

Street Fighting Mars?



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**“Hey, said my name is called Disturbance.
I’ll shout and scream, I’ll kill the king, I’ll rail at all his servants...”**

~ *Street Fighting Man*, the Rolling Stones

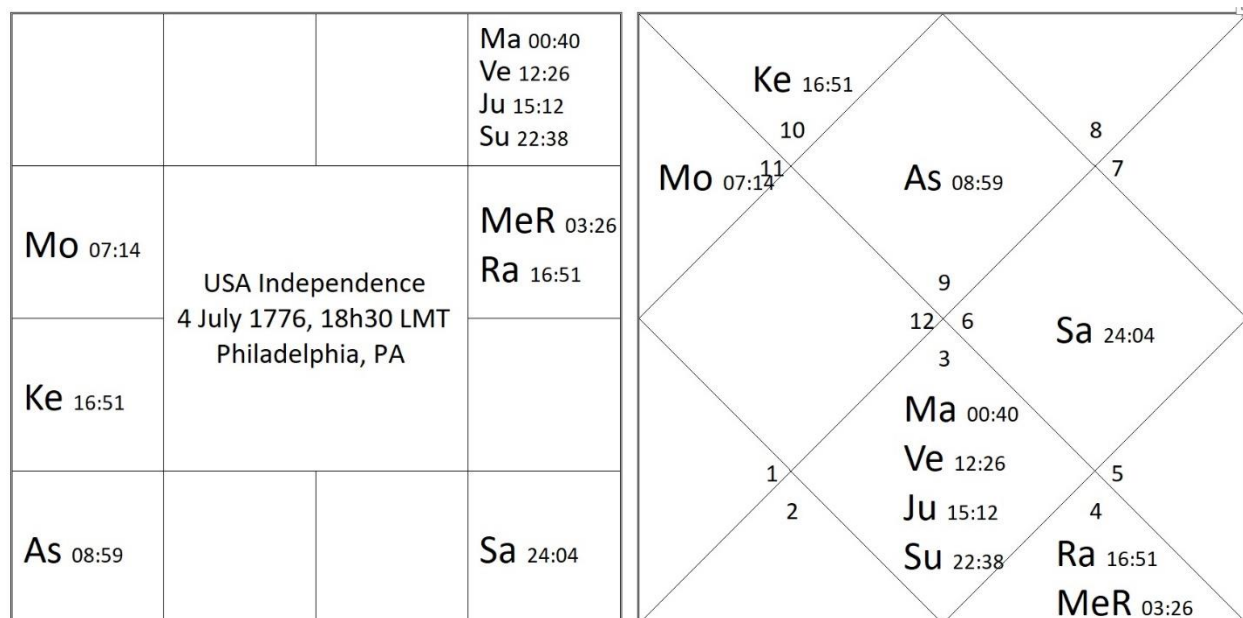
As Vedic astrologers, we're typically less likely than western astrologers to obsess over transiting planets, but this presidential election cycle may offer a worthy exception to business-as-usual. Witness the upcoming transit of Mars in Cancer, its sign of debilitation, during which period it will also go retrograde.

Specifically, here's the "weather report" for transiting Mars:

- Mars in Cancer (debilitated, weak), 20 Oct 2024 – 20 Jan 2025
- Mars retrograde (bright, strong), 12 Dec 2024 – 24 Feb 2025
- Mars Rx in Cancer (mixed condition), 12 Dec 2024 – 20 Jan 2025

From August 26 to October 20, transiting Mars will be in Gemini, during which time we'll witness the typical war of words between conflicting political parties, motivated and driven by their respective agenda and underlying beliefs. This of course plays out in every election cycle, but the 2024 election is shaping up to be something like we've never seen before.

As we can see below from the Kelleher chart for the USA Declaration of Independence, transiting Mars in Gemini will pass over all three *dharma* lords (Jupiter, Mars, Sun) in the 7th house of this horoscope, thus stirring up and challenging the core ideals and principles under which the country was founded and thereafter governed.



Based on this horoscope, America is running Rahu-Mercury. *Dasha* lord Rahu gives results for Mercury twice over – once because it is associated with Mercury, and once again because it occupies a Mercury *nakshatra*. Rahu also gives results for its *rashi* dispositor the Moon, which occupies a sign of Saturn and a *nakshatra* of Rahu in the 3rd house. This creates a backdrop, an 8th house theme of disruption and trauma.

Meanwhile, Mercury's *bhukti* invokes its own role as *kendra* lord in the 8th house, again stimulating irregularities, reversals, and upsets of one kind or another. And since Mercury occupies a Saturn *nakshatra*, while Saturn occupies a Mercury *rashi*, there is a kind of symbiotic relationship between the two – the lord and occupant of the 10th house – that is potentially disruptive of the government, the status quo, etc.

As you read this, transiting Mars is already well into Gemini, having passed over its own natal position in late August, triggering even more invective than is typical of competing politicians. “Nasty” and “weird” are just the least of the pejoratives being hurled like grenades at the opposing trenches.

On October 20th, just two weeks before the November 5th election, transiting Mars will enter Cancer, and then the campaign barnstorming and rhetoric will likely reach a fevered pitch, blowing hot as a blast furnace from the combustion chambers of social media and news outlets onto the streets of America. In the USA chart of independence, Mars will trigger the current *bhukti* lord – 7th and 10th lord Mercury in the 8th house – threatening the stability of due electoral process, if not the transfer of government itself . . . again.

Coincidentally, transiting Mars will at the same time pass over two *grahas* in Donald Trump's horoscope, ie, Saturn at 00CN43 and Venus at 02CN38, two *kendra* lords that occupy his 12th house. In this same electoral season, the red planet will make a return to its natal placement in Kamala Harris's horoscope, where Mars is *gandanta* in the last three degrees of Cancer. Clearly, the blood runs hot and the stakes are high for both candidates.

Speaking of blood, one hopes this will remain merely a metaphor and not a reality in this fever-pitched campaign of razor-thin margins. Several political pundits in various media outlets have raised the spectre of civil war as a real and present risk if the election results don't meet the expectations of certain constituencies. Even without going to such extremes, we might yet see threats of violence directed at polling stations, election officials, adjudicators, officers of the certification process, and so on.

If such events do come to pass, the most likely window for that is when Mars is in its most “exaggerated” state, ie, during the overlap of its debilitation and retrogression periods noted earlier – between 12 December 2024 and 20 January 2025.

If ever your thoughts and prayers were needed, America, now is the time to put your faith in the electoral process to deliver the will of the people. There have always been, and always will be, political differences of opinion. But in a democracy, such battles must be fought with ballots, not bullets.

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