

LIVING BY STARLIGHT

AN ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

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AUTHOR'S NOTE:

Mercury continues its backward motion until September 2nd and you must continue to use caution when traveling or dealing with business issues until that date. This month has a number of potentially explosive aspects, several of which occur around the time of the Republican convention, and involve Mercury. The potential for an "event" either induced or accidental, which would severely disrupt communications or transportation, is certainly present. Pay heed and use common sense especially around those dates. If you are traveling use extra caution and if you are driving, don't speed. The potential for accidents is simply too high and there is no reason to tempt fate. The convention will most certainly be disruptive to the city of New York, and considering the degree of open hostility promised by different dissenting groups, there could be considerable collateral damage if things get out of hand under these aspects. From the 23rd of August until after the Full Moon on the 29th the slightest spark could fuel an explosion.

The stock markets have been taking a hit due to several factors including the inflated price of oil. There will be a settling down for a while at the beginning for this lunar cycle because of the Jupiter Saturn sextile. Unfortunately this is a temporary rebound and probably will not sustain much growth. Not until the election on November 2nd will we really know which way the stocks should be heading. From now until then the markets will be manipulated consciously and by the collective unconscious. When emotions rule, the stocks can not be properly read, except, of course by a good astrological analyst who would be studying the motions of the collective and not the surface sentiment.

As we get closer to the election, many of us will feel a great tension in the air. The more in tune you are with the collective the more you will experience it. The aspects hitting America's chart that day are absurdly complex and powerful. I will be writing an analysis of that day later this month. This election will be one of the most important and defining of my lifetime so far. Not since America reelected Nixon with an overwhelming mandate have the people been so emotional. Of course the majority isn't always right. Look what happened to tricky Dick. The results this year will decide the direction of our country for the next decade or longer. Drilling rights, oil dependency, consumer rights, even the right to have an unpolluted food supply hangs in the balance. All professional politicians have one job and that is to be elected, and then reelected. They are all by the very nature of the system, corrupt. It is not a matter of personal ideology anymore; it has to do with which of the two political reflections of the collective you feel more in tune with. Whoever wins will be deciding the shape of the Supreme Court as well as countless lesser courts throughout the land. As I have said before, you do not win a revolution in this country in the streets; you win it in the courts.

NEW MOON:

This month New Moon falls on Sunday August 15th at 9:24 P.M. EST at 23 degrees Leo 31 minutes, and then immediately goes Void of Course. All the New Moons since April have been Void of Course, a pattern that will finally be broken in September. When the New Moon is Void of Course it has made the last aspect in the sign it is in until entering the next sign, and things don't work out the way we had planned during that lunar cycle. Affairs take sudden turns in directions previously unrecognized. Often projects either progress in unexpected ways, or fail altogether. Since this has occurred continuously for 5 months, it has been having a rather subtle yet intense effect on us all. Many things in our lives have gone askew, including the stock market, the price of oil, and other economic signals that if viewed properly and from a distance seem to be pushing our society in an unattached direction, which is the exact definition of Void of Course. Some things should settle down once again in September when the New Moon will once again be aspected.

This being a Leo New Moon, this month will be best devoted to those things Leo rules, including games, children, romance, the theatre and all things childlike. This is the month to take your lover to the beach for late night skinny dipping, romantic dinners and amusement parks. Just remember that although things may work out, they won't go the

way you had planned. The best advice is to go with the flow and throw out all your preconceived notions. Often when the unexpected arrives, if you are emotionally prepared, the results can be quite exciting and pleasant. It is only by holding on too tightly to our usual way of doing things that we miss many of life's delightful surprises.

JUPITER SEXTILES SATURN:

On Tuesday August 17th at 12:34 P.M. EST the planet of growth creates a positive aspect to the planet of restriction. When these two sextile each other, there is a rare opportunity to build something with both a strong foundation and tremendous growth potential. This could represent a temporary firming up of the stock markets and oil prices, though the world's aspects are such that there are more difficulties in the near future. If this aspects a sensitive part of your chart it could represent a new beginning in your life. Any new job, relationship or creative project begun now has a better than usual chance of success. Long term goals and projects will do better than fly-by-night schemes. Use this energy to prepare for your future.

MARS OPPOSITE URANUS:

On Wednesday August 18th at 10:14 A.M. EST this potentially explosive aspect occurs. Use caution while traveling and avoid direct confrontations, if possible. This aspect tends to bring out the most assertive and rebellious side in us all. It completes right before several other high-energy aspects, so find a creative or physical activity in which to direct your ego energies. Sudden disagreements are quite common, as are sudden affairs.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS MARS:

Also on Wednesday August 18th at 3:47 P.M. EST the retrograding Mercury, ruler of travel and communication will conjoin Mars, the planet of ego and war. Obviously you must be cautious while traveling. The combination of the backwards motion of Mercury added to the Mars and Uranus energy is just right for accidents, electrical problems, such as blackouts, and any other mishap that can make our lives as difficult as possible. It's not that I think the planets are actually plotting against us; it's more Voltaire's philosophy that "God is a comedian playing to an audience that's afraid to laugh." When Mercury retrogrades we almost always have excessive problems that can be directly related to that planet. When these type of aspects occur during a retrograde, you can be sure someone "up there" has a plan in store.

MERCURY OPPOSITE URANUS:

This aspect also occurs on Wednesday August 18th at 9:01 P.M. EST to complete this trio of aspects. The combination of Mercury, Mars and Uranus in opposition implies that activities and mishaps will involve others more than be self contained. Drive defensively and avoid arguments when possible. Issues of personal freedom will be strongly expressed, and anyone who feels they are being restrained will tend to lash out. Be careful that you don't act inappropriately aggressive.

Besides the potential for a blackout or huge traffic problems, this combination also lends itself to explosions of all sorts. There could be an attempted terrorist attack, but since we can never know where or exactly when, why worry about it?

SUN ENTERS VIRGO:

On Sunday August 22nd at 2:53 P.M. EST we enter the mutable month of summer. By the end of Virgo it feels much more like autumn, although we still have those warm Indian Summer days, the air just feels different. This is a critical time of the year when we pay more attention to details than in the frivolous early summer months. Crops must be harvested, school begins and our consciousness slowly moves towards acceptance of summer's end.

SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

On Monday August 23rd at 4:51 P.M. EST that retrograding Mercury will get a boost of energy as it becomes "combust", or conjunct the Sun. With Mercury still going backwards in Virgo there are many things that need discussing. Secrets and people's true agendas are often unveiled either while Mercury is in retrograde or shortly after it begins its forward motion. Use this time to get to the heart of the matter in all issues. Today should be one of active communications; e-mails, phone calls etc. could be overwhelming. Be careful with the usual Mercurial problems, such as travel.

SUN OPPOSES URANUS:

On Friday August 27th at 2:41 P.M. EST this once a year aspect returns. This is a day of sudden and eventful activities. This can often herald a violent move in the stock market, although it doesn't imply which way they will go. You must

look at the other aspects hitting at the same time. Since this is the beginning of the Republican convention I wouldn't be a bit surprised by any explosive actions taken now. I would avoid that areas of town anyway, and try to stay out of harm's way in your own life. You don't have to be caught in a shoot out to get into trouble on this aspect. If it is setting off your chart you could be involved in an accident or personal situation that has upsetting results.

FULL MOON:

On Sunday August 29th at 10:22 P.M. EST the Moon is full at 7 degrees Pisces 03 minutes. Emotions run high on the water sign Full Moons, and this one should not be an exception. Coming on the tail of a heavily aspected Uranus the past several weeks, there could be events that raise our passions to a dangerous level. Empathy will be strong, but make sure you are giving your energies to a person or event that truly deserves your attention. This is an interesting week for the convention, and even if there is no outlandish Uranian event this still represents the culmination of the first leg of a power struggle that will conclude this November. We are rapidly approaching a cross roads in our destiny. Which path to take? "...and I-I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."

PLUTO GOES DIRECT:

On Monday August 30th at 3:37 P.M. EST the ruler of the underworld begins its forward motion. Issues involving partnerships, sexuality and the unconscious that have been delayed or misdirected will begin to make sense. If you have been in a bad relationship but felt you didn't have the strength to leave, this may help give you the impetus to move forward. Partnerships should not, if possible be started while Pluto is in retrograde. Of course we can't always delay things for months to suit the astrological timing, but now is the better time to begin a personal or business association. Any psychological changes you have been trying to implement should find their true voice now. Take this time to examine your life and see what you have been missing in these areas, then plan your moves. "All questions of philosophy are ultimately answered through action."

VENUS CONJUNCTS SATURN:

On Tuesday August 31st at 12:07 P.M. EST the planet of love and possessions meets the planet of restriction and limitations. When these two get together it is a time of restrictions of resources. Limitations will be pointed out and caution in financial matters is advised. Any love affair begun with this aspect will not have much fire and fury, but could have staying power and be able to build a foundation. Passion fades anyway, maybe this type of relationship suits you.

VENUS SEXTILES JUPITER:

On Thursday August 2nd at 3:15 A.M. EST this pleasant aspect occurs. Almost exactly the opposite of the Venus-Saturn aspect mentioned above, this implies growth, excesses and luck in love and money matters. A relationship begun now will have potential for expansion, and project an optimistic and enthusiastic image. If this aspect sets off your chart this could be a day of good fortune. It certainly will be more enjoyable than the previous few days. Plan an outing or party. Just be aware that Mercury will go direct later in the day and watch out for its pitfalls mentioned below.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

Also on Thursday August 2nd at 9:09 A.M. EST our mischievous little friend turns around. Be careful for a day or so, as the world will attempt to make up for lost time and things will move quickly. There are many accidents and Mercurial problems while we get used to the different energy. Many of the problems with retrograde Mercury occur as the planet is changing direction either way. Secrets often come out while Mercury is doing its back and forth dance, so don't be surprised by anything you hear. Governor McGreevey's sudden exposure (no pun intended) is a perfect example. Just as Mercury began its reversal the news hit the fan and he was packing his assets for other pastures. Now that Mercury is changing direction again you can expect some more surprises from that front. You may have a few surprises of your own, so be ready. If you must travel today leave extra time and plan ahead. The Moon is Void of Course from 12:27 P.M. EST until 8:16 P.M. EST, which could certainly add to the mixture and help create problems. Try to relax today and not take things too seriously.

VENUS ENTERS LEO:

On Monday September 6th at 6:16 P.M. EST the planet of love enters the sign of romance and affairs. With Venus in this fiery sign love often displays an outgoing and friendly face. But it is all fun and games. Enjoy this fun loving aspect

for the next few weeks, but give that new love affair time to prove itself before you commit your everything. Once Venus enters Virgo in October you will be more critical of things, especially where love is concerned. At that time you will decide if a relationship has what you really need.

MARS SQUARES PLUTO:

On Friday September 10th at 12:01 A.M. EST this difficult aspect arrives. Tempers run hot when these two co-rulers of Scorpio are in conflict. People have hidden agendas, and tensions that have been held at bay tend to explode. There is the potential for violence if this sets off your chart. Certainly be careful and avoid dangerous situations and neighborhoods. Watch your own temper and try to avoid confrontations with others. There is a lack of common sense and restrictions, and people are apt to overreact. Find a release for the energy and this aspect will pass as little more than a busy day.

MERCURY ENTERS VIRGO:

Also on Friday September 10th at 3:38 A.M. EST the direct Mercury reenters Virgo. For the next few weeks we will all be in that critical state of mind we experienced a few weeks ago. Watch your tongue and try not to be too serious about things. You will be more attuned to details, just don't get caught up in the little things and miss the big picture. That is one of Virgo's short comings.

SUN SQUARES PLUTO:

On Saturday September 11th at 8:22 P.M. EST this twice a year aspect completes. Just like the Mars-Pluto square mentioned above, things are apt to be tense and people on edge. These aspects are only energy, and if directed constructively you could get some hard work done. The problem is that our egos get in the way and troubles could arise if the energy is just left to its own devices. This is not the day to confront someone, unless you are actually looking for a fight. If so, you will find it.

MERCURY OPPOSES URANUS:

On Monday September 13th at 11:54 A.M. EST this aspect hits once again. Because of the change of direction of Mercury it will complete the series of aspects that occurred while retrograde once again as it goes direct. The danger of accidents and misunderstandings is once again present. Be careful and drive defensively. Sudden communications, often with an angry or edgy tone, are common. You may receive an unexpected letter or phone call. Try not to overreact no matter what the subject.

DARK OF THE MOON:

Because the New Moons have been late in each sign the past few months, the period before has been rather extended and more intense than usual. From Sunday September 12th until the New Moon Tuesday September 14th at 10:29 A.M. EST will be a low energy period. Spend this time finishing up anything that is incomplete, don't try to initiate new projects on a waning moon, it just won't work out. Once the New Moon hits you begin new projects or attempt a new approach to an existing problem.

People often misunderstand this time of the month. If you have been living in a situation or involved in a relationship that is intolerable or has outlived its usefulness this would be the proper time to move on with your life. If you have been working on a project that is almost complete but you seem to lack the energy for the finality, you must push during these low energy days to end the matter once and for all. If you don't, when the New Moon arrives it will bring this "dead" energy along with it and conflict with the newer force being presented. Often people, ideas or situations remain long after they have outlived their usefulness in our lives. Each month we are offered a chance to clean house, so to speak. Take advantage of it by finalizing anything in your life that needs completion.

Below is a list of times this month when the Moon is Void of Course and neither important decisions nor purchases should be made during these periods. The Void of Course Moon is a time when we should try to center ourselves and deal with spiritual matters not materialistic ones. Any decisions made on the VC Moon will not turn out the way we had expected.

The Moon is Void of Course from the time it makes its last major aspect in a sign until it enters the next sign. For example, if the Moon squares Mars at 27 degrees Aries and then has no more aspects until it enters Taurus it will be

Void of Course for three degrees or about 6 hours. The aspects used are the conjunction, sextile, square, trine, and opposition.

All times are Eastern Daylight:

August 15th 9:24 P.M. - August 16th 9:49 A.M. *** moon is void all night
August 18th 3:15 A.M. - 6:09 P.M. *** moon is void all day
August 20th 9:39 P.M. - August 21st 12:37 A.M.
August 22nd 4:53 P.M. - August 23rd 5:08 A.M.
August 25th 7:13 A.M. - 7:47 A.M.
August 26th 10:58 P.M. - August 27th 9:08 A.M.
August 29th 5:23 A.M. - 10:33 A.M.
August 31st 4:28 A.M. - 1:46 P.M. *** moon is void all day
September 2nd 12:17 P.M. - 8:16 P.M.
September 5th 2:56 A.M. - 6:24 A.M.
September 7th 2:08 P.M. - 6:50 P.M.
September 10th 12:41 A.M. - 7:06 A.M.
September 11th 9:22 P.M. - September 12th 5:16 P.M. ***moon is void all day

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