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## **LIVING BY STARLIGHT** an Astrological Newsletter

**APRIL 2014**

### **AUTHOR'S NOTES:**

This month we will see the intense energy of the Grand Cross we've been watching come together. I want to explain what this aspect means. This combination of planets is extremely rare. We haven't seen something as complex and exact since the two Great Alignments of 1962 & 2000. The effects of this energy aren't limited to a few days or a single event. This has taken about a year to formulate and its power will linger for months to come. Many of the unusual events that are taking place right are a result of this force, including the situation in Ukraine and the bizarre weather. This is a time of great stress and tension, but also a time of tremendous potential. It's through the release of that tension that change can occur. It's easy to think of this as a time of great warnings and danger, but it's also an opportunity that rarely comes; a chance to rearrange our lives to aim for a better result. There must be a lot of energy taking place to allow the type of alterations we need. Many of us are feeling this intensity on a personal level. It's palpable in day-to-day activities as well as on the front page of the New York Times. While I recommend caution this month, I also suggest that we all use this massive transit to view our lives as individuals and our progress as a collective to see where we need to make adjustments in order to prevent any long-term problems, and to head towards a more fulfilling future.

This powerful configuration is the culmination of the Uranus-Pluto square that has been in play since July 2012 when it first came into orb. Since then we have seen that square complete several times. It will continue to affect us until it finally moves away in 2016. What makes this month different is that now we have Jupiter and Mars both at 13 degrees cardinal in exact aspect to Uranus and Pluto creating a cross of the four planets. Those who study astrology know that while the outer planets can bring much stress and underlying difficulties, it is the inner, quicker moving planets that act as the trigger that sets off events, both personal and worldly. Mars will act as the button to the other three planets. But we also will see the Sun and Mercury hit that 13 degree cardinal point this month as well. This will add a very personal energy to that massive aspect, and many of us will experience this in our own lives. The air has been heavy for many months with the underlying trepidation this has been causing. Now it will all be brought to the surface.

Do I think it's possible for a major confrontation or severely dangerous and difficult situation? That is certainly possible. But I don't think we're on the verge of war, rather at a crossroads in human history where we must choose our path carefully. If we aren't vigilant on many fronts, including militarily, financial, and environmental, we will be paying the price for our inaction for generations to come. This is a very important

moment in our narration, and the decisions made now will be scrutinized by future generations of historians and artists.

Vladimir Putin was born October 7<sup>th</sup> 1952. The birth time given is 9:30 AM in St. Petersburg Russia giving him a 3 degree Scorpio ascendant. His Sun is 13 degrees Libra, exactly the degree of the Grand Cross. America's Sun is 13 degrees Cancer in square to Putin's Sun. This shows that the two entities are at odds from the beginning. Now with that Grand Cross setting off both Suns, it's all coming to a head. We may see some explosive and unsettling events over the next few months, especially in April. But this is a test of wills between Putin and the U.S. and how it culminates has to do with free will and how each side responds. A direct confrontation with Pluto, Uranus, and Mars involved could easily result in a serious conflict. Jupiter would exacerbate the situation out of proportion. It is only through negotiations that we will head off a calamity.

So are we heading to World War Three? In a word, no. The struggle we are facing is an economic one, not thermo-nuclear. And at the forefront of this battle is Russia. Modern Russia only has one major export – fossil fuels. They don't manufacture much, and export very little besides fuel, except for caviar and vodka. Oil and natural gas make up the major bulk of that country's economy. If the price of oil goes below a certain level (it used to be about \$80 a barrel, although that may have changed), Russia is in serious trouble. By creating an unstable situation in Crimea, Putin hopes to keep the price of oil and gas artificially high. It seems to be working. The price of oil is above \$100 a barrel, and climbing.

Putin may be crazy, but he's not stupid. The future of Russia as a world power, and even as a stable world player is in serious jeopardy. The world is moving away from the dinosaurs. One of China's biggest concerns now is how not to poison their citizens further than they already have been. In Beijing you can't see your hand in front of your face at noon because of the pollution. A number of nations, most obviously Germany, are working feverishly to convert much of the country to solar and wind energy. The price of solar stocks is soaring, and most people realize that we are in a race to save humanity before we drown in a sea of oil and gas. China and India are using fossil fuels at a contemptuous pace attempting to push into the 21<sup>st</sup> century as major industrial players, and they know that they must do so in a hurry before the oil is outlawed or simply used up. Over the next century there will be tremendous changes in how we view the world. More storms, droughts, bitter cold, and oppressive heat will change our world and our lives, giving even the most stubborn deniers little wiggle room. Russia *must* find some other source of income and international input or fade into a huge, obscure, poverty ridden country. He doesn't want that to be his legacy.

Because this Grand Cross is hitting Putin's Sun, he feels empowered by it and assumes he can use this to create a power-block. The problem is that once these planets move away from the 13 degree point they will begin to afflict his Saturn at 17 degrees in 2015. At that point if he hasn't handled the power of the Grand Cross properly, Putin will see his support begin to falter and his power fade. He has about another 2 years in office before events alter the collective consciousness of the Russian people and they demand changes. This is a period of testing for Russia and its president.

Frankly, just like Mr. Obama, I'm much more concerned about a rogue state, such as North Korea, or a terrorist group getting their hands on a nuke than Russia setting off a thousand missiles. That wouldn't be to anyone's benefit. China allows North Korea to continue unabated because it's to their advantage to keep things unstable in a region long financially dominated by Japan and South Korea. North Korea is the trump card the Chinese know they can play to distract the world's attention from other issues, and to blackmail the west financially.

If there is a war policy in Russia and Asia it is an economic one. One theory the media has been hinting at is that China and Russia want to remove the U.S. dollar as the defacto world currency. The problem with this theory is that without worldwide economic stability the world leaders won't be able to buy their condos in the New York City, beach front houses in the Caribbean, and skiing chalets in Aspen or Zermatt Switzerland. During the crash of '08, many governments paid the U.S. to hold our bonds. Usually we pay a premium. But things were so bad and so unsure that the only place anyone felt some security was in our economy. That is a very telling situation. Destroying America's economic stability would push the entire world into a deep depression that would be very difficult to climb out of. While there is a move to revamp the way money works, and the American banking system isn't as secure as we are claiming, it just doesn't make any sense at all to destroy the foundation we all stand upon. But then, humans aren't always logical, are they? Is this a possible scenario? Yes. In the short run it might be to their advantage to create a "world currency". But we've seen what the euro did to Greece, Italy, Spain, etc. Are we ready for a single legal tender, or one debit card that will hold the world's wealth? Not yet.

In this newsletter I suggested several possibilities as a result of this Grand Cross. One was a terrorist attack. I hope it doesn't manifest that way. We'll know soon enough. Another possibility was a bad environmental problem involving oil. Well, just like a bad cold you can't get rid of, here's our favorite polluter, BP doing its best to destroy the Great Lakes. Where have all the flowers gone?

One more note: The energy of this Grand Cross is neither good nor evil; it's only energy. And while a strong word of warning accompanies this month's aspects, this may very well be an exciting and positive time for many of us, if we can handle the intensity that surround us. The force behind this combination of planetary interaction can move mountains, change relationships, or manifest as a completely surprising expansion of your life. It could represent a lottery win, a lucky meeting, or a great love. Walk carefully, but move forward. You never know what you may discover around the next bend.

### **NEW MOON:**

**The New Moon falls on Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 P.M. EDT at 09 degrees Aries 59 minutes.** This is the first New Moon of the year and a time for beginning new projects and a fresh perspective. This is always a time of year for new things and ideas. The Moon will set off a square to Jupiter and Pluto, and an opposition to Uranus soon after its conjunct to the Sun (New Moon). It's reflective of the Grand Cross we have all been aware of, so there is a deeper purpose to this lunar cycle than usual. Caution is called for throughout this

month, but you shouldn't be afraid to start new things or to push existing projects forward. The excessive energy of that Grand Cross can be used positively, as long as you are aware of what you're doing and what the potential involves.

### **THE SUN SQUARES JUPITER:**

**On Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:40 A.M. EDT** the Sun begins to set off the planets in the Grand Cross. This square is an optimistic and outgoing energy that can be used to expand any ideas or projects. If used properly, this can be a day of enlightenment and new possibilities. The test is to keep things in perspective and not take on too much. There is the possibility of overdoing things, or accepting too many responsibilities only to find that you can't handle them all once you've made the commitment.

### **THE SUN CONJUNCTS URANUS:**

**On Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:08 A.M. EDT** this powerful and dangerous transit completes. There will be a feeling of restlessness and irritability that can cause all sorts of problems if you're not paying attention. Many of us will feel constricted and angry at any limitations that we encounter. There's the possibility of arguments, accidents, and upsetting situations. Be conscious of what you're doing and pay strict attention to what you say and how you interact with others. This can be an explosive transit, and with the aspects mentioned above and below, there is a chance that one of the world situations will become a major problem this week. The stock markets are very vulnerable this month, and these quick moving transits will act as the trigger to the more intense Grand Cross.

### **THE SUN SQUARES PLUTO:**

**On Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:19 A.M. EDT** the intense energy continues. Hidden agendas come to light now. There's a strong desire to get to the bottom of things and this square will expose any problems or secrets that are festering. Pluto is all about power and how to use it. Today there will be many power struggles and ego conflicts over the smallest of details. Try not to get caught up in useless disagreements. Uranus squares Pluto on April 21<sup>st</sup> and as we approach that aspect these quicker moving transits to those two planets are setting the stage.

### **VENUS ENTERS PISCES:**

**On Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:31 P.M. EDT** the planet of love and possessions enters this most confusing of signs. Romance will not be clear for a while. You may find that you are infatuated with an illusion, not the real person. When Venus conjuncts Neptune April 11<sup>th</sup> (see below), relationships will become even more confusing. Any new romance that begins now should be given time to prove that it has a place in your reality and not just your fantasies. This is a very good placement for all artistic and imaginative endeavors, so try to let your creative side have a say.

### **MERCURY ENTERS ARIES:**

**On Monday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:35 A.M. EDT** we will all be speaking with a sharper and less patient tongue.

Having the planet of communication enter this Mars-ruled sign will make it more difficult to find compromise or tolerance. Things that have been difficult to express to others will get said, it's just a matter of how they are communicated. Arguments are common under this influence, especially if the ego is involved.

### **THE SUN SQUARES MARS:**

**On Tuesday April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:04 P.M. EDT** the Sun aspects the last of the four planets involved in the Grand Cross. This is a very feisty and angry transit that can produce disagreements and ego conflicts. Accidents or even violence is possible. Use caution and keep a lid on your temper. Remember, you're not the only one experiencing this and the other guy may just be looking for a fight. He also may be a lot bigger than you are, so think before you act out.

### **VENUS CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:**

**On Friday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:42 P.M. EDT** this interesting aspect completes. This is a very spiritual and creative transit that will stimulate the artist in us all. It produces a foggy, moon-lit atmosphere that can be very romantic. But it's anything but realistic. This is the muse of poets, musicians, and painters – capturing the shadowy images of our imagination. Any creative projects may find a new voice under this influence. Finish that song you've been working on, or go to a concert, movie, or museum and absorb what that artist has to say. Relationships will not be clear. You should enjoy the moment and the illusion this can create, But don't plan your future on something you can't hold onto in the light of day.

### **MERCURY SQUARES JUPITER AND CONJUNCTS URANUS:**

**On Monday April 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:32 P.M. & 7:15 P.M. EDT** Mercury begins setting off the planets in the Grand Cross. This will be a day of constant communications. Ideas will fly at an accelerated pace, and information will come in very quickly and erratically. It may be difficult to keep up with all that is being said. People will be excitable and irritable, and it will be easy to get into disputes and disagreements. Caution is called for, especially while traveling. Accidents are certainly possible, and with many of us feeling an underlying rage, impulsive and rash behavior is to be expected. Don't act impulsively, and try not to respond without thinking things through. There may be a lot of anger in the air this month, and this and the Mercury square Pluto mentioned below may bring much of it to the surface.

### **MERCURY SQUARES PLUTO:**

**On Tuesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:12 A.M. EDT** this square will continue to set off the Grand Cross. Today people will be apt to dig very deeply into any conversation or idea and won't be satisfied with a superficial answer to a question or problem. As I said above, there could be a lot of anger in the world right now. You don't have to get directly involved in it. Sidestep anything that isn't worth your time and aggravation. This aspect is best used in self-analysis or for dissecting a situation to see how it works, and how to best repair any damages.

### **FULL MOON:**

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**This month's lunar peak occurs on Tuesday April 15 at 3:42 A.M. EDT at 26 degrees Libra 16 minutes.** Relationships will feel the brunt of this Full Moon, and the closer the connection the stronger the response will be. Balance is the key to all things under this sign, but it may be difficult to find the compromises necessary to retain the status quo. Any relationship that is in trouble will become an issue now. You have until the next New Moon to put things in order, or to end the situation altogether. Be careful how you speak to others today. Mercury is in square to Pluto now as well (see above) and there will be a lot of tension and pressure to deal with. Mercury will oppose Mars tomorrow and this stressful energy will continue. Just remember that there will be repercussions down the line for anything you say or do in a relationship today.

### **MERCURY OPPOSES MARS:**

**On Wednesday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 A.M. EDT** this feisty aspect comes along. There will be a lot of energy in most communications, so be careful how you handle this and what you say. If this is directly properly it can be used to accomplish a lot of mental work. You will have more intellectual energy than usual for extended periods, but if that energy isn't used proactively it can cause all sorts of problems. Arguments are common, and with the Full Moon in Libra just completing, those disagreements will have a personal feeling and can cause you angst in your closest relationships. Caution is certainly called for in all communications and travel. Try to do something physical today, not just mental. Use your muscles and exercise the body.

### **THE SUN ENTERS TAURUS:**

**On Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:56 P.M. EDT** we enter the fixed earth sign. Taurus is the most spring-like month when nature wakes up and showers us with flowers and budding bushes galore. It's also a time to consider your future and what you need to do to protect yourself. This sign is all about putting down roots and securing your position. What do we value most will be the issue, and your personal answer to that question will decide what path you should be taking. Be honest with yourself about your plans and projects, and any that aren't security based may need to be reevaluated.

### **JUPITER SQUARES URANUS & OPPOSES PLUTO:**

**On Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:25 A.M. & 7:05 P.M. EDT** we come to the beginning of completion to this Grand Cross. This energy has been building up for months. We've seen some of the reactions in the world, including the situation in Crimea, Syria, and on Wall Street. Jupiter blows thing out of proportion, so we should expect the problems to be exacerbated over the next few weeks. This pass of the Uranus square Pluto completes tomorrow, although its effects have been felt for some time and will continue to be felt for a long while.

### **URANUS SQUARES PLUTO:**

**On Monday April 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:38 P.M. EDT** this powerful square comes to completion. It will return in December and in February 2015, so we're nowhere near being done with it. This is the primary energy that has been driving out society for the past few years. It's the force behind the difficulties in Crimea, as well as

the underlying financial problems being felt worldwide. Uranus represents freedom of action and uninhibited energy. Pluto is very much a control freak. The difficulty the world has been having of late is the conflict between the two. You can't have chaos and control at the same time. Something has to give.

### **MARS SQUARES JUPITER:**

**On Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:28 P.M. EDT** Mars begins to fill out the Grand Cross. This and the aspects below are the last of the major transits to this intense and complicated configuration. Whatever is being held back or barely contained will probably be released over the next few days. This may manifest as violence or strong disagreements. In your personal life you must use caution and try to keep things in a calm point of view. Almost everything will be blown out of proportion and the smallest slight could be the force that pushes a misunderstanding into a full blown fight. In the world's stage we are all holding our breath to see if we can get through this without a major blow-up. I doubt it.

### **MARS OPPOSES URANUS & SQUARES PLUTO:**

**On Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:09 A.M. & 9:47 A.M. EDT** this incredibly powerful pair of transits comes along. If this energy goes unfocused it will cause all sorts of problems both personally and internationally. This week could easily see a serious drop in the stocks, increased military action in the world, and a plethora of relationship difficulties. Be careful not to get caught up in fights that have nothing to do with you. The projection of this energy can easily draw people into issues that are not their business. Avoid dangerous situations and neighborhoods, and in general act defensively until these transits complete.

### **MERCURY ENTERS TAURUS:**

**Also on Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:16 A.M. EDT** we will all become just a bit more stubborn. After a month of hyper-active communications and an aggressive approach to most issues with Mercury in Aries, this placement will allow people to take a moment before responding, but it will be difficult to change anyone's mind. By now there are a number of issues in the world that are on the front burner and could result in explosive reactions. We need to slow things down, but at the same time they must continue to evolve. If something is bogged down in your life you must give it a shove and make sure it doesn't atrophy. Expect people to be somewhat abstinent and inflexible, but don't take that as a final answer. Continue to look for compromises, and express what you're feeling.

### **THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:**

**On Friday April 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:27 P.M. EDT** this conjunct puts a coda on this month's energy. This is a willful aspect, and many of us will say what's on our minds. But because this takes place in Taurus, it may be difficult to begin the conversation. Issues of security and stability will be in the forefront of our minds. Keep the communications flowing and don't be afraid to shake things up a bit. We need to discuss what's been happening, and to direct our collective force towards evolutionary change.

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

**The next New Moon falls on Tuesday April 29 at 2:14 A.M. EST at 08 degrees Taurus 52 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](mailto:mitchastro@aol.com).**

Below is a list of times this month when the Moon is Void of Course and neither important decisions nor purchases should be made during these periods. The Void of Course Moon is a time when we should try to center ourselves and deal with spiritual matters not materialistic ones. Any decisions made on the VC Moon will not turn out the way we had expected.

The Moon is Void of Course from the time it makes its last major aspect in a sign until it enters the next sign. For example, if the Moon squares Mars at 27 degrees Aries and then has no more aspects until it enters Taurus it will be Void of Course for three degrees or about 6 hours. The aspects used are the conjunction, sextile, square, trine, and opposition. All times are Eastern Standard Time:

Please note: In response to requests from a few readers I have added a few VOC Moons into the next lunar cycle for those who need to make plans before my next newsletter is released.

March 31<sup>st</sup> 4:07 P.M. – April 1<sup>st</sup> 1:20 A.M.

April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2:43 A.M. – 7:48 A.M.

April 5<sup>th</sup> 10:55 A.M. – 5:40 P.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all day

April 7<sup>th</sup> 2:14 P.M. – April 8<sup>th</sup> 5:50 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all night

April 10<sup>th</sup> 2:26 A.M. – 6:08 P.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all day

April 12<sup>th</sup> 1:12 P.M. – April 13<sup>th</sup> 4:33 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all night

April 15<sup>th</sup> 3:42 A.M. – 12:20 P.M.

April 17<sup>th</sup> 3:09 A.M. – 5:44 P.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all day

April 19<sup>th</sup> 9:17 P.M. – 9:28 P.M.

April 21<sup>st</sup> 7:21 P.M. – April 22<sup>nd</sup> 12:18 A.M.



April 23<sup>rd</sup> 12:10 P.M. – April 24<sup>th</sup> 2:55 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all day

April 25<sup>th</sup> 4:03 P.M. – April 26<sup>th</sup> 6:01 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all night

April 27<sup>th</sup> 7:02 A.M. – April 28<sup>th</sup> 10:23 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void 24 hours

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

April 30<sup>th</sup> 11:53 A.M. – 4:56 P.M.

May 1<sup>st</sup> 7:32 P.M. – May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2:13 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void a day and a half!!!

May 5<sup>th</sup> 4:46 A.M. – 1:56 P.M.

**April 2014**

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