

(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction

by Bill Herbst

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The rising first five minor-key notes of this song's opening guitar riff (accompanied first by bass and then by drums) are as iconic as anything in popular music — the rock and roll equivalent of Beethoven's Fifth. They are followed by five more notes in a quick slide back down, leading to a repeat of the refrain:

*Duh, Duh, Duh-duh-duhhhhh, duh-duh-uh-duh-uh
Duh, Duh, Duh-duh-duhhhhh, duh-duh-uh-duh-uh*

Then Mick Jagger starts off the vocals, soft and slow, in what is the all-time-classic anthem of teen angst:

*I can't get no sat-is-fac-tion
I can't get no sat-is-fac-tion
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try
I can't get no, I can't get no*

*When I'm drivin' in my car
And a man comes on the radio
And he's tellin' me more and more
About some useless information
Supposed to fire my imagination*

*I can't get no — oh no no no
Hey hey hey, that's what I say*

*I can't get no sat-is-fac-tion
I can't get no sat-is-fac-tion
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try
I can't get no, I can't get no*

*When I'm watchin' my TV
And a man comes on to tell me
How white my shirts can be
But he can't be a man 'cause he doesn't smoke
The same cigarettes as me
I can't get no — oh no no no
Hey hey hey, that's what I say*

*I can't get no sat-is-fac-tion
I can't get no girl reaction
Cause I try and I try and I try and I try
I can't get no, I can't get no*

*When I'm ridin' round the world
And I'm doin' this and I'm signing that
And I'm tryin' to make some girl
Who tells me baby better come back maybe next week
Cause you see I'm on losing streak
I can't get no — oh no no no
Uh hey hey hey, that's what I say*

*I can't get no, I can't get no
I can't get no sat-is-fac-tion
No sat-is-fac-tion
No sat-is-fac-tion
No sat-is-FAC-tion!*

(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction was arguably the song that put the Rolling Stones on the map in 1965. It might also be considered the theme song of both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

I've written already (in my September commentary, *Transparency*) about the connection between Venus and Saturn in both Trump's and Clinton's natal charts. Donald has Saturn conjunct Venus in Cancer/11th, while Hillary has Saturn square Venus from Leo/9th to Scorpio/12th. Time to write more.

In astrology, Venus is the planet that symbolizes the feminine, the receptive, and the socially responsive. It's the symbol for beauty, the arts, pleasure, and personal love (as opposed to universal love, which is Neptunian). Venus is about grace, harmony, and charm.

Saturn is the symbol in astrology for life's challenges and difficulties, as well as custom-tailored personal responsibilities. It indicates where we experience denial or encounter obstacles — limitations that must be resolved, overcome, or accepted. Saturn is the planet of ambition, perseverance, and long-term strategies for climbing our mountains. It is also the most dense and physical of all the planetary symbols. It is practical, skeptical, and not generally subtle or ethereal. With Saturn, nothing is given or free; everything must be earned through effort and sustained work. This is the symbol for real maturity through hard-won experience by understanding the passage of time and the importance of learning to delay gratification sometimes.

Saturn shows where and how we are oversensitized to success and failure. Wherever Saturn is in our birth charts, we feel inadequate, somehow destined to

fail. In part, this is because our fear of failure is so acute that we tend to seize up, unable to relax about whatever experiences Saturn is linked. This is a kind of self-fulfilling prophecy. Nonetheless, we are driven to prove ourselves by succeeding. Curiously, however, both sides of that coin are often too much for us to bear. Success may convince others of our prowess or talent, but it frequently fails to banish our own demons, especially if success comes too early or without sufficient effort. The challenge is to gradually increase our capacity to bear and hold these experiences (by reducing our attachment and thus de-sensitize ourselves to both failure and success). This is the part of our life-journeys where repeated failures are inevitable and required, whether in fact or in feeling. True and meaningful success can be achieved if we learn from our mistakes and make our judgments (especially self-judgments) pragmatic and reasonable, rather than extreme and unrealistic.

The alignment of Venus and Saturn in a natal chart carries many possible meanings. One of the most obvious is some version of the old saying, "*lucky at cards, unlucky at love.*" Ambition, status, and physicality become powerful factors in the experience of love, beauty, and intimacy. The other is objectified.

When Saturn and Venus are connected in the psyche, romantic love is subordinated to the acquisition strategies of ambition — removed from the realms of mystery, serendipity, or even chemistry, and transplanted into the arena of product consumption. Finding a suitable lover or mate may be reduced to a shopping list of qualities in another that the Venus-Saturn person wishes to acquire, achieve, or possess. To varying degrees, potential partners are seen in terms of the social or even economic benefits their association will confer on the individual (i.e., the proverbial "trophy wife"). This may not be black-and-white, but it's always a factor in considerations of intimacy.

By fusing sensitivity to status with affection, the result is frequently social success but personal disappointment. The warmth of Venus is cooled by Saturn, so that the heart may become coldly calculating, as if love were a cost-benefit analysis. The danger is gaining the world but losing one's soul. (The same applies to Mars-Saturn connections, but at the level of desire rather than affection.)

Venus-Saturn types also tend to interpret love through physicality. Beauty may be only skin-deep, but to Venus-Saturn, that's fine, since physical beauty is what counts most. It's not that Saturn denies the reality of love at other levels — mind, emotion, spirit — it just doesn't care about those less tangible experiences. Billy Crystal's "Fernando" character of 1980s Saturday Night Live fame was quintessentially Venus-Saturn: "*It is better to look good than to feel good.*"

Strong Venus-Saturn connections tend to correspond to the attitude that "*others don't understand me or know what I'm up against and have had to overcome.*" That defensiveness leads to concerns by some observers of insincerity: "*Thou*

dost protest too much, methinks.” Normally graceful and flowing, Venus is often made more stilted or rigid in social expression by Saturnian caution and anxiety.

Although no one could accuse Trump of a lack of spontaneity — his Gemini Sun-Uranus, full Sagittarian Moon, and Mercury-Neptune square all indicate an anything-goes, shoot-from-the-hip, shotgun approach to self-expression — both he and Clinton often seem to have rather large chips on their shoulders in response to criticism from others. Trump is obviously more aggressive in counter-punching, while Clinton is more slippery and circumspect, but both are tenacious in their own self-defense. Admitting that they were wrong is a hard pill for either to swallow.

With Venus conjunct Saturn in Cancer/11th, Donald Trump’s “love ambition” is to have the perfect wife, perfect children, and thus the perfect family (Cancer). The 11th house is the arena of social participation and ideals, friendships, organizations, and love received. Having Venus and Saturn in the 11th (along with Mercury), Donald Trump fears that he will never be accepted as truly “belonging.” He will always be an outsider, an interloper, and his Sun-Uranus embraces that iconoclasm, turning it to his advantage. He revels in his status as an outsider, but he secretly feels deep-seated fears of rejection by others. Trump’s most famous line (from his Reality-TV Show *The Apprentice*) may be “*You’re fired!*,” but his personal mantra is “*You can’t fire me, I quit!*” Every rejection he suffers is interpreted as an attack or betrayal.

Rather than a conjunction (the fusing of two symbolic functions into one), Hillary Clinton has a Venus-Saturn square, meaning that the two planets were roughly 90° apart, viewed from the earth. Not only that, but Pluto is also square Venus and distantly conjunct Saturn, intensifying the condition. This is a relationship where all three symbols are in conflict, locked into a uncomfortable back-and-forth struggle. Is she tough or tender? Fiercely judgmental or deeply compassionate? Martyr or Saint? Well, probably all of those to some degree.

Unlike Trump’s chart, which is brash, crude, and over-the-top, Clinton’s chart is a multi-layered labyrinth, a puzzle of Machiavellian subtlety, with many hidden layers. Assessing what she knows versus what she doesn’t is difficult, since she’s likely to be juggling many balls of possibility inside her head.

Hillary is nothing if not calculating. While Trump is occasionally brilliant, but equally often just dead wrong and out to lunch, Hillary is an exhaustive researcher who always does her homework. She is dogged in her work ethic and pursuit of solutions. Unlike Trump, whose loyalties can flip in an instant from friend to enemy, Hillary is liable to being fooled by misplaced trust. She is internally consistent in her loyalties, but not always to her benefit.

Hillary’s Venus-Saturn-Pluto square is from the 9th house to the 12th; issues arise regarding legality, morality, or ethics, juxtaposed against secrecy, control,

and manipulation. This is where the spirit of the law may diverge from the letter of the law. In a sense, Hillary's life is a courtroom drama where she embodies all the various roles: victim and accused, prosecutor and defense, judge and jury.

The various 9th-12th squares in Hillary's chart lead to a basic question in the public mind: Is Hillary a compassionate, selfless, and hard-working lawyer devoted to the welfare of women and children, or is she a secretly selfish manipulator of the system? Well, her chart says a modified "yes" to both. Hillary, of course, sees those paradoxical motives as one and the same, or, at the very least, leading to a single end — from her perspective, amassing power and resources allows her to give more and do more good for humanity. Others see those quite different approaches as contradictory or even damning. Some are convinced of Clinton's fundamental sincerity, but others believe that Hillary's commitment to service and the greater good are mere masks for craven self-interest.

Even the rude chants at Trump rallies of "Lock her up!" resonate strongly to Hillary's chart. Her life "in the marketplace" has always been conflicted. In many ways, Hillary would be better off in a monastery. That's not a realistic option, however.

Every person in a position of public prominence or high social exposure will be both loved and hated by segments of the public. That comes with the territory of fame and notoriety. For those with Venus-Saturn connections in their natal charts — such as Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump — this contradictory response will be significantly more pronounced and extreme.

So, why do Hillary and Donald subject themselves to such slings and arrows, especially since being lionized and loved by an adoring public can be almost as painful and tragic as being hated and vilified? They do so, in part, because they love ambition (Venus-Saturn). That's what gives them pleasure. Retiring to a quiet, private life would be profoundly difficult for either Clinton or Trump. In a very real way, their social ambitions are the measure of their deepest affections, even though their successes and failures in the court of public opinion are often hard on their hearts, not to mention the private disappointments they suffer along the way.

However crazy this presidential campaign has seemed, the election isn't likely to provide any resolution. This past year has been the setup to an ongoing process — an eruptive collision of tectonic plates — and America isn't going back to business-as-usual. We are at war with ourselves, and the conflict is intensifying.

Whichever candidate prevails in the election — whether Clinton or Trump — the winner will have a very hard time as President.