

# LIVING BY STARLIGHT

AN ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

BY MITCHELL SCOTT LEWIS

**January - February 2005**

## **AUTHOR'S NOTE:**

Last month's devastating tsunami occurred right on the Full Moon in the sign of Cancer, ruler of the oceans. The transit of Uranus through the water sign of Pisces brought with it expectations of sudden occurrences involving water. I doubt that this is the last water-related disaster mankind will see during this 7 year cycle. We can expect changes in the weather patterns and more sudden and unexpected events. California is already feeling the effects of the changes occurring on a planetary scale. Saturn's transit through the sign of Cancer always brings with it humanitarian crises set up to test humanity's humanity. Based on the outpouring of money and caring, it's tempting to believe our species is learning something. Now if we could only show that same compassion everywhere in the world, say in Africa, for example.

## **This is the first issue of the year, so as is my habit, here are a few predictions for 2005:**

This year there will be a power struggle in Washington the likes of which we haven't seen in decades. Battle lines have been drawn, and despite an outward illusion of calm, the two sides are preparing for the clash that will decide the direction of this country for the next 20 years. Most of that fight, of course, will take place in the congressional confirmation hearings. The attorney general's job is only the first of such fights. The real struggle will be the appointment of judges, and the Supreme Court is the plum of them all. With the Republican Party holding a comfortable majority in both houses of congress it will be up to the individual senator and congressperson to vote their conscience rather than straight party line.

Our society will continue its pull to the right resulting from the Great Alignment in Taurus, with examples too numerous to count on the local and national levels. State's Rights vs. a strong federal government is the underlying struggle; an ongoing campaign the Republican right has championed since 1937 when the New Deal was introduced. I have been saying for years that a major goal of this administration and the Republican Party in general is the dismantling of that New Deal, and finally we can see some concrete examples of this. This administration will attempt all sorts of distractions towards that end. Once the courts (especially the Supreme Court) are up for grabs, they will be able to move more swiftly to accomplish their goals. They will use issues such as medicinal marijuana as carrots for the jackasses to follow as they strip us of a strong federal government with responsibility towards its citizens.

Drugs (speaking of which) are a major issue in our country. The Baby Boomers, a generation of drug addicts, expect the drug companies to magically manufacture all sorts of elixirs to control everything from weight gain to depression. The problem is that they can't. One hundred years ago the main active ingredient in Coca Cola was cocaine. Opiate in various forms were used by the best doctors for teething pains, depression, lethargy, skin ailments, etc. etc. Medicinal marijuana was prescribed for asthma, herpes outbreaks, headaches, etc. Now they are all illegal. This past year has seen a number of popular drugs under siege. There will be more, with several taken off the market altogether. Ten years from now you'll have to buy your Vioxx, Prozac, and dozens of other 'legal' drugs on 10th Street. (Psst, buddy, I got the real thing...wanna buy some Paxil?)

We can handle all sorts of problems in our society during good times. But the economy has not recovered. In fact, it is teetering on the edge as a result of Bush's tax breaks, (and promises of more rebates to the rich) oil prices, outsourcing and the precariously balanced trade situation. China is so hot right now that it could easily take the lion's share of Asian markets right out from under the west's nose. Oil will trade in a range for a few months and then break out of the range on the upside by early summer. We will see another startling increase to perhaps \$60 a barrel or more. This will continue to grow as a crisis throughout the rest of this decade.

The Bush administration will be involved in a scandal in 2005. A connection to a questionable business venture could herald the exit of one or more of his cabinet members.

### **NEW MOON:**

This month's New Moon occurs on Monday January 10th at 7:03 A.M. EST at 20 degrees Capricorn 21 minutes. Issues of structure and foundation will demand most of our attention. This is one of the most conservative of signs, and the time of year it rules is often a period of introspection and limitations. The winter is setting in and this sign, more than any other, teaches the lessons of preparedness and reserves. Only the heartiest of vegetables and tubers can grow when the soil has so little to offer. So it is in life. At times we must learn not only to survive, but to thrive with very little, perhaps to give us perspective on how much we really do have.

### **VENUS SEXTILES URANUS:**

### **MERCURY SEXTILES URANUS:**

### **THE SUN OPPOSES SATURN:**

### **MERCURY CONJUNCT VENUS:**

Thursday January 13th may prove to be an interesting day. Mercury and Venus sextile Uranus at 12:58 A.M. EST and 3:33 A.M. EST respectively and then conjunct each other at 9:37 P.M. EST. Communications and ideas will flow freely; this could be an inspired day for creative people. Any new or unusual concepts will find a more receptive audience. However, the Sun opposes Saturn that day as well, at 6:06 P.M. EST and this energy must be used constructively or you will miss a great opportunity. Saturn tends to limit things in order to teach us focus, and by centering our energy into a single direction when Saturn is active, that energy is properly used. By using the inspirational part of these transits along with the controlled, structured part, a great deal can be accomplished in a short period of time.

### **THE SUN ENTERS AQUARIUS:**

On Wednesday January 19th at 6:22 P.M. EST the Sun enters the fixed part of winter, to be followed in a few weeks by Mercury and Venus. The Aquarian energy is experimental and erratic. Progress with caution, but progress you must. This sign rules electricity, computers, TVs, democracy and individual freedom. The connection between all these things is clear if you see it from a distance. For real democracy to emerge we must have the voice of all the people, a concept begun with radio, but truly exploded with television and finally, in theory, from a centralized hyperspace. Will we achieve it? Maybe, but first we must get over our fears and the power struggles they create. The next month will involve issues of personal autonomy as many of us struggle with the boundaries of this concept.

### **MARS SEXTILES JUPITER:**

On Friday January 21st at 9:54 A.M. EST this positive aspect occurs creating a potentially productive and exuberant day. Use this force anywhere you need an extra boost of energy. Try to expand any project or push towards that final goal. There will be an abundance of energy in the air; use it productively.

### **MERCURY SQUARES JUPITER:**

On Saturday January 22nd at 7:24 P.M. EST the planet of communication makes a square to the planet of expansion and you must be cautious not to overstate things. Everything seems bigger and more important today, and people will tend to unconsciously exaggerate issues. Overstatement in relationships is common with this configuration as well. Make sure you heard the person correctly, and if necessary, double check the facts and figures.

### **VENUS SQUARES JUPITER:**

On Monday January 24th at 11:10 A.M. EST the lesser and greater benefic planets create a square, and much of the above description remains effective. Here though, it is mostly in relationships and financial matters that you must be sure of what you're getting. The desire for love is powerful; powerful enough to create illusions and false hopes. Jupiter is a wonderful energy, full of promise. It also likes that promise, at times, even more than it likes reality. This is not a good day to make a major purchase. Your own sense of values is distorted and you may spend much more than you want. You should wait a day or so and make sure the product is what you thought it was. Hold on to the heart-strings and the purse-strings today. Venus rules your money and the attitude towards it. This would be a perfect day to shop till you drop. Unfortunately, tomorrow when you see the bills, you'll just drop. And you don't need that problem heading into tomorrow's Full Moon in Leo.

### **FULL MOON:**

On Tuesday January 25th at 5:32 A.M. EST the Moon is full at 5 degrees Leo 33 minutes. Leo rules the stage and there is a tendency towards dramatics when this energy is active. There is no reason to exaggerate things, they will be exciting enough. Always give the Full Moon respect. You never know when it will be sufficient to set off a chain reaction. If you have a planet near 5 degrees of a fixed sign this could be an eventful day.

### **VENUS OPPOSES SATURN:**

On Thursday January 27th at 3:52 P.M. EST Venus, the planet of love and possessions is in opposition to Saturn, the planet of restrictions. This aspect can put many people in a funky mood. There is a definite lack of enthusiasm and a restriction in all things Venus rules. A relationship begun today will not have the excitement of some, but it will have staying power. There will be a tendency towards frugality in financial matters, often accompanied by an examination of ones resources and values.

### **MARS CONJUNCTS PLUTO:**

On Friday January 28th at 12:44 P.M. EST the two co-rulers of Scorpio join up. This energy can result in two different outcomes. There will be a great deal of energy in the air, and if directed properly, one can accomplish much. Any project that requires a tremendous amount of push can be moved along now. But the desire for power is strong. Egos will be ignited, and this can be an intense, at times violent aspect. Avoid dangerous situations and ego conflicts and this will pass simply as a few hours of high vibration.

### **MERCURY ENTERS AQUARIUS:**

On Sunday January 30th at 12:37 A.M. EST the winged god enters this erratic sign. Mercury does quite well here, as long as certain pitfalls are avoided. There is a tendency towards nervousness and erratic behavior. This is mostly because information is coming in so fast that it may cause short circuits. The goal would be to slow things down sufficiently to get a handle on the information however, that will not be an option. Meditate, breathe, calm your center and you will find the input easier to handle.

### **JUPITER RETROGRADES:**

On Tuesday February 1st at 9:26 P.M. EST the planet of expansion begins its yearly trip backwards, and as you would assume, expansion will be put on the back burner for a few months. This doesn't mean that projects and relationships can't grow, rather that the growth should be more internalized. The outside world will see the results of the growth once this planet turns around again in June. Your job is to have some growth ready to show.

### **VENUS ENTERS AQUARIUS:**

On Wednesday February 2nd at 10:42 A.M. EST love takes a sharp left turn. Those born with this placement aren't known for their romantic stability, and so it is with the transit. Emotions will change rapidly and people will be a bit more fickle than usual. Romance will be exciting and quite stimulating, but if you are looking for more than a momentary fling, I would give your new love affair time to prove its longevity. Once Venus enters Pisces at the end of February you will see the other side of your paramour, and only then can you judge clearly.

### **SUN CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:**

On Thursday February 3rd at 2:30 P.M. EST this most confusing and debilitating aspect occurs. The Sun is the will, the fire that drives all things on the material plane. Neptune isn't really interested in the secular world. It seeks a higher order of things and prefers to delve deeply into spiritual matters. The combination of the two tends to dissipate the will while adding fire to our illusions. This aspect coincides with more than its share of difficulties both personal and societal. Any individual with a drug or alcohol problem should be particularly aware not to be caught up in this energy, especially if there is a planet at 14 degrees fixed in the chart. This is also a notoriously negative coupling for the stock markets.

### **MARS ENTERS CAPRICORN:**

On Sunday February 6th at 1:32 P.M. EST the god of war enters the sign of its exaltation. There is a great deal of patience associated with this placement, so use this period of time to finish any project that has been stalled lately. Egos will be a bit more contained than usual, and this would be a good time to approach someone who normally would overwhelm you. Capricorn is the great equalizer of the zodiac, and puts us all on the same level. There could be a

slowing down of the savagery until the end of March. But it would only represent a regrouping and preparedness for even greater hostility once Mars enters Aquarius.

### **SUN TRINES JUPITER:**

On Monday February 7th at 7:03 A.M. EST this wonderfully optimistic aspect occurs. Wake up early and take advantage of this time. Creative energies exude from all sources for a day or so leading to this, but only if you make use of it. Travel would be a great source of enjoyment and knowledge.

### **MERCURY CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:**

On Tuesday February 8th at 5:10 A.M. EST this extremely confusing aspect completes. Coming as it does, so close to the dark of the moon, at the end of this lunar cycle, it is possible there could be some errors in judgment, as we scurry to complete things before the New Moon. Double check plans and make sure you understand what others have said. Also, don't take for granted that they understand you just because they are nodding their heads. Neptune tends to stimulate the spiritual and empathic side of life. Don't be surprised if you discover a more compassionate attitude emerging.

### **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 Monday February 7th at 9:26 A.M. EST until the New Moon Tuesday February 9th at 5:28 P.M. EST will be a particularly 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:

January 10th 12:58 P.M. - 10:07 P.M.  
 January 12th 10:43 A.M. - 9:50 P.M.  
 January 14th 3:22 P.M. - January 15th 12:27 A.M.  
 January 17th 1:57 A.M. - 7:06 A.M.  
 January 19th 5:19 P.M. - 5:24 P.M.  
 January 21st 4:25 P.M. - January 22nd 5:42 A.M.  
 January 24th 4:17 A.M. - 6:21 P.M.  
 January 26th 5:38 P.M. - January 27th 6:24 A.M.  
 January 29th 4:07 P.M. - 5:13 P.M.  
 January 31st 10:21 P.M. - February 1st 1:51 A.M.  
 February 2nd 5:56 P.M. - February 3rd 7:21 A.M.  
 February 5th 8:08 A.M. - 9:32 A.M.

February 6th 8:47 P.M. - February 7th 9:26 A.M.

Mitchell Scott Lewis

January 2005

New York City

(212) 726-3814

<http://www.mitchastro.com>

Copyright 2005

All Rights Reserved