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AUTHOR'S NOTES:

This month we have our favorite; retrograde Mercury, from August 2nd until August 26th. Most of this retrograde will take place in Leo, so there will be histrionics, drama, and all sorts of fun. The usual warnings are in place - expect trouble with all communicative and transportation devices. Take what precautions you can: back up important files, etc. I have always found that it is easier to get people to listen to what you have to say during retrograde Mercury. It's just difficult to get in touch. But once you do, the conversation takes on a deeper meaning.

Much has been written about the so-called Shadow Phase of the retrograde. The theory is that any planetary retrograde begins several weeks before its actual astronomical date, and continues until it returns to the exact point it began to retrograde, at which time it will continue on its journey. I agree with this point of view in the longer scheme of things, and when predicting I always look at the point that any planet began its retrograde to help decide when a situation will be resolved. But in day to day astrology and our ongoing interaction with the universe, it is closer to the actual time of the retrograde and direct motion that we must pay close attention. Once Mercury goes direct, it is direct. It will take a day or two for things to settle down, and often there are more complications right before or right after a retrograde. The following shadow phase will affect events of a long-term diagnosis, but as far as the world is concerned things will begin to move forward again and pick up speed on the direct motion.

I will be lecturing on America's financial and political future in September. Topics will include The Deplanetization of Pluto, Uranus square Pluto, and Neptune entering Pisces. I will email the reminders throughout August.

I am pleased to announce the impending publication of my first novel in the *Starlight Detective Series*: "Murder in the 11th House" on Poisoned Pen Press. Release date is September 6th on hard cover and trade paperback. It will be in most bookstores, and I doing

a book signing on Friday September 16th at 7:00 P.M. at Barnes and Nobles 86th St and Lexington Ave. I hope to see some of you there.

Uranus and Pluto are almost in square. Although **that configuration won't actually complete until June 2012** it is within a degree and the world is already feeling the effects. The current battle in Washington about the debt ceiling is most definitely an example of this square starting to play out. As I have said in this newsletter, Pluto rules all things held jointly, including social security, Medicaid, pensions, and the collective wealth of our nation, such as it is, including the debt. Uranus is demanding radical and immediate change. This combination is surely an explosive one, and the government is on the front line, and its citizens are battle fodder. Yes sad, but by the time the dust clears with the last pass of this transit in 2015, America will be a different country. We spent a century trying to build a great society, where people could feel secure in their future and enjoy life. What went wrong, and can we fix it? The dominoes fell, one after another. Saturn opposed Neptune, dissolving the housing markets, and then Saturn opposed Uranus, creating a crash and deep recession. Now Uranus will square Pluto, and the very foundation of our society is at risk. Power struggles will ensue for years to come, and the political situation in Washington is tenuous at best.

The stocks are dropping like a sack of... Is this the 2nd dip? Or just a sideways turn? I believe that **as Uranus retrogrades back away from that square in August there will be a temporary solution to the debt crisis that will allow the markets to hold and at least move sideways. But this problem will return in 2012 with a vengeance.** That general election will define the future of this country for a long time to come. It represents this combination of Pluto's power and Uranus' need for innovation and change.

When that **Uranus – Pluto square returns again next June for its 1st actual completion**, we will see just how powerful this force can, and will be over the next 4 years. Remember, **it was Pluto in opposition to Saturn that caused 9/11. And it was Uranus in opposition to Saturn that caused the market crash and depression. What will happen when Uranus and Pluto are in conflict?** For a crash to occur historically there must be an outer planet affliction to Saturn.

In November 2012 Saturn will inconjunct Uranus. This will return in April 2013, and again October 2013. Each of these passes represents a potential crash. Those of you familiar with my lectures and writings know that I have charted the history of the markets for many years and have

clearly identified the patterns of behavior since the turn of the 20th century. This inconjunct represents the best chance for a worst case scenario. (There's an oxymoron for you.) **I think we will see the next market crash at the end of 2012, and again in the spring 2013.**

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Saturday July 30th at 2:40 P.M. EST at 7 degrees Leo 16 minutes. This month is all about image and projection of the ego and will. Leo is not one of the most subtle signs. They can be overbearing, aggressive, and petulant. There is a grandiose air about the lion, who seems to always be on stage. So use this energy to your advantage. If you have a performance or presentation to make, this will help you project a powerful and demanding persona. Leo is very much a leadership sign, and if you take the reigns others will be happy to follow. This is a month for fun and games, romance and the beach. Leave your worries behind. On the Virgo New Moon next month they will find you.

THE SUN SQUARES JUPITER:

On Monday August 1st at 10:43 A.M. EST this overindulgent square completes. There is a tendency to blow things out of proportion, and for expectations to exceed potential. Try to keep things in perspective and look for realistic responses to situations. Because Mercury will retrograde tomorrow, this and all aspects that precede that turn around will have more influence than usual. Things will be exacerbated today and it is up to you to find an even keel and balance yourself. Overindulgences are common with this square, so keep an eye on what you eat, drink and indulge in. Try not to make promises you can't keep. Jupiter wants to please everybody and doesn't understand boundaries or limitations very well.

MERCURY RETROGRADES:

On Tuesday August 2nd at 11:50 P.M. EST the winged god takes us for our thrice yearly ride on the roller coaster. This transit gets a bad rap because it tends to screw up our day-to-day business. But there is a positive side to this transit. The world will slow down and give us an opportunity to catch up on important issues. I remember one year I wanted my director friend to read the beginning of a novel. She had no time and begged off. When Mercury began to retrograde, she was flying to L.A. As she went out the door to grab a cab to the airport I handed her the first 80 pages of my novel and told her to look at it if the opportunity presented itself. Her flight was

delayed; she was stuck on the runway for several hours and read the entire 80 pages. BTW, she loved it! Had Mercury not been retrograde she may never have had the chance to read through it.

The usual warnings still prevail. Don't buy a new car, cell phone, computer, or speed boat while this is in retrograde. Leave extra time for all travel, and double check your communications. But don't hide in your room waiting for it to turn around. Get out and live your life.

MARS ENTERS CANCER:

On Wednesday August 3rd at 5:22 A.M. EST the god of war enters the most emotional of signs. This is not a great placement for Mars. It does not enjoy the overly emotional state of Cancer, and feels watered down and often unable to act in a clear and direct manner. Those born with this placement spend a lifetime trying to separate the ego from the feelings. It can lead to inappropriately emotional outbursts and a difficulty dealing with personal relationships. As we experience it by transit, you will notice that many people are more emotional and irritable. Be as direct and honest as you can, and try to keep the feelings in a proper place. Any anger should be expressed immediately and not held in where it can fester.

NEPTUNE ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Thursday August 4th at 11:11 P.M. EST Neptune will retrograde back into Aquarius for its last few moments in that sign before reentering its ruler, Pisces, where it will stay until 2025. This is the last chance to understand this planet's transit in the unstable fixed air sign. We have seen some amazing discoveries in the fields of medicine and the arts as it moved through Aquarius. Advancements in electronics have been simply remarkable. New techniques for medical diagnoses have grown in leaps and bounds, etc. There may be one more burst of creative innovation, but once Neptune enters Pisces it will mostly be about healing and sympathy. When any planet enters its home sign there is an increase in that sign's influence in the world. Watch the Sun, Moon, Mercury and Venus throughout several years and you will see what I mean. For example, every month when the Moon travels through Cancer we have 2 ½ days of emotional extremes. Once Neptune returns to Pisces we will see issues of charity, healing, inspiration, religion, and spirituality move into the forefront of our collective consciousness. Some of that will be due to decisions the collective is now making regarding financial and other subjects that will put the impetus on our ability to share the common wealth.

VENUS SQUARES JUPITER:

On Friday August 5th at 12:34 A.M. EST this interesting transit comes along. This is a pleasant and usually enjoyable energy that comes with a warning. It will be most enjoyable if you don't have

obligations that prevent you from some free time. Try to arrange your schedule to incorporate a few hours of fun. There is a strong tendency to overindulge in rich foods, drink, sex, or any other pleasurable activity. Try to keep things in perspective and don't overdo. This aspect is very sociable, and most of us will want to be with others. Because this completes late in the evening it will be felt as the aspect applies. Once this passes, the energy level will decrease and most parties will end by about 1 A.M.

THE SUN SEXTILES SATURN:

Also on Friday August 5th at 6:47 A.M. EST this stabilizing aspect completes. This is a morning of work and responsibilities. There is little time for frivolous actions or distractions. This is a good time to examine your own life and projects and see how well they are doing. The markets will probably open higher on Friday, resting on the foundation of this sextile.

MERCURY ENTERS LEO:

On Monday August 8th at 5:46 A.M. EST the planet of communication retrogrades back into the fixed fire sign where it will join the Sun and Venus already in that sign. While Mercury is here people will be more dramatic in their speech and writings. While in Virgo, this planet brings out a detail oriented, critical side. In Leo it is all about the show. It's less important what you say as how you say it. But be careful not to overdo the acting. People will still hear what is underneath, and too much display may turn some off. With this placement a little push goes a long way.

MERCURY OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

Also on Monday August 8th at 10:27 A.M. EST this most confusing transit comes along. Misunderstandings and errors are frequent and it is absolutely necessary to make sure you are understood and that you understand what others are saying. You must double check all plans especially if you are traveling. It would be better to make your trip on another day, and if possible leave all important conversations until this has passed. Even though the separating transit is much weaker, I would wait until tomorrow to make sure the fog has cleared. Personal relationships can be particularly susceptible to this influence. With Mercury still in retrograde you can expect a lot of trouble with cell phones, computers, all modes of transportation, and other Mercury ruled situations. Back up your important files, drive defensively, and keep your attention in the moment.

MARS SQUARES URANUS:

On Tuesday August 9th at 12:34 P.M. EST this potentially explosive transit pops its head up. This

is a fight waiting to happen. If it hits your chart it could happen to you. Avoid any confrontations that you can walk away from. Mars rules the ego and most arguments will be based on that, not real disagreements. The problem is that this combination has little restraint and will act out from a guttural place at times. There will be a lot of people looking for a fight. Don't be one of them. People born with these planets in conflict will understand this energy better. If they are evolved and have learned to handle its intensity, they will walk through this without a hitch. If not, this will set off the unconscious need for destabilization and they will suffer most. This can be an explosive day in the markets as well, usually to the downside. If things look tenuous, you should sell into this and the following aspect.

MARS OPPOSES PLUTO:

On Thursday August 11th at 1:12 A.M. EST the second half of these rough few days will complete. Because of the approaching Uranus – Pluto square, those two will be aspected by the other planets in close proximity. This is just as intense as the square to Uranus, but not quite as explosive. There is a desire to control things and even manipulate those around you. Because this is an opposition, which must be worked through someone with else, it will play out in all of our relationships. Try to avoid power struggles, although I doubt you will be able to do that completely, unless you isolate yourself. This will be much more intense if it hits your chart, or course, but in mundane astrology we look at the energies that the universe has created and expect certain realities to occur throughout the world from those aspects. Again I suggest you avoid useless confrontations. The ego is still running the show, and it wants drama and excitement, at almost any cost. We could see some event happen in the world, as Mars sets off that Uranus – Pluto square. Violence, explosions, or displays of vengeance are certainly possible. We are approaching the Aquarius Full Moon, and things are building up to an explosive peak. We should all use caution this week and avoid any confrontations. The markets are set to make a major move. The Full Moon could go either way, but if they have been showing real weakness they will crap out as this week ends.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Saturday August 13th at 2:57 P.M. EST at 20 degrees Aquarius 41 minutes. Of all the Full Moons I give great respect and distance to this Uranus ruled sign. Use caution in your journeys and interactions with others. There are often explosive situations that will occur around this time each year, and with Uranus, ruler of Aquarius, being so heavily afflicted at the moment, we could see an escalation of events. Use caution and avoid any dangerous or violent situations. Be careful while traveling. Mercury is still in retrograde and we

have just completed several very difficult transits. People may be edgy and irritable, so give them their space.

THE SUN, MERCURY, AND VENUS CONJUNCT :

On Tuesday August 16th these three planets form a stellium in the sky. This begins at 8:08 A.M. EST with the Sun conjunct Venus, and completes 9:04 P.M. EST with the Sun conjunct Mercury. This is a very positive and pleasant combination that should smooth over some of the difficulties that may have occurred this past week. There will be a desire to get along and find compromises, and most people will speak with an easy manner. Use this energy for important conversations, whether business or personal. Travel should be pleasant and easy going as well. All stelliums are great energy that must be controlled and directed. People born today will have a powerful configuration in their charts. This is a strong communicative energy that will help many of them advance their lives, as long as they don't take this force for granted. Depending upon what house this falls in and what houses these planets rule in the chart will decide what areas of life they prevail in.

VENUS OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

On Sunday August 21st at 9:41 A.M. EST reality falls by the wayside in matters of love and money. The confusion this opposition can create may make it quite difficult to relate to each other. Romances will be messy, and values will be tested. Use caution in all financial matters. You are not seeing things clearly, and this is not a good day for negotiating a deal, buying an expensive item, or making long-range investment decisions. Be careful about your alcohol, food and drug intake (legal or illegal has no bearing in this case). You could have a bad reaction to an antibiotic or even OTC cold medicine. Venus rules the kidneys and the assimilation of sugars, so that is the area of digestion that is most susceptible.

VENUS ENTERS VIRGO:

Also on Sunday August 21st at 6:11 P.M. EST Venus enters this most picky of signs. People will tend to be more critical of each other, especially in romance. If you can get past that critical side of this placement, it also is loyal, sensual, and realistic; a combination that can be rewarding if balanced properly. The lesson for the next few weeks is to be loving and sensitive without being too serious or demanding. In a natal chart this placement is very good for any career involving the hands and attention to detail, such as jeweler, editor, musician, etc.

THE SUN OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

On Monday August 22nd at 7:28 P.M. EST we can expect more confusion. This is a difficult combination, although there is a positive side, as with all transits. The Sun rules the will, and it shall be dissipated when opposed by Neptune. But it also stimulates our awareness and compassion. If you can let go of the material and seek the spiritual, this will be a very positive day. Because Neptune doesn't give a damn about our material things, this is usually a very bad day in the stock markets, and with the Sun just about to enter Virgo, I wouldn't be surprised by a very down opening today or Tuesday.

THE SUN ENTERS VIRGO:

On Tuesday August 23rd at 7:21 A.M. EST we enter the mutable part of summer. Autumn is still a month away, but we can feel its feeble fingers in the air. The change is beginning, and just like at the end of a love affair, it can take you by surprise, but linger for what seems like forever. Embrace the changes and realize that acceptance is half the battle in life. Summer is ending soon, and we should enjoy each shrinking day all the more for its inevitable passing. While in Leo, the Sun had no other thought than to play, perform, and find romance. Now details will become more important, and we will all begin to adjust our inner computer in a Virgo manner.

MARS SQUARES JUPITER:

On Thursday August 25th at 6:48 A.M. EST this powerful square occurs. Egos will be blown out of proportion and many of us will overdo things. There is little sense of boundaries under this influence, and that could be a source of difficulty in all relationships. Arrogance will be the order of the day, and ego clashes are sure to transpire. Try to keep your own under control, and don't take the bait if someone else dangles theirs in front of you.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

On Friday August 26th at 6:03 P.M. EST Mercury turns around. We are approaching the Dark of the Moon and the end of matters. Anything important that has not been communicated during this retrograde should be said before the New Moon or you will carry that karma over to the next cycle. This is a chance to clear the air and rid yourself of any issues or thoughts that are weighing you down. Things will move quickly for a day or two as Mercury picks up speed, so use caution and try to avoid mistakes. Accidents are common as we try to catch up with ourselves. Mercury will return to the point it began its retrograde September 10th. For those of you interested in studying the effects of the Shadow Phase that is the date to pay attention to.

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DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Sunday August 28th at 11:04 P.M. EST at 5 degrees Virgo 27 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 1st 2:20 A.M. – August 1st 4:42 A.M. (not a mistake!)

August 1st 7:36 P.M. – August 3rd 6:04 A.M. *** Moon is void 1½ days

August 5th 7:57 A.M. – 7:58 A.M.

August 7th 11:15 A.M. – 11:21 A.M.

August 9th 4:25 P.M. – 4:38 P.M.

August 10th 4:34 P.M. – August 11th 11:47 P.A.M. *** Moon is void 1 day

August 14th 8:26 A.M. – 8:54 A.M.

August 15th 4:21 A.M. – August 16th 8:01 P.M. *** Moon is void 1½ days

August 19th 7:50 A.M. – 8:36 A.M.

August 21st 8:00 P.M. – 8:53 P.M.

August 24th 5:34 A.M. – 6:31 A.M.

August 25th 9:04 A.M. – August 26th 12:09 P.M. Moon is void 1½ days

August 28th 1:12 P.M. – 2:13 P.M.

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