

The Starfire Messenger

A Free Weekly Newsletter

From Astrologer Maureen Richmond, M.A.

Issue #103: February 24 – March 1, 2020

Prepared in Little Rock, Arkansas, USA

Circulated Globally

Contents

**Signs of the Times: Astrological Markers for Biden, Bloomberg, Sanders
Daily Analysis and Prediction for the Week Ahead**

Signs of the Times: Astrological Markers for Biden, Bloomberg, Sanders

Readers have asked for information concerning the astrological situations of the leading contenders for the Democratic nomination in the 2020 presidential race. Specifically, requests for an analysis of Biden, Bloomberg, and Sanders have been received. Sanders was discussed in the previous issue, and will be again here, in context of comparing the astrological circumstances of the three candidates.

Joe Biden is a Sun sign Scorpio with the Moon in Taurus and Sagittarius rising. Born on November 20, 1942 at 8:30 am (according to information available in the astrological community) in Scranton, PA, Biden has Mars, Mercury, and Venus also in Scorpio, making his

astrological signature powerful due to the forbidding fixed sign of Scorpio. Emblematic of secrets and hidden reserves, Scorpio almost always indicates that there's much more under the surface than is presented to the public. The public sees the result of Biden's Sun at 28 degrees of Scorpio precisely conjunct Venus, also at 28 degrees Scorpio, and his Sagittarius ascendant, the Sun-Venus conjunction making for the good looks and socially-affable manner which render Biden attractive and likeable, the Sagittarius ascendant describing his normally sunny disposition and love of athletic activity. But under that charming exterior is a strength of will and determination coming out of the Scorpio emphasis which differs markedly from that pleasant outward manner. Is this good or bad, you ask. The answer to that question is that there is nothing in anybody's chart which is inherently either good or bad. All depends on how one applies the energies.

What can be said about Biden's chart is that he has much more backbone than he often lets on. For a politician, this can be advantageous. However, Biden's current influences point away from power-brokering. One of the major influences currently coming into play for him is the transit of Neptune opposite to his Midheaven, which influence is in place for Biden in the years 2020 and 2021. This influence tends to erode the previous place or position in the world, and to slowly drain out of what was once terribly important all of whatever was driving that priority. Thus, Biden is going through some type of inner experience which is detaching him from his former role as a governmental mover and shaker. Is he privately losing enthusiasm? Yes, that's exactly what transiting Neptune opposite his Midheaven indicates. At the same time, others around him (such as voters and supporters) are losing momentum as well. Biden's personal direction is in the process of shifting to a more introverted and even family-centered focus. That looks like a formula for a step back from the limelight at some point pretty soon, or at the very least, a role in which he is not the prime decision-maker for an entire nation. He'll be ok, though, for transiting Pluto through the year 2022 will sextile his Scorpio

placements, providing opportunity to apply his energies in ways about which he'll feel good.

Michael Bloomberg is a Sun sign Aquarius with the Moon also in Aquarius and Cancer rising. Born on February 14, 1942, at 3:40 pm (according to information available in the astrological community) in Brighton, MA, Bloomberg has three planets in Taurus and two planets in Aquarius (in addition to his Sun and Moon), Taurus and Aquarius both being fixed signs, and hence suffusing Bloomberg's psyche with the determination and staying power of the fixed signs. He and Biden are alike in that regard, though Biden gets his fixity from Scorpio and Bloomberg gets his from Taurus and Aquarius. Bloomberg is of course his own guy, an iconoclast to the last, with the terrific emphasis in free-thinking Aquarius shown in his astrology. Further, two of his Aquarian placements are retrograde – Venus and Mercury, at 7 and 15 degrees of Aquarius respectively, both retrograde, and hence emphasized. Here is a man who marches to his own drum.

As an ultra-Aquarius-influenced individual, Bloomberg naturally thinks outside the box, but he's also a great deal like Donald Trump in this, for Trump has the planetary ruler of Aquarius conjunct his Sun, making him also very much like a cranky uncooperative Aquarius type, and we all know to what this has led. There are more similarities between the astrologies of Bloomberg and Trump as well, particularly an emphasis in the sign of Taurus, where Bloomberg has Mars, Saturn, and Uranus, and where Trump has the Midheaven. Taurus is in fact a hotbed of influence for the present American political situation, as the charts of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Melania Trump, Bloomberg, Biden, and even Sanders contain an emphasis in this sign. Taurus signifies the tests of the soul in regard to right management of material resources. The relevance of such an issue to the present moment of history speaks for itself, with income inequality a top issue on the table. Sanders and Biden seem to have

registered that issue the most profoundly. The rest of the crew still thinks the game is won by hoarding the most toys possible.

Bloomberg's astrology is similar to that of Trump in yet another regard. Bloomberg's chart has on the Ascendant the 26th degree of Cancer, which is the precise position of Venus in Trump's birth chart. This means that in some fundamental way, these two men share certain basic values about personal life, possessions, and financial security. Importantly, both of these 26 degree Cancer positions are under astrological assault in the run-up to the November 2020 presidential election. This assault comes from transiting Pluto in Capricorn making the precise opposition to these positions in Cancer, showing that both Bloomberg and Trump are being challenged by powers and potencies arising out of the collective consciousness (Pluto) and out of karmic force (Capricorn). This arrangement will act as a hindering influence on the trajectories of both of these two individuals, basically slowing them down and presenting them with unexpected and unanticipated resistance coming from the force of evolution itself, as personified by Pluto. In the case of Bloomberg, it's a pronounced trend, for the year 2020 sees transiting Pluto, Saturn, and Jupiter precisely opposite his Ascendant, an arrangement indicative of circumstances which force him to adapt to the wills and ways of others, and not allowing him to call the shots from a place of privilege. This is not a formula for ease of victory in any kind of public contest.

Biden is feeling the opposition of the transiting Capricorn stellium as well, for his natal Jupiter is located at 25 degrees Cancer. This ties his karma in closely with that of Trump and Bloomberg, who have placements in the mid 20s of Cancer as well. Trump has Saturn and Venus at 24 and 26 degrees Cancer respectively, Bloomberg has the Ascendant at 26 degrees Cancer, and Biden has Jupiter at 25 Cancer. Thus, it is apparent that (like the sign of Taurus) the zodiacal area of 24 – 26 Cancer underlies the karmic affiliations propelling these individuals into interaction with one another. Further, they all share the fact that the current astrological powerhouse of

Pluto, Saturn, and Jupiter in Capricorn is opposing their Cancerian placements and causing them to severely re-evaluate their understandings, throwing them back upon themselves and presenting them with powerful forces in opposition to their established power grooves.

Bernie Sanders is in a different astrological circumstance than is Biden, Bloomberg, or Trump. He does not have planetary or other positions in the sign of Cancer, and hence is not experiencing oppositions from the transiting stellium of planets in Capricorn, a juggernaut of karmic forces moving into place to stage an ethical showdown of large proportions. Instead, this trend-making Capricornian powerhouse actually favors the chart of Sanders, for it makes the encouraging and opportunity-oriented sixty-degree arc, or sextile, to the 25 degree Scorpio Ascendant of the Sanders chart during the years 2020 and 2021. One astrological influence alone does not a presidential victory make, for sure and certain, but the simple truth is that the chart of Bernie Sanders is not suffering from the same terrific body blow from the Capricornian Karmic Lords that the other three charts are. Funny thing, the polls are all now basically saying this in their own statistical ways. At press time, polls conducted by ten influential news and information organizations show Sanders the clear front-runner in the current Democratic primaries, while other polls show him able to defeat Trump as well.

Event makers coming soon: Transiting Jupiter and transiting Pluto will conjunct at 25 degrees of Capricorn in early April 2020. Before that, transiting Mars will get into the Capricorn stellium action, conjuncting Jupiter and Pluto in that sign during March, then Saturn in Aquarius in early April. Mercury goes direct on March 9. All this taken together suggests that very compelling events are just around the corner, starting in early March and running through early April. The influences which become exact during that period are definite stressors to the chart of Donald Trump. Although he is sure to continue his impudent, egregious behavior, it is also highly likely during the period mid-March to mid-April

2020 that circumstances will confront him with significant challenges he'd not anticipated. His assumption of absolute power will certainly come under question at that time. His will not be a greased rail to ride.

Daily Analysis and Prediction for the Week Ahead

Throughout the week of **February 24 – March 1**, the Moon continues to wax, having been New on Sunday February 23. Thus, we feel a new surge of energy and enthusiasm with which to work in accomplishing the important matters before us now. Yes, Mercury is of course still retrograde, but we can make the best of it, learning from the past and taking a different angle of view from time to time. The business of doing just that is likely to become high big stuff on Monday and Tuesday 24 and 25 February, as the Sun will be conjunct retrograde Mercury, thus intensifying the retro Mercury effect. Wild and quirky things may happen, unique moments of creativity may leap into manifestation, and all sorts of out-of-the-blue anythings are likely. Toward the end of the work week, retrograde Mercury makes the sextile with innovative Uranus, activating neat ideas and unusual conversations all over again. Venus squares Pluto as well toward the end of the week, so social tensions may be in the mix. We do best if we conserve on words in social situations if awkwardness seems to figure.

Monday February 24 sees the Moon in peaceable, romantic, mystical Pisces, while the Sun in Pisces makes the exact sextile to Mars. It's all a fine formula for enjoyable moments, artistic elan, improved understandings with others, and even for accurate psychic impressions. Flexibility makes an appearance wherever we go, as a readiness to adapt and flex helps everything along. This is good because the weather is just about to make an appearance.

Tuesday February 25 brings into focus the conjunction of Sun and Mercury in water sign Pisces, conjuring up the distinct likelihood of inclement

weather of the watery kind. Wind, rain, flooding, and all manner of meteorological peculiarities hail down from the beyond, but we will survive. At the same time, retrograde Mercury is sextile Mars in Capricorn, providing workable alternatives as the scheduling and logistical arrangements we'd previously made get washed away for the moment. Unexpected alternatives shape up and turn out better than the original plan. The Moon enters Aries just before 1 pm CST, shifting the mood from Piscean poetry to Aries-type courage and ardor. Onward.

Wednesday February 26 gets its coloring from the antsy Aries Moon, which is ready to burst forth into action. We can do it, whatever it may be, as long as we don't get too impatient with the unexpected detours and last-minute changes characteristic of retrograde Mercury.

Thursday February 27 brings with it a bit of angst as we begin to sense all the projects we'd like to master and the time required for each. Today is an intensive course in time management, as the Moon in just-do-it Aries makes squares to Jupiter, Pluto, and Saturn in not-so-fast Capricorn. We press against what seem like obstacles for a time.

The Moon is in Taurus by **Friday February 28**, thus calming the situation somewhat with comfort and peace through the beauty of nature and art. Emotional uproar is right under the surface though, as Venus squares Pluto and a great urge to get to the bottom of things seems to be the order of the day. Clever insights shape up and help matters along, as retrograde Mercury in clairvoyant Pisces makes the sextile to genius Uranus in Taurus.

The more stable Taurus Moon continues to settle the atmosphere throughout **Saturday February 29**, especially from 2 – 5 pm while the Moon is sextile spiritual Neptune in oceanic Pisces and trine gracious Jupiter in circumspect Capricorn. We compose ourselves and get centered. Spiritual and holistic healing as well as emotional contentment take shape.

Sunday March 1 deepens the sense of peace and contentment until the Moon enters Gemini at 1:21 pm CST, shifting attention to intellectual curiosity and the need for educational variety. The remainder of the day follows that trend.

Maureen Temple Richmond is a professional astrologer and metaphysical author with more than 40 years of experience in observing astrological conditions and correlating celestial influence with human psychology and behavior, world events, weather, financial markets, and politics. She is a life-long student of the Ageless Wisdom, including the works of H.P. Blavatsky and Alice Bailey, and has studied with the Arcane School, the Theosophical Society in America, and the Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis. In addition, Maureen is the author of *Sirius*, a scholarly study of the world mythology connected with the star Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, and of numerous essays on the Alice Bailey writings, many of which can be found and read free online at *Esoteric Quarterly*. Maureen holds the B.A. in English and Professional Writing and the M.A. in English and Creative Writing. At present, Maureen pursues the Ph.D. in Heritage Studies at Arkansas State University. She resides in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she follows her artistic passion for heritage photography and is an active member at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.



Intersectionality: Reflections on Time and Space
Single Exposure Photograph by Maureen Richmond