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## **LIVING BY STARLIGHT**

AN ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

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### **AUTHOR'S NOTES:**

It's time to start talking about the coming election.

To be perfectly clear about my views: At this point I believe **Obama gets reelected. The House of Representatives will be controlled by the Republicans, until 2014, when it returns ever so slightly to the Democrats. The 2012 senate is still up in the air, although I could envision a 50-50 split. In any case, there will be deception and not all will vote party line. This will continue to be the messiest, dirtiest congress in many generations. In 2016, when the Uranus – Pluto square finally completes, there will be a new direction, possibly even a new political party that comes to power.**

**That will be the time our society begins to assimilate the erratic, and chaotic events of the first 16 years of this millennium. It began with the Great Alignment in Taurus in 2000, a celestial event clearly defined through the election of George W. Bush and the unprecedented power of the financial industry. Then we had Pluto in opposition to Saturn on America's ascendant in the autumn of 2001, which manifested as 9/11. Saturn opposed Uranus in 2008 – 10, and that was the stock crash and deep recession.**

**Now with Uranus and Pluto in square for almost 5 years, the finally shake up of our society will begin. Afterwards, things will settle down once more, so try to enjoy the ride. This square is an ongoing power struggle that demands constant fuel. If one party held all the power, there would be no struggle. Get it? So in order to scratch that collective itch, we elect both parties and throw the ball up in the air. Now, let the games begin.**

Here is the astrology as I see it. To cut to the chase, there **are** several powerful aspects in effect on Election Day 2012, but none of them are exact enough to create the type of reversal we saw **in 2008 when Saturn opposed Uranus exactly on that Election Day.** This coming Election Day the Uranus – Pluto square we are experiencing now is separating. **There is also Mercury square Neptune, but that too is separating. Although** there will be some confusion, mistakes, chicanery, and a lot of animosity, I just don't see enough changeable energy to expect the type of actions we saw last time. The most exact aspect of the day is the Sun – Jupiter inconjunct, and while that will create distractions and misdirection, especially in legal matters, it isn't a powerful enough aspect to create a complete power reversal.

**The transits to America's chart show transiting Uranus in square to Jupiter, ruler of the ascendant.**

This can be seen as a powerful change in direction, and I believe it has enough strength to create reversals in many states, throwing control of the house and senate up in the air. It also represents the change in direction that Obama will take if his presidency continues. For the presidency itself I would look towards the 10<sup>th</sup> house and its ruler, in this case, Venus.

**On Election Day 1968, Uranus had just entered America's 10<sup>th</sup> house of career and status, and would retrograde and pass over the M.C. twice more completing in August 1969.** This represented the need for a radical change in our world image, and it certainly played out that way. After 8 years of a Democratic, liberal White House, Nixon, a republican, who was so right wing that he sat next to Roy Cohn during the McCarthy hearings in the 50s, was elected. The Uranus energy also showed the shaky foundation to Capricorn's natural 10<sup>th</sup> house. His presidency ended, of course, in public disgrace. The prominence of Uranus to the house of public status was finally proven effective. **Uranus was also in square to America's Venus, ruler of the 10<sup>th</sup> house, and would not complete its dance until September 1969.** As you see, the effects on the 10<sup>th</sup> house and its ruler had much to do with the change of leadership and party.

**Mars and Jupiter were also inconjunct our Moon on Election Day 1968. Jupiter would complete the inconjunct another 2 times through June 1969.** *So this was an ongoing change of power structures and national direction that would continue long after Nixon set up residency on Pennsylvania Avenue.* These inconjuncts show that there were distractions and that things were not quite open and direct as they seemed. The Moon in America's chart rules the 8<sup>th</sup> house where secrets are often kept. Eventually those secrets were revealed in court (Jupiter).

**Pluto was also in the process of squaring America's Mars, ruler of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> houses using the Koch system.** (All house systems are suspect. I often make adjustments, but I find the Koch system superior to any other, especially in the mid-northern to mid-southern hemisphere. Too far north or south and all house systems are fairly useless.) This square showed the struggle that had been taking place for several years prior to the election here at home (4<sup>th</sup> house), and in our collective unconscious (12<sup>th</sup> house). America was dealing with a combination of Uranus and Pluto energy, the two planets that demand change most radically. While we are currently in the midst of the ongoing Uranus – Pluto square, it is not exact or effective enough on Election Day to assume we will change presidents. It is only the transiting Uranus square Jupiter that gives me pause. What the ongoing Uranus – Pluto square implies, I believe, is that we are in a long period of violence, unbendable will, and power struggles ad nauseam. Our government will continue to be in an ineffectual stalemate. Energy (Pluto = oil & nuclear fuel) will become a greater issue than ever with oil prices trading in huge swings on each pass of this square. There will be violent situations that must be addressed, perhaps terrorist attacks on nuclear plants, or on oil rigs. On each square the possibility of accidents is also greatly amplified.

**Of course, Nixon's election was a snap-back to the great alignment in Aquarius of 1962, much the way that Obama's election was a reaction to the great alignment in Taurus of 2000.** After the initial

response to these incredibly powerful and dynamic group transits, which took about 8 years, the collective needed to respond contrarily in order to try and create some semblance of balance. We are a nation with Saturn in the 10<sup>th</sup> house in square to our Sun. If nothing else, we strive for balance, which is why the largest majority of people from both parties call themselves moderates. So in each case we changed parties and political leaning – in '68 we had been too radical, so we elected Nixon. In '08 we had become too conservative, so we elected Obama.

**I do not see the kind of energy in the election charts for 2012 to expect a change in the presidency.**

We are certainly in an explosive period. As I've been writing for a year, this Uranus – Pluto square, which last took place in 1930 (setting the stage for the discovery of Pluto), is going to upset our society for years to come. There will be more revolutions in the world, more financial upsets, and serious ecological events involving oil and nuclear power. It doesn't even complete until 2015, and the residue will linger much longer than that. But for a reversal of power to take place I would like to see more than a Uranus – Jupiter square. This is a single pass of Uranus square Jupiter, not an ongoing process as we saw in 1968. That indicates that this will not have the long-term effects a transit will produce when extended to 3 or more passes.

**Jupiter will be in trine to Saturn, a stabilizing force. Saturn will be in trine to America's Venus, ruler of the 10<sup>th</sup> house,** also a strong and unwavering energy. **Mars will be in square to America's Neptune,** which shows confusion, mistakes, and ultimately an outcome, that will disappoint many. Of course, no matter who wins there will be approximately 50 % of the population who disapprove of the results. But that simply shows the chasm between the parties. There is little common ground at the moment, and America is split as severely as it has been since the 60s.

This month Neptune enters Pisces, a watershed event. The last time it was home was 1848-61. While an outer planet transiting its home sign seems like a good thing, it lacks the interaction that planet receives while traveling through each of the other signs. Here Neptune will feel at home and relax, rather than challenge itself to integrate with the other energies. For example, while Neptune was in Aries there were tremendous advancements in surgery and drugs. Of course, that was because Aries is ruled by Mars, the god of war, and the Civil War was raging for the first 4 years. War is a great stimulus for technological and medicinal experimentation. I will write more about this in upcoming newsletters. For now, let me just say that there it is up to each of us to get in touch with our spiritual and empathic sides. We will see opportunities galore to reach a selfless and ego free place. How often and how deeply we delve is up the individual. But this only happens about once every 150 years, so try to learn something. And if you do, tell me.

### **NEW MOON:**

**The New Moon falls on Monday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:39 A.M. EST at 2 degrees Aquarius 42 minutes.** This is the most unusual and erratic of signs. It is interested in uncovering the truth, no matter what the end result is. There is a strong need for freedom and exploration, and the next few weeks will be about personal liberties and the need to roam freely. The main problem with Aquarian energy is that it tends to act first and think later. Although this is an intellectual sign, and rules the hard drive of your brain (while Mercury rules the

RAM) it acts impulsively and without much forethought. If you are willing to take the responsibility for your actions, then this can be an exciting and innovative time. But you will have to pay the piper somewhere down the line.

### **MARS RETROGRADES:**

**Also on Monday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:54 P.M. EST** Mars begins to move backwards. While the outer planets all retrograde once a year, and Mercury three times a year, Mars is the rarest of retrogrades, happening only once every 2 years. In many ways this is as prominent an aspect as Mercury's turnarounds. Mars rules the ego, the muscles, and the energy we all draw upon for our physical activities. When in retrograde, that energy is somewhat internalized, which makes it more difficult to find and focus the ego force we rely upon in our day to day interactions. Where this retrograde is taking place, and the aspects it is setting off in the individual's chart, will show you how it will manifest and what challenges to your self-image you can expect over the next few months. Mars retrogrades in Virgo from 23 degrees back to 3 degrees, so any planets you have between those degrees in mutable signs will be greatly affected by this transit. It will produce conjuncts, oppositions, and squares to your natal chart.

This will be a difficult time for many. Mars has much to do with how we see ourselves and the strength we require for relationships, physical work, and directedness. When retrograde, that energy is difficult to get in touch with and work effectually in the outside world.

### **MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:**

**On Friday January 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:21 A.M. EST** this grumpy transit completes. This is difficult for communication and you may be better off waiting until this passes before attempting an important conversation. Travel may be difficult as well. Make sure your plans are solid and well thought out.

### **MERCURY ENTERS AQUARIUS:**

**Also on Friday January 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:12 P.M. EST** the planet of thoughts and communication enters this most erratic of signs. Ideas will be unusual and come quickly. It may be difficult to keep up with the flow of your thoughts, and People will be a bit jittery. If you can control this energy, you will find your mind going in different directions, and you may discover some new and exciting ways of dealing with your situations.

### **MERCURY SEXTILES URANUS:**

**On Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:27 P.M. EST** Mercury creates a positive aspect to the ruler of Aquarius. This is a day of unusual and interesting thoughts. Ideas will come quickly and seemingly out of the blue. This is a good day for travel, and you may be inspired by the most mundane of things. If you have an important conversation, this is a better day to have it than yesterday.

### **MERCURY SQUARES JUPITER:**

**Also on Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:08 P.M. EST** another Mercury aspect completes. It is easy to overdo things or exaggerate while these two planets are in conflict. You may make promises you can't keep, or just

blow things out of proportion. If you are very careful, travel may be very exhilarating. But you may encounter problems while on the road. Use caution while traveling or communicating.

### **VENUS OPPOSES MARS:**

**On Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:41 P.M. EST** the male and female planets are in conflict. This is a difficult day for personal relationships. If this square sets off your chart you may find conflict the norm. Don't attempt to bridge gaps between the sexes today. Wait until this passes and then communicate your feelings.

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### **NEPTUNE ENTERS PISCES:**

**On Friday February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:52 P.M. EST** this pivotal transit begins. Neptune rules Pisces, and its return to this water sign is a big deal. The last time Neptune visited this sign was 1848 – 61. We are beginning an era of deeper understanding of the spiritual side of life. We can expect some innovation in medicine, although as I said earlier, the real growth occurred once Neptune entered Aries, as a direct result of the Civil War. I hope that this may herald a mini renaissance in music and art, but while Neptune was in Aquarius, the internet (Aquarius) ate up most of the arts (Neptune), so I don't know if it is still possible. This is a time to reflect upon the most sensitive and private of matters. If you can forgive yourself, you can forgive the world.

### **SATURN RETROGRADES:**

**Also on Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:03 A.M. EST** this once a year transit begins. Issues of business and finances will be delayed. This is not a good time to open a new business, although many succeed with a retrograde Saturn. It just implies that there will be difficulties that could be avoided by waiting. But sometimes circumstances will force us to work within the confines of a harsh aspect. If you must begin a new business or partnership while Saturn is in retrograde, use extra caution when creating the situation. Make sure all issues are plainly defined, and that the responsibilities are clearly mapped out.

### **FULL MOON:**

**This month's lunar peak occurs on Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:54 P.M. EST at 18 degrees Leo 32 minutes.** Leo is simply the showiest of all the signs. It rules the stage and actors, so one would expect histrionics and a lot of voffing. (Voff: To throw one's self around, to overreact often in a physical and emotional manner.) Don't take everything that is said or done too much to heart. It isn't all directed towards you. If you don't want your baggage opened in public, have that important personal conversation at home. Then you can play any roles you deem fit. This is a wonderful time to be on stage or just entertaining. As long as things are kept in control the energy will be bubbly and sociable. Because Saturn retrogrades today as well, this could be a frustrating few days for a lot of people as we get used to that change of energy.

### **VENUS ENTERS ARIES:**

**On Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:01 A.M. EST** Venus enters this Mars ruled sign. There will be more assertiveness in romance, and a bit of a mix up in role playing. People will be more aggressive emotionally, especially women. You are better off dealing directly with personal issues now than trying to circumvent

them. You will only get caught in what looks like a lie. Venus in Aries lacks subtlety or much compassion. It is more interested in getting to the point, as Aries tends to do. Be careful with your money. Venus rules that too. There is little common sense with this placement.

### **VENUS CONJUNCTS URANUS:**

**On Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 P.M. EST** this erratic aspect will complete. Anything felt, said, or acted upon tonight will probably be meaningless tomorrow. This is a fickle and flirtatious aspect, so don't take it too seriously. If this hits your chart it could mean a sudden change in your resources, either up or down. But with this configuration it's usually easy come, easy go. So if you do get a small windfall you would be best to stash it away for a few days. Not try and turn it into a fortune. You'll lose it all.

### **MERCURY ENTERS PISCES:**

**On Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:38 P.M. EST** the planet of thought and communication enters the last sign. We will all be a bit more pensive and it may be difficult to communicate at times. People may want to discuss emotional matters. It is important to clear the air periodically or confusion will turn into mistrust. Only by being open and honest can we hope to conquer Neptune's (Pisces) domain. This is a very creative placement for the arts and the occult.

### **VENUS SQUARES PLUTO:**

**On Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:31 P.M. EST** romantic issues will take on a compulsive and forceful air. Nothing in relationships will be easy. Confrontations are common, and any hidden animosity will most likely come out. Even if this doesn't hit your chart exactly, you may encounter someone looking to vent. Either let them, or walk away. But don't argue the point.

### **MERCURY SEXTILES JUPITER:**

**On Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:07 A.M. EST** this most positive and chatty of aspects completes. This would be a good morning for a business breakfast or other communicative encounter. Ideas will flow, and there is a far-sighted attitude in the air. Travel is favored, unless of course there is a problem in your own chart. In general though, transportation should be smooth, pleasant, and uneventful.

### **THE SUN TRINES SATURN:**

**On Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:02 A.M. EST** this extremely useful transit appears. If this sets off your chart positively you will find this a day of hard work and focus. In general things will run smoothly as we prepare to leave Aquarius tomorrow morning. This is a good day to complete things, clean up your desk, and make plans for the future.

### **THE SUN ENTERS PISCES:**

**On Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:18 A.M. EST** we enter the last sign of the zodiac. This is a time of completions and preparation for the New Year, which begins on the first day of Aries. Use this month to tie up

loose ends and prepare for a new beginning. This will also bring up the more compassionate issues in your life. Once we enter Aries it will all be about moving forward and initiating new ideas and projects. This is a time to look into your soul and see what shape your spirit is in.

### **THE SUN CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:**

**Also on Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:42 P.M. EST** this very confusing and debilitating transit will come along. The Sun rules the will and directive action we all depend upon. Neptune is in many ways the antithesis of that energy. It isn't interested in your day to day activities, but rather the underlying spirituality. As such, it isn't a good planet for getting things done. This is usually a very bad aspect for the stocks, and landing near the Dark of the Moon, it may result in a very bad few days for the markets. Expect to see the end of some things. If something is keeping you from your spiritual growth, this aspect so near the end of the lunar cycle could certainly represent the release of a long-held pressure. The need to dissolve anything that is holding you back is overpowering. In one way Neptune is stronger than all the other planets. You can't schmooze it, charm it, or threaten it. It is unreal. And it has no ego.

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

**The next New Moon falls on Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:35 P.M. EST at 2 degrees Pisces 42 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:

January 25<sup>th</sup> 3:34 A.M. - 4:11 A.M.

January 26<sup>th</sup> 11:52 P.M. – January 27<sup>th</sup> 1:28 P.M.

January 30<sup>th</sup> 1:09 A.M. – 1:28 A.M.

February 1<sup>st</sup> 2:06 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.

February 4<sup>th</sup> 12:06 A.M. – 1:04 A.M.

February 6<sup>th</sup> 7:31 A.M. – 8:24 A.M.

February 8<sup>th</sup> 11:42 A.M. – 12:32 P.M.

February 10<sup>th</sup> 12:11 A.M. – 2:54 P.M.

February 12<sup>th</sup> 4:09 P.M. – 5:01 P.M.

February 14<sup>th</sup> 12:04 P.M. – 7:56 P.M.

February 16<sup>th</sup> 11:03 P.M. – February 17<sup>th</sup> 12:03 A.M.

February 19<sup>th</sup> 4:22 A.M. – 5:28 A.M.

February 21<sup>st</sup> 11:17 A.M. – 12:31 P.M.

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