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LIVING BY STARLIGHT
AN ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER
BY MITCHELL SCOTT LEWIS

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AUTHOR'S NOTES:

Mercury goes direct on February 1st, and this has been one doozy of a retrograde. The usual difficulties are noted, but with the world in the mess it's in, you can only imagine what they may have done without our knowledge.

The barrage of mistakes, bad judgment and dishonesty that currently permeate our society seems endless. **While Mercury was in retrograde in October**, our government was sold a bill of goods by the banking industry, and was bullied in a time of great panic to set up the TARP program. Half the money was released on that retrograde and, as you can see; it has been an expensive and illogical failure. The second half of the money is now being demanded by President Obama, **again while Mercury is retrograde**. This too will be a failed attempt.

Also while **Mercury was in retrograde**, New York governor Patterson appointed a pro-gun, conservative democrat to fill Hillary Clinton's most prestigious seat in the senate – at a time when the left needs to be empowered in order to tip the balance of power in this country back into the center. This appointment is sure to create more infighting in the Democratic Party. There is already a lack of solidarity and innumerable agendas clouding the main concerns. Without complete clarity and unflinching agreement will we accomplish even a small part of what this administration, and the large majority of the people hope for?

Mr. Obama became president at exactly noon on January 20th 2009. I don't care how many times he was administered the oath. **Those delays and mistakes were all part of the retrograde Mercury, and have nothing to do with the facts.** I hate to bust so many bubbles, but he was inaugurated automatically at noon, **and thus began his presidency under a void of course moon.** You can discuss and analyze all the charts you want to, that won't change reality one little bit. There will be serious distractions and a lack of purpose to this first Obama administration. This does not mean that everything he does will be a failure, nor that he won't be reelected. What it means is that just like on every void of course moon occurring every 2 ½ days, we can expect things to be redirected, set off course and in general be more difficult to control. Unexpected events and situations will come up more often than usual. It will be a particularly frustrating few years, but not necessarily a failure. Spiritual matters will become far more important. And with **Jupiter about to conjunct Neptune three times over the next year**, I suspect that we will see an increase in religion, philosophy and even astrology and the occult. I am preparing a financial and political update to discuss these aspects at greater length. In the meantime, please view my recent brief youtube segment regarding the Great

Alignments of 1962 and 2000.

Saturn will oppose Uranus for the second time on February 5th. Those of you familiar with my work know that I have been marking this transit for some time. This is a time of upsetting events and instability in most things. I discuss it below and will expound further in my update.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Monday January 26th at 2:55 A.M. EST at 6 degrees Aquarius 30 minutes. Aquarius is an exciting sign. Often unexpected events will occur during this period, especially if this New Moon creates positive aspects to your natal chart. Use this time to initiate new beginnings and experiment with your ideas. This sign rules humanity and government of and by the people. We should see a lot of activity and initiative from our new president this month. **But because this is a solar eclipse, we will not know if these initiatives are working for some time. We may have some inkling near the lunar eclipse on February 9th, but we won't know for certain until the next solar eclipse on July 21st.**

MERCURY CONJUNCTS MARS:

On Tuesday January 27th at 1:11 A.M. EST there will be a lot of energy being emitted, especially verbally. People will be feisty and quite aggressive in their speech and other communications. Try not to take offense or overreact to what someone says. This can be an accident waiting to happen. Don't let it happen to you. Use extra caution, especially while traveling.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

On Sunday February 1st at 2:11 A.M. EST Mercury finally turns around and we can all get back to our lives. Many mistakes and accidents occur during the first day or two as this planet reverses direction, so be careful. Everyone is attempting to make up for lost time, and the world just seems to be hard to keep up with. Things get put on hold during the thrice yearly retrograde. If you are accustomed to following these periods, you can use them to your advantage. While the world is slowing down, you can catch up on work, personal relationships and making plans that will be implemented on the direct motion. Now that Mercury is going direct, the world will begin to move faster. Don't try to do too much. Just keep up with your schedule and expect to be a bit overwhelmed. Secrets often get revealed while Mercury is reversing.

VENUS ENTERS ARIES:

On Monday February 2nd at 10:42 P.M. EST the planet of love crosses the Aries Point and enters this most assertive of signs. Expect more aggression in romance, especially from women. Be careful with your money. You may be tempted to spend it without forethought, and this is probably not a good time to be acting that way.

MARS ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Wednesday February 4th at 10:56 A.M. EST the god of war enters the most erratic and unpredictable of

signs. This is followed shortly by the next Saturn – Uranus opposition. Use more caution this month, and keep an eye on your ego. Others will also be projecting a lot of extra ego energy, and it will be easy to walk right into someone who is overly assertive.

SATURN OPPOSES URANUS:

On Thursday February 5th at 6:00 A.M. EST the second of our five oppositions completes. **The first pass of this aspect on Election Day 2008 was at 18 degrees Pisces – Virgo, exactly on the New York Stock Exchange's Mars**, which rules the 10th house, if you use the 10 A.M. EST time that my research has uncovered. But regardless of the time, **a similar aspect was also in play in 1987 on Black Monday. That day saw Saturn and Uranus in square to the New York Stock Exchange's Mars, while the Moon was conjunct.**

This pass will be within minutes of a square to America's Mars, while the Moon is conjunct. We may see some violent or militaristic repercussions to this aspect.

At the same time, **Neptune, planet of confusion, illusions and misdirection, is in square to the New York Stock Exchange's Mercury, ruler of communication and paper work.** We are in for a whole lot of misunderstandings, bewilderment and general confusion. Lies and deceit are also quite possible when Neptune is active. **This aspect will return next October – November.** This is obviously not a time to invest in the equity markets. I'm afraid it will be quite some time before I can give that advice. We are in for a series of shake ups. They could be quite volatile at times, but even if they aren't quite the crash we saw in the fall of '08, they will at least continue to deteriorate the markets at a slow pace.

The possibility of a very deep and profound stock market collapse continues at least through July 2010 when the last pass of Saturn opposite Uranus completes. We could see the DOW at 5,000 before this is all over.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Monday February 9th at 9:49 A.M. EST at 21 degrees 00 minutes Leo, and it is a lunar eclipse. First of all, be careful for a few days. There will be a lot of unfocused force floating about, and while this eclipse energy is around, it may be easy to get caught up in something that isn't really your business. Avoid confrontations and pay attention to what you are doing. Because this Full Moon is close to Neptune, there will be a lot of misunderstandings. Also be careful of alcohol and drugs (legal or not makes no difference to astrology.) It is possible to have a bad reaction to a pill your doctor gives you. Double check your prescription.

THE SUN CONJUNCT NEPTUNE:

On Thursday February 12th at 7:41 A.M. EST this debilitating aspect completes. Many people will be out of sorts, and a bit dazed. A lack of focus and confidence is often associated with this transit, and if Neptune is affecting you now, you must take precautions not to make decisions until you are feeling clear. This is usually a very bad day in the equity markets.

MERCURY ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Saturday February 14th at 10:39 A.M. EST the planet of communications reenters this air sign. People will be more chatty and interested in curious and thought-provoking things. Anything different or weird will be appealing. This would be a good time to seek unusual solutions to your problems. Try to let your mind wander a bit more than usual and see where it takes you. The main thing is not to limit your choices. Give your brain enough leash to sniff out the neighborhood.

MARS CONJUNCTS JUPITER:

On Tuesday February 17th at 11:27 A.M. EST this very exuberant aspect will complete. You can get a lot of things done today, especially if this sets off your chart. Be careful not to let egos become overwhelming. There is a tendency to mite off too much, and not be able to juggle it all once this passes. So don't make promises you can not keep. But if used with a little caution, this can be a very exciting and useful aspect. The biggest risk with this transit is that any military missions may escalate.

THE SUN ENTERS PISCES:

On Wednesday February 18th at 7:47 A.M. EST we enter the mutable water sign. People will be more sensitive and caring. Unfortunately this won't change people's attitudes that much. But a little bit less selfishness can go a long way. This is when winter starts to slowly change to spring. Of course, if you live in the North, you won't believe it for a minute. But, due to that wonderfully romantic tip in the Earth's axis, the lighting changes, the days get longer, and there begins to be a thawing, at least within ourselves.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS JUPITER:

On Tuesday February 24th at 1:53 A.M. EST this optimistic and exuberant aspect comes along again. This is a nice day to have a pleasant conversation. Most people will be open-minded and you can discuss some important things without the usual trepidations. But as with all Jupiter aspects, things can be blown out of proportion and promises can be made that may be difficult to keep. So keep things real. The one thing you don't want to do is sit around aimlessly. Get out and do things, or keep your mind busy. Travel is favored.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Tuesday February 24th at 8:35 P.M. EST at 6 degrees Pisces 35 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:

January 27th 12:13 P.M. – January 28th 1:12 A.M.

January 30th 4:24 A.M. – 10:25 A.M.

February 1st 1:08 P.M. – 5:09 P.M.

February 3rd 8:27 P.M. – 9:14 P.M.

February 5th 12:45 P.M. – 11:06 P.M.

February 7th 2:07 P.M. – 11:43 P.M.

February 9th 2:29 P.M. – February 10th 12:38 A.M.

February 11th 11:17 P.M. - February 12th 3:33 A.M.

February 14th 9:46 A.M. – 9:51 A.M.

February 16th 4:37 P.M. – 7:53 P.M.

February 18th 8:37 P.M. – February 19th 8:25 A.M.

February 21st 4:01 A.M. – 9:06 P.M.

February 23rd 9:09 P.M. – February 24th 8:00 A.M.

Mitchell Scott Lewis

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New York City

(212) 726-3814

<http://www.mitcastro.com>

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