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AUTHOR'S NOTES:

This month we have the pleasure of Mercury retrograde beginning July 4th. (See below). Those of you familiar with this aspect know what to expect. Transportation and communications will be difficult. Signing contracts is risky for at least one of the parties.

With the financial markets so precariously perched at a pivotal point of perplexity (say that five times after two martinis) we welcome the opportunity, which the retrograde Mercury will create as it slows things down, to take a look at reality. If the Saturn – Neptune opposition creates the same atmosphere it has in the past, we can expect a rise in inflation and a serious dip in the markets. Once the retrograde is over the markets will most likely show their direction.

We continue to approach the Saturn – Neptune opposition in the sky. The last time this occurred was in 1971, just as Richard Nixon and cronies were getting involved in Watergate, which, as you know, resulted in the end of that presidency. As Neptune will dissolve all things real and structured, it may do the same job on this administration. The Bush White House may be called upon to explain some things in front of a Democratic House or Senate. (Those of you familiar with my writings know that I do not expect Bush to complete his term in office.) This aspect pits fantasy against reality, usually with both taking a beating. It will certainly take its toll on our economy, as the recent stock market movements are showing. The last time this aspect occurred was called “The Great Inflation of the 1970’s” by economists. That era was one of the few peace-time inflationary periods in our history. Nixon attempted price-wage controls (Saturn’s restrictive nature), but to no avail. Neptune wasn’t to be contained that easily. Have we learned enough in the past 30 years to redirect things in a more positive manner? Time will tell; and soon enough.

NEW MOON:

This month’s New Moon falls on Sunday June 25th at 12:05 P.M. EST at 3 degrees Cancer 58 minutes.

This is an emotional New Moon; concerned with family and friends more than career or status. For the next few weeks people will tend to be more expressive and reveal their deepest feelings. After Mercury retrogrades back into this water sign, many secrets will be revealed and it will be especially hard to hide your sentiments. Too often we get caught up in what we are doing and how much we are making. It is the nature of our society; and no matter who you are it is easy to lose one’s values. Cancer energy can be overly emotional, it’s true. But as Joni Mitchell once put it: ‘Laughing and crying you know it’s the same release.’ There are times when we need a good cry to water our souls. This month offers that opportunity. But try not to take things too seriously while allowing the emotions in.

MERCURY ENTERS LEO:

On Wednesday June 28th at 3:57 P.M. EST Mercury enters the fixed fire sign. It will only stay in this sign until July 10th when it retrogrades back into Cancer. From today until that time expect people to be a bit more aggressive and direct. There will be a theatrical air about, and many people may be very showy. The week of August 11th you should look to complete some things you are beginning now. When Mercury finally goes into Leo again it will bring you back to this point, at which time you can continue the journey you were on.

THE SUN TRINES JUPITER:

On Friday June 30th at 7:22 P.M. EST these two planets create an optimistic and growth oriented transit that can bring out the best in us all. There is a desire to get along with others and it is easier to see the other person's point of view. This is a good time to make plans or to expand a project. You must actively use this energy to acquire its true rewards; otherwise it will simply pass as a pleasant day.

VENUS SEXTILES SATURN:

On Sunday July 2nd at 2:05 P.M. EST this productive transit completes, and it looks like the holiday weekend will be mostly pleasant. Between this and the transit mentioned above, we will be working under easy-going energies – at least until July 4th when Mercury retrogrades. Love will be more realistic than romantic today. You will tend to be frugal with your money as well, so it may be a good day to go shopping.

MERCURY RETROGRADES:

On Tuesday July 4th at 3:34 P.M. EST the winged god starts running backwards and all types of mischief can occur. **The Moon goes Void of Course at 3:17 P.M.** this day and remains void until the next morning. If you are traveling today my advice is to leave your vacation dream paradise as early as possible or it will turn into a traffic nightmare. There will be accidents, technical failures and all sorts of trouble. It is God's little joke to have this aspect begin as this holiday weekend ends. If you want to remember the 4th as a wonderful holiday you will heed this warning. As always I caution against buying new communication or transportation devices while this planet is in retrograde. Because this aspect takes place in both Leo and Cancer it will feel different from July 10th on.

MARS OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

On Wednesday July 5th at 8:48 A.M. EST this confusing aspect comes along. Things may not be as they seem. Someone may be deceiving you, or it may be you that is acting the con artist. Watch your alcohol and drug consumption. Negative interactions with prescription medications are common if this sets off a sensitive point in your chart. You may not have your usual oomph today. Neptune tends to dissipate whatever it comes in contact with, and Mars has much to do with the energy level of the world. In the past this aspect has coincided with serious military errors. Mars is the god of war, after all.

VENUS SQUARES URANUS:

On Thursday July 6th at 2:57 A.M. EST the planet of love conflicts with the planet of the unusual and unexpected. People will be flirtatious and erratic today. If you begin a new relationship I would wait a few days until after the Full Moon on Monday July 10th before committing to anything. You will not be satisfied with the usual routine today. Look for something stimulating and exciting. How about a rollercoaster?

JUPITER GOES DIRECT:

Also on Thursday July 6th at 3:19 A.M. EST the planet of growth and expansion turns around and many projects that have been put on hold will begin to take off. There could be a sudden burst of energy and activity in many of our lives following several months of delays and frustration. Now is the time to expand your business, start a new band or buy a new home. Travel is favored, especially to foreign lands. That feeling of being stuck in quicksand may finally dissipate.

THE SUN TRINES URANUS:

Also on Thursday July 6th at 3:59 P.M. EST this positive aspect completes. You should look for unusual solutions to your problems. Change is in the air and it is up to you to make the most of it. During a trine the energies work in harmony and are more easily harnessed. But they don't pull at us like a square would; so many times we let them pass without using their full potential. If used properly, this aspect will allow you to view the world without your usual blinders on. It will be possible to see a broader reality with new possibilities.

VENUS TRINES NEPTUNE:

On Sunday July 9th at 11:36 P.M. EST another useful trine occurs. This is a very creative and spiritual transit, though it doesn't always recognize reality for what it is. Use the creative side and you will make your own reality. Compassion and empathy will be plentiful; just don't take in too many strays. A love affair begun now will display depth and understanding.

MERCURY ENTERS CANCER:

On Monday July 10th at 4:19 P.M. EST Mercury returns to this emotional sign right before the Full Moon in Capricorn. For the next few weeks people will tend to be more emotional, especially in their speech. Certainly for the next day or so while the Full Moon is around you should watch out for overly emotional situations that might get out of hand. Expect to be surprised by some news, possibly on that Full Moon.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Monday July 10th at 11:02 P.M. EST at 18 degrees Capricorn 42 minutes. With the Saturn – Neptune opposition moving ever closer, the financial markets are being closely watched. As I have said for the past few months; that aspect will challenge every part of our society just as it has in the past. Capricorn rules the housing markets, long-term investments and financial stability. This Full Moon may very well test the structure of those institutions. Since the Saturn – Neptune aspect completes in late August, this could be a watershed moment. If the stocks look weak, as I expect they will, I would be concerned about my portfolio and consider putting your money in gold, cash or secured bonds.

MARS TRINES PLUTO:

On Friday July 14th at 3:05 A.M. EST this positive and useful transit completes. You will have plenty of energy, so look for constructive ways to use it. When these two make a friendly aspect such as this, there is a deep understanding of what must be done, as well as a desire to do it. But like all trines – use it or lose it.

VENUS OPPOSES PLUTO:

Also on Friday July 14th at 1:27 P.M. EST this intense aspect occurs. Love will take on a deeper meaning for many. If you aren't involved with someone, this could bring on a compulsive desire for a relationship. Just be careful and give it a few days before committing to anything. Your desire may be so strong that common sense flies out the window. You could wind up with someone who is either unavailable or just plain wrong for you. Also, be careful with your money. Compulsive behavior applies to possessions as well as people.

VENUS SEXTILES MARS:

On Saturday July 15th at 12:50 A.M. EST this more positive aspect to Venus completes. If you meet someone now, or met someone yesterday and waited until now to pursue the relationship you may have a better chance of success. Our lives are very complicated, and things change from day to day. The different aspects will offer you difficult and easy times to advance your lives. If you use these aspects to your advantage you will tip the odds in favor of the player, not the house.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

On Tuesday July 18th at 3:08 A.M. EST the will and the intellect conjoin. People will be very opinionated today, and since this occurs in the emotional water sign of Cancer, you can expect that they will be expressing their feelings as well as their thoughts. When Mercury is retrograde it brings out the deepest thoughts we have. Don't be surprised by anything people say to you today. This would be a good time to make plans for the future. Just don't expect them to be instigated until Mercury goes direct on July 28th.

VENUS ENTERS CANCER:

Also on Tuesday July 18th at 10:41 P.M. EST the planet of love enters sensitive, home-oriented Cancer.

For a few weeks people will be seeking companionship and caring more than lust and adventure. People born with this placement tend to be compassionate and patient in love affairs. Any relationship born with this placement will also display those traits.

MARS ENTERS VIRGO:

On Saturday July 22nd at 2:53 P.M. EST the planet of ego and aggression begins traveling through this critical and detail oriented sign. People may be a little more picky than usual. You may find disputes occurring over the littlest of things. Try not to fall into the pattern of nit-picking. Most arguments can be side-stepped. Those that can't will be discussed into dust.

THE SUN ENTERS LEO:

Also on Saturday July 22nd at 7:18 P.M. EST we enter the fixed part of summer. Now the 5th house gets to be in the forefront. Where last month we were family oriented, this month we are interested in playing games, romance and all child-like activities. Take a trip with your mate or friends. Leave the rest of the family with the in-laws. The kids will have fun no matter where they are this month, so you should have some too.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Tuesday July 25th at 12:31 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:

June 27th 12:02 P.M. – 1:09 P.M.

June 29th 2:24 P.M. – June 30th 12:15 A.M. *** moon is void all evening

July 2nd 2:58 A.M. – 1:06 P.M.

July 4th 3:17 P.M. – July 5th 1:13 A.M. *** moon is void all evening

July 6th 3:54 P.M. – July 7th 10:14 A.M. *** moon is void all night

July 9th 6:31 A.M. – 3:25 P.M.

July 11th 4:58 P.M. – 5:46 P.M.

July 13th 10:23 A.M. – 6:59 P.M. *** moon is void all day

July 15th 3:56 P.M. – 8:39 P.M.

July 17th 9:33 P.M. – 11:44 P.M.

July 20th 1:48 A.M. – 4:38 A.M.

July 22nd 11:17 A.M. – 11:28 A.M.

July 24th 5:07 A.M. – 8:24 P.M. *** moon is void all day

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