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LIVING BY STARLIGHT
AN ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

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AUTHOR'S NOTES:

Because of the Saturn – Pluto square that will be in orb through February, this winter will prove to be a time of slow and deliberate growth. Frustrating events and delays will abound, and basically we will be in a traffic jam until the spring. You have two choices when stuck on the L.I.E.: get upset and blow your horn, or listen to Mozart and enjoy the scenery.

Saturn retrogrades January 13th and heads back to the completion of the square to Pluto. Until Saturn goes direct at the end of May we can expect delays in many business projects. Saturn rules the banking industry, and Virgo is the sign of the auditor. When Saturn entered Virgo in September 2007 the banks were audited, and we discovered that they were standing on quicksand. As Saturn reenters Virgo there will be another auditing of the industry. Many more banks will fail this coming year. Estimates from Wall Street put the number somewhere in the 300 – 500 range. And with Saturn back in Virgo from April 8th – July 22nd 2010 we are going to see just how secure the business really is.

As with all aspects the Saturn – Pluto square works both ways. Saturn, planet of restrictions and constraint, will limit the growth of Pluto, ruler of trading markets. I expect the stocks to go sideways or moderately down for a while. I doubt we will see many big rallies or much more growth this winter. And Pluto, ruler of vengeance, hidden agendas and rejuvenation, will bring to light what is still being concealed by Saturn. Because this is a square, it will not be an easy revelation. Our banking system is shaky, and our currency is under attack. As we approach the “Great t-square” of July 2010 we may find our nation in a fight of domination, primarily with the Chinese. The coming months will be difficult and frustrating. Delays will abound and power struggles will go through the roof. Nothing will be easily decided, and things that should be more readily worked through will become bogged down in semantics and individual agendas. Can everyone say “Copenhagen?”

Jupiter conjuncts Neptune for the final time on Monday December 23rd. It will conjunct Uranus, a much different energy, this coming summer. This conjunction between Jupiter and Neptune has had a very large effect on our society. It is responsible for the current debates on healthcare reform; it is responsible for the outbreak and subsequent panic about the H1N1, or Swine Flu. It is also very much the underlying cause of a 50% increase in the stock markets since the bottom last year. It is completing for the last time, and many of these issues are coming to a head. Once this final conjunct completes a more realistic attitude will set in. Then we will see where things really are.

And the class war continues.

Bloomberg Ville – Bel Air or Calcutta on the Hudson?

No where is this power struggle more evident than right here in my wonderful New York City. When Mike Bloomberg and his junta hijacked the seat of power they declared all out war on the election process and the middle class. There was no concern for due process, only an oversized ego that refused to let go of power. This man has only one perspective – build baby, build! We have a crumbling infrastructure, an antiquated subway system, non-existent highways, decaying water and electrical underbelly. So what do we do? We build more and more high-rises and strip the city of its rent-stabilized apartments as fast as possible. This is as clear a case of trickle down economics as you can find in this country. Economically Bloomberg is a Reagan Republican. And as he puts more and more people in these new apartment buildings, where will their children go to school? How will they find places to park their cars do their shopping and take care of the basic necessities? Already you must wait on line for 20 minutes to get a cup of coffee at Starbuck's. Sidewalks are overflowing and patience is in short supply. Our city rests on a few tiny little islands. There is a limit to how many asses you can fit into a space. But all Mr. Bloomberg sees is numbers, not human beings. And more numbers, he assumes, means more revenue. That's the way a businessman runs a city.

For example:

The Second Avenue subway was begun in 1925. Six times they have tried to build this monstrosity, and every time, without fail, there was a financial crisis in the city requiring a shutdown of the project. (Look it up!) Wouldn't you think they'd get it by now? This subway has no business in this part of town. But Bloomberg has no intentions of stopping this mess. People who live in Queens are being told they will have to walk half a mile or longer in the bitter cold to reach a subway stop. Bus and subway service in the outer boroughs will be shrunk while this little pisher of a line is built at a ridiculous cost. The whole damn thing will run about 30 blocks. In a time when the MTA is threatening to shut subway and bus lines, close stations overnight, increase fares and basically strip the system to the bone, what right does he have to push this thing down our throats. This is sucking billions of dollars out of an already struggling transportation system. And who is going to benefit from this? Already dozens of small businesses have been closed. They repeatedly asked Mr. Bloomberg's administration for aid and were unceremoniously turned down every time. Those that remain open are subject to rats, mice and cockroaches running rampant through their stores and restaurants. Buildings have had to be evacuated to prevent collapse, due to the misjudgment of the construction crews. Traffic is a holy horror.

So just who is going to ultimately gain from this? It isn't the commuters who will be shuffled some thirty measly blocks and then tossed right back into the overcrowded system. The only ones who truly benefit from the 2nd Avenue subway are the landlords, who can now advertise "York Avenue, only 2 blocks from the subway - \$4,000 a month. Between this horrific construction project and Bloomberg's plan to truck garbage up York Avenue 6 days a week, one has to also wonder just what he has against the Upper East Side. The answer is, of course, quite simple, as are most things in life when viewed from the proper perspective: Rent

control and stabilization. The Upper East Side is one of the few remaining areas of Manhattan with a large number of stabilized apartments. Mr. Bloomberg **hates** rent restrictions. When asked early in his first term what he thought of rent control, his response was: "If someone with more money wants to live there, why shouldn't they be allowed to?" He looks at a map of the city, especially Manhattan, and where the most stabilized units exist is where he is aiming his arrows. Rent control was invented to protect us from – well, people like Bloomberg. He hopes this subway will lead to more and more rezoning in the Upper East Side, until the avenues are all high-rises and the side streets are private homes. Wait until you see what he has in store for the East Village!

Ultimately, Mr. Bloomberg's plan is to get rid of cars on Manhattan. The "Broadway pedestrian walkways", the 2nd Avenue subway, and his soon to be implemented mid-town car tax (yes, it's coming back) are aimed at acclimating the public to the idea. But with a horrific public transportation system (have you ever taken a bus uptown?) it only widens the chasm between those who can afford private cars and taxis and everyone else.

I live in New York City, so I am acutely aware of this mayor's power. But in truth he simply represents the future of politics in this country. We have created an uber-class of the super rich. Bloomberg is hardly the only man to buy an office, it's just that it is in danger of become the norm. The amount of wealth created in the past several decades is unprecedented in human history. Billionaires and their off-springs will be the senators and presidents, rock stars and writers. Private schools and universities will be priced out of reach for the middle class. Already our education system has basically given up on the lower classes, are we to do the same with the hard working families that have struggled to grasp a small piece of the quickly fading American dream? It is all connected by an attitude that once you have reach that plateau you deserve all that life can give you. And you are less concerned with helping others achieve your status.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Wednesday December 16th at 7:02 A.M. EST at 24 degree Sagittarius 40 minutes. The expansiveness of this sign is most evident in the fact that while Christmas Day falls under the sign of Capricorn, the shopping season takes place primarily while the Sun is in Sagittarius. Spend, baby, spend. The New Moons have been late in the sign since July 2009, and so most of them have been void of course, as is this one. This is the last void of course New Moon we will see for sometime. When the New Moon is void there is a lack of connection between things. The Moon is the glue that holds our lives together. Many outer planet events are set off my lunar transits, and when dealing with elective astrology it is the placement of the Moon that is most important. The Void of Course New Moon implies that many issues begun now will take unexpected twists and produce surprising results. **Mr. Obama was inaugurated on a Void of Course Moon (no matter how many times he took the oath, he became president at Noon!) and his presidency is showing all the signs anticipated with this transit.** Perhaps the best way to deal with this issue is to enter each new lunar cycle without the preconceived and often rigid goals we set for ourselves. Try to go with the flow and take what the universe throws at you with an open mind. Sometimes the results can be greater than anticipated. At the very least you won't block your own growth and

advancement.

VENUS SQUARES URANUS:

On Saturday December 19th at 8:52 A.M. EST expect the unusual in romantic relationships. Explosive and exciting interaction between the sexes can be expected. If you have been waiting for the right moment to tell someone how you feel, this could be it. However, the erratic nature of Uranus can create an air of fickleness and sudden mood swings. Any relationship begun under this aspect will be exciting but may lack any staying power. If it's true love you seek you should probably wait a few days before committing to a new situation. If you still feel the same way, you will have an adventurous and stimulating affair. Keep a close eye on your money as well. Sudden expenditures or a devil-may-care attitude regarding your resources could result in a reversal of fortunes.

MARS RETROGRADES:

On Sunday December 20th at 8:27 A.M. EST the god of war begins to travel backwards. This will keep Mars in Leo until June and add an extended period of fire to its already aggressive energy. The decision to increase our military presence in Afghanistan was arrived at with Mars here. Because Leo rules the stage we will see much posturing regarding war. The fact that Mr. Obama received the Nobel Peace Prize and spent much of his acceptance speech touting the virtues of "the proper war" shows the power that is in use when the public stage is a venue for the military perspective. In general, egos will be prominent and flamboyant, so do be careful not to step on the wrong one.

VENUS SEXTILES JUPITER:

Also on Sunday December 20th at 11:53 P.M. EST this wonderfully optimistic and sociable aspect comes along. This is a good day to spend with close people or for meeting new ones. There is a pleasant and unpretentious feeling when these two planets get together. Try to enjoy the day.

JUPITER CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:

On Monday December 21st at 3:53 A.M. EST the final pass of this complicated aspect completes. As this unrealistic transit moves away it will be interesting to see how much of what has happened this past year remains and how much is just smoke. This aspect is the active energy in the current health care debates. But it represents so much more. It has had an underlying healing effect on the culture during the past year, and although it does tend to increase our illusions and has the potential to create a dangerous fog, sometimes it is better to stimulate your fantasies than to face an overwhelming reality. I'm more concerned about what will occur once it passes.

THE SUN ENTERS CAPRICORN:

Also on Monday December 21st at 12:47 P.M. EST we enter this most conservative of signs and winter begins. It is the entry into each of the cardinal signs that begins each season. This is a time of restraint and reflection following a month of expansive consciousness. While Christmas falls in Capricorn, most of the

shopping season occurs while the Sun is in Sagittarius. That makes perfect sense. This time should be used to strengthen your foundation and plants the bulbs that will grow in the spring.

THE SUN SQUARES PLUTO:

On Thursday December 24th at 12:30 P.M. EST this powerful square completes. People will be tense and could act out in aggressive ways. There is a strong desire to get to the bottom of things, and often secrets and hidden agendas are revealed. This can be a very bad day for the stock markets.

VENUS ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Friday December 25th at 1:17 P.M. EST the planet of love and money enters this most restrictive of signs. Until January 18th you can expect a certain amount of reticence in people's actions and attitudes, especially in those two areas. While Venus is in transit here many of us will be more frugal. I think the spending habits we are all so concerned with are going to be even more reserved this winter. Retail is not where you want to invest your money right now.

THE SUN SQUARES SATURN:

Also on Friday December 25th at 6:58 P.M. EST this somewhat drab aspect completes. This Christmas will be a day of introspection and quiet celebration. With the Sun setting off the Saturn – Pluto square it is important to keep in mind the things that are most important to you. Emotions may run very high this holiday, so prepare yourself and don't give in to every little dispute. People are on edge, so try not to push them over.

MERCURY RETROGRADES:

On Saturday December 26th at 9:38 A.M. EST the winged god of mischief begins to travel backwards. As always you can expect difficulties in communications and travel. You must leave extra time for all journeys and expect a certain amount of confusion and miscommunication. Double check all plans and use common sense and you can avoid most problems. Cell phones, computers, TVs ipods, cars, boats and planes can all give you problems. Back up your important documents and unless it is impossible to avoid, don't buy any new devices that have to do with travel or communication.

VENUS CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Monday December 28th at 1:47 A.M. EST a rather intense moment will occur. People will tend to delve deeply into any issues, especially regarding money or romance. Feelings can be raw and quite powerful, and it may be wise to avoid any unnecessary confrontations until this passes. The Saturn – Pluto square is affecting the entire society, and these quicker moving planets can set off events that bring this potentially troubling energy to the surface.

VENUS SQUARES SATURN:

On Tuesday December 29th at 1:55 A.M. EST the second half of the Saturn – Pluto square is set off. This can be a difficult day when many of us can feel isolated or unable to express our feelings. This is often a time

of testing and analyzing to figure out which of your relationships are working out to your advantage and which may have outlived their usefulness. This only lasts a day so don't give it more power than it deserves. Still, any planet that is setting off that more powerful Saturn – Pluto square is stirring up a great deal from the unconscious, either personal or collective.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Thursday December 31st at 2:13 P.M. EST at 10 degrees Cancer 15 minutes. This is the most emotional of the signs, and you can expect a certain amount of drama. The cup is so full that a certain amount of spillage is sure to occur. This is New Year's Eve, after all, and a time when the past is most prominent in our minds. Cancer rules the past – all the way back to the umbilical chord. This year there may be a plethora of contact from those we have lost touch with. It has been a difficult year, and it may be rejuvenating to reconnect with our past.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS VENUS:

On Tuesday January 5th at 5:39 A.M. EST a gentle tone in our speech and other communications will occur. This is a pleasant enough energy that will make it easier to communicate your feelings. If you have something important to say, especially if it is emotional, this would be a good day to say it.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS VENUS:

On Monday January 11th at 4:05 P.M. EST this very pleasant aspect completes. This favors all social activities and personal relationships. It will bring light to any issues between us that have been laboring in the dark, so pay attention to what is being said. Often feelings are expressed more openly. This transit can be accompanied by feelings of lethargy or laziness, and it is often more enjoyable to sit on a couch and eat whatever is put in front of you than to exert yourself. Overindulgence is common with any Venus transit (except, of course, when Saturn is involved). But that would be wasting a potentially wonderful experience. The arts are more enjoyable and expressive, and can reach you on a deeper level today, so indulge your other sense as well as your sense of taste. You can always stuff your face while walking through a museum.

VENUS SEXTILES URANUS:

On Wednesday January 13th at 4:49 A.M. EST our desire for the unusual will become prominent. This is a day to explore and experiment. Seek out different forms of entertainment, atypical people and events and anything that stimulates your imagination. Romance can be sudden and erratic. A new relationship may not feel terribly secure, but it will certainly not be boring.

SATURN RETROGRADES:

Also on Wednesday January 13th at 10:58 A.M. EST the planet of karma and limitations begins its backward journey. Certain projects will be put on the back burner for the next few months as most of us reexamine our inner structure and the foundation of our lives. Internal stability is more important now than worldly possessions and advancements. This doesn't mean that all business ventures will fail or be withheld

from fruition, but you can expect some delays and frustration. Your attitude and response to these delays will have much to do with the ultimate success or failure of the project. Patience and carefully scrutiny will result in a better product. Impatience and distractions could produce a less than perfect result. Once Saturn goes direct on May 30th 2010 we will all begin to see the outcome of our labors during this four month period. Saturn will return to Virgo from April – July and the banking industry will again be audited. The results of that audit will have a big effect during the “great t-square of July 2010.”

THE SUN SEXTILES URANUS:

Also on Wednesday January 13th at 1:43 P.M. EST this interesting and potentially exciting aspect comes along. This is a day to explore the world and seek the unusual. Try not to just follow your regular routine, but be a little adventurous. You may be pleasantly surprised by what you discover.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT ON Friday January 15th at 11:52 A.M. EST.

Although this occurs after the next New Moon and thus belongs in next month’s newsletter, I am mentioning it now so my readers will be better prepared for the change of direction. For the few days surrounding the change of direction there will be more confusion and miscommunication than at any other time in the retrograde. Accidents abound, misdirection is common and secrets are often revealed. The world will be racing to catch up to itself, and that is when most mistakes happen, whether in a car or your mouth. So pay attention to how you use both and you can avoid accidents.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Friday January 15th at 2:11 A.M. EST at 25 degrees Capricorn 01 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 16th 7:02 A.M. - 5:32 P.M.

December 18th 3:07 P.M. – December 19th 5:39 AM.

December 21st 7:54 A.M. – 6:42 P.M.

December 24th 3:09 A.M. – 6:39 A.M.

December 26th 6:44 A.M. – 3:26 P.M.

December 28th 12:54 P.M. – 8:13 P.M.

December 30th 2:39 P.M. – 9:45 P.M.

January 1st 10:43 A.M. – 9:41 P.M.

January 3rd 4:55 P.M. – 9:52 P.M.

January 5th 12:24 P.M. – 11:58 P.M.

January 8th 1:07 A.M. – 5:00 A.M.

January 10th 10:02 A.M. – 1:10 P.M.

January 12th 9:43 P.M. – 11:54 P.M.

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