

Cosmic Views

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In this issue:

1. *The USA's Renaissance*
2. *Christmas is coming!*

The USA's Renaissance By Carole Devine

There has been so much negativity regarding current events, I want to emphasize the positive indicators this month, while still considering the not-so-wonderful ones, so that we don't collectively make things a lot worse than they need to be by letting fear become the country's dominant emotion.

[Remember the movie, *What the Bleep?*, and the explanation about multiple possibilities? The possible outcome of any moment in time depends on choice. Especially the choice of which emotionally-charged thoughts we allow to dominate. Collectively (and individually), we actually create the outcome we imagine because we give it energy, which is a choice.]

USA Moon, Venus and Jupiter

There has been much written about a few heavy transits, but there is much more than that going on in the USA chart. One thing that seems to be overlooked quite often is the out-of-sign trine between the USA Sibly chart's Moon and the Venus/Jupiter conjunction. I allow up to nine degrees for aspects involving the Sun or Moon, and if another planet is in aspect with one of the configuration's other planets, then it pulls in that planet as well. The Venus/Moon trine is six degrees orb; although Jupiter is less than a degree out of orb in trining the moon, it is solidly conjoining Venus within three degrees, so we can include Jupiter in this.

This configuration shows the populace's (Moon) optimistic trust in their leaders. Venus rules the MC and therefore, represents the president and government in general. Granted, Pluto stationed at 1:06 Capricorn on April 2 this year, and since the USA's MC is 1:03 Libra, there was a square aspect. Pluto has a way of exposing the underbelly of things, so we've been given a glimpse of our leaders' real selves. That will return on December 26 – not that any kind of major “event” will happen, but we will again focus on exposing what has really been going on. Keep in mind, that these aspects are effective within five degrees, so this has been going on for more than a year and will continue into 2009. There are multiple events when a slow transit takes a couple years to complete.

The positive thing ahead that looks very promising is that this Venus/Jupiter conjunction has moved by solar arc to be very close to conjoining the natal Moon! The solar arc Sun already trined natal Venus one year ago, which could have been the indicator of a more positive leader emerging, and is now approaching a trine to the Jupiter/Venus midpoint. It's about five months away. The Sun in a mundane chart also indicates the primary leader, but additionally in this chart, it rules the legislature (ninth house), so we should see some very effective and positive legislation around that time which will be very uplifting. Immediately after that, solar arc Jupiter conjoins

the USA Moon – six months from now – and that would indicate a very positive and hopeful mood in the public. Also since the Moon rules the natal 8th house (banks, debt, taxes, etc.) it can indicate positive changes regarding banks, but alas, can also indicate more debt or taxes—Jupiter “increases.” But since Moon, Jupiter and Venus reflect the public’s optimism in its leaders, that optimism is restored—at least for the time being. Jupiter rules the whole chart, and since it is involved in a trine with the Moon natively, it can only manifest as a positive turn of events. And a little less than three years after this, Venus conjoins the Moon! The solar arc Venus/Jupiter conjunction continues to activate the natal Moon to Venus/Jupiter trine configuration for quite a few years, which gives me optimism that this period of time regarding inflation, job losses, economic problems, etc. is a good cleaning out period that is sorely needed.

However...

As great as trines are, squares and oppositions are stronger. The Pluto transit squaring the USA’s MC will not only occur in late December, but will come back in the spring and even one more time in late October 2009. This indicates a real renaissance in the government. The last time this energy was active was in the early ‘70’s when we went off the gold standard and experienced the disgrace of Watergate. We also had major inflation around that time. As I said, Pluto exposes the underbelly of things. At that time, it was Pluto conjunct the MC.

Astrology students will be familiar with the phases of any pair of points in a chart. The conjunction of Pluto and the MC, started a cycle of evolution regarding the government and leaders of the country. It was at that time we lost blind trust in our leaders. At the first quarter square, which we are experiencing right now, we awaken to the adjustments or “cleaning out” that needs to be done with this. The first quarter square is rebellion. It will occur again at the opposition, which will be well past 2050 since Pluto is about to go into the part of its cycle where it stays in signs much longer.

This last year we have been bewildered about what is going on because Neptune has been transiting the USA’s progressed Mercury, which is retrograde. It will not go direct until sometime in 2016, but of course, Neptune will not conjunct it all that long. Transiting Neptune is also going over solar arc Venus and Jupiter mentioned earlier, plus by 2010, Neptune will be passing over the USA Moon. As positive as it may look six months from now, we need to be vigilant about handling debt, taxes, banking, etc. because Neptune can either bring immense delusion or the ability and inspiration to “erase” the debt we have accumulated. Neptune is also nicknamed the “universal solvent.” When there are contradictions like this, it is a period where we have choices. Will we buy into delusion (fear and despair) or will we rise to the occasion and be inspired to take a higher path (sacrifice and compassion)?

A few words about Neptune

In the USA chart Neptune is not well-positioned. It rules the intercepted third house (Koch system) which tells us how the populace thinks. Without going into all the separate indicators, we can sum it up by saying the populace is mentally super-independent and aggressive—not just now, but as a collective character trait. Neptune squares Mars. It is this square that is now being activated by the Saturn/Uranus opposition that I mentioned a few months ago. This is an aggravating square in our country’s chart. It is activated whenever there is a war, and it also indicates an innate “denial” of our own aggressiveness. Neptune is delusion when it is in its negative expression, and when it’s square a planet or mathematical point in a natal chart, whether a person’s or a country’s, the tendency is to project their own flaws onto others—i.e. “it isn’t US who is aggressive; it’s THEM.” (I know, bad English, but probably the way it’s said by most people.) This does not apply to the opposition aspect, which is more about what we attract. By the way, you can be aggressive in ways that are not attacks in war. I’m reminded of our reputation of being demanding “ugly Americans” as tourists. Many times in a session with a client, I’ll try to explain this concept, and most of the time, they do not see it as a trait in themselves but insist it is

the way their spouse, brother, parents (fill in the blank) are! It's a rare person who really knows him or herself—especially if there are many squares in their chart. The square aspects represent our “shadows” as well as our conflicts. It's the same with the collective traits of a country.

Saturn in transit is now a degree away from Neptune, but before it gets there, it will go retrograde on December 31st just past the square to Mars, but just before reaching Neptune. That's potent. Whenever Saturn contacts anything, it requires that we take responsibility for what we have done with that energy up to that point and accept the results. Uranus, being opposite Saturn in the sky right now and for many months forward, is also a player. It is called the “great awakener” and, along with Saturn, is giving us an opportunity to awaken to our responsibilities regarding our denial of aggressiveness. It can awaken us to other delusions as well—like our tendency to live beyond our means and try to “live the good life” based on a lie—i.e. debt. Mars, which remember is square to Neptune in the USA chart, rules the USA fourth and fifth houses (Koch system). The fourth is our emotional security, grassroots citizenry, homes, and families. The fifth house is our pleasures, vacations, fun, but also children and “speculation”—like taking a gamble that we'll be able to actually pay all that debt. We tend to have fantasies about how it “should” be in our homes and regarding our egos, which is also fifth house. We want to be proud of our accomplishments, but there is a tendency to delude ourselves by the way we go about it. All this is Neptune square Mars.

What is happening right now is that we are “awakening” to what we have done, and the realization that we are responsible for our own decisions. Does it have to be disastrous? No, of course not! We simply have to pull in the belt and live our real truth. Pay off the debts; do our jobs responsibly so that we're actually earning what we are paid. Have you seen the commercial where a man is asking his secretary about his daily schedule and there is only ONE meeting (his job) to attend, and the rest is calling and texting people for pleasure? He postpones the meeting! A lot of overpaid CEOs are having a wake-up call. But, this trickles down. Usually, the non-responsible workers are the first to go—that is, of course, barring a company meltdown.

This has happened before

Everything is in cycles, and although these things, or similar events, have happened before, they were necessary. Just imagine if the Bush, banks, risk, mortgage, etc. policies were allowed to go on unchecked. They were all built on lies, so they could not sustain themselves. That has always been true. Like it or not, much of it is allowed by us, the voters and consumers. I know many people who will not listen to or read anything put forth by the opposing party. Instead of really getting informed, they listen to the propaganda of their own leaders. It's in both parties. No candidate is perfect, but the information about them is all over the place. We have never had so much access to so much information as we do now. But, instead of really working to form a decision, many people just forward emails, coming from God-knows-where, which just spread propaganda.

I wrote about the Saturn/Uranus opposition a few months ago, and it is now in full force. As I noted before, it is in effect only a couple time a century, and always it brings in a struggle between the old and new. It's renaissance time. We can best use it by breaking up old conditions and habits and taking a leap in faith. By taking responsibility for doing our own part in recognizing where we may have been under delusions, and doing something about it, we can co-create a much better future. My teacher, Gina Ceaglio said once that when these “change” times come around—whether individually or collectively—we can either move forward with a positive attitude to meet it, or we can ignore or fight it. If we ignore or fight it, the universe has to hit us over our heads to get our attention, and then it's harder than if we took responsibility and volunteered to learn our lesson.

Christmas is Coming!

I was remiss last month in forgetting to remind everyone that the analysis of a birth chart makes a great Christmas gift. I offer a short 20 to 30 minute analysis called a “sampler” that usually costs only \$30. It is a synopsis of the subject’s character and analysis of transits coming up. It’s a great gift for someone who has never experienced this. For this Christmas, in deference to higher prices for food, gas, etc., I’m offering it for **\$25 and free shipping**. Just click the “Pick up” option on paypal (if you choose to use paypal) to avoid a shipping fee for this. If you want to mail a check, please email me for the address to use for that.

I mentioned a couple months ago that I’m adding a service for an annual update for \$95 that includes transits, solar arcs and progressions. Much can be gleaned from this so it’s also a bargain. Free shipping for this, too.

And the inspired paintings make great gifts, although it’s too late to order for Christmas. You might want to keep it in mind for birthday gifts.

The Samplers and a few full charts can be done before Christmas if ordered right now. But, if you wait, and it’s too late, you can always order a gift certificate.

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