

MONTHLY SINCE 1999
ISSUE # 166

LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

January – February 2013

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

Jupiter goes direct this month. When any planet changed direction it shows the reversal of the energy that planet represents. While Jupiter is in retrograde the concepts of escalation, expansion, and an increase in consciousness are internalized. Much of the growth we experience during these periods takes place within us. Our internal conversation will bring us unconsciously towards new and enlarged ideas and possibilities. Once Jupiter turns around and goes direct again, that growth can now manifest more in the outside world. The new ideas and plans we have been mulling over since October 2012 when it began its retrograde motion will become more apparent and obvious. This is a time to consider new projects or a new phase of an ongoing one. This is often a bullish indicator for the stock markets. Expect at least a temporary upswing in the equities.

The positive Saturn-Pluto sextile has been quite effective in many areas of society. As I predicted, the congress passed at least a short-term solution to the fiscal crisis partially based on this sextile. It will return in March and September, and will continue to put a temporary foundation underneath the financial problems we face.

Of course this sextile is not sufficient to clear up long-term problems or overcome the Uranus-Pluto square we are still dealing with. That square will reach a peak in April 2014 as part of the Grand Cross I have been writing about for the past year. On April 20th (Hitler's birthday, by the way) 2014 we will see that Uranus-Pluto square connect exactly to the Mars-Jupiter square creating an enormous Grand Cross at 13 degrees cardinal, exactly on America's 13 degree Cancer Sun.

This April 2013 Saturn will inconjunct Uranus. This may be a very shaky time for the stocks. It is almost always an affliction to Saturn that represents severe dips in the markets, and I would suggest caution this coming spring. It may be best to sit on the sidelines for a few weeks and see how this plays out. I will continue to discuss this aspect in the coming months. This is not the typical transit one would expect to see in a crash, but when these two planets are in conflict, as they were in November 2008, they deserve respect. They were in opposition in November 2008, and I'm sure you all remember what happened then.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Friday January 11th at 2:44 P.M. EST at 21 degrees Capricorn 46 minutes, and it's a Void of Course New Moon. The Capricorn New Moon implies that this is a month of responsibilities

and dealing with the most important issues facing us. It isn't a frivolous time and any wasted action will feel out of place. This and the next several New Moons will be void of course, due to their late degree. When the New Moon is VOC we can not expect things to work out the way we had planned. While this in no way means that we can't get things done, or that failure is the implied end result, we must all keep an open mind and assume that things will not go as planned.

VENUS SQUARES URANUS:

On Saturday January 12th at 11:13 P.M. EST this erratic and rather strange aspect completes. There will be a number of Venus aspects in a row, and each had its own energy and results. This one can result in a sudden infatuation or romantic connection. There is no stability when Uranus is involved, and any relationship that begins under this aspect will most likely be short-lived and unsustainable. Many of us will be drawn to unusual people or ideas. If they fit your lifestyle, have fun. If not, you may regret any action taken. Money matters will also be erratic and unpredictable. Some of us may win a fortune, others may lose one. How open you are to the unexpected will decide how well you handle it. Many existing relationships could be upset or ended under this square, if it hits your chart just so.

VENUS CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Wednesday January 16th at 8:27 P.M. EST the more compulsive side of things will enter your relationships and financial situations. If you started something on the Venus square Uranus, it may become an issue now as your obsessive side takes over. If you tend towards obsessive-compulsive behavior, or if there are psychological problems that can lead to this kind of reaction you must use caution. This transit demands that you delve deeply into any issues regarding your close relationships or money matters. It is difficult to let go of things, and you will tend to dig into these situations.

VENUS SEXTILES SATURN:

On Thursday January 17th at 11:03 A.M. EST the third in this series of Venus transits completes. The square to Uranus may have begun a new relationship or upset an existing one. The conjunct to Pluto demanded your strictest attention and depth of understanding. Now Saturn will test those results and bring a sense of reality to an otherwise unreal and unstable situation. Today you may decide whether something begun this past week is to your liking in the long-run. If not you may end it now. This is a more realistic transit than the two mentioned above, and the process of discovery (Uranus) and unveiling (Pluto) will be completed by the need for structure and longevity that Saturn represents. Very often things begun under Uranus' need for fresh and new ideas get changed or dismissed when Saturn's need for foundation and stability comes along.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

On Friday January 18th at 3:56 A.M. EST this frequent transit comes along. This is a day of willful speech and lively discussions. Be careful how you talk to others. You may be coming off harsher than you realize. But generally this is a good day for any important talk. Most people will say what's on their minds without

hesitation. Travel is favored, especially short trips. Take a ride out to the country or get your errands done. This conjunct is often a reversal in direction for the long bonds and soybeans.

MERCURY ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Saturday January 19th at 2:25 A.M. EST Mercury enters this erratic sign where it is exalted. Thoughts and ideas will be unusual and will come quickly and steadily. Look for different ways of seeing your life and your problems. You may find a new way of dealing with things that have been hard to understand or work through. Mercury (and Gemini) rules the lower mind; our day to day thoughts and the synapses of the brain. The RAM of our computer brains, if you will. Uranus (and Aquarius) rules the higher mental functions and the hard drive, so to speak. When Mercury enters this sign or is aspected by Uranus the two parts of the brain work in tandem and allow us to use both brain functions simultaneously. This will be a few weeks of intellectual activity when ideas and solutions may come from unexpected sources. Keep an open mind and try to listen to the information you are receiving. It won't come in the usual way and if you aren't aware you could easily miss something very important.

THE SUN ENTERS AQUARIUS:

Also on Saturday January 19th at 4:52 P.M. EST we enter the fixed part of winter. Aquarius is one of the most erratic and unusual of the 12 signs. Its perspective differs from the other signs and tends to see things from outside the box. Expect the unexpected and allow yourself freedom to meander through your life. The worst thing you can do around this sign and its ruler, Uranus is to stifle or limit your possibilities. Freedom of thought and movement is the key to successfully using this energy. This is not a time to settle on the tried and true, but to explore and experiment. Just make sure your foundation is secure and you can experience new and adventurous things.

MERCURY SEXTILES URANUS AND TRINES JUPITER:

On Tuesday January 22nd at 5:28 A.M. & 9:26 P.M. EST this positive pair of aspects comes along. With Mercury in Aquarius in sextile to its ruler, Uranus ideas will flow quickly and without restraint. Add the energy of Jupiter and you will have a day of fast moving thoughts and uninhibited speech. This is a good day for any important conversation or negotiations. Continue to explore the world and keep your mind as open to new concepts as possible. You'd be surprised at what may come out under these transits.

THE SUN SEXTILES URANUS:

On Thursday January 24th at 11:45 P.M. EST we continue this incredible Uranian energy. This month is all about new ideas, people, and projects. Do not tie yourself to a computer screen or limit your input in any way. Open your mind and you heart to any unusual situations. The worst thing you can do when Uranus is active is try to control its effects. It won't work anyway, and you'll miss a great opportunity for knowledge. This is a day for exploration and adventure.

MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:

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On Friday January 25 at 1:42 P.M. EST this limiting and restraining transit comes along. This energy is very much the antithesis of the Uranian force we have dealt with this past week. Today your thoughts will be stifled and demand that we all pay more attention to details. Where Uranus is interested in freedom and abhors restrictions of any kind, Saturn embraces them and uses everything in its path to secure a strong foundation. People will be reticent about saying what's on their minds. Don't push too hard or you will meet saturnine resistance. This is a good aspect for looking over paperwork or contracts. It's not a great day for chatting or social gatherings. The Sun will trine Jupiter later in the evening and the energy will change sufficiently to allow for more pleasurable activities at night.

THE SUN TRINES JUPITER:

Also on Friday January 25th at 10:56 P.M. EST this wonderful trine completes. The energy today will shift quite noticeably once that Mercury square Saturn begins to separate. As the evening comes on we will all feel this trine and be more sociable and outgoing. This is a very good aspect for gatherings or entertainment of any sort. Travel is also favored, although this is a quick moving aspect and it probably won't lead to a major journey. A ride in the country or other short trip will do quite well towards opening your consciousness. And that is what Jupiter wants us to do.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Saturday January 26th at 11:38 P.M. EST at 07 degrees Leo 24 minutes. Leo rules the stage, and the Full Moon in this fixed fire sign often brings out the ham in us all. Try not to be overly dramatic, but express yourself and have some fun doing it. Leo also rules the 5th house of creativity, romance, children, and games. Be playful, but try not to go overboard. All Full Moons demand our respect and attention, and the unbending willfulness of Leo could create some situations where there is little room for compromise. If possible you should avoid direct confrontations when you can. And if you feel as though your back is against a wall, it may be best to just walk away for the time being and consider things at a later date when the celestial tug of war isn't so apparent.

JUPITER GOES DIRECT:

On Wednesday January 30th at 6:37 A.M. EST the planet of growth and optimism finally turns back around. Any situation that requires expansion will find the room to grow. Projects that have been put on hold will begin to move forward again. It's time to take the inner growth we have all been working on these past months and project it out into the world. This is often a reversal in the equities markets, usually to the upside. I expect this to be at least a brief upswing in the stocks. Jupiter rules higher consciousness, education, and travel. All of these situations will be more active and any venture that relates to them will be productive and rewarding. If you have been delaying a trip or waiting to sign up for a class in cave painting, now would be a good time to begin.

THE SUN SQUARES SATURN:

Also on Wednesday January 30th at 5:49 P.M. EST this difficult aspect comes along. This is a low energy

day and not a good time for socializing or trying new things. This is a time to complete unfinished business and pay attention to responsibilities and obligations. Focus on what's most important and use your limited energy where it is most needed first. Many people will feel the frustration this square can produce, so don't push them too hard. And try to avoid any unnecessary conflicts. It is only the stress of Saturn you are feeling and it will pass in a day or so.

MARS ENTERS PISCES:

On Friday February 1st at 8:54 P.M. EST the planet of war enters this watery sign. Mars doesn't do well around Pisces or its ruler, Neptune. The strength and ego associated with this planet gets watered down and becomes somewhat ineffectual. From now until March 12th you can expect a lower than usual energy level in general. What house Mars is transiting in your chart is where you will have the most difficulty projecting a powerful persona. This placement works best when you do selfless acts or work in some sort of charity or help group. Indecently, most major sea battles throughout history were fought when Mars (god of war) was transiting a water sign. Funny, huh?

VENUS ENTERS AQUARIUS:

Also on Wednesday February 1st at 9:47 P.M. EST the planet of love and possessions enters the most erratic of signs. Expect encounters with unusual people who have unusual ideas, especially about love. While we all will be a bit bored by the common place, most people aren't that Uranian and may feel a bit out of sorts. Be careful with your money. It can be easy come, easy go, and you may not even realize how much you have spent. Impulsive shopping or dating is common, and as with most impulsive things, there is not stability or structure. Most romances that begin under Uranus-Venus connections may be exciting, but do not last.

MARS CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:

On Monday February 4th at 3:57 P.M. EST Mars conjuncts the ruler of Pisces. As I said above under *Mars enters Pisces* the combination of these two energies is quite incompatible. Mars does not do well when aspected to Neptune or Pisces, and now with it transiting that sign and conjunct the ruler you can expect this to be a few days of confusion and misdirection. Egos are fragile and you should be careful not to step on someone's toes. Frustration may lead to explosive situations in an attempt to overcompensate for the lack of strength and direction.

MERCURY ENTERS PISCES:

On Tuesday February 5th 9:56 A.M. EST Mercury joins Mars and Neptune in this mutable water sign. There may be quite a bit of confusion and misunderstandings while Mercury transits here. It will retrograde on February 23rd and thus spend a lot more time in this sign than usual. It won't leave until April 13th and some caution is called for. You must be especially clear about what you saying, and if you are confused you should ask the other person for clarity. This will be particularly true on February 8th when Mercury conjuncts Neptune, but this word of advice carries through until it leaves Pisces in April. Double check all paperwork. It

is very easy to make mistakes and not see them on the read through.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:

Also on Wednesday February 6th at 6:00 P.M. EST this very confusing aspect completes. This is a day of misunderstandings, mistakes, and accidents. You must pay close attention to what you are doing and how you communicate with others. Most problems can be avoided by using some extra caution and recognizing that communication is the real problem today. This aspect is very good for artists of all sorts. Where a businessperson may feel lost and terribly confused under this conjunct, a painter or musician may feel great inspiration.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS MARS:

On Friday February 8th at 12:57 P.M. EST this feisty conjunct occurs. Because this is happening in Pisces it will be less overt and less boisterous than usual. But the energy is still the same. Mars has little regard for boundaries and its ego-driven force will come out in most communications. But being in Pisces it may be hidden or less direct. But you will still feel the underlying tension and even animosity in many conversations. Arguments are common, and you should pick and choose your battles carefully, especially as confusion will reign.

MERCURY SQUARES JUPITER:

On Saturday February 9th at 7:08 A.M. EST things will be blown out of proportion. Jupiter knows no boundaries, and with Mercury in square people will tend to overstate their position. Try to keep things in perspective and make sure you have the facts to back up your opinion. Miscommunication is also a problem with this square as people will jump to conclusions without having all the necessary information to make an informed decision. Travel may cause some difficulties as well, but if precautions are taken a short trip can be very rewarding.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Sunday February 10th at 2:20 A.M. EST at 21 degree Aquarius 43 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.

January 11th 2:44 P.M. – 4:43 P.M.

January 13th 3:37 A.M. – January 14th 5:49 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

January 16th 4:32 A.M. – 11:07 A.M.

January 18th 7:40 P.M. – 8:36 P.M.

January 20th 1:16 P.M. – January 21st 9:04 A.M.

January 23rd 6:42 A.M. – 10:00 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

January 25th 3:35 P.M. – January 6th 9:20 A.M.

January 28th 11:56 A.M. – 6:27 P.M.

January 30th 8:59 P.M. – January 31st 1:36 A.M.

February 1st 8:03 P.M. – February 2nd 7:02 A.M.

February 4th 7:31 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

February 5th 3:42 P.M. – February 6th 12:55 P.M. *** Moon is void for a day

February 7th 7:44 A.M. – February 8th 2:17 P.M.

February 9th 2:20 A.M. – 4:20 P.M.

February 11th 12:03 P.M. – February 12th 8:51 P.M.

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



January 2013

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