



NEWSLETTER

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ARCHIVE

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The Excitement of Hope:

The 2009 Inaugural Chart

WHILE we have had 44 presidents and 56 inaugurals, we have had, to date, only two point something Inaugural Charts. The first, from 1789 to 1933, was for Noon on March 4*, at the nation's Capital, which was originally New York. Since the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, which first took effect in January, 1937, Inauguration has been at Noon on January 20.

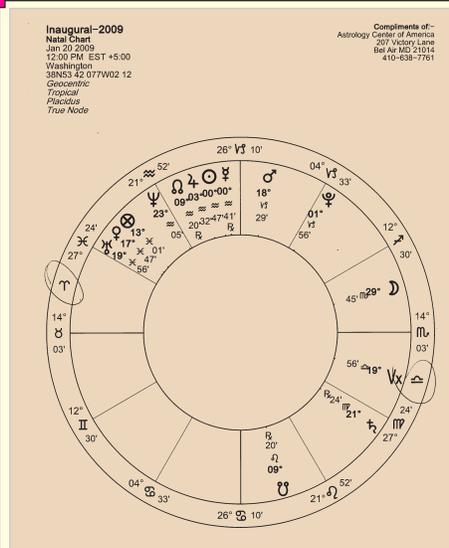
As the festival is once every four years at precisely the same time, the degree ascending, the degrees on the MC, and all the other house cusps, are exactly the same, from inaugural to inaugural. As the year is exactly 365 and a quarter days long, the Sun's degree & minute position is exactly the same as well. The current Inaugural Chart, the one used since 1937, now has 14⁰⁰3' Taurus on the ascendant, 26¹⁰0' Capricorn on the midheaven, with the Sun at 0⁴⁷7' Aquarius. Those positions, angles & Sun, advance about 30 seconds of arc per year, or about two minutes per presidential term. If you're curious, at noon on January 20, 1937, the Sun stood at 0¹⁵5' Aquarius.

The other house cusps change at the same rate. For the 2009 chart, the Placidus positions are:

- ASC 14 TAU 03**
- 2nd 12 GEM 30
- 3rd 04 CAN 33
- IC 26 CAN 10**
- 5th 21 LEO 52
- 6th 27 VIR 24
- DSC 14 SCO 14**
- 8th 12 SAG 30
- 9th 04 CAP 33
- MC 26 CAP 10**
- 11th 21 AQU 52
- 12th 27 PIS 23

Note that Aries & Libra are intercepted in the 6th & 12th.

This makes the Inaugural Chart, the chart of the incoming administration, an exercise in planetary positions, aspects and house dispositors. So let's begin:



VENUS rules the Ascendant, which represents the people, in general.

SATURN rules both the MC, in Capricorn, and the Sun, in Aquarius. The midheaven represents the Office of the President. The Sun represents the man who holds it. Note there are four degrees separating the two: The first term.

MARS, planet of war, rules the 7th, of foreigners & foreign lands.

The **MOON** rules the 4th, land, weather, mineral resources. Such are the four angles.

The other mundane houses:

- The 2nd house represents money.
- The 3rd is transport: roads, rails, air.
- The 5th is entertainment. Hollywood.
- The 6th is labor & the military.
- The 8th is the death rate.
- The 9th is law, religion, shipping.
- The 11th is Congress.
- The 12th is prisons, hospitals, spies, crime, charity.

(continued, pg. 2)

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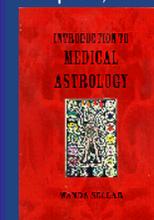
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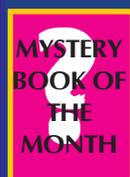


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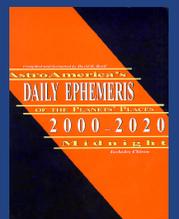
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*Hat tip to alert reader. Not March 20 as I originally wrote. I should do my homework! - Dave

- adapted from **Raphael's Mundane Astrology**, part of **Mundane Astrology**.

WE have a basic idea what the houses mean, and we have the signs on the cusp. So let's put them into play.

TAURUS on the ascendant, the American people love the good life, but are lazy. "Couch potato," anyone?

GEMINI on the second, financial double-dealing, budgetary slight-of-hand.

CANCER on the third, commuters.

CANCER on the 4th, "Not in my back yard."

LEO on the 5th, Presidents as entertainers, and/or babysitters.

VIRGO on 6th, fussy, complicated weapons of war.

SCORPIO on the 7th, fear of the sneak attack, i.e., Pearl Harbor, or 9-11. **NORAD**, in other words.

SAGITTARIUS on the 8th: In mundane astrology, the 8th is inheritances. The hopes of getting something for nothing.

CAPRICORN on the 9th: Legal & judicial systems that are bureaucratic, formalistic, and, overall, strict. Don't expect sympathy from the police.

CAPRICORN on the 10th: This is where Capricorn would be if Aries were rising. It is traditionally the house of the king. Capricorn on this cusp tends to view the President as a Sovereign, or king.

AQUARIUS on 11: Alliances & treaties based on ideals rather than realpolitik, and with a tendency to be willful & abandon them when it suits.

PISCES on 12: A belief that we are better than we are. A tendency to neglect affairs of the house (prisons, hospitals, espionage) until they are out of control.

Now we add the planetary positions for the day in question. Which were:

Sun	00	AQU	47
Moon	29	SCO	45 <i>Void</i>
Mercury	00	AQU	41 <i>Cazimi/retro</i>
Venus	17	PIS	47
Mars	18	CAP	29
Jupiter	03	AQU	32
Saturn	21	VIR	24 <i>Retrograde</i>
Uranus	19	PIS	56
Neptune	23	AQU	05
Pluto	01	CAP	56
N. Node	09	AQU	20 <i>Retrograde</i>

Sun conjunct Jupiter, both in Aquarius, is exciting. Obama will be larger than life, and embody Aquarian ideals, both good

and bad. Remember that Aquarians, as bright as they are, are aloof, impersonal & live in the future.

Mercury is exalted in Aquarius and Cazimi, i.e., "in the heart of the Sun" as well, which would be good for its rulership of the 2nd & 6th houses, except that it is retrograde & may therefore be expected to work, powerfully, against the best interests of American finance, defense & labor.

Ascendant ruler Venus is conjunct Uranus, both late in the 11th. Venus in Pisces is transcendental, Uranus adds a touch of the messianic. Which is hopeful, though I confess I've seen too many "saviours" in my day not to be a little on guard.

With Venus, ruler of the ascendant, in opposition to Saturn, ruler of the MC/Sun/Jupiter/Mercury/Node, expect fussy, day-to-day details to get in the way of hopes & ideals. Note that Saturn has at his disposal the Office of the President itself, as well as the laws of the land (9th house). January 20 inaugurals always give Saturn these powers, which might be why the hopes of so many administrations fail. For Obama's first term, Saturn's placement in the 6th gives Saturn the military as well.

When I added Obama's chart to the mix, things got hairy. I wrote what I thought was straight-forward, but when I passed the gist of it around, I was shot down. People are in the mood to party, I was raining on the parade. So let's try again.

The relationship of Obama's natal chart to the Inaugural chart is essentially a synastry. So I will look at it in that way. To simplify matters, we will declare Obama to be the male, the Inaugural chart to be the female. For a referee, one of the best books: **Synastry**, by Ronald Davison.

If you believe, as I do, that Obama has a void Moon in Taurus, then you will note, as I have, the Inaugural Moon, void in Scorpio, which opposes it. The Moon in the Inaugural chart represents the American people. The Inaugural chart came into effect on 11:00 pm on Election Day, when Senator Obama was declared the winner & won it. Of the Moons, Davison says,

"The unfavorable aspects [i.e., square & opposition] suggest conflicting habit patterns & a failure to appreciate each other's instinctive reactions to a problem situation.... The opposition can provide piquantly contrasting habit patterns, unless squares or conjunctions from malefics afflict either Moon. The quincunx can indicate some fundamental lack of unity between

the feelings & instincts of each partner which is difficult to counteract." (pg. 114)

If Obama has a Gemini Moon, then the Inaugural Moon is inconjunct, by sign. We get the opposition when the Inaugural Moon goes to Sagittarius. Which is in a week, by secondary progression, or in about 3 months if by solar arc. If he has a Taurus Moon, then we have an immediate lock on the piquancy of contrasts, for better or worse. In either case, look for the mood of the country to change by May.

Obama's Mars is conjunct Inaugural Saturn. Since Saturn represents the government itself, you could say that Mr. Obama's Mars has to get the government going again, and that it won't be easy. It's made harder because Saturn is retrograde (and in Terms) & so not likely to pay a lot of attention to Mars's efforts. Of this pairing, Davison says,

"No combination of planets has achieved a worse reputation in astrology." (pg. 136) and, *"When frustrated, Mars can resort to vigorous.... action to cut loose from anything that is holding him back, while Saturn may take a special delight in suddenly applying the brake to Mars in order to demonstrate his power."* (pg. 137)

And there's a flip side. Inaugural Mars in near conjunction with Obama's Saturn, both in Capricorn. So it's a double whammy of Mars & Saturn. Davison continues,

*"Saturn may consider the enterprises of his Martian partner to be ill-considered and under-prepared, while Mars may consider that his Saturnian partner should do the tidying up, rectifying any omissions or mistakes committed as a result of Mars being in too much of a hurry. **The best working arrangement may be for Saturn to draw up the plans & for Mars to put them into execution.**"* (pg. 137, my emphasis)

Obama's Venus in Cancer is opposed by Inaugural Pluto in Capricorn, both at 1 degree. Here is Davison:

"If the planets are in adverse aspect or either is debilitated, this awareness [sexual] can be embarrassingly increased and Pluto's advances may become uncomfortably pressing to Venus, who always likes to act in a way pleasing to others if it can be accomplished without too much loss of comfort and composure. The conjunction & opposition may produce situations in which the partners seem to be irresistibly drawn together for better or worse, according to the natal aspects of each planet. In some cases, Pluto may attempt to block any intimate overtures from Venus, preferring to remain aloof or to terminate a relationship that

more ↓

threatens to produce an emotional involvement..." (pg. 134)

Obama Mercury, debilitated in Leo, opposite Inaugural Mercury, which is retrograde:

"This contact is the main index of compatibility at the mental level... A difficult aspect between two Mercurys signifies that there is a basic difference of approach to mental problems, with the result that the thought patterns of one partner may differ radically from those of the other. There can be an element of challenge inherent in this combination leading to spirited arguments or even disagreements over fundamental intellectual issues." (pg. 122)

Obama Mars opposite Inaugural Uranus:

"This is a high tension combination that may prove a fascinating stimulus to partners who thrive on excitement, but if they should prefer a quiet life the difficult aspects can prove particularly disruptive... When the planets are in opposition, both partners have room for maneuver, so a good deal of fencing may take place, each trying to establish his position at the expense of the other. Mars usually favors the direct approach, while Uranus usually does his best to throw his opponent off guard, relying on the element of surprise." (pgs. 138-9)

SO what do you think it will be? The excitement & hope of Uranus/Venus & Mars, or the frustration of Saturn/Mars? There seem to be two opinions about Mr. Obama. One, sensing the exciting aspects, is drunk on hope, the other, sensing the impotence of Mars/Saturn, is sour. Time will tell.

But no prize for noting the opposition between Obama's Leo Sun & the Inaugural Aquarius Sun, by sign. Do opposites attract, or will it be Bill Clinton (another Leo) all over again?

NOW for the fun stuff. You knew it wasn't going to be all bad. Obama Jupiter, retrograde, conjunct Inaugural Mercury, also retrograde. Here's Davison:

"Jupiter can support & encourage Mercury, so that it is not surprising to find that this aspect is often present in parent-child relationships. When the child's Mercury contacts a parent's Jupiter, this may denote that the child's education is likely to be a source of expense.... This is also a contact frequently met with in business partnerships, where Mercury contributes the ideas & Jupiter supplies the necessary capital & encouragement. When there is an adverse aspect or Jupiter is debilitated, Mercury's

ideas & abilities may be exploited by Jupiter, who may be out to capitalize as much as possible on the relationship." (pg. 124)

With both these planets retrograde, whatever the two cook up will not be of practical value. This is the usual result of paired retrogrades.

Obama retrograde Jupiter conjunct Inauguration Sun:

"This is another aspect frequently found between the horoscopes of marriage partners.... Jupiter may know exactly how to enhance the Sun's self-esteem, though if there is an adverse aspect between the two bodies or either is debilitated [Sun in fall, Jupiter retrograde], Jupiter may use this factor to his own advantage, employing flattery in order to deceive or the Sun may be led astray by Jupiter's over-confidence. As a result, a lack of good faith may develop on either side." (pgs. 106-7)

Obama's retrograde Jupiter conjunct Inaugural Jupiter:

"A good aspect between two Jupiters indicates that both partners can agree on matters involving philosophy, ethics & general moral standards... If one or both Jupiters are debilitated [i.e., retrograde], there may be a difference of outlook on philosophy or religion or they may have different moral standards. Such differences may occasionally be the cause of disagreements. Any tendencies toward over-expansiveness in one partner may remain unchecked by, or even be encouraged by, the other, with the result that extravagances may be recklessly multiplied." (pg. 142)

HERE ends Mr. Davison. I am hopeful a few of you will buy his book (from me, from anyone) & put money in his publisher's pocket, as payment for my abuse of his work & your enjoyment of it.

QUERIES

Q. So what about the economy?

A. To me, the

charts look murky, but to **Paul Krugman**, the situation is clear: Obama's recovery plan, so far, at any rate, is wanting.

Q. What about war?

A. Disentangling the military is not on the cards. This is a 6th house Inaugural chart matter. Its ruler, Mercury, is retrograde. Saturn, which is in the military's house, is also retrograde, and the two planets are in mutual reception, which means they conspire to block effective action. Bill Clinton, unpopular with labor & the military, had his debilitated Mars here. Obama has his Mars conjunct the military's retrograde Saturn. Both military & labor will resist the efforts of the new president. The retrogrades mean the issue of **gays in the military**, gays in the workforce, will quickly return.

Elsewhere, there's Obama's Jupiter/Saturn conjunction smeared across the Inaugural MC, there is the Inaugural Sun/Moon midpoint = Pluto, which you can look up in Ebertin's **Combination of Stellar Influences** if you like. It's not exactly rosy.

SUCH are some of the things you can do with an Inaugural chart. You don't need astrology to know that President Barack Obama has huge tasks ahead of him. He will need all the strength, all the skills, all the wit that he can muster. He will also need our help. I wish him much success.

