

The Starfire Messenger



A Free Weekly Newsletter

From Esoteric Astrologer Maureen Richmond, M.A.

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The Four Horsemen of the American Apocalypse

With the American presidential election of 2020 now under way, curiosity about the outcome of voting scheduled for early November runs high. A look at the astrological situations of the four major contenders at election time is thus in order.

Joe Biden

The Democratic candidate for president is Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr. Born on November 20, 1942, at 8:30 am in Scranton, PA, USA, Biden is a Sun sign Scorpio with the Moon in Taurus and Sagittarius rising. Here are his natal positions:

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Sun | 28 Scorpio |
| Moon | 1 Taurus |
| Lunar Nodes | 0 Virgo/Pisces |
| Mercury | 22 Scorpio |
| Venus | 29 Scorpio |
| Mars | 13 Scorpio |
| Jupiter | 25 Cancer |
| Saturn | 10 Gemini |
| Uranus | 3 Gemini |
| Neptune | 2 Libra |
| Pluto | 7 Leo |
| Ascendant | 3 Sagittarius |
| Midheaven | 20 Virgo |

As is apparent, Biden's present incarnation is profoundly conditioned by Scorpio. With four factors in this sign, Biden is blessed with all the good of this sign and tasked with all its challenges. Scorpio is not known for its unguarded openness. In fact, it's quite the opposite, much more attuned to strategic concealment and cautious bits of self-revelation. This theme is all the more prevalent in the Biden chart, for his four Scorpio planets fall in the secretive 12th house. Astoundingly, this arrangement echoes the chart of the previous Democratic presidential nominee, Hillary Clinton, who has Sun,

Venus, Mercury, and the Ascendant also in Scorpio, with Sun, Venus, and Mercury all in the 12th house. Biden's 12th house stellium encompasses positions from 13 to 29 degrees Scorpio; Clinton's 12th house stellium encompasses positions from 2 to 22 Scorpio.

Thus, there exists a dramatic similarity between the astrological profile of Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton, for the charts of both reveal a definite focus on Scorpio placements in the 12th house. On an astrological basis, it could therefore be said that the two are very similar in certain regards. Both harbor deep needs for privacy, personal space, and confidentiality. Both function naturally in closed-door environments where they can exercise their stunning powers of analysis undisturbed. Neither is well-suited to the constant public scrutiny which inevitably comes with elected political position. Both are profoundly inward persons, both blessed with the shrewd intellect and penetrating perceptive power of Scorpio, but also given to moments of resentment when their private worlds come to light. It would be no great stretch to say that both of these charts show persons with something they'd rather not air to the public. Such persons often appear defensive when placed under the harsh light of public attention. This was certainly true of Hillary Clinton, who although composed and unflappable much of the time, let her pent-up rage fly just enough times during the previous presidential election to make certain voters squirm. The same dynamic could easily express through Biden.

At the time of the upcoming election, Biden's chart reveals a combination of supportive and challenging transits. Transiting Pluto in Capricorn will be within 1 degree of exact sextile to his Mercury in Scorpio, showing that he will be in positive communication with large numbers of persons, largely successful in stating his beliefs, points of view, and intended policies. Transiting Pluto will also be within 2 degrees of exact opposition to his natal Jupiter, an indication of intense confrontations and potential for involvement with corrupt or scandalous matters. All the same,

the opposition of Pluto to his Jupiter in Cancer again suggests contact with and influence over large masses of persons.

Less promising for Biden is the long-term opposition of transiting Neptune to his natal Midheaven, which takes place in 2020 and 2021. Such a position for Neptune indicates that Biden's place in society and before the world (as symbolized by the Midheaven) is in process of eroding and dissolving, a preparation phase to his entrance into a new period of inner work, privacy, personal focus, and family connections as Neptune moves into Biden's fourth house in 2021 to stay there for about 15 years. Supporters of Biden will read this as entirely consistent with a presidential role which features the family-like nature of national heritage, but neutral astrological judgement would likely see this differently. With Biden's natal 12th house proclivities and such action from Neptune hailing a shift into even greater subjectivity, the more likely indication is that this influence shows Biden moving away from public life in the very near future.

Kamala Harris

The same Neptunian astrological factor plagues the chart of Biden's running mate, Kamala Devi Harris, the Democratic candidate for Vice-President. Born on October 20, 1964 at 9:28 pm in Oakland, CA, USA, Harris is a Sun sign Libran with Moon in Aries and 24 degrees Gemini rising. Her Venus is located at 18 degrees Virgo, conjunct the Midheaven of the Biden chart. This 18 degree Virgo position will be opposed by transiting Neptune throughout the election and beyond. An arrangement such as this indicates that a person is passing through a period of time in which he or she is likely to be significantly misperceived by others. Further, good judgment may be impaired during this time as a result of too emotional or idealistic an outlook. Greater practicality is called for, as is greater attention to fact and detail, as opposed to the grand, general, but often vague ideas

associated with Neptune. Thus, Harris faces serious challenges from Neptune at the time of the election.

Of interest is the fact that the chart of Harris also mirrors that of Hillary Clinton, for both charts feature Mars in Leo, an indication of courage and drive, but also of ego-inflation, bravado, and posturing. That said, guess who else has Mars in Leo? Why, the Don himself, who has Mars in late Leo. Oddly, Clinton, Harris, and Trump are more alike than they are dissimilar on that particular point. All are politicians with large doses of self-importance to power them along on their journeys. But to return to Kamala Harris, here are her astrological positions.

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Sun | 28 Libra |
| Moon | 28 Aries |
| Lunar Nodes | 25 Gemini/Sagittarius |
| Mercury | 1 Scorpio |
| Venus | 18 Virgo |
| Mars | 21 Leo |
| Jupiter | 24 Taurus |
| Saturn | 28 Aquarius Rx |
| Uranus | 13 Virgo |
| Neptune | 17 Scorpio |
| Pluto | 15 Virgo |
| Ascendant | 24 Gemini |
| Midheaven | 2 Pisces |

As is apparent, the Harris chart is strongly conditioned by the sign of Virgo, the sign of the zodiac which concerns the workforce, labor, and vocational training. Virgo is also a sign of keen intellect and sharp mental functioning, characteristics for which Harris as a former prosecuting attorney is well known. The chart also features a precise Sun-Moon opposition in late Aries and Libra, respectively. Throughout the presidential campaign, this latter portion of the Harris chart will be under severe impact from Saturn, for Saturn in late Capricorn will continuously square both the Moon and Sun positions in the Harris chart. At the same time, transiting Neptune opposes the Venus position of the Harris chart.

These two influences taken together indicate that Harris is in a difficult position, battling two major themes. The square of transiting Saturn to both Moon and Sun suggest a protracted period of confronting hard conditions, disappointments, and setbacks. The natural inclinations of the individual seem to be thwarted by exterior forces as well as by inner constraints. A heavy burden requires lifting, and exhaustion may figure in. At the same time, Neptune opposing Venus indicates that the individual is contending with misunderstandings, misperceived motivations, blame, unfair accusations, and inability to present the desired image. Decision-making and ability to perceive simple truths may be fogged or obscured in some way. The person may feel distant, misunderstood, and disinclined to engage in strenuous argument. These influences could quite easily slow down the otherwise fiery Harris, who has in past times terrified many with her biting Aries Moon and imperial Leo Mars.

Yet, the Harris chart undeniably indicates setback, opposition, obstacles, and hindrance throughout the presidential campaign, right into the election, and beyond, as Saturn and Neptune influence by hard angle transits throughout this period. It is true that Saturn brings increased responsibilities, but not increased adulation or popularity. In addition, Harris is in the final couple of years before her second Saturn return, a period of time well-known to astrologers to produce experiences in which

defeat and disillusionment play a large role, as a major period of experience closes out and asks of the person to release and let go of much. The two years preceding a second Saturn return are rarely years of delirious victory, but more often times of completion, endings, and relinquishments. None of this sounds like a glorious ascension to the vice-presidency. Thus, Harris is likely either profoundly disaffected with her running mate, or unlikely to be part of a winning ticket (or both), despite all Mars in Leo attempts to appear in perfect self-command and tickled pink to potentially be one step away from the most powerful leadership position in the world.

Mike Pence

Born June 7, 1959 in Columbus, IN, USA, at an unknown time, Michael Richard Pence is the Republican candidate for Vice-President. Pence is a Gemini Sun with Moon in either late Gemini or early Cancer. Because his birth time is currently not known by the astrological community, his Ascendant, Midheaven, and exact Moon sign and degree are also unknown, as these depend directly on time of birth. However, the planetary positions for his day of birth would be relevant in any case.

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Sun | 16 Gemini |
| Lunar Nodes | 11 Libra/Aries |
| Mercury | 22 Gemini |
| Venus | 1 Leo |
| Mars | 4 Leo |
| Jupiter | 25 Scorpio Rx |
| Saturn | 5 Capricorn Rx |
| Uranus | 13 Leo |

Neptune 5 Scorpio Rx

Pluto 2 Virgo

Could it be? Yes, it could. Pence is yet another politician with Mars in Leo, sign of royalty, rulership, dominion, and power. In fact, Pence has a stellium in Leo, with Venus, Mars, and Uranus positioned in the regal sign. In terms of astrology, then, he comes by his current position as vice-president naturally, for his chart is rife with the karma of recognition, status, and influence through the prevalence of Leo. Scorpio also plays a prominent role in Pence's chart, with Neptune at 5 degrees of that sign and Jupiter at 25 degrees. Both Leo and Scorpio are fixed signs, imparting stability and endurance. This focus in fixed signs acts as a counterbalance for the unsettled and changeable characteristics associated with Gemini, in which sign Pence also has an emphasis, with the Sun, Mercury, and possibly the Moon in that sign.

At election time, Pence suffers far fewer astrological strains than does Harris, or even Biden, although that evaluation might change if his Ascendant and Midheaven were known. Working with the available information, it is possible to see that during the campaign and at the election, Pence will receive astrological support from Pluto, Saturn, and Mars, with transiting Pluto within 2 degrees of exact sextile to natal Jupiter, transiting Saturn within 2 degrees of exact sextile to natal Jupiter, and transiting Mars sextile his natal Sun and trine his natal Uranus. Pluto in prestigious Capricorn sextile his Jupiter in financial Scorpio indicates plenty of money in the picture for accomplishing his objectives. Saturn in governing Capricorn sextile his Jupiter in resourceful Scorpio repeats that message, indicating steadiness and reliability of financial and moral support from his base. The Mars transit shows him undisturbed and feeling strong at the election point, an indication absent from the charts of Biden and Harris.

Donald Trump

Born on June 14, 1946, in Queens, NY, USA, at 10:54 am (according to some sources), Donald John Trump is the Republican candidate for the American presidency. Trump is a Gemini Sun, with Moon in Sagittarius and 0 degrees Virgo rising.

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Sun | 23 Gemini |
| Moon | 21 Sagittarius |
| Lunar Nodes | 23 Gemini/Sagittarius |
| Mercury | 9 Cancer |
| Venus | 26 Cancer |
| Mars | 27 Leo |
| Jupiter | 17 Libra |
| Saturn | 24 Cancer |
| Uranus | 18 Gemini |
| Neptune | 6 Libra |
| Pluto | 10 Leo |
| Ascendant | 0 Virgo |
| Midheaven | 24 Taurus |

As can be seen, Trump's chart features quite a few outstanding arrangements. His most tenanted signs are Gemini and Cancer, with Uranus, Sun, and lunar north node in Gemini, and Mercury, Saturn, and Venus in Cancer. The sign Gemini is connected with the American presidency through the USA Uranus and Mars in Gemini. For example, John F. Kennedy had the Gemini Sun and Barack Obama the Gemini Moon. Here is one of the reasons that Trump is where he is today, a fact which argues somewhat in the favor of Kamala Harris as a presidential figure at

some point, given her 24 degree Gemini Ascendant, which, by the way, agrees closely with Trump's 23 degree Gemini Sun. As the astrology shows, all these candidates are much more like each other than not. They are busy trying to sell their differences to the public, but the astrology reveals the truth: it's not so. Trump and Harris agree on something fundamental. What could that be? It would be something Gemini, such as the need to shift and adapt when a surrounding situation threatens to change.

But Trump himself also has something astrologically Harris does not, which is the Cancerian stellium. This Cancerian influence binds Trump to the USA chart set for the Declaration of Independence, which contains Venus, Sun, Jupiter, and Mercury in Cancer. Of these, the USA Mercury at 24 Cancer is precisely conjunct the Saturn of Trump's natal chart, producing a tenacious hold on both parties. Thus, Trump is tied to the U.S., and it to him through the sign Cancer. This sign rules the masses, the sense of homeland, the family, the compound, the safe ground, the fortress, the sense of protection, and ultimately, of security. Trump is tied in right there to the American national psyche, indelibly so. No matter what one thinks of the man's manner and policies, the astrology clearly shows how and why he has attained to the presidential office. It is because he is able to connect to the depth of the American need for a strong protective family figure, or someone perceived to be that.

At election time, Trump's chart remains under major assault, just as it shall have been throughout 2020. This was not the case in 2016, 2017, or 2018, or even 2019 until the very end of that year. But then, transiting Saturn and Pluto began their long opposition to Trump's Saturn and Venus, severely threatening that Cancerian sense of security. As these aspects moved into place, the government-decreed lockdown eviscerated the American economy, depriving Trump of his primary trophy and bragging point. This astrological condition persists through the election period. Thus, in early November 2020, transiting Pluto will be within 1

degree of exact opposition to Trump's Saturn, but also within 1 degree of exact trine to the Midheaven. Transiting Neptune will be exactly square his natal Uranus. Transiting Uranus will be within 2 degrees of exact square to Pluto, but within 1 degree of exact sextile to natal Mercury. Transiting Saturn will be within 1 degree of exact opposition to his natal Venus. Jupiter will be within 2 degrees of exact trine to his Midheaven, and within 1 degree of exact opposition to Saturn. Transiting Mars will be within 2 degrees of exact opposition to natal Jupiter. It's a very mixed astrological bag for Trump at election time 2020, with Pluto, Neptune, Uranus, Saturn, and Mars kicking up serious trouble, while Pluto, Uranus, and Jupiter also offer some support.

What Will Happen with the Four Horsemen?

The four candidates in the American presidential elections thus are under a welter of influences. Biden and Harris are deep under water with unhelpful Neptune transits, while Harris is positively clobbered with Saturn. Trump is way behind the 8-ball with all the major planets piling on at once. Only the chart of Mike Pence is, as is said classical astrology, unimpeded. That assessment could change if the birth time for Pence surfaces and it comes to light that he has difficult aspects to his Ascendant or Midheaven. But as it stands now, Pence is the only horseman of the four who looks like he can stay on his mount. The other three are shifty in the saddle and easily unhorsed. The likely implication is that Mike Pence is shortly to become president of the U.S., either acceding to that post before the election and winning the subsequent election, or by winning on the Trump ticket and acceding to the presidency shortly thereafter. In 2021, transiting Jupiter and Saturn in Aquarius will activate the Pence chart intensively, thus showing an active role for him in whatever context he finds himself. The astrological signs thus point to Pence as the one horseman who will politically survive the election apocalypse.

Analysis and Prediction for the Week Ahead

The Moon waxes throughout the entire week, making this passage one of increasing momentum in all current trends.

Monday August 24 features a potent astrological happening as Mars at 26 Aries makes the exact square to Saturn at 26 Capricorn. As is said in esoteric astrology, *Mars and Saturn are potent for initiation into Hierarchy*. Why so? Because these two test the souls of men, so to speak, and of women too, delivering the character test of maintaining patience in the face of obstacles and of cultivating resolve even when proof of success is not at hand. We are tasked to dig deeper into ourselves for persistence even in the appearance of setback or defeat. This forces clarification of priorities, for *Saturn demands an answer*. Help comes 8 am – noon CDT while the Moon in insightful Scorpio trines Venus and sextiles Mars, and then again 2 pm – past midnight CDT while the Moon trines Neptune and sextiles both Pluto and Saturn.

Tuesday August 25 sees the Moon move into cheery but sometimes oblivious Sagittarius just before 8 am CDT. Mercury at 11 Virgo trines Uranus at 11 Taurus, bringing needed information into view. Venus at 18 Cancer opposes Jupiter at 18 Capricorn, emphasizing the reciprocal but also tense relationship between the governed and the governing.

Wednesday August 26 brings a preview of a Mercury-Neptune opposition which will form this weekend. Observe today and learn ahead of time as the truthful Sagittarius Moon tangles with Mercury in worrisome Virgo and Neptune in mystified Pisces. Weather begins to be unstable, with alternating wind and rain. More of that for the weekend.

Thursday August 27 offers a fun interval 6 – 8 am CDT while the outdoorsy Sagittarius Moon trines Mars in athletic Aries. Then the Moon enters serious Capricorn at 12:37 pm CDT, shifting the atmosphere to concerns about major life trends. Venus at 20 Cancer trines Neptune at 20 Pisces, cooling the land and reducing the stresses of the recent weeks.

Friday August 28 fulfills hopes in the direction of peace and productivity as the responsible Capricorn Moon trines Uranus and Mercury, conjuncts Jupiter, and sextiles Neptune from 7 am to midnight CDT. It may not be glamorous but it will be prosperous.

Saturday August 29 is conditioned by Mercury at 18 Virgo trine Jupiter at 18 Capricorn, promoting settled conditions and spreading encouraging news. Work and profession are blessed today, even though rumblings in politics and government bother the public from 5 am to 3 pm CDT as the Moon conjuncts Pluto and Saturn, and then squares Mars.

Sunday August 30 stands out as a result of two noticeable planetary actions. Venus at 23 Cancer opposes Pluto at 23 Capricorn, intensifying feelings of isolation, exclusion, resentment, and bitterness. Social vibes are thus hard to negotiate today. At the same time, Mercury at 20 Virgo opposes Neptune at 20 Pisces, bringing wet weather outside and tears of cleansing on the inside. Lack of clarity complicates the situation, as emotional pressure builds to a seeming crisis point. The Moon moves toward full phase, thus enlarging upon all issues currently on the table. Full Moon is set to arrive on September 1 – 2, depending on time zone. The Neptune component of today's influences will both intensify emotions and activate spiritual perceptions. It is up to us to increase the buddhi and decrease the kama, so to speak.

Leaves of Morya's Garden I, 19

Steep is the path to the abode of faith.
Turn your mind to the joy of creation.
That you may exalt the spirit, cast out all trivial thoughts,
and be ready to receive the waves of vibration sent by Us.