

Chapter 21

The Phoenix that was France

France now finds itself in the unenviable position of being that last holdout on the European continent. Spain has fallen, Germany, Austria, Italy and Belgium have been destroyed. There is no food, no housing, millions of refugees have converged in the countryside, and there is no work, except being a resistance fighter. The Madhi seems ready to consolidate all of Europe and Asia into an Islamic State. All that remains is the complete extermination of all of the people in France.

The Madhi and the Blue Turban, along with other commanders such as the Black Turban, Hannibal, and the Satyr begin plans to encircle France, gradually working inward until all resistance is crushed.

France will be assaulted from every side, there will be no place safe, no place to run, it is time to stand or die.

We will begin the description of the battle for France on the Spanish front and continue each chapter counterclockwise around France, however keep in mind that all fronts are active around France at this time. Battles on the Spanish border occur simultaneously with those in the north of the country, and elsewhere all around France.

Century 9 Quatrain 64

64

*The Macedonian to pass the Pyrenees Mountains,
In March Narbonne will not offer resistance:
By land and sea he will carry on very great intrigue,
Capetian having no land safe for residence.*



The Pyrenees Mountains are just south of Prades, France (population 50 in 2008), and are the border between France and Spain. This quatrain describes a push northeast through the coastal areas all the way up to Narbonne. Ahead of this push, hundreds of thousands of civilians and military personnel will be retreating north in to the heart of France.

It appears that Narbonne will not be considered defensible and will be abandoned ahead of the advancing Islamic army. Another possibility is that it simply surrenders. Either way, we are told this will occur in March.

The last two lines are concerned with the two main actors, the Madhi and the Pope. Line three states that the Madhi will conduct “intrigues” on land and on the sea, and will have a record of being extremely successful. These “intrigues” will keep the Pope on the run. Note that the Madhi himself may not be the actual person described, most likely this is the White Turban, (the political leader), acting on orders from the Madhi who is the religious ruler.

Some commentators believe this refers to the time surrounding the fall of Rome, placing this event earlier in this book, but I think otherwise. I think this takes place after the Pope has fled from Rome and has settled into Avignon. We begin to see Avignon appearing more frequently in these quatrains, and it is clear that the Madhi is in pursuit of the Pope, wherever he may run. Note that Avignon is straight up the main highway from Narbonne, and we have already heard about Agde, so the Islamic presence in this area is very complete. With this push across the French border, the Pope would be considering moving to another location in France.

The next few quatrains follow up on this northern push.

Century 1 Quatrain 5

5

*They will be driven away for a long drawn out fight.
The countryside will be most grievously troubled.
Town and country will have greater struggle.
Carcassonne and Narbonne will have their hearts tried.*

Carcassonne is a highly fortified ancient city, and due to the type of war being fought would provide a good defensive position. It sits on the Aude River and is connected to a rail line that connects all the cities across the southern border of France and the coastal cities in the eastern direction. From the sound of this quatrain, outside the cities will be overrun, but it appears Carcassonne and Narbonne will be able to hold out for some undetermined amount of time. This is a general situation quatrain and may come just before the previous one discussed.

Century 8 quatrain 86

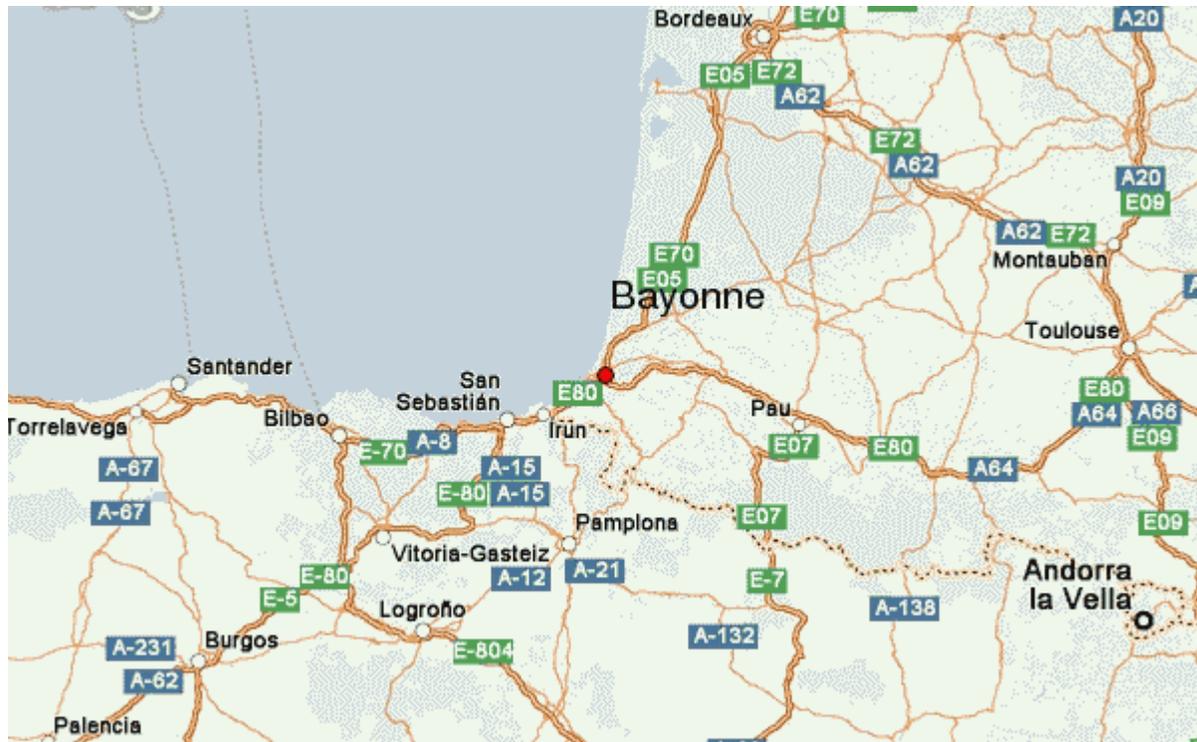
86

*Through Emani, Tolosa and Villefranche,
an infinite band through the mountains of Adrian.
Passes the river, Combat over the plank for a bridge,
Bayonne will be entered all crying Bigoree.*

If Tolosa refers to the town in Spain, then this sits near the Atlantic Ocean on the westernmost border of France and Spain. I cannot find "Emani", and "Villefranche" appears to be very close to Nice, well away from Tolosa. Paulhus claims these are all towns on the Spanish side of the border.

The "Mountains of Adrian" is most likely Mount St. Adrian near Tolosa, as there is a tunnel through the mountain here, an underground route from Spain into France.^[1] This could be utilized by an army on foot crossing the border. The river mentioned after crossing the mountain would be the Midouze, just into France and near the town of Pau. The river begins near Tarbes and flows in a large horseshoe shape to the Atlantic. Apparently the Islamic army elects to cross the river rather than go around it to the southeast near Carcassonne. It sounds as if the crossing will be on a temporary bridge "planks" rather than an existing one, and will take place close to the mouth of the river at the Atlantic.

Bayonne sits on the Atlantic just north of the Spanish border. "Bigoree" is translated as "Bichoro" by Paulus, which is an old Huguenot war cry.^[2] This does not fit in as I can tell, I would rather say it is a misprint for "Bigorre", which is a city in the area of Auch and Mirande, further south near Carcassonne, see the next quatrain.



Century 5 Quatrain 98

98

*At the forty-eighth climacteric degree,
At the end of Cancer very great dryness:
Fish in sea, river, lake boiled hectic,
Bearn, Bigorre in distress through fire from the sky.*



Bearn is a “county”, called a “department” in France, located in the area around Arette, Bigorre is on the northeastern end of the department. The “forty-eighth degree of the climacteric” has been seen before. In the letter to King Henry II, Nostradamus states that “the Holy Spirit will make a migration, starting at the forty-eighth degree”. We noted at that time that this latitude line passes through Mongolia, origin of the Madhi, but also passes through France.

Cities in France closest to forty eight degrees North latitude are:

Rouillon, LeMans, Coudrecieux, Berfay, Valennes, Choue, Cloyes Sur le Loir, Tournois, Bricy, Loury, Villemoutiers, Montargis, Chuelles, Cezy, Brion, Saint Florentin, Nogent, La Bresse, Loue, Entrammes, Quimper, and Audierne.

Notice that none of these are well known cities, unless you are a French native it is doubtful anyone would know where they were located. We will leave LeMans as the exception, only because the race is famous.

The line formed by following the 48th degree of latitude cuts off the top portion of France, just below Paris. The Loire River forms a large arc from the mouth at the Atlantic Ocean to its origin near Montelimar. The top of the arc approaches this 48th degree line just east of LeMans.

It is possible that Nostradamus is trying to convey a battle line here. Keep this in mind as we proceed. I also think a double meaning is intended here. The “Holy Spirit” can equally refer to the Pope, and we know the Pope makes a migration from Rome to Avignon. It may mean that the Pope is forced to move again and that one of these small towns along the 48th degree will become the new home of the Pope.

The rest of the quatrain is straightforward. The “end of Cancer” represents July, and we see the water reference again in “drought” and the heat. That the heat and dryness can cause the fish in rivers and

lakes to boil must be taken to mean something other than 'natural' climate heat. "Fire from the sky" could be an artillery barrage or a bombing campaign, but could also be a meteorite shower actually reaching the ground. A prolonged meteorite shower impact could cause fish in the bodies of water impacted to boil.

The scene now shifts from the Atlantic coast at the Spanish and French border to the southern part of France. Even though our insight on the location has changed, some of the events have not.

Century 9 Quatrain 63

63

*Complaints and tears, cries and great howls,
Near Narbonne at Bayonne and in Foix:
Oh, what horrible calamities and changes,
Before Mars has made several revolutions.*

Two simple observations here. Narbonne, Bayonne, and Foix are all cities in France, located roughly along the border with Spain. Bayonne is on the Atlantic and Narbonne is on the Mediterranean, Foix is approximately in the middle, so we have a fairly straight line, clearly a battlefield at this time.

Mars takes 687 days to revolve around the Sun, about two Earth years. It seems Nostradamus is telling us either the war will have taken "several" of these revolutions to get this far (about 8 years or more?) or it will take this long to occupy these areas in France. I think the first is more likely as the war is expected to last 27 years.



Century 1 Quatrain 46

46

*Very near Auch, Lectoure and Mirande
a great fire will fall from the sky for three nights.
The cause will appear both stupefying and marvelous;
shortly afterwards there will be an earthquake.*

These cities are all in the same area, Lectoure being a small town just east of Condom. If the previous quatrain has already occurred, which seems most probable, then this would be a rocket attack north of the existing battle lines. As we saw previously, Foix was one of the towns on the new front, which followed the highway northwest through Pau and Orthez. We also see Bigorre falls close to this same line as well.

Whether the attack here is launched by the Allies or the Islamic army is up to debate here. The sound of it, “stupendous and marvelous”, makes it sound like an Allied counterattack. If the “earthquake” is a result of the bombing, then tactical nuclear devices are being used and what is felt is the shockwave. It is more likely that this is a bombing campaign using large MOAB’s (Massive Ordnance Air Blast)^[3] on invading forward positions or troop concentrations, similar to the *Rolling Thunder*^[4] campaign in the Viet Nam War. The next quatrain supports this somewhat.

Century 8 Quatrain 2

2

*Condom and Auch and around Mirande,
I see fire from the sky which encompasses them.
Sun and Mars conjoined in Leo, then at Marmande,
lightning, great hail, a wall falls into the Garonne.*

This quatrain repeats the previous one, but gives a bit more information. Notice the word “encompasses” which means “surrounds” or “all around” them. This is good evidence that the “fire from the sky” is not a natural event, but a man made one. Natural events wouldn’t avoid the cities but would be spread through them as well.

When an enemy surrounds a city for attack, what better defense than to rain down missile, rockets and bombs on them? In case you think this type of warfare went out of style in medieval times, check out how this was done repeatedly in Viet Nam with Firebase Mary Ann.^[5]

The astronomical dating we are given is instructive. Both the Sun and Mars are in conjunction in the constellation Leo. This would be in July or August, as that is when the Sun is always in Leo. Note that we just discussed this in the attack on Bigorre at the end of July a few quatrains back. In the beginning of the chapter we see Narbonne attacked in March. If this all occurs in the same year, we have a good timeline established.

Mars joins the Sun in Leo less often, so this gives some indication of the year in question. According to Paulus, this conjunction will occur in the years 2004, 2006, and 2008, (we can rule those out now!), then a break until 2019, 2021, and 2023.^[7] Assuming the same pattern holds, then another 11 year break will

occur until 2034. Using the information we already know about the “revolutions of Mars” in the length of time the conquest and invasion of Spain takes, we can probably rule out the 2019 date as too early, since it is only a few years away, and we have no indications of Turkey or Egypt being invaded directly yet. The most likely candidate for this time period is the 2023 date given the speed of current events.

Marmande sits on the Garonne River, and the “lightning” and “great hail” may be a bombing or missile attack, not a natural occurrence, since it results in a “wall” falling into the Garonne River.

It is interesting note that the church of Notre Dame is in this city, and the “wall” may refer indirectly to this cathedral.

Additionally (and Nostradamus would certainly have known this), having Mars conjoined with the Sun in your horoscope is known for a very combative persona, as this excerpt from an astrology website shows-

“...This indicates the presence of an energy that is 'masculine' in essence, being highly vitalized, vigorous, forceful and assertive. The application and exploitation of your powerful will becomes a major impulse that demands expression, often resulting in a more self-centered level of preoccupation, focused on satisfying your desires and ambitions. You may have an aggressive, combative temperament, which can respond quickly to any hint of a threat or potentially competitive situations...”^[6]

Century 12 Quatrain 65

65

*Through fury he will force the fort to hold,
Every heart to tremble. At Longon a terrible arrival:
The kick will become a thousand kicks,
Gironde, Garonne, never more horrible.*

First a bit of explanation. For those who know a thing or two about Nostradamus, you may be wondering how there can be a “Century 12” when only a thousand quatrains in ten “centuries” was to be published. As mentioned in the beginning, there are not one thousand quatrains, as Century 7 only contains forty two. Is this the origin of the mysterious answer to “Life, the Universe, and Everything”?^[8] Probably not, although we will never know.

The fact is Nostradamus died before the entire run of the centuries could be concluded. It is clear he wanted to include certain quatrains and not include others. There was also a long “randomizing” process in an attempt to remove the “time element” from the quatrain, this was important as he needed to keep his distance from the Inquisition which would consider him a ‘fortune teller’ or a ‘false prophet’, certainly a heretic at the very least. His quatrains were purposely designed to be discovered after the fact, not used in a predictive sense. To randomize them, after constructing the quatrain the way he wanted it to appear, he wrote them on a piece of paper and threw them up in the air. He then wrote them into the quatrain in the order he picked them up.^[9]

Obviously this couldn't be done one quatrain at a time, he would have to wait until he had enough to mix together. This is how we have only forty two in Century 7, he was accumulating the remaining forty eight, (forty eight is also another significant number for Nostradamus). So we have some "leftover" quatrains in the mix, identified as best we can.

With that background out of the way, let us look at this last quatrain in this series.

There are three places mentioned, Longon (a city, now called Langon), the Garonne River, and the Gironde Estuary, essentially the mouth of the Garonne River, north of Hourtin on this map.



Langon is to be the stage of the largest and possibly most decisive battle fought here in southern France.

The first line states that someone, probably an Allied or French commander, through sheer force of will holds a fort that was almost sure to be overrun. Since it sits on the south side of the Garonne River, it cannot use the river as a natural defense, although portions of the town are on the north side.

Of interest here is that Langon contains a specially made dock for oversize vehicles and parts which are barged up the Garonne, then shipped overland to Toulouse. This was built to allow Airbus 380 parts to be shipped to the assembly factory.^[10] What a great asset for shipping military vehicles around France!

The third line is a simple way of saying that what starts off with a kick (an insignificant attack) turns into a major battle.

Here there is a break in the action, and Nostradamus picks up on a different theme, so let's examine where we are right now.



Everything south of the red line is in Islamic hands. Coastal raids continue against cities along the Atlantic seaboard, even well above these lines, some raids even near Calais near the top of France. The area between the Rhone and Isere Rivers also in Islamic hands, containing troops from the Italian front.

France is in a desperate condition at this time. The troops of the Islamic armies far outnumber the French defenders and the few allied troops able to escape there.

It is here the Madhi makes a Hitler style mistake. Sun Tzu, in the famous "Art of War" textbook written in 5 B.C. lists many basic considerations in waging war. One of them is something like this, "always give the enemy an escape hole". The reason is simple. An enemy that is cornered and has no place to go will fight to the death. Knowing they will die will make them fight even harder and more ferociously than usual. We have seen a taste of this in the last quatrain.

"...23. Throw your soldiers into positions whence there is no escape, and they will prefer death to flight. If they will face death, there is nothing they may not achieve. Officers and men alike will put forth their uttermost strength.

24. *Soldiers when in desperate straits lose the sense of fear. If there is no place of refuge, they will stand firm. If they are in the heart of a hostile country, they will show a stubborn front. If there is no help for it, they will fight hard...* ^[11]

There is another issue at work here as well. The Madhi and White Turban have come from the far reaches of the Islamic empire. The Madhi from Mongolia, the White Turban from Yemen or Somalia, and the troops (locusts is what Nostradamus calls them)^[12] are gathered from India, Pakistan, Iran, North Africa, Macedonia, and all through Eastern Europe. The supply lines for these operations in France have to be monumentally long, the amount of people involved in transportation and distribution of food, water, and weapons will be on a scale never before seen, not even in World War Two.

By contrast, the supply line for the French and Allies have been getting shorter and more compact. There are far more people per square mile in France now than the Madhi can supply to surround the country. The Madhi is vulnerable to supply line disruptions while the French are not.

The French now make a move of desperation. Wise old Sun Tzu would have lectured to the Madhi at this point, would he have listened?

The French move is very risky.

The fall of France would mean all of continental Europe, Asia, and Africa, would become the Islamic State.

Everything hangs in the balance.

FOOTNOTES

[1]

[2]

[3] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GBU-43/B_Massive_Ordnance_Air_Blast

[4] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Rolling_Thunder

[5] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_FSB_Mary_Ann

[6] <http://astromatrix.org/Horoscopes/Planet-Aspects/Sun-Conjunct-Mars>

[7] Stefan Paulus, "Nostradamus 1999", pg 182

[8]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phrases_from_The_Hitchhiker%27s_Guide_to_the_Galaxy#Answer_to_the_Ultimate_Question_of_Life.2C_the_Universe.2C_and_Everything_.2842.29

[9] citation needed

[10] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langon,_Gironde

[11] <http://www.sacred-texts.com/tao/aow/aow19.htm>

[12] Century 3:82 - "Frejus, Antibes, towns around Nice, They will be thoroughly devastated by sea and by land: The **locusts** by land and by sea the wind propitious, Captured, dead, bound, pillaged without law of war."