

MONTHLY SINCE 1999
ISSUE # 155

LIVING BY STARLIGHT

AN ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

I want to wish my readers the very best of holiday cheer. It is a celebration of life, no matter what holiday you choose: Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza, or Festivus.

We are about to enter that most ominous of years – 2012. Much has been written about the Mayan calendar and its supposed prediction of the end times. Let me just say that from what I have been able to discover, there is no indication at all that the Mayan culture thought of this as the end of the world - only the end of another cycle in the ongoing calendar. I'm not a believer in doomsday prophecies. It's a no-win situation. Instead, I look at the difficulties that we as individuals and as a collective must face, and seek ways to direct the energy where it can do the most good. It's quite true that through adversity we grow. And we are experiencing a world-wide economic struggle that must, and will, change our relationship to money and values in general, as a society.

Of late I often discuss the Uranus – Pluto square that is consuming our attention. As one astrologer put it so succinctly: "There is no peace at the moment". But that may be a good thing in the long run. Complacency has crippled our ability to make changes. While I do believe this will be a difficult and upsetting aspect, it will shake the foundation of things that have become too staid and unbending. Remember, Pluto was discovered while in square to Uranus, just in time to see the election of FDR and the social safety net he put into place, that same safety net that is now being dismantled. Now as this square comes along again, and Pluto has been deplanetized, we once again must make some collective decisions about how to distribute the incredible wealth this nation and the world at large have created. The Occupy Wall Street crowd represents this square as clearly as any outward manifestation could. The explosive and enlightened energy of Uranus is creating an untenable conflict with Pluto, ruler of joint finances and possessions. What could be more apropos under this energy than a populist uprising?

Pluto also rules oil, and nuclear energy, and we will see a number of explosive situations involving both that will reinvigorate our conversation about alternative energy. I'm not sure where these incidences will take place, but I'm quite sure that we will have at least one serious nuclear accident on American soil. We will also see a number of serious problems involving fossil fuel. We may very well have a situation that will dwarf the B.P. Gulf spill. This is a tenuous era until this square passes in 2015. But we are reinventing our culture. What that definition ultimately is will decide just how well we used this square. The end results will direct our society for the next 50 to 100 years. I hope we make the right choices.

Jupiter will go direct shortly after the New Moon. The turnaround of any of the planets is significant. Jupiter is all about growth and the future. While it was in retrograde we all tended to be a bit short-sighted. Now as its energy is directed outward into the world once again, we can see the distant shores of our hopes and wishes more clearly. This is now a time to push out and look for new horizons. Because of Jupiter actions right after the New Moon, this month will be easier than many Januarys, and the optimism that Jupiter brings with it should be cultivated and used to your advantage. Try to step outside of your own situation for a few moments and become involved with the collective in some ways. It will stimulate and increase your viewpoint, and help out your own troubles in perspective.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Saturday Christmas Eve December 24th at 1:06 P.M. EST at 2 degrees Capricorn 34 minutes. Issues of stability, foundation, and structure will dominate the collective consciousness this month. This is a time to examine your projects and plans, and see if they have a strong enough foundation to support new growth. If not, take the time to shore up the structure, or you will find your future growth stifled. I've always found it interesting that while most of the shopping season takes place while the Sun is in Sagittarius, Christmas and New Years fall under Capricorn's more austere domain. Jupiter will go direct shortly after this, and it will set the pace for the coming month. The proper combination of Capricorn energy coupled with the force of Jupiter changing direction offers us an opportunity for steady growth, as long as boundaries and reality are respected.

JUPITER GOES DIRECT:

On Sunday December 25th at 5:09 P.M. EST Jupiter turns around. Many things that have been delayed or felt stifled should begin to move forward or expand now. Business and personal situations that have been stuck in a quagmire will finally move forward as well. Optimism should improve, and a far-sighted perspective will start to show itself. Often this is a turnaround in the stock markets, especially if they have been dropping, or stuck in a tight trading range. And with Jupiter in Taurus, the traditional ruler of money and wealth, there could be a spike up. But I wouldn't look for any bull markets. The stocks will continue to be erratic and weak for a long time.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Thursday December 29th at 2:41 A.M. EST this nasty and difficult transit completes. Its effects will be felt most powerfully on Wednesday night, but it will linger through the early part of Thursday. This will be a difficult day for personal and business relationships. Tension will be thick, and compulsiveness will accompany most thoughts and conversations. It's hard to let go of things when Pluto is involved, and you may be better off waiting until this fades before confronting a situation that may be unpleasant.

MERCURY SQUARES MARS:

On Sunday January 1st at 1:06 A.M. EST this argumentative and aggressive aspect will complete. People will be assertive and looking for fights. This is a rough aspect to have on this particular night. This New

Year's Eve is fraught with potential conflict. Be especially careful while traveling, and pay attention to your own mood. If you do feel angry, be aware of how you are acting and speaking. The disagreement may come from others, but it may be coming from you. And since you only have any control of what you do, take responsibility for how you are presenting yourself. Don't pass the buck.

MERCURY ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Sunday January 8th at 1:34 A.M. EST the planet of communication will enter this conservative earth sign after spending more than 2 months in expansive, chatty Sagittarius. Now we will all be a bit more serene and constricted in our conversations and other communications. This may stabilize your thoughts and help you focus on what is really important. It isn't a time to expand or push your projects forward, but rather a time to secure the foundation, complete things, and clean up the work you have already done.

MERCURY TRINES JUPITER:

Also on Sunday January 8th at 1:05 P.M. EST Mercury will aspect both Jupiter and Uranus, both of which are at zero degrees. The early part of the day will be optimistic and conversations will flow. This would be a good day for an important conversation, or perhaps lunch with a friend or business associate. Communication will be easy and there is a positive outlook in general until this passes.

MERCURY SQUARES URANUS:

Also on Sunday January 8th at 6:24 P.M. EST this square completes. Once the trine to Jupiter is done at 1:05 P.M., this square will begin to apply. This is a difficult and upsetting aspect that can easily result in arguments, technological difficulties, and even accidents. Back up your important files. Use caution while traveling, and do watch what you say. Words may spill off your tongue like gumballs, with no forethought. There is nervousness about this square that can result in erratic thoughts. Pay attention to what you are doing, and don't let the speediness of your thoughts overwhelm you.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Monday January 9th at 2:30 A.M. EST at 18 degrees Cancer 26 minutes. This is one of the most emotional of lunar aspects. This is often a time of difficulties in relationships, and you should try to keep things in perspective. If you are feeling overly emotional, it may be better to wait until this passes before confronting a personal situation. Issues involving the home, family, and close personal relationships will be on our minds, and how well we control our own emotional responses will have much to do with how difficult or easy the next few weeks will be.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Friday January 13th at 8:01 A.M. this harsh transit completes. People will be unbending and apt to be compulsive. It is easy to obsess about a thought or situation, so try to keep an open mind. Superficial answers will not suffice now. Most of us will be delving deeply into things and wish to uncover the truth, no matter what the outcome. Pluto doesn't do anything in a half-assed manner, so you can expect

communications of all sorts to be deep and intense.

VENUS CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:

Also on Friday January 13th at 10:18 A.M. this confusing aspects comes along. This will add a layer of fog to the intensity of the Mercury – Pluto conjunct. Relationships will be especially difficult at times. You may not know what the other person is thinking, and could react without complete knowledge – always a dangerous thing. I would suggest that you wait until this passes before making a permanent decision about a relationship.

VENUS ENTERS PISCES:

On Saturday January 14th at 12:47 A.M. EST the goddess of love enters the sign of service. Many of us may find ourselves involved in situations that require an egoless response. Relationships do much better when the ego is left outside on the doorstep, but it is very difficult to live day to day in that frame of mind. This month we will all get a lesson in charity. You may be asked to accept some things that are against your nature, or seem demeaning in some way. If the person asking is important enough in your life, you may accept things that you didn't think you ever would. The power of Pisces and its ruler, Neptune, is to break down our concepts or reality, and open our consciousness to a new, more generous way of thinking.

THE SUN SQUARES SATURN:

On Thursday January 19th at 4:20 P.M. EST this hard aspect will complete. This square is all about work and responsibilities. If this hits your charts, it can produce uncomfortable feelings of loneliness or isolation, but if you stay busy and focus on work and making plans, this may pass with little difficulty. Don't make important decisions if you are feeling depressed. Wait until your mood lifts and then look at the situation once again. This should be a bad day for the stocks.

THE SUN ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Friday January 20th at 11:10 A.M. EST we enter the fixed part of winter. Aquarius is an interesting sign. It has little regard for the rules of others, and demands independence above all things. There will be a bit of the rebel in us all this month. Watch out for erratic behavior in yourself or others. It's one thing to be a bit experimental, or explore a different perspective. It's quite another to upset the applecart for the sole purpose of seeing it fall. Allow your imagination free reign, and open your mind to new concepts. You may be surprised by what you discover.

THE SUN SEXTILES URANUS:

On Saturday January 21st at 8:21 P.M. EST this positive transit completes. Look for unusual solutions to your problems. This is a moment of enlightenment, and you may find some resolution to a situation that you had never considered before. Keep your mind and your eyes open. This is not a day to follow your usual routine. If this sextile sets off your chart you may be antsy and dissatisfied with the norm. Experiment or explore.

THE SUN SQUARES JUPITER:

On Sunday January 22nd at 1:35 A.M. EST this overindulgent transit will come along. Saturday night could be great fun, or you could overdo things to a dangerous level. It's up to the individual how they use any aspect. This one is optimistic and outgoing, but has little regard for boundaries of any sort. You could step over a line with someone, or over indulge in food, drink, or other substances. Try to keep a lid on your attitude and your reactions. If you keep this in perspective, this can be a fun and engaging night.

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DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Monday January 23rd at 2:39 A.M. EST at 2 degrees Aquarius 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:

December 26th 8:36 A.M. - 12:14 P.M.

December 28th 4:32 P.M. – 6:45 P.M.

December 30th 8:37 A.M. – December 31st 4:48 A.M.

January 2nd 3:07 P.M. – 5:16 P.M.

January 5th 3:47 A.M. – 5:44 A.M

January 7th 2:52 P.M. – 4:05 P.M.

January 9th 9:25 P.M. – 11:35 P.M.

January 12th 3:24 A.M. – 4:44 A.M.

January 13th 8:58 P.M. – January 14th 8:28 A.M.

January 16th 10:29 A.M. – 11:33 A.M.

January 18th 1:32 P.M. – 2:29 P.M.

January 20th 4:50 P.M. – 5:40 P.M.

January 22nd 8:38 P.M. – 9:53 P.M.

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December 2011

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