

Eris and Gonggong Spill Secrets of Double-Agent Pluto

by Sue Kientz

We all know people who are inseparable from some friend, spouse, or pet. You can't spend time with them alone; that "other" is part of the bargain. The extra life form is too entwined with your friend so you must factor that other individual into any personal interaction.

Yet hardly anyone notices that this is what you get with Dwarf Planet Pluto, with its huge inseparable companion. Pluto is locked in a tight embrace with Charon, its largest and closest moon. I'm not overstating their intense bond. Just as Earth's Moon always shows Earth the same side as it orbits, Charon does that too, and more. Charon is so bound to Pluto that Charon's orbit of Pluto nigh equals Pluto's rotation. Pluto's day (6 days, 9 hours, 17 minutes, and 36 seconds) and Charon's month differ by only .7 of a second. So Pluto shows Charon only one side, too.

This point may seem trivial, but isn't there meaning in planetary details? Isn't Jupiter's hugeness a reflection of its representation of excess? Don't Saturn's rings "constrict" it, like Saturn's operation in charts reveals? Mars' red color suggests bloody war or anger; Venus is the brightest point in the heavens, like a valuable jewel.(1) So it's not farfetched to think that Pluto's physical characteristics represent something special and revealing.

Moon Charon (pronounced Sharon by astronomers and NASA explorers; Karen by everyone else) is half Pluto's size, meaning Pluto is carrying around a heavy burden! This partnership is why Pluto-Charon were nearly classed a double planet, and in some circles they *are* called a Double Dwarf Planet. What can this portend? Interestingly, Charon (1212 km diameter) is about the size of Quaoar (1110-1121 km) and Gonggong (1240 km). As mentioned in my eNews article from last year,(2) these latter two Dwarfs have orbits close in period to larger TNOs. Quaoar's orbit paces Haumea's (4th largest Kuiper), and Gonggong's orbit is alike in shape and timing to Eris's (virtually Pluto's size). In that article, I discussed how both Haumea and Quaoar aim to change the world or just one's own circumstances but go about it with different tactics. I promised to later address how Eris and Gonggong represent two ways people deal with social disenfranchisement, and while preparing this article, I realized there was a relation to be made between those two and the tight-knit Pluto-Charon duo.

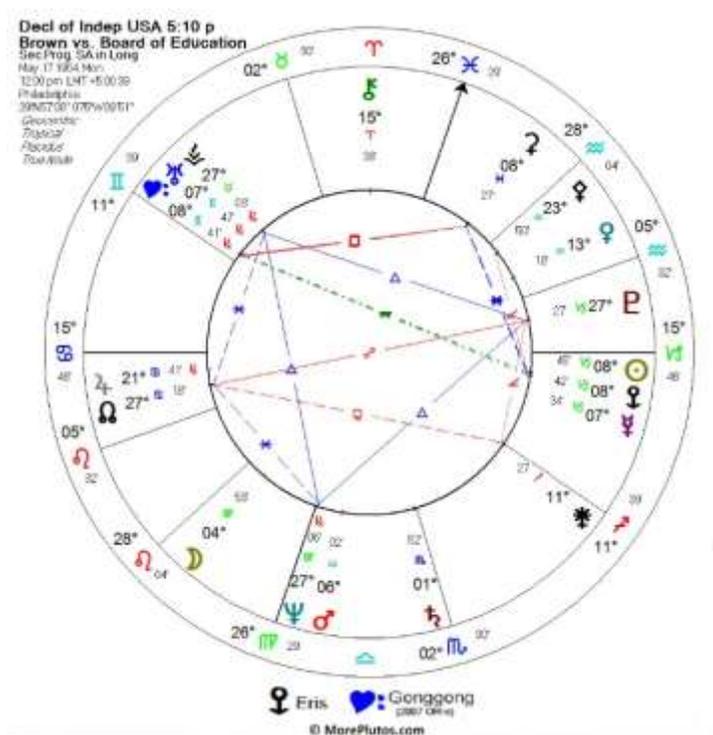
First, my take on Eris is that being Pluto's twin, it could be considered a pair with Pluto, like Jupiter-Saturn are a pair, Uranus-Neptune, Mars-Venus, and so forth. Pluto represents personal power, the individual's will, and in more negative manifestations can signal a controlling personality and selfishness incarnate. Discovered in 1930 between two devastating world wars and seeming to represent the "small but kick-ass powerful" atomic bomb as well as organized crime, it appears we could use a force to neutralize Pluto. When Eris is examined in this light, you sense its role as a marker of Other People, community, connection, outreach to those excluded, and when manifested negatively, as alienation, discrimination against those different from oneself, refusal to connect. I'll mention some chart examples that really bring this home, but first just think of the size element. Pluto wants to do its own thing. Eris is as big as Pluto. When you are up against someone as big as yourself, that's a challenge. The opposition seems formidable. Eris represents real issues, especially to problems Pluto has created with all the self-serving tools developed to allow Plutonian will to run riot, like fast cars, guns, credit cards that can be run up and identities stolen (other people's resources), and other ways one can exercise one's "freedom," ergo one's self-centered desires. But Eris energy neutralizes Pluto wildness, by reporting Bad Pluto to authorities, banding with others who also suffer from Pluto-perpetrated recklessness (#MeToo), confronting racial injustice with a broad coalition of support (Black Lives Matter and offshoots that contain people of all races and gender). Pluto types are forced to deal with this, especially now as we are midway through experiencing several Pluto-Eris squares.

How is Gonggong like Eris yet different? Named after a red-headed sea serpent, Gonggong is not a ravenous monster but rather deeply sensitive. Mythic Gonggong knocked the world off its axis after losing a contest with another god. Ashamed of the loss, he smashed his head on a pillar of the earth, causing the world to tilt and its rivers overflow their banks, drowning all in floods (a reflection of his emotional outburst). This aptly represents Gonggong's emotional component as seen in charts. Gonggong is prominent in nativities of those who reach out in compassion to people or creatures in need, or in challenging aspect, those oversensitive or lacking sensitivity. With strongly-placed Eris personalities, emotions are held in check, better to grapple with intolerable issues. Eris stays disinterested at best, which is not a bad thing. Gonggong leads with its heart. Eris directly challenges Pluto's power plays, but smaller Gonggong chooses another way, one that tugs one's heartstrings, as those of lesser stature can do perhaps most effectively. And Eris and Gonggong's uncanny similarity in size to two-bodied Pluto-Charon confirms and elaborates Pluto's duality: controlling and controlled, manipulative and liable to be manipulated, powerful yet vulnerable. Thus these new planets fit in and further illuminate the celestial scheme.

To address any skepticism that Eris reflects the force of community, connection, and when inverted, alienation, see the many natal and event charts found in *More Plutos*, whose Eris chapter is published online(3). Here let's examine what I consider the capstone of the argument for Eris as Other: Eris milestones in the USA chart. The Declaration of Independence was adopted at Sun (13 Cancer 19) opposite Eris (8 Capricorn 08), when a group of white men declaring "all men are created equal" left out not only women but poor men (only landowners could vote initially), black slaves, Native Americans, and other minority groups. When the progressed USA Sun (5 Libra 05) squared p. USA Eris (7 Capricorn 11), the Civil War began to confront the country's most egregious inequity, the South's black slaves. The North won, but emancipation was largely ineffective until p. USA Sun (8 Capricorn 45) conjunct p. USA Eris (8 Capricorn 42) in the mid-1950s, when the U.S. Supreme Court declared segregation unconstitutional in *Brown versus Board of Education*. The Civil Rights Movement followed, leading to landmark legislation in 1964, as transiting Eris (11 Aries) squared USA Sun, and p. USA

Moon (9 Capricorn 47) conjoined p. USA Eris (8 Capricorn 57). How can Eris not be recognizing the marginalized and excluded, and working to restore their humanity and respect, with such telling aspects in America's chart history? And just recently, another group of longtime socially excluded Americans were legitimized by another Supreme Court ruling at p. USA Sun (10 Pisces 41) sextile p. USA Eris (9 Capricorn 58), with the decision declaring gay marriage constitutional. I rest my Eris case.

Gonggong's highly sensitive nature (for good or ill)(4), also displays its qualities in the USA chart. Progressed USA Sun square p. USA Gonggong reached exactitude in the mid-1830s as the abolitionist movement gained momentum. These societies, organized by white and black middle-class women, used persistent, emotional petitions and demonstrations to demand an end to slavery. The progressed USA Sun opposition to p. USA Gonggong of the 1920s is when women, having obtained the right to vote, first sought a constitutional amendment granting full equality with men.



Today's sensitive issues are different. In 2012, high-casualty shootings, including killings at a Colorado movie theater and Sikh temple, spiked already emotionally charged arguments to enact stricter gun control laws. Calls for such action then skyrocketed that December when, at p. USA Sun (8 Pisces 09) square p. USA Gonggong (8 Gemini 16), 26 students and teachers were senselessly gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School. President Obama (born Sun trine Eris) brought steely calm and concern when addressing each tragic shooting, until this horrific event. Talking about the unconscionable carnage, he was seen weeping.(5)

Notes

1. If you exclude the Sun and Moon.
2. <http://moreplutos.com/articles/Stranger-Rings-of-the-Kuiper-Belt-for-NCGR-News-No343-WebVersion.pdf>
3. http://moreplutos.com/articles/Eris-SueKientz_AstrologicalJournal-Sept-Oct2014.pdf
4. *More Plutos*' Gonggong chapter is not online; in the book, it's called 2007 OR10.
5. Obama was also born with Sun (12 Leo 32) opposite Gonggong (12 Aquarius 48).

Title image: Pluto and its largest moon Charon as seen in natural color by NASA's New Horizons spacecraft during its historic July 2015 flyby of the dwarf planet. (Image credit: NASA/JUAPL/SwRI)

Sue Kientz, author of **More Plutos** (2015), has studied astrology since 1977 and specializes in the new Dwarf Planets (Eris, Makemake, Haumea, Sedna, Gonggong, Orcus, and others). Currently writing a general-audience book on the Dwarfs, Sue casts their addition to Astrology as a transformational breakthrough, comparable to Medicine's discovery of microorganisms. Visit **MorePlutos.com** to read free book chapters from *More Plutos* as well as other published articles including archived NCGR eNews pieces, Dwarf Planet keywords, and other fun facts. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MorePlutos>; E-mail: Sue@MorePlutos.com