

Relationships & Specialist Techniques Exam 2022

Section 2 - Question 9

Evolutionary Astrology states that the soul contains within it two antithetical, yet co-equal desires: one to return to source, and one to separate away. Evolution occurs as the soul progressively purges and exhausts separating desires from lifetime to lifetime. When Pluto is in aspect to any planet in the natal chart, it symbolises that the soul is confronting pre-existing patterns of behaviour that are creating limitations and blocks - thus causing points of stagnation for the further evolution of the soul.

Pluto by house and sign indicates the core evolutionary desires and intentions of the past, and its polarity point (opposite house and sign) reflects the evolutionary intentions for this lifetime. The nodal axis serves to support the evolutionary transition from the past to the future, which is why it is important in evolutionary astrology.

Discuss the karmic evolutionary dynamics in Vladimir Putin's birth chart via Pluto, its polarity point, as well as the nodal axis and their planetary rulers. In terms of his soul's evolutionary growth, hypothesise on how Putin may be progressing in this lifetime.

Vladimir Putin's natal chart reveals his Pluto conjunct the Midheaven (MC) and North Node (NN) in Leo. Pluto falls in the 10th house and the NN in the 9th house. This gives him a Pluto polarity point in Aquarius in the 4th house conjunct his NN in Aquarius in the 3rd house. The polarity point signifies the evolutionary 'desire, intent or cause' of the current life¹ and likewise, the NN signifies the 'highest form of expression to be reached in the current life'². Putin is being called to become a humanitarian in the truest sense of the word and for this new experience to transform his very foundation and manner of communication. Given Putin's history and the current war in Ukraine, it would be difficult to argue that he was fulfilling his soul's destiny. His natal chart reveals tremendous power and many capabilities. The question why he has failed to turn his energies toward his soul's desired objective is an intriguing one and critical not just for his own spiritual growth, but for the wellbeing of Russia and the entire world.

¹ Jeffrey Wolf Green, *Pluto: The Evolutionary Journey of the Soul* (Bournemouth, England: The Wessex Astrologer, 2011), chap. 1, Kindle.

² Martin Schulman, *The Moon's Nodes and Reincarnation* (Maine: Samuel Weiser, 1975), 25.

A recent Four Corners program gave a summary of Putin's life and the events leading to the aggression in Ukraine.³ Putin was a KGB officer stationed in Dresden, Germany when the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 (balsamic lunar phase). It was a defining moment and after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, it is said he resolved within himself to re-establish what was lost. Putin reinvented himself as a bureaucratic fixer and befriended Boris Yeltsin, Russia's first President (elected 1991). Yeltsin appointed Putin the head of the FSB (revamped KGB) in 1998 and Prime Minister in 1999. After Yeltsin's resignation on 31/12/1999, Putin was acting President for several months before being democratically elected to the role (first quarter lunar phase). Although he pretended to be committed to Yeltsin's reform agenda in the early years of his presidency, he became obsessed with crafting his image in the media and came to believe that everything could be manipulated through control of the communication channels. He believed he was ordained to lead Russia back to greatness and in 2004 capitalised on a terrorist attack in the Russian town of Beslan to seize additional powers, forcing out opposing members of parliament. After Beslan, singular power became centred on the President and the government lost its influence. In 2007, Putin gave his famous speech at the Munich Security Conference, criticising US global influence (no one feels safe) and outlining the European and international order he wanted (full moon lunar phase). According to international commentators, he has been working toward that end ever since. Putin served his legally allowed two terms as President and then served as Prime Minister for two terms under Dmitry Medvedev. In 2011, he is said to have become obsessed with the murder of his friend Muammar Gaddafi during a rebel uprising in Libya and watched the footage repeatedly (disseminating lunar phase). In the same year, he cracked down on large scale protests within Russia that accused him of rigging government elections, launching widespread punitive actions

³ Australian Broadcasting Corporation, "Putin's Road to War," *Four Corners*, May 16, 2022. Television Broadcast.

against individuals for the first time. He then turned his attention to projecting Russia as a super power. In 2014, he simultaneously opened the Winter Olympics in Sochi and invaded Ukraine for the first time. His military forces annexed Crimea in Ukraine's south and supported separatist fighters in Donbas on the eastern border. Although sanctions were applied against Russia, Putin was emboldened by the West's reluctance to get involved in a military conflict and fighting has raged in Donbas ever since. In 2016, Putin launched an attack on the US election, using stolen documents and a campaign of misinformation on social media to hurt Hilary Clinton's chances (third quarter lunar phase). Trump's election and fan-boy support of Putin was considered a major triumph within Russia. Putin was re-elected President in 2018 and immediately changed the legislation so he could serve additional and longer terms (balsamic lunar phase). It is interesting that Putin is facing a new moon lunar phase in 2022. Will Putin enter an even greater era of power or will the evolutionary indicators in his chart ensure he finally faces the karmic consequences of his actions?

The humanitarian possibilities in Putin's chart have been completely overridden by his continuing efforts to seize greater power, dismantle democratic freedoms, extinguish political opponents and public protests, pervert the law to suit his aims, and use extreme force to expand his own and Russia's influence. It appears the Pluto/MC/SN conjunction is firmly in control. Putin's Pluto in Leo indicates he is learning the lesson of 'creative self-actualisation' and believes he has a special destiny to fulfil.¹ He likely held positions of power in past incarnations and feels as though he was born to rule. Individuals with this placement want to be recognised as unique. They can also be extremely self-centred and narcissistic. Pluto in the 10th house indicates an entire cycle of evolutionary development has come to a close and another is beginning.⁵ Individuals with Pluto in the 10th house are learning the evolutionary lesson of

¹ Green, *Pluto: The Evolutionary Journey of the Soul*, chap. 2.

⁵ Green, *Pluto: The Evolutionary Journey of the Soul*, chap. 2.

establishing their authority within society and continually redefining their individuality through their social position or function. SN in Leo suggests an excess of pride, wilfulness and stubbornness; an insistence on getting one's way; an attachment to taking risks; exercising authority for the sake of it; and melodramatic tendencies.⁶ SN in the 9th house suggests the individual has an inner need to seek the truth; may be outspoken and overly optimistic; and may believe the grass is greener on the other side.⁷ Pluto conjunct the SN indicates a past incarnation that involved or ended with a cataclysmic experience (volcanic eruption, war), particularly when associated with the 10th house.⁸ When associated with the 10th house and Mars (Mars is trine Pluto/MC/SN), it is the sign of a victimizer (violence, cruelty, rape, murder). The Pluto/MC/SN conjunction indicates Putin's personal philosophies will greatly influence any society he plays a leadership role in (impacting laws, customs and belief systems) and he will know how to manipulate the system to his advantage.⁹ This description fits Putin and helps to explain both his strong response to the fall of the Soviet Union and his violent methods.

The ruler of Putin's SN (and Pluto) is the Sun. His Sun is in the 11th house and forms a stellium of planets in Libra, with Saturn, Neptune and Mercury in the 12th house. The Sun is trine the NN (and Vertex), but does not make an aspect to the SN. The remainder of the stellium trines the NN and is sextile to the SN (Pluto/MC). The Sun in Libra seeks to unite and co-operate with others in friendship and group situations.¹⁰ Those with Sun in the 11th house can develop a powerful sense of self through social, humanitarian and political activities.¹¹ The stellium adds considerable power to the Sun's position. Expressed positively, Saturn would confer perseverance and stability; Neptune empathy and compassion; and Mercury sound

⁶ Jan Spiller, *Astrology for the Soul* (New York: Bantam Books, 1997), 445.

⁷ Bernice Prill Grebner, *Lunar Nodes: New Concepts* (Arizona: American Federation of Astrologers, 1980), 3.

⁸ Steven Forrest, *Yesterday's Sky: Astrology & Reincarnation* (California: Seven Paws Press, 2012), chap. 8, Kindle.

⁹ Green, *Pluto: The Evolutionary Journey of the Soul*, chap. 2.

¹⁰ Howard Sasportas, *The Twelve Houses: Exploring the Houses of the Horoscope* (London: Flare Publications, 2007), 162.

¹¹ *ibid*, 134.

judgement and diplomacy. Expressed negatively, Saturn's position would result in inhibition and a lack of adaptability; Neptune deception and self-delusion; and Mercury a lack of understanding and a tendency to defuse one's energy into too many channels. This would impact on 12th house matters: such as unconscious motives, secrets, invisible enemies, karma, healing, endings and closure. The stellium's trine to the NN suggests growth was not only possible for Putin but strongly encouraged. His deception of Yeltsin (powerful role model, proponent of freedom) was an early indicator that he was unwilling to move forward with his polarity point/NN's new humanitarian project. Also, the stellium is square to Uranus (Cancer in 9th) suggesting a capricious and contradictory approach to the development and integration of his personal philosophies. The Sun is also square Chiron (Capricorn in 3rd) signifying a deep wound in his sense of achievement and recognition that would show itself in his personal communication (Chiron is not linked to Pluto/MC/SN).

The polarity point/NN conjunction adds emphasis to the nodal balance. The two rulers of the Aquarian NN are Saturn and Uranus (fear of change versus rebellion for the sake of it). The unfortunate fact they are square to each other has already been discussed. An additional problem is Jupiter (retrograde, Taurus in 7th) square the nodes (and Pluto). Jupiter square the SN indicates a situation was unresolved in past incarnations, resulting in a craving for fame, money and power. Jealousy and resentment is likely to be directed at people in enviable positions.¹² The lesson of Jupiter retrograde in the 7th house is sincerity, honesty, a sense of fair play in whatever contacts he makes with others, and the balancing of his needs and wants against the needs and wants of others.¹³ Jupiter's only easy aspect is a sextile to his afflicted Uranus. A further difficulty is Putin's Ascendant (ASC) in Scorpio, which makes Pluto the ruler of his chart. This placement indicates Pluto's power will be strongly expressed through both the

¹² Forrest, *Yesterday's Sky: Astrology & Reincarnation*, chap. 10.

¹³ Donald H. Yott, *Retrograde Planets and Reincarnation* (New York: Samuel Weiser, 1977), 42.

1st and 10th houses of personal and public image. Putin also has Venus in Scorpio in the 1st house, adding to his personal magnetism and any tendencies toward jealousy, intense emotions and secrecy. Of note, the rulers of Pluto, the Sun and Venus create a closed loop, with all other planets in the chart feeding back into them. This may be another reason why Putin has not been capable of breaking free of Pluto's strong grip.

According to Jeffrey Wolf Green, Pluto correlates to the deepest emotional security patterns in all of us and signifies a path of least resistance.¹¹ It certainly appears that Putin's life is a story of least resistance, rather than development of personal strength through spiritual growth. He has become increasingly isolated from his advisors, the Russian people and the international political scene. His 'special military operation' in Ukraine is failing so spectacularly that it is difficult not to see his obsession with Gaddafi's death as some kind of foretelling of his own demise. Putin's approaching new moon lunar phase will fall on his Mars (intercepted in Sagittarius in 2nd). His Mars trine the Pluto/MC/SN conjunction suggests a triggering of the evolutionary actualization called for in his chart (normally somewhat tempered by the interception in Sagittarius). The Martian energy may seek to use greater force (Mars trine Pluto is another signifier of violence, cruelty, rape and murder) or perhaps herald the loss of his position and potentially even his life (focus on the 2nd). Despite the shocking destruction in Ukraine, extraordinary loss of human life and international condemnation, Putin's refusal to be 'humiliated' could lead him to make good on his oft repeated threat to use nuclear weapons (Pluto), plunging the world deeper into the quagmire of his extreme power-play.

¹¹ Green, *Pluto: The Evolutionary Journey of the Soul*, chap. 1.

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Vladimir Putin

Natal Chart

7 Oct 1952, Tue
9:30 am BAT -3:00
St Petersburg, Russia
59°N55' 030°E15'

Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node

