

# NOSTRADAMIAN INTERPRETATIONS

"Canys gwn a fydd rhag llaw."  
"For I know what has been, and will be hereafter."

TALIESSIN

## **Introduction**

Looking back on the events that encompass the great world wars, there was perhaps a sense of inevitability about it all. Mankind had been racing interminably towards this grand conflagration ever since the Roman Empire had splintered into countless countries, decentralising power in Europe & waiting for the epic battle over its soil. Then it is no wonder that a particularly shrewd 'soothsayer', steeped in both astrology & history, would predict a number of the events that actually occurred during the wars. This man was Nostradamus, a Frenchman who, during a rapid few years of foresight, predicted many famous events of ages to come. He lived in Provence in the middle of the sixteenth century, a renaissance man, steeped in superstition, whose pragmatic use of the dark arts would capture the imagination of the future ad infinitum!

His prophecies were written down in quatrains – four lines of often enigmatic, cryptic verse collected in groups of a hundred called The Centuries. Hogue describes his predictions as "artful, baffling mixture of French, Old Provençal, and Latin. They are wilfully obscured in a miasma of puns and wordplay, allusions and elisions, grammatical trickery and cryptic anagrams." Fortunately not all the prophecies are so cryptic, & of the thousand or so prophecies, I have identified a number which can be readily explained by, & associated to historical events. These can also be judged on the depth of accuracy, with some having four lines of amazing prediction, & others only one.

This irregularity of prophecy could be explain'd if you look at his quatrains through a poets eye. One of the vital things many commentators on Nostradamus refrain from mentioning is that the quality of his verse is very high, full of sensuous symbolism three hundred years before another French master-exponent of the style, Charles Baudelair, was born. The romans call'd their poets 'Vates,' another name for seer, & since ancient times the two vocations have been very much intertwined. Poetry, like prophecy, is very much an art of inspiration. Sometimes, when a poet is writing, they 'fluff up' their verse around one or two moments of sheer poetic quality, Perhaps Nostradamus had a vision, but not enough to fill an entire quatrain. Then it is not too much to imagine him tossing in a couple of weak lines in order to make the whole thing rhyme.

However, that is not to take anything away form the fact that he did prophesise the future! I have reneged on attempting explanations to the more elusive & symbolic moments within the quatrains, being satisfied with those that are relatively concrete. How a man living many years before these events took place could illuminate them with such vigour stretches the realms of improbability, leaving one to draw the conclusion that Nostradamus was in fact a seer, & a seer of the highest order.

## **The House of Valois**

The immense prophetic powers of Nostradamus first came to light in his own lifetime, when his first truly famous quatrain seemed to predict the death of the then King of France, Henry II. By that time our seer had become a court favourite, the personal soothsayer of the Queen Consort, Catherine de Medici. After she had read his almanacs for 1555, which hinted at unnamed threats to the royal family, she summoned him to Paris to explain them, as well as to draw up horoscopes for her royal children. Thus, under royal patronage, Nostradamus was allowed to complete his prophecies - indeed dedicating the last three centuries to Henry II - a number of which concerned the incumbent royal House of Valois;

The young Lion shall overcome the old one,  
In a field by a single duel:  
In a golden cage he shall put out his eye,  
Two blows from one then he shall die a cruel death

This is the the prophecy that propelled Nostradamus to fame. It successfully predicts the manner in which Henry II was killed, made all the more potent by our seer's bringing the prophecy to the king's attention. Yet kings rarely heed the fanciful advice of soothsayers & Henry was soon jousting at the royal tournament of Saint Quentin, hurtling toward the 'young lion' Count Montgomery, six years his junior. Both men wore lions on their shields &, at the moment of impact, Montgomery's lance shattered against the elder King's breastplate, sending two splinters upwards through his golden embossed helmet (the golden cage). One splinter destroyed the king's eye; the other ruptured his throat. Ten days of blind, gangrene-infected misery later he would die from those 'two blows from one' & in an instant, the legend of Nostradamus was born.

VI-63

*The lady left alone in the realm*

*By the unique one extinguished first on the bed of honor:*

*Seven years will she be weeping in grief,*

*Then with great good fortune for the realm long life.*

In this next quatrain Nostradamus made a direct prophecy to his patroness, Catherine de Medici. The death of her husband had left her '*alone in the realm,*' – her sons being too young to accede to full power. In the second line we see the expression '*the unique one,*' which Napoleon only used once. It can easily be ascribed to Henry II, seeing as Nostradamus had already called him, 'THE MOST INVINCIBLE MOST POWERFUL' in his dedicatory epistle. Seeing as the king would eventually die in his bed, ten days after sustaining his mortal wounds, the term 'bed of honour' is a remarkable accuracy. The third line is a description of the mourning period which the widowed queen suffered – from July 1559 to August 1566 – for '*seven years will she be weeping in grief.*' In total, she spent three decades as the Queen Regent, 'the realm long life,' during which time she was the supreme power behind the reigns of her two eldest sons, Francis II and Charles IX.

X-39

*The eldest son, widow, wretched marriage,  
No children, and two isles in strife,  
Dies before eighteen, incompetent of age.  
The younger son will marry earlier still.*

This quatrain refers to Francis II, 'the eldest son' of Henry II, who succeeded to the throne on his father's death. The 'widow' is Mary Queen of Scots, who had met Francis when they were small children, & raised in the royal court of France as his future queen. They married when the dauphin was fourteen, but were to have no children during their short, 'wretched' marriage. This was ended when the sickly Francis died only fifteen days short of commencing his eighteenth year, technically still a juvenile, or 'incompetent of age.' The last line is a reference to Charles IX, his younger brother, who was affianced to Elizabeth of Austria at eleven years of age, thus married 'earlier still.'

Pr. 40.

The death of the house of seven by a suite of deaths.  
Hail, tempest, pestilence evil, fury.  
A king of the East will put all the West to flight,  
And will subdue his at-one-time conquerors.

The last of the quatrains concerning the house of Valois, is a wonderful sweep of the times in which that bloodline ceased to flow. It comes in two parts, the first two lines predicting the downfall of the Royal House, the second two prophesising events happening elsewhere at that time – in this instance the victory of Mehemet III over his Christian enemies.

The original house of Valois had come into being with Philip VI in 1327, with six other kings to follow. This, then, is 'the house of seven' which Nostradamus refers to. The Valois-Angouleme branch of the family, which Henry II belonged to, inherited the throne through salic law, which determines that only sons of the king or their descendants may inherit the throne. This same law would also see end of the house of Valois - when Henry III died without a son just like his

brothers, forever ending his bloodline's claim to the throne of France. It was during this period that the 'fury' of civil war & 'pestilential evil' of religious heresy reign'd rampant, such as the war of the three Henries. This was a direct result of the accession of a new royal house, whose protestant leanings tore Catholic France asunder.

The fall of the Valois transpired during the days when the Ottoman Empire had just pass'd its zenith. Just after the death of Henry III the Hapsburg empire & Transylvania joined forces & began to claim back the suzerainty lost to Suliman the magnificent. Upon hearing of early defeats in the war, the Ottoman sultan Mehemed III, that 'king of the east,' took to the field himself. Soon, in the closely contested Battle of Keresztes, he 'subdued his one-time conquerors.' Just as it seem'd he was losing the battle, a timely counter attack routed a number of Austrian horsemen. Cries announcing the Christian enemy was fleeing soon spread down the line, reinvigorating the Ottoman empire, whose renewed assaults soon routed the rest of their opponents, & as Nostradamus presaged, they did indeed '*put all the West to flight.*'

### **The Seige of Malta (1565)**

Other than the Valois quatrains, these next few are the only prophecies in which Nostradamus knew of the personages involved, living as he did at the same time as Suliman, the greatest sultan the Ottoman Empire had ever known. In the 1560's the Turkish empire was at its greatest zenith under that marauding leader, whose military genius & boundless energy had carved a out vast territory of conquest. As the Sultan he was the pre-eminent monarch of Europe, who had conquered territory from North Africa to the Persian Gulf, & on up into the Balkans – an empire spread over three continents. Suliman's power seemed to have no bounds, his name & fame stretching to every corner across the globe & it seem'd as if the Ottoman Empire was destined to rule the world. Nostradamus would dared not to have predicted the Sultans defeat, especially at the hands of 'the insignificant rock' little Malta. But predict it he did, the events he foresaw coming to pass only a few years after his death;

1-9

*From the Orient will come the African heart  
to trouble Hadrie and the heirs of Romulus.  
Accompanied by the Libyan fleet  
the temples of Malta and nearby islands shall be deserted.*

Earlier that century, a much younger Suliman had forced the Order of Saint John from their island base of Rhodes. The island had pressed against the shipping lanes of the Ottoman Empire like a cosairs knife, & Suliman decided to remove the treta. Following a protracted & bloody seige, the budding Sultan was so impressed with the knights & their honourable conduct of the war, that he allowed them to leave Rhodes with their dignity, & lives intact. Next stop for the order was Malta, where to Suliman's disgust, the Knights carried on their attacks against Ottoman shipping.

Suliman's army gathered in Istanbul on the far eastern reaches of Europe - thus the fleet sail'd '*from the Orient*' to Malta. The army of 40,000 sun-bronzed warriors had an '*African heart*,' containing many Arabs & Numidians from the dark continent. The context for the name '*Hadrie*' is probably taken from Hatria, lying 4 meters beneath modern-day Adria, an Etruscan City port in Italy that gave its name to the Adriatic Sea. The '*heirs of Romulus*' are the Italians, for it was Romulus who slew his brother Remus on the foundation of Rome in 753 BC, thus naming the capital city after himself. That they were both '*troubled*' signifies the Italians' were conscious that once Malta fell, their own country would be next, for Malta was seen as the stepping stone to Sicily & the western Meditteranean.

In the third line the term '*Libyan fleet*' is an excellent prediction as to the sphere of operations, for it was from Tripoli & Tunis that the Ottoman army was fed, supplies being ferried, or '*accompanied*' across the Meditteranean sea. As for '*the temples of Malta & nearby islands*' being deserted, as the Maltese saw the Ottoman fleet arrive off their coast, the entire populace withdrew behind the walls of cities such as Senglea & Mdina, taking all their livestock with them, thus leaving Malta '*a deserted place.*'

4-39

*The Rhodians will demand relief,  
Through the neglect of its heirs abandoned.  
The Arab empire will reveal its course,  
The cause set right again by Hesperia.*

This quatrain also tells of the events of the siege of Malta. 'The Rhodians' are the order of the Knights Hospitalers of Saint John – a modern offshoot is the Saint John's Ambulance. Since the time of the crusades they had lived on Rhodes, carrying on the war against Islam from their piratical ships. But the moment Suliman came to the throne they encountered their mortal enemy. When Nostradamus was a young man they were driven from Rhodes by the Ottomans & forced to set up a home on the barren rock that is Malta. At the time of our seer's death, a status quo had developed, & the reality of the Ottoman empire sailing to Malta to attack them once more seemed far-fetched. However, it did happen, & soon the Grandmaster of the order, De Valette, would 'demand relief' from all across Europe, when his order, the 'heirs' of Rhodes, felt 'abandoned.' By laying siege to Malta, Ottoman geopolitics, or 'the arab empire' did indeed 'reveal its course,' that is the conquest of southern Europe from its new base in the central Meditteranean.

The last line is a very enigmatic one, typical of Nostradamus at his most devious. There are a number of possible interpretations of this word'

1 Hesperia means 'evening land' or 'western land,' a term sometimes applied to both Italy & Spain.

2 Hesperia was the daughter of Cebren, a Greek river god who dwelt near ancient Troy, now found in north-west Turkey.

3 Hesperia was the name of one of three Hesperides, the nymphs who tended a garden near the Atlas Mountains in Libya, which was an earlier name for the city which we now call Benghazi.

4 The Hesperides are sometimes called the Daughters of Evening, or Erythrai – 'Sunset Goddesses.

Then which one relates to the fourth line? Whose cause was it – the Ottoman or that of the Order of Saint John. Then what or who was Hesperia? Perhaps it meant that by the ‘evening’ of the siege the Ottomans would be driven from the islands. Or was it the combined force of Spanish & Italians who helped defeat the Turks. Then again, did it refer to the army’s return to Turkey, where near the citadel of ancient Troy they would once more cross the Hellespont on their wars of conquest. Or was it simply a reference to their journey home, when the fleet would sail to Istanbul, with Libya & the Atlas mountains on their right. Perhaps Nostradamus loaded this particular line with ore & meant all four, a trick he will use on several occasions.

## **Ottoman Defeats**

After four months of bloody fighting in scorching sun, 700 Knights of the Order of Saint John, fighting side by side with several thousand Maltese, would finally rid the islands of the Muslim menace. This blow to Turkish esteem would never be avenged, especially when, with the death of Suliman the following year, the Ottoman Empire began its long & protracted decline. Never again would they be able to raise a major sea-bourne army of invasion, those 700 knights safeguarding western Europe forever from the ‘Sempeternal Enemy of Christendom.’

5 - 47

The great Arab will march far forward,  
He will be betrayed by the Byzantinians:  
Ancient Rhodes will come to meet him,  
And greater harm through the Austrian Hungarians.

Following the course of the campaign through Nostradamus, we see that ‘the great arab,’ the Ottoman Empire, will ‘be betrayed by the Byzantines.’ The Byzantines represent the peoples of the Eastern mediterranean, from Venice to Greece, that sailed with the Holy League. By 1571 the Ottoman Empire had swallowed up the Byzantine, making all its former vassals its own. Then it would have been very easy to feel ‘betrayed’ at any one of its subjects baring arms

against the empire. In the third line, with the earlier quatrains in this chapter, the reference to Rhodes means the Knights Hospitalers of Saint John who were in the thickest of the fighting. The last line has a double possible meaning. Perhaps it signifies the German presence amidst the soldiers on board the galleys, or perhaps it signifies the next great defeat of the Ottoman empire, during a century of wars against Vienna.

This defeat came about when the Holy League of Christian Navies was formed, when the west pooled forces in order to strike & destroy the Ottoman Navy as a serious fighting force. Among the vessels gathered were a large contingent of galleys from Malta sailed by the Order of Saint John, eager to get to grips again with their sworn opponents.

8-3

*The largest sail set out of the port of Zara,  
near Byzantium will carry out its enterprise.  
Loss of enemy and friend will not be,  
a third will turn on both with great pillage and capture.*

'Zara' is the former name of Zadar, a port in modern-day Croatia, a once vital port of the Venetian empire. From its harbour many ships would have sail'd to join the fleet of the Holy League as it prepared to face the Turks. This navy is described by Nostradamus as '*the largest sail*' & the simple fishermen who worked the Adriatic Sea had never seen a show of nautical force like it. This armada would then rendezvous with the rest of the fleet at Messina, before sailing to Greece & their date with destiny.

These next lines refer to the epic sea-battle of Lepanto in 1571. It was fought between the fleets of the Ottoman Empire & the Holy League, coalition of the Republic of Venice, the Papacy (under Pope Pius V), Spain (including Naples, Sicily and Sardinia), the Republic of Genoa, the Duchy of Savoy, the Knights Hospitaller and others. The battle of Lepanto was fought off the northern edge of the Gulf of Corinth, which had always been a part of, or on the fringe of, the Byzantine empire. The battle, or '*enterprise*' was a furious one, fought solely between rowing vessels, & very bloody. The expression '*enemy & friend*' perfectly fits the description of an Ottoman galley – manned by Turks & rowed by

Christian slaves. It was for this reason that the Holy League actually preferred to *'turn on both with great pillage & capture,'* for not sinking the enemy galleys they could free their fellow Christians from the holds. By the end of the battle, 12,000 of these poor souls had been rescued from the bloody waters, where the bodies of 25,000 dead Turks bobbed on the water.

The term *'a third'* probably relates to a segment of the Christian battle line, which was divided into a centre & its two wings. During the battle, the Turks facing the southern wing under Uluj Ali managed to extricate themselves from the battle. The Northern wing was at more of a deadlock, but it was in the centre where most of the fighting & galley-capturing took place - the *'third'* that Nostradamus intended.

The battle was a crushing defeat for the Ottomans, preserving the European status quo & providing the flowerbed for the rest of our Seer from the Salon's prophecies to flourish. Would we have known Napoleon or Hitler in a Muslim dominated Europe? Probably not, & sensing this Nostradamus happily foresaw the Ottoman demise – even at a time when the Turk seem'd omnipotent.

## THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

As Nostradamus went on with his predictions, he began a series that are specifically concerned with the two main adherents of the English Civil War – Oliver Cromwell & King Charles II. The story of the Stuart cause was one of particular interest to Nostradamus, perhaps because the first of the Stuart Kings, James I, was born only thirteen days before his death.

10-36

*Upon the King of the stump speaking of wars,  
The United Isle will hold him in contempt:  
For several good years one gnawing and pillaging,  
Through tyranny in the isle esteem changing.*

With this quatrain, Nostradamus cleverly sets the scene for the momentous events that were to pass. The 'king of the stump' is a reference to the diminishing hold that King Charles I had over England, where parliament was divided by two warring parties whose 'speaking of wars' would soon spill out into open bloodshed. The second line is also very keen, for Charles was king of England & Wales & Scotland – 'the united isle.' However, not only did the English despise & mistrust their king & his heavy taxations, but his other subjects, the Scots, were incensed by Charles' insistence on them using the same prayer book as the English – thus all sides did 'hold him in contempt.' The last two lines refer to the decade or so (1629-1640) when the arrogant king ruled without a parliament – steadily 'gnawing & pillaging' the wealth of his nation – a 'tyranny' that saw the king's 'esteem changing' in the 'isle' of Britain.

## **Oliver Cromwell**

The events of the English Civil War have been well covered by Nostradamus, the execution of King Charles would forming a shadowy forerunner to the events of the French Revolution, which in turn would lead to the arrival of the first Antichrist in France, Napoleon Bonaparte.

8-76

*More of a butcher than a king in England,  
born of obscure rank will gain empire through force.  
Coward without faith, without law he will bleed the land;  
His time approaches so close that I sigh.*

In 8-76, Nostradamus reveals his own royalist tendencies. The first line is a reflection on Cromwell's brutal persecution of the military arts, which would leave many dead from Holland to Scotland. His savagery was especially active in Ireland, where many tyrannical executions took place. The term 'butcher' could also be remarking on his relatively low birth – minor gentry – a point reinforced in the second line when Nostradamus calls him 'born of obscure rank.' The expression to 'gain empire by force,' is another of Nostradamus' multi-meaning phrases. It could mean the logical taking of power as the leader of the army in a leaderless British Isles. It could also mean the establishment of British naval

superiority, whose fighting ships began to take over the decaying Spanish empire, sewing the seeds for the British empire. Then again it could refer to the events in 1653 when Cromwell literally stormed into parliament & snatched up the mace – symbol of the parliaments power - & basically set himself up as a dictator.

The third line is a bit of an awkward one in this prophecy – for Cromwell was both brave & religious. The word ‘coward’ is not definitive however – for the word Nostradamus used, Lasche, has been interpreted as cowardly, the same as lâche in modern French. Both forms of the word spring from the Latin, laxare, laxatus, & could possibly mean ‘of loose morals.’ If it *does* mean coward, then we must take it as a continuation of Nostradamus’ aggressive stance toward the Lord Protector, then a couple of insults are surely not out of place. Our seer gets back on track in the second half of the line, when ‘without law’ of royal authority Cromwell did ‘bleed the land’ by drawing recruits from all over Britain. The last line is one of the most entertaining in the entire Nostradamian canon. In it, like some grand Byronic digression, we hear the true voice of the prophet – panging with emotion & struck with horror as to the events that would transpire, in the scheme of his prophetic range, ‘so close that I sigh.’

4-62

*A colonel intrigues through ambition,  
he will seize the greater part of the army.  
Against his Prince a false invention;  
he will be discovered under his flag.*

This quatrain serves as a general introduction of Oliver Cromwell into the story. The first line reflects his military status – as a cavalry colonel with the parliament forces, yet he was also a politician, full of ‘intrigues through ambitions.’ These intrigues, & his brilliant military nous in a series of victorious battles, would see him taking command of the entire, or ‘greater part’ of the army. The ‘false invention’ mentioned could possibly refer to the death warrant condemning Charles to death – Cromwell was the third of fifty to sign it & one of the voices who pushed it to its bloody conclusion. It could also represent the Commonwealth which he set up in place of the monarchy. This would be in

direct opposition to his 'Prince' – the future King Charles II, who resided in exile in Paris. In the last line Cromwell is 'discovered under his flag' which is a reference to British acceptance of him as their Lord Protector – a role which he took on with a native pride.

8-37

*The fortress near the Thames  
will fall when the king is locked up inside.  
He will be seen in his shirt near the bridge,  
one facing death then barred inside the fortress.*

With Parliament controlling London & most of the English ports, & thus the flow of money into & round the country, it was inevitable that Parliament would win the civil war. On the end of hostilities, Charles handed himself over to the Scottish, who promptly passed him on to Cromwell & his cronies. In two remarkable quatrains, Nostradamus loses his usual vagueness & brings us to the scene with the eye & skill of a renaissance poet.

This clear-sighted quatrain concerns Whitehall Palace, the main residence of the English monarchs in London from 1530 until 1698. In the first line Nostradamus calls it 'the fortress near the Thames.' Whitehall Palace is situated on the banks of the Thames, a stone's throw from the government in Westminster. The fortress could be taken literally as a place defended by guards, or metaphorically as the symbol of Royal power in England. Indeed, this royal power would 'fall when the king is locked up inside,' as happened when he was sent there the night before his execution, when 'one facing death' was 'barred inside the fortress.' The third line can be easily explained, for the next morning thousands came to see the King's execution, when London's only 'bridge' (today's London Bridge) must have been jam-packed with eager sightseers. It is reported that the king wore an extra shirt to keep out the cold when he removed his cloak & stepped up to the axeman – this 'he will be seen in his shirt near the bridge.'

9-49

*Ghent and Brussels will march past Antwerp,*

*The Senate at London will put their King to death;  
Salt and wine will be applied contrariwise,  
So that they will set the whole kingdom in disarray.*

In this quatrain Nostradamus moves from the local detail of the King's execution, & brings us back into the general sweep of things by dating the time when 'the senate at London will put their king to death.' This second line is one of the most provocative in the Nostradamus canon - an amazing foresight into an event that will probably only happen once in history. What makes it all the stronger is the fact that our seer dates the prophecy!

Chronologically speaking, the events in the first line should happen before the death of Charles, & indeed, during 1648, there were military manoeuvres occurring in the region of Belgium. At that time the Spanish were involved in a protracted war with the Dutch, holding bases in Ghent & Brussels. However, following the signing of the treaty of Munster, a part of the general treaty of Westphalia, Antwerp was given her independence. When the Spanish soldiers took the field, instead of striking at Antwerp, they did indeed 'march past' the city, fulfilling the prophecy.

The reference in the third line to 'salt & wine' is open to interpretation. Both have religious connotations, & some commentators have surmised they mean wisdom & power. When 'applied contrariwise' wisdom & power become intrigue and violence! This is mere speculation on my behalf, but however we take the phrase, the salt & wine will 'set the whole kingdom in disarray' – a perfect description of a divided, paranoid Britain in the days & years following the execution of their king.

The quatrain is also interesting for its numbering, for Charles was executed in 1649 - & this is quatrain 49 of the ninth century.

By the shaven head a very bad choice will come to be made,  
Overburdened he will not pass the gate:  
He will speak with such great fury and rage,  
That to fire and blood he will consign the entire sex.

With the last quatrain of this chapter, we are introduced to the term 'shaven head.' In certain quatrains, the term refers to the Jews who suffered during the Holocaust. However, in others it refers to the Roundheads – the parliamentary soldiers whose helmets seemed to give its wearer a bald pate. 'The shaven head,' represents the body politik, led by Cromwell, whose 'very bad choice' to fight the king, debated heatedly 'with such great fury & rage,' would 'to fire & blood consign the entire sex.' The English Civil War was notorious for how it affected every family, where brother killed brother & every man had to choose his side. The meaning of the second line is very vague, but it could represent a very troubled & 'overburdened' parliament & its determination to see the chosen path through to the end. For once the gate to freedom's fields were opened, they did not pass it, but walked straight through.

1 -97

That which neither weapon nor flame could accomplish  
will be achieved by a sweet speaking tongue in council.  
Sleeping, in a dream, the king will see  
the enemy not in war or of military blood.

During the wars Charles had led a charmed life. Though present on many battlefields & shot at in skirmishes, he had escaped death. However, during his trial in 1649, that 'sweet speaking tongue in council,' he was sentenced to a death that 'neither weapon nor flame could accomplish.' The reference to the 'dream' is difficult to ascertain, but my interpretation is as follows. The events that passed in the ten days between his re-arrival in London & his execution must have felt like a dream to the former king. The once all-powerful monarch was now reduced to a helpless bystander as he watched the wheels of fate turn relentlessly towards his doom. Almost as if he was asleep & dreaming the entire episode of his trial. With the days of bloody battlefields over, his enemy now was 'not in

war or of military blood,' but the 135 Commissioners of the High Court sat in Westminster Hall, many of whom were civil men.

3 -50

The republic of the great city  
Will not want to consent to the great severity:  
King summoned by trumpet to go out,  
The ladder at the wall, the city will repent.

This quatrain refers to the doubts that many had about the King's execution. Since the King's capture, the country had indeed become a 'republic' centred on the 'great city' of London. The actual persecution of the king was done by a small minority of power-hungry parliamentarians, the general consensus of the public being the king should step down, but 'the great severity' of his execution would be tantamount to religious sacrilege. The king was indeed, 'summoned by trumpet to go out,' when he would step straight from Whitehall Palace through a window onto the scaffold. This is then what Nostradamus means by 'the ladder at the wall,' for it was up the scaffold steps that the executioner would go to do his bloody deed. When this was done & the King's head nestled in a basket, a great groan went up through the crowd, the realisation of what had happened reverberating round a guilty London, when soon enough 'the city will repent,' of what it had allowed to happen in its midst.

### **The Blood of the Just**

Nostradamus was an ultra-royalist & in these next quatrains he refers to Charles as 'the just one,' & to his legacy as 'the blood of the just.' It is amazing that each prophecy can be ascribed to events occurring in the years following Charles' death – a period of less than twenty years. In these quatrains our seer uses a semi-biblical tone, like some preacher damning the king's killers to fire & brimstone, as he speaks of the divine judgement wreaked on men for killing one of god's anointed rulers on Earth.

9-11

Wrongly will they come to put the just one to death,

In public and in the middle extinguished:  
So great a pestilence will come to arise in this place,  
That the judges will be forced to flee.

The first two lines refer to the actual execution of Charles, seen as wrong by Nostradamus, when he was 'extinguished' in the 'middle' of the 'public.' The next two lines of the quatrain are obviously a reference to the Black Death, that 'so great a pestilence' that tore through London in 1565. As the deaths in the poorer quarters escalated, the rich & the nobility, including 'the judges,' were 'forced to flee' the city. These were the same sort of people who had condemned Charles to death.

2 - 53

The great plague of the maritime city  
Will not cease until there be avenged the death  
Of the just blood, condemned for a price without crime,  
Of the great lady outraged by pretence.

This quatrain continues the story of the great plague that struck London, 'the maritime city.' It soon began to suffer over a thousand deaths a day, & it was almost a year before the city was declared safe to live in. The sufferings were enormous, & by the end over 100,000 lay dead. Was this a suitable revenge for the regicide of 'the just blood,' whose only crime was to live & act as his birthright intended. No, Nostradamus felt there would be more to come!

2 - 52

The blood of the just will commit a fault at London,  
Burnt through lightning of twenty threes the six:  
The ancient lady will fall from her high place,  
Several of the same sect will be killed.

This quatrain is one of the few to actually give a date - & what a date. The great fire of London took place in 1666 (twenty threes the six) - when the 'ancient lady' Saint Pauls' Cathedral, was destroyed. Indeed, it is on this prediction that a lot of Nostradamus' reputation rests. So much so, that when another of his prophecies

predicted the world's end in 1999, the world held its breath in a state of nervous fear!

8 -40

The blood of the Just for Taur and La Duarade  
in order to avenge itself against the Saturnines.  
They will immerse the band in the new lake,  
then they will march against Alba.

This is the last quatrain to mention 'the blood of the just,' one that is a little more elusive than the Hollywood blockbusters of the previous three prophecies. The whole quatrain covers the couple of years after the king's execution, up until the time that Oliver Cromwell invaded Scotland in 1650. So what does it all mean? Well, in the first line the name La Duarade has baffled commentators for centuries, but the word Taur is the ancient name for the Centaur. This mythological creature was the chosen heraldry for the 12<sup>th</sup> century King Stephen, another monarch whose reign had dissolved into civil war, when men said openly that 'Christ & his angels slept.' Does Nostradamus then compare the events of Charles' reign to those of Stephens? Does it refer to the legacy of Charles causing the country more strife, as it certainly did?

The next line refers to the blood of the just avenging itself upon 'the saturnines.' In Astrology, Saturn is associated with law & structure, governing ambition, career, authority and hierarchy. It also concerns a person's sense of duty, discipline and responsibility. This surely represents the new parliament of England which put their wayward king to death, instilling the nation with a sense of order from the chaos of his reign. The last two lines refer to the two wars which Cromwell fought to put down royalist risings with the 'band' that was the New Model Army. The first, against the 'new lake' of Ireland, a suitable description for the deep, moving waters of Irish politics that Britain was about to plunge into. The second war took place only nine months later, when Cromwell invaded Scotland, classically known as 'Alba.'

## **The Glorious Revolution**

As Nostradamus was the seer, he was also the historian, & not content to leave the story of the Civil War with Cromwell, he would extend his visions throughout the full aftermath of the death of the 'Just One.' The cause of the Stuart clan would only truly end in the boggy fields of Culloden a century later & our prophet predicted many events leading up to that battle. Four of them concern the restoration of the Stuarts to power'

10-40

The young heir to the British realm,  
Whom his dying father will have recommended:  
The latter dead Lonole will dispute with him,  
And from the son the realm demanded.

This quatrain is a crystal-clear account of the restoration of Charles II. By the time Oliver Cromwell died, he was not yet thirty, & 'the young heir to the British Realm' was eagerly welcomed back to the throne. The loss of their king had struck the nation to its core, an event that would have 'recommended' the return of the monarchy to the people. In the third line we possibly have a Nostradamian anagram – for Cromwell was known as Ole Nol (or Old Noll) – letter for letter an anagram of Lonole. If this is so, then the dead ghost of Cromwell would have disputed the return of monarchy. As the story of the Civil War is told by Nostradamus through Charles & Cromwell, it would seem fitting that in this last one to refer to those events, they should be together. The last line is a reference to Richard Cromwell, who inherited his father's role as Lord Protector – the 'son' from whom 'the realm demanded.'

4-89

Thirty of London will conspire secretly  
Against their King, the enterprise on the bridge:  
He and his satellites will have a distaste for death,  
A fair King elected, native of Frisia.

On the death of King Charles II, his brother, James II, took the throne. However, his devotion to Catholicism in a now protestant Britain made him an unpopular

ruler. The term 'thirty of London wil conspire secretly' refers to the nests of intrigue that bubbled beneath the social structure. The British had got rid of one rotten Stuart, & were prepared to do it again. The one they had chosen is amazingly presaged in the fourth line. William of Orange was the de facto ruler of Holland, a protestant & married to a Stuart. It was to him that the conspirators turned, 'a fair king elected' in their secret meetings. Amazingly enough, Nostradamus knew he would be a 'native of Frisia.' This is the name of the region that sweeps across Northern Holland, containing the royal city of The Hague where the young Prince was born & reared.

Delving deeper into the middle lines, 'the enterprise on the bridge' could mean the events occurring at that time would divide history into a time when the Stuart Kings would rule, & a time when they would not. James was a much different man from his father, Charles I, & neither him nor his court had any stomach for armed resistance, superbly predicted by Nostradamus when he wrote 'he and his satellites will have a distaste for death.'

10-22

For not wishing to consent to the divorce,  
Which then afterwards will be recognized as unworthy:  
The King of the Isles will be driven out by force,  
In his place put one who will have no mark of a king.

In this quatrain, Nostradamus further elaborates & the mechanisms which resulted in the Glorious Revolution of 1688. The 'divorce' mentioned in the first line is the breakaway of the Church of England, which began with the Pope's refusal to allow King Henry VIII to divorce his first wife. James' Catholic stance would soon be 'recognized as unworthy' by his people, & when William of Orange lands in the Wesy Country with 30,000 men, 'the king of the isles' was definitely 'driven out by force.' By saying William 'had no mark of king,' Nostradamus refers to the fact that, despite William of Orange being the Stadtholder of Holland – this was more of an elected stewardship, rather than god-anointed monarchy.

3-80

The worthy one chased out of the English realm,  
The adviser through anger put to the fire:  
His adherents will go so low to efface themselves  
That the bastard will be half received.

In this quatrain, Nostradamus still maintains his stance as to the Stuarts, but differentiates from Charles I by calling James II 'the worthy one.' Indeed, he was 'chased out of the English realm. As he was fleeing to France, back in London there was wholesale rioting & looting of Catholic houses & foreign embassies, when the papal 'adviser was put to the flame.' The third line refers to the Catholic response to their king's flight. In the three years since his accession to the throne the previously-persecuted Catholics had resurfaced & began to worship openly. But now this was all over, & so the 'adherents' i.e. followers of James, went 'so low to efface themselves.' Efface means to wipe out / erase any trace of – a perfect term to describe the way the Catholics retreated to the nooks & crannies of society. As for the last line, the bastard must mean William, for he was not James' blood, & as such he was an illegitimate claimant to the throne. He would only be 'half-received, for very soon Britain would be torn in two by the Jacobites clamouring for the return of the Stuarts.

## JACOBITES

### **Bonnie Prince Charlie**

From the moment James II fled for France, the struggle for the British Isles become blood-soaked & protracted, the two rival dynasties fighting tooth & claw for the crown. Those who followed the male Stuarts were known as Jacobites – Jacob is the latin word for James – the majority of which were Scottish, smarting over the fact that the English had deposed their true-born king. This struggle would carry on through two more generations, culminating in the efforts of

Charles Edward Stuart, better known as Bonnie Prince Charlie, to restore his father to the throne.

2 - 69

*The Gallic King through his Celtic right arm  
Seeing the discord of the great Monarchy:  
He will cause his scepter to flourish over the three parts,  
Against the cope of the great Hierarchy.*

The 'Gallic King,' is Louis XV, who in the middle of a war with England, encouraged his 'Celtic right arm' – Bonnie Prince Charlie – to invade Britain, the proverbial ace up the frilly sleeve. His decision the previous year to declare war on Britain had created 'discord' throughout that 'great monarchy.' By doing this, Louis caused 'his scepter to flourish over three parts,' – i.e. his royal will caused England, Scotland & Wales to enter into civil war. All this, of course, was 'against the cope of the great hierarchy' – the powers that controlled Great Britain. The use of the word Cope is an interesting one, as it was Sir Jonathan Cope that would be the first general to meet Bonnie Prince Charlie in battle.

8-56

*The weak band will occupy the land,  
those of high places will make dreadful cries.  
The large herd of the outer corner troubled,  
near Edinburgh it falls discovered by the writings.*

This quatrain is a very accurate description of the battle of Prestonpans, 1745, the first pitched contest of the rebellion. En route to it Charles army of only 2000 men – the weak band – had occupied Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, thus bringing depth & meaning to the expression 'occupy the land.' His army consisted of men from the Highland clans – 'those of high places' – who terrified the English soldiers with their fearsome charge, driven on by shouts & the skirl of pipes as they made their 'dreadful cries.' The 'large herd' is the British army, led by Sir Jonathan Cope, who found themselves in a bloody slaughter at the 'outer corner' – that is East Lothian, which on a map appears as a square corner of land. It took only ten minutes for the English army to turn tail & flee, less than

ten miles, or 'near' Edinburgh. The expression 'discovered by the writings,' could mean a number of things. It could possibly mean the way the shocking news was spread & disseminated across the world through newspapers, when readers would 'discover' that the Jacobite rising of 1745 was in full swing. Newspapers did not exist in Nostradamus' day, so his vagueness can be understood.

6-28

The great Celt will enter Rome,  
Leading a throng of the exiled and banished:  
The great Pastor will put to death every man  
Who was united at the Alps for the cock.

Following his defeat at Culloden, Bonnie Prince Charlie was hunted as a fugitive for more than five months, before escaping to France in September 1746. For a number of years the prince would wander about Europe, before returning to Italy, where he spent his last years. Once back in Rome, 'the great Celt' was given the Mutu palace to set up his rival court, therefore 'leading a throng of the exiled & banished.' Rome was to be the physical centre of Jacobite world, with both the old & new pretenders being buried there, a beacon for the cause. The last two lines are another example of Nostradamian vagueries, however a little creative imagination can shed light on their meaning. The word pastor means either shepherd (latin) or a protestant official. If 'the cock' means France, then the latter half of prophecy can be interpreted thus. The 'Great Pastor' is the protestant cause, in this instance led by Britain. After Culloden the British monarchy ordered the wholesale removal of the Scottish Highlanders, so they would never rise again. Led by the victor of Culloden, the Duke of Cumberland, the highlander population was either killed or transplanted to America. The fourth line indicates that these highlanders, through their association with the Bonnie Prince, were united with France. I believe that when Nostradamus envisioned this particular prophecy he saw a mountainous country, & mistook the Scottish highlands for the Alps.

## NAPOLEON

9-33

*Hercules King of Rome and of "Annemark,"  
With the surname of the chief of triple Gaul,  
Italy and the one of St. Mark to tremble,  
First monarch renowned above all.*

This general quatrain on Napoleon, contains some wonderful accuracies. Beginning with the last line first, the 'first monarch renowned above all' is obviously Napoleon. His incredible energy was often described as Herculean, & he even called himself the 'King of Rome' – a name he would give to his son. His 'surname' would become world famous as the emperor of a resurgent French – the 'chief of triple Gaul.' Triple Gaul is a name used by Caesar to describe the ancient Gaulish nation – a possible clever comparison between those two emperors by our seer. In the third line the reference to Saint Mark either signifies the Venetians, whose Cathedral & Square to Saint Mark dominate the city, or to the English, for both they & saint Mark used the lion as a representative symbol.

## The French Revolution

Of all of the events Nostradamus connected with, there is a particular family of which he, as a Frenchman, wrote prolifically & insightfully. These are the ones in that occurred in the age of Napoleon Bonaparte, probably the leading Frenchman of all time. The prolificacy which our seer wrote quatrains identifiable with the French Emperor is remarkable. That globally famous man went on to shake the foundations of the world in such a way as we can ascribe to him the mantle of 'The First Anti-christ.' A Nostradamian antichrist will upturn the very fibres of society - & Napoleon was the living embodiment of the revolutionary fervour that swept through France & eventually most of Europe. In his epistle to Henry

II, Nostradamus wrote *'the Christian Church will be persecuted more fiercely than it ever was in Africa, and this will last up to the year 1792, which they will believe to mark a renewal of time.'* By naming the year of the French revolution – the birth of the modern world - as marking a renewal of time is an amazing prophecy. However, in the following quatrain Nostradamus became even more accurate;

1 -14

*From the enslaved populace, songs, chants and demands,  
while Princes and Lords are held captive in prisons.  
These will in the future by headless idiots  
be received as divine prayers*

This as a very accurate prediction, each line dense with prophecy. In the first two lines, the 'enslaved populace' is the French people, living as they did in a semi-feudal nation ruled by the aristocracy. As arrest upon arrest of the nobility, the 'Princes & Lords' filled the prisons, the people sang songs such as the Marseillaise, chanting for the heads of the aristocrats & making vocal 'demands' of Libertie! In the third line there is a good example of the punning of Nostradamus, a device he often uses, when he described the soon-to-be-guillotined aristocrats of France as 'headless idiots.' The last line is more subtle, but I believe refers to the conjoined protestations of the masses referred to in the first line – the vox populi which invoked god & the heavens to elicit them their freedom - returning to Earth as the voice of god – the vox dei – wreaking revenge on their former slavemasters with such a terrible fury.

6-23

*Coins depreciated by the spirit of the realm,  
And people will be stirred up against their King:  
New peace made, holy laws become worse,  
Paris was never in so severe an array.*

This quatrain accurately predicts strife that tore through France following the storming of the Bastille in 1789. This new 'spirit of the realm' severely affected the economics of the country – when 'coins' were indeed 'depreciated.' Between the onset of revolution & the execution of Louis XVI, a strange peace descended on the French, where the 'holy laws' – those sacred to the kings of France – were

replaced by those issuing out from the new National Assembly of France – which only served to exacerbate the tensions arising from the revolution. The issue of civil war bubbled constantly during these momentous times, & would sometimes spill out into open conflict on the streets of the capital, when ‘Paris was never in so severe an array.’

1- 3

When the litters are overturned by the whirlwind  
and faces are covered by cloaks,  
the new republic will be troubled by its people.  
At this time the reds and the whites will rule wrongly.

In the above quatrain, details such as places & names are not present, but it does well as a general overview to the French Revolution. The ‘whirlwind’ is the force of change surging through France, when ‘litters are overturned.’ These litters are a symbolic reference to the litters in which the aristocracy were carried by their footmen. The second line is quite ambiguous, with possible meanings of the hypocrisy that surround the formation of the new republic, or even a veiled references to the hoods donned by the damned as they stepped up to the guillotine. The last two lines auger the tensions which the virgin republic would find itself – when ‘reds & the whites will rule wrongly.’ The royalists are the whites, wearing the white lily of the bourbons on their cockades, while the reds are the republicans.

8 -19

To support the great troubled Cappe;  
the reds will march in order to clarify it;  
a family will be almost overcome by death,  
the red, red ones will knock down the red one.

Of the four quatrains that accurately predict the French Revolution, it is only with this one that we are given a name - ‘Cappe’ - & a very obscure one at that. However, if we twist the word a little, as with many Nostradamian names, we will find ‘Capet.’ The Capets were the ruling dynasty of France for several centuries before their untimely demise at the hands of Madame Guillotine, when ‘a family will almost be overcome with death.’ The references to the ‘red ones’

has been shown to mean the Republicans. On many occasions would they take to the streets of France & march in protest – on certain occasions even marching ‘to support the great troubled’ king himself. The last line makes reference to the ‘red, red ones’ - the extremist, extra-revolutionary Jacobin party which defeated, or ‘knocked down,’ the more moderate republicans.

6-74

The banished woman shall return to power,  
her enemies found to be conspirators:  
more than ever she shall triumph over her time,  
three-and-seventy to only too certain death

This, the last of the quatrains we can say that Nostradamus fully envisioned concerning the French Revolution, contains a sensational sense of time. With the death of Louis XVI, France was in the full reign of the goddess Liberty. However, following the battle of Montenotte in 1797, a young republican upstart named Napoleon Bonaparte began his penetration of the power vacuum, filling it with his own sense of nobility. This would eventually lead to a delirious French people crowning him as emperor, when from him would follow a succession of royal, absolutist rulers, either Bourbon or Bonaparte, until the fall of Napoleon III at Sedan in 1870. At this point the still existing French republic was reborn, when ‘more than ever she shall triumph over time,’ & finally, ‘three-&-seventy’ years after royalty returned to France, it faced its ‘only too certain death.’

## **Napoleon**

In the aftermath of the French revolution the scene was historically set for a new direction for this fledgling republic of France, one of an empire forged in war – a war that arose directly from revolution.

1 - 60

*An Emperor will be born near Italy,  
who will cost the Empire very dearly.  
They will say, when they see his allies,  
that he is less a prince than a butcher.*

Napoleon was born in Ajaccio, on Corsica - an island equidistant from France & Italy. A year previously the island had been surrendered by the Italians to France, another meaning for being 'born near Italy' – this time chronologically. The second line is a reference to the million Frenchmen who lost their lives on his battlefields, & to the poverty the populace encountered in the latter years of his reign. The last two lines contain a sparkling reference to the social standing of Napoleon & his 'allies,' the Marshalls of France. The Bounapartes were a hard-up middle class family, thus the term 'butcher,' in comparison with his future regal standing as a 'prince,' is a perfect description of the social status he was born into. This sense which Nostradamus picked up on is given extra weight by the fact that the Marshalls were mainly 'commoners' who gained promotion through the ranks on sheer merit, rather than the traditional method of aristocratic inheritance.

4-54

*Of the name which no Gallic King ever had  
Never was there so fearful a thunderbolt,  
Italy, Spain and the English trembling,  
Very attentive to a woman and foreigners.*

Napoleon would become emperor of the French – a 'name which no Gallic King ever had!' The second line is a perfect description of the effect this errant Corsican had on the continent of Europe, who toppled the Royal Houses of the Ancien Regime like a pack of cards. This 'fearful thunderbolt' unsettled many nations – all three nations mentioned in the third line would find themselves bloodily drawn into his megalomania. In the last line, Nostradamus magnificently encapsulates Napoleon's love for his dear Josephine & the attention he paid to the foreign dignitaries that were an ever present in his court.

10-32

*The great empire, everyone would be of it,  
One will come to obtain it over the others:  
But his realm and state will be of short duration,*

*Two years will he be able to maintain himself on the sea.*

In these quatrains Nostradamus is at his simplest & best. The 'great empire' is post revolutionary France, who was technically run by the people, when 'everyoone would be of it.' Out of all these people, only Napoeloen would 'come to obtain it over the others,' crowning *himself* emporer. The third line is an exact description of the French Empire under Napoleon, which lasting for less than twenty years was indeed 'of short duration.' The last line is also an amazing insight. After the frail, short-lasting peace of Amiens of 1802, Britain & France were back at loggerheads within the year. The situation spurred Napoleon on to create a navy that would match The British 'on the sea.' He made wholesale changes & improvements to the way the French Navy ran & manned the ships he was building at a fierce rate. The navy ate up a large portion of the country's revenues as his 'grand dessein' was put into place. However, the Battle of the Trafalgar in 1805 virtually destroyed France as a naval force – after having 'for two years' maintained himself 'on the sea.'

## **Early Campaigns**

The French Empire which Napoleon built up was based on a string of military successes. For feats of arms he was a genius of the first order, a talent which would see the young, anonymous Leutenant of 1793 become the leader of France within ten years. The following quatrains are just a sample of those prophecies which Nostradamus gleaned as to the early glories of Napoleon's career.

4-37

*The Gaul will come to penetrate the mountains by leaps:*

*He will occupy the great place of Insubria:*

*His army to enter to the greatest depth,*

*Genoa and Monaco will drive back the red fleet.*

Only two men have ever crossed the Alps in a military fashion, Hannibal & Napoleon, thus the reference to 'the Gaul will come to penetrate the mountains by leaps,' is an amazing prophecy. This Napoleon did in 1797, where he drove the Austrians out of 'the great place' of Lombardy (Northern Italy), the ancient name for which is 'Insubria.' His army did indeed 'enter to the greatest depth,' throughout that campaign permeating through Lombardy both sides of the river Po as far as Venice. Eventually he would go on to conquer the whole of Italy, which could also be another meaning for the expression. Pertaining to the last line, with his occupation of Genoa, Napoleon had a grip on the Mediterranean ports, enough to drive back the red fleet – probably the British, whose flags were often mainly scarlet.

6-79

*Near the Ticino the inhabitants of the Loire,  
Garonne and Saône, the Seine, the Tain and Gironde:  
They will erect a promontory beyond the mountains,  
Conflict given, Po enlarged, submerged in the wave.*

This quatrain concerns the 'invasion' of Lombardy by the French, when soldiers from diverse places of France, from regions of rivers such as the Loire & Seine. Suddenly all these men are near the Ticino, a tributary of the Po, the main artery of Northern Italy. The mention of the Ticino is another clever comparison by Nostradamus of Napoleon with Hannibal. The battle of Ticinus was the first conflict between Carthage & Rome on Italian soil, which Hannibal won. The result of which saw the whole of Northern Italy unofficially ally themselves with the invading general who had liberated them from the imperial yoke – an exact mirror of Napoleon pushing out the Austrians from Lombardy. The 'promontory' must be the new face of officialdom which stretched into Lombardy from Paris, whose imperial eyes saw everything. In the last line Nostradamus continues the metaphorical tone begun in the first two lines, by comparing soldiers to rivers. The arrival in the valley of the Po, when 'conflict given,' 'enlarged' the military presence in an area so much that Lombardy was practically one large military camp, & hence, 'submerged by the wave.'

2-22

*The imprudent army of Europe will depart,*

*Collecting itself near the submerged isle:  
The weak fleet will bend the phalanx,  
At the navel of the world a greater voice substituted.*

In this quatrain, Nostradamus is concerned with Napoleon's invasion of Egypt in 1798, a year after conquering Lombardy. Napoleon, like all great megalomaniacs, was obsessed with the Oriental question & managed to get permission from the directory of France to raise an army. It was a romantic notion, based on imperial fantasy rather than common sense, & so this 'imprudent army' departed for Egypt. The 'submerged isle' referred to is the Lighthouse of Pharos, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. By Napoleon's day, earthquakes & subsidence had seen that once proud structure disappear beneath the harbour of Alexandria. The third line refers to the Battle of the Nile, where Nelson's 'weak fleet' of only fourteen ships completely destroyed their French counterparts. This action would strand Napoleon & his soldiers in Egypt, which could be seen as 'bend the phalanx' – the phalanx being the dense body of soldiers that was Napoleon's army. The last line is a grand piece of poetic insight from our seer, showing his understanding of global geopolitics. The navel of the world has always been the classical seas of the Aegean & Tyrranean seas where in nations such as Greece & Rome modern culture was born & nurtured. The 'greater voice' referred to must be the British, whose hegemony over these milky mediterranean waves would begin at this moment.

3-23

*If, France, you pass beyond the Ligurian Sea,  
You will see yourself shut up in islands and seas:  
Mahomet contrary, more so the Adriatic Sea:  
You will gnaw the bones of horses and asses.*

This last quatrain continues the story of Napoleon's doomed sortie to the East. To get there, any French ship sailing east would have to pass through the 'Ligurian Sea' around Genoa. By invading Egypt, this sent a traditionally western-thinking nation east, where after the battle of the Nile they were 'shut up in islands & seas' such as in Malta where the garrison was besieged for two years. The term 'mahomet contrary' predicts the hostilities which broke out between Napoleon & the muslims as he tried, unsuccessfully, to conquer the Holy Land. Eventually

Napoleon would abandon his now wretched, plague-stricken army, & sailed for home. Those left behind were forced to fend for themselves in a hostile land, where starvation forced them to 'gnaw the bones of horses & asses.' The third-line mention of the 'Adriatic Sea' being more contrary than the Muslims refers to the route these soldiers abandoned at Acre had to take, through the enemy-teeming Ottoman territories in the Greek islands that lay between them & safety.

## **Napoleon – the middle years**

In 1804 Napoleon became the emperor of the French & immediately began to further the French Empire, placing his brothers Joseph, Louis & Jerome on the thrones of Europe. Nostradamus foresaw this turn of events when he wrote '*Mars will take up his horrible throne, the Cock and the Eagle, France and the three brothers.*' These next four quatrains are all concerned with that high imperial era;

*Within Boulogne he will cleanse himself of sins.*

*He cannot at the Temple of the Sun.*

*He will depart performing great things.*

*In leadership he has no equal.*

One of the first adventures the new emperor embarked upon was an invasion of England. He amassed two hundred thousand men on the coast of Northern France, setting up his capital at Boulogne. There, he would have many times absolved himself with Catholic Priests at confessions, to 'cleanse himself of sins.' However, soon the British Navy would put paid to any hopes Napoleon had of invasion, the reference to the Temple of the Sun could mean the Roman Temple of Apollo in London, destroyed in AD 154, lying somewhere deep under Westminster Abbey. The term 'cannot' represents the failure of his plans. But Napoleon was not to be robbed of his battle, & instead turned his army round & marched them straight to Austerlitz, 'performing great things' en route, leading up to that famous victory. From that moment on the world would respect him in the arts of government & war – when 'in leadership he has no equal.'

3-1

*After combat and naval battle,*

*The great Neptune in his highest belfry:  
Red adversary will become pale with fear,  
Putting the great Ocean in dread.*

This quatrain deals with the aftermath of the 'combat & naval battle' off Cape Trafalgar in 1805. Following Nelson's victory, the highwater mark of the Royal Navy, the British were seen as untouchable on water – becoming the 'Great Neptune in his highest belfry.' From then on Napoleon, the 'great adversary,' of the 'red' flags of the British navy, would never engage them on the water again – becoming 'pale with fear.' Napoleon would now never trust the sea & remained firmly rooted to the soil of Europe, 'putting the great Ocean in dread.'

Though defeated at sea, Napoleon was omnipresent on land, & was slowly spreading his empire across the continent of Europe. After the treaty of Tilsit in 1807, when Europe was divided between France & Russia, a transitory state of calmness settled on the continent. Now 'under one,' that is Napoleon, the 'divine word' of fate had been 'accomplished,' with peace coming to Europe. However, this was not destined to last, & in 1808 Napoleon subtly invaded Spain, dethroned the ruling monarchs & replaced them with his brother, Joseph, when 'Spain & Gaul will be united together.' The last two lines refer to the terrible, 'very bitter' combat of the six-year Peninsular War. This 'great disaster' would indeed test the nerve of many souls, when 'no heart will be so hardy as not to tremble.'

3-68

*Leaderless people of Spain and Italy  
Dead, overcome within the Peninsula:  
Their dictator betrayed by irresponsible folly,  
Swimming in blood everywhere in the latitude.*

Nostradamus made a number of predictions concerning the Peninsular war, but this is one is the most powerful in its towering simplicity, hauntingly reminiscent of the actual events that came to pass. The first line refers to the nations which had been struck 'leaderless' by Napoleon's usurpations of power. He would also conscript the young men of Spain & Italy for his armies, which would see them 'dead, overcome within the peninsula.' The war on many occasions went

decisively against the French, becoming a running sore. To both Napoleon & Nostradamus, the cause of this was all down to the ineptitude of his Marshals, when the 'dictator' was 'betrayed by irresponsible folly.' The last line sums up the course of the war very well, a very vicious one, affecting soldier & civilian alike, all 'swimming in blood.' The term 'latitude' refers to the rather linear course of the war, which would ebb & flow along a set route between Madrid & Lisbon, fortresses being taken & retaken according to the season.

## **Napoleon – the fall**

At some point the Napoleonic bubble had to burst. This occurred during his arrogant War with Russia in 1812, when over half a million soldiers of the grand armee met their deaths. This was the catalyst for the nations of Europe to rise up against their French oppressors, & soon Napoleon was facing a coalition of every country in Europe.

*The French nation will be in great grief,  
vain and lighthearted, they will believe rash things.  
No bread, salt, wine nor water, venom nor ale,  
the greater one captured, hunger, cold and want.*

This quatrain perfectly describes the atmosphere in France during the latter years of Napoleon's reign. The country was driven to very dire straits as the Allied coalition entered France at several points. The 'grief' refers to the loss of so many of her young sons on the battlefields, who 'vain & lighthearted' went to war for their emperor. The last two lines refer to the lack of even the most basic commodities the majority of that war-wracked country had to endure. But it is the term 'the greater one captured' that is the key to the whole quatrain, for Napoleon was forced to abdicate & hand himself over to whim of the Allies, resulting in his prison-like exile on the island of Elba.

4-70

*Quite contiguous to the great Pyrenees mountains,*

*One to direct a great army against the Eagle:  
Veins opened, forces exterminated,  
As far as Pau will he come to chase the chief.*

This quatrain can be assigned to the Duke of Wellington. Before defeating Napoleon for the final time at Waterloo, the British General earned his spurs in the Peninsular war, being 'quite contiguous' – i.e. near. – 'to the great Pyrynees mountains.' He was 'one to direct a great army against the eagle,' that is the imperial eagles of the French army. The third line shows how much the six year war affected the French, with an apt description of their 'veins' being 'opened' as vast resources of money & men bled into the penisular – with many 'forces exterminated.' The last line refers to the march in 1814 that Wellington undertook, pushing the French back through the Pyrynees, indeed chasing the leader of the French army, Marshall Soult, 'as far as Pau.' Pau is a town in southern France, whose region saw the penultimate action in the Peninsular war. Two lines from another of Nostradamus' prophecies perfectly sum up the end of that war - *Two great brothers (Napoleon & Joseph) will be chased out of Spain, The elder (Joseph) conquered under the Pyrenees mountains.*

10-34

*The Gaul who will hold the empire through war,  
He will be betrayed by his minor brother-in-law:  
He will be drawn by a fierce, prancing horce,  
The brother will be hated for the deed for a long time*

Of all the prophecies concerning Napoleon, this is one of the cleverest. The first line is obviously Napoleon, who in the second line is 'betrayed by his minor brother-in-law.' This is a blatant presagery of Marshall Joachim Murat, who married Napoleon's youngest sister, Caroline, & was given the crowns of Sicily & Naples. The betrayal occurred after the battle of Leipzig in 1813, when Murat dealt independently with the Austrians to save his own throne. Napoleon must have felt humiliated & dejected at this, for it was he who had given him the title of First Horseman of Europe, the 'fierce, prancing horse,' of Nostradamian vision. Then it is easy to understand that in the last line our seer says Murat 'will be hated for the deed for a long time' – even to this day there are many in France who condemn his perfidious actions.

1 - 32

*The great Empire will soon be exchanged  
for a small place, which soon will begin to grow.  
A small place of tiny area  
in the middle of which he will come to lay down his scepter.*

This last quatrain is very famous, & rightly so, for it amazingly predicts Napoleon's exile on a small sea-beaten rock. Is it Elba or Saint Helena? Perhaps in the Nostradamian fashion it is both! Obviously, when sent to exile the 'great empire will soon be exchanged for a small place.' The expression 'which soon will begin to grow' lends itself more toward Elba, for not long after his exile there, Napoleon would temporarily reclaim his empire. On the other hand the chief passion of Napoleon on Saint Helena was gardening. That particular island is indeed a 'place of tiny area' (47 square miles) deep in the watery wastes of the South Atlantic. This was the place that Napoleon would finally 'lay down his sceptre.' The term 'in the middle' refers to Longwood House, the place of residence for the former emperor & his entourage, which is situated four miles inland, roughly along the central spine of the the island.

### **Napoleon III**

The first Napoleon died on Elba, & with him went the passing of an age. Also with him went the visionary insight of the age that had possessed Nostradamus three hundred years previously. It is as though the heat of encountering the first Antichrist had inspired the Provencal soothsayer to such a degree, that quatrain after quatrain of amazingly accurate foresight flowed from his pen. This fire would then cease quite swiftly, before burning fiercely again in the age of the second Antichrist – Adolf Hitler. In the century that passed between Waterloo & the First World War, there are only a handful of prophecies that can be safely identified. Of these, there are four excellent quatrains concerning Napoleon III, the nephew of his great predecessor;

*By the fall or ruin of two bastard things  
 The nephew by blood will occupy the realm;  
 In Lectoyre there will be blows by darts,  
 The nephew will fold up his standard for very fear.*

This quatrain prophesies the rise & fall of Napoleon III. The two ‘bastard things’ alluded to in the first line are the reign of Louis-Phillipe & the Second Republic of France, whose revolution in 1848 took command of France from the former. The reasons they are bastards is as follows; the French republic was indeed brought into the world ‘illigitamately,’ – that is to say without the consent of natural monarchy. For Luois-Phillipe, despite the fact he was a Bourbon, it was only on account of the illegal regicide of his distant cousins that brought him to the throne. Even then, it came about after an abdication, of Charles X, who had named his grandson as the successor. Louis-Phillipe, howvere, had other ideas & took the throne for himself. The grandson, better known as the Comte de Chambord, later became the pretender to Louis-Philippe's throne and was supported by many nobles known as Legitimists – therefore Luois-Phillipe, in opposition, would naturally be an ‘illigitamist!’

The second line is an amazing accuracy on the part of our prophet from Provence. Napoelon Bonapartes brother, Louis, had marries the daughter of Josephine. The son they produced, appropriately born in the royal Palace of the Tuileries was Louis Napoleon, a ‘nephew by blood.’ On two occasions was he leader of France – as president of the first republic &, in 1852, the Emporer of the second empire. It is to this second occasion that Nostradamus alludes when he says ‘occupy the realm’ – for indeed emperors lay claim to owning the very soil & air of their possessions. The third line is an enigma, but Lectotyre possibly comes from the latin lecto, which means to punish. If so, the line means Napoleon III is punished through battle. This indeed would happen, at the famous siege of Sedan, when he would find himself captured by the Prussians. Not long after, he went into exile in England, to ‘fold up his standard for very fear,’ the banners of his imperial cause furred up forever. There is also an interesting anagramatical connection with Lectotyre & the events prophesied. If you draw a straight line between Paris & Sedan, the impulse-epicentres of this

prophecy, there is a town called Torcy in the Aisne Department of France, once spelt Torcey. Now in French 'the Torcey' is 'Le Torcey' – a perfect anagram!

## 1The Great War

Following their defeat of Napoleon III at Sedan, the Prussians went on to invade France & besiege Paris, eventually winning the war. This caused simmering resentment among all Frenchmen, just one of the reasons which saw Europe sprint towards the sanguine cataclysm that was the Great War. This war was, in fact, a family duel, between three of Queen Victoria's grandchildren; Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany, Tsar Alexander of Russia & King George of Britain. As we shall see, Nostradamus saw their familial relationship in a number of prophecies which concern the first world war.

8-60

*First in Gaul, first in Romania,  
over land and sea against the English and Paris.  
Marvelous deeds by that great troop,  
violent, the wild beast will lose Lorraine.*

This quatrain seems to predict the course of the entire war from the German perspective. It is the last line that gives us the clue to this, for after the Great War the 'violent,' 'wild beast' Germany was forced to give up Alsace & Lorraine. En route to defeat, her army, that 'great troop' conducted many 'marvellous deeds' & for four long years fought 'over land & sea against the English & Paris.'

In the very first line the Nostradamian use of the word Romania is a possible duality. It could represent the actual country of Romania, which found itself at war with Germany in 1916 as France's ally. However, this is unusual, seeing as the country only came about in 1859 after the merging of Moldavia & Wallachia. It possibly represents Tsarist Russia, which the Romanov dynasty married into during Nostradamus' lifetime. If it does mean Russia, then the first line is a direct reference to the Schliemann plan, implemented by the Kaiser in 1914, an offensive action which invaded, or attack'd 'first,' both Russia & France.

2 - 34

*The senseless ire of the furious combat  
Will cause steel to be flashed at the table by brothers:  
To part them death, wound, and curiously,  
The proud duel will come to harm France.*

Again, Nostradamus encapsulates the very essence of the First World War. In the first line, the strange, desperate war of the trenches, has always been perceived 'senseless ire,' when massive amounts of blood were spilt in the 'furious combat.' The second line is a reference to the way the war was directed. Although fought by millions of contestants over several continents, The Great War was primarily a family affair, fought by three grandsons of Queen Victoria - King George IV, Kaiser Wilhelm & Tsar Nicholas II. These 'brothers' are mentioned in other first world war quatrains; 'Those at ease will suddenly be cast down, the world put into trouble by three brothers.' They were in fact cousins, but thought themselves as brother-kings. They would fight their wars far from the muddy battlefields, but safely at home in their palaces, pouring over maps on their 'tables.' In his epistle to Henry II, Nostradamus wrote, "*There will be great differences between the three brothers, and then there will be such great cooperation and agreement between them that the three and four parts of Europe will tremble,*" if we take their cooperation & agreement as meaning their willingness to war together, then this is yet another example of Nostradamian foreight. In the third line, then term 'part' represents the no-mans land that sprung up between the trenches, which was full of 'death' & 'wound.' The fourth line accurately predicts the war will be fought on French soil, whose fertile fields were turned into desolate wastelands.

7-7

*Upon the struggle of the great light horses,  
it will be claimed that the great crescent is destroyed.  
To kill by night, in the mountains,  
dressed in shepherds' clothing, red gulfs in the deep ditch.*

In another excellent quatrain, Nostradamus refers to the army of Arabs, led by TH Lawrence, who on their 'great light horses' fought against the Turks in the holy land. It was at the end of this war that the Ottoman Empire, the 'great

crescent,' finally crumbled. The course of this war was often one of guerrilla nature, hence 'to kill by night, in the mountains.' The final line is a reference to the clothing that the Arabs wore during the conflict, who with their shawls & head-dresses looked like Bedouin goat-farmers, or dressed in 'shepherds clothing.'

9 -36

*A great King taken by the hands of a young man,  
Not far from Easter confusion knife thrust:  
Everlasting captive times what lightning on the top,  
When three brothers will wound each other and murder.*

This quatrain is dated in its last line, with a reference to the 'three brothers,' of the Tsar, Kaiser & King George. Working backwards through the quatrain, we encounter 'everlasting captive times,' which represents the way the world was sucked into the grip of war, from food rationing to conscription. The 'lightning on top,' could well mean the electricity that surged through mankind during the war, powering the living zeitgeist that was determined on the self-destruction of mankind. The second line perfectly highlights the Easter Rising in Dublin. In the 'confusion' of war, the Irish independent movement saw its chance & claimed independence with a 'knife thrust,' into the heart of Dublin, seizing all many government buildings. As this occurred during 1916, then 'not far' from then would perfectly fit in with 1917, when the 'great king,' Tsar Alexander, was forcibly removed by the 'young man' that was the fledgeling Communist state of Soviet Russia.

4-43

*Arms will be heard clashing in the sky:  
That very same year the divine ones enemies:  
They will want unjustly to discuss the holy laws:  
Through lightning and war the complacent one put to death.*

This quatrain is another general sweep of the times, ending with the Soviet decision to put their former Tsar to death. The First World War was the first to

see ariel combat, when 'arms will be heard clashing in the sky.' This was 1915, the year when the 'divine one,' the supposedly heaven-appointed heads of state, were 'enemies.' Whenever Nostradamus uses the word 'just,' it usually refers to royalty. Then in the third line 'they will want unjustly to discuss' represents a body of power without royal assent – or in this case the Communist Party. The mention of 'Holy Laws' represents the stance taken by the party, which was very anti-religious in tone, indeed making atheism the official state religion of Russia. The last line represents the murder of the Tsar & his family at ...., caused by the 'lightning' bolt of the Russian revolution. Its leading exponent, Lenin, once said, 'Communism is Soviet power plus the electrification of the entire country.' Both this & the 'war' would strike the 'complacent' ruler of Russia, that figurehead of royal privilege, who had thought power was his by birthright, not by strength in leadership. He was indeed 'put to death,' massacred with the rest of his family at .....

The Russian experience of the First World War was a mixed one. It began as with the other Powers, in a bloody deadlock. However, toward the end of the war the Russian Revolution occurred, ousting the Romanovs from the rule & replacing it with the communist rule of the people. All this was keenly foreseen by Nostradamus.

5-26

*The slavish people through luck in war*

*Will become elevated to a very high degree:*

*They will change their Prince, one born a provincial,*

*An army raised in the mountains to pass over the sea.*

This quatrain is an amazing prophecy as to the events of the Russian Revolution in 1917. The term 'slavish' means both the Slavs that made up the Russian populace, & the feudalistic chains that tied them to the Tsar. When they overturned his rule, the people were 'elevated to a high degree,' when they set up the communist system of power & Russia was ruled by the common man. This would eventually lead to Vladimir Lenin becoming the leader of the Soviet Union, who was 'born a provincial,' in Ulyanovsk, a thousand kilometres from

Moscow. The last line is a reference to the Civil War which broke out after the Revolution, between Bolshevik & anti-bolshevik. During the war, general Deniken of the White Forces, built up an army of men from the Caucasus, a very mountainous region of Russia. The course of the war would eventually lead them to 'pass over the sea' to the Crimea, where they made their last stand.

8-65

*The old man disappointed in his main hope,  
will attain to the leadership of his Empire.  
Twenty months he will hold rule with great force,  
a tyrant, cruel, giving way to one worse.*

The first stanza seems to predict the rule of Lenin, He came to absolute power, or 'leadership of his empire' in 1922 & died in January 1924, approximately 'twenty months' later. He lay 'disappointed' on his death bed, for Russia was still seething since the revolution & many of his Bolshevik ideals were yet to be realised. Through his creation of a secret police & heavy handed rule, many would see him as a 'tyrant.' However, on his death one 'worse' than him would take command, on of the most brutal dictators who ever lived, a man called Joe Stalin.

8-80

*The blood of innocents, widow and virgin,  
so many evils committed by means of the Great Red One,  
holy images placed over burning candles,  
terrified by fear, none will be seen to move.*

In this last quatrain see the reign of terror implemented by Stalin is vividly foreseen. Through a series of purges, artificially created famines, land grabs & Siberian Gulags, the Russian people suffered enormously when 'so mane evils committed' under the 'great red one.' The reference in the third line of 'holy images' being burnt by 'burning candles' is an accurate prophecy relating to the continuous Communist persecution of organised religion. By th time the second world war broke out active parishes, which were at 54,000 in 1917, were reduced to less than 500. It was not just the churches which were oppressed, vast swathes of the populace were 'terrified by fear, during the regime, when 'none will be seen to move' against the powers that be for fear of reprisals.

## Hitler

The prophecies of that obscure Provençal seer were beginning to gain kudos & world renown. However, it would be with the series connected with the second world war that his reputation would soar into orbit. In them he even mentions the second of his three antichrists, the global demagogue Hitler, by name. Well, almost. He actually wrote 'Hister,' the old word for the River Danube. However, when taken with the prophecies of a greater Germany led by 'the Hister,' the river by which Hitler was actually born, our seer could only have meant one thing.

Then out of the ashes of the First World War would arise a man named Adolf Hitler. As Napoleon was foreseen a hundred years before him, Nostradamus would have many visions concerning this demonic demagogue & his wars upon the Earth. These prophecies were also noticed by the esoteric upper orders of the Nazi High command, who saw it as proof of their Fuhrers destiny & distributed their interpretations to an ever-eager German people.

3-58

*Near the Rhine from the Noric mountains*

*Will be born a great one of people come too late,*

*One who will defend Sarmatia and the Pannonians,*

*One will not know what will have become of him.*

This quatrain is a wonderful Nostradamian sweep of a subject, pregnant with possibilities, this time, with remarkable accuracies, it is the life of Adolf Hitler. It begins with him 'from the Noric mountains,' that segment of the alps that sweeps through southern Austria – Hitler's homeland. The expression 'near the Rhine,' represents his affinity to the German people & their sacred river. This river formed a very important cog in Hitler's power machine, for after the Rhineland was taken over by the French after World War One, Hitler's forced re-occupation of it in 1935 began the inexorable path to war. This war was fought by a 'people born too late.' The unified German nation was less than a hundred years old, & for centuries their rag-tag collection of disparate princely states had watched the rest of Europe build their colonial empires. Now they were powerful, the

Germans wanted an empire – but unfortunately the world had already been divided, & only wars of conquest against rival powers could give them what they wanted.

The third line is an amazing insight into the course of Hitler's war. Both regions are to the east of Austria, which Hitler believed would provide the Germans with their much needed Lebensraum (living space). Pannonia is a classical term for an area of Hungary & small parts of Austria & Croatia. Toward the end of the war, it formed a vital part of the Eastern front. Yet it is with the mention Sarmatia that we must acknowledge Nostradamus as a prophet of genius. Classical Sarmatia covers an area from the Baltic sea, all the way down to the Black Sea & the caucasus, bordered by the Vistula river to the east & the Volga to the west. In 1942, when Hitler reach'd the highwater mark of his empire, this is *exactly* the territory he had conquered from Russia, which he had to 'defend,' along with the 'Pannonias' as the Red Army engaged in their grand reconquista. The last line pertains to the mystery that surrounds Hitlers 'suicide' in 1945. Russians arriving at the Fuhrerbunker only found the ashes of a corpse – whether it was Hitler or not shall always make the world wonder 'what will have become of him.'

3-67

*A new sect of Philosophers*

*Despising death, gold, honors and riches*

*Will not be confined to the German mountains:*

*To follow them they will have power and crowds.*

Hitler's main power base was his the Nazi party. To realise that this prophecy concerns them, we must look at the third line first. The birthplace of the Nazis took place in Munich, with the mighty Alpen wall dominating the skyline to the south of the city. At first the party was a small player in the local scene, but year by year the power base grew to swamp all of Germany & then Europe, thus bringing meaning to the expression, will not be confined to the German mountains. The first line pertaining to this 'new sect' being 'philosophers,' is a reflection on the idealism that the party possessed & promoted. Before they began to robe the world of its money to pay for their wars, the Nazi party was a 'people's party,' standing against the 'riches' capitalism, when the only 'honours' would go to those who could help the Fuhrer achieve his aim.

In classical religious thought, an antichrist is a false prophet, one who would create a personality cult to further his own ends. For Napoleon it was the Grand Armee who worshiped their emperor as a demi-deity. For Hitler, it was the Nazi party, with its mystical Indian symbol, the swastika, hypnotizing the masses. The last line shows perfectly the 'crowds' that would attend rallies such as those at Nuremberg, where Hitler would woo his people with grandiose exhibitions of 'power.'

8-77

*The antichrist, three having very soon been annihilated,  
twenty-seven years his war shall last.  
The unbelievers dead, captive, exiled:  
blood human bodies, water & red hail shall splatter the earth.*

This remarkable prophecy is a direct reference to Hitler as anti-christ. The first line is a parallel to the previous quatrain, when Hitler 'annihilated the 'three' threats to his regime. In the second line the twenty seven years is uncannily accurate, being the length of time to pass between the end of the First World War & the end of the second. It was at a hospital in Pasewalk in 1918, as Hitler heard about the armistice, that Hitler swore he would lead Germany back to war & victory. The Second World War was always to become 'his war.' The third line shows how Hitler would murder, imprison & send to exile any 'unbelievers' who stood against him & the Nazi cause. The last line, then, is an apocalyptic reflection of what would follow this antichrist into the world, from 'human bodies' to the 'red hail' of nuclear fallout.

1 - 39

*At night the last one will be strangled in his bed  
because he became too involved with the blond heir elect.  
The Empire is enslaved and three men substituted.  
He is put to death with neither letter nor packet read.*

Once he had led the Nazi Party into power, Hitler determined to become dictator, even burning down the Reichstag, symbol of German democracy. A

similar event was prophesied by Nostradamus in the above quatrain, the infamous Night of the Long Knives. That night Hitler ordered the execution of many men who had become 'too involved with the blond heir elect.' That is to say they were rivalling the Nazi Party in positions of power in the new Aryan-supremist inspired German state. The actual 'death-squads' went about their brutal work at night, surprising many in asleep in 'bed.' Most were shot, but a few were brutally 'strangled.' By wiping out the leadership of the SA, whose numbers had swelled to two million men, Hitler had moved into the realms of dictatorship. Now anyone who raised a dissenting voice would be exterminated, enslaving the German Reich. The 'three men substituted' represents the three bodies of the SA, the Reichswehr & the Conservative critics of the regime, all of which were cut off at the heads & replaced by pro-Hitler minions. The last line alludes to the fact these men were murdered without a fair trial & without a chance to contact their families, *'with neither letter nor packet read.'*

## **THE ROAD TO WAR**

So the scene was set for the second world war. Indeed, in 1938, Max de Fontbrune, a Nostradamian in France, wrote about the coming war between France and Germany. He assumed that Germany would lose the war and Hitler would be destroyed in the end. However, he was accused of Germanophobia by many of the French, & his warnings were ignored. Yet a few years later the German army occupied France, & his 'heretical' books were burnt. The German angle on the Nostradamian prophecies was one in which they foresaw their final victory. However, mankind has a selective mind & they chose not to heed the many portents of doom struck by our Soothsayer from Salon.

2-100

*Within the isles a very horrible uproar,  
One will hear only a party of war,  
So great will be the insult of the plunderers*

*That they will come to be joined in the great league.*

This quatrain presages the British participation in the First World War & their eventual entry into the League of Nations, the same 'great league' that stood idly by as Hitler plunged the world into war. The first two lines refer to the war phrenzy, that 'very horrible uproar' that Britain felt when hostilities broke out in 1914, when 'one will hear only a party of war.' The 'plunderers' are the Germans, who stole land & goods as they marched both east & west. This 'insult' to the honour of British diplomacy, whose role as the policemen of Europe they had held unequivocally since Napoleon, was enough to compel them into joining the League of Nations instigated by the USA.

*The speeches of Lake Lemman will become angered,  
the days will drag out into weeks,  
then months, then years, then all will fail.  
The authorities will condemn their useless powers*

This quatrain accurately foresees the ineptitude of the League of Nations. Its base was in Geneva, nestled on the shores of 'Lake Lemman.' The first three lines describe the protracted 'speeches' of the various nations that, over a period of twenty years, allowed the fascist regimes of Italy, Germany & Japan to build up armies. Nostradamus predicted Fascism in his epistle to Henry II, when he wrote they, 'will have three widely scattered regions, namely, the Roman, Germany and Spain, which will set up diverse sects by armed force.' As the Axis Powers conquered Abyssinia, Czechoslovakia & Manchuria respectively, they were met only by harsh words, & would each leave the League, a body that remained powerless to stop them seeing as it had no standing army of its own, when 'the authorities will condemn their useless powers.'

1 - 51

*The head of Aries, Jupiter and Saturn.  
Eternal God, what changes !  
Then the bad times will return again after a long century;  
what turmoil in France and Italy*

In this quatrain the first line is an amazing piece of astrological chart reading by our seer. Of the few times in history that Jupiter & Saturn are both in the sign of Aries, between January 1939 & March 1940 they wove in & out of the sign of the ram on two occasions. The first time they did it Europe was at peace – by the second time Europe was at war! This was no ordinary war, with Stuka bombers & tanks – a far cry from Nostradamus' day. No wonder in the second line he was compelled to cry out, '*what changes!*'

#### Star Charts

##### *Jupiter in Aries*

*May 11, 1939 - Oct 30, 1939,  
Dec 20, 1939 - May 16, 1940*

##### *Saturn in Aries*

*January 14, 1938 – July 6, 1939,  
September 22, 1939 – March 20, 1940*

##### *Jupiter & Saturn in Aries*

*May 11, 1939 – October 30, 1939  
December 20, 1939 – March 20, 1940*

We must appreciate that Nostradamus was a keen astrologer, so perhaps there is more meaning to his placing of these three astrological bodies together. Perhaps the term 'head' represents the way these bodies affect human thought. Then what are the main traits of these stars & planets? Aries is adventurous, enthusiastic, quick-tempered & impulsive. These traits all apply to the way Hitler went about plunging the world into war. When Jupiter, the king of the gods, is in the starsign of Aries, they find themselves pushing open & rushing through the door of opportunity – very Hitleresque. Historically these periods are times of strife, inventiveness & open frontiers. In the same fashion, when Saturn is in Aries, the aggression of Aries is made more serious by Saturn, just as Hitler's grandiose plans were put into physical practice.

The last two lines of the quatrain refer to when '*the bad times will return after a long century.*' If we are to treat Nostradamus to his word, then the long century would refer to the Pax Britannica which spread across Europe between the moment of Napoleons defeat (1814-1815) to the outbreak of the First World War (1914).

However, by prefixing the word 'long' to the century, I believe that our seer is asking us to add a few extra years. This can be appreciated all the more easily when we remember it he was projecting events 350 years into the future. Allowing him this slight flexibility will help to connect the two halves of the quatrain. Perhaps he actually did mean the First World War & was making one of his trademark epoch-sweeps. This theory is reinforced in the last line when the 'turmoil in France & Italy,' refers to the fact that those countries suffered greatly for their participation in both world wars.

2 - 24

*Beasts ferocious from hunger will swim across rivers:  
The greater part of the region will be against the Hister,  
The great one will cause it to be dragged in an iron cage,  
When the German child will observe nothing.*

The first line of the prophecy describes Hitler's army, those 'beasts ferocious from hunger,' crossing many rivers during their aggressive surge of conquest – including Europe's main waterways, the Rhine, Danube & Vistula. It poetically invokes the images of world war two that are latent in the subconsciousness of us all, derived from the grainy black & white footage of the cinereels of the time. IN the second line, with most of Europe 'against the Hister' they would soon be 'dragged in an iron cage,' i.e. held captive as a part of Hitler's empire. The last line, 'when the German child will observe nothing,' relates to the blanket of falsehood cast over the German people by Goebells & his propaganda machine. It is particularly relevant to the events of the Holocaust, when millions of Jews were deported & murdered under their very noses, while all the time an atmosphere of oblivious ignorance allowed them to carry on with their normal lives.

## **The Allies**

Following the fall of France in 1940, only the British Isles stood against the might of the German military machine. But she would not be alone for long, as the machinations of Churchill & Roosevelt, the American nation were brought into the war, a war which they would eventually win. In the following four quatrains Nostradamus predicts the presence of these two sister nations on the world

stage. These are all the more powerful considering that at the time of writing Briatrain was a minor island on the edge of Europe & America was still a wild wilderness of Indians.

10-100

*The great empire will be for England,  
The all-powerful one for more than three hundred years:  
Great forces to pass by sea and land,  
The Lusitanians will not be satisfied thereby.*

This quatrain predicts the British Empire, the greatest, most influential empire the world has ever known. From her capital at London, she was the foremost global power, 'the all powerful one for more than three hundred years.' This figure is excellent, if we take the period of three hundred years as beginning under Charles II, when both Bombay & New York, east & west, became part of the fledgling British Empire. From that moment on Britain dominated the sealanes & markets of the world, backed up with deep wells of military might & invention, when 'great forces to pass by sea & land.' Then, just as Nostradamus predicted, three hundred years later, in the mid twentieth century, the British empire began to collapse, with colony after colony gaining independence. The last line refers to the Portuguese, known as 'Lusitanians' by the Romans, whose own empire was a prototype, & superceded, by the British – then of course they would not have been 'satisfied.'

*Some Imperial Dates*

(acquisistion to independence)

Antigua 1632-1981

Bahamas 1648-1973

Bombay 1661-1947

Madras 1640-1947

New York – 1664-1783

Oman – 1666-1970

Swaziland – 1651-1963

4-96

*The elder sister of the British Isle  
Will be born fifteen years before her brother,  
Because of her promise procuring verification,  
She will succeed to the kingdom of the balance.*

This quatrain concerns the United States of America, a land that shares so many cultural & sociological ties with 'the British Isle,' she can be easily assigned the mantle of 'sister.' By saying she is older by 'fifteen years,' Nostradamus is representing the fact that Britain & Ireland officially unified as the Great Britain of the United Kingdom & Ireland in 1801. Fifteen years previously, The United States of America had just won the War of Independence (1783) & was drawing up its national constitution (1787). The third line refers to the underlying message of the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal" and endowed with "certain unalienable Rights." This 'promise' made to the American people & to all Americans of the future, is represented by the Statue of Liberty which traditionally welcomes immigrants into New York. The term 'procuring verification' is another keen Nostradamian subtlety, for when the United States were born, one fifth of her population were still bonded into slavery. However, this would eventually be abolished in the nineteenth century, & from that moment the USA began her grand fated procession toward being the worlds only global superpower, which by the end of the twentieth century had fulfilled. Like Britain before her, who was considered the policeman of the world, the USA had 'succeeded to the kingdom of the balance.'

10-66

*The chief of London through the realm of America,  
The Isle of Scotland will be tried by frost:  
King and Reb will face an Antichrist so false,  
That he will place them in the conflict all together.*

This quatrain alludes to the American entry into World War Two. The first line concerns the strong friendship between Winston Churchill, 'the chief of London' & Franklin D Roosevelt. Before the USA actually declared war on Germany, there was an agreement in place called Lend Lease which supplied Britain with American goods. This agreement generated much business nationwide, thus the will of Winston Churchill was 'through the realm of America.' This transatlantic trade would help to alleviate the pressure on a heavily rationed Britain, whose

desperate state is poetically described by Nostradamus when he says 'the isle of Scotland will be tried by frost.' The last two lines are much less vague, however, & provide us with the clues that put the first two lines in perspective. The 'king & reb' are the British & the rebel nation of America. The 'Antichrist' is Hitler, who placed 'them in the conflict all together-' a perfect description of world war.

## Italy in World War Two

World War Two was not just about Hitler. His great friend was Mussolini, a fellow Facist, who brought the Italians into the war when it was looking like Germany would win. Nostradamus made a number of predictions concerning this series of events;

5-74

Of Trojan blood will be born a Germanic heart  
Who will rise to very high power:  
He will drive out the foreign Arabic people,  
Returning the Church to its pristine pre-eminence.

This quatrain is about Mussolini & his early successes as the leader of Italy. The reference to 'Trojan blood' shows that Mussolini was an Italian. The foundation of Rome & thus Italy was attributed to Aeneas, who escaped the ruins of Troy to land on the Italian peninsula. That he has a 'germanic heart' alludes to the way Italy imitated the German warlust personified by Mussolini's friend, Adolf Hitler. The second line is easily interpreted, for Mussolini became virtual dictator of Italy, treating the incumbent King, Emmanuel III, as more of a puppet-monarch. The third line is more enigmatic, but could well mean the fact that at home & abroad, millions of the Arabs of the Italian empire were indoctrinated with the fascist creed, their ancient ways '*Italianicised*.' The last line is a reference to Mussolini's solution to the 'Roman Question,' that had haunted the unified Italy since Rome was declared her capital. The problem had been that the Popes had resented the losing of their own political power, spilling blood in their efforts to retain it. Once the province of Rome & Lazio had been annexed by the rest of Italy, the popes began a fifty year protest, never leaving the Vatican &

considering themselves as prisoners in their own home. To solve the crisis, in 1929 Mussolini instigated the Lateran pacts, which gave full sovereignty to the Holy See & established Catholicism as the religion of Italy.

3-63

*The Roman power will be thoroughly abased,  
Following in the footsteps of its great neighbor:  
Hidden civil hatreds and debates  
Will delay their follies for the buffoons.*

This quatrain prophesied what would happen to Italy after her entry into the second world war, when she followed 'in the footsteps of its great neighbour,' Germany. The word 'abased' means to lower in rank, esteem & prestige – all of which apply to Mussolini & his country. By the end of the war Italy, 'the roman power' was greatly humbled from her earlier sense of imperial grandeur. She was invaded in the north by the Germans & the south by the Allies, tearing the country in two. This schism was the cause of much 'civil hatreds' & the many 'debates' held in piazzas & houses as to the future of Italy. The last line's mention of 'follies' & 'buffoons' is a reference to the often ludicrous state of affairs in modern Italian government.

Liberty will not be regained,  
It will be occupied by a black, proud, villainous and unjust man:  
When the matter of the Pontiff is opened,  
The republic of Venice will be vexed by Hister.

This last quatrain is another that mentions Hitler by name, this time accurately foreseeing his invasion of Italy. On their surrender, the Italian people thought they would be free of a fascist regime that had turned sour, killing many of them both soldier & civilian. However 'Liberty' was not 'regained,' for they were soon made part of Hitler's empire. All the adjectives in the second line correctly apply to both him & Mussolini, who after his rescue was made the puppet monarch of northern Italy. The third line is a reference to the Allied occupation of Rome in

1944, when the physical & spiritual 'matter of the pontiff,' or pope, was 'opened,' or freed from the Nazi yoke after a decade of oppression. As this was happening German troops were already looting the Venetians of a millenium's worth of treasures.

## **Other Battles**

1 - 64

*At night they will think they have seen the sun,  
when they see the half pig man:*

*Noise, screams, battles seen fought in the skies.*

*The brute beasts will be heard to speak. - guns*

The first stanza corresponds perfectly to the state that the British, 'those in the isles' found themselves. Besieged by the Germans they did not surrender & instead took 'vigour & force' against them, though the entire country was on rations. The second stanza is a wonderful poetic description of the Blitz, when flashlights lit up the night sky & half pig men - pilots with breathing apparatus - fought in the skies.

1 - 28

*Tobruk will fear the barbarian fleet for a time,  
then much later the Western fleet.*

*Cattle, people, possessions, all will be quite lost.*

*What a deadly combat in Taurus and Libra.*

An amazing prediction concerning the North African city of Tobruk, the most vital port for the war in the desert. The 'Barbarian fleet' represents the Germans, who besieged it first. Then later on the 'Western fleet' of the allies besieged it again. The third line is a perfect description of the losses of Tobruk as it was constantly at war, when 'cattle, people, possession, all will be quite lost. The last line refers to the date of the first sieges. April 1941 saw the furious beginnings of Rommel's attempt to take Tobruk, which would finally finish in November. Taurus begins in April & Libra ends in October. A very curious almost-accuracy. Note: The following year Rommel finally took Tobruk in June, only to be ousted the following November.

2 - 94

*Great Po, great evil will be received through Gauls,  
Vain terror to the maritime Lion:  
People will pass by the sea in infinite numbers,  
Without a quarter of a million escaping.*

In this quatrain, Nostradamus amazingly prophesies the Dunkerque evacuation. Following the 'great evil' of the German invasion passing through Gaul, the 'maritime lion' of Great Britain helped its soldiers 'pass by the sea in infinite numbers' - leaving behind roughly a quarter of a million allied soldiers scattered throughout France to the mercy of the Germans. Following this, the islands of Great Britain were alone, where two more prophecies offer striking insights.

1 - 91

*The Gods will make it appear to mankind  
that they are the authors of a great war.  
Before the sky was seen to be free of weapons and rockets:  
the greatest damage will be inflicted on the left.*

The 'greatest damage will be inflicted on the left' is a reference to the 20 million dead suffer'd by the Russians, whose communism lies on the far left of politics. The second prophecy uncannily associates Hitler with Barbarossa, both the name for his invasion of Russia & the name of a medieval warlord of Germany. The last line concerns two friends of earlier prophecies, Mussolini & Hitler, being joined in death - in reality only days apart. The last stanza comments on the 'great theatre' that is the battle theatres of world war one, being set up once more. As the aggressors, the Germans were 'the first one,' who by wars end were utterly exhausted, their cities in ruins - those 'arches already a long time split.'

## **DEFEAT OF HITLER**

5-45

*The great Empire will soon be desolated  
And transferred to near the Ardennes:  
The two bastards beheaded by the oldest one,  
And Bronzebeard the hawk-nose will reign.- planes*

Hitler scrap'd together 250,000 men, denuding them from all parts of the Third Reich, desolating his empire. He sent them all to the Ardennes, for an ill-fated winter offensive. By now, the Luftwaffe was completely outnumbered, & Nostradamus seemed to understand the nature of modern warfare when air superiority commands the battlefield - when 'Bronzebeard the hawk-nose will reign.' Thus with this last throw of the dice, Hitler's dream was over, & a few months later he would kill himself in the ruins of Berlin;

2 -82

*Through hunger the prey will make the wolf prisoner,  
The aggressor then in extreme distress.  
The heir having the last one before him,  
The great one does not escape in the middle of the crowd.*

Alamanac (1562)

For the shaven ones the chief will not reach the end,

Edicts change, the secret ones at large,

Great one found dead, less of faith, low standing,

Dissimulated, shuddering, wounded in the boar's lair.

The first prophecy tells of the privations suffered by the German people, the 'extreme distress' of Hitler in his final days, & his refusal to slip away 'in the middle of the crowd' of Nazis who fled Berlin in its last hours. These Nazis are mentioned in the second prophesy, when after the Allies took charge of Germany, the Nazis, or 'secret ones' became fugitives. Also, with Hitler dying in

his 'boar's lair,' his dream of wiping out the Jews, the 'shaven ones' did not 'reach the end.' Thus the war was over, a war which Nostradamus had foreseen & wrote about in vivid detail.

## 24 PEACE

Quatrain 9,66

Paix, vnion sera & changement,  
Estats, offices bas haut & haut bien bas  
Dresser voyage, le fruit premier tourment,  
Guerre cesser, ciuil proces debats.

There will be peace, union and change,  
Estates, offices, low high and high very low:  
To prepare a trip, the first offspring torment,  
War to cease, civil process, debates.

1 - 63

*Pestilences extinguished, the world becomes smaller,  
for a long time the lands will be inhabited peacefully.  
People will travel safely through the sky (over) land and seas:  
then wars will start up again.*

The first quatrain is a general prophecy on the formation of the UN, with 'estates, offices, low high & very low,' a place of 'civil process' & 'debates.' The second quatrain he predicts the arrival of the global village, especially the onset of rapid air travel. Although the second half the twentieth century was dotted with local wars such as Vietnam & Afghanistan, for the majority of the world it has been a time of peace & prosperity. However, with his usual doom & gloom, the last line predicts a bloody future. Of these wars that will start up again, these four quatrains seem to predict the one most recent to me - the great ideological war between Islam & the West.

9-11

6-97

*At forty-five degrees the sky will burn,  
Fire to approach the great new city:  
In an instant a great scattered flame will leap up,  
When one will want to demand proof of the Normans.*

1 - 87

*Earthshaking fire from the centre of the earth  
will cause tremors around the New City.  
Two great rocks will war for a long time,  
then Arethusa will redden a new river.*

10, 72

In the year 1999 and seven months  
The Great King of Terror will come from the sky,  
He will bring back to life the great king of the Mongols.  
Before and after Mars [the God of war] reigns happily.

These quatrains predict the attack on the Twin Towers, when the skies of the 'great new city' (New York) were aflame. This 'earthshaking fire' came from the traditional 'centre of the earth' - the Middle East. The two great rocks are seen to be Christianity & Islam. In the third quatrain the 'griffin' a mythological beast that is part lion (Britain) & part Eagle (America) will go against the 'King of Babylon.' Wonderful references to the Allied invasion of Iraq.

