

Astrological Candidate Review

Christine Payne Towler
September 29, 2008

Push is coming to shove, my friends! I am interrupting our regularly scheduled programming to comment on an upcoming event that will likely affect every reader this article reaches. What follows is a short dissertation on generational astrology; followed by an analysis of the ways the transits that are happening right now -- especially transits of the outer planets -- are affecting the American presidential candidates' charts at this crucial time.

Generational Signatures in Political Astrology

Our main focus will be on the five outer planets, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, in the candidate's birth charts and in their current course through the heavens. These planets are all such slow movers (relative to the smaller-orbit, closer-in planets) that they can stand in the same place sometimes for weeks, and even occasionally months at a time. The poses they strike in the sky end up being engraved into the birth charts of all those souls who take birth under these arrangements. All through their lives, the impacted age-cohorts will resonate with the special sensitivities and attributes that the outer planets' footprints left in their astral bodies. These signatures not only shape the candidates' characters as individuals, but also determine the natural responses they will share with their astral peers during unfolding events unfolding over time. By looking at the contender's charts, we see what kind of reception current events will get in the psyche of each one, and what aspects of their own innate makeup will resonate in response to the collective situation.

The current outer-planet positions that will define this election are

- Jupiter unwinding from his retrograde summer in Capricorn, arriving at 17 Capricorn on November 2;
- The Saturn/Uranus opposition in Virgo/Pisces (*at its peak of exactitude the first two weeks of November*);
- Neptune taking his retrograde station at 21+ Aquarius (*from mid-September till the end of November*), resuming forward motion the very day of the election;
- Pluto completing his thirteen-year tour of Sagittarius, having just ended his retrograde at 28+ on the 8th of September, and finally entering Capricorn the 27th of November, 2008.

Of course, nobody is foolish enough to think that the entire future of our vast, influential nation [turns on a tiny tick of the cosmic clock!](#) Nevertheless, I can't help but notice the exact timing of Neptune's return to forward motion. Nor can I miss the coincidence of the long, slow Saturn/Uranus dance culminating in early November. Pluto wrapping up his extended transit of Sagittarius in the same narrow time-window is yet another marvel of synchronicity. Therefore I think it is not amiss to investigate the ways these transits fit

into the charts of the movers and shakers who are making their bids to stand at the helm of our fair Union for the next four years.

Let's take the candidates in age order:



John McCain: *(not concerning myself with houses here as the time is mildly contested)*

Aug 29, 1936, usually calculated for 9:00 am, in Panama.

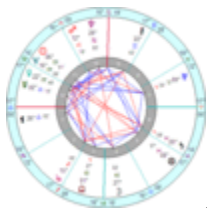
<http://www.astrologyweekly.com/data-archive/us-presidential-candidates-2008.php>

- Sun 6+ Virgo
- Moon 27 + Capricorn
- Mercury 2+ Libra
- Venus 22+ Virgo
- Mars 12+ Leo
- Jupiter 15+ Sagittarius
- Saturn, 20+ Pisces
- Uranus 9+ Taurus
- Neptune 16+ Virgo
- Pluto 28+ Cancer

ARCHETYPE IN YOUTH:

SOLO WARRIOR

Note the generational signatures:



A three-planet ballet spreads across the year of McCain's birth: Jupiter in Sagittarius and Neptune in Virgo have their opening mutable square in early Feb, '36. Following that, Saturn in Pisces moves to collect the energy of the Jupiter/Neptune event by making an opposition with Neptune in Virgo across degrees 12-16, during March and April '36. On the verge of summer, Saturn proceeds to return the energy of the Saturn/Neptune event back to Jupiter via their closing mutable square, exact in late May '36. Subsequently, the Saturn/Neptune opposition becomes exact again Sept-Oct across the 17th degree of Virgo/Pisces, then for the final time during Dec '36 - Feb'37, at the 19th degree. Meanwhile, in Dec '36 Jupiter enters Capricorn within trine range of Uranus in Taurus. This relationship plays out across Jupiter's entire progress through Capricorn in

1937, including a breakup in spring followed by a retrograde tango at the end of summer. In the background of all that, between June '35 and August '38, Pluto is back and forth, burning a hole in the last 5 degrees of Cancer.

So how does McCain's chart do with the outer-planet transits we are currently enmeshed in? The wobbling stance of transiting Neptune around 21+ Aquarius doesn't seem to engage his chart at all, whether by conjunction, opposition, square or trine. This is curious because Neptune is the closest companion of McCain's Sun in Virgo, so I would expect there to be more of an affinity highlighted at this pivotal time. Neptune, in the context of the Presidency, would tend to grant an intuitive connection to the collective sentiment, an attunement to the group organism of the USA and a sense of vibrating in common with the dominant themes of the people. In this area, at least, any charges leveled against McCain of "disengagement" are literally true, astrally speaking.



What *does* engage his chart is the current Uranus in Pisces opposition with Saturn in Virgo, marching relentlessly towards his Venus/Saturn opposition with perfect deadeye accuracy! McCain is lucky in that his birthday is early enough in the sign that his Sun (personal ego) is not involved in this thing! Transiting Saturn will feel its retrograde impulse right at Venus' feet, in McCain's putative 12th house, on the last day of December 2008, within a degree of being exactly opposed McCain's natal Saturn position. This concerns me for his personal life, perhaps suggesting a setback reaching him through his mother or his wife. On the other side of the zodiac, Uranus is pressing into conjunction with McCain's natal Saturn (from November right through February 2009), which sounds stressful, unpredictable and messy to me, [especially if this really is his 6th house of health](#). If I were his doctor looking at this chart,

I would say "do you really want to undergo such a uniquely stressful experience during this erratic and scary transit?"

Since McCain's natal Moon is in Capricorn, he can hope that the ending of Jupiter's retrograde and its progress into the 20's of Capricorn will signal McCain to get lucky in November. (Although I wonder, can anybody who wins the Presidential position for this election cycle can be called 'lucky' in the true sense?) Pluto's final push through the last degrees of Sagittarius and into the first degrees of Capricorn will engage another

opportunity point for him, as McCain's North Node sits at the first degree of Capricorn. Perhaps, no matter what happens, McCain will have the support to see the outcome of the election as a positive development for himself personally, giving him the strength to absorb whatever happens when the transiting Uranus/Saturn opposition hits his natal Venus/Saturn line at the end of the year.



Joe Biden

Nov 20, 1942, at 8:30 am, Scranton, PA

<http://www.thereluctantastrologer.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2008/08/bidensyn.gif>

(Don't trust the chart of Obama shown at the link above, as it was created before his birth certificate was posted online)

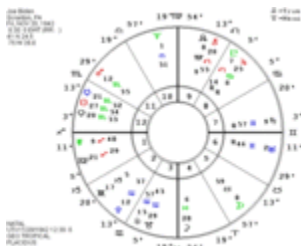
- Sun 27+ Scorpio
- Moon 0+ Taurus
- Mercury 21+ Scorpio
- Venus 28+ Scorpio
- Mars 12+ Scorpio
- Jupiter 25+ Cancer,
- Saturn 9+ Gemini
- Uranus 2+ Gemini
- Neptune 1+ Libra
- Pluto 7+ Leo
- Ascendant 15+ Sagittarius
- MC 0+ Scorpio

ARCHETYPE IN YOUTH:

LIFEGUARD - BACK-UP PLAN

Generational signature:

[Thanks to http://ccrsdodona.org/m_dilemma/1987/aw87sp.html for the chart]



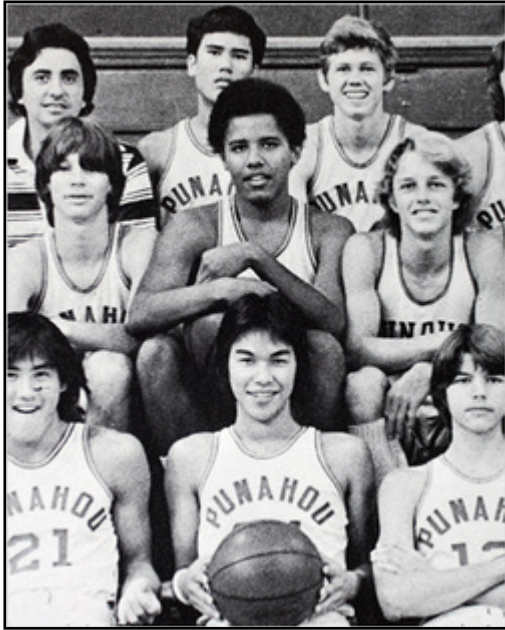
Biden was born during the Saturn/Uranus conjunction in Gemini, with Neptune making a trine with the two from Libra (opposed Biden's Sun, T-square his

Nodes). This started with the Saturn/Uranus conjunction (and Neptune trine) unfolding from late Taurus/Virgo in May of '41 through the near-exact conjunction/trine at 29+ Taurus/Virgo in April- May of '42. Neptune slows down at this stage, remaining in Virgo as Saturn/Uranus roll together into Gemini in May '42. But ultimately Neptune enters the Air sign Libra in October of '42, retaining the trine with Uranus till Saturn finally pushes out of orb at the end of May '43. One could say the Saturn/Uranus-trine-Neptune conversation, which started in the earth signs (Taurus/Virgo), was fairly far developed at the point when Biden was born into the airy (Gemini-Libra) final stages of it. Biden's Scorpio Sun/Venus conjunction there at the cusp of late Scorpio communicates with the swath of degrees covered by this three-planet trine as it moved from late Taurus/Virgo to early Gemini/Libra, making an opposition to the Saturn/Uranus pair and sextile to the Neptune as their trine crosses the cusp of the earth signs into the air signs. The fact that the majority of Biden's planets fall between 25 degrees and 2 degrees of the signs (six out of ten) gives him a certain finesse with transitions. His life experience has taught him not to take stances that depend on events holding still and conforming to our fixed expectations!

Regarding Biden's interconnectivity with current events around election time -- he also seems to be conveniently bypassed by the drama and trauma of this ultimate beauty-contest. Whether age does truly confer wisdom on its possessor, or whether this is just a convenient accident in the charts of our two oldest contenders, each one of them seems to have a basis of objectivity and philosophical distance to fall back on during this election. Because Biden has Sagittarius rising, both the transiting Jupiter and Pluto fall into his first house, which of course is great for name recognition and having the spotlight fall on him. However, he has no planets here or in the opposite degrees, so he doesn't have to 'take it personally', so to speak. Neptune in Aquarius stands in the large empty spot in his first quadrant (making no conjunctions), though it does square his Mercury in Scorpio (and less powerfully so, his Sun and Venus). Once Pluto arrives in Capricorn, it'll be squaring his early Taurus Moon, which could help him stimulate a calming response during the craziness of transition between the old administration and the new. The Uranus/Saturn opposition also misses his planets by a comfortable margin, though it does tease his ascendant a bit due to it's location near the fulcrum-point of their conversation.



All in all, this chart looks like he can provide calm and steady sidekick services and supply a certain



Aug 4, 1961 at 7:24 pm in Honolulu, HA

kind of ballast during the shakeout that follows the election, whether he is swept into high office or not. Plus, since he was born during a Saturn/Uranus conjunction, Biden should have excellent psychological equipment to navigate the potential upsets ahead -- he actually lives with these kinds of energies all the time, so I doubt he'll fall into a black hole or get overwhelmed by our near-future national adventures, whatever they turn out to be, and whatever his role in them.

<http://www.astrologyweekly.com/astrology-news/financial-astrology.php>

Barak Obama

[Birth certificate: <http://www.astrologyweekly.com/astrology-news/barack-obama-natal-chart.php>]

<http://www.astrologyweekly.com/astrology-news/barack-obama-natal-chart.php>

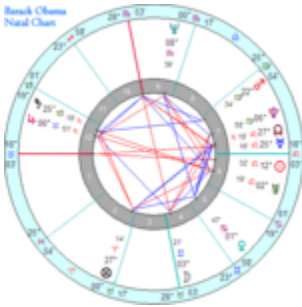
- Sun 12+Leo 6th
- Moon 3+ Gemini 4th
- Mercury 2+ Leo, 6th
- Venus 1+ Cancer, 5th
- Mars 22+ Virgo 7th
- Jupiter 0+ Aquarius 12th
- Saturn 25 + Capricorn 12th
- Uranus 25+ Leo 7th
- Neptune 8+ Scorpio, 9th
- Pluto 6+ Virgo 7th
- Asc 18+ Aquarius
- MC 20 + Scorpio

ARCHETYPE IN YOUTH:

TEAM PLAYER - CENTER OF DIVERSITY

Generational signature:

[Thanks to [Astrology Weekly](http://www.astrologyweekly.com) for the chart]



Obama was born in the wake of the [Jupiter/Saturn conjunction in Capricorn that happened on Feb 1961](#). Conjunctions between The Limiter and The Opportunizer have, since antiquity, been seen as co-signatories of "socio-politico-cultural change" on the grandest scale (remember -- these are the outermost two of the visible planets; Saturn's orbit marks the "edge of the universe" for our ancestors). This convention of watching Jupiter/Saturn conjunctions for their political implications has circled the astrological world, appearing in every established tradition east and west. Therefore it's not something that can be ignored in the chart of a contestant for the office of President of the United States! (For some remarks regarding the two most recent Jupiter/Saturn conjunctions and some of the implications political astrologers have drawn from them, see <http://hometown.aol.com/tonylouis/home/jupsatpr.htm> and <http://www.noeltyl.com/techniques/040227.html>) This sign alone makes it clear why Obama would see himself as eligible for the office and ready to face the challenges it brings.

As this fateful conjunction unfolded across the year of Obama's birth, Jupiter crossed the cusp of Aquarius in March but the two stayed in conjunction even as Saturn and then Jupiter were pulled into retrograde motion starting May of '61. In late September of '61 they were close again, both returning to forward motion in the late degrees of Capricorn. But by the end of 1961 Jupiter had sped away, being more than halfway across Aquarius by mid-January '62, when Saturn has attained to 1 degree of Aquarius.



Running simultaneous to the above is a persistent Pluto/Neptune sextile that blanketed early 1960's, Virgo to Scorpio. From my experience, a strong combination of these two signs in a birth chart give rise to a [special kind of intensity](#) that allows its possessors to hang on like a hell-hound, no matter what sort of opposition or competition or resistance they might be encountering. Combining the pit-bull unstopability of Scorpio with the righteous indignation of aroused Virgo unleashes a fearsome force to be reckoned with! In this case these energies are being symbolized by the two outermost orbs, Neptune and Pluto, which are invisible to the naked eye but



operate entirely without hindrance in the sub- and superconscious of the collective organism. Individuals with this signature to whom cultural power is given will likely consider it a mandate for them to "clean out the stables and establish a renewed basis from which to go forward". They won't hesitate for a minute to do what needs to be done, no matter what sacred cow is gored in the process.

Obama's chart is also very strongly colored by the current transit of Neptune through Aquarius, since the candidate's rising sign is only a few degrees away from Neptune's current station. This transit highlights one of Obama's most

identifiable qualities -- his oratorical abilities to enrapture and spellbind a crowd, and the near-religious response of his followers, which was parodied by McCain's crew in the early days of Obama's candidacy. Neptune's forward progress was halted in late May, so from that moment till the election, the labor of campaigning is likely to feel like a long uphill run for Obama personally. He can't help but be feeling the collective roller-coaster sensations that the whole nation has been undergoing as a result of the shakeouts in the financial world, being so intertwined with his own astral constitution as it is. At this moment, for better or for worse, Obama's got a direct pipeline into the zeitgeist, and if he just relaxes into it, he should be able to channel [exactly those visions and ideas his constituents need to hear the most](#). (Let it be noted that whether those visions and ideas turn out to actually be the needed solutions remains to be seen!)

This stage of Uranus' transit through Pisces is also energizing for Obama, as it fills his first house, opposes his Mars and makes a Grand Trine in the water signs with his natal Neptune and Venus. The sign of Pisces represents the peasantry, the poor, and the least-of-the-least who are the "great unwashed". These are the souls who are always last in line, but being so, are also the mythical "last who shall go first; the meek who shall inherit the Earth". These are, by definition, Obama's base constituents. There's a sense of mission here that infuses his Leo ego (and aren't all presidential contenders narcissists, really?) with a bit of the Charleton-Heston-as-Moses archetype, struggling and suffering under the responsibility of leading his tribe to higher ground. Obama's sixth-house Sun assures him that he's a healer, just as this watery Uranus brings forward his compassion for the little guy and all the families in trouble around the world. In turn, the masses "feel Obama feeling my pain", which evokes the classic water-sign empathy bond. I think we are going to see Obama being perceived as the more humane and practical one of the two, whether or not that turns out to be true in practice. (Remember how shocked the electorate was to discover that the affable, good ol' boy Clinton was a micromanaging temper-dervish? Let's not forget the Pluto/Neptune sextile mentioned above...)

Meanwhile, seeing Obama having Pluto at the cusp of his 12th house for the election makes me wonder -- if he wins, does that mean that his time in the White House will

have the significance of an "incarceration" for him? Pluto's march into Capricorn begins by opposing Obama's Venus in Cancer, which suggests stress upon his wife and daughters (down in his 5th house). He will have to work hard to defend his private life and his inner feminine from the corrosive forces that Pluto signifies, no matter where he lands in his political career.



Sarah Palin:

Feb 11, 1964 at Sandpoint, Idaho (no birth time, therefore no houses.)

<http://astrotribe.tribe.net/photos/5368cd57-7d71-451c-8e6b-b039723604b8>

- Sun 22+Aquarius
- Moon 1+Aquarius
- Mercury 1+ Aquarius
- Venus 1+Aries
- Mars 23+ Aquarius
- Jupiter 16 + Aries
- Saturn 25+ Aquarius
- Uranus 8+ Virgo
- Neptune 17+ Scorpio
- Pluto 13+Virgo

ARCHETYPE IN YOUTH:

1984 BEAUTY QUEEN

Generational Signature

I had a rush of recognition when I first saw Palin's chart. I became an astrologer in the late 1970's, so the first family astrology groupings I got a chance to investigate often included people of this vintage. I came to view them as a special contingent of warrior souls sent down from above to clean up after the "sins of their fathers". This is by virtue of the signature that they all bear in their charts, the Pluto/Uranus conjunction in Virgo.



A very slow-moving, agonizing process accompanied this astral situation, which some have connected to America's internal and external war with the 'Viet Kong of our collective soul'. Astrologically, the figure started in September of 1961, just a few months after Barak Obama was born. The faster moving of the two, Uranus, had just pushed into Pluto's aura by arriving at the fringes of conjunction (Uranus 28+ Leo, Pluto 8+ Virgo). Remember, Neptune was throwing a sextile to Pluto from Scorpio all during this period, providing a veil of distortion that allowed any number of underground, off-budget, extracurricular shenanigans to take place in the backrooms of power. Uranus, the upsetter, started pressing forward into Virgo in November of '61, but then in December both planets endured a retrograde that set their forward progress back till May of '62. In August of that year, Uranus returned to Virgo again and the team engaged in earnest. Their mutual retrograde during winter '62-63 held them back till May, then they returned to their march through the first half of Virgo as a team, with Uranus steadily gaining on Pluto. Another December retrograde depressed them through May of 64, at which point the gap between them narrowed down every month, to a mere two degrees by December '64 (a few months after Sarah Palin's birth). At this point they turn together and endure their winter reversal till May of 65, when their power-lust to mutually self-immolate hits its apex. In September of 1965, they engage intimately and are virtually simultaneous right up to the December retrograde, wherein they dance backwards in a positive ferment of mutual intensity and explosiveness, until they reach the point of 15 degrees Virgo in June and melt down utterly as one.



By August of '66, Uranus begins to put some distance between himself and Pluto, but the story is by no means over yet. The winter retrograde of '66-'67 has them running four degrees apart, which shrinks to three degrees before they reassume direct motion on the cusp of summer '67. By the winter retrograde (hitting in January '68), Uranus is nearly at the end of Virgo, but they both have to put the brakes on again till June of 1968. Uranus leaps out of the starting blocks (relatively speaking) and enters

Libra a few days before the Fall Equinox of '68. He's actually four degrees into the sign when his chain is yanked in January '69, whereupon both Uranus and Pluto start plunging backwards again. Uranus is dragged back in to Virgo and held there until the end of June 1969. But this year, for the first time in almost a decade, he makes it out of the orb of

conjunction with Pluto before the retrograde hits in January 1970. They complete this entire retrograde with that 11-degree interval between them, but Uranus gets to remain in Libra this time. After this retrograde (which ends in June of '70), they still require another few years before they got far enough away from each other to no longer have a chance to be drawn into an aspect together again. Even as late as 1974, those who were born with important planets falling in the space between Pluto and Uranus would be imprinted with a mini-version of this clash of the titans, through "splitting the difference" between them.



So what was it I was seeing in these Virgo Pluto/Uranus kids? I was intimidated by them originally, seeing their glittering intelligence utterly unmoored from traditional sympathy or empathy, but now I feel more clear on the reason for this cadre to be set loose in our world. The people who have this conjunction have come to rescue humanity from the brink, and I don't mean this metaphorically. These individuals are spiritual kamikazes, utterly unafraid of facing horrors and making ultimate choices because they see themselves as working

for a higher cause. Their motto is "you can kill me, but you can't stop me!" With this thunderous combination in Virgo, they are triage specialists, designed to walk into chaos and carnage, efficiently sorting the quick from the dead. As a group they are tremendously compassionate, but in the exact way that battlefield nurses are -- ignoring those too wounded to live, they focus on those who have a chance of being saved. Their mercy operates along the lines of a statistical sort, noting the mathematical averages and calculating what's possible given the limitations at hand. When they get down to work, they are ruthless and relentless in pursuit of their cause, be it saving the oceans or defending their Prophet. Their shared characteristics include an incredible certainty in their own correctness, and a monomaniacal focus on their goals to the exclusion of all else. This is a posse of eco-warriors, the first wave of the so-called 'rainbow children', but [they are also the newly energized fundamentalists](#) whom we see rising up and challenging the homogenizing forces of global culture around the world.

Basically, these people are Special Forces sent here to grab the wheel of the spaceship Earth as the assigned leaders fail in their commissions or drop dead in their seats. As a group, [these souls have camouflaged themselves as ordinary citizens, and then humbly become servants to the powerful](#), watching over their shoulders and memorizing how everything works down to the tiniest details. Making themselves essential, members of this age cohort are found in the innermost circles of the powerful and influential, standing at the elbows of the titans, enabling and supporting their every move. In this way, they will be on hand and at the epicenter of the issues when the various emergencies start to knock the current leaders out of their saddles. It will be these Pluto/Uranus souls who calmly step in and assume the leadership positions, for good or for ill. They will not come to power through flash or force, and they don't need subterfuge either. They will simply

step into the leadership deficits created by the hubris of their forebears; one by one we will see them popping up in the vacated seats of power when the moment is ripe.

[Governor Palin's life story](#) reads very much in line with what I am describing. Her election was a bolt out of the blue for the Alaska establishment. She sees herself as literally "on a mission from God", an attitude that allows its adopters to ignore most of the gradations of reality between stark black and pure white. Bravely, Palin has taken on the mantle of Republican Reform, which will certainly mean some double-helix maneuvers to accomplish! Interestingly enough, [this bloodless-coup scenario](#) is exactly what many people fear will play out should McCain be stricken with a return of his cancer or some such while holding the office of President!

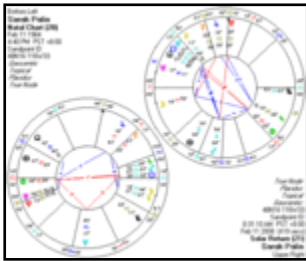


The arc of Uranus transiting through Pisces suggests there might be more revelations forthcoming about events that were set in motion during the first half of [her term as Governor of Alaska](#). From February '05 through March '07, Uranus in Pisces was opposing Palin's natal Pluto/Uranus conjunction over there in Virgo. Uranus also had another retrograde pass back to the opposition-point from October through December '07. Simultaneously, in the period between October '07 and this very week, Saturn has been raking back and forth across Palin's Pluto/Uranus conjunction. All these forces coming together in the context of her assumption of the Governorship and then her appointment as Vice-Presidential candidate could suggest that Palin has been moving through a climate of great moral and legal temptation. It looks as if she's being tested on her core convictions, having an

encounter with forces equal and opposite to her original intentions. Even if she wasn't in the unique position she currently occupies, this period reveals itself as fraught with double binds and inside-outies, as befits an Uranus/Uranus opposition. This is the classic signature of the late-midlife crisis, when we find ourselves embroiled in and addicted to the very same failures and weaknesses we decried so strenuously when we were young and pure and fervent with the True Faith. As the election works its way through its stages, and all the submerged details work their way to the surface, my prayer is that we as a nation witness that Palin has passed her tests with flying colors!

In the meanwhile, look at what Neptune is doing to Palin's chart right now: Her Sun/Mars/Saturn conjunction is directly implicated by virtue of occupying the same degrees being transited this fall by visionary, idealistic and delusional Neptune. Rocketing from virtual unknown to media sensation over the weekend after the Republican convention, Palin took the stage as "everymom", "a small-town gal", a

"frontier babe" hitting all the populist notes untouched by her aristocratic and super wealthy ticket mate. Due to the energy and focus put into packaging her, it was difficult at first to see beyond the beauty-queen surface and awe-shucks hometown demeanor. But as time unfolds I think that what we are seeing is a fairly accurate representation -- [a pure-type double Aquarius, with 7/10ths of her chart crammed between Aquarius and Aries](#), having seven signs (including Pisces) totally empty. All the masculine planets are packed around her Sun, and her Venus is with Jupiter in the fiery sign of Aries, so she's suitably militaristic, projecting a kind of girlie-macho to harmonize with McCain's military background. But at the same time, astrologically Palin is the exact opposite of splay-patterned John McCain, who has a finger in every pie compared to this single-minded and predominantly airy chart. Let me repeat the line "glittering intelligence utterly unmoored from traditional sympathy or empathy", because it applies to her Aquarian qualities, right down to her lack of mercy even on her own pregnant body (as testified by the birth story of her youngest son)!



Palin's Sun bundle is literally half of her chart, including the Moon, Mercury, Mars and Saturn, so [we are on notice that there's quite a bit more iceberg below the visible surface](#), a suspicion that was immediately borne out in revelations about her colorful family and historical affiliations. Nobody should assume that she is unintelligent with five planets in Aquarius, no matter what her education level may be! She may not have a

lot of country stamps on her passport or decades of experience in Washington under her belt, but from her chart we would explain that by pointing out that Palin runs deep rather than wide, grounded in her family, her church and her community instead of spreading herself thin and pretending to be all things to all people. (At least that's what her handlers want us to think about her!) Palin has certainly shown her fixed-sign dedication through her spiritual affiliations, standing solidly in her Christian fundamentalism just as her chart implies would likely be the case.

Whatever happens with the election, next year will be a powerful time for Sarah Palin. Jupiter will be transiting (and retrograding in) the sign of Aquarius, setting off the whole chain of planets and Lights -- Mercury, Moon, Sun, Mars and Saturn. We think of Jupiter as the Great Benefic, which might mean that she gets a lot of help and support in rising to her true potential and really becoming a visionary leader, at whatever level she finds herself. It could also mean that her challenges, and the stressful spotlight she is currently under, will increase exponentially. Whatever happens, she needs to remember that Jupiter likes to multiply whatever he touches, for better and for worse. Even if she merely remains Governor of Alaska, it looks like Palin will be called out to locate her social altruism and enact policies that assist "everyman" (Aquarius). Aquarians tend to place themselves in a superior position relative to the generic citizen, whom they study from the remove of technicians in an animal-testing facility. But Palin is a good old girl and supposedly has grass roots under her feet, which should help her transition into a "friend in need of the people" for the sake of her state. Knowing how much Aquarians cherish the opportunity to make a difference for future generations, there's every chance for her to put her sudden prominence to good use.

Some personal opinions, some of it based on these charts:



Right off the top, it seems obvious that Barak Obama's chart is full of charisma around the time of the elections, whereas McCain's chart seems oddly detached, marching to a more personal beat. Fashions come and go as to how we want our Presidents to relate with the electorate, but right now the tone seems to be that voters want the president to "feel our pain". Obama's current romance with the planet Neptune puts him miles ahead of McCain in this arena. Plus he carries the sign of the Saturn/Jupiter conjunction, which is the ancient mark of the authentic change-agent, since time immemorial. This might be the reason that the popular polls tend to give Obama an edge when people are asked who is perceived as most likely to implement policies that will support "the little guy".

Obama was born before Uranus entered Virgo, though Uranus and Pluto are only 11 degrees apart in his 7th house (accompanied by North Node in Leo and Mars in Virgo). The stabilizing influence of his Leo planets makes Obama more concerned about his long-term image and reputation than the group who came after him, the Pluto/Uranus in Virgo conjunction generation (Palin's cohort). With six items in Fixed signs, Obama is by far and away the more stable and steady of the two presidential contenders, possessing a very parental feeling for the role of setting a strong and sustainable example that future generations can guide themselves by. By comparison, McCain's fixed signs are mostly empty, tenanted only by Uranus in Taurus and Mars in Leo -- solid gold proof of the reliability and steadiness of his hotheaded temper and 'maverick' unpredictability! Unless we want our near future to be full of impromptu bellicosity and unconsidered reflexes, it seems prudent to empower the thinker over the doer.

Because of the upcoming Virgo/Pisces events landing smack-dab upon his third Saturn/Saturn opposition (benefit of his death-cheating longevity), McCain has some profound challenges scripted into his near future, no matter what happens with the election. It is distinctly possible that, were he elected, he might find himself gravely distracted right out of the start-gate of his new presidency. Palin also already has a full plate, even before stepping into the White House, though she has a Jupiterian tail wind in 2009 that might provide the support she and her family need to make the transition. For some reason I get the feeling that Obama and Biden are more likely to be able to hit the ground running -- towards the future -- from day one, whereas I fear that the Republican ticket would quickly find itself enmeshed in entanglements and distractions brought forward from the past, personal and party.



Frankly, I have as much concern for the person who steps into Cheney's office as I do for who becomes President, and there's no way to take this choice lightly. I hope this isn't heresy to say out loud, because it seems to be an under-examined issue, to tell you the truth. Our current Vice-President has single-handedly turned the office of Vice President into a veritable Department of Manipulation and Control, and I say this even fully realizing that he was not the first one to bring substance to the role of Veep. From where I sit, it was during the Bush/Cheney watch that the office of the Presidency has been converted into a figurehead position, existing mostly to provide cover for the Vice President to manage everything from behind the scenes. In all sincerity, this has been sickening for my patriotic soul to watch.

Therefore, although I surely do not want to see another Darth Veep taking over, the nation really needs to have a mature and seasoned professional sitting in that chair, inheriting the whole hydra-headed machine that is due to fall to earth when Cheney moves out. I have no doubt that the Cheney team will have disemboweled his "pet" and taken all the best bits away by the time they allow it to crash, cold and clanking, onto Joe Biden's head. But I find that thought infinitely superior to the idea that Cheney's network might "not" be decommissioned -- that somehow Palin might find herself at the helm of even a reduced version of Cheney's dark mechanism! It's time for a breakup of the governing cabal at the highest levels, as a part of the overall housecleaning that is happening in the wake of the implosion of the financial markets. I'm all for the planned demolition of those long-leaning towers, so we can begin the clean up.

A new broom sweeps clean! Obama/Biden '08!

To read up a bit more on this NewMoon in Libra (with an accompanying Mercury retrograde!) you can visit these sites for well-worded interpretations this month:

<http://lightworkers.org/content/47162/new-moon-libra-september-29-2008>

<http://realastrologers.com/?p=492>

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/roshhashanah1.html>

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