

## A Few Thoughts About the Election from an Archetypal Astrologer

“A man can take any “what” if he knows “why.”  
(paraphrased from Nietzsche)

There are no accidents. The election results of early this morning, while shocking, or at least surprising to both sides, are a part of a much larger, natural order. Astrologers know that since 2008 major systems have been breaking down everywhere. It was only a matter of time until the two-party political system stopped existing as we know it. Such crumbling of the pillars of our beliefs are necessary so that breakthroughs may occur from time to time. My colleague Ray Grasse calls these times the “breaking in of the untamable.”

Even though the current transformation and the entry of this wildcard energy astrologically lasted from 2010 – 2015, like its predecessor in the mid-to-late 1960s the drama does not end when the intense time period ends. Much of the spirit of the sixties unfolded in the 1970s. Similarly, we will see an unfolding of the current revolutionary energy unfold for a while longer. Collective soul work does not happen overnight, nor does such change begin and end on a particular date.

While our country is divided almost perfectly into two camps, both sides usually agree that the system that they are each part of is broken. I ask you to consider this for a moment. I suggest you look from a ten-thousand-foot view. Despite the details of what is broken and how to fix it, despite partisanship and rhetoric and pointing fingers, and even beyond philosophies of right and wrong and simple or fancy solutions, we are broken. Each half of the country standing on one side of a mud pit with a giant rope between us leaves two options. Either there is a stalemate which we have seen for as far back as many millennials can remember – it is usually called Washington gridlock – or, one side pulls harder and the other side ends up in the mud. Usually, the winning side falls over as well and in the end, everyone gets bruised. This is not a way to be a country.

When we are faced with a two-sided problem, when anything is an either-or, black-or-white *dyadic* problem, it cannot be solved from within that model. We need to bring in a third, something created by the two. Imagine that each team had a team captain and these two figures went into a sleeping bag together for nine months. From that sleeping bag three would emerge. How would that new third entity behave?

Like so many, I am appalled by Donald Trump, *the man*. Just for starters he is a racist, misogynist, serial liar, and massive egotist. And, I am not appalled by Trump *as the archetype of the third*. I don't care about him as much as I care about his function for all of us as an archetypal figure.

Two things are true for me. First, he represents the archetype of the Maverick, even Prometheus, who stole the fire from the gods and gave it to the people. Mind you, I am not asking you to be literal. I don't expect Trump to give anybody anything. Again, it is not about the man Trump. As an archetype, he is performing a function for all of us. The wild card, the crazy stepchild, the weird orange uncle. To me, there is value to that because this is the only way we can get out from the dyad we were in. We are now in a completely different model, one of resolution and possibilities, a triad. We have two parties and Trump. This is new, important, and valuable.

Second, if the French philosopher Joseph de Maistre was right and, “Every nation gets the government it deserves,” then Trump, in Jungian terms, is showing us our collective *shadow*. The Swiss psychologist Carl Jung imagined a balance between what we are aware of and what the unconscious holds for us that we don't want to see. Our two-party system holds each other's shadow, that part that we hate the most in the other and, according to Jung, in ourselves. Trump is an awakening to our own shadow, to our own reality. As frightening as it sounds: he is not separate from us.

Political commentator Van Jones had a wonderful commentary on CNN earlier today. He described past successes of politicians with the media of their day. FDR was a master with radio during

his famous fireside chats. Kennedy figured out TV. His slick and charming appearance on the first-ever televised presidential debate completely overshadowed the pasty Nixon. Obama figured out how to get massive amounts of small donations from the internet, a new media. Trump, for his part, has figured out reality TV. He is a master at evoking the same feelings in masses of people that the ancient Romans did when they threw people before lions as a public spectacle. Trump is a master of the spectacle. Those who get caught up in what he said are missing the point. If he can say something more outrageous than what he said last time, something more spectacular, then the camera crews will come running. These spectacles generate money for the Media outlets who, at their own admission, were gladly raking in the profits *as people were watching*. When Trump announced that, “he could walk down the street and shoot someone and people would still love him,” he spoke directly to this.

The fact that so many believe the spectacular words and promises and trust him to be their savior says a lot about us as a nation. We have become a nation of reality TV, this is what gets our attention. I believe that Trump has a very keen instinct for exploiting what the populace, at least half of it, wants. In that sense, he may well be one of the greatest politicians ever. Comparisons to Hitler are real and not unfounded, yet call me naïve, but I am suggesting a wait-and-see attitude. What we don't know is what Trump is going to do. Elected officials are not his employees. He can't fire congress. He will need to learn skills that he has never needed. Skills like compromise, and listening to others before making decisions.

We don't know yet if Trump is going to unleash a fascist period in American history. He might also usher in a new era that will bring us to a newer, better country. My sense is that he himself has no clue yet what he will do. I am not blind to the fact that he is surrounding himself with horrible – in my estimation – people with non-inclusive values, but he is the President Elect and someone who is used to making decisions. I choose to withhold judgement and, as Hillary did, go high if he goes low. I choose to look at him with fascination, for he is living out an important the archetype for **our** time. I choose to imagine him as the third thing that inevitably, as pillars keep collapsing, needs to emerge, and it is emerging.

Going forward, I will wake up with curiosity instead of hate. Trump is a complete unknown. I believe that his bloviating rhetoric was for dramatic effect and to get attention. Sure, I am psychologically astute enough to make assumptions about his personality for the way he behaves, not the least around women. But then, I did not vote for Bill Clinton twice because of his morality and treatment of women. Without *in any way* trivializing Trump's disgusting behavior I don't want to sensationalize it further and leave that to his accusers and the courts. I don't want to be part of his reality show. My focus and curiosity, instead, fills me with hope about all the possibilities of what might happen, now that the stifling national dyad is finally broken and this curiosity is upon us. It was time.

Laurence Hillman, November 9, 2016

[www.laurencehillman.com](http://www.laurencehillman.com)

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<sup>i</sup> If we imagine our beliefs as pillars then we see that many of them are collapsing: In religion, we have a loss of the sacred, sex scandals in churches, killing for God, and spirituality replacing religion. In science, a former pillar of surety, we now know about pollution, body burden (babies being born with chemicals in them), and sustainability issues. Science, many now know, will also not save us. Will education? Well, there we have teaching to the test, inequalities (i.e. too expensive so not everyone has access to education), and we are not competitive with the rest of the world. The pillar of medicine is crumbling with issues such as, antibiotic overuse, lawsuits (billion dollar lawsuits against big pharma companies over side effects), affordability, and alternative medicines being favored by many. Will capitalism save us? There we have greed, one-percenters owning most of the assets, huge debts, and the questions about free markets. Polls, a pillar many relied upon during this election. Who will ever believe a poll again?