

MONTHLY (Well...Almost) SINCE 1999  
ISSUE # 161

## LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

August-September 2012

### AUTHOR'S NOTES:

I recently received an email from one of my readers requesting that I not express my personal political opinions in this newsletter. This reader is not a fan of our current president and considers him a socialist. I feel the need to address this issue openly in this newsletter.

We stand at the threshold of a new era, one that will define our nation and most of the world for the next half century. Now that Romney has chosen Paul Ryan as his running mate the battle lines have been even more clearly defined. The Republicans are quite open about their desire to dismantle the social safety net that most Americans rely on.

America is a great country, and the reason it is so strong is because of the policies of F.D.R. that allowed the growth of a powerful middle class. By implementing social security, unemployment benefits, pensions, and strong unions, Roosevelt guaranteed generations of Americans the ability to plan their lives and power this economy. These are the same programs that the Republicans are attempting to destroy, beginning with Medicare, a beloved and most necessary program for elders.

This is the richest nation that has ever existed. Did you know that California alone has the 8<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world? We grow enough food in this country to feed half the planet, yet there are over 3 million children living below the poverty level in America without enough food to eat.

As for Obamacare – well, I've been a musician most of my life, and except for the few who become fabulously wealthy, most musicians are quite poor, even the brilliant ones. I have lost half a dozen dear friends, creative geniuses, because they didn't have health insurance. My production and recording partner of many years recently died of colon cancer that was diagnosed too late because he couldn't afford health insurance. **This isn't socialism, its humanism.** Or perhaps you don't believe that people should have the basic rights to a healthy life, if they work for 40 years? But despite any personal views on the subject, without universal health care, this country is simply waiting for a fiasco that could be right around the corner. A small epidemic would have thousands of people lining up in the streets outside of hospitals unable to handle the numbers. And if you think it can't happen, you are sadly mistaken. It has in the past, and will again. In 1918 over a third of Europe (ten times the number killed in 4 years of war) died as a result of the Spanish influenza epidemic in less than a year. America only lost 500,000 people, due to the fact that we were mostly a rural nation at the time. Today with our crowded cities the results would be catastrophic.

It is right-wing propaganda to call Obamacare socialism. He is no more a socialist than Romney, who created the health care program that was used as the model for Obamacare. Romney recognized the need for universal coverage, and only now rejects it for political reasons. He is not a man to be trusted, and his party has no sense of fairness.

A Republican presidency now would be a catastrophe for America and the rest of the world. The very middle class that is the foundation of our great country is being robbed of their fair share of the wealth by a group with no other agenda than complete control of this country by the banks, corporations, and power brokers. If the Republicans gain the White House and (god forbid) control of the senate, you will see a rapid dismantling of the social and economic safety net we all rely upon. The banking and investment industry will have little, if any oversight and the wealth of the world will continue to spill into the pockets of a small group of powerful people. I also worked on Wall Street as a market analyst and trader for many years, and know just how crooked that world really is. If you believe that they can, or will police their own and protect the private investor, you are sadly mistaken. Without strong oversight and laws to prevent the type of crash that occurred in '08, there is little doubt that we will see the bottom fall out time and again. It was the dismantling of the regulations on trading and banking that began under Reagan and continued under Clinton that led to the repackaging of sub-prime mortgages and the collapse of the housing industry and the stock market crash. **The current crisis waiting to implode is the explosion in Junk Bonds, which yield 10% interest, and are as safe as jumping from a plane with an umbrella to slow down your descent.** You will see the horrible results of this type of investment during the coming year.

My prediction based on astrology and my knowledge of political and economic history is that a government run by the current Republican Party will result in an extended depression and a fast decline in American culture. Do we need changes in the social programs? Obviously yes. The Baby Boomers are beginning to retire, and there must be alterations in how we approach our problems. Throwing people into the streets isn't the solution.

If my writings change a single mind and vote, I feel I have done my job. I'm sorry if my point of view bothers some of my readers. No matter who is elected president, this economic malaise will continue for at least another 4-5 years. And that malaise will eventually end, no matter who is elected. It is the country and world that we will have at the end of that period that worries me. And I strongly believe that if the Republicans win the White House it will accelerate the dehumanization of the individual and further erode the foundation of the middle class.

Without regulations on the banking and investment industries there will be theft on such a massive scale that we may never fully recover from it. The Republicans, with Mitt Romney at the forefront, have no intentions of regulating these industries, and in fact, have begun the process of reversing the few regulations that Obama and the Democratic senate have managed to put into place. Anyone who believes these businesses will police themselves is foolish and knows nothing about Wall Street and its mentality.

While I use this *Author's Notes* as an editorial page, and often express my own views about things (that's what an editorial page is for), I do not let my personal feelings interfere with my predictions. In 1999 I unflinchingly predicted that the Republicans would hold the White House for 8 years, followed by a relatively ineffectual 4 years of Democratic control. I was proven correct. This time I have predicted a reelection for Mr. Obama, and the only way that would prove wrong would be as a result of massive voter fraud.

Perhaps the most disturbing issue in this current election season is the *voter barriers* being constructed by the Republican Party. In Pennsylvania Judge Robert Simpson, a Republican just rejected a lawsuit to halt a Republican-backed voter ID law requiring government-issued photo ID cards to vote. This is so obviously an attempt to prevent hundreds of thousands of poor and disenfranchised, most of who would vote Democrat, from having their say in this coming election. There has never been such a requirement, with the exception of the old days of the Jim Crow laws and southern voter fraud. The New York Times editorial page states: *Republicans have manipulated legislation for their own ends, placing a veneer of civic responsibility on a low-minded and sleazy political ploy.* Many of these poor people will simply not turn out to vote. Ten other states, all through Republican judges, have now passed voter ID laws, all in direct conflict with the concept of free and uninhibited voting rights that have been the basis of our democracy from its inception. **This is totally unacceptable.** Whatever you may think of either candidate, anything short of an honest and open election makes our very existence as a nation questionable.

This is an example of the Uranus-Pluto square we are all dealing with. Pluto has to do with all things held jointly by the collective, and Uranus rules elections. The conflict is quite obvious astrologically. The political conflict this country is currently facing goes to the very depths of our collective consciousness. Does the majority have the right to choose? Or do the rich and powerful have the right to manipulate and cajole results to suit their needs?

### **NEW MOON:**

**The New Moon falls on Friday August 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:54 A.M. EST at 25 degrees Leo 08 minutes.** This is the most dramatic of all the signs. Leo rules the stage and acting, and you can expect some excitement and overly expressive reactions, especially in your romantic encounters. Leo also rules the 5<sup>th</sup> house of romance, children, and creativity, and there will be a good deal of activity in all of those areas of life. This is the best month for a romantic getaway. Creative juices will flow, and the inner child in us all will have some say. With the Sun and Mercury also in Leo you can expect an exciting and theatrical period. Articulate yourself and your ideas anyway you can and allow others to do the same. Restricting self-expression will not sit well with this fixed sign. Leos can be terribly stubborn and you can expect a certain amount of rigidity in opinions and attitudes. Try not to let it interfere with the more positive sides of this sign.

### **MERCURY TRINES URANUS:**

**On Saturday August 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. EST** this creative aspect will complete. Thoughts and ideas will flow quickly and from an interesting place. Try to look at your situations from a new perspective and you may

discover a better way of dealing with things. Any creative or artistic project will react well to this energy. If it sets off your chart just so, you may be able to tap into the universe's library more readily than usual. Keep an open mind and seek out new and exciting input. Ideas will be unusual, so don't look for the same old, same old.

### **THE SUN SEXTILES MARS:**

**On Monday August 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:47 P.M. EST** this positive and energetic sextile completes. The will and the ego will be working in tandem and this is a good day to confront any difference of opinion or direction. It may be easier to find compromise and common ground in your relationships and projects. This is a physical aspect, so use your muscles. Don't just sit in front of a computer all day. You'll feel antsy and irritable.

### **THE SUN ENTERS VIRGO:**

**On Wednesday August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:07 P.M. EST** we enter the mutable part of summer during which we morph into autumn. You will notice the energy changing day by day as the sun sets earlier and the air takes on a different quality. Virgo is the sign of the auditor, and many things in our lives will be scrutinized for mistakes and weaknesses. Details will be important, and people will tend to nit-pick at the smallest of things. This is a good time to get your paperwork in order, put things into their proper place, and slowly say goodbye to summer.

### **MERCURY SEXTILES JUPITER:**

**Also on Wednesday August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:57 P.M. EST** this wonderfully positive and confident aspect comes along. Thoughts will be expansive and most people will be outgoing and sociable. This would be a good day for any important conversation or presentation. There is an optimistic feeling in the air and most of us will experience this as a day of direct and honest communication. This aspect favors all travel, both short and long journeys.

### **MARS ENTERS SCORPIO:**

**On Thursday August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:24 P.M. EST** Mars enters Scorpio, the sign of its rulership in ancient astrology. There will be intensity in our most personal and intimate relationships. Sexual encounters will be direct and forceful, but often with a hidden agenda. Don't take things at face value. This is a time to delve deeply into the meaning behind the actions.

### **THE SUN OPPOSES NEPTUNE:**

**On Friday August 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:33 A.M. EST** this rather debilitating transit completes. There won't be a lot of energy around today, and if this hits your chart just right it could represent a few days of low vitality or even the onset of an infection or minor illness. This is not a day to act aggressively or to take up challenges. You may not have the oomph necessary to defend your position and things may not turn out the way you had hoped. It also isn't a good day to push your opinions onto others or make too many demands. Try to keep things out in the open. Burying something will only make it fester and more frustrating. Hidden agendas are

often revealed under Neptune transits, and misunderstandings abound. **This is usually a very bad day for the equity markets.**

### **THE SUN TRINES PLUTO:**

**On Wednesday August 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:20 P.M. EST** this positive trine will complete. This will give us all an opportunity to see how the pieces fit together. Any project, relationship, or attitudes that aren't working out to your advantage will be seen in a clearer light. This is a day to make changes in any areas of your life that can be improved. You can do so without the usual confrontational resistance and should be able to push your energy into useful directions. Pluto demands that we work towards a common goal, and not just personal glory. Try to work with others in a communal effort and you will achieve a great deal more than working alone. This is a day to delve deeply into any important subject, idea, or conversation. Superficial answers never satisfy Pluto.

### **MERCURY SEXTILES SATURN:**

**Also on Wednesday August 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:25 P.M. EST** that Sun trine Pluto mentioned above will get some help. This sextile will focus our thoughts and give clarity and directness to our speech. This evening will be intense, even though these are two very positive aspects. Neither is interested in superficial answers or fluffy conversations. Serious topics will be discussed, and we will all be seeking the true value of what we are doing. This is a good day to clean up any paperwork and for taking care of our obligations.

### **FULL MOON:**

**This month's lunar peak occurs on Friday August 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:58 A.M. EST at 08 degrees Pisces 34 minutes.** This is the last sign of the zodiac and completions will be in order of the day. Any project, relationship, or other issue that has been left unfinished will require some sort of resolution. Matters of a spiritual nature will be intense and demand our attention. Pisces isn't interested in this plane of existence, and seems to work outside our realm of consciousness. As such we often misunderstand its motivations and ultimate goals. This is a moment to let go of our preconceived notions and put some trust in our faith. Follow your instincts more than your intellect. Because Pisces rules all drugs – legal or illegal, some caution is called for now regarding the ingestion of substances.

### **MERCURY ENTERS VIRGO:**

**Also on Friday August 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:32 P.M. EST** Mercury enters one of the signs it rules. This is the most critical and detail oriented of the signs, and for a few weeks we will all tend to be a bit more nit-picky. Try not to get lost in the details or you could miss the bigger picture. Virgo rules the auditor and anything that should be scrutinized will be. It's an opportunity to put your paperwork and finances in order.

### **MERCURY OPPOSES NEPTUNE:**

**On Saturday September 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:17 P.M. EST** this most confusing transit completes. Information will be distorted and there will be many distractions and misunderstandings. This is not a day for important

conversations or for negotiating business deals. Use extra caution while traveling and double check your plans.

### **VENUS SQUARES SATURN:**

**On Monday September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:46 A.M. EST** we will all be more realistic about our relationships and financial matters. This can be a difficult day when you may find it hard to express yourself, especially to those closest to you. You may be more reticent about your closest relationships and will certainly examine them and create situations that will test the strength and direction they present. It is a good day for making a budget or shopping. That realistic attitude will make us all more frugal and careful about money.

### **MARS SEXTILES PLUTO:**

**Also on Monday September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:02 A.M. EST** this sextile will complete. This is an opportunity to work with those around you towards a common goal. Egos will not be as fragile as with other Mars-Pluto connections, and it will be possible to get things done without upsetting the applecart. There will be a lot of energy in the air this morning, and even a positive aspect between these two will produce much anticipation and a demanding atmosphere. There is a desire to get things done, and anything that prevents forward motion will seem constrictive and repressive. Try to be open to new ideas and ways of approaching a situation.

### **MERCURY TRINES PLUTO:**

**On Tuesday September 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:46 P.M. EST** this positive trine to Pluto comes on the heels of the Mars sextile mentioned above. There will be a strong desire to get to the bottom of things, but not in an abrasive or demanding manner as with a conjunct, opposition or square. The trines and sextiles are gentler and more malleable, but they must be used proactively to get the most out of them, and the results are often quite revealing. Today most of us will delve into any subject that arises with fervor and enthusiasm. Secrets may be ferreted out, but the real purpose is to use this energy to promote an honest exchange of ideas and opinions.

### **VENUS ENTERS LEO:**

**On Thursday September 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:48 A.M. EST** the planet of love will enter the sign that rules acting. Leo loves to put on a show, so expect some dramatics in your relationships, especially romantic connections. This is also the sign that rules the 5<sup>th</sup> house of romance, and this will be a good time to pursue a love interest. Just be careful not to be too pushy or overly assertive. While subtlety isn't one of Leo's strong points, a little less aggression will go a long way. Don't worry, you will still be direct and forceful in your attitude and quite able to make your feelings known.

### **THE SUN SQUARES JUPITER:**

**On Friday September 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 A.M. EST** this positive aspect completes. Unlike most planets, squares to Jupiter are usually optimistic and productive. The main concern is not to overdo things or take on more

obligations than you can handle. Jupiter has little sense of boundaries, and it will be easy to overeat, spend too much, or act in an arrogant or abrasive manner. But with a little self-control this will be a very good morning.

### **MERCURY SQUARES JUPITER:**

**On Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:14 P.M. EST** Mercury will also square Jupiter due to the applying Sun-Mercury conjunct (see below). People will tend to talk a lot and say things they may not have meant to say. Watch your own speech, but pay attention to what others are saying. You may hear some secrets or just gain some important information that wouldn't normally be revealed. This is a good evening for a social get-together or a one-on-one conversation.

### **THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:**

**On Monday September 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:44 A.M. EST** the winged god goes combust. This is a very willful aspect in a natal chart, and by transit will have a similar effect. Most people will have a strong opinion and not be apt to back down from any verbal confrontations. Try to be sure of your facts or you could be challenged and look foolish if you aren't prepared. This conjunct is often a top or bottom of the long bonds and soybeans. If either looks over-bought or over-sold they will probably change direction now.

### **VENUS TRINES URANUS:**

**On Thursday September 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:46 A.M. EST** we will all be looking for something unusual in our most intimate relationships. This is a trine, so there won't be as bizarre a reaction as there would be under a hard aspect. But still, if you follow your regular routine you will not experience the breadth of this transit and its potential. Because this completes in the wee small hours of the morning its effects will be felt Wednesday night.

### **DARK OF THE MOON:**

**The next New Moon falls on Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:11 P.M. EST at 23 degree Virgo 37 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.**

**For information regarding personal readings please contact me at: [mitchastro@aol.com](mailto:mitchastro@aol.com).**

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:

August 17<sup>th</sup> 1:55 P.M. – 8:33 P.M.

August 18<sup>th</sup> 7:26 P.M. – August 20<sup>th</sup> 12:45 A.M. \*\*\* moon is void 1½ days

August 22<sup>nd</sup> 3:13 A.M. – 3:54 A.M.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> 5:34 A.M. – August 4<sup>th</sup> 6:50 A.M. \*\*\* moon is void for 24 hours

August 26<sup>th</sup> 2:39 A.M. – 9:58 A.M.

August 28<sup>th</sup> 6:33 A.M. – 1:38 P.M.

August 30<sup>th</sup> 1:48 P.M. – 6:31 P.M.

September 1<sup>st</sup> 4:02 P.M. – August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:37 A.M.

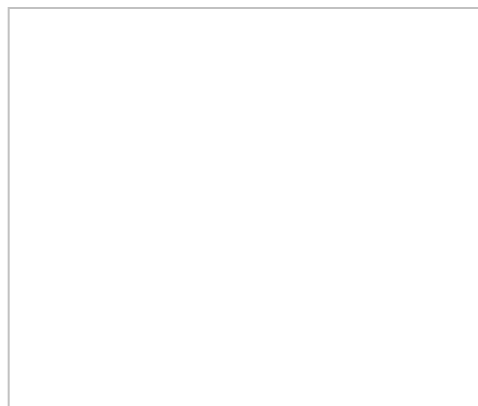
September 4<sup>th</sup> 7:06 A.M. – 11:41 A.M.

September 5<sup>th</sup> 2:45 P.M. – September 7<sup>th</sup> 12:10 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void 1½ days

September 9<sup>th</sup> 6:59 A.M. – 12:49 P.M.

September 11<sup>th</sup> 5:58 P.M. – 11:01 P.M.

September 14<sup>th</sup> 1:14 A.M. – 5:31 A.M.



**July 2012**

**New York City**



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