

**THE SIRIUS FESTIVAL 2017**  
**THE 2017 AUGUST ECLIPSES**  
**7 AND 21 AUGUST 2017**

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Greetings Everyone!

The communists came to our door the other day. That got your attention, yes? No, neither the Russians nor the Chinese have invaded Italy. And besides, Russia is no longer a communist state, *per se*, although the Communist Party is still active there. Instead, the communists were here to hawk their latest edition and seek a possible subscription to “Lotta Comunista”, the local communist rag. Many readers may not know it, but there is still a significant communist influence in Europe. And Italy had the strongest communist party in Western Europe post WWII. There are still many local governments in Italy under communist leadership. But, I digress. We decided to give a small donation and took the latest addition of the paper, saying we would think on a subscription. You know how that goes. Our thinking was that reading through the paper would help me to learn the Italian language a little better, and perhaps another side of the culture. I’ll say at the outset that I prefer to live in a semi-socialized capitalist society, much like we had in the US and much of the West up until the 1970s and ‘80s, until the onset of deregulation and privatization. Finance was more disciplined in the first few decades after WWII, and a dollar/pound/lira was actually worth something then, representing a true resource rather than a computer algorithm. I am not yearning for ‘the good ol’ days’ here, but instead I am getting to a point.

This will be one of my final letters that focuses so much on geopolitics, and I will say why toward the end. But moving on, as we are in the high point of the northern summer, we have reached an extreme in the seasons in terms of heat/cold, depending on the hemisphere. We have also reached an extreme in other areas, most notably politics and economics. The Leo interval each year marks an extreme of the seasons, as does its opposite sign, Aquarius. We are also approaching an extreme in solar activity – a minimum – but an extreme nonetheless. These extremes in solar activity (sunspot cycle) very often mark quite restive times in world history. We saw a spike in sunspot activity, for instance, in the first days of April this year, and a few days after that Trump ordered the cruise missile attack on Syria in response to the supposed chemical weapons attack by Syrian forces, when Mars was square to one of Trump’s proposed horizons. More on that latter point later.

The full moon of the Leo interval each year is often called the ‘Sirius Festival’ in esoteric circles, as Leo coincides with the month of the Dog Star, Sirius. Astronomically, this is when Sirius rises with the sun (heliacal rising). There is also a direct line of subjective force between Sirius, Regulus (the ‘heart of the Lion’, which focuses the energy of Sirius<sup>1</sup>) and the spiritual center which is the planetary Kingdom of Souls, also known as the spiritual Hierarchy of the planet. Sirius is a great spiritual center in our local universe, a center toward which most human life on this planet will eventually go. It is associated with ‘the Heart of God’ and with the development of mind in humanity, among other things. Hence, there is a direct relation between all these factors and the quality for which Leo is most widely known: leadership. Leadership on our little world is most effectively executed by example rather than by force, by unifying peoples and groups rather than by conquering them. Also, there is a connection with finance, although that is not normally associated with the sign, but finance does play a direct role in world governance at this point in our history. There is quite a bit we could examine here, but because of the position in which we find ourselves now, which is a world crisis point, we will have to leave the more esoteric aspects of Leo, Sirius and the like for another time. There are a few points of interest, though, which might give some insights for future discussions and which have a bearing upon our present world view.

There are seven stars which are said to be the seat of the seven governing energies (the seven Rays) of our local universe. We know those stars as the Great Bear, the Northern Ladle or the Emperor's Chariot, depending on our culture. These seven stars form the hands of a cosmic clock from a purely mundane perspective, but various combinations of them point to some of the most significant stars in astrology. There is a very interesting [chart](#) in this regard. I have been making a study of these pointers with a colleague<sup>2</sup> here in Italy in their relation to Chinese astronomy and associated arts. In fact, the Great Bear is the main pointer in the northern hemisphere in terms of astronomical observation, with Orion forming a similar pointer for the south. And, as it turns out, two of those stars in the Great Bear point directly to Regulus, the heart of the Lion. Those stars are Megrez and Phecda, and they are associated with the Law and with Sacrifice, respectively. In the other direction they point to Deneb in Cygnus, the Swan. Cygnus, from mythology, was Zeus, who had transformed himself into a swan in order to seduce the Spartan queen, Leda, who subsequently gave birth to Castor and Pollux, the twins of Gemini. Zeus was the king of Olympus, so even here we have a connection between Regulus, the Great Bear and rulership. However, the stars of the Great Bear do not point to Sirius. Instead, there is another pointer in Orion, the Hunter, which points directly to Sirius, among other rather fascinating stars, and which are of no less importance.

As it turns out, Orion's belt, also known as the Three Kings or the Three Sisters – Alnitak, Alnilam and Mintaka – point to Sirius in the south, and to Aldebaran in the north and from there to the Pleiades cluster, both in the constellation of Taurus. The Pleiades are known as the Seven Sisters, or the Seven Wives of the Seven Rishis of the Great Bear. Taurus is a sign also associated with willfulness and with progress on the Path. And, among other pointers, Rigel and Betelgeuse in Orion also point to Castor and Pollux in Gemini. There is another [chart](#) which shows these pointers, too. There is more than a little bit here to whet the appetite of anyone who thinks on these matters and much more that has been left unrevealed. But, I said I was getting to a point.

Leo is a sign that has many associations and qualities, but foremost among them are individual effort, self-discipline and deep introspection, all of which leads to an intense self-awareness and acute mental development along a chosen line. These tendencies in the Leo type lead to a...“tendency to fusion, blending, amalgamation, and the spiritual counterpart of this unity is stronger today than heretofore and the types which produce this exoterically must have Leo somewhere in a prominent position in their horoscopes or the Sun controlling in some important house.”<sup>3</sup> Many world leaders have Leo prominent in their charts, as do many countries in positions of world leadership, both exoterically and by esoteric synthetic rulership. And the current president of the US, along with the countries and regions of Russia, the EU, France and Iran all have Leo prominent in their makeup somewhere. Also, Brazil, Italy and Romania all have Leo as their synthetic soul rulers. So, at present there is a great game of power going on, the outcome of which in all likelihood will see a diminution of US influence in geopolitical affairs in the long term.

The old 'communism' bugbear, recalling the opening sentence of this letter, is right back in everyone's faces in the US, falsely so, with claims by the liberal corporate media and Democrats of Russian meddling in the US election (a bit of the pot calling the kettle black, there), even though Russia is now an oligarchy instead of a communist state. And, what we see is a veritable comedy of errors in the US administration instead of real leadership, with the rest of the world looking on aghast – and rightfully worried. There is a big push in the US now toward a libertarian type of system with no regulations, and a yearning for the days of communism by many in Eastern Europe. And much of this has come about because of a lack of discipline and protections in the financial sector of the West, which has led to widespread political corruption in countries like the US, and to a lesser extent in Europe. So, keeping the preceding points about Leo in mind and what we have examined in past letters, let's get right into what we see happening before our eyes.

As the title of this letter points out, there are two eclipses this month, both of them in the Leo interval. Eclipses in Leo or Aquarius highlight the areas of leadership, governance, service and group effort. An eclipse in one sign has an automatic reflex action in its opposite sign. As we will see, there are quite a few Leo connections happening with these eclipses and in world affairs in this current period. The first one on the 7<sup>th</sup> is a partial lunar eclipse and is the full moon, occurring at 15 Leo 21. I have read many interpretations of this degree, as well as for the 15<sup>th</sup> degree of all the fixed signs (Taurus, Leo, Scorpio and Aquarius), one source going as far to call 15 Leo, “the worst degree of the zodiac”. There is no such thing. The 15<sup>th</sup> degree of the fixed signs is a release point, and is powerful, occurring as they do at the semisquares/sesquisquares to the Aries points (0° of the cardinal signs – Aries, cancer, Libra and Capricorn). From what I have seen, these points can indicate the coming of some powerful world events when eclipses fall on them, as is the case at this full moon. Those points have also been called “karmic reckoning/release points”, which might be true from a certain perspective. However, any event can be seen as a karmic fulfillment from a wider view. And, to add a little more to the interpretation of the 15<sup>th</sup> degree of fixed signs, they have also been called “disaster degrees”, probably because powerful mundane events are often seen as disasters by many people. Eclipses on these degrees do have a way of ‘clearing the air’, though. And with elevated world tensions presently, there is plenty that needs cleansing and clarification, as well as balancing and mending.

So, looking at the full moon, the first eclipse takes place at 18:22 UT on 7 Aug 17 (6:22 AM AEDT on the 8<sup>th</sup>). It will be visible over all of Africa, Europe, Asia and Oceania. It begins at 15:50 UT and ends at 20:51 UT. This is eclipse number 61 of the lunar Saros series 119, which is waning as a series. Since there is so much else to cover in this letter we will not look at the extended history of this series at this time, sticking only to the points which have reverberations in events taking place now. The Sun is conjunct the projected zodiacal longitude of Dubhe ( $\alpha$  Ursae Majoris). Dubhe, along with Merak in the Great Bear, point to our current pole star, Polaris, and as such is associated with a more willful outlook in personal and mundane charts. Dubhe is said to have the character of Mars and when activated tends to manifest as aggressive tendencies,<sup>4</sup> hence the negative association with the 15<sup>th</sup> degree of Leo. But Dubhe is also associated with Kratu,<sup>5</sup> one of the seven Rishis, from the Hindu Brahmanas and Upanisads. It is a star very much associated with will, purpose, understanding and ritual in Hindu scripture and language.<sup>6</sup> From this, then, we would expect events to take place with regard to governance and world leaders when this eclipse is activated, especially since it takes place at 15° Leo.

Mars is conjunct the Sun this eclipse figure, making it a lord of the eclipse, along with the Uranian rulership of Aquarius, where the Moon is found. Thus, we have a combined Mars/Uranus/Dubhe quality with this one. However, this influence is moderated by Jupiter, which is trine the Moon, making an ‘easy opposition’ of the full moon axis. There is no dwarf planet emphasis in this chart, although Saturn and Pluto are parallel, both of them being contra-parallel to Venus, which is a sobering influence and indicative of separations and strong tensions in relationships. Strong dwarf planet activity in a chart tends toward purificatory events and resulting revelations. In addition to the Jupiterian moderating influence, Saturn is trine the Sun and sextile to Jupiter, further moderating the sharper energies of what might otherwise be quite an ‘exciting’ figure. Mars will already be activating the eclipse at the time of the event, to finally pass out of influence from mid-August.

Now, given the influence of Mars and Dubhe with this figure, many people might be wondering, “Will this affect Donald Trump? Well, it depends, and it will be of great interest to astrologers to watch the timing as events around his presidency unfold. The reason it will be so interesting is that there are two charts for Donald Trump. The one most commonly used is the 10:54 am chart from his birth certificate. But, there is another which appears in the chart database for the program I use which gives a time of 9:51 am, giving an ascendant of 17 Leo 34.<sup>7</sup> This eclipse does take place on his ascendant in that chart and on his Ceres and falls across his horizon in the 1<sup>st</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> houses. Mars

will be transiting over his Pluto at that time and will activate the eclipse in mid-August, crossing that ascendant on 17 Aug. So, that will be a time to watch what happens with him in particular, and should go a ways toward supporting or discounting that chart. The other eclipse on the 21<sup>st</sup> falls across his 6<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> house axes, and there are forces out to get him (that axis can often indicate enemies, seen and unseen, along with health concerns). But, if the 10:54 chart is correct, for him this eclipse will be more of a background influence rather than manifesting as a specific event. The next eclipse, however, would affect him strongly. The reason I mention Trump here is because many people see him as a major threat to world security, and thus of great concern. I would qualify that and say that he is but the figurehead of a still greater concern, which is the concerted effort by factions within the US state who seek to promote a more apocalyptic agenda and who are busy trying to undo social progress both in the US and worldwide. We are not speaking of political parties here. Factions within both of the major parties in the US are involved in such efforts.

Turning to the world, are there countries/leaders who will be affected by this eclipse? Indeed, if the charts are correct – Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia, North Korea and the European Union, as well as the European Economic Community (EEC). The last lunar eclipse there saw the lifting of the fatwā against Salman Rushdie (Remember *The Satanic Verses*?), and the one before that saw the release of the hostages held at the American embassy in Tehran when Reagan was sworn in as president. The hostage crisis and Iranian revolution marked a major turning point in US/Iranian relations, though, turning Iran from an ally into an enemy, and they have been seen as such in the US ever since. Interestingly, that eclipse took place opposite Reagan's Sun, and the whole affair would eventually lead to the Iran-Contra scandal in his second term as president, culminating in a Uranian activation of an eclipse in his 12<sup>th</sup> house close to his ascendant early in 1986, when the scandal was at its peak. Eclipses in the 12<sup>th</sup> house can be rather troublesome if there are skeletons in one's closet that need to come out, remembering this in relation to Trump and the next eclipse. The Iran-Contra affair was a black mark on American foreign policy and Reagan's presidency, being seen largely as hypocritical US policy and emboldening the taking of hostages as a means of governmental blackmail and extortion.

As for the EU, the EEC at this eclipse at the full moon, similar eclipses to the EU ascendant and Venus of the EEC saw the admission of Greece into the EEC in 1981 under a Mars activation of a similar eclipse. France abolished capital punishment as Mars approached that eclipse point, and they opened their first high speed rail link just after. France has Leo as its synthetic personality expression.<sup>8</sup> In all, this series of eclipses has not been especially eventful for the EU or EEC, although Greece's admittance to the EEC would bring that nation quite a bit of trouble in coming years with the Greek financial crisis.

Turning to the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq War began when Mars moved up to square that previously-mentioned eclipse point, conjunct Uranus, and square to the Iranian ascendant. The US backed and aided Iraq in that war along with other Arab countries, including the use of chemical weapons against Iran.<sup>9</sup> Iraq before that time was listed as a terrorist state by the US Congress, but was conveniently removed as such by the Reagan administration at the start of the war. The US clandestinely provided intelligence for Iraq in targeting Iranian troops, provided machine tools for Iraqi production facilities and weapons for military operations, culminating in Iraq's ability to produce two tons per day of chemical weapons, which they used routinely in the war with full American and Western support and knowledge. I mention this here because the Trump administration and Congressional hawks are talking now of aiding 'peaceful regime change' in Iran by means of sending aid to sectarian groups in that nation who are opposed to the current government, but such regime change is not likely to happen. It would also be a violation of the nuclear deal. And the US media abets this sort of thing. What we might see instead is regime change in the US once the activations of these two eclipses take hold and we see their carry-on effects. The Trump administration is now placing us in a very precarious place by its belligerence

and provocative attitude toward Iran. Iran is not now the weak country it was after its revolution, and it has developed strong allies in China and Russia since then, among others.<sup>10</sup> Iran, for its part, has said it will stop its ballistic missile production, the main sticking point with the US – which has nothing to do with the nuclear deal, by the way – if the US will pull back at least 1000 km from Iranian borders. Imagine that.

Israel and Saudi Arabia would like to see Iran in a weak and isolated position in the Middle East. One of the biggest reasons they opposed the nuclear deal with Iran was because it would have enabled Iran to gain more influence and prestige in the region and in the wider world. With Trump and the Congress seeking to impose further sanctions on Iran, they are in violation of Article 29 of the terms of the deal<sup>11</sup>, and would like to see the deal collapse, which would reintroduce the repressive measures that had actually *promoted* Iran's pursuit of a nuclear capability in the first place. Sanctions are a political lever readily wielded by the US, but the track record of sanctions is poor. We see a similar dynamic with North Korea and sanctions.

We have just heard about the House and Senate getting together to possibly slap more sanctions on Russia, North Korea and Iran. A bill to do just that has just passed the House almost unanimously, but it has to go through the Senate and be signed off by Trump. It is very likely to be signed into law, which means that afterward no president can just decide to lift them someday. They would have to be repealed by Congressional vote, which would be very unlikely given the current political climate in the US. This is potentially a very serious matter and it would drive a wedge in between American and EU interests, not to mention a sort of final nail in the coffin of US/Russia relations.<sup>12</sup> The reason it would do so is that the bill would also sanction companies that do business with Russia and Iran, as many European companies do. It is aimed primarily at strangling Russian oil and gas shipments to Europe and in turn leveraging Europe toward US energy exports. It would have negative effects on the EU economy and sovereignty. European leaders have already reacted, saying they will oppose the measure and will take action against it if it goes into effect. Russia and Iran have said so in kind. This bill is a power grab and has been called a form of economic warfare. In the end it will benefit no one and ultimately harm the US and possibly Europe. The reason it would harm the US is because it would mean a sharp increase in fracking, not to mention soured relations with allies, be very destructive to the environment and would cause probably large protests and actions against it. It is yet another example of Big Oil's influence in Washington.

As for Iran, few people realize that the nuclear deal with Iran was never really about its nuclear weapons. It was about Iran's rising influence in the region, especially since the US invasion of Iraq, which gave Iran a foothold in Iraq, and which would put Israel and the Saudis on the back foot and in a position where they would actually have to *negotiate* with Iran and learn to live with them.<sup>13</sup> In that vein we can see the reason for their vigorous renunciation of the deal, as well as those in Washington who are hawkish toward Iran. Iran, for its part, has been in compliance with it, which has just been certified by the Trump administration for the second time, and grudgingly, we might add.<sup>14</sup> And that leads us into the second eclipse, which is the vaunted total eclipse that will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August across the US. But before that, it is of particular interest to note that, as stated previously, Leo is quite an active sign in current Middle Eastern affairs.

Russia has a synthetic Leo personality.<sup>15</sup> Iran's ascendant appears confirmed to be Leo, judging by its rebellious nature when challenged and insistence on its sovereignty and leadership in the region. Both Iran and Russia have more than a little desire for peace there, for a hedge against US hegemony in the region, in fighting against Daesh, etc. [Saudi Arabia](#)'s Venus lies on the Iranian ascendant in the 12<sup>th</sup> house of Iran. Israel's Saturn sits on the Iranian ascendant, unsurprisingly. Israel's Mars will be activated by the coming eclipse on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August (watch that space), and its Saturn/Pluto conjunction sits on the Iranian ascendant in the Iranian 12<sup>th</sup> house – hence the intensity of Israeli sentiment against Iran, its hardline stance toward its neighbors and the fear that

Iran's rise in the region generates in that country. And given that Trump's Mars is conjunct Israel's Mars, it is hardly any wonder he is so strongly in support of Israel. Trump admires strength, and Israel has proven itself militarily in conflicts with neighboring Arab states, not to mention his son-in-law's relationship with Israel through his Jewish faith. What we have here is a confluence of factors that will likely provoke/invoke some sort of crisis in the region for good or ill, and within the next few months. The south node of the [Assad regime](#) also falls on the 29<sup>th</sup> degree of Leo, to be activated by that eclipse. So, what do we see with the new moon/total eclipse of the 21<sup>st</sup>?

The new moon/eclipse reaches its maximum at 18:27 UT over Cerulean, KY (far western KY) for a total of 2m40s at 1:27 PM CDT, for those who want to see it. The lunation takes place within a few minutes of 0° Virgo in the last degree of Leo. This is conjunct Donald Trump's normally accepted ascendant, which is one reason so much is being made of this eclipse. Mars is co-lord of the eclipse with the Sun and is approaching the eclipse point at 9°, to reach the full activation on 4/5 September. This will be a call to him to forget himself and actually *lead*, to exhibit the more positive aspects of Leo. We might remember, though, that if his ascendant is on the cusp of Virgo, too, both signs tend to blend in influence as far as his ascendant is concerned. And the big question that will be brought before him through this period of August/September and beyond is, how and whom does he serve?

The eclipse itself is conjunct [Israel](#)'s Mars, [Qatar](#)'s Mercury, [Ukraine](#)'s Sun, Mercury, Venus and Jupiter, the Pluto of the [EEC](#), is opposite [Iran](#)'s Venus, conjunct the Moon of the current [Russian](#) state, and Steve Bannon's Pluto. It is also opposite the [US](#) Moon, on [North Korea](#)'s Saturn, and Mike Pence's Pluto. The eclipse point is trine to Uranus, which is retrograde in the figure, and this will introduce unexpected outcomes, although helpful in the long term. Added to this is a triangle with Jupiter sextile to both Mars and Saturn, which also adds a more optimistic and balanced note. But in the meantime, Mercury is opposite Neptune, indicating propaganda and 'selective reporting' or outright deception through media outlets, so let the consumer beware. In a passing mention of Qatar, Neptune is currently square to the horizon of that chart and the nation has entered its progressed balsamic lunar phase, indicating its current troubles and the hacking of its media by the UAE,<sup>16</sup> among other indications. Qatar will be a real test case as to US continuing influence in the region, but it is more likely that Turkey, Iran and Russia will make significant gains in influence there through the vehicle of the Qatari crisis.

An interesting aspect of this eclipse is the conjunction of the eclipse point with a relatively unknown and yet-unnamed dwarf planet, 2002AW<sub>197</sub>.<sup>17</sup> I have not researched that little world in any great detail, but it is worth a mention and is a little planet to watch in coming years. It is a classical Kuiper belt object with an orbital period of 328 years, and with a diameter of about 770 km, about 1/3 the diameter of Pluto. In the [discovery chart](#) there was a Sun/Venus conjunction square to Eris, indicating disruptions and conflicts, and sextile Mars. The Moon was conjunct Pluto and opposite Saturn. And the planet itself was opposite Ceres, another Pluto-like world. At the time of its discovery there was quite a bit of military activity in the Middle East and Central Asia, the first planeload of prisoners from Afghanistan arrived at Guantanamo, there were large protests in Argentina, Ford Motor Co. announced the layoff of 35,000 workers, a Lehman Brothers broker absconded with 300 million dollars of investors' funds, there were revelations about the Enron collapse, in which investors and employees lost billions in investments and pensions etc.<sup>18</sup> (There were more events, but these few serve to illustrate the prevailing currents.) This was the world just after 9/11. It is difficult to say just how this little planet will lend its influence, but if the discovery chart and the events surrounding it are any indication, we could be seeing some very interesting and stimulating events to come from this eclipse. More to the point, we might expect to see some revelations about financial misdealings come to light, given recent reporting about Trump and the Russian Mafia, for instance, which could well lead to other information coming out, as well as increased military actions across the globe.<sup>19</sup>

If the most significant factor to be revealed with this eclipse will be in the realm of finance, then all that entails – sanctions, illegal trading, shady business deals, the banking system...tax returns...will cause quite a stir in international affairs. What I mean here is, this will be a powerful eclipse and thus will produce significant events. It is a member of the solar Saros 145 series, a series that is increasing in strength, having just entered the totality phase of its eclipses,<sup>20</sup> and which will bless us with a total eclipse roughly every 19 years for the next 500 years. The previous eclipse in this series was part of a great cross with Mars, Saturn and Uranus, and the Uranian activation of that eclipse marked the peak of the Dotcom bubble (Dotcom=tech stocks=Uranus), which saw its first major collapse shortly thereafter. It has been stated that we are currently in “the mother of all financial bubbles.”<sup>21</sup> Various articles I have read over the past years have forecast a ‘mother of all collapses’, but such a thing has yet to occur. It does not have to occur, but some serious adjustments need to be made if we are to avert some major economic catastrophe. Leo/Virgo is about self-discipline and care for others – service, in other words – and there are a few points to be kept in mind as we watch all this unfold in the next months/years.

Humanity is a part of the natural order, and as such we move and live as part of the natural evolution of cycles. Nothing in nature grows forever. If something grows, it must eventually reach a peak and then subside. Economics and empires are no different. In fact, nature functions under the law of economy,<sup>22</sup> of which money is a concretion. And this law affects us through every facet of our lives. Continuous growth in an economic or any other system is a myth, and a dangerous one at that. Yet, ‘growth’ is the rallying call of every politician who seeks reelection. Chinese philosophy states the matter eloquently in saying “Yang chi (growth), when it reaches its peak, has nothing inside (yin chi) to support it, and collapses on itself, returning to the yin essence,” or words to that effect. Yin chi nourishes growth from the inside, and in every nation the source of its Yin chi is its people and its natural resources. Take care of the common people and a nation’s resources and the nation thrives and grows, so long as resources and people permit it. Whenever there are extremes in nature, such as we see in the current economic model, balance is certain to ensue. The greater the imbalance, the quicker the balancing. Nature is a closed, finite system, but we seem to have bought into this concept of ‘endless growth’ as a desirable model of economics. Instead, we need our times of scarcity and repose to balance, recollect ourselves and reflect on what is really essential. This has been forgotten and is a thing we are taught to greatly fear – needlessly so.

What we see particularly in the US now is a system that continuously draws on the resources of its people to their detriment. We have looked at these points before, but they will be amplified with this eclipse. We have reached an extreme, both in terms of finances and extension into other countries and regions. The US hegemony has reached its apex and is now showing the signs of fracturing, being challenged on many fronts, not the least of which is from within its own borders. It is unsupportable now. The factions in the US state who seek to maintain or even expand US influence are doing all they can to do so, but to the nation’s detriment. We see this, for instance, in calls for increased defense spending, in the new aircraft carrier with a price tag of close to 14 billion dollars when all the additional work is complete, in statements by Trump about ending the defense sequester, saying, “We don’t want a fair fight – we want just the opposite. We demand victory, and we will have total victory.”<sup>23</sup> And in the meantime Congress has just moved to approve further economic sanctions on Iran, Russia and North Korea, the touted great enemies of the US, which Trump will more than likely authorize, and all the while with the Congress seeking to repeal Obamacare. We have to ask ourselves why. Imagine what we could do with 14 billion dollars, for instance. And somehow, we cannot care for our own citizens...because? The answer, for a start, lies in the examples just stated. And this brings us back to this eclipse of the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Donald Trump, being strongly affected by this eclipse (maybe), has been his own worst enemy since taking office, but he is not the main problem. Once he is removed from office, gets sick or quits, as appears likely at some point, the true nature of what bedevils the US will stand out in bold

relief. He has been a distraction from the real issues, which lie mainly with the Congress and the media, as we have looked at several times. And then there is the distraction from the wrongdoings of the DNC which the ‘Russiagate probe’ provides, the latter being used as a political tool to delegitimize Trump and to keep the ‘existential threats’ to the US alive as an ongoing concern. For these reasons, the midterms and following Congressional elections will be of supreme importance, both to the US people and the greater world.

Can we imagine a world where Iran, North Korea and Russia are not seen as enemies, for instance? We should, if we really want to bring light into dark corners. The American public on the whole wants no part of war with the aforementioned countries. We also want transparency and *real* reporting in the media, rather than an endless stream of pundits, soundbites and opinion pieces. People who see those countries as enemies have not studied their history. The only existential threats to the US are its own policies, foreign and domestic. The hysteria (which is really all it is) in the media around those three countries – Iran, North Korea and Russia – has no basis in fact and only goes toward support of a continuous war state. Have we had enough, yet? Let those countries take their rightful place in world affairs. We would be much better off as a country if we brought much of our attention back home. As for the others’ internal affairs, they will sort themselves out, and by the look of things relatively quickly in terms of social cycles.

So, in closing, we have spent the last couple of years looking at geopolitics in these letters, and it is time to move on from such a focus to such a great extent. We have covered the basis for the biggest part of the world’s most troublesome problems in that time, and from what I can see, the momentum of public discourse, inventiveness, imagination and courage will eventually take care of most of them. These two eclipses will be a blow to arrogance and poor leadership, the baser aspect of Leo, and it will start from the top down in the US and in other parts of the world. Those eclipses will also inspire true leaders to step forward as magnetic centers of unity, rather than divisiveness. The main concern I would have at the moment is with Trump, embattled as he is, starting a conflict somewhere to distract the country from investigations into his affairs, thus enhancing his ‘presidentiality’. Initiating a conflict would be very easy given the circumstances, the astrology and the other countries involved. We find ourselves at yet another critical moment in world affairs.

That we are at a critical point in in our planetary family relations is true. But, is there a real need to worry? Not really, but to be concerned and activated by these events is a must. Unless we apply Leo principles and educate ourselves and our dear ones, unless public awareness and concern is aroused, unless we bring light to bear on the forces that seek to act in the shadows or who seek to obfuscate our goodwill, and if we fail to unify, we will suffer the ill effects of this grand chess game for quite some time into the future. Light needs to poke holes in and illuminate the shadows of the US Congress, intelligence agencies and corporate media. This is not a political statement. Great and sweeping changes must come to the leadership of the US if we are to see real peace in the immediate future and a return to right international relations. Those changes are coming, and the rest of the world stands ready to embrace them. They will not come through militarism, through might or through economic growth. They will come instead through a public who wants only peace, security, sovereignty and a fair go, once they realize what is really going on. These eclipses and their counterparts next year will do their part in shedding light on the matters that concern us most. May we all avail ourselves of their energies, insights and gifts, and act in kind.

Blessings,

Malvin

27 Jul 17

[malvin@malvinartley.com](mailto:malvin@malvinartley.com)

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- <sup>1</sup> Bailey, Alice A., *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 300
- <sup>2</sup> <http://www.fabiopetrella.it/>
- <sup>3</sup> Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 286
- <sup>4</sup> Noonan, George, *Fixed Stars and Judicial Astrology*, 1990, p.7. Both of the constellations of the bears are said to be “injurious as regards the affairs of nations and kings”, from ancient astrology.
- <sup>5</sup> <http://www.constellationsofwords.com/stars/Dubhe.html>
- <sup>6</sup> <http://sanskritdictionary.com/?q=kratu>
- <sup>7</sup> This also appears in the source notes from [https://www.astro.com/astro-databank/Trump, Donald](https://www.astro.com/astro-databank/Trump,_Donald) From his mother’s memory.
- <sup>8</sup> Bailey, *The Destiny of the Nations*, p. 67
- <sup>9</sup> <http://intellectual-thoughts.com/U.S.%20Dirty%20Deeds%20Against%20Iran.htm>
- <sup>10</sup> For a fuller exposition on current tensions in the region, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90ffN1-TuTQ>
- <sup>11</sup> [http://www.eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/statements-eeas/docs/iran\\_agreement/iran\\_joint-comprehensive-plan-of-action\\_en.pdf](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/statements-eeas/docs/iran_agreement/iran_joint-comprehensive-plan-of-action_en.pdf) p. 14
- <sup>12</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wjo9WryTIjI>
- <sup>13</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFIIdmtQBxe4>
- <sup>14</sup> <http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-fg-trump-iran-20170718-story.html>
- <sup>15</sup> Bailey, *The Destiny of the Nations*, p. 67
- <sup>16</sup> <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/07/17/537704157/report-united-arab-emirates-hacked-qatar-sparking-gulf-crisis>
- <sup>17</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/\(55565\)\\_2002\\_AW197](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/(55565)_2002_AW197)
- <sup>18</sup> [http://timelines.ws/21stcent/2002\\_1.HTML](http://timelines.ws/21stcent/2002_1.HTML)
- <sup>19</sup> <https://newrepublic.com/article/143586/trumps-russian-laundromat-trump-tower-luxury-high-rises-dirty-money-international-crime-syndicate>
- <sup>20</sup> <https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEsaros/SEsaros145.html>
- <sup>21</sup> <https://dailyreckoning.com/charts-prove-financial-bubbles/>
- <sup>22</sup> Bailey, *The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 417
- <sup>23</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-07-22/trump-aboard-new-aircraft-carrier-urges-military-funds-boost>