

John Kelly: Goodbye and Good Riddance

by Bill Herbst

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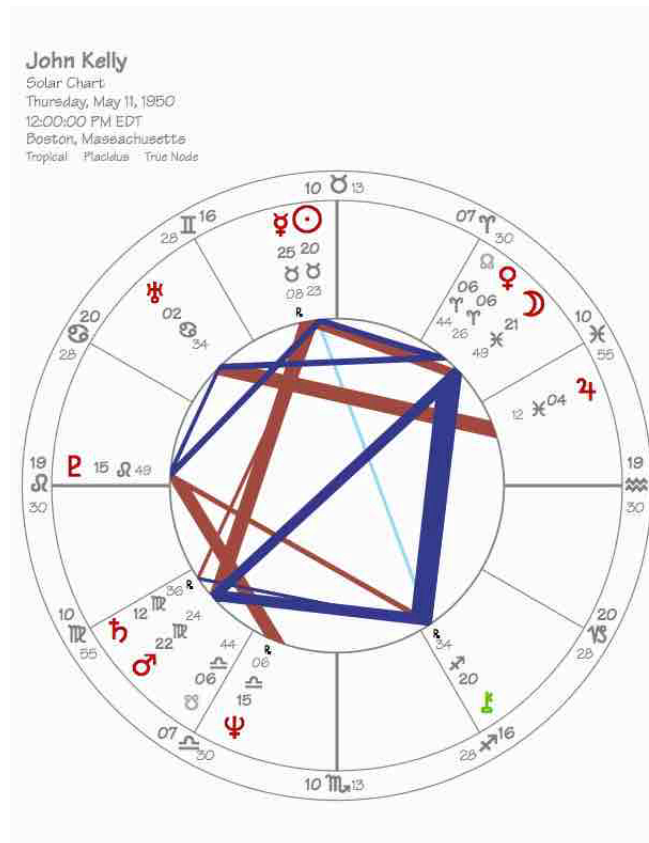
At the end of December, retired Marine General John Kelly will step down as White House Chief of Staff. I say goodbye and good riddance.

When Reince Priebus resigned (or was fired — it's uncertain which) in July 2017 and John Kelly then selected to be Trump's new Chief of Staff, some people — especially in the mainstream media — breathed a collective sigh of relief and opined that Kelly might rein in Trump's chaotic White House and bring a level of order and perhaps even sanity to the administration's day-to-day functioning. He was widely anticipated to become one of the "adults in the room." That didn't happen, of course, for all the reasons that anyone with clear perceptions knew full well at the time.

In addition, though, Kelly suffered the very same fate as everyone else who moves into Donald Trump's orbit. Trump brings out the very worst in every person he touches. That's a central facet of Donald Trump's impact on the world. It's not just that Trump corrupts people. Although he certainly does have that effect, the taint goes far beyond mere corruption, all the way to impugning the character of people who are unfortunate enough to live (for awhile) in Trump World. Whatever shadow aspects and dark facets are lurking hidden from view in their psyches emerge fully, like crazed demons escaping from their cages to wreak havoc, with an initial social impact of shock and the final result being personal disgrace. That's what happened to John Kelly.

After what is generally considered in America's cultural hagiography to have been a long and distinguished career in the military, during which his own son, also a soldier, was killed in the never-ending tragedy of the War in Afghanistan, Kelly came out of retirement to serve first as Secretary of Homeland Security in the Trump administration before taking on the impossible task of White House Chief of Staff. Over a mere two years in those two positions, Kelly's worst qualities as a human being were given vent and made painfully obvious.

For any students of astrology, on the next page is my rendering of John Kelly's solar chart. No accurate birth time is publicly available, so this chart is generic, erected for noon on the day and place of his birth:



Along the way of his term as Chief of Staff, Kelly revealed himself publicly to be both racist and sexist, a man seriously out of step with the times and better suited to the 19th century than the 21st. He also showed himself to have precious little sympathy for people in need, especially immigrant children. I need not recount here Kelly's various lies and slanders, except to note that he stubbornly refused to admit any of them, even after their falsehoods were exposed. Apparently, Kelly feels no remorse.

Kelly's effectiveness as White House Chief of Staff was undone from the start. Why? I'd offer an astrological perspective: *Blame Uranus.*

All planets in astrology symbolize multi-faceted archetypes, revealing functions and motivations that shape both our behavior and our perceptions of reality. Uranus represents the urge for individual uniqueness that can take various forms, from intentional nonconformity and iconoclasm, to eccentricity so pronounced that social rejection results, forcing the individual to go it alone, without support from the collective. Strongly Uranian people accept this sacrifice, whether without question or with some resentment. They feel socially secure enough to take the risk of standing alone. The "ordinary" human urge for belonging through conformity or emotional bonds has little appeal for Uranus.

As a cultural archetype, Uranus loves the new, the unusual, and the experimental. It is associated with science, invention, and specifically electricity. Uranus is much more mental than emotional in nature — ideas and concepts are critical. It seeks the truth through the revelation of overarching principles. Uranian types tend to be not merely secure in their perceptions and beliefs, but often overconfident in their correctness. They accept advice in matters about which they are unconcerned or have no strong opinions, but where they have firm beliefs, their will is unyielding, sometimes to the point of dogmatic inflexibility. They simply don't care much about opinions of others that don't align with their own, dismissing them out of hand.

While friendly, Uranians tend to be cool and detached in interaction. Curiously, they may fervently embrace humanity, yet show little regard or empathy for actual human beings.

Uranus feels no allegiance to tradition and often shows little respect for typical authority or deference to the hierarchies of the social pecking order. It is a revolutionary urge that can find ideological passion across the entire political spectrum, from the radical left to the reactionary right. Rebelliousness is inherent. Personal freedom is sacred to Uranians — many Libertarians are characterized by the archetype. And yet, in extreme or headstrong cases, Uranians can be dictatorial, forcing others to conform while stubbornly refusing to obey any rules themselves.

The urges of Uranus include both inward stability and outward change. Uranian types *feel* stable inside themselves, but they provoke sudden and unpredictable change in the outer environment. Surprise is a factor here, and sometimes even the chaos of metaphorically overturning the apple cart. The more unexpected the change, the better they like it. In such moments, Uranus can be like the proverbial bull in the china shop.

How is this relevant to John Kelly? *Through Donald Trump.*

Trump was born during a total lunar eclipse where both the Gemini Sun and Sagittarian Moon were closely aligned with Uranus. His central organizing sense of meaning and purpose (Sun) and his automatic, habitual responses to stimuli (Moon) are strongly influenced by Uranus. Trump is an extreme example of the Uranian archetype, as it turns out in his case, a particularly eccentric and perverse example.

As a narcissist, Trump regards himself as the Star of the Show, since reality for the Donald is little more than Reality TV. The potent Uranian motivations in his nature imply that Trump sees himself not only as Star, but also Director, Producer, and Writer. Everyone else in the troupe is to him just bit players, extras, and spear carriers. Trump is a one-man band, performing for the rubes.

No one can rein in Trump's impulsive and willful personality. He neither acknowledges nor respects any authority other than his own, which is, of course, grandiose and all-encompassing. The very idea of a Chief of Staff is laughable in the Trump Presidency.

The post of Chief of Staff would ordinarily be considered a plum job among the ambition-driven denizens of the Washington D.C. swamp. At this point in the Trump Administration, however, with the President being assailed by multiple investigations directly at revealing his criminality, no one wants the job.

Trump is correct in his paranoia that "they" are out to get him, whether the Deep State or the slow-turning Wheels of Justice. They *are* focused on taking him down, and with good reason. If the various investigations are indeed "witch hunts," as Trump claims, it's because he himself is truly the Wicked Witch of the West. Transiting Jupiter, Saturn, and Pluto are about to oppose Trump's natal Venus and Saturn. Those six overlapping and cascading transits approach Trump's chart in 2019 and hit full critical mass in 2020, like a brick wall barring his entrance to the next decade. Even Trump's egomania won't allow him to escape unscathed against that onslaught. Astrologically, the chances of Trump's winning a second term seem slim. Anything's possible, of course, especially now in this crazed country of toxic fever dreams, but to suggest that Trump's chart is considerably less than auspicious amounts to massive understatement.

At this point, as the storm builds, even the most cravenly power-hungry politicians can now see that the Trump ship — whether we think of it as a yacht or a destroyer — is breeched, taking on water, and listing badly. Should it sink, prospective candidates don't wish to be trapped inside, so they are fleeing like, well, like rats. Even the new appointee, Nick Mulvaney, accepted the post only if his official title was "*Acting* Chief of Staff." It's an interim appointment, testing the waters, so to speak, and setting up a convenient escape hatch. Mulvaney will become Chief of Staff in name only. No one can manage Donald Trump.

As for John Kelly, although I wish him no further grief, he remains — like all of us — a seriously flawed human being. His admirable qualities, which include diligence and duty, were undercut by various odious beliefs, which are now glaringly part of the public record. Kelly's legacy will no doubt continue to be defended and upheld by all the Kool-Aid drinkers who fervently love the American Empire, but I do not want John Kelly in my government and am glad to see him go.