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## LIVING BY STARLIGHT

AN ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

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### AUTHOR'S NOTES:

There are a lot of difficult aspects this coming month, and you should try to be prepared. We will see a commanding stellium form in the sky as Mercury, Mars and Pluto all conjunct on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The Sun will conjunct retrograde Mercury and they will both square Uranus December 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. Mars will square Saturn December 29<sup>th</sup>. Many children born this year will be quite powerful. What they do with that power will be determined by free will. Will they make use of that stellium and explore ways of communicating their force, or give in to the daunting Mars – Saturn square, which could stifle their expression and limit the power they are capable of exuding? When used properly, the Mars – Saturn square can create a focused, directed energy that can pinpoint exactly where it wishes to be expressed. When used badly it will create a limiting and constrictive energy that will produce frustration and stress. Strong, compassionate parenting will make a major difference.

To paraphrase Mr. Dylan: *You don't need an astrologer to know which way the fates go.* As we approach the Pluto – Uranus square the dominoes are falling into place.

The Republicans are doing just what they promised to do during the campaign – nothing. The way we have dealt with the 9/11 first responders, dickering among the rich politicians for years while the families of these poor souls watch the life drain from their loved ones, is already an horrendous embarrassment to America. And now the Republicans seem ready to reject the compensation bill. I'm sure by now a lot of you have asked the same question: What happens when the next terrorist attack or natural catastrophe occurs? Would you run to help out after seeing what happened to those who did the last time? Where is the equity in all of this? Where is the balance that keeps a civilization running and moving forward? There is none. The Republicans hold unemployment benefits hostage and connect them to the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest. We are in the middle of the worst class war in history. And it's worldwide. Entire chunks of countries are being bought and sold on the world's markets. There is an area on the coast of Burma (yes, many still call it that) that is considered one of the most pristine places left on earth. It has been sold to developers from Thailand who plan to turn it into an industrial wasteland overnight. There are plans to build factories and waste-treatment plants with absolutely no environmental oversight that will irreversibly pollute the surrounding waterways. The Thais decided it was better to destroy a neighboring country than their own, and the government of Burma is so corrupt that a bushel full of cash was all that was needed. One by one the gems of planet earth are being turned into crap for the sake of fast cash. Capitalism, as it is now practiced,

will be the demise of humanity. I have written that line at least three times in this newsletter these past few years, and if I could, I would write it in the sky. Such a foolish species. We live a short time and have no concept of the future. Not one of us is capable of imagining the world once we're gone, and we live as if we will take it all with us when we die. But if you believe in reincarnation then your attitude may be a bit different. I don't want to come back and have to live in Sudan in 2070. If you think it's horrible now, just wait until another few generations get their hands on it.

Unemployment is up; so are the stocks. The movement of the stock markets does not reflect the real mood of the nation, or its underlying stability or lack thereof. It only shows the flow of investments and the psychological attitude towards profits. The markets went up in 1943, '44, and '45 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, as humanity hovered on the verge of destruction. Why? The war effort was a huge boom to our economy and most likely pulled us out of the Great Depression. Today, as millions struggle just to survive, the markets have rebound an astonishing percentage from their Saturn-Uranus collapse in 2008. But this bear market rally has little to do with the reality of our nation. It is just one more artificially created bubble from which the "players" can squeeze billions before it pops.

There is an underlying rage that is building, and the closer we get to that Pluto-Uranus square the more powerful it will become. The hidden animosity will not stay hidden for long. Crime is up, and will continue to increase. How many people are living on the edge of catastrophe, with no health insurance, no savings, little or no income, just waiting for the other shoe to drop? A broken leg or minor surgery would spell doom for most. And Chase Bank sent out a note today saying that if the balance on a checking account falls below \$1,500 they're going to charge \$12 a month. A penalty for being poor. Our culture is very sick, and the illness isn't going away. We are obsessive compulsive about everything; eating, shopping, gambling and the worst of all – the unprecedented accumulation of individual wealth. There the obsession really takes form. It is unconscionable for a nation to even consider giving tax breaks to the wealthiest 1% of Americans while denying unemployment benefits to millions of those struggling just to put food on the table.

Europe continues to implode, as one nation after another teeters on the edge of collapse. The coming Pluto – Uranus aspect will be felt severely on that continent. The bubbles in China and Brazil will burst; it's just a matter of when and how badly. Gold is trading at historical highs, but that should be seen in context. The metals are a bubble as well. Gold is valued against the U.S. dollar. As the dollar weakens, the price of gold (and silver) goes up. Our government has artificially weakened the dollar for years for a number of reasons. One is to offset the Chinese, who refuse to let their currency float in the open markets and continue to keep its value low, which favors their export markets. The other reason is this: If I owe you \$1,000 and devalue the dollar, let's say a third. When I pay you back your \$1,000 you are only really getting about \$666. That is, of course, an oversimplification, but it makes the point about what is going on. We are deeply in debt, and by devaluing the currency we have a better chance of balancing the books. It really isn't that most people are hoarding the metals in preparation for the time when money is useless and you'll need it for food. That is a possibility, and god help us if that becomes a reality, but it isn't what is driving this trade. Some fear factors are certainly included, but you must realize that all the financial markets are manipulated and traded among a

class of people used to getting their way; *Masters of the Universe*, as Tom Wolfe called them in *Bonfire of the Vanities*. And any opportunity to create a bubble in any market offers them a chance to cash in. Cotton, where I cut my eye teeth on the floor of the exchange, recently traded \$1.40 a pound. That is almost 40% higher than it has ever traded in history. That, my friends is a bubble. Gold is trading \$1,400 an ounce, a ridiculous price. But it could go higher, much higher if things do not straighten out. But it is still a bubble, and I have watched these markets for decades and seen many people become rich in a short time, only to lose it all because they refused to believe the Blood Sweat and Tears song: *What goes up, must come down*. The collapse of the Dot Com bubble was a painful thing to watch as many of my friends held on, even as the bottom fell out of the market. So trade, but do so with caution and a realistic attitude. It is easy to accrue money. It is just as easy to lose it. Nobody ever went broke taking a profit.

Through the years I have used this newsletter to bid farewell to some of my better known friends and acquaintances. This month it is my sorrowful duty to do so again. Elaine Kaufman, the proprietor and soul of Elaine's on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, has past on the dark of the moon. Elaine and I were nodding acquaintances. I didn't warrant the attention her celebrity guest did, nor did I expect it. It was a neighborhood bar where I could socialize without feeling out of place as I grew older. This area of town is pretty barren and presently under great siege by the Bloomberg administration with their rich man's 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave subway and exploitive expansion. I hope Elaine's stays open, but I doubt that will be the case for much longer. One more nail in the coffin of Ol' New York.

Finally a personal note:

I have occasionally been accused of being negative or even depressing in this newsletter. I don't think of it that way, although I suppose if you had hoped to open an astrology newsletter and read about how Libras will find true love, and all Geminis should seek travel in foreign lands, or some such nonsense, then yes, these would not be the articles you should be reading. But I didn't go into astrology to pacify or placate the masses. I chose to turn professional because through this wonderful discipline one can see the truth about many things. I have successfully predicted many events in this ongoing piece, and in my lectures at the Princeton Club, and various Youtube segments, including the rise of oil to over \$100 a barrel when it was trading \$32; the collapse of the housing market, picking the very month it would top out, July 2005, years in advance; The two stock market crashes of October 2008, and January 2009, also well in advance, to name a few. I will continue to search out future events, no matter how hard they may be to face, so that I may help even a few who would listen. Many people ignored my advice in 2007 and 2008 about the coming crash. But a few paid attention and secured their life's savings. I can not save the world, but perhaps I can give a helping hand to some. The difference between ignorance and stupidity is this: Ignorance is when your eyes are shut. Stupidity is when you shut them again once they have been opened. Knowledge is power. Please don't ignore it or demonize it.

### NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:36 P.M. EST at 13 degrees Sagittarius 28 minutes. The next month is all about expansion of consciousness, although it can manifest as expansion of credit card bills

as well. Sag likes to enlarge everything it gets its hands on. This, of course, is its greatest strength and harshest weakness. Limitations are necessary, but this sign does not recognize boundaries. It is the most optimistic of all the signs, and can find joy in the most distressful situations. But it can also blow things out of proportion, good or bad. There is a lot to be learned from the positive side of this mutable fire sign, and as long as there is some reality check.

In this newsletter I have often mentioned through the years how funny it is that while Christmas itself falls in stoic, conservative Capricorn, the shopping season takes place primarily while the Sun is in Sagittarius, probably the least frugal of all the signs.

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#### MERCURY CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

Also on Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:18 P.M. EST this conjunction will occur for the 1<sup>st</sup> of three passes. This is a moment of serious and deep thought when superficial answers will not suffice. People will tend to be compulsive and unbending in their ideas and speech. Try to avoid any unnecessary confrontations. Because this is going to complete three times in a short period, it will carry more weight than usual, and implies that there are some serious lessons to be learned regarding this connection. The Wikileaks scandal is a precursor of this transit, and who know what other tidbits may come out this month. Anger will be expressed, and there will be power struggles a plenty. Just watch congress as the year ends and you will see what I mean.

#### URANUS GOES DIRECT:

Also on Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:51 P.M. EST this most peculiar planet changes direction. Many issues involving innovative concepts that have been internalized will begin to manifest in the outside world. Because Uranus rules all forms of democratic government, there will be a lot of things brought out of the collective unconscious. The rift in our government will become more pronounced, as the Republicans begin to feel their power surge. Uranus also has much to do with the collective rage, and you may see the public reacting more formatively to some of what is going on. Uranus rules explosions, and it is possible that we could see an event occur this month. With Mercury, Mars and Pluto all conjunct on December 13<sup>th</sup> we may be in for a wild ride.

#### MARS ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:49 P.M. EST Mars enters the sign of its exaltation. The energy of Mars is controlled and focused in this Saturn ruled sign, and it will act similarly to a Mars-Saturn aspect. If you have patience and can work in a slow and meticulous manner, this can be a very productive period. But if you rush to judgment and action you may experience the negative side of this transit, in which case you will feel repressed and very restricted. It is our reaction to these transits that decide how they will affect our lives. We could see an up tick in the housing market.

#### MERCURY RETROGRADES:

On Friday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:06 A.M. EST the mischief begins again. As always you must use extra caution in all things related to communication and travel. Leave extra time and expect delays until Mercury goes

direct again on December 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:21 a.m. EST. This is a troublesome aspect that can disrupt the best laid plans o' mice and men. Don't purchase anything Mercurial, including cell phones, cars, computers, boats or airplanes. You should not sign any important documents. Once Mercury reverses direction you will realize the mistakes. You can scrutinize all paperwork and get your plans in order. Put those plans into action once this changes direction again, but not before. While this can be quite disruptive, there is a positive side to this thrice yearly aspect. When the world lows down we all have a little time to catch up on things. If it has been difficult to get someone's attention, you may be able to do so now.

### MERCURY CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Monday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:09 P.M. EST this conjunct happens for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of three passes. Pluto rules vengeance, and there is a lot of animosity circulating in the air. In Washington, the Republicans are gearing up for their massive Do Nothing congress. Charlie Rangel, though he showed very bad judgment, is hardly guilty of the type of crimes that call for a censure by the house. But payback is a bitch, and Charlie has pissed off quite a number of his fellow congressmen. With Mars about to conjunct Mercury and Pluto, it was doubtful that he would get a break.

### MERCURY CONJUNCTS MARS:

Also on Monday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:10 P.M. EST many people will be looking for an argument. There will be a lot of force behind their speech and sharpness to their tone. This day is a mess, and it would behoove us all to watch our step. Any hidden animosity is likely to come out now, possibly even as a physical confrontation. Be careful how you speak. Others are just as angry and apt to respond with equal force.

### MARS CONJUNCT PLUTO:

Also on Monday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:13 P.M. EST Mars completes the trilogy of anger. Caution is certainly called for, especially while traveling. There could be a number of incidences, including some form of attack. But mostly this is a stellium of power and control. We will see an escalation in the verbal battles throughout the world. Children born today will be powerful, stubborn, and quite vocal, to say the least.

### THE SUN SQUARES JUPITER:

On Thursday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:47 P.M. EST this usually positive square completes. As I said earlier, Sagittarius and its ruler, Jupiter, tend to blow things out of proportion. A square from Jupiter will not produce the same type of negativity many planets create in a 90 degree angle, but rather will expand the situation beyond normal limits. This is the most destructive side of this planet, for without successful boundaries, things can become untenable and lack focus. Make your plan based on what is real, not what you imagine.

### MERCURY ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:

On Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:55 A.M. EST Mercury retrogrades back into the mutable fire sign. For a few more weeks people will tend to be chatty and rather optimistic, even in the face of bad situations. While we can certainly use more positive energy these days, it is important to keep reality in control and not take on a

Pollyanna attitude, which Sag can do. Expand your ideas and open your mind up to new ways of looking at your projects. Just don't assume you can do more than you really can.

### THE SUN SQUARES URANUS:

Also on Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:49 P.M. EST this explosive aspect completes. You must be careful today. There is a lot of excessive energy in the air and many people will be quite feisty. If this sets off a sensitive point in your chart, it could manifest as a disagreement or even an accident. This is usually a reversal in the stock markets. With Mercury just entering Sag today as well, there could be a lot of movement in the markets. Because the Sun will conjunct Mercury and both will square Uranus, we may see a violent or explosive situation unfold. This month is quite a handful.

### THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

On Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:23 P.M. EST Mercury is combust. This will be a day of active sociality and vibrant conversation. This combined Sagittarius energy will help stimulate many of us, and with Uranus involved as well, there could be some upsetting events. Extra caution is certainly called for in travel and interpersonal relationships.

### MERCURY SQUARES URANUS:

On Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:31 P.M. EST the last of this trio of aspects completes. You must use caution for the few days leading up to this. Arguments, accidents and fights are very possible. Keep an eye on your speech. Where the Mercury-Pluto conjunct may lead to a power struggle or hidden agenda, this square often leads to verbal or even physical encounters. Be careful, especially while traveling.

### FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Tuesday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:13 A.M. EST at 29 degrees Taurus 18 minutes. This Full Moon comes on the heels of the three difficult transits mentioned above. The Moon will oppose Pluto today at 1:00 P.M. EST, and add more fuel to this fire. Whenever a lunar aspect occurs at 29 degrees it represents the end of a matter. The rest of this month will be a period of cleaning up unfinished business, such as our lame-duck congress. This month you should try to complete anything that demands your attention, especially intellectual pursuits or important conversations. If you put things off until next month when the Moon is full at 29 degrees Cancer, you may find that you have too many emotional issues to contend with and not enough time or energy to complete what needs finishing now.

### THE SUN ENTERS CAPRICORN:

Also on Tuesday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:39 P.M. we officially enter winter. Capricorn is perhaps the most stoic of the 12 signs. There is a need for security and structure that can supersede growth and create limitations. This is a time for taking inventory and double checking plans, but not for innovation or new beginnings. That will come next month when the Sun enters experimental Aquarius.

### MERCURY SQUARES JUPITER:

Also on Tuesday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:59 P.M. things will once again be blown out of proportion. This is really quite a month, folks. Be careful what you promise, you may not be able to deliver on your word once this passes. And keep an eye on what you say. It is easy to spill the beans inadvertently when Jupiter and Mercury are in conflict.

### THE SUN CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Sunday December 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:03 P.M. EST this conjunct will stir the waters one more time and may bring up any hidden animosity or agendas. The truth has a way of coming out under this transit, and there is very little you can do about it. If something has been frustrating you, it may be difficult to contain it any longer. And ever since Mercury went direct a few days ago secrets have been revealed and this may push a few more out into the open.

### MARS SQUARES SATURN:

On Wednesday December 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:29 P.M. EST frustration reigns supreme. This is one of the more difficult combinations. Although Mars is exalted in Saturn-ruled Capricorn, that doesn't mean that these two planetary energies are always compatible. Saturn's restrictiveness tends to suppress Mars, which rules the ego and our basic energy level. This can be a day of irritation and annoyance when things just don't seem to go your way. There is a lot of pent up aggravation and a feeling of discouragement. This isn't an explosive transit, rather a slow burn that can build up all day long and may not finally find release until Mercury goes direct tomorrow.

### MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

On Thursday December 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:21 A.M. EST Mercury finally turns around and I'm sure we are all very happy to hear it. Although I am writing this before the retrograde begins, based on the number of difficult aspects we are experiencing during the three weeks Mercury is running backwards, including two stellium, I must assume it has been a doozy.

### VENUS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Tuesday January 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:29 A.M. EST romance takes a decidedly strange twist. You can expect confusion and misdirection in love, so don't believe everything someone tells you. Let a little time pass before committing yourself to a new relationship. Use caution when dealing with money matters as well. You may find that your resources seem to disappear. And be extra careful with alcohol and all drugs (legal or illegal is an issue for the D.E.A., not for astrologers).

### DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Tuesday January 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:03 A.M. EST at 13 degrees Capricorn 39 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:

December 6<sup>th</sup> 4:46 P.M. - 6:16 P.M.

December 8<sup>th</sup> 8:07 P.M. – December 9<sup>th</sup> 2:30 A.M.

December 11<sup>th</sup> 6:09 A.M. – 1:40 P.M.

December 13<sup>th</sup> 7:38 P.M. – December 14<sup>th</sup> 2:14 A.M.

December 16<sup>th</sup> 6:41 A.M. – 1:49 P.M.

December 18<sup>th</sup> 4:36 P.M. – 10:37 P.M.

December 21<sup>st</sup> 3:13 A.M. – 4:22 A.M.

December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2:25 A.M. – 7:50 A.M.

December 25<sup>th</sup> 4:28 A.M. – 10:14 A.M.

December 27<sup>th</sup> 7:20 A.M. – 12:38 P.M.

December 29<sup>th</sup> 10:05 A.M. – 3:49 P.M.

December 31<sup>st</sup> 2:57 P.M. – 8:21 P.M.

January 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:08 A.M. – January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2:39 A.M.

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