

# THE BULL HURLS A THUNDERBOLT

*Julie Humphreys*

Uranus will make its way across the Aries-Taurus cusp in June of this year, marking the end of its sojourn before the stars of the Ram. As Uranus crosses the starry threshold from one zodiacal sign to another, as it will in June, it follows a rhythm that is known deep within our souls: the seven-year period. Each period of seven years—within the unfolding of the human biography, or the time spent by Uranus in each zodiacal constellation—announces the possibility of a new level of spiritual growth.

The tempo of Uranus represents a unique intersection of time and space. For within the number seven dwells the mystery of time—the seven zodiacal epochs within the seven Great Epochs within the seven *manvantaras* of Earth evolution, the seven days of the week, and the seven days that separate each phase of the Moon. The number twelve bears the mystery of space: the twelvefold division of the zodiac, which is eternal in nature, unchanging over time. Thus does Uranus signify a link between the temporal and the eternal.

First identified by telescope in March 1781, Uranus leads us outward beyond the confines of the seven classical planets (i.e., those visible to the naked eye). Steiner connected the stages of Earth evolution to the planetary spheres of those planets known in antiquity. Whether Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto existed *prior to* the start of Earth evolution—or whether, as Steiner said,<sup>1</sup> they attached themselves to our planetary system at a later time, we know for certain that they represent something *completely different*.

An intimate experience of the influence of Uranus can be known when we compare its movement at any given time to a birth chart. (This is called a *transit*.) As Uranus moves counterclockwise

around the zodiac over the course of our lives—its orbit takes 84 years—it spends seven years in each of the twelve, equal, astrological houses. Experiencing the influence of Uranus this way is *very personal*. For example, when Uranus transits the 1st house, we feel driven to free ourselves of “old” expectations, whether self-imposed or not. However, this transit can affect one person decades before it affects another. For two individuals to be “in sync” vis-à-vis the transiting house placement of Uranus, they must share (or nearly share) the same Ascendant degree at birth.

Yet, we know that there exists a *collective* experience of Uranus as well, an experience that can be felt by way of its zodiacal sign. While we cannot describe this influence of Uranus as “generational” (in the way that slow-moving Pluto’s is), we might characterize it as a sort of “cultural pulse.” As Uranus moves through the signs, it calls forth something within us—and within our culture—that might draw us closer to the spiritual world. For Uranus, like Neptune and Pluto, is part of the *transcendental realm*.

The transcendental planets call us toward cosmic intelligence (Uranus), cosmic harmony (Neptune), and cosmic life (Pluto). But to get there, we must first cross three abysses that could be characterized as aspects of the Antichrist. As such, they are, by their very nature, evil. Robert Powell describes them as *electrified thinking* (Uranus), *magnetized feeling* (Neptune), and *uncontrolled or “atomic” willing* (Pluto).

Unlike the classical planets (which are linked to earthly metals, human organs, and the human chakra system), vestiges of the transcendental planets are trapped in *subearthly* realms. Robert Powell describes them as *trapped light* (Uranus), *trapped sound* (Neptune), and *trapped life* (Pluto).

1 Steiner, *Astronomy and Astrology*, p. 181.

When we doubt the supremacy of the spiritual world over the material, we create an affinity for the fallen Uranus forces, which seek to sever our connection to the World Thoughts. Hence, the *thinking* aspect of the antichrist can gain entry to our souls. When our *feeling* nature lacks love and compassion for our fellows in suffering, we attract the forces of fallen Neptune, which bring to our hearts the black seeds of hatred and cynicism for which the antichrist is known. And when we substitute “Thy will be done” with “My will be done,” fallen-Pluto forces can gain a foothold within our souls. The antichrist leaves no one in freedom—it must coerce!

While the movements of the transcendentals can (and do) bring us to our knees, they do so with spiritual purpose: to challenge our attachment to the material world. When we fail to live up to this challenge, transcendental “anvils” seem to rain from the sky. The “thunderbolt” of Uranus renders into rubble human thoughts that stand in violation of divine law, including “coming in our own name.” Such thoughts *will* encounter divine reality. If we do not humble ourselves from *within*, it shall be achieved from *without*. The “raging flood” of Neptune has the potential to sweep away even what we feel is most secure. When we are obedient only to our feelings—what we like and don’t like—we abandon our conscience, which makes us vulnerable to drowning in Neptune’s illusions. Following the eruption of the “volcano” of Pluto, we are offered new, transformative life—but the destruction that precedes this transformation can be very painful indeed. Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto have the power to separate us from what we hold dear. Will we wallow in self-pity, or begin to reorient our whole souls toward spiritual heights?

Planets act as interpreters of the holy living creatures of the zodiac. Each planet allows us a unique glimpse into the mysteries of the zodiacal signs, whose lofty qualities would otherwise be beyond our understanding—much like the way that the nine hierarchies of Angels “step down” the radiance of the Godhead to make it knowable to humankind.

Uranus gives us a heightened sense of what is reaching toward us from the future, and it engenders imaginative, revelatory visions of that future. As it reveals the falsehoods that dwell in the dusty corners of the soul, it awakens us to Truth. It demands (and ultimately gets) *humility*. When understood as the bearer of an aspect of the antichrist, Uranus leads us to the *thinking* nature of this loveless being. Evil thoughts share an electric quality. And in the same way that electric light mimics the light of the Sun, Uranus can draw us into the misapprehension that earthly intelligence surpasses whatever thoughts—if any!—might exist in the cosmos.

The Uranian temptation for humankind is *the urge to seek recognition and adulation*, whereby we set ourselves above others. Whether or not this temptation will find fertile soil within our souls is entirely up to us. We are free to resist it, or to give in to its allure.

To better understand the influence and power of Uranus, our finest guide lies within the sixteenth letter-Arcanum of the Tarot, which bears two names “La Maison Dieu” (The House of God) and “The Tower of Destruction.” Tomberg described its study as a *school of humility*.<sup>2</sup> He wrote: “[He] who builds a ‘tower’ to replace revelation from heaven by what he himself has fabricated, will be blasted by a thunderbolt—i.e., he will undergo the humiliation of being reduced to his own subjectivity and to terrestrial reality.”<sup>3</sup>

When we doubt (or are unaware of) the reality of cosmic law—which reveals us to be the fools that we are—we essentially claim that to find wisdom, we need look no further than a human intellectual construct or system, known esoterically as a “tower.” The tower depicted in the card was constructed as a *representation* of truth (a “house of God”). Whether its creators simply believed in their false promises, or intended to lead others astray, we don’t know. Its crenellated top (which is being upset by the “fire from above”) resembles a crown—one that is *not* representative of divine authority, but, instead, of *self-aggrandizement*.

2 Anon., *Meditations on the Tarot*, p. 447.

3 *Ibid.*, p. 444.

The thunderbolt is the consequence of seeking to conquer heaven by means of forces acquired and developed on the Earth.<sup>4</sup> In doing so, *it liberates us from lies*.

### URANUS AND THE ZODIAC

What does it mean to cross this cusp?<sup>5</sup> Through the forces of Aries we become upright, intelligent beings, which gives us dominion over the rest of creation. Taurus bestows upon us the ability to listen and to speak—thereby allowing us to exchange our ideas with others.

In terms of the various parts of the human body that are built up by way of archetypes that dwell within the zodiacal stars, we move from the head (Aries) to the throat (Taurus). Aries is set aflame by ideals (the highest of which is the creative fire of love) and, like Uranus, demands independence. Taurus, bearing a deep connection to nature, is the builder of the zodiac and determines (by way of rational thinking) the stable structures here on Earth on which these ideals might be “built.” Aries, ruled by Mars, is prone to impulsiveness, while Taurus (ruled by Venus) does not like to be hurried—knowing as it does that the digestion of ideas requires time. Aries is particularly attuned to what is *right*; Taurus responds most strongly to *beauty*. Lastly, the creative, active Sun finds its exaltation in fiery Aries, whereas the reflective, contemplative Moon does so when in earthy Taurus.

We might imagine that Uranian “lightning” finds a greater affinity for the fire signs (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius) and air signs (Gemini, Libra, Aquarius) of the zodiac—those deemed “masculine”—than it does for the earth signs (Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn) and water signs (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces)—the “feminine” signs. Jacques Dorsan, the great French sidereal astrologer, went so far as to characterize Uranus’s passage through

the masculine signs as the seven fat cows of the Pharaoh’s dream, and its passage through the feminine signs as the seven gaunt cows of the same dream (Gen. 41:17–21). His thesis is supported by the remarkably disproportionate number of wars that have occurred when Uranus was moving before the stars of the earth and water constellations of the zodiac.<sup>6</sup> I cannot refute it.



We’ll turn now to the last three passages of Uranus across this cusp. The first occurred in 1772; the second in 1856; and the third in 1940. (This means that, during the seven years prior to these dates, Uranus was in Aries; during the subsequent seven years, it was in Taurus.) Regarding the current cycle, Uranus first moved before the stars of Aries in April 2017, and will move before the stars of the Bull in June 2024. Our theme is an American one, for the dates shed light upon the beginnings of three grave military conflicts in the United States: The Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and World War II. Uranus thus leads us through the life stages of the constitutional republic of the United States—*creation* (Revolutionary War), *consolidation* (Civil War), *expansion* (World War II), and *likely demise* (currently).

Keep in mind that the *archetypes* of the zodiacal signs present us with a perfect unity (the “circle of twelve”), whereas the *qualities* of each sign plant seeds that might be nurtured in the others. If we are set afire by love and individual freedom, and thus devote ourselves to its cultivation (Aries), our conscience might be awakened (Taurus) to all that bears *eternal value*. Alternatively, if we feed our own narcissism (which has no regard for others), “Thy will” won’t be done on Earth as it is in heaven. Lastly, we might say that the cynicism that so aptly characterizes the fallen forces of the Ram—whether such cynicism reflects an absence of ideals or, instead, the presence of evil ones—encourages in turn the apathy that so effectively diminishes the nobility of the Bull.

4 Ibid., p. 442.

5 The transcendentals cross any zodiacal cusp three times: when moving forward (direct), when moving backward (retrograde), and when resuming forward motion. For simplicity and clarity, all dates of these crossings will hereafter refer to Uranus’s *first* entry to Taurus.

6 Dorsan, *Retour au Zodiaque des Étoiles: Vous n’êtes pas né sous le signe que vous croyez* [Return to the Stellar Zodiac: You’re not the sign you think you are], pp. 231–237.

This article examines the historical impact of Uranus's passage across the Aries-Taurus cusp, which can be characterized as a transition from a period of enlivened idealism to one of the execution of these ideals. Unfortunately, such execution has brought the United States to war time and time again. We have, as of yet, proven ourselves unable to find another way.

Additionally, we'll be exploring the significance of Uranus's alignment with the two stellar standouts in the constellation of Taurus—the star cluster known as the Pleiades, and *Aldebaran* (the “star-eye” of the Bull). Let's begin!

### 1772: CREATION

Uranus in Aries: 1765–1772

Uranus in Taurus: 1772–1779

Conjunct the Pleiades: Boston Tea Party

Conjunct *Aldebaran*: The Declaration of Independence

*Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become more corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters.*

— BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

The French and Indian War (1754–1763) raged between New France (now part of Canada) and the British North American territory (the colonies as well as part of what it now known as the Maritimes). The prize was the great North American continent, and the French and the British, each aided by their numerous Native American allies, fought savagely to maintain and expand their presence there. Although the British forces outnumbered those of the French by a factor of 300, the latter garnered far greater support from the Native Americans and, as such, posed an existential threat to the colonies themselves.

The “Join, or Die” cartoon of 1754 (attributed to Benjamin Franklin) that rallied for shared purpose among the colonies against the French-Indian threat, assumed a new meaning in the decade that followed: independence from the British Crown.

Once the war was behind them, the colonists began to chafe under British rule, whose grip tightened in the 1760s. Parliament passed various



revenue-raising measures (the Townshend Acts and the Stamp Act, to name a few) that required the colonists to fund the administration of their oppressors in the colonies—while, of course, denying them representation in their Parliament. The Quartering Act (1765) was a particular indignity because it demanded the housing and feeding of British soldiers. Boycotts were somewhat successful, but they ultimately resulted in a greater presence of the British soldiers whom they so resented. As the British increasingly lacked the “consent of the governed,” resistance grew. The year 1770 brought the Boston Massacre, when British soldiers fired into a mob that had surrounded one of their own. When British reinforcements came, the mob began hurling snowballs, then stones. Five were killed in retaliation, after which the soldiers were ultimately acquitted of any crime.

The colonial pot was near a full boil! And although the colonists shared the Aries virtue of independence and a deep respect for the sovereign freedom of the individual, they were yet to find an effective strategy for the realization of these ideals.

The movement of Uranus into Taurus in June of 1772 brought change. It coincided with the burning of the British customs schooner *Gaspee* in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island. After the *Gaspee* had run aground in the tidal shallows, Rhode Island citizens overpowered the crew and set fire to the ship. Its destruction was one of the first violent uprisings by the colonists, and it served to unite the colonies in a shared purpose: they'd had enough. When, in 1773, British Parliament passed the Tea Act (its dual objective being to support the



troubled British East India Company as well as to reduce the quantity of cheaper, smuggled, tea in the colonies), the response was definitive. As Uranus passed before the stars of the Pleiades, hundreds of crates of British tea were dumped into Boston Harbor.

The Boston Tea Party is commonly regarded as the event that set the Revolutionary War in motion. Thereafter, the colonial assembly called for local militia to train and prepare for hostilities, should they occur. The Battles of Lexington and Concord (April 1775) were precipitated by a British effort to capture and destroy colonial gunpowder and armaments stored at Concord. As it happened, through the successful gathering of intelligence, the Patriots were able to move their stores and (as immortalized by Longfellow) alert others to the British plan of attack.

While resisting subjugation is as old as the origin of humanity, the moral foundation upon which the rebellion stood—God-given rights, the consent of the governed—was as broad and as solid as a pyramid's. There also existed among the colonists an undeniable self-interest: a longing to know what they could accomplish as a self-governing people, and an urge for westward expansion that would only be inhibited by the British.

The principles of the founding of the United States are sanctified in the Declaration of Independence (1776), which, like the ideal of resurrection, was “as light coming from the east and shining as far as the west”(Matt. 24:27).<sup>7</sup> It marked the beginning of a glorious pilgrimage that began when the superlative intellectuality of the Founders found inspiration in spiritual ideals. The Declaration was the work of Fools. Howsoever short we've fallen from our original principles, the Declaration of Independence has hung like a blessing over the land for over two centuries, sustaining hope for a better future:

...Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same

<sup>7</sup> See Anon., *Meditations on the Tarot*, p. 556.

Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security.

Drafted by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration was signed on July 4, 1776, when Uranus was aligned with *Aldebaran*, the Bull's brightest star. Britain demanded its revocation, to no avail: a country was born two months later, when the thirteen colonies became the United States. The first American flag was flown in 1777, the same year that the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union became the supreme law of the land until its replacement by the United States Constitution in 1789.

### 1856: CONSOLIDATION

Uranus in Aries: 1849–1856

Uranus in Taurus: 1856–1863

Conjunct the Pleiades: Bleeding Kansas (ongoing)

Conjunct *Aldebaran*: Lincoln becomes President; Rudolf Steiner is born

*America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.*

— ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The movement of a planet completing cycle after cycle around the zodiac is ideally imagined not as *circular*, but as *helical*—for at the conclusion of each cycle, we have ideally achieved a higher level of understanding and consciousness. Thus, by 1856, the issue of slavery forced the United States to confront its failures in acknowledging the “unalienable rights” of African-born slaves. The “perpetual union” of the United States was plunged into uncertainty, as well it should have been. While a handful of states abolished the practice of slavery during or soon after the Revolutionary War—and while the Northern states had long defied the fugitive slave laws<sup>8</sup>—slavery was a wound that would not heal without moral redress.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> These laws required the return of slaveholders' “property.”

<sup>9</sup> Britain had abolished the practice in 1833.

Until the Civil War, the matter of slavery was left to the states. Many, like democrat James Buchanan (elected president in 1856) favored keeping it that way. Should the federal government be granted the power to weigh in, however, the number of free states in comparison to that of the slave states would be of great consequence. The westward expansion of the country raised more concerns in the South. Would a transcontinental railroad establish a bond between the Northern states and the West? How would the new territories regard the issue of slavery when they eventually *became* states?

More dry tinder and a lighted match were thrown on the debate in March 1857, when the Supreme Court ruled against Dred Scott, a slave petitioning for his freedom. Indignation in the North matched relief in the South as the soundness of the decision was called into question.

The first battleground for America's soul was Kansas Territory, the geographical "heart" of the continental United States. Known as the *first* American war over slavery, Bleeding Kansas—so-named because of its savage violence—began in 1854. Abolitionists and pro-slavery "border ruffians" alike regarded Kansas Territory as critical to their cause: Whether Kansas would become a free state or a slave state would affect the balance of power in the Senate. Settlers poured into Kansas Territory from both camps.<sup>10</sup> Uranus was conjunct the Pleiades as Bloody Kansas reached its midpoint.

The election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 brought further unease to the South, whose agricultural economy could not thrive without a large labor force. Lincoln had already expressed his opposition to slavery in the territories outside the states of the Union. Uranus stood before *Aldebaran* as Lincoln was elected to the presidency; one month later, South Carolina seceded from the union, citing a President whose opinions and purposes were "hostile to slavery." Ten

states followed suit in 1861, the same year that the confederate States elected Jefferson Davis as their President. The war would soon begin. The words spoken by Lincoln in 1858 foreshadowed the bloodshed to come:

A house divided against itself, cannot stand.

I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free.

I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided.

It will become all one thing or all the other.

Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become lawful in all the States, old as well as new—North as well as South.<sup>11</sup>

The conscience of the country was awakened by an Angel's trumpet that served to restore our memory of *what we had done*. Thus, too, will the conscience of the whole of humanity be resuscitated at the last judgment. Valentin Tomberg (fluent in Greek, Hebrew, and Latin, as well as other languages) points out that the Greek word for judgment is *krisis*. He notes: "Friedrich Schiller said rightly that "the history of the world is the judgment of the world"—i.e., it is a continual crisis, the stages of which are "historical epochs."<sup>12</sup>

On New Year's Day 1863, at the end of this Uranus-Taurus period, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, offering perpetual freedom to slaves—but the war was far from over. Exactly six months later, the Union achieved a solid victory at Gettysburg, which was generally regarded as a great turning point in the Union's favor.

<sup>10</sup> John Brown was the leading voice in favor of using violence in the abolitionist movement. He fought in Kansas Territory and, after attempting to incite an armed slave rebellion at Harper's Ferry (now West Virginia), was hanged in 1859.

<sup>11</sup> Lincoln, "A House Divided," June 16, 1858, Springfield, Illinois.

<sup>12</sup> Anon., *Meditations on the Tarot*, p. 585.

## 1940: EXPANSION

Uranus in Aries: 1933–1940

Uranus in Taurus: 1940–1947

Conjunct the Pleiades: Pearl Harbor

Conjunct *Aldebaran*: D-Day

*Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.*

—WINSTON CHURCHILL

Another level of our American “Uranus spiral” takes us to 1933, when Uranus began its journey through Aries—whereby the idealism that is characteristic of the Ram streamed to Earth by way of our first transcendental planet. Many “towers of destruction” were underway at this time. This was the year that Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, at the head of the Nazi party—a party whose empire (*Reich*) would be built upon their certainty in their racial superiority. Although Hitler’s power was tenuous at that time, he had an innate sense of opportunities for the enrichment of his authority. The Reichstag fire that occurred one month after his ascendancy afforded him the ideal occasion to suspend civil rights and to place political enemies under arrest. Before year’s end, Jews began to be excluded from civic life, and the doors of Dachau—the first Nazi concentration camp—opened wide.

And yet, something else was happening at the same time: The etheric body of Christ began to surround and permeate the Earth. This is the true “second coming” of Christ. Although this subject is beyond the scope of this article, it can readily be imagined that the rise of Hitler (as well as the concurrent consolidation of Stalin’s power) represented a *counteroffensive* to the new presence of Christ. Thus, the set of ideals that we might call “love, mercy, and forgiveness” grew alongside those known by “hatred, and tolerance for human suffering.”

Jews, of course, were not the only group in the Reich’s crosshairs. The Reich actively pursued the elimination of those with various forms of disability. Furthermore, the eastward expansion of the Reich—a dream dear to Hitler—would require the

exportation, extermination, or enslavement of the majority of the non-Aryan populations of Central and Eastern Europe.

Weary from World War I, the British wanted—above all—to avoid another war. In any case, aside from Winston Churchill, there was little evidence that those in the British ruling class could foresee—or had the will to resist—Hitler’s plans.

Initially, it was the hope of the United States to stay well out of the war brewing in Europe. The Great Depression slogged on, and there remained a deep imprint of the futility of the last World War—even though American casualties in WWI were dwarfed by those of France and Britain.<sup>13</sup> Common sense revolted against trench warfare and the inability of anyone (save Rudolf Steiner) to explain the reason for the war with any clarity.

During Uranus’s final months in Aries, the United States maintained its neutrality as Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, and Paris in May 1940. It remained neutral still throughout most of the German air assaults over Britain. The British had made it through the Blitz with the pluck and “stiff upper lip” that were characteristic of them at that time. Although the physical damage wrought by the Germans was enormous, the British lost neither their willingness nor their ability to fight.

With the passage of the Lend-Lease Act in 1941, Congress agreed to provide the Allies, including the Soviet Union, with huge amounts of materiel—but the United States would not go to war in Europe. A more immediate threat lay across the Pacific.



Following its victory in the Spanish-American War in 1898, the United States acquired Spain’s Pacific territories. (These included the Philippines and Guam. Concurrently, the United States claimed Hawaii as an American territory under quite different circumstances.) This westward expansion across the sea brought the Americans into direct conflict with the colonial dreams of

<sup>13</sup> By a factor of 35.

Japan. Already in possession of Taiwan, Korea, and Manchuria, Japan's intention was to unify and dominate a large bloc of Asian states that could withstand Western interference as well as provide Japan with the critical natural resources (such as oil) that it lacked. Known as the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere (GEACPS), Japan proposed to rule its occupied territories. Achievement of this "co-prosperity" depended upon aggressive expansion into the Pacific; therefore, it was essential for Japan to create a large buffer between Asia and the United States.

And there was another American matter that had bothered Imperial Japan. In 1937, during the Japanese invasion of Nanking (now Nanjing), three American tankers navigated the Yangtze River to rescue Americans and Chinese fleeing the savage atrocities of what was known as the Rape of Nanking. The *USS Panay*, a gunboat accompanying the tankers, was bombed by the Japanese; survivors treading water were strafed. The Japanese were forced to apologize publicly.

The United States was not at war in the early hours of December 7, 1941—at which time Uranus was aligned with the Pleiades. Shortly after sunrise, Japanese Zeroes, dive bombers, and torpedo bombers flew over Pearl Harbor, hoping to destroy the American fleet. (Before another day had passed, Japan would attack Midway Island, the Philippines, Guam, Wake Island, and Hong Kong.) The imperial hope was to damage the American fleet so severely that capitulation would quickly follow. Instead, the attack on Pearl Harbor was the event that found the United States—perhaps buoyed by the miraculous absence of their aircraft carriers from the harbor that morning—enthusiastically picking up the gauntlet thrown down by Imperial Japan. America had avoided war until it could do so no longer. Once Germany declared war on the United States four days later, the American military had been called to duty across the two greatest oceans of the world. Their military presence would span a full two-thirds of the longitudes of the globe.

Despite the shroud of death, the period of the war *before* the US dropped atomic bombs on

Hiroshima and Nagasaki (August 1945) remains an uplifting period of its history. Clarity of purpose and reports of extraordinary acts of bravery and sacrifice heartened the American soul. The Battle of Midway (June 1942) and the music of Aaron Copland's ballet, *Rodeo*—which debuted a few months later—arouse similar feelings in the author, for one: pride in their unique *American-ness*, optimism, a willingness to do what's needed when under duress. The passage of Uranus across the Aries-Taurus cusp in 1940 represents a pivotal year in the destiny of the United States—one that is an echo of the previous two cycles. During these Aries years (1933–1940), America had to come to terms with what it stood for; once Uranus reached the stars of the Bull, what needed to be done and what must be sacrificed in service of these ideals was revealed. To end Hitler's genocidal campaign, and to restore self-government to those deprived of it, they had to fight. When Uranus reached Aldebaran, the Allies stormed the beaches at Normandy (June 6, 1941), thereby turning the war in their favor.

How did the notion of expansion creep into the American psyche in the years leading up to the German invasion of Poland in September 1939? Had American expansion been a gleam in FDR's eye all along? Opinions differ. By 1945, the war had taken a heavy toll on Britain, whose citizens suddenly seemed to stop believing in themselves. Britain lost Singapore to Japan in 1942; there were revolts and unrest in African colonies; and India, the jewel in Britain's imperial crown, would gain independence in 1947.

After World War II, the imperial void left by Britain was filled by the United States. Morale in America at that time was very high. In 1947, the first "Levittown" appeared on the American landscape, just in time for the publication of Benjamin Spock's guide to baby and child care. This expansive mood allowed the United States to assume a more influential role worldwide, for good or ill. Wars have since expanded in number and scope. Indeed, they seem never to end. Perhaps (as Robert Powell has suggested) the release of atomic bombs—"Little Boy" and



“Fat Man”—over mainland Japan so damaged the Earth’s crust that the evil, subearthly forces therein began rise and engulf humanity.

### 2024: LIKELY DEMISE

Uranus in Aries: 2017–2024

Uranus in Taurus: 2024–2031

Conjunct the Pleiades: Jul-Nov/2025

Conjunct *Aldebaran*: May/2029–Jan/2030

*The ceremony of innocence is drowned:*

*The best lack all conviction, while the worst*

*Are full of passionate intensity.*

—W.B. YEATS

In *The Fate of Empires* (1913), British author Sir John Glubb presented a theory that the average life of an empire is 250 years. (The United States will turn 250 years in 2026.) His conclusion was supported by historical examples that span nearly three millennia. Perhaps decadence will always nip at the heels of prosperity.

The current Uranus-Aries cycle began in 2017 and is bookended by the two great American solar eclipses (Aug. 21, 2017 and Apr. 8, 2024). This seven-year period bears an especially eerie quality. These eclipses have been so named because their totality will have been experienced *only* in the continental United States. Furthermore, the paths of the two eclipses form a foreboding “X” across the American landmass. It is no coincidence that during the intervening years we experienced the egregious suspension of human rights in the name of “public health.”

Robert Powell, consistent with indications by Steiner and others, has advanced the compelling idea that the United States is where the unique incarnation of the antichrist would occur. This event, which was destined to last three and a half years (Rev. 13:5)—nearly equal to the 1,290 days between Christ’s Baptism and his crucifixion—is not an “incarnation” in the sense of a birth into the world. Instead, it signifies the temporary *entry of the antichrist into a human vessel*. It is the estimation of this author that this unholy incarnation has come and gone, and that the whirlwind we

see around us—cultural, economic, political—is its inescapable consequence.

The symbolism inherent in a solar eclipse is the darkening our higher nature (Sun) by materialism and intellectualism (the Moon). Steiner was quite clear. During a solar eclipse, humanity’s unbridled will-instincts flow into the cosmos in an abnormal way; instead of meeting the purifying light of the Sun, they are *scattered*. Therefore, during a solar eclipse, it is incumbent upon us to summon our own Sun consciousness (our “I”) in order to “burn” what the eclipsed Sun cannot.

The higher nature of the United States has indeed been darkened during this Uranus-Aries period. Consistent with Benjamin Franklin’s quote regarding the link between virtue and freedom, America lost a terrifying amount of both between 2017 and 2024. We are, as Lincoln warned, being destroyed from within. We don’t yet know if the rot can be expunged—or if trying to do so will mean war.

The revolutionaries of the past decades, who wanted to “stick it to the Man,” have *become* “the Man.” Indeed, those who used to demand peace now demand war. In little more than a decade, they have transformed government agencies into departments of terror, accountable to no one. Inequal application of the law, disregard of the law altogether, persecution or imprisonment of political enemies, censorship—the U.S. as a whole is now a police state. Every imaginable diversity is promoted except the one on which our freedom depends: diversity of thought.

As Lenin and Stalin knew well, when there is no God, there can be no God-given rights, no right and wrong. Hence those who prey upon our children today are given a “voice” in the culture. We are not only failing to protect our children from this demonic culture—we offer them as sacrifices upon its godless altar. Those parents who want only to raise and educate their children as they see fit are labeled domestic terrorists. Because the state worships no God that *we* know, the American culture has abandoned virtue entirely. The arts no longer uplift; they intentionally debase.

*The Bull Hurls a Thunderbolt*



Late-14th-century French tapestry:  
*Satan giving power to the Beast*

The ideals engulfing the United States (and much of the world) are ideals of evil—subjugation, coercion, violence, hatred, and defilement. As Uranus crosses the Aries-Taurus cusp this year, those who name this evil will be forced to separate from those who refuse to do so.

Do not be disheartened! Let us remember that hatred and indifference are not creative forces in the world—love is. Let us remember what is of *eternal value*: devotion, inner balance, perseverance, self-sacrifice, compassion, courtesy, contentment, patience, self-discipline, courage, discretion, magnanimity. Let us love the future as much as we love the past! Divine will is not done on Earth as it is in heaven *unless we pray for it*.



“**T**he mission to which his birth called him [the birth of Jacob, the Old Testament patriarch] was revealed to him through the realm of the angels...conscious perception of the angels came to him.... The first stage...is attained when one enters conscious interaction with the beings of the angelic hierarchy.... [This] does not involve knowledge of universal laws, but entering conscious interaction with the beings who know the mysteries of birth. The true horoscope will not be reached by a path of calculation but through a path of interaction with suprasensory beings. What angels have imparted to humankind, that is the ‘horoscope’ in the true sense.”

VALENTIN TOMBERG, *Christ and Sophia*, p. 47