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LIVING BY STARLIGHT

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AUTHOR'S NOTES:

Mercury will retrograde on May 7th. Besides the usual mess this creates we may uncover some previously buried information. The usual words of advice are perhaps more important than usual. There are many things brewing in our culture that could come to light during this period. As always, expect serious delays and problems with travel and communications. Take it all in stride and try not to get angry. If you use the energy that the universe is emitting at any given moment you will enjoy our life more and achieve a higher percentage of your goals. That is what astrology is all about.

On May 27th Jupiter will conjunct Neptune for the first time. Because Jupiter retrogrades on June 15th this conjunction stays within orb for about 7 weeks until the middle of July. Last month I wrote: ***Because Neptune rules infectious diseases, and Jupiter will expand and enlarge anything it comes in contact with, there is some chance that this transit could result in some sort of medical problem involving an infectious agent.*** There has recently been an outbreak of a new strain of influenza that reports say is a mixture of bird flu, human flu and a mutation of swine flu, previously only contracted by direct contact with hogs. Now it apparently can be passed from human to human. Mexico City is under a state of emergency, and this super-flu has spread to the western U.S. **This is an example of the potential this combination of planets can produce.** Jupiter expands whatever it comes in contact with. Neptune rules infectious diseases; ergo a small pandemic would fit nicely with the astrology. I would be less concerned if there weren't so many difficult transits completing this year, including Saturn opposite Uranus, Saturn square Pluto, etc. I strenuously suggest extra caution this spring and summer, especially if this Jupiter – Neptune conjunct sets of your chart. Avoid infected people, and if you do get sick make sure you deal with it. Although this Jupiter – Neptune conjunct may produce some wonderful results, it can also create a devastating health issue. With so many uninsured Americans, if this thing actually does develop into a pandemic we will see some horrific situations with the sick lining up outside

hospitals begging for help, the rapid spread of the infection and limited social services to provide comfort and security. Universal health care is not charity. It is for the protection of everyone.

Of course there is also a beautiful, creative and generous side to this aspect as well. Our society will be tested, personally and collectively. Our humanity will be shown repeatedly. It is always that way in a depression. But this configuration will increase the flow of compassion and charity. Will it be enough?

Saturn will retrograde back to 18 degrees Virgo exactly conjunct Mars in the NYSE chart, the 2nd week of July. This is the degree it was at in late October early November 2008, and again early March when the markets tanked. Expect one of two results. Either the stocks will continue to decline, in which case this date will represent a bottom and could signal a turn around, or the stocks will rally, as I expect, and crash in the middle of July. Either way we are far from a recovery. We may even test the lows in the S&P's either in July or September. The banks, despite receiving unprecedented amounts of money in taxpayer's bailouts refuse to lend that money back to the public. Unemployment will continue to rise throughout this year and into 2010. If there is any major health issue it would be the icing on the cake. At least we would see first hand what an underinsured populous would do in such a crisis.

A few of you have asked what Obama's void of course inauguration will mean. When the Moon is void of course it has completed the last aspect in the sign it is in. The energy is unattached and things do not go as planned. This doesn't mean that everything will be a failure, only that you can expect some sudden changes in direction and difficulty bringing things to fruition. I have great faith in this president. I am quite impressed with his rhetoric and persona, and his refusal to back down from the many controversial changes he is trying to install. His audacity could only come from a Leo, god bless them. And only someone with his strength of ego could even imagine the enormous changes he has proposed. But a void of course presidency has the chance of ending with a sense of incompleteness. This could happen as a result of any number of situations. It is only through great attention to detail and a sharp and critical eye that one can avoid the potential missteps of a project begun in a V.C.

Saturn will square Pluto for the first of three passes on November 15th 2009. This will be a moment of great stress in our society that will demand our attention. It will complete several times over the year. Remember, Saturn was close to the opposition to Pluto when the World Trade Center was hit.

In last month's newsletter I made a comment about the need to redistribute the collective wealth necessitating a strong oversight. Several of my readers misinterpreted this to assume that I was in favor of big government controlling the business world. This is not the case. I was simply responding to my frustration with the inequities in our society and my continued belief that corporations and banks have no soul, no regard for the human element, and no interest in anything unrelated to profits. There must be some way to protect the individual and balance this problem in a logical and compassionate manner. I don't know what that solution is. With Saturn in the 10th house in Libra in square to America's Sun we are basically a centralist nation with a strong desire for fairness. Yet we are a two party system, each with its very different agenda. Perhaps if we could compose a *citizen's review board* unattached to government or any outside influence whose purpose would be to examine the fairness of deals and acquisitions it would be a step in the right direction. But with the current economic mess, the escalating infighting between the two parties and a depression circling us like we are an isolated wagon train, we are too concerned with survival to see past next week.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Friday April 24th at 11:23 P.M. EST at 5 degrees Taurus 04 minutes.

Taurus is the 2nd sign of the zodiac and rules all 2nd house issues, including financial matters and the values we hold most dear. In this culture we tend to think only in terms of money, but this sign can often point out just how valuable other things are, including health, relationships and motivation. With the economy in the shape it's in this is an opportunity to recognize that there are many things we hold dear, not just our bank account. I try to see difficult aspects as a chance to change. This is a time in man's history when we could make adjustments in our way of thinking and acting. In good times we are all interested in spending and growing. Maybe now that things are shrinking we can see some ways in which to make some important and long lasting changes.

MERCURY SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Saturday April 25th at 8:55 P.M. EST this confusing transit completes. This square can bring miscommunication and misdirection, and it is easy to make mistakes. Use extra caution and make sure you understand what others are saying. Unscrupulous people will use this type of aspect to mislead others, so be careful of chicanery. Deception is easy when you are befuddled, so if you aren't sure what to do, do nothing.

MARS SQUARES PLUTO:

On Sunday April 26th at 12:11 P.M. EST this powerful and potentially dangerous transit completes. People will be a bit edgy, and it will be easy to get into arguments or, under certain circumstances, even physical confrontations. Avoid dangerous neighborhood and situations. Egos are running hot and there is no reason to confront someone while this energy is in play. Try to avoid direct confrontations.

MERCURY ENTERS GEMINI:

On Thursday April 30th at 6:30 P.M. EST the planet of thought and communication enters the sign of its rulership. Because Mercury is about to retrograde it will only be in this sign until the 13th when it reenters Taurus. While in Gemini you can expect communications to be fast-paced and constant and a bit of nervousness in the air.

VENUS SQUARES PLUTO:

On Saturday May 2nd at 1:07 P.M. EST love takes a turn towards the dramatic. Feelings will be intense and deep, and if there are issues in an ongoing relationship they will most likely come out now. Try to avoid power struggles with your mate or paramour.

MERCURY RETROGRADES:

On Thursday May 7th at 1:01 A.M. our favorite pain in the ass returns. Pay extra attention to everything and double check all travel plans. Communications may be difficult, but the truth tends to want to come out, especially as this planet changes direction. Secrets are revealed and people are more apt to “spill the beans” inadvertently. Back up your important files and write down those phone numbers you usually only keep in your phone; trouble with computers, cell phones, cars etc. are legendary. If you are shopping for any new mechanical device or anything related to communication or travel you should wait to buy until this goes direct again on May 30th at 9:22 P.M. EST.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Saturday May 9th at 12:01 A.M. EST at 18 degrees Scorpio 41 minutes. This is a rather intense sign and the expression of emotions may be a little over the top. Mercury is in retrograde now, so do pay attention to what you are doing and saying. Things could be blown out of proportion and hurt egos may cause much destruction.

MERCURY ENTERS TAURUS:

On Wednesday May 13th at 7:54 P.M. EST Mercury returns to this fixed sign and people will be more reticent in their communications. Have patience. This planet will eventually turn around and finally enter Gemini where it can move a bit more freely. In the meantime this is a good opportunity to double check your plans and make sure your foundation is stable and structured. If things move a little slowly perhaps that is just what you need.

THE SUN SQUARES JUPITER:

On Saturday May 16th at 4:46 A.M. EST this optimistic and far-sighted aspect comes along. Be careful not to take on too much, but otherwise this can be a very exciting and sociable time. Because it completes so early in the morning it will be felt mostly the night before. Although a late date could be quite stimulating.

THE SUN SEXTILES URANUS:

Also on Saturday May 16th at 9:09 A.M. EST this is a day for adventures and freedom. With the Sun in square to Jupiter and sextile Uranus don't expect people to have a lot of patience. Try to be as unhindered as possible so you can enjoy the unpredictability of this energy and just go with the flow.

SATURN GOES DIRECT:

Also on Saturday May 16th at 10:07 P.M. EST this planet turns around after many months in retrograde. Any business deals or projects that have been delayed should begin moving forward now. It will be easier to get new concepts off the ground as well. When Saturn retrogrades again in January 2010 your current projects will once again be put through a stress test.

THE SUN SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Sunday May 17th at 1:06 A.M. EST this confusing and potentially difficult transit comes along. There is a lack of will when the Sun and Neptune hook up. It is hard to express things clearly and there isn't a whole lot of energy. Don't push things if you are feeling a bit tired. And recognize that others may be feeling that way as well.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

On Monday May 18th at 6:03 A.M. EST this willful aspect completes. Everyone will want to chat today, which is just fine, although you may find more talkers than listeners. Communications will be

busy and demanding. Short journeys will abound. This often represents a very active day in the bond markets. Sometimes it marks a turnaround in direction. But because Mercury squares Neptune in a few days it could all be an illusion, so be careful.

MERCURY SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Wednesday May 20th at 5:21 A.M. EST this square completes the dance between the Sun, Mercury and Neptune. Confusion is the key today, and you can expect all sorts of difficulties with computers, phone, etc. This is a great day to walk through the park and have a spiritual moment, but not a great day for business or making plans. There is no sense of reality or boundaries, and little desire for reality checks.

THE SUN ENTERS GEMINI:

Also on Wednesday May 20th at 5:51 P.M. EST we enter the mutable air sign. This is the most changeable of all the signs, so continuity is not the order of the day. Communication, relationships and gadgets are what this sign lives for. If you know any Geminis you know that the duality associated with the twins is well earned. Perhaps this is a time to recognize that there are at least two sides to everything.

MERCURY SQUARES JUPITER:

Also on Wednesday May 20th at 11:45 P.M. EST this chatty little transit comes along. Many of us will be on the phone until the wee small hours talking about anything at all. It's a pleasant aspect, although as with all Jupiter transits overindulgence is quite possible, so when you start going hoarse it might be time to hang up.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Sunday May 24th at 8:11 A.M. EST at 3 degrees Gemini 28 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:

April 26th 11:42 A.M. – 5:02 P.M.

April 28th 12:23 P.M. – 6:38 P.M.

April 1st 5:03 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

April 30th 12:45 P.M. – 8:56 P.M.

May 2nd 6:09 P.M. – May 3rd 12:37 A.M.

May 4th 9:31 P.M. – May 5th 5:51 A.M.

May 7th 6:01 A.M. – 12:48 P.M.

May 9th 2:49 P.M. - 9:49 P.M.

May 12th 1:56 A.M. – 9:09 A.M.

May 14th 8:58 P.M. – 10:01 P.M.

May 17th 6:40 A.M. – 10:17 A.M.

May 19th 5:43 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

May 21st 6:36 P.M. – May 22nd 12:40 A.M.

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