

JAN09Blog

This is the first blog I've posted to my site. Future blogs will include unpublished material from my degree research plus some other assorted comments and observation. They will feature some interesting references to articles in various other publications and websites, and predictive astrology tips. You will find an occasional book review, synopsis of good speakers, and other things that appear useful to my Moon in Virgo.

I'd like to say this will be coming out regularly, but in the interests of full disclosure, I frequently sleep late. New blogs will be posted when I get either the notion or enough material to justify putting one together, whichever comes first. Besides, I'm launching this under a retrograde Mercury, and as any astrologer will tell you....well, never mind.

If you wish to be notified when a new blog has been posted, please go to the Contact page to be added to the mailing list.

On to serious matters...

The eclipse of Jan. 26, 2009 and 7th degree of Aquarius/Leo axis

The 6-7th degrees of the Aquarius/Leo axis are highlighted this month with the solar eclipse that occurs at 6 Aquarius 30 on January 26 (2009). The last eclipse nearest to this degree was Jan. 26, 1990.

From a general perspective, this eclipse will oppose the natal Pluto in Leo of a lot of the early baby boomer generation. I personally think that the decanate/dwad flavor can help understand an eclipse in a personal chart, providing more meaning to the natal house position in which the eclipse falls, and/or any planet with which the eclipse may have a conjunction, opposition or square. (For the record, I don't use trines and sextiles when working with eclipses.)

This particular degree falls in the "pure" Aquarius decanate, which Uranus rules. It falls in the Aries dwad. So the degree span gives it a number of characteristics: aggressive (Mars-ruled dwad) science (Uranus/Aquarius); unusual (Aquarius) leadership (Mars); unconventional (Uranus) warfare (Aries); astrology (Uranus) leadership (Mars); unusual (Uranus) accidents (Mars) are a few that come to mind.

This particular degree axis didn't lend itself to the wide variety of events that I have seen with other degrees. But based on my research, I think an appropriate theme for it is **the consequences of great heights**.

This theme is literal in the field of science and aeronautics, which is appropriate when you look at its decanate and dwad. The early degrees of Aquarius have long been associated with the US National Space Administration (NASA). The point was well illustrated by Liza K. Hall in the June/July 2003 edition of *The Mountain Astrologer*.¹ She noted that NASA is "highly sensitive

¹ Hall, Liza K. "The Space Shuttle Columbia," *The Mountain Astrologer*, June-July 2003, p. 42.

to stressful placements near 7 Aquarius. When we look at the charts of NASA's three fatal disasters, we find that the chart ruler of all of them was at or very close to 7 Aquarius and was involved in stressful major aspects."

On Jan. 27, 1967, the Sun was at 7 Aquarius 21 when three American astronauts perished in a fire while trapped in a space capsule on the ground during a test of Apollo I.² The Challenger disaster that occurred on Jan. 28, 1986 had Mercury at 6 Aquarius 08 and the Sun at 8 Aquarius 28.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill for the NASA creation on July 29, 1958, 9:36 PM, EDT, Washington DC.³ That gives NASA a Sun in 5 Leo 25, in conjunction with Uranus in 11 Leo 37, in the 6th house, using that creation time. So NASA's Sun would definitely be affected by the January 2009 eclipse in 6-7 Aquarius, and its Uranus would have been affected by the eclipse of Aug. 1, 2008.

The 6-7 fixed axis can be associated with difficulties for the astronauts, even non-related to technology. US Astronaut Lisa Nowak was allegedly trying to harm a female air force captain when she found that both women were in a relationship with the same man. At the time that Nowak drove to Orlando (February 5, 2007) to confront the woman, Nowak's **converse secondary progressed Mars** was at 6 Leo 34.

While I don't anticipate a space disaster, NASA could be affected by the inevitable budget cuts in the next year or so.

Technical achievements

There have been other technical achievements associated with this degree.

In 1988, French physicist Albert Fert discovered the Giant Magnetoresistance effect, recognized as the birth of spintronics, ultimately leading to music players and laptops. At the time of his discovery, Fert's **converse secondary progressed Jupiter** was at 6 Aquarius 13.

Henri Becquerel discovered radioactivity on March 1, 1896, at 2 PM GMT.⁴ At the time, Becquerel's **secondary progressed Sun** and **secondary progressed Mars** were both at 7 Aquarius.

The initial flight of the Concorde occurred on March 2, 1969 at 3:40 PM in Toulouse, France, with the **Midheaven** at 7 Leo 39.⁵

² Jan.27, 1967, 6:31 PM time for awareness of fire, Cape Canaveral, Florida. Source: Palmbeachpost.com, as well as in Hall's article listed above in [The Mountain Astrologer](#).

³ Source: Lois Rodden in April 1999 [Data News](#), quoting Heinz Antoni in "Introduction to Trines in Political Astrology"

⁴ Source: [The Eureka Effect](#) by Nick Kollerstrom and Mike O'Neill. London: The Urania Trust, p. 38.

⁵ <http://www.stariq.com/Main/Articles/P0001233.htm>

The heroic landing of the US Airways airbus on Jan.15, 2009 in New York City's Hudson River happened just 11 days before the eclipse, and with **transiting Mercury** at 6 Aquarius 04 retrograde. I've elaborated on this below, so I won't repeat myself here except to say that it certainly belongs in the achievement category, as all passengers and crew survived. It is not the only plane crash into a New York City River to occur with **transiting Mercury** in the 6-7 Aquarius degree span. More on this further into the blog.

Nuclear-related incidents and milestones

The 6-7th degrees of the Aquarius/Leo axis have also been associated with nuclear-related events. There is one event that seems to provide a potentially haunting theme to this degree, and that is the concept of **setting things in motion**. A particular event of 1942 illustrates this concept. On Dec. 2, 1942 at 3:30 PM, Enrico Fermi switched on the first atomic pile in Chicago as part of the wartime Manhattan Project, and declared: "The chain reaction has begun."⁶ **Transiting Pluto** was at 7 Leo 56.

It is too easy to assign a theme to a degree based on one incident. It's true that we are always setting things in motion, but like a chain reaction, a series of problems seem to be unfolding one event upon another, such as we've seen in America's current economic debacle, and its far-ranging effects on not only Americans but other countries.

I also think that the concept of nuclear energy has begun to make inroads as a viable source of electricity. That it has gained more interest is unusual, but in keeping with an eclipse in this degree which would have had influence from November 2008.

There are a few other incidents related to nuclear energy.

On April 10, 1945, the US Atomic Energy Commission was formed, with **Pluto** at 7 Leo 56.

The National Reactor Testing Station in Idaho Falls, Idaho was destroyed on Jan. 3, 1976 at 9:01 PM. The **transiting Moon** was at 7 Leo 27.⁷

On April 26, 1986, at 1:23 AM⁸, a reactor blew at the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl, Ukraine, which killed 31 people and left 300 treated for radiation poisoning. **The Vertex** for the event was 7 Leo 37.⁹

On Jan. 31, 1958, at an unidentified overseas base possibly near Libya, a B-47 bomber with one nuclear weapon in strike configuration was making a simulated takeoff during an exercise when the aircraft caught fire and burned for seven hours. Although the weapon's high explosives did

⁶ Ibid, p.9

⁷ Source: atomicights.com/jul96/Accident.html

⁸ Source: infoplease.com/ipa/A0769091.html

⁹ The vertex is frequently associated with "fated" events; I have difficulty in processing this concept. Whenever I find myself saying something is "fated", it is frequently when I can think of no other explanation, and that has been a particular problem with the vertex. It is, however, an important angle, and in event charts I would place it on equal footing with the ascendant and midheaven. Hence, it is included here.

not detonate, there was some contamination in the area immediately surrounding the crash. Following the accident, exercise alerts were temporarily suspended.¹⁰ **Transiting Venus** was at 7 Aquarius retrograde.

On Dec. 2, 1962, Louisville and Nashville trains derailed while carrying nuclear weapons components. The material was not damaged. **Transiting Saturn** was at 7 Aquarius 02.

UFO event

UFO events did not seem to proliferate with this degree axis. However, on June 24, 1947 at 2:58 PM¹¹ a UFO was sighted over Mt. Rainier, Washington, marking the “birth” of the UFO era in public awareness. At the time, **Saturn** was at 7 Leo 03.

Attaining heights in careers

The theme of heights that I associate with the 6-7th degrees of the Leo axis is not limited to technology or even to the literal.

Elvis Presley began his “rise” to fame on July 19, 1954, when his first recording played in Memphis, starting a huge surge of fans. At the time, his **secondary progressed Sun** was at 7 Aquarius 06. Actor Sean Connery achieved fame as James Bond in the first Bond film, *Dr. No*, which was released in the US on May 8, 1963. At the time, Connery had a **solar arc Ascendant/Saturn conjunction** at 7 Aquarius. On Nov. 17, 1558, Elizabeth I ascended the throne of England upon the death of her half-sister, Queen Mary (Tudor). She had a **secondary progressed Ascendant** at 7 Aquarius and transiting **Jupiter** was also at 7 Aquarius.

Another interesting tidbit about achieving heights: Michael Jordan, considered by many to be the greatest basketball player of all time, first joined his team, the Chicago Bulls, in 1984. At the time, he had a **converse secondary progressed Sun** at 6 Aquarius 58 (7 Aquarius), in conjunction with his **secondary progressed Venus** at 7 Aquarius 08. I’m not a basketball follower, but I always loved to watch Jordan play because he seemed to “fly” with his jumps—achieving great heights.

The 2009 eclipse and the symbol systems

The Sabian symbols and 7 Aquarius/Leo. In Blain Bovee’s book, *The Sabian Symbols & Astrological Analysis*. He pairs the symbols, and the combination can be quite useful. For the 7 Aquarius/Leo axis he pairs 7 Aquarius (“*A child born of an eggshell*”) with 7 Leo (“*The constellations in the sky*”), and suggests that the pair be applied to watching “for understanding that connects the dots, sees patterns, deals with identifiable complexes.”¹² This concept of constellations is in tune with Aquarius and also with space exploration, a NASA function.

The Charubel system gives 7 Aquarius the symbol of *A Crown and Sceptre*. Charubel associates this with “one who is entitled to more than he possesses, and who has powers of which he is

¹⁰ Source: cdi.org/issues/nukeaccidents/accidents.htm

¹¹ News accounts

¹² Bovee, Blain. *The Sabian Symbols and Astrological Analysis*. St. Paul, MN: Llewellyn Worldwide, 2004, p. 195-196.

unconscious.”¹³ Sepharial sees 7 Aquarius as *A Target Pierced by a Rapier*, and calls it a degree of vulnerability.

Regarding 7 Leo, Charubel and Sepharial can be quite effusive. Charubel calls 7 Leo “as glorious a degree as any in the zodiac,” and gives its symbol as *A pyramidal figure with a Maltese cross at the top, or rather on the apex.*¹⁴ Sepharial calls 7 Leo *A scepter, on the crest of which shines a diamond like a magnificent star*. He calls it a degree of superiority, again superiority being a “heightened” position.¹⁵

Isidore Kozminsky also sees 7 Leo in lofty terms, noting that it is under the influence of Mercury: *A book, on which is a crown, resting on a golden throne*. She says it is a symbol of fame.¹⁶ Her interpretation of 7 Aquarius is different: she says that it is under the influence of the planet Neptune. The symbol she gives is *A naked foot bleeding; above, a burning lamp*. She feels it is a symbol of suffering.

Countries with 7 Aquarius/7 Leo prominent.

Iran has **Mercury** in 6 Aquarius 05 in conjunction with **Mars** at 9 Aquarius and the **Sun** at 11 Aquarius based on the Feb. 1 1979 chart. The United Arab Republic has Venus in 6 Aquarius 05, along with an 8 Leo Ascendant (based on a Feb. 1, 1958 chart). Venezuela has **Uranus** at 6 Aquarius 46. (Interestingly, this Venezuela chart, based on a Sept. 22, 1830 date, has a tight square between Jupiter at 8 Cardinal 28 and Pluto at 8 Aries 47. Refer to my article on the Articles page about 8 Cardinal.) The United Arab Emirate (Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharja, Ajman, Fujaira and Umm al Quaiwain) formed on Dec. 2, 1971, has the **North Node** at 6 Aquarius 53.¹⁷

There are numerous charts of the United States, but one in particular worth observing is that of the Cornwallis surrender on Oct. 17, 1781. In the January 2009 issue of *Dell Horoscope*, Bill Meridian quotes the imminent astrologer Charles Jayne on the use of this chart, which in Jayne’s view, was when the US truly became independent.¹⁸ Using that chart, this January eclipse is aligned with a Mars/Pluto conjunction¹⁹ in the Cornwallis chart, which ranges from 4-6 degrees of Aquarius.

Eclipse activation points

¹³ Charubel and Sepharial. *The Degrees of the Zodiac Symbolized*. Abingdon, MD: Astrology Center of America, Astrology Classics, 2004.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, p. 17

¹⁵ *Ibid*, p. 76

¹⁶ Kozminsky, Isidore. *Zodiacal Symbology and its Planetary Power*. Washington, DC: American Federation of Astrologers (no date given)

¹⁷ Source: All data is from *The Book of World Horoscopes* by Nicholas Campion, published by Cinnabar Books (Bristol, UK), 1996 edition.

¹⁸ Meridian, Bill. “January’s Planets and You.” *Dell Horoscope*. January, 2009, p. 13.

¹⁹ Mars/Pluto conjunctions tend to get judged harshly when they sometimes have more innocent interpretations. For example, they can symbolize the transformation (Pluto) of leadership (Mars), and this may simply reflect a new president.

It cannot be overlooked that Mercury turned retrograde at 7 Aquarius on Jan. 11, 2009. I think this brings in a **Mercury** emphasis with this eclipse. That can't be entirely beneficial—Mercury frequently operates as The Trickster, more than we'd like to think. **Mercury** then returns to 7 Aquarius on Feb. 21, 2009, when it is officially considered direct by those of us who allow for the shadow period of the retrograde factor. **Jupiter** will be transiting 7 Aquarius on Feb. 4-7, 2009, and **Mars** will be at 7 Aquarius on Feb. 14, 2009.

You should also be aware during the next six months following this eclipse of the times when the **Moon** is transiting either 7 Aquarius or 7 Leo. In particular, if the eclipse is in conjunction with a natal planet, one should especially look to the New Moon on April 25, 2009 at 5 Taurus 04, the square to the eclipse point of 6-7 Aquarius. Matters pertaining to the eclipse could be prominent then.

I also like to follow Dietrech Pessin's work. As I noted in my own book, Pessin discovered a two-year cycle to eclipses that she details in Lunar Shadows: The Lost Key to the Timing of Eclipses. Some other critical times related to this eclipse could occur on Oct. 26, 2009 at the First Quarter Moon of 2 Aquarius 44; on July 26, 2010, with the Full Moon at 3 Aquarius 00; and on April 25, 2011, with the Last Quarter Moon at 4 Aquarius 34.²⁰

One should always take the solstice points into consideration with eclipses. The solstice point of 7 Aquarius is 23 Scorpio. The solstice point of 7 Leo is 23 Taurus. Note that fixed signs have other fixed signs for solstice points, unlike Cardinal and Mutable signs.

Asteroid involvement

The asteroid Tisiphone is also in 6 Aquarius on the day of the eclipse. Martha Lang-Wescott's research on asteroids associates Tisiphone with justice prevailing. In her fascinating newsletter, *Tools of the Trade*, she says that Tisiphone's placement "would seem to say that events hold a theme related to *an eye for an eye* and some form of Getting What is Deserved."²¹ Martha's research with the asteroids has been phenomenal. You can find out more about her and her work at treehousemountain.com.

US Airways airbus crash in Hudson, interesting degrees and the legend of Sedna

On Jan. 15, 2009, at 3:31 PM in New York City, a US Airways airbus crashed into the Hudson River and all on board survived after heroic action on part of the flight crew and the rescue units. It is interesting to note that **transiting Mercury** at the time was at 6 Aquarius 04, almost exactly in conjunction with the degree of the upcoming eclipse. (On a side note, it should be mentioned that the Ascendant for the 3:31 PM time was 9 Cancer 48, which would be in conjunction with Jupiter's North Node at 10 Cancer, a fortunate placement. Longitude for Jupiter and the Sun was about 7 degrees apart, but they were parallel in latitude.)

²⁰ Pessin, Dietrech. Lunar Shadows: The Lost Key to the Timing of Eclipses. Boston, MA. Galactic Press, 1997 (first edition)

²¹ Lang-Wescott, Martha. Tools of the Trade. Treehouse Mountain. February 2009, p.3

However, this is not the first time a commercial flight has gone down in a New York River. At 11:56 PM²², on the same day as the flight that killed rock legend Buddy Holly, Feb. 3, 1959, an American Airlines Flight crashed into the East River in New York City. **Mercury** was at 7 Aquarius 27, opposing the **Midheaven** at 11 Leo 09.

Some thoughts on Sedna

There was something else about the US Airways event that caught my eye that might be of use to people researching Sedna. In mythology, Sedna is considered to be the Inuit goddess of the sea, and of the Eskimo underworld, and one legend popularly associated with her is that she was lured into marriage by an evil **bird spirit**. There could be some Sedna connections to the US Airways crash, in that it occurred in a body of water (a river, not the ocean) during an especially frigid day, with the cause being a **double bird** strike that crippled the plane's engines.

Sedna is presently at 20 Taurus, and I checked some of my research regarding the 20th degree of Taurus²³ to see if there was anything remotely akin to the event. A few things seemed to jump out:

The 20th degree of Taurus is connected to a fixed star called Rana, which is part of a much larger constellation known as Eridanus, and called "the river." Some associate Rana with accidents at sea. I have heard it is supposedly of the nature of Saturn, though some stars within Eridanus are considered fortunate.

For 20 Taurus, Sepharial calls the degree "a crow, or raven, stand(ing) upon a water-pot."²⁴ Isadore Kozminsky sees it as "a flight of white eagles."²⁵ Martin Goldsmith's take on the Sabian degree is "flying amid wisps of clouds, the pilot of a reconnaissance glider surveys a line of tramping soldiers and radios their commander that they need to change their course."²⁶ (I find Goldsmith's interpretation here to be fascinating, as the heroic pilot who landed the plane had to put it in glide mode as both engines had failed. He was also an experienced glider.)

Sedna and Sarah Palin

Since I'm on the subject of Sedna, I can't help but think of Sarah Palin, the 2008 Republican US VP nominee, and very much connected to the Inuit imagery as she is Governor of the state of Alaska. At the time she was nominated for Republican vice-president, she had a **secondary progressed Venus** at 21 Taurus, in line with the **current transiting Sedna** at 20 Taurus.

Some think that she was "abandoned" by presidential candidate John McCain and mishandled by his staff, much as in legend Sedna was abandoned by her father when she attempted escape from her evil spouse. Her father cut off her fingers as they clutched to his boat, and Sedna's fingers reinvented themselves as

²² www.aviation-safety.net

²³ Because Sedna moves slowly, I am confining this to the 20th degree rather than rounding up to 21, as is customary in these kinds of studies.

²⁴ Op cit, Charubel and Sepharial

²⁵ Op cit, Kozminsky

²⁶ Goldsmith, Martin. The Zodiac By Degrees. York Beach, ME: Red Wheel/Weiser, 2004, p. 50.

the whales and seals of the ocean. It is interesting that in spite of losing the election, Palin continues to garner coverage and interest. As Joseph Campbell once observed, mythology is something that never happened, yet is always happening.

I do not know enough about Sedna to comment further on this, and I certainly don't think there will be a good grasp of its symbolism for a long time. I offer the above only for what it may be worth to those who are studying Sedna. From very limited research, I think Sedna may have to do with *survival*. Time will tell.

Predictive tidbit.

In Lunations and Transits Step by Step, Sophia Mason said to note the rulers of the signs in which the current Nodes of the Moon reside.²⁷ With the nodes being in Aquarius and Leo right now, we should look to any major aspects between the “transiting” Sun and Uranus (or Sun and Saturn if you consider Saturn to be the ruler of Aquarius). In a personal chart, Sophia says “there will be a reaction according to the house position”²⁸ which should be taken into consideration with the house positions in which the current transiting Nodes fall. For example, on March 12, 2009, there will be a conjunction of the Sun and Uranus at 22 Pisces. In what house does that fall in your natal chart, and what houses do the Sun and Uranus rule?

The Nodes will be transiting the Capricorn/Cancer axis beginning in August 2009, in which case Moon/Saturn aspects can be noteworthy, especially if (a) they form a significant aspect in your natal chart; or (b) they are involved with the angles of either the natal or the progressed and directed charts. This Nodal axis could be significant since it involves the Moon, which means that all major aspects between the Moon and Saturn will occur every month. Though I have not worked a lot with this concept, this could be interesting if you happen to have a transiting or progressed Saturn/Moon connection going on, or if you have a natal Saturn in Cancer.

Here and there from various astrological publications, web sources, etc. Anyone who is interested in declinations should belong to the Declination sig of the National Council of Geocosmic Research (NCGR). You can then get their newsletter, *The Other Dimension*, on declinations, which includes thoughts by some astrologers who follow declinations closely. Volume 13 (Autumn 2008) included an interesting article by Paul Hewitt called “New Rules for the Void of Course Moon?” Hewitt suggests that void-of-course Moon periods by longitude should always take the latitude into consideration. Not using latitude could explain why VOC Moon predictions don't always seem to work. This is an interesting observation, in my opinion. (The NCGR's web site is geocosmic.org, and you can click on the “SIG” feature for more info.)

The December/January (2008-2009) edition of *The Mountain Astrologer* featured an interview with Judy Hall. Judy's book, The Hades Moon provides an in-depth look at Pluto/Moon issues.

²⁷ Mason, Sophia. Lunations and Transits Step by Step. Parma, Ohio. A-C Tapes and Publishing, 1996, p. 55.

²⁸ Ibid, p. 55.

My only complaint about this book is the small print—a problem with a lot of astrology books read by those of us who are older.

The Internet is full of various astrology lists. One in particular worth mentioning is the Star Symbol list, a place to discuss degrees, signs, stars and constellation symbols, and myths and their use in natal, prenatal and mundane astrology. There is also discussion on prenatal epoch charts and an Ascendant-based Conception Chart, which is a symbolically rectified chart. You can sign up at starsymbols@yahogroups.com.

Pax vobiscum.