

## THE CURRENT ECLIPSES: A VISION

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I am putting on my astrology hat on for a moment because once again we are in one of those intra-eclipse times and they don't happen very often, a time when two eclipses occur one after the other within a two-week period. Two successive eclipses that embrace a fourteen-day period are not only rather rare but traditionally very meaningful. In this case we have a partial eclipse of the Sun on Nov. 25, 2011 and a total eclipse of the moon on Dec. 10, 2011.

I have written about this before here on Facebook. Astrology is the study of these cosmic cycles and this double-eclipse period has cycled back upon us once again and we are now living through it. And each eclipse period is different. What does it mean?

I can only give you my own interpretation but I have studied these things for almost fifty years. First off, these rare two-week double-eclipse periods are special. They underscore or indicate a time of deeper imprinting. Eclipses embed or leave their mark on our mindstream, an imprint that may take us weeks or even months to unravel and read (or live) out. They have a meaning or message for us if we can manage to read it back out to ourselves and become aware of it. And this is happening now. We are in an eclipse time right now.

Traditionally each eclipse brings with it a vision that touches us whether we know it or not. Awareness of what is happening to us is always the key. Ignorance is just that "ignoring" or being unaware of what is taking place. In books and movies, visions are often depicted as like seeing pictures in the sky but in the flesh eclipses are a little more subtle than that. I think of visions as times of deep imprinting when vital or fresh cosmic information is placed or embedded in our mindstream and immediately starts to broadcast or affect us. It shines or like a scroll unrolls and, if we can be quiet enough, we can read what it says into our consciousness and become aware of it.

Every eclipse has a vision and visions by definition are seminal information that guide or direct our life whether we are aware of them or not. They "shine" and we reflect and see our life path by their light. When two eclipses go off one after the other like they are right now, that whole two weeks marks a light-filled time if we can see. So what to look for and what do these particular eclipses mean?

Look for signs in your mind and in life around you. Look for signs of shift or a change of direction and pay attention to where these signs point for they are a harbinger of your future. As mentioned, eclipse visions are not so much dream-like images as they are moments of sudden deepening when we experience or live the moment more vividly than we can remember. Eclipses seal off (or cauterize) the past by their realness, letting the past, well, pass. Just like the bible says. "It came to pass," not to stay. Eclipses allow us to drop the past and look ahead once again. They are opportunities to move forward.

Eclipses refresh or reset our odometer. In other words, eclipse times are intense and it is often only later that we realize we had a moment of vision because as an eclipse fades in intensity we only know in retrospect that we have been through something real recently. In other words, we know what was real when it gets less real. That is what visions are like: intense moments of living that serve as guideposts or pole stars in our life. You may have to think this through, look

in your life, and put it in your own words. What about this particular pair of eclipses? What do they mean for us?

While it is as complicated as we are, this particular coming Full Moon brings with it a vision of compassion or appreciation. We are touched and may be able to better appraise or appreciate the unity in life around us, all that unites our separateness. In other words, instead of an accent on how we differ, during this time the accent is on how we are united, how much we share. Compassion has to do with responding to what is and total compassion is total response to life – caring and serving and loving. Compassion is complete or total reflection.

The vision of this particular coming Full Moon eclipse is one of being able to respond or appreciate deeply the unity or connectedness of life. It is about compassion.

Hope this is useful.

## ECLIPSE VISIONS: PART TWO

December 1, 2011

Some of you have messaged me with questions, so let's go over what happens during an eclipse time and just what we mean by the term "The Vision of the Eclipse." Those of you who have had enough just skip over this please.

Eclipses are potent times. This has been written both in western astrology and in the astrology from the east – China, India, and Tibet. At the moment of an eclipse, so write the Tibetan astrologers, there is an alignment internally of what are called the winds and the channels. This is connected to the what are called the chakras. There is such an alignment at every New and Full Moon, but there is a much more dramatic (potent) alignment at the time of an eclipse. Eclipses are seed times – seminal. Seminal means: something is planted, a seed.

And it would be good to wean ourselves from the storybook concept that visions are pictures in the sky or in our mind, like graphics. That is how some writers have tried to describe their visionary experiences but a description of visions as times of great immediacy or presence is much closer to the reality – realness, intense living.

A vision is a time when we live very immediately, with great presence or suchness. Visions mark or articulate our life; they stand out. And by their vividness they help to close-off the past, whatever came before them, and if our past is painful then visions cauterize and seal off that past and pain. The takeaway is that visions are opportunities, time markers that articulate our life, clearly dividing it (however subtly) into what came before the vision and what follows from it. In this way eclipses are reference points, experiences strong or vivid enough to remember, points we refer to and mark time from then onward. They are inner events that are vividly stronger than our average day-to-day reality.

Visions can be hard to be aware of because they are so involving that we are deep in them, experiencing, exploring, learning before we ever realize it. Because eclipses are times that are more real than what came before them, we tend to welcome them and enter them without consciousness of doing so. We are like a deer in the headlights. We suddenly are living life more real than we had imagined and just assume this will be how it will be from that day onward. However, that is not usually what happens. We come out of or down from these visions and our more mundane experience reasserts itself. At that point the vision is over, but the

memory of it can be still strong. In other words, unfortunately we tend to know visions when they are ending or passing more than when they first come upon us. That is the reality.

In summary, visions are intense or vivid experiences of 'being' that overshadow the more ordinary times that precede them. And visions, particularly eclipse visions, tend to have a theme or direction. They become reference points, like the fixed stars in the sky, that guide ourselves along life's path after the experience is gone. We refer to them and find ourselves bringing those times of vivid experience to mind over and over again much like as teenagers we listened to our favorite songs over and over, extracting whatever information we could from them. Eclipse visions are like that.

This kind of discussion easily segues into questions of what is beauty? What is love? What is charisma and character? Why are some people, films, or songs like medicine to us in that we need to absorb them over and over and over? What is it that we get from these doses? This speaks to what astrology is all about: not some daily-newspaper column written by a non-astrologer about your Zodiac sign, but an inquiry into how deep and vital communication from the Earth or our Sun or from the center of our galaxy is experienced and interpreted by living beings like ourselves, how bits and pieces of information can penetrate into us or be revealed as the various clock-like heavenly bodies move into and out of alignment.

There is no question that entities the size of the Sun, the solar system, the galaxy, etc. require some kind of circulation of information to remain coherent, to cohere and not to dissolve and fall apart – a life force. All bodies live and die. How that cosmic information circulates and communicates itself is perhaps unknown but the very regular cycles of the Sun, Moon, Planets (and everything else out there) are constant enough that we base all our activities on their regularity. So watching the movements of the heavenly bodies (in my opinion) is not just nonsense. I am not interested to trying to prove these concepts but rather in learning how to use them.

Putting aside the discussion of what is the mechanism, the point here is that life does offer us moments of intense realization or vividness. And for me at least, the fact that the great Buddhist teachers have clearly pointed out that the moments of the New and Full Moon, and particularly the moment of an eclipse, are ones of extreme alignment inwardly, we might well pay attention to these pointers and work to become more aware of their meaning for us.

Something happens. Something is communicated or revealed. New directions and information do enter our lives and we respond to it instinctively. We have not only "Aha!" experiences once in a great while but all kinds of other experiences that blow us hither and thither in life, and many of them are fueled by impulses and signs that ultimately arise in our mindstream. Eclipse visions are just impulses that are more important or life-changing than on average. Perhaps they contain information coming from our Moon, from our Sun, from the center of the galaxy, etc.

The fact that Tibetan Buddhists at the highest levels consider eclipse times very special means something to me. In fact the Tibetans set aside New and Full Moon days (and especially eclipse days) as days of observation, as in: observe your mindstream on that day. Until relatively recently in Tibet they did not have Saturday and Sundays off as we do, but rather their holidays or "weekends" were events like the New and Full Moon, which were set aside, as mentioned, for observation. Think about that sometime and just how far we have strayed from that approach. I hope that this information is useful to at least a few of you.