

# **Game, Set, Match . . . Nadal**

## *An Archetypal Analysis of Rafael Nadal's Personal Transit of Uranus to Jupiter*

**Keiron Le Grice**

Even in a career defined by a precocious level of achievement, for Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal the fifteen-month period between January 2008 and April 2009 was extraordinarily successful. The likeable, courteous, and modest twenty-four-year-old from Mallorca embarked on an incredible winning streak that saw him claim the French Open title in Paris, the Wimbledon championship in London, win a gold medal for Spain at the Beijing Olympics, and reach the semi-finals of the other Grand Slam tournaments at the U.S. Open in New York and the Australian Open in Melbourne in 2008, before winning the Australian Open for the first time in early 2009. Nadal's triumphant year was crowned as he claimed the coveted position as world number one in the men's Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) rankings after years as number two in the shadow of the Swiss tennis legend Roger Federer.

Nadal's achievements during 2008 and the first half of 2009, which took place when transiting Uranus was conjunct the position of Jupiter in his birth chart, provide an excellent example of some of the characteristic themes that tend to emerge during this once-in-a-lifetime personal transit. Uranus forms this specific angular relationship with Jupiter in a person's birth chart only once on its eighty-four year cycle around the Sun, and it forms significant quadrature alignments (the conjunction, square, and opposition) with Jupiter's birth chart position approximately every twenty-one years. During these alignments, usually lasting between two and three years, distinct archetypal themes associated with the Uranus-

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Jupiter combination become strongly accentuated in that person's life experiences, although in a wide variety of ways depending on context.

The Jupiter principle is associated with opportunity, growth, abundance, confidence, expansion, elevation, and the experience of success; Uranus is associated with breakthrough experiences, revolution, the unexpected, the new, the sudden, the flash of creative genius, the impulse to experiment, and with an awakening, liberating, or activating quality often likened to an electrical charge. Together these principles are typically associated with themes such as creative breakthroughs and successful leaps forward, taking things to new levels of achievement, sudden or unexpected opportunities and success, being thrust into the public eye, peak experiences, the ascent to the pinnacle, euphoria and sudden release, the development of new styles and techniques, high points of happiness, and, on occasion, financial windfalls.<sup>1</sup> Many of these have been strikingly apparent in Nadal's life for the duration of this particular personal transit.<sup>2</sup>

In January of 2008, after a heavy defeat to Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the semi-finals of the Australian Open in Melbourne, few would have predicted that Nadal would attain anything like the success he was to find later in the year. Yet from his subsequent performances in the ATP clay court tournaments and in the early rounds of the French Open in May (as Uranus moved close to Jupiter's position in Nadal's chart), it became apparent to onlookers that his game had improved considerably. The development of many aspects of his technique—his service, backhand, volleying, and court positioning—had taken his game to a new level. Always known for his strength, speed, stamina, and incredible defensive play from yards behind the baseline, Nadal began to take the ball earlier, closer to the baseline, adding a potent offensive quality to his game, which proved to be stunningly effective against all opponents.

In all fields of endeavor, this capacity for marked improvement and development in technique and performance are characteristic of the Jupiter-Uranus combination. Partly, this is attributable to the increased confidence and experimental attitude, often apparent under these transits, that are necessary to maximize one's talents to the full. When these two planets are in alignment, the creativity, invention, and individual genius associated with Uranus often combine fruitfully with the growth, improvement, success, and optimism characteristic of the archetypal Jupiter. And this was demonstrated by Nadal's great success in

implementing a more expansive, attacking game, raising his performance to levels of often breathtaking excellence.

From April 2008, transiting Uranus had moved into an exact conjunction (0-degree alignment) with Nadal's natal Jupiter, and it remained in close to exact alignment throughout the spring and summer. Under such propitious archetypal conditions, even the unseasonably gloomy May weather at the French Open in Paris didn't detract from what was to prove to be an outstanding tournament for Nadal. For the third successive year, Nadal defeated Roger Federer in the final, totally outplaying the then world number one, and proving himself the far superior player on clay courts. Such was the one-sided nature of the final that Federer won only three games in the entire match and lost the third set 6–0, the first time in years that the Swiss champion, considered by many to be the greatest to have ever played, had failed to win a single game in a set. This was Nadal's fourth consecutive title at the French Open, achieved without dropping a set throughout the tournament.<sup>3</sup>

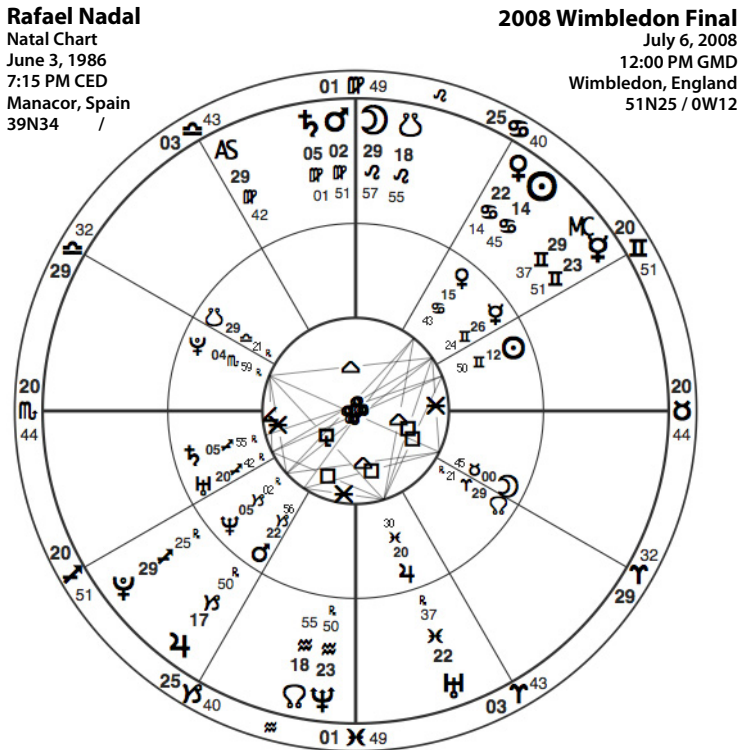
Nadal's super-charged performance in Paris left tennis audiences eagerly awaiting the prospect of yet another Federer-Nadal rematch, this time on Federer's preferred surface: the green lawns of Wimbledon. Despite Nadal's dominance on clay, Federer's optimism that he could repel the Spaniard's challenge at Wimbledon seemed justified. For if a Nadal victory in Paris had an air of inevitability about it, his success at Wimbledon seemed far less likely. To put this in context: Federer was enjoying an astonishing run of fifty-six consecutive victories on grass courts; he had won the last five Wimbledon tournaments; he had at that point won a total of twelve Grand Slam titles; and his all-round game, commentators agree, is superbly suited to the unique demands of playing on grass. Furthermore, Federer had defeated Nadal in the previous two finals, albeit by a narrow margin in 2007, and, predictably, Federer again progressed to the 2008 final without having lost a set in the tournament.

Yet Nadal's progress was also mightily impressive, with the highlight a resounding quarter-final victory over home favorite Andy Murray, who, in the post-match interview, had described Nadal's nearly unplayable left-handed forehand as "ridiculous." Nadal's confidence was clearly in the ascendancy: In the week prior to Wimbledon, with Uranus still in close proximity to Nadal's Jupiter, he had been buoyed by his first ranking tournament victory on grass in the Stella Artois championship at

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Queen’s Club in London, thus defying the characterization of him as a clay court specialist. Reflecting Uranus’s association with the new and Jupiter’s association with expansion, Nadal had made a successful foray into new territory, adapting his style of play to a different court surface. He now knew he could play well and win on grass.<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 1 Nadal’s Transits—2008 Wimbledon Final**



It is rare that an anticipated and hyped sporting event meets pre-match expectations. It is rarer still for a championship final to live up to its billing, such is the pressure of the occasion. Yet Wimbledon 2008 produced what is considered by many commentators to be the greatest final of all time. It was a battle of two giants of the game, two great champions at the peak of their powers playing a supreme standard of tennis in the longest final in Wimbledon history.<sup>5</sup> Nadal, described by one BBC commentator as positively “bristling with energy” (an apt description of the abundant energetic charge often associated with Jupiter-Uranus), had surged into a two set lead and appeared on course

for a rather routine victory. Yet Federer's proud resilience coupled with disruptive rain delays at critical moments allowed the Swiss champion to recover the deficit, winning the next two sets on tie-breaks, to take the match into a fifth and final set. Having failed to convert match points in the previous set, one could have forgiven Nadal for losing belief as the match wore on. But as the fifth set unfolded, it was clear that it was he, Nadal, and not Federer who was playing the better tennis. Finally, in the fifteenth game of the set, in the rapidly fading evening light, Nadal finally broke Federer's serve to take an 8-7 lead. And with darkness closing in, Nadal held his own service game to seal a marvelous victory and bring to an end an unforgettable match.<sup>6</sup>

As Grof's and Tarnas's research in perinatal psychology suggests, certain distinct archetypal themes, such as emergence out of darkness into light, moments of liberation and release, and the triumphant end to a long struggle, are often evident under Uranus-Jupiter personal transits, when the Uranus archetype "liberates" the sense of optimism, exuberance, and high spirits associated with Jupiter. And so it was for Nadal, that after a long, grueling battle with Federer, the moment of victory at Wimbledon finally brought an exhilarating experience of release and euphoria. At once, out of the darkness of the London skies, Nadal was suddenly thrust into the dazzling glare of the press and television cameras.

Jupiter is the archetypal principle most associated with the experience of crowning glory, of becoming king. It is also associated with ascent and elevation. When the Jupiter archetype is activated during a transit of Uranus, therefore, one can sometimes observe a sudden ascent to the summit and elevation to an almost regal status. In Nadal's case, as if to give the finishing touch to his Uranus transit to Jupiter, these themes were acted out in the most visible manner as the victorious young Spaniard first climbed up into the Wimbledon stands to celebrate with his family and coaches, as is now almost customary for a first-time winner, and then, in an altogether unprecedented and unexpected move, he climbed over to the royal box to be congratulated by, and to give his thanks to, members of the Spanish royal family, including King Juan Carlos who had travelled to London especially to see the match. With this royal seal of approval, Nadal's coronation as the world's best tennis player and one of Spain's leading sports stars was almost complete.<sup>7</sup>

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Of course, successes and victories, both sporting and otherwise, can occur under many different transits, not just those involving Jupiter and Uranus. But there is something in the manner and quality of Nadal's performances during this period that captures the essence of this particular archetypal combination. His ability to repeatedly produce moments of inspired brilliance when it really mattered; the successful confluence of so many different aspects of his game; adapting his style of play to different court surfaces; his aspiration to constantly improve his technique and level of performance; the sense, often apparent in his post-match interviews, that victory came rather unexpectedly, as a happy surprise; his realization that the high moments of success and glory might well be short-lived and that he should enjoy this run of good form and fortune while it lasted—all these factors are characteristic expressions of the Jupiter-Uranus combination.

The Jupiter-Uranus celebratory mood continued in the days after the Wimbledon tournament with Nadal's triumphant return to his home town in Mallorca. Success naturally brought with it a marked increase in fame and public attention. Increasingly, Nadal had to give post-match interviews to the world media, sometimes in front of live stadium audiences. Here the Uranus transit to Jupiter was undoubtedly more challenging for the reticent Nadal: He was repeatedly put on the spot, thrust into new, acutely demanding situations in the public eye as he struggled to answer media questions with only a rudimentary command of the English language. He is also, of course, the beneficiary of the super-abundant wealth that comes with his status as the leading star of world tennis, accrued from tournament prize-money and advertising opportunities created by his success. In the summer of 2008, according to Nike sales figures, Nadal replica sleeveless tennis shirts were outselling Federer's more traditional style polo shirts eight to one, such is Nadal's broad appeal, especially to younger tennis fans. As if all this is not enough, in August, with transiting Uranus remaining close to the position of his natal Jupiter, Nadal had the great privilege of representing the Spanish Olympics team in the opening ceremony in Beijing. In the tournament itself, Nadal triumphed again, defeating Chilean Fernando Gonzalez in the final to stand victorious on the winner's podium with the gold medal—a fitting symbol of Nadal's accomplishment under his transit of Uranus to Jupiter, and another one of the many sporting high moments that he experienced during 2008.

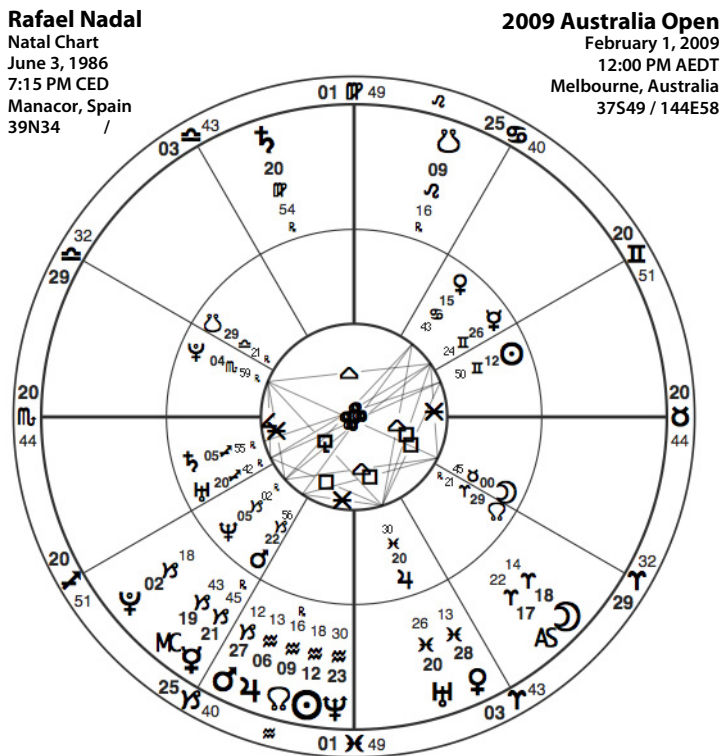
This personal transit has been taking place within the wider context of a Saturn-Uranus world transit (an opposition) affecting the culture as a whole. Events in the tennis world well reflect the archetypal dynamics of this world transit, with a brilliant young contender (Uranus) challenging and eventually overthrowing (Uranus) the reign of the “old king” (a theme associated with Saturn). Just as Barack Obama’s election victory had done in the U.S. political arena, Nadal’s success in the tennis world brought a change in the established ruling order as Federer was dethroned as number one player in the world, a position he had held since 2004. The long struggle for success, the hard-earned breakthrough, the staunch resistance provided by the older established champion, the difficulties inherent in adapting to different surfaces—these factors all reflect the presence of the Saturn archetype, which, because of its world transit opposition alignment with Uranus was also, by association, in dynamic relationship with Nadal’s Jupiter during 2008. The Saturn principle is associated with control, struggle, constriction, concentration, problems, and challenges, and with time, maturity, perseverance, the status quo, endurance, consistency, hard work, as well as a pressure to produce end results, to actualize one’s potential. Many of these qualities were abundantly evident throughout the period of Nadal’s success, which could not have been achieved without his hard work on the practice courts, tremendous discipline, unwavering concentration and focus during matches, and a perfect blend of technical brilliance and dogged resilience.

The Saturn-Uranus combination is also associated with breaking records, since Saturn is related to the established limit and boundaries and Uranus is related to the impulse to push beyond these boundaries and the creative inspiration needed to surpass the old limits. Accordingly, during this world transit, Nadal broke a number of long-standing records, ending Federer’s long unbroken reign at Wimbledon, becoming the first Spaniard to win the Wimbledon Championship since 1966, and becoming the first player to win the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year since Bjorn Borg in 1980. In 2009, with Uranus in an exact conjunction with Nadal’s Jupiter for the third and last time, he became the first Spaniard ever to win the Australian Open, again defeating the now demoralized Federer in an epic five-set final, this time on a hard court, another surface favored by the Swiss.<sup>8</sup> This victory made Nadal only the fourth male tennis player in history to win Grand Slam titles on three different

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surfaces and, most impressive of all, he became the first man in history to hold Grand Slam titles on three different surfaces at the same time. Under his personal transit of Uranus to Jupiter, with each record broken, and each victory on the ATP tennis circuit, Nadal has made the remarkable leap from brilliant prodigy to foremost star of the tennis world, and from clay court specialist to master of all three tennis surfaces.

**Figure 2 Nadal's Transits—2009 Australian Open Final**



In the first half of the 2009 season, Nadal's incredible success story continued with further victories in ATP tournaments in Indian Wells, Barcelona, Monte Carlo, and Rome. By now his achievements had become recognized by a wider audience in the sporting world and he was chosen as one of six nominees, along with sprinter Usain Bolt and swimmer Michael Phelps, for the prestigious Laureus World Sportsman of the Year award. On court, meanwhile, his standard of play left tennis commentators struggling to find the superlatives to describe his performances over the last year. According to former U.S. tennis star



Andre Agassi, for example, Nadal's victory over Federer at Wimbledon "probably transcends any other match ever played."<sup>9</sup> This sense of having taken things to an entirely new level, of having soared to unprecedented heights, was evocatively conveyed by sports journalist Matthew Syed. On May 13, 2009, discussing rising Scottish tennis star Andy Murray's prospects of usurping Nadal as world number one, Syed captured the essence of the aspiration for ever higher ascent and elevation associated with the Jupiter-Uranus complex:

Rafael Nadal is not merely playing at a different level of elevation from his peers, but in an altogether different universe. The Spaniard's five-set victories over Fernando Verdasco [in the Australian Open semi-final] and Federer in winning the opening grand-slam tournament of the year in Australia in January were among the most stirring of recent times and since the clay-court season commenced in Monte Carlo last month, he has crushed all challengers, taking his record to a preposterous 135 wins in his past 138 matches on the surface . . .

But Murray's problem goes deeper still, because Nadal is gloriously and unabashedly unsatisfied with what he has achieved so far, continuing to practise with an intensity that strikes something close to terror into his many pretenders. As Murray put it on Monday: "He is so far ahead in the rankings, but when you see him on the practice court he always gives 110 per cent."

It is a curious thing, is it not, for a man to stand at the top of the world and to want to climb yet higher? To drink at the fountain of greatness but to remain parched? To survey a landscape that must seem, at times, bereft of adequate challengers and yet to press ahead as if his life hangs in the balance? That is the punishing and restless philosophy of the man Murray is now chasing.

The Scot [Murray] has done terribly well to get this far [to world number three], farther than any British player of the modern era. But the ultimate summit is not merely up in the clouds; it is getting steeper and ever more distant by the day.<sup>10</sup>

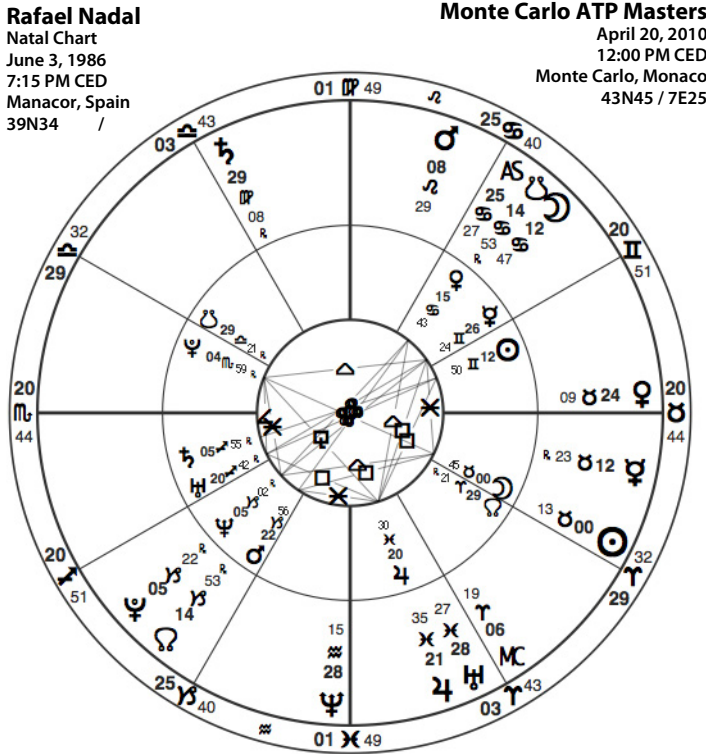
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As is often the case, however, the ascent to such dizzy heights is followed by a crashing fall to earth; Nadal's astonishing run of success, particularly on clay courts, had to end at some point. In May 2009, with the final exact transit of Uranus to Nadal's Jupiter having passed and Saturn increasingly prominent in his personal transits, Nadal's record run of thirty-one matches unbeaten at the French Open, lasting over four years, ended with a surprising fourth-round defeat to Sweden's Robin Soderling.<sup>11</sup> This defeat had taken place, it later emerged, around the same time as the breakdown of Nadal's parents' marriage. Worse was to follow for Nadal, when tendonitis in both knees, which had become increasingly painful and hindered his performances, forced him to withdraw from the 2009 Wimbledon tournament, unable therefore to defend his title. As if to add insult to injury, Nadal's three-month absence from the tennis circuit saw him fall in the rankings, as Federer reclaimed the top position.

On his return to the tennis circuit in the second half of 2009, with the Uranus transit to Jupiter gradually moving out of orb, and Saturn in a square alignment to the Sun in Nadal's chart, he failed to win a single tournament, and, as he later admitted, he was suffering from a lack of confidence in his game. In coincidence with the changing transits, the archetypal mood and character of Nadal's experience had markedly shifted: he was no longer the up-and-coming star making breakthroughs and enjoying an ascent to the pinnacle; he was now the *former* world number one, the established champion who had first to defend and then, later, try to reclaim his position and reestablish his reputation. Although match victories still came, the freedom to play without fear and his aura of invincibility had gone. Something of the inspiration of Nadal's game, the sprinkling of magic that had formerly graced his play, appeared to be missing.

Through 2009 and into 2010, hampered by injury and loss of form, Nadal went eleven months without a tournament title, and many commentators doubted he would ever be as good again—indeed at times he appeared to be a pale imitation of his former self. As the clay court season commenced in April 2010, however, Nadal finally rediscovered his best form, completing a record breaking sixth successive victory in the ATP Masters tournament in Monte Carlo, quickly followed by a successful defense of his title at the Rome Masters. Displaying all the brilliance that had characterized his play during 2008, Nadal then broke Andre Agassi's record of seventeen Masters tournament victories when he defeated Federer in the final

**Figure 3 Nadal’s Transits—2010 Monte Carlo ATP Masters Final**



of the Madrid Masters event, thereby becoming the first man to win all three clay court Masters tournaments in a single season. Remarkably, these successes took place in strikingly similar archetypal conditions to his victories in 2008—this time occurring during a personal transit of Jupiter to Uranus, rather than Uranus to Jupiter. In June 2010, completing an unprecedented clean sweep of all the major clay court tournaments, Nadal reclaimed his treasured French Open title and, in the process, again displaced Federer as the number one ranked player in the world. In a grand culmination of this second period of ascent in Nadal’s professional tennis career, Nadal emulated and then surpassed his feat of 2008, first reclaiming the Wimbledon Championship crown and then in September winning the U.S. Open Championship for the first time, thus completing the so-called “career Grand Slam” of all four major Grand Slam tournaments—one of only seven players to do so, and, at 24, the youngest in the recent history of tennis. Nadal’s achievement underscored his position as

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the world's finest tennis player and strengthened claims that he should be regarded as one of the best players of all time.

In retrospect, we can see that the Uranus transit to Jupiter (and the longer term transit of Uranus to the entire Sun-Jupiter-Uranus T-square complex in Nadal's natal chart) coincided with a specific phase in Nadal's tennis career in which he made all his significant breakthroughs in the major tournaments and experienced the extraordinary ascent to the summit of the tennis world. Following a difficult period during 2009, the briefer Jupiter transit to Uranus then marked a glorious second wave of success for the Spaniard. From his first Grand Slam tournament victory at the French Open in 2005 to his amazing run of success in 2008, early 2009, and again in 2010, the archetypal "gods" had blessed Nadal, allowing him to fully capitalize on his tennis genius and to exhilarate tennis audiences across the globe.

## **Afterword**

I cannot end this analysis of men's tennis without mention of the utterly astonishing match that took place at this year's Wimbledon Championships between John Isner of the U.S. and Nicolas Mahut of France. This first round match, played over three days, beginning at just after 6 pm on Tuesday, June 22 and finishing shortly before 5 pm on Thursday, June 24, was unlike any game played before and any likely to be played again. It was a match of truly epic proportions. Prior to this, the record for the most number of games played in a singles match (since the introduction of the tie-break) was 83, set at the 2003 Australian Open, in a quarter-final match between Andy Roddick and Younes El Aynaoui, which Roddick won 21–19 in the fifth set. The longest match in terms of duration was 6 hours 33 minutes at the French Open in 2004 (Santoro versus Clement). These records pale into insignificance at the side of the Isner-Mahut match, however, which finally ended after a quite incredible 183 games and a staggering 11 hours 5 minutes. With no tie-breaker permitted in the final set, the two men continued to hold serve game after game in a display of brilliant serving, concentration, and stamina. Records came and went, hours and days passed, until the final set eventually finished 70–68 in Isner's favor, when the American somehow found the inspiration to break Mahut's service and win the contest.

This was, without exaggeration, the Everest of tennis matches, a marathon of marathons that completely rewrote the tennis record books by setting new records not only for the longest match and the most games in a match, but also for the most games in a set (138), for the longest set (8 hours 11 minutes), the most aces (winning serves that the receiving player does not hit) served in a match (216), the most aces by a single player (Isner 113), and the most consecutive service games held (168).

Such a feat well reflects the archetypal potentiality of the four-planet T-square of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Pluto that was powerfully constellated at the time of the Wimbledon Championships. During Uranus-Pluto alignments, the individual genius, spark of creative brilliance, and inspiration associated with Uranus are elementally empowered, driven with an unrelenting flow of instinctual force, often producing incredible advances and an accelerated pace of change in all walks of life. Under the current Uranus-Pluto alignment, we have already witnessed the titanically empowered achievements of Michael Phelps in swimming and Usain Bolt in sprinting, as well as Nadal in tennis, pushing back the limits of what is considered humanly possible. When Uranus and Pluto are also in alignment with Jupiter, Jupiter-Uranus themes such as sudden ascent, elevation, amplitude, the successful leap forward, unexpected high moments, and peak experiences—all themes we discussed in relation to Nadal's personal transit—can be intensified and empowered to unprecedented levels.

One thinks here of long jumper Bob Beamon's prodigious leap into history at the 1968 Olympics at high altitude in Mexico City occurring under a triple conjunction of Jupiter-Uranus-Pluto, when Beamon, described as "the man who saw lightning," jumped 55cm (over 21 inches) beyond the existing world record and into the history books, setting a record distance that was unsurpassed for another 23 years.<sup>12</sup> In the most literal sense, this was a titanic leap forward in human achievement, reflecting the confluence of all three planetary archetypes.

Unlike the occasion of Beamon's record leap in 1968, however, at the present time the planet Saturn is also aligned with Jupiter, Uranus, and Pluto, indicating the combination of a more complex set of archetypal energies. In the Isner-Mahut match, the power and inspiration of the Jupiter-Uranus-Pluto archetypal combination was not manifest in one quick burst or a single act or momentary flash, but slowly, in a sustained manner, reflecting Saturn's association with time, patience, endurance,

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consistency—qualities all driven to an extreme (Pluto) and amplified (Jupiter) over the three days of this encounter. The Saturn-Pluto combination is evident in the immense endurance and physical exertion required to partake in such a long match, with each player driven to a point of exhaustion and beyond. It is evident too in the relentless quality of the match, as game after game passed with no sign of a likely ending, with the sense that the contest could go on forever. Jupiter-Pluto themes are evident in the sheer scale and immensity of the match, its epic quality, as well as in the standard of excellence and power of both men's serves. And Jupiter-Saturn-Uranus themes are apparent in the growing sense of astonishment among the audience as the match went on and on—it was like a high moment of sporting history drawn out over a long period of time.

The Saturn-Uranus complex is reflected in the sustained tension of the match, which could, of course, have ended at virtually any point over several hours during the fifth set, with a single break of serve placing victory within the grasp of either player. Despite the consistency of the serving, the game never entered a lull but continued in a state of finely poised, high excitement and tension. Finally, the Jupiter-Saturn-Uranus-Pluto T-square as a whole is reflected in the titanic effort made by both players to break through the other player's resistance, efforts relentlessly repelled again and again, until at long last the Jupiter-Uranus moment of joyful victory came for Isner, bringing relief, no doubt, to both players. In sum, the qualities of the four planetary archetypes each combined over the course of the three days of this match to create this incredible spectacle. It is astonishing feats such as those attained by Isner and Mahut that remind us of the immense creative potentiality of the current archetypal context in which we find ourselves.

## Notes

1. For further detail on the Jupiter-Uranus combination, see Tarnas, *Cosmos and Psyche*, 289–351. Also, compare Grant Maxwell's discussion in this issue of *Archai* of the correlation of Jupiter-Uranus alignments with leaps forward in the evolution of rock music.
2. Nadal was born during a T-square alignment of the Sun, Jupiter, and Uranus. All Nadal's Grand Slam tournament victories occurred as transiting Uranus moved into aspect with the natal chart positions of each of these planets. In May–June 2005, when Nadal won his first Grand Slam title at the French Open in Paris, transiting Uranus was square his natal Sun ( $< 2^\circ$  orb). Transiting Uranus subsequently acti-

- vated his entire natal T-square complex from 2005 to 2010. For details on orbs for personal transits, see <http://www.archaijournal.org/aspects.html#orb>.
3. See the link at the end of this essay to the BBC television highlights of the French Open final 2008.
  4. In mid-2007, as Nadal began to successfully adapt his game to grass courts, and came agonizingly close to winning Wimbledon for the first time, transiting Uranus had moved to within two degrees of an exact conjunction with Nadal's Jupiter and square his natal Uranus. Transiting Uranus then moved into exact alignments with the positions of these two planets in Nadal's chart from April 2008 to February 2009, covering the period of the amazing sequence of victories described here.
  5. In all these ways, the Wimbledon final befitted the Jupiter-Pluto world transit of the time, a planetary alignment that is often associated with power and grandeur, intensity and magnitude, as well as a general standard of excellence and total mastery of performance.
  6. See the link at the end to a BBC montage of the 2008 Wimbledon final and a YouTube video of this match.
  7. See the link at the end to a BBC recording of Nadal's moment of victory.
  8. See the link at the end to a BBC report of Nadal's 2009 Australian Open final victory and the link to video highlights of this match. Federer, incidentally, had a personal transit of Saturn to Neptune during the period of his Grand Slam final defeats to Nadal in 2008, an archetypal combination that often corresponds with experiences of demoralization and disappointment.
  9. BBC interview, May 2009.
  10. See Matthew Syed, "Summit still in distance for restless Andy Murray," [http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/sport/columnists/matthew\\_syed/article6276266.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/sport/columnists/matthew_syed/article6276266.ece) (May 13, 2009). This passage (particularly the notion that Nadal is playing in "an altogether different universe") not only reflects the Uranus-Jupiter combination but also the Uranus-Pluto world transit, with the titanic power and extremity associated with the Pluto archetype driving the ascent and success associated with Uranus-Jupiter with an overwhelming force.
  11. Saturn came into close ( $< 4^\circ$ ) alignment with Nadal's natal Jupiter-Uranus square as he first became the world number one in August 2008 (when he assumed the added status and pressure that comes with this), and Saturn then into exact alignment with his Jupiter and Uranus in November 2008 when injury prevented Nadal from competing in the lucrative end-of-season Masters tournament in Shanghai and representing Spain in the Davis Cup final in Argentina. Nadal had transiting Saturn square his Sun from the time he became world number one in August 2008 to June 2009 when he lost in the French Open. This was immediately followed by a Saturn transit opposite Jupiter, square to Uranus, and square to Mercury during the second half of 2009, lasting until November.
  12. See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob\\_Beamon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Beamon).

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## Links to Footage and Reports

BBC television highlights of French Open final 2008. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/tennis/7443050.stm>

BBC report of French Open final 2008. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/tennis/7441733.stm>

BBC television montage of 2008 Wimbledon final. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/tennis/7494114.stm>

Wimbledon 2008 final set (YouTube video). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pFojurJmys>

BBC television footage of Nadal’s moment of victory at Wimbledon 2008. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/tennis/7490443.stm>

Australian Open (YouTube video highlights). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFbUKhmmTDw>



BBC report of Nadal's Australian Open victory 2009. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/tennis/7862452.stm>

BBC report of Nadal's French Open final victory 2010. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/tennis/8724597.stm>

BBC report of Nadal's Wimbledon final victory 2010. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/tennis/8784861.stm>

BBC report of Nadal's U.S. Open final victory 2010, completing the career Grand Slam: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/tennis/8992563.stm>

For detailed information on all Nadal's tournament victories, see Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rafael\\_Nadal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rafael_Nadal)

### **Birth Data and Sources**

Rafael Nadal, born June 3, 1986, Manacor, Mallorca, Spain, at 19:15. Astro-Databank ([www.astro.com/astro-databank](http://www.astro.com/astro-databank)). Source: biography (Rodden rating: B)

### **ATP Player Information**

Rafael Nadal: <http://www.atpworldtour.com/tennis/5/en/players/playerprofiles/?playernumber=N409>

Roger Federer: <http://www.atpworldtour.com/tennis/3/en/players/playerprofiles/?playernumber=F324>

