

LIVING BY STARLIGHT
AN ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER
BY MITCHELL SCOTT LEWIS
JANUARY 2006

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

It's the end of another year; and what a year it's been. The planets have certainly made their energies known. **Uranus, the planet of sudden and upsetting events, has been traveling through Pisces, the mutable water sign.** We sure have had more than our share of upsetting water-related events. I'm afraid we can expect them to continue for the next several years. The world is always changing; it's up to humanity to evolve along with it. There are areas of the world, particularly along the coasts, that are becoming inhabitable. The ice cube in the glass is melting, and the water is rising. Our cup runneth over. Uranus continues in this sign until 2011. During this period we can expect some major changes in our relationship to the seas.

Pisces is also the ruler of infectious diseases. Uranus in this sign seems to lead to the mutation of bacterium and viruses. In anticipation of this transit I have been warning about a potential pandemic for years. The last time Uranus entered this sign we had the influenza pandemic of 1918-19. The time before that, in 1835, there was a series of epidemics; including a major typhoid epidemic, and the catastrophic smallpox epidemic of 1835-40, which decimated the western Indian tribes; in some cases virtually wiping them off the face of the earth.

If we do have a pandemic of Avian Flu or any other biological mutation in the next few years, the degree of its effects will have more to do with what we have or haven't learned about coping with this type of problem in the past 84 years. It's hard to realize, but in 1918 the population put its faith totally in the hands of scientists and doctors. They believed they were quite modern and secure; safe in the hands of a contemporary world devoid of superstition. They weren't. Are we?

Pluto, ruler of oil, continues its journey in Sagittarius, the sign of expansion and growth, where it has been since 1995. Guess what happens to the price of oil. However, in 2008 it begins its move into Capricorn. This is an event astrologers, especially those in the financial or political world, are anxiously waiting for. I will write more about this transition in months to come. It may represent a serious change in our history. In the meantime, we must complete our karma with its present placement. Because Pluto rules vengeance and hidden things, its transit through this sign has expanded the sense of such things. We have seen terrorism of all sorts expand across the globe. My greatest fear is that since Pluto is also the ruler of Plutonium, we may be heading in a direction I would rather not think about right now.

Saturn, planet of stability and structure, left Cancer, ruler of the home, and entered Leo this past July. As I predicted in the months leading up to that change, the housing bubble, upon which Americans have placed much of their faith, has begun to show weakness with the removal of Saturn's foundation. As 2006 progresses we will see a continued decay in that base. **Saturn will conjunct Pluto in the charts of all baby-boomers during this 2½ year period.** That venerable generation is about to feel the pains of age. As a precaution, I recommend a physical check-up for that entire generation, especially the colon and reproductive organs; Pluto's domain.

But you know, the world is always on the verge of destroying itself, and yet people go on; they have children and sometimes even get along with them. As an astrologer it is my job to watch out for the worst of what might be. But it is equally important to see the best of what is. We are a difficult species to understand; self-destructive and stubborn. Still, it is the struggle of our spirit that we celebrate in our films and songs and poems. We are capable of shrugging off the most horrible of events and moving on with our lives. The

“roaring twenties” were a direct result of a generation that needed to get past the First World War and the Influenza Pandemic. It may seem cold and distant at times, but that is our strongest suit. No matter what the world throws at us we still get up in the morning, push aside our fears and pains, and face another day. We are tough and resilient monkeys, and we can face anything, as long as we can do it together. Fate is what the universe throws at us; free-will is our reaction to it.

Happy New Year, everybody.

NEW MOON:

This month’s New Moon falls on Friday December 30th at 10:12 P.M. EST at 9 degrees Capricorn 32 minutes. Although this New Moon occurs before the New Year, it will be the prevailing energy for the month and perhaps in some ways, the whole year. Look for support and structure in all things you begin now. Capricorn looks for value in things; willing to pay more if the product or service is worth it. Don’t accept mediocrity; in the long run you will regret it.

NEW YEAR’S EVE:

MERCURY CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Saturday December 31st at 6:16 A.M. EST this powerful and aggressive aspect occurs. Try to avoid arguments. There will be a real need to get to the facts about things. If you want to know the truth about anything, just ask. But be prepared for the answers. **This New Year’s Eve may be a bit understated. The Moon is Void of Course in Capricorn all day.** Plans will not work out as scheduled, but if you can just go with the flow you may be surprised by events that could prove more entertaining. There will be a real feeling of endings and new beginnings this holiday. We are constantly redefining ourselves as individuals and as a collective. Pluto is the agent of such changes. Events, such as New Year’s Eve, can work as a way of measuring our success or failure. But don’t judge yourself too harshly, as is Pluto’s way.

VENUS RE-ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Sunday January 1st at 9:13 P.M. EST the planet of love and possessions retrogrades back into this conservative earth sign, and for a few weeks we will be feeling the austerity, both financially and personally, attached with this placement. People will be more withdrawn, and the financial markets may take a bit of a beating. The “real” numbers from our economy may begin filtering in. A marriage or affair begun under this placement may not always be exciting, but it will have staying power.

MERCURY ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Tuesday January 3rd at 4:27 P.M. EST the planet of thought and communication joins the Sun and Venus in Capricorn. This is a good time to tackle any arduous mental tasks or projects that have been left unfinished. Don’t expect flashes of inspiration; rather, you should rely on hard work. People will tend to be somewhat conservative in their speech. There is a reason Capricorn, one of the most conservative of signs, precedes Aquarius, perhaps the most radical. It is only on a strong foundation that radical change can occur without disrupting the structure. Ask the baby-boomers; standing tall upon the shoulders of the Roosevelt years.

THE SUN SEXTILES JUPITER:

On Wednesday January 4th at 3:16 A.M. EST this positive aspect occurs giving us a day or so of unbridled optimism and vigor. Use this energy to expand your ideas and plans. Just pay heed to the number of planets in Capricorn at this time and make sure you lay a strong foundation or your schemes will not sustain the winds of change.

MERCURY SEXTILES URANUS:

On Sunday January 8th at 10:36 P.M. EST the lower and higher octaves of the mental force create a

positive aspect. New resolutions to old problems are accessible now; seek them out. We will all understand complex concepts more easily for a moment. Now may be the time to buy a new computer or try once more to understand the instructions on that Christmas toy.

MERCURY TRINES MARS:

On Friday January 13th at 5:40 A.M. EST these two planets create a positive aspect. This will give us a day or so of concentration and focus. Take time to examine your plans; you may find a better way of proceeding. There are several aspects working together today, and the combination will allow a brief period of clarity and optimism. And hard work done now will pay off in the long run.

MERCURY SEXTILES JUPITER:

Also on Friday January 13th at 12:32 P.M. EST Mercury gets another positive jolt of energy. This aspect is usually accompanied by an optimistic and far-sighted point of view. As we approach the Cancer Full Moon the energy from these aspects will help put our focus where it can do the best. Thoughts and conversations should be clear and direct. There is no room for lies with Jupiter present. And since the Cancer Full Moon will be concerned with home and family, you can get to the heart of the matter more easily than at other times.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS VENUS:

Also on Friday January 13th at 6:58 P.M. EST this pleasant aspect occurs right before the Full Moon. Our concept of values is being brought into light. Coming right before the Cancer Full Moon I expect that many of our questions will have to do with family and responsibilities. Even if you are single you may be faced with a situation in your home. The winter is the time we appreciate warmth and companionship. Whenever the Sun and Venus get together it is a time to examine our interpersonal relationships. Take advantage of the uniqueness of this moment and don't be afraid to explore. It is only ignorance that keeps us in the darkness.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak hits on Saturday January 14th at 4:48 A.M. EST at 24 degrees Cancer 05 minutes. This can be an emotionally charged day with issues of home and family in the forefront. Pay attention to your emotional needs, and try your best to fulfill them. If there are underlying feelings that are not being exposed, they may be under this aspect. Be careful what you say to those around you. Don't forget, they are being overly emotional as well. By the same token this can be a wonderful few days full of love and compassion. It all depends upon your attitude. Remember, fate is what the universe throws at you. Free will is your reaction to it.

MARS OPPOSES JUPITER:

On Sunday January 15th at 4:28 A.M. EST the planet of ego opposes the planet of expansion. This is primarily a positive aspect with some pitfalls. Obviously we all must keep our self-image in perspective. It is too easy to blow things out of proportion when Jupiter is around, and the ego only has the barriers we put up. Without restraints it can run wild. Otherwise this can be a wonderful day filled with the promise of growth. The energy level will be quite high and you could get a great deal of work accomplished in a short time.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS VENUS:

On Tuesday January 17th at 10:31 A.M. EST this pleasant aspect hits. This is a good day for communications of all sorts. Short journeys will also be particularly enjoyable. If you have been having difficulties with someone, this could be the day to clear the air. People will be more attentive and willing to forgive. Take advantage of this time. This can be a very good aspect for creative people, especially writers.

MARS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Wednesday January 18th at 8:54 A.M. EST this very difficult and at times, debilitating aspect completes. Be careful today in several areas. Try to avoid alcohol or drugs of all sorts; this includes legal and

illegal substances. The body makes no distinction; only the F.D.A. does. Also, this is not the time to challenge someone's point of view. There is an inherent fear that accompanies Neptune, and in square to Mars it can produce an atmosphere of doubt and disillusionment, especially if it hits a sensitive part of your chart. I would wait a day or so before making any important decisions or directly confronting someone.

SUN ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Friday January 20th at 12:06 A.M. EST we enter the fixed sign of the zodiac. This is the most "winter-like" time of the year. We will be hankered down for about four weeks in what seems like endless darkness. Yet, Aquarius is most known for its genius and sudden enlightenment. Could it be that by being forced into an enclosed environment genius comes to light? I don't know, but the European Jews who were forced into ghettos for many hundreds of years managed to create and invent a disproportionate number of important things. I believe that the human spirit is very mutable and learns to change as need be. Perhaps while you are stuck inside bemoaning the wet and cold, you may gain great understanding or create something of great importance; at least to you.

MERCURY ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Sunday January 22nd at 3:42 P.M. EST Mercury joins the Sun in this erratic sign. People will tend to be a bit jumpy and may come across as being pushy. But really they are just trying to express this unpredictable force. The energies are changing; moving from Capricorn into Aquarius. This will become more obvious as the days progress. There will be a change in attitude as people become less conservative and more experimental. We will all tend to seek out the unusual; use this to your advantage. Don't accept the tried and true; go for the new and extraordinary. You may find a whole new way of seeing things.

VENUS TRINES MARS:

On Monday January 23rd at 5:20 A.M. EST the male and female planets make a positive aspect to each other. This would be a good time to explore new relationships or delve into an existing one more deeply. There is a better chance of processing change in a personal affair while these two are in affirmative aspect.

SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

On Thursday January 26th at 4:34 P.M. EST these two conjoin in Aquarius. Those born with this configuration often have a touch of genius. The Sun will heighten Mercury's powers and give spark to the most unusual of thoughts and ideas. Many of these ideas will fail, but some will be exceptional. Just be careful in conversation, as the combination also lead to willfulness and even a self-righteous attitude in some. Expect strange and even bizarre discussions for a day or so. I would wait until this passes before deciding on a final resolution to your problem.

MERCURY OPPOSES SATURN:

Friday January 27th is an intense day with a number of major aspects all completing. This one occurs at 8:03 A.M. EST and sets the pattern for the day. This is a very serious aspect often associated with exhaustion. The energy level will be quite low most of the day since Saturn will oppose the Sun later as well. Don't push against the wind. We are approaching the Dark of the Moon, and this is a good time to complete any tasks left unfinished. Don't try to begin anything new while this energy is around.

VENUS SEXTILES JUPITER:

Also on Friday January 27th at 2:07 P.M. EST this positive aspect occurs in the midst of all this Saturn energy. This will help ease some of the negative thoughts that may abound, but don't expect miracles. Use this time for pleasure or relaxation; the rest of the day will demand your attention towards responsibilities and work. Take a long walk at lunch; it will rejuvenate your mind.

SUN OPPOSES SATURN:

Still on Friday January 27th at 5:48 P.M. EST this heavy aspect comes along. The Sun is the force behind everything. Saturn is the planet of restrictions and karma. When the two are at odds such as now there is little energy in the air. Again I must remind you; don't push against an immovable force. There simply won't be enough power to move things forward. Just complete your work and wait until later to celebrate.

JUPITER SQUARES NEPTUNE:

Finally on Friday January 27th at 8:29 P.M. EST this exaggerated coupling comes along to complete our series of aspects. Following the restraint of Saturn, this aspect may provide just the opposite effect. Because Neptune rules drugs, alcohol and all forms of escapism, and Jupiter tends to overdo everything, a word of advice is required. You may be feeling the need to expand following the earlier aspects. Just be careful that you don't blow things out of proportion in an attempt to balance your negative feelings. If you just wait until tomorrow everything will come back into balance. However, if you greet tomorrow with a massive hangover you may not recognize the opportunity. This is called free-will.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Sunday January 29th at 9:15 A.M. EST. The day or so 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:

December 31st 4:09 A.M. – January 1st 7:14 A.M. EST

January 3rd 6:44 A.M. – 7:43 A.M.

January 5th 7:10 A.M. – 9:44 A.M.

January 7th 9:34 A.M. – 2:09 P.M.

January 9th 1:56 P.M. – 8:58 P.M.

January 11th 8:46 P.M. – January 12th 5:50 A.M.

January 14th 4:48 A.M. – 4:31 P.M.

January 16th 7:35 P.M. - January 17th 4:49 A.M.

January 19th 5:12 P.M. – 5:49 P.M.

January 22nd 3:53 A.M. – 5:28 A.M.

January 23rd 4:53 P.M. – January 24th 1:38 P.M.

January 26th 10:24 A.M. – 5:31 P.M.

January 28th 2:57 A.M. – 6:09 P.M.

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