

DOUBLE ECLIPSE COMING: A TIME OF VISION  
May 5, 2012

By Michael Erlewine ([Michael@Erlewine.net](mailto:Michael@Erlewine.net))

Today is the Full Moon, Saturday May 5, 2012 at 11:36 PM EDT. I wrote about this Full Moon a few days ago, so scroll down to read that. This Full Moon is not an eclipse, but in two weeks there will be an eclipse, followed by another eclipse, a double eclipse.

Eclipses are perhaps the most important Earthly astrological event we experience. Yes, New and Full Moons are important, but if they are accompanied by an eclipse they are even more important. And when two eclipses happen in a two-week period, one after the other, then the whole time surrounding those eclipses is special.

Double eclipses do not happen each year, but every once in a while they do and we happen to have double eclipses coming up later this month with a New Moon eclipse on May 20th and a Full Moon eclipse on June 4th. This will be a very special time.

The significance of eclipses goes way back and exists in the literature of almost all countries. The Tibetans are very clear about the auspiciousness of eclipses and in their practice calendars are careful to set time aside on eclipse days for what they call "observation," just looking at our own mindstream. The high lamas point out that on eclipse days the various winds and channels within us (up and down the spine) naturally come into alignment more perfectly than at other times. Those who have developed some sensitivity and awareness can take advantage of these alignments.

I won't belabor you with the benefits of developing such an awareness here; I have done that in many other blogs, but I will simply say that practices that make us more aware of the present moment, like certain forms of meditation, are really worthwhile. I mean they pay off. Keep in mind that the very word "Buddha" simply means awareness. It is all about awareness. Enough said.

And I have written many times before about the "Vision of the Eclipse," the various visions that accompany eclipses. Eclipses are key and seminal times and they emit a pulse or tone that vibrates deep within us and at times in our life we can experience them consciously. Again it depends on our awareness, but even the least-aware-of-us have breakthrough moments sometimes in life when we are tuned in and living large the life of our own mind. We can experience these visions consciously and remember them. But without some kind of mind practice, these personal events would be rare.

"Visions" are not pictures in the sky of our mind that we have been taught to associate with having a vision. They can be, but most often visions are super-intense moments, days, or a part of a day when we are imprinted by (resonating with) the tone of the eclipse; we are vibrating alive with what is present. Only later, when we come down or out of these intense living experiences, do we realize that they are not permanent, but rather were an intense experience that we had that is now passing. Visions are intense times that are like islands of imprinting information in our mindstream. They stand out. We remember them or measure time from when they occurred for us. They are differentiated from our day-to-day flow of events. The visions at eclipse times are like that.

Here is another way to phrase this: You might call visions at these eclipse times intense experiences of the truth for us, the truth of our life. And truth (by definition) lasts into the future. In other words, what is true will last longer than ephemeral events and so truth is a vision of the future, because it will still be there then. Get it? I just pointed out a secret of how astrology works.

So don't look for visions on the outside, like pictures in the sky above you. Feel them inside, deeply, as the truth that you are, when you get the chance. This is how visions communicate their message to us, from inside. They bubble up into our consciousness. What is placed inside at the time of an eclipse can take weeks and months to percolate upward until we can grasp it with our conscious mind. A little bit of vision can go a long way in guiding us because it is a premonition of the truth, and truth will last until then, until the future. The truth therefore is the future.

The truth of coming events cast their shadow on the present

## DOUBLE ECLIPSE VISIONS: PART TWO

May 6, 2012

Since many of you have shown interest in how visions work, let's go a little deeper. Visions, whether around eclipse times or whenever they occur to us, and they do arise, are seldom recognized by us when they first appear. Since they are times of great vividness of experience, we naturally kind of fall into them because they are more intense and alive than the time just previous to their onset. We are happy to live more vividly and so welcome any experience that brings more life to us. We often fail to recognize them right off as the seminal truth-bringers which they are. There is a tendency to think that "This is the way life always should be" and let it go at that. Visions are mostly subtle and we have to be subtle enough to recognize them when they arise.

It is when the vision passes or starts to pass that we tend to become aware that something has happened within us. It is kind of like when we are at a fun party and gradually realize that the party is over or getting near over. We kind of wake up to normality again, and realize our experience was more meaningful or vivid perhaps an hour ago. The poet Gertrude Stein had a line "Before friendship faded, friendship faded." That is the idea.

In books and movies, visions are often portrayed as pictures or graphic images in the mind, much like the little text balloons in cartoons. While this can happen, much more often visions are just very intense times of living that stand out like islands of truth in the sea of our day-to-day normality. Visions are clear times when we can see our own truth vividly and this intense truth imprints itself on our mindstream by its sheer reality and intensity. In fact, visions are so vivid that, while we may not understand what we see, we cannot forget them either. They stick in our mind and remain embedded there.

It is a hallmark of eclipse-visions that the intensity of the experience is somewhat overwhelming, more than we can take in at one glance or moment. And although we cannot quite get our mind around a vision, we somehow totally "get it" and willingly take it in or internalize it. Then, in the hours, days, months, etc. that follow, we gradually are able to bring this vision to mind, again and again, until we suck any sense from it we can. This takes time.

Like an all-day sucker, we often can only grasp a little meaning at a time, but the allure, gravity, or truth of the vision kind of haunts us, floating in there, embedded deep in our mind, just out of

reach of our conscious efforts to grasp it all at once. But we savor it like we savor an old love song from our teenage years that we can never tire of listening to. We get something from it every time we bring it to mind, and we do that again and again until the vision holds no further interest for us. Visions are something like that.

We are deeply nourished by the truth of our inner visions. As mentioned in the previous post, visions hold or point out the truth for us, and the truth will outlast all else, and truth, by definition, becomes the future. The truth will last until then. That is why visions are visions of the future.

As mentioned, it can take months or even more to empty a single vision of meaning for us, but eventually we raise all of it to consciousness, a bit at a time, until it is fully present and complete to our mind. We rehearse it again and again until it is exhausted of any new meaning for us, and finally fully present.

In this blog I have tried my very best to put into words something about what visions are actually like so that you can begin to become more aware of them in your life. As I keep pointing out, it is all about awareness. Everyone in the world experiences the tone, pulse, and the visions of the New and Full Moons, eclipses and so on. But everyone is not aware of what is taking place, so it really is a question of awareness of what is happening right now, and it can be developed.

In my opinion and in my own experience, being aware of these visions or deep experiences is more than just worthwhile. It makes life constantly meaningful and brings continuity to my experiences that was never there before I began to develop some awareness.

## DOUBLE ECLIPSE COMING: PART THREE

May 7, 2012

This will be the last blog on the nature of visions. I could go on forever, but either you get it by now or it does not interest you. So, I will close this short series with saying just a bit about the astrology involved, should some of you wish to explore this. And what I have to say is geared to those of you do not know much astrology. I may have to get a little didactic here and spell it out, so please forgive me if it sounds too wordy and intellectual. I am doing the best I can to explain it.

Before I begin, some of you mentioned equating “visions” with dreams and daydreams. Not similar. Daydreams are just what they are, and the same with dreams while we sleep. While once in a very great while sleep dreams can also be visions, this is not common. Visions are times of intense living wide awake, islands of reality in the sea of time. Enough said. Now for an overview:

There is no reason why we cannot learn just enough astrology for these ideas to be useful in day-to-day life. After all, many of you like to read about the meaning of eclipses, and so on. Why not incorporate this into your lives? Let me know if the following makes sense:

There are milestones or mile markers in our lives, events that are so significant to us that they immediately become markers from which we measure time from that moment forward and before which we can't quite even remember who we were. These events imprint us.

In life, what is really important? And how do we know it is important? Of course, everything can seem important sometimes, but there are moments or even days in our lives that stand out as

islands or pointers for us as to who we are, why we are here, and what we have to do. Astrology is all about pinpointing these times.

Think of the astrology chart with the planets moving in the heavens around us like a giant kaleidoscope, ever changing. And although time seems continuous, all time is not equal. The intensity or meaning of time for us rises and falls, has peaks and valleys. Some times are intense and meaningful, while others are empty of events, perhaps even a little boring. Are meaningful events just random or can we search ahead through time for these more meaningful and intense moments?

One way to do this is through astrology. Astrology is all about showing us where and when the physically significant events in the heavens occur and we can do this ahead of time. Astrology tells us about the future, not in a psychic manner, but in a measurable fashion, like pointing out when significant heavenly events happen. And let's not forget that we measure our day-to-day time by the astronomical cycles, the day, the month, the year, etc. These cycles in time are so much with us that we take them for granted and tend to ignore them, but they mark time for us nonetheless.

As the Sun, Moon, and the planets form various angular patterns or aspects in the sky, these are events. We can chart the times when these aspect-events occur and they offer a good (perhaps the only!) guide we have to important celestial moments. We could do worse than to (at the very least) take note of them.

As a society we have the idea of what celebration is all about, because we already celebrate birthdays and other social events. Yet many of us wish that our entire life was somewhat more of a celebration than it is. What if our existence could be more of a perpetual celebration? Astrology at least points to how that might be enabled.

New and Full Moons are two important events that happen each month. We can learn to take advantage of them and use them. I try to do this whenever I can remember to observe them. And the monthly lunar cycle can be broken down in much more detail than just the New and Full Moons. For example, the Tibetan Buddhists divide the month into 30 distinct lunar days (not calendar days), each of which marks a time for a particular type of activity, and the Buddhists are aware of these events and how to best use them. Just like birthdays, celebrating distinct events like these can make life more meaningful.

Taking advantage of the natural articulation of time as indicated by Full and New Moons, eclipses, and the many other planetary events can bring increased meaning into our lives. We might as well get in-tune with the natural heavenly cycles going on around us all of the time. We can synch up. These cycles are happening anyway, so why not take advantage of them? Astrology charts the flow of significant astronomical events which, like stations on a cosmic radio, we can tune in to.

In my experience, there are just two requirements to make use of astrological cycles in life in order to tune in the natural set of astrological indicators happening around us. First, you have to know when these events occur, like the moment (or at least the day) of the New or the Full Moon, planetary aspects, and so on. There are many books and programs that can provide you with a list of what astrological factors are occurring and when. The second requirement, however, is a little more difficult.

Even if we have a list or know when the Full or New Moon is taking place, we still have to tune

in or get in synch with these cycles. This is done by gradually becoming aware of them. Reading about them, like you are here, is a first step. If we know when the Full Moon is happening, we can attempt to be aware of that and at least be open to examining our mindstream at these times.

Trying or wanting to be aware is not the same as being aware, but it is a start. We can practice being aware, which is what sitting meditation is all about – practicing. It is just like learning to dance. We go through the motions of a new dance step by rote until we can get a feel for it, get into the swing of it. Fluency does not happen all at once, but gradually we get into the rhythm of the cycles always going on around us. We learn to resonate to and with them. Might as well dance ‘with’ the cycles as against them.

Reading blogs like this and then learning to be aware when the New or Full Moon rolls around is how we begin. And for many of you, that may be enough. For those of you who (like me) really love this kind of thing, then we can be a little more pro-active about our participation. We can practice developing awareness, so that whatever rolls in from the heavens, we can be more aware of.

As for me, I have increasingly worked to become more and more aware of what is going on around me, but it takes practice. I have done that practice and please don’t imagine it was easy or always fun either. It is practice, like any other practice such as learning to play a musical instrument, and so on.

There are signs everywhere in the life around us and I have made a point of trying to learn to read them. I kind of live by reading the signs in my life and acting on them. It became clear to me years ago that I personally needed to become more aware in order to be really be sensitive to these natural signs, and that is when I became pro-active in all of this. I actively started to practice meditation under a qualified teacher. It may have been the best decision I ever made. It takes time, but the wonderful thing is that it actually works! Your thoughts?

[I may write more about these particular two eclipses as we get nearer to them.]