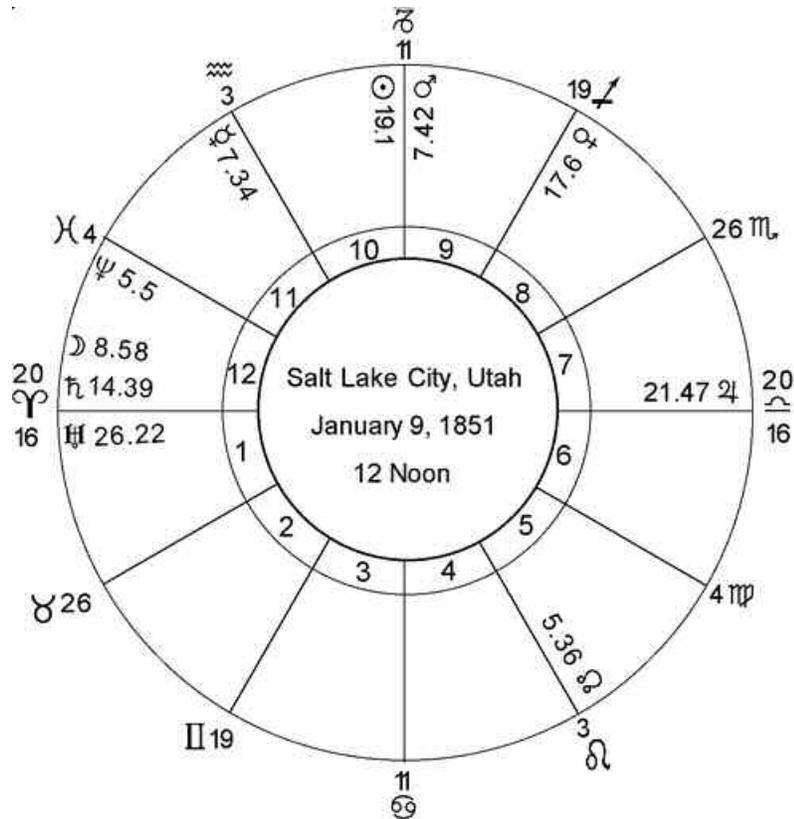


ASTROLOGY

Euphoria in Utah

Remember the electrifying news that came from Budapest, Hungary, late in the afternoon on June 16, 1995? Probably not—unless you're a sports enthusiast and/or live in the West, especially if in our 45th state, even more so if in its capital city.¹ It was then that Salt Lake City, despite strong competition from several foreign cities, had been chosen by the International Olympic Committee to host the Winter Olympics in 2002, the year after the city's 150th birthday.

It was a good day, for the U.S. transiting moon was passing over its 2nd house of wealth—the expected tourist influx would certainly help the nation's economy. It was also a good day for Utah—Mercury and Venus transiting over its Neptune and Pluto in its 2nd house would surely be a financial boost for the state as well. And transiting Uranus and Neptune, planets of “fate,” in its 10th house of fate had brought deserved rewards: one more example that fate is not always negative; when deserved, it is helpful.



Uranus and Neptune were in the identical location by transit also in Salt Lake City's chart. Therein, all the cusps and angles are within one degree, which is remarkable, considering that the two charts are 43 years apart, and Utah's is set for Washington, D.C., where its statehood was proclaimed, while Salt Lake City's chart naturally was set for “the Crossroads of the West.”

Undoubtedly, Salt Lake City will be ever more closely examined as the year 2002 draws near. It deserves stellar scrutiny as well, beginning with its past, what led up to its founding, what preceded its inception into the federal republic.

For this, we note the lunar orb's previous transit. It was over

Neptune, in the 12th house. Neptune is also the planet of divinity; the 12th sector that of restrictions. How did this configuration “work out” on the terrestrial plane? A group of people persecuted in the East were the founders. Persecution certainly is a form of restriction, a severe one at that, and the cause of their persecution was the nature of their religious belief, their conception of divinity. It was that which made them journey about 2,000 miles and start the first settlement in the area by those of European origin.

They were true pioneers. That fact is strongly emphasized with the Ascendant and four planets straddling it, all in the sign of the mundane pioneer, Aries. That sign is also a progressive sign, for pioneers need to be progressive. And the progressive tradition has not died out in Salt Lake City, which is far more than just the political capital of the “Beehive State,” as Utah is nicknamed. It is also the state’s center of religion, culture, education, commerce, industry, etc. It is the biggest “beehive” in the state and also for many miles in all directions beyond—the major “hub” between Spokane and Phoenix as well as between Denver and Sacramento.²

The chart’s pattern is a Bowl, all planets are within 180 degrees. Natives of this pattern have something to give; an inverted Bowl empties itself totally; Salt Lake City gives of itself generously. Giving is the great law of life; Salt Lake City’s Mercury of mental focus is in the sign of altruism and in a degree strong for unity with the cosmic rhythm: “The frequencies and rhythms of life and the Universe are of importance.”³

A chart’s closest aspect is always worthy of a closer view. Here, it is Uranus and Pluto just below the Ascendant, conjunct a critical degree. Pluto is the orb of regeneration, Uranus of transformation. Salt Lake City’s pioneers had to regenerate and transform what they found in an area largely desert and whose agriculture today is greatly dependent on irrigation.⁴ This is confirmed by the Part of Spirit’s degree: “Mastery of man over environment.”⁵

That takes energy: with Ascendant and five planets in Aries (by mutual reception, Mars joins the cluster) and also being the sign signature, Salt

Lake City is depicted as one of the nation’s most vibrant cities.

Two planets strong by dint of their favorable sign location stand out: Mars exalted in Capricorn, Neptune in its dignity in Pisces. Mars is the orb of energetic activity; Neptune, as already noted, of divinity. The fact that it is these two planets that thus stand out so sharply encapsulates the basic truth concerning this city; industrious activity on the mundane planet and religious faith along with it can be said to be its two main pillars.

A city can hardly have a better foundation than this.⁶ Equally noteworthy is the fact that just one of these two factors by itself can be potentially dangerous: activity without spiritual direction can easily stray; pursuit of the spiritual path without constructive activity may well be less than genuine.

It was England’s late great Christian philosopher and “apologist” C.S. Lewis who called attention to the fact that throughout history, those most earnestly focused on the things of the spirit have also been society’s most industrious members, seeking not only to good but also *do* good, following the example of the Master.⁷ To cite just one tremendous example: all the great American reform movements, from anti-slavery to anti-liquor to pro-brotherhood, have been largely spawned and driven by men and women of faith.

In choosing Salt Lake City for the 2002 Winter Olympics, the International Olympic Committee has indeed acted wisely. Certainly by terrain and climate, the location is ideal. Also in another way: as the men and women who will attend return to their various homes, they just might carry back with them the transcendent truth that a strong faith in God combined with an equally strong bent to labor is the key par excellence for all the very best life on earth has to offer.

1. The word “Utah” is derived from the name of the Ute Indians.
2. Salt Lake City is a lovely place to live—for those who can afford it! See “Where Home Prices Rose Fastest,” *The Christian Science Monitor*, May 1, 1995, p. 4.
3. *Practical Astrology*, Jerry L. Keane, p. 159.
4. *The Concise Columbia Encyclopedia*, p. 882.
5. *Astrology of Personality*, Dane Rudhyar, p. 373.
6. The solar orb is closely conjunct the Part of Faith (Ascendant plus Mercury minus Moon), also in a degree of “Worship.” *The Sabian Symbols*, Marc Edmund Jones, p. 259.
7. Acts 10:38



—A Probationer