

## FLARE: SOLAR PLASMA HEADED TO EARTH

July 13, 2012

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The recent X-Class flare on July 12th ejected what is called a CME event (Coronal Mass Ejection), a mass of plasma and magnetism headed directly at Earth and traveling at 850 miles per second. It is scheduled to reach Earth around 1 AM EDT on Saturday July 14th, 2012. On the outside, look for auroras. As for inside, these solar events are coming so rapidly now that I hesitate to repeat myself in these blogs, but some of you are new to this.

Astrology is simply cultural astronomy, the interpretation of astronomical events happening out there in the cosmos down here on Earth. Astronomers calculate when these events occur and astrologers try and tell us what they might mean. Astrology usually focuses on the relationship of the Sun, Moon, and planets with one another as they form kaleidoscopic patterns with one another in the heavens, but there is an exception.

When the Sun itself erupts with violent flares and explosions, those events trump everyday astrology and take center stage. When the Sun speaks, we listen, and there is always a message.

I have studied astrology for some fifty years and over that time I have become increasingly aware how important these experiences of solar activity are for our internal life. I would be tempted almost to say they 'are' our inner life or at least form and shape it.

The Sun speaks to us constantly, rising each day and shining light (light!) at us that informs, providing warmth and continuity for those us here on Earth. I have tried for decades to communicate that the Sun is not just a convenient solar furnace, but has a spiritual essence just as we like to think we do – a soul or self. And the Sun is not some 'other' one, but the same one we are. We are the mind of the Sun.

In other words, our consciousness is solar in nature. We are the children of the Sun in every meaningful way. And when the Sun speaks to us, we have no choice but to hear. When the solar disc exhibits sudden changes, like flares, prominences, CME events, and so on, we change simultaneously as it does, and then are further affected by the waves of plasma it hurls at Earth.

These solar events affect everyone here on Earth, but that does not mean that everyone is aware of them. Awareness, as I keep harping in these blogs, is something that some just naturally have, and the rest of us must develop. And while most astrological events are subtle, massive events like solar flares and CMEs are fairly obvious to most of us. They interrupt life as we know it and force us in some way to go on instant hiatus – time out.

Solar flares are conspicuous by their ability to put all of our well-crafted plans and that sometimes tenuous sense of direction we have on hold, leaving us momentarily in suspended animation and looking around to see just where in life we are. While only days before all things may have seemed to point forward in a line to the future, with the advent of solar influx we tend to be stranded in the moment, the now, leaving the future something of a question mark.

We each react differently to this solar stimulus, some with confusion, loss of direction or concentration, others with headaches and a sense of being overwhelmed. Things can suddenly seem just too much and we have to go lie down, and so on. You get the idea. Somehow we have lost the roadmap we were on and here we are, stranded in the present moment. It can be a very uncomfortable feeling. On the other hand, some of us get very creative and have the idea of a lifetime.

Solar change this strong affects us. It changes us right before our own eyes, while we wait, so to speak. We are used to gradual change that does not compromise our sense of dignity and self, who we think we are. Solar influx speeds up the process of change. It turns the wheel of the dharma, and change comes in spurts and quantum leaps rather than a trickle. We actually can see ourselves change in real-time, and this kind of change is no respecter of persons or place. It just happens, seemingly willy-nilly. We change whether we like it or not.

A sign of this deeper change is, as mentioned, the fading out of our current plans, and a sense of being suspended in the moment, with no sense of direction. We don't know where we are for a time and this can frighten us. When the changes that are introduced take hold, we gradually come out of our shock and re-map our terrain. As the smoke clears, we once again establish some plan, that linear line toward the future that we find so comforting, the sense that we are going somewhere other than to 'now', the present moment.

Pretty soon our habitual self takes control and we are back to business as usual, although in the interim we may have adjusted our life-course and don't even remember doing it. I won't go on and on about this, but hopefully you get the idea. Massive solar influx brings change in quantum chunks and we try to absorb it as best we can. Many ignore and try not to acknowledge what actually is happening to them. Here is a little poem I wrote to myself about the confusion of events in times of solar influx.

Time to Mind

Lost again in the swing of time,  
I agree to forget,  
What I find so hard to remember:  
This moment.

Always later,  
Urged awake by impermanence,  
I am back again,

But farther down the road.

Time takes my mind,  
In small and larger bites.

The little ones,  
I reconnect and can remember,  
But the larger gaps,  
I can only leap across,  
Guess at,  
And hopefully learn,  
To say more in silence,  
Than in words.

Nov. 20, 2009