

MONTHLY SINCE 1999
ISSUE # 172

LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

July – August 2013

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

Egypt is exploding, Brazil is in riots, and Portugal, Greece, and Spain are hanging on by a thread. WTF?

As my regular readers know, the most recent pass of **Uranus square Pluto completed May 20th**. This ongoing long-term transit has been the underlying energy in our society for the past 2 years. Since the most recent pass, we have seen a number of disruptive and upsetting events taking place. That transit has been helped along by several quicker moving ones, such as **Mercury square Uranus on June 8th, the Sun opposite Pluto on July 1st, and the Sun square Uranus on July 4th**. Each of these was explosive and uncontrollable. It's always the inner planets that act as the trigger to the outer planet aspects. Individuals have contacted me about the commotions in their own lives over the past weeks. In many cases the repercussions that are still being felt. The collective has an overwhelming need to express this disturbing force and is doing so throughout the world. Nothing will be settled down until 2016 when this square finally completes. And there will continue to be upsetting circumstances set into motion. As you know, this square will be **joined by the Mar-Jupiter square in April 2014 to create the Cardinal Grand Cross at 13 degrees, exactly on top of America's Sun**. This year will be stressful and dangerous as we approach that time. But the world isn't going out of business. Our society is in a period of flux, and in order to make the changes necessary to continue to grow we must shake up things sufficiently to create the atmosphere conducive to change, just as the individual does in his or her own life. I just hope that we are able to stabilize our financial markets and our governments in time.

Saturn went direct right before this New Moon. Its change of direction shows that anything with a weak underbelly and an unstable foundation will need to be changed, and quickly. Egypt is the most obvious example of this. The elected president was not fulfilling the needs and wishes of his people, so another revolution has occurred just as Saturn turns around. The demands are real and the changes required are quite necessary, or it wouldn't have happened under this planet's influence. .

Brazil is a bubble, as I have been saying for some time. It's a huge and powerful country with great natural resources. But it lacks the will necessary to push it forward into a position of world leader. Saturn is pointing it all out, and the resulting mess is going to take time to fix. The killing and mutilation of a soccer referee has shaken the world's sensitivity. Public sentiment is running hot, and there must be serious changes before the World Cup in 2014 or the Olympics in 2016 can be successfully hosted.

Mercury is about to change direction again as it goes direct, and that is usually a time of great confusion and misdirection. Use caution in all communications and travel. It is while this turnaround is occurring that the most confusion takes place, so be careful for the day two before and after mercury goes direct. Whatever information you received while Mercury was Rx can now be assimilated.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Monday July 8th at 3:14 A.M. EST at 16 degrees Cancer 18 minutes. Each New Moon sets the pace for the month ahead. The Cancer New Moon implies that this month is mostly about our emotional relationships with family and close friends. There is a desire to be near the home and to work on issues involving our security and emotional stability. July is the month to take the kids to the beach. Next month when the New Moon and Sun are in Leo will be a better time for a romantic getaway. The Moon rules Cancer, which doesn't mean that everything will be honky-dory on the emotional scale. As many of you with the moon in Cancer in your natal chart know, this can be an overly emotional placement that can be difficult to handle at times. There is a tendency to attach too much meaning to everything and to blow personal issues out of proportion. The best way to deal with this energy is to face your feelings without fear and to express yourself in a direct and clear way. Cancer's fear of rejection is legendary and can often interfere with perfectly good relationships, so try to separate your fears from reality.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

On Tuesday July 9th at 2:41 P.M. EST we will all be more willful and argumentative. But with a little self-awareness this can be a positive day. This is a good time for getting your point across, as long as you aren't close-minded or too aggressive that you don't hear the other person's point of view. This conjunct often coincides with major moves or a turnaround in the bond market.

MARS ENTERS CANCER:

On Saturday July 13th at 9:22 A.M. Mars enters this cardinal water sign. This is not a great placement for Mars. The high energy level this planet infers will work overtime creating emotional and personal situations that require our attention. We will all be a bit touchy for a while and self-awareness is most important. Mars rules the ego and placing it in this overly sensitive sign can create an atmosphere where anger and fear are too easily expressed. It's important to keep an eye on your temper and not to overreact to small slights or to take rejection too seriously. The super-sensitive fragility could make even the staunchest of stoics too emotional.

URANUS RETROGRADES:

On Wednesday July 17th at 1:20 P.M. EST this most unusual planet begins its yearly backward motion. Uranus rules many things, and the issues it controls will become somewhat internalized for the next few months. Political situations will be hidden and more difficult to fathom. We are in the midst of several explosive actions throughout the world, including Egypt, Brazil, Portugal, etc. The retrograde motion will allow these countries a period of retrospection during which solutions may be found. But they won't be

implemented successfully until this turns around again on December 17 2013. Personal enlightenment, another area ruled by Uranus, will be felt within the individual but may be difficult to express until the end of the year. The worst thing you can do with Uranus is try to hide the truth. This planet is all about exposing the inner knowledge and expressing it in uninhibited fashion. Don't deny what you know to be fact. But don't expect to change other people's minds too readily.

JUPITER TRINES SATURN & NEPTUNE:

Also on Wednesday July 17th at 1:32 P.M. & 8:16 P.M. EST this positive pair of trines completes. Each will have an effect on our collective. The trine to Saturn shows that this is a time of stability and slow steady growth. Projects and plans that are based in reality will expand slowly and effectively. This trine, and the Saturn trine Neptune mentioned below, has much to do with the stability in the stock market. With the completion of these trines we may see a period of deterioration in the equity markets. The trine of Jupiter to Neptune is excellent for all creative and artistic ventures. It's a single pass so there won't be a year to assimilate it, as happens with a triple pass. Still, this is a great moment for us to all grasp a deeper sense of empathy and forgiveness. There will be plenty of time for anger later on. If we used astrology properly and tried to make the most of each of the transits as they pass, our individual lives and our culture in general would be much more rewarding.

SATURN TRINES NEPTUNE:

On Friday July 19th at 9:28 A.M. EST this most powerful trine completes for the last time. When Saturn and Neptune work well together there is almost nothing that can't be accomplished. Neptune rules intuition, creativity, empathy, and our fantasies. Saturn rules reality, structure, and fruition. The combination can allow us to make reality (Saturn) out of our fantasies (Neptune). It breaks down the usual boundaries between the two and lets us stabilize the illusions we have created. If there is a project you have been working on that seems outside your usual potential, try to complete it before this transit is finished. The collective will also feel the results of this completion. Once this passes, one of the stabilizing forces that has held our economy together will no longer be in place.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

On Saturday July 20th at 2:22 P.M. EST Mercury finally turns around. It's safe to buy a new cell phone, make that important contact, or take a new job. Many of my readers are now familiar with the "shadow phase" of the retrograde, which will continue for a little while and may still screw up our communications and travel plans. But with the change in direction for Mercury the worst is over.

MARS TRINES NEPTUNE & SATURN:

Also on Saturday July 20th at 3:43 P.M. & 5:34 P.M. EST this positive pair of aspects completes. This is a few days when it will be easier to express your ego without rocking the boat. This is a good time to get some serious work done. The trine to Neptune will give a lot of energy towards all creative and intuitive projects. The trine to Saturn is more materialistic in its orientation. Hard work and focus will seem the norm for a day

or so. Use this energy to push your projects forward and set up your future plans.

MARS CONJUNCTS JUPITER:

On Monday July 22nd at 3:35 A.M. EST this very powerful transit comes along. This can go either of two ways. If you are aware of your boundaries and your ego is in good shape, this will be a day or two when you can express yourself directly and with force, but not aggressively. Your assertive side will be present and you will be able to accomplish a great deal in a short time. But if your ego is shaky or you aren't sure how to be assertive because it isn't part of your nature, this may be a time when you explode or act in an inappropriately aggressive manner. Certainly this will create angry situations in the world, and it's up to you to avoid them. Do not rush into disagreements or ego-conflicts. They will not work out to your advantage and you will be disappointed in the results. If you can direct this excessive force into positive and productive ways this will be a very successful and useful time.

VENUS ENTERS VIRGO:

Also on Monday July 22nd at 8:41 A.M. EST the planet of love and possessions will enter this most critical of signs. This isn't considered a great placement for Venus. Virgo tends to be overly detail-oriented and can stifle the expression Venus needs so much. But it is an intelligent sign ruled by Mercury, and with a little forethought most difficulties can be avoided. Just try not to be too critical of your loved ones and give Venus a chance to express itself in an intellectual way. You'll be surprised at how smart your love interest can be. This is actually a good placement for making a budget or planning your financial future.

THE SUN ENTERS LEO:

Also on Monday July 22nd at 11:56 A.M. EST we enter the fixed fire sign. This is the time of year when playing is most important. Leo rules the 5th sign and house of the zodiac, which is the house of romance, children, and games of all sorts. It is the child within that requires attention now. Last month was the time to spend with your children. Not is the time to allow your inner child the space he or she so needs to express. Fall in love, take long walks on the beach, and act silly. Leos like all of that. But along with the childlike qualities are some that aren't so easy to accept. Jealousy, possessiveness, and stubbornness are all part of the mixture. So be aware of how you or the other person may act.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Monday July 22nd at 2:15 P.M. EST at 02 degrees Aquarius 10 minutes. This is a time of innovation and discovery. Aquarius isn't interested in the limitations and boundaries most signs accept. The tried and true won't work under this influence. It's all about new and innovative ideas. Seek out unusual people, concepts, and projects. Expect surprises this month, so try to keep an open mind. Don't put on blinders or limit your possibilities. Go out into the world with your eyes wide open and see the potential in all things. If you take a new path it may lead you somewhere you never would have gotten otherwise. This is an explosive energy, and there is a possibility that situations could become unstable, so use caution when dealing with others. You could upset a relationship or a work situation without

meaning to.

VENUS OPPOSES NEPTUNE & SEXTILES SATURN:

On Friday July 26th at 8:08 A.M. EST & 2:36 P.M. EST this pair of aspects completes. The opposition to Neptune will bring much illusion and misdirection to our relationships. This is not a good time to begin a new romantic encounter or to commit to an existing one, especially if you have doubts. Be careful of your finances this morning. You won't have a good handle on value or where your money goes. As the sextile to Saturn begins to apply we will all be much more realistic about things. By the afternoon you will be better able to judge relationships and clarity will return. If you have to make a decision about someone, wait until the opposition to Neptune has passed, then think things through. The afternoon will also be a better time to go shopping or make plans for your future.

MARS OPPOSES PLUTO:

On Saturday July 27th at 6:47 P.M. EST this explosive transit completes. Today you should all be careful not to step in front of a flying fist. Anger and tension will be prominent and it's quite easy to get into an altercation. Try to avoid all direct confrontations and do not take the bait if someone wants to fight. It may be impossible to avoid all trouble, but use common sense and see if the battle that is about to ensue is worth your time and effort. Chances are good that it isn't.

THE SUN SQUARES SATURN:

Also on Saturday July 27th at 9:06 P.M. EST this difficult and limiting aspect comes along. This is a bad day for a party, important meeting, or first date. Sorry that it falls on a Saturday night, but that's the way the karma crumbles. Plan a quiet evening. If you throw a big bash you will be disappointed with the results. We will all be examining our lives to see where the weak spots are and how to strengthen them. Because this follows the Mars opposite Pluto so closely, this is a day when caution is absolutely called for. It is followed in a few days by Mars square Uranus mentioned below, and this week is one that requires extra care and precaution.

MARS SQUARES URANUS:

On Wednesday July 31st at 11:08 P.M. EST this powerful configuration shows up. This is one of the most explosive and potentially dangerous of all the aspects. Tempers will be excitable and people will be looking for fights. If this hits your charts just so, this could be a battle, or even an accident waiting to happen. Use extra caution in all things today. This is not the time to go out and get drunk. You will not have control over your ego to begin with, and with the added joy of drugs or alcohol almost anything is possible. Caution while traveling is especially important.

THE SUN TRINES URANUS:

On Sunday August 4th at 11:05 A.M. EST we will encounter this positive and progressive transit. After all the difficult energy of the past week, this will give us all a chance to incorporate any changes and new ideas

that have been thus far difficult to embrace. Because this is the last aspect before the next new moon, it implies that the ultimate purpose and results of this month's energy was to find new paths and new ways of seeing your projects and plans. Anyway that you can, you should incorporate the new information presented to you. This is not a time to hide your head in the sand, but rather a change to open your eyes anew and seek out the truth.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Tuesday August 6th at 5:51 P.M. EST at 14 degree Leo 05 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.

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.

July 8th 7:44 A.M. – July 9th 6:48 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

July 11th 3:54 P.M. – 6:12 P.M.

July 13th 11:26 A.M. – July 14th 3:41 A.M. *** Moon is void all day

July 15th 11:18 P.M. – July 16th 10:24 A.M.

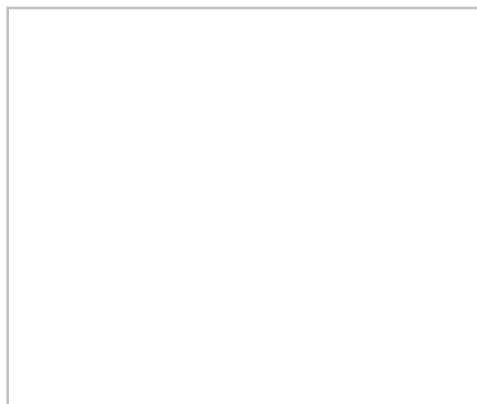
July 18th 7:13 A.M. – 1:54 P.M.

July 20th 11:00 A.M. – 2:36 P.M.

July 21st 11:53 A.M. – July 22nd 2:07 P.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours
July 23rd 10:01 A.M. – July 24th 2:22 P.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours
July 25th 2:43 P.M. – July 26th 5:29 P.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours
July 27th 10:19 P.M. – July 29th 12:43 A.M. *** Moon is void 1½ days
July 30th 11:58 A.M. – July 31st 11:42 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours
August 1st 12:48 P.M. – August 3rd 12:30 A.M. *** Moon is void 1½ days
August 5th 2:49 A.M. – 12:58 P.M.

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

August 6th 5:51 P.M. – August 7th 11:57 P.M.
August 9th 6:05 P.M. – August 10th 9:08 A.M.
August 11th 9:29 P.M. – August 12th 4:18 P.M.



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