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LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2013

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

This month, **the Uranus-Pluto square that we have been monitoring all year will be set off first by Mercury, and then by the Sun.** It's always the quicker moving inner planets that act as the trigger to the outer planet aspects, and we should see some very interesting events this month. Of course Syria is forefront on our minds, but only one area that I'm watching. This will also be an explosive and demanding month in some of our personal lives as well. How these aspects hit someone's chart will decide how they will manifest for the individual. Pay attention to the dates when these aspects complete, and use caution. Awareness is everything in life. An attack could begin on any of the aspects between the inner and outer planets. October 1st and 3rd seem most likely, and they fall on the Dark of the Moon.

We will also see the supportive Saturn-Pluto sextile complete. This positive aspect has been helping to hold up our equity markets. As I've said in past issues, this aspect has been creating some of the structure our society has been standing upon. It's represented by the Feds pouring \$85 billion into our bonds each month. Now that this sextile is completing we will see that stimulus package begin to wane, and then we shall see exactly where our financials really stand. Saturn rules stability, structure, and the banking industry. Pluto rules thing held jointly, and all trading pits from cotton to the long bonds. That, of course, is on oversimplification. The various markets all have separate rulership, and our entire society is intertwined to the point that pulling one thread may unravel the entire sweater, as we saw in 2008. Still, this is a watershed moment, and we will not see the results for several months.

In October, Saturn inconjuncts Uranus. The combination of these two energies represents the most unstable atmosphere for the markets. Remember, it was the opposition of Saturn and Uranus that created the crash of '08. This isn't as powerful as the opposition, but it can still be quite effective. I think the stocks will take a hard hit this fall, and then rebound, only to be severely tested again next spring.

In this newsletter I have been saying that as we watch the separate parts of the coming Grand Cross complete (for example last month we saw Jupiter square Uranus and oppose Pluto) we will have a clearer idea of what's to come next spring on the Grand Cross. The events that are taking place now show some of the ways this aspect will manifest in April.

Syria obviously is first on the list. This is a situation that is explosive and has no clear resolution no matter what action, or inaction our government takes. China and Russia would be delighted to see us enter the fray,

as it would weaken our position and distract our attention from other issues. I'm not a believer in the China-Russia conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. We're playing a worldwide game of one-upmanship, and while China and Russia do not like each other, they may like us even less.

But let's be clear about one thing. The single trait that seems to flow through every race, religions, and creed, through every continent, nation, and political party throughout history, is greed. Neither China nor Russia wants the world to collapse. They want globalization and a continued payday. Their political and industrial leaders want to vacation in the Caribbean, own huge houses, and have young spouses. They don't want to live in a burned-out world anymore than we do. Russia needs oil to trade above a certain amount or its fragile infrastructure will dissolve and they will return to third world status. China needs a global market for all the crap they produce. If it all goes to hell, there's nothing left to steal. So, no, I don't believe in that conspiracy theory. What I do believe is that just like the American League teams who struggle year after year to make their mark on baseball history, they want the Yankees to lose, not be destroyed. Without the Yankees there is no evil empire to root against, no record to despise while struggling to achieve.

The coming military action against Syria will be quick, mild, and indecisive. It won't destroy Assad and his regime, nor give a clear-cut winner in their civil war. It will only save face for the west and the U.S. in light of the chemical weapons the Syrian government seems to have used against its people. But it will have a much farther reaching effect, some of which we will see this coming April. The seeds of tomorrow grow in yesterday's plans. The decisions made now under these transits by a group or an individual that will manifest months from now.

The Grand Cross consist of Pluto, planet of vengeance and hidden agendas, Uranus, planet of sudden, unexpected, and explosive situations, Jupiter, the planet of excessiveness known for its lack of boundaries, and Mars, planet of war. This combination certainly shows the potential, which is why many astrologers are writing about it. There are certain other things to consider. Pluto also rules oil and other fossil fuels, as well as plutonium. This could certainly manifest as an accident or a terrorist attack on a pipeline, oil refinery, or (god forbid) a nuclear plant. This Grand Cross may represent a number of problems. Japan has finally acknowledged that the damaged Daiichi nuclear plant is spewing tons of contaminated radioactive water into the Pacific heading our way. So to assume that there will be one huge events may be a mistake. We could see a series of problems over a period of several weeks. My goal is to identify the potential hot spots in advance.

I said at the start of the summer that gold would test \$1,200 an ounce. It did just that, and then bounced up to \$1,450. It's in a trading range and should stay within that range unless there is a major world event. Next April will be the peak in gold, and a big dip in the stocks. Gold will go up, but it will be temporary. The stocks will go down, but that will be temporary as well. And short of a world war, that will be a buying opportunity for the equity markets.

The stocks will go down and gold will go up. So why don't I believe in gold as an investment? I spent 12

years trading futures on the floor of the Mercantile Exchange. If you're a commodities trader you can take advantage of issues as they arise. If gold runs up \$100 and you're holding the futures, you can run like crazy to the phone (or pit, if you're on the floor) and get out of your position, making a fortune. But if you're holding physical gold you may be able to trade it, but you will only make that \$100 per ounce profit, minus commission. If you have 1,000 ounces, which would cost you about \$1,400,000 to buy, you could make a profit of about \$100,000. How many of you have that much cash lying around? A future's trader only puts up about 5% against the position and makes an enormous profit on such a move. And since I believe any large move up in gold is temporary, you could easily be right about the position and still not make any money if you can't move your gold or silver quickly enough. If the dollar collapses and there is no currency except precious metals, then maybe your physical gold will do you some good. Although at that point the society will have broken down to the point where there will be no factories working, no truckers driving, and no supermarkets or restaurants in which to spend your precious resources, especially in the urban centers. So if you're buying gold in hopes that the world will end, it's a foolish bet for many reasons. And you may need some of that money for therapy to offset your deep depression.

The Arab spring began when Egypt threw out President Mubarak in January 2011. At that time the birth chart of Egypt was June 19, 1953, which gives it a 27 degree Gemini Sun. Transiting Uranus was in exact square to that Sun, as one might expect in a revolution. But a new nation born out of such an explosive aspect will not be stable, as has been proven. It will take the formation of another government with a new chart to establish a stable and secure Egypt, a nation where half the Arabs in the world, approximately 82 million, live. The Sinai Peninsular borders Israel and has become a fertile ground for terrorist cells. So there are a number of places trouble could begin in earnest.

Remember, the world isn't coming to an end. At least not now. We're all going to continue to struggle with our rent and phone bills, our laundry and stressful relationships. The world is always just about to end, and people continue to have lives, babies, hopes, and dreams. Keep dreaming and hoping. It's the best medicine for a sick world.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Thursday September 5th at 7:36 A.M. EDT at 13 degrees Virgo 04 minutes. This month is all about the detail. That's where you'll find Lucifer, hidden amidst the files and folders that clutter our lives like gnats on a humid summer's eve: Relentless and unyielding, impossible to ignore. School starts this month as the Sun transits through Virgo. I don't think that's an accident. (Of course, I rarely believe in them anyway.) This is the month to do that Virgo thing; put your desk in order, sharpen your virtual pencils, and get some new sneakers to wear to the office. You'll want to look spiffy in the playground.

Virgo also has much to do with health. It rules nursing and healing. This should be a time of both. Our society is badly splintered, and there is a lot of fear and anger. While nobody could ever accuse me of being a Pollyanna, I do believe in the potential for change and retribution. If I didn't, I couldn't be an astrologer. So look to the areas in your life where you can make some sort of positive change aimed at healing old wounds

(or wounding old heels). And practice forgiveness, both towards others and yourself.

THE SUN SEXTILES JUPITER:

On Saturday September 7th at 9:47 A.M. EDT this very positive and outgoing transit completes. This is a moment of enthusiasm and optimism. Most people will be easy-going this morning. It's a great day to begin a trip or start any educational endeavor. Look at the parts of your life that you'd like to expand and try to make plans towards that end. You can't build Rome in a day, but you can start the blueprints.

MERCURY ENTERS LIBRA:

On Monday September 9th at 3:07 A.M. EDT the planet of communication enters this cardinal air sign. Libras hate direct confrontation. They prefer to make peace, at least on the surface. While this sign has the tendency to be passive-aggressive, Mercury's journey here makes it easier to find compromises in disputes and avoid the usual nit-picking. Libras live for relationships, and you will find that the conversation often steers towards the subject of coupling.

MARS SQUARES SATURN:

Also on Monday September 9th at 7:06 A.M. EDT this frustrating aspect completes. For the past few days many of you may have noticed an underlying irritation and an inability to express yourself with your usual bluster. The limitations of Saturn do not sit well with the ego-ruled Mars. This feels repressive and energy is quite low. Don't expect to get a lot done. You should prioritize and take care of the most important issues first. This is not a good day for most personal relationships. Don't plan a first date or important conversation in an ongoing connection. Most of us will be seeing things from the most pessimistic point of view. Wait a day or so and then engage in the relationship.

VENUS ENTERS SCORPIO:

On Wednesday September 11th at 2:16 A.M. EDT Venus enters the sign of its detriment (opposite the rulership). This isn't an easy placement for Venus. In a natal chart it can manifest as a sexually obsessive personality. It's difficult to let go of something once you've grown attached. For the next few weeks many of us will respond to personal situations in that compulsive way. Try not to see things in black-and-white, but recognize the 50 shades of grey (lol). Feelings will be raw and at times quite deep this month. We will each respond to this transit differently depending upon where this falls in your chart by house and aspect. BTW, Venus' placement in a woman's chart has much to do with how she feels about her sexuality. For example, E.L. James, author of 50 Shades of Grey has Venus in Aquarius opposite Mars and inconjunct Uranus. *Who could ask for anything more?*

VENUS TRINES NEPTUNE:

On Saturday September 14th at 2:33 A.M. EDT the lower and higher octaves of the love instinct come together in a trine. This could make for a very dreamy and unrealistic romantic encounter. But I wouldn't take the affair too seriously until it's been through a bit of Saturn. It's a creative transit that favors artists, poets,

lovers, and fools. Try to be innovative. Give your imagination some room to roam and you may be quite pleasantly surprised at what you come up with.

MERCURY SQUARES PLUTO:

Also On Saturday September 14th at 4:28 P.M. EDT this compulsive and difficult aspect completes. This sets off the Uranus-Pluto square, which will complete on the 16th when Mercury opposes Uranus. Pluto rules Scorpio, and just like Venus in Scorpio this square can create an obsessive attitude. Many of us will find it difficult to let go of even the most trivial issues. Be careful not to waste your time on useless or mundane things. The positive side of this aspect is that it brings relentlessness to thoughts and speech, and if you can focus on what is most important you will find it possible to dig out any festering problems. This can be a mentally cleansing transit and help you come to the truth about your life. Caution is called for while traveling, as with any conflict between Mercury and the outer planets. Any event may feel fated. If this square sets off your chart just so, you could get involved in a situation completely out of your control.

MARS TRINES URANUS:

Also on Saturday September 14th at 4:56 P.M. EDT this useful combination completes. Use the energy this creates to get things done. Don't be afraid to experiment or look for unusual people, ideas, and events. This is a time to explore and break down some of the barriers we usually hide behind.

When Mars and Uranus are in contact it brings up issues of personal freedom. When it's a conjunct, opposition, or square those issues are forced upon the individual and it takes a great deal of struggle and fortitude to control the energy. When it's a sextile or trine it's easier to focus that power into useful and productive directions. But it's still the same energy. The aspect only shows us how best to use it. So, for the few days leading up to this we are dealing with the expression of the individual vs. how he or she fits into the collective. A trine just makes it easier to express both sides of the coin, perhaps finding a way for the individual to shine within a group or organization.

MERCURY OPPOSES URANUS:

On Monday September 16th at 2:41 A.M. EDT this high energy and erratic transit completes. This is the 2nd half of the Uranus-Pluto square and it will certainly bring issues to the forefront of your mind that have been lurking just out of view. For a day or so leading up to this many of us will feel nervous and fidgety. Thoughts will come at a rapid pace, and it may be difficult to keep up with the information that is coming to you. This can be an inspirational or creative transit, and a working artist or other creative type should be prepared to capture that moment of inspiration in whatever form is best for your particular work

Caution is certainly called for in your communications and travel. You may be apt to speak before you think things out. That would be a mistake. Take a few minutes to plan what you'll say in any important situation. Blurting things out will only irritate and exacerbate any minor problem into a bigger issue. Patience will be at an all time low, but that is exactly what you must have. This combination can make some people quite angry,

and this is not a good time to get behind the wheel of a car if you are feeling irritated. Things happen very fast when Mercury is connected to Uranus, and if you aren't giving your complete attention to what you are doing at the moment an accident is certainly possible. Expect traffic delays, computer problems, and other mechanical and technological troubles. Back up all of your important files, and make sure your spare tire is in good shape. Because this falls early in the morning, it will be most effective the night before as it applies.

MERCURY SEXTILES MARS:

On Tuesday September 17th at 3:17 A.M. EDT the Mercury energy changes. This is a very useful sextile that can be good for getting hard mental work out of the way. But it falls very early in the morning, so it will be most effective the night before. Communications will be sharp, direct, and energetic. People will say what's on their minds.

VENUS CONJUNCTS SATURN:

On Wednesday September 18th at 4:54 P.M. EDT this rather dour transit comes along. This is a good day for planning a budget or shopping for essentials. It's a low energy aspect and places limitations on most pleasurable pursuits. This is really a work transit. It helps us focus on details, and can be used to polish up any inspirational work you may have done under one of the more exciting aspects, such as Mercury opposite Uranus.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Thursday September 19th at 7:13 A.M. EDT at 26 degrees Pisces 41 minutes. This is a late degree Full Moon, and the Moon goes VOC immediately following its opposition to the Sun. Pisces isn't like any other sign. It's the last of the 12, and in many ways the other signs rest upon this one. Pisces rules the feet, and we stand upon our faith in life, just as we stand upon our faith in Pisces within ourselves. When Pisces or its corresponding 12th house is activated we are seeking some conclusion or closure on certain issues in our lives. Often when a planet transits our 12th house it's a time of evaluation and finale. The placement of Neptune in the charts by house and aspect tells us a great deal of what the soul is here to accomplish. Whatever house cusp Pisces rules tell us even more. If Pisces is intercepted, that just implies that the placement of the Neptune may have a more powerful effect on the individual.

The Pisces Full Moon brings that very concept of faith in the forefront. It also demands that we bring some things to an end so we can begin anew in Aries. Many of the issues that will be brought up are simple and mundane. But some may be bigger and could mark the end of a period of your life. What do you believe in? And has your faith been vindicated or invalidated? Have you done what you set out to do? And are you happy with the results? And of the situations active in your life at the moment, which should be continued and which should be let go? These are some of the questions Pisces seeks answers to.

MERCURY SQUARES JUPITER:

Also on Thursday September 19th at 10:21 P.M. EDT this active and animated aspect completes. This can

be a very positive and useful transit, if it can be controlled. Ideas will come quickly and without repression. People will say what's on their minds without thinking it through. Expect loud, boisterous conversations, and a direct, uninhibited approach to communications of all sorts. There will be arguments, heated debates, but also very lively and informative conversations. Which will you have? Control is the problem. Jupiter has no sense of boundaries or limitations, and so words will come spilling out freely. Caution is called for in travel, as this combination moves the mind very quickly and mistakes are quite possible. Errors are also to be expected in any detail oriented work you do, so plan to review it all once this passes.

PLUTO GOES DIRECT:

On Friday September 20th at 11:27 A.M. EDT our dark, distant, deplanetized cousin begins its forward motion. Many secrets and hidden agendas will be revealed. Any plans that were hatched during the retrograde will begin to be put into motion now. Because Pluto rules vengeance and animosity, we may begin to see how others really feel about a situation. This will be true on the individual and the collective levels. We will see the last pass of the Saturn sextile Pluto tomorrow.

SATURN SEXTILES PLUTO:

On Saturday September 21st at 1:18 A.M. EDT this powerful and societal transit finally finishes. As I said in the Author's Notes above, this represents some of the support our society has been standing upon. It has given some balance and foundation that has helped us deal with the Uranus-Pluto square. Now that this sextile is completing we should see that square become more affective and event-oriented. Syria is just the first of several areas that will be affected, and because the grand Cross next February falls exactly on America's Sun, circumstances will dictate that we are directly involved and drawn into any political or military fray that comes about.

THE SUN ENTERS LIBRA:

On Sunday September 22nd at 4:44 P.M. EDT autumn begins. I like to remind my readers that each of the 4 seasons begins with the Sun entering each of the 4 cardinal signs. This is just another example of how much astrology is enmeshed into our society. Libras live for relationships of all sorts. They love the concept of marriage, but any reason to relate, chat, and interact will suffice. That doesn't mean that we will all find true love this month. Sorry, but it doesn't work that way. But you may make a new friend or reconnect with an old one. The balanced scales is Libra's symbol, and equity is just what this sign wants.

VENUS TRINES JUPITER:

On Thursday September 26th at 5:01 P.M. EDT this wonderful trine comes along. This would be a great afternoon for a social encounter of any sort. People will be pleasant and easy-going, and all pleasurable things will have an extra kick. That martini, the shrimp salad, or your 10 year marriage partner may all seem just a bit more exciting.

VENUS SQUARES MARS:

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On Saturday September 28 at 9:32 A.M. EDT the male and female planets are in conflict. This is not a good day for a date or other social gathering. An underlying tension will prevail. Because this falls so early in the morning, if you just avoid much contact until this passes it should be fine. But these aspects really aren't about events so much as the psychological changes we all go through. This morning perhaps you should take your coffee outside and watch the world as it passes. You may understand a little of the conflict between male (aggressive) and female (receptive) within us all.

MERCURY ENTERS SCORPIO:

On Sunday September 29th at 7:38 A.M. EDT Mercury enters the fixed water sign. No sign feels things as profoundly as Scorpio. Because Mercury will retrograde in October, it will stay in this sign until December 4th. That's a long time to evaluate what this placement means. People will speak from a deep place and have little patience for superficial answers to their quest. Be prepared to have intense conversations, and to see the truth drugged out time and again. This is a good placement for mental work that requires investigation, and for digging out the true meaning of things.

THE SUN SQUARES PLUTO:

Also on Tuesday October 1st at 9:25 P.M. EDT this powerful square comes along. This is a no-nonsense aspect that digs into things quite intensely. With Mercury in Pluto-ruled Scorpio now as well, expect to hear some things that have been hidden or understated. Pluto rules vengeance, and some sort of world event is quite possible this week. This and the Sun opposite Uranus mentioned below indicate that this could be a very difficult week with some explosive events occurring. This may also be a hard week for the equity markets. Because the Uranus-Pluto square is about 2 degrees apart, the Sun will oppose Uranus on Thursday. It is the inner planets that set off events related to the outer planets. With the Sun activating that powerful Uranus-Pluto energy the collective will be drawn into the fray. As I said last month, whatever we do now will be reflected next spring when the Grand Cross completes. We can already see events unfolding that may explode anew in 2014.

THE SUN OPPOSES URANUS:

On Thursday October 3rd at 10:12 A.M. EDT this explosive and erratic opposition comes along right on the Dark of the Moon. This completes the Uranus-Pluto square, as I said above. There may or may not be an event to manifest the psychological stress this will produce, but its effects on the individual and the collective can be seen in any number of ways. Some people will be short-tempered and nervous. The number of accidents will probably spike. I'd love to get the statistics for emergency room visits during certain transits. We may see a world event this week, but even if we do there's no reason you have to be directly involved. Be wise and sidestep any potentially explosive situations.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Friday October 4th at 8:34 P.M. EDT at 11 degrees Libra 56 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.

September 6th 6:10 A.M. – 3:12 P.M. *** Moon is void all morning

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

September 12th 1:08 P.M. – September 13th 5:56 A.M. *** Moon is void all day

September 14th 7:17 P.M. – September 15th 8:05 A.M.

September 16th 4:19 A.M. – September 17th 9:58 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

September 19th 7:13 A.M. – 12:58 P.M.

September 20th 9:25 P.M. – September 21st 6:33 P.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

September 23rd 3:13 A.M. – September 24th 3:34 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

September 26th 7:21 A.M. – 3:24 P.M.

September 29th 3:30 A.M. – 3:57 A.M.

October 1st 12:48 A.M. – 2:52 P.M.

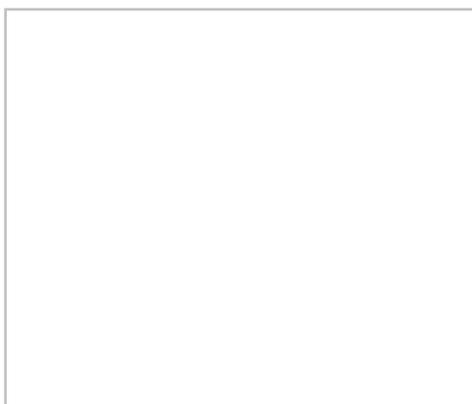
October 3rd 2:57 P.M. – 10:59 P.M.

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

October 5th 6:28 P.M. – October 6th 4:33 A.M.

October 8th 12:54 A.M. – 8:21 A.M.

October 10th 6:11 A.M. – 11:17 A.M.



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