

Solar Flares

Their Inner and Outer Effects



By Michael Erlewine

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**This book is dedicated
to
Andrew Gunn McIver**

*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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Solar Flares

Interpreting Solar Activity

This is an article 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 indicators of a different order of magnitude compared to traditional astrological techniques. When the Sun speaks, we listen. This intense solar flux is the harbinger of true change and should become an integral part of our astrological indicators.

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 article 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 flux 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 (like going to the grocery store) here on Earth, 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. Earth and the heavens are one and share these events. Astronomical events, like the Full Moon, are a convenient clock or way to identify and 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 tends to confuse the issue. Astrology is the interpretation of astronomical (scientific) events, plain and simple, and not psychism. We need to note 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 simply an anomaly in the universe, a tiny lonely planet orbiting a small star at the far edge of the distant Milky Way galaxy. How melancholy is that? Quite to the contrary;

we are a full-fledged legitimate representative of the galaxy, the solar system, and Earth. We are an equal part of *intelligent life* in the cosmos, so to speak. This is our cosmic bill of rights.

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. In other words, 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 in a strange land here, 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, and in their eyes we seem so small, when in fact we are average or at least an equal part of the universe, which is and always has been our home. It is not like we came from somewhere else other than this universe. Where would that be? We are perfectly normal representatives of the intelligent life in the universe, not an 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 synodic 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 solar events like flares and CME (Coronal Mass Ejection) events, which is what we will be looking at here. For some reason, astrologers as a group have not incorporated intense solar activity into their practice and interpreted it, but have gone along with materialistic science in considering solar flux as just another physical phenomena. Remember, astrology is the interpretation of astronomical events, and the active Sun produces the closest and strongest astronomical events we know of. Let’s interpret them.

When The Sun Speaks

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 more 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 rather on how this solar flux affects our inner and psychological life, our mind -- how we live and feel under their influence.

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 outburst updates and precipitates inner change in 'us', and not just change in our inner landscape and mental environment. The remarkable fact is that 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 to monitor since there is not simply a subject and then an object, not 'we' gazing at our changing inner landscape. They are one and the same in this case, and interdependent. In other words, "we" the subject who is seeing or experiencing our mindstream is itself altered by solar influx, and without warning or explanation. We change. And the 'change', the latest solar-information update, is always 'true' or at least the current truth,

overwriting whatever we think, and 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 society 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 have become, and 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 already have going for ourselves and are used to) and in the comparison we can feel jerked around or at the very least confused. We are not used to seeing ourselves change in real time.

However, change is something we are used to, including inner change. 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. And there is one more concept that is important, resonance.

Cosmic Resonance

What is fascinating to me is that the whole universe has been here for such a long, long time. In order to remain coherent, scientists tell us that all organisms, even those the size of a galaxy, have to somehow circulate enough information to stay in shape. Things are not just static, but change constantly. It takes information and effort to remain the same, to cohere. All of us over thirty learn that from the process of aging.

Of course our Sun communicates not only with light, but in other ways, such as the solar wind that ever blows endless particles our way. Who knows what effect this has on us that we innately depend on. And there are no-doubt other still invisible-to-us solar communications that sustain life and inform us. In fact, the aura of the solar wind streaming from the Sun helps to protect all of the planets from outside galactic particle intervention. We indeed live in a solar 'system,' one with a life of its own.

In the last centuries, science has been concerned mostly with matter and energy, but recently astrophysicists are turning their attention to the information that enables everything not only to be what it is, but equally as important, to continue to remain what it is, and to communicate with itself. This science is called cybernetics.

Physicists have studied the electromagnetic spectrum and its effects, and not only in visible light, but also radio waves, infrared, ultraviolet, x-ray, and even the invisible gamma rays. But there is another force in play that is now getting more and more attention, the so-called 'weak' force -- gravity.

Cosmic gravitational radiation travels at the speed of light, but is very, very weak indeed. However, modern astrophysics is finding, through subjects like chaos theory, that even strength has its weaknesses and that very weak forces can resonate and have very great effects. Our view is changing on the strong/weak issue and gravitational radiation is coming more to the front and center. For one, gravitational waves can penetrate areas of space that electromagnetic waves cannot reach.

And it is known that gravitational waves radiate from large-scale structures like the center of our galaxy, the super-mother of us all. Gravitational radiation can pass through any kind of matter without being significantly affected. It proceeds on its course undaunted, carrying whatever information it holds unchanged. Light, as we know can be blocked, but not gravity radiation.

Electromagnetic waves (light, etc.) are dipolar, meaning they oscillate forward and backward, back and forth in a single direction. But Gravitational waves are di-polar or cruciform; they not only oscillate back and forth, but alternately oscillate at right angles to the first motion. Appropriately, an antennae that can receive and interpret gravitational waves would be in the form of a cross.

The importance of gravitational radiation was originally pointed out to me by my friend cosmic-astrologer Theodor Landscheidt. Both Landscheidt and I discovered the value of heliocentric astrology on our own before we met, and we each had our particular solar interests. Landscheidt's first book, "Cosmic Cybernetics," alerted me to keep gravitational waves in mind, but it did not sink in until I

was reading an article on these waves by an astrophysicist.

The problem with gravitational radiation (the scientist wrote) is that because it is so very, very weak, it would take an antenna the size of our solar system to receive and decode it. He was being humorous. Since at the time I was researching large-scale aspect patterns heliocentrically, that remark struck me to the core.

It was immediately clear to me that whole-chart patterns like the Grand Cross and T-Square (heliocentrically, of course) were just such a resonance antenna and that folks born under those patterns perhaps represent gravitational information embedded in their 'genes', so to speak. This was in no way more far-fetched than other natal premises I was already familiar with.

This insight led to some forty years of my researching whole-aspect patterns, mainly using heliocentric charts, but that is another story. Here I am interested in communicating the idea of cosmic resonance, so we can better understand extreme solar influx.

In his book "Cosmic Cybernetics," Landscheidt writes:

"If there is substantiation for the supposition held by distinguished scientists such as Ambartsumian, Levit, Ducrocq, Holyle, Narlikar, Beauregard, and Reise, that our galaxy is organized like a cybernetic system, the complexity of which far exceeds that of the differentiated power of the organic nervous systems, then there would be reason to assume there are information links between the galactic center and the Sun, as the center of the solar system of such a kind that for instance the activity in the galactic nucleus is implanted in the gravitational waves as the

characteristic information; the gravitational waves reach the center of the solar system and trigger activity in correspondence with the transmitted information.”

I applaud Landscheidt for trying to present evidence that the world of science will accept for this kind of cosmic resonance and, years ago, I too made some attempts to convince others. I did not get anywhere and since I don't much fancy the role of the evangelical, in general, I soon abandoned those efforts.

Instead I see my input as moving forward, not in formal academic documentation, but rather in experiential exploration of cosmic resonance in actual life, which is why I write so many articles like this one. I try to share information on the chance that some of you will resonate (pun intended) with these ideas.

Gravitational radiation stemming from the galactic nucleus, received and transformed (somehow) by our Sun, and further stepped-down and relayed to us through solar radiation makes perfect sense to me. It makes our inner gardens grow, so to speak. We live in a vast resonant cybernetic system that functions. Otherwise we would not be here.

When the Sun communicates in highly energetic quanta through solar flares and CME discharges, we get in spades what usually comes in just a trickle. It is these intense bursts of solar information that inform us (in great chunks rather than gradually) that make these solar events so important. I know of no other astrological indicator that is consistently as direct and potent.

Information is communicated through the Sun, and intense solar outbursts communicate intensely. My

interest has always been how this intense solar information affects us, not in the physical world around us, but inside, in our spiritual and psychological life.

I know from my own experience and life that these massive solar events are times of great change, often very creative times. This has been well documented in the book “Children of the Cosmic Light” by Theodor Landscheidt, although this book is only available in German at the moment.

Aside from their geophysical repercussions (auroras, radio blackouts, magnetic storms, etc.), I see that the inner and spiritual effects of these great solar events pass relatively unnoticed and uncommented, even by astrologers. This is odd since there are no easier-to-track and more powerful astrological events that I am aware of.

Perhaps it is because society, in general, has so little awareness of what is going on under the hood, so to speak, of our minds. Even the powerful internal changes brought by solar inundations fail to raise an eyebrow, although we all seem to struggle with them.

Let’s look at what happens internally when the Sun is active, and take steps toward interpreting these events. With many (if not most) astrological indicators, they indicate events, but are not accompanied by storms here on Earth as with solar flares.

But intense solar activity, like solar flares and CME events, are different. They not only are harbingers of change, but they also bring lovely auroras, and geomagnetic storms that disrupt our communication systems, cause radio blackouts, and at times even shut down our power grids. We experience the active Sun actively and directly. As mentioned, in my

experience solar influx at this level is of a different order of magnitude from other more traditional astrological indicators.

The Cybernetics of Solar Change

We know that the Sun controls life here on earth, through its light, warmth, solar wind, and who knows what else. What I have been trying to get across for a while is that any system, from a single cell, to the solar system, to the Milky Way galaxy, has to somehow circulate enough information so that it knows how to remain whole, to be coherent. As mentioned earlier, the study of how systems control themselves is called cybernetics.

Cybernetics has to do with how an organism or system regulates itself, in other words, how a coherent system changes itself just enough to remain the same and thus survive. In the case of Earth, the Sun is the great regulator of our lives and feeds us change, not only in daily increments via sunshine, solar wind, etc., but also in large chunks via solar flares and CME events. We all seem used to the gradual cybernetic impact of the Sun shining each day, but can get disturbed by high-energy cybernetics, the effects of change caused by extreme solar influx, like flares, etc. And there will be more flares coming.

We each know change from just living life and we can see the effects of change in the outer world, but for most of us, inner or spiritual change is a much more murky affair. Unless we are experienced meditators and can learn to get a handle on absorbing the large amounts of change a solar flare can bring, we essentially remain in the dark about this.

Most of us really don't know that much about what is going on deep within our mind. The stronger changes that accompany intense solar events can be hard to take in all at once. It takes time to absorb sudden change and to make the inner and outer adjustments it can dictate. There is also the shock factor of sudden change.

We are used to getting solar information fed to us in daily trickles as the sun shines each day. Massive solar events like solar flares deliver solar information not in a graduated stream but in large quantum chunks - leaps. Remember that solar information contains instructions for change, including some form of local-cybernetic input that regulates our life. When we get a mass of change all at once, we can have trouble taking it in at one gulp and adjusting to it.

Sudden large increments of change are by definition not gradual and may force us to leapfrog a more graduated path, plunging us forward teleologically (completing a sequence), or as I like to put it: big change turns the wheel of our karma significantly enough to wake us up from the normal intravenous drip of change.

When sudden solar-influx change impacts us, it can be disturbing, and we may not know just what to make of it. In our attempt to assimilate this change overload, certain anomalies may appear that disturb the pretty-picture of a self we have going, and subject us to still further confusion. In other words, aside from bringing creativity, solar flares and CME events can be disturbing times, often filled with confusion and wonder, at least at their onset.

My point in this article is to point out that all systems require some form of regulation. We regulate to stay

the same, i.e. not too hot, not too cold, etc. This appears also to be true in our spiritual and psychological growth. We grow within certain boundaries, and somewhere within us is a control system that regulates our inner change. It does not matter to me whether scientists have yet put their finger on it. We can learn to know ourselves how this works if we will just take a look.

If the information as to how we change somehow comes from higher-order structures, like the Earth, the Sun, the galaxy, etc., 'AND' if solar flare events result in change at the quantum level, like leaps forward instead of gradual change, then it makes sense for us to begin to develop an awareness of such sudden changes when they occur (like solar flares) and learn how to best make use of them.

Creativity and Solar Influx

Solar flares provide accelerated change, strong enough to blow out whatever debris we may have in our internal carburetor. It is like when we put the pedal to the metal in a car, pressing the accelerator to the floor. We get a burst of speed.

It is relatively fruitless to itemize the effects of a strong solar flare on our inner life. It could be anything we imagine, from headaches to heart aches, from migraines to clarity, mood swings to mania, depression to euphoria – whatever. Anything goes.

What is unique about large solar events is their intensity. They stress test our mental and emotional vehicles. If a little change can open our pores, an intense burst of solar energy can clean out our pipes and perhaps blow our mind. In any case, solar-flare

energy stresses whatever we have going, for better or for worse.

It is no wonder that writers like Landscheidt have found a direct correlation with major breakthroughs, discoveries, “aha!” moments, insights, etc. and the advent of solar flares and related events. The same intense solar events that can put us through a stressful time can also quicken and vivify our consciousness, like a power surge. It can make us or break us.

In his work “The Marriage of Heaven and Hell,” William Blake said “Enough, or more than enough.”

Solar flares provide more than enough not only to define ‘enough’ but to transport us beyond the known into new territory, the unknown.

Sensitivity to Solar Change

Although we all look for the larger flares, even the quiet Sun has enough variation to get our attention and keep us busy. Large solar flares draw attention to our connection with the Sun, and it is tempting to fall into thinking that when the Sun is quiet we are somehow less connected, but this does not seem to be the case. Because intense solar activity so obviously affects Earth, it is easy to assume that the Sun is the cause and we just a victim of its activity. It is more subtle than that.

This would be like saying that when our heart palpitates (and we are affected by it), the heart is the subject and we the object. While this is true in one sense, our body and our heart are so much closer to each other than that. In fact they are one being. It is the same with the Sun and the effect of solar activity on us. The quiet Sun is quiet like a heartbeat is quiet,

meaning it is still there and controlling the show. We are more intimately connected with solar activity than most of us are aware of.

We may be more aware of the Sun acting on us (and in us) at the times of intense solar flares, but we are joined at the hip, so to speak, with the Sun all of the time. When it so much as murmurs, we hear, and its tiniest variation is felt by us, whether or not we are aware of it or not. Again, as in so many things, it seems that our awareness is the limiting factor, and not experience itself. But I have pointed out the need to develop awareness many times in my writing.

Even when the Sun is quiet, as at times of solar minimum, there is still activity. Although there may be no flares or sunspots for days at a time, there is plenty of fluctuation and we here on Earth move with it. I mean the whole Sun is always shining and, like our heart, it can beat fast or slow. It keeps us alive.

An important distinction to grasp is that intense solar flares bring change in quantum leaps, strong change. We have talked about this. But even the quiet Sun varies enough for us to notice it internally, if we will listen. It is our inner mental heartbeat. And there is another factor to consider.

Any solar activity is only perceived by the contrast it makes against the normal low-level solar flux. Even low solar activity, as long as it contrasts with what we could call quiet Sun activity, is enough to stimulate us. In other words, aside from the sheer amount of change a solar flare may bring, the fact that even a weak flare oscillates or varies at all from normal is enough to get our internal attention. We feel it. It is not just the intensity of the solar flare, but the change

between calm and intense that we monitor, the variation. The hallmark of solar activity is variation.

The large eruptions, like X-class solar flares and their CME events, get a lot of attention because they are such powerful events. Of course these most intense flares mark the influx of intense change, but this does not mean the less powerful M-class and C-class solar flares don't affect us. They do, although perhaps in a slightly different way. The sheer size of the flare is not the only consideration.

Even the smaller flares show marked variation compared to the sunshine that streams to us each day from the quiet Sun. The variation from the normal Sun, even from the relatively weak C-class flares, is enough for us to sit up and take notice. The up-and-down variation of any solar activity change can get our attention, just like the newer kind of ambulance sirens now rapidly vary up and down rather than with a slow rise and fall as the older sirens did. We can sense variation changes and become aware of it. Another analogy: no matter where we are in the stock market, we can always take advantage of an up-tick.

In other words, solar flares can affect us by their sheer size, but also just by the fact that they rise above the normal flow of solar information and manage to get our attention. We can see and judge change by variation of any kind. And we all know what a flat line means.

When the activity on the Sun is very low and takes an upturn, we feel it. When activity is very high and takes an upturn, we also feel that. It is the variation and the sensing of a change (and not just the how great the magnitude of change) that is important.

We are used to looking outside when solar flares are announced, perhaps for effects on Earth, like radio blackouts, auroras, and the like. However we follow these solar changes internally, even the very weak ones. They represent our inner life and should not be viewed as just external events. Here is a link to a graph of solar flare activity, so that you can even see very minor fluctuations. Watch it for a day or so and see if you find, as I did, that my inner mind and activity are a reflection of the graph.

It is not that solar flares caused this, but more like that solar activity is identical to my own inner activity, and has probably always been that way. Our inner life and that of the Sun are the same.

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/today.html#xray>

The Rate of Change

We all know something about what change is, but not always where it comes from. Obviously we can see common cause and effect; if we do this, that happens, and so on. What about inner change, change so deep that we are viscerally moved around by it, but cannot grasp its origin or meaning. Where does deep change come from?

Of course there are many causes of change, but over the years I have found that monitoring solar flares is one way to anticipate inner change and have a chance to take advantage of it. The steady flow of sunlight to Earth each day makes the flowers grow and nourishes us as well, probably in ways we have yet to discover. This is the quiet Sun.

Yet the Sun also speaks in bursts and quantum leaps and these too bring change, but not of the steady-flow variety. A key concept for me was to understand that

the effect of the Sun, whether quiet or active, is essential to life and always brings change. Consider your sense of self as RAM, not ROM, and the stream of information reaching us from the Sun as 'overwrites' to that RAM that changes our sense of self internally. And those changes are firmware updates and "true," the latest word from the source, and they overwrite what was there before. When they occur, 'we' change, and that is something we are only used to doing gradually.

It seems I can absorb the daily 'light' and change from the quiet Sun, but have more trouble incorporating the quantum leaps of change the active Sun delivers. I can justify gradual change, but am confounded by change in leaps too great for me to take in stride. I balk and start to become aware of the wizard behind the curtain, the 'deus ex machina'. It is too much to swallow all at once and takes time to absorb. This is the nature of solar flares and their offspring, the violent CME events.

It is only rather recently that solar physicists have been able to effectively monitor solar flares and CME events, although sunspot observation has been going on for centuries, and certain assumptions can be made regarding that historical sunspot data and intense solar activity. This is a relatively new science and in my opinion may turn out to be a key part of modern astrology. It is easy to learn and monitor. I would even predict that solar activity may be where astrologers and astronomers find company with one another once again after all these years. The active Sun is a rich area for astrological interpretation, and it is easy to master.

Because intense solar flux is accompanied by demonstrably physical events like geomagnetic storms, radio blackouts, and the like, I find monitoring strong solar-activity refreshing, even inspiring, compared to the more traditional one-step-removed, more conceptual feeling that much of traditional astrology provides. Although all astrology events happen in clock time, extreme solar events somehow are more vivid.

Instead of seeking to explain a planetary aspect that took place or will take place out there in the heavens, these massive solar events are felt right here on Earth in real time. They shake the room, so to speak, and make for great theater. I imagine these extreme solar events will become the darlings of astrologers.

For those of you interested in reading in more detail, you can download the free e-book “Sun Storms” here:

<http://astrologysoftware.com/books/>

Questions can be sent to Michael@Erlewine.net

[SIDEBAR]

Cosmic Pioneer Theodor Landscheidt

Born March 10, 1927 at 6:15 PM in Bremen, Germany. Landscheidt was a supreme court justice in Germany, an astrologer, author, heliophysicist, and climatologist. He was also somewhat of a mystic. Landscheidt died on May 20, 2004.

What follows is not a review of Landscheidt’s work (check the web for that), but rather how I knew Landscheidt and the effect he had on my work with solar activity. Let me provide some perspective.

I happen to be the curator of one of the largest astrological libraries in the world, so I have had plenty of opportunity to read almost any astrological book in or out of print, and I have read more than I should. Of course I have studied and learned from Dane Rudhyar, L.E. Johndro, Grant Lewi, and others including the word-dense “Lecture Lessons” of Marc Edmund Jones and even the cryptic works of Alice Bailey. I have also met most of the well-known astrologers in my lifetime, many up close and personally, scores of them. However, equally important to relate is the fact that I have taught myself most of what I know and developed my own original astrological techniques. And here is the point.

Although I was always willing, I could never find any mentor in astrology, but rather many good friends, with one exception, and that is Dr. Theodor Landscheidt. I am not a student of Landscheidt, meaning I cannot claim to know all of the many areas in which he was an expert. Even so, Landscheidt’s influence on me was profound, almost instantaneous, and simply consisted of his pointing out to me the concept of cosmic resonance and gravitational theory. I had already discovered heliocentrism on my own.

Landscheidt opened my eyes in certain areas. We became friends; he visited and lectured here at our center, and in the late 1970s I sent one of the first home computers to Landscheidt in Germany on which he programmed some of his ground-breaking research. We connected.

Theodor Landscheidt has published scores of papers and at least three books, “Cosmic Cybernetics” (1973), “Children of the Light” (1987), and “Sun, Earth, Man: A Mesh of Cosmic Oscillations” (1989).

The book “Cosmic Cybernetics” is the one that mainly inspired me, although “Children of the Light,” which I had translated from German to English by astrologer Robert Schmidt, is an important contribution, but one that I wish I could have read earlier in my career.

“Children of the Light” is a carefully documented history of major moments of discovery in the arts & sciences and their relation to intense solar activity, in particular to solar flares. This, of course, I found fascinating, but by the time I had it translated and read it I was deep into the subject myself.

Other than understanding the importance of solar activity for creativity, which I already knew, “Children of the Light” is oriented to documenting the correlation of major discoveries with solar activity. However, this article here (and many that I have written) is essentially a confirmation and elaboration of “Children of the Light,” but as I have understood it and with more interpretation and poetry. I wish Landscheidt had shared more of his own personal experience.

Landscheidt was concerned with heliocentrism, solar activity, and solar cycles, like that of sunspots, and their effect on climate and Earth. He lectured at many scientific gatherings as well as at some astrological conferences. I consider Landscheidt a “soul” brother in the area of cosmic astrology, along with my good friends Charles A. Jayne and Charles Harvey. In 1976 I dedicated my book “Astrophysical Directions” to Landscheidt, a book that documents modern astrophysics for astrological use. It is available today as a free e-book under the name “The Astrology of Space” here for those interested:

<http://astrologysoftware.com/books/>

Of course *all* of Landscheidt's books and papers are carefully documented and worth reading, but he was concerned with impressing scientists with his research, which has never been important to me. The 'poetry' of Landscheidt's ideas is scattered here and there, but mainly it was in that first book, "Cosmic Cybernetics" and even then, not in great amounts. But it was enough to inspire me and I am forever grateful.

I believe Landscheidt and I belong to the same astrological lineage, whatever we could agree to name it. I salute him!

[SIDEBAR]

Effect of the Active Sun on Earth

Our Sun can be very active with sunspots, solar flares, and their offspring, CME events.

SOLAR FLARES: A solar flare is a powerful burst of electromagnetic radiation in the form of X-rays, extreme ultraviolet rays, gamma ray radiation, and radio burst. Less than nine minutes after a solar flare, the dayside of Earth receives a blast of ultraviolet and X-ray radiation. Its outer effect on Earth lasts perhaps one or two hours.

A solar flare is an eruption of the Sun that occurs when stored energy in looped magnetic fields (often above sunspots) is suddenly released. Solar flares emit radiation across the entire electromagnetic spectrum, all the way from radio waves to ultra-violet, to X-rays, and even gamma rays. Typically solar flares erupt from active regions of the Sun where magnetic fields are stronger than average, such as sunspots.

The most commonly used classification of solar flares are into three main classes, C, M, and X, with X-Class flares being the strongest. Each class has a linear scale from 1 to 9, except for the X-Class, where X2 is twice as strong as X1, and four times more powerful than an M.5 Class flare. There have been X-Class flares of up to X28 recorded.

The X-class flares are large enough to trigger world-wide radio blackouts and radiation storms of long duration. M-class flares are middle-sized, and can cause brief radio blackouts in the vicinity of the polar regions. C-class flares are the smallest, and have few apparent consequences on Earth.

CORONAL MASS EJECTION (CME). Sometimes a solar flare is so violent that it hurls huge amounts of solar plasma from the surface of the sun out into space, breaking the gravitational bond, and creating what is called a Coronal Mass Ejection or CME event, often aimed directly at Earth. This is the most violent solar event. A CME-event takes from two to four days to reach Earth, and the effect also can last for days.

As we near solar maxima, the Sun throws out maybe three CMEs each day, whereas during solar minima, there may be one CME every five days. Some of them come directly at Earth and funnel in through geomagnetic poles (our weakest link) causing auroras and all kinds of mischief.

Solar flares and their offshoots very much affect the space near Earth, producing very energetic particles that ride the solar wind known as ‘solar proton’ or CME (Coronal Mass Ejection) events, and these can impact spacecraft, and any astronauts in their way. These fast-moving waves of plasma have been known to cause large geomagnetic storms, knocking

out radio waves, and even electric power grids. The high-voltage lines used for conveying electricity here on Earth attract electro-magnetic pulse from solar flares, which can blow out large transformers, causing a domino effect that shuts down entire power grids.

This has happened many times. For example, on March 13, 1980 geomagnetically-induced currents overloaded the Hydro-Quebec power system, resulting in a blackout that affected 6 million people. From the initial event, it took only one-and-one-half minutes to bring down the grid, but took nine hours to restore 83% of the power. There are many similar stories.

PROTON STORMS: Solar proton events are protons emitted by the Sun during solar flares and CME events. An energetic solar proton storm or event takes from fifteen minutes to several hours to reach Earth, and the effect can last for days. More energetic proton storms can take as little as 15 minutes to reach Earth and travel at about 1/3 the speed of light. Of course these geomagnetic storms create magnificent auroras, and the X-Class flares can interfere with short-wave radio, heat up the outer atmosphere, and affect low-orbiting satellites.

Scientists don't know how the above outer effects register in our mind psychologically, much less spiritually. The soft sciences are always the last to be defined. Interested people like ourselves who monitor our inner states perhaps know more about this than the world of scientists. At least they don't talk about it, although there are growing signs of interest by scientists in these matters.

