WORLD ON THE BRINK: THE PERFECT STORM OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC & KARMIC TURMOIL

By Judi Thomases

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The Set-Up

In the space of the last two weeks (February – March 2012), I have read a very interesting, scholarly article on 2012 and the Maya calendar¹ that details so me misconceptions that we have been holding for a number of years, as well as a few alternative perspectives regarding this unique date.

But I have also just heard Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu address a convention of Jewish leaders after meeting with President Barack Obama, in which he made a very strong case for Israel's right to protect its existence against Iran's growing threat to annihilate it via nuclear ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic weapons); and also have looked into my ephemeris to see the amazing (one might say) "coincidence" of a highly contested presidential election occurring one day before a Mercury station retrograde!²

This stew of ingredients has been bubbling in my mind, producing a hard-to-resist vision of incredible turmoil that may, in and of itself, be the Armageddon long feared. Let me explain:

Apocalypse Foretold

First of all, regarding the Maya calendar and the date of the winter solstice of December 21st 2012, the scholarly article made a few cogent points, one of which being that this key date was not immutable and has been previously prophesied as being October 28, 2011³, December 24, 2011⁴ (a date "so unique that it would only occur once every 45,200 years")...time periods that obviously have not worked to fulfill apocalyptic forecasts... and also our current target, December 21, 2012^5 ; and it was adjusted accordingly several times since. So much for prophetic accuracy! Furthermore, the Maya calendar is not really a single calendar but an inconclusive body of physical and theoretical structures upon which people have laid everything from utopian visions to doomsday fears. It is in fact a veritable buffet of beliefs! References to authors and others who held beliefs that ranged over the spectrum included Shirley MacLaine, author Jose Argüelles, new age-r Terrance McKenna, astrologer Roberta Sklower, and many, many others. Lots of these expectations were in direct antithesis to each other, for example: that we are entering a galactic alignment that will usher in utopia versus that we are concluding a passage that will result in annihilation. In referring to the smorgasbord of possibilities, the author of the article, Kevin Whitesides, a Masters candidate in the Religious Studies department of the University of Edinburgh's School of Divinity, and a most well-read researcher of the subject, called the 2012 phenomenon "a Balkanization of epistemology", meaning that we can pick and choose at whim from an open and increasingly fragmented cornucopia of apocalyptic ideas.

Another important point that was made in this article is that even if it is a calendar with an end date, that in itself does not forecast the end of the world but is useable, as any cyclical calendar is, not just for innumerable interpretations nor even an ending of time as we know it, but rather some kind of measurement or counting mark that is certainly continuous *as the wheel turns*, cycles being what they are. He even points out, rather hilariously, that the graphic image typically associated with the Ma ya calendar, is not even Mayan or a calendar in any traditional sense but is the Aztec Sun Stone!

Real World Turmoil

However, galactic alignments, pole shifts, reptilian overlords, ascensions, and ETs notwithstanding, December 21st 2012 can be viewed very differently when placed against the ferment of this century, and particularly our current era and the historic and momentous things that are occurring in front of our noses. To get back to Netanyahu's speech after meeting with President Obama – the speech given on March 5th 2012 – we hear a powerful intention of a people and a nation whose very existence is once again threatened by annihilation mere decades after the Holocaust, who are stating in no uncertain terms that they will *never again* allow themselves to be placed in such a position, and that their nation exists with the intent to endure.

Israel's chart (5/14/48, 4:37 PM EET, Tel Aviv) is fascinating in that it shows a Taurus Sun with a Taurus Node – Taurus being the most enduring of all the signs, and also being the sign most connected to real property... i.e., real estate. Therefore, in no way would Israel fail in its karmic mission to hold its land and endure. That is the direct outcome of the horror known as the Holocaust, in which terror and death were visited upon a homeless and powerless people. No matter the threat, its horoscope says, Israel must endure. We see also that Israel has a dramatic Leo Midheaven with the Moon conjunct Pluto upon it, angular in the tenth house. Thus, the daily threat of death defines the peoples' experience. (Pluto, of course, rules nuclear weapons.) With Saturn creeping towards a square to that set of degrees by the end of this year, specifically reaching 3° Scorpio – square Israel's Midheaven – about the first week in November, it coincides with the presidential election in America. This is a do-or-die moment for Israel because Israel cannot wait for Saturn square to its Midheaven/Moon to restrict its actions against its mortal enemy. And although Prime Minister Netanyahu most likely does not use the services of an astrologer, common sense would dictate that the noose is tightening and he must take important and determinate action before his hands are completely tied. With Israel's progressed Mercury leaving its conjunction to Venus, the time for sweet talk is over. With Israel's progressed Uranus sextile Mars, and progressed Venus, ruler of its seventh house, conjunct techie Uranus in its eighth house, technology and financing combine beneficially to allay the threat to its continued existence.

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Netanyahu himself (10/21/49, Jerusalem, 9:35 AM EED), having a stellium in diplomatic Libra, is being hampered by Saturn conjunct his 27° Libra Sun through mid-September. This will stay his hand against acting rashly. Meanwhile, transiting Pluto at 9° Capricorn is putting great pressure upon his natal Mercury at 9° Libra, forcing him to make difficult decisions (and also putting pressure against him from allies). Happily, during this very same period Saturn is also sextiling his Leo Mars at 26° giving him ample time to plan and weigh his options, and act circumspectly. Because he has a Libra South Node (15° Libra) conjunct Neptune, he must always beware not to be too trusting, conciliatory and accommodating; he must act through his Aries North Node, independently and boldly – and in this he is supported by a grand fire trine to powerful Pluto at 18° Leo in his ninth house of governing, and free-spirited, popular Venus at 12° Sagittarius in his first house of personality. With progressed Venus now sextile his natal Venus, and with transiting Jupiter, his chart ruler, forming benefic aspects by autumn to his many fire and air planets, he will not lack approval and financial support in his decisions!

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The Presidential Election

As for the fiery American presidential election race, the fact that directly afterwards, Mercury, by that evening, goes retrograde at 4° Sagittarius opposite the nation's Uranus, does not bode well for a harmonious transfer of power, but rather speaks of a recount and feverish antagonism between the two parties. Therefore, the outcome will be close and not a landslide. Mercury does not go direct until November 27th at 18° Scorpio, and it does not come completely out of its shadow until December 14th when it reaches 4° Sag, the degree at which it turned retrograde. December 14th is only five weeks away from the Inauguration of whoever is determined to have won the presidential election. During this time of uncertainty, the nation, exceedingly polarized, will likely be at each others' throats. Whoever is declared the winner is sure to bring intense animosity from the other side (Pluto beginning its opposition to the U.S. Sun). Furthermore, Mars is at 22° Sag on Election Day, opposing the U.S.'s natal Mars, adding more fire to the internal mix. This is a peak moment in *the Civil War without weapons* that I had spoken of in my earlier article in this magazine⁶.

It's interesting that December 14th is only seven days away from the apocalyptic date of December 21st. Moreover, on the same date of December 14th, Uranus stations direct at 4° Aries in trine to the Mercury key point; and Saturn in Scorpio reaches 8° for the first time, in a sextile (and mutual reception) to Pluto in Capricorn. The Uranus station direct square Pluto certainly harks of uprising. Or it could bring a sudden and drastic event that affects the troublesome recount. It is as though the American presidential election is in and of itself a key component to the anger, lunacy, strife, and disharmony forecasted in the prophecies, if not then-and-there apocalyptic, surely the harbinger of such, while Israel in its tormented corner of the world is forced to take action unilaterally or in concord with its allies to prevent a mad regime hell-bent upon a peoples' annihilation. One could wonder if, from the point of view of the Jewish people, this epic battle is the climax of a 5,000 year narrative about the survival of Yis-ro-el.

In practical terms, regardless of natural events such as solar flares or earthquakes and other predicted disasters, *the perfect storm* of political, emotional, nationalistic and ideological components brings many things to a head by the end of this year, tied in tightly to the outcome of the American presidency. Nuclear war, civil unrest, ideological clash... do we really need anything further to usher in the apocalypse?!

The Contenders

Furthermore, exploring things a little deeper, it is hard to view the incumbent, President Obama, feeling anything other than disappointed once Mercury has turned direct and completed its shadow passage on December 14th because Saturn begins to reach his Neptune in the ninth house of government, a pattern that speaks of disillusionment and the bite of reality upon one's dreams. Additionally, as I have pointed out previously in other articles, this is the same timeframe that his Solar Arc Moon at 23° Cancer will oppose his progressed Saturn in his twelfth house, being the ruler of that house, which often results in a heavy heart and karmic pain. Moreover, a pattern during 2012 of Neptune – that planet of illusion – reaching 3° Pisces, and stationing thereupon earlier in the year on June 5th, sets up a fantasy but not a reality of hope to his desires. Election Day, November 6th 2012, has Saturn at 3° Scorpio quinqunx Obama's natal Moon at 3° Gemini, and square his Mercury at 2° Leo, not a joyful moment. Saturn by then resides in Obama's ninth house of government and of beliefs. In my opinion, he does not look like the ultimate winner of the presidential race.

7



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Tri-Small Wheel

Still and all, Mitt Romney, Obama's likely opponent and challenger, has during this "End Times" scenario, the challenge of Saturn against his own natal Saturn – a planet that rules his ninth house of government from his third house of communications. As of this writing in March 2012, the race is so close in the GOP primaries, and looks so tight in the national election next November, that I turned to alternative methods (Tarot and AstroDice) to ask about a winner, and here's what I saw⁷: *Will Mitt Romney win the GOP race?* (Moon Virgo 4th house; Knight of Swords, 2 of Swords reversed, 4 of Pentacles) – Family support, strong skills in communication and industriousness, sufficient funds, yet mistakes through wrong actions... PROBABLY YES. *Will Rick Santorum win the GOP race?* (Node Aries 4th house; 5 of Wands, 9 of Wands reversed, Ace of Pentacles reversed) – Bold moves, family guy, holds his own in right competitive path, but not enough money, though a good try...PROBABLY NOT. *Will Barack Obama get re-elected in November?* (Pluto Capricorn 11th house; Hermit reversed, Star reversed, 6 of Pentacles) – A great effort to transform his values, dreams, and the economy; can be powerful and generous but in the end, spiritually empty... PROBABLY NOT.

If Romney is indeed the winner, which looks likely (progressed Moon conjunct his progressed Midheaven and trine his progressed Pluto/ Pluto from October 8th -18th, at 10-11° Aries in his eleventh; progressed Pluto at 11° Leo trine his progressed Midheaven on November 25th; progressed Midheaven at 11° Aries trine his Pluto on March 4, 2013), he will have a karmically difficult task to fulfill (Saturn square Saturn). But so would anybody in the next administration, with Pluto and Uranus activating a grand cardinal cross to the U.S.'s natal Sun-Saturn square by mid-term! All lightworkers must send the "lucky" winner a lot of healing energy and positive thoughts, for the task is massive.



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Whoever is the winner of the American presidential campaign will do so only by a toothand-nail fight, and his term will be marked by uprisings and resistance (Pluto in Capricorn square Uranus in Aries). Romney bears the title of "The Fixer" because of his previous success in turning around corporations and governments. But you have to want this job intensively – karmically! – because it is going to be hell!

The only conclusion I can reach, looking at astrological aspects, is to hope that Saturn from Scorpio, trining the U.S. planets, will keep the nation together, while Jupiter a year later entering Cancer will show a true improvement for prosperity despite the warring forces tearing the nation apart. Neptune's trine from Pisces completes a grand water trine, while Pluto's long transit through Capricorn forms a kite with the native Cancerian energies of the United States. This formation is always beneficial and ultimately strengthening. And perhaps in the years following the new administration, the four years of its tenure featuring Pluto and Uranus in square to the U.S. Sun having created sufficient havoc, we will all yearn for a better solution to our world.



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In closing, I just want to point out that Mahmoud Ahmadinijad (10/28/56, 3:48 PM IRT, Garmsar, Iran) is an early Scorpio (Sun at 5° conjunct Neptune at 0°, both square Uranus at 6° Leo) who will face karmic comeuppance when Saturn reaches its transit through Scorpio this Fall, and if Romney wins this election, the latter's Saturn/Pluto at 2° and 11°

Leo will be a powerful force to control this reckless leader. Moreover, the Uranus station direct at 4° Aries on the key date of December 14th falls on A'jad's Ascendant and quinqunx his Sun, indicating rapid and perhaps drastic change for this individual. Will he be able to stay in power?

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So the Winter Solstice of 2012, that portentous and bedraggled date, can prove to be the world's awful undoing through wrong political, emotional, and militaristic choices (Armageddon), or it can be just a terribly contentious period that challenges us on every level to be wiser, less hasty, more accommodating, and in general more mature in order to deflect the intensively dangerous stew of negative possibilities that we can easily fall into. Maybe the reason that "the End of the World buffet" is so dualistic is that, as we stand on the brink, we really can go either way. It's up to every living soul to create peace now, and not just wait for the other guy's version of what 2012 will mean.



For those who would like to learn how to fast-track to an interior wisdom place of empowerment and oneness, I've created an installment subscription program on my blog, <u>www.WisdomsBlog.com</u>. Much of the information is free, posted on the blog as The Wisdom System[™] Level One, after which installments can be purchased in three continuing levels, @ \$19.95 each, to be emailed to the subscriber automatically over ensuing

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¹ 2012: End of the World Buffet, Kevin Whitesides, Fortean Times, April 2012

² As odd, one might also say, as the prior election of November 4th 2008 occurring a mere two days after a Neptune station direct at 21° Aquarius on the U.S. Moon, wherein the winner ran on a slogan of "hope and change"! *Intelligent design??*!

³ 2012: End of the World Buffet, Kevin Whitesides, Fortean Times, April 2012. "... the 'true' end of the Maya calendar, signaling the culmination of the entire 16.4-billion-year process of universal evolution."

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid. "...the date of the rapture" according to a prophecy of pre-Columbian Christians in the New World.

⁶ Karmic Waves, The Destiny Of The United States...And You!, Dell Horoscope magazine, May 2006

⁷ The three-card spread offers yes/no answers determined by whether the cards are upright or reversed. If two are upright, it's a qualified yes; if two are reversed, a qualified no; three of a kind, a definite yes or no.