

## Mercury in Aquarius and Thomas Paine

By Kyle Ukes

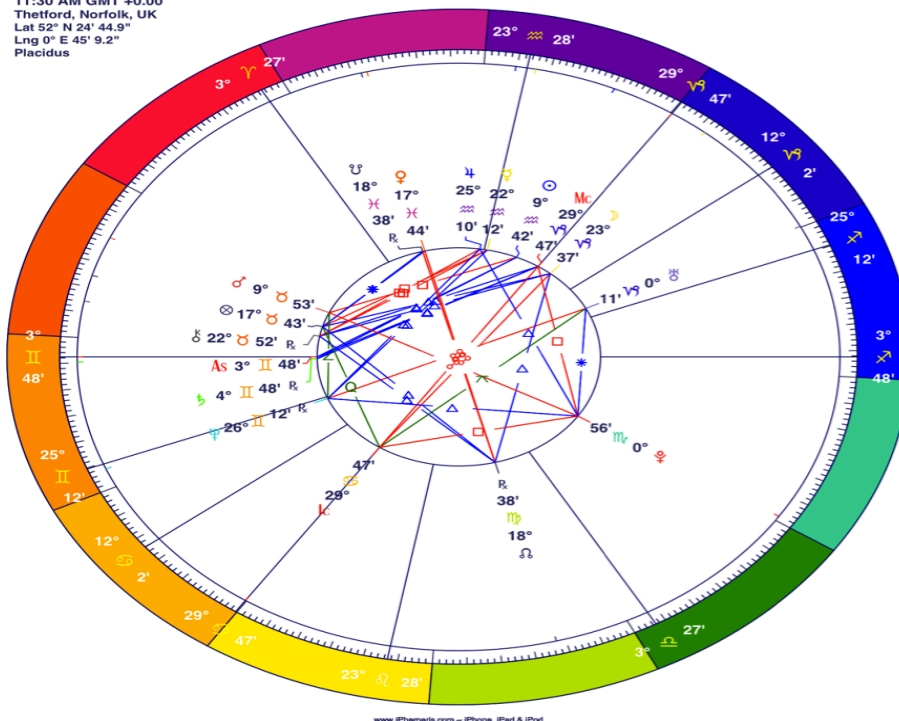
There seems to be a running debate in modern astrology as to the validity of Mercury's exaltation in Aquarius. One of the complaints with this assignment is that it goes against the ancient table of dignities and debilities. Come to think of it, with the Sun in its fall in Aquarius along with the "malefic" planet of Saturn as its ancient ruler, it's no wonder astrologers of the past thought Aquarius to be slightly cursed, and rightfully so. With their peace-loving, future-seeing, utopian ideals and philosophies, it's no wonder Aquarians come out of the womb a little jaded; they already know that the world could be a much better place.

Another argument that extinguishes the modern viewpoint relates to the fixed nature of Aquarius. How can Mercury function well in a sign where opinions are hard to change? We see the fact that Mercury rules two mutable signs (Gemini and Virgo) as proof that it can't. Although there is validity to this statement, Aquarian stubbornness isn't necessarily a bad thing. If the Aquarian philosophy, in its purest form, promotes the betterment of humanity, couldn't Mercury in Aquarius act as a litmus test towards the improvement (a Virgoan function) of the modern societal framework?

Amid the three-year Pluto-Uranus square—a time of great tension between the old and the new—and the overarching entry into the Age of Aquarius, Mercurial functions like communicating, debating, criticizing, and even efficiency are now required to take route within the Aquarian paradigm so that these ideals can spread within the masses, and as a consequence, society can advance. A prime example of the power and awareness Mercury in Aquarius can bring to the world can be seen through the works and life of a lesser known—and lesser honored—founding father who was preaching a democratic structure eleven years before the signing of the US Constitution and five years before Uranus was even discovered: Thomas Paine.

### **Thomas Paine**

Jan 29, 1737  
11:30 AM GMT +0.00  
Thetford, Norfolk, UK  
Lat 52° N 24' 44.9"  
Lng 0° E 45' 9.2"  
Placidus



Thomas Paine was born January 29, 1737, 11:30 a.m. GMT in Thetford, England.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Paine's Gemini rising makes his Mercury in Aquarius the ruler of his chart. Mark Philip's article in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy explains Thomas Paine's nature. He writes:

[Paine] spoke to ordinary people...he was often read aloud in public houses....He claimed no authority over them, but helped them to doubt those who did claim such authority, whether civil or religious, and he affirmed...their right and responsibility to think for themselves and to reach their own judgment on matters....he was a moderately respectable radical...[with] a brimming confidence in his own judgment...[he] tackle[d] a range of subject areas, including...scientific experiments—and with a growing sense that he knew how to communicate, with powerful effect, with a popular audience.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Philip's description of Mr. Paine paints a detailed picture of the characteristics found within a Mercury-in-Aquarius type. Mr. Paine not only maintained Aquarian ideologies like the equality of man and the power of individual thought against tyranny, he also demonstrated the capacity to communicate these ideas to the common man. Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* had the largest sale and circulation of any book published in American history.<sup>3</sup> Even though his ideas rang true to the general population, the shocking treatment they received during his time and up to the present demonstrates how "dangerous" his ideas were, and still are, considered to be by the ruling elite. Mr. Philip continues:

Paine was vehemently attacked in his own lifetime....Serious analysis of his ideas is relatively rare, and tends to be more historically than philosophically orientated....He remains on the edges of the cannon of political thought....Such an attitude does poor service to the history, to the ideas, or to the man.<sup>4</sup>

With such an exuberant public approval during his time, why the sour treatment? Throughout the entire city of Washington, D.C., there is not one statue or memorial dedicated to Thomas Paine, despite the fact that while John Adams was convincing the continental congress to sign a Declaration of Independence, Mr. Paine was convincing the entire American public to go to war against the British Crown. Modern supporters of Mr. Paine's legacy believe that the dismissal is due to the fact that if Mr. Paine's ideas on humanistic thought and governmental structure were actually put into practice, the corruption we see in government today would have no way of existing. This is shown in the way he structured a democratic government in his work *Common Sense*:

Paine thought that each colony should send at least 30 delegates to Congress, and that the total number of delegates in Congress should be at least 390. The Congress would meet annually, and elect a president. Each colony would be put into a lottery; the president would be elected, by the whole congress, from the delegation of the colony that was selected in the lottery. After a colony was selected, it would be removed from subsequent lotteries until all of the colonies had been selected, at which point the lottery would start anew. Electing a president or passing a law would require three-fifths of the congress.<sup>5</sup>

This plan creates a stage for democratic politics that is truly for the people, by the people. Taking the fame and glory (Leo) components out of politics makes room for people who are genuinely concerned for the betterment of the nation (Aquarius) to come forth and participate. If the presidency only lasts a year and is so arbitrary, why would those who only seek power even bother? In addition, presidency by lottery eliminates bipartisanism, super PACs, lobbyists, and even the expensive and truth-twisting world of campaigning from presidential races. Even the Vatican considered his thoughts a threat, and in 1792, Paine's work *Rights of Man*—a piece of

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.astrotheme.com/astrology/Thomas\\_Paine](http://www.astrotheme.com/astrology/Thomas_Paine)

<sup>2</sup> <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/paine/#SigLeg>

<sup>3</sup> Conway, Moncure Daniel (1893), *The Life of Thomas Paine*.

<sup>4</sup> <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/paine/#SigLeg>

<sup>5</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common\\_Sense\\_\(pamphlet\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_Sense_(pamphlet))

literature that sold 30,000 copies and acted as a cornerstone to the French Revolution—was banned by the Papal Index.<sup>6</sup> A piece of work that:

use[d] detailed calculations [to] show how a tax system, including a form of income tax, could provide social welfare in support of civil rights. Decades ahead of his time, he outlined a plan covering widespread education, child benefit, pensions for the elderly, poor relief and much more.<sup>7</sup>

History tells us that we received our structure of government eleven years after the publication of *Common Sense* with the creation of the Constitution. His pamphlet only convinced the American public to go to war, and nothing more. Mr. Paine's ideas have created a strange paradox within American thought. Namely, how his philosophy acts as a pivotal column to the structure of American democracy and yet, he receives no credit.

Astrologer Sandra-Leigh Serio states, “[The prenatal eclipse] is believed to represent the time the soul enters the fetus...indicating the karmic path of the soul.”<sup>8</sup> Although the USA is not a fetus but a country, the same rules can apply where the “soul” of America could be found to have entered the consciousness of the American people during the respective prenatal eclipse period. The following table shows the lunar and solar eclipses that occurred before America's birthdate (July 4, 1776)<sup>9</sup> along with Mr. Paine's publications during that time.

Eclipse	Publications of Thomas Paine
January 21, 1776, Solar: Partial	January 10, 1776, First Publication of <i>Common Sense</i>
February 4, 1776, Lunar: Total	February 14, 1776, Second Edition of <i>Common Sense</i> published with added appendix that “lays out a few of Paine's arguments and responds to concerns of the day.” <sup>10</sup>
February 19, 1776, Solar: Partial	

The original publication of *Common Sense* along with its second edition occurred within the window of these eclipses. This alignment shows how the essence of *Common Sense* entered the consciousness of the American people. This was the seed before the seed; the integration of democratic values and independent thought into the American psyche months before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. We should keep in mind that the Declaration of Independence, unlike *Common Sense*, had no detailed descriptions for the structuring of a democratic government, which begs the questions: When the founding fathers were speaking of justice, freedom, democracy, free thought, etc., were they really promoting new ideas? Or were they unconsciously regurgitating Mr. Paine's original work?

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<sup>6</sup> Davies, Normal, “Europe: A History.” p.1274

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/takingliberties/staritems/635painerightsofman.html>

<sup>8</sup> The Mountain Astrologer, Issue #174. Sandra-Leigh Serio, *The Prenatal Solar Eclipse in Your Natal Chart.*” p. 75.

<sup>9</sup> <http://astro.ukho.gov.uk/eclipse/0321776>

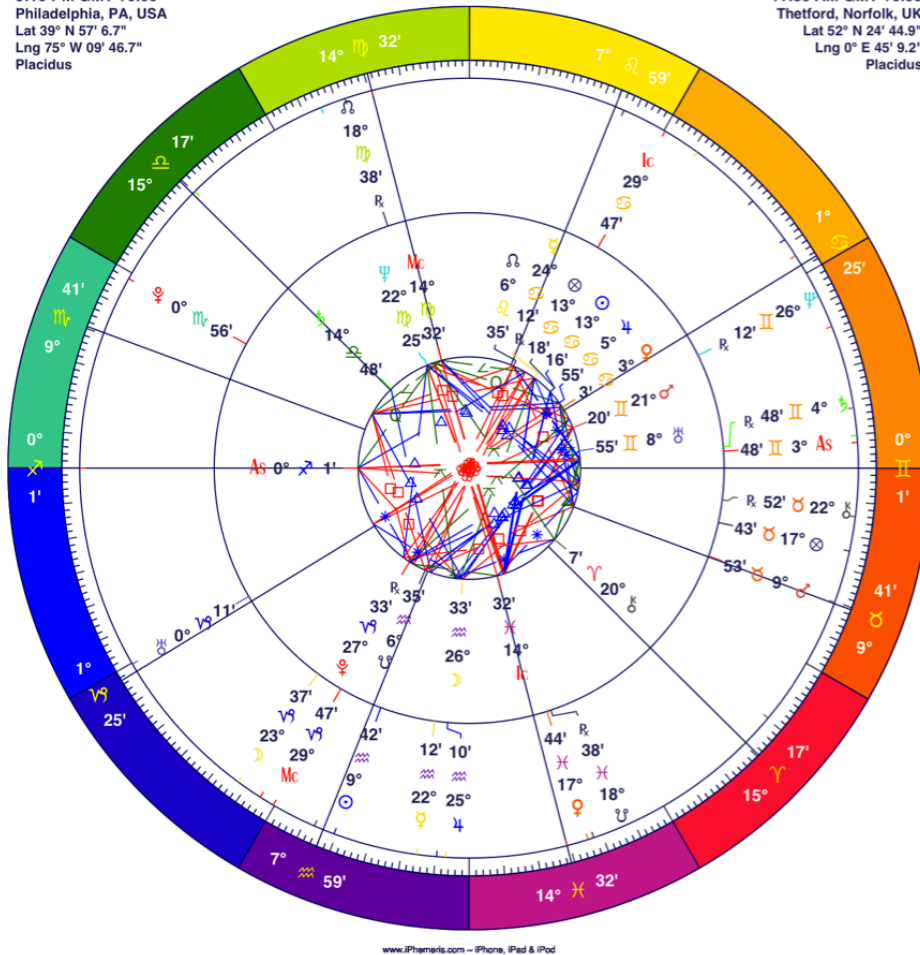
<sup>10</sup> <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/commonsense/section5.rhtml>

## USA

Jul 4, 1776  
9:10 PM GMT +0.00  
Philadelphia, PA, USA  
Lat 39° N 57' 6.7"  
Lng 75° W 09' 46.7"  
Placidus

## Thomas Paine

Jan 29, 1737  
11:30 AM GMT +0.00  
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The following is a list of noteworthy aspects between America's chart and Mr. Paine's birth chart:

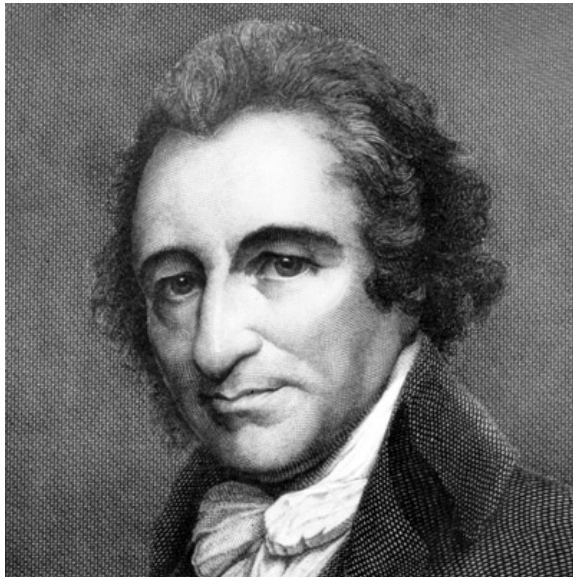
- Thomas Paine's Saturn in Gemini and Gemini ASC conjuncts the USA's Uranus in Gemini. (Thomas Paine was the image of the revolution. It has been recorded that General George Washington read *Common Sense* to his troops.)
- Thomas Paine's Mercury and Jupiter in Aquarius conjuncts the USA's Moon in Aquarius. (1. Mr. Paine's ideas were never negative, but very matter of fact. If Mr. Paine described a problem, he would always provide a solution. The Jupiter adds optimism; Mr. Paine saw his framework, albeit utopian, as a perfectly reasonable solution that humanity had the capacity to carry out. 2. The connection to the moon shows Mr. Paine's writings as a window into the soul of America. Beyond the surface, what is the key essence of American thought? The answer is found in Mr. Paine's writings. 3. Thomas Paine discussed the invalidities of hereditary succession and monarchy. 4. Mr. Paine's religious views: "I do not believe in the creed...[of] any church that I know of. My own mind is my own church.")<sup>11</sup>
- Thomas Paine's Moon and MC in Capricorn conjuncts the USA's Pluto in Capricorn. (1. He was at the liberty of his publishers. 2. Upon his return from the

<sup>11</sup> Thomas Paine, "The Age of Reason."

French Revolution, he was having trouble gathering funds of any kind from other founding fathers as well as from the government for his contributions to the American Revolution. 3. Mr. Paine created a working income tax system. 4. A consistent power struggle exists between Paine's expression and his exposure to the public. 5. Mr. Paine was one of the first to be outspoken on abolition. His writing *African Slavery in America* was published March 8, 1775; even Washington and Jefferson owned slaves.)

- Thomas Paine's North Node in Virgo conjuncts the USA's Virgo MC. Thomas Paine's South Node in Pisces, along with his Venus in Pisces, conjuncts the USA's Pisces IC. (Mr. Paine was fated to talk about utopian America and Her highest potential.)
- Thomas Paine's Uranus in Capricorn opposes the USA's Jupiter and Venus in Cancer. (He was not taken care of by his homeland, probably due to changes of opinion.)
- Thomas Paine's Mars in Taurus squares the USA's North Node in Leo. (Lack of memorials and overall social awareness. Also, herein lies some hidden truth about America's karma (see below.)
- The USA's Mars in Gemini squares Thomas Paine's Venus and South Node in Pisces. (The treatment of Mr. Paine's life and legacy shows a deeper, hidden, ugly truth about American censorship and freethinking. Why, for example, is Mr. Paine's philosophy not discussed or emphasized within the forum of American philosophical and political thought?)
- The USA's Sagittarius ASC opposes Thomas Paine's Saturn and ASC in Gemini. (1. Thomas Paine was for the people, not for the image of the USA. But the irony is, without the idea of America, Mr. Paine has nothing to base his work off of. 2. It was Mr. Paine who said, "Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one.")<sup>12</sup>

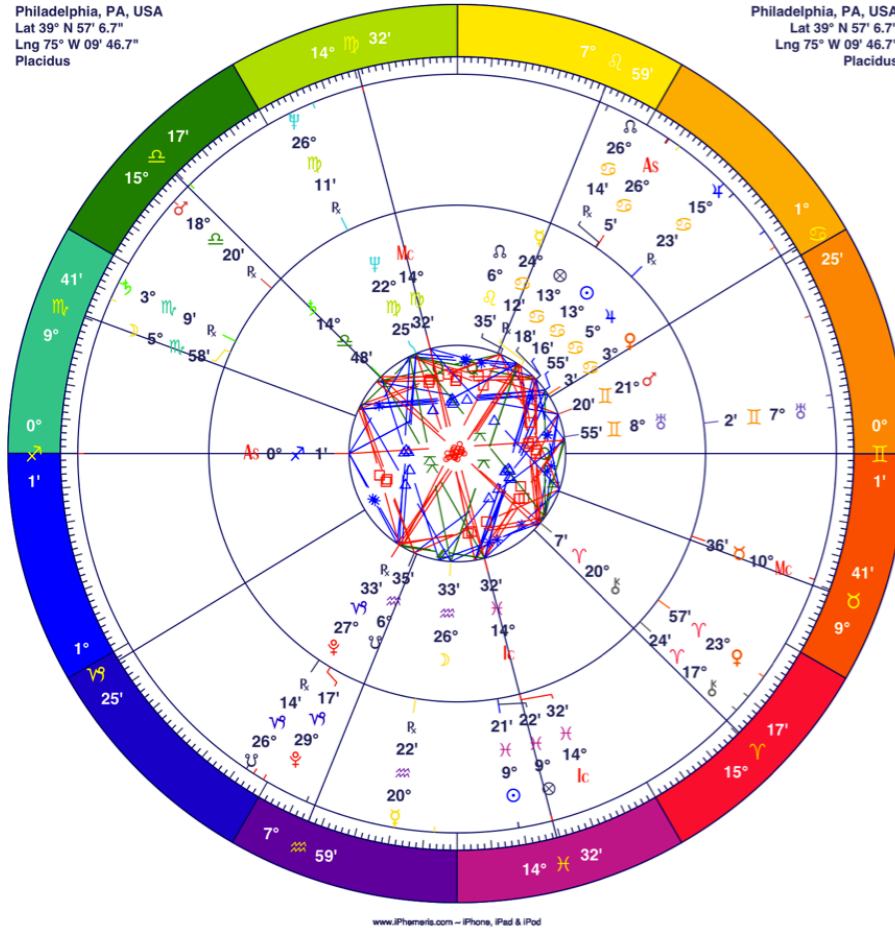
THOMAS PAINE




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<sup>12</sup> Thomas Paine, "Common Sense"

**USA (Progressed)**  
Mar 11, 2014  
12:57:29 PM EDT  
Philadelphia, PA, USA  
Lat 39° N 57' 6.7"  
Lng 75° W 09' 46.7"  
Placidus



Bio:  
Kyle Ukes is an astrologer living in Manhattan and is a student of John Marchesella. He teaches the NCGR-PAA Level I math for the NYC chapter and is an active volunteer within NCGR. Kyle is a member of American MESNA. [astroascension@gmail.com](mailto:astroascension@gmail.com)