

The Strange Case of Julian Assange: Relocating the Chart

By Joy Usher

The question of Relocating the Chart is one which comes up constantly for astrologers when clients ask 'Does it matter if I was born in a different place from where I live now? In other words: 'Is one spot on earth better for me than another?' If my answer to this question were to be 'Yes', I would be one of hundreds with an overwhelming desire to find an atlas and buy a airline ticket to somewhere that guarantees success and status, or grants me my perfect soul-mate, or provides me with maximum wealth for minimum effort - all dependent on where I choose to live my life. But apart from seeing the world and sounding like an advertisement for Lonely Planet - as no one single destination can do all this - I do not believe the relocated chart has such amazing long-term capability to maintain the claims it initially promises.

Surveys have tried to evaluate the quality and subsequent happiness of an individual using a number of factors such as job satisfaction, stress levels, relationship satisfaction, and a number of other related physical, emotional and psychological states. When they interviewed those few lucky people who had struck the golden load, they asked for an assessment of these factors and how they had felt prior to their win, how they felt immediately after their win, and then returned at a specified time in the future in an effort to objectively measure these same factors to quantify alterations in their 'quality of life'. A study by Brickman, Coates, and Janoff-Bulman, *University of California Regents*, <http://ucsfhr.edu/hrupdate/update200202.htm> found:

"The researchers studied both lottery winners, and individuals who had sustained a physical injury, to determine if winning the lottery made them happier or if sustaining an injury made them less happy. What they found was that immediately after either event, levels of happiness were higher (lottery winners), or lower (physically injured), and that after eight weeks or less, people returned to the level of happiness they had before the event. This research suggests that we adapt to these situations very quickly, and often return to the degree of happiness we had before such an event."

Some studies cite a longer period of 'bliss' before the recipient's life and emotional state return to 'levels of normality'. According to ABC's John Stossel, *"Studies of lottery winners found that within a year, most say that they are no happier than they were before they won."*

I am inclined to view the relocated chart in much the same way. The initial stimulus of moving to a new location is a little like winning the lottery, or, if the experience is not so positive, like sustaining a physical injury. After the initial shake-up, we return to the normality of our original chart. However, this is not to say that the relocated chart has no value. In the same way as *"Travel broadens the mind"*, so too does a new destination broaden the experiences via the relocated chart, so that its owner is given the opportunity to see themselves and their lives from a different perspective. This new angle on life can, in itself, be a much needed wake-up call to address something substantial in an area of life to which they may previously have been blind. Often an event may not have seemed possible in the original location of the natal chart, but can manifest through the relocated chart.

So before we look at the changes experienced by the natal chart, we should look at what *cannot change* using the technique of relocation. First it must be remembered that all charts, regardless of their purpose, are created through a combination of two vital signifiers: Time and Space. If we alter one, we affect the other. That's just basic Physics. This is where it gets tricky, and also why I believe relocated charts are of a temporary nature only, as one factor, Time, remains true to the chart, whilst the other, Space, becomes altered through the technique. It's a little like the concept of parallel universes – how can one possibly be in two places at once? The answer is, you can't (unless you are Dr Who)!

This strange anomaly creates an artificial chart where horizons and angles change, but the planets' zodiacal degrees do not alter from their original placement. The planets' positions on the ecliptic are determined by GMT time: as this has not altered, nor will their degrees or their relationship to each other alter. Only the Ascendant, MC, and house cusps alter. The Sun's position will move, therefore the chart *will not reflect* the natural position of the Sun as related to the Time continuum of Local Mean Time.

We have a number of factors to take into account when reading the Relocated Chart.

- 1) **The Natal Chart takes precedence over the relocated chart.** Therefore, it is this chart which must be delineated first to determine main aspects and stresses in the chart. The lords of all four angles of the natal chart must be examined, with particular care given to the lord of the Ascendant and the lord of the MC. Any major aspects involving these lords must be noted. Any planets placed close to the angles or aspecting the angles must be noted. Look at each planet according to the rules of sect and determine its strength and purpose in the chart. Diurnal planets are Sun, Jupiter and Saturn. Nocturnal planets are Moon, Venus and Mars. Mercury can go either way.
- 2) Before examining the relocated chart in detail, think about why this person relocated to this particular place, and see if the purpose for movement is echoed or accentuated in the relocated chart.
- 3) Look at the relocated Cross of Matter – note changes in modality and new lords of the relocated angles. Can the new lords 'see' the angles? The ability for the lord of an angle to view its house by aspect determines the effectiveness of the angle.
- 4) Note any planets brought to the angles of the relocated chart. Also look at the planets who have lost their angular significance in the natal chart.
- 5) See if the sect of the chart has been altered through relocation – has the Sun changed hemispheres during relocation? Has the chart become diurnal or nocturnal, contrary to the natal chart's planetary sect?
- 6) Look at change in emphasis to major aspects – has the new ruler of the Asc or MC altered their emphasis?
- 7) Watch for the placement of the natal Asc degree's placement in the relocated chart, along with its lord's placement, and placement of MC lord.
- 8) Apply the KISS principle, and remember this chart is more about being *un-settled*, than settling into a new place. It is about adjustment, change and the strangeness of a new situation – as soon as this has passed, you will revert back to your old ways, so the angles are the most potent thing to watch in these types of charts. Your world has been turned topsy turvy, and this artificial chart for relocation will reflect just that.

One of the most significant points in the relocated chart is that we are somewhat acting out of character when we are introduced into a foreign climate. Our usual patterns of behaviour have been interrupted, so often our guard is down and our protective mechanisms are not kicking in as well as usual. This can lead to experiences from both ends of the spectrum – extremes ranging from absolute delight to raw nerves and blind fear. After all, isn't this why we travelled out of our comfort zone in the first place? In order to break the humdrum of routine and try something new and different?

Imagine you have lived for years in a house with one window. You have only one perspective of the view outside, or the view in, if you are standing outside looking back through the window. Then you knock in another window, but this one is at the rear of the house. All of a sudden, you can see a new perspective. Everything looks different, both inside and out, with an exciting change in light and movement. Suddenly, the house takes on new potential. But it's still the same house. That's a relocated chart.

A study of the relocated chart may be useful then for several significant reasons.

Firstly, we can see the relocated chart as a reflection of what is happening, and how we feel about life during a re-adjustment phase whilst we get used to our new surroundings. For instance, say you have Saturn ruling the 1st house in your natal chart. You move to a new location and hey presto, no Saturn as lord of the Asc, so you feel more free to express yourself, no burdens or responsibilities, no feeling of being weighed down. Your personality changes to accommodate these new feelings – the relocated Ascendant and its lord kick in. You're having a ball. Thank God you moved! Then you start to settle in. Others start to see you as a person who will do the duties they wish to shirk. Or you start to notice that things are not getting done around here. It starts to irk you, so you start taking up the slack. Seemingly against the nature of your 'new you', you start putting order into the world around you. Others notice and decide you are reliable, industrious and responsible, and would therefore make a great leader. You take on more and more, and Saturn is back ruling the 1st H once more!

Or you move to another location and a problem or issue arises that seems to come expressly from this new place. The angles have changed, and circumstances start cropping up as a result. You say 'this never would have happened in the old place'. Maybe, maybe not – who's to know? The relocated chart has presented the opportunity, but it is the natal chart which showed a hint of what was possible, or more precisely, gave the potential for this same event to take place. If you have issues dealing with authority, it will be in the natal chart. If relationships are a disaster for you, guess what, it will be in your natal chart. The relocated chart has just highlighted them more because of the change in angles. And it is your natal chart which must deal with the consequences in order for you to make the best of a bad situation so you can move on. The

potential for you to solve your own problems was set at birth when you entered this world, so it is these that you will return to time again. This is what makes the relocated chart so fascinating as we can often see how the chart plays out in what at first glance, looks like a completely different chart.

Many of us have been following 'The Strange Case of Julian Assange.' Julian is an Australian publisher, journalist, computer programmer and Internet activist. Up until recently he was the editor in chief of WikiLeaks, a whistleblower website and conduit for worldwide news leaks, with the express purpose of creating open governments through exposure of their actions on the world stage. He is currently living under strict bail conditions in the UK, but is facing extradition orders from Swedish authorities for alleged sex offences committed in that country.

On 2nd March 2011, his lawyers lodged papers at the London High Court to challenge the ruling to extradite Assange to Sweden. The appeal hearing took place over two days on 12th and 13th July 2011 in the High Court, London. At the present time the appeal is still under consideration. If the appeal fails, Assange will be extradited to Sweden to face charges before its own Court. However, there is speculation that he may be handed over to the U.S. authorities where he is likely to stand trial there. A number of political and media commentators, as well as current and former U.S. government officials have accused Assange of being a "high-tech terrorist", drawing the Australian government into the fray and applying pressure for them to consider charging Assange for treason. The Australian government has since retracted its previous comments that the actions of Julian Assange constituted a crime and have found no grounds to withdraw his Australian passport after an investigation by the Australian Federal Police.

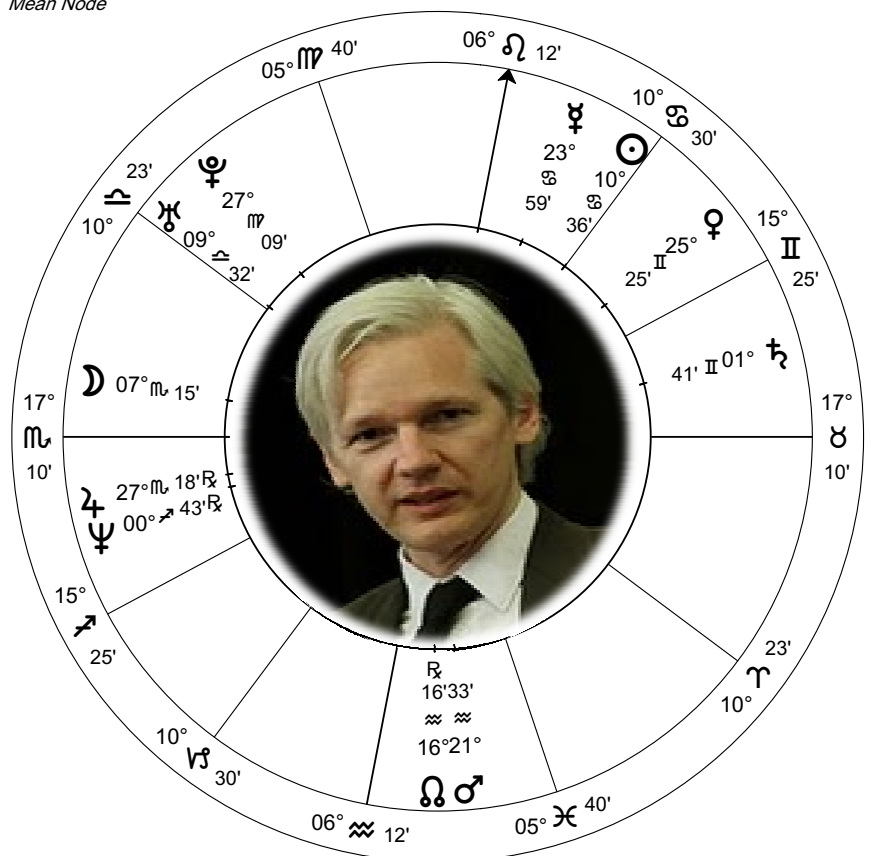
Chart One is Julian's natal chart, Chart Two is his chart relocated to Stockholm, Sweden, whilst Chart Three is a purely speculative chart of what the relocated chart would look like, should Assange be convicted of terrorism and incarcerated at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Chart One : The Natal Chart

Julian has an Asc of 17 Scorpio, ruled by Mars which aspects it by square from the 4th house. Mars in Aquarius can 'see' Scorpio, so whilst there are 4th house matters to attend to, it has control over the acts of the 1st house, and can still command the Asc at will. Julian's early life was one of constant movement and upheaval. His biological father (4th) was unknown to him. In his family environment he was constantly on the move, partly due to the fact that his mother went into hiding to avoid court orders in a custody battle with one of his stepfathers. Assange states that as a child he lived in 50 different towns and attended 37 different schools. This nomadic life is demonstrated both by the Mars in the 4th H conjunct the North Node, and the ruler of the 4th H, Saturn, in opposition to the constantly deconstructing force of Neptune.

Aspects to the Asc lord, Mars, bring the 1st house into focus again as Mars squares Jupiter in the 1st house, reflected perhaps by his first stepfather describing Julian as "a very sharp kid" with "a keen sense of right and wrong." At the age of 16 Julian joined two other computer hackers and called themselves International Subversives (a great name for Scorpio rising with a Jupiter/Mars aspect!). Mars also trines Venus, the lord of his Desc, describing his physical attractiveness to the opposite sex. Venus' most notable aspect is a square to Pluto, an aspect which has played a major role in his current circumstances. It is

Julian Assange
Natal Chart
 3 Jul 1971
 2:05 pm AEST -10:00
 Townsville, Australia
 19°S16' 146°E48'
*Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 Mean Node*



noteworthy that Venus is in the sign of Gemini which lies next to Taurus, so we have the situation whereby Venus cannot 'see' its rulership over Taurus, indicating relationships are a 'blind spot' for Assange, where things can go horribly wrong in a very short period of time. Julian's experiences of relationships have been chequered, starting with a prolonged nine year custody battle for a son he fathered at the age of eighteen. The entire process prompted he and his mother to form Parent Inquiry Into Child Protection, an activist group centred on creating a "central database" for otherwise inaccessible legal records related to child custody issues in Australia. Note angular Jupiter rules 5th house of children, as he tries to establish new law for parents to access legal information. The aspects to Venus by both Pluto and Mars are a huge contribution to both past and present dealings in relationships, and certainly worth watching as the chart is relocated in the following charts to Stockholm and Cuba.

So far as planetary sect is concerned, Julian is born during the day, so he has a Diurnal chart. Therefore, the Sun, Jupiter and Saturn are all considered to be acting within their own natural environment. The nocturnal planet Mars is divided away from the Sun by the horizon so is protected from the heat of the Sun and acts honourably and well. Both the Moon and Venus are travelling in the same horizon as the Sun, which does not bode well for either planet. To a large degree, the heat of the Sun increases Julian's impulsive behaviour in his pleasures, his attitudes and behaviour towards women, and his current troubles from sexual liaisons; all of which are manifest through his out of sect Venus in the natal chart. The Moon in its fall in Scorpio is under stress, and although in the same sign as the Asc, still shows both the Moon's paranoia, passion for danger and drama that can lead to this man's self-undoing, through its placement in the 12th house of hidden enemies and imprisonment.

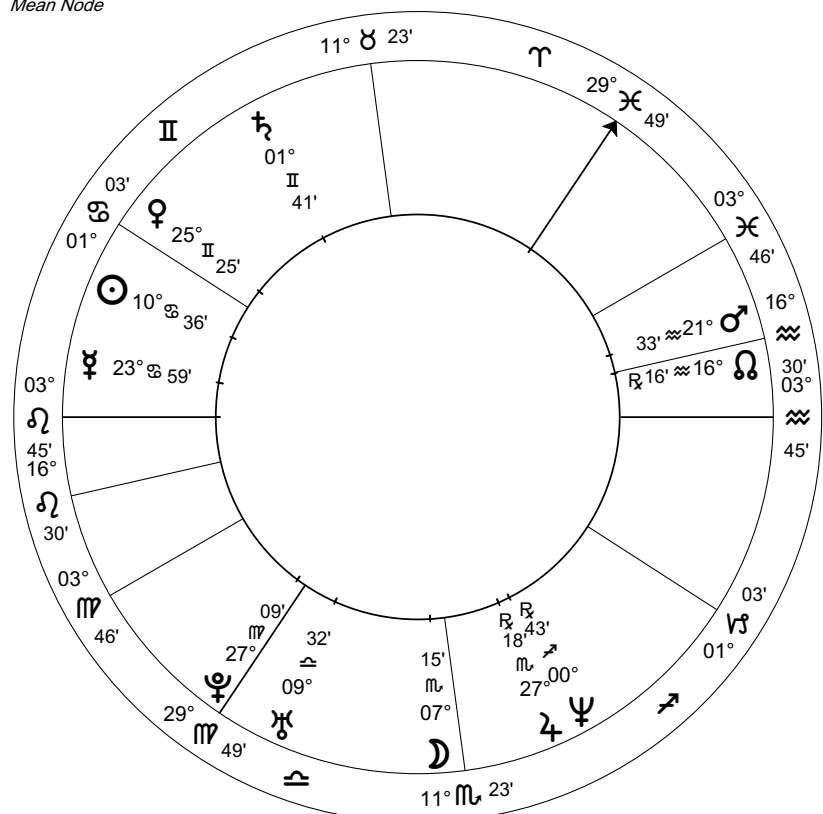
The lord of his natal MC is the Cancer Sun, in sect and in the house of its joy, the 9th; something which has contributed greatly to both this man's notoriety as well as his current predicament. Whilst its 9th H placement plays out through Julian's advocacy for a "transparent" and "scientific" approach to journalism, his Leo MC has a tendency toward theatrics, grand gestures and flamboyant behaviour, and labels such as "internet's freedom fighter" and "one of the most intriguing people in the world" have not helped in reducing his inflated ego, as well as fulfilling the promise of the Sun/Uranus aspect in his chart. Reports indicate that the other founders of WikiLeaks are becoming increasingly nervous of his actions, based on their fears that his notoriety is damaging the credibility and integrity of their joint creation. His inability to see how damaging his behaviour may ultimately be to his creative endeavours shows what happens when the lord of the MC cannot see its own house in order to rule it effectively, as is the case when a Cancer Sun cannot 'see' Leo, and therefore cannot instigate damage control when necessary.

Chart Two : Natal Chart Relocated to Sweden

Julian's relocated chart moves the Asc sign to Leo, the sign of his natal MC. Given that his Sun is in Cancer, it sits in the 12th H, once more 'blind' to the house it rules. The ruler of the Asc in 12th H suggests hidden enemies, or actions that lead to one's undoing. As in the natal chart, the Uranus square to the Sun adds the quality of rebelliousness, erratic behaviour, and a reckless nature.

The Sun also rules the 2nd house in the relocated chart. The chart retains its identity as a Diurnal chart, so once more, Sun is

Julian Assange
Natal Relocated
 3 Jul 1971
 5:05 am CET -1:00
 Stockholm, Sweden
 59°N20' 018°E03'
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
Mean Node



the primary luminary, and Jupiter and Saturn are in sect. The Moon has moved safely to the opposite hemisphere from the Sun, so there is some protection for all lunar concerns, but Mars, the Lord of the natal Asc, has moved into jeopardy, placing its own houses of rulership (int. 10th and 5th), under threat of some kind. Venus is still out of sect in the relocated chart, and therefore she (and her houses 11 and int. 4th) suffers from the heat of impetuosity, raging pleasures and possible indiscretions brought out in the light of day.

In early August 2010 Assange was invited to speak at a 'Brotherhood' function by their political officer 31 yr old Anna Ardin. The Brotherhood is a leftwing Christian faction of Sweden's Social Democratic Party. Assange accepted the offer to travel to Sweden as he wished to explore the possible transfer of WikiLeaks' operations to Sweden, as well as the transfer of its funds to this country. WikiLeaks has previously held its finances in Iceland, but with the collapse of its financial institutions and the involvement of the U.S. government in Iceland, Assange was nervous of WikiLeaks' assets being frozen and left with no finance to carry on its work.

Mercury rules the relocated IC, and whilst situated in the 12th H with the Sun, it trines Jupiter (as it does in the natal chart) which has now become the ruler of the relocated MC. Jupiter is situated in the 5th H of spare cash investment, as well as entertainment and pleasurable activities. The desire to have a voice in Sweden is shown by the two lords, Mercury and Jupiter both in trine aspect to the MC. Note that Jupiter has a stake in the 5th house in both the natal and the relocated chart, as natively Jupiter is in the 1st house and rules the 5th house, indicating Julian has always had a penchant for pleasure and a tendency toward dramatic license. The relocated chart where Jupiter is placed in the 5th, gives it expression and the power to act in this area of life – if only temporarily.

On 18th August 2010, Assange applied for a work and residency permit in Sweden, and began transferring funds to accounts to Swiss bank, PostFinance in the Swedish capital. Unfortunately, the relocated Sun rules 2nd H from the 12th H, and on 6th December 2010, the bank announced that it had frozen assets of Assange's totalling 31,000 euros, because he had "provided false information regarding his place of residence." This event occurred six weeks after his request for residency was denied soon after charges were laid against him.

Julian's money worries continue to haunt him as major lending institutions boycott any monies sent to fund Julian's defence. MasterCard, Visa Inc and Bank of America halted dealings with WikiLeaks in December 2010 and since then all monetary contributions through these avenues have been returned to sender. As a result of the combined banks' embargo, Assange sold the publishing rights to his autobiography and accepted a one million pound advance from Edinburgh based publishers Canongate. Although the task has been completed by a ghost writer, Assange has recently withdrawn his permission as he fears information in the forthcoming book may be used against him by U.S. authorities. The advance has been placed in escrow, meaning neither Assange, nor his blighted publishers, have access to these funds. This is a perfect example of both the natal and the relocated chart coming into play. Natively Jupiter rules his 2nd house of finances, but as it lies in the sign preceding Sagittarius, namely in Scorpio, Jupiter cannot 'see' his wealth, and therefore he can make it (Jupiter in 1st), but it never really belongs to him, nor can he get the best use out of it when he needs it the most. Likewise, Sun in 12th rules 2nd in the relocated chart, but again, Cancer has no aspect to Leo, so Sun cannot 'see', nor control, its own house.

The Uranus is in the 4th H of home or dwelling and squares the Sun in the 12th H. The IC lord, Mercury is imprisoned in the 12th H. Pluto has moved in the relocated chart to sit tightly on the IC, the place of hidden things, suggesting intrigue, passion, power or betrayal, all under the surface and buried from view. Venus sits in the 11th house of groups and social activity, squaring the Pluto at the base of the chart. Venus' other aspect, trine to Mars, goes across to Mars in 8th house, with Mars ruling the 5th house. We are back to the house of pleasure once more! Saturn, lord of the relocated 6th, 7th and 8th houses, also lies in the 11th house, opposing Neptune - in the 5th H.

Apart from the obvious 5th/11th house connection – Assange's natal Asc (17 deg Scorpio) falls in his relocated 5th H, with its lord, Mars, found in the unfortunate placement of relocated 8th H. The lord of his 7th H and 12th H in his natal chart, Venus, is active in the relocated 11th H, both by placement and by rulership, and the worrying aspect to such a potent Pluto gives warnings about relations with women which end in Pluto disasters. Neptune's aspect to Saturn, the current Desc lord, shows duplicity, falsehood and possible victimisation, by either one party or the other. The lack of substantial evidence of wrongdoing also has a Neptunian flavour. In both charts the Nodal Axis accentuates angular houses: in the relocated chart, the Nodal axis lies across the relationship axis, with the South Node, a malefic, sitting in 1st house. The natal chart has Julian's Nodal axis across the 4th/10th axis, with South Node warning of potential loss and disaster, in the 10th House of career and reputation.

To return to the story, Anna Ardin offers Assange accommodation at her dwellings and he moves into her Stockholm apartment on 13th August 2010. Ardin's complaint to the police occurs from an incident on this night. Assange attends the Brotherhood meeting the next day and meets 26 yr old photographer Sofia Wilen. Sexual relations with Sofia take place

that evening. The following Monday Julian leaves Ardin's apartment and goes to stay at Wilen's apartment in Enköping. Two days later the women are exchanging texts and emails discussing their sexual relations with the visiting celebrity. On Friday, 20th August 2010, the two women go together to Swedish police inquiring whether it is possible to force Julian Assange to submit to an HIV-test. The following day, Chief Prosecutor Eva Finne declares "I don't think there is reason to suspect that he has committed rape." However, within the filed report the police officers find signs of sexual misconduct, and in response, the Swedish police continued to investigate. The case is initially dropped, but charges are re-instated on 1st September 2010.

By December 2010, Scotland Yard notifies Assange that a valid European arrest warrant has been received. All texts and emails between the two women have mysteriously been erased and no physical or recorded evidence of rape or sexual misconduct is available. The appeal in the English High Court on 12th July is reliant entirely on the spoken evidence of the two women, as no written statement was signed at the time of the offence regarding rape or molestation. Ben Emmerson, QC for Assange, argued in court "What (Swedish prosecutors) must prove beyond reasonable doubt is that if these circumstances as alleged had happened in London, would they had constituted offences?" It remains to be seen what verdict the High Court will bring down, and what challenges the future will bring for Julian Assange.

Chart Three : What If? Natal Chart Relocated to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba?

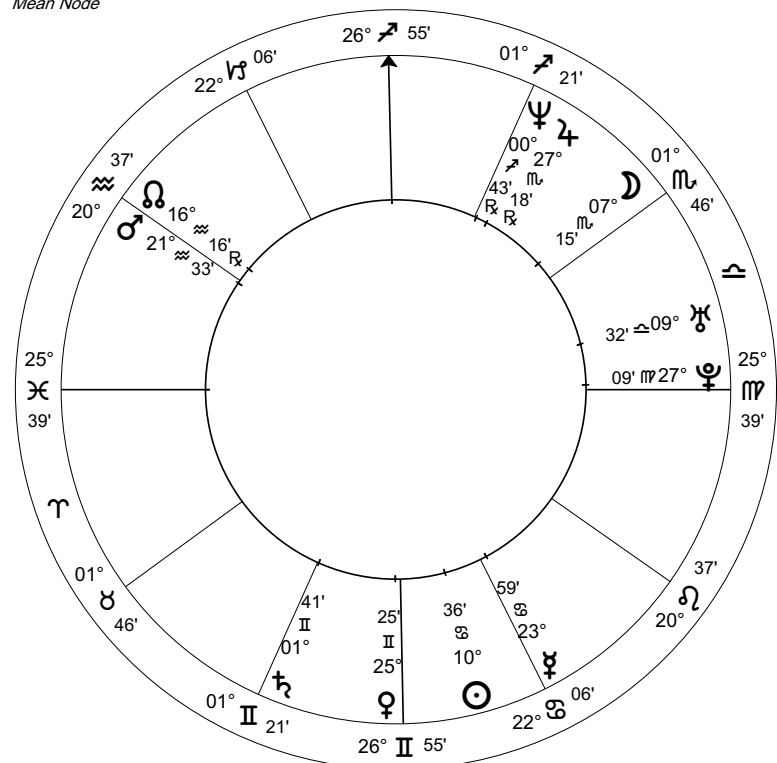
Speculation is rife as to whether Julian Assange, once on Swedish soil for charges of rape, will be extradited to the US on far more serious charges of "high-tech terrorism", given the release by WikiLeaks in late Nov 2010 of 251,00 American diplomatic cables in their possession. Whilst it may seem claims of execution or internment in Guantanamo Bay hold a tinge of hysteria, these charges are very serious indeed, so bearing this in mind, it is interesting to see the changes a move to this part of the world would invoke.

Firstly, the chart would turn to become a Nocturnal Chart, as the Sun now lies deep in the buried house of the 4th. Note the Sun is the lord of his natal MC, so the potential to disappear from public view is definitely a desirable outcome for U.S. authorities.

By the rules of a Nocturnal chart both Jupiter and Saturn will initially suffer, although Saturn still receives the blessings of the Sun as he travels in the same hemisphere as the Sun in this relocated chart. However, Jupiter, the ruler of both the relocated Asc and MC has had the light snuffed out and is sitting in the dark in the 8th house. Again, Scorpio, Jupiter's placement sign, cannot see Sagittarius, the MC and 9th house sign, marking this time of readjustment for Julian as a time of fear, isolation and abandonment. Scorpio Moon in the 8th supports these feelings as she becomes his primary luminary in this chart.

The Venus/Pluto aspect which has proven to be such an important player in this drama, now lies at the angles, with Venus on the relocated IC and Pluto on the Desc. I think this chart serves as a powerful reminder that Venus is not always fabulously benefic in nature. Without any prior examination of the natal chart, and the mistaken tendency to view relocation charts as 'stand alone' charts, we cannot understand how Venus on the IC could possibly be a bad thing. To the unaware this new destination promises to be a place of fun and pleasure, with an almost inexhaustible string of delectable female companions just waiting for attention. Highly unlikely - given the nature and the circumstances of Guantanamo Bay, it is pretty hard to beautify a 3 x 3 prison cell. Remember the natal chart: an out of sect Venus in the 8th house rules both his

Julian Assange
Natal Relocated
 3 Jul 1971
 0:05 am EDT +4:00
 Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
 19°N55' 075°W09'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 Mean Node



7th house and his 12th H, and Julian's life has the potential to manifest a combination of all three houses through both placement (8th h) and rulership (7th/12th). The fact that this particular part of the globe brings all his chickens home to roost is elegantly shown through the Venus/Pluto angularity. Open enemies from the Pluto on the Desc, and ultimately, his Venusian weaknesses have led to his downfall. Olden day astrologers would call the 4th house the 'end of the matter'. One can only hope for Julian's sake that Jupiter, despite its sect failings, will rally and keep his image alive in our collective psyche, as it is angular in the natal chart, and in the relocated chart, is Lord of the Asc and trines the Asc.

Julian's natal Asc lord, Mars, still maintains its trine to Venus, but is of very little comfort, as Mars is imprisoned in the 12th house in this chart. Even the natal Asc does not fare well, as it too is situated in the relocated 8th house with Jupiter, Neptune, and the Moon. Saturn's play in the 3rd House in the relocated chart shows one way to silence this man is to remove him from those who support him, and then imprison him, as Saturn rules both 11th and 12th houses. This is the same Saturn that has gained him such powerful enemies in the first place as natal Saturn creates and destroys in the 7th house in its efforts to make others accountable for their actions by drawing information from hidden sources as indicated by Saturn's rulership over 3rd and 4th houses in the natal chart. But if you make enemies like this, then you had better be prepared to lay yourself on the altar for sacrifice - so says the Saturn Neptune opposition.

"The stars incline, they do not compel."

As you can see from these examples, the planets' zodiacal degrees and the aspects between them remain the same, but Julian's life changes to reflect the relocated charts. Whether the charts themselves are the catalyst, or their potential has always lain in the natal chart, and the relocation triggers them, is an argument open to debate. Regardless of this 'chicken or the egg' philosophical debate, there is no doubt that Julian will have to return to his natal chart to address the repercussions of these relocated charts, and how he survives these experiences and deals with his fate, is ultimately, a matter of choice. Let's hope for his sake, he makes his choices wisely.

Copyright Joy Usher 2011