

MONTHLY SINCE 1999**ISSUE # 111****LIVING BY STARLIGHT**

AN ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2008**AUTHOR'S NOTES:**

Last month we had the **Mars – Jupiter opposition** that blew many things out of proportion. The DOW closed over 13,000 for the first time in a long time. This is a bullish signal, but is it real? **We are heading into the Jupiter – Uranus sextile**, an aspect known for its ability to bring sudden opportunities and potential windfalls, if it sets off your chart. **Uranus is in square to America's Mars**, ruler of the 5th house of speculative trades, **while Jupiter squares it**. This may represent another run up of the stocks as the exuberance of this combination applies. **It completes on May 21st right after the Scorpio Full Moon**, and is followed the next day by the Sun square Saturn, a notoriously bad aspect for financial markets. **May 19TH - 21st may very well be the top of this move.**

Uranus in square to Mars is a very intense and potentially dangerous aspect. It has been in orb since late April and pulls away about May 17th. **It never really goes more than a degree away from our Mars throughout the summer. It will return to conjunct America's Mars August 8th – 30th. It returns February – March 2009 for the last pass.** This will be a period of high energy and explosive situations for our nation. This plus the Saturn – Uranus opposition are warning signals that something is about to happen. I believe in free-will astrology, even for the collective. If the lessons are learned, this could be a freeing and fulfilling year when we make some major changes in our attitude and direction. If we are stubborn and refuse to change, events will occur that put such pressure upon us that we will have no choice but to accept a new path. This happens with individuals, and it is true of the collective as well.

The Saturn – Pluto trine has begun to pull away and with it will go some of the underlying support for the stock markets and the structure of our culture in general. As we head closer to the **Saturn – Uranus opposition** we should see more evidence of its presence. Earthquakes, volcanoes and other disruptive and upsetting natural occurrences will escalate. We could be facing a major earthquake in a densely populated area, such as a big city. Financially this is the mirror to the Saturn – Uranus conjunct that completed shortly after Black Monday when the DOW lost over 22% of its value in one day. In astrological terms this is a testing of what occurred then. As I said above, if we have learned enough, this should not be a terrible period. If we have ignored the lessons offered and continued on the same path we could be facing a worse collapse this time.

Mercury will retrograde on May 26th in Gemini, one of the two signs it rules. It will station exactly on America's Mars. The effects of this retrograde may be even more powerful than usual. Miscommunication can be a very dangerous and costly thing in our society. We may see evidence of some very important decisions being made at a very inopportune time. There are often difficulties with travel and communication while this planet is going backwards. They may be quite exaggerated this time. One year when Mercury went backwards in this sign there were breakdowns of the main computer in the New York City post office, the Metrocard machines all crashed and 36,000 of them had to be reset by hand, the EZ pass in New Jersey stopped functioning, and the Swiss, renown for their watches, set their state clocks back 2 hours instead of one at the time change.

Because this aspect rests exactly on America's Mars, ruler of the 4th house of home and the 5th house of speculation, this may be a very intense month for the financial markets. We may also receive some important

news regarding our business of war. There could be a major battle or other event that changes our course of action once this planet goes direct.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Monday May 5th at 8:18 A.M. EST at 15 degrees Taurus 22 minutes. The issues this month have to do with values. What is most important to you? Is it your money, security, relationships, or something else? Taurus is a stubborn sign, and it may be hard to change direction during the 2½ weeks leading up to the Full Moon. But once your mind is made up you will have all the tenacity you need to push things towards completion. All the earth signs like to see solid proof of their efforts. Taurus in particular identifies strongly with possessions. Your own issues may have to do with getting more of them, or perhaps letting go of your attachment. But either side of the coin is a Taurus or 2nd house matter. This lunar cycle could set the pace for the financial markets for the rest of the spring.

JUPITER RETROGRADES:

On Friday May 9th at 8:11 A.M. EST the planet of expansion begins its backward motion until September 8th. You may find that some projects have slowed down or taken a different direction. That is perfectly normal when this aspect occurs. This is the time to work on our internal growth as individuals, and projects will also require a clear and uncompromised view. The *internal* part of the project, that which is the underlying theme, will begin to emerge without the usual distractions created by the material side of things. That's why some of your goals may be delayed for a while. But when they are achieved they will be that much more powerful and fulfilling.

MARS ENTERS LEO:

Also on Friday May 9th at 4:20 P.M. EST the planet of ego enters this assertive fire sign until early July. People will tend to be more direct and outgoing. Leo rules the stage, so you can expect to see some histrionics on display, especially during the first few days as we get used to this energy change. Leos are honest and straightforward. They abhor deceit and subterfuge, so if you are open and honest with your ego and in your relationships this aspect should serve you quite well.

THE SUN SEXTILES URANUS:

On Monday May 12th at 12:32 A.M. EST this interesting transit completes. This is a day for excitement and experimentation. It is easy to ignore the sextiles, in which case their effects will be quite limited. But if you make use of this energy you should seek unusual and different types of people, situations and concepts.

THE SUN TRINES JUPITER:

Also on Monday May 12th at 1:29 P.M. EST this wonderful trine occurs. As with the sextiles, the trines must be used proactively or they will not bring you their potential rewards. Because of the Jupiter – Uranus sextile that is occurring this month, both planets will be aspected by the quicker moving ones. This will create moments of great opportunity for growth, freedom and understanding, especially if that sextile hits a sensitive point in your chart. Today you can enlarge your scope of interest and perception. Try to spend some time un-tethered to your routine and explore the world. You may be surprised by what you find.

THE SUN SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Wednesday May 14th at 11:51 A.M. EST this confusing and weakening aspect comes along. Neptune dissolves whatever it comes in contact with. The purpose being to strip away the veneer we call reality and expose the spiritual world. Unfortunately we do live in the material world, As George Harrison reminded us, and so this can cause difficulties if you are not able to let go of things enough to ignore the fog this can create. I suggest you prepare by avoiding any situation where confusion or misdirection can lead to problems. If travel is necessary you should double check everything and make sure you know where you are going. A little caution will help avoid a lot of trouble. This is usually a bad day for the financial markets.

VENUS SEXTILES URANUS:

On Sunday May 18th at 7:23 A.M. EST Venus sets off that Uranus – Jupiter sextile. This should be a very pleasant day that could lead to a romantic encounter or some financial gain, if this sets off your chart. Most people will be responding to these positive aspects, unless they are going through a more difficult personal transit. Try to enjoy yourself. These aspects favor social gatherings, romantic encounters, games, travel, art, music or anything that brings pleasure and can expand your consciousness as well.

VENUS TRINES JUPITER:

Also on Sunday May 18th at 11:18 A.M. EST the other half of this wonderful energy occurs. About the only potentially negative thing one can say is that whenever Venus and Jupiter are in aspect, even a positive angle, there is a severe lack of discipline and a tendency to overindulge in things. This is not a day to plan arduous tasks or a heavy work load. If at all possible you should be doing things that bring you pleasure. Travel of any sort is enlightening. Even if it's only a long walk in the park, your consciousness will gain much from the release and thank you with a more productive attitude in a few days.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Monday May 19th at 10:11 P.M. EST at 29 degrees Scorpio 27 minutes. Last month's Full Moon was in Scorpio at 0 degrees, so this is the 2nd Scorpio Full Moon in a row. The implication is that we as a society have something to learn about Scorpio energy and what it entails. The 8th house issues that involved in this sign deal with things held jointly with others. This includes all trading markets, social programs, any so-called *eminent domain* issues, or in other words, everything that is about to tear our culture apart. We all know there are serious underlying problems in the distribution of wealth and power, and this aspect may herald some sort of breaking point. But we may not see the outer manifestation for some time.

Show this lunar aspect the respect it deserves. One should always use caution under a Full Moon, and this sign is renowned for its potential difficulties. But because Jupiter is in sextile to Uranus until the 21st, there is an underlying sense of excitement and elation that should make this an entertaining and positive few days. Once that sextile completes we will all have to have a reality check. With the Venus square Neptune completing on this lunar aspect there could be some problems, so use your common sense and avoid situations where deception or confusion can be dangerous.

VENUS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Tuesday May 20th at 2:28 A.M. EST this potentially problematic moment occurs. This comes along with the Full Moon, so the night of the 19th into this morning is a time to use caution and avoid drugs, alcohol or deception. Confusion is quite possible. If you fall head over heels for someone I would give it a few days for reality to set in before committing too much of yourself. Be careful with your money. It is easy for it to just seem to disappear.

THE SUN ENTERS GEMINI:

Also on Tuesday May 20th at 12:01 P.M. EST we enter the mutable part of spring. Now things will change on a day to day basis as we approach the next season. Communication is the key to this sign, and we will all be busier than usual. With Mercury in this sign as well and about to retrograde, it is most important that you are clear and direct in your communications. Short journeys will be very rewarding, as your mind needs a lot of constant input to satisfy this energy. Those prone to nervousness may experience an increase in the symptoms for the next few weeks.

JUPITER SEXTILES URANUS:

On Wednesday May 21st at 2:08 P.M. EST this terrific aspect completes. Enjoy this energy and try to make

use of the combination to enlarge your point of view and your potential. Sudden trips are favored, as is anything that exposes you to the unusual or experimental things in life. This has been creating an underlying enthusiasm that has been felt throughout the culture. With its completion may go some of the optimism that has pushed the stock market up to ludicrous numbers once again. This transit will return in November for one last pass, just about the time Saturn opposes Uranus. I will be writing about these coming aspects throughout the year. November seems to be a very important moment in our society astrologically. Obviously the election will be the manifestation of much of this force. But it too is only a bellwether of our collective direction. Whoever wins the White House is inheriting an unmanageable mess.

THE SUN SQUARES SATURN:

On Thursday May 22nd at 2:25 P.M. EST this transit will put a wet blanket on the Jupiter – Uranus sextile. This is a day of responsibilities and reality. There is no room for illusions when Saturn is around. This can represent difficulties with those in authority if it sets off your chart. It is a low energy transit, and people will not have a lot of oomph. Don't push things too much when Saturn is the dominant force.

VENUS ENTERS GEMINI:

On Saturday May 24th at 6:52 P.M. EST the planet of love and possessions enters this intellectual sign. People will be more flirtatious and fickle than usual, and you can expect much duality in relationships. Any new romance that begins with under this transit will certainly not be boring. Communication is the key to romance this month, so sharpen your verbal skills.

MERCURY RETROGRADES:

On Monday May 26th at 11:48 A.M. EST the winged god begins its mischief making. Communications and travel are the main areas of difficulty. Until June 19th when this turns around you must use extra caution when dealing with these issues. Double check plans and leave extra time for connections. Trouble with electronic devices, especially phones, computers and such, should be expected and contingency preparations made. Because Mercury is in Gemini, the sign it rules while retrograding, this may be a more pronounced period of difficulties than we even usually experience, so be careful. This is not a good time to buy a new phone, computer, ipod, car, boat, plane or spaceship, especially if you're planning to visit Mercury.

NEPTUNE RETROGRADES:

Also on Monday May 26th at 12:15 P.M. EST the ruler of art, spirituality and drugs begins to move backwards. As any planet retrogrades it internalizes the energy associated with it. That is why it is difficult to communicate while Mercury is retrograde. But once you finally reach that person the communication becomes deep and revealing. The same is true with Neptune, although it is the artistic and ethereal side of the personality that will respond accordingly.

VENUS SQUARES SATURN:

Also on Monday May 26th at 1:10 P.M. EST this rather stoic and limiting aspect occurs. You may find that people are a bit reserved or even grumpy today. Don't plan a party or first date – it won't work out well. This is a good time to set out a financial plan or to go shopping if you are on a budget. You will tend to be more frugal.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Tuesday June 3rd at 3:23 P.M. EST at 13 degrees Gemini 34 minutes. The day or two leading up to it will be a particularly low energy period. If you tend to be emotional this may be a very trying time each month. I have found that people with prominent moons or a Cancer Sun, Moon or ascendant respond to the cycles of the moon more intensely than others. 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:

May 6th 4:22 A.M. – 7:17 A.M.

May 7th 9:37 P.M. – May 8th 7:02 A.M.

May 9th 8:06 P.M. – May 10th 9:10 A.M.

May 12th 4:09 A.M. – 2:48 P.M.

May 14th 12:36 P.M. – 11:46 P.M. *** moon is void all day

May 16th 11:29 P.M. – May 17th 10:59 A.M.

May 19th 10:11 P.M. – 11:18 P.M.

May 22nd 12:20 A.M. – 11:55 A.M.

May 24th 8:26 A.M. – 11:52 P.M. *** moon is void all day

May 26th 10:50 P.M. – May 27th 9:38 A.M.

May 29th 2:22 A.M. – 3:25 P.M.

May 31st 8:54 A.M. – 6:18 P.M. *** moon is void all day

June 2nd 9:03 A.M. – 6:06 P.M. *** moon is void all day

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