

# SAGITTARIUS SOLAR FESTIVAL

3/4 DEC 2017

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You should let yourself be carried away, like the clouds in the sky. You shouldn't resist. God exists in your destiny just as much as he does in these mountains and in that lake. It is very difficult to understand this, because man is moving further and further away from Nature, and also from himself.<sup>1</sup>

Hermann Hesse, Nobel Prize winner in literature, with Sagittarius rising

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Greetings Friends!

I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving holiday if you live in the US and are busy getting ready for the holiday season. All the Christmas markets are in full swing here in Europe, and as a sign of the increasing materialism we see exhibited in what should otherwise be a sacred time of year, the Black Friday sales have come to Italy. Black Friday, if you are not American, is the Friday after Thanksgiving and which inaugurates the Christmas season in the US. It's the biggest retail day of the year in the US aside from the day after Christmas. Personally, I think the term 'Black Friday' is quite appropriate, even though it has another meaning to the financial sector. It is a day I avoid going out if at all possible. So instead, I'll sit here and finish this letter to you. As this year winds down and I look back on all that has happened, I feel quite optimistic about what is to come in the next few years. Yes, yes, much of it looks dark and we hear about fears of conflicts, financial woes and the like (Merry Christmas!), but if we look beneath the surface, then another picture emerges, and we will touch on some of that later in this letter. The Sagittarian interval each year should always bring a hopeful and optimistic message, since Jupiter rules the sign. It is a time of giving thanks, of looking forward instead of back, of spiritual increase leading into the initiatory phase of Capricorn through Pisces, and of thinking of the goals for the next period to come.

**Why do I feel optimistic** about the next years, then, you might ask? I enjoy investigating things and problem solving, and when I look at what confronts us in these times, I see something different from the fear and loathing we see so often in media, blogs and posts. I see a common humanity

rising up and thumbing a collective nose at the entrenched power bases in the world. This causes a predictable reaction in the status quo, in that measures are introduced in order to maintain the old order. This is what we see with measures being attempted in governments and corporate-controlled media the world over to ‘maintain order’ and to label anything outside conventional narratives and media as false, conspiratorial or of ‘foreign influence’. But on the whole we humans always ultimately overcome those things. Light in this little globe of ours is increasing, and the next year – the Year of the Mountain Dog – will illustrate this to a pronounced degree. We will see it in strong earth-related activities. In fact, the earth element will be overly powerful in 2018, denoting probably increased volcanic and seismic activity, stubbornness in world leaders as well as increasing suppressive measures, and a general reticence about moving forward in every sphere. Take it as a sign of success for the masses. Excess earth is associated with circumspection, and we will see this in the economy, too, as a little peek forward. In all, it will be a very Saturn-based year, because in Chinese astrology Saturn is known as the ‘Earth Planet’, referring to the element. But in this letter we are discussing Sagittarius, ruled by Jupiter in the traditional measure.

**Sagittarius is known for its optimism** because of its Jupiterian influence. Its natives are generally expansive in their thinking, balk at restrictions, enjoy exploring all manner of matters philosophical and in general like to have a wide view of things. Sagittarius transmits the energy of the star Betelgeuse<sup>2</sup> ( $\alpha$  Orionis), a red supergiant star, the right shoulder of Orion, the Hunter. Betelgeuse is called a ‘runaway star’, meaning that it was hurled out of its stellar association and is now hurtling through space at a high velocity – somewhat reminiscent of our Sagittarian friends, as a suggestive image. Due to the Jupiterian influence, Sagittarians tend not to do things in half-measures, and the grandiose or the quickest schemes have the greatest of appeal to them. They are a restless lot, and are always in pursuit of the latest and greatest, always with a well-defined goal in mind. As a result, they are frequently people of wide experience and achieve much in life. Ruling the ninth house of the natural zodiac, the sign is associated with academic achievement, philosophy, the judiciary, wide travels, large tomes in literature and international affairs. There is somewhat the suggestion of the ‘prodigal son’ with this sign: leaving the father’s house, wandering in search of self and meaning, only to return home in the end enriched by experience and much wiser for it, having seen their misgivings and the wisdom of those who came before them. And this brings us to the more esoteric side of the sign.

**The Age of Sagittarius** was when the first human qualities became evident in the animal life at the time, some 21 million years ago.<sup>3</sup> The human soul took form in the Earth humanity at that time, but it was not registered in the infant human minds then: “The sons of God shot forth like arrows from the bow. The forms received the impulse and lo! a God was born. The tiny babe knew not the great event.”<sup>4</sup> And thus the journey of Earth’s humanity began. We have been wandering about in this earthly existence since then, in the past squandering the spiritual gifts with which we were born in humanity’s infancy, slowly learning, to the point now where we are beginning to reclaim our spiritual birthright and become fully conscious that we are, indeed, gods, speaking of humanity as a collective here. On the path of return ‘to the father’s house’, many mistakes are made, to be sure, but in the parable the father never condemns and always eventually welcomes the son back to the family fold with open arms. Both Buddhism and Christianity have their parables of the prodigal son. Of course, every sign fits this story in some way, but it has a particular resonance with Sagittarius, because in Sagittarius (archetypally) we find the doorway or the path that opens back to the heaven worlds from which we were born – ‘the father’s home’.

**Sagittarius marks a particular stage** on the spiritual path, wherein there is such an intensity of focus that nothing can forestall one breaking through into the light of the higher worlds. Once a glimpse of those worlds is glimpsed, then there is no stopping the aspiring one from attaining the requisite initiation, represented by Capricorn, thus flooding the entire lower nature with the light divine. “...Upon the flight of the arrow, the man reaches Capricorn.”<sup>5</sup> The motto of Sagittarius then

sounds out: “I see the goal. I reach the goal and see another.”<sup>6</sup> To explain, Sagittarius marks the stage in meditation of the first union of calm abiding with insight. This is where we see the completion of the antahkarana, or rainbow bridge connecting the personality with the higher Self. Sagittarius marks a precise stage of equipoise, as we also see in Libra, although different. The aim here is different than from that of Libra. In Libra the effort is toward a balanced approach and a reversal of past tendencies. In Sagittarius the effort is toward achievement through one-pointed effort. Sagittarius is called the ‘one-pointed disciple’ for this reason. The mind becomes like an arrow, shot out toward specific goals, with a clear and steady aim.<sup>7</sup> Sagittarius in this vein thus gives a very potent determination to succeed above the odds. Sagittarius governed the subjective approach of the appearance of the human kingdom,<sup>8</sup> and on the path back to our divine nature, it also governs the nature of the path of subjective return. Thus the cycle is fulfilled.

**Initiation:** We are apt to think (if we think on such matters) that initiation is an end result, but in effect, it only begins a process of rapid attainment – the attainment of our god-like qualities. That process is fully engaged in Capricorn (archetypally, again), whereas Sagittarius gives us all the tools to get there and beyond. When we achieve a spiritual attainment (a lower or higher power, or *siddhi*), we really do acknowledge the power and feel that sense of achievement. That applies also to worldly achievements. But after a time we realize that such a thing is not enough. It becomes a dead end and we sense the need to shoot for another goal. For example, we may achieve clairvoyance or one of the other lower powers, and it is good for a time. But it only gets us so far and it is not the end goal. The same is true if we achieve material wealth. It is nice to have the money and the things, but eventually we see that it is an empty pursuit. It brings no peace of mind, no sense of lasting happiness, and thus we start to seek something else to fill the void. For materially focused people this means amassing more and more wealth, or the latest tech, or whatever. But it is never enough. Momentary satisfaction does not equate with contentment of mind. It is the same spiritually until we get past the personality in total. Even after that, there are what are called ‘the subtle obscurations to omniscience’, and these relate to the higher Self.

**Esoterically Sagittarius** is ruled by the Earth, meaning that attainment must be made while in the physical body and while living a worldly life. In its highest rulership it is ruled by Mars, the warrior – in this case the archer – who courageously faces every and any obstacle to reunion with one’s divine essence.<sup>9</sup> Whenever Sagittarius is emphasized in a horoscope, especially through the Sun or ascendant, it is an indication that at least one of the main goals for that life is the reorientation towards a “higher goal and with the unfoldment of some basic and directing purpose”.<sup>10</sup> There is a great intensity of idealism with any spiritually-focused Sagittarian, as transmitted by the Mars rulership over the sign. As such, it is thus a sign that instills rapid development because the distant goal is seen clearly and, although not yet attained, the path forward is laid clear. So, with the Sagittarius interval each year we find the need to reorient ourselves toward some higher perspective, the renew our sense of aspiring toward what is best in life, toward liberating ourselves others from what holds us back from those ideals and on finding the goals needed for humanity to make progress on its way forward. It is a sign that instills quickening along one’s path and which should inspire us toward achieving what is best in and for all of us. With that, what do we see with the full moon of the Sagittarian interval this year?

[The full moon](#) takes place on 3 Dec 2017 at 15:47 UT (2:47 AM AEDT on the 4<sup>th</sup>). The full moon axis this festival forms a t-square with the dwarf planet Orcus, now at 10° Virgo. Orcus is an interesting little planet (aren’t they all?), and we have looked somewhat at it before. With the Sagittarius interval it comes as a particular point of emphasis, though, because Orcus has a special relationship with ideals, the promises we make with respect to those ideals and keeping ourselves on the path. Sagittarius, having a close relationship with religion, is aided by Orcus, or hindered by it, depending on how one uses the energy of religion or spirituality. Orcus acts like a kind of drill instructor, keeping us on track and focused as to our sense of higher purpose. Most people who have studied Orcus or use it somewhat with astrology know the planet and the god in relation to the

keeping of vows, and there is a relationship there. However, Orcus is also involved in schisms, and we see these whenever a religion, group or spiritual focus of any type falls short of the ideal upon which it is founded. We could go into a long piece of history here, but the point to be made is that Orcus has been implicated in most of the major religious and spiritual schisms in recent history. And we are being prepared for another one. Just look at what we see going on around us with regard to fundamentalism in the world's religions, especially in Christianity, Islam and the lower practices of Buddhism. We will cover some of this in a bit.

Other than Orcus with the full moon, we also see another t-square of the full moon axis on the other side with Neptune, thus forming a great cross with Orcus. This again powerfully highlights idealism and ideals. Mars also forms a 'finger of the world' pattern with Mars at the apex, the Moon and Neptune forming the base square, and with Uranus near the midpoint of the square, and thus the pattern for shifting of astral energies – intense idealism, patriotism, nationalism, separatism, and indeed all sorts of 'isms' – is set. What happens as a result of the energies that are invoked at this full moon will have carry-on effects into the new year, especially with regard to the Middle East, where the situation has become even more unstable than usual. And as if this was not enough, Mars is semisquare the Sun, opposite Uranus, the latter being semisquare the Moon, and we thus have the formation of a 'hard rectangle'. With the involvement of Uranus we have the action of a saving force and the need for new orders to be formed. These energies are somewhat moderated by Uranus being trine to a Mercury/Saturn conjunction, which forms an 'easy opposition' with the full moon axis. Ceres is conjunct the north node, both in a wide trine to the Sun, and we may also see women as a moderating force in world affairs. As an example, both of the major political parties in the US are lobbying women strongly to run for office in the midterm elections in the coming year. And lastly, Jupiter is trine to Neptune, either adding to the energy of the great cross, or releasing the wisdom of its tension. There is a great blessing hidden in this chart aside from all the tension, and events will be precipitated from it over time as a result which will bring conflicting forces into face-offs with one another.

**And then, there is Saturn**, which enters Capricorn for the first time this generation a couple of weeks after the full moon, which will happen just before the Capricorn ingress, or December solstice. Since the next full moon takes place in 2018, it will pay us to have a brief look at that ingress figure and Saturn ingress, keeping the Saturn ingress into Capricorn in mind for later. The solar ingress of Capricorn takes place on 21 Dec at 16:28 UT (3:28 AM AEDT on the 22<sup>nd</sup>). The Sun will be partile to Saturn on that day – a most auspicious influence and indicative of a world opportunity, for Saturn always represents opportunities in esoteric astrology, plus that fact it takes place on a world view point, and also because Saturn rules Capricorn. The next quarter (Capricorn – Pisces) will thus highlight serious matters that must be addressed, karmic imperatives, the actions of conservative forces, and probably financial troubles. Saturn transiting through Capricorn often brings financial downturns. The Sun/Saturn conjunction in that figure is conjunct Venus and trine to Uranus, further adding to opportunities and additionally pointing to financial affairs. In traditional astrology the Sun with Saturn represents depressing influences and restrictions, as well as powerful, determined or even ruthless people. But on the whole, with the Venusian and Uranian influences, this indicates karma coming to light, determination, focus on problems, and absorption in challenges. And this immediately brings us to Saudi Arabia. Why, one might ask?

**Saudi Arabia** has been in the news quite a bit lately, given the coups and counter-coups taking place there now and in the past couple of years. This is an important situation to be considered from the standpoint of world affairs, and to hear about it in the Western media, one fails to grasp what is going on there or the potential gravity of it. In point of fact, it is actually quite a story, if not confusing, but it could have potentially drastic carry-on effects if things go awry, which they may well do. It is quite an involved story and would take some time to unravel, so we can only touch on the highlights here. There are several charts about for Saudi Arabia, but the one I have found to be

most indicative is the [sunset chart for 22 Sep 1932](#). In the Arabic calendar, the day begins at sunset the Gregorian date before. I will be very interested to see if this chart plays out with the ingress figure, because in the Saudi sunset chart the Midheaven is at zero Capricorn, conjunct the Sun/Saturn of the December ingress figure. The Saudis have certainly affected the world view strongly in the past decades, mainly through oil and through financing of extremism.

**The current Saudi ‘situation’** began in earnest around the time of the Las Vegas shootings in October. Call it conspiracy if you like, but there is some evidence that the Las Vegas attacks were actually a cover for an assassination attempt on the Saudi prince Mohammed bin Salman, who was rumored to be in Las Vegas on the day of the Vegas shooting. So, what was happening astrologically? On Oct 1, Mars was conjunct the Saudi south node – ‘quarrels within the kingdom’ – and there were transits of Venus, Jupiter and Uranus to Saturn, the ruler of the Saudi 10<sup>th</sup> house (the ruling party). With Venus and Jupiter aiding the ruler of the realm, the coup attempt was bound to fail, which it did, if it happened that way, but if so it has precipitated the purge we see going on in the Saudi kingdom now, with the arrests of 11 princes and many prominent leaders in the kingdom. This is reminiscent of the recent coup attempt in Turkey and the purge that is still taking place there. The Saudi kingdom is in a process of restructuring its government, not in terms of its basic structure, but in terms of who rules.

There are various factions within the Saudi hierarchy, all of whom vie for position, and it is largely a family affair. There are around 2,000 Saudi family members who control the power and wealth in the country, out of a total number of around 15,000.<sup>11</sup> Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy, and rulership takes place by accession to the throne. But given the breadth of the families and their interconnections there is quite a bit that can happen and power bases can shift, as we are seeing now. The present ruler, King Salman, acceded to the throne in January of 2015 after the death of his half-brother. He was quick to appoint one of his sons, Mohammed bin Salman (hereafter referred to as MBS) as the successor to the throne upon his death, and has given MBS sweeping powers within the kingdom. This has not been viewed with favor by many within the kingdom, and MBS has made many powerful enemies as a result of the way things are being handled.

**Saudi Arabia faces many challenges**, both from within and outside the kingdom. Its economy is in real trouble due to low oil prices, there is a huge disparity in wealth between the common people and the royal family, it is fighting a losing war in Yemen, its Syrian policy of destabilizing that country has failed with the defeat of Daesh, and it sees the rise of Iranian influence in the region as a real threat. It should be noted that many of the people caught up in the recent purge are Wahabist (the main extremist group in the country), many of them had actually opposed the Syrian intervention and the blockade of Qatar, and their wealth is largely being confiscated to go into propping up the flagging Saudi economy. And added to this, there was a little-known plan put forward early this century by neocon (aka Zionist<sup>12</sup>) interests in the US aimed at breaking up the Saudi kingdom into four distinct regions, and this may also be part of what is behind the moves toward alliance with Israel after the failed Kurdish independence referendum in northern Iraq, which had aimed at breaking up Turkey.<sup>13</sup> People actually think this way, with no concern for the masses it may affect. If you like a good conspiracy, this situation has it all. Got all that?

Having said all this, unless one listens to Arabic commentary on these matters – people who are well familiar with Saudi Arabia and the Middle East – only a partial picture can be had as to what is happening in the region now. MBS is seen in the West as either being a shrewd operator or as a hopeless, inexperienced wannabe power player in the region. The consensus of opinion I have heard voiced in the Arab world is that these moves by MBS are a consolidation of his power base, little more, which is the usual state of things when power shifts within monarchies, and they are seen as moves of desperation. He does not have long to act until he experiences push-back from within the kingdom, and unless he can make a bold move and shore up his power base he will likely be

deposed before too long. His biggest enemies in this regard are his youth and inexperience, the desperate state of a large sector of the Saudi populace due to the economic woes of the country and endemic corruption and nepotism. And perhaps his biggest help in this is his youth and focus he can bring to bear. He is also making overtures to China and Russia, especially with regard to selling shares of the Saudi oil giant Aramco, which US interests hope will come to them, modernizing the kingdom and moving away from the oil economy. Relations between the Saudis and the US have had a bumpy path in recent years, and that brings us to the real worry with regard to what is happening in the kingdom now, which relates to oil and the world economy.

**What would happen** if the price of a barrel of oil suddenly doubled or tripled? And also, if the largest oil consumer in the world, China, ceased trading oil in dollars? To start, gas/petrol prices would spike, we could see at least temporary gas shortages (shades of the 1970s), the economies of the US and other Western countries would take a big hit, and the most vulnerable in those countries would suffer inordinately – especially given the way right wing governments are taking funding away from social programs. This is not to be alarmist. But still, if a larger regional conflict erupts in the Middle East between Iran and Saudi Arabia, also involving Israel, then the oil taps could be shut off rather quickly or throttled down to raise oil prices, which would go toward funding their conflicts. Yes, it is a dark picture, but with enough in the way of statesmanship it does not need to come to that. But what we see with MBS and Saudi Arabia is a worried and desperate leadership. Thus, we see them turning toward unlikely avenues for alliances, as with Israel (of all countries), Russia and China. The problem there is that Iran has also been pushed toward Russia and China in recent years. It is a very fascinating, if not concerning situation.

However, it seems that no matter which way the Saudis turn, they seem to shoot themselves in the feet. By turning toward Israel as a hedge against Iran, they delegitimize their leadership in the Arab world, especially with regard to the Palestinian situation. If they abandon the Palestinians or sideline them by aligning with Israel, they will lose face with their neighboring nations, and Iran will have a greater leverage against them. The recent resignation of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri while in Saudi Arabia is a case in point. That episode has greatly angered the Lebanese and others in the Arab world. It was meant to destabilize Lebanon, to weaken Hezbollah and thus isolate Iran. That move has failed, at least for now. With finger-pointing and sabre rattling toward Iran and Hezbollah, the Saudis only push Iran further toward China and Russia, remembering that both Saudi Arabia and Iran are Asian nations. It is hardly surprising to see them turning toward their home base and away from the West. But a just solution to the Palestinian plight is seen as a must by the Islamic world if there is to be any true peace in the region, and Israel seems ill-disposed to even lean toward a solution, especially with the present government there. What the Zionists in Israel, the US and the UK seem to want instead is a sort of hegemony in the region. But the Saudis feel penned-in by Iran and Hezbollah (which is part of the political system in Lebanon), hence they turn to Israel for a solution, as they see them as an ally in a common cause. It is the sort of thinking that echoes, “The enemy of my enemy is my friend.” So, we have a real mess in the Middle East now, with no clear outcome.

**Here are a few points, though:**

- Daesh has basically been defeated in Syria and Iraq. Syria is now looking at ceasing military operations and looking toward political solutions. That is a cause for celebration. A major neocon/Zionist program has been stymied as a result.
- With the failure of the Kurdish independence referendum in Iraq, Turkey can breathe a little easier, as the Kurds are in a weaker position now. It remains to be seen what the US will do with the Kurds it still backs in Syria, but Assad will probably reach out to the Kurds.
- The proxy war in Syria that was backed by the Saudis, the US, Israelis and Turks is rapidly winding down, which also means that the migrant crisis from Syria is rapidly coming to an

end. The backers of the rebel forces against the Syrian government have failed in their efforts to oust Assad and create a failed Syrian state. This goes back to the first point.

- Hezbollah is now battle-hardened with its experience in Syria and presents an even more resistant hedge against Israeli incursion into Lebanon. Israel is now not so likely to fight a war with the Lebanese without help from other nations.
- Russia has emerged as a key player and power broker in the Middle East – and a very trusted one at that – and this is at the root of much of the anti-Russian hysteria we see in the Western media. Any rise in influence by Russia is seen with great alarm in Washington.
- Iran has also seen its position strengthened in the Middle East, too, as a result of its support for Assad and the fight against Daesh – and this is at the root of the anti-Iranian hysteria in the US, Israel and Saudi Arabia especially, with their demonization of Iran and Hezbollah.

**A big question on everyone's minds**, then, is whether there be a regional war in the Middle East, one that could precipitate a much bigger world conflict? From what I can see, the tide has turned in the Middle East, and we are seeing a pivot away from the West, most especially away from the US, and this is a big worry for Israel, who depends upon the US for its security, and for the factions in the US who want the US to remain the sole world superpower. I do not necessarily see a war there – maybe a smaller conflict, like a flash point, but nothing more. The more concerning trend would be constant low-level conflicts that keep the region on edge and destabilized, which would be easy to do. This brings us back to Saudi Arabia again, and the sunset chart for that nation.

Considering this full moon and the ingress figure, what we are more likely to see in the intervening period is a fracturing in Saudi Arabia – a schism between its factions – though not necessarily a fracturing of the country. If the sunset chart proves out, then the Saudis will have reached a pinnacle in their current history at the end of this year, to begin a steady decline thereafter as Saturn moves through to their ascendant in the intervening years. Saturn through the 10<sup>th</sup> house typically speaks of consolidation of gains made instead of expansive plans forward. If MBS tries to exert force outside the Saudi borders, he is not likely to be successful. He would be better advised to consolidate his power within the country and reform it in the next years. And, if he escalates too much with respect to Iran, then he puts the Saudi oil fields at risk. The main Shia contingent in that nation is around the Dammam Dome, their main oil reserves, and where the last Saudi rebellion took place. Of course, Saturn transits happen every 29 years or so.

**Saturn at the Saudi midheaven** the last time was in 1988, just prior to the first Gulf War against Iraq. Saudi Arabia was riding high in world esteem, and American and coalition jets were launched against Iraq from Saudi air bases. But there were many in the Arab world who resented the American presence on Saudi soil. When Saturn dipped down to the ascendant King Fahd had a stroke and had to turn over leadership to Crown Prince Abdullah for a short time. In 1960, with Saturn just past the Midheaven, the Saudis became founding members of OPEC. In 1964, with Saturn in the 12<sup>th</sup> house, King Saud was deposed by his brother Faisal. So, the chart appears to have merit. As with everything in astrology, there is always ebb and flow according to the cycles of the planets. If the pattern holds, then MBS may have some things with which to reckon in the kingdom when Saturn dips to the ascendant again in 2025. Of course, quite a lot can happen between now and then. So, we will have to wait and see with regard to the Middle East and Saudi Arabia. Much of the rhetoric coming out of Israel, the US and Saudi Arabia now with respect to Iran and Hezbollah plays more to domestic politics than representing an actual threat. Playing to the fears of citizens and to nationalism keeps leaders in power and keeps the arms trade going. So, we can leave MBS and Saudi Arabia now and move on to happier places, like Zimbabwe.

**Zimbabwe**, starting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month, experienced a coup, during which president Robert Mugabe was deposed as leader after 37 years in power in Zimbabwe, then refused to resign and now faces impeachment.<sup>14</sup> [Zimbabwe](#) gained its independence on 18 Apr 1980, midnight, Harare.<sup>15</sup>

It was formerly known as Rhodesia under British rule. Mugabe was its first prime minister, acceding to the presidency in 1987. As of this writing he has signed a deal wherein he will be assured of immunity if he resigns. During his 37 years of rule, the country has experienced a terrible economic crisis, exacerbated by Mugabe's stirring the pot of race relations against the whites in that country. The coup was based on two factors: Mugabe's wife (Grace) who was being groomed to take over leadership, and the economic plight of the people of Zimbabwe, who had had enough, as well as the military. On 15 Nov he was placed under house arrest by the military, after which he resigned.

There is good reason for Zimbabweans to celebrate Mugabe's removal, since he was a brutal dictator, known for his paranoia. His government was also quite corrupt. He was removed by members of his own party backed by the military, triggered by his talk of his wife, Grace Mugabe, taking over leadership of the party and the country. That was the final straw. Zimbabweans are now marching in the streets in their thousands, hugging soldiers, waving Zimbabwean flags and looking forward to a brighter future. At the time of the coup, Venus – representing Mugabe as ruler of the Zimbabwe 10<sup>th</sup> house – was receiving solar arcs from Saturn and Neptune, signaling his demise. Further, Zimbabwe's Aries Sun was also receiving solar arcs from those planets. The Sun rules Zimbabwe's 7<sup>th</sup> house (rule of law and legal matters), as well as representing leaders in general. Pluto also made a solar arc to Mars, ruler of the 4<sup>th</sup> house (the homeland and infrastructure), indicating the end of an era for the Zimbabwean homeland. So far it has been a good outcome and relatively peaceful. Zimbabweans certainly deserve much better than what they have had for the past few decades. The farmers in Zimbabwe who were displaced by Mugabe are now doing quite well in other parts of Africa, along with many of their former Zimbabwean workers, and they are actually selling food back to Zimbabwe, whose agricultural sector was decimated by Mugabe's 'reforms'.<sup>16</sup> Maybe even in the future they will be allowed to return and renew Zimbabwe's food supply. Who can say? There are now government plans to return farms that were taken from farmers to their former owners, but things are moving very slowly on that front.<sup>17</sup> But Zimbabwe now faces many possibilities in the way forward.

**Turning to Australia**, there was the referendum on gay marriage, speaking of Saturn going into Capricorn. Australia is a Capricorn nation, and also in its synthetic personality expression.<sup>18</sup> As was recently recounted by a friend of mine, the result of the referendum was not so much a vote about whether or not same-sex couples should be able to marry, but was rather a vote about personal freedom and tolerance in an otherwise 'hidebound country'. Still, even though it was not a compulsory vote, 80% of the voter base cast their ballot, with around 60% approving. Now it goes to the legislature. In Australia, too, people were dancing in the streets after the referendum was announced. And we also see the constitutional crisis still going on there, too, stirred by the dual citizenship scandal in the government. As one American journalist stated the matter, "Is it possible for a constitutional crisis to be funny? I give you Australia."<sup>19</sup> I have to smile, being a dual citizen myself, one of those being Australian. And what was the main astrological indicator for these, one might ask? – Uranus making its retrograde station on the [Australian 'swearing in' chart](#).<sup>20</sup> Both of the events – the crisis and the referendum – came to pass at around the same time, within a few weeks of each other, with the station taking place on 4/5 of August, having been within orb since mid-July. And Saturn will make its first touch on Australia's Saturn return at the end of February in the nation's 9<sup>th</sup> house (the judiciary), so we can expect to see some significant rulings on the aforesaid matters then, if not before that time.

**Moves toward freedom of choice:** In ending, then, we see moves toward freedom of choice, freedom from oppression, moves away from old economic models which have given wealth only to the few in the past few decades, moves toward new economic systems, protest votes (like Brexit, Trump, etc.) against established orders. People are fed up and are voting with their feet. They want their freedom, preservation of their cultures (which will be part of the eventual new world order), an

end to war, a good life for their descendants, etc., etc. This is all correct and good, even though it may not be expressed in the most helpful manner sometimes. And in the midst of this, we might well ask what we can do to aid the empowerment of the average citizen. It involves the bringing of greater light into the minds of citizens everywhere, and the dissipation of the glammers that sway us constantly to make the wrong choices concerning our collective destiny. What we mean by glammers here are the knee-jerk reactions, the fears, the prejudices and host of other emotional reactions to people and groups in every walk of humanity that cause a person to see them as ‘the other’, as somehow mistaken or to cause one to feel a sense of superiority over other people. The latter is borne out of a sense of inferiority, actually. What this means is that we must somehow raise the level of conversation between people, finding common ground, presenting people with sound information from many sources – unfiltered information – and withstand attempts at censorship. All points of view are needed, but more than that, the need is for a calm center in the midst of all the strong emotion we see from people.

**Moves we see toward censorship** and/or sidelining of the media, of discordant opinions on public platforms, of suppressing protest, etc., are signs of the growing concern the old orders have of their being deposed. Opposition to those moves by thinking people everywhere must be increased if we are to avoid a repeat of what we saw prior to the last great war. There is a concerted attempt now to stifle dissent and honest discussion. This is anathema to the human spirit. We see it in the recent labeling of the Russian-backed network RT America as a foreign agent by the US government, the attempt to disband the network Al Jazeera by the Saudis, in internet companies like Google, YouTube and Facebook pulling posts and videos that are deemed ‘offensive’ or too controversial, and the list goes on. We might not agree with the views being stated, but if we cannot face opposing views and think for ourselves, then the battle for human progress at present is lost, or at least deferred. In a final note about Sagittarius, above all else, the Sagittarian loves the truth and the search for the highest in all things. It stands for the judicious use of knowledge and for vigorous discourse – the fearless facing of truth and the ruthless discarding of everything that stands in the way of that truth. We need that fearlessness now in the face of the factions who seek to keep us in darkness and divided against each other. However, if we could see it and recognize the fear that we are causing for the established orders, then perhaps we can see cause for celebration, too, for we are succeeding. We simply need to keep up the pressure. Let our struggle proceed undismayed.

Holiday blessings,

Malvin

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24 Nov 2017

These letters are sent as a service. If you wish to be added to the mailing list, let me know, or subscribe from the email header. Feel free to pass them along if you feel so inspired.

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<sup>1</sup> Hermann Karl Hesse (1877 – 1962) German-born poet, novelist, and painter. His major works – *Demian*, *Steppenwolf*, *Siddhartha*, *The Glass Bead Game* – explored the individual's quest for spirituality, authenticity and self-knowledge. The quote is from: Miguel Serrano, *C.G. Jung and Hermann Hesse: A Record of Two Friendships* (1966), p. 10

<sup>2</sup> Bailey, Alice A, *The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 427

<sup>3</sup> Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic*, p. 441

<sup>4</sup> Op cit.

<sup>5</sup> Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 61

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p. 441

<sup>7</sup> Bailey, *The Destiny of the Nations*, p. 86

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, p. 64

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, p. 68

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, p. 178

<sup>11</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House\\_of\\_Saud](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Saud)

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<sup>12</sup> The secular militant, separatist group that wears the mask of Judaism. Closely allied with corporate interests and power brokers in the US and UK.

<sup>13</sup> <https://defence.pk/pdf/threads/the-plan-to-split-saudi-arabia-into-four-regions.528268/>

<sup>14</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017\\_Zimbabwean\\_coup\\_d%27%C3%A9tat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Zimbabwean_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat)

<sup>15</sup> Campion, *The Book of World Horoscopes*, (Second Edition, 1996), p. 448

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5\\_Ym0M31MpE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_Ym0M31MpE)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7ua4VIVbNY>

<sup>18</sup> Bailey, *Destiny of the Nations*, p. 68

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/04/opinion/australia-parliament-citizenship.html>

<sup>20</sup> <http://aliceportman.com/australias-birth-chart/>

Further info: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxwT2MSNbyk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RYSw3tfGzw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWVfwOCzDZ0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkXyWPVkcqg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P92DfU2nqSk>