

Uranus:

Individualism and Group Mind

— *the Paradox*



Image is of a false color enhancement of Uranus and its Ring System.
(Its larger moons are seen around the edges of the rings.)

—NASA, Pioneer mission



Apparently smooth surface of Uranus; image from NASA.

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References:

Books and Periodicals

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Wilson, Colin, “The Outsider,” 1982. J.P. Tarcher, LA, USA.
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Other

- Various internet sites (when noted, includes web address). Physical data from NASA sites.
Main astrological program: IO Astrology

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I must create my own System or be enslaved by another man's.

My business is not to reason and compare; my business is to create.

—William Blake, *Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, collected works.*

Introduction: Background

I am White Light — broken into the Colors of the Rainbow —I am many, yet I am One...

I shatter forms... to make new forms.

"You can't make an omlette without breaking eggs." (Unk.)

The Awakener/Prometheus,
Rebel/Iconoclast/Revolutionary/Reformer,
Outsider/Outcast/Scientist/Inventor,
“Stranger in a Strange Land”

This program will begin to describe the peculiar energies that the astrologer calls “Uranian.” For ease of pronunciation and minimizing confusion, I will use this pronunciation as a “sure-fire” way to avoid embarrassment: YOUR-n-us, with the emphasis on the first syllable. I think you’ll find it helpful.

In the handout, I’ve included a section on the physical characteristics of YOUR-n-us—such as we currently know them—and comparisons with the other “gas giants.”

A) its remarkable axial tilt, its virtually nondescript and misleadingly bland appearance, and so on;

B) extensive moon system (20 moons—5 major and 15 minor moons, see Data Section) and ring system making YOUR-n-us look rather like a bull’s eye (it has been noted by other observers...)

C) miscellaneous information readily gleaned from that immense and varied library that is the Internet; e.g., it distinguishes itself among the gas giants as being the coldest.

From Earth, if your eyes are very, very keen and you are far from city lights on a hilltop, and it’s late summer (as Uranus

*Footnote: Cited from, “The Outsider,” by Colin Wilson



is transiting through the last degrees of Aquarius and will soon enter Pisces), you might just make out a faint greenish orb. But for most of us, Uranus cannot be seen with the naked eye.

Uranus was discovered on March 13, 1781 by William Herschel (see Uranus Discovery Chart, obtained from *The Mountain Astrologer*, Feb/Mar 2003 issue, #107. *The Mountain Astrologer* made preparing this presentation a little easier for me!)

This discovery was “right on time” for the Revolutionary Wars of America and France and the Scientific Revolution, coming after the Era of Discovery/Exploration/(Exploitation). Exploration opened the way for the Scientific Method—of peering into very large places with telescopes and very small places with an increasingly powerful set of lenses.

Discovered when transiting through the tropical sign of Gemini, it has completed only 2.6 revolutions around the Sun since then. What amazing changes (and heartaches) have come about in its wake...

Quick summary of some of the physical information of importance to astrologers:

- 84-year orbit around the sun; $84/12 = 7$ years/sign
- 7 year segments mark significant periods of change in our lives: 7, 14, 21, 28, 35, 42, 49, 56, 63, 70, etc.

Astrological/Social Significance

It is and probably always has been a feature of astrologers to look at a new celestial object “in situ,” i.e., to look at the surrounding events and circumstances that accompany a major discovery. With YOUR-n-us, there certainly seemed to be no lack of “revolutionary” things going on! However, it is always helpful to question our assumptions from time to time. So, in the next section, we’ll look at KEYWORDS/phrases and the charts of people I felt have a particular resonance with Uranian energy—the energy of :

fracturing • splintering • cracking • breaking apart

RE-words, such as : RE-vision, RE-formation, RE-configuring, RE-structuring, RE-focus, RE-fining—

On Human terms, Uranian energy is very hard to deal with! It is the first major trans-Saturnian planet (exempting for a time the “maverick,” Chiron) — so its domains transcend the usual bounds of both our private and public or social lives. It is also quite indifferent to many of our treasured icons and inimical to the *status quo*.

Yet astrologers were fairly quick to state that the major planet Uranus is a co-ruler of Aquarius. Why? This is the beginning of a paradoxical condition for us astrologers—and this presentation.

Uranian energy...

1. separates
2. individualizes
3. accentuates the Will

Compare these qualities to those typically associated with Aquarius:

1. group associations are paramount (“peer pressure”)
2. the group *ethos* nurtures or eclipses the individual
3. individual will submerged in larger social/group units or affiliations

Further comparisons can be made from looking at the LEO-AQUARIUS axis and the polarity between the INDIVIDUAL, and a self-chosen GROUP in which the individual finds himself (the male pronoun is easier to use throughout...) Most of the problems associated with assigning Uranus to Aquarius disappear when we realize that as astrologers, we are looking at a composite entity: LEO/AQUARIUS: This IS the AXIS of INDIVIDUALIZATION, with both the Sun and Uranus pouring their energies into us... that we might become greater, more integrated wholes by becoming part of something larger than ourselves.

*No Man Is An Island /...entire of itself; every man is a piece of a Continent, /
a part of the main.”—John Donne (*Devotions*, XVIII)*

And another quote by Donne (*ibid*):

*Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind;
And never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.*

A CASE IN POINT:

PATRICK HENRY

*Give me liberty or
give me death!*



[Information below was obtained from www.pbs.org/patrickhenry, including graphic]

BIRTH DATE: May 29, 1736

BIRTHPLACE: Hanover County, VA

PARENTS: John & Sara Winston Henry

EDUCATION: Educated by his father (including reading Latin). He studied law on his own.

OCCUPATION: Lawyer. Set up private practice in Hanover Courthouse, Virginia, in 1760.

OFFICES HELD:

Delegate, Virginia House of Burgesses, 1765-1775

Member, Virginia Committee of Correspondence, 1773

Delegate, Continental Congress, 1774-1775

Delegate, Virginia Convention, 1776

Governor of Virginia, 1776-1779, 1784-1786

Delegate, Virginia Constitution Ratification Convention, 1788

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Red Hill Plantation

SPOUSE: First wife, Sarah Shelton
Second wife, Dorothea Dandridge

360° MIDPOINT SORT

% 01 T 20	% MC 01 O 45	AS 18 II 49	Ω 03 Δ 57	4 10 ≈ 34
% 02 T 56	% ψ 03 O 00	ψ 21 II 44	ψ 14 Δ 56	4 17 ≈ 18
% 06 T 01	AS/MC 03 O 45	ψ AS 23 II 45	ψ 25 Δ 54	AS/MC 20 ≈ 57
% 09 T 40	% AS 05 O 01	ψ 25 II 25	H 15 M 12	ψ 22 ≈ 12
% 10 T 57	♀ 15 O 22	AS 27 II 26	H 26 M 10	4/MC 27 ≈ 41
% MC 11 T 43	% 23 O 42	AS 29 II 26	Ω 03 A 54	ψ 28 ≈ 57
% 12 T 45	♀ 26 O 47	% 24 S 40	4 10 A 38	% H 05 X 54
% 12 T 59	% ψ 01 II 43	ψ 03 A 00	ψ 14 A 52	MC 08 X 04
% ψ 14 T 37	ψ 02 II 02	ψ 05 A 38	AS/MC 21 A 01	ψ/MC 09 X 20
AS 16 T 38	ψ 05 II 07	ψ 06 A 05	ψ 21 A 36	♂ 10 X 35
% 17 T 41	% ψ 05 II 24	ψ 11 A 00	ψ 22 A 16	% H 14 X 14
% MC 20 T 03	ψ AS 07 II 24	ψ 13 A 58	H 26 A 26	Ω H 17 X 19
% 21 T 19	○ 08 II 13	ψ 14 A 41	ψ 01 O 59	ψ H 22 X 15
% ψ 21 T 22	% ψ 10 II 03	AS 16 A 42	ψ 03 O 15	ψ 24 X 36
% MC 23 T 08	ψ 13 II 08	ψ 17 A 03	ψ 15 O 08	H % 25 X 56
% AS 23 T 22	% ψ 13 II 44	ψ 21 A 59	ψ 21 O 52	
% ψ 24 T 24	ψ AS 15 II 44	ψ 25 A 40	H/MC 02 ≈ 15	
% MC 28 T 04	ψ 16 II 49	AS 27 A 40	ψ 03 ≈ 31	
% ψ 29 T 19	ψ 18 II 03	H AS 27 O 56	○ 03 ≈ 50	

POLITICAL VIEWS: Patrick Henry was a magnificent orator, known for his opposition to the policies and taxes of the British government in the years before the American Revolution. He was one of the most vociferous opponents of the Stamp Act in 1765, and in April of 1775 he mobilized the militia to try to recapture the gunpowder that the British governor, Lord Dunmore, had removed from the Magazine in Williamsburg. This action marked the first armed conflict in Virginia of what would later be called the American Revolution.

Henry vehemently opposed ratification of the United States Constitution during the Virginia Ratification Convention and was largely responsible for the adoption of the Bill of Rights. There was very little about the government the Constitution created that he liked. Fundamental to his objection was his perception that the Constitution threatened individual liberties. He believed that access to power corrupted and that the people must be ever vigilant to preserve their liberty. He also believed that the proposed federal government was too distant and remote to hear truly the people's voices. For Henry, the Constitution seemed tailor-made for abuses of power. In fact, he was so strongly opposed to a strong federal government that he turned down the opportunity to serve in the United States Senate and to serve as secretary of state to President George Washington.

I've taken the "liberty" of noting the energies that flow through his chart, motivating his revolutionary fervor (also see Chart Section): Mars-Uranus-Moon-MC-Sun-Saturn! Freedom craving Moon in Aquarius in the 8th (not a very intimacy-seeking position!) is at the midpoint between Mars/Uranus. Uranus is, according to my definition of a "Uranian signature," see below, is strong by angle—it's conjunct an angle, the descendant, in the naturally independent and freedom seeking sign of Sagittarius. The Uranus/MC midpoint is also conjunct this Moon. This configuration is, indeed, an uncompromising portrait of "Liberty or Death": ("liberty"-Uranus, strong by aspect and angle; "death" as Moon is also heavily configured with the "heavies," Mars and Uranus, and sits in the 8th H. of Death/Transformation in Aquarius. Mars/MC Pisces closely squares the Sun and Saturn in Gemini.

Uranian Signature

In pouring over many, many charts—looking for what I consider to be Uranian hallmarks: (also see "The Outsider")—I feel that the following might be a good rule of thumb: Uranian energy exaggerates the tendency towards Conformity or Separation (along the AQUARIUS-LEO axis).

A) Placed on an angle and/or with hard (the conjunction and 90/180/150, 45, 8th harmonic) aspects bring out the Iconoclastic flavor of Uranus: kicking over the traces, replacing traditional values with newly minted ones;

B) Soft (60/120, 3rd- 6th harmonics) aspects without other supporting outer planet contacts, tend more towards ultra-conformity or submerged self-in-group and dogged determination to maintain traditional values.

The questions I've been trying to answer for myself have to do with the choices we make in using this difficult energy. We MAY choose to start a revolution, or we MAY choose to adhere to a generally commonly accepted norm.

Uranian Energy in the Chart

(Looking through a mirror cracked...)

...IN ELEMENTS

Fire:

Most pronounced emphasis on the Individual — AS I WILL/THINK

Search for the Self — Self-actualizing/realizing — Self-projecting

Earth:

Emphasis on Creating/Discovering I WILL CHANGE OR BUILD NEW THINGS —

Discovering Fundamentals — Tinkering/Reforming Structures — Creating new structures

Air:

Fuels the fires of the Mind that generate Actions — AS I THINK I AM / WHO AM I REALLY?

"As I think, so I am.../" I am aware of your behavior and manners/ I notice how different/similar we are;
— Actualizing Self at the Group or Tribal level

Water:

Emotion/Motion/Mystery and Alchemy of Creating — AS I IMAGINE

Water seeks its own level, as always — Looks to find a "True Family" — to liberate Unconscious or Hidden Realities

...IN SIGNS

Once we begin to get an understanding of Uranian energy through the elements, it is relatively easy to follow it through the signs, as the three modes are "simply" different forms of the same energy.

However, as the Planet of Groups/Individuation will shift signs on March 10, 2003, I will spend some time describing and listing what I think will be significant areas of emergence:

PISCES PREVIEW

In Pisces, the dark and voiceless will have a blazingly bright but cold light shined on it (Mar. 10, 2003-May 29, 2010 (when it enters Aries, retrogrades for a bit, and finally leaves Pisces on Mar. 13, 2011].

- Psychic phenomena of all kinds should increase Shared dreams may become more commonplace; revelations and opening up of deeper layers of the unconscious mind.
- Emotions become both more chaotic and reordered! (Especially when Saturn, also due to change signs soon, moves into Cancer.) *Reason and logic* tend to become casualties, though, as our emotional selves demand more room, elbowing out those more banal, mundane *facts*.
- Art/dance/poetry/films/religion are due for either additional shaking up or even more radical change than we've seen yet.; trends toward exotic or bizarre fashions. Religion, again, will be heavily influenced, as there will be strong challenges from Pluto still transiting through Sagittarius.
- More erosion of governmental structures/bureaucracy, as these too, come under a continued pounding from Pluto/Uranus tension that approaches the square (June 27, 2008, when both are retrograde at about 6° apart).
- Pisces is also associated with oil/drugs/medicines so either difficult developments along these lines (i.e., faulty vaccinations, oil spills, etc.) or startling "breakthroughs"!

But rather than trying to exhaust all the possibilities, take a look at the last time Uranus transited Pisces: 1919–1926... a time of poor governmental decisions, such as Prohibition. That decision alone created the conditions for gangsterism, i.e., "organized crime," and J. Edgar Hoover's "untouchable empire of secret knowledge" about the weaknesses of those he considered worthy of his attention, especially politicians. It was, however, a very colorful and flamboyant era sparkling with cinematic heroes and villains, and wildly exotic clothing, dance, jazz...

THE WATERS WILL CERTAINLY BE SWIRLING and our gazing pool may reveal "monsters from the deep," or we may not be able see clearly at all.

Focus on Pisces' strengths: devotion/faith/concern for the forsaken/creativity... We should be able to awaken new forms of art-music-poetry-dance as well as see humanitarian reforms come into being. Through this coming period of accentuated sensitivity and awareness of those less fortunate, including ecosystems (plant/animal/environment) we may safely and appropriately expand Piscean idealism. And hopefully this time around we may be able to undo some of the excesses from the last Piscean transit (with a little help from Saturn?).

Literally, let your Dreams be your Guide with this Uranian transit. Peer into your innermost recesses—and fully acknowledge and claim what you find there: it is your Treasure...

SUMMARY

I gained insight and inspiration from Colin Wilson's book, *The Outsider*, examines the "search for the authentic self" through examining the works of T.E. Lawrence, Nietzsche, Hesse and others (see Charts section). It is interesting for us astrologers to note that Colin Wilson was also a writer on topics such as the Tarot and astrology! So there are "hidden" depths to the choices he makes in studying the self-liberating, self-binding Prometheus...

"OUTSIDER" CHARACTERISTICS (*from Colin Wilson's seminal work, The Outsider*)

In the Foreword to the 1982 edition of *The Outsider* by Marilyn Ferguson, she capsulizes Wilson's examination of "our collective modern struggle" with the self:

The Outsider wants to cease to be an Outsider.

He wants to be integrated as a human being, achieving a fusion between mind and heart

He seeks vivid sense perceptions.

He wants to understand the Soul and its workings.

He wants to get beyond the trivial.

He wants to express himself so he can better understand himself.

He seeks a way out via intensity, extremes of experience.

I return again to the John Donne quote: "No man is an island..." Once the outsider discovers and accepts his true self and reality, it is not enough! — though a great gift and bounty. It must be shared to be really possessed and appreciated. A kind of group Narcissism seems to creep in— this "new minted self" seeks to find Itself reflected/refracted back through the eyes of his chosen family, as group members constitute a family not bound by blood or birth (Saturn).

This Group Family is, however, very susceptible to the re-fracturing, re-formulating, re-defining itself along lines of tenuous characteristics. When we no longer see ourselves reflected adequately in the ideals/values/manners/mannerisms/thinking positions of the Group members, we may, as Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "...seek to form a more perfect union."

...And break away! to form splinter groups—each seeking to magnify or exaggerate a collection of the most agreeable description and terms of its stated identity, an identity shared by its new members.

Hence, the paradox again, which like all true paradoxes, we must be content (not a true Uranian condition!) with accepting both its horns—like the physical facts of electricity and the electron: *both* a Particle *and* a Wave.

AFTERWORD...

Symbolism is everything in astrology, and the symbol for YOUR-n-us has two generally accepted symbols:



Gemini pillars, denoting duality, from which the sphere of soul descends. Or, taken from Herschel's name with a bit of license.



Glyph for the Sun combined with Mars. Hmmmm... (Possibly more common in Europe than here.)