

MONTHLY SINCE 1999
ISSUE # 169

LIVING BY STARLIGHT **an Astrological Newsletter**

April - May 2013

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

As this month begins we still have a lot of Aries energy. But one by one the inner planets enter Taurus. We will all feel a shift in the energy from the assertive and ego-oriented cardinal fire sign to the more sedate and receptive fixed earth sign. As you read through this month's newsletter you will see that I mention a number of times the need to have patience and to build a foundation in preparation for next month when we will experience a plethora of Gemini energy.

This month will be challenging to all personal relationships. There are a number of difficult aspects to Saturn and Pluto that will test our most intimate connections. Issues regarding trust, honesty, and long term goals within relationships will be most pressing. How well we deal with them will decide the outcome. Any relationship that isn't solidly based in reality may not continue as Saturn and Pluto force us to view things without the fog of illusion. But those that are strong will survive and strengthen. Whether you are involved in an ongoing relationship or seeking a new partner, it is your sense of self that ultimately will decide your success. You can not hide from you, nor can you continue to project a less than honest persona for too long. Under these aspects your true self will be exposed.

It is change that many of us fear the most. It's often easier to stay in a bad situation rather than explore other possibilities. This month that will become more difficult to do. We shouldn't fear the alterations our lives offer us, but embrace them as growing and innovative. But fear is a powerful force and only faith in yourself will overcome it.

The correction in the stock markets that I am anticipating has not begun yet. I am still in a wait-and-see mode. There is a great deal of money sitting on the sidelines and it may find its way into our equity markets. If so, they will push the indexes higher and my timing will be off. While I hate being wrong (who doesn't) I see astrology as a tool to be worked with and I will be the first to admit when a misjudgment has occurred. The trine of Saturn to Neptune may extend the illusion longer than I anticipated. My feeling is that a correction now would wash out some of the weaker stocks and put a reality check into play. If they insist on pushing these markets up now and don't allow a healthy and necessary correction, we will face a much harsher reality in a few months when the over-inflated stocks tumble without restraint. In any case, I still firmly believe we are looking at a market teetering on the edge – with a number of currency issues starting with the Euro, as well as several explosive situations throughout the world waiting to ignite.

I'll be holding a class/workshop on April 30th 6:30 – 8:30 at the Quest Bookshop and Theosophical society

240 East 53rd Street New York City. The main topic is **relationships** and how best to use the charts to anticipate and improve our interaction. I will also discuss the difference between attraction and compatibility, and how karma plays a role in our choices and ultimate results.

I will also spend some time looking at current **world events**, the coming Grand Cross, the stock markets, and where to invest your money.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Wednesday April 10th at 5:35 A.M. EST at 20 degrees Aries 41 minutes. Aries is all about initiation and new beginnings. This is a chance to start a new project or the new phase of an ongoing one. This New Moon is NOT void of course, as the previous and following ones are. There will be a more solid sense about things that are begun now and a better chance that they will come to fruition. This is the first New Moon of the year and a time when we should all be looking ahead and trying to determine the proper path for the coming year. With a positive and hopeful attitude we can all accomplish much.

PLUTO RETROGRADES:

On Friday April 12th at 3:32 P.M. EST Pluto begins its yearly backward trek. Many issues involving joint finances, partnerships, and sexuality will be internalized. It's a period when we will all look at these situations from a different perspective. Under retrograde motion the changes that take place around any planet's influence will begin inside of us and then start to manifest in the outside world. Pluto is all about making deep and intense changes. Begin that process with your internal conversation through an honest and fearless approach and you will be able to make the alterations in your day to day life as the months go by. Patience and faith are needed. Try to find both within yourself.

MERCURY ENTERS ARIES:

On Saturday April 13th at 10:37 P.M. For the next three weeks people will tend to be more direct with their communications. There will be a feisty attitude to much that is said or written, as Mercury travels through this Mars-ruled sign. Put things in perspective and try to hear the words behind the attitude. This is a good time to push your agenda out and make your point. But keep a lid on your temper and don't act in too arrogant or pushy a manner. You can get more out of an assertive approach than an aggressive one.

VENUS ENTERS TAURUS:

On Monday April 15th at 3:25 A.M. EST Venus enters one of the signs it rules. Our attitude towards love and possessions will be more materialistic and stable. This is a time to put down a foundation in all your relationships, friendships and love affairs. This fixed earth sign is concerned with structure and stability, but not quite the way Capricorn is. Because this is a Venus-ruled sign it will act in a more gentle and humanist way. Beauty and deep feelings are very much a part of Taurus' perspective, and a relationship begun with Venus in this placement has a good chance of longevity, unless that Venus is badly afflicted. This is a time when Cotton often rallies big time. When I was on the floor of the Mercantile Exchange the traders would wait

for this configuration all winter. Will that trend continue? Who knows? But if you are working the commodities it's worth keeping an eye on Cotton.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MARS:

On Wednesday April 17th at 8:20 P.M. EST there will be quite a bit of anger and tension in the air. Many people will feel the effects of this conjunct. This is a good day to get work done. There will be an excessive amount of energy being emitted and if you can direct it properly you can accomplish a great deal. But it's also a powerhouse of ego and stress that must be projected somewhere or it will seep out and can create all sorts of problems. Try to avoid unnecessary confrontations and don't let your ego or your temper lead to an outburst. You don't know what the other person has been going through and he or she may be itching for a fight.

THE SUN ENTERS TAURUS:

On Friday April 19th at 6:03 P.M. EST we enter the fixed part of spring. This is a month for building and setting down a strong structure. It isn't a time of inspiration so much as solidification. Shore up the projects, plans, and relationships that already exist. Take time to review what you have been doing and see how you can protect your position. The inspiration will come to you more easily next month as these planets enter Gemini. For now, build a strong foundation upon which you can make the adjustments when the time comes.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS URANUS:

On Saturday April 20th at 5:20 A.M. this difficult aspect will come along. Speech and other communications will be explosive and feisty. Arguments are quite common, and no matter how you try to smooth things over you may not be able to appease some people. Accidents are quite possible, especially involving cars and other forms of transportation, so use extra caution while traveling. This aspect can create nervousness and irritability, particularly if this hits any major points in your chart.

MARS ENTERS TAURUS:

Also on Saturday April 20th at 7:48 A.M. EST Mars will join the Sun and Venus in this earth sign. As I said above, Taurus is more concerned with stability and structure than innovation. However, stubbornness is one of Taurus' most challenging sides. Try not to hold on too tightly to your ideas. If you can bend a bit and keep an open mind, you will be able to use the excessive amount of Taurus energy to your advantage. If you are too set in your ways and unbendable you will probably feel frustrated and stifled.

MERCURY SQUARES PLUTO:

On Sunday April 21st at 7:45 A.M. EST we will all be delving deeply into most subjects. Communication will take on a deeper tone and superficial responses will not satisfy anyone. Don't get into a discussion if you don't want to hear the whole story. Nobody is going to sugar-coat anything today. You will hear what the other person thinks without filters. If you've been waiting to have an important conversation and need to dig into a relationship of business decision, this is the time to do so. But remember, this isn't a pleasant or easy-

going transit. It is a difficult and direct energy that has little use for frivolous niceties. And you may not like what you hear or how it is presented. Truth is Pluto's desire no matter what the cost, so be prepared.

VENUS OPPOSES SATURN:

On Monday April 22nd at 3:43 A.M. EST this wet-blanket transit arrives. This is not a good day for socializing. Many of us will be feeling repressed and possibly unable to express ourselves. It will be especially difficult to show affection. If you need to communicate your feelings wait until this passes. This is a good day for creating a budget or dealing with your financial responsibilities.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Thursday April 25th at 3:57 P.M. EST at 05 degrees Scorpio 46 minutes. Personal relationships are having a rough time this month. The aspects mentioned above lead up to this Full Moon in Scorpio, ruler of the 8th house of sex and mutually held possessions, the two key issues in most intimate connections. This can be a difficult lunar aspect. Many issues will be seen as black-or-white and ultimatums may be presented. Any hidden tension will most likely come out now. How well you handle the issues will decide the outcome. But don't expect to tell someone how you feel without receiving their opinion in just as strong a presentation.

THE SUN OPPOSES SATURN:

On Sunday April 28th at 4:27 A.M. EST this repressive transit will prevent us from self-expression and could put a real damper on personal relationships. As I said above, this month will be difficult for one-on-one encounters of all sorts. Any underlying stress will come out and force you to confront limitations both personally and within your relationships. If someone has been holding you back from expressing yourself it may become intolerable now. If you have been hanging onto illusions about someone, this opposition will show you the reality and you may see that person from a different perspective. This is a day to get your work done and put things in order. It is followed in a few days by Mars opposite Saturn (see below), another repressive transit that has a strong effect on relationships.

MARS OPPOSES SATURN:

On Wednesday May 1st at 1:12 A.M. EST this difficult aspect will suppress our egos and limit our ability to push things forward. This will affect all situations, but it is in your most intimate connections that this will be felt most strongly. This combination brings frustration and irritability. If it hits your chart this can be a harsh and unbending energy that can be psychologically and even physically oppressive. Hard work and attention to details will help dissipate these feelings. This isn't usually expressed through explosive interactions so much as a slow-burn and frustration. But it can bottle up inside of you and come out in very inappropriate ways. If you can handle this force and accept the limitations it implies, you can accomplish much. But if the frustration overwhelms you, you may be better off taking a long walk or going to the gym. But do be careful. Mars rules the muscles and the Saturn influence implies that you should not overdo things or push your body beyond its comfort zone. Don't expect to have the oomph you usually have, and don't overwork your muscles

or you could easily injure yourself.

MERCURY ENTERS TAURUS:

Also on Wednesday May 1st at 11:37 A.M. EST the planet of communication and short journeys joins the Sun, Venus, and Mars in this fixed earth sign. People will tend to take their time and think things out. After weeks of Mercury traveling through assertive Aries, the energy will change appreciatively and ideas will flow more slowly. Think through your thoughts before sharing them with others. One of Taurus' lessons is patience. Learn it.

THE SUN TRINES PLUTO:

Also on Wednesday May 1st at 1:33 P.M. EST we see the first of several positive and useful Pluto aspects that should help us shrug off some of the rough spots that have been created these past few weeks. This trine will allow us to get deeply into a subject without the aggressive and demanding attitude that we felt last week. It should be easier to express ourselves to those closest to us and uncover some hidden truths without the nasty or derisive attitude that accompanies the hard aspects to Pluto.

MERCURY OPPOSES SATURN:

On Sunday May 5th at 7:13 A.M. EST another repressive Saturn transit completes. It is very difficult to express yourself when Mercury, planet of communication, is in conflict to Saturn, the most suppressive of planets. The result is frustration and often resentment. This is a good aspect for dealing with unfinished paperwork or organizing your life. But it isn't a good aspect for socializing or important conversations that require an open mind. Save those for another day. Travel may be quite difficult today as well. I wouldn't plan an important journey. And if you do travel expect delays and difficulties. Take your time and enjoy the ride.

MARS TRINES PLUTO:

Also on Sunday May 5th at 5:25 P.M. EST another positive Pluto aspect comes along. This will give us a day when we can project our egos without fear of retribution. There is a need to delve, as with all Pluto transits, but the trine to Mars makes it flow more smoothly and will allow you to use this energy to your advantage. Compromise in power struggles is very possible. Look for a way to work with your adversary towards a common goal.

MERCURY TRINES PLUTO AND CONJUNCTS MARS:

On Tuesday May 7th at 2:33 A.M. & 8:33 P.M. EST these two Mercury transits come about. The early part of the day will be more balanced and ideas will be accessible. The morning will be a good time for conversation and thoughts. But as the day goes on and we approach the conjunct to Mars tempers will flair and rationale will go out the window. This evening is not a good time to face an adversary or try to work out a difficult situation. People will react from a gut level and not from an intellectual one. Use caution while traveling tonight as well. And if you are feeling angry you should admit it to yourself and avoid situations that could set you off.

VENUS ENTERS GEMINI:

On Thursday May 9th at 11:03 A.M. EST the planet of love enters this intellectual sign. People will be thinking through their love affairs more than usual. Rationale and purpose will be behind our decisions in relationships. Talk to your lover and you may find out what you couldn't through physical contact. It's tougher to hide behind the sex and easier to bring things out into the open. However, people will tend to act out that Gemini duality in their interactions. At least you will know the truth.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Thursday May 9th at 8:28 P.M. EST at 19 degree Taurus 31 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:

Please note: In response to requests from a few readers I have added a few VOC Moons into the next lunar cycle for those who need to make plans before my next newsletter is released.

April 10th 12:25 P.M. – 11:22 P.M.

April 13th 8:30 A.M. – 10:13 A.M.

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April 15 3:41 P.M. – 10:49 P.M.

April 18th 8:31 A.M. – 11:13 A.M.

April 19th 5:06 P.M. – April 20th 9:08 P.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

April 22nd 2:02 A.M. – April 23rd 3:25 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

April 24th 8:12 A.M. – April 25th 6:25 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

April 26th 4:56 A.M. – April 27th 7:32 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

April 29th 12:37 A.M. – 8:21 A.M.

May 1st 10:07 A.M. – 10:20 A.M.

May 3rd 12:24 A.M. – 2:25 P.M.

May 5th 12:00 P.M. – 9:03 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

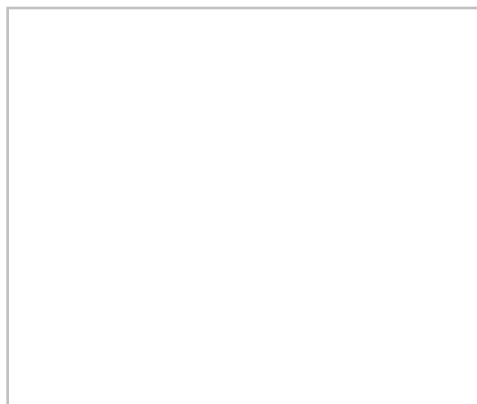
May 7th 8:40 A.M. – May 8th 6:09 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

Due to popular request I have included below several VOC moons in the next lunar cycle:

May 9th 8:28 P.M. – May 10th 5:21 P.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

May 12th 9:32 A.M. – May 13th 5:57 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

May 15th 8:14 A.M. – 6:38 P.M. *** Moon is void all day



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