

## **MONTHLY SINCE 1999**

### **ISSUE # 96**

## **LIVING BY STARLIGHT**

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**December 2006 - January 2007**

### **AUTHOR'S NOTES:**

If Charles Dickens were to arrive in our society today I somehow doubt that he would be particularly thrilled with the way his simple tale of a man seeking redemption had been treated, especially since the copyright has long expired and he wouldn't receive any royalties. Everyone from The Odd Couple to Mr. Magoo to Bill Murray has traipsed down the path first explored by Ebenezer Scrooge, and for good reason. Not only was Chuck a hell of a story teller, but the very concept of salvation is so powerfully weaved into our culture that many of us struggle with its very idea on a daily basis. Most religions are in some ways based on the belief that we need to be saved; made better than we are at birth. (Otherwise why would we need religion to begin with?) With mankind's history of violence and greed, and the precarious present and immediate future we face, the voice of the collective screams out every chance it gets, even at the cost of repeatedly bastardizing "A Christmas Carol", seeking redemption for a collective soul fallen into a chasm of selfishness and false pride.

We are in an era of incalculable wealth and greed; a period of stark elitism, with more and more gated communities and private police departments. It is a time when the two most frightening words in the American language are "eminent domain". The human experience becomes less human everyday. And then the holidays come along each year, and with the stubborn, foolish hope and anticipation of a child we reach out - that a little of the magic may yet still touch us in our middle years. And always we are disappointed as we get overwhelmed by friends and family, money spent we can not afford on presents most of us could live without anyway. It is with the simplest of gestures that we touch each other and reach towards redemption. Generosity and kindness are always passed on into the stream of human hope. Don't let the cynics tell you otherwise.

So if you pass a beggar on the street, not just during the holiday season, but in any season, and you can afford to give that person a dollar, thank him. For whatever else his karma may be, he has offered you a chance to be just a little more human for a moment. We are all many things at the same time; some contradictory and confusing. For one moment, that homeless person is a saint.

And no matter if you wish for fame and fortune, or if your dream is for something simpler, like a safe home, a warm cup of cocoa and someone to love, may you pursue it with generosity in your heart and kindness in your soul. In the end it doesn't matter so much what you do as how you treat each other.

Happy Holidays everyone, no matter how you choose to celebrate life. May the stars bring you all the lessons you require to make you the best you can be. And may your path always be well lit and warmed with love.

**NEW MOON:**

**The New Moon falls on Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:01 A.M. EST at 28 degrees Sagittarius 32 minutes.** As with all things Sagittarius, this New Moon could blow things out of proportion. With five planets still in this mutable fire sign you can expect expansion and optimism. But be careful; one by one the quicker moving planets will be leaving this sign and entering restrictive Saturn-ruled Capricorn. If you have taken on too many projects or made too many promises, you may soon find yourself short of resources, time and energy. Following the recent run-up in the stocks I wouldn't be surprised by a severe pull-back after the first of the year. We may see the beginning of it as the Sun, Mercury and Venus transit restrictive Capricorn the end of this month.

**MARS SQUARES URANUS:**

**On Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:17 P.M. EST** this difficult and often dangerous aspect presents itself. Mars represents the ego, while Uranus implies un-tethered freedom and experimentation. When these two create a square there is often a lack of patience and good judgment. Try not to act impulsively, and do try to avoid direct confrontations with others. Often the battles are a result of this energy, and the issues are not really important enough to be fighting over. The compulsive and erratic behavior associated with this aspect can lead to accidents, so be careful.

**THE SUN ENTERS CAPRICORN:**

**Also on Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:32 P.M. EST** the Sun leaves expansive Sagittarius and enters restrictive Capricorn as we officially begin winter. For the next month or so we will all be more interested in the foundation we are building for the future. Structure and stability are the key phrases for this sign, so put your efforts into long-range plans and don't look for the quick-fix. That is more Sagittarius' domain. Don't be surprised if it feels as though limitations are in place. Capricorn will slow things down to make sure the foundation you are building upon is sufficient to hold the weight of your plans. Take your time and do things right. It will pay off in the long run.

**MERCURY TRINES SATURN:**

**On Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:19 A.M. EST** this aspect occurs. It will complete in the morning and will set the pace for this Christmas Eve. This coupling makes it easier to pay attention to detail, and this would normally be a good day for tedious mental tasks and organizational jobs, if it weren't Christmas Eve. Well, the same effort can be used to put together a successful holiday party or a family reunion. There will be a bit more sober and focused attitude in the air, and communications will be direct and open. This is a good time to catch up with people with whom you may have lost touch. Mercury rules communications of all sorts, and Saturn often is represented by people and things from our past. This is the perfect time to be given this aspect. Go ahead and chat with yesterday; you may learn some important things about tomorrow.

**CHRISTMAS DAY MERCURY CONJUNCTS PLUTO:**

**On Monday December 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 P.M. EST** this powerful transit completes. People will be interested in

getting to the bottom of things. Superficial answers will not suffice, so don't be surprised if there is some delving into issues. At times this can be a nasty and argumentative aspect, so be aware that some people may be feeling angry leading up to this time. Try not to get into useless disagreements, and if you are feeling hot under the collar, why not take a long walk and then return to the party. There is also a tendency towards compulsive thought and behavior. If you can let things go until later in the day you will realize that the issue wasn't important enough to get upset about. The Moon conjuncts Uranus at 4:11 P.M. EST, which could create sudden events in the home. Some will be wonderful, some not. Enjoy the excitement this can provide, but remember that this can also bring sudden events, including accidents, so be careful.

### **MERCURY ENTERS CAPRICORN:**

**On Wednesday December 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:55 P.M. EST** the planet of communication enters this limiting Saturn-ruled sign. Following a period of open and unguarded communications with Mercury in Sagittarius, we will all be more restrictive in our thoughts and speech. You may find yourself thinking more seriously about your future, and there can be a shortage of optimism and compassion. It's all about work now, but you can't lose your perspective and forget the human side of things. If you aren't careful you may be cast as Scrooge and have to wait a whole year to redeem yourself.

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE:**

**On Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:06 A.M. EST** Mars sextiles Neptune. There will be a strong connection between the ego and the alcohol. Although this is a positive and productive aspect, and can be quite helpful, especially for artists and healers, it also represents an easy-going attitude about drugs and alcohol. This being New Year's Eve, it warrants a word of advice. The Moon will oppose Jupiter this evening at 8:21 P.M. EST, which is a strong indicator of overindulgences of all sorts.

### **THE SUN SEXTILES URANUS:**

**On Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:14 A.M. EST** this positive aspect completes bringing with it a chance to make a difference in your life. Now that the New Year has begun, it is time to make some changes. This aspect will allow you to do so without the usual struggles and opposition. The Sun represent the source of energy; the will within us all. Uranus gives us the greatest chance to make adjustments in our lives. But a sextile must be pro-actively used or it will just pass as a pleasant day. If you give a little push, this year's resolutions may actually carry some weight.

### **FULL MOON:**

**On Wednesday January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:57 A.M. EST** the lunar peak occurs at 12 degrees Cancer 48 minutes. Issues involving the home and family will be in the forefront for the rest of this lunar month. There may be things you must deal with at home that perhaps you have been avoiding. This aspect will no longer allow you to do so. This Full Moon falls right on America's Sun. This could indicate an event for our country; perhaps a stock market adjustment. Because the Sun rules the 9<sup>th</sup> house in our nation's chart, this will involve foreigners and have an impact on our collective consciousness.

**VENUS ENTERS AQUARIUS:**

**Also on Wednesday January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:31 P.M. EST** the planet of love and possessions enters this erratic and changeable sign. For the next few weeks love relationships will be a little unusual. We will all be seeking something different and out of the ordinary. There may be an erratic and undisciplined sense about things involving money and emotions; two things that are more closely tied than we would like to believe. Give any new love affair time to prove itself before committing too much. And be careful with your possessions. It can be easy come, easy go when Venus travels through this Uranus-ruled sign. By the end of the month we will have the Sun, Mercury, Venus and Neptune all transiting this sign. It should be an interesting month.

**MERCURY SEXTILES URANUS:**

**On Thursday January 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:19 A.M. EST** this interesting and creative aspect comes along. Thoughts and communications of all sorts will come at a fast pace. It may be difficult to do, but try to pay attention to detail. Things may move so quickly that mistakes can be made. This is a positive and wonderfully useful aspect, and if you can watch the pitfalls, you can get a lot of mental work done quickly. You may be surprised by a phone call or letter, especially if this aspect hits a sensitive part of your chart.

**THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:**

**On Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:05 A.M. EST** this powerful communicative combination occurs. People may be somewhat willful in their speech. Give them the space to be so, and recognize that you may also be projecting this attitude. Everyone will want to talk. This aspect often represents some news for the bond markets, and thus the entire financial world. This is usually a reversal of direction for the U.S. bonds.

**MARS TRINES SATURN:**

**On Monday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:05 P.M. EST** we get a little help putting things together. This can be a very positive and productive aspect. A trine is easier to use than a sextile, but still requires action by the person. This will be a good day for hard and focused work. The collective ego is unfettered and it will be easier to approach others with your ideas without the usual fears.

**VENUS SEXTILES JUPITER:**

**On Friday January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:44 A.M. EST** this wonderfully pleasant transit comes along. This is a positive combination of the lower and higher benefic planets, but as with all sextiles you must use it or you will lose it. Everyone will be feeling fine. The only unfortunate part is that this completes so early in the morning. This isn't a very disciplined aspect, but the good mood it brings more than makes up for it. Maybe an early rising and breakfast with someone special would be the best use of this energy.

**MARS CONJUNCTS PLUTO:**

**On Saturday January 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 A.M. EST** this most powerful of forces will make itself felt. This too occurs early in the morning, but don't be surprised if some of you awaken about this time. This aspect will be

felt the night before, and a word of advice: Don't go looking for trouble. If it's meant to be it will find you. Everyone's ego will be somewhat fragile and overwhelmed. Try not to poke a sleeping rhinoceros, unless there is a fire you need stomped out.

### **MERCURY ENTERS AQUARIUS:**

**On Monday January 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:25 A.M. EST** the planet of communication enters the sign of its exaltation. People will be a bit nervous for the next few weeks, as thought and communications increase and we try to keep up. You can expect some curious communiqués and surprises. Use this time to formulate different ways of dealing with your problems. Unusual ideas and concepts may present themselves to you. Don't be afraid to try something different.

### **MARS ENTERS CAPRICORN:**

**On Tuesday January 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:54 P.M. EST** the planet of ego begins traveling through this Saturn-ruled sign. You may feel a bit restricted and restrained by this transit. Although in the long run, this may prove to be a very successful and productive time. If you can get beyond any frustration or feelings of limitations this may create, you can use this transit for long-term plans and extended ideas, and move projects or plans along towards a satisfactory completion. Mars likes to jump out and get things done in a hurry. Capricorn is just the opposite; preferring to do things slowly and carefully. With the right combination of these two thoughts you can accomplish a great deal; but only if you can show patience and restrain your ego.

### **VENUS CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:**

**On Thursday January 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:49 P.M. EST** these two dance together and create quite a spectacle. Venus is individual love, while Neptune represents universal caring. Although this aspect can produce confusion and misdirection in personal love, it can bring out a deeper side of the individual. This represents the love of humanity, and if it sets off your chart it may bring you feelings of warmth and deep understanding. But be careful if you begin a new love affair with this aspect in tow. Things may not be as they seem, and people may not be projecting an honest likeness. Also show restraint with your money. It is easy to get lost in the confusion of Neptune and find your pockets empty.

### **DARK OF THE MOON:**

**The next New Moon falls on Thursday January 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:10 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:

December 20<sup>th</sup> 9:01 A.M. - 11:39 A.M.

December 21<sup>st</sup> 11:05 A.M. – December 22<sup>nd</sup> 4:49 P.M.

December 24<sup>th</sup> 3:09 P.M. – 8:43 P.M.

December 26<sup>th</sup> 10:05 P.M. – December 27<sup>th</sup> 12:04 A.M.

December 28<sup>th</sup> 9:54 P.M. – December 29<sup>th</sup> 3:08 A.M.

December 30<sup>th</sup> 9:37 P.M. – December 31<sup>st</sup> 6:16 A.M.

January 2<sup>nd</sup> 5:06 A.M. – 10:14 A.M.

January 3<sup>rd</sup> 8:57 A.M. – January 4<sup>th</sup> 4:14 P.M.

January 6<sup>th</sup> 7:55 P.M. – January 7<sup>th</sup> 1:18 A.M.

January 9<sup>th</sup> 7:50 A.M. – 1:15 P.M.

January 11<sup>th</sup> 8:55 P.M. – January 12<sup>th</sup> 2:08 A.M.

January 14<sup>th</sup> 10:49 A.M. – 1:11 P.M.

January 16<sup>th</sup> 4:28 P.M. – 8:49 P.M.

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**December 2006**

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