

MONTHLY (Well...Almost) SINCE 1999
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LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

September-October 2012

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

Uranus will square Pluto this month on September 19th. While that in itself is sufficient news to warrant some concern, this square will be set off by the Aries Full Moon on September 29th. ***We are already seeing the energy manifest – the attacks on American embassies in the Middle East, and bomb threats on 2 American campuses. This is only the beginning of the trouble. It is not a month to travel much, especially internationally. I suggest a close to home attitude. This energy will affect us locally, and nationally, so keep your eyes open. This stress is not going away any time soon. We can expect some more world events, including terrorist attacks and continued demonstrations escalating into that Full Moon.***

Remember, Uranus – square Pluto won't complete until 2016. We are in a period of continued unrest and erratic behavior that will repeatedly flair up. This will affect us as individuals and as a collective. This instability will define this era politically, financially and personally.

Pluto begins its direct motion this month on September 18th. While the change of direction of any planet holds a certain amount of power over the individual and the collective, because of the ongoing Uranus-Pluto square that we are dealing with, this turnaround of Pluto will have a greater effect than usual. Pluto rules all things held jointly. It's the ruler of the nature 8th house, along with Mars. (Yes, I still give some authority to the ancient rulers.) Mars has much to do with Scorpio's energy for the individual, while Pluto certainly has domain over its effects on the collective.

Our culture is dealing with Pluto and its purposes in a very important and intense way. Ever since the deplanetization of Pluto the tug-of-war between the haves and the have-nots has, as we all know grown to extreme proportions. Now with the square from Uranus in exactitude this month as well, the collective recognizes this battle as Black & White (Scorpio's favorite colors). The battle will become more open and obvious, and continue to escalate.

Many partnerships and joint financial ventures that have been delayed will begin to move forward

once again. The direct motion of Pluto will bring a lot of things out of the unconscious and force us to deal with many issues that have been pushed into the shadows. This isn't a bad thing; in fact the reversal of the planets demands that we internalize the energy for a while, and then externalize the changes we have incorporated during that retrograde period. Just be prepared to hear things that you may have been just as glad to keep hidden. Don't be afraid. Tis better to know the truth than fall upon it unexpectedly.

The Sun and Mercury will each set off the Uranus-Pluto square this month. It will be most effective while these transits are in orb, but its energy will be felt all month. ***The Full Moon on the 29th will hit this square exactly.*** This is the most explosive Full Moon we have witnessed in quite some time. Its effects will be felt in a number of areas. There is a strong possibility of a major hurricane, or other explosive natural disaster around this time. There is also a strong possibility of a man-made disaster. Pluto rules vengeance and hidden agendas and it tends to greatly increase any emotional reaction when it is activated. Uranus rules sudden events, explosive situations, and erratic or unpredictable thoughts and behavior. This is an Aries Full Moon to begin with, which often carries a great deal more energy than many of the others. So this will be a few days when caution is *certainly* called for.

Jupiter retrogrades this month as well. This is a time of regrouping and patience. Many things that have been expanding will begin to slow down. This is the time to expand on the inside – enlarge your perspective, and be as open and honest in your inner conversation as possible. This is a chance to make changes in your inner self that will be reflected through your work, creativity, and relationships. Once Jupiter goes direct again on January 30th 2013 it will be easier to express those changes in the outside world. **The reversal of Jupiter often coincides with the reversal of the stock markets. I believe this is a top. Take your profits off the table, or short the market, if you know how to trade.**

Saturn enters Scorpio on October 5th. This is a powerful transit that will take 2 ½ years to complete. Saturn and Pluto (ruler of Scorpio) do not work that well together. The repressive energy of Saturn doesn't sit well with Pluto's need to make deep and transformative changes. It also tends to repress sexual expression and can be very restrictive to personal relationships. But, as with most planetary combinations, if you can learn to use them in tandem you can accomplish a great deal. By accepting the limitations and restrictions associated with Saturn you can mold Pluto's force into a more useful and directed energy. It is the personal reaction one has to this combination that often causes troubles. But this is a very stressful and at times debilitating aspect. Remember, Saturn was

in opposition to Pluto very near America's ascendant-descendant on 9/11. Please go to October 5th in this newsletter for more thoughts on this transit.

As my regular readers know, for 6 months I have been predicting Obama's reelection. I think he will win the popular vote by a strong margin. Election Day will be another mess. Mercury is stationary that day and retrogrades at 6:04 P.M. Eastern Time. The last time we had an Rx Mercury on Election Day was in 2000. You all remember how much fun that was? Florida, hanging chafes, the Supreme Court, and G.W. Bush. Expect many problems, including disputes, reversals, surprises, and a number of challenges to the new voter's laws being pushed into battle ground states by the Republicans.

We may also see some violence right around the election. Mars will oppose America's Mars while Uranus squares Jupiter, ruler of the chart. We are heading for a few months of very dangerous and volatile energy. A terrorist attack that week is most definitely possible.

So, here we are, less than 60 days before the election. What is this really all about? As I see it this is a battle as old as the union itself about state's rights vs. a strong federal government. This was a major issue in the Civil War and continues to be an unresolved dispute.

Let me say off the bat that I am not a fan of big business, big government, or an intrusive society. But the truth is that no matter who wins this thing or what direction our political culture goes we are all in this together. We have become very much a collective and there is no turning back the clock. If you remove the security and safety that Roosevelt put into place you will leave the individual at the mercy of friends, charities, or religious groups, making them more dependant than ever on others. We all deserve the basic rights to some income, health insurance, and a somewhat gentle old age after a lifetime of service to society. The Republican point of view is that you should be able to make yourself rich. If not, it's not the responsibility of the collective. Many of us are not focused solely on money matters, but add much to the collective. How much does a banker or commodities broker add as oppose to an artist, health care worker, or any of a thousand careers that will never result in great financial rewards? And should we have to choose? The Democrats feel that these rights are the least we can do to protect the dignity of citizens as they age or in their time of crisis. The Tea Party (let's face it, this isn't the Republican Party any more) are very upfront about their intent to dismantle the New Deal, followed by a major dismantling of our federal government. Then you will be at the mercy of state and local officials. Do you really believe that they will be better able to protect you, or that they will even give a damn?

We are on the cusp of a new age – as you know. My UAC lecture was about the metamorphosis of society into the Aquarian Age. Aquarius rules groups; it is less interested in the personal accomplishments than what the collective can accomplish. The problem is that corporations are groups not individuals (no matter what the Supreme Court decided in terms of election finances), and the role of big business is expanding rapidly as we cross from Pisces to Aquarius. It is the loss of the individual represented by Leo, the opposite sign of Aquarius that is the greatest fear. We see the continued demise of mom & pop stores in favor of CVS, McDonald's, Starbuck's, and so many other multinational corporations. Amazon is eating up humanity without the slightest indigestion. It can leave the individual with a sense of helplessness in the face of such adversity. Take away the basic necessities of life, such as food, shelter, health care, etc. and we will see a massive depression that would cripple our society and collapse the fragile foundation upon which many of our citizens stand.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Saturday September 15th at 10:11 P.M. EST at 23 degrees Virgo 37 minutes. This is the sign of the auditor, and things in our lives will be scrutinized and checked for details and mistakes. This will include financial, career, and relationships. They will all be examined and dissected to see if things are in order and if the direction of the entity is still valid. There is a tendency to pick things apart and find only the faults. Try to avoid being overly critical. Remember, we are all just human, a not terribly bright species, so take pity.

Last month's Full Moon in Pisces brought up health issues for many people. This New Moon is about nursing yourself back to health. Pisces rules doctors, and Virgo rules nurses. The polarity of the two signs is quite obvious and remarkable.

MERCURY ENTERS LIBRA:

On Sunday September 16th at 7:22 P.M. EST the planet of communication and short journeys enters this Venus ruled sign. There will be a great deal of pleasure in all Mercurial actions and events. Speech and other forms of communication will take on a more genteel attitude. Take a long walk or a drive in the country. You will enjoy it, and your thoughts will be freer and able to roam through areas of thought you may not usually allow yourself. Libra rules one-on-one relationships, so there will certainly be a lot of talking in your romantic and business partnerships.

PLUTO GOES DIRECT:

On Tuesday September 18th at 1:05 A.M. EST this dark and mysterious un-planet changes direction. Many issues that involve joint finances or other people's resources that have been delayed or bottled up should shake loose now. It will be easier to manifest these issues in the material world. But remember that what our society is going through with Uranus in square to Pluto makes all partnerships and business arrangements erratic and difficult to solidify. Make sure that any new partnership or financial arrangement is clearly understood and can withstand the testing that this square will continue until its completion in 2016.

URANUS SQUARE PLUTO:

On Wednesday September 19th at 2:55 A.M. EST we see the exactness of this most stressful of squares. This is a multi-year aspect that completes a number of times. On this pass with Mercury and the Full Moon setting this off, we may hear some disturbing news. This is a most aggressive energy and violence and compulsiveness will be in the air. You must be vigilant and pay attention to what you are doing in the here and now. This is affecting the collective most severely. If it is hitting any point in your chart you will be drawn into the energy on a personal and societal level.

MERCURY OPPOSES URANUS AND SQUARES PLUTO:

On Thursday September 20th at 6:24 P.M. and 7:19 P.M. EST this pair of powerful transits completes. Because we have an exact Uranus-Pluto square this month the quicker moving planets that hit 7 degrees will set that square off. In this case we have Mercury, ruler of thoughts, speech, and travel in opposition to Uranus. This will make us all a little jumpy and irritable. Ideas will come quickly, perhaps too much so, and it may be difficult to handle. Any combination of Mercury and Uranus can represent a form of genius, or just unusual thoughts and concepts. If it can be used in a positive way you can find some different ways of looking at your situations. Because this is an opposition, it will have a greater effect on our relationships with others. You can expect some impulsive conversations, outbursts, and an unusual perspective regarding your partner. The square to Pluto will add the compulsiveness one would expect from this heavenly body. It will be difficult to let go of an idea or problem. This combination will be most effective while this is in orb, but its effects will be felt throughout this month.

THE SUN ENTERS LIBRA:

On Saturday September 22nd at 10:49 A.M. EST we enter autumn. As always, I remind you that each of the 4 seasons coincide with the Sun entering each of the cardinal signs. Libra is interested in balance. Certainly it is relationship oriented, and coupling is on most people's minds. Autumn is

often when new love affairs begin, I believe as we unconsciously prepare for the long and lonely winter. But even if you aren't in an ongoing relationship or are lucky enough to find a winter lover, this is still a time of partnerships and learning how we best relate to others. And it's a good time to start a new connection no matter what the definition.

MERCURY TRINES JUPITER:

On Wednesday September 26th at 10:09 A.M. EST this optimistic and far-sighted transit comes along. This is a good day for travel of any kind, short journeys or long ones. This favors all communications, so try to make use of it. If it sets off your chart just right it could be a very lucky day in some ways.

VENUS SQUARES MARS:

On Thursday September 27th at 4:50 A.M. EST the male and female planets are at war. Obviously this isn't the best day for an important date or for meeting someone new. The energy is quite destructive and personal relationships will suffer the most. There is inappropriate aggressiveness and a lack of receptiveness. This isn't a good day for shopping or spending money in general. The ego will be involved and you may buy something that you really didn't want just to impress someone else.

THE SUN OPPOSES URANUS AND SQUARES PLUTO:

On Saturday September 29th at 3:16 A.M. and 1:54 P.M. EST these two forceful transits will complete. Because the Full Moon also completes today (see below) the Moon will conjunct Uranus and square Pluto. This could be a very powerful moment in the lives of individuals or the collective. **Explosive** and **compulsive** are the two words that first come to mind. For a few days preceding this and following the Full Moon I would advise caution and restraint. It will be difficult to follow your normal path, and you may be quite distracted. Difficult world events are very possible and it may be hard to avoid explosive situations. Remember, the collective is more powerful than the individual. Keep your eyes open and expect the unexpected.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Saturday September 29th at 11:19 P.M. EST at 07 degrees Aries 22 minutes. Because of the aspects mentioned above this Full Moon demands our attention and respect. This is an Aries Full Moon to, which transmits a great deal of energy to begin with. Add the force of Uranus square Pluto exactly on the Sun and Moon and we have the makings of an

exciting and possibly bizarre few days. Personal relationships could take a bad hit, especially if this sets off your chart just right. You may wish to think twice before making that midnight phone call. But if you do, you will probably hear the truth. In some ways both Uranus and Pluto demand the unveiling of all things hidden. Combining the two just exacerbates the exposure.

VENUS ENTERS VIRGO:

On Wednesday October 3rd at 2:59 A.M. EST Venus enters this Mercury ruled sign. Because Mercury is now in Libra this creates a mutual receptivity between Venus and Mercury (they are in each other's signs). While it won't exactly soften the difficulties Venus has in this sign, it allows us a release through communication and honest, direct thoughts. The planet of love has a bit of a hard time in the more intellectual signs. Too much thinking can ruin a love affair. That may be why most of us lose about half our brain cells when we fall in love. Be that as it may, Virgo does tend to be rather critical and picky, not the best traits for a romance. But Virgo is also a very sensual sign, and if Venus can let go of the mental activity for a while and stop looking for perfection, its placement here in a natal chart or by transit can be extremely physical and sexual. It will be in this sign until October 29th, so once we get past its opposition to Neptune (see below) we will get used to this placement and be able to use it to our advantage. A little bit of a critical eye in love can be a positive and productive thing.

VENUS OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

Also on Wednesday October 3rd at 6:28 P.M. EST this rather interesting opposition completes. We say that Venus is the lower octave while Neptune is the higher octave of the love interest. That means personal love versus universal love. When this transit will bring up some issues of our responsibility to the collective, while these two are in opposition it makes personal romance almost impossible to understand or to see clearly. Wait until this passes before committing your feelings to a new romance. You may not be seeing the other person honestly and illusion is a big part of Neptune's power.

JUPITER RETROGRADES:

On Thursday October 4th at 9:18 A.M. EST Jupiter, the planet of expansion, will begin its yearly trip backwards. This is usually the top of any stock market or other financial institution that has been expanding. The markets may have already changed direction by the time this aspect completes. They have been rallying and hit a new 4 year high recently. Those who follow my newsletter know that I believe this market should be flattened or shorted as soon as it approaches

new highs. With the reversal of Jupiter there is little doubt that the equities will take a hit. In our personal lives this is also a time of reversals and some frustration. If you haven't pushed your projects, plans, and relationships forward by now you may have a hard time doing so. Much of astrology has to do with not fighting the energies around you, thus flowing with the river of life. This is more a time of regrouping, rewriting, and patience.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS SATURN:

On Friday October 5th at 5:44 A.M. EST this heavy transit completes at the very last minutes of Libra. Relationships that have no room to grow and have outlived their usefulness will end, or change radically. Both of these planets will enter Scorpio shortly after this conjunction. This is a time of truths, however painful they may be. But this can also be a time of rebalancing any situation or relationship that has become lopsided. Sometimes we emphasize one side of a relationship and ignore other parts. If you can use a critical eye and recognize where you are being distracted you could improve a relationship greatly. But it does require facing those truths that may be difficult to confront. With Saturn it is all important to leave your ego at the front door. Only then can you honestly view a relationship from a distance.

MERCURY ENTERS SCORPIO:

Also on Friday October 5th at 6:35 A.M. EST Mercury will lead the way into this fixed water sign. Thoughts and communications will be deep and probing. Although Scorpio is known to hide a great deal undercover, secrets do tend to be revealed under this Pluto ruled energy. The same force that tries so hard to keep things hidden will also inadvertently reveal the truth to any who are paying attention.

SATURN ENTERS SCORPIO:

Also on Friday October 5th at 4:33 P.M. EST Saturn enters this Pluto ruled sign. This will be a difficult mix for the next 2 ½ years as this planet meanders through. In general, this extensive transit will restrict some things in our culture. You can expect a pullback in the expression of sexuality throughout the society. The individual will respond more to his or her own transiting planets, so this may or may not repress the individual's attitude or activities. But the undercurrent will be felt. If this hits your 8th house or the ruler of that house you will certainly feel more suppression and difficulty in expressing those feelings. You can also expect to see limitations in all Scorpio, or Pluto ruled issues, including partnerships, shared wealth, and a further prolonged attack on the so-called entitlement programs that weigh so heavily in our national debates. No matter who

wins this coming election, over the next several years we will see a continued depletion of jointly held resources. Scorpio also rules oil. This will manifest in one of two ways. Usually this type of transit will suppress the price of oil – and that’s what I believe will happen. The future prices should be stuck in a trading range for long periods of time. If it does follow its usual path, than you should be able to see that range rather quickly, and can trade the top and bottom turnarounds. The only other possibility is if there is some geopolitical reason for a huge oil shortage. Saturn will sometimes restrict a physical commodity with the futures responding with a huge rally. But I don’t think that’s what we will see. In April 2014 there will be a grand cross hitting America’s 8th house Sun. We will see a spike in gold and silver prices, but if the economy takes the hit I expect, oil prices will drop.

MERCURY TRINES NEPTUNE:

Also on Friday October 5th at 6:07 P.M. EST this creative and inspirational trine will take place. This is a great transit for poets, musicians, painters, and dreamers. The mind will take a different route as it explores the unconscious and communicates from that foggy place. Be creative and don’t just judge productivity on a material plane. This is a moment when ideas and visions can be expressed in either a tangible or intangible manner. Both will be useful and should be examined.

MARS ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:

On Saturday October 6th at 11:21 P.M. EST Mars enters Jupiter’s domain until November 16th and egos will grow - sometimes out of proportion. This placement will require some control and direction. Mars does well in the fire signs due to its rulership of Aries. But Sagittarius can expand everything, sometimes to a point of distraction. Be careful to be in command of your own ego. And be aware that others are also dealing with an overblown sense of themselves, so don’t react to their actions so much as to the purpose behind those actions.

MARS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Sunday October 7th at 10:12 P.M. EST this debilitating and confusing transit will complete. This is not a good night for anything requiring a strong and assertive ego. The oomph will not be there and you could feel defeated or rejected. I wouldn’t plan an important date, business meeting, or any sort of confrontation. This square can sometimes be good for creative people. But even there I would get several opinions or do a second rewrite before presenting any new artistic work to the public. This isn’t a very sexual or aggressive transit, so don’t expect to project a lot of energy. If it hits your charts just so you may be tired, lethargic, or even under the weather. There probably

isn't anything wrong with you, and you should wait to see how you feel in the morning before fretting.

THE SUN TRINES JUPITER:

On Tuesday October 9th at 1:52 A.M. EST this very positive aspect comes along. This is a day of optimism and expanded thoughts and ideas. This is a good day for travel or anything that will expand your consciousness, such as a lecture or artistic event. This is not a day to sit around the house. Get up, get out, and get things done.

VENUS TRINES PLUTO:

Also on Tuesday October 9th at 4:03 A.M. EST this intense but useful aspect will complete. Most people will want to get to the bottom of issues, especially involving intimate relationships. But because this is a trine you can use this energy to your advantage by digging deeply into your conversations and interactions without upsetting things. This is a good time to discuss intimate issues and uncover any hidden problems or things left unspoken for too long.

MARS TRINES URANUS:

On Monday October 15th at 6:34 A.M. EST this very useful and positive trine completes on the Dark of the Moon. When Mars and Uranus get together they create a tremendous amount of energy. If it is a hard aspect, (conjunct, opposition, inconjunct, or square) it is forced upon us with all the subtlety of Rush Limbaugh on steroids. But a sextile or trine offers us the opportunity to mold this energy and direct it where we want it to go. Get stuff done today and don't worry if you're a bit more assertive than usual. It shouldn't get out of hand, unless you are going through some difficult personal transits involving Mars or Uranus. Because this is the Dark of the Moon, usually a very low energy period, we may have more force than usual as the lunar cycle ends. But it is still the end of matters and the lowest point in the month, so don't expect miracles.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Monday October 15th at 8:03 A.M. EST at 22 degree Libra 32 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.

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:

September 16th 7:26 A.M. – 8:55 A.M.

September 18th 7:30 A.M. – 10:46 A.M.

September 20th 9:11 A.M. – 12:34 P.M.

September 22nd 12:45 P.M. – 3:20 P.M.

September 24th 5:19 P.M. – 7:32 P.M.

September 26th 11:33 P.M. – September 27th 1:24 A.M.

September 28th 10:35 P.M. – September 29th 9:14 A.M.

October 1st 6:32 P.M. – 7:26 P.M.

October 4th 3:44 A.M. – 7:47 A.M.

October 5th 5:08 P.M. – October 6th 8:45 P.M.

October 8th 3:33 A.M. – October 9th 7:55 A.M.

October 10th 5:40 P.M. – October 11th 3:23 P.M. *** Moon is void for a day

October 12th 7:48 P.M. – October 13th 7:02 P.M. *** Moon is void for a day



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