

# Oprah Winfrey

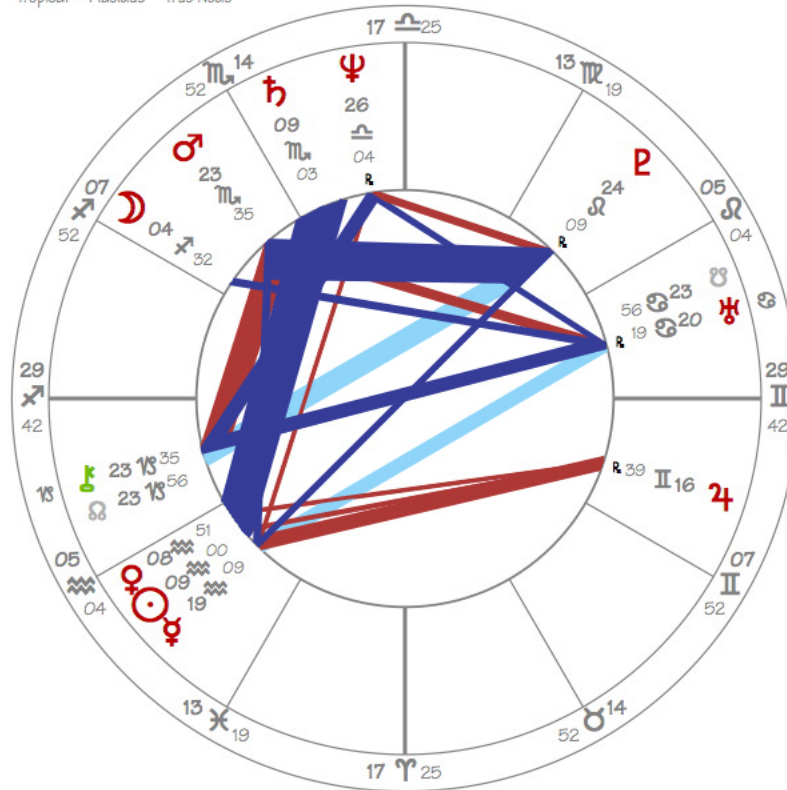
## Part Three

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



In this third installment of a three-part commentary on Oprah Winfrey and the possibility of her running for President in 2020, I'll discuss some upcoming transits in her chart during 2020 that are both provocative and potent. Taken together, these cycle activations have clear relevance to Oprah's future.

Before I launch into that, a brief discussion is warranted about moving cycles in astrology, in particular those that "evolve" an individual's natal chart over time.

Astrology is a system built on correspondences and analogies ("as above, so below," "a day for a year," etc.)

Two basic systems are used: symbolic progressions and transits. I don't wish to take readers through what might be for many a mind-numbing lesson in technical astrology, so I'll keep it simple: Symbolic progressions (most commonly either *secondary progressions* or *solar arc directions*) are built on abstract analogies, while transits use a more obvious (perhaps not "actual," but at least perceived) foundation.

Symbolic progressions are very popular, and most astrologers use them. I don't, however. I'm among the smaller group of astrologers who use transits exclusively to track cycles for individuals that evolve through time. I don't mean to imply that symbolic progressions are bogus, just that I could never feel them in operation. By contrast, I can *feel* transits.

The other factor I love about transits is that they lend themselves beautifully to the study of complete cycles that evolve over time. What this means practically is that when I see transiting Saturn in square to a client's natal Venus, I'm not stuck with saying, "*You'll probably feel dissatisfied and fairly unhappy.*" That might be the person's day-by-day experience during the period of the transit, but there's another, more illuminating meaning I can offer. I can see whether the square is waxing or waning and interpret it in the context of the entire 29-year cycle.

If the Saturn-Venus transit square is waxing, I might say, "*You may feel blocked or dissatisfied for awhile, but that's the signal that you're entering the summer phase of the cycle, and it's time to assertively move forward toward more tangible expression of whatever you love and enjoy.*" Or, if that transit is a waning square, I could say, "*You're entering the winter phase of your current Saturn-Venus cycle, and it's time to let go of all the judgments you've made about love and pleasure over the past 22 years.*" That converts the information about what is often a trying passage into a longer-term and more positive perspective.

The transits and cycles I work with professionally are from the slower-moving outer bodies of the solar system, from Jupiter out. The inner bodies have much shorter cycle lengths, from the 28-day cycle through the zodiac of our moon through the one-year periods of the sun, mercury, and venus, to the slightly more than two-year cycle of Mars. Transits to natal positions of those inner bodies are brief, lasting only one or two days typically, and that's not the context of my work with most clients. I'm a Big Picture guy, concerned about years, not days.

The system I use reveals two kinds of transits that are fundamentally different in tone and symbolic implications. First are Jupiter and Saturn transits (and their

respective complete cycles of 12 and 29 years) that are structural, practical, and sensible. In a typical chart, we experience 10-20 Jupiter and Saturn transits each year, with perhaps 4-5 that are major or more significant. When they occur, we may like or not like what happens, but whatever happens makes sense to us. We understand why it's happening.

The other type are transits from trans-Saturnian bodies Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, whose transits are wild-cards — like jokers in the deck, they come in from left field and take us by surprise. They defy common sense and disrupt the sensible flow of our lives, adding new and unexpected elements of experience. Again, we may like them or hate them, but they are almost never logical. These cycles are much longer (84, 165, and 250 years respectively), and their quarterly phase-change transitions are much more rare. In any given year, we might have 5-10 of these transits, of which 2-3 are major or significant.

Like anyone's chart, Oprah's has many, many transits between now (2018) and the election in 2020. Only a few leap out and grab me, however, and they're all in 2020-2021. What happens in Oprah's transit patterns between now and the end of the current decade is essentially jockeying for position, preparing the way for the next wave of big changes in her life that start at the beginning of the coming decade.

Four overlapping transits in 2020-2021 bear directly on the possibility of Oprah's candidacy for President. They are first-quarter squares from transiting Uranus to Oprah's natal Venus and Sun that activate from May 2020 through April 2021 (using 1° orbs, which are standard with personal transits), then transiting Saturn conjoined to her natal Venus and Sun from February through December 2021. Taken as a group, these transits are immensely potent and strikingly contradictory.

Uranian transits are unexpected and often shocking changes of direction that come out of the blue. They take us out of the flow of our life-journeys to awaken us from our habitual routines and expectation. Their purpose is to introduce new and previously unimagined possibilities.

Before that one-year jolt ends, Saturn shows up to pass over those same two natal symbols in Oprah's chart — Venus and the Sun. Wowie-zowee.

The Saturn-Sun cycle is, in my opinion, the most central of all astrological cycles in revealing the content and unfolding of the life-journey. I call it the "life-purpose" cycle, but that's just a shorthand tag. What it's about is the linkage between the sun, symbol for our connection to universal energy that shows the way we construct personal meaning and coherence in our lives, and Saturn, symbol for our ambition to overcome obstacles, build long-term structures, and achieve productive outcomes in reality. Together, they form a 29-year cycle in seven-year quarters — much like seasons. The cycle begins sometime between

birth and age 29, then restarts every three decades later. Each cycle is custom-tailored to match where we are during that particular 29-year period of our lives. Meaning, coherence, and purpose necessarily take different forms when we are young than when we are older. Gradually building the structures that will give shape to that content is the challenge within each Saturn-Sun cycle.

Since 2013, Oprah's been moving through the last-quarter winter phase of her life-purpose (Saturn-Sun) cycle. She put aside her previous life work from the 1990s on and is letting all that compost. Oprah's "retirement" from her long-running daytime TV talk show in 2011 corresponds nicely to the waning phases of her life-purpose cycle. It's not that she's on vacation — Oprah's never on vacation; she works hard all the time — but she's in the transition period between what her life meant in the past, from 1992-2013, and what it might mean in the future, from the 2020s on.

Saturn's passage of our natal Sun is the beginning of a new (or renewed) cycle of meaning, coherence, and central purpose. The transit tends to be a period where everything comes to a full stop. Temporarily, all roads forward are blocked and shut down. That's symbolic, of course, and doesn't mean that one's life literally stops, but the experience of the transit is like a heavy weight that settles on our shoulders, and we typically struggle to accept it. Oprah's core life-purpose involves reconciliation between self-centered pursuits (i.e., personal self-worth) and devoting her efforts to the greater good of humanity, especially by working to limit abuses of power and co-create a more ideal society. 2021 is the beginning of Oprah's third (and presumably final) Saturn-Sun cycle.

The two overlapping sets of Uranus and Saturn transits to Oprah's Venus and Sun could be argued in either direction with regard to her possible candidacy for President. The "pro" argument is that the transits indicate a radical change in Oprah's life that immediately leads to the assumption of a new and enlarged sense of purpose and responsibility (presumably as President). The "con" argument is that this combination of transits is simply too provocative and difficult, and that, if she chose to run, her candidacy could easily be derailed by unexpected, wild-card situations arising during the campaign. Another possibility (less likely, I think, but still imaginable) is that Oprah would decline to run initially, but then change her mind in mid-2020 after a groundswell of popular sentiment drafted her.

Any clear prognosis is made more difficult by the current deranged state of politics, as well as the unpredictability of intervening developments between now and the end of the decade that might dramatically change the landscape of possibilities for 2020. Examples abound: Will the Republicans descend even further into their unconscionable surrender to Trumpism and abject fealty to the Plutocracy? Will the Democrats find a spine and a voice, including new and compelling candidates who could mount a serious challenge? What changes will the 2018 mid-term Congressional elections produce? Will Trump self-destruct or

be taken out in any of various ways over the coming two years? Or could the seemingly impregnable luck Trump has had throughout his entire despicable and miserable life continue to hold, so that (heaven forbid) he might actually win a second term, however improbable that seems? Could Oprah run and lose? And what about the many possible black swan events that are waiting in the wings, hiding in plain sight so to speak, that might pounce at any time and change the entire calculus of our collective future?

Despite my reluctance to engage in the foolishness of political prophecy, I'll go out on a limb (and jump up and down on it) to make a bold prediction. Based on the astrology of Oprah's chart and particularly on my understanding of the major transits discussed above, I think that Oprah will *not* run. I feel also that she *shouldn't* run.

Do I believe that Oprah is unqualified and thus would make a bad President? No, not at all. But, in an overall assessment, I don't feel that elected office would be a good fit for her personally. I think that Oprah's humanitarianism, power, and prestige would be better served by (and better suited to) other dimensions than that of Commander-in-Chief and the head of the Executive Branch of the U.S. government. I'd go so far as to suggest the possibility that life as a celebrity has worn out its welcome for Oprah, and that over the years ahead she needs her independence more than another mountain of responsibility to climb.

Of course, I might be wrong.