

MONTHLY SINCE 1999

ISSUE # 85

LIVING BY STARLIGHT

AN ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 2006

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

This month we are presented with the New Moon in Aquarius. In many ways this is the most radical of signs, and at this time of year we can expect the unexpected. The events unfolding around us right now certainly fit that mode and are marking radical changes in our future – clearly written road signs that all too easily predict certain directional changes we as a society are facing. These events continue to be motivated by the underlying energy of the Great Alignment in Taurus, continuing to force us to pull to the right. First there was the election of Hamas in Middle East, which will undoubtedly pull the Israeli society to the right. With the end of Sharon's rule and the noose of their enemies pulling ever tighter, what do we expect? Second there is the strengthening of Iran's resolve to ignore our sanctions and continue to attack Israel psychologically, for the moment, the end result of which will be higher and higher oil prices. **We will hit the \$100 mark this year. I have no doubt.** The rich get rich while the poor get compact cars. Thirdly we have the imminent conformation of Judge Aielo to the Supreme Court, tipping the balance radically to the right forever, as far as my generation is concerned. We baby boomers are still fighting the battle of the 60's; hippie vs. suit, freedom vs. constriction. But as Aesop taught us many years ago, the one with the most patience tends to win. The culture seduced the hippie half; greed got in their way, how could it not? We are leaving our children a future that should be more secure, especially following a worldwide depression and two World Wars. But it isn't. How could it be that we have not learned anything?

Since Saturn left Cancer last July, the housing markets have continued to show weakness. Housing sales have continued to go down for months. According to the New York Daily News, analysts are predicting that sales of new and existing houses will decline another 10% this year. The natural ups and downs of this market are no longer in play. The incredible upswing over the past decade was somewhat built upon speculative buying, the first to run for the hills at the sign of trouble. And yet the DOW is flirting with 11,000 and more. We know the markets are moved more by psychology than logic. Be careful; this could be a speculative move against the very fundamentals that would otherwise make it a bear market. In early March when Jupiter retrogrades there will be a major correction in the markets anyway, so I wouldn't look at this for the long-term.

NEW MOON:

This month's New Moon falls on Sunday January 29th at 9:15 A.M. EST at 9 degrees Aquarius 32 minutes. This month's issues involve finding personal freedom while still working within groups. Aquarius needs to break free from whatever is preventing growth in consciousness, but because it rules the 11th house, it really works better collectively than individually. Thomas Edison was the quintessential Aquarian genius. He was a brilliant inventor, working within that mysterious realm of the brain known only to the person, yet he did most of his work in Menlo Park, New Jersey where he put together a factory of other brilliant people to build and improve upon his inventions. From now until the Full Moon look for genius, but make sure it has a purpose. Lightning is brilliance without form, as opposed to the light bulb. Yet both are Aquarian in nature.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:

On Wednesday February 1st at 3:22 P.M. EST this aspect completes. Don't expect your intellect to understand this extremely confusing aspect. Use your intuition, as it will be more finely tuned. 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. Be careful while making plans; it is possible there could be some errors in judgment. Neptune tends to stimulate the spiritual and empathic side of life. Don't be surprised if you discover a more compassionate attitude emerging from within.

MERCURY SQUARES JUPITER:

Also on Wednesday February 1st at 7:29 P.M. EST this usually benign coupling occurs. The squares to Jupiter imply a tendency to expand things, often beyond rational limits. Coming so close to the Mercury-Neptune conjunct mentioned above could add to the confusion and misunderstandings expected from that aspect. If possible, you should wait a day or so before making any important decisions. You could make a mess out of a situation under these influences. If you absolutely must make choices today follow your intuition.

VENUS GOES DIRECT:

On Friday February 3rd at 4:19 A.M. EST the planet of love and possessions begins moving forward in the conservative sign of Capricorn. While this planet is retrograding there can be delays in romance as well as Venus-ruled ventures, such as decorating, designing or fashion. Once it begins moving forward these things will resolve themselves. Any romance begun during the retrograde may show a different side now.

MERCURY SQUARES MARS:

On Sunday February 5th at 3:09 P.M. EST this potentially dangerous aspect completes. Be careful of accidents, especially involving transportation. Tempers are heightened and the force of this coupling can project an aggressive energy that may be hard to avoid. You can expect argumentative attitudes and should act accordingly; try to sidestep angry situations.

SUN CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:

On Monday February 6th at 12:34 A.M. EST these two conjoin in Aquarius. Confusion abounds; misdirection and miscommunication are common with this aspect. Make sure the situation is clearly understood or there can be complications further down the line. This is usually a bad aspect for the stock markets. Confusion and a lack of will power are common manifestations.

SUN SQUARES JUPITER:

Also on Monday February 6th at 1:17 P.M. EST this square occurs. Things can easily get blown out of proportion while these two are in conflict. **This and the aspect above are the completion of the Jupiter-Neptune square that happened on January 27th.** Adding the Sun to the mixture will bring things to light that have been kept hidden. This will most likely be displayed in the political and financial arenas. Expect to hear some shocking news. The stocks could move violently today; more likely than not to the down side. But the confusion of Neptune could create an illusion of stability teetering on a foundation of quicksand. Either way this goes, in the long run we are looking at a crossroads in our financial markets. **With the continued weakness in the housing sector and the price of oil getting ready to spike once more over \$70 a barrel, the stock markets are not where I would suggest putting your money.**

MERCURY ENTERS PISCES:

On Wednesday February 8th at 8:22 P.M. EST Mercury enters this watery sign. Throughout this newsletter the word "intuition" keeps coming up. Here is another indicator that it isn't the intellect that will have control this month, but our instincts. You may find that people may be a bit befuddled at times. Double check plans and be especially careful while traveling.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak hits on Sunday February 12th at 11:44 P.M. EST at 24 degrees Leo 20 minutes. When the Full Moon is in a fixed sign such as this it is wise to sidestep confrontations for a day or two. The unbending energy of the Leo-Aquarius opposition could blow up in your face if you push too hard. You remember: an immovable object vs. an irresistible force. Things that were begun near the New Moon may offer some level of completion now. If you are in the performing arts this could represent a peak performance in your career. It is often as important when we schedule things as what we present. After all, if the audience isn't in the right mood to appreciate your work, it hardly matters if you put that extra effort into it, does it?

VALENTINE'S DAY:

There are a series of aspect on this most romantic of holidays that may add up to a very special time for some of you. There might be a tendency towards irrational and sudden decisions. Just be careful; the heart is a fragile muscle and it's difficult to rub Ben Gay on it when it's injured.

VENUS SEXTILES JUPITER:

On Tuesday February 14th at 8:26 A.M. EST this very optimistic and potentially romantic aspect completes. When Venus, the goddess of love, aspects Jupiter planet of expansion, there is a strong desire for relationships. Of course we must have the potential situation to fulfill this potential. If you are in a relationship this could be a very special day. If not, you may feel some frustration at not being able to express this energy. Maybe next year.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS URANUS:

Also on Tuesday February 14th at 10:33 A.M. EST this excitable and erratic aspect occurs. This aspect can create a day or so of tension and underlying nervousness. If you are prone to this you should be careful for a day or so, as it may set off a reaction. Accidents are quite possible if this aspect sets off a sensitive part of your chart. Most will involve confusion or distraction. Thoughts and ideas will come quickly but in an undisciplined manner. Take a moment before you act and you can avoid any problems. The positive side of this aspect is that it stimulates the mind and imagination. This is the type of aspect during which one might act impulsively. Since it completes on Valentine's Day, there could be romantic surprises. Double check that chocolate cake before you dive into it. There could be a small but significant present hidden in the icing.

SUN SEXTILES PLUTO:

Also on Valentine's Day February 14th at 9:39 P.M. EST the last of the three aspects to visit us on this magical day appears. For some of us this could be an exciting day with unexpected results. Keep your eyes open and take advantage of the energy offered. Oh, and if you are given a present, act surprised.

MARS ENTERS GEMINI:

On Friday February 17th at 5:44 P.M. E.S.T. Mars enters this sign of duality. With Mars in this Mercury ruled sign people will tend to be more forceful in their speech. Arguments are common with this placement as the ego will express itself verbally. America has Mars in Gemini. We certainly have a dual attitude about our military.

SUN ENTERS PISCES:

On Saturday February 18th at 2:26 P.M. EST we enter the mutable part of winter. Compassion and understanding are the key words for this sign. Pisces is the last sign of the zodiac. It is a time for completions and endings. Use this time of year to prepare for a new beginning at the New Year, March 20th the day the Sun enters the 1st sign of Aries. This is a good time of year to travel inside yourself and work on the inner

person. There isn't that much we can do so while waiting for the winter to end anyway. And that is pretty much what astrology is all about – the when of things, as well as the why. Try to find the open door to push against.

SUN SQUARES MARS:

On Sunday February 19th at 10:34 A.M. EST these two forceful energies conflict. Tempers will be volatile. Try to avoid confrontations and misunderstandings. If this sets off a sensitive part of your chart it could lead to an accident or altercation. Use caution and common sense. You could get a great deal of work done today, if this energy is directed in a proper manner. Remember, these transits only represent universal forces. What we do with those forces will determine their outcome.

MERCURY TRINES JUPITER:

Also On Sunday February 19th at 11:03 P.M. EST this more positive energy comes along. If you must have an important conversation today you would be better off waiting until the evening when this aspect is applying. You will have a better chance of getting your point across.

MERCURY SEXTILES VENUS:

On Thursday February 23rd at 5:16 P.M. EST this pleasant aspect occurs. Although not a particularly powerful force, this transit can be used to your advantage. Communications and ideas will flow easily. Creative juices are abundant. This would be a good time to redecorate, although with Venus in Capricorn your tastes may be a bit more conservative than usual. Writing would also be a good use of this energy.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Monday February 27th at 7:31 P.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:

January 30th 11:00 A.M. – 5:32 P.M.

February 1st 11:06 A.M. – 5:46 P.M.

February 3rd 1:32 P.M. – 8:31 P.M.

February 5th 4:00 P.M. – February 6th 2:32 A.M.

February 8th 10:04 A.M. – 11:33 A.M.
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February 10 3:53 P.M. – 10:44 P.M.

February 13th 6:48 A.M. – 11:13 A.M.

February 15th 10:21 P.M. - February 16th 12:09 A.M.

February 18th 11:59 A.M. – 12:11 P.M.

February 20th 5:02 A.M. – 9:38 P.M.

February 22nd 9:05 P.M. – February 23rd 3:16 A.M.

February 24th 7:58 P.M. – January 25th 5:14 A.M.

February 26th 11:25 P.M. – February 27th 4:56 A.M.

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January 2006

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