

Superhero Staredown—Cardinal Grand Cross of April 2014

By Susan Abbott Gidel

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(All times Eastern)

The astrological energy occurring in mid-April—near Passover and Easter—is easily the most intense of the year as four powerhouse planets are at 90-degree angles in a tightness that is unprecedented. In addition, the pattern they form directly involves the horoscope charts for the United States, U.S. President Barack Obama and Russia President Vladimir Putin.

Although **Wednesday, April 23 is the Red Letter Trading Day for April and for 2014** because that is when the astrological pattern is the tightest, the entire month is fraught with this intense energy. Indeed, Tuesday, April 22 is also a close contender for the title because that is when Mars first enters the same degree (13) as the other three planets.

This tension could translate into much volatility on the planet—from natural disasters to economic strains to political revolutions—and, ultimately, the markets. Certainly, the stock market has been volatile in early April with the Dow Jones Industrial Average climbing to new record highs only to back away in wide-swinging trading.

The upcoming pattern is a Cardinal Grand Cross that last appeared with these same four planets during the Great Depression. A Grand Cross occurs when four planets form a big square in the sky, each 90 degrees apart, which creates tension coming from every corner. This upcoming formation is a Cardinal Grand Cross because the planets are in the Cardinal zodiac signs of Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn, all of which like to initiate action.

Superhero Staredown

The planets involved include Pluto, Uranus, Jupiter and Mars. To get a feeling for the energy involved, think of these planets as four superheroes, each leaning forward on the corner of a table, staring down the others, daring each other to make a move.

- **Pluto is The Hulk**—Big, strong, powerful and able to transform. In Capricorn, Pluto wants to see transformation of business and government.
- **Uranus is Iron Man**—Uses his electromagnetism to blow things up. In Aries, Uranus seeks revolutionary beginnings.
- **Jupiter is Superman**—The good guy who helps and protects others. In Cancer, Jupiter's goal is to go over the top in protecting families and homes.
- **Mars is Human Torch**—Always on fire. In Libra, Mars is even-handed with its aggression.

In the sky, Pluto and Jupiter are directly across from one another. Jupiter has a bit of an upper hand not only because Jupiter is in its favorite sign, but also because Pluto turns retrograde on April 14, so The Hulk is sitting at his corner rather than standing.

Mars, the fastest-moving of the four, is what makes this Grand Cross so potent. In any chart, at any time, Mars conjunct or opposite Uranus is often a trigger for accidents or explosions. In this formation, Mars—ruler of war—is opposite Uranus and also the ruler of its sign, Aries, giving it added strength. However, Mars is somewhat at a disadvantage because it is retrograde, so also is seated at the table rather than standing, and in one of its least-favorite signs. Both factors diminish its power .

Jupiter is typically the “good guy,” so may seem to soften this Grand Cross somewhat. However, in this case, I suspect Jupiter could fixate its penchant for abundance in the area of religion, another of its rulerships, particularly as the energy winds up during Passover and Easter.

The last time these four planets were in this Grand Cross formation in Cardinal signs was in December 1933. That was the first year Herbert Hoover was in office as U.S. President and shook things up to get the country out of depression. He declared a banking holiday, took the United States off the gold standard and introduced New Deal programs.

Two years earlier, another Cardinal Grand Cross was in the year of a European banking crisis that led the U.K. to leave the gold standard. The 1931 Grand Cross involved Pluto, Uranus, Saturn and Mars. The next Grand Cross is in February 2041, involving Neptune, Saturn, Uranus and Mars in fixed signs, which are the stable do-ers of the zodiac.

Easter-Week Tension

Because of the Cardinal Grand Cross occurring near major religious holidays and with the markets closed for three days during the period, the week of trading both before and after Easter this year will be highly significant. If there ever were a time to be absolutely on top of your trading game, these two weeks are it. In addition, it would be wise to very carefully consider how much open positions you might carry through the long holiday weekend.

<i>April 14</i>	<i>Passover begins at sundown</i>
<i>April 20</i>	<i>Easter Sunday (Christian and Eastern Orthodox)</i>
<i>April 21</i>	<i>Uranus in Aries square Pluto in Capricorn @ 3:21 pm Exact square #5 out of 7 from 2012-2015</i>
<i>April 22</i>	<i>Mars first enters 13 degrees at 2:32 am</i>
<i>April 23</i>	<i>Cardinal Grand Cross at 13 degrees, tightest at 5:37 am Pluto(rx) in Capricorn Uranus in Aries</i>

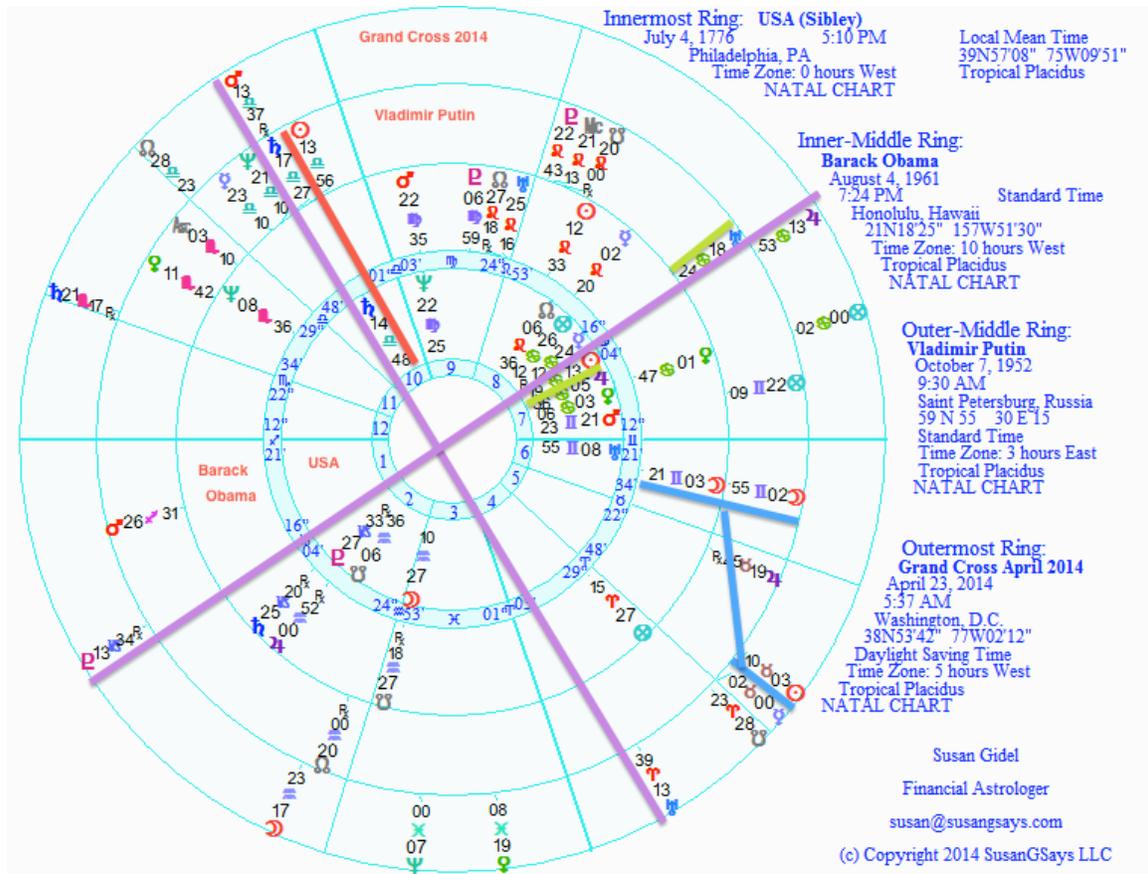
Jupiter in Cancer
Mars(rx) in Libra

April 23 is not only the Red Letter Trading Day for April, but also the Red Letter Trading Day for 2014. These four powerhouse planets are creating an extremely tight square formation in the sky—within 1/3 of one degree—in Cardinal signs that call for taking initiative. This formation screams “volatility.”

That this Grand Cross is so powerful so close to Passover and Easter leads me to believe that we must be on watch for the potential for religious wars or religion-spurred aggression that escalates out of control.

U.S. and Russian Connections

Several connections exist in an overlay of the Grand Cross formation (purple) with the charts for the United States, Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin. There is tension among these charts during this period, no doubt. But, the personal connection between the two leaders indicates they have an opportunity to stand their ground, yet be civil during this time.



Pluto in Capricorn (8 o'clock position in chart)

Pluto in Capricorn (transformation of business and government) is aligned with Russia's natal Uranus and Neptune (not shown in chart), activating the country's natal desire to try something new based on its ideals.

Uranus in Aries (5 o'clock position in chart)

No direct connections.

Jupiter in Cancer (2 o'clock position in chart)

Jupiter in Cancer (abundance of nurturing; religious fervor) is directly aligned with the U.S. natal Sun (green, inner ring), emphasizing the country's identity as a world caretaker.

Jupiter also is considered aligned (although not exactly) with Putin's natal Uranus (green, outer-middle ring), which would only emphasize his natal tendency to create revolution.

Mars in Libra (11 o'clock position in chart)

Mars in Libra (even-handed aggression) is aligned with both the U.S. Saturn (red, inner ring) and Putin's Sun and Saturn (red, outer-middle ring). Mars activates the U.S.

President as it is in the 10th house of the U.S. chart as well as Putin—each as a bold, disciplined leader, but particularly so with Putin because his personal identity is tied in as well.

Presidential Moons

Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin have nearly identical Moon positions in their natal charts, at 2-3 degrees of Gemini (blue, inner- and outer-middle rings), thus they understand each other on an emotional basis quite deeply. On the day of the Grand Cross, their moons are in a position that gives them the opportunity to be seen as communicating well, although each standing his ground (blue, connecting to Sun and Mercury in Taurus in outer ring).

Although there is definitely the possibility for tension and explosiveness between the United States and Russia during this Grand Cross, it appears as if it may be more a war of words rather than of deed. Indeed, any war-mongering has the opportunity to be handled in a peaceful way that keeps both country's leaders in powerful stead among their constituencies.

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