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LIVING BY STARLIGHT
an Astrological Newsletter

April 2012

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

This month sees a number of planetary reversals. Mercury and Mars go direct, while Pluto begins its retrograde motion. We will all feel a major shift in the foundation of our lives as many issues take on a new direction. Mars only retrogrades once every two years, due to its close proximity to our own orbit. It is a BFD when this takes place, and the basic energy of the world, as well as our own vitality, is repressed and internalized. We have been under this influence since January. Now that the god of war is turning around again, we will see some situations turn more aggressive and potentially violent. As I said months ago, the retrograde of Mars would diminish the power of the Occupy Wall Street movement, until Mars turned around again. Sure enough, the activity slipped into remission for the past several months, only to begin anew now that Mars is preparing to go direct. We will see this movement, and others, increase in intensity and ambition. In our personal lives we will also see a more assertive force, both from within and from the outside world. It may take a little time to get used to this redirected energy, so be careful not to act too aggressively as Mars turns around.

For the first day or so as Mercury reverses direction caution is called for. Many mistakes and problems occur as this planet changes its motion. Expect some secrets to be revealed, and for actions that have been delayed to pick up speed and rush forward. Difficulties happen as we try to keep up with the accelerated pace of a world trying to catch up to itself.

We are coming closer to the first completion of Uranus square Pluto, which I have been discussing for some time. And with Mars also about to go direct, there will be a number of violent confrontations over the next few months. The Iranian situation is coming to a head, and by June, when this configuration completes for the first time, we will probably see some form of military action take place. There are several other hotbeds of political instability that will also heat up as this square approaches. Syria's civil war will also escalate, and there will be more pressure on the global community to do something to halt the massacres that will also escalate.

During the retrograde of Pluto we will see a number of power struggles in the world seem to de-escalate for several months, only to come back with a vengeance in September when this planet reverses direction once again. In our own lives, the interpersonal battles will be a little subtler and it may require some prodding and digging to get to the truth about situations. While Mars going forward will push the energy out into the open

and make many struggles more apparent and accessible, the true purpose for the fight could remain hidden and misunderstood. Dig deep when Pluto is going backward and you may uncover some important truths about yourself, your relationships, and your projects.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Thursday March 22nd at 10:37 A.M. EST at 2 degrees Aries 22 minutes. This is the first New Moon of the New Year, and really represents the jumping off point for the coming 12 months. It's a great time for beginning new projects or expanding existing ones. This is an assertive Moon, and one that will be emotionally forward and aggressive. Those born with the Moon in Aries are rarely shrinking violets. They are initiators and often leap before they look. There is a selfish side to this cardinal sign, which needs to be addressed. Try not to be too assertive or run roughshod over your closest people.

MERCURY ENTERS PISCES:

On Friday March 23rd at 9:22 A.M. EST Mercury retrogrades back into Pisces until April 16th. Communications will be less direct and at times, confusing. This is not a strong placement for the communicative powers of this planet, and some things may not be said, but inferred. It is more difficult to get to the heart of the matter, and often things will be foggy. Once Mercury goes direct and returns to Aries on April 16th a more assertive attitude will prevail. This placement is good for poets and philosophers, not so good for businessmen and such, or for dealing with the day to day errands and activities.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS URANUS:

On Saturday March 24th at 2:21 P.M. EST this most powerful and explosive transit will complete. This can be a jarring and disruptive force. People will feel this energy and respond accordingly. This will project a great deal of unrestrained energy out into the world, which can be displayed aggressively, or even violently. Caution is called for, and do try to avoid confrontations. They could be sudden, unexpected, and uncontrollable.

THE SUN SQUARES PLUTO:

On Thursday March 29th at 3:54 P.M. EST this difficult square completes. Because Uranus and Pluto are coming closer to completing their square, they will each be aspected in close proximity by the faster moving planets. This square, while not as violent or explosive as the Sun conjunct Uranus mentioned above, still demands our attention and respect. This is more of a concealed, behind the scenes type of energy. Hidden agendas will be exposed, and any animosity that isn't being expressed will most likely come out now. Power struggles may abound, and you would be better off waiting until this passes before confronting an uncomfortable situation.

VENUS ENTERS GEMINI:

On Tuesday April 3rd at 11:18 A.M. EST the planet of love enters the sign of the twins. No, this doesn't guarantee that you'll have two dates at a time this month; rather it shows the duality within the one person

you are pursuing. Communication will become more important in intimate relationships, and you may be able to express your feelings in a more honest and direct way. However, feelings may also show that duality, and there could be a sort of flip-flopping and a fickle attitude may prevail.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

On Wednesday April 4th at 6:11 A.M. EST our winged god finally turns back around. This has been a difficult retrograde. When Mercury bounces back and forth between two signs, as it has this past month, fluctuating between Aries and Pisces, it is difficult to find stability and consistency in your thoughts and communications. Now as it begins to move forward, we will move from Pisces back into Aries on the 16th when words will again have more of an edge and a sense of purpose and forward motion.

VENUS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Thursday April 5th at 9:51 P.M. EST this very confusing aspect occurs. Relationships will be foggy and unfulfilling. You may suddenly realize that someone you were head over heels about and held in high esteem no longer has that attraction. This is not a good aspect for beginning a new relationship or making a final decision about an existing one. You are not seeing things clearly and will respond from an ethereal rather than intellectual place. This is fine when dealing in abstracts, but relationships are real living, breathing, entities that require patience and clarity. You will have neither when Neptune is activated.

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FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Friday April 6th at 3:19 P.M. EST at 17 degrees Libra 23 minutes. Libras live for their relationships, and the Full Moon at this time each year tends to create stress tests and challenges to our closest connections. As always, the degree of strength to this aspect depends a great deal on how it affects your chart. But in general, from now until the next New Moon will be a time of tension and resolution in your most intimate relationships. You may also find it difficult to deal with people on a superficial plane as well, because the need to resolve personal issues often crosses over into our daily activities and we can act out our most intimate role-playing with virtual strangers without realizing it. Awareness is all. Don't be afraid to look at the truth, but try not to overreact. Full Moons can be quite upsetting, even in this passive-aggressive sign.

VENUS SQUARES MARS:

On Saturday April 7th at 7:37 P.M. EST the male and female planets are in conflict. This is not a good aspect for relationships between the sexes. A new connection would feel this stress and probably not resolve it in a satisfactory way. This square can stimulate creative juices, although you would be better off working alone to avoid the Martian aggressiveness.

PLUTO RETROGRADES:

On Tuesday April 10th at 12:21 P.M. EST the dark and foreboding non-planet begins its backward trip. When any planet retrogrades its energy is internalized and becomes less effective in the outside world.

Because Pluto rules the depths of the unconscious and is hidden from view much of the time anyway, its retrograde motion will simply intensify that internal conversation and strengthen our need for resolution on the deepest levels.

MARS GOES DIRECT:

On Friday April 13th at 11:53 P.M. EST we finally get relief from this retched retrograde. Unlike the other planets that retrograde once a year (except Mercury which is thrice a year), Mars only goes backwards once every two years, due to its proximity to our own orbit. But when it does, it sure makes up for it. For months we have been dealing with restriction on the energy and ego that Mars represents. It has been difficult to assert ourselves as individuals or a collective. Before this retrograde began I said that the Occupy Wall Street movement would seem to die off and fade from view, only to resurface with greater force once this planet turned around again. The movement has gone underground, and it wasn't due to a harsh winter. In fact, in the northeast we had pretty much a non-winter. But recently, as Mars prepared to change direction, there has been a resurgence of the activities in lower Manhattan, and as the spring develops, we should see more action.

THE SUN OPPOSES SATURN:

On Sunday April 15th at 2:27 P.M. EST this difficult aspect completes. Oppositions are worked out through other people, and this one is one of the most restrictive and reticent of them all. Saturn is always tested and prodding to make sure everything is based in reality. But everything in our lives isn't based on reality. Much has to do with our fantasies and illusions, as well as our wishes and intuition. Saturn simply represses, it has no filter system. That is up to the individual to create. This transit can suppress your dreams, faith, or optimism in its attempt to crystallize the world. This is a day for work and responsibilities. This is not a good day for socializing. If you have an important conversation or meeting you can expect it to be very harsh and direct. If that is what you are looking for, by all means do it today. But if you wish to have a more balanced or perhaps gentler meeting, I would wait a day or so.

MERCURY ENTERS ARIES:

On Monday April 16th at 6:42 P.M. EST Mercury returns to Aries. For the next few weeks communications will be assertive and direct. You may feel an urgency to get things going, as is common after any retrograde. But having spent so much time going in and out of Pisces, Mercury now has a strong need to push things forward. The Pisces energy, while wonderful for all things creative, is less useful in the material world. And that is where the focus will be for some time, especially with Mars just having gone direct.

THE SUN ENTERS TAURUS:

On Thursday April 19th at 12:12 P.M. EST we enter the fixed earth sign. This is one of the more stoic and stable of signs. The emphasis is on possessions and values. This is one of the most fertile times of the year when new growth pushes through the decay of last year's harvest, a good metaphor for our lives. Taurus can be very stubborn and unyielding, so try not to be too obstinate. It's fine to take a strong stance, but bend a bit

or you may break in a strong wind.

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DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Saturday April 21st at 3:18 A.M. EST at 1 degree Taurus 35 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:

March 24th 1:17 P.M. – 5:43 P.M.

March 27th 12:35 A.M. – 6:43 A.M.

March 29th 2:05 P.M. – 7:07 P.M.

April 1st 12:20 A.M. – 4:35 A.M.

April 3rd 9:47 A.M. – 9:53 A.M.

April 5th 1:37 A.M. – 11:32 A.M.

April 7th 6:15 A.M. – 11:18 A.M.

April 9th 2:56 A.M. – 11:12 A.M.

April 11th 7:05 A.M. – 1:02 P.M.

April 13th 1:05 P.M. – 5:48 P.M.

April 15th 6:42 P.M. – April 16th 1:38 A.M.

April 17th 10:34 A.M. – April 18th 11:59 A.M. *** Moon is void for 24 hours.

April 20th 3:35 P.M. – April 21st 12:05 A.M.

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