

The U.S. – Iraqi War: A Traditional Perspective

BY STEVEN BIRCHFIELD A.M.A - © MARCH 2003

From the 12th century until the time of the Renaissance, astrology gained undeniable influence in the political circles of Europe. One of the most influential and successful medieval astrologers of the 13th century was Guido Bonatti (ca 1223 to 1300 AD). Reputedly a professor of astrology in Bologna and scholar, he also was connected to the courts of dignitaries such as the Hohenstaufen Emperor, Frederick II. Ezzelino da Romana and Guido, Count of Montefeltro several times employed Bonatti for military advice. His most notable service was in the successful defence of the city of Forli against the armies of Pope Martin IV in 1282 AD. His professional experience is accordingly passed on to us in the volume of his life work, *Liber Astronomiae*.

It is in the chapters of the section of the *Tractatus Sextus* that Bonatti shares with us his counsel in the judgement of questions on War and generally interpreting War Charts.

I have cast the following chart using the time of the opening attack by the US led coalition forces.

March 20, 2003
05:42^(am) BGT (-3:00)
Baghdad, Iraq
44°_e25' 33°_n21'

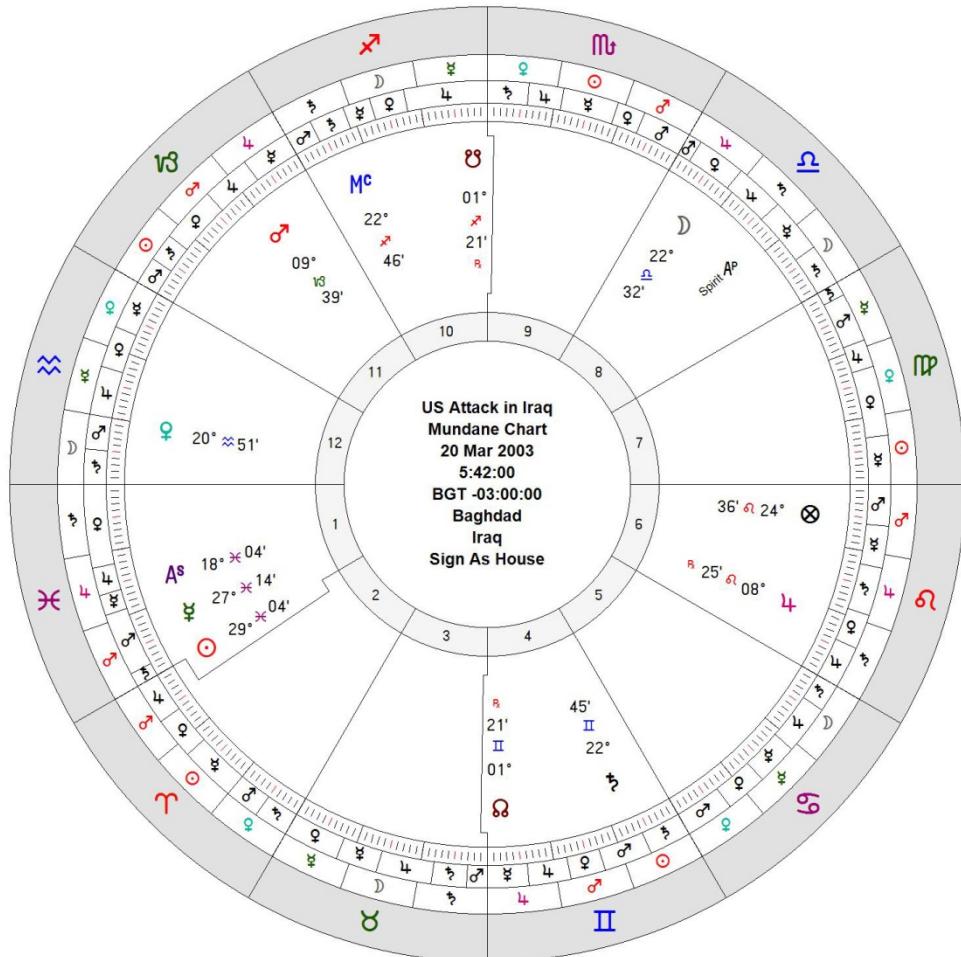


Figure 1 - This chart gives 18° Pisces 04' as the ascendant and 22° Sagittarius 47' as the MC.

General Considerations of the Significators and the Moon

We can start by examining the significators. In his war treatise, Bonatti recommends,

*“Zael said that the ascendant signifies the party beginning the war and his cause and the thing which excited the war and whether it began with truth or falsehood. The first house signifies the party beginning the war because the first thing which comes into a war is the beginner.”*¹

*“... but for the enemy, from the seventh house and make that the first of the enemy, and make the eighth his second and the ninth his third and the tenth his fourth...”*²

The US led coalition has started this war and Bonatti tells us they should have the Ascendant Pisces and its ruler Jupiter. The condition of Jupiter however is not so good in Leo. Jupiter is nocturnal triplicity ruler of Leo but is found to be retrograde and occidental of the Sun. He is moreover in the 6th sign from his own domicile Pisces and therefore cadent or in aversion to the ascendant. He is also cadent to 7th sign yet in the 5th mundanely. Bonatti tells us in his *146 Considerations* that,

*“A most weak open Helper is when the Significator is in some of his greater Dignities or two of his lesser, not beholding the Ascendant; or in one of his lesser Dignities; only beholding the same, or joined to a Planet that beholds the same, and has some Dignities therein.”*³

Jupiter doesn't exactly fit this consideration as he is not aspecting another planet which aspects or “beholds” the ascendant and has some dignity there. Jupiter opposes Venus but by sign only and is not “joined” to Venus by aspect and Venus is also in aversion to the ascendant. So Jupiter is in a little worse shape than the above criteria describes of a “most weak” helper.

The worst-case scenario for a significator was,

*“A most strong open Hinderer is when the Significator is in a place where he hath no Dignity, no delight, is not received; besieged by the Two Infortunes, Cadent from an Angle, and from the Ascendant: and so much the worse if joined with any of the Fixed Stars, of a mischievous nature, &c.”*⁴

We see Jupiter lies somewhere in between these two with only one minor dignity, cadent to both an angle and the ascendant; he is not received and is retrograde. He is fortunately not besieged or aspected by either of the malefics. Jupiter is however conjunct a Fixed Star of a “mischievous” nature. Jupiter is applying a conjunction to Asellus Australis by a close 0°21'. Asellus Austral, (also known as South Aselli) the Southern Ass, has a nature akin to Mars and the Sun. Joined to the Ascendant, Midheaven, the Sun or Mars this could give a

¹ Chapter 26 - “Bonatti on War” *Tractatus Sextus of the Liber Astronomiae*, by Guido Bonatti – translated by Robert Zoller and published by New Library Limited

² Ibid Chapter 27

³ Consideration 9, “Of the several twenty-one Modes aforesaid, which are most strong Helpers, &c. and which strongest obstructs.” *Anima Astrologiae: the Considerations of Guido Bonatti* - translated and published by William Lilly 1676

⁴ Ibid

positive result. Jupiter is only moderately warm and moist so the natures are not exactly compatible. While it gives Jupiter fearlessness it inclines dangerously to ‘risk-taking’ and gives an inordinate amount of aggression, which is capable of using extreme force or proceeding in a brutal manner. It makes for a nature sensitive to slights and insults. It is also seen to be a harbinger of famine. Robson says that conjunct with Jupiter this star gives “*Legal and ecclesiastical troubles, hypocrisy, dishonesty, false friends, and danger of imprisonment.*”⁵

It might also be interesting to note here that this same fixed star is rising and conjunct President Bush’s Ascendant in his natal chart!

Simply, Jupiter is impaired in this chart. Even though a benefic, much of its usefulness and benevolence is impeded to the point where it becomes a hinderer. Two months ago we witnessed a tragic event with the US Space Shuttle, Columbia. One of the striking similarities between these two charts is that Jupiter is the signifier of the Ascendant in both and in both nearly identically impeded.

In Bonatti’s 38th consideration he says,

“The 38th Consideration is, to consider if the Fortunes [like Jupiter as signifier of the Ascendant] are Significators, whether they are Cadent from Angles, or from the Ascendant, so as not to behold the same, and be Retrograde; for under these Impediments they will be almost as bad as the Infortunes themselves, unless they be in reception.”⁶

Here we’re told in plainer terms the extent to which Jupiter in the chart is hindered, “almost as bad as the Infortunes”! There is no one planet, which can receive Jupiter and mitigate his condition.

Jupiter’s Lord, the Sun, is also impeded. The Sun’s only strength is that it is in the first. It is in Pisces, a sign where he has no dignity at all, so is peregrine here. The Sun receives no aspect from either of the benefics and is inconjunct or in aversion to his own domicile. In fact the Sun is rendered accidentally malefic by its close conjunction ($00^{\circ}20'$) to the malefic fixed star, Scheat. This fixed star was also conjunct the ascendant in the chart of the last shuttle flight. Here it is conjunct the dispositor of the signifier of the Ascendant in the Ascendant. Scheat is in the constellation of Beta Pegasus and is of the nature of Saturn.

“In medieval times it was said to indicate vain individuals with a great deal of ambition, but with very poor judgment.” (Noonan)

“It causes extreme misfortune, murder, suicide, and drowning.” (Robson)

“With Sun: Bad for success, danger through water and engines, liable to accidents or drowning.” (Robson)

Not only is the Sun afflicted by this strong secret hinderer, but openly as well as he is also still under the square aspect from Saturn in the fourth. The condition of both the

⁵ Robson and Ebertine

⁶ Consideration 38, *Anima Astrologiae: the Considerations of Guido Bonatti* - translated and published by William Lilly 1676

significator of the first and his dispositor certainly does not inspire in me a lot of confidence for ‘happy endings’.

Now let’s consider the significator of Iraq which Bonatti tells us is the 7th, Virgo and its ruler Mercury.

Mercury is also in a very unfortunate state. Quite likely it’s only accidental dignity is that it is placed in the first house, which is Mercury’s house of joy. It is also in its detriment Pisces and combust, oriental of the Sun. By sign placement Mercury is not cadent to it’s domiciles, but the combust state is a form dysfunctionality as in the Suns rays it is no longer visible but hidden, occulted, so is in effect in aversion. While not quite besieged by the malefics, both malefics do behold this first house, Mars by sextile and Mercury is still under the square by Saturn.

*“If the Fortunes and Infortunes be together ill-posed, that is, in some of the said Impediments, as Houses where they have no Dignities, Combust or the like; then whatever they signify ‘tis but weakly; according to that Aphorism of the Philosopher, “A Planet Retrograde and Combust, has no strength in Signification. The Fortunes when Combust and under the Sun ‘s beams, signify none or very little good; and the Infortunes in like case have little or no virtue to signify ill.”*⁷

What is seen from the above analysis is that neither the significator of the Ascendant nor the significator of the Seventh is in a condition that lends itself to a successful war. But there are also other aspects to consider. Firstly, the significator of the Ascendant is without a dispositor to commit his disposition and affairs in this house to, as the Sun is in aversion. Likewise the Sun is without a dispositor to commit his disposition to because of Jupiter’s aversion to the first. Both planets must depend on their own conditions to run these houses. Secondly, while Mercury is evilly disposed, by being combust he has little or no virtue to signify ill yet his domiciles remain without a dispositor! This is not true of Jupiter who is not in aversion to the 10th house, which is Jupiter’s other domicile.

Before we begin examining the chart in further detail we also have to consider the condition of the Moon, as she is always a co-significator of the issues of the chart in general. The Moon is found in Libra in the eighth house.

*“Consider whether the significator be in the Eighth from the Ascendant? For if he be there, and a Fortune, though he do not harm, he will do no good; and if he be an Infortune he will do greater mischief than in any other place of the Figure; and if the Question be of going to War, advise not the Querent to go there, although it be a Fortune; for always some evil is to be suspected, that is death, or at least captivity, for it is a place of darkness and death;”*⁸

Had I elected a time to go to war this would have been the least likely place to consider for such an important significator as the Moon. Nonetheless here we find the Moon in the 8th, peregrine, waning and unfortunately in the “via combust.”⁹ The Moon is also conjunct the fixed star Foramen which has the nature of Saturn and Jupiter.

⁷ Ibid -Consideration 43

⁸ Ibid -Consideration 57

⁹ Medieval astrologers were not all in agreement as to just where the ‘via combust’ was. Some maintained that because Libra was the exaltation of Saturn the whole sign up to the 15th degree of Scorpio was the “via combust”.

“It causes peril, dignity, piety, usefulness and acquisitiveness, and gives danger to the eyes.” (Robson)

Both Saturn and Jupiter are contrary in nature being of the diurnal triplicity while the Moon is cold and moist of the nocturnal triplicity and Bonatti reminds us that,

“For if a Planet which is Significator of anything, being in a place where he has not any Dignities, shall be joined with one of the Fixed Stars of a contrary nature, it will weaken him and not suffer the thing to come to pass; although otherwise by the Figure it seemed never so probable;” ¹⁰

Another important judgment of the Moon is to see from which planet the Moon is separating to which it is joining, as it will speak of the matter of the chart.

“Consider, from what Planet the Moon separates, and which she is joined to; he whom she separates from signifies what hath been, the other what is to come, as we have said. And therefore, if she separates from an Infortune, and applies to a Fortune, the worst is past; and what hitherto has been had, will end happily to the Querent’s content. But if she separates from a Fortune, and goes to an Infortune, understand the contrary, the thing was good in the beginning, but proves naught in the end.” ¹¹

The Moon is separating from Venus and applying a trine to Saturn. Saturn is also co-Lord of the eighth with Venus, Libra being his exaltation. There are two things that can be said about this application. The first is that though Saturn is an Infortune it receives the Moon in Libra and would tend to indicate a successful conclusion to the war although not without many problems.

“... observe whether the Moon or Significator be joined to any of the Planets, for thence you must derive your judgment of what is like to happen in business... if it be an Infortune, though they do not give him virtue, yet without a reception it will not do; but with a reception, if he be not afflicted, it signifies a good end of the matter, though not without much labour and tediousness.” ¹²

Secondly, as co-Lord of the House of Death, the Eighth, Saturn takes a rather special significance in judgment because if,

“... the Lord of the House of Death... applies to the Significator... a Planet so affected becomes the destroyer of Life, and kills as well if it be a Fortune as an Infortune, and that whether there be a Reception or not.” ¹³

Others meant that it was from 15° Libra to 15° Scorpio. My own personal opinion is that while Saturn is exalted in Libra it also rules Aquarius and it is not a “via combust”. However in a diurnal chart Saturn is much stronger in this sign than in a nocturnal chart. In a nocturnal chart I tend to only see the “via combust” from 24° Libra to 10° Scorpio. Since I am using Bonatti as my reference source for interpretation I will use his preferences. “The 9th is when she is between the degree of Libra and the 5° degree of Scorpio, which 30 degrees are called Combust Way.” Sbi

¹⁰ Consideration 9, *Anima Astrologiae: the Considerations of Guido Bonatti* - translated and published by William Lilly 1676

¹¹ Ibid – Consideration 76

¹² Ibid

¹³ Ibid – Consideration 92

In fact the Moon is separating from one Lord of Death to another when you consider that Venus as the domicile ruler is also accidentally infortuned being the mistress of Death and in the case of separating from an Infortune and applying to another Infortune then, “*it will be an ugly conclusion.*”

Lastly there is one more condition that is present in judging the Moon. While I present it last it is certainly not the least important. Both the Moon and Mistress of the eighth, Venus, are applying to Saturn, co-Lord of the eighth, in the 4th. Saturn is collecting the light of both Venus and the Moon and brings them both into conjunction with him.

*“There are other conditions which are efficacious besides aspect and conjunction. When an inferior planet and an intermediate one both apply themselves to a superior planet, the latter is called a collector ‘jam’, because it assembles the light of the others. If these are in aspect to each other, this is just as good as a conjunction with the collector.”*¹⁴

It’s likewise important to note that Saturn is in the 4th, another House strongly related to death. If, and that’s a big if, there is a conclusion to this war, I don’t think it will be without great loss of life and many difficulties and problems. I however feel there is so far much evidence to support that this war will not be successfully concluded and it will be fought with much loss of life. The Moon’s affliction in the chart certainly would indicate this judgement.

*“Zael’ seems to say... but I always fear the affliction of the Moon above all other Impediments, and scarce Remember that I ever saw a good end of anything where she was afflicted: and in journeys, if to war, was apprehensive of the Queren’s care and person;”*¹⁵

About The War

Which Party has many Allies?

*“If, indeed, you desire to know which of the significators is more supported or numerous in allies, see which of them is in his greater dignity....And who aspects his own house [domicile] better, and who is aspected by many planets, and who has more planets in his own part (that is towards the ascendant or towards the seventh) because the one who is thus will have more soldiers or many allies.”*¹⁶

To make this examination simple I have made a table to present a summary of Allies and soldiers. I’ve simply awarded 1 point for each of the above criteria in order to see the relation.

¹⁴ Paragraph 510, page 107 – “*An Introduction in the Elements of the Art of Astrology*”, by Al Biruni – translated by R. Ramsey Wright and published by Ascella

¹⁵ Ibid – Consideration 75

¹⁶ Chapter 22 - “*Bonatti on War*” *Tractatus Sextus of the Liber Astronomiae*, by Guido Bonatti – translated by Robert Zoller and published by New Library Limited

Participants

	Greater Dignity	Aspects Domicile	Aspects to Significator	Planets in own Part
Ascendant = Coalition Forces	Triplicity +1	Aversion 0	0	Mars Venus Mercury Sun +4
Seventh = Iraq	0	Combust 0	Mercury/ Sun Mercury/Saturn +2	Moon Jupiter Saturn +3

From this table we can see that the sizes of the armies are equal. If we want to know the quality and strength of those allies and soldiers then we must examine the Second House for the Coalition and the Eighth House for Iraq.

*“And just as the 1st house signifies the querent or the one beginning the war, so the second house indicates his soldiers or allies. And just as the seventh indicates the enemy, so the eighth indicates his soldiers or allies. And just as the tenth indicates the king [for the Ascendant], so the eleventh indicates his soldiers, allies or ministers.”*¹⁷

I will examine on the part for the Ascendant first. First we are told by Bonatti to see if there is a benefic in the second house. The second is Aries and there are no Planets there in which case we should see if there is benefics that aspect this house. First we find Venus is sextile to the second. Venus is however poorly placed being cadent from the Ascendant and peregrine. While not losing totally it's benevolence it is weakened. Aquarius rules southern Iraq¹⁸ so Venus shows these allies positioned there which are mainly the British troops. Their strength, being a benefic, is considerable but their allegiance to the alliance is a sextile which lends itself to loyalty through friendship rather than perhaps conviction.

Secondly, we see Jupiter aspects the 2nd by trine from Leo. As I discussed in my preliminary considerations, we saw that Jupiter was seriously impeded and its benefice was become an accidental malefic. Leo rules Turkestan, or the north of Iraq which borders against Turkey. These are the Kurdish troops that are fighting as allies with the US. Their loyalty is much stronger; more of conviction but their ability considerably weaker.

More importantly we should look to the ruler of the 2nd, as this is the main strength of the Ascendant. The ruler Mars is strongly placed in exaltation in Capricorn. What is rather significant is that Mars is placed mundanely in the 10th while in the 11th by whole-sign. This quite aptly describes the US troops which are personally loyal to the King and yet of the 11th his friends as fellow Americans. Mars is strong, loyal and effective. Quite interestingly Capricorn rules castles and lands where the land is both barren and there are

¹⁷ Ibid - Likewise the 10th from the 7th is the King for the enemy and the 11th from the 7th is his soldiers, allies and ministers -- SBI

¹⁸ Page 13 – “An Introduction in the Elements of the Art of Astrology”, by Al Biruni – translated by R. Ramsey Wright and published by Ascella

orchards and grazing for animals¹⁹. This is quite descriptive of the area surrounding Baghdad with Baghdad symbolically being the ‘castle’ or ‘stronghold’ to be besieged. And this is where the strength of the US forces is positioned.

It is very interesting reading indeed if you take the time to also look at these combinations, Mars and Capricorn, Venus and Aquarius, Jupiter and Leo, and synthesis a picture of the morals, mannerisms and character of these various allies (keeping in mind the condition of the planets). I am not going to do that here as this article would end up long indeed. Needless to say, these combinations are very descriptive of these allies.

On the side of Iraq we find the Moon, a benefic, in the 2nd from the 7th. The Moon if you remember is also impeded and unfortunate. The Moon best describes the common people and citizenry of Iraq. Their loyalty is to Iraq being in the 2nd but their strength is weak indeed. Libra rules the market places and business centres, so these are the ‘hearts’ and centres of the cities and as we’ve seen this is where the resistance will be the greatest in the war. Interestingly the Moon also rules the 11th from the 7th so these are also the king’s personal allies and soldiers. But their place in the 2nd may indicate their greater loyalty to Iraq than the king in contrast to Mars indicating the strong loyalty to the king in the case of the US. Venus is the ruler of the 2nd for Iraq, and its condition is the same as for the US. The difference is that from Iraq’s perspective, these allies are in the 6th from the 7th and trine both the 2nd and 10th; these probably best represent the Republican guard which is loyal to both land and King. Jupiter we see sextiles the Iraq 2nd. These are found in the 12th from the 7th and are allies that are obvious dissenters yet allies whose loyalty is through friendship rather than any conviction towards the King. Perhaps this best represents the Shi’ite section of the population who are certainly not Saddam’s friends yet are loyal to Iraq. Like the Kurds their strength is little.

One interesting comment I might add from Bonatti, is he says,

“And if the benefics which are in the second are in a common sign [mutable], or in Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces, Aries, Libra or Capricorn, announce that [they] will have a multitude of soldiers and allies.”

Since the Moon, a benefic, is in Libra then these soldiers are a multitude: weak, poorly trained but undoubtedly loyal to Iraq.²⁰ There is also one other ally that needs to be considered. And this is Saturn whose exaltation and triplicity are in Libra. Saturn is clearly in the 10th from the 7th, and these are obviously the kings most loyal and dangerous soldiers. Being of the nature of Saturn one expects cold, calculating and cruel to be adjectives to describe these soldiers. There is nothing ‘benevolent’ about them.

It is easy to see here the ‘superiority’ in the quality of the coalition forces in this conflict by its dominant Mars. However there is something to be said for the relation of rulers to their respective 2nd houses. Mars is square his domicile and Venus is trine her domicile. I think this says something about the ‘effectivity’; a trine producing beneficial results and a square producing difficulties. Saturn is also collecting the light from both Venus and the Moon here, on behalf of the enemy. There is something to these trines formed between Saturn, the Moon and Venus, which may just prove to be a formidable problem to the coalition forces.

¹⁹ Chapter 2, page 64 – “***The Beginning of Wisdom***”, by Avraham Ibn-Ezra – translated by Meira B. Epstein and published by ARHAT

²⁰ Not necessarily Hussein

What was the Cause?

“If someone should ever ask as frequently happens, or should you for some reason desire to tell someone what the reason was why this war arose Zael said that you ought to look to Mars, because he is naturally the signifikator of wars.” ²¹

We are further told by Bonatti to see which planet Mars is separating from (or is separating for him) and which planet he is applying to (or is applying to him). There are two possible answers to this question.

First the Moon is separating from a square to Mars and applying again to Mars by sextile. We must then decide if the Moon is a benefic or malefic. I believe that I have sufficiently shown in my opening considerations that in this chart the Moon is accidentally malefic.

“If Mars separates from malefics and is joined to malefics it signifies that both [parties] strive against justice and against truth” ²²

Mars is not properly ‘joined’ to any planet by aspect. There is however another possibility that is a stronger testimony. The contra-antiscia of Saturn is 7°15' in Capricorn. So in fact, Mars is separating from his ‘natural’ conjunction to Saturn.

“Conjunction by nature occurs when two planets are in equipollent signs [signs of equal ascension and contra-antiscia], and takes place when they arrive at corresponding degrees in these....Similarly if two planets are in corresponding degrees in signs correspondent by direction [antiscia signs], the conjunction is complete.” ²³

This testimony speaks loud and clear that neither side is just nor fighting for the truth in spite of the propaganda war we see being waged in the media from both sides.

As for the ‘real’ causes of the war Bonatti directs us to especially examine which house(s) Mars is in. Mars and Jupiter both have in this chart the positions of being in two ‘houses’. Jupiter is in the 5th mundanely but the 6th by sign and Mars is in the 10th mundanely and the 11th by sign. So in judging the causes we must examine both the 10th and 11th to get a full picture.

“And if [Mars] in the tenth house it will be for the sake of the king and his honour and for increasing his dominion.” ²⁴

²¹ Chapter 24 - **“Bonatti on War” Tractatus Sextus of the Liber Astronomiae**, by Guido Bonatti – translated by Robert Zoller and published by New Library Limited

²² Ibid

²³ Paragraph 492, Page 99 – **“An Introduction in the Elements of the Art of Astrology”**, by Al Biruni – translated by R. Ramsey Wright and published by Ascella
Signs equipollent are Aries/Pisces, Taurus/Aquarius, Gemini/Capricorn, Cancer/Sagittarius, Leo/Scorpio and Virgo/Libra.

Signs corresponding by direction are Gemini/Cancer, Taurus/Leo, Aries/Virgo, Pisces/Libra, Aquarius/Scorpio and Capricorn/Sagittarius. - - SBI

²⁴ Chapter 24 - **“Bonatti on War” Tractatus Sextus of the Liber Astronomiae**, by Guido Bonatti – translated by Robert Zoller and published by New Library Limited

Simply and to the point, this is rather a mild way of describing expansionism, nothing more and nothing less.

“And if Mars is in the eleventh it will be by reason of friends or it will be to defend the substance of the king or to defend his allies.” ²⁵

President Bush has time and again expressed his concern that Saddam Hussein is a threat to the US and her allies. I have no doubt that this is a true motivation for this war. The question of how real is the threat is another question, but that the President is motivated by this fear is testified to in the chart. The ‘*substance of the king*’ is certainly the American way of life. It is necessary however to define the “allies” he is defending and whom his friends are that are giving him a reason, “*by reason of friends*”.

We rarely hear these days from government sources or the media about ‘the disarmament of Saddam’ or ‘weapons of mass destruction’, which were the call to arms in the beginning of the war. Instead we are told now how we are going to ‘liberate’ and ‘defend’ the poor and repressed Iraqis who are our friends and secret allies. Poor and oppressed depends on whom as most oppression is one of religious affiliation. That the Iraqis are friends and allies (with the exception of the Kurds) however is not supported by the chart, or in the reality of the war. In the chart we see clearly the common citizenry (even the repressed Shi’ite sect) loyal, not to the coalition or even necessarily to the ‘king’, Saddam, but to Iraq. Our officials have been amazed that our forces have not been greeted by troops throwing down their arms and hailing the coalition into their country as liberating heroes. Instead, they’ve had to fight hard battles from town to town and are continuing to do so.

What is clear from Bonatti’s statement is that these ‘friends’ and ‘allies’ are the king’s personal friends and allies, not necessarily the US’s, “to defend the substance of the king or to defend his [the kings] allies” The majority of America’s traditional allies and friends have expressed their disapproval of this war so I have to ask, by the reason of which friends?

Significations of the Houses

“Nevertheless I will now tell you certain useful things which do not seem to me ought to be omitted...Therefore when you have carefully noted...all the houses and you desire every signification of them, look on behalf of...he who begins the conflict at all the houses in the order written below, beginning from the first;...Then see if there is a malefic in the first or aspecting the first by a square aspect or opposition. This signifies that the querent [or he who begins the conflict] will not exercise well the things which ought to be exercised for waging war, nor will he be greatly stirred up concerning it. This is the reason it will not go well for him in the war...It signifies that the querent or he who begins the war is not just, but rather the contrary...” ²⁶

Looking at the first house we have an accidentally malefic Sun present. Also Saturn from the fourth is squaring the first.

Bonatti also tells us there is a mitigation of a malefics presence/aspect,

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ Ibid – Chapter 27

“If there is a benefic there or one aspects by a trine aspect to the place of the aforesaid malefic, it signifies good. A malefic signifies the contrary.” ²⁷

So we also see that Saturn is receiving a trine aspect from Venus. In his 146 Considerations, Bonatti qualifies the ability of a benefic to mitigate a malefic.

“To consider, when an Infortune is Significator and his ill effects are mitigated, whether Jupiter behold him, or is joined corporally to him? For that will wholly destroy his malignity and turn his nature into good, how bad so ever he be; so that if Saturn in that place of himself would not bestow some good or perform what he seems to promise, Jupiter will make him do it, provided he be not afflicted himself, as in his fall, Combust or Retrograde (yet even then he helps, but not so powerfully). On the other side Venus takes off the fury of Mars, by reason of that endearing intimacy which is between them, unless the thing be very difficult, as wars and bloodshed, &c. But she cannot so well divert the mischief of Saturn without the help of Jupiter (and then she can do it as well as at other times that of Mars). The reason is, there is no such sympathy between Saturn and she, in any respect; for he is slow, she swift; he heavy, she light; he delights in melancholy, she in mirth.” ²⁸

So basically, Venus will work Saturn to good but she does not divert his mischief so well as if she had Jupiter’s help (which she does not). The case for the Sun however goes unmitigated, as there is no aspect from a benefit at all. In this war there have been many ‘friendly fire’ accidents as well as miscalculations of the enemies’ desire and ability to fight back. I think these are all reflections of the afflictions to the first. Perhaps only the tip of the iceberg and we’re likely to see others perhaps more severe.

The 7th receives the same affliction from Saturn and mitigation from Venus. It could also be likely that several of the deaths caused to innocents on the Iraqi side are due to this lack of “exercising well the things which should be exercised.” Venus does not wholly mitigate Saturn.

But these accidents, miscalculations and lack of running things, as they should are stronger indications from the coalition side.

Is there a Conclusion?

The military might of the US is unquestionable. So why doesn’t this chart show more plainly a one sided victory? The principle significators are all in some affliction and impeded, and there are many questions as to the ‘righteousness’ of the causes on both sides.

I can’t help but feel after examining this chart that this is a war, which offers no satisfactory conclusion. It is not going to ‘end’ anything. More than likely this will only be the beginning.

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Consideration 48, *Anima Astrologiae: the Considerations of Guido Bonatti* - translated and published by William Lilly 1676