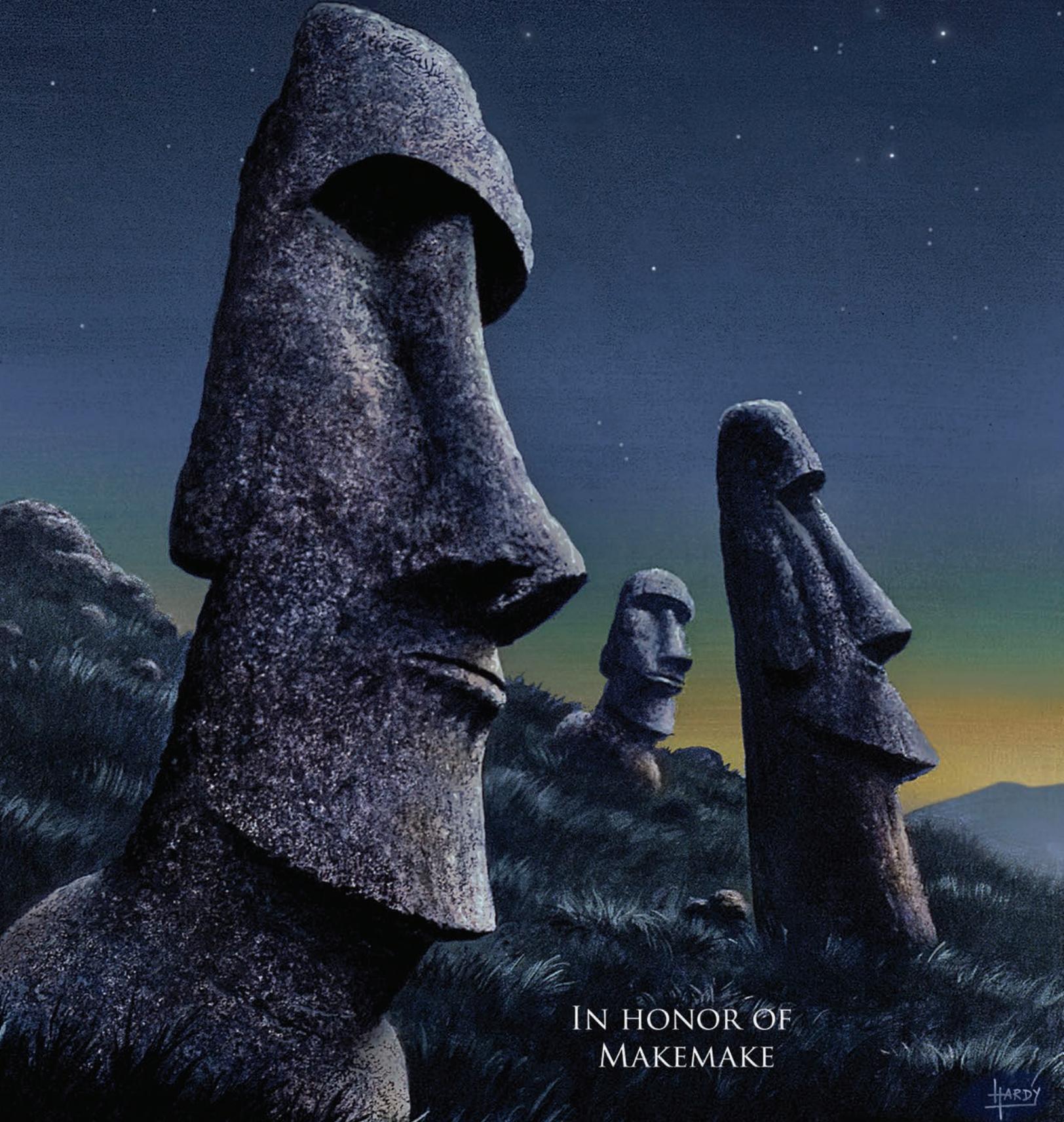


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ERIS: ANTIDOTE TO PLUTO

SUE KIENTZ

EN: Now for another look at Eris and Other-ness

Contrary to most people's perceptions, Eris isn't necessarily an evil figure. There are two Erises, according to Hesiod, one a primordial goddess, born of Darkness, who gave birth to evil spirits that sound like a casting call for inclusion in Pandora's box: Strife, Toil, Forgetfulness, Starvation, Lawlessness, Pain, Murder, and Dispute, to name a few. But warriors appealed to the other Eris during battle, as she required homage for victory. Hesiod saw the role of the latter Eris as honorable and that of the former as indiscriminately cruel. One suspects this is still the same Eris, who was more liable to grant favors when praised rather than cursed.

Eris' most famous myth begins with her causing a stir at a high-profile wedding. At the nuptials of Peleus and Thetis, all the Olympian deities were invited except Eris. As payback, she showed up and rolled a golden apple marked "To the fairest" into the crowd. Athena (Goddess of Wisdom and Warcraft), Aphrodite (Goddess of Love), and Hera (Zeus's wife and Goddess of Women and Marriage) all laid claim to the glittering gift. No one wanted to tackle the question of who deserved it, however, so Zeus gave that job to Trojan prince Paris. Each goddess offered to richly reward him: Athena promised victory in battle, Hera pledged a profitable marriage, and Aphrodite tantalized him with the world's most beautiful woman. Little did Paris know when he awarded the apple to Aphrodite, that while she would make good on her promise and bring him Helen (later of Troy), Paris would never peacefully enjoy his prize. Hera and Athena would make sure he was vexed in both marriage (Helen was already married) and warfare (Helen's husband would raise an army and devastate Paris's home country).

Astrologers now face a similar trial with planet Eris and its astrological significance. Will astrologers determine Eris' meaning using her Warrior Goddess myth, which has a flavor similar to the early name given Eris, Xena, and consequently would be like awarding the ball to Athena, the warrior goddess? Or will they pounce on the arrival of a new planet with a female name as the long awaited and desired Female Archetype, which could balance out

a solar system dominated by objects named for male gods? A Female Archetype so idealized, she would make Aphrodite look plain?

Or could another idea emerge, maybe less exciting or ideal, which could rein in male power another way? Something not necessarily aggressive nor overly romantic is the idea that The Other may be the meaning of this new orb. That would award Hera, powerful Zeus' consort and adversary, the golden ball, and give Libra (the Partner) a new planetary co-ruler.

Eris as Other

In 2010, Maria Macario pointed out Julian Assange's dramatic Sun square Eris, and after accounting for his other natal Sun contacts, concluded that his making himself a pariah, his inability to fit in and consequent exclusion from society, might likely be due to that Eris hard aspect. Most of her other comments echo the usual Eris-as-Dark-Goddess interpretation, e.g., she suggests a possible vengeful trait in Assange being due to his Eris placement (1). Still, she hit on the quality that I theorized in "Eris, The Discomforting Other" (2), excerpted from my book *More Plutos*.

Macario could have put the exclamation point on her interpretation if she had checked Assange's progressions. The WikiLeaks domain was purchased on Oct. 9, 2006 (3), when Assange's progressed Sun (14 Leo 18) was trine progressed Eris (12 Aries 58). Registering that telling name belies planning, so the strong Sun/Eris figure in progression confirms that WikiLeaks, a central accomplishment of Assange's, had a lot to do with Eris. WikiLeaks revealed our government's insensitive treatment of foreign civilians as well as members of its own military, and enabled Assange to show how people were being objectified and treated as disposable.

This 'return' of the Eris theme at a time of career accomplishment isn't a fluke; it's validation. By checking secondary progression, you untangle Eris natal indicators from the operation of other planets. Here are two examples of Eris as Other, confirmed by secondary progression, that don't involve righteous aggressiveness or feminine influence:

Piotr Kropotkin was a contemporary of Darwin, the author of *Origin of Species* and champion of the idea of 'survival of the fittest.' Kropotkin's scholarship took him in another direction, leading him to propose the 'survival of the most cooperative.' Born at Sun (29 Sagittarius) sextile Eris (27 Aquarius), Kropotkin published his magnum opus *Mutual Aid: A Factor of Evolution*, in October 1902 (4), with his progressed Sun (29 Aquarius) conjunct progressed Eris (28 Aquarius). His direct challenge to Darwinism insisted aggression is not the predominant trait for human survival; rather cooperation with Others is more vital.

Emmanuel Lévinas was a Jewish-French philosopher who endured imprisonment by the Nazis during World War II but emerged afterward to publish his ideas about the powerful experience of *L'Autre* (The Other). Born at Sun (21 Capricorn) sextile Eris (23 Pisces), Lévinas lectured and produced his mature works as his personal planets interacted one by one with Eris:

* *First Colloquium of French-Speaking Jewish Intellectuals* met in Versailles, May 24, 1957 (5). In debut remarks, Lévinas stated "...the Jew has the feeling that his obligations with respect to the other come before his obligations to God, or more precisely that the other is the voice of high places, even of the sacred..." (6) At the time, his

progressed Mercury (24 Pisces) was conjunct progressed Eris (24 Pisces).

* *Totality and Infinity* (1961), considered the flowering of Lévinas' mature thought, was reviewed on January 19, 1961 (7), as his progressed Venus (23 Pisces) conjoined progressed Eris (24 Pisces).

* *Four Talmudic Readings* (1968), collected from the Talmudic lectures he delivered over the years at the Colloquia founded in 1957, was published as Lévinas' progressed Sun (24 Pisces) was conjunct progressed Eris (24 Pisces) (8).

* *Otherwise Than Being* (1974) (9), the 'sequel' to *Totality and Infinity*, appeared at transiting Eris (14 Aries) was square Lévinas' natal Venus (14 Capricorn).

Naturally, someone with no or few Eris themes connected to their personal planets also experiences Eris in progression, and those cases should reveal the same proposed meaning. When Facebook founder **Mark Zuckerberg**'s progressed Sun (16 Gemini) was sextile progressed Eris (16 Aries) in 2007 (January 1 used), he opened up his social media website – initially restricted to college students – to anyone with an email address. That was also the year he allowed independent software



The Golden Apple of Discord, by Jacob Jordaens

developers to write programs for Facebook (10). There was no bloody fight that yielded this decision; no feminine element led to the change. Simply put, Others formerly excluded could join Facebook, and Other developers could add programs to the popular site.

Eris as Other fits with how we view the solar system. The Sun is Self, with inner planets/Moon representing “personal” attributes: mind, finances/relations, emotions, sex/energy. Farther out, the gas giants embody the social world. Pluto and other close-by Trans-Neptunians move outside of society, seeking power to fit in, by force or merit. What should come next? Not more warriors; not ‘Women.’ Others in general, the faceless crowd, those disregarded, ‘different,’ alien. We need to fathom this next layer of the Whole (11).

Eris in the Scheme of Things

Let’s try another way to confirm Eris’ meaning. If Eris is Pluto’s size, isn’t Eris a ‘pair’ with Pluto, like Uranus and Neptune are a pair, as well as Jupiter-Saturn, Mars-Venus, and Sun-Moon? Eris’ orbit is more than twice as long as Pluto’s, another marker of adversarial twins, since all other pairs in the outer solar system are separated by about twice the orbit of the nearer planet. Shouldn’t this provide a way to determine Eris’ true meaning, in that it should be an opposite of Pluto? We need an interpretation that presents Eris as Pluto’s antidote.

Does the Warrior Princess idea match up? Sounds too much like more Pluto, more aggression and control. Can the feminine principle alone match Pluto? Certainly not women as individuals, no matter how gifted and strong. Only the power of Others banded together in a cohesive mass can stand up to the individual who wishes to wield willful power for his or her own perceived good. This is not saying that a Pluto-themed person is always wrong. Sometimes such persons are right-minded and use their power for good. But when analyzing a planetary pair, the more distant object represents the ‘solution’ to a negative or overbearing dose of the nearer planet. For example, too much Jupiter (as in drinking, laziness, over-generous spending) is ‘solved’ by responsible/thrifty/sober Saturn. Too much Saturn (strict, parsimonious, workaholic) is ‘solved’ by Uranus, which typically rejects structure and goes off on a new path. Neptune solves too much Uranus when it reins in rampant individuality and mercurial behavior by bringing attention to the plight of the community, the eco-system, or Nature in general.

Here are examples of individuals or groups challenged in their negative exhibitions of Pluto traits by Eris individuals:

* George W. Bush – Mercury (9 Leo 49) conjunct Pluto (10 Leo 34) – and Dick Cheney – Sun (10 Aquarius 48) opposite Pluto (3 Leo 01) – strove to “protect the U.S.”

after the 9-11 Terror Attacks at the cost of privacy and civil liberties, vs. Julian Assange – Sun (10 Cancer 38) square Eris (13 Aries 02) – who exposed their dealings on WikiLeaks. Granted with those hard aspects, neither side offered very good solutions.

* The Taliban (arguably a Pluto organization, trying to control women) vs. Malala Yousafzai – Sun (19 Cancer 50) square Eris (19 Aries 13). The latter was shot on orders of the Taliban, yet survived to continue her advocacy for girls’ education, which has gained her worldwide approbation and support.

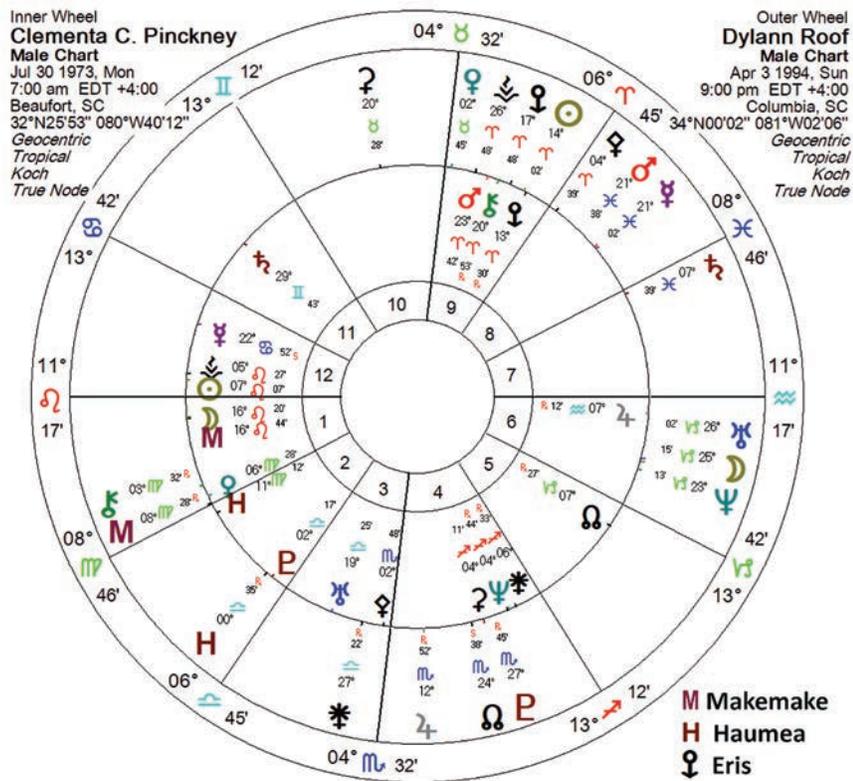
* Bill Cosby – Sun (19 Cancer 58)/Mercury (25 Cancer 04)/Pluto (28 Cancer 04) – called out by fellow comedian Hannibal Buress – Sun (15 Aquarius) sextile Eris (14 Aries) – on reports that Cosby used drugs to manipulate women to have sex with him. After many alleged victims stepped forward to support each other, the media demanded records of Cosby’s 2005 testimony. On July 6, 2015, the unsealed deposition revealed Cosby admitted to engaging in such behavior (12), as Mercury sextiled Eris and Venus/Jupiter (Jupiter = many, Venus = women) trined Eris.

* Dylann Roof – Sun (14 Aries)/Eris (18 Aries) sesquiquadrate Pluto (28 Scorpio) vs. Clementa Pinckney – Sun (7 Leo) trine Eris (13 Aries). The families of State Senator Rev. Pinckney and others killed at the Charleston AME church forgave Roof, even as he admitted to killing in order to kick off a race war. These families were committed to the inclusive, loving message of Christ and to their departed loved ones who also believed in this power of faith in community; their steadfast unity in reaching out to Roof, now a public pariah, epitomizes the victory of Eris over Pluto. (*see chart next page*)

Eris-themed persons exhibit Outsider characteristics naturally or they willingly or inadvertently become social outcasts to challenge Plutonian manipulation and control. This is not to say there are no negative Eris personalities; witness Roof above. Nearly all the top Nazi leadership had negative Sun/Eris or Mars/Eris, and Charles Manson had Sun sesquiquadrate Eris, like many other criminals (13). Such natal figures indicate people liable to turn anti-social if they aren’t careful with their life choices or the company they keep.

The Eris Event

If we grant Pluto-Eris is a pair, that puts Eris level with the other full-fledged astrological beings, and so the new planet should arrive in tandem with a corresponding world-changing effect. To recap, Uranus appeared with the American and French revolutions, signaling the rise of the individual, among other things (democracy, science, Industrial Age, machines). Neptune was discovered mid-19th Century as social programs and causes attempted



Facebook in 2004, and what we call Social Media was born. YouTube (2005) and Twitter (2006) allowed people to share videos and short messages with vast audiences, enabling people to ‘follow’ the account holder, who could be a celebrity or an average Joe. Tumblr (2007), Flickr (2008), Pinterest (2009), Instagram (2010), Google+ (2011), and Snapchat (2011) then emerged to offer other ways to connect, share photos, messages, and interests, and the list goes on. New web applications constantly appear and proliferate, encouraging human interaction and connection.

By the mid-2000s, we didn’t need computers to connect as smart phones became the rage, but even before that, cell phones linked us to Others as never before. The fourth 9-11 plane was diverted and its mission thwarted thanks to cell phones. The cameras on our phones now discourage or reveal crimes that otherwise would be difficult to prevent or impossible to prosecute. Still, the added connection

the Internet makes possible is key, as the widespread that sharing of cell-phone photos and videos is what topples secretive Pluto types. Lone wolf ‘Servants of Pluto’ even unwittingly sabotage themselves by posting online and unveiling their plans to others who report them or who themselves are undercover agents. This surveillance isn’t Big Brother as much as it’s little brothers and sisters and cousins with their mobile Internet devices, able to take on the misguided Individual with the big phallic gun.

A few examples of Pluto facing the Eris power of Social Media:

* Hosni Mubarak – born Sun (13 Taurus 36) sextile Pluto (15 Cancer 14) – became Egypt’s president on October 14, 1981, at transiting Sun (21 Libra) conjunct Pluto (24 Libra) (14). During the Arab Spring unrest, the world saw what was happening via protestors’ cell-phone videos and tweets. Mubarak resigned on February 11, 2011 (15), at transiting Sun (22 Aquarius) sextile Eris (22 Aries) and Sun semi-square Pluto (7 Capricorn).

* Bashar Al-Assad – born Sun (18 Virgo) conjunct Pluto (16 Virgo) – took over Syria on July 17, 2000 (16), at transiting Sun (25 Cancer) sesquiquadrate Pluto (10 Sagittarius) and Sun square Eris (20 Aries). The Syrian Civil War began March 15, 2011 (17), with his progressed Sun (3 Scorpio) semi-square progressed Pluto (18 Virgo). World opinion has been against Assad, but one way he

to ameliorate the problems the Uranian era exposed. Rational men who demanded to be free, were now faced with women, black slaves, Native Americans, and other disenfranchised people who wanted their liberty and voice in government.

Finally, Pluto arrived in the early 20th Century with the rise of gangster violence, Communism and Fascism in world governments, and the advent of the horrifically powerful atomic bomb. Self-interested Pluto wanted to break away from holistic and inclusive Neptune and have its own way, even if that choice was destructive to itself.

How can Eris show that its discovery comes with a similarly huge, society-changing event? Something that comes to the fore at the recent turn of the century?

Warrior Princess advocates point to terrorism and efforts to combat it, but again, isn’t this more 20th Century Plutoism? There’s the #MeToo movement, but its influence is limited to women’s individual interactions with controlling men. Shouldn’t the Universe have a better, broader solution? Isn’t there some huge trend we can identify that has banded people together, for good or ill, which might neutralize individual willfulness and violence?

There is, and it’s the Internet. In the mid-1990s, droves of people ventured “online,” buying computers and signing up for email accounts. After the turn of the century, MySpace and LinkedIn debuted in 2003, followed by

keeps the opposition fragmented is by censoring Syria's Internet access (18), inhibiting the cohesive power of Eris to oust him.

Certainly, there's a danger of overreliance on Social Media. People should not be looking at their phones instead of interacting with dinner partners or family members. The Internet is like anything else, liable to be used or abused. Nevertheless, our connection to Others via the Internet is a 21st-Century event that strongly supports Eris as Other, and our participation in its virtual communities may prove instrumental in dealing with those exhibiting the worst traits of self-involved, self-serving Pluto.

Note: Excerpted from an article first published on January 24, 2016, 11:35 p.m. at the late, great Steve Tuffill's website AstrologyTruth.com (no longer active).

Chart Data and Sources

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Bashar Al-Assad, September 11, 1965; 4:43 p.m. rect.; Damascus, Syria; X: <http://www.biography.com/people/bashar-al-assad-20878575>

Julian Assange, July 3, 1971; 3 p.m. AEST; Townsville, Australia; B: Biography.

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Dylann Roof, April 3, 1994; 9 p.m. EDT rect.; Columbia, SC; X: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dylann_Roof

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References and Notes

All URLs, here and in the Chart Data above, were accessed in August-September 2015.

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(2) Kientz, Sue, "Eris, the Discomforting Other," *Astrological Journal*, September/October 2014, pp. 35-40; http://moreplutos.com/articles/Eris-SueKientz_AstrologicalJournal-Sept-Oct2014.pdf

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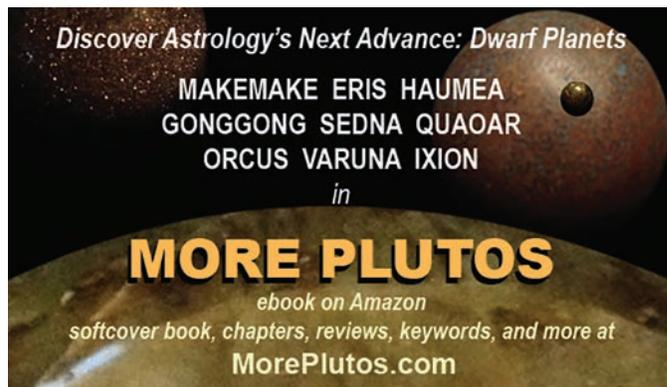
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See 'An Approach to Dwarf Planets' in this issue for a brief biography of Sue Kientz.



"On the Internet, nobody knows you're an Egyptian goddess..."