

# Universal Currents 2004

By Tess Cullen

*This article is presented from a psychological and spiritual viewpoint. The equinoxes are referred to via the month they occur in to avoid seasonal confusion between Southern and Northern Hemispheres.*

Within every moment there are so many versions of how it might be as we delineate the ebb and flow of the universal currents. The Solar/Lunar relationship is a quintessential cycle, symbolising the spiritually driven journey in all its stages. It relates to the development of light on this planet, without which we would not exist. The sun represents the masculine outpouring of the vital, ever-present spirit whilst the moon represents the feminine inward all knowing memories and cycles of our soul. The Sun inspires and the Moon embodies, equally active in this dance of life. Their monthly cycle is deeply embedded in all the experiences we grow through; from a place of quiet emptiness ideas become actions, and produce a visible life - experience is reassessed before returning to the void to begin again. The New Moon chart in the Solar/Lunar cycle helps us discern the underlying themes of the cosmic consciousness, seeking development and integration.

The other omen markers used for ritual throughout time and through all forms of astrology; the solstices and equinoxes. Adding another useful way to glimpse insights of themes being threaded throughout the fabric of the universe.

In the last few years, individually and collectively, we have undergone enormous challenges. The Saturn/Pluto opposition had us facing major causal patterning embedded into the very fabric of our soul. It has taken a great deal of effort to question, watch and transform the turmoils presented. Mostly we are still recovering or working at cleaning up the collective shadow that this configuration spawned into our lives and our planet. There is hope when looking ahead, this year is one of residing in the 'stillpoint' of resolution and integration, then moving forward to actualise new dreams. The doors are opening to help us find more peace in our lives. Let's move on and allow old storylines to end and new ones begin.

So far this year we have been experiencing 'standstill' with the Solar/Lunar phases of the Dec Solstice and the March equinox both having Balsamic statements. This most spiritual of phases, is full of the mysteries held in pre-dawn moments, where we question or be inspired about our purpose here on earth. We are asked to expand into a world where we can experience that there is something greater than the mundane material reality and to surrender, for a while, into the vast emptiness of the divine unknowing. This compliments the Uranus in Pisces energy anchoring into our systems. Uranus in Pisces, has themes of diving deep into the chaotic river of universal consciousness as we learn to surrender to peace without defining it. This combination creates the instability of very little to hold onto. Knowing we don't know and being powerful, what an ask! We must therefore journey outside our normal routines to create an environment of contemplation, encouraged to appreciate what being alive means.

## **Venus goes retrograde**

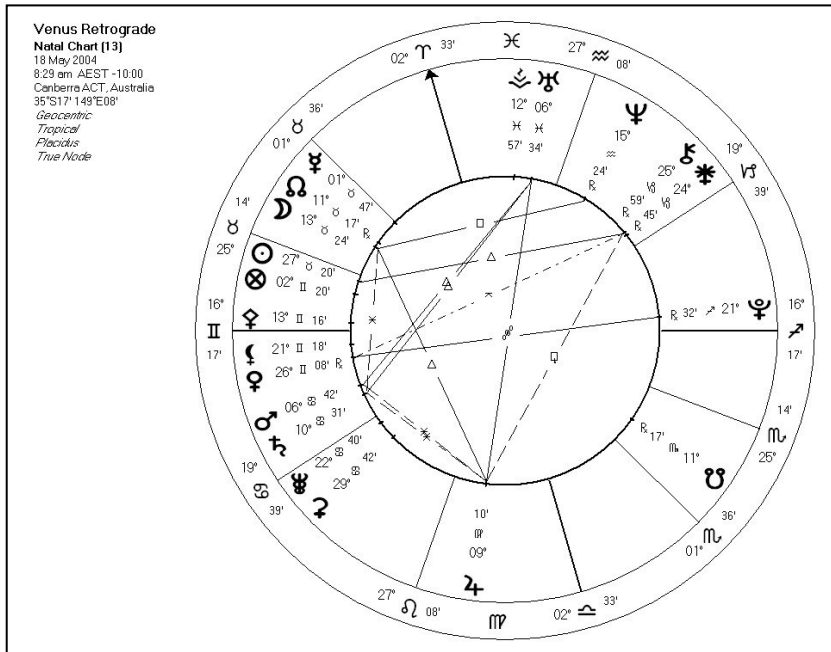
Venus is making grand statements, going retrograde on May 18<sup>th</sup> and journeying into an extremely rare transit across the face of the Sun on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Of all the planets Venus spends the least time retrograde, making it a heavenly event worthy of notice. Venus goes retrograde at 26° Gemini continuing the balsamic Solar/Lunar signature about completion and surrender. A retrograde personal planet creates an opportunity for us to reflect upon its archetypal influence. This introspection allows us to be closer to inner desires and motivations, bringing them into the spotlight of our every day lives. Venus wants time off from the catwalk of external relationships to focus on purely personal desires and find time to resolve some outstanding issues. On June 30<sup>th</sup> at 9° Gemini Venus turns direct again, retracing her path to gain the wisdom and understanding from her journey. The zodiacal degree where a planet creates a station (or changes direction) is magnified.



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It is worthy of notice that Neptune, the planet mostly concerned with vibrational energy and creativity and Juno, an asteroid representing the feminine aspect of partnership and marriage, also turn retrograde this day.



On June 8<sup>th</sup> Venus will pass directly across the face of the Sun. (☉♂♀: 17° 38') Approximately every 120 years this event occurs in pairs, 8 years apart, the next is in 2012. A planet within 0° 16' of the Sun is called "Cazumi" by the ancients and is said to add great stress or emphasis to the planet. The world will focus on Venus. Let's hope that this will help to balance the warring Mars energy that has run rampant across our planet for the last few years.

Venus affects our relationships, value systems and money. Thus with honesty and self awareness, look to your strengths and weaknesses in regard to self-

worth, material wealth and your social or love life. Allowing change into your relationships, your sense of self worth and self image. Risk falling in love or ending a relationship that really is over for you.

♀ ♊ Venus resides in Gemini where she is frivolous and garrulous, yet equally able to speak from the heart. So be aware of the content of your communication and notice where it could improve. Keep listening to your hearts desire but choose your words with care. It will be worthwhile to pamper and spend time with yourself in retreat and renewal. Ask, the question, what is personal fulfilment to you.

There is an opportunity to find solutions that are outside of our normal habitual ways. The dispositor of Venus, Mercury, is in mutual reception with it by sign offering support. Mercury, in the earthy sign of Taurus, looks for a practical application (♃♂♁♂. ♃♁) to the collective dream (♃♁♂) by vocalising the Jupiter opposite Uranus (♃♁♂♁) frustration of wanting change yesterday. Mars and Saturn are not at home in Cancer; no-one is going to 'go' just yet. There is a need to face our family of origin issues that we have brought through into our adult life.

The dispositor of Venus, Mercury, is in mutual reception with it by sign offering support. Mercury (♃), moving at snails pace, looks for a practical application (♃♂♁♂. ♃♁) of the collective (or personal) dream (♃♁♂) by vocalising the Jupiter opposite Uranus (♃♁♂♁) frustration of wanting change yesterday. Mars and Saturn are not at home in Cancer; no-one is going to 'go' just yet. Rather they indicate that it is better to find solutions outside our habitual ways and face the family of origin issues that we have brought through into our adult life.

The Asteroid Juno ♁, goes retrograde and adds its archetypal force to the deconstruction of our relationship habits. Juno is in Capricorn conjunct Chiron (♁♏♂♁). The goddess of marriages and soulmates merges with wholeness and compassion in the land of traditions and social status. Chiron also relates to the victim/persecutor consciousness, bringing in the quest of rebalancing the power issues within intimate relationship. The quincunx to Venus (♁♂♏♏) ♀ ♊, adds that resolving the imbalance is difficult and needs to utilise wisdom to bring together very different aspects of ourselves. A trine to the Sun adds its voice to this important influence in the storyline.

The previous time ♀ reversed her direction she was transiting Scorpio in Oct/Nov 2002, this theme is carried through into the present with ♀ being ♁♏ and heading back to a meeting with Lilith ♁. Any intense interpersonal struggles ask you to find strength and empowerment. Clearing the way for rediscovering personal and or sexual passion! This could easily get messy. Being under the influence

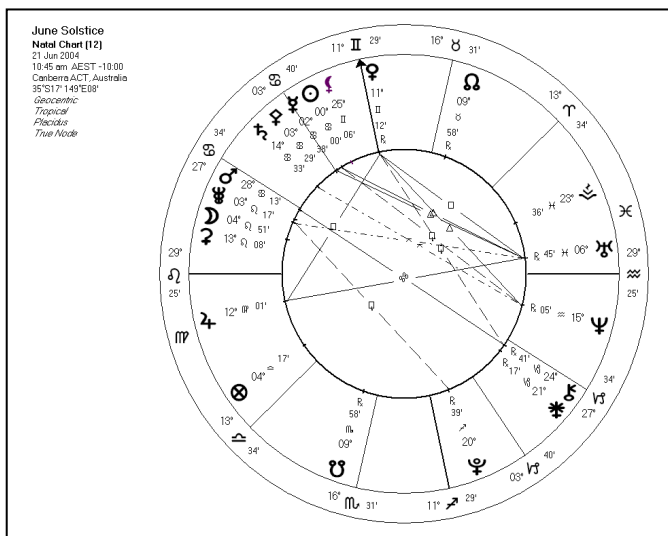
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of a balsamic phase, it is important to own the stuff of your own making, your unfinished business and reach for higher wisdom as at each step.

All in all, the theme of ♀♁ is around the deeper side of relationships. So prepare yourself for a self satisfying soul searching time or take thyself to a counsellor because is time to talk about your problems and deal with the more shadowy side of your behaviour in a positive way.

This theme continues in the **June (18) New Moon** chart, with Venus at the T-square point of the Jupiter /Uranus opposition, giving an enormous sense of tension with issues about freedom and individuation. The ☿/♁ is co-joined Mercury and Lilith in Gemini, whilst opposing Pluto, supporting the message that there are deeper meanings, insights and projections are to be experienced and understood. Oppositions dominate this chart with ♄♃♁♂♂♁ also present – clean up, find endings or change in thy relationship! Be very aware that this is a difficult time and even though projecting your story is part of the game, remember that it is your story not theirs. Can you and the world deal with it, be honest and make better decisions.

### June Solstice

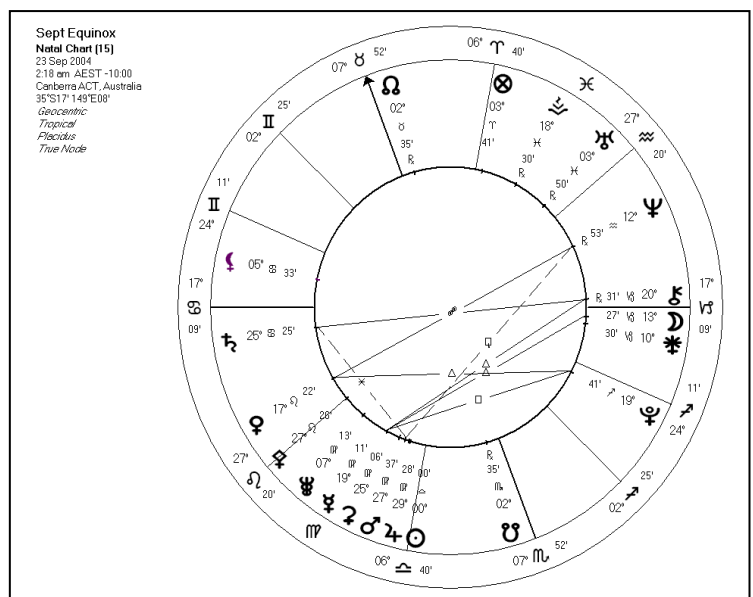


As we look ahead to the June Solstice (21.6.04; 10:45am local time), growth and movement begin. Bringing a new outward flow of energy, with the inspirational Solar/Lunar crescent statement, which allows new ideas and visions to be acknowledged and researched. There is light on the horizon and a multitude of possibilities flourish. Have fun chasing them through your thoughts and feelings. Notice which ideas take root, for these are the seedlings of the next adventures entering your life. With Venus still retrograde it may seem like a lot of talk and little action. Be patient for it is time to gather the resources and see the new ways of being and relating grow. Some of these conversations are important and will payoff in the long term.

The **July, Aug and Sept New Moon** charts all have strong aspect relationships between the Solar/Lunar conjunction and Chiron ♁ and Vesta ♁. Chiron seeks to heal and bring wholeness into any part that has been hurt, wounded or made wrong in any way. It is the way of the healing heart. In Capricorn it seeks recognition from the family or from mainstream culture and healing of the patrilineal lines. Vesta wants to focus on finding spiritual peace and is in an extremely creative placement.

### September Equinox

The Sept equinox erupts into a time of action, wanting ideas put into reality as only a first quarter Solar/Lunar phase can. At last, we abound with courage and optimism, anything seems possible. (☿♂♃) So for all those who have been chafing at the bit, the waiting is over. It is time to GO!! The preceding Sept New Moon joined Mars in Virgo with its dispositor, Mercury, strongly placed in Virgo. Both charts also support putting plans into action. Communications continue the story of facing the shadow, still processing what we have learnt during the major Venus /Pluto opposition. (♀♁♂♁), Notice body communication



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and trust your instincts about when to speak and when to be silent. Be aware of what is not being spoken.

Two days later Jupiter enters Libra, with a 2°22 orb to the Sun, freeing up and encouraging social interaction, artistic pursuits and intellectual debates, joyously expending energy seeking the company and advice of others for work or play. Yes, we can have it all!!!!

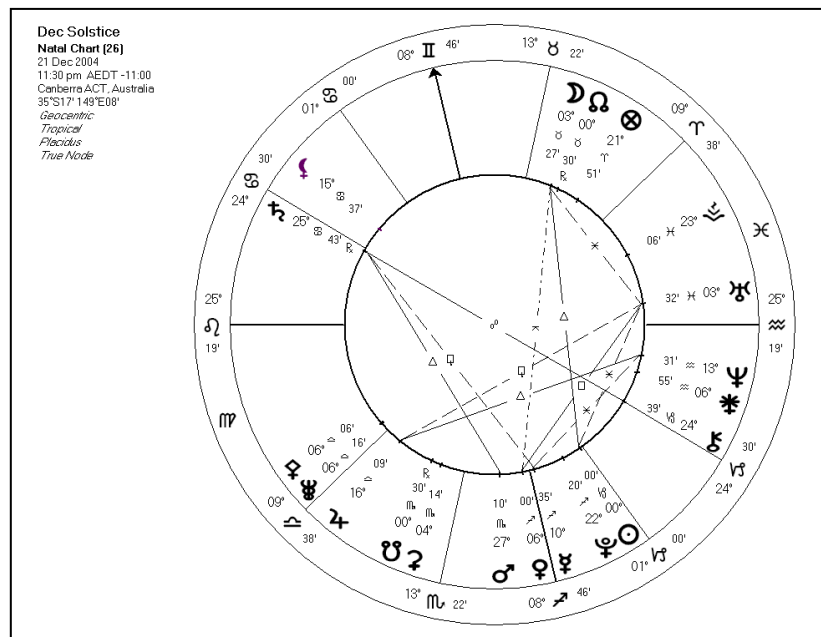
Adding to this is an abundant **Libra (Oct) New Moon** with ♃ ♀ ♂ ☽ ☾ ♃ all in Libra. This cardinal sign sets us on a mission using diplomacy with the ability to bridge the worlds. This energy is impossible to restrain creating a very productive time for all. It would be wise to keep an eye on the world leaders who may think they are Gods (☽ ♃) don't be fooled.

By the **Scorpio (Nov) New Moon** Mars comes home with its ingress into Scorpio bringing out the best Mars has to offer us at this time. As Mars is very strong throughout this turn of the wheel be aware of its influence on your life and create a healthy expression for it. Remember Mars is the God of War!

The **Sag (Dec) New Moon** conjuncts Pluto in Sagittarius and squares Vesta in Pisces, delineating the challenges and restless urges needed to achieve the impossible. Great power is available with Jupiter their mutual dispositor well placed and able to help negotiations through this. (♃ ♄ ♂ ♃ ♃ ☽ ♃ ♃) Setting the stage for the upcoming Solstice.

### Dec 2004 Solstice

The Dec 2004 Solstice is a time of grace and thanksgiving with the Sun in harmony with an exalted Moon (☽ ☽ ☽). Showing commitment to the process of manifesting what we have put into action during the previous trimester. Notice that new forces have taken root in our lives and that there is a much support from those around us. This benevolent period consolidates a sense that we have dealt with or can recover from the major traumas of the preceding years. There is a strong tension still existing though, between the ways of the heart and the traditions of those who have gone before us, highlighting the differences. (♃ ♄ ♃) It is important to question and identify both sides of the debate for during this period there are choices to be made. Particularly around healing and restructuring our attitudes to the family values and what this means to us. Do not forget the big picture the tensions of the world are still there.



So for 2004 the first part of the year is about is about renewing our dreams, completing and letting go of old ways of being, particularly in the area of our relationships, and learning that patience and stillness are dynamic activities. The mid year is full of awakening and inspiration with September being the time to start new projects, to lay the foundations of new decisions. This theme continues into 2005 with a very strong and powerful March Equinox chart, which engenders a lot of hope - we can look forward to the fruit of our new beginnings.

*This interpretation acknowledges the energetic matrix that constantly shifts and surrounds us – your choice is to work with it.*

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