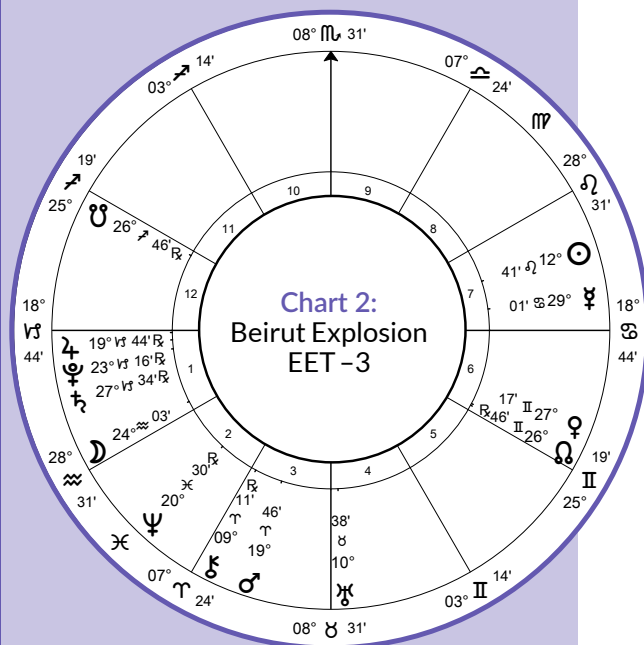
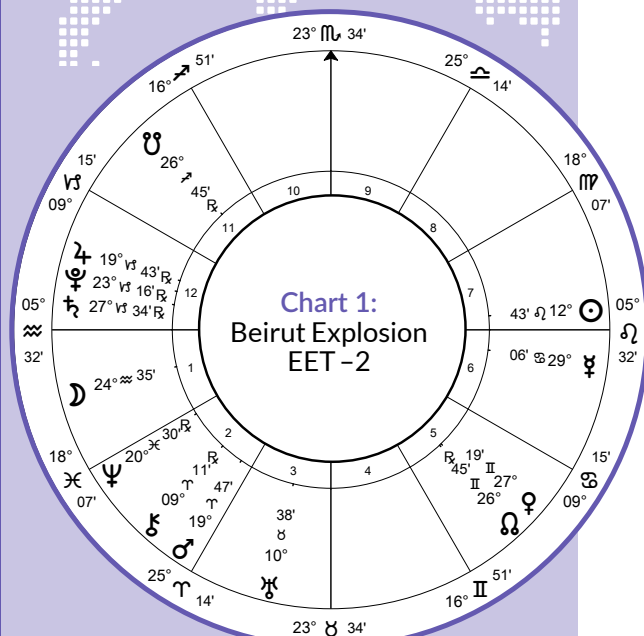


Charts in the News

with commentary by Elisabeth Grace



All charts use Placidus houses
and the Mean Node.

Beirut Explosion, August 4, 2020; 6:08 p.m. EET -3:00; Beirut (33°N53', 35°E35'); AA: Wikipedia & timestamped video footage.

Avid readers of my blog, about the astonishing synchronicity of the news and planetary patterns, were advised to watch for an outburst of energy on August 4.¹ Why? Because Mars in Aries would square Jupiter in Capricorn at 19°45', symbolizing the potential for fiery action — big time. (See **Chart 1**, at left.) But this was no ordinary Mars–Jupiter square. It was a hair's width away from exact contact to the January 10th lunar eclipse at 20° Capricorn. That eclipse was especially potent, as it fell within 2° of the January 12th Saturn–Pluto conjunction at 22° Capricorn; Mercury was also nearby at 20° Capricorn.

Experience shows that when a transiting planet — especially Mars — activates the degrees of an eclipse by hard aspect (conjunction, square, or opposition), it acts as a trigger, releasing the bottlenecked energy that an eclipse represents. This works for human horoscopes and in the mundane world. A powerful example of the latter occurred on July 17, 2014, when transiting Mars hit 25° Libra — the degree of the April 2014 lunar eclipse. On that day, Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 was shot down over Ukraine.² Astrology is astounding.

Indeed, it was no less astounding — but not surprising — that on August 4, a significant fire made headlines. The drama began around 5:55 p.m. local time in Beirut, when a warehouse fire (where *fire-works* were stored!!) was reported. At 6:07 p.m., there was a large explosion, followed by a massive one at 6:08 p.m. These explosions were not caused by fireworks, but by tons of ammonium nitrate. The second explosion registered 3.3 on the Richter scale and is “one of the largest non-nuclear explosions in history.”³ Two hundred people died, over 6,500 were injured, and 300,000 were left homeless. So catastrophic was this event that, within days, the entire Lebanese government resigned.

This catastrophic potential *had* to be seen in the horoscope, right? But when I entered the space/time coordinates into Solar Fire, I was disappointed. With its 5° Aquarius rising and 23° Scorpio Midheaven (MC), the closest planet to an angle of the chart is the 24° Aquarius Moon square to the MC. The Moon isn't what we think of when we think of an explosive planet — that would be Mars, Uranus, or Pluto, yes?

True, the Ascendant (ASC) is applying to a square to Uranus but with an orb of 5°. That felt too wide. And the Mars–Jupiter square (the eclipse trigger alerting us to a probable ginormous volatile event) doesn't apply to the angles at all. However, experience has shown that fires, accidents, etc., more often than not, will have an explosive planet in a hard aspect to an angle. The 5° Aquarius ASC looks wrong — and it is!

A colleague posted a chart online with the same local time and space coordinates, calculated with a different software program. As you can see, her chart has an 18° Capricorn ASC, with Jupiter rising and Mars square the ASC within 1°. (See **Chart 2**, at left.) Disruptive

Uranus is on the IC, 2° away from an exact conjunction. This looks like what we would expect! Note the time zone for her chart: EET -3; the Solar Fire chart had EET -2. Big difference!

Turns out that Astrolabe had posted a software update on its website, but did not alert its customers. Once the update was installed, the chart for the Beirut explosion was calculated correctly. Moral of the story: Timing is *everything* in astrology. You must stay on top of your software and make sure it's current. You must always double check the source of every birth time. If the chart doesn't look like an accurate reflection of the person sitting in front of you (or an event in the news), double check the time!

President Barack Hussein Obama, August 4, 1961; 7:24 p.m. AHST; Honolulu, HI, USA (21°N18', 157°W51'); AA: BC/BR.

"Cool on the outside but burning for America on the inside" is how President Bill Clinton once described President Barack Obama.⁴ Also known as "no-drama Obama,"⁵ his coolness has been compared to *Star Trek's* Mr. Spock. Where do we see the logical, steady — but somewhat alien — potential in the horoscope?

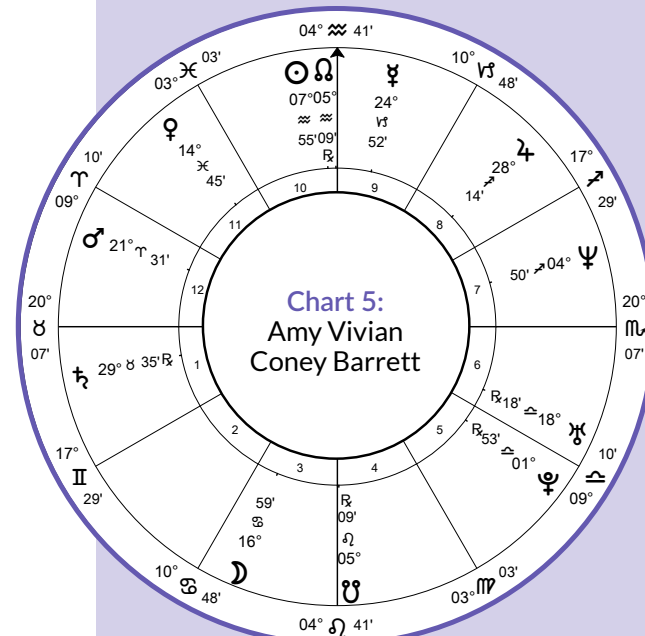
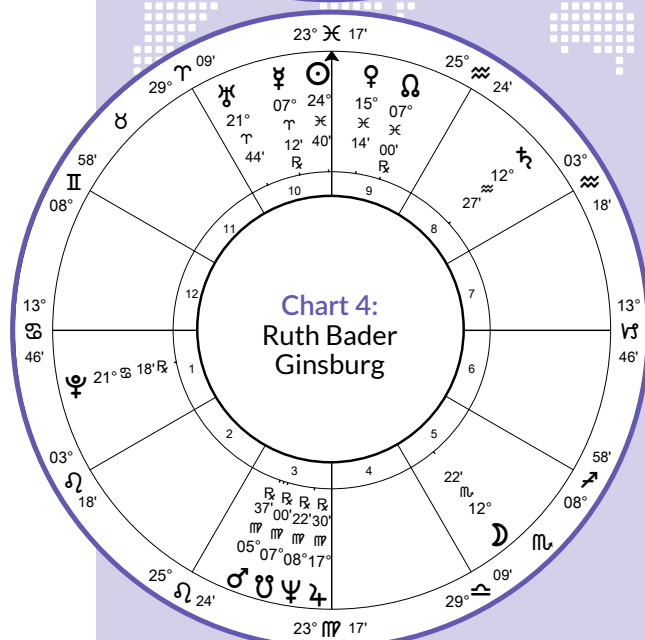
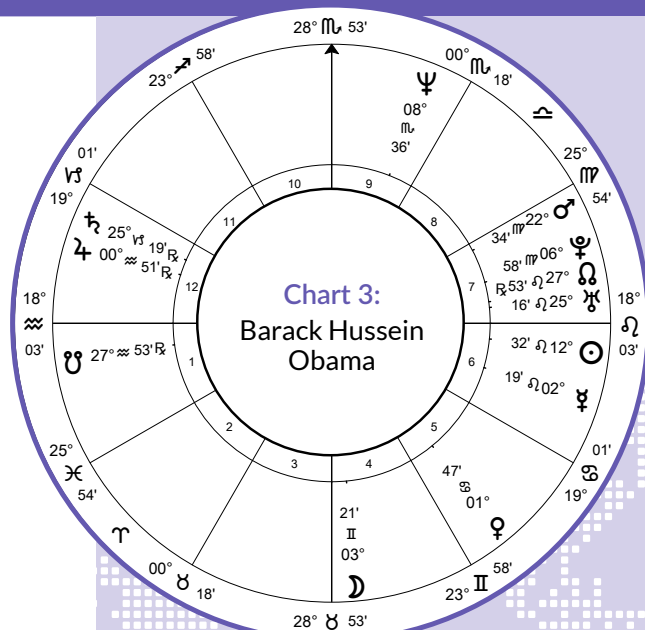
Obama is a Leo, a fire sign, but the heat of the Leo Sun is diffused by a square to Neptune. (See **Chart 3**, top right.) The Sun refers to ego identity; Neptune can be a foggy or a dreamy wipeout. We appreciate how that pattern was reflected in Obama's life soon after his birth, when his mother moved from Hawaii to Seattle. He only saw his father once — in December 1971.⁶ Obama's Sun-Neptune square is reflected in his books, entitled *Dreams from My Father* and *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream*. Isn't it interesting that his Neptune is in the 9th house of publishing?

Obama's Sun does get a boost by its wide opposition to the Ascendant, but note that it is in the 6th house of service and rules the 7th house of significant others/the public. A Leo king who needs to be a public servant? Obama's outside coolness is the airy detachment suggested by his Aquarius Ascendant, which arguably needs to be seen as a humanitarian and friend to all. His cerebral appearance is reinforced by the need of his Moon in Gemini to be the smartest kid in the room — ideally in ways that are clever, entertaining, and intense.

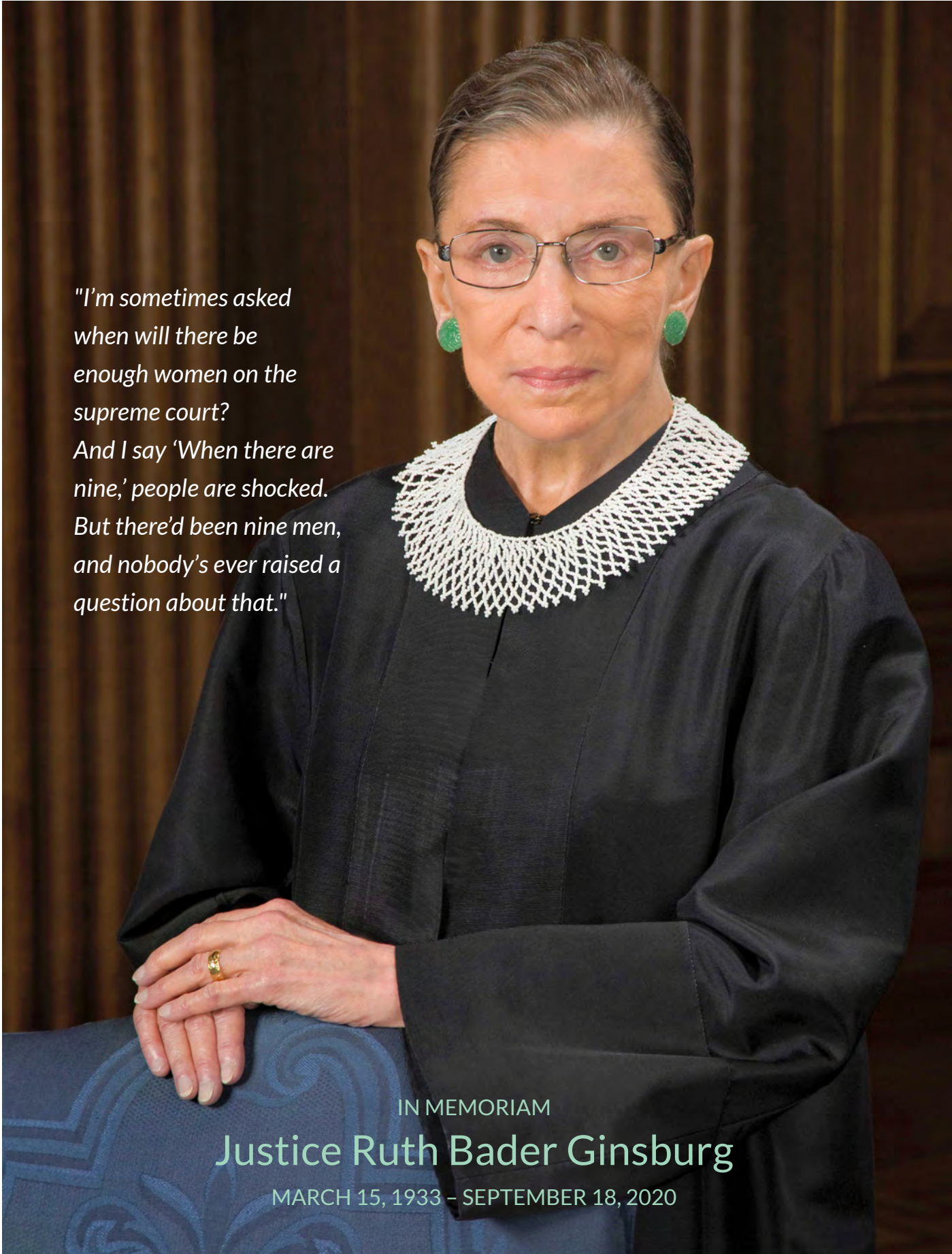
Note that Obama's Moon is in the 4th house. Both the 4th house and Cancer refer to family, home, and homeland, as well as to one's emotional needs. The Moon rules the 6th house, another suggestion of service. The ruler of the 4th is Venus in Cancer. Venus refers to who, what, and how we need to love.

With his Venus unaspected and within 2° of the Aries Point (0° of the cardinal signs), he needs to be known for caring and nurturing. He opposed the nominations of Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court because he believed they lacked empathy.⁷ He famously shed tears over the massacre of schoolchildren and their teachers at Sandy Hook.⁸ In a lighter expression of his famous Venus in Cancer, every year he releases a list of recommended books and CDs.⁹ He *needs* to keep you informed — and his aesthetic values can't help but attract attention.

I was inspired to look at Obama's horoscope because of the November 3rd election. While technically it is a contest between President Donald John Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden, it was opined before Trump was inaugurated that his administration would be focused on "taking a wrecking ball to Obama's legacy."¹⁰ This focus has delivered results. When Obama returned to the



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A portrait of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She is wearing her black judicial robe with a white lace collar, glasses, and green circular earrings. Her hands are clasped in front of her, resting on a blue patterned surface. The background is a dark wood paneling.

*"I'm sometimes asked
when will there be
enough women on the
supreme court?
And I say 'When there are
nine,' people are shocked.
But there'd been nine men,
and nobody's ever raised a
question about that."*

IN MEMORIAM

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

MARCH 15, 1933 – SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

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national stage at the Democratic National Convention, *The New York Times* argued that he had as much at stake in the election outcome as Biden.¹¹ Does his horoscope look like a winner in November?

It is striking to see that his Progressed Moon opposing Jupiter is exact on November 4, followed by Solar Arc (SA) Moon opposing Jupiter on November 18. These patterns suggest “feeling happy; being successful; contentment; religiousness; or the judiciary becoming important.”¹² Hmm. The first part of this potential certainly looks rewarding, and Jupiter rules Obama’s 11th house — love received from others. As for the second possibility, “the judiciary becoming important,” does this suggest a need to go to court? And if so, why?

I do not know, but I can state with absolute certainty that Obama will have reason to feel abundant appreciation in November. On September 17, the day I started writing this column, it was announced that the first part of Obama’s memoir, *A Promised Land*, will be released on November 17, 2020. It is already being hailed as the most anticipated presidential memoir ever. At 768 pages, the book has a “staggering” initial print run of three million copies.¹³ As for how the Moon–Jupiter patterns correspond to the outcome of the election ... we shall see.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, March 15, 1933; birth time unknown (noon EST used); Brooklyn, NY, USA (40°N38', 73°W56'); X.

Minutes after writing that last paragraph above, it was reported that Justice Ginsburg had died. Senate Majority Leader “Moscow Mitch” McConnell wasted no time in announcing that very night that he would fill Ginsburg’s seat before the November 3rd election.¹⁴ And even if he can’t follow through, media outlets are reminding us that the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments about the fate of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on November 10. Its advocates are deeply concerned that Ginsburg is not here to support the ACA, a.k.a. Obamacare. And now we see how the potential for “the judiciary becoming important” is being reflected in Obama’s horoscope!

Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a Pisces (see **Chart 4**, page 11), born with the energy to feel and understand suffering and sacrifice. Her Pisces Sun is driven by the Moon in Scorpio, which needs to be appreciated for depth, loyalty, substance, and control. Of this Sun–Moon blend, Noel Tyl wrote, “Sex becomes very important. All sensitivities are brought to the surface and can invigorate aesthetic and/or social cause activities.”¹⁵ (Tyl was probably referring to the act of sex, but isn’t it interesting that the 2018 biopic is called *On the Basis of Sex*.)

Long before she was confirmed the second woman on the Supreme Court in 1993, Ginsburg established a reputation for being a champion of gender equality and women’s rights. In her rise to the top, she had personally experienced sex discrimination. In the early ’50s, she was demoted after becoming pregnant with her first child, even though she’d graduated Phi Beta Kappa and was near the top of her class

at Cornell. She was co-valedictorian of her Harvard Law class, but that wasn’t enough for SCOTUS Justice Felix Frankfurter, who denied her a clerkship because she was female.¹⁶ Nevertheless, she persisted.

Without a birth time, we do not know her Ascendant. We might find clues in words others have used to describe her. For example, she is known for her *dissenting* opinions, which have been called *fiery*. Where is the fire in her horoscope? We see that she has Mercury (how she needs to think and communicate) and Uranus (the ultimate nonconformist) in Aries (intense, ahead of its time). There’s your “fiery” Mercury and it’s going to command attention, as it is un-aspected. Her Uranus suggests disruption in the extreme, as its only confirmed exact aspect is a square to Pluto.

If I were going to attempt a rectification of Ginsburg’s birth time, I might start by experimenting with times that put roughly 23° cardinal on one of the angles: Aries, Cancer, Libra, or Capricorn. We could start by testing fiery Aries. If we researched major events in her childhood, we’d discover that her older sister died when Ruth was 14 months old. This was a dramatic change of family status, and it left her an only child. If we put 23° Aries on the Midheaven (MC), we’d have Solar Arc (SA) Uranus conjunct the MC and transiting Pluto squaring it when Ruth was 14 months old. Hmm.

Justice Ginsburg’s dying wish was that her replacement would not be selected until a new president was inaugurated.¹⁷ Looking ahead (because the horoscope lives forever), we see volatile action, assertion, and power plays, as transiting retrograde Mars meets up with Ginsburg’s Uranus and squares Pluto in October and December, repeating the Mars aspect patterns of August 8–9. Between October and December, transiting Jupiter squares Ginsburg’s Uranus and opposes her Pluto, concluding the series of three aspects that first occurred in March and July.

Amy Vivian Coney Barrett, January 28, 1972; birth time unknown (noon CST used); New Orleans, LA, USA (29°N57', 90°W04'); X: Wikipedia.

Judge Barrett is now in the news as a likely successor to Justice Ginsburg. Glancing at Barrett’s horoscope — even without a birth time — it’s easy to see why. Look at all those planets in late cardinal signs: Uranus at 18° Libra, Mars at 21° Aries, and Mercury at 24° Capricorn. (See **Chart 5**, page 11.) If Barrett was born after 12:00 p.m., it’s possible that her Cancer Moon is part of the mix, turning a cardinal t-square into a cardinal grand cross.

As I type this on September 21, 2020, transiting Jupiter is at 17° Capricorn, about to make its last of three squares to Judge Barrett’s Uranus (a potential windfall opportunity) on October 6. President Trump says he will announce his nominee this week, as the transiting Libra Sun conjoins Barrett’s prominent Pluto. Hmm. Jupiter will square her Mars and conjoin her Mercury in November, suggesting an expansion of effort and intellect.

Not only that, but we can see how her unique self has been primed for recognition as innovative and/or disruptive since early 2020 through next year. How so? Transiting Uranus will make the second of three squares to her Aquarius

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Sun on November 19. The last time transiting Uranus made a series of hard aspects to her Sun was in 1997–98. She graduated first in her law school class and scored a clerkship with a federal appeals judge, which led to a clerkship with Justice Antonin Scalia.

Before we get to the potentially auspicious patterns of November 2020, however, transiting retrograde Mars will make its second contact with Barrett's Mercury, Mars, Uranus (and maybe her Moon) in October, suggesting no small amount of argument, action, and potential daring. That series of three (or four) Mars transits concludes in December. It's fascinating to see the similar timing of these patterns in Justice Ginsburg's horoscope, too.

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(All URLs were accessed in September 2020.)

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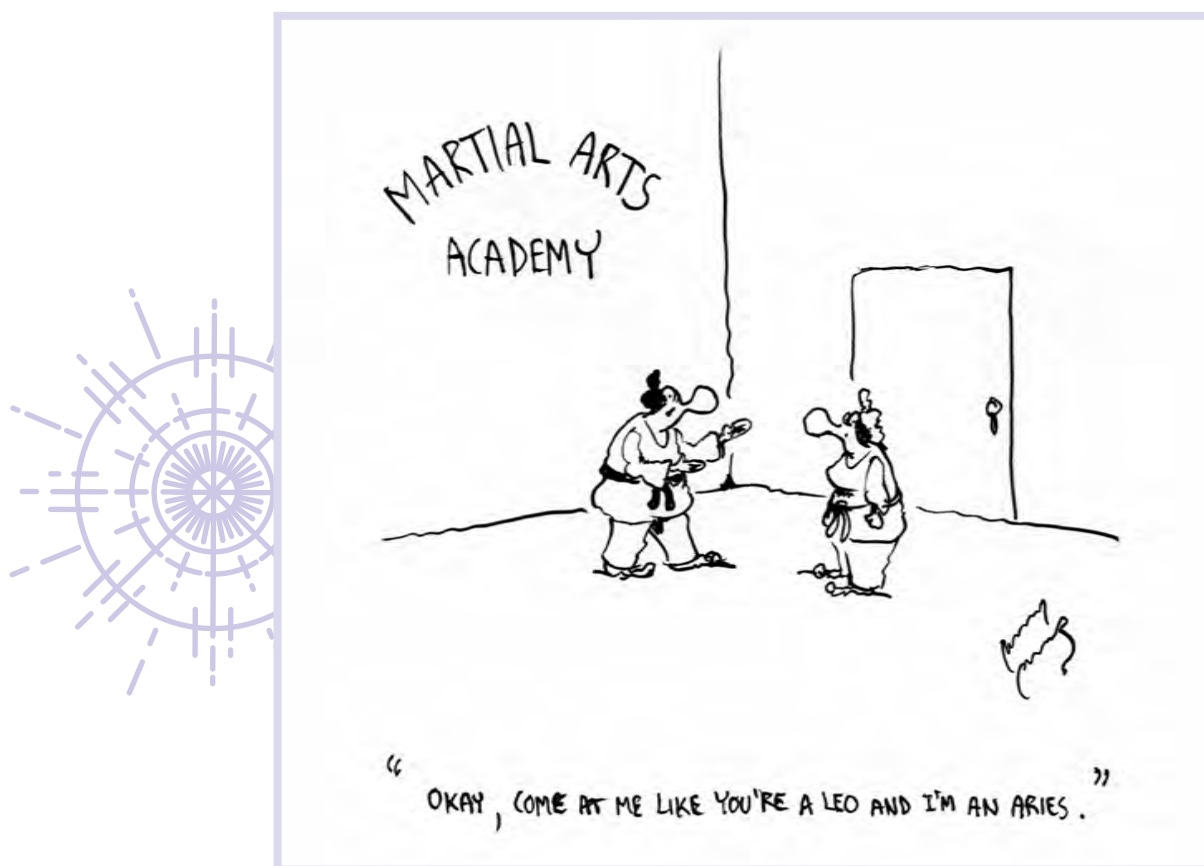
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