

8 Cardinal: Turning Points, Confrontations & Risks

By
Michele Adler, USA.

Synopsis of article:

The 8th degree of the cardinal signs (referred in this article from now on referred as 8 Cardinal, meaning the 8-9 degree window of Aries, Cancer, Libra, Capricorn) appears with impressive regularity in progressions and directions during challenging turning point times. A common theme is leadership challenge and removal, or gain of power. It can be seen frequently in job layoffs, new career directions, or in the loss or gain of a leadership role.

Related to this is the fact that the 8th degree of Aries has appeared by transit, progression or direction in all four US presidential assassinations, and in all but one of the 13 attempted presidential assassinations. However, it would be wrong to call 8 Cardinal an assassination degree: it is, more accurately, a turning point degree, which contains an embedded challenge, and it should be noted that more US presidents escaped assassination attempts under it than were actually killed. The turning point indicated by 8 Cardinal frequently involves confrontation, yet occasionally a triumph after a long period of work and failure. This article attempts to document the experiences of 8 Cardinal.

Some time ago, I noticed that the 8th degree of the cardinal signs—Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn, appeared with impressive regularity in progressions

*M*ichele Adler is a full-time US astrologer, who began her study of astrology in 1972. She has written three books on astrology. Her most recent is Predictive Astrology: Cycles of Change, Seasons of Meaning, a compilation of western astrology prediction techniques. Her web site is www.micheleadler.com.

and directions during turning point times. These turning points usually involved careers—attaining some major position or losing a position or the beginnings of what would become groundbreaking efforts. There was frequently a confrontation involved in the turning points associated with 8 Cardinal, usually a challenge to be overcome. It is thus seen in a number of record-breaking events.

I want to clarify that when I say “8 degrees of cardinal signs” I am referring to any degree that falls between 8 cardinals and 9 cardinal. (I know that many consider any degree after 8 degrees 00 to be 9 degrees, but I wanted to keep this simple.) The “turning point range” seemed to be 8-10 Aries, but soon I saw that 8 degrees of any of the cardinal signs seemed to carry significant turning point themes.

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This is of further interest in that US presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama both have connections to 8 Cardinal right now. McCain has a **solar arc Moon** at 8 Aries; Obama has a **secondary progressed Vertex** at 8 Libra 09. Both have the solstice point of 8 Aries—which is 22 Virgo—in their natal planets: Obama has Mars in that degree; McCain has Venus. Their competition for the presidency is in keeping, I think, with the “confrontational turning point” of the 8th Cardinal degree.^I

It should also be noted that the shattering of precedence is a theme of 8 Cardinal. A number of political election “firsts” have been achieved with 8 Cardinal prominent, a reminder that the current US presidential race is between the first African-American nominated by a major party and the oldest person ever to run for US president.

Margaret Thatcher was named England’s first female prime minister, with her **converse secondary progressed Ascendant** at 8 Libra 43.

Carl Stokes became the first African-American ever elected mayor of a US city (Cleveland, Ohio) on Nov. 7, 1967. His **secondary progressed Ascendant** was at 8 Libra 48.

On Dec. 10, 1950, Dr. Ralph Bunche became the first African-American to receive a Nobel Peace Prize. His **solar arc Venus** was at 8 Libra 02.

Harvey Milk became the first gay person ever elected to public office in November 1977 when he became a member of the Board of Supervisors in San Francisco. His **solar arc Ascendant** was at 8 Aries 55. (The following year, with the Ascendant at 9 Aries, he was assassinated.)

Leadership Challenge and Confrontation

One of the most common themes that I have seen in this degree is leadership challenge and leadership removal. The degree can turn up when a leader resigns or retires or leaves a

^I When Obama unsuccessfully ran for the US House of Representatives in March, 2000, he had a **secondary progressed Ascendant** at 8 Aries.

position of power. It turns up when a leader assumes power. As Aries is the sign of leadership, it seemed natural to begin researching the US presidency.

When I began exploring the progressions and directions of the US presidents, I found that the 8th degree of cardinal signs, especially of Aries, or the 22nd degree of Virgo (8 Aries solstice point) has been a common factor in all four of the US presidential assassinations, and in all but one of the 13 attempted assassinations² on US presidents (including two attempts on Richard Nixon's life and two attempts on Gerald Ford's). It occurred by solstice point of 22 Virgo in an attempt on George W. Bush's life. The 8th cardinal degree was also present in the assassinations of other leaders outside of the United States.

While I present the data here, I want to make clear that I **do not think** 8 Cardinal should be called an "assassination" degree, despite the assassinations and assassination attempts that have occurred with it present.

Confrontational turning points, unfortunately, can include death and violence. It should be noted that more US presidents *escaped* assassination attempts as were actually assassinated with this degree in operation. It should also be noted that some of the US vice presidents became president with 8 Cardinal prominent in their charts, obviously "turning points" in their own political career following the deaths of their predecessors.

And, finally, most politicians running for office are always facing a turning point that will involve overcoming confrontations. So the degree in the charts of Obama and McCain should be viewed in that light.

8 Aries and the US presidency

All four US presidential assassinations had the 8th degree of Aries prominent either by transit or in the directions/progressions of the assassinated presidents. It is also interesting to note that the assassinated presidents were followed by vice presidents who also had the 8 Cardinal or 22 Virgo solstice point operating.

Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865, with **transiting Neptune** at 8 Aries 40 (in conjunction with his **natal Venus** at 7.5 Aries). When Andrew Johnson assumed the US

² Source: Wikipedia.org. Presidents who have escaped assassination attempts were Andrew Jackson, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry S Truman, John F. Kennedy (though assassinated in 1963, he had escaped a previous assassination plot in 1960, which is listed separately); Richard Nixon (two attempts); Gerald Ford (two attempts); Jimmy Carter; Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush; Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. The attempted assassination that did not include 8 Cardinal was an attempt on Richard's Nixon life, which did have 9 Aries prominent at the time. I have left out an attempt on Teddy Roosevelt's life on Oct. 14, 1912, primarily because he had been out of office for over three years when it occurred. It should be noted that I left in George H.W. Bush, who had been out of office for about three months before an assassination attempt, but it was related to Saddam Hussein.

presidency following the Lincoln assassination, his **converse solar arc Neptune/Hades** conjunction in 8 Libra was opposing the 8 Aries transiting **Neptune**. (It should also be noted that Johnson had a **natal Mars** at 9 Libra.)

James Garfield was born with his **natal Pluto** in 8 Aries, and it was still in that degree in his secondary progressions when he was shot on July 2, 1881 at 9:30 AM³ in Washington D.C., dying less than four months after he was inaugurated. Charles Guiteau, the lawyer who fatally wounded Garfield, had his **secondary progressed Venus** at 22 Virgo 19. Chester Arthur, Garfield's vice president who succeeded him as president, had a **converse secondary progressed Pluto** in 8 Aries 20.⁴

William McKinley was fatally wounded after being shot on Sept. 5, 1901 in Buffalo, New York. At the time, McKinley's **secondary progressed Sun** was at 8 Aries 27, at the solstice point of **transiting Mercury**, then at 22 Virgo 27. He was succeeded by Teddy Roosevelt on Sept. 14, 1901, who had the **converse secondary progressed Sun** at 21 Virgo 59, right at the solstice point of 8 Aries.

At the time of his assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, John F. Kennedy had **solar arc Uranus**, **converse solar arc Jupiter** and a **converse solar arc Vertex** at 8 Aries. Lyndon Johnson succeeded Kennedy as US President on Nov. 22, 1963, with a **secondary progressed Ascendant/Descendant axis** at 8 Libra/8 Aries (conjunct **secondary progressed Mars** at 7 Libra 21) and a **secondary progressed Midheaven** at 8 Cancer. (Johnson had **natal Saturn** at 9 Aries.) John Connally, the Texas governor who was critically wounded in the attack that killed Kennedy had a **secondary progressed third house cusp** (using the Koch house system) at 8 Aries 31. (The Kennedy assassination occurred in a moving vehicle, aptly symbolized by the third house.)

Attempted Assassinations

When one looks at the presidential assassination "near-misses," the turning point signature expands to also include 8 Cancer, 8 Libra, and 8 Capricorn.

US President Andrew Jackson foiled a shooter who attempted to kill him on Jan. 30, 1835. At the time, Jackson's **converse secondary progressed Mars** was at 8 Aries 01, and **converse secondary progressed Jupiter** at the solstice point of 22 Virgo. In addition, he had **converse solar arc Jupiter** and **converse solar arc Vesta** both at 8 Cancer. It should be noted that Jackson's would-be assassin, Richard Lawrence, carried two derringers with him, and both misfired, something that in 1835 was calculated as having a one in 125,000 chance of happening.

Transiting Venus was at 8 Aries on March 30, 1981 when an attempt was made on the life of US President Ronald Reagan. John Hinckley, Reagan's would-be assassin, had **solar arc Zeus** (the trans-Neptunian planet representing gunfire) at 22 Virgo 23, solstice point of 8 Aries.⁵

³ Source: www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/guiteau/guiteauchrono.html, and Wikipedia.org

⁴ Most historians and medical experts think that Garfield could have survived his wounds if he had more competent medical help than was available at the time.

⁵ As the symbolism would suggest, Hinckley attempted to employ gunfire in a deranged attempt to impress actress Jodi Foster, represented by the transiting Venus.

Shortly before US President Jimmy Carter was about to speak in Los Angeles on May 5, 1979, a man was arrested carrying a pistol who later told authorities that he and another man were hired to create a diversion so that Mexican hit men could kill Carter. At the time, Carter's **solar arc Moon** was at 8 Capricorn 19, and his **converse solar arc Part of Fortune** was at 8 Libra 51.

Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an attempted assassination while he was president-elect on February 15, 1933 in Miami. At the time, Roosevelt had a **solar arc Jupiter/Chiron** conjunction at 8 Cancer, as well as a **secondary progressed Mars** at 8 Cancer. The attempt did kill Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak, at 9:15 PM⁶. The **Ascendant** for the event was 8 Libra 16, and the **Midheaven** at 8 Cancer 25.

There were two failed attempts made on the life of President Gerald Ford, both in September, 1975. Both occurred when **transiting Pluto** was at 8 Libra, and Ford's **secondary progressed Jupiter** was at 8 Capricorn 09. At the first attempt, on Sept. 5, 1975 in Sacramento, Ford's would-be assassin, Lynette Fromm, had a **converse solar arc North Node** at 8 Aries at the time. On Sept. 22, a second attempt was made on Ford's life by Sara Moore, who has **natal Uranus** in 8 Aries in the 4th house and **natal Saturn** in 8 Capricorn 37 in the 1st house.

Saddam Hussein plotted to murder US President George H W Bush on April 13, 1993 in Kuwait. At that time, the senior President Bush had a **solar arc Zeus** at 8 Libra 56, and the **transiting Jupiter** of the day was at 8 Libra also, opposing Bush's **diurnal Midheaven** of 7 Aries 38.

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An attempt was made on Harry S Truman's life on Nov. 1, 1950, in Washington, DC. At the time, he had a **solar arc Moon** at 8 Capricorn 36.

Two attempts were made on the life of Richard Nixon when he was US president. One was on April 14, 1972 in Milwaukee when **transiting Jupiter** was at 8 Capricorn, by Arthur Bremer, who also later critically wounded Alabama Governor George Wallace during Wallace's campaign for the presidency on May 15, 1972.⁷ Bremer had **converse solar arc Hades** at 8 Aries 54 at the time, and **secondary progressed Saturn** at 22 Virgo 13. Bremer also had a **natal Uranus** at 8 Cancer 12. (The other attempt on Nixon's life not counted in the study of 8 Cardinal was by Samuel Byck on February 22, 1974 in Washington, DC. Nixon had at the time a **secondary progressed Mercury** at 9 Aries 18, beyond the scope of 8 Cardinal. Byck, the would-be assassin, had **solar arc Zeus** at 22 Virgo 39 in conjunction with **solar arc Vesta** at 22 Virgo 56.)

⁶ Source: dc.state.fl.us/oth/timeline, Florida Dept. of Corrections

⁷ At the time that Arthur Bremer shot and critically injured US presidential candidate George Wallace on May 15, 1972, Wallace's **solar arc Mercury** and **converse solar arc South Node** were both at 8 Libra 43.

An attempt was made on Bill Clinton's life on Oct. 29, 1994, when Francisco Duran fired 29 shots at the White House, thinking that Clinton was among a group of men standing outside. (He wasn't.) At the time, Clinton had a **solar arc Zeus** (representing gunfire in Uranian astrology), a **converse secondary progressed Part of Fortune**, and a **secondary progressed Neptune** all at 8 Libra. Duran, the would-be assassin, has a **natal Pluto** at 22 Virgo.

Though he was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963, John F. Kennedy escaped an assassination plot three years earlier. On Dec. 11, 1960, a retired postal clerk planned to turn himself into a human bomb that would kill Kennedy. The plot had even reached its staging point, when the man saw the president with his wife, young daughter and infant son and decided against it. At the time of this plot, Kennedy had a **converse solar arc Mercury** at 8 Aries 28, and a **secondary progressed Vesta** at 8 Aries 20.

22 Virgo, solstice point of 8 Aries

On May 10, 2005, President George W. Bush was giving a speech in Freedom Square in Tiblisi when a man threw a live grenade towards the podium where he was standing. It landed in the crowd, but did not detonate because of a chance malfunction. The would-be assassin, Vladimir Arutyunian, was arrested in July 2005 and admitted to throwing the grenade. At the time, Bush had a **solar arc Saturn** at 22 Virgo 55. Arutyunian also had **solar arc Saturn** at 22 Virgo 10 and a **converse secondary progressed Nodal axis** at 8 Libra/8 Aries.

It should also be noted that on March 29, 2006, the exact date of a **solar eclipse at 8 Aries**, **Ahmed Omar Abu Ali**, who had ties to Al Qaeda, was sentenced to 30 years in prison for plotting to assassinate Bush.

Taylor, Harding and Harrison: deaths in office

Three US presidents died in office apparently of natural causes. They reflect the removal of a leader definition of 8 Cardinal, unfortunately by death. They are included here for information purposes, since they also had the 8 Cardinal, 22 Virgo signature at the time of their deaths.

Zachary Taylor, 12th president of the US, fell ill and died of gastroenteritis on July 9, 1850, while still in office. At the time of his death, his **secondary progressed Moon** and **solar arc Uranus** were at 22 Virgo. Rumors of foul play—most specifically arsenic poisoning—have circulated for years, but an autopsy in 1991 on his exhumed body found no evidence.

It should be noted that rumors have also persisted that Warren Harding's death on Aug. 2, 1923 was actually murder. At the time of his death, Harding had a **secondary progressed Sun** at 8 Capricorn 57, and a **converse solar arc Part of Fortune** at 8 Cancer 01. Harding's **natal Neptune** was at 8 Aries, in the 1st house. (It is assumed Harding died of either a heart attack or a stroke.)

Though he died of viral pneumonia on April 4, 1841, one month after being inaugurated, US President William Henry Harrison nonetheless had **solar arc Neptune** at 8 Cancer 26. His successor, John Tyler, had his **natal Sun** at 8 Aries.

Other assassinations/turning points

Civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York were assassinated within three months of each other, and following a **solar eclipse on March 28, 1968, at 8 Aries**, with Kennedy also having **solar arc Mars** at 22 Virgo, the solstice point of the eclipse degree of 8 Aries. Dr. King had a **converse secondary progressed Vertex** at 21 Virgo 34, close to the solstice point of the eclipse. Dr. King was killed on April 4, 1968; Kennedy on June 5, 1968.

Benzair Bhutto, the former Pakistan prime minister, was

Indira Gandhi, prime minister of India, was assassinated on Oct. 31, 1984 at 2 PM⁸ with her converse solar arc Vertex at 8 Libra 51, opposing a tertiary progressed Chiron at 8 Aries 26. Rajiv Gandhi became prime minister of India upon the assassination of his mother. At the time, Rajiv's solar arc Ceres was at 8 Libra 24.

assassinated on Dec. 27, 2007 and pronounced dead at 6:16 PM⁸ in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. At the time of her death, the **transiting Midheaven** was at 8 Aries.

Mary, Queen of Scots, was executed by Elizabeth I on a day when **transiting Pluto** was at 8 Aries. Elizabeth I also had **natal Chiron** in 8 Aries in the 3rd house.

When Japanese Prime Minister Hara Takashi was assassinated on Nov. 4, 1921 (in Tokyo), **transiting Jupiter** was at 8 Libra 17.

Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on Jan. 30, 1948 at 5:12 PM in New Delhi, India, with the **transiting Moon** at 7 Libra 51.⁹ This was in conjunction with his **natal Sun** of 8 Libra 53, 12th house.

Indira Gandhi, prime minister of India, was assassinated on Oct. 31, 1984 at 2 PM¹⁰ with her **converse solar arc Vertex** at 8 Libra 51, opposing a **tertiary progressed Chiron** at 8 Aries 26. Rajiv Gandhi became prime minister of India upon the assassination of his mother. At the time, Rajiv's **solar arc Ceres** was at 8 Libra 24.

On Dec. 8, 1980, former Beatle and rock legend John Lennon was murdered outside of his home in New York City at 10:50 PM.¹¹ **Transiting Saturn** was at 8 Libra 21. (It should be noted that Lennon's assassin, Mark Chapman, was born with a **natal Part of Fortune** at 8 Aries 03, in conjunction with his **natal Eris**¹² at 8 Aries 47.)

There were at least two other political assassinations attempts that had 8 Aries prominent. Vladimir Lenin, architect of Soviet communism, had **converse solar arc Jupiter** at 8 Aries

⁸ News sources

⁹ Source for time: eyewitnessstohistory.com

¹⁰ Source: Astrodatbank

¹¹ Source: cbsnews.com, but note that 11:15 PM is given as the time he was pronounced dead.

¹² Eris has not been studied long enough to explain its position in 8 Aries in Chapman's chart.

when an attempt was made on his life on Aug. 30, 1918. Napoleon Bonaparte III had a **secondary progressed Ascendant** at 8 Aries when he was nearly assassinated on Jan. 14, 1858.

Other Turning Points Involving Violence

Other events involving violence as a turning point which had the 8 Cardinal signature:

Mars was in 8 Aries when the United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917.

On Dec. 11, 1994, a bomb exploded under the seat of a Japanese businessman in a plane flying near Okinawa at 11:43 PM.¹³ It was later determined to have been planted by Al Qaeda, possibly as a “test” of future terrorist activity. The **transiting Moon** was at 8 Aries 59.

When O.J.Simpson’s book *If I Did It* published on Sept. 13, 2007, it was during the same week that he was being charged for armed robbery and connected with an attempt to recover some of his memorabilia. At the time, Simpson’s **converse solar arc Mars** was at 8 Aries 24.

Cheryl Crane, daughter of actress Lana Turner, stabbed Turner’s lover, Johnny Stompanato to death on April 4, 1958. She was later acquitted. At the time, Crane’s **converse solar arc Pallas Athena** and **converse solar arc Hades** were both at 8 Aries, in conjunction with Crane’s **natal Midheaven** of 8 Aries 43.

Christina Crawford, adopted daughter of actress Joan Crawford, wrote a tell-all book about her mother’s abuse, *Mommie Dearest*, that was published in 1978, a year after Crawford died. At the time, Christina’s **secondary progressed Jupiter** was at 8 Aries 39.

Turning Points With Risk

The Cardinal 8th shows up at times when a turning point occurs not so much with confrontation as with courage or initiative. This is another example of how the degree operates.

Ernest Gallo took over his family’s wine business after his father committed suicide on June 21, 1933, and also the responsibility of his 12 year old brother. At the time, Ernest’s **converse secondary progressed Moon** was in conjunction with his **converse secondary progressed Saturn** at 8 Aries, within 11 minutes of arc.

When Patrick Henry denounced the Stamp Act (“If this be treason, let us make the most of it”) in the Virginia House of Burgesses on May 29, 1765 (his 29th birthday), he had a **solar arc Mars** at 8 Aries.

When Joseph Kittinger parachuted from a balloon over New Mexico on Aug. 16, 1960, he set records that still hold for high altitude jumps, free fall, and fastest speed by a human without an aircraft. His **converse solar arc Jupiter/Kronos** conjunction was at 8 Aries.

¹³ Source: www.cbc.ca/documentaries/secrethistory/timeline.html

Henry VIII of England had his **secondary progressed Midheaven** at 8 Cancer 43, in conjunction with **transiting Mercury** at 9 Cancer 00 when Pope Clement VII excommunicated him from the Catholic Church on July 11, 1533.

8 Cardinals and New Discoveries and Demonstrations

Great discoveries and achievements are also part of the “turning point” theme of this degree. The confrontation element morphs into focus and determination when it is found in the charts of those who persistently strive towards a goal. It is also present in transits on the days when significant achievements are made public.

Neil Armstrong had his **secondary progressed Ascendant** at 8 Cancer when he walked on the Moon. This directly related also to **transiting Pluto** and the **transiting Part of Fortune**, both at 22 Virgo 54, the solstice point of 8 Aries, at the time of the lift-off to the Moon (July 16, 1969, 9:37 AM, Kennedy Space Center).¹⁴

Henry Ford introduced his Model T automobile on Oct. 1, 1908, with the **Sun** in 8 Libra 27. The first oil well was struck on Jan. 10, 1901 at Spindle Top in Beaumont, Texas, 10:32 AM.

Transiting Saturn was at 8 Capricorn 50.¹⁵

Peter Grunberg and Albert Fert, working separately, both discovered the giant magnetoresistance effect in 1988 that is recognized as the birth of spintronics, ultimately leading to such devices as music players and laptops. In 1988, at the time of their separate discoveries, Grunberg had his **converse secondary progressed Sun** at 8 Aries 51 and a **secondary progressed Jupiter** at 7 Aries 54 (progressed to May 18, 1988). Fert had a **solar arc Jupiter** at 7 Aries 15 (progressed to March 7, 1988).

On April 16, 1943, Dr. Albert Hoffman discovered the psychedelic properties of LSD and accidentally dosed himself. His **solar arc Saturn** was at 8 Aries 07.

Mars was at 8 Libra 38 when Wiley Post became the first person to fly solo around the world (July 22, 1933). At the time, Wiley had the **secondary progressed North Node**, **solar arc Uranus** and **solar arc Chiron** at 8 Capricorn, and a **converse solar arc Midheaven** at 8 Libra 39.¹⁶

When the US Census Bureau unveiled UNIVAC, the first electrical digital computer on June 14, 1951, **Uranus** was in 8 Cancer 38.

8 Cardinal and New Directions

Clint Eastwood set his talents on a new course and moved into motion picture direction, with his first picture, *The Unforgiven* released on March 29, 1993. At that time, Eastwood had **converse secondary progressed Sun/Moon** and the **trans-Neptunian Hades** all in 8 Aries.

¹⁴ Source: http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/image_feature_359a.html

¹⁵ Source: Kay Shinker in ISAR-Ezine, Vol. 496, July 2008

¹⁶ These placements are based on birth data of Nov. 22, 1898, 11:00 AM, Grand Saline, Texas, which is listed as a DD rating in Astrodatbank. There are some sources that give his year of birth as 1899. I checked numerous references on the internet, and 1898 seems to be the preferred date, rather than 1899 which was given in his biography.

Turning points frequently mean the end of a tradition. It is interesting that works of art associated with 8 Cardinal (books and movies most noticeably) may contain the theme of the passing of tradition. When *Gone with the Wind* was published on June 30, 1936, there was a conjunction of the **Sun and Venus** at 8 Cancer (conjunct **Mars** at 3 Cancer 11). When *Catcher in the Rye* was published on July 16, 1951, **Mars** was in 8 Cancer conjunct **Uranus** in 10 Cancer. The novel focused on Holden Caulfield, the principal character, and his resistance of maturity.

Oprah Winfrey began hosting a morning talk show on WLS-TV in Chicago on Jan. 2, 1984. At the time, her **secondary progressed Midheaven** was at 8 Cancer 52.

8 Cardinal and Political Turning Points

The Communist Party of China was founded on July 1, 1921 under a **Mars/Pluto** conjunction in 8 Cancer **tied** in with the most active midpoint on that day, **Jupiter/Kronos** also in 8 Cancer. (Kronos is a trans-Neptunian planet that symbolizes, among other things, high government officials.)

Russian sovereignty was declared on June 12, 1990 at 9:45 PM,¹⁷ with **transiting Mars** at 8 Aries 49 squaring **transiting Uranus** at 8 Capricorn 17.

Palestine's independence was proclaimed by Yassar Arafat on Nov. 15, 1988 at 00:40 AM. **The Ascendant** degree was 8 Libra 13, and the **Midheaven** at 8 Cancer 47.¹⁸

Communist Cuba began with the overthrow of the existing government by Fidel Castro on Jan. 2, 1959, in Havana, at 1:00 AM. **The Moon** was at 8 Libra 28.¹⁹

The reunification of Viet Nam was declared on July 2, 1976 at 8:30 AM, with **transiting Pluto** at 8 Libra 58.²⁰

South Korea was granted independence on Aug. 15, 1948 following three years of US occupation, and with **transiting Venus** at 8 Cancer 00.²¹

Pakistan proclaimed its independence on Aug. 15, 1947 with **transiting Neptune** at 8 Libra 50.²²

¹⁷ Champion, Nicholas. *The Book of World Horoscopes*. Bristol, UK: Cinnabar Books, 1995. (www.nickcampion.com). P. 309

¹⁸ Ibid, p. 276

¹⁹ Ibid, p. 128

²⁰ Ibid, p. 436

²¹ Ibid, p. 223

²² Ibid, p. 274

When Tennessee ratified the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920, officially giving American women the right to vote, **Pluto** was at 8 Cancer 25 trining **Uranus** at 4 Pisces 02 and opposing **Ceres** at 3 Capricorn 40.

On Jan. 21, 1919, Ireland's first constitution was adopted. **Jupiter** was at 8 Cancer 17 conjunct **Pluto** at 5 Cancer 08.

On April 1, 2001, Dutch laws went into effect legalizing gay marriage. **Venus** was at 8 Aries 04.

Mercury was in 8 Aries 19 when US President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

Neptune was at 8 Aries 28 the day that Robert E. Lee surrendered, ending the American Civil War.

Interestingly, 8 Cardinal can appear in the secondary progressed lunation phases²³ in the charts of the famous during times of major change. Two good examples:

US Senator Ted Kennedy was in a **Third Quarter Progressed Lunation** phase that began on Dec. 4, 1967 at 8 Capricorn 15. During the four years following that phase, his brother, Robert Kennedy, was killed (June, 1968) and he abandoned a car in which a young woman drowned on Chappaquidick (July, 1969), which many feel negated his chances of ever becoming US president.

Charles, Prince of Wales, was under a **secondary progressed New Moon Lunation** that began on May 24, 1994 in 8 Capricorn 38 when he divorced Diana, Princess of Wales (1996) and also took on a sole parent role to their two sons following Diana's death on Aug. 31, 1997.

8 Cardinal and The Beginning Of Long-Term Implications

Non-political events that can be marked as pivotal with long-term impact frequently have 8 Cardinal in the transits of the day. Two examples:

When Terri Schiavo was disconnected from her life support on March 18, 2005 at about 1:45 PM²⁴, the **Moon** was at 8 Cancer 57 and out of bounds by declination. There was a major conflict about the decision between her husband and her parents (Cancer), and the decision had to do with removing her feeding (Cancer) tube. The decision resulted in discussion that still continues over the ethics of the situation.

Uranus was at 8 Aries 22 retrograde on the day of the US stock market crash (Oct. 29, 1929). It should also be noted that on "Black Monday", Oct. 19, 1987 (using 4:30 PM for the

²³ The secondary progressed lunation cycle is a 29-30 year cycle marking the phases of the progressed Sun and the progressed Moon. It is divided into eight phases of 3-4 year periods ranging from the progressed New Moon through the progressed Balsamic phase. The beginning of each phase is marked by the position of the secondary progressed Moon.

²⁴ Source: cnn.com, nytimes.com

market's closing time), the Dow Jones fell 508 points in a single day. The **Moon** for the closing time was 22 Virgo 02, solstice point of 8 Aries.

The Symbol Systems

Rounding up the 8th Cardinal to 9 Cardinal, one finds a variety of potential images. For 9 Aries, the Sabian Symbol system is, "A seer gazes intently into a crystal ball before him." The Sabian for the opposite sign, 9 Libra, is "Three old masters hanging in a special room in an art gallery sometimes seem to speak to one another." The Sabian for 9 Cancer is, "A small naked girl bends over a sparkling pond trying to catch a fish." The Sabian for 9 Capricorn is, "An angel comes carrying a harp."²⁵

These Sabian symbols do not seem to directly imply turning points, at least not to me. I can probably stretch the point by saying that the seer is obviously looking to the future and what it will bring. The three old masters imply input from a variety of sources, and the fact that they are hanging immobile in an art gallery—and not out disagreeing with one another—speaks of the kind of civil competition that candidates at least try to feign in political races. The girl trying to catch a fish speaks of combat of a sort. Only the angel carrying the harp is definitely an image of transition. (But one can also assume that the harp, representing music, might mean that someone is speaking up, and making their own music, perhaps for the first time. That could certainly coincide with a turning point, ranging from an activist suddenly becoming vocal, or a spiritual awakening.)

Charubel and Sepharial Systems²⁶

The Charubel and Sepharial systems seem more attuned to the theme of turning points and confrontation.

Charubel says:

9 Aries: "A straight road, going in a direct line up to a point from which lead a number of branch roads, parting in four different directions. There is a finger-post which points but one way—the primal way, the direct one, alluded to." This seems to clearly reflect the concept of a watershed, a turning point that comes from decisive new direction. The image implies a choice, yet a choice where there is only one real way.

9 Cancer: "A spider in the corner of a room intently watching the giddy dance of silly flies, as they heedlessly approach the confines of his dominions." This image, too, implies a turning point, at least for the flies. The competitive element is also present, with the spider prepared to defeat the flies.

9 Libra: "A man standing on the top of a high mountain; on the one side, a perpendicular rock; he is standing near the precipice with a red flag in his hand, which he is waving by way of signaling a promiscuous crowd, who appear to be rushing on horseback at a gallop towards this rock." Again, the rushing of the crowd has the competitive theme. But the man on the high mountain? Is this a turning point for him? Are his intentions good, or is he really on the same level with the spider of 9 Cancer?

²⁵ Hill, Lynda. *360 Degrees of Wisdom: Charting your Destiny with the Sabian Oracle*. New York: Penguin, 2004. Hill's site is www.sabiansymbols.com.

²⁶ Charubel and Sepharial. *The Degrees of the Zodiac Symbolized*. Abingdon, MD: Astrology Center of America, Astrology Classics, 2004. (Available at www.astroamerica.com.)

9 Capricorn: “A man climbing a steep hill, a road consisting of steps; an angel form at the top giving words of cheer with a golden crown awaiting him.” This speaks of achievement and accomplishment, and the “crowning” of the person who attains it. This does not seem to be a competitive thing, but is one of duration and is in keeping with events previously cited of scientific achievement.

Sepharial has another take:

9 Aries: “A man standing upon a lofty place with his arms folded and his head erect.” Sepharial says this denotes “a person of great courage and self-confidence.” This image is very similar to Charubel’s 9 Libra and 9 Capricorn. It also implies the courage of confrontation, and perhaps the mythology and legendry that grows from it.

9 Cancer: “A little village lying in a fertile valley.” Sepharial describes it as a degree of contentment.

9 Libra: “A gladiator, armed with dagger and shield, ready for the fray.” He calls it a degree of fighting.

9 Capricorn: “A cross and a broken key.” Of this image, Sepharial says: “This in the index of a nature that is aspiring and eager to penetrate into the experiences of life, but doomed by an adverse fate to failure and disappointment. The broken key is the sign of those abortive enterprises in which he will engage to his undoing and loss of reputation.”²⁷ This also indicates the confrontational dimension of a turning point, and carries with it the idea that a turning point may not always be positive in the short-term or long-term.

A majority of both Charubel and Sepharial’s images have to do with someone or something “on high” looking down onto something else. The feeling is of rising above something. Yet something is also implied of a fated circumstance. Something on high—not defined, not understandable—is poised, about ready to take some sort of action. This is very indicative of the confrontational aspect of 8 Cardinal.

Dwads Evidence

The span of 8-9 of any cardinal degree is almost the end of the first decanate of the sign, whether it’s cardinal, fixed or mutable. These degrees have similarities to the 29th degree, which is not so much a degree of endings as it is of thresholds. The 8th Cardinal degree thus comes by its “turning point” reputation honestly.

It is in the dwadashamsas of the 8-9 Cardinal that the conflict of the turning point seems to be evident.

Degrees from 7.5-10 of any cardinal sign fall in the dwad of another cardinal sign.²⁸ The dwad for 8-10 Aries falls in Cancer; the dwad for 8-10 Cancer falls in Libra; the dwad for 8-10 Libra falls in Capricorn; the dwad for 8-10 Capricorn falls in Aries.²⁹

Because the dwad for this sign squares the cardinal sign in question, I think this gives 8-9 a similar power as the 9-10 ending of the decanate. It is interesting to note that once a degree

²⁷ Ibid, p.109-110.

²⁸ This is based on the Traditional dwad sign division, from *Tools and Techniques of the Medieval Astrologer, Book Two*, ©2004 by Robert Zoller, Ixion Press, West Vancouver, BC Canada. Further information can be found at his website, www.robertzoller.com.

²⁹ This is true of all the signs, using the traditional dwad sign division. 7:30-9:59 of any mutable degree, for example, falls in the dwad of another mutable degree.

reaches 10, its dwad is then in trine to the degree: e.g., 10-11:30 dwad of Aries is in Leo; 20-22:30 dwad of Aries is in Sagittarius.

I think 8 Cardinal has a feel to it similar to the Gibbous phase of the lunation cycle. The not-yet potential still has room and light to grow into the full moon—or, in the case of the degree, the next decanate. One of the downsides of the degree manifestation is impetuous haste that can't wait for the necessary time, resources or wisdom. It is as if it senses the full impact of the first decanate is waning, just as a Gibbous phase marks the "beginning of the end" of the waxing period of the Moon. It seems to fully comprehend the raw manifestation of the sign in which it resides.

Perhaps that is the basis of the conflict of the turning points that coincide with its appearance in progressions, directions and eclipses: the sense that time is running out, and there are just so many attempts at the brass ring before one must give accounting.

Aztec Astrology

The ancient Aztec astrologers of Mesoamerica consisting of Mexico and Central America studied the influence of the heavenly bodies in the sky on the life of man around 600 BC. It was a unique system untouched by the Greek, Roman or European astrological traditions. The rise and fall of the sun that marks the day was taken as the basic unit or the *biorhythm* for astrological calculations.

The Aztec calendar is the calendar system that was used by the Aztecs as well as other Pre-Columbian peoples of central Mexico. It is one of the Mesoamerican calendars, sharing the basic structure of calendars from throughout ancient Mesoamerica. The calendar consisted of a 365 day calendar cycle called *xiuhpohualli* (year count) and a 260 day ritual cycle called *tonalpohualli* (day count). These two cycles together formed a 52 year "century," sometimes called the "Calendar Round." The *xiuhpohualli* is considered to be the agricultural calendar, since it is based on the sun, and the *tonalpohualli* is considered to be the sacred calendar.

The calendric year began with the first appearance of the Pleiades asterism in the east immediately before the dawn light.



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