to experience it first, so just soak it in. This IS the experience, and in the midst of it we may not see clearly yet.

Of course we want to know what it all means, but “it all” has not finished happening, so that would be a rush to judgment. And waiting for that other shoe to

fall can be the hardest part of times like these. Let it be. Am I being clear enough?

We are in the midst these solar eruptions, still taking it all in. We have to experience it before we can define the experience. It has to (at least more of it) move from the present into the past before we can get a handle on it and objectify it. We are now in the thick of it, so try to enjoy. No one ever said it would be easy.

Our “being is in waiting” as the old phrase puts it.

Surfing the Solar Tides

I can remember being here before, in times like these, embedded in and engulfed by clouds of solar influx, this solar bath, an inner inundation. And these sudden outbursts from the Sun are not kind to the status quo, whatever is conservative in me, or to my particular personal attachments. This is a time of personified change, and change is liberal, simply removing what must be removed and adding what needs to be added, and all this without my permission. You too are in this time of change.

Yet nothing is new, especially if you consider that everything is cyclic. In the end life is not linear, but cyclic and even the straightest line is just a finer form of curve that comes around again to restate its being and thus continues to identify itself. Life is all about its returns. Short sections of a fine curve may appear straight, but that is just the illusion that keeps me strapped to a timeline on or forward, the illusion that I am ever going somewhere else other than right here where I am now.

Right here and now we are engulfed in the viscous clouds of solar flares and the masses of plasma hurled at us from the Sun. And it can be difficult to get things done or know just what should be done.

I wanted to share these thoughts with you on the chance that you too are aware of this flood of solar change that submerges so many of our inner landmarks and leaves us an island in our own mindstream. Perhaps these two poems I wrote some time ago will help to point out what can be done at these times.

Water and the Well

The rare times,
When nothing moves me,
And I don't feel,
Like doing anything.

Perhaps this is some kind of,
Natural meditation,
An effortless detachment,
From my day-to-day world.

All that is missing,
From just being lazy,
Is this awareness,
Of my own condition.

I don't waste time,
Pretending to be busy,
But just sit there,
And for a long time.

Nothing is missing.

Watch a movie,
Read a book,
Sit, or not,
It makes no difference.

I am right here.

The mind is at rest,
The water back in the well.

February 15, 2010,

New Moon,
New Year of the Iron Tiger

Meditation is Nothing

The books say:
Seek a place of solitude,
And meditate,
But it's just the other way round.

When meditation,
Naturally occurs,
There is no place in the world,
That I feel comfortable,
Try as I might.

Not here or there,
Not doing this or doing that.

Only 'nothing' feels right.

I just want to hold real still,
Let the mind rest,
And then park myself,
Somewhere out of the way,
Like on a cushion,
Or
In a place of solitude,
Because:

Nothing is going on.

Sept. 13, 2010

Flare: Solar Plasma Headed to Earth

The recent X-Class flare on July 12th ejected what is called a CME event (Coronal Mass Ejection), a mass of plasma and magnetism headed directly at Earth and traveling at 850 miles per second. It is scheduled to reach Earth around 1 AM EDT on Saturday July 14th, 2012. On the outside, look for auroras. As for inside, these solar events are coming so rapidly now that I hesitate to repeat myself in these blogs, but some of you are new to this.

Astrology is simply cultural astronomy, the interpretation of astronomical events happening out there in the cosmos down here on Earth. Astronomers calculate when these events occur and astrologers try and tell us what they might mean. Astrology usually focuses on the relationship of the Sun, Moon, and planets with one another as they form kaleidoscopic patterns with one another in the heavens, but there is an exception.

When the Sun itself erupts with violent flares and explosions, those events trump everyday astrology and take center stage. When the Sun speaks, we listen, and there is always a message.

I have studied astrology for some fifty years and over that time I have become increasingly aware how important these experiences of solar activity are for our internal life. I would be tempted almost to say they 'are' our inner life or at least form and shape it.

The Sun speaks to us constantly, rising each day and shining light (light!) at us that informs, providing warmth and continuity for those us here on Earth. I have tried for decades to communicate that the Sun is

not just a convenient solar furnace, but has a spiritual essence just as we like to think we do – a soul or self. And the Sun is not some ‘other’ one, but the same one we are. We are the soul of the Sun.

In other words, our consciousness is solar in nature. We are the children of the Sun in every meaningful way. And when the Sun speaks to us, we have no choice but to hear. When the solar disc exhibits sudden changes, like flares, prominences, CME events, and so on, we change simultaneously as it does, and then are further affected by the waves of plasma it hurls at Earth.

These solar events affect everyone here on Earth, but that does not mean that everyone is aware of them. Awareness, as I keep harping in these blogs, is something that some just naturally have, and the rest of us must develop. And while most astrological events are subtle, massive events like solar flares and CMEs are fairly obvious to most of us. They interrupt life as we know it and force us in some way to go on instant hiatus – to time out.

Solar flares are conspicuous by their ability to put all of our well-crafted plans and that (sometimes tenuous) sense of direction we have on hold, leaving us momentarily in suspended animation and looking around to see just where in life we are. While only days before all things may have seemed to point forward in a line toward the future, with the advent of solar influx we tend to be stranded in the moment, the now, leaving the future something of a question mark.

We each react differently to this solar stimulus, some with confusion, loss of direction or concentration, others with headaches and a sense of being overwhelmed. Things can suddenly seem just too

much and we have to go lie down, and so on. You get the idea. Somehow we have lost the roadmap we were on and suddenly here we are, stranded in the present moment. It can be a very uncomfortable feeling. On the other hand, some of us get very creative and have the idea of a lifetime.

Solar change this strong affects us. It changes us right before our own eyes, while we wait, so to speak. We are used to gradual solar change that does not compromise our sense of dignity and self, who we think we are. Intense solar influx speeds up the process of change. It turns the wheel of the dharma, and change comes in spurts and quantum leaps rather than a trickle. We actually can see ourselves change in real-time, and this kind of change is no respecter of persons or place. It just happens, seemingly willy-nilly. We change, whether we like it or not.

A sign of this deeper change is, as mentioned, the fading out of our current plans, and a sense of being suspended in the moment, with no sense of direction. We don't know where we are for a time and this can frighten us. When the changes that are introduced take hold, we gradually come out of our shock and re-map our terrain. As the smoke clears, we once again establish some plan, that linear line toward the future that we find so comforting, the sense that we are going somewhere other than to the 'now', this present moment.

Pretty soon our habitual self takes control again and we are back to business as usual, although in the interim we may have adjusted our life-course and don't even remember doing it. I won't go on and on about this, but hopefully you get the idea. Massive solar influx brings change in quantum chunks and we

try to absorb it as best we can. Many ignore and try not to acknowledge what actually is happening to them. Here is a little poem I wrote to myself about the confusion of events in times of solar influx.

Time to Mind

Lost again in the swing of time,
I agree to forget,
What I find so hard to remember:
This moment.

Always later,
Urged awake by impermanence,
I am back again,
But farther down the road.

Time takes my mind,
In small and larger bites.

The little ones,
I reconnect and can remember,
But the larger gaps,
I can only leap across,
Guess at,
And hopefully learn,
To say more in silence,
Than in words.

Nov. 20, 2009

Now: Powerful X-Class Solar Flare

July 12, 2012 at 12:52 PM EDT

Sunspot AR1520 erupted with an X1.4 class solar flare on July 12, 2012 at 12:52 PM EDT. X-Class flares are the strongest class of flares monitored by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory. The flare included a flash of extreme ultraviolet radiation and the blast caused a strong R3 radio blackout on the sunlit portion of Earth. This is a long duration solar flare that started at 12:11 PM EDT and a CME (Coronal Mass Ejection) event is in progress. The sunspot is aimed directly at Earth, so we can expect some impact from the CME.

Those of you who frequent my blogs know that I have covered these flares now for many months. We are in the time of solar maximum, the peak activity time for the Sun in an eleven-year cycle. We can expect more of this kind of intense solar flux until sometime in the year 2013, when it will gradually start to taper off.

The internal life of the Sun is for all practical purposes 'our' internal life, meaning: we feel it, big time. It swells up our mind, causes migraines and other forms of headaches in some, and churns our more emotional selves steadily. We have had one solar flare after another for days, sometimes several in a day.

This particular one is very strong indeed. It tends to slow things inside down to a crawl and leaves many befuddled and disoriented. It is not a time for snap decisions and most definitely not a time to argue or try to solve emotional problems or upset. The word 'change' is key here. Things are changing.

Riding this out as gently and quietly as possible, and observing our mindstream consciously, is recommended. This is a good time to witness change taking place internally as this strong solar material writes out a new script we all will be following in the times ahead.

This is not a good time to cling to plans or force oneself in a desired direction. Better is to let go and watch the directions just appear, so that we can read them and learn to be comfortable with them.

Many find it hard to reason just now or that their brain seems swollen or 'hot'. It can be hard to think things out for some. And like a rollercoaster ride, we are riding it now. It is much too early to attempt to decipher what all this means for us. We are still in the current and swirl of the energy of this great internal eruption. I could feel it happen, and when I went to the solar websites, sure enough there was this new great flare.

In times of solar flux, our inner changes are sometimes like a kaleidoscope. A lot is going on. If you pay close attention, you will not find something 'new' happening, so don't look for that. Instead, the earmark of solar influx is having parts of you being activated by the solar energy. For example, if you are an artist, you might finally feel like finishing that painting. If a poet, you write. If a musician, you play or compose, and so on. In other words, you find the space and time to be creative. That is one sign of solar energy.

Another sign, one that is more troubling (and difficult to define), are changes in how we feel about and in the structure of our self, the particular matrix or world we find our self-embedded or involved in. I have

mentioned this quite a lot in early blogs, but to remind us of what I am referring to, I will recap.

The advent of real (or new) change in our life (like that from solar influx) often causes our current life path to run aground or come up empty. The life direction we thought we were on may suddenly run dry or just peter out. We are left high and dry in that regard. If, when that happens, we freak out and madly try to scramble back to where we came from or fill up our emptiness with meaningless panic, we are fighting the change that is (ready or not) coming or already here.

I have found in my life that in every case where my current direction or “me” ran aground or bottomed-out, that if I did not panic (and madly try to cling to my attachments), but instead allowed these changes to take place, I grew from the experience. In the end, I came out a “bigger” person, more inclusive, and better able to handle the challenges in my life. Most important, I never was short-changed or feel I lost anything important in the transaction, and here is why.

We tend to think of these deep changes as something new coming into us that is added on to who we already are. This is incorrect. As they say, there is nothing new under the Sun. What does change, however, is our attitude, the way we take the winds of change. It is exactly like setting the sails on a boat, resetting them to better take the wind.

However, we have to let go of our current attitude at least enough to take up a more relaxed or “better” attitude, and our current attitude may be in a death-grip. That is what happens in times of solar influx; we have to accept change. All deep change happens not on the periphery of the self, but in or toward the

center. And any change at the center affects the entire periphery. Real change is one of attitude.

So the change I am suggesting here is in how we handle what we already have rather than always looking for a new or better situation. It is easier to make our current situation better by changing our attitude than by (always) changing our situation, as in: finding a new and different situation. Linear thinking always has an end, and often a dead end at that.

I realize my words may be too didactic and lack juice or enough poetry to properly float them. I am doing the best I can to communicate how we might look at bringing our current situation to the path by not preferring, not dictating, not hoping for a particular outcome, but learning to better work with what we have in taking our present situation to the path. As the Buddhists say, "Hope and Fear are not our friends."

Children of the Sun

The media is filled with the news of the very large coronal mass ejection (CME) event following the recent solar flare last Sunday, January 22, 2012, which is now giving Earth an x-ray bath that could be very dangerous except that it is mostly stopped by the earth's magnetosphere. And the more we manage to damage our own atmospheres, of course the less protection we have from these x-ray storms, high solar winds, and similar events.

As these highly charged protons and electrons funnel in through the north and south magnetic poles of Earth, they produce incredible light shows or the aurora. These are part of the obvious physical result of a CME event. And the news media is focused on the physical. But what about the psychological and 'meta'-physical effects from such an event? Just because we can't see them, do we really think they don't exist, that we are untouchable or unchangeable spiritually?

When we say that someone is a 'materialist' or has a materialistic view, what does that mean? For those of us who practice mind training and who actually work with meditation, materialism is actually a simple mistake, taking for real something that is a product of our own mind. Our relationship to the Sun is a good example.

The Sun is the source of all warmth, light, and life for us. We can all agree on that. And while bathing in the life-giving solar rays, we can have, as they say, intimations of our own immortality. We may believe that we have some sort of spiritual life and that we

are, somehow, a spirit, a spiritual being. Now here comes the materialism, so please note.

At the same time as we like to experience ourselves as a "self" or spirit (use your own words) or at least agree that we have some spiritual component in our makeup... in the same breath we believe that our Sun is just a hot ball of physical gas. The Sun has no spiritual component, right? That is what a materialistic science would tell us. However, we ourselves do have such a spiritual essence, component, or whatever words you want to use to describe it. We are somehow 'special', but the universe and all of that "out there" is not. It is just material.

We are a consciousness, but the Sun has none. We are children of the Sun, but that which gives us life has no life itself. It is just hot gas out there, a convenient furnace to keep us warm. But somehow we got lucky and have a consciousness, while everything around us did not. Interesting, and how did that happen? This is IMO materialistic thinking and I don't have the space here to do more than point at some ideas we might consider:

A less materialistic view might not paint everything outside ourselves as 'hard' science and everything on the inside as 'soft' science. On the inside, "in here" with our consciousness, we are warm and fuzzy, conscious, spiritual, and aware, but beyond our skin, the world out there is cold and hard. "To fail ignorance by a meter or a foot," I once wrote. There is an alternate view:

If we are children of the sun, and if we are more than just our fingernails and hair... if 'we' are consciousness, then the Sun is an immense consciousness of an even higher order. It would seem

that we are still back in the age of Copernicus, but somehow we took the wrong path. It is Earth that goes around the Sun, and not vice versa.

And we are connected to the Sun not just by the physical light and warmth that gives us life, but also connected psychologically, spiritually, and totally to the information streaming from the Sun to us each day. It keeps us alive physically; it keeps us alive psychologically, and it keeps us alive spiritually. Anyway, that is how I see it.

And when in the course of things the Sun sends more than the normal amount of information, when the Sun belches forth a massive amount of information all at once, this too has an effect. The daily solar radiation during quiet times on the Sun has effects, so a CME (coronal mass ejection) like this current solar event also affects, and not just physically, but mentally, psychologically, and spiritually.

If it is information the Sun radiates, then at the times when a massive amount of radiation reaches us all at once, there will be an effect, there will be some 'extraordinary' communication and it will be profound. How will this affect us?

Well, differently. Some of you have commented or written to me about your 'headaches,' your migraines, or that you are suddenly overwhelmed with input, feel confused, lost at sea, disrupted, and so forth. These times of massive solar inundation can be overwhelming. They go in deep or just are deep, and our personal life suddenly seems afloat on top of the deepness, an "incidental."

Scientists tell us that CME events can very much disturb communications. How about how the synapses in our mind communicate? How about our

flow of thoughts? Or our life plans, like where we thought we were going only yesterday? How about mental disruption?

Years ago in the 1970s I was lucky enough to have some highly intelligent friends like cosmo-psychologists Theodor Landscheidt and Charles A. Jayne, who saw the same things I was seeing, that when these great solar events occur, it changes our minds. Times of great solar activity engulf us not only in physical plasma, but are also, in essence, mentally creative. These can be times of increased creativity and they leave their mark, like seeds, planted in our mindstream that work their way to the surface of our awareness as new ideas, new ways to see things. They bring change, perhaps not all at once, but gradually and, eventually, without fail.

As lovely as the CME generated auroras in the night sky are, for me even more wonderful is the influx of sheer creativity that is available to us at these times of increased solar activity. This “soul-ar” information penetrates deep, moves us around in there, and gives us the opportunity to actually change and rearrange our minds.

The title “Children of the Sun” is a tribute to the title of an unpublished book by Theodor Landscheidt on just what we are discussing here, that solar influx and creativity are connected. Landscheidt’s book is called “Children of the Light” and is available only in German.

