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LIVING BY STARLIGHT

AN ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

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AUTHOR'S NOTES:

First of all, on a personal note; I would like to thank Congressman Foley for virtually guaranteeing that at least one of my recent predictions will come true. Thanks Mark, the check is in the male, uh, mail. The Democrats will gain control of the house and, probably, the senate. As seems to always happen while Saturn is in opposition to Neptune, (see my article at www.mitchastro.com) power is being reversed all over the world, not just here. Tony Blair is on his way out. The Japanese just voted in Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a man with a more hard line political agenda. Castro will not survive this transit. (Cuba has a long and very interesting history with Saturn opposite Neptune.) Governments are changing hands and directions all over the place. It will continue all year.

We are about to see another of my long-term predictions come true; Bush will not complete his term in office. The Saturn – Neptune opposition will hit his Venus three times, causing him all sorts of difficulties, including physical problems.

So how about the economy? I am finding more and more evidence that the recession that usually accompanies this transit is coming, along with inflation. Michigan is already in a terrible way; the housing market will continue to get weaker, pushing the middle class closer to the edge. From now until the election you can not trust any movements in the stocks or oil markets. The power of manipulation for the short term is overwhelming. In my years on Wall Street and since, I have watched as these markets have been repeatedly pushed by a few hedge funds. Imagine what the entire Republican force could do.

In 1999 as the Great Alignment in Taurus approached, I began warning about a class war in America. Taurus is interested in possessions and wealth, not so much in the plight of the common man. (Remember, I am speaking of this sign's energy in general, not any specific people born under this sign.) So much of the legislation that this Republican congress has passed has driven a wedge between the upper class and everyone else that the attitude is now that there are two classes. By lumping the middle class into the great lower class it puts the impetus on the working family to support the poor and indigent. The systematic destruction of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal and Lyndon Johnson's entitlement programs has left this country on the verge of the worst economic and health crises in our history. At a time when the largest population ever to face retirement is about to do so, many baby-boomers have no health insurance, are under financed for a long retirement and have no way of dealing with their future. This country has turned its back on those imminent problems. On the federal and local level there is simply no money for the aged, the infirmed or the homeless. If I am right and a recession is about to begin, you can expect these problems to increase. Because of federal policies, especially during this Bush administration, our economy is precariously perched upon the whims of the Chinese government, who now hold one trillion dollars worth of foreign debt, much of it American, which they lend back to us. We have been vulnerable to this imbalance for years, but never have we faced the deficit this president has forced upon our economy. It wouldn't take much to tip the whole house of cards.

Here in New York City, the Bloomberg administration continues to dismantle rent control as the island of Manhattan is increasingly controlled by the 10 or so big real estate families. Middle class housing

continues to disappear as power is consolidated by a decreasing number of landlords. Thousands of people have been removed from their homes during the last 6 years, and many more will follow. When the distraught tenants of Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village asked this mayor for support in their efforts to buy the place many have called home their entire lives, his response was: "It would be cheaper to just build them housing in the Bronx or Queens." That isn't the point; and it isn't true. It will cost a great deal more. But it fits into this administration's concept of what Manhattan should be. My friends who live in that besieged neighborhood have no illusions about their future. They know full well it's only a matter of time before the conciliatory attitude of the new owners turns nasty and threatens their homes.

This pro-landlord ruling class stance has also accomplished something else that I personally find frightening. It has made it impossible for struggling artists of all kinds to live and create in this city. There will never again be a folk revival, a jazz scene, or any other artistic explosion come out of New York. No struggling artist could possibly afford to live here. In order to qualify for a \$1700 a month studio in this city you must prove that you earn fifty times the rent, or \$85,000; and have a large savings account. The Broadway theatre doesn't come from a vacuum; its successes are a result of people spending a lifetime learning their trade. Dancers, singer, composers and set designers came to New York for over a century to study with the greats and to learn and further their craft. Nobody can afford to do that any more. The closing of CBGB's was just the finale at the end of an exciting and creative era in this city of which I am proud to have been a small part. Where do you think the new rock and jazz clubs will be now that rents for storefronts in the Village and throughout Manhattan are \$35,000 a month and up? Do you really believe that an area of Brooklyn or the Grand Concourse will suddenly come to life? What makes a city great isn't the value of its buildings; it's the value and diversity of its people. And what protects this city isn't its wealth or even its police; it's the artists and street musicians; it's the people sitting on stoops trading gossip and recipes; it's the families and the small businesses that have everything to lose and, yes, even the astrologers; all the people that will be removed from the mixture. A middle class couple will never again be able to raise their family on this island. At \$6,000 a month for a three bedroom apartment why would they even try?

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Sunday October 22nd at 1:14 A.M. EDT at 28 degrees Libra 40 minutes. Relationships of all sorts will be in the forefront this month. If you are not in a relationship this may force you to reexamine your life and your choices. Any difficulties in an ongoing marriage or other partnership will be highlighted and demand attention. This isn't a bad thing. Often we ignore potential trouble until it becomes overwhelming. By facing any shortcoming now you can avoid more problems later. Libra wants balance more than anything, so if there is inequity in a situation it will be pointed out and require fixing. Otherwise when the energy moves into Scorpio next month there will be a price to pay.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS JUPITER:

Also on Sunday October 22nd at 11:20 A.M. EDT this wonderfully optimistic aspect completes. Coming so soon after the New Moon, this will have an affect on the energy for this entire month. And because of Mercury's retrograde motion this month it will complete three times. People will be a bit more open and expansive. If you have a new idea, this would be a good time to present it to the world, especially if it involves new or broader concepts. Do be careful though; when these two come together people will tell you whatever they think you want to hear. Try to sift through the words to find the true meaning. This aspect is the con-artist of the zodiac; so pay attention.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MARS:

Monday October 23rd is a very active day astrologically. It begins with this jolt of energy at 2:46 A.M. EDT. People will be feisty and argumentative. Try to avoid direct conflicts, if you can. And don't give in to the impulsiveness that accompanies this coupling. This could be a frustrating day, so keep things in perspective.

MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:

Also on Monday October 23rd at 6:07 A.M. EDT this annoying and restrictive aspect completes. People might already be in a bad mood, and this will not help. There is a sense of repression that Saturn brings, and when it hits the planet of thoughts and speech it just makes everything more intense and limiting. It may be difficult to express yourself, and you may feel frustrated that your point isn't being understood. Try to leave things until tomorrow when it will be easier to say what's on your mind. This aspect favors mental tasks that require a great deal of patience.

THE SUN ENTERS SCORPIO:

Also on Monday October 23rd at 9:27 A.M. EDT we enter the fixed water sign. Scorpio is known for its intensity and depth of feelings, and its reputation is well earned. Everything becomes more black and white during this time of year. This is when most stock market crashes occur, as the universe responds to the need for distinction. Anything that is out of whack, such as world finances or unbalanced political situations will be adjusted now.

MARS ENTERS SCORPIO:

Also on Monday October 23rd at 12:38 P.M. EDT the god of war enters the sign most associated with hidden events and power struggles. Mars was given rulership of this sign until 1930, when Pluto was discovered. While Mars is transiting here there is a strong chance of violent and vengeful acts. People tend to be angry, similar to Mars conjunct Pluto, which can be a very distasteful aspect. Try not to enrage people. And if you have a hidden agenda, you would be wise to keep it that way. Any secrets that are revealed now could have a blistering effect upon relationships or business.

VENUS ENTERS SCORPIO:

On Tuesday October 24th at 5:58 A.M. EDT the planet of love enters this sign, bringing the number of planets in Scorpio to five! That's a lot of energy focused in one place. Scorpio is best known for its transitional force; it never leaves things the same way it found them. On Election Day these planets will all still be in this sign. This increases my opinion that you can expect a major reversal in power, lots of hidden agendas, some hanky-panky and underhandedness and in the end – a lame duck Republican president with a Democratic controlled house and senate.

VENUS CONJUNCTS MARS:

On Wednesday October 25th at 2:10 A.M. EDT the male and female planets conjoin. Even without relying on ancient rulership, this is much more a Marian sign than a Venusian one. Venus will be overwhelmed by Mars during this coupling, implying that the more masculine side of things will dominate this month. In personal relationships there will tend to be more aggressiveness in sexual conduct, and the stronger of the egos will dictate. This has nothing to do with whether you are male or female, as we are all made up of both, but rather who has the stronger aspected Mars in the natal chart. There will probably be an escalation in global conflicts throughout this year, and especially while Mars is in Scorpio and the following sign of Sagittarius.

JUPITER SQUARES SATURN:

On Thursday October 26th at 1:26 P.M. EDT the planet of unrestricted growth conflicts with the planet of limitations. I began writing about this aspect in last month's newsletter, as I believe it represents a very powerful challenge to our culture. **This doesn't mean that I expect a major event exactly on this date (although that would be nice of the universe), but the changes will occur during this next year or so, and in fact, we may see a troubling day or so in the financial markets exactly as this aspect hits.** This is a major test of the Jupiter – Saturn conjunct of May 2000. Everything that has happened since then will be tested and reviewed. This aspect has a great deal to do with money and values, both of which are presently in utter chaos in this culture. A stock market crash would fit this aspect perfectly. Whether we have one or not

we are facing a major crisis in faith about our ability to balance the equity in our society. This aspect is particularly difficult for the already beleaguered middle class. As the restrictive powers of Saturn confine the growth of Jupiter we will see real signs of a recession beginning. As Jupiter enters Sagittarius this November, we should see signs inflation. The combination of the two squeezes the middle class to the breaking point. That is what happened in the early 1970's as Jupiter was in opposition to Saturn.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS VENUS:

On Friday October 27th at 1:49 P.M. EDT this rather pleasant and easygoing aspect comes a long to give us a break. Try to do something creative or inspiring. Sing, dance or paint, go to the theatre, a concert or other creative outlet. This is a good time to make up with someone or to meet new people.

MERCURY RETROGRADES:

On Saturday October 28th at 3:16 P.M. EDT the little devil is released once again. The fact that his retrogrades in Scorpio, and is going backwards on Election Day is very interesting. The last election with retrograde Mercury was in 2000. You all must remember what that day was like. Until Jeb Bush handed his brother the presidency, nobody knew what was what. You can expect some of the same this time. We may not know the results of key elections for a while. There will be reversals and recounts. There will be confusion, mistakes, accusations of misconduct and plenty of problems with these new no-paper voting machines. God save the union. I'm afraid the level of corruption in this country makes fair elections a thing of the past. As one friend put it: Unless Ted Kennedy loses in Massachusetts it will be hard to prove there is something wrong. And in the end, despite the best efforts of certain people, the Republicans will lose.

NEPTUNE GOES DIRECT:

On Sunday October 29th at 2:57 A.M. EST (DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS) the planet that rules music, fine art and spirituality ends its annual retrograde motion. Whatever creative projects you have been working on should finally be presented to the world. The same is true of our spiritual or religious concepts. In some ways we will all be a little less connected to that side of the universe and a bit more realistic. While Neptune is in retrograde it is easier to internalize and assimilate the energy and lessons it has to teach. Now is the time to share your experiences with others, thus increasing your own understanding and point of view.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS JUPITER:

On Monday October 30th at 10:01 P.M. EST because of the retrograde motion of Mercury we have the second of three passes of this aspect. People will be exuberant and optimistic. They will also tend to exaggerate and blow things out of proportion. Make sure you have a clear idea of reality in any situation that arises. If you think someone is full of it, you may be right. Make damn sure you aren't being taken by a con-artist. This configuration in a natal chart can produce a great used-car salesman. If the stocks are up today they may go waaaay up. By the same token, if they go down...

MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:

On Wednesday November 1st at 10:43 A.M. EST we get the second of three passes of this aspect as well. In many ways this is the exact opposite of the aspect mentioned above. People will be tired, serious-minded and rather curt in their speech. But you can get to the bottom of an issue now. Just don't get caught up in negative thoughts.

VENUS TRINES URANUS:

Also on Wednesday November 1st at 10:31 P.M. EST this aspect completes. You may be attracted to someone unusual, at least for your usual taste. This can be a very creative and exciting transit if you use it. Look for unusual solutions to your problems, especially in romance or creative ventures.

FULL MOON:

This month's peak occurs on Sunday November 5th at 7:58 A.M. EST at 12 degrees Taurus 58 minutes. Issues of value will be most prominent. The week following this contains several potentially disruptive aspects. Election Day is coming, and we will hear some disturbing news about our economy. I still believe this administration is holding back negative reports in hopes of rallying the troops come Election Day. Be careful today, especially regarding financial matters. I believe we are heading for some very bad news in the financial markets, and it could come on any of these potentially explosive aspects. A Full Moon in Taurus would certainly qualify.

VENUS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Monday November 6th at 7:24 P.M. EST these two create a conflicting aspect. Confusion about love and values will run rampant. Mercury is already retrograde, and this completes just after the Full Moon and just before Election Day. Try to be direct and uncomplicated with people. Be careful of any new love interest that comes along now; allow time to see things clearly before committing to it. And be careful of your money. When these two are in conflict it is easy to spend without notice. This is not a good day to enter into any important agreement.

ELECTION DAY:

Tuesday November 7th is Election Day. Mercury is in retrograde, the Moon is in Gemini and we are heading towards a **Mercury square Neptune** (see below) whose effects should be apparent by this day. There will be confusions, misdirection, lying, thievery, and all the other goodies that make up an election year in our country. The new voting machines will give all sorts of trouble, and there could even be contested results that require a re-balloting. Some results may not be known at least until Mercury goes direct on the 17th. The control of the house and/or senate may even be in question for several weeks. Some already contested elections, such as the governorship of Ohio, where the Republican candidate, who also happens to be the state attorney general, has threatened to disqualify his opponent over some technicality regarding two homes he owns, both in the state of Ohio. This could be the nastiest election year you've ever seen.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS VENUS:

On Tuesday November 7th at 11:51 A.M EST this pleasantly agreeable aspect completes. Of course, it is overwhelmed by more conflicting energies circling the wagon train at the moment. Use this aspect to communicate with anyone you are having difficulty. This can create a nice atmosphere for communication and the exchange of ideas.

MERCURY SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Wednesday November 8th at 3:24 A.M. EST this confusing and at times debilitating transit occurs. It will add to the confusion regarding various elections, and could create untenable results. The mix-ups will be chaotic and obvious. Some of the tricks being played will most likely come to light in a few weeks. On a personal level I wouldn't attempt an important conversation or presentation while this is affective. It will be very difficult to get your point across.

THE SUN SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Thursday November 9th at 10:00 A.M. EST this square occurs, adding to the already confusing atmosphere. This along with the aspect mentioned above could be a very bad few days for the stocks and other financial markets. Many people will experience this as a weakening of the will, and they may respond from a place of fear. Try to recognize the motivation of those you are dealing with and you will be able to respond correctly.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS MARS:

On Saturday November 11th at 10:16 A.M. EST these two conjunct. People will be a bit feisty and aggressive. If you are looking for an argument you will find it today. But if you would like to avoid

confrontations, keep your eyes and ears open and be ready to extricate yourself from any hostile environment. There will be a great deal of mental energy that must be directed or it could become destructive.

VENUS SQUARES SATURN:

On Sunday November 12th at 7:19 P.M. EST this wet-blanket comes along. Venus has a lot to do with our finances. If there has been negative news regarding the economy, this may bring more of it. People won't feel much like playing. This is a work-oriented transit and not terribly romantically motivated either. I wouldn't plan a first date for tonight. It could be very boring.

MERCURY TRINES URANUS:

On Monday November 13th at 12:29 P.M. EST the lower and higher octaves of the mental process are in positive relationship to each other. Look for unusual ideas and solutions to your problems. There will be a great deal of communications and short journeys. Take advantage of this transit or it will pass as only an interesting day.

VENUS CONJUNCTS JUPITER:

On Wednesday November 15th at 3:35 P.M. EST this most wonderful of aspects occurs. This is usually a good day in the markets, although there are a number of negative aspects near by, so any rally would have to prove itself before you should dive in. A romance begun now will have a great potential for growth and far-sightedness. The only word of caution with this coupling has to do with overindulgences and unfounded exuberance. But if you pay heed to these warnings this could be a great day.

THE SUN SQUARES SATURN:

On Friday November 17th at 12:58 A.M. EST this testing aspect completes. Everything must be proven under Saturn. If there are flaws in the structure they will be pointed out now. People will be uncomfortable and tense for the day leading up to this aspect and into today. We will all be feeling a little tired and lethargic. Try not to let it get you down. It will pass quickly.

VENUS ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:

Also on Friday November 17th at 3:02 A.M. EST the planet of love enters this expansive and far-reaching sign. Love will be flirtatious, fickle and over the top. There will be playfulness rather than passion. Travel is especially favored and you may become drawn to someone of a foreign background. If inflation is coming, as I believe it is, this along with Jupiter entering Sagittarius on November 23rd should bring strong indicators. There may be another run up in the stocks during this period, but with inflation and a looming recession in the near future, I wouldn't put too much credibility into it. Ten years on Wall Street showed me just how easy it is for a group to manipulate the direction of any market for a short time. And the rules have changed over the past 10 years or so. There is so much money around that the numbers are easier to tweak.

MARS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

Also on Friday November 17th at 2:01 P.M. EST this usually debilitating aspect comes in right in the middle of this seriously packed day. This transit can produce fear, unusual feelings and even paranoia. Be careful of alcohol and drugs (legal or not makes no difference to the body). If you are feeling unsure of yourself, why not wait a day before dealing with certain issues. Anything that requires a strong ego will not work out today.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

Also on Friday November 17th at 7:25 P.M. EST, the winged god of mischief turns around and start heading forward to finally complete this busy day. Now the truths will be revealed. Hidden agendas and all sorts of revelations may come along in the next few days. It is safe to purchase a new cell phone, TV,

computer or jet. You can sign important documents and sign up for the yoga class. We may even learn who runs our government.

URANUS GOES DIRECT:

On Monday November 20th at 1:08 A.M. EST the ruler of radical changes and government by the people begins its forward motion right before the New Moon. Any election disputes that were not cleared up when Mercury went direct on the 17th should be resolved under this changing energy.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Monday November 20th at 5:18 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.

Note: All aspects are most powerful and effective as they apply. Once the transit has completed, its force is lessened. The further it separates the weaker it becomes.

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:

October 22nd 1:58 A.M. – 3:54 A.M.

October 24th 2:56 A.M. – 2:53 P.M. *** moon is void for 12 hours

October 26th 2:02 P.M. – 11:47 P.M.

October 28th 9:30 P.M. – October 29th 5:17 A.M.

October 31st 12:31 A.M. – 9:11 A.M.

November 2nd 2:54 A.M. – 10:46 A.M.

November 4th 3:04 A.M. – 11:05 A.M.

November 6th 5:18 A.M. – 11:46 A.M.

November 8th 6:15 A.M. – 2:46 P.M.

November 10th 3:59 P.M. – 9:34 P.M.

November 13th 3:29 A.M. – 8:18 A.M.

November 15th 5:41 P.M. – 9:14 P.M.

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November 18 12:41 A.M. – 9:46 A.M.

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