Can Liberty Thrive?

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What is the right relationship between those who govern and those who are governed? How can *We the People* overcome fear in face of current events and become empowered and involved to make a difference in this crucial time? Doesn't democratic government begin with individual accountability? What can we do outside of the sphere of our personal concerns (like a tortoise hiding in its shell) to assist the greater good?

These questions surely occurred to James Madison, often called, "the Father of the Constitution." As he wrote in the Federalist Papers in 1787, "If men were angels, no government would be necessary." He was defending the proposed system of checks and balances between the people, their representatives, and the law, as outlined in the recently drafted U.S. Constitution, which had to be ratified by 9 of the 13 newly united states.

Madison and 54 other delegates sent by the states had deliberated this question in Philadelphia at the Constitutional Convention. Their closed-door sessions lasted far longer than any of them had anticipated. Many of the delegates were living outside of Pennsylvania and had left their families, homes, and enterprises—mostly in the hands of their able wives, daughters, and mothers, those unsung, yet vitally important, "founding mothers." Still, the men went on deliberating about the right role of government—a question more easily posed than answered.

I find myself going back to the time of the founding of our nation for good reason, because right now, America's future—its government, economy, the environment, and more—all lie in the balance.

What is the astrological significance of our current crises? On November 28th of 2008, Pluto reenters Capricorn, which is the sign of government and power. This configuration will be with us for the next 16 years! Ask yourself, "Which chapters of my own life will come under this influence?"

Pluto's role is to expose that which has been hidden. In America, corrupt or inept officials and policies will now be called to task. Actions will be taken to either correct or completely overhaul these out-of-balance situations. But, keep in mind that complaining and blaming are misuses of the Capricorn energy, the sign of the wielding of power. Blaming indicates that the blamer is feeling insignificant, victimized and divested of power.

So just as it was in 1762, Pluto has now worked its way around the Zodiac and is back in Capricorn, which, back then, culminated in the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The chart of that pivotal day is called the U.S. Conceptual Chart and it describes America's destiny and fate.

On July 4th of 1776, the Sun stood at 13 degrees Cancer, aligned with the fixed star, Sirius, the brightest visible star in the heavens. Many of the founding fathers were versed in Masonic esoteric traditions, and Masons believed that the energy of "the blazing light" of Sirius (a term borrowing from ancient Egyptian texts) had a direct bearing on human evolution.

Did the brave men who signed the Declaration of Independence choose that date deliberately, or did destiny itself choose it for this divinely conceived experiment in freedom? No one knows, but the date implies that the purpose of this American venture was to create, here below, a government representing and mirroring that which is Above. Take a look at the dollar bill. It's full of Masonic, mystic symbolism, such as the all-seeing-eye on top of the pyramid. None of the founding fathers doubted that God was at the helm—*In God We Trust*—but they vigorously defended each man's freedom of choice of worship.

When we study an individual's chart, 13 degrees Cancer can signify grandeur and power, or negatively, the person may be subject to accusations, whether false or merited, sometimes with devastating consequences. Interestingly, George W. Bush, born on July 6th, has his Sun at 13 degrees Cancer. But his term of office has not been just about him alone. Astrology teaches us that we all come under the aegis of the astrology of the one who represents us! It may be a hard pill to swallow, but a wise man once said, "We always get the leader we deserve!"

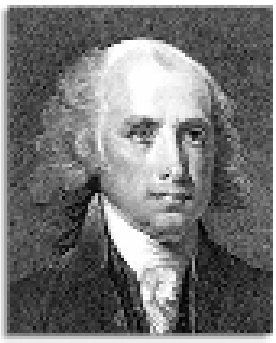
Granted, times have changed. We deal today with variables beyond the imagination of the early patriots. But the question we must continue to answer is the same, "How can Liberty thrive among men?" This was a

contentious issue back then as it is today. Not all the early patriots accepted their invitations to the Constitutional Convention. Patrick Henry, for one, fought fiercely against the idea of executive authority. He and many others contended that a central government would eventually become tyrannical.

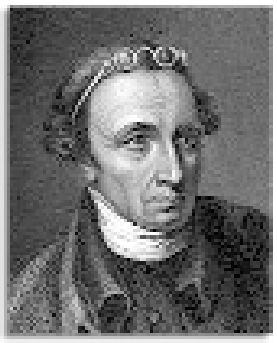
In 1787, time was pressing in. There was division and rebellion among the people, foreign powers waited for this fledgling nation to collapse, the national treasury was empty due to the Revolutionary War (1775–1783), and pride and personal ambition appeared even where least expected. After all, these men were only human, struggling with world-shaking ideas and advances. We, too, are in a race against the cresting of culminating cycles, which we ourselves have begun, and which we must resolve while there is still sand running in the hourglass.

So, ask yourself, "What is the greatest challenge facing me, my family, and the nation right now?" My answer would unequivocally be that we not be overcome by fear. With Saturn in Virgo, gathering steam in exact opposition to Uranus in Pisces, we're all feeling the tension. But the bogeyman isn't money—money is the circumstance. The bogeyman is fear. Actually, money is only one of the many resources at risk right now. Under Virgo-Pisces influences, people typically feel overwhelmed by the enormity of their problems... Ultimately, while the outcome may be dictated by events, when dealing with contradictory and tense energies, we need to anchor ourselves in a place of peace. Each of us must determine to maintain our emotional balance, as so much depends upon this!

Furthermore, in order to not be overwhelmed by the growing changes around us—rather, to become empowered and in-the-driver's-seat of our own lives—we must ask ourselves, "What can I do to be proactive and make a difference? What piece of the puzzle can I take on as my responsibility?" From getting involved in the local community, to taking action at the state or national level, there is some kind of service each of us can perform so our voice, our energy, and our vote will count! In Capricorn, with humility, we need to venture out and be willing to play a part to the best of our ability.



James Madison



Patrick Henry

James Madison and Patrick Henry argued vehemently about the role that government should play, but each, in his own way, was true to his own spirit and understanding. The Constitution passed, despite Henry's protests, but his role was instrumental in the creation of the Bill of Rights, protecting the basic liberties we still enjoy and must defend today.

Madison asked, "What is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature?" He concluded, "In forming a government that is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: we must first enable government to control the governed; and in the next place, oblige it to control itself."

Another lesson in early American history, which I find timely, is that one should always question why an individual would want to be the President in the first place, except that their motives be pure love of country and a compelling sense of destiny. It's far from an enviable job! George Washington openly grieved when accepting the unanimous invitation of Congress to become the nation's first President. To fulfill his role in selfless public service, Washington sacrificed his great longing to retire to Mount Vernon.

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We—and life's cycles—must move forward. So let's first get our house in order. Be prepared and be willing to sacrifice, and to step out and get involved! Economize and be not wasteful—not only with your money, but in all things that involve the use of your life-force: in speech, in thoughts and feelings, in sex, and in the honesty and soundness of your business transactions.

Above all, remember your neighbor. Love in action and unity in response to common peril strengthens us all. No matter how alarming the picture appears, no force in this universe is greater than Divine Love, which is always there and always at work behind events. It is our shield and our impetus. It protects and invigorates. It does not differentiate between friend or foe, since love is the answer for both. It does not consider any test or travail to be anything other than an opportunity for growth and a great challenge! ■

Kathie Garcia launched The Three Magi Complete Astrological Services *in 1989. She has traveled extensively giving consultations, workshops and radio shows. Her insightful articles have appeared in numerous publications. A Montessori teacher and mother of four, Kathie authored* Child•Star, *an astrological natal report written for parents about their children, and* Astro•Journey, *the only astrological forecast report specifically for older teens and young adults. Call Kathie for your personal astrology consultation. Kathie welcomes your comments and questions as topics for future articles. Call 333-4804. Send e-mail to kathie.garcia@thethreemagi.com.*

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