

The Circus Comes to Town

by Bill Herbst

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The circus has come to town. The Impeachment Circus. It appeared some months ago that the circus had been cancelled, but then suddenly, unexpectedly, and in ways no one anticipated, it arrived all at once. In a flash, the tents were set up, bleachers erected, and the three rings laid out. Jugglers, high-wire artists, and, of course, clowns are now rehearsing and waiting in the wings.

What's weird is that Donald Trump brought the circus to town. After three years, Trump was all but home free. The Mueller Investigation had ended, and its report fizzled. Impeachment was a dead issue. But then, seemingly out of nowhere, Donald Trump himself authorized the release of the transcript of his phone conversation with Ukrainian President Zelensky, and — bada-bing, bada-boom! — it was game on.

Or maybe that's not so weird. Perhaps Trump was operating under the overconfident assumption that he can now get away with anything. More about that possibility later.

Back in March, I wrote and posted a commentary entitled, "*Trump's Waterloo Approaches*," in which I discussed the significant transit cycles in Trump's natal chart that are active in 2019 through the early 2020s. For those who haven't read that commentary or want a refresher, here's a link:

<https://www.billherbst.com/Comm136.pdf>

Rather than discuss impeachment, *per se*, I want to reiterate what I wrote in March, but in simpler and more direct terms. I'll keep this follow-up short and to the point.

Throughout much of 2019, Donald Trump's astrological chart implies that he's been riding high for now, but facing a hard fall in the longer term.

The high riding is linked symbolically to Jupiter's passage over Trump's natal Moon in Sagittarius and simultaneous opposition to his natal Sun in Gemini, which began in February of this year and will end in November. Both those cycles are associated with the experience of optimism, confidence, circumstantial opportunity, and psychological buoyancy. The downside is overconfidence, excessive risks, and counting on luck rather than considering reality. Trump believes that he can get away with anything, and apparently he didn't anticipate the furor that might (and did) result from release of the damning transcript.

The hard fall is tied to three planets moving through Capricorn — Pluto, Saturn, and, very soon, Jupiter. All three will shortly oppose Trump's natal Saturn and Venus, which are conjoined in Cancer. Of the six transits, the two by Pluto are the longest and most important. First, Pluto opposes Trump's natal Saturn, gearing up in 2019, peaking in 2020, then continuing through 2021. The Pluto-Venus opposition is similarly long but one year later, gearing up in 2020, peaking in 2021, then continuing through 2022. Along the way, Saturn opposes Trump's natal Saturn in January of 2020 and then opposes his natal Venus through the rest of the year. Then Jupiter arrives to join the party and does the same from March through November. Oh my.

All told, that's a four-year stretch where life takes a wrecking ball to Donald Trump's most basic ambitions (material wealth and personal security) by revealing, exposing, amplifying, and manifesting his deepest, most closely guarded fears (failure in career, status, and love through loss, rejection, or betrayal). 2020 is the central year in this process, with all six transits active, and critical mass is coming right around the corner, starting in January.

The possibilities for how this will take shape and play out are still uncertain and yet to be clear. Will Trump be impeached by the House? Will he be removed from office by the Senate? Might he resign or otherwise not seek reelection, or will he run for a second term and be defeated? If so, might he refuse to concede? Could he possibly remain in office for now, run again in 2020, and win? I don't know, although Trump's chart lobbies strongly against that last possibility.

Astrologers often speak of Plutonian symbolism as "transformational." That may be so, but — especially when paired with Saturn — Pluto's process is ruthless, destructive, and often painful. We have many opportunities to choose release of our ego-attachments, but this is difficult to achieve in reality. It is particularly challenging for those among us whose narcissism is stronger, since they have invested so much into their egos. Pluto-Saturn doesn't care, though, and will not be deterred. If choice doesn't succeed, then force majeure will be invoked. In short, Mr. Trump's prospects don't look good.

My concern is not so much with what will happen nor how it will occur for Donald Trump, but the possible repercussions for the rest of us in America and around the world.

Ridding ourselves of Trump and Trumpism will not, however, make everything OK. Trump is merely a symptom, not the disease itself. Overall, modern civilization has not fostered greater sanity or maturity for collective humanity, and the time we have left to evolve beyond our species' disturbed adolescence is growing short.

Still, Donald Trump's departure from the public stage is a necessary step.