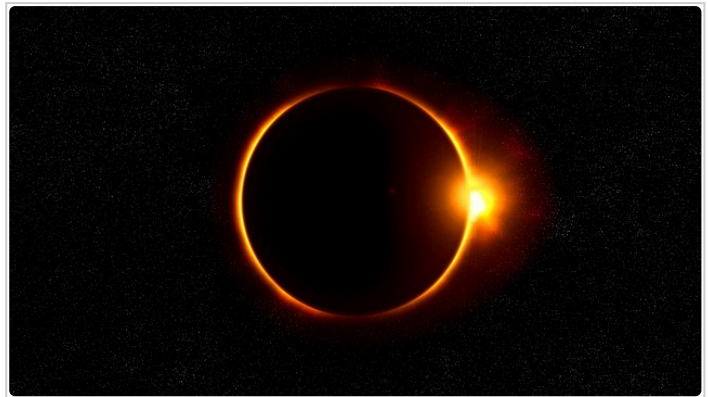


Eclipses: The Time Has Come

by Baris Ilhan

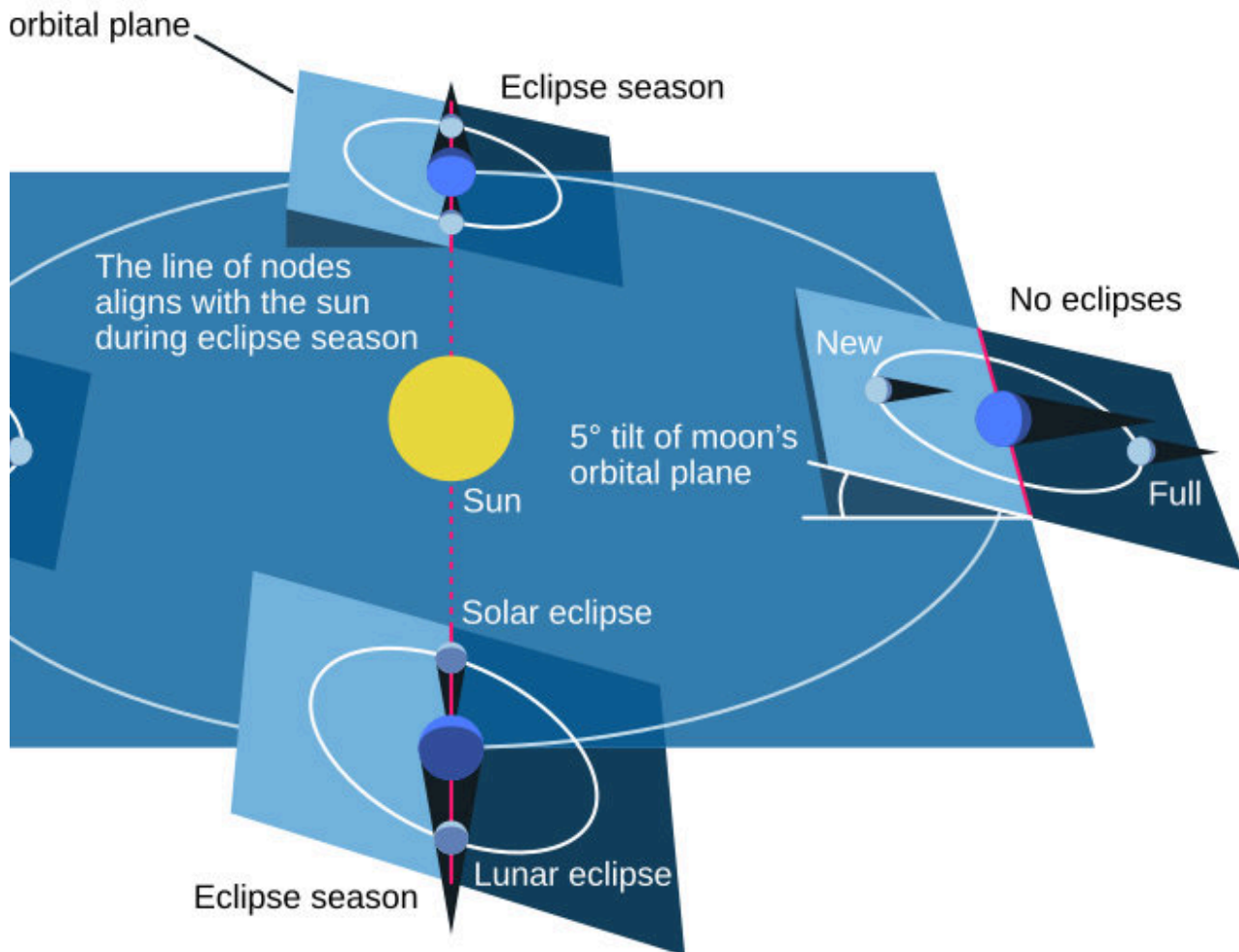
During the lifetime of the Prophet Muhammad, a solar eclipse occurred on the day that his son Ibrahim died. At the time, some said that it was the Prophet's sadness over his child's death that caused the sun to be eclipsed. The Prophet said, "The Sun and the Moon are two signs among the signs of Allah. They do not eclipse because of someone's death or life. When you see them, invoke Allah and pray until the eclipse is clear." In his effort to calm the people, Muhammad explained the eclipses as signs of God, and by inviting them to pray, he referred to fate. Indeed, eclipses function as a clock that indicates the time has come.



Solar Eclipse

Source: [A Owen](#) from [Pixabay](#).

Solar and lunar eclipses are actually stronger states of New Moons and Full Moons. There's a New Moon and a Full Moon each month, but only a few eclipses in a year, because technically, for an eclipse to occur, the lunation should be within 17° of the Moon's nodes. The effects of a New Moon last one month, while the effects of a solar eclipse go on for at least one year. The effects of the Full Moon last two weeks, while the effects of the lunar eclipse go on for at least six months.



Eclipses

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Solar eclipses occur when the Moon travels in front of the Sun, covering its disk. They may be total, annular or partial. During a total eclipse, the Moon completely obscures the light of the Sun. During an annular eclipse, the Sun, Moon and Earth are in line, but the size of the Moon is smaller, so a bright ring

can appear around the Moon. During a partial eclipse, the Moon only partially obscures the Sun. When an eclipse is total, its effects are stronger.

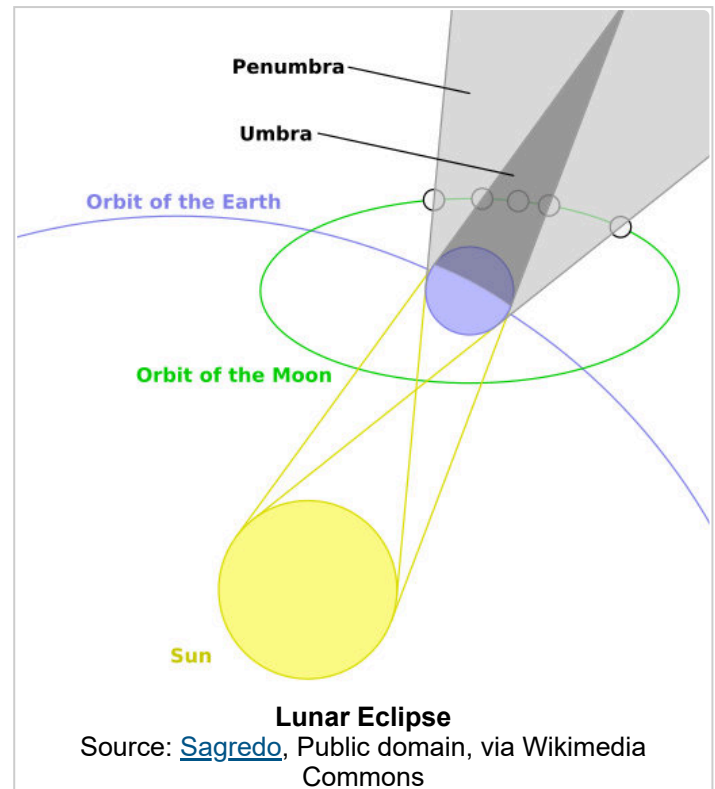
Lunar eclipses occur when the Earth is between the Sun and the Moon, and its shadow is cast on the Moon. They may be total, partial and penumbral eclipses. During a total lunar eclipse, the Earth's shadow covers the entire Moon. During a partial lunar eclipse, the Earth's shadow covers a portion of the Moon. During a penumbral eclipse, the Moon passes through an outer region of the Earth's shadow called the penumbra. The Earth appears to cover part of the Moon's disk, but not all of it. The Moon's brightness will be reduced, but the entirety of the Moon's disk will remain illuminated to some degree.

Approximately every 18 years an eclipse occurs at around the same degree of the zodiac. This is called a saros period. The Chaldeans figured out that lunar eclipses repeated themselves during that period, and this is valid for solar eclipses too. There are between 71 to 73 solar eclipses in each saros series, which runs for approximately 1,280 years. Each series carries a certain theme, and to get a better understanding of a particular eclipse, it is helpful to study other eclipses in the series, especially the one that initiates it.

Eclipses act like clockwork to indicate when something is due. A solar eclipse is considered a sign of new beginnings. Even if not welcome, new doors are opening. A lunar eclipse works more like the harvest season. Conflicts occur, awareness develops and results are obtained. Balance and harmony are required. Both types of eclipses can be witnessed as events in the outside world.

In order for a New Moon or eclipse to indicate an event or change in a person's or a country's life, it must either trigger an angle or natal planet in the chart or be seen from that country. For example, if during a total solar eclipse, the Sun and Moon conjunct a person's ruler of the 6th house, which rules illness, and Mars, which rules knives, is on the Dsc. from the 6th house, this may indicate an operation in the coming months.

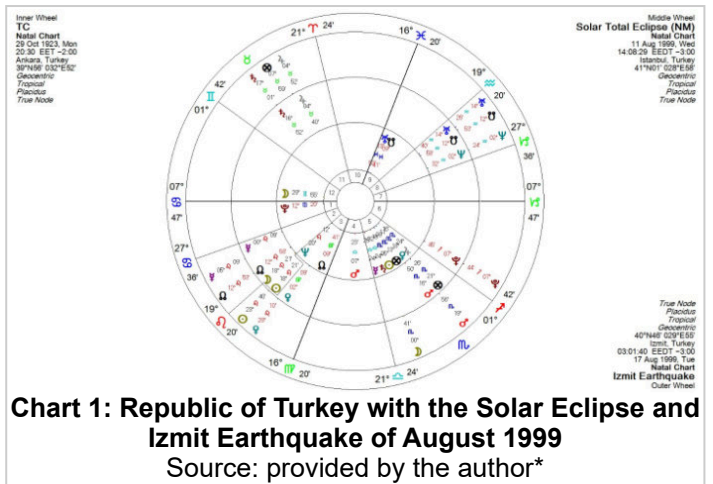
Since the early days,(1) the eclipses have played an important role in mundane astrology. The total solar eclipse of August 11, 1999 is a good illustration. The eclipse was seen from Turkey. During that eclipse, the Sun and Moon were forming a grand square with Mars, Saturn and Uranus in the fixed signs, an indicator of great tension and explosion. Astrologers had been predicting striking events regarding this eclipse for many years. The big questions remained what, when, where and how. The total eclipse was visible from within a narrow corridor traversing the Eastern Hemisphere, from the Atlantic across central Europe, the Middle East, Turkey and India, ending in the Bay of Bengal. See Figure 1.



In the solar eclipse chart, the middle wheel of Chart 1, the Sun and Moon were conjunct Turkey's Neptune (Poseidon, the god of earthquakes), Mars was conjunct Turkey's Venus (co-ruler of the 4th house, with a 2° orb), Neptune was square and Jupiter was opposite to Turkey's Sun. Six days later, Mars conjoined Venus, the Moon made a square to Mercury (natal ruler of the 4th house) and Turkey was rocked by a massive earthquake. 45,000 dead and a similar number injured.

Rules for Judging Eclipses

- The orb considered for eclipses is usually 4-5°. The tighter the orb, the stronger and sooner the effects. Eclipses within 1° of a conjunction or opposition to the Sun, Moon or angles are more important than a wider orb.
- The house that the eclipse highlights in the chart is important as it shows the area of life affected by changes.
- Planets in conjunction with the eclipse are important as houses rulers too. When they are triggered, the houses they rule are triggered also.
- It is important to note if the degree of the eclipse conjuncts a fixed star. Depending on the fixed star's nature, changes may be destructive or positive.
- The aspect that a planet — other than the Sun and Moon — makes in the eclipse chart to a planet in the chart in question, within a 1° orb, is important. For example, in a solar eclipse, transiting Saturn making no aspects to the Sun and Moon, but a partile square to Mars (which also makes no aspects to the Sun or Moon) indicates a change in the coming period.
- The effects of solar eclipses last at least one year, but usually two years, depending on the length of the eclipse. The effects of lunar eclipses are usually six months.
- The condition and dignity of the eclipse's sign ruler is important. If the planet is strong and in good condition, the changes may be constructive. If the planet is debilitated and receiving aspects from malefic planets or conjunct an evil fixed star, the crisis of the eclipse will be severe, and its results may be destructive. Usually Mars and Saturn, as malefic planets, are considered inauspicious and indicate damage. But they also indicate the time for activity and construction. Jupiter and Venus, as benefic planets, are considered auspicious, bringing peace and prosperity. But they can also indicate laziness or conceit.
- It is generally accepted that eclipses “extend their effects most forcibly when above the Earth, weakly and not so vigorously when under the Earth.”(2) But in my experience, eclipses are still relevant when beneath the Earth.
- Traditionally it is said that the events indicated by an eclipse happen in the earlier months of the year if the eclipse is closer to the Asc., towards the end of the year if the eclipse is closer to the Dsc. and in the middle of the year when around the MC.
- According to the traditional rules, which are on the Skyscript website, eclipses on the Asc. affect recently initiated projects and young people; on the MC, they affect kingdoms, rulers and middle-aged people; and on the Dsc., wars, contentions and the elderly.
- The effects of a solar eclipse are greater when the Sun is rising or on the MC than when it is setting. Lunar eclipses are more destructive in the Western Hemisphere than in the east.
- Generally, eclipses in fire signs signify the death of eminent people, discords, wars and fires; in earth signs they portend agricultural problems; in air signs, they foreshadow tempestuous winds, famine and disease; and in water signs, they show floods, maritime troubles, expectation of war, and a high mortality among ordinary people.(3)



2011 Egyptian Revolution

As we consider the rules written above, one of the interesting eclipses we use as a case study in my school's curriculum is the total lunar eclipse on Dec. 21, 2010 that preceded the 2011 Egyptian revolution, during which Egyptians stood up against corruption, dictatorship and autocracy. It started on Jan. 25 in Cairo's Tahrir Square when hundreds of thousands gathered for marches, demonstrations and civil resistance and spread across Egypt. Protesters had been inspired by the uprising in Tunisia, where demonstrators succeeded in bringing down the government. More than 840 people were killed during the protests, ultimately leading to Hosni Mubarak stepping down as president on Feb. 11, after 30 years in power.

One month before the revolution there was a total lunar eclipse. See Chart 2. The Moon was on Egypt's Sun with a 2° orb. Also seen there was Betelgeuse, the star that points to war and carnage. Egypt's Sun rules the 5th house, representing parks, urban squares and youth. The eclipse's Moon was also

conjunct Egypt's Mars, ruler of the Asc. (people) and the 7th house (war). Transiting Pluto was making a partile opposition to Mars. This explains the more than 1,140 dead and 6,500 injured during and after the revolution. (2011 Egyptian revolution - Wikipedia)

All of the indicators satisfy the rules written earlier, with one exception. This eclipse occurs in an air sign, which doesn't portend a revolution and conflict. So we need to look at the previous solar eclipse, which occurred on July 11, 2010. See Chart 3. This total eclipse was on the IC of Egypt's natal chart, shaking its very roots, at 19° of Cancer, a water sign. Traditionally water signs show an "expectation of war and a high mortality among ordinary people." It is noteworthy that Mars is approaching the natal Moon, dispositor of the eclipse and transiting Pluto is opposing natal Mars. Wherever we look, we see anger, conflict, fire and war.

Gezi Park Protests in Turkey

The protests in Tahrir Square inspired me while I was writing my 2013 forecast. That year Turkey's natal chart was experiencing heavy transits. Pluto was opposing natal Pluto, Saturn was traveling close to Turkey's Sun and Uranus was making an opposition to natal Mars. These transits were very explosive. The lunar nodes were on the Taurus-Scorpio axis, with eclipses occurring in these signs. Turkey has three planets in Scorpio, including the Sun, already tired from the Saturn transit. The equilibrium was fragile. In April and May, three eclipses took place, most noticeably the partial lunar eclipse of April 25, 2013 on Turkey's Sun in the 5th house, house of parks, urban squares and youth. See Chart 4.

Since things appeared to be very intense, I wrote that "people will turn to squares (5th house) instead of sports and entertainment areas. The Sun in Egypt's chart was the ruler of Tahrir Square, and that square left its mark on the revolution." So we could expect another Tahrir Square. My predictions came true. On May 28, 2013, a group of activists staged a sit-in in Istanbul's Gezi Park, protesting the Turkish government's plans to demolish the park to build a replica of the Ottoman-era Taksim Military Barracks that would include a shopping mall. The forced eviction of protesters from the park and the excessive use of police force sparked an unprecedented wave of mass demonstrations. Around 3 million people took to the streets across Turkey over a three-week period to protest a wide range of concerns. 22 people were killed and more than 8,000 were injured, many critically.

While working on the eclipse charts for Turkey, I realized there was a pattern regarding Taksim square. In 1976, eclipses were occurring on the Taurus-Scorpio axis too. About six months after the solar eclipse on Oct. 23, the Bloody First of May, or Taksim Square massacre, took place in Istanbul. This was an attack on leftist demonstrators on May 1, 1977, which was International Workers' Day, with casualty figures varying between 34 and 42 persons killed and 126 to 220 injured. More than 500 demonstrators were later detained by the security forces, and 98 were indicted.

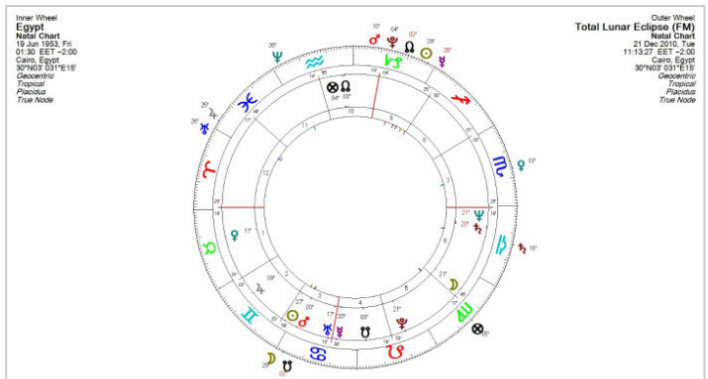


Chart 2: Republic of Egypt and Total Lunar Eclipse of Dec. 21, 2010

Source: provided by the author*

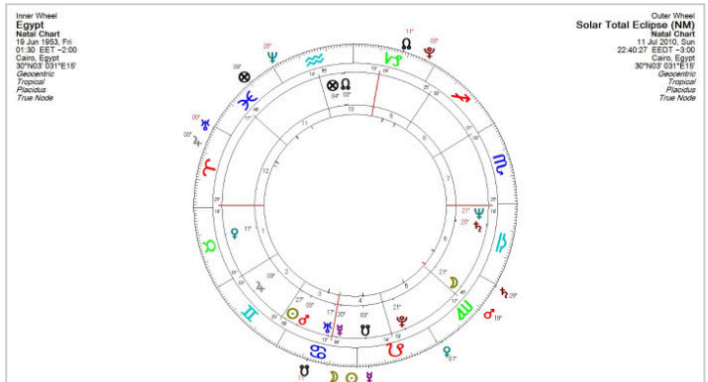


Chart 3: Republic of Egypt and Total Lunar Eclipse of July 11, 2010

Source: provided by the author*

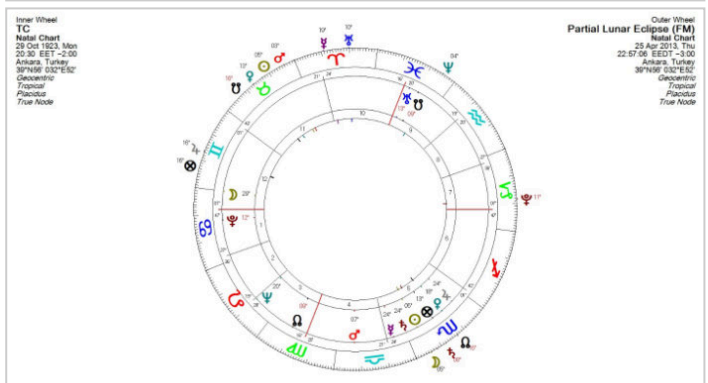


Chart 4: Republic of Turkey and Partial Lunar Eclipse of April 25, 2013

Source: provided by the author*

One of the things to consider when evaluating eclipses is to see if the eclipse is near the North Node or South Node. The North Node has an increasing influence, and it symbolizes auspicious connections. The South Node has a reducing nature; it is about losing. We can think of it as letting go, releasing, accepting. It closes a door, leaving the past behind while the North Node opens a new door, welcoming the new. In mundane charts, South Node eclipses are thought to create social upheaval, but when we look at our examples, Egypt's eclipses are connected to the South Node and Turkey's to the North Node. So it is best to exercise caution while issuing judgment.

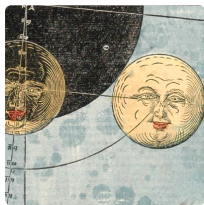
Awareness

As illustrated in the above examples, using the eclipses alone was sufficient to see events. But when forecasting, it is advised to consider eclipses with other predictive techniques such as progressions, solar arcs and directions. It's easy to explain events astrologically after they have occurred, and it's a lot more difficult to predict them ahead of time. Investigating all factors and finding at least three to five indicators will yield the best predictive results.

ASTRODIENST RECOMMENDATION



Personal Eclipse Report, by Bernadette Brady



This short report explains which topics the respective eclipse season entails, in which areas of life the solar and lunar eclipses will manifest themselves and how you can best use the quality of time.

[Read more](#)

Eclipses are indicators of important events, both in the lives of people and of nations. As expressed earlier, they show what time it is in life, pointing the direction towards growth and actualization. They also bring awareness and reveal things that were not seen before. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said,

When it is dark enough you can see the stars.
