

Cosmic Views

Taurus Ingress

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Virginia Tech Massacre

By Carole Devine

The entire world was galvanized in horror this week when we heard of the worst mass killing in our country's history coming from the quiet town of Blacksburg, VA where Virginia Tech nestles in the mountains of western Virginia. Cho Seung-Hui, a 23 year old Korean student, shot and killed 32 students and teachers and then himself. Although I have only his date of birth from a colleague without exact time or place, there is enough to show a very troubled young man.

Cho was born somewhere in South Korea on January 18, 1984. Everyone born that day across the globe has the configurations he had, but I'm sure when the time of birth is finally found, the troublesome factors will be more prominent in his chart than in others born that day. I've met people born on the same day as serial killers, and of course, they did not become the same. Not only do special factors need to be in place to show a proclivity to exaggerating certain traits, but also free will is involved as people make choices each day of their lives.

That said, let's examine this untimed chart. The first thing that strikes me is the rage. He had Pluto conjunct Mars at 2 and 3 degrees Scorpio. At 7:15 am on Monday, April 16th—the time of the first shot—the transiting Mid-heaven was exactly square this conjunction... that is, 90 degrees from it. The Mid-heaven was 2:09 Aquarius and Pluto in his natal chart was 2:03 Scorpio. Since 7:15 is an estimate, it could have been at 3 degrees activating the Mars. The Mid-heaven moves one degree every four minutes. When Mars and Pluto get together, rage and obsession is the result. When it's used positively it can be a dedicated activist. But when used negatively, and especially in Scorpio, it can be murderous rage. In Cho's chart, it also squares the natal Sun, out of sign, but still in range mathematically. The rage is directed toward father or authority figures, perhaps both. His plays certainly hint at such a target and possibly at a ruthless father-figure in his life. In both his plays he mentions child molestation. It could very well have been part of his history.

High Idealism

Another aspect that is prominent all day is Jupiter conjoining Neptune in Sagittarius. Nothing could be more idealistic than that! It would have been hard for anyone to meet his expectations, they were so high. In its purist form, this could be a priest or other highly religious, philosophical person looking for the great ideal of perfection. But when coupled with the rage of Mars/Pluto, one can imagine his ideals not being met in any hypothetical situation, and then rage following. Further, this conjunction includes his Mercury, as well, so all his thinking is colored by it. Moon is in sensitive Cancer, a sign that does not “let go” of things easily. If his feelings were hurt, then he wouldn’t forget.

Triggers

Pluto has been near the end of Sagittarius for many months, and Cho’s Neptune/Jupiter conjunction is in the last degree of that sign, which has also been affected by recent eclipses of the past year. His passion of having ideals met had been exaggerated or “highlighted.” Over the last year also, Neptune and Saturn had been transiting over his progressed Sun at 20 degrees Aquarius—long term depression.

However, there is another configuration that many might overlook. His natal Saturn was at 15 Scorpio, and progressed Pluto and Mars, at 16 and 14 Scorpio, respectively, were straddling it over the last year, too. That adds serious dedication and coldness to his rage. The transiting nodes were also square those in his natal chart within minutes. Solar arc Mercury was conjunct his natal Sun, which by the way, was triggered by the new moon on the 17th. Solar arc Mars was sextile natal Sun within three minutes, as well, but could have been exact if he had a late day birth time. The sextile would have acted as a square, since his natal Mars is square the Sun. That is anger coming to the breaking point.

The Big Question

How much are we in charge? We see these configurations showing how someone felt at such a moment, but we *all* have those moments. There isn’t a chart out there that doesn’t have triggers to activate some of our darker traits, and we all have them. Most do not have anger such as this, but it’s only a matter of degree. We’re all capable of reaching a breaking point.

I believe it all boils down to choice. We choose how we are going to react to all that happens to us. If Cho had received counseling, would it have helped? We’ll never know for sure, but if we understand what our basic instincts are, it helps us to make better choices. That is why I think a child’s chart is the most valuable one to have done so that a parent can see these kinds of inclinations and guide the child more effectively.

The parents, being alert to expressions of various traits, can offer alternatives to behavior, thereby training the child to make those better choices himself habitually in the future. Also, it helps the parents to know whether or not certain forms of correction will be effective, and if not, what other forms could be more useful. It will be so helpful for society as a whole when having a child’s chart done when s/he is born is as common as getting immunizations.

Barack Obama

The best I can glean from various sources for Obama's birth data is August 4, 1961 at 1:06 p.m. in Honolulu, Hawaii. I was delighted to see him as a possible candidate when he first announced his intentions, but not after seeing this chart. Mr. Obama is a Leo with Scorpio rising and Moon in Gemini. All that is well and good. He's intelligent, confident and determined. He also has a couple planets in Virgo—good for details. With Venus in Cancer trine Neptune, he is compassionate.

The problem I have with the chart is Neptune and Jupiter being in a T Square with Mercury—and the Sun, although not involved with Jupiter, being square Neptune. Mercury in this chart represents not only the generic mental processes, common to all charts, but also long range goals, taxes and other people's values and power. The very worst that Neptune square Mercury can show is out and out deception—i.e. lying. Since Scorpio is rising, he is a secretive person, so one may never find out what is true and what isn't. The Sun in this chart represents his career, since it rules the MC. With Neptune square, he may not have a clear idea of what he's doing, especially when Mercury is also involved. Jupiter opposite Mercury is optimism, but also over-confidence, which is a Leo temptation, in itself.

In addition, the Moon in Gemini in the 7th, is square Pluto. This is intelligence—no question about that—but it is also duality. He may switch tactics, plans, ideas, etc. instantly, and then be very determined in a new direction (Pluto square the Moon).

There is a nice grand trine with Saturn/Jupiter (in conjunction) with the Moon and Mars. This helps enormously, and if there were evidence that this part of his nature is well-developed, then he might be able to be more clear and honest. However, the nature of the square aspect is "projection." That is, the one possessing it tends to feel that others have that trait instead of themselves. He can be deceptive without acknowledging or even realizing that he is.

Coming up in just about exactly two years, solar arc Mars will conjoin his natal Neptune, and for *four years* it will activate the Neptune/Sun square. This brings the trait into his daily work (Mars rules his sixth) so whether he is president or not, his attention will be drawn to this part of his character. The positive side of this is guilt over what has not been done, or a feeling of impotence that one can do no better. Personally, I wouldn't want to see that operative during a term of office of a US president. Over the next year he'll be getting increasingly angry (progressed Mercury conjunct progressed Mars) and in less than four months he starts a down turn in popularity, when the progressed Moon comes to progressed Saturn and stays to contact natal Saturn two months later. But he regains a sense of purpose and renewed vigor in ten to eleven months. In fact, in as soon as eight months, he is feeling more confident.

If his birth time is right, Saturn is at the MC now with Neptune opposing. Since Saturn at the zenith represents a pinnacle in one's career, and it won't be there next year, I have to doubt that he'll end up being the democratic candidate.

Astrology and *The Secret*

Ever since Oprah gave it her “Imprimatur,” sales of *The Secret* have been spreading like wildfire. Now everyone knows what it is. Since the premise of the DVD (and book) is that we make our own reality by what we think and feel—i.e. what we give most of our emotional attention to—then some astrologers, who think in fatalistic terms, are discussing this vehemently. If Astrology works, the argument goes, the how can one say we “create” our reality? I’ve been recommending *The Secret* to clients for months. I sure didn’t see a conflict. However, I would like to take this space and opportunity to expand on how I see them as symbiotic.

Astrology does work; there is no doubt of that, and if one just works with it a short time, the obvious correspondences are clear— as described, for instance, in the book, *Cosmos and Psyche* by Richard Tarnas, Ph.D. wherein he describes his more than thirty years research in the field. When a planet, like Saturn, for instance, activates your chart, you will feel it. It does not mean, however, that you have to succumb to the feeling and wallow in it. It is merely a time to work harder at choices that have to be made in order to optimize the next part of your life journey. Each minute you are creating your future by how you *respond* to these energies. There are times when we have scheduled events that we chose before we were born. These can be karmic or for some other reason, but they will arrive on time. People we care about die; people betray us; accidents happen; people reject you. It doesn’t mean that you could have “created” something else. It is merely a part of your life script, and how you handle it will “create” whatever is creatable in your future.

The value in having a chart done is to be able to know when these more challenging times are scheduled so we can be prepared. I think that the whole thing—astrology and creating your reality—is based on the same thing: particle physics. One argument I’ve heard ad nauseum is that “stars” so far away cannot possibly affect us. I’ve explained before that our Sun is a star, and it does, indeed, affect us; but aside from that, it has been shown that sub-atomic particles affect each other *instantly* regardless of time and distance. That shoots the idea of distance down, and since these particles are a unified field, *everything* affects everything! Secondly, it has been shown that these particles change, collapse and align with an observer’s thought and emotion. And since all atoms are made of these particles, they are around and through us at all times. For more on this, please read *The Field* By Lynn McTaggart and *The Dancing Wu Li Masters* by Gary Zukav. We are on the verge of a quantum leap in consciousness. Surely you want to be knowledgeable about what is happening. Start making your life what you want it to be!

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