

SATURN IN LIBRA: History, Headlines & Cyclic Themes

By John Marchesella

It's Saturn's job to balance the dynamics of the sign through which He is transiting, and He does this by bringing out the best and the worst of the sign until the job is done.

A few months of Saturn in Libra is hardly enough of a test case of His hard work there, especially since He is interacting with Pluto in Capricorn at the same time. So, how do we tease one out from the other?

For instance, the blow to Tiger Woods' marriage as well as his squeaky clean image is the work of Saturn in Libra, but the sex addiction is Pluto.

Similarly, Saturn in Libra represents the controversial Nobel Peace Prize to our President Obama, but within a matter of weeks, Pluto's symbolism is seen in the ramping up of our war effort in Afghanistan.

As for the astrological symbolism of Haiti's tragic earthquake, just pick something! Saturn's station, His square with Pluto, the Solar Eclipse, the station of Mercury, the retrograde of Mars, Jupiter's transition from Aquarius to Pisces....so much imagery of passages had to make tragedy happen somewhere in the world!

In September 1923, when Saturn was in Libra and separating from a square to Pluto in Cancer (with Uranus in Pisces, by the way, *and* on a Solar Eclipse), there was the greatest earthquake in Japan's history. It leveled Tokyo and Yokohama, and killed 300,000 people!

On the political side of Libra, Saturn symbolizes the teetering of the balance of parties in Senate, in large part due to the loss of the Democratic seat of Massachusetts. Pluto in Capricorn, i.e., the fall of the Old Order, signifies the end of the "Kennedy" name in Congress now that Senator Edward Kennedy is gone and Patrick Kennedy is not running for re-election in the House.

Ironically, John F. Kennedy went to the House of Representatives in the 40's, but it was when Saturn was in Libra in 1953, that he made his important move from the House to the Senate, and positioned himself for the Presidency.

By the way, Jackie and Jack Kennedy were married in 1953, when Saturn was in Libra, and it was called the wedding of the decade.

Another royal wedding, literally, of course, took place when Saturn was in Libra in 1981, namely, Charles and Diana. Interestingly, Elizabeth was crowned Queen on the previous transit of Saturn in Libra in 1953. While we can look to Chelsea Clinton's soon-to-be wedding another kind of event a la Saturn in Libra, given the history of the royal family, Prince William's love life will be more newsworthy.

And speaking of marriage, shortly after Saturn entered Libra last year, the *New York Times* reported that divorce rates are down, not because of love; but rather, because of the economy. Couples can't afford to get divorced. And there's Pluto in Capricorn again.

Gay marriage is the phenomena of Pluto in Capricorn, i.e., the fall of conventional social



institutions, but Saturn in Libra represents the recent setbacks for the issue, such as the surprising loss of support from New York State. Similarly, the increasing popularity of polyamory is a similar foe to the traditional institution of marriage.

Saturn in Libra often makes for breakthroughs for women. (See headlines below). For instance, Kathryn Bigelow is nominated for an Academy Award as Best Director for "The Hurt Locker." It's not the first time that a woman has had that honor, but it is a rarity, and more to the point a la Saturn in Libra, she is in competition with her ex-husband, James Cameron of "Avatar" renown.

Saturn's emphasis on the intellectual side of Libra in the 1920's saw the publication of some of the greatest written works of the century, i.e., "Ulysses" by James Joyce, "The Wasteland" by T.S. Eliot, and "Siddhartha" by Hermann Hesse. F. Scott Fitzgerald became the voice of the Jazz Age with his first two novels, W.B. Yeats won the Nobel Prize, and Eugene O'Neill received the Pulitzer Prize for "Anna Christie" and notoriety for "The Hairy Ape."

Saturn in Libra in 1951 brought the publication of "The Catcher in the Rye," but Pluto in Capricorn in 2010 made for the death of its author, J.D. Salinger, another example of "the fall of the iconic old man."

Economically, astrologers are transfixed on the approaching T-square next August and its infamous earlier incarnation, the T-square of the Great Depression. However, we could also look back to 1922-23, when the square from Saturn in Libra to Pluto in Cancer signified the fall of the German mark, Hitler's rise in influence, and Mussolini's Fascist march on Rome.

In short order, the best way to learn about the future is to review the past. So, here are a few headlines from Saturn's previous journeys through Libra in the last century. Look for the cyclical themes from one to another to another to current events.

September 1980 - November 1982, and May 1983 - August 1983:

John Lennon Taken by Fanatic
Iran Releases Hostages
Jean Harris Guilty of Doctor's Murder
Mae West Dies
Carol Burnett Wins Libel Suit with The Enquirer
First Woman Named to Supreme Court
Soldiers Murder Sadat
Door Opens in China; Private Sector Wider
AIDS, a New Plague, Identified First Time
Washington Settles AT&T and IBM Cases
DeLorean Car Plant Is in Receivership
Von Bulow Tried to Kill Wife, Jury Finds
Argentina Invades Falkland Islands
Princess of Wales Has Her First Child
4,150 Married by Reverend Moon in the Garden
Automobile Wreck Kills Princess Grace
Brezhnev Is Dead at 75
First American Woman Sally Ride's in Space
Thatcher Sweeps to Victory in Britain

November 1950 - March 1951, and August 1951 - October 1953:

George Bernard Shaw, Preachy Playwright, Is Dead
U.N. Forces Halt Red Drive in Korea
The Inventor of the Permanent Wave Is Dead
Porsche, Designer of Rear-Engine Auto, Dies
British King Gets His First Pay Raise
US Presidency Is Limited to Two Terms
Rosenbergs Found Guilty
Hearst, Flamboyant News Tycoon, Is Dead
Truce Reached and Lines Drawn in Korea
G.M. Offering Cars with Air Cooling
Eva Peron Dies at 33; Argentina Mourns

Sex Operation Make Mr. Jorgenson a Miss
Joseph Stalin Succumbs to Stroke
Hillary Scales Mount Everest; World Applauds
First Woman Breaks the Sound Barrier

October 1921 - December 1923, and April 1924 - September 1924:

Valentino Stars in "Sheik" and Makes Fans Swoon
Female Freedom Can Lead to Divorce
French Bluebeard Sentenced to Die
Southern Ireland Becomes Free State
Communist Party Organized in China
A Little Magazine: The Reader's Digest
Gandhi Imprisoned for Civil Disobedience
Highest Altitude Reached on Everest
First Flight by Woman across US
Aimee Semple McPherson Opens Temple
Sarah Bernhardt Is Dead
Health Forces Lenin to Quit
KKK Imperial Wizard Opposes World Court
Teapot Dome Scandal: Daugherty Ousted
Major Film Merger: Goldwyn and Mayer
Anguished Author Kafka Dies Young
Germany Introduces Currency Reform

A clear example of Saturn bringing out the extremes of a sign is seen in the dichotomy of these two news stories.

On Saturn's last leg in Libra in 1924, the New England Association of Retail Clothiers and Furnishers met in Boston. After much deliberation, the group issued this selfless resolution: "Whereas it has been abundantly proved that proper attire aids in success; therefore, it is resolved that this association commends the efforts being made to stress the importance of pride in appearance." A motion for Congress to repeal all current excise taxes was also carried.

In September 1952, when Saturn was deep in the conjunction with Neptune in Libra and square to Uranus in Cancer, then-Senator Richard Nixon declared, "I am not a quitter," in a televised address in which he defended the existence of \$18,000 political fund and vowed to stay on the Republican ticket as Eisenhower's running mate. In his speech, Nixon also said that his wife, Pat, doesn't own a mink coat, "but she does have a respectable Republican cloth coat."

Once again, astrology is often as illuminated in the small news stories as it is in the big events in the collective. ☿

John Marchesella also owns a respectable cloth coat, but it is registered as an Independent.