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LIVING BY STARLIGHT **an Astrological Newsletter**

August 2013

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

As my regular readers know, the Grand Cross that completes April 20th 2014 has been on the minds of astrologers for some time. On that day Pluto will oppose Jupiter, while Uranus opposes Mars. Each opposition is in square to the other creating a cross within minutes. This is a very powerful force about to be released on the world. The events it might produce may occur anytime with a few weeks of the celestial event, not necessarily exactly on that date. I predicted the stock market crash to be “around election day” 2008. It happened in October over a period of several weeks. However, what bothers me the most about April 20th 2014 is that the Moon is conjunct Pluto that day as well and could act as the trigger to this whole affair.

I have come to the conclusion that the most likely event to occur on that Grand Cross is a terrorist attack of great magnitude, most likely on American soil. While we say that our embassies are on American land, in truth they are Jupiter ruled, and thus a 9th house issue, and only exist on American property legally, not actually. They rest on foreign land, have to do with diplomacy, and are all about legalities between countries – all Jupiter issues. With Jupiter involved in the Grand Cross, it is possible that the attacks could be at our embassies as well, but I don't think it would only be in foreign places. In fact, it could very well be coordinated both here and abroad.

This month we will see Jupiter oppose Pluto, and Jupiter square Uranus. These aspects complete August 7th & August 21st, about 2 weeks apart and we should pay attention to each to give us an idea of the type of energy we will be facing next spring. Already there have been severe warnings to Americans traveling abroad in the month of August. Our government takes these threats so seriously that many of our embassies in volatile areas have been shut down in anticipation.

Pluto rules oil, gas, and coal, and it too is involved in this Grand Cross, so an eco-terrorist attack is very possible.

The result of such an attack would be a stock market plunge, a sudden and short-term leap in gold prices, and more restrictions in our personal freedoms. By the way, if I'm right and all of this occurs, I suggest you buy into the stock market the second the plunge is over. There is no way the powers that be will allow these equities to crash and burn. And you can expect a response similar to our last crash – they will pour billions and billions into the system to artificially pump it up. You also should short gold. It's not going to \$5,000 an

ounce unless the world ends. In which case what would you buy with it?

But regardless of how this Grand Cross manifests, the biggest threat to our future is and will continue to be our inability to wean our society of fossil fuels.

The changes in our environment are so obvious that even my more conservative friends have been forced of late to admit that “something is certainly happening in the world”. Greenland is green. It shouldn’t be. It should be white, despite its name. One of my acquaintances argued the other day that after the last ice-age the glaciers melted, so why don’t we believe this is a natural occurrence. I had to explain to him that the glaciers he’s discussing took about 100,000 years to melt, not a decade. We can no longer deny that our weather patterns are changing. Most scientists believe that Miami will be underwater in 20 years or less. Much of the east coast shore line will be gone, along with the island nations of the Pacific, most of Japan, and a good deal of the Caribbean nations. And if the temperature rises even 2 degrees Celsius the accepted theory is that we probably won’t be able to grow enough food to feed ourselves.

Well, enough about the end of the world. It’s August and we should all enjoy the wonderful summer wind. Yesterday is just a memory, and tomorrow is but a dream. We only have today. So live your life with all the goodness and hope you can muster. Be loving and helpful to those around you. And remember to always be your own best friend.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Tuesday August 6th at 5:51 P.M. EDT at 14 degrees Leo 35 minutes, and the Moon immediately goes Void of Course. This is the 5th sign of the zodiac and correlates to the 5th house; ruler of romance, children, games, creativity, and gambling. I’ve always said that July is the month for family vacations, while August is for a romantic getaway. While the 5th house is about children, it doesn’t mean you must be saddled with your offspring all month. It’s also very much about the child within you that needs to be recognized and given room to play. When we fall in love we’re all about 16 years old. (That why it’s not financially viable for songwriters to grow up.) We tend to act out in childish ways: showing jealousy, possessiveness, and at times reverting to attitudes and reactions we thought we had long ago grown out of. All I can say is good luck with that. When I was very young I once told a therapist that if he could show me a grown up and I would model myself after him. We put on suits, carry big wallets and purses, own expensive houses and cars, and display all of the outer examples of maturity. Then you see your significant other kissing someone else and it all goes out the window. Our society cherishes youth more than intelligence or talent. Most of us settle for the packaging and pay little attention to the product.

Leo rules the stage, and acting in general, (although I include the sub-rulers: Neptune or Uranus when the acting is in film or TV). This is a showy sign that likes to be in front of the public. That doesn’t mean that everyone’s going to put on a clown nose and start dancing in the streets. But based on the individual’s personality we will all display the desire to be in the public eye. A wallflower may be a tad boisterous in

Starbucks; a lunatic may run naked through Grand Central. Either way it is displaying the internal showmanship associated with Leo. Try to give yourself a proper stage upon which you can show off without any negative repercussions. I wouldn't try the Grand Central act, for example.

JUPITER OPPOSES PLUTO:

On Wednesday August 7th at 7:34 P.M. EDT this powerful opposition completes. Pluto keeps secrets. Jupiter doesn't. The mixture may provide for some interesting and upsetting events, including the uncovering of secrets and hidden agendas. Expect some surprises, perhaps unpleasant ones. Astrologers tend to think of Jupiter as the *great giver*. This is true in many respects, but what Jupiter will sometimes do is bring us **more** of whatever we have, even if it's troubles. With Pluto in the mix there could be some situations that are blown totally out of proportion. Pluto is relentless in its desire to dig up anything that is festering or decaying. Jupiter has no sense of boundaries and believes that any truth should be exposed without limitations or subtlety. If you have any Sagittarius friends watch how they deal with the concept of absolute-honesty and you'll see what I mean.

Pay attention to what this energy feels like. Next April Jupiter will again oppose Pluto as part of the Grand Cross I've been discussing for some time. Some situations that are becoming active now will be revisited on the final pass of the opposition with the energy of Mars and Pluto added to the mixture. At that time we can expect completions and resolutions to many issues that are coming to the surface now.

MERCURY ENTERS LEO:

On Thursday August 8th at 8:13 A.M. EDT we will all begin to roar like the lion. Communications will become more direct and showy, and because Leo is a fixed sign there will be a lot of stubbornness in communications. This is a very proud sign and you should be careful how you talk to others. If it's in the other person's nature they could react badly to the smallest of insults. You must be direct and honest, but it's how you say things at least as much as what you say that elicits a response. Until August 23rd when Mercury enters Virgo be careful while driving and don't let your ego control things.

MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:

On Sunday August 11th at 2:05 P.M. EDT this difficult and limiting aspect completes. This will be a low energy day. If this square hits your chart you may feel tired and lethargic. This isn't a good day for important meetings or conversations. People will seem a bit stoic or indifferent, and it will be difficult to communicate your feelings and ideas. We will all tend to see and hear only the pessimistic side of things, so don't make any final decisions until this passes. This is a day to finish up any paperwork or projects that are hanging over your head. Clean up your desk, put your work in order, and prepare for the trine of Mercury to Uranus in a few days (see below). On Wednesday the energy will be completely different and you can then experiment, push out boundaries, and express yourself in an uninhibited and freer manner.

MERCURY TRINES URANUS:

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On Wednesday August 14 at 10:11 P.M. EDT this wonderful trine comes along. This transit is very different from the Mercury square Saturn mentioned above. Today you will have all the knowledge and information at your finger tips. You can see things in a clear and enlightened way and will be able to make changes in any project or plan without upsetting the status quo. New ideas and concepts will be easier to assimilate today.

VENUS ENTERS LIBRA:

On Friday August 16th at 11:37 A.M. EDT Venus enters one of the two signs it rules. Libras live for relationships. So does Venus. It is most comfortable in this sign, even though it is a female planet in a male sign. In astrology Venus and Mars are given rulership over a male and a female sign. While Venus is transiting Libra we will all be more interested in personal relationships. That doesn't mean that you will all find the one true love of your life. How I wish. This has more to do with understanding the interaction between us and comprehending the passive-aggressive nature of Libra. If you think about we all tend to act like Libras when we are in love. There is much passive-aggressive interplay. It's often as much about the silence as the shouting.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Tuesday August 20th at 9:45 P.M. EDT at 28 degrees Aquarius 11 minutes. This is the second Full Moon in a row in Aquarius. Sometimes the degrees fall in such a way that this happens. It implies that we have more to learn about this sign, which is erratic and unpredictable (a word astrologers hate!). This Full Moon completes only hours before the Jupiter – Uranus opposition, and I suggest that we all use caution for the day or so surrounding these potentially explosive aspects. There is no reason to assume something terrible will happen to you. If your chart is being afflicted, then you may get into some personal situation. Unexpected arguments and sudden upsetting events are certainly possible, so step lightly. A world event, such as a terrorist attack is quite possible. As I said in *The Author's Notes* we are on the edge of the Grand Cross that will complete on April 20th 2014, and the events of that time will not happen in a vacuum. There will be signs in advance.

JUPITER SQUARES URANUS:

On Wednesday August 21st at 3:14 A.M. EDT anything goes! This is an exciting and unpredictable transit that will stir up a lot of situations and issues in us all. It can manifest as wonderful or terrifying events. Because this comes on the heels of the Aquarius Full Moon, there is the possibility of a violent and unexpected situation. Try to stay out of harm's way.

This can also be a lucky transit, if it hits your chart just so. But it is unstable, so if there is any sort of personal or financial windfall, take advantage of it, but don't expect it to last. You could get a break in your career, finances, or personal relationships. You could also get into a fight, gamble away money you really need, or be told where to get off by someone you thought you could count on. These are the two most freedom-loving planets. Neither is particularly good with boundaries or restrictions, and with this energy hitting in the wee

small hours of the morning, I would suggest a great deal of precaution the night before. If you are prone to excesses in alcohol, etc., you should plan a safe return home.

But Jupiter and Uranus are about much more than partying. Uranus represents the individuality within the group, the need to express personal freedom, but being the ruler of the natural 11th house, it is through our group activities that this is best expressed. Its erratic and unstable nature can be very unsettling and Uranus transits often coincide with explosive and surprising actions and reactions. Jupiter represents the need for constant and steady growth, with abhorrence for boundaries or restrictions. When these two planets are in conflict, such as now, the collective must deal with the prospect of unstable situations blown out of proportion. That could mean a literal explosion, such as a bomb, accident, or natural catastrophe. But it can also mean an unbalancing within your relationships. So if you step out tonight, do so with caution and awareness.

This square is also a part of the Grand Cross we will see in full April 20th 2014. As I said above with Jupiter in opposition to Pluto, pay attention to what transpires now. It will give us some idea what to expect next spring when they all come together.

THE SUN ENTERS VIRGO:

On Thursday August 22nd at 7:02 P.M. EDT we enter the mutable part of summer. Each season is divided into three signs: one Cardinal, one Fixed, and one Mutable. Virgo tends to be rather critical and detail oriented. As with every type of energy in the zodiac, this can be used to your advantage. It's a time to carefully scrutinize your work and your relationships. But be careful that you don't over-analyze things and only find fault. Virgo is a very loving sign, and as long as that pickiness doesn't get out of control it can express that love in a caring and gentle way.

MERCURY ENTERS VIRGO:

On Friday August 23rd at 6:37 P.M. EDT Mercury will join the Sun in the mutable earth sign, and they will conjunct tomorrow (see below). Mercury rules this sign as well as Gemini, and there are similarities between the two signs. The attention to detail is remarkable, and the duality in the personality, which is renown and pronounced in Gemini, is also present in Virgos. While Mercury is here we will all be better at catching the little mistakes and fixing errors. This is a good month for writing or editing. Conversations will be nit-picky and since the devil is in the details, as they say, you can expect to hear information that may have been overlooked or not delivered while Mercury was in Leo.

VENUS SQUARES PLUTO

On Saturday August 24th at 5:59 A.M. EDT love will take a very dramatic turn. Nothing will be easy in relationships for the day or so as this applies. The desire to get to the bottom of an issue will be strong. A need to understand the truth about things will take on a compulsive and relentless attitude, and many people will act out in a demanding and unbending manner. Try to be aware of any obsessive feelings you may have

and put things in perspective. There may be a real problem in your relationship, and you may be right in trying to uncover what is really going on. In fact, some secrets will probably be revealed whether you wish it or not. But acting in an obsessive, crazed way will only add to the problem and you may not get the answers you're looking for. If possible I would wait until this passes before discussing any important, personal matter with a significant other.

THE SUN CONJUNCT MERCURY:

Also on Saturday August 24th at 4:56 P.M. EDT a willful attitude will add to the energy mentioned above. Be careful how you say things. The Sun and Mercury conjunct several times a year. It's a moment of connection between the intellect and the will, and if kept in proper perspective it will work to your advantage. People born with this configuration must learn to control it and not allow the will to overpower how they think and speak. By transit it brings up the same issues and it's important to think before you talk. You may not realize just how much force is behind your words. This conjunct is often an indicator of a turnaround in the long-bonds and soybeans.

MERCURY OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

On Sunday August 25th at 7:13 P.M. EDT confusion will reign. Today will be a day of misunderstandings and misinformation. You need to be careful while communicating and traveling. Make sure you are understood and that you understand what others are saying. Take a moment to clarify things. Often under Neptune influence there is a tendency to lie or skirt an issue rather than face it head on. That is a big mistake! The only way to lessen Neptune's power is by blow away the fog and shadows it works within. That can only be done by direct and honest conversation and actions. Mercury is setting off the Sun-Neptune opposition that completes tomorrow (see below) and adding even more bewilderment and uncertainty to that difficult aspect.

VENUS OPPOSES URANUS:

On Monday August 26th at 1:56 P.M. EDT Venus will be in opposition to the most erratic and unpredictable of energies. Sudden infatuations and strange behavior will abound. This is not a stable aspect, and any relationship that begins now will probably not have a strong foundation. If you meet someone new today you may find them very interesting and exciting. But give it a few days before you commit too much. You may begin to see the instability very shortly. Of course whether a connection works out or not has much to do with what you as an individual needs at the moment. If an exciting but changeable relationship suits your present situation, then go for it. Just don't fool yourself into thinking it's any more than it is. And if you have personal planets in the water signs, especially the Sun, Moon or ascendant, you probably won't stick around too long. You need stability more than a rollercoaster ride and in the long run this won't work. Ongoing relationships will also feel this energy, and you may have a fight or an infatuation outside of the relationship. Live your life, but use caution, and be honest with yourself about what you really need.

THE SUN OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

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Also on Monday August 26 at 9:43 P.M. EDT this most difficult of aspects completes. The confusion begun with the Mercury-Neptune opposition mentioned above will continue today. You can continue to expect misunderstandings and a general lack of direction. But with the Sun involved we will also see a drop in the energy level in general. Lethargy and a sense of weakness will prevail. This is not a good day for any sort of confrontation. It's very possible that both of you will come out of it feeling very badly. There often is no winner when Neptune is around. This aspect can easily set off any existing difficulties one has with substance abuse of any sort. With Venus about to square Jupiter the scene is set for over-indulgences and a lack of common sense. This is usually a bad day for the equity markets. Confidence is very low.

VENUS SQUARES JUPITER:

On Tuesday August 27th at 5:53 P.M. EDT the two most fun-loving planets are in square. Over-indulgences are common, as Jupiter has little sense of limitations, and Venus is all about pleasures. Try to use a little common sense with alcohol, food, or other pleasures. Money may also be an issue as your usual boundaries may be muddled. Be careful not to spend more than you can afford. Romance may be in the air, but there too, it is important to keep some grasp on reality. Infatuation is quite possible, but often with this square situations can be blown out of proportion. Don't assume your new passion is more than a fleeting moment. Obsession is also possible, but you should certainly wait a few days before selling your furniture and moving in with your new paramour.

MARS ENTERS LEO:

Also On Tuesday August 27th at 10:05 P.M. EDT Mars enters this fixed fire sign. Mars rules the ego, and Leo rules the stage, so you can easily understand what to expect. People will be showy and somewhat pushy, based upon their personality. Many will use this transit to bolster a weak or underdeveloped ego, which is actually a positive manifestation. But those with an over abundance of ego energy to begin with may react in an arrogant and unsympathetic way. This planet feels at home here in a fire sign, due to its rulership of Aries and the triplicity effect. But you should try to keep your ego under control.

MERCURY TRINES PLUTO:

On Wednesday August 28th at 10:50 A.M. EDT this positive trine completes. It will be easier to get to the bottom of things today without upsetting others too much. This trine allows us to dig deeply and uncover things in a directed and positive manner. Deep and serious ideas will flow, and communications of all sorts will be more serious, but without the heaviness we would see if these two planets were in square or opposition. Get to the heart of the matter, and say what's on your mind. You can do so without fear of conflict or misunderstandings.

THE SUN SEXTILES SATURN:

On Friday August 30th at 1:16 A.M. EDT this very positive sextile completes. This is a good day for getting your work done. Finish work on whatever projects are sitting on your desk demanding your attention. You will be good with details and can work long hours without difficulty. This is a good aspect for making plans for the

future or making decisions about what direction to take a project or relationship. We will all be more realistic and controlled, and can use this energy to our advantage.

MERCURY SEXTILES JUPITER:

Also on Friday August 30th at 11:10 P.M. EDT this excellent transit follows the Sun sextile Saturn mentioned above, and we can build upon the foundation that aspect brings. Communication will be exciting and many big ideas will be suggested. Most of us will be feeling quite good and projecting a positive attitude. This is a good aspect for any important conversation and for pushing projects and plans forward. This is a future-oriented transit and we will all be looking further down the road than usual. Travel is especially favored, and any journey, long or short, will open our consciousness. This is a good aspect for beginning a long trek, but even a short drive into the country will bring much pleasure and awareness.

THE SUN TRINES PLUTO:

On Sunday September 1st at 4:43 A.M. EDT we begin September with this useful trine. As with the trine of Mercury to Pluto on August 28th (see above) this is a day to get to the heart of the matter and look at situations in an honest and open way. The trines allow us to use the energy of the two planets involved in unison without internal or external conflict. The Sun is the will, and Pluto is the depth of understanding that our unconscious recognizes. When these two are working well together there is much we can accomplish.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Thursday September 5th at 7:36 A.M. EST at 13 degrees Virgo 04 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 Daylight Time:

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.

August 6th 5:51 A.M. – August 7th 11:57 P.M. ***Moon is void more than 24 hours

August 9th 6:05 P.M. – August 10th 9:08 A.M.

August 11th 9:29 P.M. – August 12th 4:18 P.M. *** Moon is void almost 24 hours

August 14th 5:30 P.M. – 9:04 P.M.

August 16th 1:32 P.M. – 11:25 P.M.

August 18th 2:26 P.M. – August 19th 12:07 A.M.

August 20th 9:45 P.M. – August 21st 12:43 A.M.

August 22nd 9:38 P.M. – August 23rd 3:13 A.M.

August 25th 6:01 A.M. – 9:13 A.M.

August 27th 6:58 P.M. – 7:08 P.M.

August 29th 12:44 A.M. – August 30th 7:33 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hour

August 31st 8:06 P.M. – September 1st 8:01 P.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

September 3rd 1:52 P.M. – September 4th 6:43 A.M.

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

September 6th 6:10 A.M. – 3:12 P.M.

September 8th 4:46 P.M. – 9:44 P.M.

September 10th 5:21 A.M. – September 11th 2:36 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours



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