In Praise of Melancholy: Reframing Jupiter and Saturn

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Partial Bio

Retired clinical mental health counselor using astrology as a way of exploring the anxieties of living. Working online with people wanting to go a little deeper within an astrological perspective. Worked for thirty years in prison mental health; counseling and teaching astrology.

Copies

If you are interested in obtaining the text and/or powerpoint of this presentation, contact me at Brad@AstroCare.net and I will cheerfully send them along.
Solar and lunar values
The seeming nature of Western culture
The dynamics that Jupiter and Saturn image
America and its manic orientation
The helping professions make out
Saturn’s necessity – in praise of melancholy
Sol/Luna Culture Bias
<table>
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<td>royal elite</td>
<td>common public</td>
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Sol/Luna continued

**SUN**
- hero
- transcendent
- height
- distant
- abstract
- being
- mind
- will
- independence
- thinking
- rational
- logic
- objectivity
- detachment

**MOON**
- witch
- immanent
- depth
- intimate
- experiential
- becoming
- body
- instinct
- relatedness
- feeling
- imaginal
- intuition
- subjectivity
- immersion
Western Culture
We are the inheritors and promoters of a culture historically infused with solar values emphasizing the Patriarchal, the Masculine, the Hero, Spirit, the Transcendent, Individualism, Reason, Logic, and Light. These categories have shaped the way we construct and interpret our world.
Like an endlessly devouring organism
Western Culture

in its expansion has consumed lands, cultures, traditions, peoples, communities, and resources. We are indoctrinated, seduced, persuaded, and overwhelmed by the relentless promotion of expansion and growth.
Hello, World. Here comes the "Welcome Wagon" of democracy!

Aargh!
Our topic

Expansion; outward and upward, and contraction; inward and downward, are fundamental to human experience. Like breathing, like the tides; movement goes out and comes in, extends and recedes. It is only when we valorize one and not the other that trouble begins.
Jupiter

What are some of the associations and meanings that are attached to Jupiter?
Dynamics of Jupiter

Broadening, enlarging, inflating, increasing, growth, optimism, enthusiasm, faith, grace, exaggeration, extravagance, gusto, visionary, exuberance, mania, excess, gregariousness, communal participation, philanthropy, opportunism, joviality, conviviality, benevolence, and all expansive and assimilative dynamics.
Saturn

What can we say about the associations and meanings that are attached to Saturn?
Dynamics of Saturn

Structuring, forming, defining, limiting, clarity, distinction, restriction, realism, pessimism, boundaries, constraint, hardening, rigidifying, ordering, organizing, effort, formalities, conservatism, tradition, status quo, time, defensiveness, inhibition, melancholy, stability, control, and all contractive and morphological dynamics.
The Dilemma

I contend that not only is America a solar culture but also heavily Jupiterian and this reflection discloses expansive values that we as a nation have employed to shape and inform our relation to the world.

What does it mean to fashion a Solar/Jovian nation?
Jupiterian attitude

What sorts of attitude might you expect from a Sag. Rising chart...

with Jupiter conjunct the Sun...

with Venus, the significator of the MC conjunct Jupiter...

with Jupiter trining the Moon?
America

Declaration of Independence – the right to the “Pursuit of Happiness.”

What other nation has this focus upon happiness in their founding documents?

Happiness is woven into the fabric of our nation.

Seeking happiness is imagined as an unalienable right given by our Creator.
Succinctly

“America is a happiness society.... The underlying strivings may be toward success, acquisitiveness, or power, toward prestige or security. But what validates these strivings for the American is the idea that he has a natural right to happiness.”

Max Lerner, (1902-92) syndicated columnist
Further observations

Historically, America effusing optimism, confidence, and growth is known as the “land of opportunity.”

We know if America applies itself, it can achieve anything.

There have been few limits to growth, to resources, to our ability to problem solve.

America has led the world in innovation – the new, the bigger, the better, the improved.

What is it we want?
We want to be....
Feeling second best is probably the worst feeling in the word.
Jupiter reflects Expansionism

Expansionist policies and attitudes have been part of America since its founding. We believe we have special protection from our Creator. Historically we have acted as if we hold a mandate to spread our way of life throughout the world. We believe in personal growth, in endless development, that bigger is better, and as imaged by a Cancer stellium, that we should feed and protect the world.
“America feeds the world”

Has been a popular motto from the agricultural industry for decades though it has come under wider challenge in recent years.
The United States Probably Has More Foreign Military Bases Than Any Other People, Nation, or Empire in History

9/14/15 The Nation

The U.S. has more than 800 military bases on foreign soils while Britain, France, and Russia have a combined number of approximately 30. Politico magazine Aug/Sep 2015
Our Divine mandate

In Genesis, the world has been given us by our Creator for our use. Creation has become commodity, a resource for our exclusive use. Creation has little intrinsic value in itself, its worth is reflected in its utility, i.e., how it serves our needs and satisfies our desires.
The resulting attitude

Living forests are not regarded as large and complicated fellow beings but rather as timber reserves.

Rivers, lakes and streams become hydro resources.

Cows and pigs become beef and pork whose only purpose in living is to feed us.

The living soil, literally the ground of our becoming, is viewed as acreage for development and agriculture.
The hostile attitude of conquering nature ignores the basic interdependence of all things and events—that the world beyond the skin is actually an extension of our own bodies—and will end in destroying the very environment from which we emerge and upon which our whole life depends.

— Alan Watts —
Jupiter’s Seduction

Promotion and advertising have been associated with the Jupiter/Sag dynamic. We are constantly inundated with the messages of buy, buy, buy, consume, consume, consume. We want more and more and we are optimistically told on a daily basis that we CAN have it all.

We buy into the far seeing Sag. fantasy that the grass IS greener elsewhere, that the newest, latest, shiniest is better than what we actually have and, we deserve it.
The sales presentation

Madison Avenue
Wall Street
Big Pharma/ Medical
Mental health industries
Agricultural/food industry complex
Detroit
Hollywood
Executive and Legislative branches
The educational system
And your favorite clergy or televangelist
What we want

Rewarding work, more wealth
Satisfying relationships, great sex
Perfect marriages, happy children
Effective parenting,
Glowing physical and psychological health
We want sunshine without dark clouds
The bright day of living without shadowy night
IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?
HE WHO DIES WITH THE MOST TOYS WINS
And so

Here we sit;
the greatest, best, preeminent, unparalleled, unbeaten, unbowed, magnanimous, the most generous nation and protector to the world.

We are also vigilant, paternal, moralistic, arrogant, immoderate, wasteful, extravagant, consuming, entitled, and narcissistic.
THE WORLD ACCORDING TO AMERICANS

- MORE AMERICA!!
- uninhabited
- santa!!
- AMERICA!!!!1 WE R #1!!!!!
- they do our laundry
- coffee comes from here i think
- cruise ships go here
- bombs go here
- kangaroos
- cold!
- communists
- more evil-doers
- tvs and cameras
- they make our stuff
Democracy in America (1835)

After traveling America for two years, the French social philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville noted, “In America I saw the freest and most enlightened men placed in the happiest circumstances that the world affords; it seemed to me as if a cloud habitually hung upon their brow, and I thought them serious and almost sad even in their pleasures.”
The hungry ghosts

Happiness is so ingrained in the American psyche that we fail to recognize that the very pursuit of happiness is itself the cause of our discontent and our perpetual craving for more. We live for a future that never arrives.
Downloading Future
Please Wait...

Cancel
Salvation

The promise of Happiness, paradise, satisfaction, is always with the newest model, or just down the road, over the next rise, around the corner, up the street, in the mail, near the Western Lands, on the Blessed Isles, after death, or in the next life. The closer we get, the further it recedes.
Even our cosmological imaginings
The growth of a profession

One arena that has benefited greatly from our nation being under the spell of Jupiter is the helping professions; therapists of every shade, conventional and alternative – psychologists, counselors, astrologers, psychics, healers, coaches, etc. all feed off client suffering and hope.
Questioning our assumptions

The historian Daniel Horowitz wonders whether “the pursuit of subjective well-being is or should be the primary or even a primary goal in life.”
The great Zeus, philanderer king
50%
Faith and Trust
“Only our searching for happiness prevents us from seeing it. It's like a rainbow which you pursue without ever catching.”

Lama Gendun Rinpoche
Sibly after Rudhyar
Event Chart
Jul 4 1776 NS, Thu
5:13:55 pm LMT 5:00:39
Philadelphia
38°N55°08" 75°W09°51"
Geocentric
Tropical
Campanus
True Node
from Rudhyar
One moment you appear to be riding the crest of a wave, only to have the rug pulled away from you, bringing you back down to earth with a sickening thud.
"Mr. Duffy abhorred anything which betokened physical or mental disorder.... He lived at a little distance from his body, regarding his own acts with doubtful side-glances."
We are a split people, estranged from ourselves, from others, from community, and from nature.
Man vs. Nature

Flesh vs. Spirit
Rom 8:5

GOD vs. MAN

Civilization Vs. Wilderness

Soul in the Machine
And for astrologers, the dualisms we emphasize...

are variations of the “ghost in the machine”
spirit vs. matter
planets vs. humanity
interiority vs. exteriority
fate vs. free will
tend to see oppositions as competing rivals rather than partners in an intimate dance.
We’ve Had a Hundred Years of Psychotherapy —And the World’s Getting Worse
American psyche as split
Jupiter/Zeus  Saturn/Kronos

Expansion  Contraction
Fortune  Fate
Grace  Effort
Levity  Gravity
Optimism  Pessimism
Buoyant  Grave
Inflation  Constriction
Growth  Decline
Enthusiasm  Sobering
Joy  Sorrow
Manic  Melancholic
Happiness  Sadness
Traditionally, Saturn has been
fixity

DEPRESSION

STAGNATION!

ON FEELING MELANCHOLY
Jung wrote...

“The serious problems in life, however, are never fully solved. If ever they should appear to be so it is a sure sign that something has been lost. The meaning and purpose of a problem seem to lie not in its solution but in our working at it incessantly.”
Wipe out wrinkles - instantly! 45 seconds to feel it working. 45 more seconds to say wow!

Look Younger In 2 Weeks

Anti-aging & Age Defying
Eyes ~ Face ~ Neck ~ Body
You can rewind time. Shop our great selection.

Breast Augmentation

Nursing Homes Need You!

Making Dead Bodies Beautiful

Derma-Pro Mortuary Cosmetics
“Time is the fire in which our lives burn.”
FATE AND NECESSITY

We cannot conquer fate and necessity, yet we can yield to them in such a manner as to be greater than if we could.
“If you cannot find fulfillment in the midst of where you now stand, where would you go in search of it?”
Corrupt politicians make the other ten percent look bad.
Scientism is simply an exaggerated belief in science. Scientism claims that the methods of the modern natural sciences provide our only access to the world and give the only kind of “truth.”

*Scientism* (or scientolatry)
- Science alone gives truth and this truth is absolute
- Matter is the primary reality (materialism)
- Behavior is determined by impersonal forces
- All values are merely social conventions
- The coming ideal society is guaranteed
Reframing Saturn
Saturn’s reflection
Saturn’s reflection

Slows us down
Saturn’s reflection

Slows us down

Gives us pause to examine our situation
Saturn’s reflection

Slows us down
Gives us pause to examine our situation
Adds substance to our thought
Saturn’s reflection

Slows us down
Gives us pause to examine our situation
Adds substance to our thought
Sobers our considerations
Saturn’s reflection

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Brings us down to earth
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Sobers our considerations
Brings us down to earth
Focuses us in the present
Saturn’s reflection
Slows us down
Gives us pause to examine our situation
Adds substance to our thought
Sobers our considerations
Brings us down to earth
Focuses us in the present
Provides the necessary delays, obstacles, frustrations, and failures that add patience, shape character, and dignify bearing
Saturn’s great gift

Practice the Reality Principle:
Deal with the world as it is NOT as You wish it would be.
No Room at the Inn
Love It or Leave it
Play the Hand you're dealt.
Jung wrote in *The Practice of Psychotherapy*

“The patient has not to learn how to get rid of his neurosis, but how to bear it.”
Affirming and accepting

FAILURES, STUPIDITIES, UGLY POINTS,
AND NONETHELESS, YOU SEE
PERFECTION IN
IMPERFECTION ITSELF.
The fairest thing in nature, a flower, still has its roots in earth and manure.

D. H. Lawrence
Eric Wilson writes in Against Happiness
In feeling fractured and fragmented, isolated and bereft, one actually comes to experience wholeness and unity. To suffer melancholy is also to understand its polar opposite, joy. Lacking joy, one broods on it more deeply than when one possesses this state.... In vacillating between sorrow and joy, one grasps the secret harmony between these two antinomies. Doing so, one apprehends the rhythms of the whole cosmos, itself a dynamic interplay between opposites.
Character

mid-14c., carecter, "symbol marked or branded on the body;" Modern French caractère), from Latin character, from Greek kharakter "engraved mark," also "symbol or imprint on the soul," also "instrument for marking," from kharassein "to engrave," from kharax "pointed stake," "to scrape, scratch."

Meaning "sum of qualities that define a person" is from 1640s.
It’s important to remember that there is no view from nowhere.
You Can't Go Home Again
Grace

Gravity
In Praise of Melancholy
Gratitude bestows reverence, allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience life and the world.

John Milton
On Turning Ten ~ Billy Collins

The whole idea of it makes me feel like I'm coming down with something, something worse than any stomach ache or the headaches I get from reading in bad light -- a kind of measles of the spirit, a mumps of the psyche, a disfiguring chicken pox of the soul.

But now I am mostly at the window watching the late afternoon light. Back then it never fell so solemnly against the side of my tree house, and my bicycle never leaned against the garage as it does today, all the dark blue speed drained out of it.

You tell me it is too early to be looking back, but that is because you have forgotten the perfect simplicity of being one and the beautiful complexity introduced by two.

This is the beginning of sadness, I say to myself, as I walk through the universe in my sneakers. It is time to say good-bye to my imaginary friends, time to turn the first big number.

But I can lie on my bed and remember every digit.

It seems only yesterday I used to believe there was nothing under my skin but light. If you cut me I could shine.

At four I was an Arabian wizard. I could make myself invisible by drinking a glass of milk a certain way. At seven I was a soldier, at nine a prince.

But now when I fall upon the sidewalks of life, I skin my knees. I bleed.
Visit me at AstroCare.net and remember if you want .pdf or text of the presentation, email Brad@astrocare.net
On Turning Ten  - Billy Collins

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like I'm coming down with something,
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