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AUTHOR'S NOTES:

This month we have a lot of potentially difficult aspects. **Mars will enter emotionally charged Cancer where it will oppose Pluto and both will be squared by Mercury – twice, due to the retrograde action of that planet.** You must be careful when traveling or communicating. There may be a lot of animosity in the air and you would be wise to sidestep it as much as possible.

This month we will see the third of five passes of **Saturn opposite Uranus**. So what can we expect? On the first two passes of this aspect we had stock market crashes. Will we have another this month? That of course depends on how well the world has been learning its lessons, but it doesn't look like we are about to collapse. Transits are primarily psychological in nature, and the effect of this one is insecurity and doubt. How we handle it will depend upon just how secure the society feels.

The fact that we have not slipped into a depression shows how well the Obama administration has dealt with the meltdown of our financial institutions. Although I do not agree with many of the underhanded methods used to support certain companies while others were left to the sharks, the bigger picture seems to show signs of recovery. However, we are far from finished with **Saturn opposite Uranus**. There will be two more passes to test our foundation. The underlying problems with our boom and bust culture remain. As long as these bubbles continue to expand and explode we will have crashes and recessions. We need a more secure and structured system or our form of capitalism will eventually fail.

Mercury will retrograde this month, and as always I will tell you that this is not a good time to trade. There are many mistakes and false or incomplete information is quite common. Because this retrograde occurs in Libra, relationships may be a source of difficulty. When Mercury retrogrades, the truth has a nasty habit of coming out. This is actually a very good time to have important conversations. It's just difficult to get the other person on the phone.

On a personal note: I must say goodbye to my "niece", Gracie Lewis, my brother's 11 year old wonderfully intelligent and funny chocolate lab. Two quick anecdotes: When Gracie was a puppy she stayed in a puppy-crate. One day when my brother was trying to put her back into the crate after her walk she resisted, reached inside and pulled all of her toys out, then closed the crate door with her head and looked up at my brother with a knowing smile. The crate was moved permanently to the basement and Gracie was free to grow to her 90 pounds.

When Gracie first met her cousin Goldie (my beautiful cocker spaniel) my sister-in-law Laura gave Gracie a pig's ear to chew on in case she was jealous or didn't get along with Goldie. Gracie, who had known me since she was born, must have realized that Goldie was family. She took the pig's ear in her mouth, walked over to Goldie and put it down in front of her as a welcoming gift, and then walked away. This was one smart and magnificent dog, and I will miss her.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Thursday August 20th at 6:02 A.M. EST at 27 degree Leo 32 minutes, and it is a void of course New Moon. Leo rules the 5th house and romance is in the air. Because this New Moon falls so late in the sign, the Sun will be entering Virgo in a few days, so this lunar cycle will be less Leo like. Still, there is strength and directness in this New Moon, and since Leo rules the stage you can expect some showiness and role-playing. Because this is a void of course New Moon we can expect things to be a little disconnected and unfocused. Many plans that start out strong will fizzle out before month's end. Use extra care to complete things and don't leave loose ends. They will trip you further down the road.

MERCURY OPPOSES URANUS:

On Friday August 21st at 7:48 A.M. EST this potentially explosive aspect completes. Be extra careful while traveling. Sudden unexpected events are possible, and distractions are quite common. Use caution in your speech as well. It is very easy to blurt out something you had planned on keeping secret.

THE SUN ENTERS VIRGO:

On Saturday August 22nd at 7:39 P.M. EST we enter the mutable part of summer. Although there is plenty of hot weather still to come, there is a different feeling in the air. We can sense the slow change into autumn. The sunlight is different, the days are shorter and the wind seems slightly alien. After a month of Leo energy we are starting to pay more attention to details and plans. Try not to be too critical or picky.

MARS ENTERS CANCER:

On Tuesday August 25th at 1:16 P.M. EST the god of war enters this most poignant of signs. People may be a bit more emotional until mid-October. Egos are fragile and you may consider a gentler approach. Mars will square Mercury later today and oppose Pluto tomorrow, so you must be careful this week. A lot of pent up energy and some animosity will seep out and could lead to severe situations on the world stage or our own personal playhouse. There is little we can do about the world. Let's try to do something about ourselves.

MERCURY ENTERS LIBRA:

Also on Tuesday August 25th at 4:18 P.M. EST Mercury enters this relationship oriented sign. People will chat more about sex than anything while the winged god is traveling through this neighborhood. Conversations between the sexes will be heightened and very active. Don't underestimate Libra. It is a passive-aggressive sign and usually gets what it wants one way or another.

MERCURY SQUARES MARS:

On Tuesday August 25th at 11:58 P.M. EST people will be looking for reasons to fight. Don't give them one. This is a dangerous and aggressive energy that must be given its due. Mercury rules automobiles, and with Mars in square there will be a lot of road rage and accidents today. Because Mars is about to oppose Pluto, Mercury will be setting that off for the next few days. Do be careful. Avoid direct confrontations as well as dangerous situations and neighborhoods. Take a deep breath before you tell off that guy at Starbuck's. You don't know how this aspect may be hitting his chart.

MERCURY SQUARES PLUTO:

On Wednesday August 26th at 12:07 P.M. EST the need for depth in conversations will be pronounced. This is not a good day for chit chat. You will be too concerned about serious issues to waste time with frivolity. There is a tendency to speak from a very intense and powerful place, so be aware of what you are saying and how you are saying it.

VENUS ENTERS LEO:

Also on Wednesday August 26th at 12:12 P.M. EST the planet of money and love will enter this most showy of signs. For the next few weeks people will be more assertive in relationships, and romance should flourish. Women in particular may be more outgoing than usual, especially Leos. Have some fun with this. The other aspects this month are a bit heavy for the end of summer. This will bring playfulness to the underlying attitudes between the sexes. Enjoy it and avoid the pitfalls of all this Mars – Pluto stuff.

MARS OPPOSES PLUTO:

On Wednesday August 26th at 4:32 P.M. EST this will complete. Although I doubt the energy will be released until after this coming Full Moon, this will at least take some of the pressure off. Be careful of unwanted confrontations today. Even if you feel you have something important to say, I would wait a few days before saying it. You can always say something, but you can never unsay something. Many people will be carrying a chip on their shoulder, so be careful how you approach others.

MERCURY SQUARES MARS:

On Thursday September 3rd at 12:19 P.M. EST this aspect completes for the 2nd time this week. There is unquestionably a lot of argumentative energy around and how much of it you encounter has to do with free will. I know there is no way to avoid all of this, but you can decide whether or not to step in front of a speeding insult.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Friday September 4th at 12:03 P.M. EST at 12 degrees Pisces 15 minutes. The Pisces Full Moon is unlike any other. It has much to do with spirituality and charity. Because this comes between the Mars – Pluto opposition and the Saturn – Uranus opposition this will be an intense week or so and I suggest you walk with care. Any Full Moon can set off events, and with so much stressful

energy around, it certainly warrants concern.

MERCURY RETROGRADES:

On Monday September 7th at 12:45 A.M. EST Mercury begins running backwards and the fun begins. As always, double check your plans, leave extra time for travel and expect a certain amount of confusion and misdirection. Subways, buses, cars, boats and planes can create havoc. If you can avoid it, don't purchase anything that has to do with travel, communications or time. A new cell phone will give you trouble, a new alarm clock could prove most alarming indeed.

VENUS OPPOSES JUPITER:

On Friday September 11th at 3:54 A.M. EST this terrific aspect comes along. This is a very pleasant and agreeable energy and it will be easier to approach people in general. There is a great tendency to overindulge in all things, so don't overdo the food, drink and other goodies. Romance is definitely in the air especially if this sets off your chart; just don't over-idealize someone new. When this passes you could be disappointed, so don't make any permanent commitments for a day or so.

PLUTO RETROGRADES:

Also on Friday September 11th at 12:55 P.M. EST we begin a period of retrospection and a sort of inner regeneration. Whenever a planet retrogrades its energy is internalized much the way it is for the individual with retrograde planets in their natal chart. Here it is the Pluto energy, and its constant need to shed the dead skin and allow for new growth, that is being reflected inwardly. Although this makes it more difficult for external manifestations of Pluto, and there may be stress in certain areas of our lives, such as partnerships and joint financial matters, the opportunities to make alterations within our own conversation is invaluable. Take advantage of it and be honest with the only person you can truly be honest with.

SATURN OPPOSES URANUS:

On Tuesday September 15th at 8:50 A.M. EST our wonderful friend returns. I am anxiously awaiting this pass of this most disruptive opposition. As those of you who are regular readers of this newsletter know the first two passes coincided with the first two crashes. Will we have another stock market crash in the next few months? Possibly, and if not now, then the next window of opportunity is July 2010. This is an ongoing situation similar to the last time this occurred in 1965-7, when these two planets were in opposition in the reverse signs. Saturn, which is now in Virgo, was in Pisces, and Uranus obviously was in Virgo. This period is in many ways a completion of the karma we began in the 60's. I suppose because this opposition occurs about every 35 - 40 years, we could say that each pass completes the karma for those generations that were present during its last pass. This one I believe is more serious in some ways. These do not usually complete in the opposite signs. This is a circle completing. We have simply been chasing our own tail for the last 40 years. Now we may catch it.

VENUS OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

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Also on Tuesday September 15 at 5:37 P.M. EST a grand illusion is presented to us. Issues of money and relationships will be very confusing so don't take things at face value. Look behind the curtain and see just who is pulling the strings. It's better to face the disillusionment of the truth than be victim of a self-perpetrated farce.

THE SUN OPPOSES URANUS:

On Thursday September 17th at 5:42 A.M. EST the Sun sets off the powerful Saturn – Uranus opposition. Whenever there are outer planet aspects, they need to be triggered by an inner, quicker moving body. In this case the Sun is sufficient energy to bring about whatever that aspect requires. This can lead to outbursts and accidents if it sets off your chart. I wouldn't be long the stocks today. But of course, I haven't been long the stocks since 2007.

MERCURY SQUARES PLUTO:

Also on Thursday September 17th at 7:50 A.M. EST for the second time this month, and a deep and penetrating energy will force issues out into the open. It is difficult to hide things under Pluto's compulsive need to know the truth. So if you don't want to say certain things, don't have that conversation today.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS SATURN:

Also on Thursday September 17th at 2:22 P.M. EST this serious and realistic force will weigh heavily upon us. This is a low energy day when most of us will be concerned with the most important issues. I wouldn't plan a surprise party, unless you want the surprise to be that nobody comes. We will realistically see the underlying foundation upon which we are trying to rebuild our fractured society. Where it is solid we will be satisfied and can continue to build. Where it is weakened, we will be forced to see the decay and begin the process of restructuring anew.

MERCURY ENTERS VIRGO:

Also on Thursday September 17th at 11:26 P.M. EST Mercury retrogrades back into Virgo until October 9th. A more critical perspective will be prominent so try not to be overly picky or demanding. Attention to detail is acute, so use it to your advantage.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Friday September 18th at 2:44 P.M. EST at 25 degrees Virgo 59 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:

August 20th 6:02 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

August 22nd 7:44 A.M. – 11:12 A.M.

August 24th 2:10 P.M. – 3:16 P.M.

August 26th 2:34 P.M. – 11:16 P.M.

August 29th 1:26 A.M. – 10:44 A.M.

August 31st 2:09 P.M. – 11:43 P.M.

September 3rd 1:20 A.M. – 11:58 A.M.

September 5th 12:53 P.M. – 10:14 P.M.

September 7th 8:13 P.M. – September 8th 6:18 A.M.

September 10th 3:17 A.M. – 12:17 P.M.

September 12th 7:30 A.M. – 4:20 P.M.

September 14th 9:57 A.M. – 6:39 P.M.

September 16th 12:11 P.M. – 7:56 P.M.

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