

Trump's Waterloo Approaches

by Bill Herbst

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Donald Trump has gotten away with nearly every crime he's committed over his 72 years. Trump has every reason to believe that he's bulletproof, and he will continue to believe that. I think he's wrong, however.

Trump was elected to be a disrupter of norms and institutions. He has fulfilled that role in spades, but in ways that many Americans don't like.

Trump's base of support is comprised of about a third of Americans. They are fervently behind him, no matter what Trump does. When, during the campaign, Trump quipped that he could shoot someone on 5th Avenue and not lose any votes, that was, I think, an accurate assessment of his staunchly passionate followers. Trump's approval ratings among Republican voters remains at a stratospheric 90%.

Approximately half of Americans oppose the President. They don't like him — for many reasons, including both his behavior and policies — and want Trump gone (one way or another).

Much of the membership of both groups — pro-Trump and anti-Trump — is rock-solid and hard-core. Their minds are made up. Their opinions of Trump are implacable and unlikely to change no matter what he does, nor what new facts come to light. The final one-sixth of Americans are less certain, however. Their stance regarding Trump could change over the time before the next election. They're mostly Independents rather than Democrats or Republicans. They may or may not have voted for Trump in 2016, but they're waiting to decide about 2020.

The same breakdown of percentages doesn't exist among Republicans and Democrats in Congress. The Republican Party, with almost no exceptions, has become the party of Donald Trump and Trumpism. Is that because Republicans in Congress are spineless partisan sycophants? Sometimes, but not really. It's because principle is not a major factor in the lives of present-day politicians. The dogma of ideology may be, but principle almost always loses out to the practicality of self-interest. Politicians want to keep their jobs, and with those jobs their power and privilege.

The same is true for Congressional Democrats, who oppose Trump near-unanimously. Acknowledging the seriousness of questions about how our society is to be structured, Democrats' opposition to Trump is finally less about principle than about power. Winning is what matters, because the winners get to make the policies.

So, is the political divide in Washington cast in stone? Well, think back to Watergate. Congressional Republicans and most Republican voters supported President Nixon throughout the bulk of two years' investigation into the Watergate shenanigans. Even as the evidence grew more damning, Republicans held firm in backing Nixon's story. Only at the very end, when Nixon's misdeeds had become painfully apparent, did Republicans cave. And they did so with astonishing rapidity, almost literally overnight. Less than a week later, Nixon resigned.

Could the same fate await Donald Trump if the political rats desert a suddenly sinking ship? I don't know, but I think it doubtful that Trump would resign or be forced from office by impeachment and conviction. All I'm saying, though, is that his support could evaporate, no matter how strong it seems now.

During the first two years of his Presidency, Donald Trump was protected by Republican majorities in both chambers of Congress, which controlled votes on legislation and investigations by committees. The mid-term election changed that. The House of Representatives flipped. Democrats are now in charge, and, while nervous about any talk of impeachment, they are gearing up through multiple investigations to try to change the public mind. Meanwhile, Trump is fighting the same battle in the court of public opinion, but from the other side.

I don't pretend to know how all this will play out with the Mueller and various House investigations. Are more indictments forthcoming? Will the SDNY (Southern District of New York) state prosecutors finally bring him down after Trump leaves the Oval Office? Or will Trump continue his history as Teflon Don, miraculously getting away with everything? Astrology says probably not, and that Donald Trump is in for a very hard time.

In fairness, that time of reckoning is not here yet, and won't arrive during 2019. This year, transiting Jupiter is conjoining Trump's natal Sagittarius Moon and opposing his Gemini Sun. Those two transits strongly imply a psychological state of buoyancy and optimism, with the likelihood of correspondingly sanguine circumstances. So, Trump is riding high in 2019. He should enjoy it while he can, however, because it won't last into the next decade.

Astrologically, Trump's comeuppance is indicated by the simultaneous transits of Pluto, Saturn, and Jupiter opposing his natal Saturn and Venus. This activation of six very important cycles in his chart has many levels. One is different durations. The Jupiter and Saturn pairs are effective throughout most of 2020. The Pluto-

Saturn opposition is much longer, starting in 2019, hitting full force in 2020, and extending through 2021. The Pluto-Venus opposition begins in 2020, goes full tilt in 2021, and remains effective through 2022. Considering the entire pattern of activation for the six cycles, 2020 is Trump's most critical year, with 2021 as a close second.

These six transits happening together are literally a once-in-a-lifetime event, and not something that the majority of people will ever experience, certainly not in the way that Donald Trump is about to.

First off, the tight grouping of Jupiter, Saturn, and Pluto in Capricorn starting in December 2019 and continuing through November 2020 (after which Jupiter and Saturn conjoin in the first degree of Aquarius and pull away from Pluto) is the closest angular alignment of these three bodies in the zodiac for more than a millennia. To call it a rare event is an understatement. Over nearly the entire year of 2020, those three bodies will jockey for position within the last third of the sign Capricorn, but never be more than 8° apart in zodiacal arc.

Second, all human beings on the planet who have in their natal charts one or more significant points in the last third of any cardinal sign have been going through, are going through now, or will go through soon activation of personal transit cycles to these points in their natal charts by Pluto, Saturn, and Jupiter. The importance of these transits will vary person by person, as well as the timing. For some, the transits will be simultaneous, occurring together. For others, the timing will be stretched out — one activation after another after another — in a cascade over a period of years. The correspondences in real life will also vary widely, sometimes important and obvious, sometimes not so much.

How many human beings are in this club? The percentages are small — no more than about 10-15% — but the numbers are large — approaching a billion people who will be impacted one way or another. It just so happens that Donald Trump is in the small cohort (about 2%) that is getting a particularly intense and focused version of this collective event that will almost certainly correspond to major events with serious repercussions in their personal lives.

Saturn and Pluto are not kind and gentle. They don't play nice with us. Especially when they come together — as happens every 31-38 years, the last time being 1982-1983 — it's time to look out, because the wrecking ball has arrived with signed orders to knock down the house. We'd damn well better pack up our ego bags very quickly and vacate the premises, or we risk being in the house when it's destroyed. The problem for Donald Trump is that he knows nothing about the spiritual discipline of ego-transcendence and relative selflessness. He is 100% egotist, seeing anything less as weakness. This means that ego is the only structure Trump knows, so when the wrecking ball shows up, he has nowhere else to go. That doesn't bode well for Trump's chances of gracefully handling the death-rebirth experiences and enlarged perspectives for which Pluto is the

cosmic messenger. If everything is about *you*, then the personal identity of *self* gets knocked down hard when Pluto and Saturn show up. Add Jupiter to that mix, and it's way, way too much for someone who (at least apparently) has done no spiritual or inner work.

In fairness, when Saturn and Pluto gang up, the corresponding experiences are likely to be challenging and difficult at best, whether we're talking about an egotist or a saint. It's just that the saint will have a better change of coming out the other end of the tunnel in a Phoenix-like rise from the ashes into rebirth. The egotist is likely to be shattered.

Where do these six transits hit Trump? The natal planets are Saturn conjoined to Venus in Cancer/11th house, and the three transiting outer planets are all in the 5th house, so the arenas of life-experience where structures will be destroyed are family (Cancer) friends (11th house), and money (Venus), with the whole creative experience of giving and receiving love (5th/11th axis, where Trump's full Moon and Sun were at birth) being immolation fodder for the fires of the death-rebirth transformation.

Can you imagine Don Jr. and Ivanka in orange jumpsuits? Behind bars? Not using gold-plated toilets? I won't predict that Trump's children will end up in jail, but the possibility is less of a stretch than one might assume.

Can you imagine Donald Trump being poor? Forced to sell off his considerable real estate holdings? Hobbled so that his family business cannot operate? I don't know how that might come to pass, but his chart implies that it could.

I find it perverse that, on rare occasions, I agree with Donald Trump. When Trump says that the Mueller Investigation has been a witch hunt, I nod. Yes, it is, in fact, a witch hunt, but that's because Trump and his minions really are a coven of witches who do the devil's bidding. Also, when Trump rails about the Democrats wanting to take him down, he's not suffering from paranoia. They actually are out to get him, and with darn good reason.

However Trump exits the stage, that alone won't be enough to save us. Our problems — the American empire, racism, climate change, nuclear war, financial madness, income inequality, over-consumption and extractive economies, etc. — won't magically vanish if Trump is banished. Any of those problems could yet do us in. But getting rid of Trump is a step in the right direction.