

Oprah Winfrey

Part One

by Bill Herbst

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Ever since Oprah Winfrey's rousing speech at the Golden Globes Awards Ceremony on Sunday, January 7th, the media world — political, Hollywood, etc. — has been buzzing with speculation about the possibility of Oprah's running for President in 2020, presumably as a Democrat.

Numerous talking heads and pundits have offered their opinions about this — if Oprah might consider running, and whether or not she should. Some have opined that she could or even should, while others have been more cautious, including certain people from Oprah's inner circle. A few have been dubious. So far as I know, no clear confirmations nor denials about the possibility have emerged from Oprah or her camp.

As a result, I think taking a look at Oprah's chart is worthwhile, along with some discussion about the implications that would likely surround her candidacy.

Let me start by stating that I do not regard speculation regarding Oprah's possible candidacy as far-fetched, silly, or even premature. America is in crisis. We are coming to an extraordinary and dangerous crossroads in the 2020s, and it's not too soon to consider how we might approach it. (Some people no doubt feel that it's already too late, but I'll give us the benefit of the doubt.) So, nothing we might discuss concerning the future of the nation is premature in my book.

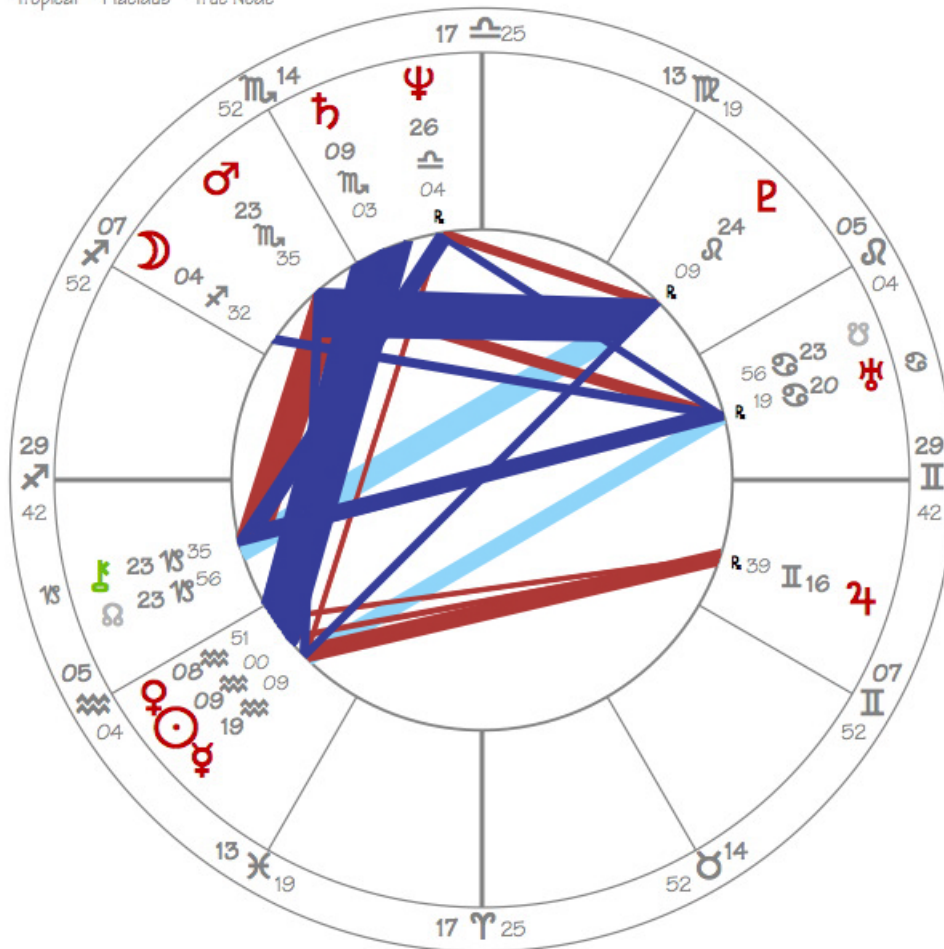
As for a possible Oprah-for-President groundswell being far-fetched or silly, we are already far down a road where "normal" is no longer relevant. Traditions are falling like dominoes, and I doubt that our future will ever again return to normal. I won't suggest that anything is possible, but it does seem that damn near nothing is impossible.

While the 2020 Presidential campaign may seem a long way off, two years will fly by quickly. The mid-term Congressional election of November 2018 may significantly change the political calculus, but I find it hard to imagine that the results of the reboot of Congress — whatever they turn out to be — would insure or deny any Democrat's throwing his or her hat into the ring for 2020.

Below is a graphic of Oprah Winfrey's natal chart, the same one I posted in last week's commentary. As I noted then, the birth time is apparently speculative. Although the chart "works" very well to describe Oprah's personality and her life, I cannot guarantee the birth time's accuracy, except to state that this is the chart posted on all the major astrological web sites:

Oprah Winfrey

Natal Chart
 Friday, January 29, 1954
 4:30:00 AM CST
 Kosciusko, Mississippi
 Tropical Placidus True Node



Here is a list of some of the most salient features of Oprah's natal chart (at least, to my eye):

- Sun (conjoined tightly to Venus and distantly to Mercury) in Aquarius, all occupying the 2nd house, with the Sun ruling the 8th.
- Aquarius/2nd house Sun and Venus in exact square to Saturn in Scorpio/11th house. (Yes, I know that some astrologers would consider Saturn to occupy the 10th house, but I don't.)

- Mars in Scorpio/11th house in tight square to Pluto in Leo/8th house. That aspect forms a T-square with Mercury in Aquarius/2nd house.
- Last-degree Sagittarius rising, with Capricorn intercepted in the 1st House (implying an Ascendant factor that combines both Sagittarius and Capricorn).
- Neptune in Libra elevated overhead in the 10th house, at the apex of a loose T-square between Chiron in Capricorn/1st house opposite Uranus in Cancer/7th house.
- Moon in Sagittarius in the 12th house, ruling the 7th house.
- Overall Locomotive pattern with Jupiter as the leading planet and Mercury as the trailing planet.
- A strong preponderance in the overall chart of the Air Element and the Fixed Mode.

The first bullet point I want to discuss is the last on that list — the dramatic emphasis in Oprah’s chart of Fixed Air in the overall balance of Elements and modes. This is not the most important of the various emphases listed, but it’s a good starting point for analysis of her chart, character, and life-journey, providing as it were a solid foundation on which to build. Elements and Modes are familiar to any student of astrology, but their importance in the astrological system makes a brief review worthwhile, perhaps even for those of my readers for whom they are old hat.

Element and Modes

Elements and Modes, also termed Triplicities (Elements) and Quadruplicities (Modes), are divisions of a complete circle (or cycle) by three or four to discover meanings of the different sections of the circle or phases of the cycle. The cycle in question is the ecliptic, the roughly circular path of the earth around the sun that defines a year in nature’s earthly life-cycle. In astrology, the ecliptic is called the Zodiac and is made up of twelve signs. Why twelve? Because twelve is the lowest multiple of one, two, three, and four. We could divide the circle or cycle into any number of equal segments or phases, but twelve is mathematically and aesthetically elegant.

That’s why when, every couple of years, some tabloid announces the discovery of a “13th Sign!” astrologers laugh derisively. Have you ever wondered how different groups of stars in the heavens (some of those individual stars are actually entire galaxies, but they appear to us as “points of light.”)? I mean, do

the stars that make up the constellation Leo actually *look like* a Lion? No. Does Sagittarius really resemble a half-man, half-horse with a bow and arrow? Of course not. The grouping of stars into constellations is an Image Mnemonic device, a visual way of teaching children how to recognize the sections of the sky that correspond to each sign of the zodiac. Once you “see” the Man in the Moon, you can always see him. Similarly, once you learn the connect-the-dots picture of the scales as Libra, you can always determine where Libra is in the heavens. Of course, over the past two thousand years, the tropical zodiac (aligned with seasons) has shifted relative to the constellations of the (sidereal) zodiac due to precession, but that’s another lesson entirely.

The four **Elements** are *Fire, Earth, Air, and Water*, and they proceed in that sequence through the twelve signs, forming three series of four signs each:

<u>Fire</u>	<u>Earth</u>	<u>Air</u>	<u>Water</u>
Aries	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer
Leo	Virgo	Libra	Scorpio
Sagittarius	Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces

Fire is hot and dry, corresponding to physical action and kinetic enthusiasm.
 Earth is cold and dry, corresponding to physical stability and practicality.
 Air is hot and wet, corresponding to interactive or social sensitivity.
 Water is cold and wet, corresponding to emotion and intuitive perception.

The first Elemental series (Aries, Taurus, Gemini, and Cancer) is *personal*.
 The second series (Leo, Virgo, Libra, and Scorpio) is *interpersonal*.
 The third series (Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces) is *collective*.

The three **Modes** are *Cardinal, Fixed, and Mutable*, and they proceed in that sequence through the twelve signs, forming four series of three signs each. (In the houses, Modes are given different names: Angular, Succedent, and Cadent.)

<u>Cardinal</u>	<u>Fixed</u>	<u>Mutable</u>
Aries	Taurus	Gemini
Cancer	Leo	Virgo
Libra	Scorpio	Sagittarius
Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces

Cardinality is crisis-oriented, purposeful, and problem-solving.
 Fixity is goal-oriented, dependable, and stubborn.
 Mutability is adaptable, curious, and stimulus-oriented.

The first Modal season (Aries, Taurus, and Gemini) is *spring*.
 The second season (Cancer, Leo, and Virgo) is *summer*.
 The third season (Libra, Scorpio, and Sagittarius) is *autumn*.
 The fourth season (Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces) is *winter*.

Each sign archetype integrates the respective qualities of its Element and Mode and is a unique combination. (Aries is cardinal fire; other signs are cardinal or fire, but only Aries is cardinal *and* fire.)

This is a very basic recap of Element and Modes. They can be studied to reveal more depth and nuance, of course. My intention here is only to provide a simple primer for readers not familiar with the astrological system.

One interpretive level in astrology assesses the overall emphasis of Element and Mode distribution in a chart. I use a weighted scheme of 36 total points that assigns numerical values to each major symbol (planets and angles) based on the general hierarchy of symbolic importance, plus any specific emphases that stand out in a particular chart. In an “average” chart (i.e. a chart with equal distribution), each element would have 12 points, and each mode would have 9. Any significant deviation from that is considered meaningful in the character of the person described.

Here is the distribution of Elements and Modes in Oprah Winfrey’s natal chart:

<u>Elements</u>	<u>Modes</u>
9 Fire	7 Cardinal
3 Earth	21 Fixed
16 Air	8 Mutable
8 Water	

What leaps out from those two lists of emphases is the dramatic preponderance of the Air Element and the Fixed Mode. The Elements Fire and Water are balanced and typical, so the skew toward Air is due almost entirely to the relative absence of Earth. (Oprah would be assumed to have less than average interests in and orientations toward material productivity. I’m not suggesting that business and money don’t matter in Oprah’s life — they do, as I will write about in *Part Two*, but amassing financial wealth is definitely *not* her primary focus or drive.

The Modal skew is even more striking, in that Oprah’s chart is slightly below average in Cardinality and Mutability, but overwhelmingly emphatic in Fixity.

What this means is that in an overall assessment of the “tone” of Oprah’s character, as well as her natural way of perceiving reality and approaching life, she is Fixed Air, implying that she is interactive and socially sensitive, and also goal-oriented, dependable, and stubborn.

In addition, Fixed Air is the unique signature of the sign Aquarius. So, not only is Oprah an Aquarian Sun, but, in addition, she’s a nearly ideal representative of the Aquarian archetype in her overall personality.

For people who know only the Sun-Sign variety of mass-market “popular” astrology, reading about someone’s Sun Sign may or may not be particularly insightful, and, in the vast majority of cases, doing so will be far from comprehensive and will likely misinform almost as often as it accurately reveals the personality and character of the subject.

Oprah is different. She’s in that small percentage of human beings, perhaps 5–10%, who resonate very strongly to a specific zodiacal archetype.

So, if you want to understand what motivates Oprah, how she thinks, what she feels, and why she does what she does, go out and get a book on Aquarius, or read up online about the Fixed Air sign. Not everything written about Aquarius will necessarily be reflected in Oprah’s character and life, but much will.

In Part Two of this multi-part Commentary, I’ll discuss how other important factors in Oprah’s natal chart build on the Aquarian foundation and both refine and modify that archetype.