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AUTHOR'S NOTES:

With the recent explosion of tensions in the Middle East and the price of oil and other commodities going through the roof this fiery New Moon could exacerbate any ongoing traumas in the world. Saturn will oppose Neptune for the first time in 36 years on August 31st. The last time we saw this aspect was during Watergate and right before the OPEC oil embargo and the Yom Kipper war. Foundations are about to be shaken. Israel has this Saturn - Neptune opposition exactly on its natal Saturn, ruler of the 4th house of home, threatening the very foundation of its existence. There is much more behind Hezbollah's and Hamas' decisions to choose now as a time for a two prong attack. And there is much more behind Israel's decision to invade Lebanon. Let the puppet masters come forward. We are certainly heading towards a watershed period in human history. I will be posting information regarding this Saturn – Neptune aspect as well as an outline from my coming lecture at the Princeton Club in Manhattan on my website www.mitchastro.com. The lecture is open to the public, so feel free to join us. It is August 15th at 6:00 P.M. at 15 West 43rd Street 4th floor.

The political situation in this country and in fact throughout the world is more tenuous than it has been in decades. Whenever Saturn opposes Neptune in the sky governments change hands, nations are formed and destroyed, political rivers change direction. This upcoming mid-term election is perhaps the most important election in my lifetime. This president and his elite inner sanctum have hijacked the country; defanged congress and expanded the powers of the executive branch of government to a level Caligula would be proud of. Don't be surprised if a horse gets elected to the senate. Saturn opposite Neptune will change many things.

For light summer reading I strongly recommend Al Franken's new book "The Truth with Jokes". No matter if you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican or Independent, he has a research team of Harvard Grads that do exhausting work on the facts; facts you should be aware of before this coming election.

The heat wave will continue through August, the price of oil will climb past my prediction for the summer of \$80 a barrel and the fragile political infrastructure of this country will continue to deteriorate. Our leaders are too busy stealing obscene amounts of money to bother with such little things as the needs of the people. And as Honest Abe once said: "You can't fool all of the people all of the time." Maybe we should remind Bush of that in the coming election.

And while we're on the subject of political hacks: What Mike Bloomberg is doing to New York City is criminal. He wants to be Hadrian the builder, but pays no attention to the foundation. New York City can't handle the number of people already living here, and yet there are countless building projects going on throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn that will result in tens of thousands more residents straining the already crumbling structure. When you build massive buildings and do nothing to fix the underbelly then you have power outages that last weeks, the break down of outdated subways being held together with toothpicks and scotch tape, and a highway system that is a joke at best. He panders to his friends in the real estate business and does nothing for the people. He is so out of touch with reality that rather than choose a more proper commercially zoned site, he has pushed through the Waste Transfer station to be rebuilt right where Asphalt Green sits. For those of you unfamiliar with it, Asphalt Green is a completely unique inner-city sports complex used by thousands of city kids, which will be destroyed in the process. And he is only putting the garbage dump there as payback for Gifford Miller blocking the building of his ludicrous ego-driven stadium. The

shame of this atrocity will sit with his name for forever.

NEW MOON:

This month's New Moon occurs on Tuesday July 25th at 12:31 A.M. EST at 2 degrees Leo 07 minutes.

The Leo energy can be very child-like; this is the sign associated with children and with games and all things creative. And the New Moon will set the feel for the month ahead. I've always felt that where the Cancer energy of July is family oriented, August should be more romantic, with the grown-ups getting to play. So try to find some time for a margarita with Margarita, and forget about the world's problems for a while.

VENUS TRINES JUPITER:

On Wednesday July 26th at 9:50 P.M. EST the lesser and greater benefic planets create a positive aspect, and this should be a pleasant day with easy communications. People won't be in a confrontational mood, and it would be a good time to smooth over any recent tensions in you personal life. Purchases made today should benefit you.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

On Friday July 28th at 8:40 P.M. EST the winged god of mischief starts heading forward again. For the first day or two following this turn around things will be very confusion as the world tries to play catch-up. Truths will be revealed and any project that has been delayed will finally be free to move forward. If you were forced to sign a document on the retrograde, scrutinize it carefully now just to make sure everything is as it appeared. Now is the time to take care of details, complete things left unfinished or start a new project.

Because of the explosive political situations around the world, as well as the impending implosion I expect here in the U.S., this change of direction of Mercury could herald other changes as well. During the next several months we could see a number of upsetting events that reinvent our world.

VENUS TRINES URANUS:

On Sunday July 30th at 2:20 P.M. EST this interesting and unusual aspect completes. This can be a very exciting and adventurous aspect, especially if it sets off a sensitive point in your chart. People will be a little more experimental and any relationship begun with this aspect in its chart should continue to be stimulating for a long time. This is a very positive aspect for artists and all artistic endeavors. Try to make use of it. If you have wanted to redecorate this might be a good time to do so.

THE SUN SQUARES JUPITER:

On Wednesday August 2nd at 7:51 A.M. EST this expansive aspect completes and things could be blown out of proportion. The squares to Jupiter are unlike other planets in that they usually don't bring us the same stress. But Jupiter is often present when things expand beyond normal limits. Within our own individual lives this should pass as a pleasant day. Just watch the overindulgences, and try not to blow a small situation into a problem. If there is an ongoing violent situation this aspect could make it worse. There could be a serious escalation of hostilities in the Middle East or any other hot spot.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS SATURN:

On Monday August 7th at 7:54 A.M. EST this difficult and restrictive aspect occurs. This could be a day of reckoning. Responsibility is the key phrase for this aspect. There is little time for frivolities, as is Saturn's restrictive nature. This would be a good time to organize your desk, make plans for a project or lay the foundation for anything. As we get closer to the Saturn – Neptune opposition we will see world events occur under quick moving transits such as this one. Events are pushing towards a peak in the world. Watch things as we approach this coming Full Moon and you may see the seeds of the future being planted.

THE FULL MOON:

On Wednesday August 9th at 6:54 A.M. EST the lunar peak occurs at 16 degrees Aquarius 44 minutes.

The potential for explosive situations under any Full Moon is high, but the Aquarius Full Moon supersedes all the others. Be careful while driving or in interactions with others. People may be a bit frustrated and angry for a few days. I would advise avoiding confrontations and potentially dangerous or accident prone situations. This could be a day or two of explosive situations throughout the world.

MERCURY ENTERS LEO:

On Friday August 11th at 12:09 A.M. EST the planet of communication enters Leo. You can expect people to speak with more force and energy. Try to listen to the message, not the volume. After a month of traveling through watery Cancer people will want to roar, so let them. With the Sun and Saturn already in this fixed fire sign there will be an abundance of this force all month. Loyalty is most important to Leos; that is what many of us will be seeking this month.

THE SUN OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

Also on Friday August 11th at 1:14 A.M. EST this somewhat debilitating aspect completes. For a day or so leading up to this people will be less sure of themselves and prone to confusion and misdirection. If you must make an important decision today try to make sure you understand what is at hand; if not take extra time to clarify things. This could be a very bad few days for the stock markets.

VENUS ENTERS LEO:

On Saturday August 12th at 4:21 P.M. EST the goddess of love joins three other planets in this interesting sign. Leo rules the 5th house of romance, games, creativity and children; including the child within each of us. With so much energy traveling through this sign it is these issues that are in the forefront. Spend the next few weeks on creative projects or in pursuit of romance and fun. Spend more time with children or allow your inner child some freedom. Romance will be more playful than usual.

MARS OPPOSES URANUS:

On Sunday August 13th at 8:51 A.M. EST this potentially volatile aspect occurs. Be careful while driving or even walking. If this sets off a sensitive point in your chart it could lead to an incident. People will be tense and opinionated. Many could be looking for a fight, so I would avoid direct confrontation whenever possible.

THE SUN TRINES PLUTO:

On Thursday August 17th at 1:00 A.M. EST this positive aspect comes around. It will be easier to get people to do your bidding today. There is an air of cooperation and a sense of community. It only lasts a day, so try to make the most of it.

MERCURY SQUARES JUPITER:

On Friday August 18th at 5:30 A.M. EST the planet of communication conflicts with the biggest planet in the zodiac. People will tend to exaggerate and things could get blown out of proportion. Although this isn't as difficult a square as most, it still carries a punch. A simple disagreement could blow up to a major battle. Try to keep things in perspective and avoid embellishing things.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS SATURN

On Sunday August 20th at 8:42 P.M. EST this aspect hits. This is almost exactly the opposite of the Mercury Jupiter square mentioned above. Today you may find people rather reticent in their speech. It may be difficult to get your point across, and you may even find yourself tongue-tied. I would wait a day or so before having an important conversation; unless it has to do with planning for the future. It is often better to pay down a foundation while Saturn is around. Just don't finalize anything until this passes. You will tend to be too conservative, and may not like your decisions down the line.

MERCURY OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

August 5 3:22 P.M. – August 6 1:19 A.M.

August 7th 9:44 P.M. – August 8th 3:47 A.M.

August 9th 6:58 P.M. – August 10th 4:10 A.M.

August 12th 3:17 A.M. – 4:22 A.M.

August 13th 8:14 P.M. – August 14th 6:00 A.M.

August 15th 9:51 P.M. – August 16th 10:07 A.M.

August 18th 8:30 A.M. – 5:03 P.M. ***moon is void all day

August 20th 3:06 A.M. – August 21st 2:23 A.M. ***moon is void 24 hours

August 23rd 2:19 A.M. – 2:08 P.M. ***moon is void all day

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