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LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

February – March 2013

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

This month we will have a great deal of Pisces energy. The Sun, Mercury, Mars, Venus, and Neptune will all be traveling through this confusing sign, and with most of them in conjunct to Neptune at some point, expect a great deal of misdirection and misunderstandings. This is a great deal of energy in one sign, and because it is this most elusive of elements it requires our strict attention. It's easy to make mistakes or miss the meaning behind events, conversations, and interaction with others.

This month we will also see Saturn and Mercury retrograde. Each will have an effect on our culture and our individual lives. Mercury retrogrades three times a year. Saturn only once. The retrograde of any planet internalizes that planet's energy and purpose. Because Mercury is going backwards in Pisces we can expect a lot of confusion and misdirection. Caution is certainly called for, and some extra effort towards clarity would be wise.

Saturn will sextile Pluto this month as well for the first of two passes. This configuration has produced some stability in our financial markets. Once this completes we will see that stability fade away. Because it will return in the fall, there will still be some support underneath. It will complete at the end of September 2013, at which time its effects will pass away rather quickly, and the underlying weakness will become apparent.

We are heading into a very dangerous period for our financial markets. The large majority of stock market crashes throughout our nation's history have coincided with a negative aspect to Saturn from one of the outer planets. **In April 2013 Saturn (planet of stability) will inconjunct Uranus (sudden, explosive changes).** The inconjunct (150 degrees) is a difficult transit to feel. While an opposition (180 degrees) is very prominent and obvious, the inconjunct is one sign off on either side to the opposition. It is a distractive and misdirecting energy that often brings on major issues, involving health, relationships, or financial matters. But in all of those incidences you can look back and see how you could have prevented the situation by being more aware. It is the distractive nature of the inconjunct that creates this atmosphere. It isn't as direct or powerful as the opposition, but it should be sufficient to drop the stocks quite a bit.

Saturn opposed Uranus in 2008 - 10. It led to the stock market crash and the current recession/depression. That aspect is incredibly powerful and its effects will last for years after it passes. The last time we had this was 1965-7. This was followed by a 16 years bear market. If you look at the chart of the DOW during those 16 years you will see that the stocks closed in 1982 exactly where they were in

1967. During the ensuing 16 years period the stocks made new highs several times, only to collapse immediately after. These are called bear market rallies, whether they last a week or a year. It wasn't until 1983 that we began another bull market.

Europe and the Euro are still in terrible shape. That currency was born on January 1st 1999 at midnight. This give the Euro a 10 degree Capricorn Sun. **Pluto is now at 10 degrees Capricorn putting great pressure on that currency. Uranus will hit 10 degrees Aries (a square) April 25th 2013, which may result in a sudden and rather explosive event that could upset the foundation of the Euro.** This is right on a 5 degree Scorpio Full Moon. **In March 2013 Saturn will square the Uranus in the Euro's chart, ruler of the 5th house of trading.** That should put a crunch on the Euro, and following it with the Pluto and Uranus aspects will prove daunting. So this spring will be a very dangerous time for the European commonwealth and its currency.

That Full Moon on April 25th will square the nodes in America's chart. Using the 12 degree Sagittarius ascendant, which I favor, the north node falls in the 8th house of other people's resources and things held jointly. Pluto and the 8th house rule the trading markets – resources held by the collective. This bodes badly for the currencies of our allies.

All of this is leading up to April 20th 2014, a date I have been writing about for some time. There will be a powerful and dangerous grand cross at 13-14 degrees cardinal exactly hitting America's Sun in Cancer. This will represent a culmination of the energies leading up to this date. The year leading up to it will show the weakness underneath our foundation with a series of events that could shake us up quite severely. **Uranus will be in square to Pluto with Mars in square to Jupiter, all within a degree of each other. Jupiter will sit exactly on America's Sun.** Jupiter was exactly on America's Sun in 1847 when gold was discovered in California, leading to the gold rush, an inflation of prices, and a major distortion in values. This is a moment in history that we will all remember. I expect a number of incidences during the coming year as we approach this configuration. The price of gold will spike up out of panic. But it will be temporary and those looking to invest in it should be very cautious. It isn't a real commodity, but a hedge against others and a source of false security in an insecure world. You should be aware of history. In the 1970s the Hunt Brothers from Texas attempted to corner the silver market. They ran the price up from about \$2.00 an ounce to over \$50.00. Then in 1980 the Feds came in and changed the game. The price collapsed quickly. On Thursday March 27th 1980 the price dropped overnight to \$10.00 and ounce wiping out the large majority of speculative investors, many of whom lost everything.

There isn't enough gold in the earth to put us back on the gold standard, unless we make the price a million dollars and ounce. Our world has changed, and money has morphed into an unreal commodity with nothing but our faith to back it.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Sunday February 10th at 2:20 A.M. EST at 21 degrees Aquarius 43 minutes, and again it's a Void of Course New Moon. The Aquarian New Moon is interested in the unusual and erratic. There is a strong desire to explore and experiment. The tried and true will seem dull and boring. But along with this need for excitement are instability and a changeable attitude. Look for new and different ways of seeing your life and the world around you, but don't put too much faith in your new found projects or relationships until they have shown a stable foundation. Because this is another void of course New Moon you may find that many things will not turn out as planned. Try to open your consciousness to the unexpected and you won't be disappointed.

MARS SQUARES JUPITER:

Also on Sunday February 10th at 3:12 A.M. EST this exciting but somewhat uncontrollable aspect completes. This is the ego (Mars) working without boundaries or limitations (Jupiter), and it will require focus and concentration in order to keep things in perspective. I have found that the first aspect after a New Moon in many ways sets the tone for that lunar cycle. With this aspect setting off the Aquarian New Moon we may find this month unpredictable and in many ways, uncontrollable. Caution and respect are called for, but that is exactly what will be missing. Arrogance or overly assertiveness is common with this square. Try to keep a handle on it.

VENUS SQUARES SATURN:

On Monday February 11th at 1:42 A.M. EST this difficult aspect comes along. There is a tendency to withdraw and put up walls. It may be quite hard to express yourself, especially to a loved one. This is a day to go off by yourself and think things through. There is a need to test your most personal relationships, whether it is a romance or close friendship, and it is easier to do so from a distance. Don't make any permanent decisions about a relationship now. You are only seeing the worst of things and you should wait until this energy passes. Then if you still wish to change the connection, do so.

MERCURY SEXTILES PLUTO AND TRINES SATURN:

On Tuesday February 12th at 12:58 A.M. & 2:15 P.M. EST this pair of positive aspects completes. Because Saturn and Pluto will be in sextile to each other later this month they will both be aspected by several of the quicker moving planets in rapid order. These Mercury transits are productive and may help us all dig deeply into our communications and plans. The sextile of Mercury to Pluto gives us an opportunity to uncover the truth about things and find solutions to our problems that we may have not seen before. The trine to Saturn will create a foundation for your communications. This is a good day for any important conversation, especially if you need to delve deeply into matters. But remember that superficial communication will not suffice now and even if you wish to keep things light and airy you probably won't be able to. Because this is a sextile and trine we can use the energy more proactively, but it doesn't change its basic nature. This is still Saturn, Pluto, and Mercury interacting.

MARS SEXTILES PLUTO:

On Friday February 15th at 1:14 P.M. EST is the 2nd of the inner planets interacting with that Saturn-Pluto sextile. Mars is unbridled energy, while Pluto and Saturn together are the epitome of control. When in conflict this combination creates a stressful and dangerous atmosphere. But when they are in positive aspect like this we can control the ego and physical force that Mars creates and direct it where it will do us the most good. As long as there is direction and progression the usual ego conflicts can be avoided. Stay active and be direct and honest with others and you will make the most of this and the following aspect.

MARS TRINES SATURN:

On Saturday February 16th at 11:14 A.M. EST the 2nd half of this aspect completes. Mars and Saturn never really get a long, although they have a sort of truce when in sextile or trine. This trine and the sextile above give us a chance to push our egos and assertiveness into positive and useful situations. This is a good opportunity to move projects and ideas forward without the usual resistance from the outside world.

THE SUN ENTERS PISCES:

On Monday February 18th at 7:02 A.M. EST we enter the mutable water sign. Pisces is ruled by Neptune and is more interested in the ethereal side of life. For the next month much of our collective attention will be turned towards a spiritual or charitable perspective. There is much confusion associated with this sign and its ruler, Neptune, and its reputation is well-founded. You will have to work to clear away the Neptunian fog and the misdirection that often accompanies it. This is the 12th and last sign of the zodiac and we are all completing things in preparation for the true New Year, the first day of Aires.

SATURN RETROGRADES:

Also on Monday February 18th at 12:03 P.M. Saturn begins its yearly backward motion. From now until July 8th many issues regarding business, finances, and the foundation of things will be internalized. There will be delays and frustration when attempting to move projects forward or solidify any material issues. This is a time to shore up the internal structure and make sure your values and attitude towards money and possessions is working to your advantage. Many businesses and projects start under this aspect, and many are quite successful. But they all have to deal with the retrograde and the limitations it brings. If possible wait until this goes direct in July and then begin your new and innovative projects. Creative things will do well now, but don't present them to the public until this turns around.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:

On Thursday February 21st at 2:19 A.M. EST this difficult and perplexing transit comes along. With all these planets in Neptune-ruled Pisces there will be a lot of misdirection and misunderstandings for a few days surrounding this aspect. But it's not over that quickly. With Mercury about to retrograde in Pisces (see below) the next month or so will be a very confusing time. You can not take things at face value now. You should investigate important issues and make sure your information is clear and correct. Miscommunications, errors, and accidents are very common.

This is usually a very bad aspect for the equity markets and I wouldn't be surprised by a sharp drop in the

stocks. The Saturn-Pluto sextile has completed for now and we may see the bottom drop.

MERCURY RETROGRADES:

On Saturday February 23rd at 4:41 A.M. EST Mercury begins its thrice a year turnaround. Until **March 17th at 4:03 P.M. EST** when Mercury goes direct again we all must use caution and focus our attention on what is in front of us. It is very easy to get distracted and make mistakes when Mercury is in retrograde in any sign. But while traveling through Neptune-ruled Pisces it will be especially difficult to see things clearly or to come to a logical conclusion. And it is most important that you take the time to plan carefully and use logic in communications and travel. Double check all plans and make absolutely sure you understand what someone is saying and that you are understood. Miscommunication is one of the most dangerous things about the Mercury retrogrades in general, and occurring in Pisces will only muddle the waters even more.

There has been much debate in the astrology community lately about the so-called “shadow phase” of retrogrades. The theory is that for a time before and after the retrograde its actions are felt in the collective. For example, some believe that if Mercury begins to retrograde at 19 degrees Pisces the effects of the retrograde won't be released until Mercury returns to that 19 degree point, which will not happen until April 7th. I have not found this to be true. In predictive astrology I do believe this is a correct way of dealing with issues that began before the retrograde, and calculating the time of the ultimate outcome of a situation will have to include that 19 degree point. If you started a situation right before the retrograde it probably won't be resolved until Mercury returns to the place it began to go backwards. This includes legal matters, health issues, career events, relationships, etc. However, the retrograde itself ends when the planet goes direct. For a few days after Mercury turns around there are often very upsetting and confusing events and thoughts. But that is a result of the redirection of the planet, not its shadow phase.

While Mercury is retrograde you should not sign important papers, have delicate or difficult medical procedures done, nor should you instigate any major changes. Use the time of the retrograde to analyze, examine, and discuss things. But wait until it goes direct before implementing those changes.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Monday February 25th at 3:26 P.M. EST at 07 degrees Virgo 24 minutes. Virgo is the sign of the auditor. When Saturn, ruler of the banks, entered Virgo in September 2007 the banking industry was put under a microscope and found deeply flawed. This led to the near collapse of our banks and the bail out of so many of our major financial institutions. This Full Moon will carry some of that energy and we will all be scrutinizing our lives to see if the foundation is strong. This will manifest in personal relationships, business decisions, and all other areas that need to be looked over. Some of the problems in our financial markets may very well become clear around this time.

THE SUN SQUARES JUPITER:

Also on Monday February 25th at 5:26 P.M. EST this expansive and overblown aspect completes. Things

could get blown out of proportion and any situation that is less than solid may be shaken up quite a bit. This is an optimistic and outgoing energy, and people will be sociable. But it isn't realistic or focused. It tends to be arrogant and opinionated, and the lack of boundaries can cause difficulties, especially in relationships. If you use a little caution and put limitations in place this can be a very enjoyable and productive aspect.

VENUS ENTERS PISCES:

Also on Monday February 25th at 9:03 P.M. EST the planet of love and possessions joins the Sun, Mercury, Mars, and Neptune in this confusing sign. There is a whole lot of Pisces energy around us right now, so don't expect things to be clear or concise. Fogginess is to be expected, and decisions should be well thought out and not acted upon in haste. Relationships may be exceptionally difficult to sort through and you must try to push away Neptune's illusions and get to the truth behind the fog. The problem is that this combination wants universal love, not personal. Money will also be difficult to handle properly, so be careful with your funds.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS MARS:

On Tuesday February 26th at 4:09 A.M. EST this difficult aspect comes along. There will be a lot of energy in communications, also a lot of anger. Use caution for a day or so leading up to this transit. Although it completes early in the morning its effects will be felt the night before. Because this is taking place in Pisces, some of the tension will be hidden. But that doesn't lessen its strength or effects. In fact, it is easier to deal with stress when it is upfront and recognizable. It's important to be aware of what is going and to try to bring things out into the open. Then you can at least see the anger and react as you wish, rather than assume everything is okay only to find out too late that it isn't.

VENUS CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:

On Thursday February 28th at 8:37 A.M. EST more Neptune energy is presented to us. Confusion in romance is common with this aspect. There is a cloud around things and it's very difficult to see someone else clearly. If you have a tendency to overindulge, especially in alcohol or drugs (legal or illegal has no bearing on this issue) you must use caution and keep your eyes open. This can be a confusing day for the stocks and commodities, especially cotton.

THE SUN SEXTILES PLUTO AND TRINES SATURN:

On Friday March 1st at 8:35 A.M. & 3:31 P.M. EST this positive pair of aspects will help us keep things in perspective. With so much Pisces energy around this month anything that is reality oriented should be embraced. For a day or so surrounding these aspects look for the strength and foundation that is in your life. Don't allow the Neptune fog to overwhelm you. The sextile to Pluto wants us to delve deeply into conversations and situations. But because it is a sextile it can be used proactively and shouldn't become compulsive, as the conjunct, opposition, or square would. The trine to Saturn will certainly give us a solid footing for a little while. Look over your plans and objectives and see which are based in reality. Those that are should be pushed forward towards fruition. Those that are less realistic should be set aside for another

time.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

On Monday March 4th 7:58 A.M. EST a willful attitude will prevail. Most of us will be anxious to say what's on our minds. This is a positive energy when used properly. You can get past a lot of the B.S. that interferes with communication, and get to the heart of the matter. But as those born with this conjunct in their natal charts can attest, it's easy to act in an aggressive and at times inappropriate manner, thus pushing people away. Communication and thoughts will be active and direct, but sometimes in too pushy a way. Take a deep breath before saying what's on your mind. And if there is resistance from the other person you may be better off letting things go until another day, rather than beating them over the head with your opinion. This is often a top or bottom for the long bonds and soybeans.

VENUS SQUARES JUPITER:

Also on Monday March 4th at 8:35 A.M. EST this outlandish square occurs. The quest for pleasure and satisfaction knows no boundaries under this aspect. Overindulgence, especially in food and spending, is very common. Love can be quite exciting, but will be blown out of proportion. A relationship begun under this square may be exciting but it will be very difficult to handle. Remember, there is a reason Saturn is exalted in Libra. Relationships do much better when there is structure and some boundaries.

VENUS SEXTILES PLUTO AND TRINES SATURN:

On Wednesday March 6th at 9:01 P.M. & 10:07 P.M. EST Venus positively aspects the Saturn-Pluto sextile. This is quite different from the Venus square Jupiter a few days ago. Now there is some reality and structure to your plans. Attraction may not be as exciting, but it will be stronger and have more staying power. If you're over 29 you would probably prefer a relationship born under this pair of aspects. There is depth to the feelings and understanding with the sextile of Venus to Pluto. And there is the ability to withstand a lot of stress with the trine to Saturn. This would be a good day for any important financial discussion or for creating a budget.

MERCURY TRINES SATURN & SEXTILES PLUTO:

On Thursday March 7th at 2:17 A.M. & 3:26 A.M. EST Mercury completes the reverse aspects to the ones Venus experienced above. Thoughts and communication will be stable and sincere. This is a good day for any important conversation. You will delve deeply into the subject without becoming overly obsessive. And you will stay on course. If you have to take a test or have an important interview try to schedule it for today. Travel will go smoothly but will be mostly for business or errands.

SATURN SEXTILES PLUTO:

On Friday March 8th at 3:03 A.M. EST this sextile finally completes. This is one of the reasons our markets haven't collapsed yet. Pluto rules all things held jointly, such as trading pits, and Saturn is stability. There is a mutual receptivity between these two as well – they are each in the sign ruled by the other. This adds to the

usability of the energies of the two planets and gives us an atmosphere of stability, fleeting though it will be. As long as this aspect is in play things won't completely collapse. This sextile completes for the last time in October 2013. Then we lose a strong part of our foundation. In 2015-16 Saturn will square Neptune, a very unstable transit. At that point we will all look back longingly at this period of stability.

MERCURY SQUARES JUPITER:

On Saturday March 9th at 10:38 P.M. EST there will be a lot of hot air in the room, whatever room you're in. This is the aspect of the con-artist. Try to see beyond the pretty words and hear what is actually being said. Jupiter doesn't like limitations of any sort, and since Mercury rules thoughts and communication there is a good chance that a discussion could get out of hand. Travel may be difficult today as well. The urge to roam is strong, but distraction is also. Pay attention. And if you find it difficult to do so, don't put yourself in a position where it is necessary.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Monday March 11th at 3:51 P.M. EST at 21 degree Pisces 24 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.

February 10th 2:20 A.M. – 4:20 P.M.

February 11th 12:03 P.M. – February 12th 8:51 P.M. *** Moon is void 1½ days

February 14th 10:35 P.M. – February 15th 5:08 A.M.

February 17th 3:31 P.M. – 4:50 P.M.

February 19th 1:48 P.M. – February 20th 5:45 A.M.

February 21st 9:08 P.M. – February 22nd 5:12 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

February 24th 11:50 P.M. – February 25th 1:52 A.M.

February 26th 1:13 P.M. – February 27th 8:02 A.M.

February 28th 3:37 A.M. – March 1st 12:33 P.M. *** Moon is void 1½ days

March 3rd 4:19 A.M. – 4:11 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

March 5th 10:28 A.M. – 7:14 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

March 7th 4:14 P.M. – 10:02 P.M.

March 8th 5:08 P.M. – March 10th 1:19 A.M. *** Moon is void 1½ days

March 13th 4:01 A.M. – March 14th 3:08 P.M. *** Moon is void 1½ days

March 16th 7:11 P.M. – March 17th 2:09 A.M.

March 19th 1:27 P.M. – 2:55 P.M.

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