

The Starfire Messenger

A Free Weekly Newsletter

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The Demise of the Self-Centered Personality

It could be said that with his brazen, arrogant self-interest, American president Donald Trump embodies the apotheosis of the separative, personality centered human being. Shamelessly intent on asserting his own superiority far beyond anything related to his actual abilities, Trump is almost a caricature of the swollen egotistical self, grossly inflated in his own self-estimation, cocksure in all things, concupiscent to a breathtaking degree, willing to use any method to achieve his ends, unashamed of his own naked self-promotion, and lacking in any evidence of moral self-control. Written larger than life on the world stage for all to see, Trump's character stands as a stark crystallization of the pride, conceit, hard-heartedness, gluttony, and refusal to see simple truth which are the very

characteristics which Humanity must now shed and voluntarily leave behind if evolution is to continue on Earth.

This dark image portraying the worst side of human nature is referred to in esoteric philosophy as the Dweller on the Threshold, a symbolic term which signifies an actual energy field composed of the sum total of stubborn destructive and self-justifying traits which rise up on the spiritual path to block the way of those who would tread the path of enhanced and accelerated evolution. It could be argued that Trump as planetary ogre fulfills this same function for Humanity as a whole, portraying an overwhelmingly stark image of attitudes and practices which ought not be embraced and admired, but which should be repudiated and laid aside forever.

But something dramatic is unfolding. With the corona virus crisis of 2020, Trump as an embodiment of the Planetary Dweller on the Threshold has been unveiled for what it is, and this failed model for human functioning is now meeting its demise. Indeed, in the midst of the global corona virus crisis of 2020, Trump is exposed daily for the mental and moral chimera which he is. And Trump himself as an individual person is having this lesson shoved right in his face. At newsletter press-time, Trump's self-proclaimed expertise as a national and global financial manager has collapsed at his feet, with a record-breaking 3.3 million American workers filing for unemployment benefits in the last few weeks and the stock market reduced 25% from its previous all-time high. Experts have pronounced the U.S. economy officially in recession, a resounding slap in the face to the man who estimated himself beyond the reach of failure or disappointment. Trump is now confronting the complete demise of his infallibility façade, as state governors, health care officials, and journalists call him to task and outright contradict him over his management of the corona virus pandemic. In early 2020, Trump's house of cards is collapsing on all sides, signaling the imminent end of his political

hegemony. See what *Starfire Messenger* predicted two years ago for this very period of time.

Starfire Messenger for March 11 – 18, 2018

“Transiting Pluto in Capricorn of consequences will arrive at 24 – 26 degrees of that sign and oppose Trump’s Saturn and Venus **from February 2020 through November 2022. Pluto transits are never easy; that goes double for oppositions. With serious and thoroughgoing Pluto in governmental Capricorn opposing Trump’s messy, domestic Cancerian planets, the bottom will fall out of Trump’s castle** as his hidden life both in the bedroom and the boardroom slowly come under intense legalistic scrutiny. This will be the end of his political career. It is not in any way likely that he will serve a second term.”

Starfire Messenger for April 16 – 22, 2018

Politics and the Saturn-Pluto Cycle

In world events and American politics, during spring 2018 we’re witnessing the effects of many important astrological factors. Just one among them is the Saturn-Pluto cycle, a phase of about 36 years intervening between the successive conjunctions of Saturn and Pluto in the zodiac. Although this is just one among many powerful influences now at work, it’s an astrological factor well worth knowing about, for this particular cycle in 2018 and 2019 is working up to a critical moment. That critical moment will arrive with the Saturn-Pluto conjunction of January 2020.

Conjunctions take place when two celestial bodies arrive at the same degree of the zodiac. This arrangement will form between Saturn and Pluto in January of 2020. Both Saturn and Pluto are now in the sign of Capricorn,

with Saturn at 9 degrees of that sign and Pluto at 21 degrees. Though Pluto has been in Capricorn since 2008, Saturn just entered that sign in late December 2017. However, of the two, Saturn is the faster moving body in the zodiac because it's closer to the interior of the solar system, has a smaller orbit, and hence is perceived to pass more rapidly through the degrees of the zodiac. Throughout 2018 and 2019, Saturn will pass quickly through the degrees of Capricorn to arrive at the same position then occupied by Pluto, the two bodies simultaneously reaching 23 degrees of Capricorn in January 2020.

This means that in 2018 and 2019, the final hours of the 36-year long Saturn-Pluto cycle are upon us. The final moments of any major cycle bear watching because they signal the slow dying out of a trend which was established when the cycle began. The Saturn-Pluto cycle last began in 1982, when these two celestial bodies joined forces at 28 degrees of Libra. This means that 2018 and 2019 are witness to the conclusion and denouement of collective trends initiated in right around the year 1982.

In the year 1982, Ronald Reagan presided over the American nation. Like all the Republicans before him in the 20th century, Reagan experimented with engineering the American economy through a combination of deregulation of banks and industries plus tax cuts for the highest income brackets. Embracing the supply-side theory of economics, Reagan's administration promoted the trickle-down strategy to stimulate the American economy. Further, Reagan spearheaded a thrust to radically reduce the role of government in public life, famously urging that government is not a way to solve any problem, but rather the problem itself. The Republican right coalesced around these and related themes over the last 30+ years to become the hard-line of corporate supporters it is today. The institution of Reaganomics and the consolidation of the now-dominant Republican mind-set occurred right around the Saturn-Pluto conjunction of 1982. This point of view and the concomitant trend can

therefore be expected to play a major role in American politics for about 36 years thereafter, which is to say, up until approximately 2018.

As the Saturn-Pluto cycle of 1982 comes to a close and the stage is set for the next Saturn-Pluto cycle to begin in 2020, presiding over the United States is yet another Republican who is essentially updating and carrying forward the economic policies established under the last Saturn-Pluto conjunction during the Reagan administration. The fact that Trump has done little more than revive and perpetuate Reaganomics is no news to informed followers of American politics, but the fact that a cyclic influence intimately bound up with this trend is soon to hit bottom just might be.

What happens at the bottom or dying days of a cycle? That's a question easily answered by observing the monthly lunar cycle. The lunar cycle starts over each month at New Moon. It passes through the waxing or increasing phase in two weeks to reach Full Moon, the apex of lunar power, and then slowly dwindles over the following two weeks through the waning or decreasing phase to Old Moon and ultimately, the New Moon phase all over again. As is easy to observe in daily life, natural energies are set in motion at New Moon, peak out in terrific intensity at Full Moon, and then slowly subside until they go into deep sleep right before re-awakening at the next New Moon. Thus, the final stages of the lunar cycle represent a period when vital energies slow down, become inactive, and await a rebirth. The end of any astrological cycle, including the Saturn-Pluto, is just like that.

This means that in 2018 and 2019, matters which had their birth and origin in 1982 and thereabouts are now reaching the point at which their usefulness has been explored and their day in the sunlight of public display is just about to end. In very simple terms, this means that the ideas and notions popularized by Reagan and promoted by his party since that time are in the final phases of their relevance and vitality.

The Republican Party itself is surely feeling this withdrawal of vital energy from a belief system which has been core to its thrust for the last 35 years. Evidence to this effect might be seen in the recent announcement by Speaker of the House, leading Republican Paul Ryan, who has decided he will not seek re-election and will therefore not continue as the prime spokesperson for his party on Capitol Hill. Thirty other Congressional Republicans are also quitting the halls of Congress. Could it be that the savvy, well-educated Ryan and some of his less-illustrious but still perceptive colleagues have read the proverbial writing on the wall? Bets are on that the writing on the wall says in clever stylized graffiti: *You can't sell this corporate-serving trickle-down paradigm any more. It's become unattractive to the public.* Could this be the secret back-room realization that has scared so many elephants away from the watering hole?

Starfire Messenger says yes. With the dying out of the cyclic factor associated with the rise of Reaganomics and supply-side economics as core Republican principles, there is a shift in public consciousness soon to emerge. The grip that the Reagan-era paradigm exerted on the public mind is now coming loose. **In other words, the experiment in engineering the American economy which began in and around 1982 is now in 2018 and 2019 concluding. That's the implication of the final hours of the present Saturn-Pluto cycle. A belief system or a paradigm generated in 1982 has had its opportunity to demonstrate viability. If it has not done so over the last 35 years for the masses, it will not remain enthroned."**

Starfire Messenger for June 16 – 24, 2018

"We all know that Trump is a disastrously fickle Gemini with an abrasive and self-centered personality driven by Mars conjunct the Ascendant in his natal chart. No need to go deeper than that. What we do need to know, however, is the point in time when he will meet resistance sufficient to stop his momentum presently surging in the direction of

bizarre, haphazard misrepresentations and precipitous, fractious behavior. The answer is not entirely encouraging. **It's not until 2020 – 2021 when transiting Saturn and Pluto in Capricorn oppose Trump's Saturn and Venus in Capricorn that his train will grind to a halt.** Up until that time, he has only mild astrological pressure. This is especially true in summer 2019 when transiting Neptune in Pisces squares his natal Uranus in Gemini. Indeed, the summer of 2019, though not entirely decisive, will in fact represent a weakening of Trump's power as the undermining and dissolving action of Neptune works on his natal Uranus by square. **But the big guns don't arrive until 2020 – 2021."**

Starfire Messenger for September 17 – 23, 2018

Whither Trump? Where is he headed? What is his karma? What can be expected? Astrology replies that **even though Trump's mounting problems of 2018 are without a doubt more than substantial, they are small by comparison to the conditions which he will meet in 2019 and 2020.**

In the year of 2019, transiting Neptune will square Trump's natal Uranus, an influence he has not yet confronted this lifetime. Neptune will be acting from his 7th house (significant others) on his Uranus in the 10th house (public image and reputation). Here is a sure formula for betrayal by someone and/or several someones who had been close to him, a strong astrological indication that ALL the individuals who previously served him and who have now been convicted will open their mighty little mouths and sing like songbirds to a legal tune composed by federal investigations. Also in 2019, karmic agent Saturn will square Trump's Neptune, oppose his Mercury, and square his Jupiter, virtually ensuring that the rules of government shall be kept firmly pressed upon him. In 2018, Trump has felt the fullness of neither of these influences. When they do come, they will

bring into sharp focus the trends now falling into place, especially as regards legal challenges.

Then in the year 2020, Trump will encounter even greater astrological challenges, as transiting Pluto reaches the opposition to Trump's Saturn, transiting Neptune continues to square his natal Uranus, transiting Saturn opposes his natal Saturn and Venus, and even transiting Uranus gets into the fray as it squares his natal Pluto. All this translated into plain English means that **in 2020, Trump will encounter terrific resistance, criticism, censure, unpopularity, rejection, and even disgrace.** The weight of the law will come down heavily upon him, his associates, and his family. The family involvement is inevitable, signified by the fact that transiting Saturn in governmental Capricorn will oppose Trump's Saturn and Venus in familial Cancer in 2020. Saturn is the planet of consequences. This means that the consequences of the actions taken by Trump and his family members in the past will be due for karmic accounting. At the same time, Trump's political fortunes will be greatly diminished. No longer will he have a substantial constituency. It is not at all likely that he will have a political future from that point forward.

The astrological conditions which Trump will meet by 2020 are harsh. Going into them with an impudent attitude and trailing a long history of shady deals, Trump is virtually assured of public condemnation and serious legal reprisals. Thus, to the question where Trump might be or is headed, astrology can reply quite confidently that he is headed toward a colossal and crushing encounter with his own karma, his own nefarious dealings, his own cavalier sense that he walks above water and flies above the law where even eagles dread to go. Another term as president is not at all likely. In fact, the astrological conditions suggest that Trump's grip on the Oval Office will weaken significantly in 2019. At any time in 2019 and 2020, Trump is positioned to have the reins of power removed from his hands."

Summary: As these passages from newsletters written two years ago demonstrate, 2020 has long been destined for Trump's meeting with the forces of karma. The show is now playing out on the world stage. For those who fear that Trump will wiggle out of accountability for even this grave two-fold crisis in public health and national economy, the astrological reply is: not at all likely. Instead, what we are observing is the demise of the self-centered personality as a model for human functioning as Trump the person experiences a massive confrontation with the forces of karma signified by the opposition of Pluto to his natal Saturn and Venus positions. Trump's heyday will be washed away as a consequence, and the image of the cocky, grandiose, unassailable American will lose its appeal as a model for wise human functioning.

Daily Analysis and Prediction for the Week Ahead

The entire week constitutes a run-up to the important Jupiter-Pluto conjunction of April 4. This influence operates on many levels at once, but two are prime. First, the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction of April 4 closes out trends and themes which had their inception at the last Jupiter-Pluto conjunction in December of 2007, which was part of what set off the financial crunch of 2008. That scenario, oddly enough, is now moving out of the picture, to be replaced by a new vision. The painful memory of 2008 and all that it connoted is strong, but its hold on the world psyche is not complete, and is in fact giving way at this time. Second, this influence indicates that a new cycle of creativity and life experience is unfolding, starting from the 25th degree of Capricorn, sign of business, commerce, government, and initiatory striving. New models for business and government operation areas are now emerging, as seen in the massive shift to the internet as the preferred platform for commerce in the time of corona isolation. At the same time, many currently fear the authoritarianism which has been in evidence during corona isolation. Yes, it is possible and even

likely that authoritarianism will be a factor with a conjunction in Capricorn, a constrictive influence. Still, it is possible the Jupiter-Pluto energies can be used for innovation and positive visioning of the present and future as well. Above all, the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction in Capricorn signifies that qualified world servers who want to step up to greater responsibility for manifesting the Divine Plan on Earth will have opportunities to do so. Responsibility therefore increases for those willing to take it on. That's for this week as a starting point for a 12-year period, the length of the Jupiter-Pluto cycle.

Monday March 30 represents a significant shift in energies, as Mars leaves the executive and privileged sign of Capricorn and enters group-conscious Aquarius, where it will stay through mid-May 2020. Mars will now begin to confer its drive and motivation to the group decision-making process, thus highlighting elected bodies such as Congress and state legislatures, as well as membership bodies such as the United Nations. The emphasis will thus move away from isolated executive figures and turn toward the many voices embodying diversity. The movement of Mars into Aquarius, which takes place at 2:43 pm CDT, is especially significant, as it will immediately join Saturn, also newly in Aquarius, creating a strong focus in the humanitarian and cooperation-oriented sign of Aquarius.

Tuesday March 31 sees the exact conjunction of Mars and Saturn at 1 degree of Aquarius, exact at 1:31 pm CDT. Anytime Mars is involved, uproar and tumult are certain. Intensive discussions and outright verbal brawls are likely, especially where group process must be worked out. In the home, the Mars-Saturn conjunction is likely to generate feelings of impatience and frustration, but these feelings can be transformed to their higher components with meditative practice and right intention. Even so, critical developments are likely throughout the day. Excitability concerning the corona virus arises, but this too can be placed in perspective. Today there is a great need for stability and dispassion, as tempers flare, conditions seem urgent, and violent side-taking threatens all negotiations.

Even so, in the midst of this, sudden forward movement in progressive projects and altruistic endeavors will take place.

Wednesday April 1 sees the hotheaded energies of yesterday cool down somewhat. The waxing Moon, now in self-protective Cancer, makes trines to Mercury and Neptune in soothing Pisces, making the home the castle for a good many. A meaningful smidge of serenity takes hold noon to 8 pm CDT as a result.

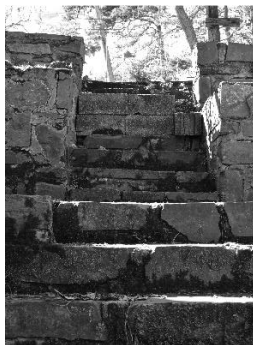
Thursday April 2 contains a good bit of straight-on clarity and confrontation, as the waxing Moon in Cancer opposes Jupiter and Pluto, and then shifts into Leo, from which sign it opposes Saturn and Mars, and then squares Uranus. Upheaval and confrontation on the world scene are likely. Courageous figures will call out truth to power throughout the day.

Friday April 3 is less contentious than yesterday, primarily conditioned by Mercury and Neptune conjunct in the Pisces. Sorrow and grieving may take center stage many places. World servers can help by living the truth that the soul exists and that death is only a change of levels, nothing more. Many things come to an end this day, as it is the 11th hour of the Jupiter-Pluto cycle and also a day containing emphasis from the final sign of the zodiac, Pisces. Thus we bid adieu to certain elements as we prepare for the next steps ahead.

Saturday April 4 brings the exact conjunction of Jupiter and Pluto, which transpires at 9:45 pm CDT in the 25th degree of Capricorn. This moment represents powerful positive creativity, an excellent moment to set a transcendent intention. At this moment, consciousness receives the new seed image for 12 years ahead of divine self-unfoldment, planetary service, and meaningful accomplishment. This can be the start of something great for all. Reaching for the stars makes sense now. Setting high goals and objectives is the thing of the moment and will bear fruit in the coming years. While some few misguided souls may binge on power and authority, all will not. New organizations will be born in mind at this time,

and new standards for excellence set. The bar moves up and we are challenged to increase our power to leap to higher levels of competence.

Sunday April 5 remains imbued with the solemnity and sense of enhanced purpose strong on Saturday. Time for profound meditative reflection arises just after 11 pm CDT as the Moon in logical and thoughtful Virgo opposes numinous Neptune in intuitive Pisces. We receive imagistic impressions of worlds beyond as inspiration.



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 continues her esoteric studies, counsels spiritual seekers world-wide via phone and Zoom, follows her artistic passion for heritage photography, and is an active member at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. She can be reached at starsong1208@gmail.com for astrological consultations, presentations, and instruction.