

17-18 Aquarius/Leo axis and the eclipse of February 2008

Summary of article: On Feb. 6, 2008, at 10:45 PM Eastern Standard Time, a solar eclipse will occur at 17 Aquarius 44. This article summarizes the 17th and 18th degrees of the Aquarius/Leo axis and its manifestations in events and in the progressed and directed charts of the notable and famous. Of particular interest is that Pakistan, Iran and Communist China all have this degree axis in their national charts. And at least three world leaders—including George Bush, Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan, and Mahmoud Ahmandinejad of Iran, have the axis currently active in their progressions and directions. The article also suggests themes for the 17-18 Aquarius/Leo axis, including lucky accidents and quirky US presidential elections.

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The summer of 1944 was one of conflict and tragedy within the family of Joseph P. and Rose Kennedy, who founded the dynasty that would ultimately spawn a US President, a US attorney general, and a US Senator.

In May of that year, Kathleen Kennedy, the second oldest daughter of the nine Kennedy children, married William Cavendish, Marquess of Hartington, with the adamant disapproval of her mother, Rose, a devout Catholic who reportedly didn't want anyone in the family attending the wedding.

Then, tragically, on Aug. 12 of that year, Joe Kennedy Jr., on whom the family had pinned their hopes for the US Presidency, was killed in a plane explosion while on a World War II mission.

When the progressions and directions are done for the Kennedy family members during this time period, the presence of the 17th degree of Aquarius is startling.

Joe Jr. himself had a **solar arc Moon** at 17 Aquarius 14 at the time of his death, in conjunction with his **natal North Node** also at 17 Aquarius.

Bobby Kennedy, his younger brother, had a **solar arc Moon** at 17 Aquarius 25,

in conjunction with a **solar arc South Node** at 17 Aquarius.

Ted Kennedy had **converse secondary progressed Mars** at 17 Aquarius 59.¹

Kathleen Kennedy had **converse solar arc Mercury** at 17 Aquarius 55.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver had a **converse solar arc Uranus** at 17 Aquarius 20.

¹ The degree appeared at the time of the death of Robert F. Kennedy in June, 1968. Ted Kennedy had a **solar arc Ascendant** of 17 Aquarius 02 at that time, and clan patriarch Joseph P. Kennedy had a **solar arc Jupiter** at 18 Aquarius 33 when Bobby Kennedy was assassinated. Rose Kennedy had a **solar arc Pluto** at 18 Leo 31 when John F. Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963, which would have opposed the **transiting Saturn** at 17 Aquarius at that time.

Pat Kennedy Lawford had **secondary progressed Mars** at 17 Aquarius 44.

Jean Kennedy Smith had a **Venus/Ceres** conjunction at 17 Aquarius.

Noticeably missing was John F. Kennedy, who would pick up his older brother's familial duty and become president of the United States, inaugurated with a **converse solar arc Chiron** at 17 Aquarius 11, only to be assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963, when **transiting Saturn** was at 17 Aquarius 19.

This rather dramatic presence of the 17th degree of Aquarius should not, in my opinion, be interpreted as a forerunner of death and tension. Upon the death of Joe Kennedy Jr., the family grieved deeply, and then re-assigned their presidential ambitions to another member of their family. This brings up what appears to be a theme for the 17th-18th degrees of the Aquarius-Leo axis: ***compromise and regrouping.***²

The February 2008 eclipse

Before continuing with the theme analysis of this degree, some facts about the upcoming eclipse are appropriate.

The 2008 eclipse on February 6 is part of Saros Cycle 10 North. Bernadette Brady says that this eclipse cycle first began with an eclipse on April 25, 944, at 9 Taurus. She points out that the first eclipse's New Moon is conjunct Mercury, and Saturn is on the midpoint of the New Moon/Neptune. She says that "there is a very strong emphasis on communication, and, at the same time, frustrating or inhibiting events may come into the person's life via news, paperwork or a young person."³

The most recent eclipse in this series occurred on Jan. 26, 1990, though the degree was 7 Aquarius. It should be noted that eclipses close to this 17th degree of Aquarius include the eclipse of Feb. 5, 1962, which occurred in 16 Aquarius, and the 18 South Saros cycle.⁴

The 17th degree of Aquarius falls in the Mercury decanate of Aquarius, and the Virgo dwad, which further emphasizes this idea of communication that Brady has articulated. For the average person, wherever the degree falls in your natal *and progressed/directed* charts, there should be strong communication matters coming to the foreground. The eclipse is particularly important if it is in

² I should also say, however, that within any family lineage will be certain degrees that seem to pop out in the birth charts throughout the generations. The 17th Aquarius degree is obviously one of importance to the Kennedy family in progressions and directions. It is appropriate that the February 2008 eclipse of 17 Aquarius sees Senator Edward Kennedy getting ready to publish his memoirs. You must also look at the ***solstice point*** of 17-18 Aquarius which is 12-13 Scorpio, carrying within its sign the concept of death, resurrection, and regeneration. However, this is not the only degree that dominates the Kennedy saga. The 22nd degree of cardinal signs has shown up a great deal more than 17-18 Aquarius/Leo in this family's tragedies.

³ Brady, Bernadette. *Predictive Astrology: The Eagle and the Lark*. (York Beach, ME: Samuel Weiser, 1992) p. 322.

⁴ This eclipse, as many will remember, was regarded as highly ominous, since it occurred when at least five other planets were in Aquarius, accented by the Aquarian solar eclipse. At least one prognosticator, Jeanne Dixon, said that a child was born in the Middle East at this time that would supposedly grow up and be a great leader. She later changed the prediction to say that this was not necessarily a good benevolent leader. Of interest is that anyone who was born around that time will have this solar eclipse on his/her birthday, or very close to the natal Sun, always an indicator of an important year ahead. Obviously, anyone born within three to four months after this date will have it as their pre-natal solar eclipse.

conjunction or opposition with a natal, progressed or directed angle, or if it is in conjunction or opposition with the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn or Jupiter. Conjunctions/oppositions to the outer planets—Pluto, Uranus and Neptune—tend to operate on a generational level. Nonetheless, the house in which the eclipse falls is still important, and the eclipse can be personalized if in aspect to the outer planets.

Theme One of this degree axis is, as has been stated, compromise and regrouping. There are other themes associated with the 17-18 Aquarius/Leo axis.

Theme 2: Power crises: out with the old, in with the new

The Kennedy coincidence previously mentioned was also a power crisis of sorts, in that the family member who was *supposed* to become president of the United States was dead, and the power had to be shifted to the next oldest brother, John F. Kennedy.

Power crisis is another theme of this particular degree in the Aquarius/Leo axis: that of the traditional tried-and-true going up against reality, or a revolution that may have passed it by. The degree tends to turn up in US election flukes. This appears to be an overall theme of the sign of Aquarius, but it pinpoints particular events in the 17-18th degree.

A political crisis arose in France on May 16, 1877, a supremacy contest between monarchists with the role and power of the presidency. At the time, **transiting Mars** was at 17 Aquarius 53 and in conjunction with the trans-Neptunian **Hades** at 14 Aquarius 25.

Another monarchy crisis loomed in the Netherlands in 1956, when a Dutch psychic, Greet Hofmans, began to have great influence over then Queen Juliana. As of June 1, 1956, Greet had her **converse secondary progressed Mars** at 17 Aquarius, opposing her **solar arc Jupiter** at 17 Leo 30.

In England, on May 13, 1643, Oliver Cromwell led parliamentary forces to victory over the Royalists in the English Civil War. At the time, he had a **converse secondary progressed North Node** at 17 Aquarius 05, in conjunction with **converse secondary progressed Hera** at 18 Aquarius 20.

This idea of royalty trying to recall better days even manifests on the artistic/symbolic level. On Aug. 10, 1950, the movie *Sunset Boulevard* premiered, with a **Sun/Pluto** conjunction in Leo opposing the **Ascendant** of the premiere chart.⁵ The theme of the movie was a faded movie queen trying to “regain” her lost glory.

Election flukes

Related to the out-with-the-old theme are also election-related events that border on constitutional crises in the United States presidential races.

⁵ Chart data is Aug. 10, 1950, 19:40:52 PDT, Los Angeles. **Source:** *The International Journal of the Astrological Association of Great Britain*, “Tales from the Far Side: Paul F. Newman’s Astrological Retrospective” on the movie, Vol. 43 #1, January/February 2001.

The 17-18 Aquarius/Leo axis was prominent in the 2000 election crisis in America. Former US Vice President Al Gore conceded the presidency to George W. Bush on Dec. 13, 2000 after one of the most bizarre elections in the nation's history. Gore had his **converse secondary progressed Sun** at 18 Aquarius 10. **Transiting Uranus** on that day was at 17 Aquarius 51, and **transiting Vesta** was at 17 Aquarius 51.

History students know that this was not the first time such a crisis had happened in the American presidential election. On Jan. 29, 1877, the US Congress had to pass a law forming a 15-member electoral commission to settle the election of 1877, finally resolved when Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner, even though his opponent, Samuel Tilden, had won the popular vote. At the time, Hayes had a **converse solar arc Sun** at 18 Leo 23.

Even earlier, on Feb. 9, 1825, John Quincy Adams was elected US president after the election was thrown into the House of Representatives. It marked the first election where a candidate **didn't** receive the majority of the electoral vote. (Adams ran against Andrew Jackson who was elected president some years later.) Adams at the time had a **converse secondary progressed Ascendant** at 18 Leo 27. (Andrew Jackson did not have any planets or angles in 17-18 Aquarius/Leo but did have a **solar arc Jupiter** and **solar arc Pluto** at 13 Scorpio, the solstice point of 17 Aquarius.)⁶

On Dec. 7, 1836, Martin Van Buren was voted US president after an election that was marked by the first time that a *vice president* selection had been thrown into the Senate. At the time, **transiting Jupiter** was at 18 Leo 06. The 1836 election was (1) the last time until 1988 that a sitting vice president (Van Buren) was elected president; (2) the only election in which a major political party intentionally ran several presidential candidates. (The Whigs ran three different candidates, hoping one could defeat Van Buren, with the House of Representatives deciding between the competing Whig candidates. But Van Buren won a majority of the electoral vote and became president.)

This is an interesting list of events, and particularly important in that an eclipse in this degree precedes the 2008 US presidential election.⁷

Theme 3: Unexpected assumptions of power

As Uranus rules Aquarius, the unexpected is naturally going to be a "built-in" theme of any degree in Aquarius. This 17-18th Aquarius/Leo axis shows up quite often in assumptions of the US presidency following a death.

⁶ It should be noted here that Adams and Jackson's birth data are conflicting or the accuracy is in question. Adams' converse secondary progressed ascendant could be in dispute.

⁷ The 17 Leo-Aquarius axis can be seen in some of the current candidates (as of January, 2008, the time of this writing) progressions and directions for the Nov. 4, 2008, election day. Illinois Senator Barack Obama has **solar arc Venus** in 17 Leo 10, and his **natal Midheaven** is at 19 Leo if an unverified time of 1:06 PM is used for his chart. Rudy Guiliani has **secondary progressed Venus** at 18 Leo, **converse secondary progressed Jupiter** at 17 Leo 34 with **converse secondary progressed Zeus** at 18 Leo 59. Mitt Romney's **solar arc Uranus** is at 18 Leo 19. More compelling, however, is the August 2008 eclipse at 9 Leo 32. John McCain has a **converse solar arc Ascendant** at 8 Leo 51; Guiliani has **converse secondary progressed Ascendant** at 8 Leo 55, in conjunction with a **secondary progressed Sun/Pluto** conjunction at 8 Leo and a **minor progressed Ascendant** at 8 Leo 02. (This is based on a 2:30 PM birth time for Giuliani.)

When Millard Filmore became president of the United States following the death of Zachary Taylor on July 9, 1850, Filmore's **secondary progressed Ascendant** and **solar arc Mercury** were both at 17 Aquarius, within 5 minutes of orb.

When John Tyler became president upon the death of William Henry Harrison on April 4, 1841, his **converse secondary progressed Sun** was at 17 Aquarius 55, in conjunction with his **converse secondary progressed Pluto** at 18 Aquarius 42.

Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as US president on Nov. 22, 1963, following the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Johnson's **solar arc Vertex** was at 18 Aquarius 49.

Theme 4: Near-misses

While the US presidential assassinations are well-known, there have been a number of lesser-known near-misses in the US history. Such occurrences have 17-18 Aquarius/Leo in their signature.⁸

On Jan. 30, 1855, US President Andrew Jackson narrowly escaped an assassin's bullet. At the time, his **converse solar arc Ascendant** was at 17 Aquarius 19, in conjunction with his **converse solar arc Uranus** at 18 Aquarius 46.

US President Gerald Ford escaped two assassination attempts in September, 1975, when his **converse secondary progressed Moon** was at 17 Leo 04. When Squeaky Fromm attempted to assassinate him on Sept. 5, 1975, her **converse secondary progressed Venus** was at 17 Leo 56.⁹

On April 13, 1993, sixteen men, in the alleged employment of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, smuggled a car bomb into Kuwait with plans to kill former US President George H.W. Bush as he spoke at Kuwait University. Officials found the bomb and arrested the suspected assassins. (Note that Bush had been out of office since January of that year.) At the time, the senior President Bush had a **converse solar arc conjunction of Ceres and Chiron** in 17 Aquarius.

On Feb. 15, 1933, in Miami, an attempt was made on the life of then US president-elect Franklin Roosevelt. It missed Roosevelt, but fatally wounded Chicago mayor Anton J. Cermak. At the time of the attempt on his life, Roosevelt had **solar arc Mars** at 18 Leo 15 configured with his **converse secondary progressed Moon**, at 18 Leo 35, both in conjunction with the trans-Neptunian **Zeus**, representing explosions and gunfire, at 20 Leo 27.

And on July 20, 1944, even Adolph Hitler survived a third assassination attempt, when his **converse secondary progressed Mercury** was at 18 Aquarius 21, opposing the transiting **Mercury** in 17 Leo 25 and trans-Neptunian **Zeus** at 19 Leo 34.

⁸ As far as the assassination of leaders goes, 6-8 degrees of cardinal signs, especially Aries and Libra, seem to be active in progressions, directions and transits of both the assassins and their victims. I will save this unquestionably eerie list for another article.

⁹ This brings up something unrelated to this article, but fascinating nonetheless. People frequently encounter other people when their progressions are lined up to the same degree, or an opposing degree. This is best illustrated in Paul Westran's book, *When Stars Collide*. Westran's examples have to do with opposite sex/romantic cases. However, as shown in the Ford/Fromm encounter, not all of these liaisons are benign.

Theme 5: Electricity and light

Aquarius is the sign of electricity, and a number of events related to electricity and light have occurred under the signature of the 17th-18th degrees of the axis.

When the first electric traffic lights were installed in Cleveland, Ohio, on Aug. 5, 1914, **Jupiter** was at 18 Aquarius 01.

Charles Townes, considered the father of the laser, had a “eureka” moment on discovering the laser principle on April 26, 1951 at 7:30 AM on a park bench in Washington, DC.¹⁰ At the time his **converse solar arc Chiron** was at 18 Aquarius 09, formed a conjunction with his **natal North Node** at 18 Aquarius 02. Interestingly, in the chart for the 1951 “eureka moment”, the **Part of Fortune** is at 18 Aquarius 48.

The first laser was operated on May 15, 1960 at the Howard Hughes laboratories in Malibu, California. **Uranus** was at 17 Leo 08.

On April 21, 1820, Danish physicist Hans Christian Orsted developed an experiment and noticed a compass needle deflected from magnetic north when the electric current from the battery he was using was switched on and off. This deflection confirmed for him a direct relationship between electricity and magnetism. At the time, his **solar arc Venus** was at 17 Leo 39 (aligned with his **secondary progressed Jupiter** at 18 Leo 41).

When the twin spacecraft known as STEREO (Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory) was launched on Oct. 25, 2006 at 8:52 PM from Cape Canaveral, Florida, the **Ascendant** for the launch chart was 10 Gemini 54, appropriate for twins, and appropriate for a mission to explore massive explosions on the Sun that can disrupt communications on earth and endanger the lives of astronauts.¹¹ **Neptune** at the time was at 17 Aquarius 02 conjunct the **Midheaven** of 24 Aquarius 21.

Theme 6: Light and the supernatural

There are quite a few occurrences that could be classified as supernatural or metaphysical that have manifested when the 18 Aquarius-Leo energy was present. You can also see that some of these events tied in with the idea of “light” expressed in Theme Four.

On March 19, 1963, a professor of electrical energy saw a ball-lightning globe first outside, then inside, an airliner he was taking from New York to Washington, with an electrical storm in progress. At the time, **Saturn** was at 18 Aquarius in conjunction with **Venus** at 17 Aquarius.¹²

On June 18, 1845, in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, the crew of the brig *Victoria* saw three bright, luminous objects emerge from the sea and shoot into the sky where they were visible for 10 minutes. **Saturn** was at 18 Aquarius 39 retrograde opposing the trans-Neptunian **Poseidon** at 18 Leo. (Poseidon is a trans-Neptunian planet associated with light.)

¹⁰ Source: Kollerstrom, Nick and O’Neill, Mike. *The Eureka Effect*. (London: Urania Trust, 1996) p. 9

¹¹ Source: www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/sterео/launch/launch-index.html

¹² Source: Clark, Jerome. *The Unexplained* (Canton, MI: Visible Ink Press, 1999) p. 137

On Dec. 22, 1904 at 5:18 PM also in Merioneth, Wales, three observers saw “ghost lights” described as a large light “about half way from the earth to the sky..also some little lights scattering around the large light in many colors.”¹³ **Saturn** was at 17 Aquarius 38.

Ghost lights were reported on Jan. 2, 1905 at 10:40 PM in Merioneth, Wales. At the time, **Saturn** was at 18 Aquarius 45.¹⁴

Mystic/monk Padre Pio had the first appearance of the stigmata that he would carry for the rest of his life on Sept. 20, 1918. At the time, his **minor progressed Ascendant** was at 17 Aquarius 10.

One of Victorian England’s most persistent reports was of a strange man known to the press as “Springheel Jack” with clawlike hands (Mercury ruled) who preyed on people at night, wore a large helmet, had a “most hideous and frightful experience.” One of his initial apparitions occurred on Feb. 28, 1838 at 8:30 PM in London.¹⁵ The report was that he appeared before two sisters, threw upon his cloak and exhibited a lamp, then puffed a quantity of flame from his mouth and into the face of one of the women, who instantly fainted. The individual did not utter a word, but walked away in an instant. At the time, **Mercury** was at 17 Aquarius.

Theme 7: Technology

Though any Aquarian degree tends to produce technology-oriented events, the 17-18th of the Aquarius/Leo axis is associated with some memorable and pioneering ones.

On Jan. 1, 1983, ARPANET officially changed to using Internet protocol, thus creating the Internet. **Transiting Mars** was at 17 Aquarius 50.

Steve Wozniak co-founded Apple Computers with Steve Jobs on April 1, 1976. Wozniak’s **solar arc Moon/Venus** conjunction was at 18 Leo 55.

Microsoft CEO Bill Gates took leave of Harvard University in November 1975 to begin what was registered as Microsoft the following year. In 1975, his **solar arc Ascendant** was at 17 Leo 04.

On Feb. 14, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell’s lawyers filed Bell’s patent for the telephone at 11:30 AM.¹⁶ **Uranus** was at 17 Leo 37, and Bell’s **converse solar arc Ascendant** was at 17 Aquarius 10.

Charles Lindbergh departed Long Island, NY on May 20, 1927, and flew his plane, *The Spirit of St. Louis*, to Paris, becoming the first person to ever make that journey solo. At the time, his **secondary progressed Venus** was at 18 Aquarius 15 retrograde.

Henri Becquerel discovered radioactivity on March 1, 1896 at 2:00 PM GMT.¹⁷ At the time, his **solar arc Mars/Chiron** conjunction was at 18 Aquarius trining his **secondary progressed Uranus** at 18 Gemini 48.

¹³ Op cit, Clark, p. 173

¹⁴ Source: <http://www.skygaze.com/content/strange/GhostLights.shtml>

¹⁵ Op cit, Clark, p. 502

¹⁶ Source: Wikipedia.org

Marie Curie isolated radium when she had a **solar arc Uranus** at 17 Leo, in conjunction with her **solar arc Descendant** . (Uranus/Descendant conjunction was a natal aspect, for those not familiar with solar arc directions.)

Theme 8: Lucky accidents

The 17 Leo/Aquarius axis can indicate a time when once-in-a-lifetime quirky things happen that can catapult a person into a new life. The term “lucky accident” comes to mind. The lucky accident hints of Trickster activities, and reflects the Mercurial influence of 17-18 Aquarius.

Actress Shirley MacLaine got her big break on Broadway when she understudied for Carol Haney in the production of *The Pajama Game* that opened on May 13, 1954. A few months later, Haney broke her ankle and MacLaine, on little notice and with no rehearsals, took on the lead that ultimately made her a star. At the time, MacLaine’s **converse solar arc Moon** was at 17 Leo 10.¹⁸

Sir Alexander Fleming discovered on Sept. 3, 1928, at 10:30 AM that mold had developed accidentally on a staphylococcus culture plate and that it had created a bacteria-free circle around it. This inspired him to research further, and his discovery was penicillin. At the time, his **secondary progressed Ascendant** was at 18 Leo 11.¹⁹

On Nov. 25, 1992, Massachusetts resident Kenneth Greene bought a lottery ticket and the cashier accidentally sold him one for the Megabucks instead of the lesser prize that he’d intended to buy. The Megabucks ticket won the \$13 million lottery. At the time, Greene’s **secondary progressed Sun** was at 18 Aquarius 35.

Theme 9: Gas uses and misuses

There is a certain Neptune quality to this 17-18 degree Aquarius/Leo axis, and it manifests occasionally in gas explosions or use of gas-related products or measures.

A series of violent gas explosions ripped open the streets of Guadalajara, Mexico on April 22, 1992, at 10:30 AM, killing more than 500 people. **Transiting Saturn** was at 17 Aquarius 27.²⁰

On April 30, 2007, a gasoline tanker exploded in Oakland, California at 3:45 AM , melting stretches of highway. **Saturn** was at 18 Leo 15.²¹

On Feb. 8, 1924, in Carson City, Nevada, the gas chamber was first used as a mean of execution (unverified time: 9:30 AM). The **Sun** was at 18 Aquarius 42 opposing **Neptune** at 19 Aquarius 16.

¹⁷ Source: Op cit, Kollerstrom and O’Neill, p. 38

¹⁸ Research into finding the exact date this occurred has so far turned up nothing concrete. But the show opened on May 13, 1954, and several biographies of MacLaine say that Haney broke her ankle “a few months later”, other sources saying “the first week of the run” and still others saying “within a month of opening.” I have used the date of July 13, 1954 for MacLaine’s directions. The converse solar arc Moon is in effect for one year.

¹⁹ Op cit, Kollerstrom and O’Neill, p. 45

²⁰ Source: www.drj.com/drworld/content/w2_028.htm

²¹ Source: News accounts, Associated Press

Saturn was at 18 Leo 14 in conjunction with **Mars** at 21 Leo and **Venus** at 25 Leo 18 on Aug. 27, 1859, when petroleum was discovered in Titusville, Pa., the world's first successful oil well.

Ether was used for the first time on March 30, 1842, in Danielsville, Ga., with **Neptune** in conjunction with the trans-Neptunian **Admetos** at 18 Aquarius.

The gas mask was patented on June 12, 1849 by Lewis Haslett in Louisville, Ky. **Jupiter** was at 18 Leo 15.

Additional manifestations

Though I would not classify any of the following events as reflecting an actual theme, the frequency of the 17 Aquarius/Leo axis should be noted.

Accidents at entertainment-related facilities

The influence of Leo on this axis can be seen in accidents that have occurred in entertainment-related facilities.

On Feb. 20, 2003, in West Warwick, Rhode Island, at 11:08 PM, a pyrotech display at a rock concert engulfed the night club, The Station, killing 100. The **Midheaven** was at 18 Leo 43. It is considered the fourth deadliest night club fire in US history.²²

The New Haven Coliseum in New Haven, Connecticut imploded at 7:50 AM on Jan. 20, 2007. **Neptune** and the **Moon** were at 18 Aquarius in conjunction with **Venus** at 20 Aquarius 30.²³

At a soccer match in Bastia, France, a temporary stadium collapsed, killing 17 and injuring over 2000 on May 5, 1992 at 8:20 PM. **Saturn** was at 18 Aquarius 01, transiting the 3rd house of the event chart.²⁴

Some historic firsts connected with this axis include:

Margaret Thatcher was named England's first female prime minister, with **converse solar arc Mars** at 17 Leo 12.

Golda Meir became the first female prime minister of Israel on March 17, 1969, when her **solar arc Saturn** was at 18 Aquarius 45.

Edward Brooke of Massachusetts became the first African-American to be elected to the US Senate since reconstruction, on Nov. 8, 1966. His **secondary progressed Jupiter** was at 18 Leo 03, trining his **secondary progressed Sun** at 19 Sagittarius.

²²Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Station_nightclub_fire; www.boston.com/.../rhode_island/articles/2006/02/07/events_since_the_2003_blaze_at_the_station_nightclub

²³Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Haven_Coliseum; wirednewyork.com/forum/archive/index.php/t-11433.html

²⁴Source: news reports

Bobby Jindal was the first non-white ever elected Governor of the State of Louisiana, in October of 2007. At the time, his **secondary progressed Mercury** (ruler of his natal Sun) was in 17 Leo 35, opposing his **natal North Node** at 17 Aquarius 27.

On April 4, 2007, the NYSE Euronext, the first global marketplace group, began its trading at 9:00 AM in Paris, France, followed by 9:30 AM in New York City. For the New York opening time, the **Midheaven** was 18 Aquarius 33.

Entertainment firsts

As this axis does involve Leo, it would be logical that the 18 Aquarius-Leo axis could result in some entertainment milestones as well.

Leon Fleisher, one of the greatest pianists of his generation, was crippled with focal dystonia, a neurological condition that led to paralysis of his right hand. He was not able to play with both hands for 30 years until, with the help of Botox, Rolfing and other treatments, he performed a triumphal concert on Jan. 13, 1996 at Carnegie Hall. At the time, his **solar arc Saturn** was at 18 Aquarius 10.

Rock star Rod Stewart was given a guitar on his 14th birthday which shaped the rest of his life. At the time, his **converse secondary progressed Venus** was at 18 Aquarius 41.

On Dec. 3, 1960, baritone Robert Goulet opened on Broadway in *Camelot*. At the time, his **solar arc Venus** was at 18 Aquarius 10.

Significant relationship beginnings/endings

There are other degrees that seem to be more prominent at the start of significant relationships. The ones that form—and end-- under the 17 Aquarius-Leo axis have a twist to them, are unusual in some way, or have a purpose that is scientific or metaphysical.

Evangelist Jerry Falwell became a born-again Christian and met his wife on the same day, Jan. 20, 1952. His **converse secondary progressed Moon** was in conjunction with his **natal Sun** at 18 Leo.

When Henry VIII executed his second wife, Anne Boleyn, on May 19, 1536, there was a **Mars/Saturn** conjunction at 17 Leo. (His marriage to Anne had brought about the schism with the Catholic church, the execution of many of his close friends, and produced one of the greatest of the English monarchs, Elizabeth I.)

Gertrude Stein met her future life-long partner, Alice B. Toklas, on Sept. 7, 1908, when Toklas' **converse solar arc Saturn** was at 17 Aquarius 44.

Henry Steele Olcott met Madame Helen Blavatsky on October 18, 1874.²⁵ They would later be co-founders of the Theosophical Society. At the time of the meeting, Olcott's **converse secondary progressed Uranus** and **converse solar arc Jupiter** were both at 18 Aquarius.

²⁵ Source: Astrodatbank software biography

In the summer of 1929, mathematician Andrey Kolmogorov met Russian mathematician Pavel Alexksandr, who was to be very influential on his work. Kolmogorov's **converse solar arc Jupiter** was at 18 Aquarius 47.

Parent/child relationships

I don't think the 17-18th Aquarius/Leo axis is one that could readily be associated with parent/child relationships. I would assign that to some of the Cancer/Capricorn degrees, but that is for another article. However, Leo is the ruler of the 5th house of children, and perhaps that is why these very unusual events have occurred involving a parent/child relationship. It is interesting that a common thread among most of these had to do with the parent's relationship not just with the child, but with a significant other.

I should also qualify that quite a number of Gemini, Scorpio and Cancer degrees were present in most of the following situations.

When Mia Farrow learned that her then-lover Woody Allen was having an affair with her daughter, Soon-Yi Previn (Jan. 13, 1992 was the date of the discovery), her **converse solar arc Neptune** was at 18 Leo 21, opposing her **converse solar arc Venus** at 19 Aquarius 34 (reflecting a natal Venus/Neptune opposition).

Sociopath Diane Downs took her children into the woods on May 19, 1983, and shot all three of them, then tried to blame a shaggy-haired stranger. She wanted her children dead to make her more desirable to a man with whom she was obsessively in love. At the time, her **secondary progressed Jupiter** was aligned with her natal **Mercury/Mars conjunction**, all at 17 Leo.

Cheryl Crane, daughter of actress Lana Turner, stabbed Turner's lover, Johnny Stompanato to death on April 4, 1958, believing he was trying to harm her mother. She was acquitted of the crime. At the time, Crane's **converse secondary progressed North Node** was at 17 Leo 24.

Gloria Morgan Vanderbilt began a custody trial for her daughter, Gloria (the sole heiress to her father's millions, who later launched a fashion design line), on Oct. 1, 1934. She ultimately lost custody of her daughter. At the time that the trial started, she had her **converse secondary progressed Saturn** in 18 Aquarius 57, opposing her **solar arc Ascendant** of 18 Leo 50. On the day the trial started, her **diurnal Ascendant** was 18 Leo 20 conjunct her **diurnal Mars** of 19 Leo 46.

Astrology and 17-18 Aquarius

There are even events connected with astrology that fall under this axis, though the events put the profession in a dubious light.

When a book by a former aide detailed US First Lady Nancy Reagan's use of an astrologer to guide US President Ronald Reagan's schedule following the attempted attack on his life in March of 1981, Mrs. Reagan had a **converse secondary progressed Moon** at 17 Aquarius 28. (I am using progressions to the date of May 16, 1988, which is the week that *Time Magazine* had a cover story on the book.)

At the time she was publicized as being Ronald Reagan's astrologer, Joan Quigley had a **secondary progressed IC** at 17 Aquarius, opposing the **secondary progressed Midheaven** of 17 Leo and close to her **converse secondary progressed Sun** at 19 Aquarius.

Elizabeth Teissier, astrologer and former Chanel model, was awarded a doctorate in sociology from the Sorbonne based on a 900-page dissertation on astrology in April, 2001. There was an uproar from other Sorbonne Ph.d.'s, who protested that the award demeaned their own doctorates. Teissier's clients included the French president, Francois Mitterand. At the time of her dissertation, her **secondary progressed Jupiter** was at 18 Aquarius 36.

17-18 Leo/Aquarius and terrorism

I reluctantly turn to the manifestation of this axis during a series of terror-related events.

The 18th-19th degree axis of Leo/Aquarius has figured prominently in events connected with the World Trade Center destruction in New York City. When the World Trade Center was destroyed on Sept. 11, 2001, **Venus** was at 18 Leo 24, which was the same degree of the solar eclipse that occurred in August, 1999.²⁶ Interestingly, on Feb. 13, 1975, a fire erupted in the World Trade Center at approximately 11:45 PM.²⁷, with a **Midheaven** at 18 Leo 24. On Feb. 26, 1993, there was a terrorist bombing of the World Trade Center at 12:17 PM in which six people died. **Chiron** was just past the 18th degree, at 19 Leo 08. The chart for the event had a 9th house cusp (using the Koch system) of 18 Aquarius.

Other terrorist activities that have occurred with this axis prominent:

On Oct. 12, 2000, in Aden, Yemen at 11:18 AM, the *USS Cole*, an American destroyer, was damaged by a terrorist attack with **transiting Uranus** at 17 Aquarius 00.²⁸

Joseph Mengele, chief medical officer at Auschwitz and the "angel of death" who butchered and supervised the torture or death of many, came to Auschwitz on May 30, 1943, with a **converse solar arc Mercury** at 18 Aquarius 30.

George Metesky, known as the "mad bomber" planted the first of 30 bombs around New York City on Nov. 16, 1940 in Manhattan's Con Edison building. Transiting **Zeus**, connected with gunfire and explosions, was at 17 Leo 56, and Metesky's **converse solar arc Venus** was at 18 Leo 47. (It should be noted that Metesky liked to place his bombs in movie theatres—ruled by Leo.)

Significant events connected with significant wars have been reflected in this axis.

²⁶ I am intrigued that this eclipse seems to be given the blame for just about anything that has happened following it. In truth, though, if one follows the research of astrologer Dietrech Pessin that a New Moon has a two-year influence, this August 1999 eclipse's effects would have run through Nov. 8, 2001 when the last quarter Moon was at 16 Leo 09. The events of Sept. 11, 2001 would have been included in this time frame, as would the *USS Cole* event. See her book *Lunar Shadows: The Lost Key to the Timing of Eclipses*, at <http://lunar-shadows.com>. (I just recently read in the February 2008 edition of *Tools of the Trade*, the fascinating newsletter of Martha Lang-Wescott, that the Uranian astrologer Charles Emerson also believed eclipses have a two-year influence. (Her website is www.treehousemountain.com.)

²⁷ Source: whatreallyhappened.com, and NY Times quoted "just before midnight."

²⁸ Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Cole_bombing; www.arlingtoncemetery.net/usscole-main.htm

When Adolph Hitler's Germany invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, Hitler had **converse secondary progressed Mercury** at 17 Aquarius 50.

Pluto was at 18 Aquarius 05 (opposing Jupiter at 11 Leo 57) on Aug. 7, 1789, when the US Congress established its war department.

The Normandy Invasion that ultimately helped defeat Hitler began on June 6, 1944 at 6:30 AM.²⁹ The **Midheaven** for the start was 18 Aquarius 08.

On April 12, 1861, the American Civil War officially began with the firing on Fort Sumter at Charleston, South Carolina, at 4:30 AM.³⁰ **Jupiter** was at 17 Leo 00.

Countries and world leaders

There are a number of countries with the 17-18 Aquarius/Leo axis in their "birth" charts. The Republic of Pakistan is one, with the **Moon** in 17 Leo. (The February eclipse has already shown manifestation here, with the death of former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Dec. 27, 2007, the only woman to have held that office.)

The Islamic Republic of Iran and Communist China both have **Pluto** at 17 Leo 16.³¹

Some world leaders have progressions and directions to this degree.

George Bush has a **solar arc Uranus/North Node** conjunction at 18 Leo and a **converse solar arc Moon** at 17 Leo.

Pervez Musharraf, president of Pakistan, has a **converse secondary progressed Zeus** at 18 Leo 10, in conjunction with his **natal Sun** at 17 Leo. The Aug. 11, 1999 eclipse previously mentioned fell on Pervez's birthday.

Gordon Brown, Britain's prime minister, has a **natal Pluto** at 18 Leo, and he currently has a **converse solar arc Ascendant** at 17 Aquarius 38.

Hamid Karzai, current president of Afghanistan, has a **secondary progressed Chiron** at 17 Aquarius 54.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, president of Iran, has a **secondary progressed Pallas Athena** at 17 Aquarius 28.

Dates connected with this Feb. 8 eclipse, when it could manifest:

March 4-5, 2008, when Mercury is in 17-18 Aquarius

March 3, 2008, when Venus is in 17 Aquarius

May 5, 2008, when the New Moon in Taurus squares the eclipse point;

²⁹ Source: Astrodatbank quoting news source

³⁰ Source: www.historyplace.com

³¹ Source: Campion, Nicholas. *The Book of World Horoscopes*. (Bristol, UK: Cinnabar Books, 1996)

September 18, 2008 – Oct. 2, 2008, when the North Node of the Moon is at 17 Aquarius;

June 10, 2008, when Mars is in 17 Leo;

The “mate” eclipse on Aug. 1 at 9 Leo 32;

The time each month from February-August when the Moon is in 17-18 Leo or 17-18 Aquarius;

Based on the research of Dietrech Pessin,³² this eclipse may have a two-year overall effect:

Nov. 6, 2008, when the First Quarter Moon is at 14 Aquarius 07³³

August 6, 2009, when the Full Moon lunar eclipse is at 13 Aquarius 43;

May 6, 2010, when the Last Quarter Moon is in 15 Aquarius 33.

The symbol systems for 17-18 Aquarius/Leo

In light of this degree’s influence with terrorism, it should be noted that the Sabian Symbol for 17 Aquarius is *A watchdog standing guard*. It is interesting to observe that on Nov. 25, 2002, US President George W. Bush signed into law the Department of Homeland Security, with **transiting Jupiter** at 17 Leo 59. The Sabian symbol for 17 Leo is “A non-vested church choir,” which suggests “practice” or something not yet selected or not yet legitimized. It also suggests innovations, matters and people not yet tested.

Blain Bovee looks at the Sabians with the whole axis involved, incorporating both the symbols for Aquarius and Leo. He notes one of the degree themes, when he says: “Apply this degree-pair with a mind to an awareness of long-held traditions as opposed to new, unrestrained ways of doing things; precarious positions when the mood shifts; losing one’s decorum while in exalted song as opposed to covering traditional tunes according to rule.”³⁴

For 18 Aquarius, the Sabian Symbol is *A man unmasked*.³⁵ On Nov. 19, 1703, a masked man held prisoner in the Bastille in Paris died. His true identity spawned literary works, including Alexandre Dumas’ *Man in an Iron Mask*. **Transiting Pluto** was at 17 Leo 51. Also, as previously mentioned, the gas mask was patented under these degrees. On a less literal level, the eclipse could see manifestation of something—or someone—previously hidden. The opposing degree of 18 Leo is “a teacher of chemistry.”

³² Pessin, Dietrech. *Lunar Shadows: The Lost Key to the Timing of Eclipses*. (Boston, MA: Galactic Press, 1998) Also see Pessin’s site at <http://lunar-shadows.com>.

³³ A manifestation here could give credibility to the February solar eclipse having an influence on the 2008 US presidential elections to be held Nov. 4. Normally, however, one would look to the closest eclipse, which would be on Aug. 1, 2008, at 9 Leo 32.

³⁴ Bovee, Blain. *The Sabian Symbols and Astrological Analysis*. (St Paul, MN: Llewelyn, 2004) p. 208

³⁵ While writing this, I was also reading *Cosmic Trends: Astrology Connects the Dots* by Philip Brown. (Woodbury, MN: Llewelyn, 2006), p.70. He notes that Pluto is transiting Capricorn and says: “What is important when Pluto goes into Capricorn is how the powerful react to seeing masks pulled from their own public faces.” This is interesting in that Pluto’s transit in Capricorn will begin around the time of this 17 Aquarius eclipse. Brown also notes that there are several ways Pluto in Capricorn can bring masks to the surface. “There will be a great urge to shed masks, to be authentic...Electronic masks will be used to disguise and conceal...Identity theft and related crimes will surge.”

Again, Bovee combines the two symbols, and says, “Apply this degree-pair with a mind to the twofold truths regarding masks: highlighting features for effect; covering over more profound realities.”³⁶

Other symbol systems have equally provocative images. Of 17 Leo, Sepharial says: “A man riding a camel with attendants following.” Of 18 Leo, he says, “A bright mirror in which the Sun’s rays are reflected. It is a degree of shining.”³⁷ For 17 Aquarius, he says: “A man lying prone upon a bed of sickness” and calls it a “degree of apathy.” For 18 Aquarius, he says: “An old woman seated on a stool with a hooded cloak wrapped closely around her. It is a degree of isolation.”³⁸

The mystery of the 17-18 Aquarius/Leo axis can be articulated in the events and progressions/directions associated with it. Still, they are only hints of its manifestations in the February 2008 eclipse.

Listed below are natal placements in the degrees discussed in this article. A list of birth data is available for those whose progressions and directions were mentioned in the article. Please contact info@micheleadler.com for this data.

People with 17-18 Aquarius in their natal charts:

Woodrow Wilson, American president, **Mars/Venus conjunction (within one minute of orb), 5th house**

Ann Margret, actress/singer, **Mars, 11th house**

Chuck Berry, rock singer, **Jupiter, 4th house**

Joseph Campbell, mythologist/author, **Saturn 4th house**

Jane Austen, writer, **South Node, 5th house**

Ingrid Bergman, actress, **North Node, 6th house**

Louis Berman, Dr., endocrinology pioneer, **Moon, 2nd house**

Chuck Berry, rock musician, **Jupiter, 4th house**

Hermene Bustos, Mexican-Indian artist, **Uranus, 7th house**

Scott Carpenter, American astronaut, **Midheaven**

Sean Peckinpah, film director/screen writer, **Moon, 8th house**

Jean Peters, actress, wife of Howard Hughes, **Jupiter, 12th house**

Czarevitch Alexis, son of Czar Nicholas, murdered by Bolsheviks, **Saturn, 3rd house**

John Roosevelt, son of US President FD Roosevelt, **Uranus, 3rd house**

³⁶ Ibid, p. 210

³⁷ *The Degrees of the Zodiac Symbolized.* (Abingdon, MD: Astrology Center of America, Astrology Classics, 2004.) P. 78-79 (The book can be ordered through astroamerica.com.)

³⁸ Ibid, p. 122

Roseanne, American actress/comedian, **Ascendant/North Node conjunction**

Kenneth Anger, Hollywood expose writer, **Mercury, 3rd house**

Pierre Samuel Dupont, politician, prominent family member, **Venus, 10th house**

Ester de Figueiredo Ferrz, Brazilian politician/author/educator, **Sun, 7th house**

Peter Hurkos, Dutch psychic, **Midheaven**

Padre Pio, mystic/monk/stigmatist/saint, **IC**

Grant Lewi, astrologer/author/teacher, **Jupiter, 7th house**

Peter Marshall, Presbyterian clergyman, chaplain to US Senate from 1947-1948,

Jupiter, 9th house

Dinah Shore, singer, TV personality/pioneer, **Uranus, 9th house**

Jose Silva, developer of Silva Mind Control, **Jupiter, 9th house**

Lucky Luciano, gangster, **Ascendant**

Grace Slick, rock star singer, **Mars, 3rd house**

Ivana Trump, entrepreneur, first wife of Donald Trump, **Venus, 3rd house**

Walt Whitman, American poet, **Jupiter, 11th house**

Patti Davis, author, daughter of Nancy and Ronald Reagan, **Ascendant**

Gustave Courbet, French artist/realism developer, **Jupiter, 10th house**

John Ehrlichman, US domestic affairs advisor to Richard Nixon, **Moon, 3rd house**

H R Haldeman, chief of staff to Richard Nixon, **Jupiter, 5th house**

Seymour Hersh, investigative reporter, **Midheaven**

Henry Kissinger, diplomat, former American secretary of state under Richard Nixon,,
Midheaven

Julie London, singer in the 1950s, **Jupiter, 11th house**

Alexis Joel, musician daughter of Billy Joel and Christie Brinkley, **Jupiter, 5th house**

Patrick Henry, American patriot, **Jupiter (time unknown)**

Albert Fert, French physicist, 2007 Nobel Prize winner, **Jupiter (time unknown)**

Bobby Jindal, first non-white elected Governor of Louisiana (Oct 2007), **North Node
(time unknown)**

Leroy Allredge, geophysicist, **Sun, 1st house**

Michael Bloomberg, mayor of New York City, **Moon, 7th house**

Bruce Willis, actor, **Venus, 5th house**

Natal placements between 18 and 19 Aquarius:

Thomas Jefferson, American president, **Midheaven** (*Jefferson's time is considered to be highly speculative*)

Richard Nixon, US president, **Vertex, 6th house**

Richard Tarnas, educator/philosopher/author, **Jupiter, 9th house**

Samuel Becket, Irish author/playwright, **South Node, 3rd house**

Tammy Faye Baker, evangelist/singer, **Mercury, 2nd house**

Sandy Koufax, baseball player, **Mars, 11th house**

Hank Aaron, baseball player, **Saturn, 5th house**

Charles Dickens, English author, **Sun, 5th house**

Tycho Brahe, scientist/astronomer/astrologer, **Venus, 1st house**

Rudolph Steiner, architect/educator/visionary/author, **Venus, 3rd house**

David Baltimore, molecular biologist, 1975 Nobel Prize winner, **Jupiter, 7th house**

Donald Glaser, Nobel Prize winning scientist who created the bubble chamber which made it possible to photograph extraordinarily small particles, **Jupiter, 8th house**

Christian Anfinsen, American biochemist, 1972 Nobel prize winner, **Uranuse, 3rd house**

Charles Townes, "father of laser technology," **North Node, 7th house**

Jeanne Calment, lived to be 122 years old, **Saturn, 12th house**

Chastity Bono, daughter of Sonny Bono and Cher, **Mercury, 3rd house**

Billie Austin Bryant, murderer, robber, **Midheaven**

Diahann Carroll, actress/singer, **Ascendant**

Gloria Steinem, author/feminist, **North Node, 3rd house**

Richard Chamberlain, actor, **North Node, 5th house**

James Dean, actor, **Sun, 3rd house**

Charles Dickens, author, **Sun, 5th house**

Henry Ford Jr., auto company president/heir, **Ascendant**

Jeddu Krishnamurti, Indian philosopher/guru, **Ascendant**

Lucia dos Santos, one of three Fatima children who saw Blessed Mother, **Venus, 4th house**

Sybil Leek, author/astrologer/pagan, **Venus, 3rd house**

Cybill Shepherd, actress, **Jupiter, 5th house**

Gloria Vanderbilt, heiress/designer, **South Node, 5th house**

BF Skinner, psychologist, **Saturn 1st house**

Jules Verne, author, *20,000 Leagues under the Sea*, **Sun, 10th house**

Joe Namath, legendary football player, **South Node, 3rd house**

Sir Thomas More, advisor to Henry VIII, **Mercury, 3rd house**

Gregory Peck, renowned American actor, **Uranus, 10th house**

Auguste Renoir, French impressionist painter, **North Node, 1st house**

Franklin Roosevelt Jr., son of FDR, **Moon, 4th house**

Johann Von Goethe, German writer/philosopher, **Uranus, 3rd house**

Stonewall Jackson, American military officer, **Mercury, 4th house**

UFO abductee Meg (info in Astrodatbank) **Chiron, 8th house**

Virginia Woolf, author, **Mercury, 10th house**

Orson Welles, actor/director, **Moon, 9th house**

Patti Davis, author, daughter of US President Ronald and Nancy Reagan, **North Node, 1st**

house (in conjunction with 17 Aquarius Ascendant)

Jonas Salk, developer of polio vaccine, **Venus, 3rd house**

Richard Chamberlain, actor, **North Node, 5th house**

Natal placements at 17-18 Leo:

Michael Faraday, discoverer of electromagnetic induction, **Uranus (time unknown)**

Paul McCartney, musician/Beatle/legend, **Moon, 11th house**

Pervez Musharraf, head of Pakistan, **Sun (time unknown)**

Mata Hari, spy, **Mercury/Mars conjunction, 9th house**

Sir Edward Kelly, Elizabethan era occultist, **Sun, 8th house**

Jodie Foster, actress/director, **Mars, 8th house**

Padre Pio, mystic/monk/stigmatist/saint, **Midheaven**

Donald Trump, tycoon, real estate mogul, **Ascendant**

Princess Anne of England, **Pluto, 10th house**

Ludwig Van Beethoven, musical composer, **Midheaven**

Coco Chanel, fashion designer, **Venus, 8th house**

Richard Branson, entrepreneur, **Pluto, 1st house**

Marlon Brando, actor, **Neptune, 9th house**

Ava Gardner, actress, **Neptune, 1st house**

Jeffrey Dahmer, murderer, cannibal, necrophiliac, **Uranus, 11th house**

Diane Downs, sociopath/murderer of her children, **Mercury/Mars, 6th house**

Charles Eduard Jeanneret a.k.a. LeCorbusier, architect, **North Node, 2nd house**

Natal placements between 18-19 Leo:

Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple, **Sun, 11th house (with natal Pluto at 17 Leo)**

Martha Stewart, entrepreneur, **Midheaven**

Arthur Bremer, shooter of Alabam Gov. George Wallace, and plotted to kill Richard Nixon, **Pluto, 8th house**

Harrison Ford, actor, **Mars, 11th house**

Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, social activist, **Uranus, 9th house**