Interpreting eclipses. Throughout the centuries, Western astrologers have refined methodologies for assessing the impact of eclipses on people and nations. Whatever the branch of astrology employed, eclipses bring definitive closings which leave space for new growth.

- Eclipses are expected to be more forcible in their effects when above the horizon (i.e., visible from a given locale).
- Nnatal astrology: important when within 1º of a conjunction or opposition to the luminaries or angles.
- Mundane astrology: nations and cities impacted which share an association with the sign carrying the eclipse.
  - Nations likely to feel an eclipse when it falls on the Sun, Moon or angles (esp. 1º and 10º) of its leader.
- Solar eclipses are expected to be more damaging when occurring in the east; the Moon, the west.
- Fixed stars on angles nestling the eclipse are given prime importance (e.g., if in 9º, stars on 7º take first priority, then 10º).
- Larger themes of the eclipse are taken from the sign it occurs in, and the planet which has the most strength in (or aspectual connections to) the degree of the eclipse.

Eclipse effects by ruler.

- ☿ - coldness, long illnesses, issues of corruption, pollution, trouble for elderly.
- ☈ - peace, prosperity, bolsters the dispensation of justice, good weather.
- ♂ - dryness and fire, violence, lawlessness, destructive weather.
- ♀ - contentment, marriage and fertility rate growth, temperate airs.
- ♃ - quick and subtle actions (for good and ill), changeable weather.

Eclipses in fire signs point to the east, and likely signify difficulty for leaders and people of eminence. Discords, wars, fires. Eclipses in earth signs point to the south, and augur difficulty with land, property, borders between countries and agriculture. Eclipses in air signs point to the west, bring turbulent winds and weather, and afflict humankind through famine and disease. Eclipses in water signs bring floods and difficulty at sea. Expectation of war and high mortality amongst common people.

Timing eclipses: duration & peak/intensification. Traditional authors present varying perspectives on measuring timing of eclipse effects.

- According to Ptolemy, effects of an eclipse are expected to last as long as its duration – solar eclipses in years, lunar in months.
  - Example: if a solar eclipse lasts 3 and a half minutes, effects are expected to last for 3 and a half years.
- The closer the eclipse is to the ascendant, the sooner it begins; the closer to the descendant, the later it begins.
  - Example: if a solar eclipse falls in the middle third of the heavens (10º or 9º houses), should begin in the middle third of the year following the eclipse (i.e., within 5 to 8 months).
- Bonatti expects the eclipse to begin manifesting its effects when the Sun in a solar eclipse crosses the eclipse’s midheaven degree.
- Sahl, when the Sun makes its ingress into the ascending sign at the time of the eclipse.
Astronomers seek to understand the ways in which each moment asserts its own distinctive quality, and while exact signatures will not be replicated again, something in them ripples out into both past and future. Left to terrestrial devices, we naturally see time as 2-dimensional: that the future is born from the past. What the study of celestial movements makes clear is that the future herself plays midwife to the past, almost as if she is coaxing certain probabilities forward over others. The past and future are, it would seem, united in and dependent upon each other. Patterns repeat on themselves, weaving in threads from seemingly disparate parts to create tapestries that are at once complex and strange, yet become familiar to us through the study of astrological cycles. This article will survey ripples from 2016 which play into greater astrological rhythms, with an aim to discuss how these affect the United States and its elected president in 2017 and the near future.

To carve a view as to where we are headed as a human family, it is important that we understand our own past. Sadly, the theme of violent tragedy was all around us in 2016: the mass shooting inside a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida (USA), killing forty-nine; the senseless massacre that claimed the lives of eighty-six people in Nice, France, injuring more than four hundred others; the military coup in Ankara, Turkey, wherein a faction of the Turkish Armed Forces attempted (unsuccessfully) to seize control in strategic cities across Turkey; the endless series of disasters befalling the Syrian people trapped in a violent civil war, the death toll of which the United Nations and Arab League Envoy to Syria estimate to be just under five hundred thousand at the time of this writing.

It was a hellish year for global political structures, too: the United Kingdom voted to exit the European Union over the summer, resulting in David Cameron's resignation from his post as UK's
Prime Minister; an unambiguous apologist for violence and mob-like crimes assumed the role of President in the Philippines; the US Democratic National Committee was found colluding against one of its own presidential candidates in the US Presidential Primaries; New Zealand's Prime Minister resigned unexpectedly (albeit without much to-do); the President of South Korea was impeached at the close of the year under allegations of corruption.

No story got as much play in 2016 as the US Presidential Election. Most astrologers – and bettors – predicted a Clinton win. Some astrologers, however, did predict a Trump victory, with a notable delineation coming from the desks of Steven Birchfield and Sharon Knight.\(^1\) We can certainly see indications of Trump’s win astrologically, as we’ll explore shortly, but neither should it have surprised us when reflecting on the then global climate and the marked rise of populist, nationalist sentiment in the West. There are many ways we can come at the election of President Trump, but as we’re here to handle this subject from an astrological point of view, that will be my sole focus.

If it seems moot now to discuss charts connected to the 2016 US Presidential Election, we must remember that these charts are still loaded with power and implication, and form the gateway to understanding the chart for August’s total solar eclipse and other mundane figures featured in this article.

I’ve provided the chart for the 2016 Aries ingress, centered on Washington, D.C. During election season last year, many turned to the Aries ingress to predict which political party would come into power that year, using the comparative strength behind the 10\(^{th}\) and 4\(^{th}\) houses to determine the winner. While there’s something to this theory, leveraging this technique alone to determine the victor in an election is not as reliable as it may seem, as a brief survey of Aries ingress charts for election years will easily show. Nor is it the

\(^1\) Birchfield & Knight’s judgment can be found here: https://internationsocietyofclassicalastrologers.wordpress.com/2016/09/29/the-american-presidential-election-and-why-we-wouldnt-make-a-prediction-on-the-outcome-using-birth-times-of-the-candidates/.
kind of thinking the ancients had when assessing these figures. Historical astrologers used ingress charts to better understand the nature of their leader’s reign in the coming astrological year, and even gave so much emphasis to these charts that they were considered equal in power to the leader’s nativity.²

With the sources split in their techniques, mundane astrologers are open to choose their preferred method of calculating the lord of the year in Aries ingress charts. The lord of the year is important in assessing these ingress figures as it represents, in a general way, the state and condition of the people that year, and that planet’s transits and stations throughout the year will be focal. Some ancient authors advocated for the best placed planet essentially and accidentally, some others for the almuten of the ascending degree provided that planet is found in strong houses free from combustion and affliction. I personally agree with Ramesey in his 17th century text Astrologia Restaurata when he says,

> For by these rules you see there is no planet to be admitted lord of the year, but such as are direct and free from impediment and combustion; and so consequently, the year in every revolution must always be fruitful and the people always successful, never crossed or troubled, etc., which we see repugnant both to reason and experience. And therefore, I say, in this matter the ancients are [in] no wise consented to by me.³

Ramesey instead advocates for a simpler system. In the 2016 Aries ingress, both Ramesey and I would call Jupiter lord of the year – he is almuten of the ascending degree and angular on the 10th house cusp, impressing his influence for good or ill on the entire chart. I see no reason to make it more complicated than that.

The general tenor of the chart is alarming. We find Mars rising at 4º Sagittarius, peregrine, disposed by our angular and debilitated Jupiter by sign, triplicity and term. Ramsey writes:

---

² More information on the historical handling of Aries ingress charts can be found in Kennedy and Pingree’s The Astrological History of Masha‘allah, translated from fragments of Masha‘allah’s work on world revolutions.
³ William Ramesey, Astrologia Munda (Book IV of Astrologia Restaurata, 1653), edited and annotated by Steven Birchfield (2006), Section II, Chapter IV, p. 54.
…[I]t follows now we come to Mars and his significations, who, if he is in the first house in any revolution⁴ and strong;⁵ whether he is lord of the year or no, shows that the people of that country shall gain and be advantaged by wars or slaughters, and shall overcome their enemies during that revolution. But if he is weak, they shall disagree and fall out one among another, and shall beat, draw blood and wound one another, for which cause much evil and damage shall happen unto them.⁶

This chart perfectly augers the divisive rhetoric that was in store for the American people as the presidential race came to a climax in the latter half of the year. The stress and tension was palpable and nothing short of exhausting.

13th century Italian astrologer Guido Bonatti had little better to say about a prominently placed Mars, especially considering Mars and Saturn are near their first station (i.e., preparing to travel retrograde, turning against the course of nature):

*When you revolve the year, look to see if Mars were stationary in his first station, wanting to go retrograde and be joined with Saturn – or if Saturn is so disposed that he goes toward Mars while [Mars] is standing [still], or [if] Mars goes towards him while [Saturn is retrograding]: it signifies the austerity and hatefulness of men, so that there will not be any who wishes to obey his betters if he could avoid it, and piety will be cut off; nor will there be any who feels pity for another with zeal, but evildoers will abound, and cutters of roads, and pillagers...⁷*

---

⁴ An Aries ingress chart.
⁵ An angular planet is without doubt a “strong” planet, but here Ramesey means dignified, as Mars would be in Aries, Scorpio or Capricorn.
This is the picture we have in the 2016 Aries ingress: Saturn turned retrograde on March 25, moving backward against the zodiacal backdrop toward a stationing Mars just as Bonatti described. Mars later turned retrograde on April 17.

Some chapters later, Bonatti adds:

...[S]ee if Saturn and Mars were conjoined [corporally] in one of the twelve houses: because it signifies burdens and impediments according to the signification of the house in which they were conjoined. For if their conjunction were in the first, it signifies general evil and impediment is going to come upon the rustics and common people.  

What we can glean from applying these passages to the framework of the Aries ingress is that 2016 was to be a tough, bloody-minded year for the people of the United States.

Jupiter, as lord of the year, demands immediate attention. He is positioned on the midheaven almost exactly, moving retrograde in Virgo, his sign of detriment. There’s a regressive, destructive element to this Jupiter, made worse by his applying partile square to Saturn in the 1st house. Our first task is to identify who or what Jupiter represents. As ruler of the 4th house, Jupiter signifies any and all opposition to then current powers. Mercury, ruler of the 10th house, signifies those in positions of authority. Notice how these two bodies are emplaced in each other’s houses, with Jupiter placed on the 10th cusp and Mercury thrust beneath the horizon into the house of his enemy. From this it could symbolically follow that an opposing force was to come into a position of prominence and power, but will do so dangerously and without proper caution. Jupiter is retrograde, signifying regressions and reversals. He is also besieged by the squares of 12th-ruler Mars (misdirection and dishonesty, self-undoings) and 3rd-ruler Saturn (communication, social media). A simple delineation of this might be: the opposing force would steer national discourse backward through bombastic claims and brash blasts on social media (all of which would repeatedly backfire), using the two weapons this chart affords him: fear (due to Saturn’s hard aspect) and anger (typical when Mars is rising).

---

8 To be “conjoined” means to be connected by aspect or conjunction; to specify “corporally,” as Dykes has inserted, indicates that Bonatti is speaking about the conjunction specifically in this passage.

It’s curious, too, that Mars is rising in this Aries ingress when we know one of the two primary candidates was born with Mars on his ascendant. As said above, Aries ingress give us insight into the kind of powers and voices that will step forward on the world stage in 2016, and we should take note of those individuals who have features in their nativities like those in a key mundane figure. Clinton has several planets, including the Sun, disposed by Mars, but without a known birth time it’s difficult to know how this would affect her.

But again, the Aries ingress alone is not going to tell us who wins or loses an election. What we need is the recurrence of testimonies, not within one chart but across many. The only way to get there is to start unpacking what we have available to us, and I’ll begin first with the charts for the 2016 party nominations. Note that as I discuss the charts in this article, I will intentionally ignore certain signatures to pick them up again later where I believe they are either more relevant, or pack a harder punch.

This is the chart timed for the Democratic National Committee’s nomination by acclamation of Hillary Rodham Clinton. Notable chart features include an angular and exalted Moon on the 4th house cusp, a dignified Sun in the 7th with the two luminaries in applying square, and Pluto rising.

Mercury, afflicted by his placement in the 8th house and his square to 3rd-ruler Mars, is perched on top of the Aries ingress Moon at 23º Leo. Mercury’s partile conjunction to that Moon is a clue to astrologers that he holds a special significance for Clinton’s campaign and its ability to connect to the common people, as the Moon in Aries ingress charts governs the nation’s people. Mercury rules the 6th house (illness), and Mars the 3rd (communication, social media) and 10th (positions of high office). Perhaps unsurprisingly, Clinton’s wellbeing – whether she had the vitality to undertake the office of the presidency – became a pain point along the campaign trail as video after

---

10 While I acknowledge that there is perhaps more validity to using the time for when the candidates accept their party’s nomination, in this exercise I’m deliberately placing the emphasis on when the parties themselves declared their candidate.
video surfaced calling her health into question. There were also continual rumors about unsecured emails and communiques, and WikiLeaks vowed at various stages to release intel that would unravel the Clinton campaign (though most of these threats never actualized). All of this can be seen by the Mercury/Mars square, which falls bang on Clinton’s natal Saturn at 21º Leo. Further, Clinton’s natal Moon is hovering around the degree of the fallen Mercury at 26º Pisces from the Aries ingress chart, a classic astrological picture of dejection.

There’s certainly more to say here about Clinton’s campaign and how its ups and downs are shown in this chart, but in the end what strikes me most about the nomination chart is its lack of vibrancy. There’s so little here to bank on, so few signatures that spell success.

Contrast that with the chart for Donald Trump’s nomination by the Republican National Committee. Many of the chart features are the same – both announcements were made on a Tuesday when the middle degrees of Capricorn were rising, both have an angular Sun and Moon. But notice how the RNC put Donald Trump’s name forward on a lunation – in this case, a full Moon – which Donald Trump has natally. On election day itself, Mars was hovering in the final degree of Capricorn, precisely where we find the Moon in this nomination chart. These helped and aided Trump, put the wind at his back and give him weapons he could use because he has these chart features natally – a full Moon, and Mars in the final degrees of a sign.

Perhaps the best case to be made comes from weighing these nomination charts against the chart for the Inauguration of the 45th President of the United States. Except in the case of a new president being sworn in after the previous falls from the office, presidential inaugurations occur on the 20th of January following the election, at noon in Washington D.C. Holding inaugurations at four-year intervals at the same time of day results in similar looking charts where the angles are more or less the same: the Sun will always be in the first degree of Aquarius, and since 1805, Venus has alternated between Capricorn or Pisces.
NOTES FROM THE WATCHTOWER:
A GUIDE TO INTERPRETING THE GREAT AMERICAN ECLIPSE

WADE CAVES
JULY 17, 2017

It’s the connections to the nomination charts that interest me, indications of success for one party or another. Do you see how the full Moon from Trump’s nomination chart falls right on the 10th and 4th house cusps of the inauguration? These houses are critical in inauguration charts, particularly the 10th house and it has signification over rulers and authority and those who are brought into positions of power. This was a tremendous boon for Trump, to have his campaign’s full Moon on the angles of the inauguration.

The inauguration Moon at 9º Scorpio is at the midpoint of both nomination charts’ midheavens (Clinton’s being at 6º Scorpio, Trump’s at 11º Scorpio), but in Clinton’s case the inauguration Moon forms an opposition to her campaign’s Moon at 4º Taurus, thus tempering the benefit of what would have otherwise been one of few helpful connections available to her.

The chart for the first lunation after the inauguration is telling in its own right – we have angles that exactly replicate Donald Trump’s natal angles to the degree, with Mars again at the final degree(s) of a sign. I’m hypothesizing here that Mars in the final degree of a sign forms a weapon Trump can wield, and when found in a chart, is a support to him.

Then November 8th came and went, and Trump was sworn in to the office of the president on January 20, 2017. After such an amazing run to become the next leader of the free world, the astrology of 2017 doesn’t look too pretty for President Trump. First, let’s assess natal conditions.

In June 2017, President Trump, aged 71, enters a 12th house profection. Using equal houses, this puts
the Moon forward as his annual profection ruler. Transits, stations and directions to/from Trump's natal Moon become a sensitive point while she remains Trump's profection ruler, and the Moon's motion in real-time will contribute to the overall picture of Trump's personal astrology.

Transiting Saturn is currently closing in on Trump's natal Moon, opposing his natal Sun, and will station direct on August 25th at 21º Sagittarius – a partile connection to his natal luminaries that will remain in force through mid-October. This year, Trump's Moon is directed by primary motion to Jupiter, his natal 8th ruler. Trump is undergoing a Jupiter return now, but I would hesitate before I'd call that a protection in any sense. In 1981, Trump's Jupiter return brought the death of his brother by alcoholism. Jupiter next entered Libra in late 1992. That year, Trump was embroiled in a bitter divorce from his first wife, Ivana, and concurrently underwent a series of bankruptcies in several of his casinos and resorts. Jupiter was in Libra in 2005 when Trump was recording bragging about groping women by their genitals, something that resurfaced in his 2016 presidential bid. Trump was born with a stationary Jupiter who turned direct less than 4 hours after birth – we can see something of the difficulties that come with stationary planets in the quick summation of his Jupiter returns above. For Trump, Jupiter is a mixed blessing at best, and the greater benefic's placement in mundane figures throughout the year is for this reason deserving of our attention.

In 2016, the year Trump was elected, Trump's progressed Sun was at 29º Leo – right on his natal ascendant, and within a degree of this year’s total solar eclipse. Now that we’ve entered 2017, his progressed Sun has slipped out of Leo and into Virgo, and the dignity shift involved for the Sun, Trump’s 1st-ruler and the planet most appropriate to associate with honors and glory, offers a sharp contrast between these two years. His progressed Moon is, at the time of this writing, conjunct his progressed Saturn at 2º Leo.

---

11 My gratitude to J. Lee Lehman, Ph.D., for bringing this to my attention.
In Trump’s 2017 solar return, we have Jupiter – his natal 8th-ruler – rising, with the solar return’s 1st-ruler Venus ruling and placed in the 8th house. The Moon is separating from Venus by square, applying next to the trine of Jupiter at 13º Libra. Jupiter’s dispositorship over his natal Moon and transiting Saturn, while sitting directly on the ascendant in the solar return figure, again underscores his prominence for Trump this year. In the solar return figure, we have the Sun approaching the opposition to Saturn, ruler of the solar return 4th and natal 6th – a dangerous mix for health and vitality.

At this stage, it would do well for us to momentarily digress to acknowledge that not all astrologers accept 10:54am as Trump’s birth time. Back in 2011, Trump was actively engaged in Twitter battles questioning then-President Obama’s country of birth. To move the story along, Trump provided a copy of his own birth certificate to ABC News, hoping that President Obama might do the same. Many astrologers made the understandable decision not to blindly trust this data, and instead continued to rely on the data collected earlier by Lois Rodden stating a 9:51am birth time on the same date, quoted from memory.

---

12 I would like to recognize Chicago astrologer Christine Arens for her work in reminding astrologers about this alternative time for Trump’s birth.

13 For non-US readers, it is unlawful for any person not born on US soil to become President of the United States.

This chart has 17º Leo ascending and 8º Taurus culminating. Signs on house cusps remain the same, though planets in houses will have shifted somewhat. The 9:51am ascendant’s proximity to 20º Leo is noteworthy, as this degree will continue to come up in mundane figures throughout the year. 8º Taurus on the midheaven is also of note, as this is the location of Venus in the solar return chart and Mars in the 2017 Aries ingress.

The solar return for the 9:51am chart is a bit more dramatic, from my perspective. It features Libra rising with Venus in the 8th house, just as the 10:54am time did. What catches my attention here is the angularity of Mars on the 10th cusp at 6º Cancer, ruling the 7th and 8th houses, the most elevated planet in the figure. The 10th-ruler, the Moon, is at 9º Aquarius in the turned 8th from the 10th. Jupiter, the natal 8th-ruler, is placed in the 1st, receiving a malevolent square from Mars.

As these times are off by almost exactly one hour, it looks to me – purely based on what seems possible and reasonable – that the person quoting 9:51am remembered the back half of the timestamp yet misremembered the hour. Honest mistakes like these are all too easy to make. Still, I have seen it borne out repeatedly in practice that when someone consciously identifies with a time and date – including moments in the future which have not yet happened – there is a deep undercurrent of connection between that individual and the time they put forward. Even if Trump was born at 9:51am, the fact that he attached his name and identity to the 10:54am time, publishing it for all eyes to see, tells me that he claims that quality of time as his own and the astrology in that moment has something very real and powerful to tell us.

It would be far too difficult to waver between two possible birth times, and so I am choosing to continue the rest of this article assuming a 10:54am birth time. Whichever chart we preference, we have nasty energies at play for Trump personally. Of course, these considerations are subtler and less sensational than the upcoming total solar eclipse of 2017, which many have already noted will hit a near-exact conjunction with Trump’s natal ascendant of 29º Leo.
Let's first talk about the features of this eclipse, then we will discuss the connections to other mundane astrological events, and then entertain varying methods of timing the effects of eclipses.

Eclipses are primarily visual phenomena. As such, eclipses are expected to be felt in those parts of the world where the eclipse can be easily seen, as suggested by Ptolemy in his *Tetrabiblos*,¹⁵ later elucidated by Sahl:

*But an eclipse of the Sun must be feared for those parts of the lands whose sight it [actually] reaches. For if it happens under the earth, it will harm nothing of the upper hemisphere.*¹⁶

---

The eclipse’s path of totality (shown above) hits only one land mass, North America, sweeping across the US from the northwest to the southeast hitting twelve states along the way. Therefore, this eclipse has been called the *Great American Eclipse* by several media outlets and while the title is a bit affected, it fits. While the path of totality doesn’t hit Washington, D.C. exactly, eclipse magnitude in that location will be 0.85, which means a near total eclipse and extended time at totality.

Plenty of ink has been spilled about isolating the effects of eclipses, and most of what’s been written has a symbolic connection to the sign of the eclipse itself. Eclipses in fire signs point eastward, and in Leo they point east by north. This eclipse should call our attention to the eastern seaboard of the United States, particularly those cities that are in the path of totality or very near to it. According to Ptolemy, eclipses in Leo could invoke happenings with and by the following creatures and natural phenomena: wild animals and four-footed creatures (as Leo is a bestial, four-footed sign), earthquakes (as a northern terrestrial sign), and damage to the foundations of houses, monuments and buildings (as a fixed sign).

This eclipse is also happening nearer the midheaven than any other angle, and so Ptolemy would expect this to have influence over kings and rulers (a natural fit for the sign Leo anyway).

When set for Washington, D.C., the chart for August’s eclipse has 4° Sagittarius rising. This is conjunct the ascendant of the 2016 Aries ingress (the year in which Trump was elected and

---

18 Source: https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/usa/washington-dc. As explained on this site, “Annular or partial solar eclipses have a maximum magnitude of less than 1. For total solar eclipses, the value is 1 or greater.” Eclipse magnitude is not to be confused with apparent magnitude, used to measure the brilliance of astronomical objects like stars or planets from the vantage point of Earth. For more information on eclipse magnitude, visit: https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/magnitude.html.
19 While it is not in the east, in doing some light research I have been consistently drawn back to Salem, the capitol of the northwestern state of Oregon. Salem lies in the path of totality, and the eclipse falls in an exact opposition to Salem’s incorporation Sun at 28° Aquarius, a precarious omen. The eclipse is also in opposition to the Sun in Oregon’s acceptance into the union chart at 25° Aquarius. Salem incorporation: February 18, 1899, exact time unknown. Oregon acceptance into union: February 14, 1859, exact time unknown. Source: Carolyn R. Dodson, *Horoscopes of U.S. States & Cities*.
21 Ibid.
inaugurated), and very near the degree of the 2016 Saturn/Mars conjunction at 9° Sagittarius. This is Nature’s way of telling us that the effects of this eclipse will be 1) connected to what transpired in the United States in 2016; and, 2) will play a pivotal role in shaping the back half of the current Saturn/Mars cycle.

Further, at the time of the eclipse’s perfection, the fixed star Graffias (anciently called Acrab) ascends on the eastern horizon. This star is on the head of the scorpion, it is known to cause “extreme malevolence, mercilessness and fiendishness.” Robson notes that when this star is rising, whatever is gained in terms of riches and honors come at the cost of violence and sickness, and victories are not

---

22 Vivian E. Robson, *Fixed Stars and Constellations in Astrology*, 1923, p. 169 (Graffias) and 128 (Al Jabhah).
long held. The eclipse itself at 28º Leo is attended by the fixed star Al Jabhah, located in the mane of the lion. It brings loss and danger, and Robson says that “to a military officer” – as president, Trump is the commander in chief – “danger of mutiny and murder by his soldiers.”

The theme of violence and aggression is quite strong in this eclipse figure, as evidenced by the Moon’s recent contact to both malefics (Saturn by trine, Mars by conjunction). Mars deserves special attention as we find him at his heliacal rising, a time when Mars is newly emerged from the Sun, distant from him by at least 8º, and powerful in potential. In his Libri mysteriorum, Abu Ma’shar gives a list of celestial metaphors dedicated to the planets’ heliacal risings. Read what he says about Mars in such a condition:

_The stars, when they become morning and go out of the sunlight, they show clearly their operation and they have great force. Then, when Mars gets free of the Sun, it is similar to a sharp and infallible blade and the wound caused by it is incurable._

This is a time of great strength for Mars, when he is renewed in his energy and force, and with almost a blind naiveté dispenses martial virtue without discretion. Adding to Mars’ malevolency in this chart is his conjunction to the fixed star Algenubi, a yellowish star in the mouth of the lion, known to produce brutish and cruel effects. Though we won’t discuss this chart much here, the Moon was at 20º Aquarius when polls first opened on election night. This Mars is in full confrontation mode to that Moon.

It is worth making the obvious point that the Moon in the eclipse is blocking out the light of the Sun while ruling the 8th house. Eclipses, like all astronomical phenomena that result in the loss of light, suggest weak vitality, death and endings. Here we have the Sun being eclipsed by the 8th-ruler who is translating the light of both malefics – this stacking of testimonies could very well indicate the same to a king or leader. Bonatti gave a warning for a similar circumstance in his Book of Astronomy:

---

23 Ibid., p. 128.
24 I’d like to thank my colleague Paul Kiernan for bringing this detail to my attention.
25 Abu Ma’shar, _Libri mysteriorum_, II. 177.
27 November 8, 2016, 12:00:00am EST, Dixville Notch, New Hampshire (USA). Dixville Notch has a long-standing tradition of opening polls at midnight of election day.
... [If some planet who is impeded were to aspect the hidden [luminary] at the time of the
eclipse, [and] afterwards the malefics were to aspect him, what it signifies will be
oppressive, and impediment will be multiplied – and the more severely so if the significator
of the king were the Lord of the sign in which the eclipse were made; because if it were so,
and one of the malefics were to aspect him, and the malefic were Mars, the death of the
king will be feared in that revolution.]28

We have an impeded Saturn connected to the Sun by trine, the eclipse degree in partile trine to Uranus
in the 5th house (the turned 8th from the 10th), and the Moon translating the light of malefic Mars –
ruler of the turned 8th from the 5th – directly to the hidden luminary. Without much effort, many of
the conditions Bonatti lists above are met for the loss of a leader within the revolution, particularly in
those areas wherein the eclipse is visible.

If we are to use the 9:51am time for Trump's birth, his solar return Mars at 6° Cancer – which
was angular on the 10th house cusp in that chart – is now only 4° away from the eclipse chart’s 8th house
cusp. Even if we decide to focus on the 10:54am birth time, that connected to Mars is notable as in both
solar return figures, as Mars rules the 7th house of Trump’s open enemies, is the most elevated planet
and squares the ascendant.

In terms of timing, historical authors have presented several options for tinkering and
speculating. Ptolemy states that the effects of a solar eclipse ought to start within the space of a year,
and how far into that year is determined by the position of the eclipse in the heavens. Here, this general
synopsis would suffice – if the eclipse is in the 12th or 11th houses (the first third of the diurnal
hemisphere), the effects begin within 0 to 4 months after the eclipse; if the eclipse falls in the 10th or
9th houses (the second third of the diurnal hemisphere), the effects begin 4 to 8 months after the eclipse;
and, if the eclipse is in the 8th or 7th houses (the final third of the diurnal hemisphere), we should expect
the effects to begin no sooner than 8 months after the eclipse, perhaps up to a year after.

This eclipse is solidly within the second third of the upper hemisphere, so Ptolemy’s method
would cause us to expect results within 4 to 8 months after the eclipse – probably closer to 6 to 8, since

the eclipse degree is further along in diurnal motion and closer to the 9th house cusp than the midheaven.

Ptolemy also provided instructions on determining how long the effects of an eclipse would be felt. The number of years the effects will be in play is determined by the duration of the eclipse at the given location. Our eclipse, when set for Washington, D.C., lasts for 2 hours and 44 minutes, meaning in Ptolemy’s system, the eclipse should last approximately 2 years, 8 months and 24 days. The most intense period in these 2 years, 8 months and 24 days would be in the middle third of this period, as the eclipse perfected in the middle third of the upper heavens.

Let’s break this out into dates using Ptolemy’s methodology. The eclipse occurs on August 21, 2017. For the sake of convenience, let’s assume the effects begin 6 months after the eclipse (the midway between Ptolemy’s suggestion of 4 to 8 months). This brings us to mid-February 2018. The first third of the eclipse’s dispensation begins then, lasting roughly through mid-January 2019. In mid-January 2019, we begin the second third – and the most powerful of the dispensations – and this period will last until mid-December 2019. We then enter the final third, lasting until the end of November 2020 – a total of 998 days (two 365-day years, eight 30.5 day months, plus 24 days). I find it interesting that Ptolemy’s eclipse timeline puts us at the door-step of the coming Saturn/Jupiter conjunction of December 2020.

This is symbolic timing, though – clever and neat in theory, but unreliable on its own. What we need is real-time transit to trigger events forward. Many authors provide mechanisms for this, e.g., when the Sun in a solar eclipse crosses the degree of the eclipse’s midheaven (Bonatti), or enters the ascending sign at the time of the eclipse (Sahl).

Approaching timing this way produces some interesting results. When the Sun enters the 20th degree of Virgo (the midheaven of the eclipse), things look strikingly like Trump’s solar return. 11º Libra rises, 13º Cancer culminates. The 1st- and 8th-ruler Venus is at 20º Leo, the exact degree of that powerfully placed Mars in the eclipse chart. The Sun at that time will be on the 12th house cusp of Trump’s solar return (remember, this is a 12th house profection year for Trump so not insignificant),

---

30 44 minutes into months and days = 44 minutes / 60 minutes in an hour = 0.73 x 12 months in a year = 8.8 months, 0.8 months = roughly 24 days
31 September 12, 2017, 8:38:35am EDT, Washington, D.C.
and the Moon (Trump’s profection ruler) at 10° Gemini, conjunct the ascendant ruler of the 2000 Saturn/Jupiter conjunction.

Charts set for the Sun’s ingress into Sagittarius, the ascending sign of the eclipse chart, and his ingress into the exact degree of the eclipse ascendant reveal something unusual: the ascending/descending axes of these charts are exactly flipped – the former has 12° Leo rising (close to Washington, D.C.’s Uranus at 10° Leo), and the latter has 12° Aquarius rising (close to the ascendant of Washington, D.C.’s founding of 7° Aquarius, and the profection-ruler Moon of Trump’s 2017 solar return at 9° Aquarius). In the second chart where the Sun is at 4° Sagittarius, the Sun culminates on the midheaven, and the 4th-ruler Mercury (opposition to those in power) and 1st-ruler Saturn (significator of the people and their condition) are joined in the upper heavens, mirroring the ominous Saturn/Moon conjunction in the 2017 Aries ingress chart’s 10th house.

These connections aren’t immaterial, but arguably, their pulse to the root could be stronger. However we time it, we must first step back to assess other mundane cycles currently in play to see what is already in motion and what will be by the August eclipse. Nothing exists in a vacuum, least of all astrological connections, so this eclipse must itself build upon something greater if it’s to have some real weight. Much of what we are about to survey will be set against the backdrop of the 2000 Saturn/Jupiter conjunction at 22° Taurus, the last true conjunction in the earthy triplicity for the next eight hundred-or-so years. First, some background.

The conjunctions of Saturn and Jupiter form what is perhaps the most historically rich cycle, one too often overlooked today in favor of outer planet transits. Their conjunctions – traditionally called great conjunctions – occur in twenty-year intervals and neatly encapsulate the double decades that pop culture labels a generation. In very general terms, these conjunctions occur within the same triplicity about ten times (spanning approximately two hundred years) before shifting into the next triplicity. We start with the fiery triplicity, then on to earth, then air, then water, then back to fire. The entire sequence lasts about eight hundred years. We are now in the final days of the current

---

33 November 26, 2017, 12:40:57pm EDT, Washington, D.C.
Saturn/Jupiter conjunction cycle in the earthy triplicity if reckoning by true conjunctions, with less than four years until we begin the successive cycle of conjunctions in the air signs, something that we haven’t seen since the 13th century.

Note immediately that the eclipse degree of 28° Leo is rising in the Saturn/Jupiter conjunction chart when set for Washington, D.C. Mars, the 4th ruler of the conjunction chart, is on Trump’s Sun/Moon opposition, squaring the Jupiter and 10th house cusp of the 2016 Aries ingress (the year in which Trump was elected). The Saturn/Jupiter conjunction itself, at 22° Taurus, crowns the midheaven of this chart, but also Trump’s natal midheaven. The nodes are 35

As opposed to mean conjunctions which are timed by the conjunction of the center of Saturn and Jupiter’s epicycles. Using the mean motion of the two superiors produces clean triplicity shifts, without the inevitable vacillation between the current, previous and succeeding triplicities that occur with true conjunctions.

For example, measuring by true conjunctions we saw Saturn and Jupiter together in earth signs for the following years: 1842, 1861, 1881, 1901, 1921, 1940 and 1941 (three conjunctions occurred between 1940 and 1941 due to retrogradations), and 1961. In 1980 and 1981, we had three Saturn/Jupiter conjunctions (again, due to retrogradations) in the air sign Libra, but then in 2000 the conjunction returned to the earthy triplicity at 22° Taurus. In 2020, we start the successive chain of airy triplicity conjunctions, a cycle that won’t be broken until 2159 when the superiors meet at 7° Scorpio. They then return for two more conjunctions in air signs in 2179 and 2199, until the final shift into water occurs in 2219 at 14° Scorpio.

Measuring by mean conjunctions results in a more straightforward pattern. Using mean motion puts Saturn and Jupiter conjunctions exclusively in earth signs from 1802 to 2000. In this system, the shift into the airy triplicity already occurred in November 2000. Mean conjunctions have us in air signs without interruption until the shift into the watery triplicity which would begin in 2219 at 2° Scorpio.

For logistical and philosophical reasons, I’m inclined to favor true (apparent) conjunctions, but it is well worth the reader’s time to study Dr. Benjamin Dykes’ introduction to his *Astrology of the World II*, in which he carefully examines the historical treatment of Saturn/Jupiter conjunction cycles. Dykes has made the chapter handling this subject available for free on Skyscript: [http://www.skyscript.co.uk/mean_conjunctions.html](http://www.skyscript.co.uk/mean_conjunctions.html).

36 A table of true conjunctions between the years 769 A.D. and 2378 A.D. is available here: [http://www.skyscript.co.uk/true_conjunctions.html](http://www.skyscript.co.uk/true_conjunctions.html). A table of mean conjunctions is provided in the previous footnote’s link to Dykes’ related Skyscript article.
found at 25º Cancer/Capricorn – remember these degrees? This is where we found the Sun/Moon opposition in Trump’s nomination chart, and they are less than 1º separated from the midheaven/nadir axis in the inauguration chart. Everywhere we look, we see the signature of Trump and his role in closing the era of the earthy triplicity sequence in the United States.

The 2000 Saturn/Jupiter conjunction chart’s Mars deserves a bit more focus and attention. As stated before, his position at 17º Gemini squares the Jupiter and 10th house cusp of the 2016 Aries ingress chart. He also squares the midheaven of the eclipse chart, the ascendant of the 2016 Saturn/Mars conjunction chart, and plugs into the 2017 Saturn/Mars opposition as we will see shortly.

Note too that the Moon in the 2016 Aries ingress is at 23º Leo. This Moon again unites the 2000 Saturn/Jupiter conjunction and the 2017 August eclipse – at 23º Leo she is conjunct both the eclipse and ascendant of the Saturn/Jupiter conjunction chart, and in a tight square to the great conjunction itself at 22º Taurus.

In the 2016 Saturn/Mars conjunction figure, the ascendant joins the eclipse’s 10th-ruler Mercury. This is worth noting, because the eclipse’s 10th-ruler Mercury is the accidental significator for those in a position of authority in the United States (like President Trump), and in the eclipse figure is found retrograde which has the potential to indicate reversals and sudden changes.

The Moon in the Saturn/Mars conjunction chart is at 22º Taurus, in partile conjunction to the 2000 Saturn/Jupiter conjunction and that chart’s midheaven.

In the 2017 inauguration chart, the Moon is in Scorpio, angular, conjunct the Trump nomination
chart's midheaven. The 1st-ruler Venus is conjunct Mars in Pisces, both hovering over Trump's natal 8th house cusp, in square to Saturn, with Jupiter disposing of them from the chart's 6th house. Saturn rules the 10th, is placed in the 8th in mutual reception with 8th-ruler Jupiter – all of this should catch our attention, as we're uniting 6th, 8th and 10th house significations at each turn.

In the 2017 Aries ingress chart, Mars rules the ingress's 9th house (i.e., 12th from the 10th) and is in partile conjunction to Trump's solar return Venus (the 1st- and 8th-rulers of that chart). The ingress's 1st- and 10th-ruler Jupiter is near the 8th house cusp, forming a tight opposition to Uranus. The turned 8th-ruler, the Moon (Trump's profection ruler), is applying to Saturn in the 10th house – another symbolic image of the loss of a governmental figurehead. Again, we see Trump's solar return Mars at 6° Cancer conjunct a dark house cusp – in this chart, the turned 8th (or radical 5th) cusp at 7° Cancer.

The chart's 8th-ruler Venus is in an important position in this chart – she is conjunct the Saturn/Mars opposition ascendant, which we will discuss below, at 8° Aries. This is also a mere 5° away from the Moon of the 2000 Saturn/Jupiter conjunction. More images of an era culminating in crisis. Venus as the 8th-ruler, retrograding back to a received conjunction with the Sun, natural significator for leaders, is also striking.

Perhaps most arresting are the angles – the MC/IC axis is at 19° Sagittarius/Gemini, bringing Trump's luminaries forward. The ascendant/descendant axis is conjoined the eclipse's 10th-ruler Mercury and the ascendant of the 2016 Saturn/Mars conjunction.

Some months later we hit the Saturn/Mars opposition of 2017. This is where things start to get interesting. Everything up until this point feels to me like a churning. From here we start to come to a boiling point.
Within this chart, the two malefics rule the 10th house (Saturn), and the 1st and 8th houses (Mars) – a theme we’ve seen dance around us repeatedly. This opposition occurs right on Trump’s natal Sun/Moon opposition. The chart’s Moon (Trump’s profection ruler) is near Trump’s natal Saturn (his solar return 4th-ruler) and Venus (his solar return 8th-ruler), and the Sun of his nomination chart. Jupiter is again angular, this time retrograde though preparing to station direct. He disposes the Moon and Saturn of the 2017 Aries ingress, the Moon and Saturn of this opposition chart (Saturn by sign, the Moon by exaltation), the 1st and 4th houses of the eclipse chart, and Trump’s natal 8th house. The Moon of the 2000 Saturn/Jupiter conjunction at 3º Aries becomes the ascendant of the opposition chart, and is conjunct the 2017 Aries ingress’s 8th-ruler Venus.

Chillingly, this opposition happens only hours after the solar return of the 2000 Saturn/Jupiter conjunction. If we pull up the exact solar return for that conjunction set for Washington, D.C., Saturn and Mars are on the MC/IC axis and so puts the 10th-ruler, Mercury, in that chart’s 8th house with the 8th-ruler Mars in the 10th, and the Moon in a partile opposition to Pluto from 19º Cancer. That chart’s Moon hits the midheaven of Trump’s solar return within 3º.

At the 2017 Libra ingress, the 10th-ruler Mars is now at 11º Virgo, the ascendant of the

---

37 In historical texts, how many ingresses astrologers actively use in a year is dependent upon the nature of the sign rising at the Aries ingress. If a fixed sign rises, the Aries ingress alone is sufficient to forecast for the coming year. If a mutable sign rises, we are instructed to use the Aries ingress and the Libra ingress. Should a cardinal sign rise, we use each of the four cardinal
Saturn/Mars conjunction and the Mercury of the August eclipse chart. Mars is positioned right on the 8th house cusp of the Libra ingress, again mixing the 10th and 8th-ruler significations. Mercury now falls on the eclipse chart's midheaven, only 2º distant. The ascendant/descendant axis mirrors the inauguration midheaven/nadir, the Sun and Moon of Trump's campaign, and the nodes of the 2000 Saturn/Jupiter conjunction. The Saturn/Mars opposition’s Moon at 26º Cancer – which was in that chart’s turned 8th house – is now on the descendant of the Libra ingress, and the campaign Mars at 25º Scorpio is near the Libra ingress’s midheaven.

The chart that fascinates me most is that for Jupiter's ingress into Scorpio, happening in October 2017. Movement of the 10th-ruler in a mundane chart into a new sign shows the potential for change of leadership, especially when that planet is one of the superiors (Saturn, Jupiter, Mars). In the Aries ingress chart, Jupiter rules the 10th house, and also the 1st, while disposing both the Moon and Saturn at 27º Sagittarius. He also rules the 1st house of the eclipse chart. This is why we ought to care about Jupiter’s ingress into a new sign, even though he changes signs each year. His angularity and tendency to

Ingresses. I personally advocate for using all ingress charts regardless of the rising sign, with the Aries ingress chart always leading in interpretation as if it’s the context into which the other charts are expected to fold. For the purposes of this article, I am following the strict principle of using the Aries and Libra ingresses only, as a mutable sign was ascending at the 2017 Aries ingress.
dispose of luminaries and malefics throughout the 2016/2017 mundane figures puts Jupiter forward as a prominent player in the celestial scheme of things.

As Jupiter moves into Scorpio, the Moon will form a partile opposition to Trump’s natal Moon and transiting Saturn, while Saturn is in a partile opposition to Trump’s natal Sun. To the degree, this chart’s radical 5th cusp (which forms the cusp of the turned 8th from the 10th) at 23° Pisces is the same degree found on Trump’s 8th house cusp. The radical 8th house cusp – 8° Gemini – is the degree of the Sun in the 2000 Saturn/Jupiter conjunction, the Sun being the 1st-ruler in that chart and the 10th-ruler in this chart, and the place of the Moon for the chart set for the Sun’s entrance into 19° Virgo 56’ (recall that the Sun’s ingress into the eclipse’s midheaven degree was one timing technique proposed by Bonatti).

The Moon is this chart’s 9th-ruler (i.e., 12th from the 10th), separating from the Sun by trine and applying to Saturn by opposition, all square Mars at 22° Virgo. This Mars is close to the eclipse midheaven and Libra ingress Mercury, uniting these cosmic events. The Sun as 10th-ruler is on the cusp of the 12th house of self-undoings (remember that this is Trump’s 12th house profection year), in fall in Libra (the falls used to be called the “abasements” or “descensions”, and describe an unnatural state of decline), conjunct the chart’s radical 8th-ruler Mercury. The midheaven of Trump’s nomination is 11° Scorpio, the Moon of the inauguration 9° Scorpio – these have now become the ascendant of the chart for Jupiter’s ingress into Scorpio. On election night, the Moon was at 20° Aquarius, now the degree of the 4th cusp which could signal a help to Trump’s enemies.

If this chart wasn’t dark enough, the degree of Mars in the August eclipse is now culminating on the midheaven. Venus was in this same degree – 20° Leo – when the Sun entered 19° Virgo 56’ (i.e., the eclipse’s midheaven).

Saturn will also ingress into a new sign this year – Capricorn, in mid-December 2017. This chart has a few features that are immediately recognizable. The chart has Virgo rising, the same sign as the eclipse midheaven and 10th-ruler. 25° Virgo is also the place of Venus in the chart for Jupiter’s ingress into Scorpio. In that chart, Venus disposed of the Sun as 10th-ruler. Here, she is combust on the IC of the chart, the opposing house to the 10th of authorities and those in power. The MC/IC axis itself recalls Trump’s natal luminaries and the preceding Saturn/Mars opposition. The Moon is now in a very close conjunction with Pluto, opposite her degree in the solar return chart for the 2000
Saturn/Jupiter conjunction. Mars, the 8th-ruler in this chart, is now opposing his degree of the 2017 Aries ingress and Trump's solar return 1st- and 8th-ruler, Venus, and hovers over the Moon in the inauguration chart. The inauguration Mars at 24º Pisces is now on the descendant, opposing the ascending degree almost exactly. The Sun is in partile trine to his eclipse degree in the lower depths of this chart, with not a single visible planet above the horizon – a dark omen indeed.

I'm sensitive to the inevitable reality that most eyes will have glazed over for the past few pages as I harped on the recurrence of certain planetary signatures, house themes and zodiacal degrees. What you must do to really grasp the significance in any of this, is sit down with the charts discussed above and map back all these connections that I've outlined. Soon, the picture emerges: a constant repetition of 1st house, 8th house, 10th house associations, and all or most point back in some relevant way to Trump's nativity or derivatives of it (e.g., his 2017 solar return).

I'm not sure that I want to say this all points to Trump's death, although I feel I'd be well within my bounds astrologically to make such a prediction given the symbolism. To me, it's equally possible that there will be a sudden health issue that lands on Trump's shoulders, pulling him out of the Oval. It's also quite reasonable to suspect ousting, either through official channels (i.e., impeachment) or a mutiny behind closed doors. My money would be on the latter of these two if forced to decide, given the level of secrecy shown in these charts. Remember that in electional texts, we are told that if we want to conduct some business and keep it concealed or hidden from view, do this when the Moon separates from the Sun in Aries or Leo, where the Sun offers a reception-like shield to the Moon as she arranges her secret affairs. This eclipse has that signature – it is in a cadent house, the 12th from the 10th, in Leo (meaning the Sun receives the Moon by sign), with Saturn in the first, and 12th-ruler Mars casting a trine to that 1st house Saturn. It's possible, likely perhaps, that the American people will not get full disclosure of the facts, whatever happens.
Politically, there does seem to be mounting tension regarding Trump and the office of the presidency. The firing of FBI director James Comey has not yet been answered for in full, and in my gut, I feel this isn’t over. While I have been unable to track the exact time that he was fired, we do have the time the Washington Post reported of Comey’s termination. Drawing up that chart gives some fascinating payback: the Moon is at 8º Scorpio, within one degree of the 2017 inauguration Moon, and the MC/IC axis is inverted so that the midheaven of the inauguration became the nadir.

On July 12, 2017, Representative Brad Sherman, D-CA, officially introduced Resolution 438 containing articles of impeachment against Trump in the House of Representatives. The articles accuse Trump of high crimes and misdemeanors, and obstruction of justice. The day it was filed, H. Res. 438 was assigned to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

The exact time of introduction is not known, but we do have a timestamp on the facsimiled copy published on Representative Sherman’s official government website. It is dated a month earlier for June 12, 2017 at 11:40am. Now this is a fascinating chart. The Moon is at 25º Capricorn, recalling the Sun/Moon opposition in Trump’s nomination chart, the midheaven of the inauguration chart, and the 2000 Saturn/Jupiter conjunction chart’s nodes. We find Algol on the midheaven of this chart, the 1st-ruler Mercury at the midpoint of the 2000 Saturn/Jupiter conjunction’s Sun and Mars. The angles are almost identical to those set for election day’s “polls open” chart.

On July 12, 2017 at 1:40pm, Representative Sherman sent a message on Twitter announcing to the world that this resolution had been filed. Here we have a combust Mars in Cancer on the
midheaven, square the ascendant. The midheaven is 26º Cancer, the degree of the Moon in the recent Saturn/Mars opposition chart and near Trump's Saturn/Venus conjunction. The 10th-ruler, the Moon, is at 0º Pisces, not a degree we've seen come up but it is notable that she's on the turned 8th house cusp when counting from the 10th house.\(^4\)

As we look forward into the 2018 Aries ingress, we start straightaway with a few observations. A cardinal sign rises, which augers a year full of development and surprises and unexpected turns. Neptune is tightly conjunct the midheaven, hinting at secrecy and deception and a general inclination for the government and those in authority (10th house) to mask reality. The 10th-ruler, Jupiter, is in the turned 8th house. The Moon is at 8º Taurus, right on Trump's solar return Venus and opposite the inauguration Moon, in a partile trine to Saturn in Capricorn.

The radical 8th-ruler, Saturn, is angular on the 7th house and conjunct Mars. The next Saturn/Mars conjunction occurs just under two weeks later on April 2, 2018 at 12:15pm. The angles are identical to the 2018 Aries ingress angles. The Moon is opposite Venus at 3º Taurus and the Moon's own position in the ingress chart at 9º Scorpio, which again brings forward the inauguration Moon. The eclipse's midheaven degree is now on the IC.

\(^4\) While not in this article’s purview, the charts connected to this resolution’s introduction and the outcome of the filing would make for great case studies on electional technique.
Over the next few months, there are a few dates I will be watching closely (plus or minus two days on either side):

- September 22, 2017: the Sun’s ingress into Libra – not looking for anything specific to occur on this date, but it is the start of a new astrological quarter and the political climate at the time should be telling.

- October 10, 2017: Jupiter’s ingress into Scorpio.

- November 21, 2017: the Sun’s ingress into Sagittarius, the eclipse’s ascendant sign (per Sahl).

- November 26, 2017: the Sun’s ingress into 4º Sagittarius 37’, the eclipse’s ascending degree.

- December 17 – 19, 2017: Trump’s lunar return featuring Venus, the Moon, the Sun and Saturn all on the 8th cusp, with Mars in opposition to Trump’s solar return Venus (and on the inauguration Moon) and the 2017 Aries Ingress Mars; and, Saturn’s ingress into Capricorn.

I will also be watching for connections to the following degrees, plus or minus a few degrees on either side:

- 3º - 8º Aries: the Moon of the 2000 Saturn/Jupiter conjunction, the ascendant of the 2017 Saturn/Mars opposition chart, and the degree of the 8th-ruler in the 2017 Aries ingress.

- 7º - 8º Taurus: the opposition to the inauguration Moon, the 2017 Aries ingress Mars, and Trump’s solar return Venus.

- 21º - 24º Gemini/Sagittarius: Trump’s natal Sun and Moon, Saturn’s transiting conjunction and opposition points, MC/IC axis of Saturn’s ingress into Capricorn.

- 12º Leo: the ascendant for the Sun’s ingress into Sagittarius, and the descendant for his entrance into 4º Sagittarius 37’.

- 20º Leo: opposition to the Moon of the 2016 US Presidential Election – Polls Open chart, Mars at his heliacal rising in the eclipse chart, the midheaven upon Jupiter’s ingress into Scorpio, the place of Venus for the Sun’s ingress into the eclipse’s midheaven degree.

- 28º Leo: the ascendant of the 2000 Saturn/Jupiter conjunction, and the eclipse degree.

- 19º Virgo: the midheaven of the eclipse.

- 12º Scorpio: the ascendant upon Jupiter’s ingress into Scorpio, near the inauguration Moon.

- 28º Aquarius: the degree opposite the eclipse.
These are short lists of both degrees and dates, and capture the larger themes. For the sake of brevity, there are a good number of more subtle connections that I have chosen to leave out of this article, but they’re out there for others to find for themselves.

The complexities in working with mundane techniques are enormous. What I hope the study of these charts show is that the more information we have in terms of verified dates and times of certain activities, the more certain we can be in our judgment. Falling back on the eclipse chart alone to predict Trump’s removal from office is, simply put, lazy astrology. There are layers upon layers already visible to us, charts and mundane cycles that we ought to examine and meditate on. Still, what’s covered here marks the tip of what must be a massive iceberg. What’s beneath the waters, most of us will never have access to. This is precisely why prediction is difficult. It isn’t impossible, but very near it, because astrology can only afford us a view as limited as our resources and our ability to accurately foresee conscious intervention. We talk about individual free will, but we also must account for collective free will, a beast too wild to tame. All we can do is hope that we’ve trained enough to pick up on the signs when we see them, and that we are mindful not to project our own realities onto others. Then, and then only maybe, can we make reasonable deductions and inferences to land at a probable conclusion. Anyone who definitively says they know how this presidency is going to turn out either has existential access to all knowledge, or is unwilling to accept their own fallibility.

What we can say with reasonable assurance is that these charts, when properly considered, make it difficult to imagine Trump has smooth sailing ahead. Personally, I don’t see Trump in office by next time this year, whether that is the result of impeachment, a personal decision to resign, a forced exit, illness or death, I’m unsure – this is my first time working with something this complex, and the truth is I can see an avenue for each of these possibilities, though some I favor more than others. Things appear to heat up for Trump quite quickly in the fall as we sweep through the Sun’s ingress into Libra and Jupiter’s ingress into Scorpio (the latter receiving most of my attention, and the day I originally speculated would see the upset), but much of this is built against the bench of a 10:54am birth time. We will need to watch and see what degrees continue to be activated as we move into the fall and winter, as this will give us more information and help us refine our approach as we consider the near future to see what roads rise up behind us.