

## Challenging Times: More than that Conjunction

By Sue Kientz

So often these days, TV ads and news stories begin with the weighty lead-in, “In these challenging times....” They almost sound like astrologers, discussing the challenging Pluto-Jupiter-Saturn stellium (24 Capricorn 28, 25 Capricorn 54, 1 Aquarius 06).\*

But not even astrologers realize how challenging today’s times are, because most are not tracking Dwarf Planets. The truth is, we aren’t just dealing with a rare, knotty conjunction but a full-blown, once-in-a-millennia T-square, as the Pluto group also squares Eris (24 Aries 26) and Haumea (25 Libra 54).

This opposition of Eris and Haumea just received a one-two punch from retrograding Jupiter and Pluto, as Jupiter squared Haumea on June 12 when another killing of an unarmed African-American man by police was caught on tape. Two days later, Pluto squared Eris, as protestors of last month’s devastating video of George Floyd’s murder continue demonstrating and deadly Coronavirus cases escalate. Black Lives Matter protests and COVID-19 may seem very Pluto-Jupiter-Saturn in tenor, but the Eris-Haumea opposition is mightily involved, and more long lasting.

To understand this opposition, consider this. The U.S. Sun opposed Eris at founding in 1776, when “all men” were declared created equal. Excluded were women, Native Americans, poor whites, and black slaves. If the Sun represents the U.S.A., Eris at opposition suggests relationship issues. If one or more of those alienated groups is indicated, these ensuing milestones should confirm it:

- **1863: U.S. progressed Sun** (6 Libra 47) **square p. Eris** (7 Capricorn 11) — Lincoln freed the slaves via Emancipation Proclamation. A hefty milestone but not enough.
- **1868: Transiting Eris** (11 Pisces) **trine U.S. Sun** (13 Cancer) — 14th Amendment guaranteed Black men can vote. This period coincided with gains in African-American rights, later revoked.
- **1953: U.S. p. Sun** (8 Capricorn 45) **conjunct p. Eris** (8 Capricorn 42) — Unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision *Brown vs. Board of Education* declared segregation in public schools unconstitutional, paving way for Civil Rights Movement.
- **1968: Transiting Sun-Saturn-Eris** (15 Aries, 15 Aries, 12 Aries) **square U.S. Sun** (13 Cancer) — Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Slow-moving Eris squared U.S. Sun from mid-1960s through 1970s as African-American, Women’s, Native-American, and LGBT movements protested, demanding equal treatment.
- **2015: U.S. p. Sun** (10 Pisces 41) **sextile p. Eris** (9 Capricorn 58) — U.S. Supreme Court legalized gay marriage, a huge step for LGBT community.

Astrological Eris cannot simply represent Discord, angry women, or warrior princesses. Eris is a “pair” to Pluto, an opposite or answering force, challenging misused personal power with community cohesion and inclusiveness (or negatively, rejecting others unlike oneself). Selfish Pluto types often hang onto power by denying it to Others, labeling them outcasts or unacceptable. Some of the disenfranchised are ignored or consigned to rigid social roles (women); or pushed/put away (Native Americans to reservations; mentally ill to institutions). Still others suffer a worse fate, treated as sub-human, property, even disposable (African Americans).

Combine Eris with Haumea (agent of sweeping change, e.g., birth, death, healing, repairing) and you pinpoint times when society’s discriminatory attitudes and practices begin or reach breaking or healing points:

- **1672: Eris conjunct Haumea (22 Leo)\*\*** — Royal African Company founded and initiated England's slave trade to North America and Caribbean.
- **1831: Haumea conjunct Eris (22 Aquarius)** — Nat Turner Slave Rebellion, August 21; same year, beginning of Underground Railroad. The former was ultimately unsuccessful – the conjunction was sesquiquadrate Turner's natal Sun (9 Libra)/Mercury (5 Libra) – while the latter was a turning point in getting runaway slaves to safety.
- **1863: Haumea (21 Aries) semi-square Eris (7 Pisces)** — Emancipation proclamation; semi-square in orb during the bloodiest Civil War battles.
- **1893: Haumea (18 Gemini) square Eris (20 Pisces)** — Panic of 1893 led to unrest in South, burning of black-owned farms, expansion of Jim Crow.
- **1955: Haumea (26 Leo) sesquiquadrate Eris (9 Aries)** — Emmett Till lynched, a catalyst that led to Rosa Parks' civil disobedience and subsequent nonviolent strikes and protests.

And here we are, at the first opposition since the Fall of Constantinople on May 29, 1453, when Haumea (17 Libra) opposed Eris (15 Aries) in the same signs as today. This event had tremendous after-effects, as it forced the search for alternate sea routes to Asia, which led to the discovery of America. In a sense, we are reckoning with the last 528 years of failure to connect with and respect the fellow humans that Europeans discovered there and elsewhere.

- **2009: Haumea (17 Libra) opposite Eris (21 Aries)** — Obama inaugurated president; rise of Tea Party and false accusations Obama wasn't Christian, wasn't a U.S. citizen, all thinly veiled racial attacks.
- **June 16, 2015: Haumea (21 Libra) opposite Eris (23 Aries)** — Trump began presidential campaign by calling Mexicans rapists; next day, Dylann Roof shot nine black churchgoers to spark a race war; both at Sun/Mars sextile and trine the opposition.
- **October 7, 2016: Sun (15 Libra)/Haumea (23 Libra) opposite Eris (23 Aries)** — Trump caught on videotape saying he grabs women by privates. Nevertheless, he is elected president.
- **Early October 2017: Haumea (24 Libra) opposite Eris (23 Aries)** — MeToo Movement goes viral.
- **May 25, 2020: Haumea (26 Libra) opposite Eris (24 Aries)** — George Floyd killed; weeks of global protest began with Sun semi-square/sesquiquadrate the opposition.
- **June 15, 2020: Haumea (26 Libra) opposite Eris (24 Aries)** — U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of LGBT employment protection rights, and refused to hear case against sanctuary cities, a victory protecting immigrants. Sun sextile/trine the opposition.

One remarkable thing about the Black Lives Matter demonstrations is there has been no central leader. The community (an Eris concept) coordinates arrangements via Social Media (also Eris-like, a distributed platform with no central power). Even with its worrisome flaws, Social Media facilitates connection and dialogue and is available to people of all types.

In sum, Pluto/Jupiter square the opposition has manifested a time of enormous (Jupiter) fear (Pluto) – or sense of the power (Pluto) – of Others (Eris), especially of how they might irretrievably change (Haumea) one's life. This is an overall effect, potentially positive or negative, whether involving needed change (police reform) or feared change (injured/killed by police). Catching the coronavirus fits this constellation – excessive fear of death (Haumea) from contact with other people (Eris). But you, dear Astro-friend, see the heightened awareness, the opportunity to make powerful changes that could affect everyone in the most wide-ranging fashion. Pray we seize this chance now. Otherwise we wait 500+ years.

#### Notes:

\* As of June 12, 2020

\*\* Eris' eccentric orbit causes it to travel faster than Haumea when in N. Hemisphere's summer-autumn signs

***Sue Kientz, author of More Plutos (2015), has studied astrology since 1977, and specializes in the largest Asteroids (Pallas, Vesta) and new Dwarf Planets (Eris, Makemake, Haumea, Sedna, Gonggong, Orcus, and others). Sue is currently writing a general-audience book on the Dwarfs, casting their addition to astrology as a breakthrough comparable to medicine's discovery of microorganisms. Check out the supporting evidence for her interpretations of the Dwarf Planets, including free chapters from her book and other articles, at [MorePlutos.com](http://MorePlutos.com). E-mail: [Sue@MorePlutos.com](mailto:Sue@MorePlutos.com), Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MorePlutos>***