

# LIVING BY STARLIGHT

## an Astrological Newsletter

**DECEMBER 2013****AUTHOR'S NOTES:**

With this issue I complete my 14<sup>th</sup> year of writing *Living By Starlight*, a personal milestone. I have now reached the Saturn opposition in the chart of this newsletter; and as with all things under this aspect this is a time to reflect and consider if the project has been successful and if it will continue to be relevant in the future. I've had a lot of fun writing this newsletter, and through it have met many people I most likely never would have been introduced to otherwise. I'm most grateful to all those who have helped with this ongoing endeavor this past decade and a half – especially Shiran Nicholson and Yale Cohen for their incredible hard work and patience. And I'd also like to thank all of you for reading my words all these years. I've tried to bring you astrology in a useful and realistic way. I've made some of my best known predictions in this newsletter and have always attempted to use astrology as one of the tools to help us all make a better life. How successful I've been is very difficult for me to decide. But either way, it's now time for me to reflect upon this venture. Saturn transits are all about testing, and the result of those tests will decide my future path.

Jupiter and Saturn will create a trine on December 12<sup>th</sup>. This applying aspect has been a stabilizing force allowing many to expand their lives, portfolios, and perspective without fear of collapse. But with the completion of this transit we may see some of that structure dissipate. There hasn't been a real correction in the stock markets in more than a year. This is a very unhealthy situation that has been artificially created by the fed's stimulus actions. Without the normal ups and downs the markets and investors have an unrealistic attitude. Some stocks are terribly overvalued and their price should be adjusted. But the false synthetic environment that has brought the DOW to new highs will not allow much reality in. As often happens, many people are just now thinking of investing in the stocks. After all, where else can they make any money in this anemic environment? The problem is that they are investing in a market that is at the very top. Will it continue to go up? That's possible. But I'd be hesitant to jump on board now after such a long run up and facing the type of transits we have in store – leading up to the Grand Cross next April.

Uranus will be heavily aspected by the inner planets this month once it goes direct. Mars will oppose it on Christmas Day and Mercury & the Sun will square it a few days later. Because of the close proximity of it to Uranus, these inner planets will also create difficult aspects to Pluto as well. This is a week when caution will be absolutely necessary. These are all potential accident-prone transits and awareness will be the key to avoiding serious difficulties. **I expect some problems in general and possibly some violence during the holiday week. There could be an armed situation either with a terrorist or a home-grown malcontent. I pray this isn't so, but we should all keep our eyes open during these holidays.** The world has changed,

and we must change with it. When confronted by the series of transits we are about to face it would be foolish and irrational not to take any precautions available. We can't live in a box, nor be sheltered from all of life's difficulties. But awareness and caution are your best defenses against the rising tide.

### **NEW MOON:**

**The New Moon falls on Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:22 P.M. EST at 10 degrees Sagittarius 59 minutes.**

This is a New Moon full of hope and optimism. Sagittarius is far-sighted and likes to believe that the Promised Land is just around that next bend, which is fine as long as some logic and reality is involved in your decisions. This is a time to think about the future and to make plans that will increase your consciousness and expand the boundaries of your possibilities. But because Sagittarius precedes Capricorn in the zodiac we often expand things or begin new projects before we've had a chance to test the foundation they rest upon. That testing will occur when planets have moved from expansive Jupiter ruled Sagittarius into restrictive Saturn ruled Capricorn. It has seems to me that this is one of the main problems our species has always faced. The lesson from the bible of Joseph's interpretation of the Pharaoh's dream speaks directly to this issue. In the dream Pharaoh saw seven fat cows being consumed by seven emaciated ones, and seven withered ears of grain devouring seven healthy ones. Joseph saw this as prophesizing seven years of bounty followed by seven years of famine. He convinced Pharaoh who built huge buildings to store grain. When the years of famine came, Egypt was the only place in that part of the world to survive unscathed. This was Jupiter's expansion preceding Saturn's restrictions. Of course, as they say no good deed ever goes unpunished. As a result of Joseph's prophecy and the relative stability of the empire, most of the Israelites moved into Egypt during those years of famine, only to become the slaves of The Book of Exodus. Talk about the yoke of Saturn!

### **MERCURY ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:**

**On Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:42 P.M. EST** we will all become a bit chatty for the next three weeks. Be careful not to overextend your ideas or plans, and make sure there's a solid foundation underneath them. Remember, after leaving Sagittarius it will then travel through Capricorn, and you may find that some of your plans and ideas are too expansive to handle properly. Shortly after entering this sign Mercury will square Neptune (see below), which will confound and confuse many issues and in some ways set the pace for Mercury's transit through this sign.

### **MERCURY SQUARES NEPTUNE:**

**On Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:31 P.M. EST** this most confusing aspect completes. Caution is called for in all conversations and paperwork. Plans should not be finalized until this aspect has completed and you have a better perspective. Don't assume that all the information you are receiving is correct. Misunderstandings and mistakes are very common and you should double check all facts, and make absolutely sure you are understood and that you understand what has been said. This isn't a great day for travel. It's easy to be misdirected or distracted.

### **MARS ENTERS LIBRA:**

**On Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:41 P.M. EST** Mars enters the sign of its detriment, as it rules the opposite sign of Aries. Because of its retrograde motion it will remain in this sign until July 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be a feeling of indecision about many issues while this planet travels through Libra. Mars is a direct and active energy that prefers to deal with things straightforwardly and immediately. Libra is a passive-aggressive sign that prefers to avoid direct confrontation at all costs. The result is a suppressed and frustrated force that can be difficult to focus. Many born with this placement have a difficult time expressing anger. They often internalize it, which can cause a number of problems. While Mars is transiting here we will all have a bit of trouble releasing pent up tension. There just won't be as much force behind your anger, which some will misinterpret as passivity. It's just that it takes longer for the rage to come to the surface with Mars in Libra, not that the anger isn't there.

### **MERCURY TRINES URANUS:**

**On Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:05 P.M. EST** this creative and mentally stimulating aspect comes along. This is a day for new ideas and for stretching the boundaries of your intellect. Open your consciousness to any and all possibilities and you may discover some interesting concepts or possibilities you hadn't considered before. This is a good day for any travel, as even a short jaunt will expand your mind and help you clear out any cobwebs that have accumulated.

### **JUPITER TRINES SATURN:**

**On Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. EST** this stabilizing trine will complete. This is one of the most productive transits of all. Jupiter's desire to expand and enlarge ideas and plans will be carefully tempered by Saturn's need for structure and stability. However, with the passing of this trine some of the balance we have felt these past months will also pass away. As I said in the Author's Notes, we haven't had a real correction in the stock market in over a year. Although this aspect will come back again in May, the separation of this transit could easily manifest as a top in the markets. There are several aspects that point to that potential. But with enough will power it's possible to push that correction even further back.

### **FULL MOON:**

**This month's lunar peak occurs on Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:28 P.M. EST at 25 degrees Gemini 36 minutes.** Certainly we can expect some rather feisty conversations under this influence. Gemini does rule the lower mind and our day to day communications. But it also rules the 3<sup>rd</sup> house, which has much to do with all relationships and our ability to express our feelings towards each other. So you can expect some intensity in your relationships. I would use some caution for a day or so surrounding this aspect, particularly in your communications or while traveling, especially if this hits a sensitive point in your chart. This completes right as rush hour begins in NY. Should be an interesting commute home.

### **URANUS GOES DIRECT:**

**Also on Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:39 P.M. EST** this most erratic planet changes direction. You can expect some disruptions in several areas. There may be difficulty with electronic devices, cell phones, and

computers. Many ideas that we have been mulling over in our internal conversation will be presented to the world now. In a few days Uranus will be harshly aspected by Mars, Mercury, and the Sun (see below), and we will have a brief period of severe challenges. Uranus is all about personal freedom and the need to express oneself without restrictions. As it changes direction, those issues will become foremost in many of our lives. Anything that has been holding you back may become intolerable, especially while those quicker moving aspects are in play. But be careful what changes you allow. There is the risk of overreacting to a minor restriction and creating havoc where one could simply sidestep an issue. With this planet it's very easy to throw out the baby with the bathwater. (I wonder if anyone has ever actually done that!)

### **THE SUN ENTERS CAPRICORN:**

**On Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:11 P.M. EST** we enter stoic Saturn-ruled Capricorn. This is a time of limitations and responsibilities. It usually the month when winter finally shows its frigid face and we must deal with the actuality of the restrictions this season places on our species. We will spend more time inside and less time socializing. It's a time to bury our nuts, so to speak, and insure there is enough to last until the next growing season. Of course, our society has changed greatly since the old days. Most of us now have food at our fingertips all year long and don't have to worry that the storehouses will be empty or the next harvest won't satisfy our needs. Now it's more a matter of fulfilling our personal goals and ensuring a harvest of ideas and hard work. Use this month to put your work in order and clean up any unfinished business. It's not the best time to begin a new project. As I've mentioned a number of times through the years, it's quite interesting that the shopping season falls mostly in expansive, frivolous Sagittarius, while the actual holidays of Christmas and New Year's fall in Capricorn.

### **VENUS RETROGRADES:**

**Also on Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:53 P.M. EST** Venus will begin its backward motion. This will keep Venus in stogy old Capricorn until March 5<sup>th</sup>, a very long time for this planet to remain here. Romance will take a conservative turn for the next few months. The tried and true will look much more appealing, and for many singles this may be a period of frustration and limitations in dating when you may be asked to choose between a ring and the exit. Not everyone wants to be married, but with Venus firmly stuck in this sign many will at least need a reason beyond the promise of a cheap brunch to express passion. Financial matters will also be rather conservative and limited. This could also represent the correction in the stock markets so many have been waiting for. Venus rules money, and its journey through Capricorn could mean a dip in the equities.

### **MERCURY ENTERS CAPRICORN:**

**On Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:12 A.M. EST** Mercury joins the Sun Pluto and Venus in this sign. This will be a decidedly reserved few weeks when responsibilities and obligations will take precedent over any frivolous endeavors. Get your office in order, plan your finances, and have those serious conversations you may have been putting off. If you deal with Capricorn directly and honestly and face your responsibilities, this will be a very productive and useful time.

**THE SUN SEXTILES NEPTUNE:**

**Also on Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:06 P.M. EST** this creative aspect comes along. This is a good day for all creative endeavors. It might be a good time to write a Christmas song. There will be a feeling of empathy and understanding, but it won't last long. We are about to begin a week of erratic and potentially dangerous transits that will require our attention. So this is a good day to put your priorities in order and recognizes how much you care about your projects, friendships, and many of the issues in your life that are about to be tested over the next week.

**MARS OPPOSES URANUS:**

**On Wednesday December 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:33 A.M. EST** this potentially explosive aspect arrives right on Christmas Day. Because it completes so early in the morning it is actually Christmas Eve that harbors the most potential for trouble. If you must travel the night of the 24<sup>th</sup>, please use caution and take your time. The combination of these two energies is an accident waiting to happen. Tempers may flair and it's easy to lose your cool. If this transit is setting off your chart and you're feeling angry, let someone else drive. Try to think before you act. The impulsive nature of this transit is often acted out by the individual without even realizing how they are behaving. Mercury will square Uranus in a few days (see below), and the Sun will square Uranus as well, both of which will add even more oomph to the situation.

**THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:**

**On Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:28 A.M. EST** we will all be a bit willful. Because this conjunct happens in Capricorn it will be a little restrained, but the underlying attitude will be arrogant and demanding. If you have something to say you will say it now, so try to phrase things in an honest but non-aggressive manner. With Mercury in square to Uranus now as well (see below) it will be easy to overstate your case or just lose your control altogether.

**MERCURY SQUARES URANUS:**

**Also on Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:48 P.M. EST** Mercury will also square Uranus. This is a very dangerous and excitable transit that demands our attention. Communications and travel will be especially disruptive and we should all pay attention to the here and now. It's very easy to be distracted by Uranus. People may fly off the handle or say things they will regret later on. Try to use caution in your speech. Some brilliant ideas may come to some, and if you can control the urge to leap before you look, you will be able to institute some of them. With Mars just past the opposition, and the Sun about to square Uranus as well (see below) this could be an explosive holiday week.

**THE SUN SQUARE URANUS:**

**On Monday December 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:05 A.M. EST** the final aspect to Uranus competes. This is another day that demands caution and awareness. People will be angry and explosive, and you would be wise to sidestep any aggression or confrontation you possibly can. Things will be blown out of proportion, and since Uranus

rules all things explosive, the potential for trouble is very real. Because of the close proximity between Pluto and Uranus, these planets will also aspect our distant diminutive non-planet (Pluto), so once this completes we aren't out of the woods quite yet. Mars square Pluto will overlap this aspect and create even more potential difficulties.

### **MARS SQUARES PLUTO:**

**Also on Monday December 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:16 P.M. EST** this square coincides with the Sun square Uranus mentioned above, and it will add another layer to the difficult and potentially harmful energy being emitted. This is most certainly a day to avoid disputes. There are few things so important that they can't be delayed until after the New Year. The energy will be very intense and anyone whose chart is being negatively aspected by these transits will feel the force of them and respond accordingly. Act defensively and try to avoid confrontations. You probably won't be able to avoid them all, but be aware of the force around you and recognize how easy it is to be pulled into disputes or to get involved inadvertently in an angry or violent altercation.

### **MERCURY CONJUNCTS PLUTO & SQUARES MARS:**

**On Tuesday December 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:24 A.M. & 9:59 A.M. EST** tempers will continue to flair and communication will be fraught with danger. Many people will have a short fuse today and it will be quite easy to set someone off. We will all tend to speak first and think second, a dangerous situation under any circumstances. But under this complex set of transits there is more than the usual possibility of disputes and confrontations. The square to Mars will bring anger and frustration to the surface, while the conjunct to Pluto will dig deeply into the unconscious and draw up long forgotten rage and unfinished business that should probably be dealt with under more benign aspects. This entire past week is potentially explosive and violent in nature. Protect yourself and sidestep whatever you can. Well, at least we'll be able to say that 2013 went out with a bang.

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

**The next New Moon falls on Wednesday January 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:14 A.M. EST at 10 degrees Capricorn 57 minutes, and it conjuncts Pluto! 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](mailto: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 Standard 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.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:45 P.M. – December 4<sup>th</sup> 1:49 A.M.

December 6<sup>th</sup> 12:31 A.M. – 1:53 A.M.

December 7<sup>th</sup> 7:11 A.M. – December 8<sup>th</sup> 2:34 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all day

December 10<sup>th</sup> 1:41 A.M. – 8:06 A.M.

December 12<sup>th</sup> 10:37 A.M. – 3:40 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void half a day

December 14<sup>th</sup> 9:54 P.M. – December 15<sup>th</sup> 1:41 A.M.

December 17<sup>th</sup> 4:28 A.M. – 1:17 P.M.

December 19<sup>th</sup> 11:37 P.M. – December 20<sup>th</sup> 1:41 A.M.

December 22<sup>nd</sup> 8:25 A.M. – 2:19 P.M.

December 24<sup>th</sup> 10:54 P.M. – December 25<sup>th</sup> 1:17 A.M.

December 27<sup>th</sup> 6:00 A.M. – 8:58 A.M.

December 29<sup>th</sup> 8:54 A.M. – 12:37 P.M.

December 30<sup>th</sup> 6:36 A.M. – December 31<sup>st</sup> 1:01 P.M. \*\*\* Moon is void a day & a half

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

January 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:11 A.M. – 12:03 P.M.

January 3<sup>rd</sup> 8:46 P.M. – January 4<sup>th</sup> 11:58 A.M.

January 6<sup>th</sup> 4:44 A.M. – 2:45 P.M.



**November 2013**

**New York City**

**(212) 726-3814**

**<http://www.mitcastro.com>**

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