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## LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

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### AUTHOR'S NOTES:

As we begin this month, the stock markets are showing a very weak performance. The DOW dropped precipitously last week and continues to show weakness. As we approach the Grand Cross in April, are we are beginning a serious correction that will take most of 2014 to recover from, or just a blip in the screen? Emerging markets are very weak, China's economy is slowing, and while America's economy has improved and shows signs of stability, we are now in a global market with interacting economies that have become co-dependant and effect the performance of all. Also, our economy hasn't improved to support these levels in the equities. Unemployment and underemployment continue while costs continue to rise. As we approach April will there be a foundation strong enough to support the continued growth in the equities, or will these over-bought stocks finally give up some of their ill-gotten gains? I've advised my clients to flatten their positions for the time being. This is not a time to be speculative. I think the stocks will take a bad hit for several months. This isn't a crash, just deterioration off the top. There will be a good place to return to the equities, this just isn't it. Caution is demanded. As we approach April we could see a serious problem.

Jupiter will oppose Pluto and square Uranus this month. These are two of the pieces that will make up the Grand Cross this April. As I've said in recent newsletters, it's necessary to examine these transits as they complete and see how they manifest in the outside world. This will give us a clearer idea of what to expect when that Grand Cross finally manifests. This opposition will stimulate our drive for power and should create a plethora of power-struggles as we reach for the unreachable. Because of Jupiter's need to constantly expand we will see many issues brought to a peak this month as these two aspects come together. Whatever happens will be big, that's for sure. Pay attention to what happens now and use that knowledge to prepare for the spring. Venus remains in restrictive Capricorn until March 5<sup>th</sup> where it will continue to frustrate and delay issues regarding love and finances. It goes direct January 31<sup>st</sup>, and at least at that point it will become easier to express your feelings and begin to move your plans forward. But it will still create a restrictive and limited atmosphere that must be respected. This is a time to take romance slowly and with a realistic attitude.

Mars continues to travel through Libra, the sign of its detriment. This is a difficult place for Mars. It doesn't have its usual assertiveness and can lead to anger and arguments in relationships. Mars rules the ego and wants its own way in most things. While in Libra it lacks the power of direct action that is its usual modus operandi and so it will overreact with inappropriate anger and frustration resulting from the inability to act out in normal ways. This is why many people born with Mars in Libra are anything but passive. They may act passively at times, but will tend to act passive-aggressive or even just outright forceful when it's important

enough. It's a mistake to think of Libra as a submissive or receptive energy. In fact, Libras are quite active and assertive. It is a cardinal sign, after all, and the four cardinal signs are the initiators and beginners of most issues in the chart. It's how that assertiveness is expressed that defines Mars' placement here. When it retrogrades on March 1<sup>st</sup> we will experience even more of the frustration that comes from a badly placed Mars. This has been and will continue to be a difficult period for relationships in general, especially romantic ones.

On the world stage we are seeing many Mars issues remain unresolved. The most troubling part of this placement for the god of war is inaction or incomplete resolution.

### **NEW MOON:**

**The New Moon falls on Thursday January 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:38 P.M. EST at 10 degrees Aquarius 55 minutes.**

This is a time to look for the unusual and exciting things in life. Aquarius has a well-earned reputation as a maverick with an eye on the distinctive and exceptional. It's the sign of the genius, and the lunatic. Of course, just how far apart those two are is a matter for debate. Try to remain open-minded this month and allow the unique and different to make an appearance in your otherwise settled and stoic life. Most of us do not really like change, but if you close yourself off to the possibilities this sign can bring you, you'll be limiting your experiences and may miss an opportunity to discover something about yourself and the world around you.

### **JUPITER OPPOSES PLUTO:**

**On Friday January 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:36 A.M. EST** we will experience one leg of the coming Grand Cross. As I've said earlier we will see some of what to expect next April when that massive aspect completes. This combination will stimulate our ambition and could bring up many power struggles. Oppositions always work themselves out through other people, so it is in the interaction between us that this aspect will be displayed. Depending upon how it hits your personal chart, it will either drive you to distraction with over the top schemes and a desire for success, or it could bring you some luck involving other people's resources. Try to make sure that any plans you instigate are for the betterment of everyone involved or you may face some major defeat. Pluto hates selfishness, and Jupiter expands everything it contacts. So if you act in a self-serving manner and try to take advantage of those around you, you could get the full brunt of this energy smack dab in your face. Any projects that are communal and the result of a group effort should do quite well.

### **MERCURY ENTERS PISCES:**

**Also on Friday January 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:29 A.M. EST** Mercury momentarily pokes its head into Pisces before retrograding back into Aquarius February 12<sup>th</sup>. While it is in Pisces we will all be a bit mellower in our communications and thoughts. Where Aquarius is erratic, unpredictable, and rather noisy, Pisces is sedate and receptive. While Mercury is in this mutable water sign, many of us will display more compassion and empathy. But there will also be more misunderstandings and distractions. Pisces energy works through the unconscious mind. Pay more attention to your instincts than your intellect. Some things will simply not make sense, but if you have a strong feeling, follow that. But try to be clear in your communications to avoid the common misunderstandings that accompany this transit. When Mercury begins its retrograde motion in this

sign next week, there will be plenty of mistakes and miscommunications, so use caution.

### **VENUS GOES DIRECT:**

**Also on Friday January 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:49 P.M. EST** Venus *finally* turns around. This has been a rough period for romance and friendships. Not only has Venus been in retrograde since December 21<sup>st</sup>, it's been stuck in stogy conservative Capricorn since November 5<sup>th</sup>, not the most fun place for the planet of love. However, it wasn't just placed here to piss us all off. There is a purpose to every transit, and this one has been to put a stark, cold sense of reality into relationships and take away any illusions that may have clouded your judgment. Now as it goes direct we can all see the results of the past several months and should honestly look at the romances and other close contacts that have been circling around. Once Venus enters Aquarius our concepts of what constitutes a successful and satisfying relationship will once again be put to the test, but in a completely different direction. We may all come to miss the calm, slow moving energy of Capricorn as we begin to experience the unbridled, explosive power of Aquarius. Always try to embrace what is in front of you and learn what it has to teach, and you will not regret any transit or progression.

### **MERCURY RETROGRADES:**

**On Thursday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:43 P.M. EST** that mischievous little winged god will begin his thrice yearly games. Confusion, misdirection, and all sorts of mistakes are common. This isn't a good time to sign contracts, make permanent negotiations, or take a long, restrictively planned trip. Things will not go as expected, and you may find all of your carefully timed plans useless. It is, however, a good time to get to the bottom of things, or to understand the underlying purpose. As this transit begins, Mercury will still be in Pisces, and you can certainly expect more than the usual confusion. Nothing will be as it seems, and if you can avoid making important choices it would be best. On February 12<sup>th</sup> Mercury will retrograde back into Aquarius and the underlying energy will change significantly. At that point not only will there still be some confusion and misunderstandings, but it will begin to be expressed in an erratic and explosive way. Things won't seem as confused as they did while Mercury was in Pisces, but there also won't be any filter between thoughts and actions. People will respond from a guttural place of immediate responses and there could be many accidents. It will be difficult to have patience, but that is exactly what you need to display. This will be a difficult retrograde, and I suggest tolerance in your communications, and consciousness in your actions.

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

**On Tuesday February 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:57 P.M. EST** this difficult square completes. This isn't a peppy aspect, and most of us will feel tired and uninspired. It's a good transit for cleaning up business and viewing things in a realistic way. Frustration and a general lack of enthusiasm will be the prevailing feelings. Don't plan an important conversation or meetings. Leave it for another day. Get your work done, and avoid confrontations. You won't be able to change anyone's mind, and you may be on the receiving end of someone's bad mood.

### **MERCURY ENTERS AQUARIUS:**

**On Wednesday February 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M. EST** Mercury retrogrades back into Aquarius. As I said above,

this will be an erratic and unpredictable transit when many thoughts and ideas will seem far-fetched and unexpected. Try to loosen up a bit and let any new or unusual concepts into your brain. You never know when you'll find the very idea you've been looking for.

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### **FULL MOON:**

**This month's lunar peak occurs on Friday February 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:53 P.M. EST at 26 degrees Leo 13 minutes.** The fire sign full moons seem to be among the most active, and I expect that we will see a surge of ego-oriented actions. This is Valentine's Day after all, and what is love without ego? Usually a non-starter. Under this energy many romances will either get to the next level, or explode. This Full Moon won't have much patience, and either you will get things going or realize that you're wasting your time. Which is it? Use a little caution when dealing with others. There is explosiveness to all Full Moons, and Leo certainly has enough will power to push things into a place of confrontation.

### **THE SUN TRINES MARS:**

**Also on Friday February 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:06 P.M. EST** this positive trine takes place. This will add a layer of proactive energy to this Valentine's Day, which will be needed in many cases. Often a romance gets stuck, either right before that first kiss, or at other impasses. To get past them we need a jolt of energy and fearlessness. This trine will allow many to say what's on their mind without hesitation. The Sun will conjunct Mercury tomorrow and this excessive mental energy will continue.

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

**On Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:22 P.M. EST** this willful transit comes along. Most of us will be quite verbal because this conjunct takes place at the tail end of Aquarius. Boundaries and limitations are not Aquarius' strongest suits, neither is it the most sensitive of signs, so expect to hear the cold hard truth in an unfiltered way. It's a day of completing things in preparation for the Sun's entrance into Pisces in a few days.

### **THE SUN ENTERS PISCES:**

**On Tuesday February 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M. EST** we enter the last sign of the zodiac. Pisces is more concerned with completions than beginnings. With Mercury in square to Saturn tomorrow as well (see below) this period is better used to finish anything that has been left incomplete. This is also the most ethereal of all the signs. It's more interested in the spiritual side of life and how the individual fits into the collective, rather than the plight of the individual. While the Sun transits this sign many of us will be more in touch with the spirit and can express it in a number of ways, including charity work, helping others, or just working in service to the collective in some way. Helping out in a soup kitchen, making calls to raise money for a charity, or even visiting a sick friend will all be positive ways of manifesting it.

### **MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:**

**On Wednesday February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:11 A.M. EST** retrograde Mercury will square Saturn. This isn't going to be a good day for any communications. It will be difficult for many of us to express ourselves freely, and there

will be an underlying tension and sense of limitation to most things. This is a good day to clean up any unfinished business, clear your desk, and organize. It's not an inspirational aspect, nor a particularly good time to begin a new project, go on a first date, or initiate any new beginnings. Also, don't make any permanent decisions. Your perspective is rather gloomy, and you may only be seeing the negative side of things.

### **THE SUN CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:**

**On Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:11 P.M. EST** this very difficult and confusing aspect completes. You must be careful in your communications. Anything that isn't clear and concise could be misunderstood. This is not a good day for important conversations or negotiations. There is a lot hidden in the shadows, and unless you can bring it into the light it may cause all sorts of problems. With Mercury still in retrograde you can certainly expect distractions and mistakes. Also, this combination takes away a lot of the power of the Sun and if this conjunction hits your chart you may feel badly about yourself and your project. Just wait a few days before making any serious decisions. Mercury will go direct on the 28<sup>th</sup> and then you will see more clearly. This is usually a very bad aspect for the stock markets, although it occurs on Sunday so its effects may be limited.

### **VENUS SEXTILES SATURN:**

**On Monday February 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:50 A.M. EST** we will all have a more realistic attitude about money and love. With Mercury still running backwards there can still be confusion and misdirection. But this sextile will at least make your approach more down to earth and pragmatic. Venus is still in Capricorn and because of its recent retrograde motion there has been a feeling of limitation and restriction about romance for some time. Now that Venus has gone direct there is a desire to express feelings and attraction that has lately been thwarted. While this sextile is hardly a romantic fireball, it will present a foundation upon which we can pursue our love interests in a pragmatic and practical way.

### **JUPITER SQUARES URANUS:**

**On Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:33 A.M. EST** we once again confront this square. We had Jupiter opposite Pluto on January 31<sup>st</sup> (see above) and now it completes the t-square and gives us another example of what to expect this coming April on the Grand Cross. Today all limitations and restrictions will be thrown out the window. These are the two most freedom-loving planets, and neither has much use for boundaries. Because this completes so early in the morning, its effects will be felt most strongly the night before. But the energy this creates will continue throughout today, although all aspects begin to wane in power once they complete. This could be a very bad week for the stocks. In fact, depending upon how they respond to this month's transits will help me decide if this is in fact a time to sit on the sidelines or even short the equity markets. Some of us will find great excitement and adventure with this square, and it could even be a lucky day if it set off your chart just right. But still give it the respect it deserves and use some caution when traveling or dealing with others. The unexpected energy of Uranus will be blown out of proportion by Jupiter's grandiosity.

### **MERCURY GOES DIRECT:**

**On Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. EST** Mercury finally goes direct. As always, use caution for a few days while this energy redirects itself. It is on the turnarounds going retrograde or direct that many problems occur. We're all trying to catch up with our work and with the issues we had to put on the back burner the past few weeks, and it's while hurrying that we often make mistakes or have accidents. Paperwork, emails, and other communications that have been delayed or unfulfilled will move forward now. The check really was in the mail, it just got dropped at the wrong address. Don't worry, it will show up soon. Information will be coming at us all in a wave.

### **THE SUN TRINES JUPITER:**

**Also On Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:05 P.M. EST** this wonderful trine completes. This is a good evening for any social gathering, a date, or anything that involves entertainment or education. But remember, it is almost the Dark of the Moon, so starting new relationships or projects isn't the best idea. Use the expansive nature of this aspect to enlarge or push forward existing situations and relationships. There will be fun in the air tonight, so relax and enjoy it.

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

**The next New Moon falls on Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:59 A.M. EST at 10 degrees Pisces 39 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.

January 31<sup>st</sup> 11:45 A.M. – 10:45 P.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all day

February 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:34 A.M. – 11:55 P.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all day

February 4<sup>th</sup> 6:14 P.M. – February 5<sup>th</sup> 4:46 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all night

February 6<sup>th</sup> 11:49 P.M. – February 7<sup>th</sup> 1:44 P.M.

February 9<sup>th</sup> 4:08 P.M. – February 10<sup>th</sup> 1:33 A.M.

February 12<sup>th</sup> 5:51 A.M. – 2:15 P.M.

February 14<sup>th</sup> 10:13 P.M. – February 15<sup>th</sup> 2:25 A.M.

February 17<sup>th</sup> 12:04 A.M. – 1:23 P.M.

February 19<sup>th</sup> 4:32 P.M. – 10:33 P.M.

February 21<sup>st</sup> 5:10 P.M. – February 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:12 A.M.

February 24<sup>th</sup> 4:25 A.M. – 8:50 A.M.

February 26<sup>th</sup> 5:51 A.M. – 9:55 A.M.

February 28<sup>th</sup> 5:55 A.M. – 9:53 A.M.

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

March 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:04 A.M. – 10:40 A.M.

March 4<sup>th</sup> 12:31 P.M. – 2:12 P.M.

March 6<sup>th</sup> 8:55 A.M. – 9:37 P.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all day

**January 2014**

**New York City**

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