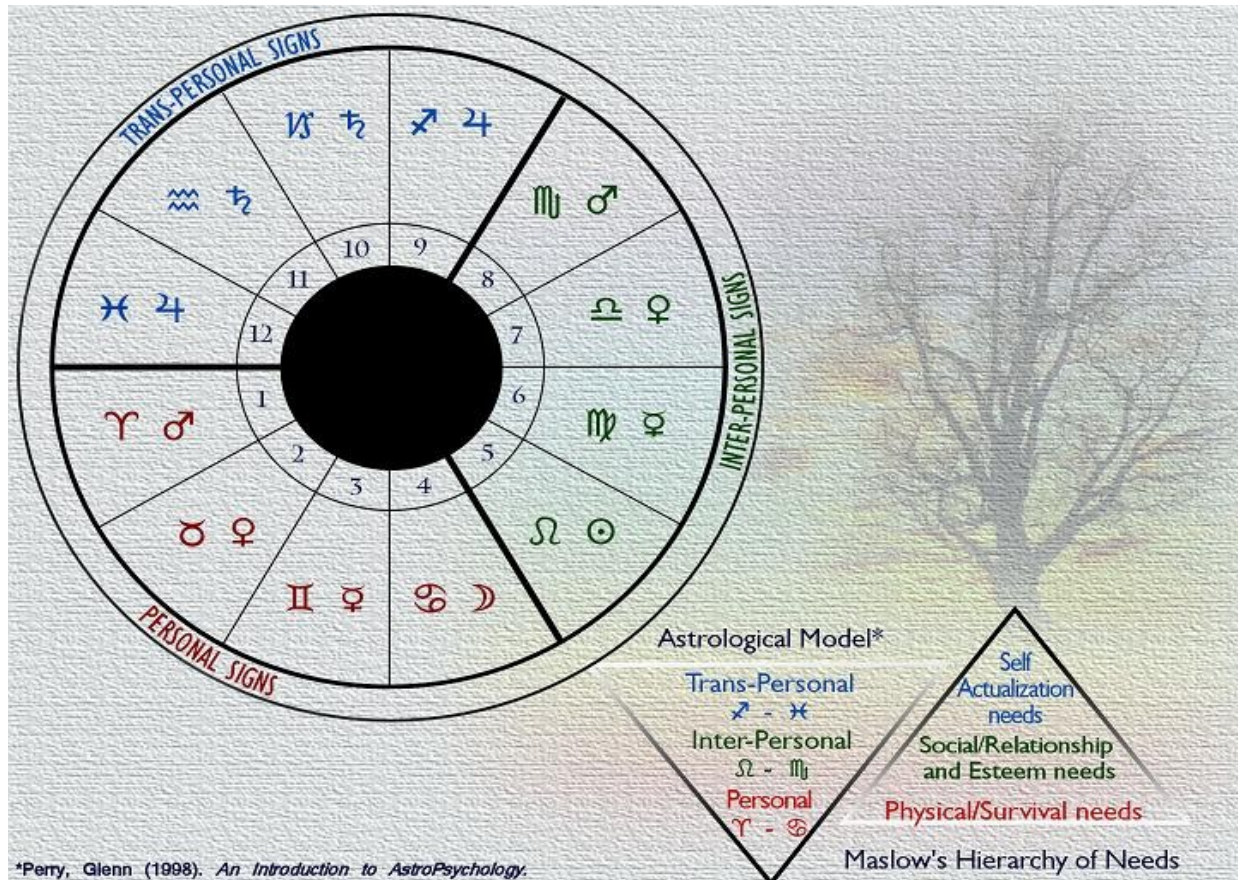


The Classical Roots of Aquarius & the Seed Moment of Mars: by Gary P. Caton Imbolc 2011

Western astrologers use the Tropical Zodiac which divides the ecliptic (a great circle in the sky which the Sun, Moon and planets appear to move through) into 12 equal signs. The tropical zodiac has a starting point based on the Earth's seasons -the vernal or spring equinox. This is the one you are used to seeing in the newspaper and reading your "horoscope" from. It hasn't changed for thousands of years and isn't going to change because it is based on the cross formed by the Earth's equinoxes and solstices, which also frames the 4 Seasons. Each of the 4 Seasons has a beginning (cardinal), middle (fixed) and ending (mutable) sign, just like the weather changes from April showers, to May flowers and then June weddings as the Earth begins to slowly change toward Summer.

The next steps are quite simple. Just like the Signs themselves are based on the empirical (observable) qualities of the Seasons, the Sign rulerships have a similar natural elegance to them. For anyone who truly understands the roots of astrology, the classical rulership schema is a thing of great beauty and natural harmony. This is largely because it is based on the empirical observations of the Aristotelian qualities of Cold vs. Hot in the natural world. If one lives at any considerable distance North of the Equator, it is quite clear that the year can be divided into two halves, one of which is mostly cold and one of which is mostly hot. Cold vs. Hot = Autumn/Winter vs Spring/Summer.

The “planets” who correspond to these qualities of cold/hot take their places accordingly. The Sun is clearly the celestial body who is the source of most heat and therefore rules over the hottest time of the year, Leo. The Moon, who is the fastest of all the visible celestial bodies, takes her place next to the Sun in the feminine sign of Cancer. We can see here that the quality of speed generally correlates with the quality of heat. Saturn, as a dim star and also the slowest of all the visible planets then takes his places opposite the Solar/Lunar rulerships, in the signs of Capricorn/Aquarius. The rest of the planets fan out from the Sun/Moon according to speed, taking rulership of one sign each by Day (masculine/fire or air) and one sign each by Night (feminine/water or earth).



The obvious caveat here is that as modern humans we know the Seasons are reversed for Northern & Southern Hemispheres. The Hellenistic Greeks who invented the system we use lived in the Northern Hemisphere and likely had no idea the Southern Hemisphere existed, so what follows is designed from that Northern Hemisphere perspective. Why it works in the Southern Hemisphere is a complicated question, too lengthy to address fully here, but in Australia and South Africa most Caucasian people come from European ancestry so perhaps this is why Western tropical astrology is so popular with them. In Mexico and South America the Spanish influence is strong. It appears we Westerners basically carried our early geography with us as a psychological framework as we spread across the globe.

Before we get back on track, we can see from the diagram above that the Sign rulerships change dramatically after Scorpio and Pisces. The last 4 signs of the zodiac are ruled by the Social planets and are thus seen as transpersonal -which means beyond personal. This is an important point which will return to later. But first, let us notice that each of the visible planets takes a Diurnal rulership AND a Nocturnal rulership. The Sun takes only a diurnal rulership because he IS Diurnal. The Moon takes only a nocturnal rulership because she IS nocturnal. The rest of the planets have two faces, if you will. One by day and one by night. In the daytime we humans generally go out of our homes and seek overt interaction to “make a living.” Thus, in its diurnal rulership, a planet delivers its essence in a straightforward manner. At night we generally return home, close our doors, restrict our movements, “go within” and ultimately to sleep. Thus, in its nocturnal rulership, a planet delivers its essence in a less direct manner.

Saturn is about boundaries, like your skin for instance. All boundaries are permeable, like your skin has pores, but sometimes these are closed and sometimes open. Likewise we have many important, if unspoken, rules about why, how and when it is appropriate to touch another person. From a transpersonal point of view, for the Hellenistic Greeks the most important boundary was the Wall of the City/State. The Wall must have openings, Gates to allow vital substances to cross. At night it would be important that these gates are closed, for protection against unseen enemies. But in the daytime the Gate must open to allow the Water Bearers to bring that most precious life giving substance back from the river or other source. In Aquarius, the vital forces to flow across and through Saturn’s boundaries. This is similar, but in reverse to the natural dilation cycles of the stomata in leafy plants. As Dawn arrives, we open our doors and move out to dialogue with the World and seek sustenance by trading goods and services with others.



Thus we can see that Saturn as ruler of Capricorn is about closed boundaries and exclusivity. The closing down and rigidly defining of boundaries is essentially a protective measure where the gates of the city/state are closed to ward off danger. Or on a less obvious and perhaps more psychological level they are closed for purposes of maintaining a social hierarchy. These hierarchical boundaries are enforced by using status, peer pressure, guilt and the threat of banishment to essentially coerce members of the state into rendering unto Caesar.

Saturn's rulership in Aquarius is quite different, however. Here we see the more direct manifestations of Saturn's limiting powers. Aquarius is about Humanity not only because it is a Trans-personal sign but also because the Water Bearer seeks to open up the rigid boundaries of Capricorn and share a little. This is enlightened self-interest. Behind every Aquarian act of sharing is an expectation of reciprocation or "quid pro quo" –even if it is only to help someone else as you were helped. Truly selfless giving comes under the dominion of Pisces (due to the exaltation of Venus). The main idea, though, is that dialogue, especially fair and equal dialogue –according to the rule of law (Saturn is exalted in Libra) –is an essentially Aquarian function.

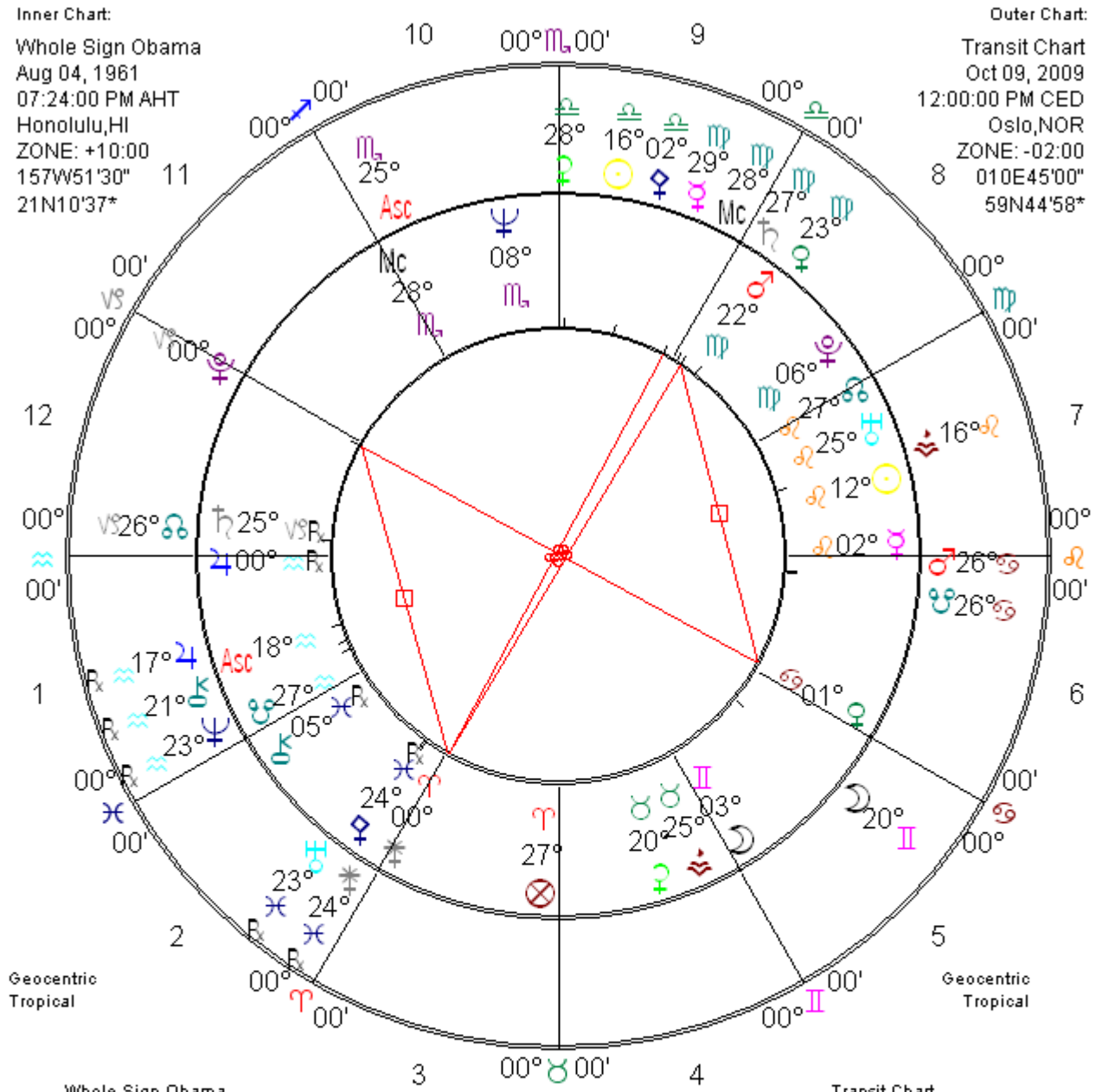
This Aquarian fair and equal dialogue is certainly not the "free market" of pure capitalism where the relatively strong (or rich) are left to prey upon the relatively weak (or poor) with relatively little constraints. Think about the statement *Caveat Emptor* or "let the buyer beware." Does this sound like a principle which should govern anything undertaken in the light of day? As we have seen in the latest financial crisis, the "free market" concept can inevitably lead to shady dealings because it is a nocturnal expression of Saturn –where fear or greed is the main governing doctrine and things happen behind closed doors.

Rather, these nocturnal/diurnal distinctions between the two Saturn ruled signs can be clearly seen in the concepts of negative and positive liberty. Some freedoms are ours by right of law; others are ours by right of there being no law restricting it. The concept of negative liberty refers to freedom from interference by other people. Negative liberty is freedom that is yours because no law has restricted your exercise of that liberty. This is an indirect or passive liberty and therefore nocturnal and comes under the rule of Saturn via Capricorn. There is no explicit law saying I have the right to celebrate my birthday every year — I exercise that liberty because there is no law saying I cannot exercise it. (I have thought it would be interesting to claim it as a religious holiday but have never actually been forced to do so). Economically, negative liberty is essentially the laissez-faire doctrine of "free markets" – meaning free from statements of positive liberty or guaranteed rights or protections from things which you are otherwise supposed to beware.

Positive liberty refers instead to the opportunity and ability to act to fulfill one's own potential, as opposed to negative liberty, which refers to freedom from restraint. Positive liberty is basically freedom guaranteed to you by the law. Nobody can take it away from you; it is an absolute entitlement. This is an active and assertive statement of clearly demarcated liberty and therefore diurnal and comes under the rule of Saturn via Aquarius. The freedom of speech guaranteed by the Bill of Rights is one such example that also exists in many liberal democracies; the right to private property is another example found in most countries. Economically, positive liberty is reflected in a planned economy and in the US this takes the form of the use of indicative planning, in which the state employs influence, subsidies, grants, and taxes, but does not compel.

This is what allowed me to make the following successful prediction in the Soul Sign Horoscopes Blog in early 2009: "So, with Jupiter in Aquarius this year we can expect that our Aquarius rising President –who also happens to have Jupiter in Aquarius –will be making strong statements about reinforcing our positive liberty. This will be both in terms of our guaranteed rights and in indicative planning for the economy." The guaranteed right he sought for us (and eventually won with Jupiter in Pisces) was Health Care. The indicative planning was subsidies for the huge economic stimulus package. Whether

you like these policies or not it was nevertheless a clear example of positive liberty and so in tune with both Obama's chart and the zeitgeist or spirit of the times. Obama was also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize during Jupiter in Aquarius, for being willing to open up boundaries and re-establish dialogue with the World after the post 9-11 reactionary nocturnal closed protective stance.



Whole Sign Obama

PI	Geo Lon	Rx	Decl.
☉	03° II 21' 25"		+15° 40'
☽	12° Q 32' 52"		+17° 03'
☿	02° Q 19' 54"		+20° 42'
♀	01° S 47' 22"		+21° 38'
♂	22° II 34' 36"		+03° 37'
♃	00° S 51' 31"	Rx	- 20° 35'
♅	25° S 19' 51"	Rx	- 21° 15'
♁	25° Q 16' 15"		+13° 45'
♆	08° II 36' 21"		- 12° 42'
♁	06° II 58' 40"		+20° 34'
♁	27° Q 53' 39"		+12° 12'

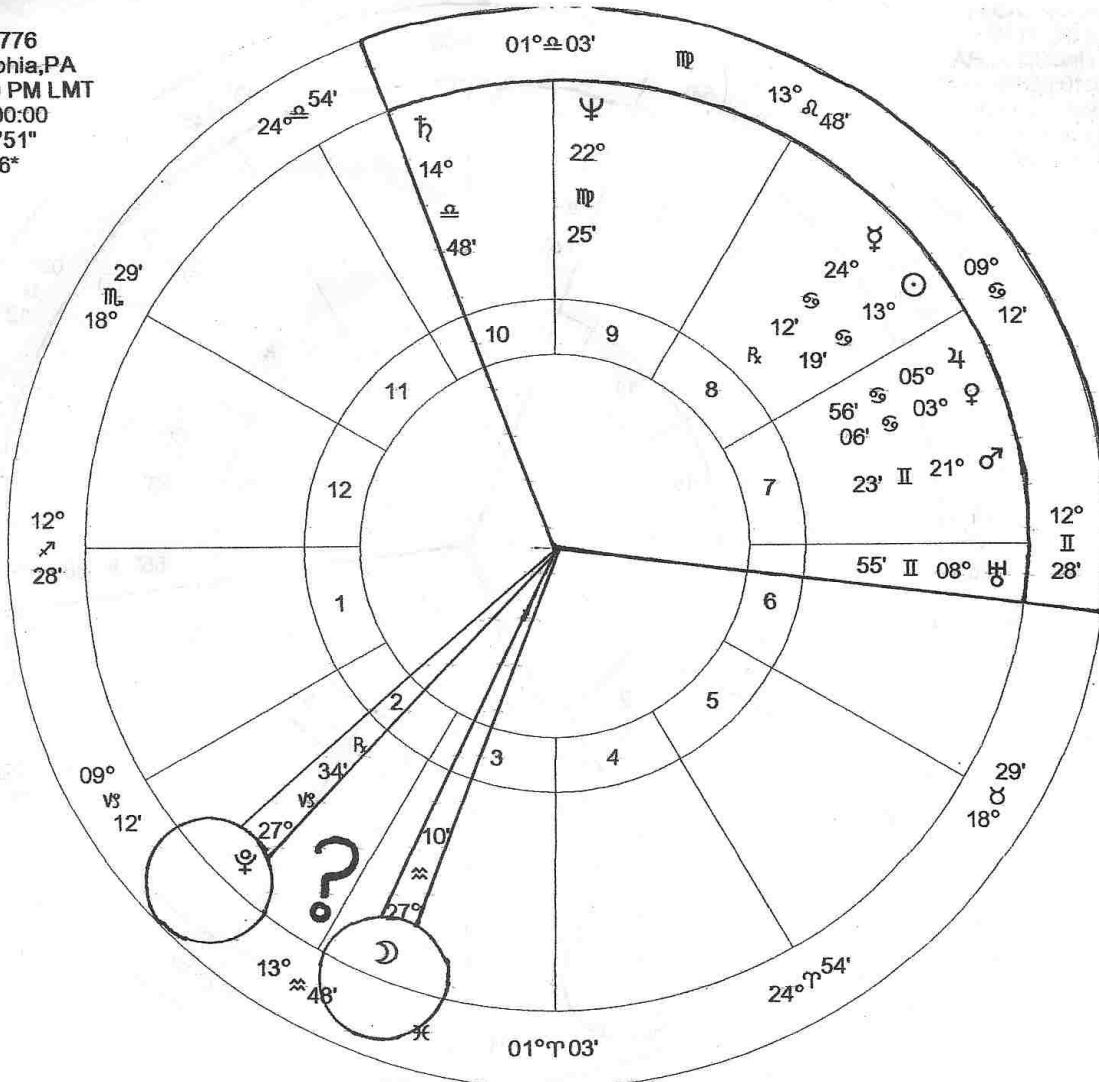
Whole Sign Obama		Transit Chart	
♁♂♂	0°00's	♁♂♂	0°00'a
♃♂♂	0°12'a	♂♂♂	0°11'a
♁♂♂	0°14'a	♂♂♂	0°13's
♅♂♂	0°17'a	♂♂♂	0°13's
♁♂♂	0°36'a	♂♂♂	0°24'a
♁♂♂	0°36'a	♂♂♂	0°29'a
♁♂♂	0°39's	♃♂♂	0°33'a
♅♂♂	0°56's	♃♂♂	0°38'a
♁♂♂	0°60's	♂♂♂	0°38'a
♁♂♂	0°60's	♁♂♂	0°45's

Transit Chart

PI	Geo Lon	Rx	Decl.
☉	20° II 50' 04"		+26° 03'
☽	16° S 14' 51"		- 06° 23'
☿	28° II 59' 33"		+02° 03'
♀	23° II 09' 01"		+04° 02'
♂	26° S 16' 24"		+21° 50'
♃	17° S 11' 24"	Rx	- 16° 42'
♅	27° II 39' 46"		+02° 46'
♁	23° S 47' 13"	Rx	- 03° 12'
♆	23° S 52' 50"	Rx	- 13° 58'
♁	00° S 51' 26"		- 18° 05'
♁	26° S 03' 20"		- 20° 56'

The chart for July 4, 1776 has an Aquarian Moon which is ruled by Saturn. The Moon is the People. American voters tend to be “ideological conservatives.” Every liberal moment in modern American political history has been both hard-won and brief. But Saturn is in Libra and he is ruled by Venus who is conjunct Jupiter. The American people tend to be “operational liberals.” Saturn ruled, they mostly dislike the idea of “big government” in principle, but yet they eventually adore any government policy that benefits them personally (Cancer). In those earlier liberal moments, the policies Democrats were able to enact -from financial regulation and Social Security to civil rights and Medicare -quickly became popular. Only time will tell if Health Care is the same.

Sibley
 Jul 04, 1776
 Philadelphia, PA
 05:10:00 PM LMT
 Zone: +00:00
 075W09'51"
 39N45'46*



**“The Chart of the Declaration of Independence, when Neptune and Pluto are included, is a good example of the Seesaw pattern...when only two planets are found at one end of the seesaw, they operate as a counterweight ... as a brake, or deterrent (to) the progress of the action signified by the larger group...
 ... one may consider them as the two-fold opening of a funnel (bucket) ...In the US chart ...the power of the planets in the larger group (is) released through two openings, represented by Pluto (Big Business) and by the Moon (the People).”
 Dane Rudhyar *Person Centered Astrology* 1976 Aurora Press: New York. Pgs. 202-3.**

**“Theres a Lady who’s sure all that glitters is gold –shes buying a stairway to Heaven
 ...Yes there are two paths you can go by, but in the long run, there’s still time to
 change the road you’re on...Dear Lady, can you hear the wind blow,
 And did you know, Your stairway lies on the whispering Wind...”**

On a much more personal level, the house which Aquarius represents is about to be activated in your chart for the next 26 months. The current phase in the synodic cycle between the Sun and Mars is that of a tantric heating up just prior to conception –which occurs at the seed moment of the New cycle –the conjunction of February 4, 2011 at 16 Aquarius. This is the conception of a new 26 month Journey –a new collective THEME for Mars. His conjunction with the Sun is analogous to the conjunction of Sun and Moon at the New Moon. The conjunction is the time the "seed message" is impressed upon Mars at the beginning of his cycle. Like the seed planted in a human womb, this union occurs in secret –as Mars is invisible from view in the Underworld. The Themes associated with the sign Aquarius and the house it represents in your chart are likely to be very active over the next couple years.

To see how this might work, go back and look at where the following Sun/Mars conjunctions fell in your chart and see if you can identify a theme which played itself out during the period until the next conjunction.

March 4, 1996 Sun conjunct Mars at 15 Pisces

May 12, 1998 Sun conjunct Mars at 22 Taurus

July 01, 2000 Sun conjunct Mars at 11 Cancer

August 10, 2002 Sun conjunct Mars at 24 Virgo

October 23, 2006 Sun conjunct Mars at 30 Libra/0 Scorpio

December 5, 2008 Sun conjunct Mars at 15 Sagittarius

Personally I can easily see these themes at play in my own life. As an Aquarius rising, Sagittarius is the 11th house of friends and social networks. Over the last 2 years I have worked very hard to develop a professional presence on Facebook and I have been active in the astrological organizations. As an Aries Sun, Sagittarius is the 9th house of travel and learning. Over the last 2 years I have traveled and lectured more widely than any other time in my career. As a Virgo Moon, Sagittarius is the 4th house of Home, Family and private life. I have definitely had some big challenges to wrestle with in this area in the last 2 years as I had to travel to see sick and injured family members several times.

Another way to view this Mars Theme is via the Elements. In the June/July '08 issue of *The Mountain Astrologer*, I explored the concept of the Hero in terms of the 4 Astrological elements. Those of you who have seen delineations of Jung's four psychological types according to astrological elements can probably see where I am going. There are four basic paths the hero/ine may take toward self-knowledge and spiritual awakening. When correlated with Carol Pearson's work in *The Hero Within*, these 4 can be seen as warrior/fire, martyr/water, wanderer/air and magician/earth. The warrior is the traditional figure we have come to almost exclusively identify with the hero. The warrior fights, slays or conquers and learns through competition. The martyr appeases or sacrifices and learns by taking care of others. The wanderer rejects what some would call safety–and flees it –learning instead by autonomy and independence. The magician seeks to incorporate and affirm all paths and learns through peer relationship.

With the Sun/Mars conjunction occurring in the Air sign of the Aquarius – the path of the Wanderer is being activated. Via the relationship between Sun/Mars the Wanderer Hero/ine is facing a “seed moment.” Like the planting of a seed, this is the crossing of a threshold which has as yet invisible yet extremely powerful consequences. It is my personal belief that the intent with which we approach these important moments makes a huge difference in the eventual experiences we will reap from them.

“I will Sing you to me”

The recently released movie *Australia* included several scenes about the indigenous people’s tradition of “singing,” which is more than just song as we think of it. Australian Aborigines believe the world was and is created through “singing” it into existence. This is why the young boy, when faced with the potential separation from a loved one, told them “I will sing you to me.”

Australian Aborigines see “reality” in two aspects: a primary Universe far more extensive than our physical world, and then there is the physical world we know it as. Aborigines call this primary world “Dreamtime” and believe it contains all of the past, present, and future. From this Dreamtime realm of Spirit, the world of physical energy continually rises as a dream.

To get to grips with the concept of Dreamtime, you have to understand it as an Aboriginal equivalent of the first two chapters of Genesis-with one significant difference. In Genesis, God was present first and created the Earth, the ‘living things’ and then fashioned Adam from clay. For Aborigines, the Earth was always present and the Ancestors created themselves (including the Sun and the Moon) from the Earth by singing! Once their work was done, the Ancestor Spirits changed again; into animals, stars, mountains or hills or other objects. For Indigenous Australians, this past is still alive and vital today and will remain so into the future. The Ancestor Spirits and their powers have not gone and are not distant, they are ever present.

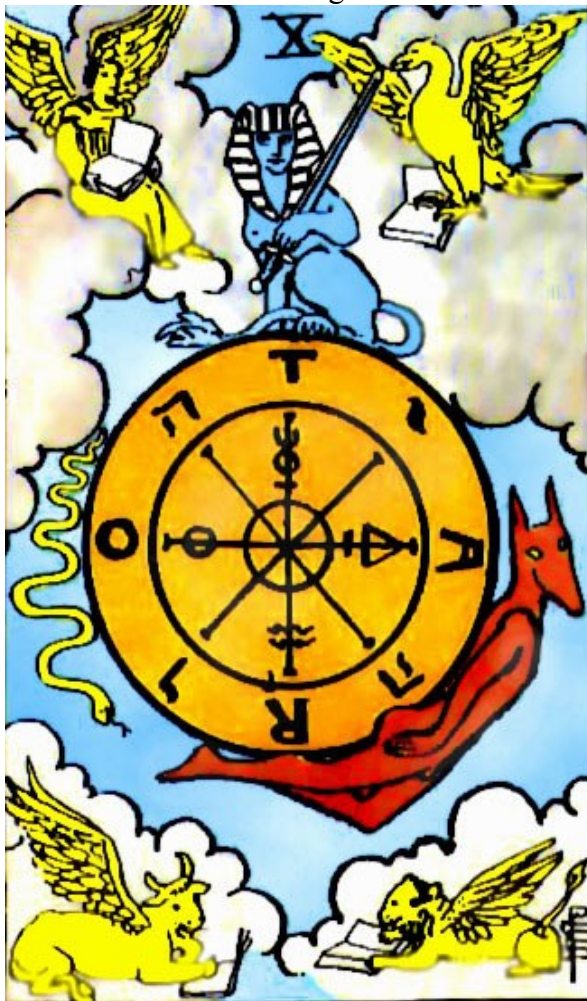


What this means is that this vital creative energy flow of the Dreamtime or Spirit World is all around us and needs us to consciously channel it -whether by singing or any other ritual. Otherwise, if ignored the vital energy from the Dreamtime will get blocked or dammed up and we would feel that as psychological pressure. If we don't do anything about this energetic pressure it will come bursting into our awareness as some overwhelming force over which we have no control -what we call Fate. On the other hand, if we consciously invite this energy to manifest in a particular way, we are co-creative.

To frame this process in terms of another culture/myth we can look at the Sabbats or holy days in the Wheel of the Year. Four of these fall on the solstices and equinoxes and are known as “quarter days” or "Lesser Sabbats."

The other four fall midway between these and are commonly known as “cross-quarter days,” "fire festivals," or "Greater Sabbats". The "quarter days" are loosely based on or named after the old Germanic festivals, and the "cross-quarter days" are similarly inspired by the Gaelic or Celtic fire festivals.

Samhain (pronounced Sow-ain) is considered to be the most important of the four 'greater Sabbats'. The Celts believed that Samhain was a time when the veil between World's was down and the Ancestors walk amongst us.



So it is as if these phase points represent portals or doorways to the Spiritual dimension. This is because it is the crossing of a phase point or threshold in the annual cycle of the Sun and so represents a bifurcation or “tipping point” where one kind of order or experience organically gives way to another.

I see the passage of any phase points on the Wheel of the Year as a rich opportunity to “sing” to the Dreamtime or purposefully engage the Creative energies of Spirit through ritual of any kind. When we add in the fact that the “seed moment” of the Sun/Mars cycle is falling near one of these points it makes it all that much more special.

Astrologically a cross-quarter day is a day falling approximately halfway between a solstice and an equinox and thus at the middle degrees of the fixed signs: Taurus, Leo, Scorpio and Aquarius. These are the same 4 symbols represented on the Wheel of Fortune in the Tarot, with the Man being Aquarius and the Eagle standing in as the higher octave of the Scorpion. This reference to the Fixed Signs of the Zodiac clearly suggests they are crucial to the material manifestation of spiritual energies.

The Sun/Mars conjunction is activating the Themes of Aquarius for the next 26 months. This conjunction speaks to a particular area of your life. Consider the instructions below as a starting point and meditate on what this means for your Sun Sign, your Moon Sign, and your Ascendant Sign.

Aries: The Sun/Mars conjunction is activating your house of social groups and acquisition. Speak your truth from your heart and tune into the process of becoming. Your mind will catch up eventually and grant the subtlety of intellect, but for now feeling the essence of who you are becoming is most important.

Taurus: The Sun/Mars conjunction is activating your house of career. Ambition is really about what you want to be known for. Tune into the process of becoming that which you idealize and the accomplishments will follow.

Gemini: The Sun/Mars conjunction is activating your house of expansion and higher knowledge. Can you Feel the truth of your World-view, or does it seem stale? Forget the details for now, but instead focus on what you Feel to be true at the highest levels.

Cancer: The Sun/Mars conjunction is activating your house of merging with another. Your heart wishes to dive into the hidden depths where your intellect must explore cautiously. Fools rush in where Angels fear to tread, but a tether line connecting you to the known World is a safe compromise.

Leo: The Sun/Mars conjunction is activating your house of partnerships. You cannot afford to rationalize away what your heart is telling you. Share the truth of your heart and then give yourself and your partner time to reflect. Then sort out what needs to make sense and what needs to feel right.

Virgo: The Sun/Mars conjunction is activating your house of craftsmanship. Making I statements to express your feelings will achieve clarity. I feel (state an emotion), when you (state a behavior) because (state the effect this behavior is having on you). Addressing behaviors instead of persons shows unconditional positive regard for the person with discrimination toward action.

Libra: The Sun/Mars conjunction is activating your house of self-expression. You are a feeling creature and it's time to be real about that. Your feelings are as valid as anyone else's and you can be true about and to them while still allowing other people their own uniqueness. It's not either/or –it's both/and.

Scorpio: The Sun/Mars conjunction is activating your house of home. Letting those who are closest to us know how we feel is something we can never do enough of and right now it feels natural, so shed the secrecy and go for it.

Sagittarius: The Sun/Mars conjunction is activating your house of communications. Speaking from the heart is important now and a good clue to whether you are really doing that is whether you are able to say it in fewer words than you usually take to say stuff.

Capricorn: The Sun/Mars conjunction is activating your house of values/possessions/money. For once in your life let your conscience be your guide and let the chips fall and dollars flow from that awareness. Your inner scrooge is being visited by the angels to soften him up.

Aquarius: The Sun/Mars conjunction is activating your house of Self. You are the cog in the center of the wheel from which all things flow. Make sure people know how you feel and where your heart is leading you and you will find that the true depth of your intentions begins to materialize.

Pisces: The Sun/Mars conjunction is activating your house of Universal connections. Your psychic powers are focused onto the feeling essence of everything. Hear the forest speak through every heart you meet. Find that Universal dream that we are all chasing within you and without you.