

## **A 13.8-Billion-Year Perspective**

by Sue Kientz

Unbeknown to most of humanity, the Universe improves itself using a massive cudgel. This began when the small dense “pre-bang” ball of everything suddenly blasted its contents outward, expanding spacetime and scattering everywhere the building blocks of everything we see around us now, including all of life, all inert matter, energy, future McDonald’s restaurants, and Easter peeps.

Granted the peeps and Big Macs came much later. First, about 380,000 years were needed for all the particles freed of the Big Bang body to calm down so atoms could form (i.e., nuclei could capture electrons). Around 500 million years passed before atoms massed into stars that got big enough to ignite.[1] And a few million years after the first stars shone, their deaths commenced.

Stellar deaths were actually a positive development. Intense pressure inside early stars made higher elements. Simple atoms with one or two electrons, for example, could end up with six or eight electrons, transforming into carbon and oxygen. As more stars lived and died, more complex elements spewed out at their funeral, until some were ejecting gold, silver, and platinum.[2] Our bodies needed these higher elements. Our planet needed to provide us with the minerals these elements formed. But this required a long line of disasters, the constant growth of stars like we see each night, being destroyed but not for no reason! For progress, for good, they unwittingly lived and died.

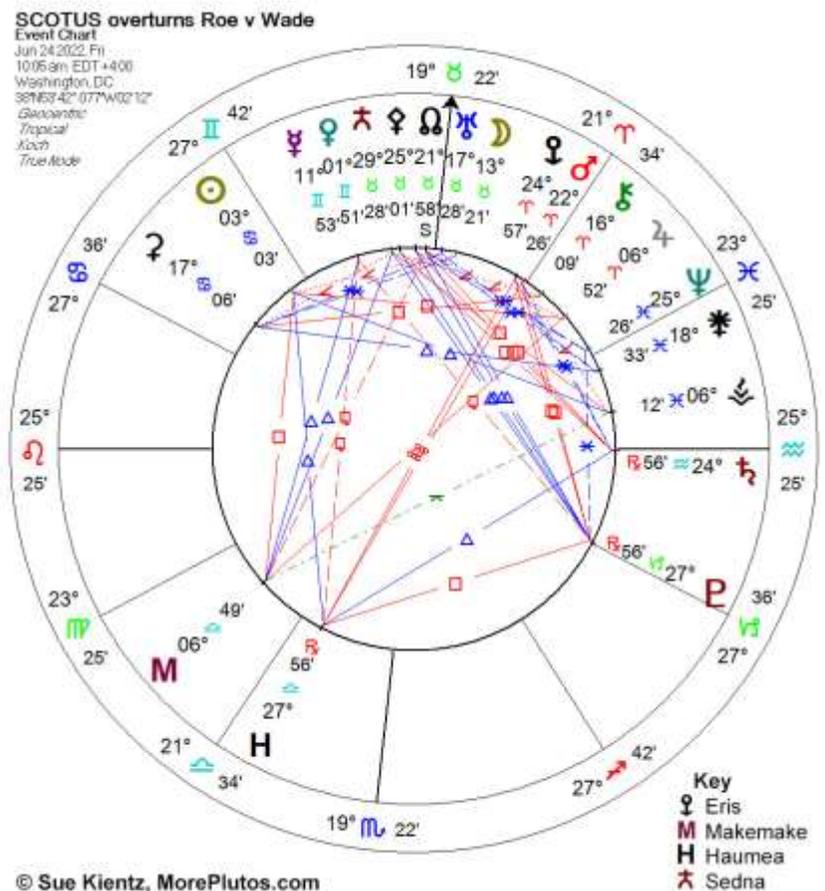
People often talk about the mass extinctions that Earth has endured as being a warning to our own times as we anticipate climate change being a real threat to human civilization, which it is. But those extinctions are similar to the stellar deaths that were in their way required for progress to occur. The cataclysmic extinctions were bad for those life forms at the time, but they are indubitably part of the natural process of life expanding, evolving, cooperating, clashing, and then getting to a tipping point and something gives way (like too much oxygen, or not enough oxygen) and the “experiment” is wiped out — almost. Life begins again. Better body plans emerge. (Did we all want to be trilobites, seriously?) And this process happened again and again, with the last natural cudgel being the Chicxulub asteroid that stamped out the dinosaurs. Your four-year-old might consider that a wailing disaster, but all us adults are grateful as that meant progress for us mammals.

This periodic walloping happens in civilizations. Around 1200 BCE, a plethora of wars likely exacerbated by severe drought and earthquakes caused the Bronze Age collapse, mysteriously wiping out cultures around the Mediterranean.[3] In 476 CE, the Roman Empire fell to northern tribal warriors after centuries of tumultuous Roman leadership and societal decline. And now we have too much carbon in the atmosphere. Sounds pretty bleak. But like the Wizard of Oz told the Scarecrow, Tin Man, Cowardly Lion, and Dorothy, you have something they hadn't got — Astrology!

Specifically, we have Pluto and new dwarf planets like Haumea. The largest and third-largest dwarf planets, respectively, interact via a 2,000-year cycle that, right now, has reached its opening square. Pluto and Haumea make numerous conjunctions (like runners constantly passing each other) for about 500 years at a time, at which time individuals (Pluto) gain exceptional power to change (Haumean) the world. The two Pluto/Haumea conjunction periods we know most about are when ancient Greeks developed philosophy, science, art, and democratic principles, which led to and culminated in the Roman Empire (476 BCE to 14 BCE), and the Renaissance/Reformation/Scientific Revolution/Enlightenment/Modern Age that produced us (1501-1968). The Bronze Age collapse was at the Pluto-Haumea opposition prior to the Greek/Roman era. The first tyrannical Roman emperor was assassinated after the Greek/Roman conjunctions, at that era's first Pluto-Haumea square[4]; Attila and the Huns sacked Rome at a subsequent Pluto-Haumea square[5]; and the last Roman territories capitulated during the final square.[6] And we now are seeing our modern way of life degrading just in the last 30 days, as the U.S. Supreme Court cancels American women's freedom to choose their own futures and protect their own health, tells U.S. states they can't reign in gun violence by controlling who gets to carry concealed weapons,[7] and even hints that birth control and LGBT rights "should be reconsidered." [8]

All this arrived at first Pluto/Haumea square. The Alito opinion leaked on May 2, 2022, as Haumea Rx (28 Libra 40) was days from exact square Pluto (28 Capricorn 35). The official overturn of Roe vs. Wade came June 24, 2022, with Pluto Rx square Haumea Rx (27 Capricorn 56/27 Libra 56). The second square exactitude came the previous day (27 Capricorn 57/27 Libra 57) as the N.Y. concealed-carry case was decided in favor of permitting more guns in the streets. Sandwiched in the Roe verdict was Justice Thomas's bombshell aside that overturning more protected individual rights was back on the table.

These developments are a disaster, as their coming at this momentous turn in the Pluto/Haumea cycle clearly indicates. Add that to now palpable evidence of climate change with record temperatures, storms, droughts, and wildfires[9]; congressional hearings revealing evidence that a U.S. president illegally attempted to



retain power despite losing election, threatening American democracy; and dictators brazenly pummeling a neighboring country (Ukraine) or continually threatening attack (Taiwan).

But we must not panic. Disaster is a part of existence, as you now see. The progress the Universe has been working on for 13.8 billion years is not for nothing. Human beings have evolved to meet adversity. We have options, knowledge, tools, and each other, and that's just the short list of our arsenal. We even know how to divert another Chicxulub from smacking us again! [10] The Universe tells us that disasters ultimately produce progress. Going back to the old ways, the highly conservative choices, the restrictive, the violent — these do not move us forward. [11] If we all do nothing, *progress will be made*, but at high cost. As individuals (Pluto), we must now work (square) to create positive change (Haumea) in our world.

Therefore, go out in knowledge and do what you can, to mute regressive change and preserve individual human rights and free societies. And start using these dwarf planets – they work like *gangbusters*.

## Notes

1. <http://www.sci-news.com/astronomy/science-universes-first-stars-100-million-years-later-than-thought-02469.html>
2. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/startswithabang/2018/09/19/what-was-it-like-when-the-first-stars-died>
3. [https://www.worldhistory.org/Bronze\\_Age\\_Collapse/](https://www.worldhistory.org/Bronze_Age_Collapse/)
4. Emperor Caligula was murdered (29 Sagittarius/1 Libra) just a few months before the first Pluto-Haumea exact square. See <https://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/mintimperials/2016/01/24/on-this-day-in-ad-41-the-roman-emperor-caligula-was-murdered-in-rome/>
5. Attila and his Hun army attacked Rome in 447, a year when Pluto squared Haumea exactly (3 Cancer/3 Aries); see <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Attila-king-of-the-Huns>
6. Last Roman authority conquered, 486 (June 1 used), at Pluto (8 Virgo) square Haumea (11 Gemini). See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Soissons\\_\(486\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Soissons_(486))
7. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/06/24/supreme-court-goes-against-public-opinion-rulings-abortion-guns/>
8. <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/06/24/thomas-constitutional-rights-00042256>
9. The Supreme Court has just made solving that harder: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-supreme-courts-latest-decision-is-a-blow-for-stopping-climate-change/>
10. <https://thehill.com/opinion/technology/583286-how-nasa-will-practice-saving-the-world-from-an-asteroid-apocalypse/>
11. The Greek Miracle/Roman Empire period, and the recent Renaissance-to-Modern-Age period, saw great strides in human knowledge because both coincided with a lessening of strong religious influence. In Ancient Greece, what we now call Humanism emerged and encouraged philosophers and other thinkers to consider human concerns as important if not more important than concerns about the gods. This led to more inquiry and increased critical thought, which in turn allowed Greek philosophers to dismiss ineffective long-held beliefs and traditions, therefore dampening the conservatism that suppressed intellectual progress in other early cultures. These empowered individuals could consider all kinds of ideas and solutions when contemplating the mystery of existence and the true nature of reality. Many discovered that they themselves were able to find answers, that no appeal to a superior being or further understanding of the received wisdom of ancestors was required. This individual, human-centric self-reliance (Pluto), starting in post-mythic Greece and returning later in pre-Reformation Germany, had personally and socially transformative effects (Haumea). See “Greek Awakening,” *Essential Humanities*, <http://www.essential-humanities.net/history-supplementary/greek-awakening/>

*Title image: “God in Trouble,” by Sue Kientz*

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*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://facebook.com/MorePlutos> ; E-mail: **Sue@MorePlutos.com***