Crisis on the Korean Peninsula – War?  
By Steven Birchfield A.M.A. ©2010

I think most people know me well enough to know that I rarely publish mundane predictions of this nature without good cause. It is a very serious situation that exists and one that many are concerned with. I think everyone understands that a full blown war on this peninsula would likely mean the deaths of tens of thousands if not millions. One needs to be erudite then when examining the astrology of the crisis. I have to admit that there are several traditional testimonies that would lead me to believe that this situation in Korea is likely to escalate.

This past year has seen a whole lot of “sabres rattling”: an alleged attack on a South Korean Cruiser, shots being fired across the border and now what would appear to be a clear and determined escalation with the shelling of South Korean military installations.

Since the Aries Ingress for North and South Korea had a cardinal sign on the Ascendant (Capricorn) then it means that the year is unstable and changeable and it is necessary to cast the charts of the quarters. That doesn’t mean that we forget the Aries Ingress but rather the testimonies of the Aries chart will also testify to what develops over the year and through the quarters. The question is this: is there an indication in the Aries Ingress of the possibility of war?

Many of the quotes I am going to refer to here are from one of the leading astrological sources for all the mundane astrology that was to come after, i.e. Abu Ma’shār. These quotes are found in Part 8, Chapter One: *Abu Ma’sar On Historical Astrology: The Book of Religions and Dynasties (On the Great Conjunctions)* – translated from the original Arabic to English by Keiji Yamamoto and Charles Burnett; published by Brill Academic Publishers ©2000.

As for the years indicating wars... knowledge of them is discovered from the time of the conjunctions of Jupiter with Saturn or of its quartile or opposition to Saturn, or from the cardines of the ascendant of the year.

So he refers us firstly to years of the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn; or the years in which they are in a quartile, or in which they are in opposition; these are the “times” likely for such earth shaking events. As Ramesey wrote:

Take this for an approved aphorism, that when any of the superiors, i.e., Saturn, Jupiter or Mars are in conjunction or any malevolent configuration <with> one another, there happens a great and manifest alteration in the elementary world according to their strength, natural and accidental significations.

Secondly Abū Ma’shār refers us to the angles of the yearly revolution. But with that respect he says further concerning the angles:
If Mars is also in one of the cardines of the ascendant of the year or of the Sun, the war is in a region of the world in which is the sign of that planet which is aspecting it [Mars]... one can use other aspects than quartile and opposition, especially if it is in the fiery triplicity; for then the war is in the eastern region...

Ramesey adds:

Also if Mars is in any of the angles at <the> time of the Revolution, whichever it is, he excites and stirs up wars according to his strength and power; if he is strong and well dignified it will be more certain as also the strife and war will be more invective and grievous. In like manner <he excites and stirs up wars> if he is in a square of Saturn or Jupiter, because these are the superior planets.

A look at the Aries chart shows us a Mars placed in the angle of the 7th. The Sun from Aries (fire triplicity) is aspecting Mars. Now according to the multitude of opinion which is summed up by both Abu Ma’shār and Ramesey, Mars in an angle of the yearly (and I might add quarterly) revolution is an indication of war.

But one thing I’ve learned in my years of making predictions is that one should never predict anything based on one testimony alone. We should always have a plethora of testimony concerning whatever is indicated, or as it is put in the Bible, “In the mouth of two or three witnesses let every word be established.” And if war is a determined event

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1 i.e. in one of the cardines relative to the Sun
2 And especially when it is also in sect and in a sign of its nature (a fire sign)
then that testimony should be also found consistently through the year and the charts of
the quarters.

Now as it happens 2010 and 2011 are the years that Jupiter and Saturn will come to
their opposition since their conjunction in 2000. The most important being the one in
which they are both direct in course which happened on August 16, 2010 (Jupiter at 02°
Aries 25’ and Saturn at 02° Libra 25’). This is testimony number two.

The third testimony is on this wise;

Since we have already mentioned the sum of the conditions of the conjunction
of Saturn and Jupiter in the triplicities, and Mars is one of the superior planets
and has a strong indication for kings and dynasties at its conjunction with
Saturn, and even if its conjunction with Saturn does not have such power over
changes as that of the conjunction of Jupiter with Saturn, its indication is one of
the things one needs when calling witnesses, commensurate with what the
conjunction (or quartile or opposition) of Jupiter with Saturn indicates...

And in Abu Ma’shār’s *Flores* he adds:

The knowledge of battles and war is from the place of Mars, in his conjunction
with Saturn or by opposition or square. For when this happens it signifies war.
And if Jupiter were with Mars it signifies war as though the parties were telling themselves they had to go to war out of self-defence or for reasons of justice.

Māshāʾallāh wrote concerning this particular conjunction also,

…the middle conjunction is namely the conjunction of Mars and Saturn, and it signifies the accidents of wars and the contrarities of battles.

One thing I think it is necessary to note with this chart is that the Mars/Saturn conjunction is occurring in a sign of human figure which indicated the suffering of human kind because of war. It is also the sign of the autumn equinox and an “angle of the world”. The lord of the figure, Jupiter, is opposed to both malefics. Not the most ideal situation for Jupiter.

Having noted that in general the year testifies to war I want to look at a few of these things relative to the quarter in which this particular attack occurred. I want to look at the Libra Ingress and I will post this as a tri-wheel chart with the Ingress in the inside and the North Korean attack on the outside, and the Mars/Saturn conjunction in the middle.

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3 § 4.4: On Wars and Battles; “Flores Albumasaris” translated by Benjamin N. Dykes Ph.D. & A.M.A. based on the 1488 edition of Erhard Ratdolt ©2005

It is important to notice that 1.) Mars was transiting the Ascendant of the Ingress when the attack occurred and that the Moon was in opposition to Mars and both of them in the angles, 2.) Mars was also square Jupiter in the angle of the 4th, and 3.) Mars/Saturn conjunction is the midheaven of the Libra Ingress. I will also note that the Jupiter/Saturn opposition would also be in the midheaven of this chart. The Lord of the quarter is no other than Rx Jupiter in the angle of the earth and that Mars was square the Lord of the quarter at the attack.

The reason for looking at all these charts is to see the continuity that is indicated throughout the year and to set the stage as it were for what I would consider to be the testimony that things are likely to get far worse before they get better. It behoves us to look very closely at the last quarter chart for the year to see if this testimony is repeated in it.

When we look at the Capricorn Ingress we want to especially note any previous testimony being repeated, such as Mars in an angle, the superiors in aspect to each other in the angles, and not least the figure description of the Moon as its testimony is very important.

Māshā'allāh tells us,

Know that the year will be made severe if there were malefics in the part of the upper circle, and in the northern parts (i.e. its latitude is northern), and especially if Mars committed his own disposition to Saturn because Saturn signifies grave things, and long lasting ones, concerning the appearance of
detriment in the earth, and the weakness of the king, and the taking away of
faith and religion; and robberies will be multiplied and contentions, and
especially if one of the malefics were in the midheaven.

And in addition look at the Moon because if she committed her own
disposition to Saturn from the lower part of the subterranean circle, it signifies
tribulation and detriment and the changing of the kingdom. And if the Moon
pushed her light to Saturn and were with him in the same sign or in the square
aspect or in the opposition, it will be that much worse.

And look likewise at the Sun just as you have looked at the Moon; because if
he were received (by one of the malefics as with the Moon), it signifies the
fitness (or the strength) of the evil.

And know that the benefics (instead of malefics in the above situations for
the Moon and Sun) signify the loosing of evil, and its taking away, if they (the
benefics) were strong in their place, having good testimony. And if they (the
benefics) were direct they signify good and fitness.⁵

Ramesey adds;

If he [Mars] is in the first house in any Revolution and strong; whether he is Lord
of the year or no, shows that the people of that country shall gain and be
advantaged by wars or slaughters, and shall overcome their enemies during that
Revolution. But if he is weak, they shall disagree and fall out one among
another, and shall beat, draw blood and wound one another, for which cause
much evil and damage shall happen unto them.⁶

Now there are several very important indications in this last quarter and war or
contention is just one. Keeping the above quotes in mind we should note in this chart
the strong angular Mars; The greater luminary and luminary of the chart received by
Mars; A superior, oriental and strong malefic, Saturn, in the upper midheaven of the
chart; Mars’ square to Saturn with reception and the opposition to the Moon in the angle
of the 7th as was the case in the previous attack by N. Korea. In other words there are a
whole lot of repeat indicators from the year. There is not just one indicator but there is a
multitude of testimony here. There are also others.

And one may look at the lot of prosperity, which is taken from the degree of the
Sun to the degree of the west; it is cast out from the ascendant, and where it
arrives is the lot of prosperity. And one may look at the lot of battle, which is
taken from Mars to the Moon; it is cast out from the position of the Sun, and
where it arrives is the lot of battle. When Mars is with one of the two lots at the
time of the revolution of the year, especially if it is in one of the fiery signs, it is
an indicator of the occurrence of wars in that year.⁷

⁵ Chapter 37, “Māshā’llāh: Revolutions of the year of the World,” translated from the Latin by Benjamin N.
Dykes PhD and published by The Cazimi Press, Golden Valley, Minnesota ©2008
⁶ Section II – Chapter VIII of Astrolgia Munda by William Ramesey - Edited and annotated by Steven
Birchfield A.M.A. ©2006
⁷ Part 8, Chapter One, [17]: Abu Ma’sar On Historical Astrology: The Book of Religions and Dynasties
(On the Great Conjunctions) – translated from the original Arabic to English by Keiji Yamamoto and
If we go back to the Aries Ingress for 2010 which is the “revolution of the year” and find the lot of battle (Sun + Moon – Mars) it falls out on 25° Capricorn 20’ 28” and we see that Mars is with that lot in the Capricorn Ingress quarter. This is another indicator once more pointing to this quarter of the year.

All of these indicators leave me with the conviction that we have not heard the last of this serious situation and the likelihood of war is great. The million dollar question is; when?

In order to answer that I must also say that although Mars is strong in the ascendant it is also occidental and under the beams, which is a strong suggestion that the action of war is hidden and not yet revealed. As far as any acts of war are concerned I think we should be more interested in the chart when Mars is rising oriental from the Sun. That just happens to be the case in the Aries Ingress for 2011 where Mars is running out from under the Sun in its triplicity, terms and face in the 11th and Jupiter and Saturn are making their last opposition.

While Mars is not angular in the 11th the 11th is the house for the military and arms. There is another somewhat recent chart with this same configuration and significations for the year and that is the chart of the US invasion of Iraq where Mars was strong in the 11th and oriental of the Sun⁶. I must also point out that in the US Aries Ingress for 2002, which is the Ingress in which the US invaded Iraq, it had a fixed sign on the ascendant

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⁶ In that chart Mars was also in its exaltation at 09 Capricorn.
and Mars in the angle of the midheaven. I personally do not think any new aggression will occur until after the New Year and new revolution of the year. Between now and then a lot is going to be going on and it is not going to be evident and clearly discernable.

There is another signification in the Cap Ingress for N. Korea that I think is also very significant. Up to now I have spoken of universal significations but here I would like to point to a specific signification and that is that Mars is ruler of the midheaven and therefore *significator of the king* while at the same time the exalted ruler of the Ascendant and co-present with the ascendant and therefore also Lord of the Quarter and *significator of the common people*. This is reinforced by the fact that the chart luminary is pushing its disposition as well to Mars and is received by Mars. We can therefore judge the condition of the people by the condition of the king and vice versa.

The most interesting however is this particular judgment in light of the fact that Mars is Lord of the Midheaven and the significator of the king:

> Look even at the lord of the Midheaven, to see if he were under the rays entering combustion; this signifies the death of the king... And if the significator of the king were joined to some planet in eighth or in the seventh, from the opposition or the square aspect, death will be feared for the king in that same year... If the significator of the king is entering combustion in the revolution of the year, the king of that region will die in that same year.\(^9\)

Since Mars is entering combustion under the beams AND joined to the lady of the seventh (the Moon) in the seventh then I would have to judge that there is a good possibility that the king of this region will die in this quarter.

The next indication then is Mars committing its disposition to Saturn in the 9\(^{th}\) and Saturn receiving that disposition. When Saturn falls in the 9\(^{th}\) and it is in a year that there is a likelihood of the kingship shifting to another then it likely indicates a new prophet/king arising in this clime and the establishment of a new rule and new law.

For me the indications are the new king will raise the spectre of war. I should also point out something quite unique and interesting to this subject and that is that the Cap Ingress for the US is the exact opposite of that for N. Korea with Cancer on the Ascendant and Capricorn falling as the 7\(^{th}\) and Saturn falling in opposition to the US 10\(^{th}\).

And in the US Aries for 2011 we have the very powerful and significant Jupiter/Saturn opposition from the ascendant to the 7\(^{th}\) and the Moon afflicted by opposition from Mercury who is the ruler of the 12\(^{th}\) (enemies of the people) and 9\(^{th}\) (enemies of the king). A lot of significant indicators as well as another very unstable year for the States as there is a cardinal (moveable) sign on the cusp of the ascendant.

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\(^9\) Or quarter when necessary to calculate all the quarters when the ascendant of the Aries Ingress is a cardinal sign. Cf Chapters 19 and 26, *Māsh’ā allāh: Revolutions of the Years of the World*, translated from the Latin by Benjamin N. Dykes Ph.D. and published by the Cazimi Press ©2008
That is to say for 2011 there is a very strong indicator of war in the strongest angle of the chart. Suffice it to say that I think it is wise to be prepared as best one can. Things are going to get even more tense I think.