



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera!

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

September 17, 2013

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About last Tuesday: An apology

FOR reasons that puzzle me, last Tuesday morning a second notice was sent for the week's newsletter. This seems to have been auto-generated by the server which hosts my website and should have been impossible many times over. I forgot and left the program open when I turned off the computer Monday night. Which means that Google Chrome tried to re-launch it the next morning. It would have been stopped because it did not have a password, which is what has always happened before, I have seen it dozens of times. It would then need to go to one, two, three screens, scroll down, set the header, regenerate the email itself, and then broad-

cast it.

The first I knew of it was when it sent me the "I'm all finished" email. I declined to email an apology as I've seen mistaken broadcasts followed by apologies for mistaken broadcasts, which I think only compounds the problem. You all took it very well. I am hoping you ignored it, as you should have. My apologies to you all.

SILLY SEASON

NO, Bashar al-Assad is not Adolf reincarnated, the very idea is absurd. Hitler was destroyed. He may never return, certainly not anytime in the next three centuries, at least.

The ghost who walks among us is that of **Josef Goebbels**, his propaganda minister. There are a thousand self-appointed blogs, each claiming to be THE TRUTH, each offering cheap, crude fear-mongering. It is the same now as it has always been, that we eagerly seize simple, emotionally satisfying ideas, while we find independent thought and analysis difficult and unsettling. But sanity insists that we try, however difficult the path may be. Astrology can be our guide, but we must dare to use it, we must be skillful in its use, we must have a vigorous debate over what it tells us.

ASTRO MED A to Z

Tyrannical or Despotic Disposition may arise from some or all of these elements, viz. Sun, Mars, Saturn, and Uranus, the nature of the despotism varying with the composition of the particular horoscope. Fixed signs are generally to the fore, and Mercury or the Moon is nearly always afflicted by Saturn, but the real psychology at the back of the manifestation of tyranny must be sought for. Many despots have been driven to cruelty by sheer fear of their lives; others have been naturally brutal and bloodthirsty; others weak tools in the hands of determined ministers. George III had many planets in mutables, while Mars is elevated in Aries on the MC square Moon and Uranus conjoined. Mercury is conjunct Saturn. Frederick of Prussia showed us the Lights opposed from 4th to 10th afflicted by both malefics. Uranus aspects all four. Louis XIV had Neptune rising in Scorpio; Sun on MC, Moon in Leo opposed to Saturn; Mars sextile Uranus. Napoleon was probably Scorpio rising with Mars trine Uranus, Moon opposite Saturn. . . .
—from **Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology**, by Charles Carter. **Buy.**

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ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

Notes

17	07:18	♀ ✕ ♂
	13:59	☽ ✕
18	17:43	☽ ♃ ☾
	20:54	♀ ♂ ♃
19	01:50	♀ ✕ ♀
	08:49	☽ ☾
	11:13	○ 26 ✕ 41 Full/Void/Harvest
	16:58	☽ ♃
20	02:21	♀ ☐ ♃
	15:28	♀ ☽
21	01:26	☽ ♂ ♀ Void
	05:19	♃ ✕ ♀
	22:34	☽ ☽
22	12:06	♀ ♃ ♂
	20:45	☾ ♃ Fall Equinox
23	07:14	☽ ✕ ♃ Void

Extracted & adapted from **AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-2020**. **Buy.**

Vivian Robson's STAR OF THE WEEK

★★★☆☆

ZAVIJAVA beta Virginis 27 ♍ 21

Notes: A pale yellow star situated below the head of Virgo. From Al Zawiah, the Angle or Corner (see Zaniah), but according to Bullinger the name means the Gloriously Beautiful. Symbolically called Correct Weighing. This star was used for confirming the Einstein theory during the solar eclipse of 21st September, 1922, which fell close to it.

Influence: Of the nature of Mercury and Mars. It gives beneficence, force of character, strength, combative movements and destructiveness.

MARKEB kappa Argus 29 ♍ 04

Notes: A small star in the Buckler of the Ship. **Influence:** Of the nature of Saturn and Jupiter. It gives piety, a wide knowledge, educational work and voyages. **If rising:** Profitable journeys in company with Jupiterian . . . —from **Fixed Stars**, by Vivian Robson. **Buy.**



Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990



IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

The Decanates in Horary Astrology

THE **CARDINAL** Signs give their enterprising vibration to the Cardinal decanates, so that when on the Ascendant or the cusp of the house ruling the quesited there will be an inner urge toward immediate activity on the part of the inquirer or the person inquired about – as the case may be. The chart on p. 19 shows the Ascendant intensified in action by being in a Cardinal Sign & also in a Cardinal decanate. This is indicative of still faster action in the question than anticipated.

The **FIXED** decanate of any Sign on the Ascendant signifies an inner determination or stubbornness that may not be at once apparent in the querent (or quesited if on the cusp of the house representing him) but it will register in the matter sooner or later. It steadies a Cardinal or Common Sign & increases the stubbornness of a Fixed Sign. Where there is fixity there is more or less adherence to some detail & usually a promise that must be kept, especially because of being nagged, dunned or otherwise constantly reminded. Something already begun has established itself & must be taken into consideration now.

The **COMMON** or **MUTABLE** decanate of any Sign describes the querent (if on the Ascendant) or the quesited (if on the cusp of his house) as open to persuasion, ready to defer to the opinions of others, more obedient; and willing to give up, even in Fixed Signs, but under the greatest pressure or duress only. They are the people who say, in common parlance, "But he twisted my arm!" — **Simplified Horary Astrology**, 1960.

Buy.

Fall Preview: War

HAVING considered the spring vs. fall equinoxes as rival beginnings to the year, it seems to me that agrarian societies, in the northern hemisphere, are largely ruled by the spring equinox. Farmers and their fields slumber through the winter, whereupon life returns with the warm showers and sunny days of spring.

But it is also clear the opposite applies to urban dwellers. September, for those who live in cities, begins the new season, the new start, the new life. It has always been this way. If you live in the city, spring is just another moment in time, a prelude to summer, in fact. When, exhausted from the year's work, we take advantage of hot, lazy summer days to rest and recharge our engines, preparatory to a new start in September.

Such is one of the things I learned from Vettius Valens, whose Egyptian-based calendar started on August 28th. Did September mark the new season in agrarian Egypt? So far as I can tell, no. In Egypt, the Nile floods from July into November. The end of August was simply another of the endless days of floodwaters. The start of the year in late August was of no greater importance to them than starting the year on January 1 is to us.

It's the French who have most gotten behind fall as the start of things. Thanks to an unruly mob on a July day in 1789, the French now take the better part of two full months off, from mid-July to, in fact, the 15th of September, which they term **La Rentrée**, or the restart.

Since we now live in cities and not on farms, I think we would be justified in using the Fall Equinox chart as our primary annual ingress chart.

So with war in Syria staring us in the face, I wondered what the fall ingress chart would say about that. Set for Washington, DC, the Capital of the Universe, it may be summed up in a single word: War. You will find the chart on pg. 4, as usual.

Rather than throw you into the deep end, here is a brief introduction to mundane astrology, the astrology of nations and states:

Ingress charts are set for the moment the Sun enters one of the cardinal signs, which are, Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn. Or, in other words, the moments that spring, summer, fall and winter arrive. The fall/Libra ingress will be at 4:44 pm EDT (8:44 pm

GMT) on Sunday, September 22.

Our starting point in reading ingress charts is to look for planets in the various houses. These houses have slightly different meanings from their natal values:

1st: The country and its inhabitants.

2nd: Wealth, banks, stocks.

3rd: Transportation, communication. Neighboring countries.

4th: Land. Crops. Mines. Ordinary people.

5th: Entertainment, children, schools, sports.

6th: Health. The military. Labor.

7th: Other countries. Foreign affairs.

8th: Death. Finances with other countries.

9th: Shipping. Religion. Law.

10th: The leader of the country. The nation's reputation.

11th: Congress. Allies.

12th: Prisons, criminals, spies, hospitals, secret enemies.

(Adapted from **Mundane Astrology**, by H.S. Green, one of three books I put into a comprehensive introduction to the subject.)

Note that standard chart-turning means that should planets turn up in the 7th house, of other countries, and thereby become of interest during the period, that one can turn the chart to see how that country will relate to this one. If there are no planets in the 7th house, then we would presume foreign affairs to not be pressing during the period of the ingress.

The planets have pretty much the same meanings as they have in, say, horary, if not quite their natal ones.

So for the fall equinox, set for Washington, you will note Mars, in Leo, in the 7th house. Green says, if Mars in the 7th is especially well-dignified and well-aspected, that we might have good times abroad. But otherwise, war. You will also note it is the only truly angular planet in the chart.

Regrettably, this Mars is not well-aspected. It is the apex of a T-square that includes the Moon, Saturn, Venus and the nodes, arrayed from the 3rd to the 9th. It is disposed by the Sun, which we find in the 8th, of death.

So Mars in the 7th means we have an enemy. Can astrology tell us who this enemy may be?

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This is a serialization of Vivian Robson's
A Student's Text-Book of Astrology.

Part 35:

General Principles of Judgment *continued:—*

A retrograde planet usually denotes hindrances in matters signified by it and much of its good or evil does not materialize. This position does not, however, make it more malefic as has sometimes been erroneously stated. A stationary planet is always very important as its influence is thereby intensified.

7. The planet ruling the rising sign, i.e. the sign on the cusp of the 1st house, is called the Lord or Ruler of the Ascendant, and is always of great importance. In a general way it typifies the native himself, and is frequently said to be the ruler of the horoscope, but it need not necessarily be so if there is another body that is exceedingly strong by sign, position, and aspect. Always try to determine which planet is strongest in the map as that body will have great influence over everything. Such a planet should be in an angle and strong by sign & aspect. Strength is increased by elevation, and the most elevated planet in the map is always important, as also is a rising planet, and one with a large number of aspects. In the mere matter of strength the nature of the aspects involved is not of consequence, and the strongest planet will often be more evil than good.

8. In general cardinal signs & angles tend to act more markedly on the physical plane & in events, fixed signs & succedent houses on the emotional plane, and mutable signs & cadent houses on the mind, but these distinctions are merely general as all the signs & houses act on all planes.

Note that characteristics shown by planets in angles or cardinal signs will always be marked, whereas those denoted by planets in obscure positions will operate more internally & will not be so noticeable outside.

— **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**, by Vivian Robson. **Buy.**

Habit

from **The Encyclopaedia of Medical Astrology**, by H.L. Cornell

HABIT—The Saturn influence tends greatly to make people governed by habit, as Saturn rules over habits, and tends to make them fixed. Habit is also the result of automatic action by the Moon. The aspects and position of the Moon govern the general habits of life, and the functional activities. The Moon has an important influence over the personal habits. The Moon well-ascpected in Taurus gives methodical habits. The Sun influence leads to tendencies which are later taken up by the Moon action and made automatic, and result in unconscious behavior. (See Automatic.) The influences of the negative signs & planets tend to the formation of habits, whether good or bad, being more related to the unconscious, or the subconscious realms of the mind. The following subjects have to do with Habits, their causes, nature, etc., which see in the alphabetical arrangement when not more fully considered here.

ACQUIRED HABITS—Are generally acquired under the action of & influences of the Moon, and strong Moon characters are greatly influenced by environment & external conditions. (See Acquired Habit.)

BAD HABITS—Saturn conjunct or ill-aspect Mars or Venus by direction; Jupiter square or oppose the Sun; Venus afflicted at birth; Venus afflicted by Mars; Venus afflicted in Virgo, and especially in the 6th house. With Venus afflicted in Virgo, carelessness in the habits should be avoided.

THE HABIT BETTER—The Sun con-figured with the lord of the Ascendant; the native is more comely & the habit better.

CARELESS HABITS—Venus afflicted in Aries; common signs on the angles.

CREATURES OF HABIT—The Sun, Moon, and many planets in fixed signs on the angles . . .

Encyclopaedia of Medical Astrology, by HIL. Cornell. **Buy.**

Health and the Hyleg

from **Man and the Zodiac**, by David Anrias

THE HYLEG is that point in the horoscope upon which health & life depend, requiring careful consideration when estimating the probable length of life & strength of the body. According to some astrologers, the hyleg is not concerned with health so much as longevity. Furthermore, opinions vary as to the right way of selecting the hyleg; others think the Sun for men & the Moon for women.

According to Claudius Ptolemy, the father of Western astrology, the following houses are "hylegical", the first, the seventh, the ninth, and tenth houses and that half of the eleventh house nearest the M.C. If the Sun is therein, it is hyleg; if it is not, but the Moon is, she is hyleg; if neither is, the ascendant is considered. An orb of five degrees above the cusp of the ascendant and twenty-five below would be the limits of reckoning, whilst the Western angle would count from five degrees below to twenty-five above. The remaining houses are unimportant, for they could not be hyleg. The two luminaries & the ascendant must be considered regarding the length of life. If the ascendant is negative, it absorbs the influence of the Moon & its aspects; if it be positive, then the Sun & its aspects must be considered.

The luminaries in benefic aspect to the ascendant insure a sound body. On the other hand, bad aspects to that point or the luminaries menace the life. Favourable and afflicting aspects to the ascendant must be weighed up to form a correct judgment of health.

If all three influences are well-aspected, a healthy & long life can be expected.

Man and the Zodiac, by David Anrias. **Buy.**



Of course. If Mars ruled Leo, we would look directly for a nation ruled by Leo (France) and declare them to be the enemy, but as Mars does not rule Leo, we would then look to the party that Mars does rule, as he will command them, just as he is himself commanded by his ruler, the Sun. There are classical lists of which sign rules which country. Note these lists are somewhat dated.

We find that Mars rules Scorpio and Aries. If there are no planets in Scorpio nor Aries, then we would be safe in concluding that our enemies were more imaginary than real, since they had not taken actual manifestation, which would be a planet in one or the other sign. I am going over this in detail so that you will not scream at me when I pull a surprised rabbit out of a hat, which I am about to do.

In Aries, we find Uranus, retrograde. It is in a friendly trine to Scorpio, which means our Arian enemy means us no harm. What countries are ruled by Aries? Among them, England, Germany and Syria. Note that Uranus being both in a friendly trine as well as retrograde, the surprises our Aries “friends” may give us, such as refusing to support our war plans, will be of the disappointing sort. Our special relationship with England is somewhat imaginary this time, *no*? Remember this is only a seasonal chart. The Brits still love us.

Among countries ruled by Scorpio: **Syria**. Of modern countries, aside from Norway, Syria is virtually the only one.

THERE was a great deal of excitement this past week on Monday when the American Secretary of State, John Kerry, made a gaff and said that if Syria turned its chemical weapons over to the international community, that the US would call off its military strike.

By the end of the week the US and Russia had worked out a plan that would destroy Syrian chemical weapons and prevent war. Will it? **The astrology says no.**

As I understand the preliminary arrangements, the Russians say that if Syria does not comply that the matter will be taken up by the UN Security Council. Russia has presumably given Secretary of State John Kerry a nod and a wink that if it comes to a UN showdown, that they will not veto a tough resolution, which is to say, one that would let the US attack at will.

For its part, the US has said it retains the right to attack anyway, without UN sanction. Russia has presumably given the US a nod and a wink that it will create no further fuss if we behave like criminals and do so. If I

Fall Equinox 2013 – Washington

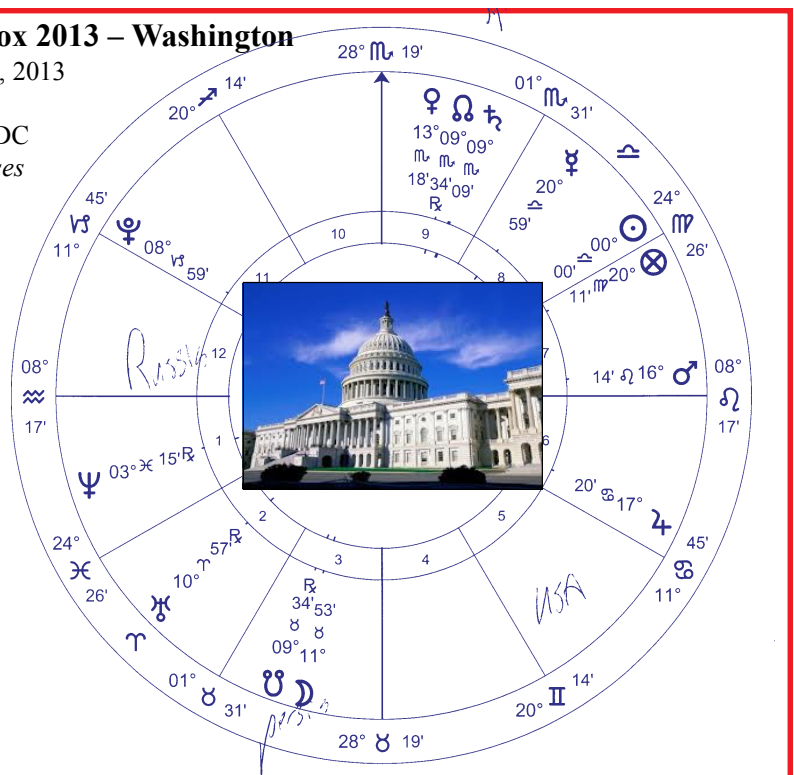
September 22, 2013

4:45 pm EDT

Washington, DC

Placidus houses

Mean node



am right, such is what diplomacy is and always has been.

On the other hand, the Russians have presumably given the Syrians a nod and a wink that they will continue to supply weaponry and will continue to block unfavorable UN resolutions.

The missing man in this three-way dance is Syria itself. What will they do?

It is not hard to predict the Syrians will walk, rather than sign. If the US does not formally renounce war, there is no advantage to Syria itself. Signing, in fact, means Syria would surrender whatever leverage it may have in the situation. Remember that since 1967 there have been countless opportunities for the Syrians to kiss and make peace with the Israelis. Syria’s single condition? Return of the Golan Heights. These are a very stubborn people.

It is plainly clear the US plans to use some trivial violation as an excuse for an all-out attack. Such as was the case in 2003, when Iraq turned itself inside out trying to please the Americans. Or, in 2001, when the Taliban offered up Bin Laden in exchange for a formal indictment against him. Which is the way countries relate to other countries, by means of law. We declined and invaded instead. Did you know?

Such was the case in 1990, when we first gave Iraq a nod and a wink to invade Kuwait, and then in 1991 brutally declared war on the country instead. In the weeks before the invasion Iraq was virtually begging for

some face-saving way of escape.

In this regard, Mr. Putin’s recent **statement**, as published in the New York Times, seems to have worked against him and his mission to avoid war. In it, he made the mistake of lecturing Americans, perhaps from years of frustration at American ignorance.

American response was swift and predictable. Who is this evil, gay-bashing dictator to tell us what to do? Better he mind his own business. What sign rules Russia? *Aquarius*.

Where is Aquarius in the ingress? Why, the first house of ourself as a nation. How dare he poke his nose! While the French like to dress up diplomacy as some sort of fine art, it is often no more than nods and winks and visceral reactions. Where is Saturn, ruler of Aquarius and thus of the Russian president? Why, in Scorpio, where he is clearly siding with Syria, our enemy.

Putin’s New York Times blunder may have been so serious as to galvanize Congress to support the President’s war plans when these are presented, yet again, in another week or two. Note that Congress is the 11th house of the ingress chart, which is Sagittarius. As the house is empty it means that Congressional approval is not important and that Congress will be bypassed, but pretend you’re a Congressman and turn the chart to find your ruler, Jupiter. The 11th house is 1, the 12th is 2, etc. Jupiter will be found in the 8th from the 11th. Which has Cancer on the cusp, symbolizing The People in the house of death. Congress wants no part of this.

FORTUNATELY for America, We Have a Military! As shown, graphically, by Jupiter in the 6th house, of the military itself. Jupiter says our military is large, Cancer says it is ours and that we are proud of it. Cancer being a water sign, the specific branch of the military the ingress chart has presented to us is our navy, as that is the waterborne branch of the service. Quite specifically, as Cancer relates to the high seas, while Scorpio is stagnant water and Pisces is fog and mist. The chart clearly tells us we have a large sea-going navy. Best in the world, in fact.

Note that a country's military is in the 12th house from its enemies, the 6th being the 12th from the 7th. You could say that our enemies never see what's coming. Which is a good thing as far as it goes.

Regrettably, it does not go far enough in this case. We find that Jupiter is in trine to Syrian Scorpio, which means they have been studying us and our ways. Note that Scorpio is in Syria's third house, of communications and nearby countries and that, to Syria, a navy parked in the eastern regions of the Mediterranean Sea is local, in other words, 3rd house to them.

Note that Jupiter is ruled by the Moon in Taurus. The Moon rules the common people and, conjunct the south node, is weak. Taurus being a fixed sign, we have fixed ideas (3rd house) and fixed values (Taurus = values), to which we emotionally cling (Moon).

Note that for its part, Syria has Pluto in Capricorn on its side, in its 6th house / our 12th, and that this Pluto opposes our navy. The trine from Cancer to Scorpio means they can "see" our navy, while the trine from Pluto to the Moon means we can "see" theirs, but, the Moon being past the point of exact, we do not want to and the south node says we do not have to. We merely presume that we're bigger (Jupiter) than they are.

For its part the Syrian military (Pluto) is ruled by, and in tight sextile to, Saturn, in Scorpio, which is Syria's own sign. The sextile means they have excellent command and control, by the way. Saturn means control is exercised by the government, which means by Mr. Assad. Pluto opposite to Jupiter, they have our navy square in their sights.

At this point I must tell you the "nuclear degree" is 9 Leo, Pluto's position when we carelessly bombed Hiroshima. Pluto is now just shy of 9 Capricorn, which is an inconjunct and an aspect of invisibility, of "not seeing it coming." Both Saturn and the node are themselves at 9 Scorpio, exactly square to the evil degree.

On that same awful day, August 6, 1945, 8:16 am JST, the Moon and Saturn were conjunct at 18 of Cancer, which is uncomfortably close to our navy in the fall's ingress chart.

Does this mean the war will be nuclear? No. Nuclear weapons have been used repeatedly since 1945, generally by the US, though also by Israel and, if my sources are correct, by South Africa. They have failed each time, thus giving the illusion they have not been used at all. This is one of the **great secrets** of the post-WWII world, though I do not expect anyone to believe me. I am hopeful our luck holds. It may only be that nuclear-powered ships will be attacked.

Because when the war starts it looks very much to me that the Syrians will make short work of our navy. Jupiter is a planet of abundance. Not of power. Jove throws thunderbolts which are loud and noisy and scary, (thunder and lightning, shock and awe) but when was the last time thunder actually hurt anyone? So far as Jupiter's resources, sextile to the Moon, his ruler, which is conjunct the south node, our resolve is weak. The Jupiter-Uranus square is fickle, the square to Mercury, in Libra, is puffery.

IN SUM: **There will be war**, it will be with Syria, and as the major planets fall in Syria's 3rd house, it will be local to Syria and fought on its terms, not ours. In other words, if we should go to war with Syria, it will be Syria's war to lose. Not ours to win. There will be great loss of life. Ours as much as theirs, but in both cases, losses will be hidden, as the Sun, in our 8th, and Uranus, in the Syrian 8th, are both intercepted.

Our leader – and the nation's prestige – is shown by the 10th house, which is 28 Scorpio. This late degree shows that he/we are out of room and out of luck. His ruler, the same Mars in Leo that is creating the war itself, tells us, by its position in the 7th, of war, that we have brought war upon ourselves, that we are its engineer and agent. As the 7th is itself the 10th from the 10th, we could do nothing else. Remember that Leo suffers from the sin of pride.

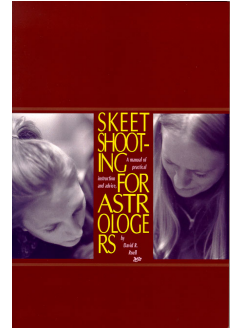
Andrew J. Bacevich, a Professor of International Relations and History at Boston University, has suggested that Obama's request for Congressional authorization may set a precedent and force future presidents to obey the Constitution and get a declaration of war from Congress. If so, the only declarations that will mean anything will be unanimous or near-unanimous ones. Anything less risks buyer's remorse if the results are not stellar. In this case, if a US navy

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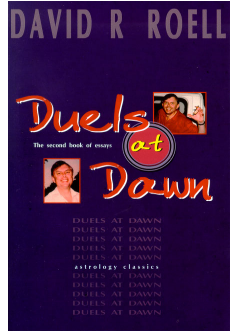
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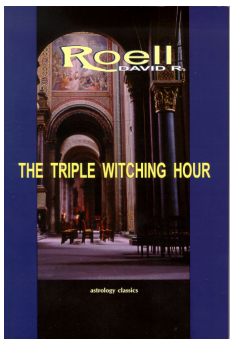
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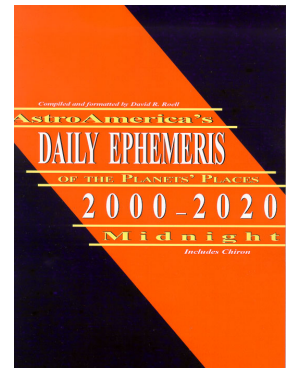
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warship ends up at the bottom of the Mediterranean, there will be calls for the president's resignation. Vladimir Putin is trying to save this man's ass as well as well as the lives of our brave sailors. We should stop carping and encourage his efforts.

THE SYRIAN SIDE

BUT this is only the view from Washington. How do things look from Syria itself? If the Washington ingress shows war with Syria, surely the same chart, set for Damascus, will show war, too?

Recast the same ingress chart for Damascus and we find Pluto in the 7th. Things will not be exactly pleasant for the Syrians. Remember this is a quarterly chart. Remember also that I have not looked at previous ingress charts.

In turning the same trick as I did with Mars in Leo in the Washington chart, I was initially stumped. Then I realized the solution was square in front of me.

Pluto in Capricorn in the 7th is ruled by Saturn in Scorpio in the 5th. Since Syria is ruled by Scorpio, that meant its transformative (Pluto) war was *with itself*. The definition of a civil war. Astrology had gone literal, yet again.

I was yet more stumped by Saturn's placement in the 5th house. What could that tell me? That Syria's children were at war? That Syria was merely acting? That war was an entertainment?

No. The various combatants were in a *sporting contest*. In Scorpio, a *life or death contest*. Like, say, *gladiators in the Coliseum in ancient Rome* were sporting competitors engaged in life or death struggle.

Suddenly I understood the YouTube videos, such as the ones of the gas attack. The contestants are using *the media* as a means of *creative entertainment*.

By contrast, hard news and facts would be the *3rd house*. Broadcasting would be the *9th*. In the 3rd house we find Mars in Leo, which gives a great deal of intelligence and energy to news reporting, but now we look more closely at the 5th house itself.

On the cusp of the 5th we find Libra, which means there are two parties (for and against the current Syrian government), but, ruled by Venus, which we find debilitated in Scorpio, intercepted in the 5th house itself, the fight will be dirty, intense, and unfair. The north node tells us there will be endless amounts of energy (weapons?) provided. Mars in the 3rd ruling Venus and in square to it, with Neptune opposing by house but not sign, the news we get is unlikely to be truthful, but there will be a lot of it.

Fall Equinox 2013 – Damascus

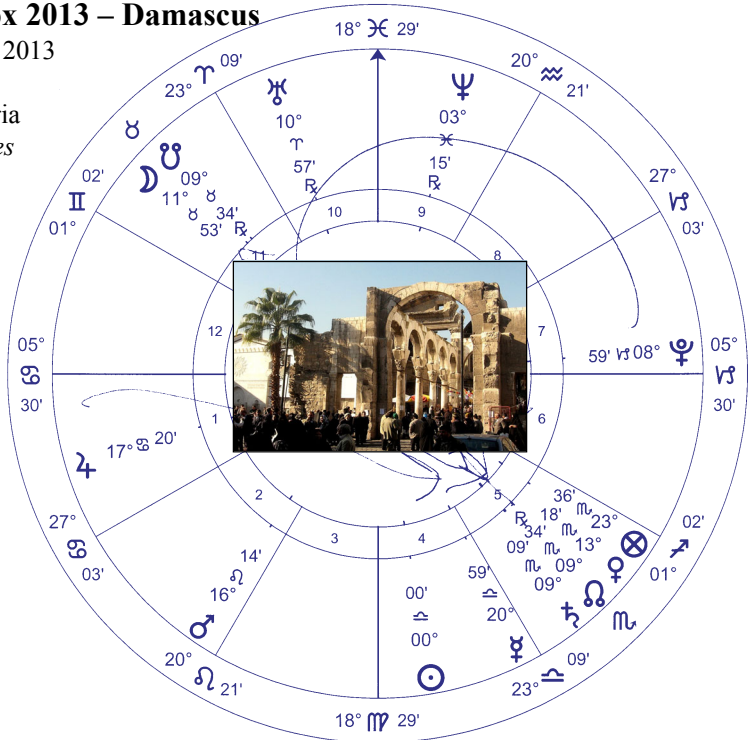
September 22, 2013

4:45 pm EDT

Damascus, Syria

Placidus houses

Mean node



Opposite the 5th house morass, in the 11th house of allies, the chart ruler, the Moon. Moon in Taurus, Syria's 11th house allies – Russia, for example – are fixed (like the sign itself), but, conjunct the south node, are fickle. We have already worked out that the Russians seem to be giving both sides nods and winks. Syria would be advised to not put a great deal of faith in Russian promises, as, Moon conjunct the south node, as well as opposite Saturn, the ruler of Russian Aquarius, the Russians may not be there when the chips are down.

IN the Syrian ingress, the military is notably absent. The 6th house is empty. It has Sagittarius on the cusp. The ruler is Jupiter, in the 1st. Which is to say that the Syrian armed forces are loyal to the government, since Jupiter is exalted in Cancer, and the 1st house is the Syrian nation itself. Ruled by the Moon in Taurus in the 11th of allies, the Syrian military is supported by Syria's allies, though, at the moment, the Russians may well be spending more money on Syria than they would like, which is the south node.

Jupiter exalted in Cancer and in the first house, the Syrian people (Cancer/1st) are united in their belief that war has been imposed on them: Jupiter opposite Pluto in the house of other countries.

Presuming America is the enemy of the moment, then our military is shown by the 12th house. Presto-chango, we find Gemini, the American sign, on the cusp of the 12th. The house is empty which means our mili-

tary is nowhere to be seen. Which, to be fair about it, means that when you've got a civil war in your country, the presence of enemy aircraft (Gemini is an air sign) beyond your borders is not the worst thing you have to worry about.

This non-existent American military we find ruled by Mercury in Libra, on the cusp of the American 11th house of allies. Which implies we are indecisive and talk out of both sides of our mouth and are desperate (opposite Uranus) for someone to tell us what to do. We asked the Brits, who said no. We then got dragged around by the Russians. Who, if we only let them, will save our behinds.

Because if we use the military, we find that Mercury is immediately eaten by its ruler, Venus, in the deadly sign of Scorpio. Which, being a water sign brings us back to the Navy, now seen in a much smaller scale than before: On a stagnant lake, if you will.

If it comes to shooting, an intense Venus will be fed by its hysterical square to Mars in Leo, which rules it, and further fed by the power of the north node.

Having looked at the matter from both sides, I come to the same conclusion both ways. Syrian response will be all-out. Especially from their point of view, it's visceral. I would suggest we not mess in their civil war. It's likely to be way more nasty than we imagine. Those with a war to sell always claim it will be quick and painless. This is the greatest of all lies. Wars are organized murder. Not a love-in.