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

**August 2014**

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

This month has a number of potentially dangerous or explosive transits, and we all need to pay attention to what we're doing and how we're responding to others. Individually this could easily result in arguments and other ego clashes. Sidestepping all unnecessary conflicts is a good beginning, but it will take a conscious effort not to fall into the trap of disagreeing just for the purpose of taking the other side. In the world stage we are sitting on a very dangerous precipice with several areas already exploding, potentially becoming more exasperating and exaggerated.

Israel has invaded Gaza. This will be a lose-lose scenario. If Israel doesn't deal with the continued barrage of rockets being fired into their country, it's just a matter of time before Hamas gets more powerful weapons including the inconceivable nuclear option. If Israel continues its military actions in Gaza, the world will condemn it for trying to continue to exist.

Most websites have Israel's birth at May 14<sup>th</sup> 1948, at 4:00 P.M. This gives the nation a 23 degree Libra rising sign. After months of retrograde motion, Mars, the god of war, finally went direct and just recently crossed Israel's ascendant. Shortly afterwards this new war with Gaza began. This is only the first salvo in another war that could stretch over the next several years as the other planets involved in that grand Cross aspect Israel's chart. Beginning in June 2016 Uranus will be in opposition to that ascendant for about 18 months. Then in 2019-20 Pluto will square it. The chances of a huge attack on the Jewish state are mounting. It could only be a matter of time before someone hands Hamas the means to change this situation forever.

With the destruction of Malaysian flight 17 Vladimir Putin has sealed his fate politically. There can be no turning back without loss of face, something that is very difficult for him. His birth chart (October 7 1952 – 9:30 am St. Petersburg) has a Sun-Saturn conjunct in Libra, and a Mercury-Neptune conjunct also in Libra. That is the most passive-aggressive sign in the zodiac, and despite a reputation for balance and a desire for peace, I find that most Libras actually do not act passively at all, but tend to get exactly what they want from a situation no matter how they must go about it. (Bill Clinton is another political figure with four planets and Chiron near his Libra ascendant. He's charming, charismatic, and always seems to get what he wants.)

The situation in Ukraine will continue to deteriorate until Putin is forced to change direction, something he will not do unless it is to his advantage. At the moment there is little to dissuade him from his current path. On my last appearance on Coast to Coast I said that Mr. Putin would be removed from power as the planets involved in the Grand Cross begin to aspect his Saturn at 17 degrees Libra. Mars recently crossed over that

point, and he initiated a war-scenario. That aspect is defined as a limiting and restrictive energy that will frustrate the individual. Since then the U.S. and (begrudgingly) our European allies have added more sanctions and put political pressure on the Russian leader. Now with the destruction of that airliner Mr. Putin's back is against the wall. With the exception of the seriously malcontent edge of humanity, nobody wants World War Three – not us, not the Russians, the Chinese, or the Lithuanians. We're in an era of financial expansion the likes of which our species has never seen. Obama was correct, Putin has a 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century perspective on how to run a nation. It's outdated, it will not work, and the only possible solution to this situation, unless he is removed from office, will be an ongoing political, financial, and even military confrontation that will slow the world's economy and destabilize Russia, Europe, and many other parts of the world. America, while it will feel the effects and could see our stock markets get slammed, isn't as vulnerable to changes in the Russian attitude as Europe.

Potash is not something we tend to think about on a daily basis, unless you're a farmer. But it's the substance that is the base for most fertilizer in the world. Russia has been undercutting the price for years, putting most other producers out of business and attempting what is close to a monopoly on the product, as they lowered the price to create this situation. This isn't a new concept. The Japanese manufacturers did the same thing in the early 60's by collectively agreeing to undercut the price of black and white TVs until they were the only producers of that product. North America, especially Canada, is a big producer of potash, while Europe has become almost void of the product. Russia can use this vital commodity as well as natural gas to enslave Europe economically and push his agenda forward.

Beginning in April 2015 Uranus will oppose Saturn in Putin's chart. It will complete in February 2016 just as Pluto hits 17 degrees and squares his Saturn. There will be an internal power struggle in Russia that will result in Putin's dismissal. He won't go quietly or easily.

We're in a very strange period of history. This is obviously a time of transition when the old ways of doing things are often no longer valid. It's similar to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when suddenly there were telephones, automobiles, electricity, and new inventions being brought onto the marketplace almost daily. Jobs that catered to decaying industries were doomed. Horse stables didn't go out of business overnight, but it was obvious to anyone with insight that the car was rapidly replacing our 4 legged friends. Standard Oil, whose main product at the time was kerosene for lighting, almost went out of business when Edison finally lit the east coast with electric lights. If it wasn't for an annoying runoff from oil called *gasoline* that was tossed away until it proved useful in the internal combustion engines of automobiles, Rockefeller's empire would have crumbled. The common man is fighting a two front war. With companies like Amazon taking over the commercial marketplace there will be fewer and fewer options for artists and consumers. We are entering the Age of Aquarius, which rules the 11<sup>th</sup> house of large groups. This is the time of giant corporations. How we deal with their power and prestige will define our species for the next two millenniums, just as our reaction to the religious power of the church in the age of Pisces defined us for the last two thousand years.

**NEW MOON:**

**The New Moon falls on Saturday July 26<sup>h</sup> at 6:42 P.M. EDT at 03 degrees Leo 52 minutes.** This is a month of dramatics and romance, perhaps both at once. Leo rules the stage, and with the Sun, New Moon, Mercury, and Jupiter all about to travel through this sign many people will become stage-struck and wish to act out within their own lives. If you happen to be in the acting profession, this may be a time when you reach a new level of performance and understanding. There's a strong desire to express yourself and it's very possible to create dramatic situations just for the sake of doing so. This month should be about romance and creativity. Try not to get caught up in the willfulness that this Sun-ruled sign implies. Aim your energies where they will do you the most good.

**VENUS OPPOSES PLUTO:**

**On Monday July 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:37 A.M. EDT** relationships will take on a powerful feel for a few days. We will all tend to delve deeply into any personal situation and ferret out the truth. This is a quick moving transit, so its effects will be limited, but sometimes it only takes a brief encounter or conversation to recognize the underlying basis behind a connection, and you may realize some deep hidden reality about your partner. Because this completes early in the morning, it will be more active the night before.

**MERCURY ENTERS LEO:**

**On Thursday July 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:46 P.M. EDT** Mercury joins the Sun, Moon, and Jupiter in this fixed fire sign. This is a plethora of Leo energy projecting out onto the world's stage. Individually and collectively there's a desire to express ourselves in spectacular and theatrical ways. Because this is a fixed sign there will be an underlying stubbornness and difficulty yielding to other's opinions. Those born with Mercury in Leo tend to be overly dramatic and unbending. We will all act this way to some extent while this transit is in effect until August 15<sup>th</sup> when Mercury will enter Virgo.

**VENUS SQUARES URANUS AND TRINES SATURN:**

**On Friday August 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:43 A.M. EDT & 6:22 A.M. EDT** Venus will aspect Uranus and Saturn because those two planets are creating an inconjunct to each other. The night before will be erratic and unpredictable, especially in intimate relationships. Feelings will change suddenly and radically, and you should use caution with any new people who enter your life now. But by the early morning things will settle down and a more realistic attitude will be present, so wait until Friday morning before making an important decision about someone. Venus also rules money, and you must pay attention to how you handle yours on Thursday night into the wee small hours. It's very easy to spend unconsciously under Uranus' influence. By Friday your approach to finances will also settle down. However, your wallet may be empty by then.

**MARS SQUARES JUPITER:**

**Also on Friday August 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:47 P.M. EDT** egos could get out of hand. This is an optimistic and outgoing transit, but it can easily blow things out of proportion. There's a tendency to take risks and overdo things. Mars rules the muscles, and if this square hits your chart you could either injure yourself or just overdo things

to a point of exhaustion. Watch how you talk to others, and don't let your ego have free reign or it could certainly create explosive and uncontrollable situations. Also watch your temper. Mars is the god of war, after all, and Jupiter just expands things as far as nature will allow.

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

**On Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:33 P.M. EDT & 8:10 P.M. EDT** communication will be loud, direct, and passionate. Everyone will have something to say, and feel that it is the most important issue around. The early part of the day favors travel of all sorts, but later it could be dangerous to be on the road. For creative people, this is a good day to write, paint, or express yourself in any way you can. Once that conjunct to Jupiter passes we will be approaching the square to Mars, and caution is called for. The Mercury Mars square can come off as pushy, arrogant, and angry. If you're feeling tense, be aware of it and recognize that you may be projecting that anger towards others without realizing it. Arguments will abound, and you will hear people saying exactly what's on their minds without the usual filters. Use great caution while traveling later in the day. As I said above, once that square to Mars begins there will be a lot of stress and anxiety that will certainly be present in all short journeys (Mercury's domain).

### **THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY AND TRINES URANUS:**

**On Friday August 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:21 P.M. EDT & 8:36 P.M. EDT** we will see these two solar transits complete. Communication will be most important, especially early in the day. We're seeking new ways of looking at things and expressing what's on our minds. As we approach the trine to Uranus later in the day you shouldn't trap yourself into any kind of confinement. It's a time to explore and experiment. Try to leave some free time to meander through life. You never know what you'll discover under a Uranus aspect, so let yourself roam and let's see what occurs.

### **MERCURY TRINES URANUS AND SQUARES SATURN:**

**Also on Friday August 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:14 P.M. EDT & 10:50 P.M. EDT** Mercury will aspect these two diametrically opposite energies. The trine to Uranus will open our minds to new concepts and offer us a chance to explore unusual ideas and look at our situations from a different perspective. The square to Saturn is a limiting and restrictive force that will take those new ideas and seek a way to use them in a realistic and controlled manner. When stability and focus is needed Saturn is your best friend, even in a hard aspect. But you must be careful not to limit your possibilities too much. The Trine to Uranus needs freedom even within the confines of the Saturn square.

### **THE SUN SQUARES SATURN:**

**On Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:11 A.M. EDT** this difficult transit completes. Today, reality rules and you'll be more concerned with getting your work and obligations out of the way than in any frivolous activity. This is a day to clean up any unfinished business and prepare for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this lunar cycle. This can be a very frustrating transit when you feel as though there's something blocking your forward motion. Once this passes, those pent up feelings will be released, and we are heading into potentially the most explosive Full Moon of

the year. Find a way to let go of any anger or tension you may be holding onto.

### **FULL MOON:**

**This month's lunar peak occurs on Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:09 P.M. EDT at 18 degrees Aquarius 02 minutes.** All Full Moons should be respected for their potentially explosive energy. But the Aquarian Full Moon holds a particular place in this scenario. This sign is the most volatile and unpredictable of the twelve. It represents unbridled freedom of expression and movement, and resists all forms of confinement and limitations. As such, it's important to recognize that we are all under its influence during a lunar peak and should use caution and try to avoid all useless confrontations. But no matter how much you try, you will still sense the tension and potential for altercations and conflicts. The best way to handle this energy is to not have preconceived notions about how things should go, and just walk through situations with an open mind.

### **VENUS ENTERS LEO:**

**On Tuesday August 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:24 A.M. EDT** Venus will join the Sun, Mercury, and Jupiter in this showy sign. Romance will take on a more theatrical air, and it's time to play a role in your relationship. While in Cancer, Venus was looking for the stay-at-home movie and dinner night. Family and strong connections to the past were important, and your feelings and compassion were the key to successful relations. But now it's more about playing and being creative with your partner. Use your imagination and come up with some new and exciting ways of expressing your love. This sign hates to be bored, so don't let it be. This is a very good placement for all creative ventures, acting in particular, especially live theatre.

### **MERCURY ENTERS VIRGO:**

**On Friday August 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:44 P.M. EDT** Mercury enters one of the signs it rules. After weeks of boisterous verbal displays with Mercury in Leo, it's now more about details and propriety. This is a good placement for dealing with paperwork and projects that require attention to the little things. While Mercury was in Leo you may have written the first draft of an article, book, or play. Now is the time to edit and rewrite what you've done. You'll be able to see the details and catch many mistakes you didn't have time to pay attention to before. Virgo is the sign of the auditor, so any parts of your life that aren't in order or require adjustments will demand your attention.

### **VENUS CONJUNCTS JUPITER:**

**On Monday August 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:21 A.M. EDT** this magnificent but quick moving transit completes. It's a shame that this completes in the middle of the night for most of us. It would be fun to explore this during the daylight hours. But Sunday night into early Monday morning will be a period of unbridled enjoyment of all things pleasurable, including food, drink, and companionship. This can often bring a potential romantic situation to the forefront, but it may not last unless there are other positive factors in you chart at the same time. Still, it's a great time to spend with someone, or in a social gathering. Most people will be gregarious and sociable, and there is the potential for a pleasant time.

**MERCURY OPPOSES NEPTUNE:**

**Also on Monday August 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:42 P.M. EDT** this confusing transit completes. There is a lot of misdirection and misunderstandings when Mercury is in conflict with Neptune. All oppositions work through other people, and many of our relationships will become difficult to work through. Use extra caution while traveling, and make sure you know where you're going. Make sure your GPS is working or you could wind up in the wrong place. Conversations need to be handled carefully, and you must make sure you are understood and that you understand what others are saying.

**MERCURY TRINES PLUTO:**

**On Thursday August 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:19 P.M. EDT** this trine completes. This is a day of deep conversation and thoughts. We will all try to get to the bottom of any issues that arise, but because this is a positive trine we can do so without the usual resistance to change we often feel. This is a good time to clear the air or express your most inner feelings. Others will be more receptive and you may be able to reach a new level of understanding with someone.

**THE SUN ENTERS VIRGO:**

**On Saturday August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:46 A.M. EDT** we enter the mutable part of summer. We don't usually think of September as part of the summer, but it is. As with each of the mutable signs we are in a period of transition, this time from summer to autumn. We can feel the changing begin. I have found that the mutable signs are the most transitional and often create feelings of disconnection and nostalgia as we slowly say goodbye to one season and greet the next.

**MERCURY SEXTILES MARS AND SATURN:**

**On Monday August 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:46 A.M. EDT & 8:30 A.M. EDT** these two positive sextiles take place. This is a day of focused and energetic mental activity. It's a good day to put your business in order, or for working on intellectual projects that require attention to detail. The day begins with the sextile to Mars, and there will be a lot of mental energy to get things going. But in the evening the sextile to Saturn completes, and all day as that approaches, we will be able to concentrate and direct our energies where we need them to go.

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**DARK OF THE MOON:**

**The next New Moon falls on Monday August 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:13 A.M. EDT at 02 degrees Virgo 19 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.

July 27<sup>th</sup> 8:38 P.M. – July 28<sup>th</sup> 11:37 P.M. \*\*\* Moon is void 24 hours

July 31<sup>st</sup> 10:48 A.M. – 12:09 P.M.

August 1<sup>st</sup> 10:58 P.M. – August 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:57 P.M. \*\*\* Moon is void 24 hours

August 4<sup>th</sup> 1:43 P.M. – August 5<sup>th</sup> 6:19 A.M.

August 6<sup>th</sup> 10:52 A.M. – August 7<sup>th</sup> 9:39 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void 24 hours

August 9<sup>th</sup> 4:09 A.M. – 9:52 A.M.

August 10<sup>th</sup> 6:12 P.M. – August 11<sup>th</sup> 8:55 A.M.

August 12<sup>th</sup> 12:01 P.M. – August 13<sup>th</sup> 9:00 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void almost 24 hours

August 15<sup>th</sup> 11:50 A.M. – 11:58 A.M.

August 17<sup>th</sup> 8:26 A.M. – 6:41 P.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all day

August 19<sup>th</sup> 10:54 P.M. – August 20<sup>th</sup> 4:45 A.M.

August 21<sup>st</sup> 3:34 P.M. – August 22<sup>nd</sup> 4:49 P.M. \*\*\* Moon is void 24 hours

August 24<sup>th</sup> 4:26 A.M. – August 25<sup>th</sup> 5:33 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void 24 hours

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

August 26<sup>th</sup> 10:29 P.M. – August 27<sup>th</sup> 5:54 P.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all day

August 29<sup>th</sup> 12:00 P.M. – August 30<sup>th</sup> 4:53 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all day

September 1<sup>st</sup> 11:40 A.M. – 1:17 P.M.

**July 2014**

**New York City**

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