

Uranus in Taurus; history reveals a time of unexpected respite and hope.

So here we all are, finally living the nightmare. As we slalom through the plastic debris towards the abyss, many of us are wondering if the ingress of Uranus into Taurus will ensure the bankruptcy of anything still left standing, suck up our last three cents and spark global looting of corned beef and decent bits of flint. We have all seen the next stage many times on the wide screen, a return to hunter gathering in packs, trading your niece for a water pump and communication by smoke. However, if the last two Uranus cycles are anything to go by, the apocalypse may yet be postponed. It is even possible a few things might actually get better.

Taurus is the sign most obviously connected with money. We began reeling from the financial crash long before Uranus had opportunity to meddle in what seems the proper place for such things, therefore it feels natural to expect life will only get worse during the seven years he has real access to the territory of The Bull. And worse seems unendurable. The crash of 2008 has been widely accepted to be the hardest since the Great Depression. We will now (conveniently) put aside Pluto for the purposes of this exercise and concentrate on Uranus. Please raise your hand if you would have been astonished to find Uranus in Taurus during either the 1930's or the recent banking crisis. Uranus in Scorpio could have substituted without many of us becoming unnerved and Capricorn could have been explained reasonably enough. The only other possibility that might have been readily explained is Uranus in Pisces, which would imply something bigger was afoot. This combination is the end of the cycle and therefore on some level a social era. At such a point something fundamental is happening, technology, ideology or revolution in some form is preparing to shift cultural norms. In this case it would mean more than the money markets themselves were dissolving. (Hold that thought).

In fact the catalyst for the Great Depression was the Wall Street crash of October 24th 1929 when Uranus was retrograde at 8°.32' **Aries**. It did not reach continuous travel through Taurus until March 28th 1935. (There was a spell in Taurus from June to Oct 1934). When it reached **somewhere near the middle of Taurus things began to pick up.**

The crash of 2007/8 has a less certain starting date, no doubt because we now have a superfluity of information about the events from which to choose the critical moment. It seems the end of October was guilty once more, so I checked the same date for amusement. On October 24th 2007 our revolutionary planet stood, retrograde, at 15°.09' **Pisces**. The middle of Pisces seems a reasonable place to find the plughole at the centre of the Universal drain

and, ten years on, all appearances suggest it has already been pulled out! That being so we might hope that (again) Uranus in Taurus will mean something better.

Given the Great Depression occurred with Uranus in Aries it would seem that a fundamental societal collapse was the reason behind it. It is not hard to accept the idea that the Great War, which had ended little more than a decade earlier, (Uranus in Aquarius), was the catalyst for the dissolution of the old order, which occurred as Uranus travelled through Pisces. The “roaring twenties” had ushered in a new cycle on a worldwide scale.

The collective psychology may now be very different but the other great change by the time of the financial crash of 2007/8 was the means for it to be transmitted far more rapidly around the world and the same may be said of the resultant financial hardship. What occurred in the time it took for Uranus to reach Aries in the 1930's seems to have been accomplished before it left Pisces in the most recent cycle. To some degree Uranian technology was actually complicit in the collapse. We have had a hard time of it but Uranus in Pisces and Aries are both almost over, last time round things got better after that. (The exact timing varied in different countries, one might investigate both the differences in national circumstances and the manner in which transits of Uranus and other planets impacted on national charts).

History suggests with Uranus in the early part of Taurus there may be the beginnings of improvement, which is followed by another scare. This may be linked with the fact that it is common for any slow moving planet to retrograde back out of a sign after its first ingress. In addition all large scale and complex change takes time and usually includes mistakes. It is also normal that change is fiercely resisted by somebody, if it were not Uranus might never have been fashioned to overcome it. This planet DOES shake up most of what it touches and everything financial cannot expect to escape some (further) impact when it enters Taurus in 2018 and 2019 and for the two or three years following. Depending upon your viewpoint, it might well look very dark for a while because this time round we also have Saturn conjunct Pluto in Capricorn to come at the start of 2020 and, try as we might, we cannot ignore that altogether. But Uranus and Pluto do have one thing in common, they are enemies to those things that are entrenched. Uranus ultimately objects to anything unfair to large portions of society and Pluto will not allow stagnation of any sort, which includes those things most tenaciously preserved by vested interests. However, unless those who rule us also have the power to thwart nature and the gods (and the Pluto, Saturn conjunction suggests they will try very hard), the lights should begin to burn again with Uranus in Taurus and a period of stability and prosperity is possible.

When something is very solid but unfair or blocking change Uranus shatters it. When something is in a rut but there is still hope it gets a wake-up call. When Uranus reaches something that has ALREADY broken down he tries to rebuild it in a new and improved form. This means fairer. For the average person financial institutions and practices are clearly already in a bad way. As a result there has been genuine hardship for a percentage and a painful enough reduction in living standards for almost everyone else. What is perhaps more devastating is the current overwhelming sense that there is no hope for the future. The privation of the Great Depression of the 1930's was worse than we have endured and to some extent it was actually exacerbated and lengthened by the paralysis that accompanies hopelessness. However it ended with Uranus in Taurus and the long term outcomes included the beginnings of fundamental change. Economic theories were revised, which had an effect on real life practice and led to the beginning of social care. In addition, as in war time, women had begun to enter the labour market through necessity. They never go back home quite so quietly.

Uranus entered Taurus for four months in 1934 and began continuous residence in the sign from March 28 1935. Franklin D Roosevelt had been elected President in March 1933 and with around 25% unemployment and 2,000,000 homeless he began sweeping change to support the unemployed and limit the banking and financial sector. A banking regulatory body was established in 1934. Trades unions began to flourish, collective bargaining was actually encouraged by The National Labour Relations Act of 1935. The Social Security Act was passed the same year, beginning unemployment pay and pension and survivors insurance. Parts of Europe were already ahead of the US in some of these matters but progress gained pace during the depression. Uranus has rule over social equality and while in Taurus from the mid 1930's the changes implemented were made in order to protect the livelihood of the ordinary family. **It has been accepted historically that by 1935 the worst was over.**

The collapse of the 1930's resulted in unprecedented peace time hardship, at least as far as the industrialising west was concerned. The adversity was most prolonged in the US and historians have rated it as a crisis equalled only by the Civil War, (to which we will return). Interestingly they have also noted that the crash had less impact in Britain because the class system made poverty less novel. I note that the less industrialised Empire was still available for the plunder of raw materials and cheap labour at that stage and Uranus would get round to shaking the stuffy Brits once he got firmly established in Taurus. What happens is always modified by what the planets find when they arrive (and how helplessly we stand and watch).

While world turmoil had been increasing and Germany suffered an economic collapse, second only to the US, desperation had opened the way for political extremism, which usually promises a salve for all ills. Hitler and Fascism (not confined to Germany), were allowed to rise but, absolutely in keeping with Uranus, the global economic pain also engendered an increased interest in Communism, an ideology that moved the plot along in two ways. Firstly Communism is by its nature appropriate to the planet. Secondly it became the other end of a polarity, which Uranus either favours or brings as collateral damage. The world began to form lines to left and right without a referee.

The huge social improvements in the US, particularly when viewed against the dark matter coagulating in Europe, made emigration an attractive prospect for many Europeans. At the most desperate level America (again) appeared the best hope for survival, the more fortunate and better educated saw greater academic and artistic freedom. The former arrived to fight for life, the latter began to revive and renew political ideology, science and the arts. In some senses America came of age and freed itself from the Old Countries. Inability to demonstrate an ancient culture steeped in royal approval had become less important than progress and vitality. New life with fairer rules meant that with the longer view it has been said that the eventual results of the Great Depression "were less revolutionary than reassuring". By the end of the depression there was a greater need for rest, stability and security than there was desire to overturn the system. This suggests that Taurus ultimately maintained some power over the planet Uranus but not without having been forced to reconsider its less humanitarian financial structures.

If we go back further to the previous cycle of Uranus we can see that under different events similar themes run. Uranus entered Taurus for a short while on 8th July 1850. After a retrograde it arrived for the longer term on 15th April 1851. Noting a few earlier historic events illuminates the way Uranus appears to blend his own concerns with those of each sign, carrying both forward into the next sign before gradually dealing with the issues in the new environment. Eventually the following sign is anticipated prior to its turn.

The world is rich and complicated, the events offered here are a selection from someone else's edited historical highlights. Yet they seemed so entirely apt to the symbolism it is hard to see their particular timing as purely accidental. It is also possible that a better grasp of history might show how some of the events I ignored actually did fit the Uranus cycle. It is also true that no amount of manipulation will make every event fit but (I would argue) that is because the ones that refuse to help us here might well be seen and understood as attached to concurrent cycles, if a similar investigation was conducted on them.

A major ongoing theme throughout Uranus in Pisces was the Opium war in China. The UK and India were involved in a tripartite trade of silver, tea and opium while the Chinese tried to prevent the drug reaching its citizens. Opium was moved by sea and smuggled into its final destination.

In 1841 with Uranus in Pisces, the US Supreme Court freed all the Africans on board an individual ship, stating they were not legally slaves. (Attempts to outlaw slavery totally began long before Uranus in Pisces and would continue many years after, this was nevertheless a landmark on the way).

Also 1841: Uranus in Pisces, the navy began using "unexploding" cannon balls. In fact they exploded perfectly well. The excitement was due to two bits of new technology, a timing device and a gun firing in a flatter arc, which meant the missiles stopped blowing up before they left the host ship (or the air above it) and began to do more damage, more often when they reached the enemy. Britain, the US and Russia had got kitted up with this "advanced" warfare technique ready for Uranus in Aries. Sadly, more effective war technology has usually shaped history.

1844: Uranus moved into Aries. The themes of both signs are seen in that the Church was given the legal right to kidnap Australian aboriginal children, in order to fit them to "civilised" society. Clearly there are times when Uranus does not have the upper hand, in terms of maintaining equality. A Piscean organisation began what can only be seen as self-serving aggression (Aries) while using the pretext of building a better society (Uranus) as an excuse.

1845: Uranus in early Aries. In pursuit of being first in both war and trade ships had become faster. (Uranian innovation fits a Piscean form of transport to suit Arian requirements). However the speed of Aries is not always ideal. Potatoes arrived so quickly from the US to Europe that they still carried live mould. (Also Pisces, if in its more Neptunian guise). There were crop failures over Europe and starvation in Ireland. Widespread privation tends to be a spur for change. Uranus here appears to be a symbol or catalyst for the new technology but then **necessary** to deal fairly with its unexpected consequences. (Necessary may not always mean deployed).

1846: Uranus in Aries. The Pope died. The new Pope allowed railways and street lights in Papal States. The previous pontiff had maintained such things were against God. As Piscean influence over Uranus waned, the church found God had changed his mind and welcomed the technology of a new age.

1846: Uranus in Aries. On December 21st the first public demonstration of surgery under anaesthetic (ether) occurred. (London). Experiments and at least one undocumented case had occurred in the UK previously. Again we see Uranus taking Pisces to Aries. There could be little doubt of the effectiveness of the new method since the case was an amputation, which seems even more Arian than most other bits of medical butchery.

The same year Nitro-glycerine was discovered (Italy). The saxophone was invented (Belgium) and waited for jazz to arrive and explode the rules of music (and society, since it had its roots in slave music and therefore caused alarm in polite drawing rooms).

1847: Uranus in Aries. The Communist League was formed in London by rebels, including those who had emigrated from France and Germany. Previous unrest in England had begun with the Chartists in the 1830's and fostered the beginnings of the Trade Union movement, which remained illegal for many years. England had become sprinkled with foreigners because it seemed to offer more hope than France and Germany. (Presumably these folk stepped on the boat with all the clarity of vision found in the Pisces bit of the cycle).

1848: Uranus in Aries. Marx and Engels published The Communist Manifesto in London. (Note the "1066" chart, one of the reference charts for UK mundane work, has the Ascendant at the end of Aries. Communism evolved while Uranus was in the 1066 12th house. This suggests that the top rung of the class system regarded it as a particularly insidious horror).

As in the 1930's longstanding economic hardship had fostered the desire and need for serious political and social change. There was widespread dissent, Fascism and Communism both began to appeal. The Spanish Civil war and its external supporters on both sides exemplified the polarity between the two. Uranus in Aries is very likely to increase the anger of the mob and the speed it wants change. In 1848 there were riots in Austria, and Sicily, In Paris, a revolution ended the monarchy and began the Second Republic. This encouraged uprising in Germany, Austria and Hungary. Uranus in Aries was at its height. (We might recall an unusual level of discontent, including rioting, over Europe after the crash of 2007/8. Not immediately after it occurred - with Uranus in tricky Pisces - but later, when Uranus had reached Aries and it had become apparent that Jane and Joe Public were to pay and continue paying because the bankers had bet too high. (More seriously it became clear that the colossal amount of non-existent money they had "lost" was going to be used as an excuse for deprivation for a long time). Back in 1848, rebellion was successfully crushed in many places but was it merely chance that economic improvement also began? Is the Old Order usually forced to start giving something back as Uranus greets Taurus? It may be that by then it becomes apparent something significant has shifted too far to reclaim, that the schism is now too wide and fiercely defended. Somebody finally understands that if either side continues with the level of aggression found when Aries and Uranus work in tandem the status quo is in more danger than it will be if the mob are offered some sweeties. Economic recovery can be managed or not.

In the midst of the European riots in 1848 Prussia was notable for having remained quiet. They had been busy using up Uranian energy more positively by promoting science and education and were now seen as an example of stable conservatism. **By this stage, (as in the middle of the Great Depression in the 1930's,) people were looking for examples of peace and stability.**

Over the water in the United States in the 1840's the battle between two factions, those pro and anti-slavery, which would eventually lead to the Civil war, continued. This fight seems wholly Uranian in nature but was not confined to the time it takes for the planet to pass through a sign or two, nor did the outcome hinge on a single pivotal event or piece of legislation. It may not be unreasonable to suggest that, at that time in its history, the development of US was in itself a matrix for Uranus through a number of its sign variations. Additional large and dramatic events were therefore less likely to occur with Uranian activity and in fact such events were probably less necessary than they were in Europe.

It is interesting however to note that historians mention the Mexican war and several significant fires through the period of Uranus in Aries. In addition in 1848 and 1849, as the planet neared the end of Aries and prepared to enter the territory of Venus there were two notable conventions for political and civil rights for women. (Ohio and Salem). One of the few other items mentioned in brief accounts seems equally well suited to Taurus, it was a two year tour of the US by Jenny Lind, a Swedish opera singer. This apparently small matter was enlarged enough to reach the history books because of the frenzy whipped up by PT Barnum. "Lind Mania" was invented. The tour began in September 1850. Uranus had entered Taurus on July 8th. Lind and Barnum both made serious amounts of money, she donated much of hers to free schools in Sweden. In light of the real big news of the era I was amused to find in February 1852 she married her co-performer, a Mr Goldschmidt.

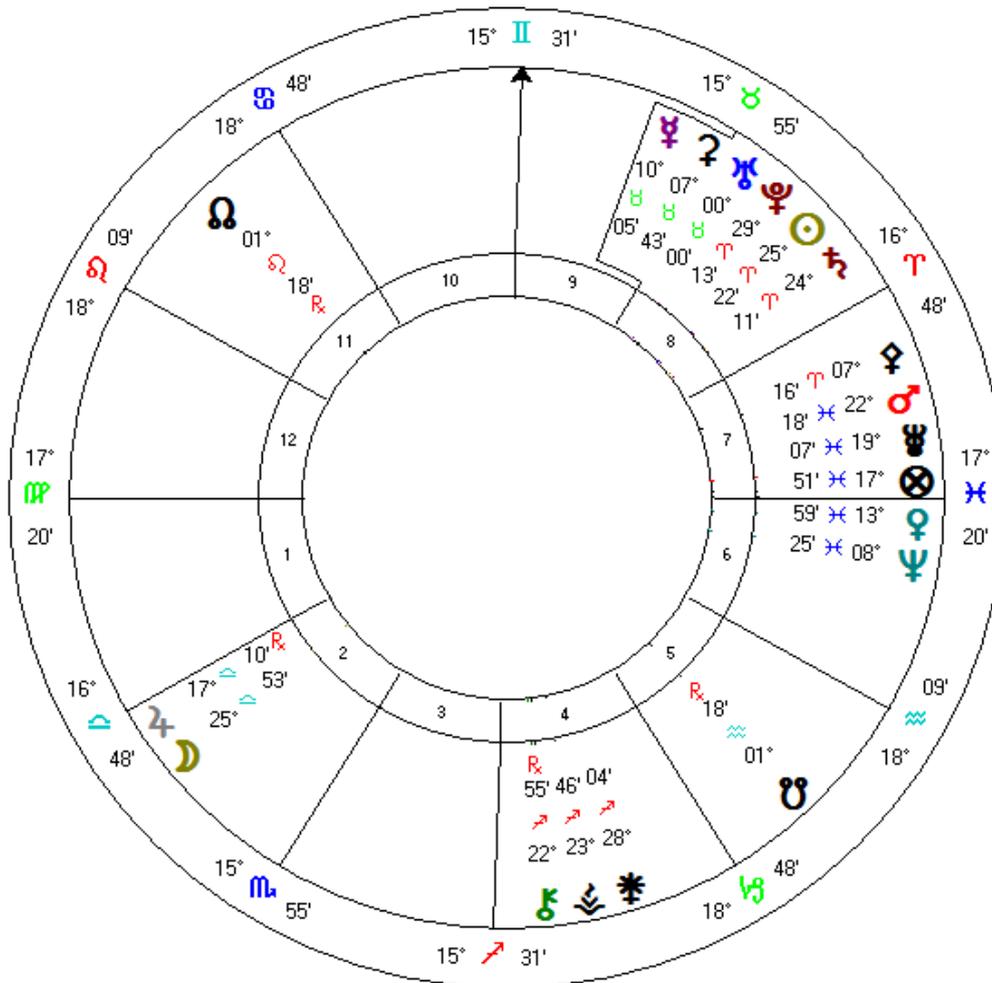
That big news, as Taurus appeared on the horizon was the prelude to the Californian Gold rush. A serendipitous find occurred on 24 January 1848. On the day in question Jupiter squared Uranus, still in Aries. The classic good luck duo are somewhat handicapped, first by the effort that will be required by the square (and my suspicion Uranus in Aries is not at his best). Second by an exalted Jupiter, conjunct Sirius. Unfortunately I have found exaltation is rarely as jolly as its reputation implies and Brady has unmasked Sirius and found its great benefits come only at a great price. This would seem appropriate here. Joy was short lived for the land owner, who, despite being smart enough to keep quiet, was somehow outed and subsequently overrun to utter destruction and personal bankruptcy with prospectors. They arrived by sea from the west at first, from Hawaii and every other inhabited rock until the news reached as far away as China. It got to the east coast later.

Uranus had entered Taurus for a short time in 1850 and for its full sojourn 15 April 1851. The peak of the rush occurred in 1852 with over 300,000 hopeful spirits jostling for space and sustenance. As the competition hotted up, mechanisation moved in and the pickings were slimmer for small time prospecting, somebody heard a whisper that there was a lot more gold to be had in Australia. The weight of the earth tilted accordingly and Australia was birthed as a new nation. Suddenly finding you have first dibs on 1/3 of the world/s gold means people address you more politely

California continued rushing more sedately until Uranus was established in Gemini. It too had "arrived". Its wealth meant it was not only promoted to a state but would later become pivotal in triggering the American Civil War. When Uranus had entered Taurus in both July 1850 and April 1851 it was only days after separation from a conjunction with Pluto. The riches now so visible with Uranus in Taurus came from the earth. The social changes were huge and the amount of wealth concentrated in the area conferred game changing political power. The Civil war offers another example of polarity beloved by Uranus. This split was more obvious and more negative because at the first ingress in July 1850 Uranus was not only conjunct Pluto but the two were at the bendings. Saturn in fall in Aries coming slowly up behind. The second ingress took place an hour after full Moon with only 6° between Saturn, Sun, Pluto, in Aries and Uranus at 00.00 of Taurus and still at the bendings. This would not seem to be the chart of the average week.

The effects of the Uranus ingress were global. The chart below is drawn for Sutter California, since that is the site of the first gold find in 1848 and therefore, by this stage, the area was alive with action highly relevant to the symbolism. It was not yet at its peak.

Uranus ingress into Taurus April 15 1851.



In the background there had been attempts for a long time to keep the number of Slave (owning) and Free states equal, so that neither side became excessively afraid it might be forced in the other direction. California, just by becoming a state, tipped the balance of power away from even, which was enough to light the fuse. Ultimately, however hard it was for the nation, the Uranus / Pluto conjunction symbolised not only the intensity of the battle to free the slaves but it appears the nature of the events (gold mining and socio-political change) that indirectly led to that freedom. As always there was a long way to go for true equality but a major step establishing fundamental human rights was made.

The Saturn / Pluto conjunction in Capricorn in 2020 has been much talked about. The good news is we will not be contending with Uranus conjunct it as well. In addition when Saturn meets Pluto it is dignified in Capricorn. We still have to live with the fact Saturn in rulership means the establishment will be strong. You can bet the farm there will be a hard fight somewhere within the corridors of power and against those who would like to reduce it. However, although Saturn, Pluto in Capricorn is a rare fish, Saturn conjunct Pluto *somewhere* happens often enough to know we ought to survive. The last one was about 25° of Libra, right at the end of 1982 and was not great for everybody but not so terrifying that you can instantly remember what happened. Plus Uranus was not in Taurus then.

While we wait for the next episode we may distract ourselves with being right about something. Back in the 1850's, after both California and Australia had become sunnier, the FIRST global financial crisis happened. This one played by the rules and really did happen with Uranus in Taurus. Known as The Panic of 1857 it began in the US, basically because the prosperity and growth resulting from the Californian gold rush had led a great number of people, at almost every level of society, to assume life would always be this good. They began to invest more money in more risky new ventures until the financial world began to wobble. Once the Ohio Life insurance and Trust company went down the dominos were off. God did nothing to help by sinking a ship full of gold, sorely needed in New York for trading. The panic spread to the UK and the gold standard was circumvented there. (In plain terms they printed money, which lately has been called Quantitative Easing).

It seems that mankind could not wait the required 84 years for Uranus to reach Taurus again before getting greedy and precipitating the two crashes of the 1930's and 2007/8. Also that there is nothing left that is not somehow tied into global finance, so that there is little left that will not have an effect on it. We can be depressed about that but we can also take heart from the last two cycles. The hardship of the first was ended by two gold rushes and a period of peace, including from political change, the second by welfare reforms. Given its history I wonder if Korea might be one of the places that enjoys Uranus in Taurus. It was divided into two countries in WW II by Russia and the US with a promise of self-rule when everybody could get organised. Unification and self-rule never happened. Now the world has seen the big nukes (Uranus in Aries) suddenly North and South Korea have begun talks together and fielded one team at the winter Olympics. The US is reportedly ready for discussions. This divided land is apparently sitting on 6 to 10 trillion dollars of mineral resources but needs help with the technology to dig them up. When you have a big weapon, a lot of iron and copper and exactly the stuff Google and the security services need in your mobile phone everybody is keen to talk. All the elements of Uranus in Taurus appear to be waiting. Polarity of ideals, technology and wealth. (Notice Pluto in the wings).

The rest of us ought to get at least a breathing space and Uranus in Taurus implies it is not impossible for those with Uranian interests to see a bit of an advantage. Some of us do not have to be hit with a Taser to acknowledge the god.

The stuffy Brits, who do Taurus so well, had no idea Uranus might require some modification of ideas in 1936 when they forced the king to abdicate because he wanted to marry, not simply a commoner (shudder) but an American, (what!) divorcee (political meltdown). A crisis ensued, the king made his choice and Edward and Mrs Simpson were finally married with Uranus at 11° Taurus. The foundations had been shaken.

In 2018 a royal wife who is a commoner and divorced has been done. Association with America is no longer quite so upsetting to the establishment, so they were offered the opportunity to go two stages further and accept an actress with an African-American mother. They have taken up the challenge. Prince Harry is due to marry his chosen partner with Uranus at 0°11' of Taurus.

Outer planets demand that we adapt or die. In the case of Uranus the amount of lightning that strikes us depends upon how long we have been stuck in the dark and how willingly we volunteer to face the dawn. Once society and the individual openly accept Uranus in some form he ceases to arrive as anarchy, revolution or personal catastrophe. He offers instead the chance to form a world in which each one of us might move closer to true self-expression while offering something worthwhile to the group. That is going to take a long time but it seems we may be optimistic that we are not yet on the edge of the black hole.