

LIVING BY STARLIGHT

AN ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

September - October 2005

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

The devastation in the Gulf region is almost unbearable to watch. Beautiful New Orleans, one of the great gems in our crown jewels, has been beaten and lays dying and violated. To see armed and organized gangs of Americans taking over entire areas of the city; looting and raping with no one to oppose them, only points out what many of us have always felt was the potential future for this country. When you have millions of citizens with caches of arms ready for just such an event, what do you expect? With gangs in some cities numbering into the hundreds of thousands, who do you think will control the streets of any American city that stumbles? God help anyone stuck in Los Angeles if they do ever have "The Big One", or New York; were a cataclysm of any sort on the scale of hurricane Katrina to occur. America is the cowboy nation, and as long as the bad-boy image survives we will be faced with this potential. I'm afraid we are way past gun-control; not that it will ever be taken seriously on a national scale anyway. There are so many privately owned arms already that it would take decades to reduce the threat, even if they were outlawed today.

Whether or not New Orleans ever recovers, the waters and the gangs will recede into their quiet place; waiting until the next eruption in our fragile levee. Where will it come from? Will it be a result of a hurricane, or earthquake, perhaps a disease run rampant throughout metropolitan America? Who will rule the streets then; and take control over the citizens, young and old, rich and poor. The right to bear arms was created to allow for a militia in times of crises, not so every schmuck can have an Uzi. But the misinterpretation of so many of our writings has lead to a world always seemingly on the brink of disaster.

FDR was a great man. Not just because of the wonderful things he did in the name of the common man, but because like the protagonist in any great novel, he changed. Once he understood history he realized that an empire is only as strong as its underbelly. FDR had a chance to learn first hand what America's belly looked like when, as a young man, he was forced to seek refuge from his crippling polio down south. Rather than abandon the ruling class he was born to by running on the Democratic Party ticket, as he was accused of doing, he in fact, saved the privileged their lifestyle. He understood that if you want to have a privileged class you must secure the other classes or just like Yurtle the Turtle one day they will sneeze and you will all come tumbling down. But the present administration and indeed a large section of this country believes just the opposite; that the rich bear no responsibility for the poor. FDR didn't think of this as an issue of morals; it was common sense. Whether you do it from the goodness of your heart or the intelligence to recognize that your own ass is on the line, you must create a society where everyone has a chance at a decent life. You want to get rid of jihad? Give everyone a microwave, a TV with 200 channels and Paul Newman's popcorn. Make it worthwhile for everyone to keep the culture going. Then, except for the few malcontents, you have a working society. New Orleans is, or I'm sorry to say was, a city with a terribly poor population. And as fate would have it, the richest section of the city was virtually spared the destruction. Estates and castles on the high ground still stand, structurally undamaged, while the poorest lost everything. We are in the middle of creating the biggest chasm between rich and poor that has ever existed in this country. If attitudes do not change we will not be a great country for long.

I have been a jazz and blues musician since my teens. There was no place like New Orleans to still create the illusion that jazz was a thriving, growing art form, not just the echo of a once great generation. But the city that held the title of jazz capital is no more. Maybe it will rise again, but it won't be what it was. If its passing goes without a lesson being learned than woe unto you America.

So why did this happen? Well, for you students of the celestial arts:

By transit: Pluto is in opposition to America's Mars

Pluto is in square to America's Neptune

Saturn is conjunct America's north node

Chiron is conjunct America's Pluto

Because America has a Mars-Neptune square within a degree in our natal chart, both planets will be activated by transits or progressions at the same time. **Mars is the ruler of the 4th, 5th and 12th houses** in the nation's chart, based on the Koch house system. **With Pluto in opposition to the Mars by transit** we expected some severe events. This is an aspect I have been warning about all year. It inflamed the Iraq situation, has much to do with the inflated price of oil in general (Pluto rules oil), and because the 12th house is Pisces domain, has to do with water and related events, such as hurricane Katrina. Because Mars rules the 4th house of home, these events took place on our soil.

Last month I wrote about the Full Moon being almost exactly conjunct America's natal Moon at 27 degrees Aquarius. The Moon rules water and Aquarius is the sign that rules sudden and disruptive events. Presently the planet **Uranus, which rules Aquarius, is traveling through Pisces**, one of the water signs. As it was preparing to enter this sign I was warning of several potential problems. One was the erratic events involving water and the oceans. The other was infectious diseases. **The last time Uranus was in Pisces began in 1919**, heralding the influenza epidemic that killed more people in eight months than we managed to kill in six years of warfare, despite all our new weapons and best efforts. When it comes to killing, mankind is a piker; nature is champ. I'm concerned that the situation in the south will open the window of opportunity for diseases to fester and strengthen. I'm already concerned about the changes in viruses that I foresaw several years ago. Things happen in cycles. If you study the astrology charts you can recognize those cycles.

Pluto is in square to America's Neptune. The completely destructive force of Hurricane Katrina is a result of Uranus in Pisces, setting the stage for changes in our weather patterns and sudden meteorological events, and the force of Pluto; ruler of death and rebirth. As it created the conflicting aspect to Neptune, all the decisions made since 1906 when Pluto opposed our Neptune, came to bear. The choices in how to lay out the city, how to deal with the levees, etc. now have seen the end results. Florida is ruled by Pisces, thus Neptune, and Miami is also a Pisces city. We may not be done with the destructive forces at work on our chart.

With **Saturn conjunct America's north node** we are being called to task; asked to prove our worth. Since **Saturn is transiting the 8th house** of partner's resources, we may find just how difficult it is to count on the support of others. This is the time when an individual finds it hard to get a loan from a bank. With the exception of England, which is literally and astrologically our mother country, we are finding it hard to form solid partnerships that we can rely on. **America has the Moon in Aquarius and, yes, we were born out of revolution; Aquarius' domain.** When we seek support in our country's chart I look at the lunar position for England. For the rest of the world it becomes an 8th house issue. With Saturn in transit in that 8th house, we have very few allies at the moment. We are surviving on the adage that 'tis better to be feared than loved. Well, America is a Cancer nation, and Cancers, maybe more than any sign, need to be loved. So I doubt that this national image will last much longer. The collective will demand a redirection of energy the same way an individual makes certain unconscious decisions to improve his or her life.

Chiron has been transiting America's Pluto. People ask me why I believe Pluto rules oil. Well, Pluto rules death and rebirth, things that are hidden, and the underground. Oil, to the best of our understanding, is dead animals, hidden underground, and having a rebirth as fuel for our SUVs. Anyway, I digress. Chiron, the wounded healer, is bleeding our oil reserves. We will tap those reserves, a pitiful drop in the bucket of our nation's daily needs, in the next few days. If our refineries and national stance do not recover in a matter of months or even weeks, we will see what most of us baby boomers prayed we would not live to see; gas at \$10 a gallon and the aging of America. Pompeii has been buried; this is not a good omen for the empire.

Oil will certainly hit \$100 a barrel, as I have been steadfastly predicting for several years. But it may do much more. It may reach \$150 or \$200 a barrel before our government is forced to cease the trading of certain commodities altogether. The pieces are falling into place. China is awakening, and Russia is scared. Oil is limited and, because of the infrastructure of power in this country, we are incapable of preparing for what has been obvious since the end of the Second World War. In 1973 when we waited on line for our

gasoline because of the Arab embargo, anyone with an IQ over 50 realized that it was just a matter of time before this became a “real” issue, not just a publicity stunt. Why didn’t anything change? You know the answer, let’s all say it together; greed and corruption. If alternate fuels were discovered it would cost the oil companies.

When Pluto exits Sagittarius and enters Capricorn beginning in 2008-9 one of two scenarios will take place. Either the price of oil will come crashing down, due to new discoveries or a great drop in demand for any of a number of reasons, or we will finally tap out our reserves making it impossible to continue the lifestyle we all cherish so much. That will be a turning point in humankind’s path no matter which occurs.

NEW MOON:

This month’s New Moon falls on Saturday September 3rd at 2:45 P.M. EST at 11 degrees Virgo 21 minutes. This is a decisive time of the year when the critical nature of things is predominant. Watch the stock and housing markets this month for an indicator as to the true state of our economy. New Housing starts in July fell as Saturn entered Leo, just as I predicted several months ago. I believe this trend will continue, causing weakness in the broader markets. On a personal level you should use this time to examine what is and isn’t working for you and attempt to make plans to improve your situation. Virgos pick at something until the truth is exposed.

MERCURY ENTERS VIRGO:

On Sunday September 4th at 1:52 P.M. EST Mercury enters this detail oriented sign, and we will all see the finer points of things for a few weeks. This is one of the signs this planet rules, and although it will add to the generally critical oriented energies, it should help us all concentrate on the important issues. Just be careful not to allow this pickiness to interfere in your personal relationships. Anything that requires great attention to detail will be aided by this placement. People born with planets in Virgo often become jewelers, tailors or musicians.

MERCURY OPPOSES URANUS:

On Friday September 9th at 1:21 A.M. EST this explosive aspect occurs, and for a day or so we should all be a bit more careful, especially while traveling. The effects from aspects can occur days in advance. There could be some very serious accidents involving planes, trains or automobiles, so act with caution. People will tend to be a bit jumpy, and arguments could certainly abound. With Mercury in Virgo the tendency is towards active discussions anyway. This will amplify that energy. Computers and cell phones will cause undue hassles. This aspect completes at 1:21 in the morning, so its effects will be more obvious a day or two in advance. Watch the bond market; there could be some news effecting rates and prices there.

VENUS ENTERS SCORPIO:

On Sunday September 11th at 12:14 P.M. EST the goddess of beauty enters the deepest and most severe of signs. While traveling through this Mars ruled sign, the planet of love becomes compulsive and obsessive. There tends to be a powerful sexual element to this transit. Any relationship begun with this placement will display both fire and ice. Make sure you know who you are falling for. It’s difficult to extricate oneself from Scorpio energy.

THE SUN TRINES MARS:

On Tuesday September 13th at 2:50 P.M. EST this positive and productive aspect hits giving us a day with tremendous potential. Arduous tasks, both physical and mental should be tackled. Find an outlet for this positive energy and you can accomplish much. Don’t waste it.

THE SUN SQUARES PLUTO:

On Wednesday September 14th at 10:18 A.M. EST this potentially difficult aspect occurs, and this is a day

to avoid direct confrontation, if at all possible. People will be tense, and any hidden anger will be brought to the surface. This is often a very bad transit for the stock markets. And since Pluto rules oil there may be another spike in the price of that commodity as a result of something hidden; such as an attack or a secret being revealed. One should not separate the aspects, but rather view them collectively as an ongoing movement; in other words, life. Because of the various situations in the world today, including Iraq, New Orleans, Venezuela, etc. any potential for this oil market to explode must be watched carefully.

MERCURY TRINES MARS:

On Thursday September 15th at 11:06 P.M. EST this useful aspect occurs and here we have a day or so when communication and all mental tasks will go smoothly. But like all trines, if you don't use this energy it will just pass as a pleasant day. If there is a job to be completed, this is a day to do it. If you have been having difficulty with someone in your life this would be a good time to clear the air. Egos and intellects will act together, not in conflict. But you must act quickly, for the next day the energy changes radically.

MERCURY SQUARES PLUTO:

On Friday September 16th at 2:31 A.M. EST this unpleasant and nasty aspect hits creating the opposite energy of the aspect above. Today people will be looking for fights, and if you aren't careful you could walk into the middle of someone else's bad mood. Tiptoe lightly and leave no footprints in the sand, and you will be fine. Since we are heading into the Full Moon in Pisces the following day, it would be wise to use caution.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak hits on Saturday September 17th at 10:01 P.M. EST at 25 degrees Pisces 16 minutes. Issues of faith will abound, and certainly recent events have tested ours. Because Pisces is a water sign and so much of the current situation is a result of water, we can expect some sort of climax to occur around this time. There could even be another occurrence involving the weather, or, since Pisces rules infectious diseases, a medical emergency. This is no time to lose faith; rather a time of gathering together the best of the Pisces energy of giving and aiding those in need. Of course the other side of Pisces has to do with drugs, self-delusion and the avoidance of responsibilities. At each crossroad mankind has the same choices as the individual. Which path shall we choose?

JUPITER SEXTILES PLUTO:

On Saturday September 17th at 11:41 P.M. EST we are offered an opportunity to expand in a controlled fashion. This Full Moon can represent the turning point in the national catastrophe, but only if a proper structure is laid down. Otherwise it won't amount to much. Use this day for planning.

VENUS SQUARES SATURN:

On Sunday September 18th at 4:34 A.M. EST this wet-blanket comes along. People will be more concerned with the cost of things than the entertainment value. Relationships begun under this aspect often lack the spark necessary for emotional growth. I wouldn't plan on having a party until later today.

VENUS TRINES URANUS:

Also on Sunday September 18th at 12:29 P.M. EST this interesting trine occurs. The energy will most certainly be different than the previous day or so. We will all be looking for the unusual in entertainment and love. You could be attracted to someone quite different than your usual paramour. Boredom will not be tolerated; seek out something fun to do.

MERCURY ENTERS LIBRA:

On Tuesday September 20th at 12:40 P.M. EST the winged god enters this Venus ruled sign. Balance is Libra's purpose in life. You will find that people are a little nicer and conversations will be more pleasant than they were while Mercury was in picky Virgo. However, you can not always trust what someone says during

this aspect. The need for balance and calm may overwhelm the desire for truth. Peace at any cost is the downside to Libra's great calming effects. But peace without purpose and honesty is a shallow and short-lived harmony.

SUN ENTERS LIBRA:

On Thursday September 22nd at 6:24 P.M. EST we officially enter autumn. Again it is balance and tranquility that this sign seeks. But don't get the wrong idea; Libras are not passive. They are passive-aggressive and tend to get what they want through circumvention. If people seem too easy, shake the tree a bit and see what falls out. Only then can you know their true motivations.

VENUS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Saturday September 24th at 3:21 P.M. EST this most confusing of aspects hits. Be careful of alcohol and drugs (legal or illegal); overindulging is one of the negative sides to this aspect. Love relationships are very confusing, and people tend to fib under Neptune's influence. Give a new love affair some time to prove itself before committing your heart. This is one of several aspects we must confront that may have a negative effect on our economy.

MERCURY SEXTILES SATURN:

On Sunday September 25th at 6:59 A.M. EST this useful aspect hits. Metal tasks will go smoothly. Use this day or so to complete anything that has been weighing heavily upon your mind. Although this considered a positive aspect, any Mercury-Saturn connection will tend to make us more thoughtful and less spontaneous. This one is no exception.

MERCURY TRINES NEPTUNE:

On Thursday September 29th at 4:43 A.M. EST this trine completes. This is a wonderful aspect for all creative people. Intuition is strong and ideas will flow. But you must make use of it or it will pass simply as a nice daydream. Make your fantasies into reality; that is how we use astrology correctly.

MARS RETROGRADES:

On Saturday October 1st at 6:04 P.M. EST Mars begins its yearly trip backwards. This is a serious event that astrologers should be watching carefully. If Mars dances three times across a sensitive point in your chart it will create events that force certain issues to the forefront. Our men and women in the armed forces are especially at risk, and with Pluto still in opposition to America's natal Mars there could be a major confrontation of some sort. This could also represent an important internal discussion within our political system.

VENUS OPPOSES MARS:

Also on Saturday October 1st at 10:46 P.M. EST the male and female planets oppose each other. Quite simply, this could be a challenging time for many relationships. If there are unspoken disagreements, they may come to the surface now. A relationship begun under this aspect will have troubles built into it. But it will also have a great deal of sexual energy. If you are capable of handling the extremes it may work out for you. I wouldn't choose this day to have an important discussion. If possible wait until the New Moon to hash things out.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Monday October 3rd at 6:28 P.M. EST. The 2 days leading up to it 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. 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. Each month we are offered a chance to clean house, so to speak.

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:

September 4th 11:39 A.M. – September 5th 3:52 A.M.
 September 7th 4:33 A.M. – 2:10 P.M.
 September 9th 3:31 A.M. – 10:03 P.M. ***moon is void all day
 September 11th 12:52 P.M. – September 12th 2:57 A.M.
 September 13th 2:22 P.M. – September 14th 5:02 A.M.
 September 15th 4:23 P.M. – September 16th 5:24 A.M.
 September 17th 10:01 P.M. – September 18th 5:43 A.M.
 September 19th 6:36 P.M. - September 20th 7:47 A.M.
 September 22nd 12:41 P.M. – 1:07 P.M.
 September 24th 8:57 A.M. – 10:10 P.M. ***moon is void all day
 September 26th 9:24 P.M. – September 27th 10:03 A.M.
 September 29th 11:12 A.M. – 10:44 P.M. ***moon is void all day
 October 1st 9:22 P.M. – October 2nd 10:24 A.M.

Mitchell Scott Lewis
September 2005
New York City
(212) 726-3814
Copyright 2005
All Rights Reserved