

Oprah Winfrey

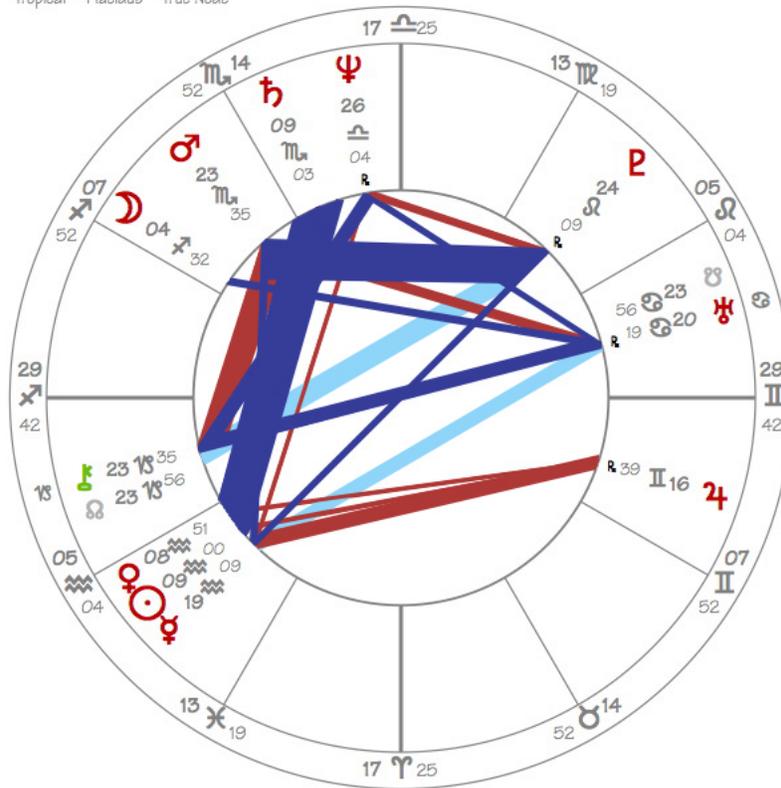
Part Two

by Bill Herbst

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Oprah Winfrey

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



Before I continue with the further analysis of Oprah's chart, a note about her birth-data is warranted. While the date and place of Oprah's birth are solid, no definitive birth-time is known. Numerous speculative birth-times have been used, but only one of these seems to have caught on — 4:30 a.m. The authoritative web site Astro Databank lists the source as "from memory" (via astrologer Bob Marks, following his appearance on Oprah's long-running daytime TV talk show, where he was given that birth-time from the show's producer and also from Oprah herself), and assigns it a Rodden Rating of "A." Results from an online search revealed that to be the *only* time used for Oprah Winfrey's natal chart in every astrological site I checked. Whether or not the 4:30 a.m. birth-time is correct, that chart fits Oprah like a glove, so I'm using it.

Having established in *Part One* that the Elements and Modes in Oprah's birth chart imply that she is very strongly an Aquarian archetype, we can move on to specific planetary positions and alignments that modify and further individuate Oprah's character and her journey through life. Here's the list of significant factors I posted in *Part One*:

- 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 many, perhaps even most, astrologers would consider Saturn to occupy the 10th house, but I don't. To me, Oprah's natal Saturn is definitely in the 11th.)
- 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.

Sun-Saturn

The first two bullet-points on the list go together: The stellium of Sun, Venus, and Mercury in Aquarius/2nd, and the tight square to the Sun and Venus from Saturn in Scorpio/11th. That alignment speaks volumes about Oprah's character and forms the center of chart for both meaning and purpose.

The implications are extensive and multi-leveled. Oprah's life begins in difficulty and scarcity. She is given no advantages nor privileges. What Oprah is endowed with, however, is a powerful and deep sense of ambition to succeed by overcoming obstacles, turning liabilities into strengths, both personally and collectively. In a sense, we could posit that the early deprivation of Oprah's life is a touchstone to her later success, as well as a source of enduring sensitivity to the way society gives some people a leg up while holding others down. Basically, she starts out in a hole and has to climb out by her own grit and determination.

The central paradox in Oprah's chart is revealed by that square alignment. On the one hand, Oprah's life-journey is a quest to feather her own nest, to achieve through hard and sustained work the productive evidence and inner feeling of self-worth (2nd house Sun and Venus). The fact that she has become one of the richest women in the world is relevant, since the Sun is in the 2nd house and rules the 8th — the 2nd/8th axis (one of six house axes in every chart) is, at one

level, specifically about money (what one earns through personal efforts or achieves through relationships). But money is not the only expression of value. Self-worth has psychological and even spiritual dimensions as well. In America's longstanding and increasing obsession with material wealth, those less tangible forms of value tend to take a back seat, but they are every bit as important in a life of balance and grace. Oprah's financial empire is certainly a potent resource and impressive achievement, but it's only one of numerous dimensions of her worth as a person.

On the other hand, Oprah is driven to address social disparities, inequalities, and injustices. Her overall Aquarian nature combines with the potent 11th-house emphasis (Saturn and Mars both occupy the 11th), as well as the elevated 10th-house Neptune and 12th-house Sagittarian Moon, corresponds to an orientation of profound sensitivity to the sufferings of others, especially those not born with a silver spoon. Oprah's social idealism, however, tends not to be airy-fairy or transcendent, but instead pragmatic and revolutionary. She doesn't put her faith in an afterlife where all injustice will be washed away in cosmic release. No, Oprah wants to reform society here and now by changing the disturbed ways we regard each other. Especially as a result of her own humble beginnings and subsequent success, Oprah feels a deep responsibility to help lift up those who are downtrodden.

As an archetype, Aquarius can be either conservative or liberal, and specifically reactionary or radical in its reformist tendencies. When juxtaposed to Taurus, as in the charts of Ronald Reagan and Dick Cheney (to use two conspicuous examples), the belief in necessary stability leans backward toward the conservative or the reactionary. When juxtaposed to Scorpio, as in Oprah's chart, the belief in necessary change tends to be more liberal or even radical.

So, while Oprah has numerous "conservative" factors in her chart — the 2nd house stellium, the 6th-house Jupiter, and the Capricorn influence of the 1st house — I believe that, overall, she will tend to lean left rather than right in her attitudes toward society and what would be best for collective humanity. Everything I know about Oprah's life supports this conclusion.

A conspicuous issue of long-term difficulty in Oprah's chart surrounds love, specifically, the experience of receiving love from others. The tight Saturn square to the Sun and Venus from Scorpio to Aquarius and the 11th house to the 2nd implies that she struggles with her worthiness to be loved. Despite Oprah's immense popularity among the public (especially women), she is likely to be unconvinced and insecure about her personal attractiveness as a woman.

Saturn-Venus

In the 2016 Presidential race, both major-party candidates had difficult Saturn-Venus connections in their charts: Hillary Clinton has a Saturn-Venus square from Leo to Scorpio, and Donald Trump has a Saturn-Venus conjunction in Cancer.

Venus is a “warm” symbol of the feminine side of our natures. Saturn is a block of ice. Combine the archetype for personal love with that for insecurity, fear of denial or failure, and ambition — especially in conflicted ways (conjunction, square, or opposition) — and the cooling effect on Venus can be downright chilling, resulting in caution and uncertainty, along with a distinctly unsubtle sensibility (an oversensitivity to tangible, physical beauty rather than graceful and heartfelt emotion). In Trump’s chart, this manifests through his attitudes toward biological family and personal security (Cancer). In Clinton’s and Winfrey’s fixed squares, the expression is more cultural and collective — both are champions of gender equality, women’s rights, and fair treatment. And yet, Clinton was undoubtedly harmed by her “stand by your man” defense of husband Bill during the sex scandals of his Presidency. And Oprah’s well-publicized struggles with her weight are as much (or more) about attractiveness than about health.

No matter how much one tries, conflicted Saturn-Venus connections correspond to a certain amount of grief surrounding personal love. Issues surrounding beauty, love, and money can take many different forms, but, one way or another, they will remain life-long conflicts. The “spiritual” meaning is neutral, defining personal love, beauty, and money as significant experiences within the long, slow, path toward true maturity. From the ego-level, however, Saturn-Venus isn’t much fun.

Mars-Pluto

Second in importance only to the Sun-Venus-Saturn square, the exact square between Mars in Scorpio/11th and Pluto in Leo/8th adds a very different dimension to Oprah’s character and life. The Sun-Venus-Saturn square is cool and detached, while the Mars-Pluto square is hot and passionate. Mars-Pluto is the “soldier” who serves the Sun-Venus-Saturn “queen.” The queen decides what she wants or needs, and the soldier carries out her wishes. In Oprah’s life, whatever she wants or needs is pursued with passionate intensity that is focused, assertive (sometimes aggressive), and fueled by a subconscious or superconscious power source of nearly infinite primal energy. If you stand between Oprah and what she wants, look out! She will not be deterred from her goals or desires. She might slice right through you, blow you away, or scheme a way around you, but she won’t be blocked. Oprah never gives up.

As a boss, Oprah can be fierce and a hard taskmaster. She expects and demands excellence, idealism, and full commitment to hard work from everyone around her.

Other Significant Factors

Two other planets stand out — the 12th-house Sagittarian Moon and the elevated Neptune in the 10th, referred to earlier in the text. Both of these symbolic elements correspond in Oprah’s chart to compassionate concerns about the collective that counterbalance the potent, long-term emphasis on self-centered worth. We can make a case that those two positions provide built-in insurance that Oprah’s fundamental self-interest (ambition and drive to build a

life of value) does not descend into selfishness. Oprah intends to feather her own nest, but not at the expense of improving the quality of life for humanity.

The 12th-house Moon especially adds important paradoxical elements to the rest of Oprah's chart. The need for selflessness indicated by her natal Moon contrasts sharply with the ambitious drive for self-worth, and the issue of finding balance between a private versus public life is brought into sharper relief. Oprah is certainly not a shy, retiring wallflower, but her Moon reveals a need to retreat often from the demands of entrepreneurship and cultural celebrity to restore her emotional batteries.

Overview

I don't regard what I've written here as particularly brilliant or deeply insightful. Instead, it's your basic textbook-style interpretation. Could Oprah's chart express itself in ways other than those I've put forth? Yes, it could. Every chart is a kaleidoscopic mandala whose symbols may correspond to a myriad of different directions and manifestations. What I hoped to share in this commentary are the basic astrological underpinnings of the human being we know as Oprah Winfrey.

What most impresses me about Oprah's chart is the combination of power and humility, a relatively rare combination. Power corrupts, of course, or, in different imagery, *seduces* those who amass it into believing in the illusion of their omnipotence. Maintaining humility and compassion for people who are or become powerful is a daunting challenge, with a high failure rate. Oprah Winfrey is definitely here to develop herself, but she's not full of herself, and her chart strongly supports that tricky balancing act.

Does Oprah Winfrey's chart imply that she has what it takes to be President of the United States? Of course it does. Should she toss her hat into the ring and run? That's more complicated.

The idea of yet another celebrity President gives me pause. While much of the country is sick to death of career politicians, there's still something to be said in favor of candidates with at least some experience in government or public service. I don't regard political inexperience as a deal-breaker, however; the rising swell of first-time candidates for office, especially among women, is heartening. If we are to rescue ourselves from our worst impulses, we need much more citizen activism and fuller participation in wise, sane governing — from local communities all the way to the White House. That's a very tall order, and we may not be up to the challenge, given the entrenched hierarchies of power and the inherent difficulties of human nature, but it's really our best and perhaps only realistic chance of combining non-violent revolution and accelerated evolution to create a collective future worth having.

In Part Three of this multi-part Commentary, I'll discuss the most significant upcoming cycle activations (outer-planet transits) in Oprah Winfrey's chart and their possible significance should she choose to run for President in the 2020 election.